

RMNP

Rocky Mountain National Park

Fall 2017
September 4–November 4

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

The official newspaper of
Rocky Mountain National Park



Aspen in full fall color at Bear Lake. NPS PHOTO / KIM GROSSMAN

A Golden Glow

AUTUMN IS AN ENCHANTING SEASON AT ROCKY. Herds of elk gather in low elevation meadows for their annual rut. Golden aspen leaves shimmer on the hillsides. The high peaks are powdered with snow. As bulls compete for cow elk, their musical bugles fill the air while they posture, chase, and spar with rival males.

With such beauty on display, it's no surprise that fall is an extremely popular time to visit Rocky—especially on weekends. Please be kind, patient, and courteous to other visitors and park staff, and follow all posted regulations. If you plan to visit us again in the fall, forgo the crowds by viewing wildlife at dawn and on weekdays.

Autumn is full of experiences that rekindle our sense of wonder. Stop, listen quietly, and watch the beauty of wilderness unfolding before your very eyes.

“The world was meant to be inhabited by beasts but studied and contemplated by man”

— Sir Thomas Browne

Plan Your Visit

- **Enjoy a scenic drive**
Trail Ridge and Old Fall River roads are open for part of fall (see below left). Bear Lake Road remains open, but access is restricted when crowding becomes unsafe. For the best experience, visit on weekdays, ride the park shuttle (through Oct 9), or arrive before 10 am or after 3 pm.
- **Experience the elk rut**
The rut is an incredible experience! Turn to Page 3 for our Elk Viewing Guide, where you can learn about elk, get photography tips, and learn how to keep yourself and the elk safe.
- **Join a ranger-led program**
Ranger programs are a free, fun way to learn about the park and talk with a ranger. We even have special programs for kids, including our Junior Ranger program. Learn more on Pages 4–5.
- **Hike a trail—or two!**
Hit the trail and immerse yourself in Rocky's beauty. Find hiking tips and a list of trails on Page 6.

Visitor Centers

EAST SIDE Near Estes Park

Beaver Meadows Visitor Center
9/4–10/9 8 am to 5 pm. 10/10–11/4 8 am to 4:30 pm. Near the Beaver Meadows Entrance on US Hwy 36. Info, bookstore, park movie (see left). For wilderness camping permits, follow the trail east of the visitor center to the Wilderness Office.

Fall River Visitor Center
9/4–9/30 9 am to 5 pm. 10/1–10/9 9 am to 4 pm. Closed starting 10/10. Near Fall River Entrance on US Hwy 34. Life-sized wildlife displays, bookstore.

Moraine Park Discovery Center
Open 9 am to 4:30 pm through 10/9. Closed starting 10/10. On Bear Lake Road. Interactive exhibits, nature trail offering great views of Moraine Park, family friendly activities, and a bookstore.

TRAIL RIDGE ROAD

Alpine Visitor Center
Open 9 am to 5 pm through 10/9 (weather permitting). Closed starting 10/10. Highest visitor center in the NPS at 11,796 feet. Extraordinary alpine views, displays, information, a bookstore, and an adjacent gift shop and cafe.

WEST SIDE Near Grand Lake

Kawuneeche Visitor Center
9/4–9/30 8 am to 5 pm. 10/1–11/4 8 am to 4:30 pm. On US Hwy 34 north of Grand Lake. Information, maps, free park movie, exhibits, bookstore, wilderness camping permits.

Road Conditions

Trail Ridge Road usually closes for the season in mid-October. The exact closure time varies depending on weather. Temporary closures are possible in the event of hazardous weather. Ice and snow are possible throughout the fall. **Call 970 586-1222 for the most up-to-date status of Trail Ridge Road.**

Old Fall River Road closes for the season in early October.

Hiking and Camping

For tips on hiking and a list of trails, see Page 6.

Overnight stays in Rocky must be in a campground or designated wilderness site and require a permit. Staying overnight in a car or RV along roads or at trailheads is not allowed.


Rocky has five campgrounds. Most close for the season in September. For details, visit go.nps.gov/RockyCamping or stop by a visitor center. **For wilderness camping,** visit go.nps.gov/RockyWildernessCamping or stop at the Wilderness Office (east side near Beaver Meadows Visitor Center) or the Kawuneeche Visitor Center (west side).


Free Park Movie

See the stunning 23-minute park movie *Spirit of the Mountains* in the Beaver Meadows and Kawuneeche visitor centers.


Beaver Meadows and Kawuneeche have assisted listening devices for audio description and amplification and induction loops for those with hearing aids. Both visitor centers have a captioned version of the park film and a version *en Español*. All park visitor centers are accessible.

