



Maroon Bells National Recreation Area

1. Buses will start at 8am and run through 4 October; the road is closed 8am-5pm.
2. Dogs are not allowed on the Scenic Loop Trail due to moose.
3. Bear proof containers are mandatory for all the Maroon-Bells Snowmass Wilderness Area.
4. During peak weekends, especially in autumn, parking is **extremely limited and congested** at Aspen Highlands; your visit will be more pleasant and less stressful by taking the free Castle-Maroon Bus from downtown Aspen to Highlands to access the Maroon Bells. **DO NOT** count on a parking space at Highlands.

2015 Access Info

The Maroon Bells is a National Recreation Fee Use Area, it is never “free.” The \$10 fee supports the maintenance and care of the area. All National Passes are accepted, as well as the ‘local’ Bells pass.

Buses run 8am-5pm from Aspen Highlands daily **starting Saturday, 13 June through Sunday, 4 October**. Vehicles are restricted with the following exemptions:

- Campers in Silver Bar, Bell, or Queen.
- Vehicles with a handicap placard, or disability license plate.

Dependent upon space, the following exemptions *may* be allowed:

- Infants, 2 years old and younger
- Vehicles with 11 people or more, \$3/person.

All other visitors, backpackers included, take the bus from Aspen Highlands during bus hours. Passes *do not* exempt visitors from the bus.

Tickets are available at Four Mountain Sports, located in the Highlands ski area base village. Dogs are allowed on the bus.

The last bus from the Bells to Aspen will leave promptly at 5pm, it is **YOUR** responsibility to make the last bus to town.

Maroon Bells General Information

Vehicles will not be allowed to the Bells because the lot at Highlands is full, nor is parking allowed at the Aspen Rec Center or schools. On peak weekends, plan to take the free Castle-Maroon bus to Highlands and plan for early road closures.

Dogs need to be on a leash at all times, and are not allowed on the Scenic Loop Trail due to moose interactions.

All overnight visitors need to have bear canisters; the bears know how to undo a bear hang. The Ute Mountaineer in downtown Aspen rents bear canisters.

Camping is only allowed at: Silver Bar, Bell, or Queen, and at designated sites around Crater Lake. Reservations are strongly encouraged through www.recreation.gov, reservations are not taken at the Welcome Station.

There are **NO** services at Maroon Lake, or in the backcountry. Be prepared for your visit before leaving Aspen.

There is no fee for cyclists, but cyclists need to practice basic safety (ride single file, etc), there are ample bike racks provided, and bikes are not allowed at Maroon Lake. Maroon Creek Road is extremely busy even with vehicle restrictions.

For more information, to see current alerts, to follow fall color updates, please visit: www.fs.usda.gov/detail/whiteriver/specialplaces Click on ‘Maroon Bells Scenic Area’

Carbondale Office: 970.963.2266 8am-430p, M-F

Forest Service Kiosk at Aspen Highlands: 970.925.3445 8am-5p 7 days a week