



ADVENTURES  
*in good company*



## HIKING COLORADO

### Trip Summary

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Hiking the most scenic trail in Rocky Mountain National Park
- Exploring lush meadows, high mountain lakes, craggy peaks, and diverse ecosystems
- Immersing ourselves in the history, geology, flora, and fauna of the Park
- Challenging ourselves with longer miles and ambitious trails

Phone: 877-439-4042

Outside the US: 970-833-3132

Email: [info@goodadventure.com](mailto:info@goodadventure.com)

## TRIP AT A GLANCE

Location:	Rocky Mountain National Park, CO
Activities:	Hiking
Arrive:	Arrive at the Denver Airport by 2PM on Day 1.
Depart:	We will be back at the Denver airport by 11AM and you can plan flights out after 1PM on the last day.

### Trip Overview

Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado is arguably one of the most spectacular parks in the National Park system. Known for lush meadows, high mountain lakes, craggy peaks, diverse ecosystems, and abundant wildlife, it offers an outstanding variety of hiking trails. We'll pick some of the best, each showcasing a different part of the park, as we hike different trails every day. Starting with moderate hikes on the western side as we adjust to the altitude, midweek we move over to the interior for more strenuous higher altitude hikes. Max Group Size: 10

### Rating

This trip is for women with previous hiking experience who are looking for challenging hiking in the mountains, with significant elevation gains. The trip is rated as 5 and requires a very high degree of fitness. Most women who exercise regularly will need to add some specific conditioning such as strength training, endurance training, longer aerobic workouts, and pre-trip hiking. The length of the hikes and the need to be able to complete them before potential afternoon thunderstorms means that you must be able to maintain a steady and moderate pace. **Rating:** 1 2 3 4 **[5]**.

### What's Included

- 1 - 2 experienced AGC guides based on group size.
- 7 nights shared rooming at the mountain house with shared bathrooms, unless you opted for a single supplement, in which case you'll have a private room with a king bed.
- All meals as listed on the itinerary.
- Transportation during the trip including round trip transfer from the Denver Airport

**Not included:** transportation to/from your place of origin to/from the Denver Airport, alcoholic beverages, 1 dinner out, AGC guide gratuities, and travel insurance

## OUR ITINERARY

Below is the itinerary we have planned for the trip. As is true on any adventure travel trip, plans for any specific day may be modified due to weather considerations, unforeseen circumstances, new opportunities, and group interests.

### DAY 1

Arrive at the Denver airport by 2PM today. We'll meet as a group before driving west to our lodging for the week in Estes Park. Located on the scenic eastern edge of Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes is a haven for outdoor enthusiasts and wildlife alike. In fact, elk are so plentiful that they sometimes wander the downtown streets! (D)

### DAY 2

There are over 300 miles of hiking trails in Rocky Mountain National Park and we'll get to see a variety of ecosystems during our active week. The park is one of the nation's highest, with elevations ranging from 7,860 feet to 14,259 feet, you'll feel like you are on 'top of the world'!

We start the trip with an out and back hike to Gem Lake and Balanced Rock. These paths highlight the best of the Lumpy Ridge area, with rugged rock outcroppings and sweeping views of Estes Park. (B, L, D)

Hiking: 7.5 miles round trip, 5 - 6 hours, elevation gain/loss 1,563'/1,563'

### DAY 3

Today we embark on an early morning to summit Deer Mountain, a beautiful loop off of Trail Ridge Road. The trail passes through what is known as a Montane ecosystem. This zone has the richest diversity of plant and animal life in Rocky Mountain National Park. Meandering rivers and open meadows are surrounded by hilly slopes, dotted with large Ponderosa Pines whose bark changes from grey-brown to a cinnamon-red and releases a pleasant scent in full sun. Colorful wildflowers blanket the meadows throughout the summer growing season. (B, L, D)

Hiking: 10.5 miles, 7 - 9 hours, elevation gain/loss: 1,698'/1,698'

### DAY 4

Today we will drive into the heart of the Park on Trail Ridge Road - the highest continuous paved road in the United States, reaching an elevation of 12,183 feet. Bundle up today - temperatures on top of Trail Ridge are typically 20-30 degrees colder than in Estes Park! On a clear day we can see Wyoming to the north, the Great Plains to the east and the Rockies on the south and west sides.

Our hike today begins at Milner Pass Trailhead. We'll hike up the Ute Trail into the tundra and then continue up to the Alpine Visitor Center, all the time keeping our eyes open for yellow-bellied marmots and pika. Not only are there spectacular 360 degree views across the Continental Divide from the Center, it also has a wealth of information about the fragile alpine ecosystem. Tonight dinner is on your own in Estes Park, a great chance to explore, shop and then dine at one of the many delicious restaurants in the charming downtown area. (B, L)

Hiking: 4.5 miles, 3 - 3.5 hours, elevation gain: 950'

## DAY 5

Now that we're fully acclimated, we're ready for the higher and more challenging hikes. We'll start with an ascent of Hallett Peak. The Arapaho Indians called Hallett Peak "banah ah netaieux", which means Thunder Peak, a reference to the storms that frequent the mountain. We'll definitely be keeping an eye out for storms and be ready to turn around if necessary.

