

AZVT Colorado extended trips:



### **Rocky Mountain National Park:**

<https://www.nps.gov/romo/index.htm>

<https://rockymountainnationalpark.com/>

Approx 2.5 hours from hotel

Cost: **1-day** pass-automobile -\$25, **7-**

**day** pass –automobile -\$35 **Free day: Saturday September 28** for National Public Lands day!!



Rocky Mountain National Park in northern Colorado spans the Continental Divide and encompasses protected mountains, forests and alpine tundra. It's known for the Trail Ridge Road (the highest paved road in the US) and the Old Fall River Road, drives that pass aspen trees and rivers. The Keyhole Route, a climb crossing vertical rock faces, leads up Longs Peak, the park's tallest mountain. A trail surrounding Bear Lake offers views of the peaks. Over 350 miles of trails, from flat easy hikes to challenging multiday backpack trips; Rocky Mountain National Park offers trails for hikers of every level. Camping, fishing, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, biking, dining and other lodging accommodations are available as well.



### **Estes Park:**

<https://www.visitestespark.com/>

Approx 2.5 hours from hotel

Estes Park is a town in northern Colorado and is the base camp for amazing adventures in Rocky

Mountain National Park and your favorite mountain get away.

Explore the Colorado Rockies, encounter wildlife, visit the famous Stanley hotel, go shopping, enjoy great dining options, relax and have fun!

**Estes park elk fest September 28-29, 2019** <https://www.visitestespark.com/events-calendar/special-events/elk-fest/>



The free festival features bugling contests, elk exhibits, the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program, elk seminars, elk-inspired arts and crafts, Native American music, dancing and storytelling, a children's area with elk-themed activities, and a craft beer garden. For safe & respectful elk viewing tips, please visit our **Wildlife Watching** page.

Vendors will display artwork, handmade elk-ivory jewelry, and will offer distinctive elk cuisine. Mountain men from around the country will gather at the Mountain Man Rendezvous to sell their wares and demonstrate their skills.

Enjoy the Educational Seminar Tent to learn more about Elk and wildlife in Estes Park from a variety of professionals including Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Mile High Note Game Calls. Representatives from the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program will display on a gloved hand some of their magnificent rescued birds. It's amazing to see these majestic birds close up! Colorado Parks and Wildlife are on-site offering an Elk Camp where you can explore a variety of educational booths, and their staff will be helping in the field as attendees take the self-guided elk tour!

Live country, rock and bluegrass music will light up the park Saturday and Sunday with popular Colorado bands performing on stage.



### **Glenwood Springs**

<https://www.visitglenwood.com/>

3.5 hours from hotel

Hot springs: \$17.50 weekday, \$23.75 weekend



Glenwood Springs is a resort city in Colorado known for its hot springs. It sits in the rugged Rocky Mountains, surrounded by the vast White River National Forest. Glenwood Canyon is rich with wildlife and features Hanging Lake, with its striking turquoise waters. Glenwood Caverns are ancient underground caves. Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park has roller coasters and canyon swings overlooking the Colorado River.

Glenwood caverns amusement park: <https://www.glenwoodcaverns.com/>. This park is unique because it sits at an altitude of 7,100 feet on a mountain above Glenwood!



### **Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve**

<https://www.nps.gov/grsa/index.htm>

2.5 hours from hotel, 7-day pass: \$25 also free on Saturday September 28<sup>th</sup> for National Public Lands Day!



Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve is in southern Colorado. The tallest dunes in North America are the centerpiece in a diverse landscape of grasslands, wetlands, conifer and aspen

forests, alpine lakes, and tundra. Experience this diversity through hiking, sand sledding, splashing in Medano Creek, wildlife watching, and more! The park and preserve are always open, so plan to also experience night skies and nocturnal wildlife during your visit.

**Sandhill Crane Migration:** Over 20,000 cranes spend part of their spring and fall each year in this valley. After wintering in the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico, they typically begin to arrive in the San Luis Valley in early February, while winter temperatures still drop below zero degrees F at night. While here, they build up energy by feasting on barley grains in agricultural fields and aquatic invertebrates in wetlands. Cranes mate for life, but each spring they renew their bond through a courtship ritual that includes dancing, bowing, chortling, and throwing tufts of grass in the air. They leave again by late March for the northern U.S. and Canada, where they raise their young. In fall, they begin to arrive back in the San Luis Valley in late September, and leave by late November.

A good place to view → **Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge** is the hotspot for crane viewing and activity in the valley, because the refuge features both barley fields and wetlands. Take Highway 15 south from Monte Vista 6 miles; drive on roads in and around the refuge to look for cranes. There are pullouts on Highway 15 and Road 8S.



**Aspen-** <https://www.aspenchamber.org/>

Approx 4.5 hours from hotel

Aspen, in Colorado's Rocky Mountains, is a ski resort town and year-round destination for outdoor recreation. It's also known for high-end restaurants and boutiques, and landmarks like the Wheeler Opera House, built in 1889 during the area's silver mining boom. The Wheeler-Stallard House is a local history museum set in a 19th-century, Queen Anne-style home, while the Aspen Art Museum displays contemporary artworks.





**Breckenridge-** <https://www.gobreck.com/>

Approx 2.5 hours from hotel

Breckenridge is a Colorado town at the base of the Rocky Mountains' Tenmile Range. It's

known for its ski resort, year-round alpine activities and Gold Rush

history. The Victorian core of this former mining town is preserved as the Breckenridge National Historic District, running primarily along Main Street, with colorfully painted buildings from the 1880s and '90s housing shops, galleries and restaurants.



## Did you know that there are some really amazing hot springs all over Colorado??

Here are a few links and a really cool map!

<https://www.uncovercolorado.com/hot-springs/>

<https://www.colorado.com/articles/31-colorado-hot-springs-quick-guide>

<https://www.uncovercolorado.com/best-hot-springs-colorado/>

