

# Colorado Activities *NOTE: map at end for reference*

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## Scenic Drives



- **Mt. Evans 14er** (~\$10 or rocky/NP pass) – 49 miles est. 2+ hours (above, late spring) – Seasonal May-Sept **reservations**
- **Pike's Peak 14er** (\$12 adults, \$5 child, \$40 carload) – no summit early in season; Skyline Drive near Cañon City.
- **Trail Ridge Road & Old Fall River Road** (RMNP park fee/**reservations**)– 48 miles, 2+ hrs. Seasonal (memorial – labor usually)
- **Peak to Peak** (I70 to RMNP) – Golden Gate Canyon SP, RMNP, 2 Nat'l Forests, Indian Peaks Wilderness. 55 miles est 80 mins
- **Lariat Loop** (Denver West) – Dinosaur Ridge, Red Rocks, Morrison, Evergreen, Bergan park, Boettcher Mansion. 40 miles 2 hours.
- **Top of the Rockies** – Independence Pass, Leadville, (Vail to Aspen). 115 miles 3 hours
- **Collegiate Peaks** – Granite to Salida . 57 miles (one way) 90 mins. (view 14ers, ark river, hot springs)
- **Others:** Goldbelt tour (Cañon city), Los Caminos Antiquos – Great Sand Dunes. 129 miles 3 hours.

## Wildlife Viewing



- [Wild Animal Sanctuary](#) (Keensburg - @ 1hr) – **\$30/15kids** for General Entry. \$200/yr membership
- Wildlife Refuge – [Rocky Mountain Arsenal](#) (30 mins). home to more than 300 species of wildlife including birds (great horned owls, burrowing owls, etc), mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and wintering bald eagles. [New Audio New for loop](#)
- RMNP in the fall for Elk Rut (other critters too – Moose, Black Bears, marmot, pika)
- Mt Evans for Bighorn Sheep, Mountain goats, marmots and even pika (summer only)
- Zoos – Denver, [SeaQuest Interactive Petting Zoo](#), [Cheyenne Mountain Zoo](#) (good zoo w/ hiking in the Springs)
- All over the state ([Rocky Mountain Wildlife Foundation](#) – (closed, wolves will be relocated), [CO Wolf & Wildlife Center](#) West of Colorado Springs - \$15/\$200+ tours) , [Zoology Foundation](#) in Larkspur

## Dinosaur & Fossil Walks



- Dinosaur Ridge – Morrison (Golden) – Free self-guided tours. First stego find!
- Picket Wire Canyonlands (La Junta-East of Pueblo) – stand in a bronto track (5 mile hike in or audio tours in summer)
- Garden Park Fossil Area (Canon City)
- [Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument](#) (Pike’s Peak near cripple creek) – petrified redwoods, insect, plant fossils
- [Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center](#) (Woodland Park) displays of dinosaurs, prehistoric marine reptiles and fish from the late Cretaceous period; learn the stories of their discoveries and see a working fossil lab

## Hiking



- Front Range
  - Boulder Area Faves: Fowler/Goshawk & South Mesa/Homestead, Eldorado Canyon, Chautauqua- First/Second Flatiron, Flagstaff Mtn, Tenderfoot Trail (easiest), Sanitas (short and hard), Lion's Lair (same summit but easier and less people)
  - Nederland Faves: Hessie TH -**Lost Lake lolli**; 4<sup>th</sup> of July TH Arapaho Pass, East Portal TH -Crater lakes
  - Brainard Lake (\$/NP Pass): Lake Isabelle (great for july all time fave)
  - Golden/Front Range: Golden Gate Canyon SP (Mtn Lion, Burro), White Ranch, Matthews/Winters, Roxborough
  - I-70 Corridor (too many to list): Mt. Falcon, Beaver Brook , Loveland Pass 13ers, St. Mary's Glacier
- Rocky Mountain National Park
  - Wild Basin TH: Ouzel Falls, Thunder Lake, Bluebird Lake
  - Long's Peak/Chasm Lake
  - Bear Lake TH: Nymph/ Dream/Emerald/Haiyaha Lakes (fave), Lake Helene loop down to Fern
  - Glacier Gorge TH: Mills Lake (fave), the Loch and up to Lake of Glass/Sky Pond (long but awesome)
- I-70 Corridor: Shrine Ridge (Vail Pass) – Heidi FAVE for wildflowers
- Glenwood Springs Area: **Hanging Lake** (now requires permit in summer), Marble/Crystal area
- Colorado Springs: Garden of the Gods, the Incline, Red Rock Canyon Open Space, Painted Mines
- **Unlimited options throughout the state...** including 14ers, Great Sand Dunes NP, Collegiate Peaks
- **NOTE!!** Staunton State Park now has a **track chair program!** Reserve early but lots of miles to explore!



