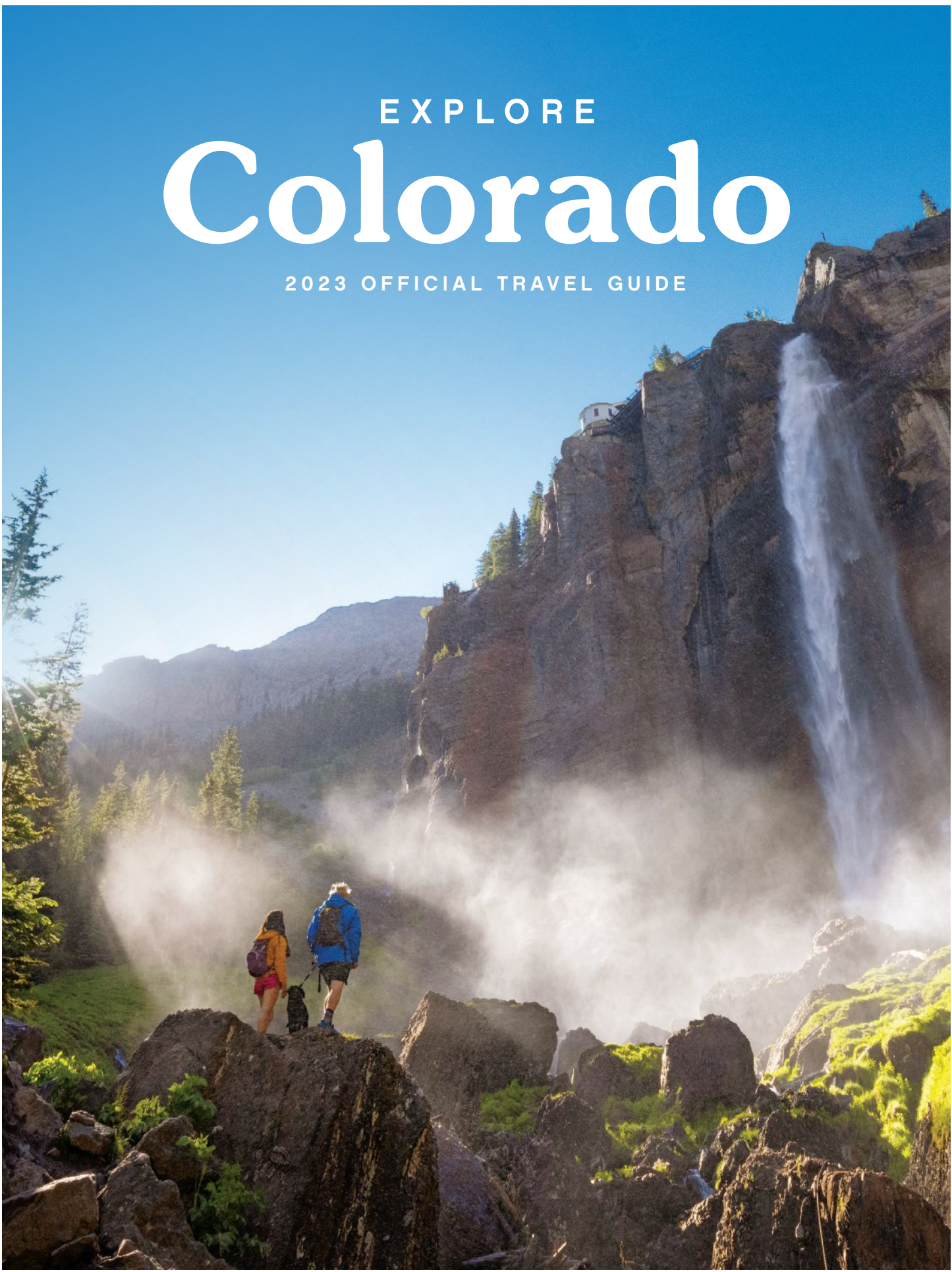


EXPLORE

Colorado

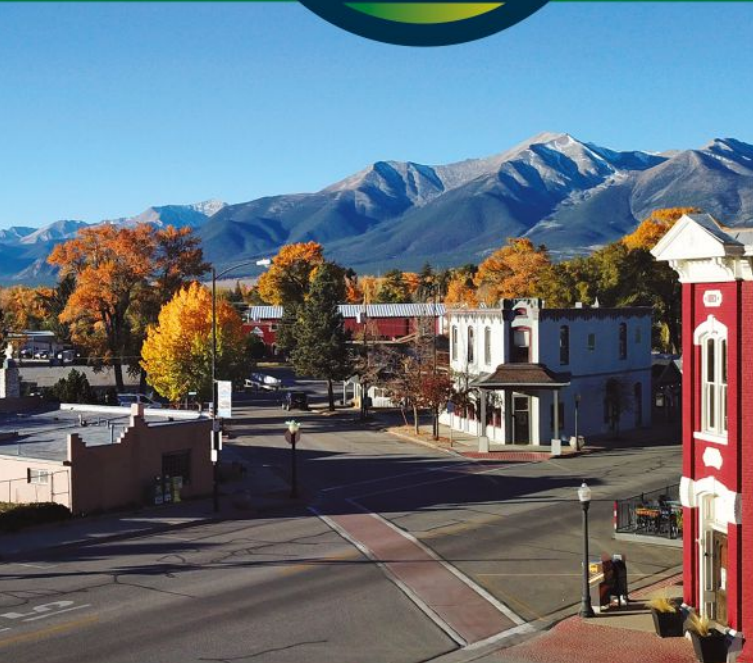
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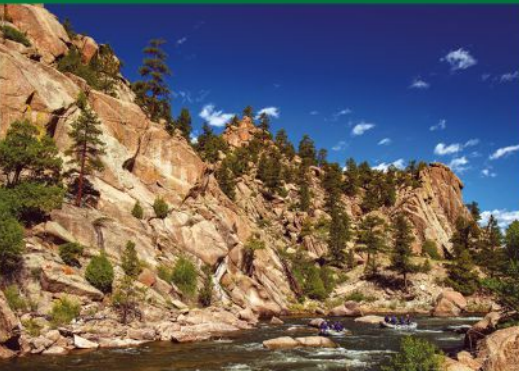
BUENA VISTA & SALIDA

Colorado



YEAR-ROUND ADVENTURES

Along The Arkansas River



Browns Canyon
NATIONAL MONUMENT
#1 Colorado Rafting Destination

3 *Natural*
HOT SPRINGS

Historic
GHOST TOWNS

80% PUBLIC LAND

Buena Vista & Salida, Colorado are natural playgrounds for recreation and adventure seekers who enjoy relaxing in hot springs after their adventure. These historic downtowns are situated along the Arkansas River with two whitewater parks for kayaking, rafting and tubing. Here you will find Colorado's best whitewater rafting and 100 miles of gold medal waters for fishing. Enjoy the mountain views, wide valleys, alpine lakes and countless miles of trails. There are 15 majestic 14ers, amidst countless other peaks rimming this valley. **It's all an invitation to play.**



MONARCH MOUNTAIN

Hundreds of miles of trails are groomed for snow sports.

Winters in Buena Vista and Salida are unique!
The valley floor typically does not hold snow, allowing for hiking,
biking and fishing year-round but the mountains get 300+ inches.



**FREE BUENA VISTA & SALIDA VISITOR GUIDE:
COLORFULCOLORADO.com**



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Honoring Traditional Native Inhabitants

In the spirit of healing and education, we acknowledge the 48 contemporary tribes with historic ties to the state of Colorado. The Colorado Tourism Office recognizes these Indigenous peoples as the original inhabitants of this land.

Social Media

Join the Colorado Conversation

ColoradoLive
Use #ColoradoLive on these channels to show us your adventures:

f [Facebook.com/VisitColorado](https://www.facebook.com/VisitColorado)

Twitter.com/Colorado

Instagram.com/VisitColorado

Pinterest.com/VisitColorado

YouTube.com/VisitColorado



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45 minutes west and 2,000 feet above Denver lies Monarch Casino Resort Spa. Exquisite guest rooms. Expanded gaming with no limits on the bets you can place. Five restaurants rich with culinary adventure. World-class treatments in our 23rd-floor Spa Monarch. You'll never settle for less.

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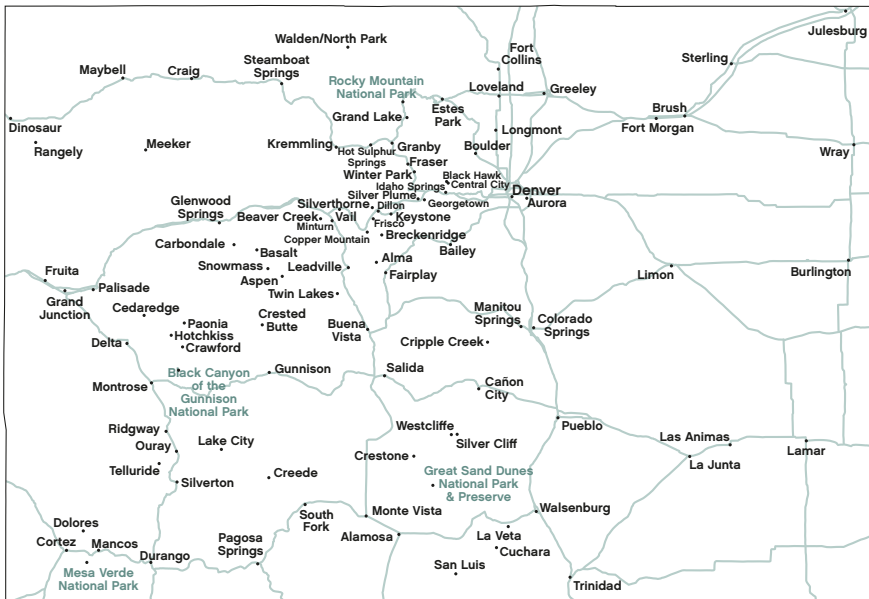


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SEE PAGE 32A FOR LARGER MAP





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MTPRINCETON.com



Family Friendly | Open Year-Round **Located Between Buena Vista & Salida, Colorado**

These hot springs are open to the public for day passes. Enjoy a hot springs day pass experience or relax with an overnight stay. Many lodging and event spaces are available. Create your own natural hot springs in Chalk Creek and enjoy these Rocky Mountain views. Our 400' water slide is open Memorial Day - Labor Day.

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LIVE LIFE
OUTSIDE

Colorado is home to 43 state parks, more than 350 state wildlife areas, 45,000 miles of trails and over 23 million acres of public lands to explore. Experience our great outdoors and night skies.

Plan your Adventure

Reserve a state park campsite, purchase a park pass, obtain an off-highway vehicle permit or buy a fishing license:

cpw.state.co.us or 1-800-244-5613

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Jared Polis – Governor

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PUBLISHED BY

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PARTNERSHIP

milespartnership.com

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Covers: Telluride (summer), Josh King;
Snowmass (winter), Matt Hobbs/Vital Films.

Do Colorado Right

More than ever before, travelers are invested in taking care of the places they visit. We've made that easy to do in Colorado with this basic guidance — the Care for Colorado Leave No Trace Principles.



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.

Stick To Trails

- With thousands of trails and 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.

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.
- Feeding wild animals could alter their 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.

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.

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 2,000 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.

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.

Share Our Trails & Parks

- Chances are you're not out in nature to people-watch, so try out the lesser-known paths and sites.
- Silence your cellphone 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.

© Leave No Trace: LNT.org



WANT MORE?

From avoiding peak travel times to backcountry essentials and EV-friendly road trips, visit Colorado.com/DoColoradoRight for more ways to know before you go.



more excitement

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With extraordinary entertainment and activities, our beautiful Arapahoe Springs Water Park, and our stunning Grand Lodge, you'll find what you're looking for at Gaylord Rockies Resort – and more.

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more possibility



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ROCKIES™**

Welcome to Snow's Perfect State



Near Buena Vista

Skiers and snowboarders aren't the only outdoor adventurers impatiently awaiting our 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.

While known for world-class skiing, winter in Colorado means so much more.

Adaptive Winter Activities

Adaptive sports centers offer lessons in accessible alpine skiing, snowboarding, ski biking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice climbing and more.

WHERE TO GO: Winter Park • Crested Butte • Steamboat Springs • Keystone • Breckenridge • Telluride • Aspen • Beaver Creek • Durango • Eldora

Ski Biking

Try a new way to experience the beauty of winter and also get your adrenaline flowing: It's simply a bike with the wheels replaced by skis. Many ski areas offer lessons, and the bikes' three-point stance make it easy to pick up.

WHERE TO GO: Purgatory Resort (Durango) • Winter Park Resort • Vail Mountain • Keystone Resort • Steamboat Ski Resort • Telluride Ski Resort • Snowmass • Copper Mountain Resort



BACKCOUNTRY SAFETY

Be sure to 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.

Colorado.com/
Backcountry

Fat Biking

Fat biking allows cyclists of all levels to keep their wheels spinning no matter the season. Fat tires ride atop the snow and can go just about anywhere.

WHERE TO GO: Tomichi Cycles (Gunnison) • Evergreen Bike Shop • Cycles of Life (Leadville) • Pagosa Mountain Sports • Front Range Ride Guides (Fort Collins) • Winter Park Resort • Howelsen Hill Nordic Center (Steamboat Springs) • Gold Run Nordic Center (Breckenridge) • Boulder Cycle Sport

Winter Alpine Coasters

Whiz down hundreds of vertical, powdery feet, riding switchbacks and loops along the way.

WHERE TO GO: Purgatory Resort (Durango) • Snowmass • Copper Mountain • Breckenridge • Vail

Snowshoeing & Cross-Country Skiing

Discover fluffy, snow-covered trails and peaceful stands of evergreen and aspen trees. Dozens of Nordic centers, including many at the ski resorts, are a great way to get started with rentals and trail maps. For more intense endeavors, try a hut trip!

WHERE TO GO: Vallecito Lake • Breckenridge • Crested Butte • Keystone • Vail • Telluride • Aspen/Snowmass • Leadville • Frisco • Walden • Eldora (near Nederland) • Gunnison • Beaver Creek • Silverthorne • Tabernash • Durango • Grand Lake • Steamboat Springs • Granby • Winter Park • Glenwood Springs • Kremmling



Mount Zirkel
Wilderness Area



Snowmass
Mountain



Winter Park Resort



Keystone Resort

Snow's Perfect State

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: NOAH WETZEL, ANDREW MAGUIRE, KEYSTONE RESORT/DANIEL MILCHEY, SNOWMASS/DANIEL BAYER

Snow's Perfect State

Ice Skating

From locales with far-as-the-eye-can-see mountain views to urban and resort settings surrounded by shops and restaurants, our outdoor ice rinks bring back-to-basics joy.

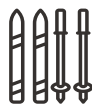
WHERE TO GO: Lake City • Lyons • Colorado Springs • Denver • Evergreen • Loveland • Ouray • Estes Park • Pagosa Springs • Aurora • South Fork • Golden Gate Canyon State Park (Golden) • Highline Lake State Park (Loma) • Eleven Mile State Park (Lake George) • Keystone • Breckenridge • Beaver Creek • Winter Park • Kendall Mountain (Silverton) • Snowmass • Crested Butte

Urban Experiences

Holiday concerts and performances, seasonal markets, lighting events, brew fests, ice rinks, restaurant weeks and shopping destinations make winter in the city merry and bright.

WHERE TO GO: Find yourself in the charming and diverse neighborhoods of Denver 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.

BONUS: All urban experiences are within easy reach of outdoor winter activities.



WANT MORE?

Colorado.com/
Winter-Activities

Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides

Warm blankets, crisp 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 wonderful places to find fun sleigh rides.

WHERE TO GO: Fraser • Frisco • Steamboat Springs • Granby • Wolcott and Edwards (both near Vail) • Durango • Pagosa Springs • Lake George • Keystone • Breckenridge • Aspen

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: Fraser • Copper Mountain • Snowmass • Winter Park • Purgatory and Hesperus (Durango) • Vail • Steamboat • Keystone • Echo Mountain (Idaho Springs) • Monarch Mountain near Salida • Frisco • Granby • Aspen • Telluride • Leadville



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YMCA
of the
Rockies



It's a Winter Wonderland

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It's the place for families to disconnect from daily life and have some fun. Outdoor thrills include dog sledding, ice skating, snowshoeing and Nordic skiing. Indoor fun includes climbing, crafts, archery and more.



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28 Colorado Ski Resorts



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

Home to such a diversity of ski areas and resorts, Colorado offers some of the most epic trails and thrilling rides you'll find in the world. From easy greens to black diamonds, there's plenty of ways to max out your snow fun — no matter your skill and experience level.

**Find more to explore
in Colorado, where
28 ski resorts offer
something for everyone.**



Aspen Highlands

1. Arapahoe Basin

Known for having one of the longest ski seasons in North America (mid-October to early June), A-Basin also boasts North America's highest elevation terrain park, the sustainable Snow Plume Refuge with il Rifugio bistro and panoramic views.

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 amazing-view dining — all steps from downtown Aspen.

4. Beaver Creek

BC charms with heated moving walkways, a first-tracks program for early risers, a white-carpet club and acres of corduroy. The McCoy Park expansion brings two new lifts, 17 new trails and 250 more skiable acres.

5. Breckenridge

Breck is beloved for its variety of terrain across five peaks. The resort was one of the first to allow snowboarding, and its terrain parks are first rate. The super chair on Peak 7 has visitors anxious to try new, wide-open terrain.

6. Buttermilk

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

7. Cooper

Cooper's soft, all-natural snow and sweeping runs follow some of the same trails near Leadville used for training by WWII's 10th Mountain Division soldiers. It's popular for those looking for a low-stress ski holiday and often still has fresh powder days after a storm.

8. Copper Mountain

Mother Nature arranged Copper's 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 family-friendly adventure zones sweeten the deal.

9. Crested Butte Mountain

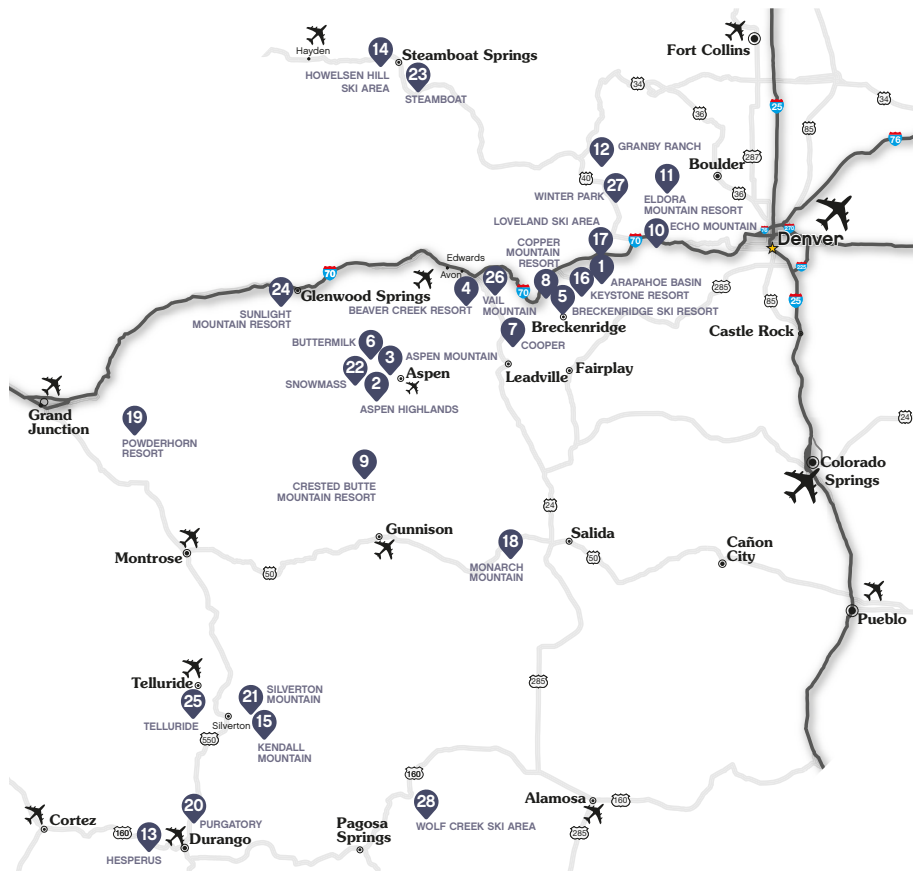
Crested Butte has it all: wide-open green and blue trails, expert bowls, plenty of unexplored lines and uncrowded slopes. Make time to explore one of the state's most colorful and beloved ski towns.

10. Echo Mountain

The closest to Denver, Echo Mountain near Idaho Springs is an affordable option with six trails on 60 acres of mostly intermediate terrain. For those who can't get there in daylight, the slopes are open til 9pm for skiing under the stars (and lights).

11. Eldora Mountain

Proximity to Boulder and Denver is one reason Eldora is known as a "locals' mountain." Terrain to keep the whole family busy doesn't hurt, and neither does nearly 40 kilometers of cross-country and snowshoe trails steps from the downhill ski area.



Ski Resorts

12. Granby Ranch

Fun lesson programs, an easy pace and affordable prices make this a long-time family ski area. There's no better place to wind down at the end of the day than the fire pit, where the hot cocoa flows.

13. Hesperus

West of Durango, Hesperus has been a great option in the southwest 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.

14. Howelsen Hill

Open since 1915 in Steamboat Springs, Howelsen is 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.

15. Kendall Mountain

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

16. Keystone

Keystone boasts three peaks full of bowls, steeps, trails, cat skiing and one of the longest ski days — watch the sun set at 11,000 feet. The resort's Kids Ski Free program is a showstopper, along with snow tubing, ice skating and sleigh rides.

17. Loveland

Loveland loves to brag about its average 422 inches of snow each season, more than any other Front Range ski area, and it offers excellent early-season conditions each year. Another thing to boast about is free snowcat skiing in the Dry Gulch area.

18. Monarch Mountain

Perched atop the Continental Divide, Monarch is a top spot for fresh powder. A close-in parking lot, roomy slopes and laid-back attitudes make it a hit with families. Ride to the top of the Panorama Lift for 360-degree views of the divide.

19. Powderhorn Mountain

This resort near Grand Junction in Mesa 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.

20. Purgatory

Purgatory's unimposing slopes, free kids season passes, mountain coaster and Pinkerton starter terrain park make it a hit with families in Durango. Within its boundaries are 101 trails, five terrain parks and 35,000 acres of snowcat playland.

21. Silverton Mountain

Silverton's motto is "All thrills, no frills" — and it's not kidding. Colorado's highest and steepest ski mountain serves up un-groomed, no-easy-way-down expert terrain. Guided and heli-skiing are top ways to take advantage of the terrain (reservations required).

22. Snowmass

At 4,406 feet, "Snowmassive" has one of the highest vertical rises and some of the longest runs of any ski area in the country — miles of peaceful schussing before you have to think about a lift line. A new base village offers ice skating, chic lodging and après-ski hot spots.

Aspen Powder Tours



23. Steamboat

Steamboat feels so confident about the special-ness of its powder, it trademarked it: Champagne Powder®. It's light, dry, smooth and only found here. New terrain, restaurants and bars, lodging, a ski beach and an ice rink, make it the second-largest resort in the state.

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

25. Telluride

From the Victorian-era downtown, it's hard to imagine 2,000 acres of peaceful ski terrain and modern resort amenities are moments away — a quick gondola ride ferries you to skiing and riding bliss, not to mention great dining and other winter activities.

26. Vail

Vail sets the standard for North American ski resorts. 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 luxury accommodations, shopping, dining and tons of off-slope activities.

27. Winter Park

Find diverse terrain, deep snow, top-notch lodging and dining, and a new high-speed gondola that gets skiers onto the powder quicker than ever. Hop on the Winter Park Express train 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. Feel-good bonus: It's the country's first ski destination to run entirely on renewable energy.



COPPER MOUNTAIN/TRIPP FAX



ORIGIN HOTEL



ORIGIN HOTEL *westminster*

Located halfway between Denver and Boulder, Origin Westminster puts guests in the center of Rocky Mountain adventure.

ORIGIN HOTEL *red rocks*

Minutes from downtown Golden, Origin Red Rocks is the ideal home base for venturing out to explore and rocking out next door.

ORIGINHOTELWESTMINSTER.COM
8875 WESTMINSTER BLVD., WESTMINSTER, CO 80031

ORIGINHOTELREDROCKS.COM
18485 WEST COLFAX AVE., GOLDEN, CO 80401

So Many Ways to Love Summer



Frisco Peninsula Recreation Area

Warm days and cool nights lure you outside. Colorado's beauty stirs a thirst to get out and enjoy every moment.

Mountain & Road Biking

The scent of pine needles is best absorbed while twisting along on two wheels. Communities come together over a love of singletrack, while hardcore riders roll along 60-mile sections of highway in high-altitude road-biking races. See page 76 for more.



Near Durango

KENNAN HARVEY

Hiking

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

WHERE TO START: Explore any Colorado State Park or national park or monument (page 32).
• Pick up trail maps at any visitor center — many have trails that start right from their downtowns. • Use the Colorado Trail Explorer (COTREX) app, where you can filter by location, difficulty, scenery and more.

Rafting & Boating

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

A FEW IDEAS: Grand Lake • Lake Dillon • Boulder Reservoir • Lake Granby • Lake San Cristobal (Lake City) • Lake Meredith (Sugar City) • Vallecito Lake • McPhee Lake (Cortez) • Carter Lake (Loveland) • more than 300 Grand Mesa lakes near Grand Junction, Paonia, Delta, Cedaredge and Hotchkiss • 26 Colorado State Parks

See page 60 for the full whitewater rundown.

Wildlife Watching & Birding

Few other places in North America offer such a bounty of wildlife-watching opportunities, from bald eagles to white-tailed ptarmigans and bighorn sheep to bison, elk, mule deer and many more.

WHERE TO START: Eight National Wildlife Refuges are peppered across the state. • There are dozens of Colorado Birding Trails. • Designated trails in our 43 state parks, nine national monuments, four national parks and two national grasslands are rich with wildlife opportunities.

Love Summer

Backpacking & Camping

Colorado makes it easy to get away from it all on its scenic lands. Grab a pack, tent and your favorite people to set up camp in one of 43 state parks, 40-plus wilderness areas, 22 million acres of national forests and other expansive public lands.

WHERE TO START: A good resource for tent camping, RV camps and cabins/yrurts on public lands is recreation.gov. • Many private campgrounds are located in prime spots that shower you with excellent amenities (sometimes even a shower!). • Visit Colorado.com/CampingBasics for info on how to camp responsibly.

Golf

Nowhere else provides as much scenic golf-course variety. From beautiful mountain views to links courses, our terrain and elevation make for countless golfing experiences. Traditional courses are plentiful, but tucked away in canyons and mountainsides, you'll find gems where innovation melds with scenery — and your ball flies farther at high altitudes.

A FEW TOP SPOTS: Adobe Creek National Golf Course (Fruita) • TPC Colorado (Berthoud) • The Golf Club at Bear Dance (Larkspur) • Redlands Mesa (Grand Junction) • Saddle Rock Golf Course (Aurora) • Fox Hollow Golf Course (Lakewood)

Zipline & Aerial Parks

Fly on a fast and fun zipline through the treetops and over canyons, rushing rivers, wildlife and wide valleys. Many zipliners also have aerial parks, where you can navigate on swinging bridges, catwalks, cargo nets, steel cables and more as you soar, climb, swing and scale new heights.

A FEW TOP SPOTS: Leadville • Grand Junction • Glenwood Springs • Castle Rock • Cañon City • Buena Vista • Durango • Idaho Springs • Steamboat Springs • Winter Park • Vail • Breckenridge • Copper Mountain • Keystone • Durango • Snowmass

Continued on page 22.



San Juan National Forest

KENNAN HARVEY

THE DURANGO & SILVERTON NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD

WHERE AMAZING WILD MEETS WONDERFUL WEST



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Awe-Inspiring Rocky Mountain Adventure in SW Colorado

The Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad & Museum, a national historic landmark, is located in the heart of America's Southwest Grand Circle; it is the only point in the U.S. shared by four states. This circle has the largest concentration of national parks and monuments in the U.S. including Colorado's Mesa Verde National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Voted #1
2021 & 2022



Love Summer

Fishing

River, lake, stocked pond or under ice, Colorado's largemouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish and famous rainbow trout await just below the surface.

WHERE TO START: Turn to page 40 for some great spots to fish with the family. • Colorado Parks & Wildlife (cpw.state.co.us) has hundreds of solid recommendations. • The local bait shops in any town you visit can make recommendations for the best local spots and tackle.

Dirt Bike, ATV Side-by-Side, & Jeep Trips

Let an experienced guide take you over boulder and stream to see ghost towns or the view from the top of the Continental Divide. Tours provide trails and excursions for all abilities or self-guided rentals for your own high-adrenaline off-roading or a scenic Sunday drive.

WHERE TO START: Visit Colorado.com/OHVTips to learn about etiquette, find some good spots and connect with outfitters.

Stand-Up Paddleboarding

Find out what those core muscles are really made of on rivers and lakes around the state. SUP tour companies will set you up with the gear you need to get paddling.

A FEW TOP SPOTS: Cottonwood Lake (near Buena Vista) • Union Reservoir (Longmont) • Aurora Reservoir • Colorado River (Palisade) • Keystone Lake • Crawford State Park • Butterfly Lake (Grand Junction)

Horseback Riding

Few activities embody the West like a good old-fashioned horseback ride through Colorado's prairie or mountain settings. Somehow, wildlife viewing, sightseeing and simply enjoying the outdoors are just a bit different when sitting astride a saddle.

WHERE TO START: Check out dozens of dude ranches for the full horse experience (and many other Wild West activities and amenities). • Nearly every town in the state has a stable or two that can get you on a trail.

Summer at Ski Resorts

Every ski resort opens in the summer with activities like gondola-accessed mountain-top yoga, gourmet hiking lunches, bike parks and trails, disc golf, adventure courses, mountain coasters and more.

WHERE TO START: Visit Colorado.com/SummerInSkiTowns for all the details.

Adaptive Summer Fun

Adaptive sports centers offer lessons and opportunities for accessible rafting, kayaking, cycling, hiking, climbing, horseback riding and more.

A FEW TOP SPOTS: Winter Park, Crested Butte, Telluride, Colorado Springs, Durango, Lakewood and Steamboat Springs

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 START: Mosca • Carbondale • Granby • Dolores • Cañon City • Vail • DeBeque • Lyons • Ridgway • Westcliffe



Governor Basin near Ouray



WANT MORE?

Colorado.com/
SummerActivities

The Perfect Day.

Need a day away from the same old same old? Golden has the perfect mix of fun, adventure and relaxation any time of the year.



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Experience Colorado's Fall Color



Roaring Fork Valley

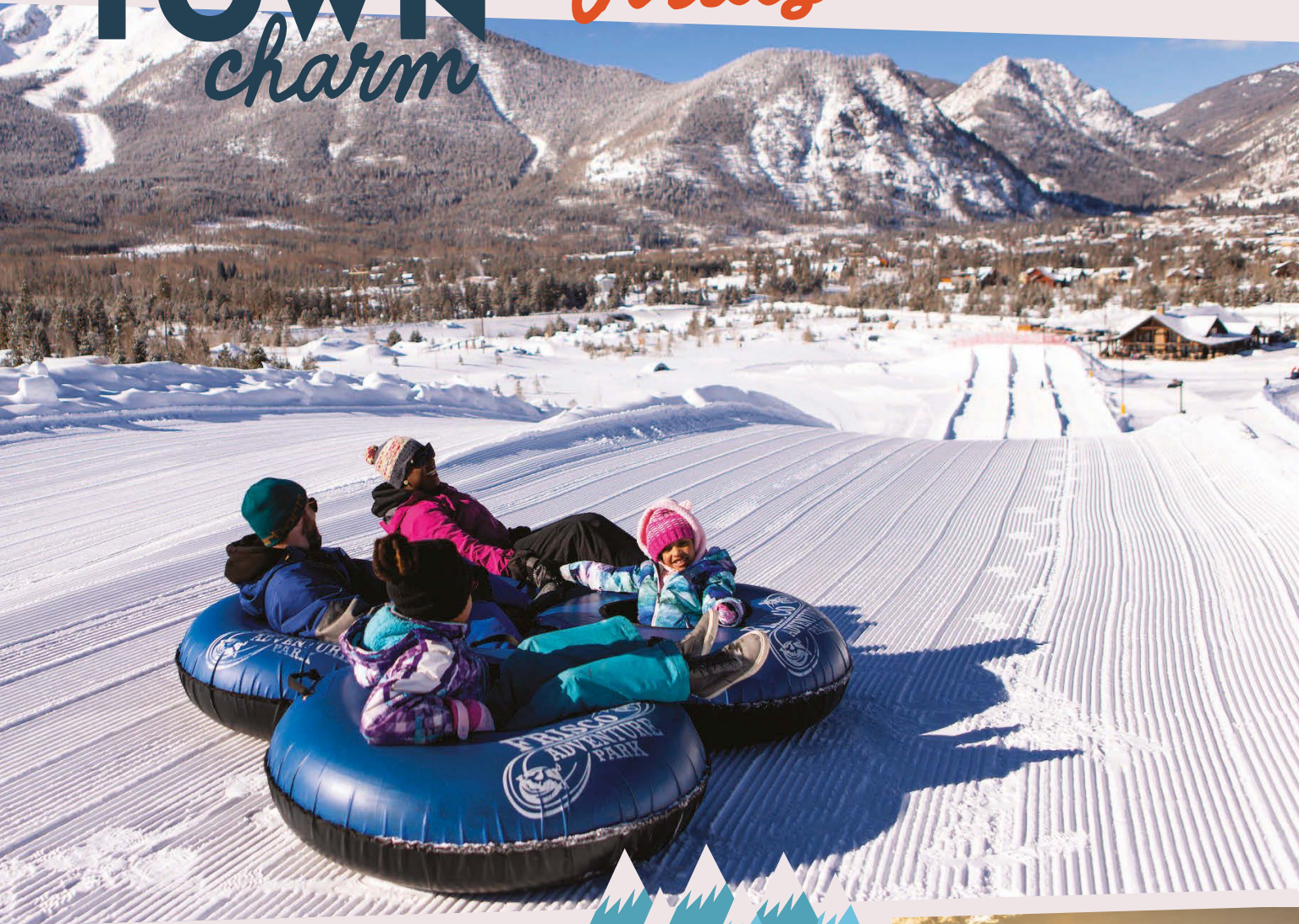
In the fall, Colorado is transformed into a natural arena of shimmering colors, with the state's signature gold aspen trees serving as the main act. Everyone wants to see Colorado's stunning autumn golds and reds, but it's tricky to predict when and where the leaves will be showing off.

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

Continued on page 26.

Autumn is one of our best-kept secrets. Soak up our golden season by adding these activities to your trip itinerary.

MOUNTAIN TOWN *thrills* *charm*



By a lake. With a charming Main Street.
And its own marina, tubing hill, ski-ride hill & Nordic center.

TownofFrisco.com



FRISCO
COLORADO
MAIN STREET OF THE ROCKIES

Fall Color

Scenic Drives

These leafy routes get you close to gorgeous fall foliage.

Dallas Divide Head west from Ridgway on CO 62 over the Dallas Divide to Telluride. Unimpeded views of the Sneffels Range line the route with an apron of aspens.

Kebler Pass Drive 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.

Grand Junction to Grand Mesa Go east on I-70 along the Colorado River to see glowing cottonwoods. At CO 65, go east and then south to the Grand Mesa for brilliant aspens.

Cottonwood Pass Down Cottonwood Pass Road west of Buena Vista, enter an aspen-laden valley to see the fickleness of fall — one slope gold, another 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 near La Manga Pass.

Poudre Canyon Take CO 14 west of Fort Collins to the top of Cameron Pass, a low forested saddle on the way to 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 La Veta to Trinidad route on CO 12 begs to be photographed as it wraps around the Spanish Peaks amid tracts of pine, scrub oak and aspen.

Take a Ride

Get out of the car to see our oranges, yellows and reds up close.

Ballooning Hundreds of feet up in the crisp Colorado air, the colors unfold below in a seemingly unending canvas of yellow and gold.

Horseback Riding Somehow, aspen viewing is 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. 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 14) offer scenic chairlift rides throughout summer and fall. Hop on, relax and survey the colorful trail-carved mountainsides as you glide to the summit.

Bike the Byways Our 26 official scenic and historic byways meander through breathtaking landscapes 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? See page 74 for a map.

Hop a Train Several of our scenic trains (see page 57) offer special fall-color rides in September and October. With the train's engineer at the helm, you can focus on how to best capture the vibrant colors in a photo. Breathe in the crisp fall air as you wind your way over scenic hill and dale along these historic routes.



Rocky Mountain National Park

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SNOWBOARDING
CANYON RAYING
FLYING

DRIVE-IN
OFF-ROAD MOUNTAIN BIKING
CAMP
CUR

VISITDELTA COUNTY.COM

6 Ways to Savor Our Food Scene

Rich in homegrown ingredients, nationally recognized chefs and a strong maker culture, it's no wonder Colorado is leading the country with these six trends.

1. Experience Colorado Liquid Arts™

We have a remarkable collection of 90-plus distilleries, more than 330 breweries, 140 wineries and a growing number of cideries and meaderies.

A FEW SUGGESTIONS: Spirit Hound Distillers (Lyons) • Mystic Mountain Spirits (Larkspur) • Black Bridge Winery (Paonia) • Berthoud Brewing Co. • Storm King Distilling Co. (Montrose) • Colorado Farm Brewery (Alamosa) • Honnibrook Craft Meadery (Castle Rock) • Fenceline Cider (Mancos) • Parts & Labor Brewing Company (Sterling) • Evolve Wines (Palisade) • Cervceria (Denver)

MORE: Colorado.com/LiquidArts

2. Munch on Fresh Fare

Colorado's got the goods when it comes to succulent fruit and crisp produce.

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

3. Haul Yourself to a Food Hall

From tacos to sushi, there is so much to snack on under one roof—where culinary craftspeople are cooking up a storm.

A FEW SUGGESTIONS: Bluebird Market (Silverthorne) • The Warehouse Food Hall (Craig) • Freedom Street Social (Arvada) • Avanti F&B (Denver) • Jessup Farm Artisan Village (Fort Collins) • Fuel & Iron Food Hall (Pueblo) • The Golden Mill (Golden) • Mango House (Aurora) • Ecclesia Market (Castle Rock) • Ivywild School (Colorado Springs) • 11th Street Station (Durango)



Lyons Farmette



American Grind



Near Olathe

4. Gobble Up Small Plates

Tapas are making a big comeback as diners look for a casual, social sharing experience without the commitment of entree-sized meals.

A FEW SUGGESTIONS: Mood Tapas Bar (Colorado Springs) • Deca (Vail) • Door 222 Food & Drink (Loveland) • 626 on Rood (Grand Junction) • Corrida (Boulder) • El Five (Denver) • Mimo Fancy Tapas (Breckenridge) • Bésame (Steamboat Springs)

5. Savor Classic Colorado Courses

Green Chile Sloppler: When visiting Pueblo, you have to stop by Gray's Coors Tavern to chow down on the famed sloppler: Two open-faced cheeseburgers smothered with only-in-Pueblo green chile and sprinkled with diced, raw onions.

Colorado Game: Choose the game plate at The Fort (Morrison) to sample moist bone-in elk chop, delicate buffalo sirloin medallion and flavorful grilled teriyaki quail.

Colorado-Style Pizza: This flaky-crust-style pizza, more akin to a pastry, is meant to be drizzled with locally made honey. Try it at the original Beau Jo's (Idaho Springs).



Parts & Labor Brewing Company

6. Dine in a Field

Forget farm-to-table, 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 SUGGESTIONS: Meadow Lark Farm Dinners (various locations) • A Grazing Life (Fountain) • Lyons Farmette • Ollin Farms (Longmont) • Three Leaf Farm (Lafayette)



WANT MORE?

Find more ways to experience our food and beverage scene.

Colorado.com/
Food-Drink

8 Low-Impact Travel Ideas



Rocky Mountain Field Institute

Colorado delivers lots of ways to travel conscientiously.

1. Stargaze

Our many starry-night spots invite you to gaze at the heavens. Try a Dark-Sky Park like Dinosaur National Monument or Monument Lake in Trinidad for sparkling sights up high. Colorado.com/Stargazing

2. Drive an Electric Byway

Opt for a classic road trip with a drive along one of 10 electric-vehicle-friendly scenic byways. Turn to page 74 to see which ones have perfectly spaced charging stations along the way. ColoradoByways.com

3. Take the Train (or Bike or Bus)

Tuck your car keys away in favor of lower-impact travel alternatives like the Winter Park Express ski train, shuttles, buses and Colorado's growing quiver of e-bike and scooter rentals. Colorado.com/GetAround

4. Seek Eco-Lodging

Rest your head in sustainable style by booking with lodging that cares. For example, Devil's Thumb Ranch Resort & Spa in Tabernash and The Pad in Silverthorne are both revered for earth-friendly practices.

5. Get a Carbon-Neutral Guide

Booking a low-impact adventure will make you feel extra good about your trip's carbon footprint. For instance, Boulder's Colorado Wilderness Rides & Guides and Cairn Outdoor Guides both emphasize sustainability best practices. Colorado.com/Guides

6. Support Local

There are literally hundreds of Colorado farmers' and artisan markets — not to mention ranches, orchards and visitor-friendly farms — that prioritize local sources and sustainable practices. Ridgway Farmers Market, Vail Farmers' Market & Art Show and Field to Fork CSA in Palisade are just a few. Colorado.com/Local

7. Take a Hike

Join a guided trek with a group that bolsters eco-friendly programs, like Walking Mountains Science Center in Avon and Aspire Tours out of Wheat Ridge to learn about the area's flora and fauna from passionate stewards. Colorado.com/Hiking

8. Volunteer

Give back by donating work hours to nonprofits like Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado and trail-building organizations like Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association. Colorado.com/Voluntourism

DESTINATION SUSTAINABILITY

Many Colorado locales — like Aspen, Glenwood Springs, Denver, Breckenridge, Fort Collins and Vail — focus on being good to Mother Earth.

Learn more about these efforts:

Colorado.com/SustainablePlaces

Magic Moments on Colorado's Public Lands

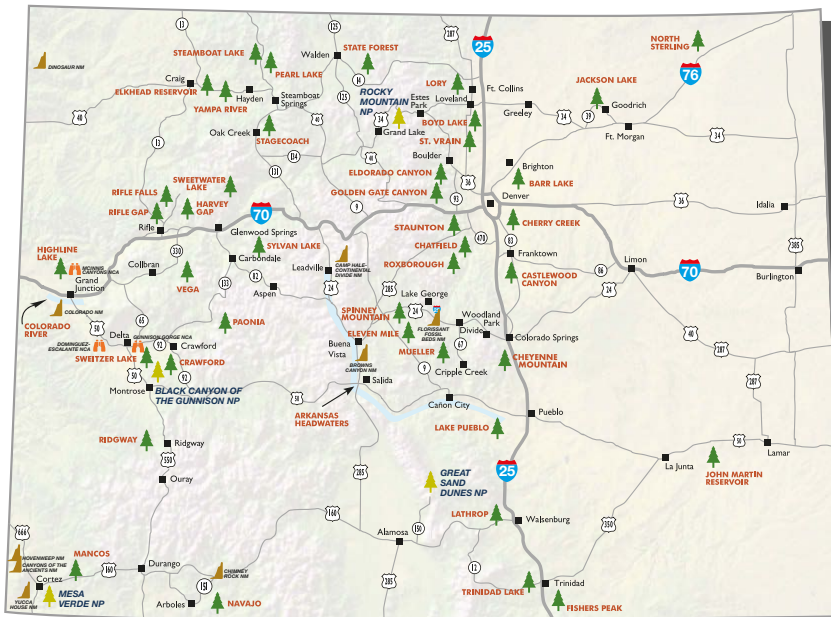


McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area

With 42 percent of our 100,000 square miles made up of public lands, it's easy to find an adventure in our 43 state parks, four national parks, nine national monuments and other public lands.

