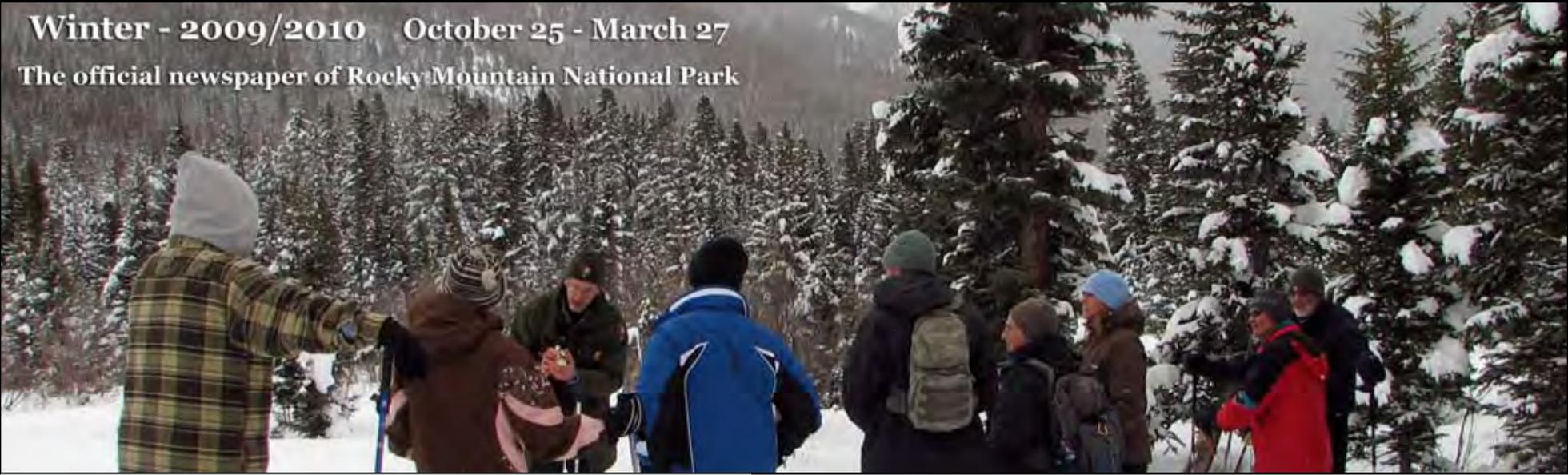




Winter - 2009/2010 October 25 - March 27

The official newspaper of Rocky Mountain National Park



Visitor Centers

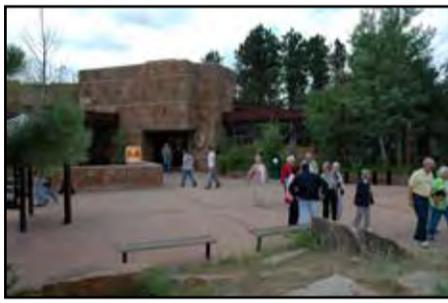


Park visitor centers are the places to find out what you need to know. All have knowledgeable staff, printed information on many topics, and great bookstores stocked with all the best books for finding that perfect trail and learning what makes Rocky Mountain such an awesome national park. Each visitor center has its own special features.

East of the Divide – Estes Park Area

Beaver Meadows Visitor Center

Open daily 8-4:30 except Dec. 25. Features free movie, bookstore, 3-D park orientation map. Backcountry camping permits are available in nearby building.



Fall River Visitor Center
Open Saturdays & Sundays 9-4. Also Nov. 28, Dec. 28 - Jan. 1, and Feb. 15. Features life-sized wildlife displays, a discovery room where kids can touch objects and dress up as rangers, American Indians and pioneers, and a bookstore.



West of the Divide – Grand Lake Area

Kawuneeche Visitor Center

Open daily 8-4:30 except Dec. 25. Features free movie and exhibits on how to plan your visit, bookstore, backcountry camping permits.



Keep Wildlife Wild

Never feed wildlife. A fine may be issued to violators. Animals can kick, bite, or gore you. They can become dependent on human food and lose the ability to feed naturally. Wildlife also carry diseases which can be transmitted to humans, like rabies and plague. Photograph animals from the roadside.



