Things to Do in Denver
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Walk-able/RTD Accessible
downtown attractions

Writer’s Square
1512 Larimer Street, Denver, CO 80202
(Walk/ride 6 blocks northwest along the 16th Street Mall, and go 1 block west)
There are plenty of galleries, shops, and things to see in this inspirational setting in the middle of the city.

Larimer’s Square
<http://www.larimersquare.com>
1430 Larimer, Denver CO, 80202
(Take the 16th Street Mall Ride to Larimer, walk west. Along Larimer between 14th and 15th)
Some of the best shopping, dining, and nightlife in the Mile High City.

museums and history

Museum of Contemporary Art
<http://www.mcartdenver.org>
1485 Delgany, Denver, CO 80202, (303) 298-7554
Housed in a newly-designed, eco-friendly building, the MCA has a large photography gallery and contemporary sculpture in paper, glass, and metal. We highly suggest strolling along the riverfront on your way there. Take the #MALL/Loop to Commons Park, and circle back along the Cherry Creek path to 15th and Delgany. Admission is $10 ($9 if you walk or take the RTD). The museum is open Tuesday-Sunday 10 am–6 pm, Friday until 10 pm.

Denver Art Museum
<http://www.denverartmuseum.org>
100 W 14th Avenue Pkwy, Denver, CO 80204, (720) 865-5000
With everything from impressionists to contemporary art, and a large collection of American Indian art, the DAM has a lot to offer. Admission is $20. The museum is open Tuesday-Thursday and Saturday 10-5; Friday 10-10; Sunday noon-5pm.

Colorado History Museum
<http://www.coloradohistory.org/hist_sites/chm/colorado_history_museum.htm>
1300 Broadway, Denver, Colorado 80203, (303) 866-3682
There’s a lot to explore here in Colorado history, including “The Colorado Chronicle 1800-to-1949,” an interesting collection of photographs, news clippings, and paraphernalia that illustrate Colorado’s pioneer past. Admission is $7. The museum is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday from noon to 5:00 pm.

State Capitol Building
<http://colorado-for-free.com/FreeThingsToDoColorado/Capitol.htm>
1475 Sherman St, Denver, CO 80202, (303) 866-2604
This is a beautifully designed building plated with Colorado gold and lots of statues, monuments, and fountains. Free tours available. Open Monday through Friday, 7:00 am–5:30 pm.

**The US Mint in Denver**

[http://www.usmint.gov/mint_tours/index.cfm?action=StartReservation]

320 W Colfax Ave, Denver, CO 80204-2693, (303) 572-9500

Making a reservation is required (use the website above) to visit the mint, but it’s a fun and interesting tour that blends Colorado’s gold history with the making of money. Free guided tours start on the hour and are available from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

**strolls, gardens, and parks**

**Denver Botanic Gardens**

[http://www.botanicgardens.org]

1005 York St, Denver, CO 80206, (720) 865-3500

Denver Botanic Gardens at York Street presents a wide range of gardens and collections that illustrate an ever-widening diversity of plants from all corners of the world. Distinctive gardens define and celebrate our Western identity and our unique high altitude climate and geography. Cost: $10.50 for adults, $7.50 for seniors 65+, $7.50 for visitors with a military ID, $6.00 for youth 4-15, $6.00 for students with ID, and free for children 3 and under. Open Saturday through Tuesday, 9 am to 8 pm, Wednesday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm.

**Cheesman Park**


2300 Steele Street, Denver, CO 80205

Located just behind the Denver Botanic Gardens, Cheesman Park provides a 150-mile panoramic view from the Cheesman Memorial Pavilion to the Front Range and hosts summer concerts. Slides and swings in the large playground entertain the children.

**Denver Zoo**

[http://www.denverzoo.org]

3477 E 36th Ave, Denver, CO 80205, (303) 376-4800

Located in Denver’s City Park, the Zoo’s main entrance is on 23rd Avenue between Colorado Boulevard and York Street. The zoo features a wide variety of exotic and local animals; the polar bear exhibit, the penguin habitat, and the ape exhibit are favorites amongst visitors. Cost: Ages 12-64: $11; Ages 65+: $9; Ages 3-11: $7; 2 and under are free. Open 9 am to 6 pm, admission gates close at 5:00 pm.