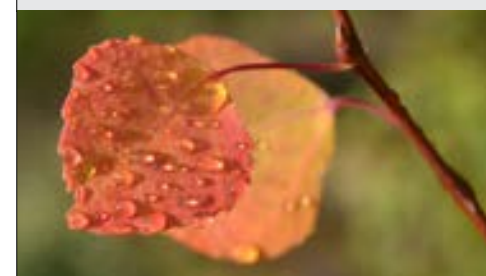
website nps.gov/romo/
instagram [#RockyNPS](https://www.instagram.com/RockyNPS) [#RMNP](https://www.instagram.com/RMNP)
facebook.com/RockyNPS
twitter [@RockyNPS](https://twitter.com/RockyNPS)
youtube.com/user/RockyNPS

 Trail Ridge Rd Status **970 586-1222**
Park Information **970 586-1206**

 TTY for deaf, hard of hearing,
speech impaired **970 586-1319**

FIND YOUR PARK
FINDYOURPARK.COM


 To report emergencies
911





Stay Safe


Be Responsible


IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO BE safe and to know and obey park rules. You can find park safety information, rules, and regulations at visitor centers, entrance stations, trailhead bulletin boards, and the park website at nps.gov/romo.


 **Altitude Sickness affects many visitors every year.** Symptoms include headaches, nausea, fatigue, dizziness, vomiting, and in acute situations, even unconsciousness. Altitude can also aggravate preexisting conditions like heart and lung disease. Take your time, drink plenty of water, eat lightly, and rest. The only cure for altitude sickness is to go down to a lower altitude.


 **Wilderness Travel** should be done in a group, not alone. Leave a detailed trip itinerary with a friend. This helps park authorities if you fail to return. Mountain weather changes quickly. If conditions are more difficult than anticipated, turn around. Longs Peak, a popular climb, can have treacherous ice and snow any time of year. Camping is only allowed in designated site.


 **Bicycles** are prohibited on trails. They are permitted on all roads open to motor vehicles, paved and dirt, unless otherwise posted. There are no designated bicycle lanes in the park. Roads are narrow with few or no shoulders—ride with care. By law, you must ride single file. Shuttle buses do not accept bicycles. Visit go.nps.gov/RockyBicycling.


 **Campfires** are permitted only in campgrounds and picnic areas with fire grates. During high fire danger, campfires may be prohibited. You can purchase firewood at campgrounds in summer. Collecting vegetation, dead or alive, is prohibited.


 **Cell Service is unavailable in much of the park.** Don't depend on a cell phone for emergency help.


 **Drones are not allowed anywhere in Rocky Mountain National Park.**


 **Falling Trees are an ever-present hazard** and can fall without warning. Be extra careful around dead trees when it's windy or following a snowstorm.

 **Firearm Possession** in the park is permitted for those legally authorized to possess firearms under federal, Colorado, or local laws. However, hunting, recreational shooting, and target practice are illegal. Federal law prohibits firearms in park buildings and facilities. Those legally allowed to carry firearms must comply with all applicable state and federal firearm laws.


 **Fishing** requires a Colorado state fishing license. Trout in the park include brown, brook, rainbow, and cutthroat (including the protected Colorado River and greenback). Not all park lakes have reproducing fish populations. For more information, visit go.nps.gov/RockyFishing.


 **Hypothermia can happen any time of year.** Watch for drowsiness, impaired judgment, excessive shivering, and slurred speech. To prevent, wear insulated, wind-proof layers and drink plenty of fluids.

 **Lightning regularly strikes in Rocky.** There's no safe place in the backcountry when lightning strikes. Check the forecast. Watch for storm clouds. Plan so you can quickly return to your car if a storm begins. If hiking, return to the trailhead before noon, and return immediately if you hear thunder.

 **Marijuana possession and use is illegal in Rocky Mountain National Park and all federal lands,** even though small amounts of recreational marijuana are legal in Colorado.

 **Pets are prohibited on ALL park trails, tundra, and meadow areas.** Leashed pets are only allowed in picnic areas, parking lots, campgrounds, and along roadsides. Never leave pets in vehicles if it puts them in danger or they become a public nuisance. When outside vehicles, pets must be on leashes no longer than six feet. **Service animals** that have been individually trained to perform specific tasks for the benefit of persons with disabilities are allowed in the park. **Emotional support ("therapy animals") and service-animals-in-training** are not service animals under the Americans with Disabilities Act and may not access trails or other non-motorized areas.

 **Rivers and Streams can be deadly.** Park waters are frigid. Powerful currents can knock you over and pull you downstream or underwater, where you may become trapped. Streamside rocks are often slippery, and nearby water may be deep. Always closely supervise children around all water but especially near rivers and streams.

 **Take only pictures.** It is illegal to take any natural features including pinecones, rocks, antlers, and artifacts or to disturb soil, rocks, or vegetation (including flowers). Metal detector use is prohibited.



