This year, we honor the National Park Service’s first century
While Yellowstone National Park was established in 1872 and 34 more parks and monuments were added by 1916, no one agency managed these varied park lands. Then, on August 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed the act creating the National Park Service (NPS). In the hundred years since, the national park system has grown to more than 400 units, and the NPS has become a widely-recognized and respected agency.

Under the National Park Service’s care, millions of visitors from the United States and across the world have had incredible experiences in our national parks. They’ve learned about our shared history, from ancient North American cultures to the American Revolution to the present day. They have climbed mountains, driven scenic roads and watched wildlife. While Yellowstone National Park requires planning and preparation. A few tips:

- Most visitors arrive during the summer and on fall weekends. Expect lots of company on roads, along popular trails and in parking areas. Tour and hike early and late in the day; by mid-morning, parking areas often are full. Carpool or use the park’s free shuttles when possible. Always make reservations for camping in the park and lodging in the local areas.

Planning Essential for Park Visits

- Trail Ridge Road crests at over 12,000 feet, and most everything in this region is located above 7,500 feet, so don’t push your physical limits. Altitude sickness symptoms include shortness of breath, fatigue, dizziness, nausea, rapid heartbeat and insomnia. Take time to acclimate before engaging in strenuous activities, and if symptoms persist, go to lower elevations.

- Beware of falling trees. Increasing numbers of dead trees create an ever-present hazard for park visitors. Trees can fall without warning, especially on windy days or after a snowstorm, when branches are laden with snow.

- Staying well-hydrated is very important while visiting the park, but there is limited drinking water available. Bring your own water containers and refill them at park visitor centers. Don’t drink directly from streams or lakes — giardia is present in the park.

- Be prepared for changing weather conditions. Even on summer days a light jacket or sweater is often needed to ward off chilly temperatures.

- While not naturally aggressive, black bears have a sensitive sense of smell that draws them to odorous materials, including food, drinks, toiletries, pet food and cooking items. See proper storage techniques listed on page 8. Help protect the bears!

- Order trip planning materials from pages 10 and 11 of this publication. Products featured in this publication on pages 10-11 are particularly helpful in preparing for a trip to the park.

- Upon arrival, stop by a park visitor center for current information on everything from road and weather conditions to hiking trails, camping and ranger-led programs.

- For more information, visit the park’s website at www.nps.gov/romo or call the Rocky Mountain National Park Information Office at 970-586-1206.

Find Your Park

This year, we honor the National Park Service’s first century — and Rocky in particular relies on you to help sustain them. The NPS as a whole is a federal agency to protect and care for parks — it takes a public that has climbed mountains, driven scenic roads and watched wildlife.

From the arctic tundra to Florida wetlands and from remote wilderness to our nation’s largest cities, visitors have experienced our country’s greatest treasures.

Because of those experiences, many of those millions have become not only visitors, but volunteers, supporters and advocates. It takes more than a federal agency to protect and care for parks — it takes a public that loves its parks and works hard to sustain them. The NPS as a whole and Rocky in particular rely absolutely on the passion and commitment of thousands of volunteers and supporters.

We also look ahead to the next 100 years
By any measure, our national parks’ first century has been a story of success. What will we do in the next 100 years to carry on “America’s greatest idea”?

One of the National Park Service’s greatest challenges is staying relevant in an ever-changing world. A lot has happened in a century. What can the NPS do to create and connect with the next generation of park visitors, supporters and advocates?

This year, the NPS is launching the Find Your Park campaign — take a look at findyourpark.com. Find Your Park is about inviting you, our visitors, to find the places, activities and ideas that are meaningful to you within our national park system. Your park might be the now-traditional model of traveling to a Yellowstone, Grand Canyon or Rocky Mountain national park to hike, fish and camp. Others’ park might be learning about America’s incarceration of Japanese-Americans during WWII at Manzanar National Historic Sites; seeing a performance at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts; or volunteering with youth programs in Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

We believe that our national parks offer special experiences for everyone, whatever their interest and ability, and this year we want to connect more visitors than ever to those experiences.

And we ask for your help
For many of us, Rocky Is Our Park — our special place that we return to again and again. This year, we encourage you to help us with connecting your friends, family and neighbors with Rocky and other NPS sites. Share with them what you love about your parks, and help them make their own connection.

Visit the park’s website for more information, including park research, events and ways to get involved at www.nps.gov/romo.

No matter what the season, visiting the stunning wilderness of Rocky Mountain National Park requires

Hiking to Crystal Lakes (Madeline Wilson)

Find Your Park

This year, we honor the National Park Service’s first century
While Yellowstone National Park was established in 1872 and 34 more parks and monuments were added by 1916, no one agency managed these varied park lands. Then, on August 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed the act creating the National Park Service (NPS). In the hundred years since, the national park system has grown to more than 400 units, and the NPS has become a widely-recognized and respected agency.

Under the National Park Service’s care, millions of visitors from the United States and across the world have had incredible experiences in our national parks. They’ve learned about our shared history, from ancient North American cultures to the American Revolution to the present day. They have climbed mountains, driven scenic roads and watched wildlife. While Yellowstone National Park requires planning and preparation. A few tips:

- Most visitors arrive during the summer and on fall weekends. Expect lots of company on roads, along popular trails and in parking areas. Tour and hike early and late in the day; by mid-morning, parking areas often are full. Carpool or use the park’s free shuttles when possible. Always make reservations for camping in the park and lodging in the local areas.

Planning Essential for Park Visits

- Trail Ridge Road crests at over 12,000 feet, and most everything in this region is located above 7,500 feet, so don’t push your physical limits. Altitude sickness symptoms include shortness of breath, fatigue, dizziness, nausea, rapid heartbeat and insomnia. Take time to acclimate before engaging in strenuous activities, and if symptoms persist, go to lower elevations.

- Beware of falling trees. Increasing numbers of dead trees create an ever-present hazard for park visitors. Trees can fall without warning, especially on windy days or after a snowstorm, when branches are laden with snow.

- Staying well-hydrated is very important while visiting the park, but there is limited drinking water available. Bring your own water containers and refill them at park visitor centers. Don’t drink directly from streams or lakes — giardia is present in the park.

- Be prepared for changing weather conditions. Even on summer days a light jacket or sweater is often needed to ward off chilly temperatures.

- While not naturally aggressive, black bears have a sensitive sense of smell that draws them to odorous materials, including food, drinks, toiletries, pet food and cooking items. See proper storage techniques listed on page 8. Help protect the bears!

- Order trip planning materials from pages 10 and 11 of this publication. Products featured in this publication on pages 10-11 are particularly helpful in preparing for a trip to the park.

- Upon arrival, stop by a park visitor center for current information on everything from road and weather conditions to hiking trails, camping and ranger-led programs.

- For more information, visit the park’s website at www.nps.gov/romo or call the Rocky Mountain National Park Information Office at 970-586-1206.

Find Your Park

This year, we honor the National Park Service’s first century
While Yellowstone National Park was established in 1872 and 34 more parks and monuments were added by 1916, no one agency managed these varied park lands. Then, on August 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed the act creating the National Park Service (NPS). In the hundred years since, the national park system has grown to more than 400 units, and the NPS has become a widely-recognized and respected agency.

Under the National Park Service’s care, millions of visitors from the United States and across the world have had incredible experiences in our national parks. They’ve learned about our shared history, from ancient North American cultures to the American Revolution to the present day. They have climbed mountains, driven scenic roads and watched wildlife. While Yellowstone National Park requires planning and preparation. A few tips:

- Most visitors arrive during the summer and on fall weekends. Expect lots of company on roads, along popular trails and in parking areas. Tour and hike early and late in the day; by mid-morning, parking areas often are full. Carpool or use the park’s free shuttles when possible. Always make reservations for camping in the park and lodging in the local areas.

Planning Essential for Park Visits

- Trail Ridge Road crests at over 12,000 feet, and most everything in this region is located above 7,500 feet, so don’t push your physical limits. Altitude sickness symptoms include shortness of breath, fatigue, dizziness, nausea, rapid heartbeat and insomnia. Take time to acclimate before engaging in strenuous activities, and if symptoms persist, go to lower elevations.

