



# Denver & Around

## Includes ➔

Denver .....	59
Golden .....	95
Morrison .....	98
Reynolds Park .....	100

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Rioja (p78)
- ➔ Steuben's Food Service (p80)
- ➔ Root Down (p81)
- ➔ Beatrice and Woodsley (p81)
- ➔ Squeaky Bean (p78)

## Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Curtis (p74)
- ➔ Queen Anne Bed & Breakfast Inn (p75)
- ➔ Hotel Monaco (p74)
- ➔ Hotel Teatro (p75)
- ➔ Brown Palace Hotel (p74)

## Why Go?

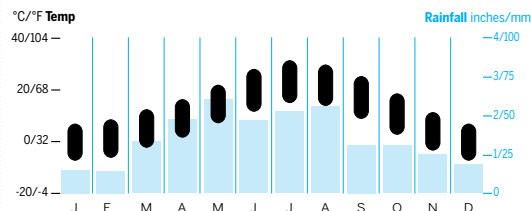
Denver is movement. Denver is change. Denver is a cowboy town turned cosmo crazy.

As an urban center, Denver has come a long way. Sure you'll still catch a Stetson or two walking down the 16th St Mall, but the inner-mountain West's cosmopolitan capital now delights in a growing culinary and arts scene, plus plenty of brewpubs, great parks and cycling trails, and close proximity to spectacular hiking, rafting, skiing and camping in the Rocky Mountains.

Thanks to a re-urbanization of the city's central core, Denver now has name-worthy neighborhoods with flavors all their own – Five Points and River North (RiNo) for bars and cutting-edge galleries, Highlands and South Pearl for great eateries, Cherry Creek for upscale glam, Lower Downtown (LoDo) for raucous partying and the Golden Triangle for arts and theater. In all, there's a neighborhood and a vibe for just about anybody.

## When to Go

### Denver



### Jun–Aug

Big crowds, high prices. Hot days, balmy evenings, extended daylight.

### Sep–Nov

Cooler temperatures see parks and mountains at their prettiest.

### Dec–Mar

Short days and cold weather equal skiing weather. Crowds and prices drop.

## Getting Around

Getting from place to place in the Mile High City is amazingly easy, especially if you are in the downtown area. The airport is 25 miles out of town, but there are quick buses to downtown or you can shuttle it. From there, it's easy enough to get around on foot, bike (with the shared B-Cycle program), light rail or cab. If you plan to do day-hikes or head up to the mountains, rent a car.

### SPRINGING INTO THE MILE HIGH CITY

Denver is smack in the middle of some of the United States' most stunning nature and, frankly, you'd be a fool to miss it. If you're flying, don't bring gear from home. The airlines' baggage fees will destroy your budget and there's tons of affordable, world-class gear to rent. The REI flagship store is a top option for camping and mountaineering supplies, kayaks, snowshoes and skis (way cheaper than renting at the slopes). The B Cycle program doesn't cut it for serious cyclists, so rent road or mountain bikes at Bicycle Doctor.

Most times of year, you can get a room without advance notice, but you'll always save money with the aggregators. The city has an international airport, a decent public transit system and generally permissive liberal attitudes. The altitude may affect you. Drink lots of water and watch for sun exposure.

## Best Day Trips

This city has more than enough to do within its borders, but for those who have the itch to rent a car and explore a bit, here are a couple of options within an hours' drive:

- ➔ Explore Garden of the Gods and old Manitou in Colorado Springs.
- ➔ For those who love rock (or rocks): catch a show or wander through Red Rocks Park & Amphitheatre.
- ➔ Hike the front-range trails, cycle at Buffalo Creek or head to Saint Mary's Glacier for year-round sledding.
- ➔ College junket: spend the day hanging out in Boulder, and hike the Royal Arch Trail through the Flatirons.

### FAST FACTS

- ➔ **Population:** 620,000 (Denver), 2.5 million (metro area)
- ➔ **Altitude:** 5280ft (1609m)
- ➔ **Marijuana dispensaries:** 300-plus (there are fewer Starbucks)

## Denver's Enormous Art

- ➔ I See What You Mean (p62)
- ➔ Mesteño (p70)
- ➔ Yearling (p65)
- ➔ Big Sweep (p67)
- ➔ Dancers (p62)

## For Kids

- ➔ Denver Zoo (p67)
- ➔ Denver Art Museum (p63)
- ➔ Elitch Gardens (p69)
- ➔ Lakeside Amusement Park (p70)
- ➔ Casa Bonita (p83)

## Resources

- ➔ **Visit Denver** [www.denver.org](http://www.denver.org)
- ➔ **Westword** [www.westword.com](http://www.westword.com)
- ➔ **5280** [www.5280.com](http://www.5280.com)
- ➔ **Denver.com** [www.denver.com](http://www.denver.com)
- ➔ **Denver Parks and Recreation** [www.denvergov.org/dpr](http://www.denvergov.org/dpr)
- ➔ **Denver Post** [www.denverpost.com](http://www.denverpost.com)