

THREE DAYS IN DENVER, COLORADO

Discover Denver, The Mile High City

A walkable, outdoor city with 300 days of sunshine, brilliant blue skies and breathtaking mountain scenery. Founded in 1858 as a gold mining camp, Denver is located at the base of the majestic Rocky Mountains, 5,280 feet (1,609 meters) above sea level – exactly one mile high. Denver offers urban adventures for all ages, during every season.

For more information, contact tourism@visitdenver.com.

Day One: Sightseeing & Shopping in Downtown Denver

Morning in Downtown Denver:

- **Denver Union Station:** The 1914 Beaux-Arts station is a hub for transportation and filled with local, unique-to-Denver businesses including [The Crawford Hotel](#), Colorado chef-owned restaurants, one-of-a-kind shops, a Colorado beer hall and a 2nd floor cocktail lounge. [Direct rail service](#) connects [Denver International Airport](#) (DEN) and this historic landmark in just 37 minutes for \$10.50 each way.
- **16th Street Mall:** This mile-long, pedestrian-friendly street is packed with shopping, restaurants and attractions. Free buses stop for passengers at every intersection, so it is easy to cover a lot of ground in a short period of time. The Mall is [currently being revitalized](#) and [RTD's Free MallRide](#) will continue running with possible detours.
- **Rockmount Ranch Wear:** A true Western icon, the founder introduced the first Western shirts with snaps and helped popularize it as legitimate American fashion throughout the United States and abroad, worn by rock stars and movie icons. The Rockmount building is also a historic landmark built in 1909.
- **MCA Denver - Museum of Contemporary Art Denver:** An innovative forum for contemporary art that inspires and challenges audiences, creating understanding and dialog about art of our time.
- **Larimer Square** (Larimer Street between 14th & 15th Streets): Denver's urban shopping and dining district is also the city's oldest and most historic block. Complete with glittering lights strung over the entire block, Larimer Square is charming and elegant with a nightlife that defines hip, urban renewal. Victorian buildings house specialty boutiques and unique chef-driven restaurants. Shop one-of-a-kind stores with distinctive fashion and exclusive offerings and enjoy special events and a vibrant atmosphere year-round.
- **Denver Performing Arts Complex:** The Denver Performing Arts Complex is the cultural hub of The Mile High City, encompassing opera, theater, stage, dance and music. A variety of cultural enrichment awaits you — symphony and orchestral performances, jazz and Broadway musicals, performances by dance companies, theatrical extravaganzas, one-person shows, plays, stand-up comics and more.



- **I See What You Mean "The Big Blue Bear":** Created by Denver-based artist Lawrence Argent, this delightful 40-foot (12-meter) sculpture peers curiously into the [Colorado Convention Center](#). Take a photo or two of this Only-In-Denver icon – it looks good from all angles.

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- **Shopping at the Denver Pavilions:** This two-city-block, three-story-high, open-air mall is an entertainment and shopping destination located on the 16th Street Mall between Welton and Tremont Streets. Featuring shops, restaurants, a movie theater and a bowling alley/arcade.
- **Brown Palace Hotel & Spa by Marriott:** This historic and luxury hotel opened its doors on August 12, 1892, and hasn't closed them for a single moment since. The Brown Palace is one of the city's crown jewels, with its stunning stained glass atrium lobby, extravagant suites and extraordinary dining venues. The hotel's original artesian spring well is located 720 feet beneath the lobby floor and still provides water to every faucet in the hotel. Tours are available.

Spend the afternoon exploring Denver's creative side:

Insider tip:

[Denver Attraction Passes:](#) Purchase a Mile High Culture pass or Denver CityPASS for the best way to explore some of the city's most fascinating attractions at a bargain price.

Explore on wheels: Try exploring The Mile High City using a [Pedi-cab](#) or [E-tuk](#).

Be a fan! Denver is home to six professional sports teams, most playing in the downtown area. Check out [Denver365.com](#) for games.

