

EXPLORE

Colorado

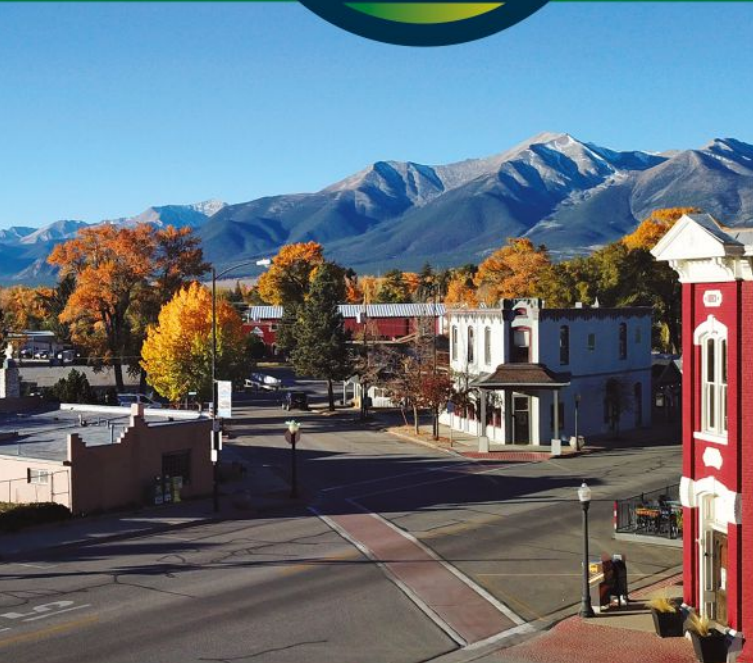
OFFICIAL TRAVEL GUIDE





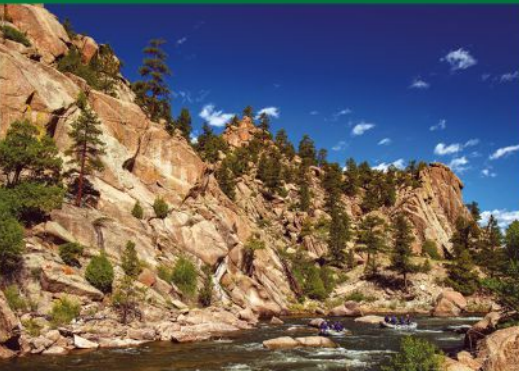
BUENA VISTA & SALIDA

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



WELCOME TO THE Centennial State!



As the Governor of colorful Colorado, I'm happy to invite you and your loved ones to visit and experience everything our great state has to offer.

There's something very special about Colorado, a place where unparalleled natural beauty and a sense of exploration bring your vacation to life. From the majesty of our Rocky Mountains and the thrill of outdoor recreation to the charm of our vibrant cities and world-class amenities, Colorado has something special for everyone. We are known for our Western hospitality and unique Colorado spirit, which make our state a place where diversity is celebrated and visitors are embraced as part of the extended family.

While exploring our beautiful state, we encourage everyone to Do Colorado Right and travel thoughtfully. Small actions, like using public transportation to get from one destination to the next, keeping our trails clean and even renting an e-bike to explore a new town, can all help us preserve our pristine environment for future generations to experience, while also adding to your adventure.

I wish you safe travels as you create memories that will last a lifetime. We can't wait to see you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jared Polis".



Trout Lake near Telluride

Land Acknowledgment

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

Their own sanctuary.
Double-deck blackjack,
double down on flavors.
“Winning is simply
being here,”
she said.

Play BEAUTIFUL

 **MONARCH**
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STATE OF COLORADO

Jared Polis – Governor

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Covers: Summer: Josh King; Winter: Tim Kemple

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DO COLORADO RIGHT

We've created the Care for Colorado Leave No Trace Principles to make it easy for you to do simple things that have big impacts on our rippling rivers and streams, evergreen-carpeted mountains and swaying grasslands. Keep these tips in mind as you travel through our natural places, and you'll be a part of the special group helping future visitors experience our beautiful state to its fullest, all while you make the most of your Colorado adventures.



Rio Grande Trail near Glenwood Springs

Know Before You Go

- Almost half of Colorado is public land. Learn about the area you plan to visit before adventuring out so you can enjoy and help protect the spaces we all share.
- Colorado's weather and scenic terrain are stunning but can change drastically. Check conditions before you depart, pack layers, sun protection and rain gear, wear appropriate footwear ... and enjoy your trip.
- Journey to places with minimal crowds to maximize your connection with the great outdoors. Have a backup plan in case the parking lot at your original destination is full.
- Pack reusable water bottles to stay hydrated, limit waste and save money.

Stick to Trails

- Embrace the adventure as intended by only walking on designated trails — even if it's wet, muddy, slushy or icy. This will help avoid erosion and protect the homes of local wildlife.
- Shortcuts and that perfect selfie can be tempting, but staying on the path will decrease your risk of injury and protect trailside plants.
- Camping? Set up in one of thousands of designated campsites in Colorado. They boast some of the most scenic views and protect the landscapes. And remember to camp at least 200 feet from waterways to leave space for wildlife.

Leave It As You Find It

- Enjoy discovering plants? Rocks? Historical and cultural items? Be sure to leave them as you found them so everyone can experience the joy of discovery.
- Colorado has more than 2,000 different species of wildflowers, all with their own unique part to play in our ecosystem. Admire their beauty by taking a photo, not a flower.
- Cleaning boots, bike tires and water crafts before and after every outing not only makes your gear last longer, it prevents the spread of harmful invasive species.
- Colorado's trees give us beautiful leaf-peeping photos, shade on summer days, unmatched ski runs and, of course, oxygen (which at this altitude, is a big help). But the smallest carving can kill or disfigure them.

Trash the Trash

- Pack in the beautiful views by packing out the trash and leaving a place better than you found it. And make sure not to forget the peels and cores. Just because it's good for you, doesn't mean it's good for the wildlife.
- No bathroom around? No worries. Be prepared with a disposable WAG bag (found in most outdoor stores), and conveniently pack out your waste. Some locations may allow you to bury your business: Find privacy 70 steps from water and the trail, dig a 6- to 8-inch hole and then bury your business. Check the website of your destination to be sure you're following their guidelines.

Be Careful With Fire

- Build the perfect Colorado campfire (and avoid sparking a wildfire) by first making sure campfires are allowed in the area. Then, keep them small, manageable and attended. When it's time to extinguish, make sure the embers are cold to the touch to avoid reigniting a flame.
- Buy or gather firewood locally; it'll save you space in your car, plus it prevents the introduction of any invasive species like the destructive pine beetle.
- Use care when smoking anything (and we do mean anything) in Colorado's dry climate. One of the biggest causes of fires is discarded butts.

Keep Wildlife Wild

- Colorado is home to tens of thousands of furry, scaly and feathered creatures. To keep them — and you — safe, make sure to keep your (and your dog's) distance. And if you're ever unsure, follow the rule of thumb: If you can cover the entire animal with your thumb, you're at a safe distance.
- Everyone loves the smell of bacon (not just humans). So always store food, trash and anything with a scent in bear-proof lockers, canisters or secured vehicles. This will protect you and prevent wildlife from being exposed to behavior changes, predators or even euthanasia.

Share Our Trails & Parks

- Everyone experiences and enjoys the outdoors in different ways. Be mindful of your group's noise level so everyone can appreciate our shared spaces.
- Yield to the uphill hiker and biker — they need the momentum. Wheelchair users and equestrians always have the right of way.



From packing the backcountry essentials to taking EV-friendly road trips, visit DoColoradoRight.com for more ways to know before you go!

State Forest State Park near Walden

ANDREW MAGUIRE

10 REASONS You Need a Colorado Vacation

Across our pristine landscapes, vibrant cities and charming mountain towns, it feels like there are endless ways to enjoy the beauty and spirit of the Centennial State. From heart-racing adventure to a moment of relaxation, add these 10 bucket-list ideas to your itinerary for a quintessential experience. Whether you fit them all in one trip or spread over many, we're sure you'll have a Colorado vacation to remember.



Near Meeker

ANDREW MAGUIRE



South Fork Mineral Creek Falls near Silverton

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO



Rivers are powerful and always changing, so be sure to check water levels before getting wet. Remember to wear a personal flotation device — even when SUPing. And for smooth sailing, hire a guide.

1 Soak Up Our Water

Each spring, our renowned winter snow transforms into fresh, cool water that fills our rivers and lakes. It happens just in time for you to set up your umbrella on a sandy beach at our more than 2,000 lakes, book a whitewater-rafting trip with an experienced guide, plot which inlets and currents you'll drift into on your stand-up paddleboard, or choose a hike where the refreshing mist of a waterfall revives you with a mid-trek cool down.

Thirty steamy, mineral-rich hot springs bubble up to welcome you in any season. Options range from luxurious resorts where elegant cabins and holistically centered spas sit steps from the water to family-focused fun with slides and diving boards to backcountry locales that require hiking a few miles to reach.

And when things are frosty above ground, give our frozen water a whirl atop a pair of ice skates. From rinks with sun-soaked winter skies to city and resort locales surrounded by busy shops and restaurants, this pastime serves up back-to-basics winter joy.



Animas River near Durango

BOTH IMAGES: KENNAN HARVEY

THE BROADMOOR

An American Masterpiece



AWARD-WINNING AMENITIES

- 5-Star Spa and Fitness Center
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- 3 Pools, including Seasonal Infinity Pool
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- 3 Pickleball Courts

BOUNDLESS ADVENTURE

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- The Broadmoor Soaring Adventure
- Falconry Academy at The Broadmoor
- Hiking
- Mountain Biking
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- Fly Fishing
- On-Site Bowling Alley

EXCEPTIONAL DINING & RETAIL

- An Abundance of Distinct Restaurants, Cafés and Lounges on Property
- 20 Unique Retail Outlets

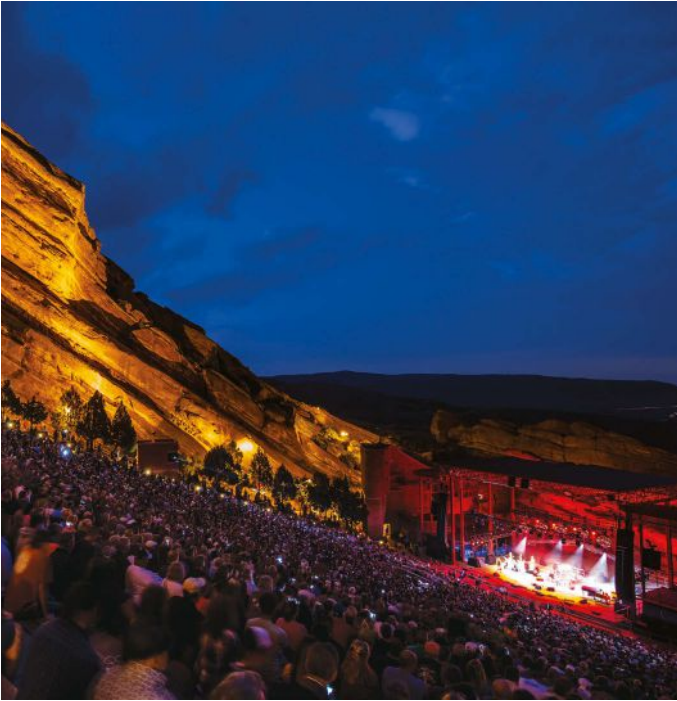
AUTHENTIC, ALL-INCLUSIVE WILDERNESS PROPERTIES

- Cloud Camp
- The Ranch at Emerald Valley
- Orvis-Endorsed Fly Fishing Camp

THE BROADMOOR • *Sea Island* COMPANY



2 Spend a Night Under the Stars



Red Rocks Amphitheatre near Denver

With high elevations that let you see farther into the galaxy — without even needing a telescope — and a proliferation of mountain ranges shielding skies from light pollution, Colorado offers a wide variety of ways to gaze at our spectacularly dark skies.

Glimpse at the vast shimmering of the Milky Way and see rocky peaks illuminated by starlight. Take a guided trip through the galaxy at an astronomer-led star party or cozy up for a private viewing from your sleeping bag in a backcountry campsite. With 15 certified

International Dark Sky Parks and Communities, you won't travel far to see constellations speckled across a clear Colorado sky.

Add a soundtrack to your night under the stars by grabbing tickets at one of our dozens of renowned outdoor music venues, where notes dance off surrounding summits and the stars illuminate forest groves. From the incredible acoustics at some of the world's most unique venues to music festivals that echo through surrounding mountain ranges, our open-air stages will ignite your soul.



FROM TOP: ETHAN WELTY; ANDREW MAGUIRE

Near Westcliffe

THE DURANGO & SILVERTON NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD

Where Authentic Western Heritage Comes Alive



Established 1881

Year Round 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.

Reserve today!

DurangoTrain.com

800-408-3518



Voted #1
2021-2023



Photo: Anthony D'Amato



Mesa Verde National Park



Colorado National Monument

3 Explore Our Parks & Monuments

Colorado's natural assets awaken the imagination and stir the senses. Come to life walking a trail to the twinkling tune of aspen leaves, wrangling a feisty rainbow trout, crunching over pine needles while twisting along on a mountain bike, sitting beside a babbling creek for a picnic, or witnessing the

wonder of bighorn sheep moving from one rocky ledge to another.

Our four national parks, nine national monuments and 43 state parks have preserved special moments like these — and millions of others — for visitors to carry with them for a lifetime.

FROM TOP: ANDREW MAGUIRE, JASON LEWANDOWSKI

4 Discover Your Favorite Mountain Town

Colorado's small towns cultivate big memories with their charming Main Streets, dining and shopping, and easy access to outdoor encounters. Pick up a trail right in town to hear the crunch of your snowshoes upon freshly fallen snow. Snuggle up in a horse-drawn sleigh as it jingles along to a hot-chocolate pit stop. Or sit back while a chairlift whisks you to North America's best skiing and boarding.

When our mild summer and fall weather dawns, those same snowshoe and ski trails open to birders, hikers and mountain bikers, and those same chairlifts ferry you over fields of candy-colored wildflowers and rock faces set aglow with fall's reds, oranges and yellows.



Vail



518 Wine Bar in Craig



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: ANDREW MAGUIRE / ANDREW MAGUIRE; VAIL RESORTS/UAOCCAFLECK



5

Live Our Western Heritage

In order to honor Colorado's true roots, we remember the land's original inhabitants. Dozens of archaeological sites, museums, byways and roadside plaques dedicated to our Indigenous peoples will have your imagination floating back in time to the first and most fascinating human experiences in Colorado.

Mining towns and tours tell the stories of early explorers, fur trappers and prospectors who came in search of treasure after hearing tales of rivers overflowing with gold rocks free for the taking. The Colorado Gold Rush was on, with covered wagons crossing the Great Plains to cries of "Pikes Peak or Bust!" Today, you can visit many

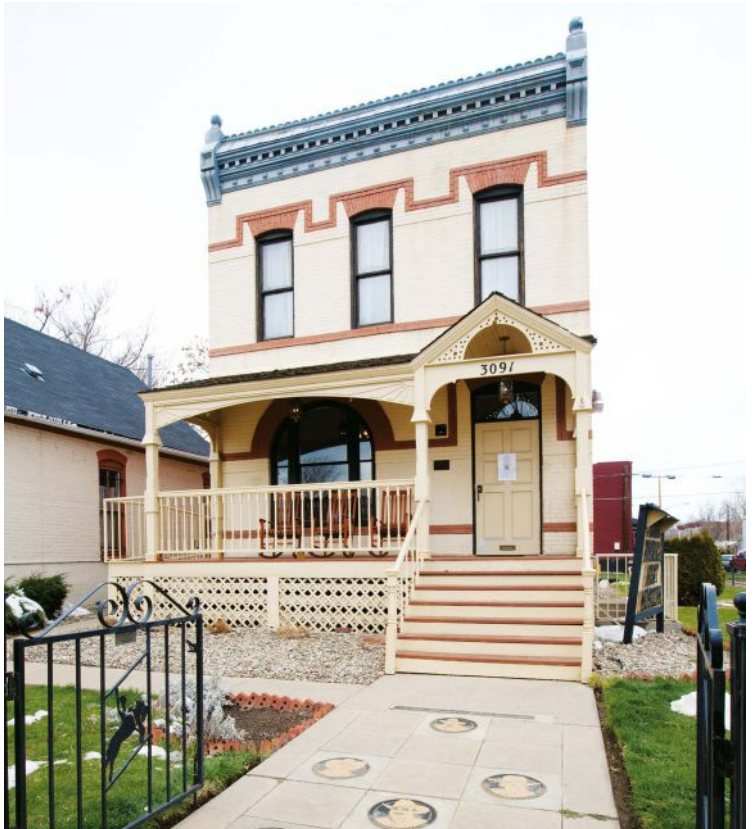
of these historical towns and ride our rails to see remnants of this gold- and silver-dusted past.

Nothing embodies the Wild West of our imagination like a dude ranch. There's something special about their down-home hospitality — by the end of your stay, you'll really feel like family. These all-inclusive retreats offer the excitement of rustic ranch life and lots of opportunities to relax with family and friends. Whether you're looking to live out your on-screen dreams of being a tough-skinned ranch hand or simply wanting a taste of life outside of the city, more than 30 dude ranches supply an incredible getaway.



LEFT TO RIGHT: ANDREW MAGUIRE; BETH SCHNEIDER

Bar Lazy J Guest Ranch in Parshall



Black American West Museum in Denver



**EMBRACE THE
BEAUTY**

**OF ASPEN,
INSIDE & OUT.**



EXPLORE RESPONSIBLY



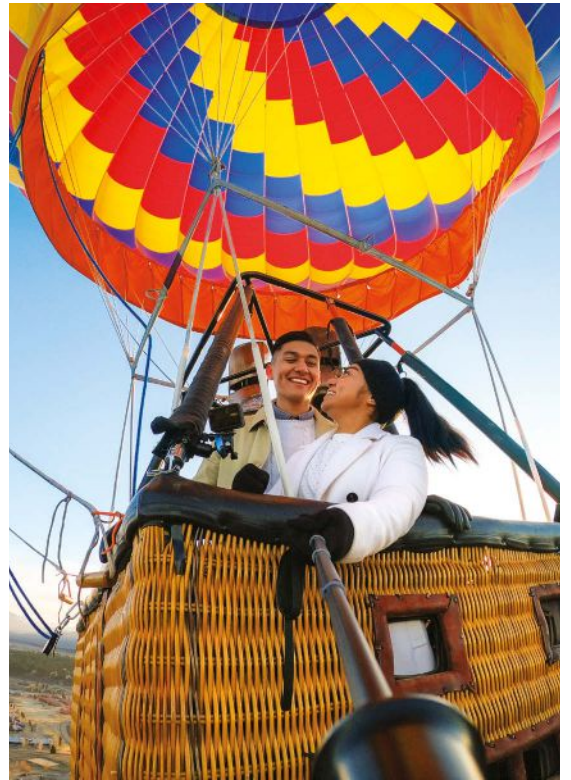
 **ASPEN**
DEFY ORDINARY

6

Find Your Sense of Adventure

Adventure in Colorado doesn't have to mean barreling down a dizzying singletrack trail on two wheels or dodging moguls on a black-diamond ski slope — though it certainly can mean those things! There's adventure to be had atop an e-bike, where you can travel more miles and see more sights while the bike does most of the work. Cover even more ground by ziplining over a rushing river, hopping in a hot-air balloon at dawn to see the sunrise or

buckling onto steel cables to traverse a mountainside from great heights on a via ferrata. If you yearn to explore our outdoors but are hesitant to wander the wide blue yonder on your own, adventure guides can show you the way. These pros set you up with all the gear you need, share their expertise, and guide you safely and easily to the best spots for backpacking, fishing, climbing, hunting, OHVing, kayaking, hut tripping, backcountry skiing and more.



Pagosa Springs



FROM TOP: JOSH KING, VAIL RESORTS/JACK AFFLECK

Vail



COATI in Colorado Springs



Acova in Denver

7 Eat & Drink Local

Rich in homegrown ingredients, diverse cuisines, an influx of internationally recognized chefs and a strong maker culture, it's no wonder Colorado menus are bursting with creativity and fresh flavors — and there are so many ways to taste them.

Going beyond farm-to-table, many Colorado chefs bring the table to the farm with hyper-seasonal dinners crafted from ingredients grown just a few steps from where you sit. If you can't make it to the farm, do the next-best thing and hit one or more of our roughly 100 farmers' markets, where

you'll find only-in-Colorado produce varieties to fill your basket.

Those markets are where you're likely to find many chefs gathering ingredients for that day's menu. Taste the exquisitely prepared bounty at restaurants across the state and keep an eye out for those rated by the iconic MICHELIN Guide. The organization announced its expansion into the state in 2023, citing restaurant teams' commitment to using a wide range of high-quality ingredients sourced locally and sustainably.

Our world-class craft-beer scene can probably trace its roots to the same wealth of local fruit, veggies and grains that brought these amazing chefs to our altitude. One arm of an expansive Colorado Liquid Arts™ scene, more than 400 breweries join 250-plus wineries, distilleries, cideries and meaderies. A growing number of these makers partner with farmers to turn our native crops into liquid gold you can taste on site or at local restaurants.



Telluride



ESCAPE THE MODERN WORLD.



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

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Cumbres & Toltec
AMERICA'S MOST HISTORIC SCENIC RAILROAD



Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad

8 Take a Scenic Ride

Our 26 scenic byways connect the dots between historic sites and acres of majestic scenery that span red-rock canyons, Rocky Mountain peaks and sun-kissed prairies. The byways are truly a collection of must-see vistas. Picking a couple — and coming back for more later — will ensure you understand the true meaning of Colorful Colorado.

Rent or bring your own electric vehicle and head out on one of our 14 certified Electric Byways, each with charging stations spaced out just right for seeing the sights.

Or consider our scenic and historical railroads, which have held travelers' fascination since the 1800s. From multiday journeys to day trips with five-star dining experiences or seasonal encounters with Santa, you'll carve through jagged gorges and find yourself hugging steep cliffs on narrow-gauge tracks or traversing the banks of crystal-blue rivers.

Come winter, the mountains open to snowmobilers gliding across trails and fields of powder in the crisp, dry air. Find yourself on a meandering, family-friendly jaunt or opt for a high-speed odyssey over endless snowy hills.



Bohemian Nights in Fort Collins



Boulder Tulip Fairy & Elf Festival

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: MATTHEW HAHNEL; JONATHAN PHILLIPS; COURTESY BOHEMIAN NIGHTS



Denver

9

Experience Our Unique Arts & Culture

Surrounded by natural beauty, it's hard to imagine NOT being inspired to create something here. In fact, 30 communities brimming with galleries, artists in residence and special arts events have been designated Certified Colorado Creative Districts. You can find each locale's distinct creative flair through art walks, sculpture tours, concerts, street art, cultural festivals and more.

Much of our artistic credibility can also be traced to acclaimed art collections, many of which are found in architectural marvels and amid scenery that are destinations in their own rights. Whether you browse artistic attractions in our big cities or stumble into a hidden small-town nook of a gallery,

you'll be sure to find something crafted with a Colorado perspective.

That Colorado point of view can also be found in our collection of historical theaters and opera houses, which have been serving up beautiful performances to Coloradans since the 1800s — and you can feel the history when you take in a show amid their gilded columns and chandeliers today. But there's much more: Colorado also boasts the second-largest performing-arts complex in the country and several world-class theater companies, so there's always something spectacular on stage while you're in town.

State Parks, Four Seasons of Fun



Lake Pueblo

Wherever you go in Colorado, there's a state park waiting to welcome you. Mountains or prairies, rivers or forests, out in the country or next to the city. Colorado's 42 state parks (soon to be 43) are as diverse as the state itself, and they offer something for everyone.



Motorized wheelchairs are offered in three parks.

Experience Colorado

Take a hair-raising whitewater river trip, or kick back in a lawn chair and watch the sunset. Enjoy a family picnic, cast a line in the water, take a hike, ride a horse, try snowshoeing or discover geocaching. From Eastern Plains parks at 3,800 feet to high-mountain parks at 9,500, the network of state parks offers a wealth of activities for busy people of all ages, or the chance to do nothing at all. In winter, spring, summer or fall, more than 4,000 campsites, cabins and yurts are available under star-filled skies. Reservations are required and can be made at CPWshop.com six months in advance.



10

Enjoy Our Wildlife



Near Steamboat Springs

Few places in North America offer the bounty of wildlife-watching opportunities available in Colorado. Our mountains, forests, plains, rivers and mesas harbor 960 different species, luring binocular-toting guests into our natural spaces.

Ensure at least a couple of them are part of your stay by following the birding trails — there are 54 of them! — known to harbor that elusive songbird or raptor you’ve been seeking. With nearly 400 different species of birds migrating through the state, there’s a winged creature to be spotted in every season. Another option

is attending a wildlife festival with friends similarly in awe of an elk, moose or bighorn sheep to hear their bugles and see them prance and strut for their mates.

