

# COLORADO

2020 EDITION

GROUP TOUR PLANNER

## URBAN ADVENTURES AND OUTDOOR OPPORTUNITIES AWAIT GROUPS

### COLORADO HISTORY

NATIONAL PARKS,  
MUSEUMS AND HOMES

### ENGAGING ITINERARIES

EXPLORE COLORADO SPRINGS  
AND THE HISTORIC COLORADO  
HOT SPRINGS LOOP

### GRAND VALLEY WINE COUNTRY

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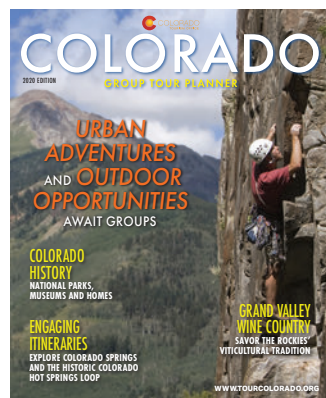
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(Photo courtesy of Visit Colorado)



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# Welcome to Colorado

Greetings! As Tour Colorado's new director, I'm immensely proud to present the 2020 edition of our *Colorado Group Tour Planner*. Even though I've been a Colorado resident for over 20 years, it never ceases to amaze me how our state boasts such an extraordinary variety of urban adventures, culinary culture and rich history. This year's planner highlights all of these facets of the Centennial State, with features that focus on the outdoor activities tucked away in Colorado's cities, the state's Native American and cowboy heritage, and the agritourism opportunities in the Grand Valley. Also, this edition's itineraries provide motorcoach groups with ready-made adventures in the Colorado Spring's area and Colorado's Historic Hot Springs Loop.



Tour Colorado would be nothing without its members, who go above and beyond to promote our state and make it welcoming to group tours of all interests. Without them, Colorado would not be the premier American tourism destination it has become. This year's guide provides in-depth listings to introduce the attractions, destinations, hotels and service providers that constitute Tour Colorado.

Thank you for your continued support, and welcome to Colorado!

**Julianne Fredrick,**  
**Executive Director, Tour Colorado**

*Tour Colorado is a Proud Partner with  
the Colorado Tourism Office and Proud  
Member of NTA, ABA and TAP*

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# Five Top Reasons to Visit Denver!

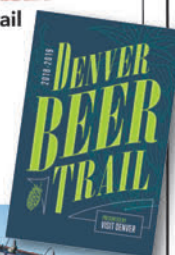


## LARIMER SQUARE & DENVER UNION STATION.

**1** Denver's dining scene is heating up in places like **Larimer Square**, where Victorian buildings are now home to boutique shops, wine bars and restaurants, or in historic **Denver Union Station**, which has become a hotspot for innovative cuisine and old-fashioned elegance.

## DENVER BEER TRAIL.

**4** Let the **Denver Beer Trail** be your guide to some of Denver's 150 craft breweries, most located in the city's walkable downtown. Or, learn from the experts on a guided tour.



## GOLDEN TRIANGLE CREATIVE DISTRICT.

**2** Visit **Denver Art Museum**, home to famous Western and American Indian art collections, enjoy interactive exhibits about the Rocky Mountain West at **History Colorado Center** and see works of Colorado artists and international design at the **Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art**.



## WILD DENVER.



**5** Get up close and personal with wildlife at **Denver Zoo**, from Asian elephants and Amur tigers to giraffes, rhinos and penguins. Travel back in time with dinosaurs at **Denver Museum of Nature & Science**, or follow the winding paths through **Denver Botanic Gardens**, a lush oasis in the middle of the city.



## WESTERN HISTORY.

**3** See where the Old West meets the new at **Molly Brown House Museum**, home of Titanic heroine, the unsinkable Margaret "Molly" Brown. Head west to Golden to visit **Coors Brewery**, **Buffalo Bill's Museum & Grave**, **Colorado Railroad Museum** and world-famous **Red Rocks Park & Amphitheatre**.

**DENVER**  
The Mile High City  
VISITDENVER.com

# GETTING HERE IS EASY. GETTING AROUND IS EASIER.

## COLORADO WELCOME CENTERS

Ten Official Colorado Welcome Centers are located throughout the state and easily accessible from every major highway entering the state. Services provided by dedicated volunteer Colorado experts are free. More information is available at [colorado.com/official-colorado-welcome-centers](http://colorado.com/official-colorado-welcome-centers).

### ■ CANYONS & PLAINS

1. Colorado Welcome Center at Lamar  
109 E. Beech St.  
Lamar, CO 81052  
719-336-3483  
[leslie.stagner@colorado.com](mailto:leslie.stagner@colorado.com)

2. Colorado Welcome Center at Trinidad  
309 Nevada Ave.  
Trinidad, CO 81082  
719-846-9512  
[marty.hackett@colorado.com](mailto:marty.hackett@colorado.com)

### ■ DENVER & CITIES OF THE ROCKIES

3. Colorado Welcome Center at Fort Collins  
3745 E. Prospect Rd., Suite 105  
Fort Collins, CO 80525  
970-491-4775  
[cheryl.glanz@colorado.com](mailto:cheryl.glanz@colorado.com)

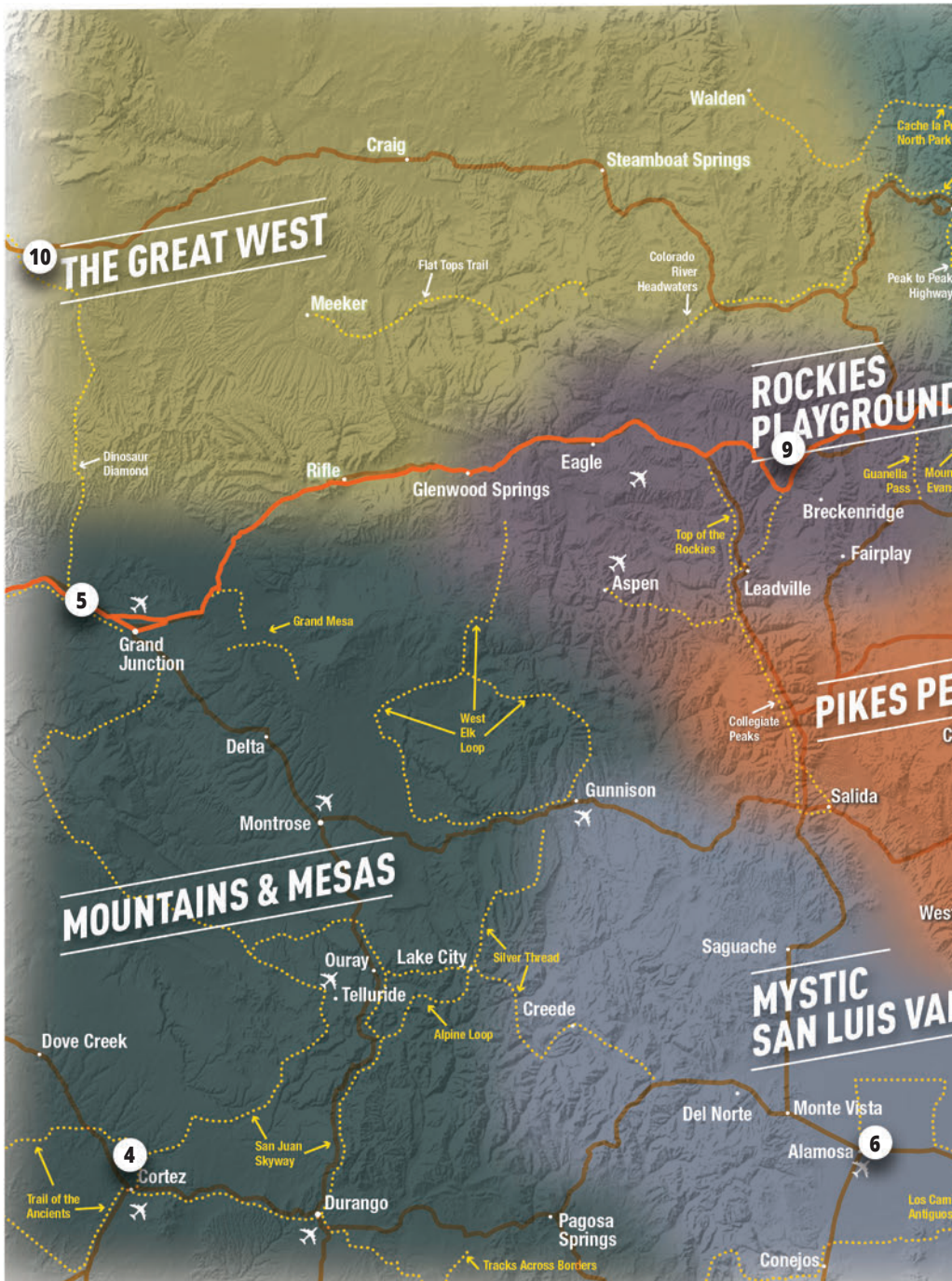
### ■ MOUNTAINS & MESAS

4. Colorado Welcome Center at Cortez  
928 E. Main St.  
Cortez, CO 81321  
970-565-4048  
[scrow@cityofcortez.com](mailto:scrow@cityofcortez.com)

