Welcome to Winter

A New Season, A New Park

As a winter visitor to Rocky, you’re part of a special group. Most people visit in summer and fall, when temps are warm, roads are clear, and winds are gentle. In winter, temps are frigid, Trail Ridge and Old Fall River roads are closed, snow covers the mountains, and the wind often howls. It can be a challenging time to enjoy the great outdoors.

But with great challenges come great rewards. Explore many beautiful lakes, now covered in sheets of richly-colored wind-warped ice. Watch for wildlife and stand in awe of their ability to survive and even thrive in harsh conditions. Enjoy fun new ways of getting around as you sled, ski, snowboard, or snowshoe to destinations near and far. Feel the power of deep quiet that only winter can bring. And when you need to warm up, stop in at a visitor center to learn more about the park and speak with a ranger.

We hope you enjoy your trip during this magical season. When you get home, keep the party going by telling the story of your winter adventure at Rocky. Both in person and on social media, share your experience with your family, friends, and community, and encourage them to visit findyourpark.com to learn more about our national parks and to find a park near them.

What’s Different in Winter?

Driving can be a challenge
Many roads in the park are closed, including Old Fall River Road and much of Trail Ridge Road. Be prepared for winter driving conditions, including ice and snow.

Wildlife viewing is great
Winter is an excellent time to view wildlife. Look for moose along the Colorado River on the park’s west side, elk and mule deer in meadow areas (especially at dawn and dusk), and bighorn sheep along the Highway 34/Fall River corridor.

Trails are more wild
Winter trails are not maintained or marked. Do not follow others’ tracks—they can mislead you. Take a map and compass and know how to use them. While lower elevation trails on the east side of the park may remain hikeable with the right gear, most will require the use of snowshoes or skis.

Avalanches are possible
With beautiful snow on dramatic mountains come avalanches. Before entering the backcountry, know how to recognize dangerous snow conditions and check avalanche.state.co.us for current avalanche potential.

Free Park Movie

See the stunning 23-minute park movie Spirit of the Mountains, shown by request in the Beaver Meadows and Kawuneeche visitor centers.

Beaver Meadows and Kawuneeche have assisted listening devices for audio description and amplification and induction loops for people with hearing aids. Both visitor centers have a captioned version of the park film and a version en Español. All park visitor centers are accessible.

Follow @RockyNPS

Find us on your favorite social media to connect with Rocky and share your story. To learn more, visit go.nps.gov/RockySocial

Visitor Safety Information

Visitor Centers

EAST SIDE Near Estes Park
Beaver Meadows Visitor Center
Open 9 am to 4:30 pm daily (guided Nov 23 and Dec 25). Park information, bookstore, free park movie (see left). Wilderness camping permits available by following trail east of visitor center to Wilderness Office.
Fall River Visitor Center
Open 9 am to 4:30 pm daily (closed Nov 23 and Dec 25). Park information, bookstore, free park movie (see left). Wilderness camping permits available by following trail east of visitor center to Wilderness Office.

WEST SIDE Near Grand Lake
Kawuneeche Visitor Center
Open 9 am to 4:30 pm daily (closed Nov 23 and Dec 25). Park information, bookstore, free park movie (see left). Wilderness camping permits available by following trail east of visitor center to Wilderness Office.

Visitor Safety Information

Visitor Center Status

Trail Ridge Road Status: 970 586-1222
Park Information: 970 586-1206
TTY for deaf, hard of hearing, speech impaired: 970 586-1319

To report emergencies 911

Winter Activity Guide

To connect with Rocky and share your story:

instagram: @RockyNPS
facebook.com/RockyNPS
twitter: @RockyNPS
youtube.com/user/RockyNPS
flickr.com/photos/RockyNPS

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Stay Safe

Be Responsible

It is your responsibility to be safe and to know and obey park rules. You can find park safety information, rules, and regulations at visitor centers, entrance stations, trailhead bulletin boards, and on the park website at nps.gov/romo.