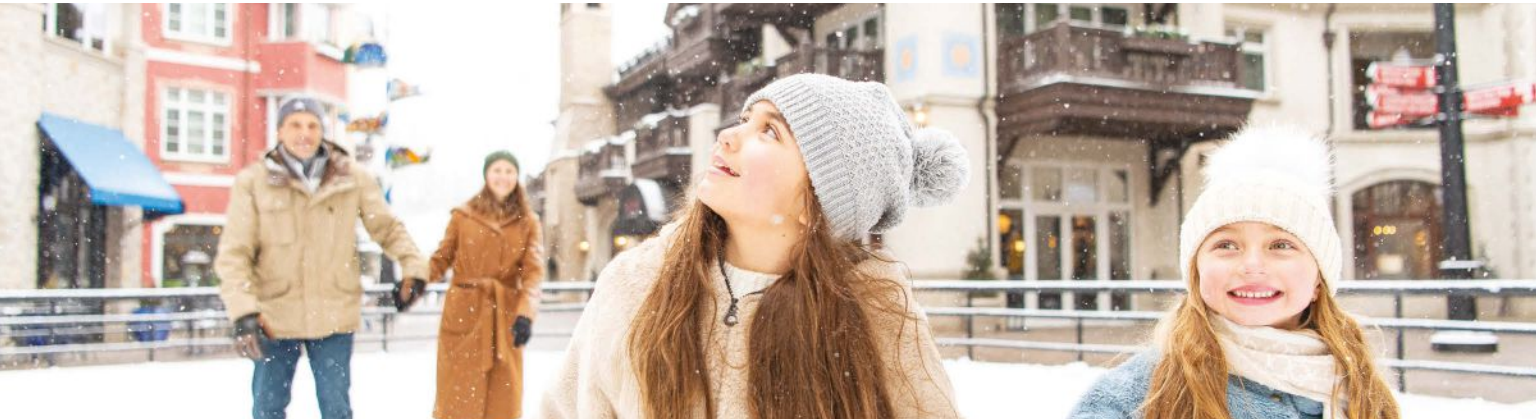
Or spend a day casting your line: Fly-fishers, ice-fishers and pure rod-and-reelers will find plenty of options along 8,000 miles of rivers and more than 2,000 lakes. Those seeking a bigger catch will find it in our quiet spaces: 23 million acres of pretty pines, plentiful pocket meadows and pure-water ponds host excellent opportunities for hunting, fishing or simply viewing majestic animals in motion.



Mount Blue Sky in Idaho Springs

FROM TOP: ANDREW MAGUIRE; MILES PARTNERSHIP/MATTHEW INDEN

Discover Your Perfect Vail Getaway



With astonishing alpine beauty and bucket list-worthy adventure, Vail's a dream — like no place on earth. From strolling a Bavarian village to exploring vast wilderness via foot, bike or skis, you'll find your special moment. Zoom on a mountain coaster, attend a signature event, shop local and dine out. Make forever memories in Vail.



Top Vail Activities

Many come to Vail to ski, but activities go far beyond that. Relax at a spa, meander the pedestrian-friendly village and shop unique boutiques. In summer and fall, ride the scenic gondola for startling panoramas and mountaintop fun at Epic Discovery.

A Foodie's Dream

Try MICHELIN-recommended restaurants, Sweet Basil and Osaki's, for memorable menus spanning global-fusion and Japanese flavors. Nom on brunch fare like Vintage's bacon-topped avocado toast. Taste Bavarian delicacies in a private gondola car with Alpenrose.

Unique Events

Plan your stay around a classic Vail event, no matter the season. Come in winter for Revelry Vail, Vail Holidays, Winterfest, Après at the Amp or summer for GoPro Mountain Games, Vail Farmers' Market & Art Show, Vail Dance Festival and Bravo! Vail Music Festival.

Family-Friendly Fun

Make Vail your playground with all-ages activities and dining options even your pickiest eater will love. Ice skate, take an easy-rated hike or snowshoe, helmet up for biking on a paved path — or get a babysitter for well-earned adult time.

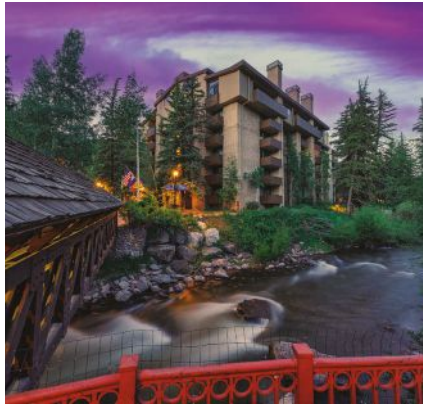
DiscoverVail.com | 970.477.352



Eagle Vail Golf Club

Elevate your game. Spectacular Rocky Mountain views at 7,650 feet. Full-service grill and pro shop. 18-hole championship course. Par-3 course and practice facility.

EagleVailGolfClub.com



Vail's Mountain Haus

Nestled along Gore Creek at the Covered Bridge in the heart of Vail Village. Offering accommodations only steps from world-class skiing at Vail Mountain, dining & shopping. Enjoy everything from indoor and outdoor hot tubs, an outdoor heated pool, steam showers, saunas and a newly renovated fitness center.

MountainHaus.com
800.237.0922



Vail Racquet Club Mountain Resort

Located along Gore Creek in East Vail. 1-3 bedroom residences with all the comforts of home and resort amenities. Includes access to pool, hot tubs, private health club, tennis (seasonally), parking and Wi-Fi. Condo living at hotel prices! Cash-back rewards when booking direct.

VailRacquetClub.com
970.476.4840

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Colorado.com/TripIdeas



Antlers at Vail Condominiums

Nestled on Gore Creek facing Vail Mountain. Platinum-rated lodging options range from studios to 4-bedroom condos. Antlers offers comforts of home with hotel amenities, full kitchens, private balconies, exterior entryways & more. Discover why guests return each year.

AntlersVail.com
800.258.8617



Vail Spa Condominiums

Luxurious Lionshead condominiums that feel like home. Just steps to Vail Mountain. Full kitchen, fireplace, indoor and outdoor pool and hot tub, tennis, pickleball, free parking.

VailSpa.com
866.840.1861

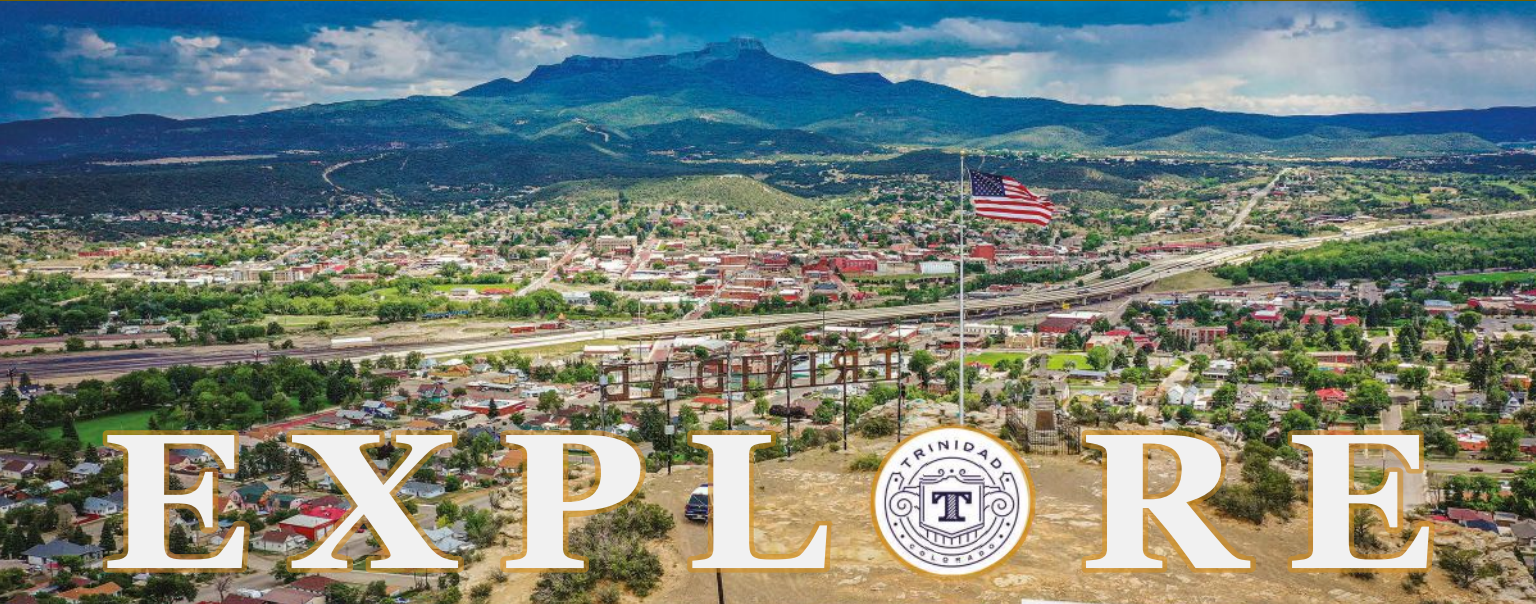


Discover Trinidad, Colorado
with our FREE Destination
APP!

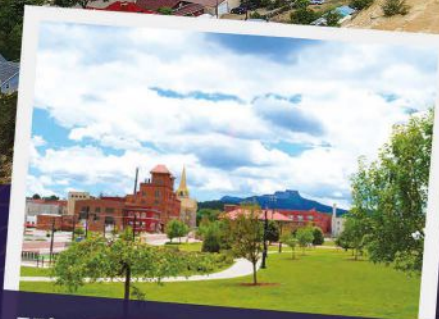
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EXPLORE



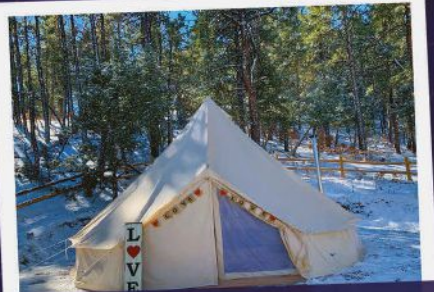
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Rivers & Lakes



Mountains & Trails



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Adventures For All



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TRINIDAD



VISITTRINIDADCOLORADO.COM

EXPLORE COLORADO IN Every Season

Each season unveils its own adventures in Colorado. From carving down powdery slopes and basking in rays on warm wildflower hikes to brilliant colors on autumn aspens and the splash of whitewater rapids, you'll never find yourself wondering what to do next.



The Springs Resort in Pagosa Springs

Winter

Skiers aren't the only people who yearn for a Colorado winter vacation. Bright, sunny days with lots of light, deep and fluffy snow set our state apart as a premier winter destination. Whether it's a night spent sipping cocoa in a horse-drawn sleigh that jingles through the trees, a day racing down tubing hills with family or a peaceful Nordic adventure in the backcountry where you can hear birds calling to each other, you're sure to find magical moments when the snowflakes start falling.

Snowshoeing

Strap on some snowshoes and hit the trails for some crystal-covered alpine scenery. Set off two hours south of Denver to **Mueller State Park** in Divide, where you can find both beginner paths and advanced summits. Or shoot west to Mesa's **Powderhorn Mountain Resort** to pick up some rentals and pad through the surrounding nature paths. In Leadville, plan a trek to **Tennessee Pass Cookhouse**. Reserve dinner at this glowing backcountry yurt that serves up mouthwatering meals throughout the season — you just have to traverse an easy trail to get there.

Hot Springs

There are few things as fun as donning a bathing suit and a winter hat, dashing outside and stepping into a steamy hot spring. Take a dip at **Hot Sulphur Springs Resort & Spa**, where in winter, snowflakes peacefully fall around you from one of their 18 warm pools flowing from seven different underground springs. Enjoy a luxurious day at **Durango Hot Springs Resort + Spa**, where you can grab a glass of wine and soak in a mineral-rich bath while also soaking up views of the San Juan Mountains. Or watch cold water rush by in a stream from your toasty retreat just steps away at **Mount Princeton Hot Springs Resort**.



Rocky Mountain National Park

Ice Skating

Glide into **Skate in the Park** at Acacia Park in downtown Colorado Springs, where you can capture the perfect holiday-card photo amid twinkling lights and festive decorations. Or tighten up your skates, throw on a scarf and head to **Evergreen Lake**. When frozen over, it becomes a clean sheet of ice, ideal for perfecting your crossovers in a winter scene easily mistaken for the North Pole. **Keystone Resort** also has a dedicated skating rink, so you can hop off the slopes and spend the evening carving the ice with the picture-perfect pinnacle backdrop.

Sleigh Rides

Winter brings lovely weather for a sleigh ride together. Don't miss **2 Below Zero** sleigh rides in Frisco. Here, evening visitors are drawn up to a lantern-lit heated tent in the backcountry, where you can feast on a hearty three-course meal and an acoustic performance. Or dash through the snow in Aspen, all the way to **Pine Creek Cookhouse**, where cowpokes

guide you through a wonderland of snowcapped alps and frosty stands of aspens. Choose romance with **Golden Horseshoe**, where you and your special someone are whisked through the enchanting forests of Breckenridge while you snuggle up under blankets and enjoy marshmallowy hot cocoas.

Snow Tubing

Hop into a tube and hold on tight at **Colorado Adventure Park** in Fraser to spend the day flying down the pillowy lift-served runs, each tailored to a different speed. Then sit by their fire pits to roast some gooey s'mores. In Steamboat Springs, travel to **Tube Howelson**, the hometown ski hill that hosts the town's annual Winter Carnival, complete with ring-of-fire jumps, ski dancing and a spectacular fireworks display. Looking for an evening activity? Try night tubing at **Echo Mountain** in Idaho Springs, where you can listen to music and slide under the stars. This electrifying winter activity is easy to pick up and ideal for all ages.



Devil's Thumb Ranch in Tabernash

LEFT TO RIGHT: ANDREW MAGUIRE; DEVIL'S THUMB RANCH

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 articles starting on page 8 will give you ideas for exploring each corner of the state — and everywhere in between.

If you already know exactly where you want to go, use the list below to locate a specific city or town.

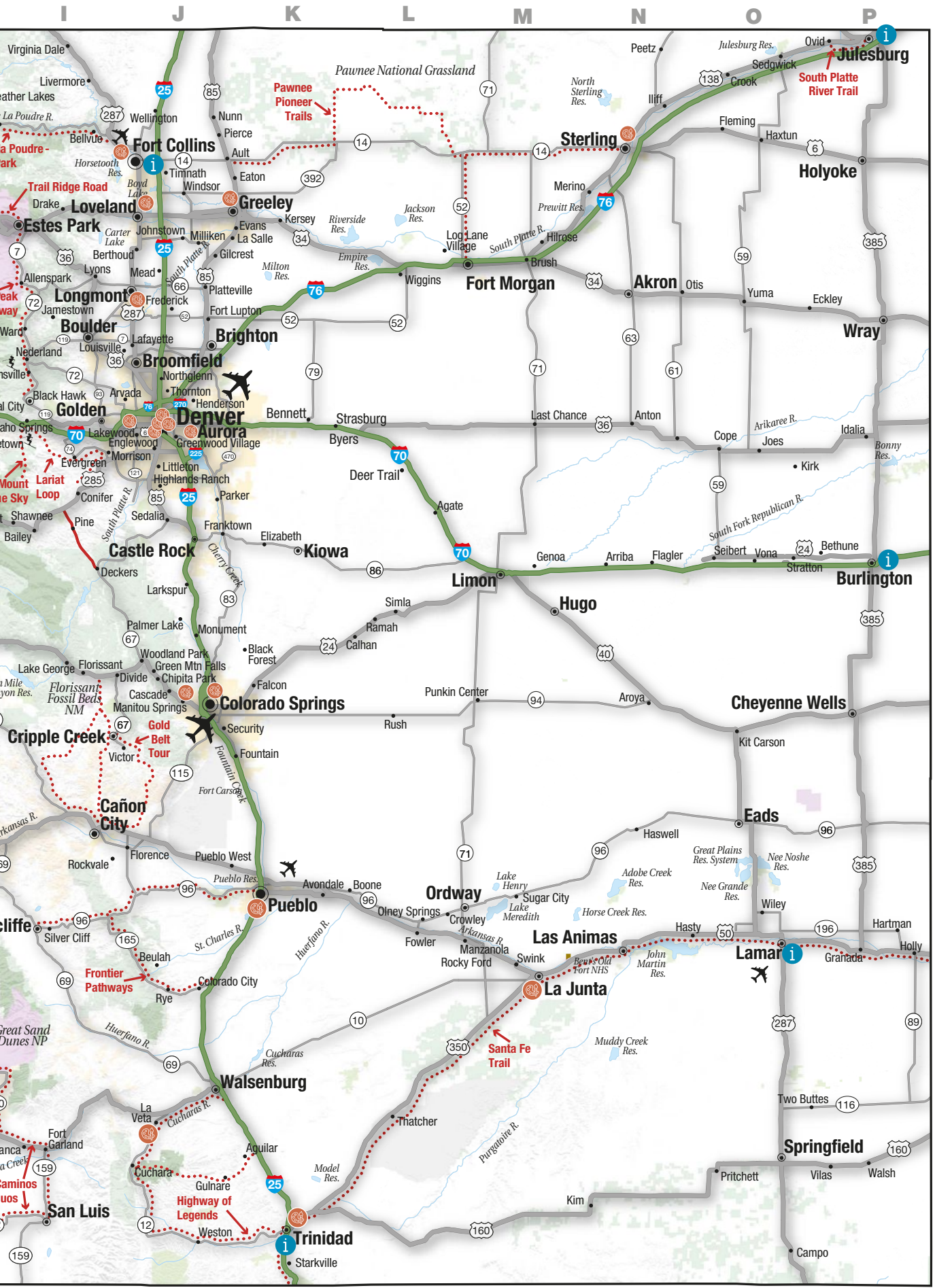


Alamosa.....	719-589-4840	.....	H-11
Burlington.....	719-346-5554	.....	P-6
Cortez.....	970-565-4048	.....	A-11
Dinosaur.....	970-374-2205	.....	A-3
Fort Collins.....	970-491-3583	.....	J-2
Fruita.....	970-858-9335	.....	A-6
Julesburg.....	970-474-2054	.....	P-1
Lamar.....	719-336-3483	.....	O-9
Silverthorne.....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



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.....	E-7	Grant.....	H-5	Maybell.....	C-2	Sanford.....	H-12
Anton.....	N-4	Creede.....	D-10	Greeley.....	J-3	Mead.....	J-3	San Luis.....	I-12
Antonito.....	G-12	Crested Butte.....	E-7	Green Mtn. Falls.....	J-7	Meekeer.....	C-4	Sargents.....	F-8
Arboles.....	D-12	Crestone.....	H-9	Greenwood Village.....	J-5	Merino.....	M-2	Security.....	J-7
Aroya.....	N-7	Cripple Creek.....	I-7	Grover.....	K-1	Mesa.....	C-6	Sedalia.....	J-5
Arriba.....	N-6	Crook.....	N-1	Gunnison.....	E-8	Mesa Verde.....	B-12	Sedgwick.....	O-1
Arvada.....	J-4	Crowley.....	L-9	Gypsum.....	E-5	Milliken.....	J-3	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
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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.....	K-12	Starkville.....	K-12
Bethune.....	O-6	Durango.....	C-12	Hot Sulphur Springs.....	G-4	Niwot.....	I-3	State Bridge.....	F-4
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Cascade.....	J-7	Fleming.....	N-2	La Veta.....	J-11	Pine.....	I-5	Walden.....	G-2
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Chimney Rock.....	D-12	Franktown.....	J-5	Limon.....	M-6	Ramah.....	L-6	Weston.....	J-12
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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	Glendevey.....	G-1	Mack.....	A-6	Rollinsville.....	I-4	Yuma.....	O-3



Certified Creative District

Scenic & Historic Byway

National Park/Monument

KEY

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 collection, featuring more than 70,000 works of art in 12 galleries. Expand your mind at Meow Wolf *Convergence Station*, where visitors are transported to another dimension through immersive, psychedelic creations. Or take a look at the colorful murals bringing new life to alleyways and buildings in the River North Art District.



3 Eat & Drink

Elevate your tastebuds and find flavor throughout The Mile High City at any of Denver's 26 MICHELIN-rated restaurants, known for serving creative, locally sourced cuisine. And, if you 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 Elyse 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)



All Ways
Welcome



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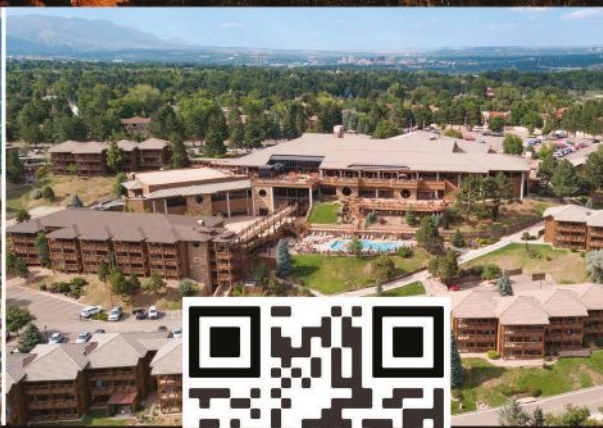
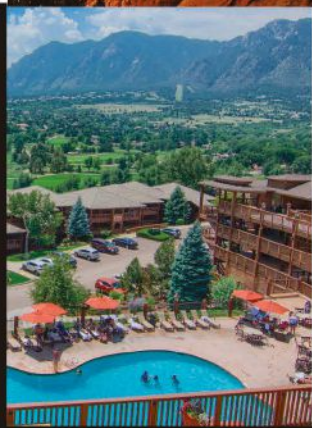
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Boulder Farmers Market

Spring

When spring comes around in the Rockies, you don't have to choose one type of vacation: Sneak in a late-season ski session in the morning and then go for a hike in the dry deserts or tee off at a golf course in town.

Urban Escapes

Denver is easily one of the biggest culture hubs in the region. Dive into the art districts and roam through Meow Wolf and the Denver Art Museum, or just head to Santa Fe Drive to pop into block after block of galleries. Along the way, watch for street art around many corners. Once you're done taking in the local craft, take a bite out of the food scene with endless options of cross-cultural cuisines, epic dining experiences from famous and soon-to-be famous chefs, and seasonally inspired faves. On sunny days, hike up to a rooftop bar for an afternoon cocktail with a Front Range view.

Bound over to **Boulder's** Pearl Street to snag a creamy pistachio cone at Gelato Boy and spend the day weaving

through boutiques, outdoor stores and artisanal shops. Immerse yourself in the vibrant atmosphere and uncover unique treasures as you stroll along the streets with the unmistakable backdrop of the sharp Flatirons. Spend a Saturday morning at their famous farmers' market to pick up some juicy citrus, sample artisanal breads and pastries, and peruse handcrafted jewelry and goods.

Hop on your bike and soak up the pure fun of downtown **Fort Collins**. Craft-beer connoisseurs will be in heaven with tastings at some of the popular brewery tours in the region. Dismount by New Belgium and Odell to learn their secrets to making the perfect pints — and maybe sample a couple while you're

there! Then, grab a burger downtown and listen to some live music on a patio with friends. Old Town is famous for inspiring Disneyland's Main Street, U.S.A. — so it naturally feels right out of a fairytale.

Welcome the first flowers of the season in **Grand Junction**. Stop by Belli Fiori Lavender Farm to walk through billowy purple fields and buy some fragrant bunches. Plan your next big mountain-biking trip around Grand Junction's Downtown Restaurant Week, where you can try tasting menus at some of the best eateries in the region. Before you leave, be sure to explore the hidden gem of Colorado National Monument, just a short drive away, to witness the striking rock formations and craggy, crimson canyons.



Picketwire Canyonlands near La Junta

Desert Getaways

Cruise southwest to **Mesa Verde National Park** to take a relaxed drive on the Trail of the Ancients scenic and historic byway, stopping off to view Ancestral Puebloan cliff dwellings. Traverse sandy trails surrounded by high-desert wildlife like weasels, rabbits and scaly lizards. Advanced hikers can take in the natural wonder of **Rattlesnake Canyon** — the second highest concentration of arches in the United States — where you can hike or 4x4 through vaults of colorful layered sandstone. Over on the eastern plains, you'll spot remains of Apatosaurus and Allosaurus at the **Picketwire Canyonlands**, a paleontological area south of La Junta with ancient dinosaur tracks big enough for you to sit in.



Rattlesnake Canyon near Fruita

WHAT TO PACK



You might notice that we love our activewear. And there's a reason for that — weather conditions can change quickly, and we like to be prepared for whatever nature throws our way — like an afternoon thunderstorm that rolls in on a sunny day. From packing layers and comfy shoes to homegrown styles, check [Colorado.com/WhatToWear](https://www.colorado.com/whattowear) for packing tips.

FROM TOP: PICKETWIRE CANYON/JAY DICKMAN; ERIC WUIN/POW

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Royal Gorge Rafting, Ziplining & Accommodations

Stay in Cañon City for whitewater rafting on the Arkansas River, traversing tightrope courses and zipping through Royal Gorge region scenery.



Lounge, grill and take in mountain views by your riverside yurt or airstream.



Royal Gorge Rafting

This whitewater-rafting outfitter has fun for the whole family, like cruising through Bighorn Sheep Canyon on the beginner trip, or challenging yourself on the Class V rapids of the Royal Gorge Rafting course. With choices of half- or full-day trips, these excursions provide scenic Colorado vistas, cool Arkansas River splashes and memories to last a lifetime.



Royal Gorge Ziplining

Feel the wind on your face as you glide between hills and above the rushing water of the Arkansas. The nine-line Classic Zip course will help you learn and feel confident with the basics before you embark on the more intense 11-line Extreme Zip. Or clip into an automatic belay device and freefall from the thrilling, 70-foot Dare Drop.



Royal Gorge Vacation Rentals

Cañon City teems with exciting activities, sweeping views of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and Wild West charm, and Royal Gorge Vacation Rentals has the best way to enjoy it all. Riverside yurts, ranch-style cabins and vintage airstreams provide more than just a place to rest your head — they're also close to whitewater rafting, ziplining, and local fare like the Whitewater Bar & Grill. Reserve a hillside cottage for a large family party, roast marshmallows for two in the outdoor fire pit beside your luxury airstream, or listen to crickets chirp as you rest in a cozy cabin.

The EDGE Zipline

Fly across the Front Range near Denver to survey inspiring views of Castle Rock's greenery, distant mountains and rolling hills on an adrenaline-pumping zipline journey. Lace up those hiking boots for the trek to the top of the line before strapping into safety equipment and soaring through the sky. With 10 exhilarating rides spanning 2 miles more than 100 feet in the air, The EDGE will give any thrill-seeker the chance to experience speeds up to 50 miles per hour. Visit the lines during the fall to whiz over golden, red and orange leaves of the turning season.



