

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

The Park And The Pagan Of America

On the day Hancock affixed his signature to the Declaration of Independence, Father Francisco Garcés was witnessing a ritual dance among the Hopi Indians of New Spain's northern frontier. Though Father Garcés and the Hopis were unaware of the decisive events taking place in Philadelphia, they were a part of America in 1776. As such, they symbolize the cultural diversity encompassed by both the national bicentennial and Colorado State centennial celebrations.

Change came rapidly to the Southwest in the years after Father Garcés' priesthood. Cultures became fragmented as Indian and Spanish encroached French fur traders and then American mountain men, miners, soldiers, and ranchers. Above and beyond the idea of change stood the high Rockies, their shining peaks reassuring landmarks to those who traveled the long, broken horizons of the West.

After the close of the Civil War, the Rockies themselves became a part of the national pageant. In 1873, the great frontier photographer William H. Jackson availed the American public with a stunning photograph of the long-ruined Mountain of the Holy Cross in central Colorado. Within a few years the great peaks had been climbed and mapped by explorers and scientists of the Federal surveys. In 1876, Colorado became a state. The Rockies, their legends and reality, were fast becoming part of mainstream America. In their turn, four cultures bid for this land. Today, the Rocky Mountains and the National Park System area within them perpetuate the contributions of these diverse peoples and the wilderness heritage that is so much a part of America.

To Enjoy The Park

... utilize its interpretive programs
The National Park Service encourages you to become acquainted with the park through its guided walks, campfire programs, and other activities. These programs begin in early June and extend into September. Pick up a schedule at one of the information centers. Be sure to see the orientation film at headquarters (open all year), and the exhibit at Alpine Visitor Center (June-October) and Moraine Park Visitor Center (May-October). Roadside exhibits and self-guiding trails also help to interpret the park.
When you leave Rocky Mountain National Park, we hope your experience here will go with you as a happy memory. You should also carry away an enhanced appreciation for nature, a sharpened awareness of the interdependence of animals (including man), plants, soils, air, and water, and an understanding that man is inescapably a part of this precariously balanced system.

... drive its roads

From the east, Trail Ridge Road takes a winding course as it leaves Estes Park, reaches 3,794 meters (12,448 feet), and then descends to Grand Lake. Take 3 or 4 hours for this 48-kilometer (30-mile) scenic drive, stopping at the overlooks to absorb far-reaching views of Rocky Mountain's peaks and valleys. As you travel along Trail Ridge itself, above tree line, you are on the "roof of the world" with superlative vistas of glacier-carved peaks on every side. For a closer look at the alpine world, walk to Forest Canyon Overlook or take the 15-hour round trip Tundra Trail. Stop at Fall River Pass (3,595 meters, or 11,796 feet) to visit the Alpine Visitor Center. The exhibits will help you understand some of the things you have seen and felt along Trail Ridge Road.

Fall River Road, a section of the original road crossing over the mountains, is open from Horseshoe Park Junction to Fall River Pass. West of Endorway Picnic Area, the road is one-way uphill. The gravel road switchbacks up the mountains, as open from Horseshoe Park Junction to Fall River Pass, offering an early-day motoring experience. Because of the sharp switchbacks, trailers and motorized vans are prohibited. A guide booklet explains the history and natural history of this old road.
Take Bear Lake Road if you have the time—an extra hour or so will do it. This is one of the few paved roads in the Rockies that leads to the heart of a high mountain basin.

Don't forget: Rocky Mountain's roads are not high-speed highways, but are instead designed for maximum enjoyment of the scenery. Speed limits and traffic laws are enforced. Please obey signs. Report all accidents to the nearest park ranger station.

... stay in its campgrounds

Five roadside campgrounds—Moraine Park, Glacier Basin, Aspenglen, Long Peak, and Timber Creek—provide an enjoyable way to become acquainted with Rocky Mountain. Camping is limited to 3 days at Long Peak and 7 days at the other sites. In summer, campgrounds usually have been filled to capacity early each day. Organized group campsites, at Aspenglen and Glacier Basin Campgrounds, can be reserved. Long Peak is restricted to tent camping. There are no electrical, water, or sewer connections in any of the campgrounds. Sewer dump stations are at Moraine Park, Glacier Basin, and Timber Creek Campgrounds. One campground is kept open all year. A reservation system may be in use at some campgrounds at the time of your visit.
Wood fires are permitted in few years at campgrounds and picnic areas. A written permit is required for all fires outside those areas. Wood gathering is prohibited in campgrounds and along roadsides.