5. Colorado Welcome Center at Fruita  
340 Hwy. 340  
Fruita, CO 81521  
970-858-9335  
[fruita@colorado.com](mailto:fruita@colorado.com)

### ■ MYSTIC SAN LUIS VALLEY

6. Colorado Welcome Center at Alamosa  
610 State Ave.  
Alamosa, CO 81101  
800-258-7597 or 719-589-4840  
[savannah.schlaufman@colorado.com](mailto:savannah.schlaufman@colorado.com)



### ■ PIONEERING PLAINS

7. Colorado Welcome Center at Burlington  
48265 I-70  
Burlington, CO 80807  
719-346-5554  
[burlington@colorado.com](mailto:burlington@colorado.com)

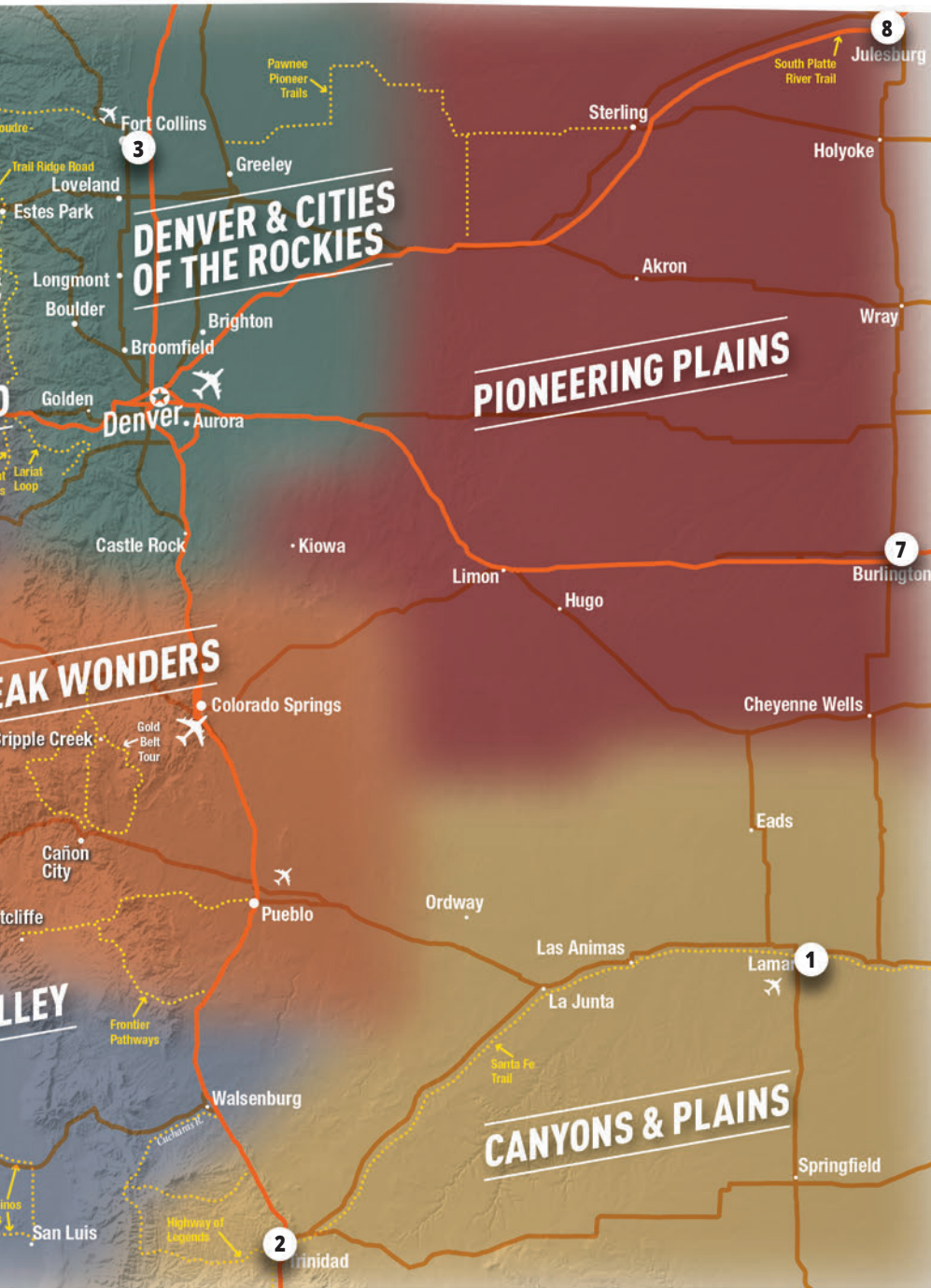
8. Colorado Welcome Center at Julesburg  
20934 County Road 28  
Julesburg, CO 80737  
970-474-2054  
[sue.carter@colorado.com](mailto:sue.carter@colorado.com)

### ■ ROCKIES PLAYGROUND

9. Colorado Welcome Center at Silverthorne  
246-V Rainbow Dr.  
Silverthorne, CO 80498  
970-468-0353

### ■ THE GREAT WEST

10. Colorado Welcome Center at Dinosaur  
101 E. Stegosaurus St.  
Dinosaur, CO 81610  
970-374-2205  
[cheryl.mcdonald@colorado.com](mailto:cheryl.mcdonald@colorado.com)



## AMTRAK SERVICES COLORADO

Two Amtrak passenger train routes travel through Colorado. The **California Zephyr** connects San Francisco and Chicago with regular stops in the newly renovated Denver Union Station, Grand Junction, Glenwood Springs, Winter Park and Fort Morgan. The **Southwest Chief** connects Los Angeles and Chicago with stops in Trinidad, La Junta and Lamar, Colorado. ([amtrak.com/west-train-routes](http://amtrak.com/west-train-routes))

Introduced in 2017, the **Winter Park Express** seasonal route links Denver Union Station and Winter Park Resort and is ideal for groups seeking a day of winter sports or mountain air. Developed for ride-in/ride-out skiing, the Express operates Saturdays, Sundays and select Fridays through March.

## TAKE FLIGHT TO COLORADO

**Denver International Airport** is serviced by 24 airlines that provide direct non-stop service from 189 destinations, including 26 international destinations. Denver has the fifth-busiest airport in the United States, 20th busiest in the world and—with more than 64 million passengers—is one of the busiest airline hubs in the world. It features more than 140 restaurants, shops and services.

Travelers looking to explore the I-70 corridor should consider **Aspen/Pitkin County Airport** for unbeatable access to the area's ski resorts and national forests. American, Delta and United travelers can also fly into **Eagle County Regional Airport** if they wish to experience the mountains. Steamboat Springs, another premier outdoor destination, can be accessed from the **Yampa Valley Regional Airport** in Hayden, which features non-stop flights from 14 destinations.

**Colorado Springs Airport** welcomes American, Delta, Frontier and United flights daily and is ideal for visitors to the Pikes Peak Wonders Region. **Grand Junction Regional Airport** receives flights from Denver, Chicago, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Dallas, Los Angeles and Salt Lake City for visitors seeking Colorado's wine country. **Durango-La Plata County Airport** welcomes American and United travelers. Smaller regional airports also include **Montrose Regional Airport** and **Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport**.