FRAME PHOTOS THROUGH MCINNIS CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA ARCHES.

North America's second-largest concentration of natural arches can be found near Grand Junction. There are no paved roads, but 4x4 trails and a rugged hike can lead prepared adventurers to red-rock arches, spires and rock bridges.



Colorado State & National Parks

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

See the full state map on page 32A and city index on page 192.

*The newly designated Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument site is still in the planning stages and not ready for visitors at this time.

WATCH FOR WILDLIFE IN THE MOUNT ZIRKEL WILDERNESS. It may seem as though this remote 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.

SOAK UP THE PROFOUND QUIET OF THE SNOWY BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON NATIONAL PARK. When the snow falls each winter, unplowed South Rim Road becomes a track for snowshoers and cross-country skiers who make their way across pristine powder to a canyon overlook east of Montrose.

FEEL TRUE HIGH-DESERT ENCHANTMENT AT JOHN MARTIN RESERVOIR STATE PARK. In winter, watch snow geese migrate in formation and glide into the water. Summer months are ideal for sunrises over the dew-covered plains near Las Animas.

SPY WILDLIFE ALONG THE 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 valley 60 miles west of Maybell. Solitude-seeking hunters, fishers,

photographers and campers commune on lands once home to Fort Davy Crockett.

GAZE AT A SEA OF SWAYING SHORTGRASS IN PAWNEE NATIONAL GRASSLAND. Two 300-foot-high mesas visible from miles around, dubbed the "sentinels of the plains" by author James Michener, are the companions of pronghorn, coyotes, kit foxes, hawks and falcons, located west of Sterling.

FOLLOW THE LOST CREEK WILDERNESS. Lost Creek's red-rock formations near Bailey aren't as dramatic as those at better-known spots, but there are a whole lot more of them. Many of the domes, knobs and spires 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.

ENJOY THE QUIET CHARMS OF THE FLAT TOPS WILDERNESS. Some of the state's least-traveled roads wind through 200,000 acres of lush river valleys, alpine tundra and sheer cliffs between Yampa, Meeker, Glenwood Springs, Hayden and Craig. Peep the views at Trappers Lake, Dunckley Pass and Devils Causeway. Visit Colorado.com/Wilderness to find others.

TAKE IN A SUNSET IN BROWNS CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT. Watch as the changing light of day alters the hues of the canyon walls and rock formations, often compared to cathedral spires, along the monument's many backcountry trails near Buena Vista. Explore on horseback, or opt for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing in the winter.

RAFT THE TUMBLING RAPIDS OF THE CACHE LA POUDE RIVER. Colorado's only nationally designated Wild and Scenic River 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 LINE TUG OF A WALLEY AT NORTH STERLING STATE PARK. Fishers relish lazy summer days perched on the shore, surrounded by wide-open short-grass prairie near Sterling. One of the state's warm-water fisheries, North Sterling sends anglers back to their campsites with more than fish tales — walleye, catfish, largemouth bass, rainbow trout, bluegill, northern pike and yellow perch are on the menu.

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 84 will give you ideas for exploring each corner of the state — and everywhere in between. Turn to page 32 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.

COLORADO WELCOME CENTERS

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

COLO-ROAD TRIPS

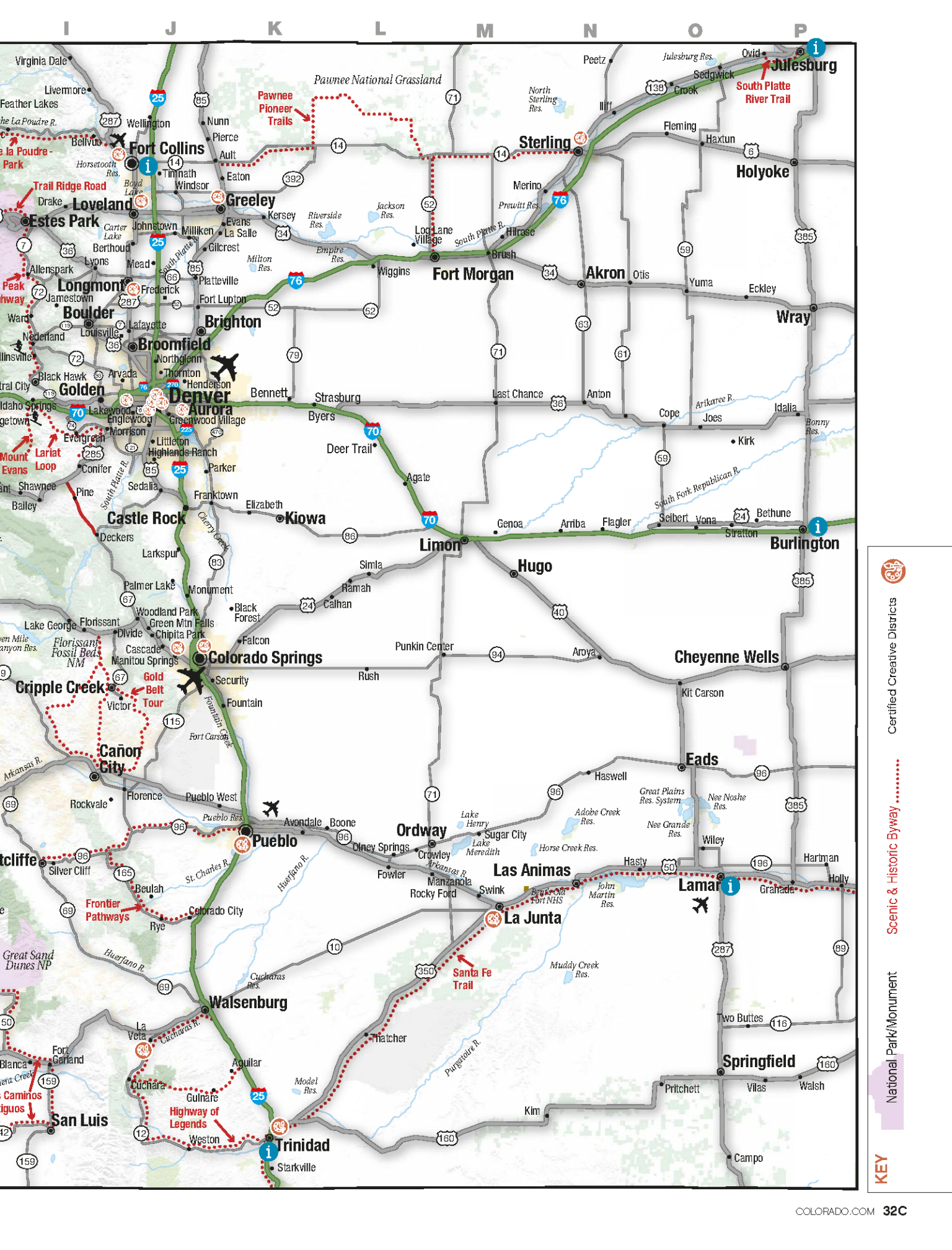
We have even more itineraries on our website that will get you around Colorado with the ease of a local — especially to the places many visitors don't even know about! Visit Colorado.com/ColoRoadTrips.

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



Tear here to take this map with you.

Tear here to take this map with you.



KEY

-  National Park/Monument
-  Scenic & Historic Byway
-  Certified Creative Districts

Do Denver Your Way

There's no right or wrong way to experience the Mile High City. There's only ... your way. Come discover unique neighborhoods, award-winning cuisine, craft breweries, performing arts, museums, art galleries, and so much more.



1 Find Inspiration

Denver's thriving arts and culture scene is an energizing experience for anyone in search of inspiration. Find a new perspective at Denver Art Museum's global arts collection, featuring more than 70,000 works of art in 12 collections. Expand your mind at Meow Wolf Convergence Station, where visitors are seemingly transported to another dimension through immersive, psychedelic creations. Or take another look at how colorful murals are bringing new life to alleyways and buildings in the River North Art District.



3 Eat & Drink

From rooftop restaurants in the Highlands neighborhood to the patios on Larimer Square, Denver's chef-driven restaurants are known for serving creative, locally sourced cuisine al fresco. Can't decide where to dine? Head to one of the city's many food halls or markets, like Avanti F&B or Denver Central Market.



4 Get Outside

The spirit of Colorado infuses everything in Denver, from outdoor dining to concerts under the stars. Red Rocks Park & Amphitheatre hosts its world-famous summer concert series April-October every year. Get to the show early to take advantage of the hiking trails that meander through the majestic sandstone monoliths.



2 Gather the Family

Bring the whole family on your Denver adventure! The City Park neighborhood features both the Denver Zoo and the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, while Elych Gardens Theme & Water Park, the Downtown Aquarium and the Children's Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus offer all-ages fun in the heart of downtown.

Learn more and find great hotel deals at [VISITDENVER.com](https://www.visitdenver.com)





Mount Zirkel Wilderness

Adaptable Access to Public Lands

Many national parks and monuments provide wheelchair-accessible touring information (including special ones for exploring the Great Sand Dunes). 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. Find other ideas at Colorado.com/Adaptive.

NOAH WETZEL



WANT MORE?

[Colorado.com/
Outdoor-Activities](http://Colorado.com/Outdoor-Activities)

4 Ways to Watch Wildlife



Near Estes Park

Few places in North America offer such a bounty of wildlife watching.

1. Go Spotting

Spy our official state creatures as you travel around:

STATE ANIMAL: Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. Found in high-mountain terrain, including 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. Some ideas: Jackson Lake State Park (near Orchard); St. Vrain State Park (near Firestone); Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge (Arvada).

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. Some ideas: Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge (Denver), Genesee Park right off I-70 (Golden), Soapstone Prairie Natural Area (near Fort Collins).

2. Follow a 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. Colorado.com/Birding & coloradobirdingtrail.com

3. Attend a Wildlife Festival

Nearly 30 festivals are held each year celebrating furry and feathery friends: Cedaredge's Grand Mesa Moose Day (July), Georgetown's Big Horn Sheep Festival (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

4. Take a Ranger-Led Tour

With eight national wildlife refuges, four national parks, nine national monuments, 41 national wilderness areas, 43 state parks and nearly 350 state wildlife areas, you're bound to find a ranger tour to lead you through wildlife-friendly areas no matter where your trip takes you. cpw.state.co.us



KEEP WILDLIFE WILD

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

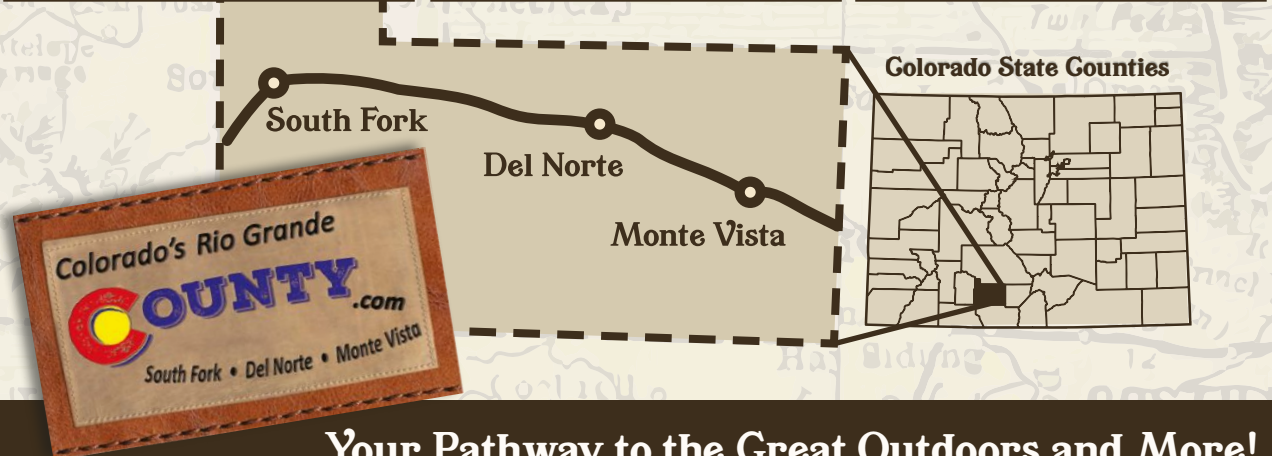
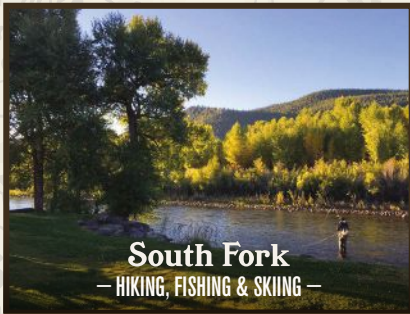
It's a roarin' good time.

With 3,000 wild animals and 84 amazing acres to explore, Denver Zoo is the wildest thing this Wild West town has to offer—hands (and paws) down! Every visit helps save wildlife in Colorado and worldwide.

Make memories that matter.
Tickets at DenverZoo.org



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10 No-Filter-Needed Photo Experiences



If capturing the perfect shot is just as important as the journey, these locales will be just your shutter speed.

Last Chance Module Array

Last Chance

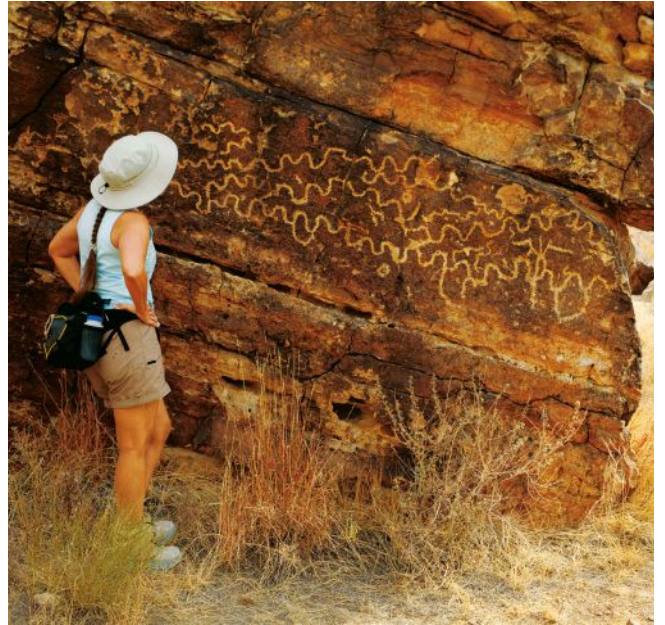
This intriguing sculpture by M12 Studio marries nature and art in the middle of Colorado's vast golden prairie. The piece's wooden beams align with the rising and setting sun during solstices but are picture perfect year-round.



Palisade Farmscapes

Palisade

Frame the stunning striated walls of the Bookcliffs through rows of lush fruit trees standing at attention and tendrilled grape vines. If the timing of your trip allows, snap the full moon rising over Grand Mesa in a dusky, peach-colored sky.



Vogel Canyon

La Junta

Point your lens at this canyon where Native American petroglyphs adorn the sandstone walls. Pronghorn and tarantula mating season — in August and September — are just two of the wildlife surprises you'll encounter.



Spanish Peaks Wilderness

Aguilar

The photogenic twin Spanish Peaks served as navigational landmarks for Native Americans and settlers alike. Make Cordova Pass your high-altitude basecamp for wide-open shots of star-dappled indigo skies.



Flatirons

Boulder

Capture a Colorado legend: The Flatirons are the striking, slanted, reddish-brown sandstone formations on the city's west side. They are Boulder's most iconic landmark, and you'll see their likeness in business logos and artwork throughout town.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MARK HOBERMAN; GETTY IMAGES/DAVID PARSONS; ADBESTOCK/JEREMY JANUS; ERIC WUNROW



Rifle Ice Caves

Near Rifle

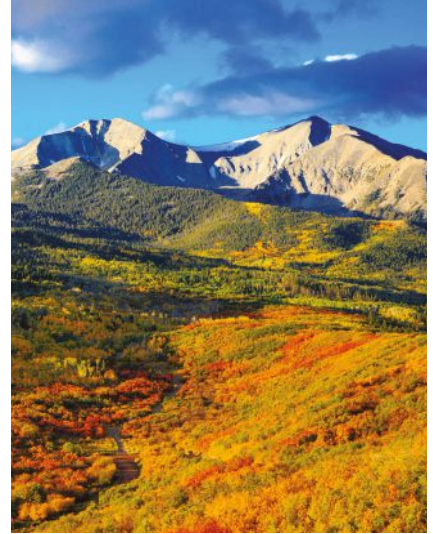
Winter brings bonus beauty to Rifle Mountain Park, where ice caves wait to thrill shutterbugs. You can easily spend a full day shooting electric-blue explosions of ice, shockingly turquoise icicles and massive frozen, pillar-like formations.



Sangre de Cristo Mountains

Near Crestone

Come sunset, the Mystic San Luis Valley light plays on the peaks of the majestic Sangre de Cristos. Stay focused as the neon-pink alpenglow shifts to darkest crimson: The sight is so stunning you might forget to take your shot.



Mount Sopris

Near Carbondale

The dual summits of Sopris are a photographic delight in every season. Fall is especially striking, as vibrant yellow and red foliage pops up from verdant carpets in eye-pleasingly harmonious contrast to the mountain's snow-dappled crags.



Twin Lakes

Twin Lakes

Just off the Top of the Rockies byway sit the glimmering waters of the state's two largest glacial lakes. Within their evergreen-ringed surfaces, you'll find mirror images of Mount Elbert, our highest peak.



Sand Wash Basin

Maybell

Wild horses — from ruddy sorrels to patterned paints — freely gallop across picturesque mesas speckled with sagebrush and juniper. Each May, catch cowboy culture in action at the Great American Horse Drive.

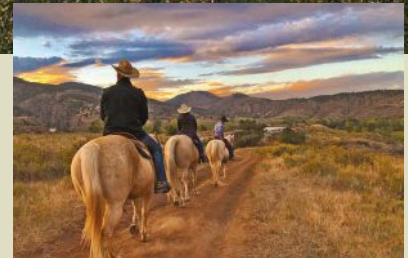


KEEP THESE SPOTS MAGICAL

by following Care for Colorado Leave No Trace Principles and tagging pictures responsibly on social media. Learn more at

Colorado.com/CareForColorado

-Great- ADVENTURES All Year ARE ALL RIGHT HERE



Nestled at the feet of the majestic Rockies, Northern Colorado is truly the ultimate year-round playground. Just 45 minutes both north of Denver and east of Rocky Mountain National Park, here are all the adventures you seek, the culture you crave, and the local tasty brew you deserve at the end of each awesome day.



VisitLoveland.com
VisitFortCollins.com

Family Fishin'

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.

Corn Lake

Just outside Grand Junction, the lake is stocked with rainbow trout and offers a bike trail and picnic tables, as well as hiking, wildlife watching and educational activities in the nearby Colorado River Wildlife Area.

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 comes 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 also see deer, great blue herons, owls, bald eagles and redtail hawks.

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, hawk quests and more.

St. Vrain State Park

This Firestone site's Sandpiper and Mallard ponds win top spots for kids thanks to proximity to the parking lot and restrooms. There are easy hiking trails and camping for making a night of it.

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.



For More Serious Anglers

[Colorado.com/
WesternCO
FlyFishingHotSpots](http://Colorado.com/WesternCO/FlyFishingHotSpots)

[Colorado.com/
GreatPlaces
toFishInColorado](http://Colorado.com/GreatPlaces/toFishInColorado)

Other Ideas

Colorado Parks & Wildlife provides a wealth of information about fishing with your little ones. Take a look at the 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 are available. cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/Pages/Fishing.aspx

Load up your tackle box and picnic basket to create lasting family memories.



Rocky Mountain National Park

MILESANDREA BUROLLA

Scouting It Out



Near Winter Park

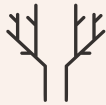
Populated with diverse wildlife across each of its four corners, Colorado is a haven for those who prefer an intimate immersion with nature, relying on their sharp senses to engage in the art of the hunt.

From the mule deer and legendary elk that roam the Rockies to the whitetails that graze the plains, Colorado's big-game and small-game species can be found across the state's mix of sprawling terrain. A popular choice for hunters seeking a unique experience, Colorado's big-game seasons typically kick off in August and continue through January. It's hard to resist the excitement — and golden aspens — found during the early months of bow and muzzleloading seasons, but waiting for the arrival of cooler temperatures and white blankets of snow can give hunters the upper hand in achieving a successful hunt.

Colorado accommodates most types and styles of take, whether you're going primitive with the longbow, modern with a centerfire rifle or splitting the difference with a muzzleloader. Be sure to bring along a shotgun or fishing

rod to take advantage of the overlapping small-game and fishing seasons, and never forget to bring your license and hunter-education card from Colorado or your home state.

Find information about Colorado's hunting and fishing license guidelines by visiting cpw.state.co.us. Adhering to the state's guidelines is extremely important to the overall health of the wilderness and will foster an exciting and thriving environment that you will want to revisit every hunting season.



WANT MORE?

Applications for big-game limited-draw licenses are in March/early April (primary) and June/early July (secondary). For more dates and fees visit:

Colorado.com/CPWHunt

New to the game? Colorado Parks & Wildlife offers Elk Hunting University, a series of instructional videos and tools you need to get ready for your hunt. Visit Colorado.com/cpwhunt to find information on outdoor survival, a guide to Colorado's game-management units, scouting tips and numbers to call when you have questions.

Choose your own Colorado hunting and scouting adventure.

Creative Colorado

Explore 30 Certified Colorado Creative Districts.



Carbondale

Make a date with these communities, which brim with galleries, arts activities and special arts events.

40 West Arts District

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

Art District on Santa Fe

With galleries, art studios, theater companies and murals, 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-era houses.

Crested Butte

The hamlet's Center for the Arts, artist-owned shops and performance venues delight visitors. Stroll Elk Avenue and check the calendar for arts events.

Downtown Colorado Springs

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

Downtown Longmont

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

Durango

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.

Fort Collins

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

Aurora

Soak up the diverse culture at the 5th Element Center for Dance, Cultural Concerts on Colfax, the Aurora Symphony Orchestra, the Aurora Fox Arts Center, Downtown Aurora Visual Arts, various artists' co-ops and much more.

Breckenridge

This mountain downtown includes Breckenridge Backstage Theatre and National Repertory Orchestra as well as studios, galleries and other creative outfits.

Carbondale

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.

Creative Colorado

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 art galleries, boutiques, coffee shops and bars.

Greeley

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

Grand Junction

Find a wealth of treasures, including the Avalon Theater and the beloved Art on the Corner outdoor-sculpture program. Snag a seat at sidewalk cafes to soak it all in.

Grand Lake

This national park gateway town harbors a creative community anchored by the Rocky Mountain Repertory Theatre and a boardwalk lined with shops and galleries.

Gunnison

An abundance of artists, writers and makers find inspiration in this natural setting. Shop handcrafted wares, visit galleries on First Friday Art Walks and explore the Gunnison Arts Center exhibits and events.

La Junta

A crossroads of history and culture, you'll find artists' collectives, the Picketwire Players, the Otero Arts Festival (70 years strong), the Arkansas Valley Film Festival, and the Fine Arts League's annual art show at the Koshare Museum.

La Veta

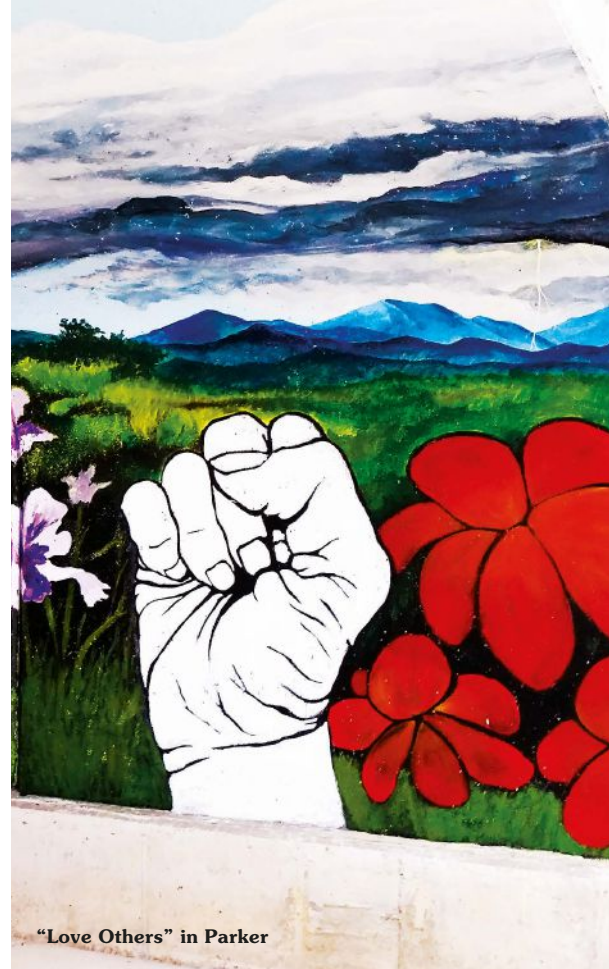
Spark your creative flames at events and workshops from the Spanish Peaks Art Council or La Veta School of the Arts. Browse artists' studios and galleries on summer Fourth Fridays and take part in annual events.

Loveland

Loveland is home to bronze foundries and nine museums and galleries. Visit for Sculpture in the Park, the Loveland Museum/Gallery and the Chapungu Sculpture Park's contemporary art from Africa.

Mancos

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



"Love Others" in Parker



"Afro Flower Lady" in Aurora



"Courage" in Greeley



Telluride

Manitou Springs

Downtown is peppered with outdoor art, galleries, concert series and events. Stop at the Commonwheel Artists Co-Op to see what the locals are making.

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 decades-strong 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, plus candle and clothing makers in this town of 900.

River North Art District (RiNo)

This Denver spot maintains its industrial origins while a growing crew of galleries, furniture makers and photographers have found a home here alongside some of the city's most vibrant street art.

Salida

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

Steamboat Springs

Wild West roots combine with long-standing institutions, workshops, youth art programs, Art in the Park (July) and the Free Summer Concert Series.

Sterling

In this farming community with a love of art, you'll find Sacred Matter Glassblowing Studio and creatives at work at the Sterling Creatives Artists Co-Op. Spot the intricate tree sculptures by Bradford Rhea around town.

Telluride Arts District

Downtown Telluride is renowned for huge events, fine musicians, painters, photographers, bookbinders and more — and all downtown businesses are indie owned.

Westwood

A Hispanic-centric culture pervades this west Denver district. Murals display generations of heritage, and galleries and arts affairs sprout up each year. Chile Fest showcases the neighborhood at its best.



WANT MORE?

Find other ways to experience Colorado's diverse art scene at Colorado.com/Arts-Culture.

Relax & Rejuvenate

Dip a toe and then dive in — these hot springs are some of our most surreal phenomena.



The Springs Resort & Spa

Dip into our many natural hot springs, where you can soothe sore muscles after a long day of hiking or skiing. Many also offer lodging, spa services, water slides and other kid-friendly amenities.

Iron Mountain Hot Springs

Our newest hot springs offers 16 pools (with more on the way in the coming year) at the site of the historic Iron Springs Spa on the banks of the Colorado River in Glenwood Springs.

The Springs Resort & Spa

This luxury resort in Pagosa Springs boasts more than 20 soaking pools, a full-service spa and salon, and a luxury hotel.

Glenwood Hot Springs Lodge

This lodge is perfect for the entire family, boasting the world's largest hot-springs pool, cabanas, a splash zone and whitewater tube ride.

Durango Hot Springs Resort & Spa

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 at this newly renovated San Juan Mountains spot.

Ouray Hot Springs Pool & Fitness Center

Surrounded by canyon walls, this natural hot-springs swimming pool is an inspiring place to bring your whole family.

Indian Hot Springs

Variety rules in Idaho Springs with geothermal caves, private baths, outdoor soaking tubs and a mineral-water pool.

Mount Princeton Hot Springs Resort

This resort in Nathrop has numerous geothermal springs. Proximity to Monarch and Cooper ski areas makes it a perfect après-ski muscle relaxant.

Hot Sulphur Springs Resort & Spa

This resort's waters, in the town of the same name, have flowed from seven natural springs for hundreds of years and were used for healing by the Ute Indians.

Joyful Journey Hot Springs Spa

This Mystic San Luis Valley gem in Moffat pulls its 140-degree artesian mineral waters from beneath the Sangre de Cristo mountains.



DISCOVER
20 MORE

Colorado.com/
HotSprings



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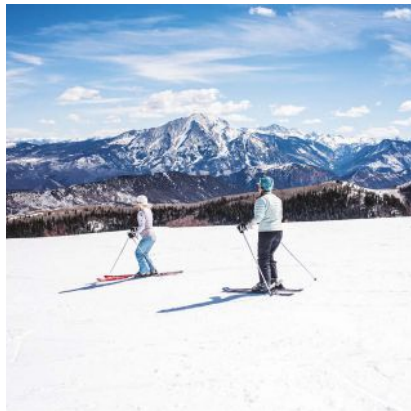
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HAMPTON INN

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HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

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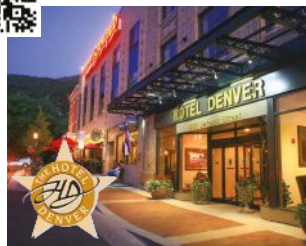
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Experience Colorado's History & **Cultural Heritage**



Ashcroft Ghost Town

Colorado has a rich and diverse past that many might find surprising. Some of the best things to do on a Colorado vacation revolve around its ancient and historic past. Once roamed by mighty dinosaurs, then formed by native people, westward exploration and expansion, historic sites and landmarks are waiting to be discovered.

Give your inner history buff a real treat as you glean fascinating knowledge from museums, heritage sites, historic trails, walking tours and more.

Continued on page 52.

**See the Wild West and
beyond to experience
the state's veritable
melting pot of cultures
and traditions.**

Treasures at the Top of the Rockies



**NATIONAL MINING
HALL OF FAME
AND MUSEUM**
Smithsonian of the Rockies





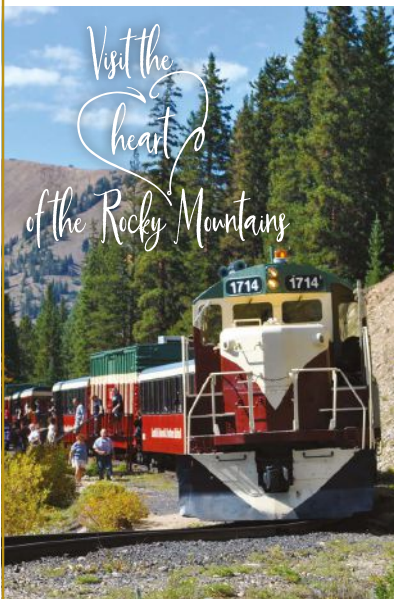
120 W. 9th St., Leadville, CO | 719.486.1229
9:00 AM - 4:45 PM Daily | MiningHallofFame.org



At the top of the Rockies, treasure seekers will find two gems all year round: 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.



LEADVILLE RAILROAD



866-386-3936
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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.

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 skis.

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.

Welcoming, Gritty Spirit

No glitz here! Expect real, working-class towns, genuine conversations and a down-to-earth, mountain-town vibe.

Colorado's Highest Trails

Hike, bike, ski or snowshoe the Mineral Belt Trail past historic mining structures.

Large, Sparkling Lakes

Twin Lakes and Turquoise Lake are great for boating, paddling, relaxing and fishing in water or on ice!

Historic Village of Twin Lakes

Visit Twin Lakes for a taste of life in a late 1800s Silver Rush outpost. See an old schoolhouse and dance hall, all on the shores of two of Colorado's largest glacial lakes.

One-of-a-Kind Museums

Explore the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum, Tabor Opera House, historic Matchless Mine, a pioneer Jewish synagogue, Silver Rush homes and Leadville memorabilia.

Ski Cooper

This family-friendly ski area offers uncrowded slopes and a laid-back vibe.

Winter Sports Wonderland

Snowshoe, fat bike, snowmobile or cross-country ski across 100s of miles of groomed winter trails.

DISCOVER MORE

LeadvilleTwinLakes.com



Ute Indian Museum

Explore Native American Sites

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 route 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 in Towaoc is Ute Mountain Tribal Park, offering an in-depth tour experience in which Ute tribal members interpret tribal culture, pictographs, cliff dwellings 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 Cultural Center and 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, 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, kivas and great houses.

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

Learn more about these places at Colorado.com/NativeAmericanHistory.

Get Immersed in Hispanic & Latinx Influence

Colorado's Hispanic and Latinx heritage dates back to 1598, and its influence is prominent throughout the state.

A bustling spot for fur and trapping traders in the 1840s, El Pueblo Trading Post was founded on the then U.S.–Mexican border. See its borderlands tales and tribulations come to life at El Pueblo History Museum and the Pueblo Heritage Museum. Then travel forward six years to when the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended the Mexican-American War, surrendering property to the U.S. Terms were supposed to guarantee the rights of Mexican settlers, though they were not respected at the time — land-grant disputes weren't resolved until 2018 when rights were restored to descendants of these settlers. This era is preserved at the restored Trujillo Homesteads National Historic Landmark near Mosca.

After dedicating their church on the feast day of Saint Louis in 1851, Hispanic farmers who had established La Plaza Media renamed it San Luis in honor of its new patron saint. Today it's the oldest continuously inhabited town in Colorado and a place where you can feel the history all around you. Visit Plaza de San Luis de la Culebra Historic District and iconic Shrine of the Stations of the Cross and nearby Capilla de Viejo San Acacio.

Post Civil War, 25 percent of New Mexico's Hispano population moved to Colorado and established

towns. See what life was like for these families at the Trinidad History Museum's 1873 adobe Baca House.

Head north along the Front Range to Fort Collins, where in 1904 Mexican workers were recruited to farm the sugar-beet industry by the Great Western Sugar Company and a flourishing Hispanic community formed. At Museo de las Tres Colonias in Fort Collins, you'll find details of their homes, religion, work, celebrations and social-justice efforts.

In the 1960s and 70s, the Chicano movement for human rights and equality stemmed from many factors, including poor working conditions and discrimination, leading to an empowered embracing of Chicano culture and heritage. See the art and dialogue that started in this era at Museo de las Americas in Denver.

Find more ways to celebrate the state's Hispanic and Latinx past and present, including eats and drinks, events and other tours at Colorado.com/LatinxHistory.

Tour 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 immigrants 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

Cultural Heritage



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, opt for a tour down into an 1870s mining tunnel to see veins of silver. On the Country Boy Mine Tour, take a pic with a burro, pan for gold, go on a hayride 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. Find more experiences at Colorado.com/GoldRushTowns.

Peek Into the Wild West

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

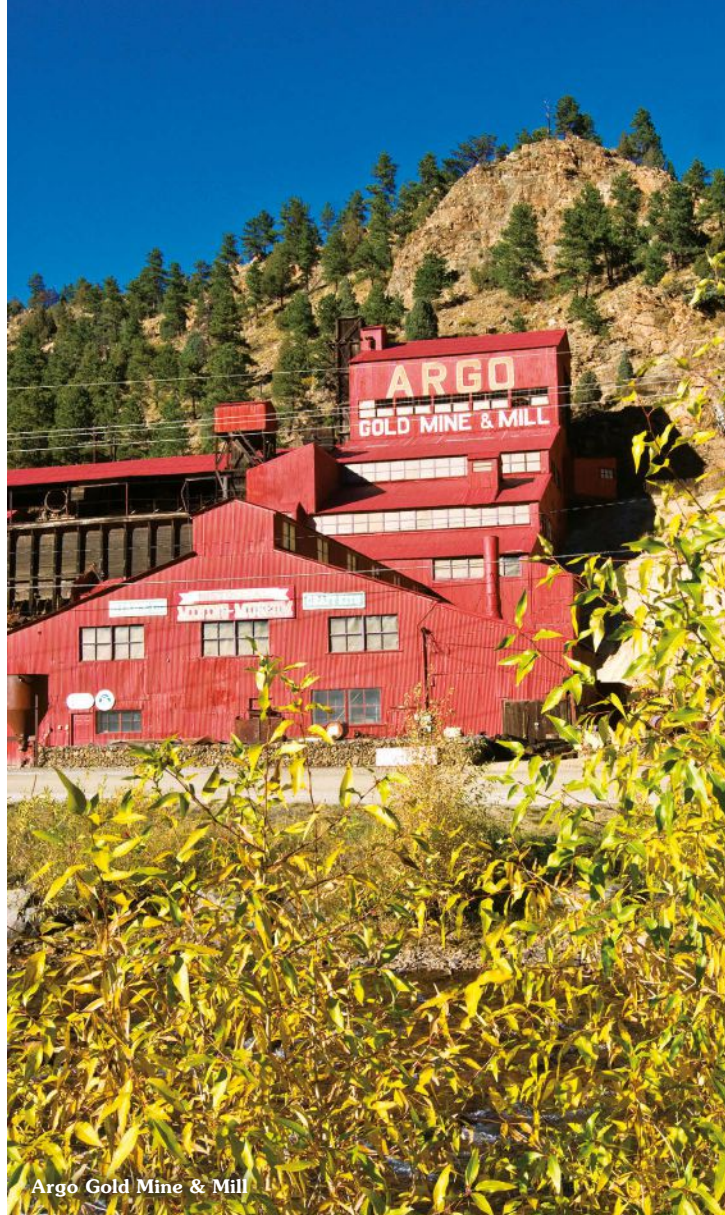
For every Gold Rush town that survived, there's a once-booming settlement that went bust, leaving just a ghost of itself behind. Exploring these ghost towns gives you an amazing glimpse into the era. The Aspen Historical Society hosts tours of the ghost town of Independence, which sits near 11,000 feet on Independence Pass and was abandoned

by miners in 1899, as well as Ashcroft's restored remains of a saloon, post office and hotel. 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-quarter-mile 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 Chrissy Teigen. Colorado.com/WesternWear

Your adventure won't be complete until you belly up to the bar of a saloon. Several different establishments have



Argo Gold Mine & Mill



Barney Ford House

Cultural Heritage



Drala Mountain Center

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

Find Black History & Heritage

Colorado's past often calls to mind images of splashy Spaghetti Westerns filled with wind-burned, blonde cowboys galloping across the dusty plains. But there's more to the picture than that.

Colorado not only boasts a rich history of Black civic engagement and entrepreneurship; it's also home to numerous communities of color that round out the real picture of the state.

At the Black American West Museum & Heritage Center in Denver (reopening soon; call first), learn about Colorado's many early Black cowboys — including the famous Bill Pickett — and the tremendous role they played in America's big Western expansion. Then take a Five Points Walking Tour to step into monumental footprints left by jazz legends and the local artists' community in this historical neighborhood.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MILES/ANDREA BUROLLA; DRALA MOUNTAIN CENTER; BETH SCHNEIDER.

Cultural Heritage

North of Denver near Greeley, Dearfield ghost town was a once-booming community of 300 Black homesteaders who settled here in the early 1900s. Efforts to restore its buildings are underway. Still farther north, stop into Fort Collins' Hattie McDaniel House. The childhood home of this actress, singer-songwriter and comedian isn't gone with the wind (she played Mammy in that film) — it's a standing memorial to her life and work. Elsewhere along the Front Range, a walking tour of Boulder's Little Rectangle turns up clues about the city's 1870s Black settlers in the former homes of some of its residents.

Heading west, at the Barney Ford House in Breckenridge, learn about "the Baron of Colorado." This formerly enslaved man was an entrepreneur and prominent businessman in addition to pioneering efforts for civil rights in the late 1800s.

And swinging southward, at what is now the Fort Garland Museum & Cultural Center, Black troops known as Buffalo Soldiers were stationed and served in innumerable ways in the late 1870s — from preventing conflict between the Native Americans and the white prospectors to guarding and repairing the post, and they even acted as its fire department.

Get other ideas for celebrating our Black heritage, including eats and drinks, events and Black-owned businesses at Colorado.com/BlackHeritage and download History Colorado's app to access their Black Heritage Trail tour.

Discover a Colorado Taste of Asia

Colorado's Asian American and Pacific Islander population represent a vast diversity of heritages and experiences.

Here's how to immerse yourself in the culture, history and flavors of Korea, Japan, Vietnam and beyond.

During World War II, more than 10,000 Japanese Americans were unjustly incarcerated at Amache, also called the Granada Relocation Center, near Granada in southeast Colorado. Uncover one of the darkest periods in American history at Amache — now the Amache National Historic Site — by touring the reconstructed buildings and exhibits.

Designed by Japanese architect Shigeru Ban, The Aspen Art Museum is an eye-catching sight. Admire the mesmerizing, woven-lattice exterior before venturing inside to view its contemporary exhibits.

Tour the Denver Art Museum's Asian Art collection — which comprises 7,000 masterpieces representing 6,000 years of history — to see beautiful court robes and accessories from China's Qing Dynasty and ornately carved wooden figurines of Hindu gods from the 1800s.

In Denver's River North (RiNo) neighborhood, reserve a table at Hop Alley, where chef Tommy Lee serves modern interpretations of wok-fired Cantonese and Sichuan classics. Or snag a table at nearby Sushi-Rama, where rolls arrive at your table via

conveyor belt. Meanwhile, must-stop destinations along bustling Federal Boulevard include Vinh Xuong Bakery, where the banh mi sandwiches get five-star reviews. Nearby Aurora's South Havana Street has the largest concentration of Korean-owned businesses in the state. Start your journey at Seoul Korean BBQ and Hot Pot, where you can cook your own ingredients on tabletop grills or in vessels of bubbling broth, or The Pork Let, where Korean-Japanese fare is the draw.

Trek to the Drala Mountain Center in Red Feather Lakes to marvel at the majestic Great Stupa at Dharmakaya. The 108-foot Buddhist symbol was built in 1988 to promote harmony, prosperity, longevity, good health and peace.

Take part in the tradition of drinking tea at Boulder Dushanbe Teahouse, where you can sip a robust variety imported from across the world in a building constructed of stunning tiles crafted by hand in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

For more ideas, including events and festivals, visit Colorado.com/TasteOfAsia.



HIDDEN-GEM MUSEUMS

Hit up some of Colorado's smaller towns for niche museums that tell the true tales of the days of yore:

Colorado.com/GemMuseums

Get the Inside Track on Scenic & Historic Trains



Durango & Silverton
Narrow Gauge Railroad

Colorado's scenic and historic railroads combine three of the top aspects of vacationing here — history, fantastic landscapes and plenty of outdoor fun for the whole family — and each has its own distinct character and charm. Nearly all of Colorado's trains offer seasonal trips, like winter-holiday excursions and fall-color or spring-wildflower rides, as well as gourmet lunch rides, wine-and-dinner trains and murder-mystery events.

Be transported back to the age of steam and visit landscapes inaccessible by car.

Scenic & Historic Trains



Royal Gorge Route Railroad

The Manitou & Pikes Peak Cog Railway

The world's highest cog railway takes you to its dynamic new visitor center on the summit of Pikes Peak above Manitou Springs — that's 14,115 feet!

Cripple Creek & Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad

This 45-minute ride is perfect for kids. Ride the century-old steam train from Cripple Creek past mines and gorgeous scenery to an abandoned mining camp.

Georgetown Loop Railroad

This stunner was one of our first tourist attractions when it debuted in 1884. Its state-of-the-art narrow-gauge tracks made it an engineering marvel of the day.

Royal Gorge Route Railroad

Take this classic train for a one-of-a-kind view through the Royal Gorge beside the Arkansas River in Cañon City.

Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad

This National Historic Landmark chugs from Antonito to Chama, New Mexico, with a stop for lunch atop a mountain in Osier.

Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad

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

Leadville, Colorado & Southern Railroad

This hairpin-turn-filled tour heads 1,000 feet above the headwaters of the Arkansas River for unequalled views of the Continental Divide.

Trains that travel through Colorado

Take 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; you can also use these towns as a scenic stopover on your way west to Los Angeles or east to Chicago. There's also the Rocky Mountaineer, which runs from Denver to Glenwood Springs and on to Utah accompanied by stunning views and luxury amenities.



