



Scenic Summer Drives

Rocky Mountain National Park/Trail Ridge Road:

Not to be missed! Trail Ridge Road, the highest continuous highway in North America and one of Colorado's most spectacular scenic drives winds its way through Rocky Mountain National Park, the 3rd most visited National Park in the Nation. This road crosses the Continental Divide and continues on to Estes Park on the eastern slope. Sightings of elk, bear and moose are common and amazing photo opportunities abound. Listen to the Elk bugle and watch for Aspen Fall colors in September. Follow Hwy 40 west to Granby then take a right on Hwy 34 16 miles to Grand Lake. The drive will take you along Lake Granby and Shadow Mountain Lake. The Kawuneeche Visitor Center (970.627.3471) just past Grand Lake, is a must stop to gather information from the Rangers about hiking, animal viewing areas, historical information and road conditions. The Alpine Visitor Center at the top of Trail Ridge Road is a pleasant place for lunch and tour of the Center. It is recommended that you allow for almost an entire day to spend time in the Nation's 2nd oldest National Park.

Reservations are required to enter the park between 9am and 2pm May 23 - October 19, 2025 and must be made online. Go to [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) to set up an account and make a reservation.

Trail Ridge Road usually opens late May through mid-October. Trail Ridge Road Status Line: 970.586.1222

Corona Pass:

Enjoy this 15-mile rough dirt road to the top of the Continental Divide stopping at the old train trestle, a reminder of the incredible feat of taking trains over the mountain. There are beautiful views of the ski resort, town and surrounding area, so remember your camera. Drive Hwy 40 toward the Winter Park Resort and past Idlewild Campground there will be a brown sign stating, "Corona Pass Road". Take a left and follow signs to Corona Pass/Moffat Road/Rollins Pass/Forest Road 149. It is a slow going road due to loose rocks and erosion damage and at the minimum an all wheel drive vehicle is recommended at least for the upper third. It is approximately 14 miles to the top of the Pass. Many hiking options from the top. Moffat Road historical brochures are available for purchase in the Winter Park Fraser Valley Visitor Center.

NOTE: Normally closed mid-Oct 1 - June 15

Willow Creek Pass:

Drive west through Granby on Hwy 40. At Windy Gap Reservoir, turn right on Colorado Hwy 125 to Willow Creek Pass (21.5 miles). Lodge pole pine, spruce and willows line Willow Creek as it meanders up to the pass. Unusual rock formations along the river and sweeping views of Park Mt. and Rocky Mountain National Park. At the top of Willow Creek Pass, turn around and return to Hwy 40 or continue on Hwy 125 to Walden. You can make a loop back to Winter Park by going west on Hwy 14 just south of Walden to Steamboat Springs and the Yampa Valley for a beautiful all day excursion. Return on Hwy 40. If you really want to see some backcountry, turn at County Road 123 to Stillwater Pass (see below).

Stillwater Pass: (Stillwater Pass closed from the Idleglen Trailhead for 3 miles west to the intersection of FS123 and FS117)

County Road 123 is four miles below the summit of Willow Creek Pass; a sign indicates Stillwater Pass. The road is well maintained until a few miles below the summit. You will see the mountains of the Bowen Gulch Protection Area and the Never Summer Wilderness bordering Rocky Mountain National Park. On the Grand Lake side take a left onto County Road 4, which is on the West side of Highway 34. The road follows through a subdivision and when the road turns to dirt, it becomes more remote. As it winds its way up the switchbacks, it becomes a jeep trail and is not recommended for low clearance vehicles. It can be driven to the other side, Colorado 125 (Willow Creek Pass), in an ATV or four-wheel drive.

NOTE: Normally closed Nov-mid June 15

Ute Pass:

From Winter Park follow Hwy 40 west through Hot Sulphur Springs and Byers Canyon to County Rd 3 on the left. Travel south on CR 3 past Williams Fork Reservoir following the Williams Fork River to CR 132 over Ute Pass. Enjoy the old ranches and panoramic views of the Gore Range and Eagle's Nest Wilderness Area. Turn right (north) on Hwy 9 to Kremmling and back to Hwy 40. Go east on Hwy 40 back to Winter Park.

Colorado River Headwaters National Scenic Byway:

Dropping 1,700 feet in elevation from end to end, follow the mighty Colorado River as it begins its journey west to the Pacific. The scenic byway passes through mountain valleys and magnificent canyons along historical ranchlands. Sweeping views of the Gore Range and Eagle's Nest Wilderness Area. From Winter Park, follow Highway 40 west to the town of Kremmling approximately 45 miles. In the town of Kremmling take a Left on Route 9 (south) and drive approximately 5 miles to Grand County Road 1, also known as the Trough Road. The road meets up with the Colorado River as it exits the western end of Gore Canyon. Watch the rafters negotiating Class II-III Rapids. Fishing, rafting, paddle boarding, tubing and hiking on the Colorado River below Pumphouse. Breathtaking views down to the river from the Gore Canyon wall. State Bridge, which has a convenience store, cabins and an outdoor amphitheater for music in the summer, is the culmination of the drive. Return the way you came or take Hwy 131 to Wolcott and I-70 east over Vail Pass to Hwy 40 over Berthoud Pass. Take a picnic lunch and spend the day!

Church's Park Road:

About ¼ mile west of Fraser on Hwy 40, turn left onto County Road 5. Pass the Fraser Sports Complex on your right, and take the first left onto County Road 50 – Church's Park Rd. After about 2 miles, the road will come to a "Y" intersection. Stay right here on County Road 50. After you pass the Crooked Creek Ranch- Young Life Camp, you will be in the National Forest. You will soon see a sign for Forest Roads #139 and #133; stay on FR #139 at the junction for those roads. You have gone approximately 10 miles. Continue on to the junction for FR 134 and FR 139, and veer left to stay on 139. After 13.9 miles you will come to Horseshoe Campground and the Williams Fork River; continue over a small bridge, and turn right at the next junction heading towards the town of Parshall (this is County Rd/Route 3). Continue on for another 14 miles on this road until you reach Hwy 40. Make a right on Hwy 40 to head back towards Hot Sulphur Springs, Granby, and Winter Park (approximately another 30 miles). **NOTE:** Normally closed Nov 1 - June 15

Jones Pass:

Jones Pass is a dirt surface, mountain pass which travels to an elevation of 12,454 ft. to the top of the Continental Divide and is worth the drive over Berthoud Pass. From Winter Park, travel south Highway 40 up and over Berthoud Pass approximately 22 miles and take a right at the last switchback to Henderson Mine. This is a 7 mile out and back and is accessible by all vehicles with medium to high clearance. The drive is not technical; however, due to the steep grades and switch backs it can be intimidating. There are high mountain meadows, incredible views and you will pass the Jones Pass historical mining district. The Henderson Mine is still active, mining molybdenum. There is a parking area at the top where you can take in the different mountain ranges that surround you. It will take you around 1 hour to reach the summit.

Cottonwood Pass Road:

From Winter Park, follow Highway 40 west approximately 10 miles to County Road 55, on the left. There will be a Colorado Scenic Byway sign that indicates Cottonwood Pass. As you wind your way up Cottonwood Pass, you will drive past some of the most historic ranches in the county. At the top, before you descend into the town of Hot Sulphur Springs, there is an informational sign with the history of the road, which served as the mail route. The road continues to the town of Hot Sulphur Springs, where skiing began in Grand County, back to Highway 40. If you'd like to return to Granby and Winter Park, you will take a right. If you'd like to go to Parshall and Kremmling, take a left.

Grand County Road Maps available at the Information Center in Downtown Winter Park