



Rocky Mountain National Park

Name

Institutional Affiliation

Course

Instructor

Date

Rocky Mountain National Park

- ◇ Rocky Mountain National Park refers to a large national park in the United States within an area of about 415 square miles.
- ◇ The park is located about 76 miles or 122 km northwest of Denver International Airport in north-central Colorado at the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains.
- ◇ Both the eastern and western slopes of the Continental Divide runs at the park's centre, with the Colorado River also passing through at the northwestern region of the park.

Main Features

- ◆ Some of Rocky Mountain National Park's main features include alpine lakes, mountains, and various wildlife within different environments and climates, including mountain tundra and wooded forests.
- ◆ One of the park's most famous features is the Trail Ridge Road which is over 12,000 feet and provides a clear view to enable individuals to enjoy the alpine and subalpine woods.
- ◆ The road also enables individuals to enjoy approximately 300 miles of hiking trails, wildlife, wildflowers, starry and clear skies at night, and incomparable fun with family and friends.

A view of the Park



Geological Features

- ◆ The grand and beautiful scenery of Rocky Mountain National Park is a result of complex and long geologic history and activities going for almost two billion years (National Park Service, 2020).
- ◆ At a glance, the park's primary geological features include high mountain peaks, open meadows, snow-filled valleys, and jagged rock sculptures.
- ◆ Other features include ancient schist glows on the west part of the park, lava cliffs along Trail Ridge Road, Chasm Lake at a glacial cirque, and rounded rocks at the Lumpy Ridge.
- ◆ The oldest rocks at the park are igneous and metamorphic rocks and they form the Flattop Mountain and Trail Ridge peaks.

Climate at the Park

- ◇ The Rocky Mountain National Park has dynamic and extreme weather patterns that change throughout the year.
- ◇ The park temperatures are mostly moderate at areas below 9,400 degrees but it is also likely to snow in July in some parts of the park, including Trail Ridge Road, Bear Lake, and Longs Peak (National Park Service, 2017).
- ◇ Around July and August, the temperatures reach 80 degrees but drop to 40 degrees at night.
- ◇ The park also experiences precipitation in the form of snowfall or rain throughout the year.

Biodiversity

- ◇ Rocky Mountain National Park is one of the biggest and oldest parks in the U.S. and world entirely, and it serves as a home to diverse animals and plants (Chaini, 2015).
- ◇ Over the last century, the park has driven the conservation of aquatic and montane terrestrial ecosystems.
- ◇ The park hosts more than sixty species of mammals, including moose and elk, about 300 species of birds, multiple reptiles, fish and amphibian species, and innumerable insects.

An Elk at the Park



Conclusion

- ◆ Rocky Mountain National is one of the best and fun parks in the United States which enable individuals to enjoy sightseeing, bird watching, hiking, walking, and picnics.
- ◆ The park has moderate temperatures that allow the above activities throughout the year.
- ◆ More importantly, it promotes biodiversity, where it hosts various plants and different animal species.
- ◆ Its amazing and beautiful geological features also attract many tourists which promotes the cultural and economic factors in the region.

References

- ◇ Chaini, S. (2015). A gap analysis of biodiversity research in Rocky Mountain National Park: a pilot study on spiders (Doctoral dissertation, Duke University).
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