**Museum of Nature and Science**

[http://www.dmns.org/main/en/]

2001 Colorado Boulevard, Denver, Colorado 80205, (303) 322-7009

A fairly large museum, its variety of exhibits are a favorite amongst first-time Denver visitors. Open seven days a week from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Cost: $10-$20 for adults, $6-$14 for kids and seniors. From 9:00 am to 2:30 pm, tickets to Gates Planetarium must be purchased at the special combination price (Museum + Planetarium) that includes the cost of general Museum admission. Planetarium-only tickets are available for the 3:00 pm show or any shows thereafter (must be purchased on-site). Admission fees and hours are subject to change.

**Washington Park**


S. Downing St. & E. Louisiana Ave, Denver, CO

Wash Park is a true haven for fitness enthusiasts. Perhaps the most famous park in Denver, it features a recreation center with indoor pool, bicycle/pedestrian pathway, boating, a crushed granite jogging path, fitness course, fishing, horseshoe pit, indoor pool, lawn bowling/croquet, soccer field, tennis courts, lighted
tennis courts, two playgrounds, four picnic sites, boathouse pavilion, two lakes, 1/2 basketball court, two major flower gardens, and a youth fishing pond.

The Ninth Street Historic Park and the Golda Meir House

[http://www.ahec.edu/campus/landmarks.htm]
9th Street, Denver, CO 80204, (303) 556-3292
At the heart of the Auraria Campus, thirteen restored Victorian cottages and one turn-of-the century grocery store serve as a picturesque reminder of the city’s earliest days. The structures on Ninth Street Historic Park, built between 1872 and 1906, comprise the oldest restored block of residences in the city. Ninth Street houses now serve as campus offices. A self-guided walking tour at each building provides information on architecture and early residents. There is no charge for visiting the Park.

The Golda Meir House
1146 Ninth Street Park, Denver, CO 80204, (303) 556-3292
The only remaining U.S. residence of former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir, a Denver landmark, serves as a museum, conference center, and the Metropolitan State College of Denver Golda Meir Center for Political Leadership.

South Pearl Neighborhood and Stella’s Coffee House
[http://www.oldsouthpearlstreet.com/]
1476 S Pearl St, Denver, CO (303) 777-1031
Old South Pearl Street is South Denver’s favorite destination. Unique shopping, excellent dining and community minded businesses in a delightful, pedestrian friendly setting. Don’t forget to stop for coffee at Stella’s at 1476 South Pearl Street.

Cherry Creek Trail
[http://www.denvertrails.com/TrailNarratives/CherryCreekTrail.html]
Following Cherry Creek southeast for 39.79 miles, the Cherry Creek Trail begins at the Platte River North Trail and the Platte River South Trail at the confluence the South Platte River and Cherry Creek in west downtown Denver just south of 15th Street and ends at Cherry Creek Walker Road, just south of State Highway 86 and just southwest of Franktown.

shopping

Tattered Cover
[www.tatteredcover.com]
1628 16th Street, Denver, CO, (303) 436-1070
526 East Colfax Avenue, Denver, CO (303)-322-7727
This is a truly great independent book store, with two very large Denver locations. Both locations are open until at least 9:00 pm Mon-Sat, and until 6:00 pm on Sunday. The LoDo store (on 16th) is within walking distance of downtown, at the NW end of the 16th Street Mall and Wynkoop, in the restored Morey Mercantile Building. The Colfax store is the largest location (150,000+ titles), and it is located in a new retail complex in what used to be the historic Lowenstein Theater. The complex now also houses an art house movie theater (Flix on Fax) and is next door to Twist & Shout Records.

Twist & Shout Records
[http://www.twistandshout.com/]
2508 E. Colfax Ave., Denver, CO 80206, (303) 722-1943
Located right next to the Tattered Cover on Colfax and easily accessible on the #15 bus, Twist & Shout is one of Denver’s premiere independent music stores. They feature a large selection of CDs, DVDs, vinyl, books, and accessories. The store also features in-store appearances by local and national musicians.
The 16th Street Mall
16th Street running from Broadway to Wynkoop, Denver, CO
This is a sprawling, 16-block-long pedestrian mall that is closed to street traffic, except for its free shuttle busses. There are a wide array of restaurants and businesses along the mall. A nighttime highlight is Lannie’s Clocktower Cabaret (16th Street Mall and Arapahoe), with fun nightly musical and comedy reviews.

