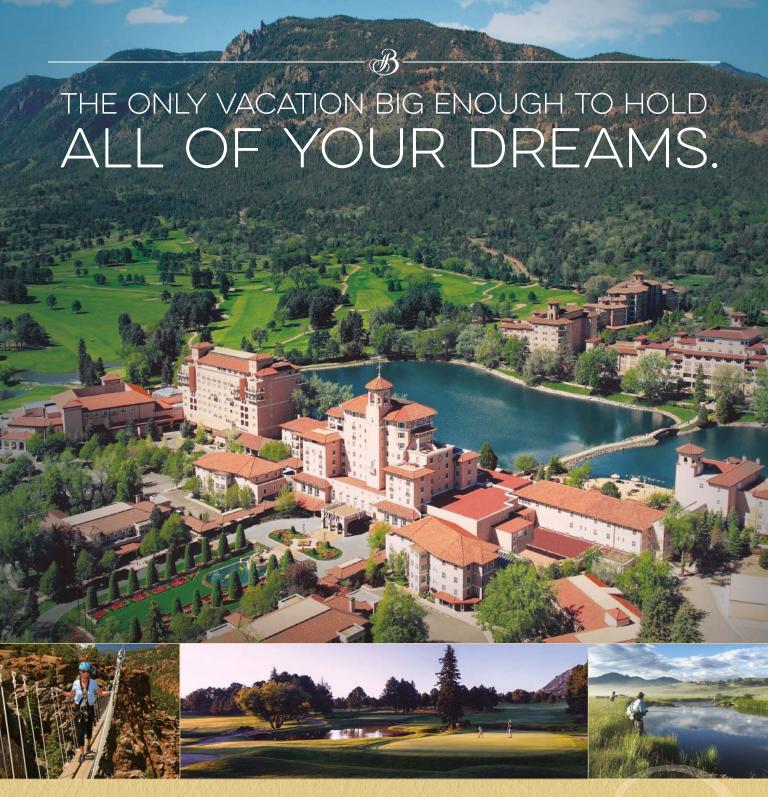
COLORADO





The Broadmoor offers a unique Colorado experience. In addition to the luxury, hospitality and service for which we're legendary, you'll find a wide variety of activities that make The Broadmoor a destination unto itself.

From our world-class golf courses and spa, to treks by horseback or mountain bike, plus fly fishing, falconry and much more. All grounded in our independent spirit and tradition of warmth and welcome. Start planning your adventure today at broadmoor.com.





The Broadmoor Manitou and Pikes Peak Cog Railway is reopening May 2021. Get ready for new experiences at a classic American icon. Visit cograilway.com now and secure your seat.





Welcome to exhilaration. Boasting picturesque mountains and canyons, The Broadmoor Seven Falls offers hiking through "The Grandest Mile of Scenery in Colorado." Our Soaring Adventure features 10 zip lines spanning 250 feet to 1,800 feet. You can marvel at nature as you hike across two 200-foot suspension bridges, with a controlled 180-foot rappel back to the canyon floor. Reach new heights at sevenfalls.com.









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the ultimate resort EXPERIENCE

Step into the ultimate resort, only 45 minutes from Denver. Savor all-new flavors at Monarch Chophouse, enjoy burgers, brews and more around the clock at Twenty-Four 7. Spread out and feel the thrill of the action on our spaciously expanded gaming floor. Then, retreat to your own luxury guest room to relax, rejuvenate, and prepare to do it all over again. We're ready. Are you?



MonarchBlackHawk.com

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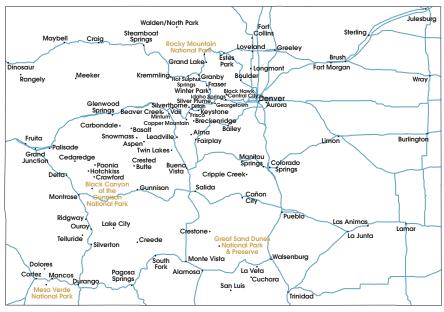
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STATE OF COLORADO

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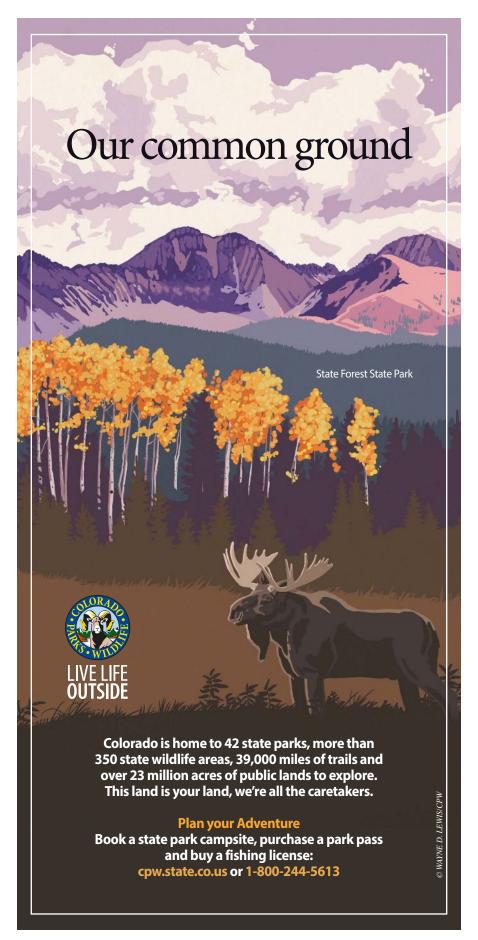
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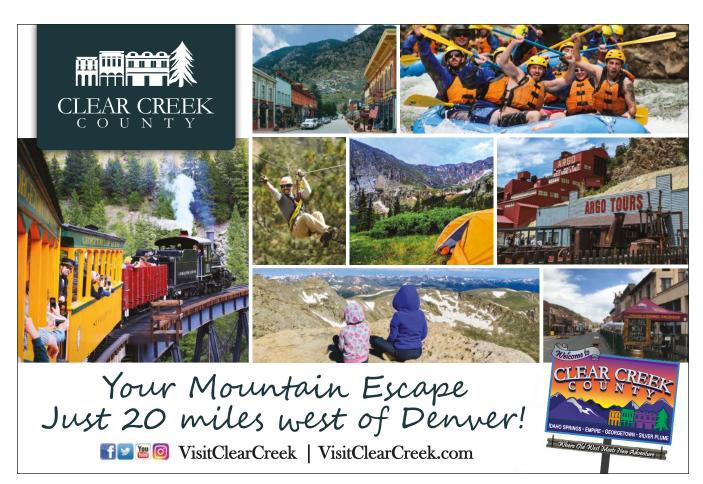
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Summer Cover: Mount Sneffels Wilderness in the San Juan Mountains, Glenn Randall, Winter Cover: St. Elmo ahost town near Salida







COLORADO ESSENTIALS

Pages 19-75

These articles provide an overview of all the kinds of things to see and do in Colorado, including a few places where you'll encounter them.

DETAILED ITINERARIES

Pages 76-84

These trip itineraries are arranged around specific activities and interests.

Pages 94-181

And these are arranged around geographic regions. The maps on pages 88 and 92 are a good place to get your bearings before digging in.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Pages 182-190

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 44

SCENIC BYWAYS:

Page 72

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GETTING HERE & GETTING AROUND

Pages 12-13

Get tips for navigating this great state.

INDEXES

Pages 191-192

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

PLAN AHEAD & BE FLEXIBLE

Be aware that some businesses and events mentioned in this guide might be closed, post-poned or have irregular availability related to COVID-19. Please research before you go and keep alternative activities in mind as you plan your trip. COLORADO.com/WhatsOpen



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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 and our social media channels.

COLORADO.COM



WHAT YOU'LL FIND

- Get trip ideas from articles to detailed itineraries
- ► Find events and special offers to take advantage of during your stay
- ► Sign up for our monthly enewsletter, 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







200 HINEHARIES & COUNTING

MORE TO LOVE

▶ Find your getaway with our collection of itineraries, including some to far-off places. COLORADO.COM/COLOROADTRIPS



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Twitter.com/ Colorado



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DURANGO HOT SPRINGS

resort + spa





Resort Style Swimming Pool 17 Natural Hot Springs Pools 8 Private Ofuro Soaking Tubs Newly Renovated Full Service Spa Open Daily: 9am - 10pm Reservations Required www.dhsresort.com 970-247-0111

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 INTERNATIONAL DESTINATIONS IN 12

- COUNTRIES:Bahamas
- Belize
- Canada
- Cayman Islands
- Costa Rica
- Germany
- Iceland
- Japan
- Mexico
 Panama
- Switzerland
- UK

DESTINATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE, AND SOME DESTINATIONS MAY BE TEMPORARILY UNAVAILABLE BUT ARE FORECASTED TO RETURN SHORTLY.

TRAVEL BY AIR

DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (DEN) FLYDENVER.COM

As the nation's fifth-busiest airport, DIA is accessible from more than 200 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.

Concerned about flying? Learn about DIA's innovative VeriFlyTM program, which decreases contact and congestion as you travel to your gate.

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: Atlanta (ATL), Denver, Chicago (ORD), Dallas (DFW), Houston (IAH), Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Orlando, Phoenix, Salt Lake City

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 nonstop service to seven destinations.

Year-Round From: Denver, Centennial, Dallas (DFW), Las Vegas, Mesa (AZA), Phoenix, Salt Lake City Seasonal From: Chicago (ORD), Los Angeles

ALAMOSA-SAN LUIS VALLEY REGIONAL AIRPORT (ALS) SANLUISVALLEYAIRPORT.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, Carbon-

dale, Snowmass, Basalt, Leadville and Glenwood Springs Year-Round From: Denver, Chicago

(ORD), Dallas (DFW), Salt Lake City <mark>Seasonal From:</mark> 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

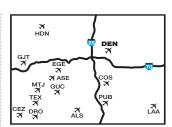
DURANGO-LA PLATA COUNTY AIRPORT (DRO) FLYDURANGO.COM

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, San Francisco

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

TELLURIDE REGIONAL AIRPORT (TEX) TELLURIDEAIRPORT.COM

Good for Visiting: Telluride Year-Round From: Denver

YAMPA VALLEY REGIONAL AIRPORT (HDN) YAMPAVALLEYREGIONAL AIRPORT.COM

Good for Visiting: Steamboat Springs, Hayden and Craig Year-Round From: Denver Seasonal From: Boston, Chicago (ORD), Dallas (DFW & DAL), Fort Lauderdale, Houston (IAH), Los Angeles, Newark, New York (JFK), San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, Washington (IAD)

DESTINATIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Getting Here & Getting Around / COME TO LIFE



TRAVEL BY TRAIN

Amtrak's California Zephyr line makes the trip from Chicago, to Emeryville, California. On its way, it stops in Denver, 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 Winter Park Resort in just two hours. Note: Winter Park Express will not run during the 2020/2021 season; check back for 2021/2022 details.

Visit amtrak.com and see page 62 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
- Bustang connects Denver, Colorado Springs, Loveland, Fort Collins, Idaho Springs, Frisco, Vail, Eagle, Glenwood Springs, Estes Park/Rocky Mountain National Park (summer and fall only) and more. ridebustang.
- ▶ Bustang Outrider's four lines connect Lamar, Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Cañon City, Salida, Durango, Grand Junction, Cortez, Montrose, Telluride, Gunnison, Buena Vista and Denver. tidebustang.com
- ➤ The Flatiron Flyer rapid-transit bus connects Denver and Boulder. rtd-denver.com/ flatiron-flyer.shtml
- ► 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, Longmont, Golden, Avon, Aspen, Buena Vista and Aurora, feature popular bike-sharing options for getting to and fro.

DRIVE DISTANCES In Miles	ALP	INOSA BUR	ing on col	O. SPRINGS	VES DIR	ANGO FOR	COLINS	NAMO OD CRA	THO JUNCTION	SBURG LAM	AR PUE	dlO STEP	Line Rhi	DAO
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 Colorado weather information to help you when planning your next Colorado adventure.



Each year Colorado receives:







(8 at lower elevations and 23 at higher elevations)



33 PERCEN Average Humidity



TYPICALLY IN SEPTEMBER (though it usually

snows somewhere in the state every month, except maybe August).

AVERAGE HIGH/LOW TEMPERATURES

	——— summer temperatures °F ———							winter temperatures °F						
	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	ОСТ	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		



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 recently enacted traction law may affect your winter drive. On portions of I-70 from September 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.

TRAVEL LIKE A I NCAI

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 help you stay comfortable:

- ➤ Year-Round: Face mask and hand sanitizer
- ▶ 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 even higher altitudes. 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 trouble staying connected when you're in a town, but when you head out on a trail, river, slope or back road, that could change. Let others know where you are headed and when you expect to be back.

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 TRASH CANS:

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.

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. Visit COLORADO.com/CWCS for hours.

Stop by for friendly travel advice, and take your pick from scores of maps, brochures and regional guides. 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); Rocky Mountain Underground (Breckenridge); Romp Skis (Crested

Butte); Faction, Meier, Never Summer, Folsom Custom Skis (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)

PACKS & BAGS: Kelty, Madden and Green Guru (Boulder); Osprey (Cortez); MHM, Topo Designs and Adventurist Backpack Co. (Denver); Mountainsmith (Golden); Deuter (Longmont); Kifaru (Wheat Ridge)

BIKES:

Boulder Bicycle, DeanCycle Works and Zinn Cycles (Boulder); Borealis Fat Bikes (Colorado Springs); Alchemy Bikes, 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); Canfield Bikes (Fruita); Samsara Cycles (Frederick); Yeti Cycles and Spot Brand (Golden); REEB Cycles (Longmont); Victoria Cycles (Sallida); Moots Cycles and Kent Eriksen Cycles (Steamboot Springs)

PERFORMANCE CLOTHING & OUTERWEAR:

Strafe, Corbeaux and Obermeyer Ski Clothing (Aspen);
Mountain Standard, Dynafit and Spyder Active Sports
(Boulder); Shredly (Carbondale); Freeride Systems (Copper
Mountain); The North Face, Flylow Gear, Smartwool, Phunkshun
Wear and Pactimo (Denver); Akinz (Fort Collins); Loki (Grand
Junction); Melanzana (Leadville); Pearl Izumi (Louisville);
VOORMI (Pagosa Springs); Pointó (Steamboat Springs); CG
Habitats (Thornton); outdoor DIVAS and Bambool (Vali)

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

15

COLORADO.COM

OUTDOOR-ADVENTURE GEAR:

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

For more, go to directory. choosecolorado.com.



CARF FOR COLORADO PRINCIPI FS

1. KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- ➤ 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 share.
- ➤ 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 biodegradable 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 trash can.

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.

Est Martin

- ➤ 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, take quizzes and more at COLORADO.com/ CareForColorado.

> © Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, 2021.





NAVIGATE COLORADO

Colorado is the eighth-largest state in the U.S., measuring 380 miles east to west and 280 miles north to south. Yes, that's more than 100,000 total square miles to explore. Luckily, with so much to see and do, Colorado is very easy to navigate. The itineraries starting on page 92 will give you ideas for exploring each corner of the state — and everywhere in between. Turn to page 44 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 192 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
Lamar719-336-3483O-9
Silverthorne 970-468-0353G-5
Trinidad 719-846-9512 K-12

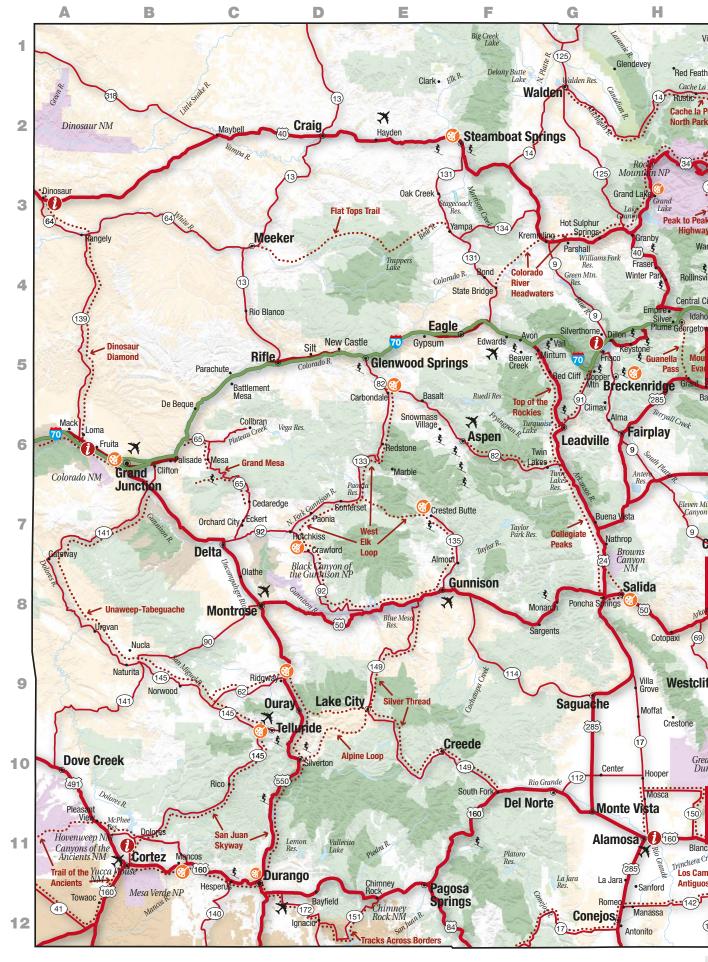
PLAN AHEAD & BE FLEXIBLE

Be aware that some businesses and events mentioned in this guide might be closed, postponed or have irregular availability related to COVID-19. Please research before you go and keep alternative activities in mind as you plan your trip.



Be sure to visit COLORADO.com/ ColoRoadTrips for travel itineraries!

ty	Location	City	Location	City	Location	City	Location	City	Loc
gate	L-5	Conifer	I-5	Glenwood Springs	E-5	Manassa	H-12	Romeo	(
guilar		Cope		Golden		Mancos		Rush	
kron		Copper Mountain.		Granada		Manitou Springs		Rustic	
lamosa		Cortez		Granby		Manzanola		Rye	
llenspark		Cotopaxi		Grand Junction		Marble		Saguache	
lma		Craig	D-2	Grand Lake		Marshall	I-4	Salida	
lmont	E-7	Crawford	D-7	Grant	H-5	Maybell	C-2	Sanford	
nton	N-4	Creede	E-10	Greeley	J-3	Mead	J-3	San Luis	
ntonito		Crested Butte		Green Mtn. Falls		Meeker		Sargents	
rboles		Crestone		Greenwood Village.		Merino		Security	
						Mesa			
roya		Cripple Creek		Grover				Sedalia	
rriba		Crook	N-1	Gunnison		Mesa Verde		Sedgwick	
rvada	J-4	Crowley	L-9	Gypsum	E-5	Milliken	J-3	Seibert	
spen	F-6	Cuchara	J-11	Hartman	P-8	Minturn	F-5	Severance	
spen Park		Dacono		Hasty		Moffat		Shawnee	
ult		De Beque		Haswell		Monarch		Sheridan	
urora		Deckers		Haxtun		Monte Vista		Silt	
von	F-5	Deer Trail	L-5	Hayden	E-2	Montrose	C-8	Silver Cliff	
vondale	K-9	Del Norte	G-10	Heeney	G-4	Monument	J-6	Silver Plume	
ailey		Delta		Henderson		Morrison		Silverthorne	
asalt		Denver		Hesperus		Mosca		Silverton	
ayfield		Dillon		Highlands Ranch		Mountain View		Simla	
attlement Mesa	C-5	Dinosaur	A-3	Hillrose	M-3	Mt. Crested Butte	E-7	Snowmass Village	
eaver Creek	F-5	Divide	I-7	Holly	P-9	Naturita	B-9	Somerset	
ellvue		Dolores	B-11	Holyoke		Nathrop		South Fork	
ennett		Dove Creek		Hooper		Nederland			
		1		1 '				Springfield	
erthoud		Drake		Hotchkiss		New Castle		Starkville	
ethune	0-6	Durango	C-12	Hot Sulphur Springs	G-4	Niwot	I-3	State Bridge	
eulah		Eads		Hudson		Northglenn	J-4	Steamboat Springs	
ack Forest		Eagle		Hugo		Norwood		Sterling	
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ack Hawk		Eastlake		Idaho Springs		Nucla		Strasburg	
anca	H-11	Eaton	J-2	Idalia		Nunn		Stratton	
ue River	G-5	Eckert	C-7	Ignacio	D-12	Oak Creek	E-3	Sugar City	
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		Englewood		Keystone					
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uena Vista	G-7	Estes Park	I-3	Kiowa	K-6	Palisade	C-6	Two Buttes	
uford	D-4	Evans	J-3	Kirk	O-5	Palmer Lake	J-6	Uravan	
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añon City		Firestone		La Junta		Peetz		Villa Grove	
arbondale		Flagler		La Salle		Pierce		Vona	
ascade		Fleming		La Veta		Pine		Walden	
astle Rock		Florence		Lake City		Pitkin		Walsenburg	
edaredge	C-7	Fort Carson	J-8	Lake George	I-7	Platteville	J-3	Walsh	
entennial		Fort Collins		Lakewood		Poncha Springs		Ward	
enter		Fort Garland		Lamar		Pritchett		Waterton	
entral City		Fort Lupton		Larkspur		Prowers		Wattenberg	
neraw		Fort Morgan		Las Animas		Pueblo		Wellington	
nerry Hills Village	eJ-5	Fountain	J-8	Last Chance	M-4	Pueblo West	J-8	Westcliffe	
neyenne Wells .		Fowler		Leadville		Punkin Center		Westminster	
nimney Rock		Franktown		Limon		Ramah		Weston	
nipita Park		Fraser		Littleton		Rangely		Wheat Ridge	
ark	E-1	Frederick	J-3	Livermore	I-2	Red Cliff	G-5	Wiggins	
ifton		Frisco		Lochbuie		Red Feather Lakes	H-1	Wiley	
limax		Fruita		Log Lane Village		Redstone		Windsor	
olbran		Gateway		Loma		Ridgway		Winter Park	
olorado City	J-10	Genoa	M-6	Longmont	I-3	Rifle	D-5	Wolcott	
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olorado Springs olumbine Valley ommerce City .	/J-5	Gilcrest	J-3	Loveland		Rockvale		Wray	







Mile High Highlights 5 REASONS WHY YOU DESERVE SOME DENVER

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

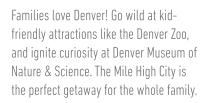


300 days of sunshine in Denver mean there is adventure year-round in parks, on bike paths and urban trails. And discover beautiful vistas during a day trip to the nearby Rocky Mountains on a scenic drive or hike.



The Mile High City's award-winning culinary scene is open! From gourmet food halls to chef-driven restaurants, craft breweries to cocktail lounges, sip and savor endless flavors on rooftops and patios at Denver's perfect foodie spots.

FAMILY FUN





ARTS & CULTURE



Art is around every corner in The Mile High City! Check out vibrant murals in alleyways and on storefronts, and explore local galleries during First Friday Art Walks. Plus, experience blockbuster exhibitions at Denver's world-class museums.

NEIGHBORHOODS







FIREWOOD ALERT!

You have the power to protect Colorado's trees and forests!

BUY IT WHERE YOU BURN IT.



Pests like the invasive emerald ash borer can hitchhike in your firewood. Help us prevent new invasive species from reaching Colorado's forests.

- Don't bring firewood into Colorado from out of state.
- Use firewood from your property on site, and don't take it with you when you travel around Colorado.
- Buy local, or gather on site when allowed.















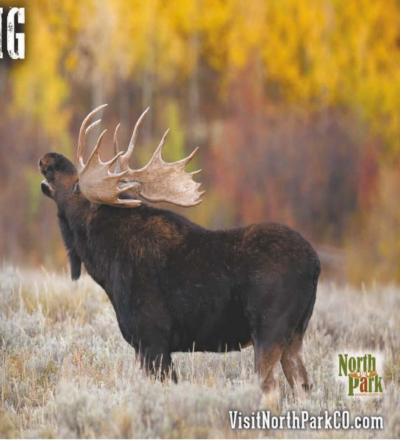
CAPITAL

of Colorado

Backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, hiking, hunting, lodging [yurts, cabins & hotels], fishing, sand dunes, and more!

★★ Home of ★★

Colorado State Forest State Park and Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge Walden · Gould · Rand · Cowdrey · Coalmont











YMCA of the Rockies IT'S A WINTER WONDERLAND

Snow Mountain Ranch is the place for outdoor thrills and indoor fun.
Family-friendly activities include dog sledding, ice skating, snowshoeing and Nordic skiing — plus indoor climbing, crafts, archery and more.

Our cozy cabins and comfortable lodges will help make your winter wonderful!







SNOW MOUNTAIN RANCH
CABINS | LODGES | MEALS | ACTIVITIES

BOOK YOUR STAY TODAY! SnowMountainRanch.org 888-613-9622





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 ■ Aspen Carriage and Sleigh

More: COLORADO.com/SleighRides



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.



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: Kroh Park, Loveland ■ Scott Carpenter Park, Boulder ■ 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, Grand Junction ■ Colorado Adventure Park, Fraser ■ Kendall Mountain Recreation Area, Silverton ■ Whoa Nelly Sledding Hill, Aspen ■ Echo Mountain, Idaho Springs ■ Monarch Mountain, Salida

More: COLORADO.com/SnowTubing



From ice-skating locales with far-as-theeye-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: Lake San Cristobol, Lake City ■ Acacia Park, Colorado Springs ■ Skyline Park, Denver ■ Evergreen Lake ■ The Rink at Belmar, Lakewood ■ The Ice Rink at Centerra, Loveland ■ Rotary Park, Ouray ■ YMCA of the Rockies Estes Park Center ■ Colorado State Parks: Golden Gate Canyon in Golden, Highline Lake in Loma, Jackson Lake near Fort Morgan, Cherry Creek in Aurora, Paonia, Sylvan Lake near Eagle, Vega near Collbran and Eleven Mile in Lake George ■ Kendall Mountain Ski Area, Silverton ■ River Center ponds, Pagosa Springs ■ Aspen Ice Garden ■ Devil's Thumb Ranch, Tabernash ■ NedRink, Nederland ■ The Collective, Snowmass ■ WinterSkate, Louisville and Northfield Stapleton locations, Denver ■ Downtown South Fork ■ The Pond at Southlands, Aurora ■ Resort villages of Keystone, Breckenridge, Beaver Creek, Winter Park and Crested Butte

More: COLORADO.com/OutdoorlceSkating





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 ■ 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 EagleVail ■ Evergreen Bike Shop ■ 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



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 ■ Cedaredge

More: COLORADO.com/Snowmobiling



BACKCOUNTRY SAFETY

Research your destination (and have a plan B), prepare for winter travel, check the avalanche forecast, carry proper equipment, and get training or go with a guide or experienced friend. Head over to COLORADO.com ckcountrySafety to learn more about recreating responsibly and to sign the backcountry pledge.





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





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, Never Summer in Walden, Eldora (near Nederland), Gunnison, Beaver Creek, Silverthorne, Devil's Thumb Ranch 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 Ranch in Kremmling

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

Snow's Perfect State™ / COME TO LIFE



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

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

skis. Many ski areas offer lessons and the bikes' three-point stance and

More: COLORADO.com/SnowBiking



ADAPTIVE WINTER ACTIVITIES

The National Sports Center for the Disabled in Winter Park, Adaptive Sports Center in Crested Butte, Steamboat Adaptive Recreational Sports and Telluride Adaptive Sports Program offer lessons in accessible alpine skiing, snowboarding, ski biking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and ice climbing. Visit their sites to learn more about year-round programs.



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: Taylor Park
Reservoir, Crested Butte ■
Wolford Mountain Reservoir,
Kremmling ■ Chambers Lake,
Walden ■ Eleven Mile Reservoir,
Lake George ■ Boyd Lake State
Park, Loveland ■ Trinidad Lake
State Park ■ Crawford Reservoir
■ Lake Granby ■ Twin Lakes
Reservoirs

More: COLORADO.com/ IceFishing





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

Where to Go: All State and National Parks (page 43) ■ All Colorado Birding Trails ■ Winter festivals: Lake Pueblo Eagle Day (Feb.), Barr Lake Bald Eagle Festival in Brighton (Feb.), Colorado Springs Bighorn Sheep Day (Feb.), Lamar's High Plains Snow Goose Festival (Feb.), Eckert Crane Days (March), Monte Vista Crane Festival (March), Walden Greater Sage Grouse Tours (April), Georgetown Bighorn Sheep Festival (Nov.) and Christmas Bird Counts in various locations (Dec.)

More: COLORADO.com/WildlifeTripIdeas



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

Uphill skiing, also known as "skinning" 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). Find it at these ski areas:

Where to Go: Wolf Creek ■ Eldora ■ Loveland ■ Arapahoe Basin ■ Aspen/Snowmass ■ Ski Cooper ■ Breckenridge ■ Copper Mountain ■ Crested Butte ■ Keystone Resort ■ Powderhorn ■ Steamboat ■ Sunlight Mountain ■ Monarch Mountain ■ Vail Mountain ■ Beaver Creek Resort ■ Purgatory ■ Telluride ■ Winter Park ■ Echo Mountain ■ Hesperus

More: COLORADO.com/Uphill





DOG SLEDDING

Barking dogs eagerly speed you along the trail, and within moments of launching 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 ■ 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 ■ Monarch Dog Sled Rides

More: COLORADO.com/DogSledding



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 68 for other ideas.

More: COLORADO.com/UrbanExperiences



from top: near loveland pass, miles/lisa seaman; adobestock; near breckenridge, beth schneider; the kitchen boulder







Colorado's ski resorts are committed to safety this winter, which may look a little different than seasons past, including mountain-access reservation systems, social distancing on chairliffs, required masks and other efforts. Visit each resort's site to find out the specifics so you can be prepared to enjoy the fresh mountain air and wide-open slopes, while protecting yourself, other guests and employees.

FROM TOP: ASPEN SNOWMASS; KEYSTONE SKI I THE LITILE NELL IN ASPEN, SCOTT MARKEWITZ.

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 (offen mid-October to early June), A-Basin also boasts North America's highest elevation terrain park, the new sustainable Snowplume Refuge with Il Rifugio bistro and panoramic views, as well as a 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 19 straight years, it has been the home of FSPN'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 high-speed lift (fit in more runs!) and nearly 40 kilometers 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. Another thing to boast about 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, mountain coaster and Pinkerton beginners' terrain park are a few things that make it a hit with families in Durango. Within its boundaries are 101 trails, four 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-easyway-down expert terrain. Guided and heli-skiing are top ways to take advantage of the terrain (reservations required).

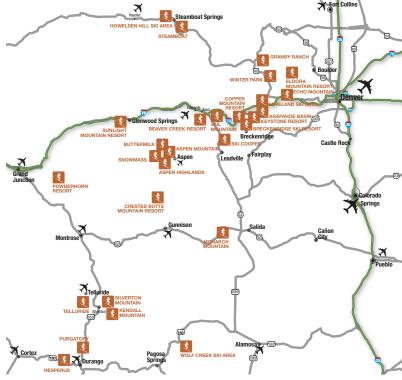
21 SKI COOPER

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.

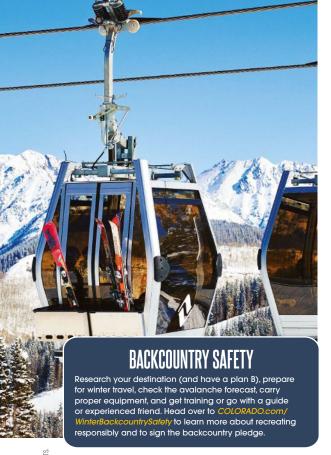
22 SNOWMASS

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.





IL, VAIL RESORTS.



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's hot springs let you reward ski muscles' big day with a long soak.

25 TELLURIDE

Driving into the Victorianera 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 5,317 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 gondola will get skiers onto the powder quicker than ever. For the 2021/2022 season, hop on the Winter Park Express at Denver's Union Station, which runs right to the Winter Park 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.

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





Resort Style Swimming Pool 17 Natural Hot Springs Pools 8 Private Ofuro Soaking Tubs Newly Renovated Full Service Spa Open Daily: 9am - 10pm Reservations Required www.dhsresort.com 970-247-0111





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.

M 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 43) ■ Wildflowers: Red Dirt trail near Steamboat Springs, Judd Falls near Crested Butte, Herman Gulch near Dillon ■ Waterfalls: Big Dominguez Canyon near Delta, Hayes Falls near Redstone, Bear Creek Falls in Telluride, Zapata Falls near Alamosa ■ Ancient sites: Canyon Pintado near Rangely, Picketwire Canyon near La Junta, Ute Petroglyph Trail near Palisade ■ Wildlife: Visitor Center Trail in Trinidad State Park, State Forest State Park near Walden, Comanche National Grassland near Springfield

More: 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, Lake City

Lake Meredith, Sugar City

- Vallecito Lake, Durango
- McPhee Lake, Cortez
- Blue Mesa Reservoir, Montrose and Gunnison ■ Grand Mesa lakes (more than 300 of them) near Grand Junction, Paonia, Delta, Cedaredge and Hotchkiss ■ Carter Lake, Loveland ■ Colorado State Parks: Cherry Creek, Staunton, Barr Lake, Bovd 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 58 for the full whitewater rundown.

More: COLORADO.com/ Boatina

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 42 State Parks, 30-plus Wilderness Areas, 22 million acres of National Forests and other expansive public lands.

A Few Favorite Sites With:

No amenities (backcountry or dispersed): Needle Creek Reservoir near Gunnison, Trout Creek Recreation Area near Yampa, Elk Wallow near Basalt ■ Lakeside sites: Turquoise Lake Recreation Area in Leadville, Wellington Lake in Bailey, Cobbett Lake near Cedaredge ■ Epic views: Kenosha Pass Campground near Jefferson, White Star Camparound near Twin Lakes, Mueller State Park in Divide

More: COLORADO.com/ Campina

4 WILDLIFE WATCHING & BIRDING Few other places in North America offer such a bounty of wildlife-watching opportunities as Colorado. Who in vour group will win the eagle-eye award by spotting some of Colorado's most majestic residents?

A Few Favorite Sites:

1.1

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

Silverthorne ■ 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 43) ■ Elk on Trout Creek Pass near Hartsel

More: COLORADO.com/ **Birdina**

Continued on page 30.

Buffalo Cabin Trail near

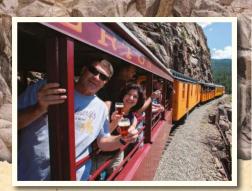


FISHING

River, lake, stocked pond or under ice, Colorado's largemouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish and famous rainbow trout await just below the surface. See the lakes above and page 46 for a lineup of castworthy locales.

OCKWISE FROM TOP: GLACIER BASIN CAMPGROUND NEAR ESTES PARK, JAHAN PHILLIPS; CHATFIELD STATE PARK, JONATHAN PHILLIPS; IR VAIL, LISA SEAMAN. CLOCKWISE

RAILS THRU THE ROCKIES ADVENTURE AWAITS





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Durango, CO is in the heart of America's Southwest Grand Circle; it is the only point in the US shared by four states. The circle has the largest concentration of national parks and monuments in the US, including Colorado's Mesa Verde National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

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6 ROCK CLIMBING

Reach stunning pinnacles with your own two hands. For first-time rock climbers, hook up with an outfitter for the right gear guidance. Via ferratas are a good way to get started, as well.

