

Steepest Grades - by Location

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Grade=max ruling grade at this place; Elevation-maximum elevation at this place; Length-Length mountain pass or route

| Location-Country, State, City, Facility name | | | Grade % | Elev (Feet) | Length (Feet) | Switch Back? | RR Name |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------|-------------|---------------|--------------|----------------------------------------|
| AK | Seward | Bartlett Glacier MP 48.2 | 3.0% | | | | Alaska Railroad |
| AL | Wilhites | Sand Mountain | 1.2% | | | | Louisville & Nashville Railroad |
| AR | Mena | Rich Mountain | 1.5% | | | | Kansas City, Pittsburg & Gulf Railroad |
| AR | Winslow | Boston Mountains | 4.0% | | | Yes | Missouri, Arkansas & Southern Railway |
| AZ | Ash Fork | Johnson Canyon Tunnel | 3.0% | | 325 | | Atlantic & Pacific (Western Division) |
| AZ | Ashfork (Williams Junction) | Peavine Line (Phoenix | 3.0% | 8,200 | | | Santa Fe, Prescott & Phoenix Railroad |
| AZ | Prieta | Ramsgate Hill Sierra | 3.0% | | 6,100 | | Santa Fe, Prescott & Phoenix Railroad |
| CA | Almanor | Almanor Greenville | 2.2% | 4,500 | | | Western Pacific Railroad |
| CA | Auberry | Webstone Grade | 5.3% | | | | San Joaquin & Eastern Railroad |
| CA | Beaumont | San Gorgonio Pass | 2.0% | 1,591 | | | Southern Pacific Railroad |
| CA | Bodie (Bridgeport) | Mt. Montgomery Pass | 2.3% | 7,138 | 247 | | Carson & Colorado Railroad |
| CA | Cajon | Cajon Pass and | 3.0% | 3,820 | | | Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway |
| CA | Carrizo Gorge | Carrizo Gorge | 2.2% | 3,660 | | | San Diego & Arizona Railway |
| CA | Cima | Cima Grade | 2.2% | 4,164 | 4,224 | | Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad |
| CA | Cima | Cima Grade | 2.2% | | | | Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad |
| CA | Colfax | SP Freight House | 2.4% | 2,424 | | | Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad |
| CA | Colfax (Cape Horn to Dutch | Cape Horn | 2.4% | | | | Central Pacific Railroad |
| CA | Emigrant Gap | Emigrant Gap | 2.4% | 5,187 | | | Central Pacific Railroad |
| CA | Felton | Roaring Camp & Big | 9.5% | | | Yes | Roaring Camp & Big Trees Narrow |
| CA | Hetch Hetchy Reservoir | Poopenaut Pass | 4.5% | 5,064 | | | Hetch Hetchy Railroad |
| CA | Keeler | Montgomery Pass | 2.8% | 7,100 | 247 | | Carson & Colorado Railroad |
| CA | Kelso | Cima Grade | 2.2% | | | | Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad |
| CA | Loma Linda | Beaumont Hill (San | 2.0% | 2,500 | | | Southern Pacific Railroad |
| CA | Los Angeles | Main Street Station | 3.9% | | | | Pacific Electric Railway |
| CA | Mill Valley | Mt. Tamalpais Gravity | 8.2% | 2,500 | | | Mill Valley & Mt. Tamalpais Scenic |
| CA | Norden | Norden | 1.9% | 6,891 | | | Central Pacific Railroad |
| CA | Oakland | Caldecott tunnel | 4.0% | | 3,700 | | Oakland, Antioch & Eastern Railway |
| CA | Oakland | Oakland Hills-Rockridge | 4.0% | | | | Oakland, Antioch & Eastern Railway |
| CA | Oroville | Feather River Canyon | 1.0% | 5,220 | | | Western Pacific Railroad |
| CA | Palmdale | Vincent Grade | 2.3% | | | | Southern Pacific Railroad |
| CA | Placer | Donner Pass | 2.8% | 7,085 | | | Southern Pacific Railroad |
| CA | Placer | Donner Pass Tunnels | 2.2% | 7,085 | | | Southern Pacific Railroad |
| CA | Placerville | Gold Mining History and | 5.0% | 3,700 | | | Placerville & Lake Tahoe Railroad |
| CA | Ryan | Death Valley Railroad | 3.5% | | | | Death Valley Railroad |
| CA | San Diego | Miramar Hill | 2.3% | | | | Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway |
| CA | San Luis Obispo | Cuesta Grade | 2.2% | | | | Southern Pacific Railroad |