- Beware of falling trees. Increasing numbers of dead trees create an ever-present hazard for park visitors. Trees can fall without warning, especially on windy days or after a snowstorm, when branches are laden with snow.

- Staying well-hydrated is very important while visiting the park, but there is limited drinking water available. Bring your own water containers and refill them at park visitor centers. Don’t drink directly from streams or lakes — giardia is present in the park.

- Be prepared for changing weather conditions. Even on summer days a light jacket or sweater is often needed to ward off chilly temperatures.

- While not naturally aggressive, black bears have a sensitive sense of smell that draws them to odorous materials, including food, drinks, toiletries, pet food and cooking items. See proper storage techniques listed on page 8. Help protect the bears!

- Order trip planning materials from pages 10 and 11 of this publication. Products featured in this publication on pages 10-11 are particularly helpful in preparing for a trip to the park.

- Upon arrival, stop by a park visitor center for current information on everything from road and weather conditions to hiking trails, camping and ranger-led programs.

- For more information, visit the park’s website at www.nps.gov/romo or call the Rocky Mountain National Park Information Office at 970-586-1206.
The Park is Always Open

Rocky Mountain National Park is open 24 hours a day-round year. Visitors can enter or exit any time.

Summer: The busiest time of year. Visitor center hours vary seasonally. Some park facilities and roads are closed during the winter months, including much of Trail Ridge Road and Old Fall River Road. If visitors want to stay overnight, they must be in a designated campground site or a backcountry campsite reserved by a valid permit. Moraine Park in the Estes Park area is popular with hikers in summer. There is no overnight lodging in the park; see neighboring communities for local options.

Be Prepared

Rocky Mountain National Park experiences weather that can be wild and sometimes extreme. As elevation is gained, temperatures drop and precipitation increases, so be prepared for snowy, cold conditions at higher altitudes – year-round. Bring appropriate footwear and clothing for each season, including rainwear for summer storms and winter gear for winter snows. Make sure to protect against extreme cold and wind. Layers of insulating, waterproof clothing like synthetic or wool are recommended at all times of year, especially for higher elevations.

Temperatures, precipitation, and conditions can vary from year to year, and sometimes the seasons blur together. Some snow can snow on the mountains any month of the year!

Summer (mid-June — early September)

Sunny mornings, afternoon thunderstorms often with dangerous lightning, and clear, cool nights typify this glorious mountain season. This is the most popular time to visit the park, when visitors enjoy wildflowers and possible wildlife sightings. Most park facilities typically are open.

Autumn (mid-September — November)

In general, autumn comes early to the high country. Days often start with clear, frosty mornings and bright blue skies, and end with chilly nights. Snowstorms are possible, and Trail Ridge Road can temporarily close due to snow. Trail Ridge usually closes for the season by mid- to late-October. The elk rut is at its height from mid-September through mid-October. Rocky Mountain National Park offers some recreational opportunities not available in the winter, including cross-country skiing/snowshoeing, the backcountry, and hiking with dogs, water recreation, four-wheeling, hunting, mountain biking and downhill skiing.

For further information, contact the ARNF Fort Collins Ranger Station at 970-295-6700; the Boulder Ranger Station at 303-541-2500; the Granby Ranger Station at 970-877-4000; the Arapaho National Recreation Area (Lake Granby area) at 970-887-4000; or visit www.fs.usda.gov/arnf

Food & Water

Adequate hydration is important to help prevent altitude sickness. Drink plenty of water; service is available more than usual. Always take water when hiking.

During the summer, the only place to purchase food and beverages in the park is at Trail Ridge Store, adjacent to the Alpine Visitor Center. When shuttle buses are operating, bottled water is sold at the Park & Ride. Restroom facilities and grocery stores are located in nearby communities. The park encourages limiting the use of plastic water bottles by reusing reusable water containers at visitor centers and campgrounds. Recycling receptacles are available parkwide. In winter, water is only available at open visitor centers. Never drink untreated water from streams or lakes.

Picnicking

Picnicking is very popular in the park. Picnic areas are indicated on the official park maps. All are first-come, first-served. Some have fire grates, some allow portable grills, and some have restroom/valet toilet facilities. Visit http://go.nps.gov/RockyPicnic for more information.

Lodging & Visitor Services

No lodging is available inside the park, but hundreds of accommodations are located in nearby communities. Contact the Estes Park Visitor Center (800-443-7871, 970-577-9900, www.visitestespark.com) and the Grand Lake Lodge of Commerce (800-332-1033, 970-627-3402, or grandlakechamber.com) for information on everything from lodging, camping, restaurants and retail stores to guided tours, recreational opportunities, instruction and gear sales or rentals.

Pets

Leashed pets are allowed only in areas accessed by vehicles, including roadsides, picnic areas and campgrounds. Leashes must be no longer than six feet. Pets are not permitted on any park trails, in meadow areas, on the tundra or in the backcountry. They are allowed on national forest trails. Boarding facilities are available in nearby communities.

Service Animals

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines a service animal as any guide dog, service dog, or other animal individually trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability. Service animals perform some of the tasks that a disabled individual cannot perform by himself. 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”) are not service animals under the ADA and may not access trails or other non-motorized areas or park buildings.

Fires

Fires are permitted in Rocky Mountain National Park. As of February 22, 2010, a federal law allows people who can legally possess firearms under federal, Colorado and local laws, to legally possess firearms in this park. It is the visitor’s responsibility to understand and comply with all applicable federal, Colorado and local firearms laws. The discharge of firearms and hunting within the park are prohibited. Federal law prohibits firearms in certain facilities in Rocky Mountain National Park, and those places are posted with signs. Visit http://go.nps.gov/RockyFires for more information.

National Forests

The Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests (ARNF) surround Rocky Mountain National Park. In addition to campgrounds, hiking and cross-country skiing/snowshoeing, the National Forest offers some recreational opportunities not available in the park, including cross-country skiing with dogs, water recreation, four-wheeling, hunting, mountain biking and downhill skiing.

For further information, contact the ARNF Fort Collins Ranger Station at 970-295-6700; the Boulder Ranger Station at 303-541-2500; the Granby Ranger Station at 970-877-4000; the Arapaho National Recreation Area (Lake Granby area) at 970-887-4000; or visit www.fs.usda.gov/arnf
Backcountry Camping Permits
Permits are required for all camping in backcountry sites and zones. Carry-in/carry-out hard-sided bear-resistant food storage canisters are required for all backpacking parkwide between May 1 and October 31. There are inherent risks to traveling and camping in the backcountry. One of those risks is hazard trees. Campers should assess their campsite for standing dead trees that could fall. Camp safely away from standing dead trees, as near as is safely possible to the silver metal arrowhead that marks the site.

Leaves No Trace ethos. To prevent bears from breaking into cars, food storage lockers are located at several trailheads for backcountry campers' use. Don't store extra food in vehicles overnight!

Upgrades on the status of specific backcountry campgrounds and use permits are available from the Backcountry Office.

Reservations for summer permits:
By phone, online at least 3 days ahead, or in person (no mail):
March 1 – May 15
Online at least 3 days ahead. or in person (no mail): May 16 – September 30
Reservations for winter, spring & fall permits:
By phone, online at least 3 days ahead, or in person (no mail):
Jan. 1 – May 15; Oct. 1 – Dec. 31
Online at least 3 days ahead, or in person (no mail): May 16 – September 30

Backcountry Offices are located next door to the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center on the east side and at the Kawuneeche Visitor Center on the west side. An administrative fee of $26 is charged for backcountry permits between May 1 and October 31. For details and further reservation information, visit http://go.nps.gov/RockyBackcountry

2016 Campground Information

- Every park campsite has a tent pad, fire grate and picnic table.
- Except for Longs Peak Campground, which only accepts tents, all campgrounds can accommodate tent trailers, tents, pickup campers, trailers and motorhomes.
- More than one tent is allowed as long as they all fit on the tent pad.
- When the water is on in the summer, all campsites are $26.00/site/night. When the water is off in the winter, all campsites are $8.00/site/night.
- Moraine Park Campground has two stall facilities to hang a shower bag. There are no other shower facilities in the park.
- America the Beautiful Senior and Access Pass holders receive a 50% discount on camping fees.
- Quiet hours: 10:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m. Generator hours: 7:30 – 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 – 8:30 p.m. (where allowed).
- Maximum 8 people per site.
- Stay Limit: 7-nights total, parkwide, June 1 – September 30, with an additional 14 nights allowed October 1 – May 31.
- Reservations are highly recommended and may be made up to 6 months in advance at 877-444-6777 or at www.reserveamerica.com, or use the Recreation.gov iPhone App.
- Park campgrounds usually fill by midmorning in summer and on fall weekends.

