

2006 GUIDE



Volume 9,
Number 1



A PARK HIGH AND WILD

Throughout its 416 square miles of rock-ribbed wildness, Rocky Mountain National Park is a land of superlatives.

Here, more than 110 of the peaks that soar above 10,000 feet elevation have names, such as Cirrus, Chiefs Head, Isolation, Little Matterhorn, Mummy and Storm. A few other high points remain nameless, perhaps awaiting their turn.

Seventy two mountains exceed 12,000 feet, topping off at 14,259 feet on the football field-size summit of Longs Peak. The mountains provide Rocky Mountain National Park with its sense of wonder and inspiration. These great peaks contribute mightily to the "wild, fantastic views" that thrilled noted British visitor Isabella Bird more than a century ago.

Rocky Mountain's sky-scraping summits today overlook cities and towns experiencing surging population growth. Each year, more than three million people visit the park, many driving its roads and hiking a trail system that if linked together would extend from Denver almost to Santa Fe. Despite the changes around and within, Rocky Mountain National Park is a bastion of preservation. And there's more to this park than mountains.

More than 100 square miles of the park is alpine tundra, a land above the trees. Trail Ridge Road and Old Fall River Road offer easy summer access to this wide-open, windswept ecosystem where the startling views seem to span forever.

The Continental Divide runs northwest to southeast through the park on its course from Alaska. Snowmelt and rainwater to the west of the Great Divide flow toward the Pacific Ocean; runoff to the east is bound for the distant Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean.

Rocky Mountain also is home to lakes, about 150 of them. Some occupy pastoral, forested settings. Others are perched on almost inaccessible shelves high in the park's wilderness, remaining frozen almost year round.

Throughout Rocky Mountain National Park, the unforgettable sound of rushing mountain waters breaks the wilderness silence. The high country gives rise to small streams and great rivers, notably the Colorado, the Cache la Poudre and the Big Thompson.



Occasionally seen east of the Continental Divide, moose are permanent residents of the Kawuneeche Valley in Rocky Mountain National Park. (Gene Putney)

Several of the park's more than 450 miles of streams tumble down waterfalls that bear such names as Ouzel, Timberline and Thunder.

Preserved within the park boundaries are some of Colorado's more pristine forests. Great stands of ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, aspen, subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce adorn the mountainsides. The forests are interspersed with mountain meadows filled with colorful wildflowers during the brief high country summer.

This magnificent mountain country is roamed by an amazing array of

wildlife. Rocky Mountain ranks as one of America's premier wildlife watching destinations, showcasing majestic elk, sure-footed bighorn sheep, hardy ptarmigan and soaring birds of prey.

People, too, are a part of the Rocky Mountain National Park wilderness. Hikers walk trails first used by Native American hunters many centuries ago. Fishermen stalk trout in streams where trappers once sought beaver. The failed efforts of prospectors are remembered at Lulu City, an abandoned mining town on the park's west side. The Moraine Park Museum and the Holzwarth Historic Site recall the early

days of tourism.

But nature reigns supreme here, from the highest summits to the lowest valley floors. The park is a wild preserve where people – in their own special ways – experience nature in all its splendor. Rocky Mountain is a place where families enjoy short strolls down a hiking trail and picnics at the water's edge. It's also a park where daring mountaineers pit their skills against vertical cliffs of granite.

This high, wild national park offers abundant outdoor opportunities. And those "wild, fantastic views" are out there, awaiting discovery. ■

Planning, Preparation Essential For Park Visits

No matter what the season, visits to the welcoming wilderness of Rocky Mountain National Park require planning and preparation. A few tips:

Most visitors arrive during the summer months. Expect lots of company on roads, along popular trails and in parking areas, especially between Memorial Day and Labor Day, when camping reservations inside the park and lodging reservations in resort communities outside the park are imperative.

Elevation is an integral part of the park experience. Don't push your physical limits in this region located above 8,000 feet. Altitude sickness symptoms include shortness of breath, fatigue, dizziness, nausea, rapid heartbeat and insomnia. If symptoms persist, depart for lower elevations.

Order trip planning materials from pages 10 and 11 of this publication. Products featured in the 2006 Guide – including those mentioned in the book icons appearing on some of the following pages – are particularly helpful in preparing for a trip to the park.

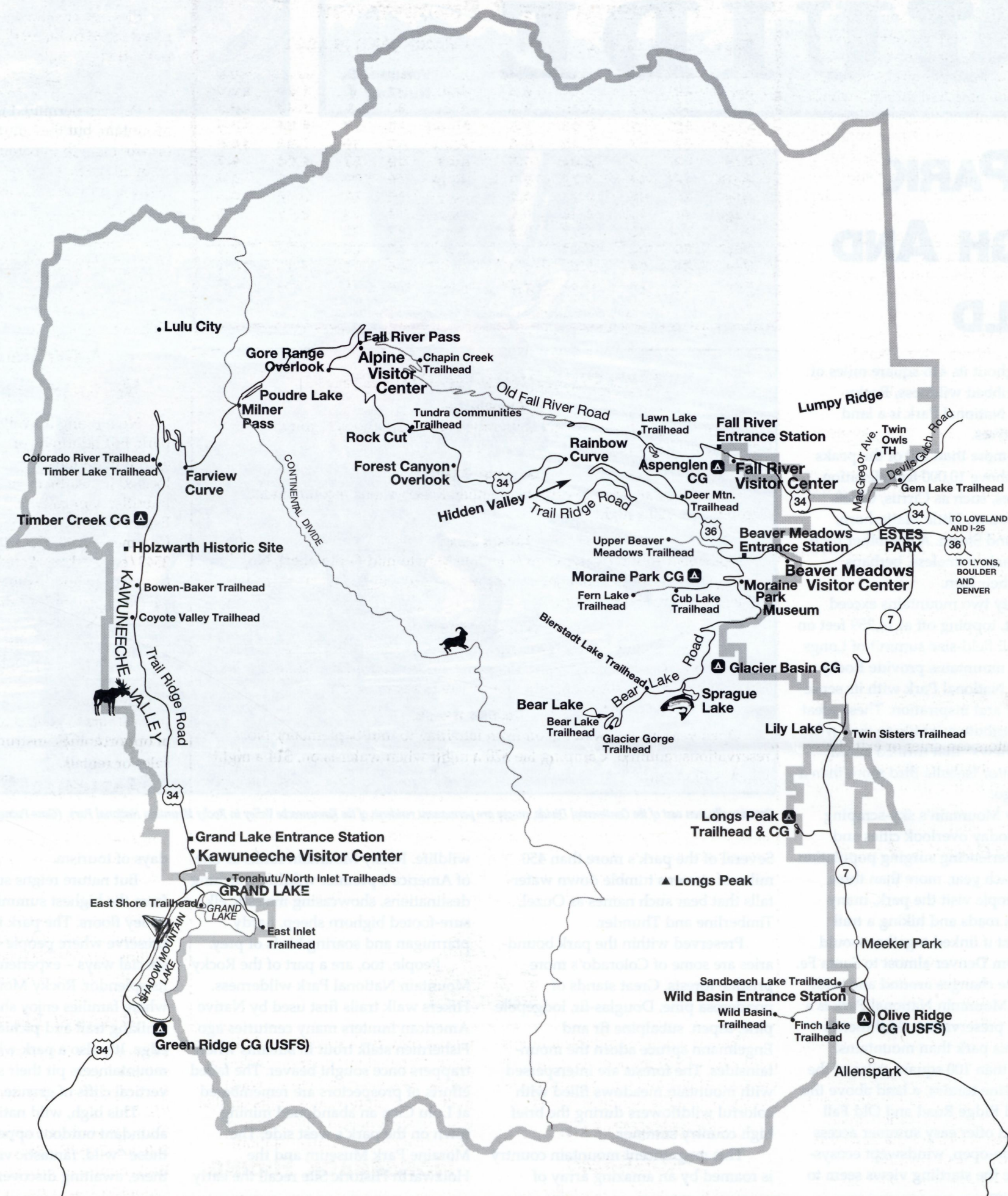
For further information, visit the park's official website at nps.gov/romo or call the Rocky Mountain National Park Information Office (970-586-1206).