| CA | San Luis Obispo | Cuesta Grade | 2.2% | | | | Southern Pacific Railroad |
| CA | San Luis Obispo (Goldtree) | Cuesta Pass Horseshoe | 2.2% | 1,340 | | | Southern Pacific Railroad |
| CA | Signal Butte | Signal Butte | 4.5% | | | Yes | McCloud River Railway |
| CA | Walong | Tehachapi Pass | 2.5% | 4,031 | 147,840 | | Southern Pacific Railroad |
| CA | Walong | Tehachapi Pass and | 2.5% | 3,793 | 147,840 | | Southern Pacific Railroad |
| CO | Antonito | San Juan Extension | 4.0% | 10,022 | | | Denver & Rio Grande Railroad |
| CO | Atchee | Baxter Pass | 7.5% | 8,400 | | | Uintah Railway (Unitah Ry) |
| CO | Baltimore (East portal) | Moffat Tunnel | 2.0% | 9,239 | 32,253 | | Denver & Salt Lake Railway |
| CO | Boreas Pass | Boreas Pass (originally | 4.0% | 11,493 | | | Denver, South Park & Pacific Railway |
| CO | Busk | Busk-Ivanho Tunnel | 1.6% | 10,953 | 9,394 | | Colorado Midland Railroad |
| CO | Chattanooga | Chattanooga Loop | 8.0% | | | | Silverton Railroad (Red Mountain & |
| CO | Cimarron | Cerro Summit - Black | 4.0% | | | | Denver & Rio Grande Railroad |
| CO | Cimarron | D&RGW Locomotive | 4.0% | 7,960 | | | Denver & Rio Grande Railroad |
| CO | Como | Boreas Pass | 4.0% | 11,482 | | | Denver, South Park & Pacific Railway |
| CO | Como | High LIne (Como- | 4.5% | 11,493 | | | Denver, South Park & Pacific Railway |
| CO | Corona | Rollins Pass | 4.0% | 11,700 | | | Denver, Northwestern & Pacific Railway |
| CO | Corona | Rollins Pass | 4.0% | 11,700 | | | Denver & Salt Lake Railway |
| CO | Cumbres | Cumbres Pass | 5.8% | 10,015 | | | Denver & Rio Grande Railroad |
| CO | Cumbres | Cumbres Pass | 5.8% | 10,015 | | | Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad |
| CO | Cumbres | Cumbres Pass | 5.8% | 10,015 | | | Denver & Rio Grande Railroad |
| CO | Dillon | Boreas Pass | 4.0% | 11,482 | | | Denver, South Park & Pacific Railway |

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| Location-Country, State, City, Facility name | Grade % | Elev (Feet) | Length (Feet) | Switch Back? | RR Name | |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| CO Divide | Ute Pass | 4.0% | 9,165 | | Colorado Midland Railroad | |
| CO Georgetown | Georgetown Loop | 3.0% | | | Colorado Central Railroad | |
| CO Georgetown | Georgetown Loop | 3.0% | | | Georgetown Loop Railroad | |
| CO Georgetown | Georgetown Loop | 3.0% | | | Georgetown, Breckenridge & Leadville | |
| CO Gunnison | Curecanti Needle (Cerro | 4.0% | | | Denver & Rio Grande Railroad | |
| CO Hartsel | Trout Creek Pass | 5.0% | 9,346 | | Denver, South Park & Pacific Railway | |
| CO La Veta | La Veta Pass | 4.0% | 9,242 | | Denver & Rio Grande Railroad | |
| CO La Veta | Muleshoe Bend (Mule | 4.0% | 9,300 | | Denver & Rio Grande Railroad | |
| CO Leadville | Hagerman Pass (High | 4.0% | 11,530 | 2,060 | Colorado Midland Railroad | |
| CO Leadville | Hagerman Pass | 4.0% | 11,530 | 2,060 | Colorado Midland Railroad | |
| CO Leadville | Hagerman Pass Trestle | 4.0% | 11,530 | 1,084 | Colorado Midland Railroad | |
| CO Leadville | Hagerman Tunnel | 3.0% | 11,500 | 2,060 | Colorado Midland Railroad | |
| CO Lizard Head Pass | Lizard Head Pass | 3.0% | 10,222 | | Rio Grande Southern Railway | |
| CO Marshall Pass/Mt. Ouray/ | Marshall Pass | 4.0% | 10,856 | | Denver & Rio Grande Railroad | |
| CO Marshall Pass/Mt. Ouray/ | Marshall Pass | 4.0% | 10,820 | | Denver & Rio Grande Railroad | |
| CO Marshall Pass/Mt. Ouray/ | Marshall Pass | 4.0% | 10,820 | | Denver & Rio Grande Railroad | |
| CO Marshall Pass/Mt. Ouray/ | Marshall Pass Depot | 4.0% | 10,820 | | Denver & Rio Grande Railroad | |
| CO Minturn | Tennessee Pass | 3.0% | 10,221 | | Denver & Rio Grande Railroad | |
