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**Denver’s Must-See Attractions**

*Updated 1/3/2025*

Here are Denver’s top must-see sights. Warning: it may take more than one visit!

**16th Street Mall**

Lined with trees and flowers, this festive, mile-long pedestrian promenade has more than 40 outdoor cafés and offers Denver’s best people-watching. Hop on the hybrid MallRide shuttles – they’re free and stop on every corner. After dark, horse-drawn carriages clatter up and down the mall. The city is presently revitalizing the mall by expanding and diversifying the tree canopy, adding new artwork, moving the transit lines to the center to increase pedestrian safety and more. At the same time, the city is honoring the mall’s original architect, I.M. Pei. The mall is staying open for business during the upgrades and the project is expected to be completed in 2025.

**Cherry Creek Shopping Center and Cherry Creek North**

[shopcherrycreek.com](http://www.shopcherrycreek.com), [cherrycreeknorth.com](http://www.cherrycreeknorth.com)

Just 15 minutes from downtown, the Cherry Creek neighborhood features both Cherry Creek North and the Cherry Creek Shopping Center, which together offer more than 300 stores, 75 cafes and restaurants, 50 spas and salons and five hotels. It’s where Denver comes to shop, to sip, to browse, to see and be seen.

From world-renowned brands to one-of-a-kind local boutiques, Cherry Creek Shopping Center is Denver’s fashion destination. Experience the largest collection of luxury stores in the region, including Tiffany & Co., Louis Vuitton, Burberry, Tory Burch and Kate Spade New York.

Head across 1st Avenue to find the charming, tree-lined streets of Cherry Creek North. From any of the five distinctive hotels in the district, each with their own character, guests can wander about enjoying more than 250 places to shop, dine, relax and indulge. With the highest concentration of locally owned businesses in the city, it’s easy to immerse yourself in Denver’s authentic style.

**City Park**

Denver’s largest park has several lakes, spectacular mountain views, flower gardens, an 18-hole golf course with a full-size driving range and a hiking/jogging trail that is exactly one mile high.

**The Clyfford Still Museum**

[clyffordstillmuseum.org](http://www.clyffordstillmuseum.org)

Clyfford Still, considered one of the most important painters of the 20th century, was among the first generation of abstract expressionist artists. The museum was founded to promote the late artist's work and legacy. Still's estate of 2,400 artworks had previously been sealed off from the public. There are currently more than 3,100 works of art on display.

**Colorado State Capitol**

[state.co.us](http://www.state.co.us)

Stand exactly 5,280 feet above sea level (one mile high!) on the west steps, then climb to the rotunda for the panorama of snowcapped peaks. It’s against state law to block the view of the 200 named mountains visible from the dome. Free tours are available on weekdays.

**Denver Art Museum**

[denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org)

See the famous Indigenous Arts of North America collection and explore the bold contemporary art inside and out of the Frederic C. Hamilton building, designed by world-famous architect, Daniel Libeskind. In late 2021, the museum unveiled an extensively renovated campus, with updates including expanded galleries, new restaurants and the new Sie Welcome Center.

The Denver Art Museum, located in the Golden Triangle Creative District, also offers free general admission once or twice a month and is free for kids under 18 at all times.

**Denver Botanic Gardens**

[denverbotanicgardens.org](http://www.denverbotanicgardens.org)

This 24-acre oasis in the middle of the city has more than 45 different gardens, as well as one of the nation’s top 10 conservatories. Relax in the Japanese Garden, climb through the Rock Alpine Garden and explore the Mordecai Children’s Garden.

**Denver Performing Arts Complex**

[artscomplex.com](https://www.artscomplex.com/)

The Denver Performing Arts Complex offers the chance to see an exhilarating mix of Broadway tours, Tony-winning theater, long-running cabaret shows, immersive plays and theatre for young audiences.

**Denver Museum of Nature & Science**

[dmns.org](http://www.dmns.org)

The Denver Museum of Nature & Science isfilled with the Earth’s treasures – dinosaurs, dioramas, space exhibits, science experiments and much more. Plus, there’s a digital planetarium, IMAX theater and exciting temporary exhibitions.