KEEP WILDLIFE WILD
Never feed or approach wildlife

Many amazing animals call Rocky home. To keep them and you safe and comfortable:

- 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.
- Keep a safe distance. If you cause an animal to move or change behavior, you are too close! Approaching an animal puts you at risk and may cause it stress, leading to disease and illness.
- Never feed wildlife, including birds and chipmunks.



Bears and Mountain Lions

Seeing a bear or mountain lion is rare, and interactions are even more rare. However, keep the following in mind:

- Travel in groups and make noise as you hike closely together. Keep children close! A predator does not distinguish a running child from running prey.
- If you see a bear or mountain lion, stop, stay calm, and back away slowly. Never approach wildlife or turn your back and run. Stand tall and look large. Raise your arms. Protect small children by picking them up.
- If approached, make loud noises, shout, clap hands, bang pots or pans, and fight back if attacked.
- Always properly store food and other scented items, which attract bears and other wildlife.



Fall colors with Hallett Peak in the background.

NPS PHOTO / WALT KAESLER

Elk Viewing Guide



NPS PHOTO / ANN SCHONLAU

One of the most exciting events of fall in Rocky is the elk rut: the elk mating season. While incredible to watch, the rut is a vital ritual for all animals involved. This is where mates are chosen, genes are passed on, and next year's cycle of newborn life begins. Please respect this process, the wildlife involved in it, and the experience of yourself and other visitors by following park regulations.

Never Approach Wildlife



You are legally required to stay at least 25 yards (23 m) from all wildlife.

Elk are large animals that can injure or even kill you. While 25 yards (23 m) is the legal minimum, any distance that changes a wild animal's behavior is too close. Approaching a wild animal can cause it serious stress, which can negatively affect its health, disrupt important natural processes (like the rut),

and provoke defensive behavior that could harm you and those around you.

Please remember: you are in these elk's home. They work hard throughout the year to survive in a challenging environment. This is not a wildlife park or zoo.

Learn to Take Great Photos



For many of us, our smartphone is our go-to camera. But smartphone cameras have limited zoom. There's simply no way to get close-up photos without getting much too close to wildlife.

The solution? Bring a camera with a telephoto lens! You can keep a safe distance, and wildlife will be less disturbed, netting you better photos. Binoculars are also great for getting a closer look from a distance.

Respect Meadow Closures

- Park only in designated pull-offs. Park staff will move your vehicle if it impedes traffic.
- Do not park on vegetation or in "no parking" areas.
- Turn off your engine and car lights. View elk from the roadside. Stay next to your car for protection—elk can charge or cross roadsides suddenly.
- Use of artificial calls and spot-lighting is prohibited.

All meadows are closed to entry between 5 pm and 7 am daily from September 1 to October 31, including:

- Moraine Park
- Horseshoe Park
- Upper Beaver Meadows
- Harbison Meadow
- Holzwarth Meadow

Take the Rocky Pledge

We need your help to preserve and protect Rocky and the wildlife who call this place home.

How can you help? Take the Rocky Pledge! Covering six key areas where you can truly make a difference, the pledge is an easy, educational way to learn about and support Rocky.

To learn more, visit go.nps.gov/RockyPledge.




Learn More About Elk

- Elk are one of the largest members of the deer family. Large males, called bulls, can weigh 700–1000 pounds and stand five feet at the shoulder. Females, called cows, usually weigh 500–600 pounds.
- Only males have antlers, which grow in the spring and drop each winter. Antlers can grow up to an inch a day! While growing, they are covered with a protective layer of velvety skin. When the antlers are fully grown, the bulls scrape this layer off.
- Each fall, elk gather in montane meadows for the annual breeding season. In this season of excitement, bull elk compete for the right to breed with a herd of females. Prime bulls, eight to nine years old, stand the best chance of mating.
- While competition is high among bulls, it includes little fighting, since fighting causes injury and depletes energy. Instead, mature bulls compete for cows by displaying their antlers, necks, and bodies. They emit strong, musky odors and bugle.
- Bull elk signal the mating season with a crescendo of deep, resonant tones that rise rapidly to a high-pitched squeal before dropping to a series of grunts. The eerie call echoes through the autumn nights and serves to intimidate rival males. Cows and younger bulls may also bugle, but they cannot match the strength or range of the older bulls' calls.

Learn more: go.nps.gov/RockyElk.


Ranger-Led Programs

- Children must be accompanied by an adult.
- Accessible programs marked 
- Programs may be canceled due to weather.
- For outdoor programs, be sure to bring the essentials to wear and carry (see Page 6).