Altitude Sickness affects many
visitors every year. Symptoms
include headaches, nausea, fatigue, dizziness, vomiting, and in acute situations, even uncon-
sciousness. Altitude can also aggravate preexist-
ing conditions like heart and lung disease. Take
your time, drink plenty of water, eat lightly, and
rest. The only cure for altitude sickness is to go
down to a lower altitude.

Avalanches can be easily triggered
by backcountry travelers. The park
does not do any avalanche control.

Backcountry Travel should be done
in a group, not alone. Leave a detailed
trip itinerary with a friend. This helps
park authorities if you fail to return. Mountain
weather changes quickly. If caught in an avalanche,
make swimming motions and try to stay on top
of the snow. For current conditions, visit
avalanche.state.co.us, check at a visitor
center, or call 970 586-1206.

Road Conditions

Trail Ridge Road is closed in winter (see
map on back for closure locations). Old Fall
River Road is closed to motorized travel.
Weather permitting, lower elevated paved
roads (including Bear Lake Road) remain open.
Expect snow, ice, wind, and cold temperatures
at any time. All-wheel drive, four-wheel drive,
or snow tires may be recommended during
periods of heavy snow.

For current park road and driving conditions:

- Stop at a visitor center
- Call the Trail Ridge Road status line 970 586-1222
- Call the Information Office Mon–Fri 8 am to 4:30 pm 970 586-1206

Entrance Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vehicle Type</th>
<th>Car (1-9 passengers)</th>
<th>Motorcycle</th>
<th>Bicycles</th>
<th>Pedestrian</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-Day Pass</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-Day Pass</td>
<td>$70</td>
<td>$15</td>
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<tr>
<td>RMNP Annual</td>
<td>$60</td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

America the Beautiful Interagency Passes

- Annual: $80
- Senior Annual: $20
- Senior Lifetime: $80
- Access: Free
- Annual Military: Free
- Every Kid in a Park: Free

Love Rocky Mountain National Park?
Help Us Make It Even Better!

If you’ve walked the Lily Lake Trail,
explored the Fall River Visitor
Center, or introduced a child to nature
through the park’s Junior Ranger
Program, you know our work.

Become a Member or Donate Today!

www.RMConservancy.org

Carry the Essentials

- Lots of water and high-energy food
- Layers of clothing including
  storm gear, hat, gloves
- Sunglasses with UV protection
- Sunscreen
- Sturdy footwear and extra socks
- First aid kit
- Topographic map and compass/GPS
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Waterproof matches, pocket knife, whistle

Pets are prohibited on ALL park
trails, tundra, and meadow areas.
Leashed pets are only allowed in picnic
areas, parking lots, campgrounds, and along
roadsides. Never leave pets in vehicles if it puts them in danger or they become a public
nuisance. When outside vehicles, pets must be
on leashes no longer than six feet. Service
animals that have been individually trained to
perform specific tasks for the benefit of persons
with disabilities are allowed in the park.

Emotional support ("therapy animals") and
service-animals-in-training are not service
animals under the Americans with Disabilities
Act and may not access trails or other non-mo-
torized areas.

Rivers and Streams can be deadly.
Park waters are frigid. Powerful
currents can knock you over and pull you
downstream or underwater, where you may
become trapped. Streamside rocks are often
slippery, and nearby water may be deep. Always
closely supervise children around all water but
especially near rivers and streams.

Take only pictures. It is illegal to take any natural features including pinecones, rocks, antlers, and artifacts or to dis-
turb soil, rocks, or vegetation (including flowers).
Metal detector use is prohibited.

Foraging is permitted in
designated wilderness. For more information,
visit go.nps.gov/RockyFishing.

Cell Service is unavailable in much
of the park. Don’t depend on a cell
phone for emergency help.

Drones are not allowed
anywhere in Rocky Mountain
National Park.

Falling Trees are an ever-present
hazard and can fall without warning.
Be extra careful around dead trees
when it’s windy or following a snowstorm.

