

# RMNP

## Rocky Mountain National Park

Fall 2015  
September 8–October 12

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

The official newspaper of  
Rocky Mountain National Park



A bull elk and his harem of cows. NPS PHOTO / ANN SCHONLAU

## Experience Elk

IT'S FALL—A MAGICAL TIME IN THE ROCKIES. Days get shorter, plants change color, the first dusting of snow returns to the tundra, and the mating season, or rut, begins for elk.

Watch carefully: lifting his head and massive antlers high, a bull elk begins his stately march across the moonlit meadow. In this timeless dance, he moves, pauses—listening to something we can't hear—and then bugles. The shrill call rings out through the meadow, echoing from the mountainsides. These remarkable vocal skills, rising over three octaves, attract cows and intimidate rival bulls. The bugle communicates size, strength, and vigor, inviting cows to join his harem of up to 60 cows.

Once the harem is assembled, it must be defended night and day from other bulls coming to lure the cows away. Laying his impressive antlers back along his spine to show his incredible size, the bull is constantly on the move. He is majesty, sailing on the mists of the meadows, passing his genes to the next spring's generation of calves.

**Our job? Watch with quiet respect and stay well away from these powerful animals.**

## Free Park Movies

IN CELEBRATION OF ROCKY'S CENTENNIAL, this year both the stunning 23-minute park movie *Spirit of the Mountains* and new inspirational 25-minute Centennial film *Wilderness, Wildlife, Wonder* are shown in the Beaver Meadows and Kawuneeche visitor centers through September.

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

### For the good of the animals and other visitors:

- Park using roadside pullouts—do not park on vegetation
- Turn off car lights and engine after parking
- Stay by the road
- Do not approach animals—they are unpredictable!
- Never use artificial lights or calls
- Do not walk into posted meadows between 5 pm and 7 am
- Watch for other cars and keep an eye on children
- Never feed wildlife

These five areas offer prime elk viewing. However, please remember that to minimize disturbance to elk, all meadows are closed to entry between 5 pm and 7 am daily from September 1 to October 31:

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

## Follow @RockyNPS

FIND US ON YOUR FAVORITE SOCIAL MEDIA to connect with Rocky and share your story. To learn more, visit [go.nps.gov/RockySocial](http://go.nps.gov/RockySocial)

- instagram @RockyNPS #RMNP
- facebook.com/RockyNPS
- twitter @RockyNPS
- youtube.com/user/RockyNPS
- flickr.com/photos/RockyNPS

## Visitor Centers

### EAST SIDE Near Estes Park

#### Alpine Visitor Center

Open 10:30 am to 4:30 pm daily (weather permitting). The highest visitor center in the NPS at 11,796 feet. Extraordinary alpine views, displays, information, a bookstore, an adjacent gift shop and cafe.

#### Beaver Meadows Visitor Center

Open 8 am to 5 pm daily. Near Beaver Meadows Entrance on US Hwy 36 west of Estes Park. Park information, bookstore, and two free park movies (see left). Backcountry camping permits available by following trail east of visitor center to Backcountry Office.

#### Fall River Visitor Center

Open 9 am to 5 pm daily. Near Fall River Entrance on US Hwy 34 west of Estes Park. Features life-sized wildlife displays, bookstore, and new Arts Alive Activity Center and Centennial Art Exhibit (all ages welcome).

#### Moraine Park Discovery Center

Open 9 am to 4:30 pm daily. On Bear Lake Road. Interactive exhibits, nature trail offering great views of Moraine Park, family friendly activities, and a bookstore.

### WEST SIDE Near Grand Lake

#### Kawuneeche Visitor Center

Open 8 am to 5 pm (8 am to 4:30pm starting October 1). On US Hwy 34 north of Grand Lake. Park information, maps, two free park movies, exhibits, bookstore, and backcountry camping permits.



Visit our official website for more information  
[nps.gov/romo/](http://nps.gov/romo/)



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



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



To report emergencies 911

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# 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](http://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.

 **Backcountry 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 sites (see page 6).

 **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](http://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.

 **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](http://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 is no safe place in the backcountry when lightning strikes. Check the forecast before heading out. Watch for building storm clouds. Plan activities so you can quickly return to your car if a storm begins. If hiking, plan to return to the trailhead before noon, and return to the trailhead 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.

