

ESTES PARK TRAILS

WHICH ONE WILL YOU CHOOSE?

Fortunately, the trails near Estes Park accommodate hikers of all levels; the table below lists some of the most popular treks. The bootprints indicate the level of difficulty by factoring elevation gain and total length: Easy 🦶, Moderate 🦶🦶, Challenging 🦶🦶🦶 and Difficult 🦶🦶🦶🦶. Choose one that is right for you. Horse-friendly trails are indicated by 🐾. Looking for a hike with specific scenery? 🏞️ Lake Hike; 🏔️ Mountain Hike; 🌊 Waterfall Hike. If hiking in the national park, plan ahead from June to October. Also, hike later if the weather forecast looks favorable.



TRAIL	TRAILHEAD LOCATION	ROUND-TRIP DISTANCE	ELEVATION GAIN	DIFFICULTY	NOTES & HIGHLIGHTS
INSIDE ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK <i>(Pets are not allowed.)</i>					
SPRAGUE LAKE	off Bear Lake Road	.5 mi./ .8 km loop	10 ft./3 m	🦶	🏞️ Family-friendly; disabled-accessible; circles the lake
BEAR LAKE	end of Bear Lake Road	.5 mi./ .8 km	20 ft./6 m	🦶	🏞️ Family-friendly; disabled-accessible; self-guided nature trail onsite
COPELAND FALLS	Wild Basin	.6 mi./1 km	15 ft./5 m	🦶🦶	🌊 Alluring set of cascades in the southeastern corner of Rocky Mountain National Park; suitable for families
MORaine PARK DISCOVERY CENTER NATURE TRAIL	on Bear Lake Road	.8 mi./1.3 km loop	20 ft./6 m	🦶	🏔️ Family-friendly; self-guided booklet interprets this nature walk with beautiful views
LILY LAKE	off CO Highway 7	.9 mi./1.5 km	no gain	🦶	🏞️ Ideal for families or those with limited time or abilities; suitable for strollers & hikers of all ages
THE POOL 🐾	Fern Lake off Bear Lake Road	3.4 mi./5.4 km	245 ft./74 m	🦶	🌊 Shaded; winds along a rushing stream
NYMPH LAKE	Bear Lake	1 mi./1.6 km	225 ft./68.5 m	🦶🦶	🏞️ A great hike to a small, scenic subalpine lake; highly recommended for families
TUNDRA COMMUNITIES TRAIL	Rock Cut on Trail Ridge Road	1.1 mi./1.7 km	175 ft./53 m	🦶🦶	🏔️ Family-friendly; shows off the tundra
ALBERTA FALLS 🐾	Glacier Gorge	1.6 mi./2.6 km	210 ft./64 m	🦶🦶	🌊 A moderate hike to a popular waterfall
DREAM LAKE 🐾	Bear Lake Trailhead	2.2 mi./3.5 km	425 ft./129.5 m	🦶🦶	🏞️ One of the most popular destination hikes in Rocky Mountain National Park
EUGENIA MINE	Longs Peak	2.8 mi./4.5 km	508 ft./154 m	🦶🦶	🏔️ Leads through lodgepole pine, spruce and fir to the site of a working mine from 1905-1912
BIERSTADT LAKE LOOP 🐾	Bear Lake Road	3.2 mi./5.15 km	725 ft./220.9 m	🦶🦶	🏞️ Climbs along a wooded ridge to an unobstructed view of surrounding mountains
CALYPSO CASCADES	Wild Basin	3.6 mi./5.8 km	700 ft./231 m	🦶🦶	🌊 A nice, shady late spring hike that passes numerous waterfalls
EMERALD LAKE	Bear Lake	3.6 mi./5.8 km	605 ft./184 m	🦶🦶	🏞️ Heavily trafficked out-and-back trail that's good for all skill levels
LAKE HAIYAHA	Bear Lake	4.2 mi./6.8 km	745 ft./227 m	🦶🦶	🏞️ Expect some rough footing. The lakeshore is rugged and rocky.
CUB LAKE	Fern Lake	4.6 mi./7.4 km	540 ft./165 m	🦶🦶	🏞️ Passes through woods to a mountain pond
UPPER BEAVER MEADOWS LOOP	off U.S. Highway 36	5 mi./8 km	935 ft./285 m	🦶🦶	🏔️ A gentle, moderate walk filled with special vistas, aspens, Ponderosa pines and wildflowers
OUZEL FALLS 🐾	Wild Basin	5.4 mi./8.7 km	950 ft./290 m	🦶🦶	🌊 The most popular destination in Wild Basin showcases a short waterfall that drops dramatically over a small granite cliff.
MILLS LAKE	Glacier Gorge	5.6 mi./9 km	700 ft./213 m	🦶🦶	🏞️ Offers incredible views of Longs Peak and Keyboard of the Winds
THE LOCH 🐾	Glacier Gorge	6 mi./9.7 km	990 ft./302 m	🦶🦶	🏞️ Follow a well-defined trail along a moderate trail to spectacular mountain scenery.
DEER MOUNTAIN	Deer Mountain at Deer Ridge Junction where U.S. Hwys. 34 & 36 meet	6 mi./9.7 km	1,083 ft./330 m	🦶🦶	🏔️ Moderate trail that leads to the summit
SKY POND	Glacier Gorge	9.8 mi./15.6 km	710 ft./521 m	🦶🦶	🏞️ The route to the lake crosses a boulder field at the top before stopping at this special place.
GEM LAKE	Lumpy Ridge	3.2 mi./5.1 km	1,000 ft./304 m	🦶🦶🦶	🏞️ Steep hike rewarded with pretty conclusion at spring-fed lake
LAKE HELENE 🐾	Bear Lake	5.8 mi./9.4 km	1,215 ft./370 m	🦶🦶🦶	🏞️ Traverses subalpine forests and offers the chance to see wildlife
ESTES CONE	Storm Pass at Lily Lake	7.4 mi./11.9 km	2,369 ft./722 m	🦶🦶🦶🦶	🏔️ Excellent view from the summit; strenuous ascent

