Rocky Mountain

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Rocky Mountain National Park

Wild Basin Area Summer Trail Guide



Copeland Falls

NPS PHOTO / JOHN MARINO

Welcome to Wild Basin. Rich in wildlife and scenery, this deep valley has flowing rivers, roaring waterfalls, and sparkling lakes rimmed by remote, jagged peaks.

Narrow Road, Limited Parking

Wild Basin Road is gravel and often narrows to one lane. It isn't suitable for large vehicles like RVs. Park only in designated areas. Don't park in wide spots in the road, which let oncoming cars pass each other. Violators may be ticketed or towed.

You Must Properly Store Food Items at Trailheads and Wilderness Campsites

Improperly stored food items attract wildlife, including black bears, which can visit any time of day.

Food items are food, drinks, toiletries, cosmetics, pet food and bowls, and odiferous attractants. Garbage, including empty cans and food wrappers, must be stored or put in trash or recycling bins.

Day Use Visitors

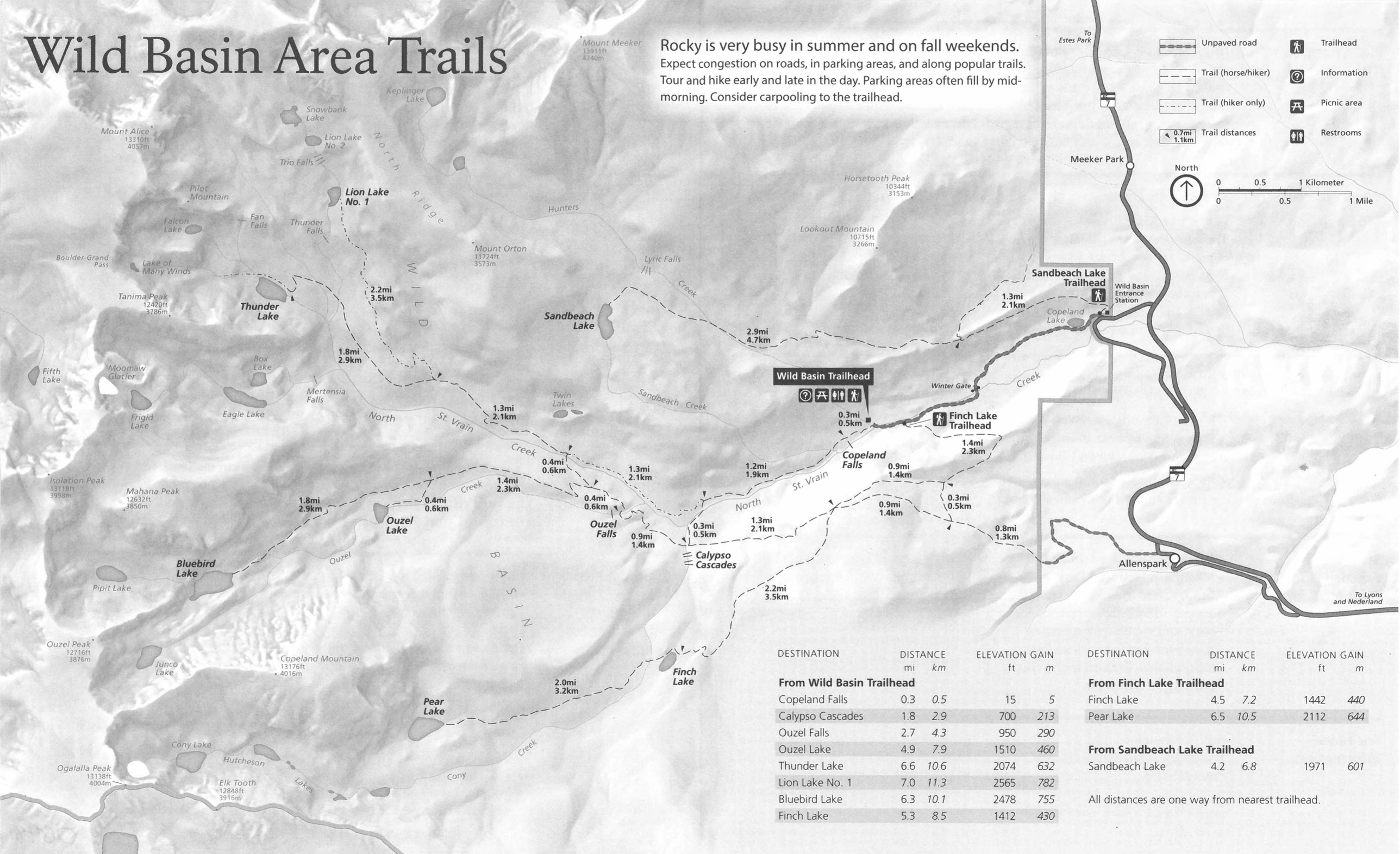
- You must store all food items and garbage inside vehicle trunks
- In vehicles without trunks, put items as low in the vehicle as possible and covered from sight, with windows and doors closed and locked

