

APOGEE ADVENTURES

2023 Colorado's Rocky Mountains

Summarized Itinerary

Trip Begins: Denver, Colorado

Trip Ends: Denver, Colorado

- Day 1:** Our group will meet at the Denver Airport this morning. Once everyone's bags have been collected, we will climb into our van and make our way Grand Lake and the western edge of Rocky Mountain National Park. We'll spend our first afternoon familiarizing ourselves with our camping gear, getting to know one another, playing games, and getting excited about our trip.
- Day 2-3:** Today, we'll have our first opportunity to spend the day exploring the beautiful lakes and trails around Grand Lake. While we explore this side of the Park, we'll be sure to keep our eyes peeled for the abundant wildlife in the area: fox, black-billed magpie, elk, and moose! Today will also serve as a good introduction to hiking at altitude – we'll be moving slowly to enjoy the scenery and drinking lots of water. En route to our next destination, we'll travel along Trail Ridge Road, the highest continuous road in the United States. We'll also visit the highest Visitor Center in the National Park system (located at nearly 12,000 feet above sea level) and enjoy 360° mountain panoramas.
- Day 4:** Giving our legs a rest, we'll spend Day 4 learning the basics of rock climbing with professional guides. After we have been outfitted with shoes, helmets, and harnesses, we'll practice belaying and climbing techniques and even have the opportunity to experience an aerial traverse across two cliffs. There will be a variety of routes available, so there will be something for both our experienced climbers and our first-timers.
- Days 5-6:** For the next several days, we'll camp inside Rocky Mountain National Park, just outside of the quaint mountain town of Estes Park, where we'll day-hike and explore the spectacular eastern side of the Park. Our hikes will continue to increase in length over this period, as we trek to the base of 14,000' peaks and gorgeous alpine lakes. Weather permitting, we might even try to "bag" a peak over 12,000', a true high-point of the trip (literally and figuratively!).
- Day 7:** We'll trade packs for PFDs on Day 7 as we set out on an exciting whitewater rafting adventure with our professional guides. Paddling the class II and III rapids of the Poudre River near Fort Collins, we're sure to get wet and have a blast – an experience we won't soon forget!
- Day 8-9:** For our last full day together, we'll spend the morning working on a meaningful service project – either with the Rocky Mountain National park rangers or a local food bank in Louisville, CO. Afterwards, we'll get cleaned-up and head to downtown Boulder for a celebratory dinner at a local restaurant – a great ending to a great trip! On the final morning, we'll head back into Denver to say our farewells, promising to stay in touch with new friends.

Please note that all itineraries are subject to change.

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