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RESTAURANTS

ESTES PARK

PAGES 123-153

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 Estes Park Museum (pg 37 1976.010.035, pg 44 1984.023.042, pg 45 011.1974.016.013 pg 46 1969.024.014),
 pg 104 Mark Blake By The West Photography, James Frank, Erik Stensland, Dawn Wilson, Colin D Young and many of our wonderful clients and friends.

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Visit Estes Park

We want to thank our partners at Visit Estes Park.

Huge thanks to the invaluable GuestGuide team:

**Diane Ehlerl • Jill & Frank Lancaster
 Louise Powers • Jennifer Scannell**

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the many individuals not directly connected with GuestGuide® whose assistance has been immeasurable in the completion of this edition.

Other Publications:



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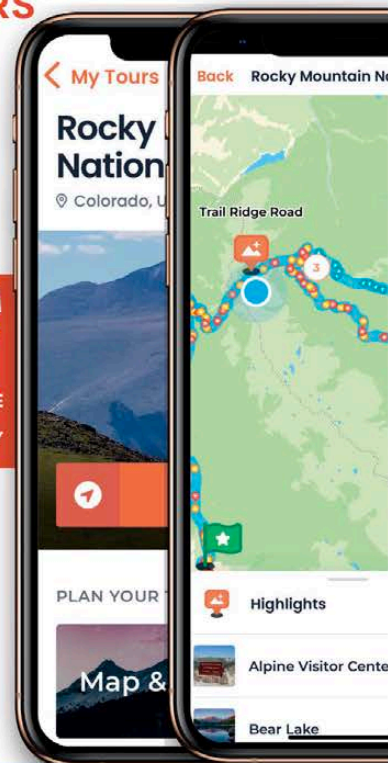
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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

One of the first nights at camp, our unit director told us to grab our sleeping bags and air mattresses. We were all spending the night out together.

We hiked to a meadow near camp and spread out on tarps. We played capture the flag and sang camp songs until the sun went down. I didn't think I would sleep as I was a bit nervous (of what?), but being a counselor, I didn't want to show it to the campers.

The night was amazing and having the stars above as an extra blanket over us was literally life changing for me. Now, I sleep under the stars as much as I can.

That one night had such a positive influence on me, and set the stage for many other days and nights in nature that have been invaluable.

Last summer on a river trip, our last night was clear and incredible. The Milky Way was stretched all the way down the river canyon from horizon to horizon. I have never seen that much of the Milky Way and will never forget how amazing it was to stare at for hours.

Here in Estes Park we are surrounded by nature. Is this your first trip here? Or maybe you are bringing your children here just like your parents did. I hope that you will have a special experience that will stay with you forever. Maybe it's seeing an elk. Or, for some, it's seeing snow for the first time.

Estes Park is so different than so many tourist towns. Generations of families continue to come and follow traditions passed down for many years, such as doing the same hikes or teaching the kids how to fish. I think that is part of what makes Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park so special. Nature is all around us.

While you are here, I hope you will be an outdoorsy type! Do some of your favorite hikes or visit your favorite places. And, do a few things that are new to you. You never know how it might impact you. 🌲

HOW TO...

USE RECREATION.GOV

Recreation.gov is referred to quite a bit in this book. This website and accompanying mobile app are easy to use. It's best to have an account to make reservations. Find out more and download the mobile app from **Recreation.gov**.

This website has more than 113,000 reservable sites all across the United States. Having an account with them and using the mobile app will make it easy to reserve sites in all the places the system is used. Some first-come, first-served locations also allow for payment through the app using the scan and pay option. Simply scan the provided QR code at these locations and make payment through your account. This works without cell service.

First, set up an account on their website with your information and credit card and get familiar with how it works. For popular reservations, being logged in and ready to go a few minutes before permits open will give you a better chance of success.

If you are able to secure a reservation, don't hesitate! Once you "book," you only have 15 minutes to complete the reservation. If you don't complete the reservation in that time, the reservation is released back into the system. Keep this in mind, and if you didn't succeed at first, try about 15 minutes later. Someone may not have completed their transaction in those 15 minutes.

BE BEAR AWARE

- Always store all food in food storage lockers located throughout park campgrounds when you are not cooking or eating. This includes when you are simply hanging around at camp.
- Bear canisters are required on all backpack trips.
- Dispose of all trash in bear-resistant dumpsters.

LOOK THE PART

We cannot express enough the importance of staying hydrated.

Drink water! Drink at least four quarts (a gallon) of water a day, especially when it's hot.

Your body needs more water at this altitude.

Do as the locals do: buy a water bottle that is at least 32oz and show your personality by covering it up with your favorite stickers. Carry your water bottle with you and remember to drink. Restaurants will happily fill it for you.

This is better than buying bottled water, as that plastic is harmful to the environment. Carrying your own water bottle is smart. And, you will look cool. 🌲



The sweatshirt says it correctly- I am an outdoorsy type! I love being outside and find doing anything in nature fills my soul.

I find the sound of a river or creek soothing. Birds chirping in the morning seem very cheerful, and the bugle of an elk in the fall is slightly eerie. It reminds me I am only a small part of this amazing world.

I grew up in Colorado, yet it wasn't until I was a counselor at Cheley Colorado Camps during my college years that I slept outside without a tent.

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

Established in 1915, Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) protects 415 square miles of spectacular mountain scenery that includes 60+ mountains 12,000ft in elevation or higher. Longs Peak, one of the most technically challenging 14,000ft peaks in Colorado, is the highest in Rocky. The park is home to 280 types of birds, including eagles and hawks, as well as 60 species of animals, such as bighorn sheep, black bears, coyotes, elk, mule deer, and moose. Rocky has been the third most visited national park in the United States for several years.

SEEING THE TUNDRA UP CLOSE

Approximately one third of this national park protects lands above the treeline. Being able to drive in the comfort of your car through this amazing tundra landscape is a distinctively unique experience to Rocky Mountain National Park. The plants on the tundra have an average of only a 40-day growing season and are fragile but incredibly hardy. They have adapted to the harsh conditions.

OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY

The park is open 24 hours a day, unless closed for weather or safety reasons.

You need an entrance pass no matter what time you enter the park.

If you don't have an annual Rocky pass or America the Beautiful pass, passes can be purchased at a staffed park entrance station, or online before you arrive at the park at [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov).

During the dates of the reservation system, you may enter the park before or after the timed-entry times.

VISITOR CENTERS

There are five visitor centers throughout the main section of the park.

All park visitor centers are ADA accessible and have restrooms, bookstores, visitor

information, and seasonal water fountains.

There is limited potable drinking water in the park, so please plan accordingly and bring your own water.

All visitor centers are closed Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Rangers will be available in locations near the visitor centers to answer visitor questions.

WILD BASIN

This area of the park is located off CO Hwy 7, 14 miles from downtown Estes Park.

The two-mile dirt road ends at the Wild Basin Trailhead and Ranger Station.

This more remote and less traveled part of the park is equal in beauty with trails leading to alpine lakes and waterfalls.

You will need a "Rest of the Park" timed-entry permit if visiting May 24–Oct. 14.

More than **94.8%** of the park is designated wilderness. Of the **265,847.74** acres, **89,099** acres, or **33%**, is above treeline, an ecosystem known as the **alpine tundra**.

ACTIVITIES IN THE PARK

RMNP offers more than **350 miles of hiking trails**, from leisurely strolls to intense mountain climbs. Hiking options have a wide range of distances, elevation changes, and terrains, so there's a hike for everyone's style and ability in the park.

For the adventuresome trout angler, Rocky has **147 lakes**. Not all have fish, so stop by a visitor center and pick up a brochure listing lakes with fishing and park regulations.

Horseback riding is permitted within Rocky, with more than **260 miles of trails** open to horses, mules, ponies, llamas, and burros.

Bicycles are permitted on Trail Ridge Road. There is no shoulder, and the road twists and turns. Be aware that many drivers are looking at the scenery and are not used to mountain driving. So ride carefully.

In the winter months, visitors may also enjoy snowshoeing and cross country skiing throughout Rocky.

DRIVING APP

GuideAlong, an excellent driving app for Rocky, might just be the perfect companion as you drive through the park with most information along Trail Ridge Road and Old Fall River Road. It's fun, educational, and enjoyable. [GuideAlong.com](https://www.guidealong.com).



Visitor Information: 970-586-1206

Daily 8am–4pm Mountain Time

Visitor Information for the Hearing Impaired (TTY): 970-586-1319

Daily 8am–4pm Mountain Time

Trail Ridge Road

Information: 970-586-1222

Recorded message 24 hours a day, updated when road status changes

Wilderness Office: 970-586-1242

Lost & Found: ROMOLandF@NPS.gov

Campground Reservations: 877-444-6777

In an emergency, call 911

! A RESERVATION SYSTEM IS IN PLACE: MAY 24–OCT. 20, 2024

1 TIMED ENTRY+
Bear Lake Road Corridor • Glacier Gorge Area • Sprague Lake • Moraine Park • The Rest of the Park
5am–6pm • May 24–Oct 20, 2024

2 TIMED ENTRY
The Rest of the Park:
Trail Ridge Road • Old Fall River Road
Outlying Areas/Wild Basin
9am–2pm • May 24–Oct. 14, 2024

For more details, visit: [NPS.gov/ROMO](https://www.nps.gov/ROMO)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, TURN TO PAGES 18-19

continued on page 16



TRAIL RIDGE ROAD

NORTH AMERICA'S HIGHEST CONTINUOUS PAVED ROAD

HIGHEST ROAD IN ANY NATIONAL PARK, PEAKING AT 12,183FT

11 MILES OF ROAD ABOVE THE TUNDRA

Trail Ridge Road is one of the most breathtaking and unique scenic byways in the country. Opened in 1932, the road covers 48 miles between Estes Park and Grand Lake, with 11 miles stretching across the tundra at an elevation close to 12,000ft. Traffic can move slowly and wildlife can be on the road, so plan for at least a three-hour trip, and drive with care.

Historic stone-wall turnouts provide ample space to stop and take in the views. Many Parks Curve offers expansive vistas of Horseshoe Park, Moraine Park, Deer Mountain, Mt. Meeker, and Longs Peak, the sole 14er in Rocky.

Rock Cut has some parking and vault toilets. You can take a half-mile walk on Tundra Communities Trail for a close-up view of the many tiny alpine plants and flowers that hug the ground.

From the Alpine Visitor Center, travel west to Milner Pass and the Continental Divide. Water on the east side drains into the Platte River, which flows to the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, and ultimately to the Gulf of Mexico. The water on the west side flows down the Colorado River to California.

At Farview Curve, that timid stream winding across the Kawuneeche Valley is the Colorado River. From here, it starts a 1,450-mile journey through mountain canyons and three major deserts on its way to California. Moose and elk often graze along the river. Drive carefully as animals are often right next to the road.

Please Note: Stay on the trail, as footprints damage the fragile tundra that may take hundreds of years to recover. ↑

ENJOY THE VIEW

Though well maintained, Trail Ridge Road has many curves and switchbacks and is often narrow, with few guardrails or shoulders.

Beginning in April, it typically takes snowplows up to six weeks to carve through 30ft-high drifts to clear the road, often leaving towering walls of snow next to the pavement. The road is usually open late-May through mid-October, depending on the weather. Elk, bighorn sheep, and the occasional marmot often cross the road. **Stay alert.**

THE ALPINE VISITOR CENTER

AVC sits at 11,796ft above sea level and is the highest visitor center in the entire national park system. Its large picture windows offer spectacular views.

Trail Ridge Store next door has souvenirs, food, and restrooms. Test your legs and lungs on the Alpine Ridge Trail (Huffers Hill), a short, steep trek that starts at the Alpine Visitor Center and climbs 200ft in three-tenths of a mile. The trail tops out at more than 12,000ft and offers spectacular 360-degree views.

The Alpine Visitor Center is a popular spot, so go early or late in the day as the parking lot can fill up.

HIGH SEASON

Most people visit RMNP in summer and on fall weekends, so expect congestion on roads, in parking areas, and on popular trails. Never park along the road or on the tundra as there is no shoulder. The tundra is very fragile and will damage easily. Park only in designated spots. The busiest times in Rocky are between 10am and 3pm. By mid-morning, parking areas are often full, so tour and hike early or late in the day. [NPS.gov/ROMO/PlanYourVisit/Trail_Ridge_Road.htm](https://www.nps.gov/ROMO/PlanYourVisit/Trail_Ridge_Road.htm).

© PHOTOGRAPHER: COLIN D. YOUNG



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

There are two types of reservations available:

1

Timed Entry+

INCLUDES

Bear Lake Corridor
Glacier Gorge Area
Sprague Lake • Moraine Park
The Rest of the Park

5am-6pm
May 24-Oct 20, 2024

2

Timed Entry

INCLUDES

The Rest of the Park:
Trail Ridge Road • Old Fall River
Road • Outlying Areas/Wild Basin

9am-2pm
May 24-Oct 14, 2024

ROCKY'S RESERVATION SYSTEM

In order to protect the park and create a better experience for guests, Rocky Mountain National Park has a reservation system from May 24 to Oct. 14 (Oct 20 for Bear Lake Corridor), 2024.

This means you will have to plan ahead and make your reservations to visit Rocky in advance, or go into the park before or after the reservation times. However, fewer people in the popular areas means a better experience for you and lighter traffic on the trails.

Another option is to take a guided trip with one of our outfitters (see the Adventure Chart on page 113).



TIPS ON THE RESERVATION SYSTEM

Set up an account on **Recreation.gov** before your trip. **See page 11 for additional tips on this.**

You cannot get a reservation at the entrance gate or any visitor center.

There are last minute tickets available the night before at 7pm.

Have your reservation pulled up on your phone, or printed copy ready for the gate attendant.

Further details are found at [NPS.gov/ROMO/PlanYourVisit/Timed-Entry-Permit-System.htm](https://www.nps.gov/ROMO/PlanYourVisit/Timed-Entry-Permit-System.htm). Timed-entry tickets will not be sold at the entrance station.

Entry windows last **TWO HOURS**

If you have a **9am** reservation, you have to enter between **9-11am**. If you don't, you will lose your reservation.

Once you are in the park, you can **stay as long as you like**.

If you have a **Timed Entry+ permit**, you may exit the park and return later in the day. You can **re-enter the Bear Lake Road corridor any time after 2pm** the same day.

For **Rest of the Park**, you may leave the park and re-enter **as often as you want**, the same day.



RESERVATION SCHEDULE

You can make reservations **ONE MONTH** in advance.

MONTH OF VISIT	RESERVATIONS OPEN
MAY 24-JUNE 30	MAY 1
JULY	JUNE 1
AUGUST	JULY 1
SEPTEMBER	AUGUST 1
OCTOBER	SEPTEMBER 1

PLANNING YOUR DAY IN THE PARK

- There are no filling or charging stations in the park. Always head into the park with a full tank of fuel or fully charged.
- The only place to buy food or refill water bottles is at the Alpine Visitor Center. The Center is not always open so don't plan on that as your only option for food or water.
- There are restrooms (vault toilets) located at most parking lots and trailheads.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS DURING THE RESERVATION TIMES

- If you want to drive through the park on **Trail Ridge Road**, you still need a **timed-entry permit** between **9am-2pm** during the reservation months.
- If you want to hike to **Gem Lake, Lily Lake, Lumpy Ridge**, or on the **Longs Peak trail** you still need a timed-entry permit. Rangers are on duty to check.
- If you are planning to visit the park **multiple days** during the reservation period, you need a timed-entry permit for each day you plan to visit.
- There is **an entrance fee in addition to your timed-entry permit**. All passes can be purchased at a staffed park entrance station, or online before you arrive at the park at **Recreation.gov**.
- Lines to enter the park **can be long** before and after the timed-entry permits start or end each day. Be prepared and plan accordingly.
- Only **one timed-entry permit** per visitor per day. No need to reserve multiple permits for one day.
- Timed-entry permits are **for a vehicle** (15 passenger or less), not for each person in the car.
- A motorcycle is considered a vehicle.
- Bicyclists do not need a reservation. You do need a park pass.



HIKER SHUTTLE

The Hiker Shuttle provides service from the Estes Park Visitor Center, located in town, to Rocky's Park & Ride Transit Hub, located on Bear Lake Road.

Tickets are \$2. One ticket/reservation will cover up to 4 people. You **will not need** a timed-entry permit when riding the Hiker Shuttle, but **you will need to make a reservation for the shuttle**.

Passengers may then transfer to the park's free in-park shuttles. These include the Moraine Park Route and the Bear Lake Route to reach trailhead destinations located along the Bear Lake Road Corridor, including Bear Lake, Glacier Gorge, and Moraine Park.

Reservations are required to ride the Hiker Shuttle. Visit **Recreation.gov** and search for Rocky Mountain National Park Hiker Shuttle.

Hiker Shuttle ticket holders will also **need a valid park pass** to enter Rocky.

You can purchase this online at **Recreation.gov**. Tickets for the shuttle are not available in person at visitor centers.

Visit [NPS.gov/ROMO/PlanYourVisit/Shuttle-Buses-and-Public-Transit.htm](https://www.nps.gov/ROMO/PlanYourVisit/Shuttle-Buses-and-Public-Transit.htm).

The Hiker Shuttle operates 7 days a week, May 24-Sept. 2. Weekends only Sept. 7-Oct. 20, 2024.



HIGH-ALTITUDE HINTS

Just like humans, pets should be given time to get used to the thinner air. Give your dog lots of water, time to adjust to the altitude, and plenty of rest.

PROTECT YOURSELF

Exposure to the sun provides D3, an essential vitamin the human body craves. However, at high altitude the sun's ultraviolet rays are 36 percent stronger than at sea level, so apply sunscreen (SPF 30+) liberally and frequently so you won't burn. Apply at least 20 minutes before going out in the sun. Good sunglasses are essential for protecting your eyes from the UV rays. Brimmed hats shade your scalp, face, and your ears.

TRAVELING IN NATURE

Part of vacationing in the Rocky Mountains is getting away from it all. However, any activity in the mountains involves risk. You must be self-reliant. Be realistic about your physical abilities, know your limits, and use common sense.

Have the proper clothing, water, map, equipment, and food. Do your research before you hit the trail; be aware of mileage, elevation gain, signage (or lack thereof), and terrain features.

Most importantly, don't be a loner. Do backcountry activities as a group or with a local guide. If you do venture out alone, let a responsible person know where you are going, when you plan to return, and when you have returned.

Cell service is spotty, especially in Rocky, so never count on having reliable cell service. Put your phone in airplane mode and turn off the Bluetooth function. Your battery will last longer, and you can still take photos!

UNPLUG, IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE

Unplug your headphones and enjoy Mother Nature. You need to be very alert to the sounds around you, and tuning in to nature could save your life.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH

Coloradoans are pretty proud of the elevation in their state, so most towns in Colorado have welcome signs that list the elevation instead of the population. Estes Park is at 7,522ft and Denver (The Mile High City) is at 5,280ft. In fact, Colorado has the highest mean altitude in the U.S. of 6,800ft.

TRAVELING IN NATURE

Elevations in Colorado range from 3,385ft above sea level on the Eastern Plains to more than 14,440ft at the top of Mt. Elbert in the Rockies. Generally, high altitude is anything more than 3,500ft above sea level.

A high-altitude environment is marked by decreased humidity and less atmospheric pressure (up to 40 percent less dense), which gives the impression of a lack of air to breathe.

GET USED TO IT

It takes the body time to acclimate to the altitude. Some people get altitude sickness and suffer from fatigue, decreased appetite, nausea, headache, or disturbed sleep. Age, weight, and level of fitness don't matter when it comes to altitude sickness.

Symptoms are often worse the second day, but end in four or five days. One should rest and drink extra water during the first two days at high altitude.

Symptoms can also be alleviated or prevented by avoiding caffeine and alcohol. Both cause dehydration, and the body processes alcohol differently at high altitude. If altitude sickness symptoms persist, see a doctor.



DRESS FOR SUCCESS

Dressing in layers year-round is the best way to adjust to the sudden changes in Colorado weather. Avoid cotton, especially during high-energy activities, as cotton retains moisture and that moisture causes chills.

The palms of our hands and the soles of our feet have more sweat glands than the rest of our body, therefore they sweat more. Carry thin gloves and extra non-cotton socks for outdoor activities.

Wear socks and shoes that are appropriate for the activity you are doing. Functional, yet hip, athletic clothes maintain your body's core temperature while you enjoy the outdoors and are perfect for dinner afterwards.

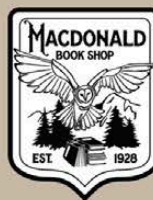
Wear a brimmed hat, and a bandana around the neck, to provide protection from the sun. A wool or fleece hat is nice for when the temps drop.

SNOW KIDDING!

It can snow somewhere in Colorado every month of the year. Be prepared in case you are driving or playing in that "somewhere." Weather can change quickly, so always carry a warming layer and rain jacket or shell.

In addition, it's a good idea to have extra clothing, plenty of water, and snacks in your car in case you are stopped by that summer snowstorm.

continued on page 22



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HIGH-ALTITUDE HINTS

Once the storm has cleared, still wait 30-45 minutes before resuming your activity. Lightning can strike up to 10 miles away from the storm.

DON'T DO IT

Don't drink the water from the clear mountain streams without treating or filtering the water first. Giardia, a microorganism in the feces of beaver, deer, and other mammals, can be present and cause debilitating diarrhea and vomiting. As clean as it looks, just be safe and don't drink it.

HANDS OFF!

It is illegal to pick wildflowers in Colorado. Picking flowers will kill them and not allow them to re-seed. Enjoy them in their natural setting. Please take only photos so that others may enjoy their beauty as well.

KEEP THEM WILD

This area is loaded with wildlife and birds. We are in their home and our actions affect how they live, and often how they die.

Besides bears, other animals like fox, coyote, raccoons, and birds can be attracted to human food and trash. Purposely trying to attract wild animals to get closer by enticing them with food is against the law. Animals that become dependent on human food will die when the humans leave. No matter how cute they are, don't feed them!

Elk are the unofficial mascot of Estes Park and can be seen all around town. If elk are crossing the road, stay in your car. And if there are elk causing a traffic jam (there's a really good chance you will experience an elk jam), be patient. Give the elk some room.

All mamas are protective of their young. Don't try to prove this fact wrong. You'd be surprised how fast large animals can move if they or their babies feel threatened.

CONT.

Be smart around wildlife, especially elk. Though grazing elk appear docile, don't try to move in close for a selfie! Only photograph them from a distance.

PROTECT YOUR PETS

The heat can be lethal for pets. Car temperatures rise quickly in the sun, even on cool days. Cracking the window will not prevent your pet from dying of heat exhaustion. Don't risk it.

You could also be ticketed for leaving a pet in your car too long and on hot days.

Always provide plenty of water during car trips.

LEAVE NOTHING BEHIND

All trash, including food scraps, empty cans, bottles, and any litter, especially used toilet paper, are ugly to see and dangerous to animals.

If you bring it in to an area, take it out! No exceptions.



Help keep our environment pristine for years to come by disposing of your litter properly. This includes toilet paper. Carry a portable waste or "WAG bag" (Waste Alleviation and Gelling Bag) for human waste and pack it out.

Dedicate a nylon stuff sack as your trash bag. It's easy to wash and reuse. Or, use a small ziplock bag for your trash and put that in a trash can at the end of your day.

If you come across litter while on the trail, please do us a favor and pack it out. Future visitors, wildlife, and locals will thank you!

continued on page 24



HUMIDITY VS TEMPERATURE

Humidity and temperature have a strong relationship. The water vapor (a form of gas) in the air regulates temperature and keeps the temperature from rising or dropping to extremes. Humidity is the amount of water vapor in the air.

Since Colorado is so dry (low humidity), our summer temperatures can therefore get quite high. Colorado's low humidity also makes the high and low temperatures very hard to predict. If a hot day is expected in July or August, and the humidity is extremely low, there really is no limit to how hot it could get. The average daytime temperature in Estes Park in July is 80 degrees.

LIGHTNING

The Colorado mountains can be electrifying. With the heat of the mountain air, thunderstorms and lightning are a common afternoon occurrence (but are possible at any time of day). Generally, the storms are fast and furious in the early afternoon and end as quickly as they begin. If you are caught in one, seek out a low-lying area, or shelter in a group of trees.

Lightning can be very dangerous, so check the weather forecast before you head outside. It's always best to start early for any outside activity. If you think there is lightning around, get to a lower elevation as quickly and safely as you can. Seek shelter in a building or hard-sided car.

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HIGH-ALTITUDE HINTS

EFFECTS OF HIGH ALTITUDE

Having less oxygen at this elevation can have a few other effects on the body.

You may find yourself peeing more. Yes, part of that comes from all the water you need to be drinking. Having less oxygen also causes the body to increase your urine output. Urinating helps your body rid itself of toxins.

Alcohol and coffee are diuretics, so for every alcoholic drink or coffee you have, match it with a glass of water.

High altitude can also make you feel nauseous. Eating complex carbs like oatmeal, sweet potatoes, or brown rice will help settle your tummy.

Bananas and avocados have needed potassium, an important mineral that helps many of our body's functions.

Iron helps deliver oxygen to tissues in your body such as lungs, heart, and muscles. Chicken, shellfish, and green veggies are good sources of iron.

DRYING YOU OUT

The skin is the body's largest organ. That includes the skin on the inside of our nose.

The drier air can contribute to nose bleeds. You may also find increased dryness inside your nostrils. To help, apply an ointment inside your nostrils to add some moisture. Coconut oil, shea butter, or petroleum jelly will do the trick.

Your skin could be the most affected, since you could get sun or windburned. Both are harsh on the skin and dry it out considerably. Your skin has a harder time healing at a higher altitude because of the added stress altitude puts on your body, mixed with the body's reduced ability to deliver oxygen. Dry skin and lips are a sign you are dehydrated.

TIPS: Put lotion on before you dry yourself off after a shower. This helps the lotion get a bit deeper into the skin.

Exfoliate dead skin and use super hydrating products to lock in moisture.

HYDRATE

Colorado's average humidity (measured at noon) is 38 percent, which is 50 percent less than at sea level. The lack of humidity means it's easier to become dehydrated, so drinking water, and lots of it, is essential. If the water in your body isn't replaced, your heart will work harder, causing you to fatigue more quickly.

Dehydration may also lead to confusion and altitude sickness. Start increasing your fluid intake (meaning water!) before starting any activity. We mean the day before. Don't wait until you are out on that big hike or horseback ride to start hydrating. If you are thirsty, it's too late—you are already dehydrated.

Interestingly, we lose 8oz of water a day from the soles of our feet alone. We also lose moisture from our body with each breath we exhale. The wind also pulls moisture from our body, which we need to replace. So drink up.

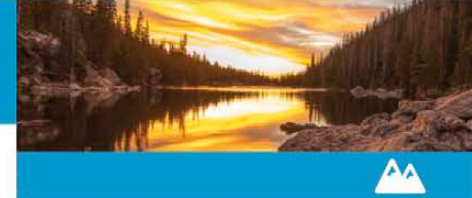
Always carry water. Adults need three to four quarts of water a day. It is better to take small sips at regular intervals than large gulps at one time.

We lose electrolytes, such as sodium, calcium, magnesium, and potassium, when we sweat. Replacing those electrolytes is extremely important.

TIP: Mix a package of electrolytes into a water bottle and alternate between that and plain water. Cucumbers are a great source of electrolytes. Throw slices into your water bottle.

Adding lemons or oranges slices to your water will add a lovely bit of citrus flavor.

Coconut water is great to drink as it is naturally rich in potassium to help with any muscle cramps you may have.



REJUVENATE

It's really important to restore and take some time to recover. One way to do this is by having a massage or skin treatment. A massage doesn't just feel good, it's really good for you and your health.

Massage therapy is one of the most effective, safe, and natural ways to treat many ailments. Skin treatments reduce any dead cells on the skin that block moisture. Treatments also help bring needed moisture back into the skin.

A massage can provide pain relief, increase relaxation, mobility, and circulation. Increasing the circulation and getting the blood flowing helps the body move toxins out of the body, an important part of recovery. Increased circulation also helps lower blood pressure.

Massage, bodywork, and spa treatments release neurotransmitters that help undo the effects of stress.

GO TO THE PROS

Estes Park has two unique spas that can help you rejuvenate and relax.

Elements of Touch Wellness Spa offers a wide variety of healing modalities from energizing foot massage to two-hour full body treatments, Ayurvedic body scrubs, detoxing Mud wraps, INFRARED sauna blankets to restorative facials. They also offer extended stays for healing retreats at their luxury home on grounds. **970-586-6597, ElementsofTouchEstesPark.com.**

The Qi Lounge Wellness Spa, located at the Estes Park Resort, offers massage therapy, facials, acupuncture, couples massage and more! Qi (pronounced "chee") is the vital life force that exists and circulates within each of us. **970-235-0056, TheQiLounge.com.** 🌱

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IDEAS FOR GREEN TRAVELING

BE A GOOD TRAVELER

Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park have more than four million visitors during the summer and fall months.

It's fun to feel the energy and see the excitement of folks who come here to hike, explore, and see this beautiful area.

One difference we face in this mountain community is the lack of some conveniences that larger cities have.

There is no rail service, so everything needs to be trucked either up or down a canyon. Traffic and weather can really affect when supplies and employees can arrive, or when trash can leave.

And, with the amount of wildlife here, we need to care and protect them as well.

How we travel and impact areas like Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park are really important. Thinking about being sustainable however we can does help.

Sustainable tourism is based on action, and action is based on values. Things may be a bit tougher or not as convenient while traveling, but these small extra steps will help. A sustainable vacation is one that generates a minimum impact on the environment and the community.

Sustainable travel is crucial and studies show that more and more people want to be mindful and sustainable when traveling.

This means taking full account of current and future economic, social, and environmental impacts. Also, behave and make choices that minimize negative impacts and maximize positive ones. The more good habits we can develop, even when traveling, the better off we will all be.

HERE ARE SOME IDEAS:

- Reduce the use or need for single-use plastics. An easy way to help is to bring your own shampoo and even soap. This will help hotels reduce the need to supply them.

DOING OUR PART

GuestGuide Publications is dedicated to being a green company.

- Printed material comes from a renewable resource. Paper is the most recycled material in North America.
- We print using soy-based ink which is low in VOC.
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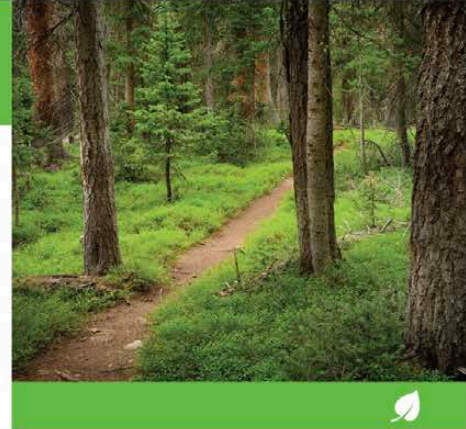
- Reuse your towel. Lodging properties have reduced the amount of daily maid service. The air is dry here so hanging your towel after each use will allow it to dry nicely.

- The water here tastes wonderful and is free of chemicals. Instead of buying bottled water, buy a water bottle and carry it around with you. If you need to buy bottled water, buy larger containers.

- Park in the parking garage and reduce driving around. The paved paths are really nice to walk. Take the town's trolley when possible.

- Be aware of wildlife on the roads. Elk can literally swarm an intersection, or an entire herd can cross the road stopping traffic. This is all part of the personality of Estes Park. Just sit back and enjoy the "elk jam."

- Bring your own bags. Colorado law requires all variety of stores to charge for bags.



WHEN CAMPING OR HIKEING

Dispose of all food scraps in the trash. Carry it out if there is not a trash bin near you. Food scraps, even really small ones, hurt the fragile environment and wildlife.

Carry out all used toilet paper.