## Waterfall Stalking



- Breckinridge - Continental Falls . 3 miles, moderate; McCullough Gulch/Quandary Falls 2.6 miles, moderate
- Steamboat springs - Fish Creek Falls <1000 feet, easy to viewpoint
- Glenwood springs area - **Rifle Falls** (!) 5 min walk, easy
- Colorado Springs - Helen Hunt Falls .3 miles, moderate to Silver Cascade Falls; St. Mary's Falls 5.6 miles Mod/S
- Gunnison - Lake Irwin waterfalls
- Rocky – Adams Falls .3, easy, GL; Alberta Falls 1.5 easy GG; Calypso/Ouzel 5 miles moderate; Fern Falls 2.7 moderate Fern Lake TH; Bridalveil Falls; Chasm Falls .6 hard OFRR; Cascade Falls 3.5 easy GL; Timberline 8 miles hard GG; Horsehoe Falls short and easy (alluvial fan) OFFR;

## Climbing/Mountaineering



- Front Range
  - Boulder Canyon - plethora trad and sport, very popular get there early
  - Eldorado Canyon (South Boulder) – mostly trad, very popular get there early
  - Clear Creek Canyon (Golden)- plethora of sport, mostly hard but a few good easier at East Colfax, other Critters, Prestige worldwide... get there early as well
  - North Table Mountain (Golden) – sport. Lots of routes but glassy and hot in summer
  - Flatirons (Boulder) – some run out sport w/ some trad. Super awesome exposure and some easy ones
  - RMNP (Estes Park) – LOTS of trad. Lumpy ridge. Lily lake?
  - Shelf Road
  - South Platte
- 14ers all over, 54 of em!
- LOTS of others! 13ers – Flora, Sniktau...

## Via Ferratas

Via Ferrata, Italian for “Iron Way”, is a method of rock climbing and mountaineering in which one utilizes ladders, rungs, rails, cables and bridges to aid in moving across and up a cliff face.

- Telluride – self guided (free) or guided (awesome exposure!)
- Ouray - self guided (free) ferrata sets, certified helmet, harness etc required (excellent – cable ladder, river views)
- Royal Gorge Bridge (Cañon City) \$135-165 – no free option, must do guided
- Manitou Springs, Cave of the Winds- Guided
- [Idaho Springs](#) – “Mount Evans” (not really on Mt. Evans though). \$149
- [Buena Vista](#) – \$149
- Estes Park – Kent Mountain Adventure Center

## Mountain Biking



- Durango (world renowned) – [Blog](#)
- Crested Butte/Gunnison - [Blog](#)
- Breckenridge, Steamboat Springs, Fruita more recent trail expansions (check other resorts too)
- Reco- [Durango to Moab via san Juan Hut system](#)
- [Pretty much everywhere!](#)

## Rafting/Kayaking



**NOTE: season is usually june (HIGH)- august (med/Low) due to snow melt/runoff. COLD - need dry top/suit.**

- Front Range
  - Clear Creek (II-V) – Tunnel 1 to Whitewater Park II/III, rest of canyon looks to be IV-V
  - Poudre River near Fort Collins (II-V) – lots of sections that are great for all levels: Bridges III, Filter Plant (II)
  - South Platte – Deckers (II-III), Foxton (III), Waterton (III)
  - Lyons St. Vrain – **Apple Valley** (FAVE! II+/III-), Shelly's Cottages (III+?)
- Summit County



- Blue River. **Upper** III+/IV-, **Lower** II+/III (both short but great!) Cold water. Beautiful w/ cliffs and fun boogie water, class IV putin scramble for lower and weird weirs so go with someone who knows the river!
- Buena Vista/Salida
  - Arkansas River (II-V) – lots of sections that are great for all levels (milk run II, **fractions III**, browns III, numbers 4)
- Glenwood Springs & Upper Colorado
  - Colorado – **Shoshone** III ish, **Grizzly** II (hot springs), upstream Radium II (warm springs and dino tracks)
  - Roaring Fork – cemetery II-III
  - Crystal River
- Durango - Animas
- WW Parks – just about everywhere! CC is good, boulder is creepy, GS, UC, Salida, BV, many more!
- Rafting companies (lots!)
  - <http://clearcreekrafting.com>
  - [www.coloradorafting.net](http://www.coloradorafting.net)
  - [www.raftmasters.com/colorado-rafting](http://www.raftmasters.com/colorado-rafting)

## Backcountry Camping



- Durango/Ouray
  - Blue lakes in the sneffels is on short list
  - Check compendium for more ideas – some limitations in this area- not a free for all!
- RMNP – requires permit, [reservations](#) (made early!), and bear canisters
  - Wild Basin not quite as busy – Thunder lake (did this and loved it), bluebird lake, ouzel
  - LOTS of other options
- Indian peaks, holy cross, never summer... too many options to mention! **Missouri Lakes** were awesome!
- Steamboat Springs – rabbit ears pass dispersed camping.
- Hut to hut options (<http://www.huts.org/> and <http://sanjuanhuts.com/> are the main ones)
- [Fire tower camping](#) – yep stay in a fire tower! Spring can be iffy – we had 2-3' of snow in early april.