**Denver Union Station**

[unionstationindenver.com](https://unionstationindenver.com)

Explore the renovated Denver Union Station, a 1914 Beaux-Arts train station converted into a bustling transportation hub and vibrant gathering space for staying, eating, gathering, shopping and special events.

**Denver Zoo Conservation Alliance**

[denverzoo.org](http://www.denverzoo.org)

Denver Zoo is home to more than 3,000 animals on the 84-acre campus in lovely City Park. Don’t miss the flamingo habitat, featuring Chilean and American flamingos, plus the Toyota Elephant Passage, the largest bull habitat in North America, and The Edge, an engaging Amur tiger exhibit. You can also sign up for personal experiences with parrots, giraffes, rhinos, stingrays and more (changes seasonally). The zoo is a non-profit organization, which runs field conservation programs around the world.

**Downtown Aquarium**

[aquariumrestaurants.com/downtownaquariumdenver](https://www.aquariumrestaurants.com/downtownaquariumdenver)

Visit fish, mammals and plants, including sharks, stingrays and swimming Sumatran tigers. The Swim with the Fish snorkeling adventure will get you under the water to pet a 250-pound grouper or marvel at moray eels. Several times a day, the Mystic Mermaids perform an interactive, underwater show in the Under the Sea exhibit. Buyouts available!

**Elitch Gardens Theme & Water Park**

[elitchgardens.com](https://www.elitchgardens.com)

Located in the heart of Denver for over 125 years, Elitch Gardens is America’s only downtown theme and water park. April through October, catch thrill rides, including Meow Wolf’s Kaleidoscape dark ride. On the other side of the park, cool off in a wet ‘n’ wild water park with tubes, waterslides and wave pools (Memorial Day through Labor Day). The ideal facility for groups of 10 to 10,000, Elitch Gardens’ exclusive picnic sites are located in covered pavilions settled in beautifully landscaped areas.

**History Colorado Center**

[historycolorado.org/history-colorado-center](https://www.historycolorado.org/history-colorado-center)

Celebrate Colorado's most precious treasures in a stunning, state-of-the-art cultural venue in the heart of downtown Denver at the unique History Colorado Center. Featuring incredible views, an outdoor terrace, a bridal suite and a four-story atrium, the center can accommodate events from 20 to 1,000 in style.

**Larimer Square**

[larimersquare.com](http://www.larimersquare.com)

This historic block of Victorian buildings is now home to chic shopping, a comedy club, outdoor cafés and some of Denver’s best chef-owned restaurants.

**LoDo Historic District**

[lodo.org](http://www.lodo.org)

Denver's happening historic district is filled with turn-of-the-century warehouses, now home to brewpubs, sports bars, restaurants and rooftop cafés. Stop by Rockmount RanchWear for a snap button Western shirt at the store where they were invented or sip a handcrafted beer at the Wynkoop Brewing Company, Denver’s first brewpub.

**Red Rocks Park & Amphitheatre**

[redrocksonline.com](http://www.redrocksonline.com)

Carved from towering red rock monoliths, this 9,525-seat arena is one of the world’s most renowned concert venues and has hosted everyone from the Beatles to Bruce Springsteen. Listening to a concert here is on the bucket list of every true music fan. When there's no concert, the Visitor Center has a museum and Performers Hall of Fame display, while the surrounding park has hiking trails that weave in, around and over the colorful red rocks.

**U.S. Mint**

[usmint.gov/about/mint-tours-facilities/denver](https://www.usmint.gov/about/mint-tours-facilities/denver)

Learn how to make money! The mint produces 50 million coins a day, each one stamped with a little “D” for Denver. Free tours show every step in the process of turning a dull, blank, metal slug into shiny pocket change.

**Within An Hour From Denver**

**Boulder**

[bouldercoloradousa.com](http://www.bouldercoloradousa.com)

Boulder has been described as the “the city nestled between the mountains and reality.” Studies frequently list it among the happiest places in the U.S. Find out why when you stroll past the shops, cafés and street performers on the Pearl Street Mall, or take a hike on the city’s 200 miles of trails. It’s also the home of the University of Colorado Boulder. Nearby attractions include the National Center for Atmospheric Research’s museum dedicated to weather and climate change, and towering Eldorado Canyon State Park, one of the most famous technical climbing centers in America. Boulder is 27 miles (43 km) from Denver on Highway 36.