The Cherry Creek Mall
3000 East First Avenue Denver, CO 80206, 303-388-3900
Cherry Creek is Denver’s premier indoor shopping mall, with over 160, high-end shops and restaurants. The mall includes: Nordstrom, Neiman Marcus, Sacks Fifth Avenue, and Macy’s. Across the street is the Cherry Creek North outdoor retail area, which includes dozens of upscale boutiques and restaurants, including Elway’s Steakhouse.

The Denver Pavilions
500 16th St # 10, Denver, CO 80202, (303) 260-6001 (info line)
An outdoor shopping, dining, and entertainment complex located at the SE end of the 16th Street Mall (16th Street Mall and Welton), including a 15 screen movie theater and a bowling alley (see “fun” section below).

Rockmount Ranch Wear
1626 Wazee St, Denver, CO 80202, (303) 629 7777
An icon of western apparel, Rockmount is owned and operated by the 107 year-old Jack A. Weil, the oldest CEO in America, who still works daily. He created the first western shirt with snaps, and sold the first commercially-produced bolo ties. Rockmount apparel is often worn by Bruce Springsteen, Robert Redford, Bob Dylan, Heath Ledger, and Jake Gyllenhaal.

fun

The following theaters, easily reachable via public transportation, all feature independent and foreign films, and documentaries:

Starz! Film Center at Tivoli Square
Denver Film Society at the Starz FilmCenter, 900 Auraria Parkway, Denver, CO 80204 (303) 595-3456 x250
Neighborhood Flix Cinema & Café
2510 East Colfax Avenue, Denver, CO 80206 (303) 777-FLIX (3549)
The Esquire Theatre
590 Downing Street, Denver, CO 80218 (303) 352-1992
Mayan Theater
110 Broadway, Denver, CO 80203 (303) 352-1992

Colorado Theater Guild
(303) 778-7724
A non-profit organization, the Colorado Theater Guild (CTG) sponsors a variety of live theater productions around the Denver area.

Rocky Mountain Roller Girls Roller Derby
Bladium Sports Club, 2400 Central Park Blvd., Denver, CO 80238, 720.984.3132
The Rocky Mountain Roller Girls represent professional roller derby (yes that’s right, professional roller derby) for Denver. They have a bout on Sunday, July 13 at 12:30 pm. Tickets are $13 per bout.

Coors Field Tours
<http://colorado.rockies.mlb.com/col/ballpark/tours.jsp>
2001 Blake Street, Denver, CO 80205. (303) ROCKIES
While the defending NL champs are not in town during the conference, they do play the Florida Marlins the weekend before. You can also tour Coors Field Monday – Saturday during the regular season. Tours are $7 for adults, $6 for adults 55+, and $5 for children 12 and under.

Dazzle
<http://www.dazzlejazz.com>
930 Lincoln Street, Denver, CO 80203. (303) 839-5100
Dazzle is Denver’s premiere night club for straight-ahead jazz, and features live performances every night of the week. In addition to great music, Dazzle features a full menu for dinner (every night), lunch (Friday), and brunch (Sunday). Open Sunday-Thursday and Saturday at 4, happy hour from 4-6:30 pm; Friday open at 11 am, happy hour 11-6:30 pm, Friday Lunch 11-2 pm; Sunday Brunch 9:30 am-1:30 am.

especially for families

Elitch Gardens
2000 Elitch Circle, Denver CO 80204, (303) 595-4386 / guest relations (303) 595-4386
This 70 acre amusement and water park located downtown features more than 50 rides, shows and attractions. Admission also includes the Island Kingdom Water Park, with more than 11 rides and attractions. From I-25, go south on Speer Boulevard (Exit Speer South) then turn right onto Elitch Circle. Guests may also arrive via RTD bus or Light Rail. Main Gate General Admission $34.99; Restricted Use (guests w/ disabilities or under 48 inches tall) $19.99; Children under three and guests over 70 FREE. Open 10:00 am–9:00 pm daily.