See Camping (page 6) to learn how to properly store food and other scented items.

## Road Conditions

**Trail Ridge Road is open for the season, weather permitting.** It usually closes in mid-October. For current park road and driving conditions:

- Stop at a visitor center
- Call the Trail Ridge Road status line **970 586-1222**
- Visit [go.nps.gov/RockyRoads](http://go.nps.gov/RockyRoads)

## Carry the Essentials

- ✓ Lots of water and high-energy food
- ✓ Layers of clothing including storm gear, hat, gloves
- ✓ Sunglasses with UV protection
- ✓ Sunscreen
- ✓ Sturdy footwear and extra socks
- ✓ First aid kit
- ✓ Topographic map and compass/GPS
- ✓ Flashlight or headlamp
- ✓ Waterproof matches, pocket knife, whistle

## Entrance Fees will increase October 1

### Through September 30, 2015

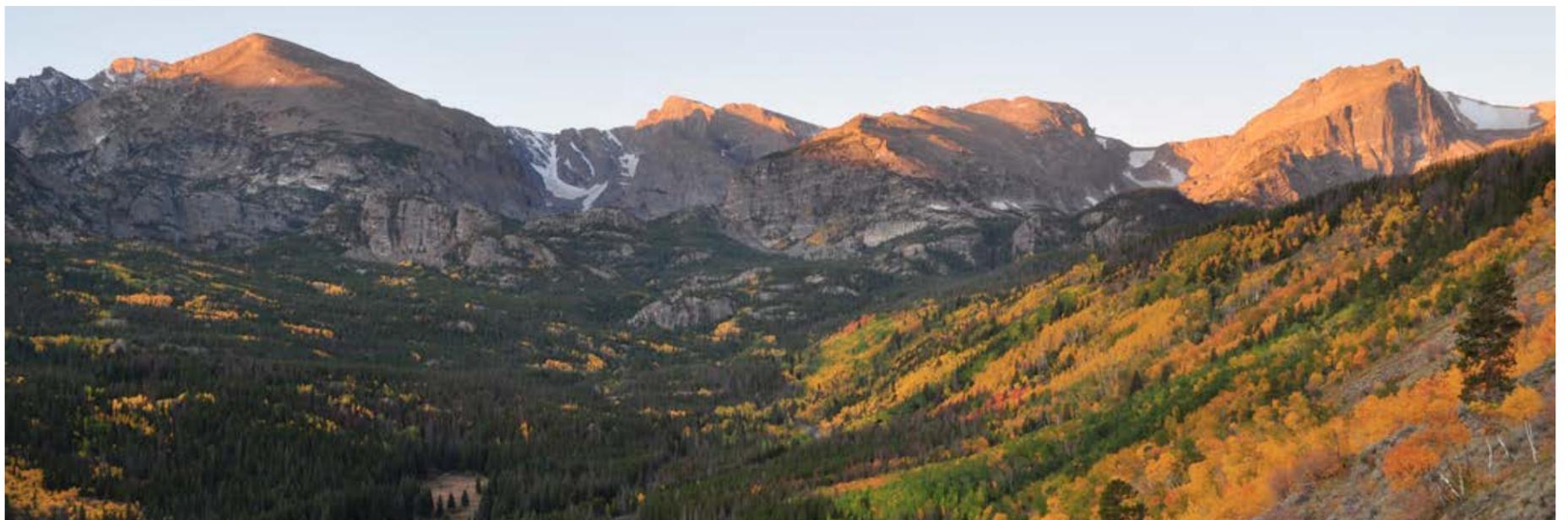
	Automobile	Per Person
7-day Pass	\$20	\$10
RMNP Annual	\$40	

### Beginning October 1, 2015

	Automobile	Per Person	Motorcycle
1-day Pass	\$20	\$10	\$20
7-day Pass	\$30	\$15	\$25
RMNP Annual	\$50		

### America the Beautiful Interagency Passes

Annual	\$80
Senior	\$10
Access	Free
Annual Military	Free



Aspen glow and alpenglow.

