

# Minturn and Red Cliff Outdoor Responsible Recreation Guide

Located in the Rockies Playground, the towns of Minturn and Red Cliff are 9 miles apart in the heart of Eagle County. The towns provide easy access to a wealth of outdoor adventures and are surrounded by the Holy Cross Wilderness, the White River National Forest, and crossed by the mighty Eagle River. This area was originally developed as a railroad and mining community, and retains much of that history today. But now this area is known more for being an off-the-beaten path alternative getaway. Away from the hustle and bustle of the neighboring ski resorts, Minturn and Red Cliff provide an opportunity to experience the great outdoors in a more relaxed environment. This community also offers unique shops, great casual dining options, and affordable lodging.

Staff working within the towns of Minturn and Red Cliff government are responsible for local tourism development, management, and promotion. One of its primary missions within this tourism management realm is the promotion of responsible outdoor recreation. To enhance conservation efforts for the thousands of acres of public lands surrounding the destinations, the Towns of Minturn and Red Cliff encourage all visitors and residents to follow outdoor recreation principles each time they visit and recreate in the great outdoors.

Minturn and Red Cliff peak seasons occur from December to March and late June to September, as well as during the public holidays. During the off-peak seasons, visitors can usually find better rates on lodging, dining, and other amenities. Most summer events and activities kick-off in mid-June and run strong until the end of September. Both towns have extended summer days, with temperatures remaining on average 70 degrees during the day through September. (Beware of the occasional thunderstorm though).

This outdoor responsible recreation guide provides two-day itineraries for each of the four seasons, each of which position Minturn and Red Cliff as a unified hub for outdoor recreation.

Hiking, biking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, hunting, and fishing are only some of the many recreation opportunities offered within the towns and on their national forest outskirts. Together, we will keep our public lands open, safe, and clean all year long.



# The Town of Minturn

Elevation: 7,861'

Minturn is a small town with big character located in the heart of the Rocky Mountains in Colorado. Historic architecture, charming homes, great restaurants, and unique shops all help to conserve the town's cultural heritage while creating an entryway to dozens of outdoor adventure activities.

Area trails offer a variety of opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking and, in winter, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Minturn is also home to snowmobiling routes and several options for river sports, including fishing, kayaking, rafting, and SUPing.

While the last five decades have seen the increased development of Vail and Beaver Creek resorts on either side of Minturn, the town's appearance and feel retain its historic Colorado roots. Minturn remains the true "hometown" of the Vail area.

Minturn is surrounded on three sides by the Holy Cross Wilderness, a national forest, and the mighty Eagle River runs all the way through town. Whatever the season, make sure your visit to Minturn includes a trip into the great outdoors!

Highway 24 running through Town, is also its own attraction. This stretch of highway (from Minturn to Redcliff to Leadville and beyond, is both a designated State of Colorado and National Scenic Byway.



# The Town of Red Cliff

**Elevation: 8,750'**

Red Cliff was established in 1879 and is the oldest town in Eagle County. Its rich cultural history has remained over the last century-plus and has been magnified thanks to the various outdoor recreation offerings around this strong but mighty town.

Today, Red Cliff is a quaint mountain community that attracts rugged outdoor recreationists in search of off-the-path outdoor adventure, as well as visitors in search of an idyllic getaway into nature and away from the crowds. Many residents and tourists enjoy mountain biking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, kayaking, fly fishing, rock climbing, and hiking with fantastic wildflower viewing, all within and around Red Cliff. From Red Cliff, you get close-up views and easy access to the Mount of the Holy Cross and the surrounding White River National Forest.

Red Cliff is located off the Top of the Rockies Scenic Byway, Highway 24. You'll often see classic cars and motorcycles parked in front of Mango's Restaurant or the Green Bridge Inn. The Town of Red Cliff is also accessible via Vail Pass off of I-70 and over Shrine Pass, a 12-mile dirt road, by car, dirt bike, or four-wheeler in the summer or cross-country skis and snowmobiles in the winter.

