

ARE YOU COLO-READY?

With a little preparation, a spirit of adventure, and a soft spot for nature and the past, you'll be on the trail to exploring Colorado like a local.



ESTES PARK PACKING LIST

“DRESS IN LAYERS!” ARE WORDS TO LIVE BY.

Our dramatic elevation changes mean we can ski in the mountains and then drop a few thousand feet to bike or drink a craft brew on a sunny patio.

SUMMER PACKING MUSTS:

01



SUNSCREEN, LIP BALM, A HAT & SUNGLASSES.

Remember, you may be a mile or more closer to the sun, and much of Colorado gets 300 days of sunshine every year.

02



BATHING SUIT & FLIP-FLOPS/ SANDALS. Stand-up paddle boarding, kayaking or boating on Lake Estes is the perfect way to spend a day between hikes.

03



REFILLABLE WATER BOTTLE OR HYDRATION SYSTEM. (such as a CamelBak). Start drinking water as soon you arrive in our dry, elevated climate. And don't stop.

04



RAIN JACKET. The atmospheric conditions that bring winter snow make for sudden afternoon showers in the summer, especially on our loftiest peaks.

05



HIKING BOOTS OR OTHER STURDY, ATHLETIC SHOES.

You never know when you're going to want to answer the call of a beautiful trail.

06



LIGHTWEIGHT FLEECE OR VEST. Even on our hottest days, temps are chillier after sunset, especially at higher elevations.

07



DAY PACK. This is standard gear in Colorado to carry all of the above.

08



JEANS OR HIKING PANTS. Relax, denim is acceptable attire nearly everywhere; but hiking pants or leggings are great for a day out exploring our wilds.

IN WINTER, BRING ALL OF THE ABOVE, WITH A FEW ADDITIONS:

01



BEANIE.

Keep one handy for under your ski helmet, a night by the fire or even a wintry dip in a natural hot spring. Even guys wear the ones with poms.

02



WINTER COAT + LAYERS. Layering is key to staying comfortable. Bring a puffy jacket or parka to insulate and wind-resistant layers to block icy breezes.

03



SNOW GEAR. A thermal layer and warm, waterproof boots, snow pants, and gloves are essential if you're planning to play in the powder.

04



SUN-SHIELDING ITEMS. Nothing like an intense goggle tan on your face to make you value sunscreen, no matter the season.



ACT LIKE A LOCAL

OK, NOW YOU'RE DRESSED LIKE A LOCAL.
HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO PASS FOR ONE.



LEARN THE LINGO!

FOURTEENER

This is what we call those peaks that rise more than 14,000 feet above sea level. We've got 58 of them, more than any other state in the continental U.S. Hardy hikers aim to "bag" – or summit – all of them.

CONTINENTAL DIVIDE

Also known as "the Divide," this ridge runs along the crests of the Rocky Mountains north to south. Rivers and streams west of the Divide flow to the Pacific Ocean, and east of the Divide to the Gulf of Mexico.

FRONT RANGE

The Rocky Mountain range most visible from Colorado's most populous cities – Denver, Colorado Springs, Fort Collins and Boulder – and from much of the Eastern Plains. Much of the urban region near these mountains is known as the Front Range as well.

WESTERN SLOPE

This region refers to all of Colorado west of the Continental Divide. It's home to the Grand Mesa, the largest flattop mountain in the world (near Grand Junction).

CENTENNIAL STATE

Colorado's official nickname refers to the year it earned statehood. That happened in 1876, the centennial anniversary of the United States' declaration of independence.

FOUR CORNERS

The point where Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Utah come together at one point in our extreme southwest corner, 40 miles from the Colorado city of Cortez.

HIGH COUNTRY

A fancy way to say "the mountains," uttered mostly by local weathercasters.

PARK

This word seems ubiquitous in our neck of the woods. "Park" was an early explorer's term essentially meaning "wide valley." This is, in part, how the town of Estes Park got its name. Of course, "park" also refers to preserved land set aside for outdoor fun. We have Rocky Mountain National Park, a wonderland managed by the National Park Service; Bond Park, in downtown Estes, where summertime festivals and events are held; and Stanley Park, just east of town, which offers skate, dog and bike parks.

POWDER DAY

Powder days follow snowy nights. That fresh snowfall means the conditions are set for skiing and boarding that feels like you're floating down the slopes on air. Our deep, dry, fluffy powder is also good for cushioning the occasional fall.

