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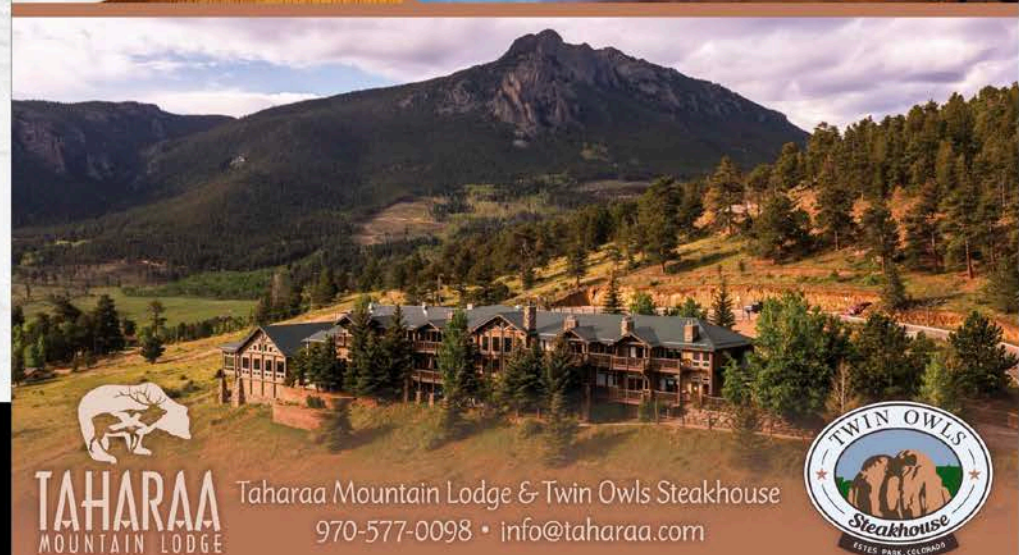
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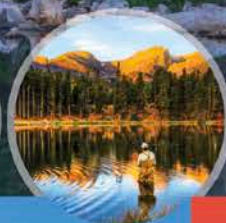


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**ESTES PARK\***

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*This publication is dedicated to my  
Editor-in-Chief, Business Partner, and  
Awesome Mom, Helen Masterson.*

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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 Ehler • 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.*

*Special thanks also to Carey Stevanus and  
the Estes Park Visitor Center Staff.*

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# 70 Years

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# RESTAURANTS ESTES PARK®

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# Venues Galore to Explore

Begin exploring at [EstesParkEventsComplex.com](https://EstesParkEventsComplex.com)



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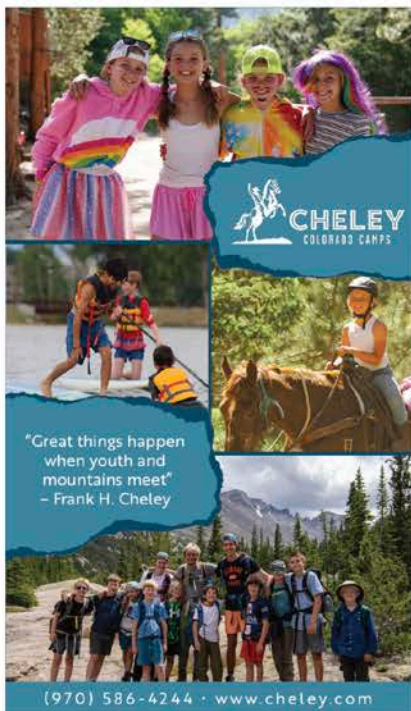
Lois Schmidt

Estes Park has been a favorite and special destination for people for many years. And the *Estes Park Vacationland* has been a trusted companion to visitors for 75 years.

In post-war years, Estes Park was experiencing a boom in its tourism industry. The need for a guidebook was increasing and someone needed to step up and take on the monumental task of putting together a publication.

In 1950, *Estes Park Vacationland* was started by the first of five dedicated women to own it.

These guardians each brought their own twist or style to the publication, and all loved producing it.



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## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

### RUBY MARDEN 1950-1970

Ruby and her husband, Michael, were big supporters of Estes Park. They produced pamphlets promoting owning a business and living in Estes Park.

Both felt a strong urge to tell others about the wonderful things they experienced living in Estes Park. While Michael was president of the Estes Park Area Chamber of Commerce, he wanted a directory of what to do in Estes Park.

The Chamber wouldn't do it, so he asked Ruby who had been a successful publisher when she lived in the East.

She started *Estes Park Vacationland's* "What to Do" and a smaller brochure named "Where to Stay." These two separate summer guides served an important need for the community.

### LOIS SCHMIDT 1970-1983

Lois was the director of the Estes Area Merchant's Association, owner of a jewelry and gift store called the Golden Horseshoe, and later the Estes Park Times and Old Fashioned Candy Store.

She was a very smart business woman and she knew publishing *Vacationland* would keep her connected to the many merchants in town.

She continued the business practices which had proven so effective for the first 20 years of *Vacationland*.

### KATHY SULLIVAN 1983-2000

Kathy was a Realtor and volunteered a lot of her time in the community.

Lois wanted to retire from *Vacationland* and offered it to Kathy, who was excited to try something new. Being creative and social was her favorite aspect.

Kathy's first edition added nightlife listings, recreation listings, and provided more detailed information on what visitors could do when not in Rocky Mountain National Park. Kathy felt that by showing visitors how much there is to do in Estes Park, they will stay longer.

## VACATIONLAND'S 75TH!

She blended the two separate publications into one and introduced color to some of the pages. Her last publication was the 50th edition.

### TAMARA JAROLIMEK AND JAMES FRANK 2000-2011

Kathy wanted to sell *Vacationland* to someone with publishing experience who could take it to the next level.

Tamara and James had a small publishing business producing books, calendars, and postcards for James's photography.

*Vacationland* would feature James's photography and Tamara would sell the ads and write the stories. Working from home was a big draw for them.

They changed the book to be full color, perfect bound (where the pages are glued, not stapled together), with added pages and advertisers.

Most importantly, they started the first website for *Vacationland* with an online version.

### SUSIE AND HELEN MASTERSON 2011 TO PRESENT

Susie with her Mom/business partner, Helen have been producing travel and tourist-style publications since 1995. Both natives of Colorado, they shared a passion for finding interesting facts and ways to write to help plan vacations.

Their family's history with Estes Park goes back three generations, and writing a guide for Estes Park had always been a dream of theirs.

The idea to start the *Estes Park Restaurant Guide* came up and Susie looked to her contacts from working at Cheley Colorado Camp for advice. That first edition came out in 2011 and included restaurants owned by Cheley alums.

She had a meeting at the visitor center and met Tamara. Tamara brought up the idea of selling *Vacationland* so she and James could open a gallery. For both, a dream had come true.



Tamara and James with Kathy Sullivan at their purchase of *Vacationland*

Helen and Susie Masterson

Susie and Helen's first edition would be *Vacationland's* 62nd. They added more articles, an insert map of Rocky Mountain National Park, and after several years, merged the *Restaurant Guide* into *Vacationland*.

Big on protecting the environment, their articles focus not only on enjoying Estes Park but also preserving it for future generations as well. Susie loves to work with the community and tell stories of those who made Estes Park the special place it is.

Helen retired a few years ago and passed away last April. Her spirit still lives on in how Susie writes and works on their dream guide book.

**Fun Fact:** Macdonald Bookshop has advertised in every edition of *Estes Park Vacationland!* 📖

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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. Long's 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 is one of the most visited national parks.

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**.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

You will need a timed-entry reservation between 9am-2pm if visiting May 23-Oct. 13. Both Timed Entry and Timed Entry+ are valid for Wild Basin.

## 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.

## CAMPING IN ROCKY

There are four reservable and one first-come, first-served campgrounds in the park.

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. Checkout time at all campgrounds is noon.

Drinking water and flush toilets are available in most campgrounds in the summer.

Reservations for summer camping can be made six months in advance of your desired camping dates. Visit [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) or **877-444-6777**. Major credit cards accepted.

A separate park camping fee applies.

## 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.



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**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](mailto:ROMOLandF@NPS.gov)**

**Campground Reservations: 877-444-6777**

**In an emergency, call 911**

**A RESERVATION SYSTEM IS IN PLACE: MAY 23-OCT. 19, 2025**

**1 TIMED ENTRY+**  
Bear Lake Road Corridor • Glacier Gorge Area • Sprague Lake • Moraine Park • The Rest of the Park  
**5am-6pm • May 23-Oct 19, 2025**

**2 TIMED ENTRY**  
The Rest of the Park:  
Trail Ridge Road • Old Fall River Road  
Outlying Areas/Wild Basin  
**9am-2pm • May 23-Oct. 13, 2025**

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

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, TURN TO PAGES 16-17**

*continued on page 14*



# TRAIL RIDGE ROAD

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. Near Milner Pass is Poudre Lake, the headwaters of the Cache la Poudre River, which flows to the east of Rocky.

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

This visitor center 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, 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

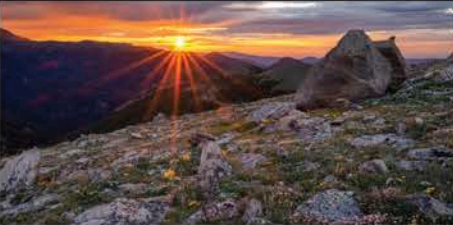
Most people visit RMNP in summer and on fall weekends, so expect congestion on roads, in parking areas, and on popular trails. Never park along the road or on the tundra as there is no shoulder. The tundra is very fragile and will damage easily. Park only in designated spots. The busiest times in Rocky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

**Go.NPS.gov/ROMO/planforsummer.**

**11  
MILES**  
OF ROAD  
ABOVE THE  
TUNDRA

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AMERICA'S  
HIGHEST**  
CONTINUOUS  
PAVED ROAD

**HIGHEST  
ROAD IN ANY  
NATIONAL PARK,  
PEAKING AT  
12,183ft**



## 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 23 to Oct. 13 (Oct 19 for Bear Lake Corridor), 2025.

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 Options on page 99).



### TIPS ON THE RESERVATION SYSTEM

Set up an account on **Recreation.gov** before your trip. **See page 31 for additional tips on this.**

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

Along with the park entry fee, there is a \$2 reservation fee.

Further details are found at **Go.NPS.gov/ROMO/timedentry**. Timed-entry tickets will not be sold at the entrance station.



### 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

## TIPS FOR ROCKY'S

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 23-Oct 19, 2025**

2

### Timed Entry

INCLUDES

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

**9am-2pm**

**May 23-Oct 13, 2025**

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 park rangers upon arrival.

### Entry windows last **TWO HOURS**

If you have a **9am** reservation, you have to enter between **9-11am**.

If you don't, you may be asked to return at a time when reservations are not needed.

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 SYSTEM

### 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 reservation** 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 reservation. 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 reservation for each day you plan to visit.
- There is **an entrance fee in addition to your timed-entry reservation**. 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 reservations start or end each day. Be prepared and plan accordingly.
- Only **one timed-entry reservation** per visitor per day. No need to reserve multiple reservations for one day.
- Timed-entry reservations 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 reservation 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 pass online at **Recreation.gov**. Tickets for the shuttle are not available in person at visitor centers. Visit **Go.NPS.gov/ROMO/shuttles**. ⚡

**The Hiker Shuttle operates 7 days a week, May 23-Sept. 1. Weekends only Sept. 6-Oct. 19, 2025.**



# 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.



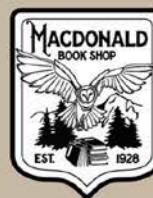
## SNOW KIDDING!

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.

Winters here involve snow, at times lots of it. The biggest mistake is not being prepared with proper clothing and footwear. Don't risk it, be prepared.

*continued on page 20*



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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 into 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 22*

## 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.

## CONT.

## 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

**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](http://ElementsofTouchEstesPark.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.
- The paper we use is chlorine-free.
- We recycle the shrink wrap that comes on the pallets.
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- We recycle unused books (if any are left), and any extra materials.
- We use a printer who follows, and exceeds, environmental practices.
- If you don't want to keep this guide, please place it back in a rack.

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. 🌱

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# KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

## 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 9am to 9pm daily, May 23-Oct. 19, 2025.

Daily trolley service on the Red Route (which travels up and down Elkhorn Dr.) runs 9am to 9pm daily May 23-Oct. 19 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://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).

## 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.

## HOW TO PAY FOR PARKING

Parking in eight downtown public parking areas requires payment May 23-Oct. 19, 2025. 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 at Park Mobile 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.

## THANK YOU FOR VISITING!

- Our town relies on tourism as a major factor to the economy. We plan and gear up for the busy season.
- However, there can be staffing issues as housing has been a struggle. Please be patient and flexible as businesses can be busy or unexpected situations can arise.
- We hope you enjoy your time here.

To park right in the core of downtown, the town offers both paid parking and free options. May 23-Oct. 19, parking is \$2 per hour between 10am-5pm daily in paid lots.

Those with valid ADA credentials always park free in any space. The library, post office, and Town Hall have free, time-limited spaces if you are a patron of the library, in the post office or while doing business in town hall.

Near real-time occupancy information can be found by visiting [Estes.mpark.io](https://Estes.mpark.io) from any device.

For information on all of the town's parking options visit [Estes.org/Parking](https://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.



Check out the Do Estes Right videos, a series of short videos that give insights, tips and tricks for your visit to help you have a wonderful experience while visiting responsibly. You're in good hands with host Nick Mollé, a local documentarian, filmmaker and owner of the Rocky Mountain Channel.

Visit [EstesPark.com/do-estes-right](https://EstesPark.com/do-estes-right)

*continued on page 28*



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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 (turned on 9am-9pm) 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 2 and Level 3 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.

Charging 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 Weist 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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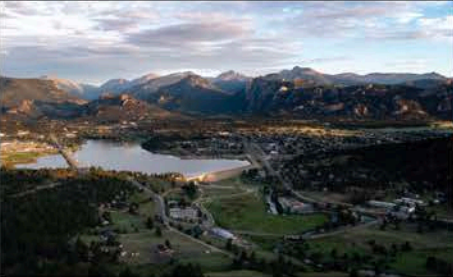
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# KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

## 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.

# CONT.

## HOW TO USE RECREATION.GOV

**Recreation.gov** is used for reserving most campsites and permits. You can also use this site to pay for national park and monument entrance fees. Some are now cashless. This makes a great option for paying. This website and accompanying mobile app are easy to use. You must have an account to make reservations. Find out more at **Recreation.gov**.

This website has more than 103,000 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. The app needs cell service to work.

First, ahead of your trip (don't wait until the day you want to make a



reservation), 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 delay! 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.

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## 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.

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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.

## 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 73).

### 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. 140/142 Moraine Ave, **214-789-7920**.



**PREMIUM DOG CHEWS, TREATS, & BONES**



PREMIUM PRODUCTS WITH MINIMAL PROCESSING

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**453 E Wonderview Ave # 4**



This entire guide is filled with the many amazing and different things to enjoy while you are here.

Besides all that we feature in this guide, here's a highlight of a few.

## TAKE A PEACEFUL WALK

A stroll along the Riverwalk downtown is a favorite way to connect with nature. It's easy to simply sit and soak in the beauty around you.

You can also take a peaceful stroll along Lake Estes. The paved path goes all the way around the lake.

# MUST DO'S &

## THE SHOPPING SCENE

Enjoy walking the downtown streets for unique treats as well as exploring the shops all around town as well. We have a variety of locally-owned shops to peruse from—souvenir shops, art galleries, outdoor shops, clothing, and shops that have that cabin charm. Find something to take home to remind yourself of your vacation here in Estes Park.

## WE HAVE THE OLDEST BOOKSHOP

Colorado's oldest, and very cool bookshop is right here in Estes Park. Macdonald Bookshop is celebrating 98 years in business. They carry rare and unique books by Enos Mills, known as "The Father of Rocky Mountain National Park," that you won't find anywhere else.

## YOU HAVE TO GET TAFFY

A longtime tradition for so many people is getting the famous salt water taffy. The Original Taffy Store, the oldest Taffy Store in Colorado, is hard to miss with their blue and white store front where they literally are making the taffy right in the window. *USA Today* gave them the "Best Candy Store in America" nod, so you know it's good.

## THE ART SCENE

Estes Park is home to several beautiful murals and statues that represent stories of Estes Park culture. While you are exploring the town, look for the bronze sculptures. Many are right downtown.

Murals can be found on the sides of buildings or on utility boxes. Keep your eyes open so you don't miss any prime photo opportunities.

Shop in our local art galleries. You'll find all variety of forms of art here from plein air painting, woodturning, pottery, photography, and glassblowing.

Gather your family or group of friends and head to Inspired to make an art piece yourself to take home.

# LOCALS' FAVORITES

## FIND THE ELK

Probably the most asked question is "where do I find the elk, now?"

Depending on the time of year, the elk are usually around town on grassy spots.

Our version of a traffic jam is when a herd wants to cross a road, or go through a main intersection. When that does happen, just take it all in and be patient.

Elk spend the summer months higher up, so head into Rocky.

