

ROCKY  
MOUNTAIN  
NATIONAL PARK  
Colorado





# ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

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Cover: Mount Ypsilon from Horseshoe Park.

**T**OWERING PEAKS, flowered meadows, alpine lakes, sculptured mountain valleys, rugged gorges, plunging streams, and the wild creatures that live amidst this splendor—all these are yours in Rocky Mountain National Park. They are yours because of the tireless effort, generosity, and wisdom of selfless people who loved beauty and nature so much they worked to set aside this extraordinary region so that it would be preserved, unimpaired, for all time.

Rocky Mountain National Park comprises about 410 square miles of the high and extremely scenic part of north-central Colorado. Its mountainous terrain ranges in elevation from 7,640 to 14,256 feet. Perpetual snows mantle the highest summits and valley walls. Small glaciers still exist at the heads of sheltered gorges.

People from every corner of the world visit here in summer, spring, autumn, and winter, for Rocky Mountain is a year-round park.

The forests and wildflowers tell a story of struggle and adjustment to environments that differ greatly in altitude and exposure to the elements. At one extreme are the summits of the high mountains, with their widespread areas of alpine tundra (dense carpets of tiny dwarf plants strikingly adapted to severe climatic conditions). Tundra is uncommon outside the Arctic Circle. At the other extreme are the sheltered valleys, with their stands of ponderosa and lodgepole pines, blue spruce, and narrowleaf cottonwood.

Near Milner Pass and in Horseshoe Park you may see bighorn ("mountain sheep"). These animals symbolize Rocky Mountain National Park. You may also see elk, beaver, golden eagle, and a myriad of other creatures of the wild in their natural habitat, for Rocky Mountain, like all National Parks, is a wildlife sanctuary.

Trail Ridge Road, which follows a trail used by the Utes and Arapahoes, is a broad, smooth seasonal road through the park; it is known the country over. From this road, you can see many of the 84 named peaks in the park that are over 11,000 feet in elevation. Longs Peak is the highest at 14,256 feet. There are 17 between 13,000 and 14,000 feet, and 44 more are between 12,000 and 13,000 feet above sea level.

## THE INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM

What are the fascinating stories behind the scenery of Rocky Mountain National Park—its rocks, waters, and glaciers, its wildlife and forests, and its Indian history?

To provide you with the interesting answers to these and other questions and to help you understand and appreciate the unspoiled works of nature that you have come to see and

enjoy, the National Park Service offers a varied interpretive program in the park throughout the summer.

These free activities range from explanatory exhibits to all-day guided hikes into the rugged mountain wilderness. You are invited to make full use of them. One of the best ways for you to discover and learn the park story is to stop by the visitor center at Moraine Park and the interpretive exhibits at other places in the park.

*Moraine Park Visitor Center*, open daily from June through September, is one of the best places to see evidences of ancient glaciers, both on exhibit and from the observation porch. Park ranger-naturalists present talks nightly at the amphitheater or in the auditorium. Subjects—from history to geology to plants and animals—are changed each night, and they cannot fail to help you understand and appreciate the park. An explanatory talk on the work of ice age glaciers is also given several times daily. Exhibits describe the former Indian activities in the area, wildlife, trees, wildflowers, insects, and geology. The

building also houses naturalist workrooms and the scientific and historical museum collections of the park. The short self-guiding nature trail which originates here will help you become acquainted with the rocks, animals, and native vegetation of this part of the park.

In the Alpine Exhibit Room at Fall River Pass, colorful panels tell the story of the plants and animals and their adaptation to the harsh climate of the alpine region above tree line.

*Campfire programs.* During the summer in the campgrounds at Glacier Basin, Aspenglen, Endovalley, Timber Creek, and Wild Basin, park ranger-naturalists conduct campfire programs, including talks about the park, which are often illustrated with color film.

*Guided trips.* If you really want to know the mountains and their interesting natural history, join the park ranger-naturalists on the guided hikes. On 2-hour, 1/2-day, 3/4-day, and all-day field trips, they will lead you to some of the park's outstanding areas and features, such as Dream

A park naturalist leads a party of visitors over the Bear Lake-Fern Lake trail.





Lake, Loch Vale, Tyndall and Andrews Glaciers, Odessa Lake, Ouzel Falls, and Lulu City, an old mining camp. The wide variety of hikes offers you the opportunity to experience the thrill of penetrating many different sections of the mountain wilderness. Novice or seasoned hiker, you will enjoy these guided hikes.

For a novel and rewarding experience, join the ranger-conducted alpine caravan. This is an auto trip to Trail Ridge in the early evening for a sunset walk, supper, and campfire program atop the backbone of the Rockies at an elevation of more than 12,000 feet.

## WHAT TO DO IN THE PARK

### Along the Roads

*Trail Ridge Road* links the east and west sides of the park. It is the highest continuous automobile road in the United States, reaching an elevation of 12,183 feet. A trip over this road will be one of the most rewarding experiences of your visit to the park. As your automobile climbs steadily to the very crest of the Front Range, you can look down thousands of feet to valleys and peaks and to rivers that wind their way like silver threads.

From Trail Ridge, near at hand and far against the distant skies, you can see extensive ranges of lofty peaks. To the east, the mosaic of the Great Plains blends into the hazy horizon; to the west, the skyscraping crest of the Never Summer Range and the headwaters basin of the mighty Colorado River are plainly visible. More than 4 miles of the road are above 12,000 feet in elevation; 11 miles are above the 11,000-foot tree line. The road is usually closed by snow from the latter part of October to late May.

*Bear Lake Road* is one of the few paved roads in the Rockies that lead into the heart of a high mountain basin. Bear Lake Basin is nearly surrounded by ruggedly spectacular peaks from 12,000 to over 14,000 feet in elevation. The Moraine Park Road, a side road, leads from Bear Lake Road

### On Trail Ridge Road.



to the upper end of Moraine Park, a scenic mountain valley, where you can take trails to Fern, Odessa, and Cub Lakes.

*The Fall River Road* is a section of the original road crossing over the mountains and the Continental Divide. The present road, however, is open for travel only from Horseshoe Park Junction to Chasm Falls. From the aspen groves and meadows of the upper Horseshoe Park and the enchanting cascade of Chasm Falls, you can obtain distant views of scenery in Fall River Canyon. It was here that motorists approached the Continental Divide before the modern Trail Ridge Road was built.

