

SCENIC DRIVES

NATIONAL PARKS

SMALL TOWNS

GREAT FOOD

BIG ADVENTURES

Life is Better
on the Road

The SWEARINGIN TRAVEL GUIDE

REAL PLACES. REAL EXPERIENCES. A FULLER LIFE.

September 2026
Colorado Adventure

ROCKY MOUNTAIN
NATIONAL PARK

ESTES PARK

GRAND LAKE

DENVER

COLORADO SPRINGS

ROYAL GORGE

... AND MORE!

Exploring
Remarkable Places
Together



Chris & Bonna

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TRAVEL

EXPLORE

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KAYAK

PHOTOGRAPH

MAKE MEMORIES

THE

Swearingin TRAVEL GUIDE

SEPTEMBER 2026

COLORADO ADVENTURE



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A VISUAL ROADBOOK • HISTORY • RV TRAVEL • REAL PLACES



PREMIUM MAGAZINE EDITION

The Swearingin Travel Guide

A ten-day Colorado roadbook designed as a visual travel magazine.



SEPTEMBER 11-20, 2026

Afton, Oklahoma to Dodge City, Rocky Mountain National Park, Grand Lake, the Front Range, Denver/Lakewood, Colorado Springs, Royal Gorge and home.

WHAT THIS EDITION IS

This edition keeps the complete practical roadbook - routes, overnight choices, reservations, costs, T-Mobile expectations, fuel strategy, GPS, weather planning and safety - but presents it inside a richer editorial structure. The history, geography and visual identity of every major stop become part of the story instead of being treated as decoration.

WHEREVER WE ROAM IS HOME

AUTHOR'S NOTE

From Chris

Why I wanted this guide to be more than an itinerary.

I have always liked knowing what is ahead of me on a trip - not because I want every hour controlled, but because good information gives us more freedom once we get there. I want to know where the Greyhawk fits, where we can plug in, where the signal disappears, what is worth stopping for, and what history is sitting just beyond the windshield.

This Colorado trip is the kind of road trip I had in mind when Bonna and I started talking seriously about traveling more. Rocky Mountain National Park is the centerpiece, but I do not want the rest of the route to be filler. Kansas history, the Santa Fe Trail, Estes Park, Grand Lake, Red Rocks, Colorado Springs and Royal Gorge all deserve their own story.

So this book is part roadbook, part magazine and part memory keeper. It is written before the trip, but it is meant to travel with us - then come home with notes, photographs and stories that did not exist when we left.



CHRIS SWEARINGIN

September 2026

THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE MILES

Chris & Bonna

A personal travel book, not a generic destination guide.



HOW WE TRAVEL

We like scenic drives, state and national parks, roadside history, places with a story, and campgrounds that give the Greyhawk room to settle in. Electric service matters when we are paying for a site; if there is no electric, a sensible boondocking or primitive alternative can be just as useful.

"The best trip is the one that leaves enough room for the day to surprise us."

HOME BASE
Afton, Oklahoma

TRAVELERS
Chris & Bonna

RIG
2013 Jayco Greyhawk

PRIORITY
Scenery + practicality

THE RIG

Our 2013 Jayco Greyhawk

The vehicle that shapes almost every practical decision in the book.



LENGTH

~32-34 ft

CHASSIS

Ford E-450

FUEL TANK

55 gal

PLANNING MPG

~8 mpg

POWER

30-amp preferred

TRIP ROLE

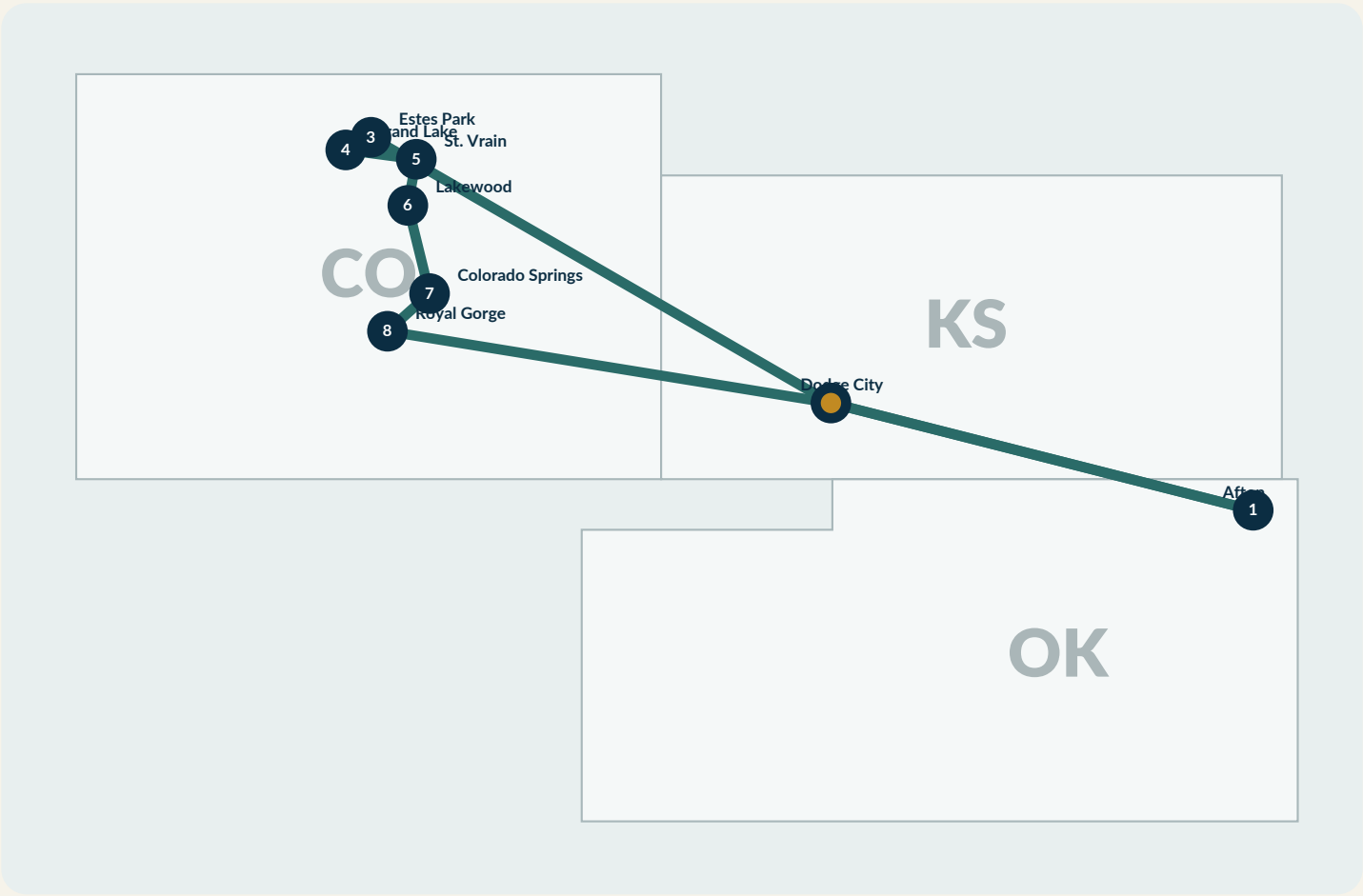
Home + transport

The Greyhawk is large enough that parking geometry matters, heavy enough that mountain grades deserve respect, and thirsty enough that fuel planning belongs in the itinerary. Those constraints are not drawbacks; they are simply part of the roadbook.

THE BIG PICTURE

Ten Days West and Back

Afton to Colorado - then home through the southern plains. Illustrated route map, not a turn-by-turn navigation chart.



Route Rhythm

1	Afton -> Dodge City	~340 mi
2	Dodge City -> Estes / RMNP	~400-425 mi
3-4	RMNP east side / Estes	Local
5	Trail Ridge -> Grand Lake	~50-70 mi
6	Grand Lake -> Front Range	~100-140 mi
7-8	Denver/Lakewood -> Colorado Springs	~125-155 mi + local
9	Royal Gorge optional -> Dodge City	~340-380 mi
10	Dodge City -> Afton	~340 mi

WHAT'S INSIDE

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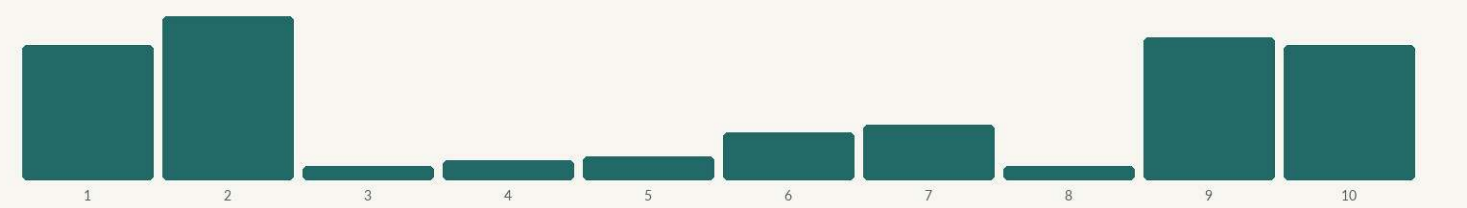
PLANNING ESTIMATES

Trip by the Numbers

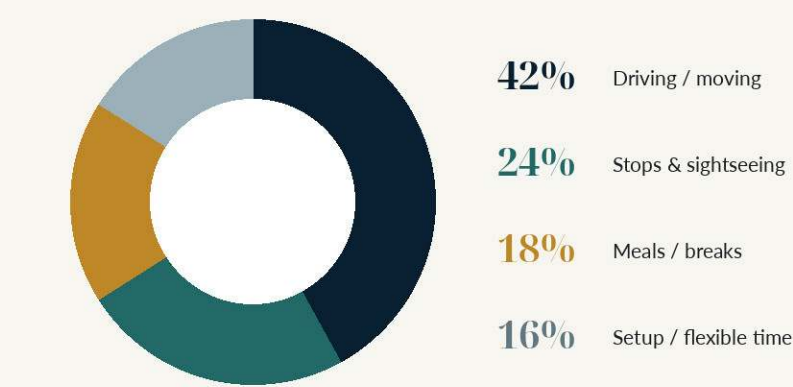
A planning model - not an odometer claim - built from the route assumptions in this guide.



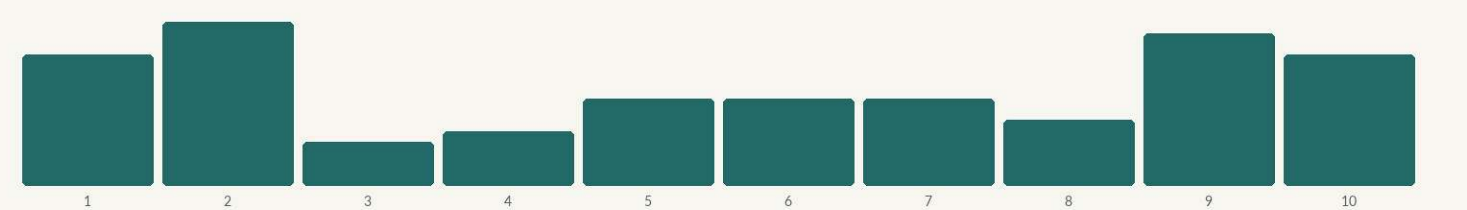
MILEAGE BY DAY



WHERE THE DAY GOES



DRIVE-TIME INTENSITY



Local touring mileage is intentionally conservative and will move once actual detours, fuel runs and sightseeing are known.

COST + ELEVATION

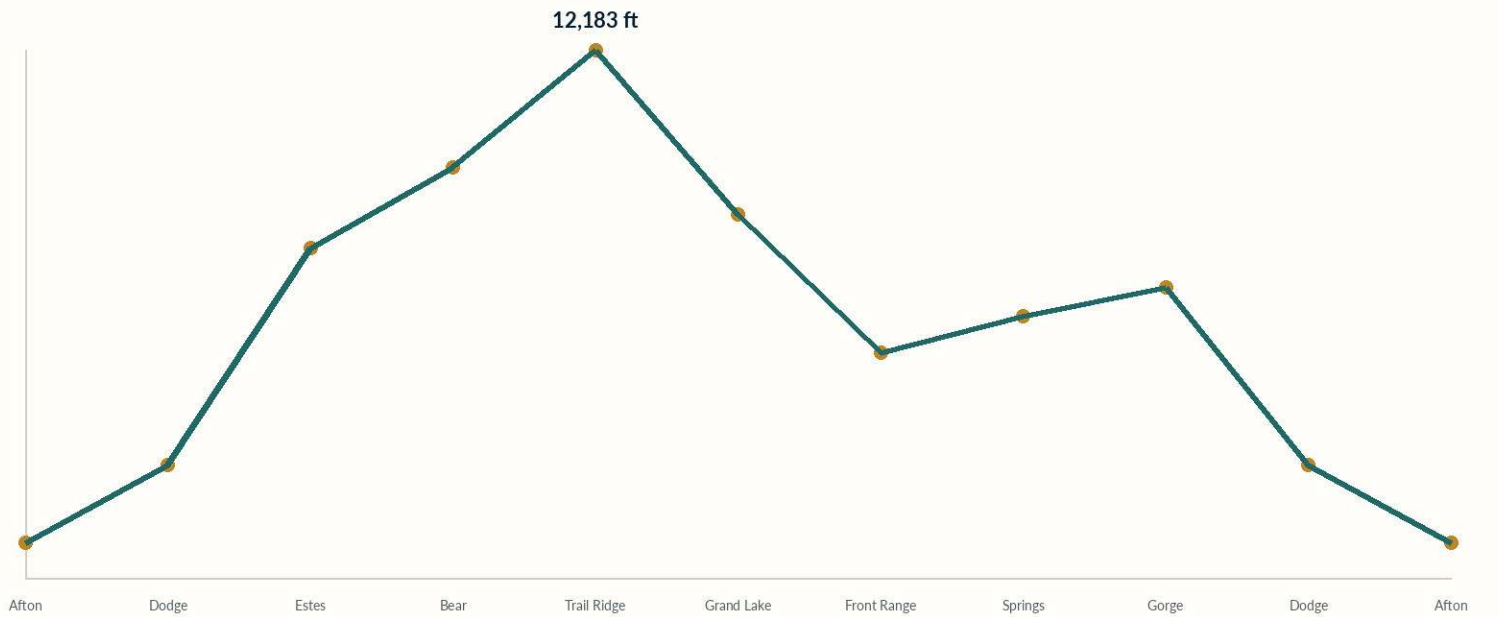
The Shape of the Trip

Two views that explain why the itinerary feels different from day to day.

ILLUSTRATIVE BUDGET MIX



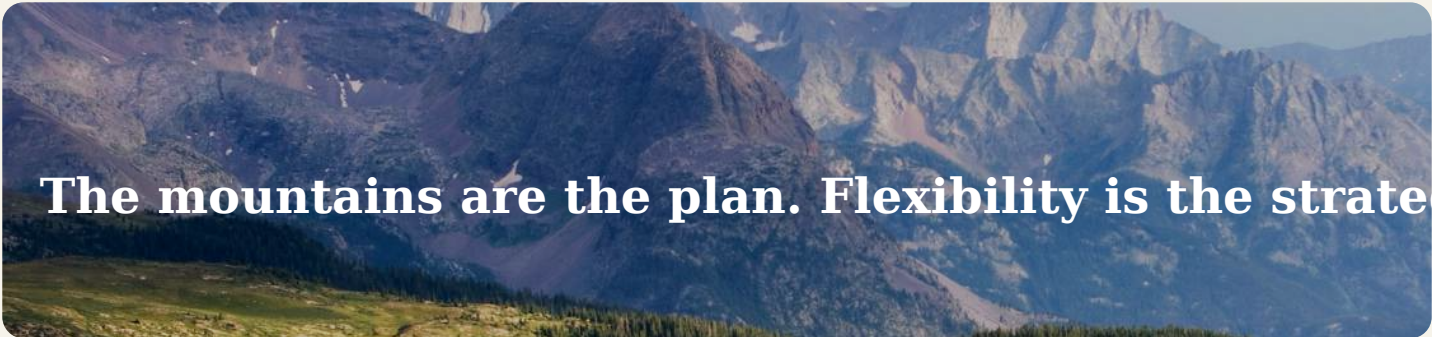
ELEVATION STORY



REFRESHED SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

Departure Edition: Live-Status Snapshot

The roadbook remains the master plan. These are the time-sensitive items worth checking closest to departure.



RMNP TIMED ENTRY

2026 general timed entry is required 9am-2pm through Oct 12. Timed Entry + Bear Lake Road is required 5am-6pm through Oct 18. The Recreation.gov processing fee is \$2.

TRAIL RIDGE ROAD

Current NPS road-status page lists Trail Ridge Road open to through travel. Conditions can change quickly; call 970-586-1222 again before the high-country day.

SEVEN FALLS - FRI SEP 18

Open 9am-7pm. Adult online admission: \$25 from 9am-1pm or \$21 from 2pm-7pm. Online advance purchase is strongly encouraged.

GARDEN OF THE GODS

Free public city park. September park hours: 5am-10pm. Visitor Center after Labor Day: 9am-5pm. Oversized vehicles should use the overflow lot.

ROYAL GORGE - SAT SEP 19

September 8-October 31 hours: 9am-5pm; rides begin 10am. Adult internet general admission is \$39.95. Reservations are not required.

CASA BONITA

Reservations are available online. Address: 6715 W Colfax Ave, Lakewood, CO 80214. Keep it as a deliberate destination stop, not a rushed meal between mountain drives.

OFFICIAL QUICK LINKS ARE ON THE NEXT PAGE. PHONE NUMBERS AND PHYSICAL ADDRESSES FOLLOW ON PAGE 12.

SCAN • OPEN • GO

QR & Quick Links Directory

Official trip websites in one scan-friendly reference page.



RMNP Timed Entry

2026 permit rules and entry windows

SCAN FOR OFFICIAL SITE

www.nps.gov/romo/planyourvisit/timed-entry-



RMNP Maps

Official park and campground maps

SCAN FOR OFFICIAL SITE

www.nps.gov/romo/planyourvisit/maps.htm



RMNP Camping

Campgrounds, dates, fees and reservations

SCAN FOR OFFICIAL SITE

www.nps.gov/romo/planyourvisit/camping-



Recreation.gov

Federal reservations and timed entry

SCAN FOR OFFICIAL SITE

www.recreation.gov/



COtrip

Colorado road conditions and incidents

SCAN FOR OFFICIAL SITE

www.cotrip.org/



T-Mobile Coverage

Coverage-map reference

SCAN FOR OFFICIAL SITE

www.t-mobile.com/coverage/coverage-map



Stanley Hotel

Estes Park landmark information

SCAN FOR OFFICIAL SITE

www.stanleyhotel.com/



Casa Bonita

Lakewood reservations and visitor information

SCAN FOR OFFICIAL SITE

www.casabonitadenver.com/



Red Rocks

Amphitheatre, events and access

SCAN FOR OFFICIAL SITE

www.redrocksonline.com/



Seven Falls

Hours, tickets and shuttle information

SCAN FOR OFFICIAL SITE

www.sevenfalls.com/



Garden of the Gods

Visitor center and park information

SCAN FOR OFFICIAL SITE

gardenofgods.com/



Royal Gorge Bridge

Tickets, hours and attraction information

SCAN FOR OFFICIAL SITE

royalgorgebridge.com/

KEEP THIS PAGE HANDY

Important Contacts & Addresses

Phone numbers and physical addresses for the places most likely to be needed on the road.