| CO Minturn | Tennessee Pass | 3.0% | 10,223 | | Denver & Rio Grande Railroad | |
| CO Monarch/Garfield | Monarch Pass | 4.8% | 10,028 | Yes | Denver & Rio Grande Railroad | |
| CO Mt. McClellan | Mt. McClellan-terminus | 6.0% | 13,117 | | Argentine & Grays Peak Railway | |
| CO Ophir | Ophir Loop | 3.0% | 10,250 | | Rio Grande Southern Railway | |
| CO Ophir | Ophir Loop & Trestle | 3.0% | 10,250 | | Rio Grande Southern Railway | |
| CO Poncha Junction | Monarch Pass (Poncha | 4.8% | 9,000 | | Denver & Rio Grande Railroad | |
| CO Rollinsville | Moffat Road | 4.0% | 11,600 | | Denver, Northwestern & Pacific Railway | |
| CO Rollinsville | Rollins Pass | 4.0% | 11,700 | 121,440 | Yes | Denver, Northwestern & Pacific Railway |
| CO Rollinsville | Rollins Pass (Corona | 4.0% | 11,700 | 121,440 | | Denver, Northwestern & Pacific Railway |
| CO Rollinsville | Rollins Pass (Corona | 4.0% | 11,676 | | | Denver, Northwestern & Pacific Railway |
| CO Salida | Tennessee Pass | 3.5% | 10,200 | | Denver & Rio Grande Railroad | |
| CO Salida | Tennessee Pass | 3.5% | 10,500 | | Denver & Rio Grande Railroad | |
| CO Shirley | Shirley Horsehoe Curve | 4.0% | 10,820 | | Denver & Rio Grande Railroad | |
| CO Shirley | Shirley Switchbakcs | 4.0% | 10,820 | Yes | Denver & Rio Grande Railroad | |
| CO Silver Plume | Mt. McClellan | 6.0% | 13,117 | | Argentine Central Railway | |
| CO St. Elmo | Alpine Tunnel | 4.0% | 11,612 | 1,772 | Denver, South Park & Pacific Railway | |
| CO St. Elmo (Pitkin) | Alpine Tunnel | 4.0% | 11,612 | 1,772 | Denver, South Park & Pacific Railway | |
| CO Turret | Calumet Branch | 7.0% | | | Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad | |
| CO Walsenburg | La Veta Pass | 4.0% | 9,393 | | Denver & Rio Grande Railroad | |
| CO Walsenburg | La Veta Pass (original | 4.0% | 9,242 | | Denver & Rio Grande Railroad | |
| CO Waterton | Platte Canyon Pass | 7.0% | 10,000 | | Denver, South Park & Pacific Railway | |
| CO Webster | Kenosha Pass | 7.0% | 9,990 | | Denver, South Park & Pacific Railway | |
| CO West Rocky | Big 10 Curve (Big Ten | 2.0% | | | Denver, Northwestern & Pacific Railway | |
| GA Blue Ridge | Hook and Eye | 2.0% | | Yes | Marietta & North Georgia Railway | |
| IA Burlington | Burlington Hill | 1.0% | | | Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad | |
| IA Dubuque | Fenelon Place Elevator | 74.0% | | | | |
| ID Avery | Avery Roundhouse | 1.7% | | | Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific | |
| ID Avery | Avery Yard | 1.7% | | | Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific | |
| ID Avery | St. Paul Pass | 1.7% | 4,170 | | Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific | |
| ID Roland | St. Paul Pass Tunnel (Taft | 1.8% | 4,169 | 8,771 | Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific | |
| ID Roland | Taft Tunnel | 1.7% | | 8,771 | Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific | |
| ID Wallace | Wallace Branch | 4.0% | | | Northern Pacific Railroad | |
| IL Bement | Bement Hump over | 3.6% | | | Illinois Terminal Railroad | |
| IL Meredosia | Meredosia Grade | 2.0% | | | Wabash Railroad (1889) | |
| IL Peoria | Caldwell Hill | 2.6% | | | Illinois Terminal Railroad | |
| IN Georgetown | Duncan Hill | 2.5% | | 15,840 | Louisville, New Albany & St. Louis | |
| IN Georgetown | Duncan Tunnel | 2.9% | | 4,295 | Louisville, New Albany & St. Louis | |
| IN Madison | Madison Hill | 5.9% | | | Madison & Indianapolis Railroad | |
| KS Ellinor (Emporia) | Belen Cutoff | 1.2% | | | Eastern Railway of New Mexico | |

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|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| KS | Reading | Wakarusa Hill | 1.0% | | | | Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway |