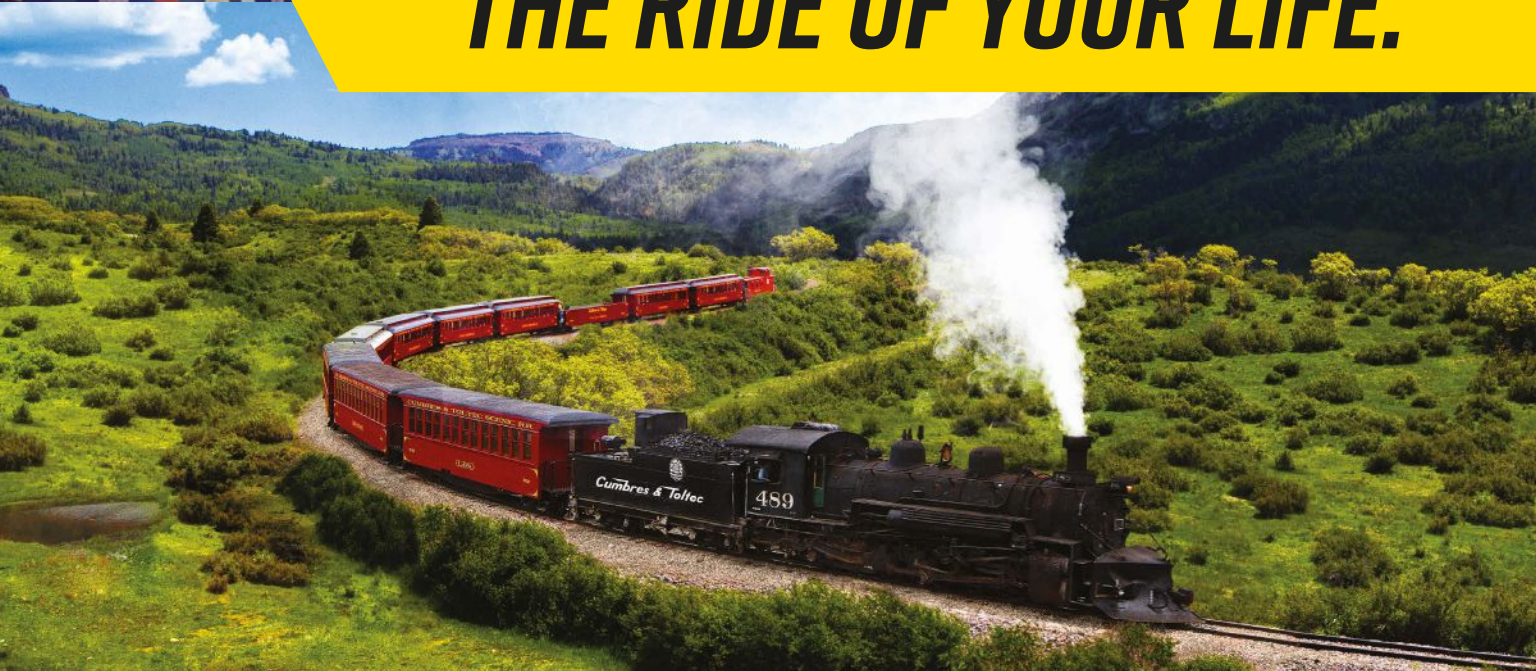
WANT MORE?

See how these railroads shaped Colorado at a dozen railroad museums across the state.

Colorado.com/RailroadMuseums



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Top Rivers for Whitewater Rafting



Arkansas River

Each spring, gravity and sunshine draw our winter snow down from the mountains for some of the country's most amazing whitewater-rafting adventures.

Arkansas River

Cutting through canyons and dropping 5,000 feet its first 125 miles, the Ark is one of the nation's most popular. Beautiful stretches run through family-friendly Browns Canyon, boat-rocking Bighorn Sheep Canyon and Royal Gorge wonders.

Typical departures:
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 departures:
Glenwood Springs, Grand
Junction, Kremmling,
Breckenridge, State Bridge

Continued on page 62.

COLORADO'S TOP RATED RAFT & ZIPLINE TOURS

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ADVENTURES
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6+



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**RAFT & ZIPLINE
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2 hours from Denver


**ROYAL GORGE
RAFTING**

RoyalGorgeRafting.net




**ROYAL GORGE
ZIPLINE TOURS**

RoyalGorgeZiplineTours.com



Whitewater Rafting

Taylor River

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

Typical departures:
Gunnison, Crested Butte

Clear Creek

Clear Creek is right off I-70 — the closest whitewater to Denver. Once on the river, however, the interstate goes unnoticed as paddlers drop through the steep and narrow bed, perfect for those looking for a Class IV day or a quick splash.

Typical departure:
Idaho Springs

Animas River

Trips on the lower Animas can be packaged with the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad and zipline tours. The upper Animas has Class IV and V rapids considered among the toughest commercially rafted waters in the country.

Typical departure: Durango

Cache La Poudre River

This river propels boaters on runs that provide challenges for intermediate or advanced abilities. 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: Fort Collins

Yampa/Green River

Winding through Dinosaur National Monument, this typically multiday run floats past fossils and archaeological sites, Fremont Indian rock carvings, geological formations and sandy spots beloved by overnight campers

Typical departures: Steamboat Springs, Craig, Maybell



Gunnison Gorge

Whitewater Parks

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:

To Name a Few: Golden • Denver • Buena Vista • Salida • near Kremmling (Gore Canyon) • Basalt • Eagle • Avon • Pueblo • Gunnison • Lyons • Longmont • Fort Collins • Montrose • Craig • Pagosa Springs



LEARN MORE

at Colorado.com/WhitewaterRivers and from the [Colorado River Outfitters Association](http://ColoradoRiverOutfittersAssociation.org) at croa.org.

4 Things to Know About Rafting in Colorado

1. Almost anyone can go:

While adrenaline seekers certainly get their fix on our rivers, rafting is safe and fun for people of nearly all ages and abilities. Additionally, Adaptive Sports Association in Durango and Adaptive Adventures in Lakewood both offer rafting and other watersports.

2. Our guides are experts:

The rafting companies listed in this guide and on Colorado.com are state-certified, with all the expertise to lead you safely down river.

3. Difficulty varies:

In May and June, melting snow makes the rivers run faster for more exciting rides. By August and September, many are much milder.

4. Customize your trip:

Rafting companies offer options, like multiday adventures with camping, and can combine rafting with other activities like train rides, winery tours, ziplining and fly-fishing.



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rivers for over 25 years!



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Make the Most of Family Time



Fort Collins Museum of Discovery

Colorado has more than its share of stunning natural attractions, but sometimes the kids are eager for a little more than mountain vistas and scenic drives. We're happy to oblige with attractions and activities — from children's museums and zoos to hot-springs pools, tubing hills and wildlife experiences — that will please every family member and are available around every corner.

**Get your merry group
to these kid-centric
Colorado spots.**

Museums

Seven History Colorado museums are free for kids. From historic homes to adobe forts, each tell intriguing tales of Colorado's many cultures and prominent figures through interactive exhibits and events.

You can also: See colossal dinos at the Royal Gorge Dinosaur Experience in Cañon City. • Investigate altitude at The Children's Museum Denver Marsico Campus. • Learn about foraging at the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery. • Create a masterpiece at the Buell Children's Museum in Pueblo. Colorado.com/Museums

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.

Ride the waves at Water World and the coasters at 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. • Revel in the Christmas spirit all year at The North Pole Home of Santa's Workshop near Colorado Springs. Colorado.com/AmusementParks

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 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. • Toss fish to the residents of the Colorado Gators Reptile Park in Mosca. Colorado.com/Zoos



WANT MORE?

[Colorado.com/
FamilyAttractions](http://Colorado.com/FamilyAttractions)



Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park

Adventure Parks

Whimsical worlds of gravity-defying ziplines and speedy alpine slides await:

Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park in Glenwood Springs • Vail and Breckenridge's Epic Discovery • Soaring Tree Top Adventures in Durango • The EDGE Ziplines & Adventures in Castle Rock • AVA Cliffside Zipline in Idaho Springs

Colorado.com/AdventureParks

Winter Diversions

From ice skating to sleigh rides and kid-centered ski and snowboard programs, giggle-inducing activities can be found on and off the slopes.

Fraser • Breckenridge • Frisco • Keystone • Vail • Copper Mountain • Snowmass • Winter Park • Durango • Steamboat • Grand Junction • Silverton • Telluride • Beaver Creek

Or skate amid gorgeous winter landscapes at ice rinks all over the state. See page 9 for more ideas. Colorado.com/WinterRec

The Wild Animal Sanctuary



8 Cool Colorado Places to Stay



Origin Hotel Red Rocks

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

Origin Hotel Red Rocks

Golden

Post up just minutes from Red Rocks Park & Amphitheatre for perks like shuttle rides to shows and courtesy mountain bikes — or sample Colorado-made ales paired with artisanal tacos in their beer garden.

Edgewood Inn

Woodland Park

Visit a cheerful B&B in the City Above the Clouds. Ogle Pikes Peak and the surrounding forest, as well as the abundantly starry night sky above. Well-stocked birdfeeders attract a bevy of feathered friends, which add to the magical vibe.

Kebler Corner

Somerset

There's options for "roughing it" here, with woody cabins, well-manicured RV spots and regular ol' tent camping. Shop the on-site general store for full-bodied Colorado wines and other necessities, and enjoy a somewhat rare, strong camp-wifi signal.



CATBIRD/NATHAN HINDMAN PHOTOGRAPHY.

Catbird

Catbird

Denver

It's all the amenities that make this spot sing, like skyline views from its rooftop restaurant (The Red Barber) and a Playroom filled with "toys," like record players, Vespas and even twangy ukuleles.

4UR Ranch

Creede

Luxuriate amid the lush beauty of a national forest in an Adirondack-style cottage. Ranch life here means astonishing mountain scenes by horseback, locally sourced meals and a private hot-springs bathhouse.

Hotel Maverick

Grand Junction

Venture to Colorado Mesa University's campus for a boutique-hotel stay boasting Colorado-centric design and the college's BMX pump track. You'll love the rooftop restaurant's picturesque cliff-and-mesa vistas.

The Bivvi Hostel

Breckenridge

Adventure to the high country for an elevated hostel stay minutes from historical Main Street. Make new friends in The Bivvi's public spaces, including a ginormous hot tub within sight of the rugged Tenmile Range.

Mermaid Cottage

Del Norte

Retreat to a solar-powered ranch ringed by peaks for a cottage crafted with care. Inside, revel in the prismatic hues of dancing light produced from colorful glass thoughtfully placed within.



WANT MORE?

Blog.Colorado.com
Check out our
Sleep Somewhere Cool
blog for more ideas.

Urban Vacation Ideas: City Escapes



Denver Art Museum

From urban amenities to major attractions and ease of transportation, these places make an ideal base for any Colorado vacation.

Denver

SEE & DO: Denver Art Museum; Denver Botanic Gardens; Rockies game; Meow Wolf; shopping in Larimer Square and Cherry Creek North

GET AROUND: Commuter train from Denver International Airport to Union Station; RTD light rail and bus

GRAB A BITE: Indian fry-bread tacos at Tocabe; catfish at Welton Street Cafe; queso fundido at Tamayo

Aurora

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

GET AROUND: Short drive or commuter rail from DIA; RTD bus and light rail

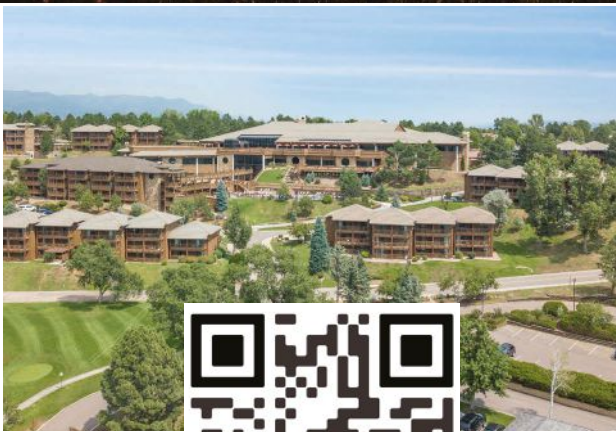
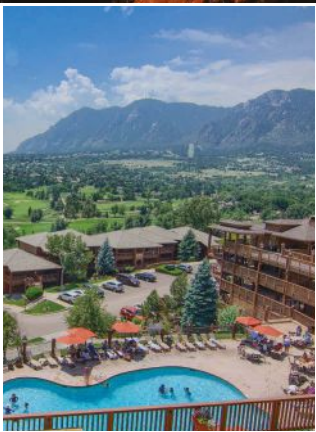
GRAB A BITE: Tastes from around the world at eateries like Seoul Korean BBQ, Cuba Bakery & Cafe, Mason's Dumpling Shop

Continued on page 70.



CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN
COLORADO SPRINGS
A Dolce Resort

Quintessential *Colorado*



CHEYENNEMOUNTAIN.COM

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DOLCE
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City Escapes



40 West ArtLine

Lakewood

SEE & DO: 40 West ArtLine; shopping at Belmar; Hayden Park on Green Mountain

GET AROUND: RTD Light Rail W Line

GRAB A BITE: Local brews at Westrail Tap and Grill; bigoli alla puttanesca at Roca's Pizza & Pasta

Pueblo

SEE & DO: Arkansas Riverwalk boat rides; Neon Alley at night; navigating the Creative Corridor

GET AROUND: Pueblo Transit buses

GRAB A BITE: Pueblo green-chile slopper at Gray's Coors Tavern; fried-avocado tacos at Brues Alehouse

Fort Collins

SEE & DO: Old Town; SUP-ing at Horsetooth Reservoir; top breweries

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

GRAB A BITE: Grilled-cheese Liège waffle at The Waffle Lab; umami burger at Back Door Grill; sweet treats at Butter Cream Cupcakery

Colorado Springs

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

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

GRAB A BITE: Cocktails and shrimp soup at Shuga's; Mamma Jamma bao at Lucky Dumplin; Chocolate Ibarra Stout at Atrévida Beer Co.

Loveland

SEE & DO: Shopping the Outlets at Loveland or antique stores downtown; biking Devil's Backbone; The Rialto Theater

GET AROUND: FLEX regional bus; COLT's 115-plus bus stops

GRAB A BITE: Catfish Creole at Betta Gumbo; Smothered Ballrito at The Ball Joint

Greeley

SEE & DO: Friday Fests all summer; public-art walking tour; Greeley History Museum

GET AROUND: Greeley Evans Transit buses

GRAB A BITE: Pork potstickers at Lucky Fins; short-rib cannelloni at Meeker's; a Colorado Kitchen & Bar

Grand Junction

SEE & DO: Summertime farmers' market; wonders of Colorado National Monument; wine tasting

GET AROUND: Grand Junction Regional Airport; Grand Valley Transit bus

GRAB A BITE: White-cheddar and green-chile sourdough pizza at Kulina Lani Organic Sourdough Bakery; Farmer's Co-op salad at 626 On Rood

Longmont

SEE & DO: Longmont Farmers Market; Brewhop Trolley; Downtown Creative District

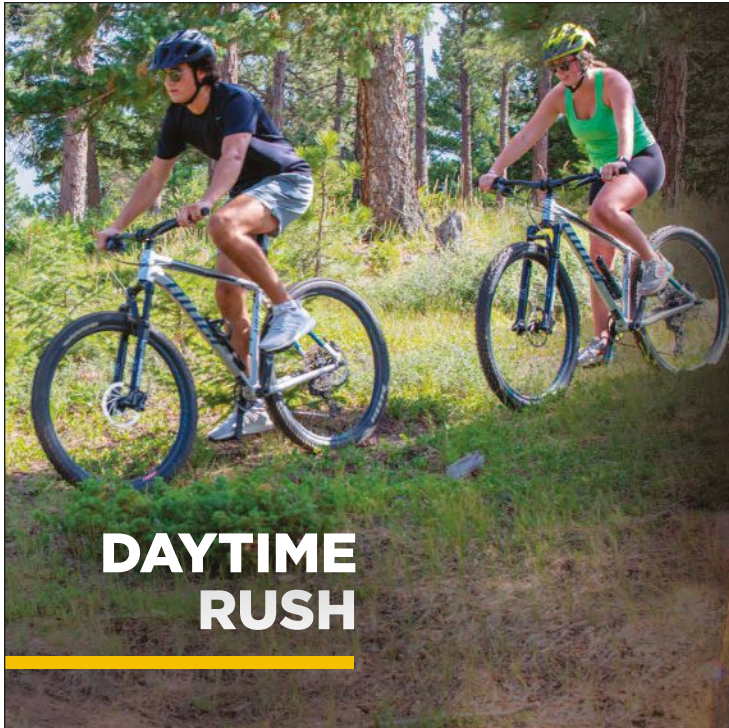
GET AROUND: RTD local and regional buses

GRAB A BITE: Squashacado tacos at Jefes Tacos & Tequila; Farm House Hash at Longmont Public House



WANT MORE?

Colorado.com/Urban



DAYTIME RUSH

NIGHTIME BLUSH



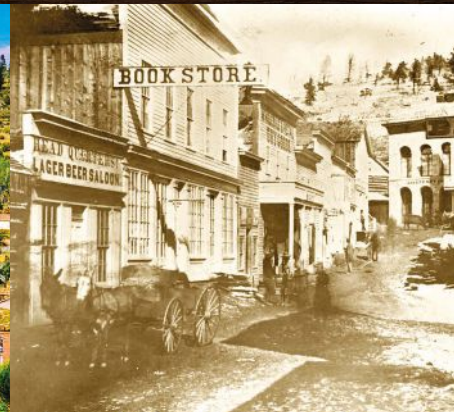
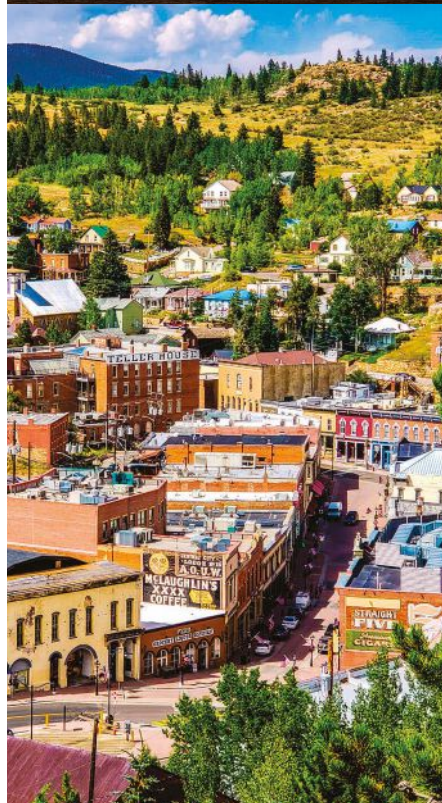
Get your heart pumping in the Rockies by day. Catch your breath in Longmont by night. Plan your perfect getaway today at visitlongmont.org



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Colorado.com/TripIdeas



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EST. 1859
COLORADO

explorecentralcity.com

Hit the **Jackpot**



Monarch Casino Resort Spa Black Hawk

Colorado Gold Towns

In 1859, a prospector 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.” The hills surrounding Central City and Black Hawk yielded tons of the precious metal, and fortune-seekers arrived in droves.

A century and a half later, visitors still come here looking for “gold.” Colorado has 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, poker tables, video machines and sports betting in 20-plus casinos. 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.

Each destination offers fine dining, luxurious hotels, historic mine tours and, most importantly, authentic slices of history. 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.



WANT MORE?
Colorado.com/Casinos

Four Corners Region

Both of Colorado’s Native American gaming areas are found in the state’s history-rich southwest corner.

Table games, slots and year-round events lure the lucky to the Sky Ute Casino Resort in Ignacio and the Ute Mountain Casino Hotel in Towaoc. Nearby heritage sites such as Mesa Verde National Park, Chimney Rock and Canyons of the Ancients national monuments, and the Trail of the Ancients scenic and historic byway beckon gamers on a break.

It’s easy to stay here awhile; Sky Ute has a hotel on site, as well as three dining options and big-name entertainment that includes boxing and mixed martial arts.

Ute Mountain also has a full vacation experience, with a number of events. The on-grounds hotel, RV sites and full-service restaurants make it a destination unto itself.

UNLOCK ADVENTURE

Sky Ute Casino Resort, Southern Colorado's Destination for Play



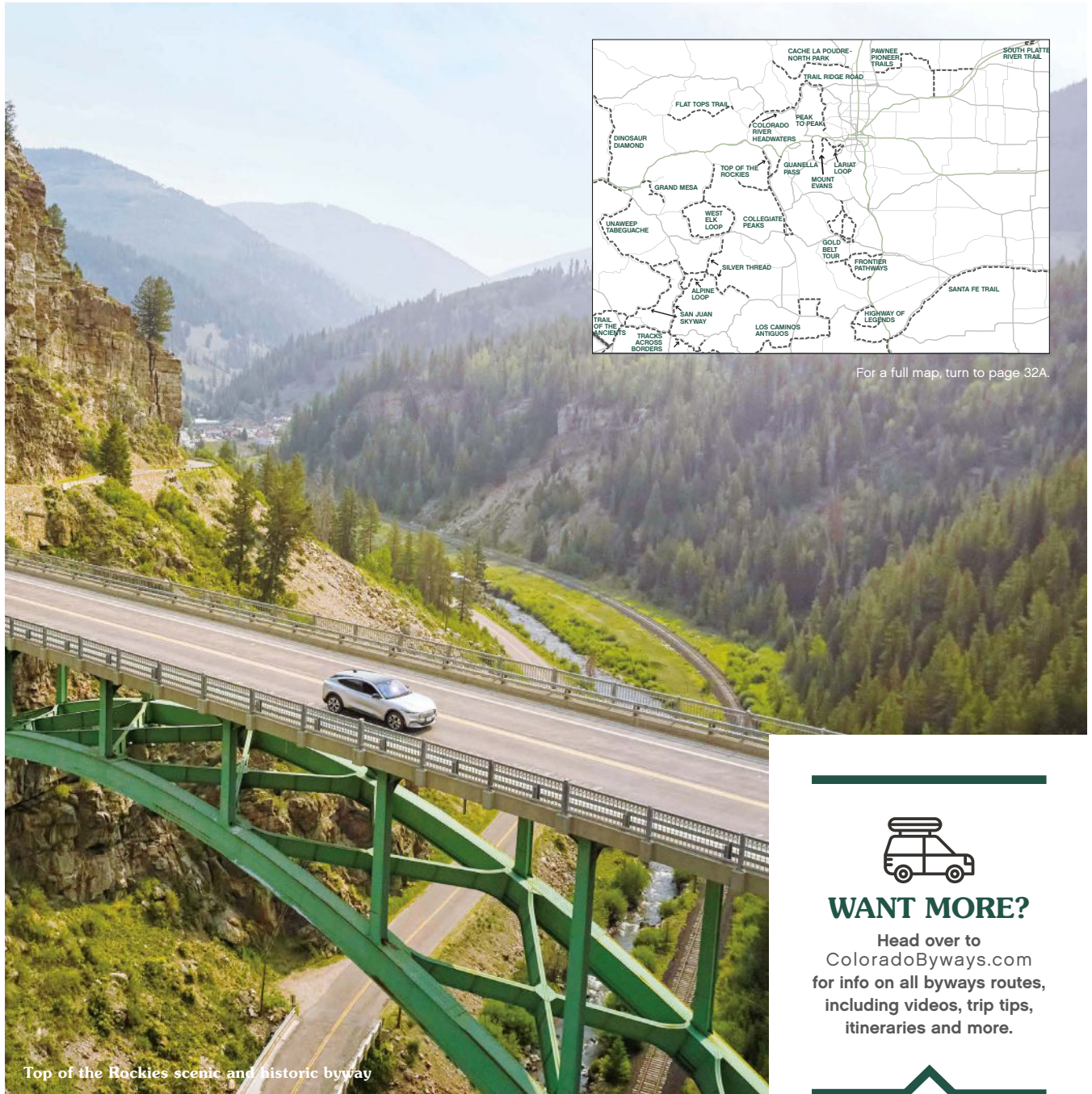
Sky Ute | CASINO
RESORT
Owned and Operated by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe

888.842.4180 | 14324 HWY 172 North, Ignacio, CO 81137 | skyutecasino.com



Hit the Road on Colorado Byways

Scenic and 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.



For a full map, turn to page 32A.



WANT MORE?

Head over to ColoradoByways.com for info on all byways routes, including videos, trip tips, itineraries and more.

Top of the Rockies scenic and historic byway

NAME	MAIN TOWNS ALONG ROUTE	DISTANCE	DRIVING TIME	EV-CHARGING STATIONS	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 POUFRE-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 flat-top mountain for wide-open vistas and 300 lakes.
GUANELLA PASS	Georgetown, Grant	22 miles	1 hour	✓	Spring, Summer, Fall		Tour the preserved mining town of Georgetown and rise in elevation to alpine wilderness.
HIGHWAY OF LEGENDS	Walsenburg, Trinidad, La Veta, Aguilar	82 miles	2 hours		Spring, Summer, Fall		Arc around the Spanish Peaks, where gold-seeking conquistadors once traveled.
LARIAT LOOP	Golden, Evergreen, Morrison	40 miles	2 hours	✓	All		Drive one of the first routes developed to help Coloradans experience its mountain parks.
LOS CAMINOS ANTIGUOS	Alamosa, Fort Garland, San Luis, Conejos, Antonito	129 miles	3 hours		All	✓	Drift through the San Luis Valley, the rugged Sangre de Cristos and the Great Sand Dunes.
MOUNT EVANS	Idaho Springs	49 miles	2 hours		Summer		Travel the highest paved road in North America on a serpentine ride to the summit.
PAWNEE PIONEER TRAILS	Ault, Sterling, Fort Morgan, Briggsdale, Raymer, Grover	128 miles	3 hours		All	✓	Meander a one-time thoroughfare for ambitious settlers, entrepreneurs and bison.
PEAK TO PEAK	Estes Park, Black Hawk, Central City, Nederland	55 miles	2 hours		All	✓	Get close with the Continental Divide, ghost towns, Victorian opulence and Longs Peak.
SAN JUAN SKYWAY	Silverton, Ouray, Ridgway, Rico, Dolores, Cortez, Mancos, Telluride	236 miles	7 hours		All	✓	Behold the multihued San Juans as you travel through silver-boom towns.
SANTA FE TRAIL	Lamar, Las Animas, La Junta, Trinidad	188 miles	4 hours		All	✓	Traverse the famed lifeline between Missouri and Santa Fe traced by 1880s fortune-seekers.
SILVER THREAD	South Fork, Creede, Lake City	117 miles	3 hours	✓	All		Roam wonderfully isolated swaths of the San Juans, stopping to sample historic towns.
SOUTH PLATTE RIVER TRAIL	Julesburg, Ovid	19 miles	1 hour		All		Imagine the sounds of the galloping Pony Express horses and Overland Trail settlers.
TOP OF THE ROCKIES	Aspen, Minturn, Twin Lakes, Leadville, Copper Mountain	115 miles	4 hours	✓	Spring, Summer, Fall		Cross the Continental Divide three times on this dramatic mountain route.
TRACKS ACROSS BORDERS	Durango, Ignacio, Arboles	89 miles	4 hours		All	✓	Follow the development of the nation's largest narrow-gauge railroad system.
TRAIL OF THE ANCIENTS	Cortez, Dolores	116 miles	8 hours		All	✓	Witness the cliff dwellings and petroglyphs of the Ancestral Puebloans.
TRAIL RIDGE ROAD	Estes Park, Grand Lake	48 miles	2 hours	✓	Summer, Fall	✓	Make your way above treeline through Rocky Mountain National Park.
UNAWEEP TABEGUACHE	Whitewater, Placerville, Gateway, Naturita, Uravan	133 miles	3 hours		All		Look for remnants of those who tried to tame wild lands with copper and uranium mines.
WEST ELK LOOP	Carbondale, Redstone, Paonia, Hotchkiss, Gunnison, Crested Butte	205 miles	7 hours		Spring, Summer, Fall	✓	Dip in and out of lush river valleys along the loop's colorful passes.

* 4WD Needed for Portions

Ways to Bike Colorado

It takes plenty of blacktop, singletrack, gravel, sunshine and friendly people to create a bikers' paradise like ours.

Use Great Mapping

Head to local visitor centers to get directions to excellent biking spots. Durango, Telluride, Steamboat Springs, Pagosa Springs, Fruita and Crested Butte are all places with trail networks so vast and varied that a map is a downright necessity. For much more, download the COTREX (Colorado Trail Explorer) app.

Bike the Byways

Consider the 26 long-distance Bike the Byways rides. Start at Denver's South Platte River Trail and work your way to the Lariat Loop 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. dtdapps.coloradodot.info/bike

Ride Our Events

Look for large events like Ride the Rockies (June), the Leadville Trail 100 MTB (Aug.), the Triple Bypass (Aug.), as well as dozens of smaller events. Longtime races like the Elephant Rock in Castle Rock (June), Emerald Mountain Epic in Steamboat (Aug.), Breck Epic (Aug.), the Fort Collins Tour de Fat (Sept.) and Salida Bike Fest (Sept.) are joined by newer events like the Grand Junction Grand Enduro (May), The Broadmoor Cycle to the Summit (Aug.), Venus de Miles in Lyons (Aug.), SBT GRVL (Aug.) in Steamboat Springs and The Rad Dirt Fest in Trinidad (Oct.). Colorado.com/Events

Explore Town Connects

For starters try the Boulder-to-Golden or Boulder-to-Westminster routes, Wolcott to Steamboat Springs, Las Animas to Lamar, Aspen to Glenwood Springs, or Fort Collins to Mishawaka Amphitheatre. Summit County paths connect Dillon, Breck, Copper, Frisco, Keystone and more. There's also the Grand Junction to Palisade "fruit loop," which winds through rows of peach trees and grapevines. Then consider tackling the Palisade Plunge, which connects the town with the top of the Grand Mesa along 32 miles of sweet, advanced, backcountry singletrack.

Go for the Gold!

Colorado has more gold- or platinum-rated bicycle communities than all but one other state, according to the League of American Bicyclists.

- **Platinum:** Boulder, Fort Collins
- **Gold:** Breckenridge, Durango, Crested Butte, Carbondale, Aspen, Steamboat Springs
- **Silver:** Colorado Springs, Denver, Gunnison, Vail, Summit County, Golden, Arvada, Silverthorne, Glenwood Springs, Longmont
- **Bronze:** Castle Rock, Greeley, Fruita, Grand Junction, Pueblo, Lakewood, Montrose.

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 six in the world.





Near Crested Butte

Try an E-Bike

If you prefer sightseeing to pedaling, electric bikes offer a little boost. They're available for rent in most towns — and some will even deliver to your lodging. Colorado.com/Ebikes

Check Out Bike Shares & Libraries

Denver, Boulder, Fort Collins and Colorado Springs' bike-sharing programs have placed bike stations and hundreds of bikes on the roads year-round. "Check out" a bike and cruise from station to station. There are also programs in Golden, Aspen, Vail, Avon and Basalt.

Buy Local

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. Colorado.com/Gear

Ride That Gravel

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.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: SHRED/NATALIE STARR; NATHAN BILOW; MATTHEW HAHNEL



WANT MORE?

Colorado.com/Cycling
and page 10
for fat-biking details.

23 Free Things to Do

Save now to splurge later — these activities around the state are completely free.



1. Wildflower Viewing

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

2. Pueblo Riverwalk

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

3. Alpine Lakes

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

4. Ghost Towing

Uptop ghost town is found at the top of La Veta Pass. Walk among several remaining buildings, including an 1877 railroad depot where a chapel, tavern and dance hall tell the stories of this Sangre de Cristo mountain hideaway.

5. 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.

6. 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. Learn how to do so responsibly at Colorado.com/CampingBasics.

7. 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.

8. Montrose Botanic Gardens

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

9. Liquid Arts™ Tours

Hundreds of breweries, wineries, distilleries and cideries pepper Colorado's towns, most offering free tours that show how the magic is made. Visit Colorado.com/LiquidArts for ideas.

10. Aurora's Wheel Park

Grab a skateboard, bike or skates to wheel around the 10-foot bowl, street-skating features, BMX track, inline-hockey rink and more.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.



MORE IDEAS AT
Colorado.com/FreeThings

14. Emily Warner Field Aviation Museum

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

15. Frisco Historic Park & Museum

Find out what life was like for Colorado's 19th-century miners. Explore the schoolhouse museum, jail, cabins, a chapel and more.

16. 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.

17. Picture Canyon

Marvel at Native American rock art, pioneer homesteads and craggy geologic formations at this historic gem near Campo.

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. Loveland Museum

This jewel houses 30,000 objects, many by local artists, and showcases Loveland's history through displays that include Sweetheart City USA.

21. Silver Cliff Cemetery

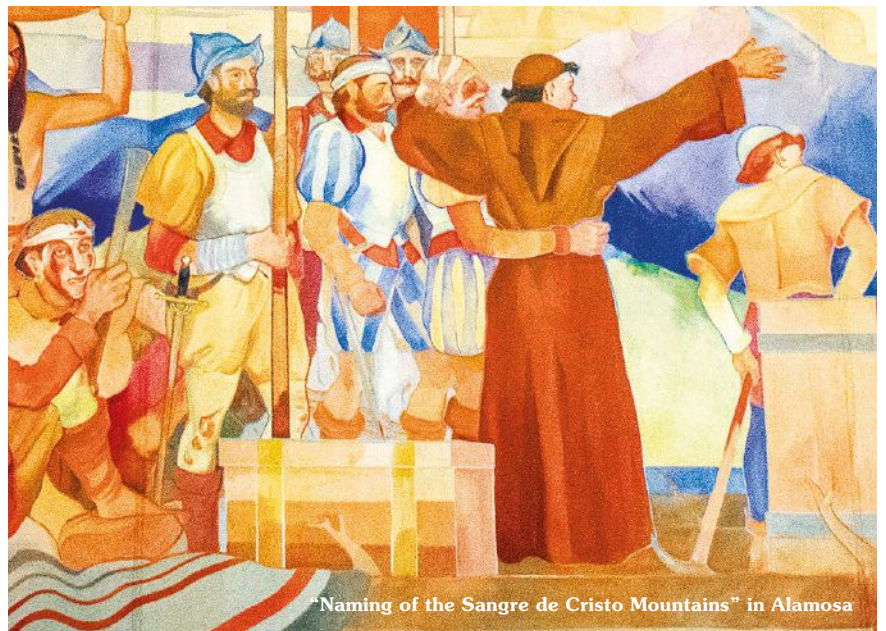
This 1880s cemetery-with-a-stunning-mountain-view, known for its "unexplained dancing blue lights, seen on occasion," is also the resting place for many miners of that rough era.

22. City of Murals Tour

Walk around Main Street in Delta to see murals and sculptures created by local artists that celebrate the heritage of the community.

23. 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.



"Naming of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains" in Alamosa

Soak Up Our Nightlife: Star Party



Near Westcliffe

If you're looking for an amazing place to stargaze, Colorado provides plenty of locations to choose from. Whether you lie under the heavens of the San Luis Valley, or get a little closer to the stars on the peak of a stately mountain, there is nothing like seeing constellations speckled across a clear Colorado sky. This route connects several areas known for their night skies and incredible stargazing opportunities. It also highlights night-sky events and encourages the conservation and preservation of all of Colorado's natural and cultural resources.

**Some of the world's
darkest skies
offer outstanding
stargazing.**



**Great Sand Dunes
National Park and Preserve**

**Great Sand Dunes
National Park and Preserve**

Align your visit with a moonless night to observe millions of stars thanks to the park's high elevation and low light pollution.

Crestone

For a mystical experience, head north to Crestone, which has become a spiritual haven in recent years. Several in-town spots make for excellent star seeing.

Creede

Surrounded by 900 square miles of Western wilderness and open sky, drives like Pool Table Road and the Bachelor Loop Historic Tour have excellent viewing.

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.

Gunnison

The town is a base for access to dark areas such as Hartman Rocks Recreation Area, Curecanti National Recreation Area and Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

Westcliffe & Silver Cliff

Between the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and the Wet Mountains, these towns' latitudes make for dramatic views. Visit the Smokey Jack Observatory in Bluff Park to experience some of the most powerful telescopes in the world.

La Veta

The Southern Colorado Astronomical Park offers several ways to stargaze. Geological formations and dark skies make it a favored spot for photographers.

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.

Nucla, Naturita & Norwood

These towns embody a Colorado postcard — a slow-paced life amid dramatic red-rock wilderness. Start at Naturita Town Park, Miramonte Reservoir and Hanging Flume Overlook.

Ridgway

The entire area offers outstanding viewing of the celestial theater, but Chipeta Solar Springs Resort, Orvis Hot Springs, Basecamp 550 and Double G Ranch & Lodge are great places to stay and enjoy stargazing.

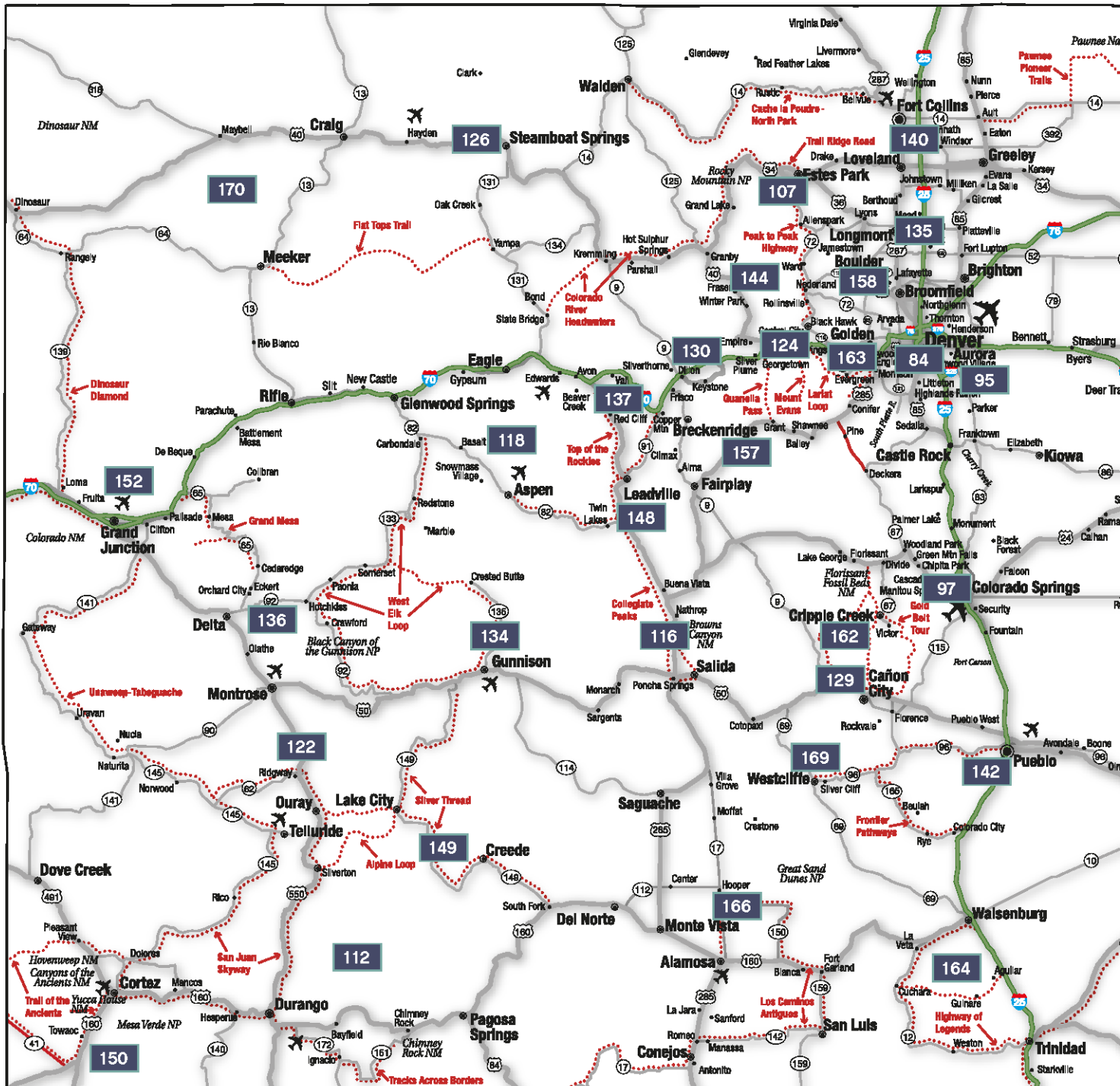


WANT MORE?
Colorado.com/
Stargazing

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 32A.



COLO-ROAD TRIPS

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



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A Perfect Day in Denver



Denver is an outdoorsy city known for its world-class cultural attractions, thriving craft breweries, chef-driven dining and red-hot music scene, all within easy reach of the Rocky Mountains.

Morning

The airport-to-downtown rail line makes it easy to explore without a car: Fly into Denver International Airport, hop the train to Union Station, then explore downtown by foot, free 16th Street Mall Ride, pedicabs, and several bike- and scooter-shares. First, tour the Union Station, a destination unto itself and a gathering place with shops and places to grab a bite. Next, bike or scoot the city's 850 miles of paved and off-road trails. Sip a cup of coffee in Larimer Square, in the heart of LoDo ("Lower Downtown"), and make your way to the History Colorado Center, Denver Public Library, Denver Art Museum and the Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art. All conveniently gathered near each other.

Afternoon

Next stop: Cherry Creek, the region's largest shopping district, includes Cherry Creek North's wide array of only-in-Denver shops. Or hit up Meow Wolf Denver's interactive art experience.

You don't need a reservation at any of the city's many quality food

halls — Central Market, Milk Market, Edgewater Public Market and Number 38, to name just a few.

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.

The only thing that brings out more Denver passion than sports is beer. Sample some along the Denver Beer Trail and at faves like Raíces, Great Divide and Novel Strand. Or tap into the growing craft distillery scene; stop in for a taste at Stranahan's Colorado Whiskey, Leopold Bros., Iron-ton or Mythology. For crafty cocktails on the down-low, check out the Green Russell, Retrograde, B&G, Run for the Roses and Millers & Rossi speakeasies.

And the evening is the perfect time to explore Denver's distinct neighborhoods. Many have pockets of street art that make for a fun scavenger hunt. Go to denver.org for more.

A Weekend in Denver With the Kids



Children's Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus

The Mile High City has nearly endless ways to entertain your little travelers — and many that will entertain you as well.

Day 1

Have close encounters with sharks, sea turtles, stingrays and even Sumatran tigers at Downtown Aquarium. Nearby is the Children's Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus, an imaginative journey for newborns through age 8 with a 3½-story climber, a 6-foot bubble, Adventure Forest and much more.

Denver has many green spaces, some with really amazing amenities for kids — like Paco Sánchez, Central, City, Ruby Hill and Washington parks. These oases have vibrant flower beds, boat and bike rentals, skate areas and more.

End the day on 16th Street Mall, a mile-long promenade and one of the city's

most visited attractions. It's a great spot for dinner, with plenty of kid-pleasing choices. Every block boasts a landmark or public art to keep them stimulated.

Day 2

Go where the wild things are: the Denver Zoo. This City Park institution takes visitors on a globe-trotting safari. The stingray and shark habitat, *Stingray Cove*, allows visitors to interact with safe-to-touch species. Pack a picnic lunch and spread out in the park and check out its new playground.

Museum options include the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, also in City Park, to see enormous dinosaur skeletons, watch an IMAX feature or see the *Space Odyssey*, *Egyptian Mummies* and *North American Indian Cultures* exhibits.

Or head west to the city of Golden's Colorado Railroad Museum to see more than 100 locomotives, cabooses and HO model railroad attractions.

The Denver Art Museum is one of the nation's best for kids programs — and it's always free for kids under 18 (as is the History Colorado Center).

Dinner calls for a trip to Casa Bonita. This longtime, quirky spot, which just got a facelift, is an indoor amusement park with cliff divers, mariachi bands, puppet shows, magicians and more. 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) and Sweet Sweetz.

MORE IDEAS FOR FAMILIES

Water World One of the biggest water parks in the nation features 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 re-creation of a tropical rainforest.

The Wild Animal Sanctuary This rescue/educational facility 30 miles outside of Denver is home to more than 650 lions, tigers, bears and wolves. They roam the massive refuge while you walk above them on the Mile Into The Wild walkway.