*Colorado Highway 7*, outside the park, offers fine scenic views of peaks within the park, such as Longs Peak, Twin Sisters, and Mount Meeker. There are side roads to Longs Peak and Wild Basin Ranger Stations, from which good trails lead into the scenic back country.

### Along the Trails

You will be missing much of the inspirational beauty of Rocky Mountain National Park if you confine your sight-seeing and exploring to those parts of the park that you can reach by automobile. Even though you have only a day or two, plan to take at least one brief hike into the wilderness. Looking at the park from a paved road is one kind of thrill; seeing its pristine beauty from a park trail is an entirely different experience.

There are over 300 miles of trails in Rocky Mountain National Park, ranging in degree of difficulty from those that tax even the well-conditioned hiker to those that allow the casual stroller to spend a pleasant half hour enjoying some of the finest scenery in North America.

Most of the trails can be traveled on horseback, but a few to more remote areas are suitable for foot travel only. Dogs and cats are prohibited on all trails.

Horses may be rented at Glacier Creek Livery, at most hotels, lodges, and camps in or near the park, and in neighboring villages. Competent private guides can arrange special horseback and hiking trips.

For more intensive exploring, try one of these trails:

*Flattop Trail.* This trail is the only one that crosses the Continental Divide on a direct line between Estes Park and Grand Lake. If you are an experienced rider or a well-conditioned hiker, you can make this trip either way in one long day. For the hiker, however, the trail is easier from east to west. The trail leads up the eastern face of Flattop Mountain, and even if you do not wish to cross the park, you may take the trail to the summit of Flattop and return.

*Fern and Odessa Lakes Trail.* You can reach these two exquisite lakes by trail from either Moraine Park or Bear Lake. The trip to Fern and Odessa Lakes and return takes



Rocky Mountain mule deer are frequently seen along park roads and trails.

all day, but you will be well rewarded, for these two lakes are located in one of the most beautiful of the many canyons on the east side of the Continental Divide.

*Loch Vale Trail* leads from Glacier Gorge Junction, 13 miles from Estes Park and a mile below Bear Lake, to a glacier-watered valley which has few equals for its sheer rocky wildness and the glory of its wildflowers, virgin forest, and lakes. At the head of Loch Vale, Taylor Peak rises to an elevation of 13,153 feet; to the northwest is Otis Peak, almost as high; between them is Andrews Glacier; on the east is Thatchtop.

*Longs Peak Trail* is a strenuous, but inspiring climb. You may make the ascent as far as Boulderfield, hiking or on horseback, by either of two trails. One trail starts near Longs Peak Campground, 12 miles south of Estes Park; another starts at Glacier Gorge Junction on the Bear Lake Road.

From Boulderfield, you may make the ascent by either of two trails, both exhausting for the unhardened climber. The more direct trail leads up the north face via the Cable Route. The longer trail ascends to the summit via the Keyhole, half a mile from Boulderfield; from the Keyhole, you climb up the Trough, across the ledge called the Narrows, and up a steep incline, known as Homestretch, to the summit. Even if you do not want to make the entire climb, you may enjoy hiking as far as the Keyhole.

For any hike to the summit of Longs Peak, you are advised to start on the trail not later than 6:30 a.m. The following section, "Mountaineering," contains instructions for registering for the Longs Peak hike.

### Mountaineering

The spectacular high country of the park beckons both the hiker and the expert climber. Safe, enjoyable outings can be arranged through the Rocky Mountain Guide Service and the Mountaineering School, an approved concession service. Check at ranger stations for rates and schedules of training schools, summit climbs, and other activities.

## One-way trail distances from nearest approach roads

[Distance to nearest half mile]

From Bear Lake to—	Miles
Nymph Lake.....	1/2
Dream Lake.....	1
Emerald Lake.....	2
Lake Haiyaha.....	2
Flattop Mountain.....	4 1/2
Grand Lake via North Inlet.....	16 1/2
Grand Lake via Big Meadows.....	19
Bierstadt Lake.....	2
Odessa Lake.....	4
Fern Lake.....	5
From Glacier Gorge Junction to—	
Sky Pond.....	4 1/2
Loch Vale.....	2 1/2
Mills Lake.....	2 1/2
Boulderfield.....	8
Black Lake.....	5
From Grand Lake to—	
Shadow Mountain.....	4
Cascade Falls.....	2 1/2
Lake Nokoni.....	9
Lake Nanita.....	9 1/2
Adams Falls.....	1 1/2
Lake Verna.....	7
Lone Pine Lake.....	5 1/2
From Wild Basin Campground to—	
Calypto Cascades.....	2
Ouzel Falls.....	3
Ouzel Lake.....	5 1/2
Bluebird Lake.....	7
Finch Lake.....	5
Pear Reservoir.....	7
Thunder Lake.....	7 1/2
Sandbeach Lake (from Copeland Lake).....	4
From Horseshoe Park to—	
Lawn Lake.....	6 1/2
Crystal Lake.....	7 1/2
Ypsilon Lake.....	5 1/2
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 1/2
From Longs Peak Campground to—	
Eugenia Mine.....	1 1/2
Storm Pass.....	2 1/2
Chasm Lake.....	5 1/2
Boulderfield.....	6
Longs Peak.....	8
Twin Sisters (from Highway 7).....	3 1/2
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



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 the use of technical climbing equipment (ropes, carabiners, pitons);
2. Hike or climb on those portions of Longs Peak and Mount Meeker above 11,000 feet;
3. Make winter 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 park superintendent before attempting to climb the "Diamond" on the east face of Longs Peak.

Accidents in the mountains, even minor ones, may have very serious or fatal consequences. Severe storms come 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. Turn back in adverse weather.*

### Fishes and Fishing

You are welcome to enjoy fishing in Rocky Mountain National Park. The National Park Service seeks to perpetuate native fish populations under natural conditions and to provide recreational angling in unspoiled streams and lakes wherever this is consistent with the preservation theme.

Angling amidst scenic grandeur can be an exhilarating experience.



