

CELEBRATING

15 YEARS!

BLUE ISLAND OYSTER BAR
OPENS IN LONE TREE. Pg. 46

denver life

Colorado's leading lifestyle magazine

Spring fashion is here!
Check out these sophisticated,
bright and beautiful looks that
scream Goddess in the Garden
on page 61.

PLUS EPIC ESCAPES

Looking for an exquisite
staycation where you can explore
the outdoors and immerse
yourself in nature? Check out our
drivable Colorado getaways.

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Botanical beauty

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HEALING ART How local artists are helping the community. **CLEAN BEAUTY** Cherry Creek's
AILLEA offers all-natural mini facials. **TASTY TACOS** El Camino in the Highlands' delicious menu options.



EPIC SUMMER ESCAPES

Fuel your traveler's soul by visiting these six mountain getaways around our beautiful state.

It's that time of year again when we start looking forward to our annual Summer getaway. Whether you've frequented these beautiful destinations before—or are visiting for the first time—there's always something new to discover in the warmer months.

Find out how the following destinations can turn into a lifetime of memories as

quickly as overnight to keep you coming back for more. Plus, help Colorado Parks and Wildlife celebrate 125 years by visiting our curated Colorado State and National Parks list. There's always so much to do in our beautiful state.

BY JESSICA HUGHES



Tips from a local

Not only is **NICK GORSKI**, Valet at The Hythe Hotel, a longtime employee, but he's a native to Vail and knows the mountain like the back of his hand. According to Gorski, "the options for adventure in Vail in the Summer are quite extensive."

✿ "Vail is perfect because of the sheer range of activities people can enjoy. The weather is beautiful and you can experience a new adventure daily. Plus, there's no place like Vail on a warm evening, beside a fire, making S'mores. Nothing says Summer more than that."

✿ Some of Gorski's favorite things to do are rafting the Colorado River and exploring the stops along the way. He goes on to say, "of course, there is no better way to enjoy the famed bluebird skies than during a round of golf. My personal favorite is Red Sky." While Red Sky is technically located in nearby Wolcott (roughly a 20-minute drive from Vail), Gorski says, "it's worth it."

✿ But if you would rather keep your adventures closer to Vail, "guests of The Hythe can walk right out of the front door to hit the Berry Picker Trail for a day of hiking." His favorite insider tip he shares with guests is, "if you're tired from the climb up, enjoy the views and rest your legs by taking the gondola back down—it's a free ride!"

TRAVEL BACK IN TIME The covered bridge in Vail circa 1962 from the Colorado Snowsports Museum.

VAIL

The place for a great escape.

Vail has more than enough to satisfy even the most curious adventurer, especially in the Summer. Surrounded by the scenic Gore Range and the White River National Forest, outdoor adventures abound. A verdant natural playground, Vail offers its visitors plenty to do in the Summer with hiking, biking, fishing, golfing and more.

Off the mountain, two modern villages, Vail Village and Lionshead Village anchor the town, where visitors will find a collection of high-end restaurants, five-star lodging, shops and a lively nightlife. Conveniently located along I-70, it is less than a two-hour drive from Denver, ideal for your week-end Summer getaway.



Where to explore

1. Colorado Snowsports Museum

While you can't ski in the Summer, you can learn about the history of skiing (and other Winter sports) in Vail at the Colorado Snowsports Museum. Plus, they offer a historic Vail Village walking tour. Admission to the museum is free but donations are accepted. snowsportsmuseum.org

2. BRAVO! Vail

In its 35th season this Summer, BRAVO! Vail Music Festival will showcase some of the world's greatest orchestras at the Ford Amphitheater. Enjoy the soulful sounds of the classics, jazz and more with 60 concerts over six weeks. June 23-August 4. bravovail.org

3. Betty Ford Alpine Gardens

Resting at 8,200 feet, the Betty Ford Alpine Garden is the highest botanical garden in the world. Discover an array of unique alpine and sub-alpine plants and flowers. While the gardens are free, \$5 donations are accepted. bettyfordalpinegardens.com