Dinosaur Ridge Compare footprint sizes with giant prehistoric beasts on a nature walk in Morrison. You'll encounter more than 100 fossilized dino tracks, including stegosaurus, apatosaurus and allosaurus.

Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum And Exploration of Flight Visit two locations packed with iconic aircraft, space vehicles, aerospace-heritage artifacts, flight simulators and immersive exhibits.

Elitch Gardens Theme & Water Park Mind-blowing rides for those taller than 48 inches, plenty of slower ones for those who aren't, a water park, 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. Learn the stories of these miners, ranchers, teachers, blacksmiths and lawmen who were a major part of the Wild West. (Reopening soon; call first.)

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2 Days of Denver Arts & Culture



River North Art District

Day 1

Explore street art in neighborhoods like RiNo, LoHi, South Broadway, Westwood and East Colfax. These and others are emerging with their own character, art walks, hipster flea markets, craft-coffee bars, small music venues and only-in-Denver boutiques. Visit Colorado.com/ArtHoods.

Experiential-art fans rejoice! Meow Wolf, the wildly popular immersive experience that debuted in Santa Fe, has opened a Denver outpost called Convergence Station.

The jagged edges of the Denver Art Museum jut over 13th Avenue, housing Western art, contemporary masterworks

and blockbuster traveling shows. Of special note is the indigenous arts of North America collection, representing the artistic works of nearly every U.S. tribe. Stay for lunch at The Ponti, a new restaurant collaboration with celebrated chef Jennifer Jasinski.

Visit the Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art 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 is dedicated to the legacy of one of the most important painters of the 20th century.

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. Another option for the cool kids is the Mission Ballroom in the RiNo district — an intimate concert space with plenty of bike parking.

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

Day 2

Start the morning at Tattered Cover's historic LoDo location. Called "a bibliophile's paradise" by *The New York Times*, this multilevel bookstore, housed in a lovingly restored historic building, holds thousands of volumes on every topic under the sun with a notable selection of Denver- and Colorado-centric books.

Just around the corner sits the Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, a structure whose sleekness contrasts with the classic red brick typical to LoDo. Galleries showcase a series of exhibits devoted to innovation and creativity. At the serene rooftop cafe and bar, relax and reflect on what you've seen.

See a show at the Denver Performing Arts Complex. The Denver Center Theatre Company is the region's largest, staging new works, Broadway tours and more. Opera Colorado, the Colorado Symphony Orchestra and the Colorado Ballet also grace the center's stages. For less traditional fare, visionary performance venues like Curious Theatre Company and The Bug Theatre can be counted on for something original.

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Denver Day Trips



Evergreen

Use Denver as an easy hub for exploring the state and the outdoors just beyond the city limits.

Evergreen

Acres of forest and open space surround this vibrant downtown, lined with galleries, boutiques, day spas, patio cafes and bistros. The foothills community boasts miles of year-round hiking and biking trails (pick up a trail map at the visitor center), plus Evergreen Lake is packed with ice skaters each winter and hosts a summer concert series, boaters and fishers.

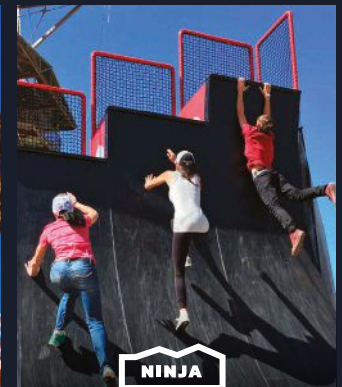
For a bit of history on the area, Hiwan Heritage Park holds an 1893 log lodge that's now a museum with original and historic furnishings as well as Native American artwork.

Drive: 40 minutes

[Continued on page 92.](#)

ADVENTURE ON THE EDGE.

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ZIPLINES & ADVENTURES



Lakewood

RTD Commuter Rail-connected Lakewood is a solid home base 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 is also a hub for retail action.) 40 West Arts is the city's Certified Colorado Creative District. Two ways to experience it: The new 40W ArtLine, a 4-mile walking/bike path with interactive art and murals along the way; and First Fridays gallery openings, artist lectures and more.

There are 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 and paddleboarding. Meander the 5-mile Discover Alameda bike/walk path's loops, ponds and birding spots.

Drive: 15 minutes

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 124 for more.

Drive: 45 minutes

Arvada

Historic Old Town is the 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

Rocky Mountain National Park

One of the nation's top outdoor destinations, this natural wonder boasts 350 miles of trails, unparalleled wildlife sightings and the Trail Ridge Road scenic drive. A seasonal Bustang route runs from Denver to the park. See page 107 for more.

Drive: 1 hour, 40 minutes

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 and the year-round Edge Ziplines & Adventures (where you scale a 50-foot climbing wall, zip for 2 miles and take on a ninja course). 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 year-round hiking and biking trails and spectacular views from on top of The Rock — the historic namesake for the community. Stop into the visitor center for ideas on exploring the area and beyond.

Drive: 35 minutes

Littleton

This tree-lined downtown combines the sophistication of a relaxed urban center packed with local eats and unique boutiques with small-town charm. And, of course, there's plenty of craft wineries, distilleries and breweries, including nearby Breckenridge Brewery's massive campus with 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

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 158 for more.

Drive: 30 minutes

Continued on page 94.





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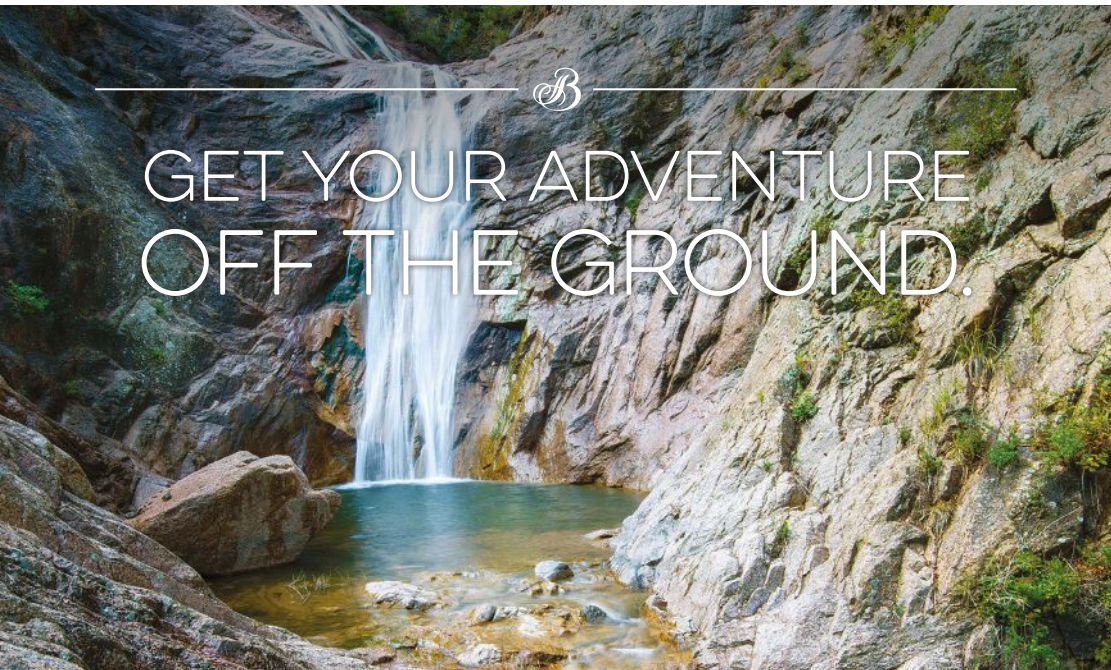
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Golden

Historic downtown is packed with Wild West attractions and shops nudged up against mountain parks and hiking and biking trails. See page 163 for more.

Drive: 25 minutes

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 outdoor 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. There's a free walking tour of the downtown historic district, which highlights several architectural styles from the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Drive: 25 minutes



Colorado Springs

Iconic Pikes Peak is Colorado Springs' showpiece, which features dozens of attractions, including the famed Garden of the Gods. See page 106 for more.

Drive: 1 hour, 30 minutes

Summit County

A popular snow-sports destination in winter, this region attracts visitors year-round with quintessential mountain towns and scenic vistas. See page 130 for more.

Drive: 1 hour, 30 minutes

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Aurora: Where the Great Plains Meet the Rockies



Stanley Marketplace

Day 1

You can taste the histories and traditions of Aurora's cultures at numerous restaurants — savoring Polish pierogis, fruit-filled Cuban pastries, Burmese curries or fragrant Ivorian jollof rice.

Continue your heritage immersion at the Aurora History Museum; their biennial *Mosaic of Cultures* exhibit celebrates the city's many different communities. And there's always something exciting happening at The People's Building — an art space with a lineup of musicals, lectures, art shows and live music.

Or take the self-guided Colfax Canvas Mural Tour, a "collaboration of culture and creativity" in the Aurora Cultural Arts District. Get maps and audio guides at colfaxcanvas.com.

Day 2

Fill your belly at Mango House, a food hall with international menus that also serves as a refuge

resource center. Or hit up Airhouse Adventure Park for Xtreme Dodgeball, interactive trampoline games, a gravity-fueled coaster and more.

For ample activities under one roof, Stanley Marketplace is the place to be. At this former aviation center, take sewing or cooking classes, sample international dishes, shop for kids' books and STEM crafts or enjoy craft beers. It's also home to a virtual-reality arcade and LuBird's Light Playground — an inclusive playground for children of all abilities.

Day 3

With wind-tousled prairie grasses and views of snowy peaks, getting outside is a must. Cherry Creek State Park boasts 35 miles of trails — perfect for biking, walking or snowshoeing — along with camping, horseback riding and water activities at one of the city's three reservoirs. Search for wildlife like mule

From nature and outdoor recreation to culture and cuisine, discover this prairie gem just outside Denver.

deer, great horned owls, kestrels and red-tailed hawks at Morrison Nature Center. At nearby Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, you might spot bison, burrowing owls and migrating bald eagles.

Or find birdies and eagles of a different sort at Aurora's 10 golf courses. If you prefer your mountain views with a side of retail therapy, hit the brand-name shops and boutiques of Southlands.



Jason O'Rear // U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum

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Manitou Incline

Day 1

Start in downtown: Head to Tejon Street for window-shopping and latte sipping. Then spend time at one of the area's museums, such as the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, the Ent Center for the Arts or the new U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum, which has been named "the most accessible museum in the world" by *Architectural Digest*.

Choose to lunch at the Ivywild School, a community market featuring Bristol Brewing Co., Lazo Empanadas and more. Find another food hub in Lincoln Center, home to tasty tenants like Goat Patch Brewing and Nightingale Bread.

Next, catch a show at the U.S. Air Force Academy Planetarium or tour the Colorado Springs Pioneer Museum to explore the region's roots and the characters who made it wild. For a taste of the arts, seek out more than 50 pieces of permanent public art, esteemed cultural institutions, and events and festivals in the city's Certified Colorado Creative District. The PikeRide bike-share program makes it easy to get around on two wheels.



Mueller State Park

THIS PAGE: COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE. OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: CAVE OF THE WINDS MOUNTAIN PARK; ADOBESTOCK/RICARDO RETMEYER; CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN ZOO.

Day 2

Start your day at Cheyenne Mountain State Park, where the new Dixon Trail takes you to the top of Cheyenne Mountain (work those calves!). Or explore Garden of the Gods on foot, on horse, by Segway or via vintage scooter. A new seasonal shuttle whisks visitors to the main part of the park.

Dominating the skyline is Pikes Peak. Reach the summit by car, foot, bike or newly restored Manitou & Pikes Peak Cog Railway. Stop into the new Summit House for inspiring overlooks, an outdoor dining terrace and one of their



Cheyenne Mountain Zoo

famous doughnuts. Explore in the peak's shadow at the South Slope Recreation Area, with hiking and biking trails, fishing and bighorn-sheep viewing.

Before dinner, check out historic Manitou Springs' galleries and restaurants. The town is a Certified Colorado Creative District and named one of the 10 Coolest Small Towns in the country by *Budget Travel* magazine. North of town, Rainbow Falls Historic Site — a series of small waterfalls along Fountain Creek — is a favored stop for hikers and picnickers. Two shuttles run around town during the summer. Check at the visitor center for details, as well as other tips for exploring this area.

Day 3

Start this day with a visit to Cheyenne Mountain Zoo. Feed giraffes and parakeets, walk among the wallabies and check out the *Encounter Africa* exhibit. Or head to Cave of the Winds Mountain Park for a new via ferrata climbing adventure, and The Broadmoor Seven Falls, where a 181-foot waterfall cascades down granite steps. Celebrate early at The North Pole, Home of Santa's Workshop, where it's Christmas all year and a zipline whirls around the park.

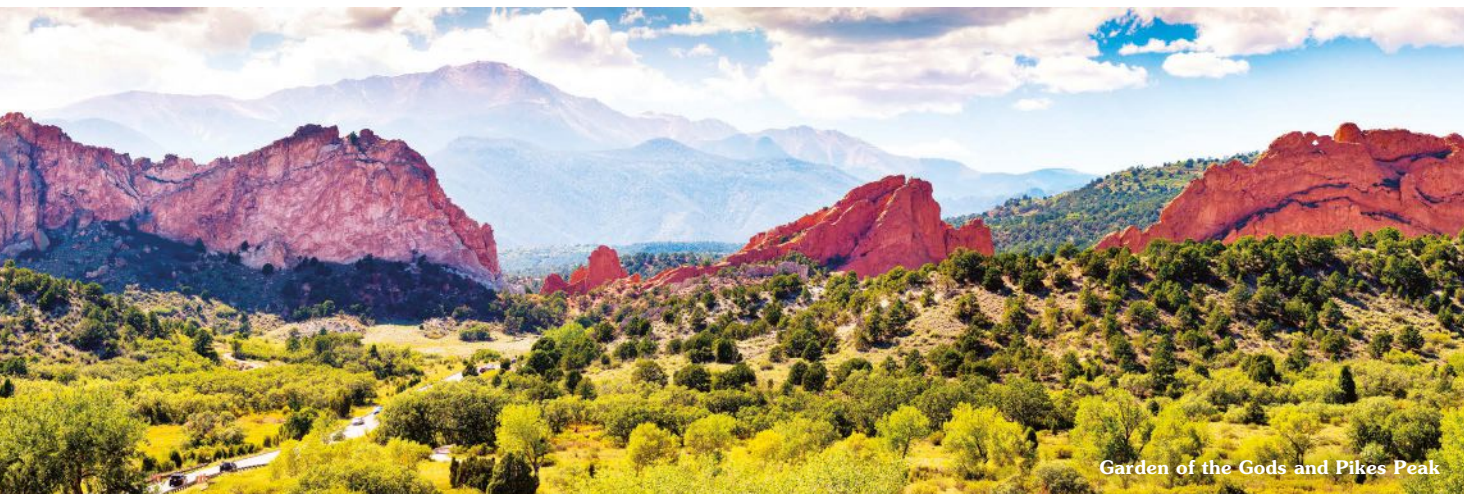
There's also the ProRodeo Hall of Fame & Museum of the American Cowboy, where you'll see exhibits on famous cowboys, and the National Museum of World War II Aviation, the only U.S. museum of its kind.



Cave of the Winds Mountain Park

Get sidetracked in Woodland Park to investigate the Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center or take a guided UTV tour of Pike National Forest with Great Outdoors Adventures. Head farther on to Divide to visit Mueller State Park, which happens to have amazing Pikes Peak views. Old Colorado City is another spot for strolling visitors looking for shops, patio dining, art galleries, events and more.

In the evening, consider some Wild West fun at Flying W Ranch. Saddle up for a chuckwagon dinner accompanied by the Flying W Wranglers' cowboy songs. Or, for a delicious extravagance, consider a true farm-to-table experience with A Grazing Life, featuring menus by top chefs from the region.



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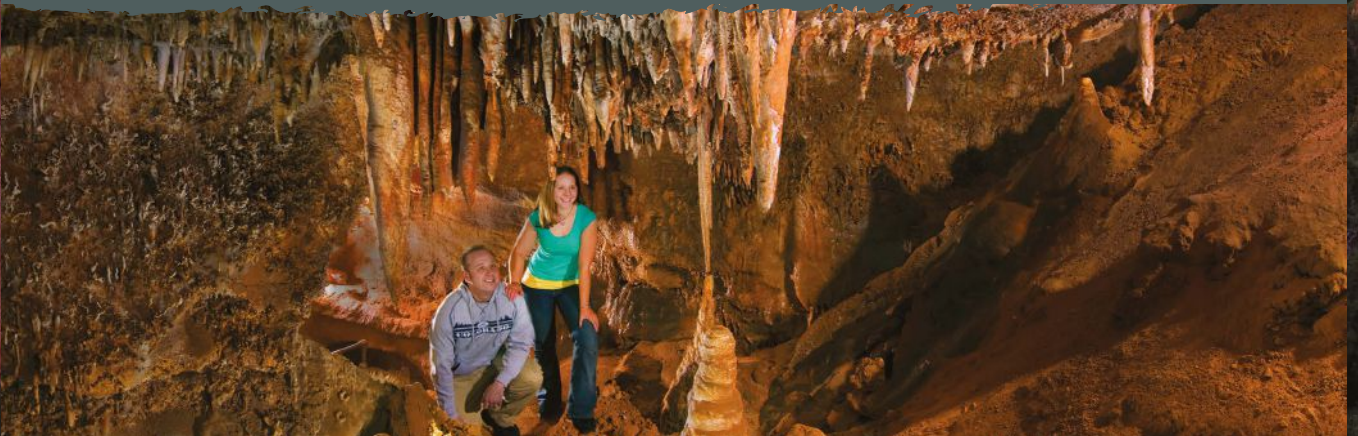
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Get Outside in Colorado Springs



After you've soaked up all the historic attractions and museums that you can, discover why Colorado Springs is one of the state's major places to play.

Hiking

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. Take in geological marvels on the gentle pathways at Red Rock Open Space. Bear Creek Dog Park has amenities for you and your furry pal, Cheyenne Mountain State Park has 21 different trails to choose from, and the Pikes Peak Greenway Trail 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 (take advantage of the summer shuttle to the incline, cog rail and Barr Trail). Visit trailsandopenspaces.org for more options.

Biking

Colorado Springs is incredibly bicycle friendly. Whether you BYOB or need all the gear to get on the trails, outfitters can get you set up and show you key routes. 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.

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.

Rafting

Just a short drive from the Arkansas River, one of the country's most popular whitewater-rafting destinations, more than a dozen outfitters can find you just the amount of thrills you're after.

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

Other Options

Balloon rides, ziplining, ATV and Jeep tours, rock-climbing adventures, Segway spins, wildlife-watching excursions, kayaking or stand-up paddling, fishing, hunting and more can be had at the drop of a hat from trusted guides sensitive to your comfort level.

Close to Paradise: Estes Park



Moraine Park area of Rocky Mountain National Park

Despite being one of the most popular parks in the country, Rocky Mountain National Park still offers countless moments of solitude and awe.

Morning

Spend time exploring Estes Park's main street and the natural glories of the Colorado Rockies.

From late May to early Oct., timed-entry permits are required at recreation.gov. A new seasonal Bustang route will take you to Estes Park and the national park from downtown Denver. And seasonal shuttles in town can help with parking and getting around.

Take a drive on Trail Ridge Road, a rollercoaster route that crosses the Continental Divide and offers photo ops as you climb past subalpine forests and wind-swept tundra. Or

enjoy a family wildflower hike to Gem Lake. For more challenge, try the Mills Lake trek for Longs Peak views.

Stop at Moraine Park for prime wildlife watching. More than 3,000 elk and 800 bighorn sheep live here. Estes Park and the national park are also superior birding spots, with more than 315 species — grab your binoculars for a self-guided exploration of Matthews-Reeser Bird Sanctuary right in town.

At the Open Air Adventure Park, rope bridges, aerial tightropes and swinging logs challenge folks, and the new Mountain Mustang alpine

coaster offers thin-air thrills. There's also a new via ferrata course at Kent Mountain Adventure Center, along with climbing instruction and guided hikes.

Afternoon

Downtown Estes is the gateway into the park, but it's also a destination unto itself. Stop by The Barrel, a seasonal

alfresco beer garden, and window-shop along Elkhorn Avenue, with several new boutiques and eateries.

Stop for coffee and sit along the Riverwalk. Take the path east for a tranquil walk around Lake Estes; stop at the marina to rent pontoon boats, paddleboards or kayaks. Estes Park Mountain Shop rents e-bikes, as well. Then, grab a tasting at a handful of breweries and distilleries.

Evening

Wind down with dinner at the storied Stanley Hotel, an elegant 113-year-old, white-pillared landmark. Guided ghost tours reveal how Stephen King was inspired to write *The Shining* while staying in room 217.

Check out the farm-to-table cuisine from Seasoned – An American Bistro, Bird & Jim's artisan approach and 15 flavors of moonshine at Estes Park Distilling.



SIDETRIPS

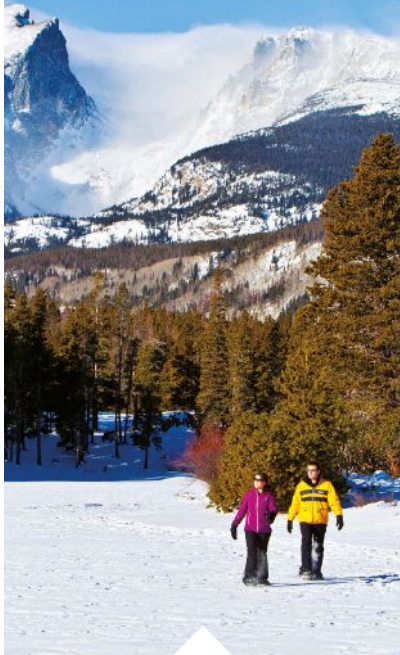
Relax in lovely **Lyons** on your way to Estes. With galleries and public art on nearly every corner and plenty of craft beer, it's worth a respite. Tubers and kayakers roll through the whitewater park and you can show off at the Dirt Jump Bike Track. Summer concerts send tunes into the mountain air while visitors soak up the relaxed scene.

Lyons Quilting has more than 6,500 bolts for sale. Spirit Hound Distillers, Moxie Bread and Lyons Dairy Bar are musts for tasty treats and hanging out. The Redstone Museum offers mountain-town history in an 1881 schoolhouse as well as a historic walking tour. Winter's ice rink means simple cold-weather pleasure.

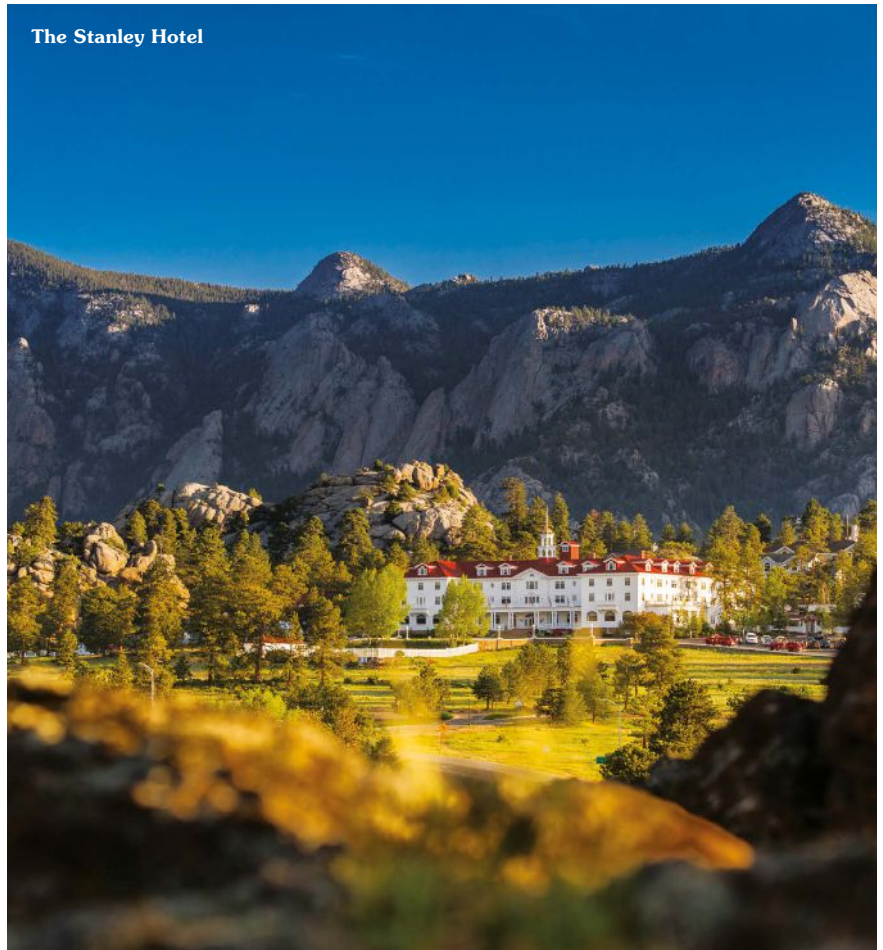


Winter Fun

From ice climbing, backcountry split-boarding and backcountry skiing to more relaxed activities like snowshoeing, Estes Park loves winter. It's easy to get there year-round and offers an alternative to the bustling ski resorts. New snowshoe tours pair with yummy side activities like fondue and whiskey tastings. Connect with Estes Park Mountain Shop, Femme Trek and Kent Mountain Adventure Center for guidance and gear.



The Stanley Hotel



FROM LEFT: VISIT ESTES PARK/DARREN EDWARDS; THE STANLEY HOTEL/SCOTT DRESSEL-MARTIN.



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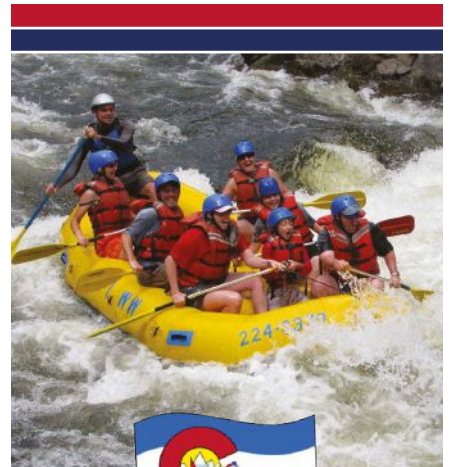
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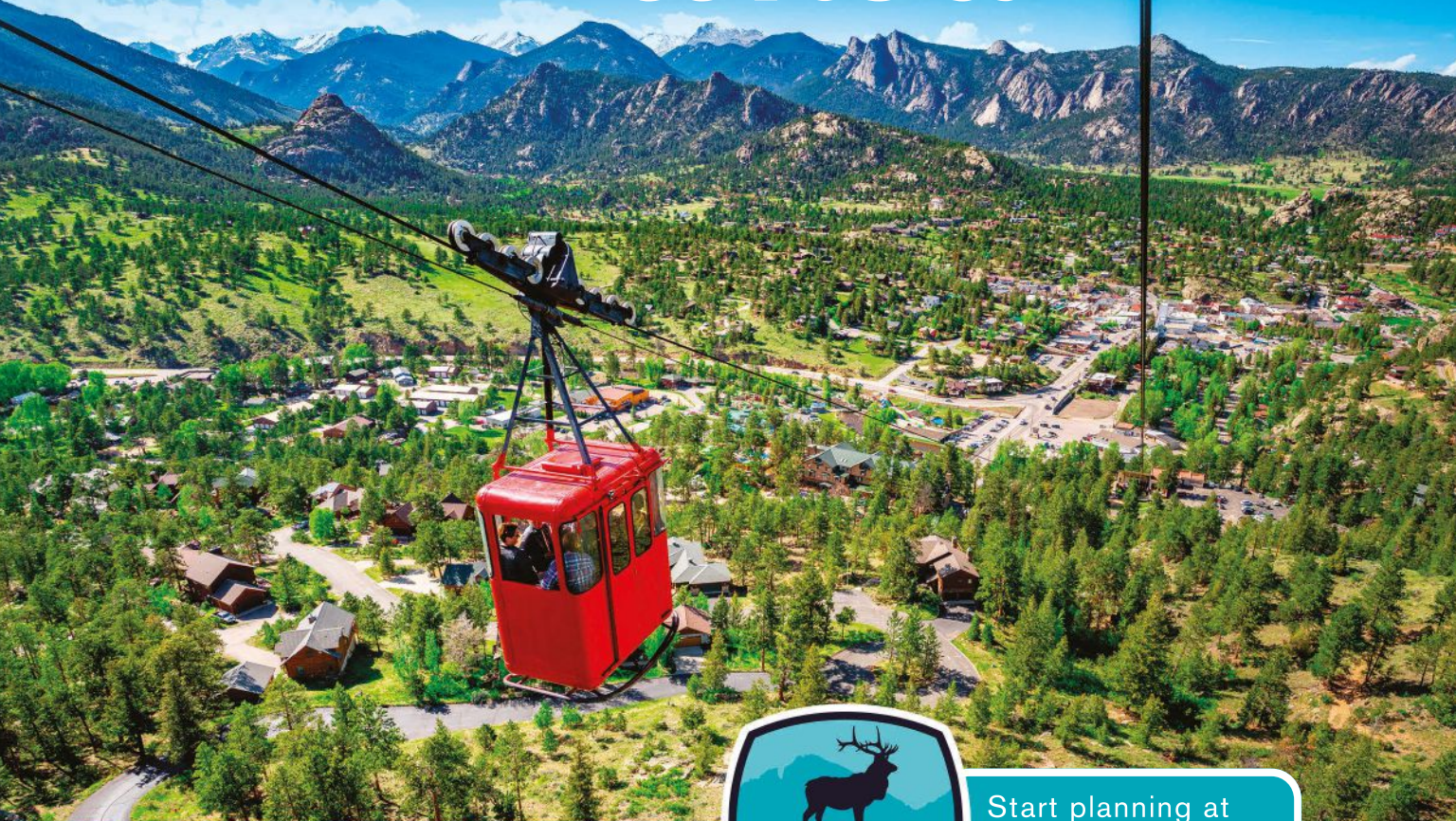
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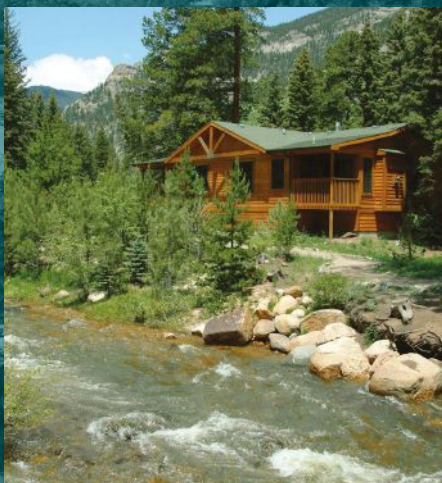
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Spirit of the Southwest



Durango & Silverton
Narrow Gauge Railroad

Day 1

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.

In Durango, historical buildings housing art galleries, eateries and breweries line Main Avenue. Cyclists zip through town and the toot-toot of the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad sounds.

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

The train has been operating continuously for nearly 140 years, and a ride on its rails is a must. The tracks roll through parts of the San Juan National Forest that are impenetrable by car. There's a stop (and combo packages available) at Soaring Tree Top

Adventures, an ecotour on 27 ziplines that zooms over the Animas River and through aspens and ponderosas.

Or stay on the train to visit Silverton, a storybook mining village with 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 here, you have plenty of options for enjoying the surrounding San Juans, including rafting, horseback riding, epic day hikes up to the waterfalls

of Cunningham Gulch and the ghost towns of Eureka and Howardsville. Thanks to a wealth of historical and scenic 4x4 roads, 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.

Back in Durango, make plans for excellent eats at the town's 11th Street Station food-truck park, Moose & Squirrel and EsoTerra Ciderworks. Or head out to James Ranch Grill's "table on the farm," with a menu that couldn't be more locally sourced.

Just 40 minutes away, consider visiting Vallecito Lake. It's 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.



SIDETRIPS

Ignacio is a ranching community bordered by the La Plata Mountains. 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's gaming halls, hotel rooms and restaurants are popular with visitors.

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.



Winter Fun

Purgatory, outside Durango, is affordable and has a low-key vibe. Silverton Mountain serves up ungroomed expert terrain. Those seeking less intense terrain head to Kendall Mountain Ski Area (Silverton) or Hesperus (Durango). Just 23 miles from Pagosa Springs, Wolf Creek Ski Resort is known for "the most snow in Colorado" each season. Beyond the slopes, these towns take advantage of their deep powder with backcountry snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling and dog-sled tours.



Summer Fun AT SKI RESORTS

Durango's Purgatory Resort is a summer playground, with mountain-bike rentals, lifts and trails, as well as camps, a mountain coaster, alpine slide, scenic chair lifts and ziplines.

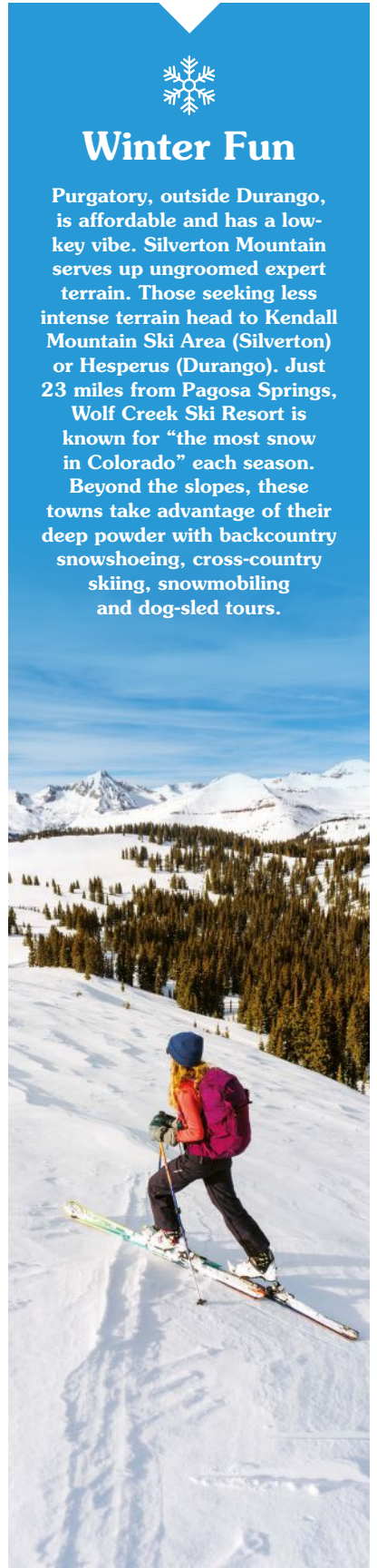
Day 2

East of Durango, Pagosa Springs offers record-holding deep mineral waters, used by The Springs Resort and Spa (known for a luxurious yet family-friendly feel), as well as Overlook Hot Springs and Healing Waters Resort & Spa.

West of town, find Chimney Rock National Monument's rock formations and Ancestral Puebloan history. Self-guided tours show you the most important spots, and night-sky programs will take your breath away.

Seek out Pagosa's San Juan River with rafting, kayaking, tubing and fishing. There are also ATV tours, 2.5 million acres of wilderness and national forest, 650 miles of trails, the Wolf Creek Pass drive, waterfall and wildflower hikes, and camping. Williams Creek Reservoir is popular with fishers, mountain bikers and picnickers. There's also miles of singletrack in the Turkey Springs Recreation Area and the Dakota Springs trail system. Pop into the visitor center for trail maps and download the Visit Pagosa Springs app for walking tours, scavenger hunts and visitor info.

In town, there's an urban single-track trail system, a climbing/bouldering park and skatepark, not to mention craft breweries, a handful of great restaurants and year-round horse-drawn carriage tours.



FROM LEFT: PURGATORY RESORT; KENNAN HARVEY.

Durango



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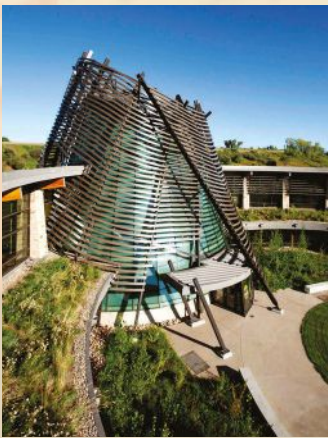
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Play in the Collegiate Peaks



Mount Princeton Hot Springs Resort

Make the easy trek to central Colorado for a getaway in the Arkansas River-side mountain towns of Salida and Buena Vista. Hot springs, dramatic peaks and unbeatable recreation await.

Morning

Travel along the Collegiate Peaks scenic byway, a 57-mile route 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 swinging bridges, tightrope walks, ziplines, via ferratas and other soaring-through-the-pines challenges, Captain Zipline, Browns Canyon Adventure Park and AVA Rafting & Zipline all deliver adventure with a side of stunning scenery and deep breaths of crisp mountain air.

Buena Vista is a popular access point for rafting, kayaking, fishing, hiking and backpacking adventures along the Arkansas River, including Browns Canyon National Monument, 102 miles of Gold Medal fishing and the Buena Vista Whitewater Park. Rafting outfitters offer half- to multiday trips.

Give it a go at one of the area's signature sports: mountain biking. Rent or BYO-bike and hit the dirt on top-notch trails, like the Monarch Crest, Alpine Tunnel and Salida Mountain Trails or the downtown Buena Vista Pumptrack. Stop into the Buena Vista & Salida Chamber of Commerce to pick up a map of all the area's recreational opportunities.

Afternoon

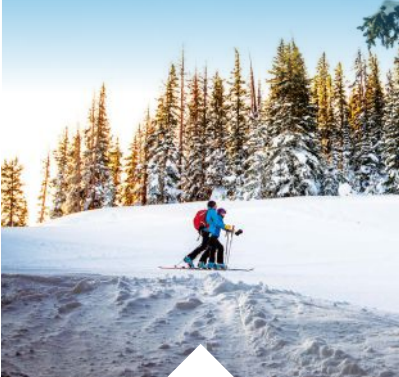
Rejuvenate at Mount Princeton Hot Springs Resort, Cottonwood Hot Springs Inn & Spa or Salida Hot Springs Aquatic Center. Or head to the top of Monarch Pass: In summer, the Monarch Crest Scenic Tramway will carry you 12,000 feet in elevation for views of the surrounding peaks and nearby Monarch Mountain ski area.

Buena Vista and Salida are only a scenic, 30-minute drive apart, so plan to traipse back and forth.



Winter Fun

Monarch Mountain ski area is just a short drive from Salida, and the area's deep snow is a playground for snowshoers and snowmobilers. The valley floor is often dry in the winter, perfect for rock climbing, a round of golf, hiking and biking year-round. These towns are serious about mountain biking, and winter doesn't stop them: All you need is fatter tires. Several shops rent out fat bikes.



FROM LEFT, MONARCH MOUNTAIN; ANDREW MAGUIRE

Evening

Take a distillery or winery tour — there are close to 100 breweries, distilleries, wineries, galleries and eateries. Stroll through downtown Salida, one of the state's Certified Creative Districts, with dozens of artist-owned galleries and shops. Kids get a kick out of feeding the fish at the Mount Shavano Fish Hatchery.

Delicious restaurants and shops pepper both historic downtowns, and Buena Vista has a vibrant music scene. If you're still looking for fun, consider the vintage Comanche Drive In Theatre for a nightcap.



Near Buena Vista

Escape to Nature in the **Roaring Fork Valley**



Iron Mountain Hot Springs

Book stays in Glenwood Springs, Carbondale, Basalt, Snowmass and Aspen — the Roaring Fork River flows through a valley that has always been a favored playscape in these mountain towns.

Day 1

Start the day with a mountain-bike ride in the Red Mountain's trail system for sweet views, climbs and downhill action minutes from the walkable downtown of Glenwood Springs (there's also a free bus in town). Hikers head to many trails that leave right from town. Hanging Lake, a National Natural Landmark, is in Glenwood Canyon. The Hanging Lake Trail hike requires a reservation year-round. Find more information at visitglenwood.com/hanginglake.

Next, wash aches away in the Colorado River-side Iron Mountain Hot Springs' 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 from Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park's gondola, which lifts you off the valley floor to the top of Iron Mountain. The caverns' new Defiance Coaster and more provide maximum thrills. For a blast

of another sort, hook up with a rafting outfitter for a Colorado River ride through Glenwood Canyon. Then dine alfresco along Seventh Avenue, browse downtown's shops and stay the night.

Day 2

In the bike- and walkable Certified Colorado Creative District of Carbondale, great restaurants, arts events, galleries and workshops can be had all over town. Travel along the Rio Grande ARTway for more art, gardens and Mount Sopris views. The (free!) Powers Art Center focuses on contemporary and pop art. It's also recognized as an age-friendly community by AARP.

One of "The Top 10 Adventure Towns in the U.S.," outdoor pursuits include biking (hit the trails at Prince Creek and Red

Continued on page 120.

MOTHER NATURE

OUR UNOFFICIAL
MASCOT.



SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN THERE FOR US,
SO LET'S BE THERE FOR HER. JOIN
OUR MISSION. SIGN THE PLEDGE.



 **ASPEN**
DEFY ORDINARY

Hill), kayaking, paddleboarding and fly-fishing. In winter, excellent cross-country skiing can be found at Spring Gulch.

Farther on, the town of Basalt at the confluence of the Roaring Fork and Fryingpan rivers is known for Gold Medal fishing. Kayaking in the whitewater park, SUPing on Ruedi Reservoir, plus hiking and biking are other draws. There are also shops, galleries and cafes, and The Arts Campus at Willits' 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.



Summer Fun AT SKI RESORTS

Ride the gondola to the top of Aspen Mountain for hiking trails, dining and yoga classes. Snowmass Mountain has disc golf, more than 40 miles of mountain-bike trails and the Lost Forest's alpine coaster, ziplines, fishing pond and climbing wall. Sunlight Mountain's 16 miles of marked mountain-bike trails wind through wildflower meadows.



SIDETRIPS

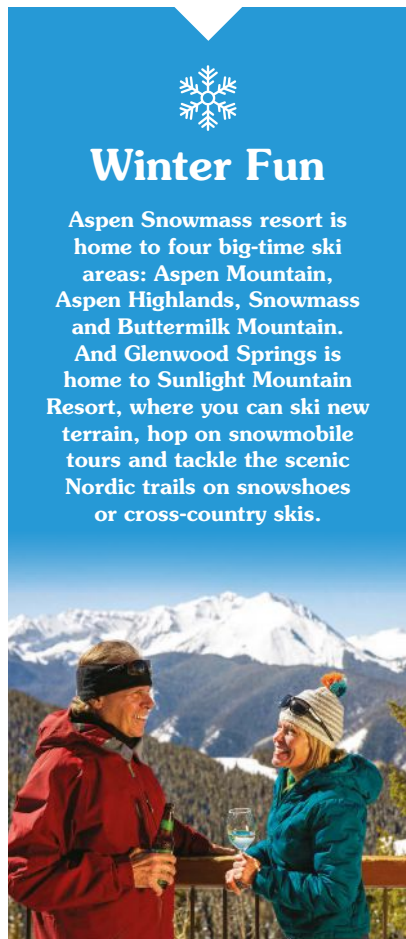
Marble is 40 miles south of Carbondale. Hit up Marble Hub to get questions answered and sip some coffee. Get into the backcountry on horseback with OutWest Guides or visit the Crystal ghost town and 1893 Crystal Mill on a tour with Crystal River Jeep Tours or RPS Rentals. Tour Mill Site Park's ghostly ruins, mountain bike Coal Basin Trail, and hang around after dark — the town recently joined the International Dark-Sky Association. End the day at Slow Groovin' BBQ with scratch-made goodness.

Redstone is 16 miles from Carbondale. 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.

Days 3 & 4

It's time to explore Aspen and Snowmass. They're just 20 minutes apart, so it's easy to go back and forth. Aspen maintains a character that is 100 percent Colorado and family friendly. Enhance mornings with a downtown jaunt to survey the famous stores. Hit up the Saturday Market for its farm-fresh produce and local products, or cruise the area with a bike rental from WE-Cycle Stations in Aspen and Basalt.

