

47 ITINERARIES
TO BUILD YOUR
TRIP AROUND

SCENIC &
HISTORIC RAILROADS

HOT SPRINGS
FOR SERIOUS SOAKS

17 MAGIC
MOMENTS ON
PUBLIC LANDS

COLORADO

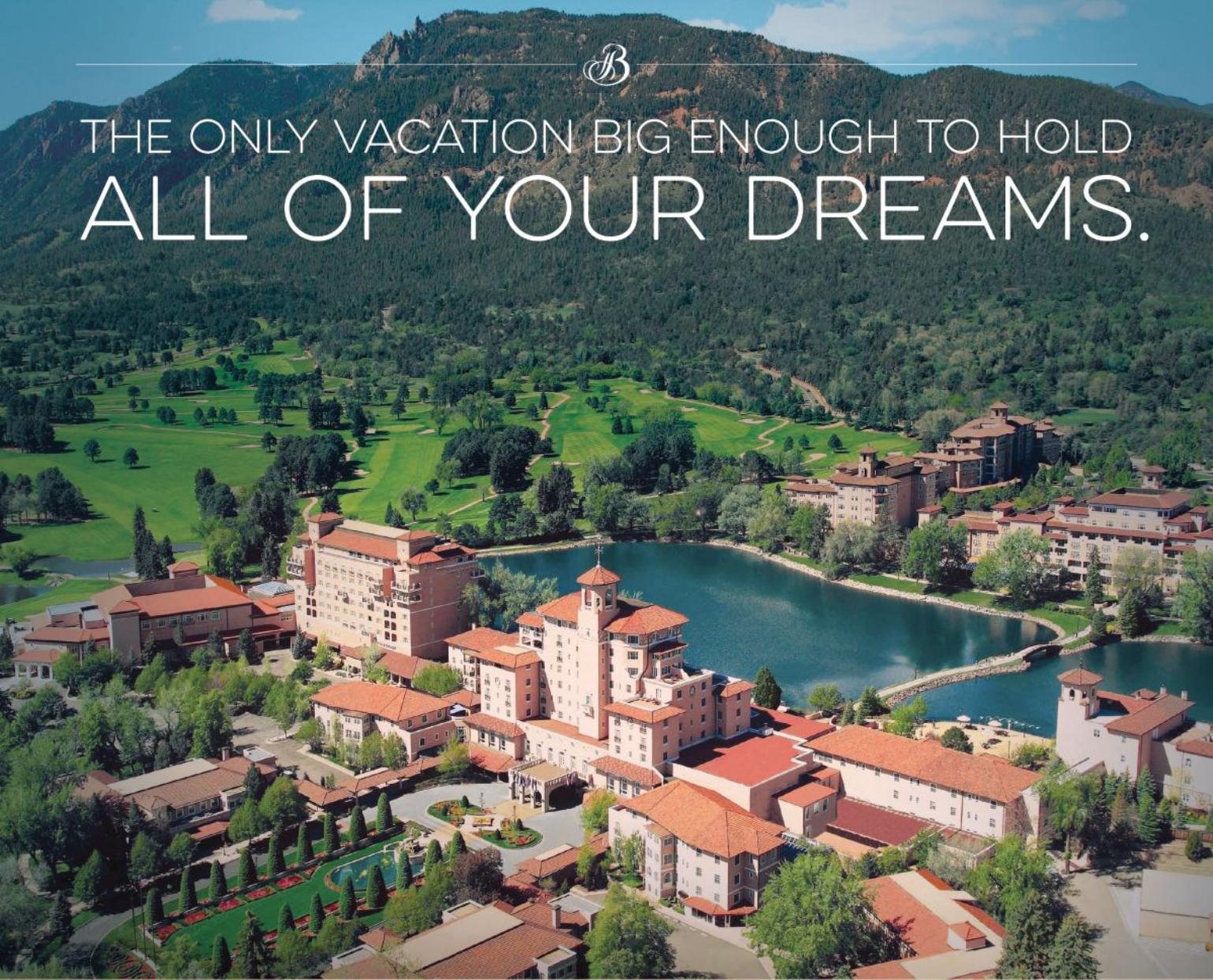
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Summer:

Bear Lakes Trail
in the Mount Zirkel
Wilderness near
Steamboat Springs.
©Noah Wetzel



Winter:

Near Steamboat
Springs.
©Noah Wetzel

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.

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NEAR CRESTED BUTTE, MILES/LISA SEAMAN.

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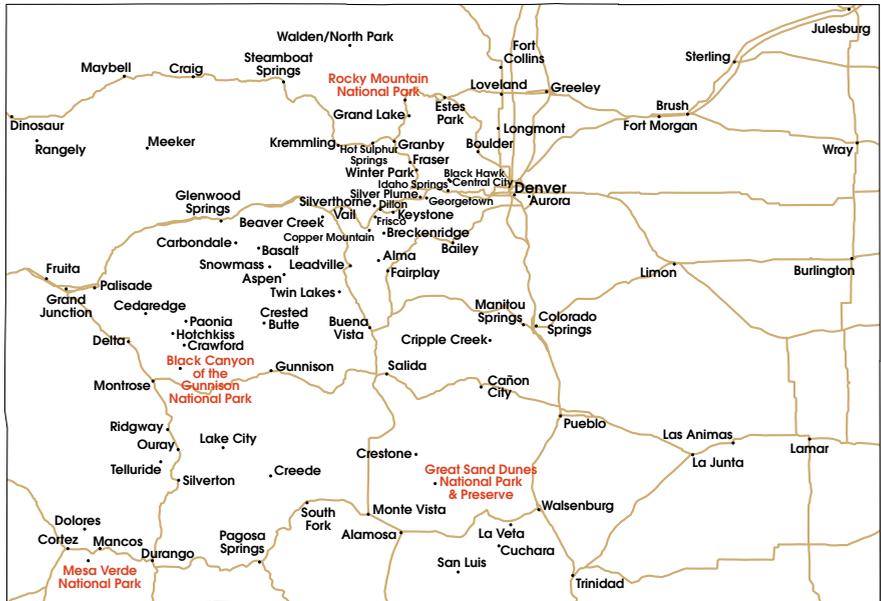
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Abby Leeper – Communications Manager

Taren Mulch – Director of Visitor Services

Elizabeth O'Rear – Sr. Manager of Grant Programs

Natashya Rodriguez – Marketing Communications Coordinator

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PARTNERSHIP

13952 Denver West Parkway, Suite 200
Lakewood, CO 80401-3141
800-303-9328, milespartnership.com

Publisher – **Laura Libby**

laura.libby@milespartnership.com

Sales Executive – **Andrea Kuskie**

andrea.kuskie@milespartnership.com

Sales Executive – **Pat Attkisson**

pat.attkisson@milespartnership.com

Listings Sales – **Lisa Saturday**

lisa.saturday@milespartnership.com

COLORADO PUBLISHING TEAM

Content Director – **Hannah Brown**

Content Managers – **Rebekah McLain, Caitlin Row**

Art Director – **Carrieann Stutz**

Graphic Designer – **Hallie Wright**

Advertising & Data Manager – **Carren Schmall**

Content Coordinator – **Hayden Pigott**

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Our common ground

Colorado is home to 41 state parks,
39,000 miles of trails and more than
23 million acres of public lands to explore.
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LIVE LIFE OUTSIDE

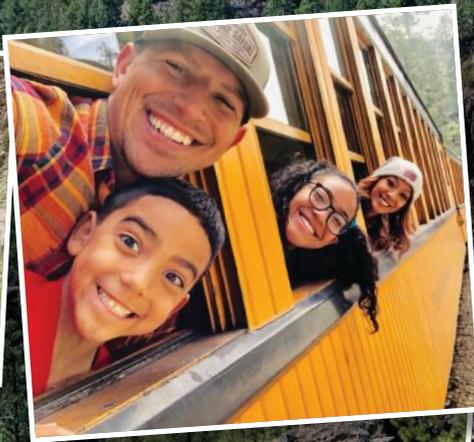
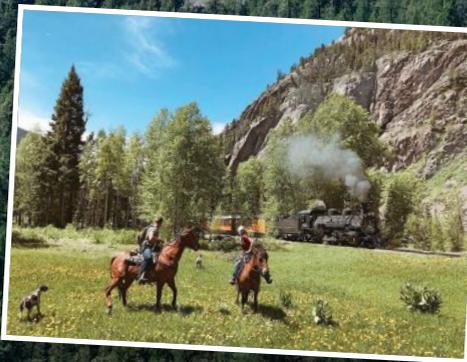
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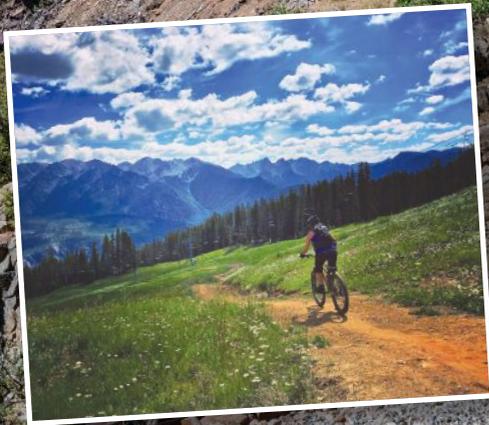
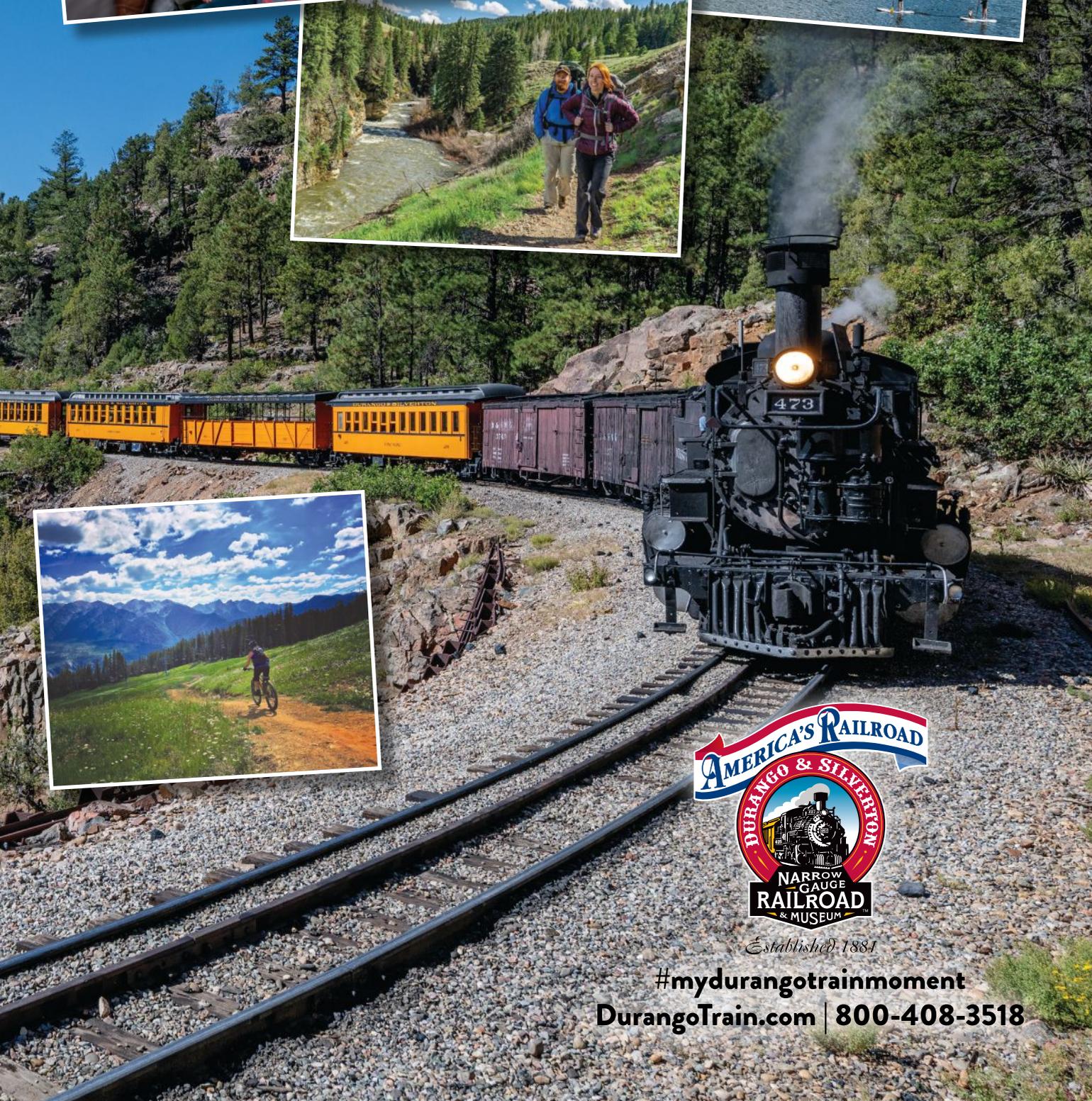
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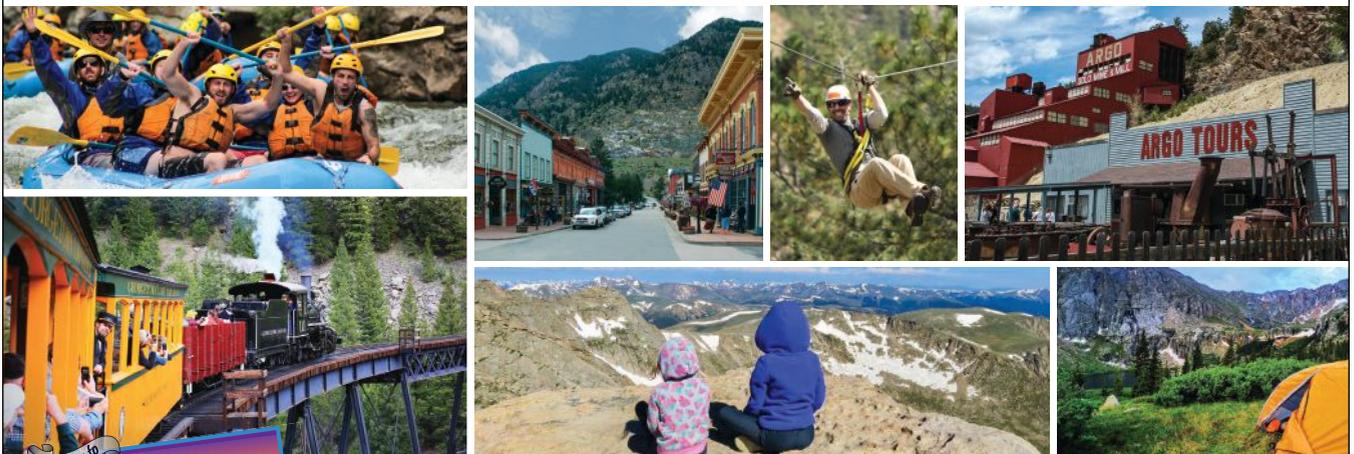


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We have even more itineraries on our website that will get you around Colorado with the ease of a local — especially to the places many visitors don't even know about! Visit COLORADO.com/ColoRoadTrips.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

COLORADO ESSENTIALS

Pages 23–77

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 78–88

These trip itineraries are arranged around specific activities and interests.

Pages 98–191

And these are arranged around geographic regions. The maps on pages 92 and 96 are a good place to get your bearings before digging in.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Pages 192–205

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 47

SCENIC BYWAYS:
Page 74

REGIONS:
Pages 92–93

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Pages 96–97

GETTING HERE & GETTING AROUND

Pages 14–18

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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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

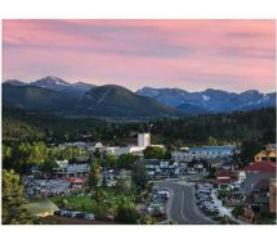


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3 SUNNY DAYS IN ESTES PARK

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Put Your Skills to Work at the Rocky Mountain Conservancy: What better way to show your love for Rocky Mountain National Park than by investing your time and unique skills to help? Check out the Rocky Mountain Conservancy volunteer opportunities below and let us know how you can help with conservancy efforts to lead a healthy forest.

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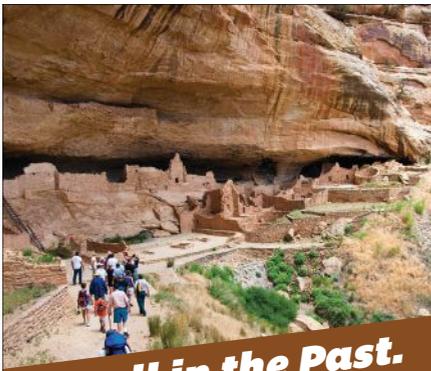
A calf is coming—be there for the adorable early days.

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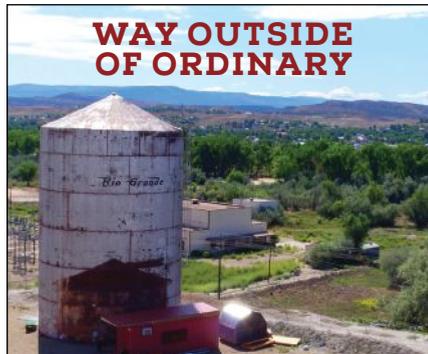
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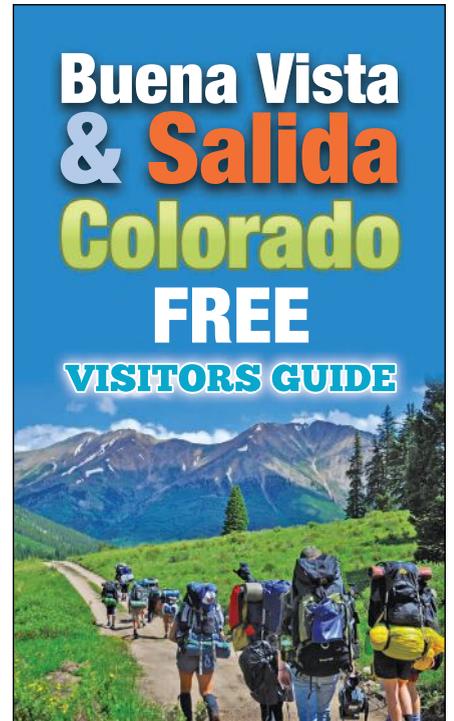
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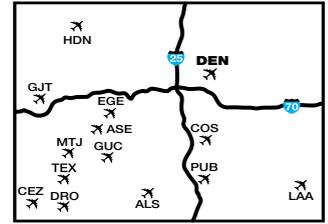


Buena Vista & Salida Colorado FREE VISITORS GUIDE

COLORADO'S BEST HOT SPRINGS
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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 28 INTERNATIONAL DESTINATIONS IN 14 COUNTRIES:

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

Mesa (AZA), Phoenix, Salt Lake City **Seasonal From:** Chicago (ORD), Los Angeles

GUNNISON-CRESTED BUTTE AIRPORT (GUC)
GUNNISONCOUNTY.ORG/AIRPORT

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

MONTROSE REGIONAL AIRPORT (MTJ)
FLYMONTROSE.COM

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, Salt Lake City, San Francisco

PUEBLO MEMORIAL AIRPORT (PUB)
FLYPUEBLO.COM

Good for Visiting: Pueblo, Cañon City, La Junta, Trinidad and Walsenburg **Year-Round From:** Denver

TLLURIDE REGIONAL AIRPORT (TEX)
TELLURIDEAIRPORT.COM

Good for Visiting: Telluride **Year-Round From:** Denver

YAMPA VALLEY REGIONAL AIRPORT (HDN)
YAMPAVALLEYREGIONALAIRPORT.COM

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

TRAVEL BY AIR

DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (DEN)
FLYDENVER.COM

As the nation's fifth-busiest airport, DIA is accessible from 210 nonstop domestic and international destinations. Access to mountain resorts and other destinations is easy, and downtown Denver can be reached from the airport via the Train to the Plane — RTD's A Line commuter rail.

COLORADO SPRINGS AIRPORT (COS)
FLYCOS.COM

Serving Colorado's second largest city, COS is the gateway to the Pikes Peak Wonders 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 are abundant. **Year-Round From:** Denver, Atlanta, Chicago (ORD), Dallas (DFW), Houston (IAH), Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Orlando, Phoenix, Salt Lake City **Seasonal From:** Minneapolis - St. Paul, San Antonio, Washington (IAD)

ALAMOSA-SAN LUIS VALLEY REGIONAL AIRPORT (ALS)
SANLUIVALLEYAIRPORT.ORG

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

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, San Francisco

CORTEZ MUNICIPAL AIRPORT (CEZ)
CITYOFCORTEZ.COM

Good for Visiting: Cortez, Dolores, Mesa Verde National Park and Mancos **Year-Round From:** Denver, Phoenix

DURANGO-LA PLATA COUNTY AIRPORT (DRO)
FLYDURANGO.COM

Good for Visiting: Durango, Cortez, Mesa Verde National Park, Silverton and Pagosa Springs **Year-Round From:** Denver, Dallas (DFW), Phoenix **Seasonal From:** Chicago (ORD), Houston (IAH), Los Angeles

EAGLE COUNTY REGIONAL AIRPORT (EGE)
FLYVAIL.COM

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), Newark, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Washington (IAD)

GRAND JUNCTION REGIONAL AIRPORT (GJT)
GJAIRPORT.COM

GJT is the largest airport in Western Colorado and the third-largest airport in the state. Nine major airlines offer non-stop service to seven destinations. **Year-Round From:** Denver, Centennial, Dallas (DFW), Las Vegas,

DESTINATIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE



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 Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, typically January through March.

Visit amtrak.com and see page 64 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, 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 Arvada, Aurora, Boulder, Golden, Lakewood, Littleton, Longmont 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, Estes Park/Rocky Mountain National Park (summer only) and more. ridebustang.com
- ▶ Bustang Outrider’s four lines connect Lamar, Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Cañon City, Salida, Durango, Grand Junction, Cortez, Montrose, Telluride, Gunnison, Buena Vista and Denver. 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 as 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
- ▶ 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
- ▶ 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

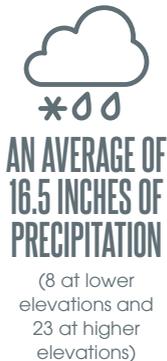
	ALAMOSA	BURLINGTON	COLO. SPRINGS	DENVER	DURANGO	FORT COLLINS	GLENWOOD	GRAND JUNCTION	JULESBURG	LAMAR	PUEBLO	STERLING	TRINIDAD
ALAMOSA	-	296	163	212	149	274	204	249	393	202	122	335	109
BURLINGTON	296	-	150	163	445	224	324	412	123	107	191	141	237
COLO. SPRINGS	163	150	-	70	302	132	198	287	240	159	42	182	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 JUNCTION	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:



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

TRAVEL LIKE A LOCAL

PACKING: Dressing in easily removable layers ensures 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 at an 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.



Road Conditions & Winter Driving

Visit cotrip.org (or call 511 when in Colorado) for current road conditions.

Colorado is often a winter wonderland, but at times, snow and ice can make driving conditions tricky, especially if you're not used to slick conditions. Some suggestions for safe winter driving: • Maintain a much slower speed, accelerate at a slower rate and remember that four-wheel drive does not mean four-wheel stop. • Don't use cruise control when traveling in winter conditions. • Keep your gas tank more than half full and stow jumper cables, snow scrapers, windshield-wiper fluid and extra blankets in your car.

A new traction law may affect your winter drive. On portions of I-70 from Sept. to May, all drivers must have winter-appropriate tires or traction equipment that are adequate for snowy and icy conditions. Failure to do so could result in a fine. Find out if you're winter-ready at COLORADO.com/traction and codot.gov/travel/winter-driving.

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 98 will give you ideas for exploring each corner of the state — and everywhere in between. Turn to page 47 for a map of Colorado State Parks and National Parks.

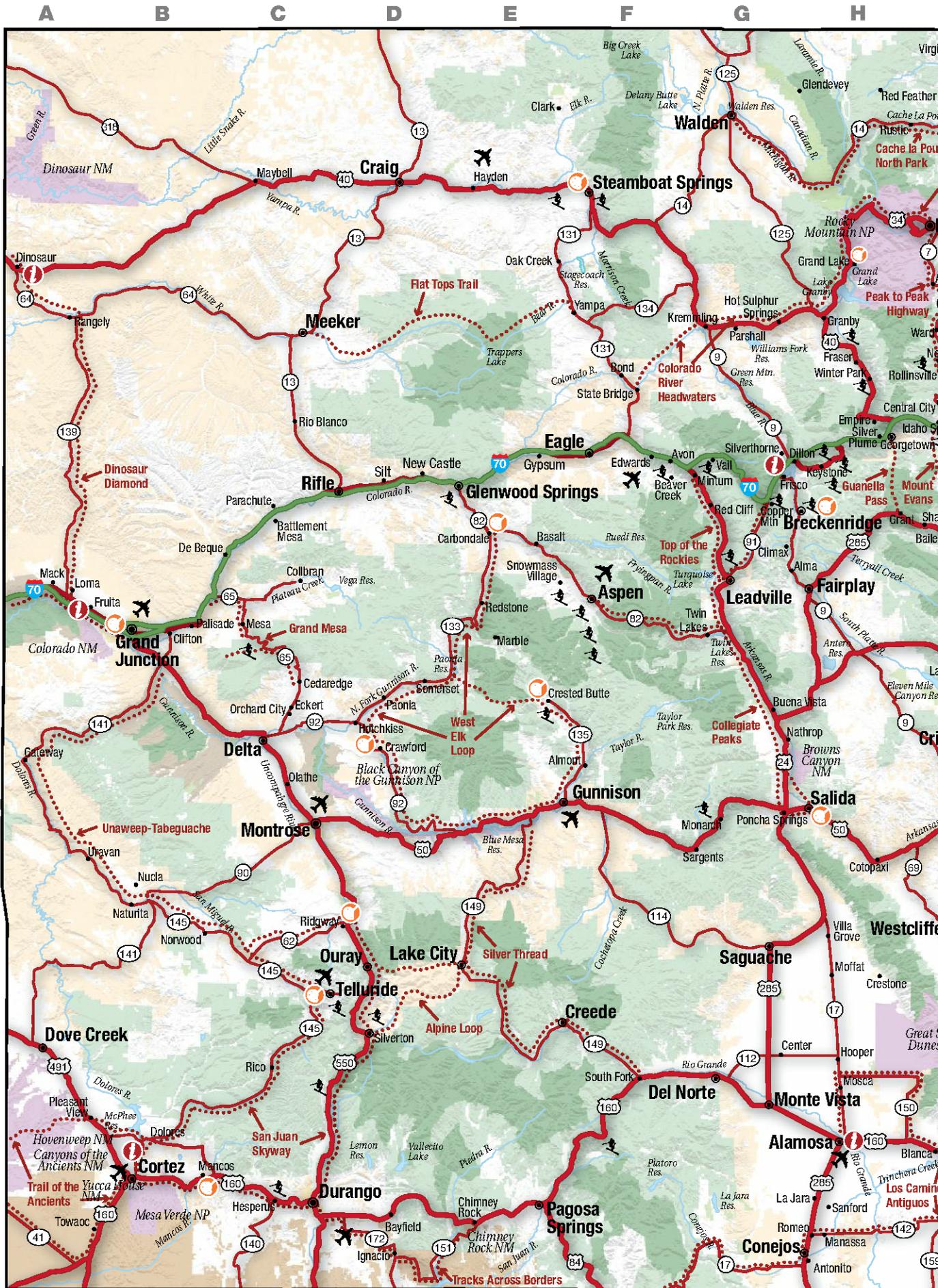
If you already know exactly where you want to go, use the list below to locate a specific city or town. Then, check the index on page 208 to locate articles and businesses in the cities you plan to visit.

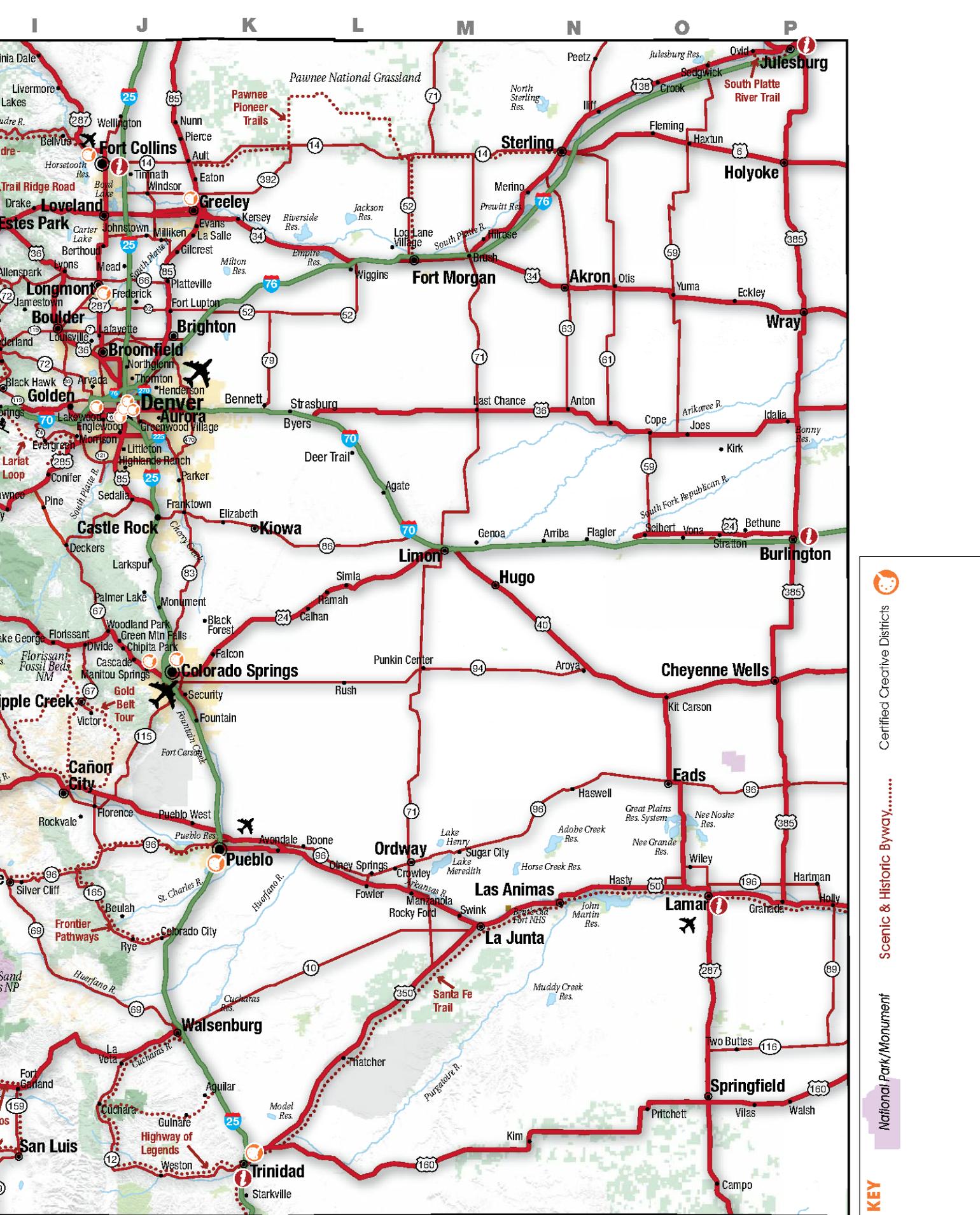


Alamosa..... 719-589-4840.. H-11
 Burlington..... 719-346-5554..... P-6
 Cortez..... 970-565-4048... A-11
 Dinosaur..... 970-374-2205..... A-3
 Fort Collins.... 970-491-3583..... J-2
 Fruita..... 970-858-9335..... A-6
 Julesburg..... 970-474-2054..... P-1
 Lamar..... 719-336-3483..... O-9
 Silverthorne.. 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
Aguilar	K-11	Cope	I-4	Golden	B-11	Mancos	L-7	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	Meeker	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	Seibert	O-6
Aspen	F-6	Cuchara	J-11	Hartman	P-8	Minturn	F-5	Severance	J-2
Aspen Park	I-4	Dacono	J-3	Hasty	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	Holly	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	Hof 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	Nucia	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	Joes	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	D-9	Oury	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	Twin 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	Peetz	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	Wattenberg	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





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 22-25
Denver Day of Rock

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

July 3-5
Independence Eve Fireworks

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Sept. 4-7
A Taste of Colorado

Blockbuster Events

DENVER RESTAURANT WEEK

Feb. 21-Mar. 1
Throughout Denver

CHERRY CREEK ARTS FESTIVAL

July 3-5
Cherry Creek North

DENVER BEER WEEK

Sept. 18-26
Throughout Denver

RED ROCKS SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

April-October
Red Rocks Park & Amphitheatre

SLOW FOOD NATIONS

Sept. 11-13
Downtown Denver

DENVER ARTS WEEK

Nov. 6-14
Throughout Denver

Cultural Exhibitions

THE SCIENCE BEHIND PIXAR

Thru April 5
Denver Museum of Nature & Science

BEER HERE! BREWING THE NEW WEST

Thru August 9
History Colorado Center

THE ART OF THE BRICK

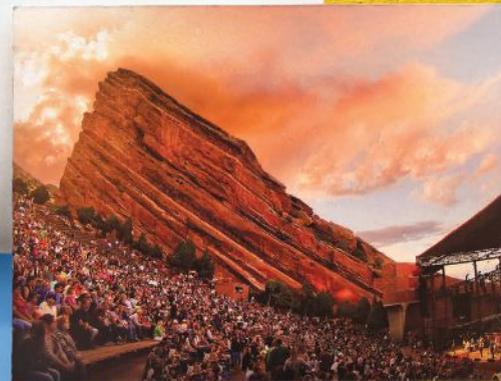
Opening June 19
Denver Museum of Nature & Science

NORMAN ROCKWELL: IMAGINING FREEDOM

May 3-Aug. 23
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](https://colorado.com/LeaveNoTrace).

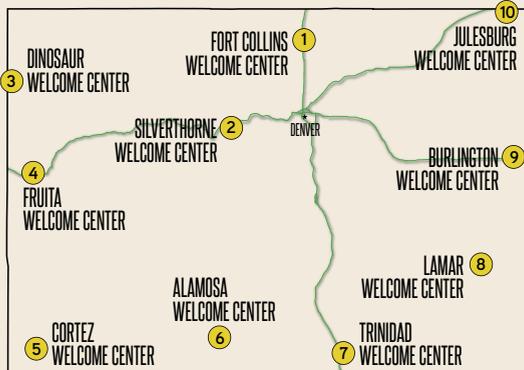
© Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, 2020.



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); Weston Backcountry (Minturn); Powder Factory (Silver Plume); Unity Snowboards (Silverthorne); Venture Snowboards and ScottyBob SkiWorks (Silverton); Wagner (Telluride); OZ Snowboards (Wheat Ridge)

PACKS & BAGS:

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

BIKES:

Boulder Bicycle, Dean, Wily Cycles, Zinn Cycles and Paketa Cycles (Boulder); Borealis 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 and Spot Brand (Golden); REEB Cycles (Longmont); Victoria Cycles (Salida); Moots Cycles and Kent Eriksen Cycles (Steamboat Springs)

PERFORMANCE CLOTHING & OUTERWEAR:

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

FOOTWEAR:

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

OUTDOOR-ADVENTURE GEAR:

Purl Wax (Avon); Sea to Summit, Exxel Outdoors, Sierra Designs, Tenkara fly rods, Ultimate Direction hydration packs, Backcountry Access, Ecovessel, Polar Bottle 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

2020 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](https://colorado.com/events) for more.



ASPEN

WINTERSKÖL JAN. 9-12 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

BOULDER

2020 COLORADO MUSIC FESTIVAL JUNE 25-AUG. 1 For six weeks each summer, join Maestro Peter Oundjian, nearly 100 all-star orchestral musicians, and world-class guest artists at Chautauqua Auditorium in Boulder, Colorado. ▶ 303-665-0599, coloradomusicfestival.org

BUENA VISTA

CKS PADDLEFEST MAY 22-25 On and around the Arkansas River, the event for those wanting to learn, play and watch others on the water. Music, gear swaps, pro kayaking, speakers, races, vendors and more. ▶ 719-395-9206, ckspaddlefest.com

RAPIDS & GRASS JULY 3-5 A uniquely Colorado weekend for the mountain-lovin', 'beer-drinkin', 'noodle-dancin', 'river-raftin' types. Ya know ... folks like you. ▶ rgfest.com

BUENA VISTA JULY 4TH PARADE & ART IN THE PARK JULY 4 We have something to please everyone in the family, including breakfast, the Independence Freedom 5K, Art in the Park, a patriotic parade, live music, a beer garden and food. ▶ buenavistacolorado.org/4th-of-july-celebrations

40TH GOLD RUSH DAYS AUG. 8-9 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/gold-rush-days

CARBONDALE

CARBONDALE MOUNTAIN FAIR JULY 24-26 Over 145 vendors showcasing unique and diverse homemade wares, hand-prepared food and non-stop entertainment — both in live music and various forms of performing arts. Family friendly. ▶ carbondalearts.com/mountain-fair

CELTIC FEST AND OKTOBERFEST

OCT. 9-10 Celebrate the Irish and enjoy authentic spirits, Celtic music and dancing. The next day is full of German food and spirits, root beer, music, children's activities, friends and fun! ▶ carbondalearc.com

FIRST FRIDAYS CARBONDALE

NOV. 1-6 Join us every month in the heart of Carbondale's Creative District and enjoy a wide range of local arts, galleries, retail, award-winning restaurants and spirits, and live music. ▶ carbondalearc.com/first-friday

CEDAREDDGE

CEDAREDDGE APPLEFEST OCT. 1-4 One of western Colorado's premier outdoor events, Cedaredge Applefest is celebrated annually the first full weekend of October. ▶ 970-856-6961, cedaredgechamber.com

CENTRAL CITY

GILPIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY — SUMMER SEASON MAY 30-SEPT. 27 Explore Gilpin County's history museum, go back to 1895 at the Thomas House, tour the Teller House and opera house, and visit the Coeur d'Alene Mine Shaft House. ▶ 303-582-5283, gilpinhistory.org

CRAIG

GRAND OLD WEST DAYS MAY 22-26 Memorial Day weekend is full of fun for the whole family. Enjoy the rodeo, live concerts, parade, theater presentation, carnival and more! ▶ 970-326-6368, grandoldwestdays.com

WHITTLE THE WOOD RENDEZVOUS JUNE 17-20 Twenty-first annual chainsaw-carving competition, car show, vendors, Yampa River events and concert. ▶ 970-826-2006, whittlethewood.com

MOFFAT COUNTY BALLOON FESTIVAL AUG. 1-2 Experience over 30 balloons at the full-event balloon festival. Enjoy the vendor displays, food, fun and live music! ▶ 970-629-0654, mcballoonfestival.com

CRAWFORD

CRAWFORD PIONEER DAYS JUNE 11-13 Come celebrate our heritage, family and friends at our 42nd annual Crawford Pioneer Days! Every town has a story to tell; we invite you to hear and see ours. ▶ 970-921-5505, crawfordpioneerdays.com

DELTA

DELTARADO DAYS JULY 30-AUG. 2 Deltarado Days is the premier event of the summer with four days of fun, including a farmer and rancher luncheon, a rodeo, a parade, vendor village and more. Fun for the whole family! ▶ 970-874-8616, deltacolorado.org/deltarado-days

DENVER

NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW AND RODEO JAN. 11-26 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. 21-MARCH 1 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

RED ROCKS SUMMER CONCERT SERIES APRIL-OCTOBER 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 and get your tickets early. ▶ 303-892-1505, visitdenver.com

NORMAN ROCKWELL: IMAGINING FREEDOM MAY 3-AUG. 23 Renowned illustrator Norman Rockwell communicates visually the notions of freedom in support of war efforts during the 1940s. ▶ 303-892-1505, visitdenver.com

PRIDEFEST JUNE 20-21 Discover PrideFest, a two-day celebration of Denver's LGBTQ community which includes family activities, live music, a festive parade, dancing and entertainment. ▶ 303-892-1505, visitdenver.com

SLOW FOOD NATIONS SUMMER TBA 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

CHERRY CREEK ARTS FESTIVAL JULY 3-5 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

DENVER POP CULTURE CON JULY 3-5 This three-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

A TASTE OF COLORADO SEPT. 5-7 Sip and savor the flavors of Denver during the largest free admission food and music festival in Colorado. ▶ 303-892-1505, visitdenver.com

CRUSH WALLS SEPT. 7-13 Watch the artists in action during Colorado's largest independent graffiti and street art festival. ▶ 303-892-1505, visitdenver.com

GREAT AMERICAN BEER FESTIVAL SEPT. 24-26 Sample from thousands of beers and meet the brewers during Great American Beer Festival at Colorado Convention Center. ▶ 303-892-1505, visitdenver.com

DENVER ARTS WEEK NOV. 6-14 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

DURANGO WINE EXPERIENCE APRIL 30-MAY 2 Celebrate food and wine in Durango! Experience three delicious days of seminars, wine dinners and unique tastings featuring hundreds of wineries, artisan spirits and craft beers. ▶ 970-946-2408, durangowine.com

IRON HORSE BICYCLE CLASSIC MAY 22-24 A uniquely Durango event, the Iron Horse Bicycle Classic pits cyclists against the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad for the 50-mile journey from Durango to Silverton! ▶ ironhorsebicycleclassic.com

DURANGO BREW TRAIN MID-JUNE-LATE SEPT. Enjoy a light sampling of finely crafted ales on board a historic train! At Cascade Canyon, surrounded by mountain peaks, enjoy more brews, live music and food. ▶ 970-247-2733, 888-872-4607, durangotrain.com/events

MUSIC IN THE MOUNTAINS FESTIVAL JULY 12-AUG. 2 For over 30 years, Music in the Mountains has produced an exceptional summer music festival. We have entertained and educated audiences with the richness of classical music. ▶ 970-385-6820, musicinthemountains.com

DURANGO COWBOY POETRY GATHERING OCT. 2-4 Exciting, fun-filled event with evening performances and Saturday daytime sessions. Poets and musicians from throughout the country grace our intimate stage at Henry Strater Theatre. ▶ 970-749-2995, durangocowboypoetrygathering.org

THE POLAR EXPRESS™ TRAIN RIDE MID-NOV. 2020-EARLY JAN. 2021 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, durangotrain.com

ESTES PARK

ESTES PARK WINTER FESTIVAL JAN. 18-19 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 AND CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL FEB. 8 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 7 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 17-18 A day dedicated to Bigfoot lore and a full day of big fun. ▶ visitestespark.com/events-calendar/spring-events/bigfoot-days



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KEYSTONE
A-BASIN
LOVELAND

ESTES PARK ROOFTOP RODEO JULY 6-11

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 AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL

SEPT. 19-20 For over 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. 24 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 AND CELEBRATION NOV. 27

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/winter-events/christmas-parade-and-celebrations

FRUITA

FRUITA FAT TIRE FESTIVAL MAY 1-3 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 USA. ▶ 970-585-3663, fruitafatirefestival.com

MIKE THE HEADLESS CHICKEN FESTIVAL

MAY 29-30 Celebrate the amazing story of one chicken's will to live in this annual 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. 25-27

The Fruta Fall Festival began over 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. 7

Awarded as one of the most scenic races in the country, wind through the picturesque Colorado National Monument in your choice of marathon, half marathon or 12K run. ▶ 970-248-1469, bit.ly/gjrimrock

GRANBY**3 LAKES ICE FISHING CONTEST**

JAN. 24-26 32nd annual 3 Lakes Ice Fishing Tournament. Vie for over \$20,000 in cash and prizes at the best ice tournament in Colorado! Multiple adult and kids categories. Registration is \$35-\$60 ▶ 970-887-2311, granbychamber.com/fish

JULY 4TH PARADE AND WEEKLY FESTIVITIES JULY 2-4

Please join us for the best small-town parade in Colorado! 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**SOUTHWEST ARBOR FEST APRIL 25**

Celebrate Arbor Day in Lincoln Park with the annual tree giveaway, mac 'n cheese cook-off, Colorado craft beer tasting, live entertainment and tree education and activities. ▶ bit.ly/gjarbor

JUNIOR COLLEGE WORLD SERIES BASEBALL (JUCO) MAY 23-30

Watch the Junior College World Series as the best teams in the nation compete for the title and a chance to be recruited by Major League Baseball scouts. ▶ 970-245-9166, bit.ly/gjucobaseball

GRAND JUNCTION OFF-ROAD MOUNTAIN BIKE ENDURANCE EVENT AND DOWNTOWN MUSIC FESTIVAL

MAY 29-31 Race through the world-famous Lunch Loops trail system and finish in downtown Grand Junction for three days of festivities including live music, a bike expo, food trucks and craft beer. ▶ 970-245-9697, bit.ly/gjmusicfest

GRAND VALLEY BIKER RALLY JULY 10-11

Take a ride through western Colorado's scenic byways followed by a concert at Las Colonias Amphitheater, Grand Junction's premier outdoor venue. ▶ bit.ly/gjrbiker

GRAND JUNCTION WINE WEEK

SEPT. 13-20 Discover, experience and taste all things wine during the ever-popular Wine Week in Grand Junction. Reserve early if you plan to attend Winefest on Saturday. ▶ bit.ly/gjwineweek

DOWNTOWN ART FESTIVAL AND OPEN STUDIOS TOUR OCT. 2-10

Tour studios while you meet and learn from the makers themselves. Explore downtown Grand Junction's Art on the Corner featuring 100 sculptures with new art unveiled at the festival. ▶ bit.ly/gjart

GRAND LAKE**THE GRAND LAKE POND HOCKEY CLASSIC FEB. 8-9**

3rd annual pond hockey tournament on Colorado's largest natural lake. Adults journey on Saturday and youth journey on Sunday. ▶ 970-627-3402, grandlakechamber.com

ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL JUNE 14-15, JULY 11-12, AUG. 8-9

Cruise through this beautiful outdoor show full of artisans selling hand-crafted goods. ▶ 970-627-3402, gograndlake.com/event/june-arts-and-crafts-show

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS NOV. 27

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 24-JULY 5**

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

HOTCHKISS**DELTA COUNTY FAIR AUG. 1-8**

The 115th annual Delta County Fair is steeped in history dating back to 1897. There is nothing quite like the community coming together to celebrate our rich agricultural heritage! ▶ 970-874-2108, deltacountyfair.com

LONGMONT**WINTER FOLK: MUSIC & PHOTOGRAPHY SHOWCASE FEB. 2-MARCH 1**

A twelve-day, 40-band music and photography showcase! Join us at the beautiful St. Vrain luxury venue for all of the festivities from February 7-March 1 (Friday to Sunday for four consecutive weekends). ▶ visitlongmont.org

LOVELAND**LOVELAND SWEETHEART FESTIVAL— LOVE LOCKS AND LIGHTS FEB. 14-15**

Celebrate Valentine's Day weekend in Loveland! Love locks, bands, brews, live entertainment and the arts headline this free family-friendly festival in downtown Loveland. ▶ 970-667-3882, visitlovelandco.com/sweetheartfestival

SCULPTURE IN THE PARK AUG. 7-9

Join us for the 37th annual largest juried sculpture show and sale in the U.S. at Benson Sculpture Garden. The event brings artists and art lovers from around the globe together to inspire. ▶ 970-663-2940, sculptureinthepark.org

125TH ANNUAL CORN ROAST FESTIVAL

AUG. 21-22 125th annual celebration of corn in Loveland at Fairgrounds Park. Parade and 7,000 ears of roasted corn, live music, entertainment, corn-shucking and cornhole contests. Fun for kids! ▶ 970-744-4792, loveland.org

LYONS**LYONS OUTDOOR GAMES MAY 30**

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

LYONS HOLIDAY PARADE OF LIGHTS

DEC. 5 Revel in the old-style community spirit that makes Lyons a magical place during the holidays. The Holiday Parade of Lights festivities kick off on Main St., followed by a great fireworks show! ▶ 303-823-8250, lyonscolorado.com/paradeoflights

MACK**COUNTRY JAM USA MUSIC FESTIVAL**

JUNE 18-21 Thirty-plus of the biggest names in country music play on three stages, surrounded by western Colorado's awe-inspiring red rock canyons. Epic on-site camping is an event in itself! ▶ 855-821-9210, bit.ly/gjcountry

MANITOU SPRINGS**2020 MANITOU SPRINGS COLORADO WINE FESTIVAL JUNE 6**

Sample and purchase wine from 35-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

EMMA CRAWFORD COFFIN RACES AND FESTIVAL OCT. 24

In its 25th 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 9-10**

Experience 600 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**MEEKER SUMMER RODEO SERIES JUNE 4-AUG. 27**

Family fun and rodeo action for all ages in Meeker every Thursday night, June 4 through August 27, except July 2. ▶ facebook.com/meekersummerrodeoseries

MEEKER CLASSIC CHAMPIONSHIP SHEEPDOG TRIALS SEPT. 8-13

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

PAGOSA SPRINGS**PINTS AND POOLS CRAFT BEER FEST AT THE SPRINGS RESORT APRIL 25**

A unique craft beer festival where you can soak in 23 hot springs pools and taste more than 50 beers from Colorado and New Mexico breweries. ▶ 970-264-4168, 800-918-3785, pagosahotspings.com

