

The official newspaper
of Rocky Mountain National Park
Fall - 2013
September 3 - October 19



NPS Photo/Debbie Biddle



Visitor Centers



East of the Divide – Estes Park Area

Alpine Visitor Center

Open daily (weather permitting) 10:30 a.m.-4:30 a.m. through Oct. 14. Features extraordinary views of alpine tundra, displays, information, bookstore, adjacent gift shop, cafe, and coffee bar. Call (970) 586-1222 for Trail Ridge Road status.

Beaver Meadows Visitor Center

Open daily 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. through Sept. 29, then open daily 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Features spectacular free park movie, information, bookstore, large park orientation map, and backcountry permits in an adjacent building.

Fall River Visitor Center

Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. through Sept. 29. Beginning Sept. 30 open weekends only Oct. 5-6 and 12-13 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., closed for the season Oct. 14. Features beautiful life-size wildlife displays, a children's discovery room, information, and a bookstore.

Moraine Park Visitor Center

Closed



Beaver Meadows Visitor Center

West of the Divide – Grand Lake Area

Kawuneeche Visitor Center

Open daily 8 a.m.-6 p.m. through Sept. 7, then open daily 8 a.m.-5 p.m. through Sept. 28, and open daily 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. throughout the remainder of the season. Features free movies, exhibits on wonders of the park, information, a bookstore, and backcountry permits.

Elk Viewing

Bull elk "bugle" to gather harems of cows, their shrill calls ringing out through the evening twilight. In the fall, you can see and hear the spectacle of the elk rut, their annual mating ritual. This activity is most easily experienced in the waning light of day.

Prime elk viewing areas include: Moraine Park, Horseshoe Park, and Upper Beaver Meadows on the east side of the park.

On the west side, elk can often be seen throughout the Kawuneeche Valley, especially Holzwarth Meadow and Harbison Meadow.

For the good of the animals and other visitors:

- Park using roadside pullouts -- do not park on vegetation
- Turn off car lights and engine upon parking
- Stay by the roadside when viewing animals
- Do not approach animals closely -- wildlife are unpredictable
- Never use artificial lights or calls
- Do not walk into posted meadows between 5 p.m. and 7 a.m.
- Watch for other cars & keep an eye on children
- Never feed wildlife

Five meadows are closed to entry between 5 p.m. and 7 a.m. daily from September 1 and October 31 to minimize disturbance to elk: Moraine Park, Horseshoe Park, Upper Beaver Meadows, Harbison Meadow, and Holzwarth Meadow.

Important Information

Visitor Services

Horseback Riding

Call for fall schedule

- Wild Basin Livery
Allenspark (303) 747-2222
- Sombrero Ranch
Estes Park: 1895 Big Thompson Ave.
(970) 586-4577 - open year-round.
Allenspark: 211 Main St.
(303) 747-2551
Grand Lake: 304 W. Portal Rd.
(970) 627-1083
- Winding River Resort
Grand Lake: 1447 County Rd. 491,
(970) 627-3215

- National Park Gateway Stables
Rocky Mountain Gateway near the Fall
River Entrance on U.S. 34
(970) 586-5269
- CowPoke Corner Corral Stables
YMCA Road on Highway 66 at Glacier
Lodge (970) 586-5890
- Hi Country Stables
In Rocky Mountain National Park:
Moraine Park (970) 586-2327
Glacier Creek (970) 586-3244

- Meeker Park Stables
Meeker Park (303) 747-2266
- Jackson Stables
YMCA of the Rockies Livery
(970) 586-3341
- Beaver Mountain Livery at
Aspen Lodge Resort & Spa
6120 Hwy 7 (970) 577-3448

Gifts and Food

- Trail Ridge Store
Gifts, cafe, and coffee bar.
(970) 586-1839

Mountaineering

- Colorado Mountain School
Rock Climbing
Estes Park, (800) 836-4008

Firearms

A federal law allows people who legally possess firearms under federal, Colorado, and local laws, to possess firearms in Rocky Mountain National Park. It is the visitor's responsibility to understand and comply with all applicable state and federal firearms laws.

- Hunting, recreational shooting, and target practice are not allowed in Rocky Mountain National Park.
- Federal law prohibits firearms in certain facilities in this park; those buildings are posted with signs at public entrances.
- If you have questions, please contact the Park Information Office at (970) 586-1206.