- **Colorado State Capitol:** Modeled after the U.S. Capitol with a gold-plated dome, the 13th step on the west side is exactly one mile (5,280 feet) above sea level. Free tours offered on weekdays.
- **Denver Art Museum:** Explore the museum's extensive art collections, including the Indigenous Arts of North America collection representing the heritage of all cultures and tribes across the United States and Canada. Don't miss the terrace with stunning views of the Rocky Mountains as well as a café and full-service chef-driven restaurant. The museum is open every day and free for children under 18.
- **Clyfford Still Museum:** Clyfford Still is considered an originator of the Abstract Expressionism movement. The award-winning museum is home to his life's work with more than 3,000 pieces.
- **Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art:** The museum houses three major collections: paintings by namesake Colorado artist Vance Kirkland, fine and decorative art by other Colorado and regional artists, and international decorative art.
- **History Colorado Center:** Exhibits and programs that tell the stories of Colorado and engage visitors in the past, present and future of our state. Enjoy interactive exhibits like a virtual ride in a real Model T, testing your skills on a ski jump simulator and setting off dynamite in an 1880s hard-rock mine.
- **Meow Wolf Denver Convergence Station:** Located near downtown, an unforgettable and transformational experience for all ages. Discover immersive, mind-bending art across the four alien worlds of C Street, Eemia, Ossuary and Numina.

Spend the evening downtown:

Near Union Station and next to Coors Field is [McGregor Square](#), the city's newest urban playground filled with restaurants, a food hall, shops and [The Rally Hotel](#). The outdoor plaza has a stadium-sized LED screen and hosts year-round events like concerts, festivals and movie nights. Catch a game at [Tom's Watch Bar](#), get a bite to eat at [Carmine's](#) or browse the books at Tattered Cover Book Store. Or head to nearby [Dairy Block](#), a walkable micro-district in LoDo that contains the [Denver Milk Market](#), a diverse mix of culinary concepts, and the Alley, a laid-back outdoor setting to have a drink.



Day Two: Book a sightseeing tour & explore Denver's neighborhoods

Start the day by exploring your way with a boutique tour catered to your interests. Some unique options include:

- **Beer & Brewery Tours:** The Mile High City, known as a craft beer mecca, offers walking, biking or chauffeured bus tours, among other options, to some of Denver's local craft breweries. For a self-guided experience, VISIT DENVER's [Denver Beer Trail](#) features must-try local breweries, both new and well-loved, arranged by neighborhood.
- **Street Art Tours:** All over the city, you'll find gorgeous murals, whimsical sculptures and other kinds of public art that will delight and inspire. [Denver Graffiti Tour](#) offers a guided walking tour of some of RiNo Art District's top murals, though many people explore on their own – discovering art in unexpected places all around the city.
- **Unique tours:** From unique transportation options like the made-in-Denver [eTuks](#) (electric tuk-tuks), pedicabs, scooters and of course bikes, to ghost tours, find your unique tour option.

Spend the afternoon exploring one of [Denver's diverse neighborhoods](#):

- **Cherry Creek & City Park:** Denver's premier shopping and dining neighborhood, approximately a 15-minute drive from downtown.
 - **Cherry Creek Shopping Center:** More than 160 stores, dining hotspots and a movie theater.
 - **Cherry Creek North:** The 16-block outdoor shopping and dining district, home to galleries, boutiques, restaurants, spas and more.
 - **Denver Museum of Nature & Science:** Explore exhibits like "Space Odyssey," *Exhibition Health*®, *Gems & Minerals*, *Egyptian Mummies* and *Prehistoric Journey*. Watch a show at the new large-screen Infinity Theater or planetarium, or visit the Sky Terrace to see stunning views of the Denver skyline and mountains.
 - **Denver Zoo:** Home to thousands of animals, including rare Amur leopards, okapi, black rhinoceros, elephants, vampire bats, orangutan, Komodo dragons and more!
 - **Denver Botanic Gardens:** This oasis just north of Cherry Creek entertains and delights with beautiful displays of flora and fauna from all over the world.

