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What do Weather Predictions Mean for Estes Park?

It's that time of year when weather forecast headlines begin with "snow in the high country," or "measurable snowfall predicted for Northern Colorado mountains."

It's also the time of year when Estes Park residents begin talking about living in the "banana belt" of Colorado. And they're not overstating their love for their hometown mountain community. On average, the daily Estes Park high temperatures from November through March is 40 degrees. And there is precipitation only four days each month during those same months.

The truth is that weather forecasters consider Estes Park a foothills community because its elevation is only 7,522 feet. When snow squalls come through Colorado the elevation usually used for snow starts at 8,000 feet.

So how are people in areas like Fort Collins supposed to know whether the predicted snowfall means Estes Park or not? Unfortunately, for those living in plains cities east of Estes Park, just turning eyes westward or tuning into the weather forecasters won't provide the best answer or the clues.

That's one of the reasons Estes Park has such a vibrant array of Web cams. On the site, www.EstesParkCVB, a click on "live cameras" is the best way to find out whether the weather here is suited to your idea of a break from daily rigors and routines. You'll find out whether it's sunny here when it is grey in Fort Collins (that happens more than most people realize) or whether there is snow in the air or on the ground at this elevation.

And it's a great time to visit Estes Park, just an hour's drive west of Fort Collins.

From wildlife watching (while the elk rut peak season has passed, the eerie mating sound still is audible throughout the Estes Park area) to hiking and other outdoor pleasures, there's plenty of activity here that will help wash away the late fall doldrums. Those who enjoy hiking in Rocky Mountain National Park will find this to be an exceptional time of year to undertake an old, favorite trail. While the route is the same, the landscape changes with each season, and offers a new experience.

MORE

If you're looking for some specific entertainment over the weekend, Estes Park has that, too.

Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream* will be performed on the stage at Hempel Recital Hall on the grounds of the Estes Park Center-YMCA of the Rockies at 7:30 p.m. from Nov. 4-6 and Nov. 10-12. This play is considered to contain some wonderfully lyrical expressions of lighter Shakespearean themes, most notably those of love, dreams, and the stuff of both.

Friday and Saturday nights there is live musical entertainment at several locations throughout the town. And returning for a fifth appearance with the Estes Park Music Festival, the Boulder-based Cantabile Singers under the direction of Robert F. Farr and accompanied by Stella Pradeau, will present, "*Our Favorite Place*" in the Music Room of the Stanley Hotel at 2 p.m. Sunday.

For details on activities and current weather conditions, call 970-577-9900 or visit www.EstesParkcvb.com

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