Downtown Aquarium
<http://www.aquariumrestaurants.com/downtownaquariumdenver/flash_content/index.html>
700 Water Street, Denver, CO 80211, (303) 561-4450
Nine habitat exhibits feature different animals and ecosystems. After your adventure, check out the restaurant, which boasts a 150,000 gallon aquarium and a good kids’ menu. Before 6:00 pm, adults $13.75; Children 4-12 $8.25; 3 and under FREE. After 6:00 pm exhibits and parking are free w/ restaurant receipt. Exhibits are open Sun-Th 10:00 am-9:00 pm; Fri-Sat 10:00 am-10:00 pm. The Restaurant is opens Sun-Th 11:00 am-9:00 pm; Fri-Sat 11:00 am-10:00 pm.

Children’s Museum of Denver
<http://www.cmdenver.org>
2121 Children’s Museum Drive, Denver, CO 80211, (303) 433-7444
The Children’s Museum of Denver offers 11 innovative and interactive Playscapes, educational daily programming, and special events all year long for children newborn through age eight. You can grab lunch or a snack at the Eat Street Café. Children under 1 are free, age 1: $5.50, ages 2-59: $7.50, and seniors (60+): $5.50. Open Monday-Friday 9:00 am-4:00 pm, and Saturday and Sundays 10:00 am-5:00 pm.

Check out Denver’s Go City Kids Web Site <http://gocitykids.parentsconnect.com/?area=191> for information about family-friendly restaurants, performances, story times, parks, and more.
Driving Accessible

Colorado Springs
<http://www.experiencecoloradosprings.com>
Colorado Springs is 75 miles south of Denver, along I-25
Shop and dine in downtown Colorado Springs, hike or rock climb on the amazing rock formations at the Garden of the Gods http://www.gardenofgods.com (North 30th Street Colorado Springs, CO). Admission to the Garden of the Gods is free. Garden of the Gods is open from 5 am to 11 pm; the Visitor’s Center is open from 8 am to 8 pm. Another adventure in the Springs is to ride the Cog Railway http://www.cograilway.com up Pikes Peak (altitude: 14,110 feet). (515 Ruxton Ave, Manitou Springs, CO 80829, (719) 685-5401). A roundtrip ticket on the Pike’s Peak Cog Railway is $32.50. The Pike’s Peak Cog Railway’s first trip is at 8 am each day. Note: it will be significantly cooler on Pike’s Peak than it is in Denver, so check a weather forecast and dress accordingly. The sun’s rays are more intense and your body can more easily dehydrate at high altitude, so bring sunscreen and plenty of drinking water.

Town of Evergreen
Evergreen is 30 miles west of Denver. Evergreen is bounded on the west by Mt. Evans. Take I-70 West to Evergreen Parkway (Hwy 74). Signs to Mount Evans will direct you from there.
Shop and dine in downtown Evergreen, hike on one of the many trails in and around the town, or drive or hike Mt. Evans, one of Colorado’s 53 fourteens (Mt. Evans rises 14,260 feet above sea level), and see plenty of bighorn sheep and mountain goats. Note: it will be significantly cooler on Mt. Evans than it is in Denver, so check a weather forecast and dress accordingly. The sun’s rays are more intense and your body can more easily dehydrate at high altitude, so bring sunscreen and plenty of drinking water. $10/car gives you access to Mt. Evans for three days. Mt. Evans is open 24 hours a day.

Renaissance Festival
<http://www.coloradorenaissance.com>
South Wilcox Street, Castle Rock, CO 80104, (303) 688-6010
Starting July 14th and going through August 3rd, you will discover hundreds of authentically costumed Merrymakers who live and work throughout the village, performing continuously on the Festival’s seven stages. Bring plenty of sunscreen, hats, water, and comfortable walking shoes. If a stroller is a must, try one equipped for off-road (e.g. jogger, etc.) as the festival grounds are very bumpy (and dusty). Use I-25, south from Denver to Exit 173. Travel time is 25 to 30 minutes from Denver. Get there early in the day to beat the heat and the crowds. Pets aren’t allowed and discount tickets are available at all King Soopers: (303) 688-6010. The festival is open from 10 am to 6:30 pm. Adults: $17.95; Children (5-12): $8, (under 5): free; order online before June 4 and save $1-$2.