... take its trails and climb its mountains

Day use. More than 480 kilometers (300 miles) of trails provide access to remote sections of the park. Short trails lead to many scenic features. Easy strolls start from the Cub Lake and Fern Lake trail heads. The Bear Lake area is a good starting point for short hikes to other lakes.
Overnight trips. The backcountry of the park includes all of the park outside of developed and road-accessible areas; it can be reached only by trail or across country. A backcountry use permit is required for:
1. All overnight trips into the backcountry, summer or winter.
2. Technical climbs. All ascents involving the use of technical climbing equipment (ropes, pions, etc.). This permit must be obtained before entering the back country and is available at Park Headquarters or the West Unit Office throughout the year. In the summer the permit may also be obtained at the Wild Basin Ranger Station and at the Long Peak Ranger Station. These permits are issued on a "first come" basis unless a reservation is made by writing 2 weeks ahead of time.

... **fish in its streams**
In the mountain streams and lakes are four species of trout: German brown, brook, rainbow, and cutthroat. These cold waters may not produce large fish, but the superb mountain scenery will enhance your experience. Trout populations are maintained by natural reproduction without stocking.
Remember, you must have a Colorado license. Use of live bait is prohibited except under certain special conditions. You should review special fishing regulations at park headquarters or at the nearest park ranger station before you fish.

... **go horseback riding**
Horses with guides can be hired at two locations inside the park on the east side, or from a number of lodges outside both the east and west park boundaries.
... **see it in winter**
Winter means snow in the Rockies; and snow means skiing—cross-country skiing in the lower valleys, winter mountaineering in the high country, and downhill skiing at Hidden Valley. Each type of activity has its special thrills; but you must be properly equipped.
The Hidden Valley Winter Use Area is 11 kilometers (7 miles) from the Fall River Entrance and almost 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the Beaver Meadows Entrance. Access roads to Hidden Valley from the east are kept open, and provide the traveler a panorama of the high mountains.

The Face Of The Land

The ancestral Rockies had their beginning about 300 million years ago when this area was uplifted from shallow inland seas. Cycles of invasion by the sea and renewed uplift of the land followed until the last sea withdrew, about 70 million years ago, never to return. Alternating periods of uplift, volcanic activity, and erosion came next. About 5 to 7 million years ago, forces within the earth initiated a final broad uplift of the Rocky Mountain region. In the park, the overall effect was to raise the mountains to their present altitudes above 3,600 meters (nearly 12,000 feet). Deep erosion followed. Shallow valleys eventually became winding, V-shaped canyons 200 to 450 meters (about 600 to 1,500 feet) deep.

Signs of several periods of glacial activity are evident throughout the park. The quarrying action of glaciers has left their rock faces like those on Long's Peak. Broad, U-shaped valleys denote the passing of giant glaciers through the V-shaped stream-cut valleys. The glacier-deposited ridges, heaps, and scattered masses of unsorted rock debris known as moraines can be clearly seen in Moraine Park. Chains of lakes linked by streams, such as the George Lakes (visible from Trail Ridge Road), now fill depressions that were scoured out by glaciers.



Plants To Match The Heights

As you travel from the valleys to the high peaks, you will notice changes in plantlife, due largely to increasing wetness, exposure, and coolness.
At lower elevations, where the climate is relatively warm and dry, open stands of ponderosa pine and juniper grow on the slopes facing the sun, on cooler north slopes Douglas-fir is mixed with them. The lovely blue spruce grows streamside, and dense stands of lodgepole pine grow in some places. Here and there appear groups of aspens, which turn a golden yellow in autumn. Delighting the eye at ground level such wildflowers as American paspalflower, Rocky Mountain iris, plains eryngium (known locally as "western willowherb"), and penstemon dot meadows and glades.

Above 2,700 meters (8,900 feet) or so, forests of Engelmann spruce, subalpine, and limber pine take over. Openings in these cool, dark forests provide wildflower gardens of rare beauty and luxuriance. Here the blue Colorado columbine—the State flower—seems to reach its best development. At the upper edges of this zone, where cold winds constantly blow, the trees are twisted and gnarled, often squat and ground-hugging.
Then the trees disappear and you are in alpine tundra—open expanses of dwarf vegetation like that in arctic regions. Here plants hug the ground closely, an adaptation to the desiccating winds, and produce seeds quickly, an adaptation to the brief summers. Grasses, mosses, lichens and many bright-blossoming plants create patterns of endless variety and surprise. Trail Ridge Road makes for 18 kilometers (11 miles) through this Lilliputian plant world above tree line.