# Seasons in Minturn and Red Cliff

## Winter

Glistening snow during a sunny (or blistery) Colorado winter day is the ideal backdrop for an action-packed winter adventure. Minturn and Red Cliff's ideal location amongst the Holy Cross Wilderness and White River National Forest makes the area the perfect base for cold-weather fun. Tighten your ski boots, wrap your scarf tight, cramp on your crampons, and enjoy a winter break in Minturn and Red Cliff. No matter your winter activity of choice, be prepared for anything, as winter weather can turn at the drop of a snowflake around the two towns.

## Spring

The melting snow, running water and longer days of springtime in Minturn and Red Cliff collide head-on with fickle weather. Spring acts as the link between winter and summer, and outdoor recreationists should be prepared for weather matching each of these three seasons. A day hike on a sunny day in mid-May might give way to a heavy and wet snowstorm that allows for a ski tour around Shrine Pass the following day.

## Summer

Living may be easy during summer in Minturn and Red Cliff, but adventure awaits adjacent to the two towns for both outdoor amateurs and even the most experienced mountaineers. The long summer days and their warm, star-studded nights lend themselves to endless opportunities around the Holy Cross Wilderness and the White River National Forest. Grab a freeze-dried meal, plenty of water, and (as always) extra layers – as the Colorado adage goes, people come for the winter and stay for the summer.

## Fall

Thinking about waxing your skis? Think again. The green leaves giving way to deep reds and oranges can mean only one thing...fall has fallen upon Minturn and Red Cliff. Before the snow begins to fall, take a trip out to Eagle County and get lost amongst the changing trees in and around Minturn and Red Cliff. Be sure to include a drive along the Top of the Rockies Scenic Byway for spectacular views and photos, especially during the fall colors.

# Winter



Explore the natural beauty of Minturn and Red Cliff in the winter with the white-capped peaks of the Holy Cross Wilderness and the White River National Forest as your backdrop. The two towns provide easy access to an array of winter outdoor activities, including cross-country skiing, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, and snowmobiling (not to mention the multiple world-class ski areas located nearby.) In addition to thrilling outdoor activities, both Minturn and Red Cliff offer a diverse selection of enjoyable winter events, including the Minturn town tree lighting and January Christmas tree bonfire, and Red Cliff's Christmas in the Cliff celebration. To warm up after your adventure in the chilly outdoors, indulge in the many restaurants, bars, and shops that these destinations have to offer, completing your visit to these picturesque Colorado locales.

## Day 1

Get an early start from your departure point, as your winter adventure starts almost immediately after turning off of I-70 (Exit 171). Seconds after exiting the highway, pull off to your right at the Meadow Mountain Parking Lot, just past the Holy Cross Ranger Station. Offering wide-open terrain and up to 2,000 vertical feet of elevation gain, Meadow Mountain is fantastic for both snowshoeing and backcountry skiing. Snowmobiles are also welcomed in this section of the White River National Forest, but only from November 23rd to May 20th. Pick up a winter Motor Vehicle Use Map at the Ranger Station at the bottom of Meadow Mountain to see where snowmobiling is permitted in the area. (Pro-tip: Visit The Vail Mountain Coffee & Tea Roastery Cafe, just a mile from the trailhead, to get your caffeine fix before venturing out.)





## Day 1 Continued...

At the top of Meadow Mountain, a small cabin overlooks Vail and Beaver Creek ski resorts and makes an ideal place to enjoy a snack and glimpse down towards the old ski runs that used to call the area home.

Celebrate your morning winter adventure with a famous margarita from the Minturn Saloon before settling into your room at the Minturn Inn in the heart of downtown Minturn. Warm up next to the fire in the cozy lobby that doubles as a living room.