A Few Favorite Sites: Rifle

Mountain Park ■ Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, Montrose

- Ouray Ice Park (winter)
- Clear Creek Canyon,Golden X Rock,

Durango ■ Falls Gulch, Buena Vista ■ Poudre Canyon, Fort Collins ■ Rock Garden, Del Norte ■ Shelf Road in Cañon City ■ Via ferratas: Telluride, Cañon City, Solida, Idaho Springs, Manitou Springs

More: COLORADO.com/ RockClimbing

BALLOONING

and Estes Park

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: Vail

- Boulder Breckenridge
- Colorado Springs
- Ridgway/Ouray ■
 Longmont Steamboat
 Springs Pagosa Springs
- Fort Collins Winter Park/Fraser Aspen/ Snowmass Windsor

More: COLORADO.com/ Ballooning





RV & CAMPERVAN ROAD TRIPPING

An RV or campervan 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 and 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

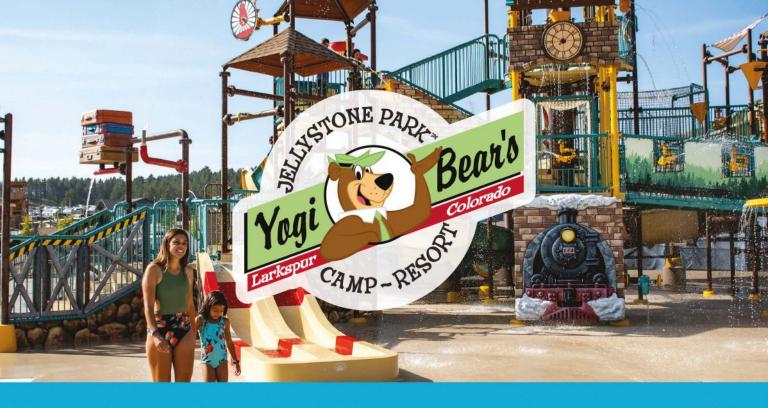
GOLF

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 ■ EagleVail Golf Club in Avon ■ The River Course at Keystone Resort ■ TPC Colorado in Berthoud ■ Conquistador Golf Course in Cortez ■ The Golf Club at Bear Dance in Larkspur ■ Sky Ranch in Sterling ■ Spring Valley in Elizabeth ■ Redlands Mesa in Grand Junction ■ Mount Massive Golf Course in Leadville ■ Murphy Creek Golf Course in Aurora ■ Grand Lake Golf Course

More: COLORADO.com/Golf

Continued on page 32.





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COME TO LIFE / Ways to Love Summer

DIPLINE & 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 also have aerial parks, where you can navigate scenic canyons on swinging bridges, catwalks and more.

A Few Favorite Spots:

Top of the Rockies Zip Line, Leadville ■ Glenwood Canvon Zipline Adventures ■ Edge Ziplines & Adventures, Castle Rock Royal Gorge, Cañon City ■ Browns Canvon Adventure Park, Buena Vista ■ Soaring Treetop Adventures, Durango■ AVA Cliffside Zipline Tours and Colorado Adventure Center, Idaho Springs ■ Steamboat Zipline Adventures ■ Winter Park Adventure Quest ■ Many ski resorts, including Vail, Breckenridge, Copper Mountain, Keystone, Purgatory and Snowmass

More: COLORADO.com/ Ziplines

11 DIRT BIKE, SIDE-BY-SIDE, ATV & JEEP TRIPS

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. Tours can provide trails and excursions for all levels of ability or self-guided rentals for your own high-adrenaline off-roading or a scenic Sunday drive. Visit COLO RADO.com/OHVTips to learn about off-highway vehicle etiquette.

A Few Favorite Spots:

Hubbard Mesa, Rifle ■
Grand Mesa trails, Grand
Junction ■ Red Feather
Lakes west of Fort Collins
■ Idleglen OHV Recreation Area, Grand Lake ■
Wagon Wheel trail system,
Meeker ■ Bachelor Loop
Historic Tour, Creede ■
Summit

2 STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING

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

A Few Favorite Spots:

Trout Creek Reservoir,
Nathrop ■ Union
Reservoir, Longmont ■
Chatfield State Park in
Littleton ■ Aurora Reservoir ■
Boulder Reservoir ■
Colorado River, Pallsade
■ Keystone Lake ■ Crawford State Park ■ Palmer
Lake ■ Lake Nighthorse,
Durango ■ Big Soda Lake
in Lakewood

More: COLORADO.com/ SUP

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 74 for more.

(4) 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: Rustic
Rook Resort, Mosca ■
Cedar Ridge Ranch,
Carbondale ■ Arapaho
Valley Ranch, Granby
■ Dunton River Camp,
Dolores ■ Royal Gorge
Cabins and Echo Canyol

- Cabins and Echo Canyon Campground, Cañon City ■ Piney River Ranch, Vail ■ The High Lonesome Ranch, De Beque ■
- Platte River Fort, Greeley
 Glenwood Canyon
 Resort Sombrilla Ranch,
 Pagosa Springs

More: COLORADO.com/ Glamping

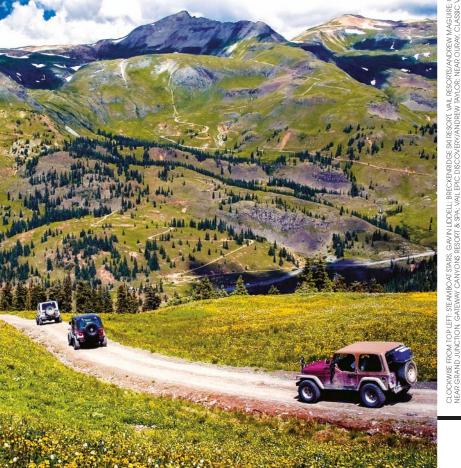
COLORADO.com/

MotorcycleTours



Leave





Ways to Love Summer / COME TO LIFE





Find your giddyup at a sprawling dude ranch or trot along in the shadows of 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: Snodgrass Mountain, Fantasy Ranch Horseback Adventures, Almont ■ Flat Tops Wilderness, Sable Mountain Outfitters, Meeker ■ Denver foothills, Bear Mountain Stables, Conifer ■ South Park Valley, American Safari Ranch, Fairplay ■ Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Granite Mountain Outfitters, Poncha Springs ■ Mount Zirkel Wilderness, Del's Triangle 3 Ranch, Clark ■ Mount Vigil mining district, Old Stage Riding Stables, Colorado Springs

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





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

WANT MORE? COLORADO.COM/ SUMMERACTIVITIES

WAYS TO 🌂 **FXPFRIFNCF** FALL COLOR

Our auintessential 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 gold and crimson.

September is the ideal time to bear witness, but vou have to time it riaht. 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.

SCFNIC 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, with 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:

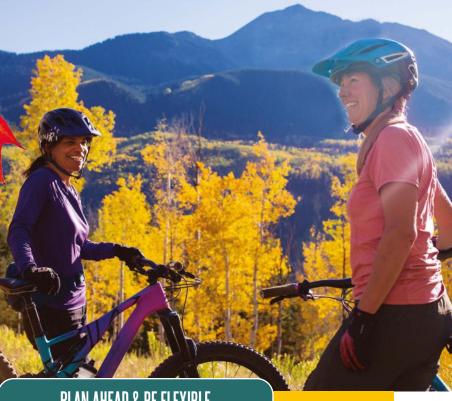
A winding road with groves upon groves of aspen trees that runs between Aspen and Twin Lakes. The pass is ringed by 13,000-foot peaks. There are plenty of Instagram-worthy pull-offs, nearby hikes and even an old ghost town to visit along the way.

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





PLAN AHEAD & BE FLEXIBLE

Be aware that some businesses and events mentioned in this guide might be closed, postponed or have irregular availability related to COVID-19. Please research before you go and keep alternative activities in mind as you plan your trip. COLORADO.com/WhatsOpen

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 trees give way to aspens. 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 U.S. 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 beas 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 vellow and gold. The landscape becomes increasingly intriguing and inspiring while driffing from this high-altitude angle.

Continued on page 36.

FALL FESTIVALS

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

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



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BALLOON RIDES | **JEEP EXCURSIONS** | **ZIPLINE TOURS SEGWAY ADVENTURES | MOUNTAIN BIKE EXPEDITIONS & MORE**







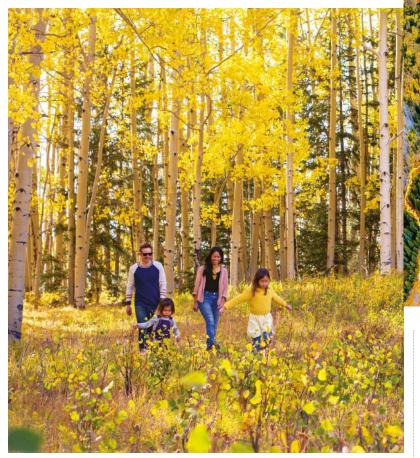


U-PICK FARMS & CORN MAZES

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:

- ► Happy Apple Farm in Penrose
- ► Berry Patch Farms in Brighton
- Nelms Farm in Golden
- ► Fritzler Farm Park near Greeley
- ► Miller Farms in Platteville
- ► Anderson Farms in Erie
- ► Colon Orchards in Cañon City
- ► Fruit Basket Orchards in Grand Junction
- ► Weathers Family
- 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, offen explored by just a handful of visitors, cover Colorado's backcountry. 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 23) offer scenic chairliff rides — throughout summer and fall. Hop on, relax and survey the colorful trailcarved 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 72 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

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.





35 FREE THINGS TO DO IN COLORADO

Save now to splurge later — From natural wonders to tasting tours to historical curiosities, these 35 activities around the state are completely free.



Crested Butte is known as the "Wildflower Capital of the World." Visit in summertime to see the surrounding alpine valleys outrageously in bloom.



DINOSAUR TRACKS

Take the mostly flat (but long) hiking trail to see gargantuan fossil tracks at the Picketwire Canyonlands south of La Junta.



SPOT SOME BISON

The buffalo roam in many places across Colorado, but you can see a bison herd (and lots of other critters) relatively up close at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge in Denver.



ASPEN ART MUSEUM

View contemporary art from around the world in the museum's thought-provoking exhibitions and immersive installations.



BISHOP CASTLE

Jim Bishop has been building this one-of-a-kind, stone-and-iron castle near the town of Rye for nearly 60 years. The fire-breathing dragon is a can't-miss.



ALPINE LAKES

Colorado boasts dozens of pristine lakes above treeline. Hike the steep Blue Lakes Trail near Ridgway for a true alpine experience — the views are worth the climb.



GHOST TOWNING

Get a taste of the Wild West at Dearfield, 30 miles southeast of Greeley. More than 700 African Americans settled here in the early 1900s, but the town died during the Great Depression and Dust Bowl years. Three buildings still stand: a gas station, a diner and the founder's home.



YAMPA RIVER TUBING

Bring your own inflatable inner tube to float atop the refreshing waters of Yampa River, which passes right through downtown Steamboat Springs.



FRUITA MOUNTAIN BIKING

With incredible high-desert views and trails offering everything from leisurely rides to rocks to hair-raisingly steep climbs, Fruita is a singletrack paradise.



DISPERSED CAMPING

Rough it for real by spending the night at a dispersed campsite in the beautiful White River National Forest near Homestake Reservoir and the town of Red Cliff.



Stop by the academy's visitor center for a look into cadet life and academy history in Colorado Springs. See a show at the uberhigh-tech planetarium.



HONEYVILLE

See honeybees hard at work inside a glass-encased beehive and taste free samples of regional honey products at this small shop north of Durango.



GOLDEN HISTORY Museum & Park

Find out what life was like for Colorado's early ranchers and farmers. Explore historic and reproduction buildings that replicate a 19th-century mountain homestead.



FLAT TOPS TRAIL SCENIC BYWAY

Beginning in the small town of Meeker, drive 82 miles through lush river valleys and over two of Colorado's least-traveled passes. See page 72 for more.



THE DENVER MINT TOUR

Learn the history of the United States Mint and find out how we produce billions of coins each year for the American public with a free, guided tour.



CELESTIAL SEASONINGS

At the Celestial Seasonings Factory near Boulder, take the free guided tour to see the tea-blending and packaging process and enjoy free samples of every tea they make.



ROCKY FORD MUSEUM

Peruse exhibits about the area's history dating back to 1878, including its geology, archaeology and the everyday life of people in the Arkansas Valley.



STEAM ENGINE 638

The town of Trinidad has a rich railroad history. One interesting artifact of this legacy is the last coal-burning steam engine used by the Colorado and Southern Railroad.



SANDHILL CRANE MIGRATION

Each spring, sandhill cranes migrate in magnificent fashion through the San Luis Valley. Catch a glimpse at the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge.



CROSS A RAINBOW BRIDGE

Fort Morgan's historic Rainbow Bridge is an engineering marvel built in 1923 and still standing strong, Venture across for great views of the Platte River.



LAST CHANCE MODULE ARRAY

A few miles south of tiny Last Chance stand timber structures that perfectly frame Colorado's sunrises.



PAINT MINES INTERPRETIVE PARK

Marvel at the hulking Star Wars-esque, pink, yellow and white rock formations throughout this public park near Calhan.



CANO'S CASTLE

Four glimmering towers, made of mostly beer cans, rise into the sky off Antonito's main street, making the fortification an oddity right in town.



NORTH CLEAR CREEK FALLS OBSERVATION SITE

On the Silver Thread scenic byway near Creede, this overlook provides views of a cascading waterfall surrounded by goldenhued, sheer rock walls.



MONTROSE BOTANIC GARDENS

Behind gilded gates exists a green-thumb sanctuary of native plants, succulents and brightly colored flowers.



FREMONT RIDGE SITE

Located along the Rangely Rock Art Tour, Fremont is home to panels of petroglyphs, resembling carrot men, that can be seen on an easy out-and-back hike.



LIMON HERITAGE MUSEUM & RAILROAD PARK COMPLEX

A visit to the plains wouldn't be complete without popping into the white-sided 1894 pioneer schoolhouse, an excellent example of frontier education.



ANNUAL FLOWER TRIAL GARDEN

In downtown Fort Collins, these interconnected circles look like a scene from "Alice in Wonderland." The picture-worthy garden is a place to learn about the unique environmental conditions of the region.



SAPPHIRE POINT OVERLOOK

At a magical point between Keystone and Breckenridge, this overlook offers stunning panoramas of sparkling Dillon Reservoir, surrounded by towering pines and topped with a bright sky full of cotton-ball clouds.



HIWAN HOMESTEAD MUSEUM

Take a free guided tour of the Hiwan Homestead, a 25-room log lodge turned museum near Evergreen. Don't miss the Native American art scattered around the home.



LINWOOD CEMETERY

Spot famed gunslinger Doc Holliday's grave, plus outlaw Harvey Logan's (member of Butch Cassidy's Wild Bunch) tombstone in Glenwood Springs' downtown cemetery.



THE BEACH AT GRAND LAKE

Sink your toes in grainy sand as water laps at the shore of Grand Lake's tiny beach near Rocky Mountain National Park.



BETTY FORD ALPINE GARDENS

The world's highest altitude botanical garden, this Vail spot has splendid displays of more than 500 plants and a 120-foot waterfall.



EMILY WARNER FIELD AVIATION MUSEUM

See where President Eisenhower landed when visiting nearby Fraser and check out the cuff links owned by renowned aviator Howard Hughes in Granby.



PUEBLO RIVERWALK

With more than 50 pieces of public art on this 1-mile expanse of breezy downtown Pueblo, the riverwalk is a striking place to stretch your legs.



8 WAYS TO TASTE COLORADO ROOTS

Culinary, ranch and farm activities are inviting travelers all over the state to get to know our roots.

1 EXPERIENCE COLORADO 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 ■ Mystic Mountain Spirits, Larkspur ■ Black Bridge Winery, Paonia

- Berthoud Brewing Co.
- Deerhammer Distillery Company, Buena Vista ■ Crestone Brewing Co. ■ Fenceline Cider, Mancos
- Parts & Labor Brewing Company, Sterling

More: COLORADO.com/ LiquidArts

2 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 ■ Ollin Farms
in Longmont ■ Three
Leaf Farm in Lafayette
■ Fortified Farm Dinners
(various locations)

More: COLORADO.com/ FarmExperience





Find Colorado Roots / COME TO LIFE

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





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:

JONATHAN PHILLIPS; BOULDER FARMERS AND ORCHARD IN LONGMONT, O'HARA

Canyon of the Ancients Guest Ranch in Cortez ■ High Lonesome Ranch in De Beque ■ Puma Hills River Ranch in Lake George ■ Music Meadows Ranch in Westcliffe 4 Eagle Ranch in Wolcott

More: COLORADO.com/



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 ■ Elkstone Farm in Steamboat Springs ■ Uncle Johnny's U-Pick Farm in Cedaredge

More: COLORADO.com/ **Culinary** Activities



Colorado's got the goods when it comes to succulent fruits, fresh produce and hearty local game. When dining out, look for menus that incorporate these special ingredients.

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

6 NATIVE FLAVORS

Colorado's agricultural prowess dates back to the indigenous people who cultivated the land. Many places and programs are keeping these traditions alive.

A Few Favorites:

The Sacred Earth Garden at Denver Botanic Gardens ■ Tocabe restaurant in Denver and Greenwood Village ■ Indigenous Roots living-history immersion in Weston ■ Pueblo Farming Project in Cortez ■ Four Directions Cuisine in Arvada



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

A Few Favorites:

The Art of Cheese cheesemaking classes in Longmont ■ Foraging and preserving classes from The Growing Project in Fort Collins ■ Goat husbandry class at Mountain Goat Lodge in Salida ■ Beekeeping Bootcamp at the Butterfly Pavilion in Westminster ■ Mushroom-foraging workshops at the Telluride Mushroom Festival (Aug.) ■ Sausage 101 with Western Daughters Butcher Shoppe in Denver ■ Herb discovery at Colorado Aromatics in Longmont

More: COLORADO.com/ **Events**



In Colorado, farmers' markets are more than just open-air organic grocery stores. They're social gatherings, lazy-afternoon-drive destinations, live-music venues and learning centers filled with soul-nourishing events and fresh Colorado fare. Sample the best of the state and plan a summer menu of earthy Colorado ingredients.

A Few Favorites:

Greeley Farmers Market ■ Larimer County Farmers Market in Fort Collins ■ Vail Farmers' Market & Art Show ■ The Farmers Market at Highlands Square in Denver ■ El Pueblo Farmers Market in Pueblo Alamosa Farmers' Market ■Cañon City Farmers Market ■ Colorado Farm & Art Market in Colorado Springs ■ Dillon Farmers Market





OTHER IDEAS

- American Hiking Society's National Trails Day (first Saturday in June) connects more people to the nation's trails: nationaltrails day.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: wirv.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 COLOROAD TRIPS COLLECTION
OFFERS AN IDEA FOR VOLUNTEERING OR CONTRIBUTING TO THE
NATURAL AREAS MENTIONED.
COLORADO.COM/COLOROADTRIPS

For more: COLORADO.com/Care

DO-GOODIN': VOLUNTOURISM

We don't need to tell you Colorado is a pretty special place. And we love visitors who want to help us keep it that way while they're roaming around it.



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 (or even better), and following informational signs while you're out and about here.

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.

VOLUNTEERS FOR COUTDOOR 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!

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 (May 15, 2021) includes events and celebrations like photo scavenger hunts, river cleanups, fundraisers, trail projects, group hikes and astronomy programs. It also pairs land stewardship with barbecues, beer samplings, story times and more.

copubliclandsday.com

3 COLORADO FOURTEENERS INITIATIVE

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

4 COLORADO TRAIL FOUNDATION

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

5 CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL 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.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD INSTITUTE.

13 MAGIC MOMENTS ON COLORADO'S PUBLIC LANDS

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 16 for other tips.

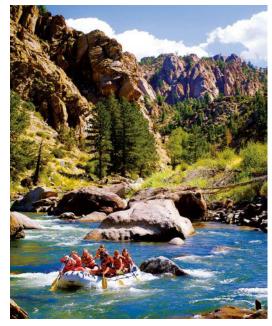


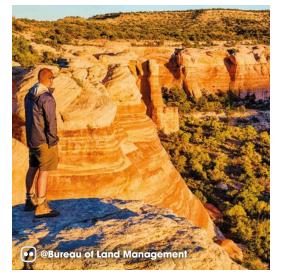


There's nothing like a hike through rugged, untamed wilderness or a peaceful picnic amid colorful wildflowers to awaken the imagination and stir the senses.

Feel the exhilaration 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.

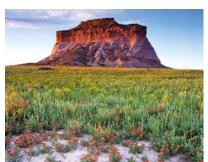




Frame photos through the arches in MCINNIS CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION

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 redrock arches, spires, rock bridges and caves.



Behold a sea of shortgrass swaying in the wind in PAWNEE NATIONAL GRASSLAND. The only

interruption in the 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 pronghorn, coyotes, kit foxes, hawks and falcons, located west of Sterling.



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 gradual rises in elevation make it a good first-time (albeit well-prepared) backpacking or snowshoeing adventure, with almost guaranteed moose and elk sightings.

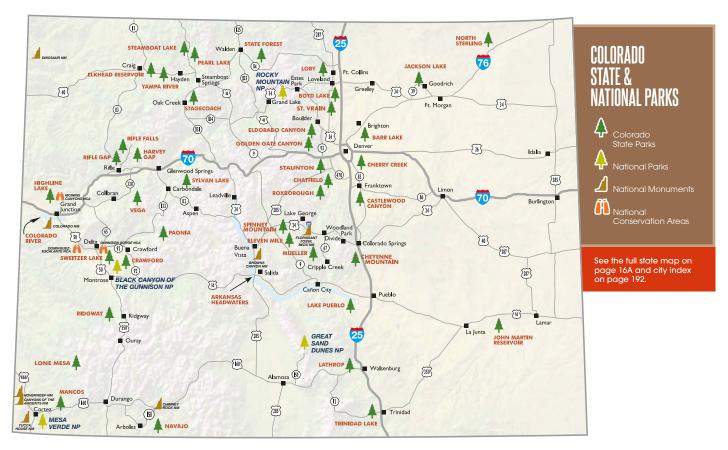




Experience the profound quiet of snowy BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON NATIONAL PARK.

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.

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



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-horse-power 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.





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-

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. ▼



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

covered plains near Las Animas.

ADAPTABLE ACCESS TO PUBLIC LANDS

Many national parks and monuments provide wheelchair-accessible touring information (including special sand wheelchairs for exploring the Great Sand Dunes and wheelchair-accessible trails in Rocky Mountain National Park). Colorado National Monument and Mesa Verde National Park both offer accessible campsites, picnic areas and trails, and audio and/or visual tours. Colorado Parks & Wildlife (cpw.state.co.us) offers the Columbine Pass, which provides reduced park-entrance fees to Colorado residents with different abilities. The parks have accessible fishing locations across the state and offer people with disabilities hunting accommodations and services. Requests can also be made for sign-language interpretation and assistive-listening equipment. Wheelchair-accessible trails across the state can be found using the Colorado Trail Explorer app at trails.colorado.gov.



Spy the wildlife that aather alona the Green River's edge in **BROWNS PARK** NATIONAL WILDLIFE **REFUGE**. About as northwest as you can get and still be in Colorado, Browns Park sits in a vallev 60 miles west of Maybell. Solitude-seeking hunters, fishers, photographers and campers commune on lands once home to Fort Davy Crockett. In the winter, bald eagles, mule deer, elk, pronghorn, rough-legged hawks and

river otters gather.

Raff the tumbling rapids of the CACHE LA POUDRE 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. ▼



Feel the first pole pull of a footlong 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 perchare on the menu for lucky anglers.



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.





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.

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 & 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 all ages.

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 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 hooking 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 t

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.

PA-CO-CHU-PUK PONDS AT RIDGWAY STATE PARK The

park's two rainbow-trout-stocked ponds are close to a fish-cleaning station. There's also a swim beach and summer programs for kids, including archery, birding walks, hawk quests and more.

3 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.

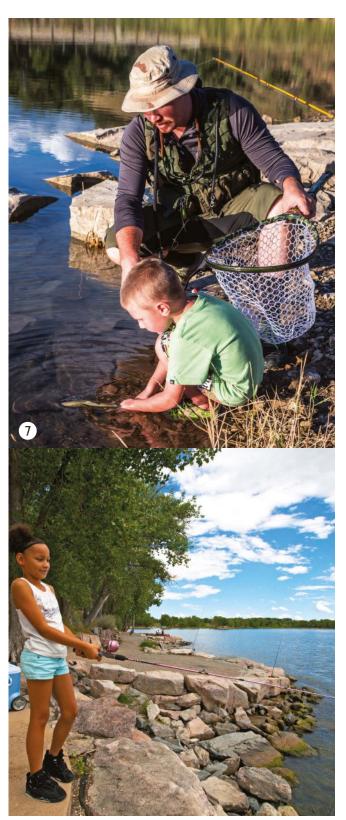
GYPSUM PONDS Close to I-70 and the town of Gypsum, the ponds are easy to access and stocked with rainbow and cutthroat trout. You might see deer, great blue herons, owls, bald eagles, redtail hawks and more.



For more, check out the CPW Fishing App.

FOR MORE SERIOUS FISHERS

- COLORADO.com/WesternCO FlyFishingHotSpots
- ► COLORADO.com/ GreatPlacestoFishInColorado
- Restrooms available.



329

Number of miles of Gold Medal streams providing angling opportunities for large trout. These waters are managed by Colorado Parks & 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 offers 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 the 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 a muzzle loader. 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).
- 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 members along. This might be a time to leave littler tykes behind so that you can stay stealthy those who are very quiet will often see the secret side of wilderness.
- 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





RESEARCH: 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.



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 guestions.



PLAN: Apply online for the big-game limiteddraw licenses. Primary Draw: March-early April Secondary Draw: June-early July For more dates and fees: cpw.state.co.us/thinasto

do/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 & Wildlife field offices, visit COLORADO.com/ Hunting.

PLAN AHEAD & BE FLEXIBLE

Be aware that some businesses and events mentioned in this guide might be closed, postponed or have irregular availability related to COVID-19. Please research before you go and keep alternative activities in mind as you plan your trip. COLORADO.com/WhatsOpen

CREATIVE COLORADO

Explore 26 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's First Friday Art Walk has turned into an all-out street party.

CORAZÓN DE TRINIDAD An influx of artists in residence and galleries have come to the heart of Trinidad. Be sure to ogle the large collection of Victorian houses.

NORTH FORK VALLEY Farms, orchards, vineyards and mesas have conspired to make Paonia, Hotchkiss and Crawford a pocket of natural and artist-made riches.

PUEBLO CREATIVE CORRIDOR A decadesstrong First Friday Art Walk; historic buildings housing boutiques, art galleries, studios and cafes; and the Riverwalk add to Pueblo's 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.

TELLURIDE ARTS DISTRICT All downtown shops, eateries and hotels are indie-owned. Telluride is renowned for huge events, fine musicians, painters, photographers, bookbinders and more.

SALIDA This Arkansas River-side downtown has the creative spirit. Long loved by raffers and mountain bikers, it's now reaching new travelers with its arts scene.

GREELEY Encompassing downtown and surrounding neighborhoods, you'll find arts events to inspire, including flash mobs, First Fridays and Concerts Under the Stars.

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

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

DOWNTOWN LONGMONT Galleries and theaters are surrounded by an eclectic mix of shops and restaurants. With its Art in Public Places Program, there are always delights to stumble upon.

40 WEST ARTS DISTRICT Lakewood hosts an understated artistic community with more than 20 public art installations, performing-arts venues and a dozen-ish galleries.

MANCOS Old and new flourish side by side in a town that's true to its Western character. Take a makers class at Mancos School of the West or see artist demos on the Mancos Studio Tour.

BRECKENRIDGE This mountain downtown includes Breckenridge Backstage Theatre and National Repertory Orchestra as well as an array of studios, galleries and other creative establishments.

GOLDEN TRIANGLE 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 Fueled by its Western heritage and energetic artists, explore the Third Street Center's grassroots galleries and performance venues; or visit during July's Mountain Fair to celebrate the town's creative riches.

FORT COLLINS Artisans pay tribute to the area's great outdoors with galleries, museums and innovative institutions dotting historic Old Town.

CRESTED BUTTE The hamlet's Center for the Arts, artist-owned shops and 10 performance venues delight arts-focused visitors. Stroll Elk Avenue and check the calendar for arts fests and walks.

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS Wild West roots combine with long-standing arts institutions, workshops, youth art programs, Art in the Park (July) and the Free Summer Concert Series, all against a serene natural setting.

MANITOU SPRINGS Downtown is peppered with outdoor art, 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. Murals display generations of heritage, and galleries and arts affairs sprout up each year. Chile Fest showcases the neighborhood at its best.







GRAND JUNCTION Find a wealth of treasures, including the 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 harbors a creative community anchored by the Rocky Mountain Repertory Theatre and a historic boardwalk lined with shops and galleries.

DURANGO Take a bite of the farm-to-table culinary scene or buy a locally crafted souvenir at a downtown shop. Visit for the monthly gallery walk or grab a seat for the latest theater production at the Durango Arts Center.

LOVELAND Loveland is home to bronze foundries and nine museums and galleries. In August, they celebrate Sculpture in the Park, and year-round, the Loveland Museum/ Gallery shows off different art exhibits. Chapungu Sculpture Park features contemporary art from Africa and other exhibitions.

STERLING A farming community with a love of art, you'll find Sacred Matter Glassblowing Studio. At the Sterling Creatives Artists Co-Op, each day features a different artist hard at work. Spot the sculptures by Bradford Rhea around town — they are living trees carved into intricate designs.



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's cities are also home to a delightful mix of local theaters presenting original works, dozens of intimate places to hear local and touring bands, and pop-up and permanent immersive arts experiences (Denver's Meow Wolf and Boulder's Wonder Wonder, to name two). 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

MAKERSPACES Inspired to create? Colorado is also home to a variety of makerspaces and studios offering classes to the public, including Pikes Peak Makerspace (Colorado Springs), Fort Collins Creator Hub, MakerLab (Durango), Upstairs Circus (Denver), Rosybelle (Carbondale) and Ah Haa School for the Arts (Telluride).

FILM FESTIVALS

Coloradans must have a thing for film, because it seems like every other town's got a fest: Boulder International Film Festival (Feb.), Denver Jewish Film Festival (Feb.), Durango Independent Film Festival (March), the famed Telluride Film Festival (Aug.), and others in Colorado Springs, Breckenridge, Aspen, Denver, Vail, Lyons, Pueblo, Nederland, Crested Butte and more. COLORADO.com/FilmFests

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.), Rocky Mountain Folks Festival in Lyons (Aug.) and Breckenridge International Festival of the Arts (Aug.). Find many more at COLORADO.com/Events.

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 perkl).

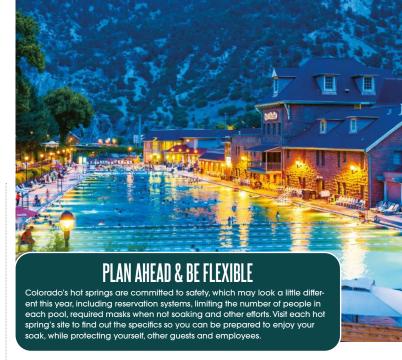
THE SPRINGS RESORT & SPA, PAGOSA SPRINGS This luxury resort boasts more than 20 soaking pools (including the world's deepest geothermal spring), a full-service spa and salon and a separate luxury hotel, which is LEED-certified for its environmentally conscious design.

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 soaking tubs 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 Mystic 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 as well as 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 desertreefhotspring.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

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

Strawberry Park Hot Springs, Steamboat Springs strawberryhotsprings.com Penny Hot Springs, Carbondale carbondale.com

Sand Dunes Swimming Pool, Hooper sanddunespool.com

Orvis Hot Springs, Ridgway orvishotsprings.com

Old Town Hot Springs, Steamboat Springs oldtownhotsprings.org

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

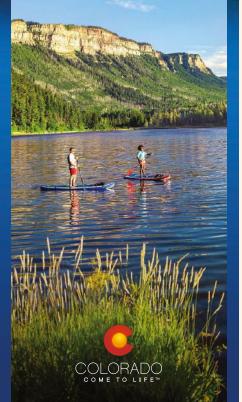
WANT MORE DETAILS? SEE COLORADO.COM/HOTSPRINGS AND THE HOT SPRINGS LOOP ITINERARY ON PAGE 76.







PLAN YOUR TRIP AT COLORADO.COM/TRIPIDEAS







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.

> 970-264-1111 HartlandRanch.com



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



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 and 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-Nov.) near Fort Collins.



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 & COLORADO.com/Birding



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.

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 (Nov.), Lamar's High Plains Snow Goose Festival (Feb.), Karval Mountain Plover Festival (March), Marmot Festival in Pine (June) and many more. COLORADO.com/Events



FIND A FRIENDLY RANGER

With eight national wildlife refuges, four national parks, eight national monuments, 41 national wilderness areas, 42 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*



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

KEEP WILDLIFE WILD

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

RESOURCES

Colorado Parks & Wildlife:

cpw.state.co.us

National Park Service: nps.gov/colorado

U.S. Forest Service:

fs.usda.gov/main/r2/home

Bureau of Land Management: blm.gov/colorado

WANT MORE? COLORADO.COM/WILDLIFE

125 reasons to **LOVE** Denver Zoo.

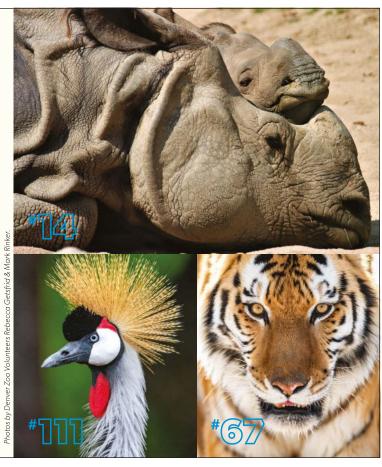
There are countless reasons to love Denver Zoo. From a tiger's supermodel smile to snuggly rhino snouts and a crane's sparkling crown, every one of these wonderful animals is a symbol of our 125-year commitment to curiosity, conservation, community and connection.

Find your reason!

Come celebrate with us.



1896 125 2021 years of love-





EXPERIENCE COLORADO'S OLD WEST HISTORY

Old West roots run deep in Colorado, transporting you back to a time before cities and skyscrapers and highways. Saddle up for some authentic frontier adventures — there's fascinating history to uncover in every corner.

GOLD RUSH TOWNS

The promise of gold drew more than 100,000 fortune-seekers to Colorado in the mid-1800s. This influx of explorers, prospectors fur trappers and other emigrants led to the foundation of many cities, including **Denver** and several smaller towns — only some of which survived.

Today you can walk in the early settlers' footsteps along the Colorado Gold Trail, a scenic tour of historic gold rush towns that exist to this day. Towns to explore include Boulder, Black Hawk, Central City, Idaho Springs, Breckenridge, Fairplay, Alma, Como and Leadville. Each place has its own individual character and story of survival, and each is worth a visit to learn about its unique legacy.

The Colorado Gold Trail also encompasses a variety of fascinating tours where you can get a firsthand look

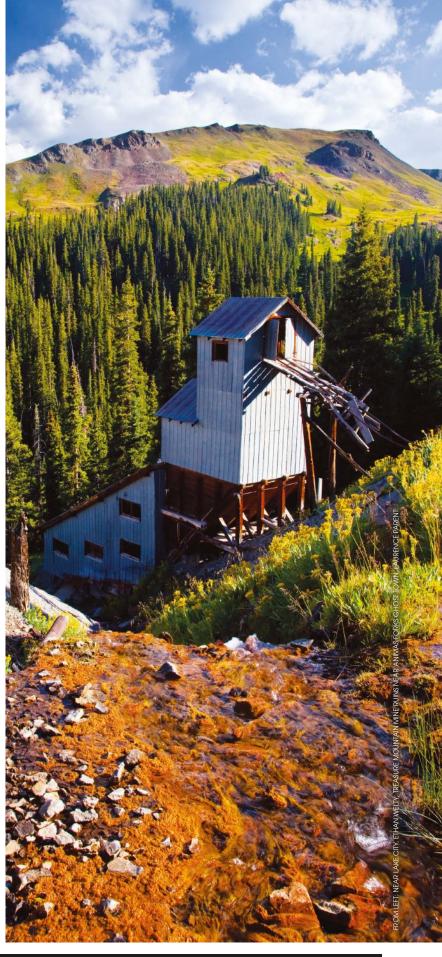
at how mining equipment worked, spot gold veins and learn about Colorado's notorious mining characters. The Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mine Tour provides a historical overview of the Gold Rush, as well as a tour of the modern gold mine. If you take the **Georgetown** Loop Railroad, you can opt for a tour that will take you down into an 1870s mining tunnel to see veins of silver. On the Country Boy Mine Tour, get your picture taken with a burro, slide down a 55-foot-long ore chute and see a mineshaft cut 1,000 feet below Breckenridge.