Fishing

Obtain specific park regulations at visitor centers or park entrance stations. To fish in Rocky Mountain National Park, you must have a valid Colorado state fishing license.

Lost and Found

Please turn found items in at any park visitor center. To inquire about lost items, call the Backcountry Office at (970) 586-1242.

Pets and Service Animals

Pets are allowed in the park but only in picnic areas, campgrounds and along roadsides. Pets are never allowed on trails or in meadow areas. Pets must be on leashes no longer than 6 feet when outside vehicles. For the safety of your pet and for the protection of park wildlife and other visitors, pets and their food should not be left unattended. You may not leave your pet unattended in vehicles if it creates a danger to the animal or if it becomes a public nuisance. Pets may not be left tied to vehicles, trees or other objects. A Pet Brochure is available at visitor centers and lists all regulations.



Service animals that have been individually trained to perform specific tasks for the benefit of persons with disabilities are allowed in the park. A service animal that is allowed in park facilities, trails, etc., must be doing so in the service of a disabled person. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), emotional support ("therapy animals") are not service animals but are considered pets. They may not access trails, park buildings or other non-motorized areas. Service dogs-in-training are not service animals under ADA, but are considered pets.

Picnicking

Picnic areas are located throughout Rocky Mountain National Park. Check the park map for specific locations.

Food Storage

Do not attract wildlife, including black bears, to your campsite. Keep a clean camp! Never leave food items unsecured or unattended. Improperly stored or unattended food items will result in a violation notice. "Food items" include food, drinks, toiletries, cosmetics, pet food and bowls, and odoriferous attractants. Garbage, including empty cans, food wrappers, etc., must be disposed of in trash or recycling receptacles.

See page 6 for food storage while camping.

Take Only Pictures

Regulations prohibit disturbing and taking any natural features including pinecones, rocks, antlers, artifacts, soil, rocks, or vegetation in the park. The use of metal detectors within the park is not allowed.

Viewing Wildlife

When viewing any wildlife, please:

- Obey wildlife closure areas and "no stopping" traffic zones.
- Use parking areas along the road. If not available, pull your vehicle completely off the road and do not park on vegetation.
- Approaching animals may cause them stress, leading to disease or illness. If you cause an animal to move or change its behavior, you are too close!
- Wildlife can be unpredictable. For your safety and theirs, enjoy and photograph wildlife from a distance.
- Never feed wildlife, including birds and chipmunks.



Bicycles in the Park

Bicycling is permitted on public roads, both paved and dirt, but not on trails. There are no bike paths, and many roads are narrow with little or no shoulders. Please ride cautiously.



Bicycles in National Park Service areas must ride single file. There are no bicycle racks on shuttle buses.

Campfires

Campfires are permitted in campgrounds and picnic areas where fire grates are provided. Collecting vegetation, living or dead, is prohibited. Firewood is for sale in summer at all park campgrounds. Campfires can be prohibited during periods of high fire danger.



Entrance Fees

Automobile 7-day pass is valid for seven consecutive days, including date of purchase. \$20

Rocky Mountain National Park Annual Pass - Provides unlimited entry to this park for one year from the date of purchase. \$40

Rocky Mountain National Park/ Arapaho National Recreation Area Annual Pass - Provides unlimited entry to both areas for one year from the date of purchase. \$50

America the Beautiful - National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Annual Pass - Available to everyone which provides access to, and use of, federal recreation sites that charge an entrance or standard amenity fee for one year from date of purchase. \$80

America the Beautiful - National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Senior Pass - A lifetime pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents age 62 or older. \$10

America the Beautiful Military Pass - National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Annual Pass - Free unlimited entry to federal recreation sites (including National Parks) for active duty military personnel and dependents with required proper identification (CAC Card or DD Form 1173) for one year.

America the Beautiful - National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Access Pass - A free lifetime pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents with a permanent disability.

Fees may be paid by check, cash, or credit card.

New technology moves at the speed of light, and Rocky Mountain National Park is committed to bringing it to you. Take a look!



RMNP Podcasts

- The Season of the Elk
- Bears and Campground Food Storage Lockers
- Climbing Longs Peak-Keyhole Route
- The Ten Essentials

Check out [nps.gov/romo](https://www.nps.gov/romo) and click on PHOTOS & MULTIMEDIA for more podcasts, blogs, and videos!