When camping, you can skip using toothpaste. The act of brushing alone is what cleans your teeth. Spitting out toothpaste onto the ground is harmful to plants and animals. 🌱



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

HOW TO PAY FOR PARKING

From May 24 to Oct. 20, 2024, parking in eight downtown public parking areas requires payment. The cost is \$2 per hour between the hours of 10am and 5pm daily.

Payment can be made via kiosk (located in the paid parking areas). The kiosks take both cash and credit cards. You will be asked to type in your license plate at the kiosk. There is no ticket to display on your dash.

You can also pay via the ParkMobile app (available for Apple and Android devices).

You may also use the text to park option by texting the word "Park" to 77223.

To use the mobile option, set up a free account before you arrive. When you park, find the sign with your "zone number," select the amount of time you want to park, and check out.

You have the option with both the kiosk and app to get a text message when your time is about to run out. The app is handy and is also used in other towns and states.

PARKING AROUND TOWN

Traffic can get very congested in our small town during high season (late spring, summer, and fall), so here's what you need to know to park like a pro.

The town has a variety of parking options to meet your needs: free, paid, electric vehicle, recreational vehicle, motorcycle, and ADA accessible.

A free parking structure is located near the intersection of US Hwy 36 and US Hwy 34, across the river from the Estes Park Visitor Center, only a few blocks from downtown via the Riverwalk.

To park right in the core of downtown, the town offers both paid parking and free options. From May 24 to Oct. 20, parking is \$2 per hour between 10am-5pm daily in paid lots.

FREE RIDE

The town has a free seasonal transit system which serves more than 50 stops. All town trolleys have a wheelchair lift and bike racks.

The town's charming (and fully-electric!) trolley picks up right at the visitor center every 20-30 minutes from 7:30am to 9:30pm daily, May 24-Oct. 20, 2024.

Daily trolley service on the Red Route (which travels up and down Elkhorn Dr.) runs 7:30am-9:30pm daily May 24-Oct. 20 with full service on all other routes beginning July 1. Please note that all routes are subject to service changes and updates.

Visit [Estes.org/Transit](https://www.estes.org/transit) for the latest information on the town's free seasonal transit service (see the printed schedule and map in our center foldout).

DID YOU KNOW?

Your parking fees may be expended only on the administration, operation, and enhancement of parking management and complementary transit and alternative transportation services? This means your parking fee helps fund the shuttle system and future parking area construction.

Those with valid ADA credentials always park free in any space. The library, post office, and Town Hall have free, time-limited spaces.

Near real-time occupancy information can be found by visiting Estes.mpark.io from any device.

For information on all of the town's parking options visit Estes.org/Parking.

NO RIDE SHARE

Estes Park does not have ride shares like Uber or Lyft, however there are a few other choices for those who would like someone else to do the driving.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Major road improvements in Estes Park will improve safety, infrastructure, and aid traffic patterns.

• **Downtown Estes Loop** is part of a Federal Lands Access Program.



Improvements consist of a 1.1-mile loop of Elkhorn Avenue, Moraine Avenue, and Riverside Drive.

The goal is to reduce the impacts of summer traffic, replace aging infrastructure, and improve safety. Traffic impacts will vary based on the time of year, with fewer impacts during the summer. The project should be complete in 2024. For details, visit DowntownEstesLoop.com.

• Crews will be **resurfacing** four miles of roadway and providing other safety improvements along US Hwy 34 and US Hwy 36 near the visitor center. The anticipated completion date of the project is fall 2024. CoDot.gov/Projects/us34us36resurfacing.

continued on page 30



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KNOW BEFORE YOU GO CONT.



ESTES PARK VISITOR CENTER

The knowledgeable team at the visitor center can help answer your questions.

The visitor center is open Mon-Sat, 9am-5pm and Sun, 10am-4pm and located just east of the intersection of US Hwys 34 and 36.

970-577-9900 or 800-44-ESTES or VisitorServices@Estes.org.

Free parking is available in the lot at the visitor center or the parking garage. There are also restrooms, water fountains, and souvenirs.

There are a few picnic tables near the river, perfect for a nice stop.

FREE OUTDOOR WIFI

Access the free "Library WiFi" network, 24/7, from the downtown municipal parking lots surrounding the Estes Valley Library, east of Bond Park. Relax and connect inside your vehicle, or enjoy outdoor seating.

Free charging outlets span the library's front entrance, and the northwest corner's WiFi Garden. No password is required, and there is no time limit.

The town's free "Wapiti WiFi" network spans the majority of the downtown area. WiFi calling is a great alternative when the mobile networks are near capacity. No password is required.

EV CHARGING STATIONS

The Town of Estes Park offers both Level II and Level III DC fast-charging stations for public use, open on a first-come, first-served basis. EV parking spaces are subject to the posted time limits.

The stations are owned and operated by ChargePoint, the Level 2 units are free (but time restricted to 4 hours while actively charging) and the Level 3 units have a fee of \$0.25 per kilowatt and \$0.20 per minute. Install the ChargePoint application and register for a free account with them.

Locations are:

- On the east side of the free parking structure (Level 2).
- On the north side of the Town Hall parking lot, 335 E. Elkhorn Ave. (Level 2)
- Estes Park Visitor Center, 500 Big Thompson Ave. (Level 3)
- There are Tesla fast charging stations at The Stanley, Sweet Basilico, and at National Park Village.

Note: There are no charging stations within Rocky Mountain National Park so be fully charged before heading into the park.

PUBLIC RESTROOMS

There are public restrooms at the Estes Park Visitor Center, in Town Hall (across from Bond Park), in Riverside Park (near the playground), in Performance Park, near the waterwheel (by Spruce Drive), and in the parking lot near Full Throttle Distillery.

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! GET ALERTS! EMERGENCIES HAPPEN, EVEN WHEN YOU'RE ON VACATION. VISITORS TO ESTES PARK CAN STAY INFORMED OF THE LOCAL SITUATION (FIRES, FLOODS, ROAD CLOSURES) BY TEXTING **GO EPALERTS** TO **888-777**. Your cell phone number will automatically be added to the database that will be used if the Estes Park Emergency Communications Center sends out emergency mass notifications during the following two-week period. The alert expires after two weeks. We encourage you to be in the know.

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KNOW BEFORE YOU GO CONT.



BUY IT WHERE YOU BURN IT

Where you get your firewood can have long-term effects on the area. Wood from different areas can have invasive species in it. These species, whether it's an insect or a disease in the tree, can then be spread to this area.

Buy and burn firewood locally. Do your best to buy only what you'll need for your stay, and burn it all before you depart.

Firewood is available at convenience stores in Estes Park or at your campground.

Note: Vacation rentals do not allow outdoor fires (fire pits, campfires, etc.). Some offer gas grills for cooking. Check with your rental property for their options.

DID YOU KNOW?

The East Troublesome Fire started on the west side of the Continental Divide near the Town of Kremmling on October 14, 2020.

The fire at one point moved at a rate of 6,000 acres (or 9,375 square miles) per hour.

The fire then jumped the Continental Divide, being one of only three fires in history to ever do so, and threatened the entire town of Estes Park.

More than 400 homes and 193,892 acres were destroyed making it the second largest fire in Colorado history.

The fire was human-caused.

GO "ALL IN" FOR FIRE SAFETY

Wildfire is a very real risk every day in our community. Our entire town was evacuated in 2020 from the second largest wildfire in Colorado history, making it clear that wildfire prevention and preparedness is everyone's responsibility.

We're all in this together, and visitors, residents, and business owners all play a vital role in keeping the Estes Valley safe from fire.

Visitors can go "All In" for fire safety by complying with fire restrictions and burn bans, only lighting campfires when permitted (in designated fire rings), and only using gas fire appliances in any short-term rental or lodging.

Visitors can also contribute to our community's fire safety by refraining from smoking, discarding smoking materials in designated safe containers, and following all operating instructions when using indoor wood-burning fireplaces.

Everyone spending time in the Estes Valley should know at least two routes out of town, as evacuations are just one of many tools the Estes Valley Fire District and their agency partners may use to keep everyone safe from wildfires, floods, or other natural hazards.

Visitors are also strongly encouraged to sign up for emergency alerts on a two-week visitor pass by texting **GO EPALERTS** to **888-777**.

DROWN OUT CAMPFIRES!

Knowing how to build and start a campfire is important. What's more impressive is knowing how to put a campfire out correctly so it's really out. Drown it with water until it's soup. Even more important—recognize when not to start a campfire at all. Illegal or unattended campfires are often the cause of wildfires.

In the U.S., nearly 9 out of 10 wildfires are human-caused and can be avoided. Don't be the one to cause a fire. 🌲



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KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

OFF-LEASH DOG PARK

Dogs are able to run, play on obstacle course features, and take a dip in the water at this dog park located at the corner of Community Drive and US Hwy 36 in Stanley Park. One of the fenced areas is designated for smaller dogs.

Please clean up after your dog and make sure your dog is well-mannered.

TIPS FOR PUPS AT ALTITUDE

Estes Park and the surrounding area is right at the high-altitude range of 5,000-11,500ft. Like us, dogs need time to adjust to this altitude.

Don't just dive in with a longer hike. Start with short gradual hikes or walks and adjust based on how your dog is handling the altitude. Signs of altitude sickness in dogs is lethargy, dizziness, vomiting, and/or diarrhea.

KEEP THEM HYDRATED

Hydration is key when it comes to preventing altitude sickness. Always carry a pet bowl and plenty of water with you, and offer your pet water as often as you can.

Tip: Each time you take a sip of water, offer one to your dog. Drinking lots of water will help both of you stay hydrated.

Again, like humans, you can give your pup electrolytes. One idea is chicken bone broth made especially for dogs (don't give them human broth due to the salt and onions).

HEAT KILLS

Leaving a pet in a car is not only deadly for your furry friend, but it will get you a ticket. Car temperatures rise quickly in the sun, even on cool days. Cracking the window will not prevent your pet from dying of heat exhaustion.

SHUTTLES

Only registered service animals are allowed on town shuttles.

DOG-FRIENDLY TIPS

ELK AND DOGS DON'T MIX

Elk can be very aggressive, particularly when protecting their young, or during the rut. Humans and dogs both have been seriously injured or killed by getting too close to these beautiful animals.

PROTECT THEIR PAWS

The cement and rocks can get too hot for your dog's paws. Anything too hot for the back of your hand is way too hot for your dog's paws. You should also check your dog's paws for signs of discomfort more often than you'd think. The rocky terrain can cut or wear down their pads.

DOGS IN ROCKY MTN NATL PARK

Activities with pets are very limited within any national park. Dogs are prohibited in the backcountry and on any trail.

They must be on a leash, no longer than 6ft, when outside of your car. They may be walked on the roads or in parking lots and may accompany you in the campgrounds.

NASTY BITES

Dogs run around in grasses where ticks love to hang out. Dogs can get Lyme disease from a tick. There are several options to help prevent ticks and fleas such as oral chews, collars with medication to repel ticks, and topical treatments. Talk with your vet about the best option for your dog.

DINING OUT

Colorado Statute allows dogs in an outdoor dining area or patio.

However, restaurants are allowed to say no to having dogs on their patios. It's best to ask the restaurant their policy before planning to dine with your dog.

Dogs need to be leashed at all times, well-behaved, and are not allowed on chairs, benches, or furniture.

Some retail shops welcome leashed and well-behaved dogs in their stores.



BEST DOG-FRIENDLY HIKES

We have a good list of places to hike with your furry friend (see page 71).

GO WITH THE PROS

Estes Park Pet Supply carries all sorts of pet supplies, leashes, food, and treats. Located in upper Stanley Village, **970-586-8442**.

The Estes Paw Company has house-made treats your dog will love. 137 W. Elkhorn, **214-789-7920**.



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Traveling with our furry friends has become more popular the past few years. Here are some tips for traveling to Estes Park with your pup.

The town of Estes Park has a leash law. Your dog, no matter how well-behaved, needs to be on a leash at all times when in town or on a walk.

Make sure your dog has a name tag and phone number to call in case they are separated from you. You also need to carry their vaccination records. Some lodging properties may ask to see them.

To help your dog settle more easily into unfamiliar lodging, bring a favorite blanket or dog bed with you.

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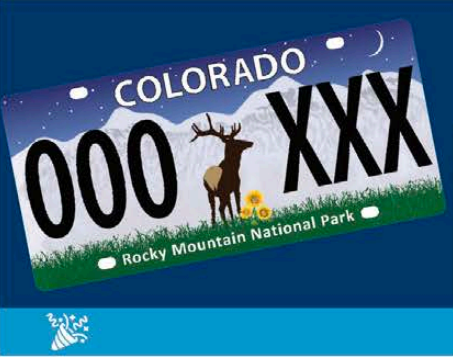
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I DIDN'T KNOW THAT!

In order to get this popular plate, a \$30 donation goes directly to the Rocky Mountain Nature Conservancy. 100% of this donation goes to the Conservancy's High School Leadership Corps.

This unique program provides high school students with an immersive experience in Rocky Mountain National Park. The students participate in service-learning projects, development opportunities, and educational programming.

The Conservancy hopes this experience will advance the understanding of the natural world, promote professional growth, and foster civic engagement in the next generation of public land stewards. RMConservancy.org.

CHANGING COLORS

Scientists believe receptors in the retina of the ptarmigan, snowshoe hare, and weasel send signals to the brain when the days grow shorter in the fall telling them to reduce pigment in their fur and feathers.

It's called photoperiod and helps the ptarmigan and hare to hide from predators like hawks (and weasels) and allows the weasel to hide from their prey like mice, hare, and ptarmigan.

Just as the mountain lion can take down prey much larger than itself, so too can the weasel. The short-tailed weasel is the only species known as the ermine in its white winter coat. Climate change and lack of snow may adversely affect these animals as their natural physiology could be altered.

HYDRO-POWER

The massive electrical transmission towers found along US Hwy 36 and Prospect Mountain are part of the Big Thompson Water Project. They are transmitting electricity out of Estes Park produced by six separate hydro-powered turbine plants.

This is clean energy to help with peak load in the western United States.

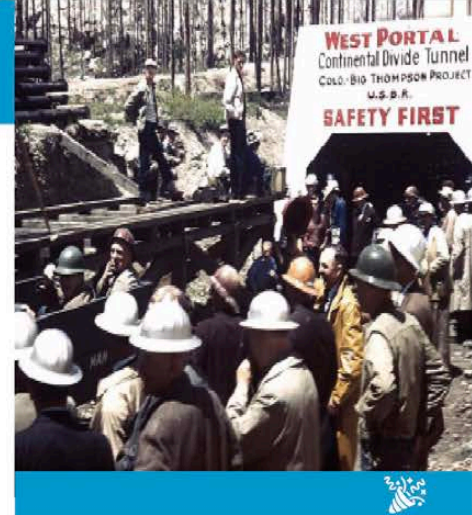
THE FLOW OF WATER

Water and water rights are an important part of Colorado. The need to somehow get water from the mountains to the Great Plains became apparent as early as the late 1880s.

The Big Thompson Water Project is a federal water diversion project designed to send water from the headwaters of the Colorado River to the Front Range and beyond.

Between 1938 and 1949 the Bureau of Reclamation built the Alva B. Adams tunnel 13 miles long under Rocky Mountain National Park.

The tunnel allows water to flow freely almost 1,000ft in elevation from Grand Lake to Mary's Lake in Estes Park and then down 2,000ft more through more tunnels to 14 cities and over a million people on the eastern front range.



Before the mighty Colorado River flows even 20 miles, part of it is diverted east.

This is just a part of the allocation for the Colorado River. More water is distributed from the Colorado River's 250,000-square-mile basin than from any other river basin in the world.

Every drop of water in the river is fully allocated. 🌱

A PLATE CLOSE TO OUR HEARTS

Colorado has 218 license plate designs. Most of them benefit a cause or an organization. In order to get one of these plates, you first have to register your car in Colorado, and then make a donation to the cause you want to support.

One of the plates that is close to the hearts here in Estes Park is the Rocky Mountain National Park plate. This plate is currently the ninth most popular plate in the state with more than 12,000 folks promoting Rocky on their cars.

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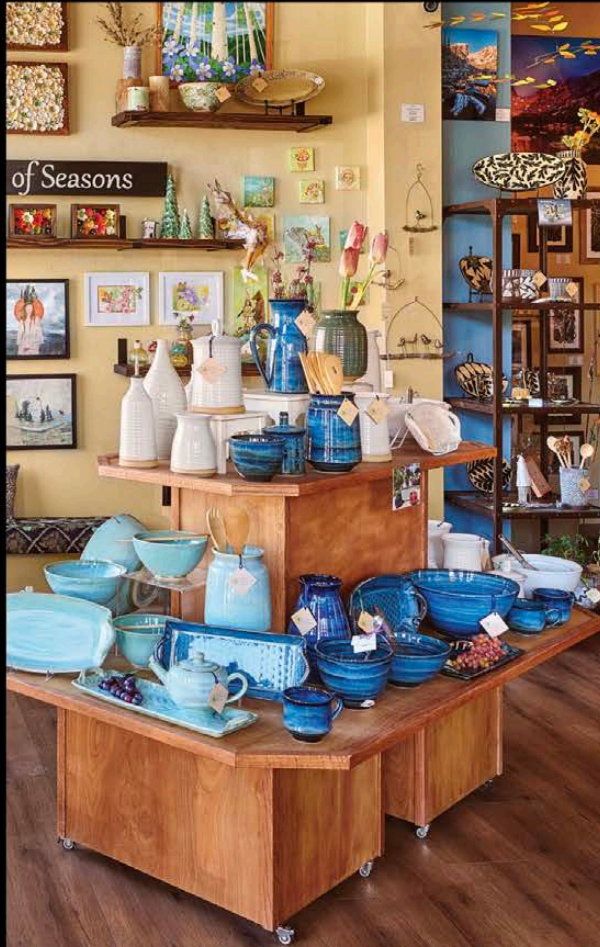
970-685-8818
138 Moraine Ave



Aspen and Evergreen Gallery

Handmade Art From
More Than 90 Estes Park
& Colorado Artists

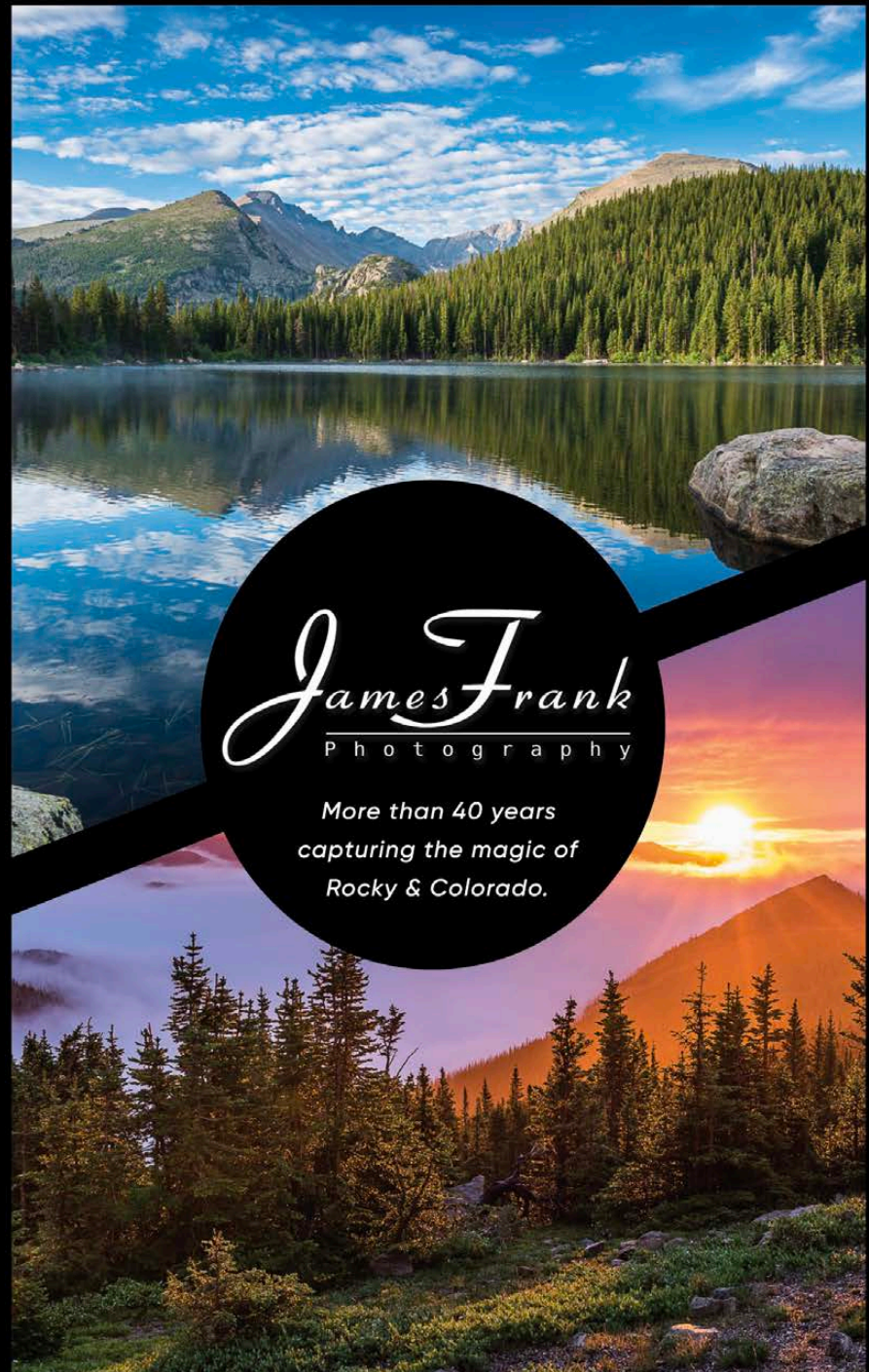
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capturing the magic of
Rocky & Colorado.

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ART OF ESTES PARK

Featuring paintings of Rocky Mountain scenery by award-winning local painter Margaret Jensen and unique Colorado and Estes Park cityscape and landscape paintings by classically-trained Russian artist, Stanislav Sidorov. Look for the animal-themed recycled metal sculptures in the window. **970-577-8100, EarthwoodGalleries.com.**

Inspired Artisan Market & Studio showcases more than 100 Colorado Artists selling jewelry, paintings, stained glass, and so much more. The studio also offers classes for artists of all levels, Art Kits with pre-packaged materials and instructions, and art supplies. **970-685-8818, InspiredArtExperiences.com.**

Patterson Glassworks Studio & Gallery has their studio right in their store. See how each piece is made, the types of glass used, and the variety of pieces that are created. Shop in their store for all hand-made items such as glasses, dishware, and other decorative options. **970-586-8619, GlassworksofEstesPark.com.**

Seed & Sage Studio is a creative community gathering place where artists and all people can connect, learn, work, grow, and link artists and community members.

The studio offers community celebrations, technique classes, business sustainability workshops, coaching in individual and group settings, and many more creative growth opportunities. **970-689-7655, SeedandSageStudio.com**

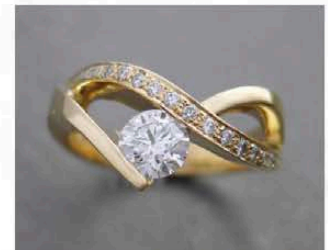
For more than 45 years the **Village Goldsmith** team has created unique, timeless, and sentimental pieces. Find one-of-a-kind fine jewelry, or design your own. Their Estes Park Range Ring is 14K yellow and white gold with the entire front range encompassing the band. Add engraving or accent your favorite peak with a diamond. **970-586-5659, VillageGoldsmith.com.**

continued on page 42



Village Goldsmith, Inc

48 Years of Brilliance



Nestled in the Estes Park valley, at the base of the Rocky Mountains, our custom studio has been crafting unique fine jewelry since 1976. Work directly with our artists to bring your designs to life.



VillageGoldsmith.com • 235 W. Elkhorn Ave. • 970-586-5659



Since the late 1800s, artists have been inspired by the beauty of the Estes Valley and this entire area. Today, the Estes Park art scene is alive with local and regional artists creating works to enjoy and collect at the many fine galleries and shops in town.

Many galleries participate in First Friday art walks offering live music and artist demonstrations. Check their websites for information.

GALLERY AND GIFT SHOPS

Aspen and Evergreen Gallery is a unique shopping experience with handmade gifts and one-of-a-kind decorative and functional art. Home to more than 90 Estes Park and Colorado artists, they offer pottery, jewelry, paintings, furniture, blown glass, woodwork, textile art, gourd art, metal art, and featuring photography by Dawn Wilson and James Frank. Open all year. **970-586-4355, AspenAndEvergreen.com.**

Visit **Earthwood Artisans** to find American-made pottery, fine woodworking, jewelry, photography, art glass, metal wall art, wind chimes, and much more. They feature one of the largest selections of pottery made in Colorado, as well as locally-made fused glass depicting seasonal landscapes. Along with their sister gallery below, they represent 250 artists. **970-586-2151, EarthwoodGalleries.com.**

Earthwood Collections represents a wide selection of fine art and blown glass by Colorado and national artists.



ART OF ESTES PARK CONT.

ART AROUND TOWN

While walking around Estes Park, you will see many forms of art from many talented artists like murals, bronze sculptures, photography, or Artist Monte Michener's life-size horses made from found materials seen along the river on Moraine Avenue at Elements of Touch. These pieces of art represent Estes Park's history and the personality of the area.

ARTIST DISPLAYS IN LOCAL BUSINESSES

Many of the local businesses display and sell local artist's work. Look on the walls of Kind Coffee and the craft beverage establishments, as they all have a rotating gallery of many local artists and jewelry for sale. Keep your eyes open as local art is all around you.

STUDIO TOUR

The best way to learn about the local artists is to visit them in person where they are creating their art by attending the **8th Annual Estes Park Art Studio Tour** held August 17-18.

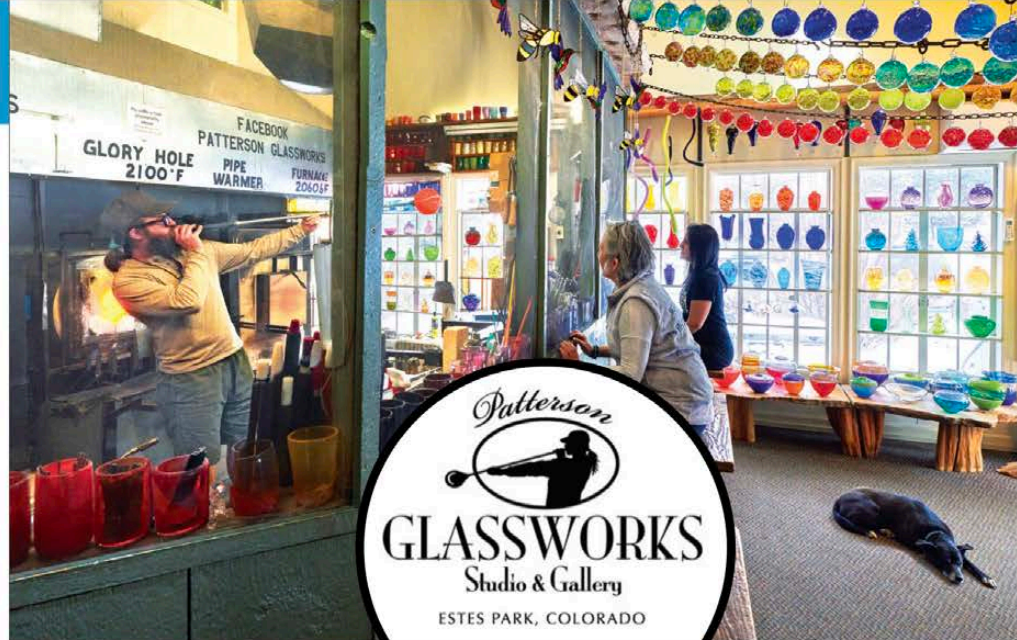
Nineteen local artists will open their home studios to demonstrate their fine art and craft process including: woodturning, sculpture, furniture, ceramics, oil painting, photography, pastels, stained glass, mosaic, sacred garden sculptures, and more.

This is a fun event as you can pick which studio and artist to visit. Choose the route that best serves you and visit one studio or thirteen. Make a weekend out of it and enjoy the tour all weekend. Some locations are right off the highway, others are up a dirt road. The best part about our tour is that everything is within a 10-mile radius.

Go to EPStudioTour.com for details and their interactive map.

COOL ART EVENTS

We have listed all the many wonderful art events in our Calendar of Events section, pages 88-101. 📌



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PHOTOGRAPHERS

Award-winning photographer **Dawn Wilson** sells fine art prints of Colorado's wildlife and wild lands. Or book a tour with her to learn how to capture your own stunning image that you will treasure for a lifetime. **970-567-6109, DawnWilsonPhotography.com.**

Visit the **Images of RMNP** in downtown Estes Park, where you'll find stunning artwork of Rocky Mountain National Park. You'll also find Erik Stensland's photo-filled award-winning books, including his latest, *The Journey Beyond: Learning to Live Beautifully in a Troubled World.* **970-586-4352, ImagesofRMNP.com.**

Take home a memorable image from **James Frank Photography**. Specializing in the Rocky Mountains, James has created images of Colorado for more than 40 years. Visit Aspen and Evergreen Gallery, located on Elkhorn Avenue, or order online by visiting JamesFrank.com.





THINGS TO DO

ESTES PARK MUSEUM

Make the **Estes Park Museum** your destination to explore an authentic 1909 Model EX Stanley Steamer Runabout automobile, view work by local artists, and interact in the High Country Hangout family space to learn the intriguing history of Estes Park.

Step outside the Main Gallery to discover the 1908 Cobb-Macdonald cabin and the Historic Boyd Building that hosts temporary exhibits. Open year-round, Wednesday-Saturday, 10am-4pm. Free. **970-586-6256, Estes.org/Museum.**

MACGREGOR RANCH MUSEUM

History never gets old at **MacGregor Ranch**. Homesteaded in the early 1870s, this ranch is the last remaining and longest continually-operating cattle ranch in the area.

Tour the museum with an amazing docent or opt for the new audio tour option. This tour will take you through the 1896 home of the MacGregor family and its immediate outbuildings, some of the oldest buildings on the ranch. Immerse yourself in the history of one of the earliest families in the Estes Valley, and how they facilitated many avenues of growth for the town and other influential figures in the area: F.O. Stanley, Lord Dunraven, Alva Adams, and more.

Enjoy original artwork and displays crafted with authentic pieces owned by the MacGregors.

For ranch, outdoor, and history lovers alike, stay a bit longer and book your two-hour tour, which includes visiting chicken coops, barns, and stables further into the historic district of the ranch. This option is by reservation only. **970-586-3749, MacGregorRanch.org.**

DID YOU KNOW?

The **Estes Park High School Band** has been a state finalist in Colorado Bandmasters Association Field Marching Competition for 27 consecutive years (except for the COVID year).

During this incredible run, the band has **won the State Championship in their division six times**. This success is directly related to the quality and dedication of student musicians and the support of the band parents, school staff, and administrators.

These competitions are held about 300 miles away. Their primary fundraiser to pay for trips, uniforms, and instruments is paid parking at events such as the Scottish-Highland Festival and Frozen Dead Guy Days.

GET SCHOOLED

LULA DORSEY MUSEUM

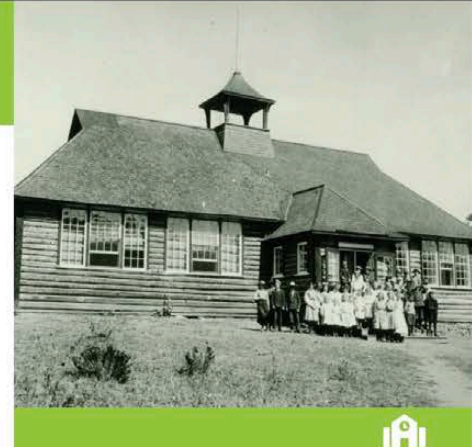
This museum includes the historic main lodge and three cabins showing the history of the YMCA of the Rockies. **970-586-3341 x1136, YMCARockies.org/News/Article/Lula-Dorsey-Museum.**

ENOS MILLS CABIN MUSEUM

A short nature trail describing native flora leads you to the original homestead cabin built by 15-year-old Enos A. Mills in 1885. On the National Register of Historic Places, the museum is privately owned and operated by two of Enos' descendants, Elizabeth and Eryn Mills. Open year-round by appointment. **970-586-4706.**

LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES

Look for the cute birdhouse-style libraries around town filled with books. Take a book or leave a book. No library card is required to borrow a book.