Overnight Visitors

- You must store all food items in food storage lockers. Leaving food items or garbage in a vehicle is not allowed.
- There are food storage lockers at Wild Basin, Finch Lake, and Sandbeach Lake trailheads

Wild Basin Area Trails

Rocky is very busy in summer and on fall weekends.
Expect congestion on roads, in parking areas, and along popular trails. Tour and hike early and late in the day. Parking areas often fill by mid-morning. Consider carpooling to the trailhead.



DESTINATION	DISTANCE mi	DISTANCE *km*	ELEVATION GAIN ft	ELEVATION GAIN *m*
From Wild Basin Trailhead				
Copeland Falls	0.3	*0.5*	15	*5*
Calypso Cascades	1.8	*2.9*	700	*213*
Ouzel Falls	2.7	*4.3*	950	*290*
Ouzel Lake	4.9	*7.9*	1510	*460*
Thunder Lake	6.6	*10.6*	2074	*632*
Lion Lake No. 1	7.0	*11.3*	2565	*782*
Bluebird Lake	6.3	*10.1*	2478	*755*
Finch Lake	5.3	*8.5*	1412	*430*

DESTINATION	DISTANCE mi	DISTANCE *km*	ELEVATION GAIN ft	ELEVATION GAIN *m*
From Finch Lake Trailhead				
Finch Lake	4.5	*7.2*	1442	*440*
Pear Lake	6.5	*10.5*	2112	*644*
From Sandbeach Lake Trailhead				
Sandbeach Lake	4.2	*6.8*	1971	*601*

All distances are one way from nearest trailhead.

Pay Attention to Altitude

High elevations can cause altitude sickness and may aggravate existing health conditions. Use caution. Take time to acclimatize to the park's high altitude before attempting strenuous hikes. Rest, drink lots of fluids, eat salty snacks, and start with easy hikes.

Even on cloudy days, ultraviolet radiation can be intense at altitude. Protect yourself by wearing a hat, sunglasses with UV protection, and sunscreen.

Watch the Weather

Weather here changes quickly.

Thunderstorms are common in summer and are dangerous. Plan your day to be below treeline by early afternoon. If you see building storm clouds, head back to the trailhead. If caught in a lightning storm, get below treeline.

Always carry storm gear, even if the sky is clear when you start your hike.

It might be summer, but expect snow, gusty winds, and cold temperatures at any time. Carry layers of windproof clothing. If the weather turns, you'll be glad to have them.

Bring the Right Gear

- ✓ Bring waterproof outer layers and extra layers for warmth.
- ✓ Wear a hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen. Sunlight can damage your eyes and skin, even on cloudy days.
- ✓ Pack extra water and snacks. Don't drink from streams or lakes without treating the water.
- ✓ Carry a map and compass or GPS. Know how to use them.
- ✓ Wear sturdy footwear with good ankle support and a treaded sole.
- ✓ Don't rely on cell phones. Many areas have no service.

Stay Safe and Practice Good Etiquette

- **Pets are prohibited on all Rocky Mountain National Park trails, tundra, and meadows areas.** There are pet-friendly hikes outside the park, and nearby communities have boarding facilities and veterinary clinics. To learn more, visit go.nps.gov/**RockyPets**.
- Stay together! Keep everyone, including children, with the group.
- Stay on the trail. Shortcutting causes erosion.
- Strollers aren't permitted on any trails in the Wild Basin area.

For More Information

Park Information	(970) 586-1206 or www.nps.gov/**romo**
Trail Ridge Road Status.....	(970) 586-1222
Emergencies	**911**. Tell the dispatcher you are in Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado

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WB-S 7-2016