The EDGE Zipline — Sky Trek, Adventure Tower & Ninja Course

With invigorating courses that meet any skill level, The EDGE's elevated obstacles and vertical climbs are thrilling escapades. If swinging from monkey bars and crossing tightropes while harnessed is your idea of fun, Sky Trek is the challenge for you. Want to test your limit for heights? Climb the Adventure Tower, a 50-foot-tall wall with steps and ladders that you can climb or rappel up and freefall back down. Finally, tie your sneakers tight to unleash energy on the Ninja Course, a strength- and endurance-testing obstacle course that'll take you to the threshold of your jumping, scaling and running abilities.

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Summer

Our warm days and cool nights create the ideal conditions to enjoy summer to the fullest. Jam out at festivals at nature-made venues, get wet on a raft while splashing down whitewater rapids or settle into a seat for an evening sipping local beers and wines.



BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE



Colorado's spring, summer and fall are typically warm and dry, making fire danger something to keep an eye out for. You can help by staying up to date with campfire and firework restrictions in the areas you're visiting, and building and managing low-impact campfires. [Colorado.com/WildfirePrevention](https://colorado.com/WildfirePrevention)

Crested Butte

Music Festivals

Music festivals are the best way to see some of your favorite acts — but in Colorado they come complete with panoramic views. Enjoy a riff at **JAS Labor Day Experience** at Aspen Snowmass, where bands across genres provide the soundtrack to a panorama of jagged peaks. Step into the **Strings Music Festival** in Steamboat Springs for high-caliber orchestral music in the high mountains and an intimate setting. Or ramble on into classical, jazz, blues and bluegrass performances at the **Crested Butte Music Festival** in the sweet shadow of Mount Gothic. Be sure to pack water and sunscreen to safely bask in the tunes on warm, sunny days.

Wildflowers

See a mosaic of blooms during summer's peak wildflower season. Sprawling fields of bright yellows, purples and pinks will welcome you for a sunset hike in **Crested Butte**, the Wildflower Capital of Colorado. The **Rabbit Valley Recreation Area** in Grand Junction is another spot to get your fix of Indian paintbrush, columbines and goldenrods, with several routes that will take your breath away. Or gaze at florals across the color spectrum at **Lory State Park** near Fort Collins while bounding through miles of lakeside trails.



Arkansas River

Whitewater Rafting

Splash down one of the many rivers that run through Colorado and experience the thrill of whitewater rafting. Boaters steer to the **Arkansas River** to launch in Cañon City and Buena Vista, where there's a portion of the river fit for every paddler's speed and capability. Only a stone's throw from Denver, **Clear Creek's** rapids run through historic mining towns and offer beginner and advanced runs. And for those sailing south, the **Animas River** in Durango is a great option to spend a day on the water — you may even paddle alongside the narrow-gauge train as it chugs its way into the canyon. Get in touch with local guides to learn the ropes and ensure a safe adventure for beginners.

Winery Tours

Sip award-winning wines and breeze through the rows of speckled grapevines at **Grande River Vineyards** in Palisade. Or make your way to **Stone Cottage Cellars** in Paonia to try some true mountain-inspired blends alongside spectacular peak views. Spend Friday at **Fox Fire Farms** in Ignacio, when they host local bands so you can savor a fruity glass with a side of folk, rock, blues and beyond. Tour the grounds and get to know the Colorado families who turned their love of wine into a shared experience for visitors and locals alike.



LET
LIFE
TAKE
THE LEAD



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**GRAND
JUNCTION**

WHERE LIFE LEADS



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The Western Slope's Cultural Hub

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DowntownGJ.org | gjcreates.org | 970.245.9697

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Take the easy way there.

Grand Junction Regional Airport makes getting there easy with nearby parking, fast check-in and short security lines. The most reliable airport on the Western Slope, GJT makes travel a breeze with daily non-stop flights to major cities and hundreds of one-stop connections worldwide. Wherever you live in western Colorado and wherever you're going, Fly GJT and take the easy way there.

FlyGJT.com



Jet Boat Colorado

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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970.644.1121





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GoFruita.com | 970.858.3663



MUSEUMS OF WESTERN COLORADO

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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. Discover Mesa County's rich heritage at the Museums of Western Colorado. The Museums also own or help manage multiple important paleontological sites. We encourage you to visit them with respect.

MOWC.com | 970.242.0971



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GRAND
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COUNTRYJAM.COM



Kenosha Pass near Grant

Fall

Admire the gorgeous golden hues of transforming aspens and breathe in the crisp, cool air of autumn. Search through spooky ghost towns, drive along a tree-lined scenic byway or hit a seasonal festival to embrace the beauty of a Colorado fall.

Scenic Drives

Load everyone in the car and discover golden pathways throughout the Rocky Mountains. Steer to **West Elk Loop** where you circle Paonia, Delta and Cedaredge, hopping out along the way to embark on small hikes, picnic and savor the season’s cool breeze coming off alpine rivers and reservoirs. Take a trip to **Kenosha Pass** through Conifer and Fairplay, pausing to explore Segment 6 of the Colorado Trail and later encounter the Mosquito Range peaks beyond the high grassland basin of South Park — the area that inspired the animated series. Or take an unforgettable journey down the **Highway of Legends** right through La Veta and Trinidad to behold magnificent volcanic formations in a region rich with Wild West history.

Festivals

Find cultural cornerstones at a wide array of fall festivals. Spice things up at the **Pueblo Chile & Frijoles Festival** to shop at street vendors for Southwestern crafts, witness cooking competitions and eat plenty of the city’s signature roasted pepper. The **Autumn Gold Festival** in Estes Park drops you in a treasure chest of gleaming poplars, with plenty of beers, brats and bands to keep you busy all day long. Meanwhile, the **Fruita Fall Festival** features loads of handcrafted artwork and goods, as well as live music to support local makers during the most colorful time of year.

Ghost Towns

The Wild West history pulsing through our mountain towns makes peeking into their pasts especially fun during spooky season. For an eerie alternative to a museum exhibit, peer into a ghost town. **Teller City**, near Walden, is a solid place to start. Step back in time 150 years when this silver-mining town was home to more than 1,500 people, 27 saloons and a massive hotel. Now, you can hike in to spot the remaining cabin structures to imagine the lives of those who called it home. Hear the wind whistle through **Animas Forks** near Silverton as you walk down the abandoned main street, stepping into cabins, a remaining mill and the old jail. Or head to **Ashcroft**, an abandoned mining town near Aspen, where the old saloon, post office and other small buildings still stand.

Hiking

Hiking is one of the most beloved activities in Colorado, and is one of the easiest to get into. While thousands of gorgeous treks can be found in our foothills and high peaks, here are some options that really sing in the fall. The Golden Gate Canyon State Park **Raccoon Trail** near Rollinsville opens to panoramic summit views topped with white crowns and plenty of chromatic trees. Or uncover the **Lost Lake Trail** near Nederland, which winds you through shaking stands of aspens, all the way to a tranquil lake — the perfect place for a midday meal. For a challenging route, the **Savage Lakes Trail** near Basalt will satisfy anyone looking for some golden outlooks.



Golden Gate Canyon State Park near Golden



Ashcroft Ghost Town near Aspen

**Need even
more ideas?**

[Colorado.com/BestSeason](https://colorado.com/BestSeason)



Welcome to Glenwood Springs

Glenwood Springs is the genuine Colorado mountain town famous for hot springs, outdoor recreation, spectacular scenery, and nonstop fun.



Colorado River through the spectacular Glenwood Canyon



Welcome to the Land of Water

Glenwood Springs is a year-round recreational paradise famous for the world's largest hot springs pool, natural vapor caves and nearly 30 mineral springs on the banks of the Colorado River. Enjoy Gold Medal fishing, rafting and kayaking. Bike or hike for awe-inspiring scenery or discover winter sports without the crowds.



Thrills for Everyone

Discover Colorado's favorite mountain playground. Glenwood Springs offers America's only mountaintop theme park with thrill rides and historic cavern tours. The charming downtown is the center for shopping, dining, rich western history and culture. Be sure to reserve a time to hike to Hanging Lake, a National Natural Landmark and Colorado favorite.



IRON MOUNTAIN HOT SPRINGS

32 Pools: An Infinity of Experiences

Iron Mountain Hot Springs has expanded its horizons. We now have a total of 32 pools set along the beautiful Colorado River with snacks and drinks. Check out our new 21+ area, WorldSprings, offering ten World Experience Pools inspired by famous global waters, a freshwater pool, Dead Sea pool and a cold plunge. Come soak it all in morning to night. Located right off I-70 in Glenwood Springs. **Book your soak today!**

IronMountainHotSprings.com | 970.945.4766



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GlenwoodCaverns.com | 970.945.4228

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HotSpringsPool.com | 970.945.6571



**GLENWOOD
HOT SPRINGS
RESORT**

MEET THE Ski Collection

When the snow starts falling, there's no place better than Colorado's Rocky Mountains to kick off the ski season. We have the most ski-resort options in North America (28 in total!), one of the longest ski seasons in the world and some of the most diverse terrain to tantalize skiers of all stripes. So strap on your boots, tighten your goggles and slide into these extraordinary resorts throughout the state.

The ski areas and resorts listed in this section have adaptive adventures for visitors of all abilities. Check their individual sites to find the one that best suits you — program offerings range from adaptive ski equipment, guides for people with visual impairments, experiences for people on the autistic spectrum and more.

Aspen

Aspen Snowmass' light-and-dry powder makes for a legendary downhill experience. This area is a snow globe of picture-perfect frosted mountains, complete with four resorts that cater to all skill levels and offer tons of seasonal ski events. Whether you're here for the technical terrain of Highlands, the infinite options in Snowmass, the expert-level trails throughout Aspen Mountain or the more subtle descents at Buttermilk, these four mountains give you lots of options in very close proximity. Once you're done for the day, treat yourself to some tunes at the renowned Belly Up Aspen, an intimate concert venue that features big-name artists year-round.

Wolf Creek

Wolf Creek is a little San Juan Mountain jewel best known for getting the most snow of any resort in Colorado — an astounding annual average of 430 inches. If you like floating on powder, this is your destination. The Wolf Pups Program is an ideal way to ensure your kids become lifelong powder lovers, and the mountain is a manageable size for families who want to go their own way and then come back together with ease. When the day is done, head either way over Wolf Creek Pass to Pagosa Springs for hot springs, sleigh rides and snowshoeing, or to South Fork for top-notch snowmobiling and ice fishing.





Breckenridge



Vail



Snowmass

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: VAIL RESORTS/ANDREW MAGUIRE; VAIL RESORTS/JACK AFFLECK, JOSH KING

Vail

Winter-sports lovers travel from around the world to experience Vail's peak ski conditions. Featuring more than 5,200 acres of terrain, this is the place to carve the perfect winter getaway. Choose your own adventure on 195 unique runs catered to all skill levels and drop right into one of their seven acclaimed back bowls to glide on wide-open terrain with unmatched vertical. Then, close out the day by heading into Vail Village to grab a hot cocoa and walk through the storybook, Bavarian-style hamlet where some of the state's best après-ski restaurants and nightlife await.

Breckenridge

Breckenridge truly has something for everyone: long groomed trails, monster mogul runs, steep chutes, glades and plenty of family-friendly beginner areas. Featuring five peaks and 187 trails, you can spend days on the mountains and only scratch the surface. The resort was one of the first to welcome snowboarders on the slopes and their Freeway Terrain Park is arguably one of the best in North America. Once you finish out your day, wander into the historical downtown to munch on cheesy slices at local pizza joints. Then, stop into the town's bars and breweries to drink world-famous beers, chat and dance.



Ski Cooper

The former training site of the 10th Mountain Division, the legendary World War II ski troops, Ski Cooper's role in our nation's history is one of a kind. Its sweeping runs follow some of the same paths used by the soldiers who skied Europe's mountain battlefields — one of the reasons the state's newest monument was recently established there as the Camp-Hale Continental Divide National Monument. Today, it's popular with families looking for a cheerful and low-stress skiing holiday and snowshoers headed to its Tennessee Pass Cookhouse, a yurt serving delicious Colorado fare that's reached via 1-mile groomed trek.

Telluride

Nestled in a box canyon, Telluride's downtown is right at the base of their picture-perfect ski mountain. So, you can head straight to San Juan Avenue and hop on a quick gondola ride. From there, zip over a soaring ridge and coast into a winter wonderland of groomed runs, challenging moguls and freestyle parks. If you want a bit of a cardio challenge with a big payoff, try their lesser-traveled hike-to terrain, which is almost always covered in a fresh blanket of snow. After a day of traversing, stop into the Victorian-era historic district where you can shop, dine and learn all about the area's silver-mining past, or stay on the mountain to dine at the ski-in Alpino Vino, one of the highest elevation restaurants in North America, and enjoy the unmatched views.

Ski Cooper

BACKCOUNTRY SAFETY



Headed into backcountry territory? Be sure to research your destination, check the avalanche forecast, and get proper equipment and training. Pro tip: Go with an experienced guide!

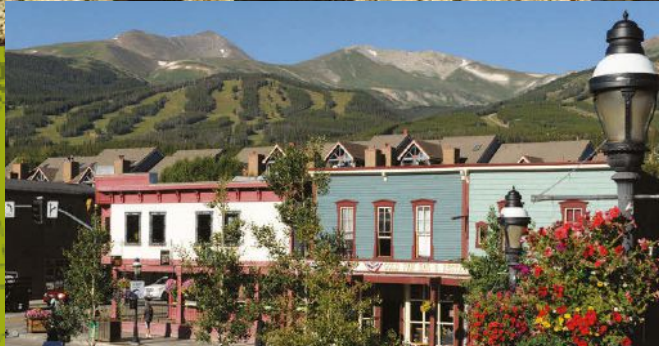


Telluride

FROM TOP: TIMOTHY GORMLEY, JR.; BRETT SCHRECKENGOST

We're a _____
BREATH OF FRESH AIR
_____ *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?



Winter Park

Loveland

Loveland Ski Area averages more annual snowfall than any other Front Range ski spot — more than 400 inches! That means you're likely to find untracked snow even days after a storm. Two separate base areas make up the resort: Loveland Valley caters to beginners with wide-open terrain and gentle slopes, while Loveland Basin challenges intermediate to advanced skiers and riders with runs steep and deep. Because of its high-altitude location, Loveland is always one of the first ski areas in the nation to open and one of the last to close each year. Have a soft spot for the backcountry? Climb aboard a snowcat tour, where guides navigate intermediate to expert skiers and snowboarders to some of the best hidden-gem locations in Dry Gulch.

Winter Park

Award-winning and wide-ranging terrain is one of the major reasons Winter Park is beloved by locals. Families flock to the Winter Park side, with tons of approachable greens and blues — and an entire section dedicated to education for all ages. Meanwhile, the Mary Jane side attracts ski and snowboard fanatics, and is known for its expert-level, mogul-heavy terrain and exhilarating tree runs. When you're ready to kick back for your après, the town has tons of cozy bars and restaurants where you can rest and refuel. One of the resort's best conveniences is the Winter Park Express, an Amtrak route that runs from Denver's Union Station directly to the Winter Park base area, so you can squeeze in a few extra runs with all the time you've saved getting there.

MOUNTAIN TOWN *charm* *thrills*



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TownofFrisco.com



FRISCO
COLORADO
MAIN STREET OF THE ROCKIES

Eldora

Eldora's proximity to Boulder and Denver is one of the reasons it's known as a "locals' mountain." The fact that they have terrain to keep the whole family busy all day doesn't hurt either. The Eldora Nordic Center features a network of nearly 25 miles of peaceful cross-country-ski and snowshoe trails just steps from the downhill ski area. Woodward Eldora, part of the well-known action-sports Woodward family, uses its progression-based system to teach anyone to master new tricks and skills on snowboards or skis.

Crested Butte

With wide-open green and blue trails, expert bowls and plenty of unexplored lines and uncrowded slopes, there are countless thrilling options for all skill levels at Crested Butte Mountain Resort. For a once-in-a-lifetime educational experience, check out their Ski with an Olympian program, where you can take a lesson with Olympic freeskiing champion Wendy Fisher. Once you've put away your skis and boards, consider a more relaxing activity. Spend the evening sinking into a soothing massage at Creekside Spa, where you can remove any knots earned on a long day of shredding.



Eldora



Crested Butte

FROM TOP: ELDORA WOMEN'S PROGRAM; LUKE HALL; NATHAN BLOW; CRESTED BUTTE MOUNTAIN RESORT

SNOWMASS
COLORADO

MAGNIFY

time

Among towering mountain peaks, small moments become treasured memories. And with Snowmass Village just 15 minutes from Aspen Airport, you can have quality time in no time. **Welcome to life magnified.**

GOSNOWMASS.COM



Purgatory

Steamboat

Famous for their Champagne Powder®, the snow at Steamboat Ski Resort is light, dry, smooth and only found in this 124-year-old Western town. With six stunning peaks and 3,000 acres of terrain, this spot has so many sprawling hills to traverse. High-proficiency skiers should head to the highest point, Mount Werner, for panoramic snowcapped mountain views that will take your breath away and deliver a next-level downhill run. For an extra tree-lined challenge, Steamboat delivers unique aspen glades. After you clock out on the trails, stop in town to grab a bite and experience the friendly, down-home roots that keep people coming back year after year.

Purgatory

Purgatory's unimposing slopes, Old West fun park, sleigh rides, mountain coaster, Pitchfork Terrain Garden beginners' park and affordable lodging are all things that make it a favorite with families. Within its boundaries are 105 trails, four terrain parks, a racing course and 35,000 acres of snowcat skiing and snowboarding. Experienced skiers and riders can make a snowcat reservation to access all that terrain — up to 10 runs — with lunch provided and backcountry instruction from highly trained guides.



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Durango's Must-Attend Event Series in 2024



Durango's calendar is always packed with exciting events. But with so many offerings, it can be overwhelming to keep track of all the dates and details. That's why we've compiled a list of must-attend programmatic event series for 2024. So mark your calendars and prepare for a year full of fun, food, culture and adventure!

VISIT **DURANGO**
COLORADO

Durango Restaurant Week: March 30-April 7

Durango's Restaurant Week is a foodie's paradise where restaurants showcase their culinary expertise through a range of meal experiences. It's a week-long celebration where we relish the flavors of our local cuisine. It's high-altitude dining at its best.

Durango Arts Week: September 20-29

Durango Arts Week is a vibrant display of the artistic talent of the Four Corners area. This 10-day-long event series promises a cultural extravaganza you just have to experience. It's so inspiring that even the Mona Lisa might relocate for this artsy action!

Spoketober: October 1-31

Spoketober, the month-long biking festival, returns annually on October 1. Activities range from easy rides to challenging races. Don't worry if you haven't ridden in a while; our hills are so friendly they practically give you a high-five on the way up!

Holiday Station: November 28-December 31

Holiday Station brings the Christmas cheer to Durango. Whether that's riding the Polar Express, building a gingerbread house or having hot chocolate after a sleigh ride, this event series is guaranteed to warm even the Grinch's cold heart.

Durango.org/2024 | 970.247.3500

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

THE MODERN WEST IS WAITING FOR YOU

The Modern West is alive and well in Grand County. Colorado's year-round playground inspires high-altitude adventure for those who share our independent spirit. Here, elevated describes more than the landscape—it's a reverence for the environment, people, and experiences enjoyed. Start your adventure at VisitGrandCounty.com.



Dean's Public House, Hot Sulphur Springs



WINTER PARK FRASER CHAMBER

Visit Winter Park

Experience Colorado unfiltered surrounded by groves of trees, wildlife, and beautiful mountain scenery. Known as the Front Porch of the Rockies, you won't want to miss out on it. There's a reason everyone loves Winter Park.

PlayWinterPark.com | 970.726.4118



KREMMLING CHAMBER

Kremmling, Colorado: A Sportsman's Paradise

Kremmling, Colorado, lies at the confluence of the Muddy Creek and Blue and Colorado rivers. We are within minutes of the Wolford Mountain, Williams Fork and Green Mountain reservoirs, and at the crossroads of Hwy 9 and historic Hwy 40. Known as a sportsman's paradise, Kremmling is your ultimate base camp for adventure.

KremmlingChamber.com



GO GRAND LAKE

The Wild Side of RMNP

Surrounded by Rocky Mountain National Park and nestled against Colorado's largest natural lake, Grand Lake is a dream. In the winter, explore 88 miles of snowmobile trails from town, providing thrilling adventures in a snowy wonderland. In the summer, the lakes are a haven for boaters, anglers and sunbathers. Enjoy the national park without the lines, and don't miss the fireworks displays on NYE and the 4th of July!

GoGrandLake.com | 970.627.3402



DESTINATION GRANBY

Year-Round Basecamp for Adventure

Located in the heart of the Rocky Mountains, Granby is an all-season basecamp for adventure, offering stunning vistas, outdoor experiences, and small-town charm. Hit the trails on foot, bike, horseback, or ATV, or cast your line in the Colorado River or Lake Granby. Come winter, Granby is a snow-covered wonderland with sledding, snowboarding, skiing, and snowshoeing. No matter the season, Granby offers opportunities to spot wildlife, take in the views, and enjoy the fresh mountain air.

DestinationGranby.com | 970.887.2311



Nelson Holland

HAVE THE **Hike of Your Life**

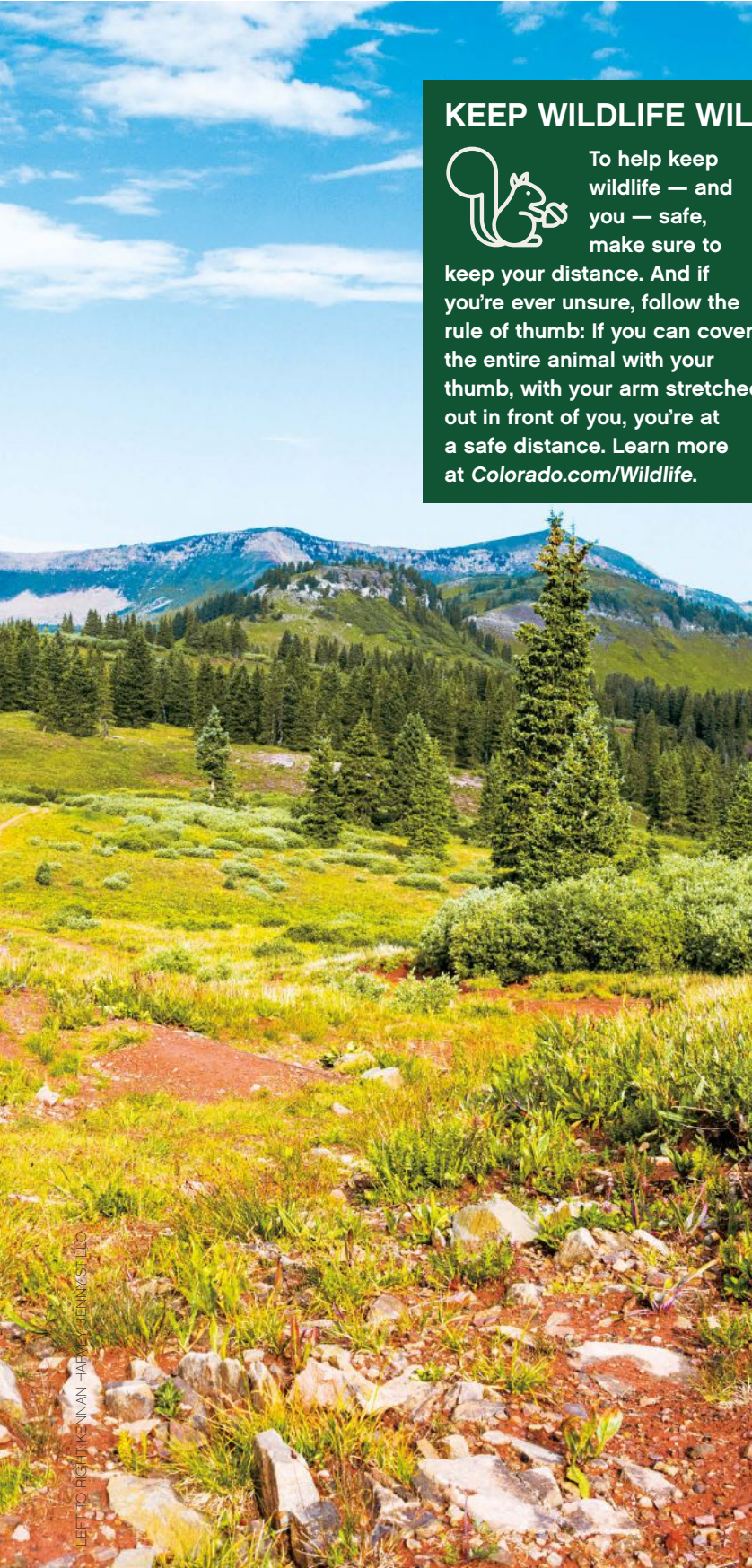
When Nelson Holland moved to Colorado and saw the picture-perfect beauty of the state, it was a life-altering moment for the Brooklynite. Not only was he introduced to a new, lifelong passion, he started on the path to becoming an outdoors-focused social-media influencer — and a featured guest for Colorado Tourism Office's Do Colorado Right campaign.

“Once I saw the Rocky Mountains, it unlocked a bunch of new things for me,” Holland said. “There was this bison spot at Rocky Mountain Arsenal [National Wildlife Refuge] with 200 bison 15 minutes away from where I used to live in Thornton, and I started going over there because I wasn't really a nature person in the same way in New York.”

That was 10 years ago, and Holland said those early visits to Rocky Mountain Arsenal kicked off a decade of outdoor discovery. Since then, he's explored Colorado's vast landscape, seeking big views and glimpses of the local wildlife — keeping Care for Colorado Leave No Trace Principles, like Keep Wildlife Wild, in mind. He's shared his adventures along the way, too, collecting a bounty of likes and followers on his Instagram and TikTok platforms, @fatblackandgettinit. There, he works to encourage others to explore the great outdoors, while elevating the importance of representation and inclusion.

