

Rocky Mountain

NATIONAL PARK • COLORADO

Rocky Mountain National Park, embracing 410 square miles of the Front Range of the Rockies in north-central Colorado, is one of the most spectacular yet most easily accessible high-mountain areas in North America. With elevations ranging from 8,000 feet at park headquarters to 14,256 at the summit of Longs Peak, it has glacier-sculptured valleys, rugged gorges, alpine lakes, and vast areas of alpine tundra.

Trail Ridge Road, which stays above timberline for 11 miles and reaches 12,183 feet, crosses the crest of the Front Range and the Continental Divide. A trip over 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 scenery. Speed limits and traffic laws are enforced. Please obey signs. Report all accidents and complaints to the nearest ranger station.

Enjoy, but do not destroy, injure, deface, remove, or disturb public property, natural features, wild animals, or any other park resource. Since Rocky Mountain is a wildlife sanctuary, hunting is prohibited, as is any device designed to discharge missiles and capable of injuring or destroying animal life.

WHAT TO DO

Interpretive programs. The National Park Service encourages you to become acquainted with the park through its guided walks, campfire programs, and other activities. This program begins in early June and extends into September. Pick up a schedule at one of the information centers. Be sure to see the orientation film at headquarters (open all year); and the exhibits at Alpine Visitor Center (June–October) and Moraine Park Visitor Center (May–October). Roadside exhibits and self-guiding trails also help interpret the park. One of the latter is the Old Fall River Road, a motor nature trail from Horseshoe Park to Fall River Pass. A guide booklet explains the history and natural history of this old road. Large relief models at headquarters and at the west side information center give you a flyer's view of the rugged park terrain.

When you leave Rocky Mountain National Park we hope your experience here will go with you as a happy memory. You should also carry away an enhanced appreciation for nature, a sharpened awareness of the interdependence of animals, plants, soil, air, and water, and an understanding that we are inescapably part of this precariously balanced system.

To assist schools in teaching this newly emphasized ecology, many national parks are establishing environmental study areas. Rocky Mountain's is at Sprague Lake. Here, each year, thousands of



school children gain an understanding of their place in the web of life.

Sightseeing by car is popular at Rocky Mountain, but the person who ventures out on foot will see much more of what the park offers. Short trails lead to many scenic features. Easy strolls start from the Cub Lake and Fern Lake trailheads. The Bear Lake and Glacier Gorge areas are good starting points for short hikes to other lakes. Back-country camping (by registration) is available at many spots along the 300 miles of trails.

Pets are permitted in the park only if they are kept under physical control; they are *not* allowed on trails or in areas not accessible to automobiles.

Vehicles are not allowed on trails or off the roads.

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

Fishing. Many of the lower-elevation lakes and streams and some of the higher lakes contain one or more species of trout. Park waters are not stocked, and trout populations are maintained by natural reproduction. A Colorado fishing license is required.

Skiing and ice-skating facilities are located at Hidden Valley, 7 miles from the Fall River 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 roadside campgrounds—Moraine Park, Glacier Basin, Aspenglen, Endovalley, Longs Peak, Wild Basin, and Timber Creek—provide an enjoyable way to become acquainted with Rocky Mountain. Camping is limited to 7 days; in summer, campgrounds are usually filled to capacity early each day. Organized group campsites, located at Aspenglen and Glacier campgrounds, may be reserved. Endovalley, Longs Peak, and Wild Basin are restricted to tent camping. House trailers should not be taken into Wild Basin or up Fall River Road, since both roads are narrow and Fall River Road is steep. There are no electrical, water, or sewer connections in any of the campgrounds. Sewer dumps for self-contained camping vehicles are available at Moraine Park, Glacier Basin, and Timber Creek Campgrounds. One park campground is kept open all year.

Fires. Wood fires are permitted in fire grates in roadside campgrounds and picnic areas. A written permit is required for all fires outside those areas.

Back-country camping. A written permit is required for all overnight stays in the back country. These may be obtained, in person, on a "first-come" basis, at any ranger station or information desk.

IF YOU PLAN TO CLIMB

Mountain climbing. Over the years, Rocky Mountain has become increasingly popular with mountain climbers. Longs Peak is a favorite, and there are several routes to its summit, providing climbs of varying difficulty. Descriptions of climbing routes and information on mountaineering guide service are available at park headquarters and ranger stations.

The spectacular high country of the park attracts both hikers and expert climbers. Many accidents have occurred when inexperienced hikers who did not realize the hazards involved have attempted rock climbing or cross-country routes.

You must register with a park ranger if you are planning to—

1. Make an ascent involving use of technical climbing equipment (ropes, carabiners, pitons).
2. Make overnight foot, ski, snowshoe, or snowmobile trips in winter.
3. Make ski or snowshoe trips away from main roads.

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.

ACCOMMODATIONS

There are no overnight accommodations under Government supervision inside the park. The few that are available are on private land and are not subject to National Park Service control.

For information about facilities adjacent to the park, write to the chamber of commerce at either Estes Park, CO 80517, or Grand Lake, CO 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 Company makes connections with transcontinental airlines, railroads, and buslines at Denver and Granby. You can obtain further information from this company at 3455 Ringsby Court, Denver, CO 80216.

One-way trail distances from nearest approach roads [*distance to nearest one-half mile*]:

From Bear Lake to	Miles
Dream Lake.....	1
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 Junc. to	
Loch Vale.....	2.5
Mills Lake.....	2.5
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
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 Junc. (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
Chasm Lake.....	5.5
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 site.....	3
La Poudre Pass.....	7
Thunder Pass.....	7
Red Mountain.....	3
From Poudre Lake (near Milner Pass) to	
Specimen Mountain.....	3

ADMINISTRATION

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

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources." The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States—now and in the future.