East Side

WALKS AND HIKES	LENGTH	LOCATION	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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 9/29	1.5 hour walk	Cub Lake Trailhead			8 am	8 am		8 am	
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 year. Ends 9/29	1 to 1.5 hour walk	Upper Beaver Meadows Trailhead		9:30 am	9:30 am	9:30 am	9:30 am	9:30 am	
Hike With a Ranger Hit the trail with a ranger and enjoy a 3 to 7 mile hike to gorgeous destinations exploring the past, present, and future of parks. Be prepared for changing weather, and bring food and water. Ends 9/27	4 to 5 hour hike	See right		8:30 am <i>Mills Lake Meet at Park & Ride to take shuttle</i>		8:30 am <i>Cub Lake Meet at Cub Lake trailhead</i>			
Lily Ridge Hike Explore unseen connections between rocky ridges, enchanting forests, Longs Peak, and Lily Lake in this moderate hike on the ridge. Ends 9/30	1.5 hour, 2 mile walk	Lily Lake		10 am		10 am		10 am	10 am
Lily Lake Stroll Enjoy a leisurely stroll with a ranger around beautiful Lily Lake as you discuss past, present, and future management issues of wild places like Rocky Mountain National Park. Ends 9/28	1 to 1.5 hour, 1 mile walk	Lily Lake			2:30 pm	2:30 pm	2:30 pm		

TALKS AND ACTIVITIES	LENGTH	LOCATION	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Bear Necessities  Come discover what is necessary to the survival of Rocky's black bears.	20 to 30 minute talk	Beaver Meadows Visitor Center	10 am <i>through 10/29</i>	10 am <i>through 9/25</i>	10 am <i>through 9/26</i>		10 am <i>through 9/28</i>		10 am <i>through 11/4</i>
Elk Echoes Learn about elk adaptations, migrations, and mating behavior. (Programs at the same time at both locations.) Ends 10/15	30 minute talk	Sheep Lakes Parking and Moraine Park Discovery Center Amphitheater	6 pm	6 pm	6 pm	6 pm	6 pm	6 pm	6 pm
High Country Tails  Discover how alpine animals' amazing adaptations help them make their home on mountain tops. Ends 10/8	20 to 30 minute talk	Alpine Visitor Center	2:30 pm			2:30 pm		2:30 pm	
Road to the Top  Humans have been part of the alpine landscape for centuries. Learn how Native American routes through the tundra became the roads you drive today. Ends 10/3	20 to 30 minute talk	Alpine Visitor Center			2:30 pm <i>through 10/3</i>				2:30 pm <i>through 9/30</i>
Volunteer in Rocky! Join a ranger to learn about volunteers at Rocky, then spend the rest of the hour volunteering. You'll receive a free gift. All ages welcome! Ends 10/13	1 hour activity	See dates for location			9 am <i>Beaver Meadows Visitor Center</i>		9:30 am <i>Moraine Park Campground</i>	9:30 pm <i>Hidden Valley</i>	
Wildlife Through the Seasons Table Talk  Join a ranger for this drop-in program to explore how different species of park wildlife adapt to changing conditions throughout the year. Ends 10/1	Drop in anytime from 2 to 3 pm	Fall River Visitor Center	2-3 pm	2-3 pm	2-3 pm	2-3 pm			2-3 pm

EVENING AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS	LENGTH	LOCATION	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Saturday Evening Programs  Learn all about Rocky Mountain National Park by joining a ranger for an engaging program. For topics, visit our website, call 970 586-1206, or check at the visitor center. 9/9, 9/16, 9/23, and 9/30 only	1 hour program	Beaver Meadows Visitor Center Auditorium							7 pm <i>9/9, 9/16, 9/23, and 9/30 only</i>
Twilight Walk Leave the elk viewing crowds behind. Enjoy the magic of twilight as the sun sinks behind the high peaks. Join a ranger and learn what the natural world is doing as day slips into night. Ends 10/2	1 to 1.5 hour walk	Lily Lake		6:45 pm <i>9/4, 9/11</i> 6:30 pm <i>9/18, 9/25</i>					