Don't despair if you can't make it to the mountains while you're here. The Denver Museum of Nature & Science boasts a replica mineshaft complete with precious stones and stalactites hanging from the ceilings.

COLORADO.com/ GoldRushTowns

Continued on page 56.





10 TREASURES AT THE TOP OF THE ROCKIES

At the top of the Rockies, treasure seekers will find two gems: the genuine and historic mountain towns of **Leadville** and **Twin Lakes**. Up here you can experience the spirit of the Silver Rush and outdoor adventure amid majestic beauty that is simply on another level. **Discover more treasures at LeadvilleTwinLakes.com!**

1 MAJESTIC BEAUTY

Perched at 10,152 feet, Leadville is North America's highest city and offers majestic mountain views. Twin Lakes is rich with blue waters. Summers are refreshingly cool, fall colors come early and winter offers abundant, fluffy snow.

2 OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

Reap a rewarding backcountry experience near Colorado's two highest peaks, vast forests, lakes and rivers. Find adventure in all seasons on foot, wheels or ziplines. Play with skis, boards, boats, golf clubs or skates. Catch trophy trout in Gold Medal waters.

3 ONE OF AMERICA'S BEST HISTORIC SMALL TOWNS

USA TODAY named Leadville one of America's Best Historic Small Towns in 2020. Shops, museums, restaurants and lodging are housed in Victorian buildings. Take the scenic train and historic tours. Here, history is so close that you can touch it.

4 HISTORIC VILLAGE OF TWIN LAKES

Visit Twin Lakes for a taste of life in a late 1800s Silver Rush outpost. Dine and stay in a former stagecoach stop. Venture by foot or boat to the Interlaken ghost resort. See an old schoolhouse and dance hall, all on the shores of two of Colorado's largest glacial lakes.

5 WELCOMING, GRITTY SPIRIT

No glitz here! Expect real, working-class towns, genuine conversations and a down-to-earth, mountain-town vibe. Those who live at this altitude are tough and unconventional — yet welcoming to those who appreciate this remote, magical place high in the Rockies.

6 COLORADO'S HIGHEST TRAILS

Hike, bike, ski or snowshoe the Mineral Belt Trail past historic mining structures. Climb Mt. Elbert and Mt. Massive, Colorado's two highest peaks, and explore many other trails in all seasons!



7 LARGE, SPARKLING LAKES

Twin Lakes and Turquoise Lake are among Colorado's largest glacial lakes, great for boating, paddling, relaxing and fishing in water or on ice!

8 ONE-OF-A-KIND MUSEUMS

Find life-sized mine replicas, world-class gems and minerals, and more at the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum, named in the top 10% of Tripadvisor attractions worldwide. At the elegant Tabor Opera House and historic Matchless Mine, learn of the Tabors' richestor-rags tragedies and love triangle. Explore a pioneer Jewish synagogue, Silver Rush homes, and Leadville memorabilia.

9 SKI COOPER

This family-friendly ski area offers uncrowded slopes and a laid-back vibe — a great find for those who want to escape the busy resorts!

10 WINTER SPORTS WONDERLAND

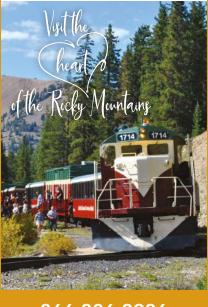
Find a hidden gem, 100 miles of groomed winter trails to cross-country ski, snowshoe, fat bike or snowmobile. Get above treeline for a brilliant winter view.



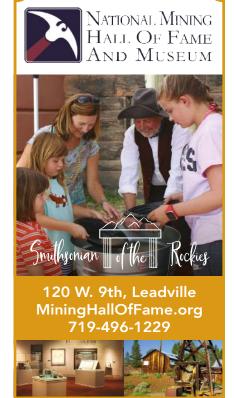








866-386-3936 LeadvilleRailroad.com



THE WILD WEST

One of the best ways to appreciate Colorado's heritage is to experience a bit of the Wild West yourself. It's been a long time since cowbovs and miners ruled the roost, but you can still get a taste of the frontier lifestyle.

For every gold rush town that survived, there's a once-booming settlement that went bust, leaving just a ghost of itself behind. Exploring these ghost towns gives you an amazing glimpse into the era. The Aspen Historical Society hosts tours of the ghost town of Independence, which sits near 11,000 feet on Independence Pass and was abandoned by miners in 1899. Southeast of Walden, Teller City was a silver-mining camp that boomed in the early 1880s but was busted by 1902. You can take a three-quartermile loop trail through the scattered cabin remains and artifacts. COLORADO. com/GhostTowns

Colorado is home to a variety of museums that provide immersive Wild West learning experiences. History Colorado Center in Denver has an incredible collection of artifacts dating back to Colorado's earliest days, as well as diverse rotating exhibitions. At the Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center, visitors can explore life in an 1800s Army fort, including five original adobe buildings. Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site near La Junta features a reconstructed 1840s adobe

trading post where historians recreate the past with tours, demonstrations and special events, COLORADO, com/ Museums

Another great way to partake in Wild West culture is to dress the part. Cowboy boots are always in style here and there are lots of places you can get your own pair, along with other Western apparel staples. In Steamboat Springs, stop by F.M. Light & Sons, a family-owned outfitter that's been in business since 1905. Or shop at historic Goodman's Department Store in Pagosa Springs, established in 1899. If you're in the market for a classic Western shirt, Rockmount Ranch Wear in Denver is a must. They invented the snap-button style and have dressed the likes of Willie Nelson and Bonnie Raitt. COLORADO.com/ WesternWear

complete until you belly up to the bar of a saloon. Several different establishments have operated out of the Minturn Saloon in the Vail Valley over the decades, but the current iteration has been open since 1976. Tuck into a plate of ribs and wash it down with a tasty margarita. The Buckhorn Exchange in Denver owns the first liquor license issued in Colorado after Prohibition and is a National Historic Landmark. Enjoy a stiff pour and a steak in a museum-like setting adorned with memorabilia and taxidermy. COLORADO. com/HistoricSaloons

Your adventure won't be



HIDDEN-GEM MILSEUMS

Stop by these off-the-beaten-path spots for a unique point of view.



CRIPPLE CREEK JAIL MUSEUM: Relive the outlaw days of the Wild West in the red-brick building that served as the Teller County Jail for almost 90 years.



BLACK AMERICAN WEST MUSE-UM, DENVER: Learn the stories of Black miners, soldiers, homesteaders, ranchers, lawmen and other professions that built the West.



MUSEUM OF NORTHWEST COLORADO, CRAIG: See one of the country's largest collections of cowboy and gunfighter memorabilia on public display.



PIONEER VILLAGE MUSEUM. **HOT SULPHUR SPRINGS: Learn** about tools of Grand County inhabitants, pioneer clothing and more in a 1924 schoolhouse.



A.R. MITCHELL MUSEUM OF WESTERN ART, TRINIDAD: The collection includes more than 350 of Mitchell's works, Spanish folk art and Native American artwork.



CROSS ORCHARDS HISTORIC SITE, **GRAND JUNCTION:** Tour historic buildings (including an 1890s barn/ bunkhouse), railroad cars and vintage agricultural equipment.



JOHN W. RAWLINGS HERITAGE CENTER AND MUSEUM, LAS ANIMAS: Exhibits include early 1900s storefronts of a post office, barber shop, jewelry store, candy shop and bank.



RIMROCKER HISTORICAL SOCIETY, NATURITA: Catch up on 150 million years of archaeological, mining and pioneer heritage amid items donated by local citizens.



UNDERGROUND MINING MUSEUM, CREEDE: Learn about stoping, blacksmithing, mucking, blasting and assaying in the cool heart of the mountain.



NATIVE AMERICAN TRAIL

It's impossible to fully understand Colorado's origins without learning about and honoring the Native Americans who were the first inhabitants of this land. Follow this trail to visit several sites showcasing Native American history and culture dating back thousands of years.

In the southwest corner of Colorado, begin your journey at Canyons of the Ancients Visitor Center & Museum in Dolores to get the information you need for a visit to Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. This outdoor museum has more than 6,000 documented archaeological sites, some of which are from the 12th century. To the south is the Ute Mountain Tribal Park, offering an in-depth tour experience in which Ute tribal members interpret tribal culture, pictographs, cliff dwellings, surface ruins and artifacts. (Note that you must be accompanied by a Ute guide to enter.)

Next, travel to **Mesa Verde National Park** to see surface and cliff dwellings once inhabited by Ancestral Puebloans. East of Durango, stop at the **Southern Ute Museum** in **Ignacio**, a stunning and symbolic building celebrating the living history of Colorado's longest continuous residents with exhibitions, rare artifacts and recorded stories. Now press farther east toward Pagosa Springs to see Chimney Rock National Monument (above), a protected archaeological site and sacred place that continues to hold special significance for today's Native American peoples. Take a guided walking tour to view architectural structures including pit houses, great kivas and great houses.

At the **Ute Indian Museum** in **Montrose** the past connects with contemporary Ute life and culture through dioramas, rotating exhibits and hands-on programs. End the tour in **Delta** at **Fort Uncompahgre**, a site where Ute Indians and trappers once traded.

You can also retrace the historic **Cherokee Trail** in Colorado by following the self-guided
Cherokee Trail Auto Tour by car. This overland
trail was an important branch of the California
Trail used from the late 1840s through the 1890s.
Find out more at octa-trails.org.

TOP RIVERS FOR COLORADO WHITEWATER RAFTING

Each spring, gravity and sunshine draw Colorado's beloved winter snow down from the mountains 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.

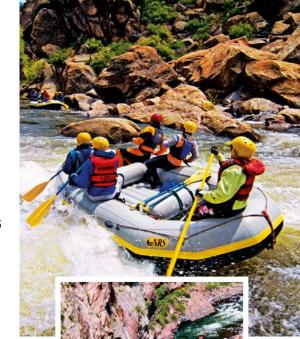
ARKANSAS RIVER Cutting through canyons and dropping 5,000 feet in the first 125 miles, the Arkansas is one of the nation's most popular rivers. From family-friendly Browns Canyon to boat-rocking Bighorn Sheep Canyon and Royal Gorge stretches, it runs through beautiful landscapes. Typical departure cities: 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. There are stretches that serve the daring and the 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 60.







ROYAL GORGE ZIP LINE RAFTING TOURS

FAMILY FRIENDLY (Ages 6+) COLORADO'S TOP RATED RAFT & ZIPLINE TOURS













ROYALGORGERAFTING.NET 719. 275. RAFT

45045 West US Hwy 50 Canon City CO, 81212 Only 1 hr from Colorado Springs, 2 hrs from Denver

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, raffing is safe and fun for people of nearly all ages and abilities. Discuss your group's comfort level with the raffing 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 raffing 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 POUDRE 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 cities: 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
- Uncompander River, Ridgway







With more than any other state, these parks are built for kayaking, canoeing, SUP-ing, river surfing 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.





SCENIC & HISTORIC TRAINS

Get off the beaten track in Colorado 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.

PIKES PEAK COG

RAILWAY After closing for track repairs, the world's highest cog railway reopens to visitors in spring 2021. The train climbs to the top of Pikes Peak, one of our best-known four-teeners. Bonus Tracks. At

feeners. Bonus Iracks: At the top of the tracks, the new Pikes Peak Summit House welcomes visitors with their famous fresh donuts, cocoa, souvenirs and views for days.

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 past mines and gorgeous scenery to an abandoned mining camp.

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 Coloradoraised slow-roasted prime rib, Red Bird Farms Pollo Marsala and a wellcurated wine list.

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 special trips on the Galloping Goose throughout the year, including sunlight dinner runs and fall-color excursions.

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 THE POLAR EXPRESS™ add a special flair to your ride throughout the year.

& SOUTHERN RAILROAD

This hairpin-turn-filled tour takes passengers 1,000 feet above the headwaters of the Arkansas River for unequaled views of the Continental Divide's jagged peaks. Bonus Tracks: Photography and nature buffs will adore the colorful wildflower and fall-foliage trains.

TRAINS THAT TRAVEL THROUGH COLORADO

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

RAILROAD MUSEUMS

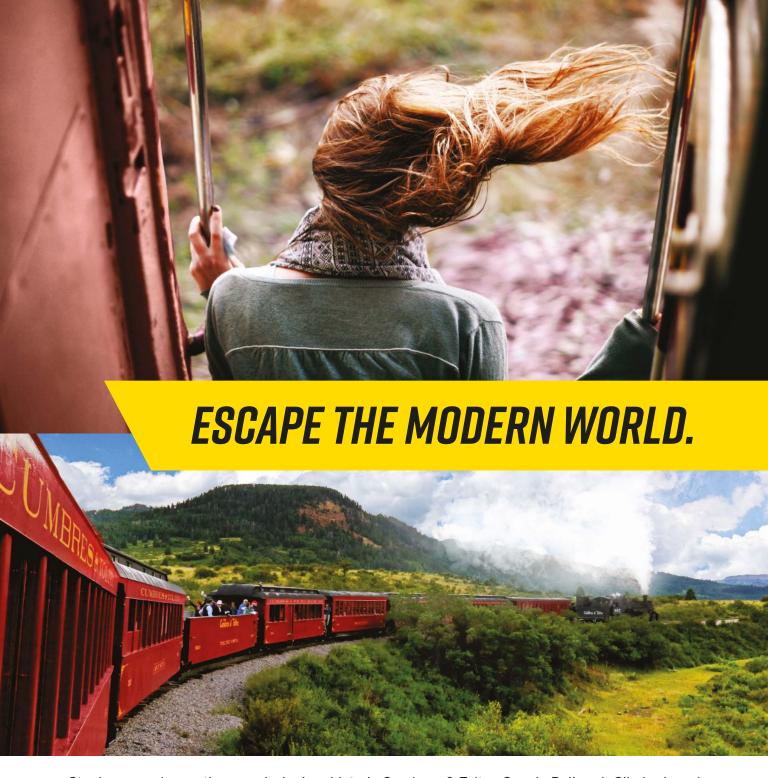
Get the inside track on how the railroads shaped Colorado.

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





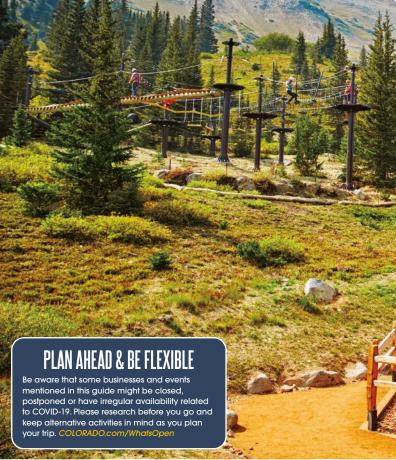




Steal away a day on the award-winning, historic Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad. Climb aboard and leave your worries behind. From the open air gondola to the breathtaking views from your private window, this is a scenic train ride unlike any other. Join us for a 64-mile day trip through the unspoiled Rocky Mountain West. Vibrant and beautiful as always. Depart from Antonito, Colorado or Chama, New Mexico. The modern world can wait until you're good and sooty and done.











ADVENTURE PARKS Whimsical worlds of gravity-defying ziplines and speedy alpine slides 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, Edge Ziplines & Adventures in Castle Rock, Pikes Peak Ziplines in Manitou Springs, AVA Cliffside Zipline in Idaho Springs and Denver Zipline Tours. COLORADO. com/AdventureParks

MUSEUMS See colossal dinos at the Royal Gorge Dinosaur Experience in Cañon City; investigate altitude at The Children's Museum Denver Marisco Campus; learn about foraging at the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery; become a maker at the Museum of Boulder; create a masterpiece at the Buell Children's Museum in Pueblo; or dare to dream in the Space Shuttle Simulator at Grand Junction's Eureka! McConnel Science 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 ice skating to horsedrawn sleigh rides and kidcentered ski and snowboard programs, giggle-inducing activities can be found on and off the slopes. Slide down a snowy hill on a bouncy tube, then ride the lift to the top to do it again in Fraser, Breckenridge, Frisco, Keystone, Vail, Copper, Snowmass, Winter Park, Durango, Steamboat, Pagosa Springs, Grand Junction, Winter Park, Silverton, Telluride and Beaver Creek; or skate amid gorgeous winter landscapes at ice rinks all over the state. See page 19 for more ideas. COLORADO.com/WinterRec

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 60 miles per hour at Water World and Elitch 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 The North Pole Home of Santa's Workshop in Colorado Springs. COLORADO. com/AmusementParks

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: REYSTONE SKI RESORTS, VAIL RESORTS, GLENWOOD CAVERNS ADVENTURE PARK, JACK AFFLECK; FOR COTT COLLING MINSELIM OF DISCOVEDY: BOLCHOLD AT BESCHENBINGE VAIL DESCORTS AND EMPCHINE





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





HISTORIC ATTRACTIONS

Well-preserved landmarks and captivating museums bring the past to life, when Native Americans, pioneers and fortune-seekers made our state what it is today. Gain an understanding of the arduous work undertaken by miners at Old Hundred Gold Mine in Silverton or Last Chance Mine in Creede; ride the rails of the Cumbres & Toltec in Antonito or the Georgetown Loop; 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 54 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 east 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





Mountain Adventures in Granby

Experience the best of both worlds at River Run, where the rugged outdoors meets upscale accommodations and amenities.

Summit Bar & Grill • Headwaters Tavern • Glacier Lanes Mini Bowling Alley • Sport Court Complex Event Lawn & Amphitheater • Elk Ridge Ballroom • Yoga Lawn

Located minutes from Rocky Mountain National Park, Winter Park & Grand Lake

RiverRunRVResort.com • (888) 297-0640

3 CRESTONE CASITAS, CRESTONE

Recharge in a casita flanked by a burbling creek, lush gardens and 40 acres of wooded forest. An outdoor kitchen, swinging chair and fluttering butterflies all provide the perfect backdrop to relax.

4 HIGHLAND HAVEN CREEKSIDE INN, EVERGREEN

Delivering rustic romance, cottages, suites and rooms offer all the amenities — from fireplaces to hot tubs and remarkable views. Book the TreeHouse hideaway for its bedazzled chandelier.

5 THE CLIFF HOUSE, MANITOU SPRINGS

Welcoming guests for nearly 150 years, this opulent resort is a Pikes Peak crown jewel. You'll enjoy luxe late 1800s decor with modern features, like gas fireplaces and spa tubs. Stop by the Dining Room for its ample wine selection.

6 4 EAGLE RANCH, WOLCOTT

Go ranchin' on 1,100 acres near Vail, where you can choose from horseback riding, ziplining, a wild game of paintball and other activities. The refurbished Homestead House features a two-sided fireplace or you can claim a Creekside Cabin for its glorious Sawatch mountain views.

7 VEGA STATE PARK, COLLBRAN

Head off the grid with a cabin or campground stay on the Grand Mesa's edge. You'll choose this recreation-laden spot for its high-elevation lake, aspen-filled views and flower-flecked meadows. You can fish, hike or simply relax in beautiful Mother Nature.

17 COOL COLORADO PLACES TO STAY

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

8 NIWOT INN & SPA, NIWOT

Just 10 minutes from downtown Boulder, this luxurious B&B is big on relaxation — you'll love sipping Colorado wine near the floor-to-ceiling fireplace or chilling on the deck with its bubbling fountain.

9 THE WYMAN HOTEL, SILVERTON

You'll come for the Wild West ambiance, but you'll stay for The Wyman's tall picture windows and modern appeal. Found right on Main Street, this landmark building was formerly a mercantile, gas station and lodging hall.

10 THE HOTEL DENVER, GLENWOOD SPRINGS

Built in 1915, this grand hotel features one-of-a-kind rooms steeped in Colorado history. With its original brick walls and warm-and-cozy lighting, you'll feel comfortably relaxed after a toasty hot-springs dip.

11 CASA AZUL, VILLA GROVE

An artistic retreat is all you need to get those creative juices flowing. Play with some clay, then retire to the homey, Southwest-style guest house filled with artsy decorand a full kitchen. Your work will be kiln-fired overnight.

12 GATEWAY CANYONS RESORT & SPA, GATEWAY

This stylish resort found near Unaweep Canyon will have you ready for anything: pampering at the spa, ATV-ing the winding trails or even unearthing dino bones. Dine indoors or under the stars, then retreat to your private suite for a steaming soak in the hot tub.

13 ARMSTRONG HOTEL, FORT COLLINS

Welcoming visitors for nearly a century, this newly renovated FoCo gem is loved just as much for its comfy rooms as for its beloved Ace Gillett's Lounge (serving up cocktails and live music). An on-site deli and a coffee shop round out its convenient Old Town offerings.

14 MOUNTAIN COMFORT BED & BREAKFAST, ALMA

Escape to this high-country hideaway for peak-strewn views and lots of tranquility. You'll like its expansive deck, private soaking tubs and a cornucopia of delicious breakfast casseroles and French toast in the morning.

15 SURF HOTEL, BUENA VISTA

Overlooking Buena Vista Whitewater Park, this Euro-style hotel joins adventure with quiet luxury. Try your hand at paddling, then hoof it to nearby restaurants, all the while enjoying those rugged Collegiate Peaks views.

16 TARABINO INN, TRINIDAD

Bedecked in Victorian-era flourishes and full of charming antiques, you'll step back in time at the Tarabino. The ruby-red B&B in a National Historic District is walkable to shops, galleries, museums and restaurants.

17 THE DISTILLERY INN, CARBONDALE

You can "sleep with the stills" at Marble Distillery Co.'s connected boutique inn. Sample an array of artisanal spirits at the on-site tasting room before retiring to one of five luxury suites, all dog friendly, with private fireplaces.

1 HOSTEL FISH, DENVER

With indie vibes and skyscraper views, this upscale hostel delivers both private and communal rooms. Bunk here to foster travel friendships and join fun tours, pub crawls and more.

2 GARDEN OF THE GODS RESORT & CLUB, COLORADO SPRINGS

After a day on the greens at the resort's Kissing Camels Golf Club, links lovers can stay overnight. Delight in a juicy steak at the scenic Grand View Dining Room before retiring to your well-appointed casita with views of Pikes Peak.

WANT MORE? CHECK OUT COLORADO.COM/LODGING AND BLOG.COLORADO.COM FOR MORE COOL PLACES.

1 DENVER

SEE & DO: Denver Art Museum, History Colorado Center, Rockies 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: Soul food at CoraFaye's Cafe, Dole Whip at Sweet Sweetz

MORE: See page 94.

2 AURORA

SEE & DO: Numerous public golf courses; Stanley Marketplace's restaurants and shops; the R Line Public Art Tour

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 ethnic eateries, like Seoul Korean BBQ, Masalaa South Indian cuisine, Mason's Dumpling Shop and Third Culture Bakery

MORE: See page 100.



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.

3 LAKEWOOD

SEE & DO: 40 West Certified Creative Arts District; dining and shopping at Belmar; Red Rocks Park & **Amphitheatre**

GET AROUND: Light rail W Line

GRAB A BITE: Local brews at Westrail Tap and Grill, tacos at Los Chingones

MORE: See page 100.

4 COLORADO SPRINGS

SEE & DO: Pikes Peak and Garden of the Gods; U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum; boutiqueing downtown

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

GRAB A BITE: Cocktails and charcuterie at Cork



toric District; top breweries like Equinox Brewing; Horsetooth Reservoir for stand-up paddleboarding

GET AROUND: Transfort network; FLEX regional bus, Fort Collins Trolley

GRAB A BITE: Monte Cristos and meatloaf at Union Bar & Soda Fountain

MORE: See page 144.

6 PUEBLO

SEE & DO: Historic Arkansas Riverwalk for boat rides and summer movie nights; Neon Allev at night; navigate the Creative Corridor

GET AROUND: Pueblo Transit buses

GRAB A BITE: Famous Pueblo green-chile patties at Bingo Burger

MORE: See page 160.

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: Rocky Mountain-style salmon at Bent Fork the grill

MORE: See page 144.

8 GREELEY

SEE & DO: Weekly Friday Fests all summer; year-round Union Pacific Railroad Depot Farmer's Market; Greeley Ice Haus public skating sessions

GET AROUND: Greeley-**Evans Transit buses**

GRAB A BITE: Colorado rack of lamb at Chimnev Park, Colorado poutine at Lonesome Buck Brewina Co

MORE: See page 144.



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

GRAB A BITE: Mayerick Burger at Bin Burger MORE: See page 152.



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

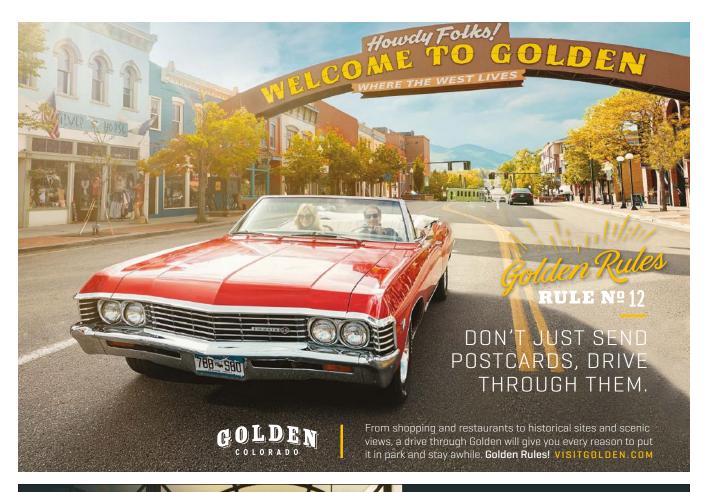
GRAB A BITE:

Squashacado tacos at Jefes Tacos & Tequila, Farm House Hash at Longmont Public House

MORE: See page 171.

WINERY OUTSIDE GRAND JUNCTION; BENSON SCULPTURE GA EWHOP TROLLEY IN LONGMONT; BINGO BURGER IN PUEBLO;

SEE MORE AT COLORADO.COM/URBAN.





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Dine out.
Take out.
Help out.

For more information about the Colorado Restaurant Association visit: corestaurant.org

HIT THE JACKPOT

Eat, Play, Stay & Explore Beyond the Casino Doors

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

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

Central City and Black Hawk visitors tempt Lady Luck at limited-stakes blackjack, craps, roulette and poker tables as well as slot and video machines in 22 casinos, and 500 new hotel rooms are opening 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, a variety of casinos are within convenient walking distance, so you can try out different venues with ease.

In 2020, sports betting came to several casinos — making them an excellent spot to catch a game and make a wager.

Each destination offers fine dining, luxurious hotels, historic mine tours and, most importantly, authentic slices of history. Casino revenue has helped preserve and restore the towns' 19th-century charms and more than 600 other historic properties across Colorado.

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

COLORADO.com/Casinos











FOUR CORNERS REGION

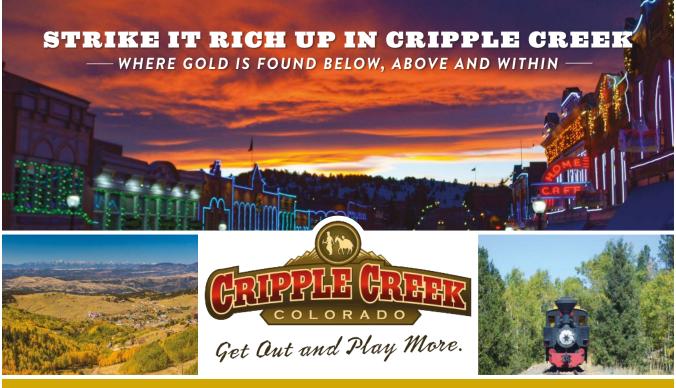
Both of Colorado's Native American gaming areas are found near the history-rich Four Corners region in the southwestern part of the state.

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 and historic byway and Canyons of the Ancients National Monument beckon gamers on a break.

It's easy to stay here awhile; Sky Ute has a hotel on site, as well as four dining options, big-name acts and entertainment, that includes 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.





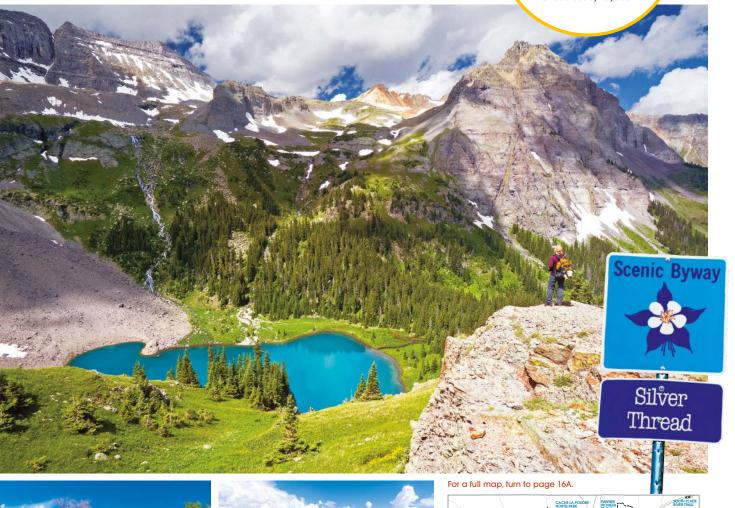
WE ARE RICH IN BEAUTY, RICH IN EXCITEMENT, RICH IN ADVENTURE, AND RICH IN HISTORY. — VisitCrippleCreek.com —

ON THE ROAD IN COLORADO

Scenic & Historic Byways Lead to Discovery

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











WANT MORE? VISIT COLORADOBYWAYS.COM TO SEE TRAVEL ITINERARIES, TIPS, PHOTOS AND VIDEOS FOR EACH BYWAY.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: SAN JUAN SKYWAY, TONY LITSCHEW TRALL OF THE ANOCIENTS, MILES/CLEAR IMAGE.

FRANCE PRONEFER TRAILS, MILES/CANDIPEA BILIPOLI A BANNER PRONEFER TRAILS, MILES/CANDIPEA BILIPOLI IA

NAME	MAIN TOWNS ALONG ROUTE	DISTANCE	DRIVING TIME (RECOMMENDED)	RECOMMENDED SEASONS	NATIONAL PARKS/ MONUMENTS/ GRASSLAND	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 POUDRE- 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		See 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.

^{* 4}WD Needed for Portions



9 WAYS WE 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.





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

CO mo

so vast and varied that a map is a downright necessity. For much more, download the COTREX (Colorado Trail Explorer) app.



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. *dtdapps.coloradodot.info/bike*



If you prefer sightseeing to pedaling, electric bikes offer a little boost. Rent one at Pioneer Sports in Frisco, Colorado E Bike in Grand Junction, BV eBikes rentals in Buena Vista, Rapid Creek Cycles in Palisade, Roll Electric in Durango, JUMP bike share and Pedego in Denver, Rocky Mountain Adventure Rentals in Vail, Ted's Bicycles in Colorado Springs, Boulder Cycle Sport, Trek Bicycle Montrose and many other spots — some will even deliver them to wherever you're staying.





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.), Venus de Miles (Aug.), Copper Triangle Bicycle Tour (Aug.), SBT GRVL (Aug.) in Steamboat, and September's Pedal the Plains and West Elk Bicycle Classic. COLORADO.com/Events



Connection rides between cities are welltraveled 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 — and then consider tackling the Palisade Plunge, which connects the town with the top of the Grand Mesa along 32 miles of sweet backcountry singletrack. For a more intense challenge: The San Juan Hut System connects Telluride or Durango to Gateway or Paradox.



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. Speaking of gold ... The Aspen Snowmass / Roaring Fork Valley Gold-Level IMBA Ride Center, which includes terrain in Basalt, Carbondale and Glenwood Springs, is one of only seven in the world.



BIKE SHARES & LIBRARIES

Denver and Boulder's bike-sharing programs have placed dozens of bike stations and hundreds of 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. Colorado Springs Pike-Ride runs a similar program, and there are also programs in Aurora, Avon, Golden, Longmont, Buena Vista, Aspen and Basalt.



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, Yefi Cycles in Golden, REEB in Lyons and many others.



Gravel riding is basically riding bikes on dirt roads. The main attraction for many cyclists is the minimal car traffic and the sense of freedom and adventure. Dedicated gravel bikes are a thing, but are not required — some riders prefer standard road bikes, others mountain bikes. Hundreds of miles of dirt roads make Colorado this trend's hottest spot. Ask your nearest bike shop where the best places to get on gravel are — chances are there's plenty nearby.

WANT MORE? COLORADO.COM/CYCLING

PICK-YOUR-PASSION ITINERARIES

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





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,

STOPS:

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Geothermal springs that dot the landscape have long been revered by Native Americans and pioneers. Today, two offer memorable afternoons for the family or leisurely post-hiking and post-skiing soaks.

2 BUENA VISTA & SALIDA From historic and rustic to stateof-the-art spa facilities, options here are vast and cradled along the Continental Divide in towns bustling with outdoor

3 PAGOSA SPRINGS These mineral-rich waters are the world's deepest geothermal

recreationists.

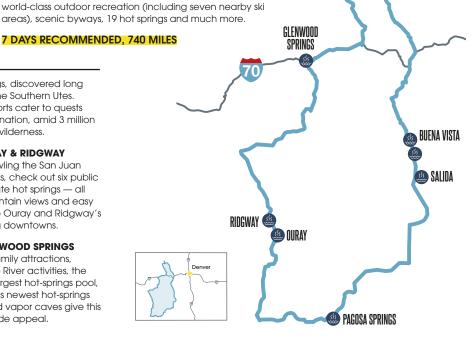
hot springs, discovered long ago by the Southern Utes. Three resorts cater to quests for rejuvenation, amid 3 million acres of wilderness.

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.

6 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.



WANT MORE? COLORADO.COM/30HOTSPRINGS

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS

Colorado's National Heritage Areas show off the natural beauty and Western history our state is known for and represent Colorado's many contributions to the nation's diverse heritage.



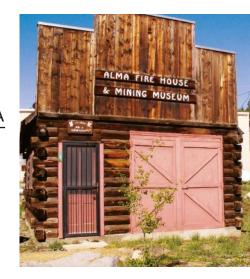
SOUTH PARK NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

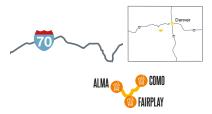
26 MILES

The highest incorporated town in the U.S., **Alma** sits at 10,361 feet and tells the stories of South Park's past in its cemetery.

Slumber in Roberts Cabin in **Como**, a primitive structure dating back to the town's 1880s railroad era. Tucked into the base of Boreas Pass, it provides unparalleled views of the Front Range mountains.

Stroll down **Fairplay**'s Front and Main streets — historic storefronts house intimate galleries, shops and restaurants. South Park City offers an insight into the Gold Rush with more than 40 buildings filled with period furnishings and equipment.





CACHE LA POUDRE RIVER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

40 MILES

Walk or bike the Poudre River Trail, a 31-mile paved path along the river from **Greeley** to **Windsor**. Keep your eyes peeled for porcupines and foxes. Investigate the history of Greeley from 1860 to 1920 at the Centennial Village Museum.

Explore Arapaho Bend Natural Area near **Fort Collins** to see the ruins of the historic Strauss Cabin, one of the earliest log cabins in the area. Tour Fort Collins 1883 Water Works, which housed the area's first pump houses and supplied water to the city until 1905.

Look for Colorado's state mammal — the bighorn sheep — on the Cache la Poudre – North Park scenic byway, which runs between Fort Collins, through **Bellvue** and on west to **Walden**. Embrace your wild side at Lory State Park, outside Bellvue, where rocky hills and emerald valleys supply a paradise for backcountry lovers.



SANGRE DE CRISTO NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

142 MILES

Hop on the Los Caminos Antiguos scenic byway to travel through the center of the San Luis Valley to the summit of breath-stealing La Manga Pass. Start with a sand-board ride down the tallest dunes on the continent at Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve.

