



The official newspaper of
Rocky Mountain National Park
Winter - 2012
January 1 - March 26



Photo courtesy Russ Smith

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 Highway 36

Beaver Meadows Visitor Center is open daily 8-4:30. Park information, free park movie and bookstore available. Backcountry camping permits are available by following the footpath just east of the visitor center to the Backcountry Office. The visitor center lobby is being remodeled starting mid-October until the beginning of May. A temporary visitor center is located in the visitor center parking lot.



Fall River Visitor Center Highway 34

Open Saturdays & Sundays 9-4. Also open Dec. 26-30, and Feb. 20. Closed Jan. 16. Features life-sized wildlife displays, a book store & discovery room where kids can touch objects and dress up as rangers, American Indians and pioneers.

West of the Divide – Grand Lake Area

Kawuneeche Visitor Center

Open daily 8-4:30. Park information and maps, free movie and exhibits on how to plan your visit, bookstore, backcountry camping permits.



Bear Lake Road Construction

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.



There will be major road construction on the lower 5.1 miles of Bear Lake Road from the intersection of US 36 to the Park & Ride. Beginning mid-January. At press time, specific information on closures and access to the Bear Lake area were still being determined. To find updated information on this major project please check the park's website at www.nps.gov/romo or call the park's Information Office at (970) 586-1206.

Visitors may see delays of up to 40 minutes through the project both east and west bound. Night closures may be implemented for construction of retaining walls. Due to night closures Glacier Basin Campground will be closed for the summer of 2012. Weekend work will be allowed except on holiday weekends. During late winter and early spring full day road closures may occur above the Big Thompson River bridge on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

You Are Responsible

You are responsible for knowing and obeying park rules. Check at visitor centers, at entrance stations, on trailhead bulletin boards, and on the park website www.nps.gov/romo to find out more. When in doubt, ask a ranger.

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, heavy snow, and blizzard conditions, making it unsafe to maintain through the winter. Closures can be lowered to other points if conditions warrant.

Old Fall River Road

Old Fall River Road is closed to motorized travel during the winter. The road is open to hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

Pets

Pets are allowed in the park, but only in picnic areas, parking lots, campgrounds and along roadsides, never on trails or meadow areas. Pets must be on leashes no longer than 6 feet when outside vehicles.

For the safety of your pet and the benefit of park wildlife and other visitors, pets should not be left unattended. You may not leave your pet unattended in vehicles if it creates a danger to the animal or if it becomes a public nuisance. Pets may not be left tied to vehicles, trees or other objects.

A Pet Brochure, available at visitor centers and on the park website, lists regulations and trails outside of Rocky Mountain National Park where pets are permitted.

Fishing

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

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.



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. Closed Nov. 24 and Dec. 25



The Official Park Website is www.nps.gov/romo
Follow us on Twitter @ RMNPOfficial
Like us on Facebook @ Rocky Mountain National Park



