

RMNP

Rocky Mountain National Park

Spring 2016
March 21–June 18

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

The official newspaper of
Rocky Mountain National Park



A Ponderosa pine dusted with snow from a May storm. NPS PHOTO

Welcome to Spring

YOU'RE HERE DURING AN EXCITING TIME!

Not only is it spring, a time of change, growth, and renewal—it's also the 100th birthday of the National Park Service. We're glad you're here to join the party. How can you help us celebrate?

First, whether it's your first visit or your 100th: enjoy your time here at Rocky Mountain National Park. Stop by our visitor centers, hike a trail, take a scenic drive, join a ranger-led program, watch wildlife—the options for exploring Rocky abound.

After your visit, find out more about other national parks by visiting FindYourPark.com. There, you can find parks near your home, learn about the diversity of stories that national parks tell, and see how other people throughout the country have connected to the parks that are meaningful to them.

Finally, we encourage you to share your park experiences with your friends, family, and neighbors—especially those who may have never visited a park before. Let them know why national parks are special to you.

Helpful tips for enjoying spring in Rocky:

- **Spring is Rocky's snowiest season!** On average, some of the biggest snowstorms of the year happen in March, April, and even May. Be prepared.
- **Spring weather is unpredictable.** It can be warm and sunny one day, cold and overcast the next. Bring layers of clothes for a range of temperatures and conditions—you'll be more comfortable and have more fun.
- **Trail Ridge Road is scheduled to open May 27,** weather permitting. For more details, see page 2.
- **Visitor center hours and program schedules change throughout the season.** Please check times carefully, and when in doubt, contact the park.
- **Expect a wide variety of trail conditions.** You could easily find snow-free trails near the park entrances and deep snow on higher elevation trails in the same day. For more details, see page 4.

Visitor Centers

EAST SIDE Near Estes Park

Beaver Meadows Visitor Center
Through May 14: 8a–4:30p daily
Starting May 15: 8a–5p daily
Near Beaver Meadows Entrance. Information, bookstore, park movie (see left). For backcountry camping permits, follow trail east of visitor center to Backcountry Office.

Fall River Visitor Center
Through May 8: Fri, Sat, Sun 9a–4p
May 13–20: 9a–4p daily
Starting May 21: 9a–5p daily
Near Fall River Entrance. Life-sized wildlife displays, bookstore, and new Arts Alive Activity Center (all ages welcome).

Moraine Park Discovery Center
Starting May 28: 9a–4:30p daily
On Bear Lake Road. Interactive exhibits, nature trail with great views of Moraine Park, bookstore.

Sheep Lakes Information Station
Starting May 14: 9a–4:30p daily (weather permitting). In Horseshoe Park on US Hwy 34 west of Estes Park. Information and ranger programs. Good wildlife viewing.

TRAIL RIDGE ROAD

Alpine Visitor Center
Starting May 27: 10:30a–4:30p daily (weather permitting). Highest visitor center in the NPS at 11,796 feet. Extraordinary alpine views, displays, information, a bookstore, an adjacent gift shop and cafe.

WEST SIDE Near Grand Lake

Kawuneeche Visitor Center
Through May 1: 8a–4:30p daily
Starting May 2: 8a–5p daily
On US Hwy 34 north of Grand Lake. Information, maps, free park movie, exhibits, bookstore, backcountry camping permits.

Free Park Movie

SEE THE STUNNING 23-MINUTE PARK MOVIE *Spirit of the Mountains* in the Beaver Meadows and Kawuneeche visitor centers.

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

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

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



Visit our official website for more information
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

FIND YOUR PARK
FINDYOURPARK.COM

To report emergencies 911

Stay Safe

Be Responsible

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

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

Avalanches can be easily triggered by backcountry travelers. The park does not do any avalanche control.

Never assume trails are free of avalanche hazard. Wear an electronic transceiver when traversing avalanche terrain, and avoid skiing or snowshoeing in steep gullies. If caught in an avalanche, make swimming motions and try to stay on top of the snow. For current conditions, check at a visitor center, call 970 586-1206, or visit avalanche.state.co.us.

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 5).

Bicycles are prohibited on trails. They are permitted on all roads open to motor vehicles, paved and dirt, unless otherwise posted. There are no designated

bicycle lanes in the park. Roads are narrow with few or no shoulders—ride with care. By law, you must ride single file. Shuttle buses do not accept bicycles. Visit go.nps.gov/RockyBicycling.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Ticks are out in spring. In areas with plants, particularly tall grasses, regularly check yourself for ticks. Wear long sleeves, pants, and repellent with DEET. If you find an embedded tick, slowly pull it straight out with tweezers. Ticks can carry disease, including Colorado Tick Fever.