## THE BEST VIEW

This one is not hard, the view is all around. However, if you really want that amazing 360 degree mountain shot with the town, the lake, and all, Knoll Willows Open Space is the spot. The parking lot is off US Hwy 34 across from the Stanley Hotel.

A short trail will take you to the top of the Knoll with views. On the west end of



the Knoll you will see the remains of the Birch cabin, once owned by Al Birch, the former editor of the *Denver Post*. This area is protected and managed by the town of Estes Park.

## GO TO AN EVENT OR LIVE MUSIC

Estes Park has one of the most impressive list of events of any mountain town in Colorado. Along with the list of local businesses hosting live music, there are events of all kinds and sizes to suit most anyone.

There is a major event most weekends in Estes Park from May through December.

See our Calendar of Events pages 108-119 and plan a few days. ⬆

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# WE DO OLD WELL!

Founded in 1859, Estes Park has been a favorite destination for families. Generations of families bring their young to experience what they did as children. The magic feelings that make Estes Park so special are passed down from generation to generation.

Estes Park still has family-owned, quaint businesses that have been around for decades. These businesses bring back the feeling of nostalgia that makes Estes Park so special. Some have been in the same family for multiple generations, all with cool stories.

We celebrate our advertisers with long histories in this magic place.

## MACGREGOR RANCH • 152TH YEAR

Alexander Quiner MacGregor and his young wife Clara, were both coincidentally from Wisconsin, yet met while both were in Denver. He had many talents and interests and she was a student of art. They married, moved to Estes Park, and started a cattle ranch in 1874. The MacGregors were a part of many aspects that helped the growth of Estes Park.

The MacGregor Ranch is still a working ranch and maintains a museum dedicated to the family.

## CHELEY COLORADO CAMPS • 105TH YEAR

The camp started in 1921 by Frank Cheley with nine boys on the shores of Bear Lake in Rocky Mountain National Park.

Today, the camp (no longer at Bear Lake) has eight units, and has had more than 52,000 campers from all 50 states and more than 15 countries. Twenty families have had four generations of campers. This year, a 5th generation of the Cheley family will be a counselor.

## NATIONAL PARK VILLAGE • 98TH YEAR

Four generations have run a business since 1927 in retail, grocery, and dining. They started as Deer Ridge Chalet in

Rocky Mountain National Park, then moved to National Park Village North at the Fall River entrance in 1961, and then opened their current location at 900 Moraine Ave. in 1978.

## ROOFTOP RODEO • 97TH YEAR

Rodeo-type events have been documented in Estes Park as early as 1908. However, the first time the word "Rodeo" was used in connection with these events was in 1923. The term "Rooftop" was first used in 1941 when a young journalist was working on slogans for Rocky Mtn. Natl. Park's Silver Jubilee.

This award-winning rodeo has grown to the point where in 2025 it will be in the company of world-class rodeos, such as the Cheyenne Frontier Days.

## MACDONALD BOOKSHOP • 97TH YEAR

Macdonald Bookshop is the oldest independently-owned bookstore in Colorado and opened in 1928. Paula Steige, who ran the store for more than fifty years, was the third-generation woman in the Macdonald Family to run the shop. The shop is now owned by and operated by Anastacia Galloway Reed and her husband Kevin, making Anastacia the fourth woman to run this amazing book store.

## THE ORIGINAL TAFFY SHOP • 90TH YEAR

Multiple generations of families walk in the door of this taffy shop together, reminiscing over a box of taffy as if it were a treasure chest. The shop is like a museum that makes taffy with machines and a recipe that is 90 years old. The Igel family is the second family to own the store and takes pride in keeping the history and tradition alive.

## ESTES PARK TRAM • 70TH YEAR

Pioneering Colorado ski lift designer, Robert Heron, designed and built the Estes Park Tram in 1955. This is America's first scenic tramway and one of only a few free-span tramways (no towers supporting the wire cables between the bottom and top stations) in the U.S.

## RIDE-A-KART • 66TH YEAR

This family-owned business is now in its third generation. It began when Gary Coleman built his first go-kart using a lawnmower engine. After moving to Colorado, the family created a dirt go-kart track, laying the foundation for a beloved local attraction.

Today, Gary's daughter and her husband own and operate the business, which is constantly evolving with exciting new attractions that keep visitors coming back year after year.

## THE ORE CART • 54TH YEAR

The second owners to this family-owned store, Andrea and Steve Colburn, wanted to own a business that was family friendly and brought happiness to whoever walked in.

Steve grew up going to the store as a child. Owning it now with his wife and boys who love rocks is perfect.



## QUALITY INN • 53TH YEAR

Originally the Caribou Chalet, Bob and Lois Jurgens purchased the hotel in 1972 because of their love for Estes Park. Now in the fourth generation at the hotel, Lois still visits with the staff now and then.

## NATL. PARK GATEWAY STABLES • 50TH YEAR

The Kokjohns wanted to own any business in the west. They learned of a lodge in Estes Park that needed someone to run the stables.

The Kokjohns bought 20 head of horses, got some advice, and returned to Estes Park in 1976. They started Cowpoke Corner Corral. Then in 1982 they started running National Park Village Stables, (now National Park Gateway Stables). Their daughter Jessica Kokjohn now owns and runs National Park Gateway Stables. 🐾

**COME CREATE WITH US!**

*inspired*

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138 Moraine Ave



# Aspen and Evergreen Gallery

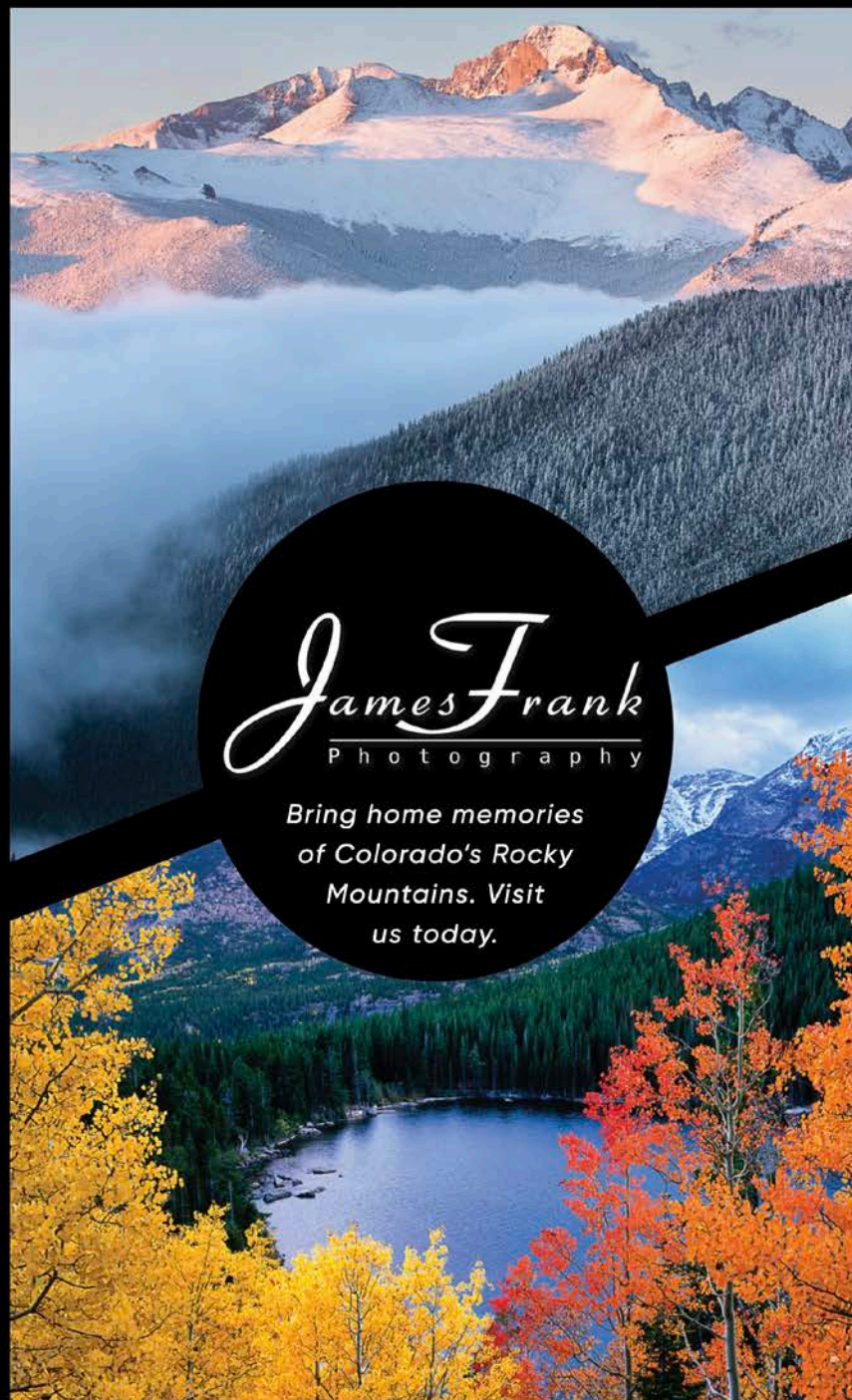
Handmade Art From  
More Than 75 Estes Park  
& Colorado Artists

Pottery • Jewelry • Paintings  
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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](http://AspenAndEvergreen.com).

## ART OF ESTES PARK

**Earthwood Collections** represents a wide selection of fine art and blown glass by Colorado and national artists. 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](http://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](http://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](http://GlassworksofEstesPark.com).

Discover the creative heart of picturesque Allenspark at **The Old Gallery** where 27 local artists come together to showcase a mix of fused glass, paintings, photography, pottery, jewelry, stained glass, woodwork, and textile art. Artist demonstrations during the summer months. 303-747-2906, [TheOldGallery.org](http://TheOldGallery.org).

For 49 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](http://VillageGoldsmith.com).

*continued on page 42*



## Village Goldsmith, Inc

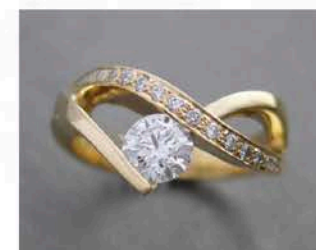
### 49 Years of Brilliance



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.



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## PHOTOGRAPHERS

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.**

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.**

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.**



# 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 **9th Annual Estes Park Art Studio Tour** held August 2-3.

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 13. 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 **EstesParkArtTour.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 108-119. ↑



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## 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.

## 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. In 1863, he moved his family near what is now Estes Park and started a cattle ranch.

In 1909, FO 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.

# HISTORY

## 1950

We're celebrating the history of this publication and wanted to see what was happening in Estes Park in 1950.

Estes Park's population in 1950 was 1,096. Post-war tourism was on the rise. Rocky Mountain National Park started to become a very popular destination and had close to 1.3 million visitors.

The Colorado-Big Thompson Project, the largest transmountain water diversion in Colorado and an engineering marvel, started the flow of water from Estes Park down the Big Thompson River and into Horsetooth Reservoir.

## 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, near Grand Lake on the west side, to the Front Range on the east side, and beyond.

Between 1937 and 1958 the Bureau of Reclamation built the many components of this massive project.

The Estes Park components are the Alva B. Adams Tunnel, the Olympus Dam, and the Estes Powerplant.

# AND 1950

## ALVA B. ADAMS TUNNEL

The tunnel is the principal component. Construction involved two crews digging towards each other from the east and west portals. After four years of work, the two crews met with the alignment of the tunnel being off by less than the width of a penny.

The tunnel is 13 miles long under Rocky Mountain National Park and allows water to flow freely almost 1,000ft in elevation from Grand Lake to Marys Lake in Estes Park. At its deepest point, the tunnel is about 3,800ft below the surface. It passes under Otis Peak.

Before the mighty Colorado River flows even the first 20 miles of its 1,450-mile-long journey, part of it is diverted east.

## OLYMPUS DAM AND LAKE ESTES

The completion of the Olympus Dam was in 1949 and the new Lake Estes



(actually a reservoir) began filling. The dam is 70ft high and 10ft wide.

Lake Estes has a capacity of approximately 3,068 acre-feet (one acre of land to a depth of one foot), 185 surface acres, five miles of shoreline, and a maximum depth of 45ft.

Water in Lake Estes flows through many tunnels to 14 cities and over a million people on the eastern front range.

## ESTES POWERPLANT

The Powerplant houses massive turbines that generate electricity that is then sent down the electrical transmission towers found along US Hwy 36 and Prospect Mountain. The electricity joins a grid system where electricity is shared with the entire Western United States. ⬆

## MAKE THE ESTES PARK MUSEUM YOUR DESTINATION!

**FREE ADMISSION**

**GALLERY HOURS:**  
WED.-SAT.  
10AM-4PM

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**200 FOURTH ST. • 970-586-6256 • ESTES.ORG/MUSEUM** Unwinding History

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**FEATURING OVER 240 AMERICAN ARTISTS**

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141 E. Elkhorn Ave  
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## 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. Numerous events and programs throughout the year can be reviewed on their website. **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.**

Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park  
**THEN & NOW**  
By Erik Stensland  
Photographs by Mike Clinger & Derek Fortin

NEARLY 500 PHOTOGRAPHS  
444 PAGES  
COVERING OVER 150 YEARS OF ESTES PARK & RMNP HISTORY

FEATURING OVER 140 HISTORIC LANDMARKS  
PROCEEDS FUND COLLECTIONS CARE AT THE MUSEUM

"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

**\$59.95**

## 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. **970-582-3450, MacdonaldBookshop.com.**

**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 & BARNs

Step into the Home of Three Generations of Pioneers  
**BOOK NOW**

X | X

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

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONSERVANCY

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

The Rocky Mountain Conservancy is the official nonprofit partner of Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) 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 extensive environmental education programs for school children.

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

## DID YOU KNOW? PARK VS PARK VS PARK

- Rocky Mountain National 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.

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

A few examples of ways the Conservancy's donors and members supported the park in 2024 include:

- Maintained and improved 264 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.
- Cleared 143 acres of invasive plants to help our forests thrive.
- Continued the Indigenous Connections project in collaboration with Tribal Nations whose traditional homelands include Rocky Mountain National Park.
- Purchased horses, mules, and llamas to support Rocky's backcountry operations.
- Supported the popular Junior Ranger program. See page 50 for details on how to become a Rocky Mountain National Park Junior Ranger!
- Continued research on Rocky Mountain National Park's declining amphibian populations and funded the record-breaking release of over 14,000 boreal tadpoles.

## FIELD INSTITUTE

One of the Conservancy's signature programs is its renowned Field Institute. Recognized subject matter experts lead you in field-based, hands-on learning experiences in Rocky Mountain National Park. A wide range of topics are available, including wildflowers, mammals, birds, cultural history, photography, painting, and botany. Visitors who believe in "collecting experiences, not things" can explore course offerings and register at [RMConservancy.org](https://RMConservancy.org) 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. Visit [RMConservancy.org](https://RMConservancy.org) today to become a member, shop our online nature store (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 with one hundred percent of the funds supporting Rocky Mountain National Park.

## CONSERVATION CORPS

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

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 Forests 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](https://RMConservancy.org)  
970-586-3262





## ESTES PARK TRAM

**Estes Park Aerial Tramway** is a fun place for the family to ride the historic 1955 tramway. Get a photo with Chippy, their chipmunk mascot, and enjoy the fresh air where all adventurers are welcome.

They have food and beverages at the top along with fun snacks. See their website for exclusive online ticket purchases. Open May 16–Nov. 2. **EstesTram.com**.

## FAMILY FUN FOR ALL

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. New in 2025—gamified electric go-karts that bring your favorite karting video game to life. **970-586-6495, RideAKart.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**.

# KIDS LOVE ESTES!

## 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 2025 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**.

## 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 sq. ft. of climbing terrain.

Future climbers age five and over are welcome. Open daily 8am–8pm year-round. **970-586-6548, EstesParkMountainShop.com**.

## GET THEM HOOKED

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

# CONT.

## 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**.

## 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 free parking garage and walk the path near the golf course. Birds love this area. This can be a good out-and-back walk.

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

**Estes Park Mountain Shop** rents strollers and jogging strollers. They are located right off the path so there is easy access. **970-586-6548, EstesParkMountainShop.com**.

## 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.

## 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.

*continued on page 52*

## HYDRATION TIPS FOR KIDS

Kids are more likely to become dehydrated than adults because they have a higher water content and metabolic rate.

Kids lose more water through their skin than adults and usually are more active than adults.

### It's cool to drink water!

Get them their own reusable water bottle and let them put stickers on it. Add fruit slices to their water for flavor. Encourage them to drink water throughout the day. Tell them it's cool to drink water—because it is!



# KIDS LOVE ESTES! CONT.

## 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. 🌲



# THINGS TO DO

## FIND THE RIGHT PATH

Estes Park has a connecting paved path system that offer several miles to stretch your legs, ride your bike, or walk your dog (always on a leash).

## THE RIVERWALK

The Riverwalk is a beautiful paved path that runs from the parking garage along the river, through downtown, and around Performance Park. This one-mile path has benches, a few picnic tables along the river, and playgrounds.

Several bronze sculptures depicting Estes Park's history can also be found along the path and around Estes Park. Look for the mural-covered utility boxes painted by local artists.