Follow us on Twitter @ RMNPOfficial

Like us on Facebook @ Rocky Mountain National Park



RMNP Podcasts



Park Phone Numbers

Trail Ridge Road status: (970) 586-1222



Call Park Information (970) 586-1206 with your questions. We are available to assist you from 8 to 4:30 daily.



Hearing impaired persons may call the TTY at (970) 586-1319 from 8 to 5 daily



Dial 911 to report emergencies

Stay Safe



Mountain Climbing

Specialized skills and equipment may be required to safely reach a summit. Autumn climbing can present unique challenges since lingering snow and ice can be present. Summiting Longs Peak is not a hike, but a climb. Ask for information before you climb or visit the park website at <http://www.nps.gov/romo/planyourvisit/longspeak.htm>

Hiking Safety

With over 350 miles of trails, the park offers a vast array of choices. In autumn, it can snow in the high country at any time. Please check at a visitor center for current conditions before hiking. Even for short day trips, be sure to pack gear for all types of weather (sun, rain, snow, wind). Windproof/waterproof clothing is essential gear to wear or carry.

Trail Tips. Stay together: this is the most important tip that comes from the experience of park search and rescue teams! Be prepared for the rigors of high elevation -- drink plenty of water, and travel at a pace where you can still talk and breathe easily. If you feel poorly, descend to a lower elevation. Pack it in, pack it out, including remains of all your food (pits, peels, etc.), and facial tissues. Let nature's sounds prevail; avoid loud voices and noises. Pets are not allowed on park trails.

Longs Peak Keyhole Route

The Keyhole Route is NOT a hike! It is a climb with exposure requiring scrambling where an unroped fall would likely be fatal. The route has narrow ledges, loose rock, and steep cliffs. A permit is not required. The best route follows red and yellow bulls-eyes. If you lose the bulls-eyes you are likely off route and will encounter more difficult climbing with more severe consequences. It is important to retrace your steps back to the bulls-eyes before continuing. The Keyhole Route can experience winter-like conditions at any time, requiring greater skill and judgment. Be prepared to turn back during sudden, drastic weather changes. The high elevation may affect your condition and judgment. Careful descent is the best treatment. Don't have summit fever: enjoy the experience, but be willing to turn around at any time.



Scan with your mobile device for the Keyhole Route Site Bulletin.

High Elevation

A large number of visitors to this park each year experience symptoms of altitude sickness. Symptoms range from headache and dizziness to nausea and eventually unconsciousness. Rocky Mountain has the highest average elevation of any national park -- even the main road climbs to 12,183 feet! The road is higher than most U.S. mountains. High altitude can also aggravate existing medical conditions such as heart and lung diseases. Take your time and be sure to drink plenty of water. The only cure for altitude sickness is to **go down** to a lower elevation.

Avoid drinking untreated water from streams and lakes as it may be contaminated with giardia.

Lightning

People are killed by lightning every year in Colorado. Afternoon storms are frequent and can bring an unhappy end to a hike. Watch for approaching storms and be well below treeline or back in your car before the storm hits. If you are caught out in the open during a lightning storm, do not seek shelter under a tree or rock overhang. You want to squat down as low as you can, keeping both feet together and avoid being the tallest thing around you. Keep your pack, hiking poles, and all metal away from you while you are exposed.

Be Prepared

Be prepared for all types of weather, no matter what activity you are enjoying in the national park.



Essentials to Wear and Carry

- Lots of water
- High-energy food
- Layers of clothing (jackets & pants), including insulating, windproof clothing like synthetic or wool
- Sturdy footwear & extra socks
- Storm gear
- Hat and gloves
- Sunglasses with UV protection
- Sunscreen
- First aid kit
- Topographic map & compass/GPS
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Waterproof matches
- Pocket knife
- Whistle
- Common sense!

Mountain Lions and Bears

There are no grizzly bears in Rocky Mountain National Park. Mountain lions and black bears are powerful and potentially dangerous. Here are some general guidelines for traveling in backcountry areas of Rocky Mountain where wildlife may be encountered:

- 1) **Travel in Groups** and make noise as you hike. Keep your group, especially children, close together.
- 2) **Do Not Approach** a mountain lion or bear.
- 3) **Stay Calm** when you see a mountain lion or bear.
- 4) **Stop**; back away slowly. Never turn your back and run.
- 5) **Stand Tall and Look Large.** Raise your arms. Protect small children by picking them up.
- 6) **Leave immediately** if bear cubs are present, or if a bear huffs, pops its jaw, stomps a paw, or if a bear or mountain lion doesn't leave the area.
- 7) If approached, **make loud noises**, shout, clap hands, clang pots and pans.
- 8) If attacked by a mountain lion or bear, **Fight Back!**

Falling Trees

Falling trees are an ever-present hazard. When traveling or camping in the forest, remember that trees can fall without warning. Be particularly watchful when it's windy. Avoid parking where trees could fall.