NPS PHOTO

# Hiking

 Wheelchair-accessible trail  Family-friendly trail

## East Side

TRAIL	TRAILHEAD	DISTANCE <i>ROUND TRIP</i>	ELEVATION GAIN	HIGHLIGHTS
<b>Bear Lake</b>  	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.
<b>Cub Lake</b>	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.
<b>Deer Mountain</b>	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.
<b>Estes Cone</b>	Storm Pass Trailhead <i>Lily Lake</i>	7.4 mi <i>11.9 m</i>	2369 ft <i>722 m</i>	Great views reward this strenuous hike to the top of a peak.
<b>Gem Lake</b>	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).
<b>Mills Lake</b>	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.
<b>Moraine Park Discovery Center Nature Trail</b>	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.
<b>The Pool</b>	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.
<b>Sprague Lake</b>  	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.

## West Side

TRAIL	TRAILHEAD	DISTANCE <i>ROUND TRIP</i>	ELEVATION GAIN	HIGHLIGHTS
<b>Adams Falls</b>	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.
<b>Cascade Falls</b>	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.
<b>Coyote Valley Trail</b>  	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.
<b>East Shore Trail</b>	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.
<b>Holzwarth Historic Site</b> 	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.
<b>Granite Falls</b>	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.
<b>Lulu City</b>	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.
<b>Onahu Creek – Green Mountain Loop</b>	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.

## Trail Ridge Road

TRAIL	TRAILHEAD	DISTANCE <i>ROUND TRIP</i>	ELEVATION GAIN	HIGHLIGHTS
<b>Alpine Ridge Trail</b> 	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.
<b>Tundra Communities Trail</b> 	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.
<b>Ute Trail</b>	Across road from Alpine Visitor Center <i>multiple access points</i>	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!

# Ranger-Led Programs

## East Side

WALKS AND HIKES	LENGTH	LOCATION	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>Autumn Bird Walk</b> Join a ranger in search of fall migrants in an excellent birding area. For all levels of birders. Bring binoculars and a field guide. <b>Ends 10/3</b>	1.5 hour walk	Cub Lake Trailhead			8 am		8 am		8 am
<b>Autumn in the Rockies</b> 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. <b>Ends 10/12</b>	1 to 1.5 hour walk	Upper Beaver Meadows Trailhead		2 pm		2 pm	2 pm	2 pm	2 pm
<b>Bear Lake Stroll</b> Enjoy an easy walk around a lovely subalpine lake and learn about the natural and human forces that have shaped this landscape. <b>Ends 10/10</b>	1 to 1.5 hour walk	Bear Lake Ranger Station		9 am	9 am	9 am	9 am		9 am
<b>Centennial Hike</b> Hit the trail with a ranger and enjoy a longer hike to gorgeous destinations exploring the past, present, and future of parks. These moderate 5–7 mile hikes will vary location. Be prepared for changing weather, and bring food and water. <b>Ends 9/29</b>	4 to 5 hour hike	Meet the Ranger at Park & Ride to take the shuttle bus			9 am				
<b>Moraine Park Nature Walk</b> Discover the connections between the landscape, climate, and ecosystems of Moraine Park on this moderate walk. <b>Ends 10/2</b>	1 hour walk	Moraine Park Discovery Center		10 am	10 am			10 am	
TALKS AND ACTIVITIES 	LENGTH	LOCATION	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>Arts Alive Activity Center</b> Get your creative juices flowing! Draw, write, capture your memories in our drop-in studio. Open to all ages and skills. Children must be accompanied by an adult. <b>Ends 10/3</b>	Drop in anytime	Fall River Visitor Center							
<b>Bear Necessities</b> Come discover what is necessary to the survival of Rocky's black bears. <b>Ends 10/12</b>	20 to 30 minute talk	Beaver Meadows Visitor Center	10:30 am	10:30 am		10:30 am	10:30 am	10:30 am	10:30 am
<b>Elk Echoes</b> Learn about elk adaptations, migrations, and mating behavior. (Programs at the same time at both locations.) <b>Ends 10/12</b>	30 minute talk	Sheep Lakes Parking and Moraine Park Discovery Center Amphitheater	6 pm						
<b>High Country Tails</b> Discover how alpine animals' amazing adaptations help them make their home on mountain tops. <b>Ends 10/12</b>	20 to 30 minute talk	Alpine Visitor Center	2:30 pm	2:30 pm		2:30 pm		2:30 pm	2:30 pm
<b>Leave It to Beaver</b> Discover how beavers change the landscape and benefit Rocky's plant and animal communities. <b>Ends 10/12</b>	20 to 30 minute talk	Fall River Visitor Center	2 pm	10:30 am	2 pm	10:30 am		2 pm	2 pm
<b>National Parks: The Legacy of Artists</b> Discover how artists have used paintings, photographs, and prose to capture nature's beauty and inspire the creation of many of our national parks. <b>Ends 10/8</b>	20 to 30 minute talk	Fall River Visitor Center			10:30 am		10:30 am		
<b>Portraits of the Past</b> Rocky Mountain National Park and the National Park Service were influenced by the lives and stories of many different people. Join a park ranger for a glimpse into the lives of those who came before us. <b>Ends 10/1</b>	30 to 45 minute talk	Moraine Park Discovery Center	2 pm				2 pm		