George Hix Riverside Plaza is a wonderful place to stop and sit by the small ponds and sensory garden.

After Performance Park the path continues another 2.1 miles along Fall River Road to close to Boulder Brook.

No bike riding on the Riverwalk.

## LAKE ESTES PATH

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

There are a few benches to stop and take in the breathtaking views.

## FISH CREEK PATH

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, ball fields and golf course 3.1 miles to Scott's Pond. From there, it's best to turn around and return on the same route.

## 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.



## GO ON THE SEARCH

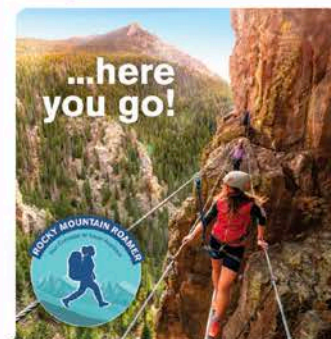
**Pikas in the Park** is a fun activity for the whole family in downtown Estes Park. Pikas are cute small mammals that live in high rocky slopes in Rocky Mountain National Park.

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!

*continued on page 54*

I'm looking for a thrilling outdoor adventure.



**PLAN YOUR NEXT ESTES PARK GETAWAY WITH OUR NEW CHATGPT-POWERED TRAVEL ASSISTANT**

Rely on the Rocky Mountain Roamer to get fast answers and instantly find lodging, things to do, restaurants, travel routes, safety information and more.

[RockyMountainRoamer.com](https://RockyMountainRoamer.com)





## BEST VIEW IN TOWN

Estes Park Aerial Tramway was opened to the public in 1955. This will be their 70th year soaring to the summit.

Take a step back in time with a once-in-a-lifetime historic experience riding a piece of tram history. They offer a five-minute ride to the top with 360 degree views, light hiking, gift shop, and coffee shop. Explore to your heart's content.

Purchases exclusive online tickets to help plan your next adventure. Open May 16–Nov. 2. [EstesTram.com](http://EstesTram.com).

**THIRD GENERATION FAMILY-OWNED**

Now Serving Local Beer & Wine at Mini-Golf!

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Generations of **FUN** in the Making

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## THINGS TO DO

### HYDRATION TIPS

Staying hydrated keeps your body working properly, especially at this altitude.

Your heart is **73%** water. Staying hydrated will help your heart pump more efficiently and with less strain.

Your muscles are **79%** water. When you are dehydrated, your blood has higher levels of waste which can make your muscles tired, tight, and tender.

Your skin is **64%** water. Sunscreen helps protect your skin from harmful UV rays which dry your skin.

## 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](http://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](http://RockLightPhotoTours.com).

## FUN ADVENTURES CONT.

### SCENIC BUS TOURS

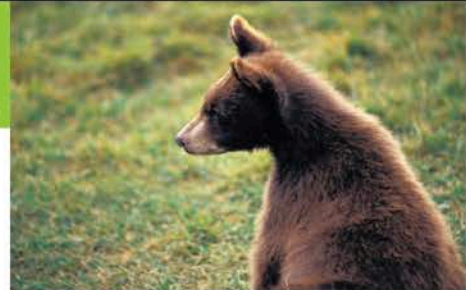
Join the **Rocky Mountain Conservancy** for a guided bus tour throughout Rocky Mountain National Park to areas including Trail Ridge Road, Moraine, and other popular spots in Rocky Mountain National Park, June–Oct.

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**, [RMConservancy.org](http://RMConservancy.org).

### 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](http://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](http://WarriorXpress.com).

continued on page 56

**A1 Wild WATER**

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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 Park's boutique spa experience in a private setting along a rushing river. Enjoy massages, facials and unique spa treatments using quality ingredients with highly skilled therapists. Book online or call. Groups welcome. **970-586-6597, ElementsofTouchEstesPark.com.**

"Top 7 Scenic Courses in the USA."  
-Forbes Magazine

**20 years**  
**ESTES PARK MARATHON & HALF MARATHON**  
**Race Weekend**  
**June 15, 2025**

## THINGS TO DO

### ADVENTURE AWAITS!

**Estes Park Ride-A-Kart** has been delivering family fun for more than 65 years! This third-generation, family-owned entertainment hub is packed with excitement, featuring brand new electric go-karts, bumper boats, bumper kars, batting cages, Casey's Train, an extreme bungee trampoline, water wars, a high-energy arcade, a cutting-edge Trackman Golf Simulator, and not one but two scenic 18-hole mini-golf courses along the beautiful Big Thompson River.

Need a break? Grab a local beer or wine while you putt or play in the arcade.

Feeling hungry? Fuel up with delicious snacks to keep the fun going. And brand new in 2025—gamified electric go-karts that bring your favorite karting video game to life (yes it's as fun as it sounds)!

Check out their website for reservations. Use promo code EPVL2025 for 20% off single ride tickets. **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.

Enjoy 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.

## FUN ADVENTURES CONT.

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.**

### 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. **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 Mountain Shop** rents e-bikes and has gear to sell. **970-586-6548, EstesParkMountainShop.com.**

continued on page 58

**LET'S GO RAFTING!**

**RAFTING & KAYAKING** **ROCKY MOUNTAIN ADVENTURES** **OUTDOOR GEAR & RENTALS**

**Half and Full Day Trips**  
**Class II, III, IV Whitewater**

**Family Friendly (Ages 7+)**  
**Group Rates Available**

**WHITEWATER RAFTING!**

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## THINGS TO DO

### 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 reservation (see pages 16-17) 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.

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 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**.

## FUN ADVENTURES CONT.

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**.

### 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.

All trails are considered moderately difficult and offer beautiful views



of ponderosa pine forest, wetland meadows, and historic homestead sites.

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**.

*continued on page 60*

**GUARDIANS OF THE PARK**  
Rocky Mountain National Park

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Dedicated to the Preservation and Protection of Rocky Mountain National Park

Handcrafted Items • T-Shirts • Hoodies  
Dog Bandanas • Water Bottles  
Gnomes • Coffee Cups

Featuring Gnomes of RMNP, Rosemary Gnome's Herbal Teas, and Artisan Soaps

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EASY-MODERATE-DIFFICULT OFF-HIGHWAY ADVENTURES

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



## THINGS TO DO

### 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](http://InspiredArtExperiences.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 and open to ages 10 and up, participants under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Days and times vary; check website for details. **970-586-8116, [EstesValleyLibrary.org](http://EstesValleyLibrary.org).** 🌱



## PHOTO TIPS:

### 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. Instead, 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 capture "rim light" created by the sun around the object.

### FIND YOUR FOCUS

• Experiment with depth of field. Usually, you will want to shoot with a narrow aperture (f/16 or f/18) and focus on the foreground to get the entire scene in sharp focus, or 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.



## THE BULL PIN

◀ ELEVATED ENTERTAINMENT ▶



## NOT YOUR AVERAGE BOWLING ALLEY

8 LANES OF BOWLING • ARCADE • COCKTAIL LOUNGE  
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT • FAMILY FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE

*LANE RESERVATIONS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED*



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Estes Park is surrounded by winding roads through stunning canyons and dazzling mountain landscapes. (For Trail Ridge Road, please see pages 14-15.)

## 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 can often be spotted on the hillsides.

## 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



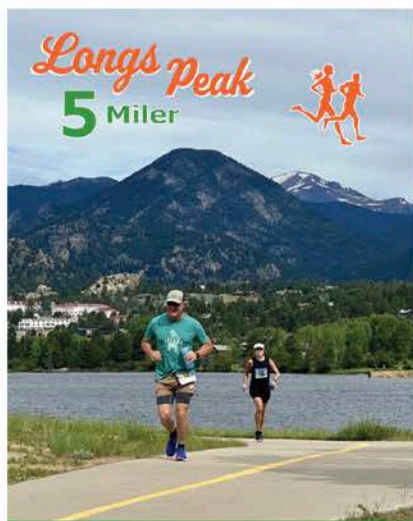
slow down and explore. (No trailers or vehicles over 25ft.)

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

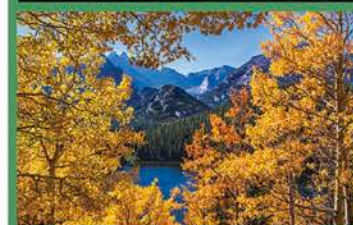
The road ends at the Alpine Visitor Center. Take Trail Ridge Road west to Milner Pass and Grand Lake, or east back to Estes Park.

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 reservation, or be in the park before 8:45am or go into the park after 2pm. 🌲



**Father's Day  
Weekend**  
**June 14th, 2025**  
*Sign up today!*



## ROCK LIGHT PHOTO

WORKSHOPS | TOURS | PHOTOGRAPHY

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Custom day and night photo tours for small groups of photographers, plus in-depth workshops in Rocky Mountain National Park & beyond

All tours include hands-on instruction to capture that epic shot you have always dreamed about.

## THINGS TO DO



### LOCALLY OWNED

Enjoying a local libation is easy in Estes Park. All family owned, there is a wide variety of choices to enjoy while enjoying the view. See our Calendar of Events pages 108-119 for fun events that include libations.

### HARD CHOICES

**Bogey's Sports Bar** is the ultimate spot for sports fans and casual hangouts. They have an awesome rooftop deck offering stunning views. The patio features two large outdoor TVs. Inside has five massive screens. Enjoy classic ballpark snacks like hot dogs, bratwursts, and soft pretzels, or bring your own food—outside bites are always welcome! 720-907-1840, [Bogeys.bar](#).

**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 is located inside with seating in the back and outside. 970-586-2044, [EstesParkDistillingCo.com](#).

**Full Throttle Distillery Smokehouse & Grill** 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. During summer months, have live outdoor music and food.

**Snowy Peaks Winery** offers 25 wines from Colorado, including several award winners created in Estes Park.

## LOCAL LIBATIONS

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](#).

### GREAT BAR SETTING

Our restaurant partners have some wonderful bars to sit and enjoy a cocktail. See the full Restaurant Guide pages 121-145.

**Antlers Rooftop Tavern** has a fantastic margarita bar with outdoor seating overlooking town. 970-398-4978, [AntlersTavern.com](#).

**The Bull Pin** has a fun bar to sit and watch a game while having some delicious food. They offer a wide range of creative cocktails along with draft beer and wines. 970-591-7771, [EstesParkBowl.com](#).

**Claire's** has an intimate bar with a unique copper top. They offer all the usual drinks and specialize in a bacon bloody Mary. 970-586-9564, [ClaireRestaurantandBar.com](#).

**Elevations** offers rare and allocated whiskeys and unique cocktails in an elevated casual setting. 970-586-6900, [ElevationsEatery.com](#).

**Hunter's Steakhouse** makes an amazing Cosmo. They have a small bar in the back of the restaurant in a nice setting. 970-586-6962, [HuntersChopHouse.com](#).

**Trailhead Restaurant** offers a wide variety of cocktails. Located right outside of the Fall River entrance to Rocky, their bar has a killer view of the park with outdoor seating. 970-577-0043, [TrailheadRestaurant.com](#).

For a small and quiet bar setting to enjoy a delicious glass of wine, head to **Twin Owls Restaurant**. 970-586-9344, [TwinOwls.net](#).

**WayFinder's** bar is downstairs in their restaurant next to WayFinder Pond. They offer traditional cocktails, draft beers, and wines. 970-586-3098. 🌲

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## THINGS TO DO

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 20-23 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.

### 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 73.

## HIKING

### 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.

### 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.

*continued on page 68*

## PHOTO TIPS:

### POINT AND SHOOT

- Phone cameras allow you to concentrate on being creative. Just point, say "We love Estes Park!" and click! With most phone cameras you can increase photo quality by touching the screen to focus on your subject.

- Phone cameras also can capture the night sky and even Northern Lights better than your eye as they are more sensitive to light allowing them to collect more over a longer exposure. Having a little tripod will make your longer exposure pics that much better.



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## 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.

## EMERGENCY TIPS:

None of us plan on having an accident, getting lost, or suffering from whatever nature throws at us.

- If you are in need of help, never hesitate to call 911.
- Then, stay put and don't panic. S.T.O.P. (Stop, Think, Observe, and Plan).
- Most search fatalities make their deadly mistake in the first ten minutes of being lost. Think clearly. Make yourself visible. Stay calm.
- In Larimer County, you can call or text 911. In some cases, a text will go through when a call won't. When using your smart phone, the GPS in your phone transmits your current location, with accuracy of about 13ft. This helps dispatch locate you. Then stay put!
- Using a two-way satellite communicator is a great option (Garmin InReach or SPOT for example). They use less battery power; some have the option to talk to rescuers, and their GPS is a bit more accurate.

## THINGS TO DO

### HYDRATION TIP

We can't stress enough on the importance of staying hydrated. Eating water-rich foods will help with hydration as certain fruits and vegetables are high in water and nutrients.

Your body needs good nutrition as well while hiking. Bananas, hard boiled eggs and a trusty peanut butter and jelly sandwich are popular choices to take hiking.

### 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.

### 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.

## HIKING CONT.

### 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.

• **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. Knowing where you are is important!

• **Nutrition**—Choose foods that are easy to digest and have high calories. Your body will need them.

**Pro tip:** On one of your water bottles, wrap some duct tape around the water bottle. Now you have tape in case you need to repair something.

*continued on page 72*



## Morganas Closet



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# HIKING QUICK GUIDE

**E** EASY **M** MODERATE **D** DIFFICULT

**RESERVED-TIMED ENTRY FOR ROCKY MTN NATL PARK** Visit [Recreation.gov](https://www.visitrecreation.gov)  
Timed-entry reservation is required May 23-Oct 19, 2025. for information.

## 1 TIMED ENTRY+ 5AM-6PM

If you don't have a timed-entry reservation, 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 23-Oct 19 • 6:30am-7:30pm Daily

Buses run every 10-15 minutes

<b>BEAR LAKE</b>	9,475 ft
Bear Lake Nature Trail	<b>E</b> 0.5 mi
Nymph Lake	<b>E</b> 0.5 mi
Dream Lake	<b>M</b> 1.1 mi
Emerald Lake	<b>M</b> 1.8 mi
Lake Haiyaha	<b>M</b> 2.1 mi
Bierstadt Lake	<b>M</b> 1.6 mi
Odessa Lake	<b>D</b> 4.1 mi
Flattop Mountain	<b>D</b> 4.4 mi
Fern Lake Trailhead	<b>D</b> 8.5 mi

### GLACIER GORGE

9,425 ft  
Accessible 0.1 miles from Bear Lake

Alberta Falls	<b>E</b> 0.8 mi
Mills Lake	<b>M</b> 2.8 mi
Black Lake	<b>D</b> 5.0 mi
The Loch	<b>M</b> 3.0 mi
Sky Pond	<b>D</b> 4.9 mi

### MORaine PARK ROUTE

PARK & RIDE - FERN LAKE ROAD

May 23-Oct. 19 • 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.

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

### MORaine PARK

Cub Lake Trailhead to Cub Lake	<b>M</b> 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 TIMED ENTRY 9AM-2PM

If you don't have a timed-entry reservation, 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	<b>M</b> 1.6 mi
Balanced Rock	<b>M</b> 3.8 mi
Lumpy Ridge Loop	<b>D</b> 10.7 mi

### DEER MOUNTAIN TRAILHEAD

Deer Ridge Junction to Deer Mountain	<b>M</b> 3.0 mi
--------------------------------------	-----------------

### WILD BASIN RANGER STATION

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

### LONGS PEAK RANGER STATION

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

## OUTSIDE ROCKY MTN NATL PARK

### HERMIT PARK

Larimer County Fee Area

Kruger Rock Trail	<b>M</b> 1.7 mi
Limber Pine Trail	<b>M</b> 5.1 mi
Moose Meadow Trail	<b>E</b> 1.5 mi

### ROOSEVELT NATL FOREST

Lion Gulch Trail	<b>M</b> 6.3 mi
Lily Mountain	<b>M</b> 2.0 mi

### LAKE ESTES PAVED TRAIL

Loop Trail Around Lake	<b>E</b> 3.75 mi
------------------------	------------------

# IMAGES OF Rocky Mountain NATIONAL PARK

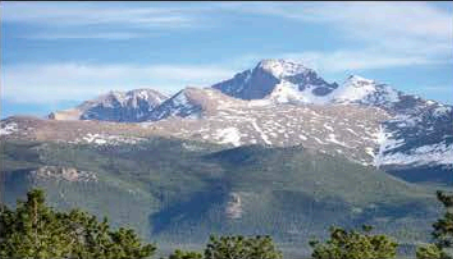
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*Located in downtown  
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behind Bond Park*

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RMNP**



## 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.

## LONGS PEAK-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).
- 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. On top of Longs, the air is thin and the storms are mighty.
- People coming to Estes Park ask about "hiking" Longs Peak. It's not a hike, it's a climb. 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 technical terrain when you are tired, possibly with a storm coming in.
- More people have died on Longs since 2000 than any other 14er in Colorado.
- 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.

## HIKING CONT.

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

Pick up a copy in many stores in town or visit [ImagesofRMNP.com](http://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](http://EstesParkMountainShop.com). 🌲

## DOG-FRIENDLY HIKE

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. 🌲



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.