Hypothermia

Hypothermia is a serious and sometimes fatal condition brought on by exposure to wet and cold. The core body temperature drops to a level that impairs normal muscle and brain activities. Symptoms include drowsiness, loss of judgment or coordination, slurred speech, and uncontrolled shivering. If these symptoms occur, warm the chilled person with dry clothing and warm, nonalcoholic liquids. Get back to your car and seek medical attention. Carry a windproof/snowproof outer shell and extra layers of clothing. Drink plenty of water; high elevation, wind, and cold can dry us out and chill us. Most importantly, stay dry!

Weather and Road Conditions

Trail Ridge Road is open daily, weather permitting. Trail Ridge Road usually closes for season around mid-October. For current park road and driving conditions, please stop at a visitor center. Call the Trail Ridge Road status line (970) 586-1222 for current road status.

Old Fall River Road is open when weather permits. It usually closes for the season in early to mid-October. The road is narrow, one-way up only, has tight switchbacks, and no guardrails. Vehicles over 25 feet long and trailers are prohibited.

Be aware of changing weather, as conditions can deteriorate quickly. Trail Ridge and Old Fall River Road can close temporarily at any time. The park Information Office operates seven days a week and can be reached at (970) 586-1206. For more information see www.twitter.com/RMNPOfficial, or the park website at www.nps.gov and click on road conditions.



Longs Peak on crisp fall day

Free Ranger Programs - Alpine & East Side



All children must be accompanied by an adult
Programs may be cancelled due to high winds or lightning

| Alpine | | Length | Location | SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|-------------------|--|------------|------------|------------|------------------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|
| High Country Tails - Discover what alpine animals can tell us about living life on the mountaintops. Ends 10/14 | | 30 minute talk | Alpine Visitor Center | 2:00 p.m. | | 2:00 p.m. | | 2:00 p.m. | | 2:00 p.m. |
| Daytime Programs - East | | | | | | | | | | |
| Autumn Bird Walk - Join a ranger in search of fall migrants in an excellent birding area. For all levels of birders. Bring binoculars and a field guide. Ends 10/5 | | 1.5 hour walk | Upper Beaver Meadows Trailhead | | 8 a.m. | | | | 8 a.m. | 8 a.m. |
| Autumn in the Rockies - Cool crisp air, beautiful fall colors, and bugling elk. Come on an easy walk to discover the many changes taking place this time of the year. Ends 9/27 | | 1 - 1.5 hour walk | Upper Beaver Meadows Trailhead | | | 1:30 p.m. | 10 a.m. | | 1:30 p.m. | |
| Lily Lake Stroll - Enjoy an easy walk around a lovely lake beneath Longs Peak while exploring the natural and human forces that have shaped this landscape. Ends 10/10 | | 1- 1.5 hour walk | Lily Lake parking lot | | | 10:30 a.m. | | 10:30 a.m. | | |
| Bear Necessities - The bear went over the mountain, the bear went over the mountain...to see this terrific program. Join a ranger to learn all about black bears. | | 20-30 minute talk | Beaver Meadows Visitor Center | 10:30 a.m. | | 10:30 a.m. | | 10:30 a.m. | | 10:30 a.m. |
| Predators of Rocky - Discover the secret lives of Rocky's predators and how they shape the ecosystem. Ends 9/29 | | 20-30 minute talk | Fall River Visitor Center | 11:00 a.m. | 11:00 a.m. | 11:00 a.m. | 11:00 a.m. | 11:00 a.m. | 11:00 a.m. | 11:00 a.m. |
| Amazing Beavers - Beavers drastically change their environment, and they have wonderful adaptations to do so. Ends 10/14 | | 20-30 minute talk | Beaver Meadows Visitor Center | | 10:30 a.m. | | 10:30 a.m. | | 10:30 a.m. | |
| Elk Echoes - Learn about elk adaptations, migration, and mating behavior. Ends 10/14 Programs held simultaneously at both locations. | | 30 minute talk | Sheep Lakes Parking Lot & Moraine Park Visitor Center Amphitheater | 6 p.m. | 6 p.m. | 6 p.m. | 6 p.m. | 6 p.m. | 6 p.m. | 6 p.m. |
| Bear Lake Stroll - Enjoy an easy walk around a lovely subalpine lake and learn about the natural and human forces that have shaped this landscape. Ends 9/30 | | 1-1.5 hour | Bear Lake Ranger Station | | 1:30 p.m. | | | 1:30 p.m. | | 1:30 p.m. |
| Fire in the Forest - Explore the dynamic changes that fire brings to the landscape. Ends 10/4 | | 1-1.5 hour walk | Cub Lake Trailhead | | 9 a.m. | | 9 a.m. | | 9 a.m. | |
| Evening Programs - East | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beaver Meadows Evening Program Enjoy a wide variety of informative and entertaining programs. | | 45 minute talk | Beaver Meadows Visitor Center Auditorium | | | | | | | 7 p.m. Ends Sept. 28 |
| Night with an Artist Explore the world of art through the eyes and ears of a Musician and composer. | | 45 minute talk | Beaver Meadows Visitor Center Auditorium | | | | 7 p.m. Sept. 4 Only | | | |