Next, visit Maloit Park for a late afternoon jaunt through a forest mixed with fir, pine, and spruce, and enjoy watching the cross-country skiers cruising on the various groomed trails. It is here where recreation meets cultural heritage. Maloit Park was developed as a recreation area for employees of the Gilman Mine by the New Jersey Zinc Company almost 100 years ago, and The Eagle County School District exercised its option to purchase the land in 1985. It was not until 2010 that trails were created through a partnership between the Eagle County School District and Ski & Snowboard Club Vail.

## Day 2

Enjoy the view from the Red Cliff Bridge before heading south roughly 7 miles towards the Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument (designated national monument in 2022). Here you will learn the history of the Tenth Mountain Division, the U.S. Army's only mountain infantry that was instrumental in aiding the Allied powers during World War II. If you have conserved enough energy, consider a tour with Nova Guides to explore this portion of the White River National Forest before settling in at the Green Bridge Inn for the night.

Schedule an afternoon with Rocky Mountain Adventure Rentals and begin your guided winter adventure up Shrine Pass early from Red Cliff's western gateway. Head out past Mango's Mountain Grill, following Turkey Creek up towards Julia's Deck. In front of you, facing east will be the Tenmile Range, while to your left (north) will be the rugged peaks of the Ten-Mile Range. Self-guiding snowmobilers may choose to continue out into the backcountry towards the Vail Pass Trailhead, while hikers and cross-country skiers can choose to turn around at their leisure. Heading back towards Red Cliff, expect to be greeted by stunning views of the Holy Cross Wilderness and finish the day at Mango's with their famous fish tacos and margaritas.



# Winter Responsible Recreation Tips

## Driving in Winter

Check road conditions on [COtrip](#) prior to beginning your drive towards Minturn and Red Cliff. Be sure your vehicle is equipped with chains, snow tires, (or all-weather tires) and basic essentials in case you get stranded. If renting a car/truck, ensure that the vehicle is equipped with four-wheel or all-wheel drive to [Respect Colorado's passenger vehicle traction & chain laws](#).

## Snowshoeing & Winter Hiking

If enjoying the trails in the winter, pack layers, bring ample food and water, stay on the trail (that goes for your dogs too!), and pack out all trash and waste of any kind (including dog and human waste). Pro-tip: Visitors to Red Cliff can walk up Cemetery Road and make a loop through the cemetery that gives an incredible view of the bridge. Remember to be respectful when passing through this historical cemetery, as some notable people are buried there.

## Animal Encounters

Wildlife takes advantage of the quiet and pristine setting of public lands during winter. When encountering any wildlife (especially moose and elk), keep your distance, don't panic, and absolutely do not try to feed them. Make your voice heard and slowly back away from the direction in which you came. If a moose charges you, run and take cover behind a solid object (like a tree), or try to get into the nearest car or building.

## Snowmobiling

Knowledge is power for snowmobilers passing through Minturn and Red Cliff en route to their backcountry adventure. Check snow conditions before firing up those snow machines, and remain cognizant of noise pollution and trailer parking in town. For those recreating on Meadow Mountain, take note of the motorized and non-motorized sections and trails. Please remember to steer away from driving and parking snowmobiles and trailers on Red Cliff and Minturn town streets.

## Backcountry Ski Touring

Snow and trail conditions are unpredictable in Colorado's backcountry, and the White River National Forest is no different. Ski touring brings with it added inherent risk in the backcountry, and as such should only be attempted by experienced backcountry skiers and snowboarders. Be sure to check snow conditions on the [Colorado Avalanche Information Center](#) website before venturing out into the White River National Forest and Holy Cross Wilderness, and always carry with you and know how to use your beacon, shovel, and probe. Finally, be aware of private property and always avoid trespass.

# Spring



From early season fishing on the Eagle River to those first mountain biking pedals of the year, the thawing springtime temperatures in Minturn and Red Cliff provide the perfect setting to engage in various outdoor activities. Take a stroll through Little Beach Park, hire a guide from Minturn Anglers and go fishing on the Eagle River or Turquoise Lake, cross-country ski in Maloit Park, or embark on a hiking or snowshoeing adventure along the many scenic trails with early season access. And as always, take a moment to relish the local cuisine and beverages available at the many excellent restaurants and bars in the area as you wind down from your spring adventure.