Accessibility

Rocky has many accessible facilities for visitors, including visitor centers, scenic overlooks, self-guided trails, campgrounds, some picnic areas, and a backcountry campsite. The Access Rocky brochure is available online at http://go.nps.gov/RockyAccessBrochure and the park website offers additional information; visit http://go.nps.gov/RockyAccessBrochure

- Copies of the park map and brochure are available in Braille, audio and large print. Ask for them at park visitor centers.
- Most park shuttle buses are accessible and can accommodate wheelchairs. Contact shuttle staff or rangers if accommodation is needed.
- The park film is captioned for hearing impaired visitors at Beaver Meadows and Kawuneeche visitor centers, and features audio description for the visually impaired at Beaver Meadows Visitor Center.

- The TTY for hearing impaired callers to the park is 970-586-1199.
- Induction loops are available for the benefit of hearing aid users at the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center.
- Assisted listening devices are available for ranger-led programs with a three-day advance notice.
Call park information to learn more.
- A contracted sign language interpreter can be provided for ranger-led programs given one month's notice. Less than one month and the park will do its best to meet the request with no guarantees.
- The Sprague Lake Accessible Backcountry Campsite is available by reservation. This site can accommodate 12 campers, including five wheelchairs. The administrative permit fee is $26 between May 1 and October 31. Care the Backcountry Office for more information, 970-586-1242.

Phone & Web Info
Park website: www.nps.gov/romo
General park information: 970-586-1206
Trail Ridge Road status: 970-586-1227
Camping reservations: 877-444-6777, www.reserveamerica.com or Recreation.gov (iPhone App)
Backcountry information: 970-586-1212
Emergencies: 911
Colorado Travel and Tourism: 800-COLORADO, www.colorado.com

RMNP Campground Information — Summer 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campground</th>
<th>Reservation availability?</th>
<th>Summer Firewood/ice/kindling/lighter fluid/charcoal/pot/ice cream (cash only at ranger stations)</th>
<th>Max RV/Trailer Length (feet)</th>
<th>Toilets</th>
<th>Summer Dump Station/ Portable Water Hose Hookup?</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aspenfied</td>
<td>Yes, can be filled by reservations</td>
<td>Yes, Note: Due to a water construction project, reservations not accepted until spring.</td>
<td>Yes, 39'</td>
<td>Flush</td>
<td>No, use dump station at Moraine Park, Glacier Basin, Timber Creek</td>
<td>Located in a pine forest near Fall River, just inside the Fall River Entrance on US Hwy 34.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glacier Basin</td>
<td>Yes; in summer. Note: Due to a water construction project, reservations not accepted until spring.</td>
<td>Yes, 35'</td>
<td>Flush</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Located in a lodgepole pine forest along Bear Lake Road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glacier Basin Group Sites</td>
<td>Yes; in summer. Note: Due to a water construction project, reservations not accepted until spring.</td>
<td>Yes, Tents only</td>
<td>Flush</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Fee is $4 per person per night.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longs Peak</td>
<td>Always first-come, first served</td>
<td>Firewood only</td>
<td>Tents only</td>
<td>Vault</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Located 9 miles south of Beaver Meadows Visitor Center off of Hwy 7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moraine Park</td>
<td>Yes, can be filled by reservations in summer</td>
<td>Yes, Limited number of RV/trailer sites up to 40'</td>
<td>Flush except B-Loop is vault</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Located in a ponderosa pine forest above the meadows of Moraine Park; Trails from the campground connect to numerous other trails. Access to free summer shuttle to Bear Lake and Estes Park from campground.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timber Creek</td>
<td>Always first-come, first-served in summer</td>
<td>Firewood only</td>
<td>39'</td>
<td>Flush</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>The only west side campground.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A WEEK IN THE PARK
Rocky Has Plenty to See & Do

When famed Rocky Mountain News editor William Byers visited this region back in 1864, he tried to climb Longs Peak. Byers failed, but his search for a potential new mountain eventually made it to the summit of neighboring Mount Meeker.

To anyone planning a visit to this stretch of the Rockies, Byers advised a trip of at least eight days. Of course, he traveled by horseback and it took him a couple of days just to get here from Denver. But a week in this area definitely is worth considering, especially if you’re in search of the perfect trip. Here are some suggestions on how to spend seven days in Rocky:

**DAY ONE:** Time to stretch those legs. Pick a gentle trail for a stroll. Wander to a nearby waterfall or any nearby lake (maybe Copeland, Adams or Alberta) or around a beautiful lake (perhaps Bear, Sprague or Lily).

Many people require a day or two to get used to the altitude, and some of the time spent at the park’s lower elevations is a good idea.

**DAY TWO:** If you’re feeling acclimated to the elevation, explore the park with an evening ranger program. A trip across Trail Ridge Road is punctuated by many scenic overlooks that will introduce you to the region. There’s lots to see — scenery, wildlife and wildflowers. A leisurely drive with lots of stops, short walks and chats with the rangers will make this a memorable outing. Top off your full day with a picnic at one of the campgrounds. (Inquire at a visitor center or call 970-586-1206 for topics and times.)

**DAY THREE:** Begin your morning with a ranger-led birdwatching expedition. (See the park newspaper for programs.) You do not have to be an avian expert to enjoy this birdwatching introduction to this informative and interesting activity. In only an hour or two, you can learn a lot about the park and its wildlife. So agreeable, a leisurely drive with lots of stops, short walks and chats with the rangers will make this a memorable outing. Top off your full day with a picnic at one of the campgrounds. (Inquire at a visitor center or call 970-586-1206 for topics and times.)

**DAY FOUR:** Do what the locals do: Hike the backcountry. Pick a more ambitious walk to a location suited to your ability. See page 7 of this publication for hiking suggestions. Plan on an afternoon rain shower.

**DAY FIVE:** Take a Rocky Mountain Conservancy Field Institute class. The non-profit Rocky Mountain Conservancy offers half-day, day-long and multi-day classes for adults, kids and families on all sorts of natural and cultural history subjects. In a short time and at a reasonable cost, you can learn a lot from experts about subjects such as your inner skills, photography, wildlife, art and history. (Reservations are required. For information and registration, call 970-888-3142 or visit RMConservancy.org.)

**DAY SIX:** Now that you’re better acclimated, it’s time to try a more rigorous hike. High country lakes are especially popular destinations. Today, you also can apply what you learned from your chats with rangers, the birdwatching trip and your seminar.

**DAY SEVEN:** Try something new. Perhaps you’ve never ridden a mountain bike, been fly fishing, climbed a mountain or sketched an alpine scene. Here’s your chance. After you’ve sampled one or two Rocky Mountain wonders, you’ll find there’s a lot more to do than you thought. But after this first week, you’re off to a great start.

Suggested Activities

**A DAY IN THE PARK**

A List of “Must Do’s” While in Rocky!

What can we see in a single day in Rocky Mountain National Park? Lots of mountains, that’s for sure. Whatever else you see here depends on what you’re looking for, but Rocky has so much to offer, so try something new!