West Side

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES	LENGTH	LOCATION	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Beyond the Falls A pleasant stroll to Adams Falls and a spectacular view just beyond. Ends 9/26	1.5 hour 1 mile hike	East Inlet Trailhead			9 am				
Coyote Valley River Walk Explore ecology and history on this easy walk along the Colorado River. Ends 9/27	1 hour 1 mile hike	Coyote Valley Trailhead				10 am			
Holzwarth Historic Site Drop by any time to tour a 1920s-era dude ranch for a taste of early homesteading and tourism. Mon 9/4 only	10:30 am to 4:30 pm	Holzwarth Historic Site parking area		10:30 am to 4:30 pm <i>9/4 only</i>					
Sisters of Courage Learn about the pioneer experience through the story of the remarkable Harbison sisters. Mon 9/4 only	2.5 hours with 0.5 mile walk	Kawuneeche Visitor Center flagpole		1 pm <i>9/4 only</i>					
Skins and Things Examine the skins, skulls, and more of park mammals. Ends 10/8 No program 9/18, Sundays only in October	40 minute talk	Kawuneeche Visitor Center	3 pm	3 pm	3 pm	3 pm		3 pm	3 pm
Rocky Mountain Heritage Walk Learn the human history of the Kawuneeche Valley while strolling to a historic guest ranch. Ends 9/24	1.5 hour 1 mile hike	Holzwarth Historic Site parking area	9:30 am						
Wilderness Connections Celebrate wilderness with a moderate hike to a meadow and picturesque creek. Ends 9/25 No program 9/18	1.5 hour 2 mile hike	Onahu Trailhead		9 am					

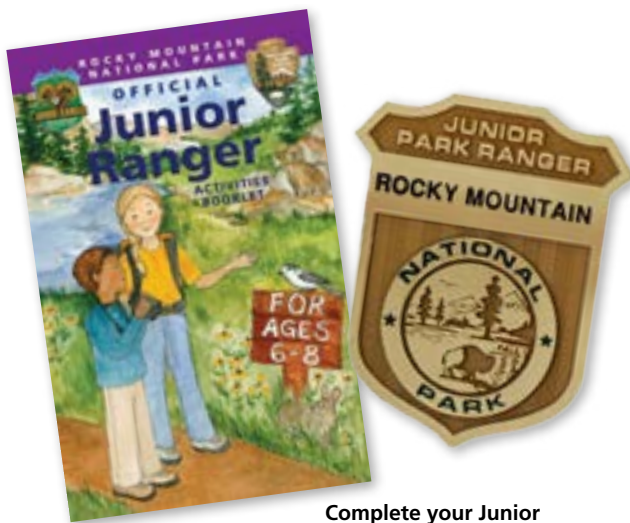
EVENING AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS	LENGTH	LOCATION	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Timber Creek Evening Program Check at the campground or Kawuneeche Visitor Center for topics. Ends 9/29 No program 9/18 and 9/26	1 hour program	Timber Creek Campground amphitheater	7:45 pm <i>7:30 pm starting 9/17</i>	7:45 pm <i>7:30 pm starting 9/17</i>	7:45 pm <i>7:30 pm starting 9/17</i>	7:45 pm <i>7:30 pm starting 9/17</i>		7:45 pm <i>7:30 pm starting 9/17</i>	7:45 pm <i>7:30 pm starting 9/17</i>

Special Programs and Events (East and West)



A bull elk lifts his head and issues a resonant bugle.

NPS PHOTO / ANN SCHONLAU



Complete your Junior Ranger booklet and earn a badge!



Star trails above Moraine Park.

NPS PHOTO / ANN SCHONLAU

Join Us for Elk Day

Kawuneeche Visitor Center
10 am to 2 pm
Saturday, September 16 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!

See our Elk Viewing Guide on Page 3 to learn more about the fall rut and how to view elk safely.

Become a Junior Ranger

Drop in any time this fall and tell park staff you want to be a Junior Ranger!

Junior Rangers have fun discovering the natural world and learning why we need to protect our national parks. We need the help of ALL our rangers to keep Rocky protected for many years to come.

Pick up a free Junior Ranger Activity Booklet at any visitor contact station, discover the park, and earn your badge! There are activity books for ages 5 and under, 6 to 8, and 9 and up.

WebRangers is the online extension of the Junior Ranger program. A website for all ages, if you love our national parks, historic sites, and monuments, this site is for you. nps.gov/webangers

Party with the Stars

Moraine Park Discovery Center
6 pm
Friday, October 20 only

Watch as night descends on Rocky Mountain National Park. Volunteers will be available with telescopes to help you experience the magic of the night sky.

Hiking

 Wheelchair-accessible trail  Family-friendly trail

Plan Ahead for a Better Hike





Rocky is extremely busy on fall weekends. Most trailheads completely fill by early morning, and road restrictions must sometimes be put in place for visitor safety. Here are some tips to help you plan ahead for your next hiking adventure.

- **Hike early.** How early? Popular trailheads filled at these times in 2016:
 - Glacier Gorge: 6 am
 - Bear Lake: 8:30 am
 - Park & Ride: 10:30 am
 - Wild Basin Corridor: 9 am
- **Hike late.** Rocky tends to be less busy after 3 pm. However, especial-



ly if you're headed above treeline, check the forecast—never hike above treeline if thunderstorms are nearby.

- **Always bring essential items**, including water, food, layers of clothing (storm gear, hats, gloves), sunglasses with UV protection, sunscreen, map and compass, flashlight or headlamp, and a whistle.