“There are people like me that don't look like the traditional hiker,” he said. “There are people that are plus sized that take more time. There are people that need poles. We should really be inclusive of everybody getting out there. There's a trail for everybody as long as [people are] respectful of everybody else.”





KEEP WILDLIFE WILD



To help keep wildlife — and you — safe, make sure to keep your distance. And if you're ever unsure, follow the rule of thumb: If you can cover the entire animal with your thumb, with your arm stretched out in front of you, you're at a safe distance. Learn more at Colorado.com/Wildlife.

LEFT TO RIGHT: KENNAN HARRIS, JENNIFER SILLO

San Juan National Forest



Mount Crested Butte

For Holland, heading out for a hike — either solo or with a group — means he's seeking towering panoramas, endless wildlife and restorative moments found only in nature. It's essentially his special time to recharge and take in the tranquil landscape around him.

"It was always about seeing the views," he explained, "but then I saw woodpeckers and moose and things that I had never seen while I was taking these journeys. So, then I became a wildlife lover."

When Holland is outside, especially early in the morning when he has a trail all to himself, his favorite wildlife sightings — done from a safe distance — include elk, bison, bighorn sheep, eagles, osprey, red-wing blackbirds, Steller's jays, beavers and mountain goats. Basically everything.

"I'm a moose-aholic," he added.

Living in Colorado's Front Range doesn't limit his access to beautiful places in the state, either. A quick ride in the car from Denver lets Holland reach shady forest trails, rushing streams, alpine lakes and all of his favorite summer destinations.

NELSON HOLLAND'S Top 5 Colorado Trails

Mount Crested Butte Crested Butte

Trek up Crested Butte Mountain Resort by foot from the base area to a vast network of trails, or ride the chairlift up for a shorter hike, since you'll just be going down. No matter your method for reaching the top, you're in for startling mountain vistas swathed in green grasses and blooms — and marmot sightings, too.

"It's a great way to get up above 12,000 feet," Holland said of the summer chairlift offerings, adding that there's an element of safety for newcomers to the outdoors, who are still out there building confidence, given the trail network is part of the resort.



Mount Crested Butte



Near Loveland Pass

Mount Sniktau near Dillon

More than once, Holland mentioned this easy-to-access thirteener. The nearly 4-mile, round-trip hike can be tackled all year (yes, you can do it with snowshoes!), and even the trailhead is high up — 11,990 feet to be exact. As far as thirteeners go, it's a shorter hike to the summit with a less-intense (but still challenging) elevation gain of 1,555 feet.

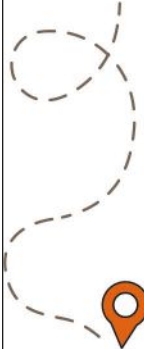
"It's just about the easiest thirteener you could do," he said. "I think I might like thirteeners more than fourteeners, not just because they're less crowded but because the backdrop is a fourteener right next to it. ... You get to the top, and I can't think of anything more beautiful."

According to him, hikers should watch for Torreys Peak while hiking Sniktau's marked trail. It's one of those neighboring fourteeners — peaks that are more than 14,000 feet — that reminds him of the Swiss Alps, especially during winter and early spring.

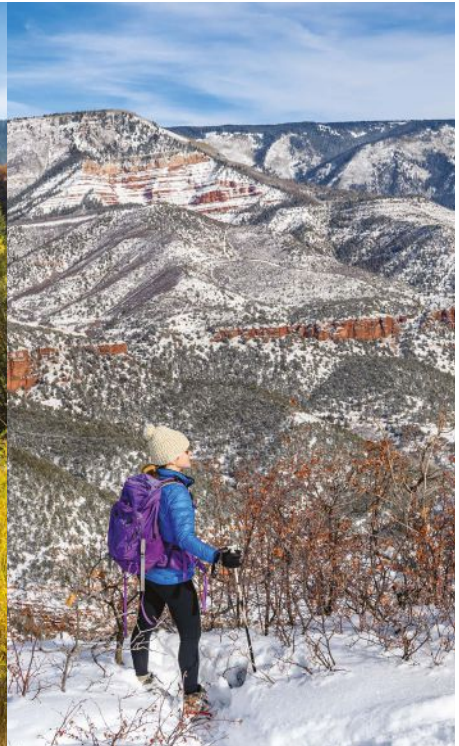
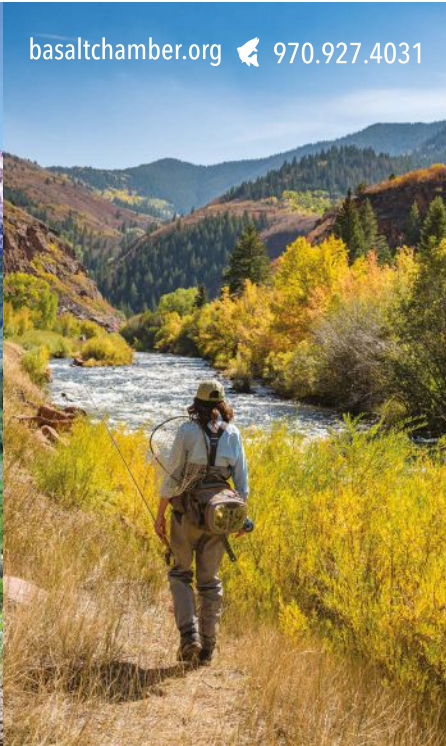
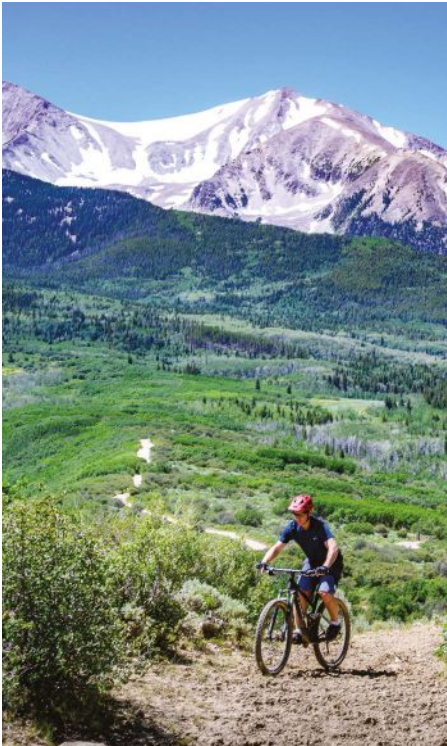


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basaltchamber.org ☎ 970.927.4031

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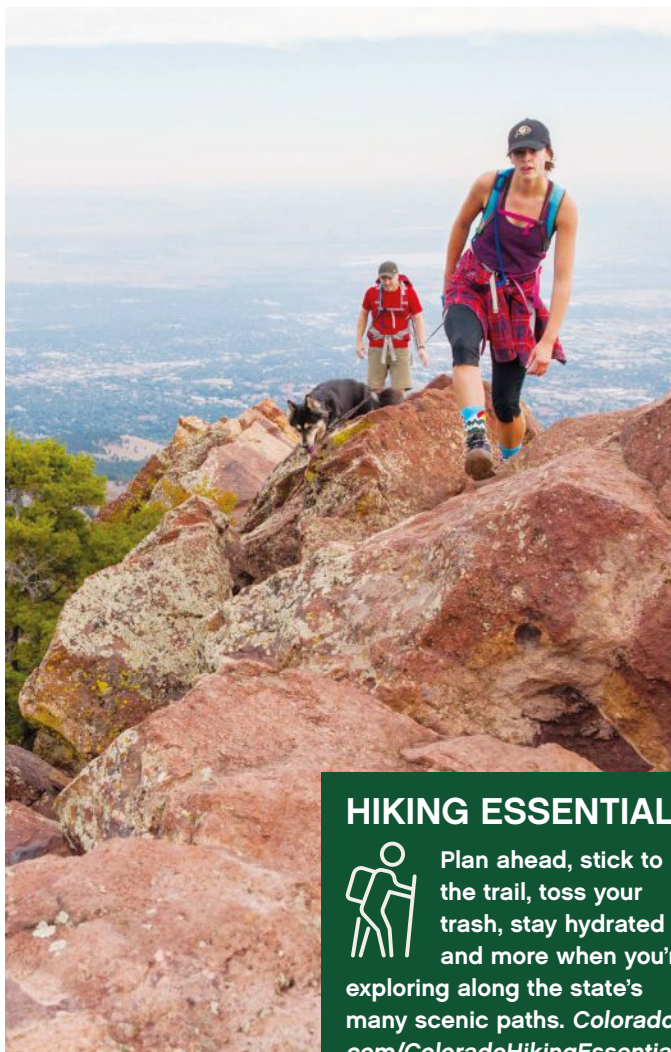
Discover genuine mountain-town experiences and connect to nature in Basalt: *where life flows.*



Bear Peak near Boulder

Bear Peak is a “butt-buster,” according to Holland. Come for toothy mountain views, wildflower-strewn meadows and rushing water sounds from Boulder Creek. Expect a bevy of wildlife-viewing opportunities, too, from curious deer to a rainbow of birds and an occasional bear, with steep switchbacks at the top. The loop clocks in at just over 8 miles.

“It’s a super beautiful hike the whole way through, but once you get to the top you have views that you probably didn’t think you could see from the Front Range,” he said. “You can see all of the Indian Peaks Wilderness and an amazing view of Longs Peak.”



Bear Peak

HIKING ESSENTIALS



Plan ahead, stick to the trail, toss your trash, stay hydrated and more when you’re

exploring along the state’s many scenic paths. Colorado.com/ColoradoHikingEssentials

Deer Mountain near Estes Park

This moderate-rated Rocky Mountain National Park trail is just over 6 miles round-trip and tops 10,000 feet. He loves it for its fluttering aspens and numerous wildlife-spotting opportunities, including some of his Colorado favorites — moose and elk.

“Estes Park might be my favorite place in the world,” he said. “On that hike specifically, you get amazing views of the Continental Divide, and it has this part — looking back in — where you can see the [town of Estes Park].”

S-Mountain Salida

Walk north of downtown Salida for a panoramic dirt road meandering up S-Mountain, also known as Tenderfoot. Head along Spiral Drive to the mountaintop to see grand views of the town or wander onto a connecting trail for a rocky challenge.

“Salida has beautiful weather year-round, so it can be sunnier there than it is in Denver; and it’s really accessible, too,” he said. “It’s 3 miles, 500 feet or so elevation gain, and the views are amazing. So, it’s a hike that everyone can do.”

Special Mention Manitou Incline Manitou Springs

Holland describes his relationship with the Manitou Incline as “love-hate” due to the challenging nature of the steep outdoor stair climb, but the scenery alone makes it worth it. He suggests getting there as early as the reservation system allows — which is 6 a.m. — for a strenuous climb up 2,744 stairs while basking in the sunrise afterglow.

If you’re planning a visit to Colorado, are new to outdoors exploration and don’t know where to start, he suggests checking out his @fatblackandgettinit accounts on Instagram and TikTok or even reaching out in a DM.

“There’s a hike for everybody out here in Colorado,” he added.

Follow Nelson Holland’s Colorado hiking adventures on TikTok and Instagram: @fatblackandgettinit

Discover Pagosa Springs, Your Ultimate Year-Round Escape!



Photo by Shelby Santille

Immerse yourself in a healing hot spring, soar above it all in a hot air balloon, uncover ancient secrets at Chimney Rock National Monument, and indulge in epic winter adventures and the most snow in Colorado at Wolf Creek Ski Area. Whatever the time of year, Pagosa welcomes you.



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This Four Corners gem has everything from roaring waterfalls to vibrant fall foliage. Experience breathtaking wildflowers, cascading waterfalls, dense forests, and rugged mountains right at your doorstep. Explore miles of outdoor adventure in the surrounding national forest areas. Relax in the soothing waters that flow from the “Deepest Hot Springs in the World,” where our healing waters renew your spirit.



VisitPagosaSprings.com | 970.585.1200

Kid-Approved

COLORADO

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. An afternoon at these attractions will score serious “best-parent-ever” points.



Denver Zoo

Alpine Coasters

There's nothing more thrilling than getting buckled into a modern toboggan and racing down a mountain.

With a top speed of 28 mph — the fastest on this list — **Breathtaker Alpine Coaster** in Snowmass adds an extra layer of fun by allowing you to ride at night. Hairpin turns and switchbacks feel even more epic under a pitch-black sky.

In Estes Park, **Mustang Mountain Coaster**'s view from the peak includes a sapphire-sparkling lake. With tight turns around new-growth pines, you end with an epic vista of some of Colorado's famous fourteeners (mountain summits over 14,000 feet).

Copper Mountain's **Rocky Mountain Coaster** is home to one of the longest tracks in North America. The alpine peaks are jaw-dropping year-round, but twisting and turning through snow banks among powder-dusted trees is extra special.

Zoos

Let the children take a walk on the wild side at different sanctuaries around the state — you might even be able to hand-feed a critter.

The **Denver Zoo** just opened Pinnacol African Penguin Point, where you can watch the flock's underwater high jinks up close. And be sure to ride the wooden animals on Conservation Carousel and book tickets to feed cownose rays at Stingray Cove.

There might not be a more interactive experience than at the **Cheyenne Mountain Zoo** in Colorado Springs. Book a meet-and-feed with giraffes, elephants, rhinos, grizzly bears, zebras, river otters, orangutans, sloths, African lions and wallabies.

In Keenesburg, **The Wild Animal Sanctuary**'s goal is to rescue and care for captive animals. To truly let the more than 650 lions, tigers and bears experience freedom with no fear, the refuge built a 1.5-mile elevated walkway for visitors. It's a calm experience for everyone involved, as the mammals don't feel threatened from above.



Amusement Parks

Coloradans live for a thrill, and that includes the state's mind-boggling rides. Where else can you look out at soaring peaks as you hurtle into the air on a giant swing?

Elitch Gardens Theme & Water Park, the nation's only downtown theme park, has everything a youngster loves, from Mega Wedgie slides to spinning teacups and Fruity Pebbles funnel cake topped with vanilla soft-serve ice cream. Bend your mind on Kaleidoscope, Meow Wolf's second permanent installation in the city, with seven Denver artists contributing to the park's ride.

Those who love to feel their heart drop into their stomach will thrive at America's only mountain-top theme park, **Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park**. Clutch the handles on the steepest freefall in the Western U.S. on Defiance Roller Coaster or hug the side of a bluff on Cliffhanger, North America's highest elevation, full-sized roller coaster.

Walking across America's highest suspension bridge is knee-knocking enough, but **Royal Gorge Bridge & Park** in Cañon City decided to go even harder with the Royal Rush Skycoaster. On your stomach, you'll sweep 50 mph through the air and dangle 1,200 feet above the Arkansas River.



Royal Gorge Bridge & Park



Denver Museum of Nature & Science

Dinosaurs

Long-necked giants once roamed the Centennial State, and there are sites far and wide to see tracks, fossils and excavation pits.

Sunny **Dinosaur Ridge** in Morrison is where humans first discovered the Stegosaurus. Kids can compare their feet sizes to the more than 250 dino tracks and visit Backyard Bones, a dig site that teaches tiny excavators how to find prehistoric beasts.

Picketwire Canyonlands is home to the largest dinosaur tracksite in North America, with more than 1,900 prints in 130 separate trackways. Be sure to bring plenty of water for this 11.2-mile, round-trip excursion south of La Junta.

In Fruita, the **Dinosaur Journey** museum is top-notch for future paleontologists. The hands-on exhibits feature more than 15,000 fossil specimens and a sandbox where visitors can make their own tracks. The museum also offers **Dino Digs**, where scientists provide training on how to scout for fossil bones.

The fossil-touch carts at the **Denver Museum of Nature & Science** are the stars of the show in the *Prehistoric Journey* exhibit. Siblings might relate to the battling Allosaurus and Stegosaurus, and science lovers will enjoy watching fossils being prepped for viewing at the Earth Sciences Lab.

Welcome to More at Gaylord Rockies



Standing at the edge of the Front Range, Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center showcases the state's alpine charm and offers a reprieve from a typical hotel stay. From the thrilling Arapahoe Springs Water Park to family-friendly activities and entertainment, there's something for everyone at this premium resort.



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GaylordRockies.com | 720.452.6900

Aquatic Wonderland

Enjoy year-round paradise at Arapahoe Springs Water Park with heated swimming pools, waterslides, a lap pool, hot tubs, cabanas and a 720-foot lazy river. Exclusive for overnight guests, the water park is an oasis for relaxation and fun at the 85-acre resort.

Endless Dining

Savor the flavors at Mountain Pass Sports Bar and watch the game on a 75-foot TV or indulge in prime cuts at Old Hickory Steakhouse. Be the first to try our newest restaurants in 2024: Embers Lodge Bar, Copper Table, Garden + Grain and The Fortunate Prospector.

Utopia of Family Fun

Make every moment count with outdoor recreation, on-site shopping and family suites with bunk beds for the kids. With space for any group size and activities to fill your schedule, the fun never ends. Take advantage of our seasonal offers throughout the year.

So. Much. Christmas.

Experience Christmas at Gaylord Rockies. Returning for the 2024 season, Gaylord Hotels presents ICE!, featuring handcrafted ice sculptures by master artisans from Harbin, China. The show brings cherished Christmas classics to life with 2 million pounds of ice.

Historic Sites

Your family can absorb what westward expansion was like at some of Colorado's most famous 1800s forts.

Little ones can become Junior Rangers at **Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site** in La Junta. They'll get to imagine they're building a new trading post, make a map of the citadel and learn about the games children played back when the fort was bustling.

A replica of **Fort Uncompahgre** in Delta has authentic dirt floors and serves as an interpretive site for what was once a hub of activity on the Old Spanish Trail. Watch reenactors start fires with flint, throw tomahawks and scrape hides.

The **El Pueblo Fort** was the first permanent settlement in Pueblo, and it has been painstakingly reconstructed to showcase life in the mid-19th century. Sit on a bench in the middle of the adobe structure and imagine what living during these times was like.

Mine Tours

Prospectors came out West in the 1800s hoping to strike a bonanza of gold — your kids will get the chance to put on a hard hat, step back in time and live out one of the momentous eras of Colorado history.

Descend 1,000 feet into Summit County's only real gold-mine tour at **Country Boy Mine** near Breckenridge. Children will love the ability to pan for gold and meet-and-greet the burros that call the area home.

Grab a hammer or chisel and try your hand at striking gold at **Hidee Gold Mine** or take a lesson in gold panning at this Central City spot — and keep what you find!

A trip on the historic Georgetown Loop Railroad wouldn't be complete without the **Lebanon Silver Mine Tour**. In addition to a gold-panning option that also allows you to keep what you discover, you'll actually get to see naturally occurring silver pearls 1,000 feet into Leavenworth Mountain.



LEAVE IT AS YOU FIND IT



When you're outside in Colorado, it may be

tempting to pick flowers or take cool-looking rocks. By leaving them behind, the visitors who arrive after you can experience the same discoveries you did.

Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site

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Colorado.com/FamilyAttractions

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Photo courtesy of
Barbara S. Hoyersten



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Fort Collins Museum of Discovery

Museums

No matter your kids' obsession, there's a museum in Colorado to excite them.

Move your body around the *Soundscape* exhibit and sensors will craft a medley of sounds at the **Fort Collins Museum of Discovery**. This interactive children's museum is a fan favorite in parenting circles. They even have a Tot Spot for littles with a crawl-through tree and water zone.

At the Art Bar at the **Trailhead Children's Museum** in Crested Butte, kids' creations come alive in bright colors.

And for aspiring engineers, the *Dream It! Built It!* exhibit features giant blue building pieces so entire worlds can be imagined and constructed.

At Fire Station No. 1 in the **Children's Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus**, the city is in danger and toddlers must operate the dispatch station, drive the truck and put out the fire. A giant physics playground with lessons on Newton, motion and gravity rounds out the offerings.

Colorado Springs



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VisitCOS.com



PIKES PEAK REGION ATTRACTIONS

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The Pikes Peak Region is packed with iconic Colorado landmarks, Wild West history, parks the whole family can enjoy and epic thrills for a surge of adrenaline. With so much to do, it can be difficult to plan your itinerary to suit your crew and budget. All the need-to-know info is curated in one place to make planning easy. Head to pikes-peak.com for attraction videos, hours, rates, itineraries, events and discounts.

Pikes-Peak.com | 1.800.525.2250



HISTORIC MANITOU SPRINGS

Chock-Full of Charm

The mountain town of Manitou Springs, nestled between Garden of the Gods and Pikes Peak, is the perfect basecamp for many Pikes Peak Region adventures. Minutes from hiking and biking trails — including the famed and challenging Manitou Incline — and packed with local restaurants, art galleries, boutiques and a variety of locally-owned accommodations, this town has a wealth of choices. Historic Manitou Springs also hosts unusual and lively events, the best of authentic Colorado.

ManitouSprings.org | 719.685.5089





PIKES PEAK — AMERICA'S MOUNTAIN

The Summit of a Lifetime

Time for the highest road trip of your life! Drive 14,115 feet when you embark on your Pikes Peak — America's Mountain journey. The summit promises unlimited views, world-famous, high-altitude doughnuts and an immersive learning exhibit that explores the rich history of the mountain. There are lots of hellos to be said from the highway as you pass by bicyclists, explorers and bighorn sheep. Your adventure to the peak starts as soon as you fuel up!

DrivePikesPeak.com | 719.385.7325



CAVE OF THE WINDS MOUNTAIN PARK

Find What Lies Beneath

Cave of the Winds Mountain Park has been a must-see Colorado attraction since the late 1800s! Choose from three underground cave tours: the scientific Discovery, Haunted Lantern and down-and-dirty Spelunking tours. The above-ground attractions include the 100-mph Terror-dactyl giant canyon swing, three-story ropes challenge course, cliff climbing along the Via Ferrata, and the harness and hard-chair ziplines! Everyone will be sharing these memories for years to come!

CaveoftheWinds.com | 719.685.5444





GARDEN OF THE GODS TRADING POST

Beyond the Garden

A trip to the Garden of the Gods isn't complete until you visit the Garden of the Gods Trading Post. It's an attraction all its own, with on-site restaurants, gift shops and boutiques with artisanal finds. Enjoy lunch on the shaded outdoor patio with your favorite coffee before browsing an array of souvenirs to commemorate your visit. From T-shirts and local art to handmade jewelry and Native American crafts, they've got something special for everyone.

GardenoftheGodsTradingPost.com
719.685.9045



MANITOU CLIFF DWELLINGS

Explore Ancient Pasts

Encounter the history of the Native Puebloan people at the awe-inspiring Manitou Cliff Dwellings, a popular locale that encourages visitors to get interactive and touch history. Step back in time as you explore each painstakingly preserved 700-year-old Native Puebloan cliff dwelling, relocated from McElmo Canyon in southwest Colorado in the early 1900s. These 40 unique rooms, remnants of ancient Native American culture, illustrate what life was like for the Indigenous peoples of the state.

CliffDwellingsMuseum.com
719.685.5242





ROYAL GORGE BRIDGE & PARK

Must-Have Experience

The ultimate Colorado experience awaits at America's Bridge, packed with expansive views and fun for the whole family. The Royal Gorge Bridge & Park boasts the country's highest suspension bridge, one of the longest single-span aerial gondolas and the highest zipline in the U.S., as well as the adrenaline-pumping Royal Rush Skycoaster. For sights of distant peaks beyond the bridge and the rippling Arkansas River below, climb the Via Ferrata, a protected red-rock trail.

RoyalGorgeBridge.com | 719.275.7507

ROYAL GORGE
BRIDGE & PARK
AMERICA'S BRIDGE



Cheyenne Mountain Zoo

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, named the fourth-best zoo in North America in 2023 by *USA Today* 10Best Readers' Choice Awards, gets you closer to your favorite animals. Hand-feed their giraffe herd on the mountainside overlooking Colorado Springs. Every visit is conservation in action, with 75¢ from every admission adding up to millions helping animals in the wild. Advance tickets required.

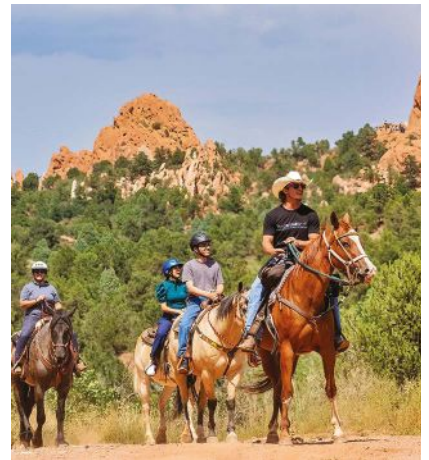
CMZoo.org
719.633.9925



Ghost Town Museum

The Ghost Town Museum is a living-history exhibit of Colorado's Wild West past with fun and educational activities for the whole family. Explore the preserved Gold-Rush-era town displaying authentic artifacts, crank a butter churn, operate an old-time arcade game or pan for real gold in the summer. Plus, you can shop for gifts or sip an old-fashioned sarsaparilla beverage.

GhostTownMuseum.com
719.634.0696



Academy Riding Stables

Enjoy the epic red sandstone and limestone landscape of the Garden of the Gods with Academy Riding Stables in an iconically Western way — on horseback. You'll make a new, neighing friend while learning horse-riding basics (or improving your current skills) on one- and two-hour scenic rides through giant rock formations or on pony rides for kids ages two to seven.

AcademyRidingStables.com
719.633.5667

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Experience the Magic

Welcome to The North Pole Santa's Workshop, an enchanting amusement park nestled at the foot of Pikes Peak. Bring the kiddos for a ride on the Ferris wheel or small-scale train, enjoy an ice-cream cone and say hello to Santa. With more than two dozen rides, charming shops and treats, this attraction's fun never stops. Home to Santa's Village and the jolly man himself, the park celebrates the spirit of Christmas all year.