| KY | Corbin | Chaska Hill Grade | 1.0% | | | | Louisville & Nashville Railroad |
| KY | Corbin | Crooked Hill Grade | 1.4% | | | | Louisville & Nashville Railroad |
| KY | Corbin | Kentucky Division | 1.4% | | | | Louisville & Nashville Railroad |
| KY | Erlanger | Erlanger Hill | 2.6% | | | | Southern Railway |
| KY | Ford | Ford to Patio Grade | 1.0% | | | | Louisville & Nashville Railroad |
| KY | Gentry | Elkatawa Hill Eastern | 1.2% | | | | Louisville & Nashville Railroad |
| KY | Jackson (Elkatawa) | Elkatawa Hill | 1.0% | | | | Kentucky Union Railway |
| KY | Louisville | South Louisville to | 1.1% | | | | Louisville & Nashville Railroad |
| KY | Mary Helen | Mary Helen Hill | 3.0% | 1,358 | | | Louisville & Nashville Railroad |
| KY | Middlesborough | Cumberland Gap Tunnel | 1.2% | | 3,741 | | Powells Valley Railway Company |
| KY | Olive Hill (Corey Hill) | Corey Hill Grade | 2.7% | | | | Chesapeake & Ohio Railway |
| KY | Radnor | Radnor to Portland | 1.5% | | | | Louisville & Nashville Railroad |
| KY | Sinks | Lebanon branch | 1.4% | | | | Louisville & Nashville Railroad |
| KY | Turners Station | Campbellsburg Hill | 1.8% | | | | Louisville & Nashville Railroad |
| KY | West Point | Muldrough Hill | 1.3% | | | | Louisville & Nashville Railroad |
| LA | Algiers | Gouldsboro Ferry | 5.0% | | | | Texas & New Orleans Railroad |
| LA | Vidalia | Vidalia-Natchez Ferry | 4.0% | | | | Missouri Pacific Railroad |
| MA | Boston | East Boston Tunnel | 5.0% | | 7,500 | | |
| MA | Chester | Washington Hill | 1.7% | | | | Western Railroad of Massachusetts |
| MA | North Adams | Hoosac Tunnel | 5.0% | 835 | 25,081 | | Troy & Greenfield Railroad & Hoosac |
| MD | Altamont | Seventeen Mile Grade | 2.7% | 2,628 | | | Baltimore & Ohio Railroad |
| MD | Baltimore | B&P (Baltimore & | 1.3% | | 7,669 | | Baltimore & Potomac Railroad |
| MI | Hancock | Hancock Hill | 4.0% | | | | Duluth, South Shore & Atlantic Railway |
| MI | Hancock | Quincy Hill | 3.0% | | | | Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific |
| MN | Lewiston | Lewsiton Hill | 1.7% | | | | Chicago & North Western Railway |
| MN | Proctor | Proctor Hill | 2.2% | | | | Duluth, Missabe & Iron Range Railway |
| MO | Carondelet | Ivory Transfer | 3.0% | | | | Missouri Pacific Railroad |
| MO | Kansas City | 8th Street Tunnel (West | 8.8% | | 810 | | Kansas City Public Service Co. |
| MO | St. Louis | McKinley Bridge | 1.8% | | 8,000 | | Illinois Traction System |
| MO | St. Louis | Merchants Bridge | 1.5% | | 4,550 | | Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis |
| MO | Thayer | Thayer North Subdivision | 1.5% | | | | Burlington Northern & Santa Fe Railroad |
| MT | Butte | Homestake Pass | 2.2% | 6,356 | | | Northern Pacific Railroad |
| MT | Butte | Vendome Loop | 2.0% | | | | Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific |
| MT | Essex | Marias Pass | 1.8% | 5,213 | | | Great Northern Railroad |
| MT | Evaro Hill | Evaro Hill Mountain | 2.2% | 3,915 | | | Northern Pacific Railroad |
| MT | Helena | Mullan Pass | 2.2% | 5,566 | | | Northern Pacific Railroad |
| MT | Helena | Mullan Pass & Tunnel | 2.2% | 5,548 | 5,280 | | Northern Pacific Railroad |
| MT | Kalispell | Haskell Pass (Haskill | 1.5% | 4,300 | 1,400 | | St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railway |
| MT | Livingston | Bozeman Pass | 1.8% | 5,600 | | | Northern Pacific Railroad |
| MT | Livingston | Bozeman Pass | 4.0% | 5,562 | | Yes | Northern Pacific Railroad |
| MT | Livingston | Bozeman Tunnel | 1.9% | 5,565 | 3,500 | | Northern Pacific Railroad |
| MT | Livingston | Bozeman Tunnel #2 | 1.9% | 5,562 | 3,000 | | Northern Pacific Railroad |
| MT | Missoula | Lookout Pass | 4.0% | | | Yes | Northern Pacific Railroad |