Rocky Mountain National Park	970-586-1206	1000 US Hwy 36, Estes Park, CO 80517
Trail Ridge Road recorded status	970-586-1222	Rocky Mountain National Park
Recreation.gov	877-444-6777	Federal reservation contact center
Mary's Lake Campground	970-577-1024 / 1026	2120 Marys Lake Rd, Estes Park, CO
Winding River Resort	970-627-3215	1447 County Road 491, Grand Lake, CO
St. Vrain State Park	303-678-9402	3785 Weld County Road 24 1/2, Longmont, CO
Casa Bonita	Official site / reservation	6715 W Colfax Ave, Lakewood, CO 80214
Cheyenne Mountain State Park	719-576-2016	410 JL Ranch Heights Rd, Colorado Springs, CO 80926
Seven Falls - shuttle parking	855-923-7272	1045 Lower Gold Camp Rd, Colorado Springs, CO 80905
Garden of the Gods Visitor Center	719-634-6666	1805 N 30th St, Colorado Springs, CO 80904
Royal Gorge Bridge & Park	719-275-7507	4218 County Road 3A, Cañon City, CO 81212
Pikes Peak Cog Railway	719-685-5401	515 Ruxton Ave, Manitou Springs, CO 80829

The QR directory on the preceding page carries the official websites for current hours, prices, closures, tickets and reservation changes.

Afton, Oklahoma to Dodge City, Kansas

The trip begins across the plains, with enough margin to let western Kansas become part of the story instead of just the distance between two points.

TODAYS DESTINATION STORY

MILES

~340 mi

WHEEL TIME

~5.5-6.5 hr

OVERNIGHT

Dodge City

ELEVATION

~2,600 ft

DAY PLAN | QUICK READ

Today at a Glance

Afton, Oklahoma to | Dodge City, Kansas

WHY THIS DAY WORKS

The trip begins across the plains, with enough margin to let western Kansas become part of the story instead of just the distance between two points. The detailed roadbook immediately behind this editorial section carries the turn-by-turn plan, reservations, overnight choices and practical notes.

Trip by the Numbers

MILES

~340 mi

WHEEL TIME

~5.5-6.5 hr

OVERNIGHT

Dodge City

ELEVATION

~2,600 ft



Boot Hill / historic district: the reconstructed western streetscape keeps Dodge City's cattle-town story visible.

How the Day Feels



CHRIS ROAD NOTE

"The first day should feel like the beginning of the trip - not just a test of endurance."

Road Conditions & Trip Readiness

WEATHER

Plains day. Check AM radar and wind before departure.

T-MOBILE

Towns usable/strong; rural Kansas can soften.

FUEL / RV

Top off before long rural stretches.

OVERNIGHT

Dodge City - paid electric or fatigue backup.

WHY THIS PLACE MATTERS

Frontier Miles, Real History

Dodge City grew where the Santa Fe Trail, the railroad and the cattle trade collided on the western Kansas plains. Founded in 1872, it became one of the best-known names of the cattle-town era.



DODGE CITY IN 1878

Dodge City in 1878: this period view shows how quickly the railroad-and-cattle settlement became a real town.

Boot Hill, lawmen such as Wyatt Earp and Bat Masterson, and the long shadow of the frontier make this more than a convenient first-night stop. For this trip, that history matters because Day 1 is our transition from ordinary roads into a journey with a sense of place.

By the Numbers

FOUNDED
1872

KNOWN FOR
Cattle-town era

DON'T MISS
Boot Hill • El Capitan

CHRIS ROAD NOTE

"The first day should feel like the beginning of the trip - not just a test of endurance."

The Day in Pictures

One strong hero photograph, then supporting details matched to the actual itinerary.



Boot Hill / historic district: the reconstructed western streetscape keeps Dodge City's cattle-town story visible.



Dodge City in 1878: this period view shows how quickly the railroad-and-cattle settlement became a real town.



El Capitan: the longhorn monument on Wyatt Earp Boulevard is a modern reminder of the cattle-drive era.

What to Notice

Dodge City grew where the Santa Fe Trail, the railroad and the cattle trade collided on the western Kansas plains. The trip begins across the plains, with enough margin to let western Kansas become part of the story instead of just the distance between two points.

V15 PHOTO STANDARD

Large scenic roles use the strongest source files at print-oriented resolution. Small historical/reference images stay small instead of being stretched.

DAY 1 | DETAILED ROADBOOK | PAGE 1 OF 3

HD destination banner | direct roadbook content | live-status rail

WHEREVER WE ROAM IS HOME | V15 PRACTICAL ROADBOOK

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Day 1, September 11, 2026 - Friday

Day 1 visual preview - scenery and destinations along today's route.

Afton, Oklahoma -> Dodge City, Kansas

TODAY AT A GLANCE

Miles	Wheel time	Sleep	T-Mobile
~340 mi	~5.5-6.5 hr	Dodge City	Usable to strong
Don't miss	Biggest risk	Fuel strategy	Overnight hierarchy
Keeper of the Plains / Big Well / Boot Hill	Long drive + fatigue	Fill before departure; large-format fuel around Wichita/Pratt	Gunsmoke FHU / Ford State Fishing Lake

TRIP PRIORITIES: Priority sights shape the day. Optional stops give way when weather, driving time, campground arrival or reservation timing calls for it.

WHAT YOU'LL SEE TODAY

A visual preview of the places that make today worth the drive.

BOOT HILL MUSEUM - PRIORITY

Dodge City opens the trip with classic Old West atmosphere. Boot Hill Museum stands on the original Boot Hill Cemetery site and interprets the cattle-town era along a recreated Front Street.

Photo card; destination facts: NPS / Boot Hill Museum.

BIG WELL MUSEUM - OPTIONAL

Greensburg is a natural route-history stop. The museum centers on the enormous hand-dug well and the community story surrounding the 2007 tornado and rebuilding.

Hours and seasonal details: official site / QR directory.

DESTINATION PREVIEW: Major stops and scenery that shape today's route.

RV Day Plan | Destination: Dodge City

Route	Distance	RV driving time	Night
US-60 / US-169 / US-400 / US-54 / US-283 (major-route concept)	~340 mi	~5.5-6.5 hr RV pace	Ford State Fishing Lake primitive OR Gunsmoke RV Park

SCAN FOR NAVIGATION Opens the planned stop sequence in Google Maps. Before driving, review the route and reject shortcuts that leave the major-road plan or look unsuitable for a 32-34 ft RV.	
T-MOBILE Afton/major towns: strong. Rural Kansas segments: generally usable with possible dips. Dodge City: strong. Ford State Fishing Lake: expect weaker than town; do not count on full-speed home-internet performance.	
FUEL Top off before departure. Plan a large-format fuel stop around Wichita/Pratt corridor rather than waiting until the tank is low.	
WALMART / SUPPLIES Dodge City stop; Convenient south-side supp	
Stop / option	At
Boot Hill Museum	50 KS
0-225-3917. Shopping	
notes ive with daylight; use large lic/commercial parking where mitted. Confirm oversize/RV king on arrival rather than	



Day Quick Read

FIRST NIGHT

Paid electric if it buys real rest; otherwise keep the boondock/fatigue backup simple.

ROAD STYLE

Long plains run; daylight and fuel margin matter more than squeezing in every optional stop.

ROADBOOK STATUS

Towns usable/strong; rural Kansas can soften. Plains day. Check AM radar and wind before departure.

DAY 1 | DETAILED ROADBOOK | PAGE 2 OF 3

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Ford State Fishing Lake primitive camping	GPS 37.82191, -99.92200	Primitive; verify any permit/fee at time of stay	entering tight downtown side lots. Primitive camping + vault toilet. About 3 mi north and 5 mi east of Dodge City. Dry-camp only; terrain/road condition should be checked before committing after dark.
Gunsmoke RV Park	11070 108 Rd, Dodge City, KS 67801	\$48/night	20/30/50A, water/sewer, pull-throughs up to 95 ft. Best paid/electric choice.
Dodge City KOA Journey	701 Park St, Dodge City, KS 67801	Live KOA price	Pull-through/50A options; easy alternative if Gunsmoke unavailable.
DODGE CITY PLAN For a mid-afternoon arrival: park the RV once, visit Boot Hill Museum/Front Street, eat, then choose primitive Ford State Fishing Lake only if dry camping still fits the evening and daylight/road conditions look comfortable. Otherwise use Gunsmoke for a simple \$48 full-hookup night.			

BEST-OF-THE-DAY TOURING - PRIORITY stops shape the day; OPTIONAL stops fit when time, weather, parking and energy cooperate.

Featured sight	Address / location	Why it is worth seeing	How it fits today
Keeper of the Plains - OPTIONAL iconic Wichita photo stop	650 N Seneca St, Wichita, KS 67203	Wichita's signature 44-foot steel sculpture stands where the Big and Little Arkansas rivers meet. The plaza and river setting make it one of the most recognizable sights on the Kansas crossing.	This works best with an early departure and a 30-45 minute city stop. Large-RV parking should be chosen deliberately; downtown shortcuts are avoided.
Big Well Museum - OPTIONAL route stop	315 S Sycamore St, Greensburg, KS 67054	Home of the 109-foot-deep hand-dug Big Well plus exhibits on the 2007 EFS tornado and Greensburg's rebuilding. It is a genuinely unusual Kansas roadside attraction.	Greensburg is on the US-54/US-400 corridor toward Dodge City. Good stretch-your-legs stop if hours and arrival time work.
Boot Hill Museum / Front Street	500 W Wyatt Earp Blvd, Dodge City, KS 67801	The signature Old West stop in Dodge City: recreated Front Street, lawmen/outlaw history and the town's cattle-drive era.	PRIORITY after arrival if daylight remains. Park the Greyhawk where oversized parking is clearly workable, then walk the historic area.

OVERNIGHT STAY OPTIONS - KEEP PAID HOOKUPS SEPARATE FROM NO-HOOKUP BACKUPS

A. PAID OVERNIGHT - ELECTRIC / WATER / SEWER / HOOKUP OPTIONS

Option / Type	Details, address & overnight rule
PRIMARY - PAID FHU	Gunsmoke RV Park, 11070 108 Rd, Dodge City, KS 67801 - \$48/night planning rate; 20/30/50A, water/sewer and long pull-throughs. Best simple electric/full-hookup night.
PAID BACKUP	Dodge City KOA Journey, 701 Park St, Dodge City, KS 67801 - live KOA rate; ask for pull-through 30/50A and verify Greyhawk length.

B. NO-HOOKUP / BOONDOCKING /

Option / Type	Detail
---------------	--------



Day Quick Read

FIRST NIGHT

Paid electric if it buys real rest; otherwise keep the boondock/fatigue backup simple.

ROAD STYLE

Long plains run; daylight and fuel margin matter more than squeezing in every optional stop.

ROADBOOK STATUS

Towns usable/strong; rural Kansas can soften. Plains day. Check AM radar and wind before departure.

DAY 1 | DETAILED ROADBOOK | PAGE 3 OF 3

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PUBLIC / BOONDOCK	Ford State Fishing Lake primitive camping, about 3 mi north and 5 mi east of Dodge City (guide GPS 37.82191, -99.92200). Dry camping only; use only in daylight if access and ground conditions look suitable.
TRAVEL CENTER / TRUCK STOP	Love's Travel Stop, 2505 E Trail St, Dodge City, KS 67801 - 24 hours, fuel, truck parking, restrooms/showers. Large-vehicle parking, fuel, restrooms and showers make this a practical road-stop backup.
TRAVEL CENTER / LARGE FUEL	Flying J Dealer, 2524 E Wyatt Earp Blvd, Dodge City, KS 67801 - 24-hour large-vehicle fuel/travel stop. Confirm overnight RV placement on arrival.
WALMART / SUPPLIES / OVERNIGHT BACKUP	Walmart Supercenter #372, 1905 N 14th Ave, Dodge City, KS 67801 - 620-225-3917. Good supplies stop; overnight availability varies by location.
REST AREA / SHORT-REST	US-54 rest area near Minneola, KS (11812-11820 US-54). Use for legal rest only under posted rules; do not treat a rest area as a campground.
CRACKER BARREL	No useful Cracker Barrel stop in Dodge City itself. Do not detour simply to find one.
HOSPITAL - EMERGENCY ONLY	CommonSpirit St. Catherine Hospital - Dodge City, 3001 Avenue A, Dodge City, KS 67801 - 620-225-8400. Hospital parking is for medical/emergency needs. NOT planned RV overnight camping.

Tomorrow Before Bed

ROAD / WEATHER	FUEL	RESERVATION	OFFLINE	RV SYSTEMS
Closures + forecast	Enough for next segment	Time + cancellation	Maps / tickets / QR	Water / dump / propane

Wherever We Roam Is Home - Daily Story / Shot List

CAPTURE	NOTES
Establishing shot	Wide scene showing where we are today
Greyhawk shot	RV + destination / campground
Chris & Bonna	Best couple / photo moment
Video hook	What happened today in one sentence
Thumbnail candidate	Strong frame for the episode / post
Favorite / funniest moment	Best unscripted memory from the day
Campground rating	Camp ___/5 Signal ___/5 Site/level ___/5 Return? Y / N

V15 native layout: rebuilt to prevent unnecessary wrapping and orphaned words.



Day Quick Read

FIRST NIGHT

Paid electric if it buys real rest; otherwise keep the boondock/fatigue backup simple.

ROAD STYLE

Long plains run; daylight and fuel margin matter more than squeezing in every optional stop.

ROADBOOK STATUS

Towns usable/strong; rural Kansas can soften. Plains day. Check AM radar and wind before departure.

Dodge City to Estes Park / Rocky Mountain National Park

RUBSTEAK
Restaurant & Pub
Great Burgers & Steaks!
Pub Room With TVs
Shaded Patio ~ Take Out

**ESTES PARK
SOUVENIRS**
Gifts, T-shirts, Souvenirs, Apparel and more.

A long transition day: plains in the morning, the Front Range by evening, and the first real sense that the mountains are taking over the horizon.

TODAYS DESTINATION STORY

MILES

~400-425 mi

WHEEL TIME

~7-8 hr

DESTINATION

Estes Park / RMNP

SIGNAL

Strong in town;
variable in park

DAY PLAN | QUICK READ

Today at a Glance

Dodge City to Estes Park / | Rocky Mountain National Park

WHY THIS DAY WORKS

A long transition day: plains in the morning, the Front Range by evening, and the first real sense that the mountains are taking over the horizon. The detailed roadbook immediately behind this editorial section carries the turn-by-turn plan, reservations, overnight choices and practical notes.

Trip by the Numbers

MILES

~400-425 mi

WHEEL TIME

~7-8 hr

DESTINATION

Estes Park / RMNP

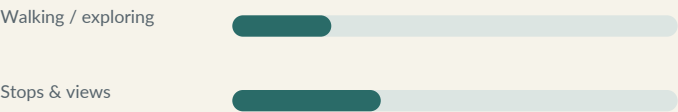
SIGNAL

Strong in town; variable in park



Downtown Estes Park: shops and sidewalks make the gateway town a useful place to slow down after the long plains drive.

How the Day Feels



CHRIS ROAD NOTE

"The horizon should look completely different by dinner."

Road Conditions & Trip Readiness

WEATHER

Front Range arrival; temperatures fall quickly after sunset.

T-MOBILE

Estes Park strong; RMNP coverage becomes variable.

FUEL / RV

Arrive with margin - this is the long driving day.

OVERNIGHT

Electric is the priority after the long run.

WHY THIS PLACE MATTERS

The Front Range Appears

Estes Park sits at the eastern gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park, surrounded by a landscape that changes quickly from foothills to granite peaks.



Longs Peak: the 14,259-foot summit dominates the skyline and signals that the Front Range has fully taken over the horizon.

The town became a base for visitors long before modern national-park tourism, and today it works as both a destination and a practical staging point for the park. This is the payoff day after the plains: I want the drive to end with time to see downtown Estes, look toward Longs Peak and get oriented before the concentrated RMNP days begin.

By the Numbers

ESTES PARK

Gateway town

RMNP

Established 1915

LONGS PEAK

14,259 ft

CHRIS ROAD NOTE

"The horizon should look completely different by dinner."

The Day in Pictures

One strong hero photograph, then supporting details matched to the actual itinerary.



Downtown Estes Park: shops and sidewalks make the gateway town a useful place to slow down after the long plains drive.



Longs Peak: the 14,259-foot summit dominates the skyline and signals that the Front Range has fully taken over the horizon.



Lake Estes: open water below the surrounding peaks gives us an easy first look at the mountain setting before the park days begin.

What to Notice

Estes Park sits at the eastern gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park, surrounded by a landscape that changes quickly from foothills to granite peaks. A long transition day: plains in the morning, the Front Range by evening, and the first real sense that the mountains are taking over the horizon.

V15 PHOTO STANDARD

Large scenic roles use the strongest source files at print-oriented resolution. Small historical/reference images stay small instead of being stretched.



DAY 2 | DETAILED ROADBOOK | PAGE 1 OF 3

HD destination banner | direct roadbook content | live-status rail

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Day 2, September 12, 2026 - Saturday

Day 2 visual preview - scenery and destinations along today's route.

Dodge City, Kansas -> Estes Park / Rocky Mountain National Park

TODAY AT A GLANCE

Miles	Wheel time	Sleep	T-Mobile
~400-425 mi	~7-8 hr	Moraine Park electric	Strong towns; spotty near park
Don't miss	Biggest risk	Fuel strategy	Overnight hierarchy
Bent's Old Fort optional / Beaver Meadows	Very long RV day; mountain arrival	Fill Dodge City; refill Pueblo/Front Range	Moraine reserved / Mary's Lake or KOA backup

TRIP PRIORITIES: Priority sights shape the day. Optional stops give way when weather, driving time, campground arrival or reservation timing calls for it.

WHAT YOU'LL SEE TODAY

A visual preview of the places that make today worth the drive.

BENT'S OLD FORT - OPTIONAL

A reconstructed 1840s adobe trading post on the Santa Fe Trail. It adds frontier commerce and cultural history to the long drive if the schedule is healthy.
Destination reference: National Park Service.

BEAVER MEADOWS - ARRIVAL CHECKPOINT

The park gateway is where the plains-to-Rockies transition becomes real. Use the visitor center for current road, shuttle, weather and construction information.
Destination reference: National Park Service.

DESTINATION PREVIEW: Major stops and scenery that shape today's route.

RV Day Plan | Destination: Estes Park / RMNP

Route	Distance	RV driving time	Night
US-50 W -> Pueblo; I-25 N -> CO-66/US-36 toward Estes (avoid mountain shortcuts)	~400-425 mi	~7-8 hr RV pace	Moraine Park Standard Electric (verify exact site length) or electric private backup

SCAN FOR NAVIGATION

Opens the planned stop sequence in Google Maps. Before driving, review the route and reject shortcuts that leave the major-road plan or look unsuitable for a 32-34 ft RV.

T-MOBILE Dodge City/Pueblo/Front Range: mostly usable-to-strong near highways and towns. Estes Park: usable-to-strong. Once inside RMNP: signal becomes terrain-dependent and can drop quickly.

FUEL Fill in Dodge City. Refill around Pueblo before climbing toward the Front Range/Estes area; the plan avoids entering the mountain portion on a marginal tank.

WALMART / SUPPLIES No Walmart in (Dodge City/Pueblo/Front Range).

ARRIVAL Do not let navigation send th Park. If arriving after campground offic

BEST-OF-THE-DAY TOURING - PR

tain portion

proach to Estes
nloaded.

ather, parking and energy



Day Quick Read

RMNP ENTRY

General timed entry: 9am-2pm. Bear Lake corridor: 5am-6pm. \$2 processing fee.