Golden, Colorado
Golden is 15 miles West of Denver; Coors Brewery: 311 10th St, Golden, CO, (303) 277-6363
Stroll around Golden’s historic downtown, check out Buffalo Bill’s grave, hike a plateau, and then finish your day with a tour of the Coors Brewery (and enjoy complimentary beer). Brewery tours are free and conducted Monday through Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm.
**Red Rocks Park and Amphitheater**  
<http://www.redrocksonline.com/index.asp>  
905 Bear Creek Ave, Morrison, CO, (303) 697-0270  
The park includes a Visitor’s Center, hiking trails, and the incredible geologically formed amphitheatre carved out of red sandstone. You might also consider catching a show (the True Colors Tour is July 5, Boston and Styx are July 13, and the Foo Fighters are July 14 and 15). The park is located 15 miles west of Denver in the town of Morrison. The park is free, unless you want tickets to a show. The park, amphitheatre, and hiking trails are open from 5 am to 11 pm. The Visitor’s Center is open from 8 am to 7 pm.

**Rocky Mountain National Park**  
<http://www.rocky.mountain.national-park.com>  
1000 US Highway 36, Estes Park, CO, (970) 586-1206  
Rocky Mountain National Park features hiking, fishing, bird and wildlife viewing. Drive the park’s Trail Ridge Road for 45 miles of spectacular views. The nearby town of Estes Park offers dining and shopping, as well as the historic Stanley Hotel, which offers panoramic views of the Rocky Mountains and was featured in the mini-series version of *The Shining*. The park and Estes Park is approximately 80 miles northwest of Denver. The park costs $20, which allows a carload of people entrance to the park for up to seven days. A one-hour tour of the Stanley Hotel is $10. The park is open 24 hours a day. Call the hotel to schedule a tour (800-976-1377).

**Colorado Irish Festival**  
<http://www.coloradoirishfestival.org>  
Clement Park, 7306 W Bowles Avenue, Littleton, CO 80213  
The festival goes from July 11th through the 13th. It is considered the finest and largest Irish celebration in the Rocky Mountains, with traditional Irish music performed by international stars, Irish Feis (Irish dancing competition), Irish drama and storytelling, crafts, souvenirs, games, food and, of course, Irish drink. There is free parking at Columbine High School. Discounted tickets are available in advance online or by calling (303) 561.4007. Open Friday 6-9 pm, Saturday and Sunday 10 am-10 pm. Adult tickets are $10-$12; Children (under 12) are free with an adult.

**Celestial Seasonings**  
<http://www.celestialseasonings.com/>  
4600 Sleepytime Dr, Boulder, CO 80301, 303-530-5300  
Take a free tour of Celestial Seasonings, tour the world’s most advanced tea production plant, and have the chance to enjoy the extensive display of original artwork in the gallery and enjoy free samples of all the tea flavors. Guided tours start on the hour. Open Monday through Friday: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm; Saturday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Sunday 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

**Pearl Street in Boulder**  
<http://www.boulderdowntown.com>  
Pearl Street, between 11th St. and 15th St. in Boulder, CO 80301  
Big, bright tulips fill the square gardens that line this unparalleled pedestrian mall. You can stroll along the brick-covered Pearl Street Mall, browsing around the large selection of shops downtown Boulder has to offer. The great selection of art galleries, jewelry stores, clothing stores, sporting goods stores, and much more should keep you happily busy for hours! Street performers line the street, giving pedestrians a shopping alternative.
Chautauqua Park
<http://www.chautauqua.com/aboutus_history.htm>
900 Baseline Road, Boulder, Colorado 80302, (303) 442-3282
Take a walk around the beautiful park, view historical landmarks, eat at the dining hall, take in a concert, and see up close the unrivaled beauty of the Colorado Flatirons. Today, the Colorado Chautauqua is one of three remaining Chautauquas in the United States, and the only site west of the Mississippi River in continuous operation with its original structures intact. The Dining Hall is open for breakfast, lunch, dinner.