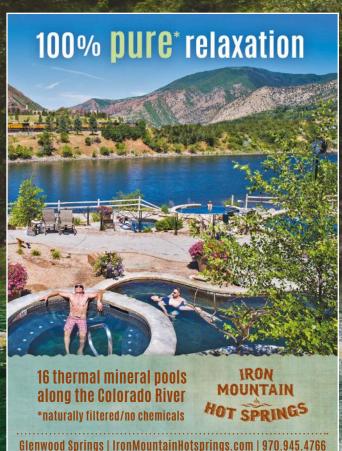
Continue to San Luis State Wildlife Area, where you can experience a Colorado desert ecosystem complete with elk and coyotes. Spot sandhill cranes at Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge near **Alamosa**. In March and September, more than 20,000 stop on their migration route.

Learn about Colorado's oldest continuous residents, the Utes, at the San Luis Valley Museum and see the state's oldest city in San Luis. Then climb aboard the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, an 1880 narrow-gauge line that journeys between **Antonito**, Colorado, and Chama, New Mexico, daily.

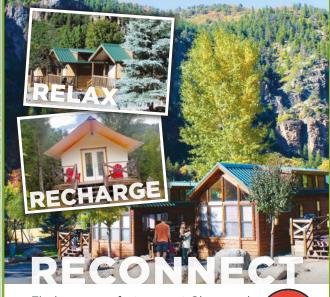




SEE MORE AT COLORADO.COM/NATIONALHERITAGEAREAS.



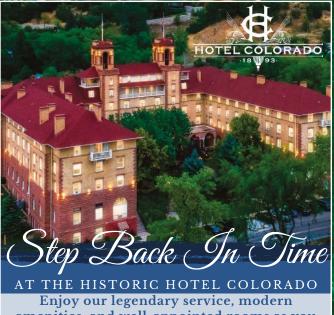




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HOTSPRINGSPOOL.COM



WONDER ALONG THE WANDERLOOP

Let wanderlust take over your body on Wanderloop, which connects Colorado's diverse landscapes in four national parks and a national monument. From dense forests to golden mesas to epic gorges, each is unique, so you really must see them all. Take your time along the route, making sure to explore the top picks and discover your own paradise at every stop. They won't disappoint, and you'll want to come back year after year.

10 DAYS RECOMMENDED; 750 MILES



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

STOPS:

• ROCKY MOUNTAIN

NATIONAL PARK One of the
most popular national parks in
the U.S., Rocky is a postcard in
every direction. Daybreak is the
best time to explore its stunning
see-through lakes, sweeping
meadows and dew-spritzed
forests. Top picks: Drive Trail
Ridge Road (summer only),
hike/snowshoe to Chasm Falls,
peek in on the elk heard in
Moraine Park

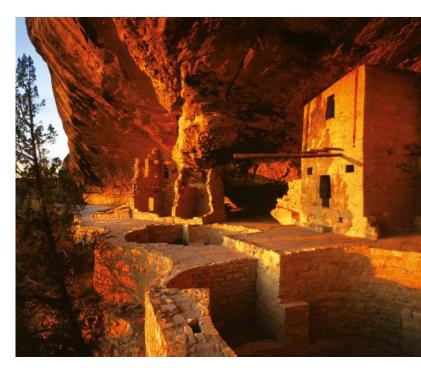
2) GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE Nestled in a spot where the Sangre de Cristo Mountains buckle inward, the highest mountains of sand in North America have been building and shifting for eons — the result of the San Luis Valley's unique wind patterns. Top picks: Sled or sandboard down the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

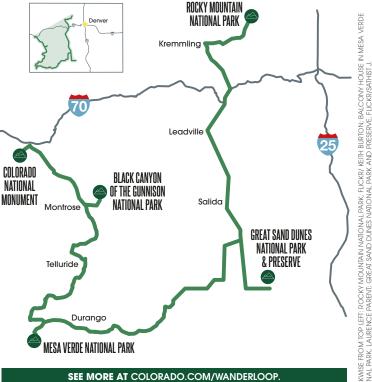
4 BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON NATIONAL PARK

Sheer black walls plummet almost 2,700 feet on this 53-mile stretch of narrow gorge, revealing millions of years of natural history and so named because the walls are often shrouded in shadows, making them appear black. Toppicks: Go Gold Medal fishing,

picks: Go Gold Medal fishing, see more on a Morrow Point boat tour, take in a dark-sky stargazing ranger program

6 COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT Gravity-defying boulders, tunnels carved of stone and red-rock canyons within a canyon define this precipitous-walled landscape. The monument's 32 square miles of quiet, wild country have an otherworldly feel — so much so, in fact, road-bikers nicknamed its Rim Rock Drive "Tour of the Moon." Top picks: Roll along the 23-mile road stopping at the 19 scenic overlooks, spot the Independence Monument, backcountry camp under the stars







NATIONAL PARK, LAUREN

STARE AT THE STARS

In Colorado, we like to leave our worries behind and stare into space. No really, with high elevation and low humidity, you'll find some of the best stargazing spots in the world here.

4 DAYS RECOMMENDED: 440 MILES

GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE

The fun doesn't stop when the sun goes down at Great Sand Dunes. Align your visit with a moonless night to observe millions of stars thanks to the park's high elevation and little light pollution.

2 CRESTONE For a mystical experience, head north to Crestone, which has become a spiritual mecca in recent years. Pair your stargazing adventures with mineral-rich soaking and spa treatments at Joyful Journey Hot Springs.

3 CREEDE Drive into the Rio Grande National Forest and stop in Creede, a small town surrounded by 900 square miles of Western wilderness and open sky. Take scenic drives like Pool Table Road and The Bachelor Loop Historic Tour for some of this area's best viewing spots.

4 LAKE CITY Located in the most remote county in the lower 48 states, Lake City is the ideal place for watching the night sky and leaving civilization behind. Stop at the Windy Point Observation Site and stargaze from your tent at Wupperman Campground at Lake San Cristobal.

5 WESTCLIFFE & SILVER CLIFF

Between the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and the Wet Mountains, Westcliffe and Silver Cliff's latitude make for dramatic views in every direction. Visit the Smokey Jack Observatory in Bluff Park for an exceptional stargazing experience with some of the most powerful telescopes in the world.

6 LA VETA The Southern Colorado Astronomical Park offers ancient and modern ways to gaze at the stars. The rural town's extraordinary geological formations and dark skies also make it a favorite spot for photographers.

7 CUCHARA Farther south on CO 12 is Cuchara, a charming mountain village with gorgeous views and multiple places to spend the night staring at the skies including Bear Lake Campground and Blue Lake Campground.

TRIPS
2001TINERARIES & COUNTING
Be sure to visit
COLORADO.com/
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WANT MORE? COLORADO.COM/COLORADOSTARGAZING



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 very 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 Craia 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.

SOUTH CENTRAL



WANT MORE? COLORADO.COM/SNOWMOBILING



SAN LUIS VALLEY: 110 MILES

Make **Saguache** your central hub and fan out to three unique destinations each day. The first is **Upper Crossing Guard Station**, a cabin along an old stagecoach route. Day two, work your way to **North Crestone Creek Campground** near **Crestone**, where a gentle, shady slope keeps snow fresh for days. Finish your snowy weekend at **Brewery Creek Guard Station** west of **Villa Grove**, where you'll see remnants of an old silver mine town.

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 Ashcroff 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: 120 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 any time 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. South of Walden in Oak Creek, Stagecoach State Park, rainbow trout and northern pike are always biting.

CENTRAL: 63 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. Upstream on **Tarryall Reservoir**, rainbows and cutbows await.



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

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.

(a) 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 U.S. 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.

♠ 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.

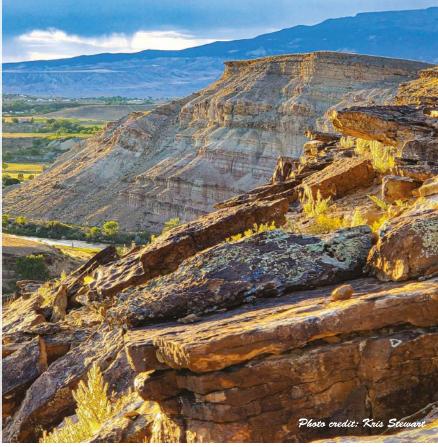


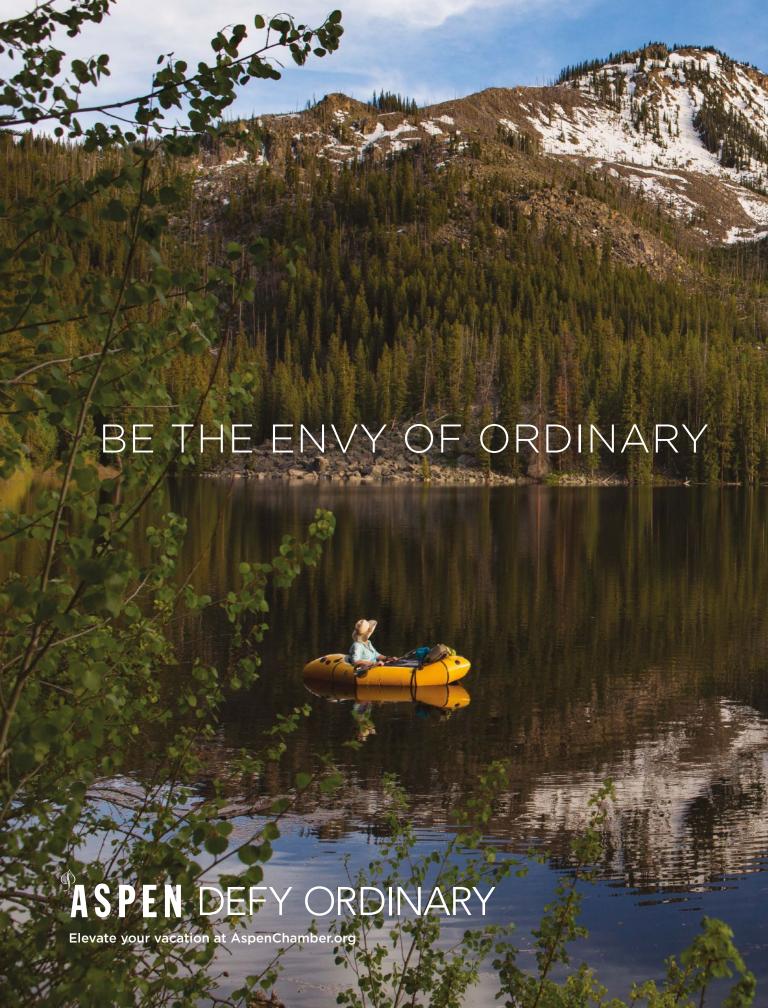




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ASPEN

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COLORADO REGIONS

These regions can help you choose a Colorado destination — though you shouldn't be discouraged from criss-crossing between them! 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 play on and off the slopes and enjoy best-in-class comforts in welcoming mountain towns around every corner.

7 MYSTIC SAN LUIS VALLEY

This is 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

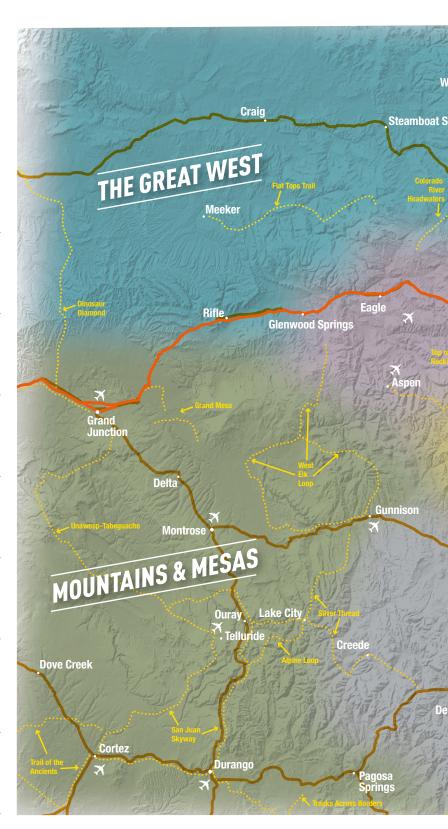
Find a blend of urban comforts, accessible (though not completely tamed) natural landmarks and a true reflection of the Western way of life. Here you'll have the option to sit back and relax or kick up some adventure.

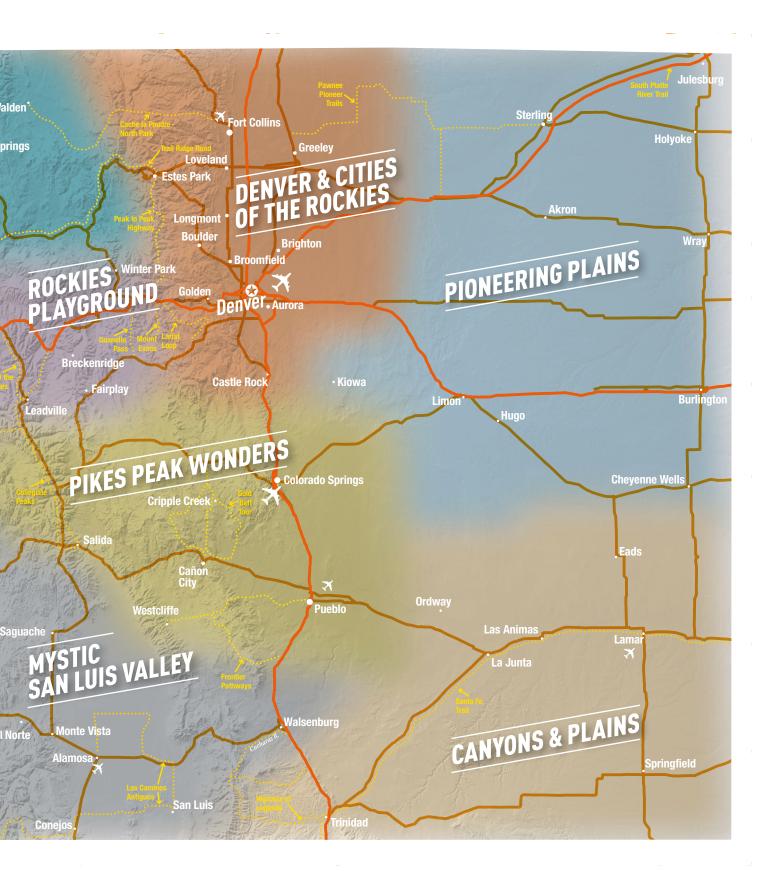
DENVER & CITIES OF THE ROCKIES

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 NUMBER

These stats are just a hint of the discoveries awaiting you in each region. Turn to the itineraries on pages 92-181 for all the specifics needed to get you moving around the state.



National Monument

9 State Parks Colorado Welcome 4 Center Scenic

Byways 4 Ski Resorts

Certified Creative

Districts

National Wildlife Refuges

> 4 **Hot Springs**

Ghost Town

Birding Trails

International Dark Sky **Places**

Breweries/

Wineries/

Distilleries*

8

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



State Parks

3 Scenic

Byways

Certified Creative Districts

Colorado Welcome Center

13 Ski Resorts

4 **Ghost Towns**

explore the Rockies Playground more.

National Historic Landmark 31

Breweries/

Wineries/

Distilleries*

3

Gold Rush

Towns

3

Birding Trails

19 14ers

> 4 **Hot Springs**

Scenic &

Historic Trains Look for this icon in the itineraries that follow for ways to



National Park

1 State Park

> 3 Scenic Byways

1 **Ghost Town** Colorado Welcome Center

National Wildlife Refuges

Birding Trails

National Historic Landmarks

> 10 14ers

4 **Hot Springs**

Scenic & Historic Trains

Breweries/ Wineries*

International Dark Sky **Places**



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



2 State Parks

> 2 Scenic Byways

National Grassland

Certified Creative District

Colorado Welcome Centers

5 **National** Historic Landmarks/ Sites

Breweries/ Wineries*

6 **Birding Trails**



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



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

Distilleries*

Look for this icon in the itineraries that follow for ways to

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

explore Denver & Cities of the Rockies more.



2 National Monuments

6

State Parks

Scenic

Byways

Ski Resort

Certified Creative Districts

> **5** Ghost Towns

3National
Historic
Landmarks

13 14ers

6 Hot Springs

3 Scenic & Historic Trains

> Gaming Town

52Breweries/
Wineries/
Distilleries*

Gold Rush Town

4Birding Trails

International Dark Sky Places



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



2 National Parks

5 National

National Monuments

State Parks

9 Scenic Byways 7 Certified Creative Districts

2 Colorado Welcome Centers

10

Ski Resorts/ Areas

10 Ghost Towns 6 National Historic Landmarks

13 14ers

11 Hot Springs

Scenic & Historic Train 12 Birding Trails

Gaming

Towns

75

Breweries/

Wineries/

Distilleries

5 International Dark Sky Places

COLORADO MONTANAS A MESAS

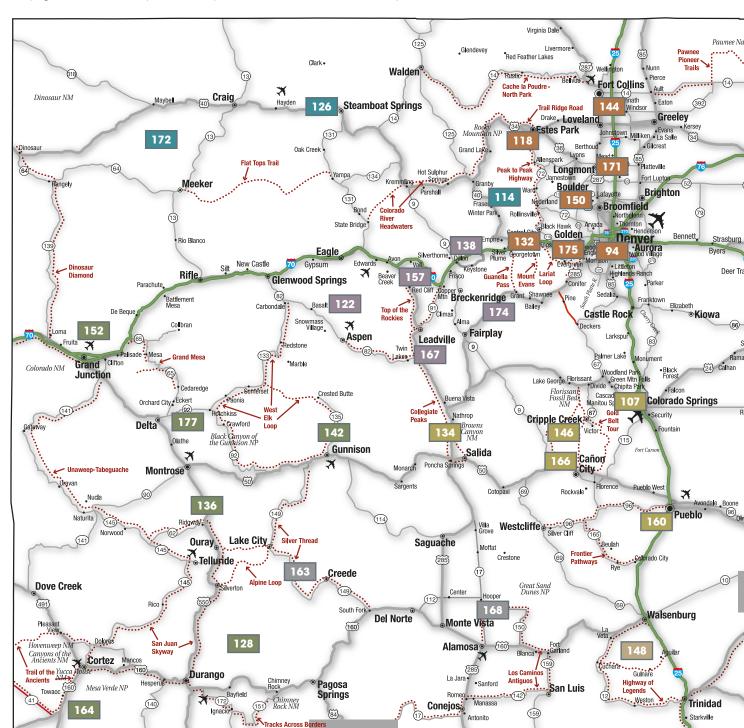
Look for this icon in the itineraries that follow for ways to explore Mountains & Mesas more.

COLORADO TRAVEL ITINERARIES

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

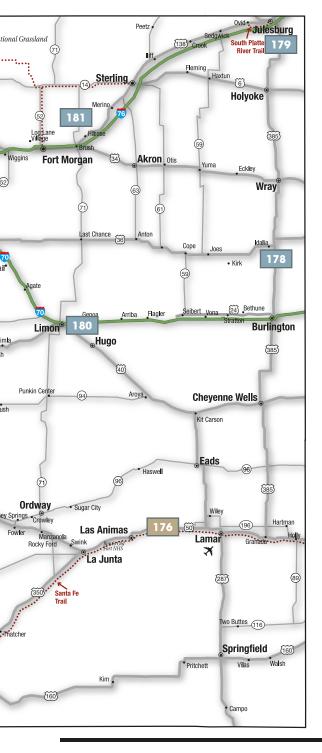
The page numbers on the map below correspond to articles on that area and nearby destinations.





PLAN AHEAD & BE FLEXIBLE

Be aware that some businesses and events mentioned in this guide might be closed, postponed or have irregular availability related to COVID-19. Please research before you go and keep alternative activities in mind as you plan your trip.



THE GREAT WEST

- 114 A Grand Time in Grand County: Winter Park, Grand Lake, Granby, Kremmling, Fraser & Hot Sulphur Springs
- 126 Hot Springs, Moose & Western Living in Steamboat Springs & North Park
- 172 Colorado's Cowboy Country: Dinosaur, Maybell, Craig, Meeker & Rangely

- ROCKIES PLAYGROUND

- 122 Escape to Nature in the Roaring Fork Valley: Glenwood Springs, Carbondale, Basalt, Aspen & Snowmass
- 138 Summit County Retreat:
 Breckenridge, Silverthorne,
 Frisco, Dillon, Keystone &
 Copper Mountain
- 157 Playing & Pampering in Vail, Beaver Creek, Avon, Minturn & Eagle
- 167 Cruising Elevation: Leadville & Twin Lakes
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MYSTIC SAN LUIS VALLEY

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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 several bike- and scooter-share programs.

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, tour 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 at a bike-share station. 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. Before you go, check out their online "Early African-American History in Colorado" exhibit and then seek out related artifacts when you're there.

AFTFRNOON

Seek out one of Denver's Certified Colorado
Creative Districts, the
Golden Triangle (see p.
48 for the others). Steps
from History Colorado
Center, it's also home to
the Denver Public Library,
Denver Art Museum and
the Kirkland Museum of
Fine & Decorative Art.

Next stop: Cherry Creek
(3), 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

In the spring and summer it's the Colorado Rockies and the Colorado Rapids; September to January, the Denver Broncos; and from October to June, the Denver Nuggets and Colorado Avalanche (5).

The only thing that brings out more Denver

passion than sports is beer. Sample some at Great Divide, Jagged Mountain, FlyteCo, Dos Luces or Denver Beer Co. (4) 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, Leopold Bros., Ironton or Archetype. For crafty cocktails on the down-low, check out the Green Russell, Retrograde, B&CG and Millers & Rossi speakeasles. For a sip of a different kind, the new Colorado Sake Co. tasting room has 12 flavors on tap (we like Green Machine).

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

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Aurora (page 182), Arvada, Brighton, Castle Rock (page 183), Centennial, Commerce City, Denver (page 184), Englewood, Evergreen (page 185), Federal Heights (page 185), Glendale, Golden, Greenwood Village, Highlands Ranch, Lakewood, Littleton, Morrison (page 188), Parker, Roxborough, Sedalia (page 189), Thornton, Wheat Ridge

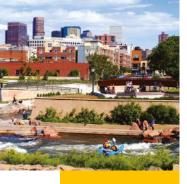




Grab a la carte lunch at Avanti Food & Beverage, spend an afternoon at the Tattered Cover Book Store, tour the State Capitol, visit MCA Denver Tuesday–Friday after 5pm.



Dine at The Wolf's Tailor, TAG, El Five or Work & Class; see a Broadway show at Denver Performing Arts Complex; dig dessert at D Bar.



STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

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OUTSIDE IN THE CITY: GET OUTDOORS IN DENVE

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 a bike-share program or a local rental shop — then 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.

\$AVE

CONFLUENCE PARK, VISIT DENVER.

Work those quads with a hike up the steps at Red Rocks Amphitheatre in the morning.

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Return in the evening for an unforgettable show under the stars.

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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 Meow Wolf's Kaleidoscope ride make the nation's only downtown theme park a must visit.



BLACK AMERICAN WEST MUSEUM & HERITAGE CENTER

Nearly a third of the pioneers who helped settle Colorado in the late 1800s were Black. These miners, ranchers, teachers, blacksmiths and lawmen were a major part of the Wild West. See the stories of these residents brought to life.



WATER WORLD One of the biggest and best water parks in the nation, with acres of refreshing summertime fun. With nearly 50 rides and adventures, there's something for all ages.



BUTTERFLY PAVILION

1,600 free-flying butterflies make their home at this one-of-a-kind spot in nearby Westminster, fluttering around visitors in a recreation of a tropical rainforest.



THE WILD ANIMAL

SANCTUARY This 10,400-acre rescue/educational facility 30 miles outside of Denver is home to more than 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.

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.

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.

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**. Have close encounters with sharks, sea turtles, stingrays and even Sumatran tigers as they swim in more than a million adlons 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, Ruby Hill Mountain Bike Park and Progresh are a few to scope out.

End your first day on the 16th Street Mall, a milelong promenade and one of the city's most visited attractions. It's a great spot for dinner, with plentylof 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 (1)**. One of the nation's most popular



STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Aurora (page 182), Arvada, Brighton, Castle Rock (page 183), Centennial, Commerce City, Denver (page 184), Englewood, Evergreen (page 185), Federal Heights (page 185), Glendale, Golden, Greenwood Village, Highlands Ranch, Lakewood, Littleton, Morrison (page 188), Parker, Roxborough, Sedalia (page 189), Thornton, Wheat Ridge

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: ISTOCKPHOTO; DENVER ZOC BUTTERFLY PAVILION; WATER WORLD; BLACK AMERICAN WES



zoos, this adventure in City Park takes visitors on a globe-trotting safari. The new stingray and shark habitat, Stingray Cove, allows visitors to interact with safe-to-touch species. Plan ahead to Bunk with the Beasts (in-the-zoo sleepovers) or participate in up-close animal encounters like penguin feedings and rhino encounters.

Pack a picnic lunch and spread out in **City Park**, the largest in Denver, with 330 acres of refreshing green space and an abundance of fresh-air activities. Find a spot in the area around Ferril Lake to take in the best views of Denver's skyline and the Rocky Mountains.

Museum options for today include the **Denver Museum of Nature & Science (4)**, also in City Park, to see enormous dinosaur skeletons, watch an IMAX feature or see the new *After the Asteroia: Earth's Comeback Story* exhibit. 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 Create Playdates, gallery games and Create-N-Takes — and it's always free for kids 18 and under.

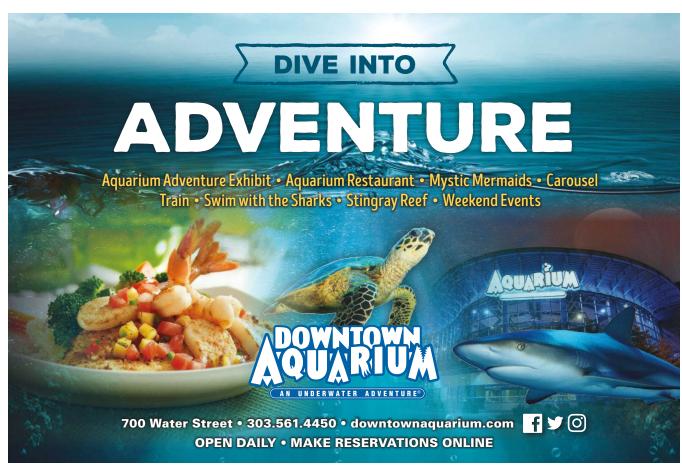
The Denver Center for the Performing Arts hosts many kid-friendly events, including the Colorado Symphony's Family Series (Halloween Spooktacular and Drums of the Word are faves), as well as Movies at the Symphony, when the scores are performed during screenings of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," "Disney Pixar's Coco" and more.

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 arcade), Ace Eat Serve (Southeast Asian food and pingpong hall), Cherry Cricket (two locations) and Little Man Ice Cream (3).





2 DAYS OF DENVER **ARTS & CULTURE**

Explore the street-art scene covering buildings and other canvases in neighborhoods like RiNo (including several new ones) (1), the Highlands, South Broadway, Westwood 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 this year. 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 Bia 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-foottall 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. Of special note is the museum's collection of the indigenous arts of North America, representing the artistic works of nearly every tribe across the U.S. from prehistoric times to the present. Stay for lunch at one of two new restaurants, including a collaboration with celebrated chef Jennifer Jasinski called The Ponti.

Visit the Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art

(4) in the former studio of Vance Kirkland, one of Colorado's most distinguished painters, now located in the art-rich Golden Triangle 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, aalleries and creative businesses make it a Certified Colorado Creative District. Stop in at the Museo de las Americas (2), a unique museum highlighting traditional and contemporary Latino art and culture.

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 Coloradocentric books. Pop into the cafe for a quick, cheap breakfast, strong coffee, fresh pastries and breakfast sandwiches.

Nearby, walk into Union Hall, a free arts exhibition space where something interesting is always on

display and poetry readings, live music and other events are likely to be on tap during your visit.

Just around the corner sits 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 aarden, cafe and bar above the hustle of down town, relax

on what

you've

seen



STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Aurora (page 182), Arvada, Brighton, Castle Rock (page 183), Centennial, Commerce City, Denver (page 184), Englewood, Evergreen (page 185), Federal Heights (page 185), Glendale, Golden, Greenwood Village, Highlands Ranch, Lakewood, Littleton, Morrison (page 188), Parker, Roxborough, Sedalia (page 189), Thornton, Wheat Ridge









DENVER DAY TRIPS



it: The new 40W ArtLine, a

4-mile walking/bike path

with interactive art and

murals along the way;

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

1 LAKEWOOD

RTD Commuter Railconnected makes this city a good homebase between Denver and the mountains.

The Lakewood Cultural Center hosts performances and events in pedestrian-friendly Belmar, which is home to shops and restaurants. (Colorado Mills Mall is also a hub for retail action.) 40 West Arts is the city's Certified Colorado Creative District, Two new ways to experience

and Colfax Art Crawls. There's lots of ways to get outside, too. Stroll through Kendrick Lake Park's garden or hit the trails of

William F. Hayden Park on Green Mountain. Spend a day at Bear Creek Lake Park boating, fishing, swimming, paddleboard-

ing and more. 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

Edge Ziplines & Adventures (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 — a food hall in a former church. Castle Rock has vear-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 on the area, Hiwan Heritage Park holds an 1893 log lodge that's now a museum with original and historic furnishings as well as Native American artwork.

Drive: 40 minutes

4 AURORA

Seek out five 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 vou'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 lightrail.

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

Continued on page 102.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: PEARL STREET MALL, DOWNTOWN BOULDER; EVERGREEN, INSTAGRAM/@XJANYE6;

100 /

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craft wineries, distilleries and breweries, including Breckenridge Brewery's massive campus with 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 Pearl Street Mall, it's easy to see why visitors fall in love with Boulder. See page 150 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 132 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 107 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 138 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. A new Bustang route runs from Denver to the park. See page 118 for more. Drive: 1 hour, 40 minutes

Drive: 25 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 175 for more.

FROM TOP: GOLDEN, FLICKR/STEVE WALSER; BARR LAKE ST, PARKS & WILDLIFE; GARDEN OF THE GODS, ADOBESTOCK.





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A 5-STAR DAY IN DENVER





A short jaunt from Denver in Aurora, Murphy Creek Golf Course's rolling prairie terrain challenges with several lengthy holes and bunkered greens, not to mention a handful of small natural lakes to work around. Another popular course is the prehistoric marvel of Fossil Trace (2), 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 Bee My Honey massage at the Oxford Hotel (1) or the Ultimate Rose Quartz Facial at Jalan Spa.

Finish the afternoon with a classic Denver treat: afternoon tea at the Brown Palace Hotel & Spa with scones, pastries and dainty tea sandwiches, and the delightful melody of a harpist or pianist in an elegant and historic setting.

Denver's cuisine scene receives national raves thanks to innovative use of local ingredients. Four Denver-grea chefs were nominated for James Reard awards in 2020 (find them at Bar Dough, Annette, Super Mega Bien and The Wolf's Tailor): 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 (3), 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, The Greedy Hamster. **Asbury Provisions** and Ophelia's Electric Soapbox for a start.

Finish the day with jazz and fine cocktails at Nocturne, a blockbuster touring Broadway musical or a stirring performance by the Colorado Symphony Orchestra, Opera Colorado or Colorado Ballet at the Denver Performing Arts Complex, the largest performing arts complex under one roof.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

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Sip craft cocktails made from artisan ingredients at Family Jones Spirit House. The espresso martini features vodka distilled from Colorado grains.







COMING 2021

A new perspective on Pikes Peak - America's Mountain

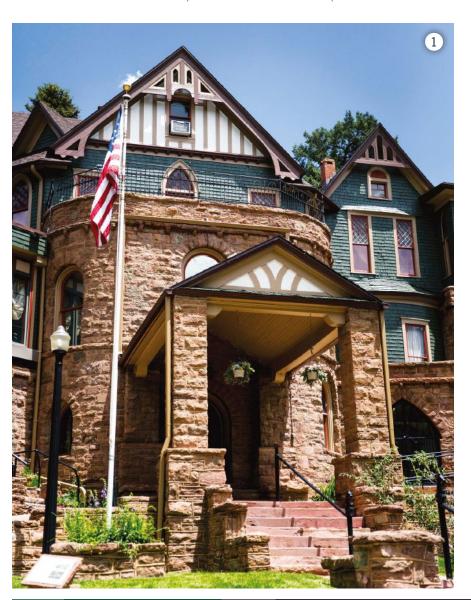






TAKING IT EASY IN PIKES PEAK WONDERS PIKES PEAK COUNTRY

In **Colorado Springs** and **Manitou Springs**, you'll dive into a concentration of Wild West and Victorian-era history, a delightful medley of niche museums and arts attractions, and easy access to outdoor recreation for every level of exertion and experience — all within a half hour's drive.





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 windowshopping 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. The brandspanking-new U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum (4) has debuted just blocks away from the Olympic Training Center (they don't call this Olympic City USA for nothing!). At the museum, you'll find an extensive medal and torch collection, as well as a variety of digital and interactive exhibits that offer a unique experience to each guest. This new beauty has also been named "the most accessible museum in the world" by Architectural Digest.

Stop for lunch at the **Ivywild School (7)**, a 1916 elementary-school-turned-community-market featuring **Bristol Brewing Co.**, **Axe and the Oak Whiskey House**, community gardens and a bakery/eatery selling local items. Or catch the new kid on the block: **Lincoln Center**, another former school that's now home to tasty tenants like **Goat Patch Brewing**, **Nightingale Bread** and several food trucks.

Continued on page 108.



More than 30 free attractions await in this thrifty city, including Garden of the Gods, Helen Hunt Falls, U.S. Air Force Academy, art walks and several museums.



Take a balloon ride and Segway tour with Adventures Out West, go whitewater raffing, embark on the falconry program and Soaring Adventure at The Broadmoor, and have a spa treatment at The Broadmoor, Garden of the Gods Resort, Cheyenne Mountain Resort or The Mining Exchange. Book Challenge Unlimited's all-inclusive cycling-adventure package that's worth its weight (especially if you like going downhill), from breakfast to Pikes Peak to ziplining and dinner.





Every weekday at 12:30pm the U.S. Air Force Academy Planetarium & STEM Center explores the universe and life on Earth in its open-to-the-public shows. If earthly history is more your thing, the Colorado Springs Pioneer Museum, housed in the stunning former El Paso County Courthouse, explores the region's roots and the characters who made it wild. Or for a taste of the arts, seek out 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 26 Certified Colorado Creative Districts. First Friday Art Walks are an excellent way to get a taste of the city's creative culture.

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 200 performances each year.

DAY 2

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

Or explore **Garden of the Gods** 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 (5). Reach the summit by car, foot, bike or cog railway. Stop into the new Summit House for info on the peak's importance to the area's history, amazing overlooks and an outdoor dining terrace, and to pick up one of the famous high-altitude doughnuts. Explore in the peak's shadow at the South Slope Recreation Area, with hiking and singletrack trails, fishing and bighorn-sheep viewing. After a closure for track repairs, the Pikes Peak Cog Railway will

reopen in 2021 as the most relaxed way to reach the top of America's Mountain.

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' (8) new galleries and restaurants. The town was recently named a Certified Colorado Creative District and one of the 10 Coolest Small Towns in the country by Budget Travel magazine (with all that money you save, treat yourself to a night's stay or dinner at the Cliff House at Pikes Peak). A free shut**tle** 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.



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.



CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT; U.S. OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC MUSEUM, VISIT COLORADO SPRINGS; CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN 200; GARDEN OF THE GODS PARK, ADOBESTOCK.





Head out to Cave of the Winds (9) and The Broadmoor Seven Falls, where a 181-foot waterfall cascades down seven granite steps. The Soaring Adventure zipline just outside the falls delights visitors with multiple courses. 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.

There's also the **ProRodeo Hall of Fame & Museum of the American Cowboy (6)**, where



you'll 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.