## Colorado Travel Fun Facts

- Colorado features North America's highest paved road. The Mount Evans Scenic Byway passes through five distinct climate zones before reaching a final height of **14,130 feet.**
- The Eisenhower-Edwin C. Johnson Memorial Tunnel is an engineering marvel and the highest auto tunnel in the world, bored under the Continental Divide at an elevation of **11,158 feet.**
- The highest suspension bridge in the world is over the Royal Gorge near Cañon City. The Royal Gorge Bridge spans the Arkansas River in Fremont County at a height of **1,053 feet.**
- Denver International Airport is the largest in North America by volume and welcomes over 64 million passengers annually. The ever-expanding airport covers **33,531 acres.**

# Colorado's Scenic Railways



- **Broadmoor Pikes Peak Cog Railway**  
515 Ruxton Ave., Manitou Springs, CO 80829  
[cograilway.com](http://cograilway.com)
- **Cripple Creek & Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad**  
520 E Carr Ave., Cripple Creek, CO 80813  
[cripplecreekrailroad.com](http://cripplecreekrailroad.com)
- **Cumbres & Toltec Railroad**  
5234 B Hwy 285, Antonito, CO 81120  
[cumbrestoltec.com](http://cumbrestoltec.com)
- **Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad**  
479 Main Ave., Durango, CO 81301  
[durangotrain.com](http://durangotrain.com)
- **Georgetown Loop Railroad**  
646 Loop Dr., Georgetown, CO 80444  
[georgetownlooprr.com](http://georgetownlooprr.com)
- **Leadville, Colorado & Southern Railroad**  
326 E. 7th St., Leadville, CO 80461  
[leadville-train.com](http://leadville-train.com)
- **Rio Grande Scenic Railroad**  
610 State Ave., Alamosa, CO 81101  
[coloradotrain.com](http://coloradotrain.com)
- **Royal Gorge Route Railroad**  
330 Royal Gorge Blvd., Cañon City, CO 81212  
[royalgorgeroute.com](http://royalgorgeroute.com)



## Big news in 2020 and beyond

### Pikes Peak Cog Railroad Plans to Open 2021

The updated Cog Railroad, which transports visitors to Pikes Peak, is scheduled to reopen on May 1, 2021. Meanwhile, the historic rail cars have been removed and repurposed throughout the region. Three are now on display in the Colorado Railroad Museum, and some may become VIP seating in a new sports arena. [Cograilway.com](http://Cograilway.com)

### 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Southern Ute Tribal Fair and Powwow in 2020

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe in Ignacio, Colorado will host the 100th Annual Southern Ute Tribal Fair on September 11-13, 2020. The weekend of events will include a Contest Pow Wow, Gourd Dance, Grand Entry and arts, crafts and food vendors to enjoy. For more information, visit [southernute-nsn.gov/culture/](http://southernute-nsn.gov/culture/).

### Greeley Stampede's Historic 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Event in 2021

The Greeley Stampede's rich tradition began in the 1800s. The annual event, held for 12 days and tied to the July 4th holiday, sees an average of 250,000 visitors. Throughout the year the Greeley Stampede offers numerous community events from concerts to a golf tournament to a rousing kick off. [greeleystampede.org](http://greeleystampede.org)



## The Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad

With depots in both Colorado and New Mexico, the 64-mile train ride crosses the border of the two states 11 times. During the journey, passengers travel through high plan deserts, volcanic spires, pine and aspen forests, through tunnels and, over trestles. You'll find a little bit of everything included in the trip, even homemade buttermilk pie at the Osier Station dining facility where lunch is cook fresh daily at 9,600'!



### Group Friendly!

The Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad facilities are perfect for groups! From large parking lots and restrooms, ADA accessibility at the stations and on the train, the railroad can accommodate needs of all times. Lunch is relaxed as every ticket includes a hot meal and everyone eats together at Osier Station. This is an easy day for your guide and a fun-filled day for your guests! It also guaranteed to rank 1st or 2nd on your group's list of favorite parts of your tour!

### Award Winning!

The Cumbres & Toltec has won several awards. As USA Today's Best Scenic Train Ride in 2019, as well as in 2016 to Best Attraction in Colorado and New Mexico in 2017. Also the winner the Bronze award for Scenic Trains in NTA's Courier Distinguished Dozen in 2019. See what the hype is about, and experience the Authentic West as train passengers did as far back as 1880!



### Book Your Trip Now!

Trains run daily from  
Chama, NM & Antonito, CO  
Memorial Day to Mid-Oct  
1-877-890-2737  
[CumbresToltec.com/Groups](http://CumbresToltec.com/Groups)



# DELIGHTFUL SAMPLINGS

IN COLORADO'S WINE COUNTRY



**Rich soil and a temperate climate unite with the mountains and plains of the Grand Valley for the perfect place to discover some of the country's most captivating wineries. The Grand Valley American Viticultural Area is the hub of Colorado's Wine Country.**

**J**ust a four-hour drive west of Denver, the Grand Valley is rightfully positioned as one of the state's most beautiful outdoor areas. There's no limit to the number of canyons, rivers and mountains to explore. Situated amongst all the beauty is wine production that dates back to 1890, when 60 acres of vines were planted.

Situated along the Colorado River between Palisade and Grand Junction Grand Valley is one of the state's two American Viticultural Areas. Framed by the red sandstone mesas, rows of grapevines sit over 20 wineries where visitors relax and sip local blends. Colorado's soils are similar to Europe and generally more alkaline than the acidic soils of California. The dry climate and 300 days of sunlight with low humidity prevent pest and disease issues, and there is little need for pesticides and chemicals. Colorado wines are uniquely Colorado. In fact, the Grand Valley made *Wine Enthusiast's* "2018 Top 100 Wine Destinations in the World."

Groups choosing to do a float or paddle trip on the Colorado River can scope out the wineries they'll be visiting after their two-hour journey on the water. A cycling hotspot, the One Riverfront Trail begs riders to explore the area's vineyards and orchards. What paddlers experience from the river, cyclists are seeing on land. For groups, there is a wealth of options available for guided winery tours. There are limousines and minivans and even horse-drawn tours. Whether it's your own coach or locally provided transportation, it certainly adds to the experience when a local guide shares stories about the region.

Here are just a few wineries to consider for your trip to Colorado's Wine Country.

## COLORADO'S WINE COUNTRY

### GRANDE RIVER VINEYARDS • PALISADE

The largest grape crop in Grande River Vineyards makes traditional Bordeaux-style wines. Whites are dry and fermented in both stainless steel and oak barrels to showcase the right flavors. The reds are made in both dry-styled Rhône and Bordeaux varietals and exemplify the art of award-winning wines. A variety of dry white, red, sweet, off-dry and dessert wines in addition to port make the Grande River portfolio world-class.

Groups are welcome to take a self-guided tour of the demonstration vineyard that is followed by a complimentary tour of the crushing area, fermentation tanks, barrels and bottling area before ending at the tasting room. [granderivervineyards.com](http://granderivervineyards.com)



### DEBEQUE CANYON WINERY • PALISADE

After years of designing and nurturing vineyards throughout Colorado, Bennett and Davy Price founded DeBeque Winery in 1997 with a title that suggests Western hospitality, beautiful vistas and good wine. Named for DeBeque Canyon (through which the Colorado River flows), the winery naturally parallels the Prices' involvement in the industry and passion for winemaking.

The winery is best known for its full-flavored, oak-aged Bordeaux and Rhône varietals, premium white wines and rich ports. Featured are merlots, cabernet sauvignon, chardonnays, cabernet franc, malbec, pinot noir and others.

The tasting room is open for groups with advanced reservations. The Wine Maker Dinner is a special group experience for up to 28 guests. These five-course dinners include house wine and appetizers prepared and catered by some of the valley's most distinguished chefs. [debequecanyonwinery.com](http://debequecanyonwinery.com)

### RED FOX CELLARS • PALISADE

Red Fox Cellars is family-owned and operated. Like most families, they do not agree on everything, but they all believe that good food and wine make a good day great and good food and wine make a bad day good. Although none are classically trained in winemaking, they've spent time experimenting and perfecting the technique.

Red Fox Cellars has a nice variety of wines, ciders and fruit wines, from Bourbon Barrel Merlot, Grapple Jack and Dos Loco Port to Cabernet Sauvignon, Rose and Dolcetto. Warm days and cool nights during the growing season are perfect for grapevines and numerous other fruits. It just makes sense to make wine from the fruit bounty of the valley.

The inviting tasting room was created for a comfortable, relaxing experience. Groups are welcome with reservations. You're invited to enjoy unique fruit wines and ciders from their 8-tap draft system or a traditional tasting of featured wines. Be a little adventurous and enjoy a wine cocktail. [redfoxcellars.com](http://redfoxcellars.com) ●



### TOUR NOTES

The wineries shared here are just a few of the more than 20 wineries with tasting rooms and tours that are open to the public and groups. Like most wineries in the Grand Valley, gift shops feature wine and fruit products, accessories and clothing. Most of the area's wineries close between 5 and 6 p.m., while some are open later on weekends, and all have hours posted on their websites. When visiting those websites, make sure to check out events at the individual wineries. There's always something fun and exciting going on in the Grand Valley.

One event that should not be missed is the annual Colorado Mountain Winefest in Grand Valley. Taking place in late September, the four-day Winefest has been declared the "Best Wine Festival in the U.S." by *USA Today*. Events include daily Food & Wine Pairings; Wine, Dine & Paint on Thursday; the Grand Mesa Wine Country Bus Tour, Wine & Glass Experience; a Chocolate & Wine Tasting on Friday; and Saturday's Festival in the Palisade Park, which features 60 wineries and plenty of activities. This festival sells out, so begin planning now for the 29th Annual Winefest in September 2020. [coloradowinefest.com](http://coloradowinefest.com)

Whether you're being adventuresome on the Grand Mesa or simply enjoying the red rock landscape of the Colorado National Monument from an air-conditioned vehicle, the Grand Valley is a place of inspirational beauty. Regardless of how you experience the area's natural beauty, take time to slow down, relax and enjoy the rich bounty of this oasis in a winery or two. Begin planning by calling Visit Grand Junction at 970-244-1480, or go online at [visitgrandjunction.com](http://visitgrandjunction.com).



