



2026 Rocky Mountain National Park Alpine Explorer Hiking Adventure

Overview

6 Nights of Lodging - 5 Days of Guided Hiking - 2 Days of Travel

Join this 5-Day inn-based trek and explore deep into Rocky Mountain National Park. This epic journey is for those who want to quest deep into the wild wonder of the Rocky Mountains. You will explore high and low as you hike past rippling cascades to stunning Alpine lakes. Each day will progress in difficulty until you ultimately test yourself on one of Rocky's High Alpine peaks. Along the way your guides will coach you on efficient mountain travel technique and share with you the rich natural history of the lands around you. This is the way to truly experience Rocky Mountain National Park.

Open Group Dates and Pricing:

Pricing (Per Person)	Open Group Dates (2026)	Trip Deposit (Per Person)
\$3,345	June 22 - 27 August 10 - 16 Sept 28 – Oct 4	\$500 Deposits are non-refundable.

Prices based off double occupancy. Single supplement price for a private room is an additional \$1200. Trips require at least 3 participants to run.

Difficulty Level

Moderate - Hard

Participants should be in good physical shape, exercising regularly. Hiking distances will range from 7 – 10 miles and include up to 1,700 feet in elevation gain.

Exposure Rating

Moderate

Hiking up mountain valleys to high alpine lakes. You are shielded from the worst of the elements most of the time. Hiking above tree line to Alpine Summits exposes you to wind and possible storms. Exposure to steep slopes or cliffs is minimal.

Trail Type

**Rough & Rocky Trail
Alpine Scree Fields**

Trails are all well maintained but still rough and rocky by most standards. Expect loose rocks and regular high step ups above knee height. There are long sections of travel on unimproved alpine terrain including loose scree slopes.





Day 0: Travel to Estes Park

Make your way to Estes Park for an evening pre-trip meeting with your guides at your hotel.

Day Itinerary:

7:00 PM: Trip Orientation and Meeting

8:00 PM: Gear Checks

Day 1: Hike to Gem Lake and Balanced Rock on Lumpy Ridge

(RT Hiking Distance: 7 miles) (Hiking Elevation Gain: 1,696 ft)

On our second day of hiking, we will explore an entirely different type of terrain—the tumultuous granite domes of Lumpy ridge. Our trail will begin take us through a labyrinth of cliffs and gullies to reach the incredibly beautiful Gem Lake near the top of the ridge. Our adventure does not end here though, as we will continue onward to see the improbable “Balanced Rock” before continuing to our end point at the Cow Creek Trail Head.

Day Itinerary:

7:00 AM: Breakfast in Hotel

12:00 PM: Lunch at Balanced Rock

8:00 AM: Depart for trailhead

12:45 PM: Begin return hike

9:00 AM: Start Hiking

3:30 PM: Arrive back to vehicles

**Start times may vary due to weather and other circumstances



Official Trip Description Document



Day 2: Hike the Odessa Gorge Loop – Bear Lake Trail Head to Fern Lake Trail Head

(RT Hiking Distance: 8.3 miles) (Hiking Elevation Gain: 1,249 ft)

We will start our adventure with one of Rocky Mountain National Park's most spectacular hikes and one of our personal favorites! From Bear Lake trailhead, we will embark on an 8.3 mile point to point hike that is mostly downhill – a pretty unique opportunity! In the process, you will hike past five alpine lakes and explore the entire length of the Odessa Gorge, one of the most majestic and craggy corners the National Park has to offer.

Day Itinerary:

7:00 AM: Breakfast in Hotel

12:00 PM: Lunch at Fern Lake

8:00 AM: Depart for trailhead**

3:30 PM: Arrive back to vehicles

9:00 AM: Start Hiking

Day 3: Climb Twin Sister Peak (11,419 ft.)

(RT Hiking Distance: 7.4 miles) (Hiking Elevation Gain: 2,493 ft)

On Day 3 we embark on our first summit climb to reach the top of the Twin Sisters Peak. We will have to start early to ensure that we are up and down the mountain before any afternoon thunderstorm. From the summit you will be rewarded with incredible views of the Continental Divide and its towering crown jewel – Longs Peak.

