

Directions to The Refuge & The Sentinel

(1) GPS Coordinates:

<https://goo.gl/maps/5rL4x8qKiUM2>

37°13'09.3"N 104°45'24.4"W

37.219246, -104.756768

(2) Driving Directions:

1. Trinidad is the closest town to The Refuge/The Sentinel. Trinidad is 200 miles south of Denver on I-25 and 250 miles north of Albuquerque, NM on I-25. Trinidad is approximately 30-35 minutes from The Refuge/The Sentinel.

Note: Please call 719-846-9594 (work) when departing Trinidad so that we know when to expect and welcome you. Depending on your cell carrier, you'll very likely lose coverage repeatedly along the way after leaving Trinidad. Eventually you may have no signal at all.

2. Once in Trinidad, you will want to **exit I-25 on to State Highway 12 West**. Follow signs to get on to Highway 12, which will zig-zag you out of town to the west.

3. Continue on **Highway 12 for 7.0 miles** into the hills. You will pass Trinidad Lake on the left.

4. After traveling for approximately 6 miles, you will descend a long hill. There will be an intersection with signs for "Cokedale" and Bon Carbo. Turn right on C.R. 57.7. Taking your odometer reading may be helpful at this point for "guesstimating"

5. Do not turn left into the **village of Cokedale**, rather go straight for about 7 miles. This roller-coaster of a paved road has many blind rises and tight corners. Drive cautiously as there may be wildlife or even livestock along the way. Also, be vigilant for oncoming traffic as the road is narrow in places.

6. After passing a large red Fire Station on the left, you will come to the "**village**" of **Boncarbo**. It's not clearly signposted. And, don't expect a stop in the road, if you blink, you will miss seeing a bank of mail boxes (a so-called "Post Office") on the left, then past several abandoned homes, buildings, corrals, and wrecked vehicles etc.

7. From the bank of mail boxes, travel straight ahead and up into the hills on the blacktop for 3.9 miles (approx. 7 min). At any critical intersections look for "The Refuge" sign posts (vertical 2x4's - with yellow writing) pointing straight ahead. The curvy paved road will eventually descend, leading you into a valley. After a broad right sweeping turn you will face an immediate **junction (County Road 30.1 & 43.5)**. Do not continue on the blacktop by taking the left curve at this juncture. Rather, **go straight ahead on the dirt road of C.R. 43.5**, following the signpost pointing towards "The Refuge" and "The Spanish Peaks State Wildlife Area – Headquarters". You'll travel this road for another 0.7 miles (approx. 2 min). In the distance you will have your first majestic **view of the Spanish Peaks**.

8. Look ahead for a metal Quonset building / "tin-can barn-house" as a landmark. Before reaching it, there will be a **side road junction of Kings X Road and signage for "The Refuge" and "Allens"**. Turn right at the sign onto Kings X Road. **After crossing a cattle-guard you will immediately turn left.** (Landmark: A yellow arrow signpost, on your left, points you up the gentle winding hillside driveway. If you cross a second cattle-guard some 50 yards from the first, you have missed your turn!)

9. This driveway ends at a T-junction.

If you are headed to The Refuge: Turn left at the T. Follow the road till it dead ends beyond the split rail cedar fencing. Parking at the side entrance of The Refuge (a large brown-colored adobe building) will make the unloading of your vehicle very convenient.

If you are headed to The Sentinel: Turn right at the T. Follow the road passing a barn that's undergoing renovation. As you ascend a steep portion of the roadway there will be a cream outbuilding ahead of you and some ranch vehicles nearby. Stay on the road making a sharp right at this intersection, till it dead ends at a log-cabin, The Sentinel. Park opposite the metal garage door. The front door is to your left along a short concrete walkway.