LOCAL BOOK SHOPS

Macdonald Book Shop, located downtown, carries books written by Enos Mills (rare finds you can't buy just anywhere) and a large selection of books about the area. Open daily.

Cliffhanger Used Books features thousands of gently-used books, DVDs, and CDs. All proceeds benefit the library. Cliffhanger is open daily and is located next to the post office. 🌱

MACGREGOR RANCH MUSEUM

30 MIN MUSEUM AUDIO

1 HOUR MUSEUM TOUR

2 HOUR MUSEUM & BARN

Step into the Home of Three Generations of Pioneers

BOOK NOW

— XIX —

📞 970-586-3749 🌐 MacGregorRanch.org 📍 180 MacGregor Lane



HISTORY

In the early 1900s, those who were lobbying for this area to become a national park thought Congress might be more inclined to do so if area peaks and landmarks were named by the Native Americans who once lived here.

Today, Rocky Mountain National Park has one of the greatest concentrations of Native American place names in the United States.

A FEW FIRSTS

In 1859, the first documented white men, Joel Estes and his son Milton, made their way towards a high point that looked down into a lush valley.

Estes thought the valley held promise as a cattle ranch, so in 1863 he moved his family near what is now Estes Park.

One of the visitors to the Estes cabin was William Byers, publisher of the *Rocky Mountain News*, a prominent newspaper in Denver that ran from 1859 to 2009, and one of Colorado's longest running businesses.

Byers came from Denver in August 1864 with several companions, including John Wesley Powell, to climb Longs Peak. Powell and Byers were most likely the first white men to reach the summit of that high peak. Byers reported about his journey to his *Rocky Mountain News* readers and named the mountain valley after his host Joel Estes.

In 1873, Anna Dickenson and Isabella Bird both climbed Longs Peak, making them one of the first documented white women to do so.

Large cattle ranches were established in the 1870s by Horace Ferguson, Abner Sprague, William James, and Alexander Quiner MacGregor.

In 1904, F.O. Stanley purchased an easement from the MacGregors to lay a steel pipe from the Black Canyon Creek to his home and eventually the Stanley Hotel for running water. The Stanley Hotel was one of the first luxury hotels in the area to have running water.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF GOLD

The main economy for Estes Park was tourism, and FO Stanley was instrumental in bringing tourists to the area. He originally came to Estes Park for fresh mountain air to treat his tuberculosis.

He was so grateful for how the mountains improved his health that he invested the rest of his life and a considerable amount of money to help the town.

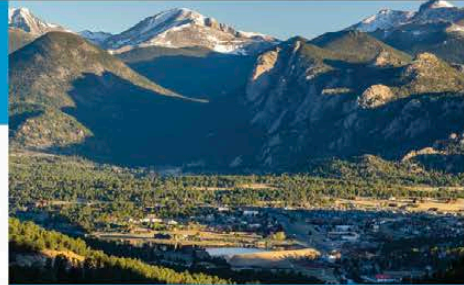
In 1909, Stanley built a luxurious hotel for vacationing Easterners. There was no train service to Estes Park, so Stanley ran a fleet of 13 Stanley Steamers from the nearest train station in Loveland up the Big Thompson Canyon, now US Hwy 34. He also ran Steamers from the railroad depot in Lyons on what is now US Hwy 36.

ALL IN A NAME

A young army officer named Stephen Long named the 14,259ft **Longs Peak** in 1820. He gazed at it from the Front Range and never ventured into the mountains.

Mt. Meeker, second in size to Longs Peak, is named for Nathan Meeker, who came west in 1869 to establish a farming community named for his boss, Horace Greeley.

Frederick Chapin (who **Mount Chapin** is named for) named **Hallett Peak** in honor of William L. Hallett. Hallett was the first to reach its peak in the 1870s. Hallett, an avid climber, was one of the first Colorado men to climb mountains for pure enjoyment.



PARK VS PARK VS PARK

Rocky Mtn Natl Park is a national park defined as an area set aside for the preservation of the natural environment.

A large opening created by glacial activity is also a park (Moraine Park).

The town of Estes Park is located in a valley, or park, and named for the first settler of the area.

FRONT RANGE

Colorado has seven primary mountain ranges. One of these ranges is **The Front Range**. This range is more than 300 miles long and extends north into Wyoming and includes Longs Peak, all the way south to Pikes Peak outside of Colorado Springs.

Because the cities of Fort Collins, Denver, and Colorado Springs all look at this incredible mountain range, these cities, including all their suburbs, are referred to as The Front Range Urban Corridor or simply The Front Range.

So when someone says they live on the "Front Range," they are most likely referring to living in one of those cities and not on top of one of the mountains. ⚡



THE EARLY DAYS

Estes Park's history dates back more than 10,000 years. Prehistoric people, and later, Native Americans, would migrate here to hunt for big game and gather certain plants.

Archaeologists have uncovered game drive walls that were used by prehistoric peoples and Native Americans in the alpine tundra above Trail Ridge Road. The Arapaho Indians came to this area for hunting and would migrate from the eastern plains to the west side up this valley. Old Fall River Road follows one of their trails.

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"Then & Now is a delightful glimpse into the past. If you love Estes Park and RMNP, I am certain you will love this book."
- Erik Stensland
Award-Winning Photographer & Artist

Available at Macdonald Book Shop, Trends at the Park, Peak's Hallmark, Chrysalis at the Stanley, Rocky Mountain Conservancy, Stanley Home Museum & Amazon.com

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ESTES PARK MUSEUM

Unwinding History



KIDS LOVE ESTES!

PAVED PATH AROUND THE LAKE

Lake Estes has a paved path that circles the lake. There are access points in several locations.

The south side, next to US Hwy 36, has picnic tables great for a meal outside. There is a \$5 per day parking fee for this area.

A good option is to park in the parking garage and walk the path near the golf course. Birds love this area. This can be a good out-and-back walk.

Estes Park Mountain Shop rents strollers and jogging strollers. **970-586-6548**, **EstesParkMountainShop.com**.

The four-mile paved bike path around Lake Estes is perfect for a family bike ride (watch for other users and dog walkers).

On the south shores along US Hwy 36, the path branches under the highway to the south and through Stanley Park, past the dog park and the ball fields for another .7 miles.

Estes Park Mountain Shop rents kid's trailers. They are located right off the path so there is easy access.

TRY THE "Y"

YMCA of the Rockies offers activities for everyone's idea of adventure. Try the new aerial challenge course or two-story indoor climbing wall, indoor swimming pool, guided hikes, mini-golf, disc golf, craft and design center, and much more. The Y also offers an American Camping Association accredited kids' day camp facilitated by trained counselors. If you're not staying on-grounds in YMCA lodging or are not a member of YMCA of the Rockies, purchase a day pass at the Boone Family Mountain Center, Sweet Memorial Program Building, or the Administration Building. \$29 for adults, \$14 for children (6-12), and five and under are free. **970-586-3341**, **YMCARockies.org**.

continued on page 50



NATURAL ZOO

Estes Park is the ideal place to teach children to respect wildlife, keep a safe distance, and not to feed that cute chipmunk begging at the picnic table. Kids should learn not to pick the wildflowers (it's illegal) and resist the temptation to load their pockets with pretty rocks.

FAMILY FUN

Energetic kids (and adults) will get an adrenaline rush at **Estes Park Ride-A-Kart** with bumper boats, two miniature golf courses, go-karts, batting cages, extreme bungee trampoline, bumper kars, water wars, arcade, and Casey's Train for the little ones. **970-586-6495**, **RideAKart.com**.

DANGLE FROM A ROPE

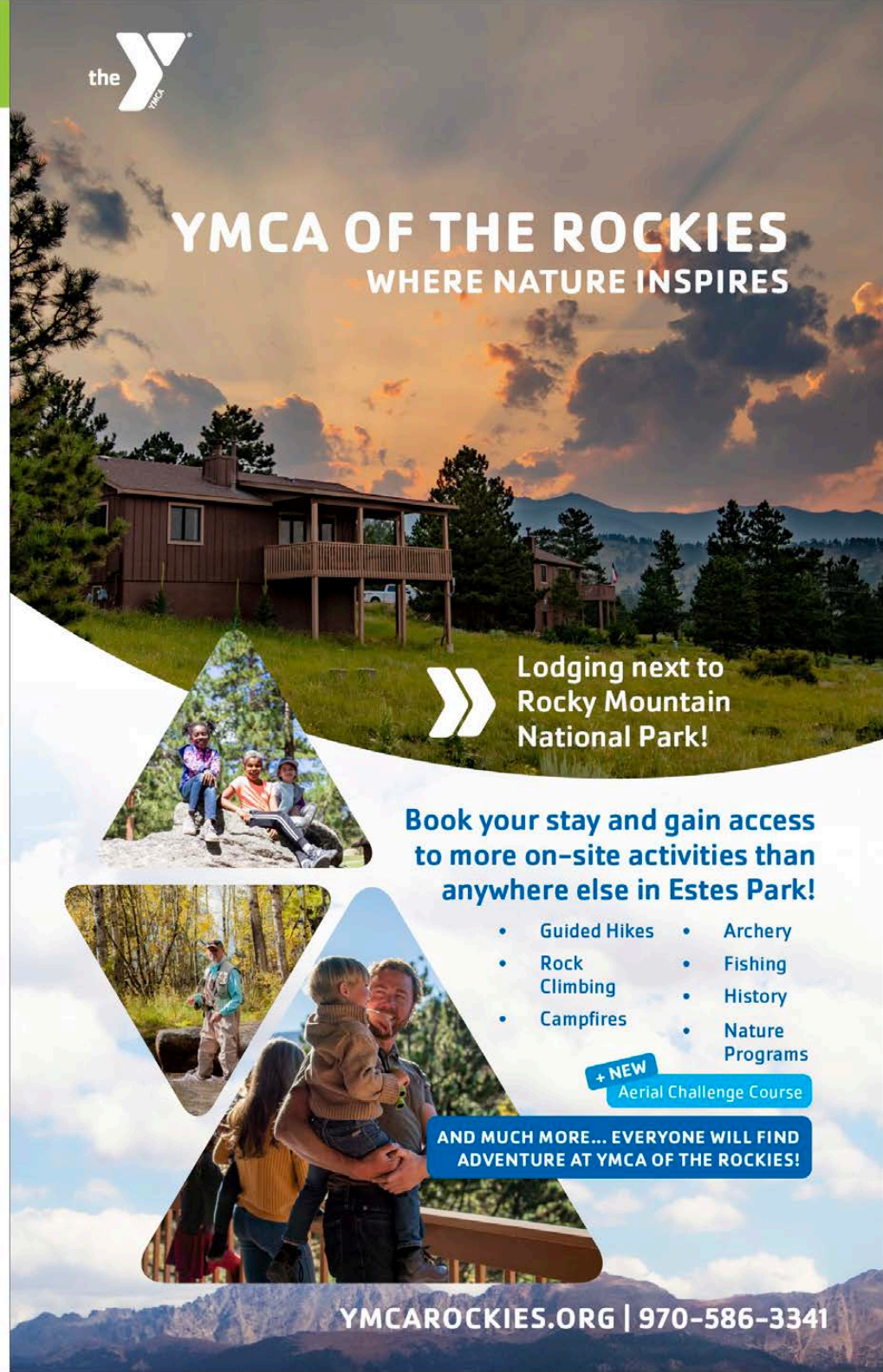
Introduce kids to rock climbing in the safety of an indoor gym at the **Estes Park Mountain Shop**, one of the nation's best small climbing gyms with 4,500 square feet of climbing terrain. Future climbers age five and over are welcome. Open daily 8am-8pm. **970-586-6548**, **EstesParkMountainShop.com**.

GET THEM HOOKED

Kids love to fish! Pick up gear and licenses (ages 16-64) at **Estes Park Mountain Shop**, **970-586-6548**, **EstesParkMountainShop.com**.



YMCA OF THE ROCKIES WHERE NATURE INSPIRES



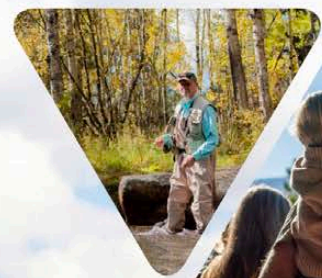
Lodging next to Rocky Mountain National Park!



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- Campfires
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+ NEW
Aerial Challenge Course



AND MUCH MORE... EVERYONE WILL FIND ADVENTURE AT YMCA OF THE ROCKIES!

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KIDS LOVE ESTES!

BIKE PARK

The bike park at Stanley Park includes a half mile of skills loops ranging from beginner to advanced incorporating both man-made and natural riding features.

There are also pump tracks consisting of dirt and paved sections that cover about a third of a mile.

A perimeter track around Stanley Park connects the courses. Runners, dog walkers, and snowshoers enjoy this park. Proper safety equipment is required. Open sunrise to sunset, located at 380 Community Drive next to the dog park.

LITTLE ARTISTS

For a creative indoor activity, **Inspired Artisan Market & Studio** has Art Kits that are fun for the kiddos. The kits are pre-packaged with all the materials and instructions needed with an art project you can create.

The studio has tables you can use to create the kit you choose, or take them home to create.

Open daily in the summer and fall from 10am-7pm. Winter hours vary. **970-685-8818, InspiredArtExperiences.com.**

BOWLING AND GAMES

The Bull Pin is a fun place to take the family. The bowling alley has eight lanes lit in neon lights. Bumpers can be used for the little bowlers so they have success. This bowling alley is really popular so making reservations is best.

Their arcade has more than 20 games all with state-of-the-art technology. The games have a mix of digital racing and action-packed games, air hockey, or classic pool tables.

The craft food menu includes arguably the best wings in town as well as fresh-made salads, sandwiches, and weekly specials. Open seven days a week, hours vary by season. **970-591-7771, EstesParkBowl.com.**

CONT.

STORYTIMES AND DISCUSSIONS

Join the **Estes Valley Library** for stories, songs, puppets, activities, and movement. Great for ages 0-6 and their families. Offered year-round on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 10:30am.

Baby storytimes are Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 10am.

These events are all free. Visit **EstesValleyLibrary.org** for more details and events.

STORYBOOK TRAIL AT STANLEY PARK

Enjoy an outdoor stroll while reading aloud from pages of a children's picture book (posted on large signs) along the path located near the Stanley Park Playground (Community Drive and Manford Avenue). Sponsored by Estes Valley Library and the Estes Valley Recreation & Park District.

HIKING WITH BRAGGIN' RIGHTS - TRAIL TAGS

A long-time tradition is to collect trail tags for completed hikes. This will get kids motivated to earn their tags.

Trail tags, the small cloth patches sewn on backpacks, hats, or even made into quilts, tell a story of adventures.

The tags are color coded for the length of the hike. The green-bordered trail tags speak of short, easy walks of less than five miles round-trip.

Patches with red borders are for more strenuous hikes of 5-10 miles. Things get more serious with the blue-lined patches that denote hikes of 10-15 miles.

Patches rimmed in gold are hikes of more than 15 miles to far-flung lakes and mountain peaks. Earn a gold trail tag for Thunder Lake, Keyhole, or Longs Peak, and the locals take notice.

Virtually every hike in Rocky Mountain National Park has a trail tag.



It's a great way to remember vacation fun and the perfect motivator to return and earn more.

GET TAGGED

Stop by **Estes Park Mountain Shop** and **The Mad Moose** at National Park Village for your tags. They cost about \$1.50 each.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY HIKES

Get the kiddos started on their trail tag collection by hiking on some beautiful and kid-friendly hikes in Rocky Mountain National Park.

Sprague Lake is a great option as the lake has an easy trail around it for exploring and seeing wild birds. There are picnic tables near the parking lot.

Bear Lake is extremely popular and a nice hike as well. A trail goes all the way around the lake with good places to stop for a picnic.

Lily Lake, on CO Hwy 7, is another easy option. This trail is flat and well maintained with amazing views.

From May 24 through Oct. 20, you must have a reserved timed entry for Rocky. See pages 18-19 for details. 🌲

BECOME A JUNIOR RANGER

As part of its educational support, the Rocky Mountain Conservancy partners with Rocky Mountain National Park to create stewardship among young park visitors through the Junior Ranger program.

Visitors can pick up a free Junior Ranger activity booklet at any park visitor center, discover Rocky, and earn their badge.

Activity books are offered to kids ages five and under, six to eight, and nine and up. By earning a badge, Junior Rangers learn about wildlife and plants and discover why we need to protect our national parks!

During the 2024 summer season, the Junior Ranger Headquarters is located at Hidden Valley. It's a great place just for kids, and it's free to participate.

Visit Rocky's website at **NPS.gov/ROMO** to find out when programs will be offered at the Junior Ranger Headquarters this summer.

Support the Junior Ranger program by donating to the Rocky Mountain Conservancy Next Generation Fund at **RMConservancy.org/Donate.**



ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONSERVANCY

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

The Rocky Mountain Conservancy is the official nonprofit partner of Rocky Mountain National Park and provides millions of dollars annually in funding and in-kind support through flagship programs like the Conservation Corps, Field Institute, and the Next Generation Fund supporting the Junior Ranger and other extensive environmental education programs for school children.

The Conservancy supports the park with research, wildfire recovery, trail maintenance and construction, land acquisition within and adjoining the park for conservation and protection, and restoration of historic buildings.



The Conservancy also funds equipment and training for Rocky's Search & Rescue team—the third busiest in the National Park Service with about 180 major SAR incidents annually.

Some other examples of the numerous initiatives the Conservancy funded in 2023 include:

- Constructed new workforce housing for Rocky and Conservancy staff, researchers, and educational fellows with initial occupancy this year.
- Maintained and improved 295 miles of trail, including burn-impacted areas.
- Assisted park trail crews with repairs to the Longs Peak Trail and installation of riprap pavers to strengthen the popular trail and protect fragile tundra.
- Historic preservation of the Holzwarth homestead site including reconstruction and stabilization of cabins and outbuildings.
- Indigenous Connections project in collaboration with Tribal Nations whose traditional homelands includes Rocky.
- Purchase of horses, mules, and llamas to support Rocky's backcountry operations.
- Funding the popular Junior Ranger program. See page 50 for details on how to become a Junior Ranger!
- Research on Rocky's declining amphibian populations and funding to support reintroduction of boreal toads.

FIELD INSTITUTE

One of the Conservancy's signature programs is its renowned Field Institute. Recognized subject matter experts lead field-based, hands-on learning experiences in the park.

A wide range of topics are available, including wildflowers, mammals, birds, cultural history, photography, and painting, and writing. Visitors who believe in "collecting experiences, not things" can explore course offerings and register at RMConservancy.org/ **learn-with-us** or by scanning the QR code on the ad below.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!

It's easy to support Rocky Mountain National Park and the Rocky Mountain Conservancy. Become a member, shop in our visitor center and online nature stores (members receive a 15 percent discount), donate money (or even donate your unwanted vehicle!), or participate in Colorado's RMNP license plate program.

State residents can purchase the unique RMNP plate for a \$30 donation. One hundred percent of the funds generated through this program supports Rocky. Get your license plate today at RMConservancy.org.

CONSERVATION CORPS

The Rocky Mountain Conservancy's Conservation Corps celebrated its 20th anniversary last summer.

The Conservancy raises funds through grants and donations to hire more than 50 young adults who serve, learn, and live in Rocky and the surrounding Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest through a summer-long Americorps opportunity.

These crew members support trail construction and maintenance, habitat restoration, historic preservation, and visitor-use site improvements.



Over the course of their summer service, they earn a living allowance, gain valuable professional skills, learn about public land management, and develop a conservation ethic.

Corps members continue to make significant contributions to reopening trails and backcountry campsites destroyed in the historic 2020 Cameron Peak and East Troublesome wildfires, which impacted about 30,000 acres within the park. [↑](#)



Rocky Mountain Conservancy Field Institute

- Scenic ecology bus tours for all ages & abilities
- Multi-day and single day field courses for adults
- Kids & family outdoor education adventures

Questions?

RMConservancy.org
(970)586-3262





THINGS TO DO

THE PERFECT SHOT

Creeks and Critters Nature Tours takes visitors on Nature Photography Tours in Rocky Mountain National Park. These customized tours focus on getting memorable images of wildlife like moose babies in early summer, elk bugling during the fall rut, or sunrises and sunsets (depending upon tour length).

Tour operator, Dawn Wilson, is an award-winning nature photographer with knowledge about animals and how to best photograph them. Timed entry included with a tour. **970-567-6109, CCNatureTours.com.**

Book a tour with **Rock Light Photo Tours** to capture the majesty of RMNP. Photograph a sunrise reflected in a mountain lake, a scenic hike with wildflowers and roaring waterfalls, or sunset vistas of three different mountain ranges off Trail Ridge Road.

Local pro photographer Colin D. Young specializes in teaching photographers how to capture the Milky Way at 12,000ft, with half-day to multi-day tours customized with as much or little hiking as you prefer. **917-902-3063, RockLightPhotoTours.com.**

DRIVING APP FOR ROCKY

GuideAlong is an app designed specifically for Rocky and will enhance your drive through the national park. This app turns a tablet or smartphone into your personal tour guide. With automatic commentary while you drive, the app makes you feel as if you have a local friend riding along with you. All you have to do is listen to the commentary and enjoy the spectacular scenery. You will be told of upcoming viewpoints and the best things to see.

GuideAlong uses cutting-edge technology and, once downloaded, doesn't require data or a cellular network while you are driving. **GuideAlong.com.**

FUN ADVENTURES

SCENIC BUS TOURS

Join the **Rocky Mountain Conservancy** for a guided bus tour throughout Rocky Mountain National Park to areas including Trail Ridge Road, Bear Lake Road, and other popular spots in Rocky Mountain National Park, June-Oct.

Each family-friendly tour offers a different adventure and is led by one of their talented naturalist guides.

Custom tours are also available. **970-586-3262, bit.ly/RMCEventbrite.**

LET THEM DO THE DRIVING

An environmentally-conscious company, **Green Jeep Tours**, can take you off-roading or on a scenic adventure. Their entertaining guides bring you to amazing scenic places while sharing interesting facts and stories. Tours include Trail Ridge Road and Old Fall River Road.



They offer private tours for small groups, families, or large groups. **970-577-0034, GreenJeepTour.com.**

HUNGRY? - THEY DELIVER

If you are hungry and comfortable at your lodging facility, you can have food delivered right to you.

WarriorXpress is a local delivery service that delivers meals from popular restaurants in town. The also deliver from The Country Market grocery store.

Their integrated system allows the order to go directly to the restaurant. See their website or app to view participating restaurants. **WarriorXpress.com.**

continued on page 56

LEARN ABOUT NATURE

If you want to learn more in-depth about nature and wildlife, **The Rocky Mountain Conservancy** and the **YMCA of the Rockies** both have classes and seminars during the summer and fall months.

Nature and wildlife experts will teach about the local flora, fauna, and wildlife that all survive in this high altitude.


See our Calendar of Events, pages 88-101, or visit their websites for details. **RMConservancy.org, YMCARockies.org.**

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THINGS TO DO

RENT A BIKE AND GO EXPLORE

There's no better place to ride mountain bikes than in the mountains! **Estes Park Mountain Shop** rents full-suspension mountain bikes that are perfect for exploring the single and double track trails in the area. The staff has some great trail recommendations.

Didn't bring your favorite road bike to ride Trail Ridge Road? They also have road bikes available to rent.

The Estes Park Mountain Shop. 970-586-6548, EstesParkMountainShop.com.

GET OUT ON AN E-BIKE

Want to explore some local roads with a little assistance? Rent an e-bike. E-bikes are allowed on the bike paths (watch for pedestrians and dogs) and local roads.

The Estes Park Resort rent e-bikes and offers tours of the area. This is a great option for the entire family.

After the tour, stop and have lunch overlooking the lake at their restaurant **Ember. 970-577-6400, TheEstesParkResort.com.**

The Estes Park Mountain Shop rents e-bikes as well. **The Estes Park Mountain Shop. 970-586-6548, EstesParkMountainShop.com.**

ALL THE FUN STUFF!

Estes Park Ride-A-Kart is a 3rd generation family-owned entertainment center that offers the full gamut of amusement park-style adventures for the entire family.

In business for more than 65 years, Ride-A-Kart has go-karts, new electric bumper boats, bumper kars, batting cages, Casey's Train, extreme bungee trampoline, water wars, arcade, and two 18-hole mini-golf courses alongside the Big Thompson River. Both mini golf courses and the arcade offer local beer and wine.

FUN ADVENTURES CONT.

Estes Park Ride-A-Kart also offers yummy munchies to satisfy your hunger after your fun! New in 2024 they will be offering a Trackman Golf Simulator. Please check the website for how to reserve. **970-586-6495, RideAKart.com.**

ELEVATED FOOD, DRINK, FAMILY FUN

The Bull Pin is Estes Park's hottest new entertainment venue, and their deck provides one of the best views in town. They have eight neon-lit bowling lanes, billiards, and the latest arcade games, so there is something fun for everyone in your group.

The sports bar has a 150" projector screen and plenty of TVs to catch all the games including all NFL games.

More than 20 taps including several local beers, a large whiskey selection, craft cocktails and fun mocktails. You will not leave thirsty!



Large groups are welcome and encouraged. We highly recommend checking out their website to make bowling reservations and to view their live music calendar.

The craft food menu is not your average bowling alley food including arguably the best wings in town as well as fresh-made salads, sandwiches, and weekly specials.

Open seven days a week, hours vary by season. **970-591-7771, EstesParkBowl.com.**

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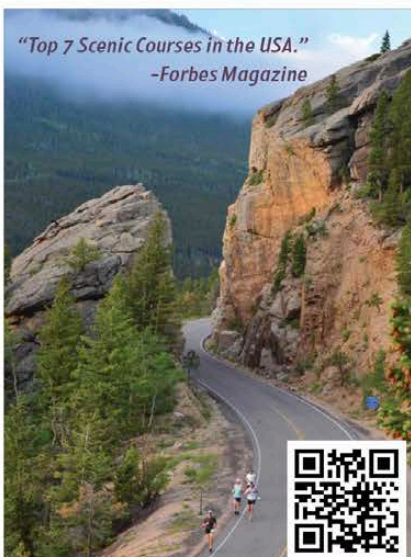
BIKE PATH

Pedal, walk, or rollerblade the four-mile, paved loop that circles Lake Estes.

Across from the fairgrounds, the path branches to the south under US Hwy 36. The trail takes you through Stanley Park, past the dog park and the ball fields for another .7 miles.

PADDLE ABOUT

Head to Lake Estes and take in the majestic views from a kayak, canoe, stand up paddle board, or 10-person pontoon boat. There is a small beach with a picnic ground and horseshoe/volleyball area.



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-Forbes Magazine



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RAFTING & KAYAKING

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ADVENTURES

OUTDOOR GEAR & RENTALS

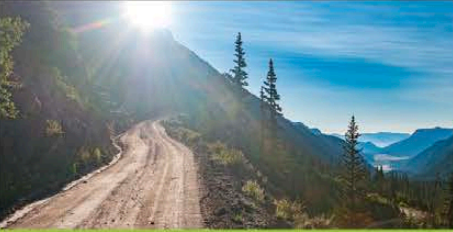
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THINGS TO DO

Storm Mountain east of Glen Haven has a variety of options. There are many trails from easy to moderate with amazing views. You can see evidence of the Cameron Peak fire in this area.

Bunce School Road is south of Allenspark on CO Hwy 7. This is a popular trail system with easy to moderate trails with a few advanced trail options as well.

The best trail guidebook to have with you is **FunTreks**. The guidebook provides first-hand knowledge with turn-by-turn custom-designed maps highlighting trouble spots and details on every aspect of the trails. You can order one online at **FunTreks.com** or look for them at Macdonald Book Shop.

FISH TALES

Are you ready to drop a line to hook the elusive rainbow or cutthroat trout? Fishing in the Rocky Mountains is one activity most folks can do.

Anyone age 16 and older who wants to fish in Colorado is required to purchase a \$11.50 Colorado Habitat Stamp, in addition to a fishing license, to legally fish in the state. The stamp fee is automatically included in the price of your first fishing license. Purchase of the Habitat Stamp provides the main funds for the Colorado Wildlife Habitat Protection Program.

An annual fishing license is required for anglers 16 and older. You can get a license at the **Estes Park Mountain Shop**. They can help answer questions as well.

Fish are vulnerable to several invasive organisms that can be carried on waders and other gear. Please disinfect your gear before entering local waters and when moving between lakes and streams.

Estes Park Mountain Shop has a fly shop with licenses, flies, and bait as well as outdoor gear, hiking shoes, and maps. **970-586-6548, EstesParkMountainShop.com.**

FUN ADVENTURES CONT.

HERMIT PARK OPEN SPACE

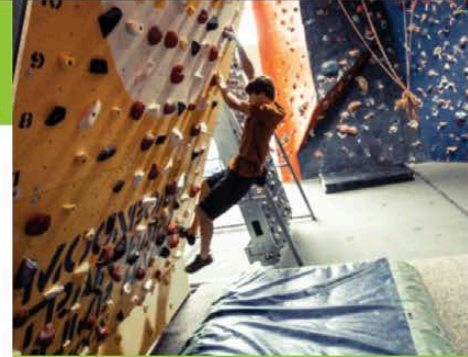
Located about 2.5 miles southeast of Estes Park just off US Hwy 36, the 1,362-acre **Hermit Park Open Space** offers several outdoor experiences.

There are more than 10 miles of trails to explore. Kruger Rock Trail, with its 360-degree views of Rocky Mountain National Park, is for hikers only. Two trails are designated mountain biking trails.

Restrooms are located at most trailheads. Pick up a map at an adjacent kiosk or check COTREX app (**Trails.Colorado.gov**) for a paperless version.

The open space requires entrance and camping permits. Open March through mid-December. \$10/day per vehicle. Pay at the visitor center or entrance self-serve stations via credit card. Leashed dogs are allowed.

For more information, **970-619-4570, Larimer.org/NaturalResources.**



ON BELAY

Estes Park has world-class rock climbing. Whether you are a beginner or have been climbing for years, work out your moves on the indoor walls at **Estes Park Mountain Shop**.

They have more than 4,500 square feet of climbing terrain, including state-of-the-art training tools. They also carry all sorts of gear and can help with local routes and conditions. **970-586-6548, EstesParkMountainShop.com.**

continued on page 60



4X4 EXPLORING

If you want to head out and explore this area in a 4x4, there are several options.

The historic Old Fall River Road is a beautiful nine mile, one-way drive in Rocky. The road opens July 4 weekend and closes the end of September.

You will need a timed-entry permit (see pages 18-19) unless you are in the park before 9am or go after 3pm. The road ends at the Alpine Visitor Center where you can then drive down Trail Ridge Road back to town.

Pole Hill, located off US Hwy 36 just across from Hermit Park, is a nice option. Drive out and back or all the way to Carter Lake near the town of Loveland.



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Road follows Jack Creek here in the spring, you can hear the rushing water.

SEE EXACTLY WHERE YOU ARE ON THE TRAIL WITH OUR SIMPLE APP.

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FUN ADVENTURES CONT.

FIND YOUR INNER ARTIST

Artists of all ages and abilities will enjoy taking a class at **Inspired Artisan Market & Studio**. A variety of classes are held throughout the year and they have something offered almost every day of the week. Take home a piece of art that you created.

Half- and full-day studio passes are available which allows you to create a variety of projects.

All materials and tools are provided for all classes and passes.

Inspired also has Art Kits which are pre-packaged with all the materials and instructions needed for an art project you can create.