ARRIVAL

A late-day arrival may naturally fall outside the general timed-entry window, but Bear Lake rules are separate.

ROADBOOK STATUS

Estes Park strong; RMNP coverage becomes variable. Front Range arrival; temperatures fall quickly after sunset.



DAY 2 | DETAILED ROADBOOK | PAGE 2 OF 3

HD destination banner | direct roadbook content | live-status rail

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cooperate.			
Featured sight	Address / location	Why it is worth seeing	How it fits today
Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site - OPTIONAL if routing US-50 through La Junta	35110 State Highway 194 E, La Junta, CO 81050	Reconstructed 1840s adobe trading post on the Santa Fe Trail and a major crossroads of trade, diplomacy and westward expansion. NPS lists bus/RV parking.	This is the best historic stop on the southeastern Colorado crossing, but it adds time to an already long mountain-arrival day. This fits best with an early start.
Beaver Meadows Visitor Center	1000 US Hwy 36, Estes Park, CO 80517	The practical gateway to RMNP: ranger information, park orientation, maps and current conditions before you commit the Greyhawk to mountain roads.	This serves as the arrival checkpoint before deeper park touring. Current Trail Ridge Road, wind, construction, shuttle, parking and RV conditions are available here.

OVERNIGHT STAY OPTIONS - KEEP PAID HOOKUPS SEPARATE FROM NO-HOOKUP BACKUPS

A. PAID OVERNIGHT - ELECTRIC / WATER / SEWER / HOOKUP OPTIONS

Option / Type	Details, address & overnight rule
PRIMARY - RESERVED ELECTRIC	Moraine Park Campground, Rocky Mountain National Park - STANDARD ELECTRIC, Night 1 of 2. Verify the exact reserved site's length and electrical description before departure.
PAID BACKUP	Estes Park Campground at Mary's Lake - water/electric and full-hookup choices; prefer a pull-through/full-hookup site that clearly fits the 32-34 ft Greyhawk.
PAID BACKUP	Estes Park / RMNP KOA Holiday, 2051 Big Thompson Ave, Estes Park, CO 80517 - 800-562-1887. Call for an RV site with the needed power and length.

B. NO-HOOKUP / BOONDOCKING / PARKING / TRAVEL-CENTER / FATIGUE BACKUPS

Option / Type	Details, address & overnight rule
PERMITTED NO-HOOKUP PARKING	Estes Park Events Complex overnight parking is the town's controlled alternative when available; permit/fee rules apply. It is not a free-form parking-lot boondock.
WALMART	No Walmart in Estes Park. Closest practical large Walmart before/after the mountain approach is in Loveland; make major supply runs before climbing into Estes.
CRACKER BARREL - ROUTE BACKUP	Cracker Barrel, 5800 McWhinney Blvd, Loveland, CO 80538 - 970-593-9947, near I-25/US-34. Highway-adjacent restaurant and large parking area.
TRAVEL CENTER / LARGE FUEL	Use large Front Range fuel/travel centers before the climb. Estes Park itself is not a truck-stop environment and is a poor place to improvise an overnight.
REST AREA / RMNP RULE	No roadside or parking-lot camping inside RMNP. Do not use trailheads, visitor-center lots, Lake Estes day-use lots or roadside pullouts as overnight camps.
HOSPITAL - EMERGENCY ONLY	Estes Park Health, 555 Prospect Ave, Estes Park, CO 80517. Emergency/medical use only; never list hospi

TOMORROW BEFORE BED

[] Road / weather

[] Fuel

[] RV systems



Day Quick Read

RMNP ENTRY

General timed entry: 9am-2pm. Bear Lake corridor: 5am-6pm. \$2 processing fee.

ARRIVAL

A late-day arrival may naturally fall outside the general timed-entry window, but Bear Lake rules are separate.

ROADBOOK STATUS

Estes Park strong; RMNP coverage becomes variable. Front Range arrival; temperatures fall quickly after sunset.



DAY 2 | DETAILED ROADBOOK | PAGE 3 OF 3

HD destination banner | direct roadbook content | live-status rail

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- Check closures + forecast
- Enough for next major segment
- Confirm time + cancellation
- Maps / tickets / QR destinations
- Water / dump / propane / generator

WHEREVER WE ROAM IS HOME - DAILY STORY / SHOT LIST

Capture	Notes
Establishing shot	Wide scene showing where we are today: _____
Greyhawk shot	RV + destination / campground: _____
Chris & Bonna	Best couple/photo moment: _____
Video hook	What happened today in one sentence: _____
Thumbnail candidate	_____ _____
Favorite / funniest moment	_____

Tomorrow Before Bed

ROAD / WEATHER

FUEL

RESERVATION

OFFLINE

RV SYSTEMS

Closures + forecast

Enough for next segment

Time + cancellation

Maps / tickets / QR

Water / dump / propane

Wherever We Roam Is Home - Daily Story / Shot List

CAPTURE	NOTES
Establishing shot	Wide scene showing where we are today _____
Greyhawk shot	RV + destination / campground _____
Chris & Bonna	Best couple / photo moment _____
Video hook	What happened today in one sentence _____
Thumbnail candidate	Strong frame for the episode / post _____
Favorite / funniest moment	Best unscripted memory from the day _____
Campground rating	Camp ___/5 Signal ___/5 Site/level ___/5 Return? Y / N

V15 native layout: rebuilt to prevent unnecessary wrapping and orphaned words.



Day Quick Read

RMNP ENTRY
General timed entry: 9am-2pm. Bear Lake corridor: 5am-6pm. \$2 processing fee.

ARRIVAL
A late-day arrival may naturally fall outside the general timed-entry window, but Bear Lake rules are separate.

ROADBOOK STATUS
Estes Park strong; RMNP coverage becomes variable. Front Range arrival; temperatures fall quickly after sunset.

RMNP East Side / Bear Lake Corridor

A flexible park day built around Bear Lake, Sprague Lake, Moraine Park and the waterfalls and granite scenery that define the east side of RMNP.

TODAYS DESTINATION STORY

DRIVING

Local / flexible

BEAR LAKE

9,475 ft

OVERNIGHT

Estes / RMNP area

SIGNAL

Spotty in corridor

DAY PLAN | QUICK READ

Today at a Glance

RMNP East Side / | Bear Lake Corridor

WHY THIS DAY WORKS

A flexible park day built around Bear Lake, Sprague Lake, Moraine Park and the waterfalls and granite scenery that define the east side of RMNP. The detailed roadbook immediately behind this editorial section carries the turn-by-turn plan, reservations, overnight choices and practical notes.

Trip by the Numbers

DRIVING

Local / flexible

BEAR LAKE

9,475 ft

OVERNIGHT

Estes / RMNP area

SIGNAL

Spotty in corridor



Alberta Falls: one of the Bear Lake corridor's classic short stops, where Glacier Creek drops through granite and forest.

How the Day Feels

Walking / exploring

Stops & views

CHRIS ROAD NOTE

"This is the day to trade odometer numbers for time outside."

Road Conditions & Trip Readiness

WEATHER

High-country weather can change rapidly. Verify morning-of.

T-MOBILE

Bear Lake corridor can be weak or spotty.

FUEL / RV

Local mileage; focus on timing, parking and shuttles.

OVERNIGHT

RMNP east-side base / electric plan.

WHY THIS PLACE MATTERS

Water, Granite & Glacial History

Bear Lake sits in a classic glacial basin beneath the high peaks of the Front Range. The short walk around the shoreline is easy, but the view opens a much larger story: ice carved these valleys, exposed the granite and left behind the chain of lakes and waterfalls that make this corner of the park so photogenic.



Ute Trail: the trail sign near the high country points toward alpine terrain and the long human history of these mountain routes.

The Bear Lake corridor is intentionally a slower day. I do not want to measure it by miles; the point is to stop often, take the weather as it comes and let the scenery dictate the pace.

By the Numbers

BEAR LAKE

9,475 ft

ALBERTA FALLS

Classic short hike

PACE

Stops over mileage

CHRIS ROAD NOTE

"This is the day to trade odometer numbers for time outside."

The Day in Pictures

One strong hero photograph, then supporting details matched to the actual itinerary.



Alberta Falls: one of the Bear Lake corridor's classic short stops, where Glacier Creek drops through granite and forest.



Ute Trail: the trail sign near the high country points toward alpine terrain and the long human history of these mountain routes.



Glacial lake country: water, exposed granite and steep-walled basins are signatures of RMNP's east side.

What to Notice

Bear Lake sits in a classic glacial basin beneath the high peaks of the Front Range. A flexible park day built around Bear Lake, Sprague Lake, Moraine Park and the waterfalls and granite scenery that define the east side of RMNP.

V15 PHOTO STANDARD

Large scenic roles use the strongest source files at print-oriented resolution. Small historical/reference images stay small instead of being stretched.

DAY 3 | DETAILED ROADBOOK | PAGE 1 OF 3

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Day 3, September 13, 2026 - Sunday

Day 3 visual preview - scenery and destinations along today's route.

Rocky Mountain National Park - East Side / Bear Lake Corridor

TODAY AT A GLANCE

Miles	Wheel time	Sleep	T-Mobile
Local	Flexible	Moraine Park electric	Poor/spotty in Bear Lake corridor
Don't miss	Biggest risk	Fuel strategy	Overnight hierarchy
Bear Lake / Sprague Lake / Moraine Park	Parking + altitude + weather	Fuel in Estes before park touring	Reserved Moraine; no improvised park overnight

TRIP PRIORITIES: Priority sights shape the day. Optional stops give way when weather, driving time, campground arrival or reservation timing calls for it.

WHAT YOU'LL SEE TODAY

A visual preview of the places that make today worth the drive.

BEAR LAKE - DO NOT MISS
One of the signature RMNP landscapes: an alpine lake framed by forest, Hallett Peak and the Continental Divide. Parking pressure makes the shuttle strategy especially useful with the Greyhawk.
Destination reference: National Park Service.

SPRAGUE LAKE - EASY SCENIC WIN
A gentle lakeside loop with benches, mountain reflections and broad Continental Divide views - a strong scenic stop without committing to a strenuous hike.
Destination reference: National Park Service.

DESTINATION PREVIEW: Major stops and scenery that shape today's route.

RV Day Plan | Destination: RMNP

Route	Distance	RV driving time	Night
Park roads; shuttle/walk where practical	Local	Flexible	Moraine Park electric - Night 2 of 2

	SCAN FOR NAVIGATION Opens the planned stop sequence in Google Maps. Before driving, review the route and reject shortcuts that leave the major-road plan or look unsuitable for a 32-34 ft RV.
T-MOBILE Bear Lake Road corridor: poor/spotty pockets are expected. Save tickets and maps offline. The plan does not depend on your T-Mobile gateway for continuous service.	
FUEL Fuel planning is based on Estes Park and other gateway-town stations. Fuel in Estes Park before park touring.	
WALMART / SUPPLIES No Walmart in RMNP. Carry food/water before entering.	
RMNP item	
Entrance pass	staffed entrance; save offline.
Timed Entry (rest of park)	ervation fee; Recreation.gov.
Timed Entry + Bear Lake Road	ee on Recreation.gov.
Moraine Park Campground	exact reserved site says



Day Quick Read

BEAR LAKE

Timed Entry + Bear Lake Road is required 5am-6pm unless entering outside that window.

RELEASE

Additional next-day inventory releases at 7pm MDT on Recreation.gov.

ROADBOOK STATUS

Bear Lake corridor can be weak or spotty. High-country weather can change rapidly. Verify morning-of.

DAY 3 | DETAILED ROADBOOK | PAGE 2 OF 3

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		electric and supports the Greyhawk length.
--	--	--

Featured sight	Address / location	Why it is worth seeing	How it fits today
Bear Lake	Bear Lake Trailhead, end of Bear Lake Road, Rocky Mountain National Park	One of RMNP's defining postcard views: an alpine lake backed by Hallett Peak and the Continental Divide.	TOP PRIORITY. Parking fills early; use the park shuttle/park-and-ride strategy instead of trying to force the Greyhawk into a full lot.
Sprague Lake	Sprague Lake Trailhead, Bear Lake Road, Rocky Mountain National Park	Easy 0.7-0.8 mile lake loop with broad Continental Divide views, benches and excellent photo opportunities.	High-value, low-effort stop. Excellent choice after Bear Lake or as a quieter alternative if Bear Lake logistics are difficult.
Moraine Park	Moraine Park / Moraine Park Discovery Center, Bear Lake Road corridor	Wide glacial meadow with classic mountain views and especially good elk viewing during fall.	Morning or evening light works especially well when wildlife is active; it is right by the campground and requires little backtracking.
Alberta Falls - OPTIONAL short hike	Glacier Gorge or Bear Lake Trailhead, Bear Lake Road	A popular cascading waterfall reached by a relatively short hike; NPS lists about 1.6 miles round trip from the Bear Lake area.	Add only if we feel good at altitude and have time. Shuttle access keeps the RV out of trailhead parking; the day does not depend on RV trailhead parking.

BEST-OF-THE-DAY TOURING - PRIORITY stops shape the day; OPTIONAL stops fit when time, weather, parking and energy cooperate.

OVERNIGHT STAY OPTIONS - KEEP PAID HOOKUPS SEPARATE FROM NO-HOOKUP BACKUPS

A. PAID OVERNIGHT - ELECTRIC / WATER / SEWER / HOOKUP OPTIONS

Option / Type	Details, address & overnight rule
PRIMARY - RESERVED ELECTRIC	Moraine Park Campground - STANDARD ELECTRIC, Night 2 of 2. Staying here a second night is intentional because it is the strongest launch point for Bear Lake Road / Moraine Park touring.
PAID BACKUP	Mary's Lake Campground or Estes Park / RMNP KOA Holiday if the Moraine reservation changes; verify 30A/50A and overall RV length.

B. NO-HOOKUP / BOONDOCKING / PARKING / TRAVEL-CENTER / FATIGUE BACKUPS

Option / Type	Details, address & overnight rule
NO-HOOKUP POLICY	Do not improvise inside RMNP. Trailheads, Bear Lake lots, visitor centers and roadside pullouts are not overnight camps.
PERMITTED PARKING BACKUP	If an unexpected campground problem occurs, use the Town of Estes Park's authorized overnight-parking process/Events Complex rather than a random lot.
WALMART / SUPPLIES	No Walmart before entering the Bear Lake
CRACKER BARREL	No Cracker Barrel Blvd is a Front Range route



Day Quick Read

BEAR LAKE

Timed Entry + Bear Lake Road is required 5am-6pm unless entering outside that window.

RELEASE

Additional next-day inventory releases at 7pm MDT on Recreation.gov.

ROADBOOK STATUS

Bear Lake corridor can be weak or spotty. High-country weather can change rapidly. Verify morning-of.



DAY 3 | DETAILED ROADBOOK | PAGE 3 OF 3

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TRAVEL CENTER / LARGE FUEL	No truck-stop-style overnight facility in the Bear Lake corridor. Fuel in Estes Park and keep the reserved electric site.
HOSPITAL - EMERGENCY ONLY	Estes Park Health, 555 Prospect Ave, Estes Park. Medical/emergency use only; no planned overnighting.

TOMORROW BEFORE BED

[] Road / weather	[] Fuel	[] Reservation	[] Offline	[] RV systems
Check closures + forecast	Enough for next major segment	Confirm time + cancellation	Maps / tickets / QR destinations	Water / dump / propane / generator

WHEREVER WE ROAM IS HOME - DAILY STORY / SHOT LIST

Capture	Notes
Establishing shot	Wide scene showing where we are today:
Greyhawk shot	RV + destination / campground:

Tomorrow Before Bed

ROAD / WEATHER	FUEL	RESERVATION	OFFLINE	RV SYSTEMS
Closures + forecast	Enough for next segment	Time + cancellation	Maps / tickets / QR	Water / dump / propane

Wherever We Roam Is Home - Daily Story / Shot List

CAPTURE	NOTES
Establishing shot	Wide scene showing where we are today
Greyhawk shot	RV + destination / campground
Chris & Bonna	Best couple / photo moment
Video hook	What happened today in one sentence
Thumbnail candidate	Strong frame for the episode / post
Favorite / funniest moment	Best unscripted memory from the day
Campground rating	Camp ___/5 Signal ___/5 Site/level ___/5 Return? Y / N

V15 native layout: rebuilt to prevent unnecessary wrapping and orphaned words.



Day Quick Read

BEAR LAKE

Timed Entry + Bear Lake Road is required 5am-6pm unless entering outside that window.

RELEASE

Additional next-day inventory releases at 7pm MDT on Recreation.gov.

ROADBOOK STATUS

Bear Lake corridor can be weak or spotty. High-country weather can change rapidly. Verify morning-of.

RMNP, Estes Park & Peak-to-Peak Transition

A gateway day that leaves room for town, viewpoints and one more look at the east side before the route begins to pivot toward the Continental Divide.

TODAYS DESTINATION STORY

BASE

Estes Park

ELEVATION

~7,500-9,500 ft

STYLE

Scenic + flexible

FOCUS

Town • peaks • park

DAY PLAN | QUICK READ

Today at a Glance

RMNP, Estes Park & | Peak-to-Peak Transition

WHY THIS DAY WORKS

A gateway day that leaves room for town, viewpoints and one more look at the east side before the route begins to pivot toward the Continental Divide. The detailed roadbook immediately behind this editorial section carries the turn-by-turn plan, reservations, overnight choices and practical notes.

Trip by the Numbers

BASE

Estes Park

ELEVATION

~7,500-9,500 ft

STYLE

Scenic + flexible

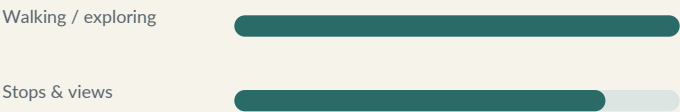
FOCUS

Town • peaks • park



Estes Park streets: the compact downtown adds a human-scale pause between big mountain drives.

How the Day Feels



CHRIS ROAD NOTE

"A gateway does not have to be an empty day. Sometimes the town is part of the experience."

Road Conditions & Trip Readiness

WEATHER

Lower-stress gateway day, but mountain showers remain possible.

T-MOBILE

Best in Estes; weaker away from town.

FUEL / RV

Low-mileage day - useful time to reset supplies.

OVERNIGHT

Marys Lake / electric option if available.

WHY THIS PLACE MATTERS

Estes Park: More Than a Gateway

Estes Park is often treated as the front door to Rocky Mountain National Park, but the town has its own history and rhythm. Mountain tourism, ranching and the desire to experience the high country all shaped the community.



Lake Estes: the lake keeps the Front Range in view even on a deliberately easier day.

The surrounding peaks are never just background; they are the reason the town exists in the form we know today. I want this day to leave room for the human scale of the trip - walking downtown, seeing the river and shops, and looking back toward the peaks that will dominate the next day from Trail Ridge Road.

By the Numbers

TOWN ELEVATION

~7,500 ft

ROLE

RMNP gateway

PACE

Flexible / low stress

CHRIS ROAD NOTE

"A gateway does not have to be an empty day. Sometimes the town is part of the experience."

The Day in Pictures

One strong hero photograph, then supporting details matched to the actual itinerary.



Estes Park streets: the compact downtown adds a human-scale pause between big mountain drives.



Lake Estes: the lake keeps the Front Range in view even on a deliberately easier day.



Twin Sisters / surrounding peaks: the skyline around Estes Park makes it clear that town and mountain landscape are inseparable.

What to Notice

Estes Park is often treated as the front door to Rocky Mountain National Park, but the town has its own history and rhythm. A gateway day that leaves room for town, viewpoints and one more look at the east side before the route begins to pivot toward the Continental Divide.