### Notes and Tips

- All children must be accompanied by an adult.
- Programs may be canceled due to weather.
- Accessible programs are marked with a blue icon. 
- Programs and hours will change starting October 14. An updated schedule will be printed in the winter newspaper.
- For outdoor programs, be sure to bring the essentials to wear and carry (see page 3).

# West Side

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES	LENGTH	LOCATION	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>Beyond the Falls</b> A pleasant stroll to Adams Falls and a spectacular view just beyond. <b>Ends 9/30</b>	1.5 hour hike	East Inlet Trailhead				2 pm			
<b>Coyote Valley River Walk</b>  Explore ecology and history on this easy walk along the Colorado River. <b>Ends 9/27</b>	1 hour hike	Coyote Valley Trailhead	2 pm						
<b>Hike Through History</b> Discover hidden remnants of mining and dude ranch history along the Colorado River on this gentle 3-mile hike. <b>Ends 9/28   No program 9/21</b>	3 hour hike	Colorado River Trailhead		1 pm <i>No program 9/21</i>					
<b>Skins and Things</b>  Examine the skins, skulls, antlers, teeth, and bones of many park mammals. <b>Ends 9/30   No program 9/12 or 9/21</b>	40 minute talk	Kawuneeche Visitor Center	10:30 am	10:30 am <i>No program 9/21</i>	10:30 am	10:30 am		10:30 am	10:30 am <i>No program 9/12</i>
<b>Rocky Mountain Heritage Walk</b>  Learn about the human history of the Kawuneeche Valley while strolling to the grounds of a historic guest ranch. <b>Ends 9/29   No program 9/12</b>	1.5 hour hike	Holzwarth Historic Site parking area			2 pm				2 pm <i>No program 9/12</i>
<b>Wilderness Connections</b> Celebrate wilderness with a moderate hike to a hidden meadow and picturesque creek. <b>Ends 9/25</b>	1.5 to 2 hour hike	Onahu Trailhead						1:30 pm	

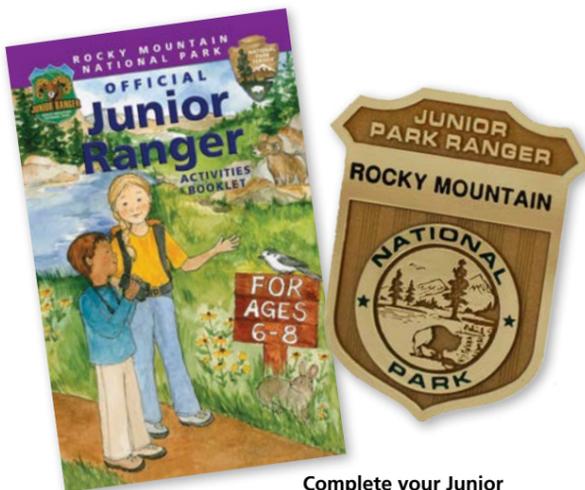
EVENING AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS	LENGTH	LOCATION	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>Timber Creek Campground Program</b>  Check at the campground or Kawuneeche Visitor Center for topics. <b>Ends 9/30</b>	1 hour program	Timber Creek Campground amphitheater	7:45 pm <i>7:30 pm after 9/20</i>	7:45 pm <i>7:30 pm after 9/20</i>	7:45 pm <i>7:30 pm after 9/20</i>		7:45 pm <i>7:30 pm after 9/20</i>	7:45 pm <i>7:30 pm after 9/20</i>	7:45 pm <i>7:30 pm after 9/20</i>

## Special Programs and Events (East and West)



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

NPS PHOTO



Complete your Junior Ranger booklet and earn a badge!



