**Eldorado Canyon State Park and Coal Creek Canyon**

See blue route on inside map. | Total Drive Time: 2 hours, 15 minutes

It's just a 20-minute drive to Eldorado Canyon State Park — take Hwy. 93 south to Eldorado Springs Drive. Once in the park (entry fees apply), set off on a hiking trail through sandstone cliffs or along South Boulder Creek to find your perfect picnic spot among the pine trees and golden rock walls. Once you’re finished exploring the park, backtrack east on Hwy. 170 to exit the park, then continue on Hwy. 93 again and turn west up beautiful Coal Creek Canyon. Return to Boulder via Gross Dam Road and famously scenic Flagstaff Road. This will take you at least a couple of hours, depending on how often you stop to explore. Along the way, you may want to fish at Gross Reservoir(check for closures in advance as an expansion project is currently underway), try the popular hiking and biking trails at Walker Ranch Loop or stop at Sunrise Amphitheater or Panorama Point on Flagstaff Mountain, both of which overlook all of Boulder.

**Flatirons Vistas via Highways 128 and the Boulder Turnpike**

See green route on inside map. | Total Drive Time: 40 minutes

This route is a great low-elevation option with views of Boulder’s Flatirons. From Boulder, head south on Hwy. 93 and take a left on Hwy. 128. The road here is fit for a luxury car commercial. It snakes its ways through hasyon meadows and rolling hills, and you will pass several impressively large wind turbines at the National Wind Technology Center on your right. After three miles, stop at the pull-off at the top of the hill and look back to the Flatirons — a full, panoramic effect you can’t get while in town. Continue on, making a left at McCaslin Road to connect to Hwy. 36 (also called the Boulder Turnpike). On Hwy 36, pull off at Davidson Mesa (follow the signs for visitor information) for photo ops of Boulder Valley farmland, the red rooftops of University of Colorado and the snow-capped Rocky Mountains beyond. Continue back into Boulder to complete your loop.
BOULDER Enjoy the city’s historic downtown Pearl Street, eat at acclaimed restaurants in what’s been called “America’s Foodiest Town,” hike the famous Flatirons mountains, and explore the University of Colorado.

BOULDER FALLS Pull off of Canyon Shd Hwy 119 on the way to Nederland to see this lovely 70-foot waterfall, accessible via a very short hike.

NEDERLAND Stop in this sunny little mountain town to shop, grab a bite to eat, and take a spin on the wonderfully whimsical Carousel of Happiness.

BARKER RESERVOIR This serene lake teems with birds and is stocked with rainbow trout and other prized species (Colorado fishing license required).

ELDORA This local’s favorite ski resort has 168 acres of varied terrain and is a great choice for families to learn and enjoy skiing.

INDIAN PEAKS WILDERNESS AREA This scenic area is one of the most popular near Denver for outdoor recreation. There are a total of seven peaks above 13,000 feet, more than 50 lakes and 20 trails covering about 130 miles. Late May to early Oct., access to the popular Innes Trailhead is by shuttle from the Nederland Park-n-Ride (Hess@trailhead.com).

BRAINARD LAKE RECREATION AREA Set in a glistening crescent valley, this is a hot spot for snowshoeing in winter and hiking and camping in summer. Lake Isabelle is an especially scenic hike in this area.

SAINT VRAIN CREEK This refreshing tributary runs beside the highway between the town of Ward and the turnoff for Overland Road.

ST. MALO’S CHAPEL ON THE ROCK A lovely photo op awaits at Chapel on the Rock (St. Catherine of Siena Chapel), a classic chapel set against a mountain backdrop.

LONGS PEAK This famous fourteenner mountains above 14,000 feet in visibility is a spectacular behemoth to behold on the horizon.

RAYMOND COUNTRY STORE This little mountain general store is a good place to get out and stretch your legs, buy a cold soda and chat with the friendly purveyor.

GOLDEN GATE CANYON STATE PARK Just 12 miles off of the highway via Gap Rd are 12,000 acres filled with aspen trees, granite boulders, tall grasses and wildflowers—a high-alpine landscape surprisingly close to Boulder and Denver.

BLACK HAWK AND CENTRAL CITY These historic gold rush towns are now known for their casinos and the Central City Opera House.

ALLENSPARK Stop at this cherry mountain town for legendary cinnamon rolls at Mountain Moonshine Cafe and the store to visit Egle Plane’s, a trading post and Native American art gallery that dates back to 1917.

WILD BASIN Heading north from Allenspark, pull over to take some photos of the Wild Basin forest area and views of imposing Mount Meeker and Longs Peak. This is a less-frequented entrance to Rocky Mountain National Park.

BOLDRIDGE WINStop at the historic lodge for a slice of pie and to see (and hear the story behind) the world’s largest key collection.

ESTES PARK As the gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park, this tourist destination offers a scenic riverside, elk trophying through town, horseback picnicking on Lake Estes and tours of the historic Stanley Hotel.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK Crystalline lakes, jagged peaks, wildlife encounters, trickling alpine streams—it’s all here in America’s third most visited national park.

TRAIL RIDGE ROAD This “highway to the sky” in Rocky Mountain National Park is the highest continuous paved road in the country, traveling to more than 12,000 feet. Check rnp.gov for opening and closure information.

Winter Wonderland

The alpine beauty along Peak to Peak is especially striking in winter. Even during times of light snow in Boulder, there is typically ample snow at these higher altitudes. Fill up a thermos of hot cocoa and head to Idaho to ski. Or turn north and explore one of the many snowshoe-ready trails, such as those at Brainard Lake, to enjoy the hushed, snow-blanketed winter wilderness.

Also explore the Boulder Farm Trail Scenic Drive at BoulderColoradoUSA.com/farm-drive.