Pets



Pets are **prohibited** in all areas of Rocky Mountain National Park not accessible by motor vehicles, including **all trails and meadows**. Leashed pets (6' leash or less) are allowed in campgrounds, picnic areas and along roadsides. In winter, leashed pets are permitted on some Rocky Mountain National Park roads when those roads are closed to motor vehicles. Check with a visitor center or call 970-586-1206 for current status.

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.

Hunting is not allowed in Rocky Mountain National Park

Firearm regulations may be subject to change. Inquire for current regulations.

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.

Weather and Road Conditions

Winter driving conditions can change rapidly. For Rocky Mountain National Park daily road and driving conditions, stop at a visitor center or call (970) 586-1206. Snow tires may be recommended during periods of heavy snow. For the most up-to-date status of Trail Ridge Road, 24 hours a day, call (970) 586-1222.

During winter, lower elevation park roads remain open. The high central portion of Trail Ridge Road is closed between Many Parks Curve and the Colorado River Trailhead. The treeless, open central section of Trail Ridge Road experiences strong winds and blizzard conditions, making it unsafe to maintain through the winter.

Bear Lake Road

Bear Lake Road is kept open during the winter. The road is plowed, but may be closed for clearing after significant snowfall. Please call (970) 586-1206 for current conditions.

Park Phone Numbers and Website



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.



The Official Park Website is <http://www.nps.gov/romo>



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



Dial 911 or (970) 586-1203 to report emergencies.

Winter Fun in Rocky Mountain National Park

East of the Divide – Estes Park Area

Sledding and Snowplay

There is only one place in Rocky Mountain National Park open to sledding and downhill sliding on snow: Hidden Valley. Snow conditions are sometimes poor to marginal. Check at a visitor center or call (970) 586-1206 for current information. Be aware of cold weather, chilling wind, and the effects of hypothermia. At Hidden Valley the fenced snowplay hill is for the use of sleds, tubes, and saucers. Skiers, snow boarders, and snowshoers must exercise caution when passing through the sledding/snowplay area. Slow down and yield the right-of-way when descending. On weekends and holidays, skilled park staff, often volunteers, are on duty. For your safety and enjoyment, please follow their guidance. Modern restrooms are available.



West of the Divide – Grand Lake Area

What makes a perfect Rocky Mountain winter experience? Dramatic snow-covered peaks? Gliding on skis through a silent forest? Moose lounging in pristine meadows blanketed white? A family on snowshoes enjoying a trek to a frozen waterfall? These dreams and more can be enjoyed on the west side of Rocky Mountain National Park.

Skiing/Snowshoeing

Heavy snowfall on the west side of the park results in outstanding cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Visitors strapping on skis or snowshoes for the first time may want to explore Sun Valley Trail, a loop that meanders through woods and open meadows along the Colorado River and offers breathtaking views of the Never Summer Range.