NorthPoleColorado.com | 719.684.9432



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If witnessing waterfalls, cruising dirt roads, biking through a scenic byway or soaring on a zipline is on your Colorado bucket list, look no further than Adventures Out West. This top-rated tour company has all your thrill-seeking and sight-seeing needs, including hot-air balloons, Jeep and Segway tours, group hikes and more. Experience national forests, Pikes Peak or the Garden of the Gods on an exciting trip to make memories that will last a lifetime.

AdventuresOutWest.com | 719.578.0935

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Experience the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum, an inspiring and educational destination perfect for any Colorado excursion. This award-winning attraction uses cutting-edge technology, immersive storytelling and interactive exhibits to celebrate the legacies of America's greatest athletes and iconic moments in Team USA history. With a complete collection of Olympic medals and torches, the museum offers monthly programming that includes athlete meet-and-greets, watch parties and more!

usopm.org | 719.497.1234



HISTORIC CRIPPLE CREEK

Get Out and Play More

Rich in gold-mining history, geologic wonders, casinos and more, there is something for everybody in historic Cripple Creek! Visit the Outlaws & Lawmen Jail Museum, see a show at the Butte Theater, drive through the Gold Belt Tour Scenic Byway, enjoy a Cripple Creek & Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad ride, travel 1,000 feet underground in the Mollie Kathleen Gold Mine, come find our donkeys, or visit the Teller County Troll: Rita the Rock Planter.

VisitCrippleCreek.com | 719.270.1999





Mesa Verde National Park

Traverse the Ancestral Lands

OF COLORADO'S SOUTHWEST

Colorado's southwest is a haven for those seeking a sense of history, cultural immersions and rugged beauty.

Located in the Colorado Plateau, the sandstone canyons and sage-covered plains of the **Mesa Verde region** are home to one of the largest concentrations of ancestral sites in the country. Here, you can step into the past and traverse the

same paths as the Ancestral Puebloans did over 800 years ago, or walk among their homes and sacred sites to gather a sense of a day in their lives.

While marveling at the landscape and its architectural wonders, it's important to remember that Colorado was colonized on Native territory, and that this region serves as an

opportunity to connect with and learn from Indigenous cultures, as well as appreciate the land that joins us all.

Take the time to travel thoughtfully through this landscape by learning the history of the area's first inhabitants, as well as how to respect their culture and ancestral sites.



MIKE WILKINSON

Ute Mountain Tribal Park in Towaoc

Experience Colorado's Native Roots

Colorado is home to two federally recognized tribes, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and the Southern Ute Mountain Tribe in the southwestern region of the state. However, Colorado has historic ties with 48 contemporary tribes.

At the heart of this region, the **Crow Canyon Archaeological Center** in Cortez strives to make the past accessible and relevant for people of all ages so they can learn about the diversity, dynamic cultures and histories of the American Southwest.

“We really like to highlight the unbroken continuity of past and present people. A lot of visitors who are coming from out-of-state often think about Indigenous people as being of the past, that they are no longer here or they abandoned their area or they moved away, and it’s really not the case,” said Sarah Payne, Chief Outreach Officer at the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center.

“There are many different language groups within the Pueblo world. There are also Diné (Navajo), Jicarilla Apache, Paiute and Ute — many diverse cultures and vibrant communities today that maintain their language, traditions and connections to these ancestral places that are very much alive in that sense.”

The nonprofit was founded in 1983 when its co-founders had a vision to build a center that could study the long-term occupation of human history in southwest Colorado. Working in collaboration with Indigenous peoples — preceding the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 — the center has been able to produce valuable research and bring free education to the public about this remote part of the world. The center’s website shares 40 years of resources, as well as one of the largest archaeological databases in North America that is accessible to the public.

Crow Canyon’s weeklong travel seminars and workshops incorporate many different perspectives and voices while providing a cultural-immersion experience. Guided by the Cultural Explorations team of tribal members, cultural specialists and archaeologists, small group tours are led into ancestral landscapes and tribal communities in a way that helps travelers connect the past to the present.

However, if you have an itch to become a citizen scientist, Crow Canyon collaborates with the **Cortez Cultural Center** to host two weeklong archaeological surveys of Hawkins Preserve, a natural and cultural area just south of Cortez. Participants are invited to contribute to the research actively being done in the area to better understand the human occupation of this landscape over thousands of years.

COME TO LIFE

While in the area, Jon Ghahate — Crow Canyon Archaeological Center educator and Pueblo member of the Laguna and Zuni tribes — recommends a visit to **Mesa Verde National Park**. As the largest archaeological preserve in the U.S., this park protects the rich cultural heritage of 26 tribes, offering a unique window into the past. The park's cliff dwelling tours allow visitors to explore the world-famous masterpiece of architecture and design at Cliff Palace — the largest cliff dwelling in North America. Take the Balcony House tour to follow in the footsteps of the Ancestral Puebloans that once lived there. On this tour, you'll scale the face of a cliff via several tall ladders, squeeze your way through a narrow tunnel on your hands and knees, and explore some of the same passages used over 800 years ago.

The neighboring **Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Park** is one of Payne's favorite places to visit. Located on the land of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe who serve as the stewards of the park, this land is accessible only by tour with one of their Native guides. These sacred landscapes also contain ancestral connections to many cultures, including the Pueblo, Ute, Diné (Navajo), Jicarilla Apache and Paiute.

"It's a memorable experience when you can learn directly from tribal members who are carrying the stories, songs and traditions that are tied to such magnificent landscapes," Payne said. "It's almost like stepping back in time, hiking along backcountry trails and through remote canyons with remarkably well-preserved sites."

Then, make your way to the **Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Visitor Center & Museum** in Dolores for world-class interpretive exhibits, as well as their guidance for exploring trails within the monument. Southwest Colorado Canyons Alliance also partners with the Bureau of Land Management to offer guided tours of the monument.

To the east of these destinations lies the Southern Ute Reservation, where you can deepen your knowledge of Ute history through the exhibits at the **Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum** in Ignacio. For an off-the-beaten-path immersion, make your way to nearby **Chimney Rock National Monument**, the highest elevation Chacoan site in the U.S. Follow in the footsteps of the Ancestral Puebloans of the Chaco Canyon by traversing primitive pathways that have remained unchanged over the past 1,000 years. Explore over 200 preserved homes and ceremonial buildings and make the short half-mile hike to the top of the monument for rewarding 360-degree views of Colorado and New Mexico.

Or experience wellness as the Southern Ute people once did with a stay at **The Springs Resort in Pagosa Springs** and soak in the rejuvenating mineral waters of the Mother Spring, the deepest geothermal hot spring on Earth. Rooted to the original inhabitants of the area, the town's name "Pagosa" comes from the Ute word meaning "healing waters." As legend would have it, the hot springs water emerged from the ground as an answer to the tribe's prayers, curing them of a great plague that ailed their people. These waters now feed into 25 pools of varying temperatures to soak in and restore your body and soul as the Southern Ute people once did.



Chimney Rock National Monument



Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Park in Towaoc

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Canyons of the Ancients National Monument



Crow Canyon Archaeological Center near Cortez

LEAVE IT AS YOU FIND IT

From petroglyphs to cliff dwellings and pithouses to masonry towers, there's so much to discover and explore, but it's important to remember to tread thoughtfully. By leaving pottery, rocks, plants, petroglyphs and artifacts as you found them, you'll be helping to preserve these ancestral sites in their true forms. You'll also be allowing visitors the joy of discovery, as well as future anthropologists and archaeologists the opportunity to learn and teach others through experience.

Being mindful of protecting these carefully preserved cultural lands is paramount in ensuring their longevity, while appreciating those that allow us to be here.

"As human beings, it's like you're a guest wherever you go and you're trying to be mindful of those who came before us," Ghahate said.

"When we think about going to visit national parks, national forests and public lands, we're saving them for the future. There are others that are going to be coming down the line and hopefully they can experience the sunset, smell the flowers and see the animals running around. Maybe they'll get the chance to do that in 50, 100 or maybe even 500 years, but again, if we don't take care of it now, that may not come about."

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DIG INTO THE HISTORY OF Cripple Creek

Present-day Cripple Creek enchants visitors with gleaming aspen-lined trails and thrill-filled casinos. But the allure of this charming mountain town extends way back to the 19th century, when the rolling green hills and craggy peaks served as a backdrop to the last great Colorado Gold Rush.

Rewind the clock to 1890, when Robert Miller Womack struck gold and staked a claim in the little-known town, setting off a decades-long frenzy to harvest as much precious metal as possible. Within two years of Womack's first claim, 5,000 eager adventurers migrated to the area to set up camp and get in on the riches. That number doubled just three years later.

The town quickly grew into an economic hub, proliferating to neighboring villages Victor, Gillett, Alban and beyond. Before long, the doors swung open at wood-structured saloons, churches, food markets, restaurants and schools in the district.



Prosperity was in the air, but it required a lot of labor. Backbreaking work and dragging days made life toilsome for a Cripple Creek miner. Some days commenced before sunrise and concluded after sunset without a glimpse at daylight. Falling rocks and equipment failure were commonplace and resulted in serious injuries. Rest was rare but rolled around every Sunday when most headed to local churches.

Where to Go: Want to delve into these historical sites in-person? Traverse the **Vindicator Valley Trail** in Victor, a well-established walking path where you can spot the remains of more than 500 mines along the 2-mile "trail of gold." Along the way, you'll come across blast houses, mine owners' homes and even some old outhouses.



Downtown Cripple Creek

When it was time to put down their tools and emerge from the mine, most men steered straight downtown to the bars and brothels to let off some steam. After a rousing night at the saloon, many community members staggered to the thriving red-light district, home to more than 300 ladies of the night.

Where to Go: Saunter over to the **Old Homestead House Museum**, the most elegant brothel in town, which was a popular spot with the region's elite. Tour the building, brimming with story-filled artifacts of the era, and tune into tales of the women who lived there and the men who frequented the establishment. You can even meet Pearl de Vere, known as the "soiled dove of Cripple Creek," who ran the operation, famous for her keen business mind and impeccable style.

In 1894, more than 150 mines operated in the area, and workmen formed a union. When the workday swelled and pay didn't increase, the miners went on strike. This lack of labor shut the chutes to most of the mines in the area, causing pressure to build between the strikers, the owners and the military men they hired to quell the unrest. Soon, then-Colorado Governor Waite sat down with both parties and negotiated an eight-hour day with a fair wage. This settlement created some predictability for the local workers moving forward.

Where to Go: Step into the dusty boots of an outlaw at the **Outlaws & Lawmen Jail Museum**, where you can get a glimpse at the life of prisoners and local law enforcement from this era. Feeling brave? Ask about the paranormal activity in the museum. Over the years, visitors have reported apparitions, mysteriously opening doors, cold spots and other hair-raising encounters.



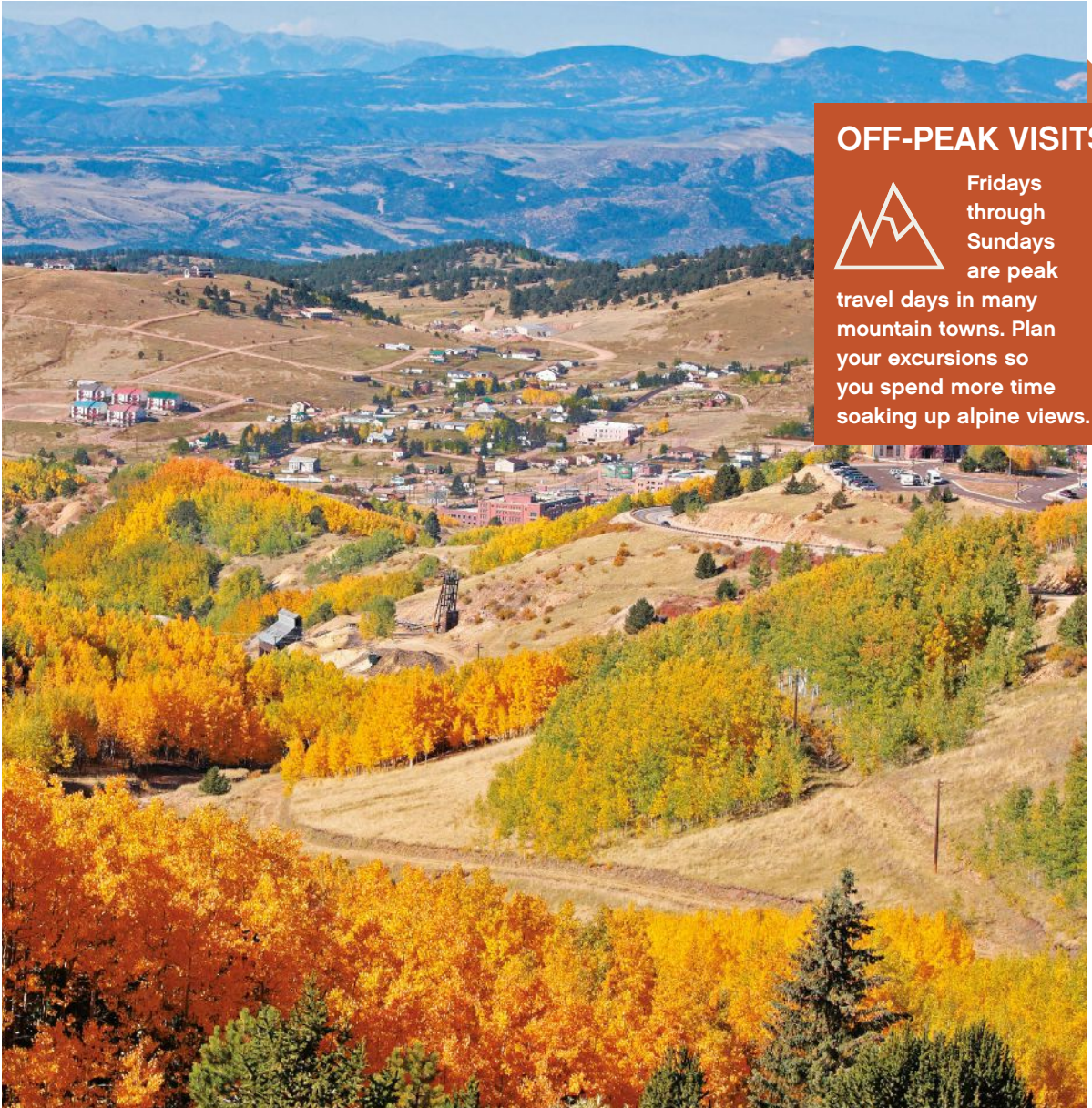
Cripple Creek & Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad

Then, in 1896, disaster struck. Two massive fires within one week wreaked havoc on the area, destroying the business district and displacing nearly all the town's residents. The community rebuilt over the following year, replacing the old wooden buildings with sturdier brick. Many of these landmarks still stand today, including the **Midland Terminal Railroad Depot**, the **Cripple Creek District Museum** and the **Mansard Roof House**.

Where to Go: Get the complete narrative of the Cripple Creek fires, the community impact and the responding rebuild at **Cripple Creek Fire Station No. 3**. The museum commemorates the bravery of the region's busy firefighters over the centuries.

Despite some massive setbacks, the mines hammered away and the community persevered over the following decade. With that, wealth continued to pile up for the mine owners and elites in the area. Between 1890 and 1910, the region produced more than 1.5 million pounds of gold through the mining efforts of several companies that comprised the Cripple Creek Mining District.

Over the years, the success and output of these mines began to wane. By 1920, the Colorado Springs & Cripple Creek District Railroad stopped running, signaling a halt of economic growth. Many of the once-wealthy owners lost their fortunes. There was a brief revival in the mid-1930s when low labor costs and high gold prices made mining profitable again.



OFF-PEAK VISITS



Fridays through Sundays are peak

travel days in many mountain towns. Plan your excursions so you spend more time soaking up alpine views.

Cripple Creek

However, World War II brought that to a screeching halt. The federal government suspended all gold mining during the war, and many Cripple Creek mines closed for good.

Where to Go: After shutting down, the Colorado Springs & Cripple Creek District Railroad was disassembled and converted into a roadway. But you can still experience Cripple Creek by trolley today. Check out the **Cripple Creek & Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad**, a steam engine that loops riders past gold-filled excavation sites and other exciting points of interest.

A Modern-Day Gold Rush

A century after the initial rush, the region saw a new boom after passing a 1990 amendment allowing casinos to break ground. Now, visitors flock to Cripple Creek to take their chance at striking gold with gaming — in much more comfortable conditions compared to the prospectors before them. Visitors can try their hand at blackjack, slots, roulette, poker and more at the fun-filled, glowing pavilions.

Despite the industry transition, the town maintains its Gold Rush-era charm today. Establishments overflowing with local history line the downtown, and several tours and museums allow visitors to extract stories from the area's prosperous and colorful past.

Learn more about other Colorado mining towns and historic districts at Colorado.com/MiningTowns.

EXPERIENCE COLORADO'S **Elevated Dining Scene**



Four by Brother Luck

Heralded for its towering mountains, pristine landscapes and Western culture, a Colorado vacation doesn't necessarily bring dining to mind. However, the state is fast becoming a culinary destination, thanks to the grit and passion of its tastemakers.

Celebrated chefs are viewing the Centennial State as a new frontier for culinary exploration, carving a space for themselves in the mountain towns and cities to showcase these unique regions and the flavors that thrive there. Blending Colorado's past with fresh takes on classic dishes and innovative creations, they've garnered the attention of television programs like "Top Chef" as well as organizations like the James Beard Foundation and, most recently, the prestigious MICHELIN Guide.

"[The Colorado food scene] is starting to have its own voice, more so than ever before," said Josh Niernberg, executive chef and owner of **Bin 707 Foodbar** and **Tacoparty** in Grand Junction.

By showcasing the winemaking and agriculture that had been established in the area, his restaurants helped transform the Grand Valley. They also earned him a nod from the James Beard Foundation as a nominee for Best Chef: Mountains category and two-time semifinalist for Outstanding Chef.

Meanwhile, celebrated chef Denise Vigil has crafted a sanctuary in her small hometown of Alamosa that's quickly gained big recognition as a 2023 semifinalist for the James Beard Award for Best New Restaurant. And in Lakewood, six-time James Beard Award-nominated chef Dana Rodriguez

has made the comeback of a lifetime as the Executive Chef and Culinary Partner at the world-famous **Casa Bonita** after being turned down for a dishwasher's position at the restaurant in 1998.

Celebrity chef and acclaimed restaurateur Brother Luck has spent the past decade working to change the food culture in the city he's planted his roots in.

"We all travel the world until we find a place that we want to call home — for me, it's Colorado Springs," Luck said proudly. "This is a beautiful city that has an amazing view and amazing culture, and I want it to be hip and fun because I love living here."

After cooking in kitchens around the globe, Luck settled in Colorado Springs in 2012 in pursuit of a higher quality of life and to be near family. With the small-town feel of Colorado's second-largest city, the

accessible proximity to the mountains and the location at the base of Pikes Peak, he was quickly enamored with Colorado Springs. But the James Beard-nominated chef notes that the food left something to be desired.

“When I first got here, the food was mediocre, there wasn’t much in the way of options, there were a handful of chefs doing really cool stuff, but they were ahead of their time for the masses,” Luck said.

“They said my food was too advanced because I was cooking food from Chicago, and I didn’t believe that — I didn’t believe this was a meat-and-potato town, I didn’t believe this was a corporate-chain town — I refused to accept that.”

It was Guy Fieri coming to Colorado Springs in 2015 and showcasing

restaurants for his Food Network program “Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives” that made Luck realize the power of the celebrity chef. Luck invited his community to follow his journey as he championed Colorado’s culinary scene in a time when it was so often overlooked. With TV appearances showcasing his culinary chops, Luck became a household name for Colorado Springs. He found success as a finalist on “Chopped,” winning his episode of “Beat Bobby Flay,” and competing on seasons 15 and 16 of Bravo’s “Top Chef.”

With a bevy of eateries under his wing, he’s carved a space for himself and his crew to learn and grow. He quickly turned the city on its head and pushed the regional palate by incorporating pig ears, roasted yuca and pork belly in his take on street food and comfort fare.

“Over the last 10 years we’ve grown with that approach, so I think the thing I’m most proud of when it comes to Colorado Springs is what we’ve changed as far as food culture,” Luck said, adding that his two newest ventures opened just last year and are social concepts that offer elevated dining experiences to foodies.

In downtown Colorado Springs, Luck’s **Folklore Irish Pub** pairs the warmth and hospitality of Ireland with delicious foods and patio dining with a few surprises around every bend. Nestled inside the pub, **The Tipperary Cocktail Parlor** provides a luxury experience promising elegance and sophistication while pushing the boundaries of mixology.

Upstairs, **The Studio** hosts an intimate and curated chef’s-table experience. Winding down an alleyway, ascending a



BIN 707 FOODBAR

COME TO LIFE

staircase and emerging in a quaint room that seats only 24 people, getting there is only part of the journey. The Studio is a reservation-only dinner service where those fascinated with the culinary arts have the opportunity to connect with chefs as they cook and serve a five-course meal paired with cocktails and wines from the open kitchen.

However, it's Luck's signature restaurant that tells the greatest tale. Since opening in 2017, **Four By Brother Luck** has redefined Southwestern cuisine and earned his nomination as a semifinalist for the 2020 James Beard Best Chef Award.

Four by Brother Luck tells the story of the Four Corners region where he has spent most of his life; the four seasons we experience; the hunter, fisher, gatherer and farmer who bring the food to being, as well as the four-course tastings that the restaurant provides.

"Food is storytelling. We are connecting through the ghosts of our past every time we cook a dish; it's where we all know family, it's where we all know a memory, and it's common across the world," Luck

said. "For me, most of my cooking career has been in [the Four Corners] region and I love it — I love being in the desert, and I love being in the mountains. I think there's something very special in understanding who the people are and how this region was shaped."

A focus on Native American and/or hyper-local foods are common passions for Colorado's chefs. The state's unique culinary palate is defined by the cultures that shaped the region, starting with the land's first Native American inhabitants and developing through the European pioneers who traveled west to settle and explore the frontier. The Spanish followed and left their mark with the rise of missions across the area, as well as the formation and expansion of Mexico.

"In the past, probably, 10 years, there's been such a resurgence of chefs trying to find and tell those stories. All it takes is for us to listen a little bit and find some of [that history]," Niernberg said.

Using locally and regionally sourced ingredients prior to the rise of farm-to-table dining and defying



LEFT TO RIGHT: WORK & CLASS: CAT MAYER



COME TO LIFE

industry trends across the nation at the time, Niernberg's restaurants showcase contemporary Southwestern foods. He frequently uses corn, peppers, bison and Colorado lamb, while being conscious of food systems as a whole. Fruit is worked into the menu starting at the summer solstice through September and October. Local favorites, including the region's famous Palisade peaches, are woven into recipes, while more obscure finds like small harvests of the rare elephant heart plums found in a single orchard over the past century make special appearances.

Staples to the Bin 707 Foodbar and Tacoparty menus include two types of beans unique to the region. The Fremont bean which comes from the Fremont people of eastern Utah that once inhabited western Colorado. And conversely, the Mayocoba bean from the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe comes from reservation land south of Grand Junction.

"So we've got several hundred years of history through two different types of beans that we use on the menus at the two restaurants," Niernberg said.

For Luck, his signature blue cornbread is the best depiction of this history. Telling the story of Colorado, Luck sources blue corn from the **Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Farm & Ranch's** Bow & Arrow

Brand near the Four Corners region and pairs it with buffalo chili made from Pueblo chiles farmed just south of the Springs. The dish is then finished with a black-forest honey from a farm just 20 minutes from the restaurant and served with a Mojave jam, a Native American recipe of berries that have been cooked down with agave or sherry.

"It's such a beautiful dish, but it just kind of captures what this region is about," Luck said, noting that each time he jets off across the world for cooking appearances, he shares a piece of Colorado through his blue cornbread.

"Most people outside of this region don't know those flavor profiles, they've never had a true roasted green chile, and it blows their mind," Luck said. "I love to serve that dish and tell that story because I think it captures what our entire concept is about."

As for must-tries, the tempura jalapeño poppers are another signature dish that have been a staple to his menus over the past 10 years. Roasted jalapeños are paired with a cilantro-spiced cheese and dipped in a very light tempura batter. Fried and served hot, this dish is an elevated rendition of a classic bar appetizer.

"It's crazy, I've cooked it on 'Top Chef,' I've traveled with it, it's just one of those dishes I would never be able to take off the menu because it has such a strong following and it's one of the best things I've ever eaten," Luck said.

While Niernberg and Luck focus on spotlighting the region's flavors, Rodriguez and Vigil use local ingredients to bring international fare to Colorado. Just outside Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, Vigil serves Italian fare blended harmoniously with Colorado classics like their famous lamb shank. Meanwhile, Rodriguez is cooking up flavors from South America, the Mediterranean and the American South across her restaurants — **Work & Class** and **Super Mega Bien**.

However, at the newly reopened Casa Bonita, she is striving for her first James Beard Award with a completely revamped menu. Stepping away from Tex-Mex fare, she's bringing in traditional Mexican dishes reminiscent of her upbringing in Chihuahua, Mexico.

Learn more about Rodriguez and Vigil at Colorado.com/ElevatedDining.



Casa Bonita



Continue reading on
Colorado.com



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- LAKE PUEBLO STATE PARK
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- COLORADO STATE FAIR
- PUEBLO CHILE & FRIJOLES FESTIVAL
- HOME OF HEROES
- CERTIFIED CREATIVE DISTRICT
- SEASONAL FARM STANDS
- MILES OF BIKE TRAILS
- HISTORIC DOWNTOWN DISTRICT

VISITPUEBLO.ORG

Uncovering Boulder's B Sides

Put together an off-the-charts itinerary in Boulder, with unsung dining stars around every corner and outdoor time that deserves extended play.



In springtime, 15,000 tulips bloom along Pearl Street.



The Dish About Boulder

The ingredients from over 1,000 farms surrounding Boulder are made into must-taste dishes by chefs at dozens of acclaimed restaurants, including several recognized in 2023 by the esteemed MICHELIN Guide. **B Side Pick:** Reserve afternoon tea at Alice and Rose for a whimsical, Alice in Wonderland-inspired experience.



