

46 ITINERARIES
TO BUILD YOUR
TRIP AROUND

SCENIC &
HISTORIC RAILROADS

HOT SPRINGS
FOR SERIOUS SOAKS

17 MAGIC
MOMENTS ON
PUBLIC LANDS

COLORADO

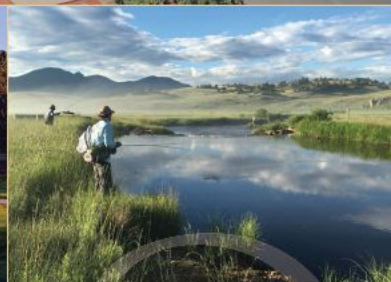
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Summer:

Porphyry Basin
near Silverton.
©Tony Litschewski



Winter:

Sledding in the
San Juan National
Forest near Durango.
©Kennan Harvey

CARE FOR COLORADO

With a little preparation, a spirit of adventure, and a soft spot for nature and the past, you'll be on the trail to exploring Colorado like a local. The seven Care for Colorado Principles on page 17 are an excellent place to start.

GET INSPIRED

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ADVENTURE

Gaming
Luxury Hotel
Lazy River Indoor Pool
World-Class Dining
Bowling & Mini Golf
RV Park



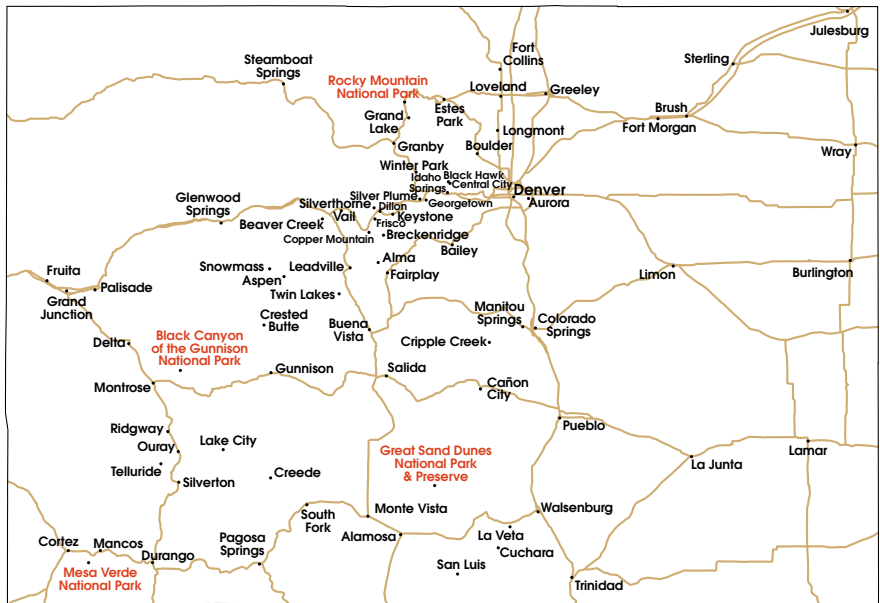
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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: GLENWOOD HOT SPRINGS POOL; C2 PHOTOGRAPHY; DENVER'S RINO DISTRICT; MATTHEW HAHNEL; MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK; KENNAN HARVEY.



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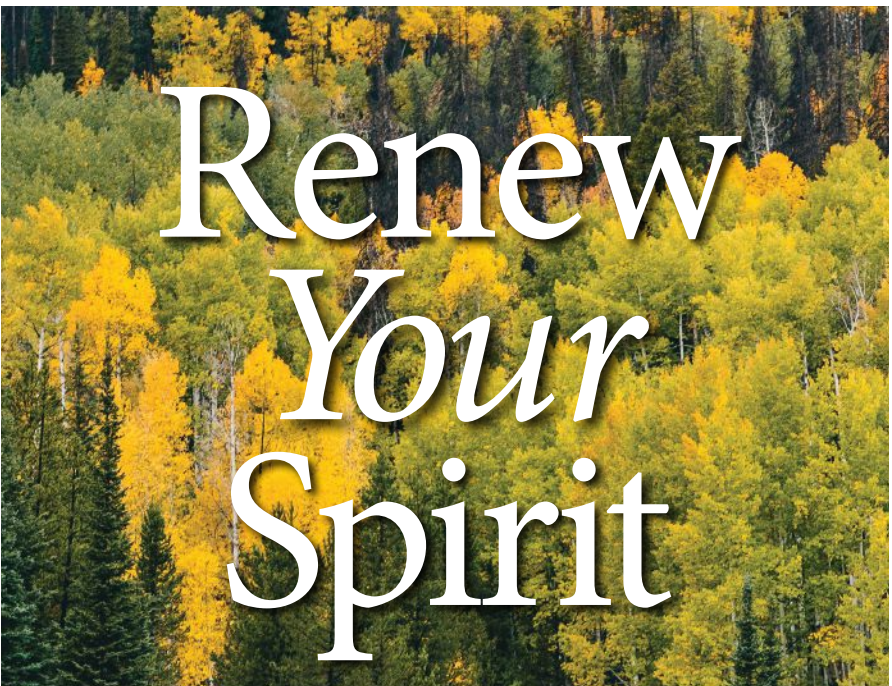
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Pearl Lake State Park

A scenic photograph of a Durango & Silverton train. The train consists of several yellow passenger cars with black roofs and a black locomotive at the front. The locomotive has the number 476 and the text 'DURANGO & SILVERTON' on its side. The train is moving through a lush green forest of tall evergreen trees. In the background, there are rugged, rocky mountains under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The foreground is filled with tall, golden-brown grasses and some green plants. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and nostalgic.

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Background photo by Bryan Burton.



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COLORADO FIELD GUIDE

ESTABLISHED IN 2017

We have even more itineraries on our website that will get you around Colorado with the ease of a local — especially to the places many visitors don't even know about! Visit COLORADO.com/FieldGuide.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

COLORADO ESSENTIALS

Pages 23–73

These articles are a good overview of all the kinds of things there are to see and do in Colorado, including a few places you can see and do them.

DETAILED ITINERARIES

Pages 74–84

These trip itineraries are arranged around specific activities and interests.

Pages 92–189

And these are arranged around geographic regions. The maps on pages 88 and 90 are a good place to get your bearings before digging into those.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Pages 191–206

Arranged alphabetically by city, these business listings will help you locate specific attractions, lodging and outfitters to consider as you plan your trip.

MAPS!

We know you love maps. Here are five handy ones:

STATEWIDE:
Page 16A

STATE & NATIONAL PARKS:
Page 41

SCENIC BYWAYS:
Page 71

REGIONS:
Page 88

ITINERARIES:
Page 90

GETTING HERE & GETTING AROUND

Pages 14–16

Get tips for navigating this great state.

INDEXES

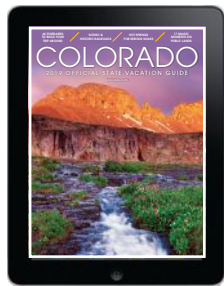
Pages 207–208

These indexes can help you find content throughout the guide that's related to an area you'd like to visit.



STICKERS!

Share the Colorado state of mind via your mobile device with stickers of our flag, Red Rocks, a frosty glass of beer and more. COLORADO.com/Stickers



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VIRTUAL GUIDE

This guide is also online in case you don't want to share the hard copy with friends. Send them to COLORADO.com/Guide.

COLORADO TRAVEL TOOLS

All You Need to Plan Your Trip

This guide is just one part of your travel-planning toolkit. Get more information about things to see and do, fun events and festivals, and more on COLORADO.com, from our apps and on our social media channels.

COLORADO.COM



WHAT YOU'LL FIND

- ▶ Get trip ideas from articles and detailed itineraries
- ▶ Find events and special offers to take advantage of during your stay
- ▶ Sign up for our monthly newsletter, which is also packed with trip ideas, events and travel deals
- ▶ Locate restaurants, outdoor outfitters, tour companies and more in the cities and towns you plan to visit



MORE TO LOVE

- ▶ Check out our Colorado Outdoor Adventure Blog, with posts by Coloradans doing amazing Colorado things! BLOG.COLORADO.COM
- ▶ Find your getaway with our collection of itineraries and see the off-the-grid places some will take you. COLORADO.COM/FIELDGUIDE
- ▶ Share your [#ColoradoLive](https://twitter.com/ColoradoLive) moments and photos on Twitter and Instagram to be entered into random drawings for awesome prizes. COLORADO.COM/COLORADOLIVE



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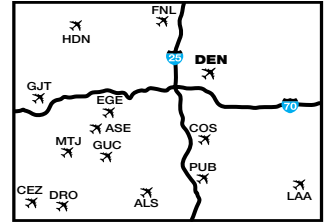
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GETTING HERE & GETTING AROUND

Colorado is well connected with the rest of the U.S. and major international destinations. With a strong network of airports, highways, buses and trains, traveling to and around the state is a breeze.



DENVER HAS NONSTOP SERVICE TO 26 INTERNATIONAL DESTINATIONS IN 12 COUNTRIES:

- Belize
- Canada
- Cayman Islands
- Costa Rica
- France
- Germany
- Iceland
- Japan
- Mexico
- Panama
- Switzerland
- UK

GUNNISON-CRESTED BUTTE AIRPORT (GUC)
GUNNISONCOUNTY.ORG / AIRPORT, 800-814-7988

Good for Visiting: Gunnison and Crested Butte **Year-Round From:** Denver **Seasonal From:** Dallas (DFW), Houston (IAH)

MONTROSE REGIONAL AIRPORT (MTJ)
FLYMONTROSE.COM, 970-249-3203

Good for Visiting: Montrose, Ouray, Ridgway, Telluride and Delta **Year-Round From:** Denver, Dallas (DFW) **Seasonal From:** Atlanta, Charlotte, Chicago (ORD), Houston (IAH), Los Angeles, Newark, New York (LGA), Phoenix (PHX), Salt Lake City, San Francisco

NORTHERN COLORADO REGIONAL AIRPORT (FNL)
FLYNOCO.COM, 970-962-2850

Good for Visiting: Fort Collins, Loveland, Greeley and Rocky Mountain National Park **Year-Round From:** TBA

PUEBLO MEMORIAL AIRPORT (PUB)

PUEBLO.US / AIRPORT, 719-553-2760
Good for Visiting: Pueblo, Cañon City, La Junta and Walsenburg **Year-Round From:** Denver

YAMPA VALLEY REGIONAL AIRPORT (HDN)
YAMPAVALLEYREGIONALAIRPORT.COM, 970-276-5001

Good for Visiting: Steamboat Springs, Hayden and Craig **Year-Round From:** Denver **Seasonal From:** Atlanta, Austin, Boston, Chicago (ORD), Dallas (DFW), Fort Lauderdale, Houston (IAH), Kansas City, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Minneapolis - St. Paul, Newark, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, Washington (IAD)

DESTINATIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

TRAVEL BY AIR

DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (DEN)

FLYDENVER.COM, 303-342-2000
 As the nation's fifth-busiest airport, DIA offers 206 nonstop domestic and international destinations. Access to mountain resorts and other destinations is easy, and the airport can be reached from downtown Denver via the new Train to the Plane — RTD's A Line commuter rail.

COLORADO SPRINGS AIRPORT (COS)

FLYCOS.COM, 719-550-1972
 Serving Colorado's second largest city, COS is the gateway to the Pikes Peak region. Conveniently located 15 minutes from downtown, COS offers travelers simple parking, easy check-in, and short security lines. Rental car and other transportation options abound. **Year-Round From:** Denver, Atlanta, Chicago (ORD), Dallas (DFW), Houston (IAH), Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Orlando, Phoenix (AZA & PHX), Salt Lake City **Seasonal From:** Minneapolis-St. Paul, San Antonio, San Diego, Seattle, Washington (IAD)

ALAMOSA-SAN LUIS VALLEY REGIONAL AIRPORT (ALS)

ALAMOSACOUNTY.ORG, 719-589-4848
Good for Visiting: Alamosa, Monte Vista, Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, South Fork, Crestone, Salida, Wolf Creek and Pagosa Springs **Year-Round From:** Denver

ASPEN/PITKIN COUNTY AIRPORT (ASE)

ASPENAIRPORT.COM, 970-920-5384
Good for Visiting: Aspen, Carbondale, Snowmass, Basalt, Leadville and Glenwood Springs **Year-Round From:** Denver, Chicago (ORD), Dallas (DFW), Salt Lake City **Seasonal From:** Atlanta, Houston (IAH), Los Angeles, Minneapolis - St. Paul, Phoenix (PHX), Salt Lake City, San Francisco

CORTEZ MUNICIPAL AIRPORT (CEZ)

CITYOFCORTEZ.COM, 970-565-7458
Good for Visiting: Cortez, Dolores, Mesa Verde National Park and Mancos **Year-Round From:** Denver, Phoenix (PHX)

DURANGO/LA PLATA COUNTY AIRPORT (DRO)

FLYDURANGO.COM, 970-382-6050
Good for Visiting: Durango, Cortez, Mesa Verde National Park, Silverton and Pagosa Springs **Year-Round From:** Denver, Dallas (DFW), Phoenix (PHX) **Seasonal From:** Los Angeles

EAGLE COUNTY REGIONAL AIRPORT (EGE)

FLYVAIL.COM, 970-524-8246
Good for Visiting: Vail, Beaver Creek, Glenwood Springs and Aspen **Year-Round From:** Denver, Dallas (DFW) **Seasonal From:** Atlanta, Chicago (ORD), Houston (IAH), Los Angeles, Miami, New York (JFK & LGA), Phoenix (PHX), Washington (IAD)

GRAND JUNCTION REGIONAL AIRPORT (GJT)
GJAIRPORT.COM, 970-244-9100

GJT is the largest airport in Western Colorado and the third-largest airport in the state. Five major airlines offer non-stop service to seven destinations. **Year-Round From:** Centennial (APA), Denver, Dallas (DFW), Las Vegas, Phoenix (PHX), Salt Lake City **Seasonal From:** Los Angeles



TRAVEL BY TRAIN

Amtrak's California Zephyr line makes the trip from Chicago, to Emeryville, California. On its way, it makes a stop in Denver and passes through Fort Morgan, Fraser, Granby, Glenwood Springs and Grand Junction. The Southwest Chief goes from Chicago to Los Angeles, with Colorado stops in Lamar, La Junta and Trinidad. Amtrak's Winter Park Express ferries skiers and boarders from Denver's Union Station right to the Winter Park Resort in just two hours on Saturdays, Sundays and select Mondays or Fridays, typically January through March.

Visit amtrak.com and see page 58 for scenic and historic railroads.

TRAVEL BY BUS & LIGHT RAIL

Several options exist for travel between Colorado's cities.

RTD, Denver's public transportation network, is easy and inexpensive and can get you pretty much anywhere in Denver. The system of buses and light rail also serves cities and towns in the six counties that surround Denver, including Boulder, Longmont, Aurora, Littleton, Lakewood, Golden, Arvada and others. Additionally:

- ▶ The RTD A Line is the Train to the Plane, running between downtown Denver and DIA. For \$10.50, riders have access to the entire RTD system. There's also the SkyRide Bus, which runs between DIA and Thornton, Brighton, Boulder, the Denver Tech Center and Aurora. rtd-denver.com
- ▶ The Flatiron Flyer rapid-transit bus connects Denver and Boulder. rtd-denver.com/flatiron-flyer.shtml
- ▶ Bustang connects Denver, Colorado Springs, Loveland, Fort Collins, Idaho Springs, Frisco, Vail, Eagle, Glenwood Springs and more. ridebustang.com
- ▶ FLEX is a regional bus route between Fort Collins, Loveland, Longmont and Boulder. ridetransfort.com/flex
- ▶ The Prospector connects Idaho Springs and Georgetown, as well the Idaho Springs Bustang stop. co.clear-creek.co.us
- ▶ Summit Stage is a free bus between Keystone, Dillon, Copper Mountain, Arapahoe Basin, Silverthorne, Frisco and Breckenridge. summitcounty.co.gov
- ▶ Road Runner Stage Lines runs daily between Durango, Cortez, Telluride, Montrose, Delta, Grand Junction and more. roadrunnerstagelines.com
- ▶ The Gunnison Valley RTA runs between Denver, Fairplay, Buena Vista, Salida, Pueblo, Gunnison and Crested Butte. gunnisonvalleyrta.com
- ▶ The Roaring Fork Transit Authority runs between Aspen, Carbondale, Glenwood Springs, Snowmass, Rifle and more. rfta.com
- ▶ The Front Range Ski Bus has service Wednesday to Sunday from Denver to Loveland Ski Area and Copper Mountain Resort in the winter and has also added a summer Red Rocks Bus to its route. frontrangeskibus.com
- ▶ Greyhound buses run between Denver and Colorado Springs, Fort Collins, Pueblo, Grand Junction and many other towns. locations.greyhound.com/us/colorado
- ▶ Several private shuttles run between our cities, ski towns and airports. COLORADO.com/Shuttles

RIDE & BIKE SHARING

Ride-sharing apps are popular throughout the state, and several cities, including Denver, Colorado Springs, Boulder, Fort Collins, Longmont, Golden, Avon, Aspen, Buena Vista and Aurora, feature popular bike-sharing options for getting to and fro.

DRIVE DISTANCES IN MILES

	ALAMOSA	BURLINGTON	COLO. SPRINGS	DENVER	DURANGO	FORT COLLINS	GLENWOOD	GRAND JCT.	JULESBURG	LAMAR	PUEBLO	STERLING	TRINIDAD
ALAMOSA	-	296	163	212	149	274	204	249	393	202	122	335	109
BURLINGTON	296	-	150	163	445	224	324	412	123	107	191	141	237
COLO. SPRINGS	163	150	-	70	302	132	198	287	240	159	42	182	127
DENVER	212	163	70	-	332	65	159	248	182	203	112	125	197
DURANGO	149	445	302	332	-	394	231	169	512	351	271	454	259
FORT COLLINS	274	224	132	65	394	-	220	308	162	264	174	102	259
GLENWOOD	204	324	198	159	231	220	-	89	339	345	227	280	283
GRAND JCT.	249	412	287	248	169	308	89	-	427	405	287	379	334
JULESBURG	393	123	240	182	512	162	339	427	-	230	280	59	336
LAMAR	202	107	159	203	351	264	345	405	230	-	119	224	136
PUEBLO	122	191	42	112	271	174	227	287	280	119	-	221	86
STERLING	335	141	182	125	454	102	280	379	59	224	221	-	277
TRINIDAD	109	237	127	197	259	259	283	334	336	136	86	277	-

COLORADO WEATHER

With 300 days of annual sunshine, mild temperatures and record snowfalls, there's never a bad time to come to Colorado. Here's some helpful Colorado weather information to help you when planning your next Colorado adventure.



Each year Colorado receives:



300 DAYS OF SUNSHINE



MORE THAN 300 INCHES OF SNOW AT EACH MOUNTAIN RESORT



AN AVERAGE OF 16.5 INCHES OF PRECIPITATION

(8 at lower elevations and 23 at higher elevations)



33 PERCENT AVERAGE HUMIDITY



FIRST SNOW USUALLY ARRIVES IN SEPTEMBER

(though it usually snows somewhere in the state every month, except maybe August)

AVERAGE HIGH/LOW TEMPERATURES

	summer temperatures °F						winter temperatures °F					
	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR
ASPEN	49/20	61/29	72/34	79/40	77/39	69/32	58/23	42/13	33/4	31/0	35/2	40/12
BURLINGTON	61/33	71/43	82/54	88/59	85/57	76/48	66/36	51/24	41/15	40/13	44/17	51/23
DENVER	61/34	70/43	81/52	88/58	85/56	76/47	66/36	52/25	44/14	43/16	46/20	52/25
DURANGO	61/26	71/33	83/41	87/49	84/47	76/39	65/29	51/20	41/10	38/6	44/13	52/20
STEAMBOAT SPRINGS	51/23	62/31	72/38	77/45	75/43	68/35	57/26	42/16	32/7	31/5	35/7	41/14

Colorado Weather Resources

ROAD CONDITIONS: Visit cotrip.org (or call 511 when in Colorado)

Colorado Department of Transportation Travel Center (road conditions/closures, winter driving tips, rest areas, etc.)

TRAVEL LIKE A LOCAL

PACKING: Dressing in easily removable layers can ensure you're always comfortable — adding or removing them as temperatures change. Our diversity of elevations means temperatures can shift quickly. Here are some basics to bring that will help you stay comfortable:

- **Winter:** Warm, water-resistant coat or parka, hat, gloves, long underwear, snow pants and water-resistant boots
- **Spring/Autumn:** T-shirts, rain jacket, fleece jacket, jeans and shorts
- **Summer:** Light jacket, shorts, jeans, hiking pants, swimsuit and warm clothing for camping and mountain visits

ALTITUDE: Denver is the Mile High City, and many popular destinations are even higher altitude. Staying hydrated and adjusting for a day or two before embarking on a strenuous adventure is the best way to make sure being high up doesn't get you down.

ALCOHOL: It has more impact at altitude, so take it easy until you get your mountain legs.

CELL COVERAGE: You won't have any trouble staying connected when you're in a town, but once you head out on a trail, river, slope or back road, that could change. Let others know where you are and finish posting your pics before you head off the grid.

SPARSE SERVICES: If you spot a sign saying "No gas or services for the next 56 miles," believe it.

FOR HIKES, ROAD TRIPS & OTHER EXCURSIONS: Pack more food, water and cold-weather wear than you expect to need so you won't be caught unprepared.

BEAR-PROOF TRASHCANS: If you want to toss your trash and the lid won't budge, you're probably encountering a bear-proof trash can. Look for instructions on the can — there's usually a lever or button to push that's too tricky for hairy paws to manage.

NAVIGATE COLORADO

Colorado is the eighth-largest state in the U.S., measuring 380 miles east to west and 280 miles north to south. Yes, that's more than 100,000 total square miles to explore. Luckily, with so much to see and do, Colorado is very easy to navigate. The itineraries starting on page 92 will give you ideas for exploring each corner of the state — and everywhere in between. Turn to page 41 for a map of Colorado State Parks and National Parks.

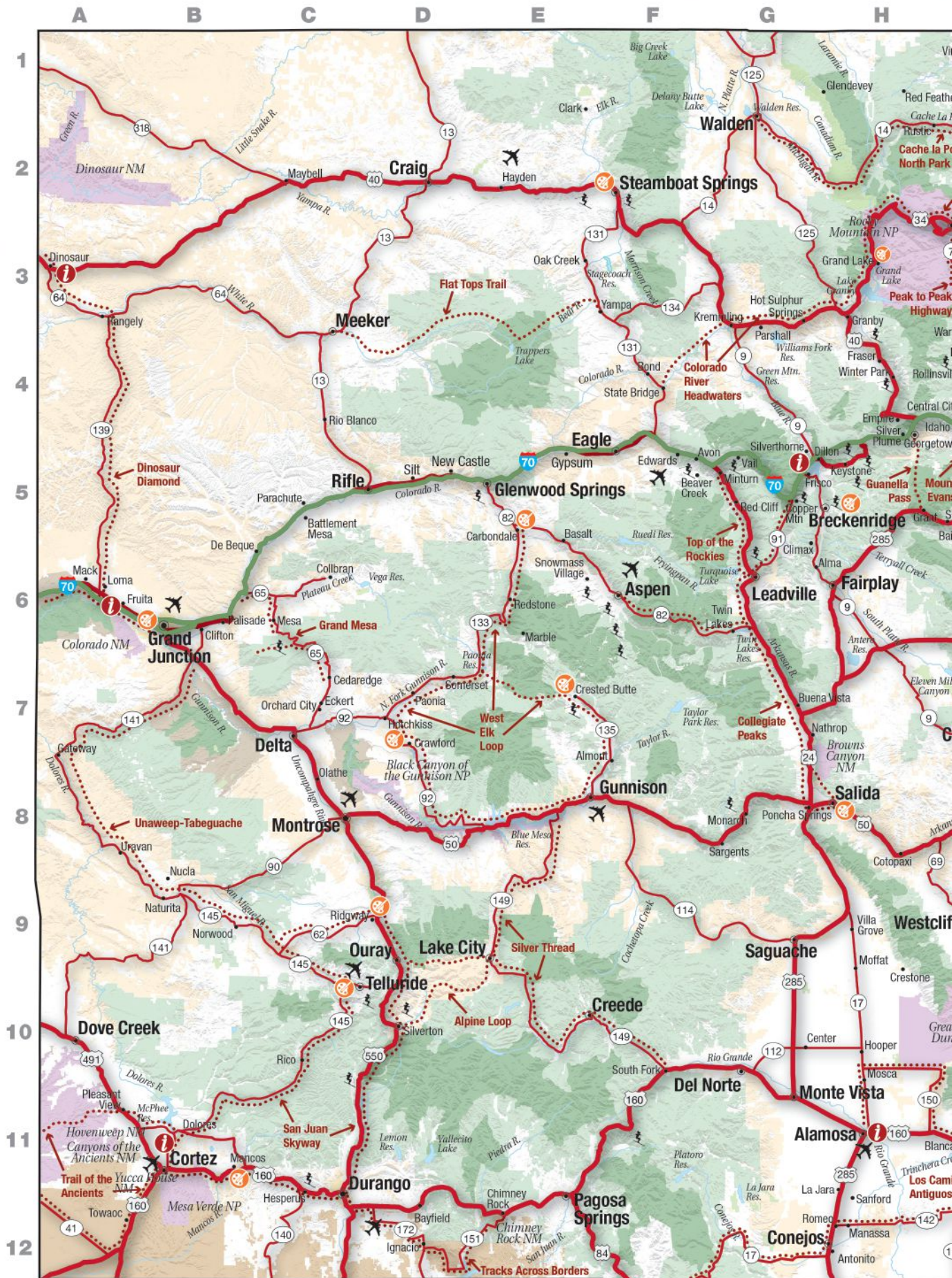
If you already know exactly where you want to go, use the list below to locate a specific city or town. Then, check the index on page 208 to locate articles and businesses in the cities you plan to visit.

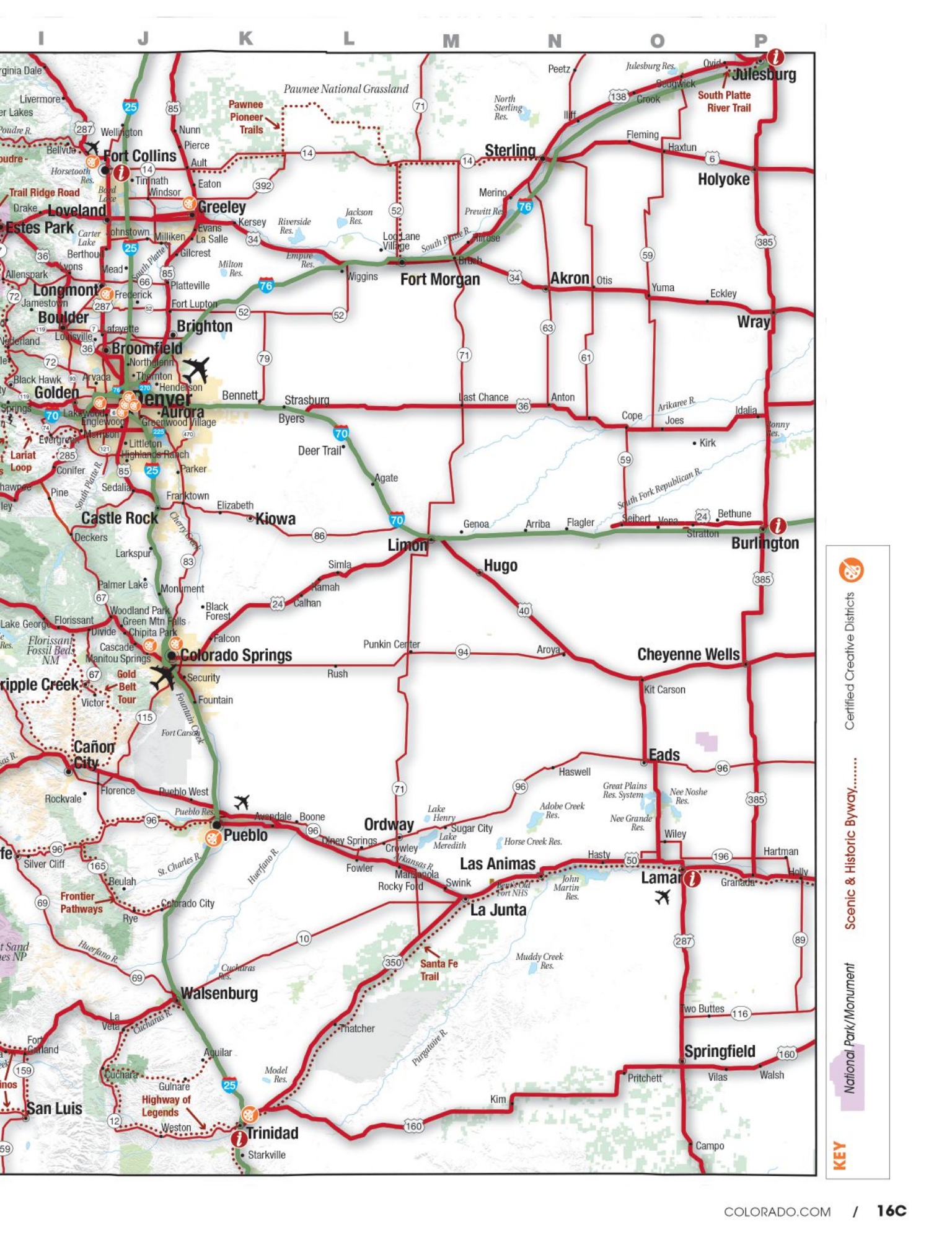


Alamosa..... 719-589-4840.. H-11
 Burlington..... 719-346-5554..... P-6
 Cortez..... 970-565-4048... A-11
 Dinosaur..... 970-374-2205..... A-3
 Fort Collins..... 970-491-3583..... J-2
 Fruita..... 970-858-9335..... A-6
 Julesburg..... 970-474-2054..... P-1
 Lamar..... 719-336-3483..... O-9
 Silverthorne.. 970-468-0353..... G-5
 Trinidad..... 719-846-9512.... K-12



City	Map Location	City	Map Location	City	Map Location	City	Map Location	City	Map Location
Agate	L-5	Conifer	I-5	Glenwood Springs	E-5	Manassa	H-12	Romeo	G-12
Aguilair	K-11	Cope	N-5	Golden	I-4	Mancos	B-11	Rush	L-7
Akron	N-3	Copper Mountain	G-5	Granada	P-9	Manitou Springs	J-7	Rustic	I-2
Alamosa	H-11	Cortez	A-11	Granby	H-3	Manzanola	L-9	Rye	J-10
Allenspark	I-3	Cotopaxi	H-8	Grand Junction	B-6	Marble	E-6	Saguache	G-9
Alma	G-6	Craig	D-2	Grand Lake	H-3	Marshall	I-4	Salida	G-8
Almont	E-7	Crawford	D-7	Grant	H-5	Maybell	C-2	Sanford	H-12
Anton	N-4	Creede	E-10	Greeley	J-3	Mead	J-3	San Luis	I-12
Antonito	G-12	Crested Butte	E-7	Green Mtn. Falls	J-7	Meekeer	C-4	Sargents	F-8
Arboles	D-12	Crestone	H-9	Greenwood Village	J-5	Merino	M-2	Security	J-7
Aroya	N-7	Cripple Creek	I-7	Grover	K-1	Mesa	C-6	Sedalia	J-5
Arriba	N-6	Crook	N-1	Gunnison	E-8	Mesa Verde	B-12	Sedgwick	O-1
Arvada	J-4	Crowley	L-9	Gypsum	E-5	Milliken	J-3	Selbert	O-6
Aspen	F-6	Cuchara	J-11	Hartman	P-8	Minturn	F-5	Severance	J-2
Aspen Park	I-4	Dacono	J-3	Hasly	N-9	Moffat	H-9	Shawnee	H-5
Ault	J-2	De Beque	C-5	Haswell	N-8	Monarch	G-8	Sheridan	J-5
Aurora	J-5	Deckers	I-6	Haxtun	O-2	Monte Vista	G-11	Silt	D-5
Avon	F-5	Deer Trail	L-5	Hayden	E-2	Montrose	C-8	Silver Cliff	I-9
Avondale	K-9	Del Norte	G-10	Heeney	G-4	Monument	J-6	Silver Plume	H-4
Bailey	I-5	Delta	C-7	Henderson	J-4	Morrison	I-5	Silverthorne	G-5
Basalt	E-5	Denver	J-4	Hesperus	C-12	Mosca	H-10	Silverton	D-10
Bayfield	D-12	Dillon	G-5	Highlands Ranch	J-5	Mountain View	I-4	Simla	L-6
Battlement Mesa	C-5	Dinosaur	A-3	Hillrose	M-3	Mt. Crested Butte	E-7	Snowmass Village	E-6
Beaver Creek	F-5	Divide	I-7	Holy	P-9	Naturita	B-9	Somerset	D-7
Bellvue	I-2	Dolores	B-11	Holyoke	P-2	Nathrop	G-8	South Fork	F-10
Bennett	K-4	Dove Creek	A-10	Hooper	H-10	Nederland	I-4	Springfield	O-11
Berthoud	I-3	Drake	I-2	Hotchkiss	D-7	New Castle	D-5	Starkville	K-12
Bethune	O-6	Durango	C-12	Hot Sulphur Springs	G-4	Niwot	I-3	State Bridge	F-4
Beulah	J-9	Eads	O-8	Hudson	K-4	Northglenn	J-4	Steamboat Springs	F-2
Black Forest	J-6	Eagle	F-5	Hugo	M-6	Norwood	B-9	Sterling	N-2
Black Hawk	I-4	Eastlake	J-4	Idaho Springs	I-4	Nucla	B-9	Strasburg	K-4
Blanca	H-11	Eaton	J-2	Idalia	P-4	Nunn	J-2	Stratton	O-6
Blue River	G-5	Eckert	C-7	Ignacio	D-12	Oak Creek	E-3	Sugar City	M-9
Bond	F-4	Eckley	O-3	Iliff	N-1	Olathe	C-8	Superior	I-4
Boone	K-9	Edgewater	J-5	Jamestown	I-3	Olney Springs	L-9	Swink	M-9
Boulder	I-4	Edwards	F-5	Joels	O-5	Orchard	L-2	Telluride	C-10
Bow Mar	J-5	Elbert	K-6	Johnstown	J-3	Orchard City	C-7	Thatcher	L-11
Breckenridge	G-5	Eldorado Springs	I-4	Julesburg	P-1	Ordway	M-9	Thornton	J-4
Brighton	J-4	Elizabeth	K-6	Keenesburg	K-3	Otis	N-3	Timnath	J-2
Bristol	P-9	Empire	H-4	Kersey	K-3	Ouray	D-9	Towaoc	A-12
Broomfield	I-4	Englewood	J-5	Keystone	G-5	Ovid	O-1	Trinidad	K-12
Brush	M-3	Erie	J-4	Kim	N-12	Pagosa Springs	E-12	Two Lakes	G-6
Buena Vista	G-7	Estes Park	I-3	Kiowa	K-6	Palisade	C-6	Two Buttes	P-11
Buford	D-4	Evans	J-3	Kirk	O-5	Palmer Lake	J-6	Uravan	A-8
Burlington	P-6	Evergreen	I-5	Kit Carson	O-7	Paonia	D-7	Vail	G-5
Byers	K-5	Fairplay	G-6	Kremmling	G-4	Parachute	C-5	Vallecito Lake	D-11
Calhan	K-7	Falcon	J-7	Lafayette	I-4	Parker	J-5	Victor	I-7
Campo	O-12	Federal Heights	J-4	La Jara	H-12	Parshall	G-3	Vilas	P-11
Cañon City	I-8	Firestone	J-3	La Junta	M-10	Peeetz	N-1	Villa Grove	H-9
Carbondale	E-5	Flagler	N-6	La Salle	J-3	Pierce	J-2	Vona	O-6
Cascade	J-7	Fleming	N-2	La Veta	J-11	Pine	I-5	Walden	G-2
Castle Rock	J-6	Florence	I-8	Lake City	D-9	Pitkin	F-7	Walsenburg	J-11
Cedaredge	C-7	Fort Carson	J-8	Lake George	I-7	Platteville	J-3	Walsh	P-11
Centennial	J-5	Fort Collins	I-2	Lakewood	J-5	Poncha Springs	G-8	Ward	I-3
Center	G-10	Fort Garland	I-11	Lamar	O-9	Pritchett	O-11	Waterton	I-5
Central City	I-4	Fort Lupton	J-3	Larkspur	J-6	Prowers	O-9	Wattsburg	J-4
Cheraw	M-9	Fort Morgan	L-3	Las Animas	N-9	Pueblo	K-9	Wellington	J-2
Cherry Hills Village	J-5	Fountain	J-8	Last Chance	M-4	Pueblo West	J-8	Westcliffe	I-9
Cheyenne Wells	P-7	Fowler	L-9	Leadville	G-6	Punkin Center	M-7	Westminster	I-4
Chimney Rock	D-12	Franktown	J-5	Limon	M-6	Ramah	L-6	Weston	J-12
Chipita Park	J-7	Fraser	H-4	Littleton	J-5	Rangely	A-3	Wheat Ridge	I-4
Clark	E-1	Frederick	J-3	Livermore	I-2	Red Cliff	G-5	Wiggins	L-3
Clifton	B-6	Frisco	G-5	Lochbuie	J-4	Red Feather Lakes	H-1	Wiley	O-9
Climax	G-5	Fruita	A-6	Log Lane Village	L-3	Redstone	E-6	Windsor	J-2
Colbran	C-6	Gateway	A-7	Loma	A-6	Ridgway	C-9	Winter Park	H-4
Colorado City	J-10	Genoa	M-6	Longmont	I-3	Rifle	D-5	Wolcott	F-5
Colorado Springs	J-7	Georgetown	H-5	Louisville	I-4	Rio Blanco	G-4	Woodland Park	J-7
Columbine Valley	J-5	Gilcrest	J-3	Loveland	I-3	Rockvale	I-8	Wray	P-3
Commerce City	J-4	Glendale	J-5	Lyons	I-3	Rocky Ford	M-9	Yampa	E-3
Conejos	G-12	Glendevy	G-1	Mack	A-6	Rollinsville	I-4	Yuma	O-3





Certified Creative Districts

Scenic & Historic Byway.....

National Park/Monument

KEY

Everything Under the Sun



When you're in The Mile High City, you'll see that art extends beyond gallery walls, and you can experience music just as Mother Nature intended at Red Rocks Park & Amphitheatre. Explore the city's craft beer on the Denver Beer Trail, check out chef-driven restaurants and find adventures for all ages. Learn more at VISITDENVER.COM

Summer Holidays

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

May 24–27
Denver Day of Rock

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

July 3–7
Independence Eve Fireworks

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Aug. 30–Sept. 2
A Taste of Colorado

Blockbuster Events

DENVER RESTAURANT WEEK

Feb. 22–Mar. 3
Throughout Denver

CHERRY CREEK ARTS FESTIVAL

July 5–7
Cherry Creek North

DENVER BEER WEEK

Sept. 27–Oct. 5
Throughout Denver

RED ROCKS SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

All Summer Long
Red Rocks Park & Amphitheatre

SLOW FOOD NATIONS

July 19–21
Downtown Denver

DENVER ARTS WEEK

Nov. 1–9
Throughout Denver

Cultural Exhibitions

DIOR: FROM PARIS TO THE WORLD

Thru Mar. 3
Denver Art Museum

THE SCIENCE BEHIND PIXAR

Oct. 11–Mar. 29, 2020
Denver Museum of Nature & Science

LEONARDO DA VINCI: 500 YEARS OF GENIUS

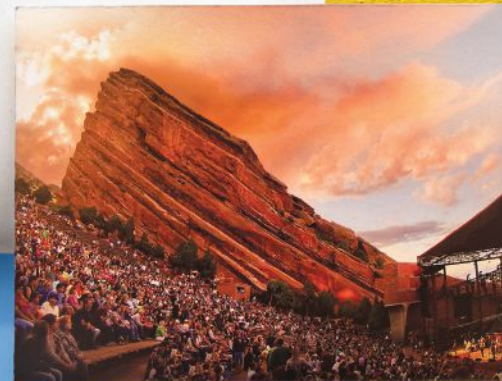
Mar. 1–Aug. 25
Denver Museum of Nature & Science

CLAUDE MONET: THE TRUTH OF NATURE

Oct. 20–Feb. 2, 2020
Denver Art Museum

*Events and dates are subject to change

Soak it all in
VISITDENVER.COM





CARE FOR COLORADO PRINCIPLES

1. KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- ▶ This land really is your land. Our state and federal agencies manage 42 percent of Colorado’s majestic landscape, and our cities and counties maintain even more. Learn about and respect the spaces we all own, share and sing about.
- ▶ Stay back from the pack. Find your way to less-visited and off-peak destinations to minimize down time and maximize your connection with special places.
- ▶ Bring along reusable water bottles or hot drink tumblers to limit waste and stay hydrated in our dry climate.

2. STICK TO TRAILS

- ▶ With 39,000 marked trails and 13,000 designated campsites, there’s no need to venture beyond. By sticking to these areas and camping at least 200 feet from lakes, rivers and streams, you’re helping natural areas stay natural.
- ▶ Even though shortcuts can be tempting, please don’t take them. A few extra strides on the path will protect plants and the homes of the true locals.

3. LEAVE IT AS YOU FIND IT

- ▶ Leave plants, rocks and historical items as you find them so others experience the joy of discovery.
- ▶ Any of our 750 different species of wildflowers will live forever in a photo. Snap away, but only with a camera.
- ▶ Colorado is beautiful all on its own. Building structures or campsites on public land isn’t cool. Keep it pristine for everyone to enjoy.
- ▶ Treat all living things with respect. Carving or hacking plants and trees may kill or disfigure them.

4. TRASH THE TRASH

- ▶ Pack it in, pack it out. Or pick it up to leave a place better than you found it. Put litter, even crumbs, peels and cores in your nearest waste/recycling bin.
- ▶ Wash yourself, your dog or whatever else needs cleaning at least 200 feet from waterways, and use bio-degradable soap. A bubble bath is no treat for fish.

5. BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE

- ▶ Colorado’s low humidity has perks, but can create dry, dangerous conditions. Keep campfires small and manageable to avoid sparking wildfires.
- ▶ When putting out a fire, water it until you can handle the embers. Never let a fire burn unattended.
- ▶ Use care when smoking in Colorado’s dry climate. Always put cigarettes out completely, and don’t leave your butts behind.
- ▶ Always check for local fire restrictions.

6. KEEP WILDLIFE WILD

- ▶ Colorado is home to tens of thousands of furry, scaly and feathered creatures. To keep them — and you — safe, don’t approach them.
- ▶ It is not adorable to feed wild animals. You could alter natural behaviors, exposing them to predators or even euthanasia.
- ▶ Keep your furry buddies leashed when enjoying dog-friendly trails, and pack out their waste. All the way to a trashcan.

7. SHARE OUR TRAILS & PARKS

- ▶ Chances are you’re not out in nature to people watch, so try out the lesser-known paths and sites.
- ▶ Silence your cell phone before stepping into nature, and speak softly without using the speaker function.
- ▶ Be considerate when passing others on the trails and yield to the uphill hiker and biker — they need the momentum.
- ▶ Listen to nature. Keep your voice and music soft so all can enjoy the peace of Colorado.



See the principles in action at COLORADO.com/LeaveNoTrace.

© Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, 2019.

SOUTH FORK MINERAL CREEK FALLS NEAR SILVERTON, MATTHEW HAHNEL



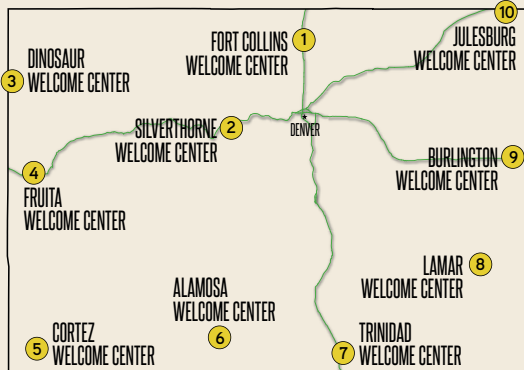
COLORADO TOURISM OFFICE



COLORADO WELCOME CENTERS

If you want to get in touch with knowledgeable locals during your visit, all you need to do is head to one of the 10 Colorado Welcome Centers. There's one located in each corner of the state and at both ends of the major interstates that bisect the state — I-25 and I-70.

Stop by for personable, face-to-face travel advice, and take your pick from scores of maps, brochures and regional guides. The coffee is always hot, a bicycle-repair kit is available, and each center has Internet access and clean restrooms, as well as information on weather and road conditions.



(1) FORT COLLINS

3745 E. Prospect Rd., I-25 at exit 268, 970-491-3583
Situated near the Wyoming border.

(2) SILVERTHORNE

246 Rainbow Dr., 970-468-0353
Located just off I-70 in Summit County.

(3) DINOSAUR

101 E. Stegosaurus St., U.S. Hwy. 40, 970-374-2205
Located near Utah and Dinosaur National Monument.

(4) FRUITA

340 Hwy. 340, I-70 at exit 19, 970-858-9335
Located near the Utah border.

(5) CORTEZ

928 E. Main St., U.S. Hwy. 160/491, 970-565-4048
Located near the Four Corners area.

(6) ALAMOSA

610 State Ave., U.S. Hwy. 160 and State Ave., 719-589-4840
On your way in from New Mexico at the intersection of highways 160 and 285.

(7) TRINIDAD

309 Nevada Ave., 719-846-9512
Found near the New Mexico border.

(8) LAMAR

109 E. Beech St., U.S. Hwy. 50, 719-336-3483
Situated near the Kansas border.

(9) BURLINGTON

48265 I-70, I-70 between exits 437 and 438, 719-346-5554
Located along the Kansas border.

(10) JULESBURG

20934 C.R. 28, I-76 at exit 180 970-474-2054
Found in the northeast corner of Colorado.

GET THE GEAR

As you travel Colorado's roads, keep an eye out for the locally made products that help Coloradans explore our great outdoors:

SKIS, SNOWBOARDS & ACCESSORIES:

High Society (Aspen); Liberty Skis (Avon); All Boards Sports (Boulder); Faction Skis, Rocky Mountain Underground (Breckenridge); Romp Skis (Crested Butte); Meier, Never Summer, Folsom Custom Skis and Sick Stickz (Denver); Bishop Binding (Edwards); Icelantic and Apex Ski Boots (Golden); Grace Skis (Gypsum); Powder Factory (Silver Plume); Unity Snowboards (Silverthorne); Venture Snowboards and ScottyBob SkiWorks (Silverton); Wagner (Telluride); OZ Snowboards (Wheat Ridge)

PACKS & BAGS:

Kelty, Madden and Green Guru (Boulder); Osprey (Cortez); MHM, Topo Designs and Adventurist Backpack Co (Denver); Mountainsmith (Golden); Alpine Luddites (Ouray); Kifaru (Wheat Ridge)

BIKES:

Boulder Bicycle, Dean, Wily Cycles, Zinn Cycles and Paketa Cycles (Boulder); Boreales Fat Bikes and The E-Bike Company (Colorado Springs); Alchemy Bicycle Company, Guerrilla Gravity, Connor Wood Bicycles, Gallus Handmade Bicycles and da Vinci Designs (Denver); Durango Bike Company and 3D Racing (Durango); Funk Cycles (Englewood); Black Sheep Bikes, Oddity Cycles and Boo Bicycles (Fort Collins); Lenz Sport Bicycles (Fort Lupton); Samsara Cycles (Frederick); Yeti Cycles, Spot Brand, Proudfoot Cycles and REEB (Golden); Matter Cycles (Lyons); Victoria Cycles (Salida); Moots Cycles and Kent Eriksen Cycles (Steamboat Springs)

PERFORMANCE CLOTHING & OUTERWEAR:

Strafe and Obermeyer Ski Clothing (Aspen); Mountain Standard, Dynafit and Spyder Active Sports (Boulder); Shredly (Carbondale); Janska (Colorado Springs); Freeride Systems (Copper Mountain); Flylow Gear (Denver); Akinz (Fort Collins); Loki (Grand Junction); Pactimo (Greenwood Village); Melanzana (Leadville); Pearl Izumi (Louisville); Voormi (Pagosa Springs); Smartwool and Point6 (Steamboat Springs); CG Habitats (Thornton); Outdoor Divas and Bamboo (Vail)

FOOTWEAR:

La Sportiva, Newton Running Company and Lems Shoes (Boulder); Xero Shoes (Broomfield); Pakems (Highlands Ranch); SOM Footwear (Montrose); Crocs (Niwot)

OUTDOOR-ADVENTURE GEAR:

Purl Wax (Avon); Sea to Summit, Exxel Outdoors, Sierra Designs, Tenkara fly rods, Ultimate Direction hydration packs, Backcountry Access, Ecovessel and Zeal Optics (Boulder); OtterBox waterproof cases (Fort Collins); Wiggy's sleeping bags (Grand Junction); Native Eyewear (Longmont); Scott Fly Rods (Montrose); Badfish Stand Up Paddleboards (Salida); Big Agnes, Hala Gear (Steamboat Springs); Sol Paddle Boards (Telluride)

For more, go to directory.choosecolorado.com.



FROM TOP: MELANZANA; TOPO DESIGNS; TOPO DESIGNS

2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS & FESTIVALS

Coloradans celebrate heritage and holidays with great fanfare. The events below are just a few of our annual festivities.

Visit Colorado.com/events for more.



ASPEN

WINTERSKÖL JAN. 10-13 Aspen's annual toast to winter celebrates our unique Nordic lifestyle with an eclectic week-end of festivities. ▶ 970-920-7146, aspenchamber.org

OLD FASHIONED 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION JULY 4 Celebrating Independence Day with small-town appeal and in true American style, including a parade, live music, picnics, a kids' carnival and fireworks over Aspen Mountain. ▶ 970-925-1940, aspenchamber.org

12 DAYS OF ASPEN DEC. 20-31 Downtown Aspen comes alive with a variety of free holiday activities, special treats, and of course a visit from Santa! Join the Aspen community to celebrate the joys of the season. ▶ 970-925-1940, aspenchamber.org

BRUSH

65TH ANNUAL BRUSH RODEO JULY 2-4 More than 400 contestants compete in the largest Colorado rodeo in its class. 2,500 spectators, fireworks, a spectacular parade, art show and more occur every Fourth of July. ▶ 970-842-2666, morgancountytourism.com

37TH ANNUAL BRUSH OKTOBERFEST SEPT. 27-29 Enjoy German music, polka dancing, food, and of course beer. Celebrate Oktoberfest and Car & Motorcycle Show. Crafts, entertainment, an authentic Volksmarch, dog show and more! ▶ 970-842-2666, morgancountytourism.com

BUENA VISTA

BUENA VISTA WEDDING EXPO FEB. 23 Come and explore why you should start your legacy of love with a majestic mountain wedding in the heart of the Rocky Mountains. Featuring local wedding services and suppliers. ▶ 719-395-6612, buenavistacolorado.org

98TH COLLEGIATE PEAKS STAMPEDE RODEO JUNE 8-9 This award-winning rodeo is a great experience for the entire family. "It's Not Our First Rodeo," as this marks the Rodeo's 98th year in action. Rodeo Dance on June 8. ▶ 719-395-6612, buenavistacolorado.org

39TH GOLD RUSH DAYS AUG. 10-11 Gold Rush Days, Buena Vista's signature annual event, held each August for the past 39 years! It is the celebration of our town's heritage and history. Free to attend. ▶ 719-395-6612, buenavistacolorado.org

CHRISTMAS OPENING DEC. 7 Enjoy an old-time holiday season in charming Buena Vista. Christmas Opening is a jolly day filled with Christmas cheer. Townwide events, Santa visits, parade of lights and more. ▶ buenavistacolorado.org

CENTRAL CITY

GILPIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - SUMMER SEASON MAY 25-SEPT. 29 Explore Gilpin County's History Museum, go back to 1895 at the Thomas House, tour the Teller and Opera Houses, and visit the Coeur d'Alene Mine Shaft House. ▶ 303-582-5283, gilpinhistory.org

CRAIG

GRAND OLD WEST DAYS MAY 23-27 Memorial Day weekend full of fun for the whole family. Enjoy the carnival, live music, parade, Colorado State High School Rodeo finals and more! ▶ 970-326-6368, grandoldwestdays.com

WHITTLE THE WOOD RENDEZVOUS JUNE 12-15 Twentieth annual chainsaw-carvers competition, car show, vendors, Yampa River events and concert! ▶ 970-826-2006, whittielthewood.com

MOFFAT COUNTY BALLOON FESTIVAL AUG. 3-4 Experience more than 30 balloons at the full event Balloon Festival. Enjoy the Vendor displays, food, fun and live music! ▶ 970-629-0654, mcballoonfestival.com

DENVER

DIOR: FROM PARIS TO THE WORLD THROUGH MARCH 3 Journey through 70 years of the House of Dior's legacy. A selection of dresses and accessories will trace the history of the iconic haute couture fashion house and its founder. ▶ 303-892-1505, diorindenvver.com

NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW & RODEO JAN. 12-27 The National Western Stock Show is a nationally recognized Western heritage and entertainment event with professional rodeos and so much more! ▶ 303-892-1505, visitdenver.com

DENVER RESTAURANT WEEK FEB. 22-MARCH 3 Denver Restaurant Week is a 10-day celebration of the culinary scene with restaurants offering multi-course dinners at three different fixed prices: \$25, \$35 and \$45 per person. ▶ 303-892-1505, denverrestaurantweek.com

DA VINCI ALIVE MARCH 1-AUG. 25
Inventor, artist, scientist, anatomist, engineer, architect, sculptor, philosopher. Experience true genius and plunge into his world! ▶ 303-892-1505, visitdenver.com

RED ROCKS SUMMER CONCERT SERIES APRIL 1-OCT. 31 See a show under the stars at the awe-inspiring Red Rocks Amphitheatre, flanked by enormous red sandstone rock formations. Check out the concert schedule — get your tickets early. ▶ 303-892-1505, visitdenver.com

DENVER POP CULTURE CON MAY 31-JUNE 2 This 3-day, family-friendly convention features the best in comics, popular sci-fi and fantasy TV shows, movies, cosplay, toys, gaming and celebrity panel presentations. ▶ 303-892-1505, visitdenver.com

PRIDEFEST JUNE 15-JUNE 16 Discover PrideFest, a 2-day celebration of Denver's LGBTQ community that includes family activities, live music, a festive parade, dancing and entertainment. ▶ 303-892-1505, visitdenver.com

CHERRY CREEK ARTS FESTIVAL JULY 5-7 Cherry Creek Arts Festival is a world-class and award-winning celebration of the visual, culinary and performing arts. Meet and talk with international juried visual artists! ▶ 303-892-1505, visitdenver.com

SLOW FOOD NATIONS JULY 19-21 Taste and explore a world of good, clean and fair food for all, with the energy of a street-food festival, the rigor of an academic conference and the inspiration of a cultural exchange. ▶ 303-892-1505, visitdenver.com

GREAT AMERICAN BEER FESTIVAL OCT. 3-5 Sample from thousands of beers and meet the brewers during Great American Beer Festival at Colorado Convention Center. ▶ 303-892-1505, visitdenver.com

CLAUDE MONET: THE TRUTH OF NATURE OCT. 20, 2019-FEB. 2, 2020 Denver will be the sole US venue for this exhibition featuring more than 100 paintings spanning Monet's entire career. ▶ visitdenver.com

DENVER ARTS WEEK NOV. 1-9 Discover vibrant art districts during First Friday Art Walks and experience Denver's museums for free during Night at the Museums. ▶ 303-892-1505, denverartsweek.com

DURANGO

SNOWDOWN DURANGO JAN. 30-FEB. 3 The original "cabin fever reliever," Snowdown is Colorado's premier winter celebration! Don your best costume and get in on the fun with 4 full days of events. ▶ snowdown.org

DURANGO WINE EXPERIENCE MAY 1-5 Celebrate food and wine in Durango! Experience 3 delicious days of seminars, wine dinners and unique tastings featuring hundreds of wineries, artisan spirits and craft beers. ▶ 970-946-2408, durangowine.com

MUSIC IN THE MOUNTAINS FESTIVAL JULY 6-28 An exceptional summer classical music festival with musicians of the highest caliber. See unbelievable performances in a variety of spectacular venues. ▶ 970-385-6820, musicinthemountains.com

ANIMAS VALLEY BALLOON RALLY OCT. 18-20 Take in Colorado's stunning fall colors from above at the Animas Valley Balloon Rally. This family-friendly event features morning mass ascensions and nighttime balloon glows. ▶ animasvalleyballoonrally.com

THE POLAR EXPRESS™ MID-NOV. 2019-EARLY JAN. 2020 Based on the award-winning book, the story of a child's Christmas Eve journey comes alive on board this historic steam train to the North Pole! Visit our website for specific dates. ▶ 970-247-2733, 888-872-4607, durangotrains.com

ESTES PARK

ESTES PARK WINTER FESTIVAL JAN. 19-20 Celebrate the winter season in Estes Park! Taste award-winning chili at the chili cook-off, dance to great music, enjoy family activities and sip a variety of Colorado beer and wine. ▶ visitestespark.com/winter-fest

ESTES PARK WINE & CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL FEB. 9 Sample sweets from the region's finest chocolatiers, taste pours from a variety of wineries and enjoy a romantic weekend in beautiful Estes Park! ▶ visitestespark.com/events-calendar/special-events/wine-chocolate-fest

ESTES PARK WHISKEY WARM UP MARCH 2 The Whiskey Warm Up celebrates the winter tradition of warming up from the inside out. Layer up to sip on selections of Colorado whiskeys from a variety of distilleries. ▶ visitestespark.com/events-calendar/special-events/whiskeywarmup

BIGFOOT DAYS APRIL 12-13 Two days full of fun dedicated to Big Foot lore. Including a themed dinner with a talk and Q&A from a world-famous Big Foot expert, a 5K run, live bands, entertainment, vendors, food and more! ▶ estesparkeventscomplex.com/bigfoot-days.html

ESTES PARK ROOFTOP RODEO JULY 5-10 There's non-stop, rip-roarin' cowboy action in store for rodeo fans at Estes Park's annual Rooftop Rodeo. It has been recognized as the best small rodeo in the nation. ▶ visitestespark.com/events-calendar/special-events/rooftop-rodeo

FINE ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL SEPT. 14-15 For more than 40 years the Fine Arts Guild of the Rockies has sponsored the Fine Arts & Crafts Festival, a juried show providing outstanding artists with a venue to showcase their work. ▶ 970-699-1509, fineartsguild.org

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CRAFT SPIRITS FESTIVAL OCT. 26 The Rocky Mountain region is home to a booming craft spirits industry. Distillers and consumers of fine spirits are invited to celebrate this craft at a tasting festival. ▶ visitestespark.com/events-calendar/special-events/rocky-mountain-craft-spirits-festival

CATCH THE GLOW PARADE & CELEBRATION NOV. 22 Celebrate the holidays in festive, fun Estes Park! Enjoy visits with Santa, pony rides and carolers downtown. The parade features floats, music and thousands of twinkling lights. ▶ visitestespark.com/events-calendar/special-events/catch-the-glow-holiday-parade

COLORADO FIELD GUIDE

ESTABLISHED IN 2017

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FORT MORGAN

GLENN MILLER SWING FEST JUNE 15
Bringing in Glenn Miller and swing fans from all over the nation, this event is held in the musician's honor by his boyhood home. ▶ 970-867-6702, glennmillerswingfest.com

BOBSTOCK JULY 12-13 Come out and enjoy top hit bands, vendor and food booths plus a beer garden. Hot-air balloon rides, poker run, kids jump house and water obstacle course and bungee. 97.5 BOB FM. ▶ 970-867-5674, bobstockmusicfestival.com

FALL HARVEST CAR SHOW SEPT. 20-22
The Fall Harvest Car Show is a wonderful and fun car show held in northeastern Colorado, featuring around 275 entrants each year. Held on the 3rd weekend in September. ▶ 970-768-7469, fallharvestcarshow.org

CHRISTMAS CAPITAL OF THE PLAINS DEC. 5-31 Morgan County is dubbed the official "Christmas Capital of the Plains" in northeast Colorado. Events throughout December fulfill your festive holiday spirit. ▶ 970-542-3508, morgancountytourism.com

FRUITA

FRUITA FAT TIRE FESTIVAL MAY 3-5 Ride miles of pristine mountain-bike trails and meet friends from around the world in western Colorado. VIP party, live bands and a top cycling expo in the US. ▶ 970-585-3663, fruitafat tirefestival.com

MIKE THE HEADLESS CHICKEN FESTIVAL MAY 31-JUNE 1 Celebrate the amazing story of one chicken's will to live in the 21st year of the event. Includes a 5k run, disc golf tournament, live music, delicious food, booths and more! ▶ 970-858-3663, miketheheadlesschicken.org/mike

FRUITA FALL FESTIVAL SEPT. 27-29 The Fruta Fall Festival began more than 100 years ago as a celebration of the harvest for the farming community. The event has grown to include a carnival, crafts, food, music and more. ▶ 970-858-3894, fruitafallfestival.com

RIM ROCK RUN NOV. 2 One of the most scenic races in the world, winding over Colorado National Monument and providing views of towering monoliths, vast plateaus and red-rock canyons. ▶ 970-248-1469, visitgrandjunction.com/events/rim-rock-run-2019

GRANBY

3 LAKES ICE FISHING CONTEST JAN. 25-27 31st annual 3 Lakes Ice Fishing Tournament. Vie for more than \$21,000 in cash and prizes at the best ice fishery in Colorado! Multiple adult and kids categories. Entries are \$35-\$50. ▶ 970-887-2311, granbychamber.com/fish

JULY 4TH PARADE & WEEKLY FESTIVITIES JULY 1-6 Please join us for the best small-town parade in Colorado! A family bike parade, rodeo, color run and a cornhole tournament will also be part of our weekly lineup. ▶ 970-887-2311, granbychamber.com

GRAND JUNCTION

GRAND JUNCTION OFF-ROAD MOUNTAIN BIKE ENDURANCE EVENT & DOWNTOWN MUSIC FESTIVAL MAY 17-19 Featuring the world-class Lunch Loops trail system, the course starts and finishes on Main St. in downtown Grand Junction where the free music festival is also held. ▶ 970-245-9697, visitgrandjunction.com/events/grand-junction-road-endurance-mtn-bike-event

JUNIOR COLLEGE BASEBALL WORLD SERIES (JUCO) MAY 25-JUNE 1 The Junior College Baseball World Series has been held in Grand Junction for more than 50 years, drawing amazing young baseball players full of talent, commitment and enthusiasm. ▶ 970-245-9166, visitgrandjunction.com/events/junior-college-world-series-2018-juco

GRAND JUNCTION AIR SHOW JULY 27-28 Western Colorado welcomes one of the most exciting air shows in the state, featuring the United States Navy Blue Angels. ▶ 970-242-6663, visitgrandjunction.com/events/grand-junction-air-show-2019

TOUR OF THE MOON CYCLING CLASSIC SEPT. 28 One of the premier recreational road rides in the country, featuring breathtaking high-desert scenery and the red-rock canyons of the Colorado National Monument. ▶ visitgrandjunction.com/events/tour-moon-grand-cycling-classic

GRAND LAKE

GRAND LAKE ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL JUNE 15 & 16, JULY 13 & 14, AUGUST 3 & 4 Handmade articles from talented craftsmen. Join us in Town Park for a wonderful array of high-quality goods. It's also a great opportunity to explore Colorado's No. 1 "authentic small town"! ▶ 970-627-3402, grandlakechamber.com

BUFFALO DAYS JULY 13-14 Join Grand Lake for our annual Buffalo Days festival featuring music, activities, 5K Buffalo Stampede, a parade with a water zone water fight and of course delicious buffalo food! ▶ 970-627-3402, grandlakechamber.com

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS NOV. 22-29 Join Grand Lake for a holiday experience right out of a Hallmark movie! Tree lighting, cocoa, light displays, decorated windows and New Year's Eve fireworks. ▶ 970-627-3402, grandlakechamber.com

GREELEY

GREELEY STAMPEDE JUNE 26-JULY 7 The Greeley Stampede is Colorado's premier summer Western celebration. Rodeo, concerts, carnival, shopping, food, Kids Korral, demolition derby, Western art show and more. ▶ 970-356-7787, greeleystampede.org

LAKE CITY

LAKE CITY UNCORKED WINE & MUSIC FESTIVAL SEPT. 21 Good friends, music and wine under the fall leaves of historic downtown. Seven bands, more than 100 wines for tasting, beer from San Luis Valley Brewing Company and unique food. ▶ 970-596-9071, lakecityfestival.org

LOVELAND

LOVELAND SWEETHEART FESTIVAL - LOVE LOCKS AND LIGHTS FEB. 8-9 Celebrate Valentine's Day weekend in Loveland! Love locks, bands, brews, live entertainment and the arts headline this family-friendly free festival in downtown Loveland. ▶ 970-667-6311, visitloveland.co.org/sweetheartfestival

SCULPTURE IN THE PARK AUG. 9-11 Join us for the annual largest juried sculpture show and sale in the US at Benson Sculpture Garden. The event brings artists and art lovers from around the globe together to inspire. ▶ 970-663-2940, sculptureinthepark.org

THUNDER IN THE ROCKIES BIKE RALLY AUG. 30-SEPT. 2 The Thunder in the Rockies Bike Rally is Labor Day weekend. An action-packed, 4-day event featuring 50,000 motorcycle enthusiasts, live music, vendors, Colorado riding and more! ▶ thunderintherockies.com

LYONS

LYONS OUTDOOR GAMES JUNE 1 Lyons is a mecca for outdoor enthusiasts. The Lyons Outdoor Games features a kids zone, trail running, biking, dock dogs, yoga, 50-plus craft breweries and on-site camping. ▶ 303-823-8250, lyonscolorado.com/outdoorgames

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARADE OF LIGHTS AND FIREWORKS DEC. 7 Revel in the old-fashioned values of community that make Lyons such a magical place during the holidays. The Parade of Lights festivities kickoff on Main St. followed by fireworks! ▶ 303-823-8250, lyonscolorado.com/paradeoflights

MACK

COUNTRY JAM USA MUSIC FESTIVAL JUNE 13-16 One of the nation's premier country music festivals for nearly 3 decades! 2019 headliners include Luke Bryan, Sam Hunt, Little Big Town and Alabama. ▶ 855-821-9210, visitgrandjunction.com/events/country-jam-usa-music-festival

MANITOU SPRINGS

2019 MANITOU SPRINGS COLORADO WINE FESTIVAL JUNE 1 Sample and purchase wine from 30-plus Colorado wineries, delicious food, live music and gift vendors at the base of Pikes Peak. Stay near the festival in our charming and walkable downtown. ▶ 719-685-5089, 800-642-2567, manitousprings.org

COMMONWHEEL ARTS FESTIVAL AUG. 31-SEPT. 2 Commonwheel Art Festival is rated the best place to buy exceptional juried fine art, pottery, jewelry, pottery, sculpture and photography, while enjoying live music on our stage. ▶ 719-577-7700, commonwheel.com/festival

2019 EMMA CRAWFORD COFFIN RACES & FESTIVAL OCT. 26 In its 24th year, build a coffin, dress up and participate in the races or enjoy the weekend celebrating the legend and lore of Emma Crawford in downtown Manitou Springs. ▶ 719-685-5089, emmacrawfordfestival.com

MAYBELL

MAYBELL GREAT AMERICAN HORSE DRIVE MAY 4-5 Experience 600-700 ranch horses trotting through the town of Maybell. A truly authentic Western experience! Don't miss the Sand Wash Basin wild horses or the historic Browns Park Area. ▶ 970-824-2335, visitmoffatcounty.com

MEEKER

WAGON WHEEL OHV RENDEZVOUS 2019 JULY 18-20 Ride the Wagon Wheel OHV Trails, more than 250 miles of trails in the White River National Forest! Meeker is OHV-friendly and the rendezvous offers guided rides, an OHV Rodeo and more. ▶ 970-878-5510, wagonwheeltrails.org

MEEKER CLASSIC CHAMPIONSHIP SHEEPDOG TRIALS SEPT. 4-8 Five days of world-class sheepdog trialing competition. International art contest, artisan craft and food fair, herding demos and flyball and agility. Jammin' Lamb cook-off Saturday. ▶ 970-878-0111, meekersheepdog.com

PAGOSA SPRINGS

PINTS & POOLS CRAFT BEER FEST AT THE SPRINGS RESORT APRIL 27 The Springs Resort and Spa hosts the annual Pagosa Pints & Pools Craft Beer Festival! This unique beer fest offers hot springs, great beer and live music all in one event! ▶ 970-264-4168, 800-918-3785, pagosahotspings.com

CAR SHOW AT PAGOSA JUNE 14-15
Join us for the 10th Annual Car Show in Pagosa, a lively weekend full of the sights and sounds of classic cars. ▶ 970-585-1200, pagosachamber.com/car-show

MOUNTAIN CHILE CHA CHA SEPT. 28 The Mountain Chile Cha Cha celebrates fall, trail running and green chile, combining our incredible downtown trails with live music, margaritas and a green-chile festival. ▶ 866-438-4917, pagosachamber.com

PALISADE

PALISADE BREWS & CRUISE FESTIVAL MAY 4 Enjoy hard cider, live bands, great food vendors, unique products, arts and crafts, a corn-hole contest and the Grand Valley HTHS Antique Truck Show. ▶ 970-464-7458, palisadebrews.com

PALISADE BLUEGRASS & ROOTS MUSIC FESTIVAL JUNE 14-16 Held on the banks of the Colorado River, stellar Americana, bluegrass and roots musicians from across the nation converge for 3 days of musical entertainment. ▶ 970-464-5602, visitgrandjunction.com/events/palisade-bluegrass-roots-music-festival

PALISADE PEACH FESTIVAL AUG. 16-17 Peach pies, peach cobbler, peach ice-cream, peach drinks, peach cuisine, peach jams, peach salsas and peachy music. ▶ 970-464-7458, palisadepeachfest.com

COLORADO MOUNTAIN WINEFEST SEPT. 19-22 The premier Colorado wine celebration in the state, bringing more than 50 wineries to celebrate our award-winning wines and growing industry. ▶ 970-464-0111, visitgrandjunction.com/events/colorado-mountain-winefest

PALISADE OLDE FASHIONED CHRISTMAS & GINGERBREAD CONTEST DEC. 7 Holiday spirit abounds at Olde Fashioned Christmas celebration. Breakfast with Santa, Gingerbread Contest & Showcase, Santa's Workshop, Olde Town Market Place. Fun for all ages! ▶ 970-464-7458, 970-464-7458, palisadecoc.com

PAONIA

NORTH FORK VALLEY ART AND AG TOUR 2019 AUG. 31-SEPT. 1 Tour the beautiful countryside of the North Fork Valley! Visit artists' studios, galleries, organic farms, orchards and wineries. Enjoy a farm-to-table dinner. ▶ 970-275-3453, northforkcreative.org/art-ag-tour

PUEBLO

35TH ANNUAL NSRA ROCKY MOUNTAIN STREET ROD NATIONALS PLUS JUNE 21-23 The premier street-rod event of the Rocky Mountain region; with more than 2,000 custom street rods in attendance, this event is sure to be fun for the whole family! ▶ 901-452-4030, nsra-usa.com/events

COLORADO STATE FAIR AUG. 23-SEPT. 2 Bring the family for 11 days and nights of Colorado's biggest summer party! Enjoy concerts, rodeos, carnival, livestock, ag exhibits, fiesta, free attractions and fabulous fair food. ▶ 719-561-8484, 800-876-4567, coloradostatefair.com

25TH ANNUAL PUEBLO CHILE & FRIOLES FESTIVAL PRESENTED BY LOAF 'N JUG SEPT. 20-23 Celebrate Pueblo's favorite crop — the infamous Mirasol chile pepper. Enjoy farmers markets, carnival food, chili and salsa showdowns, jalapeño-eating contest, live music and more! ▶ 719-542-1704, festival.pueblochamber.org

SALIDA

FIBARK FESTIVAL JUNE 13-16 Since 1949, every June during the spring snow runoff, Salida has hosted FIBArk, "First in Boating on the Arkansas." ► fibark.com

SALIDA ART WALK JUNE 27-30 Local and regional artists exhibiting their dynamic works, musicians, unique street performers and artist demos. ► 719-530-0933, salidaartwalk.org

COLORADO BREWERS RENDEZVOUS JULY 13 22rd annual Colorado Brewers Rendezvous at Riverside Park in historic downtown Salida featuring more than 75 Colorado brewers, live music and great food. ► 719-539-2068, 877-772-5432, salidachamber.org

SALIDA WINEFEST AUG. 31 Celebrate wines from around the world, including samples from Colorado winemakers and distributors. Enjoy Colorado's finest food vendors, live music and local art. ► 719-539-2068, salidachamber.org

SNOWMASS

MARDI GRAS IN SNOWMASS MARCH 5 A 35-year tradition in Snowmass, with on-mountain parties, a traditional bead toss, free concert in the new Snowmass Base Village plaza, and festive food, drinks and fireworks. ► 970-922-2233, gosnowmass.com

SNOWMASS CRAFT BEER RENDEZVOUS JUNE 8 This festival summons 30-plus Colorado craft breweries from all over the state to Snowmass for a perfect day of beer tasting and live music in the mountain air. ► snowmassbeer.com

SNOWMASS RODEO JUNE 12-AUG. 21 The longest running rodeo in Colorado, every Wednesday evening through the summer. Watch rodeo competition with events from barrel racing to bull riding, plus kids' activities and a barbecue. ► 970-923-8898, snowmassrodeo.org

JAS ASPEN SNOWMASS AUG. 30-SEPT. 1 Three days of world-class music in stunning Snowmass, with audiences of up to 10,000 people. Past headliners that have included Jack Johnson, Zac Brown Band and Stevie Wonder. ► 970-544-9800, 866-527-8499, jazzaspensnowmass.org

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

45TH COWBOY DOWNHILL JAN. 20-21 The Cowboy Downhill starts at 1pm Monday, Jan. 21, with professional rodeo cowboys competing in the most unique ski rodeo in the country. After the race, join us for a free concert. ► 970-871-5444, steamboat.com/events

106TH ANNUAL WINTER CARNIVAL FEB. 6-10 Racing, ski jumping, a parade, ski joring events down Lincoln Ave., and the night show's legendary Lighted Man and fireworks display — one of the largest fireworks in the country! ► steamboat.com/events

STEAMBOAT MARDI GRAS MARCH 2 The good times are definitely ready to roll in Ski Town, U.S.A.® when the Steamboat Mardi Gras comes marching in with free concerts, a parade and Mardi Gras party. ► 970-871-5444, steamboat.com/events

SPRINGALICIOUS APRIL 1-14 Steamboat Ski Area celebrates the end of the winter season with a boatload of festivities, fun events such as the Carboard Classic, Splashdown Pond Skim and several free concerts. ► 800-922-2722, steamboat.com/events

TABERNASH

STAGECOACH CLASSIC AT DEVIL'S THUMB RANCH JAN. 26 The Stagecoach Classic is a 30km/15km cross-country ski race and four starting at Devil's Thumb Ranch and finishing with a post-race barbecue with live music in downtown Winter Park. ► 970-726-4118, 800-903-7275, playwinterpark.com

VAIL

TASTE OF VAIL FALL WINE & FOOD CLASSIC APRIL 3-6 The nation's premier spring food and wine festival held at locations throughout Vail's mountain resort showcasing the finest chefs in Vail and the nation's top vintners. ► 970-401-3320, tasteofvail.com

WIGGINS

2ND ANNUAL MEC ROCKY MOUNTAIN CLASSIC JULY 11-14 Colorado's premier registered sporting clays event. Future Big Blast Bonanza and Sub-Gauge Godzilla with more than 1,500 targets available. ► 970-483-8368, longmeadoweventcenter.com

WINTER PARK

TEQUILA & TACOS JULY 6 The annual Tequila & Tacos event will feature tequila and taco tasting as well as live music, entertainment and more. VIP and GA tickets available. ► 970-726-4118, 800-903-7275, playwinterpark.com

WINTER PARK JAZZ FESTIVAL JULY 20-21 The 38th Winter Park Jazz Festival will feature Boyz II Men as the Saturday headliner! The event will be a weekend packed with live music and entertainment from world-class artists. ► 970-726-4118, 800-903-7275, playwinterpark.com

US CYCLING MOUNTAIN BIKE NATIONALS JULY 23-28 Visit Mountain Bike Capital USA and witness some of the top mountain-bike racers in the nation compete. Take time to ride the trails or try Trestle Bike Park for a new experience. ► 970-726-4118, 800-903-7275, playwinterpark.com

COUNTRY AT THE PARK AUG. 24-25 This Country-music festival features new artists in an unbelievably beautiful outdoor setting. Be your best Colorado self in Winter Park. Two days, multiple artists, tons of fun! ► 970-726-4118, 800-903-7275, playwinterpark.com

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 and Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge
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 COLORADO

VisitNorthParkCO.com



1

HORSE-DRAWN SLEIGH RIDES

Warm blankets, crisp winter air and the jingle of bells tinkling to the stride of the horses are hallmarks of Colorado sleigh rides. So are elegant dinners, local wines, roaring fires and decadent desserts. Dude ranches are some of the best places to find fun sleigh rides.

Where to Go: Beaver Meadows Ranch in Red Feather Lakes ■ Snow Mountain Ranch and Dashing Thru the Snow Sleigh Rides in Winter Park ■ 2 Below Zero in Frisco ■ Saddleback Ranch in Steamboat Springs ■ Winding River Resort in Grand Lake ■ 4 Eagle Ranch in Wolcott and Bearcat Stables in Edwards, both near Vail ■ Rapp Corral and Buck's Livery in Durango ■ Astraddle A Saddle in Pagosa Springs ■ M Lazy C Ranch in Lake George ■ Keystone's Adventure Center ■ Breckenridge Stables and Nordic Sleigh Rides in Breckenridge ■ Aspen Carriage and Sleigh

More: COLORADO.com/SleighRides



SNOW'S PERFECT STATE

Create Your Winter-Vacation Wish List

Skiers and snowboarders aren't the only outdoor adventurers doing snow dances in anticipation of white winter months.

Colorado's brilliant sun-soaked skies, pristine powder-filled valleys and iconic snowcapped peaks make it a proverbial winter wonderland, beckoning all to discover its spectacular landscape.



2

SNOW TUBING

Get a giggle-inducing thrill of a different sort — one experienced while zooming down a hill on an inner tube or sled at the speed of light. Several Colorado ski resorts have lift-served hills that save your energy for more runs.

Where to Go: Copper Mountain Resort ■ Snowmass Mountain ■ Winter Park Resort and Snow Mountain Ranch ■ Frisco Adventure Park ■ High Country Tubing Park in Pagosa Springs ■ Purgatory Resort and Ski Hesperus in Durango ■ Adventure Ridge in Vail ■ Steamboat Resort ■ Keystone Resort ■ Powderhorn Mountain Resort in Grand Junction ■ Ski Granby Ranch ■ Colorado Adventure Park in Fraser ■ Kendall Mountain Recreation Area in Silverton ■ Winter Wonderland in Aspen

More: COLORADO.com/SnowTubing

3

ICE SKATING

From ice-skating locales with only sun-soaked winter skies and far-as-the-eye-can-see mountain views to urban and resort settings surrounded by busy shops and restaurants, Colorado's outdoor ice rinks bring back-to-basics joy to this classic winter pastime.

Where to Go: Arcadia Park in Colorado Springs ■ Skyline Park in Denver ■ Evergreen Lake ■ The Rink at Belmar in Lakewood ■ The Ice Rink at Centerra in Loveland ■ Teahouse Plaza in Boulder ■ Rotary Park in Ouray ■ Stanley Park in Estes Park ■ ski-resort villages of Keystone, Breckenridge, Beaver Creek, Winter Park and Crested Butte ■ Colorado State Parks: Golden Gate Canyon in Golden, Highline Lake in Loma, Jackson Lake near Fort Morgan, Cherry Creek in Aurora, Paonia near Paonia, Sylvan Lake near Eagle, Vega near Collbran and Eleven Mile in Lake George ■ Kendall Mountain Recreation Area in Silverton ■ River Center ponds in Pagosa Springs ■ Aspen Ice Garden ■ Devil's Thumb Ranch in Tabernash ■ NedRink in Nederland

More: COLORADO.com/OutdoorIceSkating

HORSE-DRAWN SLEIGH RIDES: SOMBRERO RANCH; SNOW TUBING IN KEystone, VAIL RESORTS/DANIEL MILICHEV; ICE SKATER: ISTOCKPHOTO.