4. Hiking

Explore the numerous trails of Vail. From Booth Falls in East Vail to Lost Lake near West Vail and Shrine Ridge over Vail Pass, there



is much to discover. Help preserve the beauty of Vail by reducing the number of cars on the road and avoiding packed parking lots at trailheads by using their Bus to Hike shuttle system to the area's most popular hikes. discovervail.com

Where to stay

The Hythe Vail

Capturing the essence of Vail's legendary ski history, The Hythe offers a sense of celebration year-round with their reimagined luxurious hotel. Relax in newly-renovated rooms and suites, plus their on-site spa. Sip and savor as well at their world-class restaurant, Margie's Haus and Revel Lounge. thehythevail.com

Manor Vail Lodge

Dine at Vail's newest restaurant, Ridge and River, and bask in the beauty of the Rockies at the Man-

or Vail Lodge. In addition, their premium condos, lobby, dining options and recent upgrades to their outdoor pools make this a must-stay this Summer. manorvail.com

Sonnenalp

Stellar elegance describes the five-star Vail hotel Sonnenalp. The award-winning destination features three on-site dining options, over 100 luxurious suites and hotel rooms—each with a view of either Gore Creek or Vail Village. sonnenalp.com

The Sebastian

Mountain views abound in the heart of Vail Village with a decadent stay at The Sebastian. Exceptional design and decor set the property's luxurious residences and hotel rooms apart from everything else in town. thesebastianvail.com

Gravity Haus Vail

Explore with the like-minded community of those seeking an ideal balance between work and play at the Gravity Haus Vail. Easily refuel with a night's rest in

one of their 22 luxurious rooms and a rejuvenating massage at the Dryland Spa. gravityhaus.com

The Grand Hyatt

Comfortable surroundings meet exceptional elegance at the Grand Hyatt Vail. Spend a day at the spa before enjoying dinner at their on-site restaurant. Rest, relax and recenter at the fireside lounge or try a round in one of their Topgolf Swing Suites. hyatt.com



Tips from a local

IVANNA GORLA, Lodge Manager at Scarp Ridge Lodge says, “the high-altitude paradise (Crested Butte) has become a world-class destination for outdoor adventure, art and artisan crafts. Designated an official Colorado Creative District, Crested Butte is also home to one of the nation’s top juried art festivals which shuts down Elk Avenue on the first weekend in August every year.”

✱ For those outdoorsy people looking to hit the beautiful mountain trails, Gorla says, “Crested Butte boasts the largest single-track mountain biking trail system in the US. Take the mountain bike trail 401 for wildflowers, aspens and endless views.”

✱ Some of her “must-do’s” in Crested Butte include a stop by the Public House for the town’s favorite beer from the Irwin Brewing Company, live music, and great food. Or grab a pizza, some ‘crack fries’ and a game of pool at Secret Stash. Be sure to visit Montanya’s Distillery (female-founded and female-owned) for a posh island rum cocktail mixed with the distillery’s very own rum. They are generous with their drink recipes so grab a bottle to bring home and mix up the exact same mountain cocktails long after your trip.

CRESTED BUTTE

Discover a rainbow of colors.

Known as the “wildflower capital of Colorado” and home to one of the most brightly-colored historic downtowns in the state, Crested Butte is the most vibrant place to be this Summer. Designated as a Colorado Creative District, it is home to many artists and artisans who make Crested Butte even more spirited.

Beyond its color-packed presentation, Crested Butte also draws in its Summer crowds with epic mountain biking trails and unparalleled hiking opportunities. It’s the perfect place to cure any wanderlust.

MANEUVER THE MOUNTAIN

Mountain biking is quickly becoming one of Colorado’s most popular Summer pastimes.