## The Colorado Wine Train Pairs Memorable Scenery with Local Wines

The three-day rail experience shows off Colorado's stunning beauty and introduces passengers to some of the state's best wines.

On the surface the Wine Train looked to be a fairly logical concept. Grand Junction has wineries, and Amtrak's *California Zephyr* stops in Denver and Grand Junction on its journey from Chicago to San Francisco. But logic sometimes needs some hard work before it becomes reality. Barb Bowman and Debbie Kovalik, formerly with the Grand Junction Visitor and Convention Bureau, were up to the task.

Bowman states, "We needed to convince our board of directors that a Wine Train was a good marketing idea. One train ride and they were convinced." A need for a strong marketing partner to handle the

reservations was also a necessity, so AAA Colorado came onboard. The final challenge, Bowman continues, "was convincing Amtrak that adding a private car in Chicago for the round-trip made good business sense." Forty wine trains later, there's as much excitement today as there was on that first train.

The experience begins with a continental breakfast before the Wine Train departs Denver's Union Station. The legs of the

journey are a Rocky Mountain climb and stops in Winter Park, Glenwood Springs and Grand Junction. Passengers will travel through numerous tunnels and view the Colorado River through the Rocky Mountains. Many of the sites are otherwise inaccessible. To say the scenery is spectacular may be an understatement. From mountain vistas and occasional wildlife to peach and grape vineyards, there is wonderful variety to the landscape. The train ride is just the beginning.

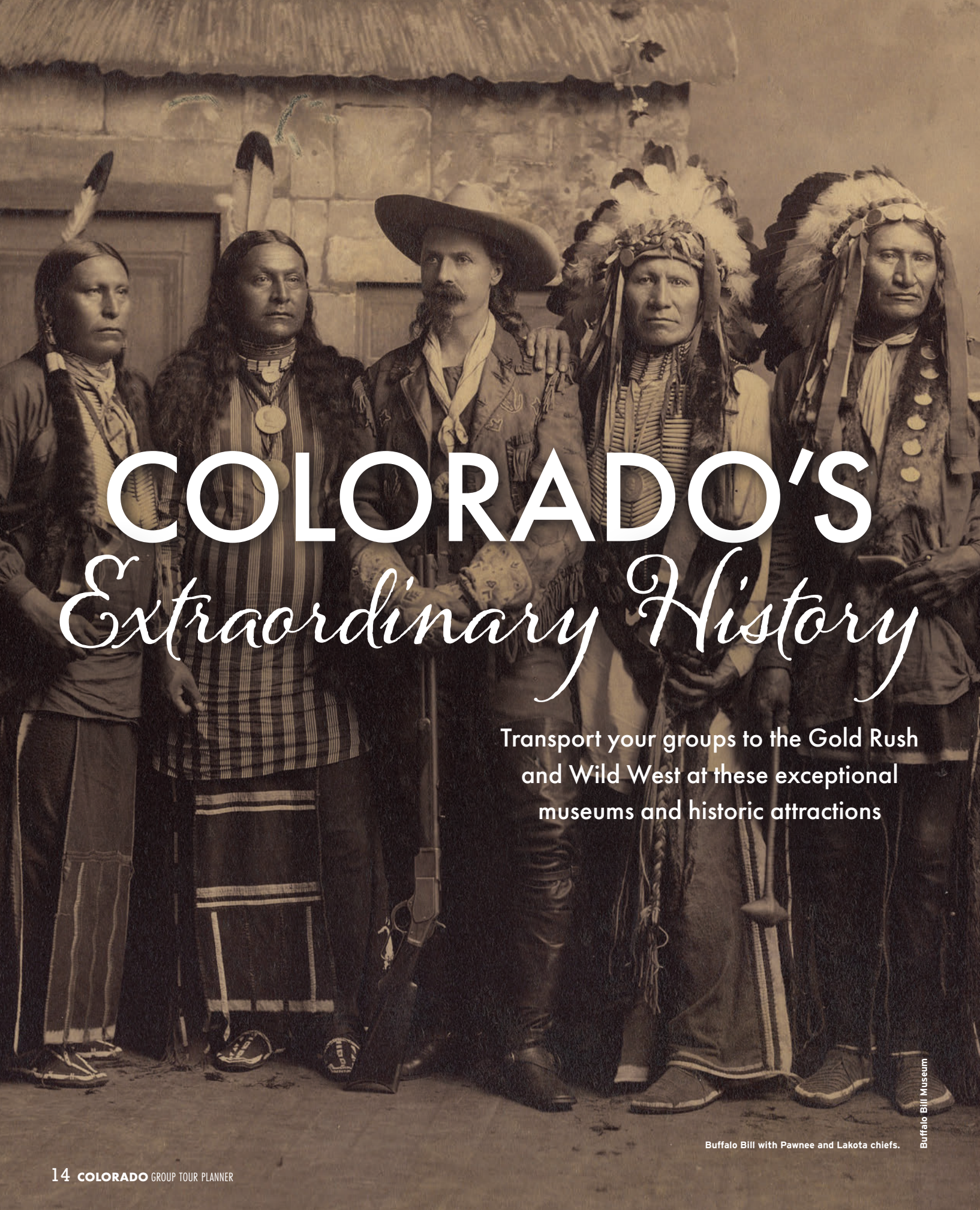
Joining the ride in Denver is Dave Tewksbury. A retired restaurateur and well-recognized sommelier, Dave's Wine 101 seminar is informative for both newcomers and connoisseurs. Talks by representatives from the Colorado wine industry share the viticultural history of the region.

Lunch is served near Glenwood Springs, where the *Zephyr* will stop and representatives from local wineries come onboard and join the fun. Two or three wines from the region are paired with cheese and chocolates. Passengers get off the train in Grand Junction and check into a local hotel for a two-night stay. Dinner tonight is at any of Grand Junction's award-winning restaurants.

Following breakfast the next morning, six of the more than 20 Grand Valley wineries are visited. Tours and tastings are a wonderful introduction to this American Viticultural Area. Tonight, participants are hosted at a local winery for a Wine Maker's Dinner. The vineyard owner or winemaker will share why which wines were paired with every menu item.

The third day provides an opportunity to explore Grand Junction, including local downtown shopping, the nearby Colorado National Monument or the Museum of Western Colorado. There may even be time to sneak in more vineyard visits. Small groups will have van transportation to local vineyards and attractions in addition to motorcoach transportation back to Denver. ●

**TOUR NOTE: Although the Wine Train makes as many as five tours a year, spots on the tour fill up quickly. To learn more about the Colorado Wine Train, call AAA Colorado at 866-625-3601.**



# COLORADO'S *Extraordinary History*

Transport your groups to the Gold Rush  
and Wild West at these exceptional  
museums and historic attractions

Buffalo Bill with Pawnee and Lakota chiefs.

Buffalo Bill Museum

Colorado's geographic and cultural diversity is reflected in its vast history. Native peoples, pioneers, generals, artists and innovators have all called the Centennial State home, and visitors can learn about Colorado's rich history through a diverse array of museums, preserved heritage sites and natural landmarks.

The largest archaeological preserve in the United States, **Mesa Verde National Park** protects over 600 spectacular cliff dwellings that housed 13<sup>th</sup> century Ancestral Pueblo people who lived in southwestern Colorado above the Montezuma Valley. The park's most spectacular site is the Cliff Palace, an immense structure that consists of 150 rooms and 23 kivas (spiritual spaces used for religious ceremonies). A variety of ranger-led tours can also guide groups through the Long House, Balcony House and Wetherill Mesa.

Located on the far western edge of the state, Grand Junction boasts a rich tradition of gunslingers, miners and pioneer innovation. Learn about this region's past at the **Museum of the West**,

where visitors can "ride" a stagecoach, "fly" a 1958 Cessna plane from Walker Field and see ancient artifacts from the Anasazi people. Other exhibits house real firearms used by Western outlaws, a one-room schoolhouse and replica 1890s saloon. To learn about the state's rich mining history, consider an expedition on the **Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad**. Constructed in 1882 to haul silver and gold during southwestern Colorado's mining boom, the railway now carries passengers on an authentic steam locomotive along the winding Animas River. A variety of tour packages will transport groups through the San Juan backcountry before they explore historic sites such as Cunningham Gulch and the Old Hundred Gold Mine. From there, guests can "suit up" and board an electric mine train to learn about the mining industry in the Galena Mountains.

