

Best Tent Camping: Colorado: Your Car-Camping Guide to Scenic Beauty, the Sounds of Nature, and an Escape from Civilization

Kim Lipker, Johnny Molloy



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The Colorado landscape is rich with opportunities for tent camping. Millions of acres of public lands are dotted with hundreds of campgrounds—but you probably only have a precious amount of limited time. Which campgrounds do you choose? Where should you go? When should you go? That's what this book is for—to help you make the wisest use of your time in the wilds of the Centennial State.

In the mountains of Colorado, the Rockies, camping is primarily a summertime activity. When the snow melts and the rivers run high—that's when tent campers start longing for the crisp mornings, crystal-clear days, and cool nights by the campfire that are part of a Rocky Mountain camp out. Not to mention wilderness hiking, trout fishing, mountain biking, and whitewater boating.

In other parts of Colorado, the tent camping season is extended. You can pitch your tent year-round in the canyon country of the Western Slope, along the prairie lakes of the east, and in some of the lower elevation state parks. No matter where you go or when you go, the scenic beauty of Colorado will never fail to please the eye.

Before embarking on a trip, take some time to prepare. Many of the best tent campgrounds are at the far end of a gravel road. This isolation—part of their attraction for many campers—makes for a long supply or gear run if you are unprepared. Call ahead and ask for a park map, brochure, or other information to help you plan your trip. Make reservations wherever applicable, especially at popular state parks. Ask questions. Ask more questions. The more questions you ask, the fewer surprises you'll get. There are other times, however, when you'll grab your gear and this book, hop in the car, and just wing it. This can be an adventure in its own right.

Each campground has been rated on six criteria: beauty, privacy, spaciousness, quiet, security and cleanliness. In addition, campground profiles include vital statistics about each location (fees, restrictions, operating season, amenities, contact information, driving directions and reservation information, to name a few) that help campers plan the perfect trip without unwanted surprises. GPS users will also appreciate that each campground's precise latitude and longitude waypoints are included.

Tent campers will also enjoy a detailed map of each campground included in the site profile. Making reservations online or blindly over the phone can put a camper miles from the restroom, stranded with no shade, or in the middle of a busy campground trail. Maps will help campers avoid those pitfalls, and wherever possible the author has even recommended specific campsites for maximum privacy, spaciousness, or beauty.

Although there's never a shortage for things to do in Colorado's outdoors, campground summaries in the book also suggest attractions and activities near each campground. Fishing, hiking, biking, paddling, and scenic drives in the immediate area are recommended to ensure that campers know the basic lay of the land and have a jumping-off point to plan their trip.

Whether it's a large family looking to get away for the weekend, a scout troop that wants to try something new, or a serious outdoors enthusiast searching for a place to adventure for the day and crash for the night, *Best Tent Camping: Colorado* has done all the work in finding those special, out-of-the-way campgrounds, and gives campers the tools to plan an amazing, unforgettable camping trip.

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