## Day 1

Options are plentiful for your spring morning in Red Cliff:

### Spring Hiking

Start your day early to avoid crowds and make the most of your snowshoeing experience along Tigiwon Road towards the Mount of the Holy Cross Trail. This area, located a 14-mile drive west of Red Cliff, boasts stunning alpine views of the White River National Forest. Remember to stay on the trails even if they are muddy to help prevent erosion and damage.

### Fishing

If you're in the mood for a peaceful fishing experience, look no further than Homestake Creek, located just southwest of Red Cliff. This scenic creek offers a mix of small to medium-sized brown, rainbow, and a few brook trout making it the perfect spot for anglers of all levels to cast away and relax. Nestled away from the crowds, Homestake Creek provides a serene atmosphere to enjoy the natural beauty of the area while fishing.

After your morning excursion, treat yourself to a meal at Mango's Mountain Grill - a favorite among the locals - before taking a stroll or a brief drive to the Red Cliff Bridge, one of only two steel arch bridges in the state. The Red Cliff Bridge, renowned for its striking deep emerald beams, is also a notable feature of the Top of the Rockies Scenic Byway. For an impressive photo op, continue a short distance down west on US-24 and snap a shot with this impressive landmark as your backdrop. Remember that off-highway vehicles are not permitted in town.



## Day 2

Stop by Sunrise Minturn to savor a delicious morning beverage while enjoying the magnificent views of Meadow Mountain and Lionshead Rock. Located just north of Minturn on US-24, this quaint coffee shop is a perfect spot to gear up for your day. Once fully caffeinated, drive out to the Game Creek Trail parking lot just east of the Roastery Cafe and start your stroll along Game Creek.

Don't be fooled by the leisurely (and non-snowy) start, as this trail continues uphill with an elevation change of over 2,300 feet that rewards hikers with stunning views of Minturn. Be sure to carry snowshoes or microspikes, as snow and ice are common even in late spring. As you continue along the trail, you'll eventually find yourself at the edge of Vail, where you can take in the majestic scenery of this world-renowned ski resort. Not only is the Game Creek Trail known for its incredible views, but it's also home to an abundance of wildflowers, elk, deer, moose, and countless other flora and fauna. Remember to check weather conditions before venturing out. Springtime in Minturn can mean 70 degrees and sunny one minute, and blowing snow the next.

If angling is your recreation activity of choice, don't miss the lower section of Cross Creek,



accessible via Maloit Park, during the second half of spring. This picturesque creek offers cold water temperatures and is home to mainly trout. Just a short walk from Maloit Park, fishers can begin following the creek. Before setting out, always check local regulations and obtain a fishing permit to ensure a smooth and enjoyable fishing experience.

Then, settle in at the Hotel Minturn, your home for the evening, before venturing out to Little Beach Park. Not all outdoor recreation has to get your blood pumping, and Little Beach Park is the yin to your morning yang. Tucked between the Eagle River and the cliffs of Minturn, this locals-favorite offers a plethora of convenient amenities like grills, picnic tables, and plenty of tree shade. The park also features play structures for children of all ages, making it a fun spot for families. For those seeking to exert a bit more energy, Little Beach Park provides opportunities for fishing in the Eagle River. Leave No Trace principles apply to public parks, just as they do the backcountry. Be sure to clean up trash and be respectful of other park-goers to ensure a wonderful spring afternoon for all.

# Spring Responsible Recreation Tips

## Mountain Biking & Hiking

Mountain bikers around Eagle County feel the itch to ditch the skis and get on their two wheels right around the time the warm March sun begins to shine. Biking during the mud season brings an extra set of responsible recreation needs, as trails are most vulnerable when they are wet. Check trails for firmness before jumping on the saddle. If the tires are leaving tracks, consider returning on a different day. This applies to springtime hiking too. Footprints and paw prints are often just as damaging to trails as tires.) Avoiding mud/puddles by going around causes even more damage to trails, increasing their width, disturbing native and protected lands, and increasing the need for maintenance.