4

FAT BIKING

Also known as snow biking, fat biking allows exercise-zany Coloradans to keep their wheels spinning, no matter the season. Those fat tires keep you atop the snow, and though they aren't built for speed, they can go just about anywhere. Many trails are open to fat bikers whenever there's snow, but here are a few sure things.

Rent/Tours/Trails: BootDoctors and Paragon Outdoors in Telluride ■ Ski Haus and Wheels Bike Shop in Steamboat Springs ■ Devil's Thumb Ranch in Tabernash ■ Golden Bike Shop ■ Colorado Bike Service in Vail ■ A Culture of Speed in Idaho Springs ■ University Bicycles in Boulder ■ Cycles of Life in Leadville ■ Pagosa Mountain Sports ■ Boneshaker Cycles in Buena Vista ■ Front Range Ride Guides in Boulder ■ Breck Bike Guides and Gold Run Nordic Center in Breckenridge ■ Fat Bike Adventures in Fort Collins ■ Durango Nordic Center ■ Winter Park Resort ■ Ski Broker in Fraser ■ Latigo Ranch in Kremmling ■ Howelsen Hill Nordic Center in Steamboat Springs ■ Sunlight Mountain near Glenwood Springs

More: COLORADO.com/SnowBiking

5

SNOWMOBILING

Combine the thrill of a high-speed ride with the beautiful scenery of the snowy alpine environment. It's easy to find an outfitter who can get you all the gear you need and guide you in the right direction.

Where to Go: Grand Lake ■ Winter Park ■ Leadville ■ Monarch ■ Buena Vista ■ South Fork ■ Steamboat Springs ■ Breckenridge ■ Grand Junction ■ Glenwood Springs ■ Kremmling ■ Gunnison ■ Crested Butte ■ Pagosa Springs ■ Meeker ■ Creede ■ Lake City ■ Vail ■ Copper Mountain ■ Durango ■ Telluride ■ Estes Park ■ Hayden ■ Silverthorne ■ Grand Junction

More: COLORADO.com/Snowmobiling



6

WINTER COASTERS

These new ski-resort amenities take summer's rollercoasters and winterize them, whizzing laughing passengers down hundreds of vertical, powdery feet, some with switchbacks and loops.

Where to Go: Steamboat ■ Purgatory Resort in Durango ■ Snowmass ■ Copper Mountain ■ Breckenridge ■ Vail



7

SNOWSHOEING & CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Backcountry trails lead to fluffy-snow-covered valleys and peaceful stands of evergreen and aspen trees, where the only sounds you hear are chirping birds and your own heartbeat. Dozens of Nordic centers, including many at the ski resorts, are a great way to get started with rentals, trail maps and warming areas. For more intense endeavors, try a hut trip!

Where to Go: Nordic centers in Breckenridge, Crested Butte, Keystone, Vail, Telluride, Aspen/Snowmass, Tennessee Pass in Leadville, Frisco, Never Summer in Walden, Eldora (near Nederland), Gunnison, Beaver Creek and Grand Lake ■ Vista Verde Ranch in Steamboat Springs ■ TopAten Snowshoe & Nordic Area in Telluride ■ Vail Nordic School ■ Ski Granby Ranch in Granby ■ Winter Park Resort ■ Steamboat Resort ■ Purgatory Resort in Durango ■ Sunlight Mountain near Glenwood Springs ■ Crown Mountain Park & Recreation District in El Jebel ■ Latigo Dude Ranch in Kremmling

More: COLORADO.com/NordicCenters & COLORADO.com/HutTrips



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: LEFT: FAT BIKING NEAR FRISCO. LISA SEAMAN; SNOWMOBILING NEAR SOUTH FORK. JEFF CRICCO; ROCKY MOUNTAIN COASTER. COPPER MOUNTAIN; CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING AT THE FRISCO NORDIC CENTER. TODD POWELL.



8

SKI BIKING

Another way to experience the beauty of winter and also get your adrenaline flowing, it's simply a bike with the wheels replaced by skis. Many ski areas offer lessons with staff instructors; the bikes' three-point stance and low center of gravity make it an easy activity to pick up.

Where to Go: Purgatory Resort in Durango ■ Winter Park Resort ■ Vail Mountain ■ Keystone Resort ■ Steamboat Resort ■ Telluride Ski Resort ■ Snowmass ■ Copper Mountain Resort

More: COLORADO.com/SnowBiking



9

ICE FISHING

The main season for ice fishing is December to late February, when the ice is typically sure and conditions are right. Before layering up and heading out, pop into a tackle shop for advice on the best places to go, the best bait to use and plenty of fish tales.

Where to Go: Chambers Lake, Walden ■ Eleven Mile Reservoir, Lake George ■ Boyd Lake State Park, Loveland ■ Harvey Gap Reservoir, Glenwood Springs ■ Trinidad Lake State Park ■ Chatfield State Park, Littleton ■ Crawford Reservoir ■ Lake Granby ■ Twin Lakes Reservoirs

More: COLORADO.com/IceFishing



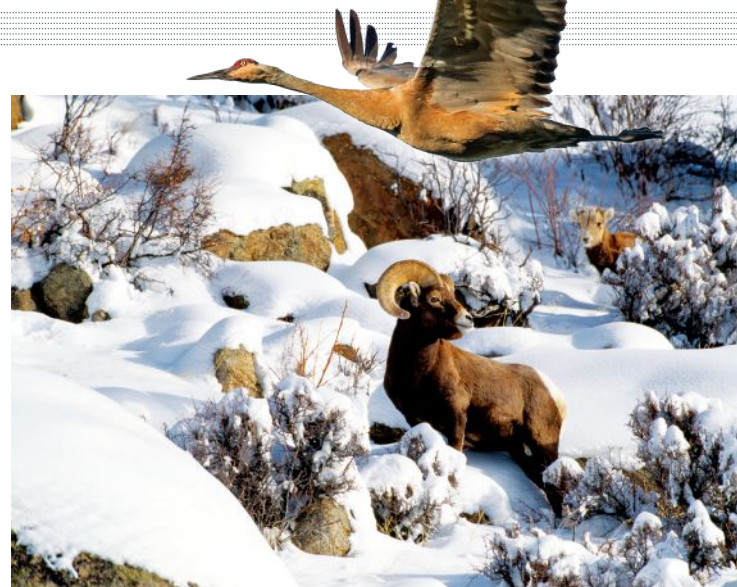
10

WILDLIFE WATCHING

Moose, deer, marten, ermine, jays, woodpeckers, owls and others often move to lower elevations as the snow piles up in the high country. Several winter festivals celebrate eagles, bighorn sheep, snow geese and cranes.

Where to Go: All State and National Parks (page 41) ■ All Colorado Birding Trails ■ Winter festivals: Lake Pueblo Eagle Days (Feb.), Barr Lake Bald Eagle Festival in Brighton (Feb.), Colorado Springs Bighorn Sheep Day (Feb.), Lamar's High Plains Snow Goose Festival (Feb.), Monte Vista Crane Festival (March), Pueblo's Colorado Owl Fest (Oct.), Chatfield State Park Big Sit in Littleton (Oct.), Georgetown Bighorn Sheep Festival (Nov.) and Christmas Bird Counts in various locations (Dec.)

More: COLORADO.com/WildlifeTripldeas



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: SKI BIKING AT KEystone RESORT; VAIL RESORTS/SEAN BOGGS; ICE-FISHING TACKLE; ISTOCKPHOTO; ICE FISHING ON GRANBY LAKE; KERRICK JAMES; YAMPA VALLEY CRANE FESTIVAL; BIGHORN SHEEP NEAR ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK; JAMES FRANK

WANT MORE? GO TO COLORADO.COM/WINTER-ACTIVITIES & BLOG.COLORADO.COM.

11

UPHILL SKIING

Uphill skiing, also known as “skinning,” “alpine touring” or “ski mountaineering,” involves bypassing the trusty old ski lift and climbing to the top of each run — under one’s own power — before schussing back down (because some people like to do things the hard way).

Where to Go: Arapahoe Basin ■ Aspen/Snowmass ■ Breckenridge Ski Resort ■ Copper Mountain Resort ■ Crested Butte Mountain Resort ■ Keystone Resort ■ Powderhorn Mountain Resort in Grand Junction ■ Steamboat Resort ■ Sunlight Mountain Resort in Glenwood Springs ■ Monarch Mountain near Salida ■ Vail Resort ■ Beaver Creek Resort

More: COLORADO.com/Uphill



12

DOG SLEDDING

Barking dogs eagerly speed you along the trail, and within moments of embarking on your dog-sledding expedition, you’ll experience a rush unlike any other. Dog sledding is fast becoming a popular Colorado adventure.

Where to Go: Mountain Musher in Wolcott, near Vail ■ Durango Dog Ranch ■ Snow Caps Sled Dogs and Good Times Adventures in Breckenridge ■ Dog Sled Rides of Winter Park ■ Snow Buddy Dog Sled Tours in Oak Creek near Steamboat Springs ■ Grizzle-T Dog & Sled Works in Steamboat Springs ■ Alpine Adventures Dogsledding in Leadville ■ Krabloonik Mountain Dining & Dogsledding in Snowmass

More: COLORADO.com/DogSledding

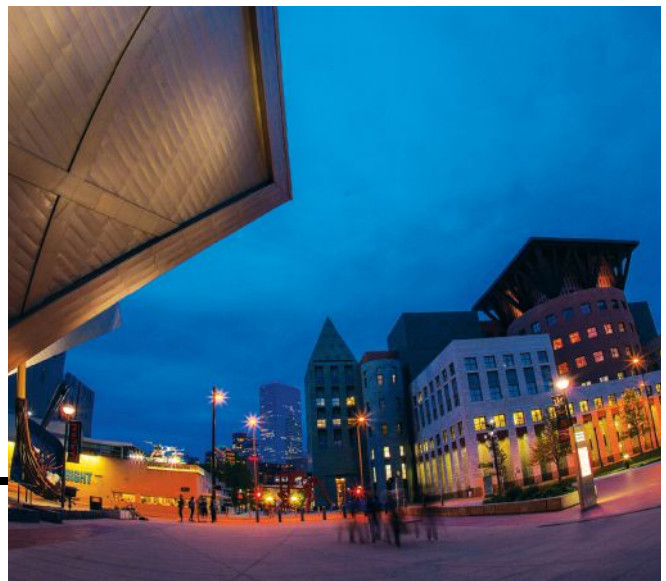
13

URBAN EXPERIENCES

Colorado’s cities aren’t as focused on the powder needed for winter play, but the cooler weather is still embraced with great enthusiasm. Holiday concerts, performances and markets, winter brew fests, downtown ice rinks, restaurant weeks and spend-all-day shopping destinations make city life merry and bright — not to mention endless places to warm up near the fire with tea, hot cocoa or an adult beverage. Bonus: All are within easy reach of the other activities described in this section

Where to Go: Find yourself in the charming and diverse neighborhoods of Denver (COLORADO.com/DenverNeighborhoods) and the downtown areas of Grand Junction, Boulder, Fort Collins, Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Aurora, Lakewood, Loveland, Greeley and Longmont. See page 64 for other ideas.

More: COLORADO.com/UrbanExperiences



FROM TOP: UPHILL SKIING: NEAR ASPEN. ASPEN EXPEDITIONS; DOG SLED RIDES OF WINTER PARK. BETH SCHNEIDER; DENVER ART MUSEUM. BETH SCHNEIDER.



28 COLORADO SKI RESORTS

More to Explore in Snow's Perfect State™

If the Rocky Mountains are Colorado's defining geographic feature, skiing and snowboarding must be its signature activities. Colorado is, after all, the No. 1 destination for skiing and riding in the country.

1 ARAPAHOE BASIN

Known for having one of the longest ski seasons in North America (often mid-October to early June), A-Basin also boasts North America's highest elevation terrain park and its own "beach," a home base for concerts, parties and tailgating, as well as a new 468-acre experts and intermediate expansion.

2 ASPEN HIGHLANDS

When new snow at Aspen Highlands reaches mammoth proportions, you're in for an epic day of Colorado's signature light-and-dry powder. Insiders at the ski area recommend studying the trail map to find hidden gems that drop into gladed, untouched expert areas.

3 ASPEN MOUNTAIN

While Aspen is known throughout the world as a posh winter playground, more skiers are discovering the mountain's challenging double blacks and chutes — and the on-mountain pop-up champagne bar that rewards tired legs — all steps from downtown Aspen.

4 BEAVER CREEK RESORT

BC charms with fantastic extras: Heated moving walkways, fresh-baked cookies, a first-tracks program for early risers, a white-carpet club and acres of corduroy and powder waiting for skiers and riders to swish through.

5 BRECKENRIDGE SKI RESORT

Breckenridge is beloved for its variety of terrain: long groomed trails, monster mogul runs, steep chutes, glades and plenty of beginner areas. The resort was one of the first to allow snowboarding, and its Freeway Terrain Park is arguably one of the best.

6 BUTTERMILK

With a reputation as a great venue for beginner skiers and snowboarders, wide, rolling trails are ideal for those just getting their snow legs. For an unprecedented 17 straight years, it has been the home of ESPN's Winter X Games.

FROM TOP: KEYSTONE RESORT; VAIL RESORTS/ANDREW MAGUIRE; CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING ON MOLAS PASS NEAR SILVERTON; KENNAN HARVEY; STEAMBOAT SKI RESORT; NOAH WETZEL

7 COPPER MOUNTAIN

Skiers and riders love to tout Copper's perfect layout. Mother Nature arranged its slopes quite adeptly: Beginner, intermediate and expert runs are each clustered with like-leveled terrain, ensuring beginners won't make a surprise trip down a too-steep run.

8 CRESTED BUTTE MOUNTAIN RESORT

Crested Butte has it all: wide-open green and blue trails, expert bowls, plenty of unexplored lines and uncrowded slopes. Take advantage of the free guided mountain ski tours to ski like a local.

9 ECHO MOUNTAIN

The closest ski mountain to Denver, Echo Mountain near Idaho Springs is an affordable option with six trails on 60 acres. For those who can't get up there before the work day ends, the slopes are open til 9pm for skiing under the stars (and lights).

10 ELDORA MOUNTAIN RESORT

Proximity to Boulder and Denver is one of the reasons Eldora is known as a "locals' mountain." Terrain to keep the whole family busy all day doesn't hurt, and neither does a new six-person high-speed lift (fit in more runs!) and nearly 25 miles of cross-country and snowshoe trails steps from the downhill ski area.

11 HOWELSEN HILL SKI AREA

Howelsen's pedigree is well established. Open since 1915 in Steamboat, it's the state's oldest ski area, has the largest natural ski-jumping complex in North America and has long been a training ground for Olympic skiers. It's also one of a few resorts to offer night skiing.

12 KENDALL MOUNTAIN

Situated in Silverton, this mountain is loved by locals for its family-friendly ambiance. The ski area has four groomed trails, a terrain park and tree skiing. Off-the-slopes activities include ice skating, sledding, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

13 KEystone

Keystone boasts three mountains full of bowls, steeps, trails, lift-served tubing and one of the longest ski days — watch the sun set at 11,000 feet and ski into the night. The resort's daily Kidtopia programs range from snowball launches to night-sky exploration.

14 LOVELAND SKI AREA

One of Loveland's favorite things to brag about is that it averages nearly 400 inches of snow each season, more than any other Front Range ski area. The other thing is their free snowcat skiing perk along the Continental Divide.

15 MONARCH MOUNTAIN

Perched atop the Continental Divide, Monarch is one of the best spots for fresh powder. A short walk from the parking lot to the lifts, roomy slopes and laid-back attitudes make it a hit with families. Ride to the top of the Panorama Lift for 360-degree views of the divide.

16 POWDERHORN RESORT

This resort near Grand Junction has one of the most unique views in Colorado's ski country. Located on the Grand Mesa, the largest flat-top mountain in the world, skiers and riders will see something more like the Grand Canyon than the typical alpine view.

17 PURGATORY RESORT

Purgatory's unintimidating slopes, free lessons and Pinkerton beginners' terrain park are a few things that make it a hit with families in Durango. Within its boundaries are 103 trails, seven terrain

parks, a racing course and 35,000 acres of snowcat playland.

18 SILVERTON MOUNTAIN

As Silverton's motto proclaims, this southwest Colorado ski area is "All thrills, no frills." Colorado's highest and steepest ski mountain serves up un-groomed, no-easy-way-down expert terrain for those who prefer skiing the old-school way.

19 SKI COOPER

The former training site in Leadville for the 10th Mountain Division, the legendary World War II ski troops, has sweeping runs that follow some of the same paths used by the soldiers who skied Europe's mountain battlefields. Today, it's popular with families looking for a cheerful and low-stress ski holiday.

20 SKI GRANBY RANCH

Ski Granby Ranch's fun lesson programs, easy pace and affordable

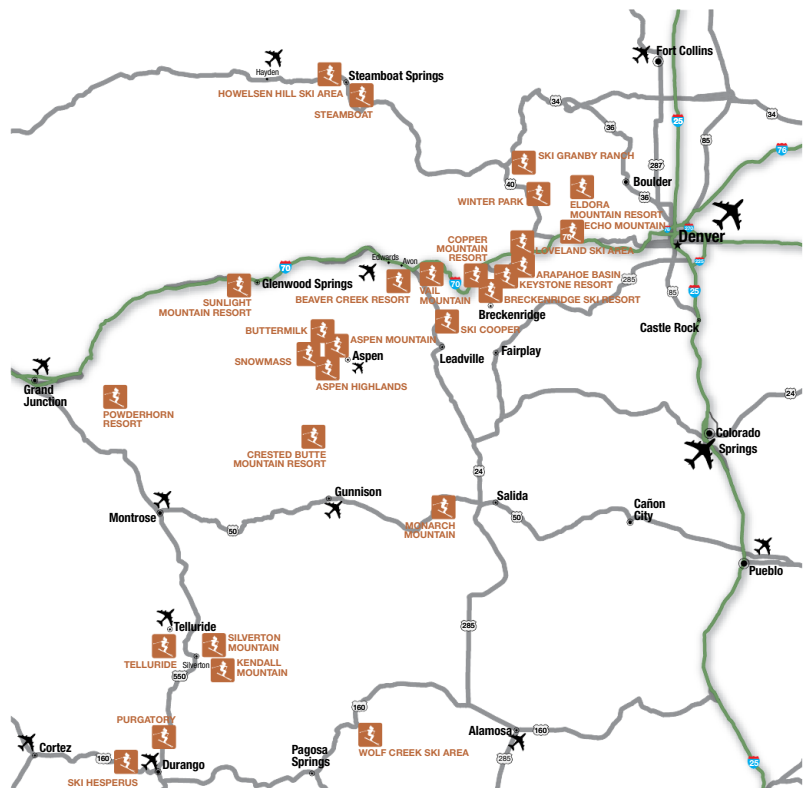
prices make it a long-time family favorite. There's no better place to wind down at the end of the day than the fire pit at the base of the mountain, where the hot cocoa flows while you recount the day's snowy triumphs.

21 SKI HESPERUS

Eleven miles west of Durango, Hesperus has been an especially great option for families in the southwest part of Colorado since 1962, and it's the region's largest night-skiing operation. Hesperus' unassuming, small-ski-area ambiance makes its 26 trails and 60 acres an idyllic winter escape.

22 SNOWMASS

The mountain itself is enormous. Snowmass trumpets that 36 Disneyland could fit within its boundaries. At 4,406 feet, "Snowmassive" also has one of the highest vertical rises of any ski area in the country, and one of the longest runs — 5.3 miles of



KEYSTONE RESORT, VAIL RESORTS/DANIEL MILCHEV.



peaceful schussing before you even have to think about the lift line.

23 STEAMBOAT

Steamboat feels so confident about the special-ness of its powder, it trademarked it so you'd know just where to find the genuine article: Champagne Powder®. It's light, dry, smooth and only found in this 119-year-old Western town, which still manages to stay true to its friendly, down-home roots.

24 SUNLIGHT MOUNTAIN RESORT

Affordability and a mix of terrain are Sunlight's hallmarks. Hundreds of acres of mild greens, intermediates and black-diamond extremes satisfy all abilities. Proximity to Glenwood Hot Springs let

you reward ski muscles' big day with a long soak.

25 TELLURIDE

Driving into the Victorian-era town of Telluride, it's hard to imagine 2,000 acres of ski terrain and modern resort amenities are moments away — because it's all hidden behind a soaring mountain ridge. A quick gondola ride ferries you to skiing and riding bliss.

26 VAIL

Vail sets the standard for ski resorts in North America, and the bar is only getting higher. With its seven back bowls, 195 trails and a staggering 5,289 skiable acres, it's one of the nation's largest, not to mention luxury accommodations, shopping and dining, and endless off-slope activities.

27 WINTER PARK

Winter Park boasts diverse terrain, deep snow and, top-notch lodging and dining. For a bumpy ride, Winter Park is your destination. The resort's fancy new high-speed 10-person gondola will get skiers onto the powder quicker than ever. And for easy access from Denver's Union Station, hop on the Winter Park Express, which runs right to the base area.

28 WOLF CREEK SKI AREA

Famous for the most snow of any Colorado resort, Pagosa Springs' Wolf Creek sees an astounding annual average of 430 inches for powder floaters. Wolf Pups ski school is the ideal way to ensure the kids become lifelong powder lovers.

WANT MORE? GO TO COLORADO.COM/5REASONS FOR MORE DETAILS ON SNOW'S PERFECT STATE™.



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Paradise Cliffs High Lift Wendy + Mary + Sydney + Tom Dave Kozlowski

VAIL, VAIL RESORTS/JACK AFFLECK.



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17 WAYS TO LOVE SUMMER

Warm Days & Cool Nights Lure You Outside

Colorado's beauty stirs a thirst to get out and enjoy every moment. Come to life hiking in Colorado's dense backcountry, paddling canyon-carving rivers, grinning next to a wildflower-lined waterfall or wrangling a feisty rainbow trout.

1 HIKING

Let your legs move you through Colorado's hidden gems, protected wilderness areas, red rocks and high-mountain desert landscapes.

A Few Favorite Spots:

Any Colorado State Park or National Park or Monument (page 41) ■ **Wildflowers:** Yankee Boy Basin near Ouray, Shrine Pass near Vail, Lake Isabel near Colorado City ■ **Waterfalls:** Bridal Veil Falls in Telluride, Helen Hunt Falls in Colorado Springs, Fish Creek Falls in Steamboat Springs, Zapata Falls near Alamosa ■ **Ancient sites:** Canyon Pintado near Rangely, Picketwire Canyon near La Junta, Ute Petroglyph Trail near Palsade ■ **Wildlife:** Mount Evans Wilderness Area near Idaho Springs, Left Hand Trail in Boulder, Comanche National Grassland near Springfield

More: COLORADO.com/Hiking

2 RAFTING & BOATING

Landlocked Colorado will surprise you with its rushing rivers, mountain basins and deep blue reservoirs.

A Few Favorite Lakes:

Grand Lake ■ Lake Dillon ■ Boulder Reservoir ■ Lake Granby ■ Horsetooth Reservoir in Fort Collins ■ Lake San

Cristobal in Lake City ■ Vallecito Lake, Durango ■ McPhee Lake in Cortez ■ Blue Mesa Reservoir in, Montrose and Gunnison ■ Grand Mesa Lakes (more than 300 of them) near Grand Junction, Paonia, Delta, Cedaredge and Hotchkiss ■ Carter Lake in Loveland ■ Many Colorado State Parks, including: Cherry Creek, Staunton, Barr Lake, Boyd Lake, St. Vrain, Elkhead, Harvey Gap, Highline, Pearl Lake, Rifle Gap, Stagecoach, Sylvan Lake, Vega, John Martin, Lake Pueblo, Lathrop, Trinidad Lake, Crawford, Mancos, Navajo, Paonia, Ridgway, Sweitzer Lake, Eleven Mile, San Luis and Spinney Mountain

See page 54 for the full whitewater rundown.

More: COLORADO.com/Boating

3 BACKPACKING & CAMPING

Colorado makes it easy to get lost (intentionally, of course) in its voluptuous sand dunes, craggy peaks, rugged mining sites and forested resort-town outskirts. Grab a backpack, a tent and your favorite people and set up camp in one of Colorado's 41 State Parks, 30-plus Wilderness Areas, 22 million acres of National Forests and expansive public lands.



1



2



3

A Few Favorite Sites

With: No amenities (backcountry): West Fork Campground in the Weminuche Wilderness near Pagosa Springs, Trappers Lake in the Flat Tops Wilderness near Meeker, Ansel Watrous Campground in Roosevelt National Forest west of Fort Collins ■ **Lakeside sites:** Elk Creek Campground in Grand Lake, Cherry Creek State Park in Aurora, Wupperman RV Campground near Lake

City ■ Epic views: Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, Silver Bar Campground near Aspen, Mueller State Park in Divide

More: COLORADO.com/Camping

4 WILDLIFE WATCHING & BIRDING

Few other places in North America offer such a bounty of wildlife-watching opportunities as Colorado. Who in your group will win the

5

FISHING

River, lake, stocked pond or on ice, Colorado's large-mouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish and famous rainbow trout await just below the surface. See the lakes above and page 44 for a lineup of cast-worthy locales.

eagle-eye award by spotting some of Colorado's most majestic residents?

A Few Favorite Sites:

Moose in State Forest State Park near Walden ■ Bighorn sheep in Bighorn Sheep Canyon and Browns Canyon near Buena Vista ■ Everything from sandhill cranes to greater prairie chickens, snow geese, eagles, hawks, sage grouse, lark buntings and more on Colorado Birding Trails around the state ■ Any National Wildlife Refuge (see page 41) ■ Elk in Rocky Mountain National Park

More: COLORADO.com/WildlifeViewing

6 ROCK CLIMBING

Reach the state's most stunning pinnacles with your own two hands. For first-time rock climbers,

Colorado has plenty of outfitters who can hook you up with the appropriate gear and lead you to routes you'll never forget.

A Few Favorite Sites:

Castlewood Canyon State Park east of Castle Rock ■ Rifle Mountain Park ■ Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park near Montrose ■ Garden of the Gods in Colorado Springs ■ Ouray Ice Park (winter) ■ North Table Mountain in Golden ■ Rocky Mountain National Park near Estes Park ■ X Rock in Durango ■ Falls Gulch near Buena Vista ■ Colorado National Monument near Fruita and Grand Junction ■ Eldorado Canyon State Park near Boulder

More: COLORADO.com/RockClimbing

7 BALLOONING Cool summer mornings in Colorado make the perfect atmosphere for hot-air balloons. Floating serenely along in a basket suspended from a beautiful balloon could be one of the most romantic flights you ever take.

A Few Favorite Spots: Boulder ■ Breckenridge ■ Colorado Springs ■ Ridgway/Ouray ■ Longmont ■ Steamboat Springs ■ Pagosa Springs ■ Fort Collins ■ Winter Park/Fraser

More: COLORADO.com/Balloonning



8

RV ROAD TRIPPING

An RV trip through Colorado means inspiring views and unmatched experiences. Myriad roadways all lead to adventure, but if you need a few ideas to get started, consider heading along one — or several — of Colorado's 26 Scenic and Historic Byways. Often taking you alongside the state's most scenic vistas and to or near its 12 National Parks or Monuments, the byways are a tried-and-true family favorite. RV parks along the way will offer as many or as few amenities as suit your travel style, so get behind the wheel and get moving!

More: COLORADO.com/RVing



7



6



5



9

GOLF

Golf flourishes in Colorado's varied terrain, where each contour becomes an opportunity for inspiring course design. Traditional courses are plentiful, but tucked away in canyons and mountainsides lay true creative gems, where innovation melds with Colorado scenery to push golf's imagination to its very boundaries — and its ball farther into the high altitudes.

A Few Favorite Places: Ironbridge Golf Course in Glenwood Springs ■ The River Course at Keystone Resort ■ TPC Colorado in Berthoud ■ Telluride Golf Club ■ Bear Dance in Larspur ■ Northeastern 18 in Sterling ■ City Park Golf Course in Denver ■ Redlands Mesa in Grand Junction ■ Mt. Massive Golf Course in Leadville ■ Walnut Creek Golf Preserve in Westminster ■ Murphy Creek Golf Course in Aurora ■ Golf Granby Ranch in Granby

More: COLORADO.com/Golf

OPPOSITE PAGE: CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: MESA TRAIL IN BOULDER. JASON LEWANDOWSKI; GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE. C2 PHOTOGRAPHY; HANGING FLUME OF THE DOLORES RIVER NEAR URUVIAN. KENNAN HARVEY. THIS PAGE: CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK. MILES/INICOLE CROSS; CATAMOUNT PANCH CLUB IN STEAMBOAT SPRINGS. NOAH WEITZEL; ELDOREADO CANYON STATE PARK. ETHAN WEITZEL; ROARING FORK RIVER NEAR CARBONDALE. C2 PHOTOGRAPHY; HOT-AIR BALLOONING. PHOTO.

10 ZIPLINE & AERIAL

PARKS Fly through the air with the greatest of ease on a fast and fun zipline through the treetops and over breathtaking canyons, rushing rivers, wildlife and wide valleys. Many zipliners have added aerial parks, with other options for navigating scenic canyons like swinging bridges, catwalks and flying trapezes.

A Few Favorite Spots:

Epic Sky Trek in Castle Rock ■ Royal Gorge in Cañon City ■ Browns Canyon Adventure Park in Buena Vista ■ Soaring Treetop Adventures in Durango ■ Colorado Adventure Center in Idaho Springs ■ Steamboat Zipline Adventures ■ Winter Park Adventure Quest ■ Many ski resorts, including Vail, Breckenridge, Copper Mountain, Keystone, Purgatory in Durango and Snowmass

More: COLORADO.com/Ziplines

11 4X4, ATV & JEEP

TOURS Let an experienced guide take you over hill and dale — and boulder and stream — to see ghost towns or the view from the top of the Continental Divide. Tour companies can provide trails and excursions for all levels of ability. Companies offer guided tours or self-guided rentals for your own high-adrenaline off-roading or a scenic Sunday drive.

A Few Favorite Spots:

Lizard Head Pass near Telluride ■ Grand Mesa Trails near Grand Junction ■ Red Feather Lakes west of Fort Collins ■ Hardscrabble near Eagle and Vail ■ Wagon Wheel trail system in Meeker ■ Bachelor Loop Historic Tour near Creede ■ Summitville Ghost Town in Del Norte

More: COLORADO.com/AdventureSports

12 STAND-UP

PADDLEBOARDING Stand-up paddleboarding has water lovers standing on surf boards with a long paddle on rivers and lakes around Colorado. SUP tour companies will get you the gear you need and set you to paddlin'.

A Few Favorite Spots:

Lake Dillon ■ Union Reservoir, Longmont ■ Chatfield State Park in Littleton ■ Prospect Lake, Colorado Springs ■ Boulder Reservoir ■ Colorado River near Palisade ■ Trout Creek Reservoir near Buena Vista ■ Keystone Lake ■ Crawford State Park ■ Gunnison River near Delta ■ Imondi Wake Zone, Fruita

More: COLORADO.com/SUP

13 MOUNTAIN & ROAD

BIKING The scent of pine needles is best absorbed while twisting along on two wheels. Communities such as Fruita and Crested Butte come together over a love of singletrack while hard-core riders crank out 60-mile sections of highway in high-altitude road-biking races. See page 72.

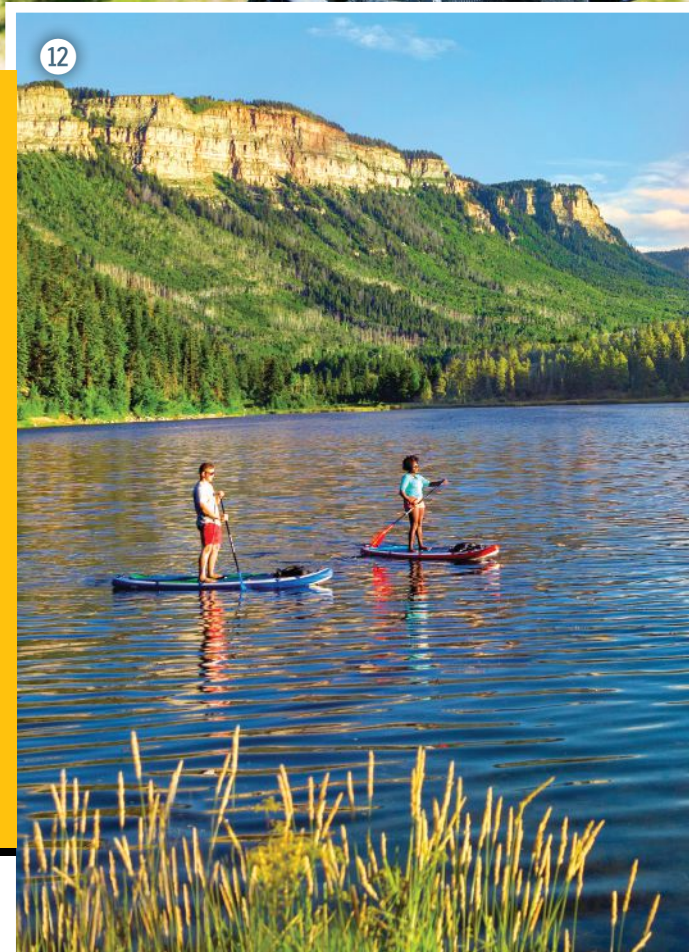
14 GLAMPING Short for glamorous camping, there's no tent to pitch, no sleeping bag to pack, no trek to use the bathroom. But there are permanent tents, yurts and other small structures offering beds, electricity, water — and sometimes kitchens, air conditioners, Wi-Fi and more.

More: COLORADO.com/Glamping

Where to Go: Arapaho Valley Ranch in Granby ■ Dunton River Camp in Dolores ■ Pa Dutch at Wee-Casa in Lyons ■ Royal Gorge Cabins and Echo Canyon Campground in Cañon City ■ Piney River Ranch in Vail ■ The High Lonesome Ranch in De Beque ■ Cedar Ridge Ranch in Carbondale ■ The Glamping Co (based in Lakewood)



10



12

15

MOTORCYCLE TOURING

Tour any of Colorado's designated scenic highways and byways from the back of a hog, feeling the wind in your hair and the sun on your face. Colorado boasts 26 different scenic drives in all corners of the state, highlighting some of the most breathtaking scenery imaginable. Taking it all in on two wheels could be the adventure of a lifetime. See page 70.

More: COLORADO.com/MotorcycleTours



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: EPIC DISCOVERY AT VAIL, VAIL RESORTS/JACK AFFLECK; COLLECTIVE RETREATS VAIL; HORSEBACK RIDING, THE HOME RANCH IN CLARK; YOGA AT SNOWMASS, BLAINE HARRINGTON III; HAVILAND LAKE NEAR DURANGO, JEFF MARTIN.



16

HORSEBACK RIDING

Find your giddyup at a sprawling dude ranch or trot along in the shadows of 14,000-foot mountain peaks in a national park. Dramatic backdrops and trusted trails make Colorado the perfect place to get in the saddle.

A Few Favorite Spots: Chalk Creek in Buena Vista ■ Garden of the Gods in Colorado Springs ■ Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch in Loveland ■ Snow Mountain Ranch in Winter Park ■ West Snowmass Creek in Snowmass ■ Engineer Mountain near Silverton ■ Saddleback Ranch in Steamboat Springs ■ Beaver Creek Lake ■ West Tennessee Creek near Leadville ■ Glacier Basin in Rocky Mountain National Park

More: COLORADO.com/HorsebackRiding & COLORADO.com/DudeRanches



17

SUMMER AT SKI RESORTS

Nearly every sky-high resort that brings us thrilling adventure each winter remains open in the summer with gondola-accessed mountain-top yoga, gourmet hiking lunches, bike parks and trail systems, disc golf, adventure courses, mountain coasters and more — all of which come with a hearty helping of panoramic Rocky Mountain views.

COLORADO.com/28Resorts & COLORADO.com/SummerAtSkiResorts

PLANNING TOOLS

A wealth of apps and websites exist to guide you through the outdoors. Two to start with: The incredibly comprehensive trail-mapping **COTREX app** and **Recreation.gov**, with booking access for hundreds of Colorado campsites.

WANT MORE? COLORADO.COM/SUMMERACTIVITIES & BLOG.COLORADO.COM

14 WAYS TO FIND COLORADO ROOTS

Historic, culinary, ranch and farm activities are inviting travelers all over the state to get to know our roots — some of the reasons the state was chosen for Bravo’s “Top Chef” Season 15.

1 COME TO THE PARTY

From strawberries to sage grouse, it doesn’t take much to convince Coloradans to throw a festival. Schedule stops in your trip to coincide with a super-Colorado-y celebration.

A Few Favorites:

Ute Mountain Birding Festival in Cortez (May) ■ Leadville Boom Days (Aug.) ■ Palisade Peach Festival (Aug.) ■ Colorado State Fair in Pueblo (Sept.) ■ Salida Fiber Festival (Sept.)

More: COLORADO.com/Events

2 GET CREATIVE

Twenty-three Colorado Certified Creative Districts happen to coincide with 23 of the most charming areas in the state. Find them on page 46 or at COLORADO.com/CreativeDistricts.



3 EXPERIENCE SEED TO SIP

Colorado has a remarkable collection of 90-plus distilleries, more than 330 breweries, 140 wineries and a growing number of cideries. Each one has its own characteristics that will vie to make it your favorite.

A Few Favorites:

Colorado Spirits Trail ■ Woody Creek Distillers in Basalt ■ Jack Rabbit Hill Farm Wines in Hotchkiss ■ Oskar Blues Brewery in Longmont ■ Spring 44 Distilling in Loveland ■ San Luis Valley Brewing in Alamosa ■ Snow Capped Cider in Cedaredge

More: COLORADO.com/SeedToSip

4 SAVOR, SAMPLE & STAY

Farms and ranches are opening their barn doors to travelers looking for genuine experiences that can include a range of activities from cheese-making to picking dinner’s veggies, taking a sausage-making class, enjoying a group picnic and shoeing horses to a (delicious and relaxing) bed-and-breakfast stay.

A Few Favorites:

Mesa Winds Farm & Winery in Hotchkiss ■ Zapata Ranch in Mosca ■ Gunnison River Farms in



THIS PAGE FROM LEFT: CARBONDALE CREATIVE DISTRICT; LAUREL SMITH; WOOD’S HIGH MOUNTAIN DISTILLERY; IN SALIDA; LEE WOOD. OPPOSITE PAGE: CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ANIMAS FORKS GHOST TOWN NEAR SILVERTON; LAURENCE PARENT; YA YA FARM & ORCHARD IN LONGMONT; O HARA PHOTOGRAPHY; DINOSAUR JOURNEY MUSEUM IN FRUITA; PEACHES; ISTOCKPHOTO.



Austin ■ Leroux Creek Inn in Hotchkiss ■ Mountain Goat Lodge in Salida

More: COLORADO.com/FarmStays & COLORADO.com/DudeRanches

5 WANDER GHOST TOWNS

Colorado ghost towns offer a peek into the foggy windows of a once-rowdy brothel, an ATV trek on roads no one bothered to pave on their way out of town and stories of intense standoffs in gulches that will remind you why this was the Wild West.

A Few Favorites:

- Ashcroft near Aspen
- Animas Forks near Silverton and Lake City
- Tomboy near Telluride
- Pitkin near Gunnison
- Uptop near La Veta ■ Dearfield east of Greeley

More: COLORADO.com/GhostTowns



8 GO PICKIN' & TOURIN'

The peaches from the Western Slope around Palisade are legendary for juicy goodness, but they're not the only things ripe for pickin'. Farms across the state invite guests to pick pumpkins, apples and other delicious items — or to just learn about the farming itself.

- A Few Favorites:** Delicious Orchards in Hotchkiss ■ 63rd Street Farm in Boulder ■ Ya Ya Farm and Orchard in Longmont ■ Colon Orchards in Cañon City ■ Berry Patch Farm in Brighton

More: COLORADO.com/FarmRanchActivities.

9 YOU MUST EAT THIS

Colorado's got the goods when it comes to succulent fruits, fresh produce and hearty local game, not to mention the creative masterminds behind exquisitely crafted menus that travelers and locals can't get enough of.

- A Few Favorites:** Rocky Ford melons from stands along Hwy. 50 ■ Pueblo green chiles ■ Palisade peaches ■ Olathe sweet corn ■ Front Range apples and apple cider

More: COLORADO.com/YouMustEatThis

6 BOARD A DINNER TRAIN

Call it old-fashioned, but there's something romantic about winding through the Rockies on rail lines and many offer Colorado menus aboard their routes. See page 58 for scenic and historic train offerings.

7 LIVE THE WILD WEST DREAM

The hospitality and activities at Colorado dude and guest ranches are unlike anywhere else. Where else can you go on a cattle drive followed by a soak in a cast-iron tub with champagne flutes in hand? Chefs prepare farm-to-table cuisine, and the rustic, relaxing atmosphere meets all expectations you have about Western livin'.

A Few Favorites:

- Canyon of the Ancients Guest Ranch in Cortez ■ Black Mountain Ranch in McCoy ■ Rainbow Trout Ranch in Antonito ■ Gateway Canyons in Gateway ■ Music Meadows Ranch in Westcliffe ■ Puma Hills River Ranch, Lake George

More: COLORADO.com/DudeRanches

HISTORIC ATTRACTIONS

Some of the best things to do on a Colorado vacation revolve around the past. These sites give insights into lands once roamed by mighty dinosaurs, those inhabited by native peoples and territories explored by frontiersman.

- ▶ Stand in the footsteps of our oldest residents — the dinosaurs! Dig sites, museums and other family attractions offer access to fossils. COLORADO.com/SeeDinos
- ▶ Hit the mother lode of mining history at museums and on mine tours across the state to discover the colorful stories of the founding of many Colorado towns during the 1800s Gold Rush. COLORADO.com/GoldRushTowns
- ▶ The state is home to three unique National Heritage Areas: South Park, Sangre de Cristo and Cache la Poudre. Learn about their roles in our nation's history. COLORADO.com/NHA
- ▶ Each January for more than 100 years, Denver's National Western Stock Show has celebrated our Wild West heritage with rodeos, dog shows, livestock competitions and more. COLORADO.com/NWSS
- ▶ From dinosaur fossils and historic homesteads to Santa Fe Trail artifacts and curiosities, Colorado history museums are bound to have something you haven't seen anywhere else. COLORADO.com/Museums



WANT MORE? SEE PAGE 51 AND COLORADO.COM/HISTORY.



SHARE WITH US!

Share your #ColoradoLive moments and cool Colorado photos on Twitter and Instagram to be entered into random drawings for awesome monthly prizes.



13



12



11

10 DON'T EAT THIS

Search for Colorado-made delights you shouldn't eat, even if they smell so good you might want to, from lavender sachets and hand creams to alpaca-wool socks.

A Few Favorites: Alpaca yarn from Little Circle Farms in Penrose ■ Naked Goat Farm's Lemon Lime Whipped Body Butter in Elbert ■ Fishy Feet Foot Balm from Halfpint Naturals in Edwards

More: COLORADO.com/DontEatThis

11 WATCHABLE WILDLIFE

Colorado's mountains, forests, plains, rivers and mesas harbor 960 different wildlife species. Ensure at least a couple of them are part of your vacation by following a birding trail, attending a wildlife festival, taking a ranger tour or goin' fishin'. See page 50.

More: COLORADO.com/WildlifeTripldeas

12 LEARN SOMETHIN'

Old dogs can learn new tricks! Try your hand at something new with classes offered in Colorado — lavender growing, fiber arts, goat husbandry, foraging for wild edibles, horsemanship and more.

A Few Favorites: The Art of Cheese cheesemaking classes in Longmont ■ Weaving, spinning and felting

workshops at The Living Arts School in Boulder and Entwine in Colorado Springs ■ Foraging and preserving classes from The Growing Project in Fort Collins ■ Painting and drawing retreats at Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Snowmass

More: COLORADO.com/Events

13 GET THE HIGH PLAINS HIGHLIGHTS

From bass fishing and wildlife encounters with the likes of lesser prairie chickens and golden eagles to historic Cheyenne and Arapaho Indian sites and canyons lined with petroglyphs to dark-sky sites for stargazers, our often-understated eastern third is anything but plain.

More: COLORADO.com/HighPlains

14 TAKE A PIECE HOME

Antique shops around the state offer the chance to take home a piece of the past, from vintage snowshoes and wooden ski poles to old steamer trunks and Victorian-era clothing.

A Few Favorites: Ski Country Antiques & Home in Evergreen ■ Faded Rose Antiques in Ault ■ American Classics Marketplace in Colorado Springs ■ South Broadway's Antique Row in Denver

More: COLORADO.com/AntiqueShops

WANT MORE COLORADO ROOTS? COLORADO.COM/COLORADO-ROOTS-CHANNEL.

FROM TOP: GREAT HORNED OWL IN THE DENVER AREA, BETH SCHNEIDER; JACKSON LAKE STATE PARK IN ORCHARD; LIVING ARTS SCHOOL IN NIMOT.

CARE FOR COLORADO

We don't need to tell you Colorado is a pretty special place. And we don't mind telling you that you're a pretty special person if you want to help us keep it that way while you're roaming around it.

SEE PAGE 17 FOR 7 CARE FOR COLORADO PRINCIPLES.



You already know that you can help ensure these places exist for generations to come by staying on roads and trails, keeping speeds in check, leaving campsites and picnic spots just as you found them, and following informational signs while you're out and about in our state.

But if you want a Colorado Gold Star to pin in your hiking cap/bicycle helmet/ski beanie, here are a few ways you can help steward the land with a distinct advantage: Not only is your vacation a feel-good experience, you also get to see some of Colorado's most beautiful scenery.

1 VOLUNTEERS FOR OUTDOOR COLORADO



Download the YourCo app to find outdoor-volunteer opportunities in the areas

you plan to visit, from trail restoration and construction to planting, fence removal and weed removal — many of the opportunities combine with activities like family camping, canoeing and more. No experience necessary!

2 COLORADO PUBLIC LANDS DAY

Colorado is the first state to have an actual holiday recognizing the value of its public lands. The third Saturday in May each year (that's May 18, 2019), events and celebrations include things like photo scavenger hunts, river clean-ups, fundraisers, trail projects, group hikes, astronomy programs and pairings of land stewardship and barbecues, beer samplings, story times and more. copubliclandsday.com

3 COLORADO FOURTEENERS INITIATIVE

Colorado is endowed with 58 mountains whose peaks rise at least 14,000 feet above sea level. Adventure seekers have been challenging themselves to climb these behemoths for decades and the heavy foot traffic on these high-altitude trails can be hard on the ecosystems. Volunteer vacations range from three-day trail builds to wildflower-seed collection.

4 COLORADO TRAIL FOUNDATION

The Colorado Trail stretches 500 miles from Denver to Durango. It's a pathway for hikers who want to travel the majority of the state on foot, passing over mountains, around lakes and through a number of Colorado communities. Volunteers are continually working on maintaining its varied terrain. The foundation's volunteer crews make improvements to the trail, and visitors to Colorado are welcome to take part in the weeklong trips.

5 CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL ALLIANCE

The Continental Divide Trail follows the United States' claim to the Continental Divide from Montana to New Mexico. In all, more than 3,000 miles of hiking trails constitute this grand route. As with the other trail-stewardship programs, no previous experience is required to help out. Projects range from repairing damaged sections to scouting missing trail links to building unfinished sections.

OTHER IDEAS

- ▶ American Hiking Society's National Trails Day (first Saturday in June), dedicated to connecting more people to the nation's trails: nationaltrailsday.americanhiking.org
- ▶ Friends of Dillon Ranger District coordinates projects each summer to construct new trails, install structures and maintain general drainage in Summit County's forests: fdra.org/volunteer
- ▶ Wildlands Restoration Volunteers organizes ecological-restoration projects from seed sowing and willow harvesting to flood and habitat restoration: wlvr.net
- ▶ The Greenway Foundation hosts two Family RiverSweeps per year, which involve a volunteer project at a Denver park, then games, crafts and lunch: thegreenwayfoundation.org
- ▶ Big City Mountaineers takes urban kids camping, and adults — even those without camping experience — can volunteer as counselors: bigcitymountaineers.org
- ▶ Colorado Parks & Wildlife has varied opportunities, from developing outdoor interpretive signs to removing invasive weeds: cpw.civicore.com/public
- ▶ Walking Mountains Science Center in Avon hosts weekly volunteer days at the Vail Nature Center for removing invasive plant species, planting native vegetation, cleaning up litter and building and improving local hiking trails: walkingmountains.org
- ▶ Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers hosts trail-restoration projects that range from one to four days: rfov.org
- ▶ Denver City Parks & Recreation gives groups and individuals the opportunity to keep Denver parks and green spaces beautiful through a variety of community cleanup events: denvergov.org

For more: COLORADO.com/Care

17 MAGIC MOMENTS ON COLORADO'S PUBLIC LANDS

There's nothing like a hike through rugged, untamed wilderness or a peaceful picnic amid colorful wildflowers to awaken the imagination and stir the senses.

CARE FOR COLORADO

Travel Like a local by staying on trails and roads, picking up trash and heeding signs at these landmarks and across the state. See page 17 for other tips.



COLORADO
TOURISM OFFICE

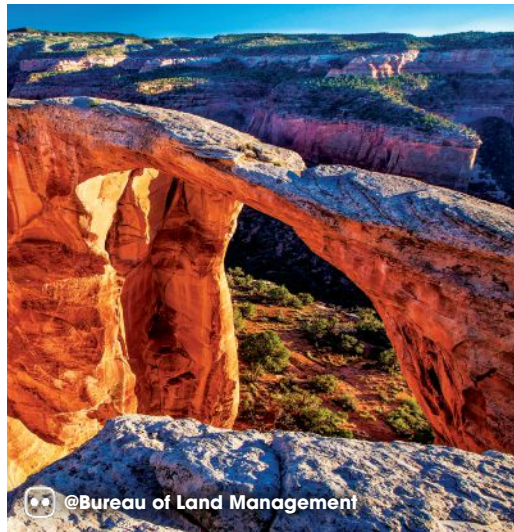


Leave
No
Trace
Center for Outdoor Ethics

1 Feel an exhilarating stomach somersault as your boat shoots the whitewater rapids in **BROWNS CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT**, near Salida. One of the nation's most popular locations for rafting, this Arkansas River-carved beauty also hosts fishers, campers, mountain bikers, ATVers, cross-country skiers, hikers and Collegiate Peaks Scenic Byway drivers. The canyon is also a great place to see bighorn sheep (Colorado's state mammal), elk, deer, eagles, falcons and many other wildlife species. ▼



@Bureau of Land Management



@Bureau of Land Management

2 Frame photos through the arches in **MCINNIS CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA**. North America's second-largest concentration of natural arches can be found in this area near Grand Junction. There are no paved roads or high-tech visitor centers, but 4x4 trails and a rugged hike can lead prepared adventurers to the most spectacular red-rock arches, spires, rock bridges and caves. ◀



3 Behold a sea of shortgrass swaying in the wind in **PAWNEE NATIONAL GRASSLAND**. The only interruption in the endless flat horizon is two 300-foot-high mesas, visible from miles around. These "two sentinels of the plains," as dubbed by author James Michener, are the only companions of the remote area's pronghorns, coyotes, kit foxes, hawks and falcons, located west of Sterling. ◀

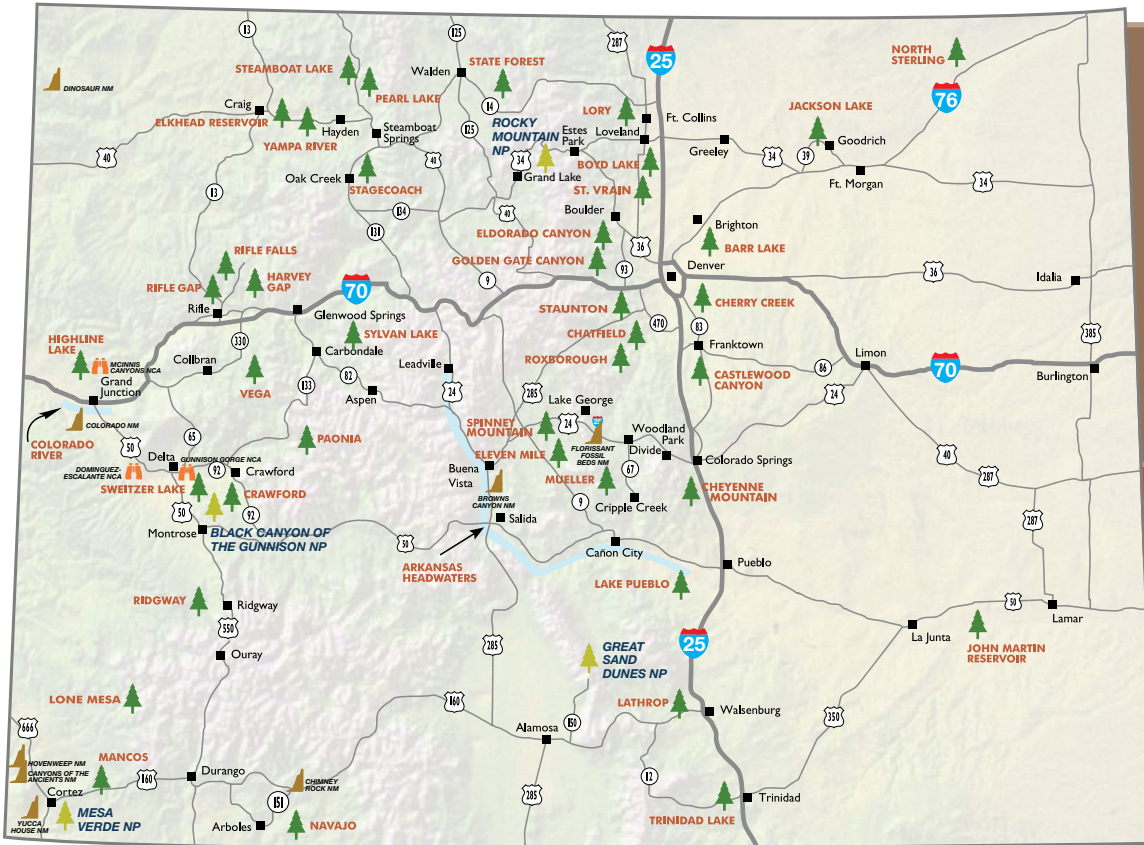
4 Watch for wildlife in the **MOUNT ZIRKEL WILDERNESS**. With 170 miles of trails that vary in elevation by 5,000 feet, it may seem as though this area near Clark would lure only the most experienced trekkers. But it's not quite as rugged as it sounds — gradual rises in elevation make it a good first-time (albeit well-prepared) backpacking adventure, with almost guaranteed moose and elk sightings. ►



@ Jeremy White

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT; MILES/ANDREA BUROLLOLA; FLICKR/JEREMY WHITE; BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT.

With 42 percent of Colorado's 100,000 square miles made up of public lands, it's easy to find an adventure in our 41 state parks, four national parks, eight national monuments and other public lands. Get inspired by Colorado's spectacular natural backdrop with these 17 amazing experiences and find others on the map below.



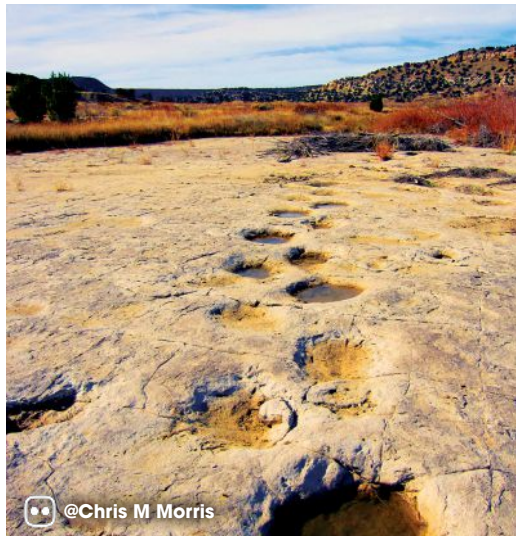
COLORADO STATE & NATIONAL PARKS

-  Colorado State Parks
-  National Parks
-  National Monuments
-  National Conservation Areas

See the full state map on page 16A and city index on page 208.

5 Walk in dinosaur footprints in COMANCHE NATIONAL GRASSLAND.

Standing in Picketwire Canyon with your foot swallowed by a three-toed impression left in the bedrock by a brontosaurus 150 million years ago, one's imagination runs wild picturing what it might have looked like when dinosaurs inhabited the area near today's La Junta. The footprints are reached after a flat 5-mile hike, bike or horseback ride. ▶



@Chris M Morris

6 Behold the majesty of a bald eagle at BARR LAKE STATE PARK.

Just northeast of Denver in Brighton, this peaceful gem with calm waters (boats are limited to 10-horsepower motors) claims sightings of more than 370 species of birds, including our nation's symbol. Wildlife-viewing stations can be found along the park's nearly 9-mile multiuse trail ▼



@Kent Kanouse

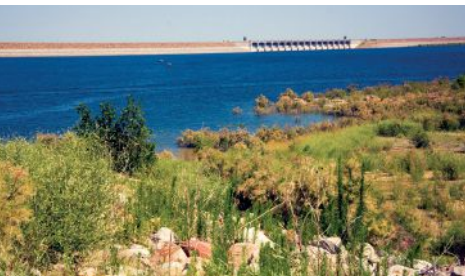
FROM LEFT: FLICKR/CHRIS M MORRIS; FLICKR/KENT KANOUSE.

WANT MORE? GO TO COLORADO.COM/OUTDOOR-ACTIVITIES.



7 Cool off in the brisk water at GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE. Each spring Medano Creek emerges from the mountains behind the dunes near Alamosa to form a gently flowing stream. Visitors cool hot feet after tromping around the dunes, build sandcastles and splash around in its rhythmic waves before it retreats back into the mountains in July. ◀

8 Hear the crescendo of the powerful triple waterfall in RIFLE FALLS STATE PARK. On a hot summer day, the mist that drifts from the exhilarating gush of water over 70-foot-high limestone cliffs and the dark caves below are a sublime natural air conditioner. These geologic attractions near Rifle draw photographers, spelunkers, fishers and campers to this singular state park. It's an understatement to say the scene created by the waterfalls is picture perfect. ▼



9 Feel true enchantment on the high-desert plains, where sweeping grasslands and vast blue skies point the way to JOHN MARTIN RESERVOIR STATE PARK. In winter, watch thousands of snow geese migrate in formation and effortlessly glide into the water. Summer months are ideal for watching the sunrise over glistening, dew-covered plains near Las Animas. ◀



10 Commune with the subtle charms of the WEMINUCHE WILDERNESS AREA. At nearly 500,000 acres near Durango, Silverton and Pagosa Springs, it's our largest wilderness area and has natural marvels that leave folks speechless. But it's the quieter things that draw you in: Snowshoe rabbits scampering across a path. Beavers slapping tails on the water. The shaking of a tree branch when a rose finch has just departed it. Visit COLORADO.com/Wilderness to find others. ▶



11 Experience the profound quiet of snowy BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON NATIONAL PARK. Stewards of the park near Montrose do winter explorers a generous favor: They don't plow one of its main roads. When the snow starts falling, South Rim Road becomes a track for snowshoers and cross-country skiers who make their way across pristine powder to a canyon overlook. ▶



12 Soak up the sun at LAKE PUEBLO STATE PARK. Pueblo is known for some of the state's mildest weather, where the mountains ease into the plains. This Arkansas River-fed location lures sailors, fishers, jet skiers, hikers, campers, RVers, mountain bikers and more to its shores. ▲

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE; FICKR/JOSH HUNTER; MILES/ANNA ZOROMSKI; LU ANNE TYRRELL; ERIC WUINROW; MILES/ANNA ZOROMSKI.



@carfull...home from Mongolia

13 Roll the window down and feel the breeze along the Rivers Edge Wildlife Drive in **BROWNS PARK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**. About as northwest as you can get and still be in Colorado, Browns Park sits in a valley along the remote Green River 60 miles west of Maybell. Solitude-seeking hunters, fishers, photographers, campers and wildlife watchers commune on lands once home to Fort Davy Crockett. ◀

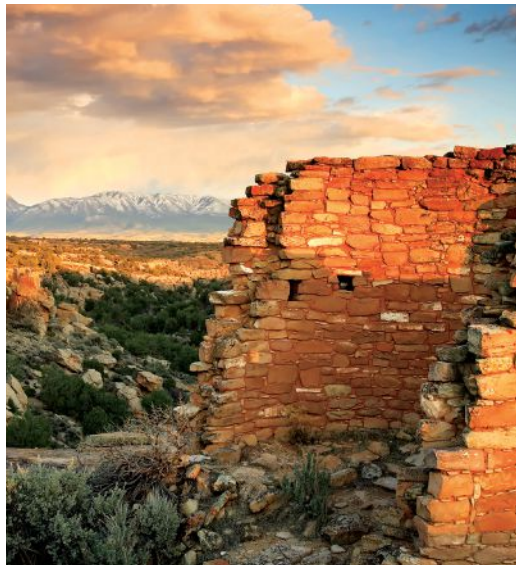
14 Raft the tumbling rapids of the **CACHE LA POUDE RIVER**. Colorado's only nationally designated Wild and Scenic River, it carves down Poudre Canyon through narrow sections flanked by alpine mountainsides and natural rock cliffs west of Fort Collins. The triumph of paddling over a rapid named Devil's Staircase is second only to the views and the chance to spot bighorn sheep and deer scampering along its rocky hills. ▼



15 Feel the first pole pull of a foot-long walleye at **NORTH STERLING STATE PARK**. Fishers relish lazy summer days perched on the shore of North Sterling Reservoir, surrounded by wide-open short-grass prairie near Sterling. One of the state's best warm-water fisheries, North Sterling sends anglers back to their campsites with more than fish tales — walleye, catfish, largemouth bass, rainbow trout, bluegill, northern pike and yellow perch are on the menu for lucky anglers. ▶



16 Marvel at the masonry of Colorado's ancient people at **HOVENWEEP NATIONAL MONUMENT**. So adept were the construction skills of the ancient Ancestral Puebloans who lived near today's Cortez, that parts of their structures still stand more than 700 years later. Those who tour the area's mesas and canyons today are left to speculate about the purpose of the multistory brick towers. Archaeologists think they could have been homes, storage silos for crops, defensive forts or ceremonial structures. ▶



17 Follow the **LOST CREEK WILDERNESS** Lost Creek's red-rock formations near Bailey aren't as dramatic as those at better-known spots like Garden of the Gods and Red Rocks parks, but there are a whole lot more of them. Many of the area's domes, knobs, spires and buttresses have eroded in such a way that creeks seem to disappear between their hidden crevices — hence the name. Visit COLORADO.com/Wilderness to find others. ▲



VISITING ANY COLORADO STATE PARKS WITH THE KIDS?

Twenty-nine of the 41 parks have Family Activity Backpacks available for check out at the park visitor centers. With bug boxes, magnifiers, guide books, binoculars and more, the packs help explorers of any age discover how fun the journey through the great outdoors can be. COLORADO.com/CSPBackpacks

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: FLICKR/CARFULL...HOME FROM MONGOLIA; MOUNTAIN WHITEWATER DESCENTS; ETHAN WELTY; ERRAIN M. PADRO; WILES/ANDREA BUROLLA.

FAMILY FISHIN'

9 Spots to Fish With the Kids

Load up your tackle box and picnic basket to create lasting family memories on a Colorado fishing adventure.

The fishing is great at these spots, but they made the list because they offer much more.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife provides a wealth of information about fishing with your little ones. Take a look at their suggestions for making the most of the family fishing experience and their interactive map of the top 101-ish places to take a kid fishing.

Fishing licenses are available the first of April each year and are good through March 31 of the following year; everyone 16 and up must have one. One-day and five-day passes can also be purchased. cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/Pages/Fishing.aspx

1 LATHROP STATE PARK Nestled in the shadow of the Spanish Peaks in Walsenburg, this park offers a gentle climate and a youth fishing pond for kids 15 and under — as well as two lakes for the older folks.

2 WONDERLAND LAKE Ringed by an easy hiking loop, this north Boulder foothills gem is just the right speed for families not wanting to drive too far. The lake is a popular paragliding spot and you can watch the gliders launch from the top of Wonderland Hill.

3 CORN LAKE Just outside Grand Junction, the lake is stocked with rainbow trout and offers restrooms, a bike trail and picnic tables. Nearby are the Colorado River Wildlife Area's hiking, wildlife watching and educational activities.

4 ST. VRAIN STATE PARK This Firestone site's Sandpiper and Mallard ponds win best spots for kids thanks to the nearness of the parking lot and restrooms. There are easy hiking trails and camping for making a night of it.

5 ORDWAY RESERVOIR Just north of Ordway in southeast Colorado, this little gem is a peaceful spot for hookin' some rainbows. For those with boats or Jet Skis, two nearby spots — Lake Meredith and Lake Henry — are a stone's throw away.

6 BEAR CREEK LAKE PARK Denver's cityscape gives way to scenic foothills in Lakewood. The fam will love fishing on the piers and the park has a visitor center, swim beach and trails.

7 PA-CO-CHU-PUK PONDS AT RIDGWAY STATE PARK The park's two rainbow-trout-stocked ponds are close to two important sites: a bathroom and a fish-cleaning station. There's also a swim beach and summer programs for kids, including archery, birding walks, hawk quests and more.

8 AKRON POND This northeastern site keeps things cool with shady areas, sheltered picnic tables and regularly stocked trout in the summer months, as well as good-size bass and catfish so everyone comes away a winner.

9 GYPSUM PONDS Close to I-70 and the town of Gypsum, the ponds are easy to access and stocked with rainbow and cutthroat trout. You might see deer, great blue herons, owls, bald eagles, redtail hawks and more.

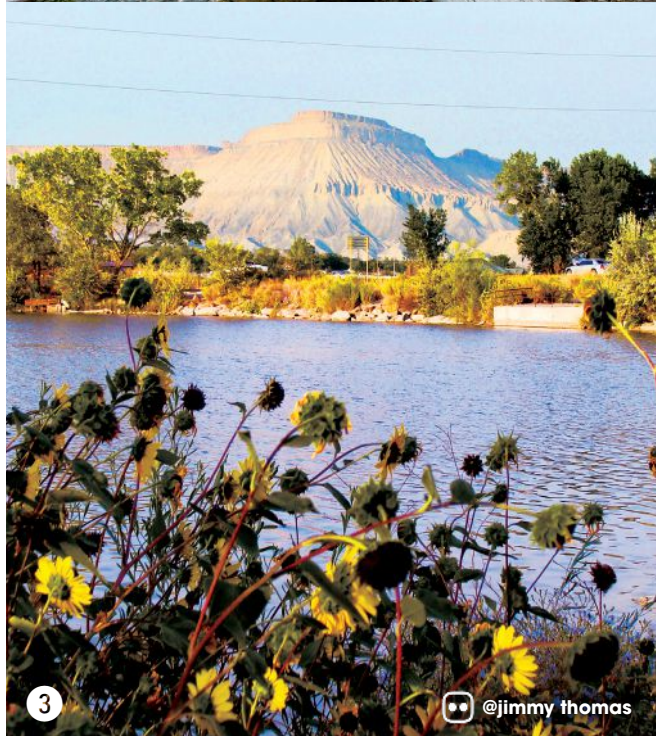


For more, check out the CPW Fishing App.

FOR MORE SERIOUS FISHERS

► COLORADO.com/WesternCOFlyFishingHotSpots

► COLORADO.com/GreatPlacestoFishInColorado



322

Number of miles of Gold Medal streams providing angling opportunities for large trout. These waters are managed by Colorado Parks and Wildlife to ensure populations of big fish and big smiles for anglers.

SCOUTING IT OUT

Steps to Hunting & Seeing the Secret Side of Wilderness

Colorado's public lands include 23 million acres of pristine pines, plentiful pocket meadows and pure-water ponds, so it's no wonder our state hosts the world's largest elk herd and the best chance at hunting, or simply viewing, these majestic animals in motion. Find your path, see what it's all about and choose your own adventure.

CHOOSE

- A SPECIES:** Mule deer in the mountains, whitetail on the plains or the legendary elk of the Rockies — these are only some of many species that call Colorado home.
- B METHOD OF TAKE:** Go primitive with a longbow, stay modern with a centerfire rifle or split the difference with muzzle-loading. Colorado is accommodating to most types and styles of take as long as you have that handy hunter education card (from Colorado or your home state).
- C SEASON:** It's hard to resist hunting among golden aspen leaves in early season bow and muzzle loading seasons, but cool weather and snow often help in a successful hunt. Big-game seasons run from August through January.

LOCATION

- A GET YOUR BEARINGS:** Make a preseason basecamp in one of Colorado's welcoming small towns and bring friends or family along. Staying stealthy any time of year can reveal the secret side of wilderness, which loud or talking hikers rarely encounter.
- B FISH SIDE DISH:** Big-game habitat almost always overlaps with small-game and fish habitat. Bring along that shotgun or rod and experience the richness of Colorado's varied terrain.



NEAR GLENWOOD SPRINGS, JACK AFLECK.

WANT MORE? GO TO COLORADO.COM/HUNTING.

TOOLS

1



LOVE AT FIRST "SITE": Adherence to Colorado's hunting and fishing guidelines is extremely important to the overall health of the wilderness. The first responsibility on any trip is to visit cpw.state.co.us or pick up a printed manual to stay up to date on changes in the law.

2

LEARN: Colorado Parks and Wildlife offers Elk Hunting University, instructional videos and a whole lot more to get you ready for the hunt. Go to cpw.state.co.us/thingstodo/Pages/hunt.aspx to find information on outdoor survival, a guide to Colorado's game-management units, scouting tips and numbers to call when you have questions.

3

PLAN: Apply by mail or online for the big-game limited-draw licenses, always due on the first Tuesday in April. For more information on dates and fees, visit cpw.state.co.us/thingstodo/Pages/hunt.aspx.

To find a directory of hunting outfitters who can lead you on guided or semi-guided hunts, as well as Colorado Parks and Wildlife field offices, visit COLORADO.com/Hunting.

CREATIVE COLORADO

Explore 23 Certified Colorado Creative Districts

These communities brim with galleries, artists in residence and special arts events.

ART DISTRICT ON SANTA FE With more than 60 galleries, art studios, theater companies and other creative organizations, this Denver area becomes more of an arts destination each year. Its First Friday Art Walk has burgeoned into an all-out street party.

CORAZÓN DE TRINIDAD Affordable living and beautiful landscapes have resulted in an influx of artists in residence and galleries to the heart of Trinidad. Be sure to ogle the large collection of Victorian houses.

NORTH FORK VALLEY Organic farms, orchards, vineyards and mesas have conspired to make Paonia, Hotchkiss and Crawford a pocket of natural and artist-made riches perfect for a few days' exploration.

PUEBLO CREATIVE CORRIDOR Home to a First Friday Art Walk that's been going strong for more than 20 years, the area's historic buildings house a collection of boutiques, art galleries, studios and sidewalk cafes, and the Riverwalk adds a scenic and serene touch to the artsy atmosphere.

RIDGWAY Galleries, studios, a historic theater and arts-education center come alongside furniture, jewelry, candle- and clothing-makers in this town of 900. Check out their full-moon studio tours.

TELLURIDE ARTS DISTRICT This is a town where all shops, eateries and hotels are indie-owned and Colorado-minded. Renowned for blockbuster events, the box-canyon-cradled downtown hosts musicians, painters, photographers, bookbinders and many others.

SALIDA This friendly, Arkansas River-side downtown is filled with a creative spirit. Long appreciated by rafters, mountain-bikers and fourteener climbers, it's now reaching all kinds of new travelers with its arts scene.

GREELEY This creative district, encompassing downtown and surrounding neighborhoods, sponsors year-round arts events to inspire, including flash mobs, First Fridays and Concerts Under the Stars performances.

DOWNTOWN COLORADO SPRINGS With more than 50 pieces of public art, a roster of esteemed cultural institutions and a jam-packed schedule of artsy events and festivals, it's no surprise that downtown Colorado Springs earns marks for creativity.

RIVER NORTH ART DISTRICT (RINO) This Denver neighborhood maintains its industrial origins while a growing crew of visionary businesses, including architects, art galleries, furniture-makers and photographers have found a home here.

DOWNTOWN LONGMONT With a mix of historic charm and contemporary style, Longmont's galleries and theaters are surrounded by an eclectic array of shops and restaurants in artfully restored buildings, as well as their Art in Public Places Program, where there's always something delightful to stumble upon.

40 WEST ARTS DISTRICT Don't be fooled by Lakewood's suburban nature, the city west of Denver hosts an understated artistic community with more than 20 public art installations, performing-arts venues and a dozen-ish galleries.

MANCOS The old and new flourish side by side in a town that maintains its rural Western character and a vibrant downtown arts community. Take classes taught by local makers at Mancos School of the West or tour galleries and see artist demos at the Mancos Studio Tour.





BRECKENRIDGE This mountain-view-framed downtown includes long-standing institutions like Breckenridge Backstage Theatre and National Repertory Orchestra, decorative plazas and gardens; and a wide array of studios, galleries and other creative establishments — and 250-plus buildings on the National Historic Register put to modern use.

GOLDEN TRIANGLE Bordered by Speer, Colfax and Lincoln, this wedge of Denver has a list of adored attractions, including the Denver Art Museum, Clyfford Still Museum and History Colorado Center. Examine the mix of hip art galleries, boutiques, coffee shops and bars.

CARBONDALE This area is fueled by its Western heritage and energetic community of artists. Explore the blossoming Third Street Center's grassroots galleries and performance venues; or visit during July's Mountain Fair to celebrate its creative riches.

FORT COLLINS Artisans pay tribute to the area's great outdoors with galleries, museums and innovative institutions dotting historic Old Town. Highlights include the Global Village Museum of Arts,

The Center for Fine Art Photography, Trimble Court Artisans and Coco Artist Studio.

CRESTED BUTTE The hamlet's Center for the Arts, artist-owned studios and galleries, and 10 performance venues, including restaurants, bars and coffee shops, delight arts-focused visitors. Stroll galleries on Elk Avenue and check out arts events, including art walks and an August arts fest.

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS Wild West roots combine with long-standing arts institutions, workshops, youth art programs, Art in the Park (July) and All Arts Festival (August), and a serene natural setting to inspire anyone — which is why so many artists call the area home.

MANITOU SPRINGS A quintessential tourist town since the 1870s, Manitou's downtown is peppered with outdoor art, more than a dozen galleries, summer concert series and arts events. Stop at the Commonwheel Artists Co-Op to see what the locals are makin'.

WESTWOOD A Hispanic-centric culture pervades this west Denver neighborhood on Morrison Road. Murals by local painters display the heritage of generations and new galleries and arts happenings are sprouting up each year. September's Chile Fest showcases the neighborhood at its best.

GRAND JUNCTION Downtown Grand Junction's Creative District has a wealth of cultural treasures, including the renovated Avalon Theater and the beloved Art on the Corner outdoor sculpture program. Peruse the charming art galleries, snag a seat at sidewalk cafes and restaurants, and see how many of the more than 100 outdoor sculptures you can spot.

GRAND LAKE This Rocky Mountain National Park gateway town is a hotbed of outdoor activity, but also harbors a creative community unique to the area. Anchored by the Rocky Mountain Repertory Theater, Westside 40's artisan marketplace, a historic boardwalk packed with shops and galleries, it's clear this alpine destination inspires its residents.

COLORADO BALLET, BLAINE HARRINGTON III



OTHER ARTS EXPERIENCES

SMALL-TOWN PERFORMING ARTS VENUES

Colorado's mountain towns might be small, but several pack a big punch when it comes to fine arts. Operas, musicals and first-run shows are all artfully enacted on many small-town stages, including the Creede Repertory, Central City Opera, Tabor Opera House in Leadville, Rocky Mountain Repertory in Grand Lake, Butte Theater in Cripple Creek and the Southern Colorado Repertory in Trinidad. COLORADO.com/BigArtsSmallTowns

BIG-CITY VENUES

The Denver Performing Arts Complex is one of the nation's biggest arts campuses, ensuring there's always something on stage when you're in town, including performances by the Colorado Symphony, Opera Colorado, The Colorado Ballet and the Denver Center Theatre Company.

There aren't many places where you'll find a nationally accredited art museum, Broadway-worthy theater, gourmet dining and an art school all under one roof, but the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center encompasses just that. Traveling exhibitions, events, musicals, dramatic plays and concerts are a few of the reasons to plan a visit. The city also boasts the new Ent Center for the Arts, home to four performing arts venues and a visual arts gallery. COLORADO.com/Arts

MUST-SEE ART MUSEUMS

Boulder, Aspen and Colorado Springs, Loveland and Fort Collins all have stellar museums to block off at least half a day to see. The Denver Art Museum is a world-class institution featuring blockbuster exhibitions and a renowned permanent collection. COLORADO.com/ArtMuseums

ART WALKS

One look at Colorado's roster of art walks will convince you we're serious about the arts. Denver, Telluride, Salida, Old Colorado City, Pueblo, Loveland, Fort Collins and Breckenridge all have regular walks where visitors can hop between galleries and studios and enjoy the live music and festive air that surrounds these celebrations of the creative spirit. COLORADO.com/ArtWalks

DESTINATION FESTIVALS

A few to book a trip around: **Jazz Aspen Snowmass** (June–September), **Colorado Shakespeare Festival** in Boulder (June–August), **Cherry Creek Arts Festival** in Denver (July), **Mountain Fair** in Carbondale (July), **Colorado Springs Art & Music Festival** (July), **Vail Dance Festival** (July–August), **Evergreen Fine Arts Festival** (August), **Steamboat All Arts Festival** (August), **Rocky Mountain Folks Festival** in Lyons (August), **Telluride Film Festival** (September). Find many more at COLORADO.com/Events.

FROM TOP: CARBONDALE CREATIVE DISTRICT; GREELEY FRIDAY FEST; RIVER NORTH ARTS DISTRICT.

RELAX & REJUVENATE

30 Colorado Hot Springs

Colorado's mountains have plenty of activities to get your heart racing, but they're also perfect for kicking back. Dip into our many natural hot springs, where you can soothe sore muscles after a long day of hiking or skiing. Many also offer water slides and kid-friendly amenities.

IRON MOUNTAIN HOT SPRINGS, GLENWOOD SPRINGS Our newest hot springs is at the site of the historic Iron Springs Spa on the banks of the Colorado River in Glenwood Springs. **Extra Special:** Sixteen pools feature natural designs that complement the riverside landscape — with heated walkways to connect them (a true winter perk!).

THE SPRINGS RESORT & SPA, PAGOSA SPRINGS This luxury resort boasts more than 20 soaking pools (including the world's deepest geothermal spring), a full-service spa and salon and a separate luxury hotel, which is LEED-certified for its environmentally conscious design. **Extra Special:** Unwind in one of the five adults-only pools, which have sweeping views of the San Juan Mountains.

GLENWOOD HOT SPRINGS LODGE GLENWOOD SPRINGS This lodge is perfect for the entire family, boasting the world's largest hot springs pool, two water slides and a mini-golf course. **Extra Special:** Escape to the resort's full-service spa, where you can enjoy a soothing massage in the historic sandstone bathhouse.

TRIMBLE SPA & NATURAL HOT SPRINGS, DURANGO Relax in the sauna, swim laps in the massive naturally heated mineral pool, picnic and sunbathe poolside and soothe the body and soul with massage treatments. **Extra Special:** There are a couple of lodging options for those who just can't bear to be far from the geothermal waters.

OURAY HOT SPRINGS POOL & FITNESS CENTER, OURAY Surrounded by towering mountains and lush forests, this natural hot springs swimming pool is an inspiring place to bring your whole family. **Extra Special:** This crystal-clear pool boasts plenty of kid-approved amenities, such as two large slides, a diving area, a shallow section for young swimmers and a water volleyball area.



INDIAN HOT SPRINGS, IDAHO SPRINGS Variety rules with geothermal caves, private baths, outdoor Jacuzzis and a mineral-water pool, not to mention lodging options that range from campsites to resort rooms. **Extra Special:** Visit the spa, where you can get the Maize Salt Glo Treatment, a massage and exfoliation with corn maize, magnesium and castor oil.

