

## **Chico and Emigrant Peak, Fall 2005**

If you're looking for a Montana trip that mixes a comfortable resort with cheap rooms, top notch food, and hot springs pools, with a great peak bagging expedition, look no further than Chico Hot Springs, in the Paradise Valley south of Livingston, Montana, and nearby Emigrant Peak, which lies near the western border of the Beartooth Wilderness.

Jen and I were there in the Fall of 2005 and had perfect weather for our hike. The pictures turned out so good that I just had to put together a journal entry on the trip.

The hike to the top is, if I remember right, about 6 miles, with a staggering amount of elevation gain; I've not hiked another trail that is as consistently steep. The bonus is that you get way up off of the valley floor in a short time, and the views in all directions are fantastic: the Gallatin Range to the west, the Beartooths to the east, and Yellowstone Park not far to the south. You can find directions to the trailhead, which seemed little used, at the front desk at Chico.



**Jen walks out a ridge, Paradise Valley below, Gallatin Range in the distance.**



**The Beartooth range spreads behind me to the east.**



**We saw this mountain goat near the peak. We got close and it seemed a gentle animal.**



**Jen at the trailhead.**



**Emigrant Peak from the valley at the end of a great day.**