East Side

TRAIL	TRAILHEAD	DISTANCE <i>ROUND TRIP</i>	ELEVATION GAIN	HIGHLIGHTS
Bear Lake  	End of Bear Lake Road	0.5 mi <i>0.8 km</i>	20 ft <i>6 m</i>	Follow a self-guiding nature trail around beautiful Bear Lake. First part of trail in both directions is accessible.
Cub Lake	Cub Lake Trailhead <i>off of Bear Lake Road</i>	4.6 mi <i>7.4 km</i>	540 ft <i>165 m</i>	A park favorite, this hike to a mountain pond travels through woods that blaze with color in the fall.
Deer Mountain	Deer Mountain Trailhead <i>Deer Ridge junction where US 34 and 36 meet</i>	6 mi <i>9.7 km</i>	1083 feet <i>330 m</i>	One of the few mountains in RMNP with trail to the summit. Great views of mountains and valleys.
Gem Lake	Lumpy Ridge Trailhead <i>Devils Gulch Road north of Estes Park</i>	3.2 mi <i>5.1 km</i>	1000 ft <i>305 m</i>	Big rocks and nice views on this rather steep hike. The lake is small and spring-fed (no stream).
Mills Lake	Glacier Gorge Trailhead <i>on Bear Lake Road</i>	5.6 mi <i>9 km</i>	700 ft <i>213 m</i>	The view of Longs Peak and Keyboard of the Winds from Mills Lake is one of Rocky's finest.
Moraine Park Discovery Center Nature Trail	Bear Lake Road	0.8 mi <i>1.3 km</i>	20 ft <i>6 m</i>	Self-guiding trail booklet available. Winds up and down hillside behind Discovery Center.
The Pool	Fern Lake Trailhead <i>off of Bear Lake Road</i>	3.4 mi <i>5.5 km</i>	245 ft <i>75 m</i>	Pretty, shaded hike in deep valley along rushing stream.
Sprague Lake  	Bear Lake Road	0.5 mi <i>0.8 km</i>	10 ft <i>3 m</i>	Packed gravel, level grade trail around lovely lake.

Trail Ridge Road

TRAIL	TRAILHEAD	DISTANCE <i>ROUND TRIP</i>	ELEVATION GAIN	HIGHLIGHTS
Alpine Ridge Trail 	Near Alpine Visitor Center	0.5 mi <i>0.8 km</i>	209 ft <i>64 m</i>	Amazing views from this small summit. Keep an eye on the sky and stay off if storm clouds approach.
Tundra Communities Trail 	Rock Cut	0.5 mi <i>0.8 km</i>	260 ft <i>79 m</i>	View the miniature world of the alpine tundra and enjoy sweeping views of the park.
Ute Trail	Across road from Alpine Visitor Center	1–8 mi <i>1.6–12.9 km</i>	1038 ft <i>316 m</i>	Tremendous open views above treeline. Start and finish early, before lightning and thunderstorms!

West Side

TRAIL	TRAILHEAD	DISTANCE <i>ROUND TRIP</i>	ELEVATION GAIN	HIGHLIGHTS
Adams Falls	East Inlet Trailhead <i>far east end of Grand Lake</i>	0.6 mi <i>1 km</i>	80 ft <i>24 m</i>	A beautiful short hike near Grand Lake. Trail continues beyond the falls to lush meadows with mountain views.
Cascade Falls	North Inlet Trailhead <i>off West Portal Road in Grand Lake</i>	6.8 mi <i>10.9 km</i>	300 ft <i>91 m</i>	A relatively level hike to a rocky cascade.
Coyote Valley Trail  	Coyote Valley Trailhead <i>US Hwy 34, six miles north of Kawuneeche Visitor Center</i>	1 mi <i>1.6 km</i>	10 ft <i>3 m</i>	Follows bank of the Colorado River with views of Never Summer Mountains. Look for wildlife. Packed gravel, level grade.
East Shore Trail	East side of Shadow Mountain Lake <i>just south of Grand Lake</i>	5.2 mi <i>8.4 km</i>	100 ft <i>30 m</i>	2.6 mi to Green Ridge Campground. A side loop to Ranger Meadows reconnects with main trail, adding 1.4 mi.
Granite Falls	Green Mountain Trailhead <i>3 miles north of Kawuneeche Visitor Center</i>	10.4 mi <i>16.7 km</i>	1406 ft <i>429 m</i>	Hike through a quiet forest along a mountain stream. Longer return loop (13.6 mi) available, coming out on Onahu Creek Trail.
Holzwarth Historic Site 	US Hwy 34 <i>8 miles north of Kawuneeche Visitor Center</i>	1 mi <i>1.6 km</i>	10 ft <i>30 m</i>	Explore a historic homestead cabin and 1920s dude ranch. Brochures, interpretive signs.
Lulu City	Colorado River Trailhead <i>10 miles north of Kawuneeche Visitor Center</i>	7.4 mi <i>11.9 km</i>	350 ft <i>107 m</i>	Little remains of historic Lulu City on this gentle trail. Longer return loop available along Grand Ditch to Red Mountain Trail.
Onahu Creek – Green Mountain Loop	Onahu Creek or Green Mtn trailheads <i>on US Hwy 34</i>	7.6 mi <i>12.2 km</i>	1100 ft <i>335 m</i>	Nice loop through a quiet forest and meadow along flowing mountain streams.