Upon arrival, stop by a park visitor center for current information on everything from road and weather conditions to hiking trails, camping and ranger-led programs. ■

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Park Map

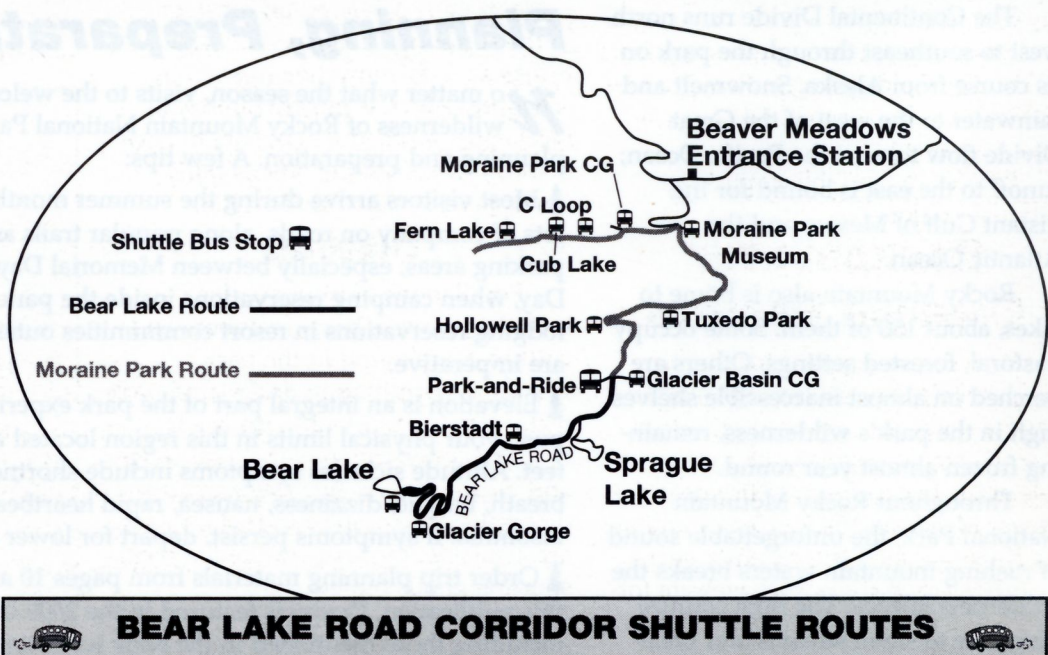


Bear Lake Road Shuttle Service

The Bear Lake Road corridor is served by two shuttle routes:

- BEAR LAKE ROUTE
- MORAINES PARK ROUTE

The shuttle service is free to park visitors.
Please call 970-586-1206 for the updated 2006 schedule.



BEAR LAKE ROAD CORRIDOR SHUTTLE ROUTES



Answer Page



WEATHER

Rocky Mountain National Park weather always is changeable, sometimes extreme. Temperatures drop and precipitation increases as elevation is gained, so be prepared for chilly conditions – especially at the park's higher altitudes – year round. Bring appropriate dress for each season, including rainwear for summer storms and winter gear designed to protect against extreme cold and wind. Layers of warm clothing are recommended.

What to expect each season:

SUMMER (JUNE, JULY, AUGUST)

Sunny mornings; afternoon thunderstorms, possibly accompanied by dangerous lightning; clear, cool nights.

FALL (SEPT., OCT., NOV.)

Frosty mornings; pleasant, usually clear afternoons; chilly nights; the possibility of early snowstorms.

WINTER (DEC., JAN., FEB., MARCH)

Conditions range from cool to extreme; high winds, great temperature ranges and blizzard conditions are not uncommon.

SPRING (APRIL, MAY)

Unpredictable, alternating between warm and cold, wet and dry; deep, wet snowfalls often occur.

For information on Colorado road conditions, call 877-315-7623. The phone number for Mountain States Weather is 970-484-8920.

PARK ALWAYS OPEN

Rocky is open 24 hours a day year round. Visitors can enter or exit at any time. If they intend to stay overnight, visitors must be in a designated campground site or a backcountry campsite reserved by a valid permit.

ENTRANCE FEES

A seven-day automobile pass for individuals and families costs \$20. A one-week pass for pedestrians, bicycles, motorcycles and mopeds is \$10 per person, not to exceed \$20 per vehicle. An annual pass for Rocky Mountain National Park allows unlimited entry to this park for \$35 a year.

The National Parks Pass providing entrance to all areas administered by the National Park Service costs \$50. A Golden Eagle Pass good for one year's entrance to all U.S. recreation areas where entrance fees are charged costs \$65 annually. The Golden Age Passport, a lifetime pass to all federal recreation areas issued to citizens or permanent residents age 62 and over, is available for a one-time processing fee of \$10. The Golden Access Pass is a free lifetime pass issued to blind or permanently disabled U.S. residents.

Passes are available at park entrance stations.

BACKCOUNTRY

CAMPING PERMITS

Permits are required for camping in the 269 designated campsites and several zoned areas in the park's backcountry. Day-of-trip permits are available at the Backcountry Office near the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center and at the Kawuneeche Visitor Center year round. Go to the following website for further backcountry site reservation information:

nps.gov/romo/visit/park/camping.html



TEMPERATURE & PRECIPITATION



ESTES PARK (7,522')

	HIGH	LOW	PRECIP.	SNOW
Jan.	39	16	0.37	4.6
Feb.	41	17	0.45	6.3
March	45	21	0.86	7.8
April	53	27	1.28	3.8
May	62	34	2.02	0.5
June	73	41	1.76	0.1
July	78	46	2.21	0.0
Aug.	77	45	1.86	0.0
Sept.	70	38	1.17	0.5
Oct.	60	30	0.81	1.0
Nov.	46	23	0.60	3.8
Dec.	40	18	0.47	5.7

GRAND LAKE (8,369')

	HIGH	LOW	PRECIP.	SNOW
Jan.	31	2	1.68	29.6
Feb.	35	4	1.43	22.5
March	40	10	1.54	19.5
April	49	19	1.88	16.8
May	59	27	1.94	4.7
June	70	33	1.60	0.4
July	75	37	2.06	0.0
Aug.	74	36	2.08	0.0
Sept.	67	29	1.64	1.1
Oct.	57	22	1.28	5.9
Nov.	40	12	1.33	18.9
Dec.	32	3	1.66	27.5

Temperatures are averages in degrees Fahrenheit.

CAMPGROUND INFORMATION

ASPENGLLEN

Open from mid-May to late September. No reservations required. Camping fee \$20 a night.

GLACIER BASIN

Open from late May to early September. Reservations recommended. Camping fee \$20 a night.

LONGS PEAK

Open year round (water is on from late May to mid-September). No reservations required. Tents only. Camping fee \$20 a night when water is on, \$14 a night when water is off.

MORaine PARK

Open year round (water is on from mid-May to early October). Reservations recommended from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Camping fee \$20 a night when water is on, \$14 a night when water is off.

TIMBER CREEK

Open year round (water is on from late May to mid-September). No reservations required. Camping fee \$20 a night when water is on, \$14 a night when water is off.

For summer camping reservations in Moraine Park and Glacier Basin, call 800-365-CAMP (2267). During the winter months, drinking water is available at entrance stations and open visitor centers. Stay limits of seven nights are in place from late May through September. The stay limits extend to 14 nights at the year-round campgrounds until the following May.

During summer and fall, campgrounds fill daily by early afternoon. ■



There is a non-refundable administrative fee of \$20 for permits issued between May 1 and Oct. 31. The fee is payable when the permit is issued.

RANGER-LED PROGRAMS

A wide range of walks, talks and presentations is offered on most days in the summer. The arrival of winter brings ski and snowshoe treks to the schedule, which is mostly limited to weekends. A schedule appears in *High Country Headlines*, the official park newspaper, or call 970-586-1206.

FISHING

Populations of trout species, including brown, brook, rainbow and cutthroat, are found in the park. Fishing is permitted in designated park waters. A valid Colorado license is required for all persons 16 years of age and older. Annual, five-day and one-day resident and non-resident licenses are available. Licenses are sold at most sporting goods outlets.

Some lakes and streams are closed to fishing to protect threatened native species. Other areas are catch-and-

release only, with special regulations in place. Detailed information, including license fees, open and closed waters, methods of capture, and limits on size and possession, is available at park visitor centers and ranger stations.

HORSEBACK RIDING

Several liverys are located in and around the park. More than 260 miles of park trails are open to horses.

SERVICES IN THE PARK

Climbing

COLORADO
MOUNTAIN SCHOOL
970-586-5758
cmschool.com

Gift Store

TRAIL RIDGE STORE
970-586-9308
trailridgestore.com

Horseback Riding

ASPEN LODGE
970-586-8133
aspenlodge.net
COWPOKE CORNER CORRAL
970-586-5890
cowpokecornercorral.com



HI COUNTRY STABLES
970-586-2327 & 586-3244
sombbrero.com

MEEKER PARK LODGE
303-747-2266

NATIONAL PARK
GATEWAY STABLES
970-586-5269
cowpokecornercorral.com

SILVER LANE STABLES
970-586-4695
silverlanestables.com

SOMBRERO RANCH STABLES
970-586-4577
sombbrero.com

WILD BASIN LIVERY
303-747-2222 & 747-2274
wildbasinlodge.com

WINDING RIVER RESORT
970-627-3215
windingriverresort.com

YMCA OF THE ROCKIES
970-586-3341
jacksonstables.com



BICYCLING



Bicycles are allowed on all designated roads in the park. They are not permitted on trails.

PETS

Pets are permitted in Rocky Mountain, but they must be leashed (six-foot length maximum) and attended at all times. Leashed pets are allowed only in areas accessed by vehicles, including roadsides, picnic areas and campgrounds. Pets are not permitted on trails or in the backcountry. They are allowed – leashed – on trails in some surrounding national forest areas. Pet boarding facilities are available in Estes Park and Grand Lake.

LODGING & VISITOR SERVICES

No lodging is available inside the park, but hundreds of accommodations are located in nearby communities. Contact the Estes Park Chamber of Commerce (800-378-3708/970-586-3543/estesparkresort.com), the Estes Park Convention and Visitors Bureau (800-443-7837/970-577-9900/estesparkcwb.com) and the Grand Lake Chamber of Commerce (800-531-1019/970-627-3402/grandlakechamber.com) for information on everything from lodging, camping, restaurants and retail stores to guided tours, recreational opportunities, instruction and gear sales or rentals.