Savor afternoon scenery. Try your hand at the Gold Butte Climbing Area, with routes for all levels near Aspen. The Snowmass Bike Park has 25 miles of mountain-biking bliss. The area has recently received a gold-level rating from the International Mountain Biking Association. The paved Rio Grande Trail starts in Aspen and follows the river. Those with littles in tow can hike Grottos Trail, an easy route that leads to ice caves and waterfalls.



Winter Fun

Aspen Snowmass resort is home to four big-time ski areas: Aspen Mountain, Aspen Highlands, Snowmass and Buttermilk Mountain. And Glenwood Springs is home to Sunlight Mountain Resort, where you can ski new terrain, hop on snowmobile tours and tackle the scenic Nordic trails on snowshoes or cross-country skis.

Make a reservation (May to early October only) and follow the crowds to Maroon Bells, or ride an e-bike there in the morning to avoid them. Pics of the peaks are one of our most famous scenes. Independence Pass offers recreational opportunities from hiking and biking to climbing. Take a tour of Independence Ghost Town with the Aspen Historical Society to hear its tales.

Decrease the heart rate with mountain-top yoga at Aspen Mountain, or hook up with the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies for sunset hikes, birding outings, naturalist guides and (in winter) snowshoe treks. The Collective Snowmass hosts movies under the stars, comedy and music series, and more.

This area has a world-class dining scene. Chefs at restaurants like Matsuhisa, Aurum, Kenichi and Element 47 craft menus around whatever produce is in season.

FROM LEFT: SNOWMASS/JEREMY SWANSON; MATT HOBBS.



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Mountains of San Juan Splendor Await



Lizard Head Pass

The San Juan Mountains encompass rolling hills of ranch country, plunging canyons and peaks so jagged it seems they were carved yesterday. Find these scenes and more in Montrose, Ouray, Ridgway and Telluride.

Day 1

The Gunnison River took thousands of years to carve Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park near Montrose. For a look at its wonders, start at the Elk Creek Visitor Center on Blue Mesa Reservoir, Colorado's largest body of water. Winds captured by buttes make for prime sailing conditions, anglers find deep water filled with kokanee salmon and mackinaw trout, and boaters roam more than 41,000 acres. On the Morrow Point Boat Tour, float on a pontoon to the foot of the cliffs. Landlubbers stick to the 4-mile Curecanti Creek Trail, which passes through forests as it drops below the canyon's rim.

In the park itself, the astonishingly steep walls expose 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.

As a basecamp for exploring the area, Montrose is a gateway to biking, hiking, rafting, hunting and fishing. You'll be charmed by the town's Old West feel yet surprised by modern eateries, breweries and shops. Visit the Water Sports Park on the Uncompahgre River for kayaking, tubing and swimming. West of Montrose, explore the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area's red-rock canyons. In town, the Ute Indian Museum connects the past with contemporary Ute life and culture, and the Museum of the Mountain West offers an authentic peek at the Wild West.

Day 2

Ouray sits in a narrow valley with the towering San Juan Mountains. That's one reason it's considered ground zero for Jeep touring. An extensive and scenic network of old mining roads is another. Many Victorian-era structures have been restored to retain the town's original charm. Check out nearby Ridgway Area Trails' 40 miles of mountain-bike and hiking trails. Ouray's Western Slope Rides shuttles get you to a hiking trailhead, backcountry mountain biking, ice-climbing expeditions and more. Stop first to pick up picnic provisions at the locally focused Ouray Meat & Cheese Market.

In the winter, the town lives up to its Ice-Climbing Capital nickname when the Ouray Ice Park opens more than 200 routes to spiked adventurers. Summer climbers stop for Basecamp Boulderling, a drop-in climbing gym with programs for all ages.

Afterward, enjoy a restorative experience in the enormous Ouray Hot Springs Pool. Ouray is also a stop along the Colorado Spirits Trail and SW Colorado Crafted Beverages Tour, so watch for locally distilled spirits and brews.

Stop at True Grit Cafe in Ridgway, built to honor the original "True Grit" movie starring John Wayne, filmed here in 1969, for a burger. Ridgway is a Certified Colorado Creative District and a stop along the Colorado Creative Corridor, home to artisans, fests, studios, fiber-arts makers, galleries and concerts. Weehawken Creative Arts has classes and workshops in dance, photography, fine arts and more.

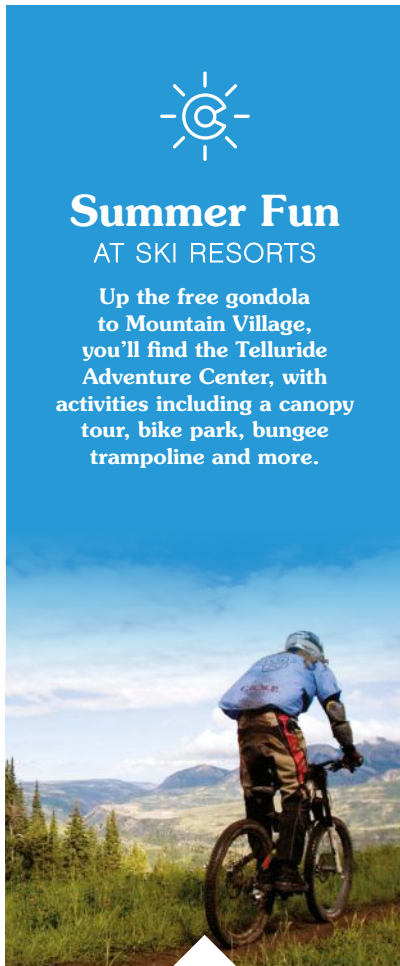
The town is a jumping-off point to splendid views of Mount Sneffels and the Dallas Divide — one of our most photographed alpine scenes. Star seekers will want to know the town is an International Dark-Sky Community. It's also home base to the San Juan Hut System, which connects epic mountain biking,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



Summer Fun

AT SKI RESORTS

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.



FROM LEFT: MILESMATT, INDEN, JOSH KING.

Day 3

It's easy to fall for Telluride's Victorian-era homes and beautiful box canyon. 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 today's ski hub. Then mosey 12 blocks along Colorado Avenue, which comprise a National Historic Landmark District.

Telluride truly celebrates local, where all shops, restaurants and hotels are independently owned and Colorado minded. And there's no need for a car — between the Galloping Goose bus in town and the gondola to Mountain Village, getting around is a 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 2.5-mile path to the base of Bridal Veil Falls — Colorado's highest

free-falling waterfall. Or get a bird's-eye view of the densely forested San Miguel River Valley during a ride on the gondola, a 13-minute journey from downtown to Mountain Village's shops, restaurants and activities, including Canopy Adventure Tours, with guided ziplining and rappelling.

Back downtown, see why Telluride is one of the top creative districts at the Sheridan Opera House for a concert or ski film. The ornate theater was once a colorful and airy venue for men who spent their days mining underground. Go gallery to gallery on the Telluride Art Walk. Local art shops stay open late and offer free refreshments on the first Thursdays of most months, or you can pick up a self-guided map any time.

You'll also find plenty of excellent places for a meal in this foodie-friendly enclave. Still have steam left? Telluride Sleighs and Wagons offers horse-drawn sleighs year-round to the historic Aldasoro family ranch, where a gourmet dinner is served.

Make a Break for the High Country



Near Mount Evans Scenic Byway

Chase Gold Rush lore, modern-day prospectors and railroad rides just 40 minutes west of Denver in the towns of Idaho Springs, Georgetown, Silver Plume, Black Hawk and Central City.

Days 1 & 2

Start early with a drive up the highest paved highway in North America. During the summer (weather permitting, reservations required), the Mount Evans scenic byway starts in Idaho Springs and climbs to top-of-the-world views. Or hook up with a rafting outfitter — several run this stretch of Clear Creek.

Swing down to Idaho Springs, where an 1859 discovery ushered in the Colorado Gold Rush. That heritage lives on through well-preserved buildings and at the Visitor Center & Heritage Museum, with an exhibit on transportation history in a Colorado mining town. You can also pick up maps and tips for exploring the area.

Head to walkable downtown for places to eat, craft beers and spirits, and cute boutiques. Take time to soak in the pools and geo-thermal caves at Indian Hot Springs.

There are plenty of places to grab a thrill ride, including Lawson Adventure Park & Resort and the Sky Trek aerial park at Colorado Adventure Center. Speaking of mines, the ARGO Mill & Tunnel has tours and gold panning year-round.

Journey west to Georgetown to visit Victorian-era homes and silver-boom relics at the Hamill House and Hotel de Paris museums, as well as exhibits at the Georgetown

Heritage Center. Venture 1,000 feet underground on a tour of Capital Prize Mine, and break for an afternoon bite — the town's main street also has antique, craft and coffee shops.

Board the Georgetown Loop Railroad for a narrow-gauge train ride to Silver Plume and back for views of the Clear Creek Valley and an optional walking tour into an 1870s mine tunnel. Bread Bar in Silver Plume, housed in an 1800s-era bakery, serves up cocktails named after famous local characters.



Georgetown Loop Railroad

Day 3

Step into a mini Western-style Las Vegas for some action in “the richest square mile on earth.” The 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 19th-century storefronts.

Another option is the Central City Opera House, a 1878 jewel-box theater built by Welsh and Cornish miners still hosting performances each summer (part of the Colorado Historic Opera Houses Circuit). History hounds will

love the original Gold Rush maps and documents found in Black Hawk’s City Hall Annex and the new Gregory Street Plaza, a pedestrian-friendly retail area.

There’s also the new Maryland Mountain Quartz Valley Open Space Park, a trail system for hikers and bikers that passes by mining-era relics.

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 fluffiest powder via snowcat.




Central City Opera House

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: JIM DAVID; ECHO MOUNTAIN RESORT; MILES/ANDREA BUIROLLA.

Hot Springs, Moose & Western Living



Buffalo Pass

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

Days 1 & 2

Start at one of Steamboat Springs' thermal-water attractions — Old Town or Strawberry Park Hot Springs. Follow your soak with a gondola ride to the top of Mount Werner for a patio brunch or lunch with a splendid view; or head to Steamboat Zipline Adventures on Rabbit Ears Pass, where wilderness and valley views fight for attention. The Yampa River Core Trail runs the length of town and is a great place to bike or walk to downtown, parks and the river.

Nearby, Stagecoach State Park's boating, Jet Skiing and rainbow trout await. As you drive through the region, look for signs that share the cultural heritage of the area (go to nwcoloradoheritagetraavel.org for maps and more info).

Kids could spend days exploring the ropes course, mini golf and mountain coaster at Steamboat Resort's The Land Up Adventure Zone, as well as hiking and mountain-biking trails. In-town options include the more than 50 gardens at the free Yampa River Botanic Park and the Tread of Pioneers Museum to explore the ways of the Native Americans, miners, ranchers, skiers and outlaws in this once-Wild West town.

Steamboat is also a big biking destination. Hit the trails at the Steamboat Bike Park and more than 50 miles of singletrack on Emerald Mountain, or there are new off-roading trails off Buffalo Pass. End the afternoon at a brewery or the Steamboat

Continued on page 128.

BACKCOUNTRY
SKIING,
SNOWSHOEING,
SNOWMOBILING,
HIKING,
HUNTING,
FISHING, ATVING,
AND MORE!



MOOSE VIEWING CAPITAL OF
COLORADO

Walden ~ Gould
Rand ~ Cowdrey



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SNOW'S
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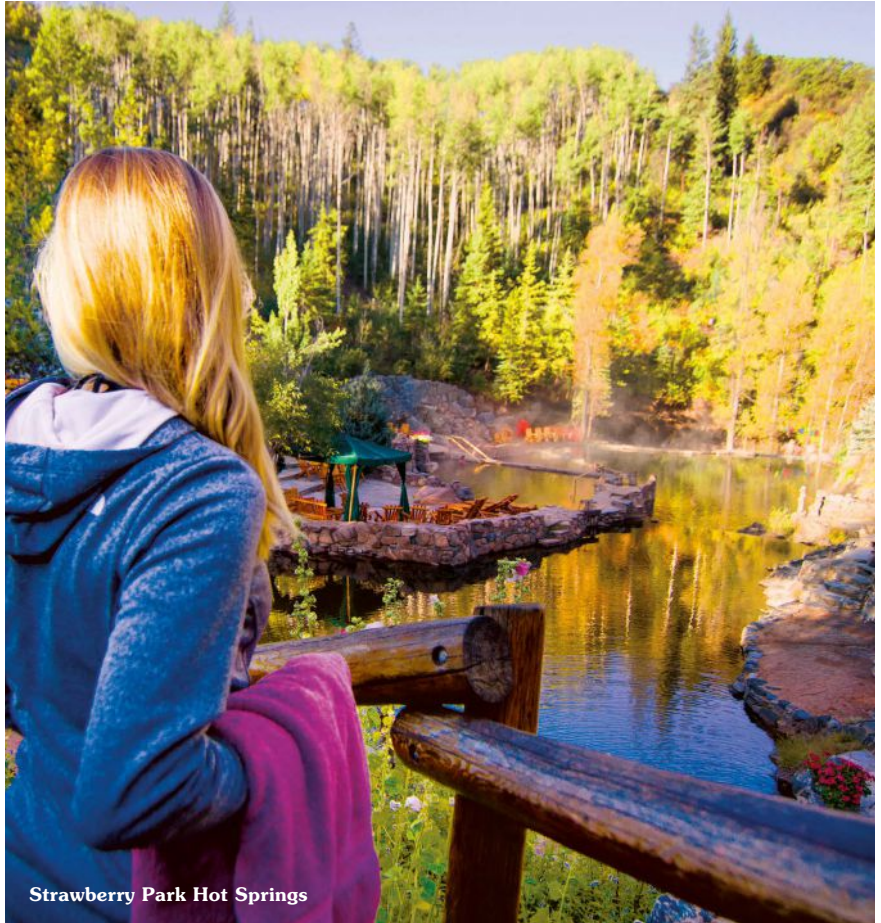
Colorado.com/5Reasons



SIDETRIPS

To Steamboat's west, stop into the quiet ranching town of **Hayden**, popular with hunters and anglers as an easy home base. Hayden is near the Medicine Bow and Routt national forests and the Mount Zirkel and Sarvis Creek wilderness areas. Backpacking, hiking and biking ops are nearly everywhere in these protected spaces, and rafters and campers enjoy a handful of state parks. Get to know cowboys and cowgirls, homesteaders and coal miners at Hayden Heritage Center in the historical 1918 Moffat Railroad Depot.

South of Steamboat, stop in the tiny town of **Yampa** for a bite at the Antlers Cafe & Bar. From there, you can hop on the Flat Tops scenic byway for amazing scenery, hunting, fishing and horseback riding, as well as snowmobiling and cross-country skiing.

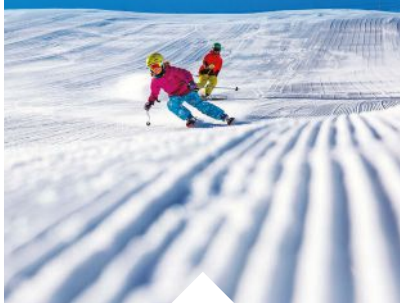


Strawberry Park Hot Springs



Winter Fun

Steamboat's famed Champagne 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. New lifts, terrain, restaurants, lodging, a ski beach and ice rink at the resort make it the state's second largest.



Whiskey Company, the only craft distillery in the area. Delicious dining is found in the historical downtown.

On summer weekends, cross the Yampa River to the Romick Rodeo Arena and cheer on the cowboys of the Pro Rodeo Series, preceded by barbecue and country music. Or, since Steamboat is a Certified Colorado Creative District, stroll through galleries or pick up the First Friday Artwalk.

Get a taste of Rocky Mountain hospitality at one of the area's dude ranches, 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 common. The Moose Visitor Center at State Forest State Park is an excellent first stop, or pop into the River Rock Cafe on Main Street in Walden for tips.

Step back in time at Walden's North Park Pioneer Museum, housed in an 1883 cabin packed to the rafters with Old West relics, plan a leaf-peeping excursion in the fall or hit the area's gravel-riding trails.

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 sights include Teller City and Coalmont ghost towns, 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, so you'll find uncrowded lakes, rivers, mountains, prairies and the other towns of Rand, Gould and Cowdrey.

Flying High in the Royal Gorge Region



Royal Gorge Bridge

The 10-mile-long Royal Gorge sports the nation's highest suspension bridge, dangling 1,000-plus feet above the crashing Arkansas River, but that's not the only reason to visit Cañon City and nearby Florence.

Adventurers are drawn to the region for epic rock climbing, mountain biking, ziplining, fishing and river rafting, as well as a scene rich in geology, archaeology and history.

For unmatched views of the area and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, hike or bike along four restored train trestles on the new mile-long Point Alta Vista Trail. Or, find incredible fishing on the Arkansas' Gold Medal trout waters. Since the region is more temperate than other parts of Colorado, the weather is comfortable for many activities year-round.

Towering above the Arkansas is the famous Royal Gorge Bridge. Navigate the rapids beneath 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 attractions, including the world's longest single-span aerial gondola.

Families looking to make memories can take a fun, scenic excursion on the Royal Gorge Route Railroad, while the Royal Gorge Dinosaur Experience delights kids of all ages with interactive displays, hands-on exhibits and fossils.

Walkable downtown Cañon City has shops, a public-art program and locally loved eateries like Nirvana Culinary Paradise and Fremont Provisions. Or savor the region's apples and other bounties at farmers' markets.

Legends of gold rushers, agriculture pioneers and even dinosaurs proliferate in the region. The self-guided Fremont County Heritage Tours and the Skyline Drive dinosaur tour can help you dig in.

Treasure hunters beeline to Florence, a lovely nearby town with extensive antique shopping, art galleries and specialty shops.

Set Up a Summit County Family Retreat



“Colorado’s Playground” is an easy trip from Denver. Hugged by three mountain ranges, there are activities to satisfy anyone itching to get out and lose themselves in Breckenridge, Silverthorne, Frisco, Dillon, Keystone and Copper Mountain — all close enough to move easily between by car, bike or bus.



Days 1 & 2

Start with a trip down to the water — the Blue River Trail provides access to the river’s Gold Medal, trout-filled waters and a scenic walk- or bikeway. Parallel to the trail, more than 50 stores at the Outlets at Silverthorne, including J. Crew, Banana Republic, Columbia and Coach, are the place to score some deals. Grab items for a picnic and head for Maryland Creek Park for amazing views.

Tackle one of Keystone’s championship golf courses or bring the family to Keystone Resort 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 paddleboats and explore the dozen or so islands sprinkled

throughout. The Frisco Bay Marina has all you’ll need, including new Sail the Summit charters and sunset cruises.

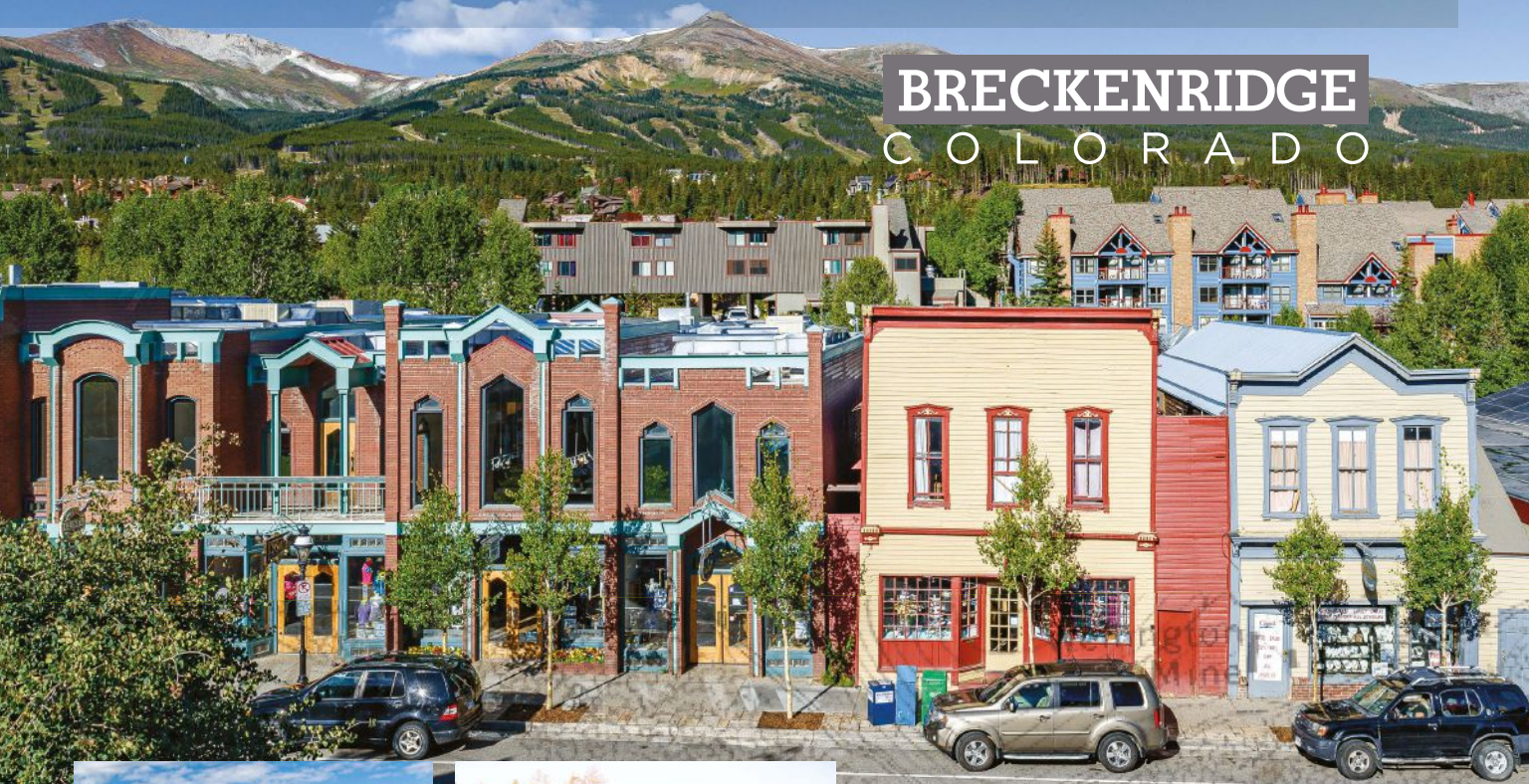
Hop on land at the Peninsula Recreation Area for new singletrack trails, disc golf, and loads of picnic sites to spread out with wares from one of Main Street’s tempting delis, breweries, distilleries and chef-owned eateries in Frisco. You’ll also find several maker spaces: art studios, a glass-blowing shop, a millinery and more.

The Frisco Adventure Park has expanded its offerings of a bike park and disc golf to include a mammoth skate park, a bouldering area for kids and additional trails for biking,

Continued on page 132.

We're a _____
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE
_____ *kinda town*

BRECKENRIDGE
C O L O R A D O



Breckenridge is the ultimate mountain town. 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

YOU WITH US?

running, hiking and cross-country skiing. Silverthorne Recreation Center wears kids out with four pools, water slides and an aquatic climbing wall.

Bring a blanket to the Dillon Amphitheater for a lakeside evening concert. Throughout the summer, the pavilion hosts performances, concerts and dance nights. The Lake Dillon Theatre Company has a new home at the Silverthorne Performing Arts Center if you're up for more mountain culture.

The Friday Dillon Farmers Market is a must for delicious fare and entertainment — and one of the most stunning backdrops in the world.

Or head over to Copper Mountain, where a scenic chairlift can take you to a mountaintop restaurant or to a downhill mountain-bike course or rugged hike. Run the kids blissfully ragged on the zipline, mountain bikes, a mountain coaster, bumper boats, yoga, guided hikes and more.



Winter Fun

Keystone, Breckenridge, Copper Mountain and Arapahoe Basin are four reasons Summit County is a top winter destination.

A short trek up scenic I-70 from Denver, find all types of ski terrain, as well as tubing, sleigh and dog-sledding rides, snowmobiling, ice skating and Nordic trails. A groomed path also links Breckenridge with the Frisco Adventure Park for cross-country skiing and winter fat biking.



Epic Discovery in Breckenridge

Day 3

Go car-free in walkable, public-transit-friendly Breckenridge, which boasts a vibrant local food and beverage scene. Grab breakfast at one of the more than 70 independently owned restaurants. Then, hop on your mountain bike and hit the trails; many are converted wagon routes and mining paths. If you prefer pavement, the Ten Mile Recreational Pathway is named for the adjacent mountain range; the 24-mile paved path connects to the 55-mile Summit County Recreational Path.

Or race down the slopes on the Gold Runner Coaster alpine track or Alpeiner Challenge Course and up the Gold Summit Climbing Wall, part of the Epic Discovery program at Breckenridge Ski Resort. An expansive network of hiking and mountain-bike trails is also

accessible right from town. Enrich the mind and soothe the soul with a nature hike led by Summit Nature Guides.

In the afternoon, visit downtown Breckenridge, where boutiques tempt with everything from designer cupcakes to designer jeans as well as imported olive oils and cigars in a 200-structure historic district. 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 cool workshops.

New restaurants and breweries join longtime standards, including Broken Compass Brewery's new Main Street taproom, Mimo Fancy Tapas and The Carlin.



DISCOVER

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silverthorne.org for more information



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Majestic Mountain Towns



Gunnison is the quintessential Western rodeo town. Crested Butte is its free-spirited neighbor. Both are packed with adventure and spectacular scenery.

Day 1

Start west of Gunnison at Blue Mesa Reservoir and Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. See our largest body of water peppered with boaters, anglers and parasailers. Another place outdoors lovers flock to is Hartman Rocks Recreation Area, a paradise of desert mountain biking, hiking, rock climbing, horseback riding, trail running and Nordic skiing and snowshoeing. New mountain-bike trails open every year, and more than a third of the state's gravel-riding trails are found in this area.

Wander Gunnison's easy downtown. Stop into the main drag's local cafes and pop into boutiques. Take in the Pioneer Museum's mineral exhibit; then visit the new Buckel Family Wine for a nightcap.

View twinkling skies up close at the Gunnison Valley Observatory, open summer Fridays and Saturdays. For more stargazing, Black Canyon is an International Dark-Sky Park.

Day 2

Mosey 30 miles north to the granite peaks of Crested Butte, known as an adventure-sports hub and the Wildflower Capital of Colorado. The area is awash in lupine, columbine and Indian paintbrush in summer — take a hike to see fields of purple, gold and fuchsia.

At Crested Butte Mountain Resort, take the chairlift to access a web of mountain-biking trails or zipline, disc golf and rock climb. Continue outdoor exploits with a raft or fishing trip on the Taylor River. Fishing, hiking and SUP-ing are top activities at Lake Irwin.

Blocks of Victorian-era buildings form one of our most distinctive towns. There's a festival of some sort nearly every summer weekend. Take in a performance at the Center for the Arts, one of the reasons the town is a Certified Colorado Creative District.



Winter Fun

Crested Butte Mountain Resort and Monarch Mountain offer top-notch skiing and snowboarding. There are also peaceful snowshoe/cross-country ski treks, miles and miles of snowmobiling trails, ice fishing and tubing, not to mention extensive fat-bike grooming found throughout the valley.



FROM TOP: NATHAN BILOW; CRESTED BUTTE MOUNTAIN RESORT.

Crazy About Longmont



Longmont

Along the Front Range between Boulder and Loveland, Longmont is a stop-worthy destination for great brews and views, distinct local arts and access to the outdoors.

You'll find three golf courses, three National Historic Districts, beautiful parks and a Certified Colorado Creative District in Longmont. Stop by the downtown Visitors Center for trail maps, brochures and the Crazy Good Craft pass for craft-beverage fans. Then, survey the work of local artists in galleries and coffee shops — which are especially bustling during second Fridays events.

Make your way to the Longmont Museum for exhibits on the region's history. Or head to the Dickens Farm Nature Area along St. Vrain Creek, with biking trails, an accessible nature-themed playground and a nine-drop whitewater park for tubers.

The area's brewery scene is noteworthy. If you want to easily sample beers across the city, the hop-on/hop-off BrewHop Trolley transports adult-beverage lovers to a dozen venues every weekend. For a twist, visit St. Vrain Cidery or one of the town's craft-spirits distilleries.

Time for a snack! The Art of Cheese offers courses covering everything curdy. For more cheesiness, try culinary

experiences at Cheese Importers and Haystack Mountain Creamery.

Heartier options range from casual hangouts to upscale bistros. Savor local flavor on Wonder Tours' food tours. Stroll off that meal with a downtown-, women- or Latino-history tour, which you can download at longmontcolorado.gov/virtualtours.

The Dougherty Museum — open weekends, June to Aug. — has an impressive collection of antique autos, farm equipment and more. Meanwhile, the Agricultural Heritage Center stars cool interactive exhibits and a 1909 farmhouse with period furnishings.

For thrills, Mile-Hi Skydiving Center 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."

For a more relaxing excursion, consider stand-up paddleboarding on Union Reservoir or McIntosh Lake or cycling along the St. Vrain Greenway — the crown jewel in the city's trail system that links scenic parks along St. Vrain Creek.

Get Inspired to Linger Longer



Adventure and restful solitude rule days and nights in the towns of Delta, Cedaredge, Crawford, Paonia, Hotchkiss and Orchard City where lush farms, artful nooks and ancient canyons await discovery.

Sublime and 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.

Start with the West Elks Wine Trail, which meanders past 15 wineries. As you go, savor treats from restaurants that highlight local produce and meats, including Root & Vine Market in Paonia and 133 BRGR in Hotchkiss. Head to Paonia's Town Park on summer Tuesdays for the Arbol Farmers Market's fresh local eats and live music.

Paonia, Hotchkiss and Crawford form a Certified Colorado Creative District, where artsy folk mix with the mesas. Delta's historic Main Street is lined with colorful murals.

For history, Fort Uncompahgre brings an 1820s fur-trading post to life, and

the Delta County Museum's big draw is a collection of dinosaur discoveries from the nearby Dry Mesa quarry site. Follow signs to the Eagle Rock Shelter Access from Hwy. 92, where the earliest humans known to inhabit North America found shelter on a ledge above the Gunnison River.

Sweitzer Lake State Park is ideal for boating, birding and moonlight paddling, as are Paonia and Crawford state parks. Western Slope SUP can get you set up 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 Sidewinder mountain-bike trail, the County Line trail system, Escalante Rim Loop and the North Rim Entrance to Black Canyon of

the Gunnison National Park. There's also miles of singletrack and a skills and pump track in Delta's Confluence Park.

Antique shops in Delta and the old-school Tru Vu Drive In Theater should scratch an itch for nostalgic pursuits. Other must-see spots include the charming Cirque Boutique, Creamery Arts Center, Azura Cellars and Gallery, Paonia United Brewing Co., The Storm Cellar and Delicious Orchards & Big B's Cidery.

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.

Playing & Pampering



Vail

Luxury resorts, world-famous golf, family attractions, events and stunning vistas make Vail, Beaver Creek, Avon, Minturn and Eagle ideal for pleasure-seekers.

Days 1 & 2

Savor sun-drenched mountain mornings in the Vail Valley, where plenty of options draw you outside. Vail Mountain has oodles of summer fun at Epic Discovery, where visitors tackle ropes courses, an alpine coaster, mini golf and more.

Or grab a round at several Eagle County golf courses to see your ball fly farther in the thin, alpine air. There's also the nearby West Avon Preserve trail system, with winding trails for all difficulty levels. Trailhead parking in the area fills up quickly, so hop the free bus to hike and bike. Learn more at discovervail.com/hike.

Lunch at one of Vail's many fabulous restaurants. Then indulge in a spa day or stroll Vail Village and nearby Beaver Creek for world-class shopping — from glitzy jewelry and couture clothing to T-shirts and artwork.

Animal-centric adventures are plentiful, too: Goat Yoga at Vail Stables combines the bliss of yoga with the adorable energy of baby goats. 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 fly-fishing trips on private waters.

Be sure to check for special summertime 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, home to the state's largest Fourth of July celebration, paddle-boats, SUPs, fishing and picnic spots. Summers on Nottingham Lake bring the heat with sunset SUP races. Walking Mountains Science Center provides a special place for learning and discovery through guided hikes, camps and other family activities.

Eagle is growing in popularity as a home base 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 gateway to main trailheads for mountain bikers, runners and hikers.

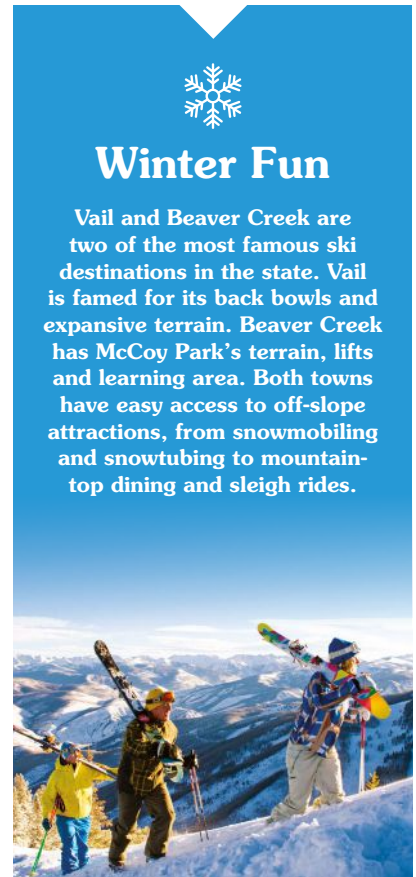
Eagle River Park has whitewater waves and holes for surfing, kayaking, rafting and tubing, as well as a beach area.

Check out Minturn's galleries, antique shops and the Minturn Market, with crafts, prepared foods, farms, live music and more. The town's Everkrisp Trail delights outdoors lovers and connects to 222 miles of Forest Service trails for hiking, biking, Nordic skiing and snowshoeing. Grab trail maps at Town Hall.

Gypsum has a shooting range, fishing ponds, a championship golf course and the Dry Lake Motocross Park. For OHVers, the Middle Middle rock-crawling trail boasts large boulders, undercut ledges and waterfall climbs.

Red Cliff is a jumping-off point for mountain biking, cross-country skiing, wildflower hikes and more. Edwards' Riverwalk shopping district has 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 snowshoers, skiers and hikers. Book early — these huts fill up fast.



Winter Fun

Vail and Beaver Creek are two of the most famous ski destinations in the state. Vail is famed for its back bowls and expansive terrain. Beaver Creek has McCoy Park's terrain, lifts and learning area. Both towns have easy access to off-slope attractions, from snowmobiling and snowtubing to mountain-top dining and sleigh rides.



Nottingham Lake

THE VAIL VALLEY

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



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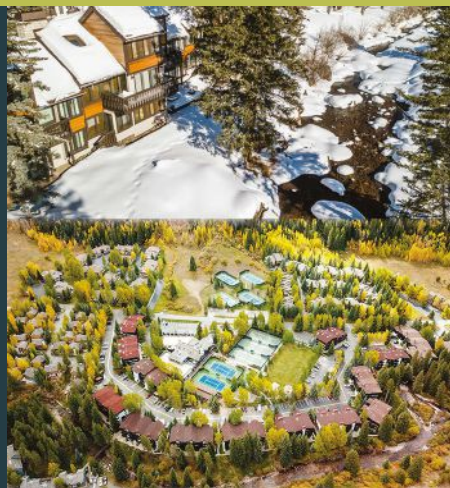
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Bikes, Art & Beer Lead to Bliss



Jessup Farm Barrel House

Cruise between Fort Collins, Loveland and Greeley, where bike trails, breweries, farm-to-table menus, museums and artful spaces converge with natural beauty, plentiful recreation and the Poudre River.

Day 1

In Fort Collins, you'll find almost 300 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 and get pedaling!

Start the day at one of Historic Old Town's artisan coffee shops, and then explore bookstores, shops and galleries while you sip.

Kids in tow? Head to 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. Stop at The Butterfly House at The Gardens on Spring Creek for fluttery delights.

For lunch, grab a sweet or savory Czech-inspired pastry at the Colorado Kolache Company. Or head back to Old Town to sample everything from wings and tacos to pulled-pork waffles at The Exchange.

The city's 20-plus breweries offer a wide variety of styles and flavors — pick up a tasting journal from the Downtown Visitor Center. Odell Brewing and New Belgium pair delicious pours with sprawling beer gardens, but for a full-bodied beer experience, you should also hit smaller breweries like The Gilded Goat and Horse & Dragon.

If water's more your style, visit Horsetooth Reservoir — its 6.5-mile lake and red cliffs are loved by hikers, bikers and paddlers. Or raft down Class III and IV rapids on the nationally designated Wild and Scenic Cache la Poudre.



SIDETRIPS

Located northwest of Fort Collins, the rustic mountain village of **Red Feather Lakes** is far from energetic 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. A peaceful place to explore the plains is the town's 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.

In the evening, whether you're after thought-provoking pieces or lively entertainment, numerous performance venues are sure to scratch any creative itches. For starry night skies, Red Mountain Open Space, Soapstone Prairie and Coyote Ridge natural areas are a few places to spot far-away galaxies. The Northern Colorado Astronomical Society also hosts public events.

Day 2

Drive 30 minutes south to arts-obsessed Loveland. Wander Benson Sculpture Garden's nearly 200 sculptures. Then head downtown, where charming blocks showcase historical buildings, shops and restaurants. Check out The Foundry, a three-block, mixed-use haven with events, a movie theater and more. Or, stop by the Loveland Visitors Center for information on the Sweetheart City's many breweries.

Speaking of sweethearts ... loved ones can lock in their affections on two 10-foot-tall LOVE sculptures. Buy an engraved lock at the visitors center, and then step outside or head to Lake Loveland to lock your love on the grids.

Hikers seek out The Keyhole rock formation at Devil's Backbone Open Space, an impressive geologic landmark. Boaters, fishers, paddleboarders and other water lovers will find plenty to do in the area at picturesque Carter Lake, as well as Boyd Lake State Park, Lou Hagler Reservoir and others. You can also make an easy 35-mile day trip to Rocky Mountain National Park and settle back in Loveland for the evening.

Day 3

Like any good college town, Greeley has a fine selection of coffeehouses to kick your day off right. Hit historical hot spots to learn about Greeley's past. The 1870 Meeker Home Museum and the Greeley History Museum — where you can see the famous serpentine dress of local legend Rattlesnake Kate — are sure to please.

Greeley's culinary offerings grow every year, including breweries, distilleries and on-trend restaurants. 477 Distilling, Daruma Japanese

Restaurant and Birrieria Doña Maria are just a few examples.

Stop by the Colorado Model Railroad Museum, which features more than 1,100 railroad-related artifacts. 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 river access, fishing and wildlife viewing. The Poudre Learning Center has a fishing club, garden tours, bike trails and more.

You'll find more than 160 pieces of public art sprinkled around Greeley, as well as lovely parks — including Homestead Park and Open Spaces — that feature lakes, small streams, bridges, waterfalls and islands.

Every summer Friday brings live music on the Ninth Street Plaza for Friday Fest, with face painting, bubbles artistry, sidewalk chalk and more.



Benson Sculpture Garden

Feel the Magic of the Wild Frontier



Historic Arkansas Riverwalk

Once a rough-and-tumble mining town inhabited by cowboys, gold-seekers and ruffians like Wild Bill Hickok, modern-day Pueblo is a sunny playground on the banks of the Arkansas River.

Morning

Begin in the colorful Union Avenue Historic District, once home to trading posts, gambling saloons and brothels. Today, it's one of three areas that make up Pueblo's Creative Corridor — hubs of museums, live music, galleries and more. The creatives of Pueblo Arts Alliance host an array of events, including their monthly First Friday Art Walk.

Stroll the Historic Arkansas Riverwalk, a 32-acre waterfront plaza connecting walking and biking trails to a nature center and even Lake Pueblo State Park. Near the riverwalk is Neon Alley, an outdoor museum of vintage signs and new creations.

For a more active morning, gravel bikers will find plenty of sweet trails, ranging from 2 to 170-plus miles. Download the *Pueblo Gravel Adventure Guide* from visitpueblo.org for more. Gravel Locos, a free cycling event with four unique routes, made its Pueblo debut in 2022.

Afternoon

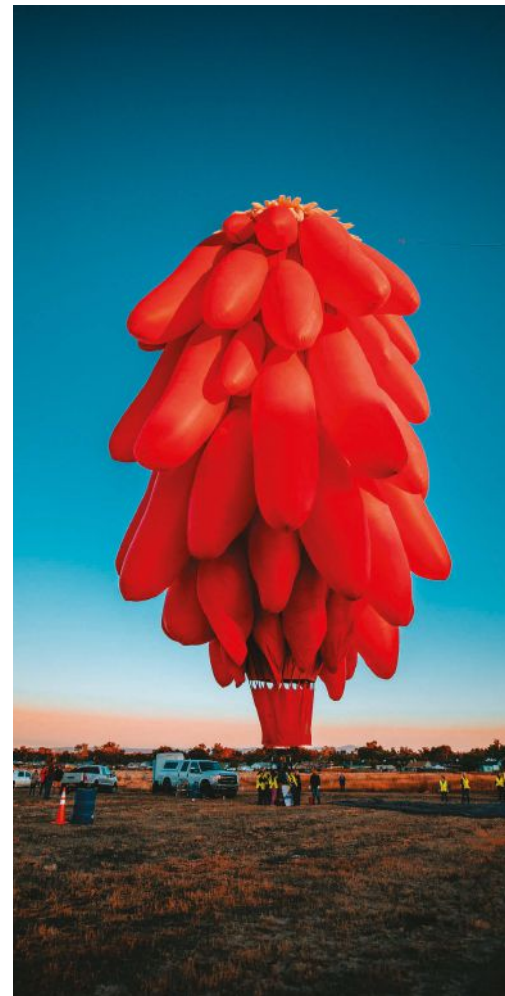
Traveling with kids? Mosey over to the award-winning Buell Children's Museum, adored for its hands-on arts, science and history exhibits. There's also Pueblo Weisbrod Aircraft Museum, a World War II-era Army air base with vintage aircraft; the El Pueblo History Museum, a recreated 1840s adobe trading post; Pueblo Railway Museum, a railyard hosting train rides and family-friendly events; and the Rosemount Museum, a 37-room 1893 mansion.

Evening

Watch the city melt into shades of gold and red on a sunset boat ride. In Old Town, sample the town's de facto mascot: the chile pepper. Try a Pueblo Slopper, a burger smothered in pork green chili, cheese and onions. Take the Pueblo Chile Farm Tour on Hwy. 50 to soak in the aromas, colors and hard work of local farmers (Aug.–Sept.). Roadside markets also offer sausage, cheese, honey and more.



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- MILES OF GRAVEL BIKE TRAILS
- HISTORIC DOWNTOWN DISTRICT



VISITPUEBLO.ORG

A Grand Time in Grand County



Grand Lake

Day 1

In this 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.

Start at Winter Park Resort, a long-running ski resort that doubles as a summer playground. Ride a gondola to the mountaintop to mountain bike down ramps, jumps and exciting terrain. There's also an alpine slide, a climbing wall, mini golf, a ropes course, guided hikes and more. Head downtown for places to wet your whistle and stroll the art trail.

Hop on the 10-mile Fraser River Trail via foot, bike or cross-country skis. The trail ends at Headwaters River Journey, where exhibits explore the wonders of conservation and preservation. Or book an aerial-park outing with Winter Park Adventure Quest in Fraser. Meanwhile, Snow Mountain Ranch has a grin-inducing summer tubing hill and other family activities.

A handful of breweries and lunch spots make Fraser an excellent stop for a break, including Vicious Cycle Brewing

Company, whose sours, lagers and IPAs will brighten up any day. The town is also a perfectly located home base for outdoor adventure (and is known for its lift-served winter snow-tubing hill).

In laid-back Grand Lake, note the town's Western character in historical boardwalks and hitching posts. As Colorado's deepest and largest natural lake, Grand Lake itself attracts fun-seekers looking to boat, ride the Rocky Mountain Amphicar, water ski, SUP, fish, sail or relax on the beach.