Consider a walking tour of craft breweries in both Colorado Springs and Manitou with **Springs Beer Tours**, which come with a side of history to give all that sipping a wholesome feel. You could also hop on the **Local Motive Party Bus** to experience the area's breweries, distilleries and eateries on wheels.

If you've got time to get sidetracked, peek into Woodland Park to explore the Rocky Mountain 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.

For evening activities, consider some Wild West fun and fare at **Flying W Ranch**. Saddle up for a chuckwagon dinner accompanied by performances by the Flying W Wranglers' cowboy songs. Explore the ranch's hiking trails, petting zoo and a campfire under the stars.

Another option: For a delicious extravagance, consider a true farm-to-table experience with **A Grazing Life**, featuring menus by top chefs from the region.



STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Cañon City (page 183), Cascade (page 183), Colorado Springs (page 183), Divide, Falcon (page 185), Franktown, Green Mountain Falls, Lake George, Larkspur (page 187), Manitou Springs (page 187), Monument, Palmer Lake, Woodland Park

GET OUTSIDE IN PIKES PEAK WONDERS COLORADO SPRINGS



If you've soaked up all the historic attractions and museums you can handle — a definite possibility in this area — it's time to discover why Colorado Springs is one of the state's favorite places to play. Here are a few ways to soak in its handily located Rocky Mountain splendor.





If you're looking for a gentle stroll or a brag-worthy test of calf-and-quad endurance, you'll find it's easy to get on a trail in the Springs. Take in geological marvels on the gentle pathways at Red Rock Open Space and Paint Mines Interpretive Park (1). Bear Creek Dog Park has amenities for you and your furry pal, Cheyenne Mountain State Park (2) has 21 different trails to choose from, and the Pikes Peak Greenway rolls along for 16 miles and connects to two other long-distance trails around

the city. For alpine feats, there's no beating the famed **Manitou Incline** — it's a 2,800-step ascent along old tracks originally built for a cable car. Visit *trailsandopen space.org* for even more options.

BIKING

Colorado Springs is incredibly bicycle friendly, and 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. Follow a historic rail trail through Cheyenne Canyon, take the gentle and shady Black Forest Section 16 trail, get Pikes

Peak views along the **Palmer Park Loop** right in town, or challenge yourself on a technical ride at **Ute Valley Park**.

RAFTING

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.

GOLFING

All that thin air makes for shots that soar at more than a dozen



courses in the area, all with amazing clubhouse views to accompany post-round relaxation. The Broadmoor hosts two world-class championship courses and Pine Creek Golf Club winds through a valley of grassland, creeks and links layouts.

HORSEBACK RIDING

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. Rides through Garden of the Gods and inside Pike National Forest are just two close-to-town options.

OTHER OPTIONS

Balloon rides, ziplining, ATV and Jeep tours, rock-climbing adventures, Segway spins, wildlifewatching excursions, kayaking or stand-up paddling, fishing, hunting and more can be had at the drop of a hat from trusted guides sensitive to the level of thrill you're after.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Cañon City (page 183), Cascade (page 183), Colorado Springs (page 183), Divide, Falcon (page 185), Franktown, Green Mountain Falls, Lake George, Larkspur (page 187), Manitou Springs (page 187), Monument, Palmer Lake, Woodland Park FROM LEFT: PAINT MINES INTERPRETIVE PARK NEAR CALHAN, MATTHEW HAHNEL; CHEVERNIE MOI INTAIN STATE DADY, COLODADO DADYS, 8, MILDI JEE



ACADEMY RIDING STABLES

Enjoy the most unique and iconically Western way to experience Garden of the Gods, our nation's top natural landmark — from the back of a horse!

(719) 633-5667 AcademyRidingStables.com



PIKES PEAK - AMERICA'S MOUNTAIN

ESCAPE TO THE TOP OF THE WORLD

Discover fresh air, new heights, and some serious social distancing when you drive the most majestic stretch of Highway in America to the top of Pikes Peak.

> (719) 385-7325 PikesPeakColorado.com



HISTORIC MANITOU SPRINGS

(719) 685-5089 **ManitouSprings.org**

This darling mountain town is the perfect basecamp for all of your Pikes Peak region adventures. Snuggled at the base of Pikes Peak, just minutes from hiking and biking trails, packed with great local restaurants, galleries & boutiques, Manitou Springs offers the perfect escape to experience authentic Colorado.





CAVE OF THE WINDS MOUNTAIN PARK

Discovered in 1881, enjoy cave tours, breathtaking scenery, rides and activities at one of the highest show caves in America! A must-see Colorado attraction for more than a century!

> (719) 685-5444 CaveoftheWinds.com



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> (719) 633-9925 CMZ00.org



GARDEN OF THE GODS TRADING POST

A trip to Garden of the Gods isn't complete until you visit the Garden of the Gods Trading Post. Enjoy lunch on the patio with a Starbucks coffee and browse through a vast array of gifts and souvenirs.

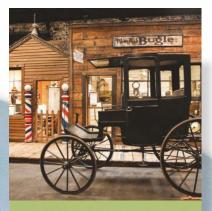
(719) 685-9045
GardenoftheGodsTradingPost.com



BROADMOOR OUTFITTERS

If adventure is on your Colorado agenda, look no further! You can choose from ziplines, standup paddle boarding, mountain biking, hiking, paintball, falconry or archery. Or better yet, don't choose. Try them all!

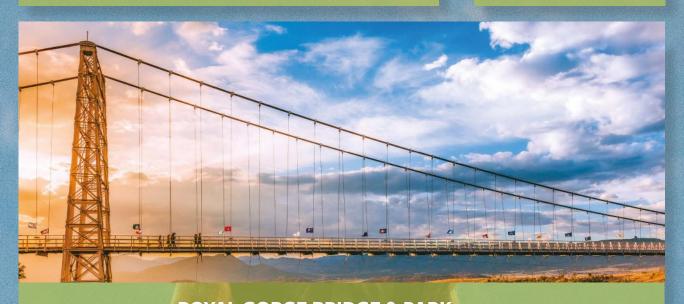
> (719) 471-6168 **BroadmoorOutfitters.com**



GHOST TOWN MUSEUM

Explore the boardwalk while visiting Colorado's gold rush era. Pan for gold (summer), take aim at the shootin' gallery or shop for Colorado gifts.

(719) 634-0696 GhostTownMuseum.com



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(888) 333-5597 RoyalGorgeBridge.com Breathtaking views, thrilling attractions, family entertainment. Discover our newest adventure, the Royal Gorge Via Ferrata. A protected climbing route that allows guests of all ages to explore the Royal Gorge Canyon like never before with the use of today's modern climbing gear.

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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.

DAY 1

Start your voyage at Winter Park Resort (1) 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, where a 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, beer festivals and kid-friendly outdoor movie nights.

Hop on the 10-mile Fraser River Trail by foot, bike or cross-country ski. Picnic tables, educational signs, peaceful vistas and the possibility to spot wildlife are all served up. The trail ends at Headwaters River Journey, where exhibits explore the wonders of conservation and preservation. Just off the trail, explore Cozens



Free historic walking tours in Grand Lake and Fraser give you the lowdown on these Western towns. Ute and Arapaho Indians summered here long before explorers, trappers, prospectors and tourists arrived.



Private tours of the national park, prime fishing spots and horseback trails, balloon rides, as well as boat, ATV and snowmobile excursions can really open up the area's hidden natural wonders.



Ranch Open Space, a hotbed of hiking, fishing and wildlife viewing. Or book a rock-climbing outing with Winter Park Adventure Quest in Fraser, an aerial park with 24 challenge elements. Meanwhile, Snow Mountain Ranch has a grin-inducing summer tubing hill and other family activities.

Four brewpubs make **Fraser** an excellent stop for lunch as well as an ideally situated homebase for exploring the area's outdoors (and is perhaps best known for its convenient lift-served snowtubing hill in winter).

Now, go north to the laid-back county seat of **Grand Lake (2)**, where hints of its Western character are revealed in historic boardwalks and hitching posts. 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.

Cap your evening in one of the state's newest Certified Creative Districts with a Broadway musical at Grand Lake's Rocky Mountain Repertory Theatre (3), drop into Where Art Thou Gallery's makerspace for a DIY class 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 to the Pacific Ocean, it treats Grand County visitors to some of the best raffing and Gold Medal fishing around. Jagged red canyons and green valleys provide stunning backdrops for mellow floats; outfitters can be found throughout the county.

The town of **Granby** offers Western hospitality, an idyllic main street of restaurants and antique shops, and easy access to the outdoors, including boating and fishing on **Lake Granby**. The new **Two Pines Supply** can outfit you for any adventure in the area.

Links lovers can split off to tee off amid inspiring scenery (and watch their balls fly farther through our thin air) at four mountain golf courses in the county.

Everyone can agree on dinner at the new **Granby Garage Roadhouse** for upscale patio dining with amazing views.

DAY 3

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; 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. Meals await at "Colorado's only brewstillery" — **Great Adventure Brewing**.

Retreat to Hot Sulphur Springs (4) to do what visitors have done since the time of the Ute Indians: Soak in mineral-rich pools. Volcanic rock below the earth's surface heats the water that fills the pools at the town's namesake resort and spa. Then peek into the **Pioneer Village Museum**, relax for a spell at Dari Delite cafe and then enjoy the town's easy-toaccess fishing, trails, disc golf, picnic areas and walking bridge over the Colorado River. Save room for fine dining at Dean Public House, which charms in one the county's oldest buildings.

NINTER FUN ≉

Winter Park Resort's diverse terrain, a new adventure concierge service and the Winter Park Express Amtrak route (not running until the 2021/2022 season) from Denver 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 or take a spin on the town's new ice-skating rink.





STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Fraser (page 186), Granby (page 186), Grand Lake (page 187), Hot Sulphur Springs, Kremmling (page 187), Parshall, Tabernash, Winter Park (page 190)



THE FUTURE IS GRAND

Grand County offers endless natural beauty and unparalleled outdoor experiences, no matter the season. From sprawling wilderness areas for hiking and biking to winter wonderlands and five mountain lakes, the end of one adventure is just the beginning of another. The future is Grand—start planning your ultimate getaway today.





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

DESTINATION GRANBY

Explore Like a Local



Whether summer, fall, winter, or spring, make Granby the basecamp for your adventure! Granby is in the heart of the Rocky Mountains and allows visitors to enjoy skiing, snowshoeing, river and lake fishing, hunting, camping, biking, golfing, rafting, horseback riding, and an array of other exciting outdoor activities. Adventure awaits in Granby!

970-887-2311 / GranbyChamber.com

HOT SULPHUR SPRINGS

Outdoor Paradise



Located in the heart of Grand County along the banks of the river, Hot Sulphur Springs is ready to be explored. Enjoy Gold Medal fishing on the Colorado River & relax in the hot springs. Visit the museum filled with pioneer, railroad & Native American history or grab a bite to eat at a local restaurant. Experience the outdoors with nearby trails to hike, bike, snowshoe, cross country ski & more!

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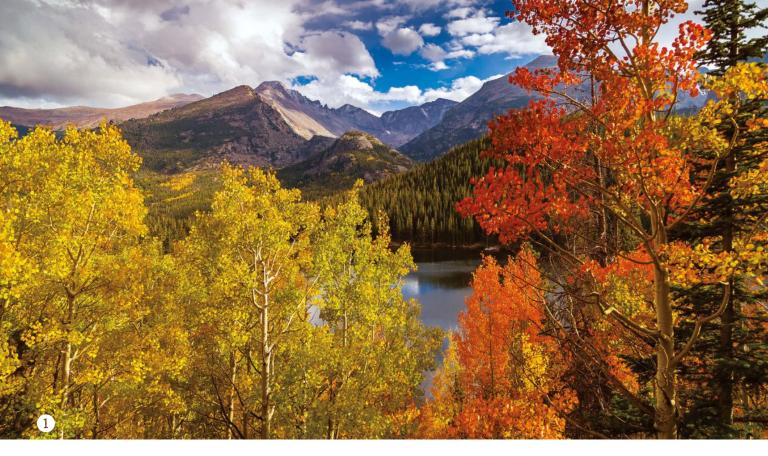
GRAND ADVENTURES

970-726-9247 GrandAdventures.com



PLAN YOUR VISIT

Facebook.com/ GrandCountyColorado



CLOSE TO PARADISE: ESTES PARK



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. (Tip: A new Bustang route will take you to Estes Park and the national park from downtown Denver).

Take a drive on **Trail Ridge Road (3)**, 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 subalpine forests and windswept 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 yearround 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-Reeser Bird

Sanctuary, or opt for a ranger-led bird walk within the national park.

At the Open Air Adventure Park, rope bridges, aerial tightropes and swinging logs challenge folks 5 years old and up. Or, get above it all in a different way at Estes Park's own Jurassic Park. This climbing area just south of town features rock outcroppings, slabs and routes that make for a perfect outing. There's also a new via ferrata course at Kent Mountain Adventure Center (2).

AFTERNOON

Downtown Estes Park (5) is the gateway into the national park, but it's also an amenity-filled destination unto itself. Stop by The Barrel, a seasonal

\$AVE

Book a free private session at the Estes Park Memorial Observatory (donations recommended) for a tour of the night skies from its 16-foot dome.



Take a Backcountry Development course at Colorado Mountain School to learn all kinds of handy skills, from mountaineering to ice climbing and more.





6

alfresco beer garden, and window-shop along Elkhorn Avenue (6), with several new boutiques and eateries, and plenty of places for an afternoon snack. Stop for coffee and sit outside on the Riverwalk.

Find the path that follows the Big Thompson River as it flows through town and hosts street performers in the summer. Take the path east for a tranquil walk around Lake Estes, or stop at the marina to rent bikes, pontoon boats, paddleboards or kayaks. Then, enjoy a tasting at Snowy Peaks Winery, Elkins Distilling 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

(despite the name, these

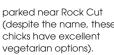
EVENING

Wind down with dinner at the storied Stanley Hotel (4), an elegant 109-vear-old, whitepillared 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 (7) to choose from 250 different wine labels and the largest whiskey collection in the state.

Newer to Estes Park's dining scene, the farmto-table cuisine from Seasoned - An American Bistro (8) and Bird & Jim's artisan approach have locals raving.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Allenspark, Estes Park (page 185), Lyons (page 187)





SIDETRIPS

Go through lovely Lyons on your way to Estes. With galleries and public art on nearly every corner and plenty of craft beer, it's worth a stop. Tubers and kayakers roll through the whitewater park and you can show off at the Dirt Jump Bike Track. Lyons Quilting has more than 6,500 bolts for sale, and the country's only butter bar, Bella La Crema, is a must for a unique tasting. Winter's ice-skating rink brings simple cold-weather pleasure.

From ice climbing, backcountry split-boarding and skiing to more relaxed activities like snowshoeing caters to winter visitors. It's easy to get there year-round and offers an A handful of new snowshoe tours pair with yummy side activities (fondue and whiskey tasting are two examples). Connect with Estes Park School and Kent Mountain Adventure Center for all the gear and guidance you may need.



and curling up by the fire, Estes Park alternative to the bustling ski resorts. Mountain Shop, Colorado Mountain





Discover the endless Rocky Mountain adventures awaiting you this winter in Colorado's Original Playground.

Start planning your escape at VisitEstesPark.com





Into the mountains. Out of this world.

The Ridgeline Hotel[®] is the only hotel in Estes Park that truly offers something for everyone. Here, guests can relax and be themselves in a location just four miles from Rocky Mountain National Park. With a game room, bicycles, snowshoes, fire pits, indoor pool and more, The Ridgeline delivers 24/7 fun. And through our comprehensive Rest Assured[™] program, we're working hard to maintain an environment that helps keep guests safe.

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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



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888-854-5223 / RiverStoneResorts.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



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



Wildwood Inn

Accommodations offering home-style comfort, kitchens and private hot tubs. Come and experience fabulous mountain view suites or direct river condos with great fishing.

800-400-7804 / EstesWildwoodInn.com



Rams Horn Village Resort

Experience the finer side of cabin life. Just four minutes to Rocky Mountain National Park. Full kitchens, fireplaces, heated pool and more.

800-229-4676 / LuxuryEstesParkCabins.com





ESCAPE TO NATURE ROCKIES PLANT 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.



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 new terrain, 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.



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, a mysterious natural wonder high in the bluffs. Visit early weekday mornings to avoid the crowds — those on the trail then find tranquility and spectacular light for photos. If you're visiting May-October, you'll use the 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' (1) 16 soaking pools, Yampah Spa's steam baths and Glenwood Hot Springs, home to the world's largest hot-springs pool and several new water features.

Get your bearings on the area as a whole from Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park's (2) new Glenwood Gondola, 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 raffing outfitter for a whitewater ride on the

Colorado River as it winds through spectacular **Glenwood Canyon**.

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.

DAY 2

Make your way farther into the valley today. In Carbondale (3), the (free!) Powers Art Center focuses on contemporary and pop art. Recently named a Certified Colorado Creative District, arts events, performances, galleries and workshops are all over town.

2



\$AVE

Zip along Glenwood Canyon Recreation Trail beside the roaring Colorado River; spend an afternoon at the free Aspen Art Museum, with dramatic mountain views from its rooftop sculpture garden.



Book a package at Spa of the Rockies in Glenwood; see Aspen/Snowmass from a hot-air balloon or paraglider; have a summer farm-to-table dinner at Snowmass' gondola-accessed Elk Camp Restaurant. FROM TOP: IRON MOUNTAIN HOT SPRINGS; GLENWOOD CAVERNS ADVENTURE PARK; ROADSIDE GALLERY



SIDETRIPS

Redstone is 16 miles from 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 Crystal Fly Shops; scale the geography at Boulders Open Space; and hike, mountain bike and cross-country ski throughout the valley. Winter also brings ice climbing at 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. Get into the backcountry on horseback with OutWest Guides or visit the Crystal ghost town and 1893 Crystal Mill (pictured) on a tour with Crystal River Jeep Tours. Hang around after dark for a show the town recently joined the International Dark-Sky Association. End the day at Slow Groovin' BBQ with scratch-made goodness.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Aspen (page 182), Basalt (page 182), Carbondale (page 183), Glenwood Springs (page 186), Marble (page 188), Redstone (page 189), Rifle, Snowmass (page 189)

Walk or bike ride along the Rio Grande ARTway, a path lined with public art installations, gardens and Mount Sopris views.

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.

It's time to explore Aspen (4) 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 place for years to come.

Renowned as a haven for celebrities, skiers and culture vultures,



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 (the area has recently received a coveted gold-level rating from the International Mountain Biking Association), 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

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 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.

Decrease the heart rate and increase the breathing with mountain-top yoga (5) at Aspen Mountain. Or hook up with the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies for sunset hikes, birding outings, private naturalist guides and (in winter) snowshoe treks.

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 on 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.

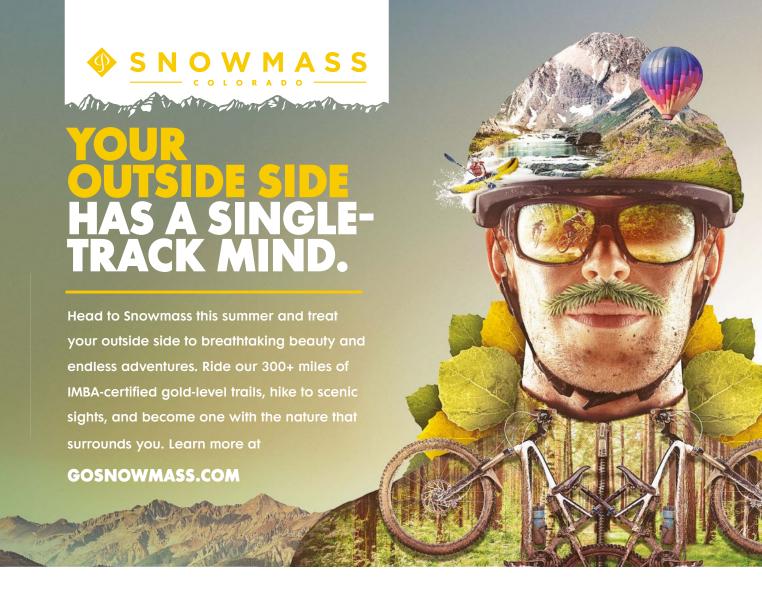




CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: CRYSTAL MILL NEAR MARBLE,









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HOT SPRINGS, MOOSE & WESTERN LIVING



North Park area make for a serene, laid-back escape, but there's also plenty of adventure for those who seek it.









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 no less indulgent) experience. Follow your soak with a gondola ride to the top of Mount Werner for brunch or lunch with a splendid view or head to

Steamboat Zipline Adventures on Rabbit Ears Pass, where views of Lake Catamount, the Flat Tops Wilderness and Yampa Valley fight for your attention.

Nearby, Stagecoach State Park's (4) 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 nwcoloradoheritagetravel.org for maps and more information).

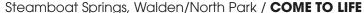
Kids could spend days exploring the ropes course, climbing wall and bungee trampoline at Steamboat Resort's Land Up, and everyone can get behind a new gondola-accessed happy hour. Other options include the more than 50 gardens at the free Yampa River Botanic Park (3) and the Tread of Pioneers Museum to explore the ways of the Native Americans, early settlers, miners, ranchers, skiers, outlaws and lawmen in this once-Wild West town.



Ride or stroll along the Yampa River Core Trail (or tube the waters beside it). Look for the Art Along the Yampa mural along the way.



Hook up with a fly-fishing outfitter to find Gold Medal waters, or scout out your own with a hot-air balloon ride over the valley, accompanied by a Champagne toast.





Anglers will delight in the Yampa River's Gold Medal fishing waters — in particular, the stretch below Stagecoach Reservoir where leviathan brown and rainbow trout lurk in swirling tail waters. Hikers head to Fish Creek Falls (1) — go first thing in the morning to avoid the masses.

Steamboat is also a big biking destination. Hit the trails at the Steamboat Bike Park (5) 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 of 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 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

Elusive 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. You won't find crowds amid the abundant lakes, rivers, mountains, wide-open prairies and the other towns of **Rand, Gould** and **Cowdrey**.

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 183), Cowdrey, Gould, Hayden, Oak Creek, Rand, Steamboat Springs (page 189), Walden (page 190), Yampa

WINTER FUN 🕸

pagne Powder® is light, dry and smooth, which makes for great skiing and riding, as well as snowmobiling, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, in Steamboat and the public lands that surround it.





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 are nearly everywhere in these nationally protected open spaces, whitewater 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, inspiring ancient monuments and plenty of ways to get the heart racing.

DAY 1

In **Durango (3)**, 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 nearly 140 years,

and a ride on its rails is a must. Opt for a one-way ride with a motorcoach return trip for 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 watch it rush by, 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** 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





There are literally hundreds of miles of hiking and biking trails within minutes of all three downtowns, and lift tickets at the local ski areas are among the most affordable. Proximity to a national park, national monument and wilderness makes this whole area top-notch stargazing territory.



Year-round dog-sled tours, hot-air balloon rides and helicopter tours capture San Juan backcountry wonder like few other activities can.



tours (4), raffing, horseback riding, amazing day hikes up to Ice Lakes Basin or the waterfalls of Cunningham Gulch, and the ghost towns of Eureka and Howardsville.

Thanks to a wealth of historic and scenic 4x4 roads that lace through the surrounding mountains, the area is incredibly popular for Jeep and ATV tours. Summer and fall offer glimpses into seldom-accessed fields of wildflowers and autumn color. Hundreds of miles of groomed trails await in the winter months.

Durango was named one of Outside Magazine's best new adventure hubs for its access to skiing, whitewater, fishing, hiking, byways and mountain-bike trails. Visit the town's Main Street welcome center to find out how to access all that recreation.

Just 40 minutes away, consider visiting Vallecito Lake, one of the state's largest and most spectacular, with plenty of fishing, boating, hiking, Jeeping, snowmobiling and other activities. The Vallecito Creek Trail hike is

located near beautiful Vallecito Reservoir and is great for all ages.

Back in Durango, make plans for excellent eats at the town's new 11th Street Station food-truck coop, serving everything from sushi to coffee. Or head out to the new James Ranch Grill's "table on the farm," with a menu that couldn't be more locally sourced.

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.

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 (6) otherworldly rock formations and Ancestral Puebloan history (the full-moon and night-sky tours are epic). 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. There's also ATV tours, 2.5 million acres of wilderness and national forest, 650 miles of trails, the **Wolf Creek Pass** drive (pull over at Lobo Overlook for 360-degree views), waterfall and wildflower hikes, and camping.

Williams Creek Reservoir is 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/craftedbeverages 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 (page 182), Durango (page 185), Ignacio, Pagosa Springs (page 188), Silverton (page 189), Vallecito Lake

WINTER FUN ≉

Puraatory, 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 ungroomed expert terrain, while those seeking lower-key affairs head to Kendall Mountain Ski Area near Silverton and Hesperus near Durango. Just 23 miles from Pagosa Springs, visitors and locals alike flock to Wolf Creek Ski Resort to ski and ride "the most snow in Colorado," with an average of 430 inches of natural (not manmade) snowfall per season.

Beyond the slopes, Durango, Silverton and Pagosa Springs all take advantage of their deep San Juan Mountain powder with endless trails perfect for backcountry snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, sledding and snowmobiling.



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 activities like jet skiing, house boating and fishing, as well as the reservation's top trout-fishing hole, **Lake Capote**.

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SUMMER AT Skirfsorts 🌣

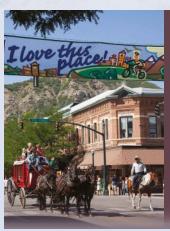
Durango's Purgatory Resort is a summer playground, with mountain-bike rentals, lifts and trails, as well as kids camps, a mountain coaster, alpine slide, scenic chair lifts, ziplines, ropes courses, stand-up paddleboarding and so much more.

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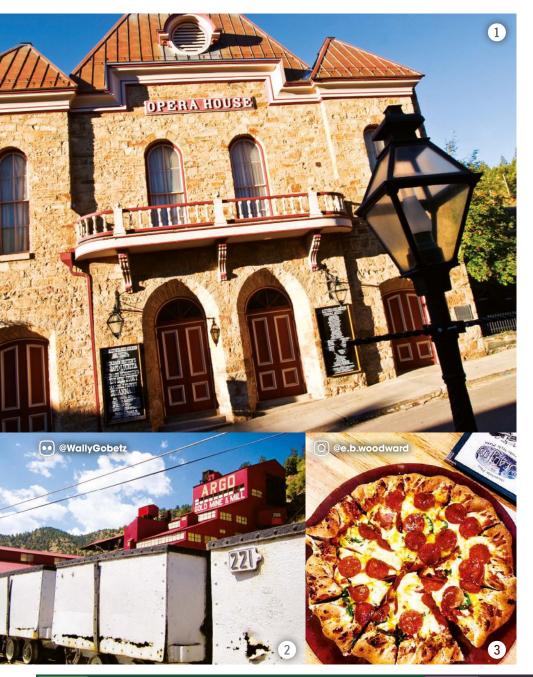




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Find Gold Rush lore, modern-day prospectors, railroad adventure and cooler temps just 40 minutes west of Denver in the mountain towns of **Idaho Springs, Georgetown, Silver Plume, Black Hawk** and **Central City**.



DAYS1&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 (4) 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. 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, where 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) for 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 mineral pools and geo-thermal caves at Indian Hot Springs 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, including Lawson Adventure Park & Resort and the new Sky Trek aerial park at Colorado Adventure Center, 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** to visit Victorian-era homes and silver-boom relics at the **Hamill House** and **Hotel de Paris** museums,



Take the walking tours in Georgetown, Black Hawk and Idaho Springs to see historic sites, old cemeteries, public artwork and Gold Rush-era architecture. Catch the Prospector Bus between Idaho Springs and Georgetown for only \$2.



Custom Jeep and ATV tours can get you into the area's rugged backcountry to see ghost towns, sky-scraping mountain views, gurgling creeks and winding trails.







as well as exhibits at the Georgetown Heritage Center. Venture 1,000 feet underground on a tour of Capital Prize Mine; and break for an afternoon bite on Cooper's on the Creek's patio 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 (6)). The town's main street also has antique, craft and coffee shops.

Board the Georgetown Loop Railroad (7) for a narrow-gauge train ride to Silver Plume and back for views of the Clear Creek Valley and an optional walking tour that takes you 500 feet into an 1870s mine tunnel. **Bread Bar (5)** in Silver Plume, housed in an 1800s-era bakery, serves up cocktails named after famous local characters, like silver-boom queen Baby Doe Tabor (open Friday through Sunday).

DAY 3

Step into Colorado's mini Western-style Las Vegas for some nightlife 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 (1)**, 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**.

There's also the new Maryland Mountain Recreational Park, a trail system for hikers and bikers that passes by some of Gilpin County's mining-era relics.

From Black Hawk, you can easily head over to Golden Gate Canyon State Park 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 Jones Pass Guides in Empire, who will whisk you to all of the best powder via snowcat and provide the necessary safety gear and lunch.



STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Black Hawk (page 182), Central City (page 183), Dumont (page 184), Empire, Georgetown (page 186), Idaho Springs, Lawson, Silver Plume





PLAYING AMONG PIKES PEAK WONDERS THE COLLEGIATE PEAKS



Make the easy trek to central Colorado for a high-country getaway in the Arkansas River-side mountain towns of **Salida** and **Buena Vista**. Hot springs, dramatic peaks named after colleges (Princeton, Yale and Harvard, to name a few) and unbeatable outdoor recreation await.

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 (4), a 57-mile route that runs along the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness 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 an aerial adventure park: With more than 120 challenges, including swinging bridges and tightrope walks, Captain Zipline is one of the largest aerial adventure parks in the state. Meanwhile, **Browns Canyon Adven**ture Park (5) suspends zipliners above the roaring river, and Arkansas Valley Adventures (AVA) allows daring visitors to soar from clifftop to treetop on a 44-acre course.

Buena Vista is a popular access point for

Rent a tube and personal flotation device (or bring your own) and hit Salida's whitewater park — a hot spot for water babies right in town near the F Street Bridge.



On an overnight Browns Canyon raffing trip, you'll sleep and enjoy meals by the river, and get some wilderness downtime in between rapid runs.





raffing, kayaking, fishing, hiking and backpacking adventures centered around the Arkansas River, including Browns Canyon National Monument (3), 102 miles of Gold Medal fishing waters and the Buena Vista Whitewater Park. Locals consider May and June the best times for raffing.

No visit is complete without a go at one of the area's signature sports: mountain biking. Dozens of raffing 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 (2)**, one of the

state's 26 Certified Creative Districts and one of the largest National Historic Districts, with dozens of artist-owned galleries and shops. Kids get a kick out of feeding the fish at the Mount Shavano Fish Hatchery, and visitors of all ages enjoy strolling the pleasant streets of downtown. Delicious restaurants pepper 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 183), Nathrop (page 188), Poncha Springs, Salida (page 189), 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, while 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. Also, these towns are serious about mountain biking, and winter doesn't stop them from getting their ride on. 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.



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**.







The Gunnison River took thousands of years to carve the 48-mile-long Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park (1) near Montrose

Start at the Elk Creek Visitor Center, located on Blue Mesa Reservoir, Colorado's largest body of water. Winds captured by 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, 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.

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 Uncompangre 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 (2)** connects the past with contemporary Ute life and culture, and the **Museum of the Mountain West** offers an authentic peek at the Wild West.



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 (5). 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 (4) opens more than 200 routes to spiked adventures. Those visiting in the summer will have to make do at Basecamp Bouldering, a drop-in climbing gym with programs for all ages.

Afterward, enjoy a truly restorative experience in the enormous **Ouray Hot Springs Pool**, which



In winter, entry to Black Canyon is free and rangers lead night-sky and snowshoe tours (snowshoes provided). All four towns offer historic, self-guided walking tours.



Adventure packages rule in this part of the state, from mountaineering to raffing, off-roading, backpacking, snowmobiling, fly-fishing and beyond.



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 in Ridgway, built to honor the original "True Grit" movie starring John Wayne, which was filmed here in 1969. Ridaway 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 and concerts in the park. Weehawken Creative Arts has classes and drop-in workshops in dance, photography, fine arts and more.

The town is a jumping-off point to splendid views of Mount Sneffels and the **Dallas Divide** — one of our most photographed alpine scenes. Star seekers will want to know the town was just named an International Dark-Sky Community. It's also homebase to the San Juan Hut System, which connects epic mountain biking, hiking and backcountry skiing/snowshoeing trails with a network of 16 isolated mountain huts.

It's easy to fall 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 (3) — 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 foodiefriendly 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. 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 184), Hotchkiss (page 187), Montrose, Orchard City, Ouray, Paonia, Ridgway, Somerset, Telluride (page 189)

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.



Up the free gondola to Mountain Village, you'll find the Telluride Adventure Center, with activities including a canopy tour, bike park, bungee trampoline and more. There's also the Telluride Golf Course, Kids Summer Camps and a mining sluice for modern-day goldpanners.





SUMMIT COUNTY RETREAT



"Colorado's Playground" is an easy trip from Denver. The area is hugged by three mountain ranges (Tenmile, Mosquito and Gore) and presents enough activities to satisfy anyone itching to get out and lose themselves in **Breckenridge, Silverthorne, Frisco, Dillon, Keystone** and **Copper Mountain** — six towns close enough to move easily between by car or bike (or the free Summit Stage bus!) 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 walk- or bike-way. 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 Kevstone'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) as well as 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 dinner 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 makers spaces: a drop-in art studio, a glass-blowing shop, a millinery, a guitar maker and more.

The Frisco Adventure Park has expanded its offerings of bike park and disc golf to include a mammoth new skate park and a bouldering area for kids. Silverthorne Recreation Center wears kids out with four pools, two water slides and an aquatic climbing wall.

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

\$AVE

Each town boasts a list of must-do hikes that start right near their downtowns. Grab a map at visitor centers or hotels, and hit the trail!



Catch a ride into the backcountry. Multiday pack trips move you effortlessly into the hills, with all the meals, gear, guidance and campfires you need provided by your outfitter.







Lake Dillon Theatre Company has a new home at the Silverthorne Performing Arts Center if you're up for more mountain culture.)

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 Alpineer 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 boutiques will taunt you with everything from designer cupcakes to designer jeans as well as fancy, imported olive oils and vinegars and 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, ceramics, wood working, foraging and green

beauty. Just south of town, pay a visit to **Isak Heartstone**, a gigantic wooden troll that's captured hearts and Insta posts worldwide.

While Colorado rakes in praise for its craft brews, the distilled-spirits bandwagon has been taking on passengers. Breckenridge Distillery (4) was one of the 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. Not to be outdone, ski maker Rocky Mountain Underground opened a tavern and showroom for their outdoor gear, along with a dog-friendly, backyard beer garden. And Continental Divide Winery offers blending classes at Main Street Station.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Breckenridge (page 183), Copper Mountain, Dillon (page 184), Frisco (page 186), Keystone, Silverthorne (page 189)

WINTER FUN *

Keystone Resort, Breckenridge Ski Resort, Copper Mountain and Arapahoe Basin Ski Area 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, ice skating, Nordic trails and more. Check out the Summit Huts Association's new Sisters Cabin for a backcountry hut experience in Weber Gulch. An 8-mile groomed path also links Breckenridge with the Frisco Adventure Park, perfect for cross-country skiina and winter fat biking







Charming, historic, surrounded by breathtaking landscapes, boasting endless outdoor activities in all four seasons, and rich with culture, it's an inclusive community that welcomes all who call Breckenridge home—whether for a week or lifetime. For ideas on planning your next getaway, start exploring at **gobreck.com**





DILLON

MAJESTIC MOUNTAIN TOWNS



free-spirited neighbor. Despite their different vibes, both offer unparalleled chooseyour-own adventures and spectacular scenery on 2,500 square miles of public land.

* WINTER FUN

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 through-out the valley.



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, as well as people water skiing, fishing and parasailing in the refreshing oasis.