PAGOSA WINE FESTIVAL MAY 15-16

The inaugural Pagosa Wine Festival with over 20 wineries represented will be held on the banks of the San Juan River in beautiful downtown Pagosa. ▶ distilledescapes.com

HOT SPRINGS FEST OCT. 23-25

This one-of-a-kind festival grants attendees access to over 30 geothermal hot spring pools at three separate properties within walking distance. ▶ visitpagosapings.com

PALISADE**PALISADE BREWS & SHOES FESTIVAL**

MAY 9 Enjoy beer tastings from Colorado breweries, hard cider, live bands, great food vendors, unique products, arts and crafts and cornhole. Half marathon, 10K and 5K. ▶ 970-464-7458, palisadebrewscruise.com

PALISADE PEACH FESTIVAL AUG. 14-15

The annual Palisade Peach Festival on Aug. 14-15, 2020. Peach pies, peach cobbles, peach ice cream, peach drinks, peach cuisine, peach jams, peach salsas and peachy music. ▶ 970-464-7458, palisadepeachfest.com

PALISADE OLDE FASHIONED CHRISTMAS AND GINGERBREAD CONTEST

DEC. 5 Holiday spirit abounds at our Olde Fashioned Christmas celebration: breakfast with Santa, gingerbread contest and showcase, Santa's workshop and the Olde Town Market Place. Fun for all ages! ▶ 970-464-7458, 970-464-7458, palisadecoc.com

PAONIA**PAONIA CHERRY DAYS JULY 3-5**

Paonia Cherry Days is the longest-standing community festival in Colorado, held in Paonia each year over the Fourth of July holiday. ▶ 970-527-4101, paoniacherrydays.com

PARACHUTE**ROCKMAGEDDON JUNE 5-7**

Come for a weekend of wild redneck fun! Featuring a movie drive-in night, AIV/UTV rally and barrel race, barbecue, trail rides, food, games and FUN! ▶ 970-665-1147, rockmageddon.com

RUN, RAFT, RIDE. AUG. 15

Join us for a RUN, RAFT and RIDE Race! Held throughout town with a run through the town and mountains, a kayak race down the Colorado River, and end with a bike race for the final leg with a party awaiting you! ▶ 970-665-1147, runraftride.com

PUEBLO**COLORADO STATE FAIR AUG. 28-SEPT. 7**

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

26TH ANNUAL PUEBLO CHILE & FRIJOLES FESTIVAL PRESENTED BY BLACK HILLS ENERGY SEPT. 25-27

The award-winning Chile & Frijoles Festival is Colorado's premier harvest celebration. Ten blocks of chile-inspired fun paying homage to our most loved crop, the Pueblo chile! ▶ 719-542-1704, festival.pueblochamber.org

RANGELY

ROAR — RANGELY OHV ADVENTURE RALLY APRIL 30–MAY 2 Rangely OHV Adventure Rally — Ride the many OHV trails of western Rio Blanco County and enjoy a bonfire, OHV expo, race, rodeo, poker run and outdoor concert. Enjoy the high desert landscape and beautiful skies of Rangely, Colorado. ▶ 970-675-5290, rangelychamber.com

RALLY COLORADO AUG. 21–23 Rally Colorado in Rangely puts rally cars to the ultimate test. These races will have fast sections of road on hard-packed gravel and switchbacks, with the higher altitude being the ultimate test of endurance. ▶ 970-675-5290, rangelychamber.com/rally-colorado

SPECIAL OLYMPICS COLORADO POLAR PLUNGE NOV. 7 The Special Olympics Colorado Polar Plunge presented by Westerra Credit Union is a fun and unique way to support a great cause. Jump into a frigid body of water (either a pool or reservoir) and get pledges of financial support from friends and family. ▶ 970-675-5290, rangelychamber.com

RIFLE

GARFIELD COUNTY FAIR & RODEO JULY 27–AUG. 2 PRCA Rodeo, Xtreme bull riding, family rodeo, demo derby, monster trucks, carnival, festival food, shopping and an unforgettable country-chart-topping concert, with much more. Celebrating 82 years of Western heritage! ▶ 970-945-1377, garfieldcountyfair.com

HOMETOWN HOLIDAYS DEC. 4–6 Western and wintry annual Hometown Holidays! A charming weekend packed with free events throughout Rifle, Silt and Parachute! ▶ 970-625-2085, westerngarcochamber.com

SALIDA

SALIDA ART WALK JUNE 26–28 Local and regional artists exhibiting their dynamic works, musicians, unique street performers and artist demos. ▶ 719-530-0933, salidaartwalk.org

COLORADO BREWERS RENDEZVOUS JULY 11 Twenty-third 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/brewers-rendezvous-tickets

SALIDA WINEFEST SEPT. 12 Celebrates vintages of wines from around the world, including samples from Colorado winemakers and distributors. ▶ salidawinefest.com

SALIDA PARADE OF LIGHTS AND CHRISTMAS MOUNTAIN NOV. 27 A lively holiday parade leads up to the Christmas tree lighting on S Mountain. This spectacular 750-foot Christmas tree lighting is a local tradition and is a pure delight for all ages. ▶ salidachamber.org

SNOWMASS

2020 NASTAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS MARCH 24–28 The nation's top recreational skiers compete for age-group titles on the same course that pro athletes will race just a few days later for the U.S. Alpine Tech Championships. ▶ gosnowmass.com

SNOWMASS RODEO JUNE 10–AUG. 19 The longest-running rodeo in Colorado, every Wednesday evening through the summer. Watch true rodeo competition from barrel racing to bull riding, plus kids' activities and a barbecue. ▶ 970-923-8898, snowmassrodeo.org

SNOWMASS RENDEZVOUS CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL JUNE 13 This festival summons nearly 50 Colorado craft breweries to Snowmass for a perfect day of beer tasting and live music in the mountain air. ▶ snowmassbeer.com

SNOWMASS BALLOON FESTIVAL SEPT. 11–13 Celebrating its 45th anniversary, more than 30 hot air balloons fill the stunning Snowmass panorama for this bucket-list-worthy weekend of fall festivities. ▶ gosnowmass.com

TABERNASH

STAGECOACH CLASSIC AT DEVIL'S THUMB RANCH JAN. 25 The Stagecoach Classic is a 30km/15km cross-country ski race and tour starting at Devil's Thumb Ranch and finishing with a post-race barbecue and live music in downtown Winter Park. ▶ 970-726-4118, 800-903-7275, playwinterpark.com

WALDEN

NEVER SUMMER NORDIC'S YETI FEST, COLORADO JULY 18 Family fun event with live music, a yeti call contest and How to Train Your Yeti session, beer tasting and food trucks, and a real yeti hunt with trained guides near State Forest State Park. ▶ 970-723-4070, yetifestco.com

WINTER PARK

RUN FOR INDEPENDENCE AND 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION JULY 4 Join us for free family fun during Winter Park's 4th of July Celebration at the Rendezvous Event Center. Enjoy fireworks, live music, inflatables, carnival games and more. ▶ playwinterpark.com/4th-july-celebration

WINTER PARK JAZZ FESTIVAL JULY 18–19 The 38th Winter Park Jazz Festival will deliver smooth jazz sensations to the mountains of Winter Park. Stay tuned for the 2020 lineup coming soon! ▶ 970-726-4118, 800-903-7275, playwinterpark.com

WINTER PARK UNCORKED AUG. 15 Join us at Rendezvous Event center in downtown Winter Park for another wonderful wine event from 2–6 p.m. with wine tastings, food samples and live music. ▶ playwinterpark.com/winter-park-uncorked

COUNTRY AT THE PARK SEPT. 5 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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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: 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 while zooming downhill on an inner tube or sled at the speed of light. Most of these spots have lift-served hills that save your energy for more runs.

Where to Go: Dutch Henry Tubing Hill in Leadville ■ 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 Hesperus Ski Area in Durango ■ Adventure Ridge in Vail ■ Steamboat Resort ■ Keystone Resort ■ Powderhorn Mountain Resort in Grand Junction ■ Colorado Adventure Park in Fraser ■ Kendall Mountain Recreation Area in Silverton ■ Whoa Nelly Sledding Hill in Aspen ■ Echo Mountain in Idaho Springs ■ Monarch Mountain near Salida

More: COLORADO.com/SnowTubing

3

ICE SKATING

From ice-skating locales with 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 ■ Rotary Park in Ouray ■ Stanley Park in Estes Park ■ Ski-resort villages of Keystone, Breckenridge, Beaver Creek, Winter Park, Snowmass 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 ■ The Collective in Snowmass ■ WinterSkate in Louisville and Northfield Stapleton in Denver ■ Downtown South Fork

More: COLORADO.com/OutdoorIceSkating

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: HORSE-DRAWN SLEIGH RIDE NEAR WINTER PARK, MILES/LISA SEAMAN; SNOW TUBING IN KEystone, DANIEL MILCHEV; 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: Tomichi Cycles in Gunnison ■ 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 ■ Full Cycle and Front Range Ride Guides in Boulder ■ Cycles of Life in Leadville ■ Pagosa Mountain Sports ■ Boneshaker Cycles in Buena Vista ■ Breck Bike Guides, Ridden and Gold Run Nordic Center in Breckenridge ■ Front Range Ride Guides in Fort Collins ■ Durango Nordic Center ■ Winter Park Resort and Snow Mountain Ranch ■ Ute Mountaineer in Aspen ■ Latigo Ranch in Kremmling ■ Howelsen Hill Nordic Center in Steamboat 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: Almont ■ 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 ■ Cedaredge

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 Vallecito Lake, Breckenridge, Crested Butte, Keystone, Vail, Telluride, Aspen/Snowmass, Tennessee Pass in Leadville, Frisco, Telluride, Never Summer in Walden, Eldora (near Nederland), Gunnison, Beaver Creek, Silverthorne and Grand Lake ■ Vista Verde Ranch in Steamboat Springs ■ Vail Nordic School ■ Ski Granby Ranch in Granby ■ Winter Park Resort ■ Steamboat Resort ■ Purgatory Resort in Durango ■ Sunlight Mountain near Glenwood Springs ■ Latigo Dude Ranch in Kremmling

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



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: LEFT: FAT BIKING NEAR SALIDA, MILES/LISA SEAMAN; SNOWMOBILING NEAR SILVERTON, JIM DAVID; INFERNO MOUNTAIN COASTER, PURGATORY RESORT; SNOWSHOEING AT SNOW MOUNTAIN RANCH NORDIC CENTER NEAR WINTER PARK, MILES/LISA SEAMAN.



8

SKI BIKING

Here's 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 and 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 Ski Resort ■ Telluride Ski Resort ■ Snowmass ■ Copper Mountain Resort

More: COLORADO.com/SnowBiking

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: SKI BIKING AT KEystone RESORT; VAIL RESORTS/SEAN BOGGS; ICE-FISHING TACKLE; ISTOCKPHOTO; ICE-FISHING ON LAKE GRANBY; KERRICK JAMES; WILDLIFE WATCHING NEAR SILVERTHORNE, MILES/LISA SEAMAN.

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 46) ■ 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



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: Wolford Mountain Reservoir, Kremmling ■ Chambers Lake, Walden ■ Eleven Mile Reservoir, Lake George ■ Boyd Lake State Park, Loveland ■ Harvey Gap Reservoir, Glenwood Springs ■ Trinidad Lake State Park ■ Crawford Reservoir ■ Lake Granby ■ Twin Lakes Reservoirs

More: COLORADO.com/IceFishing



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

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: Loveland ■ Arapahoe Basin ■ Aspen/Snowmass ■ Breckenridge ■ Copper Mountain ■ Crested Butte ■ Keystone Resort ■ Powderhorn in Grand Junction ■ Steamboat ■ Sunlight Mountain in Glenwood Springs ■ Monarch Mountain near Salida ■ Vail Mountain ■ 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 Bond, 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 and Sled Works in Steamboat Springs ■ Alpine Adventures Dogsledding in Leadville ■ Krabloonik 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 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 70 for other ideas.

More: COLORADO.com/UrbanExperiences





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 new 468-acre expert 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

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

Breck 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. Breck Guides are available to take people on tours of new terrain.

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 18 straight years, it has been the home of ESPN's Winter X Games.

7 COPPER MOUNTAIN

Skiers and riders love Copper's perfect layout. Mother Nature arranged its slopes so that beginner, intermediate and expert runs are clustered with like-leveled terrain, ensuring beginners won't make a surprise trip down a too-steep run. New lift and lodging options have sweetened the deal.

8 CRESTED BUTTE MOUNTAIN

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 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 there in daylight, the slopes are open til 9pm for skiing under the stars (and lights).

10 ELDORA MOUNTAIN

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 GRANBY RANCH

Fun lesson programs, an easy pace and affordable prices make this 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.

12 HESPERUS

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.

13 HOWELSEN HILL

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.

14 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-slope activities include ice skating, sledding, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

15 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.

16 LOVELAND

Two of Loveland's favorite things to brag about are that it averages 422 inches of snow each season, more than any other Front Range ski area, and it offers some of the best early-season conditions each year. The other thing is its free snowcat skiing perk along the Continental Divide.

17 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 Panora-

ma Lift for 360-degree views of the divide.

18 POWDERHORN MOUNTAIN

This resort near Grand Junction has one of the most unique views in 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.

19 PURGATORY

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 101 trails, five terrain parks, a racing course and 35,000 acres of snowcat playland.

20 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-

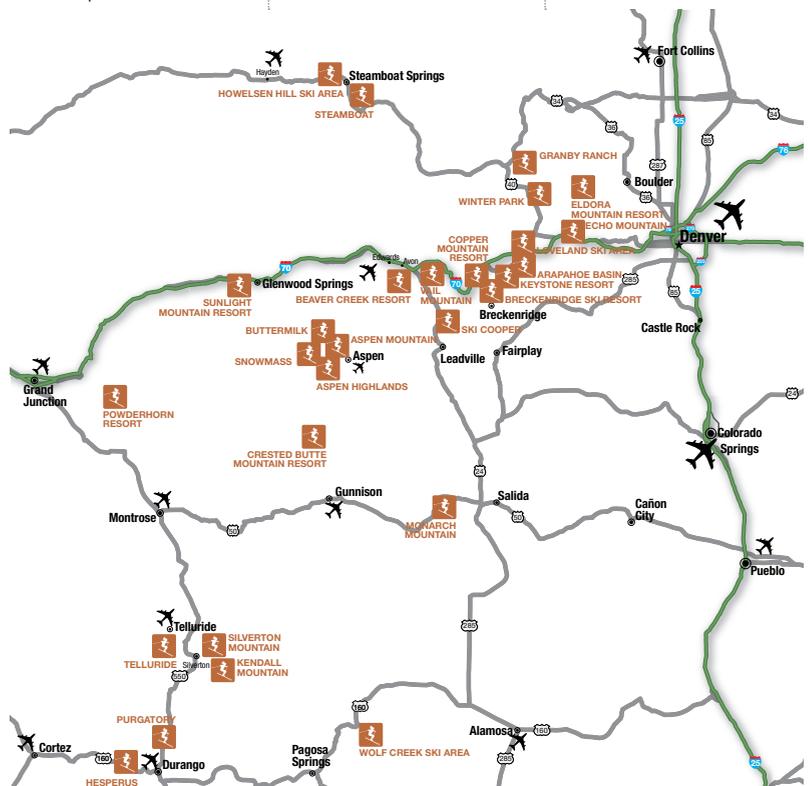
way-down expert terrain. Guided and heli-skiing are top ways to take advantage of the terrain (reservations required).

21 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.

22 SNOWMASS

The mountain itself is enormous — 36 Disneylands 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 peaceful schussing before you have to think about a lift line. A new base village offers ice skating, chic lodging and new après-ski spots.



CAT SKIING NEAR ASPEN. THE LITTLE NELL/SCOTT MARKWITZ.



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 120-year-old Western town, which still manages to stay true to its friendly, down-home roots.

24 SUNLIGHT MOUNTAIN

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 seven back bowls, 195 trails and a staggering 5,289 skiable acres, it's one of the nation's largest resorts. And don't forget Vail's luxury accommodations, shopping, 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

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

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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 46) ■ **Wildflowers:** Judd Falls near Crested Butte, Horsetooth Falls near Fort Collins, Brown's Loop near Eagle ■ **Waterfalls:** Big Dominguez Canyon near Delta, 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 Palisade ■ **Wildlife:** Mount Evans Wilderness Area near Idaho Springs, State Forest State Park near Walden, Comanche National Grassland near Springfield

More: [COLORADO.com/Hiking & Trails](http://COLORADO.com/Hiking&Trails), Colorado.gov

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 ■

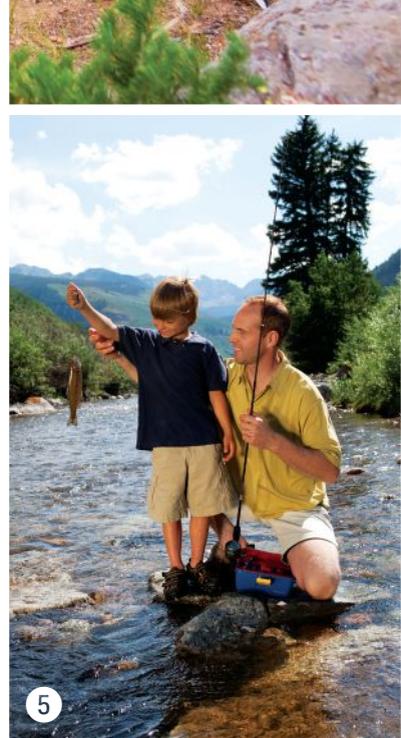
Lake Granby ■ Lake San Cristobal in Lake City ■ Vallecito Lake, Durango ■ McPhee Lake in Cortez ■ Blue Mesa Reservoir in, Montrose and Gunnison ■ Grand Mesa Lakes (more than 300 of them) near Grand Junction, Paonia, Delta, Cedaredge and Hotchkiss ■ Carter Lake in Loveland ■ Many Colorado State Parks, 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 and Spinney Mountain

See page 60 for the full whitewater rundown.

More: COLORADO.com/Boating

3 BACKPACKING & CAMPING

Colorado makes it easy to get lost (intentionally) 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 41 State Parks, 30-plus Wilderness Areas, 22 million acres of National Forests and expansive public lands.



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, Elk Wallow near Basalt ■ **Lakeside sites:** Elk Creek Campground in Grand Lake, Cherry Creek State Park in Aurora, Cobbett Lake near Cedaredge ■ **Epic views:** Angel of Shavano Campground near Salida, 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 eagle-eye award by spotting some of Colorado's most majestic residents?

Continued on page 34.

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 50 for a lineup of cast-worthy locales.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: CAMPING NEAR STEAMBOAT SPRINGS; INDAH WETZEL; FISHING NEAR VAIL; JACK AFFLECK; HIKING NEAR FRISCO; TODD POWELL

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A Few Favorite Sites:

Moose at Deer Lakes near Lake City ■ 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 46) ■ Elk and bighorn sheep in Poudre Canyon near Fort Collins

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) ■ Clear Creek Canyon near Golden ■ X Rock in Durango ■ Falls Gulch near Buena Vista ■ Colorado National Monument near Fruita and Grand Junction ■ Eldorado Canyon State Park near Boulder ■ Piedra River Trail near Pagosa Springs

More: COLORADO.com/RockClimbing

7 BALLOONING

Cool summer mornings in Colorado make the perfect atmosphere for hot-air balloons. Floating 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 ■ Aspen/Snowmass ■ Windsor

More: COLORADO.com/Balloonning



6



7



4



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



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.

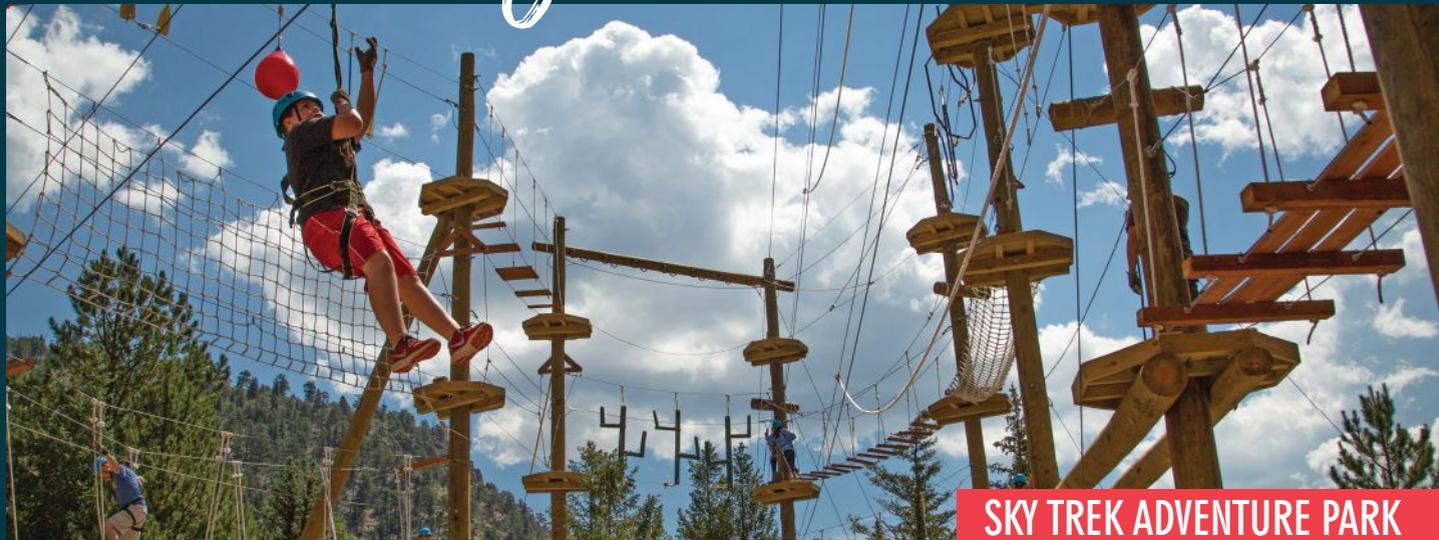
A Few Favorite Places: Adobe Creek National Golf Course in Fruita ■ Ironbridge Golf Course in Glenwood Springs ■ The River Course at Keystone Resort ■ TPC Colorado in Berthoud ■ Conquistador Golf Course in Cortez ■ Bear Dance in Larkspur ■ Northeastern 18 in Sterling ■ City Park Golf Course in Denver ■ Redlands Mesa in Grand Junction ■ Mount Massive Golf Course in Leadville ■ Murphy Creek Golf Course in Aurora ■ Golf Granby Ranch in Granby

More: COLORADO.com/Golf

Continued on page 36.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: IRVING IN VEGA, STATE PARK, COLORADO STATE PARKS AND WILDLIFE/JUSTIN DOSKOCIL; THE RIVER COURSE AT KEYSTONE, VAIL RESORTS; NOAH WETZEL; MOOSE IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK, JONATHAN PHILLIPS; ROCK CLIMBING NEAR OURAY, CELIN SERBO; HOT-AIR BALLOON, ISTOCKPHOTO.

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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:

Glenwood Canyon Zipline Adventures ■ Epic Sky Trek in Castle Rock ■ Royal Gorge in Cañon City ■ Browns Canyon Adventure Park in Buena Vista ■ Soaring Treetop Adventures in Durango ■ AVA Cliffsides Zipline Tours and 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:

Hubbard Mesa near Rifle ■ 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 in 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 in Fruita ■ Bear Creek Lake Park in Lakewood

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 76.

14 GLAMPING There's no tent to pitch, no sleeping bag to pack, no trek to use the bathroom. But there are permanent tents and yurts offering beds, electricity, water — and sometimes kitchens, air conditioners, WiFi and more.

Where to Go: Arapaho Valley Ranch in Granby ■ Dunton River Camp in Dolores ■ 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)

More: COLORADO.com/Glamping



10

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 74.

More: COLORADO.com/MotorcycleTours



13



14



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: Old gold-mine trails near Central City ■ Garden of the Gods in Colorado Springs ■ Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch in Loveland ■ Snow Mountain Ranch in Winter Park ■ Saddleback Ranch in Steamboat Springs ■ Del's Triangle 3 Ranch in Clark ■ West Tennessee Creek near Leadville ■ Glacier Basin in Rocky Mountain National Park ■ American Safari Ranch in Fairplay ■ Triple B Ranch in Woodland 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.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: EPIC DISCOVERY ZIPLINE AT BRECKENRIDGE; VAIL RESORTS/ANDREW MAGUIRE; COLLECTIVE RETREATS VAIL; HORSEBACK RIDING NEAR VAIL; VAIL RESORTS/JACK AFFLECK; SUMMER TUBING; VAIL EPIC DISCOVERY/ANDREW TAYLOR; EVOLUTION BIKE PARK; CRESTED BUTTE MOUNTAIN RESORT/TRENT BONA.

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SUMMERACTIVITIES**

WAYS TO EXPERIENCE FALL COLOR



Our quintessential tree is the aspen. In the summer, it provides shade for our state flower, the columbine; in the fall, we rejoice when its quaking leaves turn vibrant hues of red and gold.

September is the ideal time to bear witness, but you have to time it right. When one area's color fades, another is just changing. The best strategy: Select travel dates in advance, but not destinations. Then go wherever the color is best.

SCENIC DRIVES

These leafy routes get you so close to gorgeous fall foliage that you can smell the trees changing.

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 OF 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.

TAKE A RIDE

Get out of the car and right into the wilderness to see our oranges, yellows and reds up close:

BALLOONING: When you find yourself in a thatched basket, hundreds of feet up in the crisp Colorado air, the colors unfold below in a seemingly unending canvas of yellow and gold. The landscape becomes increasingly intriguing and inspiring while drifting from this high-altitude angle.

Continued on page 40.



FALL FESTIVALS

We have no choice but to join the gold rush and celebrate every autumn weekend. Here's a sampling of events; visit COLORADO.com/Events and page 19 for more.

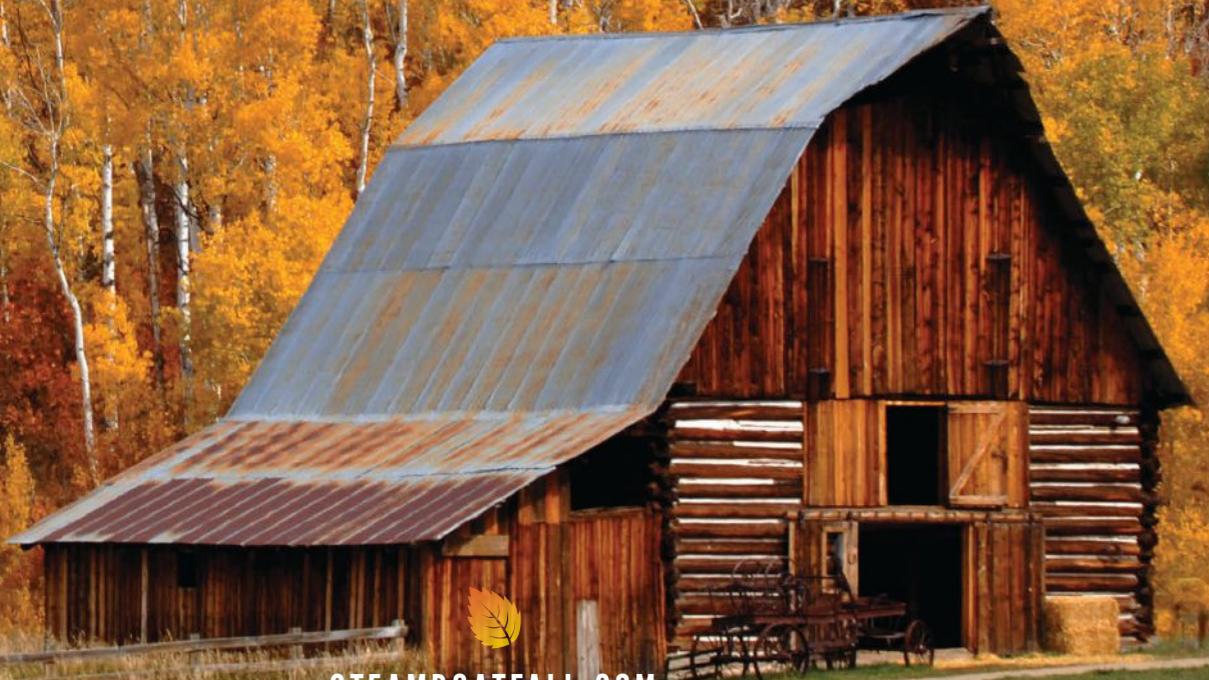
- ▶ Estes Park's Autumn Gold and Elk festivals
- ▶ Crested Butte's Chili & Beer Festival
- ▶ Fruita Fall Festival
- ▶ Salida Bike Fest
- ▶ Trinidad's Artocade
- ▶ Morrison's Ciderfest
- ▶ Oktoberfest in Breckenridge, Longmont, La Veta, Durango, Denver
- ▶ Boulder's Fall Fest
- ▶ Pueblo's Chili & Frijoles Festival
- ▶ Paonia's Mountain Harvest Festival
- ▶ Cedaredge's Applefest
- ▶ Aurora's Punkin Chunkin

FROM TOP: SAN JUAN MOUNTAIN NEAR REDCLIFF; GLENN RANDALL; BIKING ON KENOSHA PASS NEAR FAIRPLAY; CELIN SERBO; MOUNT WILSON NEAR THE DALLAS DIVIDE; ALLEN THORNTON



Welcome to Steamboat in the fall. Take an incredibly scenic drive to the amazingly scenic town of Steamboat where the activities don't cool down with the weather. Enjoy a full slate of adventures from biking and hiking, to golfing and fishing. Or just relax in our hot springs pools.

PUT A LITTLE MORE COLOR
in your
COLORADO



STEAMBOATFALL.COM



U-PICK FARMS & CORN MAZES

When harvest season arrives, Colorado's farms swing open their gates for fall fun in the fields. Load up the whole family for wallet-friendly learnin', pickin' and eatin' — all the while supporting local growers and businesses.

A FEW TO CONSIDER:

- ▶ Cottonwood Farms in Boulder
- ▶ Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield Farms in Littleton
- ▶ Fritzier's Corn Maze near Greeley
- ▶ Miller Farms in Platteville
- ▶ Anderson Farms in Erie
- ▶ Colon Orchards in Cañon City
- ▶ Studt's Pumpkin Patch in Grand Junction
- ▶ Weathers Family Farms in Yuma
- ▶ Mesa Verde Farm & Ranch Tours in Cortez



HORSEBACK RIDING:

Few activities embody the West like an old-fashioned horseback ride. Somehow, aspen viewing, wild-life watching, sightseeing and simply enjoying the

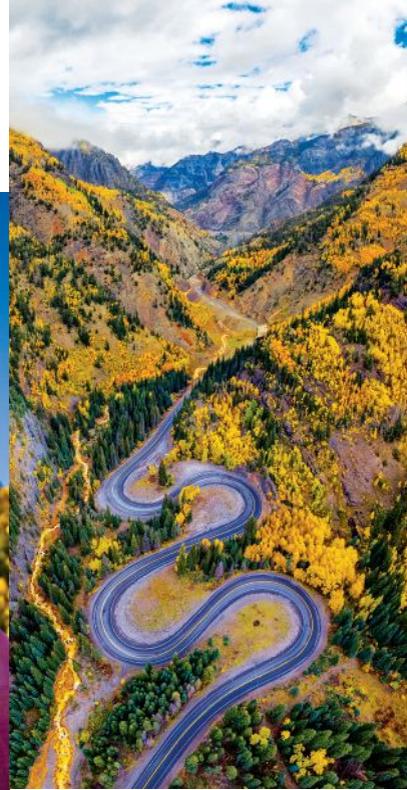
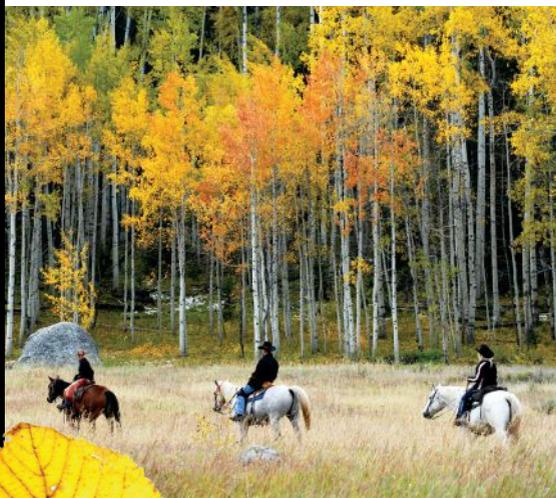
outdoors are a different experience when sitting astride a saddle. Consider a trail for the day or book a vacation at a Colorado dude ranch.

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES (OHV):

Travel deep into aspen-covered backcountry while riding a four-wheeler, ATV or 4x4 vehicle. Forest trails, often explored by just a handful of visitors, abound in Colorado. Find yourself surrounded by speckled aspen bark, as a golden canopy of color rises above you.

GO FOR THE GONDOLA:

Many of Colorado's 28 ski resorts (see page 27) offer scenic chairlift rides — throughout summer and fall. Hop on, relax and survey the colorful trail-carved mountainsides as you glide to the summit. Many have scenic overlooks and places to grab a bite and a brew before you head back down the slopes.



BIKE THE BYWAYS: Our 26 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 74 for more):

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



WANT MORE? COLORADO.COM/FALL

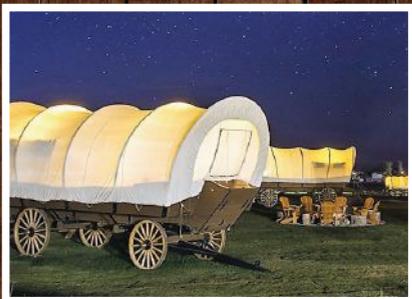
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: FRITZLER CORN MAZE; NEAR TELLURIDE; LISA SEAMAN; MILLION DOLLAR HIGHWAY NEAR OURAY; MIKE BORUTA; VISTA VERDE RANCH.



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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 us 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)
- Prairie Music Festival in Hugo (June)
- 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 52 or at COLORADO.com/CreativeDistricts.

3 EXPERIENCE LIQUID ARTS

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:

- Spirit Hound Distillers in Lyons
- Woody Creek Distillers in Basalt
- Jack Rabbit Hill Farm Wines in Hotchkiss
- Berthoud Brewing Co.
- Spring 44 Distilling in Loveland
- San Luis Valley Brewing in Alamosa
- Snow Capped Cider in Cedaredge

More: COLORADO.com/SeedToSip

4 SAVOR, SAMPLE & STAY

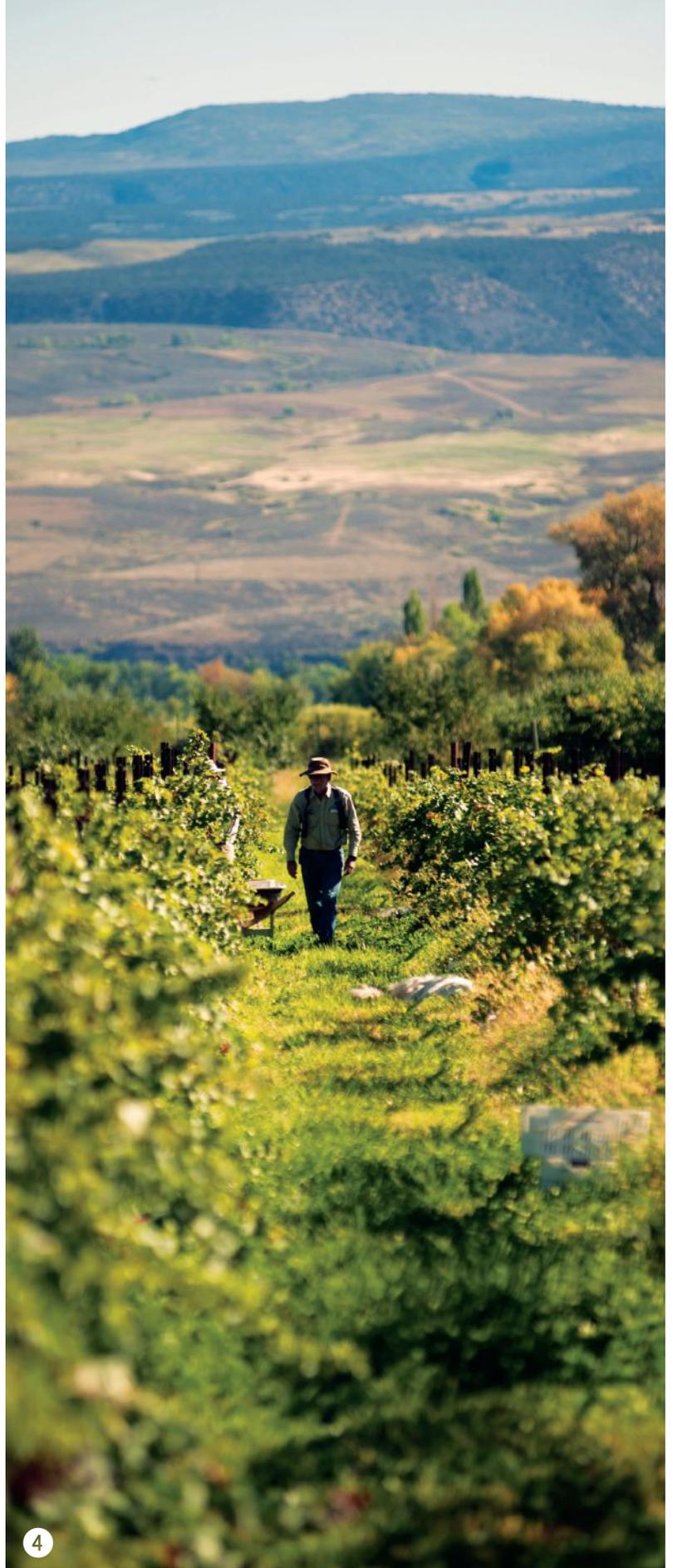
Farms and ranches are opening their barn doors to travelers looking for genuine experiences that can include a range of activities from cheese-making to picking dinner’s veggies, taking a sausage-making class, enjoying a group picnic and shoeing horses to a (delicious and relaxing) bed-and-breakfast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

A Few Favorites:

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



3



4

THIS PAGE FROM LEFT: SPRING 44 DISTILLING IN LOVELAND; CHAD CHISHOLM; MESA WINDS FARM IN HOTCHKISS. OPPOSITE PAGE: CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: THREE LEAF FARM/CARRIE SMALLS; BLACK MOUNTAIN DUDER RANCH; NICOLA CORNWELL; DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE; CHRIS SCHNEIDER; PEACHES. ISTOCKPHOTO.



5

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

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

5 DINNER IN THE FIELDS

Forget farm-to-table; these days, Colorado chefs are bringing the table to the farm, with hyper-seasonal dinners crafted from ingredients grown just a few steps from where you sit.

A Few Favorites:

The Guest House near Carbondale ■ Meadow Lark Farm Dinners (various locations) ■ A Grazing Life in Fountain ■ Lyons Farmette in Lyons ■ Ollin Farms in Longmont ■ Three Leaf Farm in Lafayette ■ Fortified Farm Dinners (various locations)

More: COLORADO.com/FarmExperience

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 64 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 living.

A Few Favorites:

4UR Ranch in Creede ■ Black Mountain Ranch in McCoy ■ Rawah Ranch in Glendevy ■ Two Bars Seven Ranch in Virginia Dale ■ Tumbling River Ranch in Grant ■ High Lonesome Ranch in De Beque

More: COLORADO.com/DudeRanches

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 picking. 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 ■ Rock Creek Farm in Broomfield ■ 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 sought after by travelers and locals alike.

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

More: COLORADO.com/YouMustEatThis



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 57 AND COLORADO.COM/HISTORY.



SHARE WITH US!

Share your #ColoradoLive moments and cool Colorado photos on Twitter and Instagram and we might feature your images in our posts.



10



11



12

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: Yarn from Yampa Valley Fiberworks in Craig ■ Naked Goat Farm's Lemon Lime Whipped Body Butter in Elbert ■ Lavender Chamomile Tub Tea from Belli Fiori in Grand Junction

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 56.

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 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 ■ Resin-cast jewelry at Ah Haa School for the Arts in Telluride

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 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 ■ The Loralie Antique Mall in Florence

More: COLORADO.com/AntiqueShops

WANT MORE COLORADO ROOTS? COLORADO.COM/ROOTS

FROM TOP: ELK FEST; DOWNTOWN ESTES PARK/O'HAIRA PHOTOGRAPHY; YAMPA VALLEY FIBERWORKS; THE ART OF CHEESE IN LONGMONT; JONATHAN PHILLIPS.

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 THE 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 16, 2020), 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. copubliclandsdays.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 COALITION

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 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) connects 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: fdrd.org/volunteer
- ▶ Wildlands Restoration Volunteers organizes ecological-restoration projects from seed sowing and willow harvesting to flood and habitat restoration: wlrw.org
- ▶ 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

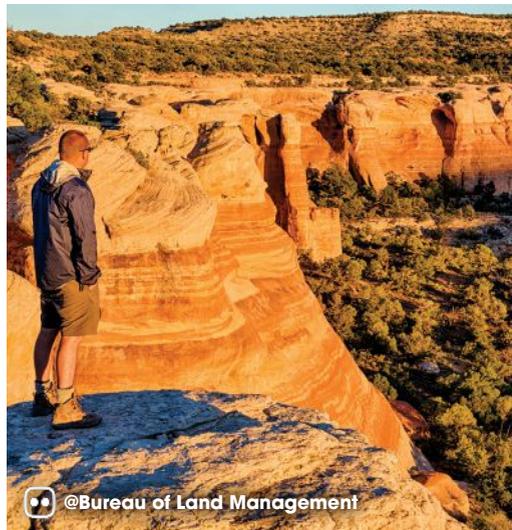
EACH ITINERARY IN THE COLORADO ROAD TRIPS COLLECTION (COLORADO.COM/COLORROADTRIPS) OFFERS AN IDEA FOR VOLUNTEERING OR CONTRIBUTING TO THE NATURAL AREAS MENTIONED.

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.

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. ▼



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. ►



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.

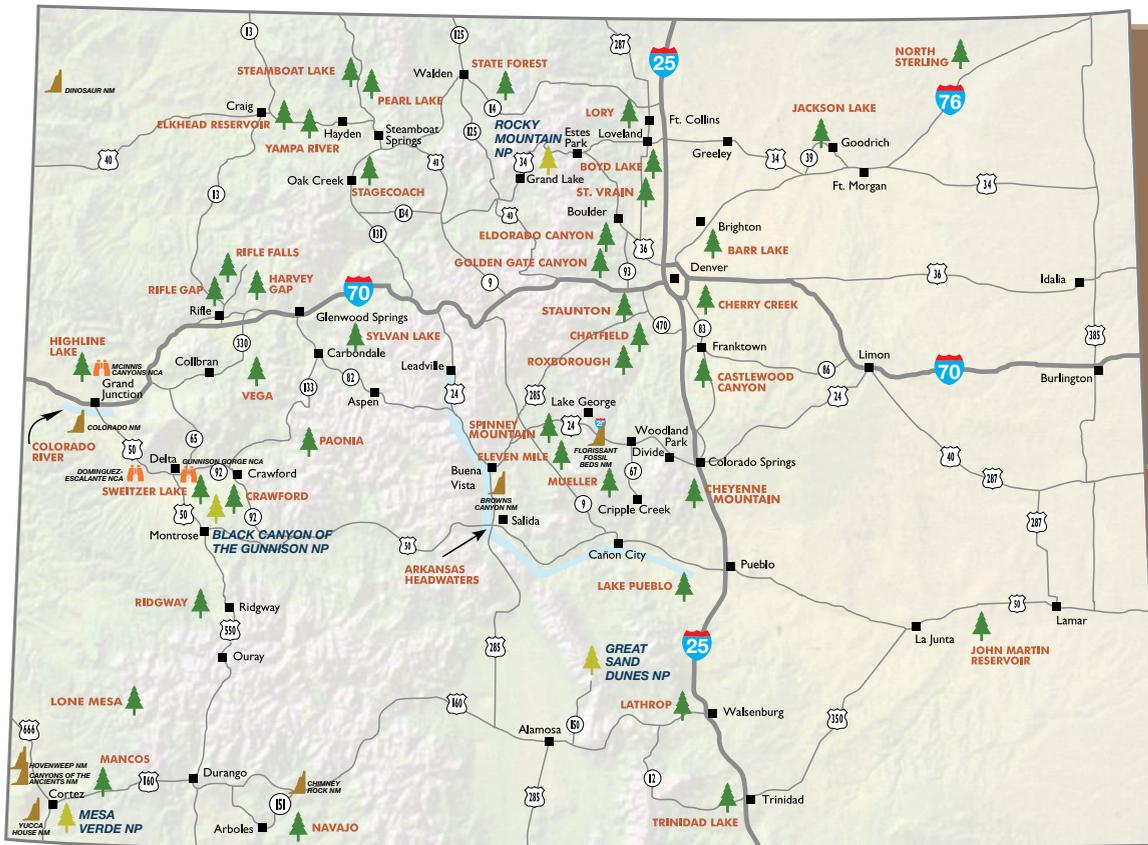


COLORADO
TOURISM OFFICE



Leave
No
Trace
Center for Outdoor Ethics

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.

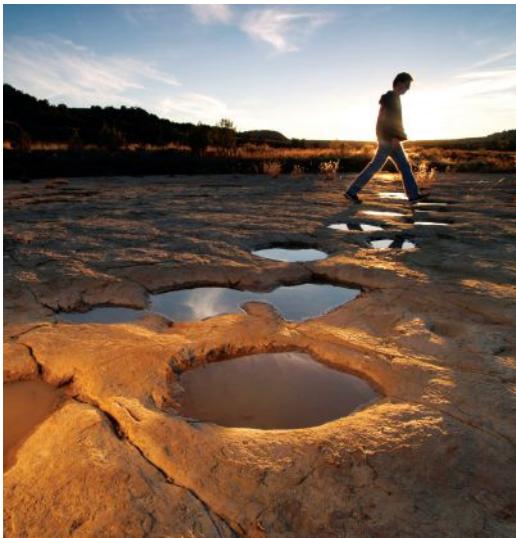


COLORADO STATE & NATIONAL PARKS

- 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. ▶



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. ▼



PICKETWIRE CANYON. JAY DICKMAN. COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE.

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; COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE/JUSTIN DOSKOCIL; COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE/THOMAS KIMMELL; LU ANNETYRRELL; ERIC WUINROW; COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE/THOMAS KIMMELL.



@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 may not be 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 even more fun throughout their journey in the great outdoors. COLORADO.com/CSPBackpacks

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: INSTAGRAM/CARFULL...HOME FROM MONGOLIA; MILES/MATT/INDEN; ETHAN WELTY; NATIONAL PARK SERVICE; COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

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.

Everyone 16 and up must have a fishing license. 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. Visitors can enjoy hiking, wildlife watching and educational activities in the nearby Colorado River Wildlife Area.

4 ST. VRAIN STATE PARK This Firestone site's Sandpiper and Mallard ponds win best spots for kids thanks to its proximity to 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-sized bass and catfish so everyone can come 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



300

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 a license and 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.



WANT MORE? GO TO COLORADO.COM/HUNTING.

TOOLS

1



LOVE AT FIRST "SITE":

Adherence to Colorado's hunting and fishing license 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 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 neighborhood becomes more of an arts destination each year. Its First Friday Art Walk has turned 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.

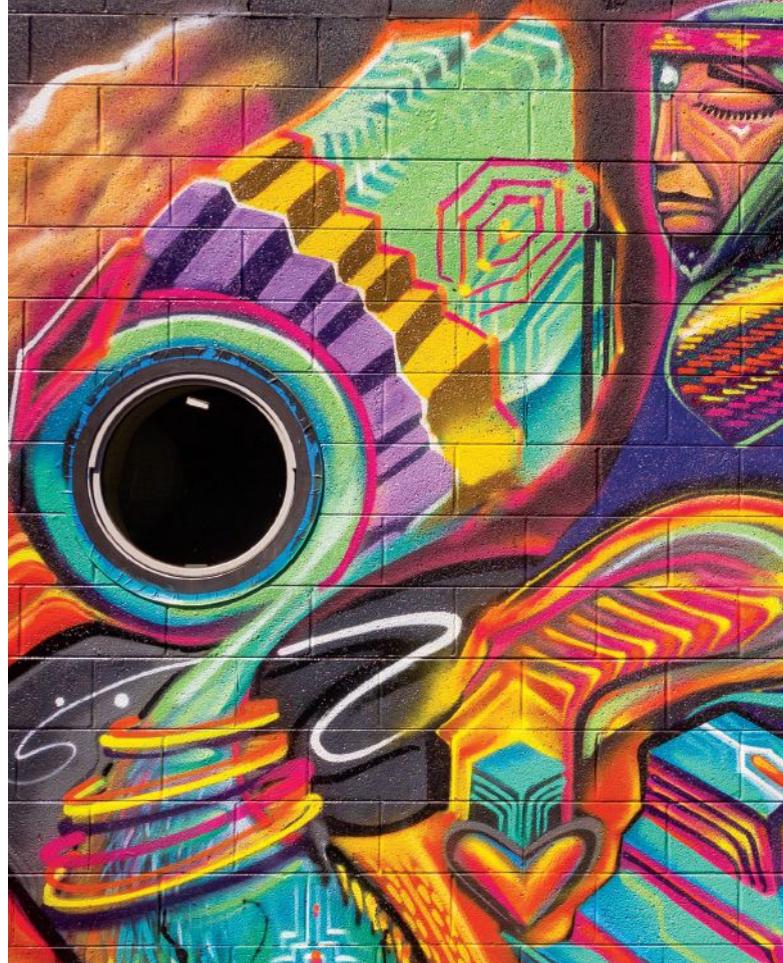
RIVER NORTH ART DISTRICT (RINO)

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 its 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 making.