Visitors of all ages drawing on the windows at Fall River Visitor Center.

NPS PHOTO

### Join Us for Elk Day

Kawuneeche Visitor Center  
10 am to 2 pm  
Saturday, September 12 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 cover story 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](http://nps.gov/webangers)

### Get Your Creativity Flowing!

Fall River Visitor Center  
9 am to 5 pm  
Drop in any time

Do you like being creative and making art? Then we've got the activity for you.

Visit our Centennial Wildlife Art Exhibit and the Arts Alive Activity Center at the Fall River Visitor Center. Draw, write and capture your memories in our drop-in studio. Open to all ages and skills. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

# Camping

CAMPGROUND	RESERVABLE	FIREWOOD AND ICE	MAX RV TRAILER LENGTH	SUMMER DUMP STATION	DESIGNATED ACCESSIBLE SITES	TENT PAD SIZE	SUMMER FLUSH TOILETS	DESCRIPTION
<b>Aspenglen</b> 8,220 feet 52 sites May 21 – Sep 27	Yes. May fill by reservation.	Yes	30 ft	No. Use Glacier Basin, Moraine Park, or Timber Creek	Yes	13 x 15 ft	Yes	In pine forest by rushing Fall River just inside the Fall River Entrance on US Hwy 34 west of Estes Park.
<b>Glacier Basin</b> 8,500 feet 150 sites Closed for season	Yes. A, B, D, Group loops may fill by reservation. C loop is first-come, first-served.	Yes	35 ft	Yes	Yes	Varies	Yes	On Bear Lake Road across from the Park & Ride. Hazard trees were removed so no shade in C, D, Group Loops, but there are good views and night sky, and it's good for slideouts.
<b>Longs Peak</b> 9,405 feet 26 sites Closed for season	No. All sites are first-come, first-served.	Firewood summer only (No ice)	Tents only	No	No	13 x 15 ft	No, vault toilets only	In pine forest nine miles south of Estes Park off Highway 7. Trailhead to Longs Peak is a short walk away.
<b>Moraine Park</b> 8,160 feet 244 sites summer, 77 sites winter Open year-round Reservable May 21 – Sep 27	May fill by reservation in summer. First-come, first-served in winter.	Yes, summer only	Limited number of sites up to 40 ft	Yes	Yes	Varies	Yes, except B Loop (vault toilets)	In pine forest above meadows of Moraine Park. A short drive from Beaver Meadows Entrance on Bear Lake Road.
<b>Timber Creek</b> 8,900 feet 98 sites May 22 – Nov 1	No. All sites are first-come, first-served.	Firewood only	30 ft	Yes	Yes	Varies	Yes	Only campground on park's west side. Near Colorado River ten miles north of Grand Lake on US Hwy 34.

## Camping Information

Overnight stays in Rocky Mountain NP must be in a campground or backcountry site. You are not allowed to stay overnight in a car or RV along roads or at trailheads.

All park campgrounds usually fill on 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. To make a reservation:

- [reserveamerica.com](https://www.reserveamerica.com)
- [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov)
- **877 444-6777**

### Fees to Camp

- When the water is on (summer), all campgrounds are **\$20 per night**.
- When the water is off (winter), Moraine Park Campground Loop B is **\$14 per night**.
- America the Beautiful Senior and Access Pass holders receive a 50 percent discount on camping fees.
- Park entrance and camping fees may be paid in US currency by major credit card or debit card, cash, or check.

### Stay Limits

You can stay no more than seven nights TOTAL between June 1 and September 30, plus an additional 14 nights from October 1 to May 31. Stay limits are on a park wide, rather than per campground, basis.