Downtown Boulder

Nestled next to the Flatirons and babbling Boulder Creek, downtown Boulder is packed with shopping, dining and entertainment. It's where fresh mountain air meets fresh mountain style and where hip meets hippie. Explore the Pearl Street Mall and the surrounding district. Find your happy place in the heart of Boulder!

**VisitDowntown
Boulder.com
303.449.3774**



Outside Rewind

Rediscover what it's like to play with abandon outdoors. Boulder has more than 150 miles of hiking trails and they are all within minutes of your hotel door, some leading right up into Boulder's famous Flatirons. E-bike tours take you by murals or historical sites as you zoom up and down hills with ease. And adventurous outings like rock climbing or kayaking are possible with the help of expert guides. **B Side Pick:** Point your compass south to the Flatirons Vista hiking trail, which is less traveled but no less spectacular than the popular trails at the foot of the Flatirons.

Turn Up the Creativity

Named one of "America's Most Artistic Towns" by Expedia, Boulder is brimming with live music, galleries, studios, theater and dance. And this is a hands-on arts town. Go on a First Friday arts walk, take a dance class, learn the art of bookbinding, make stained glass, practice fiber arts or get your hands covered in clay turning your own pottery. **B Side Pick:** Be a member of the live studio audience for eTown Hall, a nationally syndicated radio show taped in Boulder that draws top names in folk, indie and rock.



Tune in to Wellness

Ready for some rejuvenation? Boulder was called the "most relaxed city in America" by Inc. magazine for the city's high percentage of wellness-focused businesses. Take care of yourself with a heart-opening yoga class, a spa treatment to melt your muscles, a few calming sips at a kava bar, or a delicious, veggie-packed lunch. Boulder's here for all the latest feel-good wellness trends. **B Side Pick:** Try forest bathing, a chance to cleanse your spirit by bathing all your senses in the wonder of Boulder's pine-covered mountain parks.

Top Events

Plan around an annual event or festivals at BoulderColoradoUSA.com/festivals.



STICK TO TRAILS



Embrace the adventure as intended by only walking on designated trails — even if they're wet, muddy, slushy or icy. This will help avoid erosion and protect the homes of local wildlife. Camping? Set up in one of thousands of designated campsites. They boast some of the most scenic views and protect the landscapes.



High Desert Ranch near Moffat

THE MAGIC OF Rocky Mountain Stargazing

Colorado's bluebird skies are beloved by skiers, hikers, cyclists and, well, just about anyone who finds themselves outside during daylight hours. But when night falls, those clear days turn into dark, cloudless nights with nothing obscuring crisp constellations, rocketing meteors and glowing planets. It's no coincidence that our state has some of the best stargazing in the country — its alpine setting creates the perfect conditions for unforgettable evening views.

In fact, in recent years, 15 areas throughout Colorado were designated as Dark Sky Places by the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA). Let's dive into what makes those spots — and so many others throughout the state — perfect for unhindered vistas of the Milky Way.

Gazing skyward at a high altitude increases your limited magnitude — the faintest object visible with the naked eye — so you can see stars that are farther out in the galaxy. And as you go up in elevation, you'll likely start to see more and more clusters appear.



Copper Mountain

Since mountainous areas in Colorado get you that much closer to the skies above, you can simply unzip the tent, step outside and observe the cosmos in their full magnificence. The **Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve**, with elevations ranging from 7,520 feet to 13,604 feet, is an excellent place to trek up to some of the best Milky Way views in the United States. Schedule your trip around a new moon to ensure complete darkness.

Light pollution is the biggest enemy of proper stargazing. The closer you steer to cities, the less twinkling you see above at night. Higher population areas typically rest within the “light dome,” where street lights, glowing signage, homes and other luminaries prevent visitors from seeing the vast expanses of space. In Colorado, dark places are easy to find for a quick weekend away in the mountains, where the soaring peaks play their part to block the lights from urban areas. Towns like **Westcliffe** and **Silver Cliff** make a point to keep the lights off to support the nearby **Smokey Jack Observatory**, where one of Colorado’s most powerful telescopes magnifies the celestial show in the sky. Classes and stargazing events at the observatory welcome the community and visitors to learn all about astronomy and how to protect their star views for generations to come.

But you don’t need a telescope to get started in the Centennial State — simply head 20 to 30 minutes beyond the city limits of your favorite mountain town, hang a hammock at a campsite and stare for hours at the untouched beauty of space. Late summer and early autumn is the best time to make the trip to towns like **La Veta**, when the Milky Way is the most visible and rests above the horizon of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. As evening falls, limit your site’s lights as much as possible to reduce the glow and maintain your night vision.

Wherever you end up on your Colorado adventure, be sure to roll out a blanket, turn off your headlamp and take in the radiance of the region.



FROM TOP: COPPER MOUNTAIN RESORT/TRIPP FAY ALLEN KENNEDY

Estes Park

Learn more about the best places to stargaze on [Colorado.com](https://www.colorado.com)



Date Nights

FOR EVERY TYPE OF TRAVELER

Sometimes, you gotta branch off from your vacation group for a little one-on-one time with your partner. Whether you prefer a romantic rendezvous, an adventurous outing or a cultural experience, Colorado's cities have something for every couple. Get ready to pick from a variety of excursions and discover the diverse possibilities that await you here.

For Romantics

For those seeking an intimate and affectionate atmosphere, these activities will ignite a spark and create cherished moments of connection with your significant other.

In Denver, immerse yourselves in a world of romance by embarking on a scenic horse-drawn-carriage ride through downtown or take a sunset cruise on the beautiful **Cherry Creek Reservoir** aboard the **Pelican Princess** in Aurora.

Boulder provides an ideal backdrop for enchanting activities. Pack a basket full of artisanal goodies from specialty markets like **Dedalus**, **Al's Artisanal Meats and Cheeses**, or **Organic Bliss** and venture to **Chautauqua Park** for a picnic or a leisurely hike. Not the picnicking type? Try the Victorian-style **Chautauqua Dining Hall** — a tradition since 1898 with striking views of the Flatirons.

In Colorado Springs, take your love sky high by experiencing a hot-air balloon ride with **Rainbow Ryders** or **Adventures Out West**. Drifting through the clouds while taking in panoramic views of Pikes Peak and the surrounding valleys is a sure way to create unforgettable shared memories.

Old-fashioned swan paddleboats are a perfect way to relax and enjoy the tranquility and natural beauty of **Blue Heron Lake** in Fort Collins. And what could be more lovely than enjoying the literal fruits of your labor by picking your own fruit, flowers, veggies and berries at **The Bee Hugger Farm** or **YA YA Farm & Orchard** in Longmont?

Pueblo's not short on opportunities for dreamy excursions, either. Begin your adventure with a peacefully flowing gondola ride along the **Pueblo Riverwalk** — the Venice of the West!



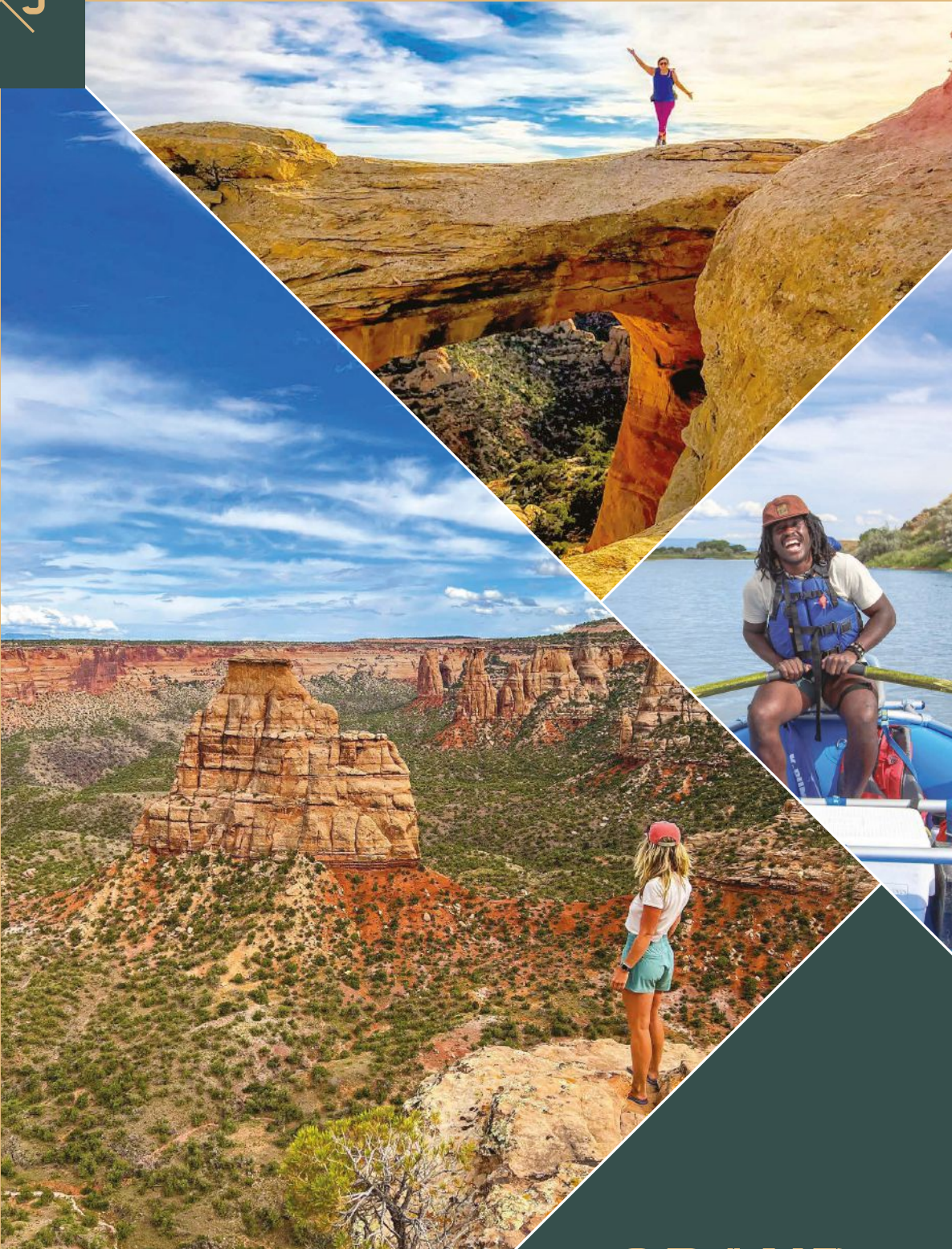
Chautauqua Park in Boulder

VISIT BOULDER/LAURA HOBBS



LET LIFE TAKE THE LEAD

VisitGrandJunction.com



Grand Junction's majestic landscapes are very different than the rest of Colorado.

**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.



NATURE'S TRIFECTA

Grand Junction is the only place in the world where you can experience three extraordinary geological wonders known as "Nature's Trifecta": Colorado National Monument is a mini-Grand Canyon, affectionately known as "the heart of the world." The Grand Mesa is bursting with over 300 alpine lakes. Rattlesnake Arches is the 2nd largest concentration of natural arches in the world. And now you know, Nature did smile on Grand Junction a little bit more.



COLORADO NAT'L MONUMENT

Just a six miles from Downtown Grand Junction, Colorado's secret national park towers over the city. The Monument is famous for scenic hiking, road biking, and it's pristine 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 with shooting stars.

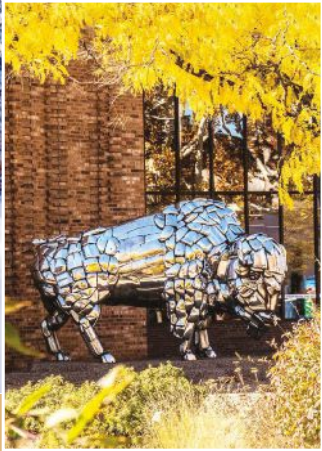
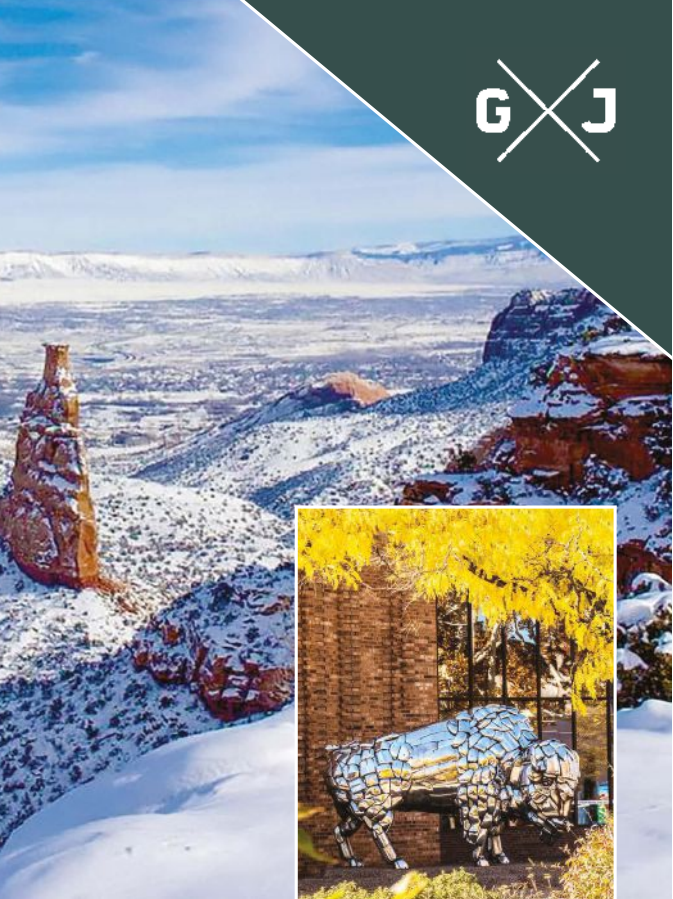


GRAND MESA

Standing tall in the eastern landscape of Grand Junction is the Grand Mesa, the largest flat-top mountain in the world. The Mesa has four distinct seasons of outdoor pursuits, making it a year-round outdoor recreation wonderland. Fishing, camping, hiking, biking, kayaking, skiing and snowshoeing are just a few of the activities that are enjoyed on the Mesa. This unspoiled wilderness is flourishing with aspen groves and pine forests atop the lush plateau.

ARCHES

The McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area's remote canyons slice through colorful sandstone layers to form cliffs, pinnacles, alcoves and arches. Rattlesnake Canyon surprises and delights hikers with over 35 natural arches, the most in the world outside of Arches National Park. All without the crowds!



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 avant-garde galleries, chic boutiques, hip cafes and trendy restaurants. Buy a piece of art, bring your DIY idea to life, or relax on the patio and enjoy an après microbrew.



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.



HIT THE TRAIL

The Grand Junction area has 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 mighty 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.



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. Local breweries, distilleries, wineries, cideries, and meaderies round out the refreshing libations. Here, the gifts from the land are always in season.

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.



INTO THE WILD

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 path providing delightful opportunities to spot over 200 bird species, including blue heron, osprey, hawks and eagles. As one of only three wild horse sanctuaries designated to protect wild horses in the country, be sure to check out the Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range to see the protected bands of wild mustangs who roam freely here. It's a life-changing experience!



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, approachable, and only 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, there is access to over 180 miles of backcountry snowmobiling trails to shred.

TEE TIMES

Enjoy a great day on the links with immaculately groomed greens and red-rock canyons rising in the distance at some of Grand Junction's unique golf courses. Tiara Rado and Redlands Mesa (rated the No. 1 course in Colorado by Golfweek) afford golfers stunning vistas of Colorado National Monument. Spectacular views of the sandstone Book Cliffs and other surrounding mountain ranges can be found at Chipeta and Lincoln Park golf courses.

ANCIENT ARTIFACTS & DINOSAURS

Tap into your inner paleontologist and step back 600 million years in time at Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area. The rugged canyons are etched with petroglyphs, bridging the chasm between past and present, serving as silent storytellers. Other ancient mysteries are preserved in Rabbit Valley along an interpretive trail through a working fossil quarry, where the remains of 140-million-year-old dinosaurs can be viewed.

STAY A WHILE

Grand Junction hosts the most affordable lodging in Colorado, with easy access from the airport. Choose from 31 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 hub to base out of. 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! **So come play with us, we look forward to meeting you!**



VisitGrandJunction.com



Cascade Canyon in Durango

For Adventure Seekers

There's nothing like exhilarating activities to get your blood pumping and your hearts racing — and maybe clinging to each other for comfort.

Get the adrenaline going with private rock-climbing instruction in Boulder. Cheer each other on as you find success doing something totally new and seeing Colorado's stunning scenery from a different angle.

Leap from a plane high above the green fields of Longmont and the peaks rising in the distance. **The Mile-Hi Skydiving Center** will show you a mountain view from an angle you won't forget.

The Broadmoor's Soaring Adventure in Colorado Springs does some high flying of its own. You'll harness in to navigate 10 ziplines, rope bridges and a 180-foot rappel — you'll be strapped in, so you'll only fall further in love.

Take a lesson in navigating the rapids in a bright-yellow kayak from **Confluence Kayak & Ski**. Nothing's more flattering than a wetsuit when you're tackling whitewater turns right in the heart of downtown Denver.



The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs

For Hedonists

Hedonists delight in activities that stimulate the senses. Fortunately, we have a myriad of options for couples seeking maximum pampering and indulgence.

Treat yourselves to a luxurious spa day at renowned establishments such as Denver's **Ritz-Carlton** and **Brown Palace** spas or **The Broadmoor** in Colorado Springs. Embrace a state of pure relaxation with massages, facials and other rejuvenating treatments.

Some pamper themselves through yoga or other sensory treatments like aromatherapy, sound healing, breathwork or float tanks. At **Luna Float Spa & Salt Cave** in Colorado Springs, you'll find sound-bath healing and couples massages in addition to sensory-deprivation therapy.

Find local studios or practitioners where couples can unlock their chakras and enjoy meditative and mindfulness practices together. **The Boulder Shambala Center's** guided meditations and classes are some of the best in class. Or improve vitality and increase flexibility with yin yoga and Thai massage at **Fort Collins Massage**.

For feeding body and soul, try a chocolate-tasting event. Take a class at Boulder's **Piece, Love & Chocolate**, and learn to make tasty truffles, molten lava cakes, rainbow-colored macarons and more. Or book dinner at the **Chocolate Lab** in Denver, where every dish and cocktail boasts a chocolate infusion.

For Culture Lovers & Creative Types

Colorado cities' wealth of cultural options cater to couples seeking enriching date nights.

Art aficionados in Denver won't want to miss the world-class exhibitions at the **Denver Art Museum**, including the 2024's "Biophilia: Nature Reimagined," or the kaleidoscopic art immersion of **Meow Wolf**. Looking for less of a time commitment? **MCA Denver** is a smaller, contemporary-art museum that still packs a punch. **Bonus:** Take in the fantastic city views from the rooftop cafe.

Theater enthusiasts can catch live musicals, comedies and dramas at the **Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College**, the **Longmont Theatre Company** and Pueblo's **Steel City Theatre Company**. **The Lincoln Center** in Fort Collins presents everything from Aztec dance fusion to Beethoven and pop music under the same roof as an art gallery with rotating exhibitions. Boulder's **Dairy Arts Center** presents art-house cinema each month, in addition to dance, theater, exhibitions and classes.

For a one-of-a-kind adventure when in Denver and Colorado Springs, take a short detour to an **Art-o-Mat** location. These repurposed cigarette-vending machines dispense miniature, one-of-a-kind art pieces created by local artists. It's an opportunity to explore diverse communities and neighborhoods while supporting the local art scene.

All Colorado cities are prime spots for taking in live music — with many outrageously scenic concert spots that performers regularly prioritize on their tours, as well as intimate and historical venues that get you up close to your rock 'n' roll idols.



Colorado Ballet

CAR-FREE TRAVEL



You don't need a car to experience the boundless

wonders of Colorado when buses, shuttles, light rails, trains, and ride- and bike-shares are easily found. So kick back, play a card game or watch a movie as glorious mountainscapes pass you by. Colorado.com/Carless



Meow Wolf Denver

For Foodies

Colorado's urban areas teem with unparalleled gastronomic adventure for couples who share a passion for culinary delights and love exploring new flavors. Let your taste buds be your guide as you traverse a diverse culinary landscape, with each city boasting its own unique flavors.

In Denver, embark on a captivating foodie journey through the city's vibrant food scene. Start with MICHELIN-starred **Beckon**, **Brutø** and **The Wolf's Tailor** (go to Colorado.com/Michelin to see other MICHELIN-recognized restaurants around the state). Delight in the options at the **Denver Central Market** or the **Denver Milk Market**. These food halls showcase a delightful array of vendors serving everything from fresh seafood to artisanal ice cream. Uncover hidden gems in diverse neighborhoods, from trendy eateries on **South Pearl Street** to Hispanic and Latin cuisine in Denver's **North Side neighborhood**.

Boulder's **License No. 1** and the **Boulder Dushanbe Teahouse** take center stage in a recent episode of the Max reality-show series "Swiping America." Nestled in the historical **Hotel Boulderado**, License No. 1 entices guests with its speakeasy ambiance and meticulously crafted cocktails. The teahouse mesmerizes visitors with its breathtaking architecture and immersive atmosphere, offering an extensive menu of teas from around the globe alongside delectable international cuisine. Both establishments epitomize Boulder's foodie culture and contribute to its reputation as a must-visit dining destination.

In Fort Collins, renowned for its world-class craft-beer culture, seize the opportunity to explore the unique flavors and boundless creativity of the city's passionate brewers. In Pueblo, lose yourselves in the colorful local food scene, brimming with diverse culinary options. From family-owned restaurants serving authentic Mexican cuisine and the city's prized green chile to charming cafes offering delectable pastries, Pueblo provides a palate-pleasing outing for every taste.

For couples who revel in the joy of creating culinary masterpieces together, consider a cooking class. **Aurora Cooks!** in Aurora, **Journey Culinary** in Longmont and **The French Kitchen Culinary Center** in Colorado Springs offer several classes where you can learn new recipes and techniques.

So, whether you're an adrenaline junkie, art enthusiast, foodie or someone who simply enjoys new and novel experiences, remember that the right date with the right person can ignite the spark of romance, foster deeper connections and create unforgettable memories.

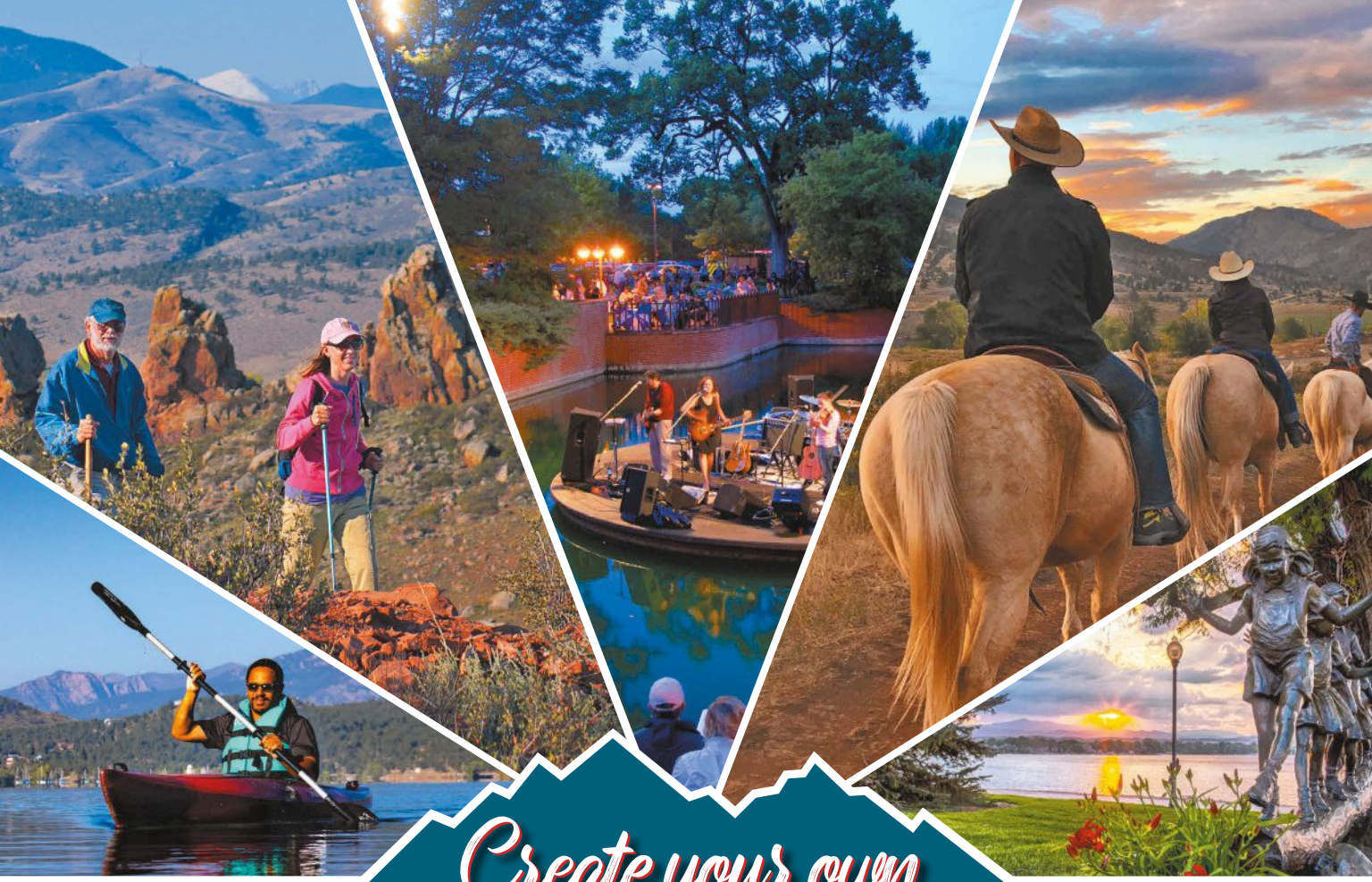
Drew Wilson is an award-winning blogger, writer and editor. He's the publisher of MileHighGayGuy.com.