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 and a historic boardwalk packed with shops and galleries, it's clear this alpine destination inspires its residents.



VAIL DANCE FESTIVAL, MILES

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/MtnTheatreTour

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, 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: **High Peaks Art Festival** in Nederland (June), **Jazz Aspen Snowmass** (June–Sept.), **Colorado Shakespeare Festival** in Boulder (June–Aug.), **Cherry Creek Arts Festival** in Denver (July), **Mountain Fair** in Carbondale (July), **Colorado Springs Art & Music Festival** (July), **Vail Dance Festival** (July–Aug.), **Evergreen Fine Arts Festival** (Aug.), **Steamboat All Arts Festival** (Aug.), **Rocky Mountain Folks Festival** in Lyons (Aug.), **Telluride Film Festival** (Sept.). Find many more at COLORADO.com/Events.

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

DURANGO HOT SPRINGS RESORT AND SPA, 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 a 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, olt.org/vvhs

Dunton Hot Springs, near Telluride
duntonhotsprings.com

Creekside Hot Springs Cabin, Nathrop
creeksidehotsprings.com

Twin Peaks Lodge & Hot Springs, Ouray
twinpeakslodging.com

Coltonwood Hot Springs Inn & Spa, Buena Vista
coltonwood-hot-springs.com

Strawberry Park Hot Springs, Steamboat Springs
strawberryhotsprings.com

Penny Hot Springs, Carbondale
carbondale.com

Sand Dunes Swimming Pool, Hooper
sandedunespool.com

Orvis Hot Springs, Ridgway
orvishotsprings.com

Old Town Hot Springs, Steamboat Springs
oldtownhotsprings.org

Juniper Hot Springs, Lay (near Craig)
juniperhotsprings.com

WANT MORE DETAILS? SEE COLORADO.COM/HOTSPRINGS AND THE HOT SPRINGS LOOP ITINERARY ON PAGE 78.

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.

VISITPAGOSASPRINGS.COM



THE SPRINGS RESORT & SPA

Home to the most geothermal hot spring pools in Colorado, our twenty-three soaking pools vary in temperature and receive their rich mineral waters from the world's deepest geothermal hot spring. Create lasting memories and savor one-of-a-kind experiences at The Springs Resort & Spa.

800-225-0934
PagosaHotSprings.com



HEALING WATERS RESORT & SPA

In the heart of downtown Pagosa Springs. Comfortable rooms, park-model cabins & spacious suites at affordable prices. On-site hot springs swimming pool, hot tub & bathhouse. Walking distance to just about everything fun!

800-832-5523
970-264-5910
PSHotSprings.com



THE CABINS AT HARTLAND RANCH

This is how you do Colorado!
2 & 3 bedroom luxury log cabins on
35 secluded acres. Close to town.

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FIRESIDE CABINS

Open year-round. Nightly rates.
15 cabins on the San Juan River.
1 & 2 bdrm fully equipped modern
cabins. Pet friendly (Dogs/Horses).
1 mile from Downtown Pagosa.

970-264-9204
FiresideCabins.com

1

GO SPOTTIN'

Spy our official state creatures as you travel around:



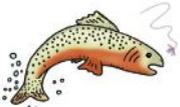
STATE ANIMAL: Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. Found in high-mountain terrain. Good opportunities include: Browns Canyon National Monument near Buena Vista;

Guanella Pass Scenic & Historic Byway near Georgetown; Beaver Creek State Wildlife Area near Penrose; Natural Arch near Del Norte.



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 in 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, Zimmerman Lake near Fort Collins.



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, Bella Vista Bison in Elbert.



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/Birds.aspx



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 celebrating furry and feathery friends: Cedaredge's Grand Mesa Moose Day (July), Georgetown's Big Horn Sheep Festival (November), Lamar's High Plains Snow Goose Festival (February), Karval Mountain Plover Festival (March), Marmot Festival in Pine (June) 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

7 WAYS TO EXPERIENCE COLORADO'S 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.

1

HISTORIC FORTS

Open a window to the 1800s, when the area was settled by frontiersmen, military men, homesteaders, miners and more. Find out what life was like for Coloradans during the nation's westward expansion at Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site in La Junta, Fort Uncompahgre in Delta, El Pueblo Fort in Pueblo, Fort Vasquez in Platteville, Fort Garland and Fort Morgan. Many have living-history events, demonstrations and reenactments, so be sure to check calendars before planning a trip.

COLORADO.com/Forts

2

GHOST TOWNS

Peek in the dusty windows of a once-rowdy saloon, ATV on roads no one bothered to pave on their way out of town and hear stories of standoffs in gulches that remind you that this was the Wild West: Independence and Ashcroft near Aspen; St. Elmo and Tin Cup near Buena Vista; Carson near Lake City; Animas Forks near Silverton; Teller City near Walden; Tomboy near Telluride; Goldfield near Cripple Creek; Ohio City near Gunnison; Dearfield near Greeley, Nevada near Central City. COLORADO.com/GhostTowns

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.

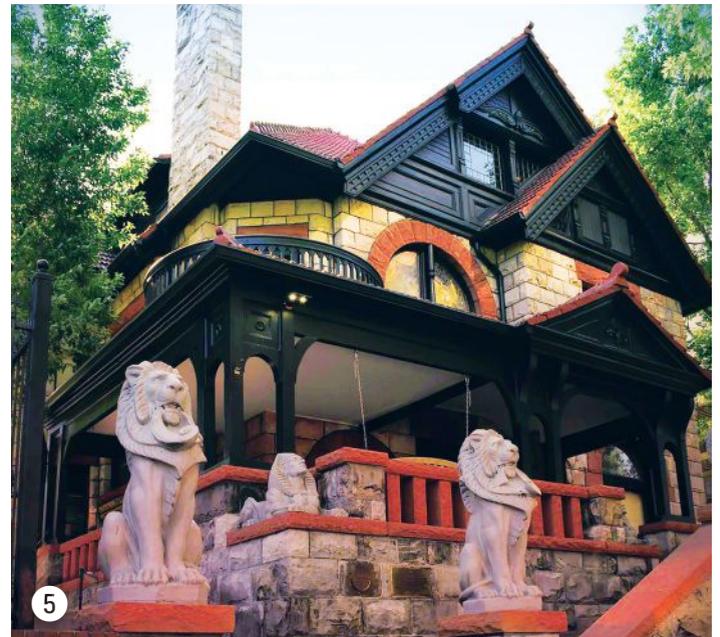
historycolorado.org/tours-and-treks

4 LIVING HISTORY

Tour buildings and see what life was like for the state's early residents, including South Park City in Fairplay, Wyman Living History Museum in Craig, Centennial Village Museum in Greeley, Bent's Old Fort in La Junta, the Littleton Museum, Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site in Colorado Springs, Indigenous Roots in Weston, Rangely Outdoor Museum, Frisco Historic Park, Golden Historic Park and Four Mile Historic Park in Denver. COLORADO.com/Museums

5 HISTORIC HOMES

Many historic structures house colorful human stories. 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 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. Trinidad's Bloom Mansion highlights ornate Second Empire architecture. 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 its place of operation.



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

Pro rodeos, exhibits, farm animals and foods on a stick are staples at more than 60 county fairs each summer. Some faves include El Paso County Fair in Calhan, Logan County Fair & Rodeo in Sterling, Montrose County Fair and Rodeo, Kiowa County Fair & Rodeo in Eads, Baca County Fair in Springfield, Holly Gateway Fair, Crowley County Days in Ordway and Routt County Fair in Hayden. COLORADO.com/Events

WANT MORE? COLORADO.COM/HISTORY

9 REASONS LOCALS LOVE LEADVILLE & SO WILL YOU

Flanked by the highest peaks in the Rockies and immersed in colorful mining and frontier history, laid-back **Leadville** and **Twin Lakes** offer an abundance of opportunities for visitors to be in their element — whether you're seeking year-round recreation, ravishing mountain scenery or a peek into the genuine Wild West.

1 IT'S THE EPITOME OF COLORADO HIGH COUNTRY.

At 10,152 feet above sea level, Leadville is the highest incorporated city in North America. Colorado's two tallest fourteeners — mountains higher than 14,000 feet — tower above the area, including 14,433-foot Mt. Elbert and 14,421-foot Mt. Massive. **Twin Lakes**, located adjacent to the state's two largest glacial lakes in the shadow of Mt. Elbert, is a popular spot for photographers and trophy-seeking lake-trout anglers. With no light pollution, the twinkling stars of the Milky Way are in full view from the top of nearby Mt. Bump. Its half-mile interpretive trail is even ADA-accessible.

A drive on the **Top of the Rockies Scenic and Historic Byway** is an excellent way to capture the area's best views. The 82-mile route traverses 10,424-foot Tennessee Pass and famous 12,095-foot Independence Pass, affording sights of sky-scraping peaks, sprawling valleys and reflective lakes.

2 ONLY-IN-COLORADO OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES ARE PLENTIFUL IN THE AREA.

While many rambblers journey to the area to summit the fourteeners, there are **hiking trails for all abilities**. Hikers and bikers can choose to conquer a section of the Colorado Trail, a 500-mile route stretching between Denver and Durango, near Twin Lakes; or hop on the popular **Mineral Belt Trail**, which winds through conifer woodlands, aspen groves and wildflower meadows.

3 IT'S NOT JUST A SUMMER DESTINATION.

More than 100 miles of groomed, multiuse winter trails through forests, glades and mining relics crisscross Leadville and Twin Lakes and are perfect for **cross-country skiing, snowmobiling and fat biking**. Other possibilities for winter fun include snowmobiling, ice skating, sledding and backcountry-hut trips in the famed 10th Mountain Division Hut system.

Leadville is the site of the **2020 Dion Snowshoes U.S. National Snowshoe Championships**, with races and events for pros and amateurs alike. The qualifier is Jan. 25 and the main events are Feb. 28 through Mar. 1, 2020.

If downhill skiing is your preference, **Ski Cooper** receives an average of 260 inches of snowfall a year and boasts 470 skiable acres just 10 minutes from Leadville. It's a favorite for its all-natural snow, beginner to advanced terrain and affordability. This year brings additional lift-accessed expert terrain packed with tree and glade skiing. And, Chicago Ridge Snowcat Tours takes freshie-seekers up along the Continental Divide to experience amazing powder.

4 THE TRAIN WHISTLE STILL BLOWS IN LEADVILLE.

From Memorial Day weekend until October, the **Leadville, Colorado & Southern Railroad** winds visitors on an excursion through swaths of unscathed wilderness. Spot deer or marmots as the stunning



Twin Lakes lunker lake trout



Fat biking in the shadow of Mt. Massive



Gold Medal fishing on the Arkansas River



Ski-joring first full weekend in March



Top of the Rockies Scenic Byway

landscape slides by and capture amazing photos of fourteeners. Wildflower and fall-foliage excursions are particularly magical.

5 AFFORDABLE LODGING LETS YOU DO MORE & STAY LONGER.

Mid-week lodging rates are particularly low, and from **cozy inns and historic hotels** to modern motels and **out-of-the-way campgrounds**, there are places to stay in Leadville and Twin Lakes to accommodate every desire and budget. Plus, close proximity to popular ski destinations like Vail (about 40 miles away), Beaver Creek (about 55 miles away) and Breckenridge (about 40 miles away) make the area an ideal home base for summer and winter adventures.

6 LEADVILLE WAS THE CENTER OF THE WILD WEST.

Once one of Colorado's most lawless mining boomtowns, Leadville overflowed with fortune-seeking miners, infamous outlaws and brawny mountain men. Horace Tabor, known as the Silver King, and his second wife Baby Doe, along with

gun-slinging dentist Doc Holliday are just a few frontier **characters** who contributed to the town's history — and their legends live on in Leadville and Twin Lakes' well-preserved historical sights and its eight museums.

View replicas of underground mines and impressive collections of minerals at the **National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum**, then get an idea of how people lived in Leadville during the silver-mining boom at the **Healy House Museum**. Or stroll Leadville's **National Historic Landmark District**, which includes 70 square blocks lined with Victorian-era buildings, most of which were built between 1880 and 1905.

7 LEADVILLE & TWIN LAKES RESIDENTS KEEP THINGS LOCAL.

Many of the area's Victorian buildings house **locally owned shops** offering everything from rare antiques and frontier clothing to homemade fudge and souvenirs. Visit **Harperose Studios**, a mountain-style gallery with dozens of local and regional artists' works.

Meanwhile, one-of-a-kind eateries offer comforting, home-style grub. Snag a table at the **Twin Lakes Inn and Saloon**, where dishes like elk meatloaf and American buffalo broil will satisfy your appetite, or snowshoe to the **Tennessee Pass Cookhouse** to fill your belly with delights like Colorado rack of lamb and stuffed rainbow trout (reservations required). **Treeline Kitchen** has an inviting menu, outdoor firepit and a roof to view epic sunsets. Stop into **Periodic Brewing**, the nation's highest craft brewery, to try the Hope Pass IPA or the Sugarloaf Amber Ale.

8 YOUR GOLF BALL WILL FLY FARTHER.

Thinner air at higher elevations enables golf balls to fly farther. And at 9,680 feet, **Mt. Massive Golf Course** is the highest golf course in North America, offering golfers the chance to tee off on greens surrounded by beautiful ranchland and forests with towering peaks on the horizon.

9 THE FISH ARE ALWAYS BITING.

Thanks to a wealth of pristine waters Lake County is an angler's dream. The Arkansas River, with its Gold Medal waters designation, is known as one of the best wild brown habitats in Colorado, and anglers are known to pluck 10- to 14-inch catches out of its waters. Other **prime fishing spots** include Hayden Reservoir, Twin and Turquoise Lakes and Crystal Lakes. Traveling with the family? Don't miss the **Leadville National Fish Hatchery**, built in 1889.

leadvilletwinlakes.com
855-488-1222



LEADVILLE RAILROAD

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866-386-3936
LeadvilleRailroad.com

NATIONAL MINING HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Smithsonian of the Rockies

120 W. 9th, Leadville
MiningHallOfFame.org | 719-496-1229

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.

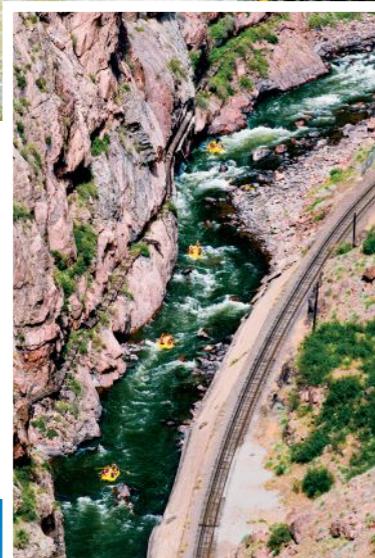
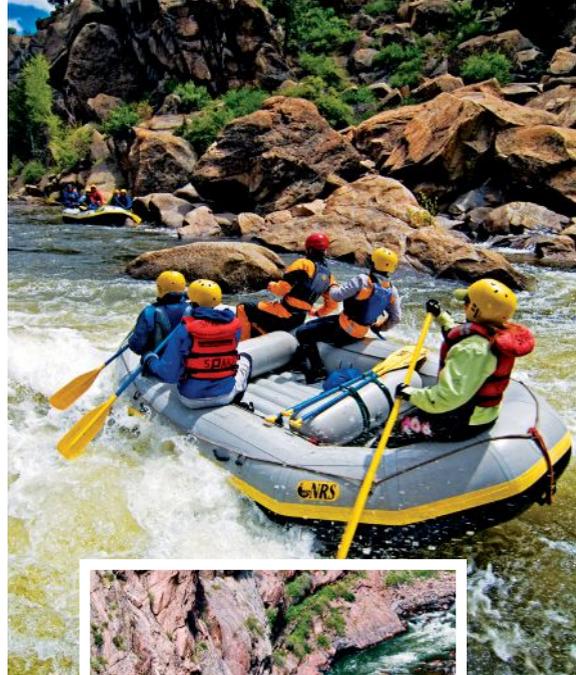
With so many rivers and expert guides, there's an experience fit for people of nearly all abilities.

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 62.



FROM TOP: ARKANSAS RIVER NEAR BUENA VISTA. CLASSIC VISIONS PHOTOGRAPHY; THE ROYAL GORGE. KENNAN HARVEY; DOLORES RIVER NEAR GATEWAY, KENNAN HARVEY.



Your Guide

You and Your Friends

Great Packages

Free

Wetsuits
River Boots
Splash Jackets!

Fun

COLORADO
FUN
STARTS
HERE

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Rafting Colorado's Two Best Rivers—Arkansas & Clear Creek.
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Raft! Colorado's Arkansas River
RIVER RUNNERS



Buena Vista - Browns Canyon
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Clear Creek
RAFTING COMPANY

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Wetsuit and
Splash Jacket
use!

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most popular rivers for over 25 years!

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4 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT RAFTING COLORADO RIVERS

1 ALMOST ANYONE CAN GO WHITEWATER RAFTING

HERE: While adrenaline junkies certainly get their fix on our rivers, rafting is safe and fun for people of nearly all ages and abilities. 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, with all the expertise to lead you safely down river. They are accustomed to guiding trips for seasoned rafters and those who've never dipped a paddle. Pay attention to the safety talk, follow directions and have fun!

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 past fossils and archaeological sites, Fremont Indian rock carvings, geological formations and sandy spots perfect for overnight camping.

Typical departure city: Steamboat Springs, Craig, Maybell

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, Craig, Boulder, Durango, Pagosa Springs and Vail, to name a few.

FROM TOP: DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT; NOAH WETZEL; GUNNISON GORGE WILDERNESS NEAR MONTROSE; KENNAN HARVEY; GLENWOOD WHITEWATER PARK; @KIDKIELY.

BACK FOR MORE

Whether it's your first, third or 10th Colorado trip, consider using these familiar towns as a launchpad to uncover places that you might not have heard of yet.



IN DENVER?

CHECK OUT AURORA. It's close to many of Denver's attractions on the east side of town but boasts a cultural reputation of its own. **Don't Miss:** A show at the Aurora Fox Arts Center, six public golf courses and Cherry Creek State Park's swimming area, favorite eateries like Annette, Rosenberg's Bagels & Delicatessen and Comida at Stanley Marketplace

IN ASPEN?

HIT UP CARBONDALE. It makes a great base camp for recreation enthusiasts while exuding a creative vibe. **Don't Miss:** The Rio Grande ARTWay and Powers Art Center, biking, kayaking and fly-fishing, speakeasy Batch, farm-to-table restaurant SILO and Carbondale Creamery's homemade gelato

IN GRAND JUNCTION?

TREK TO FRUITA. The beautiful landscapes are prime for exploration, especially via mountain bike. **Don't Miss:** Hiking Devil's Canyon in McInnis Canyons National

Conservation Area, floating down Ruby and Horsechief canyons, whitewater rafting through Westwater Canyon, mountain biking the Kokopelli Loops or Lunch Loops Trails, the Dinosaur Journey Museum

IN STEAMBOAT SPRINGS?

DISCOVER RANGELY. Those willing to travel two hours west will get a look at Colorado's remote northwest corner and its array of Wild West history. **Don't Miss:** The Flat Tops Trail and Dinosaur Diamond scenic byways, Canyon Pintado National Historic District's ancient pictographs, the Rangely Outdoor Museum, the Rangely Automotive Museum

IN PUEBLO?

PEEP LA JUNTA. To get an authentic sense of Colorado's frontier history. **Don't Miss:** Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site, the Koshare Museum, rock art and petroglyphs from 300 to 800 years ago in Vogel Canyon, a guided tour to the dinosaur tracks in Picketwire Canyon, cocktails at The Railyard

IN BOULDER?

JAUNT TO LONGMONT.

A growing creative community and well-established craft-beverage scene. **Don't Miss:** Longmont Museum & Cultural Center, Longmont Farmers Market, farm dinners at Ollin Farms and Meadow Lark Farm Dinners, the Brewhop Trolley, several fromage-focused businesses like The Art of Cheese, Haystack Mountain Cheese and Cheese Importers

IN CRESTED BUTTE?

WANDER TO GUNNISON.

To appreciate a welcoming, Western-rooted community that offers a taste of Colorado's signature frontier heritage and proximity to some of the state's most-iconic landscapes. **Don't Miss:** Night skies at the Gunnison Valley Observatory, the Gunnison Whitewater Park, Curecanti National Recreation Area, the West Elk Loop Scenic Byway, the Pioneer Museum, Garlic Mike's Float 'n Dine experience

IN BRECKENRIDGE?

HOP ALONG TO SILVERTHORNE.

Being surrounded by five major ski resorts with year-round activities sure doesn't hurt, and it makes for an affordable home base whether carving the slopes in the winter or tackling heart-pumping

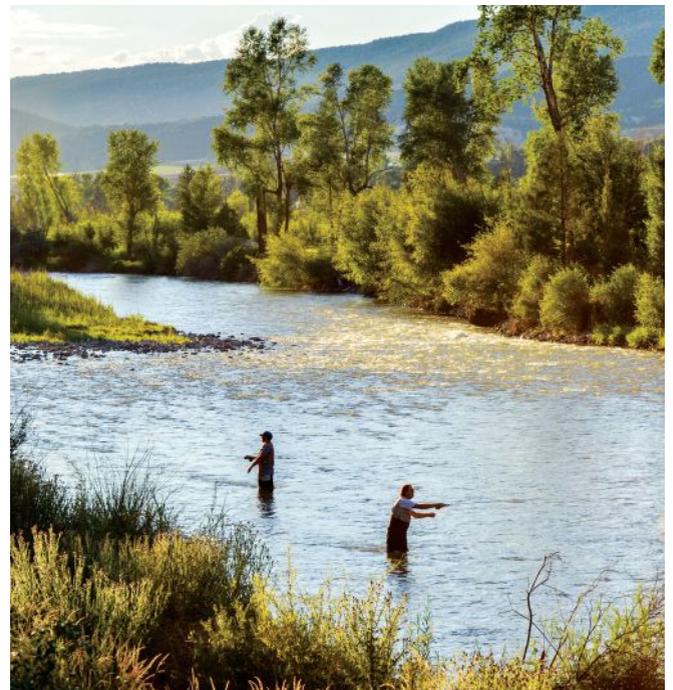
hiking and biking on the Summit County Recreational Parkway in the summer. **Don't Miss:** Gold Medal-fishing on the Blue River, Raven Golf Club at Three Peaks, the historic Mint Steakhouse, Silverthorne Performing Arts Center, The Outlets at Silverthorne

IN FORT MORGAN?

ROOM TO STERLING. It's the largest city in Logan County and has recently experienced a renaissance of growth, welcoming new restaurants, boutiques and a blossoming arts community. **Don't Miss:** Galleries such as the Sterling Creatives Artist Cooperative, Peter L. Youngers Fine Arts Gallery and the Sanderson Gallery; the Overland Trail Museum, a walking tour of the Downtown Sterling Historic District, North Sterling State Park, Simkins Parlour, Parts & Labor Brewing

IN ALAMOSA?

CRUISE TO DEL NORTE. Surrounded by 3,778 acres of public lands, the enclave's location provides incredible access to outdoor adventure. **Don't Miss:** Penitente Canyon, the Rio Grande County Museum and Cultural Center, Summitville ghost town (4x4 vehicle recommended), Three Barrel Brewing Company, the Dining Room at the Windsor Hotel



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.

RIO GRANDE SCENIC RAILROAD

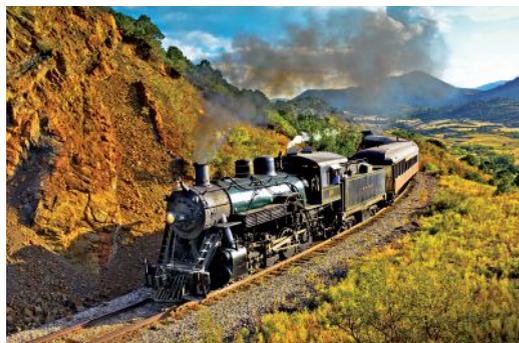
The Rio Grande Scenic Railroad in Alamosa winds through beautiful south-central Colorado on the highest standard-gauge tracks in the United States.

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.

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.



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.

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.

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 South-west 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.

THIS JUST IN!

Colorado Springs' Pikes Peak Cog Railway will reopen in 2021 after closing for track repairs.

RAILROAD MUSEUMS

Get the inside track on how the railroads shaped Colorado.

- ▶ 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
- ▶ Galloping Goose Historical Museum in Dolores
- ▶ Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad Museum
- ▶ Moffat Road Railroad Museum in Granby
- ▶ Limon Heritage Museum & Railroad Park
- ▶ Tracks & Trails Museum in Phippsburg

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: GEORGETOWN LOOP RAILROAD, JIM DAVID; ROYAL GORGE ROUTE RAILROAD, JIM DAVID; RIO GRANDE SCENIC RAILROAD, ROBERT KISSEL.



ESCAPE THE MODERN WORLD.



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. The modern world can wait until you're good and sooty and done.

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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, **Epic Sky Trek** in Castle Rock, **Top of the Rockies Zip Line** in Leadville, **Colorado Adventure Center** in Idaho Springs and **Winter Park Adventure Quest**. COLORADO.com/AdventureParks

MUSEUMS See colossal dinos at the **Denver Museum of Nature & Science** or the **Royal Gorge Dinosaur Experience** in Cañon City; learn about foraging and farms at the **Fort Collins Museum of Discovery**; become a maker in the Google Garage at the new **Museum of Boulder**; run your own food truck at **The Trailhead Children's Museum** in Crested Butte; or explore tiny worlds at the **Greeley Model Railroad Museum**. COLORADO.com/Museums

FAMILY MATTERS

Get Your Merry Group 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, goggle-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, Breckenridge, 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 **Eliitch 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 RESORT/TOM COHEN; FORT COLLINS MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY; ELITCH GARDENS THEME & WATER PARK; BETH SCHNEIDER; GLENWOOD CAVERNS ADVENTURE PARK; JACK AFFLECK



HISTORIC ATTRACTIONS

Well-preserved landmarks and captivating museums bring the past to life, when American Indians, pioneers and fortune-seekers made our state what it is today. Gain an understanding of the arduous work undertaken by miners at **Mollie Kathleen Gold Mine** in Cripple Creek or **Last Chance Mine** in Creede; ride the rails of the **Rio Grande Scenic Railroad** in Alamosa or the **Leadville Railroad**; or explore the living culture of the Ute Indians at the **Ute Indian Museum** in Montrose and the **Southern Ute Museum** in Ignacio (see page 57 for more). COLORADO.com/History



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 ACTIVITY 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 much fun they can have on a journey through the great outdoors. COLORADO.com/CSPBackpacks



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: GOLD PAN, ISTOCKPHOTO; OLD HUNDRED GOLD MINE, BUTTERFLY, ISTOCKPHOTO; BACKPACK, GETTYIMAGES; COLORADO GATOR FARM IN MOSCA.

SCENIC AND HISTORIC BYWAYS

DID YOU KNOW COLORADO HAS 26 OFFICIAL BYWAYS, 11 OF WHICH ARE ALSO NATIONALLY DESIGNATED AMERICA'S BYWAYS?

This publication is available for free on your iPad, giving you access to in-depth descriptions, photos, route information and suggested itineraries. It's convenient, dynamic and a must-have for any Colorado visitor.



VIEW THIS GUIDE ONLINE

This guide is also available online, viewable in any browser. Go to COLORADO.com/guide-order for links to the e-edition, as well as all the apps you can download.



16 COOL COLORADO PLACES TO STAY

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



4

3 MANCOS STATE PARK, MANCOS

A peaceful lake for fishers and canoeers; ponderosa-shaded spots for RVers, campers and yurt-dwellers; and more than 5.5 miles of trails to explore via hike, horseback, mountain bike and snowshoe mean you're in for a quintessential Colorado stay.

4 WINDSOCK ACRES, CREEDE

"Cute" can't adequately describe the charm of these eclectic cabins. From the architecture to the whimsical interior details, you'll spend lots of time in this scenic part of the state shooting pics of your abode.

5 AMIGO MOTOR LODGE, SALIDA

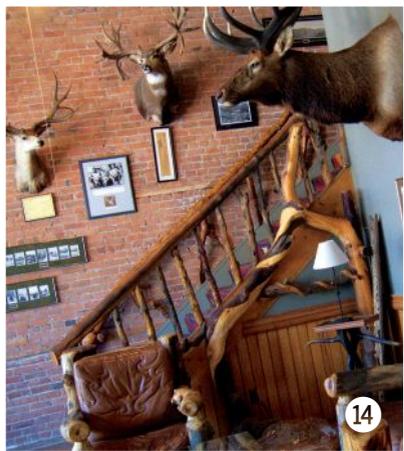
This ain't your grandpa's motor lodge. You can't help but feel hip relaxing in the lodge's comfy rooms, tipi and sun room after a day exploring the Collegiate Peaks. It also has a modern approach to conservation you can feel good about.

6 ORIGIN HOTEL RED ROCKS, MORRISON

Whether taking in a Red Rocks show or not, this ultra-cool, amphitheater-adjacent hotel's beer garden, mountain-bike rentals, in-room camping set up for the kids and pup packages have all your experiences covered.

7 CLAREMONT INN & WINERY, STRATTON

An elegant country mansion on the Pioneering Plains, where breakfast in bed is the norm and cooking classes, murder-mystery nights, wine tastings and other events keep the evenings lively.



14



16

1 WEE CASA, LYONS

Not ready to commit to a tiny home in real life? Try one of 20-plus teensy houses on for size at this riverside tiny-house hotel. Communal amenities include fire pits and grills, lawn games and a spectacular setting.

2 GAYLORD ROCKIES RESORT & CONVENTION CENTER, AURORA

This brand-new spot makes vacationing so easy, you may never leave the property, including eight dining options, a spa, indoor and outdoor pools with a lazy river and cabana rentals, and mountain views from cabin-themed rooms.

8 W HOTEL & RESIDENCES, ASPEN

Ski-town luxury at its finest in any season, this new hotel boasts an all-weather rooftop retreat with heated pool, the town's newest après ski hot spot and, of course, expansive Aspen Mountain views.

9 CAÑON BONITO RV PARK & ANGLERS CLUB, ANTONITO

A private section of the Conejos River lures fly-fishers and anyone seeking tranquility to these large, grassy sites. Easy access to San Luis Valley attractions, on-site laundry and unlimited access to dark, stary skies are also bonuses.

10 REDSTONE CASTLE, REDSTONE

Built by a coal magnate in 1902, this Tudor-style castle in the Crystal River Valley evokes this history of many bygone eras. We'd choose Mr. Osgood's Study as our preferred suite at this boutique alpine hideaway.

11 COLORADO ADVENTURE HOSTEL, COLORADO SPRINGS

Bunk with like-minded adventurers in European style with a mix of shared accommodation and private rooms, a common chill lounge and peaceful backyard, daily events and excursions (think yoga sessions and bonfires).

12 DROWSY WATER RANCH, GRANBY

For Wild West family fun and togetherness, this ranch only has satisfied customers. The all-inclusive meals, activities, cabins and kids program make decisions easy, and the incredibly caring staff put it on wishlists for annual visits.

13 AGAPE FARM & RETREAT, PAONIA

At this B&B with a focus on peace and rejuvenation set amid a vineyard, gardens and a pine forest, you're bound to find the perfect place to finally finish that novel. A healthy and tasty breakfast made of home-grown and local produce will help, too.

14 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.

15 THREE DOG NIGHT, SUGAR CITY

East of Pueblo and 100 yards from Lake Meredith, this adobe-style guesthouse with Adirondack chairs on the porch, a hammock for lazy-day naps and an excellent picnic area is pure bliss for those seeking rural respite.

16 TENNESSEE PASS SLEEP YURTS, LEADVILLE

Get off the grid in a cozy yurt beside a wood stove 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.

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

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: Zeppelin Station food hall
MORE: See page 98.

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 104.



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: Westrail Tap and Grille for local brews
MORE: See page 104.

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: Brisket queso and other tasty delights at 719 Gastropub
MORE: See page 110.



5 FORT COLLINS

SEE & DO: Old Town Historic District; top breweries like Odell Brewing Company; Horsetooth Reservoir for stand-up paddleboarding

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

GRAB A BITE: Farm, ranch and doc fare at The Regional
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 170.

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: Cajun specialties at Mo'Betta Gumbo
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: Small plates at Gourmet Grub Scratch Kitchen
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: "Lavishly crafted" MX Tapas/Tacos/Tequila
MORE: See page 162.



10 LONGMONT

SEE & DO: Longmont Museum summer film series; Longmont Farmers Market; Brewhop Trolley; Downtown Longmont Creative District

GET AROUND: RTD local and regional buses

GRAB A BITE: Locally and thoughtfully sourced CHUBurger brought to you by Oskar Blues
MORE: See page 182.

SEE MORE AT COLORADO.COM/URBAN.

FROM TOP: WYILD SCHOOL IN COLORADO SPRINGS; ODELL BREWING COMPANY IN FORT COLLINS; LONGMONT MUSEUM; JONATHAN PHILLIPS' BINGO BURGER IN PUEBLO; ZEPPELIN STATION IN DENVER.

GATEWAY TO THE ROCKIES

your

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Explore the beauty of Aurora, Colorado through shopping, golf, and unique things to do. Home to more than 250 ethnic eateries, dine around the globe without ever leaving the city. Explore the territory on foot, by paddle board, or bike and let your adventure begin.

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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.

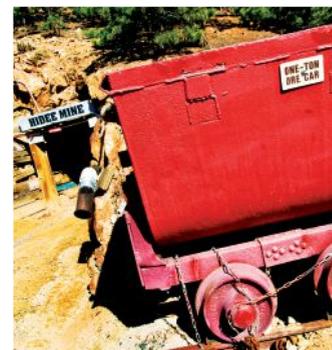
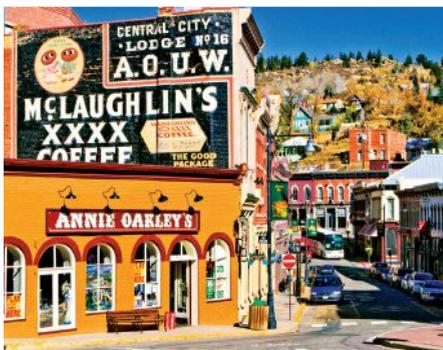
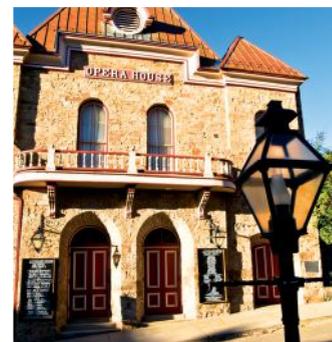
Central City and Black Hawk visitors tempt Lady Luck at limited-stakes blackjack, craps, roulette and poker tables as well as slot and video machines in 22 casinos, and 500 new hotel rooms are coming online this year to cater to those who want to play. Farther south, **Cripple Creek**, another mining-turned-gambling

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.

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



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



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** 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.

THE ULTIMATE RESORT TAKES FLIGHT

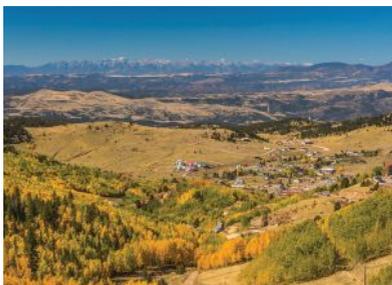
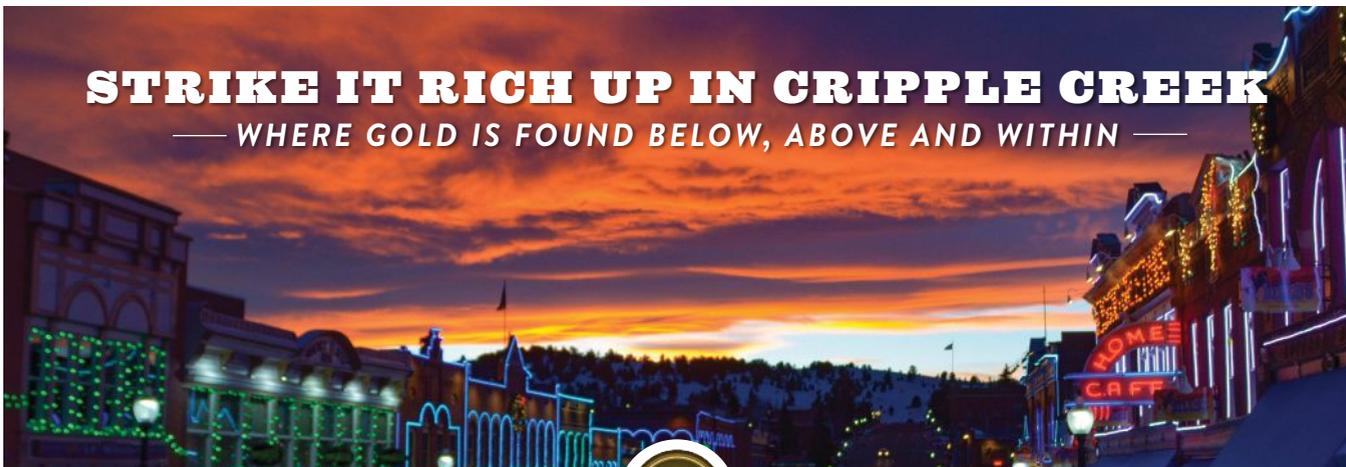
45 minutes from downtown Denver lies an awe-inspiring oasis featuring luxurious accommodations, heart-pounding casino action, exquisite dining, revitalizing rooftop pool and spa, and state-of-the-art meeting facilities. We invite you to experience the ultimate resort.

monarchblackhawk.com



STRIKE IT RICH UP IN CRIPPLE CREEK

— WHERE GOLD IS FOUND BELOW, ABOVE AND WITHIN —



Get Out and Play More.



WE ARE RICH IN *BEAUTY*, RICH IN *EXCITEMENT*, RICH IN *ADVENTURE*, AND RICH IN *HISTORY*.

— VisitCrippleCreek.com —

NAME	MAIN TOWNS ALONG ROUTE	DISTANCE	DRIVING TIME (RECOMMENDED)	RECOMMENDED SEASONS	VISITS NATIONAL PARKS/ MONUMENTS	DESCRIPTION
ALPINE LOOP*	Lake City, Ouray, Silverton	63 miles	7 hours	Summer, Fall		Ride 1880s roads past wildflower meadows, old mines and ghost towns.
CACHE LA POUDE-NORTH PARK	Fort Collins, Walden	101 miles	3 hours	All		Travel alongside one of America's few Wild and Scenic Rivers.
COLLEGIATE PEAKS	Salida, Buena Vista, Granite, Poncha Springs	57 miles	2 hours	All		Take this old stagecoach route through canyons carved by the Arkansas River.
COLORADO RIVER HEADWATERS	Grand Lake, Granby, Hot Sulphur Springs, Kremmling	80 miles	2 hours	All	✓	Trace one of North America's mightiest rivers to the source.
DINOSAUR DIAMOND	Grand Junction, Fruita, Rangely, Dinosaur	134 miles	3 hours	All	✓	Hunt for fossils and footprints made by dinosaurs and rock art left by Fremont Indians.
FLAT TOPS TRAIL	Yampa, Meeker	82 miles	2 hours	Spring, Summer, Fall		Immerse yourself in the land that inspired the government to preserve wilderness areas.
FRONTIER PATHWAYS	Pueblo, Silver Cliff, Rye, Westcliffe, Colorado City	103 miles	3.5 hours	All		Glimpse relics of frontier life along a route that climbs ever upward.
GOLD BELT TOUR*	Florissant, Cripple Creek, Cañon City, Florence, Victor	131 miles	6 hours	All	✓	See canyons dotted with the petrified remains of life from 35 million years ago.
GRAND MESA	Cedaredge, Mesa, Palisade	63 miles	2 hours	Spring, Summer, Fall		Journey atop the world's largest flattop mountain for wide-open vistas and 300 lakes.
GUANELLA PASS	Georgetown, Grant	22 miles	1 hour	Spring, Summer, Fall		Tour the preserved mining town of Georgetown and rise in elevation to alpine wilderness.
HIGHWAY OF LEGENDS	Walsenburg, Trinidad, La Veta, Aguilar	82 miles	2 hours	Spring, Summer, Fall		Arc around the Spanish Peaks, where gold-seeking conquistadors once traveled.
LARIAT LOOP	Golden, Evergreen, Morrison	40 miles	2 hours	All		Drive one of the first routes developed to help Coloradans experience its mountain parks.
LOS CAMINOS ANTIGUOS	Alamosa, Fort Garland, San Luis, Conejos, Antonito	129 miles	3 hours	All	✓	Drift through the San Luis Valley, the rugged Sangre de Cristos and the Great Sand Dunes.
MOUNT EVANS	Idaho Springs	49 miles	2 hours	Summer		Travel the highest paved road in North America on a serpentine ride to the summit.
PAWNEE PIONEER TRAILS	Ault, Sterling, Fort Morgan, Briggsdale, Raymer, Grover	128 miles	3 hours	All		Meander a one-time thoroughfare for ambitious settlers, entrepreneurs and bison.
PEAK TO PEAK	Estes Park, Black Hawk, Central City, Nederland	55 miles	2 hours	All	✓	Get close with the Continental Divide, ghost towns, Victorian opulence and Longs Peak.
SAN JUAN SKYWAY	Silverton, Ouray, Ridgway, Rico, Dolores, Cortez, Mancos, Telluride	236 miles	7 hours	All	✓	Behold the multihued San Juans as you travel through silver-boom towns.
SANTA FE TRAIL	Lamar, Las Animas, La Junta, Trinidad	188 miles	4 hours	All		Traverse the famed lifeline between Missouri and Santa Fe traced by 1880s fortune-seekers.
SILVER THREAD	South Fork, Creede, Lake City	117 miles	3 hours	All		Roam wonderfully isolated swaths of the San Juans, stopping to sample historic towns.
SOUTH PLATTE RIVER TRAIL	Julesburg, Ovid	19 miles	1 hour	All		Imagine the sounds of the galloping Pony Express horses and Overland Trail settlers.
TOP OF THE ROCKIES	Aspen, Minturn, Twin Lakes, Leadville, Copper Mountain	115 miles	4 hours	Spring, Summer, Fall		Cross the Continental Divide three times on this dramatic mountain route.
TRACKS ACROSS BORDERS	Durango, Ignacio, Arboles	89 miles	4 hours	All	✓	Follow the development of the nation's largest narrow-gauge railroad system.
TRAIL OF THE ANCIENTS	Cortez, Dolores	116 miles	8 hours	All	✓	Witness the cliff dwellings and petroglyphs of the Ancestral Puebloans.
TRAIL RIDGE ROAD	Estes Park, Grand Lake	48 miles	2 hours	Summer, Fall	✓	Make your way above treeline through Rocky Mountain National Park.
UNAWEEP-TABEGUACHE	Whitewater, Placerville, Gateway, Naturita, Uravan	133 miles	3 hours	All		Look for remnants of those who tried to tame wild lands with copper and uranium mines.
WEST ELK LOOP	Carbondale, Redstone, Paonia, Hotchkiss, Gunnison, Crested Butte	205 miles	7 hours	Spring, Summer, Fall	✓	Dip in and out of lush river valleys along the loop's colorful passes.

* 4WD Needed for Portions



SEE PAGE 17 FOR 7 CARE FOR COLORADO PRINCIPLES.

8 WAYS COLORADO WILL RUIN YOU FOR BIKING ANYWHERE ELSE



It takes ample amounts of blacktop, 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**, Cirque Cyclery in **Paonia**, JUMP bike share and Pedego in **Denver**, Rocky Mountain Adventure Rentals in **Vail**, Boulder Cycle Sport, Papa Wheelies in **Montrose** and many other spots.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: LEFT, NEAR CRESTED BUTTE; MILES/USA SEAMAN; FRUITA, MILES/DENISE CHAMBERS; NORTH FRUITA, DESERT TRAILS NEAR GRAND JUNCTION; USA SEAMAN; BIKE HELMET; GETTY IMAGES; 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**, **Aspen** and **Steamboat Springs** are gold. Silver status goes to **Vail**, **Colorado Springs**, **Denver**, **Salida**, **Golden**, **Gunnison**, **Arvada**, **Summit County**, **Glenwood Springs** and **Longmont**, while **Greeley**, **Lakewood**, **Silverthorne**, **Pueblo**, **Fruita** 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 & LIBRARIES

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**, **Golden**, **Longmont**, **Buena Vista**, **Aspen** and **Basalt**.

8

WE MAKE 'EM OURSELVES

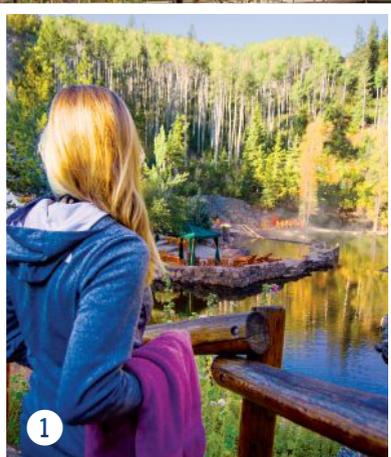
Handcrafted to get riders wheeling on all the terrain Colorado can serve up, more than 30 companies are keeping things local for Centennial State riders, from **Durango Bike Company** to **Alchemy Bicycle Company** in Denver, **Yeti Cycles** in Golden and many others.

WANT MORE? COLORADO.COM/CYCLING

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ASPEN/SNOWMASS; ASPEN/SNOWMASS; BOULDER B-CYCLE; FRISCO PENINSULA RECREATION AREA; TOWN OF FRISCO/TODD POWELL; COLORADO CLASSIC.

PICK-YOUR-PASSION ITINERARIES

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



4

1

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

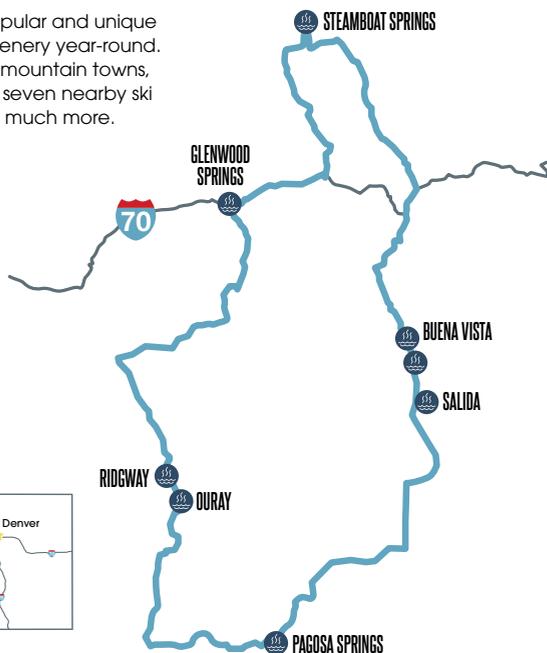
STOPS:

- 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 San Juan Mountains, check out six public and private hot springs — all with mountain views and easy access to Ouray and Ridgway's charming downtowns.

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: OURAY; HOT SPRINGS; STRAWBERRY PARK; HOT SPRINGS; STEAMBOAT SPRINGS; CHAMBER/NOAH WETZEL.

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.



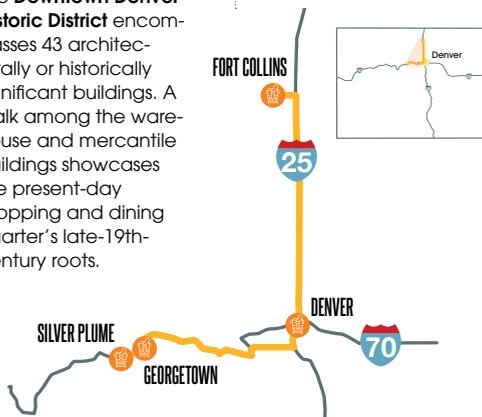
NORTH CENTRAL:

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.

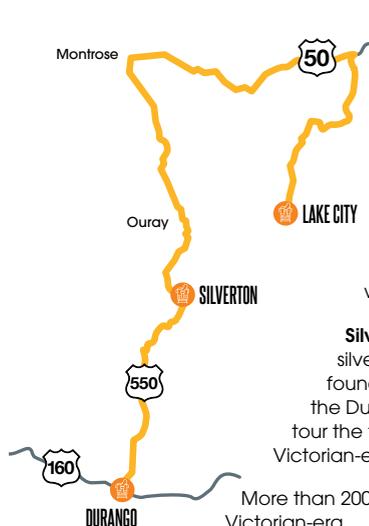


SOUTHWEST:

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.



SEE MORE AT COLORADO.COM/HISTORICDISTRICTS.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: GEORGETOWN, FLICKR/DCONVERTINI; SALIDA, FLICKR/CHARLES MÜHLE; SILVERTON, CLASSIC VISIONS PHOTOGRAPHY.