Fishes in the park include the cutthroat, brook, brown, and rainbow trout. The cutthroat, however, is the only native trout. It spawns and grows to maturity in the cold streams of the higher country, which offers a delightful wilderness atmosphere for angling.

The brook trout is colorful, with a mottled olive back, red spots on the side, orange to reddish underparts, and white margins on the fins. Not a native, it has been introduced into many of the park's accessible lakes and streams.

Inquire at, or write to, park headquarters for fishing regulations, for they may change from year to year. A Colorado fishing license is required.

### Photography

The scenic landscape of Rocky Mountain offers you unrivaled opportunity to use either black-and-white or color film.

Take woodland shots in slightly diffused sunlight. As most of the photogenic scenery in the park faces the east, morning light is best for most locations. For the best sky effects, use a filter with either black-and-white or color film. Believe your exposure meter, but also know how to use it.

Photo supply stores in Estes Park and Grand Lake provide developing and film services.

### Winter Activities

From mid-December to mid-April, Hidden Valley, 10 miles west of Estes Park, operates as a family winter-use area; it is open weekly, Wednesday through Sunday.

Skiing, ice skating, platter sliding, and snowshoeing are the most popular winter activities, making Hidden Valley an enjoyable spot for the entire family. Illustrated programs about National Parks and Rocky Mountain National Park in winter are presented by the National Park Service several times each weekend at Hidden Valley Lodge.

The access roads to Hidden Valley from the east are kept open throughout the winter, and you can enjoy the sparkling winter scenery of the high mountains from them.

A concessioner operates a cafeteria, ski tows, skating rink, bus service, and a rental-equipment shop.

## WILDLIFE OF THE PARK

### Mammals

Rocky Mountain National Park is the home of the big-horn. Bands of these magnificent animals are often seen at Sheep Lake and on a promontory near Milner Pass; look for them when hiking on Specimen Mountain.

American elk (or "wapiti"—not a true elk, the moose



One of the park's common birds is the Clark's nutcracker.

being the American representative of the Old World elks) and mule deer are numerous, but are usually seen only when grazing at the edge of the forest or on the tundra. In winter they feed on the lower slopes, which have less snow. In summer they climb higher. The deer then scatter, but the elk remain in bands ranging in size from 4 or 5 to 30 or 40, as they feed on subalpine meadows or high on the tundra above tree line. Black bear, coyote, bobcat, marten, cougar, and others are present but less frequently noticed.

A patient observer in the early evening hours may see a hard-working beaver engaged in building a dam along one of the park's drainages. Look for beaver dams in Horseshoe Park, Moraine Park, Glacier Basin, Tahosa Valley, and Kawuneeche Valley, and elsewhere along streams.

As you drive along Trail Ridge Road at higher elevations, watch for a chubby, friendly, "king-size" ground squirrel, the yellowbelly marmot, in the rocks and adjoining meadows. When startled, marmots give a clear, whistling call.

Chipmunks, golden-mantled and Richardson's ground squirrels, pine and tassel-eared squirrels, and the small rabbitlike pika are common. Some of the chipmunks and ground squirrels are tame, but you should enjoy them without actual contact because, appealing though they may be, they may bite you, and they have been known to carry fleas that could transmit dangerous diseases.

### Birds

Some 226 species of birds have been recorded in the park. The Rocky Mountain Nature Association publishes a field checklist of birds likely to be seen in the park and vicinity.

While most of the birds found in the park are summer visitors, coming north in the spring to nest and returning south in the autumn, there are some permanent residents. These include the grouse, owls, woodpeckers, jays, nut-hatches, chickadees, and gray-headed junco. Above tree

line, you may see the pipit, rosy finch, horned lark, and ptarmigan. A few golden eagles and several species of hawks also make their homes in the park.

## TREES AND WILDFLOWERS

More than 750 kinds of plants are found in this park, owing largely to the wide range of elevations and habitats.

Below 9,500 feet, quaking aspen, Douglas-fir, narrowleaf cottonwood, thinleaf alder, Rocky Mountain juniper, blue spruce, and two species of pine (ponderosa and lodgepole) grow in profusion. During autumn, the aspen leaf turns a golden yellow and creates a beautiful picture.

Above 9,500 feet, the Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, and limber pine are the most common trees. The bog birch and planeleaf, or "subalpine," willow are also found here.

There are literally hundreds of different kinds of wildflowers. The Colorado State flower—Colorado columbine—may be found in bloom from June through August, depending upon the elevation.

## GEOLOGY

Not long ago as geologists measure time, perhaps a hundred million years, a great sea covered much of the area now occupied by Rocky Mountain National Park and extended from the Gulf of Mexico to the Arctic Ocean. Subtropical forests lined the shores. Animal life included giant reptiles in the sea and on the land, and gliding or flying reptiles in the air. As animals died, their remains became fossilized and were trapped in sedimentary layers of sand and silt brought down from the low hills. The sand, silt, and mud hardened into sandstone and shale. These rock layers are now exposed in the foothills to the east of the park.

The western orangecup lily is a rare woodland plant.