As the western entrance to Rocky Mountain National Park, Grand Lake has quiet, best-kept-secret vibes and is an excellent spot for viewing moose and other wildlife year-round. (Note: the park requires timed-entry reservations.)

Cap your evening in one of the state's Certified Creative Districts with a musical at Grand Lake's Rocky Mountain Repertory Theatre.

Day 2

As the Colorado River carves its way from the Continental Divide to the Pacific, it treats Grand County visitors to some of the greatest rafting and Gold Medal fishing around. Jagged red canyons and lush valleys provide ideal backdrops for mellow floats; outfitters can be found throughout the county.

Granby offers Western hospitality, and a main street of antique shops and restaurants. For a true taste of town, savor a hearty meal at The Cafe at Fitch Ranch Meats & Markets, owned and supplied by a local family of ranchers.

You'll also find ample access to the outdoors, including boating and fishing on Lake Granby. Back on dry land, golfers can watch their shots fly farther through our thin air at four mountain golf courses.



Winter Fun

Winter Park Resort's diverse terrain, adventure-concierge service and Winter Park Express Amtrak route from Denver make it a top destination. Nearby Granby Ranch is a long-time family spot, and Bluebird Backcountry offers lessons, guided experiences and more.

All these towns offer fun beyond the slopes, with snowshoeing and Nordic skiing, snow tubing, sleigh and dogsled rides, and snowmobiling.



BOTH IMAGES: NOAH WETZEL

Day 3

An outdoor paradise, Kremmling has some of the state's finest fishing and elk-hunting grounds, plus more than 300 miles of off-roading trails. Head to Rusty Spurr Ranch for horseback rides; hike to Radium Hot Springs on the Colorado River; and journey to the top of Kremmling Cliffs for panoramic views and Muddy Creek fishing access.

Retreat to Hot Sulphur Springs to soak in mineral-rich 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 while away the day with fishing, trails, disc golf, picnic areas and a walking bridge over the Colorado River.



Granby Ranch



MAKE YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE

GRAND

Grand County is the ultimate spot for authentic Colorado adventures. 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. Get ready to experience the real Colorado—start planning your Grand adventure 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

KREMMLING

A Small Town With Endless Possibilities



Located in the heart of the Rockies. Most of the businesses you find here are local and family owned, they are the backbone of what makes this community great. Come to Kremmling for your outdoor adventures and stay to experience the hospitality of a true western mountain town.

970-724-3472 / KremmlingChamber.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 / DestinationGranby.com

HOT SULPHUR SPRINGS

Outdoor Paradise

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

970-531-7588
HSSChamber.com



GRAND ADVENTURES

970-726-9247
GrandAdventures.com



ROCKY MOUNTAIN REPERTORY THEATRE

970-627-3421
RockyMountainRep.com

Cruising Elevation



Tour Leadville's 70 blocks of Victorian-era buildings and shops, all part of a National Historic Landmark District. Many buildings date to the late 1800s, including the recently renovated Delaware Hotel and Tabor Opera House, a stop on the new Colorado Historic Opera House Circuit.

Downtown is walkable and full of places to chill and eat.

Catch a ride on the Leadville, Colorado & Southern Railroad — in 2021 their winter train returned for the first time since 1937! And don't miss the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum and the Matchless Mine Tour.

Leadville sits along the electric-vehicle-friendly Top of the Rockies scenic byway, and the town's paved Mineral Belt Trail offers year-round recreation for bikers, hikers, snowshoers and Nordic skiers. More than 100 miles of the Arkansas River, starting at nearby Lake Fork, are Gold Medal fishing waters brimming with trout. Local outfitters can gear you up and point you to top spots.

Twenty miles from town is historical Twin Lakes, where you'll find world-class fishing and boating, B&Bs and cabins, and some spectacular scenery. Twin Lakes is close to the trailhead of Mount Elbert (our tallest peak) and is the eastern gateway to Independence Pass (Aspen is on the other side), one of the state's highest paved roads. Driving the pass is particularly lovely in fall.



Winter Fun

Cooper is a family-friendly ski area with 64 trails and acres of double-black-diamond runs.

Leadville's East Side Mining District is groomed for Nordic skiing, snowshoeing, fat biking and snowmobiling. The extensive network of trails passes mining structures and unparalleled views of mounts Elbert and Massive.

Twin Lakes winters mean ice fishing, Nordic skiing and snowshoeing on the legendary Colorado and Continental Divide trails.



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

Silver Thread Byway



Weminuche Wilderness

A cruise on the electric-vehicle-friendly Silver Thread byway is a must. The 117-mile route connects welcoming towns that embrace their Western roots (and offer plenty of access to outdoor adventure), ending at beautiful Blue Mesa Reservoir west of Gunnison.

Start in South Fork, where show-stopping views await. Drop a line in the Rio Grande's 20 miles of Gold Medal waters for primo trout fishing or rent an e-bike before enjoying an elk burger or chocolate shake at South Fork Malt Shoppe. With rugged peaks, alpine lakes and dense woodlands, Weminuche Wilderness also draws adventure-seekers.

Creede boasts a small-town ambiance and remnants of a silver-boomtown past, including Last Chance Mine. At the Creede Historical Museum and Underground Mining Museum,

peek into the lives of the miners and entrepreneurs who shaped the town.

Many natural marvels lie between Creede and Lake City, including majestic North Clear Creek Falls and sapphire-blue Lake San Cristobal. Another special spot west of Lake City is American Basin: a high-alpine backcountry awash in late summer wildflowers.

Lake City lays claim to an impressive collection of 1870s buildings, several nearby ghost towns (like Carson, Animas Forks and Capitol City) and panoramas of the San Juan Mountains. For anglers, campers or hikers, it's prime headquarters for fresh-air exploits. You can also pick up a ghost tour at the Hinsdale County Museum and see a show at the old-timey Mountaineer Theatre.

Pursue untamed wilderness, mining history and iconic outdoor activities in South Fork, Creede and Lake City.



Winter Fun

Lake City has 100-plus 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 clubs organizing weekly snowmobiling and snowshoeing outings. And Creede's wilderness is ideal for snowmobile tours.



Ancient Adventures



Mesa Verde National Park

One of the richest archaeological zones in the U.S. is 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 home base in Cortez, an hour from Mesa Verde National Park. Whether you stay at a yurt, cabin or guest ranch, Cortez has excellent dining and shopping opportunities. Check out the new Zu Gallery for artist exhibits, workshops and a social spot serving Colorado-crafted libations. But save in-town exploits for later — you have a national park to explore. Stop by the Colorado Welcome Center for travel tips from locals on the way.

Head to the “green table” of Mesa Verde National Park, home to 4,700-plus archaeological sites, 600 of which are cliff dwellings. Pick up maps and brochures, see exhibits and buy tour tickets at the Visitor and Research Center. Only one cliff dwelling (Step House) is open for

self-guided exploration, so if you want to enter the famed Cliff Palace, you must take a guided tour.

For an overview of the full park, drive the 6-mile Mesa Top Loop Road while listening to the audio tour (available on nps.gov/meve).

Mesa Verde is also an International Dark-Sky Park, so don't miss the chance to view staggeringly starry skies on clear nights.

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



SIDETRIPS

The San Juan Skyway is a 236-mile scenic-byway loop called the “most beautiful drive in America” for good reason. The road traverses 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, the skyway is lined with golden aspens.

The state’s most southwestern town, **Towaoc**, is the headquarters of the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Reservation. Take an interpretive journey of Ute Mountain Tribal Park with a Ute guide. The tribe also operates Ute Mountain Casino Hotel, which includes an RV park, campground, travel center and restaurant.

Mountain Tribal Park in Towaoc, where Ute guides help you explore the culture, architecture and art of the Ute and Ancestral Puebloan people. From here, pass Four Corners Monument on your way to Hovenweep National Monument’s round and square towers, some of which you can reach via a short hike.

Next up is Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. Stop first at the Visitor Center and Museum to learn about the monument and cultures native to the region. Then head to Lowry Pueblo, an ancient structure with 40 rooms and eight circular kivas.

The area’s high-desert canyons, mesas and 600 miles of singletrack, 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 Open Space has 10 additional miles of intermediate biking.

Or head to Mancos, a Certified Colorado Creative District whose community traces its roots back to the ranching, farming and timber industries of the 1870s. Today Mancos boasts little shops brimming with unique gifts

and wonderful art. Local artisans craft everything from beer and rum to leather goods and Western hats. Learn the art of typesetting at Mancos Common Press, a community art space full of vintage and antique printing presses. Or take workshops in blacksmithing, mosaics, pottery, leatherworking and more at the Mancos School of the West.

Taste the region’s flavors on a Colorado wine tour. Cortez is home to two wineries: 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.

If ATVs are more your thing, the Dolores Ranger District can direct you to the good routes, including the Aspen Loop Trail, a multipurpose, 39-mile loop through old logging roads, streams and aspen groves.

Also in Dolores, fishers will find a haven on McPhee Reservoir, Colorado’s second-largest body of water, with 50 miles of shoreline in pinyon, juniper and sagebrush country. Doc’s Marina offers boats and kayak rentals, snacks, ice and tackle.



Canyons of the Ancients National Monument

Wine & Wondrous Adventure Country



Grand Junction, Palisade and Fruita are the heart of wine country and an area “on the rise” thanks to farm stands, vineyards and excellent local-centric dining, according to *Food & Wine Magazine*.

Day 1

The world's largest flat-topped mountain, Grand Mesa is a 10,000-foot-high plateau topped by forest and 300 lakes. Mountain-bike trails lace the area, including the new Palisade Plunge — an advanced 32-mile high-speed singletrack ride.

The Colorado River is accessible to kayaks, canoes, rafts and paddleboards. Riverfront Trail's Monument View section runs 28 miles along the river from Fruita to Grand Junction. The Las Colonias Park section hosts events, tiny-home rentals and open space for hiking and disc golf, plus nearby Edgewater Brewery.

The Palisade Fruit & Wine Byway is another way to see the area, routing through orchards, lavender gardens, vineyards, fruit stands and river views. Look up to spy the Bookcliffs, named for their shape. For dinner, the agricultural bounty doesn't disappoint: Expect seasonal menus and notes of hyperlocally sourced peaches, cherries, plums and more — not to mention wine, beer and cocktails.

Day 2

Start your morning in downtown Grand Junction, where outdoor seating lets you bask in the morning air over brunch.

Those looking to get their heart rates up have options: Jet Boat Colorado's fast Colorado River rides; Get Air Trampoline Park's trampoline and cave climb; Imondi Wake Zone's cable wakeboarding and aqua park; and Grand Junction Adventure's river tours and stand-up paddleboard lessons.

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

West of Grand Junction, the stunning red-rock canyonlands of Colorado National Monument will fill your photo library. Drive the 23-mile Rim Rock Drive or take a ranger-led tour. In the summer, hook up with Western

Continued on page 156.



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WHERE LIFE LEADS



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The most exciting boat tour on the Colorado River! Jet Boat Colorado, LLC offers mixed group and private river tours for groups of all sizes. Located on the banks of the Colorado River, just 25 minutes east of Grand Junction. All trips include stunning canyon views, mountain scenery, and western hospitality.

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Museums of Western Colorado

Inspiring and connecting our community by championing the scientific and cultural heritage of the Colorado Plateau. Explore the art, history, archaeology, and paleontology of the area at the Museum of the West, Cross Orchards Historic Site, and Dinosaur Journey Museum.

**970-242-0971
MOWC.co**

Downtown Grand Junction

The Cultural Hub of the Grand Junction Area



If you're discovering downtown for the first time or a frequent visitor, you've come to the right place! Downtown is home to over 400 locally owned shops, galleries, spas, and more! You'll also find over 45 unique restaurants, breweries, tasting rooms, and coffee shops! Take a walk through our outdoor sculpture and mural collection, all part of GJ Creates – our state-certified creative district!

970-245-9697 / DowntownGJ.org / GJCreates.org

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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 is a special spot for those willing to earn it — it's reached via rough 4x4 drive and a moderate hike.

Serious mountain bikers should add an extra day to explore the trails around Fruita, arguably the top network of singletrack in Colorado. Thirty-two new mountain-bike trails are under construction in the North Fruita Desert, so even more rideable terrain is coming soon. Rock crawlers can find vast and varied terrain there, too. The town is popular with ATVers who love desert trails. Numerous outfitters can set you up with maps and info on the area.

In summer, cheer on the riders at the Rimrock Rodeo or jam out at Civic Center Park downtown.



Winter Fun

Skiers and riders see something more like the Grand Canyon than the typical alpine view at Powderhorn Mountain Resort on the Grand Mesa. Ski Patrol Ski Along can be your personal guide there. Or explore 50 kilometers of cross-country trails, and then end your day in one of the base area's tiny homes.



Summer Fun

Powderhorn is now open during the summer with scenic chairlift rides to stunning panoramic views, 5 miles of hiking trails, and 13 miles of high-speed-lift-assisted downhill mountain biking for riders of all skill levels — including rentals, lessons and an expanding trail system.



FROM LEFT: POWDERHORN MOUNTAIN RESORT/ERIC SCHRAMM; POWDERHORN MOUNTAIN RESORT.

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The Real South Park



Windy Ridge Bristlecone Pine Scenic Area

The South Park basin towns of Fairplay, Como, Bailey and Alma boast local color gained from wonderfully diverse landscapes, fondly preserved historical sites, and mining and ranching heritage.

South Park is a National Heritage Area tucked in a river valley flanked by 14,000-foot peaks. It has a wealth of natural assets, including mineral deposits, unique geological formations and 100-plus rare or endangered plant and animal species.

Fairplay, established during the Pikes Peak Gold Rush, is now the Trout Fishing Capital of Colorado, with 50-plus miles of Gold Medal streams. Explore via horseback or ATV for maximum fresh-air fulfillment. Find your way to the Windy Ridge Bristlecone Pine Scenic Area, an unusual stand of ancient, wind-sculpted pines.

Get a feel for life in the 1880s at South Park City, where 40 authentic, artifact-filled buildings have been transported from nearby mining communities. On Fairplay's Main and Front streets, historical storefronts house eateries, galleries and shops.

Find more Colorado history in Como, a tiny community with several 1800s-era buildings, like the Como Depot — once an integral stop on the Denver, South Park and Pacific Railroad. The Mountain Man Gallery exhibits works by local and regional artists, and hikers love to trek along 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. Highlights include 13,185-foot Mosquito Pass (one of Colorado's highest, and recommended only on foot or via OHV); the nearby ghost town of Buckskin Joe; and Alma Cemetery, where you can investigate stories of fortunes lost and found.

For canyon views, stop in Bailey to stretch your legs in McGraw Memorial Park. Pop into Aspen Peak Cellars for local wines and a charcuterie lunch and hike into the Lost Creek Wilderness to camp along Goose Creek Trail.

Some Things Can Only Be Found in Boulder



Chautauqua Park

Breathtaking views of the Flatirons and Rocky Mountains, a laid-back vibe and celebrated culinary offerings are just a few reasons that make Boulder one of Colorado's most beloved cities — nestled between the mountains and reality.

Morning

Playfully referred to as the People's Republic of Boulder, it's characterized by research centers, the University of Colorado, artsy folks, world-class restaurants and hyper-athletic citizens. Start on Pearl Street Mall, the city's main hub, which is lined with historical buildings housing shops and restaurants. For a quintessential experience, drop into The Tune Up, a place to rent or shop for bikes, get coffee and hear live music. Or hook up with JD's Joyrides to view Boulder's vibrant Mural Trail from an e-bike.

Saturdays and Wednesdays, April–mid-November, stroll Boulder Farmers Market; their sell-what-you-grow policy lures in area chefs, so you may taste some of those market veggies at dinner. You can also explore the Boulder County Farm Trail, featuring numerous farms and other places

where you can pick berries, pet animals, picnic in barns or take classes.

Afternoon

Discover the hiking trails in National Historic Landmark Chautauqua Park, with options to suit every skill level and up-close views of the Flatirons — the slanting sandstone slabs that are Boulder's most recognizable landmark. Pro tip: On summer weekends, snag the free shuttle to Chautauqua or Eldorado Canyon State Park from several Boulder locations

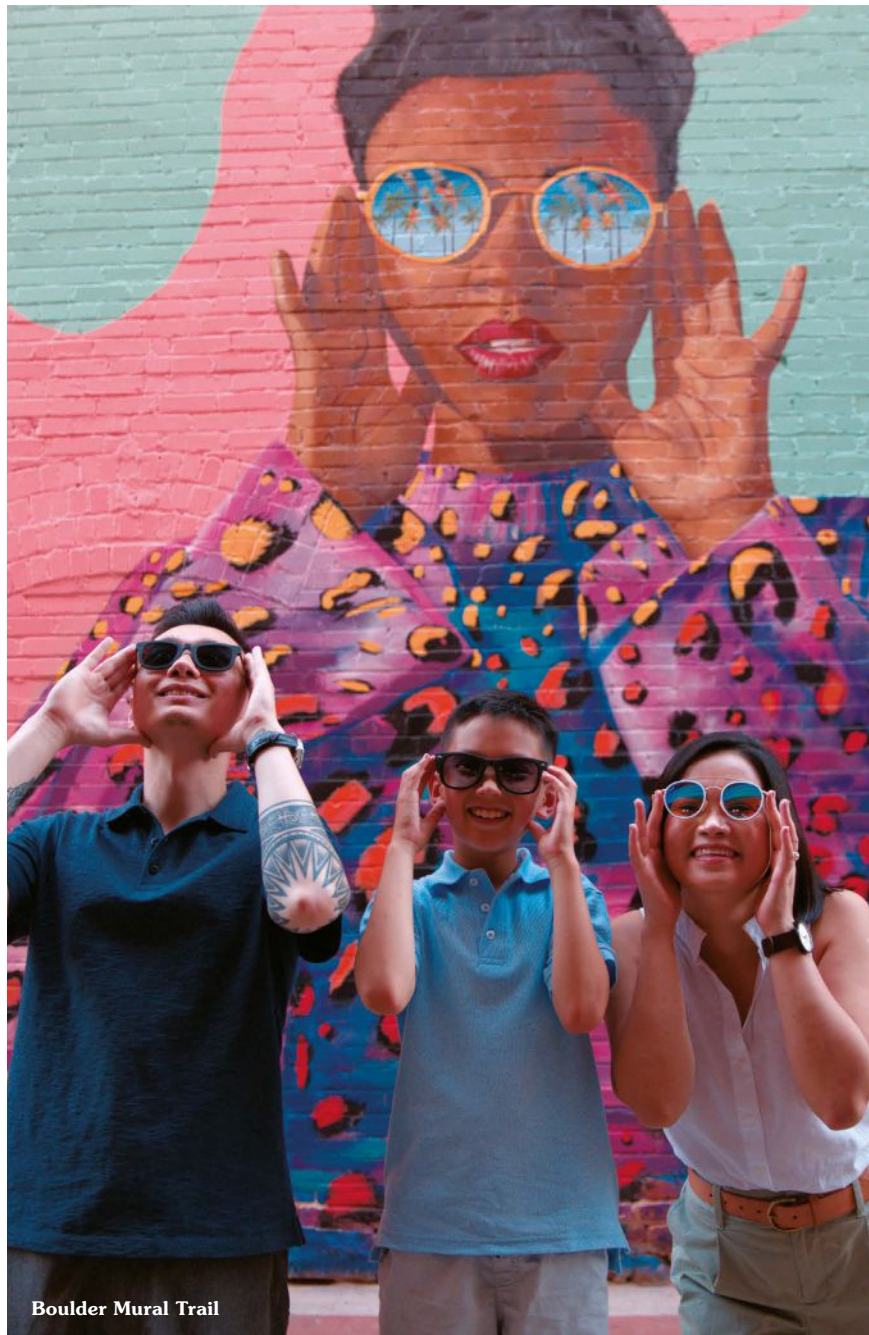
There's also the Museum of Boulder, which hosts traveling exhibitions from nationally recognized museums. Or check the schedule for Creative Nations, a new collective for Indigenous artists that hosts artist talks, markets, performances and more at the Dairy Arts Center.

Evening

Dinner on the town is a must, given that Boulder is known for its divine foodiness. Pearl Street boasts an array of options, including Provençal-inspired Mateo, Ash'Kara's contemporary Israeli cuisine and Spanish-style tapas at Gemini. Rayback Collective is a food-truck park/beer garden/live-music venue drawing those in the know east of downtown. For

more hot places to eat and explore, visit bouldercoloradousa.com.

After, taste the local suds at a brewery — there are nearly 20 (not counting cideries, distilleries, wineries and Redstone Meadery — makers of sweet honey wines). Pick up a Boulder Beer Trail brochure at area visitor centers or catch a ride on the Colorado Brewery Bus.



Boulder Mural Trail

FROM LEFT: KATE RALSTON; ELDORA WOMEN'S MULTI-WEEK PROGRAM.



Winter Fun

While not a traditional ski town, Boulder's proximity to skiing at nearby Eldora Mountain Resort, plus affordable winter lodging and downtown vibes make it a primo cold-season destination. Downhillers can schuss Eldora's slopes in the morning and head back to town for a hike or bike ride in the afternoon. Boulder is also becoming a destination for fat biking. Eldora's Nordic Center offers lessons and trails designed specifically for cross-country skiing, skate skiing and snowshoeing.



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).

The teeny town of **Nederland** (30 minutes) is a stop on the way to the Indian Peaks and James Peak wilderness areas, as well as shopping and dining along the Peak to Peak scenic byway. The Wild Bear Mountain Ecology Center's nature programs, trails and workshops help you enjoy the area's spectacular scenery, and Barker Meadow Reservoir picnic spots and trails are also popular ways to get outside.



Boulder Events

- JAN**
 - 6 University of Colorado Men's and Women's Basketball (through March 3)
 - 22 Boulder Philharmonic (Through May 6th)
- FEB**
 - 23-26 Boulder Ballet's "New Moves"
 - 25 Winter Craft Beer Festival
- MAR**
 - 2-5 Boulder International Film Festival
 - 12-20 CU Presents "Takács Quartet"
 - TBD Boulder Arts Week
- APR**
 - 1 Boulder Farmers Market (through Nov. 18)
 - 12-14 Conference on World Affairs
 - 23 Tulip Fairy & Elf Festival
- MAY**
 - 13 Boulder Bach Festival presents "Il Grande Amore"
 - 17-21 Colorado MahlerFest
 - 29 BoulderBoulder 10k Road Race
- JUN**
 - 14 Bands on the Bricks (through Aug. 2)
 - TBD Twenty Ninth Street LIVE Concert Series
 - TBD Colorado Shakespeare Festival (through mid Aug.)
- JUL**
 - 4 4th of July at Folsom Field
 - 14-16 Pearl Street Arts Fest
 - 31 Frequent Flyers Aerial Dance Festival (through Aug. 12)
- AUG**
 - TBD Pearl Street Mile
 - TBD Boulder Taco Fest
 - TBD Colorado Brazil Fest
- SEP**
 - 10 Buffalo Bicycle Classic
 - 22-24 Boulder Fall Fest
- OCT**
 - Open Studio Tours (the first three weekends of October)
 - TBD First Bite: Boulder's Restaurant Week
 - 31 Munchkin Masquerade
- NOV**
 - 24 St. Nick on the Bricks (Friday, Nov. 24 and Saturdays, Nov. 25-Dec. 23)
 - TBD Boulder Ballet's "The Nutcracker"
 - TBD Boulder Jewish Film Festival
- DEC**
 - 2 Lights of December Parade
 - 9 Freezie Fest
 - TBD Snow Much Fun Light Displays

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



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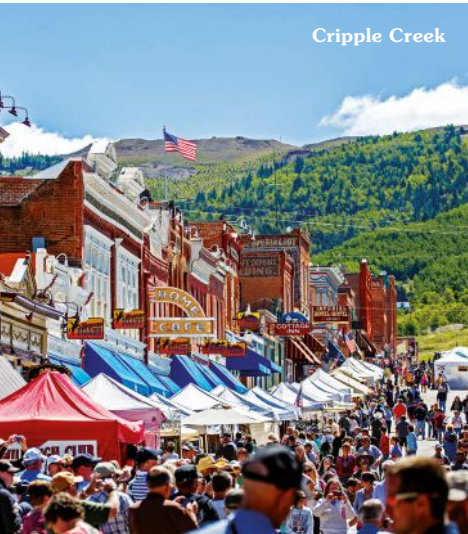
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Gold Rush Time Travel

Follow the path to Cripple Creek, which came to life when the hills beckoned fortune-seekers.



Cripple Creek

Get a hands-on look at the Gold Rush era with a mine tour of Mollie Kathleen, where you'll don a hard hat and descend 1,000 feet to see a vein of gold and ride in a mine cart.

Hop on the historical Cripple Creek & Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad (May–Oct.) through the gold-mining district. Visits to the Cripple Creek Heritage Center and the Cripple Creek District Museum are forays into the past, as is the Gold Camp Historical Trolley Tour.

Hikers head for the trails in the Gold Camp, as well, taking in views and old mining structures along the way.

Stroll Bennett Avenue's nostalgic pathway, shops, restaurants like Gold Camp Cafe and more. Join today's

fortune-seekers at betting tables in nine casinos. Then, take your winnings to the historic Butte Theater for a drama-filled treat, and snap pics of the town's resident donkey herd.

The drive from Cripple Creek to Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument — a 35-million-year-old lake bed filled with insects, leaves and huge redwoods frozen in time — is a beautiful leg of the Gold Belt Tour, a National Scenic Byway.

If you happen to be staying in Colorado Springs, Pueblo or Woodland Park, the Ramblin Express shuttle runs up to Cripple Creek each day.

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Red Rocks Park & Amphitheatre

Golden is set in an area of outstanding natural beauty just 12 miles from Denver. Lookout Mountain looms above town and offers you panoramic views in every direction.

Morning

See famous frontier scout and showman Buffalo Bill Cody's story come to life. He was buried at Lookout Mountain in 1917. Learn more about him at a museum near the gravesite. The drive to the gravesite begins in historic downtown Golden on the electric-vehicle-friendly Lariat Loop scenic byway.

The Colorado Railroad Museum has a half-mile circle of track on which they run steam locomotives and the famous Galloping Goose, a 1928 Pierce-Arrow limousine put on train wheels with a bus welded to the back. And the Bradford Washburn American Mountaineering Museum is the first and only in the nation dedicated to mountaineering history.

Bike or hike the paved Clear Creek Trail, which follows the creek from

the mountains through Golden to Denver; or tube and kayak a human-made whitewater course with rapids and gentle falls. The free, creekside Golden History Museum has 1800s cabins, a one-room schoolhouse and items from eras past.

Afternoon

South Table Mountain and North Table Mountain are landmark mesas rising above town with commanding views of the area. Triceratops Trail, an easy path to dinosaur fossils, is popular with families.

Of course, you'll stop into Golden's highest-profile attraction: Coors Brewery. Marvel at a room of giant copper kettles and watch thousands of cans and bottles whirl around you.

Or savor the craft-beer scene at the town's numerous local breweries. While many don't serve food, you can bring your own snacks in or order from the food trucks parked outside.

Find something for everyone at Tributary Food Hall or The Golden Mill. Delights range from charcuterie and gelato to a self-pour tap wall stocked with Colorado beers, cocktails and non-alcoholic beverages.

Evening

Catch a concert at (or just hike around) Red Rocks Park & Amphitheatre in nearby Morrison. The natural amphitheater was listed on the nation's top bucket list for outdoor concerts by *Rolling Stone Magazine*.

Go Slow: Highway of Legends



Near the southern border, where the Sangre de Cristo Mountains intersect the grassland of the high plains, find the frontier towns of Trinidad, Walsenburg, La Veta and Cuchara.

Day 1

Start at the Trinidad Municipal Golf Course, a nine-holer with Sangre de Cristo views. Trinidad Lake State Park and the Wormhole Loop network of trails are home to miles of multi-use routes that weave through the hills nearby. At Fishers Peak, one of our newest state parks, picnic or stroll meadows and forests via two new paths, including Challenge Trail for its pleasing mesa views.

Wander the brick-lined streets of Old Trinidad for one of the largest collections of Victorian-era houses in the West. You'll find a trove of artists' galleries, and Main Street LIVE theater performances. These factors and more led to the Corazón de Trinidad being named a Certified Colorado Creative District. The Art Cartopia Museum shows just how creative folks can get here, especially when inspired by the town's annual ArtoCade (art-car parade) held each September.

Day 2

The Trinidad History Museum houses the meticulously preserved Baca House, an 1870 two-story adobe that combines Hispanic construction with British design. The Santa Fe Trail Museum exhibits evoke frontier life from the trail days to the 1920s.

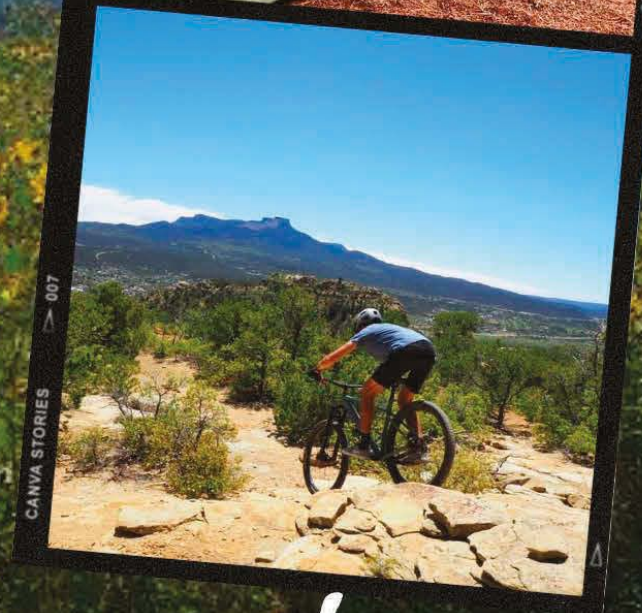
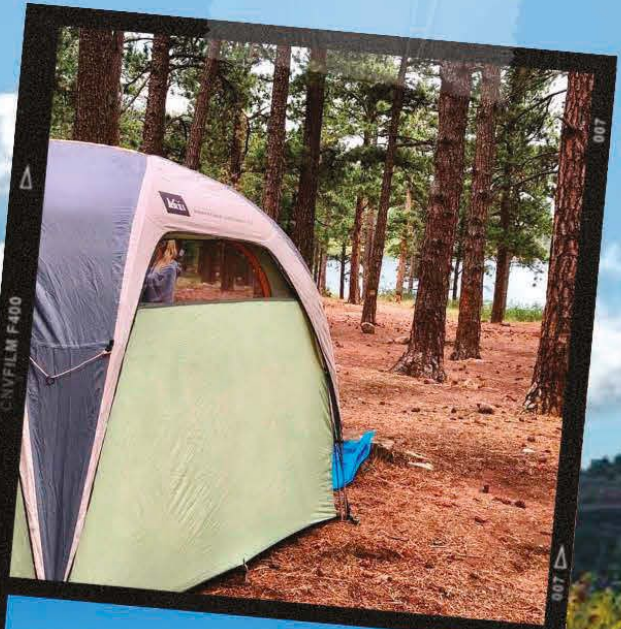
End your visit with a drive along the Highway of Legends, a state and National Scenic Byway. From Trinidad, the byway continues west to Cokedale, where a strip of old coke ovens (used to mix and heat coal) lines the road, resembling something out of ancient Rome.

The byway heads north alongside the Sangre de Cristos, affording spectacular views of those mountains to the west as well as the monstrous volcanic walls (or dikes) that jut from the Spanish Peaks to the east. It also passes through the San Isabel National Forest and three cute towns. Cuchara has

stunning Sangre views (especially from the Cuchara Mountain Park trails and disc-golf course; in winter, it opens to snowshoeing and cross-country skiing). For summer splendor, pull off Cuchara Pass at the Farley Wildflower Overlook and behold a color-filled meadow. Scope out Walsenburg's antique shops, mining museum, water park, visitor center and Lathrop State Park. And peek into La Veta's art galleries and the 1862 adobe Francisco Fort Museum. Check out Uptop ghost town on Old La Veta Pass — a haunt 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, as well as the legends of those who passed through in days of yore.

Trinidad, Colorado



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Golden Hours in the San Luis Valley



Great Sand Dunes
National Park and Preserve

The Rio Grande snakes through a valley ringed by mountains and peppered with hidden lakes, waterfalls and picture-perfect landscapes. Explore intriguing, tucked-away towns like Alamosa, San Luis, Monte Vista, Saguache and Crestone.

Day 1

Leap into the valley's deep roots in the state's oldest town: San Luis, which 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 before Colorado was even a state. Visit the 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 along a path that leads to an adobe chapel.

Continue north to Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve's visitor center to learn how North America's tallest dunes 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 summer and a giant ice sculpture in winter. Book a flightseeing trip with Rugged Air Tours to see the park's dunes from the heavens.

Detour to Hwy. 17 and check out two unusual spots: the Colorado Gators Reptile Park in Mosca, where you can see and handle alligators and other scaly critters; and the UFO Watchtower in Hooper, a quirky roadside attraction, to learn of the valley's surprising number of UFO sightings. Book a glamping tent at Rustic Rook Resort to roast s'mores while you scan the skies for clues.

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.

From Antonito, hop on the Los Caminos Antiguos scenic byway to discover 16th-century Spanish influences through adobe missions, museums, galleries and authentic cuisine. Back in Alamosa, stop by the Colorado Welcome Center for directions to hiking/biking trails within the city and along the Rio Grande.

Photographers will find Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge a worthy detour for shots of avocets, killdeer, herons and other wildlife. March's Monte Vista Crane Festival celebrates the 20,000 migrating sandhill cranes.

Day 3

Those who love rock climbing, biking, hiking and hunting should spend a day in Saguache, a small community north of Alamosa surrounded by the Sangres to the east and San Juans to the west. Check out the Saguache County Museum, a former jail that houses local lore and memorabilia.

Not far is Penitente Canyon, whose 100-foot walls are beloved by climbers. As you hike the trails, try to spy one of Colorado's rarest plants, the neoparrya, scaling the cliff walls.

Nestled into the base of the Sangres, tiny Crestone is a unique blend of spiritual New-Agers who frequent the Hindu temple and Zen center, along with artists, adventurers and birders.



SIDETRIPS

Fort Garland was originally established to protect early settlers in the valley. The structure now houses the Fort Garland Museum & Cultural Center, where visitors can view adobe buildings, Hispanic art and 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, which has Gold

Medal waters for anglers, particularly those who like float fishing. Other natural wonders include 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 that's popular with outdoors lovers. South of Alamosa and Del Norte, **Conejos** reflects the culture of Old Mexico and boasts fantastic fly-fishing opportunities.



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Near Westcliffe

This peaceful valley, sandwiched between the Wet and Sangre de Cristo mountains, is home to 200 miles of trails and 54 alpine lakes — and Westcliffe and Silver Cliff were the first Colorado communities recognized by the International Dark-Sky Association.

Day 1

Start at Westcliffe's new Main Street Welcome Center for stargazing tips. Then, fuel your day with smothered-in-goodness burritos, followed by Dark Skies ice-cream sundaes at nearby Stage Stop.

Next, head to Planet Walk — a free solar-system exhibit boasting a scale of 4 billion to one. Each planetary sign contains a handy QR code that'll connect you to audio guides about our vast universe.

Celebrate the night with an old-fashioned Amish wagon ride from Sunset Ranch for star-strewn delights along quiet country roads. Gaze toward the glittering heavens as horses placidly clop-clop along.

Day 2

Soak in the area's rugged grandeur on a portion of the nearly 30-mile Rainbow Trail for fantastic sights like Mount Ouray and, if you're lucky, colorful cactus blooms.

Then order goodies like bacon-wrapped venison fillets at The Historic Alpine Lodge in Westcliffe, or tangy barbecue tacos at Tacos el Tapatio in Silver Cliff.

After the sun sets, delve into the cosmos with a guide at a Smokey Jack Observatory star party — you'll see shimmering constellations, glimmering planets and, of course, the infinite depths of the Milky Way through the observatory's telescope.

Day 3

Hop on the 104-mile Frontier Pathways scenic byway to motor along the winding Sangre de Cristos, through the San Isabel National Forest, then by Hardscrabble Canyon and Lake Isabel, an ideal spot for fishing, hiking and picnicking.

Go along Hwy. 165 to Bishop Castle, a quirky fortress Jim Bishop has been building on his own for more than 40 years.

Rest Awhile in Cowboy Country



Meeker

Literally millions of acres of pristine public land and free-flowing rivers soothe travel-weary eyes. This corner of the state includes Dinosaur, Maybell, Craig, Meeker and Rangely — and endless routes leading to wild beauty still home to cowboys and gals.

Day 1

Spend a day at Dinosaur National Monument, an active research area brimming with fossils and artifacts. The little-known Yampa Bench Road offers five-star monument views. Visit the Gates of Lodore, accessible by trail or raft, for tranquility and sheer wow-factor.

Drive east to Maybell for a day excursion or camping trip, where Cross Mountain Canyon walls surround the Yampa River. At Sand Wash Basin, marvel at hundreds of wild mustangs (tours are available).

North of Dinosaur is Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge. This high-desert valley hosts 300-plus native and migratory species, like pronghorn, bighorn sheep and moose.

Day 2

West of Maybell in Craig, find one of the nation's best collections of gunfighter and cowboy memorabilia at

the Museum of Northwest Colorado, as well as lots of places for good grub.

The horseshoe-shaped, juniper-rimmed Cedar Mountain offers 880 acres for mountain biking, horseback riding and cross-country skiing. On the 3.5-mile Stearns Trail — great for many abilities — you'll see mule deer, marmot, foxes and coyotes.

Wrestle with your crappie, pike and rainbow trout dinner at Elkhead Reservoir State Park. It's also a water- and Jet-Skiing paradise, and 11 miles of trails greet recreators.

Day 3 & 4

Meeker and Rangely are prime jumping-off points for exploring some of our finest wilderness areas along the 250-mile Wagon Wheel OHV trail system. Visitors can ride through OHV-friendly Meeker to stretch their

legs on a self-guided history tour of the downtown area, followed by a pint at Smoking River Brewing Company. The town is also a hub for the electric-vehicle-friendly Flat Tops Trail scenic byway (loved for autumn leaf peeping).

Press east to Rangely for a museum with rare cars and motorcycles from the early 1900s; The TANK Center for Sonic Arts, an acoustically perfect steel-water-tank-turned concert hall; and more opportunities for wilderness exploration. The area is also home to numerous hiking and biking trails and ample free camping on surrounding Bureau of Land Management lands — perfect for celestial stargazers.

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

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Pawnee Pioneer Trails



Pawnee Buttes

Morning

Stop into the Logan County Visitor Information Center in Sterling for travel tips; then wander the town's parks to see the "City of the Living Trees" and historical buildings adorned with murals of the area's heritage.

Get a look at life on the range at the Overland Trail Museum, dedicated to the branch of the 1860s Oregon Trail. 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 Parts & Labor Brewing Company for a taste of the local craft.

Afternoon

North Sterling State Park is a serene juxtaposition of high plains and bluffs. Fish the stocked lake for rainbow trout, set up camp and search for soaring bald eagles.

Spend time on the birding trails north and south of Brush; or follow the tracks of Native Americans and frontiersmen along the Pawnee Pioneer Trail to Pawnee National Grassland. Trek to the Pawnee Buttes to snap pics of the sandstone formations and look for burrowing owls.

Evening

Migrate to Fort Morgan to stroll downtown. Explore farming, ranching and military roots at Fort Morgan Museum. For fast-paced fun, I-76 Speedway is packed with excitement April through October.

Late summer and fall are chock full of fairs and concerts in all three towns, and nearby Jackson Lake State Park is a designated International Dark-Sky Park.

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All Trails Lead to the Heart of Limon



Limon Depot

Morning

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.

Start your exploration of the hub by browsing 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 fishing hole is stocked with trout and home to bass, crappie, catfish and bluegill.

Navigate to the eight Off the Beaten Trail geocaches — treasure boxes detailing hidden, historic gems that are maintained on a regular basis. Visit ourjourney.info for details.

Afternoon

Back in Limon, step behind Town Hall into high-plains history. The Limon Heritage Museum & Railroad Park

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 dwelling.

Carefully restored by Limon Heritage Society volunteers, the adjacent 1910 Limon Depot houses a permanent *Trains on the Plains* exhibit, circa-1970 railroad office and a working scale model of Limon's 1940s rail yard.

Evening

See a show at Limon's historic Lincoln Theatre, which has operated continuously since 1938. It's one of only two working theaters in the nation that are built backward (movie-goers enter next to the screen instead of at the back). The independent theater has undergone today's digital transition and shows everything from first-run blockbusters to indie flicks and documentaries.

With a slower pace, Limon is a welcome respite for travelers.



SIDETRIPS

Lincoln County is right on the Kingbird Trail and home to more than 50 different avian species. Bird lovers will be especially drawn to Karval, where the scenic Karval Reservoir 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

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. Today, you can explore the path once taken by folk heroes like “Wild” Bill Hickok, Zebulon Pike and frontiersman Kit Carson.

Day 1

Start at the Colorado Welcome Center in Lamar, an attraction itself featuring a train engine, 100-year-old windmill and water tank. Then head over to the Great Plains Reservoirs, seven glassy lakes for boating and fishing. At North Gateway Park, take a leisurely spin around the ponds via SUP or paddleboat.

Twenty minutes west of town, visit the newly designated Amache National Historic Site, a World War II internment camp that housed 7,000 Japanese people, most of whom were American citizens at the time.

Check out the Big Timbers Museum's collection of wagons, fire engines and cars. Or take a ranger tour of the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site to pay tribute to the Native Americans whose lives were taken in this tragic event. The site will soon expand to include parcels of land where Cheyenne and Arapaho families were camped and other artifacts.

Grab dinner in Lamar's historic district and stroll the paved Lamar Loop Trail. Catch a movie at the Lamar Theater, an art deco wonder built in the 1940s.

Day 2

Head west on the Santa Fe Trail. Stop to fish, Jet Ski and SUP at John Martin Reservoir, “the sapphire of the plains,” before continuing on to Las Animas and the Boggsville Historic Site. Built in the 1860s, it housed some 20 structures including frontiersman Kit Carson's last home. Continue on to Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site, a re-created trading post. For years, the original was a commercial, social, military and cultural hub for Native American, European and Hispanic trappers and traders.

Detour south to the Picketwire Canyonlands in the Comanche National Grassland to marvel at Native American rock art, early Spanish settlements

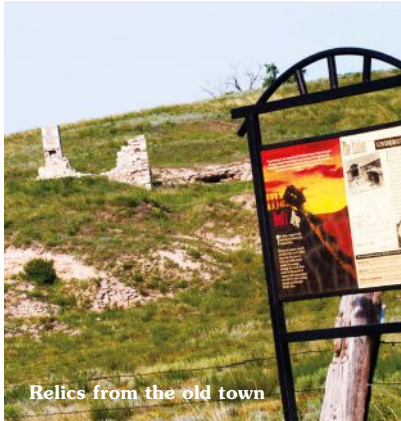
and North America's largest dinosaur tracksite via hike, bike or horseback. You can arrange a guided auto tour through the U.S. Forest Service. On the way to your last stop of La Junta, turn off into Vogel Canyon, where a river meanders through the landscape and affords glimpses of petroglyphs and the remains of an 1870s stagecoach stop.

Native Americans, Spanish explorers, trappers, gold-seekers, immigrants and settlers, farmers and ranchers all contributed to La Junta's modern-day colorful mix of cultures. 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 30-plus years.

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.

Gateway to Colorado

Walking through this quiet town, it's hard to believe Julesburg was once the most wicked city in the West.



Relics from the old town

Tucked in the state's northeast corner, Julesburg holds history at a crossroads for explorers, farmers and gold-seekers.

Hit up the Colorado Welcome Center for maps, brochures and tales of how Julesburg was burned to the ground in the 1860s. After the town was rebuilt, the Union Pacific Railroad moved in. The population soared to 4,000 and Julesburg sprouted saloons and dance halls — and some interesting characters.

At Fort Sedgwick Museum, artifacts tell of this gritty era when gamblers, cowboys and railroad workers ruled what many referred to as the most wicked city in the West. The Union Pacific Railroad Depot Museum also reveals relics from this time.