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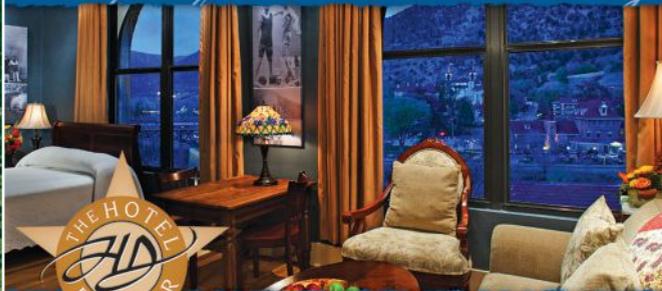


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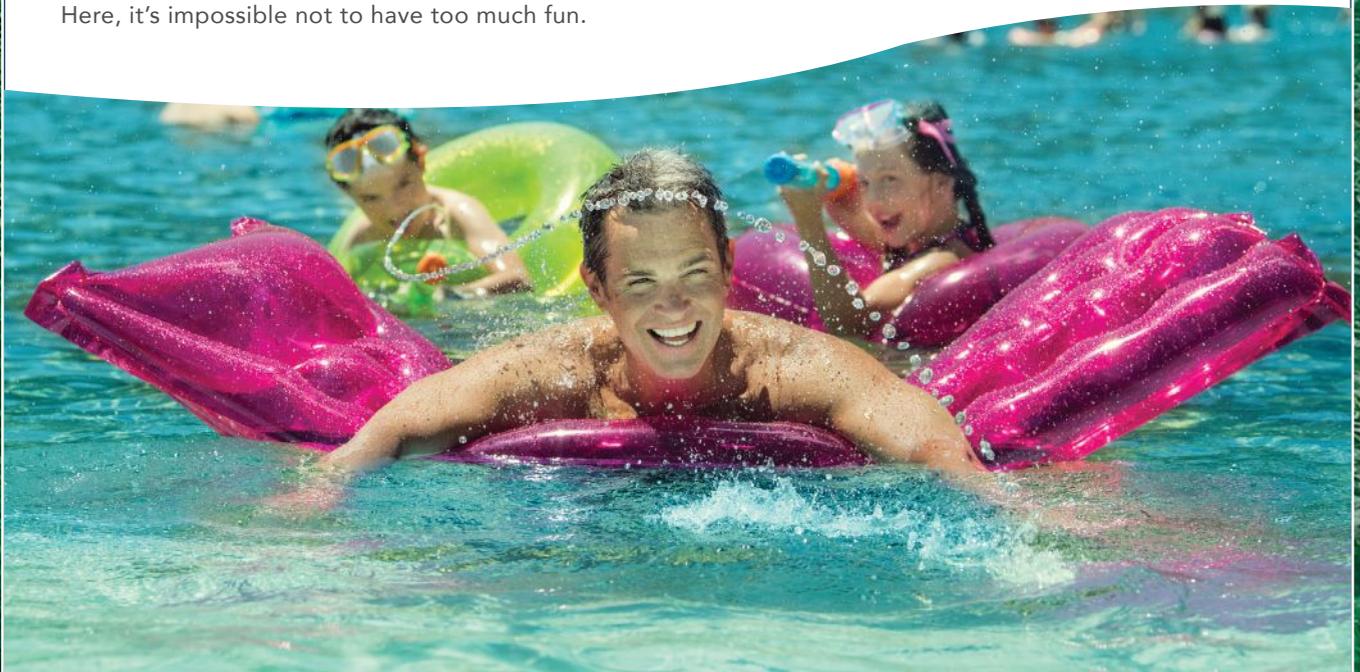
RAFTDEFIANCE.COM
970.404.3022

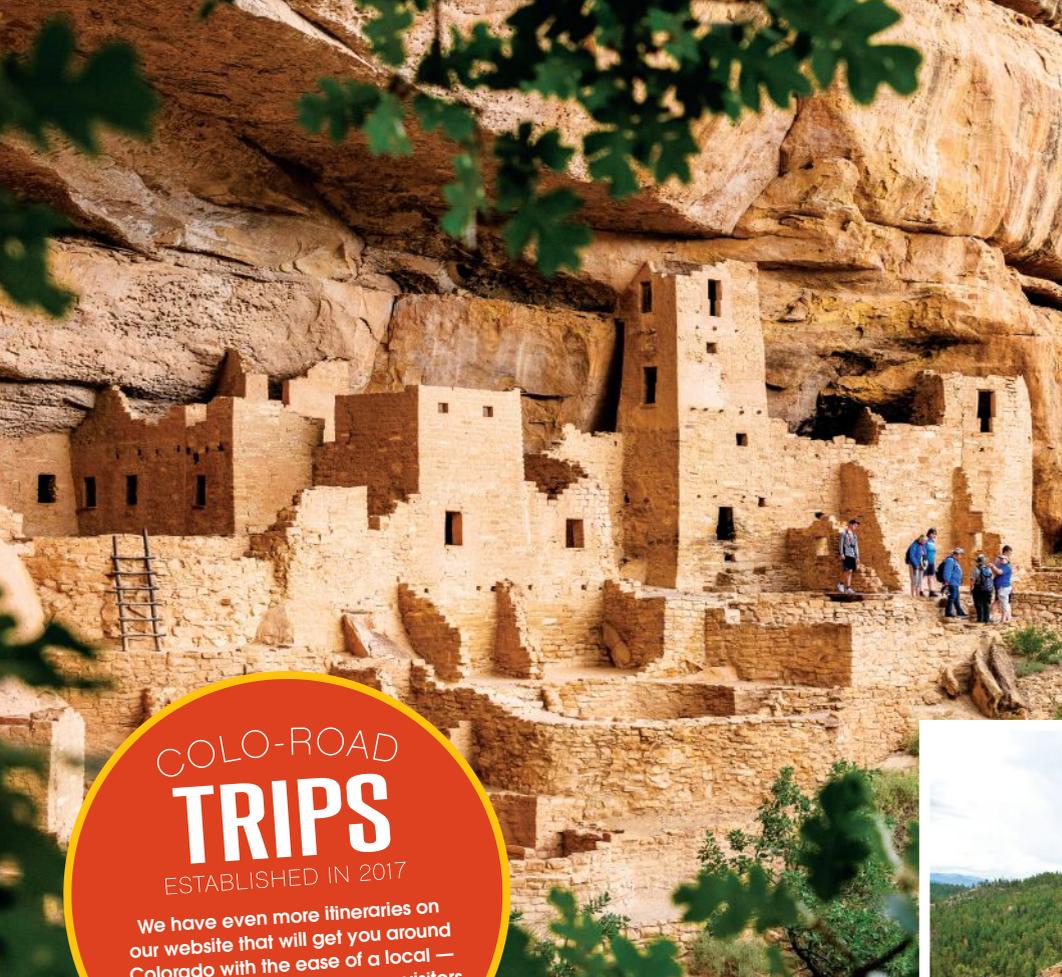
When your kids turn their sights on Dad.

It's true. The rejuvenating minerals in our water can turn back time.
(At least for an afternoon.) Welcome to Glenwood Hot Springs Resort.
Here, it's impossible not to have too much fun.



GLENWOOD
HOT SPRINGS
RESORT





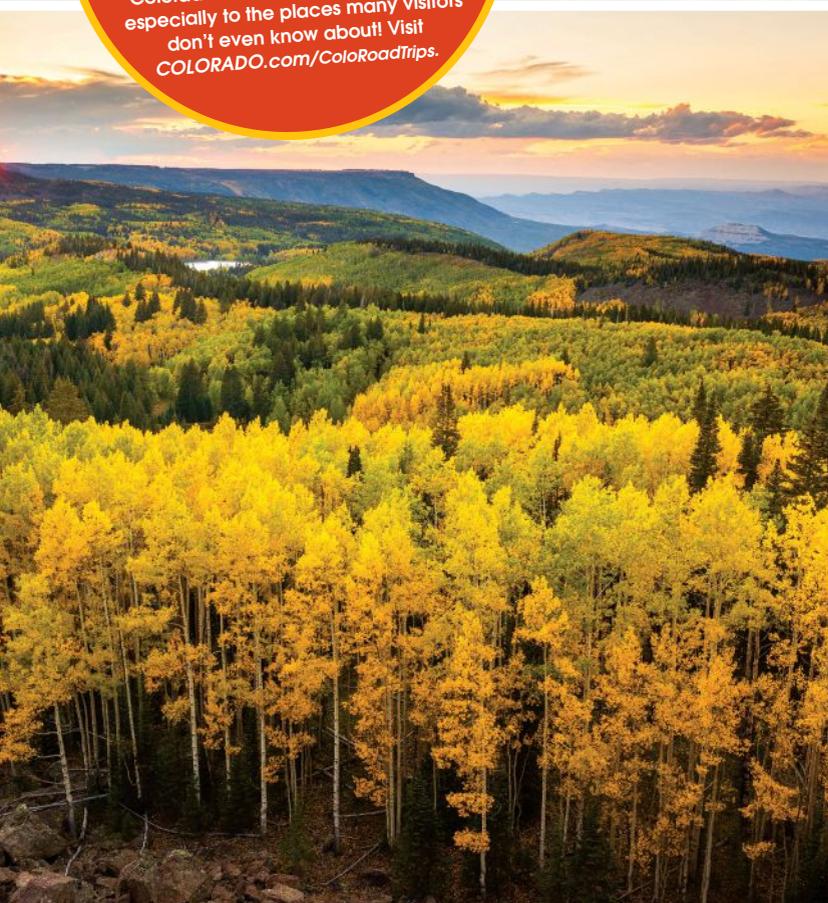
ON THE ROAD AGAIN: COLORADO'S SCENIC BYWAYS

While you will spend a lot of time in the car while bagging this handful of our 26 Scenic & Historic Byways (see page 74 for a full list), it'll be worth it.

COLO-ROAD TRIPS

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/ColoRoadTrips.



SOUTHWEST:

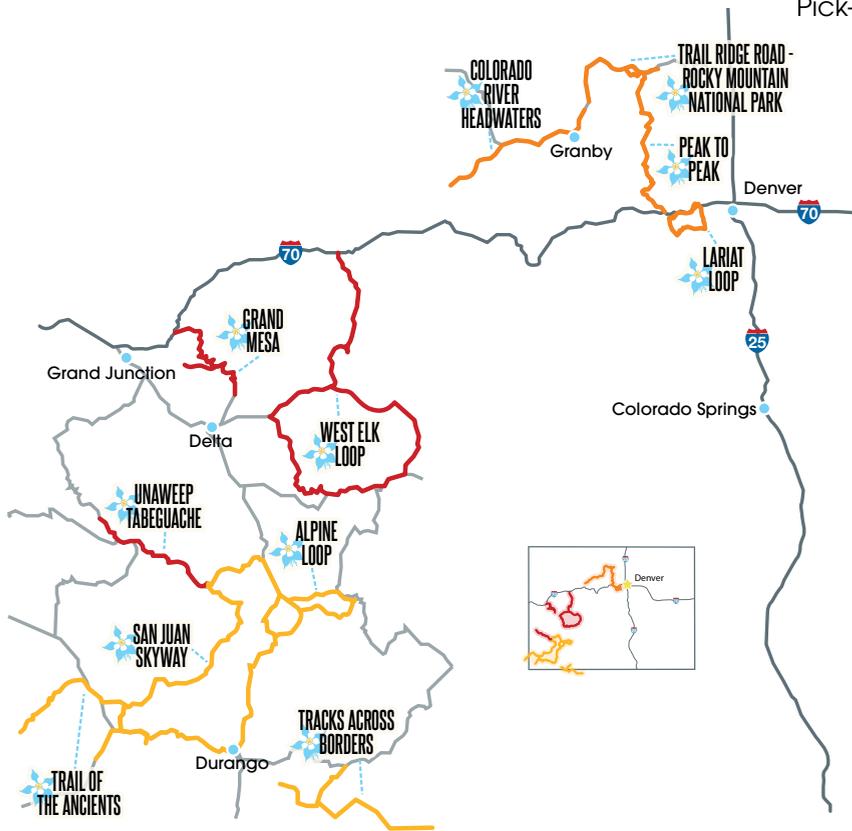
BASECAMP: DURANGO

From Durango, nearly every road out leads to a scenic byway. Start on the **Trail of the Ancients**, the first one designated for archaeological significance — it's the site of cliff dwellings and petroglyphs of Ancestral Puebloans. You'll also snap a photo at the Four Corners, where the borders of Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Utah meet at one point.

Your next leg is the **Tracks Across Borders**. Chug along the routes of the state's famed narrow-gauge railroads — pull-off to hop aboard the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad and Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad to give your driver a little respite.

Next, you'll head north along the **San Juan Skyway**, home to silver-boom towns and unbelievable San Juan mountain views. As you ride past the hamlets of Silverton, Telluride and Ouray, make sure to visit their historic downtowns full of Victorian-era architecture. On the same day, you could also swing the 65-mile **Alpine Loop**, which is only snow-free and accessible in the summer months.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: CLIFF PALACE AT MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK; JIM DAVID; DURANGO & SILVERTON NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD; ERIC LINDBERG; GRAND MESA; JASON J. HATFIELD.



NORTH CENTRAL:

BASECAMP: GRANBY

This area has four scenic highways you'll want to check off your list. While your basecamp is Granby, this adventure starts with **Lariat Loop** near Denver, so it's the perfect road trip if you've just landed at DIA. It takes you by Coors-loving Golden, the tiny mountain-town of Morrison and outdoorsy Evergreen. Get out and stretch your legs at Lair o' the Bear Park to wander in the hills above Idledeale.

Take your geography class knowledge of the Continental Divide and put it to work on **Peak to Peak**. Wind your way through mining ghost towns, Victorian-era villages and gorgeous views of snow-capped mountains like Long Peak.

Cut across Rocky Mountain National Park along **Trail Ridge Road**, North America's highest paved through-road (summer only).

Wrap up on the **Colorado River Headwaters** byway. View the upper swells of the Colorado River before it becomes one of the mightiest rivers in the United States. Finish off your trip with a soak in the hot springs at Hot Sulphur Springs.

WEST CENTRAL:

BASECAMP: DELTA

Delta, a town with history dating back to the Jurassic period, is your homebase for the three scenic byways in this territory. Kick off your trip in the north on **Grand Mesa**, where the world's largest flattop mountain and more than 300 stream-fed lakes await. Grab fresh apples from Cedaredge's farms, and stop at the Land's End Observatory for amazing views south of the town of Mesa.

Shaped like a lasso, the **West Elk Loop** connects charming and artsy mountain towns of Carbondale, Montrose, Crested Butte and Gunnison. You'll also have the chance to jaw drop at the beauty of Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

End your journey on the **Unaweep Tabeguache**, home to dinosaur fossils, bighorn sheep and the sandstone walls of the Dolores River Canyon.



FROM LEFT: TRAIL RIDGE ROAD SCENIC AND HISTORIC BYWAY, MILES/ANDREA BUIROLI/A; INDIAN PEAKS WILDERNESS NEAR GRANBY, KENNAN HARVEY.

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.

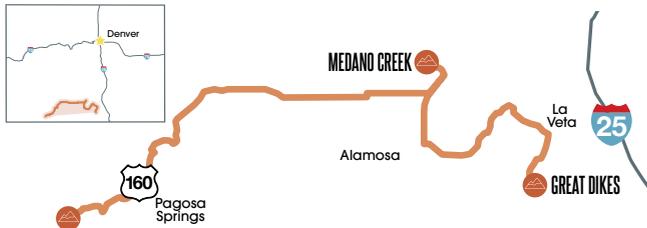
SOUTHWEST:

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

imaginings 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.



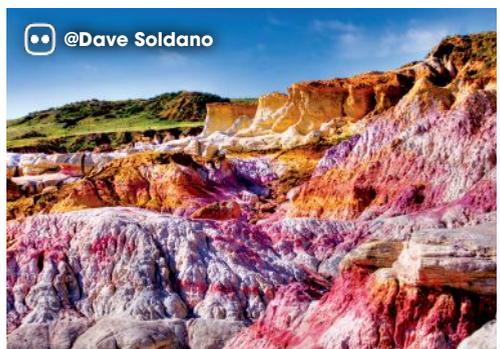
WEST:

176 MILES

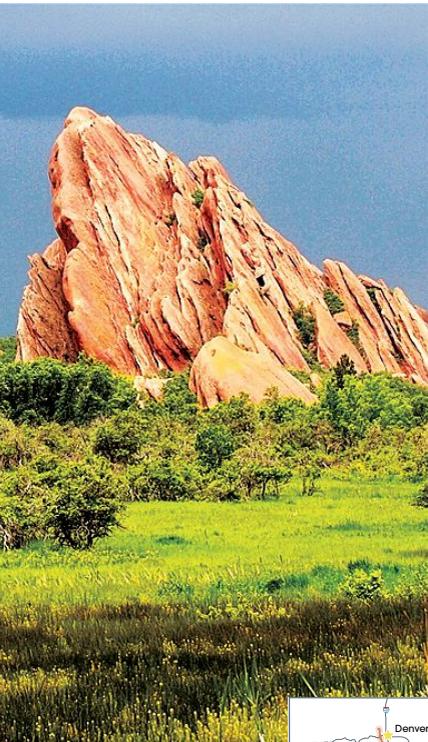
Start at **Colorado National Monument** just west of Grand Junction. Check off a list of wind- and water-sculpted rock formations with shape-inspired names like Window Rock, Pipe Organ, Kissing Couple, Praying Hands and Sentinel Spire.

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 unlvely 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.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: LEFT: SLUMGULLION EARTHFLOW NEAR LAKE CITY; CRAIG PALMER; GREAT DIKES NEAR CUCHARA; MILES/ANINA ZOROWSKI; PAINT MINES INTERPRETIVE PARK NEAR COLORADO SPRINGS; FLICKR/DAVID SOLDANO.



DARK-SKY HOT SPOTS

Who knew being exceptionally dark was such an asset? Well, for those seeking unfettered Milky Way views, Colorado's home to some of the best star-spotting around.



MOUNTAINS & MESAS: 234 MILES TOTAL

Start at **Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park**, an International Dark Sky Park, that hosts an astronomy festival in June, with four days of special activities. Then head to **Lake City** where you can marvel at the planets — is that Mars? — constellations and other nighttime phenomenon. Drive down to **Creede** and take notice of the blanket of bright-white stars each night. Round out your trip with **Chimney Rock National Monument**. Park volunteers will help you use telescopes to find things like Orion's Belt.



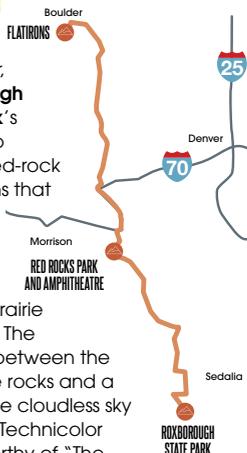
FOOTHILLS:

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.

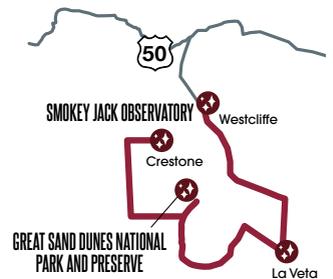
Continue northward to Boulder's famed **Flatirons**, five reddish-grey monuments — named by pioneers for their shape — jutting up from the grassy foothills to stand guard over the city of Boulder below.



is a must-visit on your journey. Just 1 mile west of **La Veta**, the Southern Colorado Astronomical Park allows you to find the North Star. Sixty-four miles north, **Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve** is a new internationally recognized Dark Sky Park. Finish your nighttime odyssey with a clear night in **Crestone**, which sits at almost 8,000 feet in elevation.

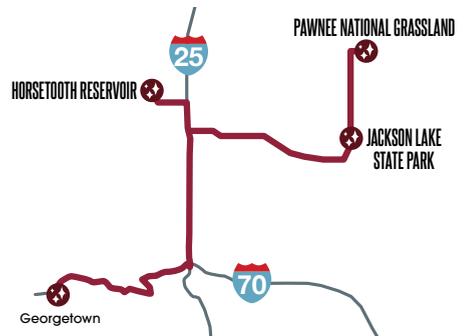
MYSTIC SAN LUIS VALLEY & PIKES PEAK WONDERS: 181.9 MILES TOTAL

Home of one of the most powerful telescopes in the world, the Smokey Jack Observatory in **Westcliffe**



DENVER & CITIES OF THE ROCKIES & PIONEERING PLAINS: 220 MILES TOTAL

Begin in historic downtown **Georgetown**, where they are making an effort to reduce light pollution every day. Then hop in the car for two hours northward toward **Horseshoeth Reservoir**. It's worth it — Horseshoeth Rock has views of Fort Collins on one side and the night sky on the other. Next, you're off to **Jackson Lake State Park**; the glassy lake reflects a miracle of sparkles. End your adventure at **Pawnee National Grassland**, where there are no lights or mountains to block your view of the ebony sky.



NEWEST ON THE SCENE: DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT TUCKED ART INTO COLORADO'S NORTHWEST CORNER, DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT IS COLORADO'S NEWEST ADDITION TO THE INTERNATIONAL DARK-SKY ASSOCIATION'S LIST OF DARK SKY PARKS.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ROXBOROUGH STATE PARK; CHIMNEY ROCK NATIONAL MONUMENT; GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE; JASON J. HAFFIELD.



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

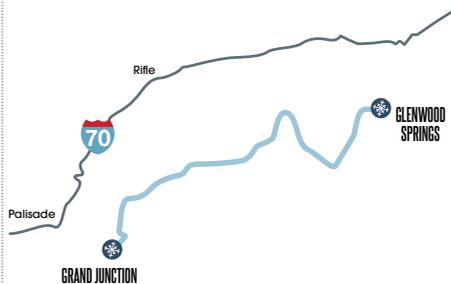
NORTHWEST: 140 MILES

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 sledders 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

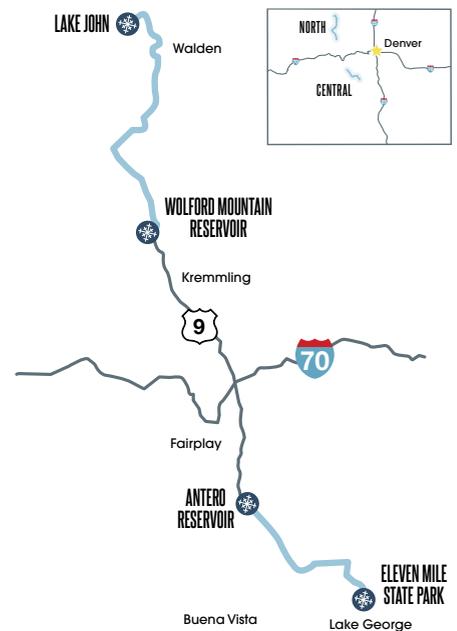
ICE FISHING

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: SNOW MOUNTAIN RANCH NEAR WINTER PARK; LISA SEAMAN; 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.



COLO-ROAD TRIPS
ESTABLISHED IN 2017
Be sure to visit COLORADO.com/ColoradoRoadTrips for even more itineraries!



WANT MORE? COLORADO.COM/CREATIVEDISTRICTS

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: CRESTED BUTTE CENTER FOR THE ARTS; LYDIA STERN; SALIDA; LISA SEAWAN; PAONIA; CREATIVE DISTRICT; R. BEN LEHMAN.

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Delta County, surrounded by the Grand Mesa, West Elks and Dominguez/Escalante NCA, for premiere outdoor recreation in any season. Add to that two 18-hole Golf Courses, Skydiving, Gold Medal Waters, 18 wineries, and an abundance of agriculture for the farm to table experience; only in Delta County...



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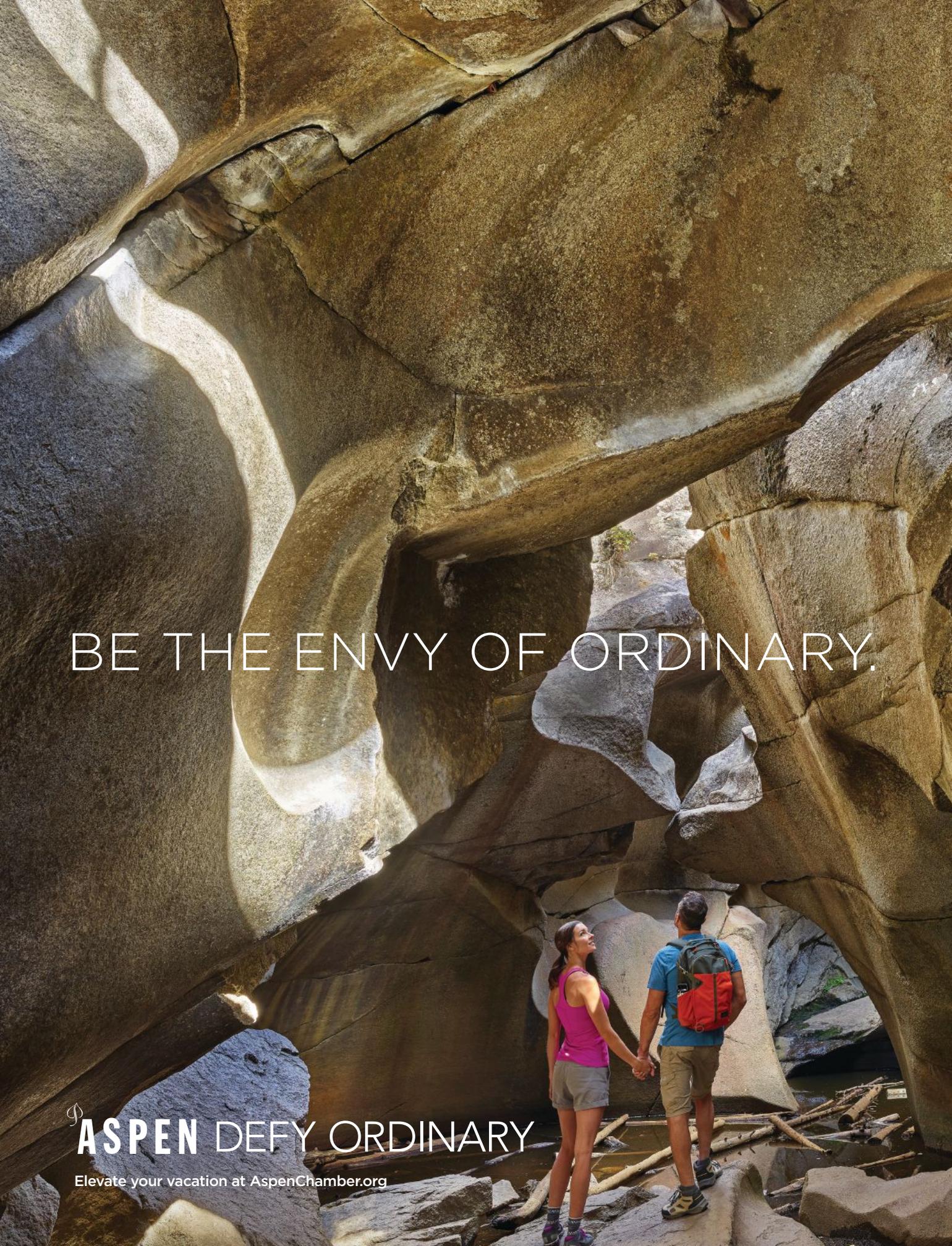
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A couple is hiking through a large, natural rock overhang or cave system. The woman is on the left, wearing a pink tank top and grey shorts, looking towards the man. The man is on the right, wearing a blue t-shirt, khaki shorts, and a red backpack, looking out towards the light at the end of the passage. The rock walls are massive and layered, with light streaming in from an opening ahead, creating a dramatic play of light and shadow. The overall scene conveys a sense of adventure and natural beauty.

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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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

PIKES PEAK WONDERS

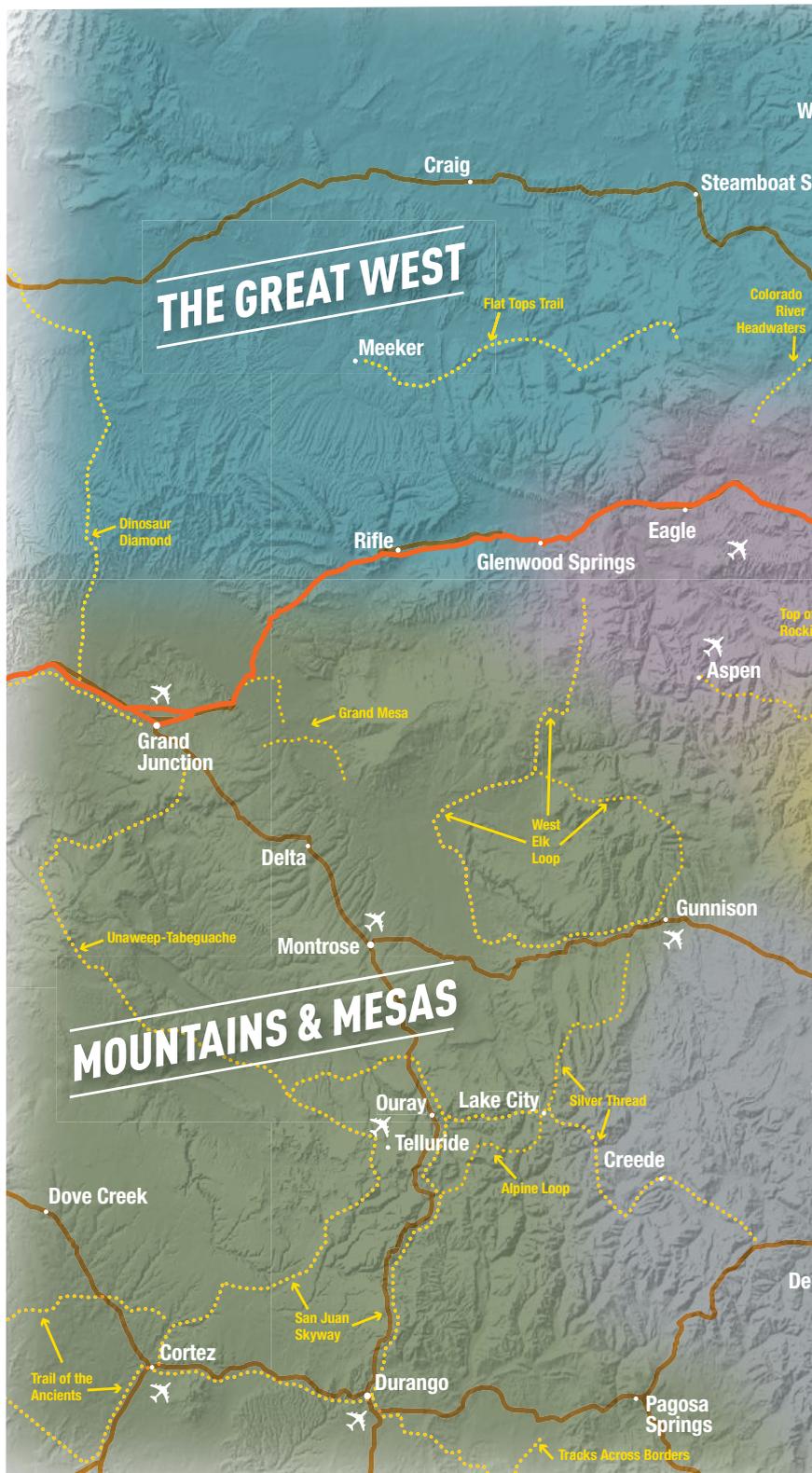
Find a blend of urban comforts, accessible (though not completely tamed) natural landmarks and a true reflection of the Western way of life. Here you'll have the option to sit back and relax or kick up some adventure.

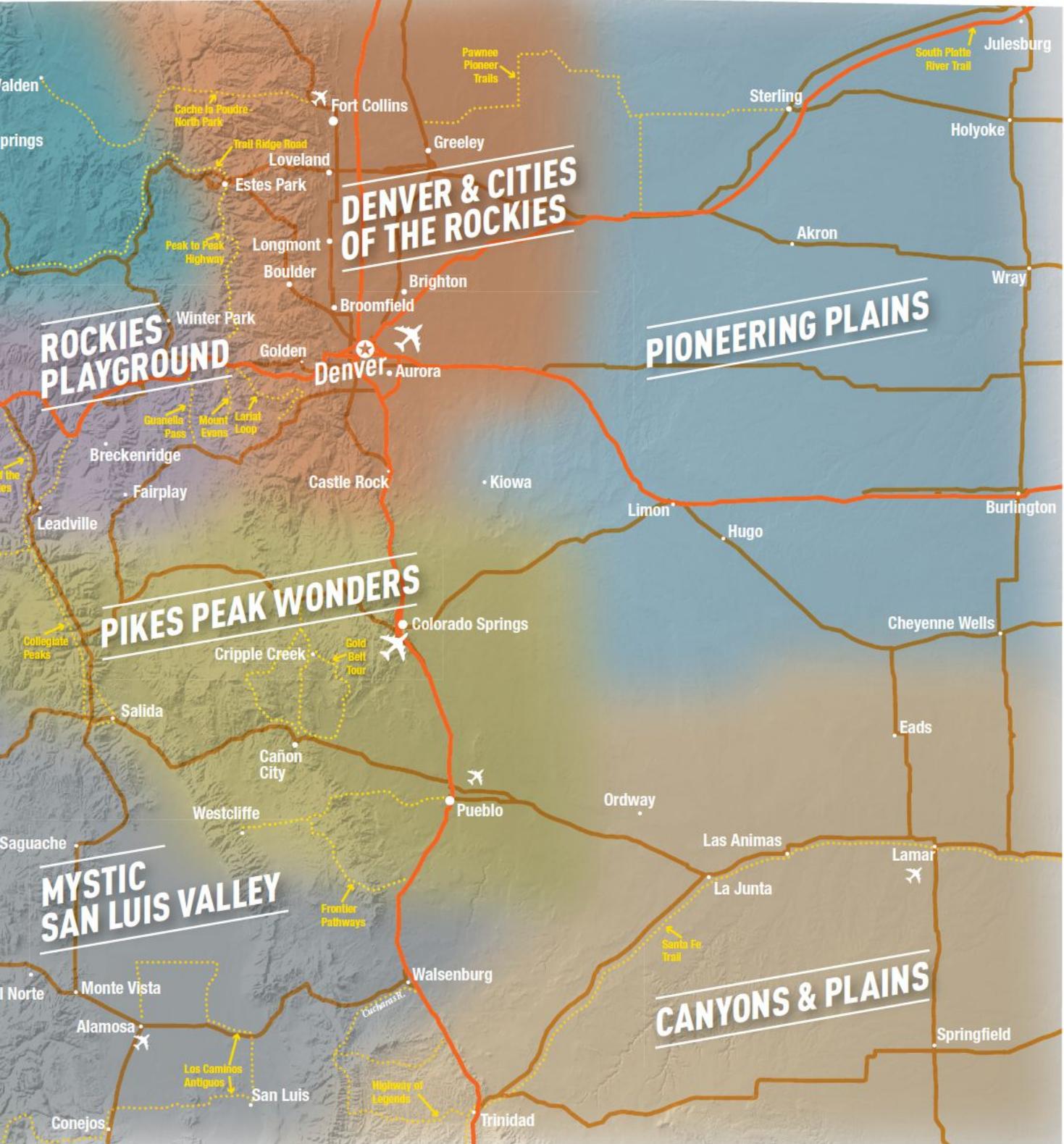
DENVER & CITIES OF THE ROCKIES

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.

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.





COLORADO REGIONS BY THE NUMBERS

These stats are just a hint of the discoveries awaiting you in each region. Turn to the itineraries on pages 98–191 for all the specifics needed to get you movin’ around the state.



THE GREAT WEST

1 National Monument	2 Certified Creative Districts	4 Ski Resorts	4 Hot Springs
9 State Parks	1 Colorado Welcome Center	1 Ghost Town	12 Breweries/ Wineries/ Distilleries*
4 Scenic Byways		2 National Wildlife Refuges	8 Birding Trails



Look for this icon in the itineraries that follow for ways to explore The Great West more.



ROCKIES PLAYGROUND

2 State Parks	1 Colorado Welcome Center	1 National Historic Landmark	31 Breweries/ Wineries/ Distilleries*
3 Scenic Byways	13 Ski Resorts	19 14ers	3 Gold Rush Towns
2 Certified Creative Districts	4 Ghost Towns	4 Hot Springs	3 Birding Trails
		2 Scenic & Historic Trains	



Look for this icon in the itineraries that follow for ways to explore the Rockies Playground more.



MYSTIC SAN LUIS VALLEY

1 National Park	1 Ghost Town	5 Birding Trails	4 Hot Springs
1 State Park	1 Colorado Welcome Center	3 National Historic Landmarks	2 Scenic & Historic Trains
3 Scenic Byways	3 National Wildlife Refuges	10 14ers	6 Breweries/ Wineries*



Look for this icon in the itineraries that follow for ways to explore the Mystic San Luis Valley more.



CANYONS & PLAINS

2 State Parks	1 National Grassland	2 Colorado Welcome Centers	2 Breweries/ Wineries*
2 Scenic Byways	1 Certified Creative District	5 National Historic Landmarks/ Sites	6 Birding Trails



Look for this icon in the itineraries that follow for ways to explore the Canyons & Plains more.

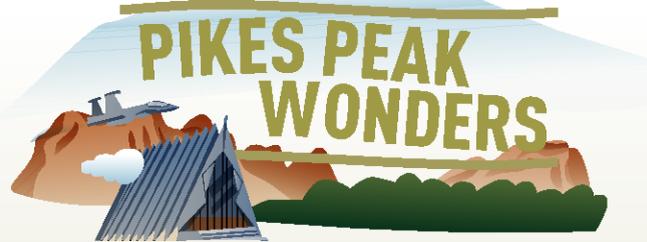



PIONEERING PLAINS

2 State Parks	2 Colorado Welcome Centers	1 National Historic Landmark	4 Breweries/ Wineries/ Distilleries*
2 Scenic Byways	1 National Grassland		5 Birding Trails



Look for this icon in the itineraries that follow for ways to explore the Pioneer Plains more.




PIKES PEAK WONDERS

2 National Monuments	4 Certified Creative Districts	13 14ers	52 Breweries/ Wineries/ Distilleries*
6 State Parks	5 Ghost Towns	6 Hot Springs	1 Gold Rush Town
3 Scenic Byways	3 National Historic Landmarks	3 Scenic & Historic Trains	4 Birding Trails
1 Ski Resort		1 Gaming Town	



Look for this icon in the itineraries that follow for ways to explore Pikes Peak Wonders more.



DENVER & CITIES OF THE ROCKIES

1 National Park	8 Certified Creative Districts	7 National Historic Landmarks	2 Gaming Towns
11 State Parks	2 Ski Resorts	3 14ers	2 Gold Rush Towns
1 Colorado Welcome Center	3 National Wildlife Refuges	1 Hot Spring	3 Ghost Towns
5 Scenic Byways		268 Breweries/ Wineries/ Distilleries*	11 Birding Trails



Look for this icon in the itineraries that follow for ways to explore Denver & Cities of the Rockies more.



MOUNTAINS & MESAS

2 National Parks	7 Certified Creative Districts	10 Ghost Towns	1 Scenic & Historic Train
5 National Monuments	2 Colorado Welcome Centers	6 National Historic Landmarks	2 Gaming Towns
9 State Parks	10 Ski Resorts/ Areas	13 14ers	75 Breweries/ Wineries/ Distilleries
9 Scenic Byways		11 Hot Springs	12 Birding Trails



Look for this icon in the itineraries that follow for ways to explore Mountains & Mesas more.

*These numbers increase frequently — keep an eye out for new tastes every year!

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.



THE GREAT WEST

- 119** A Grand Time in Grand County: **Winter Park, Grand Lake, Granby, Kremmling, Fraser & Hot Sulphur Springs**
- 134** Hot Springs, Moose & Western Livin' in **Steamboat Springs & North Park**
- 183** Colorado's Great Northwest: **Dinosaur, Maybell, Craig, Meeker & Rangely**

ROCKIES PLAYGROUND

- 130** Roaring Fun in the Roaring Fork Valley: **Glenwood Springs, Carbondale, Basalt, Aspen & Snowmass**
- 146** Summit County Getaway: **Breckenridge, Silverthorne, Frisco, Dillon, Keystone & Copper Mountain**
- 167** Playing & Pampering in **Vail, Beaver Creek, Avon & Eagle**
- 177** Cruising Elevation: **Leadville & Twin Lakes**
- 184** The Real South Park: **Fairplay, Como, Bailey & Alma**

MYSTIC SAN LUIS VALLEY

- 156** Highway of Legends: **Trinidad, Walsenburg, La Veta & Cucharra**
- 173** Silver Thread Byway: **Creede, South Fork & Lake City**
- 178** Broad Horizons In the San Luis Valley: **Alamosa, San Luis, Crestone, Saguache & Monte Vista**

CANYONS & PLAINS

- 156** Highway of Legends: **Trinidad, Walsenburg, La Veta & Cucharra**
- 186** Following the Santa Fe Trail: **Lamar, Las Animas & La Junta**

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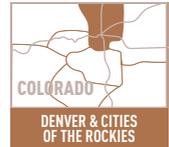
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24 HOURS IN DENVER

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.



1



2



3

Before you get started, check out the Denver CityPASS or Mile High Culture Pass, which get you into attractions for a great price.

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 (5)**.

AFTERNOON

While in the area, check out one of Denver's Certified Colorado

Creative Districts, the **Golden Triangle** (see p. 52 for the others). Just steps from History Colorado Center, it's also home to the **Denver Public Library**, **Denver Art Museum (4)** 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 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**.

The only thing that brings out more Denver passion than sports is beer — and

plenty of breweries and tours prove it. Sample some at **Great Divide, 10 Barrel, Wynkoop, Epic** 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 (6)**, **Leopold Bros.**, **Laws Whiskey House**, **Rising Sun**, **The Family Jones** and **Mile High Spirits**. For crafty cocktails on the down-low, check out the **Green Russell**, **Ste. Ellie**, **Retrograde**, **B&CG** and **Millers & Rossi** speakeasies.

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.



4



5



6

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

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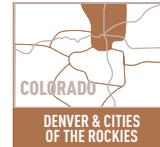
QUICK TIP

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, The Rossonian, The Source Hotel, MOXY Denver Cherry Creek, The Jacquard, Origin Red Rocks, Ballpark Hotel and The Ramble Hotel.

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM RIGHT: STRANAHAN'S COLORADO WHISKEY; HISTORY COLORADO CENTER; DENVER ART MUSEUM; VISIT DENVER/SCOTT DRESSEL-MARTIN; COORS FIELD; VISIT DENVER; DENVER CHALK ART FESTIVAL; UNION SQUARE; DANIELLE WEBSTER.



OUTSIDE IN THE CITY: GET OUTDOORS IN DENVER



STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

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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, a 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

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.

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.

CITY PARK: JONATHAN PHILLIPS.

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MORE IDEAS FOR FAMILIES



ELITCH GARDENS THEME & WATER PARK Mind-blowing rides for those taller than 48 inches, plenty of slower family rides for those who aren't, Island Kingdom Water Park, lots of places to eat, a summer concert series, "dive-in" movies and the new Meow Wolf's Kaleidoscope ride make the nation's only downtown theme park a must visit.



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.



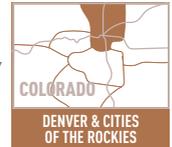
THE WILD ANIMAL SANCTUARY This 10,400-acre rescue/educational facility 30 miles outside of Denver is home to nearly 500 large carnivores (including lions, tigers, bears and wolves!). They roam the massive refuge while you walk above them on the Mile Into the Wild walkway.

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 grin from ear to ear in the Mile High City, thanks to a wide array of family-friendly attractions.



DAY 1

More than 500 species of ocean-dwellers roam landlocked Denver at **Downtown Aquarium (1)**. 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 newborns 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 Adventure Forest.

Older kids will want to check out urban adventure parks for skateboarding, BMX, mountain biking, skiing/boarding and more right in town. **Denver Skatepark** and **Prograh** 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 city's most visited attractions. It's a great spot for dinner, with plenty of kid-pleasing choices. Every block boasts a landmark or public art sculptures, a perfect scavenger hunt as you make your way around.

DAY 2

Go to where the wild things are: the **Denver Zoo**. One of the nation's most popular zoos,



DOWNTOWN AQUARIUM, VISIT DENVER; CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF DENVER AT MARISCO CAMPUS; SKATEBOARD, ISTOCKPHOTO; THE WILD ANIMAL SANCTUARY; BETH SCHNEIDER; ELITCH GARDENS THEME & WATER PARK, VISIT DENVER.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

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3

this adventure in **City Park** takes visitors on a globe-trotting safari. The new grizzly bear habitat, *Harmony Hill*, allows visitors to better understand how to live in harmony with wildlife. Plan ahead to Bunk with the Beasts (in-the-zoo sleepovers) or participate in up-close animal encounters like penguin feedings and tiger training sessions.

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 Ferrill 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 (4)**, 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. Pro tip: The terrace behind the museum has a play fountain kids love.

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, gallery games and Create-N-Takes — and it's always free for kids 18 and under.

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 performing the scores while screening "Fantasia" and "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows."

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** (bowling, table games and vintage arcade), **Ace Eat Serve** (Southeast Asian food and pingpong hall), the **Cherry Cricket** and **Little Man Ice Cream (3)**.



4

FROM LEFT: LITTLE MAN ICE CREAM; DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE

DIVE INTO

ADVENTURE

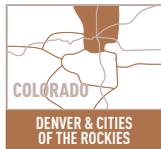
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2 DAYS OF DENVER ARTS & CULTURE



DAY 1

Explore the street-art scene, covering buildings and other canvases throughout neighborhoods like **RiNo (1)**, the **Highlands**, **South Broadway**, **BuCu** and **East Colfax**. More neighborhoods are emerging with their own distinct character and signature events like First Friday art walks, hipster flea markets, modern bazaars, craft-coffee bars, small music venues and only-in-Denver boutiques. Visit COLORADO.com/ArtHoods.

Installation-art fans are crazy excited to hear that **Meow Wolf**, the wildly popular immersive art experience that debuted in Santa Fe, is coming to Denver in 2021. Plan ahead to see this totally new venture into “fantastic realms of story and exploration.”

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.” 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 **Denver Art Museum’s** Hamilton Building jut over 13th Avenue. The museum houses Western art, contemporary masterworks and blockbuster traveling shows like *Norman Rockwell: Imagining Freedom* (opens May 3) and *Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera, and Mexican Modernism from the Jacques and Natasha Gelman Collection* (opens Oct. 25). Stay for lunch at one of two new restaurants, which open in June, including a collaboration with celebrated chef Jennifer Jasinski called *The Ponti*.

Visit the new location of the **Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art (4)** 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 (2)** area. 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 is another!

If you’ve got an inclination toward vinyl and being cool, head over to **Twist & Shout**, a famed indie music store selling new and used music on East Colfax near popular theaters like the **Ogden** and **Bluebird (3)**. Another



option for the cool kids is the **Mission Ballroom** in the RiNo district — a new concert space designed for intimate shows that has plenty of bike parking available.

Take the afternoon to explore the hub of Denver’s creative community, the **Art District on Santa Fe**, where murals, studios, galleries and creative businesses make it a Certified Colorado Creative District. Stop in at the **Museo de las Americas**, a unique museum highlighting traditional and contemporary Latino art and culture.

DAY 2

Start the morning at **Tattered Cover’s** historic LoDo location. Called “a bibliophile’s paradise” by the *New York Times*, this multilevel bookstore, housed in a lovingly restored historic building, holds thousands of volumes on every topic under the sun, with a notable selection of Denver- and Colorado-centric books. Pop into the cafe for a quick, cheap breakfast, strong coffee, fresh pastries and breakfast sandwiches.

Just around the corner, find one of the crown jewels of Denver’s art scene, the **Museum of Contemporary Art Denver**, a structure whose sleekness contrasts with the classic red brick typical to LoDo. Inside, galleries showcase a constantly refreshed series of exhibits devoted to innovation and creativity. At the serene rooftop garden, cafe and bar above the hustle of downtown, relax and reflect on what you’ve seen. On your way out, browse the eclectic books, music and clothing at the MCA Shop.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: RIVER NORTH ARTS DISTRICT; VISIT DENVER/JASMINI ROSE; GOLDEN TRIANGLE; VISIT DENVER; BLUEBIRD THEATER; VISIT DENVER; KIRKLAND MUSEUM OF FINE & DECORATIVE ART.

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DENVER DAY TRIPS

Denver is an excellent hub for exploring the state beyond the city limits.



1 LAKEWOOD

RTD Commuter Rail-connected Lakewood makes a good homebase between Denver and the mountains. Many take advantage of a few close-to-civilization campgrounds. For more civilized

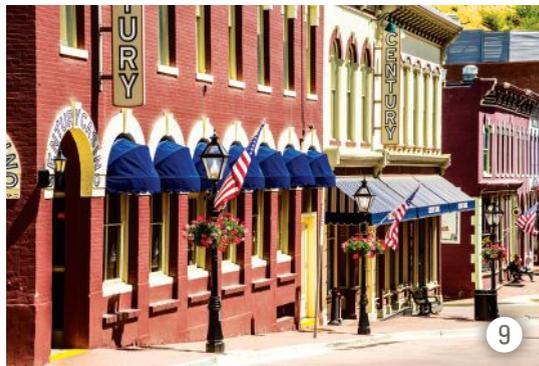
fare: The Lakewood Cultural Center hosts performances and events in pedestrian-friendly Belmar, which is home to shops and restaurants. (Colorado Mills Mall is also a hub for metro-area retail action.) 40 West Arts

is the city's Certified Colorado Creative District. Two new ways to experience it: The new 40W ArtLine, a 4-mile walking/bike path with interactive art, murals and large installations all along the way; and 40W Art Crawls, with First Friday art walks as well as three large-scale art events each year.