Junior Ranger

Free Junior Ranger books are available at park visitor centers for children ages 12 and under. A successfully completed book earns a badge! You are an important part of this park. Stay in touch. Contact us anytime at:
romo_junior_ranger@nps.gov



Los libros de guardaparque juveniles son para niños que tiene 12 años o menos. se pueden obtener sin costo en el centro de visitantes del parque. Si se completa el libro con éxito puede recibir una insignia!

Heart of the Rockies

Teachers, Parents, Students!

Rocky Mountain National Park's "Heart of the Rockies" education program provides an outdoor classroom to children throughout the region. Teachers who are interested in participating in this program may contact the park's Education Specialist at (970) 586-3777, or through the website at www.heartoftherockies.net



Free Park Movie

See the stunning 23-minute park movie at both the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center from 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and at the Kawuneeche Visitor Center during normal business hours. This film features spectacular aerial footage of the rugged high country of Rocky Mountain National Park, as well as wildlife and park history. A Captioned version is available

at Kawuneeche Visitor Center and Captioned and Audio Description versions are available at Beaver Meadows Visitor Center. Available in both Español (translation headsets available upon request) and English at Beaver Meadows and Kawuneeche visitor centers.



Free Ranger Programs - West Side



All children must be accompanied by an adult
Programs may be cancelled due to high winds or lightning

| Walks and Hikes | | Length | Location | SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Wilderness Connections - A moderate hike on a new section of the Continental Divide Trail featuring a lovely meadow and creek. Sundays only after 9/18, ends 9/29 | | 1.5-2 hours 2 miles | Onahu Trailhead | 1 p.m. | | | 10 a.m. | | | |
| Coyote Valley River Walk - Explore ecology and history on this easy walk along the Colorado River. No program 9/7 or 9/26, ends 9/28 | | 1 hour 1 mile | Coyote Valley Trailhead | | | | | 10 a.m. | | 10 a.m. |
| Rocky Mountain Heritage Walk - Learn about the human history of the Kawuneeche Valley while strolling to the grounds of an historic guest ranch. Ends 9/17 | | 1.5 hours 1 mile | Holzwarth Historic Site Parking Area | | | 10 a.m. | | | | |
| Beyond The Falls - A pleasant stroll to Adams Falls and a spectacular view just beyond. Ends 9/20 | | 1.5 hours 1 mile | East Inlet Trailhead | | 1 p.m. | | | | 10 a.m. | |
| Evening Programs - West | | | | | | | | | | |
| Timber Creek Campground Evening Program - Check at the campground or Kawuneeche Visitor Center for topics. Fri-Sat only after 9/12, ends 9/21 | | 1 hour presentation | Timber Creek Campground Amphitheater | | | | | 7:45 p.m. | 7:45 p.m. | 7:45 p.m. |
| Special Programs | | | | | | | | | | |
| Behind The Scenes - Short videos documenting how the park addresses challenges like elk management, pine beetles, and bear safety. Sundays only after 9/21, ends 9/29 | | 1 hour presentation | Kawuneeche Visitor Center | 10:30 a.m. | 10:30 a.m. | | 3:15 p.m. | | 3:15 p.m. | |
| Skins And Things - Examine the skins, skulls, antlers, teeth and bones of many park mammals. Weekends only after 9/21, ends 10/13 | | 40 minute talk | Kawuneeche Visitor Center | 3:15 p.m. | 3:15 p.m. | 3:15 p.m. | | 3:15 p.m. | | 3:15 p.m. |

Elk Day, Kawuneeche Visitor Center

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 7 only

Learn all about these bugling beauties in a special day of elk activities. Rangers will be on hand at the Kawuneeche Visitor Center with fun family activities to share. Please drop in!