### At All Standard Campsites

- Eight people or less 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.
- There are no shower facilities in the park, but showers are available in nearby communities.
- Portable showers are prohibited except in two solar-heated shower bag stall facilities at 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:

- Pets must be on a leash no longer than six feet.
- Owners must pick up and dispose of pet excrement in trash receptacles.
- Pets may not make noise that impacts visitors or wildlife.
- Pets are never allowed on 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,

odoriferous attractants, and garbage, including empty cans, food wrappers, etc. These must be disposed of in trash or recycling receptacles.

Hummingbird feeders and bird feeders are not allowed. They attract wildlife like raccoons, elk, deer, and bears. Coolers, dirty stoves, grills, non-disposable tableware, and cookware must be washed and stored just like 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:

- Inside vehicle trunks with windows closed and doors locked.
- If you don't have a trunk, put items in the passenger compartment as low as possible and covered from sight, with windows closed and doors locked.
- If driving a convertible or motorcycle, use food storage lockers, available in all park campgrounds. Food storage lockers are shared with other visitors and cannot be locked. Food storage lockers are shown on all campground maps.

## Backcountry Camping

### Permits and Fees

Overnight stays in the backcountry require a permit available at the Beaver Meadows Backcountry Office or Kawuneeche Visitor Center. To learn more or make a reservation (highly recommended for summer), visit [go.nps.gov/RockyBackcountry](https://go.nps.gov/RockyBackcountry) or call **970 586-1242**.

A **\$26 fee** is required between May 1 and October 31. This nonrefundable, non-exchangeable fee must be paid when reservations are made.

To protect visitors and wildlife, backcountry campers must use carry in/carry out, commercially-manufactured, hard-sided, bear-resistant food storage containers in all areas of the park between May 1 and October 31. Containers may be rented or purchased at outdoor shops in nearby communities.

### Leave No Trace

Over three million people visit Rocky every year. Whether hiking, camping, or driving, keep your park beautiful by practicing 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 others.

### Sprague Lake Accessible Backcountry Campsite

Contact the Backcountry Office at **970 586-1242**. 12 campers with up to five wheelchair users can stay at the site. A \$26 administrative permit fee is required from May 1 to October 31.

# 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.



**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](http://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](http://www.RMConservancy.org)

**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.

**Become a Member or Donate Today!**

[www.RMConservancy.org](http://www.RMConservancy.org)



## At Conservancy Nature Stores, Your Purchase Makes A Difference!



Visit the Conservancy's Nature Store in any park visitor center for the best RMNP t-shirts, games, jewelry, books, maps and other great park items. Proceeds support the park!