| MT | Penfield | Pipestone Pass | 2.0% | 6,347 | | | Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific |
| MT | Ringling | Belt Mountains line | 1.0% | 5,793 | | | Montana Railroad (1894) |
| NC | Aberdeen | Sandhill Grade | 2.8% | | | | Aberdeen, Carolina & Western Railroad |
| NC | Altapass (Spruce Pine) | Altapass Loops and | 1.5% | 2,628 | 1,860 | | Carolina, Clinchfield & Ohio Railroad |
| NC | Altapass (Spruce Pine) | Clinchfield Route | 1.5% | | | | Carolina, Clinchfield & Ohio Railroad |
| NC | Asheville | Piedmont Division ("Old | 2.2% | | | | Southern Railway |
| NC | Tyron | Saluda Grade | 5.1% | 2,097 | 15,840 | | Spartanburg & Asheville Railroad |
| NE | Crawford | Crawford Hill | 2.2% | | 63,360 | | Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad |
| NH | Crawford Notch | Crawford Notch | 2.5% | | | | Portland & Ogdensburg Railroad |
| NH | Mt. Washington | Mt. Washington & Cog | 37.0% | 6,288 | 16,000 | | Mt. Washington Cog Railway (Mt. |
| NJ | Bergen (North Bergen) | Bergen Hill Tunnel (North | 1.9% | | 6,100 | | Pennsylvania Railroad |
| NJ | Greystone | Greystone Hill | 5.0% | | | | Delaware, Lackawanna & Western |
| NJ | Weehawken | Hudson Tubes (PRR- | 1.9% | | 6,100 | | Pennsylvania Railroad |

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|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------|-------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------|
| NJ | Weehawken | North River Tunnels | 1.9% | | 6,100 | | Pennsylvania Railroad |
| NM | Alamogordo | Cox Canyon Branch | 7.3% | 8,600 | | | Alamogordo & Sacramento Mountain |
| NM | Cloudcroft | Cox Canyon Bridge | 5.2% | 8,600 | 300 | | Alamogordo & Sacramento Mountain |
| NM | Cloudcroft | Cox Canyon Switchback | 5.2% | 8,600 | | Yes | Alamogordo & Sacramento Mountain |
| NM | Cloudcroft (Russia) | Wills Canyon Switchback | 4.0% | | | Yes | Southwest Lumber Company |
| NM | Cloudcroft (Russia) | Wills Canyon Switchback | 4.0% | | | Yes | Southwest Lumber Company |
| NM | Embudo | Chili Line (Santa Fe | 4.0% | | | | Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad |
| NM | Glorieta | Glorieta Pass | 3.2% | 7,453 | | | Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway |
| NM | Mountainair | Abo Pass | 1.2% | 6,508 | | | Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway |
| NM | Raton | Raton Pass | 6.0% | 7,622 | | | Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway |
| NM | Raton | Raton Pass (1878 line) | 6.0% | 7,834 | | Yes | New Mexico & Southern Pacific |
| NV | Mt. Montgomery | Mt. Montgomery Pass | 3.0% | 7,138 | | | Carson & Colorado Railroad |
| NV | Reno | Geiger Grade | 7.0% | 6,789 | | | Virginia & Truckee Railroad (1869) |
| NV | Wendover | Arnold's Loop | 3.0% | 5,600 | | | Union Pacific Railroad |
| NY | Deposit | Susquehanna Hill (Gulf | 1.0% | 1,373 | | | New York & Erie Railroad (aka Erie |
| NY | New York | Steinway Tunnels | 6.0% | | 8,500 | | New York & Long Island Railroad |
| NY | Pine Hill | Pine Hill Grade | 2.7% | 1,886 | | | Ulster & Delaware Railroad |
| NY | Richmondville | Richmondville Hill | 1.7% | | | | Delaware & Hudson Railway |
| OH | Cincinnati | Cheviot Hill | 1.9% | | | | Chicago, Cincinnati & Louisville Railroad |
| OH | Conneaut | Low Line | 2.0% | | | | Bessemer & Lake Erie Railroad |
| OR | Ashland | Siskiyou Pass | 3.7% | 4,135 | | | Southern Pacific Railroad |
| OR | Encina (Baker) | Huntington-Baker line | 2.2% | | | | Union Pacific Railroad |
| OR | Eugene (Springfield Jct) | Siskiyou Pass | 3.7% | | | | Southern Pacific Railroad |
| OR | Eugene (Springfield Jct) | Siskiyou Line | 3.7% | 4,135 | | | Oregon & California Railroad |