Walk part of the 19-mile 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 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, or to enjoy the abundant wildlife found along the river and among the fields. Many visitors also come for excellent tailwater fly-fishing on the South Platte throughout the year.

Join the race fans flocking to the Julesburg Drag Strip, a launch pad for hot rods that dates back to the late 1950s when the Platte Valley Customs Club started the local tradition.

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Morning

Here you'll find rural living, eastern-plains heritage and many of the farms that bring food to your table.

Begin in Wray, where peculiar greater prairie chickens dance in search of mates each spring. The ritual is such a spectacle that viewing tours are offered in March and April.

The Wray Museum features an extensive Paleo-Indian exhibit that displays one of the largest and oldest Stone Age bison kill sites.

Afternoon

Drive south to Burlington's Old Town Museum to find 21 clapboard buildings filled with authentic artifacts from the early 1900s. Visit Memorial Day to Labor Day weekends, when things are in full swing: Check out the new exhibit showcasing the culture of Native Americans who lived on the

plains; then catch a high-noon gunfight and enjoy Wild West dinner theater.

At Pioneer Park, stroll an outdoor exhibit that highlights the plants and animals of the region.

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 is one of just a handful still spinning. Those visiting the last week in July can take in the century-plus-old Kit Carson County Fair and Rodeo.

Or book a weekend of prairie pampering in nearby Stratton, where The Claremont Inn & Winery will spoil you just the right amount.

Visitor Directory

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ATTRACTIONS

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FRIAS PROPERTIES OF ASPEN Frias Properties offers Aspen's largest selection of vacation rentals with more than 125 options, from affordable hotel rooms and slopeside condos to large private homes and luxury residences at the Ritz-Carlton Club. ▶ friasproperties.com, reservations@friasproperties.com, 970-920-2010, 877-636-4624, 730 E. Durant Ave., Aspen, 81611 📍 📞 📧 📺 📺 📺 📺

THE GANT Aspen's premier condominium resort, providing the comforts of home with the services of a luxury hotel. Our 1- to 4-bedroom condominium options offer full kitchens, private balconies, wood-burning fireplaces and daily housekeeping. ▶ gantaspen.com, reservations@gantaspen.com, 970-925-5000, 800-549-0530, 610 S. West End St., Aspen, 81611 📍 📞 📧 📺 📺 📺 \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

LIFT ONE CONDOMINIUMS Our intimate vacation property at the base of Aspen Mountain features 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom condominiums tastefully decorated, fully equipped and only two blocks from downtown Aspen and one block to Aspen Mountain. Beautiful outdoor pool and hot tub. ▶ liftone.com, info@liftone.com, 970-925-1670, 800-543-8001, 131 E. Durant Ave., Aspen, 81611 📍 📞 📧 📺 📺 📺

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

JAZZ ASPEN SNOWMASS JUNE 22-25 Jazz Aspen Snowmass is a Colorado non-profit dedicated to music education. Widely known for their popular 3-day Labor Day Festival, JAS also presents a June Jazz Festival, a winter/summer series of JAS Cafe performances and more. ▶ jazzaspensnowmass.org, jazzaspenn@jazzaspensnowmass.org, 970-920-4996, 110 E. Hallam St., Suite 104, Aspen, 81611

HOTELS & MOTELS

ST MORITZ LODGE & CONDOMINIUMS Aspen's affordable choice. Located downtown and next to the free skier shuttle. Choose from standard lodge rooms, room/kitchenettes and one- and two-bedroom condos. For the economy-minded traveler, we offer shared and private hostels with shared baths. ▶ stmoritzlodge.com, info@stmoritzlodge.com, 970-925-3220, 800-817-2069, 334 W. Hyman Ave., Aspen, 81611 📍 📞 📧 📺 📺 📺 \$-\$\$\$\$

AURORA

HOTELS & MOTELS

GAYLORD ROCKIES RESORT & CONVENTION CENTER Find sanctuary with well-appointed rooms and suites plus more than 500,000 square feet of convention space. Enjoy a variety of restaurants, Relâche Spa and indoor/outdoor pools, slides and a lazy river. ▶ gaylordrockies.com, 720-452-6900, 6700 N. Gaylord Rockies Blvd., Aurora, 80019 📍 📞 📧 📺 📺 📺 \$\$\$

AVON

ATTRACTIONS

WALKING MOUNTAINS SCIENCE CENTER Walking Mountains we provide locals and visitors from pre-k to gray with opportunities to explore nature, gain a scientific understanding and learn about the wonders of our mountain environment through natural-science and sustainability programs. ▶ walkingmountains.org, info@walkingmountains.org, 970-827-9725, 318 Walking Mountains Ln., Avon, 81620 📍

CONDOS & VACATION-HOME RENTALS

SHERATON MOUNTAIN VISTA With an unparalleled location at the base of Beaver Creek Mountain, this resort boasts well-designed villa rentals with kitchens or kitchenettes, a fireplace and free wifi. Enjoy the outdoor pool, whirlpool spa, deli/marketplace and fitness center. ▶ marriott.com/en-us/hotels/egesm-sheraton-mountain-vista-villas-avon-vail-valley, 970-748-6000, 800-845-5279, 160 W. Beaver Creek Blvd., Avon, 81620 📍 📞 📧 📺 📺 📺 📺

THE WESTIN RIVERFRONT MOUNTAIN VILLAS

This mountain resort offers spacious villa rentals with premium comforts, fully equipped kitchens or kitchenettes, washers and dryers, gas fireplaces, furnished balconies, three distinctive restaurants and signature resort amenities. ▶ marriott.com/en-us/hotels/whrwi-the-westin-riverfront-mountain-villas-beaver-creek-mountain, 970-790-3000, 800-845-5279, 218 Riverfront Ln., Avon, 81620 📍 📞 📧 📺 📺 📺 📺

HOTELS & MOTELS

THE WESTIN RIVERFRONT RESORT & SPA, AVON, VAIL VALLEY Located in the heart of the Vail Valley at the base of Beaver Creek Mountain, The Westin Riverfront is an award-winning resort offering amazing skier access via the Riverfront Express Gondola and spacious studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom suites. ▶ westinriverfront.com, reservations@westinriverfront.com, 970-790-6000, 888-236-2427, 126 Riverfront Ln., Avon, 81620 📍 📞 📧 📺 📺 📺 📺

RECREATION

EAGLEVAIL GOLF CLUB EagleVail is recognized as the place to play in the Vail Valley. Accessible and challenging for all golfers, our classic designed 18-hole layout offers astounding views and amazing surroundings nestled in the heart of the Colorado Rocky Mountains. ▶ eaglevailgolfclub.com, ryanflamm@eaglevail.org, 970-790-1200, 459 Eagle Dr., Avon, 81620 📍

BASALT

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

BASALT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Meet us at the confluence of rivers, recreation and culture! Gold Medal fishing, biking/hiking trails, water/winter sports and train history. Galleries, music, fine dining, trendy shops and award-winning distillery. Near hot springs and Aspen Snowmass skiing. ▶ basaltchamber.org, director@basaltchamber.org, 970-927-4031, 208 Midland Ave., Basalt, 81621

CENTRAL CITY

ATTRACTIONS

CENTRAL CITY OPERA HOUSE 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 History Museum. Go back to 1895 at the Thomas House, tour the Teller and Opera Houses and visit the Coeur d'Alene Mine Shaft House. ▶ gilpinhistory.org, gilpinhistory@live.com, 303-582-5283, 228 E. First High St., Central City, 80427

HIDEE GOLD MINE TOURS AND PANNING Go underground to mine real gold ore, yours to keep! Learn gold panning all year. The Hidee Gold Mine is well-lit with level ground and safety-inspected by the state. A recognized Colorado Heritage Tour and *USA Today* 10 Best Attraction Nationwide. ▶ hideegoldmine.com, info@hideegoldmine.com, 970-548-0343, 1950 Hidee Mine Rd., Central City, 80427

CLARK

DUDE & GUEST RANCHES

VISTA VERDE RANCH Escape to our secluded luxury ranch resort and enjoy private, log-cabin accommodations, gourmet meals and a variety of guided outdoor activities, both summer and winter. All-inclusive packages make vacation planning easy. ▶ vistaverde.com, reservations@vistaverde.com, 970-879-3858, 5800 Cowboy Way, Clark, 80428

COLORADO SPRINGS

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

COLORADO SPRINGS VISITOR INFO CENTER Colorado Springs has refreshing wide-open spaces, stunning mountain scenery, geologic wonders, fun attractions, thrilling outdoor recreation, Flying W Ranch and the new U.S. Olympic & Paralympic museum at the foot of Pikes Peak – America's Mountain. ▶ visitcos.com, info@visitcos.com, 719-685-7623, 800-888-4748, 515 S. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, 80903

ATTRACTIONS

COLORADO SPRINGS FINE ARTS CENTER AT COLORADO COLLEGE The FAC is an entire arts district under one roof. One of 16 charter members of the American Association of Museums, a TCG-member theater company and arts education with the Bemis School of Art offering classes for every age and skill level. ▶ fac.coloradocollege.edu, fac.coloradocollege.edu, 719-634-5581, 30 W. Dale St., Colorado Springs, 80903

GARDEN OF THE GODS VISITOR AND NATURE CENTER No. 1 visited attraction, 14-minute HD movie, nature museum, 30 interactive exhibits, award-winning gift shop, cafe with spectacular views, free park map, guided walks, nature talks, birding, hiking and adventure programs. Free nature center. ▶ gardenofgods.com, office@gardenofgods.com, 719-634-6666, 1805 N. 30th St., Colorado Springs, 80904

CORTEZ

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

MESA VERDE COUNTRY TOURISM OFFICE Home to magnificent Mesa Verde National Park, we connect you to the ancient past. Cortez, Dolores and Mancos offer comfy accommodations, unique cuisine, wineries, breweries, art and all kinds of outdoor fun. Ancient adventures await! ▶ mesaverdecountry.com, info@mesaverdecountry.com, 970-565-4048, 928 E. Main, Cortez, 81321

LODGES & CABINS

CANYON OF THE ANCIENTS GUEST RANCH Nestled amid the majesty of Ute Mountain in peaceful McElmo Canyon, where mountains meet desert. A working ranch with 7 luxurious cabins/guesthouses offers true connection with animals and incredible cultural and archaeological experiences. ▶ canyonoftheancients.com, reservations@canyonoftheancients.com, 970-565-4288, 7950 Rd. G, 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 US Hwy. 50, Cotopaxi, 81223

CRAIG

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

VISIT MOFFAT COUNTY / MOFFAT COUNTY TOURISM ASSOCIATION Moffat County, Colorado's Great Northwest. The pioneers called it Colorado's last frontier. It still is. Where the West runs wild, find open spaces including nearly 2 million acres of public lands in our very special corner of Colorado. Welcome! ▶ visitmoffatcounty.com, mcta@moffatcounty.net, 970-824-2335, 775 Yampa Ave., Suite 105, Craig, 81625

HOTELS & MOTELS

CANDLEWOOD SUITES-CRAIG NORTHWEST COLORADO Make yourself at ease at the Candlewood Suites Craig Northwest. The hotel offers full kitchens in every room, HD TVs, DVD player, free guest laundry and wifi included. Other guest amenities include Candlewood Gym, Cupboard and Lending Locker. ▶ ihg.com/candlewood/hotels/us/en/craig/cigcw/hotel/detail, cigcw@yahoo.com, 970-824-8400, 877-660-8543, 92 Commerce St., Craig, 81625

CRESTONE

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

TOWN OF CRESTONE One of Colorado's most unique and visionary communities, Crestone is home to numerous and diverse religious and spiritual centers, beckoning travelers from around the world. Enjoy pristine alpine lakes, sand dunes, hiking and spectacular views. ▶ townofcrestone.colorado.gov, 719-256-4313, PO Box 331, Crestone, 81131

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 waters, wineries and an abundance of agriculture for the farm-to-table experience. #VisitDeltaCounty ▶ visitdeltacounty.com, tourism@deltacounty.com, 970-874-2108, 560 Dodge St., Delta, 81416

DENVER

ATTRACTIONS

THE BEER SPA Voted best day spa in Denver. Modern wellness space that combines a day spa with a craft-beer bar. Whether relaxing after work or living it up on vacation, come enjoy our beer-inspired spa services while sipping on a locally sourced craft beverage. ▶ thebeerspa.com, hello@thebeerspa.com, 720-810-1484, 3004 N. Downing St., Denver, 80205

CENTER FOR COLORADO WOMEN'S HISTORY

The Center for Colorado Women's History focuses on the past, present and future achievements of Colorado women. This historic home and museum is located at 13th Ave. and Bannock St. in downtown Denver. Open Thur.–Sat. 10:30–3:30 and Sun. 1:30–3:30. ▶ cowomenshistory.org, hc_cowomenshistory@state.co.us, 303-620-4933, 1310 Bannock St., Denver, 80203

DENVER ART MUSEUM Explore the museum's extensive art collections, exhibitions and hands-on creative spaces. The whole family will love the reimagined Martin Building and expanded campus in the heart of Denver. Free general admission every day for kids 18 and under. ▶ denverartmuseum.org, info@denverartmuseum.org, 720-865-5000, 100 W. 14th Ave. Pkwy., Denver, 80204

DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS This 24-acre urban oasis features native, exotic and xeric plants, Tropical Conservatory, Science Pyramid and Mordecai Children's Garden. Explore the new Freyer – Newman Center for art galleries, the Helen Fowler Library, auditorium and more. ▶ botanicgardens.org, feedback@botanicgardens.org, 720-865-3500, 1007 York St., Denver, 80206

DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE Explore one of Denver's top family attractions. Experience ancient fossils, dazzling gems and minerals, majestic wildlife, recent discoveries from outer space, Egyptian mummies, exhibits about the human body, traveling special exhibitions and more. ▶ dmns.org, guestservices@dmns.org, 303-370-6000, 2001 Colorado Blvd., Denver, 80205

DENVER ZOO Whether it's baby animals, new exhibits or old favorites, there's always something to be wild about at Denver Zoo! Denver Zoo is home to more than 3,500 animals and has championed more than 600 conservation and research projects around the world. ▶ denverzoo.org, guestcare@denverzoo.org, 720-337-1400, 2900 E. 23rd Ave., Denver, 80205

DOWNTOWN AQUARIUM Mixes family fun, upscale-casual dining and spectacular marine life. Explore the Aquarium Adventure exhibit with more than 1 million gallons of extraordinary exhibits, then dine in the Aquarium Restaurant seated around a 50,000-gallon aquarium. ▶ aquariumrestaurants.com/downtownaquariumdenver, 303-561-4450, 700 Water St., Denver, 80211

ELITCH GARDENS THEME & WATER PARK Colorado's largest theme and water park celebrating over 130 years of fun! From roller coasters to kid rides, a water park and tons of special events, there are thrills for all. Visit ElitchGardens.com for more info and to purchase tickets. ▶ elitchgardens.com, info@elitchgardens.com, 303-595-4386, 2000 Elitch Cir., Denver, 80204


FORNEY MUSEUM OF TRANSPORTATION Explore one of America's largest and most unique transportation collections, featuring Union Pacific's "Big Boy," world's largest steam locomotive; Amelia Earhart's first car; motorcycles; bicycles; aircraft; automobiles and special rotating exhibits. ▶ forneymuseum.org, customerservice@forneymuseum.org, 303-297-1113, 4303 Brighton Blvd., Denver, 80216


HISTORY COLORADO CENTER The History Colorado Center ignites imaginations of all ages about Colorado history through high-tech and hands-on exhibits, programs and special events. Exhibits share the stories of Colorado's people over the past 10,000 years. Open daily, 10am–5pm. ▶ historycolorado.org, reservations@state.co.us, 303-447-8679, 1200 Broadway, Denver, 80203


MEOW WOLF DENVER'S CONVERGENCE STATION Meow Wolf Denver's first earthbound transit stop, *Convergence Station*, is an immersive exhibit of pure cosmic wonderment ready to be explored by all ages. Buy tickets today! ▶ meowwolf.com/visit/denver, denverhelp@meowwolf.com, 866-636-9969, 1338 1st St., Denver, 80204

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The dollar symbols indicate how much you can expect to pay for an average hotel room. \$ = Less than \$100 \$\$ = \$101–200 \$\$\$ = \$201–299 \$\$\$\$ = \$300 and up

MOLLY BROWN HOUSE MUSEUM Explore the home of Titanic survivor Margaret “Molly” Brown via guided or self-guided experiences. Hear the inspiring story of Margaret and J.J. Brown, both humanitarians and philanthropists who helped shape and improve our community. ▶ mollybrown.org, admin@mollybrown.org, 303-832-4092, 1340 Pennsylvania St., Denver, 80203 

WATER WORLD America’s largest water amusement park. More than 50 attractions/slides for all ages on 70-plus acres. Minutes from downtown Denver. Colorado’s water-coaster capital, wave pools, family raft 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 

THE WILD ANIMAL SANCTUARY See more than 500 large carnivores rescued from illegal or abusive situations roaming freely in species-specific habitats on 789 acres of open grassland. The sanctuary is open daily to the public and features a Mile Into the Wild elevated walkway. ▶ wildanimalsanctuary.org, information@wildanimalsanctuary.org, 303-536-0118, 2999 County Rd. 53, Denver, 80643 

WINGS OVER THE ROCKIES AIR & SPACE MUSEUM Colorado’s Official Air & Space Museum brings history to life — see iconic aircraft, space vehicles, artifacts and much more. Mission: To educate, inspire and excite all people 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, info@capitolhillmansion.com, 303-839-5221, 800-839-9329, 1207 N. Pennsylvania St., Denver, 80203 

DINING

BUCKHORN EXCHANGE RESTAURANT Denver’s oldest restaurant, with Colorado’s No. 1 liquor license, serving prime beef steaks, buffalo, elk, baby-back ribs and other fabulous game specialties. Magnificently decorated. Reservations recommended. Free parking. ▶ buckhorn.com, info@buckhorn.com, 303-534-9505, 1000 Osage St., Denver, 80204

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW & RODEO JAN. 7–22 Enjoy rodeos featuring top-notch bull riders, horse shows, livestock competitions and auctions at the nation’s premier livestock, rodeo and horse show. ▶ nationalwestern.com, 303-296-6977, 4655 Humboldt St., Denver, 80216

DENVER RESTAURANT WEEK MARCH 3–12

Take your fill of Denver’s thriving dining scene with the best meals and the best deals at participating restaurants throughout the city. ▶ denver.org/denver-restaurant-week

CINCO DE MAYO FESTIVAL: CINCO DE MAYO

WEEKEND MAY 5–7 Celebrate one of the largest cultural events in Colorado with live entertainment, hundreds of exhibitors, great food and drink, children’s activities, parade, green chili cook off and more. ▶ cincodemayodenver.com

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND MAY 26–29 Celebrate the weekend with events and outdoor activities throughout the city, including Denver Day of Rock, a free music festival with four stages throughout downtown. ▶ denver.org/things-to-do

FIVE POINTS JAZZ FESTIVAL JUNE 3 Take part in this free festival to celebrate the history of Denver’s Five Points neighborhood, once known as the Harlem of the West, with live music performances all day. ▶ artsandvenuesdenver.com

JUNETEENTH MUSIC FESTIVAL: JUNETEENTH WEEKEND JUNE 17–19 One of the nation’s largest Juneteenth celebrations. Celebrate with a parade, live performances, art, vendors and fun for the entire family. ▶ juneteenthmusicfestival.com

DENVER PRIDEFEST JUNE 24–25 Denver PrideFest features a two-day festival that draws visitors from throughout the state of Colorado and the Rocky Mountain region. ▶ denverpride.org/fest

FOURTH OF JULY WEEKEND JULY 1–4 Don’t miss the holiday weekend in Denver with events including Cherry Creek Arts Festival (July 1–3), Fan Expo (June 30–July 2) and Independence Eve (July 3). ▶ denver.org/things-to-do


LABOR DAY WEEKEND IN DENVER SEPT. 1–4 Experience Labor Day weekend in Denver with events such as Taste of Colorado, where guests of all ages are welcome to come and enjoy the end-of-summer celebration. ▶ denver.org/things-to-do

GREAT AMERICAN BEER FESTIVAL SEPT. 21–23 America’s favorite beer festival returns to Denver! The festival is just one part of a week full of all things beer during Denver Beer Week (Sept. 15–23). ▶ greatamericanbeerfestival.com

DENVER ARTS WEEK NOV. 3–11 Celebrate The Mile High City’s arts and culture scene with hundreds of events around the city, and don’t miss the largest film festival in the region, the Denver Film Festival. ▶ denver.org/denver-arts-week


MILE HIGH HOLIDAYS NOV. 2023–JAN. 2024 Feel the warmth of family-friendly performing-arts classics, find the perfect gifts and marvel at elaborate light displays, including the 9NEWS Parade of Lights in downtown Denver. ▶ denver.org/milehighholidays

SHOPPING

THE SHOPS AT NORTHFIELD Conveniently located 10 minutes from downtown Denver and 20 minutes to DIA, Northfield Stapleton is an outdoor shopping district featuring Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World, Macy’s, Harkins Theaters 18, JCPenney and 80-plus specialty shops and restaurants. ▶ shopsatnorthfield.com, info@shopsatnorthfield.com, 303-375-5475, 8340 Northfield Blvd., Denver, 80238 

DILLON

HOTELS & MOTELS

BEST WESTERN PTARMIGAN LODGE Best Western Ptarmigan Lodge is located steps away from Lake Dillon and Dillon Marina. Keystone, Breckenridge, Copper and Arapahoe Basin are 6–15 miles away. Pets are welcome in specific rooms with a \$10 charge per pet per night (call to verify). ▶ book.bestwestern.com/bestwestern/priceAvail.do?propertyCode=06098&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 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@doloreschamber.com, 970-882-4018, 201 Railroad Ave., Dolores, 81323

LODGES & CABINS

DUNTON HOT SPRINGS Discover the authentic mountain adventure and charm of Dunton. Thirteen luxury cabins can accommodate up to 44 guests and the entire town can be rented for weddings, corporate retreats and special events. Rates include all meals and beverages. ▶ duntondestinations.com/hot-springs, reservations@duntondestinations.com, 970-882-4800, 877-288-9922, 8532 County Rd. 38, Dolores, 81323 


DRAKE

LODGES & CABINS

RUSTIC RIVER CABINS Seven all-season, pet-friendly cabins on 16 acres. Built in the mid 1940s, the cabins have a rustic feel that makes you feel part of the Rockies while still maintaining a modern feel, including 26-inch flatscreen TVs with satellite and free wifi. ▶ rusticrivercabins.com, rusticrivercabinsrc@gmail.com, 970-586-8493, 2550 US Hwy. 34, Drake, 80515 


DUMONT

RECREATION

ATV TOURS COLORADO Thirty 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. Min. age to drive 16, passengers 1/2 price; min 56 inches tall. ▶ atvtourscolorado.com, info@atvtourscolorado.com, 303-868-0874, 3627 Alvarado Rd. #291, Dumont, 80436 

DURANGO

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

VISIT DURANGO Get more in Durango! Historic Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, Mesa Verde National Park, Purgatory Ski Resort, rafting, horseback riding, skiing, biking, hiking, historic downtown, art galleries, exceptional dining, craft breweries, downtown festivals and events and more. ▶ durango.org, info@durango.org, 970-247-3500, 800-525-8855, 802 Main Ave., Durango, 81301 

ATTRACTIONS

DURANGO & SILVERTON NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD AND MUSEUM Experience the adventure of traveling by historic locomotive on the same tracks miners, cowboys and settlers of the Old West took over a century ago. Wind through the deep canyons in the remote Rocky Mountain 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 & 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. ▶ durangohotspingsresortandspa.com, info@dhsresort.com, 970-247-0111, 6475 County Rd. 203, Durango, 81301 

SOARING TREE TOP ADVENTURES Largest zipline course in US with 27 spans. All-day, family-friendly zipline tour includes 5.5 hours of ziplining, four-course gourmet lunch, ecology tour and round-trip transportation in our private train cars. Rated No. 1 tour in Colorado on TripAdvisor. ▶ soaringcolorado.com, info@soaringcolorado.com, 970-769-2357, 964 County Rd. 200, Durango, 81301

CONDOS & VACATION-HOME RENTALS

DURANGO RED CLIFF PROPERTIES, LLC Quality vacation-rental homes and property-management services. Family-owned and operated, we provide the highest level of service. With a wide selection of homes to choose from, we are sure your next vacation with us will be special. ▶ durangoredcliffproperties.com, reservations@durangoredcliffproperties.com, 0559, 97 Orchard Ln., Durango, 81301 [i] [f] [t] [c] [e] [m] [a] [s] [d] \$--\$\$\$\$

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

THE POLAR EXPRESS™ TRAIN RIDE NOV. 17–DEC. 31 Experience a truly magical recreation of the classic holiday story about a child's Christmas Eve journey aboard a vintage steam train as it departs our station in Durango and sets off for the North Pole to pick up Santa. ▶ durangotrains.com, 888-872-4607, 479 Main Ave., Durango, 81301

DUDE & GUEST RANCHES

COLORADO TRAILS RANCH Excellent horseback riding for all levels, fly-fishing and children/teen program. Fun activities include shooting sports, hiking, swimming and rafting. Scenic mountain location. ▶ coloradotrails.com, amanda@coloradotrails.com, 970-247-5055, 12161 County Rd. 240, Durango, 81301 [i] [f] [t] [c] [e] [m] [a] [s] [d]

HOTELS & MOTELS

HISTORIC STRATER HOTEL The Strater Hotel, in the heart of historic downtown Durango, has been welcoming guests since 1887. This iconic hotel is a living-history museum, complete with today's amenities, three restaurants and bars, as well as an authentic saloon. ▶ strater.com, info@strater.com, 970-247-4431, 800-247-4431, 699 Main Ave., Durango, 81301 [i] [f] [t] [c] [e] [m] [a] [s] [d]

LODGES & CABINS

O-BAR-O CABINS Private Durango riverfront cabins. Perfectly located to enjoy all the things to do in the Southwest. Our cabins are fully appointed ("best equipped kitchen ever!") and we provide locally sourced amenities to create a unique experience. ▶ obaro.com, cabins@obaro.com, 970-259-3649, 11998 County Rd. 240, Durango, 81301 [i] [f] [t] [c] [e] [m] [a] [s] [d] \$--\$\$\$\$

RECREATION

DURANGO RIVERTRIPPERS & ADVENTURE TOURS Durango Rivertrippers & Adventure Tours has offered whitewater rafting and guided Mesa Verde National Park Tours, Durango, Telluride and Silverton. We offer Jeep rentals, Jeep trail tours, RZR/ATV rentals and more. Call 970-259-0289. Five stars on Google. ▶ durangorivertrippers.com, durangorivertrippers@gmail.com, 970-259-0289, 360 S. Camino Del Rio, Suite 200, Durango, 81301

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 charm. ▶ visitestespark.com, visitorservices@estes.org, 970-577-9900, 500 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 fire place and flatscreen TVs with free Netflix and DVD player. Wifi available. ▶ aspenwinds.com, info@aspenwinds.com, 970-586-6010, 800-399-6010, 1051 Fall River Ct., Estes Park, 80517 [i] [f] [t] [c] [e] [m] [a] [s] [d]

BOULDER BROOK ON FALL RIVER Relax at Boulder Brook in a luxury riverfront suite with private deck, kitchenette and fireplace. Soak in the hot tub, watch the wildlife, fish in the river. It's the perfect way to relax in the Rockies. Easy access to downtown Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park. ▶ boulderbrook.com, contact@boulderbrook.com, 970-586-0910, 800-238-0910, 1900 Fall River Rd., Estes Park, 80517 [i] [f] [t] [c] [e] [m] [a] [s] [d]

ESTES PARK CONDOS ON THE RIVER Estes Park Condos — Antlers Pointe, Bugle Pointe and Creekside: Upscale resort located within a grove of majestic pines along a secluded stretch of Fall River with mountain views. ▶ estesparkcondos.com, info@estesparkcondos.com, 970-577-0068, 800-349-1003, 1400 David Dr., Estes Park, 80517 [i] [f] [t] [c] [e] [m] [a] [s] [d] \$--\$\$\$\$

RIVER STONE RESORTS AND BEAR PAW SUITES

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/condo with full kitchen, spa tub or hot tub, fireplace and grill. Winter deals and packages available. ▶ riverstoneresorts.com, reservations@riverstoneresorts.com, 970-586-4005, 888-854-5224, 2120 Fall River Rd., Estes Park, 80517 [i] [f] [t] [c] [e] [m] [a] [s] [d]

HOTELS & MOTELS

THE RIDGELINE HOTEL – ESTES PARK The Ridgeline is your home away from home, where you can unwind and recharge after a busy day in Estes Park or Rocky Mountain National Park. With pet-friendly rooms, firepits and indoor pool, this is the perfect spot for an Estes Park getaway. ▶ ridgelinehotel.com, 970-480-0110, 101 S. Saint Vrain Ave., Estes Park, 80517 [i] [f] [t] [c] [e] [m] [a] [s] [d] \$--\$\$\$\$

LODGES & CABINS

BLACKHAWK CABINS OF ESTES PARK Minutes from Rocky Mountain National Park and the town of Estes Park. Located on Fall River with a picnic area and lawn overlooking the river. All cabins have wood fireplaces and fully equipped kitchens. Soak in the hot tub located next to the river. ▶ blackhawkestespark.com, blackhawkestespark@gmail.com, 970-586-6100, 1750 Fall River Rd., Estes Park, 80517 [i] [f] [t] [c] [e] [m] [a] [s] [d]

ESTES PARK CENTER/YMCA OF THE ROCKIES

YMCA of the Rockies, surrounded by Rocky Mountain National Park, offers affordable cabins, lodge rooms, meals and family activities. Enjoy archery, crafts, horseback riding, hiking, skating, swimming, climbing wall and much more. ▶ ymcarockies.org, info@ymcarockies.org, 970-586-3341, 888-613-9622, 2515 Tunnel Rd., Estes Park, 80511 [i] [f] [t] [c] [e] [m] [a] [s] [d]

THE EVERGREENS ON FALL RIVER

The Evergreens on Fall River places you in the heart of the Rocky Mountains, 3 minutes from Rocky Mountain National Park and 5 minutes from Estes Park. Riverfront one- and two-bedroom cabins that are open year-round and private home with three bedrooms. ▶ evergreenonfallriver.com, evergreenscabins@gmail.com, 970-577-9786, 888-686-3393, 1500 Fish Hatchery Rd., Estes Park, 80517 [i] [f] [t] [c] [e] [m] [a] [s] [d] \$--\$\$\$\$

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, machiniscottages@beyondbb.com, 970-586-4276, 2450 Eagle Cliff Rd., Estes Park, 80517 [i] [f] [t] [c] [e] [m] [a] [s] [d]

RAMS HORN VILLAGE RESORT Award-winning luxury cabin resort for families and couples; 2-bedroom, 2-bath homes sleep up to 6. At entrance of Rocky Mountain National Park; 1 mile to Estes Park. Pool/summer, hot tubs, playground, wifi, fitness center. Top-rated TripAdvisor. RCI Gold Crown Resort. ▶ rhvresort.com, dgibson@rhvresort.com, 970-586-4338, 800-229-4676, 1565 Colorado Hwy. 66, Estes Park, 80517 [i] [f] [t] [c] [e] [m] [a] [s] [d] \$--\$\$\$\$

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. ▶ rockymtnresorts.com, inquiry@rockymtnresorts.com, 800-672-9289, 800-672-9289, 2760 Fall River Rd., Estes Park, 80517 [i] [f] [t] [c] [e] [m] [a] [s] [d]

STREAMSIDE ON FALL RIVER The Fall River runs through this family-friendly cabin resort on 29 forested acres. Cabins feature kitchens, gas fireplaces, decks with barbecues. Upgrade to a private hot tub. Fishing, hiking, a community hot tub and hammocks. Great wildlife watching. ▶ streamsideonfallriver.com, info@streamsideonfallriver.com, 970-586-6464, 800-321-3303, 1260 Fall River Rd., Estes Park, 80517 [i] [f] [t] [c] [e] [m] [a] [s] [d] \$--\$\$\$\$

RECREATION

BACKBONE ADVENTURES Backbone Adventures is an ATV, Jeep and ebike (bicycle) rental tour facility in Estes Park. Secluded wilderness, stunning views, abundant wildlife, lost lakes, alpine meadows and unforgettable memories are waiting. Book your adventure today. ▶ backbonecycles.com, goodtaters@gmail.com, 970-235-5045, 1851 N. Lake Ave., Estes Park, 80517 [i] [f] [t] [c] [e] [m] [a] [s] [d]

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 [i] [f] [t] [c] [e] [m] [a] [s] [d]

FALCON

CAMPGROUNDS & RV PARKS

FALCON MEADOW RV CAMPGROUND Country camping. View of Pikes Peak. Large pull-through RV/tent sites. Accessible shower/restroom, free wifi, propane. Open year-round. Strong cell phone signal. Restaurants nearby. ▶ falconmeadowrvcampground.com, falconmeadowcg@aol.com, 719-495-2694, 11150 Hwy. 24 (GPS city is Peyton), Falcon, 80831 [i] [f] [t] [c] [e] [m] [a] [s] [d]

FORT COLLINS

ATTRACTIONS

GARDENS ON SPRING CREEK At the Gardens on Spring Creek, visitors enjoy stunning gardens, a tropical butterfly house, gift shop, adult- and youth-education programs and community events. With 12 acres of botanic beauty, something is always blooming at The Gardens! ▶ fcgov.com/gardens, gardens@fcgov.com, 970-416-2486, 2145 Centre Ave., Fort Collins, 80526 [i] [f] [t] [c] [e] [m] [a] [s] [d]

RECREATION

A1 WILDWATER, INC. Our 41st year of rafting on the nationally designated Wild & Scenic Poudre River. Family, child and group pricing, expert guides, greatest variety of trips and times. Lots of fun, mid-to-wild trips. ▶ a1wildwater.com, fun@a1wildwater.com, 970-224-3379, 800-369-4165, 2801 N. Shields St., Fort Collins, 80524

FORT GARLAND

ATTRACTIONS

FORT GARLAND MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER Fort Garland was built in 1858 during US expansion into the West. Explore life in an 1800s Army fort including five original adobe buildings. Learn about the Buffalo Soldiers and Colorado's role in the Civil War. Open daily, 9am–5pm. ▶ fortgarlandmuseum.org, eric.carpio@state.co.us, 719-379-3512, 29477 Hwy. 159, Fort Garland, 81133 [i] [f] [t] [c] [e] [m] [a] [s] [d]

Swimming Pool Exercise/Fitness Facilities Pets Allowed Free Wifi Airport Shuttle Complimentary Breakfast
 ADA-Compliant Restaurant On Site Free Parking In-Room Refrigerator In-Room Microwave

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

FORT MORGAN

HOTELS & MOTELS

COMFORT INN – FORT MORGAN Gold Award hotel. Indoor pool and hot tub. Free high-speed Internet, fitness room, meeting space. Next to The Mav Kitchen & Tap House, Rodeway Inn, 24-hour shopping center. choicehotels.com/colorado/fort-morgan/comfort-inn-hotels/co183_jmburch@kinsaleproperties.com, 970-441-9103, 1417 Barlow Rd., Fort Morgan, 80701 \$\$\$

FRASER

HOTELS & MOTELS

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES WINTER PARK-FRASER AREA Be the readiest and stay at Holiday Inn Express & Suites Winter Park-Fraser. Located in the heart of the Fraser Valley on the Lift Shuttle Line. Outstanding guest rooms and amenities, including the Express Start Hot Breakfast Buffet and meeting room. ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/fraser/fexco/hoteldetail_hiexwinterpark@yahoo.com, 970-722-7631, 800-465-4329, 108 Zerex St., Fraser, 80442 \$\$\$

FRISCO

BED & BREAKFASTS

FRISCO INN ON GALENA Enjoy the experience at the Frisco Inn B&B. Featuring the Mt. Royal Spa. Exceptional hospitality and service. Our peaceful location is a half block off Main Street, just a few steps to the many fine restaurants and shops on Frisco's Main Street. friscoinnongalena.com, info@friscoinnongalena.com, 970-668-3224, 855-237-4726, 106 Galena St., Frisco, 80443 \$\$\$–\$\$\$\$

FRUITA

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

GOFRUITA Famous for singletrack mountain-bike trails, dinosaurs and family-friendly events, Fruita is a basecamp for western Colorado adventure. Hiking, rafting, off-roading, horseback riding, Colorado National Monument, historic downtown and festivals are ready for you. gofruita.com, gofruitaco@gmail.com, 970-858-9335, 340 CO Hwy. 340, 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, info@mowc.co, 970-242-0971, 550 Jurassic Ct., Fruita, 81521

GEORGETOWN

ATTRACTIONS

GEORGETOWN LOOP RAILROAD Climb aboard one of Colorado's historic narrow-gauge railroads. This engineering marvel takes you over the Devil's Gate Bridge and through a scenic Rocky Mountain pathway. Silver-mine tours available with train ride. Located 45 miles west of Denver. georgetownlooprr.com, info@historicrailadventures.com, 888-456-6777, 646 Loop Dr., Georgetown, 80444

RECREATION

LOVELAND SKI AREA Just 53 miles west of Denver, Loveland boasts 1,800 acres of remarkable terrain, affordable ticketing options, free snowcat skiing and more snow than any Front Range resort. Come find out why Loveland has been a locals' favorite for more than 80 years. skiloveland.com, loveland@skiloveland.com, 303-571-5580, 800-736-3754, I-70 Exit 216, Georgetown, 80444

GLENWOOD SPRINGS

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

GLENWOOD SPRINGS WELCOME 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 We'll make you smile at America's only mountain-top theme park. Take the scenic Glenwood Gondola to incredible thrill rides, amazing cave tours and so much more. New: Our record-breaking new coaster, Defiance! #Getuphere and defy gravity with us. 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 One Mother Nature of a good time at the world's largest hot-springs pool. Our central location offers access to all that Glenwood has to offer. Families enjoy our well-appointed rooms, a full breakfast and unlimited access to our hot spring's pools. hotspringspool.com, info@hotspringspool.com, 970-945-6571, 800-537-7946, 415 E. 6th St., Glenwood Springs, 81601 \$\$\$

HOTEL COLORADO The historic Hotel Colorado is located in Glenwood Springs directly between Aspen and Vail. You'll enjoy our legendary service, modern amenities and well-appointed rooms as you explore the beauty of western Colorado. Your escape awaits! hotelcolorado.com, res@hotelcolorado.com, 970-945-6511, 800-544-3998, 526 Pine St., Glenwood Springs, 81601 \$\$\$–\$\$\$\$

RECREATION

GLENWOOD CLIMBING GUIDES We are the local experts for the Western Slope of Colorado, including Glenwood Springs, Rifle Mountain Park, Colorado National Monument, Unaweep Canyon and more. In service since 2011. glenwoodclimbingguides.com, mike.schneider@gmail.com, 970-319-0656, 152 W. 6th St., Glenwood Springs, 81601

IRON MOUNTAIN HOT SPRINGS Alongside the beautiful Colorado River in Glenwood Springs, Iron Mountain Hot Springs features 16 pure mineral soaking pools, plus our new experience pool. Iron Mountain also features a freshwater pool, bathhouse with complimentary products and a cafe. ironmountainhotsprings.com, info@ironmountainhotsprings.com, 970-945-4766, 281 Centennial St., Glenwood Springs, 81601

SUNLIGHT MOUNTAIN RESORT Sunlight's award-winning Ski, Swim & Stay is the Colorado ski vacation families can afford: Kids 12 and under ski free, plus everyone enjoys a relaxing soak in the World's largest natural hot springs and a great night's stay at a premier local hotel. sunlightmtn.com, info@sunlightmtn.com, 970-945-9425, 10901 County Rd. 117, Glenwood Springs, 81601

GOLDEN

HOTELS & MOTELS

ORIGIN RED ROCKS Experience authentic Colorado with a stay at Origin Hotel Red Rocks, the official hotel of Red Rocks Amphitheatre. Located in Golden, Origin offers an on-site taqueria and beer garden, fitness center, complimentary mountain bikes and more. originhotel.com/hotels/red-rocks, info@originhotelredrocks.com, 303-215-0100, 18485 W. Colfax Ave., Golden, 80401

GRANBY

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

DESTINATION GRANBY 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. destinationgranby.com, info@destinationgranby.com, 970-887-2311, 516 E. Agate Ave., Granby, 80446

CAMPGROUNDS & RV PARKS

SUN OUTDOORS ROCKY MOUNTAINS Located in Granby, River Run is a new way to experience Colorado. Providing guests luxury amenities, River Run offers many unique lodging styles, including furnished mountain cabins, glamping and tent camping, and full-hookup RV sites. sunout.io/ueX0Q, rockymountains@sunoutdoors.com, 970-557-0200, 1051 Summit Trail, Granby, 80446 \$–\$\$\$\$

DUDE & GUEST RANCHES

C LAZY U LUXURY GUEST RANCH Colorado's premier guest ranch and vacation destination, providing a high level of personalized service, first-class amenities, gourmet meals and upscale accommodations. Surrounded by beautiful Rocky Mountain scenery, we offer winter and summer activities, children's programs and meeting facilities. clazyu.com, info@clazyu.com, 970-887-3344, 3640 Colorado Hwy. 125, Granby, 80446

HOTELS & MOTELS

LITTLETREE INN Rooms with 42-inch HDTVs, HD channels and HBO, A/C, wifi and other room amenities. Hot tub seasonal and vending on premises; large parking area for buses, trucks and trailers. Minutes to Winter Park or Granby Ranch ski areas and Rocky Mountain National Park. littletreeinn.com, contact@littletreeinn.com, 970-887-2551, 62000 US Hwy. 40, Granby, 80446 \$\$\$–\$\$\$\$

LODGES & CABINS

SNOW MOUNTAIN RANCH/YMCA OF THE ROCKIES Kids finding their outdoor spirit, families coming together in nature and friends connecting over the crackling of a warm fire. Tucked away in heart of the Rocky Mountains, Snow Mountain Ranch has more than 5,000 acres of outdoor playground to explore. ymcarockies.org/Locations/Snow-Mountain-Ranch, info@ymcarockies.org, 970-887-2152, 888-613-9622, 1101 County Rd. 53, Granby, 80446

GRAND JUNCTION

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

VISIT GRAND JUNCTION Grand Junction is a place where vibrant music, trendy cuisine and a lively art scene converge with a mecca of outdoor adventures. Here, lush forests meet dramatic high desert and powerful rivers course through verdant valleys. visitgrandjunction.com, visitgj@gjcity.org, 970-256-4060, 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, info@mowc.co, 970-242-0971, 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, replica stagecoach and much more. ▶ museumofwesternco.com, info@mowc.co, 970-242-0971, 462 Ute Ave., Grand Junction, 81501 📍 📞

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

COUNTRY JAM JUNE 22–24 Country Jam is a three-day country-music festival featuring 20-plus bands on two stages, surrounded by Colorado's awe-inspiring red-rock landscape. ▶ countryjam.com, info@countryjamco.com, 1065 Hwy. 6 & 50, Mack, 81525

2023 GRAND JUNCTION BLUE ANGELS AIR SHOW OCT. 14–15 Grand Junction welcomes back the Blue Angels. The aerial squadron is debuting new twin-engine F/A-18s at the largest show in the region. You can meet the pilots after the supersonic performance complete with perfectly maneuvered flight formations. ▶ gjairstow.com, airshowgrandjunction@gmail.com, 970-250-6863, 2828 Walker Field Dr., Grand Junction, 81506

HOTELS & MOTELS

GRAND VISTA HOTEL The Grand Vista is a full-service hotel. We proudly feature Oliver's Restaurant, Bailey's Bar & Grill, fitness center, indoor pool, free wifi and banquet facilities. Entertainment in Bailey's Bar seven nights a week. ▶ grandvistahotel.com, sales@grandvistahotel.com, 970-241-8411, 800-800-7796, 2790 Crossroads Blvd., Grand Junction, 81506 📍 📞 📺 📺 📺 📺 📺 📺

