

Route 9 - Rocky Mountain National Park. This route is set up as a straight run up I-25 to Longmont, then Estes Park and a return via US 40, I-70 / I-470 and I-25 back to town. This is about 6.5 hours of riding time (at the speed limit), which means you should be able to do some sightseeing on the route and get back before dark. Expect to see heavy traffic in the park.



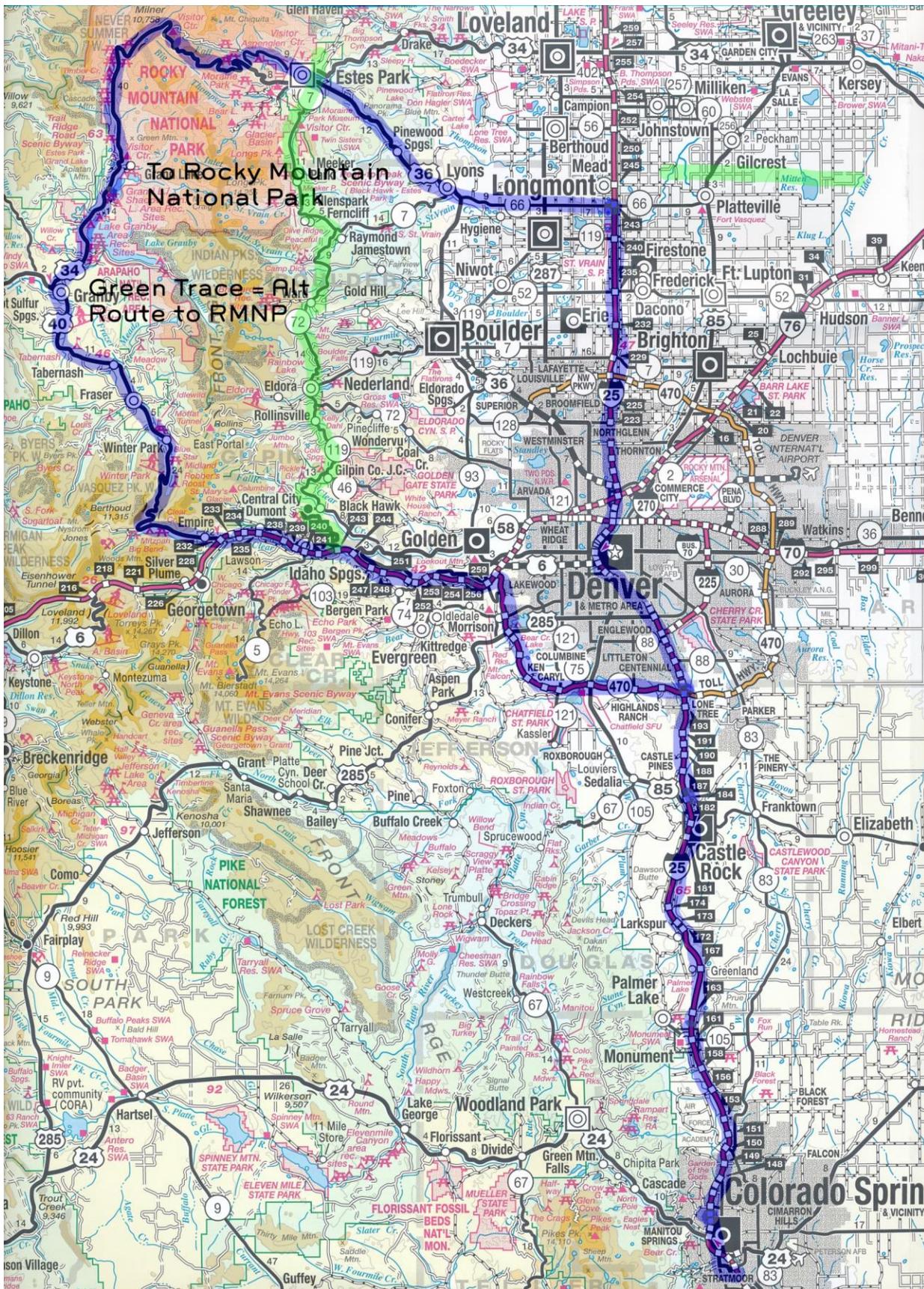
[Moraine Valley, RMNP \(RMNP Web\)](#)

Do not use US-34 (from Loveland, through Big Thompson Canyon) – it is being reconstructed due to massive washouts during the 2013 flood and they expect to be done sometime in June 2017. We should know the status at the time of STAR.

Trail Ridge Road (the highest through road in the US) is a G1/ G2 all the way. The only issue you will have is traffic – which can be horrific at times. Be sure to stop at the Alpine Visitor Center. There are great lunch spots in Estes Park. If you enter the park via US-34 (go up the hill toward the Stanley hotel) rather than US-36, you will find less traffic and crowding.

When you exit the park to the west, our route sends you to US-40 at Granby. Take US-40 south (a Butler G3) until you connect with I-70, then the usual C470 to I-25 and home. Total time at the speed limit is only 6.5 hours, but you are rarely able to do the speed limit through the park.

Another excellent option on your way to RMNP is to turn west on C-470, to I-70 when you reach it going north on I-25. Follow I-70 to the Central City Parkway – just east of Idaho Springs, and travel north to Estes Park on the Parkway, CO-119 from Blackhawk to CO-72 and CO-7. This is the 'Peak to Peak' highway and it is a wonderful (Butler G2 all the way) and much more scenic route to Estes. You should add at least an hour to your trip (plus picture time) if take this option.



Green Trace = Alt Route to RMNP