## Hot Springs



- Conundrum Hot Springs (permit) – 17 mile hike r/t near Aspen. Go midweek to dodge crowds
- Penny (free roadside) – near Avalanche Ranch/Marble area
- Eldorado Springs (\$, 78° COOL but good for hot day)
- Glenwood – HUGE pools (warm and hot and great for kids or laps), Iron Mountain has smaller pools but \$\$
- Steamboat Strawberry Hot springs – excellent reviews
- Ouray – Upgraded Pool in town, Orvis clothing optional area, Weisbaden has coed vapor caves
- Idaho Springs- Indian hot springs one of the most expensive ones around... hot springs only a warm pool, segregated clothing optional vapor caves much better but no hanging out w/ opposite sex
- Many others around – many are actual pools not natural settings like conundrum. many by BV and along I-70
  - Liked **Cottonwood or Princeton** in BV and **Hot Sulphur Springs** north of Winter Park

## Paragliding (sit w/ chute above)



Most rides are short – 5-12 minutes but can be as long as 15-25 depending on location and lift. Typical total time – 1.5-2 hours.

- Paragliding Colorado - <http://www.paraglidingcolorado.com/>
  - Location: Golden
  - Type: Tandem - \$159 weekday, \$169 weekend; extra for video/stills
  - Certified
- Peak to Peak Paragliding - <http://www.peaktopeakparagliding.com/>
  - Location: Boulder and Golden
  - Type: Tandem flights, Lessons, and powered paragliding lessons
    - Tandem Boulder \$165, Tandem Golden \$199
    - Classes are multi session and PRICEY

- Paraglide Tandem - <http://www.paraglidetandem.com/>
  - Location: Golden
  - Type: Tandem - \$159
- Adventure Paragliding
  - Location: Glenwood springs
  - Type: Tandem flights, Classes
    - \$149 tandem flight (early morning flights)
    - \$250 introductory course (1 flight and learn landing stuff)
    - Photo avail from \$25/person
  - Certified instructor
- Other Locations:
  - Mile High Gliding
  - Vail Valley Paragliding (image from here)
  - Aspen Paragliding
  - Telluride Paragliding
  - Colorado Paragliding (1010 Washington, Golden)



## Helicopter tours

- Glenwood springs - Alpine Aviation ([groupon](#)) \$\$\$

## Hot Air Balloon



- Rides -\$\$\$
- Festivals
  - Lake City (February)
  - Steamboat Springs (2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of July?) - AWESOME
  - Grand Junction
  - Colorado Springs (September)
  - Snowmass (September)
  - Arkansas Valley (November)



## Caving



- [Cave of the Winds](#) \$ Manitou Springs: Travel through more than two miles of underground limestone passageways on well-lit, easy tours into the cave's twists and turns.
- Glenwood Canyon Adventure Park Fairy Caves (Glenwood Springs)
- On your own: <http://www.coloradocaves.org/>

## Rock Stuff



- Geology Museum –FREE at School of Mines in Golden 9-5

## Fly Fishing



- Summit County (Silverthorne, Vail, Breck, Dillon) - [Groupon](#) local and near vail
- Grand Lake
- Steamboat Springs
- Loveland (north) Northern Colorado Fly fishing Made Simple – [Living social Deal](#)
- Ouray/Telluride area



## Horseback Riding



- Big companies:
  - Sombrero.com (Estes Park, Grand Lake, Allenspark, Steamboat springs, Meeker, Snow Mountain Ranch (Winter Park))
- BV – Brown’s Creek Falls
  - Mt. Princeton Hot Springs Stables - <http://coloradotrailrides.com/>
    - 1 (\$35), 1.5 (\$45), 2 (\$55), 3 (\$65), 4 (\$75)hr Trail Rides
    - ¾ day Waterfall Ride – up to Brown’s Creek \$110
    - All Day - \$155 - \$200 (Brown’s Lake, Chubb Park / Davis Meadows, Rainbow Trail, Kenosha Pass)
    - Sunset rides (optional steak dinner) \$60 hrs
  - Deer Valley Ranch
- Allenspark Area
  - <http://www.sombrero.com/rides/trail-rides/allens-park/> (\$40 1 hr, \$75 3 hr, \$170 FULL)
- RMNP (high country stables)
  - Sombrero – Moraine Park and Glacier Creek (2-10 hr rides)
  - Breakfast and Dinner rides (estes) - <http://www.sombrero.com/rides/steak-dinner-rides/>
- Durango Area
  - <http://www.crazyhorseoutfitter.com/>
  - San Juan Outfitters
  - Over the Hill Outfitters
- Summit County
  - Maroon Bells Stables
  - Capitol Peak Outfitters
  - Aspen Wilderness Outfitters