Need more ideas?

Colorado.com/Romance



Sushi-Rama near Denver



Create your own adventure in Loveland, Colorado

Loveland displays over 500 pieces of public art, and is home to four distinct sculpture parks, one-of-a-kind festivals, 12 breweries and fabulous shopping throughout Centerra and historic Downtown.

Loveland is an outdoor enthusiast's paradise from hiking Devil's Backbone to boating at Carter Lake, riding the range at Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch to golfing one of our three courses. What's not to LOVE about Loveland, Colorado?

*Only 35 minutes to Rocky Mountain National Park
45 minutes north of Denver*



SCAN HERE
To start planning your vacation



5 Can't-Miss

COLORADO EVENTS

Colorado's arts, culture, cuisine and history come to life with a multitude of annual traditions and events. From observing the soaring cranes of the San Luis Valley to wandering the booths of a German market in the heart of downtown Denver, there are so many ways to appreciate our state. Here are some tips to help you experience a few of our events to the fullest.

1

Monte Vista Crane Festival

What better way to immerse yourself in Colorado's majesty than observing birds with 6-foot wingspans dot the sky in front of the snowcapped San Juan Mountains? March's Monte Vista Crane Festival is an event-filled adventure, with craft and nature fairs, crane tours, movie screenings and excursions into the Blanca Wetlands, where you'll learn more about the flourishing marsh's wildlife. Beyond the wild wonder of the cranes, you'll also see elk, ducks, geese and more in the ponds at Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge. If you're looking for an all-encompassing San Luis Valley trip, 40 miles east of Monte Vista are the golden-brown desert hills of the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve.

Tips for a great experience: *Bring your binoculars to admire these flying fauna from a safe distance and prep for all weather conditions, from rain to sunshine.*



Monte Vista Crane Festival

2

Colorado Shakespeare Festival

June through August, one of northern Colorado's most iconic spectacles thrives within the University of Colorado's stone-walled outdoor auditorium: The Colorado Shakespeare Festival in Boulder. No matter your experience with Shakespeare, enter the amphitheater's arched doorway with an open mind and prepare to see classic plays innovatively flipped on their heads. Sit beneath summer's twinkling stars to witness comedies and tragedies from one of the most prominent playwrights of all time. These performances often spill off the stage and into the crowd, transporting you to the Elizabethan era. While you're there, wander around to find other versatile entertainment, from pop-up Shakespeare-merch vendors to small violin performances and photo ops with the Flatirons as your backdrop.

Tips for a great experience: Boulder's wealth of food and drink choices in such close proximity means you can't go wrong looking for a meal before the show. For the ultimate picnic dinner, get that meal to go and bring a blanket or pillow to the performance to supplement the chair you'll receive. Need to reserve a wheelchair-accessible spot? Call ahead and they'll save you one.



Mary Rippon Outdoor Theatre



LEFT TO RIGHT: ARROW MYERS, COLORADO SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

STAY HYDRATED



One thing's for sure at Colorado's high-elevation events and festivals: You'll need more water than you do at lower altitudes — as much as twice what you'd normally drink. Fill up that reusable bottle to stay hydrated, and also apply sunscreen to protect your skin in our sunny altitudes!



Caveman Music Festival

3

Caveman Music Festival near Weston

Teeming with spacious grassland, quaint ranches and tree-spotted alpine views, southern Colorado offers a Labor Day weekend bursting with lively mountain-town recreation at the Caveman Music Festival. Bring friends or family to Monument Lake Resort and embrace summer's close with back-to-back concerts, local food and Weston's blue-hued peaks. Ready for an all-inclusive good time? Purchase the Caveman Package, which grants three-day access to the resort's campsites and on-site parking. Sip down some hoppy suds and jam to your favorite country, acoustic, folk

and blues artists. And the weekend promises more than just stellar live tunes — you can also ride the gentle waves of the resort's rippling waters on a paddleboard, dip your fishing line beneath the surface or set up camp nearby and listen to singing crickets among the deep-green pines.

Tips for a great experience: If you're looking to get out on the lake, it's easy to rent water equipment from the festival ahead of time, including canoes, fishing pontoons and 14-passenger leisure motorboats.



4

Colorado Mountain Winefest

Palisade is home to towering mesas, the winding Colorado

River and acres of vineyards, so it's only natural that the Colorado Mountain Winefest shines here. Each September, more than 50 regional wineries congregate on Riverbend Park's lawn to top off your glass with wine and celebrations of their craft. There's no better way to enjoy wine than pairing it with something tantalizing — look out for a smoky baked brie and tart fig jam alongside a raspberry rosé from a Colorado winery. Or take an e-bike tour to savor the bold fruits of Palisade vineyards while surveying sherbet sunsets above striped plateaus. Swoop your dance partner around to live music or smash grapes with your bare feet in a barrel as you munch on handmade macarons from local vendors.

Tips for a great experience: This late-summer bash is fun- and sun-filled, so make sure you apply adequate amounts of high-SPF sunscreen throughout the day, and find shade when you can to stay energized.



Colorado Mountain Winefest



Denver Christkindlmarket

5

Denver Christkindlmarket

Toast more than 20 years of one of the only authentic

German markets in Colorado, spanning from Civic Center Park to the 16th Street Mall late November through late December. Stroll through booths of sparkling lights, dip fluffy pretzels into beer cheese, crunch roasted nuts and visit biergarten booths for fizzy delights after snapping photos with Weihnachtsmann (that's Santa Claus). This quintessentially Bavarian winter scene is the perfect way to appreciate Denver, as well as authentic German cuisine and culture. The dreamiest pics for your next holiday card will be found with red and green lights strung around trees in the background as you soak up the joy of the holiday season.

Tips for a great experience: Come hungry, dress in layers for this outdoor affair and bring your bestie to make a night of it!

Want more?

Visit Colorado.com/Events

Colorado *differently.*



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ALAMOSA.ORG



Saguache County

Discover the hidden gem that is Saguache County! Immerse in unrivaled stargazing under our Dark Skies. Explore breathtaking trails and revive yourself in pristine outdoors. Unwind in rejuvenating hot springs, nestled amidst picturesque landscapes. Experience the charm of our small towns, each with a unique flair. Adventure awaits in Saguache County!

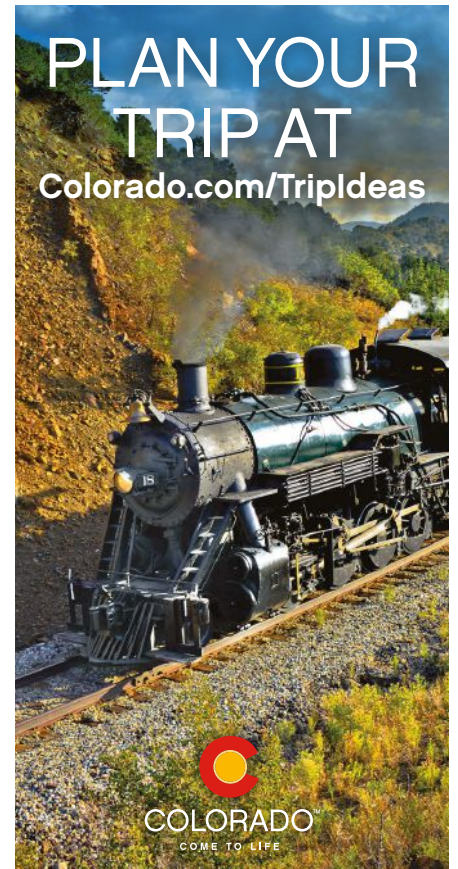
Mystic-Colorado.com



Joyful Journey Hot Springs Spa

Discover ultimate relaxation at Joyful Journey Hot Springs Spa! Nestled in the San Luis Valley, our oasis offers a rejuvenating escape. Immerse in mineral-rich waters to soothe body and soul. Find serenity through yoga, meditation or retreats, and enjoy unique lodging options like yurts and tipis. Find inner peace at Joyful Journey Hot Springs Spa.

JoyfulJourneyHotSprings.com
719.256.4328



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Colorado.com/TripIdeas





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Colorado Gators offers tons of hands-on experiences! Pet, hold and take pictures with a little alligator! Pet and feed tortoises, alligators and fish! Fish for carp to feed the gators! We are an alligator and reptile rescue and educational facility. We take in and care for reptiles from uninformed pet owners and educate the public on what makes a good pet/bad pet and why.

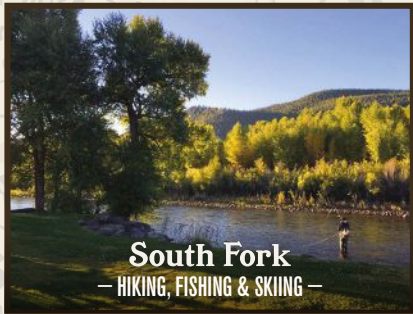
ColoradoGators.com
719.378.2612

CONEJOS COUNTY

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Whether you're a sports enthusiast, history buff or just love a scenic drive, you'll find Conejos County at the top of your getaway wish list. Take a ride on the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad, or explore the backcountry with miles of fishable streams and creeks, hiking trails and abundant wildlife. Unique lodging choices are yours to call home. Come stay awhile.

ConejosVacation.com



Your Pathway to the Great Outdoors and More!

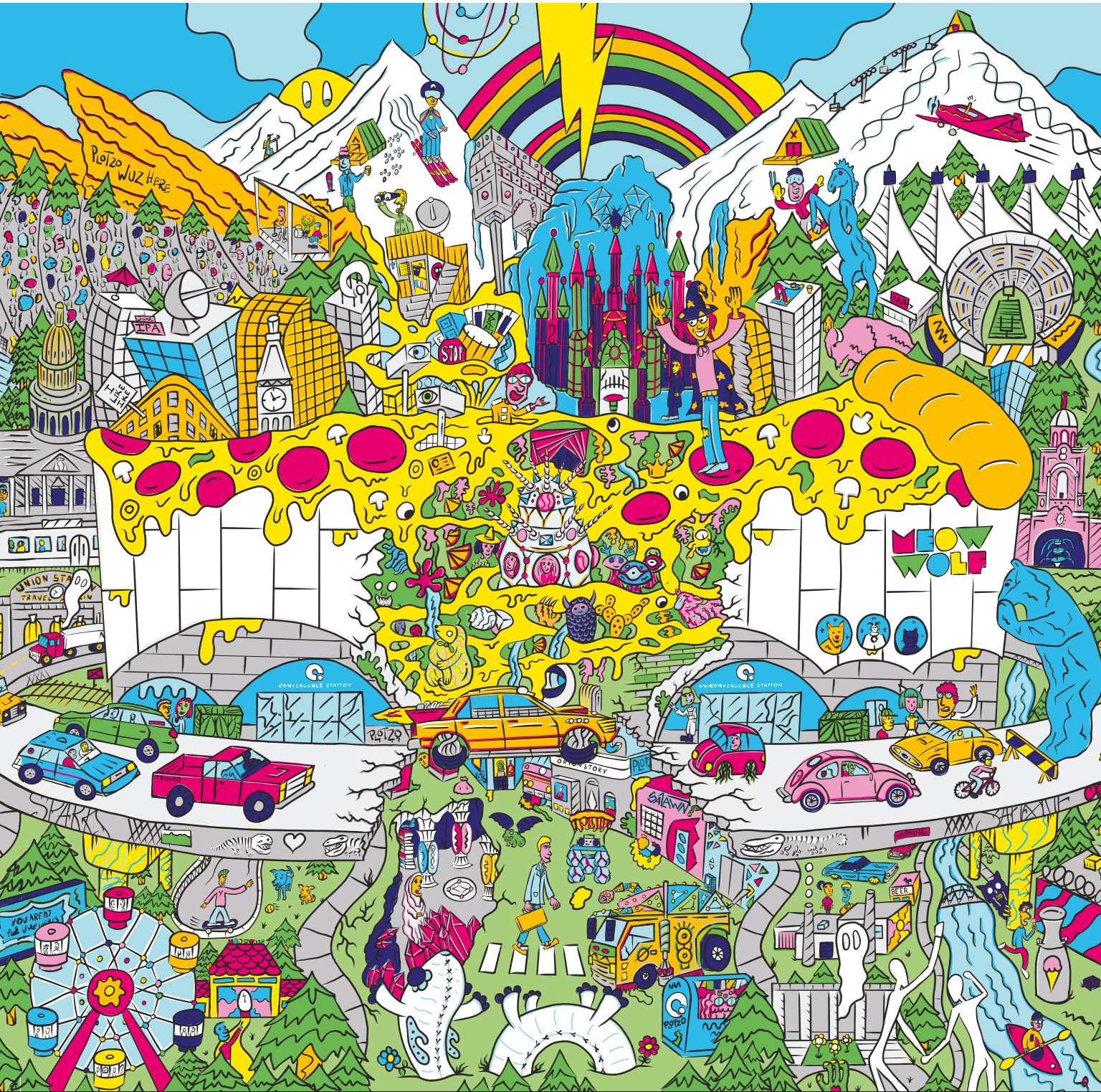
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Denver is known as a gateway to adventure, and Convergence Station is Earth's first multiversal transit hub, offering unprecedented journeys into the unknown.

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IS IT LIKE A DREAM YOU HAD?
OR IS IT A MEMORY WRAPPED IN AN ANIMAL SUIT
DETAILED, BUT FUZZY AT THE SAME TIME
TUMBLING ABOUT YOUR MIND'S EYE LIKE A NINJA
VULPINE, CANINE, OR LUPINE MAYBE...
YOU WAIT FOR IT TO TALK, BUT IT JUST MEOWS?



1338 1st St. Denver, CO



Let's Get Weird:

ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS

Can't decide which of the quirkiest, coolest Colorado roadside attractions to discover first? Take our quiz to find out which best suits your vacation style!

On your ideal road trip, do you want to encounter:

Mythical creatures?

Believe in aliens?

Obviously!

This way to starry and extraterrestrial sightings!

UFO Watchtower

Witness all the glory of sparkling night skies in Hooper and try spying some aliens yourself. Discover more on page 118.

Not exactly...

What about Bigfoot?

Sasquatch Outpost

Head to Bailey to learn more about the furry beast in this museum. Discover the legendary beast's shrine on page 118.

Unexpected art?

Are you a fan of recycled farming equipment?

Who isn't?!

Have a pun- and fun-filled time.

Junkrassic Park

Trash is treasure at this walkable outdoor collection of eclectic art in Cheraw. Turn to page 118 to find out more about this bizarre attraction.

Not especially.

Get your prehistoric groove on.

Petrified Wood Gas Station

Although built in 1932, this former gas station in Lamar is constructed with petrified wood that's millions of years old. Check out more info on page 119.

Structures of unusual size?

Want to climb to new heights?

I'd rather stay at eye level (or below).

Things are about to get real cute.

Tiny Town & Railroad

This little amusement park in Morrison has tiny gas stations, churches and a railroad. Turn to page 119 to learn how this tiny town came to be.

Definitely.

Bring along a dragon-sized selfie stick.

Bishop Castle

This hauntingly intricate castle was built by one man and provides sweeping views of rocky hills and lush tree groves. Learn more about this architectural feat on page 120.

COME TO LIFE

Sasquatch Outpost

The magic begins once you see the 10-foot-tall mural of Sasquatch — also known as Bigfoot — on the side of this building. Home to many life-sized statues of the ape-like creature, Sasquatch Outpost in Bailey is the perfect place for any conspiracy enthusiast to muse about truth and legend. Submit your own encounters with Bigfoot for the chance to be featured in the museum. Grab a shirt, mug or sticker, learn more about the history of this mysterious fellow and purchase some camping supplies for your next trip to discover Sasquatch.



Sasquatch Outpost in Bailey

UFO Watchtower

Looking for an extraterrestrial experience? This proclaimed alien-activity hotspot in Hooper has you covered. The blue alien holding the American flag will signal that you've found the viewing platform and eclectic collection of offerings for space beings. Curated by UFO-devotee Judy Messoline, the platform is ideal for encountering the wonders of space. Camp out in the gentle slopes of the San Luis Valley and keep an eye out for flying saucers amid glittering Milky Way constellations.

Junkrassic Park

Adorned with hand-painted art welded from discarded farming equipment like tractor parts and grain augers, Cheraw's Junkrassic Park is a crafty sculpture yard that turns rubbish into rubies. In 1990, retired farmer Johnnie Allen began creating more than 80 marvelous models. Walk through the tall grass to see his unorthodox renditions of bears, giraffes, dinosaurs, Lady Liberty, football players, aircraft and more.



UFO Watchtower in Hooper



Tiny Town & Railroad

Tucked in the sleepy hills of Morrison, this is a small-scale town with a big personality. Originally built by George Turner to entertain his daughter in 1915, Tiny Town has grown into a locally loved landmark with its detailed buildings, traffic signs and petite train set — hop on board for a short ride around the little laundromat, jail and opera house. Stop by the giftshop or slurp a vanilla ice-cream cone while even the kiddos peek over these small streets.

Tiny Town in Morrison

Petrified Wood Gas Station

Despite the resemblance to massive piles of campfire wood, this gas station in Lamar is more than meets the eye. Don't be fooled by its hard-rock texture, either. Fashioned in 1932 by William "Bill" Brown, this structure is composed entirely of petrified wood dating back 175 million years. Although no longer operating as a gas station, this prehistoric construction is a must-visit spectacle that doubles as a used-auto dealership.



Petrified Wood Gas Station in Lamar

BOTH IMAGES: CAROL M. HIGHSMITH

Bishop Castle

From towering stone spires and winding iron staircases to elaborate archways and vaulted windows, Bishop Castle is a medieval display in modern-day Rye. Jim Bishop started building this artful feat of architecture himself in 1969 and encourages visitors to safely tour its great halls and platforms. Look up and you'll see the castle's metal-scaled dragon, its fanged mouth open in a mighty roar. And the castle isn't the only view — from its heights, gaze upon Rye's rolling pine-tree-laden knolls.



Bishop Castle in Rye

Want more?

Colorado.com/QuirkyRoadside

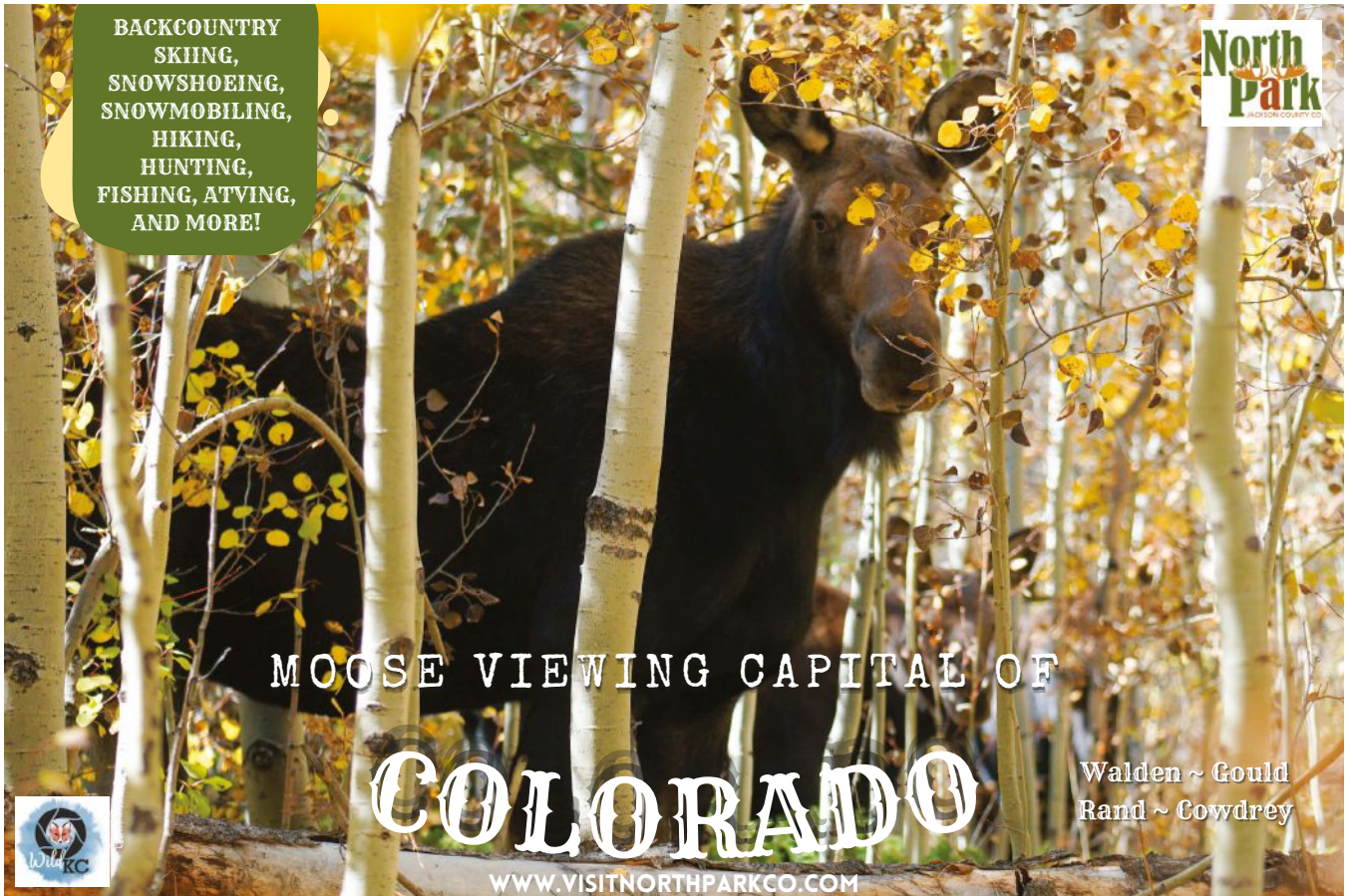
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5 Adaptive

COLORADO ADVENTURES

Colorado's mountains and parks welcome visitors of all abilities. From skiing and hiking to horseback riding and biking, there are many adaptive ways to experience the Rockies, and many organizations that make it easy to do so.

1 Skiing in Colorado's High Country

As the country's No. 1 ski destination, Colorado offers endless skiing opportunities, from Aspen and Beaver Creek to Breckenridge and Eldora. **Winter Park's National Sports Center for the Disabled** guides you down hills of fresh powder by teaching adaptive alpine skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing and more. Or head to Vail and glide down the slopes on a mono-ski with a trained professional via **Vail Adaptive Learning Programs**. Tear through snow on a ski bike, a more balanced bike seat on skis that only requires work from your arms and core, with **Crested Butte's Adaptive Sports Center** to experience Colorado's winter sports with accessibility.

2 Rock Climbing in Telluride

If there's a perfect place for rock climbing, it's the craggy peaks and cliff faces of the San Juan Mountains. The **Telluride Adaptive Sports Program** allows people with disabilities of any skill level to strap into assistive and safety equipment and follow natural routes, all led by guides. From the crag, you'll see winding rivers, pine-tree groves and snowcapped peaks underneath our signature bluebird skies.

3 Biking in Durango

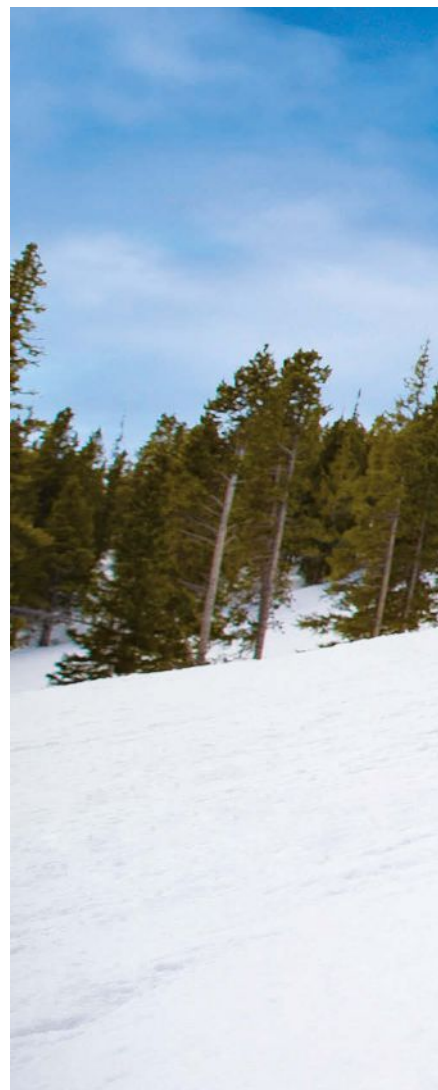
With a breadth of bike-trail networks, Durango practically beckons to explorers on wheels. There's a trail for every mountain biker and skill level, especially with the help of **Durango's Adaptive Sports Association (ASA)**. Rent an ASA cycle or accessibility-adapted trike — a much more stable way to cruise — and follow a guide along the beginner's course of the Animas River Trail, where you'll hear the rushing river and glimpse the distant rolling hills.

4 Horseback Riding in Steamboat

Bountiful in hot-spring pools, charming brick architecture and grand ridges, Steamboat Springs is a sightseeing haven for nature enthusiasts. Why not see it all on a laid-back horse ride? **Steamboat Adaptive Recreational Sports** hosts therapeutic horseback lessons with breathtaking high-country views for any rider. Peacefully trot around wildlife habitats — while keeping a safe, ample distance from animals — through stretching meadows of yellow wildflowers the way cowfolk did (and still do!) in the area's idyllic mountainside ranch fields.

