



Boulder & Around

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Salt (p118)
- ➔ Frasca (p118)
- ➔ Tangerine (p114)
- ➔ Lucile's (p117)
- ➔ Breadworks (p115)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Chautauqua Lodge (p113)
- ➔ Briar Rose B&B (p113)
- ➔ Quality Inn Boulder Creek (p113)
- ➔ The Alps (p114)
- ➔ Hotel Boulderado (p114)

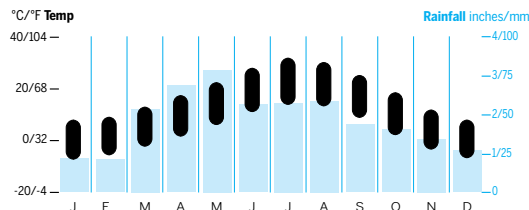
Why Go?

Twenty-five square miles surrounded by reality. That's the joke about Boulder that never goes away. The weather is perfect, the surroundings – stone Flatirons, gurgling creek, ponderosa trails and manicured college campus – beg idyllic. And the populace – fit do-gooders with the beta on the best fair-trade coffee – seals the stereotype.

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, people (and dogs) enjoy a number of city parks and open space while packs of cyclists whip up and down the Boulder Creek corridor.

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 the hub puts you 45 minutes closer to the ski resorts west on I-70 and the extraordinary Rocky Mountain National Park.

When to Go Boulder



Jun–Aug

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

Sep–Oct

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

Jan–Feb

Powder at Eldora, and snowshoe or backcountry ski adventures in the Indian Peaks.

FAST FACTS

- ➔ **Population** 101,808
- ➔ **Median Resident Age** 28.7 years old
- ➔ **Altitude** 5430ft

Biking Boulder

The main vein is the Boulder Creek Bike Path, shooting directly through town to the mountains, with north-south branches. Valmont Bike Park rewards well-padded riders with jumps and a half pipe. A number of shops offer rentals and route advice. B-Cycle has stations around town with hourly rentals.

For Kids

- ➔ Chautauqua Park (p105)
- ➔ Butterfly Pavilion (p106)
- ➔ CU Wizards (p108)
- ➔ Pop Jet Fountain (p109)
- ➔ Boulder Rock Club (p110)
- ➔ Boulder Creek Bike Path (p109)

Resources

- ➔ **Boulder Downtown**
www.boulderdowntown.com
- ➔ **Boulder Weekly** www.boulderweekly.com
- ➔ **Open Space & Mountain Parks** www.osmp.org
- ➔ **303Cycling**
www.303cycling.com
- ➔ **Get Boulder** www.getboulder.com

Getting Around

Renting a car can be useful to get into the high country, but Boulder is perfectly manageable by bicycle or public transportation.

RTD buses travel to Denver, Denver International Airport, Nederland and within Boulder proper. Many buses have bike racks. Dedicated bike lanes and paths make the city ideal for two-wheel traffic and the downtown area is pleasantly walkable.

ADVANCE PLANNING

Each fall over 30,000 university students descend upon Boulder with few snags. You can too. The key is to start with lodging, since budget options are few. Square your reservations in advance, especially if you are coming for a festival or event.

Keep in mind that Boulder's sunny, mild climate means decent weather year-round, so consider saving money by going at off-peak times. Boulder can be a good deal quieter during the winter holiday or CU spring break, when students go home. Try not to overlap with big events like University of Colorado's May graduation week, when all restaurants and hotels are brimming.

This active town will make you want to hit the ground running, or hiking, but don't. The high altitude can take its toll, so ease into your visit with a mellow start, be mindful of sun exposure and drink lots of water, not margaritas – or at least not yet.

Best Day Trips

- ➔ Indian Peaks Wilderness Area (p127)
- ➔ Eldorado Canyon State Park (p110)
- ➔ Rocky Mountain National Park (p130)
- ➔ Eldora Ski Area (p127)