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 5) to learn how to properly store food and other scented items.

Road Conditions

Trail Ridge Road is scheduled to open May 27. Due to weather, opening may be delayed, and temporary closures may be reinstated after the initial opening.

Old Fall River Road is scheduled to open to motorized travel in early July.

Weather permitting, lower elevation paved roads, including Bear Lake Road, remain open year-round.

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

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

	Automobile	Bicycle and Pedestrian	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
Every Kid in a Park	Free

Ranger-Led Programs

East Side

WALKS, HIKES, AND ACTIVITIES	LENGTH	LOCATION	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Bighorn Basics  Sheep Lakes is a popular place to view bighorn sheep. Learn about this majestic symbol of Rocky. (May be canceled due to weather.) Starts 5/14	30 minute talk	Sheep Lakes Information Station (see front page)	10:30 am	10:30 am	10:30 am	10:30 am	10:30 am	10:30 am	10:30 am
Bear Necessities  Join a ranger to learn about the amazing lives of Rocky's bears and how you can help save them. Starts 5/1	20 to 30 minute talk	Beaver Meadows Visitor Center	10:30 am		10:30 am		10:30 am		10:30 am
Beaver Meadows Evening Programs  Enjoy a variety of special evening programs at Beaver Meadows Visitor Center. Starts 5/20	45 minute program	Beaver Meadows Visitor Center Auditorium						7 pm 5/20 only	7pm 5/21, 5/28, 6/4, 6/11, 6/18
Spring Bird Walk Go birding with a local expert at one of the best times of the year. Bring binoculars and a field guide. Be prepared for a frosty, damp morning. Starts 4/16	1.5 hour walk	Cub Lake Trailhead in Moraine Park			9 am	9 am	9 am		
Springing to Life Activity Table Drop by to learn about springtime in Rocky and how life emerges victorious after a long winter. Ends 4/30	Drop in anytime	Beaver Meadows Visitor Center	10 to 11 am						10 to 11 am

West Side

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES	LENGTH	LOCATION	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Beyond the Falls A pleasant stroll to Adams Falls and a spectacular view just beyond. 5/29 only	1.5 hour 1 mile hike	East Inlet Trailhead	9:30 am 5/29 only						
Coyote Valley River Walk  Explore ecology and history on this easy walk along the Colorado River. 5/28 only	1 hour 1 mile hike	Coyote Valley Trailhead							10 am 5/28 only
Saturday Night in the Park  Enjoy an evening program in the auditorium. For topic, inquire at Kawuneeche Visitor Center. 5/28 only	1 hour program	Kawuneeche Visitor Center							7pm 5/28 only
Skins and Things  Examine the skins, skulls, antlers, teeth, and bones of many park mammals. 5/28 to 5/30 only	40 minute talk	Kawuneeche Visitor Center	3pm 5/29 only	3pm 5/30 only					3pm 5/28 only

Special Programs and Events (East and West)



Full moon NPS PHOTO / DAVE PINIGIS



Star trails at Moraine Park NPS PHOTO / ANN SCHONLAU



Pygmy Nuthatches NPS PHOTO / ANN SCHONLAU

Walk Under the Full Moon

Times and locations vary each month
1 to 1.5 hour walk
Wednesday, March 23 and Thursday, April 21

Explore the park by the light of the full moon. Outdoor clothing and gear appropriate for the conditions are required. Reservations required no more than seven days in advance (maximum six per reservation). Call 970 586-1223 8 am to 4 pm daily.

Party with the Stars

Upper Beaver Meadows Trailhead
Starts at 7:30 pm
Friday, June 10

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

International Migratory Bird Day

Meet at Beaver Meadows Visitor Center
8 am to 12 pm
Saturday, June 11

Bring binoculars and a field guide for a ranger-led birding excursion. Come for part or all of this multi-location event. Call 970 586-1206 for more information.



Sunrise at Moraine Park NPS PHOTO / CRYSTAL BRINDLE

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 vary. Please double-check the schedule, including specific days listed, before heading out.
- For outdoor programs, be sure to bring the essentials to wear and carry (see page 3).