HOTEL MAVERICK Located on the breathtaking campus of Colorado Mesa University, Hotel Maverick is Grand Junction's premier hotel for travelers who seek an upscale, boutique — and at the same time uniquely down to earth — “New West” experience. ▶ thehotelmaverick.com, hello@thehotelmaverick.com, 970-822-4888, 877-762-8374, 840 Kennedy Ave., Grand Junction, 81501 📍 📞 📺 📺 📺 📺 📺 📺

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 western gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park. Historic Western boardwalk, shops, dining and lodging. Year-round activities. ▶ gograndlake.com, glinfo@grandlakechamber.com, 970-627-3402, 14700 US Hwy. 34, Grand Lake, 80447 📍

ATTRACTIONS

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REPERTORY THEATRE Professional theater in beautiful Grand Lake. Each summer and fall, RMRT offers high-quality Broadway musicals, showcasing the nation's top young talent. Affordable and family friendly. ▶ rockymountainrep.com, admin@rockymountainrep.com, 970-627-3421, 800 Grand Ave., Grand Lake, 80447 📍

HOTELS & MOTELS

WESTERN RIVIERA LAKESIDE LODGING Lakeside motel and cabin rooms and condos in the heart of the village of Grand Lake at the west entrance to Rocky Mountain National Park. Walk to restaurants, trails, activities and shops. ▶ westernriv.com, motel@westernriv.com, 970-627-3580, 419 Garfield St., Grand Lake, 80447 📍 📞 📺 📺 📺 📺 📺 📺

GUNNISON

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 in beautiful Base Camp; adventure right outside your door. ▶ theinntv.com, jmburch@theinntv.com, 970-641-1131, 41883 Hwy. 50 E., Gunnison, 81230 📍 📞 📺 📺 📺 📺 📺 📺

HOT SULPHUR SPRINGS

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

HOT SULPHUR SPRINGS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE A small mountain town surrounded by the beauty and wonder of nature, nestled in the heart of Grand County along Hwy. 40; features outdoor activities, fishing on the Colorado River, Pioneer Village Museum and Hot Sulphur Springs Resort & Spa open year-round. ▶ hsscchamber.com, info@hsscchamber.com, 970-531-7588, 110 E. Byers Ave., Hot Sulphur Springs, 80451

HOTCHKISS

ATTRACTIONS

DELTA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS A family-oriented facility that plays host to all types of commercial, business, youth, community and private events throughout the year. From our outdoor arenas to Heritage Hall, we can host your event, inside or out. ▶ deltacounty.com, dwise@deltacounty.com, 970-874-2108, 403 S. 4th St., Hotchkiss, 81419 📍

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

DELTA COUNTY FAIR JULY 28–AUG. 5 Delta County Fair, the premier event of the summer, is packed with family-friendly events like a free community barbecue, team roping, ranch rodeo, vendor village with kids activities, live music, animal shows, a Dodge Ram rodeo, a parade and much more. ▶ deltacountyfair.com, rbates@deltacounty.com, 970-874-2199, 403 S. 4th St., Hotchkiss, 81419

IGNACIO

HOTELS & MOTELS

SKY UTE CASINO RESORT Sky Ute Casino Resort offers travelers and visitors a Las Vegas-style gaming experience and a luxury hotel in picturesque Ignacio, home of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. ▶ skyutecasino.com, customerservice@skyutecasino.com, 970-536-7777, 888-842-4180, 14324 Hwy. 172 N., Ignacio, 81137 📍 📞 📺 📺 📺 📺 📺 📺

KREMMLING

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

KREMMLING AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Looking for your next untapped, untamed getaway? Find out why Kremmling is the way “Colorado used to be.” Unplug and reconnect with Mother Nature by rafting, snowmobiling, hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, biking and doing water sports. ▶ kremmlingchamber.com, brittany@kremmlingchamber.com, 970-724-3472, 203 Park Ave., Hwy. 40, Kremmling, 80459

HOTELS & MOTELS

ALLINGTON INN & SUITES OF KREMMLING Centrally located. Views of the Kremmling Cliffs. Indoor pool/hot tub, free breakfast, fitness room, business center, conference room, wifi, refrigerators, suite rooms. Snowmobile Rabbit Ears, hunting, raft Gore Canyon, fish/ice fish, ATV, festivals and more. ▶ allingtoninn.com, kremmling@allingtoninn.com, 970-724-9800, 800-981-4091, 215 W. Central Ave., Kremmling, 80459 📍 📞 📺 📺 📺 📺 📺 📺

LAKE CITY

HOTELS & MOTELS

MATTERHORN MOTEL In downtown historic district off the main highway tucked up against the mountain. Quiet, squeaky clean, best online reviews. Renovated historic property. Two blocks to dining and shopping. Motel rooms, kitchen efficiency rooms and historic cottages. ▶ matterhornmotel.com, info@matterhornmotel.com, 970-944-2210, 409 N. Bluff St., Lake City, 81235 📍 📞 📺 📺 📺 📺 📺 📺

LARKSPUR

CAMPGROUNDS & RV PARKS

YOGI BEAR'S JELLYSTONE PARK™ AT LARKSPUR Enjoy the stunning beauty of Colorado when you stay at Jellystone Park™ at Larkspur. Bring your RV or stay in a furnished upscale cabin. Enjoy themed activities, a multi-level Water Zone, mini-bowling/golf, on-site dining and more. ▶ jlystn.io/ue42j, larkspur@suncommunities.com, 720-325-2393, 888-726-7807, 650 Sky View Ln., Larkspur, 80118 📍 📞 📺 📺 📺 📺 📺 📺

LEADVILLE

LODGES & CABINS

BUCKEYE'S CABIN Buckeye, Luna, Tashi & Zuni cabins are cozy, romantic, authentic, comfortable, restored rental cabins with all the modern conveniences. Located on the headwaters of the Arkansas River in Leadville, with views of Mt. Elbert, Colorado's highest peak. ▶ buckeyecabin.net, paulbreit@aol.com, 970-390-4550, 3455 Hwy. 91 N., Leadville, 80461 📍 📞 📺 📺 📺 📺

RECREATION

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. ▶ skicooper.com, info@skicooper.com, 719-486-2277, 800-707-6114, 232 County Rd. 29 (atop Tennessee Pass), Leadville, 80461 📍

LOVELAND

ATTRACTIONS

CHAPUNGU SCULPTURE PARK AT CENTERRA Chapungu Sculpture Park at Centerra is a 26-acre permanent outdoor art exhibit in Loveland. Home to 80-plus hand-carved Zimbabwe stone sculptures spread along a 1.5-mile walking nature trail. The Great Lawn is available to rent for weddings and events. ▶ bit.ly/ChapunguCenterra, info@mcwhinney.com, 970-962-9990, Centerra Pkwy. and Kendall Pkwy., 5971 Sky Pond Dr., 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, kmitchell@townoflyons.com, 303-823-6622, 432 5th Ave., Lyons, 80540 📍

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

PARADE OF LIGHTS DEC. 2 Enjoy the small-town vibe and holiday parade in Lyons. Floats and winter fireworks combine to create a fun and family-friendly night. Earlier in the day, check out the Holiday Artisan Market. The parade kicks off at 6:30pm. ▶ townoflyons.com/160/Special-Events, Lyon, 80540

- Swimming Pool
- Exercise/Fitness Facilities
- Pets Allowed
- Free Wifi
- Airport Shuttle
- Complimentary Breakfast
- ADA-Compliant
- Restaurant On Site
- Free Parking
- In-Room Refrigerator
- In-Room Microwave

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

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 town 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 & OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Enjoy the mineral drinking springs and our historic charm. Shops, galleries, museums, casual to fine dining, variety of lodging. Centrally located, close to attractions and hiking trails. Perfect for getaways/family vacations. Year-round. Visitors guide. ▶ manitousprings.org, manitou@pikes-peak.com, 719-685-5089, 877-590-9798, 354 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 80829 co-op

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

MANITOU SPRINGS COLORADO WINE FESTIVAL
JUNE 3 Sample and purchase wine from 35 plus Colorado wineries, delicious food, live music and gift vendors at the base of Pikes Peak. Stay near the festival for the weekend and enjoy our charming and walkable, historical downtown. ▶ manitousprings.org, manitou@pikes-peak.com, 719-685-5089, 800-642-2567

2023 EMMA CRAWFORD COFFIN RACES
OCT. 28 Watch the hearse parade followed by 70-plus coffin-racing teams on Manitou Ave. in this signature event. Contests for Best Emma, Best Coffin and Best Entourage ensue, as does the After Party at Soda Springs Park with live music, a beer garden and more. ▶ manitousprings.org, manitou@pikes-peak.com, 719-685-5089

HOTELS & MOTELS

CLIFF HOUSE AT PIKES PEAK Ten minutes from downtown Colorado Springs. *Travel + Leisure's* Top 100 Hotels of the World. The romance of Clark Gable and the Wild West of Buffalo Bill. Amenity fee includes hot breakfast, wifi, fitness center and turndown service. ▶ thecliffhouse.com, info@thecliffhouse.com, 719-685-3000, 888-212-7000, 306 Canon Ave., Manitou Springs, 80829 \$\$-\$\$\$\$

MARBLE

LODGES & CABINS

BEAVER LAKE LODGE & CABINS Historical lodge and cabins in Marble, a small mountain town rich in outdoor activities and history. Fishing, hiking, backcountry skiing, paddleboarding, canoeing, Jeep tours and horseback riding. \$150–\$225. 970-963-2504. ▶ beaverlakeridge.com, 970-963-2504, 201 E. Silver St., Marble, 81623 \$\$

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 tours 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

HOTELS & MOTELS

JOYFUL JOURNEY HOT SPRINGS SPA & EVENT CENTER Joyful Journey is a sanctuary for the soul; a peaceful oasis nestled beneath the Sangre de Cristo mountain range. Mineral-rich pool waters are drained and cleaned daily and chemical free. Stay overnight in a hotel room, yurt, tipi, RV or campsite. ▶ joyfuljourneyhot Springs.com, marketing@jjhotsprings.com, 719-256-4328, 28640 CR 58 EE, Moffat, 81143 \$\$

MONTROSE

ATTRACTIONS

UTE INDIAN MUSEUM Celebrate the history and the living culture of Colorado's longest continuous residents at the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose. Open Mon.–Sat. 9am–4:30pm, Sun. 11am–4pm. ▶ historycolorado.org/ute-indian-museum, cj.brafford@state.co.us, 970-249-3098, 17253 Chipeta Dr., Montrose, 81401

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

RECREATION

GEO TOURS WHITEWATER RAFT TRIPS Raft: Clear Creek (closest to Denver), Arkansas River (Buena Vista) or Upper Colorado River (Winter Park, Vail and Breckenridge). Headquartered just 20 mins. from downtown Denver. Group discounts. 40-plus years. Est. 1981. Group transportation available. ▶ georrafting.com, info@georrafting.com, 303-756-6070, 800-660-7238, 229 Colorado Hwy. 8, Morrison, 80465

MOSCA

ATTRACTIONS

COLORADO GATORS REPTILE PARK Reptile rescue park. See more than 300 alligators, including Mr. Bo Mangles the albino alligator, tortoises, pythons and much more. World's only alligator-wrestling class. Kids can take a reptile-handling class. Educational school programs offered. ▶ coloradogators.com, colog8rs@gmail.com, 719-378-2612, 9162 Ln. 9 N., Mosca, 81146

HOTELS & MOTELS

GREAT SAND DUNES LODGE Come and enjoy the peace and serenity of the Great Sand Dunes National Park at the Great Sand Dunes Lodge. Relax at the foot of the majestic Sangre De Cristo mountain range during your stay at our lodge at the entrance of the national park. ▶ gsdlodge.com, gsdlodge@hotmail.com, 719-378-2900, 7900 State Hwy. 150, Mosca, 81146

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. ▶ visitpagosasprings.com, info@visitpagosasprings.com, 970-585-1200, 800-252-2204, 105 Hot Springs Blvd., Pagosa Springs, 81147



Park Yourself Here

BOOK YOUR VACATION TODAY!

Experience all that Mesa Verde National Park has to offer.

In-Park Lodging • Campground • Guided and Private Tours
 Distinctive Dining • Handicrafts From 8 Native American Tribes

866.796.3534 | VisitMesaVerde.com




Concessions in Mesa Verde National Park are managed by Aramark and authorized by the National Park Service.

ATTRACTIONS

CHIMNEY ROCK NATIONAL MONUMENT An amazing archaeological site in southwestern Colorado. Walk in the footsteps of the enigmatic ancestral Puebloans of Choco Canyon culture, following pathways that haven't changed for 1,000 years, see archaeological structures and abundant wildlife. ▶ facebook.com/chimneyrockco, chimneyrock@chimneyrockco.org, 970-731-7133, 877-444-6777, 3179 CO Hwy. 151, Pagosa Springs, 81147

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

BREWS OF RESCUES BREWFEST APRIL 22 Pagosa Fun! and Rugby's Rescue House would like to invite you to an exciting new event: Brews for Rescues Brewfest is just as much for your dog as it is for you. On Saturday, April 22, regional favorite breweries will come to Pagosa Springs. ▶ pagosafun.com

OKTOBERFEST OCT. 7 Pagosa Fun! is collaborating with Rugby's Rescue House, a local dog rescue that focuses on rescuing dogs from surrounding reservations, to host the 3rd Annual family-friendly, Oktoberfest Pagosa in Town Park on Saturday, October 7. ▶ pagosafun.com, Town Park

OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS DEC. 16 The lights will be twinkling, temps dropping and the spirit of the holidays will fill the air. Plan to join us for the Old Fashioned Christmas Celebration — a magical walk along our downtown River Walk through decorated booths and celebrate the season. ▶ visitpagosasprings.com/events, info@visitpagosasprings.com, 970-585-1200

HOTELS & MOTELS

HEALING WATERS RESORT & SPA Relaxing hot-springs resort in the heart of downtown Pagosa Springs, steps away from river fun, hiking, cross-country skiing, dining and shopping. Comfortable rooms, suites and park-model cabins. Hot springs, swimming pool, hot tub and indoor hot baths. ▶ pshotsprings.com, stay@pshotsprings.com, 970-264-5910, 800-832-5523, 317 Hot Springs Blvd., Pagosa Springs, 81147

RIVERWALK INN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS Modern, rustic-style boutique downtown hotel by the river. Courtyard patio overlooks mountains and river. Hot tub, dry sauna and complimentary continental breakfast. Easy to walk to hot springs, restaurants and local shops. Highly rated by guests. ▶ pagosariverwalkinn.com, firstinoffice@gmail.com, 970-264-4161, 260 E. Pagosa St., Pagosa Springs, 81147

THE SPRINGS RESORT Enjoy 25 soaking pools fed by the world's deepest geothermal hot spring on record. Our public bathhouse, spa, hotel and Barefoot Grill lie on the banks of the San Juan River in southwest Colorado and are open 365 days a year; only 30 minutes to Wolf Creek. ▶ pagosahotspings.com, info@pagosahotspings.com, 970-264-4168, 800-225-0934, 323 Hot Springs Blvd., Pagosa Springs, 81147

PALISADE

HOTELS & MOTELS

WINE COUNTRY INN An 80-room Victorian-style boutique hotel, Wine Country Inn sits in 21 acres of vineyards and offers a seasonal outdoor pool and hot tub, ballroom and public room venues, free internet, fitness center, business center, gift shop. Bar and restaurant. ▶ coloradowinecountryinn.com, innkeeper@coloradowinecountryinn.com, 970-464-5777, 888-855-8330, 777 Grande River Dr., Palisade, 81526

PAONIA

LODGES & CABINS

ELECTRIC MOUNTAIN LODGE The Electric Mountain Lodge is remote and tucked away at 9,200 feet atop the Grand Mesa. This ultimate mountain getaway features a renovated lodge, restaurant, bar and cabins, with snowmobile/UTV rentals and countless outdoor-excursion opportunities. ▶ esvrm.com/electric-mountain-lodge, reservations@esvrm.com, 888-403-7876, 41348 Electric Mountain Ln., Paonia, 81428

PUEBLO

ATTRACTIONS

EL PUEBLO HISTORY MUSEUM Showcasing the region's history, the site includes a museum, modern exhibits, unique gift shop, 1840s-style adobe trading post and archaeological excavation for the 1842 El Pueblo trading post. Mon.–Sat., 10am–4pm. In summer, also open Sun., noon–4pm. ▶ elpueblohistorymuseum.org, dianne.archuleta@state.co.us, 719-583-0453, 301 N. Union Ave., Pueblo, 81003

SANGRE DE CRISTO ARTS AND CONFERENCE CENTER The Sangre de Cristo Arts Center offers high-quality visual art exhibitions, performing arts, dance, the award-winning Buell Children's Museum, comprehensive arts education programs and beautiful venues for events. ▶ sdc-arts.org, mail@sdc-arts.org, 719-295-7200, 210 N. Santa Fe Ave., Pueblo, 81003

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

PUEBLO CHILE & FRIJOLAS FESTIVAL SEPT. 22–24 Celebrate the Spiciest Harvest Festival at the Pueblo Chile & Frijoles Festival. Held throughout 10 blocks of historical downtown Union Ave, it has live entertainment, street vendors, cooking competitions and the king of crops ... the Pueblo chile! ▶ pueblochilefestival.com

RANGELY

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

RANGELY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Rangely is a hidden utopia of solitude and recreation. Come for hunting, fishing, petroglyphs, sonic art center, OHV trails, hiking, biking, rock climbing, golfing and museums. ▶ rangelychamber.com, rangelychamber@gmail.com, 970-675-5290, 255 E. Main St., Suite A, Rangely, 81648

REDSTONE

LODGES & CABINS

AVALANCHE RANCH CABINS & HOT SPRINGS Thirteen log cabins, three covered wagons, a tiny house, one-bedroom loft apartment, plus three-bedroom house all with spectacular Rocky Mountain views. Common lodge, three hot-springs pools, stocked trout pond, riverfront and activities on 36 acres. ▶ avalancheranch.com, info@avalancheranch.com, 970-963-2846, 12863 State Hwy. 133, Redstone, 81623

SAGUACHE

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

TOWN OF SAGUACHE/SAGUACHE COUNTY Visit the Old Spanish Trail, the last linotype newspaper in the US, the Historic Ute Theater and three hot springs, and enjoy watching our wildlife. Stop in our friendly, art-enriched ranching community. Come to visit — come to stay. ▶ townofsaguache.org, info@saguachetourism.com, 719-655-6202, 501 4th St., Saguache, 81149

SALIDA

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

CHAFFEE COUNTY VISITOR'S BUREAU Chaffee County is 100 percent Colorado! It stars the small towns of Buena Vista, Salida, Poncha Springs and Monarch Mountain. Surrounded by 15 14,000-foot peaks and bordered by the Arkansas River, these historical downtowns have it all. ▶ colorfulcolorado.com, scott@colorfulcolorado.com, 800-831-8594, 406 W. Rainbow Blvd., Salida, 81201

SALIDA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE/HEART OF THE ROCKIES

Historical Salida, located next to 14,000-foot peaks and the Arkansas River. Shops and art galleries add to the charm. Skiing/snowboarding, snowmobiling, dog sledding, rafting, kayaking, hot-springs pool, ziplining, fishing, hiking and mountain biking. ▶ salidachamber.org, desk@salidachamber.org, 719-539-2068, 877-772-5432, 406 W. Hwy. 50, Salida, 81201

LODGES & CABINS

CREEKSIDE CHALETs AND CABINS Why go to the mountains and not stay in the mountains? At only 10 minutes to Monarch Ski Area, our 9 cabins have full kitchens, king-size beds, 9 private hot tubs and free wifi, and are located in an aspen grove with 1/4 mile of creek frontage on the property. ▶ creeksidechalets.com, reservations@creeksidechalets.com, 719-539-6953, 866-539-6953, 16724 W. US Hwy. 50, Salida, 81201

SARGENTS

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

TOWN OF SARGENTS With breathtaking scenery all around, Sargents is a mecca for outdoor recreation. Enjoy world-class dirt-biking, off-roading, mountain biking, fishing, camping, hiking, hunting, snowmobiling and skiing. Adventure awaits! ▶ 970-641-0674, 71420 US Hwy. 50, Sargents, 81248

SEDALIA

DUDE & GUEST RANCHES

LOST VALLEY RANCH Lost Valley Ranch is a one-of-a-kind dude ranch. The recipient of the prestigious AAA Four Diamond award for 45 consecutive years, we've been providing unforgettable Colorado guest-ranch experiences for adventurers and families alike since 1961. ▶ lostvalleyranch.com, info@lostvalleyranch.com, 303-647-2311, 29555 Goose Creek Rd., Sedalia, 80135

SILVERTHORNE

SHOPPING

OUTLETS AT SILVERTHORNE Offering a distinctive shopping experience in a beautiful Rocky Mountain setting. Save 30–70 percent on our collection of name-brand stores such as Williams-Sonoma, Calvin Klein, Under Armour, GAP, Coach, Banana Republic, J Crew, Levi's and more. ▶ outletsatsilverthorne.com, info@outletsatsilverthorne.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, a mucker and more. Learn the secrets of the "honey" wagon. Free gold and silver panning with tour purchase. No reservations needed. ▶ minetour.com, info@minetour.com, 970-387-5444, 800-872-3009, 721 County Rd. 4-A, Silverton, 81433

MARRIOTT'S STREAMSIDE EVERGREEN AT VAIL

Experience this premium resort near the famous Vail ski slopes and choose to relax in spacious two-bedroom, two-bath villa rentals with kitchens, indoor/outdoor connecting pools, a fitness center, racquetball court and kids playground. ▶ marriott.com/en-us/hotels/whrvi-marriotts-streamside-evergreen-at-vail, 970-476-6000, 800-845-5279, 2284 S. Frontage Rd. W., Vail, 81657

VAIL SPA CONDOMINIUMS Spacious 2- to 4-bedroom condominium rentals in a convenient Lionshead location just steps from the gondola. Amenities include full kitchens, indoor and outdoor pools and hot tubs, steam room, saunas, fitness facility, tennis and pickleball courts. ▶ vailspa.com, vailspa@eastwest.com, 970-476-0882, 866-966-1868, 710 W. Lionshead Cir., Vail, 81657

VAIL'S MOUNTAIN HAUS Nestled along Gore Creek at the covered bridge in the heart of Vail Village, Vail's Mountain Haus offers luxurious accommodations just steps from fine dining and world-class skiing. ▶ mountainhaus.com, info@mountainhaus.com, 970-476-2434, 800-237-0922, 292 E. Meadow Dr., Vail, 81657

HOTELS & MOTELS

VAIL RACQUET CLUB MOUNTAIN RESORT The only condo-resort property in Vail on 20 acres, for a true Colorado experience. 1-, 2- & 3-bedroom units with unmatched complimentary amenities offering a distinctive mountain retreat at an exceptional value. Cash rewards for reserving direct. ▶ vailracquetclub.com, sales@vailracquetclub.com, 970-476-4840, 800-428-4840, 4695 Vail Racquet Club Dr., Vail, 81657

RECREATION

VAIL GOLF CLUB & NORDIC CENTER Highlighted by stunning views of the Gore Mountains, Vail's only 18-hole course features unique fairways, smooth putting surfaces and a scenic layout. Don't miss the beautiful clubhouse and the Nordic ski, snowshoe and fat-bike trails in winter. ▶ vailgolf.com, info@vailrec.com, 970-479-2260, 1775 Sunburst Dr., Vail, 81657

VALLECITO LAKE

LODGES & CABINS

PINE RIVER LODGE We have 27 cabins 75 feet to 300 yards from the shore of Vallecito Lake. Close to horseback rides, marina, hiking trails and restaurants. Cabins are complete with kitchens and separate bedrooms. Staff will happily help with activity ideas. ▶ pineriverlodge.com, pineriverlodge@frontier.net, 970-884-2563, 14443 C.R. 501, Bayfield, 81122

VILLA GROVE

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

TOWN OF VILLA GROVE Established in 1863, Villa Grove is a quaint town with a colorful mining and railroad history. Located at the northern tip of the San Luis Valley, Villa Grove is becoming well known for live music, art, hot springs, off-road trails and stunning scenery. ▶ colorado.com/cities-and-towns/villa-grove, Villa Grove, 81155

WALDEN

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

VISIT NORTH PARK Whether you come to play or relax, unplug from your daily routine in our beautiful paradise. North Park offers hiking, fishing, ATV 4-wheeling activities, hunting, snowmobiling, wildlife viewing, sightseeing and photographic moments. ▶ visitnorthparkco.com, info@visitnorthparkco.com, 970-723-4600, 489 Main St., Walden, 80480

WESTMINSTER

HOTELS & MOTELS

ORIGIN WESTMINSTER Experience authentic Colorado with a stay at Origin Hotel Westminster. Located midway between Denver and Boulder, Origin offers guests modern guestrooms, an on-site French restaurant and bar, expansive fitness center, free parking and more. ▶ originhotel.com/hotels/westminster, frontdesk@originhotelwestminster.com, 720-647-7400, 8875 Westminster Blvd., Westminster, 80031

WINTER PARK

TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS & VISITOR CENTERS

WINTER PARK-FRASER CHAMBER Winter Park is a choose-your-own-adventure kind of mountain town only 67 miles from Denver. With more than 600 miles of trails and 765,000 acres of public land to wander and explore, Winter Park offers a uniquely unfiltered Colorado experience. ▶ playwinterpark.com, visitorcenter@playwinterpark.com, 970-726-4118, 800-903-7275, 78841 US Hwy. 40, Winter Park, 80482

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

BEST WESTERN ALPENGLO LODGE Conveniently located in downtown Winter Park. Walk to more than 25 restaurants/clubs and shopping. Free hot breakfast. Free wifi, 37-inch flat-screen HDTVs, 14-person hot tub. On free resort shuttle route. On-site ski/bike shop. Pet friendly. AAA rated. ▶ wplodging.com, nancy@wplodging.com, 970-726-8088, 888-726-8088, 78665 US Hwy. 40, Winter Park, 80482

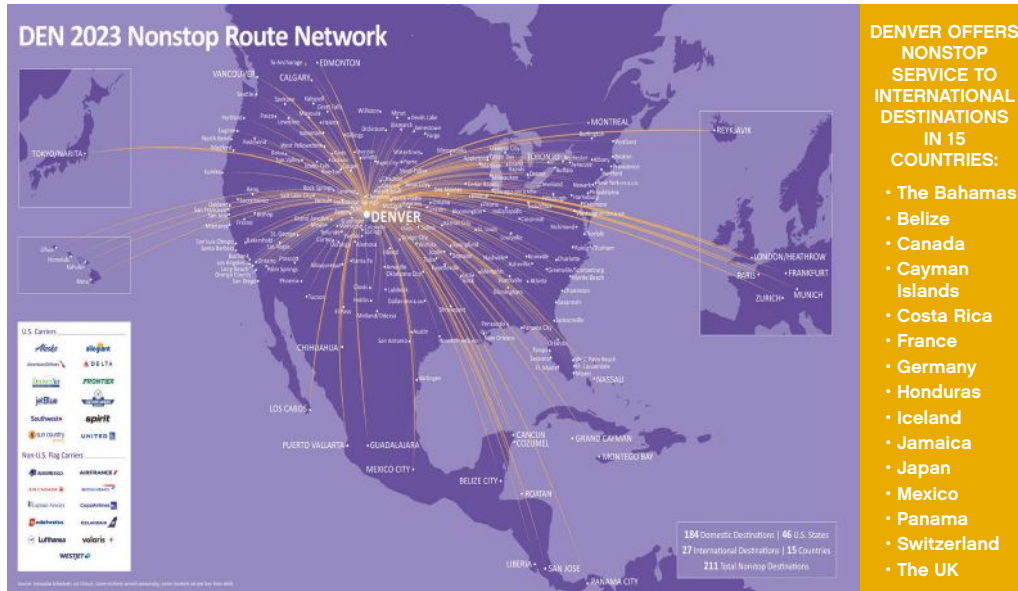
RECREATION

GRAND ADVENTURES SNOWMOBILE & OFF-ROAD TOURS AND RENTALS Snowmobile and off-road guided tours and unguided rentals in Winter Park, Fraser Valley and Grand Lake. Ride the Divide: Tours top out at 12,000 feet with views of the entire Winter Park Resort. Trails for all levels. Join us for winter and summer. ▶ grandadventures.com, info@grandadventures.com, 970-726-9247, 78311 US Hwy. 40, Winter Park, 80482

MAD ADVENTURES We have something for just about everyone, from class III and IV rapids on Clear Creek near Idaho Springs, to the family-friendly Upper Colorado River outside of Kremmling and only 45 minutes from Winter Park. ▶ madadventures.com, fun@madadventures.com, 970-726-5290, 78311 US Hwy. 40, Winter Park, 80482



Getting Here & Getting Around



Destinations are subject to change.

We're well connected to the rest of the U.S. and international destinations. With a strong network of airports, highways, buses, shuttles and trains, traveling here and getting around is a breeze.

Travel by Air

DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (DEN) FLYDENVER.COM

For the full year 2021 and year-to-date August 2022, Denver International Airport (DEN) ranked as the third-busiest airport in the world. Boosted by strong demand for domestic

travel, DEN has solidified its position as a global gateway. Upon arrival, travelers have direct routings to mountain resorts and destinations across the state, and downtown Denver is easily accessible via commuter rail.

COLORADO SPRINGS AIRPORT (COS) FLYCOS.COM

Serving Colorado's second largest city, COS is the gateway to the Pikes Peak Wonders region. Conveniently located 15 minutes from downtown, COS offers travelers simple parking, easy check-in and short security lines. Rental car and other transportation options are abundant.

GRAND JUNCTION REGIONAL AIRPORT (GJT) GJAIRPORT.COM

GJT is the largest airport in western Colorado and the third-largest airport in the state. Six major airlines offer nonstop service to nine destinations.

Visit Colorado.com/GettingHere for other airports that serve the state.

Travel by Bus, Shuttle & Light Rail

Convenient and eco-friendly options exist for travel between and around 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 runs between downtown Denver and DEN. For \$10.50, riders have access to the entire RTD system.

There's also the SkyRide bus, which runs between DEN (also known as DIA) and Brighton, Boulder, the Denver Tech Center and Aurora. rtd-denver.com

- Bustang and Bustang Outrider connect Denver to many cities across the state, including Fort Collins, Colorado Springs, Grand Junction, Durango, Telluride and Pueblo. ridebustang.com
- Pegasus is a new shuttle route (with wifi!) from Denver to Avon with stops in Idaho Springs, Frisco and Vail. ridebustang.com
- The Flatiron Flyer rapid-transit bus connects Denver and Boulder. rtd-denver.com/services/flatiron-flyer
- FLEX is a regional bus route between Fort Collins, Loveland, Longmont and Boulder. Fort Collins' local bus line, Transfort, connects midtown, Colorado State University and downtown, among other city stops. ridetransfort.com/flex
- The Roundabout bus connects Idaho Springs, Georgetown and Silver Plume. co.clear-creek.co.us
- Summit Stage is a free bus between Keystone, Dillon, Copper Mountain, Arapahoe Basin, Silverthorne, Frisco and Breckenridge. summitcountyco.gov
- ECO Transit serves Gypsum, Vail, Edwards, Leadville, Minturn, Beaver Creek and Avon. eaglecounty.us/transit
- The Gunnison Valley RTA runs between Gunnison and Crested Butte. gunnisonvalleyrta.com

- The Roaring Fork Transit Authority runs between Aspen, Carbondale, Glenwood Springs, Snowmass, Rifle and more. rfta.com
- The Lift runs year-round from Winter Park Resort, downtown Winter Park, Fraser and Granby. theliftwp.com
- Several free in-town buses serve Vail, Breckenridge, Telluride, Estes Park, Manitou Springs, Glenwood Springs, Aspen, Grand Junction and others.
- Greyhound buses run between Denver and Colorado Springs, Fort Collins, Pueblo, Grand Junction, Vail and many other towns. greyhound.com
- Several private shuttles run between our cities, ski towns and airports. Colorado.com/Shuttles

Buena Vista and Aurora—feature popular bike- and scooter-sharing options for getting to and fro.

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.

There’s also the Rocky Mountaineer, which runs from Denver to Glenwood Springs and on to Utah accompanied by stunning views and luxury amenities. See page 57 for scenic and historic railroads.

Ride & Bike Sharing

Ride-sharing apps are popular throughout the state.

If you’re a solo traveler, check out TreadShare, a carpool app that connects Colorado drivers and passengers heading in the same direction so they can share a route and split the associated costs.

Several cities — including Denver, Colorado Springs, Boulder, Longmont, Golden, Aspen, Basalt, Snowmass,

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.

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.

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.

If You Do Drive

Plan ahead by using Go70’s travel forecast for predictions on the shortest drive times and ways to avoid heavy traffic. Or book an electric vehicle for your group via the Turo app.

Drive Distances in Miles

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

Colorado Welcome Centers

If you want to get in touch with knowledgeable locals during your visit, all you need to do is head to one of the 10 Colorado Welcome Centers.

Stop by for travel advice, and pick up 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

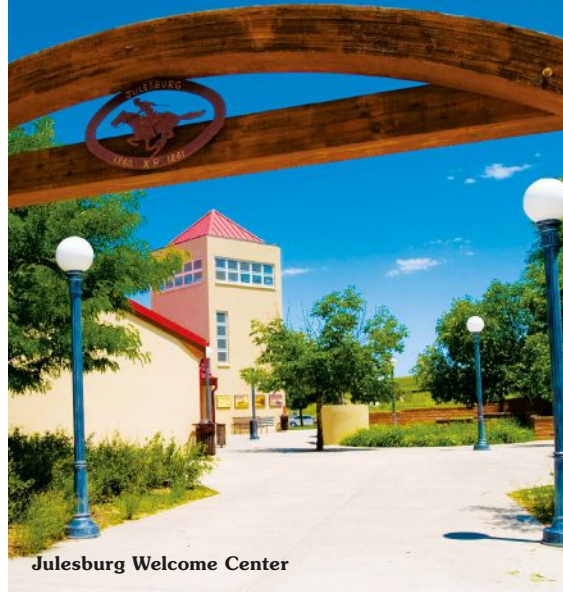
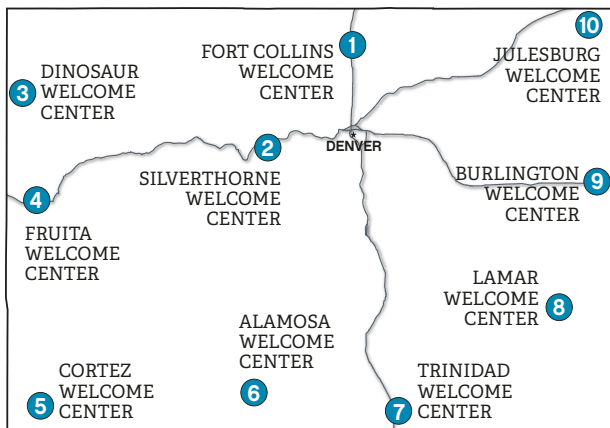
109 E. Beech St., U.S. Hwy. 50
719-336-3483
Situated near the Kansas border.

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.



Julesburg Welcome Center

Travel Like a Local

Packing: Dressing in easily removable layers ensures you're always comfortable — adding or removing them as temperatures change. Our diversity of elevations means temperatures can shift quickly.

Here are some basics to help you stay comfortable:

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

Altitude: Denver is the Mile High City, and many popular destinations are at 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.

Hikes, Roadtrips & Other Excursions: Pack more food, water and cold-weather wear than you expect to need so you won't be caught unprepared.

Get Free Special Offers & Colorado Travel Information

Pick the attractions, hotels, tour operators and destinations
you'd like to hear from using one of these methods:

ONLINE: Go to Colorado.com/Travelinfo, select the categories you're interested in and wait for trip-planning resources to arrive!



BY MAIL OR FAX: Review the list below and circle the numbers that correspond to things you want to learn more about on the card between pages 128 and 129. Drop the card in the mail (no stamp needed!) or fax it to 303-477-0724.

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LET LIFE TAKE THE LEAD

VisitGrandJunction.com



GRAND JUNCTION

WHERE LIFE LEADS

PLAY YOUR WAY

Grand Junction is where vibrant music, farm-fresh cuisine and a lively art scene converge with countless outdoor adventures. Here, alpine terrain meets dramatic high desert. Powerful rivers course through verdant valleys, and opportunities for embracing the vast wilderness that surrounds Grand Junction are abundant in every season.

Come follow your passions, indulge your senses and go where life leads. You'll soon see that Mother Nature really does play favorites.



COLORADO NAT'L MONUMENT

Just a few miles from Downtown Grand Junction, Colorado's secret national park towers over the area. A geological wonder, the Monument is a favorite for sunrise and sunset views. Journey up Rim Rock Drive, pausing at convenient pullouts and majestic overlooks. Stop at Upper Ute Canyon View for the most amazing echo you've ever heard. At night, the clear desert sky shows off the magnificent Milky Way and shooting stars.

BOOK CLIFFS

To the north of Grand Junction stands the longest continuous cliff face on the planet. The picturesque Book Cliffs stand tall and extend to the western horizon into Utah. Climb Mount Garfield to reveal a grand overlook. Plan to visit the Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range to view the protected bands of wild mustangs who freely roam here.



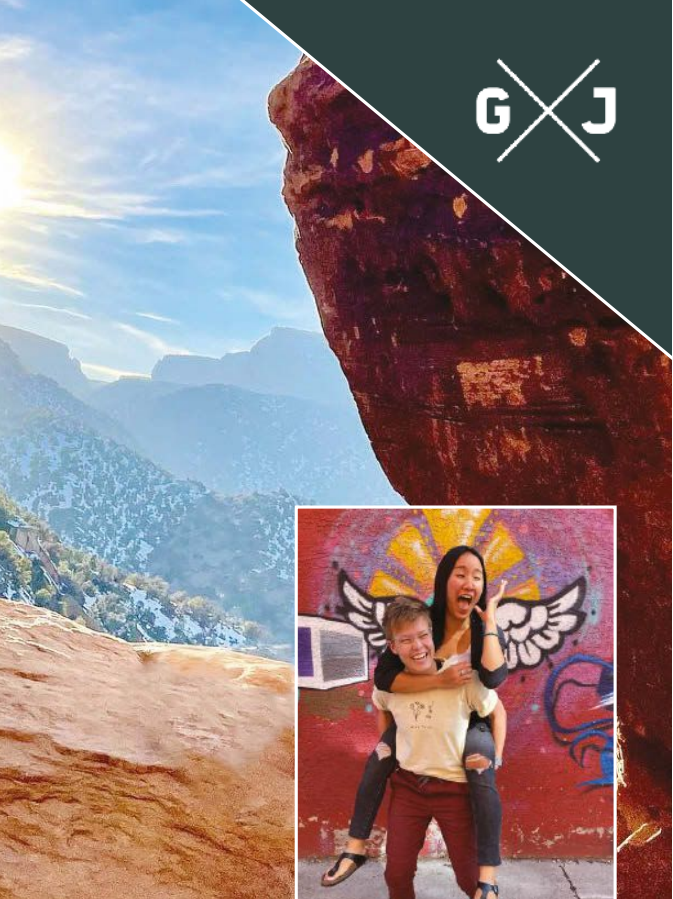
ARCHES

The McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area is full of remote canyons that slice through colorful sandstone layers to form cliffs, pinnacles, alcoves and arches. Rattlesnake Canyon hosts a collection of 35 natural arches, forming the world's second largest concentration outside of Arches National Park. All without the crowds!



CRAFT BEVERAGE

Known as Colorado's Wine Country, Grand Junction is home to 30 wineries and tasting rooms. Stroll through the vineyards or kick back and enjoy live music. Local breweries, distilleries, cideries, and meaderies round out the refreshing libations.



DOWNTOWN

Grand Junction's historic Downtown is a designated park and pedestrian-friendly zone with over 115 outdoor sculptures and murals that frame the wide sidewalks. Peruse the many galleries, boutiques, cafes and restaurants. Buy a piece of art, create a custom-scented candle, wander antique stores or relax on the patio and enjoy an après microbrew.

FARM-FRESH FARE

From the famous Palisade Peach harvest to pick-your-own cherry and apple orchards, the agricultural character of the Grand Junction area is thriving. Taste farm-to-fork cuisine and pair with award-winning craft beverages. Here, the gifts from the land are always in season.



HIT THE TRAIL

The GJ area is expansive, with over 1.5 million acres of public land - that's 76% of the county and an area larger than Rhode Island and Delaware combined! From OHV'ing in the dense forest of the Grand Mesa to hiking serpentine desert canyons of Colorado Nat'l. Monument, thousands of miles of uncrowded trails await. For some truly inspiring views, hike the Crag Crest Trail or OHV through Rabbit Valley down to the Colorado River.

A SPORTSMAN'S PARADISE

Between the Colorado and Gunnison Rivers and the 300 alpine lakes on the Grand Mesa, plentiful water beckons anglers. When hunting season arrives, the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests are prime destinations for big game. Trophy elk, pronghorn, deer, moose, desert bighorn sheep and other game abound, including a huge population of winter waterfowl.



WINTER FUN

The Grand Mesa averages 250 inches of light, dry powder each year and has some of the best glade skiing in the state. Powderhorn Mountain Resort is affordable and a short 45-minute drive from Grand Junction. The Mesa also offers backcountry skiing and 31 miles of groomed trails for Nordic and skate skiing. If speed is more your thing, the Grand Mesa provides access to over 180 miles of backcountry snowmobiling trails to shred.

GET WET

Whether your idea of fun is a refreshing float down the Colorado on SUPs right through town, or an exhilarating whitewater run through nearby Westwater Canyon, area rivers serve up plenty of places to float leisurely and safely on countless sunny days. Playboaters can hop into the standing waves at Las Colonias River Park near the confluence of the Colorado and Gunnison Rivers, hence the name Grand Junction.



PEDAL PLEASERS

Grand Junction is a utopia for cyclists. Rim Rock Drive, through the Colorado National Monument, is an iconic ride with sweeping views of the canyon country. Mountain bikers dive into the technical twists and turns on Lunch Loops, a local favorite. The Palisade Plunge expert-only singletrack is a 32-mile, adrenaline-fest that drops 6,000 feet from the top of the Grand Mesa to the high-desert floor.



VisitGrandJunction.com

ANCIENT ARTIFACTS & DINOSAURS

Bring your inner paleontologist out and step back 600 million years in time at Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area. The rugged canyon contains important geological, cultural and historical relics such as Native American petroglyphs. If fossils are more your thing, Rabbit Valley has an interpretive trail through a working fossil quarry, where the remains of 140-million-year-old dinosaurs can be viewed.

TEE TIMES

If your idea of a great day on the links includes immaculately groomed greens and red-rock canyons rising in the distance, you'll love playing golf in Grand Junction. Tiara Rado and Redlands Mesa (rated the No. 1 course in Colorado by Golfweek) afford golfers stunning vistas of Colorado National Monument. Breathtaking views of the sandstone Book Cliffs and other surrounding mountain ranges can be found at Chipeta and Lincoln Park golf courses.

WILDLIFE WONDERS

The diverse ecosystems of the area are home to a variety of Colorado fauna. Bighorn sheep, elk, deer, lynx and moose ply the high country. Just across the Colorado River from Downtown, the Riverfront Trail traverses a 1.5-mile paved Audubon section providing delightful opportunities to spot over 200 bird species, including blue heron, osprey, hawks and eagles.

STAY A WHILE

Grand Junction hosts the most affordable lodging in Colorado, with easy access from the airport. Choose from 32 hotels as well as inns, B&Bs and hundreds of vacation homes. With many Colorado attractions located within just minutes of the city, it's the perfect basecamp. And with fewer crowds than other mountain towns, Grand Junction is the Colorado you expect. The number one comment from guests who visit is – "the locals are so friendly and welcoming!" **So come play with us, we look forward to meeting you!**



GATEWAY TO THE ROCKIES

Between 99 developed parks, 250+ independently owned international restaurants, Colorado's largest resort, Gaylord Rockies, and 8,000+ acres of open space, there's plenty to explore in Aurora. Discover sparkling reservoirs, award-winning breweries, a thriving arts scene, and more. Whatever your type of adventure, discover it in the Gateway to the Rockies.

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The World's Largest Carnivore Sanctuary

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