

Boulder

POP 293,161

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Best Places to Eat

- » Jax (p117)
- » Med (p120)
- » Lucile's (p120)
- » Frasca (p117)

Best Places to Stay

- » Chautauqua Lodge (p115)
- » St Julien Hotel & Spa (p116)
- » Quality Inn Boulder Creek (p116)
- » The Alps (p115)
- » Hotel Boulderado (p116)

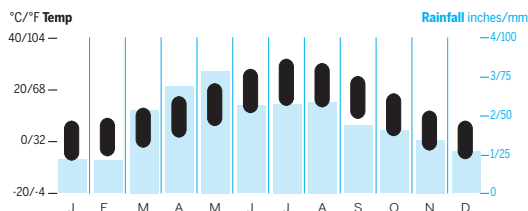
Why Go?

Tucked up against its soaring signature Flatirons, this idyllic college town has a sweet location and a palpable ecophistication that has attracted entrepreneurs, athletes, hippies and hard-bodies like moths to the moonlight.

Boulder's mad love of the outdoors was officially legislated in 1967, when Boulder became the first US city to tax itself specifically to preserve open space. Thanks to such vision, packs of cyclists whip up and down the Boulder Creek corridor, which links to the city and county parks those taxpayer dollars purchased. The pedestrian-only Pearl St Mall is lively, and perfect for strolling. Especially at night, when students from University of Colorado and Naropa University mingle into the wee smalls. In many ways it is Boulder, not Denver, that is the region's tourist hub. The city is about the same distance from Denver International Airport, and staying in Boulder puts you 45 minutes closer to the ski resorts west on I-70 and the extraordinary Rocky Mountain National Park.

When to Go

Boulder



June–August

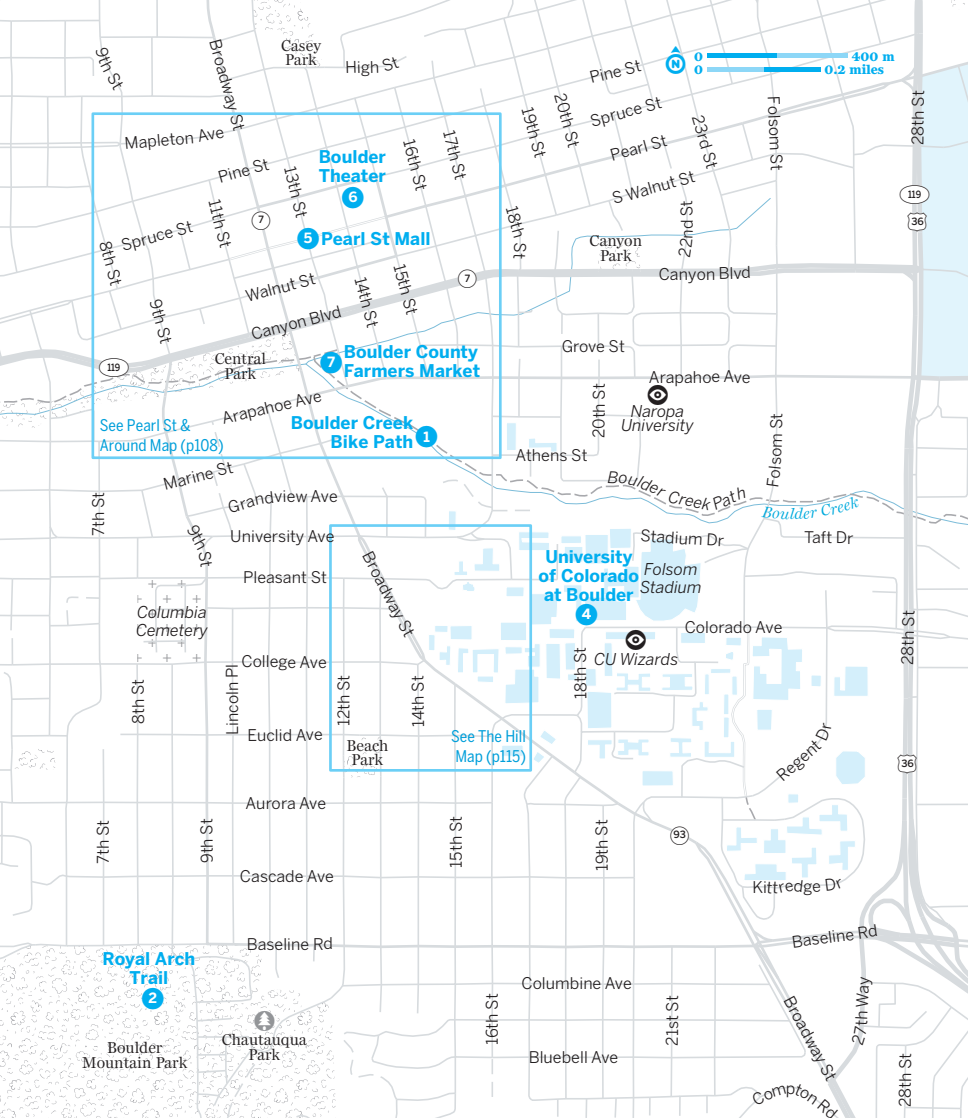
Long sunny days, summer showers, farmers markets, hiking, biking and tubing.

September–October

Students return, Indian Summer, fall color, warm days, cool nights.

January–February

Powder on the slopes, and quirky Arapahoe Basin beckons.



Boulder Highlights

- 1 Commute and coast with the masses on the **Boulder Creek bike path** (p111)
- 2 Hike among the Flatirons to **Royal Arch** (p111) in Chautauqua Park
- 3 Ride the contours of the whitewater park then lay back and enjoy the lower reaches as you tube **Boulder Creek**
- 4 Explore the museums, gardens and plazas of the **University of Colorado** (p106), one of the States' finest public universities
- 5 Stroll, sip coffee, grab lunch or simply people watch on **Pearl St Mall**
- 6 Whether you're basking in the glow of jazz pioneer Charlie Hunter, post punk globalists Gogol Bordello or yet another screening of *Lebowski*, a show at **Boulder Theater** (p124) is a must
- 7 Hitting the **farmers market** (p122) on a sunny Saturday morning in Central Park