



Full Itinerary & Trip Details

Wild Basin Explorer

- ✓ Hike to Ouzel Lake through pine forests
- ✓ Enjoy breakfast by Ouzel Lake's shores
- ✓ Explore Bluebird Lake at nearly 11,000 feet
- ✓ Relax at Thunder Lake and watch for trout
- ✓ See Ouzel Falls on your return hike

BEST SELECTION

BEST PRICES

TRUSTED PAYMENTS

Trip Overview



PRICE STARTING FROM

\$1,315.00

DURATION

4 days

STARTS IN → ENDS IN

Estes Park → Estes Park

OPERATED IN

English

OPERATOR

Wildland Trekking

TOUR CODE

#220025

Itinerary

Introduction

Our Wild Basin Explorer backpacking trip is a fantastic family option (for people with kids) and for people who want an amazing backcountry experience of the Colorado Rockies on a less demanding trip. We spend 2-3 nights in the same camp, day hiking each day to explore Rocky Mountain National Park's amazing Wild Basin.

The highlights of this trip are camping near the shores of stunning Ouzel Lake; enjoying breathtaking views of the alpine peaks and ridges of the Continental Divide; hiking to one or two additional alpine lakes that sit right at treeline; opportunities to see wildlife; multiple waterfalls; our award-winning customer service and backcountry cuisine!

Day 1

Start Point



Estes Park,
USA

Shuttle to trailhead: 30 minutes

Hiking Mileage: 5 miles

Elevation Gain: 1,500 feet

This Rocky Mountain National Park hiking trip begins at a relatively remote, but popular, trailhead. Our hike takes us along a beautiful mountain creek, past a stunning cascade, and through pine forests to the shores of stunning Ouzel Lake. We'll get settled into our camp, which is not far from the water, and the lake itself boasts outstanding views of the alpine ridges and peaks of the Continental Divide. We can spend the afternoon swimming, exploring, fishing, or simply relaxing in camp.

Day 2

Hiking Mileage: 4 miles day hiking

Elevation Gain/Loss: 1,000 feet

We'll start today with a delicious Rocky Mountain breakfast on the shores of Ouzel Lake. Afterward we'll load up our day packs and set off on a hike to a higher, even more breathtaking mountain lake – Bluebird Lake. Our hike takes us first back down the valley we hiked up yesterday before we split off on a separate trail and begin an ascent of approximately 1,000 feet. Bluebird Lake is a stunning alpine lake that sits just under 11,000 feet with high mountain peaks standing guard above. We'll relax and have a picnic lunch on the shores, and afterward hike higher into the alpine terrain above the lake or return to camp for another hearty dinner.

Day 3

Hiking Mileage: 6 miles

Elevation Loss/Gain: 800 feet

If you're doing the 4-day version of this trip, we'll make the most of Day 3 by heading to another amazing Rocky Mountain National Park lake – Thunder Lake. Thunder Lake sits below several soaring peaks and a pass on the Continental Divide. We'll sit along the grassy shores keepin an eye out for rainbow trout, enjoy a picnic lunch, and explore around the lake. Finally we'll head back to camp at Ouzel Lake, which is all downhill. We'll enjoy one more celebratory campfire and backcountry feast before turning in for a good night's sleep.

Day 4: Final Day

End Point



Estes Park,
USA

Hiking Mileage: 5 miles

Elevation Loss: 1,500 feet

Shuttle to Estes Park: 30 minutes

After a relaxing morning and a big breakfast we'll begin our hike back to the trailhead. We'll hike a slightly different trail on the way back that takes us along Ouzel Creek, past Ouzel Falls and Calypso Cascades, both Rocky Mountain water features well worth seeing. Ouzel Falls is a sheer waterfall about 50 feet high, and Calypso Cascades is a beautiful stretch of tumbling water in a thick Lodgepole Pine forest. Our arrival at Wild Basin Trailhead marks the end of our hiking trip; after a short shuttle ride back to Estes Park we'll drop you off at your hotel where warm showers await you!

What's Included

Accommodation

3 nights camping

Guide

A professional, knowledgeable, certified Rocky Mountain hiking guide

Meals

All meals are included from breakfast the first day through lunch on the last day

Transport

Transportation for the duration of the trip beginning and ending in Estes Park, CO

Others

Top-of-the-line tent, backcountry sleeping pad and multi-day backpack

High quality, synthetic sleeping bag (professionally laundered after every use) – or bring your own.

Use of trekking poles

Entrance fees and national park permits

Bear cannisters for food storage

Emergency equipment including a company-issued first-aid kit and satellite phone

You will receive a Lifetime Hiking Membership entitling you, your spouse and kids to a lifetime discount of 10% off any Wildland Trekking hiking trip after your first one!

What's Not Included

Flights

International flights are not included

Insurance

Travel insurance is not included

Others

Clothes, raingear and footwear

Sunscreen, toiletries and personal items

Water bottles and a headlamp or flashlight

Guide gratuity (industry recommendation is 10-20% of trip cost)

Mandatory 5% National Park Fee (added at time of booking and passed through directly to the National Park Service)

Optional

Other activities and services are not included

Departure Dates

STARTING IN Estes Park	→	ENDING IN Estes Park
11 July 2025		14 July 2025
25 July 2025		28 July 2025
15 August 2025		18 August 2025
29 August 2025		01 September 2025

See all departures at <https://www.tourradar.com/book-now/220025>

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