**Day Trips From Denver**

*Updated 1/15/2021*

*Please contact individual organizations to check their current operations, procedures and safety protocols.*

Of all the great things Denver has to offer, the greatest may be its ability to serve as a base camp for incredible one-day excursions. Denver offers quick, easy access to the state’s biggest attraction, the Rocky Mountains, where a wealth of national and state parks, national forests and scenic areas fill your senses. Gold Rush-era mountain towns and ski resorts are great places to spend a day shopping, exploring and taking in the amazing scenery. From Denver, your next great adventure is just around the bend or right over the next ridge.

**Central City and Black Hawk**

Once called the “Richest Square Mile on Earth,” Central City and Black Hawk are two historic mining towns founded in the 1870s. Located 34 miles (55 km) west of Denver, the two towns offer more than 30 casinos with over 10,000 slot machines, poker games and craps, roulette and blackjack tables. The two cities are also known for having some of the most well-preserved Victorian architecture in the West. Other attractions include the Teller House Hotel, where President Grant once stayed, and the Central City Opera House, which still features an outstanding summer season of performances. There are mine tours, mining museums and several places offering instruction in the fine art of gold panning in streams where a half-billion dollars of the coveted, shiny metal was found.

**Georgetown**

Located just 42 miles (68 km) west of Denver, Georgetown is a delightful Victorian village set in a spectacular mountain valley with 200 restored buildings from the 1870s. The main street has shops and restaurants and many of the old homes have been turned into antique stores. The Georgetown Loop Railroad operates in the summer months with narrow-gauge steam locomotives curling down a mountain ledge, at one point crossing over a 90-foot-high (27 m) trestle.

**Mount Evans**

Mount Evans has the highest paved auto road in North America, which snakes its way to the 14,260-foot (4,346 m) summit. The road is open only from the Friday before Memorial Day through the first Monday in October, and frequently has snow on it, even in August. The view from the top takes in the entire Front Range. The summit is 60 miles (97 km) from downtown Denver. On your way up the mountain, be sure to stop at M. Walter Pesman Trail (maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens) for a wildflower hike; you won’t see anything like the rare flowers and 1,500-year-old bristlecone pine trees anywhere else in the world. The trail winds through subalpine and alpine areas where wildflowers and animals of the fragile tundra live. Volunteer guides from Denver Botanic Gardens give interpreted hikes that follow the trail throughout the summer.

**Pikes Peak Country**

Pikes Peak Country is located 60 miles (97 km) south of Denver and features more than 40 attractions centered around 14,000-foot-high (4,267 m) Pikes Peak. Things to see include the U.S. Air Force Academy; the famous Broadmoor Resort with its lake, cascading waterfalls and three golf courses; the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame with exhibits on this exciting professional sport; and Garden of the Gods, which has 500-foot-high (152 m) sandstone monoliths.

**Rocky Mountain National Park**

Located 71 miles (114 km) northwest of Denver, Rocky Mountain National Park features 400 square miles (1,036 sq km) of scenic beauty, including Trail Ridge Road, the highest continuous highway in the world, crossing the Continental Divide at over two miles above sea level. The park has two information centers, hundreds of miles of hiking trails, tranquil lakes, waterfalls, wildlife and horseback riding. Estes Park is a resort town on the edge of the park with restaurants and shops.

**Golden**

Located at the base of the foothills, Golden was the territorial capital until 1867 and remains one of the most historical towns in the state, with several renowned museums, including Buffalo Bill Museum & Grave, the Colorado Railroad Museum, the Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum and the American Mountaineering Museum. And no trip to Golden would be complete without a tour of the Coors Brewery, the largest single brewing site in the world. A short drive from Golden is Red Rocks Park & Amphitheatre, an awesome, awe-inspiring public park and concert venue that has hosted such well-known performers as the Beatles, Led Zeppelin, R.E.M. and U2.