MOUNT PRINCETON HOT SPRINGS RESORT, NATHROP This luxurious mountain resort boasts numerous geothermal springs. Its proximity to Monarch and Ski Cooper ski areas makes a perfect après-ski-muscle relaxant. **Extra Special:** Thirty small pools are located right in Chalk Creek, which runs alongside the property and adds a super-natural feel to your soak.

HOT SULPHUR SPRINGS RESORT & SPA, HOT SULPHUR SPRINGS This resort's waters, which run in the town of the same name, have been flowing from seven natural springs for hundreds of years and were used for healing by the Ute Indians. **Extra Special:** Hop from pool to pool to try out different temperatures and views.

JOYFUL JOURNEY HOT SPRINGS SPA, MOFFAT This San Luis Valley gem pulls its 140-degree artesian mineral waters from beneath the Sangre de Cristo mountains. Pools are gravity-fed and cooled to a comfortable and relaxing 98–108 degrees. **Extra Special:** Unique lodging options can be found in the yurt and a tiny tipi village, in addition to hotel and RV and tent sites.



MORE HOT SPRINGS TO EXPLORE

Overlook Hot Springs Spa,
Pagosa Springs
overlookhotsprings.com

Avalanche Ranch Cabins
& Hot Springs, Redstone
avalancheranch.com

Waunita Hot Springs Ranch,
Gunnison, waunita.com

Splashland, Alamosa
splashlandllc.com

Desert Reef Hot Spring,
Florence
desertreefhotpring.com

Salida Hot Springs Aquatic
Center, salidarec.com

Healing Waters Resort &
Spa, Pagosa Springs
pshotsprings.com

Antero Hot Spring
Cabins, Nathrop
anterohotsprings.com

Box Canyon Lodge &
Hot Springs, Ouray
boxcanyonouray.com

Historic Wiesbaden Hot
Springs Spa & Lodgings,
Ouray
wiesbadenhotsprings.com

Valley View Hot Springs,
Villa Grove, oit.org/vvhs

Dunton Hot Springs,
near Telluride
duntonhotsprings.com

Creekside Hot Springs
Cabin, Nathrop
creeksidehotsprings.com

Alpine Hot Springs
Hideaway, Nathrop
alpinehotsprings.com

Twin Peaks Lodge &
Hot Springs, Ouray
twinpeakslodging.com

Cottonwood Hot Springs
Inn & Spa, Buena Vista
cottonwood-hot-springs.com

Strawberry Park Hot Springs,
Steamboat Springs
strawberryhotsprings.com

Penny Hot Springs,
Carbondale
carbondale.com

Sand Dunes Swimming
Pool, Hooper
sanddunespool.com

Orvis Hot Springs, Ridgway
orvishotsprings.com

Old Town Hot Springs,
Steamboat Springs
oldtownhotsprings.org

WANT MORE DETAILS? SEE COLORADO.COM/HOTSPRINGS & THE HOT SPRINGS LOOP ITINERARY ON PAGE 74.

Relax in a bubbling hot spring and stand on the edge of a cliff. Hike in the wilderness and find your mountain. Unplug, clear your head, just be here. Get yourself to Pagosa Springs today.

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1

GO SPOTTIN'

Spy our official state creatures as you travel around:



STATE ANIMAL: Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. Found in high-mountain terrain. Good opportunities include a Browns Canyon National Monument rafting trip near Buena Vista; Guanella Pass Scenic & Historic Byway near Georgetown; a hike through Beaver Creek State Wildlife Area near Penrose.



STATE REPTILE: painted turtle. Found close to the shoreline of ponds, marshes and small lakes. Good opportunities include Jackson

Lake State Park near Orchard, St. Vrain State Park near Firestone and Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge near Arvada.



STATE FISH: greenback cutthroat trout. Found in mountain lakes and clear, cold, gravelly, high-altitude streams.

Good opportunities include Bear Creek Regional Park west of Colorado Springs, Bellvue-Watson Fish Hatchery in Bellvue, Ouzel Creek in Rocky Mountain National Park.



STATE BIRD: lark bunting. Found on the eastern plains and up to 8,000 feet in elevation. Good opportunities include the shade trees in town in Kit Carson as well as

from the Big Sandy Creek bridge, Terry Ranch north of La Junta, Pawnee National Grassland near Grover.

NATIONAL MAMMAL: American bison. The continent's largest mammal is an important part of Colorado's tribal and frontier past. Opportunities include: Denver's Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, Genesee Park right off I-70 outside Golden, Soapstone Prairie Natural Area (March–November) near Fort Collins.

2



FOLLOW A COLORADO BIRDING TRAIL

Colorado is home to 450 different avian species, many of which are found in the ecosystems east of the Rockies. Lone falcons share the sky with droves of white-throated swifts, owls snooze in hollowed trees and prairie chickens strut through stretches of golden shortgrass. coloradobirdingtrail.com, cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/Bird



5 WAYS TO WATCH WILDLIFE

Something to See, From Corner to Corner

Few places in North America offer such a bounty of wildlife-watching opportunities as Colorado.

Who in your group will win the eagle-eye award by spotting some of our most majestic residents — state mammal bighorn sheep, bald eagles, mountain goats, moose, elk, pronghorn?



COLORADO WILDLIFE FROM A TO Z

Get to know some more of Colorado's nonhuman inhabitants at COLORADO.com/WildlifeAtoZ.

3

ATTEND A WILDLIFE FESTIVAL

Nearly 30 festivals are held each year to celebrate the state's furry and feathery friends, from Cedaredge's Grand Mesa Moose Day (July), Estes Park's Elk Fest (October), Lamar's High Plains Snow Goose Festival (February) to Gunnison's Sage-Grouse Festival (April) and many more. COLORADO.com/Events

4

FIND A FRIENDLY RANGER

With eight national wildlife refuges, four national parks, eight national monuments, 41 national wilderness areas, 41 state parks and nearly 350 state wildlife areas, you're bound to find a friendly ranger or guide to lead you through wildlife-friendly areas no matter where your trip takes you. cpw.state.co.us

5

JUST KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN!

Left your hiking boots at home? Don't worry, there's no need to hit the trails to see Colorado's wildlife in its natural habitat. Hundreds of scenic roads lead safely past elk, bighorn sheep, moose, bison, bald eagles and other watchable wildlife. With a pair of binoculars, you won't even have to unbuckle your seatbelt. COLORADO.com/WildlifeDrives

DON'T FORGET!

It's important to always keep a safe distance from the animals. Remembering never to feed, pet, chase or harass them will ensure you and the wildlife stay safe and healthy.

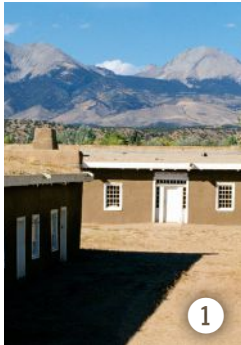
RESOURCES

- Colorado Parks & Wildlife: cpw.state.co.us
- National Park Service: nps.gov/colorado
- U.S. Forest Service: fs.usda.gov/main/r2/home
- Bureau of Land Management: blm.gov/colorado

WANT MORE? COLORADO.COM/WILDLIFE

1**FORT GARLAND MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER**

Colorado's historic forts open a window on the 1800s, when the area was settled by frontiersmen, military men, homesteaders, miners and more. Visit these historic sites to find out what life was like for Coloradans during the nation's westward expansion. Fort Garland (east of Alamosa) was commanded by legendary frontiersman Kit Carson and had a garrison of more than 100 who protected the earliest settlers in the San Luis Valley. Tour original adobe buildings and view exhibits on how the fort was saved and preserved. COLORADO.com/Forts

**1****2****TELLER CITY**

Southeast of Walden in the North Park area, this was a silver-mining camp set amid dense forests. The town boomed in the early 1880s with hundreds of log cabins and nearly 30 saloons, but was busted by 1902. Today, there's a 3/4-mile loop trail that guides visitors through the scattered cabin remains and artifacts, as well as the surrounding peaceful scenery. COLORADO.com/GhostTowns

7 WAYS TO EXPERIENCE OUR HISTORY**There Will Not Be a Quiz, But Fun is Mandatory**

Learning about the history of your destination makes the place come alive with old stories and clues that give context and meaning to your travels.

3 TOURS & TREKS

Denver's History Colorado Center puts on two- to six-hour tours and overnight treks each month with deep dives into Colorado stories. Past topics have included a tea at the Swan House in Loveland, an Irish tour of Denver, bus tours of forgotten neighborhoods and historic districts, guided hikes with the state's archaeologists, a summer-blossoms trek to Crested Butte and others. historycolorado.org/tours-and-treks

4 LIVING HISTORY

Colorado's home to several living museums and villages, where you can tour buildings and see what life was like for the state's early residents, including South Park City in Fairplay, Centennial Village Museum in Greeley, Bent's Old Fort in La Junta, the Littleton Museum, Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site in Colorado Springs, Rangely Outdoor Museum, Frisco Historic Park and the Golden Historic Park and Four Mile Historic Park in Denver. COLORADO.com/Museums

5 HISTORIC HOMES

Many of Colorado's historic structures house colorful human stories. Barney Ford, a businessman who escaped slavery via the Underground Railroad, is honored at the Barney Ford House Museum in Breckenridge. The expansive lifestyle of a silver-mining magnate is preserved at the Hamill House in

**4****5**

Georgetown. Victorian-era splendor and nine architectural styles bring the era to life at Miramont Castle in Manitou Springs. Cripple Creek's Old Homestead House Museum was the fanciest Gold Rush brothel for a time. The 1883 Byers-Evans House

Museum in Denver tours the home of two prominent local families, and no one can forget the "Unsinkable" Molly Brown, whose house museum in Denver pays homage to her enduring celebrity and contributions to women's rights.

6 DRIVE OUR JOURNEY

Your very own GPS-guided scavenger hunt of Colorado's eastern plains is online at ourjourney.info. The area's local historians have plotted a fun and surprising journey for you. When traveling this area, a must-see is the Kit Carson County Carousel in Burlington, where a 1905 carousel has been spinning since 1928 to its Wurlitzer Monster Military Band Organ. Stop to see the 1910 wood-frame Limon Railroad Depot, one of only three Rock Island depots in Colorado remaining in their place of operation.

7 SAMPLE WILD WEST & AG HERITAGE AT A COOL COUNTY FAIR

Rousing pro rodeos, exhibits, farm animals and steaming delights on a stick are staples at Colorado's show-stopping summer fairs. Nearly 60 county fairs take place annually statewide. Some faves include El Paso County Fair in Calhan, Logan County Fair & Rodeo in Sterling, Montrose County Fair and Rodeo, Archuleta County Fair in Pagosa Springs and San Luis Valley Fair in Monte Vista. COLORADO.com/Events

WANT MORE? COLORADO.COM/HISTORY

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and the

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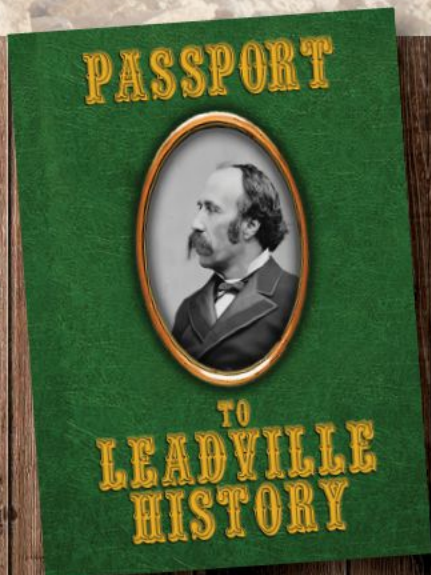
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TOP RIVERS FOR COLORADO WHITEWATER RAFTING

Each spring, gravity and sunshine draw Colorado's beloved winter snow down from the high country and into Colorado rivers for some of the country's most amazing whitewater rafting adventures.

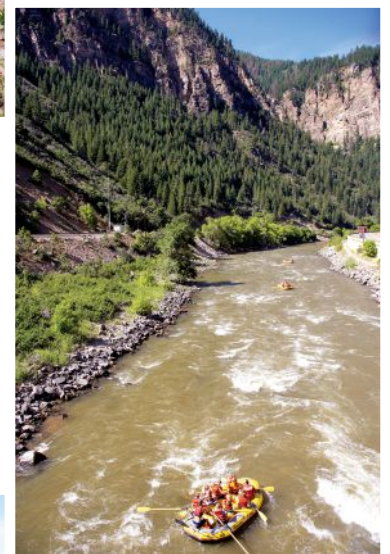
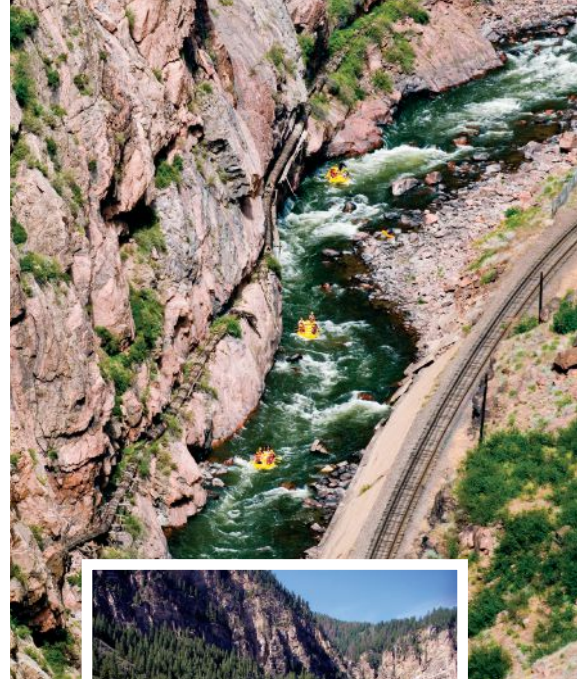
With so many rivers and expert guides, there's an experience fit for people of nearly all abilities.

ARKANSAS RIVER Cutting through canyons and dropping 5,000 feet in the first 125 miles, the Arkansas is one of the nation's most popular. From family-friendly Browns Canyon to boat-rocking Bighorn Sheep Canyon and Royal Gorge stretches, it runs through beautiful landscapes. **Typical departure cities:** Buena Vista, Salida, Cañon City, Nathrop

COLORADO RIVER Divided by upper and lower sections, the Colorado runs a gauntlet of canyons and ravines that provide sightseeing intermingled with rapids and calms, with stretches that serve the daring and more timid. **Typical departure cities:** Glenwood Springs, Grand Junction, Kremmling, Breckenridge, State Bridge

CLEAR CREEK One of the most convenient rafting rivers to Denver, Clear Creek is located right off I-70. Once on the river, however, the interstate goes unnoticed as paddlers drop through the steep and narrow bed. Half- and full-day excursions satisfy those looking for a Class IV day or a quick splash. **Typical departure city:** Idaho Springs

Continued on page 56.



FROM TOP: THE ROYAL GORGE; KENNAN HARVEY; NEAR GLENWOOD SPRINGS; GLENWOOD SPRINGS CHAMBER RESORT/JACK AFFLECK; THE ARKANSAS RIVER NEAR GRANITE; JIM DAVID PHOTOGRAPHY.

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4 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT RAFTING COLORADO RIVERS

1 ALMOST ANYONE CAN GO WHITEWATER RAFTING

HERE: While adrenaline junkies can certainly get their fix on Colorado rivers, rafting is safe and fun for people of nearly all ages and abilities. Just discuss your group's comfort level with the rafting company when you sign up.

2 OUR RAFTING GUIDES ARE EXPERTS:

All the rafting companies listed in this guide and on COLORADO.com are state-certified and have all the expertise needed to lead you safely down the river. They are accustomed to guiding trips for seasoned rafters and those who've never dipped a paddle in the water.

3 WHITEWATER RAFTING INTENSITY VARIES BY TIME OF YEAR:

Depending on the time of year and stretch of river, your Colorado rafting trip could be a leisurely ride through placid waters or a thrill-a-minute adventure through the rapids. In May and June, melting mountain snow makes the rivers run faster for more exciting rides. By August and into September, many rivers are much milder.

4 YOU CAN CUSTOMIZE YOUR COLORADO RAFTING TRIP:

Colorado rafting companies offer plenty of options for your trip, including multiday adventures that include camping, and the ability to combine rafting trips with other activities, like train rides, winery tours, ziplining and fly-fishing trips.

With rafting hubs and companies located near dozens of Colorado towns, including Buena Vista, Salida, Steamboat Springs, Winter Park, Vail, Grand Junction, Durango and Fort Collins, it's never hard to find a good place to get on the water.



ANIMAS RIVER Trips on the lower Animas are often packaged with rides on the Durango & Silverton Railroad and zipline tours. The upper Animas has challenging Class IV and V rapids that are considered among the toughest commercially rafted waters in the country.

Typical departure city: Durango

CACHE LA POUDE RIVER This river propels boaters on runs that provide challenges for intermediate or advanced abilities. Not only does it offer great runs, but it's also as unique an experience as you can have on Colorado waters — it's the state's only federally designated National Wild and Scenic River.

Typical departure city: Fort Collins

YAMPA/GREEN RIVER Winding through Dinosaur National Monument, this multiday run floats you past fossils and archaeological sites, Fremont Indian rock carvings, interesting geological formations and sandy spots perfect for overnight camping.

Typical departure city: Steamboat Springs

TAYLOR RIVER Views of the jagged Collegiate Peaks mountain range oversee three sections of varying difficulty on the scenic and narrow Taylor River, which is also popular with fishers.

Typical departure cities: Gunnison, Crested Butte

Learn more at COLORADO.com/WhitewaterRivers and from the Colorado River Outfitters Association at croa.org.

OTHER RAFTING HOT SPOTS

- ▶ Roaring Fork River, Aspen
- ▶ Blue River, Frisco, Breckenridge, Dillon, Kremmling
- ▶ Gunnison River, Gunnison
- ▶ Eagle River, Eagle, Wolcott, Edwards
- ▶ San Juan River, Pagosa Springs
- ▶ San Miguel River, near Telluride
- ▶ North Platte River, Fort Collins and Steamboat Springs
- ▶ Dolores River, Cortez
- ▶ Piedra River, Durango, Pagosa Springs
- ▶ Uncompahgre River, Ridgway



@kidkiely

WHITEWATER PARKS

With more whitewater parks than any other state, these areas are built for kayaking, canoeing, SUP-ing and tubing — hop in or just watch the action: Golden, Denver, Buena Vista, Salida, near Kremmling (Gore Canyon), Glenwood Springs, Basalt, Eagle, Avon, Pueblo, Gunnison, Cañon City, Lyons, Longmont, Fort Collins, Steamboat Springs, Montrose, Breckenridge, Boulder, Durango, Pagosa Springs and Vail, to name a few.



QUINTESSENTIAL COLORADO EVENTS

Celebrate the best of Colorado's arts, culture, cuisine and history through our annual traditions. For more specifics and a calendar, go to [COLORADO.com/Events](https://colorado.com/Events) or turn to page 19.

FILM FESTIVALS Coloradans must have a thing for film, because it seems like every other town's got a fest celebrating niche filmmaking, from indie to horror, adventure, international, women, mountain and more. [COLORADO.com/FilmFests](https://colorado.com/FilmFests)

FOOD & FANCY BEVERAGES June through September, there's a food, beer, spirits or wine event every weekend somewhere in Colorado. Spring barrel tastings, seasonal beers, locally distilled spirits and celebrations of bacon, barbecue and local bounty abound throughout the year. [COLORADO.com/FoodDrinkFests](https://colorado.com/FoodDrinkFests)

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE Each season kicks off with parties good for watching and participating: whitewater fests, OHV road and motorcycle rallies, wildflower hikes, mountain-bike races, snow-shoe tours, balloon liftoffs, fishing derbies, hard-core endurance races, bike tours, 5ks, marathons and much more. [COLORADO.com/OutdoorEvents](https://colorado.com/OutdoorEvents)

RODEOS & COUNTY FAIRS Colorado's Western spirit is incarnated at rodeos and county fairs, where traditional affairs such as bull riding, steer wrestling and livestock competitions are often paired with contemporary festivities, including concerts from big-name country entertainers, dog shows and other competitions. [COLORADO.com/Rodeos](https://colorado.com/Rodeos)

FINE ARTS & CRAFTS Gallery walks, multimedia arts festivals, dance events and theatrical and musical performances all keep Colorado's rarefied air full of creativity throughout the year. [COLORADO.com/Arts](https://colorado.com/Arts)

SUMMER MUSIC Close your eyes and point to a spot on a Colorado map and you're likely to find a summer music festival on the local events calendar. Thanks to mild summer temps and acoustically friendly mountain backdrops, bands love to make the summer pilgrimage to our gorgeous open-air venues. [COLORADO.com/SummerMusic](https://colorado.com/SummerMusic)

WATCHABLE WILDLIFE Nearly 30 wildlife festivals are held each year to celebrate the state's furry and feathery friends. Look for events heralding the big guys — bighorn sheep (the state mammal), moose, elk and bald eagles — to the smaller ones, including sage grouse, snow geese and marmots. [COLORADO.com/WildlifeFests](https://colorado.com/WildlifeFests)

CULTURE & HERITAGE Wild West fests bring our pioneer spirit to life; American Indian powwows, art shows and markets connect us with the past; and mining heritage is celebrated with burro runs and gold panning. [COLORADO.com/Heritage](https://colorado.com/Heritage)

MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS No matter where you are traveling to in Colorado, there's bound to be an extraordinary museum nearby to expand your mind, your knowledge or your appreciation of art, history and science — or to give your kids a lesson they can experience rather than just read about. [COLORADO.com/Museums](https://colorado.com/Museums)

FALL, HARVEST & AGRICULTURE When harvest season nears, Colorado's farms and ranches swing open their gates for fall fun in the fields. Load up the whole family for learnin', pickin' and eatin'. And throughout the year, farmers' markets, tours, fiber and lavender festivals, cattle-dog trials and other events keep the fields full of fun. [COLORADO.com/HarvestFun](https://colorado.com/HarvestFun)

PRO SPORTS Population wise, Denver is the smallest city in the country with four major professional sports teams. That should tell you something about the way Coloradans feel about sports, but it doesn't stop there: From Grand Junction to Colorado Springs and Denver, from bike races to indoor lacrosse and from the big leagues to the minors, there's always an event happening. [COLORADO.com/ProSports](https://colorado.com/ProSports)

WINTER CARNIVALS & HOLIDAY LIGHTINGS We don't head inside when the snow starts falling — we celebrate with special events! Winter carnivals, ice-carving competitions, holiday markets and lighting ceremonies are some of the ways we live winter to the fullest. [COLORADO.com/WinterEvents](https://colorado.com/WinterEvents)

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: DENVER CHALK ART FESTIVAL; JONATHAN PHILLIPS; ULUR NIGHTS IN SNOWMASS; PUMPKIN PATCH NEAR PUEBLO; MILES/MAT INDEN; SNOWMASS BALLOON FESTIVAL; C2 PHOTOGRAPHY.

SCENIC & HISTORIC TRAINS

One of the best ways to get off the beaten track in Colorado is to explore it via standard- or narrow-gauge track. Colorado's numerous scenic trains transport visitors through landscapes that are inaccessible by car and back to the age of steam, when rails were the only motorized ride.

ROYAL GORGE ROUTE RAILROAD

Take this classic train for a one-of-a-kind view through the 10-mile-long Royal Gorge in Cañon City as you chug along beside the Arkansas River and enjoy outstanding views from the refurbished Vista Dome rail cars.

Bonus Tracks: Enjoy a gourmet Dinner Train with options like Colorado-raised slow-roasted prime rib, Red Bird Farms Pollo Marsala and a well-curated wine list.

RIO GRANDE SCENIC RAILROAD

The Rio Grande Scenic Railroad in Alamosa winds through beautiful south-central Colorado on the highest standard-gauge tracks in the United States.

Bonus Tracks: A first-class ticket gets you a spot in retro dome cars with seating on two levels under a glass, sunlit dome ideal for taking in all the scenery when traveling over La Veta Pass.

CRIPPLE CREEK & VICTOR NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD

This short, 45-minute train ride is perfect for children of all ages. Ride the century-old steam train south from Cripple Creek to an abandoned mining camp and past mines and gorgeous scenery.

Bonus Tracks: The ride is fully narrated, with the conductor sharing wonderful facts about the history and scenery around Cripple Creek.

GEORGETOWN LOOP RAILROAD

This gorgeous railroad was one of Colorado's first tourist attractions when it debuted in 1884 with its state-of-the-art narrow-gauge tracks, an engineering marvel of the day.

Bonus Tracks: Passengers can elect to disembark to tour the historic Lebanon Silver Mine at roughly the halfway point on the trip.



DURANGO & SILVERTON NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD

This full-day trip takes travelers from Durango high up into the mountains to the old mining town of Silverton through miles and miles of pristine wilderness.

Bonus Tracks: Special Blues Trains, Wine & Rails, Brew Trains and Dinosaur Trains add a special flair to your ride throughout the warmer months.

LEADVILLE, COLORADO & SOUTHERN RAILROAD

This hairpin-turn-filled tour takes passengers 1,000 feet above the headwaters of the Arkansas River for unequalled views of the Continental Divide's jagged peaks.

Bonus Tracks: Photography and nature buffs will adore the colorful wildflower and fall-foliage trains.

CUMBRES & TOLTEC SCENIC RAILROAD

This recently named National Historic Landmark takes

passengers from Antonito, Colorado, to Chama, New Mexico, with a stop for a hot lunch atop a mountain in Osier.

Bonus Tracks: The C&T runs several special trains throughout the year, including sunlight dinner runs and fall-color trips on the Galloping Goose.

TRAINS THAT TRAVEL THROUGH COLORADO

If you have plans to motor west, try taking Amtrak's California Zephyr train from Denver all the way through the Rockies, across the Continental Divide and out to Grand Junction (the full route goes from Chicago to San Francisco). Or, snag a shorter trip on the Southwest Chief from Lamar to La Junta or Trinidad; or use these towns as a scenic stopover on your way west to Los Angeles or east to Chicago.

RAILROAD MUSEUMS

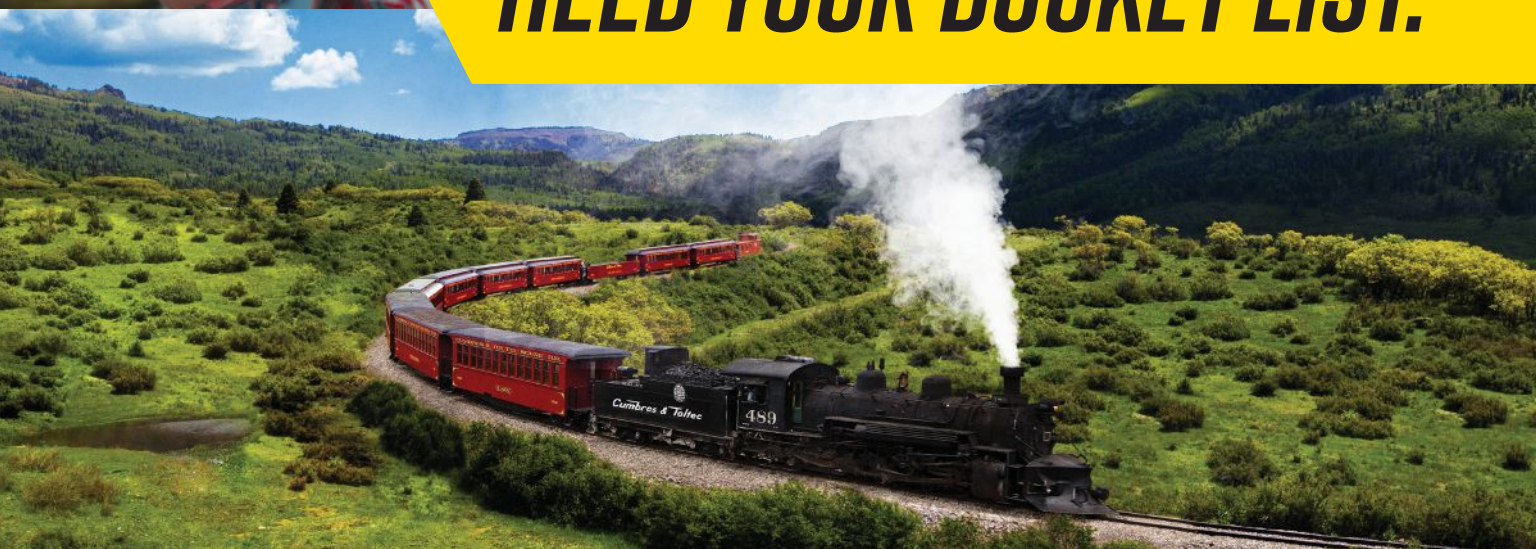
Colorado's train museums give you the inside track about how the railroads shaped the state. Check them out:

- ▶ Colorado Railroad Museum in Golden
- ▶ Forney Museum of Transportation in Denver
- ▶ Gunnison Pioneer & Train Museum
- ▶ Colorado Model Railroad Museum in Greeley
- ▶ Pueblo Railway Museum
- ▶ Ridgway Railroad Museum
- ▶ Comanche Crossing Museum in Strasburg
- ▶ Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad Museum
- ▶ Moffat Road Railroad Museum in Granby
- ▶ Limon Heritage Museum & Railroad Park

FROM TOP: DURANGO & SILVERTON NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD; MATTHEW HAHNIEL; ROYAL GORGE ROUTE RAILROAD; GEORGETOWN LOOP RAILROAD; JIM DAVID PHOTOGRAPHY.



HEED YOUR BUCKET LIST.



Steal away a day on the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad. It's a 64-mile journey that zig zags through steep mountain canyons, the high desert, and lush meadows between Antonito, Colorado and Chama, New Mexico. Begin your adventure in either town. The trip includes a hearty lunch buffet and luxury motor coach shuttle back to your car. You'll witness scenery and historic machinery, unlike any other you've ever seen.

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Cumbres & Toltec
AMERICA'S MOST HISTORIC SCENIC RAILROAD



ADVENTURE PARKS Whimsical worlds of gravity-defying ziplines, speedy alpine slides and other kid-loving activities await at Colorado adventure parks. Check out: **Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park** in Glenwood Springs, Vail and Breckenridge's **Epic Discovery**, **Soaring Tree Top Adventures** in Durango in Colorado Springs, **Epic Sky Trek** in Castle Rock, **Top of the Rockies Zip Line** in Leadville and **AVA Cliffside Zipline Tours** in Idaho Springs. COLORADO.com/AdventureParks

MUSEUMS See colossal skeletons at the **Denver Museum of Nature & Science** or the **Ice Age Discovery Center** in Snowmass; learn about food, foraging and farms at the **Fort Collins Museum of Discovery**; become a maker in the Google Garage at the new **Museum of Boulder**; or clamber aboard an antique fire truck at **Trinidad's Old Firehouse No. 1 Children's Museum**; explore tiny worlds at the **Greeley Model Railroad Museum**. COLORADO.com/Museums

FAMILY MATTERS

Get Your Merry Clan to These Kid-Centric Spots

Attractions and activities to please every member — from tots to teens — are available around every corner in Colorado.

WINTER DIVERSIONS

From tubing and ice-skating to horse-drawn sleigh rides and kid-centered ski and snowboard programs, giggle-inducing winter activities can be found on and off the slopes in Colorado. Slide down a snowy hill on a bouncy tube, then ride the lift to the top to do it again and again in **Fraser, Frisco, Keystone, Vail, Copper Mountain, Snowmass, Winter Park, Durango, Steamboat, Telluride** and **Beaver Creek**; or skate amid gorgeous winter landscapes at ice rinks all over the state. See page 23 for more ideas. COLORADO.com/WinterRecreation

AMUSEMENT PARKS

Theme parks satisfy all ages with towering waterslides and high-speed coasters for thrill-seekers and tamer rides for those who fancy moving at a slower pace. Plunge more than 200 feet at **Water World** and **Eltch Gardens Theme & Water Park** in Denver, conquer the canyon at the **Royal Gorge Bridge & Park** in Cañon City, shake out your inner monkey at **Bananas Fun Park** in Grand Junction or revel in the Christmas spirit all year at **North Pole Home of Santa's Workshop** in Colorado Springs. COLORADO.com/AmusementParks

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM: LEFT: KEYSTONE; VAIL RESORTS/DANIEL MILICHEV; DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE; ELTCH GARDENS THEME & WATER PARK; GLENWOOD CAVERNS ADVENTURE PARK.



HISTORIC ATTRACTIONS

Well-preserved landmarks and captivating museums offer a peek into the past, when American Indians, pioneers and fortune-seekers made our state what it is today. Chip at a real gold vein and gain an understanding of the arduous work undertaken by miners at **Mollie Kathleen Gold Mine** in Cripple Creek or **Old Hundred Gold Mine** in Silverton; ride the rails of the **Leadville, Colorado & Southern Railroad** or **Georgetown Loop**; or explore the living culture of the Ute Indians at the **Ute Indian Museum** in Montrose.

COLORADO.com/History



 @ColoradoGatorFarm

ZOOS & ANIMAL SANCTUARIES

Bears, gators and butterflies are a few of the critters that inhabit our zoos, aquariums and sanctuaries. Spy on black bears and mountain lions at the **Wild Animal Sanctuary** west of Denver; feed one of the world's largest giraffe herds at **Cheyenne Mountain Zoo** in Colorado Springs; walk through a rainforest amid a fluttering of wings at **The Butterfly Pavilion** in Westminster or toss fish to the residents of the **Colorado Gators Reptile Park** in Mosca. COLORADO.com/Zoos

FAMILY ACTIVITIES BACKPACKS

Twenty-nine Colorado State Parks have Family Activity Backpacks available for check out at the park visitor centers. With bug boxes, magnifiers, guide books, binoculars and more, the packs help explorers of any age discover how fun the journey through the great outdoors can be. COLORADO.com/CSPBackpacks



It's nearly impossible to find a spot in Colorado that doesn't have "something for everyone," so these base camps are just the beginning of what could become your most memorable whole-family getaway of all time.

SUMMER:

1 ESTES PARK

At the gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park, set aside time for hiking, picnicking, wildlife watching and driving scenic Trail Ridge Road. In town, your entire clan will love strolling Elkhorn Avenue's shops and sweet treats.

THINGS TO DO:

Rocky Mountain National Park, Open Air Adventure Park, downtown Estes, Lake Estes, Trout Haven Fishing Pond, Green Jeep Tours, Rocky Mountain Conservancy

FAMILY-FRIENDLY EATS:

Rock Inn Mountain Tavern

DATE-NIGHT ESCAPE:

Twin Owls Steakhouse

2 GLENWOOD SPRINGS

Glenwood Hot Springs has been a favorite family destination since 1888, but new attractions, trails catering to all abilities, and whole-family-friendly activities seem to be added every year — one of the reasons the town is a hot spot for tots, teens and everyone above.

THINGS TO DO:

Glenwood and Iron Mountain Hot Springs,

WHOLE-FAMILY TRAVEL: BRING EVERYONE ALONG

More and more people are traveling in packs these days: As older generations are living longer, healthier lives, families are rediscovering the special connections that form while vacationing together. And parents enjoy having more grown-ups around to wrangle little ones.

Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park, Glenwood Springs Golf Club, Glenwood Canyon Recreation Trail, Frontier Historical Society

FAMILY-FRIENDLY EATS:

Slope & Hatch

DATE-NIGHT ESCAPE:

Co. Ranch House

3 COLORADO SPRINGS

The city's easily accessed outdoors will call to your group right away, many with trail options suitable for strollers to wheelchairs. There are also literally dozens of attractions that call to each family members' interests.

THINGS TO DO:

Garden of the Gods, Pikes Peak, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame, Cave of the Winds, Broadmoor Seven Falls, Manitou Cliff Dwellings, Space Foundation Discovery Center

FAMILY-FRIENDLY EATS:

Edelweiss Restaurant, Airplane Restaurant

DATE-NIGHT ESCAPE:

Shuga's



4 DURANGO

From trains to ziplines, camping and alpine slides, summer in Durango is filled to the brim with activities that can be ratcheted up or down, depending on the level of action your group seeks.

THINGS TO DO:

Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, Mesa Verde National Park, Powerhouse Science Center, Purgatory Resort, raft trips that run the gamut from floating to flying

FAMILY-FRIENDLY EATS:

Steamworks Brewing Company, Fired Up Pizzeria

DATE-NIGHT ESCAPE:

Seasons

WINTER:

5 GOLDEN

Bring your cowboy boots — the crew will love stepping back into the Old West in Golden.

Interactive elements and places to get active and shake off the road-trip cobwebs abound.

THINGS TO DO:

Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave, Lookout Mountain Nature Center & Preserve, Dinosaur Ridge, Colorado Railroad Museum, climbing the steps or exploring the trails at Red Rocks Park & Amphitheatre

FAMILY-FRIENDLY EATS:

Sherpa House Restaurant & Cultural Center

DATE-NIGHT ESCAPE:

The Fort

6 BRECKENRIDGE

Cool mountain breezes and long, sun-drenched afternoons make it easy to seek out the excitement in Breck's winters.

THINGS TO DO:

Breckenridge Ski Resort, Mountain Top Children's Museum, Barney Ford House Museum, Escape Room Breckenridge



FAMILY-FRIENDLY EATS:

Downstairs at Eric's

DATE-NIGHT ESCAPE:

Relish

7 SALIDA

Salida is one of those easy-going Colorado towns where you feel your pulse slow down the minute you roll in, and you find yourself joining in on the laid-back way of life. Monarch Mountain is a manageable size for families yet boasts plenty of excellent terrain.

THINGS TO DO:

Mount Princeton Hot Springs Resort or Salida Hot Springs Pool, Monarch Mountain, artsy shops of downtown

FAMILY-FRIENDLY EATS:

Boathouse Cantina

DATE-NIGHT ESCAPE:

The Biker & the Baker

8 WINTER PARK

Winter Park has plenty of ways to keep folks busy in the winter — with a good mix of inside and outside activities for those with varying tolerances for winter weather.

THINGS TO DO:

Winter Park Resort skiing or tubing hill, sleigh and dog-sled rides at Snow Mountain Ranch, The Foundry Cinema & Bowl, snowshoeing on the Fraser River Trail, Cozens Ranch Museum

FAMILY-FRIENDLY EATS:

Hernando's Pizza Pub

DATE-NIGHT ESCAPE:

Idlewild Spirits Distillery



FROM TOP: THE BIKER & THE BAKER IN SALIDA, JENNY FOLMAN; POWERHOUSE SCIENCE CENTER IN DURANGO; SNOW MOUNTAIN RANCH IN GRANBY.

Thrilling Adventures!

BRAND NEW



SKY TREK ADVENTURE PARK



ZIPLINE TRIPS



RAFT TRIPS

**COMBINE TRIPS AND
SAVE UP TO \$25 ON PACKAGES!**

We're your one stop basecamp for FUN just 35 minutes from Denver!



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RaftingColorado.com or call 877-ZIP-RAFT

CITY ESCAPES

Urban Vacation Ideas

Find ways to experience a new city from the inside out. From urban amenities to major attractions and ease of transportation, these places make an ideal base for any Colorado vacation.



1 DENVER

SEE & DO: Denver Art Museum and History Colorado Center; Rockies MLB game at Coors Field; shopping around Larimer Square and Cherry Creek North

GET AROUND: Commuter train from Denver International Airport to Union Station; RTD light rail and bus; free 16th Street MallRide or MetroRide

GRAB A BITE:

The Denver Central Market

MORE: See page 92.

2 AURORA

SEE & DO: Numerous public golf courses; Stanley Marketplace's restaurants and shops; Aurora Symphony Orchestra performances

GET AROUND:

Short trip by car or commuter rail from Denver International Airport; RTD bus and light rail

GRAB A BITE:

Tastes from around the world at various ethnic eateries, like Seoul Korean BBQ

MORE: See page 98.



3 LAKEWOOD

SEE & DO: 40 West, a Colorado Certified Creative Arts District; dining and shopping destination Belmar; nearby Red Rocks Park & Amphitheatre

GET AROUND:

Light rail W Line

GRAB A BITE: Contemporary American cuisine at 240 Union

MORE: See page 98.

4 COLORADO SPRINGS

SEE & DO: Pikes Peak and Garden of the Gods; U.S. Olympic Training Center tour; handcrafted libations at The Principal's Office

GET AROUND:

Colorado Springs Airport; Bustang's South Line; Mountain Metro Transit

GRAB A BITE:

Colorado smoked trout at Four by Brother Luck of "Top Chef" fame

MORE: See page 102.



5 FORT COLLINS

SEE & DO: Charming Old Town Historic District; top breweries like New Belgium; Horsetooth Reservoir for stand-up paddleboarding

GET AROUND:

Transfort network; FLEX regional bus; rentable rides through Fort Collins Bike Share

GRAB A BITE:

MainLine Ale House's tavern fare and Colorado-crafted brews

MORE: See page 152.

6 PUEBLO

SEE & DO: Historic Arkansas Riverwalk for boat rides and summer movie nights; award-winning Buell Children's Museum; navigate the Creative Corridor

GET AROUND:

Pueblo Transit buses

GRAB A BITE:

Famous Pueblo green-chile patties at Bingo Burger

MORE: See page 156.

7 LOVELAND

SEE & DO: Benson Sculpture Garden; shopping the Outlets at Loveland or antique stores downtown; Rialto Theater for a night out

GET AROUND:

FLEX regional bus; COLT's 115-plus bus stops

GRAB A BITE:

Gourmet sweet treats from Starlight Dessert Bar & Bakery

MORE: See page 152.

8 GREELEY

SEE & DO: Weekly Friday Fests all summer; mini-train cars at the Colorado Model Railroad Museum; Greeley Ice Haus public skating sessions

GET AROUND:

Greeley-Evans Transit buses

GRAB A BITE:

Namesake items at Red's Dogs & Donuts

MORE: See page 152.

9 GRAND JUNCTION

SEE & DO:

Weekly summertime farmers' market; natural wonders of Colorado National Monument and the Grand Mesa; wine tasting

GET AROUND:

Grand Junction Regional Airport; Grand Valley Transit bus routes

GRAB A BITE:

Alfresco dining on Bin 707 Foodbar's patio

MORE: See page 158.



10 LONGMONT

SEE & DO:

Longmont Museum summer film series; Tower of Compassion within Kanemoto Park; Brewhop Trolley

GET AROUND:

RTD local and regional buses

GRAB A BITE:

Georgia Boys BBQ Company's Southern-style staples; American bistro Sugarbeet

MORE: See page 186.

SEE MORE AT COLORADO.COM/URBAN.

FROM TOP: IVYWILD SCHOOL IN COLORADO SPRINGS; THE DENVER CENTRAL MARKET; GRAND JUNCTION FARMERS MARKET; MILES/DENSE CHAMBERS; BINGO BURGER IN PUEBLO; STANLEY MARKETPLACE IN AURORA. JONATHAN PHILLIPS

Photo Credit: Jason Valley

Photo Credit: Shant O'Hara

Photo Credit: Paul Marcotte

Photo Credit: Kristen Boyer



CRAZY GOOD LOCATION

With stunning views of Longs Peak, Longmont is the central hub for your next Colorado vacation. Popular attractions, local restaurants, outdoor adventures and exciting events in and around the city make Longmont a destination all year round!



512 4th Avenue, Suite 103, Longmont, Colorado 80501 • (303) 776.9011 • VisitLongmont.org



HIT THE JACKPOT

Eat, Play, Stay & Explore Beyond the Casino Doors

In 1859, prospector John H. Gregory panned nearly \$1,000 of gold dust from a gulch 40 miles west of Denver in what became known as "The Richest Square Mile on Earth." Indeed, the hills surrounding the towns of Central City and Black Hawk yielded tons of the precious metal, and fortune-seekers descended on the region.

A century and a half later, visitors still venture here looking for "gold" — this time from casinos. Colorado sports several gaming venues, ranging from enticing resorts with something for everyone (and lots of eat, play, stay options) to intimate gaming parlors.

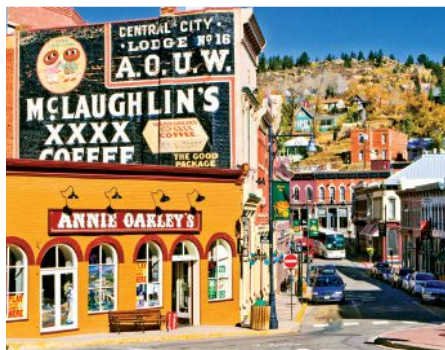
Central City and Black Hawk visitors tempt Lady Luck at limited-stakes blackjack, craps, roulette and poker tables as well as slot and video machines in 22 casinos, and 500 new hotel rooms are coming online this year to cater to those who want to play. Farther south, **Cripple Creek**, another mining-turned-gambling

town, is tucked in the mountains an hour from Colorado Springs with nine casinos. In all three towns, all variety of casinos are within convenient walking distance, so you can try out different venues with ease.

The state's casinos recently increased betting limits to \$100, added new games and began operating 24 hours a day. Each destination offers fine dining, luxurious hotels, historic mine tours and, most importantly, authentic slices of history. Casino revenue has helped preserve and restore the towns' 19th-century charms and more than 600 other historic properties across Colorado.

Today, you can stroll downtown Black Hawk past 100-year-old storefronts, catch a performance at the 140-year-old Central City Opera House or visit the Cripple Creek Heritage Center.

COLORADO.com/Casinos



FOUR CORNERS REGION

Both of Colorado's American Indian gaming areas are found near the history-rich Four Corners region in the southwestern part of the state.

Table games, slots, year-round events and other offerings lure the lucky to the **Sky Ute Casino Resort** in Ignacio and the **Ute Mountain Casino, Hotel & Resort** in Towaoc, while nearby heritage attractions such as Mesa Verde National Park, Chimney Rock National Monument, the Trail of the Ancients Scenic & Historic Byway and Canyons of the Ancients National Monument beckon gamers on a break.

It's easy to stay here awhile; Sky Ute Casino Resort has a hotel on site, as well as four dining options, big-name acts and entertainment, including boxing and mixed martial arts.

Ute Mountain also has a full vacation experience, with a number of events and acts held year-round. The on-grounds hotel, pottery factory, RV sites and the full-service restaurant make it a destination unto itself.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: CRIPPLE CREEK; EFRANIN M. PADRO; CENTRAL CITY OPERA HOUSE; MILES/ANDREA BUROLLA; SKY UTE CASINO RESORT IN IGNACIO; CENTRAL CITY; MILES/ANDREA BUROLLA; CASINO; MILES/MATT INDEN; HIDEE GOLD MINE IN CENTRAL CITY; MILES/ANDREA BUROLLA;



THE INCREDIBLE BACKSIDE OF PIKES PEAK

Experience the gritty grandeur of an authentic, restored, Old West mining town nestled on the backside of Pikes Peak, full of thrilling casinos, museums and attractions where treasures still await. The “World’s Greatest Gold Camp” lives on in Cripple Creek, steeped in history, where prospectors, gamblers and our resident donkeys still find their happy place far away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.



Get Out and Play More.

visitoripplecreek.com



CREATING THE SCENE IN 2019

Open up to the all new Monarch Casino Resort Spa. We are changing Black Hawk forever with the skyline of our 500-room hotel, unrivaled dining options and an expanded gaming floor with more room to win. The metamorphosis will be complete in mid-2019. Come see what happens when your fun takes flight.



MONARCH
CASINO RESORT SPA • BLACK HAWK

monarchblackhawk.com

17 COOL COLORADO PLACES TO STAY

From campsites to luxury resorts, Colorado has plenty of options for every type of getaway.

1 TUMBLING RIVER RANCH, GRANT

Welcoming guests for more than 70 years, the host family at this alpine getaway makes you feel like one of their own with horseback-riding, kids programs, fly fishing, campfire songs and home-cooked meals with options for even the pickiest cowpokes.

2 HOTEL TALISA, VAIL

Ski-town luxury at its finest in any season, this new hotel is nestled between a ski lift and gurgling Gore Creek. Make things easy with the ski concierge, rest recreation-weary muscles in the soaking tubs, munch fireside s'mores and do yoga in the garden.

3 TRINIDAD LAKE STATE PARK, TRINIDAD

Live the lake life with panoramic mountain views and make-life-easy amenities like showers and laundry facilities. While away the days fishing, hiking and soaking up the views.

4 ARMSTRONG HOTEL, FORT COLLINS

Situated amid other historic buildings in Old Town, the Armstrong's three floors made it the tallest building in town in 1923. Restored in 2004, the new owners recreated original storefronts and the 1940s-era neon sign from historic photographs.

5 FIRESIDE INN CABINS, PAGOSA SPRINGS

Beautifully accommodating year-round, this San Juan River-side location really sings in the summer. Cabins with Western flare welcome you back from adventures, with front porches and barbecue grills just steps from private, on-site catch-and-release fishing.

6 THE BROSS HOTEL BED & BREAKFAST, PAONIA

This 112-year-old confection will first charm you with the shady, rocking-chair-lined front porch. But it's breakfast, accompanied by fruit locally grown by the owners, that will steal your heart.

7 COLORADO CHAUTAUQUA, BOULDER

Delightful cottages await visitors at this National Historic Landmark inches from hiking trails, Flatirons views and the famed Dining Hall. Delicious perk: Have your groceries delivered so you never have to leave your front porch.

8 THE ART, DENVER

Your remedy for bland hotel decor, the lobby serves as a high-end gallery, with works by the likes of Andy Warhol and Claes Oldenburg. It's a refreshing approach, apropos of a hotel in the Golden Triangle district, with the Denver Art Museum and Clyfford Still Museum as neighbors.

9 THE DISTILLERY INN, CARBONDALE

Sample Marble Distilling Co.'s crisp vodka and the divine Gingercello liqueur until you feel like retiring to the distillery's own five-bedroom inn. Cruiser bikes, a rooftop deck and in-room martini bar are a few fringe benefits.

10 GATEWAY CANYONS RESORT & SPA, GATEWAY

This escape marries indulgence with adventure: AT'ing up red-rock peaks, a desert-racing experience, horseback riding, kayaking, fly-fishing and more with on-site guides. Afterward, unwind in your private hot tub and then enjoy a five-star meal under a tapestry of stars.



11 SURF CHATEAU, BUENA VISTA

You're unlikely to ride a massive wave at this charming hideaway, but it does sit along the banks of the Arkansas River, perfect for kayakers, SUPers, rafters and more. A bright, beachy vibe and "spa-worthy linens" make for a memorable getaway.

12 MEEKER HOTEL, MEEKER

Built in 1896 on Main Street blocks from where a trout-filled White River runs through the quiet ranching town, the feel of the Old West is strong here, as we're sure past guest Teddy Roosevelt would have attested.

13 GREAT WOLF LODGE, COLORADO SPRINGS

For families, you can't beat this all-in-one vacation spot with 84-degree weather year-round in its water park and activities for everyone from tots to teens.

14 THE BIVVI HOSTEL, BRECKENRIDGE

Bunk with like-minded adventurers in European style. Perks include a healthy breakfast, happy hour in the great room, ski or bike equipment storage and access to the Breck Free Ride bus route.

15 TENNESSEE PASS SLEEP YURTS, LEADVILLE

Get off the grid in a cozy yurt beside a woodstove with up to six travel pals. The best part is getting there: Depending on the season, you can make the stunning 1-ish-mile trek via hike or snowshoe/cross-country ski. Book dinner at the nearby cookhouse so that wine and fine dining await.



13

16

16 WINE COUNTRY INN, PALISADE

Snuggled amid the tidy rows of a high-country vineyard, this charmer provides dramatic sunsets from rocking chairs on the front porch, an afternoon wine reception and dozens of wineries within cycling distance.

17 LOTTIS CREEK CAMPGROUND, ALMONT

Packed in among the lodgepole pines of the Taylor River Canyon, this tranquil spot near Taylor Park Reservoir is super handy for those who want to boat, fish and hike and then explore Crested Butte, Gunnison, Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and more.



WANT MORE? CHECK OUT COLORADO.COM/LODGING & BOOK LODGING AT RECREATION.GOV & CPW.STATE.CO.US.

FROM TOP: GATEWAY CANYONS RESORT & SPA; THE GREAT WOLF LODGE IN COLORADO SPRINGS; WINE COUNTRY INN IN PALISADE.



FALL COLOR

Drives & Rides That Bring Autumn Joy



BIKE THE BYWAYS

Colorado's official Scenic and Historic Byways meander through breathtaking sceneries and, during autumn, the sights are absolutely magical. Byways are known for driving, but who's to stop foliage-hungry cyclists from taking on a challenge with such glorious rewards?

CHECK OUT THESE COLOR-SOAKED BYWAYS (AND SEE PAGE 70 FOR MORE):

1

WEST ELK LOOP: Near Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park in Montrose, this byway winds around the West Elk Mountains and two mountain towns famous for their biking cultures: Gunnison and Crested Butte.

2

TOP OF THE ROCKIES: Well over 9,000 feet, this elevated ride crosses the Continental Divide and passes through Copper Mountain, Leadville and Aspen.

3

PEAK TO PEAK: The pot of gold at the end of this byway near Rocky Mountain National Park provides a gorgeous encore of vibrant fall foliage.

DALLAS DIVIDE: Head west from Ridgway on CO 62 over the Dallas Divide to Telluride. Lining the route are unimpeded views of the Sneffels Range, an apron of aspens at its feet.

KEBLER PASS: Head west out of Crested Butte on County Road 12. The ruddy colors of the Ruby Range make for a radiant contrast with the golden aspens below.

INDEPENDENCE PASS: A winding road with groves upon groves of aspen trees that runs between Aspen and Twin Lakes. The pass is ringed by 13,000-foot peaks. There are plenty of Instagram-worthy pull-offs, nearby hikes and even an old ghost town to visit along the way

GRAND JUNCTION TO GRAND MESA: Head east on I-70 along the Colorado River, where cottonwoods phase into yellow. At CO 65, go east and then south to the Grand Mesa, where glowing aspens stretch forever.

COTTONWOOD PASS: Head down Cottonwood Pass Road west of Buena Vista. You'll enter an aspen-laden valley and see the fickleness of fall — one slope all gold, another patch still a shade of summer green.

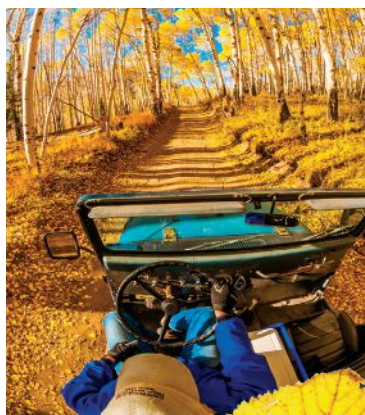
CO 17: From Antonito, drive up the serene Conejos River Valley, where pinyon give way to aspen. Some of the oldest and tallest aspens in the state can be seen, photographed and enjoyed near La Manga Pass.

GUANELLA PASS: Take this route south out of Georgetown. Turn right on US 285 to the top of Kenosha Pass, where the aspen thrive on the rim of gentle slopes that encircle South Park.

POUDRE CANYON: Take CO 14 west of Fort Collins to the top of Cameron Pass, a low forested saddle between the Rawah Wilderness and Rocky Mountain National Park. Views stretch down into the North Park basin near Walden.

FRONTIER PATHWAYS: Head west out of Pueblo on CO 96. The route climbs into the Wet Mountain Valley, passing aspens blazing with color along the way.

HIGHWAY 66 LEGENDS: The route from La Veta to Trinidad on CO 12 begs to be photographed as it wraps around the Spanish Peaks amid tracts of pine, scrub oak and aspen.



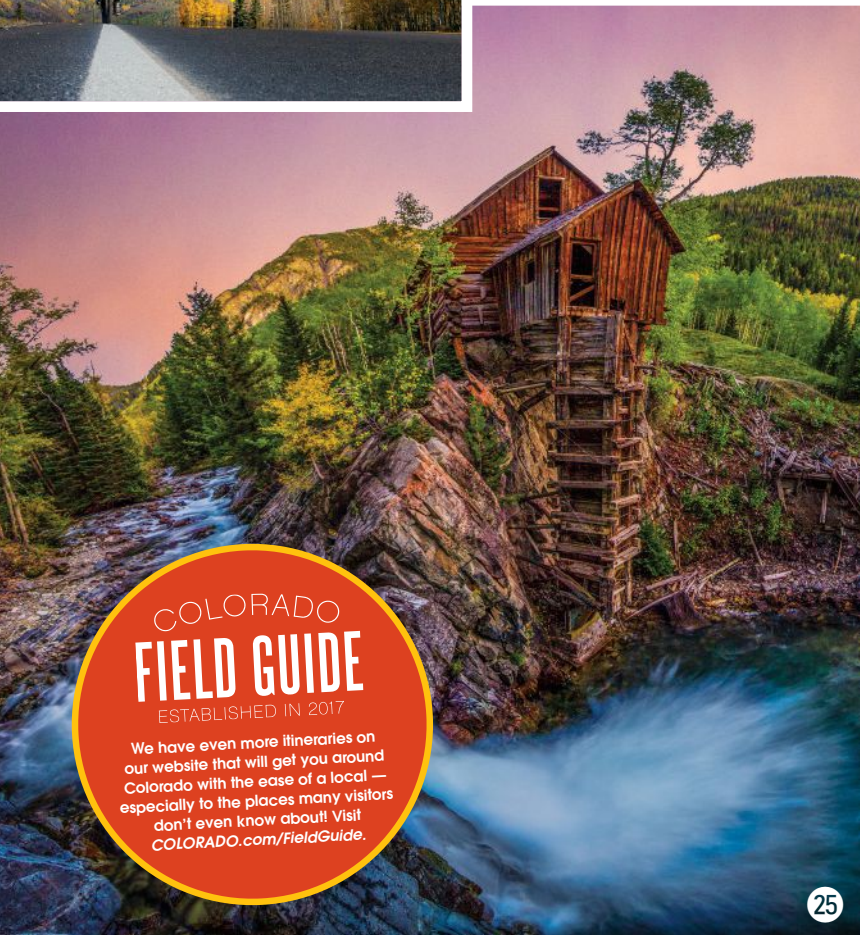
WANT MORE? COLORADO.COM/FALLSEASON

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MILLION DOLLAR HIGHWAY NEAR OURAY; MIKE BORLITA; STEAMBOAT SPRINGS; NOAH WETZEL; NEAR TELLURIDE; LISA SEAMAN; NEAR ASPEN; C2 PHOTOGRAPHY; LAST DOLLAR ROAD NEAR RIDGWAY; BLAINE HARRINGTON III.

SEE COLORADO

Scenic & Historic Byways Lead to Discovery

Our 26 byways connect the dots between historic sites and majestic scenery from red-rock canyons to the Rocky Mountains to sun-kissed prairie.



COLORADO
FIELD GUIDE
ESTABLISHED IN 2017

We have even more itineraries on our website that will get you around Colorado with the ease of a local — especially to the places many visitors don't even know about! Visit COLORADO.com/FieldGuide.

1 LARIAT LOOP

Drive one of the first routes developed to help Coloradans experience its mountain parks.

ROUTE: Connecting the towns of Golden, Morrison, Idledale, Kittredge and Evergreen

2 TOP OF THE ROCKIES

Cross the Continental Divide three times on this dramatic mountain route.

ROUTE: Connecting Leadville, Minturn, Twin Lakes and Copper Mountain

3 GOLD BELT TOUR

See canyons dotted with the petrified remains of life from 35 million years ago.

ROUTE: Between Florissant, Cripple Creek, Victor, Florence and Cañon City

4 SAN JUAN SKYWAY

Behold the multihued San Juans as you travel through silver-boom towns.

ROUTE: Connects Durango, Silverton, Ouray, Ridgway, Telluride and Cortez

5 TRAIL OF THE ANCIENTS

Witness the cliff dwellings and petroglyphs of the Ancestral Puebloans.

ROUTE: Connecting the Utah state line near Hovenweep National Monument and the Four Corners (where Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Utah meet at one point) through the city of Cortez

6 COLORADO RIVER HEADWATERS

Trace one of North America's mightiest rivers to the source.

ROUTE: Between Rocky Mountain National Park and State Bridge via Granby and Kremmling

7 DINOSAUR DIAMOND

Hunt for fossils and footprints made by dinosaurs and rock art left by Fremont Indians.

ROUTE: Grand Junction to Rangely over Douglas Pass, through Dinosaur into Utah.

8 TRAIL RIDGE ROAD

Make your way above treeline through Rocky Mountain National Park.

ROUTE: Within the park, between Grand Lake and Estes Park

9 GRAND MESA

Journey atop the world's largest flattop mountain for wide-open vistas and 300 lakes.

ROUTE: Between I-70 and Cedaredge

10 FRONTIER PATHWAYS

Glimpse relics of frontier life along a route that climbs ever upward.

ROUTE: Between the city of Pueblo and the towns of Westcliffe and Colorado City

11 SANTA FE TRAIL

Traverse the famed lifeline between Missouri and Santa Fe traced by 1880s fortune-seekers.

ROUTE: From the Kansas state line near Holly, CO, and the New Mexico state line at Raton Pass

12 ALPINE LOOP

Guide your 4WD over 1880s roads past wildflower meadows, old mines and ghost towns.

ROUTE: Connecting the towns of Lake City, Ouray and Silverton



WANT MORE? VISIT COLORADO.COM/SCENICBYWAYS TO SEE TRAVEL ITINERARIES FOR EACH BYWAY.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: SAN JUAN SKYWAY NEAR TELLURIDE, JEFF CRICCO; TRAIL RIDGE ROAD IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK, GLENN RANDALL; CRYSTAL MILL NEAR MARBLE ON THE WEST ELK LOOP SCENIC BYWAY, JASON LEWANDOWSKI



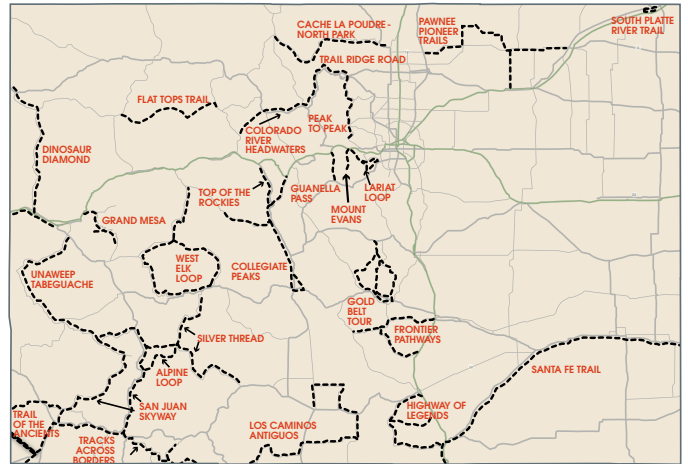
19



14



9



For a full map, turn to page 16A.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MOUNT EVANS, STEVE MOHLENKAMP; ST. ELMO GHOST TOWN NEAR SALIDA, ON THE COLLEGIATE PEAKS BYWAY, MILES/DENSE CHAMBERS; GRAND MESA, JASON J. HATFIELD.

13 CACHE LA POUFRE-NORTH PARK
Travel alongside one of America's few Wild and Scenic Rivers.

ROUTE: Between the towns of Fort Collins and Walden

14 COLLEGIATE PEAKS
Take this old stagecoach route through canyons carved by the Arkansas River.

ROUTE: Connecting the towns of Granite, Buena Vista, Salida and Poncha Springs

15 FLAT TOPS TRAIL
Immerse yourself in the land that inspired the government to preserve its wilderness areas.

ROUTE: Connects the towns of Yampa and Meeker

16 GUANELLA PASS
Tour the preserved mining town of Georgetown before rising in elevation to alpine wilderness.

ROUTE: Between Georgetown and Grant

17 HIGHWAY OF LEGENDS
Arc around the Spanish Peaks, where gold-seeking conquistadors once traveled.

ROUTE: Linking Trinidad, La Veta, Walsenburg and Aguilair

18 LOS CAMINOS ANTIGUOS
Drift through the San Luis Valley, the rugged Sangre de Cristos and the Great Sand Dunes.

ROUTE: Between Cumbres pass and the city of Alamosa via Antonito, San Luis and Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve

19 MOUNT EVANS
Travel the highest paved road in North America on a serpentine ride to the summit.

ROUTE: Extends from Idaho Springs to the summit of Mount Evans and over to Bergen Park

20 PAWNEE PIONEER TRAILS
Meander along what was once a thoroughfare for ambitious settlers, entrepreneurs and bison.

ROUTE: Between the towns of Sterling, Fort Morgan, Grover and Ault

21 PEAK TO PEAK
Get close with the Continental Divide, ghost towns, Victorian opulence and Longs Peak.

ROUTE: Between Estes Park and Black Hawk

22 SOUTH PLATTE RIVER TRAIL
Imagine the sounds of the galloping Pony Express horses and Overland Trail settlers.

ROUTE: Runs between Julesburg and Ovid

23 TRACKS ACROSS BORDERS
The newest byway follows the creation and development of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad, the nation's largest narrow-gauge railroad system.

ROUTE: Connecting Durango, Ignacio and Arboles south into New Mexico

24 UNAWEEP TABEGUACHE
Look for remnants of those who tried to tame wild lands with copper and uranium mines.

ROUTE: Between White-water and Placerville

VIRTUAL VERSION
Visit COLORADO.com/Guide for a virtual version of the byways guide and download the iPad version in the Apple App Store.

25 WEST ELK LOOP
Dip in and out of lush river valleys along the loop's colorful passes.

ROUTE: Connecting Carbondale, Hotchkiss, Gunnison and Crested Butte

26 SILVER THREAD
Roam wonderfully isolated swaths of the San Juans, stopping to sample historic towns.

ROUTE: Stretching from South Fork to Blue Mesa Reservoir and Lake City



SEE PAGE 17 FOR 7 CARE FOR COLORADO PRINCIPLES.



8 WAYS COLORADO WILL RUIN YOU FOR BIKING ANYWHERE ELSE



It takes ample amounts of black top, singletrack, sunshine and friendly people to create a bikers' paradise to match ours. Lively biking communities ensure that events abound spring through autumn and that road-biking and trail-riding options proliferate.



1

GREAT MAPPING

Connect with local visitor centers to get directions to hot biking spots. In **Durango**, for example, rides are rated from easy to difficult. **Telluride** has trail ratings, reviews and ascent/descent info. In **Steamboat Springs**, the maps can help you decide if you need fat tires or skinny. You can get directions to in-town singletrack in **Pagosa Springs**. In **Fruita** and **Crested Butte**, trail networks are so vast and varied that a map is a downright necessity. For much more download the COTREX (Colorado Trail Explorer) app.



2

BIKE THE BYWAYS

There's no better way to see purple mountain majesties or amber waves of grain than by collecting the 26 long-distance Bike the Byways rides. Start at **Denver's** South Platte River Trail and work your way toward the Lariat Loop near Denver before tackling mountain rides like Top of the Rockies in **Leadville** and finishing off with the bluffs and buttes of Dinosaur Diamond north of **Grand Junction**. Or, start the other way 'round at the mystifying Trail of the Ancients in **Cortez** and add rides to your list as you work your way north. dtapps.coloradodot.info/bike

3

E-BIKES

If you prefer scenery chewing to pedaling, electric bikes offer a little boost. Rent one at Colorado E Bike in **Grand Junction**, Rapid Creek Cycles in **Palisade**, Wild Bunch Consortium in **Rangely**, Cirque Cyclery in **Paonia**, JUMP bike share and Pedego in **Denver**, Rocky Mountain Adventure Rentals in **Vail**, **Boulder** Cycle Sport and many other spots.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: WEST ELK MOUNTAINS NEAR CRESTED BUTTE; NATHAN BILOW; NEAR GRAND JUNCTION; LISA SEAWAN; LEADVILLE TRAIL; TODD MIB; BIKE; HELMET; GETTYIMAGES; BIKE; ISTOCKPHOTO.



4

AMAZING EVENTS

Look for large events like **Ride the Rockies** (June), the **Leadville Trail 100 MTB** (Aug.), the **Colorado Classic** (Aug.), as well as dozens of smaller events. Longtime favorites like the **Elephant Rock Cycling Festival** (June), **Buena Vista Bike Fest** (June), **Steamboat Stinger** (Aug.), **Breck Epic** (Aug.), the **Fort Collins Tour de Fat** (Aug.) are joined by newer events like the **Grand Junction Grand Enduro** (June) **Pikes Peak Cycling Hill Climb Gran Fondo** (Aug.), **Copper Triangle Bicycle Tour** (Aug.), and September's **Pedal the Plains**, **West Elk Bicycle Classic** and **Estes Epic MTB**. COLORADO.com/Events

6

GO FOR THE GOLD!

Colorado is ranked sixth in the nation for bicycle-friendliness, according to the League of American Bicyclists. **Boulder** and **Fort Collins** get platinum rankings, while **Breckenridge**, **Durango**, **Crested Butte**, **Carbondale** and **Steamboat Springs** are gold. Silver status goes to **Aspen**, **Vail**, **Colorado Springs**, **Denver**, **Salida**, **Golden**, **Gunnison**, **Arvada**, **Summit County**, **Glenwood Springs** and **Longmont**, while **Greeley**, **Lakewood**, **Windsor**, **Silverthorne**, **Pueblo** and **Grand Junction** take the podium with bronze.

5

TOWN CONNECTS

Connection rides between cities are well-traveled by bikes and lightly traveled by traffic. For starters try the new **Boulder to Westminster** route, **Wolcott to Steamboat Springs**, **Las Animas to Lamar**, **Aspen to Glenwood Springs**, or **Fort Collins to Mishawaka Amphitheatre** (The Mish isn't a town, but when there's a concert on, it's close). The ultra-popular **Boulder-to-Golden** route was recently improved with a larger, paved shoulder for bikes. Try the **Grand Junction to Palisade** "fruit loop" route, which starts at the botanical gardens, then winds riders through the rows of peach trees and grapevines the area is famous for. For a more intense challenge: The San Juan Hut System connects **Telluride** or **Durango** to **Gateway** or **Paradox**.

7

BIKE SHARES

Is red a really, really popular color for bikes in **Denver** and **Boulder**? The cities' B-Cycle program has taken off in recent years, placing dozens of bike stations and hundreds of (mostly red) bikes on the roads year-round. Visitors and locals alike can "check out" a bike at a station, pay with a credit card and cruise from station to station. The **Fort Collins Bike Share** and **Colorado Springs PikeRide** run a similar program, and there are also programs in **Aurora**, **Avon**, **Longmont**, **Buena Vista** and **Aspen**.

8

WE MAKE 'EM OURSELVES

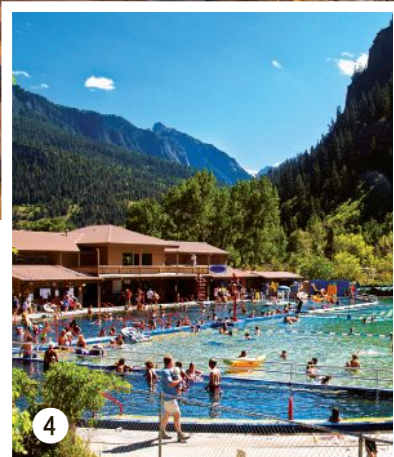
Handcrafted to get riders wheeling on all the terrain Colorado can serve up, more than 30 companies are keeping things local for Centennial State riders, from **Durango Bike Company** to **Alchemy Bicycle Company** in Denver, **Yeti Cycles** in Golden and many others.

WANT MORE? COLORADO.COM/CYCLING

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: GARDEN OF THE GODS IN COLORADO SPRINGS; BETH SCHNEIDER; MONARCH CREST NEAR SALIDA; LISA SEAMAN; ASPEN-SNOWMASS; FRUITA, VILLES/DENISE CHAMBERS; BOULDER B-CYCLE.

PICK-YOUR-PASSION ITINERARIES

Choose your adventure based on your interests — then head out to explore Colorado from more than one home base!



5

HISTORIC HOT SPRINGS LOOP

Hot springs are one of the state's most popular and unique experiences — relax amid spectacular scenery year-round. This road trip loops through quintessential mountain towns, world-class outdoor recreation (including seven nearby ski areas), scenic byways, 19 hot springs and much more.

7 DAYS RECOMMENDED, 740 MILES

STOPS:

- 1 STEAMBOAT SPRINGS** Geothermal springs that dot the landscape have long been revered by American Indians and pioneers. Today, two offer memorable afternoons for the family or leisurely post-hiking and skiing soaks.
- 2 BUENA VISTA & SALIDA** Six different springs, from pools and resort spas to creek soaking and hideaway cabins, are cradled along the Continental Divide in towns bustling with outdoor recreationists.
- 3 PAGOSA SPRINGS** These mineral-rich waters are the world's deepest geothermal

hot springs, discovered long ago by the Southern Utes. Three resorts cater to quests for rejuvenation, amid 3 million acres of wilderness.

4 OURAY & RIDGWAY After prowling the colorful San Juan Mountains, check out six public and private hot springs — all with mountain views and easy access to Ouray's charming downtown.

5 GLENWOOD SPRINGS Unique family attractions, Colorado River activities, the world's largest hot-springs pool, the state's newest hot-springs resort and vapor caves give this locale wide appeal.



FROM TOP: IRON MOUNTAIN HOT SPRINGS; OURAY HOT SPRINGS.

WANT MORE? COLORADO.COM/30HOTSPPRINGS

PEEK AT THE PAST: HISTORIC DISTRICTS

Colorado's historic districts are windows into some of the state's most enchanting, legend-filled towns. Uncover fantastic Colorado lore with these walkable historic districts in just a few of the state's heritage areas.



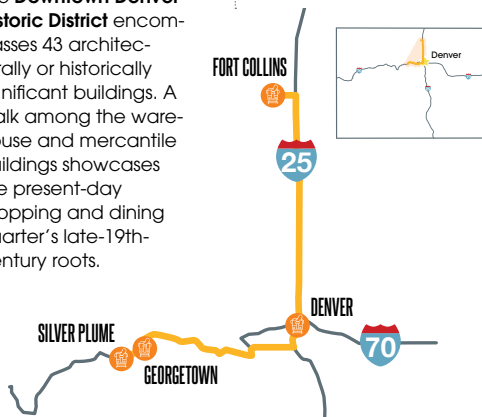
NORTH CENTRAL:

111 MILES

Laden with silver deposits, the **Georgetown** and **Silver Plume** area quickly became known for its ability to make people wealthy during Colorado's mining heyday. Today, the area is still rich with one thing: history. Stroll Victorian Georgetown's main street, hop on the Georgetown Loop Railroad and tour the preserved 1800s Hotel De Paris Museum and Hamill House Museum.

The **Downtown Denver Historic District** encompasses 43 architecturally or historically significant buildings. A walk among the warehouse and mercantile buildings showcases the present-day shopping and dining quarter's late-19th-century roots.

Ride a trolley to the lively **Fort Collins Historic District** — said to have inspired Disneyland's Main Street USA. Old Town's pedestrian mall is filled with independently owned bookstores, galleries, eateries and shops housed in 23 buildings that are part of national and local designated historic districts. You're also just a short drive from **Greeley** and **Loveland**, both of which have walkable downtown areas great for grabbing a beer and some lunch.



SOUTH CENTRAL:

151 MILES

The United States' highest incorporated city, **Leadville** sits at 10,152 feet and boasts a 70-square-block National Historic Landmark District and a 20-square-mile preserved mining district. Take the historic walking tour and see 50 buildings dating back to 1870.

Salida is a popular rafting and mountain-biking community sitting near the headwaters of the Arkansas River and is home to Colorado's largest historic district. Take a walking tour of downtown Salida and visit detailed brick Victorian buildings.

Crested Butte's entire downtown is a registered National Historic District. Wander Elk Avenue and stop into the brightly colored restored mining-era buildings turned boutique shops, settle in at a cozy pub to sample some of the state's finest brews, and visit the Crested Butte Mountain Heritage Museum.

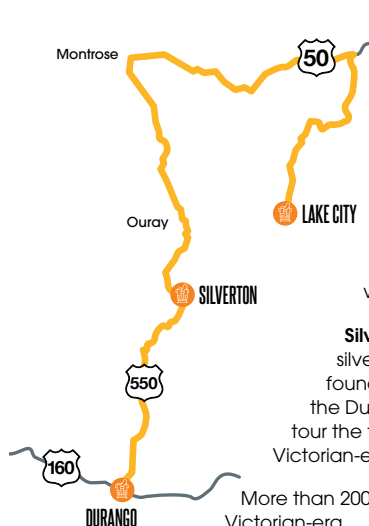


SOUTHWEST:

208 MILES

Durango's attractive mix of Old West and Southwest flourishes in the downtown registered National Historic District. Visit the district's restaurants, brewpubs, art galleries, shops and boutique hotels, including the landmark Strater Hotel, where Louis L'Amour wrote the Sackett series.

Silverton was in the heart of one of the richest silver-mining regions of Colorado when it was founded in 1871. Today, many travelers arrive via the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad to tour the town's mines and heritage center and gaze at Victorian-era delights like the Grand Imperial Hotel.



More than 200 Victorian-era houses and cabins, churches, shops and public buildings in **Lake City** give testament to the tiny town's role in settling the American West. Stop by the Lake City Museum to pick up a walking tour that will plunge you deep into this mountain town's history.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: GEORGETOWN, FLICKR/DCONVERTINI; SALIDA, FLICKR/CHARLES MÜHLE; LAKE CITY, CRAIG PALMER.

SEE MORE AT COLORADO.COM/HISTORICDISTRICTS.

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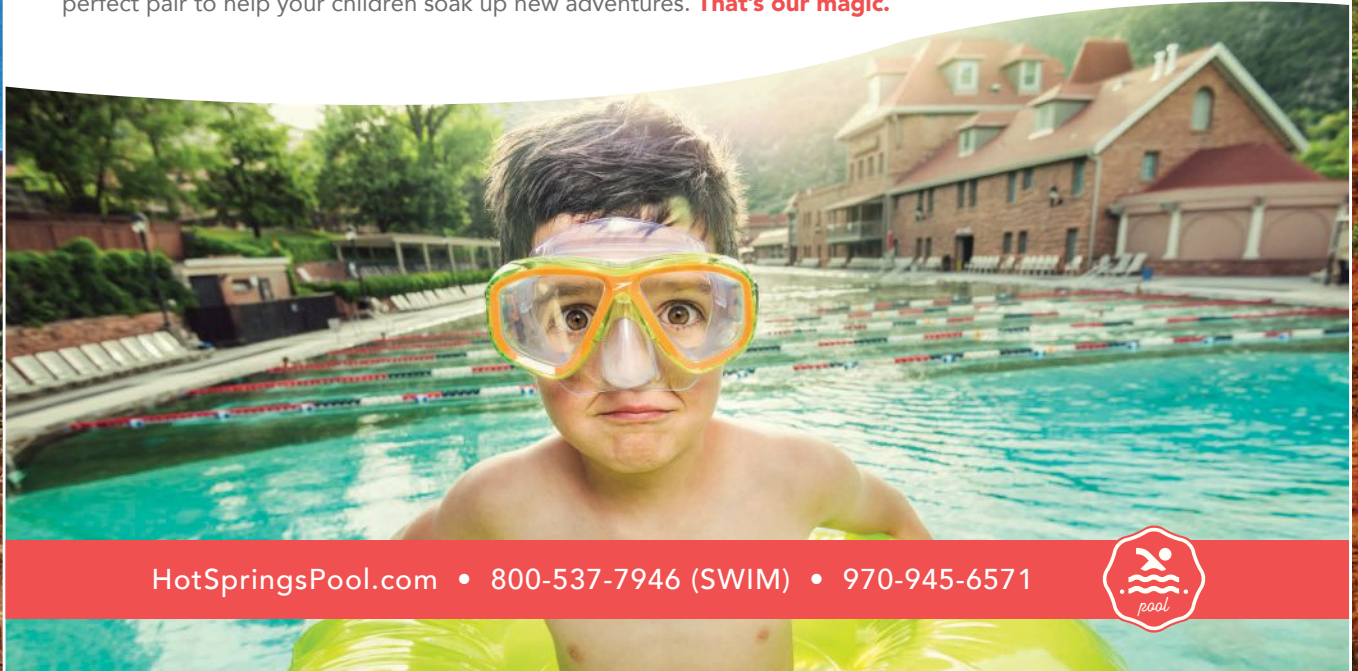
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LEGENDARY NATIONAL PARKS

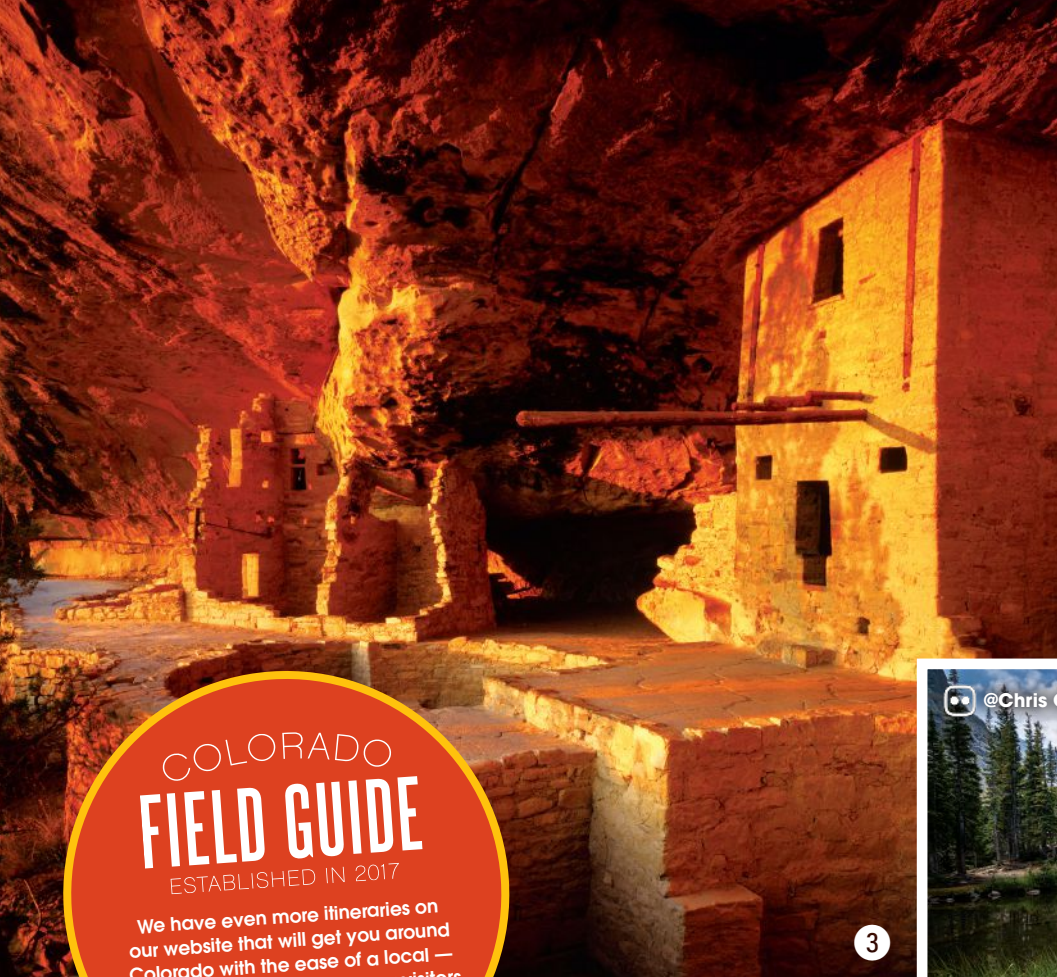
The thing about our four National Parks is how amazingly different they all are. You'll come upon landscapes in one that you won't find in any other park. So, really, you can't just see one — you've gotta collect them all!