V15 PHOTO STANDARD

Large scenic roles use the strongest source files at print-oriented resolution. Small historical/reference images stay small instead of being stretched.

DAY 4 | DETAILED ROADBOOK | PAGE 1 OF 3

HD destination banner | direct roadbook content | live-status rail

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Day 4, September 14, 2026 - Monday

Day 4 visual preview - scenery and destinations along today's route.

Rocky Mountain National Park / Estes Park / Peak-to-Peak transition

TODAY AT A GLANCE

Miles	Wheel time	Sleep	T-Mobile
~25-70 local mi	Flexible	Mary's Lake	Variable park; better in Estes
Don't miss	Biggest risk	Fuel strategy	Overnight hierarchy
Stanley / Estes / Chapel on the Rock / Lily Lake	Schedule creep / mountain weather	Fuel in Estes	Mary's Lake / authorized Estes backup

TRIP PRIORITIES: Priority sights shape the day. Optional stops give way when weather, driving time, campground arrival or reservation timing calls for it.

WHAT YOU'LL SEE TODAY

A visual preview of the places that make today worth the drive.

THE STANLEY HOTEL

The 1909 hotel is one of Estes Park's defining landmarks and is famous for its connection to Stephen King and The Shining.
Photo card; verify tour/access details day-of.

CHAPEL ON THE ROCK

A compact stone chapel dramatically positioned beneath Mt. Meeker at Camp St. Malo - one of the most photogenic roadside stops on the Peak-to-Peak transition.
Photo card; verify current visitor hours.

DESTINATION PREVIEW: Major stops and scenery that shape today's route.

RV Day Plan | Destination: RMNP

Route	Distance	RV driving time	Night
RMNP east side / Estes / Peak-to-Peak transition	~25-70 local mi	Flexible	Mary's Lake Campground - new overnight

		SCAN FOR NAVIGATION Opens the planned stop sequence in Google Maps. Before driving, review the route and reject shortcuts that leave the major-road plan or look unsuitable for a 32-34 ft RV.
T-MOBILE East-side park roads and valleys: variable; Estes Park is the reliable fallback for connectivity. Park interior may range from usable briefly to no service.		
FUEL Fuel in Estes Park as needed.		
WALMART / SUPPLIES No Walmart in RMNP. Estes Park has local groceries; use Front Range if a Walmart run is essential.		
RMNP item	Current 2026 detail	Action
Entrance pass		staffed entrance; save offline.
Timed Entry (rest of park)		ervation fee; Recreation.gov.
Timed Entry + Bear Lake Road		e on Recreation.gov.
Moraine Park Campground		exact reserved site says



Day Quick Read

EASY DAY

Use Estes, Stanley, Lily Lake or Peak-to-Peak as energy and parking allow.

RV REALITY

No toad: every stop must work for the Greyhawk.

ROADBOOK STATUS

Best in Estes; weaker away from town. Lower-stress gateway day, but mountain showers remain possible.

DAY 4 | DETAILED ROADBOOK | PAGE 2 OF 3

HD destination banner | direct roadbook content | live-status rail

WHEREVER WE ROAM IS HOME | V15 PRACTICAL ROADBOOK

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		electric and supports the Greyhawk length.
--	--	--

Featured sight	Address / location	Why it is worth seeing	How it fits today
The Stanley Hotel	333 E Wonderview Ave, Estes Park, CO 80517	Historic 1909 hotel famous for its grand architecture and its connection to Stephen King's inspiration for The Shining.	Worth a photo/walk-through stop while the Estes Park stop. Tours may require separate tickets; the exterior/lobby-area experience is enough when desired to keep moving.
Downtown Estes Park / Riverwalk	Elkhorn Ave & Riverside Dr area, Estes Park, CO 80517	Walkable mountain-town core with the Big Thompson/Fall River setting, shops and views; a good contrast to the park scenery.	Use as a meal-and-walk break and a place to regain cell service before continuing south.
Chapel on the Rock - Camp St. Malo	10758 CO-7, Allenspark, CO 80510	Tiny historic stone chapel dramatically framed by Mt. Meeker; St. John Paul II visited the property in 1993.	Excellent scenic stop on a Peak-to-Peak/CO-7 transition day. Property is generally open Tue-Sun 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; verify before departure.
Lily Lake	CO-7 south of Estes Park, Rocky Mountain National Park	Small mountain lake with an easy shoreline setting and dramatic views toward Longs Peak.	Good photo/stretch stop as you work south on CO-7. Only stop if RV parking is clearly legal and available.

BEST-OF-THE-DAY TOURING - PRIORITY stops shape the day; OPTIONAL stops fit when time, weather, parking and energy cooperate.

OVERNIGHT STAY OPTIONS - KEEP PAID HOOKUPS SEPARATE FROM NO-HOOKUP BACKUPS

A. PAID OVERNIGHT - ELECTRIC / WATER / SEWER / HOOKUP OPTIONS

Option / Type	Details, address & overnight rule
PRIMARY - PAID ELECTRIC/FHU	Mary's Lake Campground, Estes Park - one night. Prefer full-hookup pull-through if available; otherwise water/electric with the required amperage.
PAID BACKUP	Estes Park / RMNP KOA Holiday, 2051 Big Thompson Ave, or Manor RV Park in Estes Park. Call ahead and verify the Greyhawk length.

B. NO-HOOKUP / BOONDOCKING / PARKING / TRAVEL-CENTER / FATIGUE BACKUPS

Option / Type	Details, address & overnight rule
AUTHORIZED NO-HOOKUP PARKING	Estes Park Events Complex overnight parking may be used only under current town permit/payment rules. Do not assume ordinary public lots allow sleeping in the RV.
WALMART	No Walmart in Estes Park. Loveland Walmart Supercenter, 1325 N Denver Ave, Loveland, CO 80537 - 970-669-4579 - is the practical large supply stop when descending to the Front Range.
CRACKER BARREL - ROUTE OPTION	Cracker Barrel, 5800 McWhinney Blvd, Loveland, CO - 970-593-9947. Ask before any overnight parking; local/
TRAVEL CENTER / LARGE FUEL	Use F small ian trying to overnight at a
PUBLIC-LAND BOONDOCKING	Do no camp . Any USFS dispersed-site conditions in daylight.



Day Quick Read

EASY DAY

Use Estes, Stanley, Lily Lake or Peak-to-Peak as energy and parking allow.

RV REALITY

No toad: every stop must work for the Greyhawk.

ROADBOOK STATUS

Best in Estes; weaker away from town. Lower-stress gateway day, but mountain showers remain possible.

DAY 4 | DETAILED ROADBOOK | PAGE 3 OF 3

HD destination banner | direct roadbook content | live-status rail

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HOSPITAL - EMERGENCY ONLY Estes Park Health, 555 Prospect Ave, Estes Park. Medical and emergency-service reference.

TOMORROW BEFORE BED

[] Road / weather	[] Fuel	[] Reservation	[] Offline	[] RV systems
Check closures + forecast	Enough for next major segment	Confirm time + cancellation	Maps / tickets / QR destinations	Water / dump / propane / generator

WHEREVER WE ROAM IS HOME - DAILY STORY / SHOT LIST

Capture	Notes
Establishing shot	Wide scene showing where we are today:
Greyhawk shot	RV + destination / campground:
Chris & Bonna	Best couple/photo moment:

Tomorrow Before Bed

ROAD / WEATHER	FUEL	RESERVATION	OFFLINE	RV SYSTEMS
Closures + forecast	Enough for next segment	Time + cancellation	Maps / tickets / QR	Water / dump / propane

Wherever We Roam Is Home - Daily Story / Shot List

CAPTURE	NOTES
Establishing shot	Wide scene showing where we are today
Greyhawk shot	RV + destination / campground
Chris & Bonna	Best couple / photo moment
Video hook	What happened today in one sentence
Thumbnail candidate	Strong frame for the episode / post
Favorite / funniest moment	Best unscripted memory from the day
Campground rating	Camp ___/5 Signal ___/5 Site/level ___/5 Return? Y / N

V15 native layout: rebuilt to prevent unnecessary wrapping and orphaned words.



Day Quick Read

EASY DAY
Use Estes, Stanley, Lily Lake or Peak-to-Peak as energy and parking allow.

RV REALITY
No toad: every stop must work for the Greyhawk.

ROADBOOK STATUS
Best in Estes; weaker away from town. Lower-stress gateway day, but mountain showers remain possible.

Trail Ridge Road to Alpine Visitor Center & Grand Lake

The signature high-country day: climbing above timberline, crossing the Continental Divide and descending toward the quieter west side of the park.

TODAYS DESTINATION STORY

HIGH POINT
12,183 ft

ALPINE VC
~11,796 ft

ROUTE
Trail Ridge Road

END
Grand Lake

DAY PLAN | QUICK READ

Today at a Glance

Trail Ridge Road to | Alpine Visitor Center & Grand Lake

WHY THIS DAY WORKS

The signature high-country day: climbing above timberline, crossing the Continental Divide and descending toward the quieter west side of the park. The detailed roadbook immediately behind this editorial section carries the turn-by-turn plan, reservations, overnight choices and practical notes.

Trip by the Numbers

HIGH POINT
12,183 ft

ALPINE VC
~11,796 ft

ROUTE
Trail Ridge Road

END
Grand Lake



Trail Ridge Road above timberline: the paved road climbs into open tundra with huge views and very little shelter from weather.

How the Day Feels

Walking / exploring

Stops & views

CHRIS ROAD NOTE

"The road becomes the destination when every turnout changes the scale of the view."

Road Conditions & Trip Readiness

WEATHER
Alpine exposure: wind, cold and sudden changes possible.

T-MOBILE
Expect long gaps above timberline.

FUEL / RV
Begin with enough range; do not plan on alpine fuel.

OVERNIGHT
Grand Lake / west side.

WHY THIS PLACE MATTERS

Engineering Above Timberline

Trail Ridge Road is one of the defining experiences of Rocky Mountain National Park. Completed in the 1930s, the road climbs into alpine tundra and reaches 12,183 feet at its high point. For long stretches there are no trees at all - only wind, rock, tundra and huge views.



High-country panorama: the broad view across the Rockies is the reason this day is about the road itself, not simply the destination.

This is one of the days I have been waiting for. I do not want to “get through” Trail Ridge Road. I want the road itself to be the destination: overlooks, short stops, the Alpine Visitor Center and the unmistakable feeling of crossing from one side of the Rockies to the other.

By the Numbers

HIGH POINT
12,183 ft

LANDSCAPE
Alpine tundra

DIVIDE
Crossed en route

CHRIS ROAD NOTE

"The road becomes the destination when every turnout changes the scale of the view."

The Day in Pictures

One strong hero photograph, then supporting details matched to the actual itinerary.



Trail Ridge Road above timberline: the paved road climbs into open tundra with huge views and very little shelter from weather.



High-country panorama: the broad view across the Rockies is the reason this day is about the road itself, not simply the destination.



Route orientation: the map traces the east-to-west climb past the Alpine Visitor Center and across the Continental Divide toward Grand Lake.

What to Notice

Trail Ridge Road is one of the defining experiences of Rocky Mountain National Park. The signature high-country day: climbing above timberline, crossing the Continental Divide and descending toward the quieter west side of the park.

V15 PHOTO STANDARD

Large scenic roles use the strongest source files at print-oriented resolution. Small historical/reference images stay small instead of being stretched.

DAY 5 | DETAILED ROADBOOK | PAGE 1 OF 3

HD destination banner | direct roadbook content | live-status rail

WHEREVER WE ROAM IS HOME | V15 PRACTICAL ROADBOOK

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Day 5, September 15, 2026 - Tuesday

Day 5 visual preview - scenery and destinations along today's route.

Trail Ridge Road -> Alpine Visitor Center -> Grand Lake

TODAY AT A GLANCE

Miles	Wheel time	Sleep	T-Mobile
~50-80 mi + stops	Most of day	Winding River Resort	Poor/no-service pockets
Don't miss	Biggest risk	Fuel strategy	Overnight hierarchy
Many Parks / Forest Canyon / Alpine VC / Milner Pass	Trail Ridge weather, wind and exposure	Start with healthy fuel reserve	Winding River / verified developed dry campground

TRIP PRIORITIES: Priority sights shape the day. Optional stops give way when weather, driving time, campground arrival or reservation timing calls for it.

WHAT YOU'LL SEE TODAY

A visual preview of the places that make today worth the drive.

TRAIL RIDGE ROAD - THE ROAD IS THE ATTRACTION
US-34 crosses RMNP's alpine tundra with sweeping overlooks and a high point above 12,000 feet. Weather can change rapidly, so the scenic plan always yields to road status and safe conditions.
Photo card; current road facts: National Park Service.

ALPINE VISITOR CENTER - MAJOR PRIORITY
At 11,796 feet, this high-country visitor center gives a remarkable tundra panorama and is the natural pause point before descending toward Milner Pass and Grand Lake.
Destination reference: National Park Service.

DESTINATION PREVIEW: Major stops and scenery that shape today's route.

RV Day Plan | Destination: RMNP / Grand Lake

Route	Distance	RV driving time	Night
US-34 Trail Ridge Road to Grand Lake ONLY if open/dry and driver is comfortable	~50-80 mi + sightseeing	Most of day	Winding River Resort - Grand Lake area

	SCAN FOR NAVIGATION Opens the planned stop sequence in Google Maps. Before driving, review the route and reject shortcuts that leave the major-road plan or look unsuitable for a 32-34 ft RV.
T-MOBILE Trail Ridge Road: treat as poor/none for planning. Alpine terrain creates large dead zones. Grand Lake town is a better chance for usable service.	
FUEL Start full enough for a full scenic day. Fuel availability is much better in Estes Park/Grand Lake than along the high road itself.	
WALMART / SUPPLIES No Walr	
RMNP item	
Entrance pass	
Timed Entry (rest of park)	
Timed Entry + Bear Lake Road	



Day Quick Read

TRAIL RIDGE

NPS status snapshot: open to through travel.

MORNING CALL

Recorded Trail Ridge Road status: 970-586-1222. Check again before climbing.

ROADBOOK STATUS

Expect long gaps above timberline. Alpine exposure: wind, cold and sudden changes possible.

DAY 5 | DETAILED ROADBOOK | PAGE 2 OF 3

HD destination banner | direct roadbook content | live-status rail

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	qualifying camping reservation covers it	
Moraine Park Campground	49 electric sites; many other sites are non-electric	Confirm the exact reserved site says electric and supports the Greyhawk length.
TRAIL RIDGE ROAD Optional only if open, dry, and you are comfortable. NPS road status: 970-586-1222. Treat cellular service as unreliable. Use Tow/Haul/downshifting, avoid brake riding, and stop only at pullouts that visibly accommodate the Greyhawk.		

Featured sight	Address / location	Why it is worth seeing	How it fits today
Many Parks Curve	Trail Ridge Road, Rocky Mountain National Park	Sweeping east-side overlook across multiple valleys and mountain ridges - one of the classic Trail Ridge pullouts.	Stop only if the RV pullout has obvious room. Never force a stop if the lot is crowded.
Forest Canyon Overlook	Trail Ridge Road, Rocky Mountain National Park	Short walkway to a dramatic view into deep glacial Forest Canyon and the high peaks beyond.	A top scenic overlook. Wind can be severe; hold doors/hats and judge conditions before leaving the RV.
Alpine Visitor Center	Trail Ridge Road at Fall River Pass, Rocky Mountain National Park	At 11,796 feet, NPS describes it as the highest-elevation visitor center in the National Park System. The tundra setting is extraordinary.	MAJOR PRIORITY if open. Weather closures can happen at any time. Call 970-586-1222 before committing to the high road.
Milner Pass / Continental Divide	Trail Ridge Road, Rocky Mountain National Park	Roadside Continental Divide stop where waters split toward the Atlantic and Pacific drainage systems.	Quick iconic photo stop if parking accommodates the Greyhawk.
Kawuneeche Valley	US-34 north of Grand Lake, Rocky Mountain National Park	Broad west-side valley along the headwaters of the Colorado River; excellent elk/moose habitat and a quieter side of RMNP.	Slow down and wildlife-watch on the descent toward Grand Lake. Do not stop in the roadway.

BEST-OF-THE-DAY TOURING - PRIORITY stops shape the day; OPTIONAL stops fit when time, weather, parking and energy cooperate.

OVERNIGHT STAY OPTIONS - KEEP PAID HOOKUPS SEPARATE FROM NO-HOOKUP BACKUPS

A. PAID OVERNIGHT - ELECTRIC / WATER / SEWER / HOOKUP OPTIONS

Option / Type	Details, address & overnight rule
PRIMARY - PAID ELECTRIC/FHU	Winding River Resort near Grand Lake - one night; water/electric or full-hookup site. Verify site length and amperage at booking.
PAID DRY-CAMP BACKUP	Arapaho National Recreation Area developed campgrounds near Lake Granby (for example Stillwater/Green Ridge when open) can provide legal no-hookup camping; verify opening dates and a site long enough for the Greyhawk before entering.

B. NO-HOOKUP / BOONDOCKING / PARKING / TRAVEL-CENTER / FATIGUE BACKUPS

Option / Type	Details, address & overnight rule
DEVELOPED DRY CAMPING	Arapahoe National Recreation Area legal no-hookup sites and a site length of at least 100 feet
WALMART / SUPPLIES	Grand Junction, CO - make stops before or after the town



Day Quick Read

TRAIL RIDGE

NPS status snapshot: open to through travel.

MORNING CALL

Recorded Trail Ridge Road status: 970-586-1222. Check again before climbing.

ROADBOOK STATUS

Expect long gaps above timberline. Alpine exposure: wind, cold and sudden changes possible.

DAY 5 | DETAILED ROADBOOK | PAGE 3 OF 3

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LARGE GAS STATION	Lakeview Conoco, 14626 US-34, Grand Lake, CO 80447 - 24-hour fuel/diesel and convenience stop. Treat it as a fuel stop, not an assumed overnight campground.
TRAVEL CENTER / TRUCK STOP	No true truck-stop-style overnight facility in Grand Lake. Do not block small mountain fuel stations or roadside pullouts.
CRACKER BARREL	No Cracker Barrel in Grand Lake. Save that category for the I-25/Front Range portion.
HOSPITAL - EMERGENCY ONLY	Nearest full-service hospital options are down-valley toward Granby/Fraser; hospital lots are for medical needs only, never planned boondocking.

TOMORROW BEFORE BED

[] Road / weather	[] Fuel	[] Reservation	[] Offline	[] RV systems
Check closures + forecast	Enough for next major segment	Confirm time + cancellation	Maps / tickets / QR destinations	Water / dump / propane / generator

WHEREVER WE ROAM IS HOME - DAILY STORY / SHOT LIST

Tomorrow Before Bed

ROAD / WEATHER	FUEL	RESERVATION	OFFLINE	RV SYSTEMS
Closures + forecast	Enough for next segment	Time + cancellation	Maps / tickets / QR	Water / dump / propane

Wherever We Roam Is Home - Daily Story / Shot List

CAPTURE	NOTES
Establishing shot	Wide scene showing where we are today
Greyhawk shot	RV + destination / campground
Chris & Bonna	Best couple / photo moment
Video hook	What happened today in one sentence
Thumbnail candidate	Strong frame for the episode / post
Favorite / funniest moment	Best unscripted memory from the day
Campground rating	Camp ___/5 Signal ___/5 Site/level ___/5 Return? Y / N

V15 native layout: rebuilt to prevent unnecessary wrapping and orphaned words.



Day Quick Read

TRAIL RIDGE

NPS status snapshot: open to through travel.