**Book Your Adventure Today!**  
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## THINGS TO DO

### RESPECT THE RIVER

- ✕ Recreating in moving water comes with inherent risks. Never dive into any river. Even when the water looks calm, there can be underwater currents.
- ✕ 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 walking along the shoreline or swimming!

### WHAT TO TAKE

- ✕ 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.
- ✕ A bandana has many good uses, a swimsuit, and waterproof camera.
- ✕ 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).
- ✕ Always have a reusable water bottle, and start with it full. Outfitters often bring coolers for refills.

Avoid bringing single-use 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 and go down a river, contact **A1 Wildwater**, 970-224-3379, [A1Wildwater.com](http://A1Wildwater.com), or **Colorado River Expeditions**, 970-978-3114, [ColoradoRiverExpeditions.com](http://ColoradoRiverExpeditions.com), or **Mountain Whitewater**, 970-419-0917, [RaftMW.com](http://RaftMW.com), or **Rocky Mountain Adventures**, 970-493-4005, [ShopRMA.com](http://ShopRMA.com). 🌿

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# THINGS TO DO



Riding horses goes hand in hand with the West. Western-style horseback riding evolved from the warfare and cattle-working traditions brought to the Americas by the Spanish Conquistadors. Both the riding style and the equipment have changed to meet the working needs of cowboys in the American West. 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.

## 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.

# HORSEBACK RIDING

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](https://www.nps.gov/ROMO) for details.

## SADDLE UP!

**National Park Gateway Stables** is a second-generation family-owned stable, celebrating 50 years in business. 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](https://NationalParkGatewayStables.com). 🌲

# HAPPY

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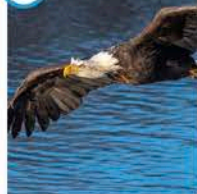
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# FACTS ABOUT WILDLIFE



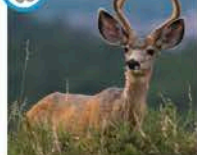
## BALD EAGLE



- 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



- Both 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.



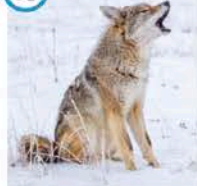
## BLACK BEAR



- 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, wolf, 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.

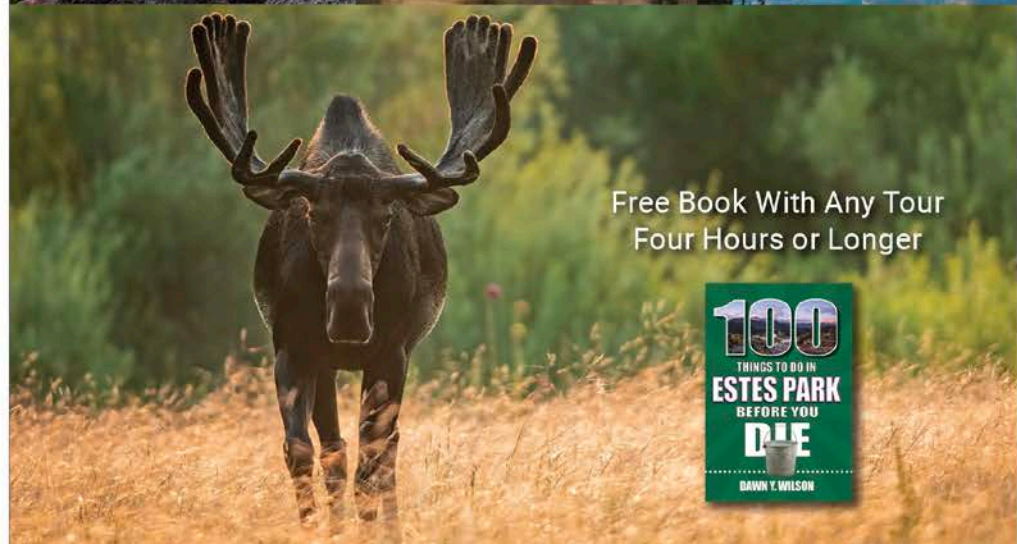
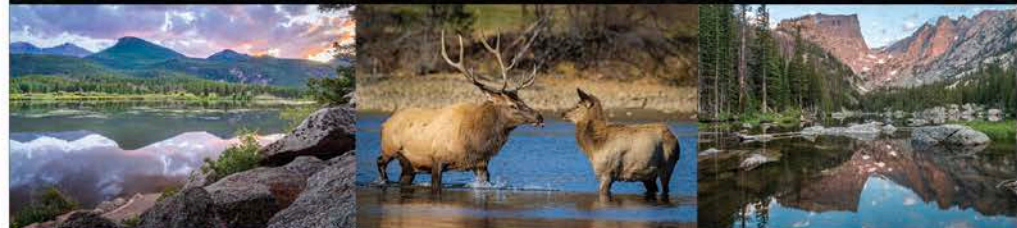
## PROTECT OUR FRIENDS

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.

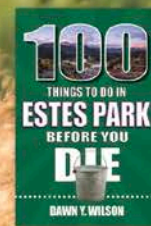
*continued on page 80*

# Creeks and Critters Nature Tours

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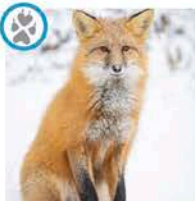


CCNatureTours.com

Photos By Our Professional Guide Dawn Wilson

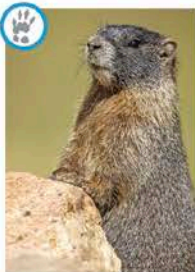


# FACTS ABOUT WILDLIFE CONT.



## RED FOX

- Red foxes 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**.
- The fox is 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 between ages 9.5 and 12.5.

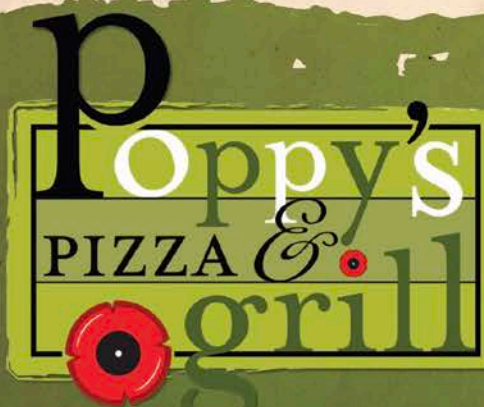


## MOOSE

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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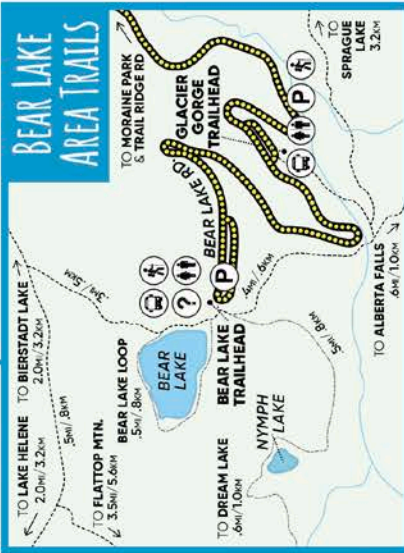
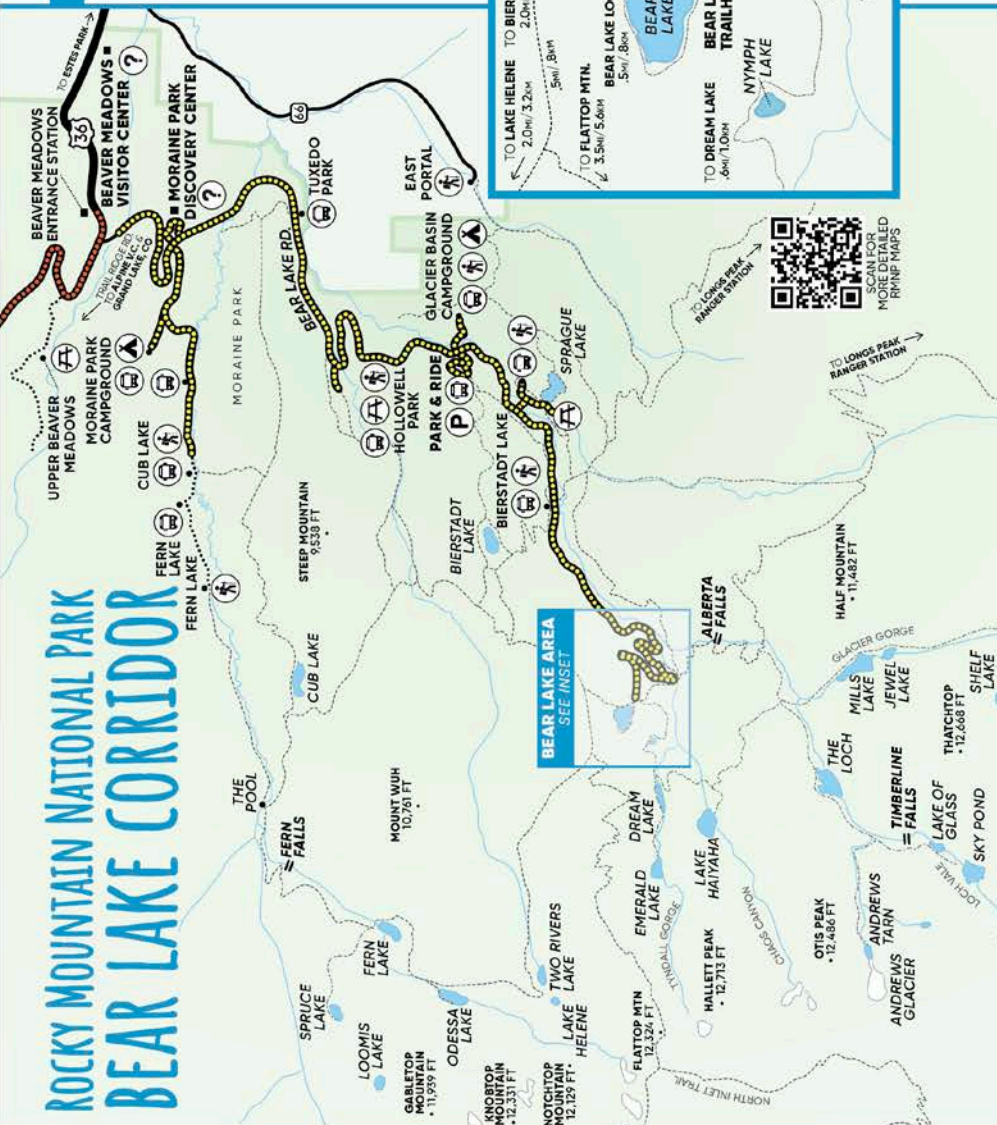
Order online **OriginalTaffyShop.com**

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK BEAR LAKE CORRIDOR

## MAP KEY

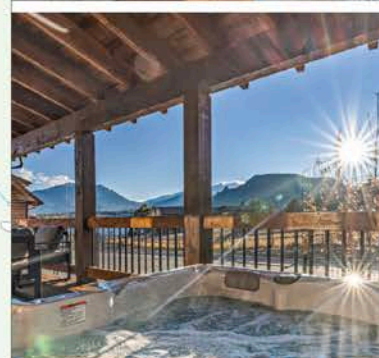
- STATE HIGHWAY
- PAVED ROAD
- UNPAVED ROAD
- TIMED ENTRY+
- TRAIL
- HORSE/HIKER
- TRAIL
- HIKER
- TIMED ENTRY
- PARKING
- BUS STOP
- TRAILHEAD
- INFORMATION
- PICNIC AREA
- CAMPING

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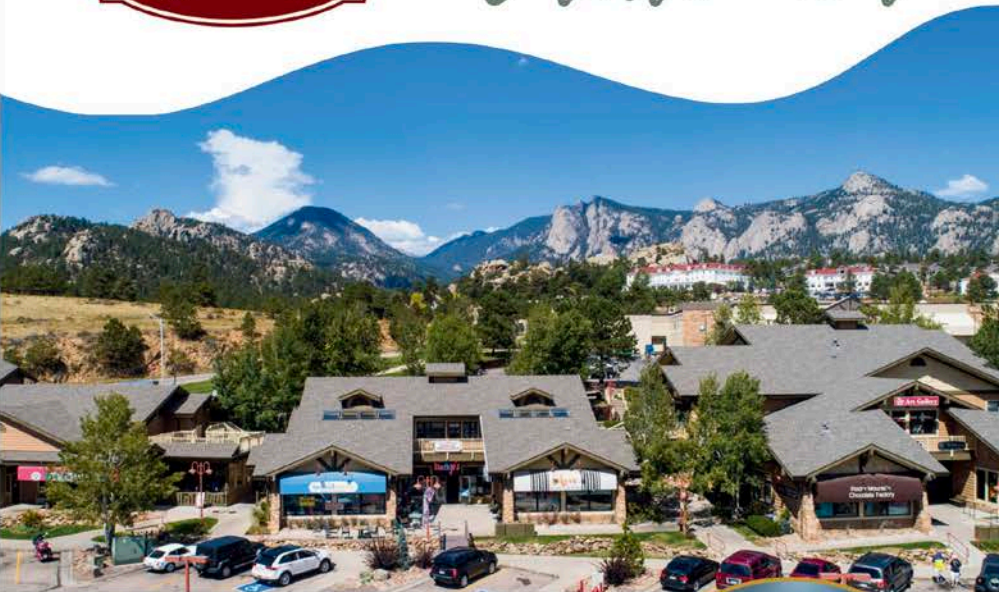


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# WEDDINGS

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.

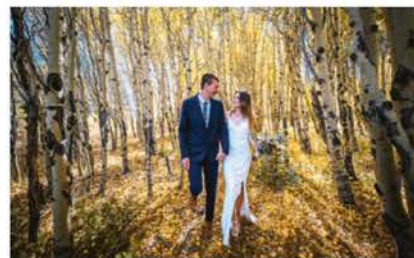
Most importantly, regardless of your budget, those who choose Estes Park for their destination event have the flexibility to have a memorable day.

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](http://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 say "I do!" in Estes have many opportunities to create their dream wedding and there's something for everyone.



# TAKING MEETINGS & WEDDINGS TO NEW HEIGHTS

## LOOK NO FURTHER THAN ESTES PARK

**Estes Park is a perfect destination for meetings, weddings and all kinds of gatherings, with over 200,000 square feet of meeting space, 4,000+ lodging units and more than 300 restaurants and shops.** Whether you're looking for the elegance of a historic lodge, a mountain resort, a guest ranch, a camp setting, a conference center, a multi-use complex or a full-service hotel, Estes Park has it all. With picture-perfect meeting

spaces, easy access from Denver and **Rocky Mountain National Park** next door, Estes Park is an extraordinary destination that can take your gatherings to new heights all year round.

Let **Visit Estes Park** help you with the details to ensure that your event is seamless and successful.

**Scan to learn more and get started.**



## VisitEstesPark.com



## 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 108-119).

Fall in Estes Park is truly glorious, so stay a bit longer and enjoy it. 🌲

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.

There's more to do and see than can fit into an afternoon. The abundance of recreational opportunities this time of year makes it worth planning to stay several days.

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 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-Recreation.htm](https://www.nps.gov/ROMO/PlanYourVisit/Winter-Recreation.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. 970-586-6548, [EstesParkMountainShop.com](https://www.EstesParkMountainShop.com)**

### GO WITH THE PROS

**Rocky Mtn Natl Park** also offers free ranger-led snowshoe hikes January through March, as conditions allow. Reservations are required. [Go.NPS.gov/ROMO/winter-programs](https://www.nps.gov/ROMO/winter-programs).

### 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 reservations needed in the winter months.

*continued on page 92*



# 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 an 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 effect.

**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 quite like celebrating the holidays in Estes Park; it feels as if you're walking inside a snow globe.

From late November to the end of February, downtown Estes Park is adorned with hundreds of thousands of twinkling lights that illuminate the charming streets.

Bond Park is a sight to behold, showcasing Colorado's one and only Pixel Pine tree. This **free** light show, choreographed to music, occurs nightly from 5-9pm. With family-friendly festivals, engaging experiences, dazzling performances, and stunning light displays, all set against a magnificent mountain backdrop, there's no better destination for a winter weekend in the Rockies.

See **VisitEstesPark.com** for special celebrations.

## CONT.

## WINTER EVENTS

December's Catch the Glow festivities feature exciting events. At The Snowman Festival, families can partake in a snowman scavenger hunt and enjoy festive treats. The Sweets Stroll Festival offers complimentary goodies throughout downtown.

The holiday magic in Estes Park is truly a "must-see" during this wonderful and festive time of year!

In January, unleash your inner cowboy at the Annual Estes Park Skijor competition. The weekend is packed with activities, from the Warming Hut Expo to joyful experiences for both the young and young at heart—there's something for everyone.

Planning a weekend getaway for February's Wine & Chocolate Festival is definitely worthwhile. What could be better than indulging in wine and



chocolate? Sample delights from the region's finest chocolatiers, savor pours from various wineries, and enjoy live music for a romantic weekend in beautiful Estes Park.