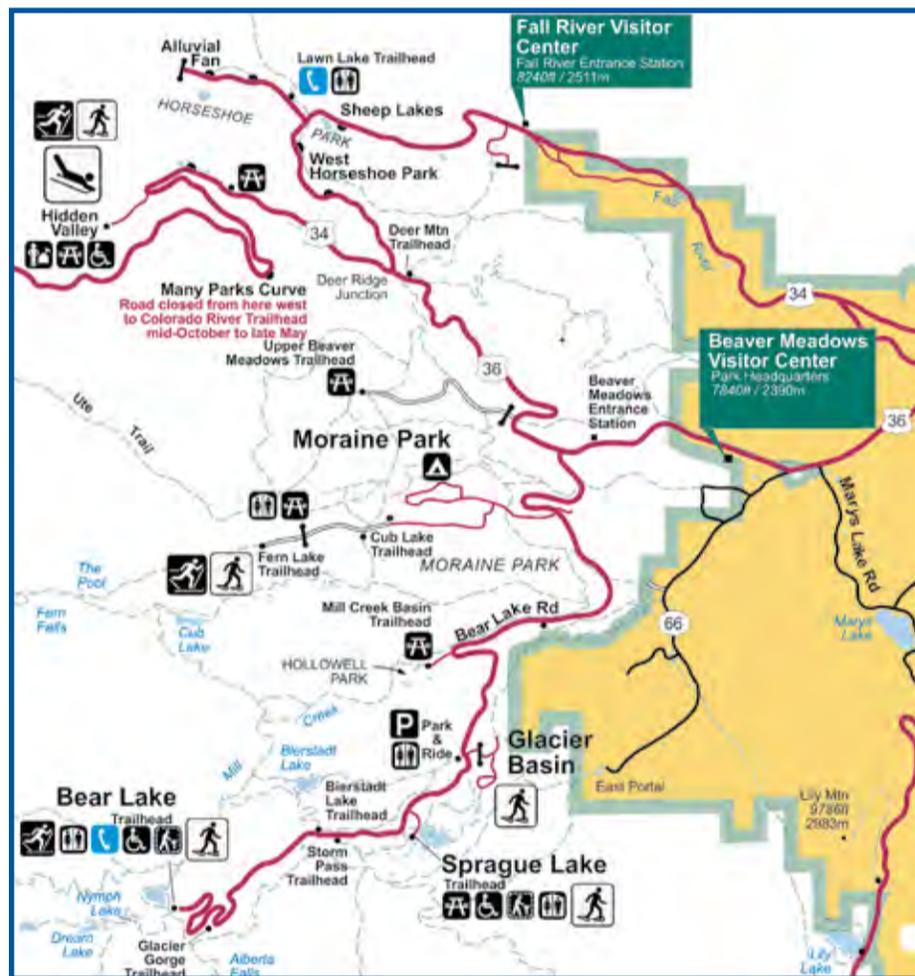


Another short jaunt leads to ice-shrouded Adams Falls. This 0.6 mile round trip includes a short hill that can sometimes be icy. Beyond the falls, more than a mile of level trail offers spectacular mountain vistas. Experienced skiers and snowshoers can continue up into the mountains on this or other trails.

Many routes are appropriate for both skis and snowshoes, with snowshoers being careful to keep to the side of ski tracks. Stop by the Kawuneeche Visitor Center for information on a variety of suggested routes for all skill levels.

Ranger-Guided Activities

Interested in learning more about the winter wilderness while you explore? Rangers on the west side of the park offer guided ski and snowshoe tours on winter weekends. See page four for details or call (970) 627-3471. Reservations are required.



Winter activities on the east side of Rocky Mountain National Park

Park Bookstores

At RMNA Bookstores, Your Purchase Makes A Difference

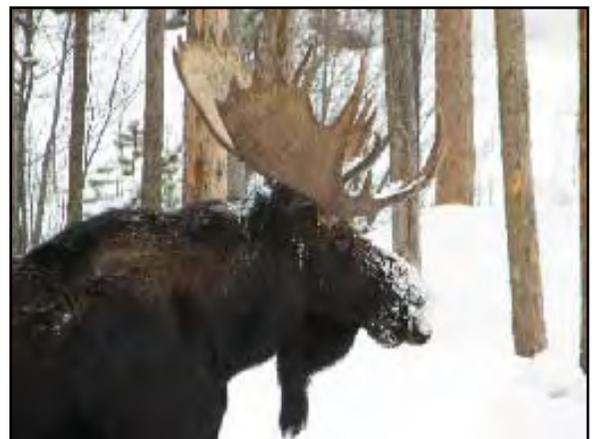
A premier selection of Rocky Mountain National Park books, maps and other interesting items can be found right here at one of the Rocky Mountain Nature Association (RMNA) bookstores located in park visitor centers. And when you make a purchase from our non-profit organization, proceeds are returned to the park, supporting important educational, interpretive and research programs. Drop by today.

Visit the Rocky Mountain Nature Association bookstores at:
Beaver Meadows Visitor Center • Fall River Visitor Center
Kawuneeche Visitor Center

Rocky Mountain Nature Association • P.O. Box 3100, Estes Park, CO 80517 • (970) 586-0108 • rma.org

Sightseeing

Prefer to experience the charm of winter from the comfort of a vehicle? Ten miles of road through the Kawuneeche Valley are plowed for travel. Take the time to enjoy spectacular views of the snow-clad Never Summer Range. Watch for wildlife along the banks of the Colorado River.