Pass through more living history in Greeley's **Centennial Village**. Costumed interpreters populate an incredibly detailed community that features over 35 historical buildings that recall 150 years of high plains Colorado history. Visitors can witness demonstrations of scrub board



Native American history awaits at the **Ute Indian Museum** in Montrose. Part of the History Colorado museum network, the institution celebrates the Ute people's history of adaptation and persistence through a central theme of geography.



Mesa Verde National Park

## COLORADO'S EXTRAORDINARY HISTORY

laundry techniques, blacksmithing and print-making by trained reenactors and learn about the incredible melting pot of Swedish, German and Spanish immigrants that defined the heritage of Colorado's Front Range. More regional history can be found at the **Longmont Museum and Cultural Center**, which offers stunning views of the Rocky Mountain foothills. The museum's interactive exhibits focus on how contemporary Colorado traffic patterns and fresh water collection mirrors the innovations of the Ute and Apache people.

Conclude your Front Range history experience with a self-guided walking tour through **Fort Collins**. Before it became a thriving university community and craft beer hub, this city was an agricultural center and trapper outpost.

Downtown Fort Collins is extremely walkable, and many businesses retain their century-old Western facades and "ghost signs" (massive painted advertisements that fill entire sides of buildings). Experiences offered by the Fort Collins Tours outfitter include a ghost tour and journey into the city's Prohibition history. Named for an offshoot of the Oregon Trail that followed the South Platte River and passed through the town of Sterling, the **Overland Trail Museum** commemorates westward expansion and the early pioneers of eastern Colorado. The museum campus includes a schoolhouse, church, general store and barn that all predate 1915, and local historians can demonstrate how 19<sup>th</sup> century smiths and farm machinery worked.

Orient yourself with Colorado's largest city during a Denver walking tour, and begin in **Laurel Square**. Dubbed "Denver's Most Historic Block," this district was the commercial heart of the city when it was a small 1850s Kansas Territory outpost. Today, the area retains its stunning Victorian architecture and Gold Rush facades that house boutiques and cafes. Continue past **Denver Union Station** (a grand example of Romanesque Revival train station architecture) to the **16<sup>th</sup> Street Mall** and the **D&F Tower** (a two-thirds replica of the Campanile of St. Mark's in Venice built in 1909). Conclude at the **Colorado State Capitol**, which boasts a dome topped with over 200 ounces of 24-karat gold leaf. The building offers free public tours Monday through Friday to view the General Assembly Chambers and extensive art collection that decorates the walls.

The **History Colorado Center** boasts four floors of immersive exhibits that spotlight the culture of Ancestral Puebloans, early pioneers in the unforgiving Rocky Mountains and homesteading life during the Dust Bowl. For local history, savor the artifacts in "Denver A to Z," where guests can pose next to the famous Denver Broncos Barrel Man and a wall that honors the city's brewing history. Learn about one of Denver's most famous residents—the "unsinkable" Molly Brown—at the Titanic survivor's Capitol Hill Victorian home. Tours guide visitors through three floors and sixteen rooms that include the Brown family library and precious artwork from the philanthropist's private collection.

Lookout Mountain Park—a scenic area that rises above the city of Golden—is the final resting place of William F. Cody. Better known as Buffalo Bill, the famous cowboy and showman brought his romantic version of the Wild West around the world. The **Buffalo Bill Museum** showcases artifacts from Cody's productions and a peace pipe that belonged to Lakota leader Sitting Bull. ●



Overland Trail Museum



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beyond what  
they know.

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Some states aren't as lucky to even have one. Colorado has four national parks, each renowned for their beauty and recognized for their attractions. Stumble upon ancient cliff dwellings or the tallest sand dunes in the country. Tour through unmistakable black canyons and the unforgettable Rocky Mountains in all their glory.

[TOURS.COLORADO.COM](https://tours.colorado.com)



A photograph of two kayakers on a river. The kayaker in the foreground is wearing a blue jacket, a white helmet, and is in a yellow kayak. The kayaker in the background is wearing an orange jacket, a blue helmet, and is in a green kayak. They are on a river with rapids, and a city skyline is visible in the background. The sky is blue with some clouds.

# URBAN ADVENTURES

## EXPLORING THE GREAT OUTDOORS IN THE CITY

RUGGED ADVENTURES  
ARE STEPS AWAY FROM COLORADO'S  
COSMOPOLITAN URBAN CENTERS

A kayaker wearing a red jacket, a red and black helmet, and a life vest is paddling a red kayak on a river. The kayak has "BLUESHIFT" logos on the sides. The paddler is holding a black Werner paddle. The background shows a river with rapids and a dense forest of green trees under a blue sky. A white rectangular box with a semi-transparent background is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing text.

**C**olorado is synonymous with the great outdoors. With mountains covering more than half the state and some of the most rugged terrain in the country, Colorado is a popular destination for groups looking to get in touch with nature. While the peaks and valleys are a draw, the state in recent years has experienced an influx in urban development. Colorado's cities have now boomed into major hubs for food, art and culture, giving groups the best of both worlds.

Kayakers eddy on the Cache la Poudre near Fort Collins.

## URBAN ADVENTURES

What's even more convenient? Colorado offers tons of urban outdoor activities that groups can participate in, meaning they can still experience all that nature has to offer without venturing too far from the city or its cultural appeals. No matter what kind of adventure groups are looking for—from aquatic outings to hiking trails—they can find it within or just outside the cities of Colorado.

### URBAN WATER ADVENTURES

For groups visiting Denver, river excitement is just steps from downtown. The South Platte River runs through the city, providing visitors access to bank-side trails, mellow floating waters and

challenging rapids. Groups interested in learning—or improving—their kayaking skills can take a paddle through the man-made whitewater chutes in Confluence Park. **Confluence Kayaks**, located nearby, offers rentals and lessons, and can help outfit the crew for a day on the water.

For something a little more extreme, sign up for a whitewater rafting journey. The **Cache la Poudre River** in Fort Collins, designated a “Wild & Scenic” river, is a top rafting destination for locals and visitors. The rapids vary from Class I to IV, allowing for both beginners and expert-level rafters to enjoy the waters. As groups tackle the rushing cascades, they can admire the forests of ponderosa pines and the magnificent cliffs and unique rock formations of the canyon.

### BIKING THE CITY

Colorado prides itself on its vast network of trails, both within and around cities. Groups can hop on Denver's shiny red B-cycles, the city's bike-sharing program, and explore the area on 85 miles of bike paths. There are several companies that offer bike rentals for those wanting to venture out on their own, or groups can sign up for guided bike tours for a more in-depth look at Denver.



Visit Denver



Visit Denver

Denver's B-cycle program allows visitors to ride through the city's neighborhoods with a fleet of over 700 bikes across 88 stations.



**Garden of the Gods**

Venture a few miles outside the city, and the trails get a little more rugged, but the scenery is definitely worth the trek. Fort Collins boasts more than 285 miles of bike lanes in addition to hundreds more in the foothills and mountains. Groups can take a ride around **Horsetooth Reservoir**, a favorite recreation spot for locals and visitors, or tackle over 26 miles of trails in **Lory State Park**, which features varying terrain and envious selfie spots.

### NEARBY HIKES

Colorado's Front Range cities provide groups with a plethora of hiking options. Trails range from easy to advanced, varying in distance, technical terrain and altitude gain. Groups looking for a moderate, scenic hike will find it at the **Garden of the Gods** near Colorado Springs. The park features 21 miles of trails to explore, from laid-back loops to moderate routes, all of which offer breathtaking views of the rocky formations.

For those staying in Denver or Boulder, there are hundreds of short, scenic hikes that will make groups feel far from the city without actually traveling a long way. From Denver, groups can head directly west to **Mount Falcon Park** to enjoy 11 miles of multi-use trails that overlook the city and surrounding mountains. Groups can get a great workout hiking up the 2,000-foot elevation gain of Castle Trail and also get a taste of history when they visit the ruins of the John Brisben Walker Castle.

No visit to Colorado would be complete without a hike around **Red Rocks Park**, home to the famous amphitheater. Enjoy leisurely walks through the gorgeous rock formations and rolling hills, taking in views of downtown Denver in the distance. Groups should stop to pick up some Red Rocks gear or historic memorabilia at the Trading Post, and they won't want to miss a

chance to visit the Colorado Music Hall of Fame, dedicated to the legacy of Colorado's home-grown music and performers.