## ATV Rentals & General Off-roading



- Estes Park

- <http://backbonecycles.com/>
  - ATVs \$120/3 hrs ATV, Razor 169, 6 seat 239
  - Motorcycles \$79-99 3 hours
  - Jeep 199-249 8 hours
- <http://www.estesparkatvrentals.com> \$129 ATV half day (bunce school road was super fun)
- BV/Salida
  - <http://www.allseasonrentals.com/atv/atv-rentals/>
    - ATVs 4 hour \$135 (rental and tours)
  - <http://www.coloroadadventurerentals.com> (taylor park – between BV and CB)
    - All day rates higher than gunni area \$220-250. Half day 160
- Crested Butte
  - [http://www.allcrestedbutte.com/summer\\_recreation/atv\\_offroad.php](http://www.allcrestedbutte.com/summer_recreation/atv_offroad.php)
  - <http://www.coloroadadventurerentals.com> (Gunnison)
    - All day (10-3) rate for basic \$139; razor 2 person \$219 all day
- Telluride/Durango
  - <http://www.colorado145.com/> \$200-\$250/day 8-8 Montrose/Telluride Imogene Pass Ruby's 200 miles.
  - [www.Tellurideoutfitters.com](http://www.Tellurideoutfitters.com)
  - [Coloradowestjeeps.com](http://www.Coloradowestjeeps.com) \$169+ Peak Ouray 7-5 , possibly early pickup night before! Unlimited miles. (black bear pass and Poughkeepsie prohibited in rental)
- Georgetown Area

## Shoot Stuff



- <http://machineguntours.com> “Gun Tours” – Super Sniper \$210, Spy Master \$255, Gangster \$345, 3 Gun \$345, Comblock Commando, Zombie Attack \$450, 80s Action Hero \$450, Gamer’s Fantasy, GI John

## Brewery Tours & Tastings (and Tea!)

- Lots of breweries in CO – Coors is a major one but many micro-brews
- Celestial Seasonings (herbal tea) in north Boulder



## Ghost Towns - [Webpage](#)



- Ashcroft (Aspen)
- [Independence](#) (Aspen)
- St. Elmo & Tin Cup (w Buena Vista) - St. Elmo one of best preserved. ATV to Tin Cup
- Vicksburg & Winfield (n Buena Vista)
- Carson (Lake City – near Ouray) – 4x4, bike or hike
- Animas Forks (Lake City/Silverton) – 4x4/ATV
- Teller City (Walden – ne of Steamboat)
- Tomboy (Telluride) – 4x4 jeep tours, mountain bike
- Goldfield (sw Colorado Springs near Victor, CO)
- Ohio city & Pitkin (ne Gunnison)
- Uptop (south) – not deserted
- Dearfield (e Greeley) only all black settlement early 1900s

## Gold Mine Tours

<http://www.colorado.com/articles/colorado-mine-tours-gold-rush-towns>

- Argo Mill and Tunnel in Idaho Springs
- Georgetown Train with mine tours

## Sporting Events



- Major League game options : Rockies (baseball), Broncos (football), and ughhhh I'm sure others ☺

## Disc Golf

- [Wondervu Disc Golf Course](#) (Coal Creek a bit north of Golden) - \$ and hard course, but views!
- [Abay Disc Golf Course](#) – free right on the ski resort



## Snow sports

- Skiing, snowboarding, backcountry. All places tend to be busy on weekends get there early for decent parking!
  - Loveland (I-70, x-ferable 4packs, [Gems](#)) **FAVE for greens (so far)**
  - A-basin (I-70, Ikon Pass, x-ferable 4packs, [Gems](#), open typically until june) *better for blacks*
  - Breckenridge(I-70, Epic Pass) *FAVE for green/ roller blues, huge , staff sorta pretentious. **Pay parking.***
  - Keystone (I-70, Epic Pass, night skiing) *better for blues, blacks – steep green(s)*
  - Vail (I-70, Epic Pass) *1 good section of greens, but HUGE and awesome for blu/blk. **\$25+ parking or bus***
  - Beaver Creek (I-70, Epic Pass) *ok for greens/blues, a little confusing layout*
  - Winter Park (I-40, Ikon Pass) *looks good for green, huge*
  - Copper (I-70, Ikon Pass) *ok greens(some flat not great for snowboard)- a nice area up top*
  - Ski Cooper (Leadville, [Gems](#))
  - Ski Granby (I-40, [Gems](#))
  - Steamboat Springs (North central, Ikon Pass)
  - Crested Butte(South central, Epic Pass?) – *ok for greens – blues were steep.*
  - Eldora (Nederland, Ikon Pass, [Gems](#))
  - Monarch (SE/Ark Valley, [Gems](#)) *small but good for blues – greens thin. Fun for powder*
  - Sunlight (south Glenwood Springs, [Gems](#)) *small lower greens ok, Ute great roller green! Other too thin*
  - Powderhorn (southeast Grand Junction, [Gems](#)) *small but looks great for blues*
- Winter Hiking –may require [yaktrax](#) (cheap), or [microspikes](#) (better), or snowshoes depending on sun exposure and recent snow. We've enjoyed south mesa, Chautauqua, Rocky and most "regular" hikes during winter
- Snowshoeing (most hikes double for snowshoeing) – rocky has some nice ones but just about everywhere if enough snow. May need to be aware of avalanche danger.
- X-country skiing (lots of Nordic centers)
- Winter hut to hut overnights (<http://www.huts.org/> and <http://sanjuanhuts.com/> are the main ones) - reserve early! Lottery is held feb of previous year for first dibs.
- Dog sledding
  - Leadville -[Alpine Adventures](#) \$\$ (check groupon)