MORNING CALL

Recorded Trail Ridge Road status: 970-586-1222. Check again before climbing.

ROADBOOK STATUS

Expect long gaps above timberline. Alpine exposure: wind, cold and sudden changes possible.

Grand Lake / West RMNP to St. Vrain & Front Range

A quieter west-side day: water, wildlife country and the Colorado River headwaters before the route begins bending back toward the Front Range.

TODAYS DESTINATION STORY

MILES

~100-140 mi

GRAND LAKE

8,369 ft

STYLE

Water + wildlife

OVERNIGHT

Front Range

DAY PLAN | QUICK READ

Today at a Glance

Grand Lake / West RMNP | to St. Vrain & Front Range

WHY THIS DAY WORKS

A quieter west-side day: water, wildlife country and the Colorado River headwaters before the route begins bending back toward the Front Range. The detailed roadbook immediately behind this editorial section carries the turn-by-turn plan, reservations, overnight choices and practical notes.

Trip by the Numbers

MILES
~100-140 mi

GRAND LAKE
8,369 ft

STYLE
Water + wildlife

OVERNIGHT
Front Range



Grand Lake: broad blue water and mountain walls give the west side of the park a visibly calmer character.

How the Day Feels

Walking / exploring

Stops & views

CHRIS ROAD NOTE

"After the exposed high country, I want one day where the views keep going even when the odometer does not."

Road Conditions & Trip Readiness

WEATHER
Cool mornings at 8,000+ ft; calmer valley day.

T-MOBILE
Grand Lake usable; valley/park gaps possible.

FUEL / RV
Refuel before bending back toward the Front Range.

OVERNIGHT
Front Range / St. Vrain direction.

WHY THIS PLACE MATTERS

Where the Pace Changes

Grand Lake is Colorado’s largest and deepest natural lake and sits near the headwaters of the Colorado River. Its setting feels different from the east side of RMNP: more water, broader valleys, quieter shorelines and a stronger sense of the park’s western edge.



Town and lake connection: the bridge, marina and shoreline show how closely Grand Lake's small community is tied to the water.

After the exposure of Trail Ridge Road, this day should feel deliberately calmer. Grand Lake, the Kawuneeche Valley and nearby short stops make a good reset before the trip points back toward busier Front Range roads.

By the Numbers

GRAND LAKE

8,369 ft

SETTING

Headwaters country

PACE

Scenic + relaxed

CHRIS ROAD NOTE

"After the exposed high country, I want one day where the views keep going even when the odometer does not."

The Day in Pictures

One strong hero photograph, then supporting details matched to the actual itinerary.



Grand Lake: broad blue water and mountain walls give the west side of the park a visibly calmer character.



Town and lake connection: the bridge, marina and shoreline show how closely Grand Lake's small community is tied to the water.



Paddling on Grand Lake: kayakers put the lake's recreation culture directly into the visual story of this slower, water-focused day.

What to Notice

Grand Lake is Colorado's largest and deepest natural lake and sits near the headwaters of the Colorado River. A quieter west-side day: water, wildlife country and the Colorado River headwaters before the route begins bending back toward the Front Range.

V15 PHOTO STANDARD

Large scenic roles use the strongest source files at print-oriented resolution. Small historical/reference images stay small instead of being stretched.



DAY 6 | DETAILED ROADBOOK | PAGE 1 OF 3

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Day 6, September 16, 2026 - Wednesday

Day 6 visual preview - scenery and destinations along today's route.

Grand Lake / West RMNP -> St. Vrain / Front Range

TODAY AT A GLANCE

Miles	Wheel time	Sleep	T-Mobile
~90-160 mi	~3-5 hr + stops	St. Vrain State Park	Improves toward Front Range
Don't miss	Biggest risk	Fuel strategy	Overnight hierarchy
Adams Falls / Grand Lake / Kawuneeche	Route choice if Trail Ridge changes	Fuel Grand Lake/Granby/Front Range	St. Vrain electric/FHU

TRIP PRIORITIES: Priority sights shape the day. Optional stops give way when weather, driving time, campground arrival or reservation timing calls for it.

WHAT YOU'LL SEE TODAY

A visual preview of the places that make today worth the drive.

GRAND LAKE

A glacially formed mountain lake beside the western entrance of RMNP. Grand Lake is Colorado's largest natural lake and gives the trip a quieter lakeside change of pace.

Photo card; destination facts: Visit Grand County.

ADAMS FALLS

A short walk from the East Inlet Trailhead reaches a roughly 55-foot cascade through a narrow rock gorge - a high-reward stop without requiring an all-day hike.

Photo card; destination facts: Visit Grand County.

DESTINATION PREVIEW: Major stops and scenery that shape today's route.

RV Day Plan | Destination: Estes / RMNP

Route	Distance	RV driving time	Night
Grand Lake/west RMNP -> Front Range; use US-34 across RMNP only if safe, otherwise US-40/I-70 bypass	~90-160 mi depending route	~3-5 hr plus stops	St. Vrain State Park - electric/FHU

SCAN FOR NAVIGATION Opens the planned stop sequence in Google Maps. Before driving, review the route and reject shortcuts that leave the major-road plan or look unsuitable for a 32-34 ft RV.	
T-MOBILE Estes Park: generally usable-to-strong; inside park: variable. Use this day for uploads/calls from town if connectivity matters.	
FUEL Use Estes Park for fuel and supplies.	
WALMART / SUPPLIES No Walmart in RMNP. Use Estes Park/local services or wait until Front Range.	
RMNP item	
Entrance pass	staffed entrance; save offline.
Timed Entry (rest of park)	ervation fee; Recreation.gov.
Timed Entry + Bear Lake Road	ge on Recreation.gov.
Moraine Park Campground	exact reserved site says



Day Quick Read

PACE CHANGE

Grand Lake and the west side are intentionally calmer after the alpine day.

SIGNAL

Town service is better than the valley; keep offline navigation available.

ROADBOOK STATUS

Grand Lake usable; valley/park gaps possible. Cool mornings at 8,000+ ft; calmer valley day.



DAY 6 | DETAILED ROADBOOK | PAGE 2 OF 3

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		electric and supports the Greyhawk length.
--	--	--

Featured sight	Address / location	Why it is worth seeing	How it fits today
Adams Falls	East Inlet Trailhead, West Portal Rd, Grand Lake, CO	Very popular short walk to a roughly 55-foot cascading waterfall; the falls are only about 0.3 mile from the trailhead.	BEST short west-side hike before leaving Grand Lake. Check trailhead parking before committing the RV; walk only if footing/weather are comfortable.
Grand Lake historic boardwalk / lakefront	Grand Ave lakefront district, Grand Lake, CO 80447	Classic western mountain town on Colorado's largest natural lake, with a wooden boardwalk and lake/mountain views.	Breakfast/coffee/photo stop before departure; then continue toward the Front Range.
Kawuneeche Visitor Center	16018 US Highway 34, Grand Lake, CO 80447	West-side RMNP visitor center with current conditions, exhibits and a useful final park-information stop.	Easy official checkpoint before leaving the west side; ask about wildlife activity and same-day road conditions.
Lake Granby scenic shoreline - OPTIONAL	US-34 / Arapaho National Recreation Area south of Grand Lake	Huge high-country reservoir ringed by mountain scenery; gives you another distinctly Colorado water-and-mountain landscape.	Treat as a scenic drive/photo pullout rather than a long attraction stop. Use only signed, RV-capable pullouts.

BEST-OF-THE-DAY TOURING - PRIORITY stops shape the day; OPTIONAL stops fit when time, weather, parking and energy cooperate.

OVERNIGHT STAY OPTIONS - KEEP PAID HOOKUPS SEPARATE FROM NO-HOOKUP BACKUPS

A. PAID OVERNIGHT - ELECTRIC / WATER / SEWER / HOOKUP OPTIONS

Option / Type	Details, address & overnight rule
PRIMARY - PAID ELECTRIC/FHU	St. Vrain State Park, 3785 Weld County Road 24.5, Longmont, CO 80504 - electric-only or deluxe full-hookup site; reservation required.
PAID BACKUP	Use a Front Range private RV park only if St. Vrain is unavailable; require 30A minimum and a clearly documented site length.

B. NO-HOOKUP / BOONDOCKING / PARKING / TRAVEL-CENTER / FATIGUE BACKUPS

Option / Type	Details, address & overnight rule
WALMART / SUPPLIES / OVERNIGHT BACKUP	Walmart Supercenter, 2514 Main St, Longmont, CO 80504 - 303-774-7513. Useful for supplies; ask store/property management before any overnight parking.
CRACKER BARREL - I-25 OPTION	Cracker Barrel, 5800 McWhinney Blvd, Loveland, CO 80538 - 970-593-9947. Highway-adjacent restaurant and road-stop backup near I-25/US-34.
TRAVEL CENTER / TRUCK STOP	Use a staffed I-25 Love's/Pilot/Flying J style travel center if a fatigue stop becomes necessary; choose a location with obvious large-RV circulation and ask where an RV may remain.
REST AREA	There is a rest area where the trailhead is available. Use
PUBLIC PARKING	Do not park in the state park



Day Quick Read

PACE CHANGE

Grand Lake and the west side are intentionally calmer after the alpine day.

SIGNAL

Town service is better than the valley; keep offline navigation available.

ROADBOOK STATUS

Grand Lake usable; valley/park gaps possible. Cool mornings at 8,000+ ft; calmer valley day.



DAY 6 | DETAILED ROADBOOK | PAGE 3 OF 3

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HOSPITAL - EMERGENCY ONLY UCHealth Longs Peak Hospital, 1750 E Ken Pratt Blvd, Longmont, CO 80504. Emergency/medical parking only; not a planned RV overnight.

TOMORROW BEFORE BED

[] Road / weather	[] Fuel	[] Reservation	[] Offline	[] RV systems
Check closures + forecast	Enough for next major segment	Confirm time + cancellation	Maps / tickets / QR destinations	Water / dump / propane / generator

WHEREVER WE ROAM IS HOME - DAILY STORY / SHOT LIST

Capture	Notes
Establishing shot	Wide scene showing where we are today:
Greyhawk shot	RV + destination / campground:
Chris & Bonna	Best couple/photo moment:

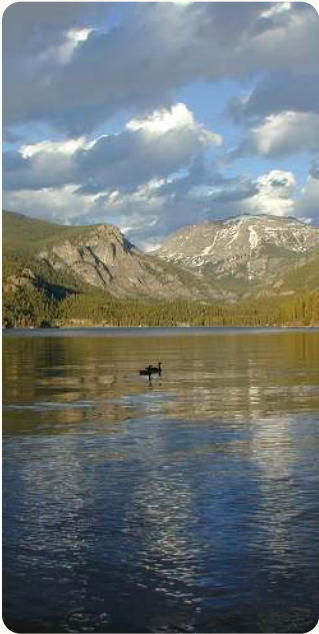
Tomorrow Before Bed

ROAD / WEATHER	FUEL	RESERVATION	OFFLINE	RV SYSTEMS
Closures + forecast	Enough for next segment	Time + cancellation	Maps / tickets / QR	Water / dump / propane

Wherever We Roam Is Home - Daily Story / Shot List

CAPTURE	NOTES
Establishing shot	Wide scene showing where we are today
Greyhawk shot	RV + destination / campground
Chris & Bonna	Best couple / photo moment
Video hook	What happened today in one sentence
Thumbnail candidate	Strong frame for the episode / post
Favorite / funniest moment	Best unscripted memory from the day
Campground rating	Camp ___/5 Signal ___/5 Site/level ___/5 Return? Y / N

V15 native layout: rebuilt to prevent unnecessary wrapping and orphaned words.



Day Quick Read

PACE CHANGE

Grand Lake and the west side are intentionally calmer after the alpine day.

SIGNAL

Town service is better than the valley; keep offline navigation available.

ROADBOOK STATUS

Grand Lake usable; valley/park gaps possible. Cool mornings at 8,000+ ft; calmer valley day.

Front Range to Casa Bonita & Southbound

A deliberately different Colorado day: from mountain geology and the Denver metro to one of the state's strangest, most iconic entertainment landmarks.

TODAYS DESTINATION STORY

FOCUS

Front Range + Denver

STOP

Casa Bonita

DIRECTION

Southbound

END

Colorado Springs area

DAY PLAN | QUICK READ

Today at a Glance

Front Range to Casa Bonita | & Southbound

WHY THIS DAY WORKS

A deliberately different Colorado day: from mountain geology and the Denver metro to one of the state’s strangest, most iconic entertainment landmarks. The detailed roadbook immediately behind this editorial section carries the turn-by-turn plan, reservations, overnight choices and practical notes.

Trip by the Numbers

FOCUS

Front Range + Denver

STOP

Casa Bonita

DIRECTION

Southbound

END

Colorado Springs area



Casa Bonita exterior: the unmistakable pink facade and fountain announce that this stop is intentionally different from the mountain days.

How the Day Feels

Walking / exploring

Stops & views

CHRIS ROAD NOTE

"Not every memorable Colorado stop has to be wilderness. Some places are pure story."

Road Conditions & Trip Readiness

WEATHER

Metro-to-foothills day; check I-25 corridor conditions.

T-MOBILE

Strong through Denver/Lakewood and Colorado Springs.

FUEL / RV

Metro day - easiest point to top off.

OVERNIGHT

Colorado Springs area.

WHY THIS PLACE MATTERS

Casa Bonita: Colorado Pop Culture in Pink

Casa Bonita opened in Lakewood in 1974 and became famous for far more than dinner: cliff divers, theatrical rooms, caves, music and a giant pink facade turned the restaurant into a Colorado institution. After a major renovation and reopening in the 2020s, the spectacle is still the point.



Inside Casa Bonita: the dining room is built as an immersive theatrical environment rather than a conventional restaurant.

I like this stop because it deliberately breaks the rhythm of mountains and overlooks. A good road trip should have a few places that are memorable for completely different reasons - and Casa Bonita certainly qualifies.

By the Numbers

OPENED 1974	LOCATION Lakewood, Colorado	WHY GO Food + spectacle
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CHRIS ROAD NOTE

"Not every memorable Colorado stop has to be wilderness. Some places are pure story."

The Day in Pictures

One strong hero photograph, then supporting details matched to the actual itinerary.



Casa Bonita exterior: the unmistakable pink facade and fountain announce that this stop is intentionally different from the mountain days.



Inside Casa Bonita: the dining room is built as an immersive theatrical environment rather than a conventional restaurant.



Live music: performers are part of the entertainment-first atmosphere that helped make Casa Bonita a Colorado pop-culture landmark.

What to Notice

Casa Bonita opened in Lakewood in 1974 and became famous for far more than dinner: cliff divers, theatrical rooms, caves, music and a giant pink facade turned the restaurant into a Colorado institution. A deliberately different Colorado day: from mountain geology and the Denver metro to one of the state's strangest, most iconic entertainment landmarks.

V15 PHOTO STANDARD

Large scenic roles use the strongest source files at print-oriented resolution. Small historical/reference images stay small instead of being stretched.



DAY 7 | DETAILED ROADBOOK | PAGE 1 OF 3

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Day 7, September 17, 2026 - Thursday

Day 7 visual preview - scenery and destinations along today's route.

Front Range -> Casa Bonita -> Colorado Springs

TODAY AT A GLANCE

Miles	Wheel time	Sleep	T-Mobile
~125-155 mi + local	~3-4 hr + Casa Bonita	Cheyenne Mountain SP	Strong metro
Don't miss	Biggest risk	Fuel strategy	Overnight hierarchy
Red Rocks / Casa Bonita	Denver traffic + reservation timing	Large easy-access Front Range fuel	Cheyenne Mountain / Colorado Springs KOA

TRIP PRIORITIES: Priority sights shape the day. Optional stops give way when weather, driving time, campground arrival or reservation timing calls for it.

WHAT YOU'LL SEE TODAY

A visual preview of the places that make today worth the drive.

RED ROCKS - OPTIONAL PRIORITY

The famous amphitheatre is built into immense red sandstone formations. Even without a concert, the architecture, geology and Front Range views make it a memorable Colorado stop.
Event-day vehicle access can affect RV arrival; current access is listed on the official site.

CASA BONITA - RESERVATION ANCHOR

The unmistakable pink Lakewood landmark is part restaurant and part theatrical attraction, famous for its elaborate interior entertainment and cliff-diving spectacle.

Photo card; follow the reservation time in the roadbook.

DESTINATION PREVIEW: Major stops and scenery that shape today's route.

RV Day Plan | Destination: Lakewood / Colorado Springs

Route	Distance	RV driving time	Night
I-25 / US-36 / metro route to Lakewood, then I-25 south	~125-155 mi + local	~3-4 hr plus Casa Bonita	Cheyenne Mountain State Park - ONE night

SCAN FOR NAVIGATION Opens the planned stop sequence in Google Maps. Before driving, review the route and reject shortcuts that leave the major-road plan or look unsuitable for a 32-34 ft RV.	
T-MOBILE Front Range, Denver/Lakewood and Colorado Springs: strong overall. Casa Bonita metro location should be strong. Cheyenne Mountain area is typically strong by state-park guidance.	
FUEL Easy fuel access along Front Range/I-25 corridor: choose large stations before Colorado Springs campground.	
WALMART / SUPPLIES Multiple St Walmart is convenient on Sep	
Stop	At
Casa Bonita	67 80



Day Quick Read

CASA BONITA

Reservations are available online.

ADDRESS

6715 W Colfax Ave, Lakewood, CO 80214.

ROADBOOK STATUS

Strong through Denver/Lakewood and Colorado Springs. Metro-to-foothills day; check I-25 corridor conditions.



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		Premium \$44.99 pp. Cancel >24 hr: no fee; <24 hr/no-show: \$10 pp.	
Cheyenne Mountain State Park	410 JI Ranch Heights Rd, Colorado Springs, CO 80926	\$21-\$41/night + out-of-state vehicle pass. Reserve: cpwshop.com / 800-244-5613. Cancel within 24 hr of booking = full refund (except same-day arrival); otherwise CPW sliding one-night retention applies.	Preferred public-park electric/full-hookup base. Confirm site length before booking.
Colorado Springs KOA Holiday backup	8100 Bandley Dr, Fountain, CO 80817	Live KOA rate	30/50A full-hookup pull-through options; very RV friendly.

Featured sight	Address / location	Why it is worth seeing	How it fits today
Red Rocks Park & Amphitheatre	18300 W Alameda Pkwy, Morrison, CO 80465	One of America's most famous outdoor music venues, built between towering red sandstone formations. Even without a concert, the setting is spectacular.	HIGH-PRIORITY photo/walk stop before Casa Bonita if time permits. Check event-day access and parking before taking the Greyhawk in.
Casa Bonita	6715 W Colfax Ave, Lakewood, CO 80214	Colorado cult landmark: elaborate Mexican-themed dining, cliff divers, caves and theatrical interiors.	RESERVATION STOP. The reservation time anchors the day, with a metro-traffic buffer.
Cheyenne Mountain State Park	410 JI Ranch Heights Rd, Colorado Springs, CO 80926	Foothill state park with broad views over Colorado Springs and the plains; your overnight also doubles as a scenic destination.	Arrive before dark if possible so the campground itself becomes part of the experience rather than just a place to plug in.

BEST-OF-THE-DAY TOURING - PRIORITY stops shape the day; OPTIONAL stops fit when time, weather, parking and energy cooperate.