**Buffalo Bill Museum & Grave**

[buffalobill.org](http://www.buffalobill.org)

Welcome to the Wild West! Buffalo Bill Cody’s exciting story as Pony Express rider, army scout, buffalo hunter and showman comes to life at this fun museum, high atop Lookout Mountain. Enjoy views of the snowcapped Rockies in one direction and the Great Plains in the other. For those with strong nerves, drive to the museum on the hairpin Lariat Loop Drive, then continue to I-70, exit 250, to see a live herd of buffalo.

**Central City & Black Hawk**

[cityofblackhawk.org](http://www.cityofblackhawk.org)

Located 34 miles (55 km) west of Denver, these two old gold mining towns (once known as the “Richest Square Mile on Earth”) have come alive with casino gambling. Two dozen casinos rock around the clock with 10,000 slot machines, poker, black jack, roulette and craps. The surrounding hills are covered with abandoned gold mines, Victorian buildings and Old West history.

**Colorado Railroad Museum**

[coloradorailroadmuseum.org](http://www.coloradorailroadmuseum.org)

Surrounded by towering buttes, the Colorado Railroad Museum combines a spectacular location with more than 100 narrow- and standard-gauge locomotives, cabooses and cars. Exhibits include a working roundhouse, model railroads, photographs and artifacts, much of it housed in a replica of an 1880s-style depot. Train rides every Saturday on the Galloping Goose take guests on a mile loop of track, while “Steam ups” and special events, including “A Day Out With Thomas” occur throughout the year.

**Coors Brewery Tour**

[coorsbrewerytour.com](https://www.coorsbrewerytour.com)

“Taste the Rockies!” The world’s largest brewing site still uses the same Rocky Mountain spring water that Adolph Coors discovered in 1873. Tours for those ages 21 and up show every step in the brewing process.

**Echo Lake and Mount Blue Sky**

[colorado.com/byways/mount-evans](https://www.colorado.com/byways/mount-evans)

The highest paved road in North America climbs 9,000 feet from Denver, passing through five life zones en route to the 14,264-foot high summit. This is one of Colorado’s 54 fourteeners (peaks that climb to 14,000 feet and higher), and one of only two in the nation that you can drive up. Stop at Echo Lake along the way for hiking trails, fishing, picnic tables and an unusual eight-sided log cabin restaurant. At timberline, Denver Botanic Gardens maintains a trail that winds through wildflowers. Due to snow, the Mount Blue Sky Scenic Byway (Highway 5) is generally open to the top only between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Note: The upper part of the byway will be closed to motorized and non-motorized traffic for all of 2025 due to construction improvements. Access to the Mount Blue Sky summit will only be available via various hiking trails.

**Georgetown**

[georgetown-colorado.org](http://www.georgetown-colorado.org)

Nestled in a steep mountain valley, the “Silver Queen” is one of Colorado’s most elegant mining towns with 200 Victorian buildings. Ride the Georgetown Loop Railroad over a 100-foot-high trestle to neighboring Silver Plume, tour historic homes and shop on the quaint Main Street that has been used in films by Clint Eastwood and John Denver. It’s located 42 miles (68 km) west of Denver on I-70.

**Golden**

[visitgolden.com](https://www.visitgolden.com)

Colorado’s first capital celebrates its Old West history and mountain location with a trendy downtown filled with galleries and shops. Sip a beer at an outdoor café while kayakers float by on fast-rushing Clear Creek.

**If You Have A Full Day**

**Rocky Mountain National Park**

[nps.gov/romo](http://www.nps.gov/romo)

Colorado’s No. 1 attraction is 71 miles (114 km) from Denver and offers an unforgettable trip into the heart of the Rocky Mountains. More than 350 miles of trails meander to valleys of wildflowers, thundering waterfalls, high alpine lakes and craggy, snowcapped peaks. Trail Ridge Road is the highest continuous highway in the world with panoramic views in all directions. See elk, moose and big horn sheep, while hawks and eagles circle overhead. At the entrance to the park, the historic resort village of Estes Park offers shopping, dining and lodging.

*If you have questions, please email* [*website@visitdenver.com*](mailto:website@visitdenver.com)*.*