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



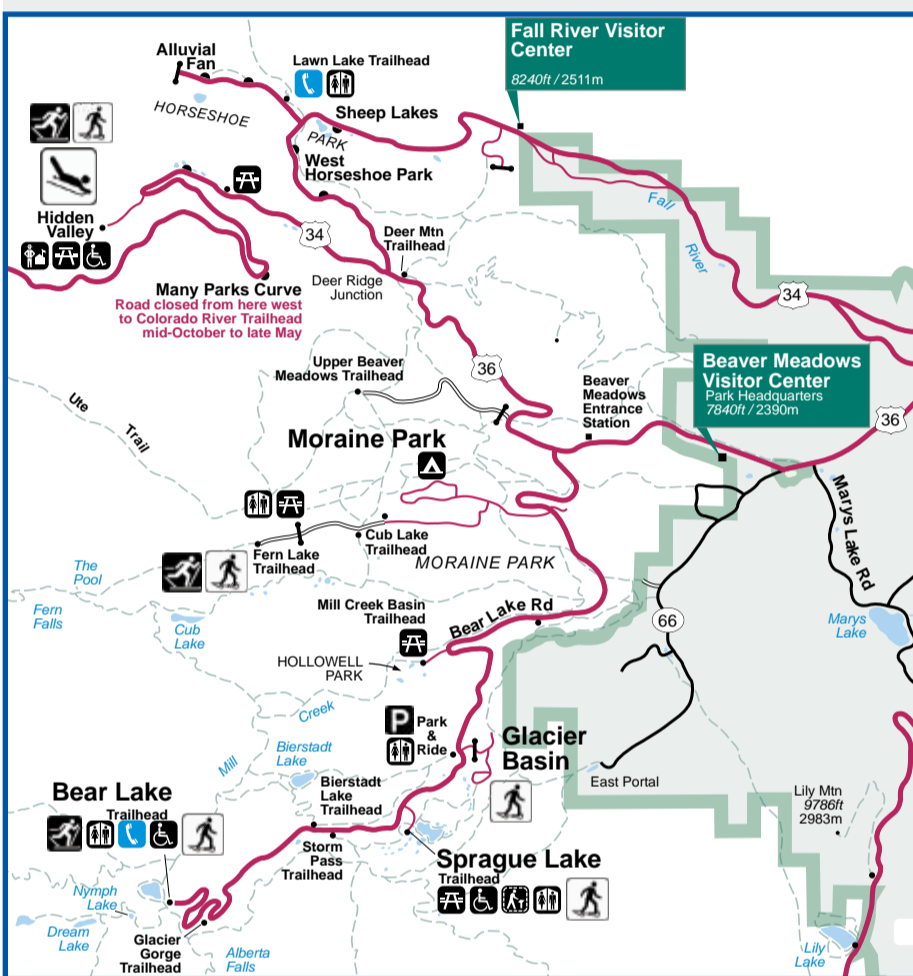
Dial 911 or (970) 586-1203 to report emergencies

Winter Fun in Rocky

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, park staff, often volunteers, are on duty. For your safety and enjoyment, please follow their guidance. Modern restrooms are available.



Winter activities on the east side of Rocky Mountain National Park

West of the Divide – Grand Lake Area

What makes a perfect Rocky Mountain winter experience? 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

Learn 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.



Firearms

- Hunting, recreational shooting, and target practice are not allowed in Rocky Mountain National Park.
- Firearms are permitted in Rocky Mountain National Park. A federal law allows people who can legally possess firearms under federal, Colorado, and local laws, to possess firearms in Rocky Mountain National Park. It is the visitor's responsibility to understand and comply with all applicable state and federal firearms laws.
- Federal law prohibits firearms in certain facilities in this park; those buildings are posted with signs at public entrances.
- If you have questions, please contact the park Information Office at (970) 586-1206.



For your convenience, free Wi-Fi is available in and around the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center and the Kawuneeche Visitor Center.