The studio has tables you can use to create the kit you choose, or take them home to create. There are 12 different kits to choose from including snow globes, mosaic frames, wildlife collages, metal embossing, positive-thought catchers, and felted hummingbird ornaments.

The studio also has gifts made by Colorado artists.

Open daily in the summer and fall from 10am-7pm. Winter hours vary. **970-685-8818, InspiredArtExperiences.com.**

GO ON THE SEARCH

Pikas in the Park is a fun activity for the whole family in downtown Estes Park. Pikas are cute small mammals that live in high rocky slopes in Rocky Mountain National Park.

There are 12 bronze pika sculptures hiding in downtown Estes Park, from the east end of the Riverwalk to the west end of downtown. Each pika is named after a famous character from the history of Estes Park. Pick up a pika clue brochure at the Estes Park Visitor Center and try to find all 12 of these cute bronze creatures.

If you find them all, go to the Estes Park Visitor Center and get your "I found the Pikas in Estes Park" badge! 🐾



THE BULL PIN

◀ ELEVATED ENTERTAINMENT ▶



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SPA TIME

For a relaxing and rejuvenating day, book a treatment at one of the amazing spas in town. Both offer all kinds of different treatments in calming settings.

Elements of Touch Wellness Spa celebrates 31 years as Estes Parks boutique spa experience in a private setting along a rushing river. Enjoy massage, facials and unique spa treatments using quality ingredients with highly skilled therapists. Book online or call. Groups welcome. **970-586-6597, ElementsofTouchEstesPark.com.**

The Qi Lounge Wellness Spa, located at the Estes Park Resort, offers massage therapy, facials, acupuncture, couples massage and more! Qi (pronounced "chee") is the vital life force that exists and circulates within each of us. **970-235-0056, TheQiLounge.com.**

LEARN TO MAKE IT

Makerspace Equipment Classes are held year-round at the Estes Valley Library.

Learn how to use equipment like 3D printers, embroidery machines, laser cutters, and more.

Classes are free for ages 15 and up, participants under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Days and times vary; check website for details. **970-586-8116, EstesValleyLibrary.org.**



THINGS TO DO

If you are traveling to Estes Park through Lyons, you'll likely come up US Hwy 36 through the North St. Vrain Canyon.

The drive through Roosevelt National Forest offers open vistas and spectacular views of mountains and meadows. As US Hwy 36 approaches Estes Park, it crests a hill that overlooks the Estes Valley with an impressive view of Mummy Range. Stop at the Estes Park sign and take a picture.

DRIVING THE GLEN HAVEN LOOP

This is a nice loop that follows the Big Thompson River and the North Fork of the Big Thompson River.

Start by driving east, or down US Hwy 34, 13.5 miles to Drake and turn left onto CR 43. This road winds eight miles up to Glen Haven. After enjoying a cinnamon roll at The General Store (tell them we sent you!), the road climbs out of the valley up tight switchbacks to one of the best views in the area.

Continue on (now Devils Gulch Road) enjoying the view past MacGregor Ranch and back into town.

THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

If you have the time, drive the slightly longer, more scenic CO Hwy 7 between Lyons and Estes Park.

When you reach Lyons, turn left, or south, onto CO Hwy 7 and drive past Ferncliff, Allenspark, and Meeker Park. Once the road turns north toward Estes Park, you'll drive past the beautiful St. Malo Church with Longs Peak towering above. Stop at the Tahosa Coffee Shop located in the building behind the church. The road then descends into Estes Park.

A STUNNING DRIVE

The Peak to Peak Scenic Byway is one of the most stunning drives in Colorado, especially in the fall when the aspen are turning. From Estes Park, travel south on CO Hwy 7 past Allenspark.

SCENIC DRIVES

Turn right onto CO Hwy 72 and continue to Ward and Nederland. Here, you can take CO Hwy 119 east to Boulder through Boulder Canyon (not part of the byway) or continue south on CO Hwy 119 to Central City and Black Hawk. The byway ends at US Hwy 6 (Clear Creek Canyon Road) where you can connect with I-70.

HISTORIC TRIP – OLD FALL RIVER ROAD

Completed in 1920 with convict labor, Old Fall River Road is a steep, gravel road that travels one way from the Endovalley picnic area to the Alpine Visitor Center. Before reaching the beginning of Old Fall River Road, you'll pass the Alluvial Fan, a massive scar left after the 1982 Lawn Lake flood. The landscape was altered again by the 2013 flood.

The scenic, nine-mile road travels beside Fall River and the shoulder of Mt. Chapin. Narrow, with several switchbacks and no guardrails, this challenging road forces the motorist to



slow down and explore. (No trailers or vehicles over 25ft.)

There are pull-offs to enjoy the expansive views and a small parking lot at Chasm Falls.

The road ends at the Alpine Visitor Center. Take Trail Ridge Road west to Milner Pass and Grand Lake, or east back to Estes Park.

The road usually opens around the 4th of July. Snow usually closes the road in late September or early October.

For this drive, you will need a timed-entry permit, or be in the park before 8:45am or go into the park after 2pm. 🌲

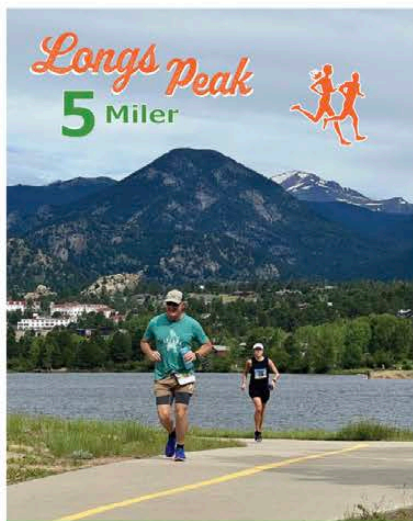


Estes Park is surrounded by winding roads through stunning canyons and dazzling mountain landscapes. (For Trail Ridge Road, please see pages 16-17.)

MAIN ROUTES

From Loveland, US Hwy 34 is a two-lane road that crisscrosses the Big Thompson River as it travels through the sheer rock walls of The Narrows in the Big Thompson Canyon.

This spectacular drive passes through Drake and opens into the Estes Valley. Bighorn sheep heep can often be spotted on the hillsides.



Father's Day Weekend
June 15th
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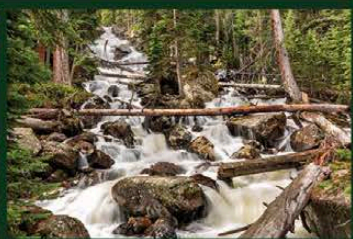
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All tours include hands-on instruction to capture that epic shot you have always dreamed about.





THINGS TO DO



LOCALLY OWNED

Estes Park has an impressive list of family-owned businesses that have created their own wine, beer, or spirits (see our Locator Map on pages 130-131).

Enjoy a tasting, outdoor seating, and live music, and appreciate the spin each one has put on their products.

See our Calendar of Events pages 88-101 for fun events around libations.



HARD CHOICES

The Barrel is a Bavarian-style beer garden and hall with a large patio. They offer live music during the summer and fall months. The Barrel has a full bar with 64 rotating taps focusing on craft beer, mead, cider, wine, and craft cocktails.

Bring in your own packed picnic or food from any restaurant. On-site food trucks will rotate throughout the summer season. Special event venue. Reservations accepted. **970-616-2090, TheBarrel.beer.**

Handcrafted beers await you at **Estes Park Brewery**. With names as unique as the region that surrounds it, there is a beer for every taste. Try a Trail Ridge Red, Estes Park Gold, or the Redrum Ale.

LOCAL LIBATIONS

They have a restaurant with pub-type fare. Their beer is available at liquor stores across the state and at Safeway. **970-586-5421, EPBrewery.com.**

Estes Park Distilling Co. has uniquely-flavored, small batch spirits. Stop in to taste and purchase their 15 flavored moonshines and five whiskeys, plus vodkas. They also sell clothes, souvenirs sauces, jams and jellies, and candles. Bob & Tony's Pizza, a community staple since 1957, is located inside with seating in the back and outside. **970-586-2044, EstesParkDistillingCo.com.**

Full Throttle Distillery is a boutique distillery that sells their line of moonshine, whiskey, and vodka, as well as branded clothes and souvenirs, sauces, jams and jellies, and even scented candles. They have live outdoor music and food.

Hogback Distillery is the closest distillery to Rocky Mountain National Park. The tasting room, shop, and bar offers bourbon, rye and single-malt whiskies plus a bottled and ready-to-drink Old Fashioned cocktail. Check out the Rocky Mountain Bourbon-exclusive to Estes Park. **720-357-9320, HogbackDistillery.com.**

Rock Cut Brewing Co. has 12 taps with beers for all palates, plus a family-friendly taproom and outdoor patio. Food trucks rotate or bring your own food. You can enjoy their beer at several local restaurants in town. **970-586-7300, RockCutBrewing.com.**

Snowy Peaks Winery offers 25 wines from Colorado, including several award winners created in Estes Park. Sample many delicious varieties or enjoy a glass in a family-friendly environment. Purchase a bottle to enjoy on a picnic. **970-586-2099, SnowyPeaksWinery.com.**

ENJOY WHILE YOU DINE OUT

Many of these drinks are available at the local restaurants. Look for them to enjoy with your meal. 🍴

Michael Ballantyne
FULL THROTTLE
Established 2012
Distillery & Grill

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THINGS TO DO

TRAIL ETHICS

Cutting switchbacks or walking off trail causes trail erosion and destroys precious subalpine and alpine flora that provide nutrition and water for high-altitude critters. Always stay on the trail.

Never throw or kick rocks over the side of a mountain. They are a danger to the hikers or animals below.

On the trail, walk in single file and step to the side for faster hikers. Give horseback riders (who always have the right of way) and uphill hikers the right of way.

Reminder: Dogs are not allowed on any trail in Rocky Mountain National Park. See our list of dog-friendly hikes on page 71.

CHOOSE WISELY

Choose your hike, not only according to your fitness level, but also your comfort level. You will have more fun if you're within your limits. Plan your hike according to the slowest person in your group.

It's much easier to climb up something steep than to come down it, so don't put yourself in a bad position.

Remember that hiking to your destination is only half the journey; you still have to hike back to the trailhead.

Some trails are incredibly popular so the trail could be crowded. Consider a hike in a less crowded area of the park. You may have a more enjoyable experience that's still stunningly beautiful.

DON'T GO IT ALONE

Do not hike or climb alone. Most accidents happen to those going solo or those who fail to tell someone where they are going. You can share your location before you go. This could help if you don't return on time.

Always tell a reliable person your route and plans. Make sure to let them know when you are back safely.

HIKING

HAPPY FEET

If your feet are happy, the rest of your body will be happy. Sturdy footwear with traction and support for your knees and back is essential. Hiking boots or beefy running shoes will work. Don't wear flip flops or sandals. Traction spikes are great for when the trails are snowy or icy.

Wear a good pair of wicking socks, made of wool or a synthetic, not cotton. Carry an extra pair of socks.

DON'T RELY ON YOUR CELL

Cell service is spotty, at best, so don't rely on your phone to work. Popular topo and map apps will really drain your phone's battery. If you were planning on using an app as your only map, don't.

When your phone dies, then you will not know how to find your way back. And, if needed, you will not be able to call for help.



WATCH THE WEATHER

The weather in the mountains changes quickly and without warning. Storms can roll in quickly and with little to no warning.

Summer mornings are generally crystal clear with a cobalt blue sky. Afternoons often bring thunderstorms, but then the sky clears for a pastel sunset. Start out early and be well prepared.

CAIRNS

A cairn (Gaelic for rock mound) can be a trail maker and are placed by those who built or maintain a trail.

Do not build one as an homage to your trip. Added cairns can be confusing and dangerous to other trail users.

continued on page 68



Hiking in Rocky is one of the most popular and asked-about things to do. The 415-square-mile Rocky Mountain National Park has more than 350 miles of hiking trails that take you through mountain meadows to alpine lakes, stunning waterfalls, and vivid tundra above treeline. Rocky boasts more than 60 mountain peaks of more than 12,000ft in elevation.

Being part of nature, seeing one of those high-alpine lakes, or hiking on a trail on the tundra is a great way to unplug.

Hiking is perfect for all levels and nature is good for everyone's soul. We have some tips to help with your day hiking.

With more and more people out, our trails are being heavily impacted.

Having good trail and outdoor etiquette will help protect the places we explore.

See our Quick Trail Guide on page 70 for a summary of some trails.

DON'T RUSH IN

Even fit individuals coming from lower elevations may experience problems with altitude. Before heading out for your adventure, make sure you are acclimated to the elevation and, more importantly, know your limits! You won't prove anything by having to hitch a ride in an ambulance (see pages 20-25 for high-altitude hints).

BE PREPARED

No matter how short your hike is, always go prepared! Have a good backpack with water, food, a warming layer, rain jacket, sunscreen, a whistle, headlamp, a map (the old-fashioned paper kind!), and a first-aid kit. Maps are available at Rocky's visitor centers.



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THINGS TO DO

A GOOD PACK

A backpack that contains the proper supplies is really important for your day of hiking.

Your pack needs to hold all of the essentials. Invest the time to find a good pack that fits you and is comfortable.

No matter how far and long your hike will be, it's crucial to have certain items with you. Never go without water and extra clothing (including rain gear).

The following list may seem big for a simple hike, but you never know. Don't skimp on being prepared.

ESSENTIALS TO HAVE WITH YOU

• **Extra Clothes**—Avoid cotton and always have a warming layer, such as a fleece pullover, and then a shell for wind or rain. Thin gloves are great to have as well. Proper clothing is incredibly important and potentially life saving.

• **Hydration**—You need to drink at least four quarts of water (or more) a day. Carry a hydration pack or water bottles. Taking small sips often is better than occasional large gulps. Drink lots of water and get plenty of rest the day before so you will enjoy your hike. If you start the day dehydrated, there's no way to catch up!

• **Whistle**—To get someone's attention in an emergency.

• **Headlamp/Extra Batteries**—You don't want to rely on your phone's flashlight if it gets dark. It will eat up the battery.

• **Shelter/Trash Bag**—A large trash bag will help keep you dry and add a bit of warmth in an emergency. Additionally, don't forget the small bag dedicated to trash. Carry out all trash please.

• **WAG Bag**—A bag to properly dispose of your human waste (see next page).

• **Sun Protection**—Even if the day starts out cloudy, remember to bring sunscreen, a hat, and SPF lip balm. Apply often as sweat can remove sunscreen from your skin.

• **Knife/Repair Kit**—A small knife is always a good idea.

DID YOU KNOW?

In a recent study, caffeine was found in close to 60% of the samples from 20 lakes and streams in Rocky. This told researchers that the humans are contributing to the nitrogen that feeds damaging algae in alpine lakes. Humans are peeing too close to water.

The rule? 100ft from any water. The other rule? Don't leave your toilet paper or solid waste!

Be a part of the solution by carrying and using a WAG bag for solid waste, and carry a bag dedicated to used toilet paper when peeing.

HIKING CONT.

• **First Aid**—Always have a basic first-aid kit with you. Band aids, athletic tape, and a bandana are good basics.

• **Physical Map**—Always carry a printed map and know how to use it. No batteries or cell connection needed.

• **Nutrition**—Choose foods that are easy to digest and have high calories. Your body will need them. Sports bars, dried fruit and nuts, or the trusty peanut butter and jelly sandwich are popular choices.

Pro tip: Bring a water bottle with a drink mix for added hydration. Wrap some duct tape around the water bottle. Now you have tape in case you need to repair something.

THE POOP SCOOP

We really never thought we would have to include this in our book, but we do. If you have to poop while hiking, don't just find a bush to do your business behind.

There is a proper and sustainable solution—a WAG bag (Waste Alleviation and Gelling Bag). Bags are small and lightweight so they are the perfect addition to your pack.

Really, they are not that bad to use. Once used, close the bag tightly and put it in the bottom of your pack. These bags are double walled, spill proof, puncture proof, and zipper closed.

They have crystals or gels to neutralize the dangerous pathogens in human waste. You can simply toss your WAG bag in a normal trash can once you've returned from your trip.

With more and more people visiting the area and hikers out on the trails, it's critical this task be handled correctly.

Human waste takes about a year to biodegrade, harms wildlife of all sizes, and other hikers don't want to find it stashed behind a bush or rock.

Where to buy them: Estes Park Mountain Shop, all Rocky Mountain Conservancy Nature Stores located in the Estes Park Visitor Center and all of Rocky's Visitor Centers.



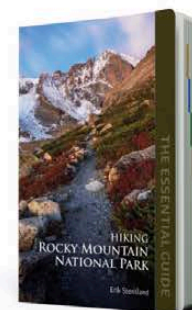
FINDING YOUR WAY

Winner of the best travel book of the year, *Hiking Rocky Mountain National Park: The Essential Guide*, offers the most up-to-date and

detailed information on the park. This beautiful book by local photographer Erik Stensland is filled with the latest information about 75 of the best hiking trails in the park and includes 80

custom-made topographical maps that identify waypoints you will encounter along the way.

Hikes are organized by difficulty level. The book has a companion website for any updated information. Pick up a copy in many stores in town or visit ImagesofRMNP.com.



GEAR UP

Estes Park Mountain Shop sells hiking gear and boots, WAG bags, clothing, maps, and trail tags. **970-586-6548, EstesParkMountainShop.com.**

Macdonald Book Shop carries a large number of books on hiking. **970-586-3450, MacdonaldBookShop.com.**

TRAIL GUIDE AND DOG FRIENDLY

Turn the page for our list. 🌿

HIKING QUICK GUIDE

E EASY M MODERATE D DIFFICULT

RESERVED-TIMED ENTRY FOR ROCKY MTN NATL PARK Visit [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov)
Timed-entry permit is required May 24–Oct. 20, 2024. for information.

1 BEAR LAKE CORRIDOR 5AM–6PM

If you don't have a timed-entry permit, you have to be past the ranger kiosk on the Bear Lake road by 4:45am! You may also enter after 6pm.

BEAR LAKE SHUTTLE PARK & RIDE

May 24–Oct. 20 • 6:30am–7:30pm Daily

Buses run every 10–15 minutes

BEAR LAKE	9,475 ft
Bear Lake Nature Trail	E 0.5 mi
Nymph Lake	E 0.5 mi
Dream Lake	M 1.1 mi
Emerald Lake	M 1.8 mi
Lake Haiyaha	M 2.1 mi
Bierstadt Lake	M 1.6 mi
Odessa Lake	D 4.1 mi
Flattop Mountain	D 4.4 mi
Fern Lake Trailhead	D 8.5 mi
GLACIER GORGE	9,425 ft
<i>Accessible 0.1 miles from Bear Lake</i>	
Alberta Falls	E 0.8 mi
Mills Lake	M 2.8 mi
Black Lake	D 5.0 mi
The Loch	M 3.0 mi
Sky Pond	D 4.9 mi

MORaine PARK ROUTE

PARK & RIDE – FERN LAKE ROAD

May 24–Oct. 20 • 6:30am–7:30pm Daily

Buses run once per hour

First bus leaves Park & Ride at 6:30am and the last bus leaves Fern Lake and Bear Lake trailheads bus stop at 7pm.

FERN LAKE TRAILHEAD	8,155 ft
The Pool	E 1.7 mi
Fern Falls	M 2.7 mi
Fern Lake	M 3.9 mi
Odessa Lake	D 4.6 mi

MORaine PARK

Cub Lake Trailhead to Cub Lake	M 2.3 mi
--------------------------------	----------

PARKING NOTE The Bear Lake parking lot is a popular spot and can fill up early. There is also a Park & Ride lot just before Sprague Lake that is a great option. Restrooms available.

2 REST OF THE PARK OPTIONS 9AM–2PM

If you don't have a timed-entry permit, be in the park by 8:45am or go after 2pm.

PARKING NOTE

The parking lots for these trailheads are small and can fill up by mid-morning.

LUMPY RIDGE

Lumpy Ridge Trailhead to Gem Lake	M 1.6 mi
Balanced Rock	M 3.8 mi
Lumpy Ridge Loop	D 10.7 mi

DEER MOUNTAIN TRAILHEAD

Deer Ridge Junction to Deer Mountain	M 3.0 mi
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WILD BASIN RANGER STATION

	8,500 ft
Copeland Falls	E 0.3 mi
Calypso Cascades	M 1.8 mi
Ouzel Falls	M 2.7 mi
Bluebird Lake	D 6.0 mi

LONGS PEAK RANGER STATION

	9,405 ft
Eugenia Mine	E 1.4 mi
Estes Cone	M 3.3 mi
Chasm Lake	D 4.2 mi

OUTSIDE ROCKY MTN NATL PARK

HERMIT PARK 7,880 ft
Larimer County Fee Area

Kruger Rock Trail	M 1.7 mi
Limber Pine Trail	M 5.1 mi
Moose Meadow Trail	E 1.5 mi

ROOSEVELT NATL FOREST 7,880 ft

Lion Gulch Trail	M 6.3 mi
Lily Mountain	M 2.0 mi

LAKE ESTES PAVED TRAIL

Loop Trail Around Lake	E 3.75 mi
------------------------	-----------

DOG-FRIENDLY HIKES



Below is a list of trails you and your pup can enjoy together.

Remember to always carry a dog dish and water, in addition to poop bags. Local laws require all pet waste to be picked up, carried out, and put in a trash bin.

TRAIL AROUND LAKE ESTES

This paved trail is a 4-mile loop around the lake. There are several places you can park to access the trail.

One option is to park at the dog park at the corner of Community Drive and US Hwy 36 and take the path under the highway. Then you can go either direction around the lake.

Another option is to park at the parking garage. The path heads east and then around the lake. Beware of elk as they love to hang around the golf course.

THE YMCA/ESTES PARK CENTER

The Y has three wonderful dog-friendly trails that offer incredible views of the area and of Rocky Mtn Natl Park.

Stop by the front desk for a map. If you are not staying at the Y, there is a day-pass fee of \$29/person which includes the trail use and all activities.

HERMIT PARK

Located about 2.5 miles southeast of Estes Park just off US Hwy 36, the 1,362-acre **Hermit Park Open Space** is a great option for a dog hike.

Kruger Rock Trail, with its 360-degree views of Rocky Mtn Natl Park, is a local favorite, four-mile round trip moderate hike that gains 878 feet. The views are worth the effort! You can also hike on the mountain biking trails, just watch out for bikers.

Open March through mid-December. \$10/day per vehicle. Pay at the visitor center or entrance self-serve stations via credit card.

LILY MOUNTAIN

Not to be confused with Lily Lake (which is in Rocky Mtn Natl Park), Lily Mountain is in the Roosevelt Natl. Forest. This hike is short and steep with a reward of an amazing view of Longs Peak. You'll gain about 1,400ft in two miles with a bit of a scramble to the summit.

Located off CO Hwy 7 just past the mile marker 5 on the right with limited parking. If you reach Lily Lake, you have gone too far.

LION GULCH TRAIL

This trail in Roosevelt Natl Forest is a nice option for a possibly longer outing. The trail is 6.3 miles, out-and-back with good shade most of the way. The trail also runs along a river most of the way.

The trail has a steady and gradual incline with bits of steeper inclines before reaching meadows at the end with historic homesteads.

Located off US Hwy 36, 8.3 miles from the Estes Park Visitor Center. The trailhead is on the west side of the road and has a pit toilet. This trail will connect to Hermit Gulch if you have two cars and want to do a point-to-point hike.

POLE HILL ROAD

This 4x4 trail is a nice option. There are several roads and private land branching off the main 4x4 road, so make sure to stay on the main road.

This is a good out-and-back hike with a distance of up to seven miles, one way with a steady incline.

Located on the east side of US Hwy 36, about 4 miles from Estes Park, across from Hermit Park. You can park along the road. 📍



LONGS PEAK

TOP OF THE LIST

The Colorado Fourteeners Initiative, whose mission is to preserve and protect the natural integrity of Colorado's 14,000ft-peaks, or "14ers," considers Longs Peak to be the most dangerous 14er in the state.

More people have died on Longs since 2000 than any other 14er in Colorado.

REALITY CHECK

The reason for all of these unsettling stats is that more people coming to Estes Park ask about "hiking" Longs Peak. It's not a hike, it's a climb.

This is not a simple mountain to summit and most who try are not correctly prepared, nor do they understand the sheer magnitude of this mountain.

Many hikers end up biting off more than they can chew. More than 50% who attempt Longs don't reach the summit, and reaching the summit is only half way. You then need to climb down over that technical terrain when you are tired, possibly with a storm coming in.

Weather is a major factor. Once you are out of the trees, there are very few places to hide during a severe storm. The high elevation may affect your general condition and judgment.

Don't have summit fever. Enjoy the experience, but be willing to turn around at any time.

BETTER OPTIONS

We want you to talk about your Estes Park trip for years to come. We also want you to have an enjoyable and safe hike.

For the most incredible view of Longs, hike the 4.2 miles to Chasm Lake. Chasm Lake offers a full view of the east face called "The Diamond."

Stop by Rocky's visitor center and talk to a park ranger who can offer a hike that fits your skill level. We have a list of hikes on page 70. 🌲

CAMPING IN RMNP

Camping gives us a chance to slow down and really enjoy the park during the hours when the park is quiet and still. Always be a good camper and be respectful of others and the wildlife that you may see.

Purchase firewood locally to avoid the spread of diseases and pests. Firewood is sold at local convenience stores. Park campgrounds may have firewood for sale and will warn you of any fire bans. Fires are allowed in metal fire grates only.

There are no electric, water, or sewer hookups at any RMNP campsite. Each is equipped with a picnic table, fire ring with grate, and tent pad. Roads and parking spurs are paved. Checkout time at all campgrounds is noon.

Drinking water and flush toilets are available in most campgrounds in the summer. Reservations for summer camping must be made six months to one day in advance at [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) or **877-444-6777**. Major credit cards accepted.

A separate park camping fee applies. Campground stay limits park-wide are seven nights total during the reservation period (summer season), and an additional 14 nights the rest of the year.

RESERVABLE SITES IN THE PARK

Aspenglen Campground (8,220ft) on US Hwy 34, just west of the Fall River entrance station, has 52 sites.

All sites are reservable. Each site has food-storage lockers that you are required to use. Cell phones do not work in this campground. \$35/night
Open May 23 at 1pm-noon on Sept. 30.

Glacier Basin Campground (8,500ft) on Bear Lake Road has 150 sites. All sites are reservable.

Summer shuttle bus access. \$35/night.
Open May 23 at 1pm-noon on Sept. 9.

Timber Creek Campground (8,900ft), the only campground on the west side of Rocky, about eight miles north of Kawuneeche Visitor Center on US



Hwy 34, has 98 sites. \$35/night.
Open May 23 at 1pm-noon on Oct. 7.

For the above three campgrounds, your Timed Entry Permit is included with your camping reservation. You may enter the park at 1pm on the first day of your reservation.

Moraine Park Campground (8,150ft) will be closed for part of the summer of 2024 for needed repairs. Check the park's website for updates [NPS.gov/ROMO](https://www.nps.gov/ROMO).

FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED

Longs Peak Campground (9,405ft), about nine miles south of Estes Park off CO Hwy 7, has 26 sites.

A tents-only campground with vault toilets. \$30/night.
Open June 27 at 1pm-noon on Sept. 9.

UPDATED INFORMATION

Make sure to check the park's website for the most updated information, park alerts, and programs. [NPS.gov/ROMO](https://www.nps.gov/ROMO).

WILDERNESS CAMPING

Overnight travel in the wilderness requires a permit. Information can be found on the park's website. [NPS.gov/ROMO](https://www.nps.gov/ROMO).

All reservations for wilderness backpacking camping trips must be booked via [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov). Trips cannot be booked through the park's Wilderness Office.

NEED CAMPING GEAR?

Head to **Estes Park Mountain Shop** for all kinds of camping gear and necessities, clothing, and shoes. **970-586-6548**, [EstesParkMountainShop.com](https://www.EstesParkMountainShop.com). 🌲



PROMINENT PEAK

Longs Peak is a fan favorite for many reasons. It stands guard over the Estes Valley with clouds playing around the summit throughout the day, changing its personality. Longs is the subject for many photographers and artists. It has also been a bucket-list hike for people since the late 1800s. Think twice before you make it one of yours. Here's why.

TOP OF THE PARK

At 14,259ft, Longs Peak is the highest peak in Rocky, 15th highest in Colorado, and 17th highest in the lower 48 states (Mt Whitney and Mt Rainer are higher).

The first known summit of the peak was in August of 1868 by surveyors led by USGS director John Wesley Powell. Isabella Bird and Anna Dickenson were the first women to summit in 1873.

From the trailhead to the summit, the elevation gain is about the same as the elevation gain from the Colorado River to the top of the Grand Canyon's South Rim. This is where the similarities end. The top of Longs is 14,259ft where the air is thin and the storms are mighty.

NOT A PLACE FOR CROWDS

The route through the Keyhole is 15 miles round-trip and 5,370ft of elevation gain. On a good day, in good condition (you and the weather), this climb takes 12-14 hours to complete.

The "trail" has exposed scrambling and narrow sections no wider than a park bench. Summer crowds cause bottlenecks that eat up valuable time, and can cause rocks to come down on other hikers.





THINGS TO DO

Rafting is an activity people seek when coming to Colorado. We have great rivers to play on! From Estes Park, there are two rivers to choose from. Adrenaline junkies love the thrill of whitewater on the Cache la Poudre River, while families with children may prefer rafting the more leisurely upper Colorado River with its beautiful canyon scenery and easy-to-navigate whitewater.

Rafting trips accommodate everyone, even children and non-swimmers. Go with a licensed professional outfitter who puts safety first and knows the river and the rapids. River guides are also a lot of fun.

Rocky Mountain GATEWAY
THE TRAILHEAD RESTAURANT

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 Home Decor · Furniture · Books
 Gifts · Native American Jewelry
 Café · Ice Cream · Stables
 On-Site Full Service Restaurant
 and more!

On Highway 34, at the North Entrance to RMNP
 Fall River Visitor Center

970-577-0043
RockyMountainGateway.com
3450 Fall River Road · Estes Park, CO

RESPECT THE RIVER

Even when the water looks calm, there can be underwater currents. Beware! Recreating in moving water comes with inherent risks. Never dive into any river. It's just not safe. Don't jump in without checking what is below the surface. Rocks and underwater debris can cause entrapment hazards, so never stand up while in the main current of a river. Always wear a personal flotation device and shoes. Stay alert, even when swimming!

WHAT TO TAKE

Playing on the river means you will get wet. Wear lightweight synthetic fibers that have a wide temperature range and dry quickly. We suggest fabrics with UPF protection. They come in short-sleeve and long-sleeve shirts, pants, and hats that incorporate up to UPF 50 factor protection. Wear footwear that will stay on and is designed for the river, such as Chacos or Tevas. Tennis shoes will do, but avoid flip flops. A towel and an extra set of dry clothes are good ideas.

Wear a snug-fitting hat with a wide brim, sunglasses with a strap, waterproof SPF 30+ sunscreen, and SPF lip balm. Leave rings and other jewelry behind to avoid blisters or loss. Keep car keys, wallet, and other valuables in a zippered pocket (or better yet, don't take them on the river at all). Don't forget a bandana, swimsuit, and waterproof camera.

Always have a reusable water bottle, and start with it full. Outfitters often bring coolers for refills. Avoid bringing bottled water; your empty plastic bottle is added trash in the boat or the river.

WHITewater RAFTING

Outfitters are required to provide safety equipment such as flotation devices, helmets, and first-aid kits. Some also supply waterproof bags for storing equipment, and watertight boxes for cameras, food, and non-alcoholic beverages. Requirements vary by trip and season.

RAFT NEAR ESTES PARK

Journey west over Trail Ridge Road to Kremmling to raft the Colorado River, which has its headwaters in Rocky Mountain National Park. The Colorado River boasts beautiful canyon scenery with milder rapids and stretches of calm water. Outfitters also offer single- or double-person inflatable kayaks and stand up paddle boards.

