

ABOUT LONGS PEAK  
Rocky Mountain National Park

To help answer your questions regarding the Longs Peak area, the following information has been compiled to make your visit here comfortable and safely rewarding.

Seasons: From about October until July the climb of Longs Peak is under winter, technical climbing conditions, on all routes. July, August and most of September the hiking route (Keyhole or "Fried Egg") is free of snow and can be negotiated without technical climbing equipment. The North Face and East Face are technical climbing routes, even in the summer.

Approach: The Longs Peak Ranger Station is situated 1 mile off Highway 7, 11 miles south of Estes Park, and is open only in summer (June through Labor Day), 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., 7 days a week. There is usually a standby ranger in the residence area 24 hours a day.

Distance: The summit is 7 miles from the ranger station by foot trail with an elevation gain of 4,700 feet. The 6 miles to the Boulderfield is by a good trail. From there to the top (Keyhole route) the route traverses the west face of the peak and continues to the summit via a chute on the south face. It is marked by yellow and red bulls eyes (fried eggs) painted on rocks. Time for the round-trip from the Ranger Station is 12 to 15 hours.

Technical Climbing: A technical registration with a Ranger is required for all technical climbs (defined as any use of rope and/or ice axe).

Equipment: Hiking boots (not tennis shoes), extra wool sweaters, long pants, wind breaker, flashlight, gloves, hat, spare socks, rain gear, lunch. These items are advised for a one day ascent of Longs Peak.

Water: Water is available throughout the Longs Peak area with the exception of the summit of Longs Peak. No surface water is ever absolutely safe. Treating of water or boiling is wise.

Hints for Success: An early start, before 6:00 a.m., is essential to avoid afternoon lightning storms. Conditioning hikes are advised. Take extra clothing.

Regulations: Park regulations are strictly enforced. Please read them carefully. Following are some that are most commonly abused. A complete list may be reviewed at any Ranger Station.

1. Pets are not allowed on trails in the National Park.
2. Backcountry campers must have a valid "Backcountry Use Permit".
3. Fires are not allowed in the Longs Peak backcountry except at Moore Park.
4. A technical climbing registration is required for all technical climbs.

Fishing: Fishing is poor to non-existent in Chasm Lake and all streams.

Phone: Longs Peak Ranger Station - (303) 586-4975.

Camping:

1. Longs Peak Campground at Longs Peak Ranger Station. TENTS ONLY, NO MOBILE CAMPING UNITS - 37 sites.
  
2. Backcountry camping  
Camping is allowed only at Jim's Grove, Goblin's Forest, Moore Park, Boulderfield, and Boulder Brook. A "Backcountry Use Permit, available free of charge from any Ranger Station, is required for any overnight trips into the backcountry. Permits may be obtained in advance, and the sites are limited so obtain your permit early.
  - a. Jim's Grove: 10 sites, 2.9 miles from Ranger Station, elevation 11,000' (timberline), STOVES ONLY, NO WOOD FIRES.
  - b. Boulderfield: 10 sites, 5.9 miles from Ranger Station, elevation 12,760', very exposed, STOVES ONLY, NO WOOD FIRES.
  - c. Goblin's Forest: 6 sites, 1.2 steep miles from Ranger Station, elevation 10,120', well below timberline, STOVES ONLY, NO WOOD FIRES.
  - d. Moore Park: 2 sites, 1.9 easy miles from Ranger Station, elevation 9,760', WOOD FIRES ALLOWED.
  - e. Boulder Brook: 2 sites, 3.8 miles from Glacier Gorge Junction, 7.9 miles from Longs Peak Ranger Station, elevation 10,200', STOVES ONLY, NO WOOD FIRES.
  - f. Boulder Brook Group Site: 1 group, 3.6 miles from Glacier Gorge Junction, 7.7 miles from Longs Peak Ranger Station, elevation 10,300', STOVES ONLY, NO WOOD FIRES.
  - g. Battle Mountain Group Site: 1 group, 2.8 miles from Ranger Station, elevation 11,800', STOVES ONLY, NO WOOD FIRES.

NOTE: Chasm Meadow: Camping has been terminated in Chasm Meadow for 1976 and possibly longer, to allow for rejuvenation of the meadow.