March brings two beloved events: Sip and sample the finest selections of Colorado whiskeys at the Whiskey Warm Up, and enjoy the frozen fun at Frozen Dead Guy Days, a three-day celebration of winter activities.

April introduces the most unique event of the year: Bigfoot Days, a festival dedicated to all things Sasquatch. Enjoy appearances and talks from television Bigfoot celebrities and experts, live music, family-friendly activities, craft and food vendors, and much more. See the Calendar of Events, pages 108-118. 🌲

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# OUR COMMUNITY

## LOCAL NONPROFITS FUEL ECONOMY & TOURISM

Estes Valley's nonprofit industry does more than "good work"; it is an economic driver: 10.3% of Estes Park's GDP comes from nonprofits. More than 100 nonprofits in and in service to the Estes Valley support housing, childcare, food assistance, land preservation, and emergency services that pave the way for you to STAY and PLAY.

Currently, only 3.6% of tourism-related dollars find their way back to nonprofits. In a rural, tourism-driven town like Estes Park, guest contributions to local services are critical.

## BECOME A GIVING GUEST

Invest in the long-term health of this community and give back in a meaningful way: visit a Giving Guest business and round up at the register or contribute through participating lodges.

So far, Giving Guest donations exceed \$36k; making this vibrant community worth visiting again...and again.

Find out more at [EPGivingGuest.org](http://EPGivingGuest.org).

## SHOP SMALL, SHOP LOCAL

Find unique gifts or a keepsake of your time here while supporting a year-round economy and the livelihoods of families in our community.

## GOING BEYOND

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.

Check our social media and our websites for the latest offers from member businesses.

[EstesChamber.org](http://EstesChamber.org), [VisitEstesPark.com](http://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 even 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](http://ESTESCHAMBER.ORG)

**Giving Guests  
Round Up  
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\$36k (and Growing!)  
Donated to  
Local Nonprofits**



**Visit Giving Guest Businesses  
To Give Back in a Meaningful Way:**



Find more information and give directly at

**[EPGivingGuest.org](http://EPGivingGuest.org)**

# 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](http://estesparknews.com)
- See what's happening this week in "Your Favorite Mountain Town!"
- Check out the *Things To Do* page

# SHOPPING OPTIONS

BUSINESS NAME	PHONE #	PAGE #	DESCRIPTION
Aspen and Evergreen	970-586-4355	38	Fine Art, Gifts & Home Decor Handmade by 75+ Estes Park & Colorado Artists
BLADES	970-591-2704	147	Sword Room & Hundreds of Knives \$15 - \$2,000
CABINtique	970-586-5750	21	New & Antique Gifts and Collectibles, Featuring Vintage Cabin and Camp Decor
The Country Market of Estes Park	970-586-2702	125	Locally-Owned Full-Service Grocery Store, Deli & Coffee Bar
Earthwood Collections	970-577-8100	45	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	33	Dog and Cat Food Supplier
The Estes Park Paw Company	214-789-7920	32	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	71	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	19	Independent Book Shop with Old Fashioned Service
The Mad Moose	970-577-9775	25	Home & Outdoor Store: Souvenirs, Home Goods, Men & Women's Clothing
Morganas Closet	970-541-8735	69	A very unique metaphysical store. We carry jewelry, gifts and all of your metaphysical products
The Old Gallery of Allenspark	970-586-3577	34	Art Gallery Featuring 27 Local Artists - Handmade Art, Jewelry, and Gifts
The Ore Cart Rock Shop	970-586-3577	35	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	30	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
The Taffy Shop	970-586-4548	83	Estes Park's Original Taffy Shop, Made On-Site Since 1935
Thirty Below Leather	970-586-2211	29	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
<b>EQUIPMENT RENTALS</b>			
Estes Park Mountain Shop	970-586-6548	4	Rentals for All Seasons and Activities
<b>INFORMATION</b>			
FunTreks	719-536-0722	59	Book and App to Guide 4x4 on Colorado Backroads
The Photographer's Guide to RMNP	970-586-4352	71	Guide Book by Erik Stensland of Images of RMNP Gallery
<b>GUIDED TOURS</b>			
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	49	Ecology Tours, Field Courses, & Adventure Education
<b>HORSE STABLES</b>			
National Park Gateway Stables	970-586-5269	77	Scenic Two-Hour to All Day Horseback Rides into RMNP
<b>FAMILY FUN</b>			
The Bull Pin Bowling & Sports Bar	970-591-7771	61	Bowling, State-of-the-Art Arcade, Live Entertainment, Group Events, Food & Beverages
Estes Park Aerial Tramway	N/A	7	Soar to the top for fun, adventure, and amazing views of the Rockies.
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	970-577-3900	109	High Altitude Western Rodeo
<b>RAFTING</b>			
A1 Wildwater	970-224-3379	55	Rafting on the Cache La Poudre and North Platte Rivers
Colorado River Expeditions	970-978-3114	74	Full-day guided rafting trips, small group sizes, luxury transportation, riverside grilled lunches
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
<b>EDUCATION/MUSEUMS</b>			
Estes Park Museum	970-586-6256	44	Local History Museum Chronicling Early Homesteading to Recent Disasters, Restored Buildings and Family Fun
MacGregor Ranch Museum	970-586-3749	47	Historic Ranch Showcasing the Homesteading History of Estes
<b>SPA TREATMENTS</b>			
Elements of Touch Wellness Spa	970-586-6597	23	Spa Treatments Using Pure Ingredients in a Relaxed Riverfront Setting

# LODGING OPTIONS

**Y** YES  
**S** SOME

**C** COMMON AREA  
**P** PRIVATE  
HOT TUB / JACUZZI

**I** INDOOR  
**O** OUTDOOR  
POOLS

## AMENITIES GUIDE

NUMBER OF UNITS  
KITCHEN  
FIREPLACE  
HOT TUB / JACUZZI  
POOL  
PET FRIENDLY  
ACCESSIBLE  
RESTAURANT  
WATER FRONT /  
RIVER VIEWS  
BALCONY / DECK

### CABINS & COTTAGES

### PHONE

CABINS & COTTAGES	PHONE	NUMBER OF UNITS	KITCHEN	FIREPLACE	HOT TUB / JACUZZI	POOL	PET FRIENDLY	ACCESSIBLE	RESTAURANT	WATER FRONT / RIVER VIEWS	BALCONY / DECK
<b>Castle Mountain Lodge</b> CastleMountainLodge.com	800-852-7463	30	Y	S	S		S		S	Y	
<b>Lazy R Cottages</b> RockyMtnResorts.com	800-672-9289	16	Y	Y	S/p		S				Y
<b>Rams Horn Village Resort</b> LuxuryEstesParkCabins.com	800-229-4676	46	Y	Y	C	O		S			Y
<b>Sunnyside Knoll Resort</b> RockyMtnResorts.com	800-672-9289	18	Y	S			Y				S
<b>Timber Creek Chalets</b> RockyMtnResorts.com	800-672-9289	14	Y	Y	S/p	O	S	S			S
<b>Triple R Cottages</b> RockyMtnResorts.com	800-672-9289	8	Y	S	S/p		Y				S

continued on page 102

## 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



# ROCKY MOUNTAIN RESORTS

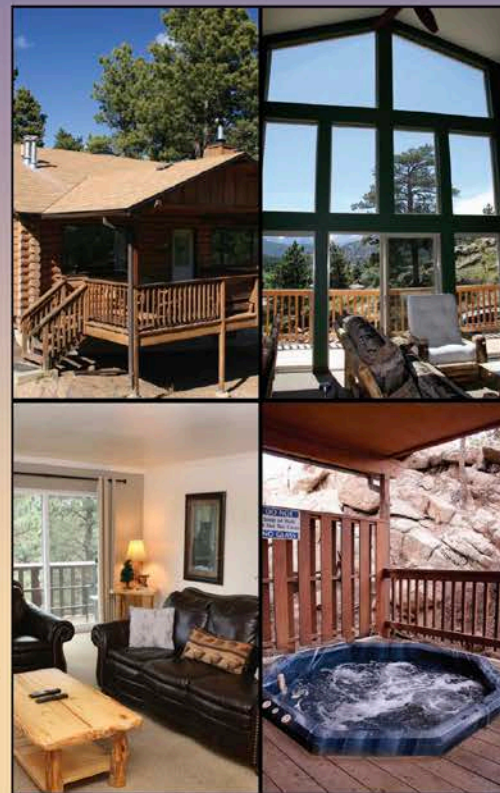
## 5 RESORTS TO CHOOSE FROM!

A WIDE VARIETY OF  
CABINS AND CONDOS  
RANGING FROM  
**RUSTIC** to  
**LUXURIOUS.**



### AMENITIES INCLUDE:

- HOT TUBS
- POOLS
- MOUNTAIN VIEWS
- UNITS SLEEP 2 TO 10



**We have units for EVERY BUDGET!**

**CHECK OUT OUR MONTHLY INTERNET SPECIALS AT**  
**[www.RockyMtnResorts.com](http://www.RockyMtnResorts.com)**

PHONE: 800-672-9289 • 970-586-2388 • FAX: 970-586-0394  
2760 FALL RIVER ROAD • P.O. BOX 4020 • ESTES PARK, CO 80517



# LODGING OPTIONS CONT.

**Y** YES

**C** COMMON AREA

**I** INDOOR

**S** SOME

**P** PRIVATE

HOT TUB / JACUZZI

**O** OUTDOOR

POOLS

## AMENITIES GUIDE

NUMBER OF UNITS  
KITCHEN  
FIREPLACE  
HOT TUB/JACUZZI  
POOL  
PET FRIENDLY  
ACCESSIBLE  
RESTAURANT  
WATER FRONT/  
RIVER VIEWS  
BALCONY / DECK

### CONDOS, SUITES & VACATION HOMES

<b>Aspen Brook Vacation Homes</b> AspenBrook.com	970-449-2455	5	Y	Y	S/P					Y	Y
<b>Black Canyon Inn</b> BlackCanyonInn.com	970-586-8113	33	Y	Y		O		S			Y
<b>Estes Park Condos</b> EstesParkCondos.com	970-577-0068	63	Y	Y	C/P			S		Y	Y
<b>Estes River Retreat</b> EstesRiverRetreat.com	970-586-6597	1	Y	Y						Y	Y
<b>Fawn Valley Inn</b> RockyMtnResorts.com	800-672-9289	48	Y	Y	S/P	O				Y	S
<b>Rocky Mountain Resorts</b> RockyMtnResorts.com	800-672-9289	125	Y	Y	S/P	O	S			S	S

### HOTEL OR MOTEL / LODGES

PHONE #

<b>Quality Inn</b> QualityInnEstesPark.com	970-586-2358	73		S	C	O		S			S
<b>The Suites at Black Canyon</b> BlackCanyonInn.com	970-586-8113	14		Y		O		S			S
<b>Taharaa Mountain Lodge</b> Taharaa.com	970-577-0098	18		P	C/P			Y	Y		P

### VACATION RENTALS

PHONE #

<b>Mountain Village At Lake Estes</b> MountainVillageEstesPark.com	970-473-5735	30	Y	P	P		S	S	Y	S	Y
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## Black Canyon Inn ESTES PARK

Here for a Wedding? Ask about our Special Rates!

Nestled against the boulders and surrounded by stunning views, this secluded hideaway offers both serenity and an ideal locale, with Estes Park's amenities nearby and close proximity to Rocky Mountain National Park.

LODGING, WEDDINGS AND EVENTS

### ONE, TWO & THREE BEDROOM CONDOS

Choose from a variety of condos and luxury suites designed for your perfect stay

### SHORT WALK TO DOWNTOWN

Less than a mile to Downtown Estes Park and 4 miles to Rocky Mountain National Park



With a unique blend of one, two and three bedroom condos and beautifully appointed suites, a stay at Black Canyon Inn provides the perfect setting to celebrate and rejuvenate.

Make yourself at home, savor a tasty meal made on one of our outdoor grills and unwind after a full day in our heated saltwater pool.

\*Pool open seasonally

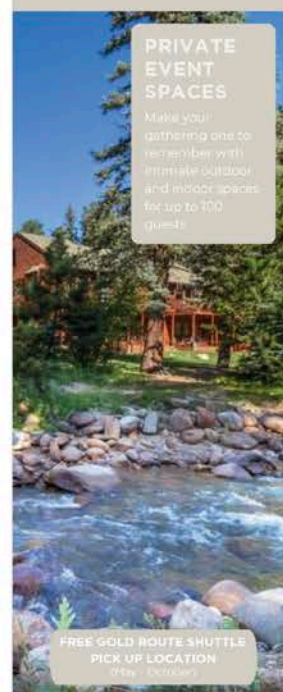


### TWO EVENT VENUES

For groups up to 200 guests, our two event spaces - The Boulders, our modern, multi-level event space and the historic Homestead venue and Pavilion - offer an idyllic setting to create memories that last a lifetime!



800 MacGregor Avenue  
Estes Park, CO 80517  
Lodging: 970.586.8113  
Weddings + Events: 970.652.8544



### PRIVATE EVENT SPACES

Make your gathering one to remember with intimate outdoor and indoor spaces for up to 100 guests

### ONE, TWO, THREE & FOUR BEDROOM CONDOS

A true Rocky Mountain escape just steps from the flowing Fall River, just one mile from Rocky Mountain National Park and three miles from downtown.

Private Hot Tubs and Spa Suites available  
Summer: Stocked river fishing — complimentary fishing poles and tackle  
Winter: Complimentary one-day rental of snowshoes, sleds, or skis

FREE GOLD ROUTE SHUTTLE  
PICK UP LOCATION  
(9/15 - 10/31)

Here for a Wedding? Ask about our Special Rates!

## ESTES PARK CONDOS

### THREE SECLUDED RIVERFRONT PROPERTIES

Estes Park Condos features three beautiful and secluded properties: Bugle Pointe, Creekside Condos & Creekside Suites. All of the properties are tucked into a grove of majestic old-growth pine and spruce trees, with beautiful Fall River cascading right in front of your private patio or deck.



1400 David Drive  
Estes Park, CO 80517  
970.577.0068

# LODGING OPTIONS

## CABINS & COTTAGES

	PG
1 Castle Mountain Lodge .....	27
2 Lazy R Cottages .....	101
3 Rams Horn Village Resort .....	31
4 Sunnyside Knoll Resort .....	101
5 Timber Creek Chalets .....	101
6 Triple R Cottages .....	101

## VACATION RENTALS

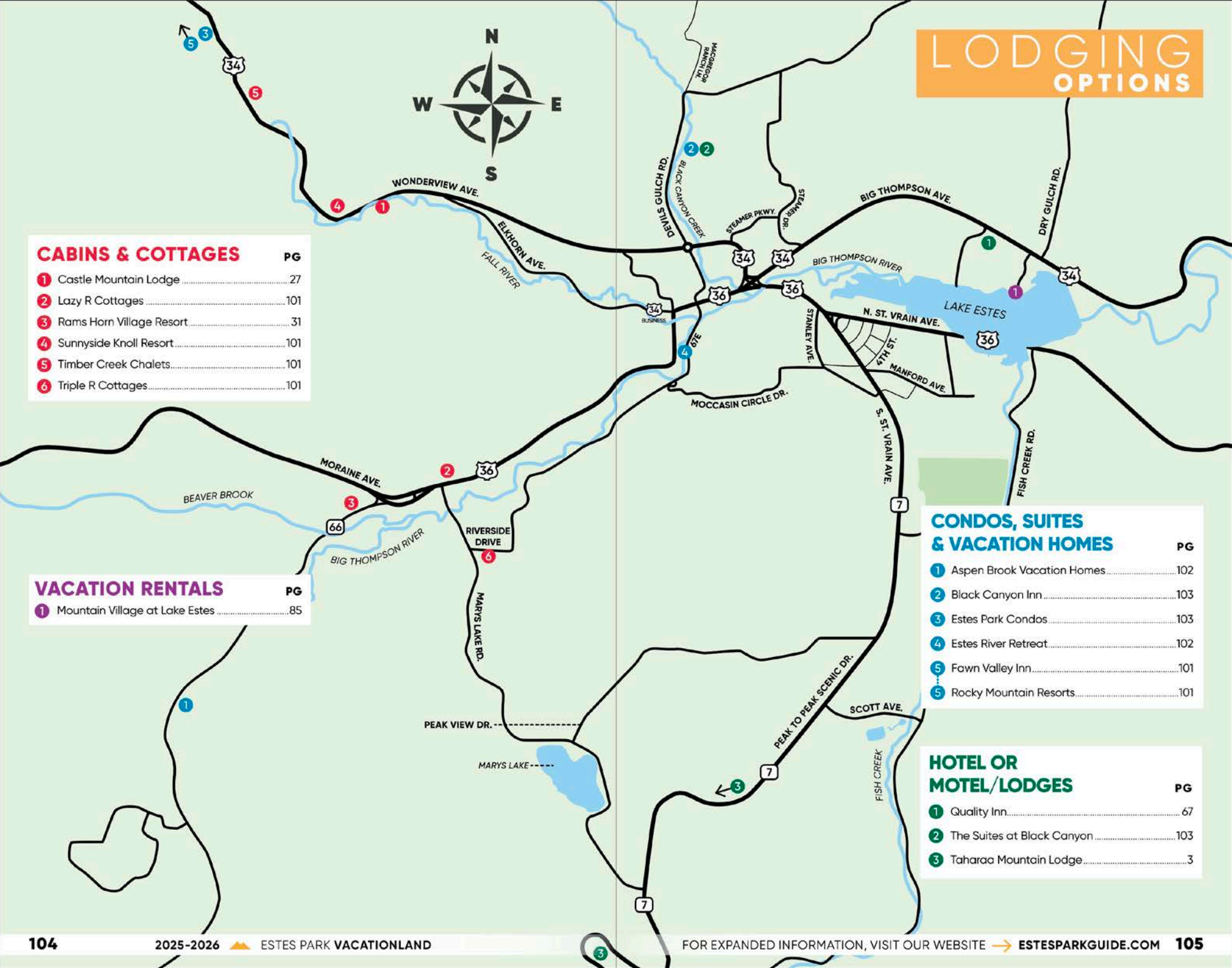
	PG
1 Mountain Village at Lake Estes .....	85