NATIONAL FORESTS

The area's USDA Forest Service lands offer campgrounds and other recreational opportunities, including hiking, water recreation, four-wheeling, hunting, mountain biking and winter sports. Arapaho and Roosevelt national forests (970-295-6700 Fort Collins, 303-541-2500 Boulder). Arapaho National Recreation Area (970-887-4100).

PHONE NUMBERS

General park information:
970-586-1206

Recorded phone message:
970-586-1333

Campground reservations:
800-365-CAMP (2267)

Backcountry information: 970-586-1242
Colorado Travel and Tourism:
800-COLORADO (265-6723) ■





Suggested Activities

A Week In The Park Rocky Offers Plenty To Ponder

When famed *Rocky Mountain News* editor William Byers visited this region back in 1864, he tried to climb Longs Peak. Byers failed. Nevertheless, he had an exciting time and a memorable experience making it to the summit of neighboring Mount Meeker.

To anyone planning a visit to this stretch of the Rockies, Byers advised a trip of at least eight days. Of course, he traveled by horseback and it took him a couple of days just to get here from Denver. But a week in this area definitely is worth considering, especially if you're in search of the perfect trip. Some suggestions on how to spend seven days in Rocky.

DAY ONE: Time to stretch those legs. Pick a gentle trail for a stroll. Amble toward a famous waterfall (maybe Ouzel, Adams or Alberta) or around a popular lake (perhaps Bear, Sprague or Lily). Many people require a day or two to get used to the altitude, and some time spent sauntering at the park's lower elevations is a good idea.

DAY TWO: If you're feeling acclimated to the elevation, explore the high country by car. The trip across Trail Ridge Road is punctuated by many pullovers that will introduce

In a short time and at a reasonable cost, you can learn a lot from experts about subjects ranging from wildflower identification to geology, art and history. (Reservations are required. For information and registration, call 800-748-7002 or visit rmna.org.)

DAY SIX: Now that you're better acclimated, it's time to try a more rigorous hike. High country lakes are especially popular destinations. Today, you also can apply what you learned from your chats with rangers, the bird-watching trip and your seminar.

DAY SEVEN: Try something new. Perhaps you've never ridden a horse, been fly fishing, climbed a mountain or sketched an alpine scene. Here's your chance. After you've sampled one or two Rocky Mountain wonders, you'll find there's a lot more to do than you thought. But after this first week, you're off to a great start. ■



Rocky Mountain Field Seminars offer expert insights into the park's myriad wonders. (Joan Nesselroad)

A Day In The Park You'll See Mountains, And Much More

What can we see in a single day in Rocky Mountain National Park? Lots of mountains, that's for sure. Whatever else you see here depends on what you're looking for.

Several park rangers and local residents were asked what they'd suggest if a traveler had only a single day to spend exploring the park. Here's what they recommend:

- **Drive Trail Ridge Road.** It is one of America's most spectacular scenic drives. Stopping at various vista points – from Many Parks Curve to the Gore Range Overlook – and soaking in the grandeur can make this trip last all day long, two or three hours at the least.

- **Take a hike.** Rocky Mountain National Park is one of the most user-friendly parks in the nation. There are lots of trails and a wide variety of destinations, from lakes and waterfalls to summits, forests and meadows. An hour or two of strolling allows you to get an enticing sample of Rocky's renowned backcountry.

- **Watch for wildlife.** One of the prime reasons this

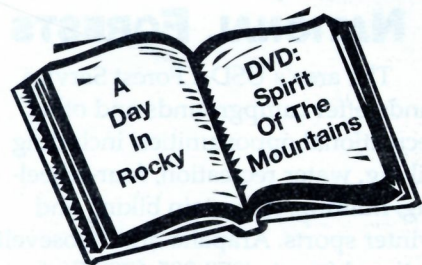
national park was established was to protect the birds and animals. A few words of warning: Mind your manners, respect their privacy and never feed them.

- **Take pictures.** These mountains are perfect subjects for photography. Because wildlife is abundant and the mountain scenes tend to change hourly with varying light, clouds and shadows, the park is a great place to capture the spectacular Colorado Rockies with a camera.

- **Visit a museum or historical site.** Places such as the Moraine Park Museum (filled with natural history exhibits) or the Holzwarth Historic Site (preserving a historical resort) help us understand what the area was like before the park was formed.

- **Enjoy a picnic.** Many places within the park provide pleasant outdoor settings made better with food, friends and family. Whether it takes place somewhere along the roadway, in one of the dozens of picnic areas or simply on a flat rock out in the woods, a picnic is one of life's little pleasures – easily organized and long remembered. ■

See The Bookstore For:



you to the region. There's lots to see – scenery, wildlife and wildflowers. A leisurely drive with lots of stops, short walks and chats with the rangers will make this a memorable outing. Top off your full day with an evening ranger talk at one of the campgrounds or visitor centers. (See the official park newspaper for programs.)

DAY THREE: Begin your morning with a ranger-led birdwatching expedition. (See the park newspaper for programs.) You do not have to be an avid birdwatcher to enjoy an introduction to this informative and interesting activity. In only an hour or two, you can learn a lot about the park and its wild inhabitants. Spend the rest of the day driving up the Old Fall River Road toward Fall River Pass, pausing for a picnic along the way.

DAY FOUR: Do what the locals do: Hike the backcountry. Pick a more ambitious walk to a location suited to your ability. (See page 7 of this publication for hiking suggestions.) Plan to spend the whole day outdoors. Figure on an afternoon rain shower.

DAY FIVE: Take a Rocky Mountain Field Seminar. The non-profit Rocky Mountain Nature Association offers half-day, day-long and multi-day classes on all sorts of natural and cultural history subjects.

Discover Nature With Your Kids

Kids are born naturalists. They access the natural world by asking questions, which sometimes come in bunches. Introducing children to the outdoors can begin at any time, but why not begin early? And why not start them out in Rocky Mountain National Park, one of the country's premier outdoor wonderlands?

Infants can be carried in a front pack, which can be tucked inside the jacket if it's chilly. Hike anywhere. The youngster will be enthralled by the stunning scenery and the fresh mountain air, so enthralled that he or she will fall asleep in short order.

When they reach the toddler stage, children begin to more actively interact with nature. It is a time of observation, of making initial connections and stockpiling notes. It is a wonderful time to introduce them to one of the many discovery trips found around the park. A few suggestions:

- **Explore the edges of Bear Lake** while enjoying the guidebook-guided trail tour that explains the area's inter-

esting natural and human history. Water holds an amazing variety of plant and animal life that will pique a child's curiosity.

- **Discover Rocky Mountain's wonderful wildlife.** At particular times during the summer (ask a park ranger), the bighorn sheep come down to Sheep Lakes. Kids especially enjoy watching them cross the road after the lambs are born. Find a ponderosa pine forest and watch for Abert's squirrels. Their often dark color and busy activities catch a toddler's eye for contrast and movement.

- **Kids that are a bit older** develop a more complex understanding of the world around them. While some children might enjoy expending energy hiking along a trail, most seem happiest thoroughly exploring a smaller area. On any hike with 3 to 6 year olds, it's a good idea to include a magnifying glass in the backpack. Textures of trees, plants, bugs and rocks are exciting when viewed by kids close-up.

- **Children love climbing on rocks.** The trail to Gem Lake is a rocky paradise lined by boulders that are perfectly arranged for climbing. The scenery is inspiring, for parents and kids alike.

- **In the early summer,** enjoy the amazing display of colorful wildflowers found along the trail to Cub Lake. Have the youngsters keep an eye out for hummingbirds that may be visiting the flowers. Watch for beaver in the Cub Creek drainage. Beaver dams are easy to spot in this area, and stream banks are ideal places to look for animal tracks. ■

See The Bookstore For:





Scenic Drives



Magnificent mountain scenery is commonplace along Trail Ridge Road, a summer-only highway that climbs to a high point of 12,183 feet in Rocky Mountain National Park. (David Halpern)

Trail Ridge Road

SWEEPING VISTAS ABOUND ON THIS 'SENSATIONAL' HIGHWAY

Trail Ridge Road, Rocky Mountain National Park's renowned highway to the sky, inspired awe before the first motorist ever traveled it. "It is hard to describe what a sensation this new road is going to make," predicted Horace Albright, director of the National Park Service, in 1931 during the road's construction. "You will have the whole sweep of the Rockies before you in all directions."

The next year, Rocky Mountain's wilderness interior was introduced to the first travelers along an auto route Denver's *Rocky Mountain News* proclaimed a "scenic wonder road of the world."

Was all this simply exaggeration? Hardly.

Spanning the 48 miles between Estes Park on the park's east side and Grand Lake on the west, Trail Ridge Road more than lives up to its early billing. Eleven miles of this high highway travel above treeline, the elevation near 11,000 feet where the park's evergreen forests come to a halt. As it winds across the alpine tundra's vastness to its high point at 12,183 feet elevation, Trail Ridge Road offers motorists thrilling views, wildlife sightings and spectacular alpine wildflower exhibitions.