Recycling Available in Major Park Locations

Resource Issues

Tell Me More About the Fences

Research has shown that the elk herd in Rocky Mountain National Park and the Estes Valley, is larger, less migratory and more concentrated than it would be under natural conditions. As a result, willow and aspen stands were declining, depriving other wildlife of the important habitat they need. Fences are one of the many tools we are using in the implementation of the park's Elk and Vegetation Management Plan.

Each fall since 2008, the park has installed enclosure fences on elk winter range in the Moraine Park, Beaver Meadows, Kawuneeche Valley and Horseshoe Park areas. These enclosures are protecting important riparian willow and aspen habitat from elk browsing.



Elk enclosure fence



Fall Camping 2013

| PARK CAMPGROUND | Elev (feet) | # sites in fall | Reservable | Fall Firewood & Ice | Max RV/Trailer Length | Fall Dump Station | Notes |
|--|-------------|-----------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------|---|
| Aspenglen | 8220 | 53 | Yes through Sept. 23, then first-come, first-served through Sept. 28. | Yes | 30' | No | Located on US Highway. 34 by the Fall River Entrance. |
| Glacier Basin | | | | | | | |
| Closed 2013 | | | | | | | |
| Longs Peak | 9405 | 26 | Always first-come, first-served | Firewood only - while the water is on | Tents only | No | Located off Highway 7 south of Estes Park. Flush toilets summer; vault toilets winter. |
| Open year-round | | | | | | | |
| Moraine Park | 8160 | 244 | Yes | Yes | Limited # of RV/trailer sites up to 40' | Yes | Located via Bear Lake Road |
| Open year-round. | | | | | | | |
| Reservable though Sept. 14, then first-come, first-served though Sept. 28. This campground will then be temporarily closed for paving and will reopen date TBD in October. | | | In 2013, B Loop is always first-come, first-served | Daily in Sept. | | | •Flush toilets, except B & E Loops have vault toilets year-round. •D Loop: no generators allowed. •Pay phones. •On fall shuttle route. |
| Timber Creek | 8900 | 98 | Always first-come, first-served | Firewood only | 30' | Yes | The only west side campground. No shade due to hazard tree removal. |
| Open year-round | | | | | | | |

It is common for all park campgrounds to fill up on most summer days and fall weekends.

Reservations for late-May through September can be made six months to one day in advance and are highly recommended. Make a reservation online at www.reserveamerica.com or www.recreation.gov (1-877-444-6777).

Overnight stays in Rocky Mountain National Park must be in a campground (or a backcountry site). You may not stay overnight in your car or RV along a road or at a trailhead.

Fees to Camp

- When the water is off (winter), Timber Creek and Moraine Park Loop B campgrounds are \$14/site/night.
- When the water is on (summer), all campgrounds are \$20.00/site/night.
- America the Beautiful Senior and Access Pass holders receive a 50% discount on camping fees.
- Park entrance fees and camping fees can be paid by cash, check or credit card any time of year.

STAY LIMITS

The maximum length of stay is seven nights total between June 1 and September 30, plus an additional 14 nights between October 1 and May 31. Stay limits are on a parkwide basis rather than on a per campground basis.

At All Standard Campsites

- No more than eight people may camp at a given site.
- All campsites, including RV sites, have a tent pad, picnic table and fire grate.
- Shared food storage lockers are available throughout all campgrounds.
- Tents must fit on the tent pad; two or three tents are allowed, as long as they fit.
- There are no electric, water or sewer hookups at any park campsites.
- Showers - Bring a solar-heated shower bag to hang in the stall facility (no running water) at Moraine Park Campground. There are no other shower facilities in the park, but showers are available in nearby communities. Portable showers are prohibited except in the solar shower facility in Moraine Park Campground. Remember, toiletries attract wildlife and need to be properly stored when not in use.