## CONDOS, SUITES & VACATION HOMES

	PG
1 Aspen Brook Vacation Homes .....	102
2 Black Canyon Inn .....	103
3 Estes Park Condos .....	103
4 Estes River Retreat .....	102
5 Fawn Valley Inn .....	101
5 Rocky Mountain Resorts .....	101

## HOTEL OR MOTEL/LODGES

	PG
1 Quality Inn .....	67
2 The Suites at Black Canyon .....	103
3 Taharaa Mountain Lodge .....	3





Elk Fest



Frozen Dead Guy Days



First Peoples Festival



Catch the Glow Parade



Estes Park Skijor



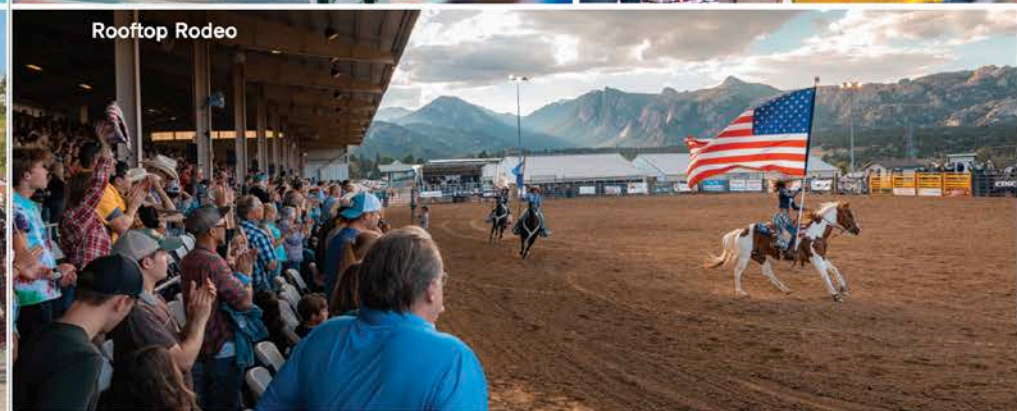
The Great Estes Park Duck Race



Snowman Festival



Scottish Irish Highland Festival



Rooftop Rodeo



Independence Day Fireworks



Bigfoot Days



Pumpkins & Pilsners



Whiskey Warm Up

CHECK OUT THESE FUN EVENTS & MANY MORE IN OUR CALENDAR OF EVENTS...

...SIMPLY TURN THE PAGE!

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## ONGOING EVENTS

### Estes Valley Farmers Market • Thursdays • June 5–Sept. 25

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 15–August 19

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](http://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](http://EstesArtsDistrict.org)

### Live Music at Snowy Peaks Winery • Every Friday Afternoon

Times change seasonally • Reservations strongly recommended. • [SnowyPeaksWinery.com](http://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](http://FullThrottleDistillery.com) • [EstesParkDistillingCo.com](http://EstesParkDistillingCo.com)

### 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](http://InspiredArtExperiences.com/book-online) • [InspiredArtExperiences.com/book-online](http://InspiredArtExperiences.com/book-online)

### Bingo • Tuesdays

6pm • Tavern at The Legion • [EstesLegion.org/upcoming-events](http://EstesLegion.org/upcoming-events) or [Facebook.com/ALPost119](https://www.facebook.com/ALPost119)

### Live Music & Events at the Tavern at The Legion

Special events and parties are held year-round along with live weekly music • [Tavern at The Legion](http://TavernatTheLegion.com) • [EstesLegion.org/upcoming-events](http://EstesLegion.org/upcoming-events) or [EstesLegion.org/live-music](http://EstesLegion.org/live-music)

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

4–7pm • **FREE** for spectators, \$5 fee for dash plaque and entry per car. Live music after the car show. • [Tavern at The Legion](http://TavernatTheLegion.com) • [EstesParkCarClub.com](http://EstesParkCarClub.com)

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

Come and go between 9–11am • **FREE** • Informal gathering of car enthusiasts. • [Estes Park Community Center lower parking lot](http://EstesParkCommunityCenter.com) • [EstesParkCarClub.com](http://EstesParkCarClub.com)

### Estes Valley Library Storytimes

[Estes Valley Library](http://EstesValleyLibrary.org) • [EstesValleyLibrary.org](http://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 10 and up, participants under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Days and times vary; check website for details. • [Estes Valley Library](http://EstesValleyLibrary.org) • [EstesValleyLibrary.org](http://EstesValleyLibrary.org)

### Tuesday Evening Fun Runs! • Tuesdays

**FREE** • Community run/walk. All abilities & all ages. For motivation, goal setting, and routes. • *Start times and locations change monthly, refer to the website or Facebook page.* • [EstesParkRunning.org](http://EstesParkRunning.org) or [Facebook.com/EstesParkRunningClub](https://www.facebook.com/EstesParkRunningClub)

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

6pm meet • **FREE** • Community trail runs, 3–6 miles. • *Start locations change monthly, refer to the website or Facebook page.* • [EstesParkRunning.org](http://EstesParkRunning.org) or [Facebook.com/EstesParkRunningClub](https://www.facebook.com/EstesParkRunningClub)

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



**CATCH THE Glow**  
– Estes Park, CO –

**NOV 22** ❄️ **JAN 1**

The Catch the Glow holiday season spans six enchanting weeks of events, lodging packages, special offers & more.

[VisitEstesPark.com/Holidays](http://VisitEstesPark.com/Holidays)



**ROOFTOP RODEO**  
ESTES PARK, CO

Estes Park Events Complex

**PRCA Rodeo**  
**July 5-10**  
**2025**  
**Parade**  
**July 7**

Rodeo  
Entertainment  
Behind-the-Chutes  
Nightly Tours

[TOPRODEO.CO](http://TOPRODEO.CO)

**The Rodeo with Altitude**

Buy tickets online at [rooftoprodeo.com](http://rooftoprodeo.com) or call 970-577-3900

   
PRCA ESTES PARK COLORADO



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS CONT.

## MAY

### 3 • 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 [EstesParkRunning.org](http://EstesParkRunning.org) or [Facebook.com/EstesParkRunningClub](https://www.facebook.com/EstesParkRunningClub)

### 3 • 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Duck Race Festival

11am–5pm • **FREE** • Estes Park Rotary Club's fundraiser for local nonprofits and charities. • *George Hix Riverside Plaza & Bond Park* • [EPDuckRace.org](http://EPDuckRace.org)

### 10 • Listening at the Legion: Dolly's Revenge: San Diego's All-Female Band

6:30pm • \$20 in advance/\$25 at the door • *Tavern at The Legion* • [EstesLegion.org](http://EstesLegion.org)

### 11 • Village Band and Jazz Big Band Concert

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

### 18 • Listening at the Legion: Spinphony Electric String Quartet

6:30pm • \$20 in advance/\$25 at the door • *Tavern at The Legion* • [EstesLegion.org](http://EstesLegion.org)

### 23–26 • Memorial Day Celebration

Come celebrate and honor our country with live music, food, drinks, car show, and games. • *Tavern at The Legion* • [EstesLegion.org/upcoming-events](http://EstesLegion.org/upcoming-events) • [Facebook.com/ALPost119](https://www.facebook.com/ALPost119)

### 24–26 • 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](http://FineArtsGuild.org)

### 28–29 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy: Rocky Mountain Raptors Lecture & Field Session

Weds. 6–8pm, Thurs. 7–10am • **FREE–\$60** • Join us for an engaging educational experience on the majestic raptors of the Rockies and witness their breathtaking beauty and power. • *Lyons Regional Library* • [RMConservancy.org](http://RMConservancy.org) • 970-586-3262

## JUNE

### 4 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy: Mindfulness & Birding in RMNP

9am–1pm • **\$80** • Immerse yourself in the magic and serenity of spring at Rocky Mountain National Park! • *Fall River Visitor Center* • [RMConservancy.org](http://RMConservancy.org) • 970-586-3262

### 4 • Village Band Concert

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

### 5–6 • Wool Market Workshops

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

### 6 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy: Native Orchids of RMNP

9am–3pm • **\$120** • Join us for a fun exploration of the stunning native orchids found in Rocky Mountain National Park! • *Fall River Visitor Center* • [RMConservancy.org](http://RMConservancy.org) • 970-586-3262

### 7–8 • Wool Market

Sat. 9am–5pm, Sun. 9am–4pm • **FREE** • Exhibits, competitions, sheep dog demonstrations, and sheep shearing. • *Estes Park Fairgrounds* • [EstesParkEventsComplex.com/Wool-Market](http://EstesParkEventsComplex.com/Wool-Market) • [Events@Estes.org](mailto:Events@Estes.org)

## JUNE CONT.

### 11 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy: Early Wildflowers of RMNP

9am–3pm • **\$120** • Come join us to learn about the beautiful early wildflowers blooming in Rocky Mountain National Park! • *Fall River Visitor Center* • [RMConservancy.org](http://RMConservancy.org) • 970-586-3262

### 11 • Jazz Big Band Concert

7pm • **FREE** • *Performance Park*

### 13 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy: Unlocking Plant ID: Using Botanical Keys in RMNP

9am–3pm • **\$120** • Join us in Rocky Mountain National Park to learn how to identify plants using botanical keys! • *Fall River Visitor Center* • [RMConservancy.org](http://RMConservancy.org) • 970-586-3262

### 14 • Longs Peak 5-Miler

8–9:30am • **\$45** • Finisher medals and performance shirt for all participants. • *Estes Park High School* • [EPMarathon.org](http://EPMarathon.org)

### 14 • KIDS, KIDS, KIDS Festival

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

### 14 • Summer Concert Series

7–8:30pm • **FREE** • Artist TBD, Sponsored by the Fine Arts Guild of the Rockies • *Performance Park Amphitheater* • [FineArtsGuild.org](http://FineArtsGuild.org)

### 14 • Flag Day Celebration

Come celebrate and honor our country. Music, food, drinks, fun and games. • *Tavern at The Legion* • [EstesLegion.org/upcoming-events](http://EstesLegion.org/upcoming-events) • [Facebook.com/ALPost119](https://www.facebook.com/ALPost119)

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

5–7am starts (from Dao House) • **\$120 and \$105** • Finisher medals and shirts for all participants. • Ends at the *Estes Park High School* • [EPMarathon.org](http://EPMarathon.org)

### 15 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy: Bettie Course: Women's Via Ferrata

9am–3pm • **\$160** • Try something new and reach new heights with a great community of women! Offered in partnership with KMAC Guides. • *KMAC Guides, 1230 Big Thompson Ave.* • [RMConservancy.org](http://RMConservancy.org) • 970-586-3262

### 15 • Listening at the Legion: Sofia Talvik

6:30pm • \$20 in advance/\$25 at the door • *Tavern at The Legion* • [EstesLegion.org](http://EstesLegion.org)

### 18 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy: Beginner Birding in RMNP

9am–3pm • **\$120** • Come join us for a fun day of bird watching for beginners in Rocky Mountain National Park! • *Fall River Visitor Center* • [RMConservancy.org](http://RMConservancy.org) • 970-586-3262

### 19 • National Park Fee Free Day

Juneteenth • *Rocky Mountain National Park*

### 20 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy: Historic Sites in Estes Park and RMNP

1–5pm, **\$80** • Let's explore the rich history of places and people in Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park together! • *Estes Park Visitor Center* • [RMConservancy.org](http://RMConservancy.org) • 970-586-3262

### 21–22 • Youth Theater Performance - Singing in the Rain Jr.

Sat. 7pm, Sun. 2pm • **Children 5 and under free, All others \$12**, • Tickets sold at Macdonald Book Shop, at the door, or online. • *Estes Park High School Auditorium* • [FineArtsGuild.org](http://FineArtsGuild.org)

Summer is busy here. Keep going!



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS CONT.

## JUNE CONT.

### 24 • Friends of Folk Music Festival

4–10pm • **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](http://EstesArtsDistrict.org)

### 25–29 • Rocky Mountain National Park Milky Way Photo Workshop:

#### Colin D. Young, Rock Light Photo

Come learn to photograph the Milky Way more than two miles high. Spend four nights capturing the night sky above iconic Rocky Mountain National Park locations. Capture a few mountain sunsets as well. • [RockLightPhotoTours.com](http://RockLightPhotoTours.com) • 917-902-3063

### 27 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy:

#### Wildflowers of RMNP: Montane and Subalpine

9am–3pm • **\$120** • Come explore the stunning wildflowers of Rocky Mountain National Park's montane and subalpine ecosystems with us! • *Fall River Visitor Center* • [RMConservancy.org](http://RMConservancy.org) • 970-586-3262

## JULY

### 2 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy: Alpine Wildflowers of RMNP

9am–3pm • **\$120** • Come explore the vibrant alpine wildflowers of Rocky Mountain National Park with us! • *Fall River Visitor Center* • [RMConservancy.org](http://RMConservancy.org) • 970-586-3262

### 3–4 • July 4th Celebration at Tavern at the Legion

Celebrate Independence Day. July 3–Music by Bryan Dubrow 6–8pm. July 4–ticketed event includes food, bands, fun, lake view of the fireworks, and free car show. Lost Penny Duo Blue Sky Mountain Band at 6pm. • *Tavern at The Legion* • [EstesLegion.org/upcoming-events](http://EstesLegion.org/upcoming-events) • [Facebook.com/ALPost119](https://www.facebook.com/ALPost119)

### 4 • July 4th Car Show

Enjoy a display of classic cars and fireworks. • *Tavern at The Legion* • [EstesParkCarClub.com](http://EstesParkCarClub.com)

### 4 • Big Bang Concert

6–9pm, Gates open at 5pm, Music starts at 6pm • *Grandstand Arena* • [BigBangConcert.com](http://BigBangConcert.com)

### 4 • Village Band Patriotic Concert

7pm • **FREE** • *Performance Park*

### 4 • Fireworks Over Lake Estes

9pm • **FREE**

### 5 • Listening at the Legion: Brian Kalinec and Karyn Olive

6:30pm • \$20 in advance/\$25 at the door • *Tavern at The Legion* • [EstesLegion.org](http://EstesLegion.org)

### 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](http://RoofTopRodeo.com)

### 7 • 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](http://RoofTopRodeo.com)

## JULY CONT.

### 11 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy: Wildlife of the High Country in RMNP

9am–3pm • **\$120** • Learn about the amazing animals who call the alpine tundra home in Rocky Mountain National Park! • *Fall River Visitor Center* • [RMConservancy.org](http://RMConservancy.org) • 970-586-3262

### 12 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy: Family Climbing at the Thumb Open Space

9am–3pm • **\$115** • Learn the basics of outdoor climbing and try top-roping outdoors in the stunning Estes Valley! Appropriate for ages 8+. Offered in partnership with KMAC Guides. • *The Thumb Open Space*. • [RMConservancy.org](http://RMConservancy.org) • 970-586-3262

### 12 • Summer Concert Series: Blues Dogs

7–8:30pm • **FREE** • Sponsored by the Fine Arts Guild of the Rockies • *Performance Park* • [FineArtsGuild.org](http://FineArtsGuild.org)

### 16 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy:

#### Rocky's Forests: Stories of the Past and the Future

9am–3pm • **\$120** • Join us as we explore three of Rocky's life zones and the distinct forests found there! • *Fall River Visitor Center* • [RMConservancy.org](http://RMConservancy.org) • 970-586-3262

### 18 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy:

#### Wetlands & Wildlife: Elk, Moose, Willows and Fencing Strategies in RMNP

9am–3pm • **\$120** • Discover how Rocky Mountain National Park has changed since the implementation of the Elk and Vegetation Management Plan began in 2009. • *Fall River Visitor Center* • [RMConservancy.org](http://RMConservancy.org) • 970-586-3262

### 19 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy: Family Fly Fishing

9am–1pm • **\$20 Kids, \$30 Adults** • An introduction to stream ecology and fly fishing, for families! Offered in partnership with Rambling Ruby Rose Guiding. • *Estes Park Visitor Center* • [RMConservancy.org](http://RMConservancy.org) • 970-586-3262

### 19 • Listening at the Legion: A Tale of Two

6:30pm • \$20 in advance/\$25 at the door • *Tavern at The Legion* • [EstesLegion.org](http://EstesLegion.org)

### 20 • Jazz Big Band Concert

7pm • **FREE** • *YMCA Hyde Chapel*

### 24 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy: Introduction to Butterflies of RMNP

9:30am–1:30pm • **\$80** • Come join us to explore the beautiful butterflies of Rocky Mountain National Park! • *Fall River Visitor Center* • [RMConservancy.org](http://RMConservancy.org) • 970-586-3262

### 25 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy: Bats of Colorado and RMNP

6:30–10:30pm • **\$80** • Learn about the fascinating world of bats in Colorado and Rocky Mountain National Park! • *Fall River Visitor Center* • [RMConservancy.org](http://RMConservancy.org) • 970-586-3262

*We're not kidding, there is still more!*



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS CONT.

