

# Denver & Around

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## Best Places to Eat

- » Biker Jim's Dogs (p73)
- » Rioja (p73)
- » Stueben's Food Service (p77)
- » Root Down (p79)
- » SAME Café (p77)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Jet Hotel (p70)
- » Queen Anne Bed & Breakfast Inn (p71)
- » Hotel Monaco (p70)
- » Hotel Teatro (p70)
- » Brown Palace Hotel (p67)

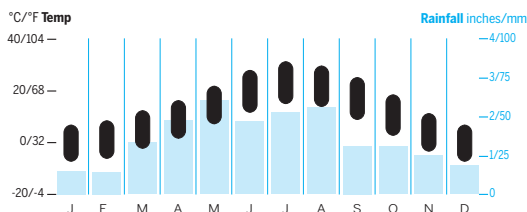
## Why Go?

Spirited, urbane and self-aware, Denver is the West's cosmopolitan capital. Blessed with tons of sunshine, cyclists cruise miles of trails before hitting town or heading for the Rockies on the horizon.

Head to Commons Park (p63), do a 360-degree turn and try to process the ridiculous abundance of adventures within your gaze. There's the gleaming skyscrapers of Denver's Downtown and historic LoDo districts, packed with breweries and the most exciting culinary scene between Chicago and California; the hulking forms of two of America's most famous sports arenas, Mile High Stadium (p89) and Coors Field (p89), where home runs, high fives and mobs of the city's rabid sports fans are nearly a nightly spectacle; and way off in the distance, rising through the high-altitude haze and all that clean, thin air, is the jagged purple line of the Front Range, a gateway to some of the most spectacular wilderness on the continent. There's a whole lot to do in Denver.

## When to Go

### Denver



**May–August**  
Crowds and costs are high. Hot days, balmy evenings, extended daylight.

**September–November**  
Cooler temperatures see parklands and mountainsides at their prettiest.

**December–March**  
Short days and cold weather sends Denver indoors. Crowds and prices drop.

## Springing into the Great Outdoors

Denver is smack in the middle of some of the most stunning nature in the Lower 48 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. REI Flagship Store (p91) is a top option for camping and mountaineering supplies, kayaks, snowshoes and skis (*way* cheaper than renting at the slopes).

If you're only camping, call Outdoors Geek (p64), a mom-and-pop operation that packages kits (tents, packs, stoves and all the trimmings) for solo campers and groups. The B Cycle (p95) program doesn't cut it for serious cyclists, so rent road or mountain bikes at Bicycle Doctor (p64). Its sister store, Edgeworks (p64), rents snowboards.

### 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 options all within two hours' drive:

- » Campy history buffs: hit the Buffalo Bill Museum & Grave (p96).
- » Those who love rock (or rocks): catch a show or wander through Red Rocks Park & Amphitheatre (p102).
- » People who want to get high: put that rental car to the test on Mt Evans (p98), America's highest highway.
- » College junket: spend the day hanging out in Boulder, and hike the Royal Arch Trail (p111) through the Flatirons.

## Farmers Markets

See [www.denverfarmersmarket.com](http://www.denverfarmersmarket.com) for complete details of Denver's fresh, open-air markets.

- » Wednesday: Tiri's Garden Farmers Market
- » Wednesday and Saturday: Cherry Creek Fresh Market
- » Sunday: Old South Pearl Farmers Market
- » Sunday: City Park Esplanade Market

## WHEN COLD WINDS BLOW

- » Get tropical in the conservatory at the Denver Botanic Gardens (p61)
- » Booze by the crackling fire at Lost Lake Lounge (p85)
- » Commiserate with polar bears at the Denver Zoo (p61)
- » Steam in the baths at Pura Vida Fitness & Spa (p64)

## Denver's Enormous Art

- » *I See What You Mean* (p56), Lawrence Argent
- » *Mesteño* (p64), Luis Jimenez
- » *The Yearling* (p61), Donald Lipinski
- » *The Big Sweep* (p61), Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen
- » *Dancers* (p56), Jonathan Borofsky

## Resources

- » Visit Denver ([www.denver.org](http://www.denver.org))
- » Denver International Airport website ([www.flydenver.com](http://www.flydenver.com))
- » Denver.com ([www.denver.com](http://www.denver.com))
- » Downtown Denver ([www.downtowndenver.com](http://www.downtowndenver.com))
- » City of Denver ([www.denvergov.org](http://www.denvergov.org))
- » Regional Transport District ([www.rtd-denver.com](http://www.rtd-denver.com))
- » eat.shop Denver ([www.eatshopguides.com](http://www.eatshopguides.com))