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New and Happening in Estes Park, CO for Summer & Fall 2020

Although key tourism attractions are currently closed in response to COVID-19, Visit Estes Park looks forward to welcoming visitors back to the town when the time is right.

ESTES PARK, Colo. (May 2020) – 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 a wide variety of experiences.

Below is a sample of new offerings and events to look forward to for summer and fall 2020.

New and Improved in Estes Park

- **Estes Park nets \$395K in GOCO grants for Thumb Open Space, Big Thompson Recreation Area** – Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Board awarded two grants totaling \$395,000 to projects in Estes Park. The Town of Estes Park, in partnership with Estes Valley Land Trust (EVLTL), received a \$350,000 Local Park and Outdoor Recreation (LPOR) grant to purchase a 65-acre property and create Thumb Open Space that includes two large rock outcroppings called “Thumb” and “Needle,” an area that was popular for climbers and hikers. A grand opening is slated for fall 2021. The Town also received a \$45,000 Mini LPOR grant to enhance the Big Thompson River recreation area that is expected to wrap up in spring 2021.
- **‘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 last year with pro skiers Brody Leven and Caroline Gleich, and will continue throughout the year with athletes such as Paige Classen and Courtney Dauwalter. Keep an eye on #athleteinresidence to follow along.

Outdoor Adventure – Estes Park is an ideal summer and fall 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.

- **Rocky Mountain Conservancy Programming** – With unprecedented access to Rocky Mountain National Park and hands-on field opportunities, Rocky Mountain Conservancy offers a number of educational programs that will last a lifetime. Classes offered this summer include “Early

Wildflowers of RMNP,” “Kids’ Fly-fishing & Stream Ecology,” and “Sketchbook Journaling: Wilderness, Wildlife & Wonder in Watercolor.”

- [Hikes, Treks & Beginner Mountain Climbs with Kent Mountain Adventure Center](#) – Whether new to hiking or an experienced climber, Kent Mountain Adventure Center guides are excited to bring outdoor enthusiasts on the high alpine trails and cliff faces of Rocky Mountain National Park. The Center offers opportunities for all ages and abilities this summer, including hiking, rock climbing, cliff camping, and more.
- [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 below during their ascent.
- [Horseback Riding with Estes Park Outfitters](#) – Riders can experience once-in-a-lifetime horseback riding with the only outfitters permitted to explore the remote historic homestead meadows area of Roosevelt National Forest. From seeing homesteader cabins from the 1800’s to experiencing beautiful meadows unavailable to the general public, this ride will be one to remember. The intimate ride will begin at the Estes Park Outfitters remote, luxury lodge located at 9,200 feet.
- [Kirk’s Mountain Adventures](#) – A family owned and operated business, Kirk’s Mountain Adventures offers hiking trips, guided backpacking trips, 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.
- [Colorado Mountain School](#) – This summer, Estes Park visitors can climb, hike, mountaineer, and more with Colorado Mountain School’s highly trained guides dedicated to leading adventures that are educational, fun and challenging. With countless one-day and multi-day courses and trips, Colorado Mountain School is the largest guide service in Colorado with the most complete outdoor climbing curriculum in the United States.

Other Not-To-Miss Summer & Fall Events: From music and cultural festivals to wildlife and crafts, Visit Estes Park is home to fun-filled events nearly every weekend in Summer and Fall. Some events may be postponed or cancelled due to COVID-19; check back at visitestespark.com/events-calendar for the most up-to-date event listings.

- [4th of July Celebration \(July 4, 2020\)](#) – A variety of family-friendly festivities and events including outdoor recreation activities and one of the best fireworks displays in Colorado will be offered throughout Estes Park in celebration of one of the country’s biggest holidays.
- [Estes Park Wine Festival \(August 8-9, 2020\)](#) – Visitors can enjoy tastings from local wineries, fresh food, Colorado vendors and live music at the sixth annual Estes Park Wine Festival taking place in Bond Park.
- [Estes Epic \(September 5-7, 2020\)](#) – Truly Epic athletes can participate in a 55k Mountain Bike race followed by a heavy half or 55k Trail Run the day after. Finishers of one or both of these epic challenges receive a special finisher’s award.
- [Labor Day Weekend \(September 5-7, 2020\)](#) – Bond Park will be filled with over 100 booths featuring hand-crafted goods for the Labor Days Arts and Crafts Show. Handmade goods for sale include paintings, drawings, jewelry, metal work, clothing, home décor, pottery, glass and more.

- [Longs Peak Scottish Irish Highland Festival \(September 11-13, 2020\)](#) – 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 \(September 26-27, 2020\)](#) – 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 \(October 3-4, 2020\)](#) – 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.
- [Estes Park Races \(2020 Dates TBD\)](#) – As a running utopia featuring beautiful views (not to mention thin air and a high elevation for the extra challenge), Estes Park is the ideal location for running races. Estes Park will host several races throughout the summer, from a 5K Duck Waddle to the half-marathon Half of the Rockies.
- [Performance Park Summer Concert Series \(Dates TBD\)](#) – Performance Park’s outdoor amphitheater will hold a series of free concerts throughout the summer. Past performances included Brad Fitch, Estes Park Village Band & Jazz Big Band, Elk Hallow and more.

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