



ADVENTURES
in good company



HIKING AND SKETCHING IN THE COLORADO ROCKIES

Trip Summary

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hiking on some spectacular trails in Rocky Mountain National Park
- Experiencing a variety of Rocky Mountain ecosystems, including Aspen and Pine forests, mountain meadows and wildflowers
- Practicing using your sketchbook in a new way to really see and record the beautiful vistas
- Learning some basic art elements to improve your drawing and watercolor sketching techniques
- Enjoying the camaraderie of other women who love to hike and be creative

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TRIP AT A GLANCE

Location:	Grand Lake, CO
Activities:	Hiking
Arrive:	Arrive at our Denver airport hotel by 5PM on Day 1. We'll be spending the first night at a hotel near the airport.
Depart:	We'll be back at the Denver airport by 12PM, and you can plan flights out after 2PM on the last day.

Trip Overview

Hike through forests and meadows, along sparkling creeks, and cascading waterfalls. Stop along the way to sketch the beauty of summer in the Rockies. We provide a watercolor set and journal that fits in your day pack, along with expert art instruction and a supportive, creative hiking group. Maximum group size: 12

Rating

This trip is for women in good physical condition who can hike for two to five hours a day in mountainous terrain. There will be an option of hiking distances on 2 days, giving you the freedom to determine whether you're more inspired by the hiking and surroundings, or the time to stop, sketch, and smell the wildflowers. You will have the opportunity to participate in all the options if you train for a rated 3 trip by engaging in aerobic conditioning, such as walking vigorously up hills, jogging, cross country skiing or stair stepping for 30 - 45 minutes at least 3 - 4 times a week.

Rating: 1 [2](#) [3](#) 4 5.

What's Included

- Two experienced AGC hiking guides with expertise in CO ecology and instruction of field sketching and watercolor.
- Six nights lodging in rooms with 2 or 3 people
- All meals from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on the final day
- All transportation once you arrive in Denver CO
- A small travel sketch set with journal, water brush, travel watercolor set, and micron pen

What's not included: Travel to and from the Denver airport, alcoholic beverages, guide gratuities, and travel insurance.

OUR ITINERARY

Below is the itinerary we have planned for the trip. As is true on any adventure travel trip, plans for any specific day may be modified due to weather considerations, unforeseen circumstances, new opportunities, and group interests.

DAY 1

Arrive today at the Denver airport by approximately 4PM in order to check into our hotel by 5PM. We'll be staying at a nearby hotel with an airport shuttle, and will meet in the hotel lobby at 5:30PM to head to our first dinner together as a group.

DAY 2

We'll leave Denver about 9:00 am for the two-and-a-half-hour drive to Shadowcliff Mountain Lodges, elevation of 8,600 ft, and our home for the week. Shadowcliff is located on Grand Lake, right on the edge of Rocky Mountain National Park. After sharing a picnic lunch, we'll have an intro to sketching materials and playing with watercolors, with an interactive color wheel exercise. Then, we will walk to the Kawunweeche Visitor Center, 1.5 miles gentle uphill, as we continue to acclimate to Colorado's higher elevations. We'll stop along the way to do some easy thumbnail (tiny) sketches to learn about drawing composition. Next, we'll settle into our rooms in Cliffside Lodge at Shadowcliff. After dinner we'll head outside for a nature walk and sketching the sunset over Grand Lake and the mountains. (B,L,D)

DAY 3

This morning we'll hike right from our lodge on the North Inlet Trail, which is part of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. The out-and-back trail provides an opportunity for two hiking groups: Whomever wants a longer hike, Cascade Falls is 7.4-miles round trip. The falls are multi-tiered cascades that drop roughly 50 feet through a narrow granite chute. Those wanting to stop and sketch/paint the meadows and mountain vistas along the way may opt for a shorter hiking distance. Regardless, later in the afternoon we will have short lessons and practice to learn about perspective, proportions, and perception in landscape drawing. We will also cool off in the stream and enjoy the atmosphere at Shadowcliff, which often includes evening music jam or games. (B,L,D)