5 All-Terrain Wheelchairs

From June through October, folks of every physical means can tour the mesas and behold the sweeping horizon of **Staunton State Park**, an hour from Denver. Colorado Parks & Wildlife's Track-Chair Program allows travelers using wheelchairs to trade wheels for rolling tracks along 13 miles of trails. The durable GRIT Freedom Chair at **Rocky Mountain National Park** is also designed to conquer the park's terrain and give visitors in wheelchairs expansive mountainous displays. Want to leave your mark on the curving hills of **Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve**? Their balloon-tire wheelchairs travel easily over the sand and prevent sinking as long as you've got a strong friend with you — the chairs take some effort to push. Be sure to reserve in advance!





**SHARE OUR
PARKS & TRAILS**

 Everyone experiences and enjoys the outdoors in different ways. Be mindful: Wheelchair users, adaptive cyclists and equestrians always have the right of way. In all other instances, always yield to the uphill hiker and biker — they need the momentum.

Winter Park Resort

FROM TOP: ANDREW MAGUIRE; COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE/WAYNE D. LEWIS



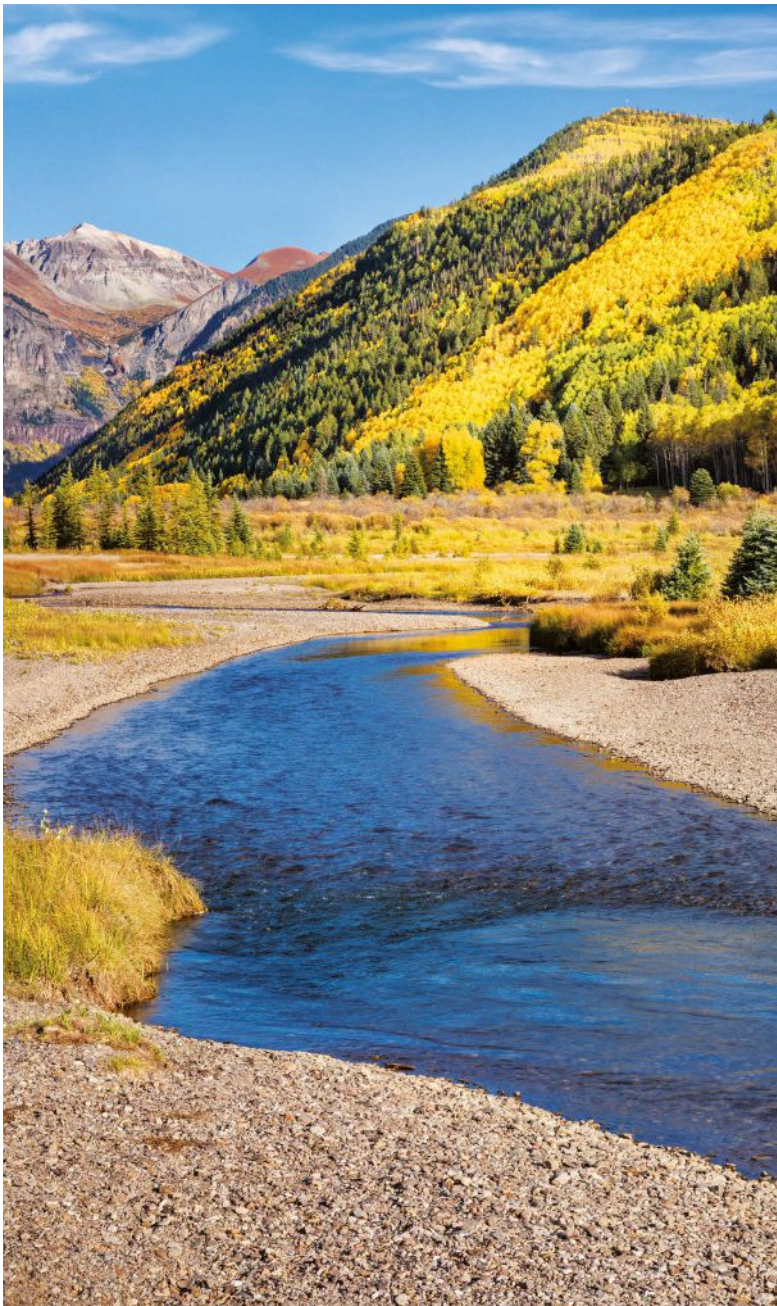
Stanton State Park in Pine

More adaptive adventures around the state:
Colorado.com/Adaptive

EXPERIENCE The Big Screen

AT THESE DESTINATIONS

The silver screen loves Colorado's soaring peaks, rushing rivers and historical trains. From laugh-out-loud comedies to old-fashioned Westerns, walk in the footsteps of some of Hollywood's greats on your next trip.



San Miguel River near Telluride

Furious 7

If you too were shocked, awed and amazed at the airdrop scene in “Furious 7” — the one where Vin Diesel and crew reversed out of an airplane, hurtled through the air, pulled parachutes and landed cars onto a mountain road — you weren’t the only one.

You can drive that same stretch of road up to **Pikes Peak**, near Colorado Springs. Once you’re at the top, take in those fourteener (mountains over 14,000 feet) views and enjoy the world-famous doughnuts.

Continue following their high-speed chase through nearby Woodland Park, where downtown **Bergstrom Park** provides an excellent vista of America’s Mountain.

The Hateful Eight

The towering and jagged San Juan Mountains are inspirational for anyone, but especially Quentin Tarantino when he was scouting for “The Hateful Eight.” Just outside of Victorian-era Telluride, those snowy scenes were filmed on the surrounding fourteeners and along the San Miguel River.

Be sure to visit **Telluride Elks Park**, where Tarantino and Samuel L. Jackson took part in a ceremonial burning of the skis — a local ritual to bring more snow. Gossip blogs say the cast and crew enjoyed meals at **221 South Oak** and **Allred’s Restaurant**, went ice skating in Town Park and got zen at nearby **Orvis Hot Springs**.



The Stanley Hotel in Estes Park

The Shining & Dumb and Dumber

Looking to be spooked? Stephen King was inspired to write *The Shining* after a one-night stay at **The Stanley Hotel**, just down the road from **Rocky Mountain National Park's** entrance. Take the tour to see The Shining Suite, the lovingly re-created bathroom and an ax from the film.

And while no one enjoys being stood up, recreate the iconic "Dumb and Dumber" scene where Lloyd (Jim Carrey) is waiting for his dream girl at **Cascades Whiskey Bar**. Order an ice-cold Coors Light or a Stanley Old Fashioned — it is a whiskey bar, after all.

Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid

The stunning backdrop of "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" train robbery scenes can be in your photo album if you ride the 1882 **Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad**.

You'll cross Animas Canyon in style, with the echoes of the steam whistle as you unwind in nature — there's no Wi-Fi on this 3.5-hour journey (both ways) so it'll feel like you're part of the Western. The railroad also does event excursions like a fall photo special, "The Polar Express"-style holiday rides and brew trains.

True Grit

For six weeks, a film crew turned the center of Ridgway into an 1880s Western set for the John Wayne-classic “True Grit.” The firehouse is now an art studio and, on Clinton Street, see Rooster Cogburn’s residence. At the **Ouray County Ranch History Museum**, visit the jail wagon the character brought back.

True Grit Cafe is the ultimate end to your trip. It’s festooned with actor and movie memorabilia. A mural, *Chamber’s Staple & Fancy Groceries*, from the feature was preserved as the restaurant was built around it. Wear your cowboy hat and order the “Grit” sandwich, it’s their famous chicken-fried steak triple stacked on a brioche bun topped with bacon and white gravy.

Thelma & Louise

Put the top down, play some ‘90s tunes and feel the wind in your hair like “Thelma & Louise,” and head toward Unaweep Canyon (near Gateway) on the **Unaweep Tabeguache scenic and historic byway**.

Translated from Ute, its name means “Canyon with Two Mouths,” and it’s the only canyon in the world where the creeks flow out in opposite directions. It offers some of the best granite climbing outside of Yosemite.

Constructed in 1882, the **Bedrock Store** is also featured in the flick. Snap some photos of you and your friends pretending to be on the lam — oversized sunglasses and headscarves required!



Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad



Casa Bonita in Lakewood

South Park

Denverites can tell you stories of childhood birthday parties at **Casa Bonita** restaurant; the same goes for Matt Stone and Trey Parker, the creators of animated mainstay “South Park.” One episode finds Cartman on the run from the law inside the eatery.

He takes part in all the activities, including snacking on sopapillas, sprinting through haunted Black Bart’s Cave and finally making his very own cliff dive — yes, the restaurant has a massive waterfall inside where trained cliff divers do shows.

Make your own mad dash through the recently renovated space (with an updated menu) and catch the puppet show and mariachi band.



Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad

Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade

In the opening scenes of “Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade,” a young Indy (played by River Phoenix) tussles with bad guys and escapes to a beige stucco house with green trim and a mailbox that reads, “Jones,” where his father (Sean Connery) sits inside reading.

Today, the Antonito house looks identical to the way it appeared in the film. It’s now the **Indiana Jones Bed & Breakfast**, filled with Indiana Jones memorabilia. The B&B is a short walk from the **Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad**, where many of the train scenes took place. From late May to mid-October, you can shoot your own adventure scenes as the train traverses stunning wilderness areas.



Aspen

How the West Was Won, The Cowboys, The Searchers, Cat Ballou, The Naked Spur & More

The Centennial State screams Old West vibes, which makes sense as to why more than a handful of the most famous Westerns have been filmed here.

Feel like you’re James Stewart, Henry Fonda or Gregory Peck at one of the many dude ranches that call Colorado home. At some, you can get down and dirty with farm chores — like moving cattle and mending fences. At others, you can snack on bottomless cookies, raft through whitewater rapids and horseback ride across wide-open spaces. They all offer landscapes that look the same as they did in the 1800s, with rustic Western beauty.



Find more
filming locations
on [Colorado.com](https://colorado.com)

FROM TOP: KERRICK JAVES, LAURIE REED



Guided Adventures

TO ELEVATE YOUR ITINERARY

Look around and you'll see it's no wonder people flock to Colorado every year to get their outdoor-adventure fix. From our staggering peaks and pristine waters to our lush forests and vibrant landscapes, immersing yourself in the Colorado backcountry is a rewarding experience that will refuel your soul. But oftentimes, the biggest hurdle is knowing where to start. Activities like rafting, fly fishing and backpacking can seem unapproachable to newcomers, and this is where a local guide can come in handy.

These experts can help you feel comfortable, safe and confident in venturing out for a wide range of outdoor

activities, no matter your experience or skill level. They'll help you push your body and mind to places you might never have gone on your own — and that sense of accomplishment and communion with nature could be the most enlightening and restorative experience of your life.

Some call it a sport, while others call it a lifestyle — either way, fly-fishing is a favorite and peaceful pastime for many Coloradans. It's hard to know if you want to invest in poles, waders, flies and other equipment if you've never felt that magical and sudden tug on your line and the frenzied effort to



Dinosaur National Monument

bring your catch in. Heading out with an outfitter gives you the perfect taste of this specialized activity. A guided excursion with **ArkAnglers** in Salida or Buena Vista will have you creating graceful arcs with your line in no time. Their team of seasoned anglers offers full- and half-day fly-fishing trips, including a Fishing 101 course that's great for those dipping their first wader-covered toe in the water.

Fast, fun rapids. Unparalleled scenery. Abundant wildlife. While not for the faint of heart, multiday rafting tours are a once-in-a-lifetime Western experience. You'll form deep bonds with your raft companions and never have to worry about setting up camp, preparing meals or keeping yourself safe thanks to the knowledgeable and seasoned guides that are integral to making these trips successful. Two of the most popular tours with **Mild to Wild Rafting & Jeep Tours** — the Yampa River and Gates of Lodore trips — take place in and around **Dinosaur National Monument** in Colorado's northwest

corner. The area's rapids wind paddlers through quartzite cliffs, dramatic alcoves and Fremont Culture petroglyphs carved in cliffs that frame the river. These trips also allow you the opportunity to get out of the water and explore the area on foot while the expert guides set up your living space each night, as well as prepare satiating three-course meals for breakfast and dinner, as well as casual, picnic-style lunches.

Ready for a land-based excursion, but don't love a calf-burning climb? Leave the hiking to someone else and increase the heart-pounding-adventure factor by traversing Colorado's rugged backcountry on an ATV or UTV tour. Both exhilarating and educational, excursions offer a well-rounded journey you'll remember for the rest of your life. **San Juan Backcountry** in Silverton offers three-night guided tours through some of the nation's most remote and beautiful landscapes, where you'll pass cascading waterfalls, wildflowers galore, fascinating ghost towns, century-



ERIC WUNFOW

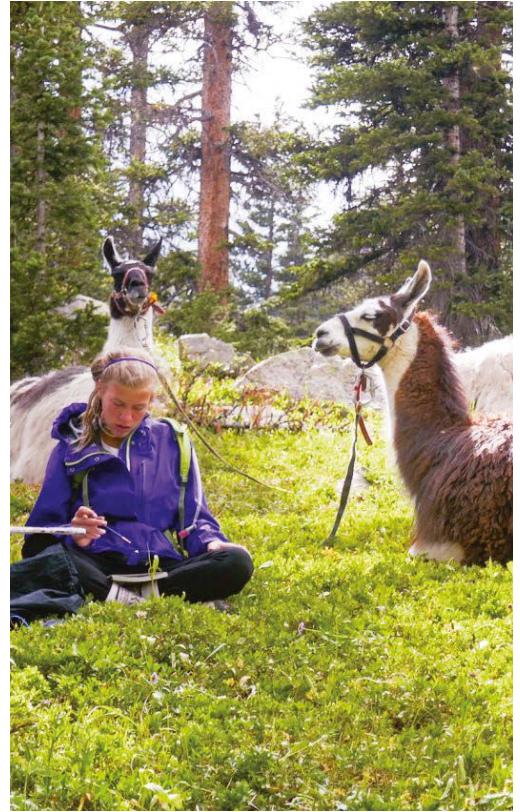
Gates of Lodore in Dinosaur National Monument

COME TO LIFE

old mines and more. You can also choose from two-hour, half- and full-day tours, which can include a ride on the **Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad**.

Did you know llamas can carry up to 30% of their body weight? This is just one reason they make exemplary hiking companions — they'll carry everything you need for overnights in Colorado's forestland, freeing you up to simply soak in the beautiful scenery as you mosey along. **Paragon Guides'** Llama Treks, including the popular Vail-to-Aspen route, are three- to five-day excursions through lush mountain landscapes. Daily distances range from 5 to 8 miles, and the llamas will keep you company as well as free you of the burden of your food, water and other gear. Treks include professional guides, transportation, meals, sleeping bags and camping equipment. Find other backpacking trips that take care of the heavy lifting at Colorado.com/LightenYourLoad.

Hut trips are one of the best ways to embrace the true essence of Colorado high-country winter, offering the perfect and coziest reward at the end of an invigorating day of trekking and tracking through remote landscapes. Colorado's **10th Mountain Division Hut system** provides a framework that's considered the apex of these kinds of excursions. The huts were built to house WWII soldiers training to fight in high altitudes, and while they're well-equipped to provide warmth and rest after a day in the sun and snow, making your way between them requires knowledge of the area, maps and superior navigation skills. **Aspen Expeditions** can provide a complete escape into the wilderness for those of all ages and abilities. Their all-inclusive experience takes care of the food, hut reservations, sleeping bags, backpacks and avalanche-safety equipment — leaving you to focus on making your way to the campfire and hearty meal waiting inside these alpine cabins.



Near Vail



10th Mountain Division Hut



Cathedral Spires near Pine

As the sun appears on the horizon and the grass rustles under your boots, a majestic creature casually walks into your field of vision. There's tension in your knees from the position you've been holding, but — at last — the time has come. The thrill of the hunt is upon you. Most people don't have the leisure time required to scout out and plan a successful big-game hunt. When you team up with folks who do this for a living, all you have to do is throw on your high-visibility orange and set off for adventure. With **Story Creek Outfitters**, you'll prowl in the shadow of the lush and rolling Spanish

Peaks near Walsenburg, enjoying comfortable accommodations, food and transportation while hunting on private land. Story Creek specializes in custom big-game hunting trips, pairing you with a professional guide to show you the most prolific areas on their property — for hunting elk, pronghorn and more.

You've likely seen spectacular images of climbers scaling some of Colorado's most dramatic rock faces and thought you'd never take that daring leap. But with a climbing guide, you'll learn the basics of the gear and how to use it to rappel, move and finesse techniques.

These patient outfitters craft an educational expedition that's tailored to your specific goals. **Apex Mountain School** offers guided trips near Vail and the surrounding area, as well as a couple favorites of the local climbing community: **Eldorado Canyon** outside Boulder is known for its breathtaking views and top-rope, traditional and multi-pitch climbing for all skill levels. The **Cathedral Spires** near Pine also feature incredible multi-pitch climbing, including some of the state's best crack climbs, as well as a beginner course and single-pitch climbs for those who wish to stay a little closer to the ground.



Find more guided-adventure tours on Colorado.com

MORE THAN FOUR SIDES:

Explore Colorado Culture

For a state that looks like a rectangle on maps, Colorado is a multifaceted gem when it comes to culture and heritage. Discover our Western roots in high-elevation mountain towns steeped in mining history. Marvel at Native American cultural sites that are literally like no other in the world. Immerse yourself in events celebrating Hispanic heritage and creativity. And see how our artists and makers are inspired by the spirit of the state while exploring one of our 30 Certified Colorado Creative Districts. Here are just some of the many ways you can soak up the culture of Colorado.

Aurora

Within Aurora, find a beautiful tapestry of culture and heritage. Taste these histories and traditions through cuisine at numerous restaurants, whether you're eager to savor Polish pierogies (dumplings), Cuban pastelitos (fruit- and cheese-filled pastries) or fragrant Ivorian jollof rice (a tomato-based spiced rice). Continue your deep dive 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** — a multi-use art space with a stellar lineup of musicals, lectures and exhibitions, as well as the **Aurora Fox Arts Center**, which hosts everything from cabaret and the blues to theater for kids. Explore more on the self-guided Colfax Canvas Mural Tour in the **Aurora Cultural Arts District**. Get maps and audio guides at colfaxcanvas.com.



EFFRAIN M. PADRO



Denver's Cinco de Mayo celebration

Denver

Our capital is brimming with so many cultural experiences that it's hard to know where to begin. Start with one of the city's five Certified Colorado Creative Districts, abuzz with galleries, public sculptures, shops, art walks, trendy eateries and places to enjoy drinks and dancing. On the self-guided **Five Points Historic Walking Tour**, trace the steps of Denver's Black history via interpretive signs. Make an appointment to visit the nearby **Black American West Museum & Heritage Center** to learn about Black cowboys, ranchers and settlers in the former home of Denver's first Black doctor. At **Museo de las Americas**, explore Colorado's Latin heritage via 4,800-plus pieces of artwork spanning ancient American to contemporary times. Each spring, Cinco de Mayo celebrates Denver's Mexican community with dance performances, food and live music, like brassy mariachi and the polka-esque sounds of norteño. In Little Saigon, savor subtle notes of lemongrass while slurping Vietnamese pho (noodle soup), tuck into Chinese dim sum and find a multitude of shops in which to treat yourself to authentic boba teas.

Leadville

Set amid some of our tallest peaks, the former boomtown of Leadville is ideal for immersion in the state's mining history. At the **National Mining Hall of Fame**, see artifacts and explore replicas of mines. Or tour the real deal at **Matchless Mine**, the site responsible for the fortune of locally famous silver magnate, Horace Tabor. Soak up Old West vibes while taking in a performance at the **Tabor Opera House** — a stop on the Colorado Historic Opera Houses Circuit. If you're in town in August, don't miss the Leadville Boom Days Pack Burro Race, in which runners urge pack-loaded burros through the Victorian-era Main Street and up mountain trails in a tribute to the town's mining past.

Cortez

Cortez sits at the heart of the Trail of the Ancients scenic and historic byway, a route that cuts through ruddy deserts where breezes are sweetened by sagebrush and the whispers of Colorado's first inhabitants. At the **Cortez Cultural Center**, take in Native American dance performances and rotating art exhibits. Along the byway, you'll find the famed sandstone cliff dwellings of **Mesa Verde National Park** — a UNESCO World Heritage Site — as well as the architectural wonders of **Hovenweep National Monument's** 700-year-old towers. Thanks to remote locations that lend themselves to clear views of constellation-pierced skies, both are known as excellent stargazing spots.

Book a night at the **Canyons of the Ancients Guest Ranch**, where the Star Tower and Sky Kiva guesthouses were inspired by the likes of Mesa Verde and Hovenweep. They also offer easy access to yet another fascinating area heritage site: **Canyons of the Ancients National Monument**. In nearby Towaoc, learn about the Ute and Ancestral Puebloan peoples, their art and architecture at **Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Park**. This land is sacred to the Ute people; you must book with one of their guides to enter. If you're eager to explore more, take a short side trip off the byway to Ignacio's **Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum**, where exhibits take you from prehistory to modern day.



LEAVE IT AS YOU FIND IT



As you explore, keep the enchantment of these places intact by taking nothing but pictures and leaving nothing but footsteps. Learn more at Colorado.com/LNT.

Hovenweep National Monument



Palisade

Palisade

Nestled beneath the Grand Mesa, the world's largest flat-top mountain, is charming Palisade. Known for succulent stone fruits and for being the crown jewel of Colorado wine country, the town celebrates its agricultural heritage at festivals throughout the year. Join in at August's Palisade Peach Festival, which comes alive with a parade, peach-eating contests, a barbecue throwdown, live music and, of course, plenty of dishes starring sweet Palisade peaches. Learn more about the area's agricultural roots at the **Palisade History Museum**, a tiny log cabin jam-packed with Palisade's past. Travel further back at the 3.3-mile **Palisade Rim Trail**, a steep climb that pays off with scenes of stunningly well-preserved petroglyphs depicting bowhunters and deer.



Pueblo Chile & Frijoles Festival

Pueblo

Pueblo's industrial heritage was forged in 1881 when its steel mill opened, attracting Italian, Greek, Slovenian, Polish, Irish and German immigrants and Black Americans. See how their cultures enrich the city to this day at locally loved restaurants **Franks Meat Market**, **Paletaria Y Neveria Durango**, **Tortilleria Delicias** or **Giodone's Italian Bar and Grill**. Also inspired by Pueblo's steel industry is **Fuel & Iron Food Hall**; housed in a former historical hardware shop, the food hall's locally owned eateries dish up ramen, bison specialties and tacos among other fare. Browse the past — and purchase a piece of it to take home with you — at numerous antique shops dotting Union Avenue. See more of the city's culture in the Pueblo Creative Corridor; among other creative delights are exhibits at the **Sangre de Cristo Arts Center** and **Neon Alley** — an alleyway awash in the vibrant colors of vintage neon signs. And it's fair to say that the Pueblo green chile is a Colorado cultural icon. Mildly fiery and slightly sweet, the beloved pepper is celebrated annually at the Chile & Frijoles Festival — three days of spicy magic with a chihuahua parade, hot-air balloons, a farmers' market and food demos.

COLORADO Welcome Centers

If you want to learn how to travel like a local during your visit, all you need to do is head to one of the 10 Official Colorado Welcome Centers across the state.

Stop by for travel advice from our knowledgeable volunteers, and pick up maps, brochures and regional guides that will keep you inspired throughout your Colorado stay. Each center has internet access and clean restrooms at your disposal, as well as information on weather and road conditions for wherever your journey takes you.



Burlington Welcome Center

TIMED ENTRY



Some popular natural attractions, including national parks, Maroon Bells, Mount Blue Sky, the Manitou Incline, Pikes Peak and Hanging Lake, require reservations certain times of year, so check in advance to see if you need one. These systems keep the areas from getting too crowded and ensure you enjoy your visit while you're there.

1. Fort Collins

3745 E. Prospect Rd.
I-25 at exit 268, 970-491-3583
Located just off I-25, near the Fort Collins exit.

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 just off I-70 near the Utah border.

5. Cortez

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

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
Located off I-70 near the New Mexico border.

8. Lamar

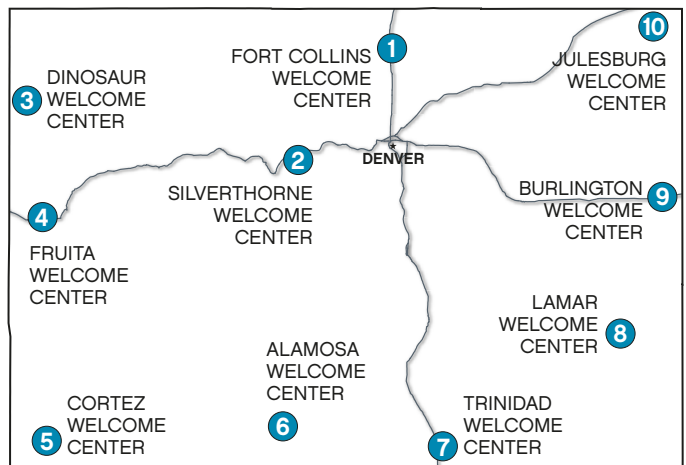
109 E. Beech St., U.S. Hwy. 50,
719-336-3483,
Situating near the Kansas border in southeastern Colorado.

9. Burlington

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

10. Julesburg

20934 C.R. 28, I-76 at exit 180,
970-474-2054
Found in the northeast corner of Colorado, near major interstates I-80 and I-76.



AURORA^{CO}

Welcome to a Place

THAT LOOKS A LOT LIKE YOU



With more than 160 spoken languages, 300+ international eateries, and local gems found off beaten path you'll experience a place unlike anywhere else in Colorado— not by a very high mile. In Aurora, we proudly celebrate the differences that make us unique and help you feel right at home.

DISCOVER MORE AT [VISITAURORA.COM](https://www.visitaurora.com)

THE WILD ANIMAL *Sanctuary*

WildAnimalSanctuary.org

A 33,000-ACRE NETWORK OF SANCTUARIES WITH OVER 750
LIONS, TIGERS, BEARS, WOLVES AND OTHER RESCUED ANIMALS