- The Minturn Bike Park is open from late May to late October (exact dates are weather dependent each season).
- In the White River National Forest, mountain biking is not permitted until May 21. Contact the [Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District](#) for more information.

## Seasonal Wildlife Trail Closures

Seasonal wildlife trail closures in Minturn and Red Cliff are crucial for preserving the natural habitat of wildlife. These closures ensure that animals can freely migrate, birth, and forage undisturbed. By respecting these closures, we contribute to the conservation of Colorado's diverse ecosystems and safeguard the balance of nature with outdoor recreation. Contact [Vail Valley Mountain Trails Alliance](#) for more information about opening and closing days.

## Fishing

Angling may be a year-round sport in Colorado, but springtime's thawing rivers and snow runoff make this season the best time to brush up on your fishing regulations and responsibilities. A valid fishing license is required for all people aged 16 and older. Licenses run on a 13-month cycle that goes from the first of March to the end of March the following year. Fishing earlier in the day before the sun increases water temperatures is encouraged. Generally, 65 degrees Fahrenheit is the benchmark. Finally, take out what you bring in, as fishing gear left behind is detrimental to the health of fish living in the Eagle River and its tributaries. Consult [Colorado Parks and Wildlife](#) to learn more about fishing regulations.

## Spring Skiing

Springtime offers ski tourers an opportunity to enjoy those last few turns of the summer. Despite spring being thought of as the relatively safest season for backcountry skiing, there is always inherent risk in skinning-up and skiing down. This applies even in April and May. Whether you are circling the Minturn Mile or following skin tracks around Shrine Pass, always assess conditions with [Colorado Avalanche Information Center](#), and be equipped with and know how to use a beacon, shovel, and probe. Additionally, backcountry skiers should be especially aware of seasonal movement of elk and mule deer in In Game Creek and Elk Creek during the warming spring months.

# Summer

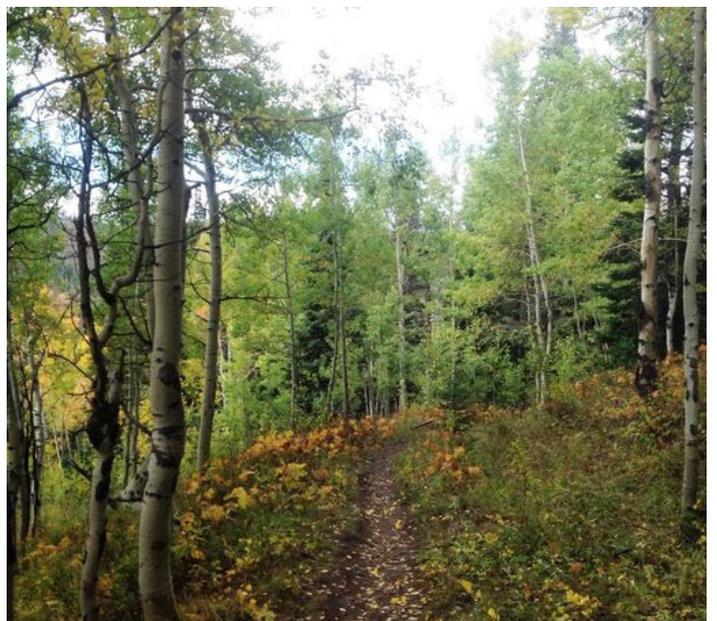


Minturn and Red Cliff offer an abundance of outdoor recreational activities for visitors to enjoy during the summer months. Hiking is perhaps the most popular activity in the area, with trails ranging from easy strolls (Martin Creek Trail) to more challenging summit climbs (Mount of the Holy Cross Trail). Other favorite hiking trails include Meadow Mountain, Grouse Creek, and Everkrisp. Visitors can also enjoy mountain biking on trails that wind through the surrounding mountains and forests. The Eagle River is a great spot for fishing, while others may opt for a guided rafting trips on the nearby Colorado River to experience the thrill of whitewater rapids. While visiting, we encourage all visitors to help minimize their impact on the environment by staying on designated trails, packing out all trash, and avoiding disturbing wildlife. By being responsible outdoor recreationists, visitors and residents alike can help preserve the natural beauty and resources of the area for generations to come.