## Museums (from online list, haven't been to most!)

- Front Range
  - Denver: [Tour the Mint](#) (must go early to get tix during non-covid times).
  - Denver: [Counterterrorism Education learning Lab](#)
  - Denver: [Molly Brown House](#)
  - Denver: [Museum of Outdoor Arts](#)
  - Denver: [National Ballpark Museum](#)
  - Denver: [Wings over the Rockies Air & Space Museum](#) (X-wing starfighter!?)
  - Denver: [Museum of Nature & Science](#) (doesn't compare to science and industry but also not as overwhelming)
  - Denver: [Children's Museum of Denver](#)
  - Denver: Art Museum
  - Denver (north: Butterfly Pavilion
  - Golden: [Geology Museum at School of mines](#) (free! FAVE)
  - Golden: [Morrison Natural History Museum](#) – daily tours of paleontology (on to do list!)
  - Golden: [Clear Creek History Park](#) (1800 cabins)
  - Golden: [Buffalo Bill's Museum & Grave](#) (plus you get to drive lookout mountain!)
  - Golden: [Colorado Railroad Museum](#)
  - Boulder: NCAR National Center for Atmospheric Research – free guided tour (?)
  - Greeley: [Model Railroad Museum](#)
  - Fort Lupton: [Vintage Aero Flying Museum](#)
  - Fort Collins: [Museum of Discovery](#) (fun for kids)
- Colorado Springs and nearby mountains
  - Springs: Space Foundation Discovery Center
  - Woodland Park: Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center
  - Manitou: Manitou Cliff Dwellings museum
  - Cripple Creek: Outlaws and Lawmen Jail
  - Cripple Creek: Homestead House Museum (brothels) – (H2: go if bored, but a better use of time go hunt town for the wandering donkeys!)
- Mountains I-70
  - Vail: [Ski & Snowboard Museum](#) (FREE)
  - Leadville: [National Mining Museum](#)
- Southwest
  - Montrose: Ute Indian Museum
  - Durango: [Powerhouse Science Center](#)

- Western Slope
  - Fruita: Museum of Western Colorado: Dinosaur Journey Museum (and then get Hot Tomato pizza YUM)

## Misc other stuff

- Indoor Sky Diving (iFly in southern denver)
- Zip Lining
- Shows
  - Red Rocks Concert
  - Cirque du Soleil
  - Paramount Theater (comedians and musicians)
- Drive Fast Cars – [Exotic Drives of Denver](#) – [Living Social Deal](#)
- Bishop Castle near Pueblo – FREE exploration of crazy castle w/ fire dragon (summer only)
- Tiny Town

## Cheat Sheets by Town

NOTE: this is a work in progress.. I pretty much put these together as we hit these towns and do the research. Feel free to pass on recos!

### Denver

- 16<sup>th</sup> street mall (shopping and people watching)
- REI flagship, huge REI – stock up on anything you might need. (or hit Confluence Kayaks for paddle gear)
- Kayaking at confluence park
- Critters: Denver Zoo, Wildlife sanctuary, Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife loop (free), for kiddos Seaquest petting zoo, Butterfly Pavilion
  - Rocky Mountain Wildlife Arsenal – see bison, owls, deer on way to/from the airport
- Botanical Gardens
- Major League Games – Broncos, Nuggets, Rockies, Avalanche
- Museums – nature & science, art museum (tho I don't think they'll compare to chicago's), Wings over the rockies air and space museum. [Tour the Mint](#) (must go early to get tix during non-covid times).
- Molly Brown House
- Shows – Pepsi Center, Colorado Symphony Orchestra, Denver center of the performing arts
- Elitch Gardens (like 6 Flags)
- Hot air ballooning
- Get outta gown and hit some mountains!
- Food: Busaba (thai), Yak n Yeti, VooDoo Doughnuts and Sweet Cow Ice Cream (evil but good stuff!)
- Hammond's Candy factory tour – every half hour (make reservations) M-F 9-3, SA 10-3

### Boulder

- Pearl Street shopping and people watching (particularly in summer when street performers)
- Whitewater Park (though golden is better), Boulder Creek (class V)
- Climbing in Boulder Canyon (LOTS), Flatirons, Eldorado to the south, ~~visit Neptune Mountaineering!~~
- Hiking – Chautauqua, Flatirons, South Mesa, Eldorado to the south
- Celestial Seasonings herbal tea tour



- Stalk owls in gunbarrel - <http://boulderowlpreserve.org/> (my pics on the site!)
- Get froofy food (don't ask me where, but I hear there's good stuff)
  - Ok I lied.. Lucille's is fantastic Cajun breakie
  - Sweet Cow ice cream – amazing rotating flavors (2 locations in boulder also in Denver, Louisville)
  - Illegal Pete's – basically chipotle/qdoba burrito but they MIX it- no more bites w/ just beans!
  - Lots in and around boulder area: Sherpa house
- Hot air ballooning
- Probably lots of other stuff like hang w/ ironmen and Olympians... we just don't do that ;)