- **Drive Trail Ridge Road** It is one of America’s most scenic drives. One of the many overlooks provides amazing views.
- **Take a hike** Experience the wilderness of the park’s backcountry. There are lots of trails and a wide variety of destinations, lakes and waterfalls to summits, forests and meadows.
- **Watch for wildlife** Viewing the great variety of animals and birds is one of the most popular activities in the park. Elk, mule deer and bighorn sheep are seen year-round.
- **Attend a ranger-led program** Year-round, park rangers lead a variety of interesting and informative walks, talks, hikes, evening programs and more. Check schedules in current park newspapers.
- **Become a Junior Ranger** Kids 4 and younger can participate, with fun activity books the whole family can enjoy (in English and Spanish). Pick up a booklet at a park visitor center and earn a Junior ranger badge!
- **Visit a visitor center** or historical site Stop at a visitor center and explore the exhibits and talk to a ranger.
- **Visit Holzwarth Historic Site** Get a taste of early tourism at one of the first dude ranches in Colorado.
- **Keep your eyes peeled for moose in the Kawuneeche Valley**
- **Enjoy a picnic** Many places within the park provide pleasant outdoor settings made better with family, friends and food. Look for picnic icons on the park map.
- **Take pictures** The park is perfect for photography.
- **Children love climbing on rocks.** The trail to Gem Lake is a rocky paradise lined by boulders that are perfectly arranged for climbing. The scenery is inspiring for parents and kids alike.
- **Kids little bit older might enjoy** expanding energy hiking along a trail, but most seem happiest thoroughly exploring a smaller area. On any hike with 3- to 6-year-olds, it’s a good idea to include a magnifying glass in the backpack. Textures of trees, plants, bugs and rocks are exciting when viewed close-up.
- **Children love climbing on rocks.** The trail to Gem Lake is a rocky paradise lined by boulders that are perfectly arranged for climbing. The scenery is inspiring for parents and kids alike.
- **In the early summer, enjoy the** amazing display of colorful wildflowers found along the trails to Cub Lake and around Lily Lake.
- **Have the youngsters keep an eye out** for hummingbirds that may be visiting the flowers. Watch for bear activity along streams. Beaver dams, active or abandoned, are easy to spot, and stream banks are ideal places to look for animal tracks.
- **Make a Difference!!**

**Discover Nature With Your Kids**

Kids are born naturalists. They access the natural world by asking questions. Introducing children to the outdoors can begin at any time, but why not begin early? And why not start them in Rocky Mountain National Park, one of the country’s premier outdoor wonderlands?

Infants can be carried in a front pack, tucked inside the jacket if it’s chilly. Hike anywhere. The stunning scenery and the fresh mountain air will put them to sleep in short order.

Toddler more actively interact with nature. It is a time of observation, of making connections and stockpiling information. This is a wonderful time to introduce them to one of the many discovery trips found around the park. A few suggestions:

- **Explore the edges of Bear Lake** while enjoying the guidebook-guided trail tour that explains the area’s interesting natural and human history. Water holds an amazing variety of plant and animal life that will pique a child’s curiosity.
- **Discover Rocky Mountain’s** wonderful wildlife. At particular times throughout the year (ask a park ranger), the bighorn sheep come down to Sheep Lakes. Kids especially enjoy watching them cross the road after the lambs are born in late May.
- **Kids a little bit older might enjoy** expanding energy hiking along a trail, but most seem happiest thoroughly exploring a smaller area. On any hike with 3- to 6-year-olds, it’s a good idea to include a magnifying glass in the backpack. Textures of trees, plants, bugs and rocks are exciting when viewed close-up.

- **Kids love climbing on rocks.** The trail to Gem Lake is a rocky paradise lined by boulders that are perfectly arranged for climbing. The scenery is inspiring for parents and kids alike.

In the early summer, enjoy the amazing display of colorful wildflowers found along the trails to Cub Lake and around Lily Lake. Have the youngsters keep an eye out for hummingbirds that may be visiting the flowers. Watch for bear activity along streams. Beaver dams, active or abandoned, are easy to spot, and stream banks are ideal places to look for animal tracks.

- **Kids ages 12 and under have fun** learning about the park through the popular Junior Ranger program. Age-specific Junior Ranger activities booklets are available for free at visitor centers throughout the park in both English and Spanish. After completing the activities in the colorful, brightly illustrated booklets, youngsters are awarded an official Rocky Mountain National Park Junior ranger badge. In the summertime, kids can enjoy the special Junior Ranger programs and earn their badge at Junior Ranger Headquarters.
Sweeping Vistas Abound on Trail Ridge Road

Trail Ridge Road, Rocky Mountain National Park's renowned highway to the sky inspires awe and practically beg to be noticed at one of the many pullouts along the road. Sweeping vistas north to the alpine tundra.

Whether they begin their journey at Estes Park or Grand Lake, Trail Ridge Road travelers climb some 4,000 feet in a matter of minutes. The changes that occur en route are fascinating to observe. Montane woodlands of aspen and ponderosa pine soon give way to thick subalpine forests of fir and spruce. At treeline, the last stunted, wind-battered trees yield to the alpine tundra.

The Continental Divide, where great heaps of earth and rock debris rise above lush mountain meadows. The Continental Divide, where streamflows are separated east from the birthplace of glaciers that once worked their way through the mountain valleys. The road traverses the headwall of this amphitheater-like formation before joining Trail Ridge Road near the Alpine Visitor Center at Fall River Pass. Below treeline, forested moraines, great heaps of earth and rock debris left behind by melting Ice Age glaciers, rise above lush mountain woodlands. The Continental Divide, where streamflows are separated east from west, is crossed at Milner Pass, located in subalpine woodlands at a surprisingly low 10,120 feet elevation. Moose munch greenery in the upper subalpine woodlands at a treeline, the last stunted, wind-battered trees yield to the alpine tundra.

A fence of alpine plants hug the ground. Despite a growing season that lasts less than 50 days, many plants bloom exuberantly, adorning the green summer tundra with swatches of yellow, red, pink, blue, purple and white. All colors are seen from the Tundra Communities Trail, a half-hour walk beginning near the parking area at Rock Cut. Below treeline, forested montane, great heaps of earth and rock debris left behind by melting Ice Age glaciers, rise above lush mountain woodlands. The Continental Divide, where streamflows are separated east from west, is crossed at Milner Pass, located in subalpine woodlands at a surprisingly low 10,120 feet elevation. Moose munch greenery in the upper subalpine woodlands at a treeline, the last stunted, wind-battered trees yield to the alpine tundra.

Trail Ridge Road is a paved twolane U.S. Highway (34) with virtually no shoulders or guardrails. The road is only open when weather conditions are favorable, usually late-May through mid-October. At all elevations, the drive on Trail Ridge Road is a memorable adventure. Put aside at least a half day for the trip. Longer, if possible. It's worth the time. The experience, to be sure, is hard to describe.

When Are Park Roads Open?

Trail Ridge Road usually opens for the season on the Friday of Memorial Day weekend. It is not uncommon for the road to be closed temporarily during the summer season because of snowfalls. Heavy snows typically close the road for the winter season in mid- to late October. Old Fall River Road is normally open from early July through late September. Bear Lake Road is open year-round, but visitors are strongly urged to take advantage of the free summer Bear Lake Road corridor shuttle bus service. (See page 12 for shuttle information.)

For current information, please check the park's website, http://go.nps.gov/RockyRoads, stop by a park visitor center, or call the Information Office at 970-586-1206.
Climbing For Technical Types

Mountain adventures in the park
are not limited to hiking. Technical climbing routes abound east of the Continental Divide.

Lower-elevation climbing is especially popular on Lumpy Ridge. Less-severe technical climbing routes can be found high above treeline. They often involve a lengthy hike, higher elevations and considerably greater skill and risk.

For more information about specific climbing sites, safety precautions and regulations, contact the park’s Backcountry Office at 970-586-1242.

Know Before You Hike...

- Stay together - don’t separate on the trail and always keep children with the group.
- Leave detailed plans of your itinerary, and stick to the plan!
- Be aware of falling trees, which are abundant in this rugged terrain.
- Don’t count on cell phone service in the park - there are many “dead” spots in this rugged terrain.
- Be aware the trees are prepared for changing weather. Thunderstorms develop quickly, so avoid being above treeline after noon when thunderstorms often occur.
- Drink lots of water to stay hydrated in this dry climate, and bring high-energy snacks to fuel your hike.
- Wear sturdy footwear for rocky trail
- Practice Leave No Trace ethics: plan ahead and prepare, travel on durable surfaces; dispose of waste properly; respect what you find; respect wildlife; be considerate of other visitors.