DAY 4

Today, we'll hike on the East Inlet Trail past Adams Falls where a rocky outcrop provides views of the rushing falls through a narrow gorge. We continue hiking through aspen and lodge pole pine forests and lush meadows with abundant wildflowers. The out-and-back trail today starts with a gradual up and then proceeds more steeply above the mountain valley with numerous rocky outcroppings and spectacular vistas. We'll again have the option to split into two groups for a faster or slower pace and more or less opportunities to stop and sketch trees, rocks, and wildflowers. While distances and elevation changes will be determined by the group paces, the maximum distance this day will be about 7.1 miles with an elevation gain of 1000 ft. Our art class today will focus on value, light source, shadows, and shapes. (B,L,D)

DAY 5

This morning we will get an early start to avoid afternoon thunderstorms above timberline. We drive an hour to the Alpine Visitor Center, situated at an elevation of 11,800 feet, with exhibits about the alpine ecosystem and spectacular 360-degree views across the Continental Divide. From the visitor center, we'll hike downhill for 4 miles, dropping 950 feet in elevation, to Milner Pass, an alpine lake and our van. If the weather is conducive, we will stop for quick watercolor sketches along our hike. Options include close-up studies of tiny alpine plants, the snowy peaks of the Never Summer Range, and a series of pristine tarns (small alpine ponds) and their reflections. We'll demonstrate techniques for reflections and water before our drive back to Grand Lake with time to explore the town, starting with the local art gallery. (B,L,D)

DAY 6

Today we have options for a longer loop hike (7.5 mi, 1300 ft. elevation gain) on the Onahu, Tonahutu, and Green Mountain trails, or an out-and-back hike of 3 miles with time to explore some great views, historic buildings, and points of interest in the area, as well as more time to watercolor sketch. Tonight, feeling like the accomplished hiker/artists that we are, we'll go out to celebrate at our final celebration dinner in Grand Lake. We will also share our favorite sketches from the week - a mini-art show of our own. (B,L,D)

DAY 7

Today we'll pack up and clean up, sadly bidding farewell to our home for the week and this gorgeous Park. We'll be back at the Denver airport by 12pm and you can plan flights out any time after 2PM. (B)

ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

Getting There

1. If you are flying, plan to fly into the Denver (DEN) airport anytime on Day 1. We will be spending the first night at the Courtyard Marriott which has a hotel shuttle
2. If you are driving, there will be options to park at the airport, or at the Marriott.
3. Details will be provided in the Pre-Departure document sent 4 months prior to start of your trip.

If you would like assistance with airfare, we recommend contacting our AirDesk Partner, [Exito Travel](#). Start by submitting this [form](#). Just fill in your dates and destinations, including any additional notes about preferred carriers, class of service, possible stopovers, etc., and an agent will typically respond via email within a few hours. If you prefer to call, the number is 800-655-4053; be sure to tell them you are traveling with Adventures in Good Company.

Please note: Exito charges a one-time, non-refundable processing fees of \$50 per passenger.

Accommodations

We will spend one night at a hotel near the Denver airport and five nights at the [Shadowcliff Mountain Lodge](#). Shadowcliff is a non-profit organization focused on sustainability. The property is made up of rustic lodges and cabins built through the efforts of approximately 650 volunteers over the course of 4 decades. The Cliffside Lodge, which we will have to ourselves, has a deck, kitchen, dining areas, a large third floor lounge with a fireplace, and fantastic views. There are 5 bedrooms, each with one double bed and a set of bunks, and there will be 2 - 3 women in each room, with two available single supplements. Beds will be assigned randomly. There are a total of four shared bathrooms, none of which are attached to individual rooms. We feel that this is a great place for our group to connect with nature.

Travel Insurance

We recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer travel protection through Travelex Insurance Services. For more information on the available plans or to enroll, visit www.travelexinsurance.com or call 1-800-228-9792 and reference location number 06-0331.

Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. All products listed are underwritten by, Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation charges reflect the many expenses Adventures in Good Company cannot recover if you cancel, even if you must do so due to illness, injury, or personal emergencies. These fees are not meant to be punitive. The charges made reflect the expenses Adventures in Good Company has incurred in administering your reservation and planning for your participation. We recognize that the majority of those who cancel their reservations do so out of necessity. Please note that we do not make any refunds for any unused portion of your trip, not arriving, arriving late, or leaving the trip early.

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