## Nederland, Ward, Lyons (West/NW of Boulder)

- Frozen Dead Guy Days in Ned – march ish
- Hiking – great trailheads nearby: Brainard (fave lake isabelle) or Hessie TH (lost lake)/4<sup>th</sup> of July (Dorothy lake), and East Portal (crater lakes) starting point for LOTS
- Eldora ski resort (alpine and xc)
- Kayaking in Lyons on st. vrain (June mostly) awesome class II+ or class III on shellys section
- Peak to Peak highway – amazing fall color to the north in late September

## Estes Park

- Rocky Mountain National Park (drive trail ridge, hiking, bc camping, climbing, winter hiking, snowshoeing)
- ATV (fun!)
- Horseback
- Food ideas – (nice) Rock Inn Mountain Tavern, Twin Owls Steak House, The Dunraven and the View
- Still exploring.. will add as we find cool stuff, but for now usual tourist stuff

## Fort Collins

- Sweetsville Zoo (handmade creatures made from things like old cars)
- Museum of Discovery (for kids)
- Paddle the Poudre (rafting or kayaking)

## Golden (Denver West)

- Coors Brewery Tour (free)
- Geology Museum at school of mines (free)
- Clear Creek Whitewater Park – good class II-III most of the year
- Drive up Lookout mountain (Lariat Loop), and jump off it if you are daring! (paragliding)
- Clear Creek (climbing, kayaking, ice climbing in winter)
- North Table Mountain (walking/hiking, climbing)
- Golden Gate Canyon, White Ranch Open Space, Mt. Falcon (hiking, camping)
- American Alpine Museum
- Dinosaur Ridge (free)
- Red Rocks Amphitheater (shows or hiking)
- Wondervu Disc Golf Course (Coal Creek a bit north of Golden) - \$ and hard course, but views!

## Colorado Springs (South Central)

- Garden of the Gods

- Red Rock Canyon – like garden of the gods but less busy
- Pike’s Peak \$\$ Drive or Train (Cog Railway)
- Seven Falls Waterfall \$
- [Cheyenne Mountain Zoo](#)
- Cripple Creek (gold rush town) – look for wild donkeys
- Manitou Springs (shopping)
- Manitou Cliff Dwellings
- Painted Mines Interpretive park (30 miles east of the springs) –cool hoodoos!
- Cave of the Winds \$ Manitou Springs
- Skyline Drive (scenic drive) – look to the left on the way up to see a dinosaur trackway.
- [North Pole Home of Santa’s Workshop](#) mid-May–December 24 (magic shows, kids rides)
- Royal Gorge Bridge (\$27) to cross the bridge, gondola, big swing, zipline, new Via Ferrata (no free, must do guided tour \$135-165 plus fee for bridge), railroad to see canyon floor
- Miramont Castle
- Molle Kathleen Gold Mine
- Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame
- Mountain biking (rocky terrain) at Oil Well Flats
- White water raft Royal Gorge (Arkansas River)
- Climb at Shelf Road
- [Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center](#)
- More in the [Pikes Peak region](#) and more [family friendly here](#)
- Rocky Mountain Wildlife Foundation - <http://www.rmwf.org/index.html>

## Steamboat Springs

- Winter – skiing at resort and backcountry
- Summer – early to mid july wildflowers at Rabbit Ears Pass
- Hot springs – Strawberry
- Tubing in town
- Hot Air balloon “rodeo” in July – awesome!
- Rodeo coincides w/ hot air balloon festival

## BV/Salida/Monarch

- Whitewater Parks in both towns
- Kayaking - Arkansas River (kayaking, rafting)
- Collegiate Peaks (hiking, camping)
- Hot Springs (Cottonwood and Princeton)
- Get in the back country – horse, ATV, jeep
- Food – good little Riverside Grill at the fisherman’s bridge (at one of the raft companies)
- Zipline, Via Ferrata
- Distillery and wine tours
- Monarch Pass Scenic Tram (not sure if runs in winter)
- Monarch Resort – Ski/Snowboard (GEMs card)
- Rent a jeep and explore the Ghost Towns (Tin cup and Pitkin)
- Salida - Drive up Spiral Road – Mount Tenderfoot (access road near medical center) to see view of Salida below



- 176 – get to via F street – cross bridge, take a left onto 177 then take right Y then take right on 176, keep right to make the spiral
- Salida - Visit Bungled Jungle (weird little shop)
- NW of Fairplay- Alma Buckskin Cemetery in Alma, CO (not sure what's special but it was on a list somewhere)
- South Park – old timey fake town in Fairplay
- Twin Lakes – rent a kayak, canoe, SUP.. summit Mt Elbert or head over independence pass for a beautiful scenic drive and hit Aspen next.

## Summit County

- Ski Resorts both winter and summer (biking, hiking etc)
- Abay Disc Golf Course – free right on the ski resort
- Breck hot donuts and crepes (YUM!)