Always remember:
- Pets are not allowed on any park trails, in park meadows or on the tundra!
- Elk find relief from summer’s heat in this high-altitude environment. Several species of birds spend the summer on the tundra, including Horned larks, well-camouflaged white-tailed ptarmigans and American pipsits. Tiny alpine flowers bloom in abundance during the short growing season, their stunning colors inviting hikers to bend down for a close-up look.

- With the exception of the Tundra Protection Areas located at the Alpine View Trail, Rock Cut, Tundra Communities Trail, Forest Canyon Overlook and Gore Range Overlook, visitors are permitted to hike on the tundra throughout the park. Alpine plants may be adaptable to the rugged climate above treeline, but they are no match for the soles of hiker’s feet. Areas repeatedly trod by hikers can take decades to recover as the short alpine growing season provides only a few weeks for damaged plant communities to heal.

- To minimize impact and preserve this fragile environment, please follow a few simple guidelines:
  - Obey regulations prohibiting off-trail hiking in the Tundra Protection Areas. These zones are located in places where visitation is highest. Hikers must stay on marked trails.
  - Always stay on hiking trails where they exist.
  - Walk on rocks or snow when possible to avoid contact with the alpine tundra’s fragile plant life.
  - Minimize trampling. When hiking off-trail across the open tundra, never walk single-file.

- Be aware of falling trees, which are abundant in this rugged terrain.
- Don’t count on cell phone service in the park - there are many “dead” spots in this rugged terrain.
- Be aware the trees are prepared for changing weather. Thunderstorms develop quickly, so avoid being above treeline after noon when thunderstorms often occur.
- Drink lots of water to stay hydrated in this dry climate, and bring high-energy snacks to fuel your hike.
- Wear sturdy footwear for rocky trail
- Practice Leave No Trace ethics: plan ahead and prepare, travel on durable surfaces; dispose of waste properly; respect what you find; respect wildlife; be considerate of other visitors.

Remember:
- Always remember:
- Pets are not allowed on any park trails, in park meadows or on the tundra!
### Lakes

**NYMPH LAKE**
- Bear Lake 0.5
- This is a great “get into shape” hike for new park arrivals.

**DREAM LAKE**
- Bear Lake 1.1
- Dramatic scenery rewards hikers making this short climb.

**BIERSTADT LAKE**
- Bierstadt Lake 1.4
- Bear Lake 1.6
- This popular mountain lake is nestled in heavy timber.

**THE POOL**
- Fern Lake 1.7
- A deep pool of the Big Thompson offers a peaceful respite.

**EMERALD LAKE**
- Bear Lake 1.8
- The lake's beauty is a result of the 1978 Ouzel Fire.

**LAKE HAYAHA**
- Bear Lake 2.1
- Hayaha is almost surrounded by the Continental Divide.

**CUB LAKE**
- Cub Lake 2.3
- This trail is adorned with early summer wildflowers.

**MILLS LAKE**
- Glacier Gorge 2.8
- Sweeping mountain scenery surrounds this lovely lake.

**THE LOCH**
- Glacier Gorge 3.0
- The popular lake sits in an inspiring mountain setting.

**FERN LAKE**
- Fern Lake 3.8
- A tourist lodge once sat upon Fern Lake's scenic shoreline.

**ODESSA LAKE**
- Bear Lake 4.1
- Fern Lake 4.4
- Dramatic peaks loom above this stunning mountain lake.

**CHASM LAKE**
- Longs Peak 4.2
- Don’t feed the begging marmots by this rugged lake.

**SANDBEACH LAKE**
- Sandbeach Lake 4.2
- A steady climb rewards hikers with fine scenery.

**FINCH LAKE**
- Finch Lake 4.5
- Remnants of the 1978 Ouzel Fire highlight this Wild Basin trek.

**SKY POND**
- Glacier Gorge 4.9
- Divide views surround an awesome destination.

**BACK LAKE**
- Glacier Gorge 5.0
- This mountain lake is set above dramatic Ribbon Falls.

**LONE PINE LAKE**
- East Inlet 5.5
- A sheer rock wall ascends from Lone Pine’s far shore.

### Mountain Summits

**LILU CITY**
- Colorado River 3.7
- This 1800s mining camp boomed briefly and went bust.

### Waterfalls

**BLUEBIRD LAKE**
- Wild Basin 6.0
- Lovely wildflowers highlight this southeastern hike.

**PEAR LAKE**
- Finch Lake 6.5
- Hikers find solitude at a remote Wild Basin destination.

**THUNDER LAKE**
- Wild Basin 6.8
- This high-elevation lake sits in a flower-filled meadow.

**LAKE VERNIA**
- East Inlet 6.9
- Fjord-like Lake Verna rewards the ambitious hiker.

**LION LAKE No. 1**
- Wild Basin 7.0
- Wildflowers grow in profusion at this subalpine lake.

**SPIRIT LAKE**
- East Inlet 7.8
- Some hike to the remote west side lake to fish.

**LAKE NOKONI**
- North Inlet 9.9
- Tranquility abounds at this distant west side lake.

**LAKE NANTIA**
- North Inlet 11.0
- Hiking in the park's interior is a wilderness experience.

### Accessible and Family-friendly Trails

**HOLZWORTH HISTORIC SITE**
- Trail Ridge Road 0.5
- Strollers permitted
- It’s a short walk on a level gravel trail to this dude ranch complex developed in the early 1900s.

**SPRAIGLE LAKE**
- Sprague Lake 0.4 (loop)
- Strollers permitted
- Lovely views of the Continental Divide grace this level, hardened trail. An accessible campsite is located in the area.

**BEAR LAKE NATURE TRAIL**
- Bear Lake 0.6 (loop)
- Partially accessible, strollers permitted
- An excellent booklet-guided nature trail circles this popular subalpine lake at the end of Bear Lake Road.

**LILY LAKE**
- Lily Lake 0.7 (loop)
- Strollers permitted
- Look for wildflowers in the spring and early summer along the level gravel trail around a mountain lake.

**COYOTE VALLEY**
- Coyote Valley 1.0 (loop)
- Strollers permitted
- Elk and moose sometimes are seen from this level gravel trail, especially during dawn and dusk.

**ADAMS FALLS**
- East Inlet Trailhead 0.3
- Hiking trail
- It’s a short hike to a dramatic waterfall near Grand Lake on the west side of the park.

**MORAIINE PARK DISCOVERY CENTER**
- Moraine Park Discovery Center 0.6 (loop)
- Hiking trail
- Interpretive signs and a full-color booklet guide visitors along this scenic nature trail in Moraine Park. Other family-friendly hikes include the Forest Canyon Overlook Trail, Hidden Valley Trail, Irene Trail and Tundra Communities Trail - ask a ranger for more information about these gems!

**ALBERTA FALLS**
- Glacier Gorge 0.8
- Bear Lake 0.9
- This dramatic waterfall is a popular park destination.

**CALYPSO CASCADES**
- Wild Basin 1.8
- The waterfall was named in honor of the calypso orchid.

**FERN FALLS**
- Fern Lake 2.7
- This refreshing, inspiring place is perfect for trail breaks.

**OUZEL FALLS**
- Wild Basin 2.7
- These scenic falls are frequently photographed.

**CASCADE FALLS North Inlet 3.5
- A gentle west side hike through a lodgepole forest.

**TIMBERLINE FALLS Glacier Gorge 4.0
- Seeing this jewel of a waterfall is well worth the climb.

### Mountain Hikes

**Hiking toward Black Lake (Forrest Shafer)**
- A short walk on a level gravel trail to this dude ranch complex developed in the early 1900s.

**An excellent booklet-guided nature trail circles this popular subalpine lake at the end of Bear Lake Road.**

### Historical Sites

**BEAVER MEADOWS TRAILHEAD**
- Located on Hwy 36 west of Estes Park; exhibits; free park movie is shown at Beaver Meadows and Kawuneeche visitor centers. Check the park newspaper or http://www.nps.gov/romo for hours and more information.

**EUGENIA MINE**
- Longs Peak 1.4
- Mine remains in the Longs Peak area recall the dashed hopes of early prospectors.

**LULU CITY**
- Colorado River 3.7
- This 1800s mining camp boomed briefly and went bust.

### Hiking Essentials

- First aid kit
- Waterproof matches
- Plenty of water
- Topo map and compass or other navigational aid

### Park Visitor Center Information

Five visitor centers are located in the park to assist you during your visit. Hours vary, but all offer park information, restrooms and a park bookstore. The free park movie is shown at Beaver Meadows and Kawuneeche visitor centers. Check the park newspaper or http://www.nps.gov/romo for periods for hours and more information.

