



STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

More Colorado

Steamboat Springs: Gateway to one of the world's best thru hikes

This welcoming western town is the newest Continental Divide Trail Gateway Community and the jumping off point for stunning wilderness areas; learn how you can support the wild places you love

[Steamboat Springs](#) exudes a genuine, hospitable western spirit so palpable it's no wonder this mountain destination was recently designated a [Continental Divide Trail \(CDT\) Gateway Community](#). As one of just five gateway communities in Colorado, [Steamboat Springs](#) is committed to providing an inviting environment for hikers trekking the 3,100-mile CDT Scenic Trail, which runs between Mexico and Canada. Designated by Congress in 1978, the CDT is the highest, most challenging and most remote of the 11 National Scenic Trails. In short, it is a treasured national resource, one that is worth protecting and celebrating.

CDT Gateway Communities are recognized for their part in promoting awareness and stewardship of the trail and creating a welcoming environment for people traveling along it.

To that end, the Steamboat Springs Chamber is handing out welcome bags to thru-hikers passing through town on the CDT. The Chamber banded together with several local trail advocacy groups, the U.S. Forest Service and locally-based brands Big Agnes and Point6 to champion the designation and provide the goodie bag, which includes a pair of Point6 socks, Big Agnes swag, a free pint of beer at Mountain Tap, discounted entry to Old Town Hot Springs and more. CDT welcome bags are available at the Steamboat Springs Visitor Center from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the weekends.

The Gateway to Rugged Wilderness and the Headwaters of the Yampa River

Steamboat Springs' gateway status extends beyond the CDT. The area is also the gateway to some of Colorado's most stunning wild areas and the headwaters of the Yampa River, including:

- The Flat Tops Wilderness Area, one of Colorado's top three largest wilderness reserves (235,214 acres), boasting towering peaks, pine trees, 160 miles of trails, volcanic cliffs, alpine tundra, glistening lakes and ponds (110), crashing rivers, and, yes, picturesque bluffs with smooth, flat plateaus.

- The Mount Zirkel Wilderness area and the Zirkel Circle, a gorgeous loop hike just 20 miles north of Steamboat Springs. Located outside of Clark, Colo., the 11-mile Zirkel Circle features breathtaking views, serene mountain streams and gorgeous cobalt blue lakes, including Gilpin, Gold and Mica lakes.
- The headwaters of the Yampa river originates near the town of Yampa, just 30 miles south of Steamboat Springs. The Yampa River, which flows into the Green River at Dinosaur National Monument near the Utah border, is the only unobstructed river in Colorado, with no major diversions or dams. It runs through Steamboat Springs and offers myriad opportunities for adventure, including SUP, tubing, kayaking, rafting and fly-fishing.

SUPPORT THE PLACES YOU LOVE

Donation Stations

This month, you'll see new "donation stations" — refurbished parking meters with credit card readers — popping up at 11 popular local trailheads, as well as a portable station on wheels for local events. The stations give visitors and locals a simple way to support the maintenance of local trails. They are a project of [Steamboat's Trail Maintenance Endowment Fund](#), which supports specific non-motorized trail and trailhead maintenance projects on public lands within Routt and Moffat counties. Look for stations at Stables trailhead, Mile Rule trailhead, Blackmere trailhead, Fetcher Park Core Trail, Bear River Core Trail, Rotary Core Trail, Bus Station Stockbridge Core Trail, Little Toots Park Core Trail, Spring Creek and Ridge/Rotary trailheads.

Pledge for the Wild

With sustainable tourism and responsible recreation top of mind for many people who want to protect the wild places they love, Steamboat Springs and a handful of other mountain towns around the west, including Bend, Ore., Bozeman, Mont., and South Lake Tahoe, Calif., have banded together to create [Pledge for the Wild](#). The new initiative gives visitors an opportunity to give back to the wild places where they love to play by texting WILD4STEAMBOAT to 44-321 to donate. All proceeds directed to Steamboat Springs benefit Steamboat's Trail Maintenance Endowment Fund, which ensures Steamboat's existing trails are maintained well into the future.

Upcoming Work Day

The Continental Divide Trail Coalition (CDTC) is hosting a summer-long celebration of the diverse communities along the trail, called [Faces of the Continental Divide: Sharing Stories, Connecting Communities](#). The festivities begin mid-July and end on National Public Lands Day on Sept. 28. As part of the campaign, Steamboat Springs will host an engaging trail project this fall (date TBD) to celebrate its recent designation as a CDT Gateway Community and to support the important work of the CDTC, which focuses on completing, promoting and

protecting the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. Visit www.steamboatchamber.com in the coming weeks to learn more about the upcoming event.

About Steamboat Springs

A Northwest Colorado gem just 2.5 hours from Denver, Steamboat Springs is a year-round outdoor playground and a historic resort town where western heritage meets abundant adventure. Summertime in Steamboat means miles of single track and endless county roads, tubing the Yampa and soaking in the hot springs, golfing among the peaks and valleys, and exploring the abundant lakes, rivers and streams that dot the landscape. Downtown Steamboat Springs pays tribute to its ranching roots with a renowned weekly rodeo, heritage shops and outfitters, and a culinary community that takes homegrown to new heights. Throughout the summer Steamboat blooms with activity from Lincoln Avenue to the mountain base and beyond. Get Up Here and experience one of Colorado's authentic western mountain towns.