

TRAVEL BOULDER

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE

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150 Years of Colorado and CU Boulder

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EarthRomer's Expedition Vehicles

EASY ROAD TRIPS

No-Fuss Summer Adventures

SUMMER/FALL 2026

TRAVELBOULDER.COM



Courtesy of Carboy Winery at Mt. Garfield Estate

Ready, Set, Road Trip

5 easy, no-stress
Colorado getaways to
take this summer

By Patricia Kaowthumrong

You don't need to commit to a cross-country haul to find adventure-planning a summer escape can be as simple as a tank of gas and a free weekend.

These Colorado road trips are all less than 300 miles from the Front Range, making them ideal for quick getaways. Whether you're craving scenic hikes, star-studded skies or relaxing hot springs, each destination is easy to customize with scenic pit stops and detours along the way. So, queue up your favorite playlist and hit the open road.

Vail

Approximate Distance: 103 miles

Potential Pit Stops: Westbound & Down Brewing Company in Idaho Springs; the Outlets at Silverthorne; Frisco Bay Marina

Vail is famous for its powder days—but once the snow melts, visitors swap their skis for hiking boots.

Lace up for a waterfall trek on Booth Falls Trail, wander the wildflower-frenzied Shrine Mountain Trail or venture into spruce-fir forests and glacier-carved valleys of Holy Cross Wilderness. Prefer traveling on two wheels? Pedal the paved Vail Recreation Path or tackle some of the region's best singletrack on Vail Mountain.

THINGS TO DO

SUMMER ROAD TRIP



Courtesy of Visit Grand Junction



Courtesy of Visit Grand Junction

Grand Junction and Palisade

Approximate Distance: 260 miles

Potential Pit Stops: Maroon Bells; Mawa's Kitchen in Aspen; Glenwood Hot Springs; Rifle Falls State Park

In Grand Junction and Palisade on Colorado's Western Slope, the state's burgeoning wine industry thrives against a dramatic high-desert backdrop. Here, grape growers and wine makers capitalize on the region's warm days and cool

nights, which produce distinctive, award-winning wines.

The region sits beside Colorado National Monument, where towering sandstone monoliths, winding rim roads and canyon overlooks rival Utah's famous parks—minus the crowds. Hike short trails to panoramic viewpoints or cruise Rim Rock Drive before shifting gears to wine country. Stop at Sauvage Spectrum, known for its disco-ball-adorned tasting room and estate-grown wines, sip thoughtfully crafted vintages at family-owned Restoration Vineyards or relax on the patio at Carboy Winery, home to one of the largest Charmat sparkling wine production facilities outside California.

In downtown Grand Junction, stroll more than 100 outdoor sculptures in the Art on the Corner exhibit, then dine at Taco Party or Bin 707, serving locally sourced cuisine by James Beard-nominated chef Josh Niernberg. Rest your head at the Victorian-style Wine Country Inn, the hip Spoke and Vine Motel or the scholastic-themed Hotel Maverick.

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