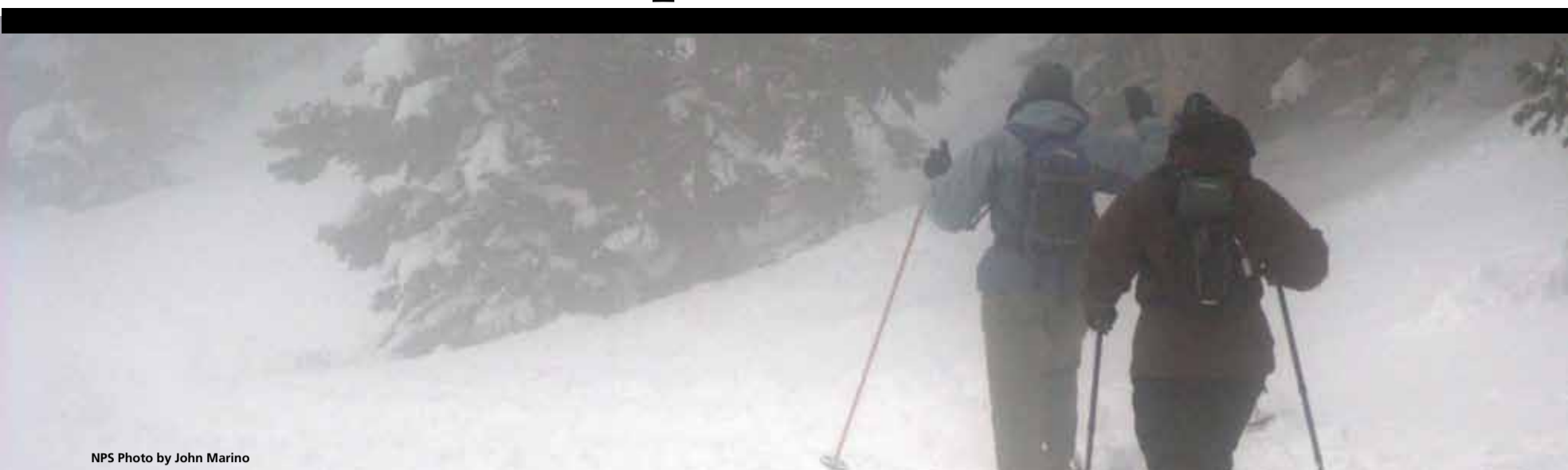
Sightseeing

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.



Photo courtesy Russ Smith

Winter Survival Tips



NPS Photo by John Marino

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 where trees could fall.

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

Mountain Lions

Mountain lions are powerful and potentially dangerous. Some general guidelines for traveling in backcountry areas of Rocky Mountain where wildlife may be encountered:

- 1) **Travel in Groups** and make noise as you hike. Keep your group, especially children, close together.
- 2) **Do Not Approach** a mountain lion.
- 3) **Stay Calm** when you see a mountain lion.
- 4) **Stop**; back away slowly. Never turn your back and run.
- 5) **Stand Tall and Look Large**. Raise your arms. Protect small children by picking them up.
- 6) If approached, **make loud noises**, shout, clap hands, clang pots and pans.
- 7) If attacked by a mountain lion. **Fight Back!**

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.) from Rocky Mountain National Park.



Hypothermia

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

Most importantly, stay dry!

Park Entrance Fees

Automobile Entrance Fee - Single-family vehicle entrance fee is valid for seven consecutive days, including date of purchase. \$20

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

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

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

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

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



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, call (970) 586-1206, or see the Colorado Avalanche Information Center website at www.avalanche.state.co.us



Leave No Trace

With approximately 3 million visitors every year, the wild lands of Rocky Mountain National Park are heavily used. While 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

For more information visit <http://www.lnt.org/>

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.

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.



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!

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 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.

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.

The administrative permit fee of \$20 is required for backcountry permits between May 1 and October 31; there is no charge in winter.

International Sister Parks

Rocky Mountain National Park and the Tatra National Parks (Slovakia and Poland) have formally become sister parks. With 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.



Free Ranger Led Programs - East Side, Estes Park

All children must be accompanied by an adult

• Programs may be cancelled in the event of high winds •

Length Location SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

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



20-30 minute talk

Fall River Visitor Center

2 p.m.

11 a.m.

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 1 – March 24

2 hours

by reservation

12:30 p.m.

12:30 p.m.

12:30 p.m.

Making Reservations – Snowshoe Walks

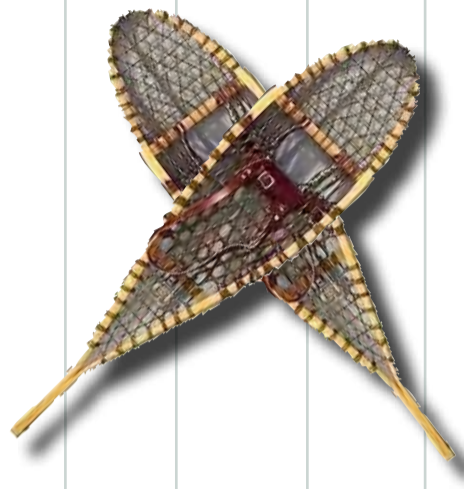
Reservations are necessary and may be made no more than seven days in advance.