Whether they begin their journey at Estes Park or Grand Lake, Trail Ridge Road travelers climb some 4,000 feet in a matter of minutes. The changes that occur en route are fascinating to observe. Montane woodlands of aspen and ponderosa pine soon give way to thick subalpine forests of fir and spruce. At treeline, the last stunted, wind-battered trees yield to the

alpine tundra.

Up on that cold, windswept world, conditions resemble those found in the Canadian or Alaskan Arctic. The tundra normally is windy and 20 to 30 degrees cooler than Estes Park or Grand Lake. The sun beats down with high-ultraviolet intensity. The vistas, best enjoyed from one of several marked road pullovers, are extravagant, sweeping north to Wyoming, east across the Front Range cities and Great Plains, south and west into the heart of the Rockies.

But for all its harshness, the Trail Ridge tundra is a place of vibrant life and vivid colors. Pikas, marmots, ptarmigans and bighorn sheep commonly are seen. About 200 species of tiny alpine plants hug the ground. Despite a growing season that may last just 40 days, many plants bloom exuberantly, adorning the green summer tundra with swatches of yellow, red, pink, blue, purple and white. All colors are seen from the Tundra Communities Trail, a half-hour walk beginning near the parking area at Rock Cut.

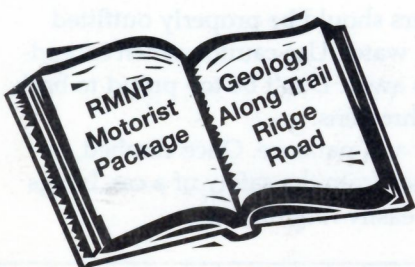
Most Trail Ridge Road travelers drive to treeline with a certain amount of urgency. They are advised not to ignore all that awaits in the verdant country below the alpine tundra. Forested moraines, great heaps of earth and rock debris left behind by melting Ice Age glaciers, rise above lush mountain meadows. The Continental Divide, where streamflows are separated east from west, is crossed at Milner Pass, located in subalpine woodlands at a surprisingly low 10,120 feet elevation. Moose munch greenery in the upper reaches of the Colorado River, which flows through the scenic Kawuneeche Valley. Grazing elk greet sunrise and sunset in many of the park's forest-rimmed meadows.

At all elevations, the drive on Trail Ridge Road is a memorable adventure. Put aside at least a half day for the trip. Longer, if possible.

It's worth the time. The experience, to be sure, is hard to describe. ■



See The Bookstore For:



Old Fall River Road

ROUTE OFFERS A LOOK AT ROCKY'S NATURE CLOSE-UP

Completed in 1920, Old Fall River Road earned the distinction of being the first auto route in Rocky Mountain National Park offering access to the alpine tundra. In the minds of many visitors, this beloved byway through the wilds remains foremost.

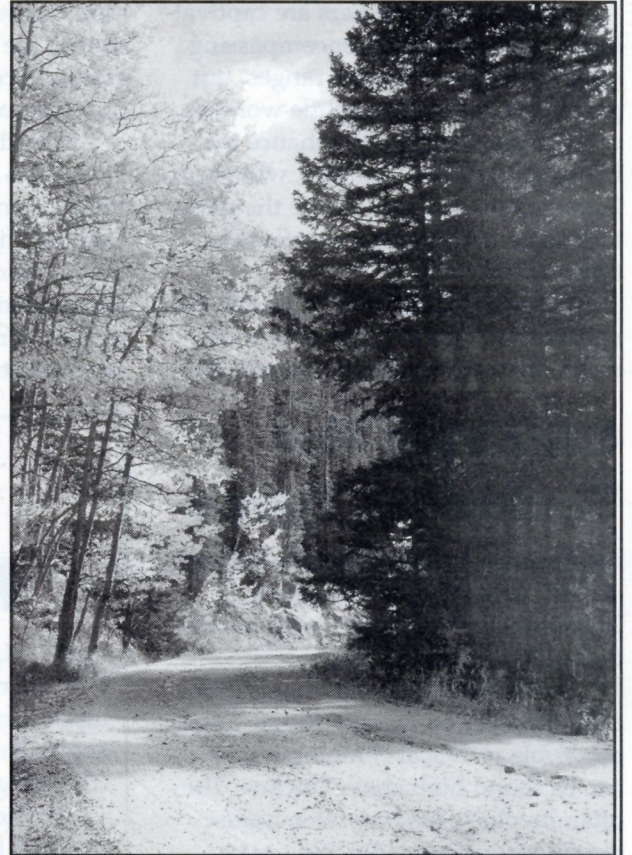
Trail Ridge Road is well known as "the nation's highest continuous paved highway." Old Fall River Road is a "motor nature trail." Primarily gravel, one-way uphill and punctuated by switchbacks, slower-paced, 11-mile-long Old Fall River Road doesn't receive the attention paid to Trail Ridge Road. It leads travelers from Horseshoe Park (just west of the Fall River Entrance) through the park's wilderness to Fall River Pass, 11,796 feet above sea level. The journey has been described as relaxing, an experience to be savored.

The posted speed limit is 15 miles per hour, a clear indication that a journey up Old Fall River Road is not for the impatient. The road itself is safe, but narrow and curved. (Vehicles more than 25 feet long and vehicles with trailers are prohibited.) In places, the trees of the montane and subalpine forests are so close that motorists can touch them. Old Fall River Road is ideal for visitors seeking intimacy with nature.

The road follows a route taken long ago by Indian hunters, who came to the park area in search of its abundant game. Early in the trip, travelers pass an alluvial fan scoured out by the devastating 1982 Lawn Lake Flood. Nearby is the site of a labor camp that housed state convicts who worked on the road project many decades ago. For these men, crime did not pay. The laborers were forced to build the three-mile stretch of road to the scenic respite of Chasm Falls with no more than hand tools at their disposal.

After passing Willow Park, where elk often graze, Old Fall River Road enters the alpine tundra. Awaiting there is the Fall River Cirque, birthplace of glaciers that once worked their way through the mountain valleys. The road traverses the headwall of this amphitheater-like formation before joining Trail Ridge Road near the Alpine Visitor Center at Fall River Pass.

Ahead lie the wonders of Trail Ridge Road, which leads travelers east to Estes Park or southwest to Grand Lake. Behind, but not soon forgotten, is that winding old route that offers travelers a taste of auto travel in days gone by and a look at Rocky Mountain's nature close-up. ■



The drive up Old Fall River Road is a popular park pastime during the summer months. (David Halpern)

When Are The Park Roads Open?

Trail Ridge Road usually opens for the season on the Friday of Memorial Day weekend. It is not uncommon for the road to be closed temporarily during the summer season because of snowfalls. Heavy snows typically close the road for the winter season in mid- to late October.

Old Fall River Road usually is open from early July to late September.

Bear Lake Road is open year round, but visitors are strongly urged to take advantage of the free Bear Lake Road corridor shuttle bus service available from (approximately) May 1 to Oct. 10. (See page 2 for information.) ■





Hiking & Climbing

ENJOY – AND PROTECT – ROCKY'S ALPINE TUNDRA

More than one-quarter of Rocky Mountain National Park is alpine tundra, which begins at elevations above 11,000 feet and boasts some of the most dramatic mountain scenery imaginable.

Many tundra trekkers are captivated by sweeping views encompassing rock, ice, sky and distant ranges. But pausing to take in the subtle wonders of the alpine world can enhance the hiking experience. The vast, wide-open landscape in this land above the trees tells some amazing stories of adaptation and survival.

Creatures such as the pika and the marmot can be found in rocky areas, where they persevere in an arctic-like

climate. Elk find relief from summer's heat in this high-altitude environment. Several species of birds spend the summer on the tundra, including the horned lark, well-camouflaged ptarmigan and the American pipit. Tiny alpine flowers bloom in abundance during the short growing season, their stunning colors inviting hikers to bend down for a close-up look.

With the exception of three Tundra Protection Areas located at the Alpine Visitor Center, Rock Cut and Forest Canyon, visitors are permitted to hike on the tundra throughout the park. Alpine plants may be adaptable to the rugged climate above treeline, but they are no match for the soles of hiking

boots. Areas repeatedly trod by hikers can take decades to recover as the short alpine growing season provides only a few weeks for damaged plant communities to heal.

To minimize impact and preserve this fragile environment, please follow a few simple guidelines:

- * Obey regulations prohibiting off-trail hiking in the three Tundra Protection Areas. These zones are located in places where visitation is highest, and hikers must stay on marked trails.
- * Always stay on hiking trails where they exist.
- * Walk on rocks or snow when possible to avoid contact with the alpine tundra's fragile plant life.
- * Minimize trampling. When hiking off-trail across the open tundra, never walk single-file. ■



King's crown and other exquisite alpine plants are easily damaged by careless hikers. (Duane B. Squires)

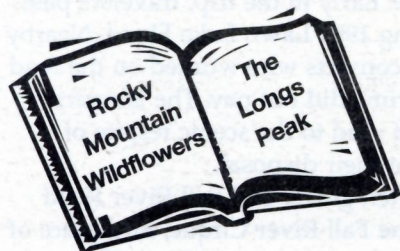
Climbing For Technical Types

Mountain adventures in the park are not limited to hiking. Technical climbing routes abound east of the Continental Divide.