If you're up for more of a challenge, raft the Cache la Poudre. This free-flowing river flows down a rocky canyon dropping 7,000ft in elevation along the way with rapids from class I-V.



This river has been designated "Colorado's only Wild and Scenic river," one of the greatest degrees of protection a river can receive.

GO WITH THE FLOW

To book your rafting experience, contact **A1 Wildwater, 970-224-3379, A1Wildwater.com**, or **Mountain Whitewater, 970-419-0917, RaftMW.com**, or **Rocky Mountain Adventures, 970-493-4005, ShopRMA.com**. 📍

MOUNTAIN WHITEWATER

Raft on Colorado's ONLY "Wild and Scenic" River!

Our Guides Make the Difference

1329 N. Hwy 287
 Fort Collins, CO 80524
 www.raftmw.com

970-419-0917



THINGS TO DO

RIDING ATTIRE

Your feet need to be protected, so no flip flops. Wear sturdy shoes. If you have cowboy or cowgirl boots, even better!

Wear long pants, as you don't want bare skin against the saddle. Bring a jacket. The wranglers will tie it to your saddle.

To protect your neck and face, wear a brimmed hat – or better yet, a cowboy hat! Bring a water bottle full of water. Always wear sunscreen.

RIDING 101

Horses are very friendly and intelligent animals. They are conscious of you, your feelings, and your physical ability. If you are nervous, they can tell. Say hello to your horse and become their friend and you will both enjoy your ride.

Wranglers teach a basic horsemanship and safety course, determine your ability level, and match you with the appropriate horse.

Don't be loud around the horses. They are social animals, so give your horse a reassuring pat occasionally.

TRAVELING WITH YOUR HORSE

For those traveling with horses, campsites with horse corrals are available at the Kruger Equestrian Campground in **Hermit Park Open Space** located about 2.5 miles southeast of Estes Park just off US Hwy 36.

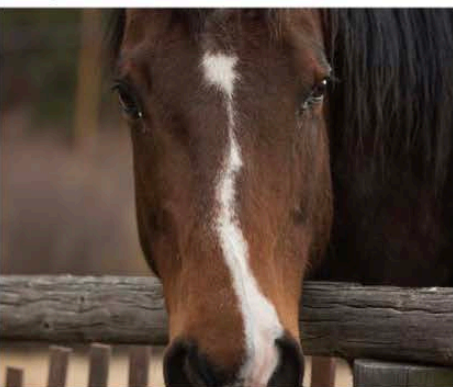
Plan ahead by calling to reserve your spot as this is a very popular campground. Horses are allowed on all the trails except Kruger Rock. **800-397-7795, LarimerCamping.com.**

There are many miles of trails open to commercial and private horse use in **Rocky Mountain National Park**. Rocky also offers some backcountry campsites for you and your horse.

No special permit is needed for your horse, but you will need an entrance pass and a timed-entry reservation. See NPS.gov/ROMO for details.



Riding a horse in the mountains is a bucket-list item for many. You'll find options for first-timers and experienced riders alike. Grab your Western gear and go for a ride.



HORSEBACK RIDING

SADDLE UP!

Jackson Stables, on the grounds of the **Estes Park Center/YMCA of the Rockies**, offers one-hour to all-day rides, and pony rides for children five years and younger.

Private and open horse-drawn hayrides are available throughout the summer. Group rates for 18+ riders are available. Each hayride lasts approximately 1.5 hours and includes a campfire and marshmallow roast.

Reservations required. Summer phone **970-586-3341 ext. 1140/1149**, winter phone (Nov.-March) **970-586-6748, JacksonStables.com.**

National Park Gateway Stables is a second-generation family-owned stable, in business for more than 48 years. They offer incredibly scenic rides with spectacular views of the Mummy Range from two hours to full-day trips.




All rides go into Rocky Mountain National Park (no timed entry required to ride).

They offer a variety of rides for all skill levels. If you are new to riding, they have horses that are calm and gentle.

For experienced riders, 7- to 9- hour rides are offered either to the top of Deer Mountain or to high elevation lakes in Rocky Mountain National Park.

Trips depart hourly, and dinner rides are also available. The stables are located on US Hwy 34 just past the Fall River Visitor Center and just before the north entrance to Rocky Mountain National Park. **970-586-5269, NationalParkGatewayStables.com.** 🌿

SADDLE UP!



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2-Hour, 3-Hour, Half Day or Full Day Trips

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HWY 34 AT RMNP ENTRANCE

\$10 OFF ANY RIDE

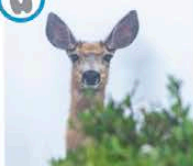
2 Hrs. or Longer

FACTS ABOUT WILDLIFE



BALD EAGLE

- The bald eagle was named the **national bird of the United States**, in 1782.
- The bald eagle only lives in North America.
- The female bald eagle is about 25 percent larger than the male, an adaptation that allows the male to be nimble for hunting while the female is larger for protecting eggs and eaglets.
- A bald eagle's wingspan stretches up to seven and a half feet from tip to tip.



MULE DEER

- Mule deer are called that because of their large, mule-like ears, which can turn independently to hear faraway sounds.
- These **iconic mammals of the western U.S.** have a unique bounding motion when they run, called "pronking" or "stotting," in which all four hooves push off the ground at the same time causing the animal to spring into the air.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP

- Rams (male sheep) and ewes (female sheep) have horns. **The set of horns on rams can weigh up to 30lbs.**
- The age of a male bighorn sheep is known by counting the number of growth rings in his horns.
- Bighorn sheep have rectangular pupils. As a prey animal, this gives them 300+ degree field of vision to spot potential predators.



BLACK BEAR

- Black bears, the **smallest bears in North America**, are the only bears living in Colorado.
- Black is just the term to describe this species of bear. Bears can be black, blonde, cinnamon, or brown.
- Black bears are omnivores, eating both plants and animals.
- Bears will eat anything and will get into trash for an easy meal.



COYOTE

- Coyotes are **cousins to fox, wolves, and our best friend, the dog.** Unlike dogs, coyotes don't wag their tails in joy.
- Coyotes howl to communicate to their pack and identify territories. Several coyotes performing their chorus of barks, yips, and yelps often sound like more animals than there actually are.
- The term "wily" refers to the coyote's high intelligence level and cunning behavior.

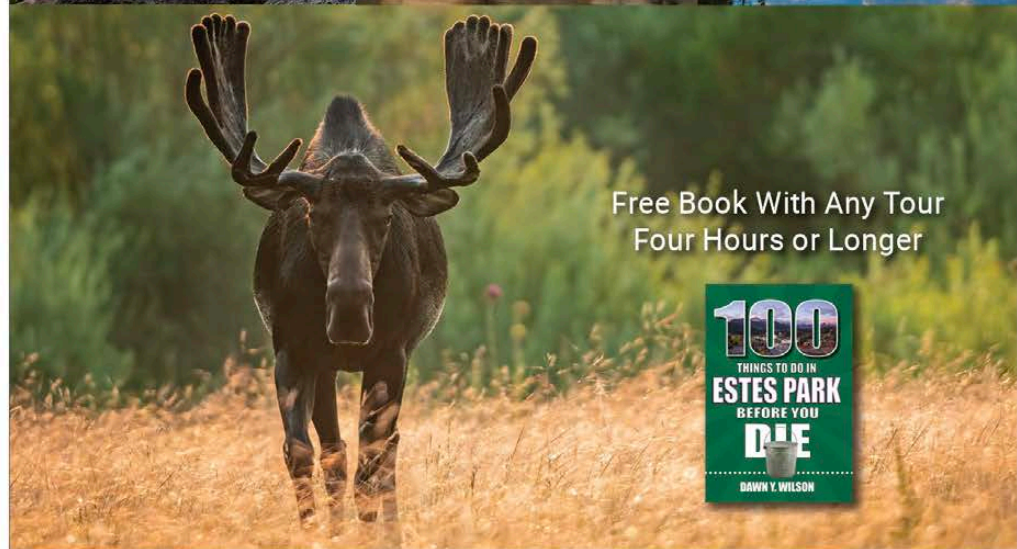
PROTECT OUR FRIENDS

Help keep wildlife wild. Never feed the animals (it's against the law and bad for the animals' health), and never approach or harass wildlife. Drive carefully through wildlife areas, especially at night. Elk, deer, and bighorn sheep seldom travel alone. If one animal crosses the road, others are sure to follow.

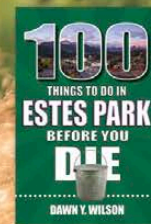
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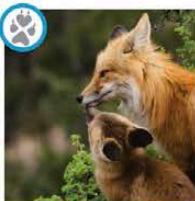


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Photos By Our Professional Guide Dawn Wilson

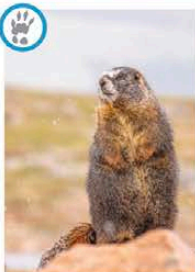


FACTS ABOUT WILDLIFE CONT.



RED FOX

- Red fox have a variety of coat colors in addition to the common red. They can also be pure black, black with silvery highlights or a cross of red and black.
- The red fox is the **only wild canine with a white tip on its tail**.
- Fox are one of the fastest mammals on earth, reaching speeds of up to 30mph for short spurts.



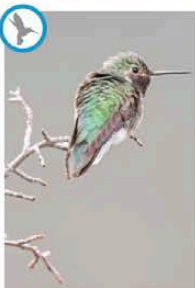
YELLOW-BELLIED MARMOT

- Marmots are one of the largest members of the ground squirrel family. They are usually found in high-altitude boulder fields or occasionally in rock outcroppings at slightly lower elevations.
- The **yellow-bellied marmot is nicknamed the "whistle pig"** for the high-pitched chirp they make to warn other group members about potential threats.
- A colony animal, male marmots have harems of two or three females and their offspring, with rearing duties being shared by all adults in the harem.



AMERICAN PIKA

- The American pika, which **resides in the alpine tundra of the Rockies**, is one of the smallest members of the rabbit family.
- American pikas do not hibernate. Instead, they collect plants, grasses, leaves and flowers all summer, to feed on throughout the difficult winter.
- Each pika needs to gather enough food to fill an entire bathtub and may have made as many as 14,000 trips into a nearby meadow to gather the plants for the pile.
- American pikas are extremely susceptible to heat, with the potential for dying if exposed to temperatures of 77 degrees or higher for 30 minutes or more. For this reason, pikas are an indicator species for climate change.



HUMMINGBIRD

- The hummingbird noise comes from the male as their **wings beat 80 times per second**, often while making dramatic acrobatic moves to impress a female hummer.
- They can maneuver at 50mph darting in and out.
- Hummingbirds are the only bird that can fly backward, upside down, and hover.
- Four species migrate to Colorado each summer: Broad-tailed, Rufous, Black-chinned, and Calliope.
- Hummingbirds lay two eggs that are smaller than a jellybean.

📖 DID YOU KNOW ?

Most animals with antlers: only the male has antlers, and they are shed each winter or spring. Animals with horns: both male and female have horns, and they are never shed.



ELK

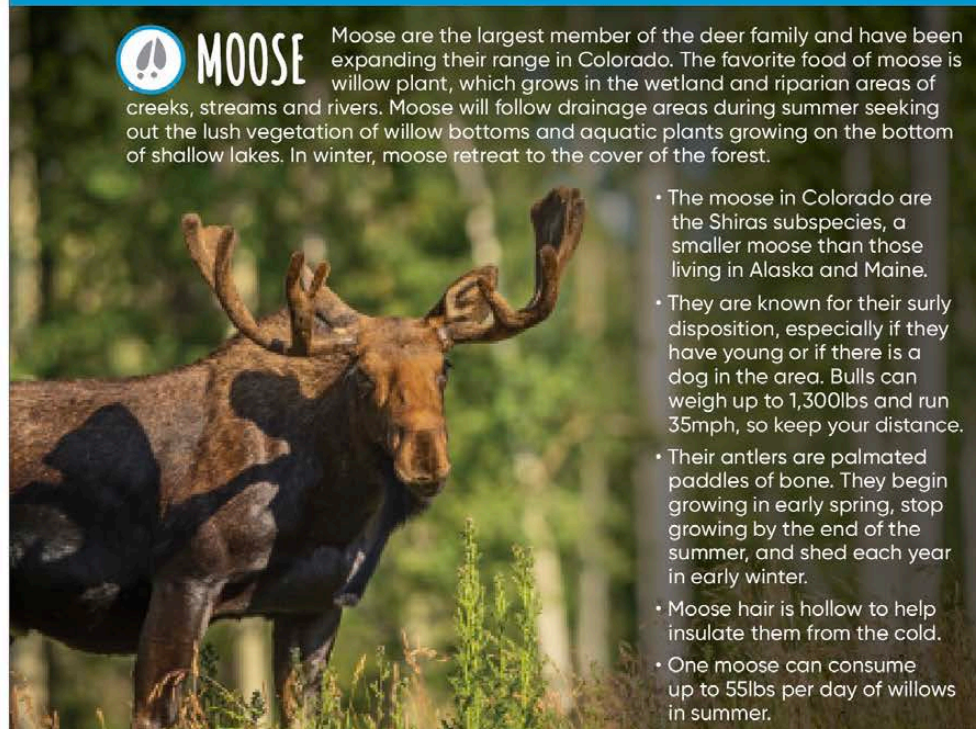
- Bull elk can stand up to **five feet tall and weigh 1,100lbs.**
- While growing, antlers are in a state called velvet. The velvet is skin and blood vessels protecting the growing bone. Antlers can grow as much as an inch per day!
- Elk antlers are counted by the number of points. In the western U.S., the terminology is 6x6 or 7x6, or a six-point rack.
- Many adult bull elk reach 6x6 status by 3.5 years of age if habitat is good, but the best sets of antlers are reached at between ages 9.5 and 12.5.

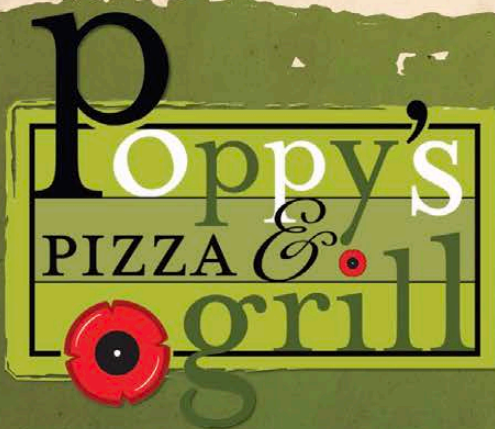


MOOSE

Moose are the largest member of the deer family and have been expanding their range in Colorado. The favorite food of moose is willow plant, which grows in the wetland and riparian areas of creeks, streams and rivers. Moose will follow drainage areas during summer seeking out the lush vegetation of willow bottoms and aquatic plants growing on the bottom of shallow lakes. In winter, moose retreat to the cover of the forest.

- The moose in Colorado are the Shiras subspecies, a smaller moose than those living in Alaska and Maine.
- They are known for their surly disposition, especially if they have young or if there is a dog in the area. Bulls can weigh up to 1,300lbs and run 35mph, so keep your distance.
- Their antlers are palmated paddles of bone. They begin growing in early spring, stop growing by the end of the summer, and shed each year in early winter.
- Moose hair is hollow to help insulate them from the cold.
- One moose can consume up to 55lbs per day of willows in summer.





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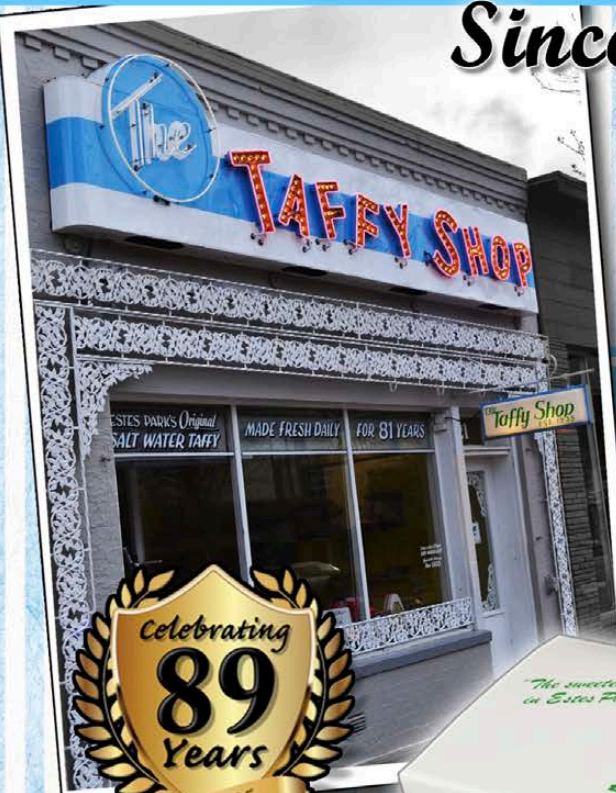
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-- LP, Google review

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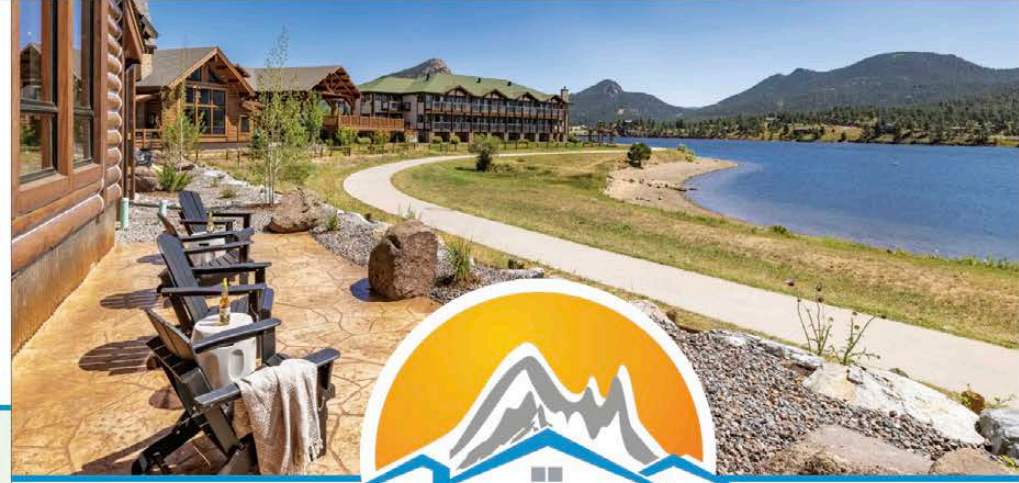
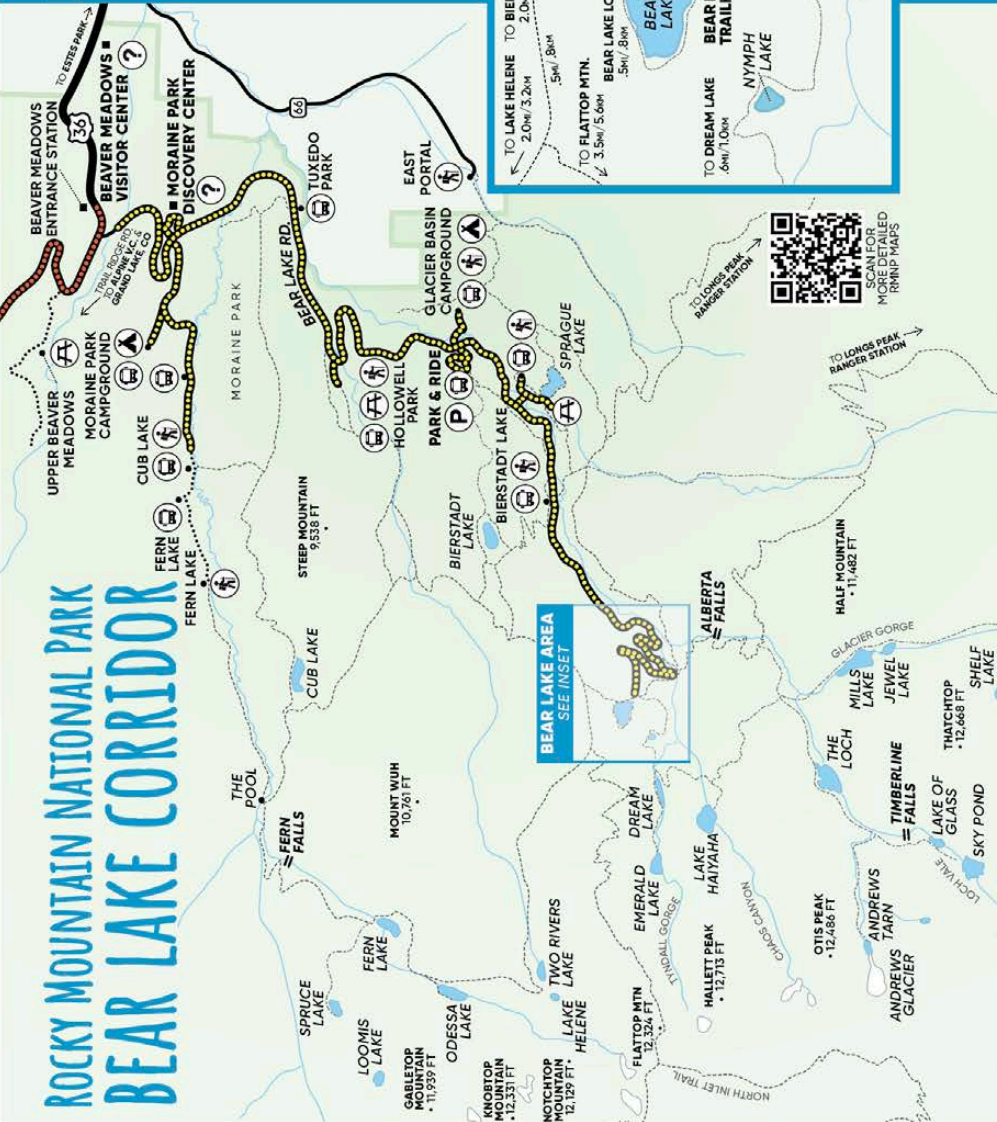
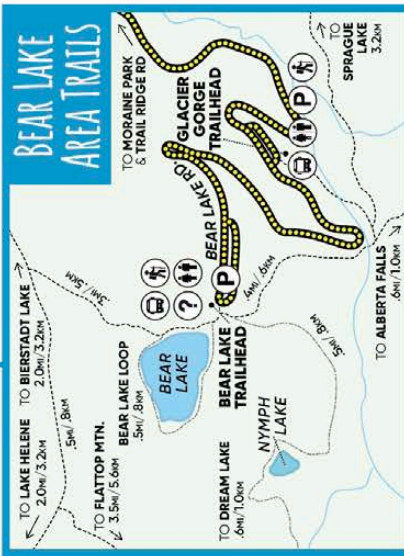
Order online OriginalTaffyShop.com

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK BEAR LAKE CORRIDOR

MAP KEY

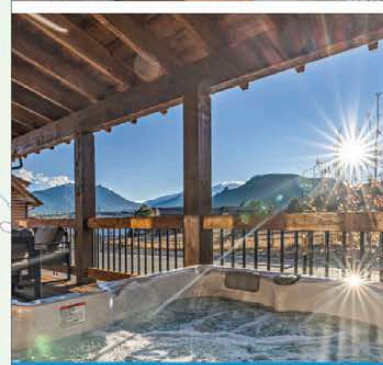
- STATE HIGHWAY
- PAVED ROAD
- UNPAVED ROAD
- TIMED ENTRY+
- TRAIL
- HORSE/HIKER
- TRAIL
- HIKER
- TIMED ENTRY
- BUS STOP
- TRAILHEAD
- INFORMATION
- PICNIC AREA
- CAMPING
- PARKING
- FOR ALL PARKING OPTIONS, SCAN QR CODE
- BATHROOM

BEFORE ARRIVING, VISIT THE WEBSITE TO CONFIRM YOU HAVE THE CORRECT TIMED ENTRY PERMIT FOR YOUR VISIT: [NPS.GOV/ROMO/PLANYOURVISIT](https://www.nps.gov/romo/planyourvisit)



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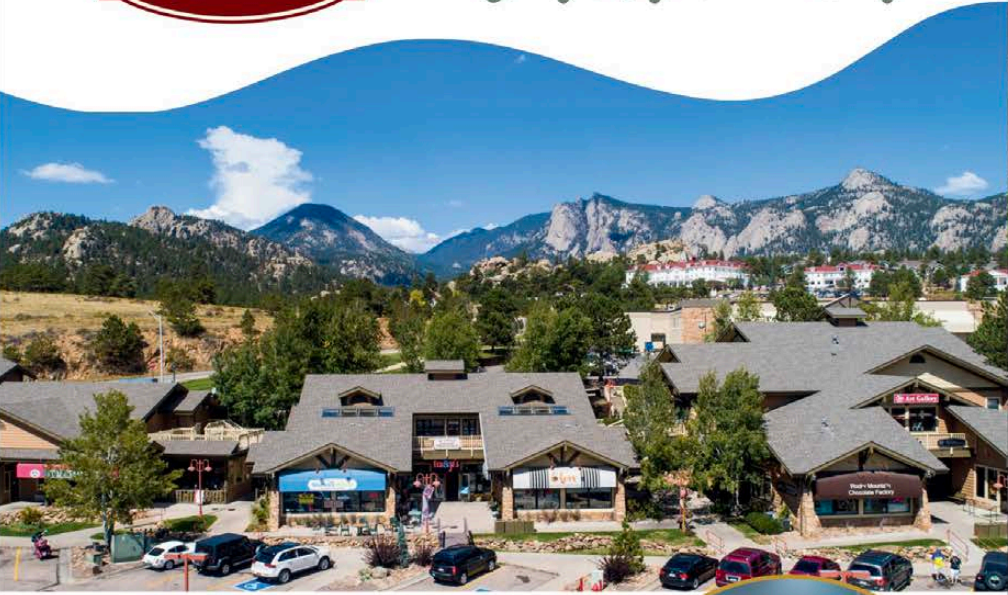


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Location

The Corner of Wonderview Ave & Big Thompson Ave.
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Convenient Parking for Customers!



ONGOING EVENTS

Estes Valley Farmers Market • Thursdays • June 6–Sept. 26

8am–1pm • **FREE** • Estes Park Visitor Center parking lot (park in parking structure, entrance off of US Hwy 36)

Cowboy Sing-Alongs • Sundays, Mondays & Tuesdays • June 9–August. 13

7–8pm • **FREE** • Cowboy Brad Fitch hosts this fun hour of cowboy, folk, campfire, mountain, country, novelty, sing-along, kids, and his original songs. It's an Estes Park tradition! • *Bond Park* • CowboyBrad.com

FIRST FRIDAY! Art Groove • 1st Friday of Each Month • Year-round

5pm • **FREE** • Enjoy this self-guided gallery tour. Meet local artists, enjoy live entertainment and perhaps find that piece of artwork that you must take home. • EstesArtsDistrict.org

Live Music at Snowy Peaks Winery • Every Friday Afternoon

Times change seasonally • Reservations strongly recommended. • *Snowy Peaks Winery* • SnowyPeaksWinery.com • 970-586-2099

Live Music at Full Throttle • Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays

Enjoy music on our outside patio during the summer months. • *Full Throttle Distillery* • EstesParkDistillingCo.com

Brewery & Distillery Tastings, Games, and Events at The Barrel

Check the website for food truck schedule and event details, dates, and times. • TheBarrel.beer

Inspired Artisan Market & Studio's Art Classes • Daily

Times and class techniques/products vary • **\$15 and up** • Explore your creativity and learn new techniques in a variety of art classes. All levels welcome. • *Inspired Artisan Market & Studio* • InspiredArtExperiences.com/book-online

Bingo • Tuesdays

6pm • *Circle 119 American Legion* • EstesLegion.org or Facebook.com/ALPost119

Cool Nights Cruz-Ins • Last Fridays of June, July & August

4–7pm • **FREE** for spectators, \$5 fee for dash plaque and entry per car • *US Bank Parking Lot* • EstesParkCarClub.com

Estes Valley Cars and Coffee • 1st & 3rd Saturday of Each Month • May–September

Come and go between 9–11am • **FREE** (donations for coffee and donuts requested but not required). • Informal gathering of car enthusiasts. • *Estes Park Community Center lower parking lot* • EstesParkCarClub.com

Estes Valley Library Storytimes

Estes Valley Library • EstesValleyLibrary.org

Preschool Storytimes • Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays • Weekly • Year-Round

10:30am • **FREE** • Great for ages 0–6 and their families.

Baby Storytimes • Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays • Weekly • Year-Round

10am • **FREE** • Ages 0–18 months.

Estes Valley Library Makerspace Equipment Classes • Year-Round

Days vary • **FREE** • Learn how to use equipment like 3D printers, embroidery machines, laser cutters, and more. Ages 15 and up, participants under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Days and times vary; check website for details. • *Estes Valley Library* • EstesValleyLibrary.org

Tuesday Evening Fun Runs! • Tuesdays

6pm Start (May–Oct.), 5pm Start (Nov.–Dec.), 4pm (Jan.–March.) • **FREE** • Community run/walk. All abilities & all ages. For motivation, goal setting, routes. • *Start locations change monthly, refer to the website or Facebook page.* • EstesParkRunning.org or Facebook.com/EstesParkRunningClub

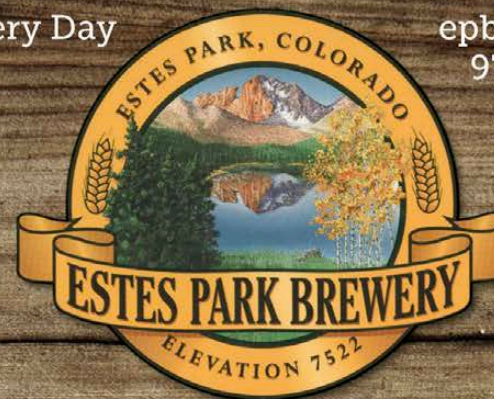
Thursday Trail & Brewery Runs! • Thursdays • Mid July–Sept

6pm start • **FREE** • Community trail runs, 3–6 miles. • *Start locations change monthly, refer to the website or Facebook page.* • EstesParkRunning.org or Facebook.com/EstesParkRunningClub

We're just getting started! Please turn the page.

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Full Lunch & Dinner Menu

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Video Games & Pool Tables • Families Welcome!

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MAY

4 • 36th Annual Duck Race Festival

8am-5pm • **FREE** • Estes Park Rotary Club's fundraiser for local nonprofits and charities. • *George Hix Riverside Plaza & Bond Park* • EPDuckRace.org

4 • Duck Waddle 5K

9-10:30am • **Adults: \$40, 14 & under/60 & up: \$30** • Starts from east side of Visitor Center Parking Structure, route is Lake Estes multi-use trail. • For info and registration visit EstesParkRunningClub.org or [Facebook/EstesParkRunningClub](https://www.facebook.com/EstesParkRunningClub)

12 • Village Band Concert

3pm • **FREE** • *Estes Park High School Theater*

18 • Classic Autos Parade of the Years Poker Run

9-11am Cars and Coffee (see ongoing events) • Join us for a cruise from Cars and Coffee to lunch in Allenspark and then a cruise back to Estes Park • **FREE** car display 1-3pm • *US Bank Parking Lot* • EstesParkCarClub.com/membership-and-forms

19 • Listening at the Legion: Spinphony Electric String Quartet

Check website for times, prices, and food specials • *American Legion Post 119* • LegionListen.org

25-27 • Annual Art Market

Sat. and Sun. 9am-5pm, Mon. 9am-3pm • **FREE** • A juried show featuring artists displaying a wide variety of fine arts and crafts. • *Bond Park* • FineArtsGuild.org

27 • Memorial Day Celebration

Come celebrate and honor our country with music, food, drinks, fun, and games. • *American Legion Post 119* • [Facebook.com/ALPost119](https://www.facebook.com/ALPost119)

31-June 1 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy: Rocky Mountain Raptors Lecture & Field Session

Fri. 6:30-9:30pm, Sat. 7-11am • **FREE-\$100** • Join us for an engaging educational experience on the majestic raptors of the Rockies and witness their breathtaking beauty and power. • *Lyons Regional Library* • bit.ly/RMCEventbrite • 970-586-3262

JUNE

2-4 • Colorado Life Zones with Steve Johnson • Nature Workshop Series

\$200 (book lodging separately) • Spend time in each local life zone gaining insights and discovering connections between plants, animals, geology, and climate. *YMCA of the Rockies* • YMCARockies.org

5 • Village Band Concert

6pm • **FREE** • *Good Samaritan Village*

6-7 • Wool Market Workshops

9am-4pm (lunch included) • **\$75 & up** • Various workshops available. Registration required. • *Estes Park High School* • EstesParkEventsComplex.com/Workshops • Events@Estes.org

8-9 • Wool Market

Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 9am-4pm • **FREE** • Exhibits, competitions, sheep dog demonstrations, and sheep shearing. • *Estes Park Fairgrounds* • EstesParkEventsComplex.com/Wool-Market • Events@Estes.org

8 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy: Native Orchids of RMNP

8am-4pm • **\$200** • Join Conservancy author and instructor Marlene Borneman for a day-long educational outing to explore the unique orchids of Rocky Mtn Natl Park • Starts at the Fall River Visitor Center • bit.ly/RMCEventbrite • 970-586-3262

10 • Listening at the Legion: Jackson Emmer

Check website for times, prices, and food specials • *American Legion Post 119* • LegionListen.org

JUNE CONT.