## Day 1

An early Saturday morning start will give you enough time to get over to the Minturn Market. On Saturdays from 9:00 am to 2:00pm from late June through early September, the Minturn Market offers a delightful selection of local products, food trucks, fresh produce, baked goods, art, and so much more. It's the perfect opportunity to shop local and enjoy the summer weather with your family while preparing for your upcoming camping trip. But first...

Have some fun at the Minturn Bike Park. This free bike park is open to the public and is conveniently located in Minturn, just southeast of Little Beach Park. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced biker, this park welcomes all levels of expertise. To ensure everyone's safety and preserve the park's quality, please follow all directional signage.



## Day 1 Continued...

### CAMPING TRIP!

You've loaded up on supplies from the Minturn Market, and now the time has come to enjoy some serenity in the woods at the Halfmoon Campground, situated at the top of Tigiwon Road #707 (opens June 21st annually). This forested campground operates on a first come first serve basis and is located near the boundary of the Holy Cross Wilderness. Due to the nature of the road and parking at the campground, RVs are not permitted. Halfmoon Campground is often full during the summer months, so please have a back-up plan in case there are no spaces upon arrival (Camp Hale Memorial Campground is a great alternative). And always be mindful of fire restrictions during the summer season, as wildfires remain a growing concern.

Once you've set up your tent, you'll be pleased to find that the Halfmoon Campground features a few trailheads (Mt. of the Holy Cross Trailhead and Fall Creek Trailhead), allowing you to explore the breathtaking scenery of the surrounding area.

Before enjoying the serenity of the night sky at your campsite, check out a concert back in town. The Minturn Summer Concert Series is a free event every Thursday night July through mid-August at Little Beach Park. Bring a picnic basket, relax with your friends and family, and enjoy the poetic beauty of mountains and music. Please keep in mind that glass is not allowed in the park and all pets must be leashed.



## Day 2

Are you ready for an exhilarating and fast-paced adventure? The Holy Cross City Road is the perfect destination, albeit an incredibly challenging road to navigate (high-clearance 4x4 vehicles and technical driving skills are required). Beginning just east of Red Cliff and concluding in the Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument on US-24, this 13.4-mile road offers stunning views from the top of Resolution Mountain and Hornsilver Mountain. Please note, it's essential to check the width and difficulty of the roads before embarking on your journey. Different roads offer varying challenges, so it's important to choose roads that match your skill level to minimize impact and the need for further trail maintenance, and ensure you have a good experience.

Once back in Red Cliff, drop your bags at the Green Bridge Inn, where you will spend the night, but don't get too comfortable since you're likely still craving more outdoor adventure. That's good, because Red Cliff shines in the summer. Just a quick 30-minute drive southwest of Red Cliff will bring you to the Whitney Lake Trailhead. This out-and-back trail offers breathtaking views of the Holy Cross Wilderness, culminating at Whitney Lake and with a memorable glimpse of Whitney Peak. To preserve the natural habitat, we kindly remind you to keep your pets on a leash to minimize impacts to wildlife and other trail users.