Day Itinerary:

5:00 AM: Breakfast in Hotel

11:00 PM: Arrive at Summit, Lunch

6:00 AM: Depart for trailhead

11:45 AM: Begin return hike

7:00 AM: Start Hiking

3:00 PM: Arrive back to vehicles



Day 4: Hike the 4 Lakes Loop Trail

(RT Hiking Distance: 7.2 miles) (Hiking Elevation Gain: 1,351 ft)

On Day 4 we will take things just slightly easier ahead of our final summit day. But don't worry, we are still going to hike and see some incredible sights. We will hike the famous four loops trail that takes us up, down and around a magnificent landscape carved by glaciers thousands of years ago. What has been left is an amazing landscape of sheer rock faces and dazzling lakes. Your legs will get a rest but your eyes will still have much to take in.

Day Itinerary:

7:00 AM: Breakfast in Hotel	12:00 PM: Lunch on trail
8:00 AM: Depart for trailhead	12:45 PM: Begin return hike
9:00 AM: Start Hiking	3:30 PM: Arrive back to vehicles

Day 5: Climb Hallett Peak (12,713 ft)

(RT Hiking Distance: 10 miles) (Hiking Elevation Gain: 3,293 ft)

This is our final day of hiking! You will wake up early to eat breakfast and pack up your gear so we can hit the trail as the sun begins to rise. Our hike will start from the Bear Lake trailhead and ascend via the east ridge of Flattop Mountain to the Continental Divide. Once reaching the summit of Flattop Mountain we will continue along the divide ridge, skirting the top of Tyndall Gorge to the lofty Hallett Peak. From the top of Hallett you will be greeted with stunning views in every direction. This is a worthy crowning achievement for 4 days of epic hiking! We will take some time eat our lunch and then it will be time to begin the return hike.

Day Itinerary:

5:00 AM: Breakfast in Hotel	10:30 AM: Arrive summit of Hallett Peak
6:00 AM: Depart for trailhead	11:00 AM: Begin return hike
7:00 AM: Start Hiking	2:00 PM: Arrive back to vehicles



Day 6: Head on to your next adventure

This is your final day in the Colorado Rockies. Wake up a little later and enjoy breakfast before you head on to whatever adventure awaits you next!

Day Itinerary:

8:00 AM: Breakfast in Hotel

11:00 AM: Hotel Check-Out Time

Lodging Information:

You will be lodged in one of Estes Park's clean and comfortable hotels or inns. Lodgings within walking distance of Estes Park's Main Street where there are plentiful opportunities for dining and shopping are prioritized.

Trip Inclusions and Exclusions:

Included:

- 5 days of guided hiking
- 6 nights of lodging (Day 0-5)
- Transportation to and from trail heads
- Lunch days 1-5
- Trail snacks
- Trekking poles
- National Parks pass

Not included:

- Airfare
- Transport to Estes Park
- Breakfasts* & Dinners
- Lunch day 0 & 6
- Personal hiking gear
- Travel Insurance

*Some lodgings may provide complimentary breakfast



Gear List

Clothing

Hiking Boots or Shoes	_____	Rain Jacket	_____
Hiking Socks (4+)	_____	Rain Pants	_____
Underwear (4+)	_____	Gloves (water resistant)	_____
Shorts	_____	Sunglasses	_____
Hiking/Soft Shell Pants	_____	Hat	_____
Hiking T – Shirts (3)	_____	Buff	_____
Light Fleece	_____	Beanie	_____
Insulation Layer (Upper Body)	_____		

Gear

Day Pack (at least 20 liters)	_____	Extra Batteries	_____
Pack Rain Cover	_____	Water Bottle(s)/ Hydration Bladder (2-3 Liters)	_____
Headlamp	_____	Personal 1 st Aid Kit	_____
Personal Hygiene Items/ Medications	_____	Trekking Poles	Provided by SMG