**8 DAYS RECOMMENDED,
630 MILES**

COLORADO FIELD GUIDE

ESTABLISHED IN 2017

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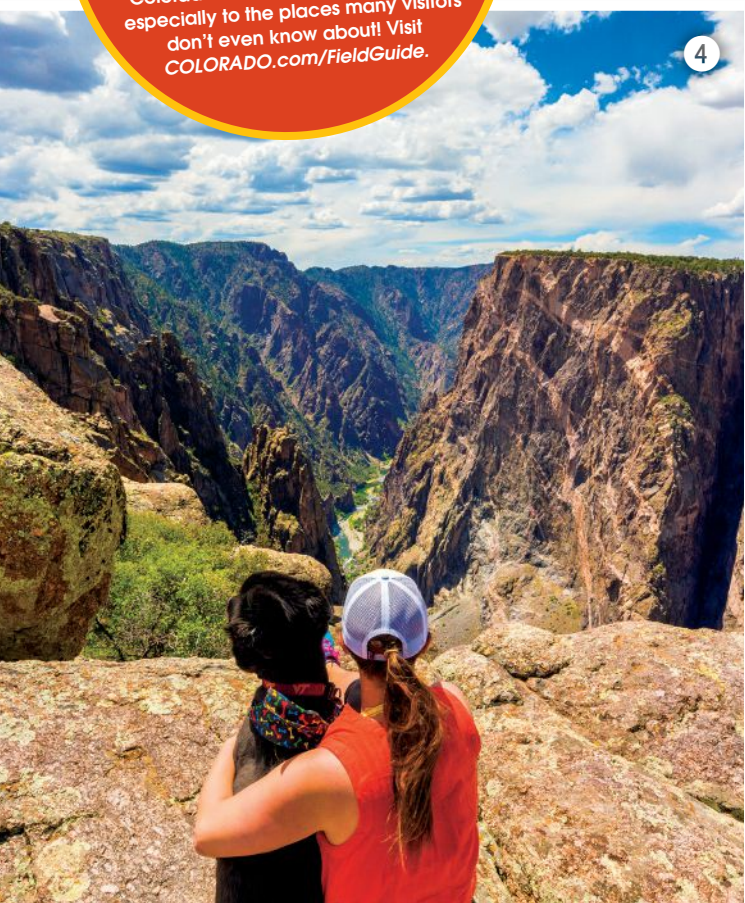


3



@Chris Collins

1



4



2

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: BALCONY HOUSE AT MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK. LAURENCE PARENT; ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK. FLICKR/CHRISCOLLINS; GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE. C2 PHOTOGRAPHY; BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON NATIONAL PARK. JASON LEWANDOWSKI



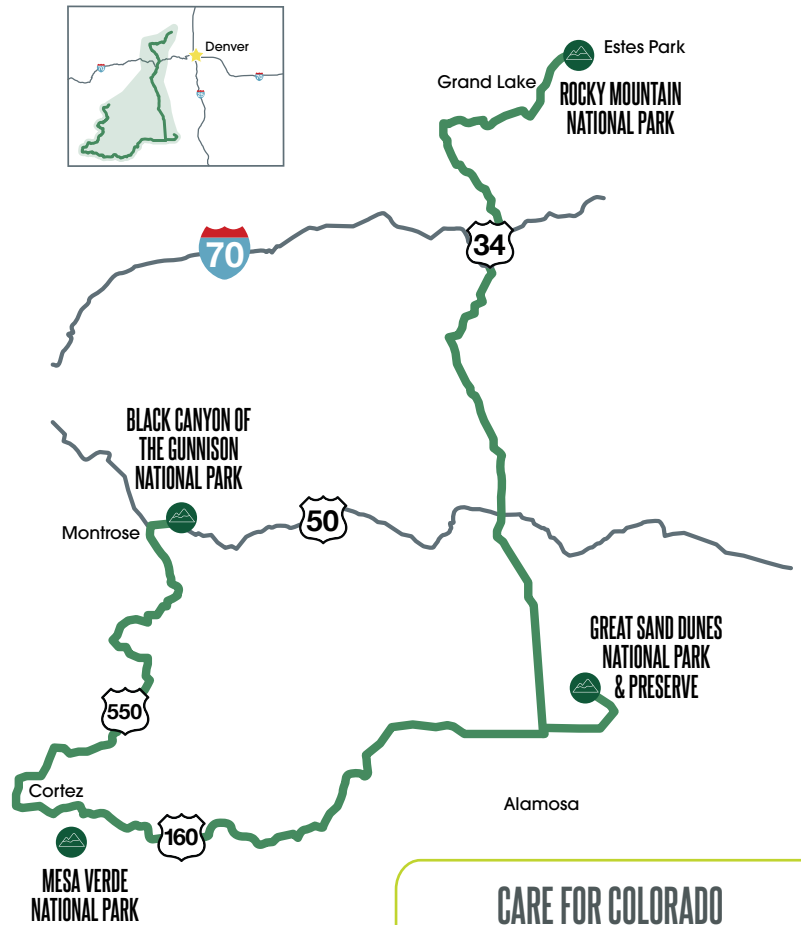
STOPS:

1 ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK The park welcomes millions of visitors each year and still manages to nurture cravings for solitude. Daybreak is the best time to explore the park's stunning see-through lakes, sweeping meadows and dew-spritzed forests. **Top picks:** Drive Trail Ridge Road (summer only), hike/snowshoe to Chasm Falls, peek in on the elk herd in Moraine Park

2 GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE Nestled in a spot where the Sangre de Cristo Mountains buckle inward, the highest mountains of sand in North America have been building and shifting for eons — the result of the San Luis Valley's unique wind patterns. **Top picks:** Sled or sandboard down the dunes, splash around in Medano Creek, hike a dune at dusk — when the light gives them a rich gold color and shadows snake across them

3 MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK Mesa Verde's Ancestral Puebloan cliff dwellings have been inspiring interest in this ancient culture for more than 100 years. Tucked securely into cliff walls, the adobe-constructed homes, buildings and kivas are a novel sight. **Top picks:** Cliff Palace tour, Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum, Mesa Top Loop Road drive

4 BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON NATIONAL PARK Sheer black walls plummet almost 2,700 feet on this 53-mile stretch of narrow gorge, revealing millions of years of natural history and so named because the walls are often shrouded in shadows, making them appear black. **Top picks:** Gold Medal fishing, Morrow Point boat tours, dark-sky stargazing ranger programs




LONGS PEAK AND GLACIER GORGE FROM BEAR LAKE IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK. GLENN RANDALL

WANT MORE? SEE PAGE 41 & VISIT [COLORADO.COM/NATIONALPARKS](https://colorado.com/nationalparks).

CARE FOR COLORADO

With a little preparation, a spirit of adventure, and a soft spot for nature and the past, you'll be on the trail to exploring Colorado like a local. See page 17 for more information.

OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD GEOLOGIC MARVELS

Colorado's diversity of landscapes and ecosystems tuck often-mysterious sights in nooks and crannies from corner to corner. Here are a few ways to gobble up a couple at a time on a Colorado road trip.

SOUTHWEST:

204 MILES

After taking in the views of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains from the top of Cuchara Pass, a journey west affords glances of the Spanish Peaks. Emanating from the peaks like spokes from a wheel, the **Great Dikes** are igneous intrusions (lava that filled the cracks and hardened before being exposed by erosion) that number more than 400, towering above your drive.

On your way west, Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve can't be overstated in terms of "marvel." If you're visiting in the summer, cool off in **Medano Creek**. Every spring, the wide, shallow and gently flowing creek emerges from the Sangre de Cristos behind the dunes. Just as quickly, come late August, the creek disappears for another year.

Westward still, past Pagosa Springs, rises **Chimney Rock National Monument**. These



two skyward-reaching pinnacles were revered by the land's ancient people, the Ancestral Puebloans, who built ceremonial structures around them. Every 18.6 years, when the winter solstice moonrise reaches its northernmost point, people gather to photograph the full moon as it rises perfectly between the monument's rocks.

CENTRAL:

117 MILES

Skyline Drive near Cañon City is a precipitous road built by prison inmates in 1906 as a scenic byway for tourists in horse-drawn carriages. Today, the route has been paved, but it still traces an extremely narrow 800-foot-high ridge, which can be a bit of an adventure for passengers' stomachs. Pullouts are provided for those who want to savor the foothill views.

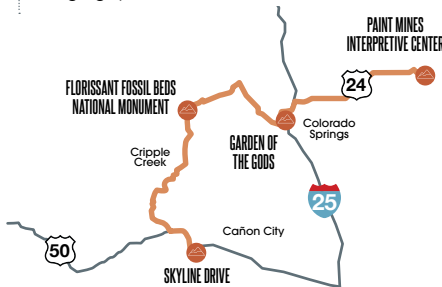
Meandering northward, you'll see groves of petrified redwood forests and thousands of fossilized insects at **Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument**. Although the area is lush and green today, roughly 35 millions years ago volcanic eruptions covered it in ash and lava, encasing plants and animals in stone, and creating one of the world's most diverse insect fossil sites.

Routing toward Colorado Springs, **Garden of the Gods** is one of Colorado's most popular attractions. Its gravity-defying whimsical rock formations inspire



imaginations of all ages. A National Natural Landmark since 1971, the park dazzles hikers, bikers, photographers, horseback riders, picnickers, wildlife watchers, scenic drivers and others with its spectacular red-rock formations and views of Pikes Peak.

An hour west of Colorado Springs, the **Paint Mines Interpretive Center** delights with bright stripes of color that sweep across stone outcroppings, so named because their colorful clays were used by American Indians as paint. The bright ochre and gold are formed by iron compounds in the rock that become exposed to oxygen. As the rocks erode, a hard top layer protects the softer clays beneath, forming columns and bulging spires called hoodoos.



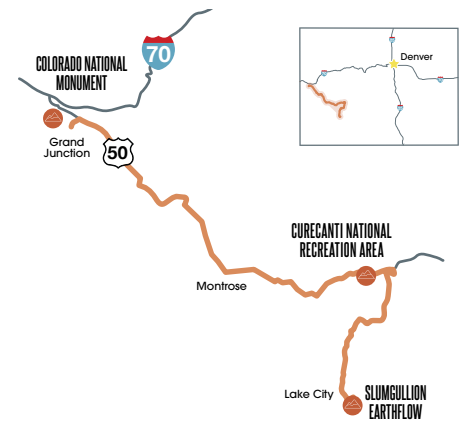
WEST:

176 MILES

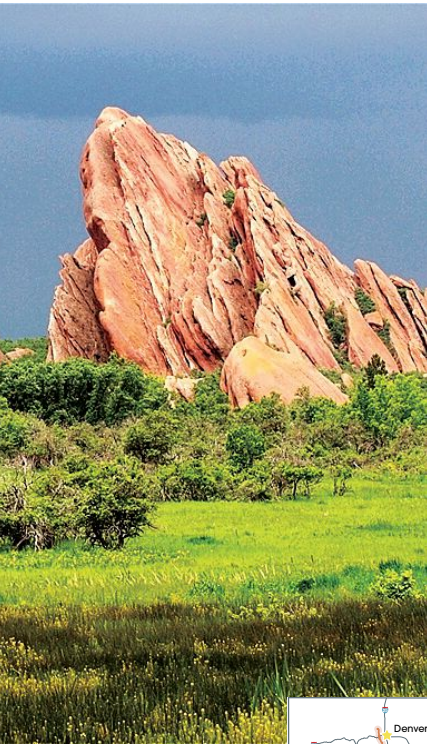
Start at **Colorado National Monument** just west of Grand Junction. Check off a list of wind- and water-sculpted rock formations with shape-inspired names like Window Rock, Pipe Organ, Kissing Couple, Praying Hands and Sentinel Spire.

Head southeast toward Montrose and the **Curecanti National Recreation Area**, where the Dillon Pinnacles stand sentinel over Blue Mesa Reservoir, the state's largest body of water. Hike the pinnacles' trail to see the odd volcanic formations and panoramic views of Blue Mesa.

Now point yourself southward to Lake City to see the decidedly unlovely sounding **Slumgullion Earthflow**, an 800-year-old, epically slow landslide, which continues to shift the ground up to 21 feet a year and results in fir trees that grow at bizarre angles.



FROM TOP: COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT; EFRAIN M. PADRÓ; GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE; PAINT MINES INTERPRETIVE PARK NEAR COLORADO SPRINGS; FLOCKRY/DAVID SOLDANO.



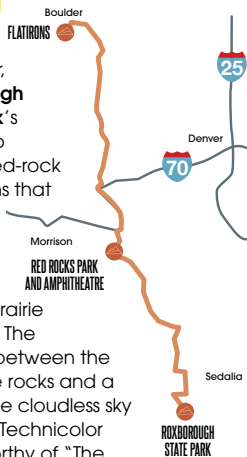
FOOTHILLS:

50 MILES

South of Denver, **Roxborough State Park's** trails wrap around red-rock formations that seem to rip unexpectedly through fields of prairie greenery. The contrast between the red of the rocks and a bright-blue cloudless sky sets up a Technicolor scene worthy of "The Wizard of Oz."

Skirting along the foothills as you head north, **Red Rocks Park and Amphitheatre's** massive, slanting red-rock outcroppings rise from the earth to create an acoustically ideal natural amphitheater in Morrison.

Continue northward to Boulder's famed **Flatirons**, five reddish-grey monuments — named by pioneers for their shape — jutting up from the grassy foothills to stand guard over the city of Boulder below.



FEEL THE MIST: WATERFALLS

Waterfalls are one of the best side effects of a Colorado hike. They might be tiny, wispy ones you happen by along a scenic trail, or they might be bigger ones that are destinations unto themselves.



SOUTHWEST:

210 MILES



For a hidden treasure along the Silver Thread Scenic Byway near Creede, keep your eyes out for Forest Road 510 on the left, just beyond Spring Creek Pass. A short distance down the road affords views of gushing **North Clear Creek Falls** as it plummets from a willow-covered bench into a box canyon.

Drift and ramble up and around National Forest and National Recreation Areas to the box-canyon confection of Ouray. **Box Canyon Falls'** 280-foot cascade can be experienced top to bottom via staircase, hiking trail and suspension bridge. As thousands of gallons of water rush and roar their way down, take a moment to look up — the National Audubon Society has named the area an important birding site.

The well-preserved Victorian-era town of Telluride, nestled at the foot of its own box canyon, is a beguiling sight all on its own. But 365 feet above, the white spray of **Bridal Veil Falls**, Colorado's tallest waterfall, plunges to the canyon's depths, adding the final touch to a charming scene.



NORTHWEST:

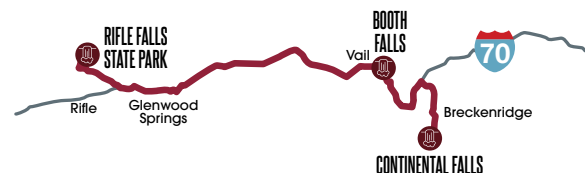
137 MILES



On a hot summer day, the mist that drifts from the exhilarating gush of water over 70-foot-high limestone cliffs and the dark caves below them in **Rifle Falls State Park** is a sublime natural air conditioner. These geologic attractions near Rifle draw photographers, spelunkers, fishers and campers to this singular state park.

The next two stops require moderate hikes to reach their misty splendor. You can hear Vail's **Booth Falls** long before you reach them. On your way, pass through aspen groves, where the leaves tinkle in summer breezes as you climb upward toward your destination, passing wildflower meadows along the way.

Continental Falls cascades down multiple rock chasms south of Breckenridge and sits amid thick forest. Along the trail (depending which one you choose), you may encounter abandoned miners' cabins and other Gold Rush relics, Mohawk Lakes and fragile alpine tundra.



WANT MORE? COLORADO.COM/WATERFALLS

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ROXBOROUGH STATE PARK; NORTH CLEAR CREEK FALLS; CONTINENTAL FALLS; EFRAIN M. PADRÓ.



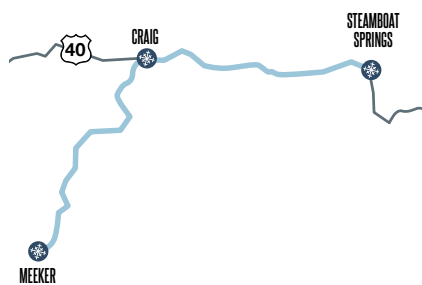
WINTER ROUTES LEAD TO ADVENTURE

It wouldn't be winter in Snow's Perfect State™ without finding yourself laughing in the cool air on one of the following joyrides, highlighting some of the best things to do in winter. These pairings will get you access to the same activity in different landscapes within an easy travel distance and along some scenic highways.

SNOWMOBILING

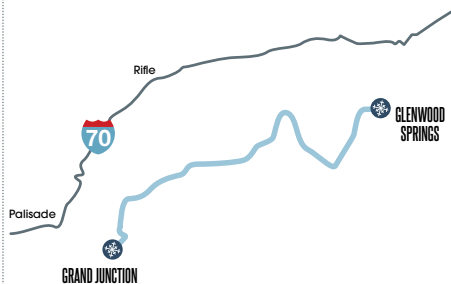
NORTHWEST: 140 MILES

Steamboat Springs' snowmobiling is characterized by incredibly expansive, rideable terrain. East of town, Rabbit Ears Pass makes a great place to start. To the northwest, good snow in deep winter means sledgers can really open it up as miles of virtually treeless terrain rolls toward the city of **Craig** and beyond. Even farther west, **Meeker** is the gateway to nearly 180 miles of groomed and ungroomed trails that challenge even the best riders headed to Trappers Lake, the Flat Tops and Ripple Creek Pass along rolling hills and open meadows.



RESORT TO RESORT: 120 MILES

Travel between these two destinations can be done entirely on your snowmobile. The well-groomed Sunlight to Powderhorn trail is a virtually endless playground for snowmobilers of all abilities. There are multiple access points starting at Sunlight Mountain Resort in **Glenwood Springs** and reaching all the way to Powderhorn Mountain Resort near **Grand Junction**.



SOUTH CENTRAL: 71 MILES

South Fork is home to 255 miles of groomed trails woven between ridges, sprawling meadows and steep climbs. Westward, the area between **Creede** and **Lake City** encompasses more than 200 miles of groomed snowmobiling trails in the Gunnison and Rio Grande national forests. Elevations range between 8,500 and 13,000 feet, and off-trail options offer access to wide-open ridges, rolling hills and steep ascents.



WANT MORE? COLORADO.COM/SNOWMOBILING

SNOWSHOEING



FRONT RANGE: 47 MILES

Just steps from **Eldora Mountain Resort's** downhill ski area near Nederland, 40 kilometers of groomed trails wind through quiet, shady forests and wide-open meadows. To the north, most of **Rocky Mountain National Park's** 571 kilometers of trails can be explored on snowshoe, opening up dozens of options for length and difficulty for your trek.

COZY COOKHOUSES: 129 MILES

Aspen and Leadville are both home to a particular snowshoeing delight: backcountry cookhouses. At the **Pine Creek Cookhouse** near the ghost town of Ashcroft and **Tennessee Pass Cookhouse**, visitors earn their fine-dining lunch or dinner by snowshoeing to the lodge for a warm meal. Don't eat too much — you have to get yourself back to the trailhead afterward!

FOOTHILLS: 32 MILES

Two spots not far west of Denver make it easy for city explorers to stretch their horizons a bit when the snow falls. **Golden Gate Canyon State Park** in Golden has 12 trails that intersect often, allowing you to create a personalized itinerary as you travel through aspen forests and open meadows. A short drive south, Evergreen's **Elk Meadow Park** provides easy access to trails for all abilities and the opportunity to spot its namesake wildlife.

WANT MORE? COLORADO.COM/SNOWSHOEING

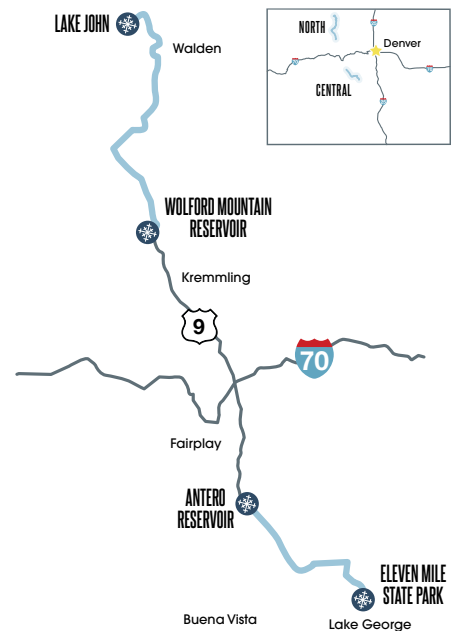
ICE FISHING

NORTH: 63 MILES

Lake John near Walden is a 565-acre state wildlife area in a stretch called North Park, a high-elevation basin between the Continental Divide and Park mountain range where hunters and fishers seek a quiet paradise anytime of year. There's a similar scene south near Kremmling at **Wolford Mountain Reservoir**, which is also popular with RVers year-round. Both spots hold ice-fishing contests each January/February.

CENTRAL: 26 MILES

In another "park" — this time South Park — you'll find **Antero Reservoir** south of Fairplay near the headwaters of the South Platte River, rich with many fish. Eastward near Lake George, the Gold Medal waters of **Eleven Mile State Park** boast plenty of kokanee, trout and pike all winter long.



WANT MORE (INCLUDING IMPORTANT SAFETY TIPS)? COLORADO.COM/ICEFISHING

FROM TOP: NEAR DREAM LAKE IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK; TOM BOL; ICE FISHING IN ELEVEN MILE STATE PARK; CHAPARRAL PARK GENERAL STORE.

COLORADO CREATIVE CORRIDOR



5 DAYS RECOMMENDED, 331 MILES

Travel through a handful of state-certified Colorado Creative Districts nestled in the mountains of western Colorado. The following five places all offer unique events and programs, majestic vistas, authentic mountain-town vibes, and art and cultural experiences around every corner.

STOPS:

1 CARBONDALE Rich agricultural history and hippie flair are two hallmarks of this community at the confluence of the Crystal and Roaring Fork rivers. Bike or stroll the Rio Grande ARTway, a 1-mile stretch of paved trail that showcases a series of public art installations and is complemented by three other outdoor venues: DeRail Park, Latino Folk Art Garden and Youth Art Park.

2 PAONIA Just an hour south, pass lush vineyards and orchards as you reach the hamlet of Paonia. From ceramicists and foundry workers to fly-rod makers and vintners, artists and makers flock to the fertile North Fork Valley. Make your way to Azura Cellars & Gallery, where you can browse fine art and enjoy a glass of wine in the courtyard.

3 CRESTED BUTTE In the spring, summer and fall, head two hours east over Kebler Pass and descend into Crested Butte (the pass is closed during winter, but you can still take CO-92 to US-50 and go north at Gunnison). Elk Avenue's colorful buildings look like a Victorian-era painting come to life and house numerous galleries, shops and artisan businesses like Montanya Distillers — stop in for a tasting of their award-winning rums.

4 RIDGWAY A little over two hours southwest, this gem boasts mountain views and Old West-style storefronts. More than 20 percent of the nearly 1,000 residents work as artists, producers or creative professionals, and that innovative spirit is evident everywhere you look. Be sure to check out the Alley Poems — a smattering of works that have sprung up in alleyways and on fences and the backs of buildings.

5 SALIDA Nicknamed "The Biggest Little Art Town in Colorado," Salida also likes to show off its adventurous side, with activities especially centered on the Arkansas River. When you're not rafting or tubing, drop by the SteamPlant Event Center, an abandoned power plant that's been repurposed into galleries, a sculpture garden and a venue for everything from concerts to film screenings.



COLORADO
FIELD GUIDE
ESTABLISHED IN 2017
Be sure to visit
COLORADO.com/FieldGuide for even more itineraries!



WANT MORE? COLORADO.COM/CREATIVEDISTRICTS

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: CRESTED BUTTE CENTER FOR THE ARTS; LYDIA STERN; SALIDA; BETH SCHNEIDER; PAONIA; C2 PHOTOGRAPHY.



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COLORADO REGIONS

These regions can help you choose a Colorado destination — though you shouldn't be discouraged from crossing boundaries and seeing more than one! In the following pages' itineraries, look for the little map signifying the region you want to visit for a deeper dive into their unique experiences.

PIONEERING PLAINS

Marked by waves of plains, grassland and shallow canyons, these lands are full of traditional character, a pioneering spirit and 100-year-old farms. Slow things down here to relish an authentic and memorable vacation.

CANYONS & PLAINS

This area is shaped by its rich heritage of Hispanic and Native American culture. It's a special place to enrich your perspective, meander country roads and experience fascinating moments in the nation's history firsthand.

PIKES PEAK WONDERS

Find a blend of urban comforts, accessible (though not completely tamed) natural landmarks and a true reflection of the Western way of life. Here you'll have the option to sit back and relax or kick up some adventure.

MYSTIC SAN LUIS VALLEY

A spiritual, intriguing land offering a sense of peace amid epic views and sand dunes circled by soaring peaks, the valley is peppered with the legacy of Hispanic settlers and explorers, steeped in history and ripe with folklore.

MOUNTAINS & MESAS

A place that inspires awe, you'll encounter Victorian-era mining towns, colorful farm communities, mesmerizing geography and ancient cultures that infuse the area with a majestic and distinct heritage.

ROCKIES PLAYGROUND

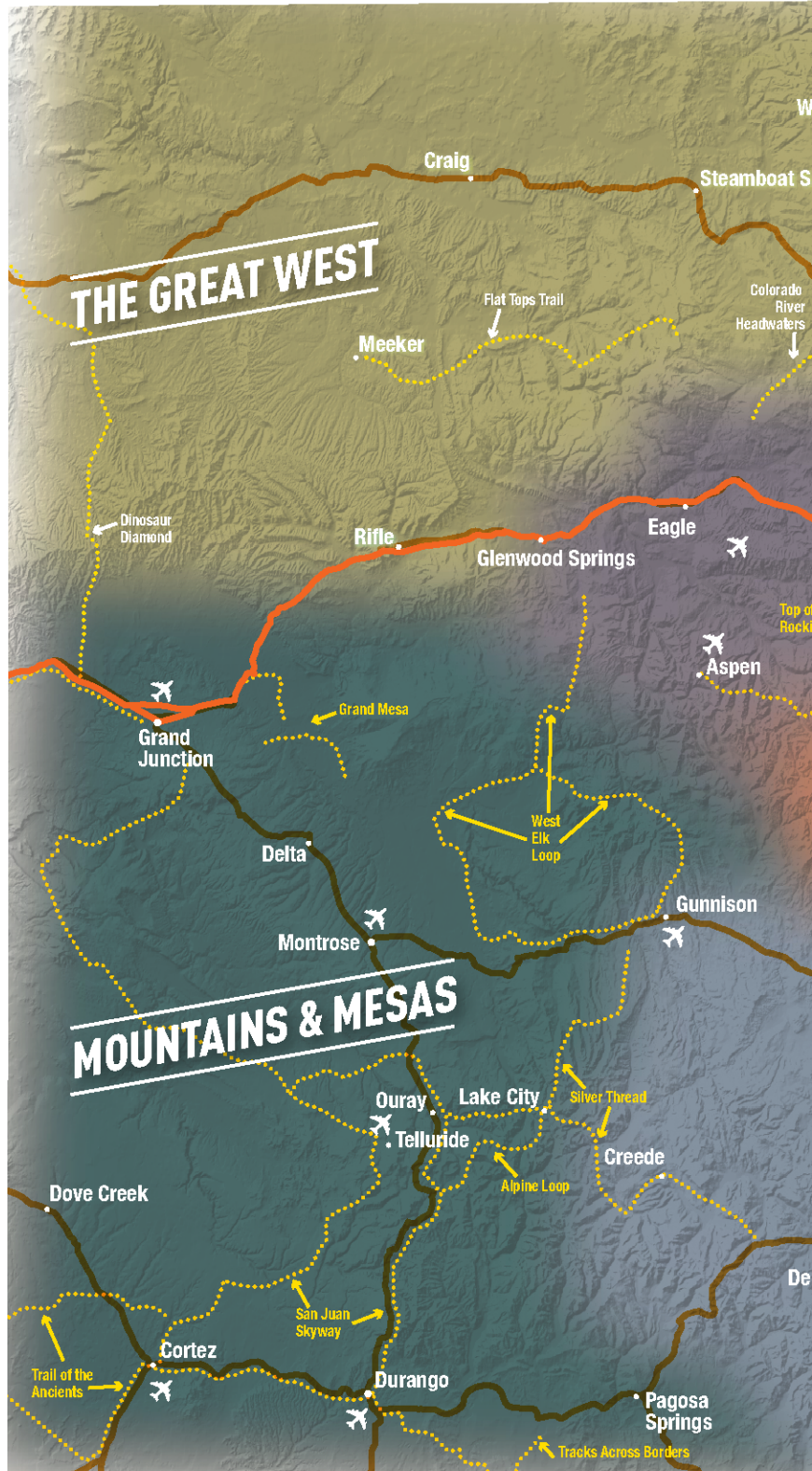
For the country's highest caliber, year-round mountain resort communities, this is ground zero. You'll show off on and off the slopes and enjoy best-in-class comforts in welcoming mountain towns around every corner.

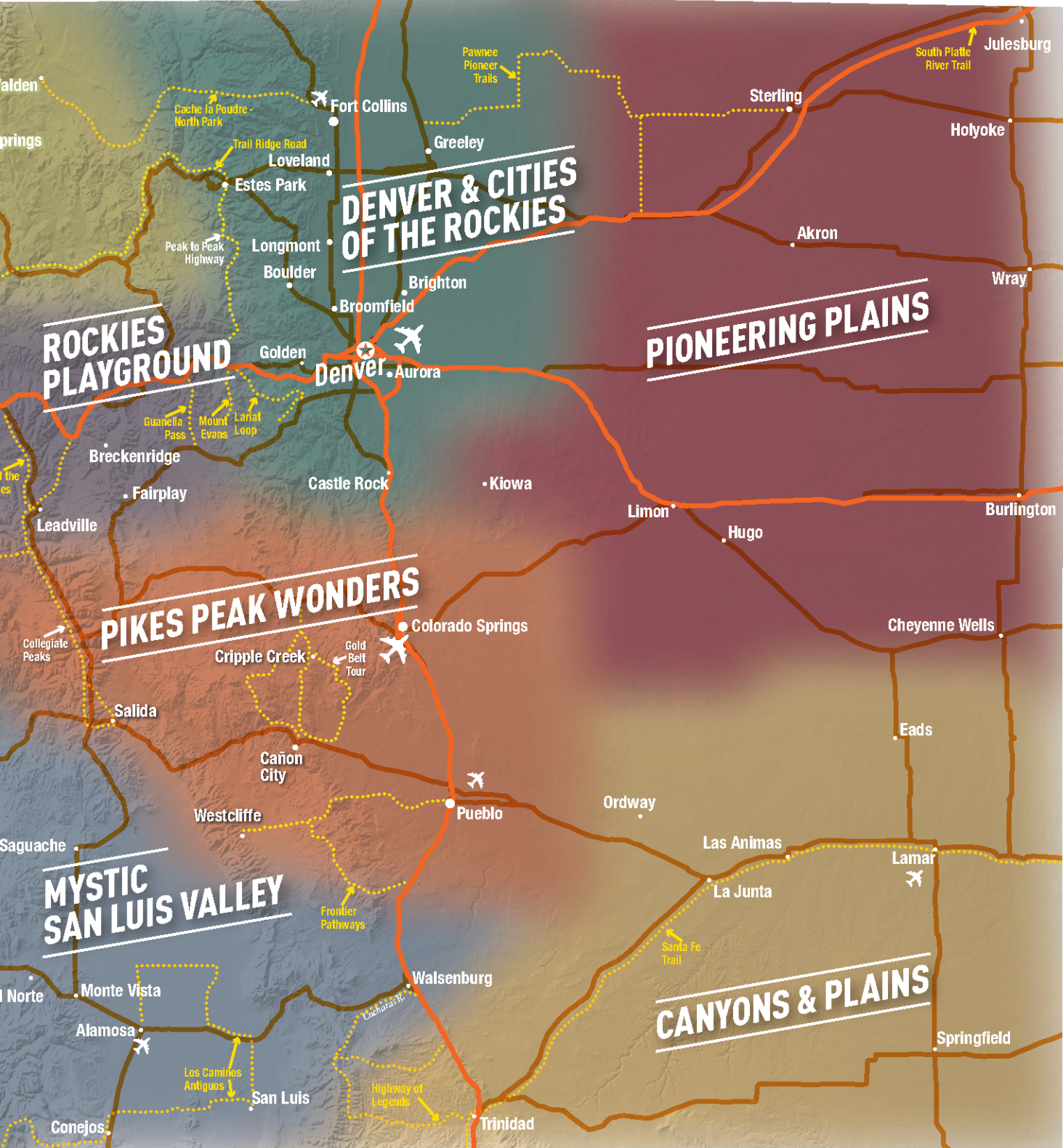
THE GREAT WEST

Amid rolling ranchland, green hills, marbled mountains and dramatic canyons, discover warm folks and Wild West lore. Come as you are, get a taste of the frontier and disconnect from real life's rapid pace.

DENVER & CITIES OF THE ROCKIES

Nestled against the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, this region is the heart of urban Colorado. Anchored by vibrant cities — each with its own energy, landscape and proximity to outdoor adventure — it's worth a trip all on its own and can also be the splendid start or end to your Colorado getaway.

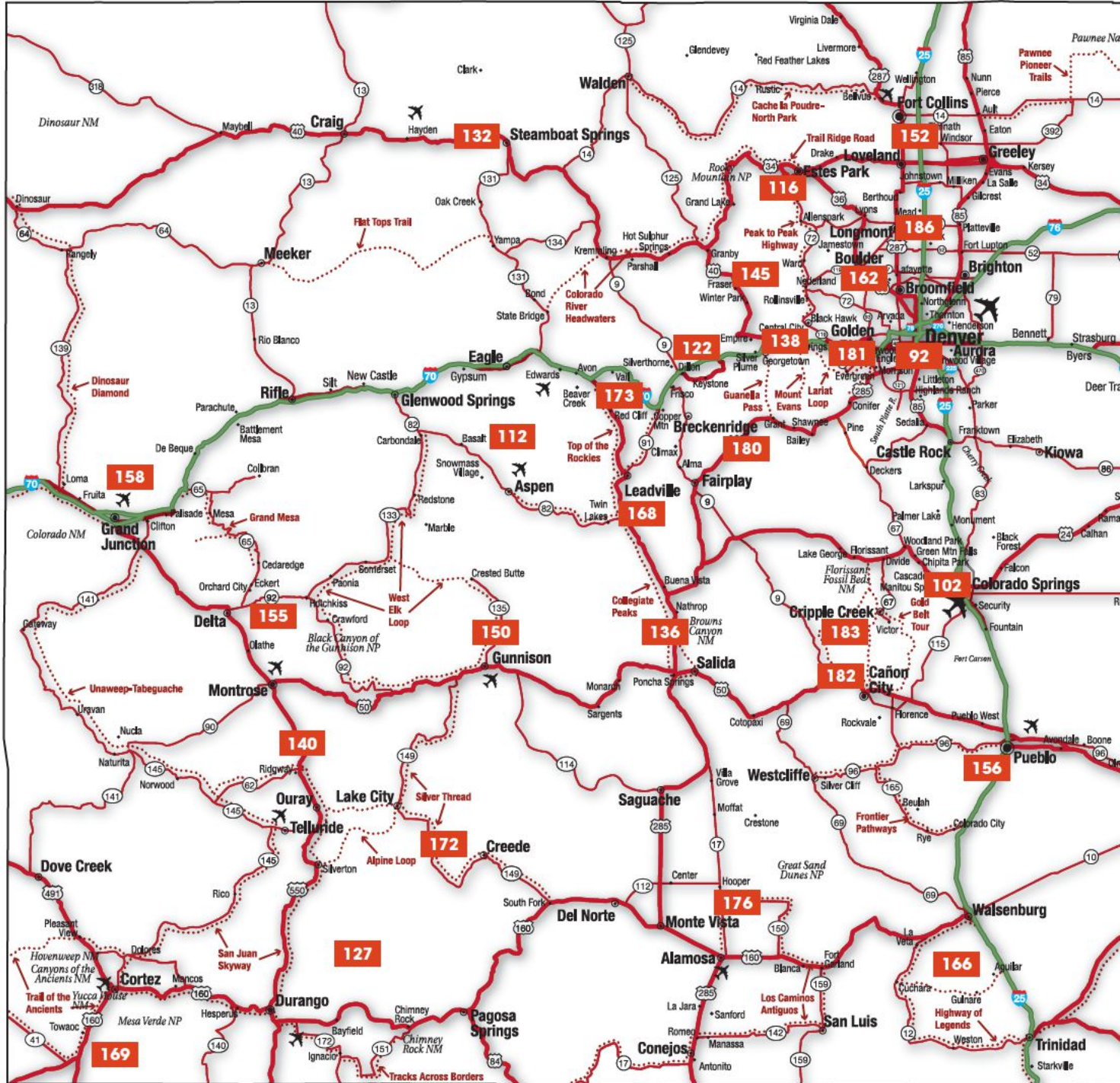




COLORADO TRAVEL ITINERARIES

Use the map below to find the area in Colorado you'd like to visit. Then turn to the corresponding page for a detailed itinerary, places to explore nearby and hidden gems you won't want to overlook. For a handy index of cities and towns, turn to page 16A.

The page numbers on the map below correspond to articles on that area and nearby destinations.





- 92** The Highlights: 24 Hours in **Denver**
- 94** Kid-Approved Weekend in **Denver**
- 96** 2 Days of **Denver Arts & Culture**
- 98** **Denver Day Trips**
- 99** Get Outdoors in **Denver**
- 100** A 5-Star Day in **Denver**
- 102** Pikes Peak Country: **Colorado Springs & Manitou Springs**
- 107** **Colorado Springs** Tours & Adventures
- 112** Roaring Fun in the Roaring Fork Valley: **Aspen, Snowmass & Glenwood Springs**
- 116** Close to Paradise: **Estes Park & Rocky Mountain National Park**
- 122** Summit County Getaway: **Breckenridge, Silverthorne, Frisco, Dillon, Keystone & Copper Mountain**
- 127** Spirit of the Southwest: **Durango, Silverton & Pagosa Springs**
- 132** Hot Springs & Western Living in **Steamboat Springs**
- 136** Playing Among the Collegiate Peaks: **Buena Vista & Salida**
- 138** High-Country Escape: **Idaho Springs, Georgetown, Silver Plume, Black Hawk & Central City**
- 140** San Juan Splendor: **Montrose, Ouray, Ridgway & Telluride**
- 145** A Grand Time in Grand County: **Winter Park, Grand Lake, Granby & More**
- 150** Must-See Colorado Towns: **Gunnison & Crested Butte**
- 152** Bikes, Art & Beer: A Weekend in **Fort Collins, Loveland & Greeley**
- 155** Inspired to Linger in **Cedaredge, Crawford, Delta, Hotchkiss, Orchard City & Paonia**
- 156** Historic Sites & Family Fun in **Pueblo**
- 158** Colorado Wine & Adventure Country: **Grand Junction, Palisade & Fruita**
- 162** Only in **Boulder**
- 166** Highway of Legends: 2 Days in **Trinidad, Walsenburg, La Veta & Cuchara**
- 168** Cruising Elevation: **Leadville & Twin Lakes**
- 169** Ancient Treasures in Mesa Verde Country: **Cortez, Mancos & More**
- 172** Silver Thread Byway: **Creede, South Fork & Lake City**
- 173** Playing & Pampering in **Vail & Beaver Creek**
- 176** Broad Horizons In the San Luis Valley: **Alamosa, San Luis & Monte Vista**
- 180** The Real South Park: **Fairplay, Como, Bailey & Alma**
- 181** **Golden**: The World's Biggest Little Beer Town & Much More
- 182** High-Flying Adventure in **Cañon City** – The Royal Gorge Region
- 183** Time Travel in **Cripple Creek**
- 184** Great Plains: **Lamar to La Junta**
- 185** Pawnee Pioneer Trails: **Sterling, Brush & Fort Morgan**
- 186** Crazy About **Longmont**
- 187** All Trails Lead to **Limon**
- 188** The Essence of the Plains: **Burlington & Wray**
- 189** Gateway to Colorado: **Julesburg**



1



2



3

THE HIGHLIGHTS: 24 HOURS IN DENVER



Denver's airport-to-downtown rail line makes it easy to explore the city without a car: Fly into DIA, hop the train to Union Station, then explore downtown by foot, the free 16th Street MallRide, pedicabs and the pioneering B-cycle bike-share program.

MORNING

First, check out the beautifully restored **Union Station (1)**, a destination in and of itself and a vibrant gathering place bursting with history, shops and places to grab a bite.

Next, the city's 850 miles of paved and off-road trails are a testament to how easy it is to get around on two wheels. Rent one from Denver B-cycle, with 88 stations to choose from. Grab a cup of coffee in **Larimer Square (2)**, in the heart of LoDo (short for "Lower Downtown"), and make your way to the **History Colorado Center**.

AFTERNOON

While in the area, check out one of Denver's Certified Colorado Creative Districts, the **Golden Triangle** (see p. 46 for the others). Just steps

from History Colorado Center, it's also home to the **Denver Public Library**, **Denver Art Museum** and the new location of the **Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art**.

Next stop: **Cherry Creek**, the region's largest shopping district, including Cherry Creek North's **(4)** wide array of only-in-Denver shops, and Cherry Creek Shopping Center's upscale stores.

EVENING

Cheer on the home teams: In the spring and summer it's the **Colorado Rockies (3)** and the **Colorado Rapids**; September to January, the **Denver Broncos**; and from October to June, the **Denver Nuggets** and **Colorado Avalanche**.

Perhaps the only thing that brings out more Denver passion than sports is beer — and there

are plenty of breweries and craft beer tours to prove it. Sample some at **Great Divide**, **Woods Boss**, **Renegade**, **Oasis**, **Bruz** or **Denver Beer Co.** and dozens of others. The Denver Beer Trail is a good place to start if it's too hard to choose.

Denver also has a growing craft distillery scene; stop in for a taste at **Stranahan's Colorado Whiskey (5)**, **Leopold Bros.**, **Laws Whiskey House**, **Rising Sun**, **The Family Jones** and **Mile High Spirits**.

And the evening is the perfect time to explore Denver's many neighborhoods. One favorite is **LoHi**, home to of the city's most innovative restaurants and bars, and incredible views of downtown Denver. Visit denver.org for more neighborhoods.



4



5



STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Aurora (page 191), **Arvada**, **Brighton** (page 192), **Castle Rock** (page 193), **Centennial** (page 193), **Commerce City**, **Denver** (page 195), **Englewood** (page 196), **Evergreen** (page 197), **Glendale**, **Golden** (page 198), **Greenwood Village** (page 199), **Highlands Ranch** (page 200), **Lakewood** (page 200), **Littleton** (page 200), **Morrison** (page 202), **Parker** (page 203), **Roxborough**, **Sedalia** (page 203), **Wheat Ridge**

QUICK TIP

A new crop of stylish, **boutique hotels** provide hyper-local flavor that goes beyond your standard accommodations. Check out the offerings at The Maven Hotel at Dairy Block, Kimpton Hotel Born, The Source Hotel, MOXY Denver Cherry Creek, The Jacquard and The Ramble Hotel.

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM RIGHT: STRANAHAN'S COLORADO WHISKEY; LITTLE MAN ICE CREAM; CHERRY CREEK NORTH; COORS FIELD; VISIT DENVER; LARIMER SQUARE; UNION SQUARE; VISIT DENVER/SCOTT DRESSEL-MARTIN.

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WINGS OVER THE ROCKIES AIR & SPACE MUSEUM Experience the rush of flight in the museum's simulation center, climb into cockpits and wonder at the collection of military and civilian aircraft and the country's only X-Wing Starfighter.



WATER WORLD One of the biggest and best water parks in the nation, with acres of refreshing summertime fun. Nearly 50 rides and adventures offer something for all ages.



BUTTERFLY PAVILION 1,600 free-flying butterflies make their home at this one-of-a-kind spot in nearly Westminster, fluttering around visitors in a re-creation of a tropical rainforest.



THE WILD ANIMAL SANCTUARY This 720-acre rescue/educational facility 30 miles outside of Denver is home to nearly 350 large carnivores (including lions, tigers, bears and wolves!). They roam the massive refuge while you walk above them on the Mile Into the Wild walkway.

DINOSAUR RIDGE Compare footprint sizes with giant prehistoric beasts on a 1.5-mile nature walk in Morrison. You'll encounter more than 100 fossilized dinosaur tracks, including those of stegosaurus, apatosaurus and allosaurus.

IFLY INDOOR SKYDIVING Lone Tree's smooth-riding vertical wind tunnel literally sends you soaring. A stellar training program and instructors make it great for families.

KID-APPROVED WEEKEND IN DENVER



Your littles will be grinning from ear to ear whenever they're in the Mile High City, thanks to Denver's wide array of family-friendly attractions.



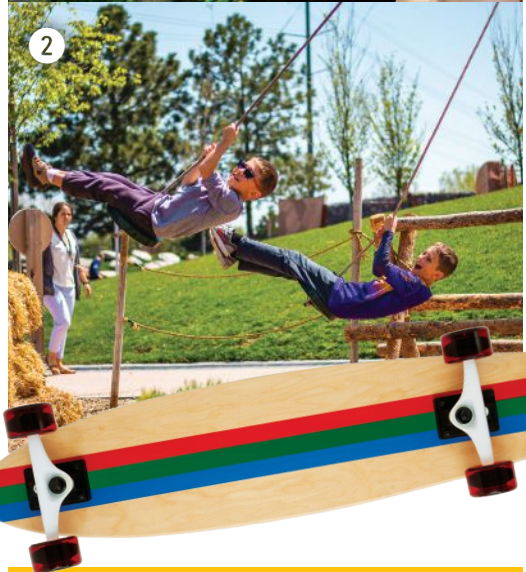
DAY 1

More than 500 species of ocean-dwellers roam landlocked Denver, thanks to the **Downtown Aquarium (1)**, the region's largest. Have close encounters with sharks, sea turtles, stingrays and even Sumatran tigers as they swim in more than a million gallons of water.

Nearby is the **Children's Museum of Denver at Marisco Campus (2)**, an imagination-stimulating journey for children newborn through age 8. Kiddos and their grown-ups can race to the top of a 3½-story climber, step inside a 6-foot bubble, sculpt a masterpiece out of clay or zip through the air in Joy Park, the museum's outdoor adventure.

Older kids will want to check out a few of the city's urban adventure parks for skateboarding, BMX, mountain biking, skiing/boarding and more right in town. **Downtown Denver Skatepark** and **Evolve Action Sports Park** are a couple to scope out. More: denv.co/extremesports.

End your first day on the **16th Street Mall**, a mile-long promenade and one of the Mile High City's most visited attractions. It's a great spot for dinner, with plenty of kid-pleasing choices. Every block boasts a landmark or one of many public art sculptures, a perfect scavenger hunt as you make your way around.



DOWNTOWN AQUARIUM. VISIT DENVER'S MUSEUM OF DENVER AT MARISCO CAMPUS. BUTTERFLY PAVILION. WATER WORLD. BETH SCHNEIDER. WINGS OVER THE ROCKIES AIR & SPACE MUSEUM.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: SEA TURTLE. ISTOCKPHOTO; SKATEBOARD. ISTOCKPHOTO; THE WILD ANIMAL SANCTUARY; BETH SCHNEIDER. ELITCH GARDENS THEME & WATER PARK. VISIT DENVER.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Aurora (page 191), **Arvada, Brighton** (page 192), **Castle Rock** (page 193), **Centennial** (page 193), **Commerce City, Denver** (page 195), **Englewood** (page 196), **Evergreen** (page 197), **Glendale, Golden** (page 198), **Greenwood Village** (page 199), **Highlands Ranch** (page 200), **Lakewood** (page 200), **Littleton** (page 200), **Morrison** (page 202), **Parker** (page 203), **Roxborough, Sedalia** (page 203), **Wheat Ridge**



3

DAY 2

Go to where the wild things are: the **Denver Zoo (4)**. One of the nation's most popular zoos, this adventure in **City Park** takes visitors on a globe-trotting safari. You'll go nose to nose with a polar bear, trade funny faces with orangutans and stretch necks with giraffes. The *Toyota Elephant Passage* lets kids get up-close-and-personal with elephants in one of the world's largest bull-elephant habitats.

And *The Edge* is a new up-close peek at rare Amur tigers.

Pack a picnic lunch and spread out in **City Park**, the largest in Denver, with 330 acres of refreshing green space and an abundance of fresh-air activities. Find a spot in the area around Ferril Lake to take in the best views of Denver's skyline and the Rocky Mountains.

Museum options for today include the **Denver Museum of Nature &**

Science (3), also in City Park, to see enormous dinosaur skeletons in the *Prehistoric Journey* exhibit, watch an IMAX feature or transport into space at the planetarium. Or head west to the city of Golden's **Colorado Railroad Museum**, where more than 100 locomotives, cabooses and HO model railroad attractions make the state's rail history seem larger than life.

The **Denver Art Museum** is one of the nation's best for kids programs, including the Just for Fun Family Center and Family Backpacks and Creative Corners for exploring the galleries.

The **Denver Center for the Performing Arts** hosts many kid-friendly performances each year, including the **Colorado Symphony's** Family Series (Halloween Spooktacular and Drums of the Word

are faves), as well as 2019's "Anastasia."

Dinner calls for a trip to **Casa Bonita**, which is not your average Mexican restaurant. This longtime Denver favorite is a great place to end your Denver adventure. Known less for its food and more as an indoor amusement park, it entertains little ones with cliff divers, mariachi bands, puppet shows, a pirate cave, magicians

and more. After this packed weekend, you might consider treating yourself to one of their famously large margaritas.

Other popular family spots include **Steve's Snappin' Dogs**, **Sam's No. 3**, **Punch Bowl Social** (with bowling, table games and vintage arcade), **Ace Eat Serve** (Southeast Asian food and pingpong hall), the **Cherry Cricket** and **Little Man Ice Cream**.



4

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FROM LEFT: DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE, VISIT DENVER; DENVER ZOO.

2 DAYS OF DENVER ARTS & CULTURE



DAY 1

Explore Denver's street-art scene, which covers buildings and other unexpected canvasses throughout neighborhoods like **RiNo (3)**, **the Highlands**, **South Broadway**, **BuCu** and **East Colfax**. More and more of the city's neighborhoods are emerging with their own distinct characters and signature events like **First Friday** art walks, hipster flea markets, modern bazaars, craft coffee bars, artist studios, small music venues and only-in-Denver boutiques. Visit COLORADO.com/ArtHoods.

Much of Denver's coolest art isn't in museums. One percent of any capital improvement project over \$1 million in the city is set aside for the creation of **public artwork**. The result is a wealth of exquisite — and often enormous — open-air pieces all over Denver. For a sample, head downtown to the Colorado Convention Center on 14th Avenue and California Street to see *I See What You Mean* by Lawrence Argent, a 40-foot-tall sculpture otherwise known as "The Big Blue Bear (2)." This benign ursine presence peers curiously into the center, providing visitors with an essential Denver photo opportunity. Just a short walk away at the Denver Performing Arts Complex, two 50-foot-tall figures frolic near Speer Boulevard as part of Jonathan Borofsky's *Dancers*.

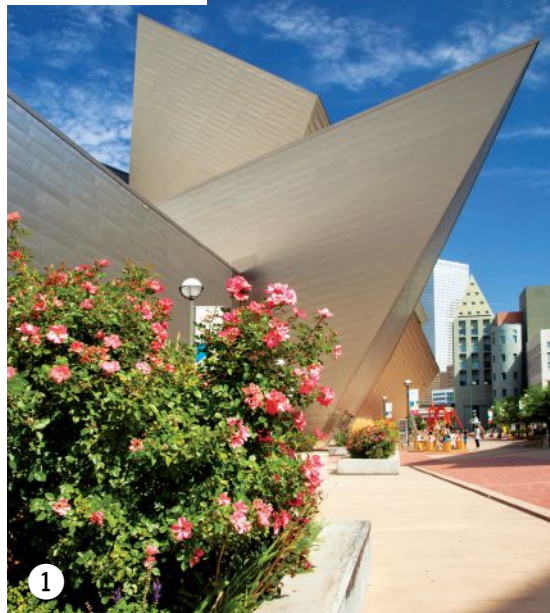
A few blocks away, the jagged edges of the Hamilton Building, part of

the **Denver Art Museum (1)**, jut out over 13th Avenue. The museum houses Western art, contemporary masterworks and blockbuster traveling shows like *Claude Monet: The Truth of Nature*, the only U.S. museum to show this impressionist exhibition (opens October 20, 2019).

Visit the new location of the **Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art** in the former studio of Vance Kirkland, one of Colorado's most distinguished painters. In 2016, the studio was picked up from its original location a few blocks away and deposited in the art-rich **Golden Triangle** area, where it reopened in March 2018. Across the street the **Clyfford Still Museum**, dedicated to the legacy of one of the most important painters of the 20th century, is one of only five one-artist museums in the nation. The Kirkland Museum is another!

If you've got an inclination toward vinyl and being cool, head over to **Twist and Shout**, a famed indie music store selling new and used music on East Colfax near popular theaters like the **Ogden** and **Bluebird**.

Take the afternoon to explore the hub of Denver's creative community, the **Art District on Santa Fe**, where more than 50 galleries, studios and creative businesses comprise the largest concentration of art galleries in Colorado and make it a Certified Colorado Creative District. Stop in at the **Museo de las Americas (4)**, a unique museum highlight-



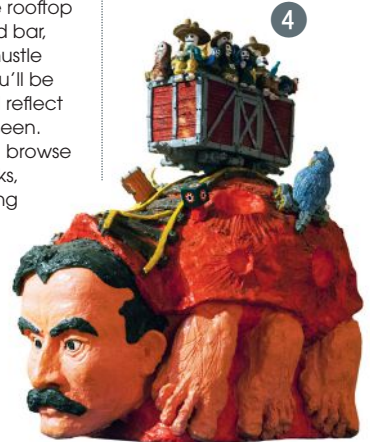
ing both traditional and contemporary Latino art and culture.

DAY 2

Continue your artsy adventure with a morning stop at **Tattered Cover's** historic LoDo location. Called "a bibliophile's paradise" by the *New York Times*, this multilevel bookstore, housed in the lovingly restored Morey Mercantile Building, holds thousands of volumes covering every topic under the sun, with a particularly notable selection of Denver- and Colorado-centric books. Tattered Cover's cafe is an excellent spot for a quick, cheap breakfast, serving strong coffee, fresh pastries and tempting breakfast sandwiches.

Just around the corner you'll find one of the crown jewels of Denver's art scene, the **Museum of Contemporary Art Denver**, a David Adjaye-designed structure whose sleekness contrasts with the classic red brick typical of LoDo. Inside, galleries showcase

a constantly refreshed series of exhibits devoted to innovation and creativity. Go in with an open mind and you'll be rewarded in ways you can't imagine. At the museum's serene rooftop garden, cafe and bar, high above the hustle of downtown, you'll be able to relax and reflect on what you've seen. On your way out, browse the eclectic books, music and clothing at the Shop MCA on the first level.



STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Aurora (page 191), **Arvada, Brighton** (page 192), **Castle Rock** (page 193), **Centennial** (page 193), **Commerce City, Denver** (page 195), **Englewood** (page 196), **Evergreen** (page 197), **Glendale, Golden** (page 198), **Greenwood Village** (page 199), **Highlands Ranch** (page 200), **Lakewood** (page 200), **Littleton** (page 200), **Morrison** (page 202), **Parker** (page 203), **Roxborough, Sedalia** (page 203), **Wheat Ridge**

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: DENVER ART MUSEUM; I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN; VISIT DENVER; RIVER NORTH ARTS DISTRICT; @OMAZING.MOMENTS; MUSEO DE LAS AMERICAS; BETH SCHNEIDER.

2019 EXHIBITIONS

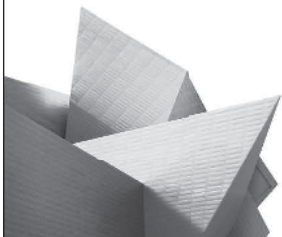
DIOR: FROM PARIS TO THE WORLD
November 19, 2018–March 3, 2019

JORDAN CASTEEL: RETURNING THE GAZE
February 2–May 26, 2019

**TREASURES OF BRITISH ART:
THE BERGER COLLECTION**
March 2, 2019–January 5, 2020

**SERIOUS PLAY:
DESIGN IN MIDCENTURY AMERICA**
May 5–August 25, 2019

CLAUDE MONET: THE TRUTH OF NATURE
October 20, 2019–February 2, 2020

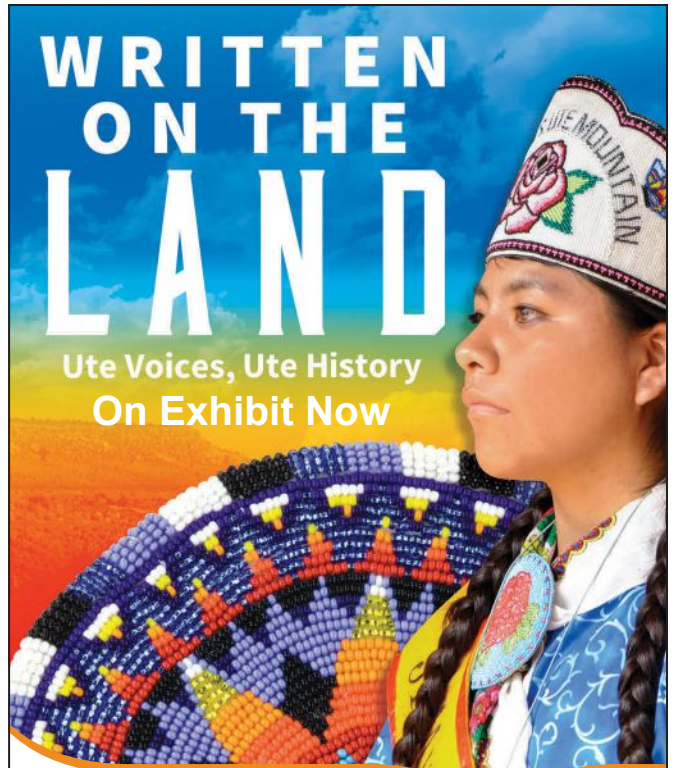


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DENVER DAY TRIPS



Denver is an excellent hub for exploring the state beyond the city limits.

1 LAKEWOOD

Light-rail-connected Lakewood makes a good homebase between Denver and the mountains. The Lakewood Cultural Center hosts performances and events in pedestrian-friendly

Belmar, which is home to shops and restaurants. Take advantage of a few close-to-civilization campgrounds and 40 West Arts, a Certified Colorado Creative District. **Drive: 15 minutes**

2 GOLDEN The historic downtown is packed with Wild West attractions and shops nudged up against dozens of mountain parks and hiking/biking trails. **Drive: 25 minutes**

3 CASTLE ROCK The Outlets at Castle Rock and upscale Promenade at Castle Rock are big draws, along with The Barn's antique and specialty shops, 44 miles of trails, the year-round Castle Rock Zip Line Tours and Epic Adventure Tower at PS Miller Park (where you scale 40-foot climbing wall, zip and jump from a 42-foot platform or choose to free-fall from a 75-foot platform) pedestrian-friendly downtown, galleries, golf courses,

bistros and coffee houses. Castle Rock has year-round hiking and biking trails and spectacular views from on top of The Rock — the historic namesake for the community. Stop into the visitor center for ideas on exploring the area and beyond. **Drive: 35 minutes**

4 EVERGREEN Acres of forest and open space surround this vibrant downtown. The foothills community boasts miles of hiking and biking trails and an in-town lake packed with ice skaters each winter. **Drive: 45 minutes**

5 AURORA Seek out seven beautiful golf courses, unique museums, U-picks, breweries, shopping at Southlands, Aurora Fox Arts Center in the Cultural Arts District and much more. Check out the Stanley Marketplace, a collection of independently owned places to eat, drink, shop and play. **Drive: 25 minutes**

6 LITTLETON This tree-lined downtown somehow combines the sophistication of a relaxed urban center packed with local eats and unique boutiques with small-town charm. To get there, bike the Platte Riverside trail or take the RTD light rail. **Drive: 23 minutes**

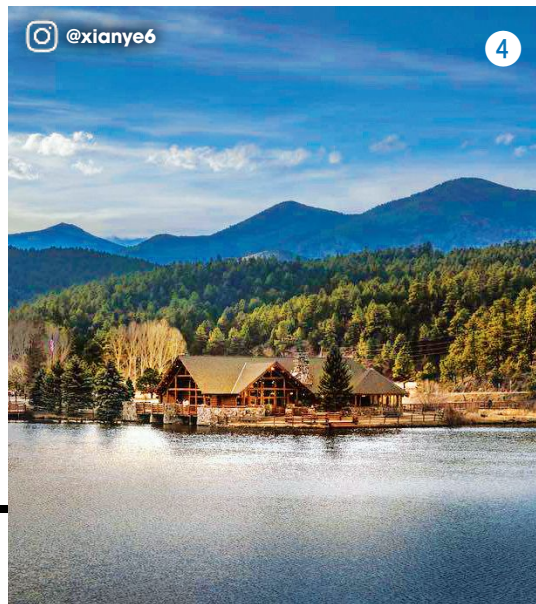
7 BOULDER With 200 miles of trails, a laid-back vibe and the Pearl Street Mall — a charming outdoor shopping and dining locale — it's easy to see why visitors fall in love with Boulder. **Drive: 30 minutes**

8 CENTRAL CITY & BLACK HAWK Home to 24-hour casinos, top-notch opera and gorgeous scenery, these two historic mining towns have burst to life recently. **Drive: 45 minutes**

9 COLORADO SPRINGS Iconic Pikes Peak is Colorado Springs' showpiece, which features dozens of attractions, including the famed Garden of the Gods. **Drive: 1 hour, 30 minutes**

10 SUMMIT COUNTY A popular snow-sports destination in winter, this region attracts visitors year-round with quintessential mountain towns and scenic vistas. **Drive: 1 hour, 30 minutes**

11 ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK One of the nation's top outdoor destinations, this natural wonder boasts 350 miles of trails, unparalleled wildlife sightings and Trail Ridge Road. **Drive: 1 hour, 40 minutes**



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: PENINSULA RECREATION AREA, IN FRISCO; TODD POWELL; EVERGREEN; @XIANYE6; ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK; MILES/ANDREA BUROLLA



OUTSIDE IN THE CITY: GET OUTDOORS IN DENVER



to see the sights. Though the **Cherry Creek Trail** is 40 miles total in length, the in-town portion makes a convenient urban passage through downtown, following a waterway of the same name.

For adventurers who prefer paddling to pedaling, head for the South Platte River — specifically **Confluence Park** near downtown. Here you'll find manmade whitewater chutes, as well as kayak rentals, lessons and excursions, courtesy of nearby outfitter Confluence Kayaks. Pop into the REI Flagship for gear, equipment rentals, a climbing wall and a tour of the store's clever restoration and reuse of the 1901 Denver Tramway building.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Aurora (page 191), **Arvada**, **Brighton** (page 192), **Castle Rock** (page 193), **Centennial** (page 193), **Commerce City**, **Denver** (page 195), **Englewood** (page 196), **Evergreen** (page 197), **Glendale**, **Golden** (page 198), **Greenwood Village** (page 199), **Highlands Ranch** (page 200), **Lakewood** (page 200), **Littleton** (page 200), **Morrison** (page 202), **Parker** (page 203), **Roxborough**, **Sedalia** (page 203), **Wheat Ridge**

Being an urban center doesn't mean there aren't plenty of ways to get some fresh air.

Various parks woven into the city's interior offer a respite of green spaces and recreation. Aptly named **City Park** is the largest, boasting more than 300 acres and prime views of the downtown skyline set against a mountain backdrop. Stroll pathways that wind around two lakes, claim a tennis court or pay a visit to the Denver Zoo,

located within the park's boundaries.

Spend time in **Washington Park** (Wash Park to locals), and you'll see why it's a favorite. With the flurry of joggers and cyclists, a soccer field, fitness course, lawn bowling and picnickers, this spot is a true hub of activity.

Nestled into the Central Business District, **Skyline**

Park is a three-block oasis with its flowerbeds, grassy areas and free events throughout the year, like summer movie nights and an ice-skating rink in the winter.

Need a fresh perspective? Get the lay of the land on two wheels. Rent a ride from **B-cycle** — Denver's bike-share system with 80-plus stations — and pick a route

QUICK TIP

South of downtown, **Levitt Pavilion Denver in Ruby Hill Park** hosts 50 free concerts each year — spanning musical genres from jazz to Latin — at its state-of-the-art amphitheater.

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A 5-STAR DAY IN DENVER



MORNING

It's a short jaunt from Denver (about 30-45 minutes), but **Arrowhead Golf Club (2)** is worth the drive. Be transported to a world made up of unearthly red sandstone formations as you play one of America's Top 75 Public Courses, according to *Golf Digest*. Another popular course is the challenging **Ridge at Castle Pines North**, south of Denver in **Castle Rock**, with views of Pikes Peak to the south and Mount Evans (the state's highest peak) to the west.

AFTERNOON

Treat yourself to a relaxing spa experience designed for Colorado's climate and lifestyle, like the Microbrew Ex™ beer™ence at the **Ritz-Carlton Spa**, the Moor Mud Bath at the **Oxford Hotel** or the Four-Handed Massage at **The Woodhouse Day Spa**. Finish the afternoon with a classic Denver treat: afternoon tea at the **Brown Palace Hotel & Spa (1)** with fresh scones, pastries and dainty tea sandwiches, and the delightful melody of a harpist or pianist.

EVENING

Denver's cuisine scene receives national raves

thanks to innovative use of local ingredients. Three Denver chefs were nominated for James Beard awards last year (find them at **Annette, Work & Class** and **Fruition**), and the food-hall trend is making for killer culinary hubs like **The Source (3)**, **Denver Central Market**, **Avanti Food and Beverage**, **Stanley Marketplace** and **Milk Market**, the latest concept from chef Frank Bonanno. The gastro-pub is another trend we never want to end, where local atmosphere and creative spins on comfort food make diners feel retro-cool, including **Steuben's Food Service (5)** and **Ophelia's Electric Soapbox (4)** for a start.

Culture vultures can choose from a block-buster touring Broadway musical or a stirring performance by the **Colorado Symphony Orchestra**, **Opera Colorado** or **Colorado Ballet** at the **Denver Performing Arts Complex**, the largest performing arts complex under one roof.



STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Aurora (page 191), **Arvada**, **Brighton** (page 192), **Castle Rock** (page 193), **Centennial** (page 193), **Commerce City**, **Denver** (page 195), **Englewood** (page 196), **Evergreen** (page 197), **Glendale**, **Golden** (page 198), **Greenwood Village** (page 199), **Highlands Ranch** (page 200), **Lakewood** (page 200), **Littleton** (page 200), **Morrison** (page 202), **Parker** (page 203), **Roxborough**, **Sedalia** (page 203), **Wheat Ridge**

QUICK TIP

Urban wineries like Bigsby's Folly, the Infinite Monkey Theorem and Deep Roots Winery give oenophiles an alternative to the city's beer and bar scenes.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: BROWN PALACE HOTEL & SPA; THE SOURCE; TIMOTHY HURSBLEY; OPHELIA'S ELECTRIC SOAPBOX; VISIT DENVER/ADAM LARREY; STEUBEN'S FOOD SERVICE; ARROWHEAD GOLF CLUB; VISIT DENVER/DICK DURRANCE II.



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Colorado Springs is the state's second-largest city, but it's first in the hearts of many visitors as a place of astonishing beauty with more than 55 unique museums and cultural and natural attractions.



1

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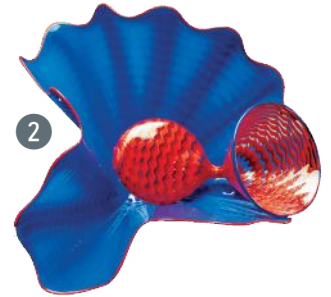


@mmmbeans

3



4



2

DAY 1

Use your first day in "The Springs" to explore the town. Downtown has plenty of options for breakfast, and the new **PikeRide** bike-share program makes it easy to get around on two wheels. Head to **Tejon Street** for window-shopping and latte sipping. Spend time at one of the area's museums, such as the **Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center (2)** (catch the acclaimed theater company in action), the **Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum**, the **Penrose Heritage Museum** and the new **Ent Center for the Arts**, a magnificent cultural building complete with a contemporary-art gallery. Or stop in for tea at **Miramont Castle (1)**, a Victorian castle at the base of Pikes Peak with nine styles of architecture.

With more than 50 pieces of permanent public art, esteemed cultural institutions and a roster of events and festivals, it's no surprise that downtown Colorado Springs has been named one of 23 Certified Colorado Creative Districts. A free **First Friday Art Walk** shuttle will take you to the galleries around town, as well as in nearby Old Colorado City and Manitou Springs, from April to December.

Stop for lunch at the **Ivywild School (4)**, a 1916 elementary school renovated into a community market featuring **Bristol Brewing Co.**, **Axe and the Oak** whiskey distillery, community gardens, music and a bakery/eatery — all selling local items. Next, see where Team USA prepares for competition at the **U.S. Olympic Training Center**. Tour the athlete training facilities and U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame.

For dinner, there are tons of fine-dining options, including one of Colorado's two five-star restaurants, **The Broadmoor's Penrose Room**. There's also **Four by Brother Luck**, a local chef

QUICK TIP

Originally one of the campus's original structures, the **U.S. Air Force Academy Planetarium** reopened last year after a long hiatus and thorough renovation. Now, it boasts modern educational experiences and a theater for STEM-related shows, in addition to its planetarium presentations.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: LEFT: MIRAMONT CASTLE; PIKES PEAK COUNTRY; ATTRACTIONS: COLORADO SPRINGS FINE ART CENTER AT COLORADO COLLEGE; IVYWILD SCHOOL; CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN ZOO; @MIMMIBEANS



Head out to **Cave of the Winds (5)** and **The Broadmoor Seven Falls**, where a 181-foot waterfall cascades down seven granite steps. The Soaring Adventure zipline just outside the falls delights visitors with multiple courses and scenic features. At Cave of the Winds, explore caverns, soar on the Terror-dactyl aerial dive ride, tackle the Wind Walker Challenge Course or clip-in for a new via ferrata climbing adventure. Or celebrate early at **North Pole, Home of Santa's Workshop**, where it's Christmas all year and a zipline whisks you around the park in Santa's sleigh.

Or, hit up the **ProRodeo Hall of Fame & Museum of the American Cowboy** to see exhibits on famous cowboys such as Chris LeDoux, Lane Frost and Gene Autry. There's also the **National Museum of World War II Aviation**, the only U.S. museum that exclusively promotes the importance of aviation in World War II.

If you've got time to get sidetracked, peek into **Woodland Park** to explore the **Dinosaur Resource Center (6)** and farther on to **Divide** to visit **Mueller State Park**, which happens to have amazing Pikes Peak views. **Old Colorado City** is another favorite spot for strolling visitors looking for shops, patio dining, art galleries, events and more.

who went the distance on Bravo's "Top Chef Colorado." Then, see a show at the **Pikes Peak Center for the Performing Arts**, host to more than 200 performances every year.

DAY 2

Start your day exploring **Garden of the Gods (7)** on foot, on horse or by Segway. This free National Natural Landmark features unusual sandstone rock formations up to 300 feet high. While in the area, stop into the **Northrop Grumman Science Center** to see Science on a Sphere for views of the Earth, sun, moons and planets in space.



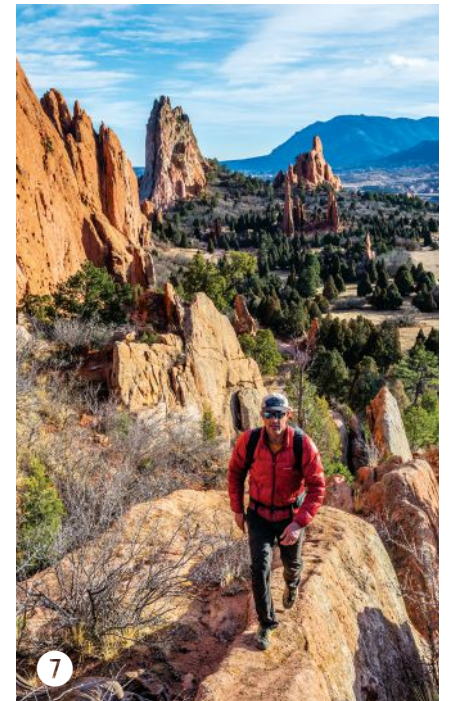
Dominating the skyline is **Pikes Peak**. Reach the summit by car, foot or bike. Stop into the new Summit House for info on the peak's importance to the area's history, amazing overlooks and to pick up one of the famous doughnuts at the Summit House. Explore in the peak's shadow at the **South Slope Recreation Area**, with hiking and singletrack trails, fishing and bighorn-sheep viewing.

Or head over to the **Red Rock Canyon Open Space**, with picnic areas, hiking trails, a free-ride bike park, technical climbing routes and off-leash dog loops. If your pooch is along, finish his day at **Pub Dog**, the state's only restaurant where dogs can eat indoors with their owners and plenty of Fido-friendly amenities make it worth their while.

Before dinner, stop by the **Winery at Pikes Peak** in Cascade for a few sips at the base of Pikes Peak and then check out Manitou Springs' **SunWater Spa's** hot soaking springs for further relaxation. Grab dinner in **historic Manitou Springs**, named one of the 10 Coolest Small Towns in the country by *Budget Travel* magazine. The town is home to historic restaurants, neighborhood eateries, boutiques and galleries — and was also named a Certified Colorado Creative District. A free **shuttle** will ferry you from parking lots into the downtown district or up to the popular **Manitou Incline**, a steep and challenging trail for those seeking a killer workout.

DAY 3

Start your morning with a visit to **Cheyenne Mountain Zoo (3)**. Ride the tram around the park, feed giraffes and parakeets, walk among the wallabies and check out the *Encounter Africa* exhibit.



STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Cañon City (page 193), **Cascade** (page 193), **Colorado Springs** (page 194), **Divide**, **Falcon** (page 197), **Franktown**, **Green Mountain Falls**, **Lake George**, **Manitou Springs** (page 201), **Monument**, **Palmer Lake**, **Woodland Park**

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: CAVE OF THE WINDS; GARDEN OF THE GODS PARK; KENNAN HARVEY; DINOSAUR RESOURCE CENTER; EFRAN M. PADRÓ.

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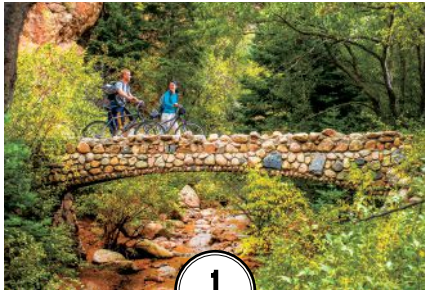


COME TO LIFE  COLORADO™

COLORADO SPRINGS TOURS & ADVENTURES



The Colorado Springs area is one of the state's favorite places to play. Here are a few quick ways to soak in its Rocky Mountain splendor.



1

TAKE A MOUNTAIN-BIKE TOUR

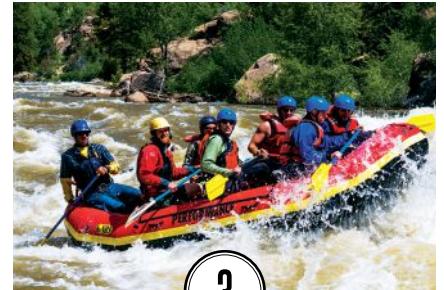
Whether you BYOB or need all the gear to get on the trails, several outfitters will get you set up and show you routes designed for every skill level, from an easy loop through Garden of the Gods to a virtual flight on the Pikes Peak Highway.



2

GET ABOVE IT ALL

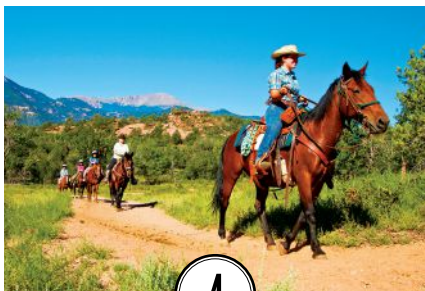
See the city, Pikes Peak and all its other spectacular assets from a hot-air balloon ride. Most flights take off at sunrise and are likely to render you speechless.



3

RIDE THE WHITEWATER

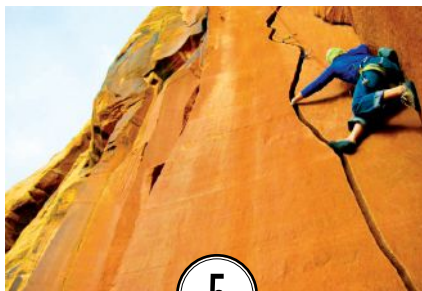
Just a short drive from the Arkansas River, one of the country's most popular whitewater-rafting destinations, more than a dozen Colorado Springs outfitters are waiting to show you just the amount of thrills you're after.



4

EXPERIENCE THE WILD WEST

Explore the area's canyons, parks and trails while communing with nature and your new best friend. Ranches and stables around town have several ways to make you feel like a real cowboy or gal.