**Beaver Meadows:** Located on Hwy 36 west of Estes Park; free park movie; Backcountry Office next door.

**Fall River:** Located on Hwy 34 west of Estes Park; exhibits; free Wi-Fi.

**Moraine Park:** Located on Bear Lake Road; exhibits; Alpine: Located atop Trail Ridge Road; exhibits; adjacent restaurant & gift store.

**Kawuneeche:** Located on Hwy 34 north of Grand Lake; exhibits; free Wi-Fi.
Wildlife

Rocky Mountain National Park visitors have a passion for viewing wild animals, especially the large ones. With elk, bighorn sheep, mule deer and moose calling the park home, it’s no surprise that wildlife watching is rated the number-one activity by a vast majority of Rocky’s visitors. The park’s great large-animal population makes it one of the country’s top wildlife watching destinations. But also found in Rocky Mountain National Park are nearly 60 other species of mammals, more than 280 recorded bird species, six amphibians (including the endangered boreal toad), one reptile (the harmless garter snake), 11 species of fish and countless insects, including a surprisingly large number of butterflies. On this page are a few of the wild residents park visitors might encounter.

**Be Bear Aware!**

Rocky Mountain National Park has a small population of black bears. Chances are you won’t see one during your visit, but it is very important that your actions do not attract bears, which are, by nature, intelligent, curious and hungry. Once a bear gets a taste of human food, almost nothing will stop it from looking for more. This leads to conflict with campers, park visitors and homeowners, which can eventually lead to the bear’s death.

“Food items” include food, drinks, toiletries, cosmetics, pet food and bowls, and other odorous attractants. At trailheads, please do not leave any food items in your vehicle. On the trail, keep food items with you at all times. Always keep a clean campsite, in campgrounds and in backcountry sites. Never leave food items unattended. In campgrounds, store food items inside vehicle trunks with windows closed and doors locked or in park-provided bear boxes. At backcountry campsites, all food items must be stored in carry-in, carry-out hard-sided bear-resistant storage containers.

**Save a Bear’s Life!**

- Keep pets in your vehicle. They may scare wildlife, and wild animals can hurt your pet.
- Large animals such as elk, sheep, bears and mountain lions can be dangerous. Check at visitor centers for valuable tips on safety around wildlife.
- Drive slowly and cautiously. Watch for animals crossing the road. Deer and elk are seldom alone. If you see one animal, look for others that may follow.
- Stop your car to watch animals only if you can pull off the road safely and completely. Do not block traffic. Do not park on vegetation.
- When possible, get away from roadsides and sit quietly to observe and hurt your pet.
- Drive slowly and cautiously. Watch for animals crossing the road. Deer and elk are seldom alone. If you see one animal, look for others that may follow.
- Stop your car to watch animals only if you can pull off the road safely and completely. Do not block traffic. Do not park on vegetation.
- When possible, get away from roadsides and sit quietly to observe and hurt your pet.

**Watching Wildlife Tips**

- Never, ever feed wildlife, including birds and chipmunks. Feeding reduces their ability to survive the long mountain winter. When they panhandle by roadsides, animals fall easy prey to automobiles. As they become habituated to humans and lose their natural fear, the animals become aggressive and may be destroyed. Feeding or harassing wildlife is illegal in all national parks.
- Wildlife is unpredictable - watch from a distance. For your safety and theirs, use binoculars or a telephoto lens to get close-up views. Following larger animals too closely to get a photograph or a better look can stress them and threaten their health. If animals notice you or if they seem nervous, you are too close. Move away quietly.
- Obey all signs posting closed areas. At different times of the year, some areas are closed to protect wildlife during nesting, mating and birthing seasons. Obey “No Stopping” traffic zones.
- Use of wildlife calls and spotlights is illegal. They stress animals and alter their natural behavior.

**Conservancy Nature Stores recommends**

- Field Guide to Wildlife Viewing in RMNP
- Watchable Wildlife: RMNP Mammals

---

**WILD & WATCHABLE**

**Rocky Mountain National Park**

**Bighorn Sheep**

*Habitat:* Rocky mountainsides and canyons

*Viewing Tips:* Bighorn sheep are often seen at Sheep Lakes from May through mid-August. Keep your eyes peeled for lambs around mid-June.

**Mule Deer**

*Habitat:* All habitats

*Viewing Tips:* At lower elevations, mule deer are most often found in open areas.

**Coyote**

*Habitat:* All habitats

*Viewing Tips:* The coyote’s yipping and howling sometimes is heard in the evening and morning.

**Moose**

*Habitat:* Stream beds and meadows

*Viewing Tips:* These large mammals frequent willow thickets along the Colorado River in the Kawuneeche Valley on the park’s west side.

**Yellow-bellied Marmot**

*Habitat:* Rock piles

*Viewing Tips:* Look for marmots sunbathing on rock outcroppings on the tundra along Trail Ridge and Old Fall River roads.

**Bighorn Sheep**

*Habitat:* Rocky mountainsides and canyons

*Viewing Tips:* Bighorn sheep are often seen at Sheep Lakes from May through mid-August. Keep your eyes peeled for lambs around mid-June.

**Mule Deer**

*Habitat:* All habitats

*Viewing Tips:* At lower elevations, mule deer are most often found in open areas.

**Coyote**

*Habitat:* All habitats

*Viewing Tips:* The coyote’s yipping and howling sometimes is heard in the evening and morning.

**Moose**

*Habitat:* Stream beds and meadows

*Viewing Tips:* These large mammals frequent willow thickets along the Colorado River in the Kawuneeche Valley on the park’s west side.

**Yellow-bellied Marmot**

*Habitat:* Rock piles

*Viewing Tips:* Look for marmots sunbathing on rock outcroppings on the tundra along Trail Ridge and Old Fall River roads.

---

**Habitat:**

- **Meadows, and where meadows and forests meet.**
  - Common at lower elevations in the fall, winter and spring
  - Viewing Tips: Look for elk at dawn and dusk. During the fall mating season, bull elk can be heard bugling and seen sparring with their large antlers as they attempt to attract harem of cow elk.

- **Stream beds and meadows**
  - Viewing Tips: Look for marmots sunbathing on rock outcroppings on the tundra along Trail Ridge and Old Fall River roads.

- **Around willows and rock outcrops on the alpine tundra**
  - Viewing Tips: Look carefully. Their excellent camouflage makes ptarmigans hard to spot.

---

**Habitat:**

- **Rock piles**
  - At lower elevations, mule deer are most often found in open areas.
  - Viewing Tips: At lower elevations, mule deer are most often found in open areas.

- **All habitats**
  - WatchingTips: RMNP Mammals

---

**Habitat:**

- **Old Fall River roads.**
  - PIKA
  - Viewing Tips: Listen for its sharp, distinctive bark and watch for movement among the rocks.

- **Valley on the park’s west side.**
  - MOOSE
  - Viewing Tips: Stream beds and meadows

- **Valdosta**
  - (Yellow-bellied Marmot)
  - Viewing Tips: Look carefully. Their excellent camouflage makes ptarmigans hard to spot.

---

**Habitat:**

- **Meadows, and where meadows and forests meet.**
  - Common at lower elevations in the fall, winter and spring
  - Viewing Tips: Look for elk at dawn and dusk. During the fall mating season, bull elk can be heard bugling and seen sparring with their large antlers as they attempt to attract harem of cow elk.

- **Stream beds and meadows**
  - Viewing Tips: Look for marmots sunbathing on rock outcroppings on the tundra along Trail Ridge and Old Fall River roads.

- **Around willows and rock outcrops on the alpine tundra**
  - Viewing Tips: Look carefully. Their excellent camouflage makes ptarmigans hard to spot.

---

**Habitat:**

- **All habitats**
  - WatchingTips: RMNP Mammals

---

**Habitat:**

- **Rock piles**
  - Viewing Tips: Look for marmots sunbathing on rock outcroppings on the tundra along Trail Ridge and Old Fall River roads.

