



Visit Estes Park
The Destination
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New and Happening in Estes Park, CO for Fall & Winter 2019

*New offerings, renovated lodging and interesting events
enhance one of Colorado's most beloved mountain destinations*

ESTES PARK, Colo. – Known as the base camp to Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) and only 90 minutes from Denver International Airport, Estes Park is an authentic Colorado mountain town beloved by residents and guests alike. With a variety of historical tours; a range of activities and adventures guided by local outdoor experts; and a number of unique festivals, Estes Park is an excellent destination for guests of all ages looking for wild to mild experiences.

Below is a sample of new offerings and events in the destination for fall and winter 2019.

New and Improved in Estes Park

- **New Colorado Mountain School Offerings** - Colorado Mountain School is expanding their winter programming to include new multi-day development series. These multi-day courses combine multiple courses into a structured progression, which is great for an immersive learning experience and great for travelers. They have offered these development series in mountaineering and rock climbing for years and introduced the [Backcountry Development Series Level 1](#) last season. They are expanding with an Ice Climbing Development Series, adding a level two Backcountry Development Series and adding Avalanche Development Series as well. These are in development and enrollment is not yet open, but they hope to have more details soon.
- **Estes Park Rock Climbing New Elkins Snowshoe Tours** - New exclusive package with the award-winning Elkins Distillery. Participants will enjoy a 4-hour morning snowshoe tour in the picturesque backcountry of Rocky Mountain National Park. After the snowshoe tour, the group will eat, drink and be merry with catered lunch, and warm-up with some of Colorado's finest whisky and whisky cocktails.
- **YMCA of the Rockies to Open the Hostel at Ranch House** - Starting late this fall, YMCA of the Rockies will add an additional lodging option to the traditional cabins and lodge rooms – a hostel. The Hostel at Ranch House will be opening late fall for guests 18+ to book single-beds in shared rooms. Housed in one of the traditional mountain lodges, guests at the Hostel at Ranch House will have access to a full kitchen, shared living areas and bathrooms. Guests also receive a day pass wrist band to participate in all of the YMCA's activities and facilities.
- **'Athlete in Residence' Program** – A Rocky Mountain twist to the 'Artist in Residence' idea, Visit Estes Park has debuted a never been done 'Athlete in Residence' program. The team has identified world-class brands and athletes that align with Estes' core demographic and mantra, and as part of the partnership, will host a series of sponsored athletes for an agreed-upon length of time to experience and showcase Estes' existence as an adventure basecamp, create amazing content and engage with the local

community. The program launched this spring with pro skiers Brody Leven and Caroline Gleich, and will continue throughout the year with athletes such as Anton Kruprika, Nina Williams and Joey Schusler. Keep an eye on #athleteinresidence to follow along!

- [Via Ferrata at Kent Mountain Adventure Center](#) – Outdoor enthusiasts can experience a unique adventure at Kent Mountain Adventure Center’s new Via Ferrata (“Iron Path”). Both experienced and non-experienced climbers can enjoy the challenge of scaling a 600-foot cliff while being safely secured to anchored steel cables, and with the help of natural rock features, ladders and steel steps. Participants will be able to experience breathtaking views of Rocky Mountain National Park during their ascent.

Outdoor Adventure – Estes Park is an ideal fall & winter destination for families, couples and solo adventurers. The charming mountain town provides a convenient and affordable getaway with an abundance of outdoor activities, including guided excursions for all ages.

- [Kent Mountain Adventure Center](#) – Whether new to winter outdoor adventure or an experienced outdoor winter enthusiast, back-country travelers can enjoy and experience the beauty of Rocky Mountain National Park. The Center offers opportunities for all ages and abilities this winter, including split boarding, snow shoeing, cross country skiing, ice climbing, and winter camping.
- [Snow Cat Tours with Estes Park Outfitters](#) – Experience the ultimate winter back-country mountain adventure with Estes Park’s only snow cat tour. Visitors will climb several thousand feet of elevation, ride through miles of remote mountain trails next to incredible mountain vistas and views of Denver and Estes Park Valley leading to a remote, luxury, off the grid mountain lodge located at 9200 feet elevation. Here, visitors can sit by the fire, relax, and take in the sweeping vistas of Twin Sisters mountains while enjoying their favorite food and drinks.
- [Kirk’s Mountain Adventures](#) – A family owned and operated business, Kirk’s Mountain Adventures offer hiking trips, guided snowshoe adventures, fly-fishing trips, llama pack tours and more for visitors looking to experience all that Rocky Mountain National Park has to offer. Visitors can rent gear for their own adventure or join a guided trip to explore stunning mountain scenery.

Other Not-To-Miss Fall & Winter Events

- [Longs Peak Scottish Irish Highland Festival \(September 5-8, 2019\)](#) – The Longs Peak Scottish-Irish Highland Festival celebrates the heritage, sounds, tastes, arts and more of the Scottish and Irish cultures. Visitors can join jousting knights, dancing girls, bagpipes and more the weekend after Labor Day for a Scottish-Irish event like no other.
- [Autumn Gold Festival \(September 22-23, 2019\)](#) – Celebrate fall with bands, brats and beer at the free Autumn Gold Festival. Kids can enjoy free face painting, a corn bag toss and a bounce house. Participate in the Autumn Gold raffle for the chance to take home up to \$5,000.
- [Elk Fest \(September 28-29, 2019\)](#) – Estes Park will host the annual Elk Fest in Bond Park to celebrate the bugle of the elk. This free festival will feature bugling contests, elk exhibits, elk seminars, elk-inspired arts and crafts, Native American music and more.
- [Pumpkins and Pilsners Festival \(October 12, 2019\)](#) – This free fall festival has activities and entertainment for all ages. It’s the perfect place to pick a pumpkin with live music and craft beer for adults, as well as games, crafts and a bounce house for the little ones.

Throughout the day visitors can enjoy various food trucks, a beer tent, free face painting, free pony rides, lawn games, a pumpkin patch, and more.

- [Catch the Glow Christmas Parade & Celebration \(November 29, 2019\)](#)– Create a new Thanksgiving tradition this year by attending the Christmas Parade & Celebration the day after Thanksgiving to get in the Christmas spirit! Bands come down the street playing classic Christmas songs, dancers sway to the music, and floats loom from the night, huge and ethereal with more lights that add to the mysteries and magic of Christmas legends.
- [Estes Park Winter Festival \(January 2020\)](#) – Celebrate the winter season in Estes Park at the Winter Festival where there will be live music, food and drink tastings, chili cook-offs and samplings and various kids’ activities.
- [Estes Park Wine & Chocolate Festival \(February 2020\)](#) – Taking place in the Estes Park Events Complex, wine and chocolate connoisseurs can take part in sampling some of the region’s finest chocolates and taste pours from a variety of wineries. All of this will be accompanied by soothing jazz music from Max Wagner.
- [Whiskey Warm Up Weekend \(March 2020\)](#) – Visitors to Estes Park can sample delicious whiskey from over 20 distilleries while warming up by the fire pits of George Hix Riverside Plaza during the Whiskey Warm Up Weekend.

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