

Post Trip Report: Section Hiking the Colorado Trail

- **Food and rationing (what did you eat, not enough, enough, or too much, what would you change, etc.)**

We ended up eating less than we planned for, particularly in our snack items. Our dinners, breakfasts and lunches were almost exactly correct. The dinners were delicious and varied, keeping it pretty exciting. The lunches were somewhat boring at times but we had hot sauce to spice it up. Breakfasts were simple but good and filling. The snacks were all good, but we brought too much, and the bars were pretty heavy.

Sadie	Price	Julian	Price	Julian total	Sadie total	Grand total	Grant	Difference
Buses to Leadville	14	DIA food	42.02	1370.31	1552.4	2922.71	2694.38	228.33
Food traveling	24.56	Wfr food	18.64	Jullian Budget	Sadie Budget			
Rtd from DIA	10	Safeway	47.87	1434.69	1259.69			
Subway	20.66	Rei fuel and bear spray	134.04					
Gas top off	2.76	Transport to DIA	42					
Berk Safeway	60.43	Safeway big	254.74					
Andronicos	160.38	Jeremy gas	27.57					
Dehydrated meals	100.31	Transport to trail	39.5					
REI	400.91	Gas top off	5.72					
Untapped	170.75	Hand Sani etc	34.75					
Flights	410.6	Butt wipes and trash bags	15.47					
Hotel	161	Salad+smoothies	49.35					
Wfr food	16.04	Logan gas	40					
		Sooooops	57.64					
		From DIA	10					
		Flights	551					
		Wfr	927					

- **What worked, what didn't, and why**

Something that didn't work was the weight we were carrying. We had a lot of weight in food, and none of our gear was ultralight. This resulted in injuries for both Sadie and Julian by the third day, requiring a change of pace to be able to stay in the backcountry. Our teamwork and dealing with unforeseen circumstances worked well, particularly when we started developing injuries. We took the proper care to slow down and take care of our bodies so that we could continue to hike and stay in the wilderness.

- **Travel logistics (how did you end up getting to/from the experience, what should others know)**

We were able to take public transportation from Boulder to Leadville. This worked very well and was relatively inexpensive. It was slow. We were able to get a ride from our friend back from our end point to CC.



- **Permitting/government relations (any hang-up, what should others be aware of, etc.)**

Nothing we ran into! There was a section of CT that was private property with no camping, but we had already planned to hike through that section.

- **Leadership and group dynamics (how did your team operate, any challenges, etc.)**

We worked well together as a team. We had to adapt our plan to accommodate our injuries. We discussed our options and found the best solution together and did not let our prior expectations fog judgment or ruin our time!

- **Safety and risk management concerns (how did you manage risk in the field, did anything unexpected come up, etc.)**

Julian developed a hip injury and Sadie developed plantar fasciitis. We took a rest day then proceeded slower and with more breaks to stretch and take care of ourselves. We managed thunderstorms by hiking early and paying attention to exposure particularly during higher risk times of day.

- **Specific route descriptions & concerns (did you have to make in-field changes, did anything unexpected come up, etc.)**

Because we had to slow down we were not able to do the distance we had planned for. We stayed on route and made arrangements for our pickup to meet us at Monarch Pass. We got to do a day hike up Mt. Shavano and added a day on the western section of the Collegiate Loop. This allowed us to make it to our pickup destination at Monarch Pass and stay in the field for the allotted time. Due to our slower pace, we could not go past Monarch Pass as there were longer sections without water, and at our pace it would not have been possible to carry enough water to be safe.

Daily Course Log

Day 1- As planned, we hiked in the morning with our friend who drove us from Leadville to the trailhead.

Day 2- Feeling a little sore from hiking, but still lots of energy and spirits high. Difficult second half of the day, lots of elevation.

Day 3 - Almost all downhill! We thought this would be like a rest day, but by the end of the day, we had started developing our injuries. We camped at our planned location which was by a river. We knew we could not keep up our pace or we would get more injured. Planned to take a rest day tomorrow.



Day 4- Rest day and re-evaluating our options. Lots of stretching and icing our feet and bodies in the river. Decided to try taking smaller slower days. We were carrying enough food to go much slower and make it to our resupply without issue.

Day 5- Hiked very slow. This was a lot of uphill, which ended up being fine, we just took it slow. Successfully hiked without making our injuries much worse. Camped before CR306 by a small river.

Day 6- Continued hiking slowly. Big thunderstorm in the afternoon. Got very rained on, but we were not dealing with bad exposure. Found a nice camp spot near 2 streams. This was our first time camping near other hikers.

Day 7- Resupply! We made some friends hiking! We restocked all our food. We laid out all our food and re-evaluated how much snack food we needed. We were able to leave some extra bars etc at the hiker box. Got salad and smoothies from the market. Heavy packs after resupply! Saw an ultra marathon going on.

Day 8- Saw lots of bikepackers struggling to make the climbs on their bikes. Long lunch break by the river to soak our feet.

Day 9- Hot and sunny day. The last stretch before camp we wished we had more water. Waiting for the aqua mira to do its thing was tantalizing!

Day 10- Rest day to take care of foot and hip injuries. Lots of stretching and river soaks.

Day 11- Good day of hiking after our rest day, our bodies felt a little refreshed. We had enough service to check weather to make sure hiking Shavano would be safe. Early bedtime to get ready for early wake up!

Day 12- 3:30 am wake up to hike Shavano before storms rolled in. We were hoping to extend the hike to Mt Tabaguache, but decided we did not have enough time to do this safely. We were glad with our decision when we arrived back at camp and heavy hail and thunderstorms rolled in.

Day 13- Crossed US50 and continued to the campsite near the river. We had some thunderstorms and a bit of exposure but not bad.

Day 14 Along the ridge of monarch mountain. This was beautiful! And a section we wouldn't have gotten to do on our original plan. Bonus! Camped by Boss lake reservoir. Great swimming.

Day 15- Hiked out to our pickup!