## AUGUST

### 2 • Listening at the Legion: Halley Neal

6:30pm • \$20 in advance/\$25 at the door • *Tavern at The Legion* • [EstesLegion.org](http://EstesLegion.org)

### 2-3 • Estes Park Art Studio Tour

10am–5pm • **FREE** • Visit any or all home studios throughout Estes Park, watch work in progress, and buy art. • [EstesParkArtTour.com](http://EstesParkArtTour.com)

### 2-3 • Estes Park Jazz Fest

3–8pm • **FREE** • *Performance Park*

### 4 • National Park Fee Free Day

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

### 6 • Village Band Concert

7pm • **FREE** • *Performance Park*

### 7 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy: Geology of Trail Ridge Road

9am–3pm • **\$120** • The foundation of Rocky Mountain National Park's awe-inspiring scenery is its bedrock! Join us to learn about how geology shapes Rocky! • *Fall River Visitor Center* • [RMConservancy.org](http://RMConservancy.org) • **970-586-3262**

### 8 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy:

#### Bettie Course: Women's Introduction to Outdoor Climbing

9am–3pm • **\$115** • Learn the basics of outdoor climbing and try top-roping outdoors with other women in the stunning Estes Valley! Offered in partnership with KMAC Guides. • *KMAC Guides, 1230 Big Thompson Ave* • [RMConservancy.org](http://RMConservancy.org) • **970-586-3262**

### 8-10 • Senior Pro Charity Rodeo

Fri. 7–9pm, Sat. & Sun. 2–4pm • *The Estes Park Fairgrounds* • [EstesParkEventsComplex.com](http://EstesParkEventsComplex.com)

### 9 • Book Lovers' Day

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

### 9 • Summer Concert Series

7–9pm • **FREE** • Sponsored by the Fine Arts Guild of the Rockies • *Performance Park* • [FineArtsGuild.org](http://FineArtsGuild.org)

### 9-10 • 10th Annual Estes Park Wine Festival

Sat. 11am–5pm, Sun. 11am–4pm • **\$44-\$135** • 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](http://EstesParkWineFestival.com)

### 14-15 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy:

#### Introduction to Landscape Photography: Capturing the Beauty of the Rockies

8am–2pm both days • **\$240** • Learn how to snap stunning landscapes, set up your camera on the fly, and be in the right place at the right time for amazing shots! • *Fall River Visitor Center* • [RMConservancy.org](http://RMConservancy.org) • **970-586-3262**

### 15-17 • Flowering Peach

Fri. & Sat. 7pm, Sun. 2pm • **Adult \$20, Seniors \$18, 6-18yr. \$12, 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](http://FineArtsGuild.org)

## AUGUST CONT.

### 16 • Listening at the Legion: McLeod Nine

6:30pm • \$20 in advance/\$25 at the door • *Tavern at The Legion* • [EstesLegion.org](http://EstesLegion.org)

### 16-17 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy:

#### Bettie Course: Women's Stream Ecology & Fly Fishing - Mountain Streams

Sat. 9am–3pm, Sun. 7:30am–1:30pm • **\$250** • An introduction to stream ecology and fly fishing, just for women! Offered in partnership with Rambling Ruby Rose Guiding. • *Estes Park Visitor Center* • [RMConservancy.org](http://RMConservancy.org) • **970-586-3262**

### 20-21 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy: Sketchbook Journaling: RMNP in Watercolor

9am–3pm both days • **\$240** • Join us for two days of sketchbook journaling in Rocky Mountain National Park, where we'll be capturing nature's beauty in watercolor! • *Fall River Visitor Center* • [RMConservancy.org](http://RMConservancy.org) • **970-586-3262**

### 21-24 • 10th Annual 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](http://Snowygrass.com)

### 22-24 • 17th 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](http://EstesParkEventsComplex.com)

### 23-24 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy:

#### Bettie Course: Women's Stream Ecology & Fly Fishing - Mountain Streams

Sat. 9am–3pm, Sun. 7:30am–1:30pm • **\$250** • An introduction to stream ecology and fly-fishing, just for women! Offered in partnership with Rambling Ruby Rose Guiding. • *Estes Park Visitor Center* • [RMConservancy.org](http://RMConservancy.org) • **970-586-3262**

### 23 • 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](http://ArtCenterofEstes.com)

### 23 • 20th Annual John Denver Tribute Concert

6:00pm 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*

### 29-30 • Live Music at the Tavern at The Legion

Fri. TBD 6pm, Sat. Lost Penny 6pm • *Tavern at The Legion* • [EstesLegion.org/live-music](http://EstesLegion.org/live-music)

### 30-Sept. 1 • 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](http://FineArtsGuild.org)

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



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS CONT.

## SEPTEMBER

### 4-5 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy: Introduction to Smartphone Photography

Thurs. via Zoom 6-9pm, Fri. field session 8am-1pm • **\$160** • Learn how to take amazing photos with just your smartphone at our fun and interactive workshop! • *Fall River Visitor Center* • [RMConservancy.org](http://RMConservancy.org) • **970-586-3262**

### 5-7 • 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](http://ScotFest.com)

### 7 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy: Family Climbing at Performance Park

9am-noon • **\$90** • Learn the basics of outdoor climbing and try top-roping outdoors in the stunning Estes Valley! Appropriate for ages 5+. Offered in partnership with KMAC Guides. • *Performance Park* • [RMConservancy.org](http://RMConservancy.org) • **970-586-3262**

### 10 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy:

#### Beavers are Back! With a Little Help from their Friends

9am-3pm • **\$120** • Come learn about the return of the beavers to Rocky Mountain National Park! • *Fall River Visitor Center* • [RMConservancy.org](http://RMConservancy.org) • **970-586-3262**

### 13-14 • 50th 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](http://FineArtsGuild.org)

### 14 • Listening at the Legion: Brian Allison

6:30pm • \$20 in advance/\$25 at the door • *Tavern at The Legion* • [EstesLegion.org](http://EstesLegion.org)

### 18 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy:

#### Art and Stories of RMNP: A Behind-the-Scenes Tour

9am-3pm • **\$120** • Explore the beauty and history of Rocky Mountain National Park through art and stories on our exclusive behind-the-scenes tour! • *Fall River Visitor Center* • [RMConservancy.org](http://RMConservancy.org) • **970-586-3262**

### 19-21 • Rocky Mountain Conservancy: Night Sky Landscape Photography

Fri. 2:30-1:30pm, Sat. and Sun. 1-4pm • **\$420** • Capture the beauty of the night sky in stunning landscape photos with us! • *Fall River Visitor Center* • [RMConservancy.org](http://RMConservancy.org) • **970-586-3262**

### 20 • Summer Concert Series

7-8:30pm • **FREE** • Sponsored by the Fine Arts Guild of the Rockies • *Performance Park* • [FineArtsGuild.org](http://FineArtsGuild.org)

### 20-21 • 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](http://RailsInTheRockies.org)

### 20-21 • 31st Autumn Gold Festival

Sat. 11am-6pm, Sun. 11am-5pm • **FREE** • A festival of beer, brats and bands! • *Bond Park* • [EstesParkAutumnGold.com](http://EstesParkAutumnGold.com)

### 25 • Listening at the Legion: James Kirby

6:30pm • \$20 in advance/\$25 at the door • *Tavern at The Legion* • [EstesLegion.org](http://EstesLegion.org)

## SEPTEMBER CONT.

### 27 • National Park Fee Free Day - National Public Lands Day

*Rocky Mountain National Park*

### 27 • Fall Color Tour 2025

**FREE** car display 1-3pm • *US Bank Parking Lot* • [EstesParkCarClub.com/membership-and-forms](http://EstesParkCarClub.com/membership-and-forms)

### 27 • 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* • [EstesParkRunning.org](http://EstesParkRunning.org) or [Facebook.com/EstesParkRunningClub](https://www.facebook.com/EstesParkRunningClub)

### 27-28 • 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](http://EstesParkEventsComplex.com) • **970-586-6104**

## OCTOBER

### 4 • 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](http://VisitEstesPark.com)

### 7-8 • Estes Park Sidewalk Sale

Merchants throughout the downtown area move merchandise onto the sidewalk for a weekend-long special sale.

### 11 • Listening at the Legion: Rebecca Folsom

6:30pm • \$20 in advance/\$25 at the door • *Tavern at The Legion* • [EstesLegion.org](http://EstesLegion.org)

### 12 • National Park Fee Free Day - National Wildlife Refuge Week

*Rocky Mountain National Park*

### 18 • American Bandstand

7pm • **Adult \$20, Seniors \$18, 6-18yr. \$12, 5 & under free** • Shindig featuring the music of the Everly Brothers, Buddy Holly, Roy Orbison, and many more of the great musicians of the 1950's and early 1960's. Tickets sold at Macdonald Book Shop, at the door, or online. • *Estes Park High School Auditorium* • [FineArtsGuild.org](http://FineArtsGuild.org)

### 25 • Listening at the Legion: Jeremy Facknitz

6:30pm • \$20 in advance/\$25 at the door • *Tavern at The Legion* • [EstesLegion.org](http://EstesLegion.org)

### 31 • Halloween Bash & Live Music at the Tavern at The Legion

Time TBD • *Tavern at The Legion* • [EstesLegion.org/live-music](http://EstesLegion.org/live-music)

Still more. Keep going!



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS CONT.

## NOVEMBER

### 1 • 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](mailto:Events@Estes.org)

### 11 • National Park Fee Free Day – Veterans Day

*Rocky Mountain National Park*

### 11 • Veterans Day Celebration

Free Veteran breakfast and first drink free for Veterans. • *Tavern at The Legion* • [EstesLegion.org/upcoming-events](http://EstesLegion.org/upcoming-events) • [Facebook.com/ALPost119](https://www.facebook.com/ALPost119)

### 11 • Veterans Memorial Event

2pm • **FREE** • *Visitor Center at Bald Eagle monument*

### 22–23 • Creative Colorado Tablesetting/Scaping Event

Sat. 10am–5pm, Sun. noon–3pm • **\$10** • Enjoy viewing creations with the theme, "Celebrating Generations, Then and Now," while helping to raise funds for the Estes Park Museum • *Ember at the Estes Park Resort* • [EstesPark.Colorado.gov/Museum/Programs](http://EstesPark.Colorado.gov/Museum/Programs)

### 22 • Tree Lighting

3:30–6pm • **FREE** • *Bond Park* • [Events@Estes.org](mailto:Events@Estes.org)

### 28 • Catch the Glow Parade

5:30pm • **FREE** • A holiday tradition – whimsical floats, lighted decorations, and Santa. • *Downtown* • [EstesParkEventsComplex.com](http://EstesParkEventsComplex.com) • 970-586-6104

### 28 • Live Music at the Tavern at The Legion

6pm • *Tavern at The Legion* • [EstesLegion.org/live-music](http://EstesLegion.org/live-music)

## DECEMBER

### 5–7 • A Christmas Carol – Radio Play

Fri. & Sat. 7pm, Sun. 2pm • **Adult \$20, Seniors \$18, 6–18yr. \$12, 5 & under free** • Tickets sold at Macdonald Book Shop, at the door, or online • *Location TBD* • [FineArtsGuild.org](http://FineArtsGuild.org)

### 6 • Snowman Festival

12–5pm • **FREE** • Annual Snowman Festival including a Snowman Scavenger Hunt, live ice sculpting, reindeer, food trucks, performances and more • *Bond Park* • [VisitEstesPark.com](http://VisitEstesPark.com)

### 13 • Annual Sweet Stroll

12–5pm • **FREE** • Indulge your sweet tooth with **FREE** treats as you explore charming downtown Estes Park, Performances and characters, food trucks and more • *Bond Park* • [VisitEstesPark.com](http://VisitEstesPark.com)

### 26 • Live Music at the Tavern at The Legion: Share the Road

6pm • *Tavern at The Legion* • [EstesLegion.org/live-music](http://EstesLegion.org/live-music)

### 31 • New Year's Bash & Live Music at the Tavern at The Legion:

**Blue Sky Mountain Band**

6pm • *Tavern at The Legion* • [EstesLegion.org/live-music](http://EstesLegion.org/live-music)

## 2026

### JANUARY 2026

#### 17–18 • First Peoples Festival

A celebration of Indigenous culture, art, music, language, oral traditions, and much more. • *Estes Park Events Center* • [EstesParkEventsComplex.com](http://EstesParkEventsComplex.com)

#### 19 • National Park Fee Free Day – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

*Rocky Mountain National Park*

### FEBRUARY 2026

#### 7 • 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](http://EstesParkEventsComplex.com)

### MARCH 2026

#### 7 • Whiskey Warm-Up

Sample Colorado whiskeys from a variety of distilleries. • *George Hix Riverside Plaza* • [EstesParkEventsComplex.com](http://EstesParkEventsComplex.com) • 970-586-6104

#### TBD • Frozen Dead Guy Days

Three days of frigidly-fun happenings spread across Estes Park. • [FrozenDeadGuyDays.com](http://FrozenDeadGuyDays.com)

### APRIL 2026

#### 24 • 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](http://EstesParkEventsComplex.com)

#### 25 • 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](http://EstesParkEventsComplex.com) • 970-586-6104

THAT'S ALL! SEE YOU THERE. ↑

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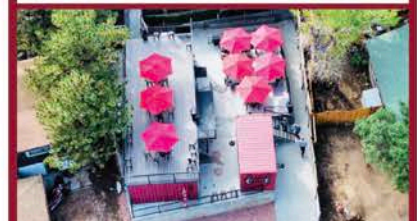
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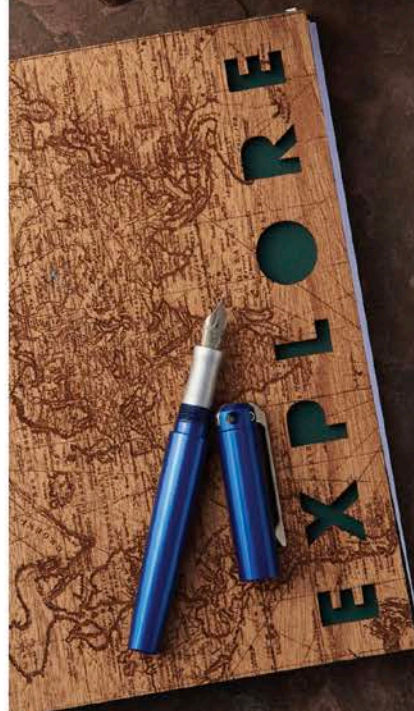
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CALL FOR SPRING, FALL & WINTER HOURS

**292 Moraine Ave**  
**snowypeakswinery.com**  
**970-586-2099**

## RESTAURANTS

AD ON PG

- 1 Antlers Rooftop Tavern ..... 132
- 2 Bob & Tony's Pizza ..... 126
- 3 The Bull Pin ..... 61 & 123
- 4 Cafe de Pho Thai ..... 133
- 5 Claire's Restaurant & Bar ..... 11 & 134
- 6 The Egg of Estes ..... 136
- 7 Elevations Eatery & Bar ..... 137
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AD ON PG

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at Camp St. Malo, Allenspark

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AD ON PG

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- 2 The Spice Rack ..... 124
- 3 Village Bagels ..... 122