Dushanbe Teahouse
<http://www.boulderteahouse.com>
1770 13th St., Boulder, CO, 80302, 303-442-4993
Sip tea on the beautiful outdoor patio or eat a sumptuous meal inside the only authentic Tajikistan teahouse in the western hemisphere. Dushanbe, the capitol of Tajikistan, is Boulder’s sister city and gifted the city of Boulder with this teahouse in exchange for a cybercafé. Directions from Denver - Take 36 west until it turns into 28th Street. Take a left onto Arapahoe Ave. Make a right on 13th Street. The Teahouse is on the right (east) side of the street. Open 8 am to 9 pm every day.

Colorado Shakespeare Festival
<http://www.coloradoshakes.org>
University of Colorado, Boulder, Boulder, CO, (303) 492-0554 (Box Office)
There are both indoor and outdoor stages. Love’s Labour Lost goes on stage July 10 at 8:30 and July 11 at 8:30. Henry VIII goes on stage July 11 at 7:30 (opening night) and July 12 at 7:30. Macbeth goes on stage July 12 at 8:30. Please see map online for directions to parking areas. The Euclid Auto Park and Lot 380, both convenient to the theatres, cost only $2.00 after 5 pm weekdays and all day on weekends. Be sure to leave time to walk from your parking area to the theatre. Tickets are $14-$54.

For more events in and around Denver, see the Denver “Best of” from the Westword <http://bestof.westword.com>

hikes and camping: Rocky Mountain National Park

Lawn Lake Trail
The Lawn Lake Trailhead is located 2 miles north of Highway 36 along Fall River Road. Take Route 36 through Boulder and into Estes Park. Enter the park at Beaver Meadows and continue on 36 to Deer Ridge Junction. Turn right onto Hwy 34 and drive 1.9 miles to Fall River Road. Turn left onto Fall River Road. The trailhead is on the right-hand side. (From Denver: 2 hrs)
A long (6.5 miles one way) but moderately easy trail, Lawn Lake starts at the southeast end of the park and walks northeast in view of the Mummy range. The trail is nicely shaded for its entirety and follows the Roaring River for some breathtaking spots along the way. In fact, just before reaching Lawn Lake at 10,997 feet, hikers walk along a waterfall created by the river. The view of the lake itself is inspiring, and the weather is amazing. Bring at least a quart of water, good hiking shoes, and a small lunch. Eat your lunch at the waterfall and enjoy a breathtaking view of the rest of the park. Bring an extra layer (perhaps especially a raincoat for the afternoon showers), sunscreen, sunglasses, and perhaps a flashlight in case you need it for the way back down. Otherwise, get an early start.
“The Loch,” Timberline Falls, and Sky Pond Trail

<http://www.nps.gov/romo/planyourvisit/hikes.htm>

Park at Glacier Gorge Junction along Bear Lake Road. Take Route 36 through Boulder and into Estes Park. Enter the park at Beaver Meadows. Take a left toward Bear Lake (Hwy 36, also Bear Lake Road). (From Denver: 2 hrs, 15 min)

Considered a medium trail (up to the Loch) to strenuous (up to Timberline Falls) trail, there is a lot to see along this 4.2-mile hike (one way). In the first half-mile, you’ll walk by Alberta Falls. The trail ascends to the northeast, up and over, and then between peaks leading to The Loch, 2.7 miles (one way) from the trailhead. If you’re still not feeling tired, keep going along the trail around The Loch, toward Timberline Falls. When you reach the falls, turn around and enjoy the view from over 10,500 feet. If you are still feeling adventurous, literally climb up the side of the falls (about 30 yards) and visit Lake of Glass (which feeds Timberline Falls) and Sky Pond (10,900 feet). Bring at least a quart of water, good hiking shoes, and a small lunch. Eat your lunch at The Loch and enjoy the elk that drink there. Bring an extra layer (perhaps especially a raincoat for the afternoon showers), sunscreen, and sunglasses.

