



*Estes Park Convention & Visitors Bureau
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Tours, Bugling and More on Tap in Estes Park Sept. 30 & Oct. 1

Want answers to those pesky questions about the elk during the annual rut season? Then put a visit to Estes Park the weekend of Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 on your calendar of “must do” activities.

During that weekend people of all ages will be given a chance view elk in the wild on a guided tour as well as expend their knowledge about the animal during the community’s Elk Fest.

The event features bugling competitions, educational areas, seminars, music by the Elktones, Mountain Man Rendezvous, Native American storytelling, music and guided elk-viewing tours. There will also be vendors displaying artwork, handmade elk-ivory jewelry, scrimshawed antler knives, elk antler lamps and chandeliers, elk hide pillows, silver and gold jewelry, elk antlers and other exceptional merchandise. Food vendors will serve elk cuisine and other delicious goodies.

Elk Fest is held in downtown Estes Park in Bond Park, conveniently located at the intersection of Elkhorn and MacGregor Avenues in the heart of downtown. Activities are open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 30 and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 1. All Bond Park activities are free.

There are education areas, a wolf exhibit and a raptor exhibit. The Colorado Division of Wildlife will be on hand with its Dart trailer and education exhibit. At 10:30 a.m. Rick Spowart, specialist with the DOW will present a seminar on elk management and biology. Those programs, along with the Mountain Man Rendezvous, Native American storytelling and dancing will be repeated all day Sunday.

One extremely popular activity of the Elk Fest are the guided tours. This year enclosed shuttle busses equipped with speaker systems will be used to transport people from Bond Park to wherever the elk can be seen. Elk spotters make certain drivers and guides know where the herds are gathering in the Estes Park area at any particular point. During the tours, guides provide information about the sights and sounds of the season.

Tickets for the tours may be purchased both Saturday and Sunday in the Log Cabin Information Booth located in Bond Park. Fees are adults: \$5; children ages 3 to 11: \$2; families: \$15 for up to a family of five, each additional family member is \$2.

Elk bugling contests, always a highlight of the weekend, are conducted on Sunday afternoon beginning at 1 p.m. Several competition categories exist for those imitating the sound the elk made. Children to adults and professional callers join in the competition.

For more information about Elk Fest, call 80-44-ESTES or 970-577-9900. A detailed Elk Fest schedule