TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATIONS FOR ESTES PARK

Estes Park is located 65 miles northwest of Denver, and about 76 miles from Denver International Airport. Meeting locations vary depending on the time of year and the class/trip, your guide will provide you with this information. There are plenty of accommodations and amenities located in Estes Park, including the Historic Stanley Hotel. Campgrounds are available in the area. If you have any additional questions about your Rocky Mountain National Park adventure, please call (970) 699-2080.

TRAVEL

Estes Park is 2 hours from Denver International Airport, via Pena Blvd to I-70 to I-25 to HWY 36. Car rentals, shuttles, taxis, charters/limousines are all available from the airport. Nearly every rental company is represented at DIA. Try to avoid driving during the rush hours around Denver, as significant delays can occur.

If driving to Estes Park from another location, there are numerous routes.

The following are general suggestions to map your route. Ultimately we recommend using Google Maps or GPS:

From the west, going through the mountains on I-70, exit for Golden and continue on CO-93 and on through Boulder to Hwy 36 through Lyons.

From the north, if driving I-25, taking exit 243 for CO-66 W, following signs for Longmont/Lyons.

From eastern Colorado, on I-70, follow I-70 W, to I-270 W, to US-36 W through Boulder and Lyons.

From southern Colorado, if driving I-25, take I-25 N to US-36W through Boulder and Lyons.

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

Please note that JHMG guides cannot provide transportation. Please arrange independent transportation to and from JHMG activities. Estes Park Mountain Shuttle is a good option for getting to Estes Park from DIA, Boulder and Denver. There is a limited taxi service in Estes Park to facilitate getting to Trailheads, etc. Rental vehicles may be the best option for your Estes Park trip.

ACCOMMODATIONS

A phenomenal number of options exist for lodging in and around Estes Park. Motels from $99 can be found if booked early, luxury accommodation at the historic Stanley Hotel and B&B stays at the Golden Leaf Inn can add a memorable note to your trip. The trip advisor list for lodging options is recommended. Air B&B options abound as well, ranging from unique cabins to luxury vacation homes. If booking accommodations late, consider the YMCA of the Rockies with a wide selection of lodging options close to town.

MEETING TIME & PLACE

Our standard meet time for full day climbs and classes is 8:00am. If climbing a high peak in The Park, plan on starting as early as 2am. Weather conditions and route aspect commonly suggest alternate meet times. Please consult with our office for further detail regarding your specific class or objective. Our meeting locations vary depending on the class or climb. We will generally meet at the Beaver Meadows Visitors Center on Moraine Ave, just outside the entrance station.

WEATHER & CLIMATE

If visiting Estes Park in the Summer time, expect dynamic weather ranging from sunny and warm to begin the day, with afternoon storms a common occurrence. Summer temperatures range from the 40's to 80's. Spring can be harder to predict with snow and rain possible and temperatures from 30's to 60's. Fall in the high country offers the most stable weather but can be colder and afford less daylight with temperatures in the 30's to 60's. Winter in the Rockies can be exquisite or harsh with temperatures in the 20's to 40's. Fortunately, with 300 days of sunshine, these temperatures are often offset and quite comfortable. During The Summer months especially in Rocky Mountain National Park, even if the day dawns clear, all climbers should pack a rain jacket for the occasional surprise afternoon thundershower. Synthetic clothing is strongly advised at many times of the year, and is almost always preferable to cotton. And plan on dressing in layers so you can adjust your temperature easily. Comfort levels can vary quite a bit depending on where you'll be adventuring, so please ask us for our clothing recommendations based on your planned climb/class/ski.