## Vail Valley

- Vail Pass – Shrine Ridge Hike (wildflowers)
- Other hikes – Booth Falls, Pitkin Lake (9.5 miles and 3000' elevation gain!), Gore Lake 12.5 miles
- Betty Ford Alpine Gardens (never been)
- Take gondola up for views
- Other ideas: <https://travelmamas.com/vail-in-summer/> (horseback, mountain bike, food stuff)

## Aspen

- Independence Pass scenic drive
  - Grottos, Hike to Weller Lake, 4WD Lincoln Creek and dispersed camp for more hiking adventures
- Maroon Bells (hiking, drive)
- Ashcroft (ghost town)
- Conundrum (hiking, natural hot springs)
- John Denver Peace Garden and Sanctuary
- Ski/Board w/ famous people (maybe)

## Glenwood Springs/Crystal

- Hot Springs & Vapor Caves
  - In town – Glenwood Springs massive pool & Iron Mountain – new one w/ smaller pools, Vapor Caves
  - Private Avalanche Ranch and others?
  - Freebie Penny near redstone in roadside river
- Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park (caves and ??)
- Hiking – Hanging Lake is very popular (strenuous but awesome!), explore glenwood canyon, Crystal Mill, White River NF, town of Marble
- Skiing/Boarding – Sunlight (smaller resort), Powderhorn also nearby but Aspen 30 mins Vail 40.
- Other snow stuff: snowmobiling, showshoeing, nordic, ice skating, fat biking etc
- Whitewater – play park in town, Roaring Fork, Crystal and Upper Colorado (Grizzly) in the area
- Museums
- Back country exploring- horseback, ATV, jeep rentals/tours ([smith](#) is great)
- Fishing
- Climbing – rock and ice

- Other stuff: zip lining, paragliding, skydiving, disc golf

## CB stuff

- Skiing/boarding
- Wildflowers in the summer!
- [The Trailhead Childrens Museum](#) - 19 Emmons Rd., Crested Butte, CO 81225
- [Center for the Arts Crested Butte](#) - 606 Sixth St., Crested Butte, CO 81224  
Wildflower explorations (slate road, road to gothic, etc)
- [Crested Butte Mountain Resort Adventure Park](#)
- Drive up to Empire – little town further into the mtns

## Durango (SW Colorado)

- Trimble Hot Springs Pool (11-9pm \$18) in Durango;
- World class mountain biking
- RR Museum
- Whitewater – Animas
- Hiking - Colorado Trail
- Mesa Verde NM

See more at: <http://www.colorado.com/articles/colorado-family-attractions-kids-10-under#sthash.Q7ocEgOi.dpuf>

## Alamosa & Pagosa Springs (South Central Colorado)

- Rocky Mountain Wildlife Park, Pagosa Springs: Peer into habitats of animals native to the area, including black bears, wolves, elk, mountain lions, bobcats and coyotes.
- Pagosa Springs (7am-11pm winter \$26+ basic entry)
- Great Sand Dunes
- Monte Vista Wildlife Refuge & Alamosa Wildlife Refuge

See more at: <http://www.colorado.com/articles/colorado-family-attractions-kids-10-under#sthash.Q7ocEgOi.dpuf>

## Telluride/Ouray/Silverton (SW Colorado)

- Winter
  - Ouray Ice Climbing Park (winter)
  - Ski/Board Purgatory (telluride) or silverton mtn (backcountry only)
  - Snowmobile, snowshoe, hut systems
    - snowshoe options: Oak Creek , Uncompahgre River Trail (Easy), Ice Park Trail (Easy/Mod), Ironton Park (Easy/Mod), Yankee Girl (moderate), Portland Mine (Mod/Diff)
- Summer/Spring/Fall
  - [Hiking \(guide\)](#), backpacking, hut systems
  - Canyoneering
  - Fly fishing
  - Climbing – Gunnison
  - Kayaking/Rafting – Uncompahgre River (II/III+), Lower Gunnison(II), Gunnison River/Gunnison Gorge (III-IV), San Miguel River (III-IV), Animas River (II-V)
  - Hiking, backpacking, hut systems around sneffels
- Hot Springs: Ouray Hot Springs Pool (noon-9pm winter) & Orvis Hot Springs (clothing optional 9am-10pm \$16), Weisbaden \$15 for hot spring pool and vapor caves
- Get in the back country – horse, ATV, jeep
- Mining and ghost towns
- Photography – Uncompahgre is where a ton of amazing photos were taken

See more at: <http://www.colorado.com/articles/colorado-family-attractions-kids-10-under#sthash.Q7ocEgOi.dpuf>