2 3
4

Where to explore

1. Mountain biking

Begin with the classic beginner route “Lower Loop” near Peanut Lake or ramp up your trail cred with the classic intermediate “Lupine.” Be sure to also check out the ski hill where you can ride the lifts and bike down. travelcrestedbutte.com

2. Wildflowers

Named the “wildflower capital of Colorado,” Crested Butte explodes with color mid-Summer. Celebrate this colorful time of year with the annual Wildflower Festival, July 8-11. Stop and see the flowers throughout town, along the roadside and on one of the many hiking or biking trails. Don't forget to bring your camera to capture the breathtaking views.

crestedbuttewildflowerfestival.com

3. Historic downtown

Downtown Crested Butte is the eighth largest Colorado National Historic Landmark District. Take a historic walking tour along Elk Avenue to view the well-preserved original historic buildings, saloons and homes. travelcrestedbutte.com

4. Crested Butte Arts Festival

In its 50th year this Summer, the Crested Butte Arts Festival



will feature over 100 fine artists and vendors from August 5-7 downtown. The event is great for the whole family with lots of food options, craft stations and face painting for kids. crested-butteartsfestival.com

Where to stay

Scarp Ridge Lodge

Located in the heart of Crested Butte, Scarp Ridge Lodge seamlessly blends the look and feel of a European ski chalet with the frontier spirit of the Rocky Mountains. The lodge features exceptional amenities like an indoor saltwater pool and an oxygen-enriched air system. elevenexperience.com

Public House Lofts

Located on Elk Avenue, the three spacious suites overlook

the peak of Mount Crested Butte and the charming Victorian storefronts. Set above a pub restaurant and an underground taproom, the reimagined lofts feature exceptional design and five-star amenities. elevenexperience.com

Sopris House

Adjacent to Scarp Ridge Lodge, the 3,200 square foot house has a maximum capacity of 10 people, available for buyout only. Exceptional amenities include

a renovated saloon with a pool table and jukebox, outdoor copper hot tub, sauna and more. elevenexperience.com

Elevation Hotel & Spa

Mountain charm meets modern luxury at the Elevation Hotel & Spa. Resting at the base of Mount Crested Butte, the hotel raises the bar on luxury with exceptional on-site amenities including their full-service spa, heated indoor pool and hot tubs. elelevationresort.com

The Lodge at Mountaineer Square

If you're looking for a luxurious on-the-mountain experience, book your stay at the Lodge at Mountaineer Square. Located at the heart of the Crested Butte Mountain Resort base area, guests are just steps from their favorite Summer outdoor activities, as well as shopping and restaurants. skicb.com



Tips from a local

Having lived in Fort Collins for most of her life, **Kelly Stine**, the Director of Sales & Marketing at the Armstrong Hotel, returned after a short stint on the East Coast. "I couldn't resist getting back to Fort Collins. I missed the quick access to the mountains, the 'small town' community feeling and, of course, Horsetooth!" says Stine.

❁ One of her favorite "newest" additions to Fort Collins is the Poudre River White Water Park. Stine describes it as a "fun local spot to walk or bike around. You can always find a kayaker attempting to conquer the rapids, people floating in the Summer and dogs everywhere!"

❁ "Horsetooth Reservoir is definitely a must-see," she says. "Whether you are hiking to the top, mountain biking the trails around the reservoir or paddle boarding on the water it's something you can't miss especially in the Summer. The Poudre River Trail should also be on top of the to-do list. With over 20 miles there are so many areas to explore."

FORT COLLINS

An old town favorite is a base camp for fun.

Where to explore

1. Horsetooth Reservoir

The 6.5-mile reservoir is THE spot for outdoor recreation in Fort Collins. Enjoy fishing, stand-up paddleboarding, sailing, boating and swimming. Also, take a hike to Horsetooth Falls for some more Summer fun. visitftcollins.com.

2. Visit a brewery

Home to the Fat Tire Brewing Company, the town of Fort Collins is synonymous with Colorado's craft brewery scene. With 20-plus breweries, it's not hard to find a cold beer after your long hike. visitftcollins.com

3. Live at "The Mish"

Catch a live show at the iconic Mishawaka Amphitheatre, referred to as "The Mish" by locals. Centered in the Poudre Canyon along the river, the venue is the host to a variety of musical talents. visitftcollins.com



4. Explore Old Town

Modeled after Disneyland's Main Street USA, Old Town Fort Collins is accented with European-style alleys, decorative lights and architectural marvels that make an ordinary stroll, spectacular. visitftcollins.com