### ROCK CLIMBING EXCURSIONS

Colorado is home to 14 mountain ranges, thousands of peaks and hundreds of rock faces that are paradise for rock climbers. Groups who are just starting out in the sport or those looking to hone their skills can find routes relatively close to the city that fit their skill levels. With **Denver Climbing Company**, beginners can take an introductory rock climbing course that takes them to North Table Mountain in Golden, just 20 minutes from downtown Denver. The company provides all the necessary gear, and skilled guides instruct groups on the basics before sending them off to enjoy a day of climbing.

Groups with a little more experience can test their skills on the iconic **Flatiron** rock formations, which tower 1,200 feet above the city of Boulder. Guided climbs take groups to the first or third Flatiron, depending on the difficulty level climbers want. No matter which rock groups climb, the day will be filled with incredible views of the Colorado plains and mountains. After reaching the top and taking numerous pictures, groups can take a thrilling rappel ride to the base for a final memorable adventure.

Outdoor adventures in Colorado are not limited to the mountains. Nature is folded into the urban landscape, giving groups access to outdoor activities both within and nearby its cities. And the proximity means visitors won't miss out on the booming cultural scene going on in the metropolitan areas. With so many exciting options at their fingertips, groups can experience all the joys of the outdoors while still getting a taste of Colorado's city energy. ●



**Denver Climbing Company**

# Relax on Colorado's Historic Hot Springs Loop

Discover your inner zen on this tour of the Rocky Mountains' geothermal wonders



Ouray Hot Springs

Colorado Tourism

# 5 UNIQUE EXPERIENCES

- Strawberry Park Hot Springs
- Yampah Spa Vapor Caves
- Ouray Hot Springs Swimming Pool
- Great Pagosa Hot Springs
- Mount Princeton Hot Springs Resort

**Duration:** Five Days  
**Available:** Year-round  
**This itinerary is ideal for:**  
All age groups

Old Town Hot Springs



Old Town Hot Springs, Steamboat Springs

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## DAY 1

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Begin your circuit of Colorado's premier hot springs destinations in **Steamboat Springs**. Known today for its world-class ski resort, the town was originally a thriving ranching community and named for the geothermal chugging sound that reminded early settlers of a steamboat. The town's top relaxation destination is **Strawberry Park Hot Springs**, where guests can relax in 104-degree mineral water that flows from the mountainside. Tiers of pools allow visitors to select their ideal temperature, and relaxing watsu therapy is available in a private pool. Conveniently located downtown and more family-friendly is **Old Town Hot Springs**, an indoor-outdoor facility that features a water slide, aquatic rock climbing wall and hot tubs. While in town, enjoy a gondola ride and mid-mountain meal at Steamboat Ski Resort, stroll through more than 50 gardens at the Yampa River Botanic Park and enjoy dinner on Lincoln Avenue, the city's main commercial district.

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## DAY 2

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**Glenwood Springs**, located between Aspen and Vail, is home to the world's largest hot springs pool. The Ute people called this area *Yampah* ("big medicine") for the springs' therapeutic qualities that eliminate toxins and allow the body to absorb essential minerals. Soothe your muscles in the big pool or target specific muscles in the therapy pool, and take advantage of the surrounding resort area that includes a lodge, restaurant and family-friendly pool. Nestled along the Colorado River are the **Iron Mountain Hot Springs**, which offer stunning views of the Roaring Fork Valley and Mt. Sopris. Sixteen pools offer iron-rich thermal water across various temperatures, and the Rejuvenation Station allows visitors to cool down between pools. Enjoy a geothermal steam bath in the **Yampah Spa & Vapor Caves**. Hot water flows through three underground rock chambers decorated with marble benches for a soothing, still experience. The adjoining spa offers a variety of massages, facials and herbal body treatments for stressed guests.

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## DAY 3

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Continue south to **Ouray County**, where the towns of Ouray and Ridgeway feature impeccably preserved Victorian houses, breweries and distilleries. Ouray's water has attracted weary travelers for centuries, and you can experience its healing properties firsthand at the **Ouray Hot Springs Swimming Pool**. Nearly one million gallons of spring water fill three

pools that range from 80 to 105 degrees without a sharp sulfur smell. A more intimate Ouray spa experience is the **Wiesbaden Hot Springs Spa and Lodgings**, which includes beautiful San Juan Mountain views and the Lorelei—a secluded outdoor soaking pool and waterfall. Visitors can relax in **Orvis Hot Springs** in the nearby town of Ridgeway. Located near Telluride, the natural lithium water pools range from 65 to 112 degrees and can be accompanied by a night's rest in the resort's accompanying guest rooms.

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## DAY 4

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Home to the world's deepest geothermal aquifer, the **Great Pagosa Hot Springs** are surrounded by three million acres of wilderness and 650 miles of trails. After an afternoon of hiking or biking, refresh your mind and spirit at the **Springs Resort & Spa**. Twenty-three hot therapeutic mineral pools offer pristine views of the San Juan River and downtown Pagosa Springs, and the 79-room boutique hotel offers rooms for various group sizes and budgets. Pagosa's newest spa is **Overlook Hot Springs**, which offers a Victorian ambiance, three scenic rooftop tubs and a sauna. Enjoy craft beer or Colorado wine as your stress melts away, and take advantage of the Overlook's peerless massage therapists.

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## DAY 5

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Conclude your hot springs tour in **Chaffee County**. The charming mountain towns of Buena Vista, Salida and Northrup are nestled along the Continental Divide and are thriving outdoor adventure destinations with hiking, biking and rafting outfitters. The largest indoor hot springs facility in the nation, **Salida Hot Springs Pool** is ideal for a swimming workout or recreational play. The **Mount Princeton Hot Springs Resort** in Nathrop oversees the Historic Bath House, which has been in operation since 1867, and interlocking pools of various temperatures heated by nearby springs. Guests can also relax in the waters of Chalk Creek, which flow into natural stone pools fed by individual hot spring veins. A more intimate experience awaits at the **Antero Hot Springs Cabins**, where three rustic accommodations all include hand-shaped private hot spring pools. Colorado's purest gravity-fed mineral waters can be found at the **Cottonwood Hot Springs Inn & Spa**, which includes stone pools and diverse spa offerings.

# Colorado Springs: Olympic Legends and Natural Beauty

Countless museums, creative districts and mountain adventures await visitors to Colorado's second-largest city



Garden of the Gods Segway Tour

Visit Colorado Springs



# 5 UNIQUE EXPERIENCES

- U.S. Olympic Training Center
  - United States Olympic Museum
  - Garden of the Gods
  - U.S. Air Force Academy
  - Pikes Peak
- Duration:** Four Days/Four Nights  
**Available:** Year-round  
**This itinerary is ideal for:**  
All age groups

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## DAY 1

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Spend your first day in Colorado Springs by honoring America's Olympic heritage. Since 1978, the **U.S. Olympic Training Center** has hosted thousands of Olympic athletes and para-athletes who take advantage of the campus' state-of-the-art facilities and thin Colorado air. Hour-long guided tours of the 35-acre complex include visits to the aquatic center, wrestling facility and shooting range. Groups will also learn about the daily rigors of Olympic training as they see dietitians, sports psychologists and high-altitude training experts that also work on campus.

After experiencing the American Olympic present, walk through its past and future at the **U.S. Olympic Museum**—Colorado Spring's newest and most technologically advanced attraction. Across four floors and 60,000 square feet, visitors will learn about the Olympics' ancient Greek roots and interact with state-of-the-art exhibits that allow them to race Usain Bolt and pass through halfpipes with Chloe Kim and Red Gerard.

Enjoy an evening of live music and fine dining at **Ivywild**, a converted middle school and multi-stage entertainment hot spot. Grab a cocktail in the Principal's Office, sample craft beer at the Bristol Brewing Company and dance to live country music in the converted school auditorium. The basement houses Axe and the Oak, which hosts blues musicians and whiskey tastings.

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## DAY 2

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Witness an unforgettable Colorado sunrise at the **Garden of the Gods**, a collection of ancient towering sandstone rock formations at the foot of the Rocky Mountains. Begin at the Visitor & Nature Center, which offers interactive exhibits, before exploring the park on a guided van trip, rock climbing excursion or Segway tour.

Along the mountainside is the quaint town of **Manitou Springs**, an artist enclave filled with boutiques, creekside cafes and galleries housed in colorful Western storefronts. Be sure to also explore the **Miramont Castle**, an eclectic mansion that spans four floors and nine distinct architectural styles. Visitors can tour the historic building's 30 rooms, relax in the Victorian gardens or try traditional English high tea in the dining room. Enjoy lunch here before continuing uphill to the Manitou Springs Cliff Dwellings, 800-year-old Anasazi structures carved into the mountainside.

