

Rocky Mountain National Park Trip Assistant

How Much Time?

If you aren't into hiking (or wandering around the touristy town of Estes Park), you don't need much time. Driving Trail Ridge Road and Old Fall River Road is fantastic, but it only takes a day or so to thoroughly enjoy the sights. On the other hand, if you like to hike, there's more than 300 miles of trails here. You could spend a few weeks and not get sick of these Rockies! Spend your first day

driving Trail Ridge Road, taking it easy to get acclimated. After a night at elevation, start exploring the Bear Lake Area. Nymph Lake and Dream Lake are the easy options. Things get a little harder going to Sky Pond, Black Lake/Mills Lake, and Odessa Lake. Or you can go to summits, like Hallet Peak. If you're ultra-fit and adventurous, cap your trip with a climb up to Longs Peak. If you're fit but not that fit, hike to Chasm Lake for an exciting conclusion.

Need to Know

- During peak visitation, a **timed-entry permit** is required for Trail Ridge Road and/or Bear Lake Corridor.
- A timed-entry permit does not guarantee parking.
- **Reservations** required for camping except Longs Peak.
- **Free shuttles** connect Estes Park Visitor Center with Bear Lake, and spots in between.
- Acclimate to the elevation. The Bear Lake Trailhead is above 9,000 feet!

Maps

Rocky Mountain National Park Map: [PDF](#) | [JPG](#)

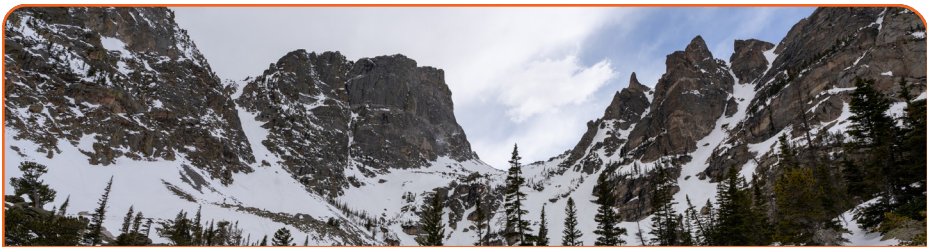
[Google Map w/ Trails and Attractions](#)

All 63 National Parks Map: [PDF](#) | [JPG](#)

Southwestern NPS Units Map: [PDF](#) | [JPG](#)

Highlights

Bear Lake
Longs Peak
Trail Ridge Road (Rock Cut, Gore Range, Forest Canyon, etc.)
Old Fall River Road



Favorite Trails

Easy

[Dream Lake](#)

[Bear Lake](#)

[Sprague Lake](#)

[Tundra Communities](#)

[Calypso Cascades](#)

[Adams Falls](#)

[Lily Lake](#)

Moderate

[Mills Lake](#)

[Emerald Lake](#)

[Bluebird Lake](#)

[Deer Mountain](#)

[Alluvial Fan](#)

Strenuous

[Sky Pond](#)

[Chasm Lake](#)

[Black Lake](#)

[Hallett Peak](#)

[Odessa Lake](#)

Extreme

[Longs Peak](#)

Activities

Hiking

Backpacking

Rock Climbing

Biking

Horseback Riding

Snowshoeing

See this [Google Map](#) for pins to favorite trails and attractions.

Highlights

[Green River Lakes Recreation Area](#) (WY)

[Cirque of the Towers](#) (WY)
([Bridger-Teton NF](#))

[Medicine Bow Peak](#) (WY)
([Routt-Medicine Bow NF](#))

[Bonneville Salt Flats](#) (UT)
Logan Canyon (UT)

[Mirror Lake Scenic Byway](#) (UT)
([Uinta-Wasatch-Cache NF](#))

[Flaming Gorge NRA](#) (WY)
[Sheep Creek Canyon Geologic Loop](#) (UT)
([Ashley NF](#))

[Garden of the Gods](#) (CO)
[Pikes Peak](#) (CO)

Road Trip

Here's a [Google Map](#) to help plan road trips from the east (Gateway Arch), north (Grand Teton), west (Great Basin), and south (Great Sand Dunes). It's a good start, but I'd highly recommend making your own. ([Update when roads open](#))

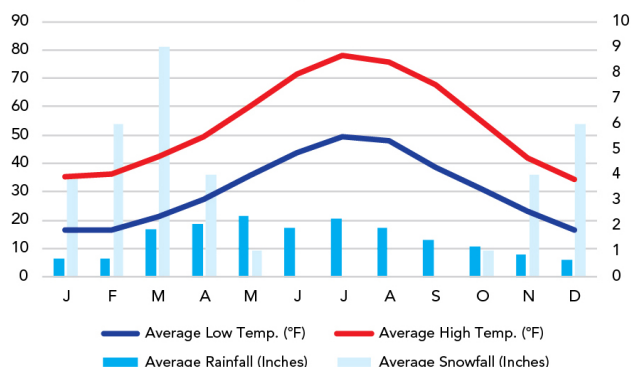
There's much more to our country. Here's another [Google Map](#) with points of interest across all types of public land.

For campers, here's a [Google Map](#) with National Forest campgrounds. National Park campgrounds are difficult to reserve (there are about 200!). With nearly 5,000 national forest campgrounds, you can usually pull in and find a spot.

When To Go

Weather

Estes Park: 7,810 ft Elevation



Visitation

Rocky Mountain Visitation