Pets

All campgrounds allow pets with certain restrictions: they must be on a leash no longer than six feet; pet owners must pick up and dispose of pet excrement in trash receptacles; pets may not make noise that impact visitors or wildlife. Pets are never allowed on any park trails or in meadow areas. Pets should never be left unattended. Keep a clean camp! Never leave pet food unsecured or unattended.

Food Storage

Do not attract wildlife, including black bears, to your campsite. Keep a clean camp! Never leave food items unsecured or unattended. Improperly stored or unattended food items will result in a violation notice. "Food items" include food, drinks, toiletries, cosmetics, pet food and bowls, and odoriferous attractants. Garbage, including empty cans, food wrappers, etc., must be disposed of in trash or recycling receptacles. Hummingbird feeders and bird feeders are attractants for wildlife such as raccoons, elk, deer, and bears and are not allowed in campgrounds. Coolers, dirty stoves, grills, non-disposable tableware and cookware must be washed and stored in the same manner as food. Camp kitchens must be kept clean and individual items properly stored. In campgrounds, store all food items in food storage lockers; if full, store food items by one of the following methods:

- Inside vehicle trunks; be sure windows are closed and doors are locked.
- In vehicles without trunks, items should be placed as low in the vehicle passenger compartment as possible and covered from sight, with windows closed and doors locked.
- Visitors with convertibles or motorcycles are encouraged to use food storage lockers, available in all park campgrounds. Food storage lockers, which are approximately 3 ft x 4 ft x 3 ft are shared with other visitors and cannot be locked. Food storage locker symbols are located on all campground maps.

Backcountry Camping

Permits are required for all overnight backcountry camping, and reservations are recommended for summer. Camping is allowed only in designated sites and areas. Permits may be obtained at the Beaver Meadows Backcountry Office or Kawuneeche Visitor Center. For further information write to: Backcountry Office, Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park, Colorado 80517 or phone (970) 586-1242. The administrative permit fee of \$20 is required for backcountry permits between May 1 and October 31; there is no charge in winter.



Sprague Lake Accessible Backcountry Campsite

Reservations and information are available through the Backcountry Office at (970) 586-1242. This site accommodates 12 campers with a maximum of five wheelchair users at the camp. The administrative permit fee is \$20 from May 1 to October 31.



For your safety and the protection of park wildlife, carry in/carry out, commercially-made, hard-sided, bear-resistant food storage canisters are required of all backcountry campers parkwide between May 1 and October 31. Canisters may be rented or purchased at outdoor shops in surrounding communities. Pack out all garbage.

Elevate Your Shopping Experience

Take the trail to the clouds and not only will you find breathtaking vistas, you'll find the best selection of Rocky Mountain National Park souvenirs including an amazing selection of authentic Native American gifts. Plus, enjoy a bite to eat at our café and coffee bar.



VISIT US AT THE TOP OF TRAIL RIDGE ROAD



trailridgegiftstore.com

Trail Ridge Road

Love Rocky Mountain National Park? Help us make it even better!



If you've walked the Lily Lake Trail, explored the Fall River Visitor Center, or introduced a child to nature through the park's Junior Ranger Program, you know our work.

Rocky Mountain Nature Association
www.rmna.org

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Rocky Mountain National Park

Free Shuttle Bus

Using Rocky Mountain National Park's free shuttle bus service enables you to access many destinations and loop hikes along the Bear Lake corridor, while enjoying the beautiful scenery without the distraction and hassle of traffic congestion and limited parking.



Bear Lake Shuttle

May 25-October 13: buses operate daily between Park & Ride and Bear Lake, leaving Park & Ride every 10-15 minutes from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The Bear Lake Route is based at the Park & Ride shuttle bus parking area across from the Glacier Basin Campground.

Moraine Park Shuttle

May 25-October 13: buses operate daily between Park & Ride and Fern Lake Bus Stop, leaving Park & Ride every 30 minutes from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