- **Meadows, and where meadows and forests meet.**
  - Common at lower elevations in the fall, winter and spring
  - Viewing Tips: Look for elk at dawn and dusk. During the fall mating season, bull elk can be heard bugling and seen sparring with their large antlers as they attempt to attract harem of cow elk.

- **Stream beds and meadows**
  - Viewing Tips: Look for marmots sunbathing on rock outcroppings on the tundra along Trail Ridge and Old Fall River roads.

- **Around willows and rock outcrops on the alpine tundra**
  - Viewing Tips: Look carefully. Their excellent camouflage makes ptarmigans hard to spot.

---

**Habitat:**

- **Rock piles**
  - Viewing Tips: Look for marmots sunbathing on rock outcroppings on the tundra along Trail Ridge and Old Fall River roads.

- **Meadows, and where meadows and forests meet.**
  - Common at lower elevations in the fall, winter and spring
  - Viewing Tips: Look for elk at dawn and dusk. During the fall mating season, bull elk can be heard bugling and seen sparring with their large antlers as they attempt to attract harem of cow elk.

- **Stream beds and meadows**
  - Viewing Tips: Look for marmots sunbathing on rock outcroppings on the tundra along Trail Ridge and Old Fall River roads.

- **Around willows and rock outcrops on the alpine tundra**
  - Viewing Tips: Look carefully. Their excellent camouflage makes ptarmigans hard to spot.
Peace, Nature Prevail

During the Quiet Seasons

Summer in Rocky Mountain National Park means green meadows, shimmering lakes, plentiful wildlife and flower shows on the alpine tundra. But summer is also the busiest season, when parking areas can fill and some roads and trails can be congested.

Many visitors find that autumn, winter and spring offer different opportunities, when it's relatively more quiet and less busy at Rocky Mountain.

The park is open year-round. Only Trail Ridge Road, Old Fall River Road and some secondary dirt roads are closed by winter's heavy snows, but both sides of the park have miles of open roads to explore year-round.

More than half of the park's approximately four million annual visitors arrive during June, July, August and weekends in September, leaving the remainder of the year less crowded. An average winter day sees only one-tenth the number of people visiting than a typical summer day.

In addition, autumn, winter and spring offer an ever-changing palette of colors and many different activities.

As summer becomes autumn, the shortening days trigger changes in the natural world. Two of the park's most anticipated events occur in September and October.

Elk begin moving to lower elevations in preparation for the rut, or mating season. Bulls display magnificent racks of antlers, and their eerie bugling carries across the meadows and forests. Evenings and early mornings are the best times to observe and hear these animals.

Look for elk in park meadows, such as Horseshoe Park, Beaver Meadows and Moraine Park on the park's east side; Fall River Meadow and the meadow at the Holzwarth Historic Site on the west side.

Autumn comes early to the high country and aspen trees, which occur on both sides of the park, offer the most brilliant colors. In the Grand Lake area, aspen leaves start turning gold in early September; on the east side, Bear Lake starts turning in mid-September; in the Estes Park area in late September. Temperature, rain, snow and wind affect when the leaves begin turning, and sometimes cause the leaves to drop early.

A walk through the autumn forests also reveals the red and gold leaves of numerous understory plants. Autumn days often are splendid - crisp and clear with an occasional snowfall.

Winter begins early at Rocky Mountain's high elevations. By mid-November, the Kawuneeche Valley may have enough snow for snowshoe treks and long, gentle cross-country ski tours.

For those not looking for snow, some east side hiking trails can be surprisingly snow-free – or nearly so - year-round. Conditions change regularly throughout the season, so be sure to check at a visitor center, or at www.nps.gov/romo/planyourvisit/trail_conditions.htm, for the latest hiking and snow conditions before starting out.

Wildlife viewing can be especially rewarding in the wintertime. The sights of a coyote hunting in a snow-covered meadow, of herds of elk with their breath condensing in the air, of a cow and a calf moose silhouetted against the snow, are unforgettable park images.

Spring arrives at different times in the park, depending on elevation and slope. In the Kawuneeche Valley and Bear Lake areas, spring snowmelts and skiing are sometimes possible. Meanwhile, lower-elevation areas are starting to bud and bloom.

Black-tailed and mule deer, birds which start returning from their winter grounds in early March, are brilliant in flight. Beginning in mid-March, look for nesting raptors on Lumpy Ridge as peregrine and peregrine falcons, golden eagles and red-tailed hawks nest on the warm, sunny cliffs. In early April, stroll Moraine Park to search for the season's first wildflowers, including tulp-shaped Pasqueflowers, pink Springbeauties and yellow Sage buttercups. Also in early April, ground squirrels and marmots emerge from hibernation.

As the spring season progresses, the melting snowline climbs higher into the mountains. But, those relatively few people who visited the park during the autumn, winter and spring know they and nature shared some very special moments indeed.

Scenery and Solitude on Rocky's West Side

Rich in its variety of resources and human history, the park's Colorado River District west of the Continental Divide is filled with opportunities for adventure, exploration, solitude and reflection.

The Ute and the Arapaho were the most recent American Indians to frequent the area. They did not settle permanently, but their passages over high mountain passes within the park were regular occurrences. Today, following the Ute Trail from the Alpine Visitor Center and descending to the subalpine habitat that surrounds Mulèr Pass, the footsteps of the Ute and Arapaho are almost audible when hiking their ancient paths.

Active settlement in the park's west began with the homesteaders and miners who arrived in the late 1800s. These hardy settlers occupied the valley well when hiking their ancient paths.

...and of a gorgeous meadow just beyond.

For those who favor longer, more strenuous hikes, forging another seven miles onward beyond the falls (round-trip) leads past the meadow to the top of the Devil's Staircase. A while after passing the falls, the aspen becomes increasingly aggressive, climbing steadily for the next mile. Hikers pause to enjoy the emerging westward views of Grand Lake as they climb the Devil's Staircase. This section of trail seemingly was etched out of the rock wall. Finally, after a sharp switchback, the trail arrives at its destination—a rock shelf offering spectacular views.

Hikers then can choose to continue on to Lone Pine Lake, a stunning subalpine lake (1 mile round trip) with unsurpassed vistas of the surrounding peaks.

Longer, more challenging hikes also are available on the park's west side. For impressive views of Big Meadows and of the “Big Meadows” burn area above Granite Falls, the Onahu Trail Loop begins at Green Mountain. For those with stamina, the Tonahutu Trail Loop is a challenging 27-mile loop that passes through some of the most beautiful alpine scenery that the park has to offer. Here, a hiker can be transported to new heights and enjoy intimate forests and mountain streams.

A smorgasbord of delights awaits on the park's west side.
Learn about Rocky’s charismatic megafauna!

WILD & WATCHABLE WILDLIFE: RMNP MAMMALS
Rocky Mountain Conservancy
Rocky Mountain National Park is one of America’s premier places to view large mammals. Patience, timing and luck are key factors in locating them. This guide features 7 of the large mammals seen in Rocky Mountain National Park. Learn about the animals’ history, what they eat and how they behave, and discover some of the best viewing sites in the park, and more. The more you know about wildlife, the greater your chance to observe these amazing animals in the wild.

32 pages, softcover.

Item 91 $5.95

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK: A YEAR IN PICTURES
David Dahms
A rich photographic showcase of the magnificent scenery in RMNP. More than 100 stunning color photographs celebrate the progression of the seasons. Images of rugged mountains, alpine lakes and rushing streams are complemented by intimate wildlife and wildflower photos. 60 pages, softcover

Item 2672 $9.95

RMNP ROAD GUIDE
National Geographic
This book is the essential guide for motorists. Discover roadside wonders, including stunning scenery, a profusion of animals, and the park’s fascinating human history. This helpful book includes road maps with side-by-side commentaries. 93 pages, softcover.

Item 2823 $8.95

SPirit of the mountains
2nd Edition

National Park Service
Featuring beautiful cinematography, expert narrative and a captivating original music score, this high-definition film captures the park’s grandeur through the four seasons. Visitors experience this award-winning production in park visitor centers. 23 minutes

Item 6772 $9.95

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONSERVANCY and save 15% on books and maps and a host of wonderful park items today!