# Summer Responsible Recreation Tips

## Off-Highway Vehicles

Roaring over trails atop ATVs and UTVs (side-by-sides) on the numerous trails leaving from Red Cliff and Minturn is a recipe for hours of adrenaline-inducing adventure, and following responsibility guidelines will keep the backcountry accessible to OHVs for years to come. Noise, dust, and air pollution should always be of great concern to backcountry motorists. Prevent engines from revving loudly to keep them under the Colorado State Law of 96 decibels, use proper exhaust systems to avoid smokey air, and be mindful of kicking up dust when encountering other outdoor recreation enthusiasts. When encountering gates, leave open gates opened and close closed gates behind you. Finally, always stay on the trail, remain on designated trails, and never ride on Red Cliff or Minturn town roads. [Consult the USFS Summer Motor Vehicle Use Map for more information.](#)

## Hiking

Summertime brings afternoon thunderstorms to the high country of Red Cliff and Minturn. To ensure a safe and enjoyable experience, always check the weather forecast before heading out and plan an early start. Aim to be below the treeline by noon to avoid the storms. Communication can be unreliable in the backcountry, so have alternative means of staying in touch. If hiking alone, inform someone about your plans and return time. Remember, reaching the summit is optional, but your safety is essential. Focus on returning to the trailhead safely and securely.

## Campfire Safety

Build your Colorado campfire (and avoid sparking a wildfire) by first checking in with [Eagle County Emergency Management](#) to ensure campfires are allowed in the area and to verify any current fire restrictions. Only build fires where permitted, and keep them small, manageable, and attended. When it's time to extinguish, make sure the embers are cold to the touch to avoid reigniting a flame. Buy or gather firewood locally to prevent the introduction of any invasive species like the destructive pine beetle. Use care when smoking anything (and we do mean anything) in the dry climate of Red Cliff and Minturn. Butts are one of the leading causes of fire.

## River Recreation

The upper Eagle River passes through Minturn and Red Cliff and provides a variety of scenic, outdoor opportunities along its 20+ mile stretch from Tennessee Pass to Down Junction. Water shortages remain one of Colorado's significant environmental threats. Anglers, kayakers, rafters, and tubers must remain mindful at all times to [Leave No Trace](#) around waterways, as well as river restrictions based on water levels and temperatures. (Water levels and temperatures are monitored daily by [USGS](#).)

# Fall



Are you searching for a place to enjoy the changing colors of summer turning to fall? Look no further than Minturn and Red Cliff! The towns offer an abundance of outdoor activities for everyone, from leisurely hikes and leaf peeping drives to more extreme pursuits like rock climbing and hunting.

## Day 1

Discover the gateway to adventure at Klettergarden Bouldering! To reach this hidden gem, take US Highway 24 south from I-70/Minturn, and after crossing the Red Cliff Bridge, drive 0.5 mile to find a convenient dirt pullout/median between Water Street and US Highway 24 on your right. Consult a Google map for reference, and spot the "Powerline Road" across from the pullout, serving as the old 4x4 trail to the Klettergarden. Enjoy stunning views along the 9-mile journey from Minturn to the parking area. Enjoy the breathtaking surroundings!

Just a bit further south of here, discover the Homestake Crag, affectionately known as Homespank for its challenging routes. This compact and easily accessible sport climbing spot offers around 10 climbs, ranging from 5.9 to 5.12. Ideal for quick post-work workouts, but not a primary destination. Safety is a priority with well-bolted routes featuring extra protection through crux sequences. Most routes boast engaging crux sequences and diverse holds like crimps, slopers, sidepulls, and underclings. The rock has distinctive features, with a slight overhang in the center, and routes varying from 35 to 85 feet.

It's essential to remember to pack out what you pack in to keep the climbing areas pristine for future visitors. For camping, Homestake Rd. offers ample options, but arrive early on weekends for prime spots due to high traffic. Nearby, Minturn and Leadville provide supplies, while Mango's in Red Cliff is a must-visit bar/restaurant.

For an activity that keeps your feet on the ground, check out the changing leaves along the Cemetery Loop.



## Day 2

For a scenic adventure out into the backcountry via motorbike, OHV, or a regular ol' drive, look no further than Resolution Mountain Road. This dirt road is situated about 10 minutes southeast of Red Cliff, starting at Camp Hale and ending at Ptarmigan Pass. It's an easy road to navigate to the top of the pass, where you'll be rewarded with breathtaking panoramic views and a glimpse of old sawmills. Return the way you came, as continuing down Wearyman Creek requires high-clearance 4WD and technical driving skills. Avoid side slipping to prevent rutting and erosion.