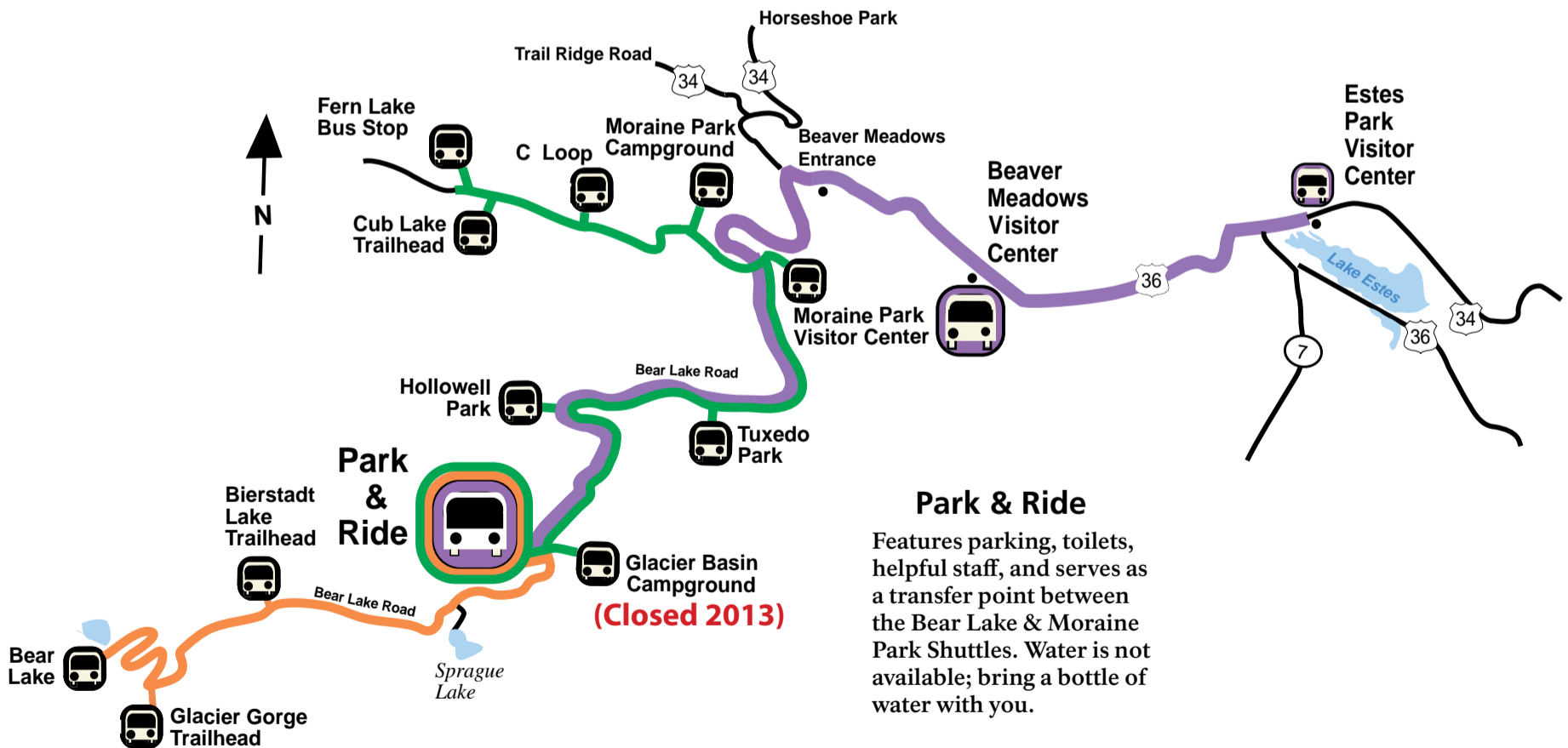
The Moraine Park Route is based at the Park & Ride shuttle bus parking area across from the Glacier Basin Campground.

A park pass is required to board the Hiker Shuttle, and may be purchased at automated machines at Estes Park and Beaver Meadows visitor centers.

Hiker Shuttle

May 25-September 2 daily, plus weekends through October 13. Buses operate between Estes Park Visitor Center and Park & Ride on an hourly schedule from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and a half-hour schedule between 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.

The Hiker Shuttle stops at the Estes Park Visitor Center, the park's Beaver Meadows Visitor Center, and Park & Ride where passengers can transfer to either the Bear Lake Route or the Moraine Park Route.



Park & Ride

Features parking, toilets, helpful staff, and serves as a transfer point between the Bear Lake & Moraine Park Shuttles. Water is not available; bring a bottle of water with you.

-  **Hiker Shuttle Express Route**
Stops at Park & Ride, Beaver Meadows Visitor Center, and the Estes Park Visitor Center only
-  **Bear Lake Route**
-  **Moraine Park Route**
-  **Shuttle Bus Stop**

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