Drive: 15 minutes

2 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 P. S. Miller Park (where you scale a 40-



foot climbing wall, zip and jump from a 42-foot platform or choose to free-fall from a 75-foot platform). There's also the pedestrian-friendly downtown, galleries, golf courses, bistros, coffee houses, a new green space along the South Platte River and Ecclesia Market and a new food hall in a former church. 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

3 EVERGREEN

Acres of forest and open space surround this vibrant downtown, lined with galleries, boutiques, patio cafes and bistros. The foothills community boasts miles of hiking and biking trails, plus Evergreen Lake is packed with ice skaters each winter and hosts a summer concert series. For a bit of history of the area, Hiwan Heritage Park holds an 1893 log lodge that's now a museum with original and historic furnishings as well as American Indian artwork.

Drive: 40 minutes

4 AURORA

Seek out nine beautiful golf courses, three gorgeous reservoirs, unique

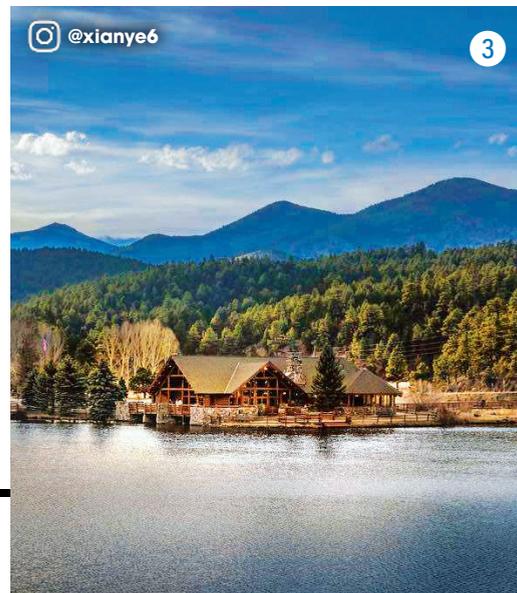
museums, U-picks, breweries, shopping at Southlands, Aurora Fox Arts Center in the Cultural Arts District and much more. Check out the Stanley Marketplace, a collection of independently owned places to eat, drink, shop and play. Make plans to visit the Colorado Freedom Memorial. Constructed of glass panels that reflect Colorado's beautiful scenery, it holds the names of more than 6,000 Coloradans killed or missing in action in all wars and all branches of service. Take a driving tour of the Story Line, passing by farms, historic homesteads, schoolhouses and other landmarks that make it hard to believe you're in the state's third-largest city. Download the audio guide: AuroraGov.org/StoryLine. Aurora is just minutes away from Denver International Airport by car, as well as RTD's R Line light rail.

Drive: 25 minutes

5 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 — and, of course, plenty of craft wineries, distilleries and breweries, including Breckenridge Brewery's massive campus with

Continued on page 106.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: CITY OF GOLDEN; EVERGREEN; INSTAGRAM/@XIANYE6; CENTRAL CITY; EFRAIN M. PADRÓ.

DENVER REGION'S BEST ADVENTURE PARK



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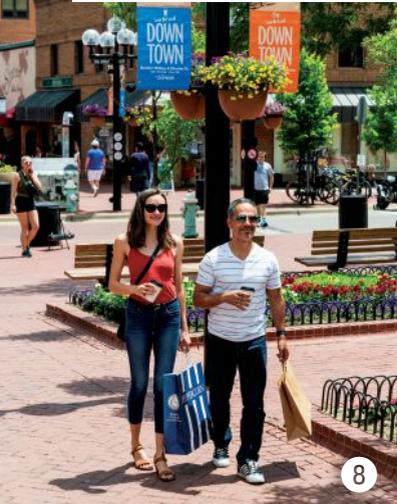
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12



10



8



11

brewery tours and the Farm House Restaurant. The Littleton Museum is an 1860s homestead with living-history exhibits and a children's interactive gallery. To get to Littleton, bike the Platte River Trail or take the RTD light rail. **Drive: 23 minutes**

6 ARVADA Historic Old Town is the best way to get a taste of this hip suburb — and you can take the RTD Commuter Rail G Line straight there from Denver's Union

Station. The walkable section of town is packed with restaurants, breweries and boutiques. North of this area, the Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities hosts summer concerts at its outdoor amphitheater where you can grab a blanket and soak up the sounds in the grass. Elsewhere, there are 150 miles of biking/hiking trails, 4,000 acres of parks and Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge. **Drive: 20 minutes**

7 BRIGHTON One of Denver's northern gateway cities, Brighton is a mix of urban amenities (think craft breweries and a burgeoning arts scene), heritage farm activities and markets, and great outdoors experiences that include Barr Lake State Park (a great place to spot bald eagles). The Armory Performing Arts Center hosts theater, dance and music events throughout the year. **Drive: 25 minutes**

8 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. See page 158 for more. **Drive: 30 minutes**

9 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. See page 140 for more. **Drive: 45 minutes**

10 COLORADO SPRINGS Iconic Pikes Peak is Colorado Springs' showpiece, which features dozens of attractions, including the famed Garden of the Gods. See page 110 for more. **Drive: 1 hour, 30 minutes**

11 SUMMIT COUNTY A popular snow-sports destination in winter, this region attracts visitors year-round with quintessential mountain towns and scenic vistas. See page 146 for more. **Drive: 1 hour, 30 minutes**

12 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. See page 124 for more. **Drive: 1 hour, 40 minutes**

13 GOLDEN The historic downtown is packed with Wild West attractions and shops nudged up against dozens of mountain parks and hiking/biking trails. See page 185 for more. **Drive: 25 minutes**

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK; KENNAN HARVEY; GARDEN OF THE GODS; ADORBSTOCK; TUBING NEAR BRECKENRIDGE; LISA SEAWAN; PEARL STREET MALL IN BOULDER; MILES/LISA SEAWAN

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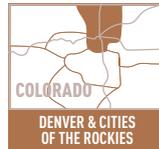
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A 5-STAR DAY IN DENVER



MORNING

It's a short jaunt from Denver (about 30 minutes), but **The Ridge at Castle Pines North (1)** is worth the drive. Be transported to a world carved out of a forest with sightlines to Pikes Peak and Mount Evans to accompany you. Another popular course is the prehistoric marvel of **Fossil Trace**, west of Denver in **Golden**. *Golf Digest* notes its "unusual hazards" ensure "it's never boring."

AFTERNOON

Treat yourself to a relaxing spa experience designed for Colorado's climate and lifestyle, like the **Ritz-Carlton Spa's** Colorado River Stone Couples Experience, 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 (2)** with 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 in recent years (find them at **Annette, Work & Class** and **Fruition**); and the food-hall trend is making for plentiful culinary hubs like **The Source**, **Denver Central Market** (in LoDo and at DIA), **Avanti Food and Beverage**, **Stanley Marketplace**, **Zeppelin Station**, **Finn's Manor**, **Union Station**, **Broadway Market** and **Milk Market (4)**, the latest concept from chef Frank Bonanno. The gastropub 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)**, **The Greedy Hamster**, **Asbury Provisions** and **Ophelia's Electric Soapbox** for a start.

Finish the day with a blockbuster touring Broadway musical or a stirring performance by the **Colorado Symphony Orchestra**, **Opera Colorado** or **Colorado Ballet (3)** at the **Denver Performing Arts Complex**, the largest performing arts complex under one roof.



STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Aurora (page 192), **Arvada, Brighton** (page 193), **Castle Rock** (page 194), **Centennial, Commerce City, Denver** (page 195), **Englewood** (page 197), **Evergreen** (page 198), **Federal Heights** (page 198), **Glendale, Golden** (page 199), **Greenwood Village** (page 200), **Highlands Ranch** (page 200), **Lakewood** (page 201), **Littleton, Morrison** (page 202), **Parker, Roxborough, Sedalia** (page 203), **Thornton** (page 204), **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: THE RIDGE AT CASTLE PINES NORTH; CHIP KALBACK; COLORADO BALLET; CHAD CHISHOLM; DENVER MILK MARKET; STEUBEN'S FOOD SERVICE; BROWN PALACE HOTEL & SPA.

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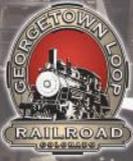
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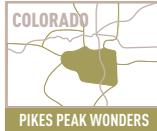


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DENVER BOTANIC
GARDENS

PIKES PEAK COUNTRY: COLORADO SPRINGS & MANITOU SPRINGS

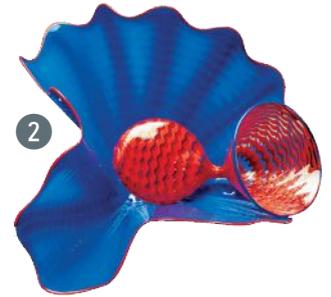


Colorado Springs is the state's second-largest city, but it's first in the hearts of many visitors as a place of astonishing beauty with more than 55 unique museums and cultural and natural attractions.



1

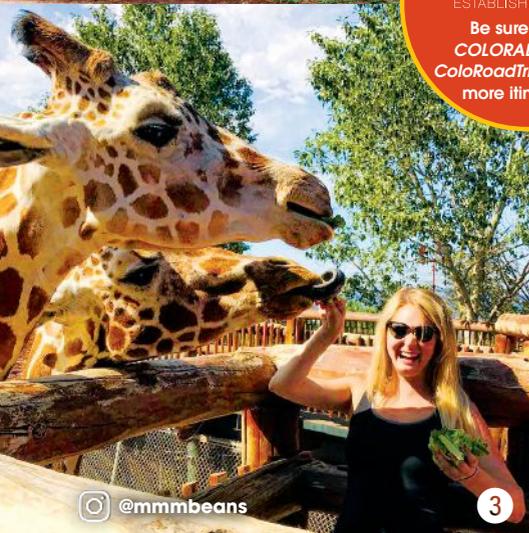
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ESTABLISHED IN 2017
Be sure to visit
COLORADO.com/ColoRoadTrips for even more itineraries!



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) or the **Ent Center for the Arts**, a magnificent cultural building complete with a contemporary-art gallery. Stop in for tea at **Miramont Castle (1)**, a Victorian castle at the base of Pikes Peak with nine styles of architecture. Or hold out for spring when the brand-spanking-new **United States Olympic Museum** debuts just blocks away from the **Olympic Training Center** (they don't call this Olympic City USA for nothing!).



3



4

Stop for lunch at the **Ivywild School (4)**, a 1916 elementary-school-turned-community-market featuring **Bristol Brewing Co.**, **Axe and the Oak** whiskey distillery, community gardens and a bakery/eatery selling local items. Or catch the new kid on the block: **Lincoln Center**, another former school now home to tasty tenants like Goat Patch Brewing, Nightingale Bread, Tailgate BBQ and several food trucks.

Every weekday at 12:30pm the newly reopened **U.S. Air Force Academy Planetarium & STEM Center** explores the universe and life on Earth in its open-to-the-public shows. Or, 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. **First Friday Art Walks** are an excellent way to get a taste of the city's creative culture.

QUICK TIP

Red Rock Canyon Open Space is one of the easiest ways to get on trails for all experience levels minutes from downtown. Canyons, ridges, trails, sheltered enclaves, picnic areas, off-leash dog areas and a bike park are just a few of the attractions that make this park a favorite with visitors in the know.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: LEFT: MIRAMONTE CASTLE; PIKES PEAK REGION ATTRACTIONS; COLORADO SPRINGS FINE ARTS CENTER AT COLORADO COLLEGE; IVYWILD SCHOOL; CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN ZOO; INSTAGRAM/@MMMBEANS.



5

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 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 with a workout at **Cheyenne Mountain State Park (6)**, where the new Dixon Trail takes you to the top of Cheyenne Mountain, navigating 914 meters of elevation gain (work those calves!).



6

Or explore **Garden of the Gods (5)** on foot, on horse, by Segway or via vintage scooter. This free National Natural Landmark features unusual sandstone rock formations up to 300 feet high. A new shuttle whisks visitors from the entrance to the main part of the park in no time.

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.

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 **historic Manitou Springs'** new galleries and restaurants. The town was recently named one of the 10 Coolest Small Towns in the country by *Budget Travel* magazine and was also named a Certified Colorado Creative District. A free shuttle will ferry you from parking lots into the downtown district. North of town, **Rainbow Falls Historic Site** — a series of small waterfalls along Fountain Creek — recently reopened to hikers and picnickers following improvements to the trail system.

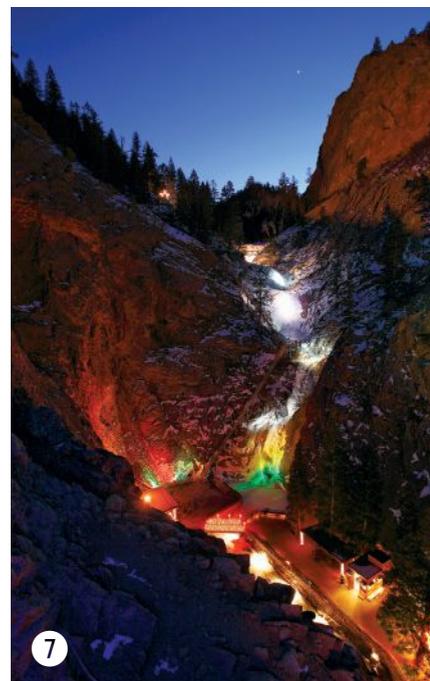
DAY 3

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.

Head out to **Cave of the Winds** and **The Broadmoor Seven Falls (7)**, where a 181-foot waterfall cascades down seven granite steps. The Soaring Adventure zipline just outside the falls delights visitors with multiple courses. 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.

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** or take a guided UTV tour of Pike National Forest with **Great Outdoor Adventures**. Head 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.



7

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Cañon City (page 194), **Cascade** (page 194), **Colorado Springs** (page 194), **Divide, Falcon** (page 198), **Franktown, Green Mountain Falls, Lake George, Manitou Springs** (page 202), **Monument, Palmer Lake, Woodland Park**

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: GARDEN OF THE GODS, KENNAN HARVEY; THE BROADMOOR SEVEN FALLS, STAN ROSE; CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN STATE PARK, COLORADO PARKS AND WILD LIFE.



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You may experience the Olympic & Paralympic Games every few years - but here in Olympic City USA, we live the Olympic and Paralympic values every day. Nestled at the base of the Front Range and Pikes Peak - America's Mountain, dedicated neighbors, athletes and friends become medalists. It's not just the sports that unite us as Olympic City USA. It's our dedication to excellence, courage and determination that embody the Olympic spirit here in Colorado Springs. Come see where Team USA dreams begin and talented athletes live and train.

24

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60,000

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1

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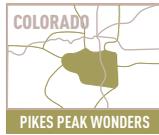


COLORADO SPRINGS FINE ARTS CENTER AT COLORADO COLLEGE

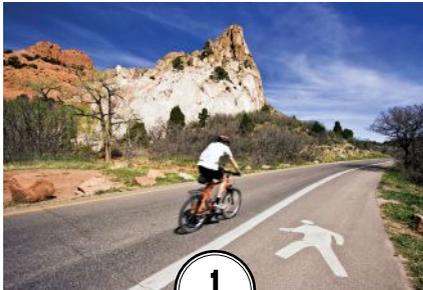
The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College has provided outstanding arts experiences and rich culture to the Pikes Peak region for over 100 years. View exceptional art exhibitions, award-winning professional theatre performances, and receive phenomenal arts education all under one roof. And with a variety of family friendly and free activities, the Fine Arts Center offers engaging programming for all ages.

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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

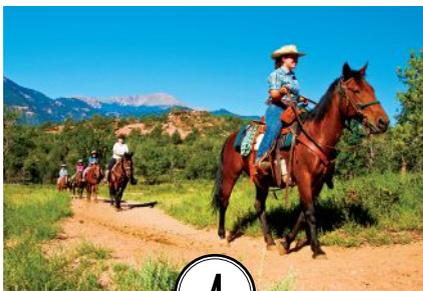
See the city, Pikes Peak and all its other spectacular assets from a hot-air balloon ride. Most flights take off at sunrise and are likely to render you speechless.



3

RIDE THE WHITEWATER

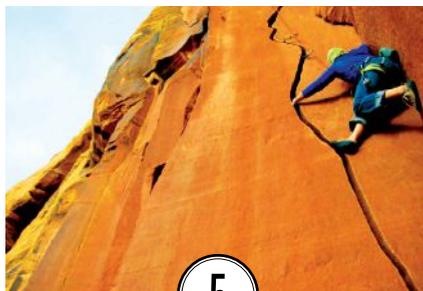
Just a short drive from the Arkansas River, one of the country's most popular whitewater-rafting destinations, more than a dozen Colorado Springs outfitters are waiting to show you just the amount of thrills you're after.



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

BEER TOURS & PARTY BUSES

Take a walking tour of craft breweries in both Colorado Springs and Manitou with Springs Beer Tours, which come with a side of history. Or hop on the Local Motive Party Bus to experience the breweries, distilleries and eateries on wheels.

@localmotivepartybus

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Cañon City (page 194), Cascade (page 194), Colorado Springs (page 194), Divide, Falcon (page 198), Franktown, Green Mountain Falls, Lake George, Manitou Springs (page 202), Monument, Palmer Lake, Woodland Park

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ADOBESTOCK/HENRYK SADIURA; COLORADO SPRINGS BALLOON CLASSIC; JAMES FRANK; ARKANSAS RIVER; CLASSIC VISIONS; THE LOCAL MOTIVE PARTY BUS; GARDEN OF THE GODS PARK; THE BROADMOOR; ACADEMY RIDING STABLES; THE BROADMOOR.

Pikes Peak

REGION 

Start your Pikes Peak adventure with us, for a perfectly curated experience! 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've got the perfect adventure for you!



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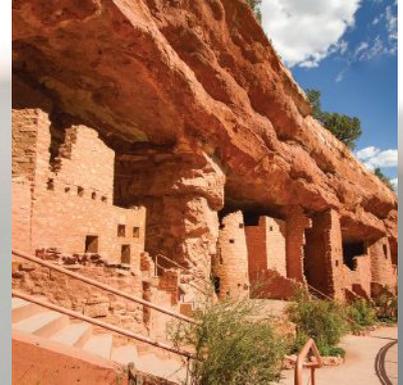
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PIKES PEAK - AMERICA'S MOUNTAIN

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.

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MANITOU CLIFF DWELLINGS

Explore each dwelling and roam through 700-year-old, authentic Pueblo Indian cliff dwellings, the remnants of ancient American Indian culture.

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DISCOVER

WHAT LIES BENEATH



CAVE OF THE WINDS

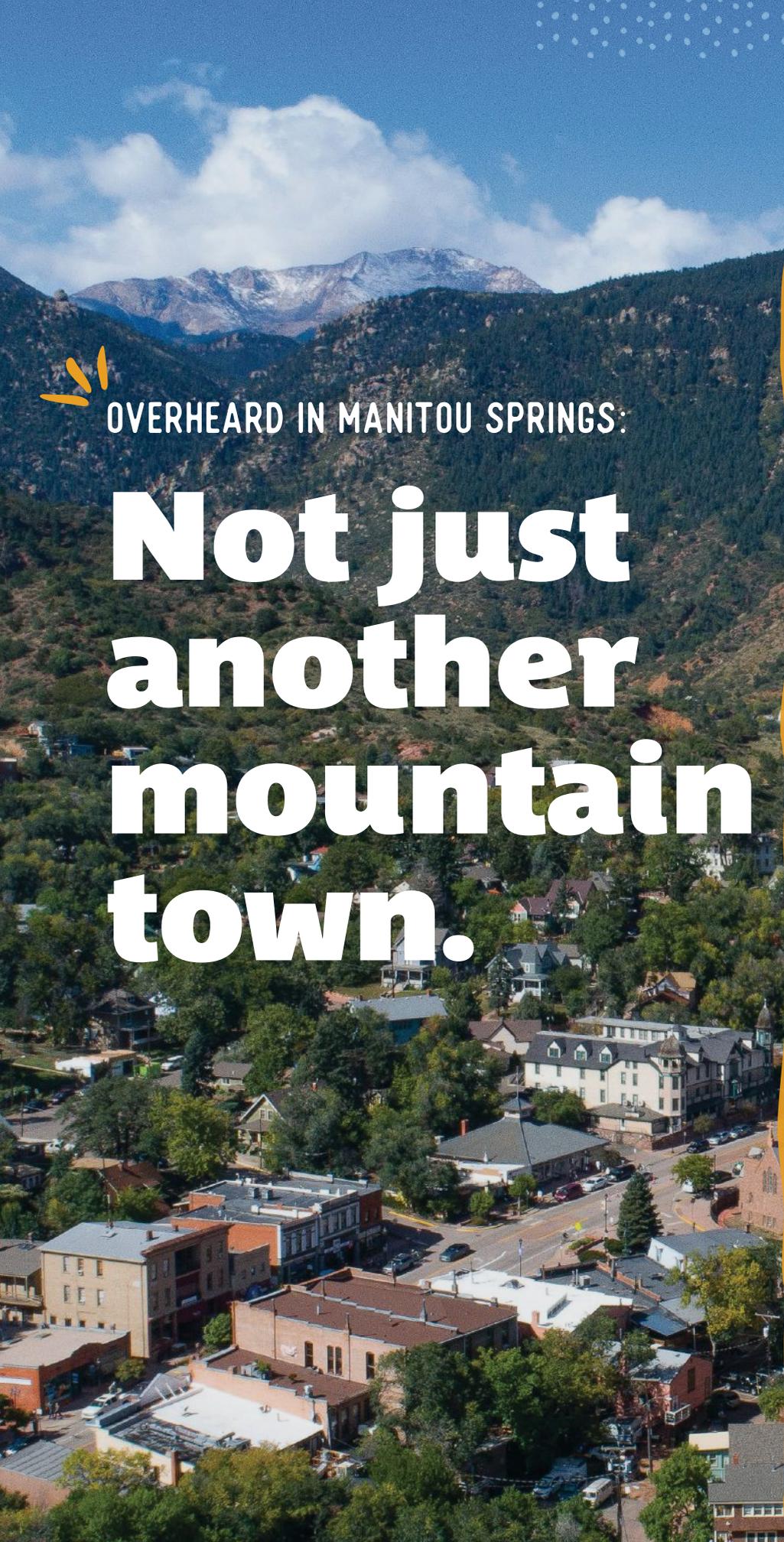
MOUNTAIN PARK



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.

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COLORADO

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DAY 1

Start your voyage at **Winter Park Resort (2)** 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 and bike rides 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.

A GRAND TIME IN GRAND COUNTY



Deep lakes, thick forests and friendly attitudes define this expansive, mountainous county, home to **Winter Park, Grand Lake, Granby, Kremmling, Fraser** and **Hot Sulphur Springs**. 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.

FROM TOP: GRAND LAKE, ERIC UNDBERG; WINTER PARK RESORT, CONNOR WALBERG.

❄️ 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 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 (1)**, 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 (4)** or grab a pic of Granby's 300-foot Main Street mural during the golden hour.

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 back-



drops 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**.

Expect nothing but the best at Grand County's many dude ranches, including Colorado's oldest continuously operating ranch: **Bar Lazy J (3)** 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.

DAY 3

Choose one of the county's other three towns for your last day — or choose to stay a spell longer!

A sportsman's paradise, **Kremmling** 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 journey to the top of Kremmling Cliffs for panoramic views of the area and fishing access along Muddy Creek.

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). Pop into Fraser Valley Distilling, Camber Brewing and Fraser Tap Room for local flavor.

Retreat to **Hot Sulphur Springs** to do what visitors have done since the time of the Ute Indians: Soak in 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.



STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Fraser (page 198), **Granby** (page 199), **Grand Lake** (page 200), **Hot Sulphur Springs**, **Kremmling** (page 201), **Parshall**, **Tabernash**, **Winter Park** (page 205)

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: ROCKY MOUNTAIN REPERTORY THEATRE; IAN MCMORRAN; BAR LAZY J GUEST RANCH; KERRICK JAMES' SNOW MOUNTAIN RANCH NEAR WINTER PARK; LISA SEAMAN.

AFTER ONE VISIT YOU'LL NEED A NEW BUCKET LIST



Hiking. Zip Lining. Kayaking. Mountain Biking. Fishing. Golfing. Shopping. Dining. Museum Going. 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.

Don't Just Explore Colorado. Go Grand.



VisitGrandCounty.com

GRANBY • GRAND LAKE • HOT SULPHUR SPRINGS • KREMMLING • WINTER PARK/FRASER

GRAND LAKE

The Western Gateway Town to Rocky Mountain National Park



Explore historic Grand Lake, where shop owners greet visitors from storefronts. Lodging exudes warmth and charm. Restaurants offer prime dining experiences. At night, live music resonates from lodges and saloons beckoning patrons. An all-season recreation paradise, with cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, boating and fishing. There's no such thing as the "off season" in Grand Lake.

970-627-3402 / GoGrandLake.com

GRANBY

Live Like a Local



Adventure awaits in Granby, Colorado! Home to world-class outdoor thrills from skiing & snowmobiling to downhill biking & ATV'ing. Live like a local and join the summer Cornhole Tournament or stroll Main Street and admire murals completed by renowned artists. Join the July 4th celebrations: "Best Small Town Parade in America," enjoy the rodeo and fireworks.

970-887-2311 / GranbyChamber.com




COLORADO
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COLORADO.COM/WINTER



SNOW MOUNTAIN RANCH

Bringing Together Family & Friends

Located near Winter Park, Snow Mountain Ranch is where friends, families, groups and conferences can enjoy a tranquil setting with more activities than anywhere else. Our full-service Nordic Center, dedicated fat biking trail system, dog sled rides, a snow tubing hill and more create the perfect winter destination for everyone. Indoor activities abound as well, including rock climbing, archery and roller skating.

Stay at Snow Mountain Ranch in one of our cozy family cabins or comfortable, hotel-style lodge rooms. 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 are 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.

888-613-9622 / SnowMountainRanch.org



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GRAND ADVENTURES

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GrandAdventures.com



HOT SULPHUR SPRINGS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Located in Grand County along the Colorado River, visit the museum, hot springs or nearby trails to fish, hike, bike, snowshoe & more!

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HSSChamber.com



WINTER PARK ESCAPES

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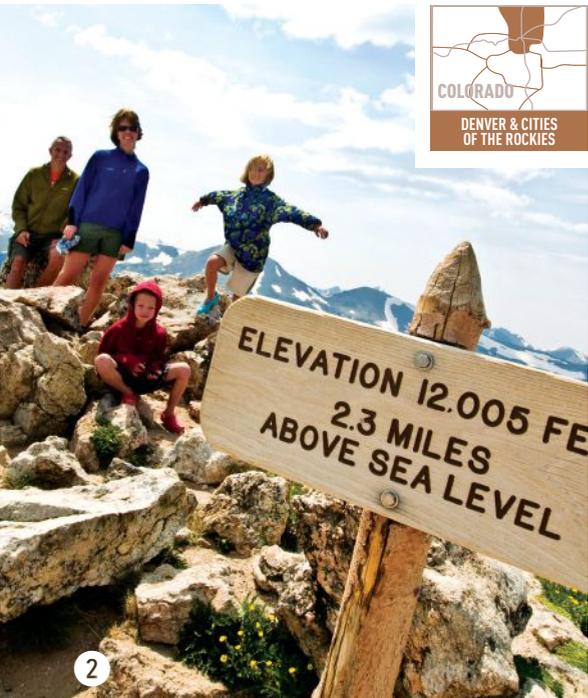
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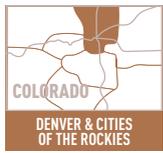


1

CLOSE TO PARADISE: ESTES PARK



2



MORNING

One of the most popular parks in the country, **Rocky Mountain National Park (1)** welcomes 4 million visitors a year and still manages to offer moments of solitude.

Take a drive on **Trail Ridge Road (2)**, 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 **Matthews-Reeseer 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.

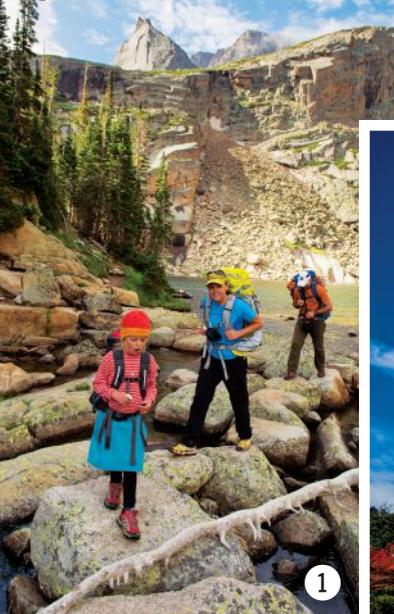
AFTERNOON

Downtown Estes Park 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 (6)**, with one-of-a-kind stores, several new boutiques and restaurants, and plenty of places for an

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.

FROM TOP: THE LOCH IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK; JAMES FRANK; TRAIL RIDGE ROAD; MILES/ANDREA BURROLLA



1



3



4



5



6

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: GLACIER GORGE IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK; KENNAN HARVEY, THE STANLEY HOTEL; JONATHAN PHILLIPS; DOWNTOWN; VISIT ESTES PARK; SNOWSHOEING; TOM BOL; BIG THOMPSON RIVER; JONATHAN PHILLIPS; LAKE ESTES; O'HARA PHOTO.

afternoon snack. Stop for coffee and sit outside on the **Riverwalk**.

One block off Elkhorn, the path follows the Big Thompson River (5) as it flows through town and hosts street performers in the summer. Take the path east for a tranquil walk around **Lake Estes (4)**, or stop at the marina to rent bikes, pontoon boats, paddleboards or kayaks. Then, enjoy a tasting at **Snowy Peaks Winery, Elkins Distilling Co., 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 (3)**, 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.

SIDETRIPS

Depending on your approach, you might go through lovely **Lyons** on your way to Estes. With galleries and public art on nearly every corner, an epic summer music venue (Planet Bluegrass) and plenty of craft beer, this small town is worth a stop. Tubers and kayakers roll through the white-water park and the Dirt Jump Bike Track lets you show off your trick-riding skills.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Allenspark, Estes Park (page 197), **Lyons** (page 202)

WINTER FUN ❄️

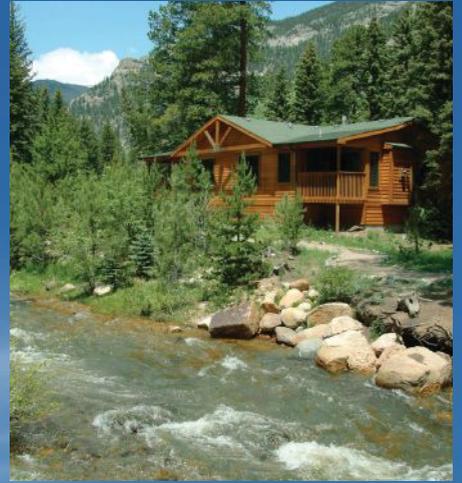
From ice climbing, backcountry split-boarding and skiing to more relaxed activities like snowshoeing and curling up by the fire, Estes Park caters to winter visitors. It's easy to get there year-round and offers an alternative to the bustling ski resorts. Connect with Estes Park Mountain Shop and Kent Mountain Adventure Center for all the gear and guidance you may need.



COME PLAY IN THE PARK



Discover the endless Rocky Mountain adventures awaiting you this winter in Colorado's Original Playground.
Start planning your escape at VisitEstesPark.com



Stay at The Ridgeline Hotel!

Visitors to Estes Park are always greeted with 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 a game room, 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.

970-480-0110 / RidgelineHotel.com

The Evergreens on Fall River

Luxury Riverfront Cabins nestled in the heart of the Rocky Mountains. Just 1.5 mi. from the Nat'l Park and 3 mi. from downtown Estes Park. Offering couples and family cabins, private spas, outdoor hot tub, fishing, and wildlife. An unforgettable resort in a spectacular setting!

888-686-3393 / 970-577-9786
EvergreensOnFallRiver.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



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



Wildwood Inn

Accommodations offering home-style comfort and affordable luxury. Come and experience fabulous mountain view suites or direct river condos with great fishing.

800-400-7804 / EstesWildwoodInn.com



SNOW'S PERFECT STATE



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Discover the beauty in what hasn't changed in Colorado's original playground.



Boulder Brook on Fall River

Luxury riverfront suites with deck, kitchenette and fireplace. Soak in the hot tub, watch wildlife or fish in the river. In-room massages available.

800-238-0910 / BoulderBrook.com



Brynwood on the River

River/Theme Cabins, some w/hot tubs & fireplaces; Motel and Vacation Homes. WiFi, Cable, kitchenettes, BBQ's. Open Year Round.

970-586-3475 / Brynwood.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



Streamside on Fall River

Family fun in the Rockies! Cabins and suites by the river. Kitchens, fireplaces, decks, BBQ's. Relax in the hot tub & hammocks. Great wildlife. Near town and RMNP.

800-321-3303 / StreamsideOnFallRiver.com



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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



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.

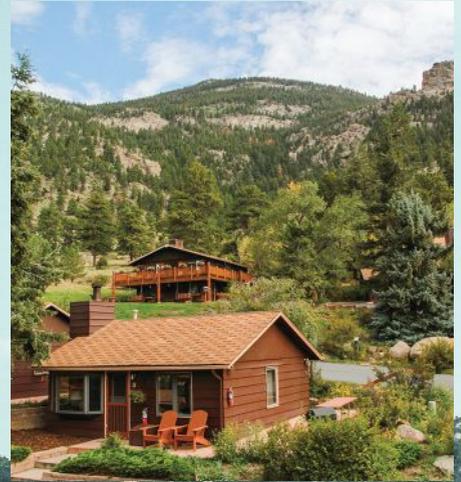
800-672-9289 / 970-586-2388
RockyMtnResorts.com



Castle Mountain Lodge

In the towering pines on a trout stocked river, enjoy the modern comfort of rooms, suites and homes. Castle Mountain Lodge boasts a history of an inviting atmosphere providing our guests with memorable experiences. Wood burning fireplaces, private spa cottages and friendly hosts keep guests returning. Call today for specials and packages to enhance your stay.

800-852-7463 / CastleMountainLodge.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

VisitEstesPark.com



ROARING FUN IN THE ROARING FORK VALLEY



Book stays in **Glenwood Springs, Carbondale, Basalt, Snowmass** and **Aspen**. The Roaring Fork River flows through a valley that has always been a favorite playscape for folks in these mountain towns.

❄️ WINTER FUN

The Aspen/Snowmass area is home to four big-time ski areas: Aspen Mountain, Aspen Highlands, Snowmass and Buttermilk Mountain. Snowmass' new base village offers a slopeside ice-skating rink. 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 new **Grandstaff Trail**, the newest route in **Red Mountain's** mountain-biking trail system — offering killer views, challenging climbs and exhilarating downhill action just minutes from downtown **Glenwood Springs**. Hikers head for **Hanging Lake (1)**, a mysterious natural wonder high in the bluffs. Visit on early weekday mornings to avoid the crowds — those on the trail then find tranquility and spectacular light for photos. If you're visiting May 1–Oct. 31, you'll use the new reservation and shuttle service. Go to VisitGlenwood.com/HangingLake to learn more.

Next, melt any muscle aches away in the Colorado River-side **Iron Mountain Hot Springs' 16** soaking pools, **Yampah Spa's** steam baths and **Glenwood Hot Springs (2)**, home to the world's largest hot-springs pool. There's also a new adventure river and splash pad to keep the kiddos occupied.

Get your bearings on the area as a whole from **Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park's** new **Glenwood Gondola (3)**, which lifts you off the valley floor to the top of Iron Mountain. There, the caverns' mountain sling shot, Cliffhanger Rollercoaster and Haunted Mine Drop await to provide maximum thrills. For a blast of another sort, hook up with a rafting outfitter for a whitewater ride on the Colorado River as it winds through spectacular **Glenwood Canyon**.



1

For a wind down, check out the **Glenwood Springs Fish Hatchery** along Mitchell Creek on the west side of town. Bring quarters to buy fish food for the five species of cold-water fish raised there.

Then dine alfresco along Seventh Avenue, browse downtown's shops and stay the night here.

DAY 2

Make your way farther into the valley today. In **Carbondale**, the (free!) **Powers Art Center** focuses on contemporary and pop art. Recently named a Certified Colorado Creative District, arts events, performances, galleries and workshops abound. Walk or bikeride along the **Rio Grande ARTway**, a path lined with public art installations, gardens and Mount Sopris views.



2



3

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: HANGING LAKE. VISIT GLENWOOD SPRINGS; GLENWOOD HOT SPRINGS; C2 PHOTOGRAPHY; GLENWOOD GONDOLA. C2 PHOTOGRAPHY; SUNLIGHT MOUNTAIN RESORT SKI SCHOOL

QUICK TIP

Those seeking a ride up to Glenwood Springs from Denver can hop on the **Bustang West Line** — a 55-passenger, bathroom- and WiFi-equipped bus that travels from Denver's Union Station. Once there, Roaring Fork Transit's **VelociRFTA** can get you back and forth between all the other towns in this itinerary.



SIDETRIPS

Redstone is 16 miles south of Carbondale in the Crystal River Valley. Visitors seek out trail rides, pack trips and big-game hunts from Avalanche Outfitters; hook up and gear up for primo fishing at Redstone Mountain Mercantile; scale the geography at Boulders Open Space; and hike, mountain bike and cross-country ski throughout the valley. Winter also brings ice climbing at Redstone's Ice Pillars and skating on Redstone Park Pond.

Marble is 40 miles south of Carbondale. The Marble Hub is the place to get questions answered and sip some coffee. Rent an e-bike or fat bike at Marble Bike Rentals, stop at the Marble Gallery to browse the crystallized stone that earned the enclave its name. Make the off-road trek to the Crystal ghost town to see the 1893 Crystal Mill. Hang around after dark for a show — the town recently joined the International Dark-Sky Association.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Aspen (page 192), **Basalt** (page 193), **Carbondale** (page 194), **Glenwood Springs** (page 199), **Marble** (page 202), **Redstone** (page 203), **Rifle** (page 203), **Snowmass** (page 204)

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.

Farther on, the small town of **Basalt** at the confluence of the Roaring Fork and Fryingpan rivers is known for Gold Medal fishing year-round (in fact, fly-fishing is at its most serene in winter). Kayaking in a new whitewater park, paddleboarding on Ruedi Reservoir, plus hiking and biking the area's seemingly endless trails are other draws for active travelers. There's also charming shops, galleries and cafes, and the new **Arts Campus at Willits** hosts concerts and shows.

Eating local is the norm in both towns, with farm-to-table dinners and several restaurants' menus informed by seasonally available ingredients grown nearby.

DAYS 3 & 4

It's time to explore **Aspen** and **Snowmass**. The towns are less than 20 minutes apart and it's easy to go back and forth between them during a stay. Before you get started, find out about the **Aspen Pledge**, showing you ways to help ensure the Aspen area remains a beautiful and unique places for years to come.

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 mornings 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 **WE-Cycle Stations** in Aspen and **Basalt**. Be sure to wheel by the massive new Shepard Fairey mural at E. Durant Avenue and S. Hunter Street.

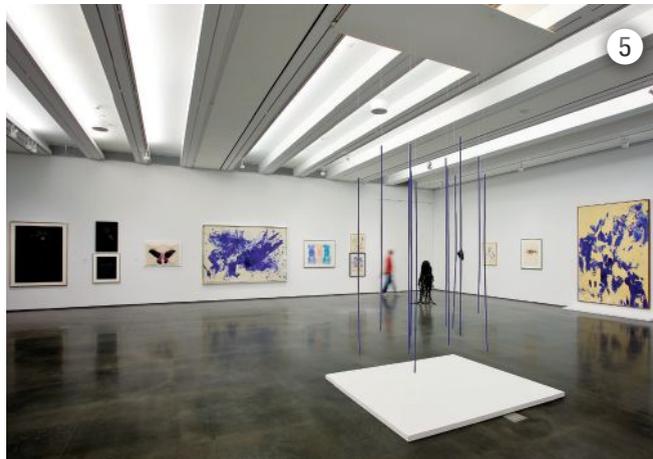
Spend afternoons savoring the scenery of the upper Roaring Fork River Valley. Just 1 mile from downtown Aspen, try your hand at the **Gold Butte Climbing Area**, which has routes for all levels. Or, the **Snowmass Loop Trail** has 25 miles of mountain-biking bliss for riders of all abilities, and the **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. The new **Camp Elevation** in Snowmass hosts adventure day camps for the whole family as another option.

Follow the crowds to **Maroon Lake** via the daily shuttle from Aspen Highlands (8am-5pm June to early October only). The striped, tilted pyramids of the twin **Maroon Bells (4)** 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 from hiking and biking to climbing. Take a tour of **Independence Ghost Town** with the Aspen Historical Society to hear the stories of the buildings that remain.

Explore the (free!) **Aspen Art Museum (5)**, which houses contemporary art and dramatic mountain views from its rooftop sculpture garden. In Snowmass, the **Anderson Ranch Arts Center** hosts summer workshops for all types of aspiring artists (woodworking, sculpture, painting and more), art galleries and exhibitions and a gift shop.

When it's time for dinner, you're in luck: This area has a world-class dining scene. Chefs at restaurants like **Matsuhisa**, **Grey Lady** and **Element 47** create their menus around whatever local produce is in season. Check out summer's Farm-to-Table Tuesday at **Elk Camp Restaurant** atop Snowmass Mountain. Pro tip: Sit in the bar at nearly any Aspen restaurant and sample the same food served from the regular menu at a fraction of the price.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: CRYSTAL MILL NEAR MARBLE, TODD POWELL; MAROON BELLS WILDERNESS, MIKE WILKINSON; ASPEN ART MUSEUM, EFRAIN M. PADRÓ.



SNOWMASS
COLORADO



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**ASPEN
SNOWMASS**



Westin Snowmass

The Westin Snowmass is located in Upper Snowmass Village, surrounded by numerous restaurants, bars, and retail outlets. Enjoy the Westin Spa, or sign the kids up for Kid Camp. Adjacent to Snowmass Mountain and convenient for winter and summer activities including skiing, snowboarding, tubing, mountain biking, hiking, and numerous other outdoor activities.

970.923.8270
westinsnowmass.com



The Timberline Condominiums

The Timberline Condominiums offers all the services of a fine hotel. Come relax in the comfort of our 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 cuisine for après and dinner at our on-site restaurant and bar, the Edge.

800.922.4001 | 970.923.4000
thetimberline.com



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
thecrestwood.com



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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 ski trails, you'll breathe in pure air and mountain views from the privacy of your spacious residence. Watch wandering wildlife, or choose to walk just a few minutes to shop and dine in the Village.

844.754.7400 | 970.922.0017
woodrunv.com

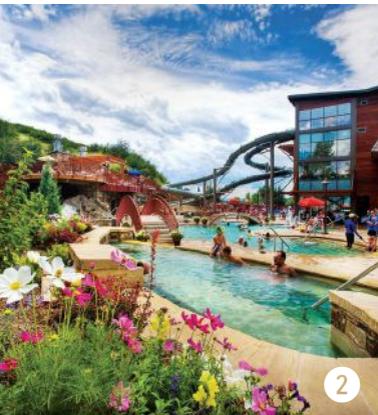
HOT SPRINGS, MOOSE & WESTERN LIVIN'



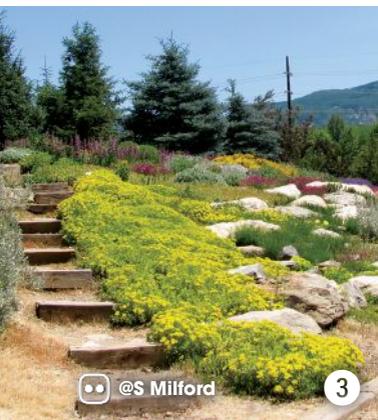
With vast ranches, aspen-draped mountains and oxbow rivers, the **Steamboat Springs** and the **Walden/North Park** area make for a serene escape, but there's also plenty of adventure.



1

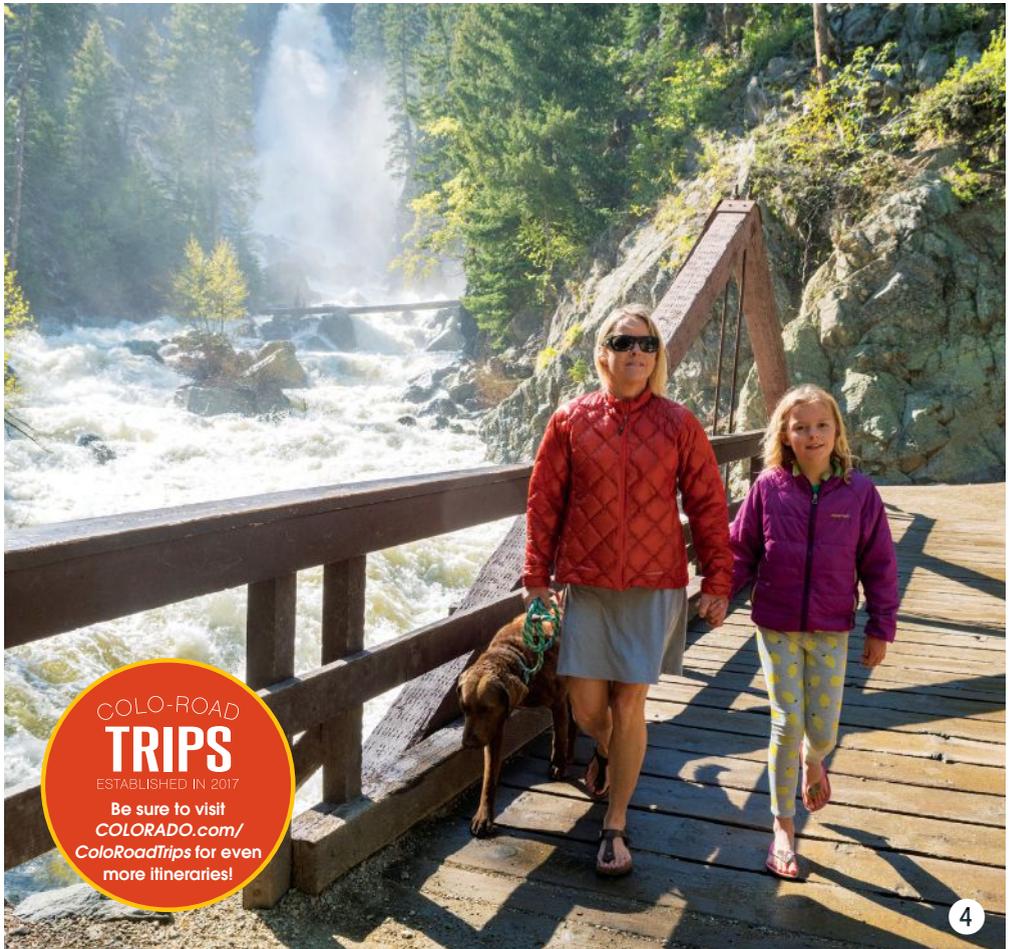


2



@S Milford

3



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4

DAYS 1 & 2

Start your trip at one of **Steamboat Springs'** two thermal-water attractions — **Old Town Hot Springs (2)** 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 not 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 (1)** 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 nwcoloradoheritagetrip.org for maps and more information).

Kids could spend days exploring the ropes course, climbing wall and bungee trampoline at **Steamboat Resort's Land Up Activities**. Other options include the more than 50 gardens at **Yampa River Botanic Park (3)** 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. Anglers will delight in the **Yampa River's** Gold Medal fishing waters — in particular, the stretch below **Stagecoach Reservoir**

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 out warm weather.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: FISH CREEK FALLS; KENNAN HARVEY; YAMPA RIVER BOTANIC PARK; FLICKR/S MILFORD; OLD TOWN HOT SPRINGS; STEAMBOAT SPRINGS CHAMBER; STAGECOACH STATE PARK; COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE/DUSTIN DOSKOCIL



5

where leviathan brown and rainbow trout lurk in swirling tail waters. Hikers head to **Fish Creek Falls (4)** — go first thing in the morning to avoid the masses.

Steamboat is also a big biking destination. Rent a cruiser and ride the **Yampa River Core Trail** in search of adventure. Keep an eye out for the **Art Along the Yampa** community mural installation along the way. Then hit the trails at the **Steamboat Bike Park** and more than 50 miles of singletrack trails on **Emerald Mountain**. End the afternoons at **Butcherknife** or **Storm Peak** brewing companies or the **Steamboat Whiskey Company**, the only craft distillery in the region.

Delicious dining options abound in historic downtown Steamboat Springs. One favorite: **Table 79** serves shareable plates with curious cocktails with must-try ingredients (think smoked salt, pomegranate grenadine and rosemary simple syrup). On sum-

mer 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**.