Lower-elevation climbing is especially popular on Lumpy Ridge. Less-accessible technical climbing routes can be found high above treeline. They often involve a lengthy hike, higher elevations and considerably greater skill and risk.

For more information about specific climbing sites, safety precautions and regulations, contact the park's Information Office at 970-586-1206. ■

See The Bookstore For:



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NATURE ASSOCIATION

The Guide
is published annually by
**Rocky Mountain
National Park
and the
Rocky Mountain
Nature Association.**

LONGS PEAK

Much More Than A Mountain

At 14,259 feet, Longs Peak towers above all other summits in Rocky Mountain National Park. The flat-topped monarch is seen from almost anywhere. Different angles show the great mountain's unique profiles. Changing weather reflects Longs Peak's many moods.

In the summertime – the season when thousands hike or climb to Longs' summit – those moods are fairly predictable. Mornings dawn calm, clear and blue. Clouds build in the afternoon sky, often exploding in storms of brief, heavy rain, thunder and dangerous lightning. Begin the trek early, way before dawn, so you can be back in the car before the weather turns.

The Keyhole Route, usually non-technical between mid-July and early September, is eight miles one-way with an elevation gain of 4,850 feet. Typically free of ice and snow in late summer, this challenging route was the choice of British adventurer Isabella Bird in 1873. Her words of wonder and praise for Longs Peak, which concluded that it was "much more than a mountain," ring true today as if the ink in her book, *A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains*, were still fresh.

Bird, who ascended Longs in the company of mountain man "Rocky Mountain Jim" Nugent, was not the first woman to climb Longs Peak. She was preceded to the summit that same year by Anna Dickinson. Both followed in the footsteps of Addie Alexander and a "Miss Bartlett," two women who successfully climbed Longs in 1871.

Keyhole Route hikers may not know it, but they pass reminders of the mountain's past – both happy and sad.

The Boulder Field Inn (1925-1937), whose stone foundations still can be seen near the Boulder Field Campsite, was the home of young Tiny Collier. Her father owned a popular lodging and guide service. Legend has it that a party of serious mountaineers encountered 7-year-old Tiny during its ascent of the Trough, an arduous gully that challenges most of the 15,000 people who climb Longs each year. Tiny was riding her tricycle.

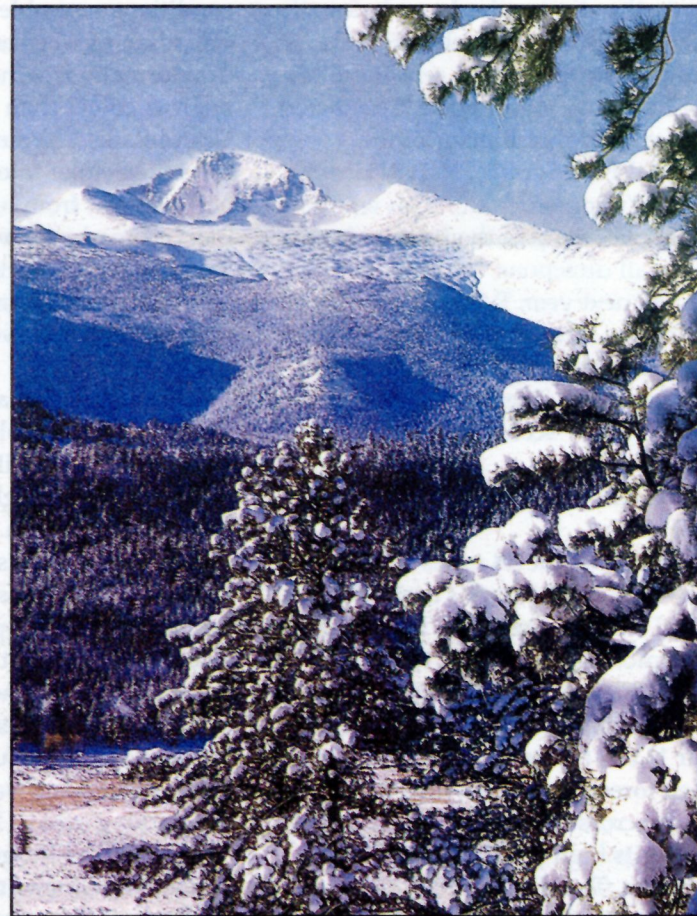
"What are you doing here little girl?" the surprised climbers asked.

"I'm playing," she responded.

"Where do you live?"

"I live here!"

Tragically, there are those who never left Longs Peak alive. A stone gazebo at the Keyhole formation displays a plaque memorializing Agnes Vaille, a well-known climber in the 1920s. The pioneer of numerous mountain routes in the Rockies, Vaille attempted the first winter ascent of the mountain's precipitous East Face by a woman in January, 1925. She and her climbing partner, Walter Kiener, succeeded after more than 24 hours of dangerous mountaineering through frigid blizzard conditions. While



Much of the year, snow covers Longs Peak, the park's highest mountain summit. (Mary Ann Kressig)

descending the North Face, Vaille fell 100 feet down the rock cliff. Her injuries were minor, but because of fatigue and hypothermia, Vaille was unable to walk. Kiener, battling frostbite that would cost him toes and fingers, promptly summoned help. Vaille's rescuers arrived to find her dead from exposure.

Agnes Vaille and about 50 other climbers have lost their lives on Longs Peak. It is not a mountain tolerant of the unprepared. But hiking and technical climbing on the peak are exciting and rewarding experiences. And they are comparatively safe experiences if common-sense safety principles are applied.

Keyhole Route hikers should be properly outfitted with clothing, food and water. Use caution when ascending or descending steep areas. Don't be too proud to back off when bad weather threatens.

It's worth the effort and patience. Once climbed, or even viewed at a distance from the safety of a car, Longs Peak is a mountain not easily forgotten. ■



Popular Hikes

Destination	Trailhead	Distance (one-way in miles)	Difficulty
-------------	-----------	--------------------------------	------------

Lakes

NYMPH LAKE	Bear Lake	0.5	Easy
This is a great "get into shape" hike for new park arrivals.			

DREAM LAKE	Bear Lake	1.1	Moderate
Dramatic scenery rewards hikers making this short climb.			

BIERSTADT LAKE	Bierstadt Lake	1.4	Moderate
	Bear Lake	1.6	Moderate
This popular mountain lake is nestled in heavy timber.			

THE POOL	Fern Lake	1.7	Moderate
A gurgling stream waterpocket offers a peaceful respite.			

EMERALD LAKE	Bear Lake	1.8	Moderate
Mountains rise steeply above this popular hiking destination.			

GEM LAKE	Twin Owls	2.0	Moderate
The trail to this pretty lake usually is hikable year round.			

LAKE HAIYAHA	Bear Lake	2.1	Moderate
Haiyaha is almost surrounded by the Continental Divide.			

CUB LAKE	Cub Lake	2.3	Moderate
The trail travels through abundant early summer wildflowers.			

MILLS LAKE	Glacier Gorge	2.8	Moderate
Sweeping mountain scenery surrounds this lovely lake.			

THE LOCH	Glacier Gorge	3.0	Moderate
The popular lake is set in an inspiring mountain setting.			

FERN LAKE	Fern Lake	3.8	Moderate
A tourist lodge once occupied Fern Lake's scenic shoreline.			

ODESSA LAKE	Bear Lake	4.1	Strenuous
	Fern Lake	4.4	Strenuous
Dramatic peaks loom above this spectacular mountain lake.			

CHASM LAKE	Longs Peak	4.2	Strenuous
Do not feed the begging marmots on the rugged lakeshore.			

SANDBEACH LAKE	Sandbeach Lk.	4.2	Moderate
A steady climb rewards hikers with fine Wild Basin scenery.			

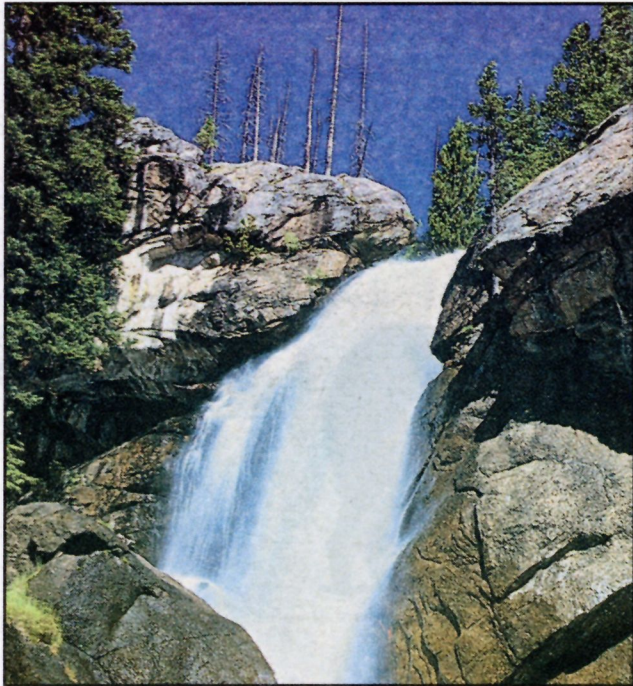
FINCH LAKE	Finch Lake	4.5	Moderate
Remnants of the 1978 Ouzel Fire highlight this Wild Basin trail.			