11 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy:

Early Wildflowers of Rocky Mountain National Park

8am-4pm • **\$200** • Instructor Leanne Benton leads an immersive exploration of the early season wildflowers across Rocky Mountain National Park! • *Estes Park Visitor Center* • bit.ly/RMCEventbrite • 970-586-3262

12 • Jazz Big Band Concert

7pm • **FREE** • *Performance Park*

14 • Flag Day Celebration

Come celebrate and honor our country. Music, food, drinks, fun and games. • *American Legion Post 119* • [Facebook.com/ALPost119](https://www.facebook.com/ALPost119)

15 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy: Bears of North America and RMNP

8am-4pm • **\$75-175** • Veteran naturalist and wildlife photographer Perry Conway presents this in-depth course on bear ecology. • Starts at the *Estes Park Visitor Center* • bit.ly/RMCEventbrite • 970-586-3262

15 • Longs Peak 5-Miler

8-9:30am • **\$45** • Finisher medals and performance shirt for all participants. • *Estes Park High School* • EPMarathon.org

15 • KIDS, KIDS, KIDS Festival

9-1:30am • **\$10** • Games, bike obstacles, and music. For ages 12 and under. • *Estes Park Track and Field (adjacent to High School)* • EPMarathon.org

15 • Summer Concert Series

7-8:30pm • **FREE** • Artist TBD, Sponsored by the Fine Arts Guild of the Rockies • *Performance Park Amphitheater* • FineArtsGuild.org

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS CONT.

JUNE CONT.

16 • Estes Park Marathon & Half Marathon (voted top 7 scenic courses by Forbes)

5-7am starts (from Dao House) • \$105 and \$95 • Finisher medals and shirts for all participants. • Ends at the Estes Park High School • EPMarathon.org

18 • Friends of Folk Music Festival

2-10pm • FREE • Come celebrate music and community while helping raise money for our local creatives. Enjoy local food truck delectables, tasty local craft beverages, and just have fun! • *Performance Park* • EstesArtsDistrict.org

19 • National Park Fee Free Day

Juneteenth • *Rocky Mountain National Park*

19 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy: Go Outside and Paint—An Introduction to Plein Air Painting

8-11am • \$75 • Interested in painting or drawing outdoors, but don't know how to get started? This course is for you. • *Starts at the Fall River Visitor Center* • bit.ly/RMCEventbrite • 970-586-3262

19-21 • Birds By Habitat with Debbie Bangs

\$200 (book lodging separately) • Gain foundational knowledge about the birds that are found in the montane through alpine tundra life zones in the spring and summer seasons. • *YMCA of the Rockies* • YMCARockies.org • 970-586-3341 x1104

21 • RMNP Butterflies: East of the Continental Divide

10am-2pm • \$100 • A day of exploration and wonder as we explore the butterfly species found in eastern RMNP. • *Starts at the Fall River Visitor Center* • bit.ly/RMCEventbrite • 970-586-3268

22-23 • Youth Theater Performance - Disney's Newsies Jr.

Sat. 7pm, Sun. 2pm • Children 5 and under free, Adults \$12, • Tickets sold at Macdonald Book Shop, at the door, or online. • *Estes Park High School Auditorium* • FineArtsGuild.org

25 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy:

Beginner Birding by Habitat: Montane to Subalpine

8am-4pm • \$200 • Join us for an introductory birding course on the unique species found in a range of Rocky Mountain habitats. Ideal for novice birders. • *Starts at the Fall River Visitor Center* • bit.ly/RMCEventbrite • 970-586-3262

26 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy:

Lambs, Calves, and Kits: New Life in RMNP

3-8pm, \$125 • Join instructor Dawn Wilson and learn about the new life that spring and early summer bring to RMNP. • *Starts at the Fall River Visitor Center* • bit.ly/RMCEventbrite • 970-586-3262

26 • Listening at the Legion: Aaron LaCombe

Check website for times, prices, and food specials • *American Legion Post 119* • LegionListen.org

28-29 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy:

Wildflower Photography in RMNP

Fri. 6:30-9pm on Zoom, Sat. 8am-4pm • \$275 • Learn to capture the delicate beauty of RMNP's infinitely varied wildflowers with expert instructor, Bob Dean. • *Starts at the Estes Park Visitor Center* • bit.ly/RMCEventbrite.org/Events • 970-586-3262

JULY

2-3 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy: Wildflowers of RMNP

8am-4pm • \$350 • Explore the wonder and diversity of RMNP's wildflowers with experienced RMNP interpretive naturalist, Leanne Benton. • *Starts at the Estes Park Visitor Center* • bit.ly/RMCEventbrite.org/Events • 970-586-3262

JULY CONT.

4 • July 4th Celebration

Come celebrate and honor our country. Music, food, drinks, fun, and games. *American Legion Post 119* • Facebook.com/ALPost119

4 • July 4th Car Show

Enjoy a display of classic cars and fireworks. • *American Legion Post 119* • EstesParkCarClub.com

4 • Big Bang Concert

6-9pm, Gates open at 5pm, Music starts at 6pm • *Grandstand Arena* • BigBangConcert.com

4 • Village Band Patriotic Concert

7pm • FREE • *Performance Park*

4 • Fireworks Over Lake Estes

9pm • FREE

5-10 • Rooftop Rodeo

6:30-8pm • The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association's (PRCA) Small Rodeo of the Year five times and is consistently nominated as one of the Top 5 Medium Rodeos in the country. • *Grandstand Arena* • RooftopRodeo.com

6 • Listening at the Legion: Outlaw Firm

Check website for times, prices, and food specials • *American Legion Post 119* • EstesLegion.org

8 • Rooftop Rodeo Parade

10am • "A Salute to the American Cowboy," with all the parade favorites and royalty • *Traveling east on Elkhorn Dr. from West Park Center to the intersection of Hwys 34 & 36* • RooftopRodeo.com

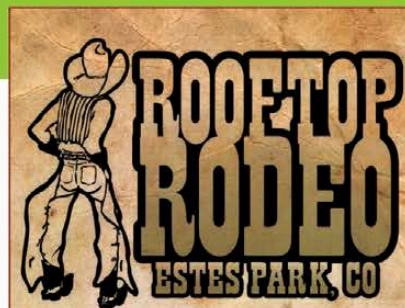
8-10 • Rocky Mountain Wildflowers with Virginia Kent

\$200 (book lodging separately) • Locate and learn about the many wildflowers in RMNP. • *YMCA of the Rockies* • YMCARockies.org • 970-586-3341 x1104

10 • Geology of Trail Ridge Road

8am-4pm • \$200 • The foundation of RMNP's awe-inspiring scenery is its bed-rock. Join us to learn about how geology shapes Rocky. • *Starts at the Estes Park Visitor Center* • bit.ly/RMCEventbrite • 970-586-3266

We're not kidding, there is still more!



Estes Park Events Complex

PRCA Rodeo

July 5-10

2024

Parade

July 8

Rodeo

Entertainment

Behind-the-Chutes
Nightly Tours

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with Altitude

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or call 970-586-6104



JULY CONT.

11-13 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy:

Rocky Mountain Landscape Photography: Creating an Artistic Eye

Thur. 5:30-8:30pm, 7am-3pm Fri., 7am-noon Sat. • **\$400** • Take your landscape photography to the next level in beautiful RMNP on this 3-day course with Eli Vega. • *Starts at the Fall River Visitor Center* • bit.ly/RMCEventbrite.org/Events • **970-586-3262**

12-14 • SnowyGrass Music Festival

Fri. 4-9:15pm, Sat. 12:15-9:15pm, Sun. 11:15am-8:45pm • Enjoy local craft beverages, food trucks, art vendors, and games at a family-friendly and dog-friendly music festival with panoramic views and on-site camping available, featuring Bluegrass and Americana bands from Colorado and all over the country. • *Stanley Park* • Snowygrass.com

13 • Summer Concert Series: Blues Dogs

7-8:30pm • **FREE** • Sponsored by the Fine Arts Guild of the Rockies • *Performance Park* • FineArtsGuild.org

14 • Jazz Big Band Concert

7pm • **FREE** • *YMCA Hyde Chapel*

22-24 • Geology of RMNP with Harvey Haines

\$200 (book lodging separately) • Explore the geology of RMNP learning how and when the mountains were formed. • *YMCA of the Rockies* • YMCARockies.org

16-17 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy: Introduction to Alpine Ecosystems

8am-4pm • **\$350** • Join us for a fascinating journey into the unique world of Alpine Ecosystems with expert naturalist, Kathy Brazelton • *Starts at the Fall River Visitor Center* • bit.ly/RMCEventbrite.org/Events • **970-586-3262**

19-21, 26-27 • Quilters

Fri. & Sat. 7pm, Sun. 2pm • **Adult advance purchase \$22, at the door, \$25, 6-18yr. \$15, 5 & under free.** • A Fine Arts Guild Youth Theater Production. Tickets sold at Macdonald Book Shop, at the door, or online. • *Estes Park High School Auditorium* • FineArtsGuild.org

20 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy:

Families on the Water - Introduction to Fly Fishing

8am-4pm • **\$10-\$20** • Get on the water for some fly fishing with Sarah from Rambling Ruby Rose Guided Fly Fishing • *Starts at the Estes Park Visitor Center* • bit.ly/RMCEventbrite.org/Events • **970-586-3262**

22-23 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy:

iPhone Photography: Capturing Rocky Mountain Magic

Mon 6-9pm, Tue. 7am-noon • **\$200** • Join photographer Dawn Wilson in learning techniques and how to use your phone to capture stunning images of Rocky Mountain National Park, *Estes Park Visitor Center on Sat.* • bit.ly/RMCEventbrite • **970-586-3262**

24 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy:

Bats of Colorado and RMNP - East

6-10pm • **\$100** • Join us for an unforgettable in-person adventure exploring the fascinating world of bats in Colorado and RMNP. • *Starts at the Fall River Visitor Center* • bit.ly/RMCEventbrite • **970-586-3262**

27 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy:

Edible and Medicinal Plants of RMNP - East

8am-4pm • **\$200** • Join naturalist Leanne Benton for an exploration of the many useful (and a few dangerous) plant species found in Rocky's eastern regions. • *Starts at the Fall River Visitor Center* • bit.ly/RMCEventbrite • **970-586-3262**

JULY CONT.

31 • Listening at the Legion: South Austin Moonlighters

Check website for times, prices, and food specials • *American Legion Post 119* • LegionListen.org

AUGUST

2-3 • Westernaires

7pm • Westernaires perform precision drills at speed, horse acrobatics, daring trick riding, a dressage exhibition, and much more. • *The Estes Park Fairgrounds* • EstesParkEventsComplex.com

4 • National Park Fee Free Day

Anniversary of the Great American Outdoors Act • *Rocky Mountain National Park*

4-6 • On The Trails with Steve Johnson

\$200 (book lodging separately) • Awaken your curiosity and experience some of the lesser known trails in and around RMNP. • *YMCA of the Rockies* • YMCARockies.org

6-7 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy: Grasses of RMNP

Tues. 1-4pm, Wed. 8am-4pm • **\$275** • Learn the common grasses of RMNP, from sagebrush to the alpine ecosystem. • *Starts at the Fall River Visitor Center* • bit.ly/RMCEventbrite • **970-586-3262**

7 • Village Band Concert

7pm • **FREE** • *Performance Park*

Keep turning the page, we have a jam-packed year!

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS CONT.

AUGUST CONT.

9 • Book Lovers' Day

Celebrate with us. Great deals all day. • *Cliffhanger Used Books, next to the Post Office*

9-11 • Senior Pro Charity Rodeo

Fri. 7-9pm, Sat. & Sun. 2-4pm • *The Estes Park Fairgrounds*

• EstesParkEventsComplex.com

10 • Summer Concert Series

7-9pm • FREE • Sponsored by the Fine Arts Guild of the Rockies • *Performance Park*

• FineArtsGuild.org

10-11 • Estes Park Wine Festival

Sat. 11am-5pm, Sun. 11am-4pm • \$35-\$110 • A 21+ event with live music, retail vendors, artisans, and food vendors. Non-drinker and designated driver tickets are available at the gate for \$10. • *Bond Park* • EstesParkWineFestival.com

12-14 • History of RMNP and the Estes Park Area with Larry Schneider

\$200 • Learn about the players and events that defined the area that is now Estes Park, YMCA of the Rockies, and RMNP. • *YMCA of the Rockies*

• YMCARockies.org • 970-586-3341 x1104

13-14 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy:

Wetland Ecology and Plant Identification in RMNP

Tues. 1-4pm, Wed. 8am-4pm • \$275 • Explore RMNP's wetland ecosystems with expert instructor, Denise Culver. • *Starts at the Fall River Visitor Center*

• bit.ly/RMCEventbrite • 970-586-3262

14 • Jazz Big Band Concert

7pm • FREE • *Performance Park*

15 • Listening at the Legion: Rupert Wates

Check website for times, prices, and food specials • *American Legion Post 119*

• LegionListen.org

17 • Arts at Altitude: Cleveland Pops West

The Cleveland Pops orchestra will take up residence at YMCA of the Rockies- Estes Park Center culminating with a Broadway Performance • *YMCA of the Rockies*

• YMCARockies.org • 970-586-3341 x1104

17-18 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy: Bettie Course: Stream Ecology and Fly Fishing

8am-4pm both days • \$250 • An introduction to stream ecology and fly-fishing, just for women! • *Starts at the Estes Park Visitor Center* • bit.ly/RMCEventbrite

• 970-586-3262

17-18 • Estes Park Art Studio Tour

10am-5pm • FREE • Visit any or all home studios throughout Estes Park, watch work in progress, and buy art. • EPStudiotour.com

20 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy: Mindful Birding: Rocky Mountain Forests

8am-noon • \$100 • Join instructor Barb Patterson for a day of mindfulness and birding in RMNP's Forests. • *Starts at the Fall River Visitor Center*

• bit.ly/RMCEventbrite • 970-586-3262

23-25 • 16th Annual Handmade in Colorado Expo

Fri. 11am-6pm, Sat. 10am-7pm, Sun. 10am-4pm • FREE • Juried event showcasing some of Colorado's best fine art and contemporary crafts. • *Performance Park*

• EstesParkEventsComplex.com

24 • Estes Valley Plein Air Quick Paint & Auction

8:30am-noon • FREE • Artists paint at various locations within 50 miles of Estes Park including RMNP. • *George Hix Riverside Plaza* • ArtCenterofEstes.com

• bit.ly/RMCEventbrite • 970-586-3262

24 • Listening at the Legion: Ordinary Elephant

Check website for times, prices, and food specials • *American Legion Post 119*

• LegionListen.org

AUGUST CONT.

27 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy: Sketchbook Journaling: RMNP in Watercolor

8am-4pm • \$200 • Toss your sketchbook and some simple watercolor tools into your day pack and explore RMNP with Karen Ramsay. • *Starts at the Fall River Visitor Center* • bit.ly/RMCEventbrite • 970-586-3262

31 • 19th Annual John Denver Tribute Concert

4pm doors open, 5-6pm Random and True, 6:30pm Brad Fitch and the TropiCowboy Band • See website for pricing. • Presented by The Rotary Club of Estes Park • *Ruesch Auditorium at the YMCA of the Rockies*

31-Sept. 2 • Labor Day Arts & Craft Show

Fri & Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 9am-3pm • FREE • Juried art show and sale, sponsored by Newcomers/Sunrise Rotary Club. • *Bond Park* • FineArtsGuild.org

SEPTEMBER

6-8 • Longs Peak Scottish Irish Highland Festival

Celtic music & dance, dogs of the British Isles, a parade, jousting and athletic competition, and more fun for the entire weekend. • *Estes Park Events Complex* • ScotFest.com

6-8 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy: Night Sky Landscape Photography

Fri. & Sat. 2:30-11pm, Sun. 1-4pm • \$525 • Learn to photograph stars, the Milky Way, the moon, and planets using ordinary lenses with accomplished photojournalist Stan Honda. • *Starts at the Fall River Visitor Center* • bit.ly/RMCEventbrite • 970-586-3262

10 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy:

Beavers are Back, With a Little Help from Their Friends!

8am-4pm • \$200 • Join us as we explore the return of beavers to RMNP and their role in healthy wetland ecosystems. • *Starts at the Fall River Visitor Center*

• bit.ly/RMCEventbrite • 970-586-3262

14-15 • 49th Annual Fine Arts and Crafts Festival

Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 9am-4pm • FREE • A juried show featuring artists displaying a wide variety of fine arts and crafts. • *Bond Park* • FineArtsGuild.org

17 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy: Mindful Birding: Rocky Mountain Wetlands

8am-noon • \$100 • Join instructor Barb Patterson for a day of mindfulness and birding in RMNP's wetlands. • *Starts at the Fall River Visitor Center* • bit.ly/RMCEventbrite

• 970-586-3262

21 • Listening at the Legion: Sam Robbins

Check website for times, prices, and food specials • *American Legion Post 119*

• LegionListen.org

21 • Summer Concert Series

7-8:30pm • FREE • Sponsored by the Fine Arts Guild of the Rockies • *Performance Park*

• FineArtsGuild.org

21-22 • Rails in the Rockies Model Railroad Show

Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 9am-4pm • Adults \$10, Entire Family \$20, Children 12 and under are FREE • Layouts big and small in all gauges. Vendors for locomotives, train cars, modeling supplies, modeling clinics, and children's activities. • *Estes Park Event Center* • Presented by the Estes Valley Model Railroaders • RailsInTheRockies.org

21-22 • 30th Autumn Gold Festival

Sat. 11am-6pm, Sun. 11am-5pm • FREE

• A festival of beer, brats and bands! • *Bond Park* • EstesParkAutumnGold.com

Still more. Keep going!

SEPTEMBER CONT.

- 24 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy: A Season of Beauty and Change - Autumn in RMNP**
8am-noon • \$100 • Experience the beauty of autumn in RMNP and learn about how plants and animals prepare for the coming winter. • Starts at the Estes Park Visitor Center • bit.ly/RMCEventbrite • 970-586-3262
- 27-28 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy: Fall Color Photography in Rocky Mountain National Park**
Fri. 6:30-9pm Zoom, Sat. 8am-4pm • \$275 • Learn to capture a unique perspective on the spectacular fall colors of RMNP with accomplished nature photographer, Bob Dean. • Starts at the Estes Park Visitor Center • bit.ly/RMCEventbrite • 970-586-3262
- 28 • National Park Fee Free Day - National Public Lands Day**
Rocky Mountain National Park
- 28 • Rut Run 5k**
8:30am Start • \$40, Optional race shirt for participants and general public. • Fall colors and mountain views along the new downhill course at Elk Fest. • Bond Park • EstesParkRunningClub.org or Facebook/EstesParkRunningClub
- 28-29 • Elk Fest**
Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 10am-4pm • FREE • Celebrate "Elktober" in Estes Park with Native American storytelling and music, kids games, educational areas, a beer garden, food, and live entertainment. • Bond Park • EstesParkEventsComplex.com • 970-586-6104
- 29- Oct. 1 • Elk Ecology with Steve Johnson**
\$200 (book lodging separately) • Fall is the time for elk to be in rut. Join us as we look into the amazing world of the Wapati (elk), in the heart of the Rocky Mountains. • YMCA of the Rockies • YMCARockies.org • 970-586-3341 x1104

OCTOBER

- 5 • Pumpkins & Pilsners**
11am-6pm • FREE • Fun family fall festival, kids' activity corner, hay and pony rides, jump house, live music, food vendors, pumpkin patch, and locally-brewed beer. • Bond Park • VisitEstesPark.com
- 5 • Fall Fest**
FREE to guests staying at YMCA of the Rockies, Day Passes can be purchased for those staying off-site • We are celebrating fall break and offering special activities and programs for families including nature walks, climbing wall sessions, games, activities and more! • YMCA of the Rockies • YMCARockies.org
- 7-8 • Estes Park Sidewalk Sale**
Merchants throughout the downtown area move merchandise onto the sidewalk for a weekend-long special sale.
- 7-9 • Astronomy at the YMCA with Dr. Robert Potter and Dr. Jim Gallt**
\$200 (book lodging separately) • Participants will learn about the history of astronomy, how to observe the sky, the solar system, stars and constellations, and the basics of stellar birth and death, including white dwarfs, neutron stars and black holes. • YMCA of the Rockies • YMCARockies.org • 970-586-3341 x1104
- 12 • Spanglish and Other Cultures: A Celebración of the Diversity of Estes Park**
7pm • Adult advance purchase \$22, at the door, \$25, 6-18yr. \$15, 5 & under free. Tickets sold at Macdonald Book Shop, at the door, or online. • Estes Park High School Auditorium • FineArtsGuild.org
- 26 • YMCA of the Rockies Halloween Spooktacular**
FREE to guests staying at YMCA of the Rockies, Day Passes can be purchased for those staying off-site • Celebrate the Halloween season with spooky themed events and activities perfect for families. • YMCA of the Rockies • YMCARockies.org • 970-586-3341

Winter events here are the best! Keep going!

Explore Events in Estes Park
ESTESPARKEVENTSCOMPLEX.COM



Event Center • Pavilion • Grandstands
Equestrian Facilities • O'Connor Pavilion Ceremony & Reception Site
Mrs. Walsh's Garden • Bond Park • Performance Park

Plan or Attend Festivals, Events, Meetings, Weddings & Reunions

970-577-3956 • EstesParkEventsComplex.com



CALENDAR OF EVENTS CONT.

NOVEMBER

2 • Rocky Mountain Craft Spirits Festival

2–5pm • Featuring the products of more than 40 distillers and bottlers of whiskey, rum, vodka, and other distilled spirits from Colorado and the region. • [Estes Park Events Complex](#) • [Events@Estes.org](#)

11 • National Park Fee Free Day - Veterans Day

Rocky Mountain National Park

11 • Veterans Day Celebration

Come celebrate and honor our country. Music, food, drinks, fun, and games. • *American Legion Post 119* • [Facebook.com/ALPost119](#)

11 • Veterans Memorial Event

2pm • **FREE** • *Visitor Center at Bald Eagle monument*

16-17 • Creative Colorado Tablesetting/Scaping Event

10am–5pm, Sun noon–3pm • **\$10** • Enjoy viewing creations with the theme, "Books and Movies, Then and Now," while helping to raise funds for the Estes Park Museum • *Ember at the Estes Park Resort* • [EstesPark.Colorado.gov/Museum/Programs](#)

17 • Listening at the Legion: Shanna in a Dress

Check website for times, prices, and food specials • *American Legion Post 119* • [LegionListen.org](#)

23 • Tree Lighting

3:30–6pm • **FREE** • *George Hix Riverside Plaza* • [Events@Estes.org](#)

25-26 • Winter Native Plants and Nature Wreaths with Megan Bach and Debbie Bangs

\$200 (book lodging separately) • Join us to learn why native grasses are important, how to identify grasses and winter shrubs, and master the skill of creating decorative wreaths just in time for the holidays. • *YMCA of the Rockies* • [YMCARockies.org](#) • **970-586-3341 x1104**

28 • Turkey Trot 5K

FREE • Open to the public, 5K route that weaves throughout the YMCA property. Walkers, strollers, and leashed dogs are welcome. Free-will donations will be accepted to support the camper scholarship program. • *Sweet Memorial Building* • [YMCARockies.org](#) • **970-586-3341**

29 • Catch the Glow Parade

5:30pm • **FREE** • A holiday tradition - whimsical floats, lighted decorations, and Santa. • *Downtown* • [EstesParkEventsComplex.com](#) • **970-586-6104**

30 • Holiday Wine & Craft Festival

Colorado Wineries, retail vendors, food vendors, and pics with Santa. • *Estes Park Events Center* • [EstesParkHolidayWineFestival.com](#)

DECEMBER

5 • Listening at the Legion: Jon Chandler

Check website for times, prices, and food specials • *American Legion Post 119* • [LegionListen.org](#)

6-8 • A Christmas Carol - Radio Play

Fri. & Sat. 7pm, Sun. 2pm • **Adult advance purchase \$22, at the door, \$25, 6-18yr. \$15, 5 and under, free** • Tickets sold at Macdonald Book Shop, at the door, or online • *Estes Park High School Auditorium* • [FineArtsGuild.org](#)

31 • New Year's Eve Family Dance

8–10pm • **FREE to guests staying at YMCA of the Rockies, Day Passes can be purchased for those staying off-site** • Rock in the New Year with a fun dance and activities at a family-friendly celebration! • *YMCA of the Rockies* • [YMCARockies.org](#) • **970-586-3341**

2025

JANUARY 2025

18-19 • First Peoples Festival

A celebration of Indigenous culture, art, music, language, oral traditions, and much more. • *Estes Park Events Center* • [EstesParkEventsComplex.com](#)

18-20 • Arts, Crafts and Creativity Weekend

FREE to guests staying at YMCA of the Rockies, Day Passes can be purchased for those staying off-site • Enjoy specialty arts and crafts classes for all ability levels and take 20% off all crafts. • *YMCA of the Rockies Mootz Family Craft and Design Center* • [YMCARockies.org](#)

20 • National Park Fee Free Day - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Rocky Mountain National Park

FEBRUARY 2025

8 • Wine & Chocolate Festival

Noon–5pm • Sample sweets from the region's finest chocolatiers, taste pours from a variety of wineries, and enjoy live music. • *Estes Park Events Complex* • [EstesParkEventsComplex.com](#)

MARCH 2025

1 • Whiskey Warm-Up

Sample Colorado whiskeys from a variety of distilleries. • *George Hix Riverside Plaza* • [EstesParkEventsComplex.com](#) • **970-586-6104**

TBD • Frozen Dead Guy Days

Three days of frigidly fun happenings spread across Estes Park. • [FrozenDeadGuyDays.com](#)

APRIL 2025

25 • Bigfoot BBQ

6pm cash bar 7–9pm BBQ, This Bigfoot-themed dinner will feature food, drinks, live music, photos, and mingling with our special guests. • *Bond Park* • [EstesParkEventsComplex.com](#)

26 • Bigfoot Days

10am–4pm • Celebrating all things Squatchy, begins on Friday with the Bigfoot BBQ (a ticketed dinner featuring our Celebrity Guests), and concludes on Saturday with an outdoor festival. • *Bond Park* • [EstesParkEventsComplex.com](#) • **970-586-6104**

THAT'S ALL! SEE YOU THERE.

WE'VE DONE OUR BEST, YET THINGS CHANGE.
CONFIRM EVENT DETAILS ON THEIR WEBSITES.



SCAN FOR UP-TO-DATE ESTES PARK EVENT DETAILS



PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS

July and August bring monsoon storms that produce dramatic afternoon skies. In winter, snow helps bring out the character of the trees and mountains.

POINT-AND-SHOOT

A point-and-shoot or a phone camera allows you to concentrate on being creative. Just point, say "smile," and click! With most phone cameras you can increase photo quality by touching the screen to focus on your subject. Today's phones have so many new photography features; take some time to play and get used to them.

LOCAL GALLERIES & GUIDES

To purchase fine art prints and displays of Rocky Mountain National Park and Colorado by photographer **James Frank**, stop by Aspen and Evergreen Gallery. More of his photographs are available at JamesFrank.com.

Learn about the behaviors and beauty of Rocky Mountain wildlife through the photos by **Dawn Wilson Photography**. See her work at the Old Gallery in Allenspark, in Aspen and Evergreen Gallery in Estes Park, or online. Take a guided tour to learn how to capture that perfect wildlife shot. Timed-entry reservations into Rocky are included. DawnWilsonPhotography.com.

Book a tour with **Rock Light Photo Tours** to capture the majesty of Rocky Mtn Natl Park. Local pro photographer Colin D. Young specializes in teaching photographers how to capture the Milky Way at 12,000ft, with half-day to multi-day tours customized with as much or little hiking as you prefer. **917-902-3063**, RockLightPhotoTours.com.

Visit the **Images of RMNP** gallery in downtown Estes Park to experience the beauty of the Rocky Mountains. Visit this beautiful gallery with the large photographic prints and gorgeous photo books that transport you into the mountains. ImagesofRMNP.com. 📍

SEE THE LIGHT

It's all about timing. When the sun is lower in the sky (sunrise and sunset), the light is warm and gentle on your subject. Mid-day light is brighter and will lend a harsher feeling to your images. Don't photograph into the sun. Take your pictures of what the sun is illuminating. If you do shoot into the sun, put a person or object in the frame to create "rim light" around the object. This is the beautiful rim of light created by the sun.

FRAME OF MIND

Great photographs generally have one main subject which fills most of the picture. Before you take a shot, zoom in so that a lake, pine tree, or herd of elk fills most of the frame. Experiment with putting your subject off to one side rather than the center. Get low and shoot high or find a vantage point and shoot down.

FIND YOUR FOCUS

Experiment with depth of field. Usually, you will want the entire scene to be in sharp focus, but try a larger aperture (f/4 or f/5.6) to force the background out of focus. Use a large aperture, focus on a single wildflower, and the crisp flower will "pop" against a blurry background.

WEATHER THE STORM

Some of the best landscape photographs are taken as a storm approaches or breaks up. Ominous clouds draping over the mountains make incredible shots. Be safe, though; don't be on high ridge lines when thunderstorms are imminent, and return to your car when lightning is present.

ERIK STENSLAND'S IMAGES of RMNP



203 Park Lane,
Estes Park, CO 80517
970.586.4352
www.ImagesofRMNP.com

Located in downtown
Estes Park,
behind Bond Park



WEDDINGS

Whether you're looking to completely immerse yourself in nature and say your vows with the majestic views of Longs Peak in the background, or stay comfortable in the temperature-controlled environment of one of the many stunning venues, there are a variety of options to consider.

Most importantly, regardless of your budget, those who choose Estes Park for their destination event have the flexibility to have a memorable day.

With Estes Park as your setting, your guests will love seeing all that Colorado has to offer, and will leave with an unforgettable experience.

GO WITH THE PROS

Even though it's a small community, wedding professionals of all types live and work in Estes Park, so there's no need to search Denver or the surrounding area for your wedding vendors.

The Estes Park Wedding Association is a group of qualified wedding venues and wedding services who specialize in destination weddings, elopements, rustic mountain weddings, and weddings in Rocky Mountain National Park. For more information on this group, visit EstesParkWeddings.com.



RENTALS

Are you looking to rent certain items for your family reunion or special event? **Estes Park Rent All** can provide tables and chairs, pipe and drape, golf carts (delivery available), canopies (they can set up and tear down), and baby equipment. **970-586-2158**. 📍

A GORGEOUS MOUNTAIN TOWN

Many might associate Estes Park with sweeping landscapes, plentiful hiking opportunities, a haunted hotel, tall mountains, a beautiful national park, or elk as far as the eye can see.