Park Partners

Did You Know That Rocky Mountain National Park Has Sisters?

IT'S TRUE! Rocky has "sister" park relationships with national parks in Poland, Slovakia, and Costa Rica.

Eight years ago, Rocky Mountain National Park signed a sister park agreement with the Tatra National Parks in Poland and Slovakia. All three are mountain parks and international biosphere reserves.



In 2012, Rocky signed another agreement with the Monteverde Cloud Forest, Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve, Children's Eternal Rainforest, and Arenal National Park in Costa Rica. What do we share with places in Costa Rica? Birds! Over 150 species of birds, like the Yellow-rumped Warbler (lower right), share the ecosystems of Rocky and Costa Rica.

Since 2007, we have engaged in staff exchanges and conferences, started joint science projects, and shared ideas and lessons learned. Issues

that once seemed specific to a single park or country are now seen through a global lens and recognized as common to many protected areas.

The future of protected areas is international. As Shakespeare said, "One touch of nature makes the whole world kin." Working with colleagues in our sister parks reminds us to think a bit larger in preserving our global landscapes for future generations.



Yellow-rumped Warbler
NPS/ANN SCHONLAU

Elevate Your Shopping Experience



Trail Ridge Road

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

Toward a Greener Park



A volunteer next to one of Rocky's hybrid vehicles

NPS PHOTO



Recycling containers

NPS PHOTO

Green Your Ride

JOIN ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK in our efforts to cut emissions, save fuel, and improve air quality.

By taking a few simple actions during your visit, you can make a difference and help keep Rocky beautiful for generations to come.

Reduce vehicle idling, which wastes fuel, creates noise, and pollutes the air. Turn off your engine while parked, waiting at wildlife crossings, or stopping to take photos.

Take the Shuttle! See back page for schedule and details.

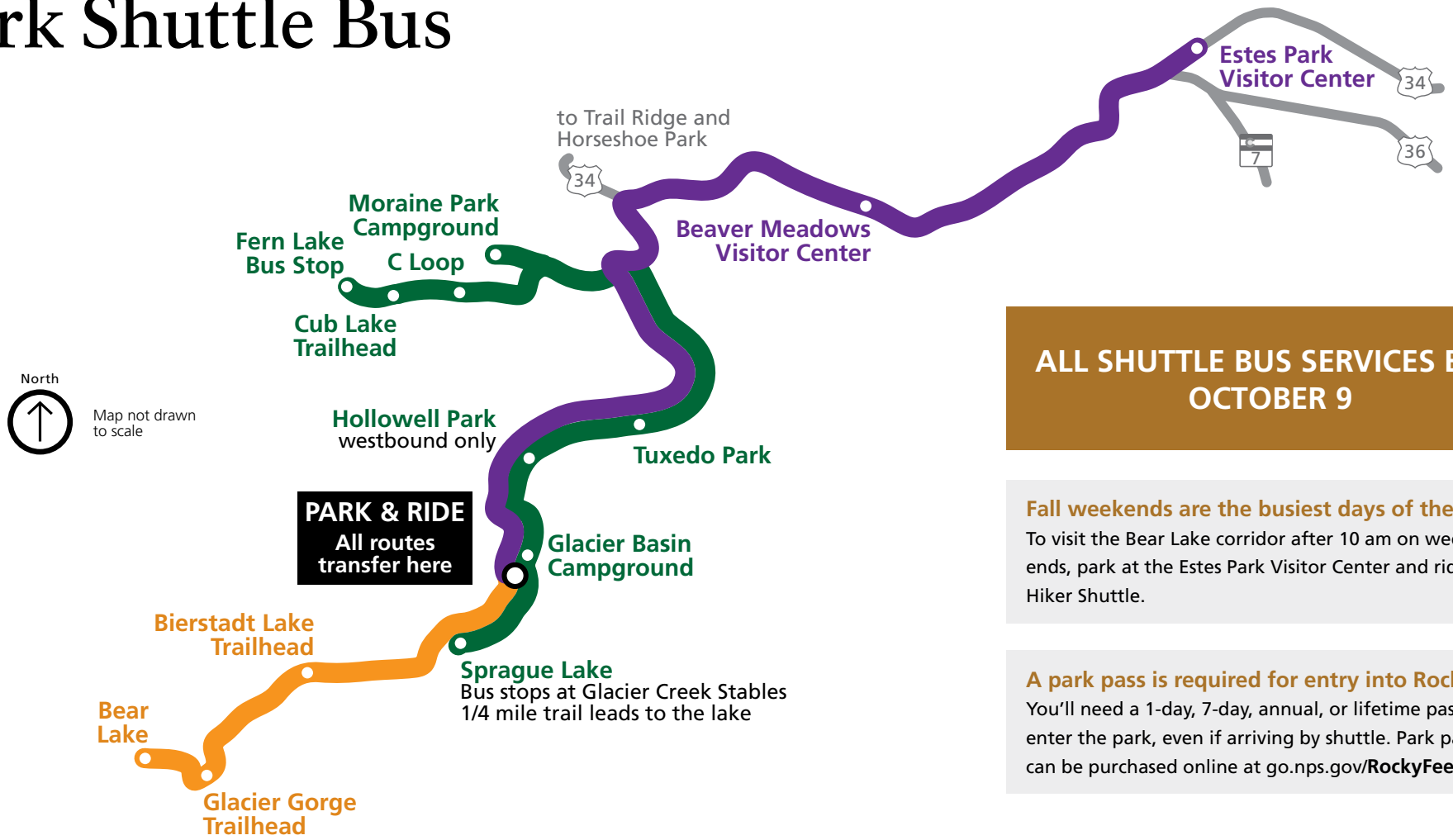
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