Where to stay

The Elizabeth

Enjoy the best of Old Town Fort Collins with a stay at The Elizabeth. Sophistication meets elegance in this iconic hotel with exceptional attention to detail, a scenic rooftop deck and amenities for the music lover including an Instrument Lending Library and in-room record players. theelizabethcolorado.com

Armstrong Hotel

Unlock the key to your luxurious stay in Old Town Fort Collins at the recently renovated Armstrong Hotel. A historic icon, the Armstrong marries the past to the present with an underground supper club with live music and a modern-day spa. thearmstronghotel.com

Fort Collins Marriott

Located south of Old Town, the Fort Collins Marriott, with brand new guest rooms, is a great option for affordable luxury that is in an ideal location for exploring Horsetooth Reservoir, Rocky Mountain National Park and Lory State Park. marriott.com

Edwards House B&B

Located just steps from Old Town, the Edwards House B&B provides its guests with an intimate luxury stay in a five-star hotel with the exceptional service of a bed and breakfast. Savor the freshly made meals and custom finishes in every room. edwardshouse.com

HORSETOOTH RESERVOIR, RICHARD HARO; OLD TOWN, TIM OHARA

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS

Check out these Colorado State & National Parks

Great Sand Dunes National Park

❖ The tallest dunes in North America are the main attraction at the Great Sand Dunes National Park. Resting in the shadows of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in the San Luis Valley, incredible views can be seen while shredding the gnar or hiking amongst the dunes. This Summer, spend a day at the beach at Medano Creek or camp under the stars any time of year at the incredible International Dark Sky Park. nps.gov

Roxborough State Park

❖ Resting in Denver's backyard, just 35 miles south, Roxborough State Park is the crown jewel of the Front Range. Its distinctive red rock formations are the centerpiece of this nearly 400-acre park. Explore eight different trails (totaling 14 miles) designed for hiking, wildlife viewing and bird watching. Plus, the trail system also connects to Douglas County Open Space Trails, Pike National Forest Trails, Waterton Canyon and the Colorado Trail. cpw.state.co.us

Sweetwater Lake State Park

❖ Sweetwater Lake State Park is the newest on the list as Colorado's 43rd state park. Located in the White River National Forest, between Eagle and Glenwood Springs, Sweetwater Lake used to be the Sweetwater ranch, private land that was sold to the state to help preserve it. Little infrastructure is currently in place for public recreation, with plans for a new boat launch by June 1. cpw.state.co.us

Rifle Falls State Park

❖ Small but mighty, Rifle Falls State Park consists of 48 acres with its central feature a triple 70 foot waterfall flowing into East Rifle Creek. The lush landscape can feel quite different than most of Colorado and is a refreshing reprieve in the middle of Summer. For the daring, explore the nearby limestone caves beneath the falls. Be sure to also check out the nearby Rifle Gap State Park and explore the clean, clear waters of its 350-acre reservoir. cpw.state.co.us

Ridgway State Park

❖ Just north of Ouray, Ridgway State Park is a Summer gem with its beautiful five-mile-long reservoir making staying cool in the Summer easy. The park also boasts nearly 300 campsites for even more Summer fun. Explore the extensive trail system, splash around at the swim beach and take part in almost any sort of water sport with plenty of room to enjoy. cpw.state.co.us

Castlewood Canyon State Park

❖ Often overlooked by its neighbors of Chatfield State Park and Cherry Creek State Park, Castlewood Canyon State Park is the perfect quiet oasis not far from the city. Nestled near the small town of Franktown, just east of Castle Rock, Castlewood Canyon explores Cherry Creek winding through the canyon floor with up to four miles of hiking trails. Plus, discover the historic ruins of the infamous dam that burst in 1933, sending a 15-foot-high wave of water into Denver. cpw.state.co.us



Tips from a local

Having just moved to Telluride last year, **BILL ERVIN**, the Assistant House Manager at the Dunton House, is already in love with where he lives. "I love Telluride for the multitude of outdoor activities available just by walking out my front door and the great community of residents keeping the town interesting and close to its roots."