- **River North (RiNo) Art District:** "Where art is made," with street art murals around every corner as well as studios, galleries, food halls, restaurants and breweries.
- **Highlands:** Includes three districts ([Highlands Square](#), [Tennyson Street Cultural District](#) & [LoHi](#)) with hip, independently-owned shops, art galleries and restaurants.

In the evening, check out the [music & nightlife scene](#) to find cocktail lounges, comedy clubs, dance clubs and bars. Explore [the music calendar](#) for upcoming Denver concerts and other live music events. On any given night, you'll find local and national artists playing a vast array of genres in venues throughout the metro area.



Day Three: Take a Day Trip to the Rocky Mountains or Nearby Town

West Denver area:

- **Red Rocks Park & Amphitheatre:** Located 30 minutes west of Denver, this world-famous outdoor music venue is the only naturally occurring, acoustically perfect amphitheater in the world. The Visitor Center features interactive educational displays, a short film documentary on the geologic and musical history, a Performer's Hall of Fame and delicious food at Ship Rock Grille. Red Rocks is recognized for its star-studded concert roster as well as its awe-inspiring [hiking and biking trails](#) in the surrounding park.
- **Dinosaur Ridge:** See tracks, bones and other fossils preserved in this unique outdoor setting.
- **Denver Buffalo Herd:** The City of Denver maintains a bison herd in a natural setting located at I-70 Exit 254 that are direct descendants of the last wild bison herd in America.
- **Buffalo Bill Museum & Grave:** Enjoy exhibits and displays including memorabilia from Buffalo Bill's life, Wild West shows, American Indian artifacts, antique firearms and other Old West artifacts. From high atop Lookout Mountain visitors can enjoy views of the snowcapped Rockies in one direction and the Great Plains in the other.
- **Golden:** The territorial capital until 1867 and one of the most historic towns in the state. An arch spanning the street proclaims that Golden is "Where the West Lives!" Spend the day exploring museums such as the [Colorado Railroad Museum](#) and [Golden History Museum](#). Take a paid, guided tour of the [Coors Brewery](#) (requires reservation) highlighting the malting, brewing and packaging processes with a sampling of products and shopping in the gift shop.

North of Denver:

- **Rocky Mountain National Park:** Located 90 minutes northwest of Denver, Rocky Mountain National Park features scenic beauty, including Trail Ridge Road, the highest continuous highway in the world, which crosses the Continental Divide at higher than two miles above sea level. The park has two information centers, hundreds of hiking trails, lakes, waterfalls, wildlife and horseback riding.
- **Estes Park:** A resort town on the edge of Rocky Mountain National Park with restaurants and shops.

Mountain towns near Denver:

- **Idaho Springs:** Only about 30 miles (48 km) from Denver, Idaho Springs packs in a full day of adventures. Take a trip back into Colorado's gold mining history at the [Argo Mill and Tunnel](#). During the warmer months, [Clear Creek Rafting Co.](#) and [Raft Masters](#) offer rafting along beautiful Clear Creek. Or zoom above on a zip-line tour with [Colorado Adventure Center](#). Lawson Adventure Park & Resort offers a do-it-all package where you can zip line, traverse granite cliffs and finish your adventures by rafting, or try disc golf, ATV tours, fly-fishing and more.
- **Mount Evans Scenic Byway:** The highest paved road in North America, snaking its way to the 14,260-foot (4,346 m) summit. Stop at Echo Lake to enjoy hiking trails or a picnic.
- **Georgetown:** Located just 42 miles (68 km) west of Denver, Georgetown is a delightful Victorian village set in a spectacular mountain valley. The [Georgetown Loop Mining & Railroad Park](#) operates during the summer months with narrow gauge steam locomotives curling down a mountain ledge with an optional tour of a silver mine.
- **Colorado Springs:** Located an hour south of Denver and features attractions centered around 14,000-foot (4,267 m) Pikes Peak. Visit [Broadmoor Manitou and Pikes Peak Cog Railway](#), [Garden of the Gods](#), [Seven Falls](#) and more.



[Visit our website for more day trip options.](#)