MUD SEASON

This glorious harbinger of spring is typically slotted on the calendar for late April or May. It occurs when winter's snow starts to melt and rivers swell, making for amazing fishing, thrilling whitewater rafting and great High Country lodging deals.

ESTES PARK SHORTHAND

ROCKY

An endearment used by Estes locals referring to Rocky Mountain National Park.

THE RUT

Refers to the elk-mating season when males use a high-pitched bugle to attract females and fight to protect their harems.

LONGS

Nickname for Longs Peak, which at 14,259 feet above sea level is the only fourteener in Rocky.

ALTITUDE Staying hydrated and adjusting for a day or two before embarking on a strenuous adventure is the best way to make sure being high up doesn't get you down.

FOR HIKES, ROAD TRIPS & OTHER EXCURSIONS, pack more food, water and cold-weather wear than you expect to need so you won't be caught unprepared.

ALCOHOL It has more impact at altitude, so take it easy until you get your mountain legs.

SPARSE SERVICES If you spot a sign saying "No gas or services for the next 56 miles," believe it. Additionally, don't count on Uber to get you home. Ride-share services are not commonly available in Estes Park.

CELL COVERAGE You won't have any trouble staying connected when you're in a town, but once you head out on a trail, river, slope or back road, that could change. Let others know where you are and finish posting your pics before you head off the grid.

BEAR-PROOF TRASHCANS If you want to toss your trash and the lid won't budge, you're probably encountering a bear-proof trash can. Look for instructions on the can – there's usually a lever or button to push that's too tricky for hairy paws to manage.



LEAVE NO TRACE – CARE FOR COLORADO PRINCIPLES

01 KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- This land really *is* your land. Our state and federal agencies manage 42 percent of Colorado's majestic landscape, and our cities and counties maintain even more. Learn about and respect the spaces we all own, share and sing about.
- Stay back from the pack. Find your way to less-visited and off-peak destinations to minimize down time and maximize your connection with special places.
- Bring along reusable water bottles or hot drink tumblers to limit waste and stay hydrated in our dry climate.



02 STICK TO TRAILS

- With 39,000 marked trails and 13,000 designated campsites, there's no need to venture beyond. By sticking to these areas and camping at least 200 feet from lakes, rivers and streams, you're helping natural areas stay natural.
- Even though shortcuts can be tempting, please don't take them. A few extra strides on the path will protect plants and the homes of the true locals.



03 LEAVE IT AS YOU FIND IT

- Leave plants, rocks and historical items as you find them so others experience the joy of discovery.
- Any of our 750 different species of wildflowers will live forever in a photo. Snap away, but only with a camera.
- Colorado is beautiful all on its own. Building structures or campsites on public land isn't cool. Keep it pristine for everyone to enjoy.
- Treat all living things with respect. Carving or hacking plants and trees may kill or disfigure them.



04 TRASH THE TRASH

- Pack it in, pack it out. Or pick it up to leave a place better than you found it. Put litter, even crumbs, peels and cores in your nearest waste/recycling bin.
- Wash yourself, your dog or whatever else needs cleaning at least 200 feet from waterways, and use biodegradable soap. A bubble bath is no treat for fish.



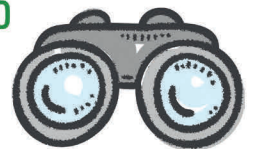
05 BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE

- Colorado's low humidity has perks, but can create dry, dangerous conditions. Keep campfires small and manageable to avoid sparking wildfires.
- When putting out a fire, water it until you can handle the embers. Never let a fire burn unattended.
- Use care when smoking in Colorado's dry climate. Always put cigarettes out completely, and don't leave your butts behind.



06 KEEP WILDLIFE WILD

- Colorado is home to tens of thousands of furry, scaly and feathered creatures. To keep them – and you – safe, don't approach them.
- It is not adorable to feed wild animals. You could alter natural behaviors, exposing them to predators or even euthanasia.
- Keep your furry buddies leashed when enjoying dog-friendly trails, and pack out their waste. All the way to a trashcan.



07 SHARE OUR TRAILS & PARKS

- Chances are you're not out in nature to people watch, so try out the lesser-known paths and sites.
- Silence your cell phone before stepping into nature, and speak softly without using the speaker function.
- Be considerate when passing others on the trails and yield to the uphill hiker and biker – they need the momentum.
- Listen to nature. Keep your voice and music soft so all can enjoy the peace of Colorado.

