

ESTES PARK

Is situated in Larimer county, Colorado, sixty miles northwest of Denver and at an altitude of 7,500 feet above sea level.

It is reached from Denver by a pleasant journey of forty miles over the Burlington route to Lyons, thence by a picturesque stage road through the St. Vrain Canon. The stage ride is one of the most interesting features of the trip, and furnishes a diversity of scenery not excelled in the state. Following the erratic course of the St. Vrain, as it zigzags up toward the Park, the eye rests upon ever-changing scenes—hillsides covered with wild flowers, huge and varied colored rocks; deep gorges, yawning chasms and frowning precipices.

On the right as you enter the Park stands Mount Olympus, an imposing granite peak rising fifteen hundred feet above the surface; on the left, fifteen miles distant, that sturdy old patriarch, Long's Peak, looms up, a proud pater to the peaks for many miles around. In front, Mounts McGregor and Fairchild, two full-grown children of this noble parent, also fifteen miles away, appear only a stone's throw distant.

The basin of the park is an undulating prairie of green pastures, changing to pine groves and rock-scattered hills. The cordon of lofty mountain peaks which surrounds the park includes Long's peak, Fairchild, McGregor, Prospect, Lily, Sheep, Deer and Olympus mountains, Estes Cone and others of less magnitude.

LONG'S PEAK

Is the highest point in northern Colorado, 14,271 feet. The trip from the Estes Park hotel to "Lamb's," the actual starting point, is full of interest. The road skirts Mary's lake and leads through ample pastures for the first few miles, then through a forest, with the stupendous cliffs of Lilly Mountain overhanging the valley. This mountain is 11,453 feet in height, and its upper cliffs are steep and bare on the inner side, while on the eastern slope heavy timber grows to the top. Lily lake lies at the base of the mountain and gives it its name. Starting from Lamb's at 5 a. m., timber line is reached about 6.30. An hour later what is called the "Boulder Field" is entered. As its name implies, this is literally a field of various sized boulders. At this point horses are abandoned and the natural means of locomotion resorted to.

GEM LAKE.

In Estes park is not surpassed by any in the state. Its numerous streams are filled with trout. Indeed, it was this feature that first attracted attention to the park, and every season since it has been visited by thousands who make the trip for fishing alone. The supply seems inexhaustible, and the fisherman rarely returns at nightfall without a good catch.

There are two good trails over the range which bring Middle park and Gem lake within a day's easy ride from Estes park. Nearly every day hunting parties are formed. Good shooting is found as soon as timber line is reached and bear, elk, deer, mountain sheep, grouse, ptarmigan and other game offer rare inducements to the sportsman. Horses, guides, in fact a complete outfit, can be had at the park.

Much can be said of the health-giving qualities of the climate of Estes park which cannot be said of many other localities in this state of eternal sunshine and rarified air. Scientific investigation, observation and experiment have demonstrated the fact that the altitude of Estes park, coupled with the surrounding conditions, has the most salutary effect upon consumptives and asthmatics.