A Varied Wildlife
As you explore this magnificent setting of valleys and high mountain peaks, forests, and tundra, occasional glimpses of wildlife will add moments of excitement.
Many small mammals seem always to be around, but larger animals such as waptiti ("ch") and deer are generally seen only just after dawn or in late evening. If you startle a mule deer as you hike the trails, it will bound off characteristically teaching all four feet at once.
Bighorn—the living symbol of Rocky Mountain National Park—venture out into Horseshoe Park near Sheep Lake where there is a mineral lick. Please observe them from the parking lot.
Above tree line in the tundra area, the yellowthroat marmot, similar to the woodchuck in appearance, suns itself on the rocks. Another common but inconspicuous animal of the tundra is the tiny, rabbitlike pika.
The wild, eerie, yipping sound of the coyote is familiar on autumn and winter evenings at Moraine Park and Horseshoe Park.
Beaver, which are abundant in almost every stream, are easy to observe. All you need to do is spend a little time in the evening around their ponds and lodges. They begin working about sunset and continue long after dark. As they go about their business, they probably won't pay any attention to you!
For members of species and individuals seen, bird watching is the most rewarding of wildlife-observation activities in the park. Of the more than 150 kinds regularly encountered, the most common are the familiar robin, bluebird, chickadee, and junco. A good field guide, some understanding of the distribution and habits of birds, and good habits of observation on your part should lead to such exciting finds as the golden or bald eagle, white-tailed ptarmigan, Steller's Jay, and dipper.

... **How To Reach Rocky Mountain**
The nearest major rail, air, and busline terminals are at Denver, 105 kilometers (65 miles) from Estes Park, and at Cheyenne, Wyo., 146 kilometers (91 miles) distant.
Gray Lines makes connections with transcontinental airlines, railroads, and buslines at Denver. You can obtain further information from this company at P.O. Box 1977, Denver, CO 80202, or by telephoning 303-425-4201.
Accommodations
There are no overnight accommodations under Government supervision in the park. A few privately owned accommodations are available.
For information about facilities adjacent to the park, write to the chamber of commerce at either Estes Park, CO 80517, or Grand Lake, CO 80447.
Safety Precautions
Hiking and climbing precautions. Accidents in the mountains, even minor ones, may have serious or fatal consequences. Severe storms come quickly, even in summer, with attendant exposure to low temperatures, rain, snow, sleet, and lightning. All hikers and climbers should observe the following precautions:
Never climb alone. Register before and after your climb. Avoid steep snowfields. Don't over-rely on your physical ability. Start early. Avoid open high ridges and peaks during lightning. Turn back in adverse weather. Move cautiously on steep or rocky areas. Children should be warned not to run down hills.
Pets are not allowed on trails or in areas not accessible to animals of the tundra. In areas where they are permitted, they must be kept on a leash.
Veehicles are not allowed on trails or on the roads.

Forest Fire Management Program
BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE. Fires caused by man present a major threat to the park's vegetation. Lightning-caused forest fires, however, are a natural and necessary part of forest life. Areas subject to natural cycles of burning and regrowth contain mixed stands of both young and old trees. Rocky Mountain National Park was established in part to preserve the beautiful mixed forest of burning and regrowth which characterizes the area. Lightning-caused forest fires are thus being allowed to burn themselves out, providing they do not endanger human life and property.
We're Joining The World
The National Park Service is introducing metric measurements in its publications to help Americans become acquainted with the metric system and to improve interpretation for park visitors from other nations.