While these are all absolutely fantastic reasons to visit this small mountain town, there's another opportunity you may not be aware of; it's a phenomenal wedding destination.

Estes Park sees millions of tourists a year with on average 4.1 million visiting the neighboring Rocky Mountain National Park. With all of these visitors, it's no surprise that many of them choose Estes as their location of choice to tie the knot.

Even though the population is around 11,000, this small town has over 15 wedding venues, not including the plethora of ceremony sites in the national park.

SO WHY ESTES PARK?

It's no secret that there are many beautiful locations to host celebrations in Colorado. Most might think of Aspen, Vail, or Telluride when it comes to a mountain wedding, but Estes Park has all of the scenery without the ski traffic or the price tag making it a great destination.

And as an added perk, it's just a short drive from Denver, making it significantly easier for out of town guests to travel to, even if the weather is less than ideal.

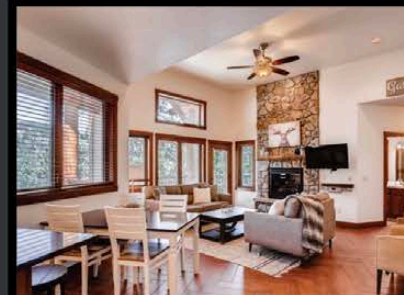
Those who choose to wed in Estes have many opportunities to create their dream wedding and there's something for everyone.



Black Canyon Inn

Picturesque views of Rocky Mtn. Ntl. Park's Longs Peak, the Continental Divide & Lumpy Ridge.

Resort-Style Property



Luxury Mountain Style



Peaceful, Secluded Location

BEAUTIFUL VIEWS FROM EVERY UNIT • HEATED POOL (OPEN SUMMER MONTHS) • ONSITE HOUSEKEEPING & GUEST SERVICES
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FALL IN ESTES PARK

TWO FOR ONE

While beautiful deciduous trees are common to other areas of the country, experiencing the elk mating season, also known as the "rut," along with the fall colors is much more unique.

Herds of elk gather throughout town and in park meadows to engage in this annual ritual, and visitors have the opportunity to witness this remarkable spectacle (safely!) at a distance.

Herds can often be seen at either of the golf courses, downtown Bond Park, or crossing the road in large groups causing an "elk jam."

IN A RUT

During the rut, mature bull elk will gather cows and calves into groups called harems. Other younger or less powerful males are driven off by these bulls and occasional battles are fought over harems.

The eerie, high-pitched call of bulls is known as a "bugle" and each is as unique as the human voice. Bulls use their bugle to intimidate other bulls and communicate with their harem. Testosterone-fueled bulls can be very aggressive during this time and, as always, viewers should give wildlife ample space (75ft-about 2 bus lengths).

FALL EVENTS

One great way to learn more about the rut is to attend the Estes Park Elk Fest, held annually on the first weekend of October. This free celebration includes live music, vendors, bugling contests, kids' activities, and more. The Rocky Mountain Nature Conservancy and Green Jeep Tours also do special elk tours this time of year.

Plan to attend one of the weekend fall events (see the Calendar of Events pages 88-101).

Fall in Estes Park is truly glorious, so stay a bit longer and enjoy it. 🌲

WINTER IN ESTES PARK

WINTER WONDERLAND

Estes Park and the surrounding mountains are transformed when winter snow begins to fall. After the busy summer and fall seasons, winter offers a slower pace and less crowds.

But don't be fooled, fewer people doesn't mean there's less to do. Winter recreational opportunities abound and Estes Park is a magical place to enjoy the holiday season, and the perfect place to buy unique mountain gifts.

Local shops and restaurants remain open and you can often dine without waiting in a line. A spa treatment is perfect on a cold winter's day. You can also take an art class or seminar.

WINTER PLAYGROUND

The natural beauty of Rocky Mountain National Park shifts with the seasons, and the park is simply breathtaking in winter. Even though some animals hibernate and the deep layer of snow gives the impression of stillness, underneath it all Rocky is still very much alive. Snow makes it easier to spot the tracks of wildlife and remind you that you're not alone.

Snow accumulation varies greatly across Rocky Mountain National Park. This side (the east side) receives less snow than the west side, making snow cover inconsistent, especially in early winter.

Strong winds, variable temperatures, and steep slopes contribute to increased avalanche danger. Since snow conditions are always changing, it is best to check with park rangers before every outing.

You can also see avalanche, snow, and trail conditions online at [NPS.gov/ROMO/PlanYourVisit/Winter_Activities.htm](https://www.nps.gov/ROMO/PlanYourVisit/Winter_Activities.htm).

SNOWSHOEING

Hiking and snowshoeing are easy ways to see and explore Estes Park and the surrounding area. If you can hike, you can snowshoe!



The best months to snowshoe are January through March.

This activity involves minimal equipment and no prior experience. Warm waterproof boots are highly recommended, and snowshoes and poles can be rented at the **Estes Park Mountain Shop**.

GO WITH THE PROS

RMNP also offers free ranger-led snowshoe hikes January through March, as conditions allow. Reservations are required. [NPS.gov/ROMO/PlanYourVisit/Ranger-Led-Snowshoe-Walks.htm](https://www.nps.gov/ROMO/PlanYourVisit/Ranger-Led-Snowshoe-Walks.htm).

WINTER WALKING OR HIKING

If you want to get out on the trails without snowshoes, having snow cleats or "spikes" is a great idea. There are several different types available, but all function like studded snow tires for your feet and fit right over your shoes or boots.

These are great to have simply for walking around a snow-packed area.

The investment of about \$25 a pair is well worth it. **Estes Park Mountain Shop** sells and rents them.

SLEDDING

Hidden Valley, the site of an old ski area, has a designated sledding area. This is the only place in Rocky that sledding is allowed. No tows are provided; you walk your sled, saucer, or tube up the hill and slide down.

There is no fee to go sledding; only a park entrance pass is needed. There are no timed-entry permits needed in the winter months.

continued on page 108



Fall is a popular time of year to visit Estes Park, and for good reason.

Crisp sunny days, the bright colors of changing aspen leaves, and the elk rut are just a few highlights that make autumn a magical season.

The abundance of recreational opportunities this time of year make it worth planning a multi-day stay.

There's more to do and see than can fit into an afternoon.

Once the monsoon season of July and August has passed, fall weather in the mountains is normally sunny and dry.

September and October often bring warm days and cool evenings that are perfect for hiking, scenic drives, and wildlife viewing.

LEAF PEEPING

The sparkling golds, yellows, and oranges of autumn leaves are one of the main draws for visitors to the Estes Park area this time of year.

Drives through the national park, as well as the famous 55-mile Peak to Peak Scenic Byway south of Estes Park, are popular for "leaf peepers" to spot the massive groves of aspen trees native to Colorado showing their fall colors.

Professional and amateur photographers alike flock to this area to capture the quintessential mountain scenery. The best lighting for spectacular fall photos is early or late in the day.



WINTER IN ESTES PARK



WINTER GEAR

To purchase maps or rent skis, snowshoes, and sleds, visit **Estes Park Mountain Shop**. They have winter clothing and gear, hiking boots, and snow cleats. They can also give you current conditions. **970-586-6548, EstesParkMountainShop.com**.

ROAD-TRIP READY

Driving in the mountains always needs your full attention. This is especially true in winter. Conditions can change rapidly, so being prepared is very important.

Always keep your gas tank at least half full, and your EV charged. Carry an emergency kit in the car with water, snacks, blankets, and extra clothing, which can be lifesavers if a beautiful snowfall turns into an insane blizzard.

Allow plenty of time to get to your destination. An old-fashioned paper map is great to have as cell service can be spotty. Knowing where you are, as well as alternative routes, is important. Roads can be closed unexpectedly due to winter conditions, rock fall, or construction.

In addition to the items mentioned above, your emergency kit should include a small shovel in case you get stuck. A scrap of carpet tucked in your trunk can be handy for traction under a tire. Road flares, flashlights, batteries, a basic tool kit, and jumper cables are also worth keeping in the car for winter drives. Don't forget a good pair of gloves.

Always carry enough water for everyone, including pets. Drinkable water might not be available. Be prepared in case you are stuck on a closed road due to weather.

Traction laws are in effect on highways during winter storms in Colorado.

WINTER DRIVING

Colorado has what is called a Traction Law. This law is implemented by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), and is in place on any state highway during a winter storm. This is the final safety measure before a highway is closed.

When the law is in effect, all motorists are required to have one of the following on their car with at least 3/16 of a inch tire tread:

- 4WD or AWD.
- Tires with a mud or snow designation.
- Winter tires or all-weather rating.
- Chains or an approved alternative.

Not having the proper rating on your tires, or an approved alternative, could result in fines if you are involved in an accident when the law is in affect.

NOTE: Rocky Mountain National Park can enforce the Traction Law when conditions allow. If you don't have the proper tires, you will be turned around at the gate.

HOLIDAYS IN ESTES PARK

There's nothing like spending the holidays in a small mountain town. From late November to the end of February, downtown Estes Park is beautifully decorated with holiday lights, and a stroll along the downtown riverwalk is magical. The light season kicks off at the Tree Lighting Ceremony on November 23 (see the Calendar of Events pages 88-101).

SHOP SMALL, SHOP LOCAL

Staying in town for the weekend also means you can get your holiday shopping done on Small Business Saturday, a tradition alive and well in downtown Estes Park. Not only can you purchase one-of-a-kind gifts for those on your list, but you're helping to support a year-round economy and the livelihood of families in our community.

CONT.

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

The holiday season can be especially fun for a gathering in Estes Park. Celebrate at one of the many local restaurants in town. Holiday specials are put together to show off special menus and pairings.

There are also many lodging properties with cabins or detached homes where you can cook your own holiday meal.

See **VisitEstesPark.com** for special celebrations.

WINTER EVENTS

Planning a weekend stay for February's Wine & Chocolate Festival is worth the trip. What's better than wine and chocolate? Sample sweets from the region's finest chocolatiers, taste pours from a variety of wineries, and enjoy live music and a romantic weekend in beautiful Estes Park.



March brings two popular events. Sip and sample the finest selections of Colorado whiskeys at the Whiskey Warm Up. Frozen Dead Guy Days brings three days of frigidly fun happenings.

April boasts the most unique event of the year: Bigfoot Days, celebrating all things Squatchy. The festival features appearances and talks from television Bigfoot celebrities and experts, live music, activities for the entire family, craft and food vendors, and much more.

See the calendar on pages 88-101 for more details on events happening around town all year long. 🌲

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OUR COMMUNITY

OUR INCREDIBLE NONPROFITS

Estes Valley is home to over 11,000 full- and part-time residents in the business of supporting our community's nonprofit industry. Over 100 nonprofits are located in or in service to the Estes Valley. These organizations are a powerhouse of service and impact:

- Estes Park has one of the state's highest rates of nonprofits per capita: one nonprofit per eleven Estes Valley residents.
 - Nonprofits account for our communities largest employer.
 - A female-identifying person leads 59% of local nonprofits.
 - 51% of local nonprofits have a majority of female-identifying board members.
 - The local nonprofit industry collectively reported 2023 revenues shy of \$72 million.
 - Last summer, guests donated over \$11,000 in change to local nonprofits by rounding up at the register.
 - More businesses are participating this summer, and more impact will be made.
- Be a Giving Guest and find ways to shop, play, and stay in a meaningful way at EPGivingGuest.org.

GOING BEYOND FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

The Estes Chamber of Commerce has more than 300 members participating in regular networking, learning, and community events.

In partnership with Visit Estes Park, the Estes Chamber business members go "beyond" the festivals and events with special offers for visitors.

As you plan your adventures in town, remember to check our social media and our websites for the latest offers from member businesses.

EstesChamber.org, VisitEstesPark.com. 🌲

THE BUSINESSES OF ESTES PARK

People have been coming to Estes Park for more than 150 years. The longevity of the businesses shows the loyalty guests have for this community.

Estes Park thrives on the passion of small business owners. Approximately 95% of the businesses in Estes Park are owned by individuals or families.

About 20 percent of our advertisers have been in business for 25 years or more, some 50 years or more. All but a few are multi-generational.



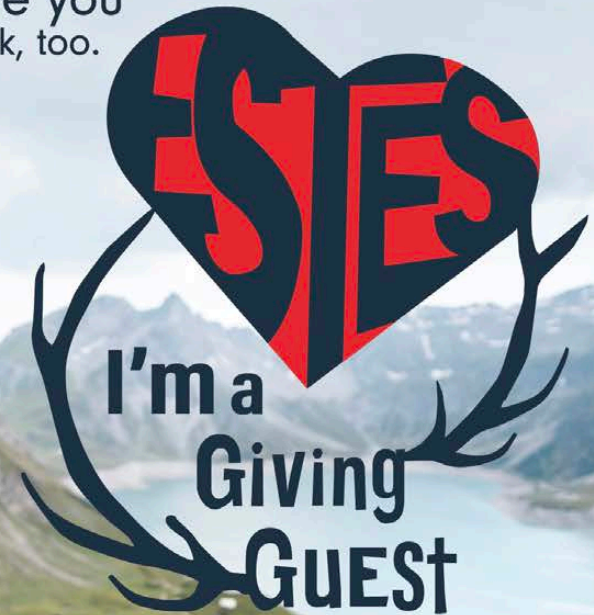
Connecting business and community to build a better place to live, work, and play

ESTESCHAMBER.ORG

You are part of our community.

Estes has 11,000 locals and 5 million visitors in the business of giving back.

We'd love you to give back, too.



Shop, Stay and Play in a Meaningful Way



Find additional businesses or give directly at

EPGivingGuest.org

A program of Estes Nonprofit Network

SHOPPING OPTIONS

BUSINESS NAME	PHONE #	PAGE #	DESCRIPTION
Aspen and Evergreen	970-586-4355	38	Fine Art, Gifts & Home Decor Handmade by 90 Estes Park & Colorado Artists
BLADES	970-591-2704	155	Sword Room & Hundreds of Knives \$15 - \$2,000
CABINtique	970-586-5750	23	New & Antique Gifts and Collectibles, Featuring Vintage Cabin and Camp Decor
The Country Market of Estes Park	970-586-2702	126	Locally-Owned Full-Service Grocery Store, Deli & Coffee Bar
Earthwood Galleries	970-586-2151 970-577-8100	91	Since 1977, Featuring 250 Artists Art for Everyone
Estes Park Mountain Shop	970-586-6548	4	Outdoor Gear and Apparel
Estes Park Pet Supply	970-586-8442	35	Dog and Cat Food Supplier
The Estes Park Paw Company	214-789-7920	34	Making Premium Treats and Chews Since 2019
The Grey House	970-577-7000	2	Men's, Women's, and Baby Apparel for Cozy and Active Living
Guardians of the Park	618-830-3946	58	T-Shirt and Gift Shop Encouraging All Visitors to Become Caretakers of RMNP
Images of RMNP	970-586-4352	103	Gallery & Shop Dedicated to Photographer Erik Stensland's Images of RMNP
Inspired Artisan Market & Studio	970-685-8818	37	Art, Jewelry & Gifts Handmade by Colorado Artists, Art Supplies & Take-Home Art Kits
Macdonald Book Shop	970-586-3450	21	Independent Book Shop with Old Fashioned Service
The Mad Moose	970-577-9775	27	Gallery & Shop Dedicated to Photographer Erik Stensland's Images of RMNP
The Ore Cart Rock Shop	970-586-3577	95	Unique Gifts Featuring the Beauty of Natural Stone
Patterson Glassworks Studio & Gallery	970-586-8619	43	Exquisite Functional and Decorative Glass Blown Pieces
Rocky Mountain Gateway	970-577-0043	74	Souvenirs, Gifts, Apparel, Books, Native American Jewelry and More
Stanley Village Shopping Center	970-352-5860	86	Restaurants, Pet Supplies, Liquor & Wine, Movie Theater and Pharmacy
STUFFED	970-480-5454	9	1,500+ Styles of Unique STUFFED Animals
The Taffy Shop	970-586-4548	83	Estes Park's Original Taffy Shop, Made On-Site Since 1935
Thirty Below Leather	970-586-2211	31	Leather Goods, Purses, Duffle Bags, Backpacks, and Gloves All \$30 and Below
Village Goldsmith	970-586-5659	41	Custom-Made, Unique Fine Jewelry

ADVENTURES OPTIONS

BUSINESS NAME	PHONE #	PAGE #	DESCRIPTION
EQUIPMENT RENTALS			
Estes Park Mountain Shop	970-586-6548	4	Rentals for All Seasons and Activities
INFORMATION			
FunTreks	719-536-0722	59	Book and App to Guide 4x4 on Colorado Backroads
GuideAlong	866-477-4171	7	Audio Driving Tour App for RMNP
The Photographer's Guide to RMNP	970-586-4352	103	Guide Book by Erik Stensland of Images of RMNP Gallery
GUIDED TOURS			
Creeks and Critters Nature Tours	970-567-6109	79	Private Custom Photo Tours of RMNP
Green Jeep Tours	970-577-0034	INSERT	Guided Scenic, Wildlife, Off Road & Hiking Tours of RMNP & the Area; They Do the Driving
Rock Light Photo Tours	917-902-3063	63	Sunrise, Sunset & Night Photography Tours with a Pro
Rocky Mountain Conservancy	970-586-3262	53	Ecology Tours, Field Courses, & Adventure Education
HORSE STABLES			
National Park Gateway Stables	970-586-5269	77	Scenic Two-Hour to All Day Horseback Rides into RMNP
FAMILY FUN			
The Bull Pin Bowling & Sports Bar	970-591-7771	61	Bowling, State-of-the-Art Arcade, Live Entertainment, Group Events, Food & Beverages
Estes Park Ride-A-Kart	970-586-6495	54	Family Entertainment Center with Go-Karts, Bumper Boats, Mini-Golf and More
Inspired Artisan Market & Studio	970-685-8818	37	Art Studio Offering Drop-In & Book-Ahead Classes, Kits & Workshops - Half-Day & All-Day Studio Passes Available
Rooftop Rodeo	970-586-6104	93	High Altitude Western Rodeo
YMCA - Estes Park Center	970-586-3341	49	Aerial Challenge Course, Horseback Riding, Fly Fishing, Mini Golf and More - Located Next to RMNP
RAFTING			
A1 Wildwater	970-224-3379	55	Rafting on the Cache La Poudre and North Platte Rivers
Mountain Whitewater	970-419-0917	75	Rafting on Colorado's Only Wild & Scenic River. Paddler's Pub - Beers, Bands, Boats
Rocky Mountain Adventures	970-493-4005	57	Rafting Trips, Instruction, & Rental Equipment
EDUCATION/MUSEUMS			
Estes Park Museum	970-586-6256	47	Local History Museum Chronicling Early Homesteading to Recent Disasters, Restored Buildings and Family Fun
MacGregor Ranch Museum	970-586-3749	45	Historic Ranch Showcasing the Homesteading History of Estes
SPA TREATMENTS			
Elements of Touch Wellness Spa	970-586-6597	25	Spa Treatments Using Pure Ingredients in a Relaxed Riverfront Setting
The Qi Lounge Wellness Spa	970-235-0056	154	Full service spa, located at the Estes Park Resort

Respect the Animals



KEEP WILDLIFE *Wild!* DON'T FEED THEM!

Bears

Bears are very persistent and will eat anything. Once they get into a trash container and find something to eat, they will return for another meal. This is harmful to the bear and can lead to a bear being removed or euthanized. We all need to be careful with our trash and work to protect the bears.

Always stash your trash and food in a bear-resistant container. Never leave food unattended.

The Town of Estes Park has regulations for residents regarding bird feeders and trash container in an effort to help keep bears away from homes.

NOT EVEN THIS CUTE LITTLE *Liar!*



NO, HE'S NOT STARVING, NO MATTER HOW CONVINCINGLY HE BEGS!

Give them Space!



Elk

Guests from all over come to Estes Park to see the elk, especially in the fall during the rut. This is a dangerous time to get near an elk, as they are ready for a fight. The spring calving season is just as dangerous – Mamas are scary.

If you see a marked calving area, or see elk calves with their moms, avoid them. Don't walk your dog near them.



Good News, Good Choice!



- Estes Park's free community newspaper
- Printed copies at hundreds of locations
- Read it online at estesparknews.com
- See what's happening this week in "Your Favorite Mountain Town!"
- Check out the *Things To Do* page

LODGING OPTIONS

Y YES **C** COMMON AREA **I** INDOOR
S SOME **P** PRIVATE **O** OUTDOOR
HOT TUB/JACUZZI POOLS

AMENITIES GUIDE

CABINS & COTTAGES	PHONE	NUMBER OF UNITS	AMENITIES GUIDE									
			KITCHEN	FIREPLACE	HOT TUB/JACUZZI	POOL	PET FRIENDLY	ACCESSIBLE	RESTAURANT	WATER FRONT/RIVER VIEWS	BALCONY/DECK	
Castle Mountain Lodge <small>CastleMountainLodge.com</small>	800-852-7463	30	Y	S	S		S				S	Y
Lazy R Cottages <small>RockyMtnResorts.com</small>	800-672-9289	16	Y	Y	S/P		S					Y
Rams Horn Village Resort <small>LuxuryEstesParkCabins.com</small>	800-229-4676	46	Y	Y	C	O		S				Y
Sunnyside Knoll Resort <small>RockyMtnResorts.com</small>	800-672-9289	18	Y	S			Y					S
Timber Creek Chalets <small>RockyMtnResorts.com</small>	800-672-9289	14	Y	Y	S/P	O	S	S				S
Triple R Cottages <small>RockyMtnResorts.com</small>	800-672-9289	8	Y	S	S/P		Y					S
YMCA of the Rockies Estes Park Center <small>YMCARockies.org</small>	970-586-3341	250	Y	S			I	Y	S	Y		Y

continued on page 118

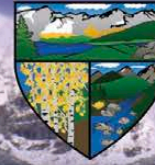
DID YOU KNOW?

The lodging and hospitality industry began in the Estes Valley as early as the 1860s. Joel and Patsy Estes were illegally squatted on what was Arapaho land when they became known for their generosity.

The Estes family offered to host William Byers while he prepared for his attempt of Longs Peak. Byers was so taken with their hospitality that he wrote an article in *The Rocky Mountain News* praising the graciousness of the folks in Estes Park.

To ensure his guests had the best experience, Abner Sprague constructed Sprague Lake just so the guests at his hotel could go fishing.

ESTES PARK, COLORADO



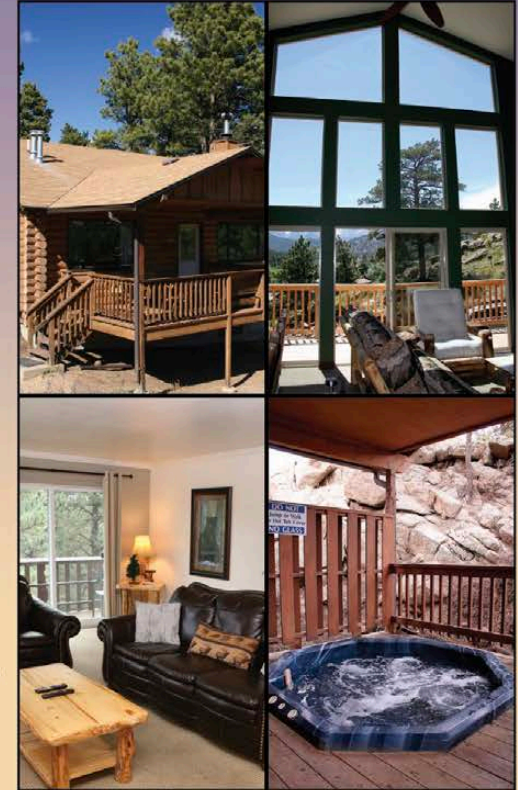
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LODGING OPTIONS CONT.

Y YES **C** COMMON AREA **I** INDOOR
S SOME **P** PRIVATE **O** OUTDOOR
HOT TUB/JACUZZI POOLS

AMENITIES GUIDE

CONDOS, SUITES & VACATION HOMES

			NUMBER OF UNITS	KITCHEN	FIREPLACE	HOT TUB/JACUZZI	POOL	PET FRIENDLY	ACCESSIBLE	RESTAURANT	WATER FRONT/ RIVER VIEWS	BALCONY/DECK
Aspen Brook Vacation Homes <small>AspenBrook.com</small>	970-449-2455	5	Y	Y	S/P					Y	Y	
Black Canyon Inn <small>BlackCanyonInn.com</small>	970-586-8113	33	Y	Y		O		S				Y
Estes Park Condos <small>EstesParkCondos.com</small>	970-577-0068	63	Y	Y	C/P			S		Y	Y	
Estes River Retreat <small>EstesRiverRetreat.com</small>	970-586-6597	1	Y	Y						Y	Y	
Fawn Valley Inn <small>RockyMtnResorts.com</small>	800-672-9289	48	Y	Y	S/P	O				Y		S
Rocky Mountain Resorts <small>RockyMtnResorts.com</small>	800-672-9289	125	Y	Y	S/P	O	S			S		S

HOTEL OR MOTEL/LODGES

PHONE

The Estes Park Resort <small>TheEstesParkResort.com</small>	970-577-6400	54		Y				Y		S	S	
Quality Inn <small>QualityInnEstesPark.com</small>	970-586-2358	73		S	C	O		S				S
The Suites at Black Canyon <small>BlackCanyonInn.com</small>	970-586-8113	14		Y		O		S				S
Taharaa Mountain Lodge <small>Taharaa.com</small>	970-577-0098	18		P	C/P			Y	Y			P
YMCA of the Rockies Estes Park Center <small>YMCARockies.org</small>	970-586-3341	602		Y		I	S	S	Y			S

VACATION RENTALS

PHONE

Mountain Village At Lake Estes <small>MountainVillageEstesPark.com</small>	970-473-5735	30	Y	P	P			S	S	Y	S	Y
SkyRun Vacation Rentals <small>RMNP.SkyRun.com</small>	970-480-8845	92	Y	S	S/C/P	S/O		S	S		S	S

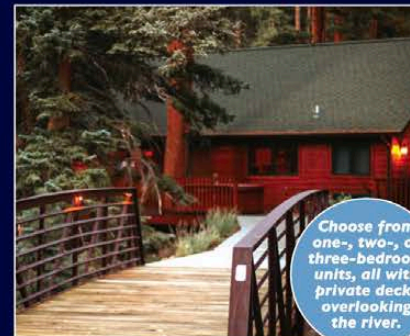
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LODGING OPTIONS

CABINS & COTTAGES

	PG
1 Castle Mountain Lodge	29
2 Lazy R Cottages	117
3 Rams Horn Village Resort	33
4 Sunnyside Knoll Resort	117
5 Timber Creek Chalets	117
6 Triple R Cottages	117
7 YMCA of the Rockies Estes Park Center	49

VACATION RENTALS

	PG
1 Mountain Village at Lake Estes	85
2 SkyRun Vacation Rentals	13

HOME OFFICE: 1885 SKETCHBOX LANE
MANY RENTAL LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT ESTES

CONDOS, SUITES & VACATION HOMES

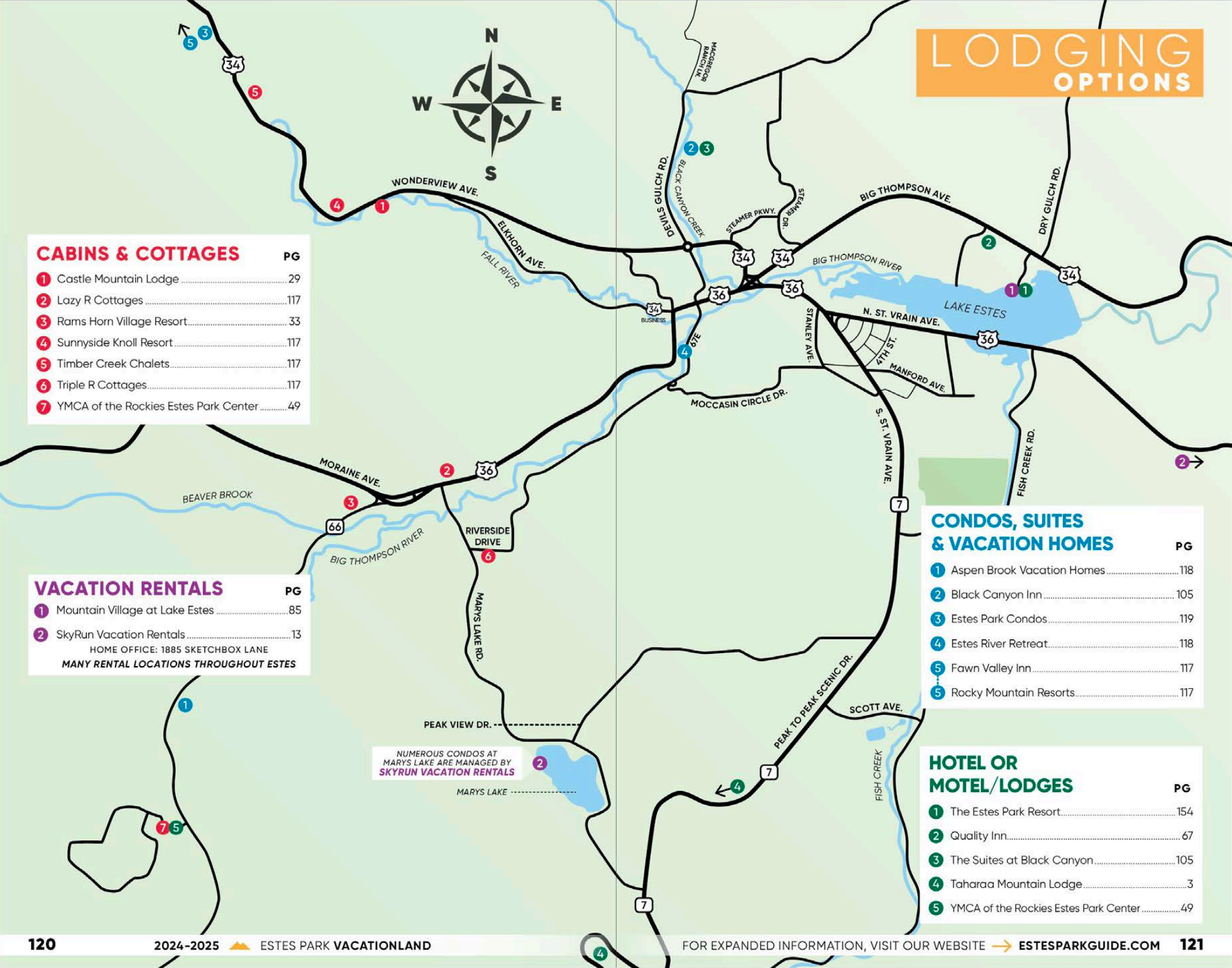
	PG
1 Aspen Brook Vacation Homes	118
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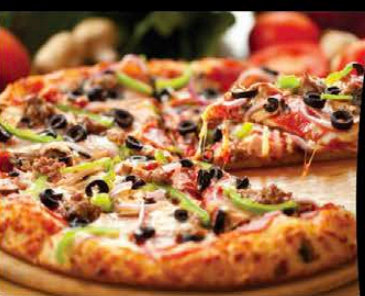
HOTEL OR MOTEL/LODGES

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1 The Estes Park Resort	154
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3 The Suites at Black Canyon	105
4 Taharaa Mountain Lodge	3
5 YMCA of the Rockies Estes Park Center	49



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SYRUPS

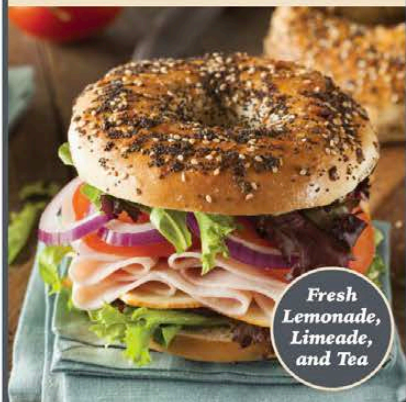
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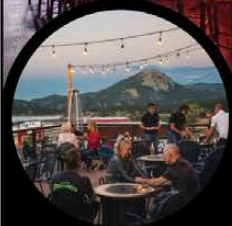
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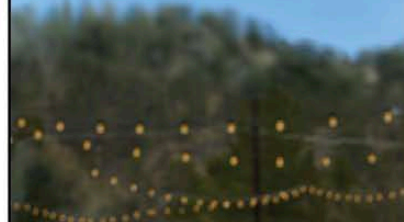
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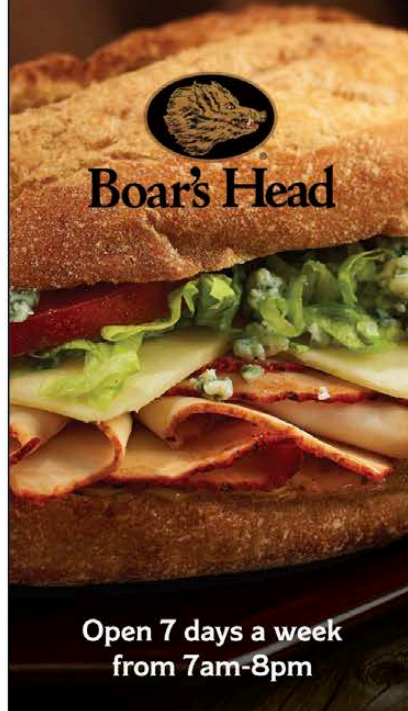
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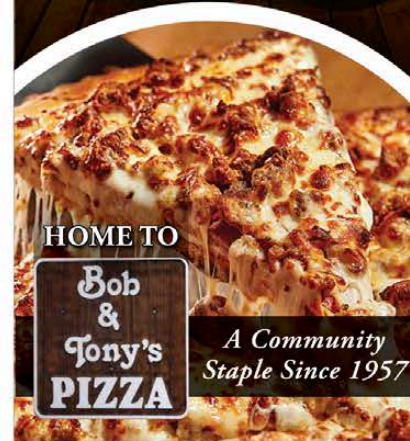
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We sample over 25 different **Colorado-grown** wines including a wide variety of whites and reds, plus dessert, fruit and honey wines.