5

SCALE TO NEW HEIGHTS

With all the mountains surrounding the city, you've eventually gotta climb a few! Hook up — literally — with a guide to get you squared away and climbing in the right direction.



6

LET SOMEONE ELSE DO THE PLANNING

Colorado Springs' tour guides specialize in trips for travelers interested in everything from photography to Jeep and Segway tours, fishing, breweries, history, food and general interest. Let them show you places you'd never find on your own! visitcos.com/tour-guides

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: THE BROADMOOR; COLORADO SPRINGS BALLOON CLASSIC; JAMES FRANK; ARKANSAS RIVER; CLASSIC VISIONS; ADVENTURES OUT WEST; GARDEN OF THE GODS PARK; THE BROADMOOR; ACADEMY RIDING STABLES; THE BROADMOOR.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Cañon City (page 193), Cascade (page 193), Colorado Springs (page 194), Divide, Falcon (page 197), Franktown, Green Mountain Falls, Lake George, Manitou Springs (page 201), Monument, Palmer Lake, Woodland Park



Pikes Peak Country
ATTRACTIONS



Pikes Peak

REGION

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IronSpringsChateau.com

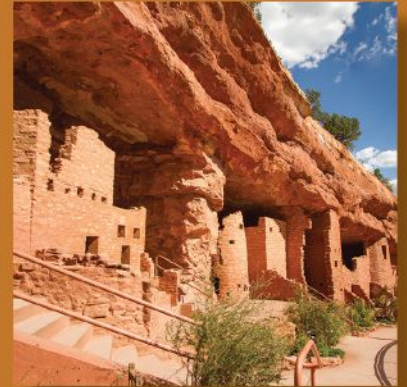
NORTH POLE SANTA'S WORKSHOP



The North Pole has more than 25 rides, a village full of unique shops, a magic show and of course Santa himself! It's a full day of family fun!

(719) 684-9432
NorthPoleColorado.com

MANITOU CLIFF DWELLINGS



Explore inside each dwelling and roam freely through 700-year-old, authentic Pueblo Indian cliff dwellings, the remnants of ancient American Indian culture.

(719) 685-5242
CliffDwellingsMuseum.com

ROYAL GORGE BRIDGE & PARK



(719) 275-7507
RoyalGorgeBridge.com

You never know what you'll come across at the Royal Gorge Bridge & Park. So come. Come now. Fly into the sun. Laugh into the wind. Stop and hold hands while you stare off America's highest suspension bridge. And we promise, you'll come across something brand new. Buy tickets today at RoyalGorgeBridge.com.



Pikes Peak Country
ATTRACTIONS

PIKES-PEAK.COM

PIKES PEAK – AMERICA'S MOUNTAIN



It's not every day you can reach the top of the world with both hands on the wheel, but this is not an everyday kind of place! Pikes Peak is 14,115 feet above ordinary.

(719) 385-7325
PikesPeakColorado.com

CRIPPLE CREEK & VICTOR NARROW GAUGE R.R.



Enjoy the engineer's historic narrative and crisp breeze while riding a 100-year-old train through the picturesque Cripple Creek mountainside.

(719) 689-2640
CrippleCreekRailroad.com

CAVE OF THE WINDS MOUNTAIN PARK



With three cave tours to choose from, thrilling outdoor activities and lots to do for all ages, Cave of the Winds Mountain Park has been a must-see Colorado attraction for more than a century. Discovered in 1881, at 7,000 feet, we're one of the highest show caves in America! Enjoy spectacular scenery, mild to wild family-friendly activities atop breathtaking Williams Canyon.

(719) 685-5444
CaveoftheWinds.com



Pikes Peak Country
ATTRACTIONS

PIKES-PEAK.COM

ESCAPE & ENJOY



Manitou Springs

COLORADO



Manitou Springs is a certified Colorado Creative District you won't want to miss. Stroll the Art on the Avenue and discover the unique galleries scattered throughout town. Plan your stay to enjoy our one-of-a-kind events.

- JAN** ▶ Great Fruitcake Toss
- MAR** ▶ Carnivale Weekend
Mumbo Jumbo Gumbo Cook-Off
Spring Wine Walk
- APR** ▶ Spring Concert
- JUN** ▶ Manitou Springs Colo. Wine Fest
Pikes Peak Int'l Hill Climb
- JUL** ▶ Ice Cream Social & Pie Baking Contest
- AUG** ▶ Pikes Peak Marathon & Ascent
- SEPT** ▶ Commonwheel Arts Festival
Fall Wine Walk
Heritage Brew Fest
- OCT** ▶ Emma Crawford Coffin Races
- NOV** ▶ Fall Concert
- DEC** ▶ Holiday Shopping, Music, Santa

MANITOUSPRINGS.ORG

STAY AT THE FOOT OF PIKES PEAK



Nestled between Garden of the Gods and Pikes Peak, Manitou Springs is centrally located to the attractions of the Pikes Peak Region. Lodging options include charming cabins, hotels and motels, vacation rentals, historic B&Bs and campgrounds/RV parks.

(877) 590-9798 | MANITOUSPRINGS.ORG/STAY

ELEVATE YOUR COLORADO ADVENTURE



Manitou Springs' walkable small town is the perfect place to visit. Taste the mineral water that made Manitou Springs famous while you stroll our historic downtown shopping district. Dining choices range from cafés to five star experiences. Pair all this with easy access to outdoor activities & area attractions and you've got a family vacation everyone will enjoy! Call for a free Manitou Springs Vacation Guide.

(877) 590-9798 | MANITOUSPRINGS.ORG



Pikes Peak Country
ATTRACTIONS

PIKES-PEAK.COM

ROARING FUN IN THE ROARING FORK VALLEY: ASPEN, SNOWMASS & GLENWOOD SPRINGS



The Roaring Fork River flows through a valley that has always been a favorite playscape.

WINTER FUN

The Aspen/Snowmass area is home to four big-time ski areas: Aspen Mountain, Aspen Highlands, Snowmass and Buttermilk Mountain. And Glenwood Springs is home to Sunlight Mountain Resort, where you can ski, hop on snowmobile tours and tackle the scenic Nordic trails on snowshoes or cross-country skis.



SUMMER AT SKI RESORTS

Ride the gondola to the top of Aspen Mountain for hiking trails, dining amid gorgeous views, and yoga and meditation classes. Snowmass Mountain has disc golf, more than 40 miles of mountain-biking trails and the Lost Forest — a new activity center featuring an alpine coaster, ziplines, a challenge course and climbing wall.

DAY 1

Start the day with a ride on the **Grandstaff Trail**, the newest route in **Red Mountain's (2)** mountain-biking trail system — offering killer views, challenging climbs and exhilarating downhill action just minutes from downtown **Glenwood Springs**. Hikers should visit **Hanging Lake**, a mysterious natural wonder high in the bluffs. Visit on early weekday mornings to avoid the crowds — those on the trail by 5:30am find tranquility and spectacular light for photos.

Next, melt any muscle aches away in the Colorado River-side **Iron Mountain Hot Springs'** 16 soaking pools, **Yampah Spa & Salon's** steam baths and **Glenwood Hot Springs (1)**, home to the world's largest hot-springs pool. Mineral-rich waters fluctuate between 90 and 93 degrees and swimming lanes, a kiddie pool, waterslides and mini golf add elements of fun.

Follow your sighs of relaxation with squeals of delight at the **Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park (3)**, where a mountain sling shot, Cliffhanger Rollercoaster and the new Haunted Mine Drop, which plunges riders 110 feet inside Iron Mountain, provide year-round thrills, as do three in-town escape rooms.

For photo ops, "Doc" Holliday's grave site is located in **Linwood Cemetery**, a short hike from downtown Glenwood Springs with terrific views of the town and the valley. Then dine alfresco along Seventh Avenue and stay the night in Glenwood Springs, named the "Most Fun Town in



1

America" by Rand McNally and USA Today.

DAY 2

It's time to explore **Aspen**. Renowned as a haven for celebrities, skiers and culture vultures, Aspen manages to maintain a character that is 100 percent Colorado and family friendly. Enhance your morning with a jaunt through downtown to survey the town's famous stores. In the summer, hit up the **Saturday Market** for its farm-fresh produce and local products, or cruise the area on two wheels with a bike rental from **43 WE-Cycle Stations** in Aspen and **Basalt**.



2



3

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: GLENWOOD HOT SPRINGS; C2 PHOTOGRAPHY; RED MOUNTAIN; STEVE MOHLENKAMP; GLENWOOD CAVERNS ADVENTURE PARK; ASPEN MOUNTAIN; THE LITTLE NELL.

QUICK TIP

Those seeking a ride up to Glenwood Springs from Denver can hop on the **Bustang West Line** — a 55-passenger, bathroom- and Wi-Fi-equipped bus that travels from Denver's Union Station to Glenwood Springs and back daily, with additional stops in Vail, Eagle and Frisco.



SIDETRIPS

Detour to the small town of **Basalt** at the confluence of the Roaring Fork and Fryingpan rivers for Gold Medal fishing year-round, kayaking in a new whitewater park and paddleboarding on Ruedi Reservoir. There's also charming shops, galleries and cafes, and the new Arts Campus at Willits hosts concerts and shows.

Down the valley in **Carbondale**, the new (and free!) Powers Art Center focuses on contemporary and pop art. Recently named a Certified Colorado Creative District, arts events, performances and classes abound in Carbondale. Touted as one of "The Top 10 Adventure Towns in the U.S." by *National Geographic Adventure Magazine*, possible outdoor pursuits include biking, kayaking, paddleboarding and fly-fishing. In winter, excellent cross-country skiing can be found at Spring Gulch.

Marble is tucked away in the Crystal River Valley. The Marble Hub is a great place to get questions answered, sip coffee and get the lay of the land. Make the off-road trek to the ghost town of Crystal to see the 1893 Silver Boom Crystal Mill, an eye-catching remnant of the mining activities that influenced settlement in the area. (Tip: Late afternoon is the best time to photograph the mill.) Back in town, rent an electric bike at Marble Bike Rentals and stop at the Marble Gallery to browse the crystallized stone that earned the enclave its name.

New Castle is 9 miles west of Glenwood Springs. Take the new self-guided historical tour to learn about the area or play 18 holes at the championship golf course.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Aspen (page 191), **Basalt** (page 191), **Carbondale** (page 193), **Glenwood Springs** (page 198), **Marble** (page 202), **Redstone** (page 203), **Rifle** (page 203), **Snowmass** (page 205)



4

Spend the afternoon savoring the scenery of the upper Roaring Fork River Valley. Just 1 mile from downtown Aspen, try your hand at the **Gold Butte Climbing Area (4)**, which has routes for all levels. Or, the **Snowmass Loop Trail** has 25 miles of mountain-biking bliss for riders of all abilities, and the **Rio Grande Trail** is a paved path that starts in Aspen and follows the Roaring Fork River. Those with little adventurers in tow should hike the **Grottos Trail**, an easy route that leads to glimpses of ice caves and waterfalls.

Follow the crowds to **Maroon Lake** via the daily shuttle from Aspen Highlands (8am–5pm mid-June to early October only). The striped, tilted pyramids of the twin **Maroon Bells** reflecting in the lake below is one of North America's most famous mountain scenes. Or, a semi-secret way to see these iconic peaks is from the top of Snowmass Mountain, a view that is easily accessible in summer or winter from the top of the Elk Camp lift.

As an alternative, **Independence Pass** offers a variety of recreational opportunities



5



6

from hiking and biking to climbing and exploring a ghost town. There's also the **Aspen Center for Environmental Studies (7)**, a 25-acre nature preserve just steps from downtown, home to birds of prey and lush riparian ecosystems.

Explore the (free!) **Aspen Art Museum**, which houses contemporary art and dramatic mountain views from its rooftop sculpture garden. In Snowmass, the also-free **Ice Age Discovery Center (6)**

teaches about the 2010 find that became the finest high-elevation Ice Age fossil site in the world.

Time for dinner, and you're in luck: This area has a world-class dining scene. Chefs at restaurants like **Matsuhisa**, **Grey Lady** and **Element 47 (5)** create their menus around whatever local produce is in season. Or check out Farm-to-Table Tuesday at **Elk Camp Restaurant** atop Snowmass Mountain.



7



SNOWMASS
COLORADO

YOUR OUTSIDE SIDE IS A FORCE OF NATURE.

Explore 3,300+ impeccable acres
of skiing & snowboarding terrain
and 95% slopeside lodging at
GOSNOWMASS.COM

ASPEN
SNOWMASS



The Crestwood Condominiums

The Crestwood is a renowned ski-in/ski-out condominium lodging establishment at the base of Snowmass, providing guests with the most convenient ski holiday experience. Our fully furnished, one to four bedroom condominiums and three rating categories can accommodate a wide range of group sizes and budgets while providing world-class service and amenities.

877.217.9161
thcrestwood.com



Woodrun V

Step off the treadmill of daily life, and into the serenity of Woodrun V. Tucked away in a picturesque setting next to Snowmass' vast network of trails, you'll breathe in pure air and mountain views from the privacy of your spacious residence. Watch wandering wildlife, or choose to walk four minutes to shop and dine in the Village.

844.754.7400 | 970.922.0017
woodrunv.com



COLORADO
COME TO LIFE



YOUR OUTSIDE SIDE HAS A SINGLE-TRACK MIND.

Discover 80+ miles of hiking & biking trails and our new on-mountain adventure center at GOSNOWMASS.COM



The Timberline Condominiums

Timberline Condominiums offers the services of a fine hotel in the comfort of spacious, private, ski-in/ski-out, deluxe vacation rentals, ranging from studios to three bedroom units. We are conveniently located on the slopes of Snowmass ski area and a short walk to the mall. Our guests can also enjoy alpine-inspired cuisine for après and dinner at our on-site restaurant and bar, The Edge.

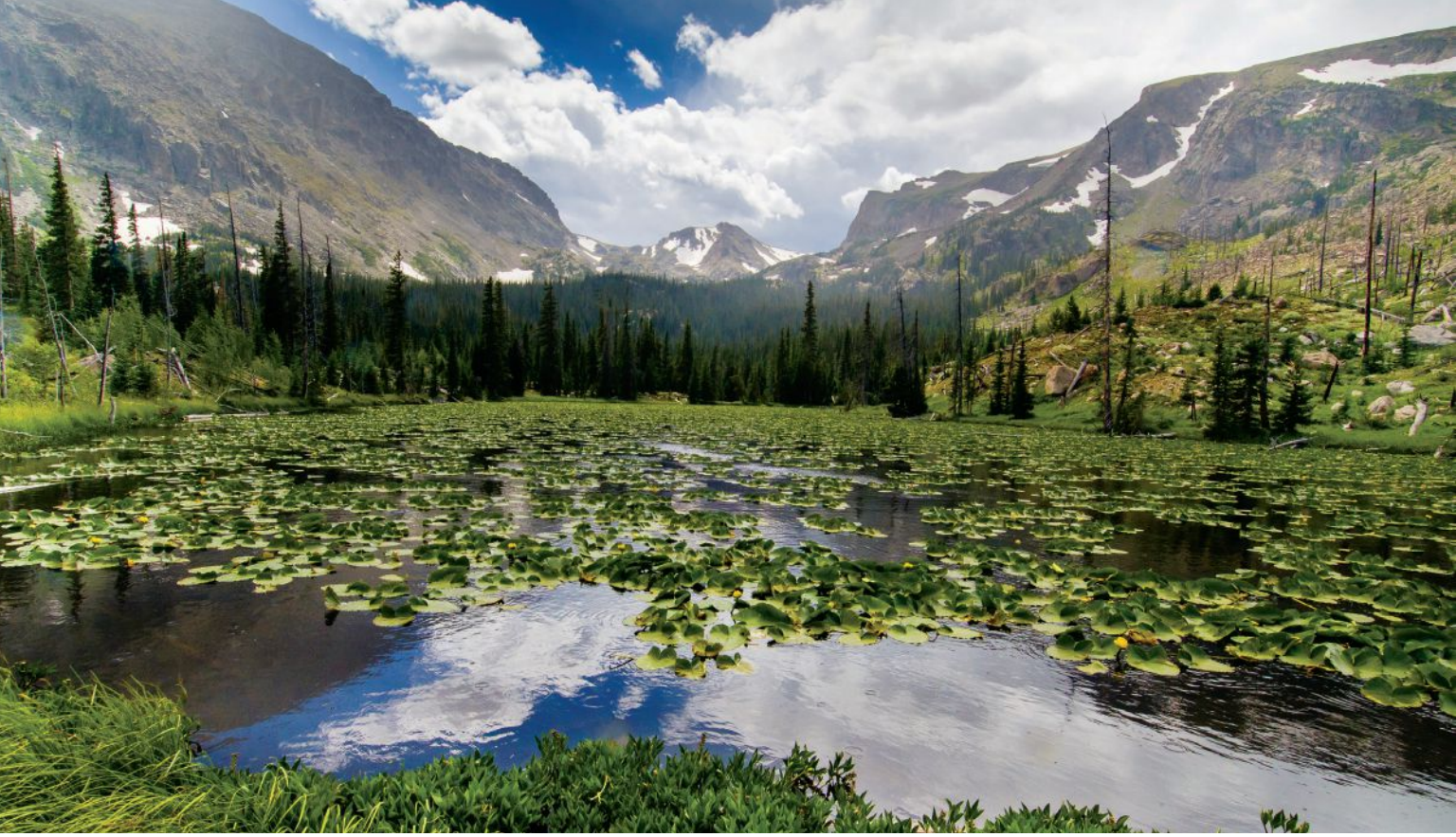
800.922.4001 | 970.923.4000
thetimberline.com



Snowmass Mountain Lodging by East West

Discover a family's utopia in Snowmass Mountain Lodging's luxurious residences in the new Snowmass Base Village. Choose between the Capitol Peak Lodge, Hayden Lodge and Lumin Residences; each includes a kitchen, fireplace, balcony, 24-hour guest services, complimentary Aspen Airport and Snowmass Base Village transportation, Wi-Fi and housekeeping.

888.976.0807
snowmassmountainlodging.com



CLOSE TO PARADISE: ESTES PARK & ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK



MORNING

One of the most popular parks in the country, Rocky Mountain welcomes 4 million visitors a year and still manages to offer moments of solitude.

Take a drive on **Trail Ridge Road (4)**, the highest paved through-road in North America. This roller-coaster route crosses the Continental Divide and offers breathtaking photo ops as you climb past sub-alpine forests and wind-swept tundra to 12,183 feet above sea level. Or enjoy a family wildflower hike to **Gem Lake** or **Bridal Veil Falls**. For a little more challenge, try the 2.8-mile

Mills Lake trek. You'll be rewarded with grand views of 14,259-foot-tall Longs Peak and the Keyboard of the Winds, a whimsical rock formation named for its shape.

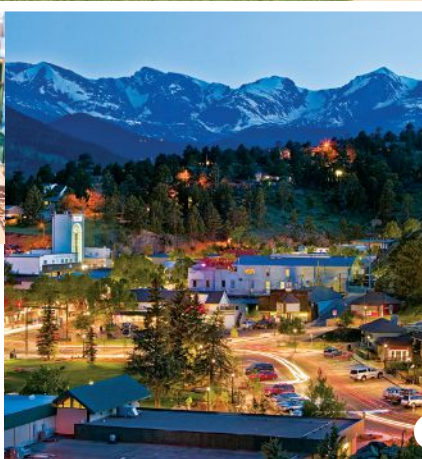
Pull over at **Moraine Park** for prime wildlife watching. More than 3,000 elk and 800 bighorn sheep live in the park, which is a regular gathering spot for bugling. Inside the park, the **Rocky Mountain Conservancy** offers year-round seminars, guided fly-fishing, naturalist tours, hiking and photography classes. Estes Park and surrounding Rocky Mountain National Park are also superior birding

spots, with more than 315 species to be seen. Grab your binoculars for a self-guided exploration of **Mathews-Reeser Bird Sanctuary**, or opt for a ranger-led bird walk within the national park.

At the **Open Air Adventure Park**, rope bridges, aerial tightropes and swinging logs challenge folks 5 years old and up. Or, get above it all in a different way at Estes Park's own **Jurassic Park**. This climbing area just south of town features rock outcroppings, slabs and routes that make for a perfect outing.

QUICK TIP

During warm-weather months, utilize the free **Hiker's Express shuttle** from the Estes Park Visitor Center to reach Rocky Mountain National Park, where you can transfer to two other free shuttle routes and gain easy access to hiking trails around Bear Lake and Moraine Park.



AFTERNOON

Downtown Estes Park (3) is the gateway into the national park, but it's also a destination unto itself. Stop by **The Barrel** on Moraine Avenue, a seasonal alfresco beer garden, and window-shop along **Elkhorn Avenue (2)**, with one-of-a-kind stores, several new boutiques and restaurants and plenty of places for an afternoon snack. Stop for coffee and sit outside on the **Riverwalk**.

One block off Elkhorn, the path follows the Big Thompson River as it flows through town and hosts street performers in the summer. Take the path east for a tranquil walk around **Lake Estes**, or stop at the marina to rent bikes, pontoon boats, paddleboards or kayaks. Then, enjoy a tasting at **Snowy**

Peaks Winery, Elkins Distilling Company, Rock Cut Brewing Company or Lumpy Ridge Brewing Co., a former gas station with a beer garden and new brews on tap regularly. Keep an eye out for the **Two Chicks Wings & Henhouse** food truck, usually parked near Rock Cut (despite the name, these chicks have excellent vegetarian options).

EVENING

Wind down with dinner at the storied **Stanley Hotel (1)**, an elegant 109-

year-old, white-pillared landmark. Guided ghost tours reveal how Stephen King was inspired to write *The Shining* while staying in room 217. Stop by the beautifully crafted antique **Cascades Whiskey Bar** to choose from 250 different wine labels and the largest whiskey collection in the state.

Newer to Estes Park's dining scene, the farm-to-table cuisine from **Seasoned - An American Bistro** and **Bird & Jim's** artisan approach have locals raving.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Allenspark, Estes Park (page 196), **Lyons** (page 201)

WINTER FUN ❄️

From extreme sports such as ice climbing, backcountry split-boarding and skiing to more relaxed activities like snowshoeing and curling up by the fire, Estes Park also caters to winter visitors. It's easy to get there year-round and offers an alternative to the bustling ski resorts.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: THE STANLEY HOTEL; TRAIL RIDGE ROAD. @SHANNONOFFTHEMAP. NEAR LONG'S PEAK. JASON J. HATFIELD; VISIT ESTES PARK; ELKHORN AVENUE. VISIT ESTES PARK. VISIT ESTES PARK.

BREATH TAKEN



Discover the beauty in what hasn't changed in Colorado's original playground.
VisitEstesPark.com



The Stanley Hotel

Steps away from downtown Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park, The Stanley offers diverse hotel rooms and suites in the historic hotel and The Lodge, a boutique, newly renovated property, convenient to the main hotel. The Stanley also offers a wide variety of vacation condos at the adjacent Stanley Residences and the brand-new and modern Aspire Residences. Experience Estes Park's most creative culinary offerings at Cascades Restaurant and Whiskey Bar, or step back in time with one of our popular daily tours. A desired location for groups, The Stanley has been hosting weddings, meetings, and events for over 100 years, making it a dream destination for any mountain getaway.

800-976-1377 / StanleyHotel.com



Boulder Brook on Fall River

Adult-only resort in the Rockies! Luxury riverfront suites with deck, kitchenette and fireplace. Soak in the hot tub, watch wildlife, fish in the river.

800-238-0910 / BoulderBrook.com



Streamside on Fall River

Family fun in the Rockies! Cabins and suites by the river. Kitchens, fireplaces, decks, BBQs. Relax in the hot tub & hammocks. Great wildlife. Near town and RMNP.

800-321-3303 / StreamsideOnFallRiver.com



YMCA of the Rockies Estes Park Center

YMCA of the Rockies is the perfect place to vacation with family and friends. This 850-acre property is bordered on three sides by Rocky Mountain National Park. Cabins with full kitchens are available to accommodate families large and small. Lodge rooms offer the comfort of a hotel and two free breakfasts each day. In the summer and fall, go on guided hiking excursions, take an ecology class or explore RMNP on horseback. Enjoy winter's solitude snowshoeing, ice skating or during crisp walks through the snow. Stay active at our indoor pool and roller skating rink or enjoy family time around a cozy fire or making crafts. Views and wildlife abound in every season. Discover year-round activities, festivals and unique shopping opportunities minutes away in Estes Park.

888-613-9622 / 970-586-3341 / YMCARockies.org

VisitEstesPark.com





Aspen Winds on Fall River

Overlooking Fall River, we offer 1- and 2-bedroom suites and in-room spa suites with private decks, gas fireplaces, kitchenettes, fire pit and Wi-Fi.

800-399-6010 / AspenWinds.com



Brynwood on the River

River/theme Cabins, some w/hot tub & fireplace; Motel and Vacation Homes. Cable, WiFi, kitchenettes, BBQ's. Open Year Round.

970-586-3475 / Brynwood.com



Deer Crest Resort on Fall River

Quiet, relaxing getaway for ADULTS ONLY. Rooms to suites with kitchenettes, all with AC. 5 minutes to RMNP. Non-smoking property.

800-331-2324 / DeerCrestResort.com



The Estes Park Resort

The Estes Park Resort has the unique stature to be the only resort on Lake Estes while providing an extraordinary view of the peaks in Rocky Mountain National Park. From intimate to large there is a location to meet your needs. From a simple getaway to an elegant wedding; your life is your adventure and the big moments should be framed to your taste. Joining together with family and friends at one of the most wondrous places on earth is a forever memory.

970-577-6400 Front Desk / Requests@TheEstesParkResort.com
TheEstesParkResort.com



Castle Mountain Lodge

Leave the fast lane, cross our covered bridge to simple serenity in a cozy cottage, suite, room or vacation home along Fall River. Fish our stocked river. Explore 30-plus acres adjoining the National Park. Enjoy a fireplace, hot tub, barbecue, kitchen, playground, wandering wildlife, paved riverwalk to town.

800-689-8284 / CastleMountainLodge.com



Wildwood Inn

Being a family owned and professionally operated inn you are sure to experience the home away from home feeling. Our accommodations offer something above the ordinary, at affordable rates. Come and experience fabulous mountain view suites or enjoy direct river access condos with great trout fishing.

866-586-7030 / EstesWildwoodInn.com



Discover the beauty in what hasn't changed in Colorado's original playground.



Visit The Ridgeline Hotel!

Visitors to Estes Park have always been greeted with some of the most beautiful scenery, but a stay at the freshly remodeled Ridgeline Hotel proves that your overnight accommodations can be just as breathtaking. Here, we are excited to provide you with a number of ways to relax and have fun on property. With options ranging from video games to swimming, complimentary bike rentals to shuffleboard, or even roasting S'mores over the fire, there is an activity for everyone at The Ridgeline Hotel.

844-744-5527 / RidgelineHotel.com



The Evergreens on Fall River

Luxury riverfront cabins nestled in the heart of the Rocky Mountains and just 1.5 miles from the National Park. An unforgettable resort!

888-686-3393 / EvergreensOnFallRiver.com



Blackhawk Cabins

Located on Fall River with a picnic area and lawn that overlooks the river. All cabins have wood fireplaces & fully equipped kitchens.

970-586-6100 / BlackhawkEstesPark.com



Rocky Mountain Resorts

With five beautiful properties in Estes Park, we can provide what you're searching for! From secluded cabins and condos (many with hot tubs), to cozy cottages and spacious mountain homes, we are just minutes each from downtown Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park.

800-672-9289 / 970-586-2388
RockyMtnResorts.com



McGregor Mountain Lodge

Escape to a mountain lover's paradise. Standalone cabins and suites bordering Rocky Mountain National Park with breathtaking views. Enjoy the cozy-modern cabins open year-round complete with kitchens, wood burning fireplaces, WiFi, jetted tubs. Smoke free, Dog friendly. Wildlife abound.

800-835-8439 / McGregorMountainLodge.com



Rams Horn Village Resort

Experience the finer side of cabin life. Just four minutes to Rocky Mountain National Park. Full kitchens, fireplaces, heated pool and more.

800-229-4676 / LuxuryEstesParkCabins.com



Bear Paw & River Stone Resorts

Luxury 1, 2 & 3 bedroom condo/suites. Jacuzzi or private hot tub, fireplaces, kitchen, patio/deck with gas grill. 2 miles from RMNP & downtown.

888-854-5223 / RiverStoneResorts.info

VisitEstesPark.com





SUMMIT COUNTY GETAWAY: BRECKENRIDGE, SILVERTHORNE, FRISCO, DILLON, KEYSTONE & COPPER MOUNTAIN

Appropriately named “Colorado’s Playground,” Summit County is an easy day trip from Denver and the Front Range. The area is hugged by three mountain ranges and presents enough activities to satisfy anyone itching to get out and go.



DAY 1

Start the day scoring deals at more than 50 name-brand stores, including J. Crew, Banana Republic and Coach, at the **Outlets at Silverthorne**. Counter your shopping with a trip down to the water. Silverthorne’s **Blue River Trail (5)** runs parallel to the outlet shops and provides access to the river’s Gold Medal trout-filled waters and scenic walkway.

Watch how far your ball flies through the thin mountain air while teeing off at one of Keystone’s two 18-hole championship courses, **Keystone Ranch** and

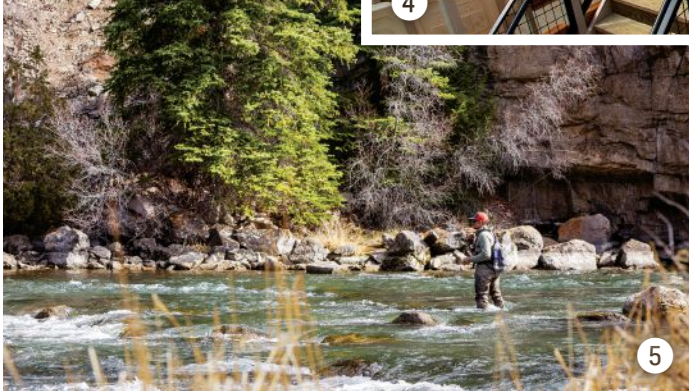
the **River Course at Keystone (2)**, before heading west to Frisco (1), where you can rent canoes, kayaks, pontoon boats and paddle-boats and explore the dozen or so islands sprinkled throughout. The **Frisco Bay Marina** now rents the Hobie Eclipse pedalboards (with handlebars and stair-step pedals).

After exploring the 25 miles of shoreline, stop off at the **Peninsula Recreation Area** for a round of disc golf and loads of picnic sites perfect for spreading out with lunch from one of charming **Main Street’s** tempting delis, breweries

QUICK TIP

Breckenridge’s **Free Ride Transit System** makes it easy — and complimentary — to get around town, complete with its own app showing real-time bus locations and maps. Use Summit Stage buses to venture to other parts of Summit County, also at no charge.

FROM TOP: LAKE DILLON: LISA SEAMAN; THE RIVER COURSE AT KEYSTONE: VAL RESORTS/JACK AFLECK.



WINTER FUN ❄️

Keystone Resort, Breckenridge Ski Resort, Copper Mountain and Arapahoe Basin are four reasons Summit County is known worldwide as a top winter destination. Just a short trek up scenic I-70 from Denver, find all types of ski and snowboard terrain, as well as other enchantments like snow tubing, sleigh and dog-sledding rides, snowmobiling, Nordic trails and much more. Check out the Summit Huts Association's new Sisters Cabin for a backcountry hut experience in Weber Gulch. An 8-mile groomed recreation path also links Breckenridge with the Frisco Adventure Park, perfect for cross-country skiing and winter fat biking.



(including the acclaimed Outer Range Brewing Co.) and chef-owned eateries in Frisco. The **Frisco Bike Park (3)** has pump track, slope-style and dual-slam courses, and the town has access points to more than 80 miles of paved recreation path for plenty of road-bike spinning.

Bring a blanket to the newly revamped **Dillon Amphitheater** for a lakeside evening concert. Throughout the summer, the pavilion hosts performances, concerts and dance nights. Or head over to **Copper Mountain**, where a scenic chairlift can take you to a mountaintop restaurant or to the top of a downhill mountain-bike course or rugged hike.

DAY 2

Breckenridge boasts a vibrant "made-in-Breck" food and beverage scene. Grab breakfast at one of the more than **70 independently owned restaurants**, or some caffeinated inspiration at **The Crown** coffee shop. Then, hop on your mountain bike and hit the trails; many of them are converted wagon routes and mining paths. If you prefer pavement, jump on the **Ten Mile**

Recreational Pathway. Named for the adjacent mountain range, the 24-mile paved path connects to the 55-mile **Summit County Recreational Path**.

For more heart-thumping amusement, race down the slopes on the Gold Runner Coaster, an elevated alpine track that's part of the new summertime **Epic Discovery (4)** program at **Breckenridge Ski Resort**. You can also test yourself on the Alpineer Challenge Course, reach new heights on the Gold Summit Climbing Wall and much more.

In the afternoon, head to **downtown Breckenridge**, where locally owned boutiques will taunt you with everything from designer cupcakes to designer jeans and fancy, imported olive oils and vinegars to fancy, imported cigars. Explore the 200-structure historic district on foot; Breck is one of the state's emerging art towns and a Certified Colorado Creative District, hosting makers' nights, performances and a number of studios, galleries and shops holding workshops on subjects like metal-smithing and green beauty.

While Colorado rakes in praise for its craft-brewing culture (which you can experience at the Breckenridge Brewery **(6)**), the distilled-spirits bandwagon has been taking on passengers. **Breckenridge Distillery** was one of the state's pioneers, and you can drop by its tasting room to sample award-winning bourbon whiskey or sipping bitters made from local herbs; the distillery also operates a farm-to-table dining experience (with a killer cocktail menu, of course). Not to be outdone, ski maker **Rocky Mountain Underground** opened a 16-brew tap house and showroom for their outdoor gear, along with a dog-friendly, backyard beer garden to boot. And **Continental Divide Winery** offers blending classes at Main Street Station.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS
Breckenridge (page 192), **Copper Mountain, Dillon** (page 196), **Frisco** (page 198), **Keystone** (page 200), **Silverthorne** (page 203)

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: FRISCO BIKE PARK, TODD POWELL/EPIC DISCOVERY AT BRECKENRIDGE, VAIL RESORTS/LEISA GIBSON; SUMMIT COUNTY HUT NEAR BRECKENRIDGE, LISA SEAMAN; BRECKENRIDGE BREWERY, EFFRAIN M. PADRÓ; THE BLUE RIVER, LISA SEAMAN.

DISCOVER YEAR-ROUND ADVENTURE

Sure, winter in Breckenridge is awe-inspiring. But that's just the icing on the cake to a spring, summer and fall packed with more mountain-town experiences than you could ever hope for. Tap our insider intel and locals' tips for the best-kept secrets for experiencing Breckenridge at its best, all year round.



2019 EVENTS

56th Annual Ullr Fest	January 9-12
29th Annual International Snow Sculpture Championships	January 21-30
Mardi Gras	March 5
WAVE: Light + Water + Sound	May 30-June 2
Gold Panning Championships	June 14-16
Independence Day Celebration	July 4
Breckenridge International Festival of Arts	August 9-18
25th Annual Breckenridge Oktoberfest	September 6-8
Breckenridge Wine Classic	September 12-15
Breckenridge Film Festival	September 19-22
Craft Spirits Festival	October
Dia de los Muertos	October 31-November 2
Lighting of Breckenridge	December 7

DISCOVER SUMMER FUN

You may have heard the saying "Locals come for the winters but stay for the summers" — experience one summer trip to Breckenridge and you'll see why! The list of what to love about Breckenridge during the summer is long. Whether you come for the trails, the brews, to get some sun, or to get a little vertical distance from the real world, Breckenridge's breathtaking scenery and friendly local scene will keep you coming back for more.

LOCALS' FAVORITES:

GRAB YOUR BINOCES:

Wildlife and wildflowers are in peak season

FAMILY-FRIENDLY THRILL:

Guided rafting trip

FAVORITE WAY TO

KICK BACK AND RELAX:

Enjoying microbrews and views

LOCALS' TIP:

Not into getting crazy on the trails? Try renting a bike for a cruise around town or sign up for a guided bike brew tour.

FALL IS FESTIVAL SEASON

Everyone loves a good festival and in Breckenridge there are plenty to choose from! Fall in Breckenridge is recognized for its tunnels of golden aspens and one of the largest Oktoberfest celebrations in the Rocky Mountains. But Oktoberfest isn't the only festival or event that shines every fall. Our fall calendar is packed with festivals that celebrate arts, crafts, the outdoors, tastings and the best of local flavor! Hit the trails between festivals and enjoy your favorite activities like hiking and biking. Don't forget your camera to capture the changing leaves!

LOCALS' FAVORITES:

GO FOR GOLD:

Take in the amazing fall foliage
FAVORITE MORNING ACTIVITY:

Strolling along the Blue River, taking in views with coffee in hand

GRAB YOUR LEDERHOSEN:

Costumes are always welcomed and encouraged!

LOCALS' TIP:

Plan your fall trip around a festival to experience all that Breckenridge has to offer!

SPRING SKIING & EVENTS

One of the best-kept secrets around is the amazing snow conditions Breckenridge enjoys each spring. When it's not snowing, skiers and snowboarders are treated to blue skies, sunny days and warm temps. Late-season snow days means many of your favorite winter activities (snowshoeing, sledding and

snowmobile tours) are still going strong. Take advantage of spring events, end-of-season discounts and the reopening of patio season around town.

LOCALS' FAVORITES:

HIT THE TRAILS:

On snowshoes this time

LOCALS' FAVORITE ACTIVITY:

Sledding Hill at Carter Park

TRY SOMETHING NEW:

Explore the mountains on a dogsled tour

LOCALS' TIP:

There's no better time to earn a glowing goggle tan than spring. If that's not your style make sure you grab your sunscreen because it's going to be bright!

QUICK TIP

Visit GoBreck.com for local tips and a year-round events calendar.

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thrills
+ town
charm



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SPIRIT OF THE SOUTHWEST: DURANGO, SILVERTON & PAGOSA SPRINGS



In southwest Colorado, everything's a bit extra: higher mountains, bluer skies and so many activities you'll have a hard time choosing. Spending just a few days will give you a taste of the glories of true Southwest living.

DAY 1

In **Durango**, historic buildings housing award-winning restaurants, craft breweries and art galleries line **Main Avenue** and surrounding blocks, cyclists zip through the streets and you hear the toot-toot of the departing **Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad (2)**.

The train has been operating continuously for 135 years, and a ride on its rails is a must. Opt for a one-way ride with a motorcoach return trip to afford more time to explore the historic mining town of Silverton. The tracks take the train through parts of the San Juan National Forest that are impenetrable by car.

If you'd like to experience the wilderness rather than just watching it rush by, you can use the train to access the **Weminuche Wilderness (1)**. It makes two stops along its route, where adventurous travelers can disembark or board the train.

Once in **Silverton**, enjoy the storybook mining village's

well-preserved splendor. The entire town is a designated National Historic Landmark and an archetypal example of a mining town that reinvented itself after the ore disappeared.

There are shops and restaurants to explore, as well as historical sites, including the **Mayflower Mill**, **Old Hundred Gold Mine (4)** and



1



2



3



4



5

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: WEMINUICHE WILDERNESS, KENNAN HARVEY; DURANGO & SILVERTON NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD, SCOTT DW SMITH; ICE LAKES BASIN, KENNAN HARVEY; OLD HUNDRED GOLD MINE; THE SPRINGS RESORT AND SPA, @RAYYYRAY17.

QUICK TIP

The Tracks Across Borders Scenic Byway shows off what the landscape would have looked like during the golden age of the **Denver & Rio Grande Railroad** while connecting two still-operating historic narrow-gauge railroads, the Durango & Silverton and the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad.

❄️ WINTER FUN

Purgatory just outside Durango is emerging as one of the nation's top ski destinations, with affordable packages and a low-key vibe. **Silverton Mountain** is the state's highest and steepest ski mountain, serving up un-groomed expert terrain, while those seeking lower-key affairs head to **Kendall Mountain Ski Area** near Silverton and **Hesperus** near Durango. Just 23 miles from Pagosa Springs, visitors and locals alike flock to **Wolf Creek Ski Resort** to ski and ride "the most snow in Colorado," with an average of 430 inches of natural (not manmade) snowfall per season.

Beyond the slopes, Durango, Silverton and Pagosa Springs all take advantage of their deep San Juan Mountain powder with endless trails perfect for backcountry snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, sledging and snowmobiling.



☀️ SUMMER AT SKI RESORTS

Durango's Purgatory Resort is a summer playground, with mountain-bike rentals, lifts and trails, as well as kids camps, a mountain coaster and alpine slide, scenic chair lifts, ziplines, ropes courses, stand-up paddleboarding and so much more.

Silverton Museum and Jail. If you extend your stay in Silverton, you have plenty of options for enjoying the surrounding San Juans, including Jeep and OHV tours, rafting, horseback riding, amazing day hikes up to **Ice Lakes Basin (5)** or the waterfalls of **Cunningham Gulch**, and the ghost towns of **Eureka** and **Howardsville**.

Thanks to a wealth of historic and scenic 4x4 roads that lace through the surrounding mountains, the area is incredibly popular for Jeep and ATV tours. Summer and fall offer glimpses into seldom-accessed fields of wildflowers and autumn color. Hundreds of miles of groomed trails await in the winter months.

Durango was named one of *Outside Magazine's* best new adventure hubs for its access to skiing, whitewater, fishing, hiking, byways and mountain-bike trails. Visit the town's **Main Street welcome center** to find out how to access all that recreation.

Just 40 minutes away, consider visiting **Vallecito Lake**, one of the state's largest and most spectacular, with plenty of fishing, boating, hiking, Jeeping, snowmobiling and other activities. The **Vallecito Creek Trail** hike is located near beautiful Vallecito Reservoir and is great for all ages.

Back in Durango, make plans for excellent eats at the town's new **11th Street Station** food-truck co-op, serving everything from sushi to coffee.



DAY 2

East of Durango, **Pagosa Springs** offers record-holding deep mineral waters, used by **The Springs Resort and Spa (3)** (known for a luxurious yet family-friendly feel), as well as **Overlook Hot Springs** and the **Healing Waters Resort & Spa** right in town.

To the west, find **Chimney Rock National Monument's** otherworldly rock formations and Ancestral Puebloan history, or seek out Pagosa's **San Juan River** riches with rafting, kayaking and tubing — including a two-mile shuttle-served stretch with new features right in town — and fishing adventures, ATV tours, 2.5 million acres of wilderness and national forest, 650 miles of trails, the **Wolf Creek Pass (6)** drive, waterfall and wildflower hikes and camping.

Williams Creek Reservoir is a gorgeous lake surrounded by mountains, popular with fishers, mountain-bikers and picnickers. There's also 30 miles of incredible singletrack in **Turkey Springs Recreation Area**. The **Dakota Springs**

trail system is another patch of well-designed singletrack, and features 3 miles of new trails

In town, there's a new urban singletrack trail system, climbing/bouldering park and skatepark, not to mention three craft breweries and a handful of great restaurants. Stop by the **visitor center** for trip-planning services, and look for brochure racks around downtown, which are plush with trail maps and area information.

Visit durango.org/crafted-beverages for a Crafted Beverages of Southwest Colorado tour, which leads past nearly 30 independent and unique breweries, distilleries, wineries and cideries in all three of these towns and beyond.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Arboles, Bayfield, Durango (page 196), **Ignacio, Pagosa Springs** (page 202), **Silverton** (page 205), **Vallecito Lake** (page 206)



SIDETRIPS

Ignacio is a ranching community located in a long valley bordered by the La Plata Mountains. Today Ignacio supplies the adjacent Southern Ute Indian Reservation and ranches scattered throughout this remote area. The Southern Ute Tribe, a descendant of two of the seven original Ute tribes that inhabited Colorado, is headquartered just north of Ignacio, but its reservation spans more than 680,000 acres. The modern **Sky Ute Casino Resort**, one of the tribe's economic mainstays, is very popular with visitors. The casino features gaming halls, hotel rooms and restaurants.

Recreational spots include **Navajo State Park**, which provides ample opportunity to enjoy water sports — jet skiing, house boating, fishing — and the reservation's top trout-fishing hole, **Lake Capote**.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: NEAR WOLF CREEK PASS; KENNAN HARVEY; NAVAJO STATE PARK; ERIC LINDBERG; WOLF CREEK SKI AREA; DOUG CHAPIN.

It's more than the mountains that will keep you coming back.

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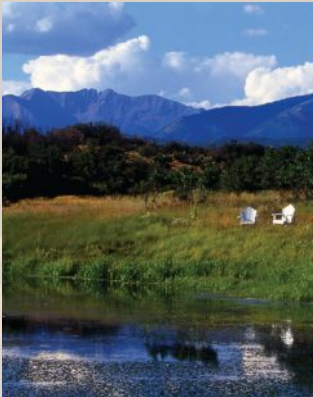
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HOT SPRINGS & WESTERN LIVIN' IN STEAMBOAT SPRINGS



With vast ranches, aspen-draped mountains and oxbow rivers, this area makes for a serene escape, but there's also plenty of adventure.



MORNING

Start your trip at one of **Steamboat Springs'** two thermal-water attractions — **Old Town Hot Springs (1)** or **Strawberry Park Hot Springs**. Located off Lincoln Avenue, Old Town Hot Springs boasts a waterslide, soaking pools and lap lanes, while Strawberry Park offers a more rustic and secluded (but no less indulgent) experience. Follow your soak with a gondola ride to the top of **Mount Werner** for brunch or lunch with a splendid view or head to

Steamboat Zipline Adventures on Rabbit Ears Pass, where views of Lake Catamount, the Flat Tops Wilderness and Yampa Valley fight for your attention.

Nearby, **Stagecoach State Park's** reservoir tempts water bugs with boating, jet-skiing and hard-fighting rainbow trout. As you drive through the region, look for interpretive signs that share the rich legacy and cultural heritage of the area (go to nwcoloradoheritagetraavel.org for maps and more information).

AFTERNOON

Kids could spend days exploring the ropes course, climbing wall and bungee trampoline at **Steamboat Resort's Coca-Cola Adventure Zone**. Other options include the more than 50 gardens at **Yampa River Botanic Park (2)** and the **Tread of Pioneers Museum** to explore the ways of the Native Americans, early settlers, miners, ranchers, skiers, outlaws and lawmen in this once-Wild West town.

QUICK TIP

In the fall, the temps are cooler, the leaves are changing, fall events abound and a soak in the **hot springs** or a round of **golf** are the perfect way to send off warm weather.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: THE YAMPA RIVER NEAR STEAMBOAT SPRINGS. NOAH WETZEL; YAMPA RIVER BOTANIC PARK. FLICKR/JOHN; STEAMBOAT SPRINGS CHAMBER RESORT ASSOCIATION/COREY KOPISCHKE.



SIDETRIPS

To Steamboat's west, stop into the quiet towns of **Craig** and **Hayden**, popular with hunters and fishermen as an easy homebase amid pristine lakes and wilderness areas. In Craig, find one of the nation's best collections of cowboy and gunfighter memorabilia at the Museum of Northwest Colorado. West of Craig, spot one of the few remaining herds of wild mustangs in the Sand Wash Basin, also prime off-roading territory. The horses are consistently seen along the Wild Horse Loop on Seven Mile Ridge just north of **Maybell**.

The enclaves of **Meeker** and **Rangely** are jumping-off points for exploring some of Colorado's finest wilderness along the 250-mile Wagon Wheel off-highway-vehicle trail system through the White River National Forest, which was recently expanded. Plus, visitors can actually ride through OHV-friendly Meeker to peek into the many shops and restaurants; or come in June for Meekerpalooza's arts and culinary fun, July for Colorado's oldest rodeo or September for the famed Meeker Sheepdog Trials. West of Meeker, Rangely has an automotive museum with rare cars and motorcycles from the early 1900s; The TANK Center for Sonic Arts, an acoustically perfect concert hall that lived its former life as a steel water tank; and August's OHV Adventure Rally.

South of Steamboat, stop in the tiny town of **Yampa** for a bite at the historic Antlers Cafe & Bar. From there, you can hop on the Flat Tops Scenic Byway, which grants access to amazing scenery, hunting, fishing and horseback riding, as well as snowmobiling and cross-country skiing.

Northeast of Steamboat is an area called **North Park**, known as the Moose Capital of Colorado. The folks at **Walden's** Main Street welcome center can point you to year-round outdoor activities, including ghost towns, wildlife refuges, rodeos, OHV trails in North Sand Hills' sand dunes and the North Park-Cache la Poudre Scenic Byway.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Clark (page 193), **Craig** (page 194), **Hayden**, **Meeker** (page 202), **Oak Creek**, **Rand**, **Steamboat Springs** (page 205), **Walden** (page 206)

Head up **Buffalo Pass Road (4)**, an especially picturesque scene in fall when glittering aspens blanket the **Park Mountain Range** slopes. High-clearance vehicles are recommended if you want to drive far up. Anglers will delight in the **Yampa River's (3)** Gold Medal fishing waters — in particular, the stretch below **Stagecoach Reservoir** where leviathan trout lurk in swirling tail waters.

Steamboat is also a big biking destination. Rent a cruiser and ride the **Yampa River Core Trail** in search of adventure: fishing access, the hot springs, shopping in town, riverside parks and the rodeo, or just watch the tubers, kayakers and rafters float by. Or hit the trails at the **Steamboat Bike Park** and more than 50 miles of singletrack trails on **Emerald Mountain**. End the afternoon at **Butcherknife** or **Storm Peak** brewing companies.

EVENING

Delicious dining options abound in historic downtown Steamboat Springs. One favorite: **Table 79** serves shareable plates you won't really want to share with curious cocktails with must-try ingredients (think muddled cilantro, crème de violet and demerara). On summer weekends, cross the Yampa River

to the **Romick Rodeo Arena** and cheer on the cowboys of the **Steamboat Springs Pro Rodeo Series**, preceded by barbecue and live country music. Or, since Steamboat was named a **Certified Colorado Creative District**, stroll through the town's galleries or pick up the **First Friday Artwalk**. For those seeking alternative entertainment, **The Crooked Key** recently added new escape rooms, including an outdoor option.

Get a taste Colorado's famous Rocky Mountain hospitality at one of the area's dude and guest ranches — like the luxe **Vista Verde Elk Ranch** or the more-rustic **Elk River** — where you can fill your days with cattle drives, fly-fishing, horseback riding, cowboy cuisine and more.

WINTER FUN ❄️

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2019 Summer Events

Come celebrate summer in the Rocky Mountains, Steamboat style.

June

Steamboat Marathon,
Half Marathon & 10K

Yampa River Fest

Rocky Mountain
Mustang Roundup

Reds Whites and Brews

July

Cowboys' Roundup Days
& 4th of July Celebration

Hot Air Balloon Rodeo &
Art in the Park

Tour de Steamboat

August

Steamboat Movement
Festival

Steamboat Stinger

Routt County Fair

September

Rocky Mountain Bull Bash

Yampa Valley Crane Festival

Run Rabbit Run

Steamboat OktoberWest

Steamboat Restaurant Week





PLAYING AMONG THE COLLEGIATE PEAKS: BUENA VISTA & SALIDA



Venture to central Colorado for a high-country getaway with Arkansas River-side mountain towns, hot springs, dramatic peaks named after colleges (Princeton, Yale and Harvard, to name a few), and unbeatable outdoor recreation.

The towns of Buena Vista and Salida are only a scenic, 30-minute drive apart, so plan to traipse back and forth between them during your stay.

MORNING

Travel along the **Collegiate Peaks Scenic Byway**, a 57-mile route that runs along the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness (1) and the Sawatch Range from Salida north to Buena Vista and beyond. This stretch contains the nation's greatest concentration of peaks higher than 14,000

feet — “fourteeners,” in local parlance.

Head to an aerial adventure park: With more than 120 challenges, including swinging bridges and tightrope walks, **Captain Zipline** is the largest aerial adventure park in the state. Meanwhile, **Browns Canyon Adventure Park (5)** suspends zipliners above the roaring river, and **Arkansas Valley Adventures** allows daring visitors to soar from cliff top to treetop on a 44-acre course.

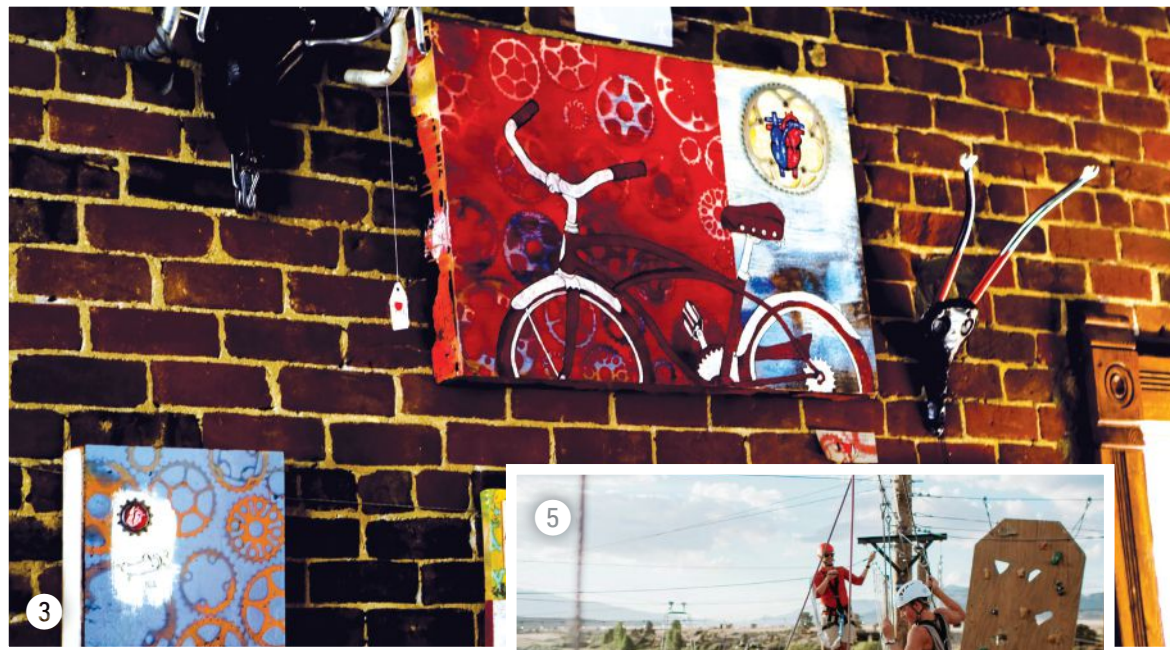
Buena Vista is a popular access point for rafting,

QUICK TIP

Stay at the newly opened **Surf Hotel**, which overlooks the Buena Vista Whitewater Park right along the Arkansas River. The boutique property features a farm-to-table restaurant, bakery and the Ivy Ballroom frequently hosts live-music performances.



2



3



5

@BrownsCanyonAdventurePark



4

kayaking, fishing, hiking and backpacking adventures centered around the Arkansas River, including **Browns Canyon National Monument (2)**, 102 miles of Gold Medal fishing waters and the **Buena Vista Whitewater Park**.

No visit is complete without a go at one of the area's signature sports: rafting and biking. Dozens of rafting outfitters offer half-day to multiday whitewater thrills. Rent a bike and hit the dirt on top-notch trails, like the **Monarch Crest, Alpine Tunnel** and **Salida Mountain Trails** or the downtown **Buena Vista Pump Track** (which also has a Frisbee golf course).

Stop into the Buena Vista & Salida Chamber of Commerce to pick up a map of all the area's recreational opportunities.

AFTERNOON

Rejuvenate at **Mount Princeton Hot Springs Resort, Cottonwood Hot Springs (4)** or **Salida Hot Springs Aquatic Center**. Or head to the top of Monarch Pass. In the summer, the **Monarch Crest Scenic Tramway** carries passengers up 12,000 feet in elevation —

offering sweeping views of the surrounding peaks and nearby **Monarch Mountain** ski area.

EVENING

Take a distillery or winery tour at one of the many operations in the area. Combined, there are close to 100 breweries, distilleries, wineries, galleries and eateries, so you'll never lack for something to do.

Stroll through downtown **Salida (3)**, one of the state's 23 Certified Creative Districts and the

largest National Historic District, with dozens of artist-owned galleries and shops. Kids get a kick out of feeding the fish at the **Mt. Shavano Fish Hatchery**, and visitors of all ages enjoy strolling the pleasant streets of downtown. Delicious restaurants abound in Salida; try **Shallots, Amicas** and **Currents** for a tasty meal.

If you're still looking for fun, consider Buena Vista's vintage **Comanche Drive In Theatre** for a nightcap.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Buena Vista (page 192), **Nathrop** (page 202), **Poncha Springs, Salida** (page 203), **Twin Lakes**

WINTER FUN ❄️

Monarch Mountain ski area is just a short drive from Salida, and the area's deep snow opens a playground for snowshoers and fat bikers, and snowmobilers delight in zooming around the area's 400-plus miles of groomed trails. The valley floor is often dry in the winter, perfect for rock climbing, a round of golf, hiking and biking year-round.



@MonarchMtn

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: BROWNS CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT, TIM BROWN; SALIDA CREATIVE DISTRICT, BETH SCHNEIDER; BROWNS CANYON ADVENTURE PARK; MONARCH MOUNTAIN SKI AREA, DAVE LEHL; COTTONWOOD HOT SPRINGS, CLASSIC VISIONS PHOTOGRAPHY.

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MORNING

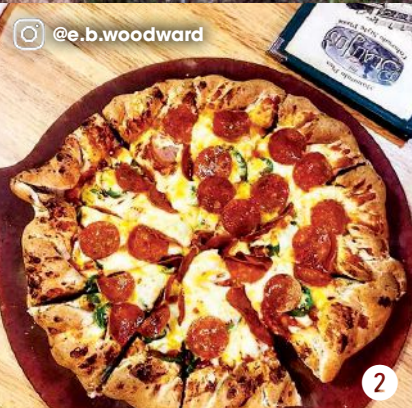
Take advantage of morning's typically clear blue skies on a drive up the highest paved highway in North America. Memorial Day to Labor Day (weather permitting), the **Mount Evans Scenic Byway (1)** starts in **Idaho Springs** and climbs 7,000 feet in just 28 miles — peaking at 14,265 feet with top-of-the-world views of alpine lakes and the snow-capped Continental Divide. Or hook up with a rafting outfitter — several run this stretch of **Clear Creek** with trips for those of all experience levels.

AFTERNOON

Swing down to **Idaho Springs**; the discovery of gold here in 1859 ushered in the Colorado Gold Rush. That heritage lives on through Miner Street's well-preserved buildings and at the **Visitor Center & Heritage Museum**, where you can also pick up maps and tips for exploring the area. Bring your appetite to the original **Beau Jo's Pizza (2)**, the founders of deep-dish Colorado-style pies.

Next door is **Tommyknocker Brewery**, the perfect place for a refreshing mountain craft brew or handcrafted soda, as is **Westbound & Down Brewery**; and **Bouck Brothers Distilling** is just a 15-minute walk down Colorado Boulevard. Pencil in time for a soak in the therapeutic mineral pools at **Indian Hot Springs**, thrill rides at **Lawson Adventure Park** or stops in the town's cute shops — **The Spice and Tea Exchange** and **The Bee's Knees** are two favorites.

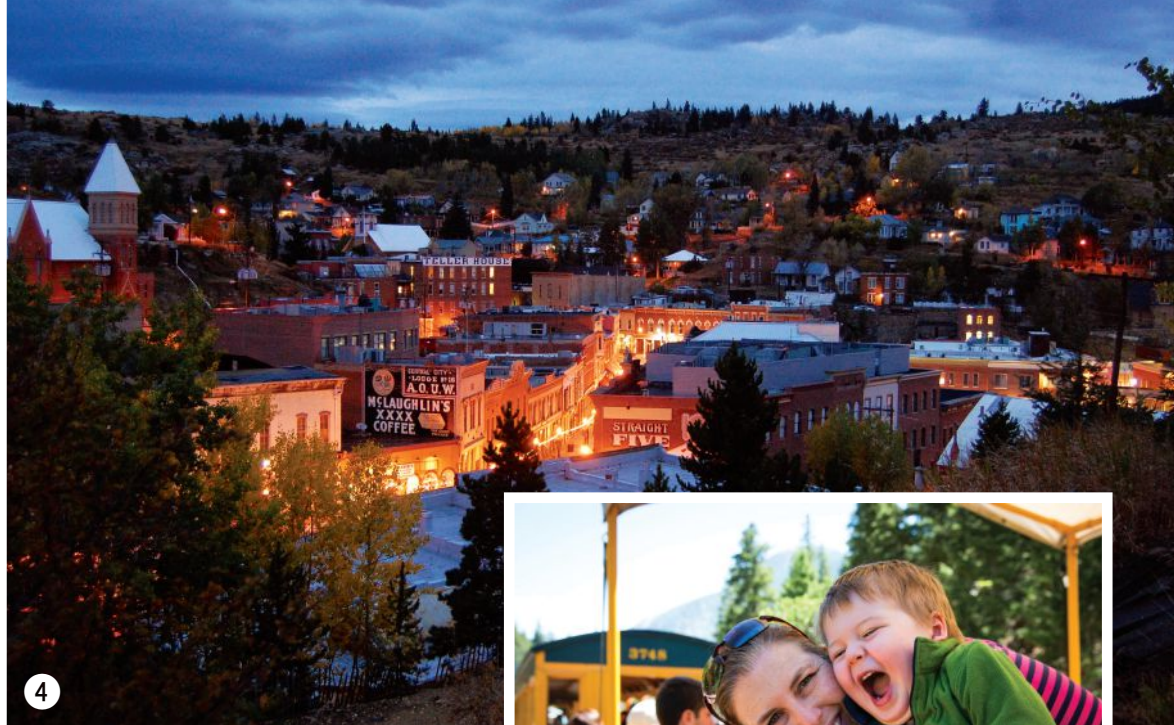
Or journey farther west on I-70 to **Georgetown** to visit Victorian-era homes and silver-boom relics at the



QUICK TIP

Monday through Thursday is the best time to hike one the area's **fourteeners**, including Mount Bierstadt, Mount Evans, Grays Peak and Torreys Peak to avoid heavy trail traffic. Stay nearby to get an early start, which makes for the safest ascents — accommodations are available in Georgetown and Idaho Springs.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: MOUNT EVANS SCENIC BYWAY; JASON J. HATFIELD; BEAU JO'S PIZZA; @E.B.WOODWARD; ARGO GOLD MINE; FLICKR/WALLYGOBETZ.



Hamill House and Hotel de Paris museums, as well as exhibits and events at the newly renovated Georgetown Heritage Center. Venture 1,003 feet underground on a tour of Capital Prize Mine; and break for afternoon tea at the Dusty Rose Tea Room or a brew at Guanella Pass Brewery (named for one of fall's loveliest enclaves, which you can see along the Guanella Pass Scenic Byway). The town's main street also has antique, craft and coffee shops.

Board the Georgetown Loop Railroad (6) for a narrow-gauge train ride to Silver Plume and back for views of the Clear Creek Valley and an optional walking tour that takes you 500 feet into an 1870s mine tunnel. Bread Bar (5) in Silver Plume, housed in an 1800s-era bakery, serves up cocktails named after famous local characters, like silver-boom queen Baby Doe Tabor (open Friday through Sunday).

EVENING

Step into Colorado's mini Western-style Las Vegas for some nighttime action in "the richest square mile on earth." The canyon-cradled, former mining hamlets of Black Hawk and Central City (4) are just 1 mile apart and are lined with bustling, grand casinos as well as mom-and-pop gaming saloons and historic 19th-century storefronts (take note of the uniquely reconstructed Cornish-style retaining walls surrounding Black Hawk).

More refined entertainment options reside at the Central City Opera House (3), a 550-seat jewel-box theater built in 1878 by Welsh and Cornish miners that continues to draw international applause with classic to contemporary performances each summer. Visiting in the daytime? From Black Hawk, you can easily hop on the Peak to Peak Scenic Byway and head toward Estes Park, an amazingly kaleidoscopic journey in the fall.

WINTER FUN ❄️

Small but mighty Echo Mountain Resort in Idaho Springs is the closest ski area to Denver — and one of the few that offers night skiing. You can also book a backcountry-skiing excursion with Powder Addiction in Empire, who will whisk you to all of the best powder via snowcat and provide all of the necessary safety gear and lunch.



STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Black Hawk (page 191), Central City (page 193), Dumont, Empire, Georgetown (page 198), Idaho Springs (page 200), Lawson, Silver Plume

QUICK TIP

Black Hawk's Casino Shuttle runs from the bottom of Main Street up to Gregory Street — making it easy to get around to all of the town's sights and casinos.

SAN JUAN SPLENDOR: MONTROSE, OURAY, RIDGWAY & TELLURIDE



DAY 1

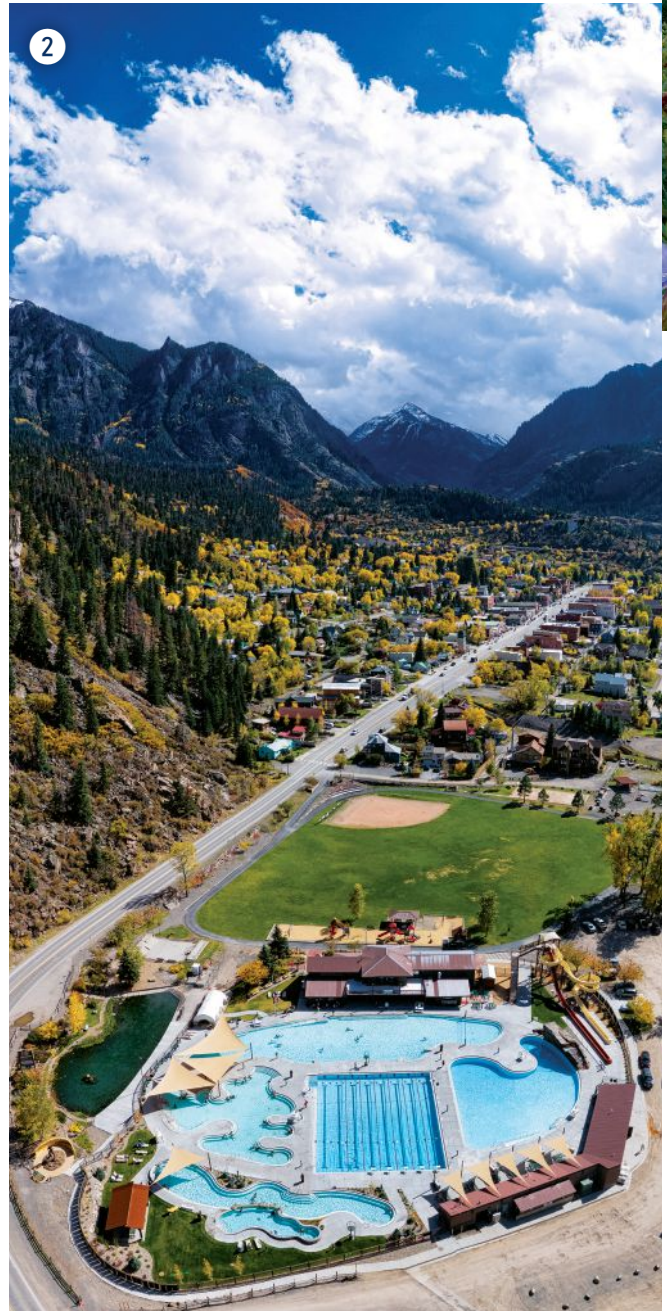
It took thousands of years for the Gunnison River to carve out the area's most identifiable feature — the 48-mile-long **Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park (1)** near **Montrose**.

Start at the **Elk Creek Visitor Center**, located on **Blue Mesa Reservoir**, Colorado's largest body of water. Winds captured by flat-topped buttes make for prime sailing conditions. Anglers, too, will find deep water filled with kokanee salmon and mackinaw trout. And boaters freely roam more than 41,000 acres of lake. The **Morrow Point Boat Tour** is well worth the 232 steps down to the boat landing. Float on the 40-foot pontoon to the foot of precipitous 1,000-foot cliffs. Landlubbers can stick to the four-mile **Curecanti Creek Trail**, which passes through forests as it drops 800 feet below the canyon's rim.

Visit the park itself: The astonishingly steep walls of the canyon rise more than 2,000 vertical feet from the river. The cliffs expose 2-billion-year-old black

metamorphic rock and are so sheer that hiking into the canyon is an ambitious undertaking. Instead, take a relatively flat walk from the **South Rim Visitor Center**. Peer across the chasm to Colorado's tallest cliff, Painted Wall — you'll know it by the white gashes through the otherwise pitch-black stone. The park is also an International Dark-Sky Park, with stargazing ops that will blow you away year-round but are especially vivid in the winter.

Montrose is a gateway to biking, hiking, rafting, hunting and fishing. As a basecamp for exploring the area, you'll be charmed by the Old West feel yet surprised by modern eateries and shops. Visit the **Water Sports Park** on the Uncompahgre River for kayaking, tubing and swimming. West of Montrose, explore the **Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area's** 200,000 acres of red-rock canyon country or the **Buzzard Gulch Trail System**. In town, the newly expanded **Ute Indian Museum** connects the past with contemporary Ute life and culture.



FROM LEFT: BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON NATIONAL PARK, IFRAN M. PADRÓ; OURAY HOT SPRINGS POOL, MIKE BORUTA.

QUICK TIP

Ridgway is homebase to the **San Juan Hut System**, which connects you to Colorado's best mountain-biking trails, hiking trails and backcountry skiing/snowshoeing while staying in a network of 16 isolated mountain huts connected by singletrack trails and routes through amazing terrain.



DAY 2

Nicknamed the “Switzerland of America,” **Ouray** sits in a narrow valley with the towering San Juan Mountains on three sides — one reason it’s considered ground zero for Jeep touring. An extensive and incredibly scenic network of old mining roads is another. Many of the town’s original Victorian structures have been lovingly restored to retain the town’s original charm. Check out nearby **Ridgway Area Trails’** 40 miles of mountain-bike and hiking trails. Or for something more intense, the epic **Old Twin Peaks Trail** takes you to a 360-degree overlook. Ouray’s **Western Slope Rides** has a handy adventure shuttle that will get you to a hiking trailhead, backcountry mountain biking, winter ice-climbing expeditions and more. Stop first to pick up picnic provisions at the locally focused **Ouray Meat & Cheese Market**.

Afterward, enjoy a truly restorative experience in the enormous **Ouray Hot Springs Pool (2)**, which holds more than a million gallons of naturally heated, crystal-clear mineral water — the perfect end to a day of skiing, ice climbing, hiking or mountain biking. Ouray is also a stop along the **Colorado Spirits Trail** and **SW Colorado Crafted Beverages Tour**, so keep an eye out for locally distilled spirits and brews.

Stop at **True Grit Cafe** in **Ridgway**, built to honor the original “True Grit” movie starring John Wayne, which was filmed here in 1969. Ridgway is also a **Certified Colorado Creative District** and a stop along the **Colorado Creative Corridor**, home to artisans, art fests, photo studios, fiber-arts makers, galleries, concerts in the park and the **Sherbino Theater**. The town is a jumping-off point to splendid views of **Mount Sneffels (3)** and the **Dallas Divide** — one of our most photographed alpine scenes.

Continued on page 144.

MOUNT SNEFFELS WILDERNESS: GLENN RANDALL



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2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ONGOING EVENTS:

- ▶ Adventure Wednesdays for Youth (June-August)
- ▶ Culinary workshops
- ▶ Dance and fitness classes
- ▶ Gallery openings and exhibitions
- ▶ Historic tours, hikes, programs and museums
- ▶ Ice skating, hockey and broomball at Rotary Park (December-February)
- ▶ Live music, theater and dance performances
- ▶ Movie nights
- ▶ Ouray Ice Park (December-March)
- ▶ Outdoor education and training programs
- ▶ Photography workshops
- ▶ Ridgway Farmers Market (May-October)
- ▶ Ridgway State Park nature programs
- ▶ True Grit walking tour
- ▶ Visual and performing arts workshops for adults and children

JANUARY

- ▶ Kids' Ice Climbing College
- ▶ San Juan Skijoring
- ▶ PARC Flat Ice Festival & Winter Games
- ▶ Ouray Ice Festival

FEBRUARY

- ▶ Chicks Climbing & Skiing Women's Ice Clinics & Auction
- ▶ Annual Burn's Night Dinner & Celebration
- ▶ Cabin Fever Days at Lee's Ski Hill
- ▶ Paradox Sports Adaptive Ice Climbing Clinics

MARCH / APRIL

- ▶ Kids' Ice Climbing College
- ▶ Elks Easter Egg Hunt
- ▶ Ridgway State Park Earth Day Celebration

MAY

- ▶ UpStart Theater Spring Production
- ▶ Love Your Valley Festival

JUNE

- ▶ Mountain Air Music Series
- ▶ Ouray County Geology Tour
- ▶ Michael McCullough's Annual Amateur Sculpting Contest
- ▶ Ridgway Area Trails RAT Fest
- ▶ Western Mining Artifact Show
- ▶ Ridgway RiverFest

JULY

- ▶ Annual Ranch History Tour
- ▶ Monday Night Melodramas
- ▶ Evenings of History
- ▶ Old-Fashioned 4th of July, Jeep Glow Parade & Fireworks
- ▶ UpStart Shakespeare Performance

AUGUST

- ▶ Artists' Alpine Holidays
- ▶ San Juan Chamber Music Fest
- ▶ Mt. Sneffels Education Foundation Marathon & Half-Marathon Run/Walk
- ▶ Ridgway Rendezvous Arts & Crafts Festival
- ▶ Ouray Canyoning Festival
- ▶ Highgraders' Holidays Mining Competitions

SEPTEMBER

- ▶ Ouray County 4-H Fair & Rodeo
- ▶ Fall photography workshops
- ▶ Ouray County Railroad Days
- ▶ UpStART Fall Theater Production
- ▶ Sneffels Fiber Arts Festival
- ▶ Love Your Gorge annual service project
- ▶ Ouray Climbing Festival
- ▶ Ouray Mountain Trail Run

OCTOBER

- ▶ Oktoberfest & Annual Jeep Raffle Drawing
- ▶ Firkin Fest West
- ▶ Rocky Horror Picture Show
- ▶ Historic Beaumont Halloween Ball
- ▶ Elks Haunted House
- ▶ Main Street Trick or Treat

NOVEMBER

- ▶ Independent Film Fest
- ▶ Veteran's Dinner & Turkey Bingo
- ▶ UpStART Fall Theater Production

DECEMBER

- ▶ Yule Night, Community Tree Lighting & Christmas Parade
- ▶ Wine, Chocolate & Cheese Festival
- ▶ Live Holiday Radio Performance
- ▶ New Year's Eve Celebration & Fireworks



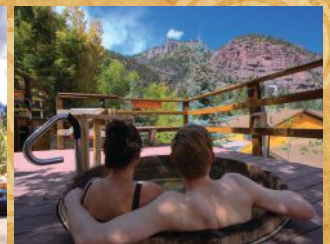
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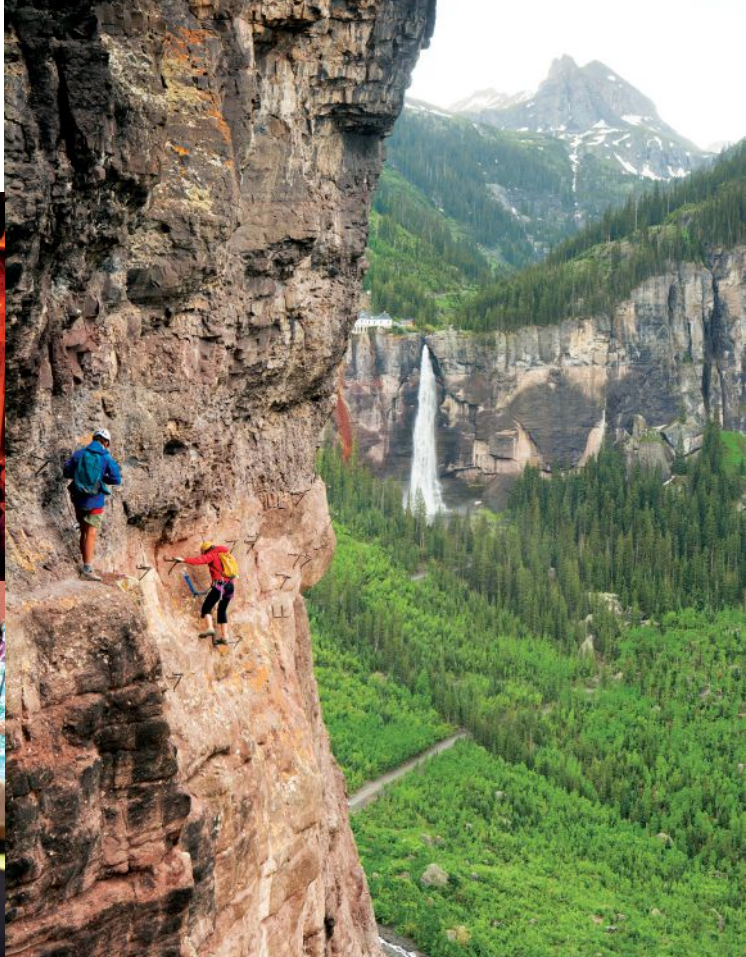
Enjoy a relaxing and unforgettable mountain getaway within walking distance to shops and restaurants. Our full-service hotel offers quiet rooms and a free hot buffet breakfast each morning. Just outside our doorstep you can access hundreds of miles of jeeping, biking and hiking trails. After a long day of fun and exploration, unwind in our outdoor mineral springs soaking tub or large heated pool.

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SEE OURAYCOLORADO.COM/FOR MORE EVENTS AND INFO

❄️ WINTER FUN

Telluride Ski Resort boasts mountains of fun, while downtown's shops and cafes buzz with après skiers, shoppers and a festive atmosphere. The region's San Juan Mountains lure folks out of town for world-class snowmobiling and snowshoeing.



☀️ SUMMER AT SKI RESORTS

Up the free gondola to Mountain Village, you'll find the Telluride Adventure Center, with activities for kids that include a ropes course, Water Walkers Course, bungee tramp and more. There's also the Telluride Golf Course, Eco Kids Summer Camps and a mining sluice for modern-day goldpanners.



Detour to **Orvis Hot Springs'** pools and take in dramatic views of the San Juans. Or take a peek at the **Ridgway Railroad Museum**, a historical campus with a new steam-engine railroad and trips on a growing stretch of tracks.

DAY 3

It's easy to fall head over heels for **Telluride's** pristine Victorian homes and stunningly beautiful box canyon. But jaw-dropping views are just the beginning of what this outdoors and culture hot spot has to offer.

Millennia after the Ute Indians settled in the craggy San Juan Mountains, prospectors struck gold and silver in what is present-day Telluride. By 1896, the town had 10,000 residents and its very own hospital — now the beautifully renovated **Telluride Historical Museum**. Start here for an overview of Telluride's evolution from gritty mining town to 1970s hippie haven to ski mecca. Then mosey the streets to vintage Victorians and brownstones. Twelve blocks along Colorado Avenue comprise a **National Historic Landmark District**, including the site where notorious outlaw Butch Cassidy robbed his first bank in 1889.

Telluride can truly celebrate its uniqueness, where all shops, restaurants and hotels are independently owned and Colorado minded. And there's no need for a car in Telluride — between the gondola and **Galloping Goose** bus in town, getting around is a (free) snap!

Pick up the serene **River Trail**, which turns into the **Idarado Legacy Trail** at the town park. In the summer, the park bustles with music and cultural festivals. From here, take the easy 2.5-mile path until you reach the base of **Bridal Veil Falls** — Colorado's highest free-falling waterfall. For a hidden gem, seek out **Little Hawaii**, a somewhat secret hike off Bear Creek Falls trail. This spot along the river is formed by a giant rock wall with water cascading down into a tranquil pool. Ask a local for specifics on getting there. Or get a bird's-eye view of the densely forested San Miguel River Valley during a ride on the gondola, which leaves from downtown on a 13-minute journey to **Mountain Village**.