Among Gunnison's newer attractions is a man-made whitewater park on the Gunnison River. The park stretches several hundred feet, with various rock structures providing a playground for recreational kayakers and rafters. Fishing is also allowed in some sections. 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. The new Signal Peak trail system opens 28 miles of trails and loops for fresh

starts right in town. Free maps of all the area's trails can be found in the CBGTrails app.

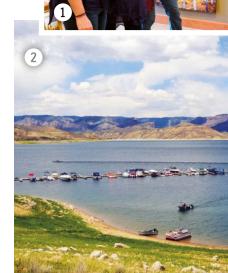
Wander Gunnison's easy downtown. Pop into boutiques or take in the Pioneer Museum's mineral exhibit and awesome collection of antique cars. The **Double Shot** Cyclery is a delightful combo bike shop and coffee house.

Around here, the night sky twinkles. View them up close at the Gunnison Valley Observatory. The state's largest researchquality 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.



Drive 30 miles north of Gunnison's scrubby mesas to the granite peaks of Crested Butte, known as an adventure-sports capital

explorations, with a trailhead that



STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

@Chuckcars

Almont (page 182), Crested Butte, Gunnison (page 187)





Shoulder seasons (April/May and October/November) are the time to nab great deals on lodging.



Hole up at one of a handful of truly full-service resorts in the area. They include lodging, dining, and adventure packages ranging from fishing and raffing to backcountry-ski trips that leave right from the property.

and the Wildflower Capital of Colorado (5). 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 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 thrills await you on granite-topped Crested Butte Mountain Resort (3). 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 outdoor exploits 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.

Ready for some downtime? Crested Butte's blocks of Victorian-era buildings (4) form one of the country's most distinctive towns. Nearly every summer weekend features a gathering of some sort — the Wildflower Festival, Tour de Forks culinary festival and Crested Butte Music Festival 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.







BIKES, ART & BEER



Cruise between **Fort Collins, Loveland** and **Greeley**, where bike trails, breweries, farm-to-table menus, museums, sculpture gardens and other artful spaces compete for visitors' attention with the natural beauty and the Poudre River.

DAY 1

In Fort Collins, you'll find more than 280 miles of bike trails and lanes, and 70 percent of all the state's craft beer production. So whether you ride a cruiser, fixie or just a plain old bike, hop on, grab your ID and get pedaling!

Kick-start the day in **Historic Old Town** and ride up to **The Bean Cycle** to sip a steaming cup of ethically sourced coffee. Other places to investigate the booming craft-coffee arena include **Harbinger Coffee** and **Everyday Joe's**.

Explore Old Town's bookstores, shops and galleries. The Victorian-era **Avery House** and adobe **Museo de las Tres Colonias** tell historic tales of gold seekers, water works and sugar beets. Get your feet wet 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, for an array of indoor and outdoor dining options. Jessup Farm Artisan Village (1) also boasts locally crafted goods from coffee, bread and barrel-aged beer to watches, photography and a barber shop. Not to be left out, The Exchange is another hub where food and craft beverages gather to make tasting easy.

Kids in tow? Stop by the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery, focusing on the history of science and the science of history. Across town, Inspiration Playground lets those with and without disabilities play independently on the same equipment.

Hop on the Poudre Bike Trail and point your handlebars east. Odell Brewing and New Belgium are cherished breweries within short pedaling distance. Most breweries offer free tours and tastings — pick up a tasting journal from the Downtown Visitor Center.

If you're craving beaches more than beer, visit Horsetooth 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 (2), 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 & The Crow**, a spot that sells artisanal cheese and meats; or quench your thirst at **Red Truck Beer Company**, one of the newest additions to Fort Collins' brewery district.

See what band is playing at the **Aggie Theatre** or catch a riverside concert at **Mishawaka Amphitheatre**; take in a show at **Washington's**, an oh-so-cool 1903 venue.

For those seeking starry skies, Red Mountain Open Space, Horsetooth 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 events year-round.

\$AVE

All three cities host free outdoor concerts and movie nights throughout the summer.

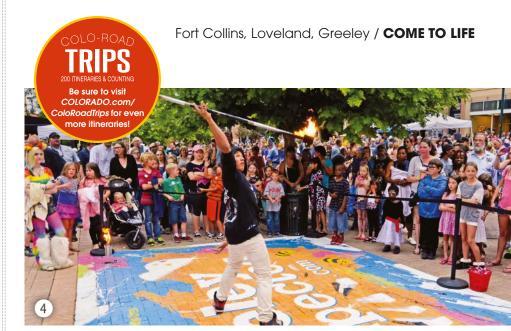


Magic Bus Tours and Majestic Mountains Scenic Rides offer excursions that run the gamut from fly-fishing-and-beer combo packages and farm-to-table dining to craft-brew cruises and private tours of your own making.

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.





DAY 2

Point yourself a half-hour's drive south to arts-obsessed Loveland. Spend time among Benson Sculpture Garden's (3) more than 150 sculptures. Go to cityofloveland.org/bsgtour for an audio tour. For more sculpture admiration, check out Art Castings of Colorado's foundry tour to see how bronzes are made.

Head downtown, where charming blocks showcase historic buildings, shops and restaurants. Check out **The Foundry**, a new downtown destination packed with shopping, a movie theater, restaurants and events. Or, stop by the Loveland Visitor Center for information on the Sweetheart City's breweries, including one of the newest: **Backyard Tap**.

On the topic of sweethearts ... loved ones can lock their love for one another on two 10-foot-tall LOVE sculptures. Buy a lock at the visitors center and have your name engraved on it. Step outside or head to Lake Loveland and lock your love on the grid.

Hikers should seek out The Keyhole rock formation at the **Devil's Backbone Open Space**, an impressive geologic landmark. Boaters, fishers, paddleboarders and other water lovers will find plenty to do in the area with **Carter Lake**, a picturesque affair set in the foothills with mountainous views. as well

as Lake Loveland, Boyd Lake State Park, Lou Hagler Reservoir and others.

Hungry? Door 222 Food & **Drink** pairs delicious tapas with local draft beers. Or head to Taste Local for scratchmade all-day breakfast (we like The Devil's Backbone panini). Another option is Svivan Dale Guest Ranch's dinner horseback rides, which come with a trek to Eagle Ridge. Round things out with a visit to Wicked Tequila Room to choose from 40 luxury brands of tequila and mezcal. For dessert: Sweet Heart Winery in west Loveland is the perfect stop for a sip if you're making the 35-minute drive between Loveland and Rocky Mountain National Park.

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.

Greeley's culinary offerings grow every year. Check out 447 Distilling, Lonesome Buck Brewing and Luna's Tacos & Tequila to sample what the in-crowd's tasting.

Stop by the **Colorado Model Railroad Museum**, 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. There's also the **Centennial Village Museum**, a living history odyssey with original homes, lush gardens and walking paths that provide a look at local life from the 1870s to early 1930s.

Or take a swing along the **Poudre River Trail**, with mountain views, easy hiking trails and access to the Cache la Poudre River, fishing and wildlife viewing. The **Poudre Learning Center** has a fishing club, science camps, chuckwagon dinners, garden tours, bike trails and more.

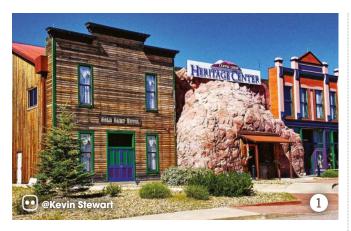
You'll find more than 50 pieces of **public art** sprinkled around Greeley, as well as lovely parks that feature lakes, small streams, bridges, waterfalls and islands. **Homestead Park and Open Space** has walking paths, a playground and public art.

Every summer Friday brings live music on the Ninth Street Plaza for **Friday Fest (4)**, with street performers, fire spinners, face painting, balloon artistry, sidewalk chalk and more.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Bellvue, Fort Collins, Greeley, Johnstown, Loveland (page 187), Platteville, Red Feather Lakes, Windsor





The city first came to life in the 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, you'll don a hard hat and descend 1,000 feet to learn about mining

techniques, see a vein of gold and ride in a mine cart.

Hop on the historic Cripple Creek & Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad (May-Oct.) through the historic gold-mining district. Visits to the Cripple Creek Heritage Center (1) 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 historic sites. Hikers head for the trails in the Gold Camp, as well, taking in spectacular views, old 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.

Stroll Bennett Avenue, which offers nostalgic street lighting, wide sidewalks, shops, restaurants and more. Join today's fortuneseekers at numerous betting tables in more than a dozen casinos. Collect your winnings and then head to the historic Butte Theater for a drama-filled treat May through December, or bring carrots and apples to feed the town's historic donkey herd, which roams the streets soaking up the nice weather.

The drive from Cripple Creek to Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument — a 35-million-yearold lakebed filled with insects, leaves and huge redwoods frozen in time by volcanic eruptions — along County Road 1 is a beautiful leg of the Gold Belt Tour, a National Scenic Byway.

Insider's Tip: If you happen to be staying in Colorado Springs, Pueblo or Woodland Park, the **Ramblin Express** shuttle runs up to Cripple Creek each day. For longer stays, consider a private Jeep tour of the backcountry, a wild-game hunting excursion or an overnight stay at a dude ranch.

Florissant, Lake George, **Woodland Park**









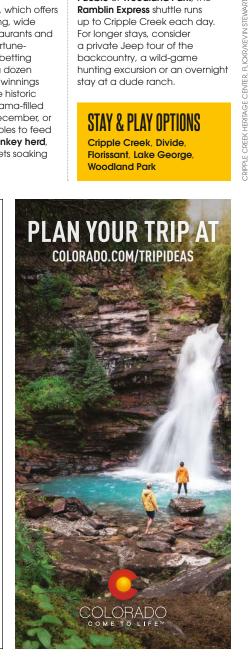


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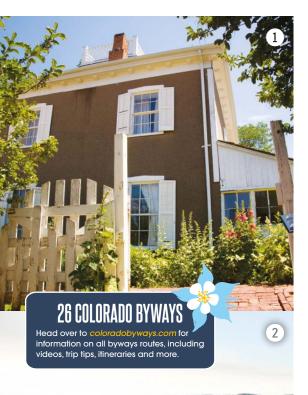


GO SLOW: HIGHWAY OF LEGENDS





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.





STAY & PLAY OPTIONS Cuchara, La Veta, Trinidad, Walsenburg

Start your vacation at the Trinidad Municipal Golf Course, a nine-holer with stunning views of the Sangre de Cristos (especially from the seventh hole). Trinidad Lake State Park 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.

Stroll through the brick-lined streets of Old Trinidad 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.

For dinner, make way to Rino's, where authentic Italian recipes and a talented crew of singing waiters combine for a memorable evening.

Stroll to the **Trinidad** History Museum, which houses the meticulously preserved and newly remodeled Baca House (1), a two-story adobe built in 1870 that combines Hispanic construction techniques with British design. The Santa Fe Trail Museum exhibits evoke frontier life from the trail days to the 1920s. Among the artifacts is Kit Carson's fringed buckskin coat. While here, you can also visit the **Bloom Mansion**. an elaborate Victorian confection built in 1882. and the A.R. Mitchell Museum of Western Art which houses collections of Western and Spanish

End your visit with a drive along the breathtaking Highway of Legends, with plenty of stops for taking pics. From Trinidad, the byway continues west to Cokedale (2), 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.

colonial folk art.

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 disc-golf course; in winter, it opens to snowshoeing and cross-country skiing) 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, minina museum, water park, visitor center and Lathrop State Park. And peek into La Veta's art galleries and the 1862 adobe **Francisco** Fort Museum. Check out the blast from the past at **Uptop** ghost town on Old La Veta Pass (3) — a favorite of star gazers.

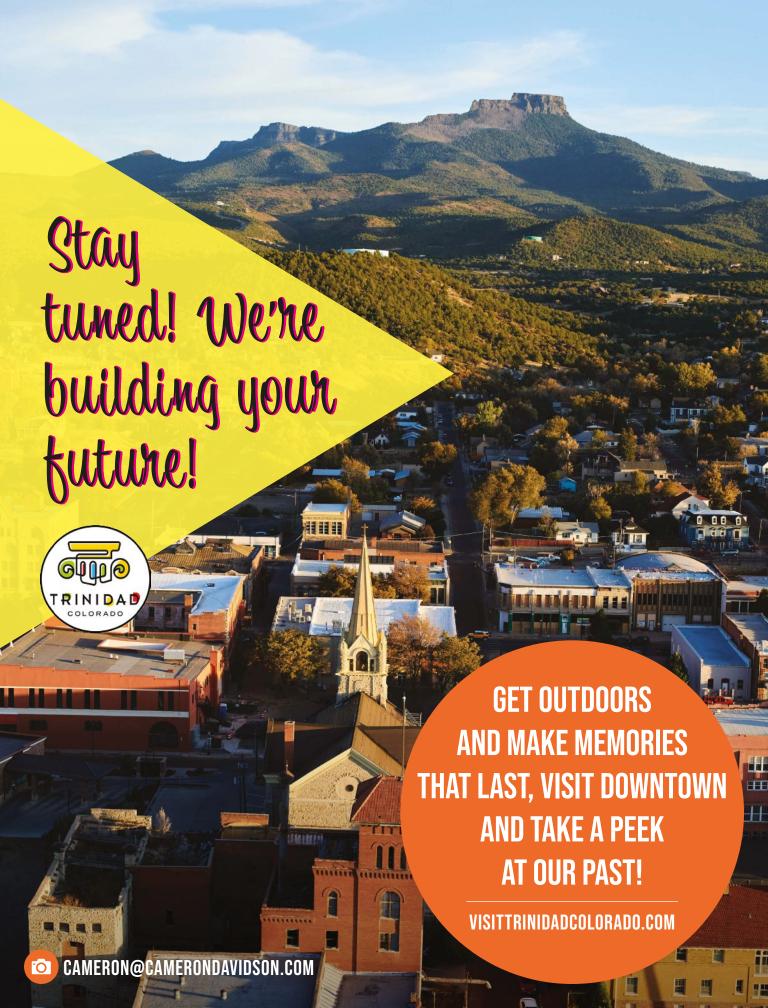
For an audio tour of the Highway of Legends and walking tours of Walsenburg, La Veta and Cuchara, check out the TravelStorys app, which describes the geology and history of the locations you'll see along the way, as well as the legends of the people who passed through in days of yore.



Five museums in Trinidad have entry fees ranging from free to just \$5, and there's a free 45-minute trolley tour of the historic district. Walsenburg's Wild Waters is an affordable family fave.



At Alys' Restaurant in La Veta, chef Alys surprises quests with a menu based on the day's inspiration, not to mention an unbeatable wine list.



ONLY IN BOULDER



Playfully referred to as the People's Republic of **Boulder**, this 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 research centers, the University of Colorado, artsy folks, world-class restaurants and hyper-athletic citizens.

*** WINTER FUN**

town, Boulder's proximity to skiing at nearby Eldora Mountain Resort, affordable winter lodging and downtown vibe make 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. Boulder is also becoming a favorite destination for winter fat biking. Nondownhill skiers love Eldora's Nordic Center, which offers lessons and trails designed specifically for crosscountry skiing, skate skiing and snowshoeina.





MORNING

The pedestrian Pearl Street Mall (1) is the city's hub. Fuel up at any of a dozen coffee shops alongside students and freelancers clicking away on their laptops. For a quintessential experience, drop into **The** Tune Up (2), 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. Or hook up with **Boulder Walking Tours** to see Boulder through its neighborhoods, historic areas and open spaces. If you're

feeling on trend, gravel biking is on the rise in Boulder. Hook up with **Full Cycle Bikes** for rentals and group rides.

Saturdays and Wednesdays April-mid-November, stroll Boulder Farmers Market (3), with a strict sell-what-youarow 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-plus farms and other places where you can pick berries, pet animals, check out a farm stand, picnic in a barn or take a class.



\$AVE

Stroll Pearl Street to sample quick bites at delicious prices, including falafel, gourmet hot dogs, salumi and cheese, cupcakes and more.



At Black Cat Farm, Three Leaf Farm, Lyons Farmette and Lone Hawk Farm dinners, you'll eat amazing food, hear the farmers' stories and dine outside where the food is grown.



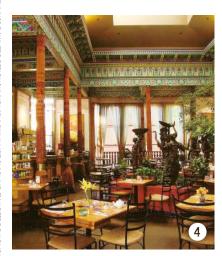
SIDETRIPS

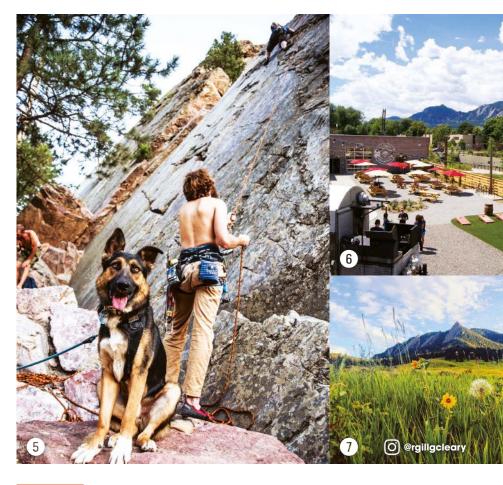
Boulder is close to Rocky Mountain National Park (1 hour), Eldorado Canyon State Park (15 minutes) and Golden Gate Canyon State Park (45 minutes).

You will 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 zany 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 182), Eldorado Springs, Louisville, Lyons (page 187), Superior, Westminster





AFTERNOON

Head next door to the **Dushanbe Teahouse (4)** to admire the intricate paintings and carvings adorning this building, shipped piece by piece from Boulder's sister city in Tajikistan. Have a bite to eat and order a pot of tea from the exhaustive menu.

Then, discover the hiking trails in National Historic Landmark Chautauqua Park (7), with options to suit every level of hiker and up-close views of the Flatirons — the slanting slabs of red sandstone that are Boulder's most recognizable landmark. Pro tip: On summer weekends, a free shuttle will take you to Chautauqua or Eldorado Canyon State Park (5) from the CU campus.

There's also the **Museum** of **Boulder**, which hosts big-name traveling exhibitions from 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.

FVFNING

Dinner at one of the city's restaurants is a must, given that it's often on top lists for its divine foodiness. Wander around Pearl Street for awardwinning 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, 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." The new Rosetta

Hall is drawing big acclaim with international flavors. 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, four wineries and one meadery). That's 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 has to a Boulder has ore 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** and **Mortal Kombucha**, or at **Rowdy Mermaid** inside **Rayback** Collective (6) — a food-truck park/beer garden/live-music venue that's drawing those in the know east of downtown.

horn Mountain Resort is located on the Grand Mesa near Grand Junction, where skiers, riders and snowtubers see something more like the Grand Canvon than the typical alpine view. An amazing new service: Ski Patrol Ski Along, your own personal guide to the mountain! Also, consider staying at the new base-area's tiny homes. Elsewhere, the Grand Mesa Nordic Council maintains 50 kilometers of cross-country trails. Several trailheads have warming huts.

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.



WINE & WONDROUS MOUNTAINS & MESAS **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.



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, including the new Palisade Plunge — a 32-mile high-speed singletrack ride connected to the town of Palisade. Grab a map at the entrance to town to discover all that's within reach.

The Colorado River is accessible to kayaks, canoes, raffers 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 (2) 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 eastwest ranges in the U.S. For dinner, The Palisade Café & Wine Bar 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 (1), where James Beard-nominated chef Josh Niernberg crafts menus from the Grand Valley's farmers, winemakers and brewers. 626 on Rood, Café Sol and Taco Party are a couple of other must-eats for local flavors, and three new craft breweries have sprung up to quench local thirst.

Find Colorado crops at their source: Get vour hands dirty with Sage Creations Organic Lavender Farm's U-pick experience. Several orchards also offer pick-your-own ops, including Fruit Basket Orchards, Green Barn Fruit Co., 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.



Colorado National Monument's entry fee is \$25 per vehicle, opening a majestic, rugged hiking and biking playground for everyone you can cram into your ride.

Colorado Backcountry Biker's multiday trips have riders traveling to and staying in cozy backcountry huts. The deluxe package includes a night at Gateway Canyons Spa & Resort for a nice (and needed) plush bed, hot shower and hearty meal.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: BIN 707 FOODBAR: PALISADE FRUT & WINE BYWAY; FACEBOOK/POWDERHORN MOUNTAIN RESC



DAY 2

Start your morning in downtown Grand Junction, where locally owned brunch hotspots' outdoor secting areas let you bask in the morning air. Work off the hash browns by strolling walkable streets lined with galleries, more than 100 outdoor sculptures and a handful of cute shops.

Those looking to get their heart rates up have options: Jet Boat Colorado gives fast rides 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 cable wakeboarding park and has recently added an aqua park with floating inflatables and bouncers; and Grand Junction Stand Up Paddle offers river tours

(300-plus area lakes also give you plenty of SUP options).

The area is also home to Colorado Parks & Wildlife's Cameo Shooting and Education Complex, designed for competitions and as place where kids can learn the safe use of firearms.

West of Grand Junction, the stunning red-rock canyonlands of Colorado National Monument (3) 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. In the summer, hook up with the Western Colorado Astronomy Club to see the Milky Way above the canyons.

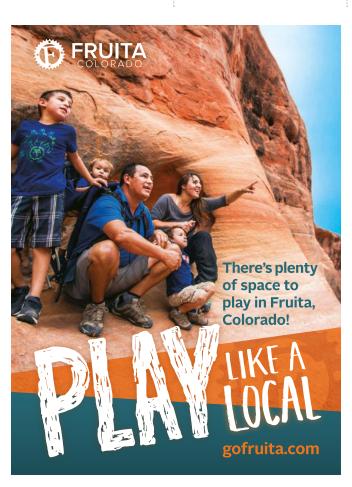
For a tour of the world's second largest concentration of natural rock arches, **Rattlesnake Canyon** within the McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area west of the monument is a special spot for those willing to earn it — it's reached via rough 4x4 drive and moderate hike.

The serious biker will want to add another day to the itinerary in order to explore the mountainbiking 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 Company can set you up with side-by-sides and tours.

Plan to see the **Rimrock Rodeo**, which takes place every summer on Tuesday, and then stop into downtown's **Cavalcade**, an intimate performance venue in Fruita's growing downtown, where you can relax and listen to some music.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Cliffon, Collbran, Fruita (page 186), Grand Junction (page 186), Loma, Mesa, Palisade (page 188), Parachute, Rangely (page 189)





Stay in Palisade where beauty meets adventure. Tour through blossoming orchards, lavender fields and 25 plus wineries on the Fruit & Wine Byway. Conquer 32 miles of downhill, backcountry, single-track bliss on our new epic trail, **The Palisade Plunge**. Float down the Colorado River. Explore the stunning red stone canyons of the Colorado National Monument.



Book your stay @ Visitpalisade.com

Palisade has a variety of local lodging options. Enjoy our quaint bed & breakfasts, riverside camping and cabin stays at Palisade Basecamp, our new pet-friendly Spoke & Vine Motel, or our popular Victorian-themed Colorado Wine Country Inn.





The Museums of Western Colorado

Three major museum facilities exhibiting substantial collections of dinosaurs found locally, historic railcars, and outlaw memorabilia. Cross Orchards Historic Site, Dinosaur Journey Museum and the Museum of the West.

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PLAYING & PAMPERING



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

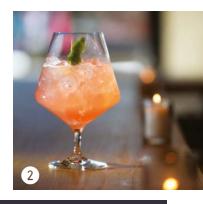
Vail Mountain — one of two world-famous ski mountains in the valley (Beaver Creek is the other) - has launched oodles of summer activities under the theme of Epic Discovery (1), where visitors tackle ropes courses, an alpine coaster, a waterless tube track, SUV tours, guided hikes and more. Take the gondola up and walk down amid colorful wildflowers, or 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. There's also the new West Avon Preserve trail system winding trails for all levels of mountain bikers.

You've worked up your appetite; lunch at one of Vail's fabulous restaurants, such as Heirloom, Sweet Basil, The Little Diner, Root & Flower (2) or Mountain Standard. Then stroll Vail Village or nearby Beaver Creek Village for worldclass 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 alpineinspired treatment at one of the valley's premier resort spas, including **Sonnenalp Spa**, **Spa** Anjali, Spa at the Arrabelle and **Bloom Spa**. You'll be refreshed and ready for an unforgettable night in the Vail Valley.

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 snowtubing to mountain-top dining and sleigh rides.







Pick up picnic goodies (many hotels and restaurants offer box lunches for a day's adventure) and you'll find a scenic spot or 10 in every town in the valley. Two favorites: Little Beach Park in Minturn and Eagle River Preserve in Edwards.



Dine at 10,000 feet at Game Creek Restaurant, whose location on Vail Mountain provides unmatched views. Beaver Creek offers another unique restaurant option at Beano's Cabin, a grand yet rustic on-mountain epicurean experience. Transportation to either place ranges from a gondola, wagon to a horseback ride.



Less luxurious but equally delightful options are plentiful, 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** Adventures offers a fly-fishing trip on private waters of the Piney River.



Be sure to check the schedules for summertime special performing arts events such as the Hot Summer Nights Concert Series, 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 (4), 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, 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. Eagle River Park whitewater park has waves and holes for surfing, kayaking, raffing and tubing, as well as a beach area and fire pits.

Check out **Minturn**'s galleries, antique shops and everyone's favorite, the **Minturn Market** (3), which shows off local artisans, crafts, prepared foods, farms, live music and more. The town's new Everkrisp Trail delights mountain bikers and joins 222 miles of Forest Service trails nearby for hiking, biking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Pick up a trail map at Town Hall.



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 Bureau of Land Management-managed spaces. For those 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.

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. Wolcott is home to Zip Adventures — six separate lines and the Canyon Plunge free-fall ride.

Year-round the 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.

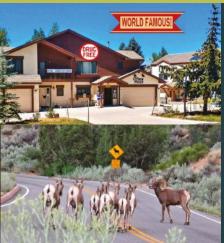
STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

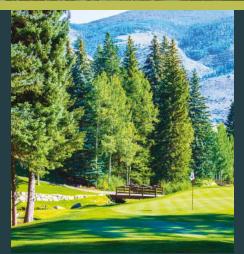
Avon (page 182), Beaver Creek, Eagle, Edwards (page 185), Gypsum, Minturn, Red Cliff, Vail (page 189)

VISITVALLEY

VAIL | MINTURN | RED CLIFF | EAGLEVAIL | AVON | BEAVER CREEK | EDWARDS | EAGLE | GYPSUM







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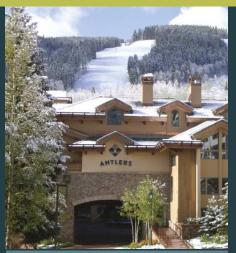
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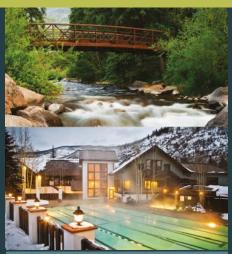
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FEEL THE FRONTIER



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 and steeped in history.

MORNING

Kick off your visit in the colorful Union Avenue Historic District, the town's original city center, which once housed trading posts, gambling saloons and second-story brothels. Today, the brick and sandstone buildings house a collection of boutiques, 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, raku firings, poetry readings and more.

Check out the **Historic Arkansas Riverwalk (3)**, a 32-acre waterfront plaza with a nature center and outdoor amphitheater, as





well as a new visitor center to help you plan your trip. Take a river cruise or get your heart pumping on one of the bike trails, many of which connect to Lake Pueblo State Park. Near the riverwalk is Neon Alley (1), 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 (2), adored for its hands-on exhibits focused on the arts, science and history. There's also Pueblo Weisbrod Aircraft Museum, a World War II Army air

Continued on page 162.



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 auiet 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 aals herdina cattle on horseback and historic one-room school houses. Take an Amish waaon ride at Sunset Ranch. Stop for a show at the historic Jones Theater. For fine dining and spectacular views, make a date at Westcliffe's Alpine Lodge. The communities were also the first in Colorado to be recognized by the International Dark-Sky Association; stop by for star parties and visit Smokey Jack Observatory.

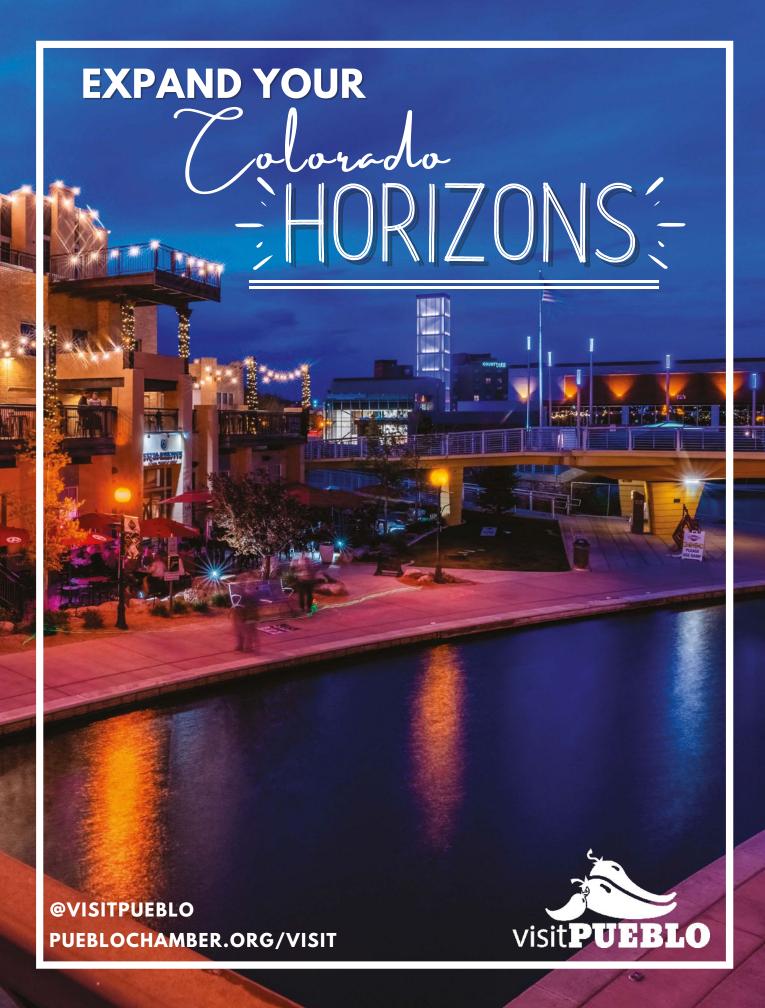
South of Pueblo along 1-25. Colorado City anchors the southern leg of the Frontier Pathways scenic byway. The 104-mile road along the splendid Sangre de Cristos travels through the San Isabel National Forest, by Hardscrabble Canyon and 40-acre Lake Isabel, an ideal spot for fishing, hiking and picnicking. 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."

\$AVE

See historic drama along the Frontier Pathways scenic byway. The land holds great importance to Ute Indians who made their homes in the region, traders and trappers who made a living in the foothills, and Spanish conquistadors who explored the territory for precious minerals.



Pair dinner with a show — see what's on stage at the Steel City Theatre Company, Impossible Playhouse or Grupo Folklórico del Pueblo.





STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Colorado City, Pueblo (page 188), Pueblo West, Silver Cliff, Westcliffe

base turned museum with more than 30 vintage gircraft; the EI Pueblo History Museum, a recreated 1840s adobe trading post and archaeological excavation site; and The Steelworks Museum, rated in the top-five industrial collections in the nation.

Watch the city melt into shades of gold and red on a sunset gondola ride. 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 — or take the Pueblo Chile Farm Stand Tour (4) 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 sausages, cheese, honey 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, Paleteria

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

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.





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 await. Drop a line in the Rio Grande River, which boasts 20 miles of Gold Medal waters for primo trout fishing; rent an e-bike, hook up with an ATV outfitter to see backcountry sites; or hike a section of the Continental Divide Trail, a 3,100-mile trek between Canada and Mexico. Packed with rugged peaks, 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 (1) (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 arowing 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, highalpine backcountry known mostly for a late-summer explosion of wildflowers.

Lake City itself is known for its impressive collection of 1870s buildings, several nearby ghost towns (including Carson, Animas Forks (2) and Capitol City) and inspiring panoramas of the San Juan Mountains. For a fisher, camper or hiker, Lake City is an

> **auarters** for all kinds of fresh-air exploits. Pick up a ghost tour at the Hinsdale County Museum and see a show at the old-timev Mountaineer Theatre.

ideal head-

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 189)



With over a million acres of untamed lands in four wilderness areas, you'll find plenty of options for dispersed camping and backpacking, no reservation required.



Rent an ATV or snowmobile for thrilling adventures. Outfitters have all the gear and knowledge to get you set up and pointed in the right direction.



ANCIENT ADVENTURES



Be sure to visit
COLORADO.com/
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more itineraries!

One of the richest archaeological zones in America just happens to be hidden amid some of the grandest natural landscapes in the Southwest. Visit Mesa Verde Country — **Cortez, Mancos** and **Dolores** — for awe-inspiring adventures.

DAY 1

Make your homebase in Cortez, an hour from Mesa Verde National Park (2). Whether you stay at a yurt, 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 for local insights into the area's offerings.

Then head to the "green table" of Mesa Verde National Park, home to more than 4,000 archae-

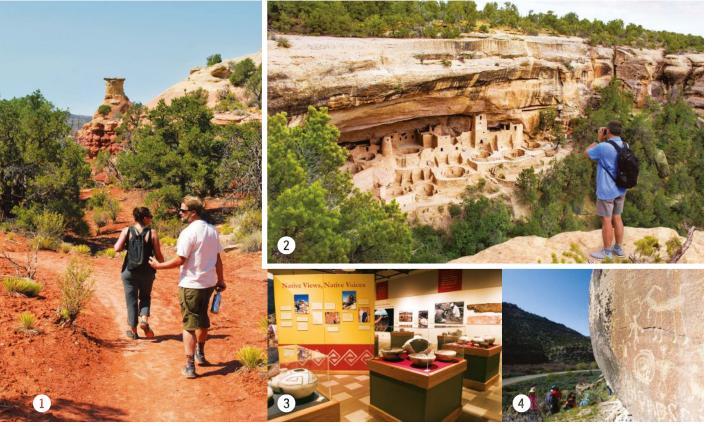
ological sites, 600 of which are cliff dwellings. Orient yourself at the Visitor and Research Center, where you can pick up maps and brochures, see exhibits and purchase tickets for tours. Only two cliff dwellings are open for self-guided tours, so if you want to go inside the amazing Cliff Palace, you 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 Road.

One lodging option is **Canyon** of the Ancients Guest Ranch, a working farm and peaceful place to rest your head. 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 (4)** in **Towaoc**, where
Ute guides help you explore the
culture, architecture and art of
the Ute and Ancestral Puebloan
people. From here, pass **Four Cor- ners Monument** on your way to **Hovenweep National Monument**'s **(5)** round and square towers,
some of which you can visit via
a short hike. Visit at night for





Camp under starry skies at Canyons of the Ancients National Monument or take a self-guided historic walking tour of Mancos, both free!



Indulge in rustic luxury with a Kiva Deluxe View Room at Far View Lodge in Mesa Verde National Park for excellent dining and stunning vistas of the rugged landscape.



stargazing in this International Dark-Sky Park, with ranger-led stargazing programs in the spring and summer.

Fit in a visit to the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument (1). Stop first at the Visitor Center and Museum (3) 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 structure 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 everythina from beer and rum to leather aoods 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 tour the renovated Mancos Times-Tribune building. Or take workshops in blacksmithing, mosaics, pottery, leatherworking and more at the **Mancos** School of the West (6).

Another option is to taste the region's flavors on a Colorado wine tour. Cortez is home to two wineries, including and Sutcliffe Vineyards, recognized among the country's top wine producers by Food & Wine Magazine, and Yellow Car Country Wines, which has a patio with amazing views perfect for sipping their wares.

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 a haven on McPhee Reservoir and the Dolores River, a popular whitewater-raffing 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 at **Fenceline Cider** in **Mancos**,
where you can sit and sip
on the riverside patio in
warmer weather.