## Kid stuff

<http://www.colorado.com/articles/colorado-family-attractions-kids-10-under>

<http://www.colorado.com/articles/10-free-things-do-colorado>



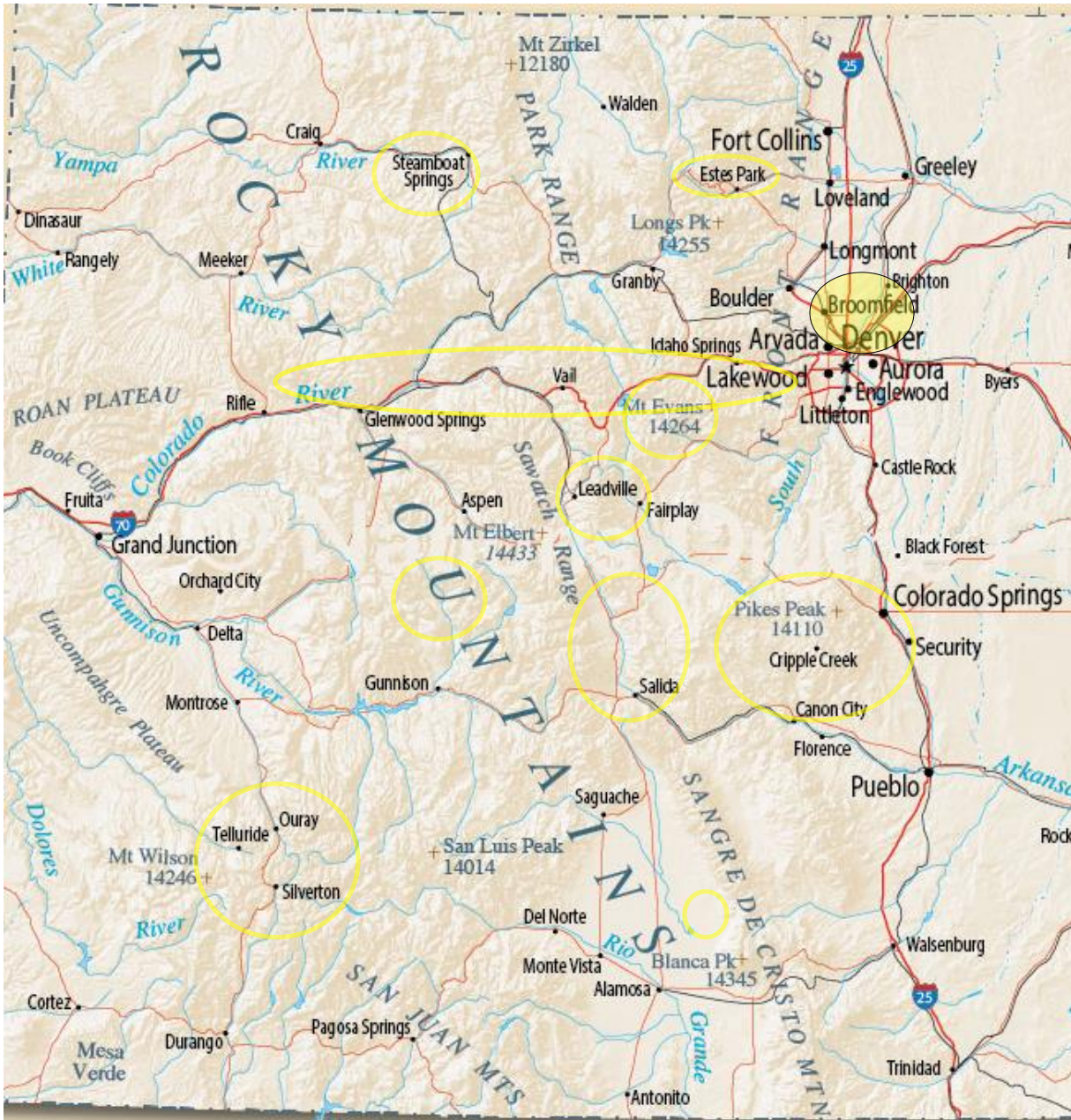
## Flight Tips

Always keep in mind when booking flights that the quotes price may not include your luggage, in fact most of the time it won't! Beware of spirit and frontier – you pay for carry-ons in addition to checked bags. Do the math before snagging that “great deal”!

These numbers may be old – always check!

Airline	Carry on	Checked 1	Checked 2	Seats Selection	Total 1 CO/ 1 Checked RT
<b>American</b>	Free 22x14x9 40lbs	\$25 (Citi card free) 50 lbs	\$35	Free, preferred \$	\$50 \$0 (Citi)
Frontier	\$25 24x16x10 35lbs	\$25	\$30	\$5	\$110
Spirit (BAD) (* membership rate)	\$25*-50 22x18x10	\$25*-45 40 lbs	\$30*-55	\$1-50	
<b>Southwest</b>	Free <b>24x16x10</b>	Free	Free	Free, early bird <b>\$12.50</b>	<b>0</b>
United	Free 22x14x9	\$25 50 lbs	\$35	Free	\$50

# Map



## Places of interest:

- Broomfield – (NW of Denver) where we live
- Estes Park – Rock Mountain National Park, Allenspark is SW of the park closer to Granby
- Steamboat Springs – NW
- I-70 Corridor – Golden, Idaho Springs, Mt. Evans, Vail, Glenwood Springs
- Independence Pass – Leadville to Aspen
- Salida – Buena Vista, Salida Hwy 285 follows Arkansas river over to Canon City
- Colorado Springs/Pike’s Peak – includes Manitou springs
- Telluride, Ouray, Durango, Silverton, Lake City – SW Colorado about 6-7 hours away
- Gunnison – Crested Butte is to the north, Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP
- NE of Alamosa – Great Sand Dunes