Back downtown, find out why Telluride is one of the state's top creative districts at the **Sheridan Opera House (4)**, the perfect place to take in a rock concert or

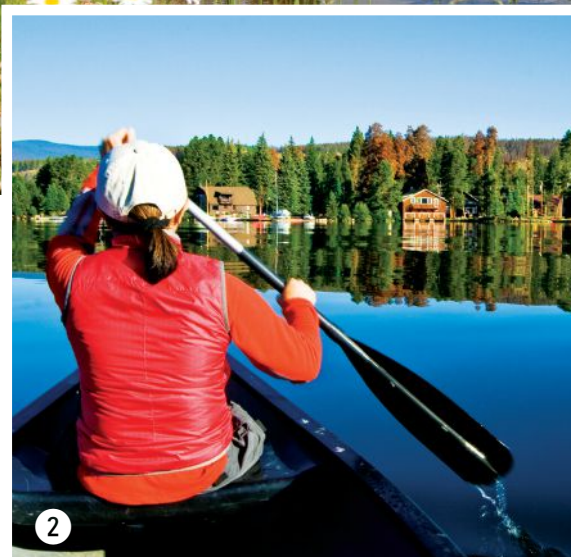
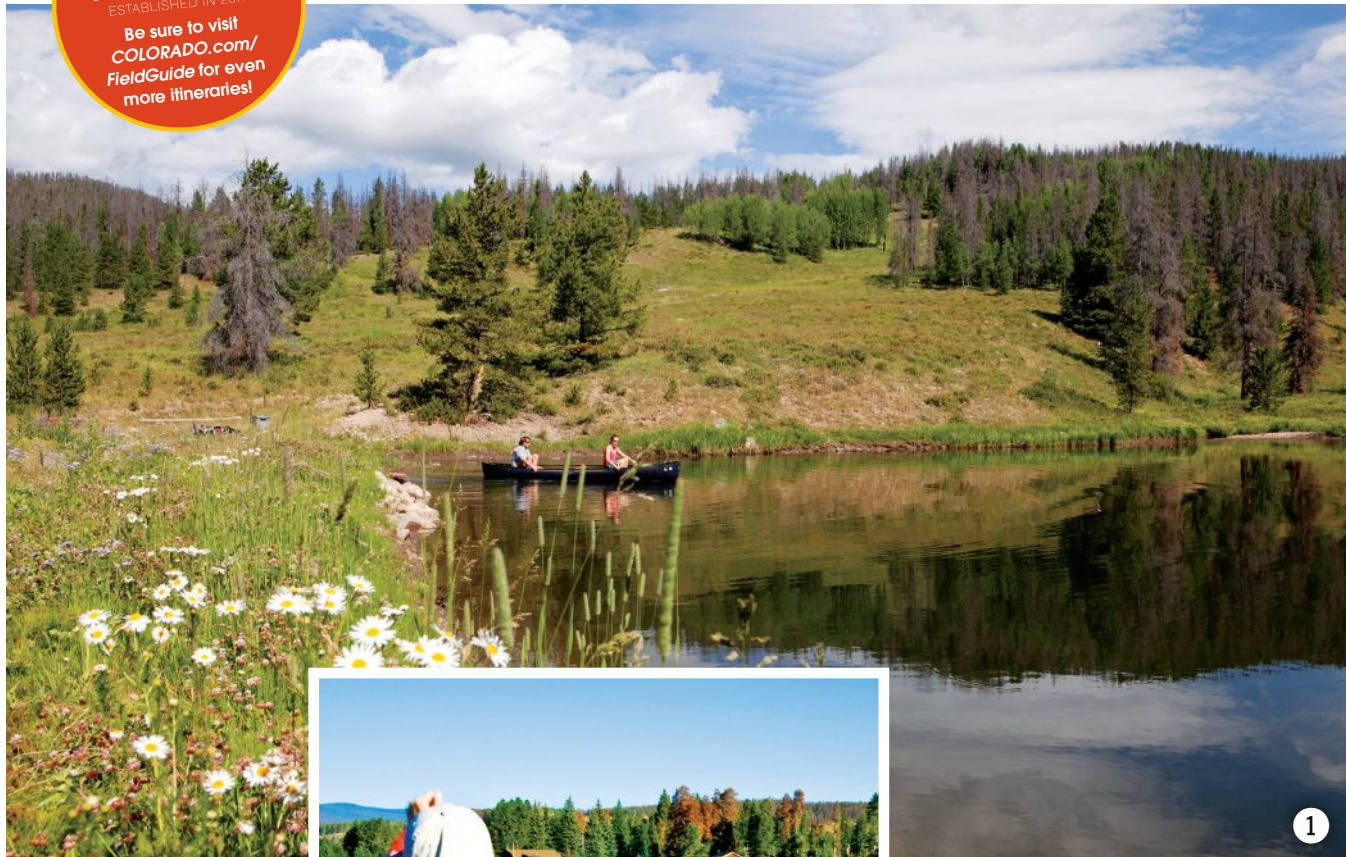
ski film. Built during the Gold Rush heyday, the ornate theater was designed to be colorful and airy — a welcome change for men who spent their days underground. Pop into the **visitors center** across the street for guidance on exploring the area. You'll also find plenty of excellent places for a meal — one of the reasons Bravo's "Top Chef Colorado" recently filmed several episodes in this foodie-friendly enclave. New favorites **The Tunnel and Wood Ear Whiskey Lounge & Noodle Bar** join long-time hits **Allred's, La Marmotte, Alpino Vino and 221 South Oak**.

Still have steam left? Go gallery to gallery on the **Telluride Art Walk (5)**. Local art shops stay open late and offer free refreshments on the first Thursday of every month except April, May, November and December.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Cedaredge, Crawford, Delta (page 195), **Hotchkiss, Montrose** (page 202), **Orchard City, Ouray** (page 202), **Paonia, Ridgway** (page 203), **Somerset, Telluride** (page 205)

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM: LEFT, TELLURIDE GONDOLA; ELI VEGA; TELLURIDE SKI & GOLF RESORT; KENNAN HARVEY; TELLURIDE ARTS DISTRICT; SHERIDAN OPERA HOUSE; BRIDAL VEIL FALLS; KENNAN HARVEY.



A GRAND TIME IN GRAND COUNTY: WINTER PARK, GRAND LAKE, GRANBY & MORE



Deep lakes, thick forests and friendly attitudes define this expansive, mountainous county. Hot springs, outdoor adventure and Rocky Mountain National Park are just the tip of the must-do list.

QUICK TIP

Take a drive through the Rocky Mountain National Park at sunrise — a prime time for wildlife sightings. You can see **moose** year-round (from a safe distance, of course) in the national park, Winter Park and Grand Lake.

DAY 1

Start your voyage at **Winter Park Resort** with a chairlift ride to 10,700 feet above sea level. Once the snow melts, Colorado's longest continually operated ski resort becomes a summer playground, and the new 10-passenger gondola takes visitors to mountaintop views of the Continental Divide and Fraser Valley in just a few minutes.

Downhill bikers flock to the resort for its ramps, jumps and top-to-bottom terrain, while the alpine slide sends summer sledders down the mountain on more than 3,000 feet of bobsled-like track. There's also a climbing wall, giant maze, mini-golf, bungee trampolines and an events calendar full of music and beer festivals and kid-friendly outdoor movie nights.

The town of Winter Park also bustles year-round — don't miss free summertime concerts at **Hideaway Park** downtown. Or book a guided rock-climbing excursion with **Winter Park Adventure Quest** in **Fraser**, an aerial adventure park with 24 challenge elements. Meanwhile, **Snow Mountain Ranch** has a grin-inducing summer tubing hill and other family activities.

FROM TOP: LAKE GRANBY, LISA SEAMAN; GRAND LAKE, ERIC LINDBERG.

WINTER FUN

Winter Park Resort's diverse terrain, a new adventure concierge service and the Winter Park Express Amtrak route from Denver right to the slopes make it a top ski, snowboard and fat-bike destination with beginners and experts alike. Nearby, the smaller Ski Granby Ranch is known as a long-time family favorite.

All the Grand County towns pack in plenty of fun beyond the slopes, with groomed trails for snowshoers and cross-country skiers, six area snow-tubing hills, sleigh and dogsled rides, as well as snowmobiling routes with epic Continental Divide views. In Grand Lake you can even ride your snowmobile through town and right up to your favorite Grand Avenue lunch spot.



In the afternoon, go north to the laid-back county seat of **Grand Lake (2)**, where hints of the village's Western character are revealed in its historic boardwalks and hitching posts alongside parking spots. As Colorado's deepest and largest natural lake, Grand Lake attracts summer fun-seekers looking to water ski, fish, sail or relax on the beach. Rent a boat and watch for eagles.

This area is the western entrance of **Rocky Mountain National Park** and one of the state's most popular for viewing moose and other wildlife. Pedal along a new 2-mile stretch of the **East Shore Trail**, the first-ever route in the national park open to mountain bikers.

Links lovers can tee off amid inspiring scenery (and watch their balls fly farther through our thin air) at four mountain golf courses. The **Grand Lake Metropolitan Recreation District** also has miles of dog-friendly hiking trails that weave through wetlands, pine forests and aspen groves.

Cap your evening in one of the state's newest Certified Creative Districts with a Broadway musical at Grand Lake's **Rocky Mountain Repertory Theatre (3)** and brick-oven pizzas at **Stillwater Grill**. With cabin rentals and

campsites and activities like horseback riding and Colorado River fishing, **Winding River Resort** is a great place to stay.

DAY 2

As the **Colorado River** carves its way from the Continental Divide on its journey to the Pacific Ocean, it treats Grand County visitors to some of the best rafting and Gold Medal fishing around. Jagged red canyons and green valleys provide stunning backdrops for mellow floats; outfitters can be found throughout the county.

The sleepy town of **Granby** offers Western hospitality, an idyllic main street of restaurants and antique shops, and easy access to outdoor pursuits, including boating and fishing on **Lake Granby (1)**.

Expect nothing but the best at Grand County's many dude ranches, including Colorado's oldest continuously operating ranch: **Bar Lazy J** in **Parshall**. Proprietors roll out the country hospitality to those seeking an authentic Old West experience, offering activities like horseback riding, hiking and square dancing, and not-so-cowboy tennis, yoga and volleyball. Some even have luxurious spas, miles of trails and fishing.



SIDETRIPS

Retreat to **Hot Sulphur Springs (4)** to do what visitors have done since the time of the Ute Indians: Soak in the area's mineral-rich pools. Volcanic rock 35,000 feet below the earth's surface heats the water that fills the pools at the town's namesake resort and spa.

Fraser is another ideally situated homebase for exploring the area's outdoors (and is perhaps best known for its convenient lift-served snowtubing hill in winter).

A sportsman's paradise, **Kremmling (5)** has some of the state's finest fishing waters and elk-hunting grounds, as well as miles of ATV and OHV trails. Head to Rusty Spurr Ranch for trail rides and cattle drives; hike to Radium Hot Springs on the Colorado River; and stay at the Hotel Eastin, which once housed Kremmling Bottling Works and has welcomed guests since 1906.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Fraser (page 197), Granby (page 199), Grand Lake (page 199) Hot Sulphur Springs, Kremmling (page 200), Tabernash, Winter Park (page 206)

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: HOT SULPHUR SPRINGS; FLICKR/ELI DUKE; COLORADO RIVER NEAR KREMMLING; ETHAN WELLY; ROCKY MOUNTAIN REPERTORY THEATRE; MILES/ANDREA BUROLLA; WINTER PARK EXPRESS; MARC GLUCKSMAN/RIVER RAIL PHOTO.

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GRAND LAKE

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Stay at Snow Mountain Ranch in one of our cozy family cabins or comfortable, hotel-style lodge rooms. We even have a few yurts available for hearty souls! Cabins range in size from two- to five-bedrooms and include fully equipped kitchens and all linens and towels. Lodge rooms in Indian Peaks lodge and our yurts all have microwaves and mini-fridges and each nightly lodge room reservation includes two free breakfasts in our buffet-style dining hall. Yurts not heated but have electricity, so space heaters are encouraged. Our less-expensive lodge rooms have combinations of full beds and bunk beds and are perfect for groups.

Downhill skiers will find our location between Winter Park Resort and Granby Ranch a convenient hub for relaxation and après ski activities, such as swimming or relaxing by the fire, and a good night's sleep. For those who prefer off-the-slopes activities, it's not necessary to leave the ranch to enjoy a full day of indoor and outdoor fun!

Don't forget: Snow Mountain Ranch is open year round. Summer activities include mountain biking, hiking, miniature golf, zip lining and rock climbing.

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MUST-SEE COLORADO TOWNS: GUNNISON & CRESTED BUTTE



If Gunnison is the quintessential Western rodeo town, then Crested Butte is its free-spirited mountain neighbor. Despite their different vibes and activities, both offer unparalleled adventures and spectacular scenery.

❄️ WINTER FUN

Crested Butte Mountain Resort and Monarch Mountain Ski and Snowboard Area offer amazing skiing and snowboarding. There are also peaceful snowshoe/cross-country ski treks (stop into the Backcountry Bistro at the Crested Butte Nordic Center for mimosas, coffee and baked goods), miles and miles of snowmobiling trails, ice fishing, tubing and dog sledding, not to mention extensive fat-bike grooming found throughout the valley.

DAY 1

Start west of Gunnison, where the valley drops away into the **Curecanti National Recreation Area (3)**, **Blue Mesa Reservoir (4)** and **Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park**. In the summer, the reservoir — Colorado's largest body of water — is full of canoes, sailboats, pontoon and motor boats, and people water skiing, fishing and even parasailing in the refreshing oasis.

Among Gunnison's newest attractions is a manmade whitewater park on the **Gunnison River**. The park stretches several hundred feet, with various rock structures providing a playground for recreational kayakers and rafters. Fishing is also allowed in some sections.

Wander Gunnison's easy downtown. Pop into boutiques or take in the **Pioneer Museum's** mineral

exhibit and awesome collection of antique cars. The **Double Shot Cyclery** is a delightful combo bike shop and coffee house.

Around here, the night sky twinkles. View them up close at the **Gunnison Valley Observatory**. The state's largest research-quality telescope is open Friday and Saturday nights mid-June through mid-September. Black Canyon is a designated International Dark-Sky Park for its exceptional opportunity to enjoy the night sky without light pollution.

DAY 2

Drive 30 miles north of Gunnison's scrubby mesas to the granite peaks of Crested Butte, known as an adventure-sports capital and the **Wildflower Capital of Colorado (2)**. The area is awash in lupine, columbine, queen's crown and paintbrush from June



1



2

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Almont (page 191),
Crested Butte (page 194),
Gunnison (page 199)



3



4

QUICK TIP

The **wildflowers** are usually at their peak around the second and third week in July, and fall foliage is typically at its peak around the second and third week in September.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: RIGHT; CRESTED BUTTE CENTER FOR THE ARTS; CRESTED BUTTE, NATHAN BLOU; BLUE MESA RESERVOIR; MATT BURR; CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA, LAURENCE PARENT.

through early September. Hike the 3.4-mile **Upper Loop Trail** and ogle the fields of purple, gold and fuchsia. Or stick around town for July's Wildflower Festival — complete with garden tours and wagon rides.

White-knuckle adventures await you on granite-topped **Crested Butte Mountain Resort**. Take the chairlift to access a web of mountain-biking trails or see how you fare ziplining, disc golfing and rock climbing at Adventure Park at the base of the mountain. Continue the adventure with a raft trip down the **Taylor River**. These are also Gold Medal fishing waters. Download the **CBGTrails App** to find free maps of all the hiking, biking and 4-wheeling throughout Gunnison County.

Ready for some downtime? Crested Butte's blocks of Victorian-era buildings (5)

form one of the country's most distinctive towns. Nearly every summer weekend features a gathering of some sort — the Wildflower Festival, Tour de Forks culinary festival and Crested Butte Music Festival to name a few. Or head to the **Crested Butte Mountain Heritage Museum** to see how the area's past residents lived. Vintage bikes and photographs lend a snapshot of this mountain-bike-loving community.

Finally, return to **Adventure Park** for a free Wednesday-night concert or relax and take in a play, dance exhibition or concert at the **Crested Butte Center for the Arts (1)**, one of the reasons the town was recently named a **Certified Colorado Creative District**. Of course, there's always the option of sipping wine or beer at one of the top-notch restaurants in town.



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1

BIKES, ART & BEER: A WEEKEND IN FORT COLLINS, LOVELAND & GREELEY



Spend a few days cruising between these northern Colorado towns, where bike trails, breweries, menus crafted by ingredients from local farms, museums, sculpture gardens and other artful spaces compete with the natural beauty for visitors' attention.

DAY 1

Breweries are as much a part of **Fort Collins** as the surrounding prairies, mountains and canyons. With more than 280 miles of bike trails and lanes, bikes and beer are natural companions here. In fact, Fort Collins produces 70 percent of all craft beer in Colorado, so whether you ride a cruiser, fixie or just a plain old bike, hop on, grab your ID and get pedaling!

Pick up your method of transportation for the day at the **Fort Collins Bike Share** (bikefortcollins.org). Then, kick-start your morning in **Historic Old Town (2)** and ride up to **The Bean Cycle**, where you can sip a steamin' cup of ethically

sourced coffee and peruse books at Wolverine Farm Publishing in the same building. Other places to investigate Fort Collins' exploding craft-coffee arena include **Harbinger Coffee**, **Bindle Coffee** and **Everyday Joe's**.

Spend the morning exploring Old Town's bookstores, galleries and shops. Historic homes like the Victorian-style **Avery House** and the adobe **Museo de las Tres Colonias** tell stories of gold seekers, immigrants and sugar beets.

For lunch, stop into **Ginger and Baker** in the historic Northern Colorado Feeder Supply building, a new foodie haven replete with a coffee and pie shop, and

JESSUP FARM BARREL HOUSE, RICHARD HAYCO

QUICK TIP

With 50 protected natural areas and a bounty of open space, Fort Collins is a **hotbed for birding** and other wildlife viewing. Find a checklist of local birds at fcgov.com/naturalareas and look for American woodcocks, great horned owls, sandhill cranes, red-tailed hawks and a bounty of other winged beauties.



SIDETRIPS

Located northwest of Fort Collins, the rustic mountain village of **Red Feather Lakes** is far from hectic city life and popular with campers and boaters. Surrounded by the 612,000-acre Roosevelt National Forest, the area is a year-round outdoor playground that offers beautiful scenery, diverse wildlife, hiking trails and cozy mountain retreats.

Windsor is a growing community between Loveland, Fort Collins and Greeley and a peaceful place to explore the plains at the Frank State Wildlife Area along a portion of the Poudre River Trail. For local flavors, check out Chimney Park Restaurant, Chapmans Produce fruit and veggie store, and Hearth Restaurant and Pub.



two restaurants as well as a small retail store, wine cellar, tasting room, teaching kitchen and rooftop bar. **Jessup Farm Artisan Village (1)** also boasts locally crafted goods from coffee, bread and barrel-aged beer to watches, photography and clothing, along with a few places to grab a bite. These offerings are a couple of the reasons the city was recently named a Certified Colorado Creative District.

Stop by the **Fort Collins Museum of Discovery**, focusing on the history of science and the science of history. From here, hop on the Poudre Bike Trail and point your handlebars east. **Odell Brewing** and **New Belgium** are cherished breweries within very short pedaling distance of each other. Most of the city's breweries offer free tours and tastings — pick up a tasting journal from the **Downtown Visitor Center** to guide you through Colorado's Craft Beer Capital.

If you're craving beaches more than beer, visit **Horsetooth Reservoir (3)**. Red-stone

cliffs flank the 6.5-mile lake, a favorite of hikers, bikers and rock climbers. Or hop in a raft to ride the Class III and IV rapids down the **Cache la Poudre**, Colorado's only nationally designated Wild and Scenic River.

Check out **Avuncular Bob's Beerhouse**, which charms patrons with rotating draft brews and fresh bites made with local ingredients. Check out **The Fox and the Crow**, a spot that sells artisanal cheese and meats from farms in Colorado and all over the world; or quench your thirst at **Red Truck Beer Co.**, the newest addition to Fort Collins's brewery district.

Ideas for sweet treats abound: **Nuance Chocolate** makes small-batch chocolates from beans that are roasted and ground on site; **Revolution Artisan Pops** uses local ingredients to create its frozen treats; and **The Churn in The Exchange** — a new food, entertainment and retail space — has creamy goodness from the makers of Denver's beloved Little Man Ice Cream.

See what band is playing at the **Aggie Theatre** or, on select Thursday summer evenings, head to New Belgium for the **Bike-In Cinema Series** — riders spread out on blankets beneath the stars to sip beer and watch a movie. You can also catch a riverside concert at **Mishawaka Amphitheatre**; see a concert at **Washington's**, a recently renovated venue housed in a historic 1903 building; or check the schedule at the new **Elizabeth Hotel**, which pays tribute to the city's deep-rooted music scene with everything from jam sessions to live jazz at the rooftop bar.

For those seeking starry skies, **Red Mountain Open Space**, **Horsetooth Mountain Open Space** and **Soapstone Prairie** and **Coyote Ridge natural areas** are just a few stellar places to spot far-away galaxies. **The Northern Colorado Astronomical Society** and **Stargazer Observatory** also host public stargazing events throughout the year.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: RED FEATHER LAKES, FLICKR/DAVID KALSBECK; HORSETOOTH RESERVOIR, RICHARD HARO; OLD TOWN FORT COLLINS, O'HARA PHOTOGRAPHY.





DAY 2

Point yourself a half-hour's drive south to **Loveland**, a community committed to the arts. Spend time at **Benson Sculpture Garden (5)**, featuring 158 sculptures (and counting!). Go to cityofloveland.org/bsgtour for an audio tour of this special site.

Head downtown, where charming blocks showcase historic buildings, shops and restaurants, and the beautiful art the city is



known for. Check out **The Foundry**, a new downtown destination packed with shopping, a movie theater, hotel, restaurants and events. Or, stop by the Loveland Visitor Center for information on the **Loveland Ale Trail**, which will lead you to the Sweetheart City's breweries.

Hikers should seek out The Key-hole rock formation at the **Devil's Backbone Open Space (6)**, one of the area's most impressive and visible geologic landmarks. Boaters, fishers, paddleboarders and other water lovers will find plenty to do in the area with **Carler Lake**, a picturesque lake set in the foothills with mountainous views, as well as **Lake Loveland**, **Boyd Lake State Park**, **Lou Hagler Reservoir** and others.

For those who've worked up an appetite: **Door 222 Food & Drink** pairs delicious tapas with local draft beers. Or head to **Taste Local** for scratch-made all-day breakfast (we like Marino's blueberry flapjacks and The Devil's Backbone panini). Another option is **Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch's** dinner horseback rides (or anytime rides), which come with a trek to beautiful Eagle Ridge.

For dessert: **Sweet Heart Winery** has opened in west Loveland — the perfect stop for a sip if you're making the 35-minute drive between Loveland and **Rocky Mountain National Park**. The wine tasting room is open to the public seven days a week.

DAY 3

Like any good college town, **Greeley** has a colorful selection of coffee shops, serving residents and University of Northern Colorado students. Hit the streets where, as part of **Historic Preservation Commission** walking tours and History Brown Bag events, you'll learn about the city's neighborhoods, historic sites and architecture.

Stop by the **Colorado Model Railroad Museum (4)**, which features more than 600 railroad-related artifacts ranging from a Virginia and Truckee Railroad switch key to a full-size Colorado

and Southern wooden caboose available for examining both inside and out.

Or take a swing along the **Poudre River Trail**, with beautiful views, easy hiking trails and access to the Cache la Poudre River, catch-and-release fishing and wildlife viewing. The **Poudre Learning Center** has a system of barrier-free, wheelchair-accessible pathways and learning areas.

Throughout your visit, you'll find more than 50 pieces of **public art** sprinkled around Greeley, as well as lovely parks that feature lakes, small streams, bridges, waterfalls and islands. **Homestead Park and Open Space** has walking paths, a playground and public art.

Every summer Friday brings live music on the 9th Street Plaza for **Friday Fest**, with street performers, fire spinners, face painting, balloon artistry, sidewalk chalk and more.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Bellvue, **Fort Collins** (page 197), **Greeley** (page 199), **Loveland** (page 201), **Johnstown** (page 200), **Platteville**, **Red Feather Lakes**, **Windsor**

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: DEVIL'S BACKBONE OPEN SPACE, CITY OF LOVELAND; CENTENNIAL VILLAGE; COLORADO MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM, HICKORY CITY OF GREELEY; BENSON SCULPTURE GARDEN, CITY OF LOVELAND.

INSPIRED TO LINGER: DELTA COUNTY



NEAR PAONIA, LAURENCE PARENT

The Delta County towns of **Cedaredge, Crawford, Delta, Hotchkiss, Orchard City** and **Paonia (1)** are an organic-food and wine region with winery and farm tours, tastings and farm dinners, and easy access to spectacular canyonlands for hiking and biking, including **Escalante Canyon** and **Big and Little Dominguez** canyons.

The **West Elks Wine Trail** meanders past nine wineries — keep an eye out for spots to buy fresh, organic fruit and veggies.

Paonia, Hotchkiss and Crawford form a **Certified Colorado Creative District**, where artists' studios, musicians, writers and other creative folk mix among the mesas, and Delta's historic Main Street is lined with colorful, large-scale murals by local artists.

For active diversions, **Sweitzer Lake State Park** near Delta is a relaxing place for boating and birdwatching, as are **Paonia and Crawford state parks**. **Western Slope SUP** can get you set up paddleboarding on the area's calm waters. **Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area** is popular with hikers, backpackers and trout fishers on the **Gunnison River's** Gold Medal waters.

Mountain bikers find paradise on the challenging **Delta Drop Off** mountain-bike trail and other trails (namely the Flowing Park Trail, Sidewinder, Smith Mountain and Jumbo Mountain), **County Line trail system**, **Escalante Rim Loop** and the **North Rim Entrance to the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park**.

For history, **Fort Uncompahgre** brings an 1820s fur-trading post to life and the **Delta History Museum's** big draw is a collection of dinosaur discoveries from nearby Dry Mesa quarry site. Visitors can now also follow signs to the **Eagle Rock Shelter Access** from Hwy. 92, where evidence of the earliest humans known to inhabit North America found shelter on a ledge above the Gunnison River.

If that leaves you craving a bit of nostalgia, antique shops in Delta and the old-school **Tru-Vu Drive-In Theater** should scratch

that itch. Other favorite spots to visit include the charming **Cirque Cyclery** combo juice bar/bike repair/bike rental (including e-bikes)/boutique all in one, the **Creamery Arts Center**, **Azura Cellars and Gallery**, **The Living Farm Cafe**, **Leroux Creek Inn & Vineyards**, **Delicious Orchards & Big B's Cidery** and a handful of new wineries, brewpubs and cideries.

Stop into the **Delta Area Chamber of Commerce** for maps and advice about all the area has to offer.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Cedaredge, Crawford, Delta (page 195), **Orchard City, Paonia**

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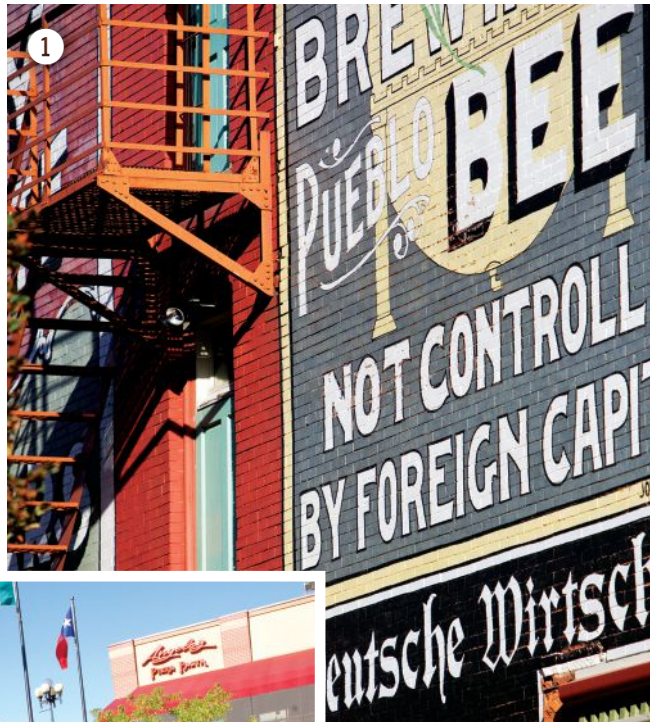
HISTORIC SITES & FAMILY FUN IN PUEBLO



Once a rough-and-tumble mining town inhabited by cowboys, gold-seekers and infamous ruffians like Wild Bill Hickok and Buffalo Bill Cody, modern-day Pueblo is a sunny playground nestled on the banks of the Arkansas River.

MORNING

Kick off your visit in the colorful **Union Avenue Historic District (1)**, the town's original city center, which once housed trading posts, gambling saloons and second-story brothels. Today, the area's beautiful brick and sandstone buildings house a collection of boutiques, art galleries and sidewalk cafes. The neighborhood is one of the biggest and most exciting developments here. More than 40 creatives work out of this studio collective. Each month on First Fridays



and Second Saturdays, the artists host open houses and events such as raku firings, poetry readings and receptions.

Check out the **Historic Arkansas Riverwalk (2)**, a 32-acre waterfront plaza with a nature center and outdoor amphitheater. Take a guided river cruise or get your heart pumping on one of the bike trails, many of which connect to nearby **Lake Pueblo State Park**, one of the state's most popular.

AFTERNOON

If you're traveling with children, your next stop should be the

SIDETRIPS

Take a scenic drive west of Pueblo to the towns of **Westcliffe** and **Silver Cliff**, between the Wet and Sangre de Cristo mountains. The quiet area, home to 200 miles of hiking and biking trails and 54 alpine lakes, has an air of the undiscovered, and you're likely to spot real cowboys and gals herding cattle on horseback. Peek into the All Aboard Westcliffe railroad museum (open Saturdays, Memorial Day through mid-September) and stop for a performance or movie at the historic Jones Theater. For fine dining and spectacular views, make a date at Westcliffe's Alpine Lodge. The communities are also the first in Colorado to be recognized by the International Dark-Sky Association, so plan for some stargazing and a stop at Smokey Jack Observatory.

South of Pueblo along I-25, **Colorado City** anchors the southern leg of the Frontier Pathways Scenic Byway. The 104-mile road along the splendid Sangre de Cristos travels through the San Isabel National Forest, by Hardscrabble Canyon and 40-acre Lake Isabel, an ideal spot for fishing, hiking and picnicking. Head west for 24 miles along Hwy. 165 to Bishop's Castle, a quirky fortress Jim Bishop has been building for more than 40 years and billed as "The Largest One-Man Construction Project in the Country."

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Colorado City, Pueblo (age 203), Pueblo West, Silver Cliff, Westcliffe

QUICK TIP

Colorado's craft-beer industry is booming statewide and Pueblo is no exception. Try the Pueblo American Pale Ale at **Shamrock Brewing**, sip the Pueblo Chile Lager at **Walter's Brewing Company** or grab a pint of Leadhead IPA at **Bruer's Alehouse Brewing Co.**

FROM TOP: UNION AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT; MILES/ANDREA BUIROLLA; HISTORIC ARKANSAS RIVERWALK; MILES/ANDREA BUIROLLA; OPPOSITE PAGE: FROM LEFT: BUELL CHILDREN'S MUSEUM; MILES/ANDREA BUIROLLA; CHILE & FRUITS FESTIVAL; GREATER PUEBLO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.



and **The Steelworks Museum**, rated in the top-five industrial collections in the nation.

EVENING

Watch the city melt into shades of gold, red and orange during a sunset gondola ride down the river. Afterward, head into historic **Old Town** for a bite to eat, making sure to sample the town's de facto mascot, the chile pepper. This spicy, fire-roasted treat is perhaps best enjoyed in savory pork green chile. Try a Pueblo Slopper, a hamburger patty smothered in green chile and topped with cheese and onions. More than 25 local restaurants serve up their own version of the beloved dish, so you can easily embark on your own Slopper tour — and take the **Pueblo Chile Farm Stand Tour** along Hwy. 50 east of town July through October to gather your own ingredients.

Residents of Italian, Greek, Slovenian, Polish, Irish, German and African-American heritage have also shaped the city's menus. Stop into one of the longtime

local restaurants and shops, like **Franks Meat Market**, **Paeteria Y Neveria Durango**, **Tortilleria Delicias** or **Giodone's Italian Bar and Grill**.

If there's still time, stop into the **Songbird Cellars** tasting room on Abriendo Avenue for handcrafted fruit wines and find out what's on stage at the **Steel City Theatre Company**, **Impossible Players** and **Grupo Folklórico del Pueblo**. Stay at **Station on the Riverwalk**, a boutique hotel housed in a building that operated as the town's police station and jail from the 1940s to 2010.



award-winning **Buell Children's Museum (3)**, adored for its hands-on exhibits focused on the arts, science and history. Next, head to the **Pueblo Weisbrod Aircraft Museum**, a World War II Army air base turned museum with more than 30 vintage aircraft, including a massive B-29. Other can't-miss museums include the **El Pueblo History Museum**, a re-created 1840s adobe trading post and archaeological excavation site,

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COLORADO WINE & ADVENTURE COUNTRY: GRAND JUNCTION, PALISADE & FRUITA



The area around Grand Junction is the heart of Colorado's wine country, but delicious adult beverages are just one of the region's great assets.

❄️ WINTER FUN

Family-friendly Powderhorn Mountain Resort is located on the Grand Mesa near Grand Junction, where skiers, riders and snowtubers see something more like the Grand Canyon than the typical alpine view. The resort recently added an amazing new service: Ski Patrol Ski Along, your own personal guide to the mountain!

☀️ SUMMER AT SKI RESORTS

Powderhorn is now open during the summer with scenic lift rides, hiking trails, concerts and lift-assisted downhill mountain biking, including rentals, lessons and an expanding trail system.



 @skipowderhorn



DAY 1

The largest flat-topped mountain in the world, **Grand Mesa** is a 10,000-foot-high plateau topped by forest and more than 300 lakes. Mountain-bike trails lace the area. Pick up a map at the entrance to town to discover all that's within reach of **Palisade**. The Colorado River is accessible to kayaks, canoes, rafters and paddleboards. There's also the **Riverfront Trail's** Monument View section, which runs 28 miles along the river from Fruita to Grand Junction.

The **Palisade Fruit & Wine Byway** is another way to see the area, routing through orchards, lavender gardens,

vineyards, fruit stands and river views. Along the way, you'll spy the **Bookcliff Mountains**, named for their shape and one of the only east-west ranges in the U.S. For dinner, **Inari's** offers seasonal American fare and many local wines. **Peach Street Distillers**, a manufacturer of locally made spirits, is a great place to taste some truly original spirits. Or have dinner at Grand Junction's wildly popular **Bin 707 Foodbar**, where chef Josh Niernberg serves up a menu crafted from the Grand Valley's best farmers, winemakers and brewers. **626 on Road, Café Sol** and **Taco Party** are a couple of other must-eats for local flavors.



SIDETRIPS

With its craggy hills and unparalleled collection of prehistoric artifacts, **Dinosaur National Monument** is worth the additional four-hour trek north along the Dinosaur Diamond Scenic & Historic Byway. There are thousands of fossil types in the monument, and it's still an active research area. Be sure to visit the **Gates of Lodore**, spectacular red canyon walls that tower over the Green River, which is popular with rafters and campers.

On the way, stop in **Rangely**. Once the site of a Ute trading post, see prehistoric rock art from the Ute and Fremont tribes in **Canyon Pintado**. The area is also home to Colorado's only designated natural rock-crawling park, along with hundreds of miles of public lands to ride a side-by-side, mountain bike or hike. **Kenney Reservoir** is a hot bed for water-sports lovers and fishers. Maps and information are available at the **Rangely Museum**, just east of town. The museum itself is a unique stopover, with a collection of one-of-a-kind and classic automobiles and motorcycles. Bring your telescope — you can see spectacular night skies all year long.

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM: LEFT: POWDERHORN RESORT. @SKIPOWDERHORN; NORTH FRUITA DESERT. LISA SEAMAN; THE GREEN RIVER IN DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT. JEFF DIENER.

QUICK TIP

Grand Junction is on the **California Zephyr Amtrak** line that runs from Chicago to San Francisco, and the depot is a short walk from downtown. The train runs west and east daily.



@kelseyhoisingtonphotography

2

GRAND JUNCTION. @KELSEYHOISINGTONPHOTOGRAPHY.

Find Colorado crops at their source: Get your hands dirty with **Sage Creations Organic Lavender Farm's** u-pick experience, and several orchards also offer pick-your-own ops, including **Fruit Basket Orchards**, **Green Barn Fruit Company**, **B2 Orchards Tree Farm**, **Palisade Peach Ranch** and **Bolton's Orchards & Farm Market** (call ahead to confirm availability), in addition to the fresh-produce stands found throughout the region.

DAY 2

Start your morning in **downtown Grand Junction (2)**, where locally owned brunch hotspots' outdoor seating areas let you bask in the morning air. Work off the hash browns by strolling walkable streets lined with galleries, sculptures and gift shops, as well as a Thursday farmers' market.

Those looking to get their heart rates up have a few new options:

Jet Boat Colorado operates its fast ride on the Colorado River, **Get Air at the Silo** has a trampoline, cave climb and other adventures, the new **Imondi Wake Zone** is the state's first ever cable wakeboarding park, **Grand Junction Stand Up Paddle** now offers river tours (those 300-plus lakes also give you plenty of SUP options).

West of Grand Junction, the stunning red-rock canyonlands of **Colorado National Monument** will fill up a digital camera's memory card in a blink. Drive the 23-mile **Rim Rock Drive** or take a ranger-led tour that explores everything from geology to wildlife. In the summer, hook up with the Western Colorado Astronomy Club to see the Milky Way above the canyons.

For a glimpse into life during the Jurassic period, visit **The Trail Through Time**, a relatively easy 1.5-mile hike in the Rabbit Valley that leads past an active dinosaur quarry and provides the opportunity to see real dinosaur tracks and bones that are 140-million-years-old.

The serious biker will want to add another day to the itinerary in order to explore the mountain-biking trails around nearby **Fruita**, arguably the best network of singletrack in Colorado. The town is also a popular destination for ATVers who love desert trails, and rock crawlers find vast and varied terrain in the **North Fruita Desert (1)** area.

Plan to see the **Rim Rock Rodeo**, which takes place every summer Tuesday, and then stop into downtown's **Cavalcade**, an intimate performance venue in Fruita's growing downtown, where you can relax and listen to some music.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Clifton, Collbran, Fruita (page 198), **Grand Junction** (page 199), **Loma, Mesa** (page 202), **Palisade** (page 202), **Parachute, Rangely** (page 203)

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Delta County

Be Inspired to Linger

Delta County boasts Grand Mesa, West Elks and Dominguez/Escalante NCA for top outdoor recreation. Two 18-hole Golf Courses, Gold Medal Waters, 13 wineries and an abundance of farms set the scene.

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Wine Country Inn, Caroline's, Tapestry Lounge

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ONLY IN BOULDER



Playfully referred to as the People’s Republic of Boulder, this foothills city was recently named “Happiest City in the U.S.” by *National Geographic* and is known for progressive attitudes stemming from its hippie heyday. Today it’s characterized by scientific research centers, the University of Colorado, artsy folks and hyper-athletic citizens.

❄️ WINTER FUN

While not a traditional ski town, Boulder’s proximity to skiing at nearby Eldora Mountain Resort, affordable winter lodging prices and hip downtown vibe makes it a primo cold-season destination. Downhillers can schuss down Eldora’s slopes in the morning and head back down to town for a hike or bike ride in the afternoon — and dinner and local brews in the evening, naturally. Non-downhill skiers love Eldora’s Nordic Center, which offers lessons and trails designed specifically for cross-country skiing, skate skiing and snowshoeing.



1

MORNING

The pedestrian **Pearl Street Mall (1)** is the city’s hub. Fuel up at any of a dozen coffee shops alongside students and freelancers clicking away on their laptops. Then, spend time strolling the thoroughfare, lined with historic buildings that now house boutiques and longtime-favorite shops and populated by talented open-air performers. For more shopping, head to **Twenty Ninth Street**, an outdoor mall headlined by H&M, The North Face and Apple that also has a new outdoor beer garden called The Barrel. Or hook up with **Boulder Walking Tours**

to see Boulder through its neighborhoods, historic areas and open spaces.

Saturdays and Wednesdays April-mid-November, stroll **Boulder Farmers’ Market (2)**, with a strict sell-what-you-grow policy and a lovely setting next to Boulder Creek. Chefs are often spotted shopping here, so you may taste market veggies during dinner. If you dig the market, you might also appreciate the **Boulder County Farm Trail (3)** — 20 farms and other places where you can pick berries, pet animals, take a tour, check out a farm stand, picnic in a barn or take a class.



2



3

QUICK TIP

Hikers can ride the free **Park-to-Park shuttle** to designated areas in and around the Chautauqua Park area. The dog-friendly bus runs on Saturdays and Sundays from Memorial Day through Labor Day; just park your car downtown or at a free lot on the University of Colorado campus and hitch a ride.

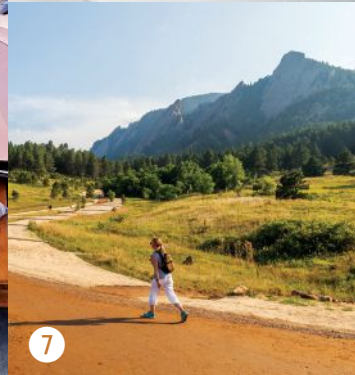
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: PEARL STREET MALL; DOWNTOWN BOULDER; BOULDER COUNTY FARMERS’ MARKET; BOULDER COUNTY FARM TRAIL; BOULDER CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU; ELDORA MOUNTAIN RESORT.



SIDETRIPS

Boulder is also close to **Rocky Mountain National Park** (1 hour), **Eldorado Canyon State Park** (15 minutes) and **Golden Gate Canyon State Park** (45 minutes).

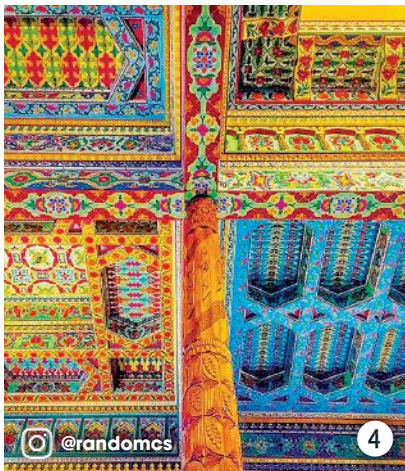
You can confidently claim that **Nederland**, just a half hour outside of Boulder, will be unlike any other town in your vacation repertoire. Case in point: Each March Frozen Dead Guy Days celebrates the remains of a man who died of a heart attack in 1989. His family keeps his body preserved in dry ice in the hopes that future science can revive him. Celebrate Ned's nutty culture with craft brews, art and live music, and soak in the ambiance by browsing around local shops and restaurants.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: TOWN OF NEDERLAND; RAYBACK COLLECTIVE; FRASCA FOOD & WINE, MEGAN SWANN; CHAUTAUQUA PARK; ETHAN WELTY; DUSHANBE TEAHOUSE, @RANDOMCS.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Boulder (page 192), **Eldorado Springs**, **Louisville** (page 201), **Lyons** (page 201), **Superior**, **Westminster** (page 206)



AFTERNOON

Head next door to the **Dushanbe Teahouse (4)** to admire the intricate paintings and carvings adorning this building, shipped piece by piece from Boulder's sister city in Tajikistan. Have a bite to eat and order a pot of tea from the exhaustive menu.

Then, discover the hiking trails in **National Historic Landmark Chautauqua Park (7)**, with options to suit every level of hiker and up-close views of the Flatirons — the slanting slabs of red sandstone that are Boulder's most recognizable landmark (see tip for visiting on previous page). Stop into **Chautauqua Dining Hall**, which has been serving Boulderites since 1898.

There's also the new **Museum of Boulder**, which hosts big-name traveling exhibitions from the Smithsonian and other nationally recognized

museums. The Google Garage lets visitors tinker, experiment and get hands-on with technology tools, do-it-yourself projects and ever-changing opportunities to innovate and create. The museum's rooftop deck offers some of the best views of the Flatirons in town.

EVENING

Boulder is one of the reasons Bravo's "Top Chef" filmed a recent season in Colorado, so dinner at one of the city's restaurants is a must. Wander around Pearl Street for plenty of award-winning options, including Provençal-inspired **Mateo**; **Pizzeria Locale**'s Neapolitan pies (brought to you by the chefs at another Pearl Street favorite, **Frasca Food & Wine (6)**); or **The Kitchen**, an eco-friendly bistro that pairs food with decadent brews. Additionally, **Audrey Jane's Pizza Garage** and **Zoe Ma Ma** are two stop-worthy gems

that have been featured on Food Network's "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives." For more secret places to eat and explore, visit boulder.coloradousa.com.

After, visit a brewery to taste the local suds and take a tour — there are more than 20 now, pretty serious for a town of 100,000 people! In fact, Boulder has more breweries per capita than any other city in the U.S. Pick up a **Boulder Beer Trail** brochure at area visitor centers, take a walking tour from **Boulder Brew Tours** or catch a ride on the **Colorado Brewery Bus**.

Another thing brewing in Boulder is kombucha. Taste this fermented tea that's full of probiotics, beneficial yeast and enzymes at **Upstart** in north Boulder or **Rowdy Mermaid** inside **Rayback Collective (5)** — a food-truck park/beer garden/live-music venue that's drawing those in the know east of downtown.

Boulder is home to a vibrant mix of dance and theater companies, creatives, visual artists and musicians. Plan your visit at BoulderCountyArtsCalendar.com



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Boulder Events

Month	Event
JAN	1 Boulder Polar Plunge at the Boulder Reservoir
	4 University of Colorado Men's and Women's Basketball (through March 3)
FEB	16 Chautauqua Author Series (through May 1)
	19 Boulder Philharmonic (through May 4)
	9 Chocolate Lovers' Fling
	14 Boulder Bach Festival (through May 23)
MAR	22-24 Boulder Ballet's "New Horizons"
	28 Boulder International Film Festival (through March 3)
	2 Winter Craft Beer Festival
	15-17 LOCAL Lab New Play Festival
APR	22 Chautauqua Community House Concerts (through April 27)
	29 Boulder Arts Week (through April 6)
	7 Boulder Farmers Market (Saturdays through Nov.)
	7 Tulip Fairy & Elf Festival—Downtown Boulder
MAY	9-13 Conference on World Affairs at University of Colorado
	28 Taste of Pearl—Downtown Boulder
	13-19 Colorado Mahlerfest
	14-19 Media Live at BMoCA
JUN	25-27 Boulder Creek Festival
	27 BolderBoulder 10k Road Race
	5 Bands on the Bricks Wednesdays—Downtown Boulder (through Aug. 7)
	9 IRONMAN Boulder
JUL	27 Colorado Music Festival (through Aug. 3)
	TBD Twenty Ninth Street LIVE Concert Series
	TBD Plein Air Festival
	4 Ralphie's Independence Day Blast
AUG	20-21 Pearl Street Arts Fest
	TBD Colorado Shakespeare Festival (through mid Aug.)
	14-25 Boulder International Fringe Festival
	24 Boulder Craft Beer Festival—Downtown Boulder
SEP	TBD Frequent Flyers Aerial Dance Festival
	9 Buffalo Bicycle Classic
	13-15 Boulder Fall Festival
	19 Girls Night Out—Downtown Boulder
OCT	20-22 5th Annual Zee Jaipur Literary Festival
	10-13 Flatirons Food Film Festival
	19 5th Annual Sing Along Boulder
	31 Munchkin Masquerade—Downtown Boulder
NOV	TBD Adventure Film Fest
	24 Switch on the Holidays—Downtown Boulder
	28-30 Boulder Ballet's "The Nutcracker"
	29 St. Nick on the Bricks (through Dec. 21)
DEC	TBD Santa's Arrival & Tree Lighting Ceremony, Twenty Ninth Street
	1 Snow Much Fun (through mid Feb.)
	7 Lights of December Parade
	14 Freezie Fest—Downtown Boulder
TBD Holiday Festival, CU Presents	

For a complete calendar go to BoulderColoradoUSA.com/events.

A scenic view of the Rocky Mountains. In the foreground, a dirt path winds through a lush green meadow. Two hikers, a woman with a red backpack and a man with a green backpack, are walking away from the camera. The middle ground is filled with dense evergreen trees. In the background, large, rugged rock formations rise against a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds.

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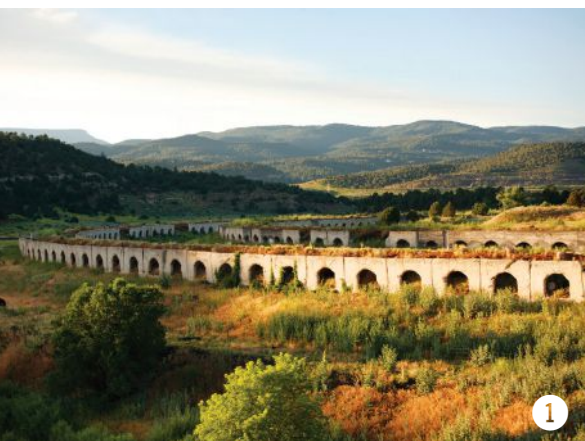
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HIGHWAY OF LEGENDS: 2 DAYS IN TRINIDAD, WALSENBURG, LA VETA & CUCHARA



North of New Mexico's border, where the towering Sangre de Cristo Mountains intersect the waving grassland of the eastern high plains, lie some of Colorado's best frontier towns. At the southern terminal of the inspiring Highway of Legends, Trinidad is an unspoiled charmer, where archaeology and architecture meet modern recreation.



1



2

DAY 1

Kick off your vacation at the **Trinidad Municipal Golf Course**, a nine-holeer with stunning views of the Sangre de Cristos (especially from the seventh hole). Or spend a lazy day on the **Purgatoire River**, which was recently stocked for great trout fishing and has a lovely riverwalk.

Afterward, delve into history at the site of the **Ludlow Massacre**, 12 miles northwest of Trinidad. Today a ghost town, Ludlow was the site of a vicious skirmish between the Colorado National Guard and on-strike coal miners that left 20 people dead in 1914. Restored by the United Mine Workers of America, the site includes a miners' tent camp, storyboards and photos that recount the chilling encounter.

Later, return to Trinidad for dinner and a stroll through the brick-lined streets of **Old Trinidad** and one of the largest collections of Victorian houses west of the Mississippi. Affordable living and beautiful landscapes recently resulted in an influx of artists in residence and galleries, and the **Southern Colorado Repertory Theatre's** professional company fills the year with classics and original works. These factors and more led to the **Corazón de**

Trinidad (heart of Trinidad) recently being named a **Certified Colorado Creative District**.

DAY 2

Stroll to the **Trinidad History Museum**, which houses the meticulously preserved **Baca House (2)**, a two-story adobe built in 1870 that combines Hispanic construction techniques with British design. The **Santa Fe Trail Museum** exhibits evoke frontier life from the trail days to the 1920s. Among the artifacts is Kit Carson's fringed buckskin coat. While here, you can also visit the **Bloom Mansion**, an elaborate Victorian confection built in 1882, and the **A.R. Mitchell Museum of Western Art**, which houses collections of Western and Spanish colonial folk art.

End your visit with a drive along the breathtaking **Highway of Legends**. From Trinidad, the byway continues west to **Cokedale (1)**, where a strip of old coke ovens (used to mix and heat coal at extremely high temperatures) lines the road, resembling something more ancient-Roman than frontier.

The byway heads north alongside the Sangre de Cristo range, affording spectacular views of those mountains to the west as well as the monstrous volcanic walls that jut from the Spanish Peaks to the east. It also passes through the San Isabel National Forest, home to six wilderness areas and three classic Colorado towns: **Cuchara** has stunning Sangre views (especially from Cuchara Mountain Park's trails) and a sleepy downtown with gift shops and several B&Bs and cabins. For summer splendor, pull off Cuchara Pass at the Farley Wildflower Overlook and behold a color-filled meadow. Scope out **Walsenburg's** antique shops, mining museum, water park, visitor center and **Lathrop State Park**. And peek into **La Veta's** art galleries and the 1862 adobe **Francisco Fort Museum (3)**. And check out the blast from the past at **Uptop** ghost town on **Old La Veta Pass**.



3

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Cuchara, La Veta (page 200), Trinidad (page 206), Walsenburg (page 206)

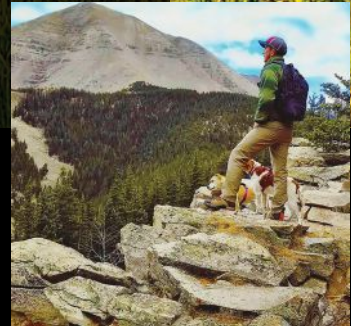
QUICK TIP

Roll the culinary dice at **Aly's Restaurant** in La Veta — each night chef Alys surprises guests with a menu based on the day's inspiration. Afterward, pop into **Charlie's Market's** old-fashioned ice-cream fountain.

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM RIGHT: FRANCISCO FORT MUSEUM; MILES/ANNA ZOROMSKI; BACA HOUSE; MILES/ANNA ZOROMSKI; COKE DALE; MILES/ANNA ZOROMSKI.

the Way Out west

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❄️ WINTER FUN

Ski Cooper, former training site of the 10th Mountain Division, is now a family-friendly ski area with a warming hut at the top of the mountain that serves lunch and snacks to skiers. Cross-country skiing abounds throughout the area (the Tennessee Pass Nordic Center Cookhouse is a most delicious destination), and visitors in March will be delighted by the town's ski-joring festival, where horses tow skiers down Harrison Avenue.

Leadville's East Side Mining District is groomed all winter for Nordic skiing, snowshoeing, fat biking, and snowmobiling. Part of an extensive network of nearly 100 miles of groomed trails, the Mining District offers unparalleled views of the Sawatch and Mosquito ranges, the state's highest fourteeners (mounts Elbert and Massive), the chance to see mining structures up close and solitude on trails kept in excellent condition.



Well-preserved, Leadville has 70 square city blocks of Victorian buildings and shops, all part of a **National Historic Landmark District**, along with 20 square miles of preserved silver-mining district. More than 50 buildings date to the 1870s, including the **Tabor Opera House (1)** (with an ambitious roster of acts each year), and walking tours include cemetery and stagecoach themes and picnics.

Downtown is walkable and full of places to eat and hang, including **Treeline Kitchen** — especially loved for its rooftop seating. **Periodic Brewing** is one of the best for post-adventure local brews and

tasty snacks. Pop into **Cookies With Altitude** for somethin' sweet, including flavors like Key lime pie, molasses and pumpkin.

Catch a ride on the **Leadville, Colorado & Southern Railroad** and don't miss the **National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum (2)**, a fascinating look at the powerful industry and all the metals that helped build the state. For more mining history, take the **Hopemore Underground Mine Tour** led by a former miner. You'll journey 600 feet from the surface into an authentic, hard-rock mine.

Leadville sits along the **Top of the Rockies Scenic and Historic Byway**, and the town's paved **Mineral Belt Trail** offers year-round recreation for bikers, hikers, snowshoers and cross-country skiers. More than 100 miles of the **Arkansas River**, starting at the Lake Fork near Leadville, are designated Gold Medal fishing waters.

Just 20 miles from town at the base of Independence Pass is historic **Twin Lakes (3)**, where you'll find world-class fishing and some of Colorado's most spectacular lake and peak scenery. Twin Lakes is close to the trailhead of **Mount Elbert** (Colorado's tallest peak).

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Leadville (page 200),
Twin Lakes

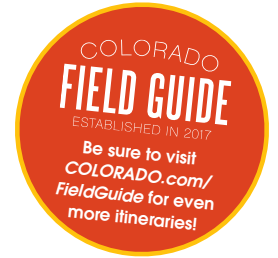
QUICK TIP

Leadville is less than an hour from Breckenridge, Vail and Copper Mountain, and only 9 miles to Ski Cooper, offering a unique and **low-cost option for a ski vacation**.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: LEFT: TABOR OPERA HOUSE; C2 PHOTOGRAPHY; MATCHLESS MINE; LAURENCE PARENT; TWIN LAKES; JASON J. HATFIELD; SKI COOPER; CITY OF LEADVILLE/SCOTT DW. SMITH.



ANCIENT TREASURES IN MESA VERDE COUNTRY



One of the richest archaeological zones in America just happens to be hidden amid some of the grandest scenery in the Southwest.

DAY 1

Make your homebase in **Cortez**, an hour from Mesa Verde National Park. Whether you stay at a B&B, cabin or guest ranch, Cortez has tons of excellent dining and shopping opportunities. But save walking around town for later — you have a national park to explore. Stop by the **Colorado Welcome Center** on Main Street to pick up the *National Geographic Four Corners Region*

Map, which gives local insights into the area's offerings.

Then head to the "green table" of **Mesa Verde National Park (2)**, home to more than 4,000 archaeological sites, 600 of which are cliff dwellings. Orient yourself at the **Visitor and Research Center**, where you can pick up maps and brochures, see exhibits and purchase tickets for tours. Only two cliff dwellings are open for self-guided tours, so if you want to go inside the amazing Cliff

Palace **(1)**, you must nab a spot on a guided tour.

From the visitor center, browse the exhibits in the **Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum**. Then drive the **Mesa Top Loop Road**, a 6-mile overview of the entire park. On your way to Cliff Palace or Balcony House, enjoy the drive on the Cliff Palace/Balcony House Loop Road. Or if you purchased tickets for Long House, take Wetherill Mesa Drive.

One lodging option is **Canyon of the Ancients Guest Ranch**, a peaceful place to rest your head after exploring all of the area's sights. Choose from several rustically beautiful cabins and homes, including an ancient Pueblo-inspired structure; and purchase fresh produce and meats farmed on site to prepare your own meals.

Continued on next page.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK; JAMES BRANAMAN; CLIFF PALACE; JIM DAVID; MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK; @VISITDURANGO; AMERICAN INDIAN DANCER NEAR MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK; ERIC LINDBERG.

QUICK TIP

Whatever route you take, download the **Ancient Voices audio tour** from mesaverdecountry.com to learn about the many archaeological attractions, as well as local history, Western stories, botany, cosmology, music and life in ancient Puebloan times.



DAY 2

Travel the 116-mile **Trail of the Ancients**, America's only National Scenic Byway dedicated solely to archaeology. From Cortez, wind past Mesa Verde to **Ute Mountain Tribal Park in Towaoc (3)**, where Ute guides help you explore the culture, architecture and art of the Ute and Ancestral Puebloan people. From here, pass **Four Corners Monument** on your way to **Hovenweep National Monument's** round and square towers, some of which you can visit via short hike. Visit at night

for stargazing in this International Dark-Sky Park, including ranger-led stargazing programs in the spring and summer.

Fit in a visit to the **Canyons of the Ancients National Monument (4)**. Stop first at the **Anasazi Heritage Center**, a superb archaeological museum that introduces the monument, the family that discovered the cliff dwellings, and cultures native to the region. Then head to **Lowry Pueblo**, an ancient pueblo site within the monument with 40 rooms and eight circular kivas.

The area's high-desert canyons, mesas and 600 miles of singletrack trails, as well as slick-rock and old-growth forest trails, make Cortez a hub for mountain bikers. East of town on Hwy. 160, **Phil's World** is a fast, fun and well-maintained singletrack trail, and the **Geer Park** has 10.9 additional miles of intermediate biking within Cortez city limits.

If ATVs are your thing, the **Dolores Public Lands Office** can direct you to the best routes, including the **Aspen Loop Trail**, a multipurpose, 39-mile loop trail that travels through old logging roads, streams and aspen groves.

Or see the inner workings of local farms and taste the region's flavors on a **Mesa Verde Farm and Ranch Tour**. Excursions hosted by the **Cortez Cultural Center** include transportation to multiple sites, a guided tour, lunch and tasting of craft beverages from area breweries and wineries.



SIDETRIPS

Now that you have an appreciation of the canyons and cliffs that made Mesa Verde Country famous, cruise one of Colorado's most fascinating scenic byways. The **San Juan Skyway** is a 236-mile loop called the "most beautiful drive in America" for good reason. The road tours southwestern Colorado's rich landscape, starting in Cortez and passing through the idyllic mountain towns of Mancos, Durango, Silverton, Ouray, Ridgway, Telluride, Rico and Dolores. In the fall, this drive is lined with golden aspens.

In **Dolores**, fishers will find haven on McPhee Reservoir and the Dolores River, a popular whitewater-rafting route that runs through town. McPhee is the second-largest body of water in Colorado, with 50 miles of shoreline in pinyon, juniper and sagebrush country. Doc's Marina offers boats and kayak rentals, snacks, ice and tackle. End the day at Dolores River Brewery for local suds and wood-fired pizza or Sutcliffe Vineyards west of Cortez, recently recognized among the country's top wine producers by *Food & Wine Magazine*.

Or head to **Mancos**, one of the newest Certified Colorado Creative Districts and a community that traces its roots back to the ranching, farming and timber industries that started back in the 1870s. Today Mancos boasts little shops brimming with unique gifts and wonderful art. Local artisans craft everything from beer and rum to leather goods and handmade Western hats.

The state's most southwestern town, **Towaoc** is the headquarters of the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Reservation. Attractions include the Ute Mountain Tribal Park, which features both Ancestral Puebloan and Ute rock art and dwellings, as well as native guides that lead guests on an interpretive journey through Ute and Ancestral Puebloan history. The tribe also operates Ute Mountain Casino, Hotel & Resort, which includes an RV park, campground, travel center and restaurant.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Cortez (page 194), **Dolores** (page 196), **Mancos** (page 201), **Mesa Verde National Park** (page 202), **Towaoc** (page 206)

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: UTE MOUNTAIN TRIBAL PARK; MILES/MATTHEW INDEN; SAN JUAN SKYWAY; KENNAN HARVEY; CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS NATIONAL MONUMENT; BLIM.



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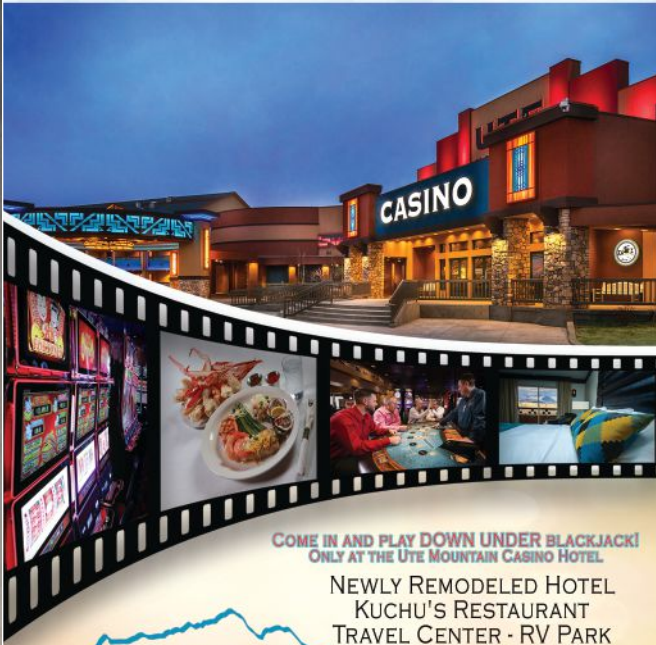
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SILVER THREAD BYWAY: CREEDE, SOUTH FORK & LAKE CITY



Opportunities to survey untamed wilderness, uncover mining history and pursue some of the state's most iconic outdoor activities — including hiking, rafting and fly-fishing — make a cruise along the Silver Thread Byway a must. The 117-mile route connects welcoming towns that continue

to embrace their Western roots, and ends at beautiful Blue Mesa Reservoir west of Gunnison.

Start your journey in **South Fork**, where show-stopping views and outdoor fun abound. Drop a line in the **Rio Grande River**, which boasts 20 miles of Gold Medal

waters for primo trout fishing; hook up with an ATV outfitter to see backcountry sites; or hike a portion of the Continental Divide Trail, a 3,100-mile trek between Canada and Mexico. Packed with rugged peaks, translucent alpine lakes and wild woodlands, **Weminuche Wilderness (1)** also draws adventure-seekers.

A late 19th-century silver boomtown, **Creede** boasts a small-town ambiance and many reminders of its rich past. Stop at the **Creede Historical Museum** and **Underground Mining Museum** for a peek into the lives of miners and entrepreneurs who shaped the town's history, and wander to Main Street, where businesses are housed in lovely 1890s storefronts. Just outside of Creede, **Wheeler Geologic Area's (2)** otherworldly rock spires await experienced off-roaders.

Many natural marvels lie between Creede and Lake City, including majestic **North Clear Creek Falls** (and its little sibling **South Clear Creek Falls**, which you can hike down to) and sapphire-blue **Lake San Cristobal**, which was formed when the Slumgullion Earthflow naturally dammed the valley just 800 years ago. Trees growing at off-angles are evidence that the landslide is still shifting up to 20 feet per year. Another special spot west of Lake City is **American Basin**, high-alpine backcountry known mostly for a late-summer explosion of wildflowers.

Lake City itself is known for its impressive collection of 1870s buildings, several nearby ghost towns (including **Animas Forks (3)**, **Carson** and **Capitol City**) and inspiring panoramas of San Juan Mountains. For a fisher, camper or hiker, Lake City is an ideal headquarters for all kinds of fresh-air exploits. Pick up a ghost tour at the Hinsdale County Museum and see a show at the old-timey Mountaineer Theatre.



STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Creede, Del Norte, Lake City, South Fork (page 205)

QUICK TIP

Quintessential mountain living: You don't even have to leave town to get on a trail in **Lake City!** Families love strolling creek- and riverside, where encounters with deer and smaller mountain critters happen frequently.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: WEMINUICHE WILDERNESS; ERIC WUINROW; WHEELER GEOLOGIC AREA; KENNAN HARVEY; ANIMAS FORKS GHOST TOWN; ERIC WUINROW.



WINTER FUN ❄️

Vail and Beaver Creek are two of the best-known ski destinations in the state. Vail practically set the standard for the modern ski-resort experience, and its famed back bowls and expansive, diverse terrain ensure fun for skiers of all levels. Beaver Creek Resort has delightful amenities like 3pm Cookie Time, wine-and-snowshoe excursions and a First Tracks program for early risers. Both towns have easy access to off-slope attractions, from snowmobiling and snow-tubing to mountain-top dining and sleigh rides.



PLAYING & PAMPERING IN THE VAIL VALLEY



Luxury resorts, world-famous golf, culinary wonders, family attractions, spectacular year-round events and concerts, and a drop-dead gorgeous Colorado landscape combine to make the Vail Valley the ideal place for days of serene pleasure.

MORNING

Vail Mountain (1) — one of two world-famous ski mountains in the valley (Beaver Creek is the other) — has launched oodles of summer activities under the theme of **Epic Discovery (2)**, where visitors can access ropes courses, ziplines, an alpine coaster, a waterless tube track, SUV tours, guided hikes and more. Take the scenic gondola up and walk down amid colorful wildflowers, or for a more heart-pumping

adventure, hike up the mountain and catch the gondola back down. Or, savor Colorado's sun-drenched mountain mornings with a round at one of more than a dozen **Eagle County golf courses**.

AFTERNOON

You've worked up your appetite; relax over lunch at one of Vail's fabulous restaurants, such as **Harvest, Sweet Basil, The Little Diner, La Tour** or **Mountain Standard**.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: VAIL MOUNTAIN; TOWN OF VAIL/JACK AFFLECK; BEAVER CREEK RESORT; VAIL RESORTS/JACK AFFLECK; EPIC DISCOVERY; VAIL RESORTS/JACK AFFLECK.

QUICK TIP

Vail runs a **free year-round shuttle** throughout town — making it easy to go car-free and hop-on/hop-off without missing any of the action.



Stroll **Vail Village (3)** or nearby **Beaver Creek Village** for world-class shopping — fur coat shops, glitzy jewelry dealers and couture clothing outlets as well as more down-to-earth T-shirt shops, art galleries, home decor shops and more — bustling year-round.

Wind down your afternoon with an alpine-inspired treatment at one of the valley's premier resort spas, including **Bloom Spa**, **Spa Anjali**, **Spa at the Arrabelle** and **Aria Spa**. You'll be refreshed and ready for an unforgettable night in the Vail Valley.

Less luxurious, but equally delightful options abound, as well: **Goat Yoga at Vail Stables** brings together the Zen of yoga with the adorable energy of kids (the goat kind)! **Paragon Guides'** Take a Llama to Lunch hikes pair you with a llama and guide you into evergreen forests and aspen groves.

EVENING

Treat yourself to the delight of gourmet dining at 10,000 feet at **Game Creek Restaurant**, whose location on Vail Mountain provides unmatched views. Beaver Creek offers another unique restaurant option at **Beano's Cabin**, a grand yet rustic on-mountain epicurean experience. Getting to either restaurant is half the fun, with transportation choices ranging from a gondola, wagon or horseback ride.

Be sure to check the schedules for summertime special performing arts events such as the **Hot Summer Nights Concert Series (4)**, the **Vail Jazz Festival**, the **Bravo! Music Festival** and the **Vail Dance Festival**, which brings dancers from top companies all over the world to a gorgeous outdoor stage.



SIDETRIPS

Eagle is growing in popularity as a homebase in the valley. Town Park is a hub of activity in Eagle, with yoga, a playground, cottonwood-shaded picnic areas, summer concerts and other events. The Eagle Pool & Ice Rink is another hot spot and the launching point for the town's main trailheads for mountain bikers, trail runners and hikers. There's also a pump track, BMX track, MHOR R/C Raceway radio-controlled car track and new whitewater park. Brush Creek and the Eagle River run through town and provide excellent fishing opportunities. Stop in to Batsons Corner Store to get the inside scoop on conditions.

Avon's a treat with meandering trails and Harry A. Nottingham Park, home to the state's largest Fourth of July celebration, paddle boats, stand-up paddleboards, fishing and picnic spots. In winter Nottingham Lake opens for old-fashioned ice skating and hockey. The West Avon Preserve, just north of I-70, offers winding trails of all levels of difficulty. There's also the Walking Mountains Science Center, an innovative natural science learning campus with a stream, wetlands, pond, aspen forest and National Forest access, which provides the valley with a special place for learning and discovery through guided hikes, camps and other family activities. The Zagster bike-share program provides an easy way for residents and guests to get around town.

Gypsum has a shooting range, fishing ponds right in town limits, a championship golf course that's usually one of the first to open in the mountain region for the summer, the new Dry Lake motocross track and access to BLM lands. For rock crawlers with off-road vehicles, the Middle Middle rock-crawling trail north of town looms with large boulders, undercut ledges and waterfall climbs. Farmers' Market Fridays starting in June bring local flavors and 18 town parks are perfect for picnics.

Mintum's galleries, antique shops and summer farmers' markets are worth a gander; **Red Cliff** is a jumping-off point to mountain biking, cross-country skiing, wildflower hikes and more; **Edwards'** Riverwalk shopping district has a relaxed feel and several mountain boutiques.

In any season the region's **10th Mountain Division Huts** provide backcountry stopovers for showshoers/skiers and hikers. Book early — these unique stopovers get snatched up fast by those looking to live in relative backcountry comfort.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Avon (page 191), **Beaver Creek**, **Eagle** (page 196), **Edwards** (page 196), **Gypsum**, **Mintum**, **Red Cliff**, **Vail** (page 206)

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: VAIL VILLAGE; VAIL RESORTS/JACK AFFLECK; STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING; DISCOVER AVON; HOT SUMMER NIGHTS CONCERT SERIES; JOHN RYAN LOCKMAN.



VISIT VAIL VALLEY

VAIL | MINTURN | RED CLIFF | EAGLEVAIL | AVON | BEAVER CREEK | EDWARDS | EAGLE | GYPSUM



DOUBLETREE BY HILTON VAIL

The DoubleTree by Hilton Vail, the only Hilton branded hotel in the Valley. Mountain modern hotel features a variety of guest rooms & suites, 3 onsite restaurants, 24-hr market, onsite ski rental, guest shuttle, 5 massage treatment rooms, and outdoor heated pool & hot tub.

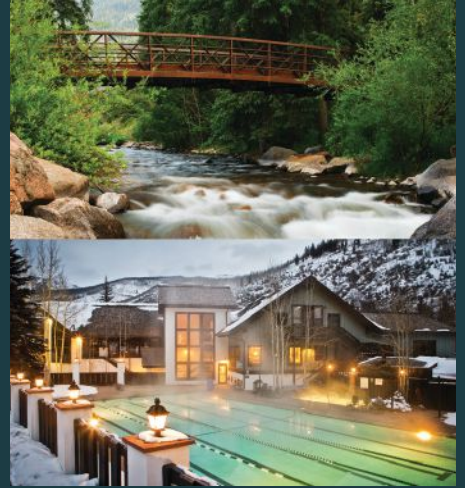
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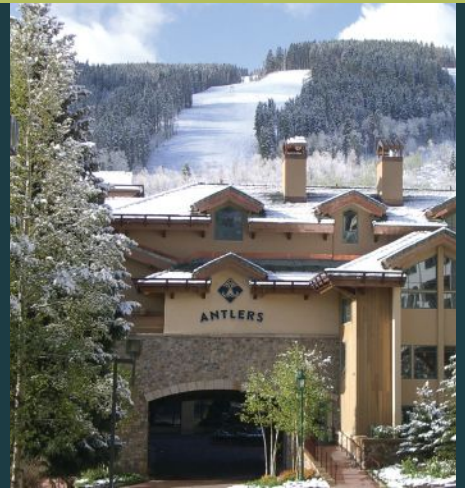
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BROAD HORIZONS IN THE SAN LUIS VALLEY: ALAMOSA, SAN LUIS & MONTE VISTA



The meandering Rio Grande River snakes through a vast valley ringed by dramatic mountains and filled with hidden lakes, waterfalls and cool summertime temperatures. Explore the small towns and attractions tucked away in this intriguing area.



DAY 1

Leap into the valley's deep roots in state's oldest town: **San Luis'** history dates back to 1540. **La Vega**, a plot of land on the edge of town, is where settlers first established a communal way of life in the late 1800s and laid claim to the area's first water rights before Colorado was even a state. Visit the more contemporary **Shrine of the Stations of the Cross** for a taste of the area's vibrant arts scene. Gripping bronze sculptures depict

Christ's judgment, crucifixion and resurrection, positioned along a path that winds up a mesa to an adobe chapel.

Continue north to **Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve's** (1) visitor center to learn how these seemingly inexplicable dunes — North America's tallest — came to nestle against the Sangre de Cristo mountains. Then, play on Colorado's most unique "beach" — **Medano Creek**; and check out **Zapata Falls**, a cool respite in the summer

and a giant ice sculpture in the winter. **Blanca Vista Park** is a locals' favorite for its picnic areas, wildlife spotting, well-maintained singletrack trails for mountain biking and views of the Great Sand Dunes from the park's Crestone Trail.

Detour to Hwy. 17 and check out two unusual spots: the **Colorado Gators Reptile Park** in **Mosca**, where you can see and even handle some of the more than 300 alligators and other scaly critters; and

SIDETRIPS

Those who love rock climbing, biking, hiking and hunting may want to spend a day in **Saguache**, an intimate community one hour north of Alamosa surrounded by the Sangres to the east and San Juans to the west.

A fort-turned-town, **Fort Garland** was originally established to protect early settlers in the San Luis Valley. The namesake structure still survives as the Fort Garland Museum, where visitors can tour adobe buildings, view Hispanic art and check out a re-creation of famed frontiersman Kit Carson's quarters while he served as commander.

The enclave of **Del Norte** is situated beside the Rio Grande River, which has Gold Medal waters for anglers, particularly those who like float fishing. Other can't-miss natural wonders include Penitente Canyon, the Natural Arch and Elephant Rocks, where volcanic ash welded together to create rock formations more than 28 million years ago.

Tucked into the base of the Sangre de Cristos, tiny **Crestone** is a unique blend of spiritual New-Agers who frequent the Hindu temple and Zen center, artists, and hikers, campers and birders. Stop into Crestone Brewing Co. for a beer and locally sourced pub grub.

Sargents is another little town tucked in the valley that's popular with outdoors lovers; and south of Alamosa and Del Norte, **Conejos** reflects the culture of Old Mexico and boasts fantastic fly-fishing opportunities.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Alamosa (page 191), **Antonito** (page 191), **Crestone** (page 195), **Fort Garland**, **La Jara**, **Manassa**, **Monte Vista**, **Moffat**, **Mosca** (page 202), **Sargents** (page 203) **Saguache** (page 203)

QUICK TIP

Visit Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve in the spring or fall to enjoy the park with fewer crowds and see **Medano Creek**, a seasonal stream created by snowmelt from the **Sangre de Cristo mountains** above the dunes, at its peak.

THIS PAGE: GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE, JASON LEWANOWSKI; OPPOSITE PAGE: FROM LEFT: RIO GRANDE SCENIC RAILROAD, ROBERT KISEL; MONTE VISTA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, MILES/MATT INDEN.



2

the **UFO Watchtower** in **Hooper**, a quirky roadside attraction providing information on the valley's surprising number of UFO sightings.

DAY 2

In **Alamosa**, stop by the **Colorado Welcome Center** in the historic train depot and purchase tickets for the **Rio Grande Scenic Railroad (2)**, which zips riders to a mountain-top amphitheater

that's only accessible by train for live music in the summer. To the south, the **Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad** is an 1880s train that travels from historic depots in **Antonito**, Colorado, to Chama, New Mexico.

Grab a frothy pint at **Colorado Farm Brewery**, which produces beer exclusively from ingredients harvested on their family-run farm, then snatch a table at one of downtown Alamosa's

many restaurants. For a sunset adventure, head to the **Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge (3)** to view avocets, killdeer, white-faced ibis, herons and other wildlife. Thousands flock to the refuge for March's Monte Vista Crane Festival to admire 20,000 migrating sandhill cranes.

Take in a beautiful sunset from nearly anywhere in the valley by gazing eastward to the Sangre de Cristo range, which turns crimson as the sun slides below the horizon.



3



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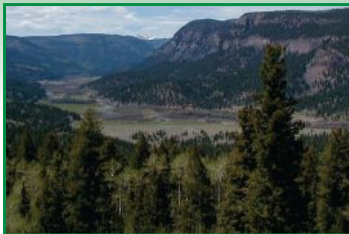
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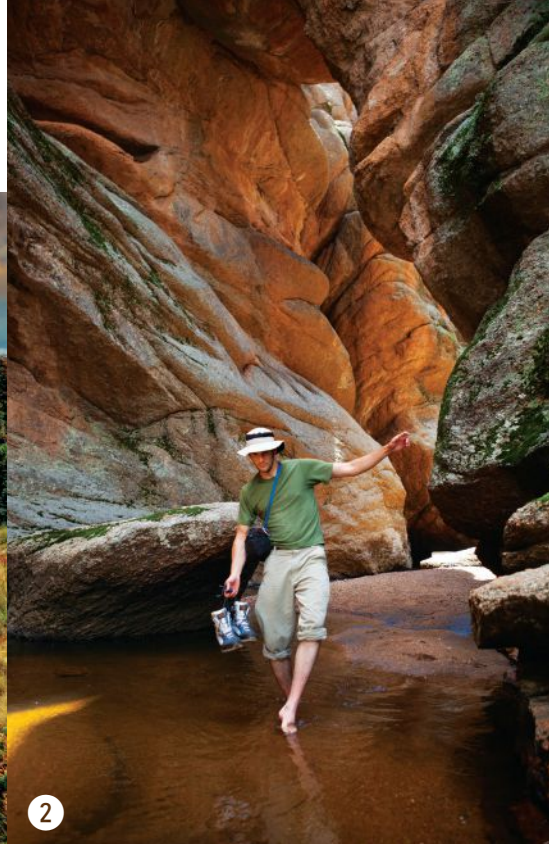
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Del Norte: Gateway to the San Juans and host to the 12 Hours of Penitence Bike Race, Covered Wagon Days, and a variety of Rio Grande County Museum events.

Monte Vista: Home to Ski Hi Stampede, the oldest pro rodeo in the state, the annual Crane Festival, and many other events.

Visit riograndecounty.com for a complete event calendar!



THE REAL SOUTH PARK: FAIRPLAY, COMO, BAILEY & ALMA



Designated a National Heritage Area by Congress in 2009, Park County's South Park is characterized by wonderfully diverse landscapes, fondly preserved historic sites, and vibrant mining and ranching heritage. Tucked in an expansive river valley flanked by 14,000-foot peaks, the area

has a wealth of natural assets, including mineral deposits, ancient Bristlecone pines, unique geological formations and more than 100 rare or endangered plant and animal species.