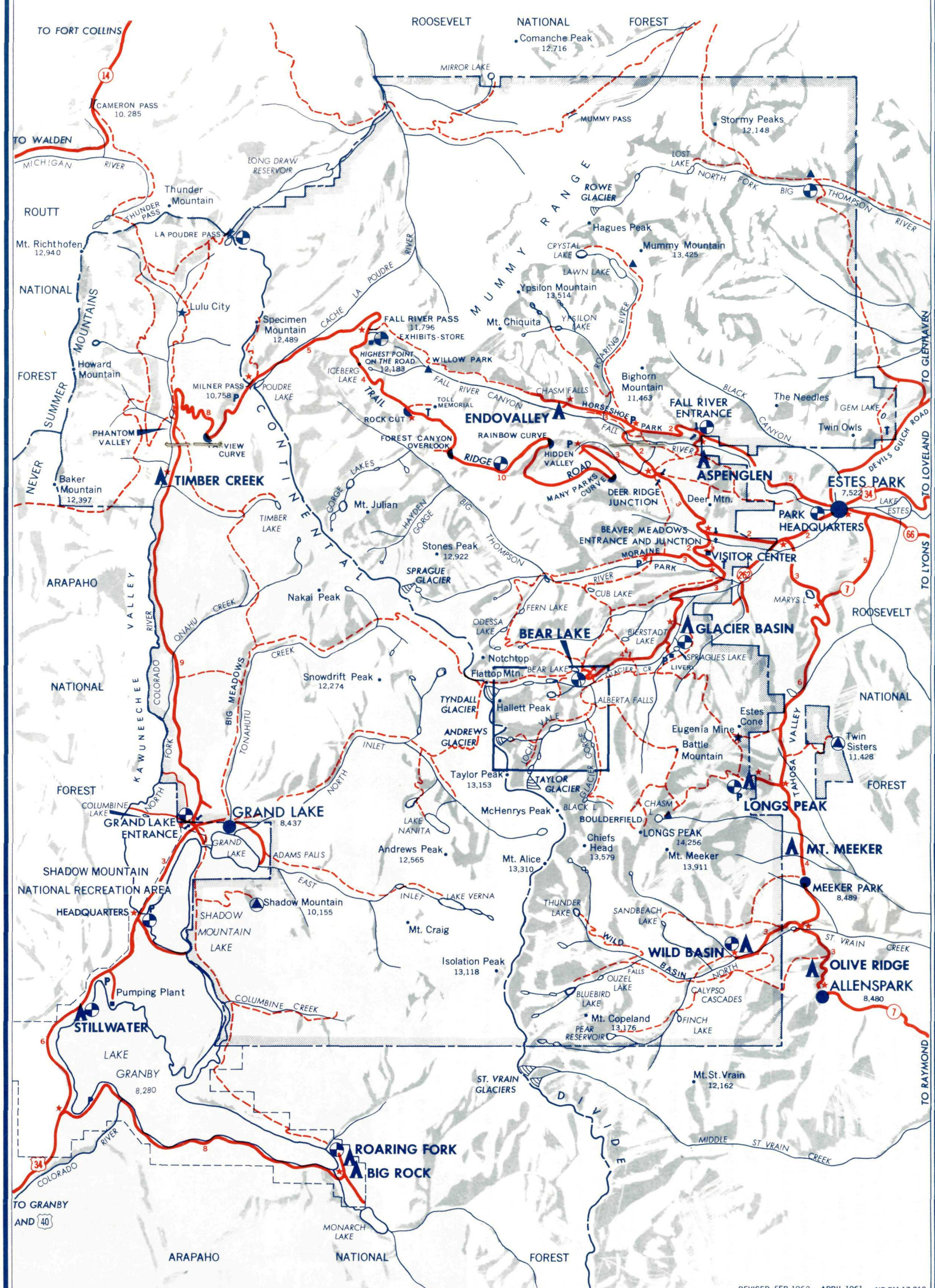


# ROCKY MOUNTAIN

## NATIONAL PARK COLORADO



- |  |                |  |                          |
|--|----------------|--|--------------------------|
|  | Campground     |  | Distance Between Points  |
|  | Ranger Station |  | Trail                    |
|  | Fire Lookout   |  | Road                     |
|  | Shelter Cabin  |  | Continental Divide       |
|  | Historic Site  |  | Park Boundary            |
|  | Nature Trail   |  | Recreation Area Boundary |
|  | Picnic Area    |  |                          |





The geology of the park region is fascinating evidence of the power of the forces of nature. What carved the magnificent mountains of the Front Range? What caused the smooth and gentle slopes on Trail Ridge, the U-shaped valleys, the uptilted rock strata?

The Front Range, some 200 miles long and averaging 40 miles wide, is that rough, spectacularly beautiful section of the Rocky Mountains that rises from the central Great Plains.

The range ancestral to the present range was formed when great forces within the earth caused a gigantic lifting of the land under the sea. This land buckled, and the old sea floor was uplifted and bowed into a long ridge, like a wrinkle in a carpet. Rock layers were fractured, and the fractures became faults as the rock layers slipped or were thrust along the fracture zones. Through some of the fractures, molten lava oozed up from the earth's interior to form lavas on the surface and granite beneath the surface.

The highland thus formed was slowly worn down by water, wind, and freezing action until most of the sea-laid rock layers and lavas were eroded away from the high center of the range, exposing the more ancient crystalline rocks that formed the core. Through continued erosion, the sur-

face of these mountains was slowly reduced to a rolling upland. The gentle slopes atop Trail Ridge and Flattop Mountain are remnants of this erosional stage. A renewal of volcanic activity occurred, at which time the Specimen Mountain volcano was formed. More erosion followed.

At the end of the Mesozoic era and continuing into the Cenozoic, some 60 to 40 million years ago, another series of uplifts raised the eroding mountain range successively higher, giving the streams renewed vigor and allowing them to carve deeper and sharper valleys.

Then, about a million years ago the climate grew colder and the ice age began. Giant snowdrifts compacted into ice, forming glaciers of tremendous size. The slow, ponderous downvalley movement of the glaciers—glaciers holding tons of rock debris in their masses of ice—sculptured the sharp valley bottoms into U-shapes. As the glaciers moved down the valleys, loose rock material carried in and on the ice was deposited along the sides, forming lateral moraines. At the ends of the glaciers, ice-carried rocks were dumped as from the ends of conveyor belts to form terminal moraines.

There are excellent examples of moraines in Moraine

Mountains and valleys and lakes—the geologists' explanation of their formation is a part of the park's interpretive program.



Gorge Lakes, from Rock Cut, Trail Ridge Road.

Park. Some moraines have been so eroded that it is difficult to trace them, but those in Moraine Park are classic examples of glacial deposit. Other evidences of glaciation, such as ice-polished rocks, erratic boulders, and marks called striations, can be plainly seen in many places. Only a few very small glaciers are left now.

The earth history of Rocky Mountain National Park is one of gigantic earth movements, eons of building and wearing away. The process still goes on, and landmarks familiar to us today may become unknown in ages to come.

### MAN IN THE ROCKIES

The first Indians probably reached the vicinity of Rocky Mountain National Park between 10,000 and 20,000 years ago. Just who these firstcomers were is unknown. They were followed by many other Indians, of whom the modern Ute and Arapaho were the latest. The way of life of the earlier inhabitants is known only through the few artifacts revealed by the spade of the archeologist. Objects of stone, bone, and burned clay alone tell us of the first inhabitants of the park area. A few objects found in the park have been estimated by archeologists to be about 8,000 years old.