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

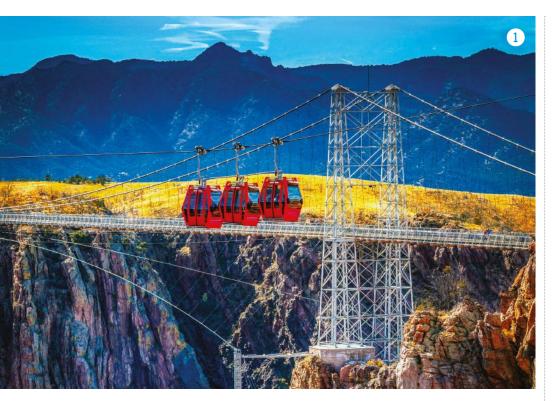
Cortez (page 184), Dolores (page 184), Mancos (page 187), Mesa Verde National Park (page 188), Towaoc



HIGH-FLYING AMUSEMENTS IN THE ROYAL GORGE REGION

COLORADO
PIKES PEAK WONDERS

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**.



With easy access to epic rock climbing, mountain biking, ziplining, fishing and river rafting, as well as a scene rich in geology, archaeology and history, adventurers 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 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 is typically more temperate than other parts of the state, many of these activities are available year-round in comfortable weather.

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 guided 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 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 glasstopped 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 proliferate in the region. Selfguided Fremont County Heritage Tours offer opportunities to discover the history. Or investigate dinosaur tracks and ancient fossils on the Skyline Drive tour.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Cañon City (page 183), Coaldale, Cotopaxi (page 184), Cripple Creek, Florissant, Florence, Penrose, Texas Creek



Stop by The Winery at Holy Cross Abbey for wine tasting at a former Benedictine Abbey with stellar Wet Mountain views and a gift shop full of delights.



Hop aboard the Royal Gorge Route Railroad's Murder Mystery Dinner Train to enjoy a three-course locally sourced dinner, drinks and figuring out "whodunit."

I TOP LEFT: TWIN LAKES INTERLAKEN RESORT, MILES/CLEAR IMAGE; TREELINE KITCHEN,

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 (3). Seventy square city blocks of Victorian buildings and shops are part of a National Historic Landmark District, along with 20 square milles of a preserved silver-mining district. More than 50 buildings date to the 1870s, including the Tabor Opera House (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 Tennessee Pass Cafe — loved for its organic and locally sourced menu. Two Mile Brewing Co is one of the best for post-adventure local brews and tasty snacks. Pop into Treeline Kitchen (2) for elevated cocktails, an array of

eclectic (and healthy!) cuisine along with sweet rooftop seating.

In the affernoon, 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, hardrock mine.

Leadville sits along the Top of the Rockies scenic and historic byway (1), and the town's paved Mineral Belt Trail offers year-round recreation for bikers, hikers, snowshoers and cross-country skiers. More than 100 miles of the Arkansas River, starting at the

Lake Fork near Leadville, are designated Gold Medal fishing waters. Local outfitters can get you all the gear and instruction you need and point you to the luckiest spots.

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, the former training site of the 10th Mountain Division, is now a family-friendly ski area with 19 new trails, including 70 acres of fresh double-black-diamond runs.

Leadville's East Side Mining District is groomed for Nordic skiing, snowshoeing, fat biking and snowmobiling. It's part of an extensive network of nearly 100 miles of groomed trails, many of which are free. The area offers unparalleled views of the state's highest fourteeners (mounts Elbert and Massive) and the chance to see mining structures up close. Visitors in March will be delighted by the town's skijoring festival, where horses tow skiers down Harrison Avenue.

In Twin Lakes, "Twin-ter" brings ice fishing, Nordic skiing and snowshoeing on the legendarily long-distance Colorado and Continental Divide trails in a serene and solitary setting.



STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Leadville (page 187), Twin Lakes



Less than an hour from Breckenridge, Vail and Copper Mountain, and only 9 miles to Ski Cooper, Leadville offers a unique and low-cost option for a ski vacation.



Have dinner at Tennessee Pass Cookhouse and you'll ski, hike or snowshoe through the forest to enjoy a gourmet meal in a candlelit yurt.

GOLDEN HOURS 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 picture-perfect landscapes. Explore towns like Alamosa, San Luis, Monte Vista, Saguache and Crestone, tucked away in this intriguing area.



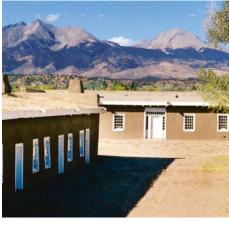
Leap into the valley's deep roots in the state's oldest town: San Luis' history dates back to 1540. La Vega, a plot of land on the edge of town, is where settlers first established a communal way of life in the late 1800s and laid claim to the area's first water rights before Colorado was even a state. 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

Fort Garland was originally established to protect early settlers in the San Luis Valley. The 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 Kit Carson's quarters while he served as commander until 1867. In the 1870s, "... many Black soldiers eagerly responded to the government's call for troops to help create permanent settlements in the West," according to a History Colorado exhibit there. "Segregated black units were formed and over 10,000 Black soldiers moved west to help create a new way of life they hoped their people would be able to share."

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, Coneios reflects the culture of Old Mexico and boasts fantastic fly-fishing opportunities.

Alamosa, Antonito (page 182), Crestone, Fort Garland, La Jara, Manassa, Monte Vista, Moffat (page 188), Mosca (page 188), Saguache,



Drive the Los Caminos Antiguos scenic byway through 16th-century Spanish territory. See Spanish influences through adobe missions, museums, galleries and authentic cuisine.



Spend a week riding at Zapata Ranch where you can relax with massages, home-cooked meals and spectacular views.

MONTE VISTA CRANE FESTIVAL

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

To the south, the **Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad** is an 1880s train that travels from historic depots in **Antonito**, Colorado, to Chama, New Mexico.

Back in **Alamosa**, stop by the **Colorado Welcome Center**, which 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 amazing photo ops, visit Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge (2) 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. (Visit COLORADO.com/Birding for more.)

Snap a sunset from nearly anywhere in the valley by aiming your lens eastward toward the Sangres, which turn crimson as the sun slides below the horizon.

DAY 3

Those who love rock climbing, biking, hiking and hunting should spend a day in **Saguache**, an intimate community one hour north of Alamosa and 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.

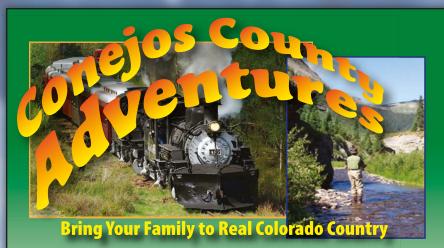
Not far is **Penitente Canyon**, whose 100-foot walls are beloved by rock climbers. There are hiking trails that will take you close to the action. Try to spy one of Colorado's rarest plants, the neoparrya, scaling the cliff walls.

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.







- Outdoor Adventure in the incredible Conejos Canyon
- Travel Adventure on the historic Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad
- Historic Adventure along Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic Byway



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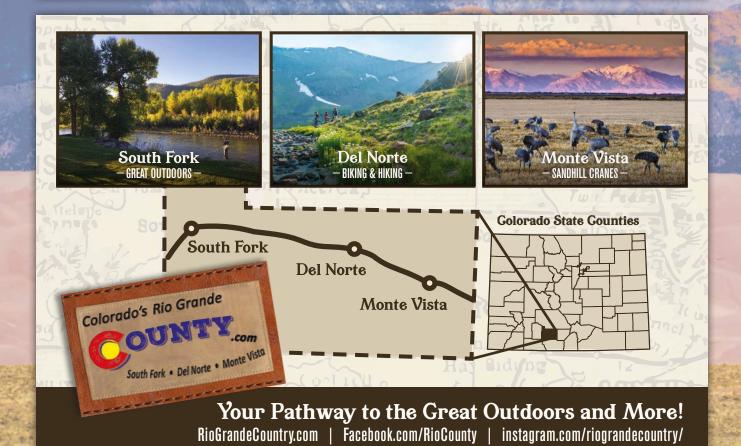
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CRAZY ABOUT LONGMONT



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.

You'll find three spectacular golf courses, three National Historic Districts, beautiful parks and a Certifled Colorado Creative District in Longmont (1). Stop by the downtown Visitors Center 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, which
houses exhibits on the region's
history and hosts outdoor summer
concerts and movies. Or head to
the Dickens Farm Nature Area, a
52-acre site along St. Vrain Creek
with biking trails, boating and
tubing access, a nature-themed
playground and more.

The area's brewery scene is also noteworthy. Left Hand Brewing Co. (3) and Oskar Blues' Tasty Weasel Taproom are longtime favorites, while 300 Suns, Longs Peak Pub & Taphouse, Großen Bart, Shoes & Brews, Outworld, Wibby and Bootstrap (among others) have emerged in recent



years. If you want to easily sample beers across the city, the hop-on/ hop-off **BrewHop Trolley** transports craft-beverage lovers to a dozenplus venues in Longmont every weekend

For a little twist on adult beverages, visit St. Vrain Cidery (2) or one of the town's craft-spirits distilleries. Longtucky Spirits uses hyper-local ingredients to make whiskey, gin and rum on ownerbuilt equipment. They also offer a refreshing variety of premium canned cocktails. Meanwhile Dry Land Distillers handcrafts spirits fitting of the American West.

Time for a snack! The Art of Cheese 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 fill you with samples of the best stuff. If you're just not hungry for some reason, Longmont Museum has a free walking tour app to help you explore the area's past on foot, with Spanish and English versions.

History buffs should check out the **Dougherty Museum**'s impressive collection of restored antique autos, farm equipment and more (open weekends June through Aug.). Meanwhile, the **Agricultural Heritage Center** explores the area's agricultural history through interactive exhibits and a 1909 farmhouse furnished with items from that erg.

For some thrills, **Mile-Hi Skydiving Center** (where the Denver Bron-

cos' 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.

2

For a more relaxing excursion, consider stand-up paddle-boarding 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.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Boulder, Firestone, Frederick, Longmont, Lyons (page 187)



Look up! Fall leaf peeping is a breeze in Longmont, given its proximity to state parks, open spaces and Rocky Mountain National Park.



Treat yourself to amazing birds'-eye views of the Rocky Mountains by booking an excursion with the Mile-Hi Skydiving Center or Fair Winds Hot Air Balloon Flights.

4 DAYS IN COLORADO'S COLORADO **COWBOY COUNTRY**



Literally millions of acres of untouched public lands and free-flowing rivers soothe 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 still home to Colorado cowboys.

Spend your first day in the craggy hills of Dinosaur National Monument (1), an active research area where visitors can see thousands of fossils and prehistoric artifacts. A scenic drive along Harpers Corner Road will show you changing ecosystems and striking viewpoints, while the park's little-known Yampa Bench Road offers views that rival those of the Grand Canyon. Or visit the photogenic Gates of Lodore, 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'll spot Bakers Peak and Mount Zirkel and find many picnic and camping sites as well as fishing and wildlife-spotting opportunities.

Sand Wash Basin is home to one of the few remaining herds of free-roaming mustangs in the country. Marvel at hundreds of greys, sorrels and pintos running wild as the sun sets (tours are available).

Or, head north of the monument to Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge. This highdesert valley hosts more than 300 native and migratory species. Listen to the sagebrush swish as you look for pronghorn, bighorn sheep, mule deer, black bears and moose.



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.

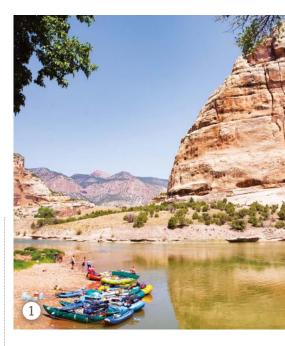
Soaring 1,000 feet above the Yampa Valley, Cedar Mountain just north of Craig, consists of 880 acres of public lands complete with mountain biking, horseback riding and cross-country skiing. The horseshoe-shaped, juniper-rimmed mountain stands tall overhead the 3.5-mile Stearns Trail, for all hiking 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. The reservoir is also a water- and jet-skiing paradise; and 11 miles of trails greet hikers, cross-country skiers and snowshoers.

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. (Rent an OHV in town before you head out.)

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, 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 get you started. 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 (2) 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 184), Dinosaur, Maybell, Meeker (page 188), Rangely (page 189)

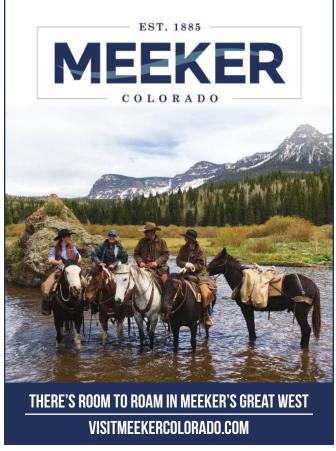


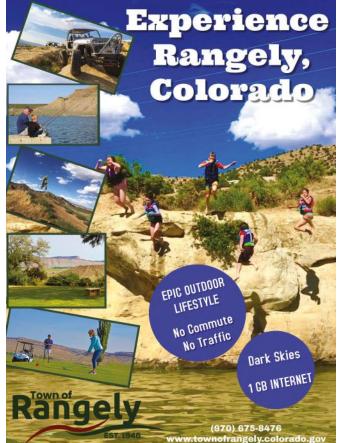
Spend an afternoon at the Wyman Living History Museum in Craig to explore historic pioneer buildings and a treasure trove of memorabilia.



Book a week-long stay in a cozy cabin at Elk River Guest Ranch out yonder in Clark, where you'll find year-round fun and ranch activities in serene mountain settings.











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 14,000foot peaks. The area also 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 (1),



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 (3), 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 Cutthroat Cafe and Rustic Station will fuel all adventures, including a hike into the Lost Creek Wilderness (2) on Brookside-McCurdy Trail.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Alma, Bailey, Como, Fairplay, Pine



Grab lunch on the go at the whimsical Bailey's Coney Island Boardwalk. Save plenty of time for pics of yourself with the giant hot dog.



Stay awhile in a historic mountain cabin that's close to hiking, hunting, fishing and horseback riding at Glen Isle Resort, just 50 minutes from Denver.

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more itineraries!

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,

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Denver (page 184), Golden, Lakewood, Morrison (page 188) 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 man-made 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 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 around you. After the tour, those 21 and over can sample a couple beer varieties.

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 **Colorado Plus Cidery & Pub (2)** nearby.

Find something for everyone at the new **Tributary Food Hall & Drinkery**, which boasts delights from charcuterie, crepes and gelato to craft cocktails and coffee; **Barrels & Bottles** has 27 beers (many brewed in Golden) and 24 wines on tap and a light, farm-fresh menu. Other locally loved dining hot spots include **Trailhead Taphouse**, **Xicamiti La Taquería Bistro** and **Miners Saloon**.

EVENING

Make plans to see a concert at (or just hike around) the 9,525-seat Red Rocks Amphitheatre (1) 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.





Check out a ride at Golden Bike Library Thursday through Sunday, May to October — two hours for free or \$10 for a day full of wheeling around town.



Fine dining in a unique setting awaits a few miles down the road at The Fort, a recreated adobe pioneer structure serving "new foods of the Old West."

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 prairie host almost every bird species ever documented in Colorado. And keep an eye out for fluttery wings — Lamar is the state's only **Monarch City USA**, a community that maintains the butterflies' habitats. Grab dinner in Lamar before exploring the town's historic district or strolling the 6.2-mile paved **Lamar Loop Trail**.

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.





Head west on the Santa Fe Trail to Las Animas and the Boggsville Historic Site (1). 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 (2), a recreated buffalo-trading post. For years, the original was the only permanent settlement on the trail between Missouri and Mexican settlements. It was a commercial, social, military and cultural hub between European, Native American, Hispanic trappers and traders.

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.

Visit the **Koshare Museum**, home to a world-class collection of Western and Native American art and artifacts amassed by a local group of Boy Scouts interested in Native American heritage since the 1930s. 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.

As you rove, watch 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

Hasty, La Junta, Las Animas, Lamar, 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.

INSPIRED TO LINGER



TRIPS
200 ITINERARIES & COUNTING
Be sure to visit
COLORADO.com/
ColoRoadTrips for even
more ifineraries!

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 merge in Delta County, where an organic-food and wine region meets easy access to spectacular canyonlands for hiking and biking, including Escalante Canyon and Big and Little Dominguez canyons.

Spend a few days hitting up each side of the area's vacation spectrum.

Start with the West Elks Wine Trail, which meanders past eight wineries, and keep an eye out for spots to buy fresh, organic fruit and veggies. As you go, savor treats from restaurants that highlight the local produce and meats, including Root & Vine Market and The Living Farm Cafe in Paonia, or 133 BRGR in Hotchkiss.

Paonia, Hotchkiss and Crawford form a **Certified Colorado Creative District**, where artists' studios, musicians, writers and other creative folk mix among the mesas, and Delta's historic Main Street is lined with colorful, large-scale murals by local artists.

For history, Fort Uncompange brings an 1820s fur-trading post to life and the **Delta County Historical Museum**'s big draw is a collection of dinosaur discoveries from nearby the Dry Mesa quarry



site. Visitors can 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.

1

For active diversions, Sweitzer Lake State Park (1) near Delta is ideal for boating and birdwatching, as are Paonia and Crawford state parks. Western Slope SUP can get you set up paddle-boarding 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 others (namely the Flowing Park Trail, Sidewinder, Smith Mountain and Jumbo Mountain), the County Line trail system, Escalante Rim Loop and the North Rim Entrance to the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.
There's also 4 miles of singletrack

There's also 4 miles of singletrack and a skills and pump track in Delta's **Confluence 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.

Antique shops in Delta and the old-school **Tru Vu Drive In Theater** should scratch an itch for nostalgic pursuits. Other favorite spots to visit include the charming **Cirque Boutique**, the **Creamery**

Arts Center, Azura Cellars and Gallery, Paonia United Brewing Co., Leroux Creek Inn & Vineyards, and Delicious Orchards & Big B's Cidery (2).

For a truly unique adventure, visit Western Culture Farmstead & Creamery to sample small-batch goat cheese, tour the farm and meet the goats themselves.

Stop into the **Delta Area Chamber** of Commerce for maps and advice about all the area has to offer.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

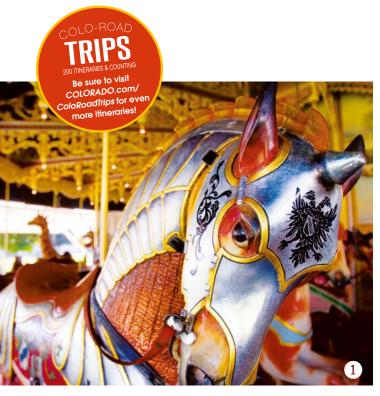
Cedaredge, Crawford, Delta (page 184), Orchard City, Paonia



Treat yourself to a night of stargazing at the North Rim of Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, an International Dark-Sky Park 11 miles from Crawford.



Book a guided fly-fishing tour to cast in Gold Medal waters and discover the region's little-known hot spots with the expertise of a local angler.





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 (3)** with some one-of-a-kind birding. In the spring, colorful and peculiar greater prairie chickens strut and dance across local

grasslands in search of mates. The ritual is such a spectacle that viewing tours are offered in March and April.

Housing one of the only permanent Smithsonian exhibits outside of Washington, D.C., 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 (2)** contains 21 refurbished buildings filled with authentic artifacts from the early 1900s. Visit Memorial Day to Labor Day weekends, 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 theater.

EVENING

Grab a quarter and head over to the Kit Carson County Fairgrounds to ride a National Historic Landmark. Out of the nearly 4,000 wooden carousels carved in America between 1885 and the 1930s, the fully restored 1905 **Kit Carson County Carousel (1)** is one of a handful still spinning.

For an extra bit of fun on select summer weekends, ride to the carousel on the Old Town Express, a horse-drawn wagon ride between the fairgrounds and Old Town. And those visiting the last week in July can take in the 104th Kit Carson County Fair and Rodeo.

SIDETRIPS

Visit ourjourney.info to learn about museums and attractions, events and off-the-beaten-path sites to explore. There are also 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, Wray



Grab the binoculars and explore a section of the Playa Trail. In the summer, you'll spy our state bird, the Lark Bunting, singing the days away.



Marvel at a different kind of bird by reserving a spot on the Greater Prairie Chicken Tour — spots book up fast, so make plans quickly to see these creatures up close. CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: WRAY, MILES/ANDREA BUROLLA; KIT CARSON COUNTY CAROU MILES/MATT INDEN; OLD TOWN MUSEUM IN BURLINGTON, MILE/MATT INDEN.

GATEWAY TO COLORADO





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 maps and brochures. The staff
can tell you how this town on the Pony Express
route was burned to the ground in the 1860s.
A few years later, after the town was rebuilt,
Union Pacific Railroad laid tracks through
Julesburg. The population soared to 4,000 and
Julesburg sprouted saloons and dance halls—
and some interesting characters.

Dive into this gritty era of Julesburg's past at the Fort Sedgwick Museum, where artifacts tell of days when gamblers, cowboys and railroad workers made this the "Wickedest City in the West." A stop by the Depot Museum (1) 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.

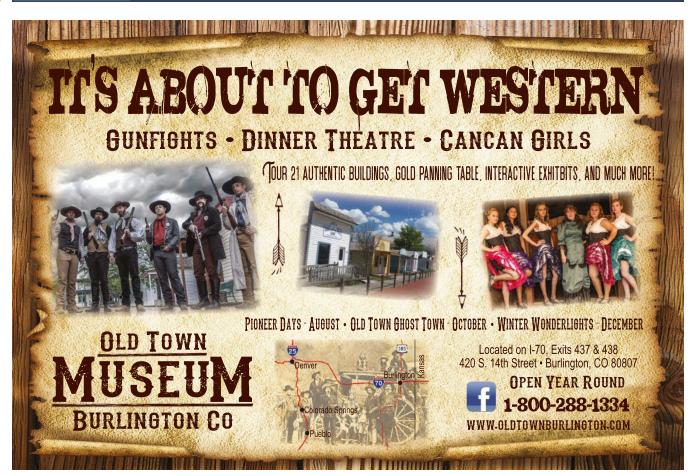
STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Julesburg

Quick Tip



Many visitors come for excellent tailwater fly-fishing along the South Platte River throughout the year.



ALL TRAILS LEAD TO LIMON COLORADO PIONEERIN



This small town began as a work camp for the Chicago and Rock Island rail line in 1888. Today, Colorado's "Hub City" sits at the junction of five major highways, gracefully merging farmlands and prairie as far as the eye can see and offering a welcoming respite for travelers.

MORNING

Browse **downtown Limon**'s gift boutiques and antique shops for a handcrafted souvenir. Follow the marked pedestrian trail to the **Doug Kissel Fishing Pond** just south of Main Street. The 1-acre fishing hole is a popular attraction stocked with trout in the spring and home to bass, crappie, catfish and bluegill.

For a little more adventure, navigate to the eight **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 (2) 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 (1) houses a permanent *Trains on the Plains* exhibit, circa-1970 railroad office and a working scale model of Limon's 1940s rail yard.

FVFNING

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 187)



SIDETRIPS

Lincoln County is right on the Kingbird Trail and is home to more than 50 different avian species. Bird 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 area is also home to the rare mountain plover. COLORADO.com/Birding

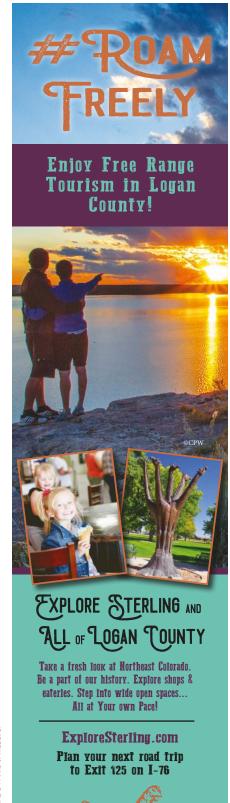




\$AVE

Compare birding notes with the locals over a handmade breakfast of doughnuts, flaky pastries and coffee from The Hipstir Wagon food trailer.

splurge •••• April's Karval Mountain Plover Festival brings exclusive birding tours, home-cooked meals and more activities that can't be missed by avid (or beginner) birders.



LOGAN TOUNTY

PAWNEE PIONEER TRAILS



In our peaceful northeast, you'll find ample birding opportunities and 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, 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 brewery, **Parts & Labor Brewing Company**, 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** and take advantage of the striking photo ops the sandstone formations create while looking for burrowing owls.

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 Native American exhibits and 1920s soda fountain culture, the museum pays fribute to local star — American big band-leader Glenn Miller.

West of Fort Morgan, Jackson Lake State Park (1) 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. It also just received a coveted International Dark-Sky Park designation.

Late summer and fall are chock full of fairs, festivals and concerts in all three towns.

STAY & PLAY OPTIONS

Brush, Fort Morgan, Orchard, Sterling

Swimming Pool & Exercise/Fitness Facilities The Pets Allowed High-Speed Internet Alpha Airport Shuttle Complimentary Breakfast ADA-Compliant Restaurant On Site Free Parking In-Room Refrigerator In-Room Microwave Airport Shuttle 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

STATEWIDE

ATTRACTIONS

COLORADO HISTORIC HOT SPRINGS LOOP Take a week or two to really experience the Colorado Historic Hot Springs Loop. From Denver, begin in Buena Vista, Nathrop and Salida. Then travel south to Pagosa Springs, Ouray, Ridgway, Glenwood Springs and Steamboat Springs. ▶ cohotspringsloop.com, cohotspringsloop@gmail.com, 970-948-4923, PO Box 774408, Steamboat Springs 80477

BED & BREAKFASTS

BED AND BREAKFAST INNKEFPERS OF COLORADO

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LODGES & CABINS

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ANTONITO

ATTRACTIONS

CUMBRES & TOLIEC 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 Colorado and New Mexico border. Trains depart daily from Charna, NM, and Antonito, CO. ► cumbrestoltec. com, info@cumbrestoltec.com, 179-472-3984, 888-286-2737, 5234 B U.S. 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 sking, hilking and bliking, plus dining, culture and charming atmosphere, make Aspen a year-round destination. ▶ aspenchamber.org, info@aspenchamber.org, 877-702-7736, 590 N. Mill St., Aspen 81611 ■

ATTRACTIONS

ASPEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY Explore Aspen and Snowmass' eclectic past at historic sites throughout the area, including 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, 620 W. Bleeker St., Aspen 81611 ■

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AURORA

HOTELS & MOTELS

GAYLORD ROCKIES RESORT & CONVENTION CENTER

AVN

CONDOS & VACATION-HOME RENTALS

SHERATON MOUNTAIN VISTA WIRCHLA Sheraton Mountain Vista Villas Avon/Vail Valley benefits from an unparalleled location at the base of Beaver Creek Mountain, and boasts well-designed villas with kitchens and complimentary WiFi. The resort also offers a deli/marketplace, gym and pool. Pmarriott.com/egesi, group.booking@vacationclub.com, 970-748-6000, 800-228-9290, 160 W. Beaver Creek Blvd., Avon 81620

HOTELS & MOTELS

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BASALT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Meet us at the confluence of rivers, recreation & culture! Gold Medal fishing, biking/hiking trails, water/winter sports & train history. Galleries, music, fine dining, trendy shops & an awardwinning distillery. Near hot springs & Aspen Snowmass skiing. ▶ basaltchamber.org, director@basaltchamber. org, 970-927-4031, 208 Midland Ave., Basalt 81621

BAYFIELD

LODGES & CABINS

PINE RIVER LODGE We have 31 cabins that are 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 County Rd. 501, Bayfield 81122 ▼ 1 □ □ \$\$\$\$\$

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. We offer great gaming, great benefits and great rewards. manarchblackhawk.com, info@monarchblackhawk.com, 303-582-1000, 488 Main St., Black Hawk 80422 .

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HOTELS & MOTELS

BRECKENRIDGE

CONDOS & VACATION-HOME RENTALS

MARRIOTT'S MOUNTAIN VALLEY LODGE AT BRECKENRIDGE Marriot's Mountain Valley Lodge at Breckenridge offers easy access to Colorado's famed Breckenridge Ski Resort, as well as downtown shopping and dining. Spacious villas offer full kitchens, complimentary WiFi and balconies with great views.

marriott.com/qkbvi, 970-453-850, 800-845-5279, 655
Columbine Rd., Breckenridge 80424 夏爾爾圖

HOTELS & MOTELS

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. by thelodgealbreckenridge.com, wilsonr@guestservices.com, 970-453-9300, 800-736-1607, 112 Overlook Dr., Breckenridge 80424 @ SS-SS S

BUENA VISTA

RECREATION

BROWNS CANYON RAFTING Perfect for everyone! Join the BCR family & get away from the crowds. We offer customized whitewater rafting, kayaking & combo adventures for all ages and abilities. Half-day, full-day & multiday tours on both the Arkansas River & Clear Creek.

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CAÑON CITY

ATTRACTIONS

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LODGES & CABINS

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RECREATION

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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. ▶ arkansasrivertours.com, info@arkansasrivertours.com, 719-942-4362, 800-321-4352, 49311 U.S. Hwy. 50, 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. ► raftroyalgarge.com, info@clearcreekrafting.com, 303-567-1000, 800-353-9901, 44650 W. U.S. Hwy. 50, Cañon City 81212

ECHO CANYON RIVER EXPEDITIONS Family and group raffing. Half days, full days, Raft-N-Rail packages and more. Bar and grill, cabin rentals, glamping tent rentals. ▶ raffecho.com, info@raffecho.com, 719-275-3154, 800-755-3246, 45000 W. U.S. 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" and in the "50 Next Great Places to Live and Play," In the shadow of Mt. Sopris sits your base camp 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

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. In orthpolecolorado. com, santashelper@santas-colo.com, 719-684-9432, 5050 Pikes Peak Hwy., Cascade 80809

CAMPGROUNDS & RV PARKS

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,
lisa@loneduckcamp.com, 719-684-9907, 8855 W. Hwy. 24,

CASTLE ROCK

Cascade 80809 3 77

RECREATION

THE EDGE ZIPLINE & ADVENTURES Formerly Castle Rock Zip Line Tours. The best zipline tour in Colorado — an adrenaline-packed Epic Adventure Tower and the Epic Sky Trek: North America's largest aerial adventure park.

• theedgezip.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 85-plus brand-name stores including Coach, Kate Spade, North Face, Nike, 7 for All Mankind and more. ▶ outletsatcastlerock.com, info@ 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

GILPIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Explore Gilpin County's rich history at the Gilpin History Museum. Go back to 1895 at the virtually unchanged Thomas House, four the Teller House (home of the Face on the Barroom Floor) and the Opera House, and peer down the shaft at the Coeur d'Alene Mine Shaft House. ▶ gilpinhistory.org, gilpinhistory@live.com, 303-582-5283, 228 E. First High St., Central City 80427

HIDEE GOLD MINE TOURS AND PANNING Mine a goldore specimen at the vein, yours to keep with tour. Gold panning as well. The Hidee Gold Mine is well-lit with level ground and is safety inspected by the state. A recognized Colorado Heritage Tour and a USA Today 10 Best Attraction in 2016. In 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 MITCHLA 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

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COLORADO SPRINGS

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

COLORADO SPRINGS VISITOR CENTER Colorado Springs has refreshing wide-open spaces, stunning mountain scenery, geologic wonders, fun attractions, thrilling outdoor recreation, Flying W Ranch & the new U.S. Olympic & Paralympic museum at the foot of Pikes Peak – America's Mountain. Visitcos.com, info@visitcos.com, 719-635-7506, 800-888-4748, 515 S. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs 80903

ATTRACTIONS

GARDEN OF THE GODS VISITOR AND NATURE CENTER

No. 1 visited attraction, 14-minute HD movie, nature museum, 30 interactive exhibits, award-winning giff 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

HOTELS & MOTELS

HOTEL ELEGANTÉ CONFERENCE & EVENT CENTER

Experience the "experience" at the Hotel Eleganté Conference and Event Center where families and visitors are our business. Enjoy the beautiful pools, hot tub and kids activities that make this the best place to stay in Colorado Springs. hotelelegante.com, hotelelegantesales@mcmelegante.com, 719-576-5900, 800-981-4012, 2886 S. Circle Dr., Colorado Springs 80906

Swimming Pool & Exercise/Fitness Facilities The Pets Allowed High-Speed Internet Aliport Shuttle Complimentary Breakfast ADA-Compliant Restaurant On Site Free Parking In-Room Refrigerator In-Room Microwave Aliport 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

CORTEZ

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

MESA VERDE COUNTRY TOURISM OFFICE Cortez, Dolores and Mancos welcome you to Mesa Verde National Park! Ancient stories come alive among the excavated villages once home to native ancestral peoples. Add outdoor fun, Old West & farm visits, and you'll remember this trip for years to come. ▶ mesaverdecountry.com, cortezwelcomecenter@mesaverdecountry.com, 970-565-4048, 928 E. Main, Cortez 81321

SIGHTSEEING & TOURS

TOURS BY SOUTHWEST COLORADO CANYONS

ALLIANCE Providing guided educational tours and hikes on Canyons of the Ancients National Monument with guides experienced in archaeology, geology and the environment. Tours for all fitness levels: also family experiential activities.

swcocanyons.org/tours, tours.scca@gmail.com, 970-560-1643, PO Box 113, Cortez 81321

TRAIL OF THE ANCIENTS NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY Trail of the Ancients travels between two remote national monuments and Mesa Verde National Park. This National Scenic Byway near Cortez and Dolores takes you through the heart of the landscape and unique history of the American Southwest. ▶ trailoftheancients.com, susanethomas@earthlink.net, 970-739-3158, 928 E. Main St., 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. ▶ arkansasrivertours.com, info@arkansasrivertours.com, 719-942-4362, 800-321-4352, 19487 U.S. 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, 775 Yampa Ave., Craig 81625

HOTELS & MOTELS

DELTA

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

DELTA COUNTY TOURISM Delta County offers premier outdoor recreation in any season. Enjoy hiking, biking and OHV trails, two 18-hole golf courses, skydiving, Gold Medal fishing waters, 13 wineries and an abundance of agriculture for the farm-to-table experience. #DeltaCounty ▶ visitdeltacounty.com, tourism@ deltacounty.com, 970-874-2108, 501 Palmer St. #227, Delta 81416

DENVER

ATTRACTIONS

DENVER ART MUSEUM World-class art in the heart of Denver! The Libeskind-designed Hamilton Building features special exhibitions, artist demonstrations, family-friendly programs and more. Daily tours, cafe, shop. Free general admission for kids 18 and under every day.