Fairplay, established in 1859 during the Pikes Peak Gold Rush,

is now the Trout Fishing Capital of Colorado, with more than 50 miles of Gold Medal streams. Get an idea of what life was like in the 1880s at **South Park City (3)**, where 40 artifact-filled authentic buildings have been transported from nearby mining communities. Then explore the area via horseback or ATV with **American Safari Ranch**, or find your way to the **Windy Ridge Bristlecone Pine Scenic Area (1)**, an unusual stand of wind-sculpted bristlecone pine trees.

Delve into more Colorado history in **Como**, a tiny community with several 1800s-era buildings, including a church, hotel and the recently restored **Como Depot** — once an integral stop of the Denver, South Park and Pacific Railroad. The **Mountain Man Gallery** exhibits works by local and regional artists and hikers



love to trek out on **Black Powder Pass Trail** atop Boreas Pass for amazing views of the surrounding valleys.

At 10,578 feet, **Alma** is the highest incorporated town in the U.S. and serves as a hub for mountain bikers, ghost-town hunters and off-roaders. Highlights include **Mosquito Pass**, the highest motor-vehicle pass in North America (recommended only on foot or via off-road vehicle); the nearby ghost town of **Buckskin Joe**; and **Alma Cemetery**, where visitors can investigate stories of fortunes lost and found. The **Alma Coffee House** is a preferred spot for calorie loading.

For canyon views, stop in **Bailey**, where you can stretch your legs in 20-acre **McGraw Memorial Park**. Pop into the **Bailey Country Store and Sasquatch Outpost** for some local flavor, and the **Cutthroat Cafe** and **Rustic Station** will fuel all adventures, including a hike into the **Lost Creek Wilderness (2)** on Brookside-McCurdy Trail.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

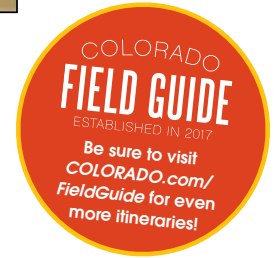
Alma, Bailey, Como, Fairplay, Pine

QUICK TIP

It could be argued that no man-made site in the state brings more joy than **Bailey's Coney Island Boardwalk** hot-dog stand. It's whimsical and improbably located — and the grub is top notch, too!

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: LEFT: WINDY RIDGE BRISTLECONE PINE SCENIC AREA. ERIC WUJUNROW; LOST CREEK WILDERNESS. ETHAN WELBY; SOUTH PARK CITY. GARY PACK

GOLDEN: THE WORLD'S BIGGEST LITTLE BEER TOWN & MUCH MORE



Golden is located in an area of outstanding natural beauty just 12 miles from Denver. Lookout Mountain looms above town and its summit offers panoramic views in every direction and a launching point for paragliders in the summertime.



AFTERNOON

South Table Mountain and its twin **North Table Mountain (1)** are landmark mesas rising above town. South Table Mountain is renowned for Castle Rock, an outcropping that offers commanding views of the surrounding area. With 20 miles of trails flanked by greenery and mountain vistas, **White Ranch Park** is another scenic spot to stretch your legs. Or if rock climbing is your forte, **Earth Treks Golden Climbing Center** has 28,500 square feet of climbing on walls up to 45 feet tall.

You'll need a reward for your efforts, and no visit would be complete without stopping into Golden's highest-profile attraction: **Coors Brewery**. Explore a room of giant copper kettles, then stop in the packaging room, where thousands of cans and bottles whirl by. After the tour, those 21 and over can try free samples of beer.

Then get a taste for the craft side of brewing. Since many breweries in town — including **Golden City**, **Mountain Toad**, **Cannonball Creek** and **New Terrain** — don't serve food, you can bring your own

snacks in or order from the food trucks parked directly outside. Leashed dogs are allowed on the patios, and it's a rare day when there aren't several happy pups enjoying the Colorado sun at these outdoor beer gardens.

For those with a bigger appetite, the new **Sassafras American Eatery** serves comforting dishes like fried-green-tomato Benedict and muffaletta po'boys; and **Barrels & Bottles** has 27 beers (many brewed in Golden) and 24 wines on tap and a light, farm-fresh menu. Other new additions to the dining scene include **Trailhead Taphouse**, **Xicamitl La Taqueria Bistro** and **Miners Saloon**.

EVENING

Make plans to see at concert at (or just hike around) the 9,525-seat **Red Rocks Amphitheatre (2)**, just 10 minutes from Golden in **Morrison**. The venue, the only completely natural amphitheater on the planet, was listed on the nation's top bucket list for outdoor concerts by *Rolling Stone Magazine*. Downtown Golden is the perfect spot for a pre- and post-concert bite and beverage.



MORNING

It was at **Lookout Mountain** that the famous frontier scout and showman, **Buffalo Bill Cody**, was buried in 1917. Today, the **Buffalo Bill Museum** near the gravesite brings his incredible story back to life. The drive to the grave site on top of the mountain begins in historic downtown **Golden** on the **Lariat Loop Scenic Byway**.

The **Colorado Railroad Museum** has a half-mile circle track — sort of a giant's toy train set — on

which they run steam locomotives and the famous Galloping Goose, a 1928 Pierce-Arrow limousine put on train wheels with a bus welded to the back. And the **Bradford Washburn American Mountaineering Museum** is the first and only in the nation dedicated to mountaineering history. See the clothes worn by the first American to summit Mount Everest; then study the routes up the world's highest peak on a 12-by-12-foot model.

Bike or hike along the paved **Clear Creek Trail**, which follows the creek from the mountains through Golden for 20 miles to **Denver**; or float down it on a tube or kayak through an ingenious manmade whitewater course with rapids and gentle falls.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Denver (page 195), **Golden** (page 198), **Lakewood** (page 200), **Morrison** (page 202)

QUICK TIP

The **Golden Bike Library** offers a unique and affordable way to get around town Thursday through Sunday April to October. Visitors can check out a bike for two hours for free or, just **\$10 a day**.

FROM TOP: NORTH TABLE MOUNTAIN, ETHAN WELTY; RED ROCKS PARK AND AMPHITHEATRE.

HIGH-FLYING ADVENTURE IN THE ROYAL GORGE REGION



The 10-mile-long Royal Gorge sports the nation's highest suspension bridge, dangling more than 1,000 feet above the crashing Arkansas River below, but that's not the only reason to visit Cañon City.



With a growing reputation as a homebase for epic rock climbing, mountain biking, ziplining, fishing and river rafting, adventure-seekers are increasingly drawn to this area. The new **South Cañon Trail System**, which you can catch right in town, offers 10 miles of trails that connect the **Arkansas Riverwalk**, **Ecology Park**, the **Section 13 trail system** and **Grape Creek** to thousands of acres of BLM-managed public land. And some of the best fishing in the state can be had on the **Arkansas' Gold Medal**

trout waters, including the area around Parkdale (just above the Royal Gorge). Since the area's temperatures are typically more temperate than other parts of the state, many of these activities are available year-round.

For family explorers, **Tunnel Drive** is a flat, two-mile stroll along an old railroad bed that offers a bird's-eye view of the Arkansas River and spectacular views of the surrounding canyon. The crushed gravel trail travels through three granite-blasted tunnels and caters to walkers, runners and

bikers. The **Royal Gorge Dinosaur Experience** brings ancient history to life with science-focused interactive displays, full-scale dinosaur fossil casts and hands-on exhibits with real dinosaur fossils.

Towering above the Arkansas River, the **Royal Gorge Bridge (1)** is America's highest suspension bridge. Navigate the rapids beneath it on a whitewater raft trip, slide along sky-high cables with **Royal Gorge Zipline Tours** or find thrills at the **Royal Gorge Bridge & Park's** attractions, including a new visitor center,



the world's longest single-span aerial gondola and the Cloud-scraper Zip Line. For another scenic excursion, enjoy lunch or dinner in the glass-topped **Vista Dome** cars of the **Royal Gorge Route Railroad (2)**.

Walkable **downtown Cañon City** has shops, restaurants, cafes and a public-art program that make it a pleasant space to while away the day. The **Fremont Center for the Arts** hosts exhibits and events exploring local arts and history. Or experience the region's delicious apples and other local bounties at farmers' markets and farm stores. Treasure hunters beeline to **Florence**, a lovely nearby town with extensive antique shopping, art galleries and specialty shops.

Legends of gold rushers, agriculture pioneers and even dinosaurs abound in the region. Self-guided **Fremont County Heritage Tours** offer opportunities to discover the history. And learn about the architecture of historic structures like the **Colorado Territorial Prison** on the Cañon City tour; or investigate dinosaur tracks and ancient fossils on the **Skyline Drive** tour.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Cañon City (page 193),
Coaldale (page 194),
Cotopaxi (page 194)
Cripple Creek (page 195),
Florissant, **Florence**, **Penrose**,
Texas Creek

QUICK TIP

For a great souvenir, head to the **Gold Mine Rock Shop**, frequented by rockhounds, jewelry makers, arrowhead hobbyists, fossil fans and landscapers. It is considered *the* place to purchase rocks and gems of superior quality.

FROM LEFT: ROYAL GORGE BRIDGE AND PARK, JIM DAVID; ROYAL GORGE ROUTE RAILROAD; ROYAL GORGE BRIDGE AND PARK.

TIME TRAVEL IN CRIPPLE CREEK



@visitcripplecreek

MOLLIE KATHLEEN MINE, @VISITCRIPPLECREEK

Spend a day peeking back into historic Cripple Creek. The city first came to life in the middle and late 1800s when the Gold Rush drove fortune-seekers to the area

to mine the riches. Get a hands-on look at the gold-seeking era with a tour of one of the area's mines. At the **Mollie Kathleen Mine (1)**, you'll don a hard hat

and descend a thousand feet below ground to learn about historic and modern-day mining techniques, see a vein of gold and ride in a mine cart.

Hop on the historic steam locomotive, the **Cripple Creek & Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad** (open May–October) through the historic gold-mining district. Visits to the **Cripple Creek Heritage Center** and the **Cripple Creek District Museum** are also informative forays into the town's past. There's also a new **Historical Trolley Tour of Gold Camp** for an excellent overview of the town's colorful past and historic sites. Hikers love to head for the trails in the Gold Camp, as well, taking in spectacular views and historical mine structures and buildings along the way.

Stroll **Bennett Avenue**, where nostalgic street lighting, wide sidewalks, shops, restaurants and

more can fill a leisurely evening. And join today's fortune-seekers at the town's numerous betting tables at more than a dozen casinos. Cut your losses or collect your winnings and then head to the historic **Butte Theater** for a theatrical treat.

The drive from Cripple Creek to **Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument** — where you'll find a 35-million-year-old lakebed filled with insects, leaves and even huge redwoods frozen in time by volcanic eruptions — along County Road 1 is a short but beautiful segment of the **Gold Belt Tour**, a National Scenic Byway.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Cripple Creek (page 195), **Divide**, **Florissant**, **Lake George**, **Woodland Park**

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GREAT PLAINS: LAMAR TO LA JUNTA



The past meets the future in this relaxed area at the northern portion of the Santa Fe Trail.

DAY 1

Start at the **Colorado Welcome Center** in **Lamar**, which is a bit of an attraction itself, featuring a train engine, 100-year-old windmill and water tank — the only spot in the nation to include all three alongside a historic depot.

Afterward, head over to the **Great Plains Reservoirs**, a collection of seven glassy lakes perfect for boating, fishing and water skiing. Bring binoculars — the reservoirs and surrounding prairie have hosted almost every bird species ever documented in Colorado. Grab dinner in Lamar before exploring the town's historic district. Check out the **Big Timbers Museum's** collection of old wagons, fire engines and cars. Or check out the **Madonna of the Trail Monument**, an homage to the courageous women of the frontier days. If the timing's right, catch a movie at the **Lamar Theater**, a chrome-and-mirror art deco wonder built in the 1940s.

DAY 2

Head west on the Santa Fe Trail to **Las Animas** and the **Boggsville Settlement**. Built in the 1860s, it was one of the first areas in Colorado to begin livestock trading and included some 20 structures, including frontiersman Kit Carson's last home. Two have been restored and can be toured. Continue on to **Bent's Old**



1

Fort National Historic Site (1), a re-created buffalo-trading post. For years, it was the only permanent settlement on the trail between Missouri and Mexican settlements.

From Bent's Fort, detour south to the **Picketwire Canyonlands (2)** along the Purgatoire River in the **Comanche National Grassland**, where you can explore ancient Plains Indian rock art, early Spanish settlements and North America's largest dinosaur tracksite. Hiking, biking and horseback riding are permitted, and you can also arrange for a guided auto tour through the U.S. Forest Service.

Later, continue west to **La Junta**, which means "the junction" in Spanish. Native Americans, Spanish explorers, trappers, gold-seekers, immigrants and settlers, farmers and ranchers have all contributed something to the colorful mix of cultures that make up present-day La Junta.

Take in some of that local culture at the **Koshare Museum**, home to an astounding col-

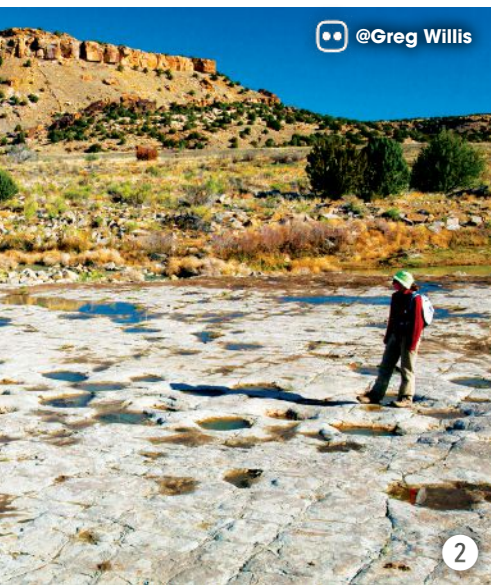
lection of Western art as well as a massive kiva that hosts the world-famous Koshare Indian Dancers. The **Otero Museum**, is dedicated to documenting life in early La Junta, and **The Picketwire Players** have been keeping folks entertained with revivals and other productions for more than 30 years.

For even more history, take a ranger tour of the **Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site** northeast of La Junta, where in 1864, 675 cavalrymen changed the course of history.

During your travels, keep an eye out for **farm stands and markets**, typically July to October. Arkansas Valley farmers grow corn, watermelons, cantaloupes and much more, making the area famous for its fresh vegetables and melons.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Hasby, La Junta, Las Animas, Lamar, Rocky Ford



@Greg Willis

2

QUICK TIP

Vogel Canyon is one of the area's hidden gems, where a placid river meanders through the landscape and affords glimpses of **petroglyphs** and the remains of an 1870s stagecoach stop.

FROM LEFT: PICKETWIRE CANYONLANDS; FLICKR/GREG WILLIS; BENT'S OLD NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE; MILLES/MATT INDEN

PAWNEE PIONEER TRAILS



Our peaceful northeast corner stretches out into plains known for an unhurried rural pace in Sterling, Brush and Fort Morgan.

MORNING

Stop into the **Sterling Information Center** for maps and travel advice; and visit the parks that pepper the town to see why it was christened the "City of the Living Trees." The downtown district features 54 historic buildings, many of which are adorned by murals paying homage to the area's history and culture. Check out **Sterling Creatives**, the town's new artist co-op, for workshops and artist demos and sales.

Get a look at life on the range at the **Overland Trail Museum**, dedicated to the branch of the Oregon Trail that weaved through northeast Colorado and is said to be the most heavily traveled road in the world from 1862-68.

Walk the **Overland Trail Recreation Area** for wildlife watching or fishing; or drive through **Chimney Canyons** to see stunning mesas, bluffs and buttes. Then pop into the town's new brewery, **Parts & Labor**, for a taste of the local craft.

AFTERNOON

North Sterling State Park is a relaxing juxtaposition of high plains and bluffs. Fish the stocked lake's 3,000 uncrowded acres for rainbow trout, set up camp in one of its sites, search for soaring bald eagles or walk 6 miles of trails.

Spend time on the birding trails north and south of the town of **Brush**; or follow the footsteps and wagon tracks of Plains Indians and frontiersmen along the

Pawnee Pioneer Trail. The 135-mile scenic and historic byway leads to **Pawnee National Grassland**, a popular birding and wildlife area. Trek around the 300-foot-tall Pawnee Buttes (1) and take advantage of the striking photo ops the sandstone formations create within the landscape.

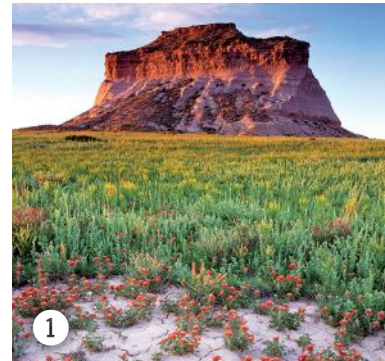
EVENING

Migrate to **Fort Morgan** (just over an hour from Denver) to roam its pedestrian-friendly downtown. Then head to the **Fort Morgan Museum** for a nod to the region's

farming, ranching and military roots. In addition to American Indian exhibits and 1920s soda fountain culture, the museum pays tribute to local star — American big band-leader Glenn Miller.

West of Fort Morgan, **Jackson Lake State Park** was listed as one of the top 15 best park beaches in the U.S. and awarded Reserve America's Outdoor Recreation Award — the only one on the list not close to an actual coast.

Late summer and fall are chock full of fairs, festivals and concerts in all three towns.



STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Brush (page 192), **Fort Morgan** (page 197), **Orchard** (page 202), **Sterling**

PAWNEE NATIONAL GRASSLAND, TONY LITSCHKEVSKI

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MORGAN COUNTY

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CRAZY ABOUT LONGMONT



Along the Front Range between Boulder and Loveland, Longmont is a stop-worthy destination for all the reasons visitors love Colorado — great brews and views, a distinct flavor of local arts and access to the outdoors.



1

History buffs should check out the **Dougherty Museum's** impressive collection of restored antique autos, farm equipment and more (open weekends June through August). Meanwhile, the **Agricultural Heritage Center** explores the area's agricultural history through interactive exhibits and a 1909 farmhouse furnished with items from that era.

For some thrills, **Mile-Hi Skydiving Center** (where the Denver Broncos' sky-diving team trains) offers sky-high views of Longs Peak. There's also the **Warrior Playground**, an obstacle course and training facility styled after those on "American Ninja Warrior," and a new nine-drop whitewater park for tubers and kayakers on the St. Vrain River at **Dickens Farm Nature Area**.

For a more relaxing excursion, consider stand-up paddleboarding and kayaking on **Union Reservoir** or cycling along the **St. Vrain Greenway** — considered the crown jewel in the city's trail system — which links numerous parks and runs along St. Vrain Creek.



2

You'll find three spectacular golf courses, three National Historic Districts, beautiful parks and a Certified Colorado Creative District in **Longmont (2)**. Stop by the **Visitors Center** in the heart of the downtown district to pick up maps and brochures and magazines about the city and surrounding areas. Then, survey the work of local artists in galleries and coffee shops — which are especially bustling during **Second Fridays** events.

Make your way to **Longmont Museum & Cultural Center**, which houses exhibits on the region's history and hosts outdoor summer concerts and movies. Or head to

the **Dickens Farm Nature Area**, a 52-acre site along St. Vrain Creek with biking trails, boating and tubing access, a nature-themed playground and more.

The area's brewery scene is also noteworthy. **Left Hand Brewing Co. (3)** and **Oskar Blues' Tasty Weasel Taproom** are longtime favorites, while **300 Suns**, **Longs Peak Pub & Taphouse**, **Großen Bart**, **Shoes & Brews**, **Wibby** and **Bootstrap** have emerged in recent years. The latest additions to the roster are **Outworld Brewing**, **Primitive Beer** and **Brewmented**, a new homebrew supply store with a taproom and brew-on-premises system — allowing aspiring brewers to use on-site equipment to create their own beer, wine, mead, cider or kombucha.

For a little twist on adult beverages, visit **St. Vrain Cidery** or one of the town's craft-spirits distilleries. **Still Cellars** is a microdistillery and

arthouse featuring organic spirits like whiskey barley and apple eau de vie, plus live performances and film screenings, while **Dry Land Distillers** creates spirits inspired by Colorado's lands and iconic places in the American West.

Now it's time for a snack: **The Art of Cheese** is a local cheese-making school with courses that cover cheese making, pairings, tasting and more. For more cheesiness, there's also **Cheese Importers** and **Haystack Mountain Cheese (1)**, both with culinary experiences to explore.

For a heartier meal, options range from casual hangouts to upscale bistros and everything in between. Downtown, make your way to rustic-chic **The Roost** or **Pumphouse Brewery** for pub-style fare. For killer St. Louis-style ribs, pulled pork and hot links, **Georgia Boys** is a beloved barbecue joint.



3

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Boulder (page 192), **Firestone** (page 197), **Frederick**, **Longmont** (page 200), **Lyons** (page 201)

QUICK TIP

The hop-on/hop-off **Brewhop Trolley** transports craft-beverage lovers to a dozen-plus venues in Longmont, including a cidery, two distilleries and an array of breweries, every Saturday and Sunday. Need another way to get around? A newly launched bike-share program through Zagster boasts 10 locations throughout the city.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: HAYSTACK MOUNTAIN GOAT DAIRY; LEFT HAND BREWING CO.; DOWNTOWN LONGMONT; PHYLLIS DWYER.



SIDETRIPS

Lincoln County is right on the Kingbird Trail and is home to more than 50 different species of birds. Nature lovers will be especially drawn to Karval, where the scenic Karval Lake State Wildlife Area is prime for viewing rock wren, golden eagle and scaled quail, and the springtime Mountain Plover Festival offers plenty of tours.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Limon (page 200)

ALL TRAILS LEAD TO LIMON



This small town began as a work camp for the Chicago and Rock Island rail line in 1888. Today, Colorado's "Hub City" sits at the junction of five major highways, gracefully merging farmlands and prairie as far as the eye can see and offering a welcoming respite for travelers.

MORNING

Browse **downtown Limon's** gift boutiques and antique shops for a handcrafted souvenir. Follow the marked pedestrian trail to the **Doug Kissel Fishing Pond** just south of Main Street. The 1-acre fishing hole is a popular attraction stocked with trout in the spring and home to bass, crappie, catfish and bluegill.

For a little more adventure, navigate to the eight area **Off the Beaten Trail geocaches** — treasure boxes detailing hidden,

historic gems in the region that are maintained on a regular basis. Visit ourjourney.info for details.

AFTERNOON

Back in Limon, step behind Town Hall for an exciting venture into high-plains history. The **Limon Heritage Museum & Railroad Park (1)** artfully captures the area's past through photos, unusual displays and tales of settlers thriving in a tough landscape. Walk through a one-room schoolhouse and prairie kitchen, and get a close-up look at a Cheyenne tipi.

Carefully restored by dedicated **Limon Heritage Society** volunteers, the adjacent 1910 Limon Depot **(2)** houses a permanent *Trains on the Plains* exhibit, circa-1970 railroad office and a working scale model of Limon's 1940s rail yard.

EVENING

See a show at Limon's historic **Lincoln Theatre**, which has operated continuously since 1938 (as the Cactus Theatre until 1949). It's one of only two operating theaters in the nation that are built backward — movie-goers enter next to the screen instead of at the back of the auditorium thanks to an upward slope on the land beneath it. The independent theater has undergone today's digital transition and now shows everything from first-run blockbusters to indie flicks and documentaries.



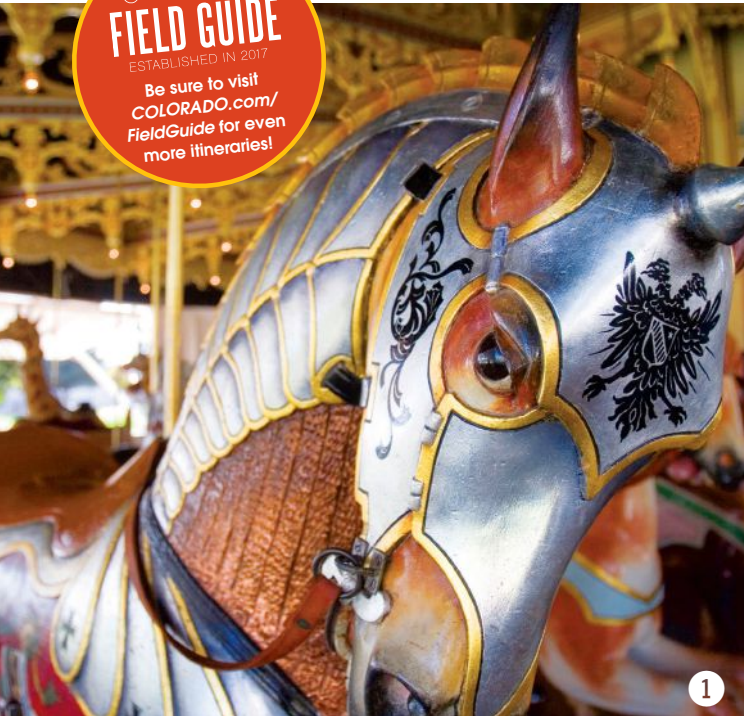
1



2

QUICK TIP

Come during late August or early September for **authentic county fairs** throughout the region, with greased-pig races, cotton candy and funnel cakes that are unsurpassed!



THE ESSENCE OF THE PLAINS



Nudging the state's eastern border, Burlington and Wray pack a helping of rural living and eastern plains heritage. See the farms that bring food to your table.

MORNING

Begin your journey in **Wray** with some one-of-a-kind birding. In the spring, colorful and peculiar

greater prairie chickens strut and dance across local grasslands in search of mates. The ritual is such a spectacle that the Wray Chamber of Commerce, East Yuma County Historical Society and Colorado Parks & Wildlife have teamed up to offer special viewing tours.

Housing one of the only permanent Smithsonian exhibits outside of Washington, DC, the 13,500-square-foot **Wray Museum** features an extensive Paleo-Indian exhibit, displaying one of the largest and oldest Stone Age bison kill sites.

AFTERNOON

Mosey down to **Burlington** and treat yourself to an Old West experience. The **Old Town Museum (2)** contains 21 refurbished buildings filled with authentic artifacts from the early 1900s. Visit Memorial to Labor days, when things are in full swing:

Watch a high-noon gunfight, visit the old-fashioned soda fountain for a hand-dipped ice cream cone and enjoy Wild West dinner theaters.

EVENING

Grab a quarter and head over to the Kit Carson County Fairgrounds to ride a National Historic Landmark. Out of the nearly 4,000 wooden carousels carved in America between 1885 and the 1930s, the fully restored 1905 **Kit Carson County Carousel (1)** is one of a handful still spinning.

For an extra bit of fun on select summer weekends, ride to the carousel on the Old Town Express, a horse-drawn wagon ride between the fairgrounds and Old Town. And those visiting the last week in July can take in the 102nd **Kit Carson County Fair and Rodeo**.

SIDETRIPS

Visit ourjourney.info to learn about 13 museums and attractions, upcoming events, off-the-beaten-path sites to explore and geocaches to discover around the region.

Colorado is home to more than 450 different avian species, many of which are found in the diverse ecosystems just east of the Rockies. Lone falcons share the sky with droves of tiny white-throated swifts, owls snooze inside hollowed trees and prairie chickens strut through vast stretches of golden shortgrass. Check out COLORADO.com/TopBirdingTrails to learn more.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS
Burlington (page 192), Wray

QUICK TIP At the **South Republican State Wildlife Area**, take a nature walk to view a plethora of waterfowl, deer, rabbits, turkeys and more, or go fishing at Hale Ponds.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: KIT CARSON COUNTY CAROUSEL, MILES/MATT INDEN; OLD TOWN MUSEUM IN BURLINGTON, MILES/MATT INDEN; WRAY, MILES/ANDREA BUROLLO.

GATEWAY TO COLORADO: JULESBURG



DEVIL'S DIVE NEAR JULESBURG, MILES/ANDREA BUROLLA

Situated in the state's northeast corner near the Nebraska border, Julesburg holds history at a crossroads for explorers, farmers, gold-seekers and others looking to find their place out West. The "Gateway to Colorado"

has mellowed from its rough-and-tumble upbringing into a quiet agricultural hub of around 1,500 residents.

Get your bearings at the **Colorado Welcome Center** with free coffee, maps and brochures. The staff can tell you how this town on the Pony Express route was burned to the ground in the 1860s. A few years later, after the town was rebuilt, Union Pacific Railroad laid tracks through Julesburg. The population soared to 4,000 and Julesburg sprouted saloons and dance halls — and some interesting characters.

Dive into this gritty era of Julesburg's past at the **Fort Sedgwick Museum**, where artifacts tell of days when gamblers, cowboys and railroad workers made this the "Wickedest City in the West." A stop by the **Depot Museum** in the former Union Pacific Railroad depot building will also reveal relics from this time period.

As you mull over these stories of scandals and triumphs, walk part of the 19-mile-long **South**

Platte River Trail, peppered with Pony Express stops and pioneer landmarks. Bring your binoculars; sightings of warblers, vireos and other birds are highly likely.

The region's two harvest seasons — July for wheat and October for corn and sugar beets — promote excellent hunting conditions as well. Stop by the **Julesburg Family Market** for a hunting license and directions to key spots, or just enjoy the abundant game found along the river and among the fields.

Or choose to join the race fans flocking to the **Julesburg Dragstrip**. The quarter-mile section of pavement becomes a launch pad for hot rods and dates back to the late 1950s when the Platte Valley Customs Club started the local tradition.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Julesburg

QUICK TIP

Many visitors come for excellent tailwater fly-fishing along the **South Platte River** throughout the year.

PLAN YOUR TRIP AT
COLORADO.COM/TRIPIDEAS

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ESTABLISHED IN 2017

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The dollar symbols indicate how much you can expect to pay for an average hotel room. \$ = Less than \$100 \$\$ = \$101-200 \$\$\$ = \$201-299 \$\$\$\$ = \$300 and Up

STATEWIDE

BED & BREAKFASTS

BED AND BREAKFAST INNKEEPERS OF COLORADO ASSOCIATION Bed and breakfasts across the state. A wide variety of inns with accommodations tailor-made for you. Rest at the best Colorado has to offer. Bed & Breakfast Innkeepers of Colorado members are dedicated to quality and personalized service. ▶ insofcolorado.org, info@insofcolorado.org, PO Box 38416, Colorado Springs 80937

DUDE & GUEST RANCHES

COLORADO DUDE AND GUEST RANCH ASSOCIATION Visit an all-inclusive Colorado dude ranch this next summer. You will find accommodations at our member ranches that range from a rustic mountain retreat to a modern-day mountain resort with all the comforts of home. Perfect for family reunions. ▶ coloradoranch.com, vacation@coloradoranch.com, 303-859-7932, 866-942-3472, PO Box D, Shawnee 80475

RECREATION

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE Enjoy some of the state's best outdoor recreation at Colorado's 41 State Parks. Hiking, biking, nature programs, boating, fishing and hunting amid spectacular Colorado scenery. Affordable campsites, cabins and yurts — reserve up to 6 months in advance. ▶ cpw.state.co.us/discover, parksinfo@state.co.us, 303-297-1192, 800-244-5613, 1313 Sherman St. #618, Denver 80203

KEYOLO SKI TRAVEL Keyolo Ski Travel wholesale booking agency is your one-stop resource for Colorado ski-vacation lodging and complete ski packages. Get expert knowledge and recommendations, fantastic service and the best possible deals on your Colorado ski vacation. ▶ keyolo.com, steve@keyolo.com, 888-841-6902, 720-313-3120, 2936 Raleigh St., Denver 80212

ALAMOSA

ATTRACTIONS

SAN LUIS VALLEY MUSEUM The museum features artifacts, books, pictures and papers from various valley locations and families. A new historical mural graces the outside of the building on Fourth St. ▶ sanluisvalleymuseum.org, sanluisvalleymuseum@yahoo.com, 719-587-0667, 401 Hunt Ave., Alamosa 81101

HOTELS & MOTELS

COMFORT INN & SUITES Located in the beautiful San Luis Valley, guests enjoy views of the Sangre de Cristo and San Juan mountain ranges. Conveniently located 1 mile west of Alamosa on US Hwy. 160. ▶ comfortinnandsuitesalamosa.com, comfortinnalamosa@gmail.com, 719-587-9000, 855-826-3715, 6301 US Hwy. 160, Alamosa 81101

ALMONT

LODGES & CABINS

THREE RIVERS RESORT & OUTFITTING On the Taylor River. Year-round resort near Gunnison and Crested Butte featuring riverfront cabins, homes and lodge rooms. Also: general store, restaurant (seasonal), fly-fishing shop/guides and rafting trips. In the winter, value ski vacations. ▶ 3riversresort.com, email@3riversresort.com, 970-641-1303, 888-761-3474, 130 County Rd. 742, Almont 81210

ANTONITO

ATTRACTIONS

CUMBRES & TOLTEC SCENIC RAILROAD Climb aboard for a 64-mile trip you'll never forget. Our coal-fired steam engine will carry you through mountain canyons, high desert and lush meadows as you zigzag across the CO and NM border. Trains depart daily from Chama, NM, and Antonito, CO. ▶ cumbrestoltec.com, info@cumbrestoltec.com, 719-376-5483, 888-286-2737, 5234 B US Hwy. 285, Antonito 81120

ASPEN

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

ASPEN CHAMBER RESORT ASSOCIATION Aspen is an authentic mountain town that combines world-class outdoor activities with breathtaking surroundings. The skiing, hiking and biking; plus dining, culture and charming atmosphere make Aspen a year-round destination. ▶ aspenchamber.org, info@aspenchamber.org, 877-702-7736, 590 N. Mill St., Aspen 81611

ATTRACTIONS

ASPEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY Explore Aspen and Snowmass' eclectic past at historic sites throughout the area, including 2 AHS museums and 2 ghost towns, with year-round guided tours, exhibits, programs and community events that make history exciting for all ages. ▶ aspenhistory.org, info@aspenhistory.org, 970-925-3721, 800-925-3721, 620 W. Bleeker St., Aspen 81611

CONDOS & HOME RENTALS

ASPEN SQUARE CONDOMINIUM HOTEL Aspen Square offers ideal location, warm hospitality, hotel services, 24-hour check-in, fireplaces and full kitchens. Our studios and larger suites offer many bedding options for couples or families. We are the hospitality place in downtown Aspen! ▶ aspensquarehotel.com, info@aspensquarehotel.com, 970-925-1000, 800-862-7736, 617 E. Cooper Ave., Aspen 81611

THE GANT The Gant is Aspen's premier condominium resort, providing the comforts of home with the services of a luxury hotel. Our 1- to 4-bedroom condominium options offer full kitchens, private balconies, wood-burning fireplaces and daily housekeeping. ▶ gantaspn.com, gantres@destinationhotels.com, 970-925-5000, 800-916-0613, 610 S. West End St., Aspen 81611

LIFT ONE CONDOMINIUMS Our intimate vacation property features 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom condominiums, tastefully decorated and fully equipped and only 2 blocks from downtown Aspen and 1 block to Aspen Mountain. Beautiful outdoor pool and hot tub. ▶ liftone.com, liftone@rof.net, 970-925-1670, 800-543-8001, 131 E. Durant Ave., Aspen 81611

RECREATION

ASPEN GOLF & TENNIS CLUB The 18-hole Aspen Golf & Tennis Club features more than 7,100 yards of championship golf, while accommodating all levels of play with 7 sets of tees. Enjoy a game of tennis on one of our 6 har-tru courts. Group and private lessons available. ▶ aspengolf.com, 970-429-1949, 39551 Hwy. 82, Aspen 81611

ASPEN RECREATION CENTER Enjoy a variety of recreational opportunities for people of all ages. Try the climbing tower, work out in our fitness center, attend a yoga class, relax in our sauna or steam room, go ice skating or just float in our lazy river. 100 percent pure fun. ▶ aspennrecreation.com, 970-544-4100, 0861 Maroon Creek Rd., Aspen 81611

AURORA

HOTELS & MOTELS

BEST WESTERN PLUS GATEWAY INN & SUITES All rooms feature microwaves, refrigerators, coffeemakers, hair dryers, irons/boards, free WiFi. Indoor pool/hot-tub. Fitness and business centers. Free full breakfast. Free access to Prestige Fitness. Shopping and restaurants nearby. ▶ book.bestwestern.com/bestwestern/US/CO/Aurora-hotels/BEST-WESTERN-PLUS-Gateway-Inn-Suites/Hotel-Overview.do?propertyCode=06161, 720-748-4800, 800 S. Abilene St., Aurora 80012

COMFORT INN DENVER SOUTHEAST AREA Renovated in 2012. 15 minutes to downtown, 20 minutes to DIA, 5 minutes to the Denver Tech Center. Spacious guest rooms with flatscreen TVs, refrigerator, microwave, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron/board. Free WiFi, hot breakfast. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/aurora/comfort-inn-hotels/co714, comfortinnaurora@yahoo.com, 303-755-8000, 800-228-5150, 14071 E. Iliff Ave., Aurora 80014

QUALITY INN & SUITES DENVER AIRPORT - GATEWAY PARK

Visitors can easily get to the Denver International Airport, and Aurora hotels are also conveniently near several cocktail lounges, top-rated restaurants and grocery stores throughout the area. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/aurora/quality-inn-hotels/co188, gm.co188@choicehotels.com, 303-340-3800, 3300 N. O'Ray St., Aurora 80011

TRANSPORTATION

DENVER COACH CHARTERS L.L.C. We offer a variety of shuttle buses, motorcoaches, executive buses and charter buses for hire in Denver. ▶ denvercharterbusco.com, denvercoachcharters@gmail.com, 855-520-5466, 16628 E. Second Ave., Aurora 80011

AVON

CONDOS & HOME RENTALS

SHERATON MOUNTAIN VISTA At the base of Beaver Creek Mountain, our resort features 1-bedroom villas with fully equipped kitchen/kitchenette living/dining room fireplace washer/dryer free WiFi and more. Each villa is approximately 540 sq. ft. and sleeps up to 4 people. ▶ marriott.com/hotels/travel/eges-sheraton-mountain-vista-villas-avon-vail-valley, wholesalers@vistana.com, 970-748-6000, 888-627-8098, 160 W. Beaver Creek Blvd., Avon 81620

HOTELS & MOTELS

COMFORT INN NEAR VAIL BEAVER CREEK Located at the base of Beaver Creek and just minutes from Vail, Bachelor Gulch and Arrowhead ski areas. Free ski shuttle to Beaver Creek. Fly-fishing, hiking, rafting, mountain biking nearby. Year-round outdoor heated pool and hot tub. Pet friendly. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/avon/comfort-inn-hotels/co052, sfontaneserichfield.com, 970-949-5511, 800-423-4374, 0161 W. Beaver Creek Blvd., Avon 81620

THE WESTIN RIVERFRONT RESORT & SPA, AVON, VAIL VALLEY Located in the heart of the Vail Valley at the base of Beaver Creek Mountain, The Westin Riverfront is an award-winning resort offering amazing ski access via the Riverfront Express Gondola and spacious studio, 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom suites. ▶ westinriverfront.com, reservations@westinriverfront.com, 970-790-6000, 866-716-8137, 126 Riverfront Ln., Avon 81620

RECREATION

EAGLEVAIL GOLF CLUB EagleVail is recognized as the place to play in the Vail Valley. Accessible and challenging for all golfers, our classic designed 18-hole layout offers astounding views and amazing surroundings nestled in the heart of the Colorado Rocky Mountains. ▶ eaglevailgolfclub.com, nyanflamm@eaglevail.org, 970-790-1200, 459 Eagle Dr., Avon 81620

BASALT

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

BASALT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Meet us at the confluence of rivers, recreation and culture! Gold Medal fishing, biking/hiking trails, water/winter sports and train history. Galleries, music, fine dining, trendy shops and award-winning distillery. Near hot springs and Aspen/Snowmass skiing. ▶ basaltchamber.org, info@basaltchamber.org, 970-927-4031, The Red Caboose, 101 Midland Ave., Basalt 81621

BLACK HAWK

ATTRACTIONS

MONARCH CASINO BLACK HAWK Monarch Casino Black Hawk features Exclusive Premiere slots, exciting table games and a nightly whole Maine lobster, crab and USDA Prime rib buffet. Monarch Casino Black Hawk offers great gaming, great benefits and great rewards! ▶ monarchblackhawk.com, info@monarchblackhawk.com, 303-582-1000, 488 Main St., Black Hawk 80422

COME TO LIFE / Visitor Directory

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BOULDER

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

BOULDER CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU A captivating town enriched with natural beauty, hip urban culture and a vibrant love of the outdoors. A world away from the everyday, Boulder overflows with restaurants, shopping, art and miles of hiking and biking trails. bouldercoloradousa.com, visitor@bouldercvb.com, 303-442-2911, 800-444-0447, 2440 Pearl St., Boulder 80302

DOWNTOWN BOULDER The heart of vibrant downtown Boulder is the charming Pearl Street Mall. This wonderful charismatic 4-block pedestrian mall is anchored by Pearl Street's east and west end districts — enjoy shopping, dining and the best people watching in Colorado! boulderdowntown.com, info@downtownboulder.org, 303-449-3774, 1942 Broadway, Suite 301, Boulder 80302

ATTRACTIONS

BOULDER ARTS COMMISSION Wide range of free, year-round multicultural adult, teen and kids' programming, international films, concerts, art shows, storyteller and music festivals, traveling exhibits. boulderarts.org, ask@boulderlibrary.org, 303-441-3100, 1001 Arapahoe Ave., Boulder 80302

COLORADO SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL Enjoy a summer evening of theater under the stars at Colorado Shakespeare Festival. Great plays and artistic excellence in a beautiful setting combine to create a magical Shakespeare experience. cupresents.org/series/shakespeare-festival, cupresents@colorado.edu, 303-492-8008, Mary Rippon Outdoor Theatre, 277 University Ave., Boulder 80309

DINING

BIG RED F RESTAURANT GROUP Founded by Boulderite and chef Dave Query in 1994, BigRedF is Colorado's hometown restaurant group, sourcing farm-and-sea-to-table for more than 20 years: Zolo, Jax Fish House (4 locations), Lola, Centro, West End Tavern and The Post (4 locations). Ohhh yeah! bigredf.com, info@bigredf.com, 303-448-9182, 5440 Conestoga Ct., Boulder 80301

HOTELS & MOTELS

BOULDER ADVENTURE LODGE Located in a beautiful mountain setting just 5 minutes from downtown Boulder. The A-Lodge is the gateway to your Colorado adventure. Suites, kitchenettes and a cabin, continental breakfast, wireless Internet, hot tub, pool, slackline park. a-lodge.com, info@a-lodge.com, 303-444-0882, 91 Four Mile Canyon Dr., Boulder 80302

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS - BOULDER North Boulder all-nonsmoking hotel conveniently located 3 miles north of the Pearl Street Mall. All of our rooms feature a microwave and refrigerator, complimentary hot breakfast and free WiFi. We also have a hot tub and seasonal outdoor pool. hiexpress.com/boulderco, reservations@boulderhie.com, 303-442-6600, 800-465-4329, 4777 N. Broadway, Boulder 80304

BRECKENRIDGE

CONDOS & HOME RENTALS

GOLD POINT RESORT Gold Point boasts unparalleled, breathtaking views of the Rocky Mountains from each of its spacious condominiums. The resort features fully equipped condominiums that range in size from studios to 3-bedroom deluxe penthouses. goldpoint.com, 866-893-4890, 866-893-4890, 53 View Ln., Breckenridge 80424

GRAND TIMBER LODGE Ski-in/ski-out resort featuring indoor/outdoor pools and hot tubs, restaurant, spa and access to Breckenridge Ski Resort. Great resort for families — condos are very spacious and the staff is incredibly friendly. Ask about discounts and packages. grandtimber.com, specialoffers@grandtimber.com, 866-576-2055, 75 Snowflake Dr., Breckenridge 80424

PARAGON LODGING Exclusive luxury vacation properties in Breckenridge for discerning travelers and memorable vacations. Amenities include opulent interior designs, private hot tubs, spacious great rooms, gourmet kitchens, recreation rooms, pool tables, theater rooms. paragonlodging.com, info@paragonlodging.com, 970-547-2122, 866-356-3080, 319 N. Main St., Breckenridge 80424

HOTELS & MOTELS

BEAVER RUN RESORT AND CONFERENCE CENTER Ski-in/ski-out to the Beaver Run SuperChair. Room types for groups of all sizes. Highlighted amenities include the Spa at Beaver Run, Base Nine Bar, Spencer's Restaurant and the Coppertop Bar & Cafe at the base of Peak 9 at Breckenridge Ski Resort. beaverrun.com, stay@beaverrun.com, 970-453-6000, 855-517-8404, 620 Village Rd., Breckenridge 80424

GRAND COLORADO ON PEAK 8 The Grand Colorado on Peak 8 sets the standard for slopeside luxury. Located on Peak 8, steps to the Colorado SuperChair in the winter and the Fun Park in the summer, the Grand Colorado reflects the beauty of Breckenridge and the Rocky Mountains. grandcoloradoonpeak8.com, customerservice@breckgv.com, 866-539-2102, 1627 Ski Hill Rd., Breckenridge 80424

GRAND LODGE ON PEAK 7 The finest vacation ownership resort in Breckenridge. Located at the base of Peak 7, just steps from the Independence SuperChair lift, the Grand Lodge on Peak 7 boasts majestic views as well as spectacular skiing. grandlodgeonpeak7.com, specialoffers@grandlodgeonpeak7.com, 1979 Ski Hill Rd., Breckenridge 80424

THE LODGE AT BRECKENRIDGE The Lodge at Breckenridge is perched above Breckenridge Ski Resort, located 5 minutes from town. Guests enjoy the luxuries of spectacular mountain views, massage, outdoor hot tubs, restaurant, bar, catering and exclusive conference meeting sites. thelodgeatbreckenridge.com, wilson@guestservices.com, 970-453-9300, 800-736-1607, 112 Overlook Dr., Breckenridge 80424

RECREATION

THE ADVENTURE COMPANY Raft with Breckenridge's top-quality outfitter. From beginner to expert, we have the perfect raft trip for you, packed with premium features. Founded in 1987, we offer a variety of outdoor activities. Contact us today to make your life an adventure! theadventurecompany.com, rivers@theadventurecompany.com, 719-395-6494, 800-497-7238, Carvers Ski Board & Sports, 203 N. Main St., Breckenridge 80424

BRIGHTON

HOTELS & MOTELS

QUALITY INN - BRIGHTON Free deluxe continental breakfast, wireless Internet, indoor pool and hot tub. All rooms have microwave, refrigerator, iron, ironing board, hair dryer and coffeepot. choicehotels.com/colorado/brighton/quality-inn-hotels/co015, gm.co015@choicehotels.com, 303-654-1400, 15150 Brighton Rd., Brighton 80601

BRUSH

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

BRUSH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE The Brush Chamber of Commerce hosts several events throughout the year, including Oktoberfest, the People's Market and more. It is also the perfect place for visitors to stop and gain knowledge about Brush and Morgan County. brushchamber.org, brush@brushchamber.org, 970-842-2666, 218 Clayton St., Brush 80723

RECREATION

SWENEY CYCLE PARK Motocross racing has been a part of our lives for more than 30 years and we truly enjoy what we do. Located on the eastern plains of Colorado 90 miles northeast of Denver. Come watch live motocross action as riders battle it out on the track. brushmx.com, tourism@co.morgan.co.us, 31250 Co Rd G, Brush 80723

BUENA VISTA

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

BUENA VISTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITORS CENTER Located in an 1880 historic church on Hwy. 24 S. Stop by, call or email us — don't forget to download our guide. We are here to serve you as a visitor and as a business owner. Let us help you! buenavistacoloredo.org, chamber@buenavistacoloredo.org, 719-395-6612, 343 S. Hwy. 24, Buena Vista 81211

DUDE & GUEST RANCHES

ELK MOUNTAIN DUDE RANCH Colorado's highest guest ranch at 9,600 feet with off-the-beaten-path charm. Horseback riding, rafting, trapshooting, marksmanship, archery, fishing, up to Aspen or ropes course, kids' program and more. Families encouraged to spend time together. elkmtn.com, info@elkmtn.com, 719-539-4430, 800-432-8812, 13000 County Rd. 185, Buena Vista 81211

RECREATION

BROWNS CANYON RAFTING Perfect for everyone! Join the BCR family and get away from the crowds. We offer customized whitewater rafting, kayaking and combo adventures for all ages and abilities. Half-day, full-day and multiday tours on both the Arkansas River and Clear Creek. raftbrownscanyon.com, info@raftbrownscanyon.com, 719-275-2890, 800-332-3381, 28395 County Rd. 317, Buena Vista 81211

COLORADO ADVENTURES Established in 1976 and twice named Colorado's Company of the Year! Whitewater rafting, horseback rides and zipline tours. Join an evening dinner float or raft with us through Browns Canyon National Monument. 100 percent on-site solar powered. inaraff.com, rapids@inaraff.com, 719-395-2112, 800-462-7238, 12600 US Hwy. 24/285, Buena Vista 81211

RIVER RUNNERS Raft, stand-up paddleboard and kayak the Arkansas River with River Runners. Choose from four Colorado locations: at Browns Canyon, at South Main in Buena Vista, at Salida and at the Royal Gorge. Open April-September. whitewater.net, rafting@whitewater.net, 719-395-2466, 800-332-9100, 24070 County Rd. 301, Buena Vista 81211

ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOOR CENTER We are the premier multisport outfitter, offering professional instruction and guided trips. River activities include kayaking, rafting, duckies and SUP. On land, we conduct rock-climbing and mountain-bike trips. All ability levels. rmoc.com, customerservice@rmoc.com, 719-395-3335, 23850 Hwy. 285 S., Buena Vista 81211

WILDERNESS AWARE RAFTING Experience superb customer service of the highly rated company on TripAdvisor and Colorado's "Company of the Year." We specialize in whitewater rafting, horseback riding and zipline tours. Raft with us through Browns Canyon National Monument! inaraff.com, rapids@inaraff.com, 800-462-7238, 12600 US Hwy. 24/285, Buena Vista 81211

BURLINGTON

ATTRACTIONS

OLD TOWN MUSEUM COMPLEX - BURLINGTON Just off I-70 on the Colorado/Kansas border. With 21 historic buildings, children's hands-on history exhibits, live gunfights and cancan shows in the summertime, and many souvenirs and gift items to choose from in our Emporium. burlingtoncolo.com/oldtown, nikki.wall@burlingtoncolo.com, 719-346-7382, 800-288-1334, 420 S. 14th St., Burlington 80807

HOTELS & MOTELS

QUALITY INN - BURLINGTON The Quality Inn features a breakfast buffet each morning from 5 until 9:30. Its 57 guest rooms feature 32-inch TVs, microwave and fridge. Unwind in one of the hotel's large whirlpool suites. You may also enjoy the indoor pool, hot tub and fitness room. choicehotels.com/colorado/burlington/quality-inn-hotels/co012, gm.co012@choicehotels.com, 719-346-7676, 282 S. Lincoln St., Burlington 80807

CAÑON CITY

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

OFFICIAL ROYAL GORGE REGION TRAVEL INFORMATION

The family-friendly Royal Gorge Region offers fun for all. Our mild weather, spectacular scenery, the Royal Gorge Bridge, wide array of family activities and numerous lodging and dining options make this the perfect Colorado destination. ▶ royalgorgeregion.com, contact@royalgorgeregion.com, 800-704-6743, 403 Royal Gorge Blvd., Cañon City 81212

ATTRACTIONS

ROYAL GORGE BRIDGE & PARK Royal Gorge Bridge & Park is open daily. Marvel at awe-inspiring panoramic views from one of the world's highest suspension bridges and enjoy more excitement than ever. ▶ royalgorgebridge.com, rgb@royalgorgebridge.com, 719-275-7507, 888-333-5597, 4218 County Rd. 3A, Cañon City 81212

ROYAL GORGE ROUTE RAILROAD Ride, dine and unwind aboard the Royal Gorge Route Railroad, Colorado's most scenic train. Choose from coach, club, vista dome, dinner, murder mystery or cab. Delicious fare, prepared with local ingredients, is available in all classes of service. ▶ royalgorgeroute.com, info@royalgorgeroute.com, 719-276-4000, 888-724-5748, 330 Royal Gorge Blvd., Cañon City 81212

HOTELS & MOTELS

QUALITY INN & SUITES Outdoor pool and two indoor Jacuzzis. Pets welcome for a \$10 fee. Free hot breakfast. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/canon-city/quality-inn-hotels/co027, gm.co027@choicehotels.com, 719-275-8676, 3075 E. US 50, Cañon City 81212

RECREATION

ADVENTURE OUTFITTERS Exceeding expectations for more than 25 years. Located in the Royal Gorge area. Adventure and family-class trips on the Arkansas River. Professional guides, excellent safety record. See our website for family specials and great deals during the season. ▶ waorafing.com, kathy@waorafing.com, 719-275-5344, 800-530-8212, 50905 W. US Hwy. 50, Cañon City 81212

ARKANSAS RIVER TOURS Offering exceptional whitewater trips and guided float fishing on the Arkansas River and the Gunnison Gorge, since 1973. Family adventures to extreme adventures. Convenient locations in Cañon City near the Royal Gorge and riverside in Cotopaxi. ▶ arkansasrivertraveltours.com, info@arkansasrivertraveltours.com, 719-942-4362, 800-321-4352, 49311 US Hwy. 50, Unit B, Cañon City 81212

CLEAR CREEK RAFTING CO. We offer an incredible value with free digital photos and free wetsuit use on all trips. Raft the world-famous Arkansas River through Royal Gorge near Colorado Springs; or Clear Creek, 30 minutes from Denver. Fun and exciting trips for all abilities! ▶ raffroyalgorge.com, info@clearcreekrafting.com, 303-567-1000, 800-353-9901, 44650 W. US Hwy. 50, Cañon City 81212

RAFT MASTERS MAIN OFFICE Raft Masters has offered quality rafting for 30 years, with the same owner since day 1. Our highest quality trips and packages and fair prices reflect the quality and experience you and your family expect. We also provide all your gear for free. ▶ raftmasters.com, fun@raftmasters.com, 719-275-6645, 2315 E. Main St., Cañon City 81212

ROYAL GORGE RAFTING & ZIPLINE TOURS Colorado's No. 1 rafting and zipline tours. Raft - zip - stay - unwind. One location, 100 percent fun! ▶ royalgorgerafting.net, info@royalgorgerafting.net, 719-275-7238, 45045 Hwy. 50 West, Cañon City 81212

CARBONDALE

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

CARBONDALE CHAMBER AND TOURISM COUNCIL OF CARBONDALE One of *Outside Magazine's* "Best Towns" and a *National Geographic Adventure* "Top 12 Town" in the "50 Next Great Places to Live and Play." In the shadow of Mount Sopris, sits your base camp for adventure — hiking, biking, Gold Medal fly-fishing and more. ▶ carbondaletourism.com, chamber@carbondaletourism.com, 970-963-1890, 520 S. Third St., Suite 3, Carbondale 81623

HOTELS & MOTELS

COMFORT INN & SUITES CARBONDALE This Carbondale hotel is minutes from the White River National Forest, Colorado Mountain College, Aspen Mountain and the Hot Springs Lodge and Pool. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/carbondale/comfort-inn-hotels/co116, lily.feng@prismhotels.com, 970-963-8880, 800-473-5980, 920 Cowen Dr., Carbondale 81623

CASCADE

ATTRACTIONS

NORTH POLE HOME OF SANTA'S WORKSHOP Santa's Workshop is a Christmas-themed amusement park. This enchanted park has something for everyone in your family. We have more than two dozen family-friendly rides for your pleasure. Browse through shops, watch a magic show or visit our arcade! ▶ northpolecolorado.com, santashelper@santas-colo.com, 719-684-9432, 5050 Pikes Peak Hwy., Cascade 80809

BED & BREAKFASTS

ROCKY MOUNTAIN LODGE & CABINS Two cabin rentals and a 2-room luxury suite vacation rental in the mountains at Pikes Peak near Colorado Springs. Kitchens, fireplaces, hot tubs, WiFi, mountain views. Romantic get-aways and family vacations. Romance and area-attraction packages. ▶ rockymountainlodge.com, info@rockymountainlodge.com, 719-684-2521, 4680 Hagerman Ave., Cascade 80809

RV & CAMPGROUNDS

LONE DUCK FAMILY CAMPGROUND AND CABINS Two miles west of Hwy. 24 from Pikes Peak Hwy. Pool, splash pad, fishing, playground, basketball court, pancake breakfast, laundry, WiFi, grass, shade and campfires. ATV guided tours. ▶ loneduckcamp.com, oneloneduck@aol.com, 719-684-9907, 8855 W. Hwy. 24, Cascade 80809

CASTLE ROCK

ATTRACTIONS

EPIC SKY TREK An aerial adventure course with four levels up to 50 feet in the air. Featuring 120 challenging elements, this is the largest freestanding aerial challenge course in North America. Great for families ages 4 and up. ▶ castlerockzipline.com, epic_sky_trek.html, zip@castlerockzipline.com, 720-733-9477, 1375 W. Plum Creek Pkwy., Castle Rock 80109

HOTELS & MOTELS

COMFORT SUITES - CASTLE ROCK The only all non-smoking and all-suite hotel in Castle Rock. Free hot breakfast, free wireless Internet, indoor pool/hot tub and fitness room. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/castle-rock/comfort-suites-hotels/co154, gm.co154@choicehotels.com, 303-814-9999, 800-424-6423, 4755 Castleton Way, Castle Rock 80109

RECREATION

CASTLE ROCK ZIP LINE TOURS Castle Rock Zip Line Tours features the best zipline tour in Colorado, an adrenaline-packed Epic Adventure Tower, and the brand new Epic Sky Trek: North America's largest aerial adventure park. ▶ castlerockzipline.com, zip@castlerockzipline.com, 720-733-9477, 1375 W. Plum Creek Pkwy., Castle Rock 80109

SHOPPING

OUTLETS AT CASTLE ROCK Outlets at Castle Rock is the largest open-air shopping center in Colorado, conveniently located off of I-25 between Denver and Colorado Springs. Shop our 100-plus brand name stores including Coach, Michael Kors, Polo, Columbia, Lucy, Nike and more! ▶ outletsatcastlerock.com, info@outletsatcastlerock.com, 303-688-2800, 5050 Factory Shops Blvd., Castle Rock 80108

CENTENNIAL

HOTELS & MOTELS

ECONO LODGE TECH CENTER Located in the Denver Tech Center. Easy access to many nearby businesses, landmarks and popular attractions. Guest rooms come equipped with hair dryers, coffeemakers and irons. Some feature whirlpool bathtubs, sofa sleepers, microwaves and refrigerators. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/centennial/econo-lodge-hotels/co248, gm.co248@choicehotels.com, 303-768-9300, 9799 E. Geddes Ave., Centennial 80112

CENTRAL CITY

ATTRACTIONS

CENTRAL CITY OPERA World-renowned summer opera festival presented in a 550-seat jewel box theater. July through August, with 2 main stage productions including both contemporary and standard opera and musical theater, along with 2 one-act operas in various venues. ▶ centralcityopera.org, admin@centralcityopera.org, 303-292-6700, 800-851-8175, 124 Eureka St., Central City 80427

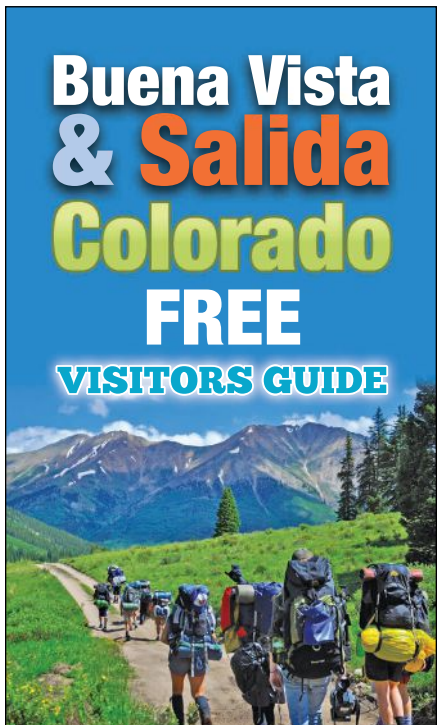
CENTURY CASINO Located in historic Central City at I-70 exit 243, Century Casino & Hotel features 24-hour gaming and alcohol service, with 500 machines and an intimate table games area, 26 boutique-style hotel rooms, two great restaurants and free covered parking! ▶ century.com/central-city, info.centralcity@century.com, 303-582-5050, 102 Main St., Central City 80427

HIDEE GOLD MINE TOURS AND PANNING Mine a gold-ore specimen at the vein, yours to keep with tour! Gold panning as well. The Hidee Gold Mine is well-lit with level ground and safety inspected by the state. A recognized Colorado Heritage Tour and a *USA Today* 10 Best Attraction in 2016. ▶ hideegoldmine.com, info@hideegoldmine.com, 720-548-0343, 1950 Hidee Mine Rd., Central City Pkwy., Mile Marker 6.3, Central City 80427

CLARK

DUDE & GUEST RANCHES

VISTA VERDE RANCH Escape to our secluded ranch resort and enjoy the comforts of luxurious accommodations, gourmet meals and a wide variety of guided outdoor activities, both summer and winter. All-inclusive packages make vacation planning easy and relaxing while you're here! ▶ vistaverde.com, reservations@vistaverde.com, 970-879-3858, 800-526-7433, 58000 Cowboy Way, Clark 80428



Buena Vista & Salida Colorado FREE VISITORS GUIDE

COLORADO'S BEST HOT SPRINGS
ColorfulColorado.com

COME TO LIFE / Visitor Directory

Swimming Pool Exercise/Fitness Facilities Pets Allowed High-Speed Internet Airport Shuttle Complimentary Breakfast ADA-Compliant Restaurant On Site Free Parking In-Room Refrigerator In-Room Microwave Colorado Hotel & Lodging Association (CHLA) Member

The dollar symbols indicate how much you can expect to pay for an average hotel room. \$ = Less than \$100 \$\$ = \$101-200 \$\$\$ = \$201-299 \$\$\$\$ = \$300 and up

LODGES & CABINS

THE HOME RANCH Colorado's only Relais & Châteaux-affiliated guest ranch is located 18 miles north of Steamboat Springs. Relax in comfortable rooms and cabins, savor "haute mountain" cuisine and enjoy hiking, fly-fishing, horseback trailrides and cross-country skiing. homeranch.com, info@homeranch.com, 970-879-1780, 54880 R.C.R. 129, Clark 80428 \$\$\$\$

COALDALE

RV & CAMPGROUNDS

CUTTY'S HAYDEN CREEK RESORT Cutty's Hayden Creek Resort is a true campground resort. The resort features deluxe cabins, smaller cabins, RV site and tent sites. Amenities include a rec hall, an indoor and outdoor pool, tennis court, volleyball, mini golf and planned activities. cuttysresort.net, info@cuttysresort.net, 719-942-4222, 3428 Hayden Creek Rd., Coaldale 81222

COLORADO SPRINGS

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

COLORADO SPRINGS VISITOR INFORMATION Colorado Springs is alive with adventure, breathtaking mountain scenery, geologic wonders, 55-plus exciting attractions, thrilling outdoor recreation, world-class art and museums, authentic rides and unique dining and shopping at the foot of Pikes Peak. visitcos.com, info@visitcos.com, 719-635-7506, 800-888-4748, 515 S. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs 80903

ATTRACTIONS

COLORADO SPRINGS FINE ARTS CENTER AT COLORADO COLLEGE The FAC is an entire arts district under one roof. One of 16 charter members of the American Association of Museums, a TCG-member theater company, and arts education with the Bemis School of Art offering classes for every age and skill level. coloradocollege.edu/fac, fac@coloradocollege.edu, 719-634-5581, 30 W. Date St., Colorado Springs 80903

GARDEN OF THE GODS VISITOR AND NATURE CENTER No. 1 visited attraction, 14-minute HD movie, nature museum, 30 interactive exhibits, award-winning gift shop, cafe with spectacular views, free park map, guided walks, nature talks, bird watching, hiking, adventure programs. Free nature center. gardenofgods.com, office@gardenofgods.com, 719-634-6666, 1805 N. 30th St., Colorado Springs 80904

PRO RODEO HALL OF FAME Visit the colorful history and equally colorful legends of professional rodeo. Guests start their tour in the Hall of Champions and continue their way through exhibits about saddles, chaps, hats and other rodeo equipment over the decades. prorodeohalloffame.com, stadken@prorodeo.com, 719-528-4764, 101 Pro Rodeo Dr., Colorado Springs 80919

HOTELS & MOTELS

CLARION HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER Corporate and group-friendly downtown full-service hotel with easy access to area attractions. choicehotels.com/colorado/colorado-springs/clarion-hotels/co025, gm.co025@choicehotels.com, 719-471-8680, 800-477-8610, 314 W. Bijou St., Colorado Springs 80905

COMFORT INN NORTH - AIR FORCE ACADEMY AREA Convenient location. Close to major attractions. Complimentary free hot deluxe breakfast and high-speed wireless internet. Heated pool and spa, business center. Comfortable rooms with amenities and more. choicehotels.com/colorado/colorado-springs/comfort-inn-hotels/co018, gm.co018@choicehotels.com, 719-262-9000, 800-210-6005, 6450 Corporate Dr., Colorado Springs 80919

HOTEL ELEGANTÉ CONFERENCE & EVENT CENTER Experience the "experience" at the Hotel Elegante Conference and Event Center where families and visitors are our business. Enjoy the beautiful pools, Jacuzzi and kids activities that make Hotel Elegante the best place to stay in Colorado Springs. hotelelegante.com, hotelelegantesales@mcmelegante.com, 719-576-5900, 800-981-4012, 2886 S. Circle Dr., Colorado Springs 80906

QUALITY INN & SUITES GARDEN OF THE GODS The award-winning Quality Inn & Suites Garden of the Gods, centrally located in Colorado Springs, is where hospitality, comfort and convenience combine to create a memorable stay, whether you are traveling for business or pleasure. choicehotels.com/colorado/colorado-springs/quality-inn-hotels/co053, gm.co053@choicehotels.com, 719-593-9119, 800-828-4347, 555 W. Garden of the Gods Rd., Colorado Springs 80907

QUALITY INN COLORADO SPRINGS AIRPORT 10 miles to the Air Force Academy, Fort Carson, Peterson AFB; 25 from Schriever AFB; 10 miles from Garden of the Gods; 5 miles from the Colorado Springs Airport. Minutes from downtown, shopping and restaurants. 5 miles from major interstates. choicehotels.com/colorado/colorado-springs/quality-inn-hotels/co003, gm.co003@choicehotels.com, 719-380-9000, 877-424-6423, 2115 AeroTech Dr., Colorado Springs 80916

QUALITY INN SOUTH View Pikes Peak from our indoor pool/patio, and exercise room. Free wireless Internet, continental breakfast, micro/fridge. Located off I-25. Friendly staff. Groups and tours welcome! choicehotels.com/colorado/colorado-springs/quality-inn-hotels/co190, gm.co190@choicehotels.com, 719-579-6900, 1410 Harrison Rd., Colorado Springs 80906

QUALITY SUITES CENTRAL Group and corporate friendly, full-service downtown hotel. With convenient access to Interstate 25, this Colorado Springs hotel is close to many local points of interest. choicehotels.com/colorado/colorado-springs/quality-inn-hotels/co241, gm.co241@choicehotels.com, 719-471-8681, 877-477-8610, 314 W. Bijou St., Colorado Springs 80905

RADISSON HOTEL - COLORADO SPRINGS AIRPORT Vacations are simply more fun when everyone comes along for the ride. We do all we can to make sure every-one has an unforgettable time. Enjoy our indoor heated pool, outdoor hot tub, gym and game room. Free WiFi so you never lose touch. radisson.com/colorado-springs-hotel-co-80916, colospir_rh_cosp@radisson.com, 719-597-7000, 800-333-3333, 1645 N. Newport Rd., Colorado Springs 80916

SIGHTSEEING & TOURS

ADVENTURES OUT WEST Since 1973! Owner-operator of ziplines, Segways, Jeeps, balloon and the COS Rodeo. The best adventures in Colorado Springs. All this can be yours with a call to Colorado's premier adventure company. Adventures Out West. advoutwest.com, info@advoutwest.com, 719-578-0935, 1680 S. 21st St., Colorado Springs 80904

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FOOD TOURS Enjoy generous tastings of local cuisine from 5 unique restaurants. Learn Colorado history from an expert guide. Drink Colorado craft beer, wine and cocktails with the alcohol-pairing upgrade. Explore downtown Colorado Springs like a local! rockymountainfoodtours.com, noel@rockymountainfoodtours.com, 844-567-7638, Downtown Colorado Springs, Manitou Springs & Old Colorado City, Colorado Springs 80903

CORTEZ

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

MESA VERDE COUNTRY VISITOR CENTER Cortez, Dolores and Mancos welcome you to Mesa Verde National Park! Ancient stories come to life among the excavated dwellings once home to Ancestral Peoples. Add outdoor fun, Old West and farm visits, and you have a trip you'll always remember. mesaverdecountry.com, kellyk@mesaverdecountry.com, 970-565-8227, 800-530-2998, 928 E. Main, Cortez 81321

RECREATION

CONQUISTADOR GOLF COURSE Conquistador Golf Club is a hidden gem of the Four Corners. Conquistador is an 18-hole par-72 championship golf course. At an elevation of 6,200 feet, you can enjoy cool summer weather on a course that challenges any skill level. fourcornersgolf.com, pro@fourcornersgolf.com, 970-565-9208, 2018 N. Dolores Rd., Cortez 81321

COTOPAXI

RECREATION

ARKANSAS RIVER TOURS Offering exceptional whitewater trips and guided float fishing on the Arkansas River and the Gunnison Gorge, since 1973. Family adventures to extreme adventures. Convenient locations in Cañon City near the Royal Gorge and riverside in Cotopaxi. arkansasrivertours.com, info@arkansasrivertours.com, 719-942-4362, 800-321-4352, 19487 US Hwy. 50, Cotopaxi CO 81223

JOURNEY QUEST Christ-centered whitewater rafting, rock climbing and overnight adventures for your family, church or scout troop. Best pricing, professional guides and personalized service make our family-friendly trips the best value on Colorado's Arkansas River! journeyquest.org, ja@journeyquest.org, 719-276-2227, 888-623-7939, 27077 US Hwy. 50, Suite #4, Cotopaxi 81223

CRAIG

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

MOFFAT COUNTY TOURISM ASSOCIATION Moffat County, Colorado's Great Northwest. The pioneers called it Colorado's last frontier. It still is. Where the West runs wild, find open spaces including nearly 2 million acres of public lands in our very special corner of Colorado. Welcome! visitmoffatcounty.com, mcta@moffatcounty.net, 970-824-2335, 250 W. Victory Way, Craig 81625

HOTELS & MOTELS

CANDLEWOOD SUITES - CRAIG NORTHWEST COLORADO Make yourself at ease at the Candlewood Suites Craig Northwest. The hotel offers full kitchens in every room. HD TVs, DVD player, free guest laundry and WiFi included. Other guest amenities include Candlewood Gym, Cupboard and Lending Locker. marshohelmanagement.com/candlewoodsuites-craig, cigcw@yahoo.com, 970-824-8400, 877-660-8543, 92 Commerce St., Craig 81625

QUALITY INN & SUITES Craig's only full-service hotel includes a restaurant and lounge with entertainment. choicehotels.com/colorado/craig/quality-inn-hotels/co295, smoore@clarioncraig.com, 970-824-4000, 300 S. Hwy. 13, Craig 81625

CRESTED BUTTE

CONDOS & HOME RENTALS

CRESTED BUTTE LODGING & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Offering a variety of lodging types from hotel to 1-, 2-, 3- and 4-bedroom condominiums with locations in and near the Mount Crested Butte Base Area. Whether location or budget is more important, we're sure to accommodate all of your needs. crestedbuttelodging.com, gm@crestedbuttelodging.com, 970-349-2400, 866-380-5750, 701 Gothic Rd., Mt. Crested Butte 81225

PEAK PROPERTY MANAGEMENT & SALES Peak offers a wide variety of exceptional homes, cabins and condos in historic Crested Butte, Mount Crested Butte and the surrounding area. peakcb.com, info@peakcb.com, 970-349-6339, 888-909-7325, 318 Elk Ave., Suite 10, Crested Butte 81224

HOTELS & MOTELS

CRESTED BUTTE MOUNTAIN RESORT Crested Butte Mountain Resort has an array of properties from hotel rooms at the Grand Lodge to luxury slopeside condos at the Lodge at Mountaineer Square. These on-mountain lodging properties are ideal for couples, families and groups. skicb.com, info@cbmr.com, 844-428-8421, 844-428-8421, 12 Snowmass Rd., Mt. Crested Butte 81225

OLD TOWN INN The warmth of a family inn; the value and convenience of a hotel. The inn provides clean rooms, friendly staff and great amenities. We're proud to be TripAdvisor GreenPartners and Certificate of Excellence winners. oldtowninn.net, info@oldtowninn.net, 970-349-6184, 888-349-6184, 708 Sixth St., Crested Butte 81224

CRESTONE

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

TOWN OF CRESTONE A cultural center, alive with diversity and futuristic vision. Pristine alpine lakes, sand dunes, hiking and views. Home to international spiritual centers like the hidden city of Sangri-La. Crestone beckons travelers to come, experience and remember. ▶ crestonecreativistrict.xyz, 719-256-5445, PO Box 331, Crestone 81131

CRIPPLE CREEK

ATTRACTIONS

CRIPPLE CREEK BUTTE THEATER Cripple Creek's historic Butte Theater is home to year-round live professional theatrical performances, musical entertainment and classic melodrama. ▶ butteltheater.com, emilyandrews.butte@gmail.com, 719-689-6402, 139 E. Bennett Ave., Cripple Creek 80813

DELTA

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

DELTA COUNTY: CEDAREDDGE, CRAWFORD, DELTA, ECKERT, HOTCHKISS, ORCHARD CITY & PAONIA
Delta County: You will discover untapped trails, tracks and rivers to enjoy in solitude or with friends. Located on the Western Slope. Find Cedaredge, Crawford, Delta, Eckert, Hotchkiss, Orchard City and Paonia. Be inspired to linger! ▶ deltacountycolorado.com, kelli@deltacountycolorado.com, 970-874-9532, 501 Palmer, Delta 81416

ATTRACTIONS

FORT UNCOMPAGRE INTERPRETIVE CENTER Step back in time and visit the replica of an 1820s-era historic fur-trading center and learn about the history of the earliest days of commerce on Colorado's Western Slope. ▶ fortuncompagre.org, infofortonost@gmail.com, 970-874-8349, 440 N. Palmer St., Delta 81416

HOTELS & MOTELS

QUALITY INN – DELTA Near Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, Escalante Canyon and Grand Mesa. Fresh-baked cookies served nightly. Spacious rooms with wireless Internet. Free full hot breakfast. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/delta/quality-inn-hotels/co713, gm.co713@choicehotels.com, 970-874-1000, 877-424-6423, 180 Gunnison River Dr., Delta 81416

DENVER

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

DENVER, THE MILE HIGH CITY Denver is a vibrant outdoor city full of urban adventure waiting to be explored. Experience The Mile High City's 300 days of sunshine, walkable downtown, thriving arts and culture, award-winning dining, craft brewing and Rocky Mountain backdrop. ▶ visitdenver.com, visitorinfo@visitdenver.com, 303-892-1505, 800-233-6837, Tourist Information Center: 1575 California St., Denver 80202

ATTRACTIONS

DENVER ART MUSEUM World-class art in the heart of Denver! Libeskind-designed Hamilton Building features special exhibitions, artist demonstrations, family-friendly programs and more. Daily tours, cafe, shop. Free general admission for kids 18 and under every day. ▶ denverartmuseum.org, info@denverartmuseum.org, 720-865-5000, 100 W. 14th Ave. Pkwy., Denver 80204

DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS 24-acre urban oasis features native, exotic and xeric plants, a tropical rain forest and the Science Pyramid. Art exhibitions have featured the likes of Henry Moore and Dale Chihuly. Mordecai Children's Garden offers a place for kids to learn and play. ▶ botanicgardens.org, feedback@botanicgardens.org, 720-865-3500, 1007 York St., Denver 80206

DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE Explore one of Denver's top family attractions. Experience ancient fossils, dazzling gems and minerals, majestic wildlife, recent discoveries from outer space, Egyptian mummies, exhibits about the human body, traveling special exhibitions and more. ▶ dmns.org, info@dmns.org, 303-370-6000, 2001 Colorado Blvd., Denver 80205

DOWNTOWN AQUARIUM Mixes family fun, upscale-casual dining and spectacular marine life. Explore the *Aquarium Adventure* exhibit with more than 1 million gallons of extraordinary exhibits, then dine in the Aquarium Restaurant seated around a 50,000-gallon aquarium. ▶ aquariumrestaurants.com/downtownaquariumdenver, 303-561-4450, 700 Water St., Denver 80211

ELITCH GARDENS THEME & WATER PARK Elitch Gardens is Colorado's largest theme and water park. From roller coasters to kid adventures, a water park and tons of special events, there are thrills for all. Visit ElitchGardens.com for more info and to purchase tickets. ▶ elitchgardens.com, info@elitchgardens.com, 303-595-4386, 2000 Elitch Cir., Denver 80204

FORNEY MUSEUM OF TRANSPORTATION Explore Colorado's largest and most unique transportation collection. See the world's largest steam locomotive; Union Pacific's "Big Boy," Amelia Earhart's first car and special rotating exhibits. Open year-round Mon-Sat. 10am-4pm and Sun. noon-4pm. ▶ forneymuseum.org, customerservice@forneymuseum.org, 303-297-1113, 4303 Brighton Blvd., Denver 80216

HISTORY COLORADO CENTER The History Colorado Center is designed to ignite imaginations of all ages about Colorado history through high-tech and hands-on exhibits, programming and special events. Exhibits share the stories of Colorado's people over the past 10,000 years. ▶ historycolorado.org, reservations@state.co.us, 303-447-8679, 1200 Broadway, Denver 80203

MOLLY BROWN HOUSE MUSEUM Experience the home of *Titanic* survivor Margaret Tobin "Molly" Brown. Interact with knowledgeable docents who share the Progressive Era changes Margaret and mining engineer husband J.J. saw in their lifetime and learn their role in shaping Denver. ▶ mollybrown.org, admin@mollybrown.org, 303-832-4092, 1340 Pennsylvania St., Denver 80203

WATER WORLD America's largest water amusement park. More than 50 attractions/slides for all ages on 70-plus acres! Minutes from downtown Denver. Colorado's first watercoaster, wave pools, family raft rides, kids areas, speed slides, thrill rides and more. Free parking. ▶ waterworldcolorado.com, guestservices@waterworldcolorado.com, 303-427-7873, 8801 N. Pecos St., Denver 80260

THE WILD ANIMAL SANCTUARY See more than 480 large carnivores rescued from illegal or abusive situations roaming freely in species-specific habitats on 789 acres of open grassland. The sanctuary is open daily to the public and features a Mile Into the Wild elevated walkway. ▶ wildanimalsanctuary.org, information@wildanimalsanctuary.org, 303-536-0118, 2999 County Rd. 53, Denver 80643

WINGS OVER THE ROCKIES AIR & SPACE MUSEUM Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum is Colorado's official air and space museum. Located on the grounds of the former Lowry Air Force Base, Wings is dedicated to inspiring and educating the public about aviation and space endeavors. ▶ wingsmuseum.org, info@wingsmuseum.org, 303-360-5360, 7711 E. Academy Blvd., Denver 80230

BED & BREAKFASTS

CAPITOL HILL MANSION BED AND BREAKFAST INN 1891 Richardson Romanesque Victorian inn in downtown Denver. Walk to convention center, mall and museums. The inn features 8 luxurious guest rooms and suites with a unique experience and the modern amenities and conveniences. ▶ capitolhillmansion.com, info@capitolhillmansion.com, 303-839-5221, 800-839-9329, 1207 N. Pennsylvania St., Denver 80203

DINING

BUCKHORN EXCHANGE RESTAURANT Denver's oldest restaurant, with Colorado's No. 1 liquor license, serving prime beef steaks, buffalo, elk, baby-back ribs and other fabulous game specialties. Magnificently decorated. Reservations recommended. Free parking. ▶ buckhorn.com, info@buckhorn.com, 303-534-9505, 1000 Osage St., Denver 80204