Winter Survival Tips

1 Falling Trees

Falling trees are an ever-present hazard. When traveling or camping in the forest, trees can fall without warning. Be particularly watchful when it's windy, or following a snowstorm when branches are heavy with snow. Avoid parking or camping in areas where trees could fall.



2 Stay Together!

Avoid traveling alone in the backcountry and always stay together as a group. Detailed information regarding your trip itinerary should be left with a responsible person so park authorities can be notified if you fail to return. Safety is your responsibility!

3 Backcountry Travel

Be prepared for all types of weather, no matter what activity you are enjoying in the national park. Unforeseen weather conditions can change a short afternoon hike, ski, or snowshoe trip into an unpleasant experience.



Severe storms can impose life threatening hazards only one or two miles from your car. Carry a stormproof outer shell and extra clothing. Be equipped with detailed topographic maps and a compass. Obtain a required backcountry permit for any overnight trip.

Don't depend upon a cell phone for emergency help; many locations in this rugged park are not serviced.

4 Avalanches

Colorado has more known avalanches than any other state. Avoid skiing or snowshoeing in steep gullies where avalanches could occur. Open slopes of 30 to 45 degrees can be loaded with dangerous masses of snow, easily triggered by backcountry travelers. Wear an electronic transceiver when traversing avalanche terrain. If you are caught in an avalanche, make swimming motions and try to stay on top of the snow.



For current avalanche conditions, check at a visitor center or call (970) 586-1206.

5 High Elevation

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



6 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 dry us out and chill us. Most importantly, stay dry!

Recycling Available in Major Park Locations



Glass, plastic #1 and #2, and aluminum may be recycled in open park campgrounds and major park locations. Please inquire at any visitor center or open campground.

Help us limit the use of plastic water bottles! There is limited potable drinking water in the park. Please remember to bring your own reusable water containers and refill them at park visitor centers.

International Sister Parks



Rocky Mountain National Park and the Tatra National Parks (Slovakia and Poland) have formally become sister parks. Similar rugged, beautiful mountain terrain and ecosystems, the three parks are exchanging information and expertise to better manage these great preserves for the benefit of all who may visit them.

Can I take antlers?

The simple answer is no. Dropped antlers provide valuable minerals for other park animals. It is illegal to collect or possess antlers, animal parts or natural features (rocks, pinecones, etc.) in Rocky Mountain National Park.



Free Ranger Led Programs - East Side, Estes Park

Snowshoe Tours

-by reservation only-

All children must be accompanied by an adult

Length Location SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

Snowshoe Ecology Walk - Take a beginner-level snowshoe tour with a ranger and explore the natural world of a subalpine forest. No previous experience needed.

January 3 – March 28

*Making Reservations– Snowshoe Tours

Reservations are necessary and may be made no more than seven days in advance.

Call (970) 586-1223 from 8 a.m.– 4 p.m. daily.

There is a limit of 6 people per reservation for this 2 hour program. For safety reasons, children under 8 years old are not allowed on this activity. Sleds, skis, hikers, and children in backpacks are not permitted. You must provide your own snowshoes. They can be rented in Estes Park sporting goods stores.

Groups

Part of an organized group? Please call (970) 586-3777.

2 hours

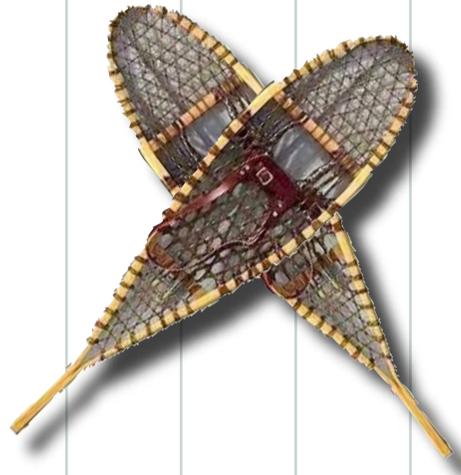
by reservation

12:30 p.m.

12:30 p.m.

12:30 p.m.

12:30 p.m.



Short Talks

Skins and Skulls - Want to pet an elk or cuddle up to a bear? Come to Beaver Meadows Visitor Center to safely feel skins and skulls while learning about park wildlife.