Get a taste Colorado's famous Rocky Mountain hospitality at one of the area's dude and guest ranches — like the luxe **Vista Verde Guest Ranch** or the more-rustic **Elk River** — where you can fill your days with cattle drives, fly-fishing, horseback riding, cowboy cuisine and more.

DAYS 3 & 4

Northeast of Steamboat is an area called **North Park**, known as the Moose Capital of Colorado, where sightings are a common occurrence. The Moose Visitor Center at **State Forest State**

Park (5) is an excellent first stop, or you can stop into the **Moose Creek Cafe** or **River Rock Cafe** on Main Street in Walden for tips from locals.

Evasive and enchanting birds like the greater sage-grouse, boreal owls and fox sparrows frequent the **Colorado Birding Trail**, **Walden Lake** and **Cowdrey Lake State Wildlife Area**. Make more feathered friends at **Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge**.

Other popular attractions include ghost towns (Teller City and Coalmont), wildlife refuges, rodeos, OHV trails in **North Sand Hills'** sand dunes and the **Cache la Poudre - North Park Scenic Byway**.

Around 65 percent of North Park is public land, and amid the abundant lakes, rivers, mountains, wide-open prairies and the other towns of **Rand**, **Gould** and **Cowdrey**, you won't find crowds.

Step back in time at the **North Park Pioneer Museum** in Walden, housed in an 1883 cabin that's packed to the rafters with Old West relics.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Clark (page 194), **Crowdrey**, **Gould**, **Hayden**, **Oak Creek**, **Rand**, **Steamboat Springs** (page 204), **Walden** (page 205), **Yampa**

WINTER FUN ❄️

Steamboat's famed **Champagne Powder®** is light, dry and smooth, which makes for great skiing and riding and also snowmobiling, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing in Steamboat and the public lands that surround it.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: STATE FOREST STATE PARK, COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE/VERDON ROCKS PHOTOGRAPHY; CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING NEAR STEAMBOAT, NOAH WETZEL; BEAR LAKE IN THE MT. ZIRKEL WILDERNESS AREA, NOAH WETZEL.



SIDETRIPS

To Steamboat's west, stop into the quiet ranching town of **Hayden**, popular with hunters and fishermen as an easy homebase amid pristine lakes and wilderness areas. Hayden is near the Medicine Bow and Routt national forests, Mount Zirkel and Sarvis Creek Wilderness Areas. Opportunities for backpacking, hiking and biking abound in these nationally protected open spaces, while water enthusiasts and campers will enjoy a handful of state parks. Learn about the town's cowboys and cowgirls, homesteaders and coal miners at Hayden Heritage Center, located in the historic 1918 Moffat Railroad Depot Building.

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.

SPIRIT OF THE SOUTHWEST



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 in **Durango, Silverton** and **Pagosa Springs** 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 (1)**.

The train has been operating continuously for 136 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.

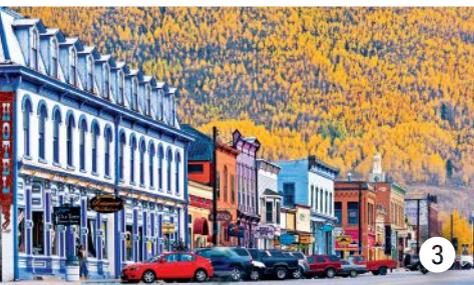
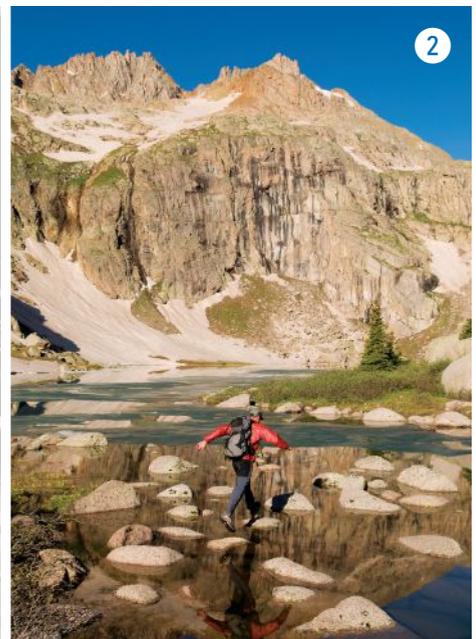
If you'd like to experience the wilderness rather than just watching it rush by, you can use the train to access the **Weminuche Wilderness (2)**. It makes two stops along its route, where adventurous travelers can

disembark or board the train. There's also a stop (and combo packages available) at **Soaring Tree Top Adventures**, an ecotour on 27 different ziplines that carries riders across the Animas River and through aspen groves and ponderosa pines.

Or stay on the train to visit **Silverton (3)** to 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** and **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**



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.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: DURANGO & SILVERTON NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD; SCOTT DW. SMITH; WEMINUCHE WILDERNESS; KENNAN HARVEY; THE SPRINGS RESORT AND SPA; INSTAGRAM/@RAYYYRAY17; TREASURE FALLS NEAR PAGOSA SPRINGS; KENNAN HARVEY; DOWNTOWN SILVERTON; ERRAIN M. PADRO.



6

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 (6)** 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 (5)** (known for a luxurious yet family-friendly feel), as well as **Overlook Hot Springs** and **Healing Waters Resort & Spa** right in town.

Pop into the **visitor center** for trail maps, a free water bottle and a bike-repair station.

West of town, find **Chimney Rock National Monument's** otherworldly rock formations and Ancestral Puebloan history (the full-moon and night-sky tours are epic); or seek out Pagosa's **San Juan River** riches with rafting, kayaking

and tubing — including a 2-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 (4)** drive (pull over at Lobo Overlook for 360-degree views), 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, a climbing/bouldering park and skatepark, not to mention three craft breweries and a handful of great restaurants.

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 204), **Vallecito Lake** (page 205)

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 man-made) 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.

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: LEFT: VALLECITO CREEK TRAIL, KENNAN HARVEY; KENDALL MOUNTAIN SKI AREA, SCOTT D.W. SMITH; NAVAJO STATE PARK, COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE/CHRISTOPHER STARK.

It's more than the mountains that will keep you coming back.

It's the sound of a railroad whistle echoing in the distance. It's the feeling of awe at discovering an ancient civilization built in the cliffs. It's hiking to 14,000 feet and finding more than a view.

Discover why Durango will always keep you coming back for more.

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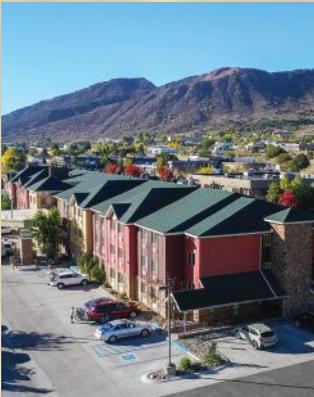


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PURGATORY RESORT

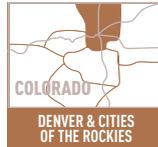
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HIGH-COUNTRY ESCAPE



Find Gold Rush lore, modern-day prospectors, railroad adventure and cooler temps just 40 minutes west of Denver in the mountain towns of **Idaho Springs, Georgetown, Silver Plume, Black Hawk** and **Central City**.



DAYS 1 & 2

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.

Swing down to **Idaho Springs**; the 1859 discovery of gold 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 (3)**, the founders of deep-dish Colorado-style pies. Next door is **Tommyknocker Brewery**, hot spot for a craft brew or handcrafted soda, as is **Westbound & Down Brewing Company** and **Clear Creek Cidery, Tavern & Taps**; and **Bouck Brothers Distilling** is just a 15-minute walk down Colorado Boulevard. Pencil in time for a soak in the therapeutic mineral pools and geo-thermal caves at **Indian Hot Springs (6)** or stops in the town's cute shops — **The Spice and Tea Exchange** and **The Bee's Knees** are two favorites.

There are plenty of places to grab a thrill ride in the area, including **Lawson Adventure Park & Resort**, the new Sky Trek aerial park at **Colorado Adventure Center** and the **Stanley Mines Adventure Park**, with mining-heritage-themed rides and exhibits. Speaking of mines, the **Argo Mill & Tunnel (2)** is expanding its tours and gold panning to include a year-round gondola ride.

Or journey west on I-70 to **Georgetown (5)** to visit Victorian-era homes

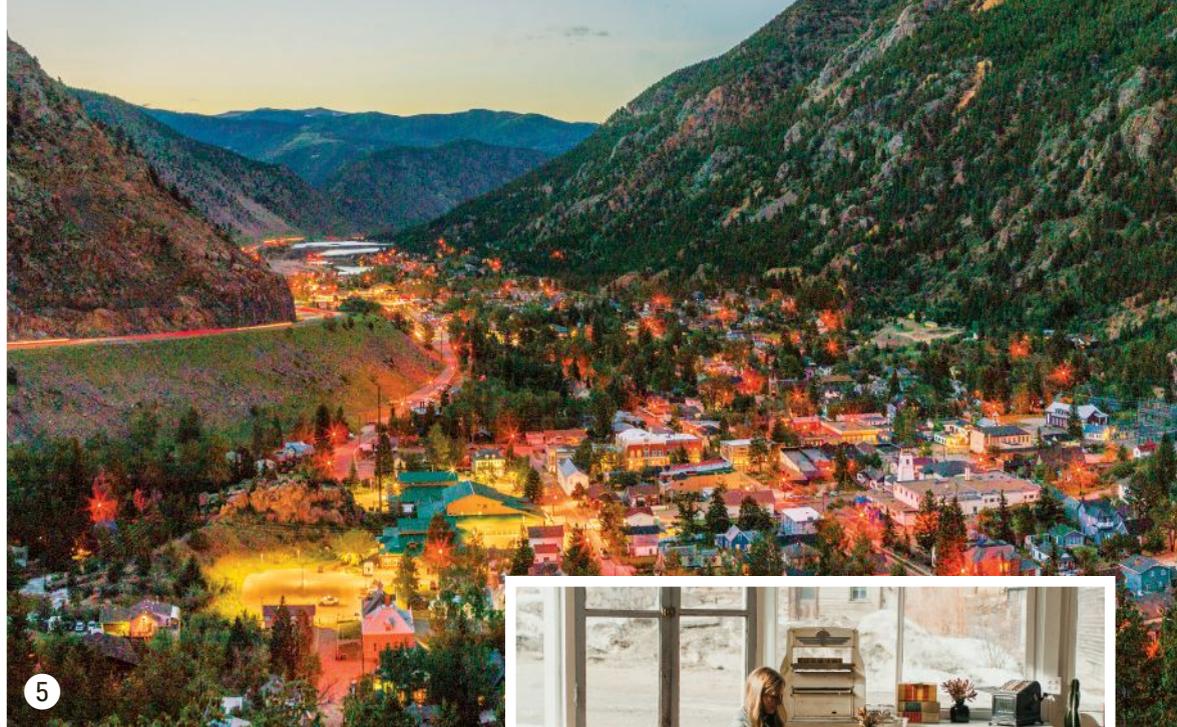


QUICK TIP

The **visitor centers** in Georgetown and Idaho Springs can hook you up with trail maps that'll get you to the area's most scenic hikes. Catch the **Prospector Bus**, which loops between the two towns for only \$2.



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and silver-boom relics at the **Hamill House** and **Hotel de Paris** museums, as well as exhibits at the **Georgetown Heritage Center**. Venture 1,000 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 Brewing** (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** 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 (7)** 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).

DAY 3

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** 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.

Another entertainment option is the **Central City Opera House**, a 1878

jewel-box theater built by Welsh and Cornish miners still drawing many in for performances each summer.

History hounds will love the original Gold Rush maps and documents found in **Black Hawk's City Hall Annex**.

From **Black Hawk**, you can easily head over to **Golden Gate Canyon State Park (4)** or hop on the **Peak to Peak Scenic Byway** toward **Estes Park**, both kaleidoscopic journeys amid spring wildflowers and fall foliage.

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 193), **Central City** (page 194), **Dumont**, **Empire**, **Georgetown** (page 199), **Idaho Springs** (page 201), **Lawson**, **Silver Plume**

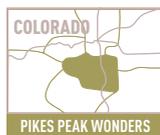
QUICK TIP

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.



1

PLAYING AMONG THE COLLEGIATE PEAKS



Venture to central Colorado for a high-country getaway in the Arkansas River-side mountain towns of **Salida** and **Buena Vista**'s 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 (3) 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.

Next, visit 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 (AVA)** allows daring visitors to soar from cliff-top to treetop on a 44-acre course.

Buena Vista is a popular access point for

QUICK TIP

These towns are serious about **mountain biking**, and winter doesn't stop them from getting their ride on. How to stay atop the snow? All you need is fatter tires. Several shops in the area rent out fat bikes and will point you in the direction of the best wintery trails.

FROM TOP: MOUNT PRINCETON HOT SPRINGS; MILES/LISA SEAMAN; ST. ELMO GHOST TOWN; CATHY EDWARDS



2



3



5

@BrownsCanyonAdventurePark



4

rafting, 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**. Locals consider May and June the best times for rafting.

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 (1)**, **Cottonwood Hot Springs Inn & Spa** 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 (4)**, 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 193), **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; COLLEGIATE PEAKS WILDERNESS, LAURENCE PARENT; BROWNS CANYON ADVENTURE PARK; MONARCH MOUNTAIN SKI AREA; SALIDA, CREATIVE DISTRICT, BETH SCHNEIDER.

SAN JUAN SPLENDOR



The San Juan Mountains of southwest Colorado encompasses such a variety of settings in one view: rolling hills of ranch country, plunging canyons and peaks so jagged it feels like they were carved yesterday. Find these scenes and more in **Montrose, Ouray, Ridgway** and **Telluride**.



DAY 1

The Gunnison River took thousands of years to carve the area's most identifiable feature — the 48-mile-long **Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park (2)** 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, find deep water filled with kokanee salmon and mackinaw trout. And boaters freely roam more than 41,000 acres. The **Morrow Point Boat Tour** is worth the 232 steps down to the boat landing. Float on the 40-foot pontoon to the foot of 1,000-foot cliffs. Landlubbers stick to the 4-mile **Curecanti Creek Trail (1)**, 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.

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. Another easy option is **Ouray County Watersports'**, which will deliver kayaks or stand-up paddleboards to your lodging for use on the area's waters, including nearby **Ridgway State Park**. Stop first to pick up picnic provisions at the locally focused **Ouray Meat & Cheese Market**.

In the winter, the town lives up to its other nickname — the Ice-Climbing Capital of Colorado — when the **Ouray Ice Park (3)** opens more than 200 routes to spiked adventures. Those visiting in the summer will have to make do at **Basecamp Bouldering**,



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.

FROM TOP: CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA, LAURENCE PARENT; BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON NATIONAL PARK, ADOBESTOCK/GALYNA ANDRUSHKO.



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a drop-in climbing gym with programs for all ages.

Afterward, enjoy a truly restorative experience in the enormous **Ouray Hot Springs Pool**, which holds more than a million gallons of naturally heated, crystal-clear mineral water. 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 (5)** 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, 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** and the **Dallas Divide** — one of our most photographed alpine scenes. Detour to **Orvis Hot Springs’** pools and take in views of the dramatic San Juans.

DAY 3

It’s easy to fall head over heels for **Telluride’s** Victorian-era homes and beautiful box canyon. But jaw-dropping views are just the start of what this outdoors and culture hot spot has to offer. Millennia after the Ute Indians settled in the craggy San Juans, prospectors struck gold and silver

here. 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 festivals. From here, take the easy 2.5-mile path to the base of **Bridal Veil Falls** — Colorado’s highest free-falling waterfall. For a hidden gem, seek out **Little Hawaii**, a semi-secret hike off Bear Creek Falls trail. This spot along the river is formed by a giant rock wall with water cascading 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’s** shops, restaurants and activities, including a new bike park with freeride, technical and cross-country trails.

Back downtown, see why Telluride is one of the top creative districts at the **Sheridan Opera House** with a concert or ski film. During the Gold Rush, the ornate theater was designed to be a colorful and airy venue for men who spent their days underground. Pop into the **visitor center** across the street for tips 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 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 (4)**. Local art shops stay open late and offer free refreshments on the first Thursday of most months, or you can pick up a self-guided map at most galleries.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Cedaredge, **Crawford**, **Delta** (page 195), **Hotchkiss** (page 201), **Montrose** (page 202), **Orchard City**, **Ouray** (page 202), **Paonia**, **Ridgway**, **Somerset**, **Telluride** (page 204)

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 ☀️

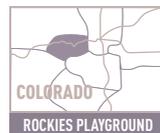
Up the free gondola to **Mountain Village**, you’ll find the **Telluride Adventure Center**, with activities for kids that include a ropes course, **Water Walkers Course**, bungee tramp and more. There’s also the **Telluride Golf Course**, **Kids Summer Camps** and a mining sluice for modern-day goldpanners.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: OURAY/ICE PARK; KENNAN HARVEY; TELLURIDE ARTS DISTRICT; TRUE GRIT CAFE; TELLURIDE SKI RESORT/TONY DEMIN; TELLURIDE SKI RESORT/BRETT SCHRECKENGOST



SUMMIT COUNTY GETAWAY



“Colorado’s Playground” is an easy 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 in **Breckenridge, Silverthorne, Frisco, Dillon, Keystone** and **Copper Mountain** — six towns close enough to move easily between by car or bike during one trip.



DAYS 1 & 2

Get ready to score some deals at more than 50 name-brand stores, including J. Crew, Banana Republic, Nike 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. Grab

items for a picnic and head for the new **Maryland Creek Park**, with amazing views as your lunchtime companion.

Watch how far your ball flies through the thin mountain air at one of Keystone’s two 18-hole championship courses or bring the family to **Keystone Resort (2)** for the bike park, scenic chairlift ride, summer snow-tubing, horseback riding, mountain-top yoga and more. Then head out for a spell on **Lake Dillon**, where you can rent canoes, kayaks, pontoon boats and paddle-boats and explore the dozen or so islands sprinkled throughout. The **Frisco Bay Marina (1)** rents the Hobie Eclipse pedalboards (with handlebars and stair-step pedals) and other equipment.

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 (including the acclaimed **Outer Range Brewing Co.**) and chef-owned eateries in Frisco. You’ll also find several maker spaces: a drop-in art studio, a glass-blowing shop, a millinery, a guitar maker and more.**

The **Frisco Adventure Park (4)** has expanded its offerings of bike park, disc golf and winter tubing hill to include a mammoth new skate park and a bouldering area for kids.

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. (The **Dillon Theatre Company** has a new home at the **Silverthorne Performing Arts Center** if you’re up for more mountain culture.)

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; the town is also quite walkable and very bike friendly. Use **Summit Stage** buses to venture to other parts of Summit County, also at no charge.



3



4



5



6

Or head over to **Copper Mountain (3)**, where a scenic chairlift can take you to a mountaintop restaurant or to the top of a downhill mountain-bike course or rugged hike. Run the kids blissfully ragged on the zipline, bumper boats, climbing wall, go-karts, hydro bikes, summer-snowpark sessions and more.

The Friday **Dillon Farmers Market** is a must visit for delicious fare and entertainment — and probably one of the best farmers' market views in the world.

DAY 3

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 (6)** program at **Breckenridge Ski Resort**. You can also test yourself on the Alpeiner Challenge Course, reach new heights on the Gold Summit Climbing Wall, embark on several hiking trails 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. And just south of town, pay a visit to **Isak Hearstone**, a friendly and gigantic wooden troll that’s captured hearts and social media posts throughout the land.

While Colorado rakes in praise for its craft-brewing culture (which you can experience at the **Breckenridge Brewery**), 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 193), **Copper Mountain, Dillon** (page 196), **Frisco** (page 198), **Keystone** (page 201), **Silverthorne** (page 204)

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 dogsledding 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.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: COPPER MOUNTAIN RESORT/TRIPP FAY; FRISCO BIKE PARK, TODD POWELL; FRISCO ADVENTURE PARK/TODD POWELL; EPIC DISCOVERY BRECKENRIDGE, VAIL RESORTS/JACK AFFLECK; BLUE RIVER NEAR SILVERTHORNE, MATT SHAW

DISCOVER YEAR-ROUND ADVENTURE IN BRECKENRIDGE

While the scenic views will take your breath away, it's the town that sets Breckenridge apart. Full of history and character, the town of Breckenridge shares an incredibly laid-back charm that makes you feel like a local — no matter the season. Discover the top reasons to visit Breckenridge any time of the year.

DISCOVER SUMMER FUN

There's no denying summer-time in Breckenridge is unlike anywhere else in the Rocky Mountains. With amazing access to endless outdoor adventures, festivals dotting the calendar and weather that's as close to perfect as you can imagine, Breckenridge summers are hard to beat. 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.

LOCAL'S TIP:

STAY ON THE TRAILS:

Even though shortcuts can be tempting, please don't take them. A few extra strides on the path will protect native plants and the homes of wildlife. Doing your part will make it a little less challenging to survive at 9,600 feet.

FALL IS FESTIVAL SEASON

Fall is eye-candy season in Breckenridge, and it's filled with plenty of ways and reasons to head outside. Whether you're interested in our endless fall activities (hiking, mountain biking, fly fishing); taking part in a fall festival (Oktoberfest, Wine Classic, Film Festival); or simply enjoying the incredible fall foliage, fall in Breckenridge is an amazing time to discover everything Breckenridge has to offer.

LOCAL'S TIP:

RESPECT WILDLIFE:

Breckenridge is home to many furry residents. To keep wildlife — and you — safe, you shouldn't approach them. Enjoy wildlife from a distance. How far is far enough? They shouldn't even know you're there.

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 mean 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.

LOCAL'S TIP:

GO CAR-LESS:

Leave the car at home. The best way to explore Breckenridge's quaint historic streets is on foot, by bike and free local transportation. Direct shuttles that leave nearby airports make it easy to get to Breckenridge and free local transportation will take you anywhere you need to go.

2020 EVENTS

30th Annual International Snow Sculpture Championships:	January 20-29
Mardi Gras:	February 25
Breck Pride:	April 1-5
WAVE: Light + Water + Sound:	May 28-31
Gold Panning Championships:	June 19-21
Independence Day Celebration:	July 4
Breck Epic:	August 16-21
Breckenridge Wine Classic:	September
Breckenridge Film Festival:	September
Breckenridge Craft Spirits Festival:	October
Lighting of Breckenridge:	December 5
Ullr Fest:	December 9-12



QUICK TIP

Visit GoBreck.com for local tips and a year-round events calendar.



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MUST-SEE MOUNTAIN TOWNS



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.



1

❄️ WINTER FUN

Crested Butte Mountain Resort and Monarch Mountain 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 at the **Curecanti National Recreation Area**, **Blue Mesa Reservoir (2)** and **Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park**. In summer, the reservoir — Colorado’s largest body of water — is full of canoes, sailboats, pontoon and motor boats, and people water skiing, fishing and parasailing in the refreshing oasis.

Among Gunnison’s newest attractions is a manmade whitewater park on the **Gunnison River (4)**. 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. Another place outdoors lovers flock to is **Hartman Rocks Recreation Area**. Just outside town, it’s a paradise of desert mountain biking, hiking, rock climbing, horseback riding, trail running and (in the winter) Nordic skiing and snowshoeing. Free maps of all the area’s trails can be found in the **CBGTrails app**.

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 (3)**. The area is awash in lupine, columbine, queen’s crown and paintbrush from June through early September. Hike the 3.4-mile **Upper Loop Trail** and ogle



2

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Almont (page 192),
Crested Butte (page 195),
Gunnison (page 200)



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 weeks in September.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: RIGHT - CRESTED BUTTE CENTER FOR THE ARTS; LYDIA STERN; BLUE MESA RESERVOIR; MATT BURR; GUNNISON RIVER WHITewater PARK; MATT BURR; WILDFLOWERS NEAR CRESTED BUTTE; MILES/LISA SEAMAN; CRESTED BUTTE MOUNTAIN RESORT.

the fields of purple, gold and fuchsia. Or stick around town for July's Wildflower Festival — complete with garden tours, photography workshops and hikes.

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**. Fishing, wildflower hikes and stand-up paddleboarding are top activities at **Lake Irwin**. 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 form one of the country's most distinctive towns (5). Nearly every summer weekend features a gathering of some sort — the Wildflower Festival, Tour de Forks culinary festival and Crested Butte Music Festival are a few. Head to the **Crested Butte Mountain Heritage Museum** to see how the area's past residents lived. Vintage bikes and photos lend a snapshot of this mountain-bike-loving community.

Finally, return to Mount Crested Butte 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**. And there's always the option of sipping wine or beer at one of the top-notch restaurants in town.



THE BRICK OVEN PIZZERIA IN CRESTED BUTTE, MILES/LISA SEAMAN

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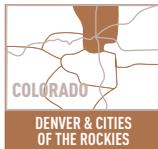


COME TO LIFE  COLORADO™



1

BIKES, ART & BEER



Spend a few days cruising between the northern Colorado cities of **Fort Collins**, **Loveland** and **Greeley**, where bike trails, breweries, menus crafted by ingredients from local farms, museums, sculpture gardens and other artful spaces compete with the natural beauty and the Poudre River 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 (2)** (bikefortcollins.org). Then, kick-start your morning in **Historic Old Town** and ride up to **The Bean Cycle**, where you can sip a steamin' cup of ethically sourced coffee. 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.

Get your feet wet just north of Old Town where the new **Poudre River Whitewater Park** has a boat chute, holes for SUP and tubing, and a shallow play area along the shore.

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, two restaurants as well as a small retail store, wine cel-

lar, tasting room, teaching kitchen and rooftop bar. **Jessup Farm Artisan Village** 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. Not to be left out, **The Exchange** is another hub (this one in shipping containers parked in Old Town) where food and craft beverages gather to make tasting easy and irresistible.

Stop by the **Fort Collins Museum of Discovery (3)**, 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 (1)** are cherished

NEW BELGIUM BREWING COMPANY IN FORT COLLINS, MILES/LISA SEAWAN

QUICK TIP

The Gardens on Spring Creek is the place to head in Fort Collins when renewal and a connection with nature are the prescription. The community botanic gardens range from demonstration to children's, xeric and rock varieties — and a butterfly house is coming soon.



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.



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 **Horse-tooth Reservoir**. 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. Or peek into **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 Company**, one of the newest additions to Fort Collin'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 **Old Town Churn** in The Exchange.

See what band is playing at the **Aggie Theatre** or 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**, **Horsefoot Mountain Open Space**, **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.

DAY 2

Point yourself a half-hour's drive south to **Loveland**, a community committed to the arts. Spend time at **Benson Sculpture Garden (6)**, featuring more than 150 sculptures (and counting!). Go to cityofloveland.org/bsgtour for an audio tour of this special site. For more sculpture admiration, check out **Art Castings of Colorado's** foundry tour, which shows you how they're made (make reservations before visiting).

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, a 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.

On the subject of sweethearts ... Loveland's newest art installation is a



4



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6

10-foot-tall LOVE sculpture where loved ones can lock their love for one another. Buy a lock at the visitors center (the permanent location for the sculpture) and write your name on the lock. Step outside and lock your love on the grid. Whether you keep the key as a souvenir or throw it away to lock your love for an eternity is up to you!

Hikers should seek out The Keyhole rock formation at the **Devil's Backbone Open Space**,

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 **Carter 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 (5)** dinner horseback rides (or anytime rides), which come with a trek to beautiful Eagle Ridge. Round out the evening with a visit to **Wicked Tequila Room** to choose from 40 luxury brands of tequila and mezcal.

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.



7

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.

The town's culinary offerings are growing every year. Check out **Tower 56 Distilling**, **Lonesome Buck Brewing** and **Luna's Taco's & Tequilla** to taste things the in-crowd is tasting.

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 fishing club, summer science camps, chuckwagon dinners, stargazing nights, bike trails and more.

Throughout your visit, you'll find more than 50 pieces of **public art (7)** 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.

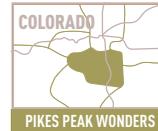
Every summer Friday brings live music on the Ninth Street Plaza for **Friday Fest**, with street performers, fire spinners, face painting, balloon artistry, sidewalk chalk and more.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Bellvue, **Fort Collins** (page 198), **Greeley** (page 200), **Johnstown** (page 201), **Loveland** (page 201), **Platteville** (page 203), **Red Feather Lakes**, **Windsor**

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: GREELEY CREATIVE DISTRICT; SYLVAN DALE GUEST RANCH; COLORADO MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM; HICKORY CITY OF GREELEY; BENSON SCULPTURE GARDEN; CITY OF LOVELAND.

TIME TRAVEL IN CRIPPLE CREEK



Hop on the historic steam locomotive, the **Cripple Creek & Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad** (May–October) through the historic gold-mining district. Visits to the **Cripple Creek Heritage Center** and the **Cripple Creek District Museum** are informative forays into the past. There’s also a new **Historical Trolley Tour of Gold Camp** for an excellent overview of the town’s historic sites. Hikers head for the trails in the Gold Camp, as well, taking in spectacular views, historical mine structures and buildings along the way. The new **Mountain View Adventure Park** has a playground, disc golf, BMX track, dog park and hiking/biking trail.

sinos. Collect your winnings and then head to the historic **Butte Theater** for a drama-filled treat.

The drive from Cripple Creek to **Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument** — 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.

May through October, bring carrots and apples to feed the town’s historic **donkey herd (1)**, which roams the streets soaking up the nice weather.

Stroll **Bennett Avenue**, which offers nostalgic street lighting, wide sidewalks, shops, restaurants and more. Join today’s fortune-seekers at numerous betting tables in more than a dozen ca-

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Cripple Creek (page 195), **Divide**, **Florissant**, **Lake George**, **Woodland Park**

DONKEY DERBY DAYS: EFRAIN M. PADRÓ

The city first came to life in the middle and late 1800s when the Gold Rush drove fortune-seekers to the area to mine its riches. Get a hands-on look at the gold-seeking era with a tour of one of the area’s mines.

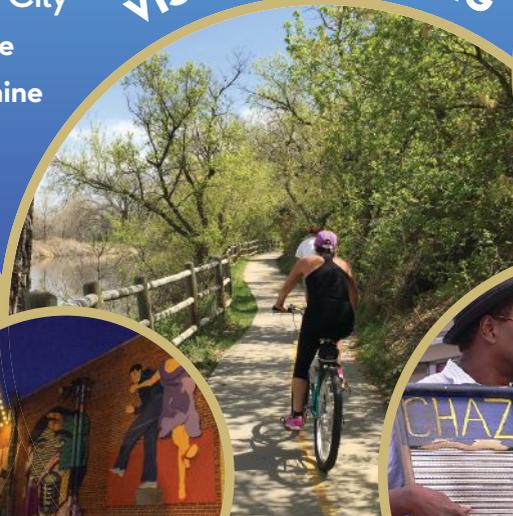
At the **Mollie Kathleen Gold Mine**, you’ll don a hard hat and descend a thousand feet to learn about historic and modern-day mining techniques, see a vein of gold and ride in a mine cart.

CIRCLE BACK TO GREELEY

Award-Winning Breweries
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300 Days of Sunshine

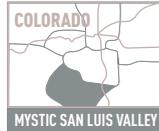
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HIGHWAY OF LEGENDS



Near the southern border, where the Sangre de Cristo Mountains intersect the waving grassland of the eastern high plains, lie some of Colorado's best frontier towns, including **Trinidad, Walsenburg, La Veta** and **Cuchara**.



1



2

DAY 1

Kick off your vacation at the **Trinidad Municipal Golf Course**, a nine-hole with stunning views of the Sangre de Cristos (especially from the seventh hole). **Trinidad Lake State Park (3)** and the **Wormhole Loop** network of trails (south and east of town, respectively) are both home to miles of multi-use trails that weave through the hills nearby. Or spend a lazy day on the **Purgatoire River**, which was recently stocked for great trout fishing and has a lovely riverwalk.

Delve into history at the site of the **Ludlow Massacre**. 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. The site includes a miners' tent camp, storyboards and photos that recount the chilling encounter.

Return to Trinidad for dinner and a stroll through the brick-lined streets of **Old Trinidad (1)** and one of the largest collections of Victorian-era houses west of the Mississippi. Affordable living and beautiful landscapes recently resulted in an influx of artists 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) being named a Certified Colorado Creative District. The new **Art Cartopia**

Museum shows just how creative folks can get here, especially when inspired by the town's annual ArtoCade (art-car parade), held each September.

DAY 2

Stroll to the **Trinidad History Museum**, which houses the meticulously preserved and newly remodeled **Baca House**, 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 (2)**, 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**, 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**. And check out the blast from the past at **Uptop** ghost town on **Old La Veta Pass** — a favorite of star gazers.

For an audio tour of the Highway of Legends, check out the **TravelStories app**, which describes the geology and history of the locations you'll see along the way, as well as the legends of the people who passed through in days of yore.



3

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Cuchara, La Veta, Trinidad (page 205), Walsenburg

QUICK TIP

Roll the culinary dice at **Alys' 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: TRINIDAD LAKE STATE PARK; COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE; BLOOM MANSION; MILESIANNA ZOROMSKI; CORAZON DE TRINIDAD, CITY OF TRINIDAD.

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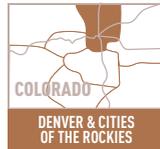
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EXPERIENCE OUR QUIRKY CULTURE, PRESERVED
ARCHITECTURE, CHANGING ARTS SCENE AND
FASCINATING HISTORY! COME TOUCH OUR
MOUNTAINS, RIDE OUR PLAINS, DIP IN OUR
WATERS, AND SWING ON OUR GREENS!



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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.



MORNING

The pedestrian **Pearl Street Mall (2)** is the city’s hub. Fuel up at any of a dozen coffee shops alongside students and freelancers clicking away on their laptops. For a quintessential experience, drop into **The Tune Up**, a place to rent or shop for bikes, get coffee and hear live music. Then, spend time strolling Pearl, lined with historic buildings that now house longtime-favorite shops and restaurants. 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 (1)**, 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 at dinner. You might also appreciate the **Boulder County Farm Trail** — 20 farms and other places where you can pick berries, pet animals, check out a farm stand, picnic in a barn or take a class.



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: BOULDER FARMERS MARKET; MILES/LISA SEAMAN; PEARL STREET MALL; JONATHAN PHILLIPS; RAYBACK COLLECTIVE; ELIDORA MOUNTAIN RESORT.



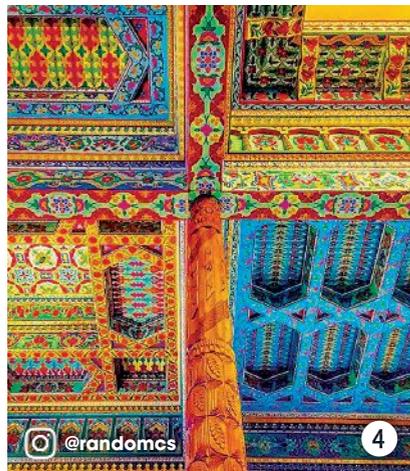
SIDETRIPS

Boulder is close to **Rocky Mountain National Park** (1 hour), **Eldorado Canyon State Park** (15 minutes) and **Golden Gate Canyon State Park** (45 minutes).

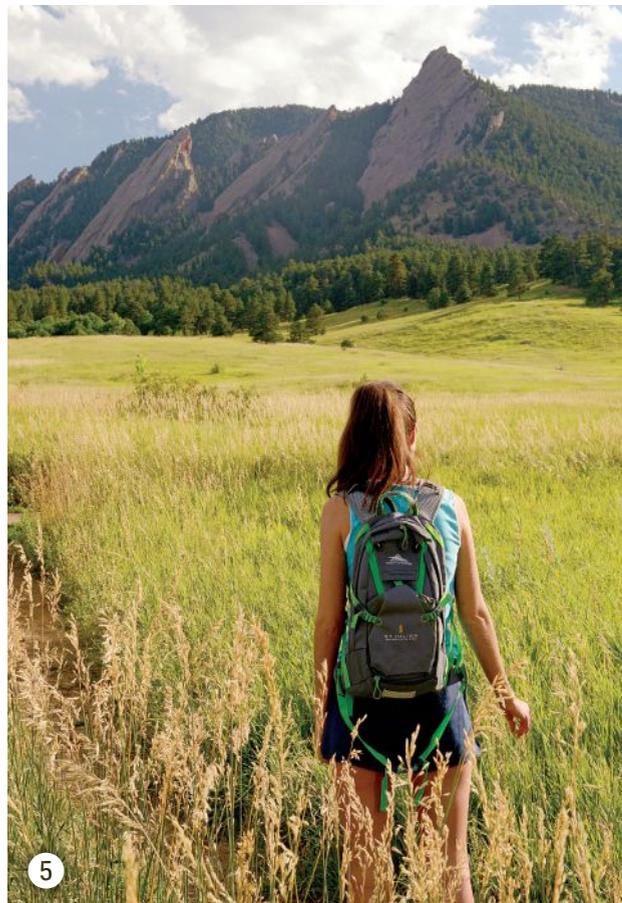
You can confidently claim that **Nederland**, just a half hour outside of Boulder, will be unlike any other town in your vacation repertoire. Case in point: Each March Frozen Dead Guy Days celebrates the remains of a man who died of a heart attack in 1989. His family keeps his body preserved in dry ice 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.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Boulder (page 193), **Eldorado Springs**, **Louisville** (page 201), **Lyons** (page 202), **Superior**, **Westminster** (page 205)



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: FROZEN DEAD GUY DAYS IN NEDERLAND; JONATHAN PHILLIPS; CHAUTAUQUA PARK; CHAD CHISHOLM; THE KITCHEN; CHAUTAUQUA DINING HALL; EFRAIN M. PADRÓ; DUSHANBE TEAHOUSE; @RANDOMCMCS



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 (5)**, 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 and Hall (7)**, which has been serving Boulderites since 1898.

There's also the **Museum of Boulder**, which hosts big-name traveling exhibitions from the Smithsonian and other nationally recognized

museums. Its rooftop deck offers some of the best views of the Flatirons in town. Or check out **Wonder Wonder**, an immersive digital-art experience with 18 rooms of light displays, technological contraptions and art encounters.

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**); or **The Kitchen (6)**, 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 (not to mention two cideries, four distilleries, two wineries and one meadery), 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 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 (3)** — a food-truck park/beer garden/live-music venue that's drawing those in the know east of downtown.

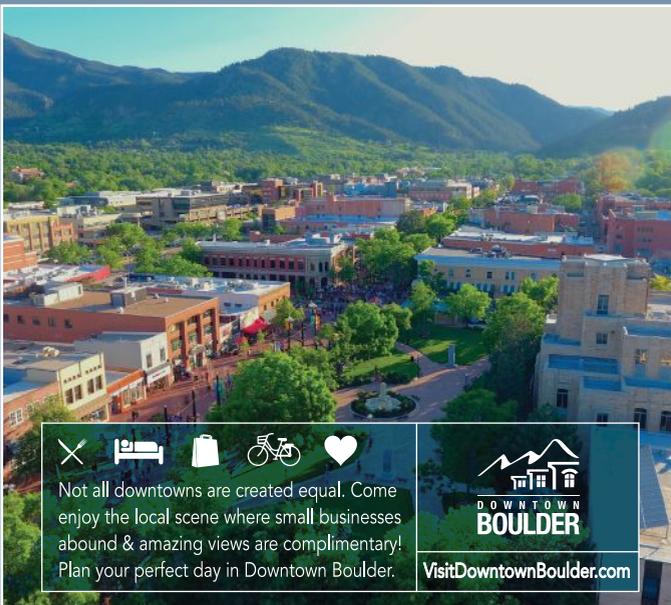
Boulder is home to a vibrant mix of dance and theater companies, creatives, visual artists and musicians. Plan your visit at BoulderCountyArts.org/calendar



CITY OF BOULDER OFFICE OF ARTS + CULTURE

BOULDER COUNTY arts alliance

Lindee Zimmer
Installs a mural for the Creative Neighborhoods Program



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VisitDowntownBoulder.com



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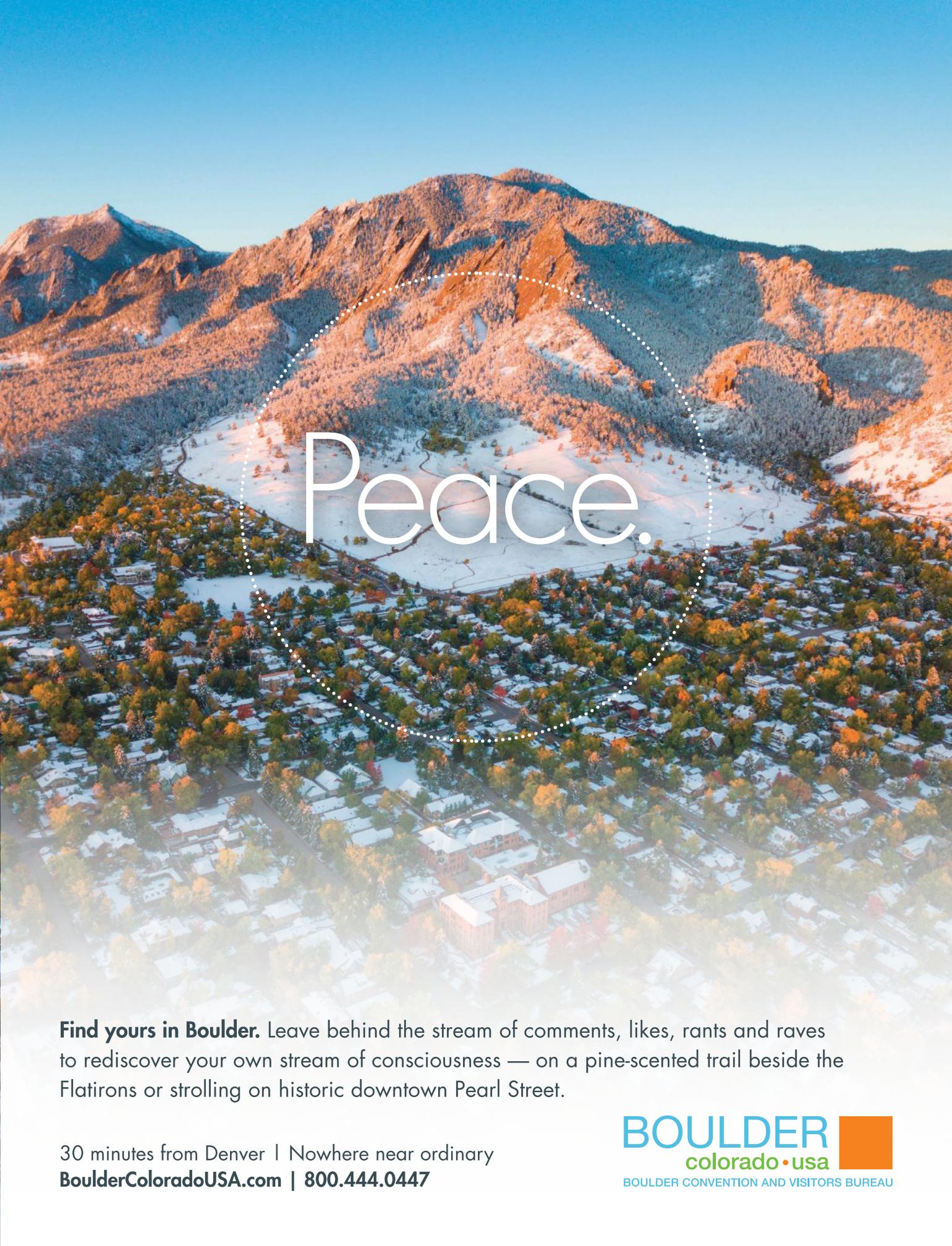
COLORADO
COME TO LIFE™

Boulder Events

- JAN**
 - 1 Polar Bear Plunge at the Boulder Reservoir
 - 2 CU Men's Basketball (Through Mar. 14)
 - 10-11 Versatility Dance Festival
 - 25 Boulder Philharmonic (Through Apr. 25)
- FEB**
 - 6 Boulder Bach Festival (Through May 21)
 - 19 Chautauqua Lecture Series: (Through mid Aug.)
 - 21-23 Boulder Ballet: "Modern Masters: Taylor & Wheeldon"
 - 29 Winter Craft Beer Festival
- MAR**
 - 5-8 Boulder International Film Festival
 - 13-15 LOCAL Lab New Play Festival
 - 27 Boulder Arts Week (Through Apr. 4)
 - TBD Chautauqua Community House Concerts (Through Apr. 27)
- APR**
 - 6-10 Conference on World Affairs at University of Colorado
 - 18 Bluebird Music Festival
 - 19 Taste of Pearl
 - TBD Boulder Farmers Market (Saturdays Through Nov.)
- MAY**
 - 12-17 Colorado Mahlerfest
 - 22 Twenty Ninth Street's LOVE the Tunes Concert Series (Through Sept. 6)
 - 23-25 Boulder Creek Festival
 - 25 BolderBoulder 10k Road Race
- JUN**
 - 3 Bands on the Bricks Wednesdays – Downtown Boulder – (Through Aug. 5)
 - 11-14 Hanuman Festival – 10 Year Anniversary
 - 25 Colorado Music Festival (Through Aug. 3)
 - TBD Colorado Shakespeare Festival (Through mid Aug.)
- JUL**
 - 4 Ralphie's Independence Day Blast Fireworks
 - 18-19 Pearl Street Arts Fest
 - TBD Boulder Environmental/Nature/Outdoors Film Festival (ENOFF)
 - TBD Folsom Field Concerts
- AUG**
 - 1 Ironman 70.3
 - 12-23 Boulder International Fringe Festival
 - 22 Boulder Craft Beer Festival – Downtown Boulder
 - TBD Frequent Flyers Aerial Dance Festival
- SEP**
 - 1 Firefly Handmade Market
 - 13 Buffalo Bicycle Classic
 - 18-20 Boulder Fall Festival
 - TBD Zee Jaipur Literary Festival
- OCT**
 - 3-18 Open Studios Tour (First three weekends in Oct.)
 - 31 Munchkin Masquerade
 - TBD Flatirons Food Film Festival
 - TBD Burgundy Wine Festival
- NOV**
 - 22 Switch on the Holidays
 - 27 St. Nick on the Bricks (Through Dec. 19)
 - TBD Trance Blues Festival
 - TBD Santa's Arrival & Tree Lighting Ceremony, Twenty Ninth Street
- DEC**
 - 5 Lights of December Parade
 - 12 Freezie Fest – Downtown Boulder
 - TBD CU Presents' Holiday Festival Classical Concerts
 - TBD Snow Much Fun Light Displays (Through mid Jan.)

For a complete calendar go to BoulderColoradoUSA.com/events.

BOULDER
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Peace.

Find yours in Boulder. Leave behind the stream of comments, likes, rants and raves to rediscover your own stream of consciousness — on a pine-scented trail beside the Flatirons or strolling on historic downtown Pearl Street.

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BOULDER 
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BOULDER CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

COLORADO WINE & ADVENTURE COUNTRY



Grand Junction, Palisade and **Fruita** are 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! Also, the Grand Mesa Nordic Council maintains 50 km of cross-country trails. Several trailheads have warming huts.

☀️ 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.



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 trail's Connected Lakes section has four lakes strung together for great SUP-ing, fishing and kayaking. The surrounding Audubon area is home to more than 200 different species of birds, just minutes from the city.

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 **Bookcliffs**, named for their shape and one of the only east-west ranges in the U.S. For dinner, **The Palisade Café 11.0** offers fresh local produce and locally raised beef and pork. **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 (2)**, 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.

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, 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**, where locally owned brunch hotspots' outdoor seating areas let you bask in the morning air. Work off the hash



QUICK TIP

Grand Junction is known for its **"second fall."** When fall color in the rest of the state has faded, it's just started here, giving fall-foliage fans an extra chance to catch the display later in September/early October.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT, ETHAN WELTY; BIN707 FOODBAR; POWDERHORN MOUNTAIN RESORT. @SKIPOWDERHORN.



Cameo Shooting and Education Complex, designed for shooting competitions and a place where kids can learn about the safe use of firearms.

West of Grand Junction, the stunning red-rock canyonlands of **Colorado National Monument (1)** 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. **Over the Edge Sports** and **Colorado Backcountry Biker** are two shops that can set you up with maps and information on the best trails for your taste. 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** area. **Adrenaline Driven Adventures** can set you up with side-by-sides and tours.

Plan to see the **Rimrock 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.

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 options: **Jet Boat Colorado (3)** operates its fast ride on the Colorado River; **Get Air Trampoline Park** has a trampoline, cave climb and other adventures; the **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); and **Colorado Flight Center** now has scenic air tours that highlight "the best of the West," including incredible perspective on Colorado National Monument.

The area is also home to Colorado Parks & Wildlife's

JET BOAT COLORADO, BARTON GLASSER

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Clifton, Collbran, Fruita (page 198), **Grand Junction** (page 200), **Loma, Mesa, Palisade** (page 203), **Parachute, Rangely** (page 203)

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Downtown Grand Junction



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Fairfield By Marriott / Marriott.com/GJTFI
TRU by Hilton / GrandJunctionDowntown.TRUbyHilton.com

Downtown Grand Junction

Your Adventure Begins Here



No matter what brings you to the Western Slope, Downtown Grand Junction is the ultimate destination for gourmet eats, fresh brews, lodging, shopping, year-round festivals, concerts, and a vibrant Certified Creative District art scene. It's the perfect place to refuel and refresh before hitting the trails again (and again).