Continue downhill to the Broadmoor, an elegant resort that dates back to 1918. The grounds that surround Cheyenne Lake include three golf courses, a tennis club and over 20 restaurants, bars and lounges to relax in and admire the Mediterranean-inspired architecture. Conclude your day with an evening of comedy and comfort food at the **Iron Springs Chateau**

Visit Colorado Springs



Miramont Castle

**Melodrama Theater.** The group-friendly venue offers a three-course meal and interactive production that encourages audience members to boo the villain and cheer for the hero.

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## DAY 3

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The mountainside campus of the **U.S. Air Force Academy** is a peerless example of mid-century modern university architecture and free to explore. Begin at the visitor center to learn about academy life and view American aviation artifacts before touring the Cadet Area, a distinct blend of sleek modernist architecture and Italian terrazzo plaza design that stands in contrast to other American military academies. The campus' architectural triumph is the **Academy Chapel**. Tiered with separate worship spaces to accommodate different faiths, the steel and aluminum structure consists of 17 spires that resemble jets flying skyward. On your way downtown, be sure to stop in the **ProRodeo Hall of Fame**, which honors the sport's wranglers with over 300 inductee collections.

Spend your afternoon in **Downtown Colorado Springs**, a Colorado Certified Creative District with thriving galleries and boutiques. Visitors can admire the rotating sculptures on public display, sample craft beer at **Iron Bird Brewing Co.** or seek out the world-renowned Dale Chihuly glass collection at the **Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center**. Located in the beautifully restored 1903 El Paso County Courthouse, the **Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum** includes exhibits that highlight the region's Native American history, mining heritage and indigenous art. Conclude your day in **Old Colorado City**, a saloon town created during the Pikes Peak Gold Rush of 1859. Facades of old saloons and casinos now house restaurants (like Bon Ton's Café, La Baguette, Pizzeria Rustica) and art galleries.

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## DAY 4

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**Pikes Peak**—one of the world's most iconic mountaintops—dramatically rises above the Colorado Springs skyline. Visitors will pass by breathtaking scenery of mountain reservoirs and timber forests as they ascend to the 14,115-foot summit and **Pikes Peak Summit House**. Along the way, stop by lakes for fishing, participate in an interpretive ranger program or hike part of the Barr Trail, which was once traversed by 19th century prospectors. The famous **Pikes Peak Cog Railway** is currently undergoing a comprehensive overhaul, and the updated attraction will feature a completely new track and state-of-the-art compartments when it re-opens to the public in 2021.



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# MEMBER LISTINGS

Tour Colorado members are ready to serve you! Working to draw domestic tour groups and packaged travel to the Centennial State, these attractions, DMOs, hotels and service providers are ready to accommodate visitors and make their Colorado experience unforgettable.

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**Bar D Chuckwagon**

8080 County Rd.  
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Krystal Scarborough  
[www.bardchuckwagon.com](http://www.bardchuckwagon.com)  
groups@bardchuckwagon.com  
970-335-9805

The Bar D Wranglers perform songs of cowboys and the Old West, comedy and lively instrumentals after supper to entertain the whole family.



**Colorado Model Railroad Museum**

680 10th St.  
Greeley, CO 80631  
Michelle Kempema  
[www.cmrm.org](http://www.cmrm.org)  
michelle@cmrm.org  
970-392-2934

The Colorado Model Railroad Museum houses America's most scenic model railroad; an immersive experience for all ages. Private hours for groups available.



**Colorado Scenic & Historic Byways**

2829 W. Howard Place, 4th Floor  
Denver, CO 80204  
Lenore Bates  
[www.codot.gov/travel/scenic-byways](http://www.codot.gov/travel/scenic-byways)  
lenore.bates@state.co.us  
303-757-9786

The Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways program is a statewide partnership intended to provide recreational, educational and economic benefits to Coloradans and visitors by designating, interpreting, protecting and promoting a system of outstanding touring routes in Colorado.

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[www.Georgetownlooprr.com](http://www.Georgetownlooprr.com)  
Vicky Hunter • email: [vicky.hunter@historicrailadventures.com](mailto:vicky.hunter@historicrailadventures.com)  
phone: 303-569-0133 or 1-888-456-6777





**Cumbres & Toltec Railroad**

5234 B Hwy. 285  
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 Corrine Williams  
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 The Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad steam trains depart out of Antonito, Colorado and Chama, New Mexico daily at 10 a.m. from Memorial Day weekend until mid-October.



**Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad**

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**Georgetown Loop Railroad**

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**Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park**

51000 Two Rivers Plaza Rd.  
 Glenwood Springs, CO 81601  
 Christine Goodale, Events and Group Coordinator  
**www.glenwoodcaverns.com**  
 cgoodale@glenwoodcaverns.com  
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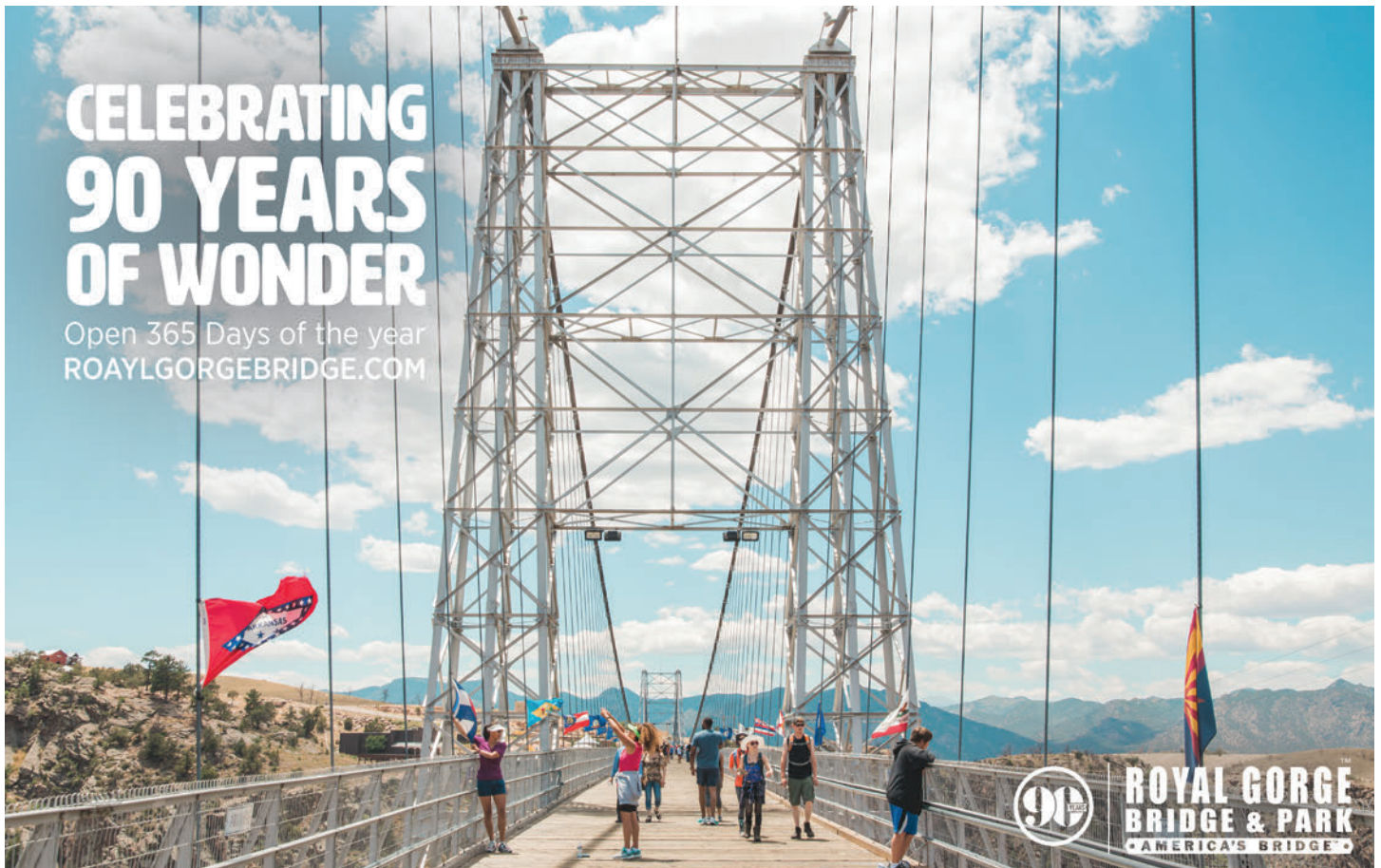
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**Boulder Convention and Visitors Bureau**

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Boulder, CO 80302  
Mary Ann Mahoney  
[www.bouldercoloradousa.com](http://www.bouldercoloradousa.com)  
maryann.mahoney@bouldercvb.com  
303-442-2911

To promote Boulder's natural environment, art, culture, innovation and the visitor experience to support economic vitality and our quality of life.