20-30 minute talk

Beaver Meadows Visitor Center

3 p.m.

3 p.m.

Evening Programs

Beaver Meadows Evening Program

Enjoy a wide variety of informative and entertaining programs. Meet in the downstairs auditorium at Beaver Meadows Visitor Center.



1 hour

Beaver Meadows Visitor Center Auditorium

7 p.m.
Except 12/20 & 27

Lyceum Series



Join us for our Lyceum series between January and May. Every Saturday night at 7 p.m. at Beaver Meadows Visitor Center, speakers will address the general topic of wilderness. In March 2009, after a 35 year struggle, 95% of Rocky Mountain National Park was designated as wilderness by Congress. Come celebrate our newest designation with outstanding experts as they explore what wilderness means. Call (970) 586-1206 for specific topics and dates.

Free Park Movie



See the stunning 23-minute park movie at the Beaver Meadows and Kawuneeche visitor centers during normal business hours. This movie features spectacular aerial footage of the park's rugged high country, as well as wildlife and other park resources. Available upon request. Available en español and English.

Free Ranger Led Programs - West Side, Grand Lake

Ski & Snowshoe Tours

-by reservation only-

All children must be accompanied by an adult

Length Location SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

Reservations are required for all west-side winter tours, and may be made no more than seven days in advance.

Park entrance pass required for all programs.

Call (970) 627-3471 from 8 AM–4:30 PM to make reservations.

Ski the Wilderness in Winter - Ski a snow-draped landscape and learn about the Kawuneeche Valley. Join a park ranger for this 1.5-hour cross-country ski tour. Children under 8 years of age are not allowed on this activity. You must provide your own skis and poles with large baskets.

1.5 hours

Kawuneeche Visitor Center

9:30 a.m.
12/26 - 1/30

Snowshoe in the Kawuneeche - Join a beginner level snowshoe tour with a ranger. Please bring your own snowshoes and ski poles with large baskets. Children under 8 years of age are not allowed on this activity.

2 hours

Kawuneeche Visitor Center

9 a.m.
2/6 - 3/20
1 p.m.
12/12 - 3/20

Snowshoe in the Kawuneeche - Take an intermediate level snowshoe tour with a ranger. This is a more rigorous tour with elevation gains of up to 500', and requires the ability to maintain a good pace on uneven terrain. Bring your own snowshoes and ski poles with large baskets. Children under 8 years of age are not allowed on this activity.

2 hours

Kawuneeche Visitor Center

1 p.m.
12/13 - 3/14

Kid's Snowshoe - Join a ranger for a kid-friendly snowshoe adventure. Ages 6-12 are welcome with an adult. Dress warmly, in layers. Bring your own snowshoes and optional ski poles with large baskets.

1.5 hours

Kawuneeche Visitor Center

10:30 a.m.
1/9, 2/6 & 3/6

Camping Winter 2009/10

	Fee per night (winter/no winter)	Elevation—ft.	Stay limit (nights)	Public phone
Longs Peak 26 campsites Open all year - tents only	\$14	9,400	14	no
Moraine Park in winter -77 campsites Open all year. 	\$14	8,150	14	yes



Campgrounds/Reservations

Reservations for peak season are available for Moraine Park Campground and Aspenglen Campground. Call (877) 444-6777 to make national park camping reservations up to 6 months prior to your visit. Internet reservations can be made at www.recreation.gov

The camping fee is \$20 per site per night for use from May 1 until the campground water is turned off, usually around the end of October. Once the water is turned off in the campground, the fee is \$14 per site per night.

Stay Limit: 7 night total parkwide June 1 - September 30, with an **additional 14 nights** allowed October 1 - May 31, *Limits for stay are on a park basis rather than on a per campground basis.*

Longs Peak Campground is open year-round (tents only).

Food Storage

In campgrounds and picnic areas, if there is a food storage locker provided, use it. Avoid storing food and coolers in your vehicle. If you must, store food in airtight containers in the trunk or out of sight. Close vehicle windows completely. Do not store food in tents or pop-up campers in campgrounds, or in vehicles at trailheads. Food, coolers, and dirty cookware left unattended, even for a short time, are subject to confiscation by park rangers; citations may be issued. Dispose of garbage in bear-resistant dumpsters and trash cans. Human-fed bears usually end up as chronic problems and need to be removed, "A fed bear is a dead bear."