970-245-9697 / DowntownGJ.org

Play Like a Local in Fruita

Family-Style Adventures Await



Come out here only if you want endless smiles from your family. How good does coasting down smooth mountain biking trails sound? Not your thing? How about hiking through a towering red rock canyon or floating down the Colorado River? Whether you're outdoor experts or ready to try a new adventure, you're going to get it all in Fruita.

970-858-9335 / GoFruita.com

The Town of Palisade

Life Tastes Good Here All Year Long!



Stay in Palisade for a quiet escape. Our guests enjoy tours through blossoming orchards, fields of lavender and over 25 local wineries along the Fruit & Wine Byway. Conquer the Palisade Rim Trail or relax and float the Colorado River. Plan a weekend to visit our nearby attractions: The Grand Mesa National Forest and the Colorado National Monument.

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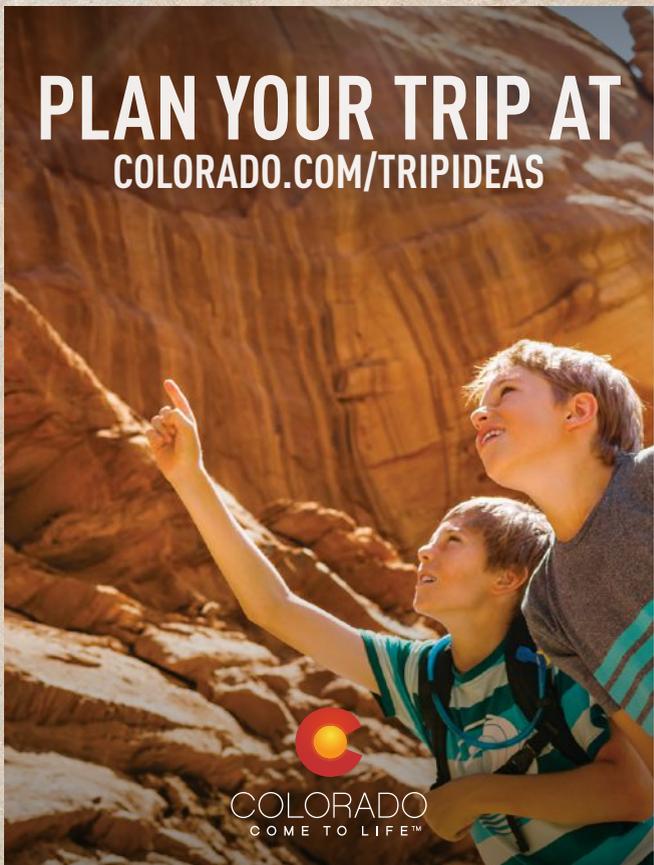
Grand Junction Regional Airport

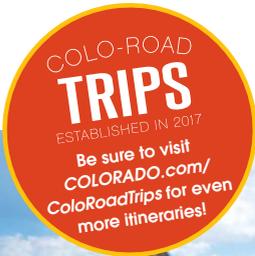
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WINTER FUN ❄️

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



Luxury resorts, world-famous golf, culinary wonders, family attractions, year-round events and concerts, and a drop-dead gorgeous landscape make the Vail Valley's **Vail, Beaver Creek, Avon** and **Eagle** the ideal places for serene pleasure.

DAYS 1 & 2

Vail Mountain — 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 (1)**, where visitors can access ropes courses, ziplines, an alpine coaster, a waterless tube track, SUV tours, guided hikes and more. Take the 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 (2)**.

You've worked up your appetite; relax over lunch at one of Vail's fabulous restaurants, such as **Heirloom, Sweet Basil, Alpenrose, Pepi's** or **Mountain Standard**.

Stroll **Vail Village** 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 with an alpine-inspired treatment at one of

the valley's premier resort spas, including **Bloom Spa, Spa Anjali, Spa at the Arrabelle** and **Bloom 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)! The stables also have excellent horseback-riding trips, naturally. **Paragon Guides'** Take a Llama to Lunch hikes pair you with a llama and guide you into evergreen forests and aspen groves. And **Sage Outdoor**



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.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: EPIC DISCOVERY; VAIL, VAIL RESORTS/JACK AFFLECK; VAIL MOUNTAIN, VAIL RESORTS/JACK AFFLECK; BEAVER CREEK GOLF COURSE, VAIL RESORTS/JACK AFFLECK.



Adventures offers a fly-fishing trip on private waters of the Piney River.

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 (4)**, a grand yet rustic on-mountain epicurean experience. Transportation to either place ranges from

a gondola, wagon to a horseback ride.

Be sure to check the schedules for summertime special performing arts events such as the **Hot Summer Nights Concert Series (3)**, the **Vail Jazz Festival**, the **Bravo! Music Festival** and the **Vail Dance Festival**, which brings dancers from all over the world to a gorgeous outdoor stage.

DAY 3

Choose another valley town for today's adventures. **Avon's** a treat with meandering trails and **Nottingham Park**, home to the state's largest Fourth of July celebration, paddle boats, stand-up paddleboards, fishing and picnic spots. The new **Destination Jump, Splash, Learn** playground in Nottingham Park offers nature-themed swings, a zipline, climbing features and more. 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 and National Forest

access, which provides the valley with a special place for learning and discovery through guided hikes, camps and other family activities. Avon's Zagster bike-share program provides an easy way for residents and guests to get around town.

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 and summer concerts. 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. More than 100 miles of trails can be accessed within 1 mile of town.

There's also a pump track, BMX track and MHOR R/C Raceway radio-controlled car track, and the new **Eagle River Park** whitewater park just off I-70 has waves and holes for surfing, kayaking, rafting and tubing, as well as a beach area and fire pits. Stop in to **Eagle Pharmacy and Batsons Corner Store** to get the inside scoop on conditions.



SIDETRIPS

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 Dry Lake Motocross Park 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.

Minturn's galleries, antique shops and summer artisans' 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 a variety of 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

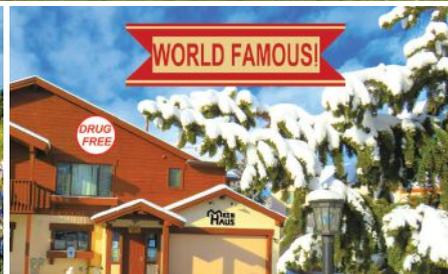
Avon (page 192), **Beaver Creek**, **Eagle** (page 197), **Edwards** (page 197), **Gypsum**, **Minturn**, **Red Cliff**, **Vail** (page 205)

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM RIGHT: BEANO'S CABIN; HOT SUMMER NIGHTS CONCERT SERIES; JOHN RYAN LOCKRMAN; 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION HUTS; C2 PHOTOGRAPHY.



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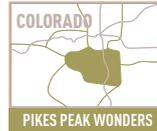
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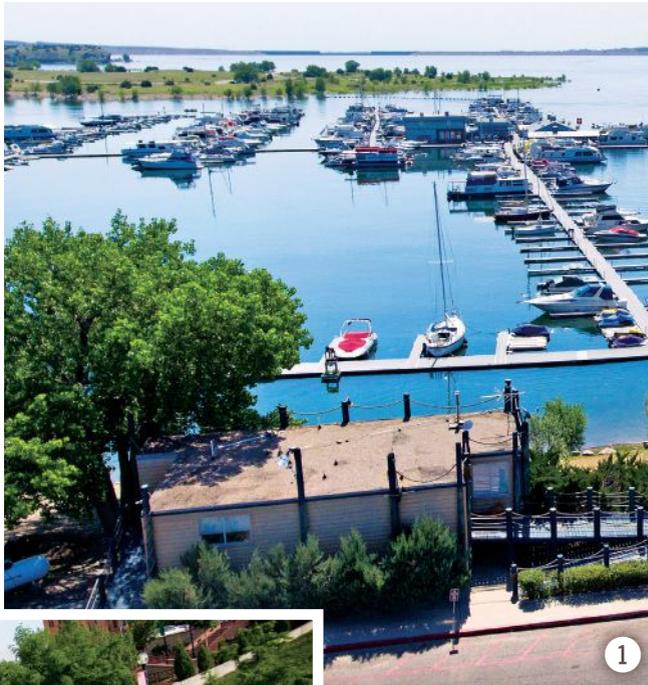
HISTORIC SITES & FAMILY TIME



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 (3)**, 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 three that make up Pueblo's **Creative Corridor** — hubs of museums, live music, galleries, public sculptures, fountains and more. At **Arts Alliance Studios**, more than 40 creatives work on their craft. Each month on First Fridays and Second Saturdays, the artists host open houses and events such as raku firings, poetry readings and receptions.



1

Check out the **Historic Arkansas Riverwalk (2)**, a 32-acre waterfront plaza with a nature center and outdoor amphitheater, as well as a brand new visitor center to help you plan the rest of your trip. 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 (1)**, one of the state's most popular. Near the riverwalk is **Neon Alley**, an outdoor museum of refurbished vintage signs and new creations near the historic Union Depot.

AFTERNOON

If you're traveling with children, your next stop should be the award-winning **Buell Children's Museum (4)**, adored for its hands-on exhibits focused on the arts.

Continued on page 172.

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. You're likely to spot real cowboys and gals herding cattle on horseback and historic one-room school houses to peek into. 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 stop by for summer star parties and visit the 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."



2

QUICK TIP

Colorado's craft-beer industry is booming statewide and Pueblo is no exception. Try the Pueblo American Pale Ale at **Shamrock Brewing Co.**, sip the Pueblo Chile Lager at **Walter's Brewing & Taproom** or grab a pint of Leadhead IPA at **Brues Alehouse Brewing Co.**

FROM TOP: LAKE PUEBLO STATE PARK, COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE; HISTORIC ARKANSAS RIVERWALK; MILES/ANNA ZOROMSKI



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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, 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. Many restaurants, including **Gray's Coors Tavern**, **Sunset Inn** and **Sancho's Bar & Grill**, 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 in August and September to gather your own ingredients, and soak in the aromas, colors and the hard work of generations of local farmers. Roadside markets also offer



dry sausages, cheese, honey, pastries and more throughout the summer.

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**, **Paletaria Y Neveria Durango**, **Tortilleria Delicias** or **Giodone's Italian Bar and Grill**.

If there's still time, find out what's on stage at the **Steel City Theatre Company**, **Impossible Playhouse** and **Grupo Folklórico del Pueblo**.

Motorsports racing fans find plenty to cheer about at the newly reopened **Honor Speedway** and the **Pueblo Motorsports Park**, which each host a variety of competitions through the summer and fall.

FROM LEFT: UNION AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT; MILLES / ANDREA BUROLLO; BUELL CHILDREN'S MUSEUM.



STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Colorado City, Pueblo (page 203), Pueblo West, Silver Cliff, Westcliffe



Creede

Solitude. Scenic Drives & More
Visit Creede.com



1

2

A cruise along the Silver Thread Byway is a must. The 117-mile route connects welcoming towns that continue to embrace their Western roots (and plenty of access to outdoor adventure), 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** 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 (3)** 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.

SILVER THREAD BYWAY



Survey untamed wilderness, uncover mining history and pursue some of the state's most iconic outdoor activities in **South Fork, Creede** and **Lake City**.

Many natural marvels lie between Creede and Lake City, including majestic **North Clear Creek Falls (2)** (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 (1) itself is known for its impressive collection of 1870s buildings, several nearby ghost towns (including **Animas Forks, Carson** and **Capitol City**) and inspiring panoramas of San Juan Mountains. For a fisher, camper or hiker, Lake City is an ideal head-

quarters 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**.



3

WINTER FUN ❄️

If you're visiting in winter, Lake City now has more than 100 miles of groomed trails for snowmobiling, snowshoeing and fat biking, not to mention a stellar ice park and local ski hill. South Fork has an outdoor ice rink and local outdoor clubs organizing weekly outings for snowmobiling and snowshoeing. And Creede has plenty of untouched wilderness for snowmobile tours.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Creede, Del Norte, Lake City, South Fork (page 204)

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: LAKE CITY, CRAIG PALMER; NORTH CLEAR CREEK FALLS, BIG SUN PHOTO TOURS/GENE TEWKSBURY; CREEDE HISTORICAL MUSEUM, MILES/MATT INDIEN



ANCIENT TREASURES



One of the richest archaeological zones in America just happens to be hidden amid some of the grandest scenery in the Southwest. Visit Mesa Verde Country — **Cortez, Mancos** and **Dolores** — for a true taste of ancient treasures.

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 (3)** 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, you must nab a spot on a guided tour.

From the visitor center, browse the exhibits in the **Chapin Mesa**

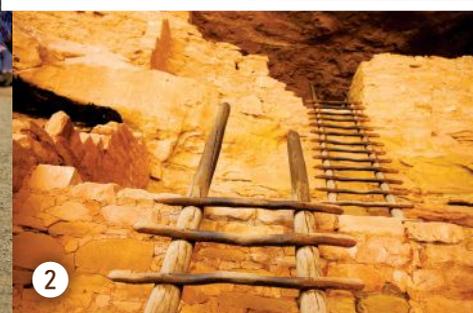
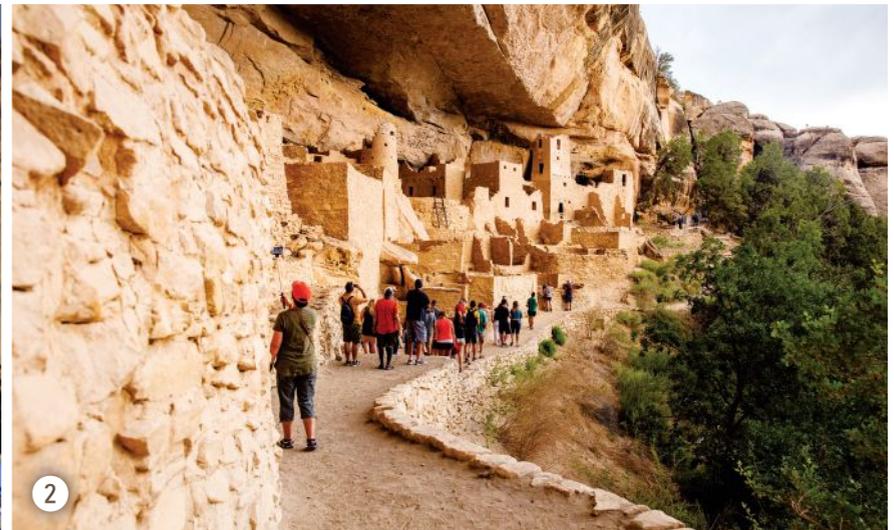
Archeological Museum. Then drive the **Mesa Top Loop Road**, a 6-mile overview of the entire park. On your way to Cliff Palace or Balcony House, enjoy the drive on the Cliff Palace/Balcony House Loop Road. Or if you purchased tickets for Long House, take Wetherill Mesa Drive.

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.

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 (1)** in **Towaoc**, where Ute guides help you explore the culture, architecture and art of the Ute and Ancestral Puebloan people. From here, pass **Four**



CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: UTE MOUNTAIN TRIBAL PARK; MIKE WILKINSON; POTTERY, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE; CLIFF PALACE AT MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK; JIM DAVID; COLORADO WELCOME CENTER IN CORTEZ; MILES/MATT INDEN; LONG VIEW HOUSE IN MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK; JAMES BRANAMAN.

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.



Corners Monument on your way to **Hovenweep National Monument's (4)** round and square towers, some of which you can visit via a 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**. Stop first at the **Anasazi Heritage Center** for an introduction of the monument, the family that discovered the cliff dwellings, and cultures native to the region. Then head to **Lowry Pueblo**, an ancient pueblo 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.

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. Stop into the **Mancos Common Press**, a community art space full of vintage and antique printing presses where you can learn the art of typesetting and design your

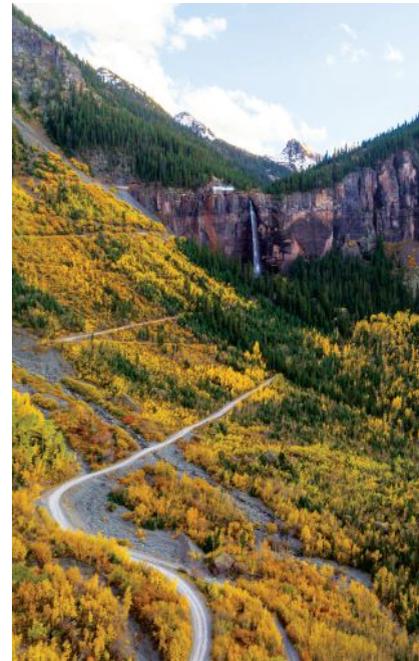
own work. Or take workshops in blacksmithing, mosaics, pottery, leatherworking and more at the **Mancos School of the West (5)**.

Another option is to 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, plus lunch and tasting of craft beverages from area breweries and wineries.

If ATVs are more 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.

Also 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*.



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.

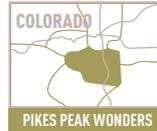
The state's most southwestern town, **Towaoc** is the headquarters of the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Reservation. Attractions include the Ute Mountain Tribal Park, which features both Ancestral Puebloan and Ute rock art and dwellings, as well as native guides that lead guests on an interpretive journey 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

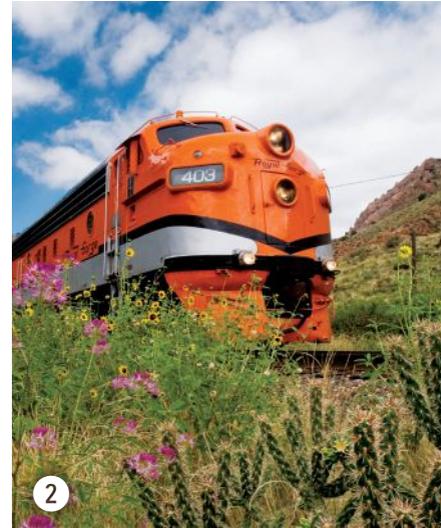
Cortez (page 195), **Dolores** (page 196), **Mancos** (page 202), **Mesa Verde National Park** (page 202), **Towaoc** (page 204)



HIGH-FLYING AMUSEMENTS 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** and nearby **Florence**.



world's longest single-span aerial gondola, a zipline and a new via ferrata course where you can hike and climb granite rock walls for amazing views. 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. Or investigate dinosaur tracks and ancient fossils on the **Skyline Drive** tour.

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, 2-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 interactive displays, full-scale dinosaur-fossil casts and hands-on exhibits with real dinosaur fossils.

Towering above the Arkansas River, the **Royal Gorge Bridge** 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 (1)** attractions, including a visitor center, the

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Cañon City (page 194), **Coaldale**, **Cotopaxi** (page 195), **Cripple Creek** (page 195), **Floresant**, **Florence**, **Penrose**, **Texas Creek**

QUICK TIP

The Winery at Holy Cross Abbey is hands-down one of the loveliest places to sip some vino. The former Benedictine abbey is set on 200 acres of orchards with the Wet Mountains as a backdrop.

FROM LEFT: ROYAL GORGE BRIDGE & PARK; EVE NA GODE; ROYAL GORGE ROUTE RAILROAD; MILES/MATT INDEN

CRUISING ELEVATION



Leadville is the country's highest incorporated city — one of the reasons it and its neighboring town, **Twin Lakes**, are favorites with those wanting to get close to the sky.



Spend the morning touring well-preserved Leadville. Seventy square city blocks of Victorian buildings and shops are 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 (2)** (with an ambitious roster of acts each year), and walking tours with cemetery and stagecoach themes and picnics.

Downtown is walkable and full of places to eat and hang, including **Treeline Kitchen (3)** — 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.

In the afternoon, catch a ride on the **Leadville, Colorado & Southern Railroad** and don't miss the **National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum**, 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 (1)** 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. Local outfitters

can get you all the gear and instruction you need and point you in the right direction.

Or, just 20 miles from town is historic **Twin Lakes**, where you'll find world-class fishing and boating, several B&Bs and cabins for a relaxing stay 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).

Twin Lakes is the eastern gateway to **Independence Pass** (Aspen is on the other side), one of the state's highest paved roads. It's hard to overstate how spectacular fall colors can be along the pass if you're able to time your trip just right.

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.



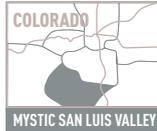
STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Leadville (page 201),
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.**

BROAD HORIZONS IN THE SAN LUIS VALLEY



The Rio Grande River snakes through a vast valley ringed by dramatic mountains and filled with hidden lakes, waterfalls and cool summertime temperatures. Explore towns like **Alamosa, San Luis, Monte Vista, Saguache** and **Crestone**, tucked away in this intriguing area.



DAY 1

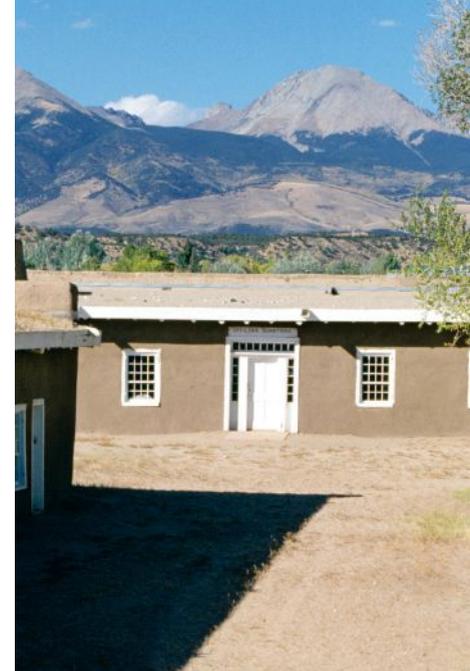
Leap into the valley's deep roots in the state's oldest town: **San Luis'** history dates back to 1540. **La Vega**, a plot of land on the edge of town, is where settlers first established a communal way of life in the late 1800s and laid claim to the area's first water rights before Colorado was even 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 and one of the newest Dark Sky Parks for its excellent stargazing opportunities — 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, singletrack mountain-bike trails 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



SIDETRIPS

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 and Cultural Center, where visitors can tour adobe buildings, view Hispanic art and check out a re-creation of famed frontiersman Kif 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.

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 192), **Antonito** (page 192), **Crestone** (page 195), **Fort Garland** (page 198), **La Jara**, **Manassa**, **Monte Vista**, **Moffat** (page 202), **Mosca** (page 202), **Saguache** (page 203), **Sargents** (page 203)

QUICK TIP

Visit Great Sand Dunes National Park and 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.

see and even handle some of the more than 300 alligators and other scaly critters; and 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**, 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. The welcome center can also direct you to new hiking/biking trails within the city and along the Rio Grande.

Grab a frothy pint at **The 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. In the evenings, check out what's playing at **Society Hall**, evidence of the town's grass-roots music scene on the rise.

For a different sunset adventure, visit **Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge** 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 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.

DAY 3

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. Check out **Search for the Saguache Treasure**, an online game based on the area's history.

Not far is **Penitente Canyon (2)**, whose 100-foot walls are beloved by rock climbers. There are hiking trails that will take you close to the action. Try to spy one of Colorado's rarest plants, the neo-parrya, scaling the cliff walls.

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, hikers, campers and birders. Stop into **Crestone Brewing Co.** for a beer and locally sourced pub grub.



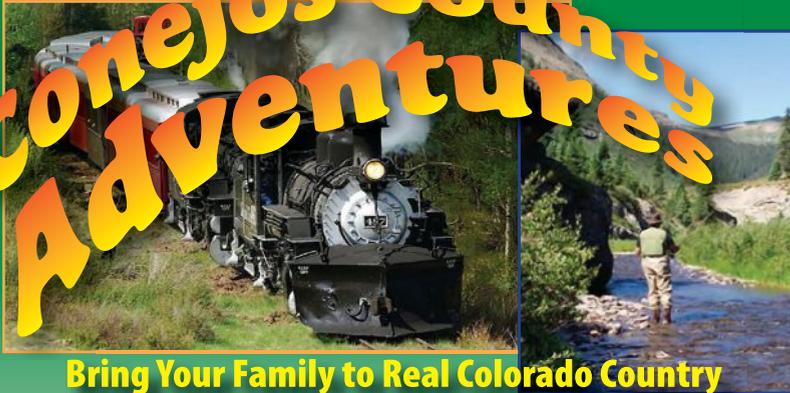
PENITENTE CANYON, KENNAN HARVEY

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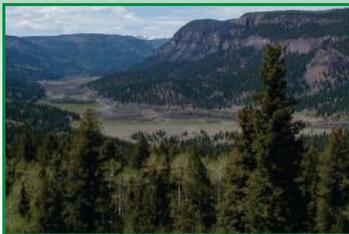
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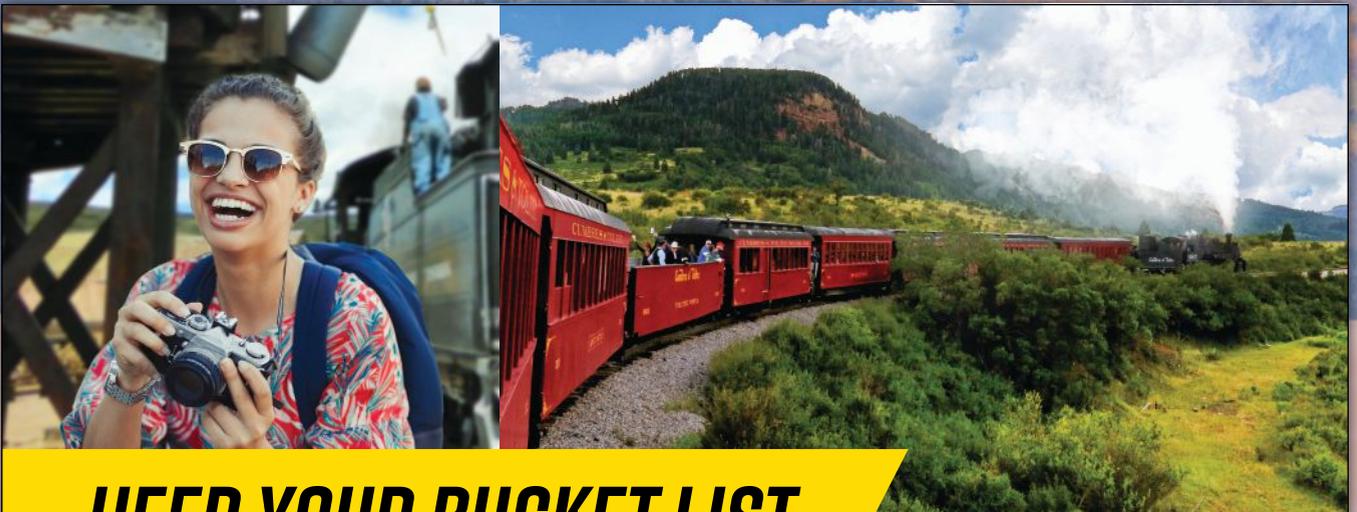
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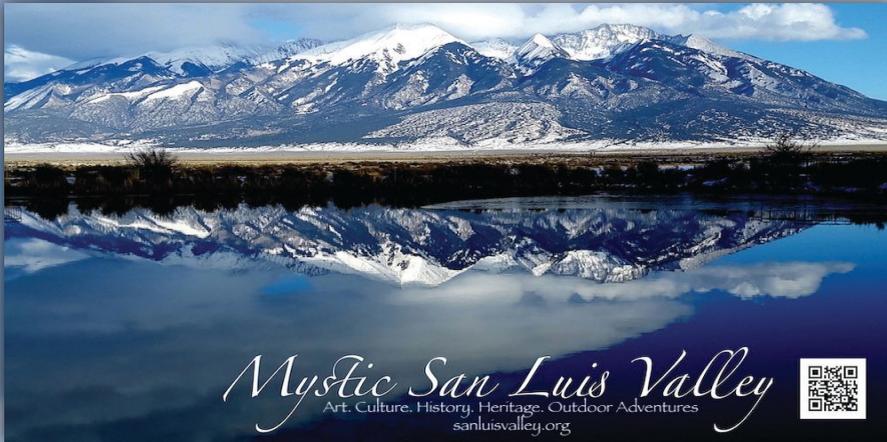
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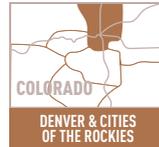
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CRAZY ABOUT LONGMONT



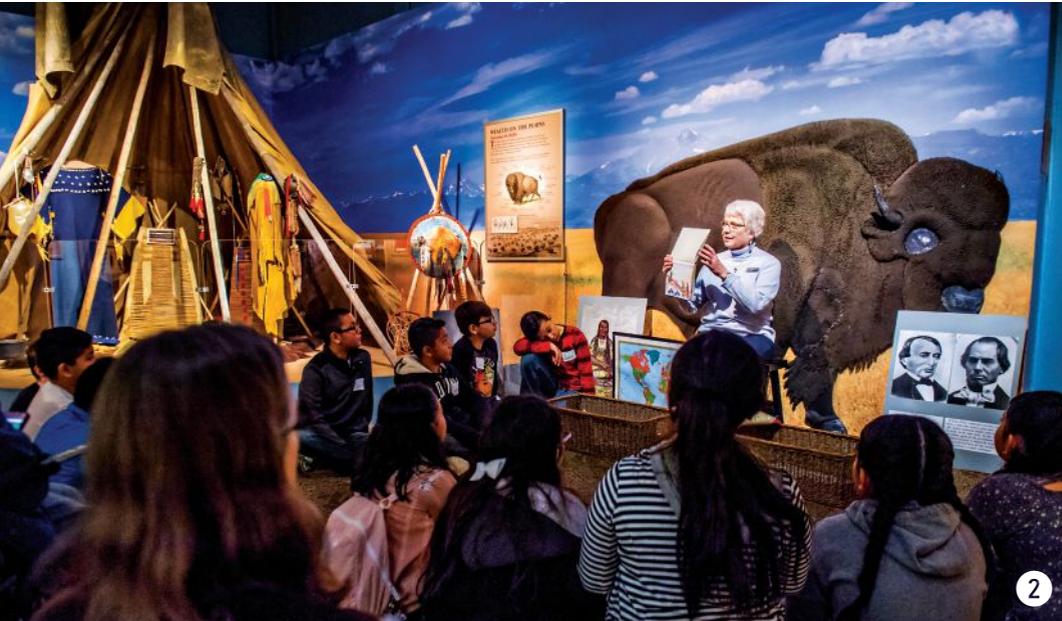
Along the Front Range between Boulder and Loveland, **Longmont** is a stop-worthy destination for all the reasons visitors love Colorado — great brews and views, a distinct flavor of local arts and access to the outdoors.



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.



You'll find three spectacular golf courses, three National Historic Districts, beautiful parks and a Certified Colorado Creative District in **Longmont**. Stop by the **Visitors Center** in the downtown district for maps, 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 (2)**, 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 Barf, Shoes & Brews, Wibby and Bootstrap** (among others) have emerged in recent years. If you can't get enough, check out **Brewmented**, a homebrew supply store with a taproom and brew-on-premises system allowing aspiring brewers to create 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** and **Anvil Distillery** hand craft spirits fitting of the American West.

Time for a snack! **The Art of Cheese (1)** is a cheese-making school with courses covering cheese making, pairings and more. For more cheesiness, there's **Cheese Importers** and **Haystack Mountain Cheese**, both with culinary experiences to explore.

For a heartier meal, options range from casual hangouts to upscale bistros and everything in between. A good way to explore all the tastes of Longmont is the new **Wonder Tours**, which take you to local restaurants and bars and fills you with samples of the best stuff. If you're just not hungry for some reason, **Left Hand Tours** help you explore the area's past on foot.



STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Boulder (page 193),
Firestone (page 198),
Frederick, Longmont (page 201), **Lyons** (page 202)

QUICK TIP

The hop-on/hop-off **Brewhop Trolley** transports craft-beverage lovers to a dozen-plus venues in Longmont every weekend. Need another way to get around? Bike-share program Zagster boasts 10 locations throughout the city, and regional (RTD) buses are free within city limits.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: LONGMONT MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER; JONATHAN PHILLIPS; THE ART OF CHEESE; JONATHAN PHILLIPS; LEFT HAND BREWING CO.

4 DAYS IN COLORADO'S GREAT NORTHWEST



Literally millions of acres of untouched public lands and free-flowing rivers soothe the travel-weary eyes. This off-the-beaten-path corner includes the towns of **Dinosaur, Maybell, Craig, Meeker** and **Rangely** — and endless routes leading to wild beauty.

DAY 1

Spend your first day in **Dinosaur National Monument**. With its craggy hills and unparalleled collection of prehistoric artifacts, it's still an active research area where visitors can see thousands of fossil types. A scenic drive along **Harpers Corner Road** will show you changing ecosystems and striking viewpoints. Or visit the photogenic **Gates of Lodore (1)**, accessible by trail or raft, for its tranquility and sheer wow-factor.

For more scenery, head east to **Maybell**, where canyon walls of varying colors surround the Yampa River at **Cross Mountain Canyon**, optimal for a day excursion or camping trip. Just west of Maybell, you're treated to views of **Bakers Peak** and **Mount Zirkel**. The area has many picnic and camping sites as well as fishing holes and wildlife-spotting opportunities.

Sand Wash Basin is home to one of the few remaining herds of free-roaming wild mustangs in the United States. Don't miss the hundreds of greys, sorrels and pintos running free as the sun sets. (Tours are available.)

Or, head north of the monument to **Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge**. In this high-desert valley formed by the Green River, more than 300 native and migratory species coexist. Sagebrush creates a swishing symphony in your ears as you spot pronghorn, bighorn sheep, mule deer, black bears and moose.



DAY 2

West of Maybell in **Craig**, find one of the nation's best collections of cowboy and gunfighter memorabilia at the **Museum of Northwest Colorado**, as well as lots of places for good grub.

Soaring 1,000 feet above the Yampa Valley, **Cedar Mountain** just north of Craig, consists of 880 acres of public lands complete with mountain biking, horseback riding and cross-country skiing. The horseshoe-shaped, juniper-rimmed mountain stands tall overhead the 3.5-mile Stearns Trail, for all hiking levels, on which you can see mule deer, marmot, foxes, coyotes and more.

Wrestle with your dinner at **Elkhead Reservoir State Park**, where bass, crappie, pike and rainbow trout swim below the surface of the 900-acre lake. If fishing isn't your thing, the reservoir is also a water- and jet-skiing paradise; and 11 miles of trails greet hikers, cross-country skiers and snowshoers.

DAY 3 & 4

The enclaves of **Meeker** and **Rangely** are jumping-off points for exploring some of Colorado's finest wilderness areas along the 250-mile Wagon Wheel off-highway-vehicle trail system, which was recently expanded. Plus, visitors can actually ride through OHV-friendly Meeker to peek into its many shops and restaurants.

Meeker is also a hub for a drive along the **Flat Tops Trail Scenic Byway**. Detour off the highway to hike the **Trappers Lake Loop Trail (2)**, a 5.5-mile path to see the state's second-largest natural lake.

Horseback riding is one of the best ways to experience the majesty of this area, and Meeker has many outfitters and guides to choose from. Trails traverse landscapes with blooming wildflowers.



For fishers, the **White River's** crystal-clear waters offer opportunities for everyone — from experienced anglers to families. There are several public access points within a couple miles of town, plus 100 mountain lakes and ponds for shore fishing and canoeing.

Or press east to complete this loop in **Rangely**, to see 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 more opportunities for wilderness exploration await.

With 4,000 acre-feet of water for canoers, kayakers, water skiers, fishers and floaters, **Kenney Reservoir** is a one-stop shop for water sports. Each spring the water is stocked with 5,000 rainbow trout that mingle (and are caught) with the crappie and catfish. Due to Rangely's unique location, the swimming areas and docks are seldom crowded and make for the perfect afternoon on the water.

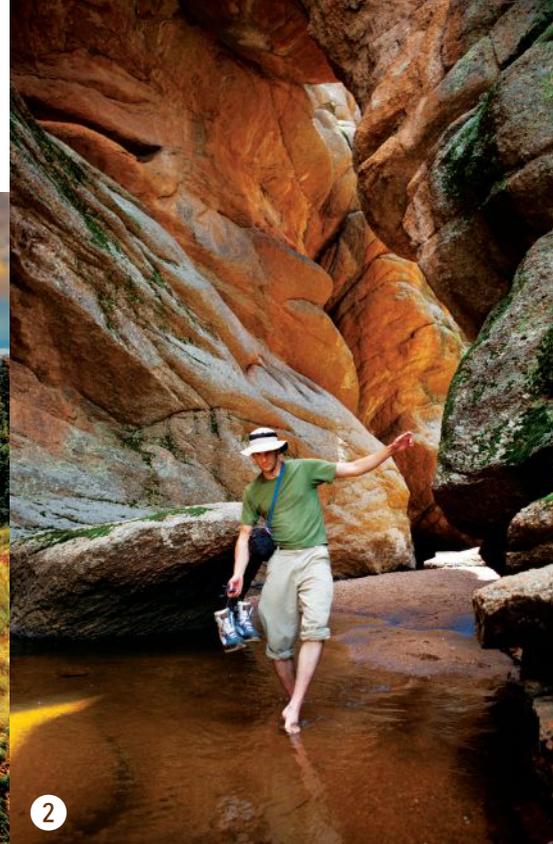
Petroglyphs and pictographs decorate the sheer sandstone walls of the **Canyon Pintado National Historic District** 20 miles south of town. Prehistoric peoples began occupying the region as long as 11,000 years ago, and the canyon contains a massive concentration of Fremont archaeology sites.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Craig (page 195), **Dinosaur, Maybell, Meeker** (page 202), **Rangely** (page 203)

QUICK TIP

Dinosaur National Monument's **Yampa Bench** road is an extraordinary experience with incredible canyon overlooks that meet or rival the experiences available at the Grand Canyon. This remote road (off Hwy. 40 and County Road 14) is not well known, but the views are world class.



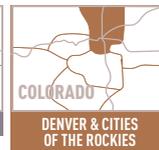
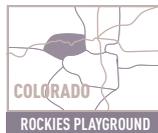
THE REAL SOUTH PARK

The South Park basin towns of **Fairplay, Como, Bailey** and **Alma** are characterized by wonderfully diverse landscapes, fondly preserved historic sites, and vibrant mining and ranching heritage.

Designated a National Heritage Area by Congress in 2009, South Park is 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. Spend some time on Fairplay's Main and Front streets, where historic storefronts house eateries, galleries and shops. **Salado's** eclectic Southwest cuisine is a must for dinner one night.

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 **South Park Saloon** 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 **Cuthroat Cafe** and **Rustic Station** will fuel all adventures, including a hike into the **Lost Creek Wilderness (2)** on Brookside-McCurdy Trail.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

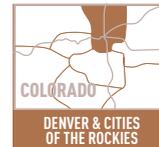
Alma, Bailey, Como, Fairplay, Pine

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 BOTTOM: LEFT: SOUTH PARK CITY; WINDY RIDGE BRISTLECONE PINE SCENIC AREA; ERIC WUJNOW; LOST CREEK WILDERNESS; ETHAN WELLY.

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.



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. Near downtown, the free **Golden**

History Museum has 1800s cabins, a one-room school house and household items from eras past.

AFTERNOON

South Table Mountain and its twin **North Table Mountain** 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 (1)** is another scenic spot to stretch your legs. As is **Triceratops Trail**, an easy walking path that leads to dinosaur fossils — a favorite for families.

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. There's also the new **Colorado Plus 49 Cidery & Pub** nearby.

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**, **Xicamifi La Taqueria Bistro** and **Miners Saloon**.

EVENING

Make plans to see a 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.



STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Denver (page 195), **Golden** (page 199), **Lakewood** (page 201), **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**.

FOLLOWING THE SANTA FE TRAIL



The past meets the future in this relaxed area along the Santa Fe Trail in **Lamar, Las Animas** and **La Junta**.

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**, seven glassy lakes perfect for boating, fishing and water skiing. Bring binoculars — the reservoirs and surrounding prairie host almost every bird species ever documented in Colorado. Keep an eye out for fluttery wings — Lamar is the state's only **Monarch City USA**, a community that plants the milkweed and nectar plants that attract and keep monarch butterflies healthy. 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 Historic Site (2)**. 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 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.

Detour south to the **Picketwire Canyonlands** in the **Comanche National Grassland** to explore ancient Plains Indian rock art, early Spanish settlements and North America's largest dinosaur tracksite via hike, bike or horseback ride. You can also arrange a guided auto tour through the U.S. Forest Service.

Continue west to **La Junta**, "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 a collection of Western art as well as a 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 kept 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

Hasfy, La Junta, Las Animas, Lamar (page 201), Rocky Ford



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: BOGGSVILLE HISTORIC SITE; MILESIANNA ZOROMSKI; BENT'S OLD FORT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE; EL VEGA.

INSPIRED TO LINGER



Adventure and restful solitude rule days and nights in the Delta county towns of **Delta, Cedaredge, Crawford, Paonia, Hotchkiss** and **Orchard City** where lush farms, artful nooks and ancient canyons await discovery.

Sublime and the active pursuits combine in Delta County, an organic-food and wine region with winery and farm tours, tastings and farm dinners, as well as easy access to spectacular canyonlands for hiking and biking, including **Escalante Canyon** and **Big and Little Dominguez** canyons (1).

Spend a few days hitting up each side of the area's vacation spectrum.

Start with the **West Elks Wine Trail**, which meanders past nine wineries — keep an eye out for spots to buy fresh, organic fruit and veggies. New restaurants are popping up with chefs that highlight the local produce and meats, including **salt, pollen** in Paonia, **Wildflower Bistro** and **Needle Rock Brewing Co.** in Delta.

Paonia, Hotchkiss and Crawford form a **Certified Colorado Creative District (2)**, 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 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.

For active diversions, serene **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 uncrowded 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**.

To literally go above and beyond, the new **Ultimate Skydiving Adventures** in Delta can get you a bird's-eye of those trails and canyons.

For a bit of nostalgia, antique shops in Delta and the old-school **TruVu DriveIn 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 in Paonia, the **Creamery Arts Center**, **Azura Cellars and Gallery**, **The Living Farm Cafe**, **Leroux Creek Inn & Vineyards**, **Delicious Orchards & Big B's Cidery**, plus a handful of new wineries, brewpubs and cideries.

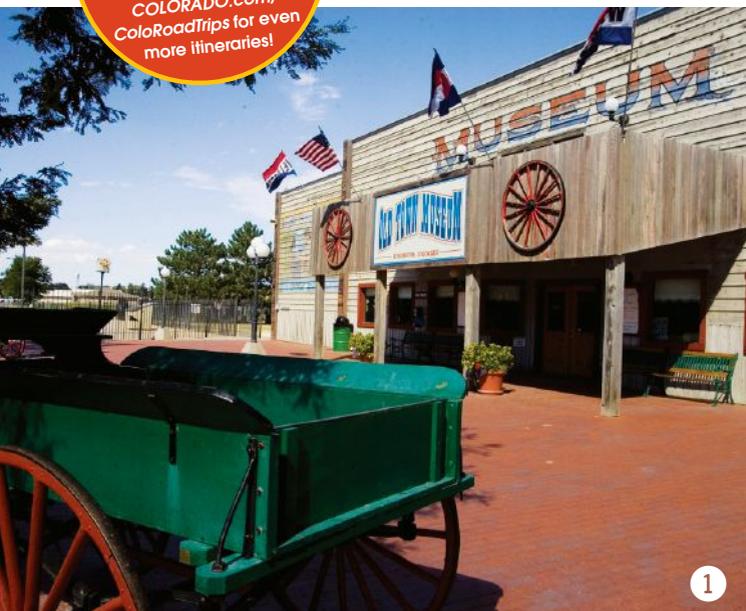
Stop into the **Delta Area Chamber of Commerce** for maps and advice about all the area has to offer.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

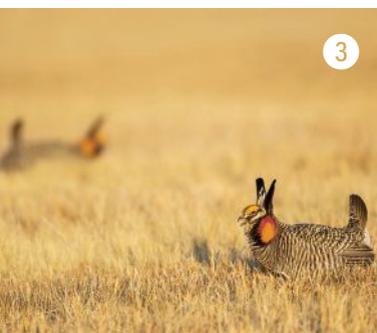
Cedaredge, Crawford, Delta (page 195), Orchard City, Paonia

QUICK TIP

Delta County is a place to disconnect. Be prepared to be off the grid, as cell service can be iffy. You'll find being one of few on the trails, quiet travel amid farmland and nighttime cricket chirps are just the antidote for a constantly buzzing and busy life.



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 (3) strut and dance across local

grasslands in search of mates. The ritual is such a spectacle that viewing tours are offered in March and April.

Housing one of the only permanent Smithsonian exhibits outside of Washington, DC, the **Wray Museum** features an extensive Paleo-Indian exhibit, displaying one of the largest and oldest Stone Age bison kill sites.

For something tasty, pop into **Lala's Bakery & Espresso Bar**, an adorable Main Street stop for sandwiches, salads, soups and a good (coffee) brew.

AFTERNOON

Mosey down to **Burlington** and treat yourself to an Old West experience. The **Old Town Museum (1)** 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, pick up a Pioneers Passport walking game 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 (2)** 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 103rd **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.

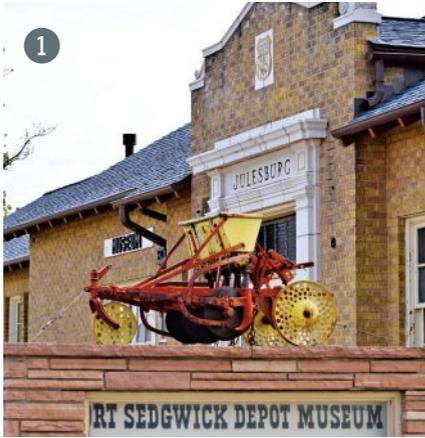
STAY & PLAY OPTIONS
Burlington (page 193), Wray

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 BOTTOM LEFT: GREATER PRAIRIE CHICKEN; ADIBESTOCK; OLD TOWN MUSEUM IN BURLINGTON; MILES/DENISE CHAMBERS; KIT CARSON COUNTY CAROUSEL; MILES/MATT INDIEN.

GATEWAY TO COLORADO



FORT SEDGWICK MUSEUM, CATHY EDWARDS.

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 (1)**, 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.

OPEN YEAR ROUND

OUTLAWS WELCOME

GUNFIGHTS • DINNER THEATRE • CANCAN GIRLS

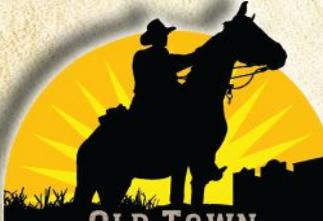
Just 2 hours east of Denver

SCHOOL DAYS - MAY	PIONEER DAYS - AUGUST
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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 Kessel 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 **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 **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.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Limon (page 201)

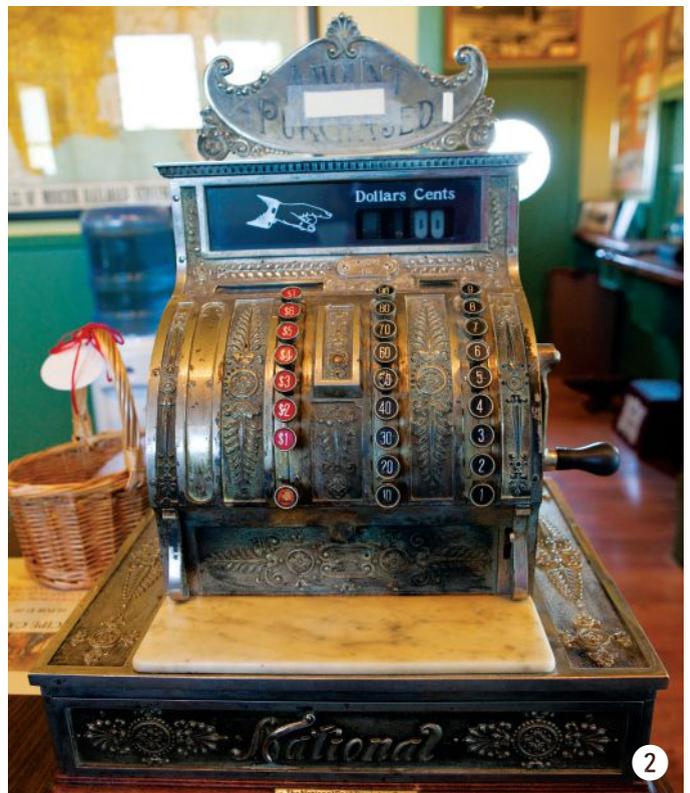


SIDETRIPS

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; the springtime Mountain Plover Festival offers plenty of tours.



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!

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: GOLDEN EAGLE: MILES/MATT INDEN; LIMON DEPOT: MILES/ANDREA BUROLLO; LIMON HERITAGE MUSEUM & RAILROAD PARK: MILES/ANDREA BUROLLO.

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, Fort Morgan (page 198), **Orchard, Sterling**

PAWNEE BUTTES: EFRAIN M. PADRÓ.

