

Rocky Mountain

NATIONAL PARK • COLORADO

Within its boundaries, Rocky Mountain National Park includes 410 square miles of the Front Range of the Rockies in north-central Colorado.

High mountains, alpine lakes, glacier-sculptured valleys, rugged gorges, and vast areas of alpine tundra are features of this park—one of the most spectacular yet most easily accessible high-mountain areas in America. This is high country, with elevations ranging from 8,000 feet to the 14,256-foot Longs Peak.

Trail Ridge Road, which reaches 12,183 feet and stays above timberline for 11 miles, crosses the crest of the Front Range and the Continental Divide. A trip across this road in summer provides sweeping views of mountains, forests, and open meadows. At nearly every point on this and other park roads are open vistas—ideal for sightseeing from your car. A short drive to Bear Lake takes you to the very base of the east face of the Front Range rising abruptly above the lake.

The roads at Rocky Mountain are not high-speed highways; they are designed instead to help you get the greatest enjoyment from the park's scenic views. Speed limits and traffic laws are enforced. Please obey signs. Report all accidents and complaints to the nearest ranger station.

Remember, it is unlawful to feed, touch, tease, or molest any animal. Don't destroy, injure, deface, remove, or disturb any public property, natural feature, or materials. Since Rocky Mountain is a wildlife sanctuary, hunting is prohibited. Any device designed to discharge missiles in the air or under water and capable of injuring or destroying animal life is not permitted.

WHAT TO DO

While sightseeing by car is popular at Rocky Mountain, the person who ventures out on foot will see much more of what the park offers. Many short hikes lead to scenic features. The Bear Lake and Glacier Gorge areas are good starting points for short hikes to the lakes. Easy strolls start from the Cub Lake and Fern Lake trailheads. Back-country camping is available at many spots along the 300 miles of trails. You may not take pets on trails or away from established roads, but they are permitted if they are kept under physical control. Vehicles are not allowed on trails or off the road.

Rocky Mountain is especially rewarding during September and October, when aspen groves turn golden in a progression of color down the slopes. Winter in the Rockies, which normally lasts from late October to early May, is beautiful. A fresh snowfall transforms the landscape, and mountain peaks are more spectacular when blanketed with snow.

Interpretive programs. The National Park Service offers you the opportunity to understand

the park better through its interpretive programs, which are available from mid-June to September 1. There are exhibits at the Alpine and Moraine Park Visitor Centers, self-guiding trails, wayside exhibits, conducted walks and hikes, evening campfire talks, and several publications dealing with the history and natural history of the area. An orientation movie is shown at park headquarters near Estes Park. Schedules of all activities are available at ranger stations and visitor centers.

Fishing is permitted in most of the streams and lakes of the park, but you must have a Colorado license. All of the lower streams and lakes, and many of the lakes in higher altitudes, contain one or more species of trout. "Catchable size" hatchery fish are not stocked. Review fishing regulations at park headquarters or at a ranger station *before* you go fishing.

Skiing and ice skating facilities are located at Hidden Valley, 7 miles from the Fall River Entrance, 6 miles from the Beaver Meadows Entrance. Access roads to Hidden Valley from the east are kept open, but Trail Ridge Road is closed by snow from late October to May.

Camping. Seven campgrounds—Moraine Park, Glacier Basin, Aspenglen, Endovalley, Longs Peak, Wild Basin, and Timber Creek—provide an enjoyable way to become acquainted with Rocky Mountain. Campsites, where your stay must be limited to 14 days a year, cannot be reserved, and campgrounds are often full early in the day. Housetrailers are permitted in most campgrounds, but don't try to take one to Wild Basin or up Fall River Road; the roads are narrow and the campsites small. There are no electrical, water, or sewer connections in any of the campgrounds.

Be sure you build your campfire only in designated places and never near or on roots of trees, dead wood, moss, dry leaves, forest mold, or other vegetation. Don't leave campfires unattended. Pour water on your fire and make sure it is out. If you wish to build a campfire at a designated back-country campsite, you must have a permit, which can be obtained at any ranger station.

ACCOMMODATIONS

There are no overnight accommodations under Government supervision inside the park. The few that are available are on private land.

For information about facilities adjacent to the park, write to the chamber of commerce at either Estes Park, Colo. 80517, or Grand Lake, Colo. 80447.

HOW TO REACH ROCKY MOUNTAIN

The nearest major rail, air, and busline terminals are at Denver, 65 miles from Estes Park, and at Cheyenne, Wyo., 91 miles distant.

In summer, the Colorado Transportation Co. makes connections with transcontinental airlines, railroads, and buslines at Denver and with buslines and railroads at Greeley and Granby. In winter, it also provides transportation to the Hidden Valley Winter-use Area and shuttle-buses between Lower and Upper Hidden Valley. You can obtain further information from this company at 1805 Broadway, Denver, Colo. 80202.

