



STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

More Colorado

Travel Like a Local in Steamboat Springs

Follow these 10 simple tips to ensure an environmentally conscious and fun visit

In 2019, more and more travelers are seeking truly local and authentic experiences while on vacation. They're also mindful of their impact on the environment, and keep responsible recreation top of mind because they wish to protect the wild places they love.

In Steamboat Springs, there's a genuine, hospitable western spirit that makes you feel at home even if you're far from it. We want to keep it this way for decades to come. Below are some ways to lessen your impact on our beloved mountain town — we call it being on your “peak behavior” — while you're visiting. We've also included a few tips from Steamboat locals that'll help to ensure you blend right in.

PEAK BEHAVIOR

- Pick up your trash: Pack out what you pack in on trails, or around town. Especially dog poop!
- Reduce your footprint: Natural resources are precious. Bring a water bottle with you, and if you forgot one, stop into one of the many downtown stores that carries them to purchase.
- Follow trail etiquette: Stay on the trail; if you aren't sure, ask a local. Bikers are expected to yield to hikers, and both bikers and hikers are expected to yield to horses.
- Respect plants and animals: Give wildlife plenty of space; make noise when you're hiking, so they know you're there.
- Share the river: When tubing the Yampa, start downstream from Fetcher Park; this leaves the quieter upper portion of the Yampa for fly fishers. Respect private property. And don't forget to skip flip-flops and glass containers.
- Speak up: Don't assume others know; lead by example.
- Soaking in the hot springs is at the top of most visitors' to-do lists. Consider visiting at off peak hours, like first thing in the morning, for the quietest experience. Keep the pools enjoyable for everyone by sharing the space, talking quietly, and not bringing glass.
- Go car-less: Steamboat is a very walkable city with wide sidewalks downtown and a beautiful walking and biking path, called the Yampa River Core Trail, that meanders along the Yampa River. Plus, our city buses are free to use. If you are going to drive, please obey the traffic laws, watch for pedestrians in crosswalks and park in designated spots.

- **BYOB:** Don't forget to bring your own bags. Ditch the plastic bags and pack a reusable one. Like other mountain towns, Steamboat Springs will soon ban single-use plastic bags at large retailers.
- Follow the Golden Rule. Simple: Treat others the way you want to be treated.

LIVE HOW THE LOCALS LIVE

Locals always know best — and Steamboat is no different. Here are some recommendations from the people who know this mountain town the best:

Favorite biking trail: “There are so many great places to bike in the Yampa Valley. I love Rotary Trail for a leisurely ride that is perfect for all ability levels. It's usually where I start my season. Then I head to Morning Gloria on Emerald. I like to take my time on this gorgeous and usually pretty quiet trail, and I pack a little snack for when I reach the top. Pioneer at the Steamboat Ski Resort is a perfect intermediate trail; I'll take the gondola up to avoid the uphill and then fly down the perfectly made switchbacks.” — Loryn Kasten, Steamboat Ski Resort

Favorite family-friendly bike trail: “My favorite biking trail is on Buffalo Pass, parking at Dry Lake and heading out from there. Whether we are cruising Panorama with our young son (with very little climbing and meandering trails through the woods) or hopping over to Flash of Gold, it's a great time for the whole family.” — Traci Smith, Sotheby's International

Favorite hiking trail: “My favorite place to go for a hike is Blackmer, especially if I'm short on time. It's a great workout without being too long, and the view from the top is worth the climb.” — Kendall Perry, City of Steamboat Springs

Best happy hour: “The best Happy Hour is a tie between Aurum — enjoying drinks and snacks while chilling out on the couches around the firepit — or Table 79 where you can enjoy a craft cocktail and amazing bites for half price.” — Traci Smith, Sotheby's International

Best drink: “If I am feeling fancy, definitely The Laundry! We always try their daily infusion, and it never disappoints. The Barley is also a go-to for me. My husband and I even went there the night of our wedding.” — Kendall Perry, City of Steamboat Springs

Best place to watch the sunset:

- “From the Rodeo stands, there is so much energy and excitement that goes hand-in-hand with a beautiful sunset over Emerald Mountain.” — Kim Weber, City of Steamboat Springs
- “The sunsets in the summertime are always spectacular from 20-mile road. Turn left at the library on 13th street, and you're on your way to a beautiful view. The sun is setting behind the Sleeping Giant and it is spectacular.” — Shannon Lukens, Steamboat Radio

GIVE BACK

Looking for meaningful ways to mitigate your impact on Steamboat Springs when you visit? There are two new ways to support the local trails you love to hike and bike on.

- **Donation Stations:** New “donation stations” — refurbished parking meters with credit card readers — recently popped up at 11 popular local trailheads. The stations, a project of [Steamboat’s Trail Maintenance Endowment Fund](#), give visitors and locals a simple way to support the maintenance of local trails.
- **Pledge for the Wild:** 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 allows visitors 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. Not sure how much to give? Even \$1 for each hour you spent on the local trails will help to make sure the trails are beautiful for years to come.

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.