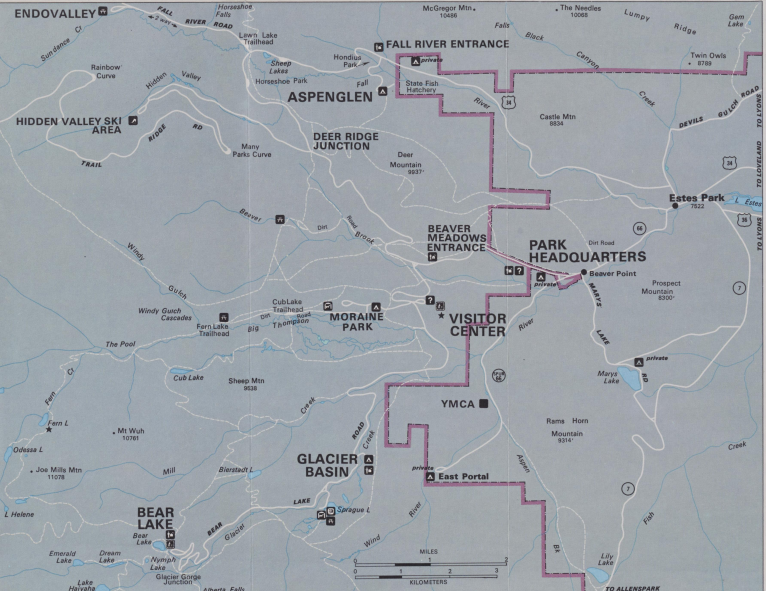
Certain rules have been established to assure your safety and that of the wild animals, and to protect park values. It is unlawful to feed or molest any animal. Hunting is not allowed; in fact, possession of any device designed to discharge missiles and capable of injuring or destroying animal life is prohibited. All natural features—plants, animals, even the rocks—are protected by law. There are no poisonous snakes in the park; and other animals are not apt to harm you if you do not approach them.

From Mountain Men To Naturalists
After the United States acquired the region through the Louisiana Purchase, explorers, trappers (the famous "mountainmen"), and adventurers passed near the park.
On October 15, 1859, Joel Estes and his son, Milton, topped Park Hill and became the first known white men to see the "park," or open, forest-rimmed valley, that now bears the Estes name. The next year Estes settled his family in the gray meadows here. By 1867, the Estes family claim was acquired by Griff Evans, who later transferred his rights to a British nobleman, the Earl of Dunraven. The Earl kept out many enterprises that would have seriously marred the matchless landscape and also did much to bring the region to public attention.

In the early 1900's, when the automobile began to prove practical as a means of travel, many people urged consideration of a plan to have the area set aside as a national park. The major force behind the idea was one man—Eros Mills, naturalist, writer, conservationist, and philosopher. His years of hard work were rewarded when he participated in the dedication ceremonies for Rocky Mountain National Park on September 4, 1915.



Eros A. Mills (left) served as chairman at the dedication of Rocky Mountain National Park in 1915. Mills, a nationally known writer, lecturer, and naturalist, devoted much of his life to the campaign for the park. With Mills were Park Edward T. Taylor (third from left) and Colorado Gov. George A. Carlson (right). Taylor, a skilled politician, shepherded the park bill through the Colorado legislature.



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Administration
Rocky Mountain National Park is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Estes Park, CO 80517, is in immediate charge.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

National Park Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GSA 372-106 1973 .051

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK



**SAFETY IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS
SEE SAFETY MESSAGE ON OTHER SIDE**

- Continental Divide
- Historic Site
- Scenic Overlook
- Paved Road
- Light-Duty Road
- Dirt Road
- Trail (Interpretive)
- Environmental Study Area
- Campground
- Ranger Station
- Launching Ramp
- Visitor Center
- Livery
- Picnic Area

0 1 2 3
MILES
0 1 2 3
KILOMETERS

3281 1000
0 100
FEET METERS

ALTITUDES ARE IN FEET, AND DISTANCES ARE IN MILES.
ONE FOOT IS 0.3 METERS; 1 MILE IS 1.6 KILOMETERS.

Trail Distances

One-way trail distances from nearest approach roads (distances based on nearest half mile):

