



ECOLOGY PROJECT
INTERNATIONAL

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ECOLOGY

EXPLORE ALPINE ECOLOGY | INVESTIGATE PREDATOR-PREY RELATIONSHIPS | STUDY CLIMATE CHANGE



WELCOME TO THE FRONT RANGE

Rocky Mountain National Park provides habitat for more than 60 species of mammals who thrive in an alpine tundra environment. On this immersive field experience, you'll dive into wildlife ecology, climate change, fire ecology, and more to get the full picture of what life is like on top of the world—and what you can do to protect this fragile ecosystem.



YOUR FIELD WORK

Alpine environments are home to species that are increasingly threatened by human impacts and climate change. As you participate in research projects such as wildlife population counts and vegetation surveys for the National Park Service, you will delve into this dynamic and even conduct your own independent research project on a topic that intrigues you.



ALPINE EXPLORERS

Despite being a challenging field-based course, there will be time for leisure activities and fun! You'll soak up breathtaking vistas, take advantage of ample wildlife viewing opportunities, or simply relax back at camp. Celebrate the end of the course by rafting one of Colorado's wild rivers, soaking in a natural hot spring, or exploring a geothermal cave system.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN ECOLOGY SAMPLE ITINERARY

DAYS 1-2: ARRIVE IN DENVER

- Meet your EPI instructors, receive course introductions, and make yourself at home in the Front Range of the Rockies
- Set up your acclimation basecamp at Carter Lake

DAYS 2-5: INVESTIGATE ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

- Explore the complex web of life in rugged Rocky Mountain National Park
- Conduct vegetation surveys and collect data for the National Park Service, deepening your understanding of this diverse ecosystem
- Hike through meadows, forests, and wetlands

DAYS 6-7: EXPLORE AMERICA'S CONTINENTAL DIVIDE

- Investigate how wildlife and ecology differs on the western slopes of the Rocky Mountains from our new basecamp in cozy yurts
- Explore alpine and tundra ecosystems as you travel along Trail Ridge Road—the highest paved road in the U.S.
- Conduct American pika population counts for the Colorado Pika Project
- Investigate the impacts of climate change and fire
- Design and conduct your independent research projects

DAY 8: DISCOVER THE ROCKIES FROM PEAKS TO VALLEYS

- Raft one of Colorado's wild rivers, soak in a natural hot spring, or explore a geothermal cave system
- Celebrate the work you've done to protect alpine ecosystems

DAY 9: DEPART DENVER

| Length | Research & Service Hours | Coursework Hours | Focus |
|--------|--------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| 9 Days | 20 | 30 | alpine ecology, climate science |



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