✿ Ervin says, "Mountain Biking Terrain Park is one of Telluride's newer features to enjoy this Summer." He also says, "the hiking in Telluride is some of the best in the area, with hikes for every ability level." The Cornet Creek Falls Trail is only .5 miles round trip to a stunning waterfall. For a moderate hike, Hike to Blue Lake is a 5.7-mile roundtrip with a 2,000 foot elevation gain and lots of wildflower viewings as well as an alpine lake. For experienced hikers looking to escape the crowds and embrace a challenge, the 6.4 roundtrip Ballard Mountain Hike is a great option.

✿ Ervin also shares something about Telluride most people may not know. "Telluride is actually home to the first alternating current power plant in the entire world situated at the top of Bridal Veil Falls designed by Nicola Tesla to sustain the mining operations that founded the town."

BRIDAL VEIL FALLS The tallest waterfall in Colorado with the original Smuggler Union Hydroelectric Plant at the top, built in 1907.

TELLURIDE

A small mountain town with big adventures.

Telluride, a historic mining town nestled within a box canyon, draws in visitors year-round for its epic skiing, fall colors and Colorado's most notable Summer festival—the Telluride Bluegrass Festival.

What was originally built from the mining days in the late 1800s is now a destination characterized by quaint Victorian homes, decadent restaurants, chic boutiques and high-end art galleries. Couple that with the surrounding beauty of the San Juan Mountains and you pretty much have the picture-perfect Colorado getaway awaiting you this Summer.





Where to explore

1. Hike to a waterfall

Because of its location inside a box canyon, Telluride is home to several waterfalls, one of which is the tallest in Colorado—Bridal Veil Falls. All are accessible right from town including Bear Creek Falls and Cornet Creek Falls. telluride.com

2. 4x4 Adventure

Bring your own or rent a 4x4 vehicle to explore the nearby mountain passes including Imogene Pass which takes you from Telluride to Ouray. Get your heart racing with incredible mountain views and discover historic mining camps along the way. telluride.com

3. Take a ride in the sky

The free Telluride Gondola runs all year between town and the mountain area offering unforgettable views of the San Juans and canyon floor below. Sunset is a favorite time for travel. telluride.com

4. Telluride Bluegrass Festival

When people think of Summer in Telluride, they think Bluegrass



Festival. The iconic music fest is in its 49th year with no signs of stopping. Bring your own instrument for free workshop and impromptu jam sessions around the festival grounds. June 16-19. bluegrass.com/telluride

Where to stay

New Sheridan Hotel

The social hub of downtown, the New Sheridan Hotel captures the spirit of travel and the historic charm of Telluride. Originally built in 1891 (recently remodeled), the boutique hotel is best known for its on-site restaurant and the Historic Bar. newsheridan.com

Hotel Telluride

The Hotel Telluride features swanky quarters resting inside a beautiful stone lodge near

the entrance of town. Its warm and cozy interiors make this a favorite choice for an authentic mountain lodge experience. hoteltelluride.com

Lumiere with Inspirato

Stay mountain-side at the luxurious Lumiere with Inspirato resort. Featuring 18 boutique residences, the hotel is dressed to impress with five-star amenities and the red carpet for even your furry friends. lumierewithinspirato.com

Dunton Town House

Dunton Town House is a stunning five-bedroom bed & breakfast hotel in downtown Telluride with a 24-hour concierge (house manager) who is there to cater to all the guests' needs. Bask in the comfort of your own chalet to make you feel right at home. duntondestions.com

Hotel Fairmont

Located in the heart of Mountain Village, Hotel Fairmount does all the heavy lifting for you with

complimentary valet and airport transfers, plus a pre-arrival vacation planning & concierge service. fairmont.com

The Peaks Resort & Spa

Wellness is the name of the game at The Peaks Resort & Spa. The property's opulent spa features a nutritionist and a personal trainer, plus an oxygen inhalation lounge and Roman hot tub that will revitalize even the sorest of muscles. thepeaksresort.com



Tips from a local

KRISTA HEINICKE, the Director of Public Relations for The Broadmoor, has been connected with the hotel since 1984 when she came to Colorado Springs to train for ice dancing at the original Broadmoor World Arena.