OVERNIGHT STAY OPTIONS - KEEP PAID HOOKUPS SEPARATE FROM NO-HOOKUP BACKUPS

A. PAID OVERNIGHT - ELECTRIC / WATER / SEWER / HOOKUP OPTIONS

Option / Type	Details, address & overnight rule
PRIMARY - PAID ELECTRIC/FHU	Cheyenne Mountain State Park, 410 JI Ranch Heights Rd, Colorado Springs, CO 80926 - one night; full-hookup/electric site, reservation required.
PAID BACKUP	Colorado Springs KOA Holiday - 719-382-7575. Ask for 30/50A and a motorhome-friendly pull-through.

B. NO-HOOKUP / BOONDOCKING / PARKING / TRAVEL-CENTER / FATIGUE BACKUPS

Option / Type	Details, address & overnight rule	
WALMART / SUPPLIES / OVERNIGHT BACKUP	Walmart Supercenter #1434, 707 S 8th St, Colorado Springs, CO 80905 - 719-633-0736. Excellent supply stop for the Seven Falls/Garden area; ask before any overnight parking.	
CRACKER BARREL / ROAD-STOP BACKUP	Crack orien	721. Large road-trip-
TRAVEL CENTER / TRUCK STOP	Love back	fed large-vehicle fatigue fuel, food and restrooms.



Day Quick Read

CASA BONITA

Reservations are available online.

ADDRESS

6715 W Colfax Ave, Lakewood, CO 80214.

ROADBOOK STATUS

Strong through Denver/Lakewood and Colorado Springs. Metro-to-foothills day; check I-25 corridor conditions.



DAY 7 | DETAILED ROADBOOK | PAGE 3 OF 3

HD destination banner | direct roadbook content | live-status rail

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REST AREA / SHORT REST	Use signed I-25 rest areas only for legal rest under posted limits. They are not a substitute for the reserved Cheyenne Mountain campsite.
OTHER BOONDOCKING	Do not use Garden of the Gods, Seven Falls parking, city parks or scenic pullouts as overnight camping. These are day-use/tourist areas.
HOSPITAL - EMERGENCY ONLY	UCHealth Memorial Hospital Central, 1400 E Boulder St, Colorado Springs, CO 80909. Medical and emergency-service reference.

TOMORROW BEFORE BED

[] Road / weather	[] Fuel	[] Reservation	[] Offline	[] RV systems
Check closures + forecast	Enough for next major segment	Confirm time + cancellation	Maps / tickets / QR destinations	Water / dump / propane / generator

WHEREVER WE ROAM IS HOME - DAILY STORY / SHOT LIST

Capture	Notes
---------	-------

Tomorrow Before Bed

ROAD / WEATHER	FUEL	RESERVATION	OFFLINE	RV SYSTEMS
Closures + forecast	Enough for next segment	Time + cancellation	Maps / tickets / QR	Water / dump / propane

Wherever We Roam Is Home - Daily Story / Shot List

CAPTURE	NOTES
Establishing shot	Wide scene showing where we are today
Greyhawk shot	RV + destination / campground
Chris & Bonna	Best couple / photo moment
Video hook	What happened today in one sentence
Thumbnail candidate	Strong frame for the episode / post
Favorite / funniest moment	Best unscripted memory from the day
Campground rating	Camp ___/5 Signal ___/5 Site/level ___/5 Return? Y / N

V15 native layout: rebuilt to prevent unnecessary wrapping and orphaned words.



Day Quick Read

CASA BONITA

Reservations are available online.

ADDRESS

6715 W Colfax Ave, Lakewood, CO 80214.

ROADBOOK STATUS

Strong through Denver/Lakewood and Colorado Springs. Metro-to-foothills day; check I-25 corridor conditions.

Seven Falls to Garden of the Gods

Water and stone in the same day: a canyon waterfall sequence in the morning and Colorado Springs' red-rock landmark later on.

TODAYS DESTINATION STORY

SEVEN FALLS

7 cascades

STAIRS

224 steps

GARDEN

Free public park

STYLE

Walk + scenic drive

DAY PLAN | QUICK READ

Today at a Glance

Seven Falls to | Garden of the Gods

WHY THIS DAY WORKS

Water and stone in the same day: a canyon waterfall sequence in the morning and Colorado Springs’ red-rock landmark later on. The detailed roadbook immediately behind this editorial section carries the turn-by-turn plan, reservations, overnight choices and practical notes.

Trip by the Numbers

SEVEN FALLS

7 cascades

STAIRS

224 steps

GARDEN

Free public park

STYLE

Walk + scenic drive



Seven Falls: the narrow canyon, repeated cascades and steep stairways create an enclosed, vertical experience.

How the Day Feels

Walking / exploring



Stops & views



Chris Road Note

"One place is about rushing water; the other is about rock that has been standing there for ages."

Road Conditions & Trip Readiness

WEATHER

Canyon and red-rock walking day; verify afternoon storms.

T-MOBILE

Generally strong in Colorado Springs.

FUEL / RV

Local day; parking geometry matters more than range.

OVERNIGHT

Colorado Springs area.

WHY THIS PLACE MATTERS

Water, Stone & Deep Time



Seven Falls: water and stairs turn the canyon into a vertical experience.



Garden of the Gods: open sandstone fins create a completely different scale.

Seven Falls descends through South Cheyenne Cañon in a sequence of seven named cascades. The experience is vertical - narrow canyon walls, water, stairs and elevated viewpoints. Garden of the Gods is the opposite kind of drama: open red sandstone fins and balanced formations set against Pikes Peak and the Front Range. Putting them together makes sense because the day tells two geological stories in very different ways: one intimate and enclosed, the other broad, open and sculptural.

By the Numbers

SEVEN FALLS

Seven named cascades

STAIRS

224 steps

GARDEN

Public park since 1909

CHRIS ROAD NOTE

"One place is about rushing water; the other is about rock that has been standing there for ages."

The Day in Pictures

One strong hero photograph, then supporting details matched to the actual itinerary.



Seven Falls: the narrow canyon, repeated cascades and steep stairways create an enclosed, vertical experience.



Garden of the Gods: red sandstone fins open the afternoon into a completely different, wide-angle landscape.



Walking the Garden: paved paths let us move slowly through the formations and study the scale from ground level.

What to Notice

Seven Falls descends through South Cheyenne Cañon in a sequence of seven named cascades. Water and stone in the same day: a canyon waterfall sequence in the morning and Colorado Springs' red-rock landmark later on.

V15 PHOTO STANDARD

Large scenic roles use the strongest source files at print-oriented resolution. Small historical/reference images stay small instead of being stretched.

DAY 8 | DETAILED ROADBOOK | PAGE 1 OF 3

HD destination banner | direct roadbook content | live-status rail

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Day 8, September 18, 2026 - Friday

Day 8 visual preview - scenery and destinations along today's route.

Seven Falls -> Garden of the Gods

TODAY AT A GLANCE

Miles	Wheel time	Sleep	T-Mobile
Local	Half/full day	Garden of the Gods RV Resort	Strong city; variable canyon
Don't miss	Biggest risk	Fuel strategy	Overnight hierarchy
Seven Falls / Garden of the Gods / Balanced Rock	Timed admission + walking + heat/weather	Top off for Royal Gorge tomorrow	Garden of the Gods RV Resort

TRIP PRIORITIES: Priority sights shape the day. Optional stops give way when weather, driving time, campground arrival or reservation timing calls for it.

WHAT YOU'LL SEE TODAY

A visual preview of the places that make today worth the drive.

SEVEN FALLS - PRIORITY

Seven cascades descend through a steep Colorado Springs box canyon. The visit begins at the mandatory off-site parking/shuttle location listed in the itinerary. Destination reference: The Broadmoor Seven Falls.

GARDEN OF THE GODS - PRIORITY

Towering red sandstone fins and Balanced Rock sit against a Pikes Peak backdrop, creating one of the most recognizable landscapes on the Front Range.

Photo card; destination facts: Garden of the Gods Visitor & Nature Center.

DESTINATION PREVIEW: Major stops and scenery that shape today's route.

RV Day Plan | Destination: Colorado Springs

Route	Distance	RV driving time	Night
Colorado Springs local attraction day; relocate after sightseeing	Local	Half/full day	Garden of the Gods RV Resort - ONE night

SCAN FOR NAVIGATION Opens the planned stop sequence in Google Maps. Before driving, review the route and reject shortcuts that leave the major-road plan or look unsuitable for a 32-34 ft RV.	
T-MOBILE Colorado Springs: strong. Norris Penrose parking should be good; Seven Falls canyon can weaken. Garden of the Gods: generally usable, with terrain pockets.	
FUEL Local day; no special fuel concern. Top off if Royal Gorge is likely tomorrow.	
WALMART / SUPPLIES Colorado Springs S 8th St Supercenter #1434 - 707 S 8th St. Colorado Springs, CO 80905 - 719-633-0736; about 0.8 mi from the Seve	
Attraction	Pa
Seven Falls	AI Ev Ca
ervation ned online ticket strongly courage. 855-923-7272 / enfalls.com. Ordinary stomer cancellations are	



Day Quick Read

SEVEN FALLS

Fri Sep 18: open 9am-7pm. Adult online: \$25 AM / \$21 PM.

GARDEN OF THE GODS

Free park, 5am-10pm. Oversized vehicles use the overflow lot.

ROADBOOK STATUS

Generally strong in Colorado Springs. Canyon and red-rock walking day; verify afternoon storms.



DAY 8 | DETAILED ROADBOOK | PAGE 2 OF 3

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			not refundable; weather refunds/changes only when Management closes the park.
Garden of the Gods	Visitor & Nature Center / park parking	\$0	No general admission reservation. Arrive outside the busiest window when desired the easiest large-vehicle parking.
ORDER Seven Falls first because it is the priority and uses timed admission/shuttle logistics. Garden of the Gods second because it is free and flexible. Do not drive the RV down restricted/tight canyon approaches looking for Seven Falls parking - use Norris Penrose as directed.			

Featured sight	Address / location	Why it is worth seeing	How it fits today
The Broadmoor Seven Falls	Park at Norris Penrose Event Center, 1045 Lower Gold Camp Rd, Colorado Springs, CO 80905	Historic series of seven waterfalls in a steep box canyon, reached by complimentary shuttle from the required parking area.	PRIORITY timed attraction. Do not attempt to drive the RV into the canyon; all visitors use Norris Penrose parking and shuttle.
Garden of the Gods Visitor & Nature Center	1805 N 30th St, Colorado Springs, CO 80904	Gateway to the famous red sandstone formations with Pikes Peak behind them. The park itself is free.	PRIORITY. Start at the visitor center, then use the paved scenic loop. Famous formations include Balanced Rock and Kissing Camels.
Balanced Rock	South end of Garden of the Gods Park, Colorado Springs, CO	A huge red sandstone boulder appearing to balance on a narrow pedestal - one of the park's signature photo stops.	This fits naturally into the park loop when RV traffic and parking are manageable. Stops are limited to established pullouts and parking areas.
Pikes Peak Cog Railway - OPTIONAL MAJOR SWAP	515 Ruxton Ave, Manitou Springs, CO 80829	A roughly three-hour train journey to the 14,115-foot summit of Pikes Peak with 360-degree views. This is one of the region's marquee experiences.	This is too large to casually add to Seven Falls + Garden of the Gods. When desired it, treat it as a major swap and BOOK NOW. Adult reserved seats start around \$67 online; 719-685-5401 / cograilway.com.

BEST-OF-THE-DAY TOURING - PRIORITY stops shape the day; OPTIONAL stops fit when time, weather, parking and energy cooperate.

OVERNIGHT STAY OPTIONS - KEEP PAID HOOKUPS SEPARATE FROM NO-HOOKUP BACKUPS

A. PAID OVERNIGHT - ELECTRIC / WATER / SEWER / HOOKUP OPTIONS

Option / Type	Details, address & overnight rule	
PRIMARY - PAID FHU	Garden of the Gods RV Resort - one night; 30A or 30/50A full-hookup site. The flexible rate preserves cancellation flexibility when desired cancellation flexibility.	
PAID BACKUP	Cheye unav:	f the Gods RV Resort is

B. NO-HOOKUP / BOONDOCKING /

Option / Type	Detail
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Day Quick Read

SEVEN FALLS

Fri Sep 18: open 9am-7pm. Adult online: \$25 AM / \$21 PM.

GARDEN OF THE GODS

Free park, 5am-10pm. Oversized vehicles use the overflow lot.

ROADBOOK STATUS

Generally strong in Colorado Springs. Canyon and red-rock walking day; verify afternoon storms.



DAY 8 | DETAILED ROADBOOK | PAGE 3 OF 3

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WALMART / SUPPLIES / OVERNIGHT BACKUP	Walmart Supercenter #1434, 707 S 8th St, Colorado Springs - convenient to the Seven Falls shuttle area. Ask management before any overnight stay.
CRACKER BARREL / ROAD-STOP BACKUP	Cracker Barrel, 8355 Razorback Rd, Colorado Springs - 719-260-7721. Highway-adjacent road-stop backup.
TRAVEL CENTER / TRUCK STOP	The I-25/Fountain large travel-center corridor provides a staffed fatigue stop with fuel, food and restrooms.
REST AREA	Signed highway rest area = short-rest/fatigue backup only, subject to posted rules.
NO OVERNIGHT AT ATTRACTIONS	Seven Falls/Norris Penrose parking and Garden of the Gods lots are sightseeing/day-use parking, not RV camping locations.
HOSPITAL - EMERGENCY ONLY	UCHealth Memorial Hospital Central, 1400 E Boulder St, Colorado Springs. Medical and emergency-service reference.

TOMORROW BEFORE BED

Tomorrow Before Bed

ROAD / WEATHER	FUEL	RESERVATION	OFFLINE	RV SYSTEMS
Closures + forecast	Enough for next segment	Time + cancellation	Maps / tickets / QR	Water / dump / propane

Wherever We Roam Is Home - Daily Story / Shot List

CAPTURE	NOTES
Establishing shot	Wide scene showing where we are today
Greyhawk shot	RV + destination / campground
Chris & Bonna	Best couple / photo moment
Video hook	What happened today in one sentence
Thumbnail candidate	Strong frame for the episode / post
Favorite / funniest moment	Best unscripted memory from the day
Campground rating	Camp ___/5 Signal ___/5 Site/level ___/5 Return? Y / N

V15 native layout: rebuilt to prevent unnecessary wrapping and orphaned words.



Day Quick Read

SEVEN FALLS

Fri Sep 18: open 9am-7pm. Adult online: \$25 AM / \$21 PM.

GARDEN OF THE GODS

Free park, 5am-10pm. Oversized vehicles use the overflow lot.

ROADBOOK STATUS

Generally strong in Colorado Springs. Canyon and red-rock walking day; verify afternoon storms.

Optional Royal Gorge to Dodge City, Kansas

If time and energy line up, Royal Gorge adds one enormous western landmark before the trip turns decisively east toward Kansas.

TODAYS DESTINATION STORY

BRIDGE

Opened 1929

HEIGHT

~956 ft above river

CHOICE

**Optional /
energy-based**

DIRECTION

East to Kansas

DAY PLAN | QUICK READ

Today at a Glance

Optional Royal Gorge | to Dodge City, Kansas

WHY THIS DAY WORKS

If time and energy line up, Royal Gorge adds one enormous western landmark before the trip turns decisively east toward Kansas. The detailed roadbook immediately behind this editorial section carries the turn-by-turn plan, reservations, overnight choices and practical notes.

Trip by the Numbers

BRIDGE

Opened 1929

HEIGHT

~956 ft above river

CHOICE

Optional / energy-based

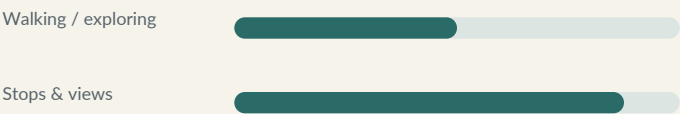
DIRECTION

East to Kansas



Royal Gorge Bridge: the suspension bridge spans the canyon high above the Arkansas River - the overhead engineering landmark of the stop.

How the Day Feels



CHRIS ROAD NOTE

"Royal Gorge is not a box we have to check. It is worth doing only if we still have enough day left to enjoy it."

Road Conditions & Trip Readiness

WEATHER

Royal Gorge rides are weather dependent. Check before detour.

T-MOBILE

Good near Canon City; variable on rural return legs.

FUEL / RV

If doing the Gorge, top off before turning east.

OVERNIGHT

Dodge City.

WHY THIS PLACE MATTERS

A Bridge Above, a Railroad Below



Bridge: the deck spans the gorge high above the Arkansas River.



Railroad: the train follows the river at canyon-floor level.

The Royal Gorge Bridge opened in 1929 high above the Arkansas River and quickly became one of Colorado's best-known engineering landmarks. Far below, the Royal Gorge Route Railroad follows the river through the narrow canyon, giving the same landscape a completely different sense of scale. The bridge is the overhead spectacle; the railroad is the canyon-floor perspective. For us, Royal Gorge works best as an option rather than an obligation: if the day feels right, it is an extraordinary final Colorado stop; if not, the route can turn east and protect the return schedule.

By the Numbers

BRIDGE

Opened 1929

RIVER

Arkansas River

MODE

Optional / flexible

CHRIS ROAD NOTE

"Royal Gorge is not a box we have to check. It is worth doing only if we still have enough day left to enjoy it."

The Day in Pictures

One strong hero photograph, then supporting details matched to the actual itinerary.



Royal Gorge Bridge: the suspension bridge spans the canyon high above the Arkansas River - the overhead engineering landmark of the stop.



Royal Gorge Route Railroad: the train follows the Arkansas River at canyon-floor level, giving the gorge a completely different sense of scale.



Aerial gondolas: the red cabins cross the gorge from rim to rim, adding a third perspective above the river and railroad.

What to Notice

The Royal Gorge Bridge opened in 1929 high above the Arkansas River and quickly became one of Colorado's best-known engineering landmarks. If time and energy line up, Royal Gorge adds one enormous western landmark before the trip turns decisively east toward Kansas.

V15 PHOTO STANDARD

Large scenic roles use the strongest source files at print-oriented resolution. Small historical/reference images stay small instead of being stretched.



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Day 9, September 19, 2026 - Saturday

Day 9 visual preview - scenery and destinations along today's route.

Optional Royal Gorge -> Dodge City, Kansas

TODAY AT A GLANCE

Miles	Wheel time	Sleep	T-Mobile
~340-380 mi total	Full day	Dodge City	Strong towns; variable gorge
Don't miss	Biggest risk	Fuel strategy	Overnight hierarchy
Royal Gorge optional / Bent's Old Fort if timing works	Overloading the day + fatigue	Start near full; fuel Canon City/eastern CO	Gunsmoke / Ford State Fishing Lake

TRIP PRIORITIES: Priority sights shape the day. Optional stops give way when weather, driving time, campground arrival or reservation timing calls for it.

WHAT YOU'LL SEE TODAY

A visual preview of the places that make today worth the drive.

ROYAL GORGE - OPTIONAL GRAND FINALE
The 1929 suspension bridge stretches across a dramatic Arkansas River gorge. The park says the bridge deck is 956 feet above the river and provides dedicated RV parking in Lot B.
Photo card; destination facts: Royal Gorge Bridge & Park.

BENT'S OLD FORT - RETURN OPTION
If it was skipped outbound and Royal Gorge timing permits, the Santa Fe Trail trading-post site can become the historical stop on the eastbound run.
Destination reference: National Park Service.

DESTINATION PREVIEW: Major stops and scenery that shape today's route.

