**Denver’s Kid-Friendly Activities and Attractions**

*Updated 1/15/2021*

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

Denver is a year-round playground for families, with countless days of crystal-clear blue skies, a myriad of open spaces and public parks, an endless array of museums and cultural facilities and a multitude of children’s programs. Denver is the ideal city for an unforgettable family excursion.

**Denver Zoo** and **Denver Museum of Nature & Science**

City Park is an expansive oasis boasting tennis courts, picnicking areas, playgrounds, lakes for paddling, a golf course and a spectacular summer concert series.

At the eastern edge of the park, the vaunted **Denver Zoo** thrills kids with its Komodo dragon exhibit, crowd-pleasing primates, an Amur tiger enclosure and a magical carousel comprised of 48 hand-carved animals, all of which are endangered species.

Adjacent to the zoo is the **Denver Museum of Nature & Science**, an interactive museum that explores fossils and dinosaurs, the mysteries of space at Gates Planetarium (it’s out of this world!), Egyptian mummies, the riddles of the human body and a slew of other hands-on exhibits.

**Children’s Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus**

The Platte River Valley, in the heart of the city, boasts a cornucopia of family-friendly attractions and entertainment.

Create, discover and explore at the intriguing Children’s Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus. With one-of-a-kind interactive exhibits, daily activities, year-round special events and surprises, there is always something to do and learn. Come see where so many children, newborn through age 8, bring their grown-ups for a day of play.

Nearby, **Elitch Gardens Theme & Water Park** offers exhilarating adventures galore, including the heart-pounding Mind Eraser, a twisted-steel rollercoaster that spins, dives, drops, rolls and races along the tracks. The water park, a 10-acre swimming area, is a fun-filled splash fest with slippery slides, crashing waves and lazy rivers. If you have young children in tow, there are several pint-sized rides in the KiddieLand area.

Just a short walk away is the **Downtown Aquarium**, a seaworthy spectacle of kaleidoscopic fish coupled with reptile, bird and tiger habitats. Here, amid the astounding marine life, kids can feed the stingrays, swim with the sharks, pan for gold and become a marine biologist for a day.

While you’re in the Platte River Valley, hop aboard the **Denver Trolley**, an open-air streetcar that resembles the trolley on the Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood TV show. The narrated tours provide a fascinating historical account of Denver from its Gold Rush days to the present.

**Denver Art Museum**

Denver Art Museum flaunts a Just for Fun Family Center complete with games, creative, make-it-yourself craft areas and dress-up costumes. On weekends, kids can pick up a family backpack, a portable bag brimming with all sorts of artsy, educational activities. Denver Art Museum is always free for youth 18 and under!

**Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum**

At the Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum, more than 40 airplanes and riveting space-oriented displays occupy the sprawling space, creating an aviation wonderland that allows families to get up close and personal with giant bombers, fighter jets, antique planes and a search-and-rescue helicopter. The museum always has seasonal exhibits, and on the second Saturday of each month, kids can experience the electrifying buzz of climbing into the planes’ cockpits.

**Free/Cheap Activities**

There’s no shortage of fun-filled, free – and nearly free – family activities in Denver.

On the first Tuesday of every month, the **Children’s Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus** hosts complimentary guided story hours and playtimes, from 4 p.m.-8 p.m.

**Denver Art Museum** is always free for children under 18 and there are free days for adults on the first Saturday of each month.

The **Tattered Cover Book Store**, one of the top independent booksellers in the country, hosts hundreds of free children’s events throughout the year, including lectures, book release parties and author appearances.

Denver is an undisputed sports destination, and while tickets to the major sporting events don’t come cheap, in-the-know baseball fanatics purchase discounted **Colorado Rockies** baseball tickets. Check the team’s website for the latest deals.