YPSILON LAKE	Lawn Lake	4.5	Strenuous
Views of Ypsilon Mountain grace the Mummy Range lake.			

TIMBER LAKE	Timber Lake	4.8	Strenuous
This picturesque spot is located on Rocky's wild west side.			

SKY POND	Glacier Gorge	4.9	Strenuous
Sweeping Divide views surround an awesome destination.			

BLACK LAKE	Glacier Gorge	5.0	Strenuous
This mountain lake is set above dramatic Ribbon Falls.			



LONE PINE LAKE	East Inlet	5.5	Strenuous
A sheer rock wall ascends from Lone Pine's far shore.			

BLUEBIRD LAKE	Wild Basin	6.0	Strenuous
Gorgeous wildflowers highlight this hike in Rocky's southeast.			

LAWN LAKE	Lawn Lake	6.2	Strenuous
It's a steep hike to this Mummy Range lake.			

PEAR LAKE	Finch Lake	6.5	Strenuous
Hikers find solitude at a remote Wild Basin area destination.			

THUNDER LAKE	Wild Basin	6.8	Strenuous
This high-elevation lake occupies a flower-filled meadow.			

LAKE VERNA	East Inlet	6.9	Strenuous
Fjord-like Lake Verna rewards the ambitious hiker.			

LION LAKE No. 1	Wild Basin	7.0	Strenuous
Wildflowers grow in profusion at this subalpine lake.			

SPIRIT LAKE	East Inlet	7.8	Strenuous
Some hike to the remote west side lake toting fishing poles.			

LAKE NOKONI	North Inlet	9.9	Strenuous
Tranquility and solitude abound at this distant west side lake.			

LAKE NANITA	North Inlet	11.0	Strenuous
Hiking in the park's interior is a true wilderness experience.			

Waterfalls

COPELAND FALLS	Wild Basin	0.3	Easy
This easy hike to a beautiful setting is ideal for families.			

ALBERTA FALLS	Glacier Gorge	0.9	Easy
These watery cascades are a popular park destination.			

CALYPSO CASCADES	Wild Basin	1.8	Moderate
The waterfall was named in honor of the calypso orchid.			

FERN FALLS	Fern Lake	2.7	Moderate
This refreshing, inspiring place is perfect for trail breaks.			

OUZEL FALLS	Wild Basin	2.7	Moderate
These scenic falls are frequently photographed.			

CASCADE FALLS	North Inlet	3.5	Moderate
A gentle hike through a lodgepole forest brings hikers here.			

TIMBERLINE FALLS	Glacier Gorge	4.0	Strenuous
Seeing this jewel of a waterfall is well worth the climb.			

Mountain Summits

All hikes to mountain summits are strenuous. Be sure to thoroughly research your route ahead of time and pack plenty of food, water and extra clothing.

DEER MOUNTAIN (10,013')	Deer Mountain	3.0
Fine views make this a great picnic destination.		

YPSILON MOUNTAIN (10,514')	Chapin Creek	3.5
Hikers climb three Mummy Range peaks during this strenuous mountain trek.		

TWIN SISTERS PEAKS (11,428')	Twin Sisters	3.9
These two peaks offer outstanding vistas. Don't be misled by a false summit along the way.		

HIKING ESSENTIALS

- ✓ Sturdy hiking boots
- ✓ Rain gear
- ✓ Layered clothing
- ✓ Sweater or pile jacket
- ✓ Long pants
- ✓ Mittens
- ✓ Hat
- ✓ Extra socks
- ✓ Sun block
- ✓ Sunglasses
- ✓ Nutritious snacks



- ✓ First aid kit
- ✓ Plenty of water
- ✓ Map and compass

FLATTOP MOUNTAIN (12,324')	Bear Lake	4.4
It's an arduous climb to this peak offering panoramic views and access to many other great mountain summits.		

MOUNT RICHTHOFEN (12,940')	Colorado River	7.2
This challenging trek visits one of the prominent peaks in the beautiful and remote Never Summer Mountains.		

ANDREWS PEAK (12,565')	East Inlet	7.5
Exceptional scenery is enjoyed atop this mountain deep in the park's wild interior.		

LONGS PEAK (14,259')	Longs Peak	8.0
This is a classic - and popular - climb. Be sure to get an early start to avoid afternoon thunderstorms. Contact the park's Information Office (970-586-1206) for more details.		

Historic Sites

TOLL MEMORIAL	Tundra Communities	0.5	Easy
A paved trail to this marker crosses the scenic alpine tundra.			

EUGENIA MINE	Longs Peak	1.4	Moderate
Mine remains recall the dashed hopes of early prospectors.			

LULU CITY	Colorado River	3.7	Moderate
This 1800s mining camp boomed briefly and went bust.			

Accessible And Family-friendly Trails

	ALLUVIAL FAN	Endovalley Road	0.2	Strollers permitted
A quarter-mile paved interpretive trail connects two parking areas located at this flood-scoured feature.				

	HOLZWARTH HISTORIC SITE	Trail Ridge Road	0.5	Strollers permitted
It's a short walk on a level gravel trail to this dude ranch complex developed in the early 1900s.				

	SPRAGUE LAKE	Sprague Lake	0.5 (loop)	Strollers permitted
Spectacular views of the Continental Divide grace this level, hardened trail. An accessible campsite is located in the area.				

	BEAR LAKE NATURE TRAIL	Bear Lake	0.6 (loop)	Partially accessible (strollers permitted)
An excellent booklet-guided nature trail circles this popular subalpine lake at the end of Bear Lake Road.				

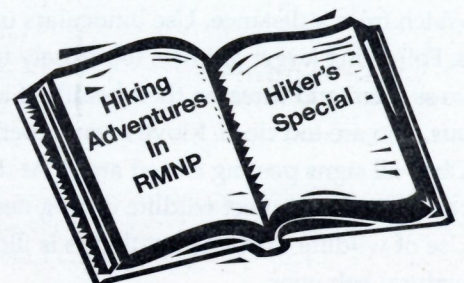
	LILY LAKE	Lily Lake	0.7 (loop)	Strollers permitted
Look for wildflowers in the spring and early summer along the level gravel trail around a pretty mountain lake.				

	COYOTE VALLEY	Coyote Valley	1.0 (loop)	Strollers permitted
Elk and moose sometimes are seen from this level gravel trail, especially during the early morning and early evening.				

	ADAMS FALLS	East Inlet Trailhead	0.3	Hiking trail
It's a short hike to a dramatic waterfall located near Grand Lake on the west side of the park.				

	MORaine PARK MUSEUM NATURE TRAIL	Moraine Park Museum	0.6 (loop)	Hiking trail
Interpretive signs and a full-color booklet guide visitors along this scenic nature trail in Moraine Park.				

See The Bookstore For:





Wildlife

WILD & Watchable

Rocky Mountain National Park visitors have a passion for viewing wild animals, especially the large ones. With an elk herd numbering about 3,000, several hundred bighorn sheep, numerous mule deer and a small population of moose calling the park home, it's no surprise that wildlife watching is rated the number-one activity by a vast majority of Rocky's visitors.

The park's great large-animal population makes it one of the country's top wildlife watching destinations. But also found in Rocky Mountain are nearly 60 other species of mammals; more than 280 recorded bird species; six amphibians, including the endangered boreal toad; one reptile (the harmless garter snake); 11 species of fish; and countless insects, including a surprisingly large number of butterflies. On this page are a few of the wild residents park visitors might encounter.



MULE DEER

Habitat: All habitats.

Viewing Tips: At lower elevations, they are most often found in open areas.



COYOTE

Habitat: All habitats.

Viewing Tips: The coyote's yipping and howling often is heard in the evening and morning.



MOOSE

Habitat: Stream beds and meadows.

Viewing Tips: These large mammals frequent willow thickets along the Colorado River in the Kawuneeche Valley on the park's west side.



PIKA

Habitat: Rock piles in higher elevations.

Viewing Tips: Listen for their sharp, distinctive bark and watch for movement among the rocks.

WHITE-TAILED PTARMIGAN

Habitat: Around willows and rock outcrops on the alpine tundra.

Viewing Tips: Look carefully. Their excellent camouflage makes them hard to spot.



BIGHORN SHEEP

Habitat: Rocky mountainsides and canyons.

Viewing Tips: Bighorn often are seen at Sheep Lakes from May through mid-August.



ELK

Habitat: Meadows, and where meadows and forests meet. Common at lower elevations in the fall, winter and spring.

Viewing Tips: Look for elk at dawn and dusk.



YELLOW-BELLIED MARMOT

Habitat: Rock piles.

Viewing Tips: Look for them sunbathing on the tundra along Trail Ridge and Old Fall River roads.

HOW TO BEST ENJOY WATCHING WILDLIFE

 Never, ever feed wildlife. Feeding reduces its ability to survive the long mountain winter. When they panhandle by roadsides, animals fall easy prey to automobiles. As they become habituated to humans and lose their natural fear, the animals become aggressive and may be destroyed. Feeding or harassing wildlife is illegal in all national parks.

 Watch from a distance. Use binoculars or a telephoto lens to get close-up views. Following larger animals too closely to get a photograph or a better look can stress them and threaten their health. If animals notice you or if they seem nervous, you are too close. Move away quietly.

