



ADVENTURES  
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## INTRO TO BACKPACKING ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

### Trip Summary

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Backpacking and hiking to some of the most beautiful lakes within Rocky Mountain National Park
- Discover beautiful wildflowers, waterfalls, and wildlife along the trail
- Learn and practice backpacking skills in a high elevation environment
- Sleep under a blanket of stars among towering lodgepole and ponderosa pines

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## TRIP AT A GLANCE

Location:	Rocky Mountain National Park, CO
Activities:	Backpacking, Hiking
Arrive:	Your guide will meet you at Denver International Airport at 12PM on Day 1.
Depart:	Your guides will drop you off at Denver International Airport at 12PM. Flights can be scheduled to depart at 2PM or later.

### Trip Overview

The maximum group size: 10.

### Rating

This trip is an excellent choice for women in very good physical condition with no prior backpacking experience, but some backpacking experience preferred. Be prepared to carry a pack ranging from 30-40 pounds, with some group gear split amongst the group. We have rated this trip a 4 as we will hike 5 to 8 hours a day with significant elevation gain and loss, uneven and rocky terrain, and within the elevation of Rocky Mountain National Park. We will be backpacking above 9,000ft to 10,000 feet, on average. Rating: 1 2 3 **[4]** 5

### What's Included

- 2 AGC guides
- 5 nights of double occupancy camping and lodging
- Backpacking equipment: shared tent, cooking stoves, water filters, bear canisters, bear spray (guides only).
- All meals noted on the itinerary
- All transportation to/from Denver International Airport.

**Not included:** Transportation to Colorado, alcoholic beverages, optional gratuities for the AGC guides, optional activities not on the itinerary, any meals not included on the itinerary, and personal camping gear (sleeping pad, sleeping bag, personal clothing, trekking poles, etc.)

**Note: You are welcome to bring your own tent (Ultralight required). Please inquire with your Program Manager in regards to specifics and for confirmation.**

**Please note: Trip dates are tentative and based on permit availability. Permits are typically acquired in March for the same year.**

## 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

Welcome to Colorado! Your guides will greet you at the Denver International Airport at 12PM. After introductions and orientation, we'll drive 1.5 hours to be greeted by the Rockies. We'll arrive at our charming front-country campground to set up camp and gather our gear. After we set up camp, we'll enjoy a welcome dinner at the nearby town of Lyons. Once our bellies are full and excitement sparked, we'll return to camp for our first night of our camping adventure!

Overnight: Front Country Campsite (D)

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### DAY 2

The sun will beckon us from our cozy tents and we'll have a camp breakfast and begin learning about backpacking in the Rockies. Our guides will provide a full day of hands-on instruction. Topics will include: backcountry cooking, gear and packing, water filtration, shelter set up, Leave No Trace principles and safety topics. In the afternoon we'll continue practicing these skills, go through a 'pack shake down' and enjoy our lunches. We'll gather for dinner before heading to bed early for an early morning; looking forward to the adventure ahead!

Overnight: Front Country Campsite (B, D)

### DAY 3

The early bird gets the worm and the early backpacker gets outstanding sunrise views (and more coffee!). After breakfast we'll pack up our camping gear and take a drive to the Wild Basin trailhead. As we grab our gear, we'll say goodbye to civilization for a few nights! Following the rushing waters of the North St. Vrain River, we'll hike 6.8 miles to our group campsite. Along the way, we'll be greeted by the nearby wildflowers, poking their heads out along the trail. Admire the hurry scurry of the golden-mantled ground squirrel and the call of the mountain chickadee as we hike slowly and surely up the mountain. Along the way, we'll take breaks for water, snacks and lunch, and photo-ops. We'll also practice those skills we learned yesterday on-trail today! Once arriving amongst the lodgepole and Ponderosa pines, we'll set up camp, do camp chores, and have our dinner together as a group, reflecting on the most challenging hiking day of the trip! You'll be amazed at how delicious a rehydrated meal can be when savored in the forest with new friends.

Hike: 6.8 miles, 2,230 feet elevation gain (Max Elevation: 10,748 feet, Min Elevation: 8,518 feet), approx 6-8 hours.

Overnight: Thunder Lake Group Site at 10,570 feet (B, D)

### DAY 4

Today we get to leave our gear at camp to explore nearby attractions. After breakfast, we'll hike up to the subalpine forest and get our first views of Thunder Lake. After we've soaked it all in, we'll make our way up to the trio of Lion Lakes (Lion 1, Lion 2, Snowbank, and Trio Falls). We'll take our daypacks with us and eat lunch at one of the pristine lakes, only to be charmed by the views of the nearby Tanimas Peak, Pilot Mountain, and Mount Alice. In the afternoon, we'll descend back to camp to rest our feet and have a warm dinner together. Soak up the alpenglow before snuggling into your sleeping bag for one final rest in the backcountry.

Hike: 4-10 miles, 2,386 feet elevation gain (Max Elevation: 11,536 feet, Min Elevation: 10,036 feet), approx 5-7 hours.

Overnight: Thunder Lake Group Site (B, D)

## DAY 5

After breakfast, we'll pack up our group campsite and prepare for another gorgeous day of scenery and greenery. Today is mostly downhill, giving our legs a slight break and our arms a chance to hone our trekking pole skills. Taking a slightly alternative route,, we'll be greeted with our friendly forest critters, subalpine flowers, and many waterfalls! Before we witness the waterfalls, we'll have an option for an extended 5 mile hike to Ouzel Lake, where we can see Copeland Mountain in the distance. After the optional extension hike, we'll pass along four waterfalls: Hidden Falls, Upper Copeland Falls, Lower Copeland Falls, and Copeland Falls. Along the way, we'll have leisurely spots to soak in the views of the mountains, take photo-ops, and enjoy an early lunch. Renourished, we'll make our way back to the trailhead, only to thank the Rockies for a wonderful few days of hiking. We'll gather our gear, and drive to Boulder for a short, 1-hour drive. We'll check into our hotel, enjoy a lovely shower, and reflect on our adventure at the farewell dinner.

Hike: 6.8 miles, 2,223 feet elevation loss (Max Elevation: 10,750 feet, Min Elevation: 8,527 feet), approx, 5-7 hours. Extension Hike: additional 4.2 miles, elevation gain/loss: 921 feet.

Overnight: University Inn, Boulder (B, D)

## DAY 6

If you have the time, we highly recommend staying and playing longer in Rocky Mountain National Park on your own. If you are departing today after breakfast, your guides will have you to the airport by 12PM and you can book your flights anytime after 2PM.

(B)

## ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

### Getting There

Our trip starts at a Front Country Site provided in your Pre-Departure Document. You can fly directly to Denver International Airport, where your guides will greet you and shuttle you to the campground on Day 1. For those that are driving, cars should be parked at the Denver International Airport in long term parking, as there is no additional parking at the trailhead during the trip. More detailed options will be provided in the Pre-Departure document.

If you would like assistance with airfare, we recommend contacting our AirDesk Partner, [Exitto 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: Exitto charges a one-time, non-refundable processing fee of \$50 per passenger.

## Accommodations

We will spend the first two nights at a nearby Front Country Site to the Wild Basin Trailhead. From here, we will spend the next two nights in the backcountry at the Thunder Lake Group sites, amongst the Lodgepole and Ponderosa Pines. On the last night, we will enjoy our slumber in a comfy bed at the University Inn in Boulder, where we can get a feel for the college-mountain town.

## 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.](#)