

CONCERT PLANNING GUIDE

# Red Rocks First-Timer's Checklist

Timing, parking, what to wear, what to bring, and how to skip the chaos everyone else deals with.

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## Before You Go

- Buy tickets early.** Red Rocks shows sell out weeks or months ahead. Check the 2026 schedule at [redrocksonline.com](https://redrocksonline.com) and set alerts for your favorite artists.
- Plan your transportation first.** Parking is the #1 complaint at Red Rocks. 2,000 cars fight for limited lots on a two-lane mountain road. Private car service means door-to-door with zero parking stress.
- Check the weather — morning of.** Red Rocks sits at 6,450 feet. Even in July, evening temps can drop to 50°F. Afternoon thunderstorms roll in fast May through August.
- Arrive 60–90 minutes early.** Gates typically open 90 minutes before showtime. The venue, the views, and the pre-show atmosphere are half the experience.
- Hydrate all day.** Altitude + alcohol + dancing = dehydration. Drink twice as much water as you think you need, starting hours before the show.

## What to Bring

### Allowed

- One factory-sealed water bottle (per person)
- Blankets and seat cushions
- Small purses and clear bags
- Phone and portable charger
- Light rain jacket (stuffs small)
- Earplugs (sound bounces off the rocks)
- Sunscreen + sunglasses (summer shows start in full sun)

### Prohibited

- Professional cameras (detachable lens)
- Outside food or alcohol
- Chairs (the stone rows are your seats)
- Coolers or large backpacks
- Umbrellas (block sightlines)
- Drones
- Laser pointers

### CLEAR BAG POLICY

Most Red Rocks shows enforce a clear bag policy: clear bags up to 12" x 6" x 12", or small clutch purses (4.5" x 6.5"). Check your specific show's rules — they can vary by promoter.

## What to Wear (by Season)

SEASON	DAY TEMP	NIGHT TEMP	WEAR THIS
May	60–70°F	40–50°F	Layers: T-shirt + flannel + light jacket. Closed-toe shoes.
June–July	80–90°F	55–65°F	Shorts/light clothes + hoodie or jacket for after dark. Sunscreen.
August	75–85°F	50–60°F	Same as summer + rain layer. August is monsoon season.
September	65–75°F	40–50°F	Jeans, layers, warm jacket. Temps drop fast after sunset.
October	55–65°F	35–45°F	Winter layers: fleece, insulated jacket, warm hat, gloves.

### SHOE RULE

Wear closed-toe shoes with grip. The stone steps are uneven, steep, and slippery when wet. Sandals and heels are a bad call — you're climbing 380 steps from the parking lot to Row 1.

## Night-Of Timeline

TIME	WHAT TO DO
T-3 hours	Eat dinner nearby — Morrison or Golden have great options within 10 minutes.
T-2 hours	Head to Red Rocks. If driving, this is when you need to leave — lots fill early for popular shows.
T-90 min	Gates open. Enter and explore — walk the Trading Post trail, check out the Performer's Cave, grab your spot on the rows.
T-30 min	Settle into your seat. Buy food/drinks at concessions (cash and card accepted). Watch the sunset behind the hogbacks.
Showtime	Stand, dance, absorb it. The acoustics between 300-million-year-old sandstone monoliths are unlike anything else.
Post-show	

If you drove: expect 45–90 minutes to exit the lot. If you have a private pickup: your driver is staged at the designated pickup area, engine running.

## Transportation Options

OPTION	COST	EXPERIENCE
Self-drive + park	\$0 (free parking)	45–90 min exit wait. One lane out. Stressful after a long show.
Rideshare	\$40–100+ surge	Post-show surge pricing. 30+ min wait. Pickup zone is chaotic.
Shuttle bus	\$25–45/person	Affordable but fixed schedule. If the encore runs long, you might miss it.
Private car service	\$200–400 round trip	Driver waits for you. Immediate pickup. Cold water in the car. You relive the show on the ride home, not curse at traffic.

# The show starts the moment you get picked up — and ends when the driver drops you home.

Arion runs dedicated Red Rocks concert transportation May through October. Private SUVs, Sprinter vans for groups, and a shuttle from Cast Iron Tavern in Golden. Your driver tracks the setlist and is staged before the encore ends.

[GET STARTED](#)

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