After the United States acquired the region through the Louisiana Purchase, explorers, trappers (the famous mountain men), and adventurers passed near the park area.

On October 15, 1859, Joel Estes and his son, Milton, topped Park Hill and became the first known white men to see the "park," or open, forest-rimmed valley, which now bears the Estes name. The next year, Estes settled his family in the grassy meadows here. By 1867, the Estes family

claim was acquired by Griff Evans, who later transferred his rights to a British nobleman, the Earl of Dunraven.

Dunraven kept out many enterprises which would have seriously marred the matchless landscape, and he also did much to bring the region to public attention.

In 1868, Maj. John Wesley Powell and his party made the first successful ascent of Longs Peak. From then on, the area became increasingly popular for mountain climbing.

During the 1880's, a mining boom occurred in what is now the west side of the park, leading to the establishment of Lulu City, Dutchtown, and Teller. A small but exciting community grew up on the shore of Grand Lake, to serve the needs of the new mining camps. But only low-grade ore was found, the mines were abandoned one by one, and the disappointed miners drifted away.

### THE PARK IS ESTABLISHED

By 1910, when the automobile was finally proving practicable as a means of travel, many people began thinking of a National Park in this area.

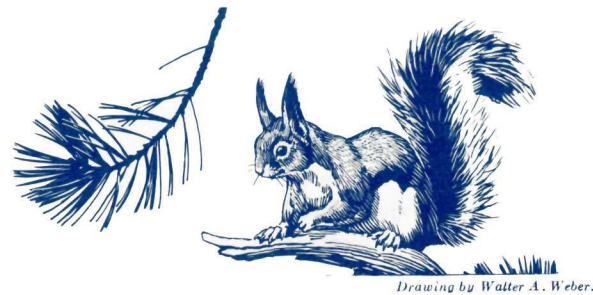
But the establishment of Rocky Mountain National Park is historically linked with the name of one man—Enos A. Mills, so-called "father" of the park and a famous naturalist. His enthusiasm, writing, and lectures laid the groundwork which ultimately led to legislation in 1915 setting aside this outstanding area for the use and enjoyment of the people of the United States and their guests from foreign countries.

Enos Mills must have felt rewarded for his years of hard work and innumerable frustrations, when he participated in September 1915 in the dedication ceremonies for Rocky Mountain National Park.

Winter sports are popular at Hidden Valley.







Tassel-eared squirrel.

## PARK SEASONS

### Spring

Springtime in the Rockies! With the last frost over, the wildflowers on the sunny slopes, meadows, and grassy parks burst into a rash of colors. Sometimes during the night a moist fall of snow blankets the trees; it sparkles in the morning sun until the warmth of day melts it away. Nature awakens, and streams run bank-full. Much of the snow along the Continental Divide melts during this season, but many large snowbanks linger, shrinking gradually in summer.

Spring comes to the lower altitudes in late April, and flows up the mountainsides as the weeks go by. By early June, it has reached the high country; the short summer season of the tundra does not begin until July.

### Summer

Most persons think of Rocky Mountain as a summertime park, because they know about the pleasantly cool air, the brilliant skies, the warm sun, and the summer activities. Perhaps they have fished in the park's sparkling streams and cool lakes, or perhaps they have hiked or ridden horseback over magnificent mountain trails through pine or spruce forests. This is the time to enjoy the high country.

### Autumn

Autumn is the time for brisk walks and drives through the red and gold of the aspen, when whole hillsides seem on fire. The air is clear and crisp, and the warming sun and blue skies are perfect for exploring the park's byways.

Elk bugle in the hills, and chipmunks scurry to get the last seeds stored away. Deer drink at clear reflecting pools. It is mountain time at its best.

### Winter

The center of winter activities in the park is Hidden Valley. (See the section entitled "Winter Activities.") Roads to (but not between) Estes Park and Grand Lake are normally open throughout the winter, and a variety of accommodations is available.

Whether seen from park roads or ski trails, the majestic mountains in their mantle of white are a satisfying visual treat for winter visitors.

## HOW TO REACH THE PARK

*By automobile.* From the east, you can reach Rocky Mountain National Park via Loveland over U.S. 34 through the scenic Big Thompson Canyon; via Longmont over the North St. Vrain Highway (State Route 66); or via Lyons and Raymond over the scenic South St. Vrain Highway (State Route 7). From the west, you may approach the park via Grand Lake over U.S. 34 from its junction with U.S. 40 near Grandby.

*By train, bus, or airplane.* The nearest major rail, air, and busline terminals are at Denver, 63 miles from Estes Park, and at Cheyenne, Wyo., 91 miles distant.

During the summer travel season, the Colorado Transportation Co. makes connections with transcontinental airlines, railroads, and buslines at Denver and with buslines and railroads at Greeley and Granby (16 miles distant). The company provides limited daily bus service between Estes Park and Denver, Longmont, Greeley, Fort Collins, and Loveland, and between Grand Lake and Denver via Granby. In winter, it also provides bus transportation to the Hidden Valley Winter-Use Area and shuttle bus service between Lower and Upper Hidden Valley. You may obtain further information from the Colorado Transportation Co., 1805 Broadway, Denver, Colo.

## WHERE TO STAY

### Inside the Park

*Hotels, lodges, and cabins.* There are no overnight accommodations within the park under Government supervision. Only a few accommodations are available and these are on private land.