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COME TO LIFE / Visitor Directory

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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. innsofcolorado.org, info@innsofcolorado.org, P.O. Box 38416, Colorado Springs 80937

DUDE & GUEST RANCHES

COLORADO DUDE AND GUEST RANCH ASSOCIATION

Visit an all-inclusive Colorado dude ranch this summer. You will find accommodations at our member ranches 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 503, Parker 80134

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

ALAMOSA

ATTRACTIONS

SAN LUIS VALLEY MUSEUM

The museum features artifacts, books, photos and papers from various valley locations and families. New is Pike's 1810 journal printed for Congress. A 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 & SUITES

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. comfortinnandsuitesatamosa.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, 719-472-3983, 888-286-2737, 5234 B US Hwy. 285, Antonito 81120

ASPEN

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

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, 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 two AHS museums and two ghost towns, with year-round guided tours, exhibits, programs and community events that make history exciting for all ages. facebook.com/historyaspen, info@aspenhistory.org, 970-925-3721, 800-925-3721, 620 W. Bleeker St., Aspen 81611

CONDOS & VACATION-HOME RENTALS

ASPEN SQUARE CONDOMINIUM HOTEL 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. gantaspens.com, gantres@destinationhotels.com, 970-925-5000, 800-916-0613, 610 S. West End St., Aspen 81611

LIFT ONE CONDOMINIUMS Our intimate vacation property at the base of Aspen Mountain features 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom condominiums tastefully decorated, fully equipped and only 2 blocks from downtown Aspen and 1 block to Aspen Mountain. Beautiful outdoor pool and hot tub. liftone.com, info@liftone.com, 970-925-1670, 800-543-8001, 131 E. Durant Ave., Aspen 81611

LODGES & CABINS

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RECREATION

ASPEN WHITEWATER RAFTING The only company in the valley that focuses solely on whitewater rafting, our trips offer a variety of options no matter what kind of adventure you are looking for. With small boat sizes and excellent guides, your experience will be one to remember. aspenwhitewater.com, info@aspenwhitewater.com, 970-920-3511, 520 E. Durant Ave. #106, Aspen 81611

BLAZING ADVENTURES Whether you are a family with small children or an adrenaline junkie looking for a quiet hike in the woods, biking at the Maroon Bells or blasting through Class IV-plus whitewater rapids, indulge your adventurous side with us. blazingadventures.com, info@blazingadventures.com, 970-923-4544, 555 E. Durant Ave., Aspen 81611

AURORA

HOTELS & MOTELS

BEST WESTERN PLUS GATEWAY INN & SUITES All rooms feature microwaves, refrigerators, coffee makers, 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, 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, coffee-maker, hair dryer, iron/board. Free WiFi, hot breakfast. choicehotels.com/colorado/aurora/comfortinn-hotels/co714, comfortinnaurora@yahoo.com, 303-755-8000, 800-228-5150, 14071 E. Iliff Ave., Aurora 80014

GAYLORD ROCKIES RESORT & CONVENTION CENTER Find sanctuary at Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center, featuring well-appointed rooms and suites plus more than 500,000 square feet of convention space. Enjoy a variety of restaurants, Reiche Spa, and indoor/outdoor pools, slides and a lazy river. gaylordrockies.com, 720-452-6900, 6700 N. Gaylord Rockies Blvd., Aurora 80019

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. Ouray 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. denvercoachcharterbusco.com, denvercoachcharters@gmail.com, 855-520-5466, 16628 E. Second Ave., Aurora 80011

AVON

CONDOS & VACATION-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 areas, fireplace, washer/dryer, free WiFi and more. Heated outdoor pool, fitness center, dining, activities and more. marriott.com/egesi, group.booking@vacationclub.com, 970-748-6000, 800-228-9290, 160 W. Beaver Creek Blvd., Avon 81620

THE WESTIN RIVERFRONT MOUNTAIN VILLAS Surrounded by inspiring natural beauty, our resort offers premium guest rooms and one-bedroom villas with kitchen/kitchenette, living/dining areas, free WiFi and more. Enjoy our on-site Spa Anjall, dining, fitness center and outdoor pool. marriott.com/whrwi, 970-790-3000, 800-228-9290, 218 Riverfront Ln., 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/comfortinn-hotels/co052, sfontanese@richfield.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 skier access via the Riverfront Express Gondola and spacious studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom suites. westinriverfront.com, reservations@westinriverfront.com, 970-790-6000, 888-236-2427, 126 Riverfront Ln., Avon 81620

BASALT

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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, 101 Midland Ave. in The Red Caboose, Basalt 81621

BLACK HAWK

ATTRACTIONS

MONARCH CASINO RESORT SPA BLACK HAWK Monarch Casino Resort Spa Black Hawk features Exclusive Premiere slots, exciting table games and a nightly whole Maine lobster, crab and USDA Prime rib buffet, as well as great gaming, great benefits and great rewards. ▶ monarchblackhawk.com, info@monarchblackhawk.com, 303-582-1000, 488 Main St., Black Hawk 80422

BOULDER

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

BOULDER CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU A university town with natural beauty, urban culture and a vibrant love of the outdoors. Just 35 minutes from Denver, Boulder is a small town with big-city restaurants and shopping surrounded by farms and wide-open spaces. ▶ 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 four-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, and traveling exhibits. ▶ boulderarts.org, culturalplan@bouldercolorado.gov, 720-564-2355, 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. ▶ coloradoshakes.org, cupresents@colorado.edu, 303-492-8008, Mary Rippon Outdoor Theatre, Boulder 80309

DINING

BIG RED F RESTAURANT GROUP Founded by Boulderite and chef Dave Query in 1994, Big Red F is Colorado's hometown restaurant group, sourcing farm-and-sea-to-table for more than 25 years: Zolo, Jax Fish House (5 locations), Lola, Centro, West End Tavern & 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 and slackline park. ▶ a-lodge.com, info@a-lodge.com, 303-444-0882, 91 Fourmile Canyon Dr., Boulder 80302

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS - BOULDER North Boulder: all-nonsmoking hotel conveniently located 3 miles to the north of 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 & VACATION-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 three-bedroom deluxe penthouses. ▶ goldpoint.com, 866-576-2055, 866-576-2055, 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, 866-576-2055, 75 Snowflake Dr., Breckenridge 80424

MARRIOTT'S MOUNTAIN VALLEY LODGE AT BRECKENRIDGE Our premium ski resort features spacious studios and one-bedroom villas with fully equipped kitchens, living/dining areas, free WiFi and more. Heated outdoor pool, barbecue grills, fitness center and close to many local activities. ▶ marriott.com/qkbvi, 970-453-8500, 800-845-5279, 655 Columbine Rd., 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 and theater rooms. ▶ paragonlodging.com, info@paragonlodging.com, 970-547-2122, 866-356-3080, 319 N. Main St., Breckenridge 80424

PEAK PROPERTY MANAGEMENT - BRECKENRIDGE Peak Property Management has been helping guests enjoy Breckenridge since 1986. All of our properties are close to our charming Victorian town and Breckenridge Ski Resort. Contact us so we may help you enjoy your visit to Breckenridge! ▶ peakproperty.com, info@peakproperty.com, 970-453-1724, 800-458-7998, 11072 Hwy. 9, Summit Ridge Center, 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. ▶ beaverun.com, stay@beaverun.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@breckcgv.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, customerservice@grandlodgeonpeak7.com, 970-453-3330, 866-664-9782, 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 coffee pot. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/brighton/quality-inn-hotels/co015, gm.co015@choicehotels.com, 303-654-1400, 15150 Brighton Rd., Brighton 80601

BUENA VISTA

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

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DUDE & GUEST RANCHES

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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 multi-day 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

RIVER RUNNERS Raft, stand-up paddleboard and kayak the Arkansas River with River Runners. Choose from four Colorado locations: Browns Canyon, Buena Vista, Salida and 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 multi-sport 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. Highly rated guided raft trips on Trip Advisor and also Colorado "Company of the Year." Specializing in whitewater rafting, horseback rides and zipline tours. Raft through amazing Browns Canyon National Monument. ▶ inaraft.com, rapids@inaraft.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 gun-fights and cancan shows in the summertime, and many souvenirs and gift items to choose from in our Emporium. ▶ oldtownburlington.com, nikki.wall@burlingtoncolorado.com, 719-346-8404, 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

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

CAÑON CITY

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. Experience the Royal Gorge Via Ferrata. ▶ royalgorgebridge.com, rgb@royalgorgebridge.com, 719-275-7507, 888-333-5597, 4218 County Rd. 3A, Cañon City 81212

THE ROYAL GORGE DINOSAUR EXPERIENCE The ultimate dino adventure! Guided museum tours of fossils and casts of amazing dinosaur and sea creatures, full-scale outdoor animatronic dinosaur park, and two engaging ropes courses for all ages that bring you eye-to-eye with animated dinosaurs. ▶ dinoxp.com, info@dinoxp.com, 719-275-2726, 800-209-0062, 44895 W. Hwy. 50, 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, Santa Fe Depot, south at Third St. & Hwy. 50, 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. ▶ waoraffing.com, kathy@waoraffing.com, 719-275-5344, 800-530-8212, 50905 W. US Hwy. 50, Cañon City 81212

ARKANSAS RIVER TOURS Connecting more than 300,000 guests to the river since 1973! ART provides premium rafting and fishing tours on the Arkansas and Gunnison rivers. Convenient locations in Cañon City near the Royal Gorge and riverside in Cotopaxi. ▶ arkansasriveritours.com, info@arkansasriveritours.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 min. 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

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 W., Cañon City 81212

CARBONDALE

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

CARBONDALE CHAMBER AND TOURISM COUNCIL OF CARBONDALE One of *Outside Magazine's* "Best Towns," *A National Geographic Adventure* "Top 12 Town" in the "50 Next Great Places to Live and Play." In the shadow of Mt. Sopris sits your basecamp for adventure — hiking, biking, Gold Medal fly-fishing and more. ▶ carbondale.com, chamber@carbondale.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, 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

RV & CAMPGROUNDS

LONE DUCK FAMILY CAMPGROUND AND CABINS Two miles west of Hwy. 24 from Pikes Peak Highway. 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. ▶ castlerockziplineitours.com/epic_sky_trek.html, zip@castlerockziplineitours.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. ▶ castlerockziplineitours.com, zip@castlerockziplineitours.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 100-plus brand-name stores including Coach, Kate Spade, North Face, Nike, 7 for All Mankind and more. ▶ outletsatcastlerock.com, 303-688-4495, 5050 Factory Shops Blvd., Castle Rock 80108

CENTRAL CITY

ATTRACTIONS

CENTRAL CITY OPERA World-renowned summer opera festival presented in a 550-seat jewel-box theater, July through August, with two main-stage productions including both contemporary and standard opera and musical theater, along with other performances in various venues. ▶ centralcityopera.org, admin@centralcityopera.org, 303-292-6700, 800-851-8175, 124 Eureka St., Central City 80427

CENTURY CASINO & HOTEL CENTRAL CITY 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. ▶ cny.com, central-city.info, centralcity@cny.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

COLORADO SPRINGS

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

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 rodeos 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. ▶ tac.coloradocollege.edu, fac@coloradocollege.edu, 719-634-5581, 30 W. Dale 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, birding, hiking and 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

US OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC MUSEUM The U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum will be located where many Olympic and Paralympic dreams begin — at 6,035 feet above sea level in Colorado Springs. This impressive and interactive museum will tell inspiring stories right here in Olympic City USA. (Open spring 2020.) ▶ usolympicmuseum.org, pmajuro@usolympicmuseum.org, 719-358-6325, 200 S. Sierra Madre St., Colorado Springs 80903

HOTELS & MOTELS

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. ▶ hotelegante.com, hotelegantesales@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 Ten miles to the Air Force Academy, Fort Carson and 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

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 everyone 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, colospri, rhi_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, hot-air ballooning. The best adventures in Colorado. All this can be yours with one 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 five 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, Colorado Springs 80903

CORTEZ

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

MESA VERDE COUNTRY COLORADO WELCOME CENTER
 Cortez, Dolores and Mancos welcome you to Mesa Verde National Park. Ancient stories come alive amid the excavated villages once home to native ancestral peoples. Add outdoor fun, the Old West and farm visits, and you’ll remember this trip for years to come. ▶ 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. ▶ fourcomersgolf.com, pro@fourcomersgolf.com, 970-565-9208, 2018 N. Dolores Rd., Cortez 81321

COTOPAXI

RECREATION

ARKANSAS RIVER TOURS Connecting more than 300,000 guests to the river since 1973! ART provides premium rafting and fishing tours on the Arkansas and Gunnison rivers. Convenient locations in Cañon City near the Royal Gorge and riverside in Cotopaxi. ▶ arkansasrivertraveltours.com, info@arkansasrivertraveltours.com, 719-942-4362, 800-321-4352, 19487 US Hwy. 50, Cotopaxi 81223

CRAIG

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

VISIT MOFFAT COUNTY 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. ▶ marshotelmanagement.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 & VACATION-HOME RENTALS

CRESTED BUTTE LODGING & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
 Offering a variety of lodging types from hotel to one-, two-, three- and four-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., Crested Butte 81225

HOTELS & MOTELS

ELEVATION HOTEL & SPA Nestled in the heart of the Colorado Rockies, the hotel features 262 guest-rooms with kitchenettes, balconies and breathtaking views. The Elevation Hotel & Spa is the only ski-in/ski-out resort in Crested Butte. ▶ elevationresort.com, sales@elevationresort.com, 970-251-3000, 800-569-2754, 500 Gothic Rd., Crested Butte 81225

CRESTONE

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

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. ▶ crestonecreativeidistrict.xyz, 719-256-4313, PO Box 331, Crestone 81131

CRIPPLE CREEK

ATTRACTIONS

CENTURY CASINO & HOTEL CRIPPLE CREEK Be sure to visit Century Casino Cripple Creek with state-of-the-art slot machines, exciting table games area and a top-rated hotel. The hotel’s spacious and comfortable rooms have been voted the best casino hotel in Cripple Creek. ▶ cny.com, info@cripplecreek.com, 719-689-0333, 200 E. Bennett Ave., Cripple Creek 80813

DELTA

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

DELTA COUNTY Delta County, where you’ll discover untapped trails, wide-open spaces and blue skies, and inviting rivers to enjoy and explore. Located on the Western Slope. Find Cedaredge, Crawford, Delta, Eckert, Hotchkiss, Orchard City and Paonia. ▶ visitdeltacounty.com, tourism@deltacounty.com, 970-874-2108, 501 Palmer St., #227, 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

ATTRACTIONS

CENTER FOR COLORADO WOMEN’S HISTORY AT THE BYERS-EVANS HOUSE MUSEUM The museum offers tours and exhibits that expand the understanding of the history of women in Colorado. The center connects local stories to broader stories of women’s history and a glimpse of life in early Denver with historic house tours. ▶ byersevanshousemuseum.org, jillian.allison@state.co.us, 303-620-4933, 1310 Bannock St., Denver 80204

DENVER ART MUSEUM World-class art in the heart of Denver! The Likenskind-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 A 24-acre urban oasis features native, exotic and xeric plants, tropical rain forest and 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

DENVER ZOO Whether it’s baby animals, new exhibits or old favorites, there’s always something to be wild about at Denver Zoo! The zoo is home to more than 3,500 animals and has championed more than 600 conservation and research projects around the world. ▶ denverzoo.org, guestcare@denverzoo.org, 720-337-1400, 2900 E. 23rd Ave., 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 Colorado’s largest theme and water park celebrated 130 years of fun! From roller coasters to kid rides, 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

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

FORNEY MUSEUM OF TRANSPORTATION Explore one of America's largest and most unique transportation collections, featuring Union Pacific's "Big Boy," world's largest steam locomotive; Amelia Earhart's first car; motorcycles; bicycles; aircraft; automobiles and special rotating exhibits. ▶ 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

THE WILD ANIMAL SANCTUARY See more than 500 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-era inn in downtown Denver. Walk to convention center, mall and museums. The inn features eight luxurious guest rooms and suites with a unique experience and 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, babyback 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, info@clarionhoteldenver.com, 303-296-4000, 800-964-4001, 200 W. 48th Ave., Denver 80216

COMFORT INN & SUITES STAPLETON Minutes from downtown Denver and conveniently located off I-70 near the Stapleton 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, tdcomfortnortheast@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

FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES - DENVER TECH CENTER NORTH Brand New Fairfield Inn & Suites Denver Tech Center North is located minutes from Centennial Airport, Park Meadows Mall and TopGolf. We feature top amenities including free WiFi, complimentary breakfast buffet, fitness center and indoor pool. ▶ marriott.com/hotels/travel/denxn-fairfield-inn-and-suites-denver-tech-center-north, 303-694-7500, 5071 S. Syracuse St., Denver 80237

GRAND HYATT DENVER The 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 one block from 16th Street Mall in downtown Denver and two blocks from theater district with 1,100 modern guest rooms with free WiFi adjacent to Colorado Convention Center. Twenty-seventh-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., Bldg. B, Denver 80204

QUALITY INN & SUITES DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT Just minutes from Denver International 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. ▶ qualityinn.denverstapleton.com, 303-388-6161, 3737 Quebec St., Denver 80207

RECREATION

DENVER CLIMBING COMPANY Go outdoor rock climbing near Denver with your own Colorado mountain guide. We provide climbing courses for all skill levels, including first-timers, with the most talented instructors. All required equipment is included with each trip. ▶ denverclimbingcompany.com, info@denverclimbingcompany.com, 719-354-3332, 3300 W. Florida Ave. #75, Denver 80219

SHOPPING

CHERRY CREEK SHOPPING CENTER From world-renowned brands to one-of-a-kind local boutiques, the Cherry Creek neighborhood is Denver's shopping and destination with more than 300 shops, 75 cafes and restaurants, 50 spas and salons, and five hotels. ▶ shopcherrycreek.com, cherrycreek@taubman.com, 303-388-3900, 3000 E. First Ave., Denver 80206

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+ specialty shops and restaurants. ▶ northfieldstapleton.com, info@northfieldstapleton.com, 303-375-5464, 8340 Northfield Blvd., Denver 80238

SIGHTSEEING & TOURS

STRANAHAN'S COLORADO WHISKEY Stranahan's Colorado whiskey is an American single-malt whiskey from Colorado's first legal whiskey distillery since prohibition. Take a tour to learn about our history and distillation process — and taste it yourself. Or stop by our lounge for a cocktail! ▶ stranahans.com, info@stranahans.com, 303-296-7440, 200 S. Kalamath St., Denver 80223

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). ▶ book.bestwestern.com, 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

LODGES & CABINS

DUNTON HOT SPRINGS Discover the authentic mountain adventure and charm of Dunton. Thirteen luxury cabins can accommodate up to 44 guests and the entire town can be rented for weddings, corporate retreats and special events. Rates include all meals and beverages. ▶ duntontourism.com/hot-springs, reservations@duntontourism.com, 970-882-4800, 877-288-9922, 8532 County Rd. 38, Dolores 81323

DURANGO

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

VISIT DURANGO Get more in Durango! Historic D&SNGRR, Mesa Verde National Park, Purgatory Ski Resort, 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 more than a century ago. Wind through canyons in the remote wilderness for an unforgettable journey. ▶ durangorail.com, info@durangorail.com, 970-247-2733, 888-872-4607, 479 Main Ave., Durango 81301

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, info@historicrailadventures.com, 888-456-6777, 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, info@hotellcccgf.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 more than 80 years. ▶ skiloveland.com, loveland@skiloveland.com, 303-571-5580, 800-736-3754, 1-70 Exit 216, Georgetown 80444 

GLENWOOD SPRINGS

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

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, Hanging Lake, Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park and Sunlight Mountain Resort. ▶ visitglenwood.com, info@visitglenwood.com, 970-945-6580, 802 Grand Ave., Glenwood Springs 81601 

ATTRACTIONS

GLENWOOD CAVERNS ADVENTURE PARK Elevate your adventure all year at America's only mountain-top theme park and western Colorado's No. 1 must-see attraction. Take the scenic Glenwood Gondola to incredible thrill rides, amazing cave tours, great family activities and so much more. ▶ 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. ▶ spaoftherockies.com, info@spaoftherockies.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, 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, gm.co226@choicehotels.com, 970-384-4700, 877-424-6423, 2625 Gilstrap Ct., Glenwood Springs 81601 

HOTEL COLORADO  The historic Hotel Colorado is located in Glenwood Springs directly between Aspen and Vail. You'll enjoy our legendary service, modern amenities and well-appointed rooms as you explore the beauty of western Colorado. Your escape awaits! ▶ hotelcolorado.com, res@thehotelcolorado.com, 970-945-6511, 800-544-3998, 526 Pine St., Glenwood Springs 81601 

HOTEL DENVER Welcome to The Hotel Denver in lovely Glenwood Springs. Enjoy all Glenwood Springs has to offer from our historic downtown location, close to the hot-springs pool, the restaurants, the train and the shops. ▶ thehoteldenver.com, april@thehoteldenver.com, 970-945-6565, 800-826-8820, 402 Seventh St., Glenwood Springs 81601 

HOTEL GLENWOOD SPRINGS Hotel Glenwood Springs features Glenwood's only indoor water park with a waterslide, kiddie waterslide and spacious indoor pool. It is just steps away from Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park, featuring caverns tours and adventure rides for all. ▶ thehotelglenwoodsprings.com, info@hotelglenwood.com, 970-928-8188, 888-411-8188, 52000 Two Rivers Plaza Rd., 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, gm.co145@choicehotels.com, 970-945-5995, 2650 Gilstrap Ct., Glenwood Springs 81601 

LODGES & CABINS

GLENWOOD CANYON RESORT Nestled in Glenwood Canyon on the Colorado River. On-site bar and grill. Luxury suites, resort cabins, cottages, glamping tents, camper cabins, full hook-up RV sites and tent sites. On-site aerial adventures with ziplining, raft trips and hiking nearby. ▶ glenwoodcanyonresort.com, kathy@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, 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. 16 small pools and a freshwater family pool with amazing views of the valley and mountains beyond. ▶ 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, 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, 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. Guest room features include flat-panel TVs with HD programming, five-star bedding and plush robes. ▶ 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, gm.co296@choicehotels.com, 303-231-9939, 11907 W. Sixth Ave., Golden 80401 

GRANBY

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

GRANBY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER 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

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

DUDE & GUEST RANCHES

C LAZY U LUXURY GUEST RANCH  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  Named TripAdvisor and Parent Magazine's Top 10 All-Inclusive Vacations in the World in 2017. No. 1 Best Dude Ranch for Families by familyvacationcritic.com in 2019. 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 County Rd. 219, Granby 80446 



HOTCHKISS

ATTRACTIONS

DELTA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS The Delta County Fairgrounds is a family-oriented facility that plays host to all types of commercial, business, youth, community and private events throughout the year. From our outdoor arenas to Heritage Hall, we can host your event, inside or out. ▶ deltacounty.com, dwise@deltacounty.com, 970-874-2108, 403 S. Fourth St., Hotchkiss 81419 📍

IDAHO SPRINGS

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

CLEAR CREEK COUNTY TOURISM BUREAU Clear Creek County is located 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 so much 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. Raft the world-famous Arkansas River through Royal Gorge near Colorado Springs; or Clear Creek, 30 min. from Denver. Fun and exciting trips for all abilities. ▶ raffroyalgorge.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-suite hotel near Loveland has the extra space you need with the extras you want, like meeting rooms, guest laundry facilities, free WiFi, indoor heated pool, outdoor hot tub and indoor waterslide, business center and fitness center. ▶ comfordsuites.com/co247, comfordsuitesloveland@spirithospitality.net, 970-663-3300, 4851 Thompson Pkwy., Johnstown 80534 📍

KEYSTONE

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

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, 970-423-8996, 140 Ida Belle Dr., Suite F-4, 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, suite rooms. Snowmobile Rabbit Ears, hunting, 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 📍

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 and 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 Elitch 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 📍

LAMAR

HOTELS & MOTELS

QUALITY INN - LAMAR The Quality Inn hotel in Lamar is located along Route 50 and near the Big Timbers Museum. Our pet-friendly hotel offers free hot breakfast, free WiFi and more. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/lamar/quality-inn-hotels/co362, gm.co362@choicehotels.com, 1202 N. Main St., Lamar 80504 📍

LEADVILLE

ATTRACTIONS

HEALY HOUSE MUSEUM & DEXTER CABIN Discover two of Leadville's earliest houses for a glimpse of Western life in a booming silver-mining camp. Open summers: Memorial Day weekend-Labor Day. Call for hours. ▶ healyhousemuseum.org, simone.belz@state.co.us, 719-486-0487, 912 Harrison Ave., Leadville 80461

LEADVILLE RAILROAD Spectacular railroad trip in the Rocky Mountains. Incredible views of Colorado's two highest peaks, colorful wildflowers and majestic tall 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 📍

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 60 trails covering 470 acres served by 5 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, a full range of 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

EXH-CHLA Be the readiest in Limon. Off I-70, 80 miles east of Denver; close to the downtown area. Our rooms feature one king or two 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 📍

LONGMONT

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

VISIT LONGMONT Longmont, located within Boulder County, sits at 4,979 feet with a spectacular vista of the Rockies. It is the perfect blend of small-town charm, cultural experience, culinary wonder and outdoor adventure. ▶ visitlongmont.org, staff@visitlongmont.org, 303-776-9011, 512 Fourth Ave. #103, Longmont 80501

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

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

LOVELAND VISITORS CENTER Home to the largest "love" sculpture in the US and 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. ▶ bit.ly/chapungucenterra, info@mcwhinney.com, 970-962-9990, 5971 Sky Pond Dr., Centerra & Kendall pkwys., 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 and flatscreen HD TVs. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/loveland/quality-inn-hotels/co102, mkrross@spirithospitality.net, 970-593-0100, 877-655-4696, 1500 N. Cheyenne Ave., Loveland 80538 📍

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 Twenty-three soaking pools fed by the world's deepest geothermal hot spring. Our public bathhouse, spa, hotel and Barefoot Grill lie on the banks of the San Juan River in southwest Colorado and are open 365 days a year. Only 30 minutes to Wolf Creek. ▶ pagosahotspots.com, info@pagosahotspots.com, 970-264-4168, 800-225-0934, 165 Hot Springs Blvd., Pagosa Springs 81147

LODGES & CABINS

FIRESIDE CABINS Modern 1- and 2-bed cabins on the San Juan River, 1 mile to downtown Pagosa and hot springs. Fireplace, kitchen, bathroom. Front porch with barbecue area. WiFi, phone, cable. Call for winter specials. Open year-round. Pet friendly (dogs/horses). ▶ firesidecabins.com, firesidecabins@gmail.com, 888-264-9204, 888-264-9204, 1600 E. Hwy. 160, Pagosa Springs 81147

HIGH COUNTRY LODGE & CABINS High Country Lodge & Cabins provides distinctive, unique, eco-friendly hotel lodging and accommodations nestled in a beautiful setting of 15 wooded acres with all the modern amenities and a rustic, Western flair in the mountains. ▶ highcountrylodge.com, info@highcountrylodge.com, 970-264-4181, 800-862-3707, 3821 Hwy. 160 E., Pagosa Springs 81147

PALISADE

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

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

PLATTEVILLE

ATTRACTIONS

FORT VASQUEZ MUSEUM Visit the site of an 1835 adobe fur-trading post and explore Colorado's fur-trade era. 35 miles northeast of downtown Denver on US Hwy. 85. Open year-round. ▶ fortvasquezmuseum.org, zach.werkowitch@state.co.us, 970-785-2832, 13412 US Hwy. 85, Platteville 80651

PUEBLO

ATTRACTIONS

EL PUEBLO HISTORY MUSEUM Showcasing the region's history, the site includes a museum, 1840s-style adobe trading post and archaeological excavation for the 1842 El Pueblo trading post. Mon.-Sat., 10am-4pm, Sun., noon-4pm. ▶ elpueblohistorymuseum.org, zach.werkowitch@state.co.us, 719-583-0453, 301 N. Union Ave., Pueblo 81003

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 & SUITES Quiet location. Friendly 24-hour staff. Suites with separate bedrooms. Free breakfast. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/pueblo/comfort-inn-hotels/co100, 719-544-5500, 3910 Outlook Blvd., Pueblo 81008

QUALITY INN Our Quality Inn hotel near CSU Pueblo has the value you're looking for when you travel. Enjoy a variety of amenities and friendly service when you stay at our affordable hotel in south-central Colorado. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/pueblo/quality-inn-hotels/co701, gm.co701@choicehotels.com, 719-542-8868, 670 Eagleridge Blvd., Pueblo 81008

QUALITY INN & SUITES WEST Quality Inn & Suites West hotel in Pueblo West has the value you're looking for when you travel. Enjoy a variety of amenities and friendly service when you stay at our affordable hotel off Highway 50. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/pueblo-west/quality-inn-hotels/co151, 719-547-9400, 77 S. Radnor Dr., Pueblo 81007

RANGELY

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

RANGELY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Rangely is a hidden utopia of solitude and recreation. Come for hunting, fishing, petroglyphs, sonic-art center, OHV trails, hiking, biking, rock climbing, golfing and museums. ▶ rangelychamber.com, rangelychamber@gmail.com, 970-675-5290, 255 E. Main St. Suite A, Rangely 81648

REDSTONE

ATTRACTIONS

REDSTONE ART GALLERY The Redstone Art Gallery has curated one of the finest collections of artists in many media. We represent a wide range of Colorado and other artists who exhibit passion for design and quality artwork in a beautiful setting along the Crystal River. ▶ redstoneart.com, artredstone@yahoo.com, 970-963-3790, 173 Redstone Blvd., Redstone 81623

HOTELS & MOTELS

REDSTONE CASTLE SUITES AND HISTORIC TOURS Experience life in another time in the magnificent Crystal Valley. Stay in one of nine elegant, beautifully preserved suites in Redstone Castle, where distinguished guests such as President Teddy Roosevelt once visited. ▶ theredstonecastle.com, info@theredstonecastle.com, 970-963-9656, 58 Redstone Blvd., Redstone 81623

LODGES & CABINS

AVALANCHE RANCH CABINS & HOT SPRINGS Thirteen log cabins, three covered wagons, a tiny house, one-bedroom loft apartment, plus three-bedroom house all with spectacular Rocky Mountain views. Common lodge, three hot-springs pools, stocked trout pond, riverfront and activities on 36 acres. ▶ avalancheranch.com, info@avalancheranch.com, 970-963-2846, 12863 State Hwy. 133, Redstone 81623

RIFLE

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

WESTERN GARFIELD COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Where Old West meets new adventures. We are home to world-class rock climbing and epic trails for hiking, biking or OHV. The Colorado River is steps away with epic fishing, rafting and kayaking. Find your adventure in Rifle, Parachute or Silt. ▶ westerngarcochamber.com, mail@westerngarcochamber.com, 970-625-2085, 100 E. 11th St., Rifle 81650

SAGUACHE

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

SAGUACHE COUNTY TOURISM Where history meets the future. See the Old Spanish Trail, the last linotype newspaper in the US, the Historic Ute Theater. Stop in our friendly, tree-lined, art-enriched ranching community. Come to visit — come to stay. ▶ saguachetourism.com, saguachecouncil@gmail.com, PO Box 100, Saguache 81149

SALIDA

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

CHAFFEE COUNTY VISITOR'S BUREAU Chaffee County is 100 percent Colorado. It stars the small towns of Buena Vista, Salida, Poncha Springs and Monarch Mountain. Surrounded by 15 14,000-foot peaks and bordered by the Arkansas River, these historic downtowns have it all. ▶ colorfulcolorado.com, scoff@colorfulcolorado.com, 800-831-8594, 406 W. Rainbow Blvd., Salida 81201

SALIDA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE/HEART OF THE ROCKIES Historic Salida, located next to 14,000-foot peaks and the Arkansas River. Shops and art galleries add to the charm. Skiing/snowboarding, snowmobiling, dog sledding, rafting, kayaking, hot-springs pool, ziplining, fishing, hiking and mountain biking. ▶ salidachamber.org, desk@salidachamber.org, 719-539-2068, 877-772-5432, 406 W. Hwy. 50, Salida 81201

HOTELS & MOTELS

COMFORT INN - SALIDA Located on Highway 50, the main east-west highway through central Colorado. Clean, comfortable over-sized rooms. Indoor heated pool, hot tub, laundry. Close to Monarch Mountain. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/salida/comfort-inn-hotels/co704, gm.co704@choicehotels.com, 719-539-5000, 800-424-6423, 315 E. Rainbow Blvd. (US 50), Salida 81201

SARGENTS

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

TOWN OF SARGENTS At the center of world-class dirt-biking, off-roading, mountain biking, fishing, camping, hiking, hunting, snowmobiling and skiing, Sargents is a mecca for outdoor recreation. ▶ , 970-641-0674, 71420 US Hwy. 50, Sargents 81248

SEDALIA

DUDE & GUEST RANCHES

LOST VALLEY RANCH Lost Valley Ranch is a one-of-a-kind dude ranch. The recipient of the prestigious AAA Four Diamond award for 43 consecutive years, we've been providing unforgettable Colorado guest ranch experiences for adventurers and families alike since 1961. ▶ lostvalleyranch.com, info@lostvalleyranch.com, 303-647-2311, 29555 Goose Creek Rd., Sedalia 80135

COME TO LIFE / Visitor Directory

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SILVERTHORNE

HOTELS & MOTELS

QUALITY INN & SUITES SUMMIT COUNTY Easy access to Summit County skiing, shopping, dining and summer recreation. Free deluxe continental breakfast. Cable TV. High-speed Internet available. Fitness center. Pets welcome. choicehotels.com/colorado/silverthorne/quality-inn-hotels/co148, gm.co148@choicehotels.com, 970-513-1222, 800-228-5151, 530 Silverthorne Ln., Silverthorne 80498

RECREATION

HIGH COUNTRY TOURS Guided snowmobile tours, snow tubing and unguided snowmobile rentals in Colorado's high country from two hours to all day. We welcome beginners to adrenaline seekers. Free snowsuits, boots, helmets and local transportation. Live the adventure! mysnowmobiletour.com, info@mysnowmobiletour.com, 970-668-9945, 7101 Heeney Rd., Silverthorne 80498

SHOPPING

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SILVERTON

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

SILVERTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND VISITORS CENTER Secluded at 9,318 feet, a visit to Silverton is one that you will not soon forget as a time of year. A perfect combination of supreme natural beauty and magnificent Victorian charm. Stay and play summer and winter. Activities year-round. silvertoncolorado.com, chamber@silvertoncolorado.com, 970-387-5654, 414 Greene St., Silverton 81433

ATTRACTIONS

OLD HUNDRED GOLD MINE TOUR Go 1/3 mile underground in a real gold mine. Ride an electric mine train. See live mining demonstrations using air drills, mucker and more. Learn the secrets of the "honey" wagon. Free gold and silver panning with tour purchase. No reservations needed. mineout.com, 970-387-5444, 800-872-3009, 721 County Rd. 4-A, Silverton 81433

SNOWMASS

CONDOS & VACATION-HOME RENTALS

THE CRESTWOOD CONDOMINIUMS The Crestwood is an ideally situated condominium property in both summer and winter offering skiing, hiking and biking access at your doorstep. Comprised of fully furnished one to four bedroom condos, full-service front desk and world-class amenities. thecrestwood.com, res@thecrestwood.com, 970-923-2450, 800-356-5949, 400 Wood Rd., Snowmass 81615

THE TIMBERLINE CONDOMINIUMS Eighty-four deluxe ski-in/ski-out condos from studios to three bedrooms. Services include daily housekeeping, complimentary Aspen airport and village shuttles, concierge, wireless Internet, outdoor pool, hot tubs and on-site restaurant, The Edge. thetimberline.com, reservations@thetimberline.com, 970-923-4000, 800-922-4001, 690 Carriage Way, Snowmass 81615

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SOUTH FORK

HOTELS & MOTELS

QUALITY INN & SUITES Get more for your hard-earned money at our hotel in South Fork. You'll love our convenient location, friendly service and more. choicehotels.com/colorado/south-fork/quality-inn-hotels/co107, 719-873-5600, 182 E. Frontage Rd., South Fork 81154

LODGES & CABINS

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STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS CHAMBER Find the spirit of the West and friendly community in a wide-open valley with endless trails to explore on bike or on foot, pristine trout streams to fish and rejuvenating natural hot springs. Visit SteamboatSummer.com for more information. steamboatsummer.com, info@steamboatsummer.com, 970-879-0880, 877-754-2269, 125 Anglers Dr., Steamboat Springs 80487

CONDOS & VACATION-HOME RENTALS

THE PORCHES Luxury with a smile! Come enjoy The Porches of Steamboat, our 4- and 5-bedroom homes at the base area are the perfect summer or winter getaway with your family or friends. Our concierge service and exclusive shuttle will make your trip unforgettable. vacation-steamboat.com, info@pinnacleresorts.net, 970-879-0600, 866-992-0600, 2096 Indian Summer Dr., Steamboat Springs 80487

SHERATON STEAMBOAT RESORT VILLAS At Steamboat's only ski-in/ski-out resort, enjoy spacious villas and condos with full kitchens, living/dining areas, free WiFi and all the comforts of home. Heated outdoor pool, fitness center, restaurants, spa and more await at our mountain retreat. marriott.com/sbsis_group, booking@vacationclub.com, 970-879-2220, 800-228-9290, 2200 Village Inn Ct., Steamboat Springs 80477

HOTELS & MOTELS

QUALITY INN & SUITES - STEAMBOAT SPRINGS Beautiful mountain views. Free hot breakfast, WiFi, pool and hot tub. One mile from the Steamboat Ski Resort on free SST shuttle. Hiking/biking via river trail to downtown Steamboat. choicehotels.com/colorado/steamboat-springs/quality-inn-hotels/co702, gm.co702@choicehotels.com, 970-879-6669, 800-424-6423, 1055 Walton Creek Dr., Steamboat Springs 80487

RABBIT EARS MOTEL Quality lodging in Steamboat with affordable, family-friendly prices. Located in downtown Steamboat. We're just a short walk to dining and shopping. Discounted passes to the Old Town Hot Springs. rabbitearsmotel.com, info@rabbitearsmotel.com, 970-879-1150, 800-828-7702, 201 Lincoln Ave., Steamboat Springs 80477

RECREATION

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TELLURIDE

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

TELLURIDE TOURISM BOARD Named the "#1 Ski Resort in North America" by *Condé Nast Traveler* readers, Telluride's jaw-dropping vistas are matched by world-class skiing, rich culture, exceptional dining and endless activities and events. visittelluride.com, info@visittelluride.com, 970-728-3041, 888-714-4632, 236 W. Colorado Ave., Telluride 81435

CONDOS & VACATION-HOME RENTALS

ACCOMMODATIONS IN TELLURIDE Experience Telluride with Accommodations in Telluride's best selections of lodging options, from ultra-luxury homes and penthouses to budget-minded condos and cottages. Known for our ski/boarder terrain and summer festivals. See it for yourself! vacationtelluride.com, lee@vacationtelluride.com, 970-728-4831, 866-754-8772, 220 S. Pine St., Telluride 81435

FALL LINE CONDOS Clean condos, full kitchen, washer/dryer, hot tub, private deck, cable, elevator access, free covered parking and internet. Great location two blocks to the gondola and Telluride Town Park festival site. Walking distance to everything. Great value. falllinecondo.com, falllinecondo@gmail.com, 970-728-4274, 866-728-4274, 210 S. Pine St., 102A, Telluride 81435

DINING

TELLURIDE DISTILLING COMPANY With our vodka, whiskey and Chairlift Warmer peppermint schnapps, the cocktail options are endless. The most popular cocktail is our Telluride Mule, which is mixed with a very refreshing homemade ginger beer. Telluride Mules are \$5 every day. telluridedistilling.com, info@telluridedistilling.com, 970-728-2910, 567 Mountain Village Blvd., Suite 106B, Telluride 81435

HOTELS & MOTELS

DUNTON TOWN HOUSE A beautiful 5-bedroom B&B in historic Telluride. A 2-minute walk from the gondola and 3-minute walk from Main Street. With the nearby Dunton Hot Springs only an hour and a half away, it's a perfect complement to a getaway in southwest Colorado. duntondestinations.com/town-house, reservations@duntondestinations.com, 877-288-9922, 210 S. Oak St., Telluride 81435

LODGES & CABINS

MOUNTAIN LODGE AT TELLURIDE The Mountain Lodge at Telluride offers spacious accommodations, slopeside with ski-in/ski-out convenience, upscale amenities and gracious service to deliver the ultimate mountain-resort experience. mountainlodgetelluride.com, reservations@mountainlodgetelluride.com, 970-369-5000, 866-368-6867, 457 Mountain Village Blvd., Telluride 81435

THORNTON

HOTELS & MOTELS

HILTON GARDEN INN - THORNTON An ideal location at the corner of 144th and I-25; close to popular local destinations such as the Denver Premium Outlets, The Summit, Cabela's, Topgolf & The Orchard Mall. spirithospitality.net, 14275 Lincoln St., Thornton 80023

TOWAOC

ATTRACTIONS

UTE MOUNTAIN CASINO HOTEL Ute Mountain Casino Hotel is the state's first tribal gaming facility and your Four Corners connection. We offer great hospitality and food with lots of gaming excitement. Hotel, pool, workout room, RV park and 24-hour travel center. utemountaincasino.com, 970-565-8800, 800-258-8007, 3 Weeminuche Dr., Towaoc 81334

TRINIDAD

ATTRACTIONS

TRINIDAD HISTORY MUSEUM Explore Trinidad's past and place in the American West. Complex includes 1870s adobe Baca House, 1882 Victorian-style Bloom Mansion, Santa Fe Trail Museum and the new Borderlands of Southern Colorado exhibit. ▶ trinidadhistorymuseum.org, kirby.stokes@state.co.us, 719-846-7217, 312 E. Main St., Trinidad 81082

HOTELS & MOTELS

QUALITY INN - TRINIDAD The Quality Inn hotel is conveniently located at the base of Raton Pass on I-25 near Trinidad Lake State Park, Trinidad State Junior College, Purgatoire River and the Spanish Peaks. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/trinidad/quality-inn-hotels/co184, gm.co184@choicehotels.com, 719-497-8000, 3125 Toupal Dr., Trinidad 81082

VAIL

CONDOS & VACATION-HOME RENTALS

ANTLERS AT VAIL The Antlers enjoys a fantastic location on Gore Creek facing Vail Mountain. A spectacular creekside pool and hot tubs headline an impressive list of amenities including free WiFi, ski valet and more. Spacious studios to four-bedroom condos. ▶ antlersvail.com, info@antlersvail.com, 970-476-2471, 800-258-8617, 680 Lionshead Place, Vail 81657

MARRIOTT'S STREAMSIDE BIRCH AT VAIL Enjoy your mountain getaway in our spacious studio, 1- and 2-bedroom villas featuring fully equipped kitchens, living/dining areas, fireplaces, free WiFi and more. Fitness center, indoor/outdoor pool, racquetball court and game room. ▶ marriott.com/whrbi, 970-476-6000, 800-845-5279, 2284 S. Frontage Rd. W., Vail 81657

MARRIOTT'S STREAMSIDE DOUGLAS AT VAIL Located near some of the world's premier ski slopes, our spacious 1- and 2-bedroom villas feature fully equipped kitchens, living/dining areas, fireplaces, free WiFi and more. Fitness center, indoor/outdoor pool, racquetball court and game room. ▶ marriott.com/whrdw, 970-476-6000, 800-845-5279, 2284 S. Frontage Rd. W., Vail 81657

MARRIOTT'S STREAMSIDE EVERGREEN AT VAIL After a day on the slopes, unwind in our contemporary 2-bedroom villas featuring fully equipped kitchens, living/dining areas, fireplaces and oversized soaking tubs. Fitness center, indoor/outdoor pool, racquetball court and game room. ▶ marriott.com/whrvi, 970-476-6000, 800-845-5279, 2284 S. Frontage Rd. W., Vail 81657

VAIL SPA CONDOMINIUMS Featuring spacious 2- to 4-bedroom condominium rentals in a convenient Lionshead location just steps from the gondola. Amenities include full kitchens, indoor and outdoor pools and hot tubs, steam room, saunas and fitness facility. ▶ vailspa.com, vailspa@eastwestresorts.com, 970-476-0882, 866-966-1868, 710 W. Lionshead Cir., Vail 81657

HOTELS & MOTELS

THE SITZMARK LODGE Excellent guest service and comfortable accommodations are hallmarks of the Sitzmark Lodge. This family-owned and -operated hotel is in the heart of Vail Village. Relax by the outdoor heated pool and hot tub; enjoy free parking, breakfast and no extra fees. ▶ sitzmarklodge.com, sitzmark@sitzmarklodge.com, 970-476-5001, 888-476-5001, 183 E. Gore Creek Dr., Vail 81657

VAIL RACQUET CLUB MOUNTAIN RESORT Only resort in Vail on more than 20 acres, for a true Colorado experience. 1- to 3-bedroom condos and townhomes combined with unmatched complimentary amenities offer a distinctive mountain retreat at an exceptional value, all at the price of a hotel. ▶ vailracquetclub.com, sales@vailracquetclub.com, 970-476-4840, 800-428-4840, 4695 Vail Racquet Club Dr., Vail 81657

RECREATION

VAIL GOLF CLUB & NORDIC CENTER Highlighted by views of the Gore Mountains, Vail's only 18-hole course features unique fairways, smooth putting surfaces and a scenic layout amid the national forest. Don't miss the new clubhouse and the Nordic ski and snowshoe and snow-bike trails in winter. ▶ vailgolf.com, info@vailrec.com, 970-479-2260, 1775 Sunburst Dr., Vail 81657

VALLECITO LAKE

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

VALLECITO LAKE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Vallecito Lake is just 18 miles from downtown Durango and surrounded by San Juan National Forest. Impressive in size and cloaked by 12,000- and 13,000-foot peaks, the lake provides ample opportunities for recreation and breathtaking vistas. ▶ vallecitolakechamber.com, info@vallecitolakechamber.com, 970-247-1573, 18071 County Rd. 501, Vallecito Lake 81122

LODGES & CABINS

PINE RIVER LODGE We have 31 cabins 75 feet to 300 yards from the shore of Vallecito Lake. Close to horseback rides, marina, hiking trails and restaurants. Cabins are complete with kitchens and separate bedrooms. Staff will happily help with activity ideas. ▶ pineriverlodge.com, pineriverlodge@frontier.net, 970-884-2563, 14443 C.R. 501, Vallecito Lake 81122

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WALDEN

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

JACKSON COUNTY Raw, remote and tucked deep in Colorado's rugged Rockies, the high valley of North Park and its county of Jackson scream Frontier — and a past fast-held in present days. ▶ visitnorthparkco.com, info@visitnorthparkco.com, 970-846-8906, 209 Main St., Walden 80480

WESTMINSTER

HOTELS & MOTELS

QUALITY INN & SUITES DENVER NORTH - WESTMINSTER All-suite hotel offering spacious rooms with microfridge, coffeemaker, iron/board, blow dryer, indoor pool and hot tub, free WiFi and free breakfast. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/westminster/comfort-suites-hotels/co734, gm.co734@choicehotels.com, 303-429-5500, 12085 Delaware St., Westminister 80234

QUALITY INN & SUITES WESTMINSTER-BROOMFIELD Rooms include a 25-inch TV, coffeemaker, and iron/board. Deluxe continental breakfast with waffles, fresh fruit, cereals, yogurt, etc. Free wireless Internet, 24-hour indoor pool/spa. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/westminster/quality-inn-hotels/co166, gm.co166@choicehotels.com, 303-438-5800, 10179 Church Ranch Way, Westminister 80021

QUALITY INN DENVER WESTMINSTER Located off Highway 36 between Denver and Boulder. The hotel is minutes from Pepsi Center, Flatiron Crossing mall and Denver Zoo. Spacious guest rooms that include flat-panel HD TVs. Indoor heated pool, hot tub and fitness center. ▶ choicehotels.com/colorado/westminster/quality-inn-hotels/co200, gm.co200@choicehotels.com, 303-428-3333, 877-424-6423, 8500 Turnpike Dr., Westminister 80031

WINTER PARK

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

WINTER PARK-FRASER CHAMBER Some say a mountain town is a mountain town. That you can ski and hike anywhere. Truth is, they've never experienced Winter Park: Colorado's Favorite Playground hosts any mountain adventure you can imagine and even bigger smiles on the way home. ▶ playwinterpark.com, visitorcenter@playwinterpark.com, 970-726-4118, 800-903-7275, 78841 US Hwy. 40, Winter Park 80482

CONDOS & VACATION-HOME RENTALS

WINTER PARK ESCAPES We offer luxury rental properties that provide amazing locations, views and amenities. We are the only company that provides up to \$200 of free activities daily and discounted concierge services. We do not charge a security deposit or booking fee. ▶ winterparkescapes.com, logan@winterparkescapes.com, 800-837-3048, Winter Park 80482

HOTELS & MOTELS

BEST WESTERN ALPENGLO LODGE Conveniently located in downtown Winter Park. Walk to more than 25 restaurants/clubs and shopping. Free hot breakfast. Free WiFi, 37-inch flatscreen HDTVs, 14-person hot tub. On free resort shuttle route. On-site ski/bike shop. Pet friendly, AAA rated. ▶ wplodging.com, robert@wplodging.com, 970-726-8088, 888-726-8088, 78665 US Hwy. 40, Winter Park 80482

RECREATION

GRAND ADVENTURES SNOWMOBILE & OFF-ROAD TOURS AND RENTALS Snowmobile and off-road guided tours and unguided rentals in Winter Park, Fraser Valley and Grand Lake. Ride the Divide: Tours top out at 12,000 feet with views of the entire Winter Park Resort. Trails for all levels. Join us for winter and summer. ▶ grandadventures.com, info@grandadventures.com, 970-726-9247, 78311 US Hwy. 40, Winter Park 80482

SHOPPING

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