| OR | Kamela (Meacham) | Meacham Canyon | 2.2% | | 21,241,4 | | Union Pacific Railroad |
| OR | La Grande | Kamela Mountain | 2.2% | 4,205 | | | Union Pacific Railroad |
| OR | Meacham (Hilgard) | Pelican Canyon | 2.6% | | | | Oregon-Washington Railway & |
| OR | Nashville | Toledo Branch Summit | 2.6% | | | | Southern Pacific Railroad |
| OR | Natron (Eugene) | Cascade Route/Natron | 3.3% | | | | Southern Pacific Railroad |
| OR | Oakridge | Cascade Line | 2.2% | | | | Southern Pacific Railroad |
| OR | Oakridge | Cascade Line | 2.2% | | | | Southern Pacific Railroad |
| OR | Portland | Shasta Route (Siskiyou | 3.7% | | | | California & Oregon Railroad |
| OR | Sweet Home | Dollar Branch | 2.2% | | | | Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railroad |
| PA | Altoona | Horseshoe Curve | 1.8% | 1,716 | 2,375 | | Pennsylvania Railroad |
| PA | Altoona | Horseshoe Curve | 1.7% | 1,716 | 2,375 | | Pennsylvania Railroad |
| PA | Altoona | Horseshoe Curve | 1.8% | 1,716 | 2,375 | | Pennsylvania Railroad |
| PA | Ashley | Ashley Planes #1 & 2 | 14.6% | | 13,020 | | Lehigh & Susquehanna Railroad |
| PA | Bigler | Rosebud Coal | 2.6% | | | | R. J. Corman Railroad-Pennsylvania |
| PA | Clearfield | Bigler Branch | 26.0% | | | | R. J. Corman Railroad-Pennsylvania |
| PA | Gallitzin | Gallitzin Tunnel | 2.0% | 2,167 | 3,612 | | Pennsylvania Railroad |
| PA | Hyndman | Sand Patch Grade | 2.3% | 2,630 | 89,760 | | Baltimore & Ohio Railroad |
| PA | Johnstown | Johnstown Inclined | 70.9% | | 896 | | Johnstown Inclined Plane |
| PA | Keating | Keating Summit | 2.6% | | | | Western New York & Pennsylvania |
| PA | Logan Township | Horseshoe Curve | 1.8% | | 3,485 | | Pennsylvania Railroad |
| PA | Mahanoy | Mahanoy Plane | 28.0% | | | | Mahanoy Plane (1861-1932) (Schuylkill |
| PA | Philadelphia | Belmont Plane (Incline) | 15.0% | | 2,805 | | Philadelphia & Columbia Railroad |
| PA | Pittsburgh | Schenley Tunnel | 1.4% | | 2,872 | | Baltimore & Ohio Railroad |
| PA | Union Dale | Ararat Summit | 1.4% | | | | Delaware & Hudson Railway |
| SD | Deadwood | High Line | 3.0% | | | | Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad |
| SD | Edgemont (Deadwood | High Line (Edgemont- | 3.0% | 6,240 | | | Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad |
| SD | Hill City | Keystone Branch | 4.0% | | | | Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad |
| SD | Keystone | Keystone Branch | 4.0% | | | | Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad |
| SD | Oblivion | Keystone Branch | 4.0% | | | | Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad |
| TN | Cowan | Cowan Hill | 2.5% | | | | Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad |
| TN | Cowan | Cumberland Mountain | 2.5% | | 2,228 | | Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad |
| TN | Ducktown (Copper Hill) | Hiwassee Loop | 1.5% | | | | Atlanta, Knoxville & Northern Railway |
| TN | Erin | Tennessee Ridge | 2.0% | | | | Louisville & Nashville Railroad |

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| | TN | Etowah | Hook & Eye Line | 1.5% | | | | Atlanta, Knoxville & Northern Railway |
| | TN | Knoxville | Knoxville Division | 1.1% | | | | Louisville & Nashville Railroad |
| | TN | Tracy City | Tracy City Branch | 3.0% | | | | Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis |
| | TX | Richland Hills | Tehachacomanche Loop | 4.0% | | | | Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway |
| | UT | Alta | Little Cottonwood | 10.8% | 10,550 | | | Little Cottonwood Transportation Co |
| | UT | Bingham | Copper Belt Railroad | 7.0% | | | | Copper Belt Railroad |
| | UT | Echo | Helper Locomotives | 1.1% | | | | Union Pacific Railroad |
| | UT | Eureka | Golden Circle Loop | 3.0% | | | | Tintic Range Railway |