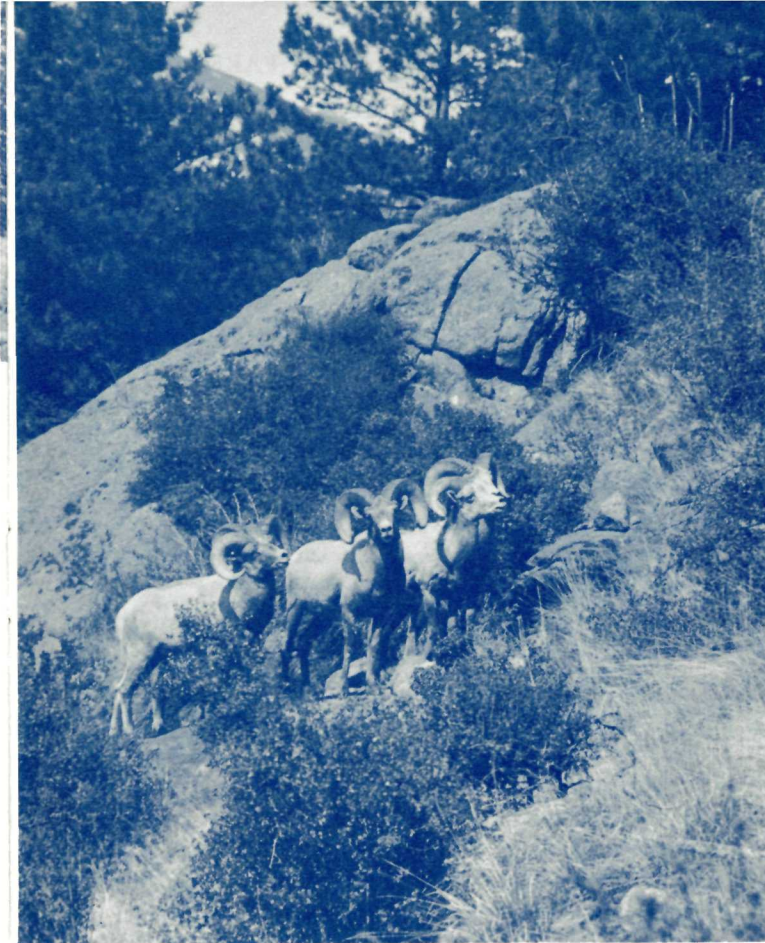
*Campgrounds.* Each year, thousands of persons enjoy camping in Rocky Mountain National Park. To accommodate those who wish to live out of doors, the National Park Service provides several campgrounds.

The major campgrounds are located at Glacier Basin, Aspenglen, Endovalley, Longs Peak, Wild Basin, and Timber Creek. All of these campgrounds have fireplaces, tables, sanitary facilities, and water.

Campgrounds are operated on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations are not made. Park rangers are on duty in all the campgrounds to assist you in selecting a desirable campsite upon your arrival. Camping time limits, which may vary, are posted in each campground.

If you wish to camp along the trailside, you must first obtain a campfire permit at one of the ranger stations.

Make a list of your camping needs beforehand. The essentials usually include a tent, an ample supply of blankets or sleeping bags, cooking utensils, an ax, flashlight, canvas



The Rocky Mountain bighorn symbolize Rocky Mountain National Park.

tarpaulin, and suitable outdoor clothes. Cots and mattresses greatly aid camping comfort.

The cutting of standing trees for firewood, or for any other purpose, is prohibited. Firewood is sold by a concessioner in the campgrounds. Gasoline-operated stoves are permitted in all supervised campground and picnic areas.

Housetrailer are permitted at most campgrounds; however, it is highly undesirable to try to convey a housetrailer to Wild Basin and Endovalley Campgrounds because of narrow, winding roads. *There are no electric, water, or sewer connections available in the campgrounds.*

### Outside the Park

Conveniently adjacent to the park are many hotels, lodges, motels, camps, cottages, and eating establishments. During the late autumn, winter, and spring, a few of these accommodations remain open to take care of the off-season visitors.

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

## SERVICES

*Meals and supplies.* Meals, groceries, film, camping supplies, and other items may be obtained in the villages of Estes Park, Grand Lake, and Allenspark.

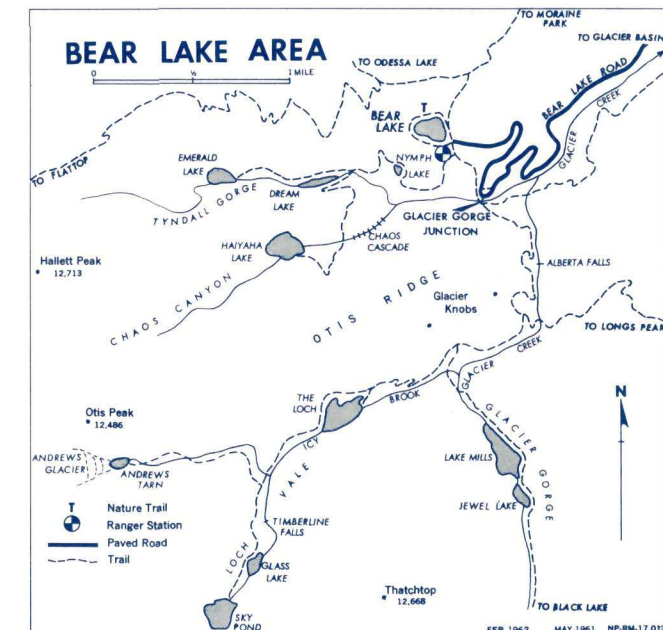
*Bus tours.* During the summer, the Colorado Transportation Co. offers a variety of all-expense tours through the park. Among the most popular tours are those which loop from Denver to Estes Park, then over Trail Ridge Road to Grand Lake, and back to Denver over Berthoud Pass on U.S. 40. Special sightseeing trips into the park are ordinarily scheduled twice daily between Estes Park and Bear Lake, Estes Park and Grand Lake, and Estes Park and Fall River Pass.

*Saddle horses* may be rented by the hour, day, week, month, or season at prevailing rates from the Glacier Creek Livery or from other stables in and near the park.

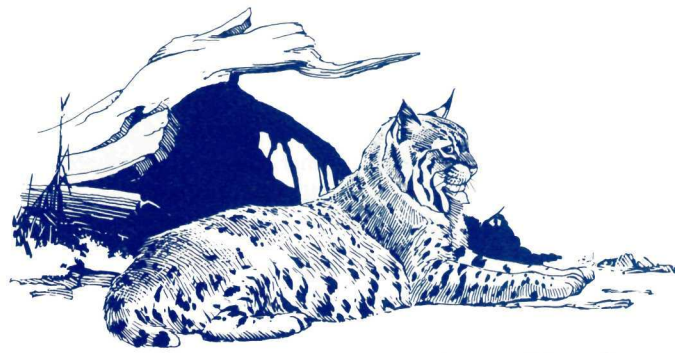
*Medical service* is available at the gateway villages of Estes Park and Grand Lake, where doctors are in residence throughout the year.