✱ Her number one must-do activity this Summer is the Broadmoor Manitou and Pikes Peak Cog Railway. “Completely rebuilt and reopened in May of 2021, this landmark is the least stressful way to summit America’s Mountain.”

✱ But she says, “everyone should drive up at least once to get a feel for what race car drivers have experienced since 1915, along the Pikes Peak Highway.” This year marks the 100th Running of The Broadmoor Pikes Peak International Hill Climb,” Heinicke says. “It’s the region’s best-kept secret. If you have never been, now is the time!” Also known as the Race to the Clouds, the Hill Climb was America’s second-ever auto race. Now it is held on the last Saturday of June every year.

✱ One of her favorite notable nuggets lies at the top of Inspiration Point via Seven Falls where visitors will find the original resting place of Helen Hunt Jackson, author of *Ramona* and *Century of Dishonor*.

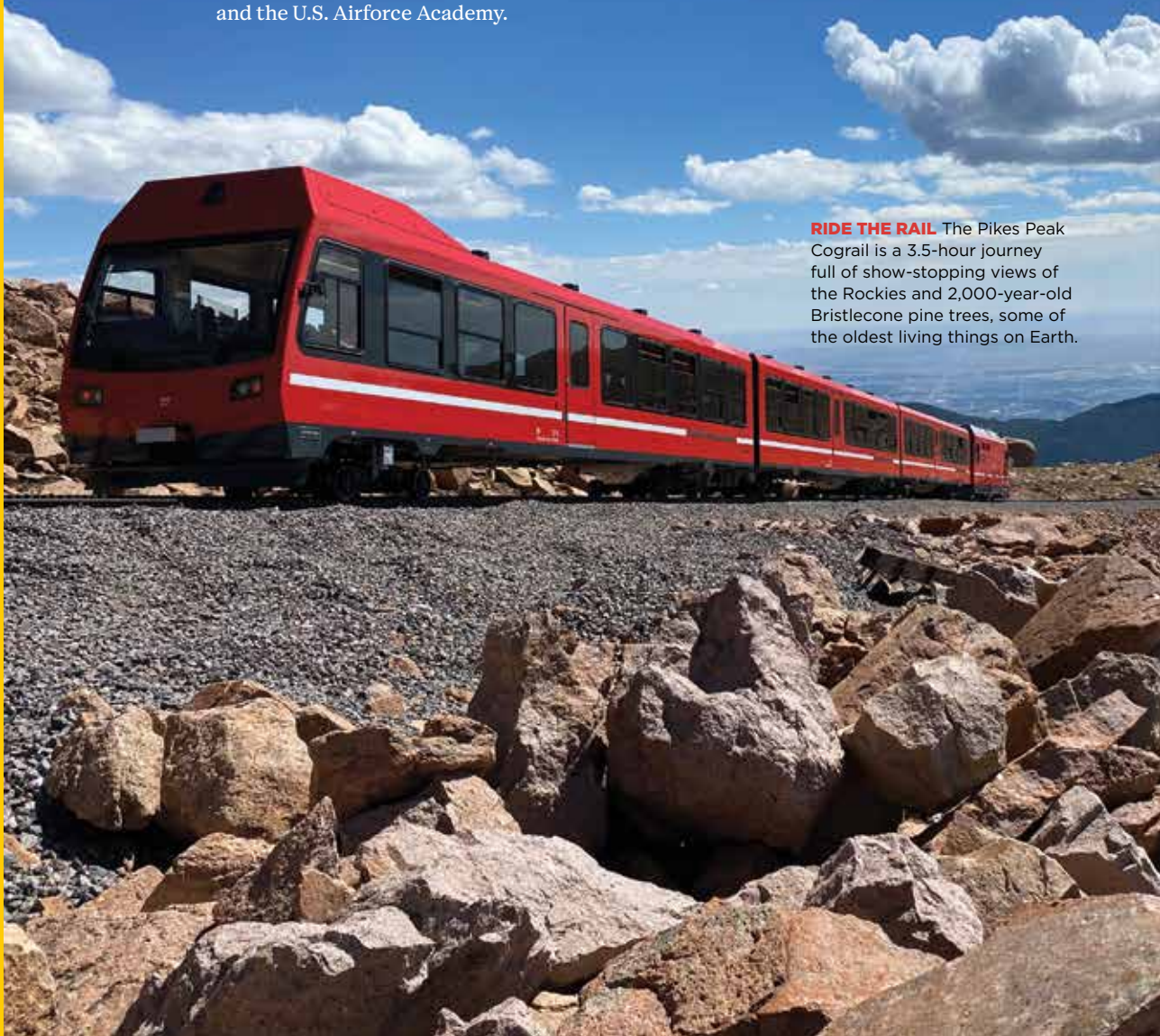
COLORADO SPRINGS

Explore America’s Mountain and so much more.

As Colorado’s second-largest city, Colorado Springs has a lot to offer visitors, including views of the iconic Pikes Peak—America’s Mountain. Located along the Front Range corridor, Colorado Springs is a straight shot south of Denver on I-25.

Often generously lumped together with the nearby towns of Manitou Springs, Old Colorado City and Woodland Park, the city provides a plethora of things to do nearby. “The Springs,” is home to some of Colorado’s biggest attractions including the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Garden of the Gods, Seven Falls, U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum and the U.S. Airforce Academy.

RIDE THE RAIL The Pikes Peak Cograil is a 3.5-hour journey full of show-stopping views of the Rockies and 2,000-year-old Bristlecone pine trees, some of the oldest living things on Earth.





Where to explore

1. Pikes Peak Cograil

Climb to the top of one of the most iconic peaks in the country aboard the Pikes Peak Railway. Finishing up a three-year, \$100-million refurbishment, visitors can now enjoy the new Pikes Peak Visitor Center and updated rail cars. cograilway.com

2. Manitou Incline

Earn some bragging rights and complete the hike to the top on the Manitou Incline. Gaining 2,000 feet in elevation in under one mile, the climb is fast and guaranteed to raise your heart rate. Reservations are required to complete this extreme hike. Plan for it to take about 30 minutes for the experienced incliners and Olympic athletes or an hour for most hikers. visitcos.com