 Obey all signs posting closed areas. At different times of the year, some areas are closed to protect wildlife during nesting, mating and birthing seasons.

 Use of wildlife calls and spotlights is illegal. They stress animals and alter their natural behavior.

 Keep pets in your vehicle. They may scare wildlife, and wild animals can hurt your pet.

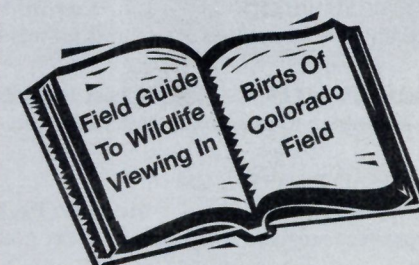
 Large animals such as elk, sheep, bears and mountain lions can be dangerous. Check at visitor centers for valuable tips on safety around wildlife.

 Drive slowly and cautiously. Watch for animals crossing the road. Deer and elk are seldom alone. If you see one animal, look for others that may follow.

 Stop your car to watch animals only if you can pull off the road safely. Do not block traffic.

 When possible, get away from roadsides and sit quietly to observe and listen for wildlife. Talk only when necessary, and do so quietly so you don't disturb the animals or other wildlife watchers. If viewing from your vehicle, turn off the motor. ■

See The Bookstore For:





Quiet Times

Peace, Nature Prevail After The Busy Summer

Summer in Rocky Mountain National Park means green meadows, shimmering lakes, plentiful wildlife and flower shows on the alpine tundra. But to many visitors, memories of the warmer months also include full campgrounds, long searches for parking spaces and jockeying with other visitors for the perfect shot of a popular lake or waterfall.

It's certainly possible to find quiet places in the summertime, but many visitors are discovering the fall, winter and spring seasons, when peace prevails at Rocky Mountain.

The park is open year round. Only Trail Ridge Road and Old Fall River Road are closed by winter's heavy snows. Both sides of the park always are accessible, with miles of open roads to explore.

More than half of the park's 3.4 million annual visitors arrive during the months of June, July and August, leaving the remainder of the year relatively uncrowded. An average winter day sees only one-tenth the number of people visiting on a typical summer day.

In addition to the quiet, off-season Rocky Mountain National Park offers an ever-changing palette of colors and a near-full slate of activities.

As summer becomes **autumn**, the shortening days trigger changes in the natural world. Two of the park's most anticipated events occur in September and October.

Elk begin moving to lower elevations in preparation for the rut, or mating season. Bulls display magnificent racks of antlers, and their eerie bugling carries across the meadows and forests. Weekend evenings attract many elk watchers to meadow areas, but visitors who choose a weekday – or even better, an early morning – may witness these animals in relative solitude. Favorite elk viewing areas include Horseshoe Park, Beaver Meadows and Moraine Park on the park's east side; Harbison Meadow and the meadow at the Holzwarth Historic Site on the west side.

Coinciding with the elk rut are the yellows, golds and oranges of changing leaves. Aspen trees, which occur on both sides of the park, offer the most brilliant colors. A walk through the autumn forests also reveals reds and golds of numerous understory plants. Autumn days often are splendid – crisp and clear with an occasional snowfall.

Winter begins early at Rocky Mountain's high elevations. By mid-November, the Kawuneeche Valley

usually has enough snow for snowshoe treks and long, gentle cross-country ski tours.

Favorite west side ski areas include the Bowen-Baker and Holzwarth Historic Site areas, which feature beginner-level routes. The Colorado River Trail and the East and North Inlet trails lead to intermediate and more difficult terrain.

East of the Continental Divide, snows accumulate later in the season. By December, trails from the Bear Lake and Glacier Gorge trailheads lead snowshoers and intermediate-to-advanced skiers to numerous frozen subalpine lakes. The Wild Basin and Glacier Basin areas have gentler terrain for beginner and intermediate cross-country skiers.

To those not looking for snow, Rocky offers miles of east side hiking trails that surprisingly remain snow-free – or nearly so – year round. Conditions change regularly throughout the season, so be sure to check at a visitor center for the latest hiking, snow and avalanche conditions before starting out.

Wildlife viewing is especially rewarding in the wintertime. The sights of a coyote hunting in a snow-covered meadow, of herds of elk with their breath condensing in the air, of a cow and a calf moose silhouetted against the snow, are unforgettable park images.

Spring arrives at different times in the park, depending on elevation and slope. In the Kawuneeche Valley and Bear Lake areas, late-lying snow still pleases skiers and snowshoers. Meanwhile, lower-elevation areas are



Winter brings snow, serenity and regular elk sightings to Rocky Mountain National Park. The park's fall, winter and spring seasons offer smaller crowds and a plentiful activities.

starting to bud and bloom.

Beginning in mid-March, look for nesting raptors on Lumpy Ridge as peregrine and prairie falcons, golden eagles, red-tailed hawks and ravens nest on the warm, sunny cliffs. Stroll Moraine Park to search for the season's first wildflowers, including tulip-shaped pasqueflowers, pink spring-beauties and yellow sage buttercups. All begin appearing in early April, when ground squirrels and marmots emerge from hibernation. Mountain bluebirds, which start returning from their winter grounds in March, are bril-

liant in flight.

As the spring season progresses, the melting snowline climbs higher into the mountains. Following soon are summer and summer's crowds. But those relatively few people who visited the park during the fall, winter and spring, Rocky Mountain's quiet seasons, know they and nature shared some very special moments, indeed. ■



Scenery And Solitude Await On Rocky's West Side

Rich in its variety of resources and human history, the park's Colorado River District west of the Continental Divide is filled with opportunities for adventure, exploration, solitude and reflection.

Ute and Arapaho Indians were the most recent Native American tribes to frequent the area. They did not settle permanently, but their passages over high mountain passes within the park were regular occurrences. Active settlement in the park's west began during the late 1800s, when ranchers and miners first entered the Kawuneeche Valley. The Civilian Conservation Corps was active during the 1930s, building trails, roadways and a fire lookout in the park, reservoirs on its borders.

The landscape has changed over the years, but evidence of earlier inhabitants and spectacular views are there for discovery.

A pleasant 3 3/4 miles of hiking along the Colorado River from the Colorado River Trailhead leads to Lulu City, site of an early mining town. The Holzwarth Historic Site, a dude ranch that opened in 1920, is reached after a short walk across a large meadow.

For those who favor longer, more strenuous hikes, the Shadow Mountain Fire Lookout and the Top of the Devil's Staircase are recommended destinations.

The hike to the Shadow Mountain Lookout on the East Shore Trail, which begins at the East Shore Trailhead south of Grand Lake, covers six miles round trip and 1,700 feet in elevation gain.

The lookout affords unparalleled views of the headwaters of the Colorado River, glimpses of the Continental

Divide, a panoramic view of the three lakes – Granby, Shadow Mountain and Grand – and sightings of impressive mountains, including the Vazquez, Indian Peaks and Gore ranges.

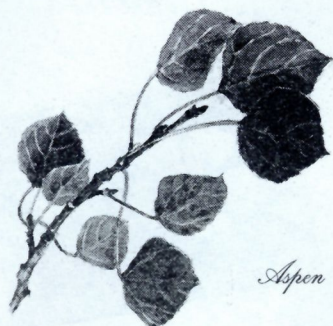
Completed in 1933, this fire lookout was staffed seasonally over several decades. It was occupied as recently as the early 1990s, when fire danger was exceptionally high. Restored in the mid-1990s, the fire lookout is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Hikers begin their approximately seven-mile (round trip) hike to the Top of the Devil's Staircase at the East Inlet Trailhead immediately southeast of the town of Grand Lake. A while after passing a small but exquisite waterfall, the ascent becomes increasingly aggressive, climbing steadily for the next mile.

Hikers see blackened aspen trees and related signs of the Mount Cairns fire of 1994. They pause to enjoy the emerging westward views of Grand Lake as they climb the Devil's Staircase. This section of trail seemingly was etched out of the rock wall. Finally, after a sharp switch-back, the trail arrives at its destination, a rock shelf offering spectacular views. ■



Shadow Mountain Lookout



Aspen



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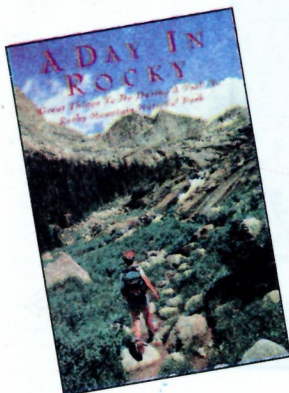
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PARK BOOKS



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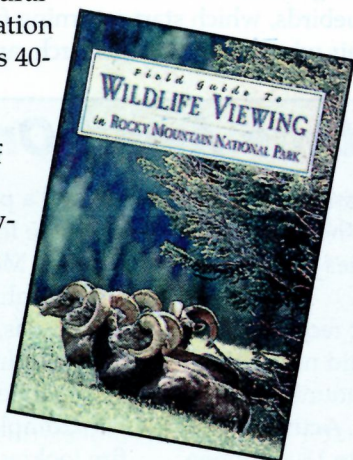
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Rocky Mountain Nature Association
Illustrations by Wendy Smith

Exquisite illustrations by natural science artist Wendy Smith and expert information provided by park wildlife specialists make this 40-page guide essential to wildlife watchers. The chapters in this award-honored RMNA book begin with a panel illustration detailing one of the park's four plant and animal communities known as life zones, or ecosystems. The following pages contain individual fine-art vignettes of many mammals and birds commonly seen in the respective life zones. Accompanying text offers expert information on species identification, habitat and prime park viewing locations, as well as viewing tips and fast facts. 40 pages, softcover.