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 at Estes Park sporting goods stores.

Groups

Part of an organized group? Please call (970) 586-3777. Reservations can be made in advance for groups.



Full Moon Walk - 1 to 1.5 hour walk. January 9, February 7, and March 8. Explore the park by the light of the full moon. Times and locations will vary each month.

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 program. Outdoor gear appropriate for the conditions will be required.

Holiday Programming



Join us over the holiday season for a calendar full of fun family activities. December 26 - January 1, the park will be offering special programs to celebrate the winter season. Please stop by a visitor center or call (970) 586-1206 for specific topics and dates.



Free Ranger Led Programs - West Side, Grand Lake

All children must be accompanied by an adult

• Programs may be cancelled in the event of high winds •

Length Location SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

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 eight 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 by reservation

9:30 a.m.
12/31 - 1/28 2012

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 by reservation

9 a.m.
2/4 - 3/17
1 p.m.
12/10 - 3/17

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 feet, 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 by reservation

1 p.m.
12/11 - 3/11

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 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to make reservations.

Free Park Movie



See the stunning 23-minute park movie at the Beaver Meadows and Kawuneeche visitor centers from 8:30 - 4:00. This movie features spectacular aerial footage of the park's rugged high country, as well as wildlife and other park resources. Available upon request.



Junior Rangers

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!

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

Camping Winter 2011/12

PARK CAMPGROUND	Elev (feet)	# sites	Reservable	Max RV/Trailer Length	Notes
Longs Peak					Closed For The Winter Extensive hazard tree removal for visitor safety will be occurring throughout the campground.
Moraine Park Open year-round. First-come, first-served in winter. Summer reservations late May - early October	8160	245 Summer 77 Winter	Summer Only	Limited # of RV/trailer sites up to 40'	Vault toilets during the winter on B & E loops.
Timber Creek Open year-round	8900	98 year-round	Always first-come, first-served	30'	The only west side campground.

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

Campgrounds

Longs Peak is closed for the winter for hazard tree removal. Timber Creek and Moraine Park Loop B Campgrounds are first-come, first-served in winter, and cost \$14/site/night. Water is off in the campgrounds and it's best to bring your own, but water is available at Moraine Park Campground and open visitor centers. Park dump stations are closed in winter. There are no electric hookups at any park campsites. All campsites, including RV sites, have a tent pad, picnic table and fire grate.

Firewood may not be gathered in the park, but may be purchased in local communities. Portable grills are permitted in all park campgrounds.

Moraine Park has a limited number of RV/trailer sites up to 40'; Timber Creek has a 30' maximum. Where allowed, generators can run from

7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Reservations for summer season are available for Moraine Park and Aspenglen Campgrounds. Call (877) 444-6777 to make national park camping reservations up to 6 months prior to your visit. Reservations can be made on the internet at www.recreation.gov

Fees to Camp

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

Stay Limits

The maximum length of stay is 7 nights between June 1 and September 30, with an additional 14 nights allowed October 1 - May 31. Stay limits are on a parkwide basis rather than on a per campground basis.

At All Standard Campsites

- No more than eight people may camp at a given site.

- All campsites, including RV sites, have a tent pad, picnic table and fire grate.
- 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.
- None of the campgrounds have showers. Portable showers are prohibited. Public showers are available in nearby communities.

Pets

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

Food Storage

Do not attract wildlife, including black bears, to your campsite. Keep a clean camp! Never leave food items unattended. Improperly stored or unattended food items will likely result in confiscation and/or issuance of a citation by a park ranger.