IF YOU PLAN TO CLIMB

Mountain climbing. Over the years, Rocky Mountain has become increasingly popular for mountain climbing. Longs Peak is a favorite, and there are several routes to its summit which provide climbs of varying difficulty. Check at park headquarters or at a ranger station for information about climbing routes and mountaineering guide service.

The spectacular high country of the park attracts both hikers and expert climbers. Many accidents have occurred when inexperienced hikers have attempted rock climbing or cross-country routes without realizing the hazards involved.

Solo climbing is not permitted. You must register at the chief ranger's office or at the nearest ranger station if you are planning to

1. *Make an ascent involving use of technical climbing equipment (ropes, carabiners, pitons);*
2. *Hike or climb on those parts of Longs Peak or Mount Meeker above 11,000 feet;*
3. *Make ski or snowshoe trips away from main roads.*

Descriptions of climbing routes and information on mountaineering guide service are available at park headquarters and ranger stations. You must obtain the approval of the superintendent before attempting to climb "The Diamond" on the east face of Longs Peak.

Accidents in the mountains, even minor ones, may have serious or fatal consequences. Severe storms come up quickly, even in summer, with attendant exposure to low temperatures, rain, snow, sleet, and lightning. All hikers and climbers should observe the following precautions: Never climb alone; register before and after the climb; avoid steep snowfields; don't overextend your physical ability; start early; avoid open high ridges and peaks during lightning; turn back in adverse weather; move cautiously on steep or rocky areas. Children should not run downhill.

ADMINISTRATION

Rocky Mountain National Park is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Box 1080, Estes Park, Colo. 80517, is in immediate charge.

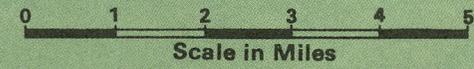
One-way trail distances from nearest approach roads [*Distance to nearest half mile*]

	Miles
From Bear Lake to	
Nymph Lake.....	0.5
Dream Lake.....	1
Emerald Lake.....	2
Lake Haiyaha.....	2
Flattop Mountain.....	4.5
Grand Lake via North Inlet.....	16.5
Grand Lake via Big Meadows.....	19
Bierstadt Lake.....	2
Odessa Lake.....	4
Fern Lake.....	5
From Glacier Gorge Junction to	
Sky Pond.....	4.5
Loch Vale.....	2.5
Mills Lake.....	2.5
Boulderfield.....	8
Black Lake.....	5
From Grand Lake to	
Shadow Mountain.....	4
Cascade Falls.....	2.5
Lake Nokoni.....	9
Lake Nanita.....	9.5
Adams Falls.....	0.5
Lake Verna.....	7
Lone Pine Lake.....	5.5
From Wild Basin Campground to	
Calypso Cascades.....	2
Ouzel Falls.....	3
Ouzel Lake.....	5.5
Bluebird Lake.....	7
Finch Lake.....	5
Pear Reservoir.....	7
Thunder Lake.....	7.5
Sandbeach Lake (from Copeland Lake)	4
From Horseshoe Park to	
Lawn Lake.....	6.5
Crystal Lake.....	7.5
Ypsilon Lake.....	5.5
Deer Mountain (from Deer Ridge).....	3
From Fern Lake Trail Junction (Moraine Park) to	
The Pool.....	2
Fern Lake.....	4
Odessa Lake.....	5
Cub Lake (from Moraine Park Road).....	2.5
From Longs Peak Campground to	
Eugenia Mine.....	1.5
Storm Pass.....	2.5
Chasm Lake.....	5.5
Boulderfield.....	6
Longs Peak.....	8
Twin Sisters (from Colo. 7).....	3.5
From Estes Park to	
Gem Lake (from Devils Gulch Road).....	2
From Phantom Valley Parking Area to	
Lulu City (ghost mining camp).....	3
La Poudre Pass.....	7
Thunder Pass.....	7
Red Mountain.....	3
From Poudre Lake (near Milner Pass) to	
Specimen Mountain.....	3



-  Campground
-  Shelter Cabin
-  Ranger Station
-  Fire Lookout
-  Picnic Area
-  Nature Trail
-  Overlook
-  Launching Ramp
-  Road
-  Road Distance
-  Trail
-  Continental Divide

Trail Ridge Road is closed in winter between Timber Creek and Many Parks Curve (25 miles).



THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR—the Nation's principal natural resource agency—bears a special obligation to assure that our expendable resources are conserved, that our renewable resources are managed to produce optimum benefits, and that all resources contribute to the progress and prosperity of the United States, now and in the future.

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