**Canon City-Fremont County Tourism Council**

403 Royal Gorge Blvd.  
Canon City, CO 81212  
Bryan Jordan  
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marketing@royalgorgeregion.com  
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**City of Loveland**

5400 Stone Creek Circle  
Loveland, CO 80538  
[www.cityofloveland.org](http://www.cityofloveland.org)  
info@loveland.org  
970-962-2626

Often referred to as America's "Sweetheart City" and located 45 miles north of Denver on the I-25 corridor, Loveland is close to the Big Thompson Canyon and Rocky Mountain National Park.



**Durango Area Tourism Conference**

802 Main Ave.  
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[www.durango.org](http://www.durango.org)  
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**Manitou Springs Chamber of Commerce, Visitors Bureau & Office of Economic Development**

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Manitou Springs, CO 80829  
Leslie Lewis  
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kellyk@mesaverdecountry.com  
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719-685-7635

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**Visit Denver**

1555 California St., Suite 300  
Denver, CO 80202  
Jenna VanOort  
[www.visitdenver.com](http://www.visitdenver.com)  
jvanoort@visitdenver.com  
303-571-9446

Visit Denver staff can assist with finding a hotel room block, itinerary assistance, step-on guides, unique tours and activities and group dining options.

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**Visit Fort Collins**

1 Old Town Square, Suite 107  
 Fort Collins, CO 80524  
 Katy Schneider  
[www.visitftcollins.com](http://www.visitftcollins.com)  
 katy@ftcollins.com  
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Fort Collins' ideal proximity to Rocky Mountain National Park, Denver and DIA make it a perfect location to bring your tour group. Fort Collins is known for its craft beer scene and all-American downtown.



**Visit Glenwood Springs**

802 Grand Ave.  
 Glenwood Springs, CO 81601  
 Lisa Langer, Director of Tourism Promotion & Marlene Neidert, Tourism Promotion Project Manager  
[www.visitglenwood.com](http://www.visitglenwood.com)  
 lisa@visitglenwood.com & marlene@visitglenwood.com  
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**Visit Grand Junction**

740 Horizon Drive  
 Grand Junction, CO 81506  
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 visitgj@gjcity.org  
 970-244-1480

Known for Colorado National Monument and the Grand Mesa with 300 lakes, Grand Junction is an authentic Colorado experience nestled on the Colorado and Gunnison Rivers. Downtown displays over 100 pieces of art, the region includes 27 wineries, rich regional cuisine, and the valley offers unique boutique shopping and year-round outdoor recreation.



**Visit Greeley**

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Tamara Wilder

[www.chipeta.com](http://www.chipeta.com)

tamara@chipeta.com  
970-626-3737, ext 118

Located in the heart of the Southern Colorado's San Juan Mountains, Chipeta Solar Springs Resort & Spa provides the perfect Rocky Mountain getaway destination that is central to countless seasonal outdoor activities, music festivals, skiing, relaxing romantic getaways and more.



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Jessica Wallace

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jwallace@clariongj.com  
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[jeff.lyman@skyutecasino.com](mailto:jeff.lyman@skyutecasino.com)

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#### Strater Hotel

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[tossola@strater.com](mailto:tossola@strater.com)

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#### Ute Mountain Casino Hotel

3 Weeminuche Drive  
Towaoc, CO 81334  
Andrea Dillon

[www.utemountaincasino.com](http://www.utemountaincasino.com)

[andreadillon@utemountaincasino.com](mailto:andreadillon@utemountaincasino.com)

970-564-6144

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Floy Kennedy, Colorado Springs Director of Travel Industry Sales

**A** member of the Visit Colorado Springs sales team for almost 12 years, Floy Kennedy has seen Colorado's second-largest city blossom into a diverse destination with Olympic history, gorgeous parks and engaging cultural attractions.

**In your time with the DMO, what markets have you seen the most development in?**

The student STEM market is especially booming. We're developing itineraries that integrate the area's science attractions, most of which are space-related. The Space Foundation Discovery Center is very popular with student groups, and the

annual space symposium draws between 8,000 and 10,000 visitors annually. Since we're a military town with the presence of the Air Force Academy, we're also working with the updated planetarium on its campus.

**What are the new or up-and-coming attractions you want to promote in particular?**

The most important is the U.S. Olympic Museum, which will be an amazing and technically advanced attraction that is scheduled to open in time before the opening ceremonies for the 2020 Summer Games in Tokyo. Our tagline is "Olympic City, U.S.A.," and we're also home to the



U.S. Olympic Committee, so combining the museum with the popular United States Olympic Training should prove to be a good combination. Also, there will be a new Summit House at the top of Pikes Peak that will serve as a visitor center by late 2020, and the famous Cog Railway should be back in service by 2021.

**What off-the-beaten path attractions you've been promoting have proven to be the most popular?**

The hiking trails around Paint Mines Interpretive Park (which is about 45 minutes east of Colorado Springs) and the wildlife viewing in North and South Cheyenne Canyon have both been popular with groups that are interested in walking or wildlife viewing.

**What are some of Colorado Springs' iconic attractions for those unfamiliar with the region?**

Pikes Peak, which is known as "America's Mountain" and is the second-most-visited mountain in the world after Mt. Fuji in Japan. Garden of the Gods and its Nature & Visitor Center, which holds over 300 million years of history. The others would be the United States Air Force Academy, U.S. Olympic Training Center and Cog Railway when it reopens.

**If you had a free day to yourself in Colorado Springs, what would you like to visit personally?**

I'd go to the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, which is one of the largest giraffe breeding zoos in the United States. I also enjoy the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, which has amazing traveling and stationary exhibitions. For entertainment, I like Manitou Springs and Old Colorado City, both of which are historic districts that are great for shopping, dining and browsing galleries. ●



Phyllis Veale, Grand Vista Hotel Sales Manager

**A** Colorado native born in Pagosa Springs, Phyllis Veale has been serving the Grand Valley community and Grand Vista Hotel as its sales representative for nearly 30 years.

#### **For visitors unfamiliar, what is Grand Vista Hotel?**

Grand Vista is a full-service hotel experience that includes 158 rooms and mini-suites accessible by indoor corridors. For dining, we have Oliver's Restaurant, which offers a fresh-cooked breakfast that's always immensely popular with groups, and the patio offers great views of the valley. Bailey's Lounge has nightly drink specials and live music every evening.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, the lounge hosts our extremely popular karaoke nights. The other amenities include an indoor pool and hot tub, an exercise room and 24-hour gift shop.

#### **How does Grand Vista stand out from the area's lodging competition?**

I think it's the consistency with our staff. We have the same people holding positions over many years, so visitors get steady excellent treatment, which leads to good return business. We always have personal receptions for group tours, and things like quick luggage service and front desk operation have resulted from years of experience.



#### **What makes Grand Junction so enticing to visitors?**

We're sitting in a centrally located and ideal area. Canyonlands National Park begins on one side of the valley and the Rockies start on another, so it's very accessible for outdoor activities. Colorado National Monument, which is a very beautiful collection of rock formations and canyons, is west of us. On the other side of the valley is Grand Mesa, which has preserved sites and a national scenic byway that runs over the top.

#### **What's your favorite area attraction to visit?**

It's between Colorado National Monument and Grand Mesa for me. The mesa is just beautiful, with alpine scenery and the preserved Native American sites you can walk through. Most of our motorcoach groups also go over the Colorado National Monument, which has seven beautiful red sandstone canyons.

#### **What are the demographics of your visiting groups and the Grand Valley region in general?**

More than ever we get lots of international guests. Groups from Sweden and England have come recently, and while domestic travel seems to be down slightly, we're full almost every night, especially in the warm-weather months.

#### **What is the benefit of Tour Colorado for the state's tourism industry?**

It's grown over the years and become more powerful in terms of helping all individual members and drawing domestic visitors to the region. I've been a member from the very beginning, and I really believe in its mission in promoting Colorado. ●

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- 01** **Western Heritage** - Discover the deep roots of the Pikes Peak or Bust Gold Rush exploring old mines.
- 02** **All Aboard** - Trek through Cripple Creek and along the Arkansas River in the Royal Gorge on historic trains.
- 03** **The Great Outdoors** - Adventure is always close by with thousands of miles of trails and open spaces.
- 04** **Arts Scene** - Enjoy hundreds of public sculptures, galleries, art walks, classes and performances.
- 05** **All Seasons** - From colorful fall days to spring blooms, the region shines with a year-round mild climate.
- 06** **Olympic City USA** - See where Team USA dreams are born at the Colorado Springs Olympic Training Center.
- 07** **55+** - With more than 55 unique attractions, it's easy to plan multi-day itineraries in the Pikes Peak region.
- 08** **Cultural Experiences** - Soak in the region's multi-faceted culture at museums, historic sites and festivals.

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Garden of the Gods Park