Early-Season Hikes

 Wheelchair-accessible trail  Family-friendly trail

East Side

TRAIL	TRAILHEAD	DISTANCE <i>ROUND TRIP</i>	ELEVATION GAIN	HIGHLIGHTS
Bear Lake  	End of Bear Lake Road	0.5 mi <i>0.8 km</i>	20 ft <i>6 m</i>	Follow a self-guiding nature trail around beautiful Bear Lake. Trail has snow well into June.
Deer Mountain	Deer Mountain Trailhead <i>Deer Ridge junction where US 34 and 36 meet</i>	6 mi <i>9.7 km</i>	1083 feet <i>330 m</i>	One of the few mountains in RMNP with a trail to the summit. Great views of mountains and valleys.
Gem Lake	Lumpy Ridge Trailhead <i>Devils Gulch Road north of Estes Park</i>	3.2 mi <i>5.1 km</i>	1000 ft <i>305 m</i>	Big rocks and nice views on this rather steep hike. The lake is small and spring-fed (no stream).
Lily Lake  	Lily Lake Trailhead <i>south of Estes Park on Highway 7</i>	0.8 mi <i>1.3 km</i>	20 ft <i>6 m</i>	A level walk around Lily Lake featuring wildflowers, waterfowl, and mountain views. <i>Caution: the trail has flood damage along the south shore.</i>
Moraine Park Discovery Center Nature Trail	Bear Lake Road	0.5 mi <i>0.8 km</i>	20 ft <i>6 m</i>	Self-guiding trail booklet available. Winds up and down hillside behind Discovery Center (open May 28).
The Pool	Fern Lake Trailhead <i>off of Bear Lake Road</i>	3.4 mi <i>5.5 km</i>	245 ft <i>75 m</i>	Pretty, shaded hike in deep valley along rushing stream.
Sprague Lake  	Bear Lake Road	0.5 mi <i>0.8 km</i>	10 ft <i>3 m</i>	Packed gravel, level grade trail around lovely lake.
Tundra Communities Trail 	Rock Cut on Trail Ridge Road <i>(open May 27, weather permitting)</i>	0.6 <i>1.0 km</i>	260 ft <i>79 m</i>	View the miniature world of the alpine tundra and enjoy sweeping views of the park.

West Side

TRAIL	TRAILHEAD	DISTANCE <i>ROUND TRIP</i>	ELEVATION GAIN	HIGHLIGHTS
Adams Falls	East Inlet Trailhead <i>far east end of Grand Lake</i>	0.6 mi <i>1 km</i>	80 ft <i>24 m</i>	A beautiful short hike near Grand Lake. Trail continues beyond the falls to lush meadows with mountain views.
Cascade Falls	North Inlet Trailhead <i>off West Portal Road in Grand Lake</i>	7 mi <i>11.3 km</i>	300 ft <i>91 m</i>	A relatively level hike to a rocky cascade.
Coyote Valley Trail  	Coyote Valley Trailhead <i>US Hwy 34, six miles north of Kawuneeche Visitor Center</i>	1 mi <i>1.6 km</i>	10 ft <i>3 m</i>	Follows bank of the Colorado River with views of Never Summer Mountains. Look for wildlife. Packed gravel, level grade.
East Shore Trail	East side of Shadow Mountain Lake <i>just south of Grand Lake</i>	5.2 mi <i>8.4 km</i>	100 ft <i>30 m</i>	2.6 mi to Green Ridge Campground. A side loop to Ranger Meadows reconnects with main trail, adding 1.4 mi.
Holzwarth Historic Site 	US Hwy 34 <i>8 miles north of Kawuneeche Visitor Center</i>	1 mi <i>1.6 km</i>	10 ft <i>3 m</i>	Explore a historic homestead cabin and 1920s dude ranch. Brochures, interpretive signs.

Hiking in Spring

WANT A CHANCE TO HIKE ALL FOUR SEASONS in a day? Try hiking in spring!

Weather

- Be prepared for a wide range of temperatures. Some days are warm and sunny. Others are cold and snowy. Others still switch back and forth between both!
- In Rocky, spring means SNOW! March and April are the snowiest months of the year, and new snow isn't uncommon in May or even early June.

Trails

- Trail conditions vary from day to day. Before going on a hike, check recent trail conditions at go.nps.gov/RockyTrailConditions or visit a visitor center and check with a ranger.
- Expect ice, snow, and mud, often on the same hike. The trails listed above tend to melt out earlier. Higher elevation trails can be covered in deep snow well into June.

Clothing

- Don't forget the essentials (see page 3).
- Consider waterproof footwear. Snow can be too soft to snowshoe but not firm enough to prevent postholing. Plan on wet, difficult conditions.