Firearm Possession is permitted for
those legally authorized to possess
firearms under federal, Colorado, or local laws.
Hunting and recreational or target shooting are illegal.
Any discharge of a firearm in the park will
be thoroughly investigated. Federal law prohibits
firearms in park buildings and facilities. Those
legally allowed to carry firearms must comply
with all applicable state and federal firearm laws.

Fishing requires a Colorado state
fishing license. Not all park lakes have
reproducing fish populations. Ice fishing
is allowed in designated closed water.
All fishing regulations apply. Only use hand
augers—no mechanical equipment is allowed in
designated wilderness. For more information,
visit go.nps.gov/RockyFishing.

Hypothermia can happen any
time of year. Watch for chills,
impaired judgment, excessive shivering,
and slurred speech. To prevent, wear insulated,
wind-proof layers and drink plenty of fluids.

Marijuana possession and use is
illegal in Rocky Mountain National
Park and all federal lands, even
though small amounts of recreational marijuana
are legal in Colorado.

Stay Safe

Bears and Mountain Lions

Seeing a bear or mountain lion is rare,
and interactions are even more rare.
However, keep the following in mind:

- Travel in groups and make noise as you
  hike closely together. Keep children close!
  A predator does not distinguish
  a running child from running prey.
- If you see a bear or mountain lion,
  stop, stay calm, and back away slowly.
  Never approach wildlife or turn your back and run.
  Stand tall and look large. Raise your arms. Protect
  small children by picking them up.
- If approached, make loud noises,
  shout, clap hands, bang pots or pans,
  and fight back if attacked.

Avalanches are legal in Colorado.

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Ranger-Led Programs

**East Side**

**WALKS AND HIKES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>SUN</th>
<th>MON</th>
<th>TUE</th>
<th>WED</th>
<th>THU</th>
<th>FRI</th>
<th>SAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wild in Winter!</td>
<td>Drop in</td>
<td>Beaver Meadows Visitor Center</td>
<td>10-11 am</td>
<td>10-11 am</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>10-11 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Snowshoe Ecology Walk</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
<td>Reservations required no more than 7 days in advance. 970 586-1223 9 am to 4 pm</td>
<td>12:30 pm</td>
<td>No program Jan 14, Feb 18</td>
<td>12:30 pm</td>
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<td>12:30 pm</td>
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**SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

**Full Moon Walk**
1 to 1.5 hour walk. Nov 3, Dec 3, Jan 31, Mar 1. Explore the park by the light of the full moon. Times and locations will vary each month.

Reservations required no more than 7 days in advance. Call 970 586-1223 9 am to 4 pm daily. Maximum six people per reservation. Outdoor clothing and gear appropriate for the conditions are required.

**Holiday Programming**
Join us over the holidays for fun family activities. The park will be offering special programs to celebrate the winter season. Check our website, stop by a visitor center, or call 970 586-1206 for specific topics and times.

Part of an Organized Group?
Park rangers may be available to provide special programs. Call 970 586-3777 to make reservations in advance.

**West Side**

**TALKS AND ACTIVITIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>SUN</th>
<th>MON</th>
<th>TUE</th>
<th>WED</th>
<th>THU</th>
<th>FRI</th>
<th>SAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ski the Wilderness in Winter</td>
<td>1.5 hours</td>
<td>Kawuneeche Visitor Center</td>
<td>For program times and dates, call 970 627-3471. All programs require reservations no more than 7 days in advance. Call 970 627-3471 from 8 am to 4:30 pm daily.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beginner Snowshoe</td>
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<td>Kawuneeche Visitor Center</td>
<td>Reservations required.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intermediate Snowshoe</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
<td>Kawuneeche Visitor Center</td>
<td>Reservations required.</td>
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**Notes and Tips**

- All children must be accompanied by an adult.
- Programs may be canceled due to weather.
- For outdoor programs, be sure to bring the essentials to wear and carry.

**Every Kid in a Park**
Hey fourth graders! You and your family can get free access to hundreds of parks, lands, and waters this school year (Sep 1, 2017–Aug 31, 2018).

How do you get your free pass? Visit everykidinapark.gov, do a short activity, print your voucher, and bring it with you to the park entrance station. That’s it!