RV Day Plan | Destination: Canon City / Dodge City

Route	Distance	RV driving time	Night
I-25 S -> CO-115 S -> US-50 W -> CR 3A to park; then US-50/US-400 east to Dodge City	~340-380 mi total	Full day	Gunsmoke \$48 FHU or KOA / primitive only if the plan still favors dry camping

	SCAN FOR NAVIGATION Opens the planned stop sequence in Google Maps. Before driving, review the route and reject shortcuts that leave the major-road plan or look unsuitable for a 32-34 ft RV.
T-MOBILE Colorado Springs/Canon City: usable-to-strong. Royal Gorge itself can be variable because of terrain. US-50/US-400 east toward Dodge City improves near towns.	
FUEL Start near full. Canon City has large retail/fuel options; then keep a healthy reserve for eastern Colorado/western Kansas.	
WALMART / SUPPLIES Canon C Good supply stop before/after Ro	
Royal Gorge	
Address	
Hours on Sep 19	



Day Quick Read

ROYAL GORGE

Optional. Sat Sep 19: 9am-5pm; rides open at 10am.

ADMISSION

Adult internet general admission: \$39.95. Reservations not required.

ROADBOOK STATUS

Good near Canon City; variable on rural return legs. Royal Gorge rides are weather dependent. Check before detour.



DAY 9 | DETAILED ROADBOOK | PAGE 2 OF 3

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General admission	\$39.95 adult internet ticket shown in 2026 web store; reservations are not required for general admission.
RV routing	From Colorado Springs use I-25 south / CO-115 / US-50 and then CR 3A as the park directs. Because CR 3A is the final access road, drive slowly and verify weather/road conditions before departure.
After visit	Begin eastbound toward Dodge City. If Royal Gorge is skipped, this becomes a much easier travel day.
Cancellation / flexibility	General admission does not require a reservation and online tickets are not tied to one date; valid through Oct 31, 2026. \$39.95 adult. Phone 719-275-7507. No refunds for gondola/playland/theater closures. Via Ferrata: full refund if cancelled >=24 hr; inside 24 hr = \$35/person fee.

Featured sight	Address / location	Why it is worth seeing	How it fits today
Royal Gorge Bridge & Park	4218 County Road 3A, Canon City, CO 81212	Iconic suspension bridge and canyon experience nearly 1,000 feet above the Arkansas River; one of southern Colorado's signature attractions.	OPTIONAL PRIORITY. An opening-time arrival preserves meaningful eastbound mileage afterward.
Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site - RETURN-ROUTE option	35110 State Highway 194 E, La Junta, CO 81050	Authentic Santa Fe Trail history in a reconstructed adobe trading fort; NPS lists bus/RV parking.	This fits the US-50 eastbound return corridor better than the outbound mountain-arrival day. Stop only if Royal Gorge timing leaves enough daylight.
Santa Fe Trail / eastern Colorado prairie	US-50 corridor through La Junta / Las Animas toward Kansas	The landscape itself tells the westward-travel story: open Arkansas Valley, old trail country and huge plains-to-mountain contrast.	Use the drive as part of the sightseeing. Sunset light can be excellent, but fatigue rules the day - stop rather than push.

BEST-OF-THE-DAY TOURING - PRIORITY stops shape the day; OPTIONAL stops fit when time, weather, parking and energy cooperate.

OVERNIGHT STAY OPTIONS - KEEP PAID HOOKUPS SEPARATE FROM NO-HOOKUP BACKUPS

A. PAID OVERNIGHT - ELECTRIC / WATER / SEWER / HOOKUP OPTIONS

Option / Type	Details, address & overnight rule
PRIMARY - PAID FHU	Gunsmoke RV Park, 11070 108 Rd, Dodge City, KS - \$48 planning rate; 20/30/50A and long pull-throughs.
PAID BACKUP	Dodge City KOA Journey, 701 Park St, Dodge City - live rate; pull-through/electric options.

B. NO-HOOKUP / BOONDOCKING / PARKING / TRAVEL-CENTER / FATIGUE BACKUPS

Option / Type	Details, address & overnight rule
PUBLIC / BOONDOCK - DODGE CITY	Ford State Fishing Lake primitive camping remains the best known dry-camp target near Dodge City if daylight, road and ground conditions are favorable.
WALMART - CANON CITY	Walmart Supercenter, 3105 E US Hwy 50, Canon City, CO 81212 - 719-275-2375. Excellent supp
WALMART - DODGE CITY	Walmfore any overnight parking.
TRAVEL CENTER / TRUCK STOP	Love'srestrcuck parking.



Day Quick Read

ROYAL GORGE

Optional. Sat Sep 19: 9am-5pm; rides open at 10am.

ADMISSION

Adult internet general admission: \$39.95. Reservations not required.

ROADBOOK STATUS

Good near Canon City; variable on rural return legs. Royal Gorge rides are weather dependent. Check before detour.



DAY 9 | DETAILED ROADBOOK | PAGE 3 OF 3

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TRAVEL CENTER / LARGE FUEL	Flying J Dealer, 2524 E Wyatt Earp Blvd, Dodge City - 24-hour backup. Confirm overnight RV placement.
REST AREA / SHORT REST	US-54 rest area near Minneola, KS - use for legal rest under posted rules, not camping.
HOSPITAL - EMERGENCY ONLY	St. Thomas More Hospital, 1338 Phay Ave, Canon City, CO, while in the Royal Gorge area; St. Catherine Hospital, 3001 Avenue A, Dodge City after arrival. Medical use only.

TOMORROW BEFORE BED

[] Road / weather	[] Fuel	[] Reservation	[] Offline	[] RV systems
Check closures + forecast	Enough for next major segment	Confirm time + cancellation	Maps / tickets / QR destinations	Water / dump / propane / generator

WHEREVER WE ROAM IS HOME - DAILY STORY / SHOT LIST

Capture	Notes
Establishing shot	Wide scene showing where we are today:

Tomorrow Before Bed

ROAD / WEATHER	FUEL	RESERVATION	OFFLINE	RV SYSTEMS
Closures + forecast	Enough for next segment	Time + cancellation	Maps / tickets / QR	Water / dump / propane

Wherever We Roam Is Home - Daily Story / Shot List

CAPTURE	NOTES
Establishing shot	Wide scene showing where we are today
Greyhawk shot	RV + destination / campground
Chris & Bonna	Best couple / photo moment
Video hook	What happened today in one sentence
Thumbnail candidate	Strong frame for the episode / post
Favorite / funniest moment	Best unscripted memory from the day
Campground rating	Camp ___/5 Signal ___/5 Site/level ___/5 Return? Y / N

V15 native layout: rebuilt to prevent unnecessary wrapping and orphaned words.



Day Quick Read

ROYAL GORGE

Optional. Sat Sep 19: 9am-5pm; rides open at 10am.

ADMISSION

Adult internet general admission: \$39.95. Reservations not required.

ROADBOOK STATUS

Good near Canon City; variable on rural return legs. Royal Gorge rides are weather dependent. Check before detour.

Dodge City to Afton, Oklahoma - Home

The final long drive home: familiar roads, a simpler agenda and enough margin to finish the trip without turning the last day into a race.

TODAYS DESTINATION STORY

MILES
~340 mi

WHEEL TIME
~6 hr

FUEL
~42.5 gal @ 8 mpg

FINISH
Afton, Oklahoma

DAY PLAN | QUICK READ

Today at a Glance

Dodge City to Afton, | Oklahoma - Home

WHY THIS DAY WORKS

The final long drive home: familiar roads, a simpler agenda and enough margin to finish the trip without turning the last day into a race. The detailed roadbook immediately behind this editorial section carries the turn-by-turn plan, reservations, overnight choices and practical notes.

Trip by the Numbers

MILES

~340 mi

WHEEL TIME

~6 hr

FUEL

~42.5 gal @ 8 mpg

FINISH

Afton, Oklahoma



DODGE CITY IN 1878

El Capitan: the longhorn monument makes a fitting western bookend before the last drive home.

How the Day Feels

Walking / exploring

Stops & views

CHRIS ROAD NOTE

"The trip does not end when the scenery gets flatter. It ends when we pull in with a list of places we would gladly turn around and see again."

Road Conditions & Trip Readiness

WEATHER

Homeward plains drive - check wind before departure.

T-MOBILE

Generally improving toward larger towns.

FUEL / RV

~42.5 gal at 8 mpg planning rate.

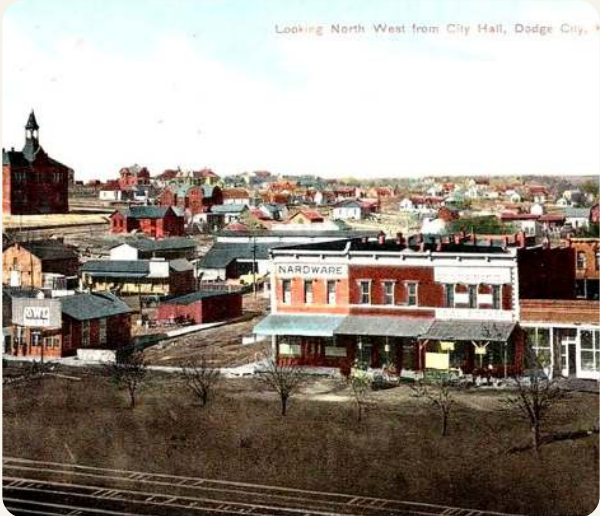
OVERNIGHT

Home - Afton, Oklahoma.

WHY THIS PLACE MATTERS

The Road Turns Back Toward Home

The return from Dodge City is intentionally practical. By this point the memories are in the mountains, canyons, lakes and oddball stops behind us.



Historic downtown: Dodge City's preserved western imagery connects the return stop with the same frontier story that opened the trip.

The job of the last day is to get home comfortably and leave enough energy to remember the trip for what it was - not for how tired we were at the end. Dodge City gives the homeward leg a fitting bookend: frontier roads on the first night, the same western plains on the last morning, and a clear sense that the loop is complete.

By the Numbers

DISTANCE

~340 mi

DRIVE

~6 hr

HOME

Afton, Oklahoma

CHRIS ROAD NOTE

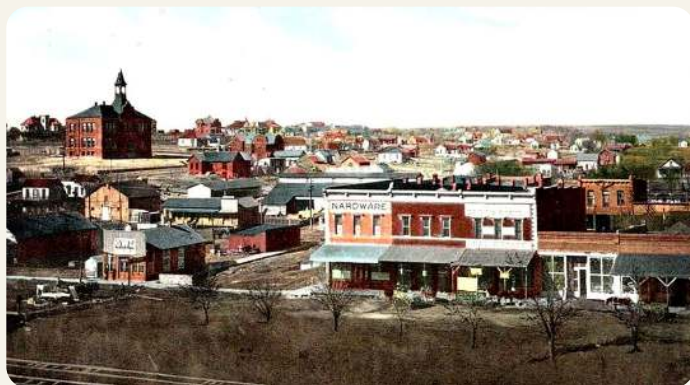
"The trip does not end when the scenery gets flatter. It ends when we pull in with a list of places we would gladly turn around and see again."

The Day in Pictures

One strong hero photograph, then supporting details matched to the actual itinerary.



El Capitan: the longhorn monument makes a fitting western bookend before the last drive home.



Historic downtown: Dodge City's preserved western imagery connects the return stop with the same frontier story that opened the trip.



Lawmen of the cattle-town era: figures such as Wyatt Earp and Bat Masterson remain central to Dodge City's enduring mythology.

What to Notice

The return from Dodge City is intentionally practical. The final long drive home: familiar roads, a simpler agenda and enough margin to finish the trip without turning the last day into a race.

V15 PHOTO STANDARD

Large scenic roles use the strongest source files at print-oriented resolution. Small historical/reference images stay small instead of being stretched.

DAY 10 | DETAILED ROADBOOK | PAGE 1 OF 3

HD destination banner | direct roadbook content | live-status rail

WHEREVER WE ROAM IS HOME | V15 PRACTICAL ROADBOOK

@WhereverWeRoamIsHome | Swearingin.com

Day 10, September 20, 2026 - Sunday

Day 10 visual preview - scenery and destinations along today's route.

Dodge City, Kansas -> Afton, Oklahoma - Home

TODAY AT A GLANCE

Miles	Wheel time	Sleep	T-Mobile
~340 mi	~5.5-6.5 hr	HOME - Afton	Usable to strong
Don't miss	Biggest risk	Fuel strategy	Overnight hierarchy
Big Well or Keeper if missed	Final-day fatigue	Fill Dodge City; large-format top-up as needed	Home / safe fatigue stop if needed

TRIP PRIORITIES: Priority sights shape the day. Optional stops give way when weather, driving time, campground arrival or reservation timing calls for it.

WHAT YOU'LL SEE TODAY

A visual preview of the places that make today worth the drive.

KEEPER OF THE PLAINS - IF MISSED OUTBOUND

Wichita's signature riverfront landmark makes a good final photo stop if energy and daylight allow. The last day should remain flexible rather than becoming another race. Optional final-day landmark stop.

BIG WELL - SECOND CHANCE

If Greensburg was skipped on Day 1, the return leg offers another chance to see the hand-dug well and town history before finishing the drive home.

Photo card; verify hours before committing.

DESTINATION PREVIEW: Major stops and scenery that shape today's route.

RV Day Plan | Destination: Home

Route	Distance	RV driving time	Night
US-283 / US-54 / US-400 / US-169 / US-60 major-route concept	~340 mi	~5.5-6.5 hr RV pace	Home

SCAN FOR NAVIGATION
Opens the planned stop sequence in Google Maps. Before driving, review the route and reject shortcuts that leave the major-road plan or look unsuitable for a 32-34 ft RV.

T-MOBILE Dodge City and larger towns: strong. Rural highway stretches can dip; Afton/home area expected strong based on our existing use.

FUEL Fill in Dodge City; top up again at a large-format stop if needed before Afton.

WALMART / SUPPLIES Dodge City Walmart before departure if needed.

HOME DAY Use the same major-highway philosophy as outbound. Stop before fatigue, especially after the long optional Royal Gorge day. Keep at least a comfort

BEST-OF-THE-DAY TOURING - PR cooperate.

Featured sight Ad

ather, parking and energy

w it fits today



Day Quick Read

HOMEWARD

~340 miles / ~6 hours. Keep the last day deliberately simple.

FUEL MODEL

~42.5 gallons at the 8 mpg planning assumption.

ROADBOOK STATUS

Generally improving toward larger towns. Homeward plains drive - check wind before departure.

DAY 10 | DETAILED ROADBOOK | PAGE 2 OF 3

HD destination banner | direct roadbook content | live-status rail

WHEREVER WE ROAM IS HOME | V15 PRACTICAL ROADBOOK

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Big Well Museum - if missed outbound	315 S Sycamore St, Greensburg, KS 67054	World-famous hand-dug well plus tornado and meteorite exhibits. A quirky, memorable Kansas road-trip stop.	Best return-day attraction if it was missed on Sep 11. Keep it short enough that home arrival stays comfortable.
Keeper of the Plains - if missed outbound	650 N Seneca St, Wichita, KS 67203	Wichita's most recognizable landmark at the confluence of the Arkansas rivers.	Good final-trip photo stop if daylight and energy are still good; avoid tight city routing in the Greyhawk.
Home / Grand Lake o' the Cherokees area	Afton, OK	The final scenic payoff is coming back to our home lake country after a full plains-and-Rockies loop.	No need to cram in a last attraction. Optional stops fall away if fatigue becomes a factor; the final day remains intentionally flexible.

OVERNIGHT STAY OPTIONS - KEEP PAID HOOKUPS SEPARATE FROM NO-HOOKUP BACKUPS

A. PAID OVERNIGHT - ELECTRIC / WATER / SEWER / HOOKUP OPTIONS

Option / Type	Details, address & overnight rule
PLANNED NIGHT	HOME - Afton, Oklahoma. No paid overnight should be needed.
FATIGUE PAID FALLBACK	A verified RV park with electric is the fallback if fatigue makes the final miles impractical.

B. NO-HOOKUP / BOONDOCKING / PARKING / TRAVEL-CENTER / FATIGUE BACKUPS

Option / Type	Details, address & overnight rule
TRAVEL CENTER / FATIGUE BACKUP	If fatigue wins, stop at a staffed 24-hour Love's/Pilot/Flying J/TA-style travel center on the major-highway route. Ask where an RV may remain and keep the stop discreet.
REST AREA / SHORT REST	A legal signed rest area is preferable to pushing while tired. Follow posted stay limits and never extend slides/awnings or behave as if camping.
WALMART / SUPPLIES / OVERNIGHT BACKUP	Use Walmart only when the specific store/property permits overnight RV parking. Ask that day and obey signs.
CRACKER BARREL / ROAD-STOP BACKUP	Use only a convenient highway-adjacent Cracker Barrel that explicitly allows the RV to remain; never treat the chain as blanket approval.
PUBLIC / BOONDOCKING	Do not divert onto unfamiliar rural or public-land roads late in the day merely to save a campground fee. For the final leg, safety and easy access outrank free camping.
HOSPITAL - EMERGENCY ONLY	Medical and emergency-service reference.

Fuel, Walmart & Overnight Strategy

Area	
Dodge City	lies, large retail lot; ask before
Dodge City paid overnight	50A; long pull-throughs.
Colorado Springs south side	even Falls/Norris Penrose
Canon City	re retail/supply stop on the



Day Quick Read

HOMEWARD

~340 miles / ~6 hours. Keep the last day deliberately simple.

FUEL MODEL

~42.5 gallons at the 8 mpg planning assumption.

ROADBOOK STATUS

Generally improving toward larger towns. Homeward plains drive - check wind before departure.

DAY 10 | DETAILED ROADBOOK | PAGE 3 OF 3

HD destination banner | direct roadbook content | live-status rail

WHEREVER WE ROAM IS HOME | V15 PRACTICAL ROADBOOK

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Fuel	Love's / Pilot / Flying J / TA first where practical	Royal Gorge day. Larger turning radii, easier pump access, predictable food/restrooms. Live fuel prices should be checked day-of.
COMMERCIAL OVERNIGHT BACKUPS Walmart, Cracker Barrel and travel-center listings are included as practical road-stop references. Current local operating policies and posted signage apply.		

Trip Cost Worksheet - Planning Range

Category	Planning estimate	Notes
Fuel	~2,000-2,200 trip miles / 8 mpg = ~250-275 gal	Multiply by actual pump price. At \$3.50/gal: ~\$875-\$963; at \$4.00: ~\$1,000-\$1,100.
Dodge City attraction	Boot Hill: \$20 adult / \$18 senior 60+	Optional museum cost.
Dodge City overnight	\$0 primitive target OR \$48 GunsSmoke FHU	Primitive option has no electric.
RMNP entrance	\$35 / 7-day vehicle	Plus any separate timed-entry \$2 fee if not covered by qualifying camping reservation.

Tomorrow Before Bed

ROAD / WEATHER

Closures + forecast

FUEL

Enough for next segment

RESERVATION

Time + cancellation

OFFLINE

Maps / tickets / QR

RV SYSTEMS

Water / dump / propane

Wherever We Roam Is Home - Daily Story / Shot List

CAPTURE	NOTES
Establishing shot	Wide scene showing where we are today
Greyhawk shot	RV + destination / campground
Chris & Bonna	Best couple / photo moment
Video hook	What happened today in one sentence
Thumbnail candidate	Strong frame for the episode / post
Favorite / funniest moment	Best unscripted memory from the day
Campground rating	Camp ___/5 Signal ___/5 Site/level ___/5 Return? Y / N

V15 native layout: rebuilt to prevent unnecessary wrapping and orphaned words.



Day Quick Read

HOMEWARD

~340 miles / ~6 hours. Keep the last day deliberately simple.

FUEL MODEL

~42.5 gallons at the 8 mpg planning assumption.