Winter Backcountry Camping

Permits are required for all overnight backcountry camping. 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.



For your safety and the protection of park wildlife, carry in/carry out food storage canisters are required of backcountry campers in park below treeline between May 1 and October 1.

Canisters may be rented or purchased at outdoor shops in surrounding communities. Pack out all garbage.

Leave No Trace

With approximately 3 million visitors every year, the wild lands of Rocky Mountain National Park are heavily used. In hiking, camping, and all your park activities, do your part to preserve this national treasure by following the seven easy Leave No Trace Ethics:

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimize campfire impacts
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of other visitors



Fun Activities for the Kids

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 this 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

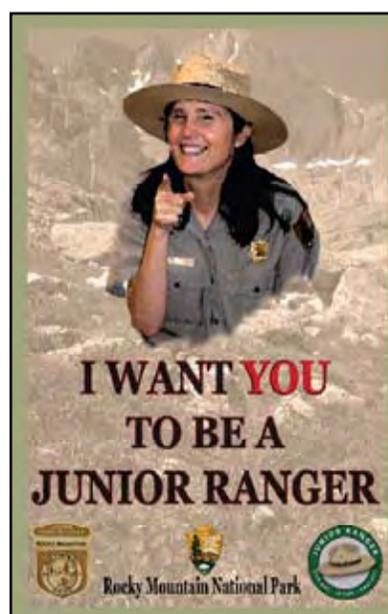


Junior Rangers

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!



Check out latest Multimedia!

- Opening Trail Ridge Road
- The Ten Essentials
- Lightning Safety
- Wilderness Celebration
- The Mountain Pine Beetle and much more!



RMNP Podcasts & Videos

Go to nps.gov/romo and click on PHOTOS & MULTIMEDIA for more podcasts, blogs, and videos!

Winter Trails by Snowshoe, Ski and Foot



With over 350 miles of trails, the park offers a vast array of choices. A small sampling of trails are described below. When properly equipped, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing at Rocky Mountain National Park are often inspiring and invigorating. Cross-country skiing is typically better on the west side of the park (Grand Lake entrance), as snow depths are greater, and terrain gentler than on the eastern slope.

Trail Tips: Even for short day tours, be sure to pack gear for all types of weather (sun, snow, wind). Strong winds are quite common, and it is essential to wear or carry windproof clothing .

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. Know park regulations. Pack it in, pack it out - including remains of all your food (pits, peels, etc.), as well as facial tissues. Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects where you find them. Let nature's sounds prevail; avoid loud voices and noises. No pets are allowed on park trails.

Check on-line for trail and road conditions, www.nps.gov/romo/plan_yourvisit/road_conditions.htm, or call (970) 586-1206, or stop by a park visitor center.

Don't travel alone - Leave a note where you are going.



Falling trees are an ever-present hazard when traveling or camping in the forest. Be aware of your surroundings. Dead trees can fall without warning.