Seeking a more challenging adventure? The Holy Cross City Jeep Road will test your skills on the backroads. This extreme road is very popular but be advised that it's only suitable for vehicles with certain specifications (i.e. lifted jeeps equipped with a winch). We recommend checking a 4-wheel drive guidebook for a detailed description of the route and the recommended vehicle specifications. It's crucial to note that this road should not be attempted by stock vehicles.

Leaf peepers will rejoice as they find their way to the [Everkrisp Trail](#), one of Minturn's newest trails for biking and hiking! This four-mile trail was created in 2019 and connects Minturn to Eagle-Vail Trail via the Stone Creek Trail. It makes a great loop with the Whiskey Creek trail and offers breathtaking views of the changing colors of the leaves. (Fun fact: the meadows in this area were once the property of the Everkrisp Lettuce Company in the 1920s, which is how the trail got its name.)

Be sure to double-check that the trail is open before you head out, as it closes from November 23rd to June 20th annually for deer and elk winter range and calving.

There are plenty of other areas to enjoy the changing colors along US-24 between Minturn and Red Cliff, but don't forget to come to celebrate fall with Minturn's Hometown Throwdown. Here, visitors will enjoy live music from local bands and musicians at multiple different venues throughout town. All shows are free, so bring the whole family and enjoy a full afternoon of music and fun.



## Day 3 (Bonus Day)



**Hunting is primarily a fall activity, and ample opportunity exists for big and small game, including deer, elk, moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goats...and the once-in-a-lifetime bull moose.**

**If you're planning a hunting trip around Minturn and Red Cliff, before heading out contact the Colorado Parks & Wildlife at their Glenwood Springs office (88 Wildlife Way, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601 970-947-2920) or [visit online](#). This site is a great source of up-to-date information on hunting regulations, licenses, and more.**

# Fall Responsible Recreation Tips

## Hiking, Take 2

Enjoy discovering plants? Looking for interesting rocks up Shrine Pass? Be sure to leave them as you found them so everyone can experience the joy of discovery. Colorado has more than 2,000 different species of wildflowers, all with their own unique part to play in our ecosystem. Admire their beauty by taking a photo, not a flower.

## Leaf Peeping

Minturn and Red Cliff's trees give us beautiful leaf peeping photos in the fall, and of course, oxygen (which at this altitude is a big help). Whether you are hiking around Iron Mountain or the Greenwood Cemetery scoping colors in the autumn or taking cover while hiking to the Missouri Lakes, remember that the smallest carving in trees can kill or disfigure them. And as always, please remember to keep a safe distance from any wildlife you may encounter. It's essential to avoid stressing the animals, as we want to ensure that their natural habitats remain healthy and safe, just like their well-being.

## Hunting

Open season is just as much a recreational sport as it is a means for wildlife and environmental conservation. Hunters are reminded that licenses and tags must be purchased before heading out on their search for game. Furthermore, hunters should follow archery and rifle seasons closely and not hunt out of season. Learn more about hunting [rules and regulations](#) by [visiting the CPW website](#).

## Rock Climbing

Rock climbing is an inherently dangerous sport. Before chalking up your hands, be sure that you have the proper equipment and a high level of technical skills. Always be aware of local rules and regulations at the crag, and be respectful of other climbers by climbing in small groups. Guides should always be contacted for beginners to the sport.



## Adopt A Trail Program

Various Adopt-A-Trail programs throughout the Towns of Minturn and Red Cliff allow visitors and residents to be ambassadors for responsible outdoor recreation. Information about these programs - such as the [Adopt A Trail program offered by Vail Valley Mountain Trails Alliance](#) - are open to schools, businesses, and all groups searching for a way to get outside while learning to become stewards of Colorado's outdoors.