At 12,718 feet Hallett Peak is considered one of the most beautiful alpine hikes in the Park. Starting at Bear Lake it traverses the side of a valley that was carved out long ago by a glacier. Today the only remnant is the Tyndall Glacier, which we pass on the way to the summit. Needless to say, the views are stunning both on the way up and at the top. Famous 14,259' Longs Peak is visible, as well as Otis and Taylor Peaks. You will even be able to see Grand Lake off in the distance. It's an out and back hike. (B, L, D)

Hiking: 10.4 miles, 8 - 9 hours, elevation gain/loss: 3240'/3240'

## DAY 6

Today's hike is to one of the most beautiful lakes in the park, Chasm Lake. And though we're not climbing a peak today, there is still plenty of climbing to get to it. We'll get another early start today and go for another beautiful hike, this time to Chasm Lake. Chasm Lake sits in a deep cirque at the base of Longs Peak and Mount Lady Washington. The famous east-facing wall of Longs Peak, known as the "Diamond", rises more than 2,400 feet above this stunning alpine lake, and Longs Peak climbers start from the same trailhead. Our trail starts in a thick forest of lodgepole pine, spruce and fir, crosses the familiar subalpine landscape of krummholz and continues through a stretch of boulders with some easy scrambling and rewarding, spectacular mountain views. (B, L, D)

Hiking: 8 miles, 6 - 7 hours, elevation gain/loss: 2524'/2524'

## DAY 7

Today we have an option for a shorter or longer hike, depending on how your legs are feeling after a week of altitude and adventure! We'll start early to beat the crowds to Ouzel Falls on the Wild Basin Trail (hikers who stop here and turn around will hike 5.3 miles out and back, elevation gain/loss: 921'). We'll hike alongside a roaring mountain creek the entire way up to a series of three beautiful rushing waterfalls. Those that want to keep going can continue on toward Bluebird Lake. (Hikers going all the way to Bluebird Lake will hike a total of 11 miles, elevation loss/gain: 2443') Tonight we'll celebrate our fantastic week together with a celebratory dinner out on the town. (B, L, D)

Hiking: 5.3-11 miles, 3 - 8 hours depending on distance, elevation gain & loss: 921 - 2443

## DAY 8

Today after breakfast we'll pack up, sadly bidding farewell to each other and this gorgeous park. We'll be back at the Denver airport by 11AM and you can plan flights out anytime after 1PM. (B)

## ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

### Getting There

1. If you are flying, plan to fly into the Denver (DEN) by 2PM on Day 1. We will be meeting at the airport and driving as a group to our lodging in Estes Park
2. If you are driving, you can meet the group at the mountain house in Estes Park by 5PM on Day 1. More details will be in the Pre-Departure document which will be sent four months prior to trip start.

If you would like assistance with airfare, we recommend contacting our AirDesk Partner, [Exito Travel](#). Start by submitting this [form](#). Just fill in your dates and destinations, including any additional notes about preferred carriers, class of service, possible stopovers, etc., and an agent will typically respond via email within a few hours. If you prefer to call, the number is 800-655-4053; be sure to tell them you are traveling with Adventures in Good Company.

Please note: Most of the international airlines are in-network for Exito, so they do not charge extra for their services (and often have access to discounted rates). When necessary, processing fees out-of-network carriers are minimal at around \$35-\$50 per ticket.

### Accommodations

We will stay at the Steward Highlands of the Windcliff Estates during the entire trip. It is a 6 bedroom, 5.5 bathroom spacious and modern mountain home, with incredible mountain views and ample space to spread out and enjoy each other's company. There are two single supplements available for a king bed in a private room. All bathrooms are shared. The rest of the bedrooms consist of 2-4 beds in a room (with a mix of queen, twin, and rollaway beds) and will be assigned randomly. Pack your swimsuit for the hot tub that is perfect for easing sore muscles after long hikes!

### Travel Insurance

We recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer travel protection through Travelex Insurance Services. For more information on the available plans or to enroll, visit [www.travelexinsurance.com](http://www.travelexinsurance.com) or call 1-800-228-9792 and reference location number 06-0331.

Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. All products listed are underwritten by, Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276.

## CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation charges reflect the many expenses Adventures in Good Company cannot recover if you cancel, even if you must do so due to illness, injury, or personal emergencies. These fees are not meant to be punitive. The charges made reflect the expenses Adventures in Good Company has incurred in administering your reservation and planning for your participation. We recognize that the majority of those who cancel their reservations do so out of necessity. Please note that we do not make any refunds for any unused portion of your trip, not arriving, arriving late, or leaving the trip early.

[Click here for our Cancellation & Payment Policies and Booking Terms & Conditions.](#)