| | UT | Helper | Soldier Summit | 2.4% | 7,440 | | | Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad |
| | UT | Promotory Summit | Promontory Grade | 2.2% | | | | Central Pacific Railroad |
| | UT | Springville | Tintic Branch | 4.0% | | | | Denver & Rio Grande Railroad |
| | UT | Uintah | Wasatch Grade MP 985.1 | 1.1% | | | | Union Pacific Railroad |
| | UT | Wahsatch | Wahsatch Station | 1.1% | 6,800 | | | Union Pacific Railroad |
| | VA | Christiansburg (Blacksburg, | Christiansburg Hill | 1.0% | | | | Norfolk & Western Railway |
| | VA | Smiley (Hagans) | Hagans Switchback | 4.0% | | | Yes | Louisville & Nashville Railroad |
| | VA | Starkey (Roanoke) | Starkey Hill | 1.6% | | | | Norfolk & Western Railway |
| | VT | Montpelier | Montpelier Branch | 5.0% | | | | Central Vermont Railway |
| | WA | Berne | Cascade Tunnel (1900) | 2.2% | 3,380 | 13,700 | | Great Northern Railroad |
| | WA | Berne | Cascade Tunnel (1929) | 1.6% | 2,880 | 41,200 | | Great Northern Railroad |
| | WA | Berne | Cascade Tunnel | 1.7% | 3,380 | 13,700 | | Great Northern Railroad |
| | WA | Bolyston (Kittitas) | Saddle Mountain Pass | 2.2% | 2,460 | | | Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific |
| | WA | Cedar Falls | Cascade Line | 1.7% | | | | Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific |
| | WA | Chumstick | Chumstick Tunnel | 1.5% | 2,601 | | | Great Northern Railroad |
| | WA | Cle Elum | Stampede Pass | 2.2% | 3,672 | 10,560 | | Northern Pacific Railroad |
| | WA | Cle Elum | Stampede Tunnel | 3.0% | 2,830 | 9,500 | | Northern Pacific Railroad |
| | WA | Everett | Boeing aircraft plant | 5.6% | | | | Burlington Northern & Santa Fe |
| | WA | Hyak | Snoqualmie Pass & | 1.7% | 2,564 | 11,890 | | Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific |
| | WA | Hyak | Snoqualmie Tunnel | 2.8% | 2,564 | 11,890 | | Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific |
| | WA | Snoqualmie | Stampede Pass | 5.6% | 3,678 | | Yes | Northern Pacific Railroad |
| | WA | Tacoma | Tacoma Hill | 3.3% | | | | Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific |
| | WA | Warwick | Goldendale Branch | 2.2% | 1,678 | | | Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railroad |
| | WA | Wellington | Stevens Pass | 1.7% | 3,350 | 13,183 | | Great Northern Railroad |
| | WA | Wellington | Stevens Pass | 4.0% | 4,027 | | Yes | Great Northern Railroad |
| | WA | Wellington | Stevens Pass Tunnel | 2.2% | 2,880 | 13,183 | | Great Northern Railroad |
| | WA | Wellington | Stevens Pass Tunnel | 1.6% | 2,100 | | | Great Northern Railroad |
| | WA | Wellington | Stevens Pass Tunnel#1 | 1.7% | 3,350 | 13,183 | | Great Northern Railroad |
| | WA | Yakima | Stampede Pass Line | 5.6% | 3,678 | | | Northern Pacific Railroad |
| | WI | Byron | Byron Hill | 1.0% | | | | Soo Line Railroad Company |
| | Wv | Austen | Newburg Grade | 2.2% | | | | Baltimore & Ohio Railroad |
| | WV | Bluefield/Bramwell (Flat Top | Elkhorn Tunnel #1 | 2.5% | | 3,100 | | Norfolk & Western Railway |
| | WV | Bluestone Junction (Elkhorn | Bluestone Branch (Flat | 1.3% | | | | Norfolk & Western Railway |
| | WV | Cooper (Gallipolis Ferry) | Elkhorn Tunnel #2 | 1.4% | | 6,336 | | Norfolk & Western Railway |
| | WV | Coopers | Mill Creek Branch | 3.0% | | | | Norfolk & Western Railway |
| | WV | Elkins | Durbin Subdivision | 2.4% | | | | Coal & Iron Railway |
| | WV | Glady | Shavers Mountain Tunnel | 1.6% | | | | Coal & Iron Railway |
| | WV | Huttonsville | Cheat Mountain Grade | 2.4% | | | | Coal & Iron Railway |
| | WV | Mullens (Elmore/Clark's | Clark's Gap Grade | 2.1% | | | | Virginian Railway |
| | WV | Rowlesburg | Cheat River Grade | 2.5% | | | | Baltimore & Ohio Railroad |