Trails on the East Side of the Park

Trail	Trailhead Location	Round Trip Distance	Elevation Gain	Highlights
Upper Beaver Meadows	Upper Beaver Meadows Road (gated) off Trail Ridge Road	3-4 miles	140 feet	A fine winter hike along a gated dirt road, with an option for making a 3.5 mile loop by taking a trail just inside the barricade, which joins the end of the road in 1.5 miles.
Sprague Lake	Sprague Lake on Bear Lake Road	.5 mile	Relatively Level	A good place for a short winter walk, or to try those cross-country skis on a frozen lake. Good views of the Continental Divide.
Chasm Falls	West Alluvial Fan at gated end of Endovalley Road off Hwy 34	5.8 miles	400 feet	Follows summer roads which are closed to winter traffic. At 1.5 miles, take the right fork up Old Fall River Road to beautiful Chasm Falls.
Lily Lake	Lily Lake on Highway 7, south of Estes Park	.7 mile	5 feet	The trail around the lake is often suitable for walking in boots, or as a short snowshoe or ski. Beautiful views of high park peaks.
Dream Lake	Bear Lake on Bear Lake Road	2.2 miles	425 feet	A good snowshoe tour to one of the most photographed lakes in the park.
Emerald Lake	Bear Lake on Bear Lake Road	3.6 miles	605 feet	An excellent intermediate snowshoe tour. Tour ascends to an alpine lake.
Bierstadt Lake	Bear Lake on Bear Lake Road, 10 miles from Beaver Meadows Visitor Center	3.2 miles	235 feet	A nice snowshoe or ski tour, if started at Bear Lake. Also possible as a steeper snowshoe/hiking tour from the Bierstadt Lake Trailhead.
Mills Lake	Glacier Gorge on Bear Lake Road	5.6 miles	730 feet	An excellent winter snowshoe trail to a spectacular peak-rimmed lake. Magnificent views abound.
The Loch	Glacier Gorge on Bear Lake Road	6.2 miles	970 feet	An excellent winter snowshoe trail to a spectacular peak-rimmed lake. Magnificent views abound.
Mill Creek	Hollowell Park on Bear Lake Road	3.2 miles	600 feet	A quiet winter snowshoe on a lesser-used trail.

Trail	Trailhead Location	Round-Trip Distance	Elevation Gain	Highlights
Cub Lake	Cub Lake in Moraine Park off the Bear Lake Road	4.6 miles	540 feet	A moderate hike/snowshoe; lower sections are often hikeable. The last mile often has ice or snow. Bring snowshoes, even if it looks open at the beginning.
The Pool	Fern Lake on Cub Lake Road off the Bear Lake Road	4.8 miles	245 feet	Meadows, aspen groves, ponds and conifer forests highlight this easy, nearly level trail. A snowshoe or hike, depending upon snow conditions.
Sandbeach Lake	Wild Basin off Highway 7, south of Estes Park	8.4 miles	1970 feet	Trail ascends steeply through sunny forest; a steady uphill hike. Snowshoes often are not needed for the lower trail sections.
Ouzel Falls	Wild Basin off Highway 7, south of Estes Park	7.4 miles	950 feet	Frozen waterfalls and beautiful views await on this snowshoe tour. Often some icy patches on the trail.
Trail Ridge Road	The gated winter closure at Many Parks Curve on Trail Ridge Road	2+ miles	200+ feet	Follows the summer road which is closed to winter traffic. Beautiful views; often windy. Snowshoes usually best.
Deer Mountain	Deer Ridge Junction at the intersection of Highways 34 & 36 on Trail Ridge Road	6 miles	1075 feet	A strenuous snowshoe or hike to the windblown top of Deer Mountain. The lower portion tends to be open and hikeable; upper switchbacks snowy.
Lawn Lake	Lawn Lake Trailhead on Fall River Road	12.4 miles	2250 feet	A strenuous snowshoe to a high mountain lake. After a mile, the trail follows scenic Roaring River.

**Trails on the West Side of the Park -
Where snow conditions are generally better**

Trail	Trailhead Location	Round-Trip Distance	Elevation Gain	Highlights
Tonahutu Creek Trail	The Kawuneeche Visitor Center, north of Grand Lake	4 miles	300 feet	From the visitor center, an easy 2 mile ski to Grand Lake. A longer option is an 8 mile round trip to Big Meadows (700' elevation gain).
Adams Falls	East Inlet, on West Portal Road, at the far east end of Grand Lake village	.6 miles	80 feet	A beautiful snowshoe or intermediate-level ski tour. The trail continues to First Meadows (2 mile round trip), with a great view of Mt. Craig.
Sun Valley Trail	Harbison Picnic Area 1 mile north of the Kawuneeche Visitor Center	2.5 miles	50 feet	An easy ski or snowshoe loop through woods and open meadows. Be sure to look for orange trail markers at trail junctions.
Green Mountain Trail	Green Mountain Trailhead 3 miles north of the Kawuneeche Visitor Center	4 miles	600 feet	An intermediate ski or snowshoe to Big Meadows. A longer, more difficult loop is also possible.
Coyote Valley Trail	Coyote Valley Trailhead in the Kawuneeche Valley	1 mile	10 feet	A level trail adjacent to the Colorado River. An easy choice to test those skis or snowshoes.
Colorado River Trail (Lulu City)	The end of the plowed road in the Kawuneeche Valley 10 miles north of the Kawuneeche Visitor Center	7.4 miles	350 feet	A gentle ski tour with some views of the Colorado River. Historic sites of Shipler Cabins and Lulu City add to the natural attractions of this tour.