**Be a Junior Ranger**
Junior Rangers have fun discovering the natural world and learning about our national parks. We need the help of ALL our rangers to keep Rocky protected for many years to come.

Pick up a free Junior Ranger Activity Booklet at any visitor contact station, discover the park, and earn you badge!
Winter Activity Guide

Use this map and guide to plan winter activities and experience this special season.

1. View Wildlife
   Seeing wildlife in winter is a thrill. Bring your field guides, binoculars, and cameras.
   - Elk and mule deer are most active at dawn and dusk and are usually seen in meadows like Horseshoe Park and Moraine Park.
   - Moose are best found along the Colorado River on the park's west side.
   - Bighorn sheep may be seen along the Highway 34/Fall River corridor on the park's east side.
   - Coyotes may be seen any time of day.
   - Black-billed magpies, Steller's jays, and Clark's nutcrackers are some of our year-round birds.

2. Hike
   Believe it or not, it's still possible to hike in winter. Lower-elevation trails on the park's east side are often free of deep snow.
   While skis or snowshoes aren't required, packed snow and ice can be extremely slippery. Stabilizer devices and poles are highly recommended to prevent dangerous falls and make your hike safe and enjoyable. Stay away from dangerous slopes and snowfields. When in doubt, turn around.

3. Snowshoe
   Ever thought: I'd like to hike in the winter and see the park's beautiful backcountry, but there's all that snow? Consider snowshoeing!
   No training is necessary—if you can hike, you can snowshoe. Most park trails can be explored with snowshoes. Snowshoes and waterproof boots are essential. While optional, poles help maintain balance, and waterproof pants or gaiters help keep you warm and dry.

4. Cross-country Ski
   Picture yourself gliding through a silent forest full of fresh, white snow. Cross-country skiing is a rejuvenating sport that pairs exercise with the beauty of nature.
   In general, cross-country skiing is easier on the west side of the park (gentler terrain and deeper snow). However, you're welcome to strap on your skis throughout the park. Skis and poles with large baskets are required. Waterproof pants or gaiters help keep you warm and dry. Skiers must be in control at all times and give notice when approaching others on the trail.

5. Sled
   Want to sled? Go to the only place in the park it's allowed: Hidden Valley! No tows are provided up this fairly gentle hill, so you’ll get a workout as you walk your sled, saucer, or tube up the slope and then enjoy a breather on the fun ride down.
   Restrooms are available by the parking lot. A warming room is available when an attendant is present. Stay alert: skiers, snowboarders, and snowshoers may pass through. Park rangers and volunteers aren’t always on duty; sled at your own risk.

6. Backcountry Ski/Ride
   For the experienced and well-prepared, Rocky's steep terrain provides many opportunities for backcountry skiers and snowboarders. (Skiing and snowboarding are not allowed in the Hidden Valley snowplay area. You may pass through, but slow down and yield the right of way to sleds.)
   Be prepared for variable snow conditions and harsh weather. Much of the park is in avalanche terrain. Check the avalanche forecast at avalanche.state.co.us. At a minimum, carry an avalanche beacon, probe, and shovel, and know how to use them. Be self-reliant. Your safety is your responsibility.

Notes and Tips

Stay Safe
Always be prepared for snow, freezing temperatures, short winter days, cold winds, and changing weather. Layer up with insulated, waterproof clothing, wear sunglasses, and use sunscreen.

Know Where You Are
Navigating in winter can be extremely difficult. Park trails are not marked for winter use, and you can’t depend on others’ tracks. Have and know how to use a topographic map and compass. When used correctly, GPS units can be very helpful.

Share the Trail
Don’t walk or snowshoe in ski tracks: it creates dangerous conditions for skiers that could result in injury. Let others know when you’re approaching them and pass with care.

What If I Don’t Have My Own Equipment?
You can rent or purchase equipment in Estes Park and Grand Lake, including snowshoes, skis, poles, boots, sleds, tubes, saucers, gaiters, and stabilizers.

Avalanches can be easily triggered by backcountry travelers. Educate yourself and stay alert.