| | WV | Terra Alta (Cranberry | Cranberry Grade (Salt | 2.8% | | | | Baltimore & Ohio Railroad |
| | WV | Tunnelton | Kingwood Tunnel | 2.2% | 2,500 | 4,138 | | Baltimore & Ohio Railroad |
| | WV | Whitesville | Seng Creek Subdivision | 2.8% | | | | Chesapeake & Ohio Railway |
| | WY | Parkman | Parkman Hill | 1.2% | | | | Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad |
| | WY | Piedmont | Piedmont Hill Helper | 1.3% | | | | Union Pacific Railroad |
| | WY | Sherman | Sherman Hill (1865 track | 5.1% | 8,247 | | | Union Pacific Railroad |
| | WY | Sherman | Sherman Hill (Borie | 1.6% | 8,014 | 221,760 | | Union Pacific Railroad |
| Canada | AB | Jasper | Kicking Horse Pass | 2.2% | 5,340 | | | Canadian Pacific Railway |
| Canada | AB | Jasper | Kicking Horse Pass Big | 4.5% | 5,340 | 42,240 | | Canadian Pacific Railway |

| Home | | Topic List | | Location Menu | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|----------------------------------------|
| Steepest Grades - by Location | | | | | | | |
| ExploreRailHistory -- your personal RailEncyclopedia www.ExploreRailHistory.com | | | | | | | |
| Grade=max ruling grade at this place; Elevation-maximum elevation at this place; Length-Length mountain pass or route | | | | | | | |
| Location-Country, State, City, Facility name | | | Grade % | Elev (Feet) | Length (Feet) | Switch Back? | RR Name |
| Canada | AB | Jasper | Spiral Tunnels | 2.2% | 4,800 | 6,240 | Canadian Pacific Railway |
| Canada | AB | Jasper | Spiral Tunnels | 2.2% | | 6,240 | Canadian Pacific Railway |
| Canada | BC | Field | Stoney Creel Bridge | 2.2% | | 600 | Canadian Pacific Railway |
| Canada | BC | Fraine (near Revelstoke) | Connaught Tunnel | 2.2% | 3,745 | 26,400 | Canadian Pacific Railway |
| Canada | BC | Golden | Connaught Tunnel | 1.0% | 3,745 | 26,400 | Canadian Pacific Railway |
| Canada | BC | Golden | Rogers Pass | 2.2% | 4,364 | | Canadian Pacific Railway |
| Canada | BC | Golden | Stoney Creek Bridge | 2.2% | | 656 | Canadian Pacific Railway |
| Canada | BC | Squamish | Cheakamus Canyon | 2.2% | | | British Columbia Railway (BC Rail) |
| Canada | ON | Caledon | Caledon Hill Grade | 2.0% | | | Toronto, Grey & Bruce Railway |
| Canada | ON | Orangeville | Orangeville Grade | 2.0% | | | Toronto, Grey & Bruce Railway |
| Canada | YT | White Pass | White Pass | 3.9% | 2,885 | | White Pass & Yukon Railway Co., |
| Ecuador | | Guayaquil, Guayas | Devil's Nose | 5.5% | 11,841 | | Guayaquil & Quito Railway (Devil's |
| England | | Liverpool | Mersey Railway Tunnel | 4.0% | | 16,400 | |
| England | | Peak Forest Signal Box | Dove Holes Tunnel | 1.1% | | 8,953 | |
| Italy | | Masera | Domodossola-Locarno | 6.0% | | | Centovalli Railway - Locarno- |
| Japan | | Karuizawa Station, Nagano | Usui Pass | 6.7% | | 35,904 | East Japan Railway Company |
| Mexico | | Creel | Copper Canyon | 2.5% | 8,000 | | Ferrocarril del Chihuahua Al Pacifico, |
| New | | Otira | Otira Tunnel (Orita | 3.0% | | 27,984 | New Zealand Government Railways |
| Peru | | Verrugas | Verrugas Viaduct | 4.0% | 5,850 | 575 | |
| Switzerl | | Brusio | Brusio Spirral Viaduct | 7.0% | | 360 | Bernina Railway (Berninabahn) |
| Switzerl | | Giornico | Pianotondo and Travi | 4.0% | 1,283 | | Swiss Federal Railways (SBB CFF FFS) |
| Switzerl | | Gletsch | Muttbach and the Furka | 11.0% | | | Dampfbahn Furka-Bergstrecke (Furka |
| Switzerl | | Meiringen | Brunig Pass | 12.0% | 3,307 | | Zentralbahn (Brunig Railway) |
| Switzerl | | Rodi Fiesso | Freggio and Prato Spiral | 26.0% | | | |
| Switzerl | | Verdasio | Domodossola-Locarno | 6.0% | | | |
| Switzerl | UNI | Göschenen | Gotthard Tunnel | 2.8% | 3,773 | 47,520 | Swiss Federal Railways (SBB CFF FFS) |