In campgrounds, all food items must be stored by one of the following methods:

- Inside vehicle trunks. Be sure windows are closed and doors are locked.
- In vehicles without trunks, items should be placed as low in the vehicle passenger compartment as possible and covered from sight, with windows closed and doors closed & locked.
- In park-provided bear boxes. Boxes are shared and cannot be locked.



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



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. 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 • rmna.org

This Park Paper

The park newspaper is produced by Rocky Mountain National Park in cooperation with -- and funding provided by -- the Rocky Mountain Nature Association. Printed on recycled paper.

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: Conditions in the backcountry can change at anytime, so you must be prepared. 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 conditions at www.nps.gov/romo/planyourvisit/trail_conditions.htm and road conditions at www.nps.gov/romo/planyourvisit/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.



NPS Photo by John Marino

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 open to pets on leashes & bicycles beyond winter gate	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	4.4 miles	640 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 beautiful mountain lake. Wonderful mountain views.
Mill Creek	Hollowell Park on Bear Lake Road	3.2 miles	600 feet	A quiet winter snowshoe on a lesser-used trail.
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 on snow conditions.

Trails on the East Side of the Park

Trail	Trailhead Location	Round-Trip Distance	Elevation Gain	Highlights
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 are often 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, can be very drifted. 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.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD SEMINARS IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

EXPERIENCE THE PARK IN THE QUIET SEASON!

Check out these fun classes!

Bighorn Sheep: The Rut & Winter Survival (adults) Nov. 19, 2011

Winter Ecology: Snowshoeing Treks for Kids & Families (all ages)
January 28, 2012; February 11, 25, 2012; March 10, 24, 2012

Light and Snow: Winter Photography (adults) March 2-4, 2012

Beginning Watercolor in Nature (adults) March 17, 2012



Ask at any visitor center for more information.

Or, call 970-586-3262
www.rmna.org

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

Tell Me More About the Fences

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

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



Elk exclosure fence

Fee Dollars Have Funded Many Great Projects at Rocky Mountain National Park

New restrooms, rebuilt trails, new picnic tables, informational exhibits, hazard tree mitigation and many other improvements have been made to this park through the use of your entrance and camping fees.

In 1996, a far-sighted program was authorized by the U.S. Congress which allowed National Park Service sites, including Rocky Mountain National Park, to keep the majority of entrance and camping fees (80%) collected at their sites. These funds are used to address large repair, rehabilitation and renovation needs.

Since the beginning of this program, Rocky Mountain National Park has spent over \$55 million in repairs, renovations and improvements, and resource restoration that have a direct impact on your experience in the park.



Hazard tree removal for visitor safety in Moraine Park Campground.

Pine Beetle Epidemic From Canada to Mexico



An infected tree will have pitch tubes on its trunk and boring dust (frass) at the base of the tree. Sometimes the tree will be successful in repelling or "pitching out" beetles and they are occasionally found imbedded in a pitch out.

Bark beetles are native insects that have shaped the forests of North America for thousands of years. Bark beetles range from Canada to Mexico and can be found at elevations from sea level to 11,000 feet. Rocky Mountain National Park is just one relatively small area where trees are dying from the beetle epidemic. Because the task is enormous, the park's priorities for mitigation of the effects of beetles are focused on removing hazard trees and hazard fuels related to the protection of life and property.

There is no effective means of controlling a large beetle outbreak in such a vast area as the park's backcountry, which comprises about 95% of the park. Therefore, in the backcountry, bark beetle populations are allowed to fluctuate under natural processes with some limited mitigation work occurring around designated backcountry campsites.

Stop by a visitor center to learn more about these issues, or visit <http://www.nps.gov/romo/index.htm>

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. To learn more visit nextgenerationfund.org, or call (970) 586-0108 to find out how you can help.

creating the conservationists of tomorrow...

Learn more at www.nextgenerationfund.org