If hiking in Rocky Mountain National Park during warm weather months, consider taking the hiker shuttle from the Estes Park Visitor Center to the national park's Park & Ride lot, as trailhead parking often is minimal.

TRAIL	TRAILHEAD LOCATION	ROUND-TRIP DISTANCE	ELEVATION GAIN	DIFFICULTY	NOTES & HIGHLIGHTS
FERN LAKE 	Moraine Park	7.6 mi./12.2 km	1,350 ft./406.7 m		L Mountain views; waterfalls; strenuous final mile
ODESSA LAKE 	Fern Lake	8.2 mi./13.2 km	1,215 ft./370 m		L Striking alpine scenery. Consider using trekking poles on this hike.
SANDBEACH LAKE	Wild Basin	8.4 mi./13.5 km	1,971 ft./600 m		L Steep ascent passes pine and aspen to pretty panoramas of Mt. Meeker and the lake
CHASM LAKE	Longs Peak	8.5 mi./13.7 km	2,360 ft./719 m		L Strenuous hike that passes waterfalls and concludes at the lake surrounded by Longs Peak, Mt. Lady Washington and Mt. Meeker
TIMBERLINE FALLS	Glacier Gorge	8.6 mi./6.4 km	1,200 ft./366 m		W Scenic Loch Vale is enjoyed en route to these delicately beautiful falls on the park's east side.
BLACK LAKE	Glacier Gorge	10 mi./16 km	1,430 ft./436 m		L A rugged trail leads deep into a spectacular glacial valley.
ALPINE RIDGE TRAIL	Alpine Visitor Center	.5 mi./.8 km	209 ft./63 m		M Amazing views of the surrounding landscape
TWIN SISTERS	Lily Lake	7.4 mi./12 km	2,338 ft./713 m		M A flood-impaired trail, with some rugged terrain but worthy of magnificent views from the top
FLATTOP MOUNTAIN 	Bear Lake	8.8 mi./14 km	2,849 ft./868 m		M Strenuous hike on a well-maintained trail to the top of this 12,324' peak; great views in all directions
LUMPY RIDGE LOOP	Lumpy Ridge	11 mi./17.7 km	2,475 ft./754 m		M Views of wildflowers, mountains and wide valleys reward the series of grueling false summits.
BLUEBIRD LAKE 	Wild Basin	12 mi./20 km	2,478/755.3 m		L The lake is located in a large rocky bowl above treeline at the end of the trail that is accessible from March until November.
LAWN LAKE 	Alluvial Fan	12.4 mi./20 km	2,249 ft./685 m		L Access without special gear from May until October; abundant wildflowers; a long, but satisfying, hike to the park's largest subalpine lake
UTE TRAIL	Upper Beaver Meadows	13 mi./20.9 km	3,025 ft./922 m		M Diverse landscape with meadows, forest and tundra. Most hikers use a car shuttle between the starting and ending point.

DOG-FRIENDLY TRAILS

HOMER ROUSE MEMORIAL TRAIL	Larimer County at the start of Fishcreek Road	3 mi./4.8 km	705 ft./214 m		M Trail is mostly double-wide, loose material.
LAKE ESTES TRAIL	Town of Estes Park	3.8 mi./6.1 km	50 ft./15 m		L Trail forms a loop around Lake Estes, providing scenic views and accessibility for running, biking or simply a relaxing walk.
LILY MOUNTAIN	on CO Highway 7, about 6 miles south of Estes Park	3.8 mi./6.1 km	1,006 ft./306 m		M Challenging hike with scenic views from the summit; inside Roosevelt National Forest
KRUGER ROCK TRAIL	Hermit Park (\$)	4 mi./6.4 km	900 ft./274 m		M Includes a few steep stretches and a rock scramble at the end; fantastic views from the top
POLE HILL 	off U.S. Highway 36	4.5 mi./7.2 km	1,158 ft./352 m		M A point-to-point Roosevelt National Forest hike close to Estes Park; also used for off-roading
JOHNNY PARK ROAD 	north of Meeker Park	5.5 mi./8.9 km	374 ft./114 m		M Point-to-point trail shared by hikers and ATVs; south of Estes Park in Roosevelt National Forest
HOMESTEAD MEADOWS	Hermit Park (\$)	6.7 mi./10.7 km	600 ft./183 m		M Now accessible only through Hermit Park; leads to homesteads established between 1889 and 1923
PIERSON PARK ROAD 	Cabin Creek Road	8.1 mi./13 km	2,444 ft./744 m		M Out-and-back trail; not a through road due to extensive 2013 flood damage
CROSIER MOUNTAIN	Garden Gate/Glen Haven	10.2 mi./16.4 km	2,786 ft./849 m		M Strenuous hike in Roosevelt National Forest known for wildlife and panoramic views from the summit