# 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.

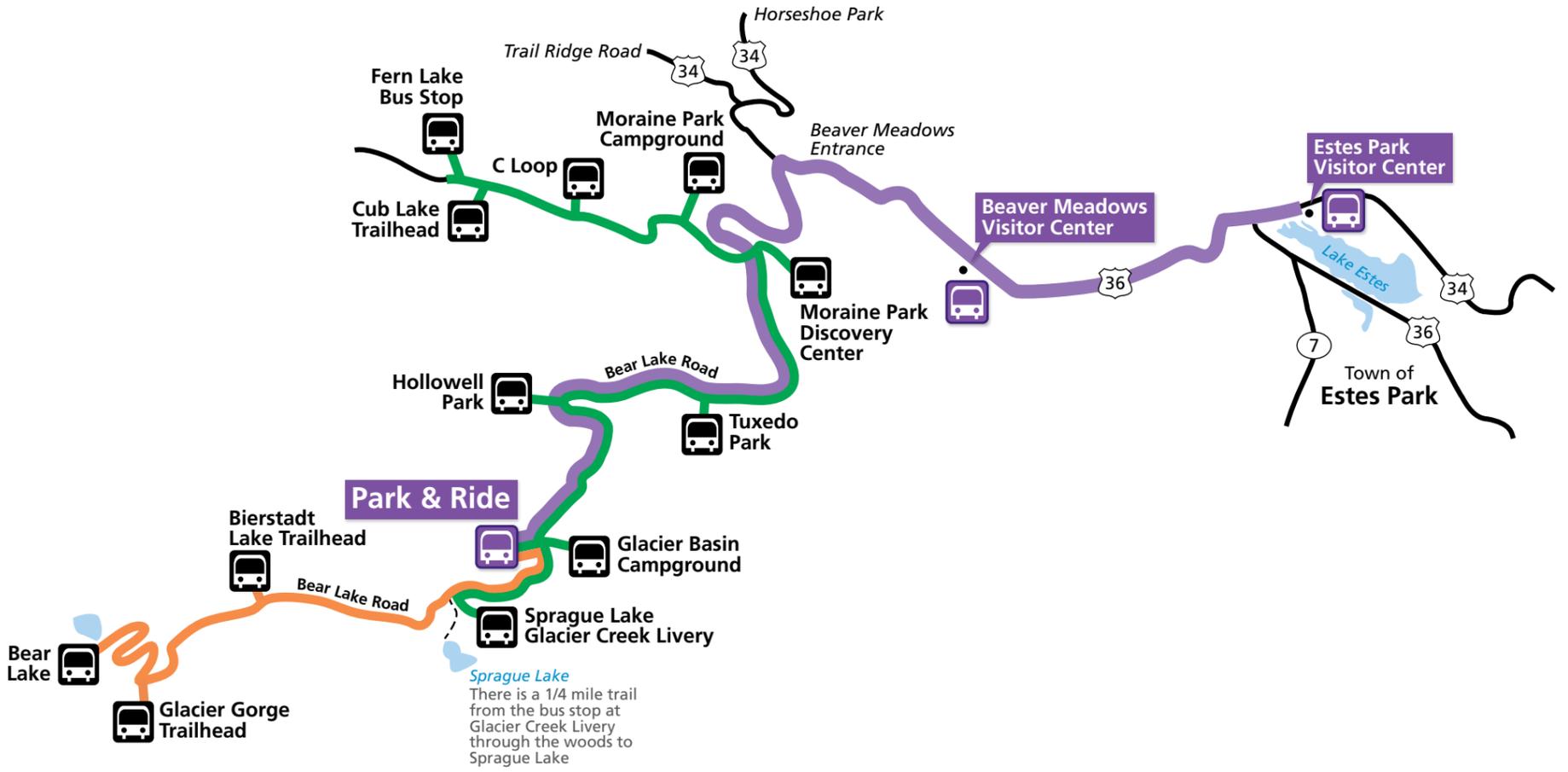


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[trailridgegiftstore.com](http://trailridgegiftstore.com)

# Free Shuttle Bus



## Free Shuttle Service at a Glance

ROUTE	SCHEDULE	DATES
 <b>Hiker Shuttle Express</b>	Hourly 7:30 am to 11 am 30 min 11 am to 6 pm Hourly 6 pm to 8 pm	Daily thru Sep 13 Weekends Sep 19–Oct 11
 <b>Bear Lake Route</b>	10–15 min 7 am to 7:30 pm	Daily thru Oct 12
 <b>Moraine Park Route</b>	30 min 7 am to 7:30 pm	Daily thru Oct 12



NPS PHOTO

### Hiker Express Route

**Daily Service: June 27 to September 13**  
**Weekends: September 19 to October 11**

Buses run between the Estes Park Visitor Center and the RMNP Park & Ride. The only stop on this express route is Beaver Meadows Visitor Center.

The first bus leaves the Estes Park Visitor Center at 7:30 am. The last bus leaves for Estes Park at 8 pm.

Buses run on an hourly schedule early and late in the day and a half-hour schedule from 11 am to 6 pm.

A park pass is required to board the Hiker Shuttle. It may be purchased at the Park & Ride.

### Bear Lake Route

**Daily Service: June 13 to October 12**

Buses run daily between Park & Ride and Bear Lake, leaving Park & Ride every 10 to 15 minutes from 7 am to 7:30 pm.

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

### Moraine Park Route

**Daily Service: June 13 to October 12**

Buses run daily between Park & Ride and Fern Lake Bus Stop, leaving Park & Ride every 30 minutes from 7 am to 7:30 pm.

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

### Notes and Tips

**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](http://visitestespark.com)

 **There are no bike racks** on shuttle buses.

 **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 on service animals).