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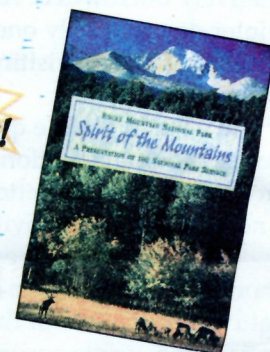
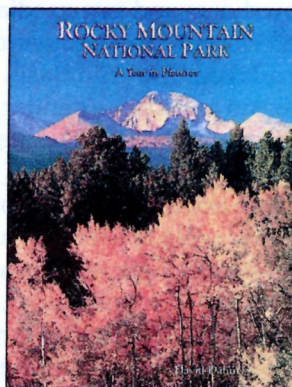
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The National Park Service

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A great buy!

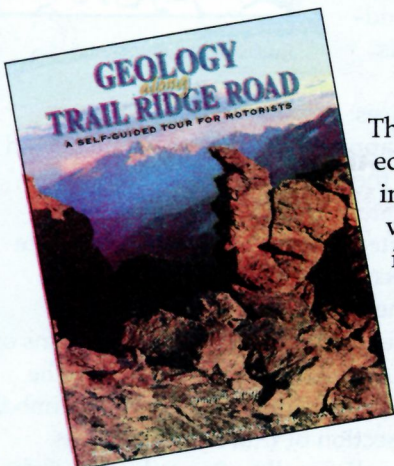
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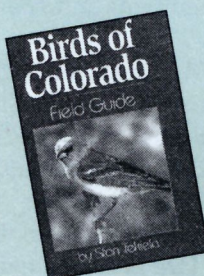
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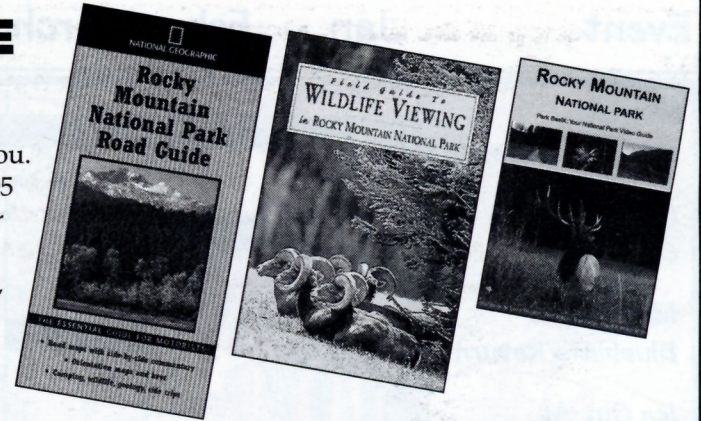
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HIKING ROCKY MOUNTAIN NAT'L. PARK

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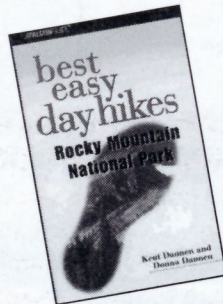
ROCKY MOUNTAIN DAY HIKES

Dave Rusk

A great guide covering 24 hikes in the park. Elevation profiling gives hikers an idea of the terrain out there on the park's spectacular hiking trails. 68 pages, softcover.

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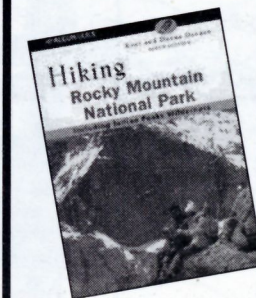
BEST EASY DAY HIKES IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN N.P.

Kent & Donna Dannen

This guide book offers concise descriptions and detailed maps for 36 easy-to-follow summer and winter trails in Rocky Mountain National Park. 134 pages, softcover.

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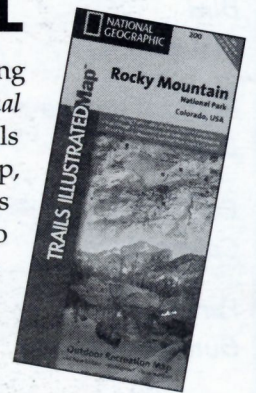
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Rocky Mountain Nature Association

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THE LONGS PEAK EXPERIENCE

Mike Donahue

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Tracy Salcedo

A perfect guide for those who would like to experience the mountains without hiking too far. Includes hikes to lakes, waterfalls and some short loop walks. 32 pages, softcover.

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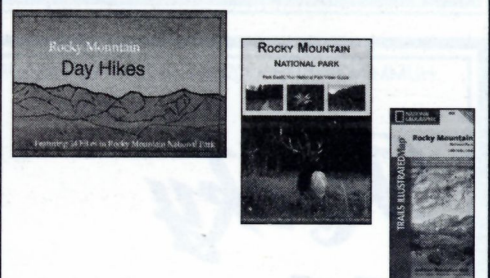
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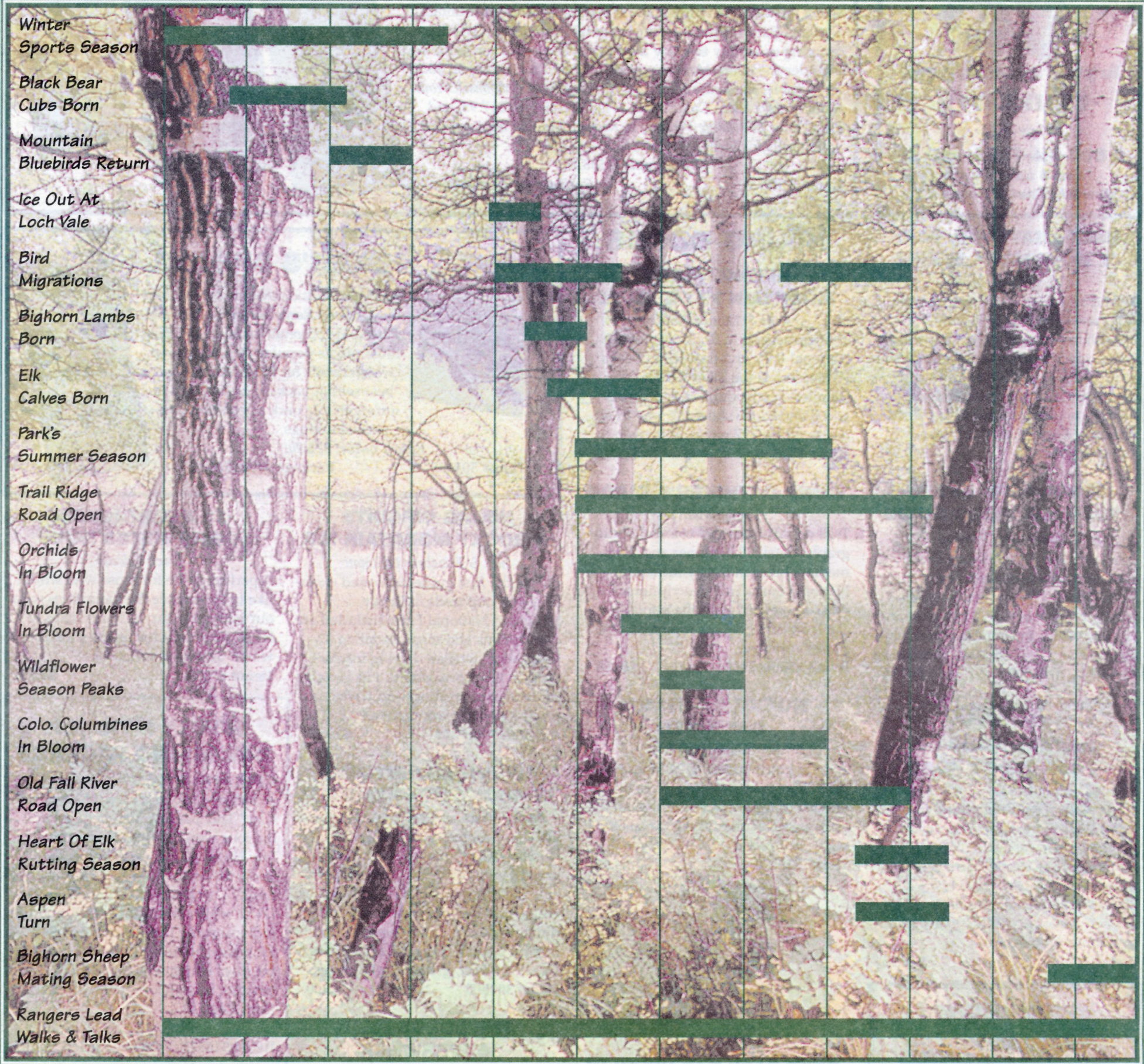
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Calendar

Event Jan. Feb. March April May June July Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec.



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