

Rocky Mountain

NATIONAL PARK • COLORADO



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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.

National Park Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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 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, the park 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 (the road is closed by snow from late October to May) provides sweeping views of mountains, forests, and open meadows. Open vistas make this and other park roads ideal for sightseeing from your car.

An especially rewarding time to visit the park is autumn. 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 even more spectacular when blanketed with snow.

Elk, deer, bighorn, coyotes, and smaller animals are often seen throughout the park, but less in summer than in autumn, winter, and spring.

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

The roads at Rocky Mountain are not high-speed highways; they are designed 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.

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. These programs begin in early June and extend 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 to interpret the park. One of the latter is the Old Fall River Road (open July-October) 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 bird's eye 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 (including man), plants, soil, air, and water, and an understanding that we are inescapably a part of this precariously balanced system.

To assist schools in teaching this newly emphasized ecology, Rocky Mountain National Park has established an environmental study area at Sprague Lake. Shadow Mountain National Recreation Area has one adjacent to Green Ridge Campground. Each year, thousands of schoolchildren can gain a better understanding of their place in the web of life here and at many other areas of the National Park System.

Hiking. 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 trail heads. The Bear Lake and Glacier Gorge areas are good starting points for short hikes to other lakes. Back-country camping (by registration) can be enjoyed at many places along the 300 miles of trails.

Horseback riding. Horses and guides can be hired from Hi Country Stables in two locations on the east side of the park.

Pets are not allowed on trails or in areas not accessible to automobiles. In areas where they are permitted, they must be kept on a leash.

Vehicles are not allowed on trails or off the roads.

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.

Camping. Six roadside campgrounds—Moraine Park, Glacier Basin, Aspenglen, Endovalley, Longs Peak, and Timber Creek—provide an enjoyable way to become acquainted with Rocky Mountain. Camping is limited to 3 days at Longs Peak and 7 days at the other sites. In summer, campgrounds are usually filled to capacity early each day. Organized group campsites, at Aspenglen and Glacier Basin Campgrounds, can be reserved. Endovalley and Longs Peak are restricted to tent camping. There are no electrical, water, or sewer connections in any of the campgrounds. Sewer dumps for self-contained camping vehicles are at Moraine Park, Glacier Basin, and Timber Creek Campgrounds. One campground is kept open all year.

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

Skiing. Hidden Valley, 7 miles from the Fall River Entrance, has skiing facilities. There are roads to Hidden Valley from the east, kept open all winter.

BACK-COUNTRY USE

The back country of the park includes all the park outside of the road-accessible, developed areas, and is entered by trail or by cross-country travel.

Registers and permits. More than 300 miles of trails provide access to the remote sections of the park. Visitors on 1-day hikes or horseback trips are requested to sign the registers at trail heads.

A back-country permit is required for all overnight trips into the back country and for all ascents involving the use of *technical climbing equipment* (ropes, carabiners, pitons, etc.).

These permits must be obtained in summer at any ranger or information station. In winter and generally in late autumn and early spring, it is necessary to go to park headquarters or the West District Office to obtain the permit. They are given on a first-come, first-served basis.

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.

Accidents in the mountains, even minor ones, may have serious or fatal consequences. Severe storms move in 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 or technical ability; start early; avoid high open ridges and peaks during lightning; turn back in adverse weather; and move cautiously on steep or rocky areas. Children should not run downhill.

ACCOMMODATIONS

There are no overnight accommodations under Government supervision in the park. The few that are available are privately owned.

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, Gray Line Tours makes connections

with transcontinental airlines, railroads, and buslines at Denver. You can obtain further information from this company at P. O. Box 1977, Denver, CO 80202, or by telephoning 303-825-8201.

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

From	Miles
From Bear Lake to	
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

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK



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

Trail Ridge Road is closed in winter between Timber Creek and Lower Hidden Valley (26 miles).