*Religious services.* Roman Catholic and Protestant services are conducted each Sunday in Estes Park and Grand Lake throughout the year. Times and locations of additional summertime services are posted on the bulletin boards within the park.

*Post office, telephone, and telegraph service.* Mail arrives and departs twice a day at Estes Park during the summer and once a day during the winter. It arrives and departs daily at Grand Lake. Telegraph and telephone services at Estes Park and Grand Lake are available throughout the year.







Bobcat.

*Drawing by Walter A. Weber.*

## PREPARING FOR YOUR VISIT

### *Other Publications About the Park*

Your visit will be more enjoyable and you will understand more of what you see if you will read some of the material that has been written about the park before you come to Rocky Mountain or after you arrive. Following are some of the publications on sale at park headquarters, visitor centers, and other places within the park:

*Birds of Denver and Mountain Parks*, by Robert J. Niedrach and Robert B. Rockwell.

*Glaciers in Rocky Mountain National Park*, published by the Rocky Mountain Nature Association.

*Guide to the Colorado Mountains*, by Robert M. Ormes.

*Guide to the Mammals of Colorado*, by Hugo Rodeck.

*Longs Peak—Its Story and A Climbing Guide*, by Paul W. Nesbit.

*Plants of Rocky Mountain National Park*, by Ruth A. Nelson.

*Maps of Rocky Mountain National Park*, prepared by the Geological Survey, U.S. Department of the Interior. A 1961 edition (23 by 31 inches) covers the entire park. Also available are 14 larger scale and more detailed quadrangle maps, which together cover the park area.

The National Park Service has issued a 68-page illustrated natural history handbook entitled *Rocky Mountain National Park*. It may be purchased at the park, or ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C., for 30 cents.

### *What To Wear*

Most summer visitors to the park find lightweight sport clothes suitable. You should be sure to include warm sweaters and jackets for evenings or for hikes in the high country, and you should bring stout hiking shoes and a raincoat. Afternoon thundershowers are often the rule during the summer. In the winter, of course, you should come prepared for the cold.

## HELP PROTECT YOUR PARK

The park's regulations were established to protect you as well as the park. Please obey them.

*Fire* is Rocky Mountain's greatest peril. Build fires only in designated places and never near or on roots of trees, deadwood, moss, dry leaves, forest mold, or other vegetable refuse. Do not leave campfires unattended. Before leaving, extinguish the last spark with water. *Don't take chances—make sure your fire is out.* Be just as careful with any other burning material; *do not throw cigarettes, cigars, or matches from your automobile or along the trails.*

*Camping* time limits are posted in designated campgrounds. Camps must be kept clean and sanitary; place empty cans and garbage in containers provided for that purpose.

*Preserving natural features.* Please do not pick wildflowers or damage any plants; leave them for others to enjoy. Law prohibits the destruction, injury, removal, or disturbance of public property or natural features or materials.

*Fishing* must be conducted in conformance with regulations regarding season, hours of fishing, and fishing and baiting methods. Ten fish (not to exceed a total of 10 pounds) constitute the limit for a day's catch or possession at any one time. A State of Colorado license is required. Review the regulations, which are available at park headquarters and ranger stations, before you go fishing.

*Speed.* *The speed limit is 20 miles per hour on curves and 35 miles per hour on straight stretches, except where other limits are posted. Commercial trucking is not permitted.*

*Hunting.* The park is a sanctuary, in which hunting is prohibited. Firearms are permitted within the park only if they are adequately sealed, cased, broken down, or otherwise packed to prevent their use.

*Found articles* should be turned in at the chief ranger's office at park headquarters in the village of Estes Park, where they may be claimed.

## ADMINISTRATION

Rocky Mountain National Park is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

The National Park System, of which this park is a unit, is dedicated to conserving the scenic, scientific, and historic heritage of the United States for the benefit and enjoyment of its people.

The development of this park is part of MISSION 66, a 10-year program to develop and staff the areas of the National Park System so that they can be used and enjoyed by both present and future generations.



Bull American elk on the tundra of Trail Ridge.

MISSION 66 projects completed at Rocky Mountain include Beaver Meadows Entrance Road and Entrance Station; the nature trail around Bear Lake; expansion and modernization of Glacier Basin and Aspenglen Campgrounds; the Glacier Creek Livery and picnic area; rebuilding of the Fall River Entrance station and road; widening and paving of Fall River Road to Endovalley; a new Longs Peak Campground; and several new turnouts and interpretive devices along Trail Ridge Road.

A superintendent, whose address is Estes Park, Colo., is in immediate charge of Rocky Mountain National Park.

## AMERICA'S NATURAL RESOURCES

Created in 1849, the Department of the Interior—America's Department of Natural Resources—is concerned with the management, conservation, and development of the Nation's water, wildlife, mineral, forest, and park and recreational resources. It also has major responsibilities for Indian and territorial affairs.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department works to assure that nonrenewable resources are developed and used wisely, that park and recreational resources are conserved for the future, and that renewable resources make their full contribution to the progress, prosperity, and security of the United States—now and in the future.

## VISITOR-USE FEES

Vehicle permit fees collected at entrance stations are not listed herein because they are subject to change. The information can be obtained by writing to the superintendent.

Fee revenues are deposited in the U.S. Treasury; they offset, in part, the cost of operating and maintaining the National Parks.

## TO REMIND YOU

Please observe the following:

- Trail Ridge Road across the Continental Divide is closed from late October to late May.
- It is unlawful to pick or remove wildflowers, trees, twisted tree-line wood, or rocks.
- Stay on established roads and trails.
- Dogs, cats, and wheeled vehicles are not allowed on trails.
- Report all accidents, suggestions, and complaints to a park ranger or to park headquarters. When in doubt, ask a park ranger.
- Please do not touch, molest, or feed the animals.



## SELF-GUIDING AUTO TOUR OF TRAIL RIDGE ROAD

Look along Trail Ridge Road for the numeral signs in the shape of the National Park Service arrowhead emblem. If you enter the park from the east (either Fall River or Beaver Meadows Entrance), start the tour at Sign No. 1 or 2. If you enter from the west (Grand Lake Entrance), start at Sign No. 12 or 13, and follow the guide backward.