Willow catkins in spring

NPS PHOTO / ANN SCHONLAU

Camping

CAMPGROUND	RESERVABLE	FIREWOOD AND ICE	MAX RV TRAILER LENGTH	SUMMER DUMP STATION	DESIGNATED ACCESSIBLE SITES	TENT PAD SIZE	SUMMER FLUSH TOILETS	DESCRIPTION
Aspenglen 8,220 feet 52 sites May 26 – Sep 25	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.
Glacier Basin 8,500 feet 150 sites, 13 group sites May 26 – Sep 11	Reservations not available until Spring 2016 due to a water construction project.	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.
Longs Peak 9,405 feet 26 sites Open in summer	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.
Moraine Park 8,160 feet 244 sites summer, 77 sites winter Open year-round Reservable for summer	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.
Timber Creek 8,900 feet 98 sites May 26 – Oct 30	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 back-country 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
- recreation.gov
- 877 444-6777

Fees to Camp

- When the water is on (summer), all campgrounds are **\$26 per night**.
- When the water is off (winter), Moraine Park Campground Loop B is **\$18 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 parkwide, 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.

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.

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 four 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.

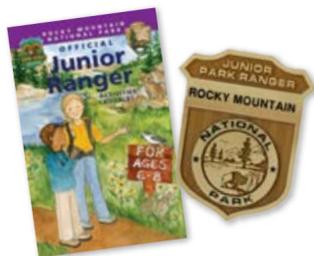
Sprague Lake Accessible Backcountry Campsite

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.

More Information

Become 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.



Complete your Junior Ranger booklet and earn a badge!

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 an 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

Reflecting on 100 Years

ON JANUARY 26, 1915, ROCKY Mountain National Park was established. Just over a year later, on August 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed into law the act creating the National Park Service (NPS).

Originally charged with managing 31 sites, the NPS now oversees 407 units, striving to balance visitor enjoyment with preservation and stewardship.

This charge grows ever harder as the nation's population increases and new obstacles develop. Climate change, overcrowding, habitat fragmentation, development pressure, and more

threaten our nation's heritage sites.

Yet even after 100 years, the NPS continues to face these challenges head on. These sites continue to play a role in the lives of Americans and will become even more important as we move further into the 21st Century.

As the National Park Service heads into its second century of protecting America's special places, they will continue to tell our important stories. Please join us in celebrating 100 years of stewardship and be part of this special year.

The Fragile Alpine Tundra



Wildflowers on the Tundra

NPS PHOTO / ANN SCHONLAU

IMAGINE A PLACE SO COLD, WINDY, and extreme that even the hardiest trees cannot survive. Tiny flowers wait out the long winter to bloom for a few brilliant weeks in summer. Views extend seemingly forever in all directions as the sun beams down on rock covered with a thin layer of soil.

This is the alpine tundra, which makes up about one-third of Rocky Mountain National Park.

While seemingly hardy, the tundra is in fact quite fragile. Repeated foot-steps often destroy tundra plants, allowing exposed soil to blow away. Recovery may take hundreds of years.

To protect the tundra, we need your help!

- You must stay on trails in the park's six Tundra Protection Areas:
 - Alpine View Trail
 - Alpine Visitor Center area
 - Forest Canyon overlook
 - Gore Range overlook
 - Rock Cut overlook
 - Tundra Communities Trail
- Use trails where they exist.
- Never walk single file off trail.
- Step on rocks or gravel where possible.
- Pets are prohibited on ALL tundra areas.



Dream Lake in spring

NPS PHOTO / JOHN MARINO

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.