ROADBOOK STATUS

Generally improving toward larger towns. Homeward plains drive - check wind before departure.

RV SYSTEMS / SERVICE TRACKER

RV reference | departure edition | direct-content layout

WHEREVER WE ROAM IS HOME | V15 PRACTICAL ROADBOOK

RV SYSTEMS / SERVICE TRACKER

Date	Fresh water	Dump	Propane	Generator	Fuel level	No
Sep 11	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sep 12	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sep 13	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sep 14	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sep 15	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sep 16	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sep 17	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sep 18	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sep 19	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sep 20	—	—	—	—	—	—



Greyhawk Reference

RIG
2013 Jayco Greyhawk

LENGTH
~32-34 ft planning size

FUEL
55 gal | ~8 mpg

POWER
30 amp preferred

MOBILITY
No toad - RV goes everywhere

GENERATOR
Unreliable; electric matters

MOUNTAIN DRIVING & CHANGE-OF-PLAN

RV reference | departure edition | direct-content layout

WHEREVER WE ROAM IS HOME | V15 PRACTICAL ROADBOOK

MOUNTAIN DRIVING & CHANGE-OF-PLAN CAR

Situation	Action
Before a major climb	Fuel healthy; Tow/Haul as appropriate; check gauges no navigation shortcuts.
Long descent	Use Tow/Haul/downshifting and conservative speed; the brakes.
Trail Ridge wind / snow / ice / poor visibility	Do not force the scenic route. Use the safer lower-ele alternate and preserve the trip.
Parking lot looks too tight	Skip the stop or use shuttle/alternate parking. Do not ft motorhome into a passenger-car lot.
T-Mobile disappears	Use saved map, printed address/GPS and the d route. The plan does not depend on live rerout
Running >90 min late	Cut OPTIONAL sights first. Protect fuel, reservation v daylight and safe arrival.
Driver fatigue	Use the listed travel center/rest-area/verified overnig The itinerary is never worth driving tired.



Greyhawk Reference

RIG
2013 Jayco Greyhawk

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POWER
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MOBILITY
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GENERATOR
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WILDLIFE / CAMPSITE SAFETY

RV reference | departure edition | direct-content layout

WHEREVER WE ROAM IS HOME | V15 PRACTICAL ROADBOOK

WILDLIFE / CAMPSITE SAFETY CARD

Do	Why
Lock food and trash inside the RV or approved bear-resistant storage	Colorado Parks and Wildlife advises securing food/trash keeping RV doors/windows closed.
Use bear-proof dumpsters correctly	Latch them fully; never leave bags beside a full container.
Never burn food scraps or trash	Food residue can attract wildlife.
Photograph wildlife from a safe distance	Wildlife photography is done at a respectful distance; animals left undisturbed.
Check the campsite before departure	No food, trash, hoses, leveling gear or outdoor items left behind.

OFFICIAL REFERENCES: Rocky Mountain National Park maps, brochures and timed-entry information; COtrip.com for road conditions; and Colorado Parks and Wildlife campground and wildlife guidance are included throughout the guide.

Sources & Day-of Verification Notes

Estes Valley Recreation & Park District: Mary's Lake 2026 campground rates, reservation rules, fees and cancellation policy.

Winding River Resort: Grand Lake water/electric and full-hookup rates plus camping cancellation policy.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife: St. Vrain State Park electrical/full-hookup camping, rates and reservations.

Garden of the Gods RV Resort / RVC Outdoor Destinations: 30/50A full-hookup sites and Best Nightly vs Peaceful Campground cancellation rules.

NPS RMNP: 2026 campground closures and RV limits - Glacier Basin closed after Sep 8; Aspenglen and Timberline closed after Sep 15; Moraine Park lists 40-ft limit.

- Rocky Mountain National Park / NPS: nps.gov/romo - entrance fees, timed-entry rules, road status and park operations.
 - Recreation.gov: RMNP timed entry and Moraine Park campground reservations.
 - Boot Hill Museum: boothill.org - 2026 hours and admission.
 - Gunsmoke RV Park: gunsmokervpark.com - \$48 nightly FHU rates and site details.
 - Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks: Ford State Fishing Lake - primitive camping location/facilities.
 - The Broadmoor Seven Falls: sevenfalls.com - 2026 hours, online admission and mandatory Norris Penrose parking/shuttle.
 - Garden of the Gods Visitor & Nature Center: gardenofgods.com - free park and operating hours.
 - Royal Gorge Bridge & Park: royalgorgebridge.com - 2026 hours, access road, and online ticket store.
 - Colorado Parks & Wildlife: Cheyenne Mountain State Park campground/full-hookup information.
 - Walmart store pages: Dodge City, Colorado Springs S 8th St, Canon City.
 - T-Mobile coverage map: t-mobile.com/coverage/coverage-map. Coverage ratings in this guide are conservative planning estimates; not a guarantee.
 - Road closures, detours, and official links are listed in the guide.
- attraction hours and fuel prices can vary; check local sources for updates.



Greyhawk Reference

RIG
2013 Jayco Greyhawk

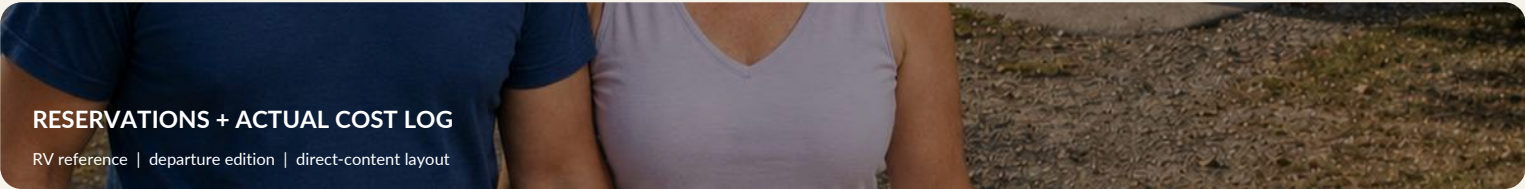
LENGTH
~32-34 ft planning size

FUEL
55 gal | ~8 mpg

POWER
30 amp preferred

MOBILITY
No toad - RV goes everywhere

GENERATOR
Unreliable; electric matters



RESERVATIONS + ACTUAL COST LOG

RV reference | departure edition | direct-content layout

WHEREVER WE ROAM IS HOME | V15 PRACTICAL ROADBOOK

visitor centers, west-side destinations and Adams Falls.

- this edition route-history verification: NPS Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site - 35110 State Highway 19 bus/RV parking listed.
- Colorado Springs references include Garden of the Gods Visitor & Nature Center, The Broadmoor Seven F parking/shuttle information and Pikes Peak Cog Railway official rates and terms.
- this edition other featured-stop verification: Red Rocks Park & Amphitheatre, The Stanley Hotel, Camp St. the Rock, Travel Kansas Big Well Museum, Visit Wichita Keeper of the Plains.

Reservations - Write-In Confirmation Sheet

Reservation	Date	Confirmation #	Check-in/time	Paid
Dodge City overnight	9/11			
Moraine Park electric - 2 nights	9/12-9/14			
Mary's Lake Campground	9/14			
Winding River Resort - Grand Lake	9/15			
St. Vrain State Park	9/16			
RMNP timed entry as needed	9/14-9/16			
Casa Bonita	9/17			
Cheyenne Mountain State Park	9/17			
Seven Falls	9/18			
Garden of the Gods RV Resort	9/18			
Royal Gorge optional	9/19			

Notes:

Actual Cost & Mileage Log

Date	Odometer start	Odometer end	Fuel \$	Camp \$	Attractions \$	Ot
Fri Sep 11						
Sat Sep 12						
Sun Sep 13						
Mon Sep 14						
Tue Sep 15						
Wed Sep 16						



Greyhawk Reference

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GENERATOR
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LESSONS LEARNED FOR THE NEXT ROADBOOK

RV reference | departure edition | direct-content layout

WHEREVER WE ROAM IS HOME | V15 PRACTICAL ROADBOOK

Fri Sep 18						
Sat Sep 19						
Sun Sep 20						

Trip total actual cost: \$_____ Total miles: _____

Lessons Learned for the Next Roadbook

Best stop:

Best campsite:

Worst road / route to avoid:

Best fuel stop:

T-Mobile weak-signal notes from the trip:

What we would change next time:

Favorite video/photo moment:

Available in both the Word and PDF editions.



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POWER
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GENERATOR
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QUICK-REFERENCE DIRECTORY

RV reference | departure edition | direct-content layout

WHEREVER WE ROAM IS HOME | V15 PRACTICAL ROADBOOK

QUICK-REFERENCE DIRECTORY

A fast passenger-seat reference for the most frequently needed trip information.

Need	Fast reference
RMNP Information Office	970-586-1206
Recorded Trail Ridge Road status	970-586-1222
RMNP maps / current park information	QR & Quick Links Directory near the front
Colorado road conditions	COTrip QR in the QR & Quick Links Directory
T-Mobile coverage planning	Master signal notes plus the Today at a Glance box in chapter
Reservations / cancellation deadlines	Reservation Status Dashboard + detailed Reservation Items
Paid electric / hookup overnight	Each day: Section A - Paid Overnight
Boondocking / no-hookup backup	Each day: Section B - No-Hookup / Boondocking / Park Center / Fatigue Backups
Walmart / Cracker Barrel	Commercial overnight listings in the applicable Section B.
Travel centers / truck stops	Applicable daily Section B - staffed large-vehicle backup with fuel, food and restrooms
Rest areas	Applicable daily Section B - rest under posted limits; campground
Hospitals	Emergency reference only; never a planned overnight
Fuel / large-rig stops	Daily fuel tables and Fuel Strategy in each Today at a Glance
RV water / dump / propane / generator	RV Systems / Service Tracker near the back
Mountain driving / fatigue decisions	Mountain Driving & Change-of-Plan Card
Wildlife / campsite safety	Wildlife / Campsite Safety Card
Photos / Wherever We Roam Is Home story notes	Daily What You'll See Today cards + Daily Story / Show



Greyhawk Reference

RIG
2013 Jayco Greyhawk

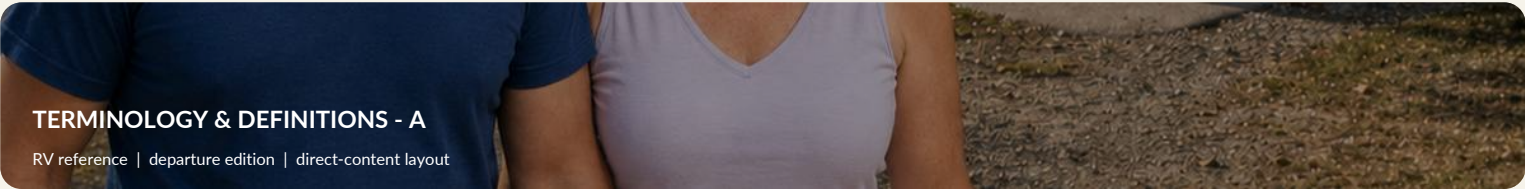
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TERMINOLOGY & DEFINITIONS - A

RV reference | departure edition | direct-content layout

WHEREVER WE ROAM IS HOME | V15 PRACTICAL ROADBOOK

TERMINOLOGY & DEFINITIONS

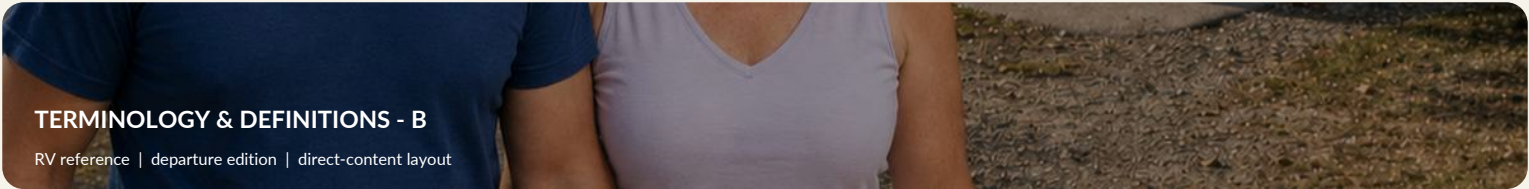
A roadbook glossary for RV, campground, navigation and Rocky Mountain National Park terms used throughout

Term	Definition / how it is used here
30A / 50A	30-amp or 50-amp electrical service at an RV site. Descriptions and pedestal compatibility are checked during booking.
America the Beautiful Pass	A federal interagency recreation pass that can cover entrance fees at participating federal recreation sites and replace campsite or timed-entry reservations.
Back-in site	An RV campsite that requires backing the motorhome into the space.
Bear Lake Corridor	The Bear Lake Road area of RMNP, including Moraine, Sprague Lake, Glacier Gorge and Bear Lake.
Boondocking	Camping without utility hookups. In this book the term is used for legal/known no-hookup camping - not simply parking space exists.
COTrip	Colorado Department of Transportation's road-condition report used for closures, construction, incidents and current information.
Day-use area	A recreation or parking area intended for daytime use only. If specifically allowed, it is not an overnight campsite.
Dry camping	Another term for camping without water, sewer or electric hookups.
Dump station	A designated place to empty RV black- and gray-water tanks.
FHU - Full Hookup	A campsite with electric, fresh-water connection and sewer connection at the site.
Fresh-water fill	A potable-water source used to fill the RV's onboard freshwater tank.
Greyhawk	The Swearingin trip motorhome: a Jayco Greyhawk Class B approximately 32-34 ft long. This size drives many of the roads and parking recommendations.
Late-cancel window	The point at which a campground or attraction's cancellation penalty increases. The guide lists known deadlines where applicable.
NPS	National Park Service. Official RMNP park information is obtained from NPS sources where practical.
Commercial overnight parking	A commercial lot such as Walmart or Cracker Barrel where RV parking must be approved by that specific location with local rules.
Pull-through site	A campsite entered from one end and exited from the other without backing.
QR code	A square code that opens a route, reservation or map or other resource on a phone.



Greyhawk Reference

- RIG
 - 2013 Jayco Greyhawk
- LENGTH
 - ~32-34 ft planning size
- FUEL
 - 55 gal | ~8 mpg
- POWER
 - 30 amp preferred
- MOBILITY
 - No toad - RV goes everywhere
- GENERATOR
 - Unreliable; electric matters



TERMINOLOGY & DEFINITIONS - B

RV reference | departure edition | direct-content layout

WHEREVER WE ROAM IS HOME | V15 PRACTICAL ROADBOOK

Rest area	A signed highway facility intended for traveler term traveler-rest reference.
Standard Electric	The Recreation.gov campsite designation used for the electric reservation in this trip plan. Verify the exact confirmation.
Timed Entry	RMNP's reservation system controlling vehicle entry specified hours. A park entrance pass and timed-entry are separate requirements unless an applicable camp reservation provides entry coverage.
Tow/Haul	A transmission mode that changes shift behavior and engine braking when the motorhome is carrying load grades.
Travel center / truck stop	A large 24-hour fuel facility such as Love's, Pilot TA. A useful staffed fatigue backup with large-v facilities.
Trail Ridge Road	US-34 through RMNP over the alpine tundra and Con Divide. Weather, wind, snow or ice can temporarily close it even during the normal open season.
W/E	Water and electric campsite hookups without sewer individual site.
Wheel time	Estimated time actually driving, before fuel, sightseeing traffic and other stops.



Greyhawk Reference

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2013 Jayco Greyhawk

LENGTH
~32-34 ft planning size

FUEL
55 gal | ~8 mpg

POWER
30 amp preferred

MOBILITY
No toad - RV goes everywhere

GENERATOR
Unreliable; electric matters

OFFICIAL SOURCES CHECKED FOR VERSION 15

Departure Refresh & Research Sources

Version 15 keeps the roadbook research from the earlier editions and adds a final operational refresh dated September 10, 2026. Time-sensitive items can still change, so the official links and phone numbers remain the last word on the morning of each visit.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK TIMED ENTRY, ROAD STATUS AND PARK INFORMATION Timed entry: 9am-2pm general; 5am-6pm Bear Lake. Trail Ridge status page currently shows open to through travel. Recorded road status: 970-586-1222.	https://www.nps.gov/romo/
THE BROADMOOR SEVEN FALLS HOURS, TIMED ADMISSION AND RATES Sep 3-Oct 19: Thu-Mon 9am-7pm; closed Tue/Wed. Friday Sep 18 is an operating day. Adult online \$25 AM / \$21 PM.	https://www.sevenfalls.com/
GARDEN OF THE GODS PARK HOURS, VISITOR CENTER AND OVERSIZED PARKING Free public park. Sep hours 5am-10pm. Oversized vehicles use overflow parking near the Visitor Center.	https://gardenofgods.com/
ROYAL GORGE BRIDGE & PARK HOURS, TICKETS AND CURRENT ATTRACTION STATUS Sep 8-Oct 31: 9am-5pm; rides 10am. Adult internet general admission \$39.95. Reservations not required.	https://royalgorgebridge.com/
CASA BONITA RESERVATIONS AND DESTINATION INFORMATION Reservations available online. 6715 W Colfax Ave, Lakewood, CO 80214.	https://www.casabonitadenver.com/
ROAD / CONNECTIVITY CHECKS COLORADO ROAD CONDITIONS AND T-MOBILE COVERAGE Colorado road conditions: https://www.cotrip.org/ T-Mobile coverage: https://www.t-mobile.com/coverage/coverage-map	https://www.cotrip.org/ https://www.t-mobile.com/coverage/coverage-map

DESTINATION PHOTOGRAPHY | V15 PUBLICATION STANDARD

Visual Credits & Image Standard

Version 15 replaces the soft banner and side-panel enlargements with destination-matched source photography prepared for its actual printed size. The guiding rule is simple: one strong large photograph is better than several weak ones. Historical/reference images remain intentionally smaller when the source file is limited.



DODGE CITY



ESTES / RMNP



BEAR LAKE / RMNP



TRAIL RIDGE



GRAND LAKE



CASA BONITA



SEVEN FALLS / GARDEN



ROYAL GORGE

V15 Production Rules

HD roles: full-width banners and hero photographs are prepared near 300 ppi at their placed size whenever the source allows. No fake detail: a genuinely small source is kept small instead of being stretched into a banner. Caption discipline: captions describe the photograph directly beside them. Personal identity: only the correct Greyhawk / Chris & Bonna imagery is used as their travel identity. Layout: text never sits beneath floating callouts or duplicate overlays.

LOOK IT UP

Index A-M

Destinations, planning topics and practical reference pages.

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Kawuneeche Valley	48-54

LOOK IT UP

Index P-W

Destinations, planning topics and practical reference pages.

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T-Mobile / signal	daily chapters
Trail Ridge Road	41-47
Weather / road status	daily chapters, 83-90
Winding River Resort	41-54

AFTER THE ROAD

Notes from the Trip

The part of the book we cannot write until we actually go.

BEST MOMENT

BIGGEST SURPRISE

BEST PHOTO

PLACE WE WOULD RETURN TO

WHAT I WOULD CHANGE NEXT TIME

Same Roads. New Stories.

Thank you for being part
of our journey.

A couple is seen from behind, sitting in black folding camp chairs on a rocky campsite. They are holding mugs and looking out over a scenic landscape at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over a lake and snow-capped mountains. To the left, a campfire burns in a metal fire pit. To the right, the side of a white Greyhawk motorhome is visible. The chairs they are sitting in have a logo on the backrest that reads "Home Follows Us" with a mountain icon above it.

Home Follows Us

Home Follows Us

@WhereverWeRoamIsHome
Swearingin.com

EXPLORE • ADVENTURE • MAKE MEMORIES