RMConservancy.org
CELEBRATING ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK with New Centennial Products

RMNP: THE FIRST 100 YEARS
Mary Taylor Young
A century has passed since Rocky Mountain National Park was established in 1915. An award-winning writer tells a story that stretches from the dawn of time into the future. As America lights the candles for Rocky’s 100th birthday, discover why there is so much to celebrate. Hardcover, 166 pages.
Item# 9799 $39.95

RMNP CENTENNIAL FILM WILDERNESS, WILDLIFE, WONDER
Fall River Productions
Marking the park’s centennial year, this stunning film explores the grandeur and mystery of Rocky through historic images and interviews with national park rangers sharing their provocative insights on the value of national parks to our generation and those to come. Celebrate and enjoy the park’s centennial with this special keepsake film. 23 minutes.

DVD Item# 9849 $12.95
Bluray Item# 9850 $16.95

THE LIVING DREAM: 100 YEARS OF RMNP
Nick Mollo Productions

Includes the best-selling book Best Easy Day Hikes, by Kent and Donna Dannen, a $9.95 retail value, and Trails Illustrated’s popular park topo map, which retails for $11.95. This best-selling package is your key to unforgettable park adventures at a special savings.
Retail value: $21.90
Item# 726 Package price $19.95

NEW CENTENNIAL PRODUCTS

2016 NationalParkService CENTENNIAL

RMNP MUG
Established 1915
Item# 779 $12.95

Hiking
HIKING ADVENTURES IN RMNP
Rocky Mountain Conservancy
This easy-to-use newspaper offers a broad range of hiking options available in six regions of RMNP. Includes maps, trail descriptions, mileage, difficulty levels and trails checklist. 8 pages.
Item# 2895 $1.00

Victory Editions CENTENNIAL ADVENTURE MAP
by Kent & Donna Dannen

A true-to-scale map of the park and its environs, this map is a must-have for hikers and outdoor enthusiasts. The map features detailed trail descriptions, mileage, and difficulty levels. Hardcover, 11” x 17”
Item# 6125 $49.95

Hiking Circuits in RMNP
Jack & Elizabeth Hailman
This is the first guide dedicated exclusively to loop trails in Rocky Mountain National Park. Included are descriptions and maps of 23 hikes with detailed driving instructions to the access points. Hikes range from an easy stroll around a lake to multi-day back-packing trips. 240 pages, softcover.
Item# 3471 $19.95

NPS CENTENNIAL PRODUCTS

NPS CENTENNIAL PATCH
Item# 7239 Measures 3 1/4” x 2 1/4” $4.99

NPS CENTENNIAL PIN
Item# 7238 Measures 1 1/4” x 1/4” $4.99

NPS CENTENNIAL DECAL
Item# 7240 Measures 4 1/4” x 3” $1.99

JUNIOR RANGERS: YOU ARE THE FUTURE!
Sew this patch onto your backpack, jacket or shirt as a reminder of your accomplishment of becoming a junior ranger.
Item# 8022 $3.95

Perfect for carrying lots of stuff, this vest has 6 front pockets and one back pocket for everything important! Youth sizes S, M/L.
Small Item# 8765 $9.95
M/L Item# 8766 $11.95

Celebrate Junior Rangers everywhere with this iconic image embossed on brass metal depicts a photographer in profile. This medallion makes a thoughtful gift for the thoughtful hiker in your life.
Item# 8767 $11.95

Rocky Mountain Nature Association

CIMARRON THE BIGHORN SHEEP
RM Nature Association
Cimarron, the bighorn lamb, is experiencing the world around him for the very first time. Join Cimarron as he comes face to face with Rocky Mountain wildlife – ptarmigan, beaver and a mountain lion! Ages 3-12, 32 pages, softcover.
Item# 9706 $9.95

THE ADVENTURES OF TWO RAINDROPS RUNNING WILD
Rocky Mountain Nature Association
Come along on the adventures of two raindrops that land on the Continental Divide in Rocky Mountain National Park. Explore their travels toward the Pacific and Atlantic oceans down the Colorado, Cache la Poudre, Platte, Missouri and Mississippi rivers. Ages 3-12, softcover, 36 pages.
Item# 7663 $9.95

THE LIVING DREAM: 100 YEARS OF RMNP
Nick Mollo Productions

Includes the best-selling book Best Easy Day Hikes, by Kent and Donna Dannen, a $9.95 retail value, and Trails Illustrated’s popular park topo map, which retails for $11.95. This best-selling package is your key to unforgettable park adventures at a special savings.
Retail value: $21.90
Item# 726 Package price $19.95

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
Rocky Mountain Conservancy
RMConservancy.org

Junior Rangers love this floppy hat to keep cool! Youth sizes S, M/L.
Small Item# 8765 $9.95
M/L Item# 8766 $11.95

Celebrate Junior Rangers everywhere with this iconic image embossed on brass metal depicts a photographer in profile. This medallion makes a thoughtful gift for the thoughtful hiker in your life.
Item# 8767 $11.95

Rocky Mountain Nature Association

CIMARRON THE BIGHORN SHEEP
RM Nature Association
Cimarron, the bighorn lamb, is experiencing the world around him for the very first time. Join Cimarron as he comes face to face with Rocky Mountain wildlife – ptarmigan, beaver and a mountain lion! Ages 3-12, 32 pages, softcover.
Item# 9706 $9.95

THE ADVENTURES OF TWO RAINDROPS RUNNING WILD
Rocky Mountain Nature Association
Come along on the adventures of two raindrops that land on the Continental Divide in Rocky Mountain National Park. Explore their travels toward the Pacific and Atlantic oceans down the Colorado, Cache la Poudre, Platte, Missouri and Mississippi rivers. Ages 3-12, softcover, 36 pages.
Item# 7663 $9.95

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
Rocky Mountain Conservancy
RMConservancy.org

Junior Rangers love this floppy hat to keep cool! Youth sizes S, M/L.
Small Item# 8765 $9.95
M/L Item# 8766 $11.95

Celebrate Junior Rangers everywhere with this iconic image embossed on brass metal depicts a photographer in profile. This medallion makes a thoughtful gift for the thoughtful hiker in your life.
Item# 8767 $11.95

The tenth edition of this guidebook to the park and the Indian Peaks Wilderness is the hiker’s bible. Detailed descriptions, maps, charts and illustrations show the way to all destinations. 304 pages, softcover.
Item# 8597 $16.95

THE LONGS PEAK EXPERIENCE
Mike Donahue
Written by a veteran climber, this book is especially recommended for first-time Longs Peak trekkers. A member of a family of Longs Peak mountainaineers, the author offers route descriptions and trip preparation information. 80 pages, softcover.
Item# 655 $8.95

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DAY HIKES
Dave and Hal Rask
A great pocket guide covering 24 hikes in the park. Elevation profiles gives hikers an idea of the terrain out there on Rocky Mountain National Park’s spectacular hiking trails. 68 pages, softcover.
Item# 187 $5.95
Bear Lake Road & Hiker Shuttle Services

The Bear Lake Road corridor is served by two shuttle routes:
Bear Lake Route ~ Moraine Park Route
The shuttle is free to park visitors.

Rocky Mountain National Park and the Town of Estes Park operate a Hiker Shuttle connecting the Estes Park visitor center, the park’s Beaver Meadows Visitor Center and the Park & Ride on Bear Lake Road. The shuttle is free, but a park pass is required.

RMNP Shuttle Bus Schedule 2016
Bear Lake & Moraine Park Routes:
Daily service — 5/28 through 10/10
Hiker Shuttle:
Daily service - 6/25 through 9/11
Weekends - 9/17, 9/18, 9/24, 9/25, 10/1, 10/2, 10/8, 10/9, 10/10

Rocky Mountain Conservancy
Field Institute
Educational Tours & Adventures in Rocky Mountain National Park

- Operating since 1962
- Expert instructors
- Photography, wildlife, art, geology, natural & cultural history & outdoor skills
- Classes for kids and families
- Half-day, daylong and multi-day classes
- Custom adventures & step-on tours
- Credit available
- Adventures by Bus!

RMConservancy.org

See pages 10-11 for trip-planning publications