▶ denverartmuseum.org, info@denverartmuseum.org, 720-865-5000, 100 W. 14th Ave. Pkwy., Denver 80204 €

DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE Explore one of Denver's top family attractions. Experience ancient fossils, dazzling gems and minerals, majestic wildlife, recent discoveries from outer space. Egyptian mummies, exhibits about the human body, traveling special exhibitions and more. ▶ dmns.org, info@dmns.org, 303-370-6000, 2001 Colorado Blvd., Denver 80205

■ ■

DOWNTOWN AQUARIUM Mixes family fun, upscalecasual 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 50,000gallon 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 funl From roller coasters to kild 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 11 5

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 & special rotating exhibits. ► forneymuseum.org, customerservice@forneymuseum.org, 303-297-1113, 4303 Brighton Blvd., Denver 80216

■

MOLLY BROWN HOUSE MUSEUM Experience the home of Titanic survivor Margaret Tobin "Molly" Brown. Interact with knowledgable 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

■ The Wild Provided Head of the Wild elevated walkway. ■ Wildanimalsanctuary.org, 303-536-0118, 2999 County Rd. 53, Denver 80643

WINGS OVER THE ROCKIES AIR & SPACE MUSEUM

Colorado's official air and space museum — a WWII-era hangar with an extensive collection of iconic aircraft and aerospace exhibits. Mission: To educate and inspire people of all ages about aviation and space endeavors of the past, present and future. wingsmuseum.org, info@wingsmuseum.org, 303-360-5360, 7711 E. Academy Blvd., Denver 80230

BED & BREAKFASTS

CAPITOL HILL MANSION BED AND BREAKFAST INN 1891 Richardson Romanesque Victorian inn in downtown Denver. Walk to convention center, mall and museums. The inn features eight luxurious guest rooms and suites with a unique experience and the modern amenities and conveniences. ▶ capitolhillmansion.com, into@ capitolhillmansion.com, 303-839-5221, 800-839-9329, 1207 N. Pennsylvania St., Denver 80203 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

DINING

BUCKHORN EXCHANGE RESTAURANT Denver's oldest restaurant, with Colorado's No. 1 liquor license, serving prime beef steaks, buffalo, elk, baby-back ribs and other fabulous game specialties. Magnificently decorated. Reservations recommended. Free parking. ▶ buckhorn.com, info@buckhorn.com, 303-534-9505, 1000 Osage St., Denver 80204

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

SIGHTSEEING & TOURS

STRANAHAN'S COLORADO WHISKEY Stranahan's Colorado Whiskey is an American single-malt whiskey from CO's first legal whiskey distillery since prohibition. Take a four to learn about our history and distillation process — and to taste it yourself. 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 MIRCHLA Best
Western Ptarmigan Lodge is located steps away from
Lake Dillon and Dillon Marina. Keystone, Breckenridge,
Copper and Arapahoe Basin are 6-15 miles away.
Pets are welcome in specific rooms with a \$10 charge
per pet per night (call to verify). ▶ bestwestern.com/
en_US/book/hotels-in-dillon/best-western-ptarmiganlodge/propertyCode.06098.html, stay@ptarmiganlodge.
com, 970-468-2341, 800-842-5939, 652 Lake Dillon Dr.,
Dillon 80435 ★□□□

DOLORES

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

DOLORES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Dolores is your year-round playground, and is a perfect basecamp for McPhee Reservoir, Dolores River and San Juan National Forest. Visit the Galloping Goose #5, Canyons of the Ancients Visitor Center and Museum, as well as Mesa Verde National Park. ▶ visitdolores.com, info@dolores.chamber.com, 970-882-4018, 201 Railroad Ave., Dolores 81323

LODGES & CABINS

DUNTON HOT SPRINGS Discover the authentic mountain adventure and charm of Dunton. 13 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. In dunton destinations.com/hot-springs, reservations@duntondestinations.com/hot-springs, reservations@duntondestinations.com/not-springs, reservations@duntondestinations.com/not-springs, reservations@duntondestinations.com, 970-882-4800, 877-288-9922, 8532 County Rd. 38, Dolores 81323

DUMONT

RECREATION

ATV TOURS COLORADO 30 miles west of Denver.
Experience scenic mountain ATV tours. Navigate Rocky
Mountain trails where beauty and history abound. New
Polaris ATVs are user friendly; no experience needed.
Minimum age to drive: 16; passengers half price; minimum 56 inches tall. atvourscolorado.com, ride@
atvtourscolorado.com, 303-868-0874, 3627 Alvarado Rd.
#291, Dumont 80436

COLORADO ADVENTURE CENTER Exciting whitewater raffing, thrilling ziplining and sky-high aerial adventures right off I-70 in Dumont. Just 35 minutes from downtown Denver & 45 minutes from Summit County & Winter Park. Combine adventures for fabulous fun & savings up to \$25. ▶ raffingcolorado.com, info@ coloradoadventurecenter.com, 877-947-7238, 2697 Stanley Rd., Dumont 80436

DURANGO

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

VISIT DURANGO Get more in Durango! Historic D&SNG Railroad, Mesa Verde National Park, Purgatory Ski Resort, rafting, horseback riding, skiing, biking, historic downtown, art galleries, exceptional dining, craft breweries, downtown festivals and events, and more. ► durango.org, info@durango.org, 970-247-3500, 800-525-855, 802 Main Ave., Durango 81301 ■

ATTRACTIONS

DURANGO & SILVERTON NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD

AND MUSEUM Experience the adventure of traveling by a historic steam-powered locomotive on the same tracks miners, cowboys & settlers of the Old West took over a century ago. Wind through canyons in the remote wilderness for an unforgettable journey. ▶ durangotrain.com, marketing@durangotrain.com, 970-247-2733, 888-872-4607, 479 Main Ave., Durango 81301 ■

DURANGO HOT SPRINGS RESORT AND SPA The most amazing water under Mother Earth. Durango Hot Springs Resort was created as an extension of what has always existed here in the incredible healing properties of the natural mineral hot springs. Reservations are required. ▶ durangohotspringsresortandspa.com, info@dhsresort.com, 970-247-0111, 6475 County Rd. 203, Durango 81301

CONDOS & VACATION-HOME RENTALS

VACATION ACCOMMODATIONS OF DURANGO Offering Durango and southwest Colorado vacation rental homes to fit your needs when looking for a great place to stay. Visit Durango and the surrounding area: Mesa Verde National Park, Durango train, Purgatory Ski Resort and Rocky Mountains. ▶ vaddurango.com, vacations@durango.net, 970-749-5894, 800-674-7846, 777 Main Ave. #206, Durango 81303 ⋒日回

DUDE & GUEST RANCHES

COLORADO TRAILS RANCH An all-inclusive dude-ranch vacation in the San Juan Mountains just outside of the historic mining town of Durango. An adventure for the whole family, including horseback riding, fly-fishing, raffing, hiking, shooting sports and more. ▶ coloradotrails.com, info@coloradotrails.com, 970-247-5055, 12161
County Rd. 240, Durango 81301 ▼€€5 116 1

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

THE POLAR EXPRESS™ TRAIN RIDE NOV. 19, 2021-JAN. 3, 2022 The award-winning book. THE POLAR EXPRESS™ comes alive on board this historic steam train to the North Pole! The true first gift of Christmas for all. See our website for info. ▶ durangotrain.com, marketing@ durangotrain.com, 970-247-2733, 888-872-4607, 479 Main Ave., Durango 81301 ►

HOTELS & MOTELS

GATEWAY RESERVATIONS Since 1986, local travel consultants have assisted visitors with budget to deluxe lodging, activities and discounted packages to Colorado's most popular destinations: Durango, Silverton, Ouray, Glenwood Springs, Pagosa Springs and more. ▶ gatewayreservations.com, info@gatewayreservations.com, 970-385-4711, 806-828-4228, 48 County Rd. 250, Sulte 8, Durango 81301 🔊

 ROCHESTER HOTEL
Unique, historic accommodations in downtown Durango. Walk to shops, restaurants, activities and the train. Large rooms, each with its own Western character and charm. Coffee, tea and bar service.

Relax in Secret Garden or work from our lobby lounge.

rochesterhotel.com, stay@rochesterhotel.com, 970-385-1920, 800-664-1920, 726 E. Second Ave., Durango 81301 [清] 高田 号5-\$\$\$\$

RECREATION

PURGATORY RESORT Located in the heart of the stunning San Juan Mountains, Purgatory Resort is the perfect year-round destination for outdoor enthusiasts. Explore more than 1,600 skiable acres of terrain in the winter, and enjoy lift-served mountain biking all summer long.

▶ purgatory.ski, info@purgatory.ski, 970-247-9000, 800-525-0892, 1 Skier Pl., Durango 81301

■

EDWARDS

TRANSPORTATION

EPIC MOUNTAIN EXPRESS / COLORADO MOUNTAIN

EXPRESS Epic Mountain Express provides airport shuttles from Denver International Airport to resort areas including Breckenridge, Keystone, Copper, Vail, Beaver Creek, Edwards, Glenwood, Snowmass & Aspen. Private cars are also available, as well as group transfers.

• epicmountainexpress.com/locations, helpdesk@ epicmountainexpress.com, 970-754-7433, 800-525-6363, 434 Edwards Access Rd., Second Fl., Edwards 81632

ESTES PARK

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

VISIT ESTES PARK Welcome to Estes Park, basecamp for Rocky Mountain National Park. Estes Park is located only 90 miles from Denver and is surrounded by protected lands. This mountain town has Colorado's best outdoor adventures, wildlife and small-town hospitality.

▶ visitestespark.com, visitestespark@visitestespark.com, 970-586-0500, 1230 Big Thompson Ave., Estes Park 80517 ♣

CONDOS & VACATION-HOME RENTALS

ASPEN WINDS ON FALL RIVER We provide one- and two-bedroom suites and spa suites centrally located along Fall River between Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park. Enjoy your private deck, gas fireplace and flatscreen TVs with free Netflix and DVD player. WiFi available. ▶ aspenwinds.com, aspenwinds@aol.com, 970-586-6010, 800-399-6010, 1051 Fall River Ct., Estes Park 80517

80517

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BEAR PAW & RIVER STONE RESORTS

↑ WhichLA Relax to the sounds of Fall River. Ideally located between Estes Park & Rocky Mountain National Park, 2 miles each way. Enjoy furnished 1-, 2- or 3-bedroom cabin/condos with full kitchen, spa tub or hot tub, fireplace & grill. Winter deals & packages available. ▶ "riverstoneresorts.com, reservations@riverstoneresorts.com, 970-586-4005, 888-854-5224, 2120 Fall River Rd., Estes Park 80517

BOULDER BROOK ON FALL RIVER Relax at Boulder Brook in a luxury riverfront suite with private deck, kitchenette and fireplace. Soak in the hot tub, watch the wildlife, fish in the river. Its the perfect way to relax in the Rockies. Easy access to downtown Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park. ▶ boulderbrook.com, contact@boulderbrook.com, 970-586-0910, 800-238-0910, 1900 Fall River Rd., Estes Park 80517 ▶ ☐ ☐

HOTELS & MOTELS

BEST WESTERN PLUS SILVER SADDLE INN MICHLA AAA

LODGES & CABINS

ESTES PARK CENTER/YMCA OF THE ROCKIES YMCA of the Rockies, surrounded by Rocky Mountain National Park, offers affordable cabins, lodge rooms, meals and family activities. Enjoy archery, crafts, horseback irding, hiking, skating, swimming, climbing wall and much more. ▶ ymcarockies.org, info@ymcarockies.org, 970-586-3344, 888-613-9622, 2515 Tunnel Rd., Estes Park 80511 ☑ 311 ☐ 121 ☐ 121 ☐ 131 ☐ 122 ☐ 131 ☐ 123 ☐ 131

MACHIN'S COTTAGES IN THE PINES Secluded location within Rocky Mountain National Park. Immaculate cottages (one, two and three bedrooms), fully equipped kitchens, wood-burning fireplaces, cable TV, individual barbecue grills. A national park trail starts here. ► machinscottages.com, machinscottages@beyondbb.com, 970-586-4276, 2450 Eagle Cliff Rd., Estes Park 80517 ☐ □ □ □

ROCKY MOUNTAIN RESORTS Rocky Mountain Resorts offers multiple resorts in Estes Park. Choose from mountain-view cabins, riverside condos, hot tub and jetted-tub suites, luxurious mountain condos, heated pools or fishing on the property. All near Rocky Mountain National Park. Winter specials. ▶ rockymthresorts.com, inquiry@rockymthresorts.com, 970-586-2388, 800-672-9289, 2760 Fall River Rd., Estes Park 80517 ▶ 📆 📆 📆 📆 📆

RECREATION

BACKBONE ADVENTURES Backbone Adventures is an ATV, Jeep, dirt bike and razor rental tour facility in Estes Park. Secluded wilderness, stunning views, abundant wildlife, lost lakes, alpine meadows and unforgettable memories are waitling. Book your adventure today. ▶ backbonecycles.com, goodtaters@gmail.com, 970-235-5045, 1851 N. Lake Ave., Estes Park 80517 ▶

EVERGREEN

LODGES & CABINS

COLORADO BEAR CREEK CABINS Welcome to Colorado Bear Creek Cabins, an alternative to hotels, in Evergreen. We offer an authentic Evergreen lodging experience on the bank of Bear Creek like no other Evergreen hotels. ▶ coloradobearcreekcabins.com, susan@coloradobearcreekcabins.com, 303-674-3442, 27400 State Hwy. 74, Evergreen 80439 (元) 10 State Hwy. 74, Evergreen 80439 (.

FALCON

CAMPGROUNDS & RV PARKS

FALCON MEADOW RV CAMPGROUND Country camping. View of Pikes Peak. Large pull-through RV/tent sites. Handicap shower/restroom, free WiFi, propane. Open year-round. Strong cell-phone signal. Restaurants nearby. ▶ falconmeadowrcampground.com, falconmeadowcg@aol.com, 719-495-2694, 11150 Hwy. 24 (GPS city is Peyton), Falcon 80831 ☐

FEDERAL HEIGHTS

ATTRACTIONS

WATER WORLD America's largest water amusement park.

More than 50 attractions/slides for all ages on 70-plus acres. Minutes from downfown Denver. Colorado's first watercoaster, wave pools, family raff rides, kids areas, speed slides, thrill rides and more. Free parking. ▶ waterworldcolorado.com, guestservices@ waterworldcolorado.com, 303-427-7873, 8801 Pecos St., Federal Heights 80260 ►

Swimming Pool & Exercise/Fitness Facilities The Pets Allowed High-Speed Internet Aliport Shuttle Complimentary Breakfast ADA-Compliant Restaurant On Site Free Parking In-Room Refrigerator In-Room Microwave Aliport 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

FRASER

ATTRACTIONS

GRAND ADVENTURE BALLOON TOURS Year-round in the Rocky Mountains. The closest mountain ride to Denver, Boulder, Fort Collins, Breckenridge, Keystone, Grand Lake and Estes Park. The picturesque Winter Park-Fraser Valley provides the best views of Rocky Mountain National Park. ▶ grandadventureballoon.com, rides@grandadventureballoon.com, 970-887-1340, 220 County Rd. 522, Fraser 80442

HOTELS & MOTELS

FRISCO

HOTELS & MOTELS

FRUITA

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

GOFRUITA Fruita is a paradise for outdoor-lovers of all ages with world-class mountain biking, hiking, raffing the Colorado River, horseback riding, cycling and the amazing Colorado National Monument. Visit historic downtown for shopping, craft beers, festivals and more population, organization, 970-858-3663, 325 E. Aspen, Fruita 81521

ATTRACTIONS

DINOSAUR JOURNEY MUSEUM Features exhibits educating visitors on the giants of prehistoric life and a real working paleontology lab. Also offers Dino Digs where you can be a paleontologist for the day at the Mygatt-Moore Quarry. ▶ museumofwesternco.com/dinosaurjourney, learly@westcomuseum.org, 970-858-7282, 550 Jurassic Ct., Fruita 81521

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CONDOS & VACATION-HOME RENTALS

GEORGETOWN

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, I-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.

Description of the glenwoodcaverns. Com, info@glenwoodcaverns.com, 970-945-4228, 800-530-1635, 51000 Two Rivers Plaza Rd., Glenwood Springs 81601

HOTELS & MOTELS

GLENWOOD HOT SPRINGS RESORT />\(\sigma_\mathrm{\text{CHLA}}

HOTEL DENVER MICHLA 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. The theoteldenver.com, april@hoteldenver.com, 970-945-6565, 800-826-8820, 402 Seventh St., 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 & tent sites. On-site aerical adventures with ziplining, raft frips & hiking nearby. Deglenwoodcanyonresort.com, kathy@glenwoodcanyonresort.com, pro-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% 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. Info@ironmountainhotsprings.com, info@ironmountainhotsprings.com, 970-945-4766, 281 Centennial St., Glenwood Springs 81601

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. ▶ granbychamber.com, info@ granbychamber.com, 970-887-2311, 516 E. Agate Ave., Granby 80446

CAMPGROUNDS & RV PARKS

RIVER RUN RESORT Located in Granby, River Run Resort is a new way to experience Colorado. Providing guests Luxury amenities, River Run offers many unique lodging styles, including furnished mountain cabins, glamping, tent camping, and full-hookup RV sites. ▶ sunvresorts. com/river-run, riverrun@suncommunities.com, 888-449-3059, 1051 Summit Tr., Granby 80446 ☑ ☑ Thill □ €

DUDE & GUEST RANCHES

DROWSY WATER RANCH MICHLA 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. Experience our family-friendly ranch! ■ drowsywater.com, colofun@drowsywater.com, 970-725-3456, 800-845-2292, 1454 County Rd. 219, Granby 80446 ■ □ □ □

HOTELS & MOTELS

LITTLETREE INN Rooms with 42-inch HDTVs, HD channels & HBO, A/C, WiFi & other room amenities. Hot tub (seasonal) & vending on premises: large parking area for buses, trucks & trailers. Minutes to Winter Park or Granby Ranch ski areas & Rocky Mountain National Park. ► littletreeinn.com, contact@littletreeinn.com, 970-887-2551, 62000 U.S. Hwy. 40, Granby 80446

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LODGES & CABINS

GRAND JUNCTION

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

VISIT GRAND JUNCTION Grand Junction is where it all comes together, from Colorado National Monument boasting unique canyons like nowhere else in the world to wine country and outdoor adventures, including mountain biking, water sports, skiing, limitless OHV trails & more. ▶ visitgrandjunction.com, visitgj@gjcity.org, 970-244-1486, 800-962-2547, 740 Horizon Dr., Grand Junction 81506 €

ATTRACTIONS

CROSS ORCHARDS HISTORIC SITE Step back in time and get a taste of rural life on an early 20th-century fruit ranch. Don't miss the actual Uintah Railway trestle and cars, farm animals and the Swanson Exhibit. ► museumofwesternco.com/cross-orchards, pbooth@ westcomuseum.org, 970-434-9814, 3073 F Rd., Grand Junction 81504 ■

MUSEUM OF THE WEST Learn about the history of the West at the premier museum dedicated to it. Exhibits include Native American pottery, firearms and other technology of the Old West, the history of the Grand Valley, a replica stagecoach and much more. ■ museumofwesternco.com, frontdesk@westcomuseum.org, 970-242-0971, 462 Ute Ave., Grand Junction 81501 ■

HOTELS & MOTELS

GRAND VISTA HOTEL The Grand Vista is a full-service hotel. We proudly feature Oliver's Restaurant, Bailey's Bar & Gill, fritness center, indoor pool, free WiFi and banquet facilities. Entertainment in Bailey's Bar seven nights a week. ▶ grandvistahotel.com, sales@grandvistahotel.com, 970-241-8411, 800-800-7796, 2790 Crossroads Blvd., Grand Junction 81506 ❷@页面和H田园园园园。\$-\$\$.

HOLIDAY INN & SUITES - GRAND JUNCTION MICHLA Indulge in comfort and change your view in the heart of Colorado's wine county at the Holiday Inn & Suites Grand Junction Airport. Whether traveling for business or pleasure, our full-service hotel has everything you need to Stay Smiles Ahead. ▶ holidayinn.com/hotels/us/en/grand-junction/giths/hoteldetail, higita@live.com, 970-424-5888, 2751 Crossroads Blvd., Grand Junction 81506

SIGHTSEEING & TOURS

MOTODISCOVERY MOTORCYCLE TOURS AND RENTALS

MotoDiscovery Tours and Rentals shares imaginative motorbike travel experiences. We offer a variety of street-legal dual sport and adventure motorbikes for hire, all of which are well suited for spectacular moto touring in Colorado and the Southwest. ▶ motodiscoveryrentals.com, rentals@motodiscovery.com, 970-819-4949, 528 23 Rd., Grand Junction 81507

TRANSPORTATION

GRAND JUNCTION AIRPORT (GJT) Save time, travel better. Grand Junction Regional Airport is western Colorado's largest commercial airport with direct flights to Chicago, IL: Denver; Mesa and Phoenix, AZ; Dallas/Fort Worth, TX; Las Vegas, NY; Salt Lake City, UT; and Los Angeles, CA. ▶ gjairport.com, 970-244-9100, 2828 Walker Field Dr., Grand Junction 81506

GRAND LAKE

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

GRAND LAKE VISITOR CENTER Grand Lake is the soul of the Rockies. Home to Colorado's largest natural lake and beach, as well as the headwaters of the Colorado River. Historic Western boardwalk, shops, dining and lodging, Year-round activities.

— gagrandlake.com, glinfo@grandlake.com, glinfo@grandlake.com, and Lake 80447

— 14700 U.S. Hwy. 34, Grand Lake 80447

— 1570 — 1570

HOTELS & MOTELS

WESTERN RIVIERA LAKESIDE LODGING Lakeside motel, cabins & condos in the heart of the village of Grand Lake at the west entrance to Rocky Mountain National Park. Courtyard cabins offer perfect setting for groups with gazebo, picnic tables & outdoor grills. Walk to restaurants & shops. ▶ westerniv.com, motel@ westerniv.com, 970-627-3580, 419 Garfield St., Grand Lake 80447
□ □ □ □ ≤ +\$\$\$\$

GUNNISON

CAMPGROUNDS & RV PARKS

GUNNISON LAKESIDE CABINS & RV PARK Gunnison Lakeside Cabins & RV Park features large shaded full hookup sites, 1- & 2-bedroom cabins and free WiFi throughout the property. On-site laundry facility, dog park and store provides gifts/souvenirs, groceries, snacks, propane & licenses. > gunnisonlakeside.com, nfo@gunisonlakeside.com, 970-641-0477, 877-641-0488, 28357 U.S. Hwy. 50, Gunnison 81230 📆

HOTELS & MOTELS

THE INN AT TOMICHI VILLAGE Our large rooms offer super-comfortable beds, new bedding with triple sheeting, flatscreen TVs, premium in-room coffee, USB outlets and modern decor with a stylish country flare. Join us at our beautiful basecamp; adventure right outside your door. ▶ theinnfv.com, jmburch@theinnfv.com, 970-641-1131, 41883 Hwy. 50 E., Gunnison 81230 ❷@⑦ 测量量量3-\$\$

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. Medicacounty.com, dwise@deltacounty.com, 970-874-2108, 403 S. Fourth St., Hotchkiss 81419

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

DELTA COUNTY FAIR AUG. 1-7, 2021 The 116th 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. ▶ deltacounty/air.com, dwise@deltacounty.com, 970-874-2108, Delta County Fairgrounds, 403 S. Fourth St., Hotchkiss 81419 €

KREMMLING

HOTELS & MOTELS

LARKSPIIR

CAMPGROUNDS & RV PARKS

LEADVILLE

ATTRACTIONS

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. Ininghalloffame.org, info@mininghalloffame.org, 719-486-1229, 120 W. Ninth St., Leadville 80461

LODGES & CABINS

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 59 trails covering 470 acres served by five lifts. For the experts, try out our new Tennessee Creek Basin with steep tree skiing. Pskicooper.com, info@skicooper.com, 719-486-2277, 800-707-6114, 232 County Rd 29 dtop Tennessee Pass, Leadville 80461

LIMON

HOTELS & MOTELS

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS HOTEL & SUITES - LIMON

LOVELAND

ATTRACTION

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/chapunguatcenterra, info@mcwhinney.com, 970-962-9990, 5971 Sky Pond Dr., Centerra Pkwy. & Kendall Pkwy., Loveland 80538

SHOPPING

OUTLETS AT LOVELAND Outlets at Loveland is located at the foot of the Rocky Mountains along I-25. With brand-name outlet stores like Levi's, Under Armour, Nike and more, you are sure to find something for everyone priced 30-70 percent below retail.

outletsatloveland.com, 970-663-1916, 5661 McWhinney Blvd., Loveland 80538

LYONS

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

TOWN OF LYONS Lyons, Colorado. The hip little town everybody loves! Easily accessible, located between Longmont/Boulder and Rocky Mountain National Park, Lyons offers unique opportunities to explore, dine, recreate and enjoy the best of Colorado, all year long. ▶ lyonscolorado.com, ahodgson@townoflyons.com, 303-823-6622, 432 Fifth Ave., Lyons 80540 €

MANCOS

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

MANCOS VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE/VISITOR

CENTER Mancos sits on the cusp of mountains where you can camp, fish, mountain bike and hike. Mancos is the closest fown to the entrance of Mesa Verde National Park, a World Heritage Site, and the only national park dedicated to ancient cliff dwellings. ▶ mancosvalley.com, chamber@mancosvalley.com, 970-533-7434, 101 E. Bauer Ave., Mancos 81328 ■

MANITOU SPRINGS

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

MANITOU SPRINGS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITORS BUREAU Enjoy the mineral drinking springs & our historic charm. Shops, galleries, museums, casual to fine dining, variety of lodging. Centrally located, close to attractions & hiking trails. Perfect for getaways/family vacations. Year-round. Visit our site for a visitors guide. ▶ manitousprings.org, manitou@pikes-peak.com, 719-685-5089, 877-590-9798, 354 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs 80829

Swimming Pool Exercise/Fitness Facilities The Pets Allowed High-Speed Internet Alpha Airport Shuttle Complimentary Breakfast ADA-Compliant Restaurant On Site Free Parking In-Room Refrigerator In-Room Microwave Airport Airport Shuttle Colorado Hotel & Lodging Association (CHLA) Member The dollar symbols indicate how much you can expect to pay for an average hotel room. \$ = Less than \$100 \$\$ = \$101-200 \$\$\$ = \$201-299 \$\$\$\$ = \$300 and Up

HOTELS & MOTELS

LODGES & CABINS

KEITHLEY PINES HISTORIC CABINS Secluded but conveniently located, these homes offer privacy and comfort. Keithley Pines has 5 historic log cabins on 9 acres. Located within 1 mile from the Garden of the Gods and Manitou Springs. ▶ keithleypines.com, keithleypines@gmail.com, 7 Keithley Rd., Manitou Springs 80829 🖫 🗟 🗖 🗖

MARBLE

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

MARBLE CRYSTAL RIVER CHAMBER We welcome visitors to our valley. Walk through the historical Marble Millistre Park and the marble-sculpting area, take a Jeep tour to Crystall Mill, stay at one of the cabins or B&Bs, shop, eat the local barbecue, camp, fish and enjoy the scenery.

▶ mcrchamber.org, themarblehub@gmail.com, 970-963-7300, 620 W. Park St., Marble 81623 ■

LODGES & CABINS

BEAVER LAKE LODGE & CABINS Historic lodge and cabins in Marble. A small mountain town rich in outdoor activities and history. Campfires, canoeing, paddleboarding, fishing, hiking, Jeep tours, mountain biking, backcountry sking, horseback riding! \$135-\$165. ▶ beaverlakelodge.com, 970-963-2504, 201 E. Silver St., Marble 81623 ☐ ☐ ☐ 5\$

MEEKER

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

MEEKER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE A small town nestled on the outskirts of the White River National Forest and Flat Tops Wilderness, Meeker is known for its exceptional outdoor recreation, National Historic District, unique shops and welcoming citizens. ▶ visitmeekercolorado. com, director@meekerchamber.com, 970-878-5510, 710 Market St. Meeker 81641

MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK

LODGES & CABINS

MESA VERDE - FAR VIEW LODGE The only lodging inside Mesa Verde National Park. Breathtaking views, award-winning cuisine, guided fours of Ancestral Puebloan dwellings, invigorating solitude and endless wildlife watching. RV and camping. Native American handicrafts.

— visitmesaverde.com, mesaverde-customerservice@aramark.com, 970-564-4300, 800-449-2288, 1 Navajo Hill, Mesa Verde National Park 81330

MOFFAT

ATTRACTIONS

JOYFUL JOURNEY HOT SPRINGS SPA & EVENT CENTER

Joyful Journey is a sanctuary for the soul; a peaceful oasis nestled beneath the Sangre de Cristo mountain range. Mineral-rich pool waters are drained and cleaned daily and chemical free. Stay overnight in a hotel room, yurt, tipi, RV or campsite. ▶ joyfuljourneyhotsprings.com, marketing@jjhotsprings.com, 719-256-4328, 28640 County Rd. 58 EE, Moffat 81143

MORRISON

ATTRACTIONS

MORRISON NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM Small museum, big discoveries. Encounter historic and modern local fossil discoveries with expert guides and hands-on exhibits.

mnhm.org, info@mnhm.org, 303-697-1873, 501 Colorado Hwy. 8, Morrison 80465

DINING

THE FORT RESTAURANT Join us for some shinin' times at The Fort! This award-winning restaurant sells more buffalo steaks than any other independently owned restaurant in the country and is known for its "New Foods of the Old West" menu and cocktails. ▶ thefort. com, fortmail@thefort.com, 303-697-4771, 19192 Hwy. 8, Morrison 80465 ▶

MOSCA

HOTELS & MOTELS

GREAT SAND DUNES LODGE Enjoy the peace and serenity of the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve at the Great Sand Dunes Lodge. Relax at the foot of the majestic Sangre De Cristo mountain range during your stay at our Colorado lodge at the entrance of the national park.

— gsallodge.com, gsallodge@ehotmail. com, 719-378-2900, 7900 State Hwy. 150, Mosca 81146

NATHROP

HOTELS & MOTELS

PAGOSA SPRINGS

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

PAGOSA SPRINGS AREA VISITOR CENTER Nestled in the majestic San Juan Mountains, Pagosa Springs is the perfect spot to truly get away. With more than 3 million acres of wilderness and amazing hot springs, there's plenty of space to pursue your favorite activities or explore a new one. ▶ visitipagosasprings.com, info@ visitipagosasprings.com, 970-585-1200, 800-252-2204, 105 Hot Springs Blvd., Pagosa Springs 81147 €

HOTELS & MOTELS

HEALING WATERS RESORT & SPA Relaxing hot-springs resort in the heart of downtown Pagosa Springs, steps away from river fun, hiking, cross-country skling, 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

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, 970-264-9204, 1600 E. Hwy. 160, Pagosa Springs 81147

PALISADE

HOTELS & MOTELS

PUEBLO

ATTRACTIONS

PUEBLO ARTS ALLIANCE A voice for the arts in Pueblo! A non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the production, enjoyment and collaboration of the arts for the purposes of economic development and an enriched quality of life in Pueblo. ▶ puebloarts.org, puebloartsalliance@gmail.com, 719-242-6652, S. Grand Ave., Studio M, 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 ►

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

COLORADO STATE FAIR AUG. 8-SEPT. 6, 2021 Bring the family for 11 days and nights of Colorado's biggest summer party! Enjoy concerts, rodeos, carnival, livestock, competitions, attractions and delicious fair food. ► coloradostatefair.com, kim.bray@state.co.us, 719-561-8484, 800-876-4567, 1001 Beulah Ave., Pueblo 81004

27TH ANNUAL PUEBLO CHILE & FRIJOLES FESTIVAL PRE-SENTED BY BLACK HILLS ENERGY SEPT. 24-26, 2021 The award-winning Chile & Frijoles Festival is Colorado's premier harvest celebration. Ten blocks of chileinspired fun paying homage to our most loved crop, the Pueblo chile! ▶ festival pueblochamber.org, info@ pueblochamber.net, 719-542-1704, 302 N. Santa Fe, Pueblo 81003

RANGFIY

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

LODGES & CABINS

81623 2 1 2 2 2 3

AVALANCHE RANCH CABINS & HOT SPRINGS

[WINCHLA] Thirteen log cabins, three covered wagons, a finy 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

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, scotl@colorfulcolorado.com, 800-831-8594, 406 W. Rainbow Blvd., Salida 81201

SEDALIA

DUDE & GUEST RANCHES

SILVERTHORNE

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! high country tours.com, info@mysnowmobiletour.com, 970-668-9945, 7101 Heeney Rd., Silverthorne 80498

SHOPPING

THE OUTLETS AT SILVERTHORNE Offering a distinctive shopping experience in a beautiful Rocky Mountain setting. Save 30-70% on our collection of name-brand stores such as Williams-Sonoma, Nike, Calvin Klein, Under Armour, GAP, Coach, Banana Republic, J Crew, Levi's and more. Double outlestastilverthorne.com, info@outlestastilverthorne.com, 970-468-5780, 246-V Rainbow Dr. Silverthorne 80498

SILVERTON

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 & silver panning with four purchase. No reservations needed. ▶ minetour.com, 970-387-5444, 800-872-3009, 721 County Rd. 4-A, Silverton 81433

SAMWINS

CONDOS & VACATION-HOME RENTALS

THE CRESTWOOD CONDOMINIUMS **CHEAL** The Crestwood is an ideally situated condominium property offering skiing, hiking & biking access at your doorstep. Comprised of fully furnished one- to four-bedroom private residences with exterior entrances & world-class services and amenities. ** thecrestwood.com, res@ thecrestwood.com, 970-923-2450, 800-356-5949, 400 Wood Rd., Snowmass 81615 ** Cash Right Rig

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 ♥ 🔞 🖫 🖫 🖽 🖆

WOODRUN V In a serene mountainside setting near the Village Mall are some of the largest condominiums in Aspen/Snowmass resort: Woodrun V. Relax in the comfort of a heated outdoor pool and hot tubs after a day on the slopes and trails. ► woodrunv.com, info@ woodrunv.com, 970-923-5021, 844-754-7400, 24 Village Bound Rd., Snowmass 81615

SOUTH FORK

LODGES & CABINS

RIVERBEND RESORT CABINS & RV PARK Cozy log & wood cabins open year-round with wood-burning fireplace, kitchen, TV, grill and decks with river and mountain views. RV park, riverside tent camping, stocked fishing, hot tub, playground, game room, hunt, golf and ski Wolf Creek. • riverbend-resort.com, mail@riverbend-resort.com, 719-873-5344, 800-621-6512, 33846 W. Hwy. 160, South Fork 81154

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@steamboatchamber.com, 970-879-0880, 877-754-2269, 125 Anglers Dr., Steamboat Springs 80487 €

CONDOS & VACATION-HOME RENTALS

THE PORCHES Luxury with a smile! Enjoy The Porches of Steamboot, 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 ▼ 國際日本

SHERATON STEAMBOAT RESORT VILLAS MICHLA

Sheraton Steamboat Resort Villas is located in Steamboat Springs and is the only full-service ski-in, ski-out resort in the area. Accommodations include villas with full kitchens and washer/dryers: the resort also offers a spa and dining. The marriott.com/sbsis, group. booking@vacationclub.com, 970-879-2220, 800-228-9290, 2200 Village Inn Ct., Steamboat Springs 80487

HOTELS & MOTELS

RABBIT EARS MOTEL MAInCHLA 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. Prabbitearsmotel.com, info@rabbitearsmotel.com, price rabbitearsmotel.com, price in the control of the control of

RECREATION

STEAMBOAT SKI RESORT A genuine Colorado mountain town steeped in history, surrounded by ranches, barns, horses and cattle, and one of the biggest and best ski mountains in the U.S. Visit our 169 trails, 3,668 vertical feet and 2,965 acres of Champagne Powder® snow.

> steamboat.com, info@steamboat.com, 970-879-6111, 800-922-2722, 2305 Mount Werner Cir., Steamboat Springs 80487 11169.

TELLURIDE

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

TELLURIDE TOURISM BOARD Named the "#1 Ski Resort in North America" by Condé Nast readers, Telluride's jaw-dropping vistas are matched by world-class skiing, rich culture, exceptional dining and encless 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/boarding 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 ❷ □ □ □ □ S\$-\$\$\$

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▶ vailspa.com, vailspa@eastwestresorts.com, 970-476-0882, 866-966-1868, 710 W. Lionshead Cir., Vail 81657

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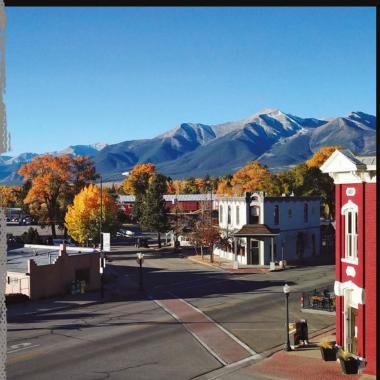
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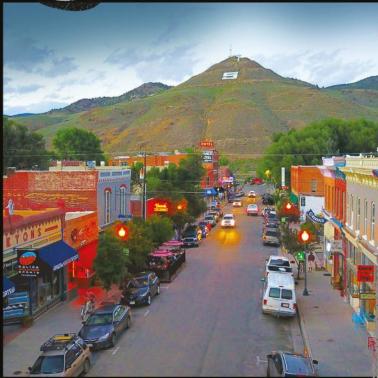
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