**Sign No. 1—Moraine Park Visitor Center:** This visitor center and museum is located 1 mile south of the Beaver Meadows Entrance. If you come through the Fall River Entrance on U.S. 34, you can reach it by taking a 4-mile side trip south from Deer Ridge Junction. The view, exhibits, literature, maps, glacier talks, and other attractions here help you enjoy your park visit. Free programs are held nightly during the summer. A self-guiding nature trail, a 1/2-mile loop walk, starts here.

To sign No. 2, 6.6 miles.

**Sign No. 2—Hidden Valley** (elevation 9,400 feet): Just off Trail Ridge Road is Hidden Valley Lodge, center of a winter-use area from December to April, offering skiing, ice skating, platter sliding, and snowshoeing. In summer, you will find information service, lounge and restrooms, and outdoor picnic tables here. Near the lodge is a fine stand of spirelike spruce and fir, typical of the subalpine zone forest. Downstream from the lodge turnoff, beavers have dammed the stream to form many ponds in the willow bottom. The valley is "hidden" from Horseshoe Park, into which it drains, by a glacier-formed ridge, or moraine.

To sign No. 3, 1.5 miles.

**Sign No. 3—Many Parks Curve** (9,620 feet): Several "parks" (mountain-enclosed meadows) are visible from here. Separating the parks are long, forested ridges. These are moraines—great heaps of rock debris deposited by glaciers of the ice age. This is also a good place to watch at close range the chipmunks, ground squirrels, and 3 or 4 common species of birds.

To sign No. 4, 4.3 miles.

**Sign No. 4—Rainbow Curve** (10,829 feet): Be sure to get out of your car here. You are almost half a mile higher than the meadows of Horseshoe Park, visible below. Through it meanders Fall River. The forests below you are mainly spruce and fir. Look for tree line (the upper limit of forests) atop Monument Ridge to the right. Up the road from this curve you will pass excellent examples of dwarfed, stunted tree-line trees. The average elevation of tree line here is 11,500 feet (more than 2 miles above sea level). Above that altitude is the alpine tundra—a flower-rich meadowland not unlike the vast treeless wastes of northern Alaska and Siberia. Trail Ridge Road passes for 11 miles across this tundra.

To sign No. 5, 3 miles.

**Sign No. 5—Forest Canyon Overlook** (11,716 feet): A 5-minute walk along the path will bring you to a breathtaking view into the depths of Forest Canyon and across to the rugged walls of Hayden Gorge. This is one of the best places to see the effect of now-vanished glaciers in sculpturing the mountain landscape and to see tundra vegetation. Interpretive signs here explain the interesting features.

To sign No. 6, 2.1 miles.

**Sign No. 6—Rock Cut** (12,110 feet): Here is a superlative view 2,000 feet down into Forest Canyon, across into Gorge Lakes Canyon, and to the peaks along the Continental Divide. Learn about the alpine tundra by walking to the Roger Toll Memorial, a 30-minute round trip by trail that starts at the lower end of the parking area.

To sign No. 7, 2.2 miles.

**Remember, this is high-altitude country, and so don't overexert. If you have a heart condition, you should stay near your car.**

**Sign No. 7—Iceberg Lake View** (12,080 feet): A mass of compacted snow, resembling ice, remains throughout most of the summer and gives this tiny lake its name. The lake lies in the bottom of what geologists call a cirque—a rock basin quarried by a glacier that has since melted away. In recent years the lake has been decreasing in size, perhaps because ice concealed within the moraine dam is melting. The reddish cliffs are of lava from a volcanic eruption and are much younger rocks than the widespread ancient granites of the park.

To sign No. 8, 2.1 miles.

**Note: Between Iceberg Lake and Fall River Pass, you cross the highest point on Trail Ridge Road—12,183 feet above sea level.**

**Sign No. 8—Fall River Pass** (11,796 feet): Be sure to visit the Alpine Exhibit Room in the stone building here. The facilities of this room include information service, park literature, and exhibits describing high-country features. Souvenirs and light lunches are available in the concessioner part of the building. Restrooms are located in the basement.

To sign No. 9, 0.5 mile.

**Sign No. 9—Specimen Mountain View** (11,640 feet): The sign points to the Medicine Bow Range in Wyoming. The Cache la Poudre River flows through the valley below. The rounded mountain to the west is Specimen Mountain, a remnant of a long-extinct volcano from which came the lava that forms the cliffs at Iceberg Lake. A trail to the summit begins one-quarter mile northwest of Milner Pass. Elk are frequently seen in the meadows visible from here.

To sign No. 10, 4 miles.

**Sign No. 10—Continental Divide, Milner Pass** (10,758 feet): This divide, which you cross here, is the backbone of North America, separating the Pacific drainage from that of the Atlantic. The superlative mountainous area of Rocky Mountain National Park lies on both sides of the Continental Divide. The roadside sign at Milner Pass explains how water flows from here to both oceans. Bighorn are often seen in this vicinity, especially on Specimen Mountain.

To sign No. 11, 2.5 miles.

**Sign No. 11—Farview Curve** (10,120 feet): Watch the chipmunks and ground squirrels, but don't let them keep your eyes off the scenery! The same Colorado River that carved the Grand Canyon in Arizona flows through the big valley below you. The river originates just a few miles upstream from here in the park and it ends in the Gulf of California. The rugged mountains across the valley are the Never Summer Range. The straight scar along the mountains is a diversion ditch carrying water from the Colorado River drainage across the Continental Divide (to your right) into the Cache la Poudre River for irrigation. This ditch was built before Rocky Mountain National Park was established. Look for beaver ponds in the valley below.

To sign No. 12, 16.2 miles.

**Sign No. 12—Shadow Mountain National Recreation Area:** This includes Shadow Mountain Lake and Lake Granby, both part of the Colorado-Big Thompson Project of the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Department of the Interior. Water from these manmade reservoirs and from Grand Lake, all in the Pacific drainage, passes through the mountains by tunnel, emerging on the east side near Estes Park. Now in the Atlantic drainage, the water is used for power and for irrigation of farmlands on the plains. Shadow Mountain National Recreation Area is also administered by the National Park Service for your benefit.



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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



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# ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK Colorado