Long’s Peak Trail to Chasm Lake

<http://www.cs.utexas.edu/users/novak/rmnp/reports/chasm.html>

Take Route 36 through Boulder into Estes Park. In Estes Park, go left onto Hwy 7 (south). The Long’s Peak trailhead is approximately 18 miles on the right. (From Denver: 2 hrs, 15 min)

Probably the most famous and awe-inspiring trail in the park, this trail—if you so choose—can take you up to one of Colorado’s most famous 14’ers, which can be seen from the Denver skyline. The trail begins at the Long’s Peak Ranger Station (9,500 ft.). For the first hour, you’ll be in an amazing wilderness, skirting and switch-backing alongside mountain streams. When you leave the trees, another good hour is spent (still walking up) between Meeker and Mt. Lady Washington, two major peaks that lead you toward Chasm Lake and are in the shadow of Long’s Peak. The trail forks here—one trail goes to Long’s Peak and the other trail goes to Chasm Lake. Take the left trail, and you’ll descend briefly alongside along side Peacock Pool, with an amazing view of Columbine Falls, which is the base of Chasm Lake. (Watch for marmot!) A medium-difficulty trail, Chasm Lake is 4.2 miles one-way at 11,760 feet. Bring at least a quart of water, good hiking shoes, and a small lunch. The weather gets considerably colder once you leave the trees, so bring an extra layer (perhaps especially a raincoat for the afternoon showers), sunscreen, and sunglasses.
other day hikes

Alderfer/Three Sisters Park and Evergreen Mountain

Evergreen is 30 miles west of Denver. Take I-70 west to Evergreen Parkway (Hwy 74) and into downtown Evergreen. Turn right onto Hwy 73 and right again onto Buffalo Park Road. There are two parking lots on the right. The first will provide access to Evergreen Mountain; the second provides access to the Wild Iris Loop (an open space hike).

The trails here are easy, easily accessible, and a great way to spend a beautiful afternoon. There are two trailheads for Evergreen Mountain: East and West, and both are a nice way to begin. The East trailhead (in the first parking lot you come to) begins with a mountain meadow, where you’ll be sure to find wild columbine, and has a more gradual hike up to the Summit Trail at the top of the mountain. The West trailhead (in the second parking lot) is steeper and will get hikers there more quickly. We suggest a loop instead (about 4 miles total). The Summit trail at the top of Evergreen Mountain provides amazing views of the town (to the east) and Mount Evans (to the west). While these trails can be done at almost any time of the day, do be mindful of mountain bikers who are prevalent on these trails especially on weekends. Bring at least about a quart of water, a snack, and good walking shoes.

Moraine Park Campground

Moraine is approximately 3 miles. (From Denver: 2 hrs)

The Moraine campground is centrally located in the park, and campers have short driving access to many of the park’s best trails. It’s situated just above the Moraine Meadow, where elk and a lot of other wildlife can be viewed and occasionally visited. Moraine is the most “modern” of the campgrounds in the park and offers good-to-excellent bathroom and shower facilities. Get your reservations early though (and
confirm them with a credit card). The grounds fill up fast, especially on the weekend. Reservations are taken and recommended from May 21 to October 6, 2008 but first-come, first-served for the remainder of the year. Camping fee $20/site/night during the reservation period and when water is on; the fee after water is turned off is $14/site/night. Recreational vehicle and trailer length limit is 35 feet.

Long’s Peak Campground

<http://www.nps.gov/romo/planyourvisit/camping.htm>

Take Route 36 through Boulder and into Estes Park. In Estes Park, take a left onto Hwy 7 (south). The campground is approximately 18 miles and on your right. (From Denver: 2 hrs)

Literally under one of the tallest 14’ers in Colorado, Long’s Peak Campground is a quiet haven in itself. Located very close to Long’s Peak Trailhead and the Ranger Station, the campground offers a lot for tenters. The area is typically quiet and the weather amazing, although the occasional afternoon storm can be daunting. The campground is located very close to Long’s Peak Trailhead and the Ranger Station. Portable showers and restrooms are available, though meager in their accommodations. No reservations are taken. Tents allowed only. The camping fee is $20/site/night when water is on, approximately May 25-September 14.