Park Resources

Elk Enclosures

Several temporarily-fenced elk enclosures were built as part of a 20-year elk and vegetation management plan to allow the recovery of riparian (streamside) vegetation, such as willows, and to restore the habitat for riparian-dependant wildlife species.

A park visitor, studying the fenced area remarked, “Not much of a fence. Won’t keep much in with that.” It won’t keep much in; or out. That’s the intent. These fences or “enclosures,” each about 20 acres in size, are more like sieves than fences – designed to let most animals, freely move. The exceptions include elk and moose. Excluding these animals provides for habitat restoration along the park’s streams in Horseshoe and Moraine Parks.

Areas inside the woven-wire fences were altered through years of over-browsing and trampling by dense elk herds, making them less suitable for riparian-dependent species such as beaver, Wilson’s warblers, and Lincoln’s sparrows. Through research and monitoring, park biologists will evaluate the progress of habitat restoration. As the vegetation inside recovers, the fences can be moved to other areas needing restoration. Look at the differences inside and outside these areas. Gates at various locations along the fences allow free entry for anglers and hikers.



Pine Beetle Epidemic On The Move

Bark beetles are native insects that have shaped the forests from Canada to Mexico for thousands of years. Rocky Mountain National Park is just one small part of this enormous area where trees are dying from the beetle epidemic. Because the task is enormous too, the park has prioritized its efforts to remove hazard trees and hazard fuels related to the protection of life and property from areas near park facilities such as campgrounds, visitor centers, parking lots and housing areas. There is no effective means of controlling the large beetle outbreak in the vast backcountry, which comprises about 95% of the park. Therefore, bark beetle populations are allowed to fluctuate under natural processes there. For safety, limited mitigation work does occur around some designated backcountry campsites.

The changing landscapes of the west remind us of nature’s ability to change beyond human control. This natural process is allowing dense stands of trees to open up and a new forest to begin.



Climate Change: Mitigation, Adaptation, Communication

With climate change in the news, it’s common for visitors to ask about climate change impacts on the park. Documented indicators include: extensive forest insect outbreaks; warming temperatures starting around 1988; and, a trend towards earlier snowmelt. Current climate change research projects include: studies of pika distribution; an examination of permafrost along Trail Ridge Road; and, a new effort to monitor alpine vegetation.

Important steps that the park is taking to address climate change impacts fall into three categories: mitigation; adaptation; and, communication. We are mitigating our contributions towards greenhouse gasses by making park operations, including vehicles and buildings, more energy efficient. More detailed information about climate change and parks, including Rocky Mountain, is available on the National Park Service website: nps.gov. Learn more about what you can do at <http://www.doyourpartparks.org/#>

The Next Generation Fund It’s Your Kids We’re Talking About

Peeling kids away from television and computer screens is certainly a challenge in today’s modern age. The Next Generation Fund wants to connect kids with the outdoors, inspiring them to become adults committed to conservation and to protecting Rocky Mountain National Park for future generations. Here’s how:

Through the Rocky Mountain Nature Association, the Next Generation Fund campaign is building a \$10-million endowment by 2011 to permanently support programs such as: Junior Ranger, Heart of the Rockies Environmental Education program, the American Conservation Corps, Rocky Mountain Field Seminars and Publications. Visit nextgenerationfund.org to learn more, or call (970) 586-0108 to find out how you can help.

creating the conservationists of tomorrow...

Learn more at www.nextgenerationfund.org

Check out the new Rocky Mountain Kids Club Membership Level!

Now kids can be connected to Rocky Mountain National Park by becoming a Rocky Mountain Nature Association Member. The Rocky Mountain Kids Club Membership is for children ages 6-12 and comes with a free membership gift, free seminar hike, and a monthly newsletter with interesting articles, fun games and additional discounts on bookstore merchandise. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit any of our park bookstores or call (970) 586-0108 x21. This would be a great gift for any nature loving child you know!