3. Soak up “The Springs”

Soak it up with the eight naturally-carbonated mineral springs open to the public in Manitou Springs. Take a self-guided tour to see each spring or rest and relax at the SunWater Spa where you can soak in the mineral-enriched waters. manitousprings.org

4. Penrose Heritage Museum

This year, the Penrose Heritage Museum is celebrating its 80th



anniversary with new exhibits showcasing the legacy of Spencer and Julie Penrose (founders of the Broadmoor) through never-before-seen garments and personal effects, photographs, home film footage and correspondence. elpomar.org

Where to stay

The Broadmoor

Consistently winning both the AAA Five-Diamond and Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star awards, The Broadmoor is Colorado's most acclaimed resort. Explore 5,000 acres of green space, spas, restaurants and luxurious accommodations, plus an additional 2,000 acres with their all-inclusive Wilderness Experience. broadmoor.com

Kinship Landing

Stay, gather, play, explore, drink and eat like a local at the Kinship Land-

ing. Keeping it simple with suites and bunkroom-style accommodations, enjoy its modern downtown location with one of its coolest features—the camping deck. kinshiplanding.com

Garden of the Gods Club & Resort

Resting at the base of Garden of the Gods, the Garden of the Gods Club & Resort is a premier lodging option. Enjoy a round of golf or spend the day relaxing at their deluxe full-service spa. gardenofthegodsresort.com

Cheyenne Mountain Resort

Take in the stunning views of Cheyenne Mountain while playing on a championship golf course, swimming in one of five swimming pools or set sail on the 25-acre lake at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort. cheyennemountain.com

The Mining Exchange

Located in downtown Colorado Springs, The Mining Exchange offers both a bit of history and 4-star amenities including a

full-service spa, two restaurants and exceptional attention to detail and decor. wyndhamhotels.com

SCP Colorado Springs

Hip and chic, the SCP (Soul. Community. Planet.) Colorado Springs provides its guests with accommodations and amenities meant to inspire community conversations and eco-conscious lodging. Its very “cool” decor is seen throughout the lobby, bar area and rooms. schotel.com