## SWEETS & TREATS

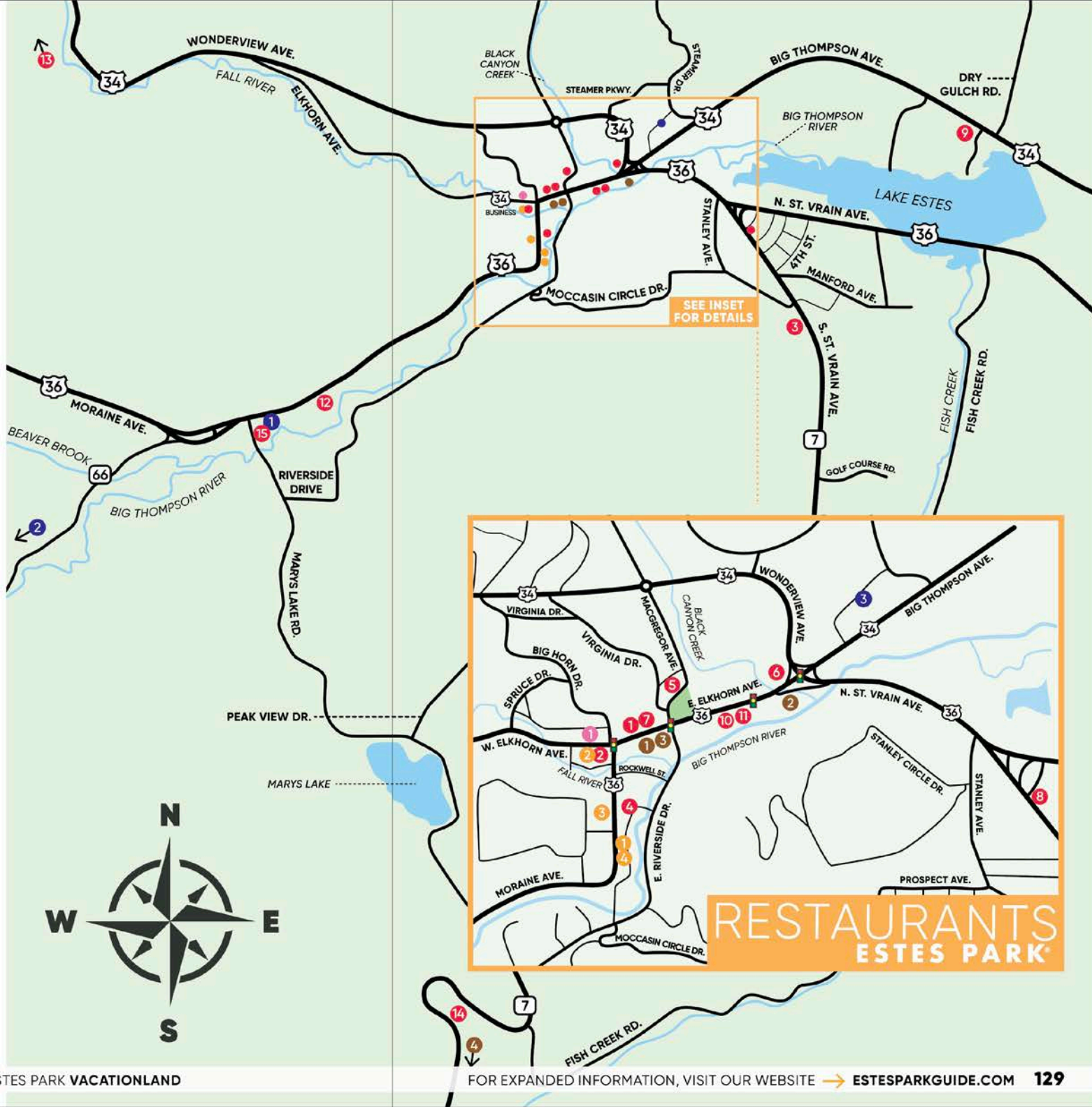
AD ON PG

- 1 The Taffy Shop ..... 83

## ADULT BEVERAGES

AD ON PG

- 1 Bogey's Sports Bar ..... 123
- 2 Estes Park Distilling Co. .... 126
- 3 Full Throttle Distillery  
Smokehouse & Grill ..... 65 & 126
- 4 Snowy Peaks Winery & Tasting Room ..... 128



# FORK DINING OPTIONS



WARRIOR  
XPRESS  
DELIVERY

**BW** BEER & WINE

**!** RESERVATIONS  
A MUST

**RESTAURANT**  
& Cuisine

**PHONE**  
**NUMBER**

**PAGE**  
**#**

BREAKFAST  
LUNCH  
SUNDAY BRUNCH  
DINNER  
COCKTAILS  
RESERVATIONS  
ENTERTAINMENT  
LARGE GROUPS  
SPECIAL EVENTS/  
CATERING

★ <b>Antlers Rooftop Tavern</b> American	970-398-4978	132		●		●	●					●
★ <b>Bob &amp; Tony's Pizza</b> Pizza	970-586-2044	126		●		●	●					
<b>The Bull Pin Bowling &amp; Sports Bar</b> Elevated Bar Food	970-591-7771	61 & 123		●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
★ <b>Cafe de Pho Thai</b> Asian	970-577-0682	133		●		●	●					●
<b>Claire's Restaurant &amp; Bar</b> American	970-586-9564	11 & 134	●	●		●	●	●		●	●	
<b>The Egg of Estes</b> American	970-586-1173	136	●	●	●		●			●	●	
<b>Elevations Eatery &amp; Bar</b> Classic American	970-586-6900	137		●		●	●					●
<b>El Mex-Kal</b> Mexican	970-586-4377	138		●		●	●				●	●
<b>Hunters Chop House</b> American/Steaks/ Seafood	970-586-6962	139				●	●	●			●	●
★ <b>Mama Rose's Italian Restaurant</b> Traditional Italian	970-586-3330	82 & 140		●		●	●	●		●	●	
★ <b>Poppy's Pizza &amp; Grill</b> American/Pizza	970-586-8282	82 & 141		●		●	●					●
<b>Smokin' Dave's BBQ &amp; Brew</b> American	970-577-7427	142		●		●	●	●		●	●	
<b>The Trailhead Restaurant</b> American	970-577-0043	144	●	●		●	●			●	●	
<b>Twin Owls Steakhouse</b> at Taharaa Mountain Lodge American	970-586-9344	3				●	●	!	●	●	●	
<b>WayFinder</b> Modern Upscale Americana	970-586-3098	145	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	

# 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**

<b>Inkwell &amp; Brew</b>	970-342-1297	124	Coffee Bar with Craft Coffee, Drinks, Artisan Shop with Journals, Pens, Cards
<b>Kind Coffee</b>	970-586-5206	125	Organic Coffee & Espresso Drinks, Smoothies, Milkshakes, Breakfast, Lunch, Pastries, Snacks, Gifts
<b>Raven's Roast Coffee Lounge</b>	970-586-4326	127	Coffee & Pastries, Mocktails, Smoothies, Extensive Tea Selection, Fresh Lemonade
<b>Tahosa Coffee House</b> at Camp St. Malo, Allenspark	303-747-2786	122	Craft Coffee, Tea, House-Made Pastries, Snacks, Beautiful Views

**BAGELS/DELI/BAKERY**

<b>The Country Market</b>	970-586-2702	125	Coffee Bar, Sandwiches and Salads, Breakfast Burritos/ Sandwiches, Party Plates
<b>The Spice Rack</b>	970-586-2702	124	House-Made Bakery, Gourmet Soups, and Sandwiches
<b>Village Bagels</b>	970-444-4104	122	Fresh Bagels, Baguettes, and Flatbreads Made Daily

**SWEETS & TREATS**

<b>The Taffy Shop</b>	970-586-4548	83	The Original! Made Fresh Since 1935
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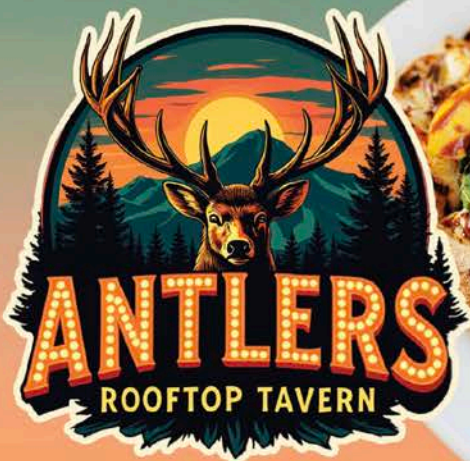
**ADULT BEVERAGES**

<b>Bogey's Sports Bar</b>	720-907-1840	123	Sports Bar with Rooftop Deck and Outdoor Patio, Large TVs for Events
<b>Estes Park Distilling Co.</b>	970-586-2044	126	Hand-Crafted Small Batch Spirits Bob & Tony's Pizza Location
<b>Full Throttle Distillery Smokehouse &amp; Grill</b>	N/A	65 & 126	Moonshine, Whiskey, Vodkas, Live Music & Grill
<b>Snowy Peaks Winery &amp; Tasting Room</b>	970-586-2099	127	Colorado-Made Wines Cheeses, Meats & More

**DELIVERY SERVICE**

<b>Warrior Xpress Delivery</b>	830-500-3575	120	Local delivery service that delivers from popular restaurants in town.
--------------------------------	--------------	-----	--

All businesses listed accept credit cards • All restaurants in CO are smoke-free



BUY **ONE** GET  
**ONE HOUSE**  
**SAKE FREE**  
PRESENT THIS COUPON  
FOR THIS SPECIAL DISCOUNT



**WHERE FLAVOR MEETS THE SUMMIT**  
PRIVATE PARTIES • CATERING • ROOFTOP BAR



BUY **ONE**  
**HOUSE BEER**  
GET **ONE FREE**

PRESENT THIS COUPON TO YOUR  
SERVER FOR THIS SPECIAL DISCOUNT

**145 E ELKHORN AVE • 970-398-4978 • ANTLERSTAVERN.COM**

*Cafe de Pho Thai* **ASIAN BISTRO**



*Healthy, Fresh Food,  
Made From Local Ingredients*

**TAKEOUT & DELIVERY**  
OPTIONS AVAILABLE

**970-577-0682 • CAFEDEPHOTHAI.COM**

225 WEST RIVERSIDE DRIVE • NEXT TO THE POST OFFICE



FOR EXPANDED INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE → **ESTESPARKGUIDE.COM** **133**

**Claire's**  
Restaurant and Bar

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

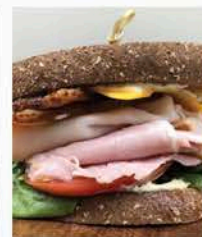
Mon-Sun • 12PM-8PM

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*

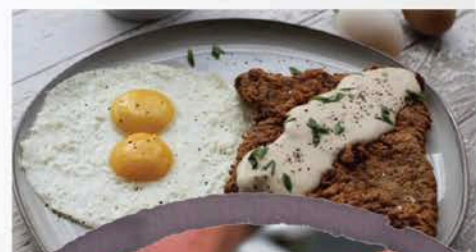
**CALL FOR SEASONAL HOURS**



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  
**RESERVATIONS  
RECOMMENDED**

225 PARK LANE



# 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



BUY  
**ONE MIMOSA**  
GET ONE FREE

PRESENT THIS COUPON  
TO YOUR SERVER  
FOR THIS SPECIAL  
DISCOUNT



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  
DAILY



970-586-4377 • 160 1<sup>ST</sup> ST.

# Hunters Chop House

Old  
Fashioned  
Mountain  
Fare



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

Follow us:  

**HUNTERSCHOPHOUSE.COM**

1690 BIG THOMPSON AVENUE • 970-586-6962

Wine Spectator  
AWARDED  
EXCELLENCE  
2021  
Wine Spectator  
AWARDED  
EXCELLENCE  
2022  
Wine Spectator  
AWARDED  
EXCELLENCE  
2023  
Wine Spectator  
AWARDED  
EXCELLENCE  
2024

# MAMA Rose's

FULL BAR  
EXTENSIVE  
WINE LIST  
BEER

*Traditional Italian*

970-586-3330

## ENTREES

LASAGNA  
VEGETARIAN  
LASAGNA

CHICKEN PARMESAN

EGGPLANT  
PARMESAN

ANGRY EGGPLANT

ANGRY CHICKEN

PORTABELLO  
MUSHROOM  
RAVIOLI

CHICKEN &  
VEGETABLES

SALMON &  
VEGETABLES

BAKED PASTAS

OLD WORLD  
SPAGHETTI

SHRIMP SCAMPI

SEAFOOD  
BAKED PASTA

CHICKEN CAESAR  
SALAD

## PASTAS

SPAGHETTI • FETTUCINI  
RIGATONI • GLUTEN-FREE  
PENNE • OR SHREDDED  
ZUCCHINI

## SAUCES

MEAT SAUCE • MARINARA  
ALFREDO • BASIL PESTO  
TOMATO CREAM SAUCE  
ARRABIATA

## LUNCH

May 16-Oct 12 • 11:30AM-3PM

## DINNER

Starting At 4:30PM

338 E. ELKHORN AVE. • MAMA-ROSES.COM

IN BENBROOK PLAZA • Reservations Available Online

# Poppo'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, Capricola,  
Sundried Tomato, Artichoke,  
Kalamata Olives, Cream Cheese, Feta

## SIZES

INDIVIDUAL  
SERVES ONE

SMALL  
SERVES TWO

MEDIUM  
SERVES THREE

LARGE  
SERVES FOUR

### SPECIALTY PIZZAS

**STRAZIANTE:** Red Sauce,  
Italian Sausage, Pepperoni,  
Salami, Capricola, 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

SEE FULL MENU ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE OR WEBSITE

### APPETIZERS

Homemade Onion Rings,  
Hummus Dippers, Cheddar  
Chunks, Cheese Fries, Poppers,  
Green Chile Fries

### BURGERS & SANDWICHES

Wraps, Reuben, Fish Sand-  
wich, Build Your Own Burgers,  
Chicken Sandwiches, Vegan  
Sandwiches

### ENTRÉE SALADS

*Open Daily*  
FROM 11:00AM

342 E. ELKHORN AVE. • POPPYS-PIZZA.COM

On the Riverwalk in Benbrook Plaza • NO RESERVATIONS

FOR EXPANDED INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE → ESTESPARKGUIDE.COM

# SMOKIN' DAVE'S BBQ & BREW

OPEN EVERY DAY 11AM-CLOSE  
820 MORAINA AVE.

SMOKINDAVESBBQ.COM  
970-577-RIBS (7427)

## APPETIZERS

Smokin' Rings • Bubba-Que Wings  
Southern Catfish Tenders  
Stuffed Potato Skins • Hoggin' Combo  
Pit Master Sliders • Southern Okra  
Deep Fried Pickles • 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



## 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

## 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



GET SAUCED  
AT '7522'

Established in  
2007...

...the year of the  
PIG



15 BEERS  
ON TAP

★★★

CHECK OUT OUR LYONS,  
LONGMONT & DENVER LOCATIONS!

## FAVORITES

Fish 'n' Chips • Southern Catfish  
Chicken Fried Steak

## KIDS MENU

Brisket or Pulled Pork Sandwich  
Kids Burger • Rib Dinner  
Grilled Cheese • Chicken Tenders



## FAMILY COMBOS

Big Kahuna Belly Buster  
Not So Teeny Wahine

## 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

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**

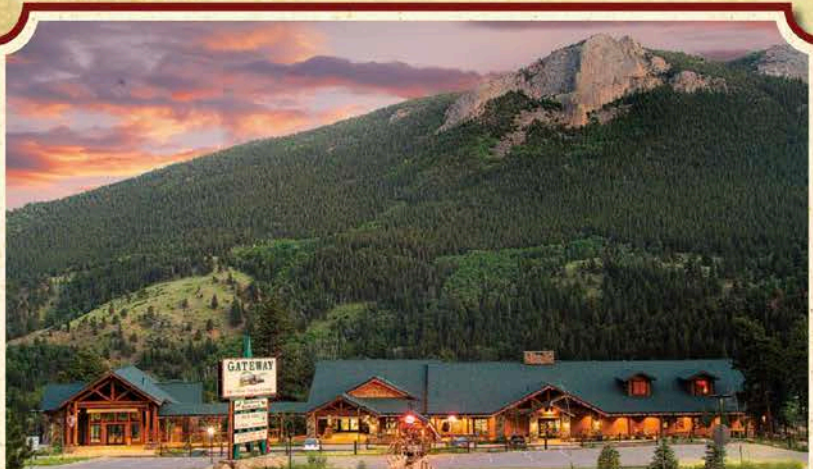
Dedicated to **PRESERVING** and **HONORING**  
the **ART OF AMERICAN BBQ**

# 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



**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

**BREAKFAST  
LUNCH  
& DINNER  
SERVED  
DAILY**

**970-586-3098**

LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF **MORaine AVENUE & MARYS LAKE DRIVE**

FOR EXPANDED INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE → **ESTESPARKGUIDE.COM** **145**





Mayor Gary Hall here, in the valley that my wife Linda and I call our paradise. "We live here!!" is a common refrain in the Hall household and is echoed by many other lucky residents in the Estes Valley.



You are viewing the 75th-anniversary publication of the *Estes Park Vacationland*, which guides you to so many good things in Estes Park and the surrounding areas. Congratulations to Susie Masterson on this milestone, as well as for having maintained such high quality through the years.

*Estes Park Vacationland*, first published in 1950, is the official print guide to the Estes region, and has always been a local, woman-owned business, through five consecutive owners. It is distributed at more than 150 sites in the Estes area and is the oldest continuously published book of its kind in the USA.

For 75 years, this publication has served as the go-to guide for visitors. Residents use it, too! You'll find information on what to do and see in Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park, and it provides tips on how to stay safe and how to be a responsible guest in our special corner of Mother Earth.

Welcome to Estes Park, and may you find all the adventures and services and goods you seek, with the help of this ever-popular guide to our mountain paradise.

Gary Hall  
Mayor  
Town of Estes Park



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**ROCKY MOUNTAIN ROAMER**  
Your Colorado AI Travel Assistant

**HAVE MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT ESTES PARK?**

Ask our AI travel assistant, **Rocky Mountain Roamer**