| Trail Name | Distance (Miles) | Distance (Kilometers) |
|---|------------------|-----------------------|
| From Bear Lake to Dream Lake | 1.6 | 2.6 |
| From Emerald Lake to Lake Hayaha | 2.4 | 3.9 |
| From Flattop Mountain to Grand Lake (East Inlet Trail head) | 3.2 | 5.1 |
| From Grand Lake (East Inlet Trail head) to Ni Inlet | 3.1 | 5.0 |
| From Grand Lake (East Inlet Trail head) to Ni Inlet (with W. Portal Rd.) | 2.9 | 4.7 |
| From Grand Lake (East Inlet Trail head) to Odessa Lake | 2.9 | 4.7 |
| From Grand Lake (East Inlet Trail head) to Fern Lake | 2.9 | 4.7 |
| From Phantom Valley Parking Area to Lake City | 5.3 | 8.5 |
| From Phantom Valley Parking Area to La Poudre Pass | 3.2 | 5.1 |
| From Phantom Valley Parking Area to Thunder Pass | 1.1 | 1.8 |
| From Grand Lake to Shadow Mountain (East Shore Trail head) | 8.5 | 13.7 |
| From Grand Lake to Cascade Falls (East Inlet Trail head) | 7.2 | 11.6 |
| From Grand Lake to Lake Nokoni (East Inlet Trail head) | 20.1 | 32.3 |
| From Grand Lake to Lake Nantua (East Inlet Trail head) | 1.0 | 1.6 |
| From Grand Lake to Adams Falls (East Inlet Trail head) | 1.3 | 2.1 |
| From Grand Lake to Lone Pine Lake (East Inlet Trail head) | 9.5 | 15.3 |
| From Grand Lake to Lake Verma (East Inlet Trail head) | 11.7 | 18.8 |
| From Wild Basin to Calypso Cascades | 3.2 | 5.1 |
| From Wild Basin to Ouzel Falls | 3.2 | 5.1 |
| From Wild Basin to Bluebird Lake | 10.4 | 16.8 |
| From Wild Basin to Finch Lake | 8.5 | 13.7 |
| From Wild Basin to Fair Reservoir | 11.7 | 18.8 |
| From Wild Basin to Thunder Lake | 11.7 | 18.8 |
| From Wild Basin to Sandbach Lake (from Copeland Lake) | 6.4 | 10.3 |
| From Horseshoe Park to Lawn Lake | 9.6 | 15.5 |
| From Horseshoe Park to Crystal Lake | 12.7 | 20.4 |
| From Horseshoe Park to Ypsilon Lake | 12.7 | 20.4 |
| From Horseshoe Park to Deer Mountain (from Deer Ridge) | 5.3 | 8.5 |
| From Fern Lake Trail Jct. (Moraine Park) to Fern Lake | 3.2 | 5.1 |
| From Fern Lake Trail Jct. (Moraine Park) to Odessa Lake | 6.4 | 10.3 |
| From Fern Lake Trail Jct. (Moraine Park) to Crib Lake (from Moraine Park Rd.) | 4.2 | 6.8 |
| From Glacier Gorge Jct. to Loch Vale | 4.2 | 6.8 |
| From Glacier Gorge Jct. to Mills Lake | 4.2 | 6.8 |
| From Estes Park to Gem Lake (from Devils Gulch Rd.) | 3.2 | 5.1 |
| From Longs Peak Campground to Longs Peak | 3.2 | 5.1 |
| From Longs Peak Campground to Longs Peak (East Inlet Trail head) | 7.2 | 11.6 |
| From Longs Peak Campground to Twin Sisters (from Colo. 7) | 5.6 | 9.0 |

CONVERSION TABLE

| MILES | KILOMETERS |
|-------|------------|
| 0.1 | 0.16 |
| 0.2 | 0.32 |
| 0.3 | 0.48 |
| 0.4 | 0.64 |
| 0.5 | 0.80 |
| 0.6 | 0.96 |
| 0.7 | 1.12 |
| 0.8 | 1.28 |
| 0.9 | 1.44 |
| 1.0 | 1.60 |
| 1.1 | 1.76 |
| 1.2 | 1.92 |
| 1.3 | 2.08 |
| 1.4 | 2.24 |
| 1.5 | 2.40 |
| 1.6 | 2.56 |
| 1.7 | 2.72 |
| 1.8 | 2.88 |
| 1.9 | 3.04 |
| 2.0 | 3.20 |
| 2.1 | 3.36 |
| 2.2 | 3.52 |
| 2.3 | 3.68 |
| 2.4 | 3.84 |
| 2.5 | 4.00 |
| 2.6 | 4.16 |
| 2.7 | 4.32 |
| 2.8 | 4.48 |
| 2.9 | 4.64 |
| 3.0 | 4.80 |
| 3.1 | 4.96 |
| 3.2 | 5.12 |
| 3.3 | 5.28 |
| 3.4 | 5.44 |
| 3.5 | 5.60 |
| 3.6 | 5.76 |
| 3.7 | 5.92 |
| 3.8 | 6.08 |
| 3.9 | 6.24 |
| 4.0 | 6.40 |
| 4.1 | 6.56 |
| 4.2 | 6.72 |
| 4.3 | 6.88 |
| 4.4 | 7.04 |
| 4.5 | 7.20 |
| 4.6 | 7.36 |
| 4.7 | 7.52 |
| 4.8 | 7.68 |
| 4.9 | 7.84 |
| 5.0 | 8.00 |

TO WALDEN

TO GLEN HAVEN