



## 2026 Rocky Mountain National Park Alpine Lakes Hiking Adventure

### Overview

#### 4 Nights of Lodging - 3 Days of Guided Hiking - 2 Days of Travel

Embark on a 3-day Inn-Based guided hiking adventure and explore the stunning mountains and valleys of Rocky Mountain National Park. Over the course of your trip you will travel through dense pine forests, across high alpine meadows and past roaring cascades while you behold the towering majesty of the high peaks of the Rockies. Each day your guides will share the rich natural history of the National Park and each evening you will enjoy the vibrant mountain culture of Estes Park, Colorado. This is the right way to explore Rocky Mountain National Park.

#### Open Group Dates and Pricing:

Pricing (Per Person)	Open Group Dates (2026)	Trip Deposit (Per Person)
\$2,175	June 17 – 21 August 5 – 9 October 7 – 11	\$500 Deposits are non-refundable.

Prices based off double occupancy. Single supplement price for a private room is an additional \$800. Trips require at least 3 participants to run.

#### Difficulty Level

**Moderate**

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

**Low - Moderate**

Hiking up mountain valleys to high alpine lakes. You are shielded from the worst of the elements most of the time.

#### Trail Type

**Rough & Rocky Trail**

Trails are all well maintained but still rough and rocky by most standards. Expect loose rocks and regular step ups above knee height. Short sections of off trail travel possible.





## 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: Hike Up Glacier Gorge to Black Lake**

**(RT Hiking Distance: 9.7 miles) (Hiking Elevation Gain: 1,643 ft)**

Get ready to explore the ancient glacially carved landscape of Glacier Gorge. Where once their flowed a mighty river of ice, we are left with swirling slabs of schist surrounded by towering summits and peaks. We will follow the icy Glacier Creek as it cascades down carved stone chutes and through narrow canyons before finally arriving at Black Lake surrounded by mighty cliffs. If we have time and energy we can push higher through a narrow canyon to reach the great cirque which lies above the lake and offers unparalleled views of the sheer rock walls that lead to high peaks at the top of the gorge.

### **Day Itinerary:**

**7:00 AM: Breakfast in Hotel**

**12:00 PM Arrive at Black Lake, Lunch**

**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 4: 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.



**Included:**

- 3 days of guided hiking
- 4 nights of lodging
- Transportation to and from trail heads
- Lunch days 1-3
- Trail snacks
- Trekking poles
- National Parks pass

**Not included:**

- Airfare
- Transport to Estes Park
- Breakfasts\* & Dinners
- Lunch day 0 & 4
- Personal hiking gear
- Travel Insurance

\*Some lodgings may provide complimentary breakfast

**Required 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	_____
Puffy Jacket	_____		

**Gear**

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



**Are you ready to book?**  
Please visit  
[www.sojournermountainguides.com/coloradoguiding/multidayadventures/rmnpalpinelakeshike](http://www.sojournermountainguides.com/coloradoguiding/multidayadventures/rmnpalpinelakeshike)  
or  
Send us an email at  
[info@sojournermountainguides.com](mailto:info@sojournermountainguides.com)  
and we will begin processing your booking!