GLASS, PLASTIC #1 THROUGH 7, and aluminum may be recycled in campgrounds and major locations. Look for recycling containers or ask at any visitor center or campground for their locations.

Help us reduce plastic bottle use! There's limited drinkable water in the park. Please remember to bring your own reusable containers and refill them at park visitor centers.



Park Shuttle Bus



ALL SHUTTLE BUS SERVICES END OCTOBER 9

Fall weekends are the busiest days of the year. To visit the Bear Lake corridor after 10 am on weekends, park at the Estes Park Visitor Center and ride the Hiker Shuttle.

A park pass is required for entry into Rocky. You'll need a 1-day, 7-day, annual, or lifetime pass to enter the park, even if arriving by shuttle. Park passes can be purchased online at go.nps.gov/RockyFees.

Shuttle Service at a Glance

ROUTE	SCHEDULE	DATES
Hiker Shuttle Express	Hourly 7:30 am to 11 am 30 min 11 am to 6 pm Hourly 6 pm to 8 pm	Daily May 27–Sep 10 Weekends Sep 16–Oct 9
Bear Lake Route	10–15 min 7 am to 7:30 pm	Daily May 27–Oct 9
Moraine Park Route	30 min 7 am to 7:30 pm	Daily May 27–Oct 9

There are no shuttle bus services on the west side of the park or across Trail Ridge Road. There are several commercial shuttle tours in the Estes area. Contact the Estes Park Visitor Center for information.
800 443-7837 or visitestespark.com

Most shuttle buses are accessible and can accommodate wheelchairs. Contact shuttle staff or rangers if accommodation is needed.

Dogs are not allowed on shuttle buses. Except service animals that have been individually trained to perform specific tasks for the benefit of persons with disabilities (see page 2 for more).

There are no bike racks on shuttle buses.

At Rocky Mountain Conservancy Nature Stores, YOUR PURCHASE MAKES A DIFFERENCE

The best Rocky Mountain National Park t-shirts, games, toys, books, maps and other interesting items are here, at any of the Rocky Mountain Conservancy Nature Stores located in park visitor centers. When you make a purchase from our nonprofit organization, proceeds are returned to the park, supporting important educational and research programs. Drop by today.

Visit Conservancy Nature Stores at:
 Alpine Visitor Center 🐾 Beaver Meadows Visitor Center
 Fall River Visitor Center 🐾 Kawuneeche Visitor Center
 Moraine Park Visitor Center

www.RMConservancy.org

Rocky Mountain Field Institute EDUCATIONAL BUS TOURS IN ROCKY!

Grand Lake Safari Adventure
Tuesdays, June 9 - August 25

Journey to the Top! Trail Ridge Rd Adventure
Wednesdays & Thursdays, June 10 - Sept. 3

Trail Ridge Sunset Safari Adventure
Fridays, June 13 - September 5

Elk Expeditions Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays & Mondays Sept. 10 - October 17

Call 970-586-3262 or register at park visitor centers!

www.RMConservancy.org

Want one?

The Rocky Mountain National Park license plate from the Rocky Mountain Conservancy. Proceeds benefit Rocky Mountain National Park!

www.RMConservancy.org