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RESTAURANTS
ESTES PARK

🍴 DINING OPTIONS

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★	RESTAURANT & Cuisine	PHONE NUMBER	PAGE #	DINING OPTIONS														
				BREAKFAST	LUNCH	SUNDAY BRUNCH	DINNER	COCKTAILS	RESERVATIONS	ENTERTAINMENT	LARGE GROUPS	SPECIAL EVENTS/ CATERING	BW	!				
★	Big Horn Restaurant Mountain Comfort	970-586-2792	134	●	●		●	BW			●	●						
	Bird & Jim Modern Mountain	970-586-9832	124		●	●	●	●	●			●	●					
★	The Bird's Nest Bakery/Sandwiches/Pizza	970-586-4707	124	●	●	●	●	BW				●	●					
★	Bob & Tony's Pizza Pizza	970-586-2044	127		●		●	●										
	The Bull Pin Bowling & Sports Bar Elevated Bar Food	970-591-7771	60 & 124		●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●					
★	Cafe de Pho Thai Asian	970-577-0682	135		●		●	●				●	●					
	Claire's Restaurant & Bar American	970-586-9564	11 & 136	●	●		●	●	●			●	●					
	Ed's Cantina & Grill Fresh Mexican	970-586-2919	138		●		●					●	●					
	The Egg of Estes American	970-586-1173	139	●	●	●		●				●	●					
	Elevations Eatery & Bar Classic American	970-586-6900	140		●		●	●				●	●					
	El Mex-Kal Mexican	970-586-4377	141		●		●	●				●	●					
	Ember at Estes Park Resort Upscale American	970-577-6400	142	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●					
	Estes Park Brewery American	970-586-5421	89		●		●	●	●			●	●					
	Hunters Chop House American/Steaks/Seafood	970-586-6962	143		●		●	●	●			●	●					
	Latitude 105 Alehouse Burgers & More	970-527-1500	144	●	●		●	●	●			●	●					
★	Mama Rose's Italian Restaurant Traditional Italian	970-586-3330	82 & 145		●		●	●	●			●	●					
★	Poppy's Pizza & Grill American/Pizza	970-586-8282	82 & 150		●		●	●	●			●	●					
	The Post Chicken & Beer Independently operated on the grounds of The Stanley Hot Chicken & Cold Beer	970-287-5001	146		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●					
	Smokin' Dave's BBQ & Brew American	970-577-7427	148		●		●	●	●			●	●					
	The Trailhead Restaurant American	970-577-0043	151	●	●		●	●				●	●					
	Twin Owls Steakhouse at Taharaa Mountain Lodge American	970-586-9344	COVER INSERT				●	●	●	!	●	●	●					
	WayFinder Modern Upscale Americana	970-586-3098	152	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●					
★	You Need Pie! 50's-Style Diner	970-577-7437	153	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●					

RESTAURANTS ESTES PARK

ROTATING FOOD TRUCKS DOG FRIENDLY Most of these establishments offer gluten-free meal options. If you want information regarding gluten sensitivity/Celiac safety, please call the restaurant directly.

COFFEE SHOPS	PHONE #	PAGE #	DESCRIPTION
Inkwell & Brew	970-342-1297	125	Coffee Bar with Craft Coffee, Drinks, Artisan Shop with Journals, Pens, Cards
Kind Coffee	970-586-5206	126	Organic Coffee & Espresso Drinks, Smoothies, Milkshakes, Breakfast, Lunch, Pastries, Snacks, Gifts
Raven's Roast Coffee Lounge	970-586-4326	128	Coffee & Pastries, Mocktails, Smoothies, Extensive Tea Selection, Fresh Lemonade
Tahosa Coffee House at Camp St. Malo, Allenspark	303-747-2786	123	Craft Coffee, Tea, House-Made Pastries, Snacks, Beautiful Views

BAGELS/DELI	PHONE #	PAGE #	DESCRIPTION
★ The Country Market	970-586-2702	126	Coffee Bar, Sandwiches and Salads, Breakfast Burritos/Sandwiches, Party Plates
Village Bagels	970-444-4104	123	Fresh Bagels, Baguettes, and Flatbreads Made Daily

SWEETS & TREATS	PHONE #	PAGE #	DESCRIPTION
The Taffy Shop	970-586-4548	83	The Original! Made Fresh Since 1935

ADULT BEVERAGES	PHONE #	PAGE #	DESCRIPTION
The Barrel	970-616-2090	125	Bavarian Beer Garden & Hall, Wine & Spirits
Estes Park Brewery	970-586-5421	89	Family Friendly Brewery & Bar with Games
Estes Park Distilling Co.	970-586-2044	127	Hand-Crafted Small Batch Spirits Bob & Tony's Pizza Location
Full Throttle Distillery & Grill	N/A	65 & 127	Moonshine, Whiskey, Vodkas, Live Music & Grill
Hogback Distilling Tasting Room & Bar	720-357-9320	129	Micro Distillery Producing Bourbon, Rye, and Single-Malt Whiskey
Rock Cut Brewing Company	970-586-7300	129	Brewery
Snowy Peaks Winery & Tasting Room	970-586-2099	128	Colorado-Made Wines Cheeses, Meats & More

DELIVERY SERVICE	PHONE #	PAGE #	DESCRIPTION
Warrior Xpress Delivery	830-500-3575	122	Local delivery service that delivers from popular restaurants in town.

All businesses listed accept credit cards • All restaurants in CO are smoke-free

BIG HORN INC.

AN ESTES ORIGINAL SINCE 1972



BREAKFAST 6AM-2PM

JUST A SMALL SAMPLING OF OUR LARGE MENU!



LUNCH 11:30AM-4PM

CELEBRATE YOUR SPECIAL EVENT AT BIG HORN!



DINNER 4PM-CLOSE

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Healthy, Fresh Food,
Made From Local Ingredients

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OPTIONS AVAILABLE

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PATIO SEATING
WITH VIEWS OF
**LONGS
PEAK**



PATIO
CONVENIENT
PARKING
LOCATED AT
BOND PARK

PRIVATE PARTIES
AVAILABLE

TWO FOR ONE MIMOSAS
ALL DAY EVERY DAY

970-586-9564 • CLAIRE'SRESTAURANTANDBAR.COM

SELECTED MENU

BREAKFAST

Sat-Sun • 8AM-12PM

Full Bar • Eggs Benedicts • Waffles
Pancakes • Omelettes • Breakfast Trout
Biscuits and Gravy • 2 for 1 Mimosas
Signature Bacon Bloody Marys



LUNCH

Mon-Sun • 12PM-8PM

Full Bar • Appetizer Menu • Speciality
Salads • All Natural Burgers • Hot/Cold
Sandwiches • House-Made Soups
Lunch Entrées • Wild Game Meatloaf



DINNER

Mon-Sun • 12PM-8PM

Full Bar • Burgers • Specialty
Salads • All Natural Steaks/Chicken
Lamb Chops • Smoked Salmon
Trout Pastas (Italian Fare)
House-Made Desserts



Kids Menu Available

Gluten Free Options Available

CALL FOR SEASONAL HOURS



Claire's has partnered
with local organic
farmers and bakers to
bring fresh ingredients
to create a seasonally
inspired menu.

Visit Our Website
for Current Specials



225 PARK LANE

FOR EXPANDED INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE → ESTESPARKGUIDE.COM 137

This is just a small sampling from our menu...

SPECIALTIES

Bison Enchiladas • Carne Asada
Rainbow Trout • Falafel Tacos
Chile Rellenos • Squash Stuffed
Poblano • Fish Tacos • Chimichangas

STARTERS & SMALL PLATES

Plantains • Appetizer Sampler
Soup & Salad • Queso Dip

BOWLS & BURRITOS

Barbacoa Bowl • Chicken
Fajita Bowl • The 14'er Burrito

BURGERS & SANDWICHES

Fresh-Made Beef Burgers Daily
Cubano Torta



Fresh. Homemade. Local.

Serving affordable Mexican & American dishes in a relaxed and fun atmosphere. From fresh burgers to carne asada, tasty microbrews to top shelf margaritas.

Outdoor Seating Available

EDSCANTINA.COM
390 E. ELKHORN AVE.
970-586-2919



About Ed's

Locally owned & operated since 1986.
Fresh, homemade & local food inspired by central Mexican cuisine with a Colorado Twist.

OUR MEATS

CHICKEN

Naturally Raised • Marinated & Braised
Chicken Breast & Thigh

SIRLOIN & SHREDDED BEEF

Colorado Grass-Fed • Naturally Raised

BISON

Colorado Grass-Fed • Naturally Raised

OUR MARGARITAS

Made with Fresh Lime Juice & Sugar

AVOCADO • FLIGHTS • SPICY • & MORE!

8 LOCAL BEERS ON TAP

OLD FASHIONED FOUNTAIN SODA

MADE FROM CANE SUGAR

CREME SODA • ROOT BEER

LEMON-LIME & MEXI-COLA

We proudly offer...

Specialities from Locally Sourced Items

Vegan & Gluten-Free Options

Happy Hour menu & drink specials daily

3 to 5pm Monday thru Thursday

Event Room for Special Occasions

Catering



THE
egg
OF ESTES



Locally Owned & Family Operated

970-586-1173

EGGOFESTES.COM



SUMMER HOURS

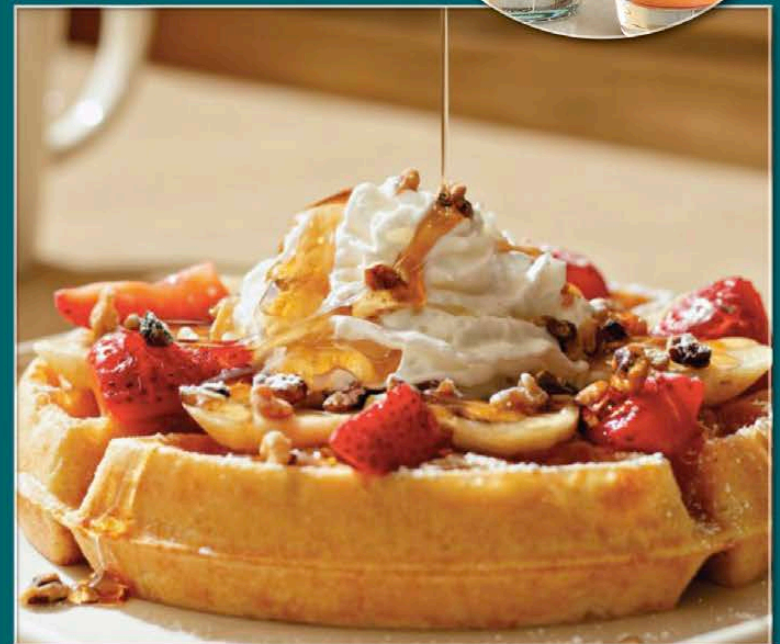
MONDAY - FRIDAY: 6AM - 2PM

SATURDAY - SUNDAY: 6AM - 2:30PM

WINTER HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY: 7AM - 2PM

SATURDAY - SUNDAY: 7AM - 2:30PM



393 E. ELKHORN AVE., ESTES PARK, CO

WORLD CUISINE

ELEVATIONS
EATERY AND BAR



MENTION
THIS AD FOR A
COMPLIMENTARY
HOUSE DRINK
MINIMUM PURCHASE
REQUIRED



970-586-6900 • ELEVATIONSEATERY.COM

153 E. ELKHORN AVE. • DOWNTOWN ESTES PARK

El Mex-Kal

Family Mexican Restaurant

ENJOY THE BEAUTIFUL VIEWS
FROM OUR OUTDOOR PATIO



OPEN
11AM-9PM

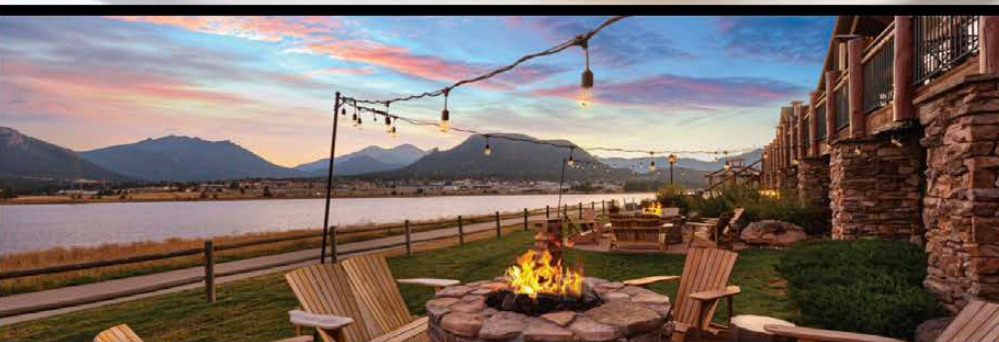


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Hunters Chop House

Old Fashioned Mountain Fare

Wine Spectator
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE 2021
Wine Spectator
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE 2022
Wine Spectator
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE 2023



Rustic, relaxed setting with great views of the Rocky Mountains and Lake Estes

SEASONAL OUTDOOR PATIO

SPECIALIZING IN:

WILD GAME SEAFOOD
BUFFALO WHISKEY
ELK BAR
STEAKS FINE WINES



OPEN FOR DINNER • PATIO SEATING IN THE SUMMER • FREE GUEST PARKING

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1690 BIG THOMPSON AVENUE • 970-586-6962



A TASTE AS BIG AS THE ROCKIES

In Estes Park, there are many restaurants and bars you could go to — and one you must. Latitude 105 serves up regionally inspired food and drinks in a fun-filled environment. With chef-curated favorites, 18 rotating taps and arcade games, this is your Rocky Mountain highlight.

View the full menu at Latitude105Alehouse.com



(970) 527-1500 | 101 South Saint Vrain Avenue | Estes Park, CO



FULL BAR
EXTENSIVE
WINE LIST
BEER

Traditional Italian

970-586-3330

ENTREES

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| LASAGNA | SALMON & VEGETABLES |
| VEGETARIAN LASAGNA | BAKED PASTAS |
| CHICKEN PARMESAN | OLD WORLD SPAGHETTI |
| EGGPLANT PARMESAN | SHRIMP SCAMPI |
| ANGRY EGGPLANT | SEAFOOD BAKED PASTA |
| ANGRY CHICKEN | CHICKEN CAESAR SALAD |
| PORTABELLO | |
| MUSHROOM RAVIOLI | |
| CHICKEN & VEGETABLES | |

PASTAS

- SPAGHETTI • FETTUCINI
RIGATONI • GLUTEN-FREE
PENNE • OR SHREDDED
ZUCCHINI

SAUCES

- MEAT SAUCE • MARINARA
ALFREDO • BASIL PESTO
TOMATO CREAM SAUCE
ARRABIATA

LUNCH	HAPPY HOUR	DINNER
May 11-Oct 13 11:30AM-3PM	Limited Tapas Menu 3PM-4:30PM	Starting At 4:30PM

Order Online Today!

338 E. ELKHORN AVE. • ESTESDINING.COM

IN BENBROOK PLAZA • Reservations Available Online

FOR EXPANDED INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE → ESTESPARKGUIDE.COM 145

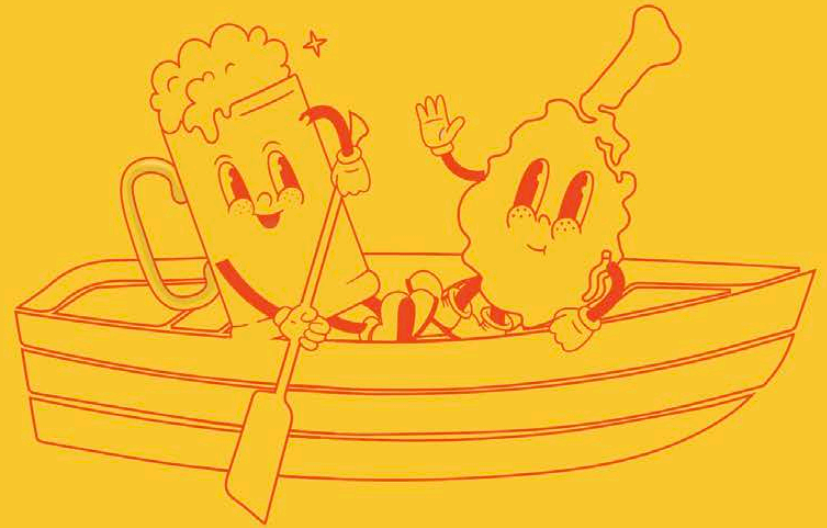
HOT CHICKEN *Loves* COLD BEER



**SERVING COLORADO
DELICIOUSNESS**
& Award Winning Beer

333 E Wonderview Ave, Estes Park, CO
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**THE
POST**
CHICKEN
& BEER



THE POST

SMOKIN' DAVE'S BBQ & BREW

OPEN EVERY DAY 11AM-CLOSE
820 MORAINA AVE.

SMOKINDAVESBBQ.COM
970-577-RIBS (7427)



Established in
2007...

...the year of the
PIG



15 BEERS
ON TAP

★★★
CHECK OUT OUR LYONS,
LONGMONT & DENVER LOCATIONS!

APPETIZERS

- Smokin' Rings • Bubba-Que Wings
- Southern Catfish Tenders
- Stuffed Potato Skins • Hoggin' Combo
- Pit Master Sliders • Southern Okra
- Deep Fried Pickles • BBQ Nachos
- Artichoke Spinach Dip

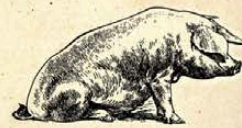
SALADS & THINGS

- Pork Green Chili • Smokin' Red Chili
- Pit Boss Chopped BBQ
- Southern Catfish Salad
- Smoke Shack Caesar Salad
- Chicken Fried Chicken Salad



SANDWICHES & BURGERS

- Carolina Pulled-Pork
- Texas Beef Brisket
- Smoked Corned Beef Reuben
- Wild Salmon Reuben
- Southern Catfish Sandwich
- Pitmaster
- Smokin' Philly
- BBQ Wrap
- BBQ Chicken Sandwich
- Cajun Chicken Sandwich
- Man-Handler
- 1/2lb Angus Smokin' Burgers



SIDES

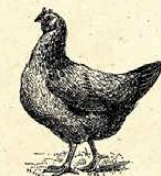
- Red Beans & Rice • Coleslaw • Smashed Potatoes • Potato Salad • Natural Cut Potato Fries
- Sweet Potato Fries • Southern Green Beans • Spiced Apples • Jalapeño Hush Puppies
- Southern Sweet Corn Bake • Cornbread • BBQ Baked Beans

FAVORITES

- Fish 'n' Chips • Southern Catfish
- Chicken Fried Steak

KIDS MENU

- Brisket or Pulled Pork Sandwich
- Mac & Cheese Wedges • Kids Burger
- Rib Dinner • Grilled Cheese
- Chicken Tenders



SMOKIN' PLATTERS

- Roasted Half Chicken
- Carolina Pulled Pork
- Texas Beef Brisket
- St Louis Pork Ribs
- Smokin' Buffalo Ribs
- Texas BBQ Sausage

DESSERTS

- Kentucky Bourbon Pecan Pie
- Fudge Brownie a la Mode
- Homemade Apple Cobbler
- Creole Bread Pudding

FAMILY COMBOS

- Big Kahuna Belly Buster
- Not So Teeny Wahine • Rib Lovers

LET SMOKIN' DAVE DO THE COOKING!
DINE IN OR TAKE IT TO GO.
SMOKINDAVESBBQ.COM

Choose from our **SWEET ORIGINAL, TANGY, SPICY**
or **CAROLINA MUSTARD** homemade **BBQ SAUCES**

Dedicated to **PRESERVING** and **HONORING**
the **ART OF AMERICAN BBQ**

Poppy's PIZZA & grill

PIZZA

970-586-8282

SAUCES

TRADITIONAL RED SAUCE

Contains Parmesan

GARLIC & OLIVE OIL

Vegan

BASIL PESTO

Pine Nuts & Parmesan

SUNDRIED TOMATO PESTO

Sundried Tomatoes, Olive Oil, Parmesan

CONFETTI PESTO

Minced Mixed Olives, Parmesan, Red Pepper Flakes, Olive Oil

TOPPINGS

VEGGIES: Mushroom, Jalapeño, Onion, Tomato, Black Olive, Green Olive, Capers, Banana Pepper, Roasted Red Pepper, Spinach, Zucchini, Broccoli, Red Pepper, Green Pepper, Pineapple
Substitute Daiya Vegan Mozzarella

MEATS: Pepperoni, Italian Sausage, Hamburger, Ham, Canadian Bacon, Salami, Anchovies

SPECIAL TOPPINGS: Smoked Trout, Chicken, Capriccola, Sundried Tomato, Artichoke, Kalamata Olives, Cream Cheese, Feta

SIZES

INDIVIDUAL
SERVES ONE

SMALL
SERVES TWO

MEDIUM
SERVES THREE

LARGE
SERVES FOUR

SPECIALTY PIZZAS

SEE FULL MENU ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE OR WEBSITE

STRAZIANTE: Red Sauce, Italian Sausage, Pepperoni, Salami, Capriccola, Smoked Mozzarella, Italian Herbs

MEDITERRANEAN PIZZA: Sundried Tomato Pesto, Artichoke, Spinach, Feta

ROCKY MOUNTAIN PIZZA: Garlic & Olive Oil Sauce, Smoked Trout, Onion, Capers, Cream Cheese

APPETIZERS

Homemade Onion Rings, Hummus Dippers, Cheddar Chunks, Cheese Fries, Poppers, Green Chile Fries

BURGERS & SANDWICHES

Wraps, Reuben, Fish Sandwich, Build Your Own Burgers, Chicken Sandwiches, Vegan Sandwiches

ENTRÉE SALADS

Open Daily
FROM 11:00AM

ORDER ONLINE TODAY!

342 E. ELKHORN AVE. • ESTESDINING.COM

On the Riverwalk in Benbrook Plaza • NO RESERVATIONS

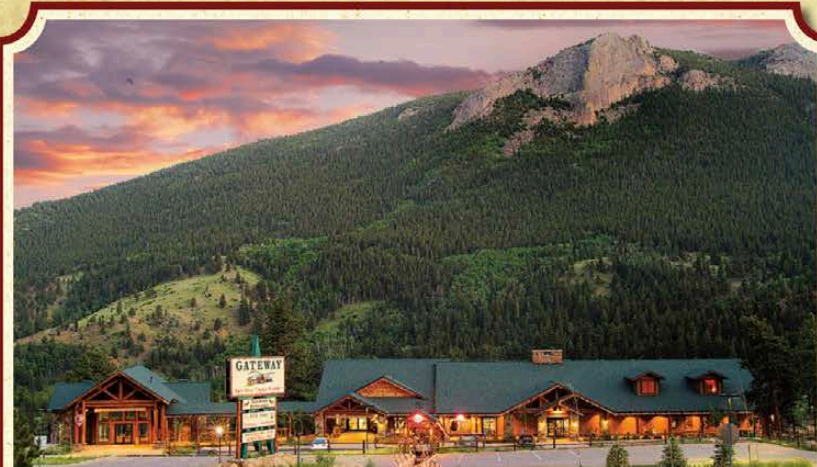


THE TRAILHEAD RESTAURANT

at Rocky Mountain Gateway

3450 FALL RIVER ROAD
ESTES PARK, CO 80517

970-577-0043
TrailheadRestaurant.com



FULL SERVICE DINING
Serving Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Featuring
HOME-COOKED BREAKFAST

BURGERS · PASTA · HOT & COLD SANDWICHES
SOUP & SALAD · STEAKS · WILD GAME · SEAFOOD
and much more

Gluten Free Options · Kids' Menu · Take Out

Wine, Beer and Cocktails Available

Deck Seating with views of Rocky Mountain National Park!

Bring in this ad
and receive

**15%
OFF**

Visit Rocky Mountain Gateway & The Trailhead Restaurant
On Highway 34, at the North Entrance to Rocky Mountain National Park
PLENTY OF PARKING · BUSES & LARGE GROUPS WELCOME





Way Finder

970-586-3098



**BREAKFAST
LUNCH
& DINNER
SERVED
DAILY**

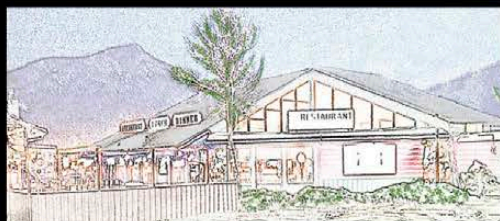
**HOMEMADE
SOUPS
SALADS &
DESSERTS**

ALL FOOD
IS MADE IN
HOUSE

REHEARSAL DINNERS BY RESERVATION

COFFEE BAR

KALUHA & COFFEE LATTE*
HOMEMADE BAKERY ITEMS
*ALCOHOLIC & NON-ALCOHOLIC OPTIONS



LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF
MORaine AVENUE AND MARYS LAKE DRIVE



You Need Pie!
Diner & Bakery

Winter: 8am - 8pm
Summer: 7am - 9pm
YouNeedPie.com
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We deliver with GrubHub

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Breakfast Lunch & Dinner

Biscuits & Gravy
Flapjacks
French Toast
Bacon & Eggs
Quiche
Build-Your-Own
Breakfast Burrito
Old Fashioned Oatmeal

Blue Plate Specials Daily
Chicken Fried Steak
Classic Reuben • Meatloaf
Huge Club Sandwich
Diner Burger • Salads
Fresh Cut French Fries
Malts, Shakes & Floats

Dessert

Homemade Fruit
& Cream Pies
Brownies • Cookies
Cupcakes

Catering

Picnic & Box Lunches
Weddings & Rehearsals
Special Occasions

*Order your
Special Occasion Cake
or Wedding Cake today!*

Breakfast
Served All Day
All Items
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SCRATCH

NOW FRANCHISING!
Contact us to get your
very own 'Piece of the Pie!'

YOU
NEED
PIE!™



*"Best pie in
Colorado!"
-Food Network*

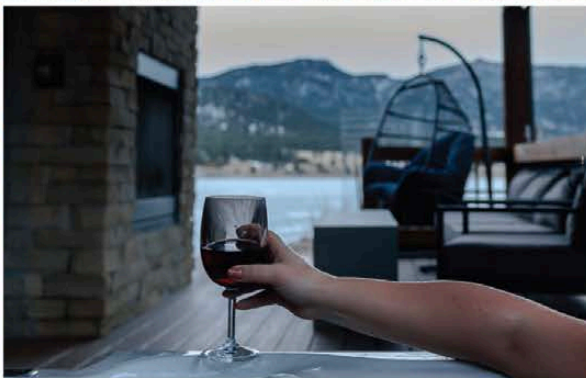
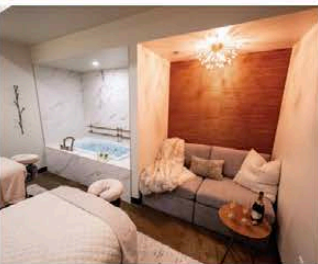
509 Big Thompson Ave. In Lower Stanley Village

The Estes Park

RESORT



WE HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED AT
ESTES PARK'S ONLY WATERFRONT RESORT



E-BIKE TOURS
AVAILABLE



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THEESTESPARKRESORT.COM • 970-577-6400 • 1700 COLORADO PEAKS DR.



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LORD
OF THE
RINGS

AUTHORIZED
DEALER

**HUNDREDS
OF KNIVES**

FROM

\$15-\$2,000

AUTHORIZED DEALER FOR

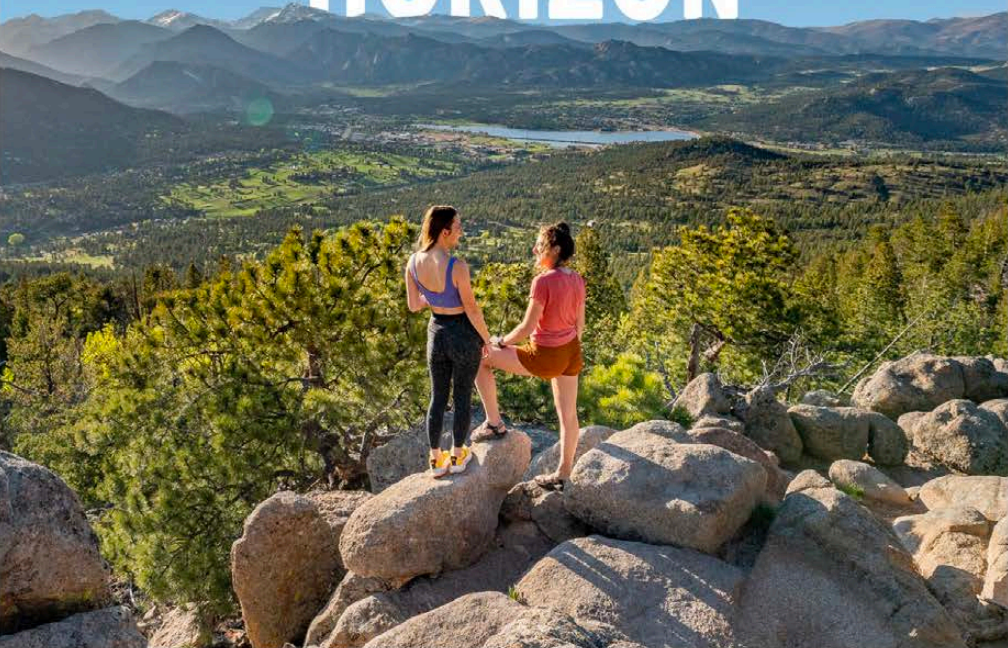


BLADES
WE'VE GOT THE EDGE!

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ADVENTURES ON THE **HORIZON**



Start planning at [VisitEstesPark.com](https://www.VisitEstesPark.com).