HOTELS & MOTELS

CLARION HOTEL DENVER CENTRAL Conveniently located near interstates 25 and 70, the Clarion Hotel Denver Central is just minutes from downtown Denver and many popular attractions such as Coors Field ballpark, the Denver Coliseum and the Denver Mart. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/denver/clarion-hotels/co006, gm@qualityinndenver.com, 303-296-4000, 800-964-4001, 200 W. 48th Ave., Denver 80216

COMFORT INN & SUITES Minutes from downtown Denver and conveniently located off I-70 near the Stapleton development area. Free breakfast with hot waffles. Near Denver International Airport, Denver Coliseum, the Denver Zoo, Pepsi Center, Elitch's and Coors Field. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/denver/comfort-inn-hotels/co192, fdcomfortnortheast@gmail.com, 303-388-8100, 4685 Quebec St., Denver 80216

COMFORT INN CENTRAL Close to downtown Denver, Mile High Stadium, Coors Field, Pepsi Center and many attractions. One and a half miles to the Denver Coliseum and adjacent to the Denver Mart. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/denver/comfort-inn-hotels/co002, holly@coloradohospitality.com, 303-297-1717, 401 E. 58th Ave., Denver 80216

COMFORT INN DENVER EAST Explore the numerous activities Denver City Park offers or take a break to gaze at the wildlife of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge when you stay at our pet-friendly hotel near University of Colorado Hospital. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/denver/comfort-inn-hotels/co304, gm.co304@choicehotels.com, 303-375-1500, 303-375-1500, 4380 Peoria St., Denver 80302

COMFORT SUITES NEAR DENVER DOWNTOWN Book today at the smoke-free Comfort Suites Near Denver Downtown hotel, located minutes from downtown attractions like Coors Field, Pepsi Center and the Denver Coliseum. Enjoy amenities like free parking, free WiFi, free hot breakfast and more. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/denver/comfort-suites-hotels/co317, gm.co317@choicehotels.com, 720-531-3500, 620 Federal Blvd., Building A, Denver 80204

GRAND HYATT DENVER The refreshed Grand Hyatt Denver Downtown is located in the heart of the Mile High City's business district. It is within walking distance of its best attractions and one short block from the 16th Street Mall. ▶ hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/colorado/grand-hyatt-denver/denrd, qualitydenrd@hyatt.com, 303-295-1234, 800-233-1234, 1750 Welton St., Denver 80202

HYATT REGENCY DENVER AT COLORADO CONVENTION CENTER Award-winning hotel 1 block from 16th Street Mall in downtown Denver and two blocks from the theater district with 1,100 newly refreshed guest rooms with free WiFi adjacent to Colorado Convention Center. 27th-floor Peaks Lounge with panoramic views. ▶ hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/colorado/hyatt-reGENCY-denver-at-colorado-convention-center/dencc, qualitydencc@hyatt.com, 303-436-1234, 800-233-1234, 650 15th St., Denver 80202

MAINSTAY SUITES NEAR DENVER DOWNTOWN Book today at the MainStay Suites Near Denver Downtown hotel! Feel at home in our spacious suites with a fully equipped kitchen. Our smoke-free hotel is located near Mile High Stadium, Pepsi Center, Elitch Gardens and more. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/denver/mainstay-hotels/co318, gm.co318@choicehotels.com, 720-531-3510, 620 Federal Blvd., Building B, Denver 80204

QUALITY INN & SUITES DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT Just minutes from Denver Airport, we offer the comfort and service to make your stay a memorable one. Whether you are in Denver on business or catching an early flight in the morning, you'll enjoy our pillow-top mattresses and hot breakfast buffet. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/denver/quality-inn-hotels/co235, gm.co235@choicehotels.com, 303-371-5300, 6890 Tower Rd., Denver 80249

QUALITY INN & SUITES DENVER STAPLETON A convenient location near DIA, just a short drive from the light-rail station with easy access to downtown. Choose from comfortable rooms and suites that fit any budget, and enjoy a full range of amenities including a free hot breakfast buffet. ▶ qualityinndenverstapleton.com, 303-388-6161, 3737 Quebec St., Denver 80207

SHOPPING

CHERRY CREEK SHOPPING CENTER Colorado's premier shopping destination minutes from downtown with more than 160 shops, including 40 stores exclusive to the area such as Neiman Marcus, Tiffany & Co., Burberry, Louis Vuitton and Tory Burch. Customized group and FIT tours available. ▶ shopcherrycreek.com/tourism, cherrycreek@taubman.com, 303-388-3900, 3000 E. First Ave., Denver 80216

THE SHOPS AT NORTHFIELD STAPLETON Conveniently located 10 minutes from downtown Denver and 20 minutes to DIA, Northfield Stapleton is an outdoor shopping district featuring Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World, Macy's, Harkins Theaters 18, JCPenney and 80-plus specialty shops and restaurants. ▶ northfieldstapleton.com, info@northfieldstapleton.com, 303-375-5475, 8340 Northfield Blvd., Denver 80238

COME TO LIFE / Visitor Directory

Swimming Pool Exercise/Fitness Facilities Pets Allowed High-Speed Internet Airport Shuttle Complimentary Breakfast ADA-Compliant Restaurant On Site Free Parking In-Room Refrigerator In-Room Microwave Colorado Hotel & Lodging Association (CHLA) Member

The dollar symbols indicate how much you can expect to pay for an average hotel room. \$ = Less than \$100 \$\$ = \$101-200 \$\$\$ = \$201-299 \$\$\$\$ = \$300 and up

DILLON

HOTELS & MOTELS

BEST WESTERN PTARMIGAN LODGE Best

Western Ptarmigan Lodge is located steps away from Lake Dillon and Dillon Marina. Keystone, Breckenridge, Copper and Arapahoe Basin are 6-15 miles away. Pets are welcome in specific rooms with a \$10 charge per pet per night (call to verify). bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotels-in-dillon/best-western-ptarmigan-lodge/propertyCode.06098.html, stay@ptarmiganlodge.com, 970-468-2341, 800-842-5939, 652 Lake Dillon Dr., Dillon 80435

COMFORT SUITES SUMMIT COUNTY Free wireless Internet and continental breakfast. Pool, hot tub, Microwave, fridge, coffeemaker, meeting room, inside corridors, indoor pool, restaurant within 5 miles. No dogs. choicehotels.com/colorado/dillon/comfort-suites-hotels/co001, 970-513-0300, 276 Dillon Ridge Rd., Dillon 80435

DOLORES

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

DOLORES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Dolores is the southwest gateway to the second largest lake in Colorado, McPhee Reservoir, as well as Galloping Goose #5, Mesa Verde, Canyons of the Ancients, Anasazi Heritage Center, hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, and great lodging and dining. doloreschamber.com, info@doloreschamber.com, 970-882-1408, 201 Railroad Ave., Dolores 81323

DURANGO

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

VISIT DURANGO Don't miss the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, Mesa Verde National Park, rafting, horseback riding, skiing, biking, hiking, historic downtown, art galleries, exceptional dining, craft breweries, downtown festivals and events, and more. durango.org, info@durango.org, 970-247-3500, 800-525-8855, 802 Main Ave., Durango 81301

ATTRACTIONS

DURANGO & SILVERTON NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD AND MUSEUM Experience the adventure of traveling by a historic coal-fired, steam-powered locomotive on the same tracks miners, cowboys and settlers of the Old West took over a century ago. Wind through canyons in the remote wilderness for an unforgettable journey. durangotrains.com, info@durangotrains.com, 970-247-2733, 888-872-4607, 479 Main Ave., Durango 81301

SOARING TREE TOP ADVENTURES Largest zipline course in US with 27 spans. All-day, family-friendly zipline tour includes 5.5 hours of ziplining, four-course gourmet lunch, ecology tour and round-trip transportation in our private train cars. Rated No. 1 tour in Colorado on TripAdvisor. soaringcolorado.com, info@soaringcolorado.com, 970-769-2357, 964 County Rd. 200, Durango 81301

BED & BREAKFASTS

BLUE LAKE RANCH, A COUNTRY INN BED & BREAKFAST

Southwest Colorado's premier inn, just minutes from Mesa Verde and downtown Durango. Spectacular mountain, lake and garden views. Great for romantic getaways, weddings and reunions. Complimentary Southwest-style breakfast every morning. blueakeranch.com, blueakeranch@gmail.com, 970-385-4537, 888-258-3525, 16919 Hwy. 140, Durango 81326

CONDOS & HOME RENTALS

VACATION ACCOMMODATIONS OF DURANGO Offering Durango and southwest Colorado vacation rental homes to fit your needs when looking for a great place to stay. Visit Durango and the surrounding area: Mesa Verde National Park, Durango Train, Purgatory Ski Resort and Rocky Mountains. vaddurango.com, vacations@durango.net, 970-749-5894, 800-674-7846, 777 Main Ave. #206, Durango 81303

DUDE & GUEST RANCHES

COLORADO TRAILS RANCH Fun and adventure in the San Juan Mountains near Durango include horseback riding, fly-fishing, rafting and shooting sports. Kids' program, evening and other activities, great staff, excellent food and cozy cabins make this a vacation of a lifetime. coloradotrails.com, info@coloradotrails.com, 970-247-5055, 800-323-3833, 12161 County Rd. 240, Durango 81301

HOTELS & MOTELS

BEST WESTERN RIO GRANDE Located in historic downtown Durango, just steps from the D&SNG railroad. Free cocktails and breakfast daily. Free airport shuttle with advance reservations. Park your car and walk to local restaurants, nightlife, art gallery and shopping. bwriograndeinn.com, info@bwriograndeinn.com, 970-385-4980, 800-245-4466, 400 E. Second Ave., Durango 81301

COMFORT INN & SUITES DURANGO Newly renovated! The Comfort Inn & Suites Durango is a 3-star award-winning AAA 3-Diamond modern hotel. Centrally located near the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad. comfortinndurango.com, gm.co106@choicehotels.com, 970-259-7900, 888-259-7903, 455 S. Camino Del Rio, Durango 81303

HISTORIC STRATER HOTEL Historic Strater Hotel is one of Durango's prominent downtown landmarks. Located two blocks north of the D&SNGRR and home to the largest collection of American Victorian antiques. The Louis L'Amour room is designated a Literary Landmark. strater.com, info@strater.com, 970-247-4431, 800-247-4431, 699 Main Ave., Durango 81301

HOLIDAY INN & SUITES DURANGO CENTRAL Welcome to Durango's newest full-service hotel, located near the Animas River and just minutes from downtown! Make yourself at home in one of our many beautiful, modern room types. Dine at our on-site full-service sports lounge and restaurant. holidayinn.com/durangoco, hi.durango@skylinedma.com, 970-385-6400, 800-465-4329, 21636 Hwy. 160 W., Durango 81303

LELAND HOUSE & ROCHESTER HOTEL The Leland House and Rochester Hotel provide unique historic accommodations. Walk to shops, restaurants, activities and the train. Suites and large king rooms available. Gourmet breakfast included. Coworking and meeting space available. High-speed WiFi. rochesterhotel.com, stay@rochesterhotel.com, 970-385-1920, 800-664-1920, 726 E. Second Ave., Durango 81301 \$5-\$55

QUALITY INN - DURANGO Only 1 mile from historic downtown. All rooms are fully updated and nonsmoking. Rooms include micro/fridge, full hot breakfast, outdoor heated pool (seasonal), 2 large indoor hot tubs. Bike rentals, brewery packages and free rec center pass available. qualityinndurango.com, gm.co405@choicehotels.com, 970-259-5373, 800-424-6423, 2930 N. Main St., Durango 81301 \$5-\$55

RECREATION

PURGATORY RESORT Purgatory Resort offers fun winter adventures, including skiing and snowboarding, snowcat skiing, dog sledding, sleigh rides, snowshoeing, snowmobiling and more. Summer provides fun on the alpine slide, zipline and more. An exciting vacation awaits! purgatoryresort.com, info@purgatoryresort.com, 970-247-9000, 800-525-0892, 1 Skier Pl., Durango 81301

EAGLE

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

TOWN OF EAGLE Ride more, drive less with 100 miles of singletrack MTB trails accessible within .5 miles of downtown. Add in our events lineup and the new Eagle River Park for some river surfing and kayaking and you have a recreation paradise just 2 hours from Denver. eagleoutside.com, 970-328-6354, 200 Broadway, Eagle 81631

HOTELS & MOTELS

COMFORT INN VAIL VALLEY Free shuttle to and from Eagle Airport, free wireless high-speed Internet, iron/ironing boards, coffeemakers, hair dryers. Microwave, refrigerator in some rooms. Whirlpool suites. choicehotels.com/colorado/eagle/comfort-inn-hotels/co112, gm.co112@choicehotels.com, 970-328-7878, 800-288-9984, 0285 Market St., Eagle 81631

EDWARDS

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

VISIT VAIL VALLEY Plan your ultimate mountain vacation or group trip to Vail, Beaver Creek, Avon, Eagle, Edwards and more at VisitVailValley.com for insider tips, activities, dining, events and group booking info. For last-minute lodging deals visit VailOnSale.com. visitvailvalley.com, info@visitvailvalley.com, 970-476-1000, 97 Main St., Suite E-201, Edwards 81632

ENGLEWOOD

HOTELS & MOTELS

COMFORT SUITES DENVER TECH CENTER Located in the Denver Tech Center, within walking distance to light rail and restaurants. Close to Park Meadows Retail Resort and IKEA Centennial. 15 miles to downtown, aquarium, Elitch Gardens, 30 miles to Water World and DIA. 75 miles to ski areas. choicehotels.com/colorado/englewood/comfort-suites-hotels/co026, info@comfortsuidesdtc.com, 303-858-0700, 800-424-6423, 7374 S. Clinton St., Englewood 80112

ESTES PARK

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

VISIT ESTES PARK Welcome to Estes Park, the basecamp for Rocky Mountain National Park! Estes Park is located only 70 miles from Denver and is surrounded by protected land. This mountain village has Colorado's best outdoor adventures, wildlife and small-town hospitality. visitestespark.com, visitestespark@visitestespark.com, 970-577-9900, 800-443-7837, 500 Big Thompson Ave., Estes Park 80517

CONDOS & HOME RENTALS

ASPEN WINDS ON FALL RIVER We provide 1- and 2-bedroom suites and spa suites centrally located along Fall River between Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park. Enjoy your private deck, gas fire place and flatscreen TVs with free Netflix, DVD and Blu-ray. WiFi available. aspenswinds.com, aspenswinds@aol.com, 970-586-6010, 800-399-6010, 1051 Fall River Ct., Estes Park 80517

BEAR PAW & RIVER STONE RESORTS

Relax to the sounds of Fall River! Ideally located between Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park, 2 miles each way. Enjoy furnished 1-, 2- or 3-bedroom cabin/condo with full kitchen, spa tub or hot tub, fireplace and grill. Winter deals and packages available. riverstoneresorts.com, reservations@riverstoneresorts.com, 970-586-4005, 888-854-5224, 2120 Fall River Rd., Estes Park 80517

BOULDER BROOK ON FALL RIVER

Relax at Boulder Brook in a luxury riverfront suite with private deck, kitchenette and fireplace. Soak in the hot tub, watch the wildlife, fish in the river. It's the perfect way to relax in the Rockies! Easy access to downtown Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park. boulderbrook.com, contact@boulderbrook.com, 970-586-0910, 800-238-0910, 1900 Fall River Rd., Estes Park 80517

ESTES PARK CENTRAL

Vacation homes, condos, cabins. Premier rental properties. Next to Rocky Mountain National Park on Fall River, Big Thompson, 1-, 2-, 3-bedrooms on mountains, in town. Minutes to shopping, restaurants, hiking. Live music. Wildlife viewing. estesparkcentral.com, rainer@estesparkcentral.com, 970-577-0087, PO Box 2481, Estes Park 80517 \$5-\$55

ESTES PARK CONDOS ON THE RIVER Estes Park Condos — Antlers Pointe, Bugle Pointe and Creekside: Upscale resort located within a grove of majestic pines along a secluded stretch of Fall River with mountain views. ▶ estesparkcondos.com, info@estesparkcondos.com, 970-577-0068, 800-349-1003, 1400 David Dr., Estes Park 80517 📞📧📍📱📺📶📷📹📺📶📷📹

WILDWOOD INN 🏡🏠📍📱📺📶📷📹 We offer river and mountain properties. Upscale spacious vacation homes and condos, all beautifully appointed with kitchens, fireplaces, private decks, some with outdoor or in-room hot tubs. Full-service day spa. Wildlife, adjacent to Rocky Mountain National Park, barbecue, WiFi, year-round. ▶ esteswildwoodinn.com, info@esteswildwoodinn.com, 970-586-7804, 800-450-7136, 2801 Fall River Rd., Estes Park 80517 📞📧📍📱📺📶📷📹

HOTELS & MOTELS

BEST WESTERN PLUS SILVER SADDLE INN 🏡🏠📍📱📺📶📷📹 AAA 3 Diamond. All rooms and grounds are 100-percent nonsmoking. Free high-speed Internet. Free hot breakfast. All rooms: Micro/fridge. Amenities: seasonal heated pool, indoor hot tub, fitness center, business center, playground, coin laundry. ▶ estesresort.com, info@estesresort.com, 970-586-4476, 800-528-1234, 1260 Big Thompson Ave., Estes Park 80517 📞📧📍📱📺📶📷📹

THE ESTES PARK RESORT AND WATERFRONT GRILLE ON LAKE ESTES The only full-service lakeside resort in Estes Park. Come enjoy our lakefront property offering a full-service restaurant and bar, lodging accommodations and meeting spaces. Amenities such as a spa, fitness center. ▶ theestesparkresort.com, info@theestesparkresort.com, 970-577-6400, 855-377-3778, 1700 Big Thompson Ave., Estes Park 80517 📞📧📍📱📺📶📷📹

PEAK TO PEAK LODGE Clean, affordable, family motel close to town, golf courses, Estes Park Events Complex and Stanley Park, and within walking distance to restaurants. Offering single rooms and family rooms, pool and hot tub, free WiFi, AC and nonsmoking. ▶ peaktopeaklodge.com, peak2peak@ftrii.com, 970-586-4451, 800-726-7325, 760 S. St. Vrain Ave., Estes Park 80517 📞📧📍📱📺📶📷📹

QUALITY INN - ESTES PARK 🏡🏠📍📱📺📶📷📹 Open all year. AAA 3-Diamond-rated hotel located 1 mile from downtown and 4 miles from Rocky Mountain National Park. Some 2-bed, 2-bath loft units. Some gas log fireplaces and balconies. Full breakfast includes hot eggs, meat and waffles. ▶ qualityinnestespark.com, info@qualityinnestespark.com, 970-586-2358, 800-424-6423, 1450 Big Thompson Ave., Estes Park 80517 📞📧📍📱📺📶📷📹

THE RIDGELINE HOTEL - ESTES PARK The Ridgeline is your home away from home, where you can unwind and recharge after a busy day in Estes Park or Rocky Mountain National Park. With pet-friendly rooms, fireplaces, indoor pool and game room, this is the perfect spot for an Estes Park getaway. ▶ ridgelinehotel.com, 970-586-2332, 844-744-5530, 101 S. Saint Vrain Ave., Estes Park 80517 📞📧📍📱📺📶📷📹

THE STANLEY HOTEL The Stanley Hotel is a historic Rocky Mountain destination, famous for its Old World charm, boasting spectacular mountain views and less than 6 miles from Rocky Mountain National Park. ▶ stanleyhotel.com, info@stanleyhotel.com, 970-577-4000, 800-976-1377, 333 E. Wonderview Ave., Estes Park 80517 📞📧📍📱📺📶📷📹

LODGES & CABINS

BRYNWOOD ON THE RIVER Brynwood on the River is a family-friendly resort that offers a variety of cabins to suit many different needs. Many cabins located on the Big Thompson River which, along with private hot tubs, deliver a soothing and quiet Estes Park experience. ▶ brynwood.com, 970-586-3475, 800-279-4488, 710 Moraine Ave., Estes Park 80517 📞📧📍📱📺📶📷📹

ESTES PARK CENTER/YMCA OF THE ROCKIES YMCA of the Rockies, surrounded by Rocky Mountain National Park, offers affordable cabins, lodge rooms, meals and family activities. Enjoy archery, crafts, horseback riding, hiking, skating, swimming, climbing wall and much more. ▶ ymcarockies.org, info@ymcarockies.org, 970-586-3341, 888-613-9622, 2515 Tunnel Rd., Estes Park 80511 📞📧📍📱📺📶📷📹

MACHIN'S COTTAGES IN THE PINES Secluded location within Rocky Mountain National Park. Immaculate cottages (1, 2 and 3 bedrooms), fully equipped kitchens, wood-burning fireplaces, cable TV, individual barbecue grills. A national park trail starts here. ▶ machinsscottages.com, machinsscottages@beyonddb.com, 970-586-4276, 2450 Eagle Cliff Rd., Estes Park 80517 📞📧📍📱📺📶📷📹

RAMS HORN VILLAGE RESORT Award-winning luxury cabin resort for families and couples; 2-bedroom, 2-bath homes sleep up to 6. At entrance of Rocky Mountain National Park; 1 mile to Estes Park. Pool/summer, hot tubs, playground, WiFi, fitness center. Top-rated TripAdvisor. RCI Gold Crown Resort. ▶ rhvresort.com, dgibson@rhvresort.com, 970-586-4338, 800-229-4676, 1565 Colorado Hwy. 66, Estes Park 80517 📞📧📍📱📺📶📷📹

ROCKY MOUNTAIN RESORTS Rocky Mountain Resorts offers multiple resorts in Estes Park. Choose from mountain-view cabins, riverside condos, hot tub and Jacuzzi suites, luxurious mountain condos, heated pools or fishing on the property. All near Rocky Mountain National Park. Winter specials! ▶ rockymtnresorts.com, manager@rockymtnresorts.com, 970-586-2388, 800-672-9289, 2760 Fall River Rd., Estes Park 80517 📞📧📍📱📺📶📷📹

STREAMSIDE ON FALL RIVER A peaceful cabin resort on 17 forested acres with the Fall River running through. Cabins feature kitchens, gas fireplaces, decks with barbecues. Upgrade to a private hot tub. Fishing, hiking, a community hot tub, hammocks. Great wildlife watching! ▶ streamsideonfallriver.com, info@streamsideonfallriver.com, 970-586-6464, 800-321-3303, 1260 Fall River Rd., Estes Park 80517 📞📧📍📱📺📶📷📹

RV & CAMPGROUNDS

ELK MEADOW LODGE & RV RESORT 169 large RV sites, dry camping sites, cabins and authentic teepees. Located next to Rocky Mountain National Park with stunning views of Longs Peak. Heated pool and spa (seasonal and weather permitting). Historic lodge, gift shop and RV storage. ▶ elkmeadowrv.com, info@elkmeadowrv.com, 970-586-5342, 1665 CO Hwy. 66, Estes Park 80517 📞📧📍📱📺📶📷📹

SPRUCE LAKE RV RESORT Featuring 110 RV sites plus cabins and a cottage with our own stocked fishing lake. Located a mile from the entrance to Rocky Mountain National Park and adjacent to the Big Thompson River. Heated pool and spa (seasonal and weather permitting). ▶ sprucelakerv.com, info@sprucelakerv.com, 970-586-2889, 1050 Marys Lake Rd., Estes Park 80517 📞📧📍📱📺📶📷📹

EVERGREEN

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

EVERGREEN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE The Evergreen Area Chamber/Visitor Center offers information and resources for Evergreen and the local mountain areas. Maps, directories, referrals available. Evergreen offers superb outdoor recreation, wildlife, dining, art galleries and shopping. ▶ evergreenchamber.org, admin@evergreenchamber.org, 303-674-3412, 1524 Belford Ct., Evergreen 80439

HOTELS & MOTELS

COMFORT SUITES GOLDEN WEST ON EVERGREEN PARKWAY This beautiful log and stone all-suite hotel features luxurious suites, including rooms with balconies, patios and Jacuzzis. Relax on the private balcony and watch the native deer and elk graze among the pines. Offering sit and romance packages. ▶ goldenevergreenhotel.com, gm@goldenevergreenhotel.com, 303-526-2000, 29300 US Hwy. 40, Evergreen 80439 📞📧📍📱📺📶📷📹

FALCON

RV & CAMPGROUNDS

FALCON MEADOW RV CAMPGROUND Country camping. View of Pikes Peak. Large pull-through RV/ tent sites. Handicap shower/restroom, free WiFi, propane. Open year-round. Strong cell-phone signal. Restaurants nearby. ▶ falconmeadowrvcampground.com, falconmeadowcwg@aol.com, 719-495-2694, 11150 Hwy. 24 (GPS city is Peyton), Falcon 80831 📞📧📍📱📺📶📷📹

FIRESTONE

HOTELS & MOTELS

COMFORT SUITES LONGMONT A Firestone hotel near Barr Lake State Park. Easy access to I-25. Denver International Airport is 25 miles away. Enjoy a variety of golf courses, parks and outdoor recreation areas nearby. Village at the Peaks is only 7 miles away. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/firestone/comfort-suites-hotels/co236, gm.co236@choicehotels.com, 720-864-2970, 866-931-3702, 11292 Business Park Cir., Firestone 80504 📞📧📍📱📺📶📷📹

FORT COLLINS

HOTELS & MOTELS

COMFORT INN FORT COLLINS NORTH The newly renovated Comfort Inn Hotel in Fort Collins is one of the top hotels in Fort Collins on tripadvisor.com. Minutes to CSU, Anheuser-Busch, events center, Old Town, rafting, Poudre Canyon area. Text COMFORTC to 20673 for specials. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/fort-collins/comfort-inn-hotels/co109, gmcomfortinnfc@lpbroadband.net, 970-407-0100, 800-424-6423, 601 SW. Frontage Rd., Fort Collins 80524 📞📧📍📱📺📶📷📹

COMFORT SUITES - FORT COLLINS We are nestled among the foothills of the Rocky Mountains near CSU and the Budweiser Event Center. With an indoor heated pool and spa, free newspaper, WiFi and a complimentary deluxe continental breakfast, all of your needs are taken care of. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/fort-collins/comfort-suites-hotels/co706, gm.co706@choicehotels.com, 970-206-4597, 1415 Oakridge Dr., Fort Collins 80525 📞📧📍📱📺📶📷📹

QUALITY INN & SUITES UNIVERSITY 🏡🏠📍📱📺📶📷📹 Winner of Choice Hotels Platinum Award. Large suites, centrally located near Colorado State University and Foothills Mall. Suites feature king bed or 2 queen beds and sitting area with sleeper-sofa. Free hot breakfast, WiFi, indoor pool and hot tub. ▶ qualityinnfortcollins.com, info@qualityinnfortcollins.com, 970-282-9047, 4001 S. Mason St., Fort Collins 80525 📞📧📍📱📺📶📷📹

RECREATION

MOUNTAIN WHITEWATER Offers half- and full day-trips on the Cache la Poudre River, Colorado's only Wild & Scenic river. Rafting, kayaking, canoeing, tubing, paddleboards and duckies. We have the guided experience for you. After the trip, enjoy the Paddler's Pub on site. ▶ raftmw.com, contact@raftmw.com, 970-419-0917, 1329 N. US Hwy. 287, Fort Collins 80524

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ADVENTURES Half-day, full-day and overnight rafting trips. Beginner to advanced adventures on the Cache la Poudre (close to Estes Park/Rocky Mountain National Park), Clear Creek (close to Denver), Upper Colorado and North Platte rivers. Fly-fishing and kayaking classes. Kayak and SUP rentals. ▶ shoprma.com, info@shoprma.com, 970-493-4005, 800-858-6808, 1117 N. US Hwy. 287, Fort Collins 80524

FORT MORGAN

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

FORT MORGAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE A rich blend of small-town tradition and down-home hospitality. Gateway to Pawnee National Grassland. World-class birding, spectacular geology and abundant outdoor recreation. ▶ fortmorganchamber.org, director@fortmorganchamber.com, 970-867-6702, 300 Main St., Fort Morgan 80701

MORGAN COUNTY TOURISM One hour from the Front Range, Morgan County has something for everyone. Want to spend more time actually doing things and not sitting in traffic, head east on I-76. Home to Longmeadow Event Center, concerts, festivals and great lodging year-round! ▶ morgancountytourism.com, tourism@co.morgan.co.us, 970-542-3508, 231 Ensign St., Suite B102, Fort Morgan 80701

HOTELS & MOTELS

COMFORT INN - FORT MORGAN Gold Award hotel. Indoor pool and hot tub. Free high-speed Internet, fitness room, meeting space. Next to The Mav Kitchen & Tap House, Rodeway Inn, 24-hour shopping center. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/fort-morgan/comfort-inn-hotels/co183, gm.co183@choicehotels.com, 970-867-6700, 1417 Barlow Rd., Fort Morgan 80701 📞📧📍📱📺📶📷📹

FRASER

ATTRACTIONS

GRAND ADVENTURE BALLOON TOURS Year-round in the Rocky Mountains! The closest mountain ride to Denver, Boulder, Fort Collins, Breckenridge, Keystone, Grand Lake and Estes Park. The picturesque Winter Park-Fraser Valley provides the best views of Rocky Mountain National Park. ▶ grandadventureballoon.com, rides@grandadventureballoon.com, 970-887-1340, 220 County Rd. 522, Fraser 80442

COME TO LIFE / Visitor Directory

Swimming Pool Exercise/Fitness Facilities Pets Allowed High-Speed Internet Airport Shuttle Complimentary Breakfast ADA-Compliant Restaurant On Site Free Parking In-Room Refrigerator In-Room Microwave Colorado Hotel & Lodging Association (CHLA) Member

The dollar symbols indicate how much you can expect to pay for an average hotel room. \$ = Less than \$100 \$\$ = \$101-200 \$\$\$ = \$201-299 \$\$\$\$ = \$300 and up

HOTELS & MOTELS

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES WINTER PARK-FRASER AREA Be the readiest and stay at Holiday Inn Express & Suites Winter Park-Fraser. Located in the heart of the Fraser Valley on the Lift Shuttle Line. Outstanding guest rooms and amenities, including the Express Start Hot Breakfast Buffet and meeting room. [▶ marshotelmanagement.com/holiday-inn-express-winter-park](http://marshotelmanagement.com/holiday-inn-express-winter-park), hiexwinterpark@yahoo.com, 970-722-7631, 800-465-4329, 108 Zerex St., Fraser 80442 \$\$\$

FRISCO

HOTELS & MOTELS

FRISCO INN ON GALENA Discover the perfect mountain getaway. Let us show you our exceptional hospitality and service. Our peaceful location is just a half block off of Main St., with easy walking distance to the many fine restaurants and shops on Frisco's Main St. [▶ friscoinnongalena.com](http://friscoinnongalena.com), info@friscoinnongalena.com, 970-668-3224, 855-237-4726, 106 Galena St., Frisco 80443 \$\$\$

FRUITA

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

CITY OF FRUITA Fruita is a paradise for outdoor-lovers of all ages with world-class mountain biking, hiking, rafting the Colorado River, horseback riding, cycling and the amazing Colorado National Monument. Visit historic downtown for shopping, craft beers, festivals and more! [▶ gofruita.com](http://gofruita.com), info@gofruita.com, 970-858-3663, 325 E. Aspen, Fruita 81521

ATTRACTIONS

DINO DIGS Be a paleontologist for a day at the Mygatt-Moore Quarry. Get a little dirty digging for dinosaur bones, teeth and plants. Our paleontologist will make sure you have all the training and tools you need. [▶ museumofwesternco.com/things-to-do/category/expeditions](http://museumofwesternco.com/things-to-do/category/expeditions), jmchugh@westcomuseum.org, 970-858-7282, 550 Jurassic Ct., Fruita 81521

DINOSAUR JOURNEY MUSEUM Features the latest exhibits and realistic robotic dinosaurs in a real working paleontology lab. [▶ museumofwesternco.org](http://museumofwesternco.org), jmchugh@westcomuseum.org, 970-858-7282, 888-488-3466, 550 Jurassic Ct., Fruita 81521

HOTELS & MOTELS

COMFORT INN & SUITES - FRUITA Great location and view! Friendly and comfortable. Full hot breakfast. Free wireless Internet. Bike trails, hiking, horseback riding and rafting close by. Walk to restaurants. Only hotel in town with a view of Colorado National Monument from room. [▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/fruita/comfort-inn-hotels/co156](http://choicehotels.com/colorado/fruita/comfort-inn-hotels/co156), gm.co156@choicehotels.com, 970-858-1333, 400 Jurassic Ave., Fruita 81521 \$\$\$\$

GEORGETOWN

ATTRACTIONS

GEORGETOWN LOOP RAILROAD Climb aboard one of Colorado's historic narrow-gauge railroads. This engineering marvel takes you over the Devil's Gate Bridge and through a scenic Rocky Mountain pathway. Silver mine tours available with train ride. Located 45 miles west of Denver. [▶ georgetownlooprr.com](http://georgetownlooprr.com), info@historicaladventures.com, 888-456-6777, 646 Loop Dr., Georgetown 80444

HOTELS & MOTELS

HOTEL CHATEAU CHAMONIX Our property offers fireplaces, steam showers, hot tubs and many other amenities to make your stay most enjoyable. Many rooms are creek-side, and we are within walking distance of historic downtown Georgetown. We're just right for you! [▶ hotelchateauchamonix.com](http://hotelchateauchamonix.com), info@hotelccgf.com, 303-569-1109, 888-569-1109, 1414 Argentine St., Georgetown 80444 \$\$\$

RECREATION

LOVELAND SKI AREA Just 53 miles west of Denver, Loveland boasts 1,800 acres of remarkable terrain, affordable ticketing options, free snowcat skiing and more snow than any Front Range resort. Come find out why Loveland has been a locals' favorite for 80 years. [▶ skiloveland.com](http://skiloveland.com), loveland@skiloveland.com, 303-571-5580, 800-736-3754, 1-70 Exit 216, Georgetown 80444

SIGHTSEEING & TOURS

CAPITAL PRIZE GOLD MINE TOURS Most extensive mine tour in Colorado! Enjoy an easy walk over 1,000 feet into the mountain and see several tunnels, gold veins, machinery and tools. Experience the thrill of working by candlelight and learn how we still mine for gold today. Family fun! [▶ capitalprizegoldmine.com](http://capitalprizegoldmine.com), capitalprize@yahoo.com, 303-569-2468, 1016 Biddle St., Georgetown 80444

GLENWOOD SPRINGS

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

GLENWOOD SPRINGS VISITOR CENTER Located in the western Rockies, Glenwood Springs is famous for its natural wonders and outdoor adventures. This family-friendly town is home to three hot springs attractions, Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park, Sunlight Mountain Resort and Hanging Lake. [▶ visitglenwood.com](http://visitglenwood.com), info@visitglenwood.com, 970-945-6580, 802 Grand Ave., Glenwood Springs 81601

ATTRACTIONS

GLENWOOD CAVERNS ADVENTURE PARK Take a scenic tram to America's only mountain-top theme park, where nature meets adventure. Incredible thrills, amazing cave tours and other great family activities. Coming spring 2019: A new high-capacity aerial tram to get to the fun even faster. [▶ glenwoodcaverns.com](http://glenwoodcaverns.com), info@glenwoodcaverns.com, 970-945-4228, 800-530-1635, 51000 Two Rivers Plaza Rd., Glenwood Springs 81601

SPA OF THE ROCKIES AT GLENWOOD HOT SPRINGS Spa of the Rockies is Colorado's premier hot-springs spa and uses essential minerals to revitalize the skin, calm nerves, detoxify and refresh the body. Signature experiences include a soak in the hot springs, foot ritual and athletic club access. [▶ spaofterockies.com](http://spaofterockies.com), info@spaofterockies.com, 970-947-3331, 877-947-3331, 401 N. River St., Glenwood Springs 81601

HOTELS & MOTELS

GLENWOOD HOT SPRINGS RESORT Breathtaking mountain views surround you while you stay in well-appointed rooms ideal for families. Hot springs and breakfast included. Colorado's premier hot springs resort with spa, athletic club, grill and shopping. Walking distance to downtown. [▶ hotspringspool.com](http://hotspringspool.com), info@hotspringspool.com, 970-945-6571, 800-537-7946, 415 E. Sixth St., Glenwood Springs 81601 \$\$\$

GLENWOOD SUITES, AN ASCEND HOTEL COLLECTION MEMBER One of Glenwood's newest hotels. Full-kitchen, whirlpool and business-class suites. Manager reception daily. Free deluxe breakfast, WiFi, indoor parking, 24 Hour Fitness. [▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/glenwood-springs/ascend-hotels/co226](http://choicehotels.com/colorado/glenwood-springs/ascend-hotels/co226), gm.co226@choicehotels.com, 970-384-4700, 877-424-6423, 2625 Gilstrap Ct., Glenwood Springs 81601

HOTEL COLORADO The Hotel Colorado is full of unmatched charm and one-of-a-kind style. It boasts full-service amenities and features 80 classic rooms, 20 family rooms and 30 suites. Located adjacent to the hot springs and steps away from shops and restaurants. [▶ http://hotelcolorado.com](http://hotelcolorado.com), res@thehotelcolorado.com, 970-945-6511, 800-544-3998, 526 Pine St., Glenwood Springs 81601

QUALITY INN & SUITES ON THE RIVER The closest hotel in Glenwood Springs to the new Glenwood Meadows shopping center. Glenwood's only hotel directly on the Colorado River. Near historic downtown Glenwood Springs. [▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/glenwood-springs/quality-inn-hotels/co145](http://choicehotels.com/colorado/glenwood-springs/quality-inn-hotels/co145), gm.co145@choicehotels.com, 970-945-5995, 2650 Gilstrap Ct., Glenwood Springs 81601

LODGES & CABINS

GLENWOOD CANYON RESORT Nestled in the Rocky Mountains and Glenwood Canyon. On-site bar and grill. Luxury penthouse suites, resort cabins, cottages, camper cabins, full hook-up RV sites and tent sites on the Colorado River. Whitewater rafting, ziplining, biking and more! [▶ glenwoodcanyonresort.com](http://glenwoodcanyonresort.com), info@glenwoodcanyonresort.com, 970-945-6737, 800-958-6737, 1308 County Rd. 129, Glenwood Springs 81601

RECREATION

CANYON BIKES A breathtaking paved trail along the Colorado River in scenic Glenwood Canyon. Easy downhill rides or out-and-back. Best bike ride around — a must do! Equipment for the entire family. [▶ canyonbikes.com](http://canyonbikes.com), patrick@canyonbikes.com, 970-945-8904, 877-945-6605, 152 W. Sixth St., Glenwood Springs 81601

IRON MOUNTAIN HOT SPRINGS Relax, restore and rejuvenate in the 100 percent pure, thermal mineral waters of Iron Mountain Hot Springs, along the Colorado River in Glenwood Springs. Sixteen small pools and a freshwater family pool with amazing views of the valley and mountains beyond. [▶ ironmountainhotsprings.com](http://ironmountainhotsprings.com), info@ironmountainhotsprings.com, 970-945-4766, 281 Centennial St., Glenwood Springs 81601

IRONBRIDGE GOLF COURSE & MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY

An idyllic golf and sporting community in the charming community of Glenwood Springs. Stunning views of Mount Sopris from some pristine perspectives. The 18-hole alpine course is open to both members and the public. Full-service restaurant on site. [▶ ironbridgeclub.com](http://ironbridgeclub.com), skeister@ironbridgeclub.com, 970-384-0630, 866-945-4301, 430 Ironbridge Dr., Glenwood Springs 81601

GOLDEN

ATTRACTIONS

COLORADO RAILROAD MUSEUM Open year-round. Train rides every Saturday. Stroll the museum's 15-acre railroad featuring more than 100 railcars. Also, tour exhibit galleries, a renowned library, roundhouse restoration facility and working turntable. Minutes from downtown Denver. [▶ coloradorailroadmuseum.org](http://coloradorailroadmuseum.org), info@coloradorailroadmuseum.org, 303-279-4591, 800-365-6263, 17155 W. 44th Ave., Golden 80403

HOTELS & MOTELS

THE GOLDEN HOTEL, AN ASCEND COLLECTION MEMBER Award-winning hotel overlooking Clear Creek and the Rocky Mountain foothills featuring free WiFi, meeting and event space, and an in-house restaurant. Guestroom features include flat-panel TVs with HD programming, 5-star bedding and plush robes. [▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/golden/ascend-hotels/co193](http://choicehotels.com/colorado/golden/ascend-hotels/co193), renee@thegoldenhotel.com, 303-279-0100, 800-233-7214, 800 11th St., Golden 80401

QUALITY INN & SUITES GOLDEN - DENVER WEST - FEDERAL CENTER In the mountains and close to the Denver Federal Center and Colorado Mills mall. This hotel is in the vicinity of the MillerCoors Brewery and the Colorado School of Mines. Hotel is also in the vicinity of Red Rocks Amphitheatre. [▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/golden/quality-inn-hotels/co296](http://choicehotels.com/colorado/golden/quality-inn-hotels/co296), gm.co296@choicehotels.com, 303-231-9939, 11907 W. Sixth Ave., Golden 80401

RV & CAMPGROUNDS

DAKOTA RIDGE RV RESORT With 141 RV sites, we're the No. 1-rated RV park in the state. Heated pool and spa (seasonal and weather permitting). Our location at I-70 and 470 provides easy access to all outdoor activities, nightlife, casinos, entertainment and NHRA drag racing. [▶ dakotaridgerv.com](http://dakotaridgerv.com), info@dakotaridgerv.com, 303-279-1625, 17800 W. Colfax Ave., Golden 80401

GRANBY

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

GRAND COUNTY COLORADO TOURISM BOARD

There's no telling where your adventure will begin in Grand County. And with so much to do, it never has to end. From Colorado's largest natural lake to the sights of Rocky Mountain National Park, the end of one adventure is just the beginning of another. ▶ visitgrandcounty.com, info@visitgrandcounty.com, 720-531-7020, 800-530-1066, PO Box 131, Granby 80446

GREATER GRANBY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Granby offers visitors an unparalleled opportunity to enjoy everything that you would expect from the Colorado Rocky Mountain experience — all with a friendly, small-town atmosphere that won't bust your budget. Come see our new murals in town! ▶ granbychamber.com, info@granbychamber.com, 970-887-2311, 516 E. Agate Ave., Granby 80446

DUDE & GUEST RANCHES

C LAZY U LUXURY GUEST RANCH (XN-CHLA) Colorado's premier guest ranch since 1919, with personalized service, first-class amenities, gourmet meals and upscale accommodations. Offering exciting winter and summer activities, enriching children's programs and meeting facilities. ▶ clazyu.com, info@clazyu.com, 970-887-3344, 3640 Colorado Hwy. 125, Granby 80446

DROWSY WATER RANCH (XN-CHLA) Named TripAdvisor and *Parent Magazine's* Top 10 all-inclusive vacations in the world in 2016 and 2017. No. 1 best dude ranch for families by *familyvacationcritic.com*. Welcome to your Western home for a week. Come experience our family friendly ranch! ▶ drowsywater.com, colofun@drowsywater.com, 970-725-3456, 800-845-2292, 1454 CR 219, Granby 80446

HOTELS & MOTELS

LITTLETREE INN Rooms with 42-inch HDTVs, HD channels and HBO, AC, WiFi and other room amenities. Hot tub, coin laundry and vending on premises; large parking area for buses, trucks and trailers. Minutes to Winter Park or Ski Granby Ranch ski areas and Rocky Mountain National Park. ▶ littletreeluxuryinn.com, contactus@littletreeluxuryinn.com, 970-887-2551, 62000 US Hwy. 40, Granby 80446

LODGES & CABINS

SNOW MOUNTAIN RANCH/YMCA OF THE ROCKIES

Offers affordable cabins, lodge rooms, yurts, meals and family activities. Enjoy Nordic skiing, skating, horseback riding, swimming, climbing wall, hiking, biking and much more with outstanding views in every direction! Great for groups, reunions. ▶ snowmountainranch.org, info@ymcarockies.org, 970-887-2152, 888-613-9622, 1101 County Rd. 53, Granby 80446

GRAND JUNCTION

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

VISIT GRAND JUNCTION Grand Junction is where it all comes together, from Colorado National Monument boasting unique canyons like nowhere else in the world to wine country and outdoor adventures including mountain biking, water sports, skiing, limitless OHV trails and more! ▶ visitgrandjunction.com, visitgj@gjcity.org, 970-244-1480, 800-962-2547, 740 Horizon Dr., Grand Junction 81506

ATTRACTIONS

MUSEUM OF THE WEST Exhibits include Native American pottery, firearms of the Old West, replica stagecoach and much more! ▶ museumofwesternco.org, pbooth@westcomuseum.org, 970-242-0971, 888-488-3466, 462 Ute Ave., Grand Junction 81501

HOTELS & MOTELS

CLARION INN - GRAND JUNCTION Indoor recreation area includes pool, hot tub and fitness center in atrium setting. Free high-speed Internet, complimentary breakfast, meeting space with catering available. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/grand-junction/clarion-hotels/co240, information@clariongj.com, 970-243-6790, 888-489-9796, 755 Horizon Dr., Grand Junction 81506

COMFORT INN - GRAND JUNCTION Ideally located near area attractions like Colorado Mesa University, Colorado National Monument, Grand Mesa and the Museum of Western Colorado's Dinosaur Journey Museum. Wineries. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/grand-junction/comfort-inn-hotels/co712, gm.co712@choicehotels.com, 970-245-3335, 800-228-5150, 750 3/4 Horizon Dr., Grand Junction 81506

GRAND VISTA HOTEL The Grand Vista is a full-service hotel. We proudly feature Oliver's Restaurant, Bailey's Bar & Grill, fitness center, indoor pool, free WiFi and banquet facilities. Entertainment in Bailey's Bar seven nights a week. ▶ grandvistahotel.com, sales@grandvistahotel.com, 970-241-8411, 800-800-7796, 2790 Crossroads Blvd., Grand Junction 81506

HOLIDAY INN & SUITES - GRAND JUNCTION

Indulge in comfort and change your view in the heart of Colorado's wine country at the Holiday Inn & Suites Grand Junction Airport. Whether traveling for business or pleasure our full-service hotel has everything you need to stay you. ▶ marshotelmanagement.com/holiday-inn-grand-junction, higjfd@live.com, 970-424-5888, 877-410-6667, 2751 Crossroads Blvd., Grand Junction 81506

QUALITY INN GRAND JUNCTION All non-smoking hotel. Free high-speed wireless Internet, seasonal heated pool, fitness center, on-site restaurant, free hot breakfast. We even have a computer in the lobby for use by guests. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/grand-junction/quality-inn-hotels/co073, qualityinnrick@aol.com, 970-245-7200, 800-790-2661, 733 Horizon Dr., Grand Junction 81506

SIGHTSEEING & TOURS

MOTODISCOVERY MOTORCYCLE TOURS AND RENTALS

MotoDiscovery shares imaginative motorcycle travel experiences. In addition to tours, we provide a variety of street-legal motorcycle rentals from 250-1000cc, all of which are well suited for the spectacular touring Colorado and the Southwest. ▶ motodiscoveryrentals.com, rentals@motodiscovery.com, 970-819-4949, 528 23 Rd., Grand Junction 81507

GRAND LAKE

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

GRAND LAKE VISITOR CENTER Grand Lake is the soul of the Rockies. Home to Colorado's largest natural lake and beach, as well as the headwaters of the Colorado River. Historic western boardwalk, shops, dining and lodging. Year-round activities. ▶ grandlakechamber.com, glinfo@grandlakechamber.com, 970-627-3402, 800-531-1019, 14700 US Hwy. 34, Grand Lake 80447

ATTRACTIONS

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REPERTORY THEATRE Professional theater in beautiful Grand Lake. Each summer and fall, RMRT offers high-quality Broadway musicals, showcasing the nation's top young talent. Affordable and family friendly. ▶ rockymountainrep.com, admin@rockymountainrep.com, 970-627-3421, 800 Grand Ave., Grand Lake 80447

HOTELS & MOTELS

WESTERN RIVIERA LAKESIDE LODGING & EVENTS On Grand Lake at west entrance to Rocky Mountain National Park, lakeside motel rooms, cabins, condos and the perfect event venue for any celebration. Our courtyard cabins offer a great setting for groups with gazebo, picnic tables and outdoor grills. ▶ westernriv.com, motel@westernriv.com, 970-627-3580, 419 Garfield St., Grand Lake 80447

RV & CAMPGROUNDS

WINDING RIVER RESORT Bordering Rocky Mountain National Park, Arapaho National Forest and Colorado River. RV/tent sites, cabins, lodge rooms, horse/camp sites with pens. Trail and pony rides. Hay and sleigh rides. Chuckwagon breakfast. ATVs and cowboy church. ▶ windingriverresort.com, trailboss@rkymntnh.com, 970-627-3215, 1447 C.R. 491, Grand Lake 80447

GREELEY

DUDE & GUEST RANCHES

PLATTE RIVER FORT Features luxurious suites, courtyard-facing bedrooms, cozy bunkrooms, a chef's kitchen, a dining room overlooking roaming Texas longhorns, full outdoor bar and kitchen and 2 fire pits perfect for enjoying the sunset over the Rocky Mountains. ▶ platteriverfort.com, info@platteriverfort.com, 970-590-4414, 22999 US Hwy. 34, Greeley 80631

HOTELS & MOTELS

CLARION HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER - GREELEY Continental breakfast, free newspaper, indoor heated pool, exercise room, wireless Internet, coffeemakers, refrigerators, microwaves, irons and ironing boards. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/greeley/clarion-hotels/co229, 970-353-8444, 701 Eighth St., Greeley 80631

COMFORT INN - GREELEY Five minutes to the University of Northern Colorado. Free high-speed wireless Internet, free deluxe breakfast. Business center, fitness room, indoor pool and hot tub. Pet friendly. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/greeley/comfort-inn-hotels/co182, gm.co182@choicehotels.com, 970-330-6380, 2467 W. 29th St., Greeley 80631

GREENWOOD VILLAGE

HOTELS & MOTELS

SLEEP INN DENVER TECH CENTER In the heart of the Denver Tech Center near Park Meadows, IKEA and Family Sports Center; only 15 minutes to downtown Denver. Upgrades available with fridge/microwave, cable TV, movies, indoor heated pool, free deluxe continental breakfast. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/greenwood-village/sleep-inn-hotels/co736, lori@sleepinn-denvertechcenter.com, 303-662-9950, 9257 E. Costilla Ave., Greenwood Village 80112

GUNNISON

HOTELS & MOTELS

COMFORT INN - GUNNISON Minutes from downtown Gunnison. A three-story, 58-room facility with indoor heated pool, exercise room, elevator, luxurious king Jacuzzi suites, cable TV/HBO, free wireless. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/gunnison/comfort-inn-hotels/co155, reservations@comforinn.gunnison.com, 970-642-1000, 877-424-6423, 911 N. Main St., Gunnison 81230

THE INN AT TOMICHI VILLAGE Our large rooms offer super-comfortable beds, new bedding with triple sheeting, flatscreen TVs, premium in-room coffee, USB outlets and modern decor with a stylish country flare. Enjoy our amazing restaurant, bar and banquet facilities right on site. ▶ theinnv.com, jmburch@theinnv.com, 970-641-1131, 41883 Hwy. 50 E., Gunnison 81230

Holiday Inn & Suites
AN IHG® HOTEL

Grand Junction Airport

970-424-5888
HolidayInn.com/grandjunctprt

Located minutes from the vineyards of Colorado's Wine Country, Colorado National Monument and Dinosaur Valley, Holiday Inn & Suites is the perfect home base for your Western Slope getaway. Enjoy spacious rooms, an indoor pool, fitness center, free Wi-Fi and airport shuttle.

COME TO LIFE / Visitor Directory

Swimming Pool Exercise/Fitness Facilities Pets Allowed High-Speed Internet Airport Shuttle Complimentary Breakfast ADA-Compliant Restaurant On Site Free Parking In-Room Refrigerator In-Room Microwave Colorado Hotel & Lodging Association (CHLA) Member

The dollar symbols indicate how much you can expect to pay for an average hotel room. \$ = Less than \$100 \$\$ = \$101-200 \$\$\$ = \$201-299 \$\$\$\$ = \$300 and up

QUALITY INN GUNNISON Guests of this hotel enjoy a free hot breakfast, free high-speed Internet, free local calls, free newspaper, free coffee, fitness center, indoor heated pool and hot tub. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/gunnison/quality-inn-hotels/co074, reservations@qualityinngunnison.com, 970-641-1237, 400 E. Tomichi Ave., Gunnison 81230

RV & CAMPGROUNDS

GUNNISON LAKESIDE CABINS & RV PARK Gunnison Lakeside Cabins & RV Park features large shaded full hookup sites, 1- and 2-bedroom cabins and free WiFi throughout the property. On-site laundry facility and convenience store that provides groceries, snacks, propane and licenses. ▶ gunnisonlakeside.com, info@gunnisonlakeside.com, 970-641-0477, 877-641-0488, 28357 US Hwy. 50, Gunnison 81230

HIGHLANDS RANCH

HOTELS & MOTELS

COMFORT SUITES HIGHLANDS RANCH DENVER TECH CENTER AREA All-suite hotel with free hot breakfast buffet, on-site fitness center, outdoor spa, business center, free WiFi. Suites include sofa, large work area, refrigerators, microwaves, in-room coffee, hair dryer, iron and ironing board. ▶ hoteldenvertech.com, lori@cshighlandsranch.com, 303-770-5400, 7060 E. County Line Rd., Highlands Ranch 80126

IDAHO SPRINGS

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

CLEAR CREEK COUNTY TOURISM BUREAU Clear Creek County is located just 20 miles west of Denver. Visit our Historic districts: Idaho Springs, Empire, Georgetown and Silver Plume. Enjoy shopping, dining, rafting, skiing, riding a narrow-gauge steam train, scenic byways and more! ▶ clearcreekcounty.org, info@clearcreekcounty.org, 303-567-4660, 866-674-9237, 2060 Miner St., Idaho Springs 80452

RECREATION

CLEAR CREEK RAFTING CO. We offer an incredible value with free digital photos and free wetsuit use on all trips. Rafter the world-famous Arkansas River through Royal Gorge near Colorado Springs; or Clear Creek, 30 minutes from Denver. Fun and exciting trips for all abilities! ▶ raftroyalgorge.com, info@clearcreekrafting.com, 303-567-1000, 800-353-9901, 350 Whitewater Rd., Idaho Springs 80452

COLORADO ADVENTURE CENTER Exciting whitewater rafting, thrilling ziplining and aerial adventures in two convenient locations right off I-70. Just 35 minutes from downtown Denver in Dumont or Glenwood Springs between Aspen and Vail. Combine adventures for fabulous savings and fun! ▶ raftingcolorado.com, info@coloradoadventurecenter.com, 877-947-7238, 2697 Stanley Rd., Idaho Springs 80453

JOHNSTOWN

HOTELS & MOTELS

COMFORT SUITES LOVELAND - JOHNSTOWN Our all-suites hotel near Loveland has the extra space you need with the extras you want, like meeting rooms, guest laundry facilities and free WiFi, indoor heated pool, outdoor hot tub and indoor waterside, business center, fitness center. ▶ comfortsuites.com/co247, comfortsuitesloveland@spirithospitality.net, 970-663-3300, 4851 Thompson Pkwy., Johnstown 80534

KEYSTONE

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

KEYSTONE NEIGHBOURHOOD COMPANY - RIVER RUN VILLAGE The Neighbourhoods at Keystone Resort is a premier mountain community, maintaining a high-quality environment and investing in amenities, facilities, events and services that will attract residents and visitors to create a vibrant resort community. ▶ keystonefestivals.com, info@keystoneneighbourhood.com, 970-423-8999, 140 Ida Belle Dr., Keystone 80435

RECREATION

KEYSTONE RESORT Keystone is where kids of all ages discover the magic of playing in the mountains, and where grown-ups discover that deep down they're still kids too. Just a short drive from Denver, Keystone offers a laid-back environment for year-round adventure. ▶ keystoneresort.com, keystoneinfo@vailresorts.com, 970-496-4386, 855-603-0049, PO Box 38, Keystone 80435

KREMMLING

HOTELS & MOTELS

ALLINGTON INN & SUITES OF KREMMLING Centrally located. Views of the Kremmling Cliffs. Indoor pool/hot tub, free breakfast, fitness room, business center, conference room, WiFi, refrigerators, suites. Snowmobile Rabbit Ears, hunt, raft Gore Canyon, fish/ice fish, ATV, festivals and more! ▶ allingtoninn.com, kremmling@allingtoninn.com, 970-724-9800, 800-981-4091, 215 W. Central Ave., Kremmling 80459

LA VETA

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

SPANISH PEAKS COUNTRY - LA VETA A delightful destination located in the shadows of the Spanish Peaks with great beauty and refreshing small-town charm. Offering both the sophistication of art galleries, museum, theater, dining, golf, shopping and abundant outdoor recreation. ▶ spanishpeakscountry.com, info@spanishpeakscountry.com, 306 S Main St., La Veta 81055

LAKEWOOD

HOTELS & MOTELS

COMFORT SUITES LAKEWOOD - DENVER All-suite hotel with views of Rocky Mountains. In-room executive work area, cable TV with premium movie channels, microwave, refrigerator, wireless Internet. Indoor heated pool. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/lakewood/comfort-suites-hotels/co104, gm.co104@choicehotels.com, 303-988-8600, 7260 W. Jefferson Ave., Lakewood 80235

QUALITY INN & SUITES - LAKEWOOD Conveniently located near the Denver Federal Center, Red Rocks Amphitheatre and Bandimere Speedway. Close to Eitch Gardens Theme & Water Park, Miller Coors Brewing and diverse shopping and dining. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/lakewood/quality-inn-hotels/co284, 303-989-4600, 7240 W. Jefferson Ave., Lakewood 80235

LEADVILLE

ATTRACTIONS

LEADVILLE RAILROAD Spectacular railroad trip in the Rocky Mountains. Incredible views of Colorado's two highest peaks, colorful wildflowers and majestic fall aspen groves. Escape to the wilderness on board the Leadville Railroad for a relaxing adventure for all ages. ▶ leadvillerrailroad.com, conductor@leadville-train.com, 719-486-3936, 866-386-3936, 326 E. Seventh St., Leadville 80461

NATIONAL MINING HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM Tour replicas of mines and crystal caves, check out equipment miners wear and use, and learn about the men and women who work in American mines. Explore what mining produces, from gems and precious metals to the minerals you use every day. ▶ mininghalloffame.org, info@mininghalloffame.org, 719-486-1229, 120 W. Ninth St., Leadville 80461

CONDOS & HOME RENTALS

GRAND WEST VILLAGE RESORT Beautiful cabins/condos: mountain views, gas fireplaces, sunny porches. Furnished, kitchens, laundry. Tucked in the woods 2 miles north of Leadville. Closest lodging to Ski Cooper and within an hour of 5 major ski areas. ▶ grandwest.com, lodging@grandwest.com, 719-486-0702, 800-691-3999, 99 Grand West Dr., Leadville 80461

LODGES & CABINS

BUCKEYE'S CABIN Buckeye, Luna, Tashi and Zuni cabins are cozy, romantic, authentic, comfortable, restored rental cabins with all the modern conveniences. Located on the headwaters of the Arkansas River in Leadville, with views of Mount Elbert, Colorado's highest peak. ▶ buckeyecabin.net, paulbreit@aol.com, 970-390-4550, 3455 Hwy. 91 N., Leadville 80461

RECREATION

SKI COOPER Pure, authentic, down-to-earth skiing. That's what we're all about at Cooper! Enjoy the softest snow in the state on 41 trails covering 400 acres served by 4 lifts, or adventure into 2,600 acres of snowcat-served backcountry powder on Chicago Ridge. ▶ skicooper.com, info@skicooper.com, 719-486-2277, 800-707-6114, 232 County Rd. 29 (atop Tennessee Pass), Leadville 80461

RV & CAMPGROUNDS

SUGAR LOAFIN' RV/CAMPGROUND Scenery piled to the sky! Cabins, spacious campsites. Full hookup, drive-through, back-in. Slide-outs ok. Water/electric or tents with grass or trees. Two heated, very clean shower/restroom facilities and coin laundry. Mid-May-Oct. 1. ▶ sugarloafin.com, sugarloafin@sugarloafin.com, 719-486-1031, 2665 County Rd. 4, Leadville 80461

LIMON

HOTELS & MOTELS

COMFORT INN Three miles from local airport. Full-service restaurant right next door. Spacious guest rooms with premium cable, high-speed Internet. Indoor pool, hot tub and exercise room. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/limon/comfort-inn-hotels/co042, 719-775-2752, 2255 Ninth St., Limon 80828

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS HOTEL & SUITES - LIMON

STAY smart in Limon. Off I-70, 80 miles east of Denver and close to the downtown area. Our rooms feature 1 king or 2 queen beds, complimentary Express Start Hot Breakfast Buffet, free WiFi, indoor pool, hot tub and fitness room. Pets welcome. ▶ marshotelmanagement.com/holiday-inn-express-limon, limongm@hotmail.com, 719-775-9033, 877-834-3613, 803 Hwy. 24, Limon 80828

QUALITY INN & SUITES Conveniently located off I-70. Easy access to many area attractions. Local points of interest like the Limon Municipal Airport and the Limon Heritage Museum and Railroad Park are close by. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/limon/quality-inn-hotels/co271, gm.co271@choicehotels.com, 719-775-0277, 925 T Ave., Limon 80828

LITTLETON

SHOPPING

ST.NICKS CHRISTMAS AND COLLECTIBLES St.Nicks has 22 rooms and more than 90 inspiring theme trees with thousands of ornaments, collectibles, gifts, artificial trees and lighting for all decorating needs. One of the top Christmas stores in US. A Colorado tradition for more than 40 years. ▶ stnicks.com, admin@stnicks.com, 303-798-8087, 800-875-8865, 5221 S. Santa Fe Dr., Littleton 80120

LONGMONT

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

VISIT LONGMONT The perfect blend of small-town charm, cultural experience and beauty of the Rocky Mountains. More than 165 restaurants, breweries, art galleries, cultural museum, outdoor activities, downtown creative district and home of the Boulder County Fair. ▶ visitlongmont.org, staff@visitlongmont.org, 303-776-9011, 512 Fourth Ave. #103, Longmont 80501

HOTELS & MOTELS

ECONO LODGE - LONGMONT We are clean, comfortable, newly refurbished with friendly staff. We are located within an hour of downtown Denver, Cheyenne, Rocky Mountain National Park and Estes Park. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/longmont/econo-lodge-hotels/co724, gm.co724@choicecentral.com, 303-684-6779, 10811 W. I-25 Frontage Rd., Longmont 80504

LOUISVILLE

HOTELS & MOTELS

QUALITY INN LOUISVILLE - BOULDER Located minutes from Boulder and attractions such as the University of Colorado and outdoor activities. Just 15 minutes from Denver. Shopping, restaurants within walking distance. ▶ qualityinnlouisvilleco.com, gm.co097@choicehotels.com, 303-604-0181, 877-704-2217, 1196 W. Dillon Rd., Louisville 80027

LOVELAND

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

LOVELAND VISITORS CENTER Conveniently located off I-25 and US 34, set on the picturesque grounds of the McWhinney Hahn Sculpture Park, the Loveland Visitors Center is your destination for information and merchandise. ▶ visitlovelandco.com, gary.light@cityofloveland.org, 970-667-3882, 5400 Stone Creek Cir., Loveland 80538

ATTRACTIONS

CHAPUNGU SCULPTURE PARK AT CENTERRA Chapungu Sculpture Park at Centerra is a 26-acre permanent outdoor art exhibit in Loveland. Home to 80-plus hand-carved Zimbabwe stone sculptures spread along a 1.5-mile walking nature trail. The Great Lawn is available to rent for weddings and events. ▶ centerra.com, info@mcwhinney.com, 970-962-9990, 2593 Kendall Pkwy., Loveland 80538

HOTELS & MOTELS

QUALITY INN & SUITES A perfect resting point for vacationing travelers. Just a 40-minute drive north of Denver. Every room includes microwave, refrigerator, wireless Internet, flatscreen HD TVs. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/loveland/quality-inn-hotels/co102, mkrass@spirithospitality.net, 970-593-0100, 877-655-4696, 1500 N. Cheyenne Ave., Loveland 80538

SHOPPING

OUTLETS AT LOVELAND Outlets at Loveland is located at the foot of the Rocky Mountains along I-25. With more than 40 brand-name outlet stores like Ann Taylor, Under Armour, Nike and more, you are sure to find something for everyone priced 30-70 percent below retail. ▶ outletsatloveland.com, 970-663-1916, 5661 McWhinney Blvd., Loveland 80538

LYONS

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

TOWN OF LYONS Lyons, Colorado. The hip little town everybody loves! Easily accessible, located between Longmont/Boulder and Rocky Mountain National Park, Lyons offers unique opportunities to explore, dine, recreate and enjoy the best of Colorado, all year long. ▶ townoflyons.com, ahodgson@townoflyons.com, 303-823-6622, 432 Fifth Ave., Lyons 80540

MANCOS

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

MANCOS VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE/VISITOR CENTER Mancos sits on the cusp of magnificent mountains where you can camp, fish, mountain bike and hike. Mancos is the closest town to the entrance of Mesa Verde National Park, the only national park dedicated to ancient cliff dwellings built by man. ▶ mancosvalley.com, chamber@mancosvalley.com, 970-533-7434, 101 E. Bauer Ave., Mancos 81328

MANITOU SPRINGS

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

MANITOU SPRINGS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITORS BUREAU Enjoy the mineral drinking springs and our historic charm. Shops, galleries, museums, casual to fine dining, variety of lodging. Centrally located, close to attractions and hiking trails. Perfect for getaways/family vacations. Year-round. Visitors guide. ▶ manitousprings.org, manitou@pikes-peak.com, 719-685-5089, 877-590-9798, 354 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs 80829

ATTRACTIONS

PIKES PEAK COUNTRY ATTRACTIONS Whether you want something that gets your blood pumping, a trip through our rich local history or the best place to relax and soak up that Colorado vibe, we'll help you curate the perfect adventure for you! ▶ pikes-peak.com, adventure@pikes-peak.com, 719-685-5894, 800-525-2250, 337 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs 80829

HOTELS & MOTELS

CLIFF HOUSE AT PIKES PEAK Ten minutes from downtown Colorado Springs. *Travel + Leisure's* Top 100 Hotels of the World. The romance of Clark Gable, the Wild West of Buffalo Bill, the political passion of Teddy Roosevelt. Free WiFi, hot breakfast and movie DVD rentals. ▶ thecliffhouse.com, info@thecliffhouse.com, 719-685-3000, 888-212-7000, 306 Canon Ave., Manitou Springs 80829

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2018/19 SEASON

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COME TO LIFE / Visitor Directory

Swimming Pool Exercise/Fitness Facilities Pets Allowed High-Speed Internet Airport Shuttle Complimentary Breakfast ADA-Compliant Restaurant On Site Free Parking In-Room Refrigerator In-Room Microwave Colorado Hotel & Lodging Association (CHLA) Member

The dollar symbols indicate how much you can expect to pay for an average hotel room. \$ = Less than \$100 \$\$ = \$101-200 \$\$\$ = \$201-299 \$\$\$\$ = \$300 and up

MARBLE

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

MARBLE CRYSTAL RIVER CHAMBER We welcome visitors to our valley. You can walk through the historical Marble Millsite Park, take Jeep tour to Crystal Mill, stay at one of the cabins or B&Bs, shop, eat at Slow Groovin' BBQ, camp, fish and do much more! mrcrchamber.org, themarblehub@gmail.com, 970-963-7300, 620 W. Park St., Marble 81623

LODGES & CABINS

BEAVER LAKE LODGE & CABINS Historic lodge and cabins in Marble. High-valley town rich in outdoor activities and history. Campfires, canoeing, paddleboarding, fishing, hiking, backcountry skiing, Jeep tours, mountain biking, backcountry skiing, horseback riding. \$135-\$165. beaverlaketelodge.com, 970-963-2504, 201 E. Silver St., Marble 81623 \$\$\$

MEEKER

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

MEEKER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE A small town nestled in the majestic White River Valley on the outskirts of the White River National Forest and Flat Tops Wilderness. Meeker is known for its exceptional outdoor recreation, historical attractions, fun shops and welcoming citizens! meekerchamber.com, visitmeeker@meekerchamber.com, 970-878-5510, 710 Market St., Meeker 81641

MESA

RECREATION

POWDERHORN SKI RESORT Alongside the northern edge of Colorado's Grand Mesa, Powderhorn Mountain Resort offers breathtaking views and more than 1,600 acres of mountain terrain. Powderhorn is a year-round resort and home to lift-served downhill mountain biking on the Grand Mesa. powderhorn.com, ski@powderhorn.com, 970-268-5700, 48338 Powderhorn Rd., Mesa 81643 \$

MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK

LODGES & CABINS

MESA VERDE - FAR VIEW LODGE The only lodging inside Mesa Verde National Park. Breathtaking views, award-winning cuisine, guided tours of Ancestral Puebloan dwellings, invigorating solitude and endless wildlife watching. RV and camping. Native American handicrafts. visitmesaverde.com, info@visitmesaverde.com, 970-564-4300, 800-449-2288, 1 Navajo Hill, Mesa Verde National Park 81330

MOFFAT

ATTRACTIONS

JOYFUL JOURNEY HOT SPRINGS SPA & EVENT CENTER Joyful Journey is a sanctuary for the soul; a peaceful oasis nestled beneath the Sangre de Cristo mountain range. Mineral-rich pool waters are drained and cleaned daily and chemical free. Stay overnight in a hotel room, yurt, tipi, RV or campsite. joyfuljourneyhot Springs.com, marketing@jjhot Springs.com, 719-256-4328, 28640 CR 58 EE, Moffat 81143 \$\$\$

MONTROSE

HOTELS & MOTELS

QUALITY INN & SUITES - MONTROSE Newest hotel in town, offering a deluxe continental breakfast and high-speed cable Internet. Guest rooms include the Serta Perfect Sleeper. Close to Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. choicehotels.com/colorado/montrose/quality-inn-hotels/co170, kazihos@yahoo.com, 970-249-1011, 2751 Commercial Way, Montrose 81401

MORRISON

ATTRACTIONS

MORRISON NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM Small museum, big discoveries. Encounter historic and modern dinosaur discoveries with expert guides and hands-on exhibits. mnhm.org, info@mnhm.org, 303-697-1873, 501 Colorado Hwy. 8, Morrison 80465

DINING

THE FORT RESTAURANT Join us for some shinin' times at The Fort! This award-winning restaurant sells more buffalo steaks than any other independently owned restaurant in the country and is known for its "new foods of the Old West" menu and cocktails. thefort.com, 303-697-4771, 19192 Hwy. 8, Morrison 80465

RECREATION

GEO TOURS WHITEWATER RAFT TRIPS Raft: Clear Creek (closest to Denver), Arkansas River (Buena Vista) or Upper Colorado River (Winter Park, Vail and Breckenridge). Headquartered just 20 minutes from downtown Denver. Group transportation and pickups. Group discounts. Guided float fishing. geotouring.com, info@geotouring.com, 303-756-6070, 800-660-7238, 229 Colorado Hwy. 8, Morrison 80465

MOSCA

ATTRACTIONS

COLORADO GATORS REPTILE PARK Reptile rescue park. See more than 300 alligators including Mr. Bo Mangles the albino alligator, tortoises, pythons and much more! World's only alligator-wrestling class. Kids can take a reptile-handling class. Educational school programs offered. coloradogators.com, colog8rs@gmail.com, 719-378-2612, 9162 Ln. 9 N., Mosca 81146

NATHROP

HOTELS & MOTELS

MOUNT PRINCETON HOT SPRINGS RESORT Enjoy a 1-day hot springs experience or relax with an overnight stay at this unique family-friendly, historic Colorado hot springs resort. Book your lodging today and enjoy VIP access to our Spa & Club. mtpinceton.com, info@mtpinceton.com, 719-395-2447, 888-395-7799, 15870 County Rd. 162, Nathrop 81236 \$\$\$-\$\$\$

ORCHARD

RECREATION

JACKSON LAKE STATE PARK This park features a large reservoir with sandy beaches and 240 campsites. Facilities include showers, toilets, laundry, electric hookups, a marina, sporting goods and much more. cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/parks/jacksonlake, dnr.jackson.lake@state.co.us, 970-645-2551, 26363 County Rd. 3, Orchard 80649

OURAY

HOTELS & MOTELS

BEAUMONT HOTEL & SPA The only luxury hotel in Ouray. Modern amenities include WiFi and outstanding service with timeless Old World ambiance. Elegant, authentic decor, exquisite antiques and custom-made furnishings, on-site dining, shopping, a luxurious spa and concierge services. beaumont hotel.com, info@beaumont hotel.com, 970-325-7000, 888-447-3255, 505 Main St., Ouray 81427 \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

BOX CANYON LODGE & HOT SPRINGS The Box Canyon Lodge & Hot Springs offers extremely clean and attractively decorated rooms. Guests enjoy the mineral springs hot tubs terraced on the mountainside with 360-degree views of the mountains during the day and a blanket of stars at night. boxcanyonouray.com, bcm@boxcanyonouray.com, 970-325-4981, 45 Third Ave., Ouray 81427 \$\$\$

COMFORT INN In the center of town, walking distance to restaurants, shops and Ouray's natural attractions. Every room has a mountain view, fridge and microwave, wireless Internet, free local calls. Free full hot breakfast. choicehotels.com/colorado/ouray/comfort-inn-hotels/co008, ouraycomfortinn@questoffice.net, 970-325-7203, 191 Fifth Ave., Ouray 81427

LODGES & CABINS

OURAY RIVERSIDE INN & CABINS & JEEP RENTAL On the river, a variety of rooms, kitchen suites and cabins, some pet friendly, log furnishings, AC, refrigerator/microwave, WiFi, satellite TV, outdoor hot tubs, on-site Jeep rentals, laundry, gas/car wash, convenience store, local discounts. Open all year. ourayriversideinn.com, info@ourayriversideinn.com, 970-325-4061, 800-432-4170, 1804 Hwy. 550, Ouray 81427 \$\$\$-\$\$\$

PAGOSA SPRINGS

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

PAGOSA SPRINGS AREA VISITOR CENTER Nestled in the majestic San Juan Mountains, Pagosa Springs is the perfect spot to truly get away. With more than 3 million acres of wilderness and amazing hot springs, there's plenty of space to pursue your favorite activities or explore a new one. visitpagosasprings.com, info@visitpagosasprings.com, 970-585-1200, 800-252-2204, 105 Hot Springs Blvd., Pagosa Springs 81147

HOTELS & MOTELS

HEALING WATERS RESORT & SPA Relaxing hot springs resort in the heart of downtown Pagosa Springs, steps away from river fun, hiking, cross-country skiing, dining and shopping. Comfortable rooms, suites and park-model cabins. Hot springs, swimming pool, hot tub and indoor hot baths. pshotsprings.com, stay@pshotsprings.com, 970-264-5910, 800-832-5523, 317 Hot Springs Blvd., Pagosa Springs 81147

QUALITY INN The perfect place to stay for business and leisure travelers. Enjoy a number of outdoor recreational activities nearby, including golfing, whitewater rafting, fly-fishing, hiking and biking. Minutes away from the San Juan National Forest and Wolf Creek Ski Area. choicehotels.com/colorado/pagosa-springs/quality-inn-hotels/co306, gm.co306@choicehotels.com, 970-507-8703, 158 Hot Springs Blvd., Pagosa Springs 81147

THE SPRINGS RESORT & SPA 23 mineral water soaking pools fed by the world's deepest geothermal hot spring. Our public bathhouse, full-service spa and lodging on the banks of the San Juan River in southwest Colorado are open 365 days a year and only 30 minutes to Wolf Creek. pagosaahot Springs.com, info@pagosaahot Springs.com, 970-264-4168, 800-225-0934, 165 Hot Springs Blvd., Pagosa Springs 81147 \$\$\$

LODGES & CABINS

CABINS AT HARTLAND RANCH Five luxury cabins on 35 secluded acres located 1 mile from downtown Pagosa Springs. Two- and 3-bedroom all en suite, mountain views, fully equipped kitchens, gas fireplaces, washer/dryers, spacious living and dining, 2 porches and gas grill. Open year-round. hartlandranch.com, jennifer@hartlandranch.com, 970-264-1111, 953 C. R. 200 (Snowball Rd.), Pagosa Springs 81147 \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

FIRESIDE INN CABINS Modern 1- and 2-bedroom cabins. Located on the San Juan River-Pagosa Springs. Living room with fireplace, bedroom(s), kitchen, bathroom. Front porch with barbecue area. WiFi, phone, cable. Call for winter specials. Open all year round. Pet friendly. firesidecabins.com, firesidecabins@gmail.com, 888-264-9204, 1600 E. Hwy. 160, Pagosa Springs 81147

PALISADE

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

PALISADE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE The Palisade Chamber of Commerce welcomes visitors to stop by for information, trail maps, fruit and wine listings, and brochures to make their stay more memorable. Palisade, where life tastes good all year long. palisadecoc.com, info@palisadecoc.com, 970-464-7458, 305 Main St., Unit 102, Palisade 81526

HOTELS & MOTELS

WINE COUNTRY INN An 80-room Victorian-style boutique hotel. Wine Country Inn sits in 21 acres of vineyards and offers a seasonal outdoor pool and hot tub, ballroom and public room venues, free Internet, fitness center, business center, gift shop. Bar and restaurant. ▶ coloradowinecountryinn.com, innkeeper@coloradowinecountryinn.com, 970-464-5777, 888-855-8330, 777 Grande River Dr., Palisade 81526 📞📧📍📱💰💰

PARKER

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

PARKER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Explore hundreds of acres of open space and parks, 20-plus miles of walking and biking trails, fine dining and shopping in our historic downtown, home to Parker Days, one of Colorado's largest festivals. Parker is the suburb with the small-town feel. ▶ parkerchamber.com, info@parkerchamber.com, 303-841-4268, 19590 E. Main St., Suite 100, Parker 80134

ATTRACTIONS

VEHICLE VAULT CAR MUSEUM Vehicle Vault is a unique museum of a fabulous collection of rare and exotic automobiles from all over. We designed interactive and rotating exhibit displays to help foster an appreciation for this key element of our past, present and future. ▶ vehiclevaultco.com, info@vehiclevaultco.com, 303-626-8920, 18301 Lincoln Meadows Pkwy., Parker 80134

PUEBLO

ATTRACTIONS

SANGRE DE CRISTO ARTS AND CONFERENCE CENTER The Sangre de Cristo Arts Center offers high-quality visual art exhibitions, performing arts, dance, the award-winning Buell Children's Museum, comprehensive arts education programs and beautiful venues for events. ▶ sdc-arts.org, mail@sdc-arts.org, 719-295-7200, 210 N. Santa Fe Ave., Pueblo 81003 📞📧📍📱

HOTELS & MOTELS

COMFORT INN - PUEBLO Our leisure hotel in Pueblo is near the Walking Stick Golf Course and other attractions like the Pueblo Weisbrod Aircraft Museum, Historic Arkansas Riverwalk of Pueblo and the Colorado State Fair Events Center. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/pueblo/comfort-inn-hotels/co701, gm.co701@choicehotels.com, 719-542-6868, 670 Eagleridge Blvd., Pueblo 81008 📞

QUALITY INN & SUITES Quiet location. Friendly 24-hour staff. Suites with separate bedrooms. Free breakfast. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/pueblo/quality-inn-hotels/co100, 719-544-5500, 3910 Outlook Blvd., Pueblo 81008 📞📧

RANGELY

ASSOCIATIONS & CHAMBERS

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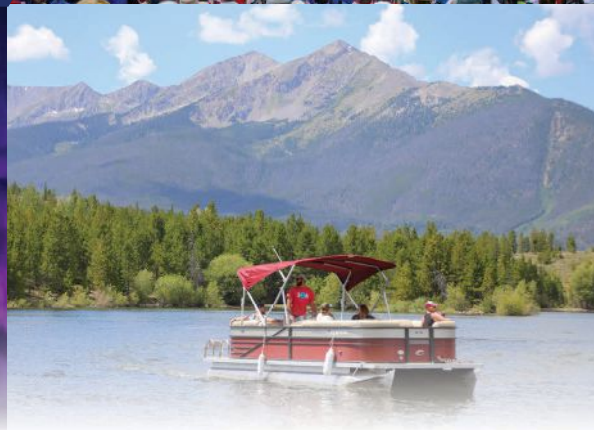
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