Tatra National Park
ADAM BAKER

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

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

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

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

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



Yellow-rumped Warbler
NPS/ANN SCHONLAU

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

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

Rocky Mountain Conservancy

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

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

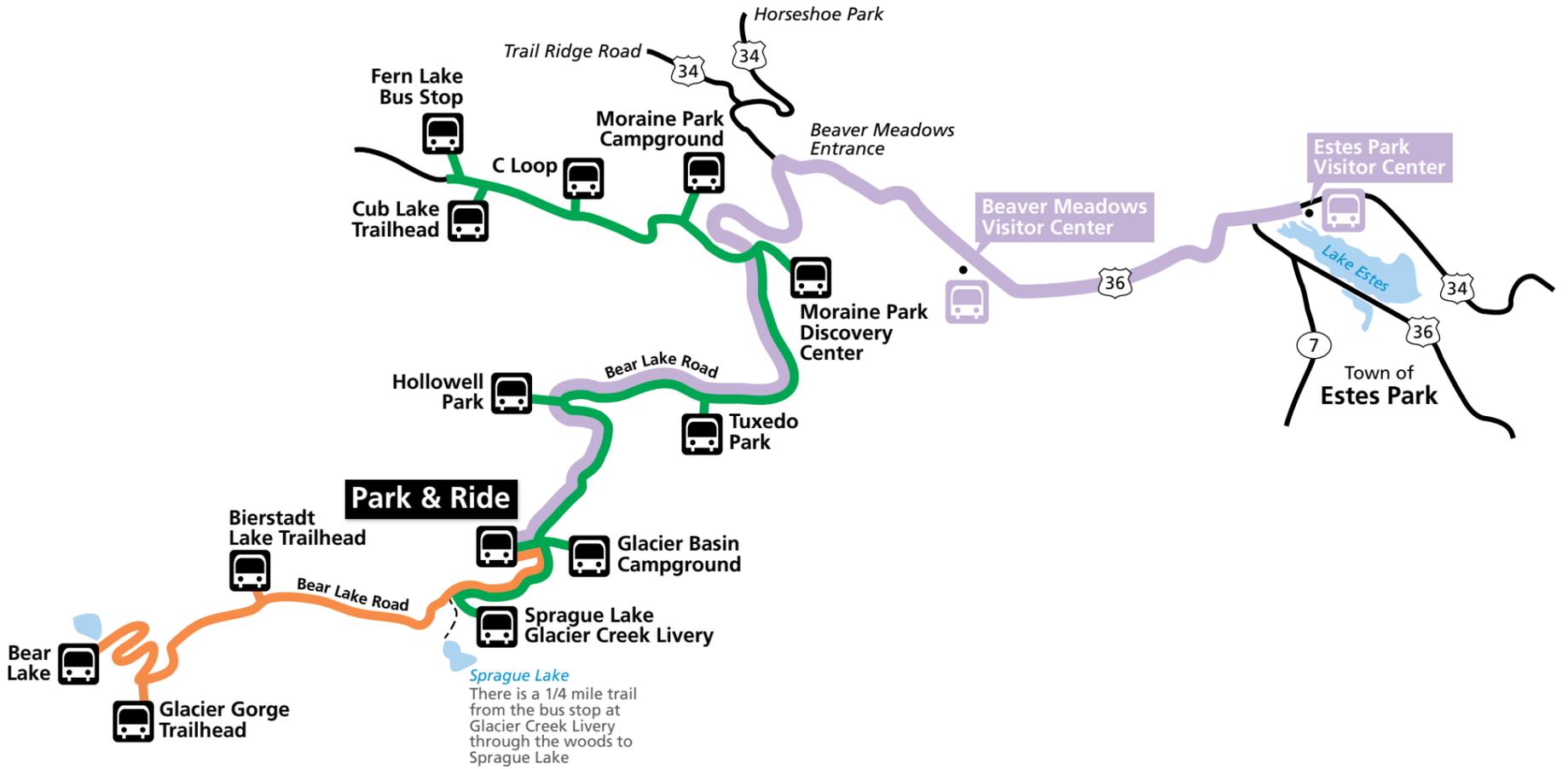
Take the trail to the clouds and not only will you find breathtaking vistas, you'll find the best selection of Rocky Mountain National Park souvenirs including an amazing selection of authentic Native American gifts. Plus, enjoy a bite to eat at our café and coffee bar.

Trail Ridge Road

VISIT US AT THE TOP OF TRAIL RIDGE ROAD

trailridgegiftstore.com

Free Shuttle Bus



Free Shuttle Service at a Glance

ROUTE	SCHEDULE	DATES
 Hiker Shuttle Express DOES NOT RUN IN SPRING	Hourly 7:30 am to 11 am 30 min 11 am to 6 pm Hourly 6 pm to 8 pm	Daily June 25–Sep 11 Weekends Sep 17–Oct 10
 Bear Lake Route	10–15 min 7 am to 7:30 pm	Daily May 28–Oct 10
 Moraine Park Route	30 min 7 am to 7:30 pm	Daily May 28–Oct 10



NPS PHOTO

Hiker Express Route

Daily Service: June 25 to September 11
 Weekends: September 17 to October 10

DOES NOT RUN IN SPRING

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: May 28 to October 10

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: May 28 to October 10

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

 **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).