

Forum 2015 – Denver, Colorado

Off-Site Activities, Tours, and Event Ideas

Denver Activities

16th Street Mall

Downtown Denver

www.16thstreetmalldenver.com

Discover the 16th Street Mall, located in downtown Denver. The mile-long, pedestrian friendly mall is packed with shopping, restaurants and attractions. Designed by famed architect I.M. Pei, the pedestrian promenade is made of red, white and gray granite in a repeating pattern that, seen from above, resembles the skin of a Diamondback rattlesnake. Free electric shuttle buses travel up and down the Mall, stopping on every corner. Hop on and hop off, the free shuttles come every few minutes and make everything downtown easy to reach. There are 42 outdoor cafes along the Mall, making it the perfect place to grab a bite to eat or have a drink. Denver Pavillions, near the south end of the Mall, is a shopping and dining complex with 12 movie theatres and more than two dozen shops and restaurants. At the north end of the Mall, 16th Street continues as a pedestrian path over three bridges connecting downtown to Commons Park and LoHi, a hip neighborhood filled with restaurants and brewpubs. Points of interest along the Mall include the D&F Tower, a two-thirds replica of the Campanile of St. Marks in Venice that was the highest building west of the Mississippi when it was built in 1909. After dark, horse-drawn carriages and pedi-cabs carry people up and down the Mall, while nearly a million lights twinkle above in the more than 200 trees that line the promenade.



Black American West Museum

3091 California St.

www.blackamericanwestmuseum.org

The Black American West Museum highlights the prominent role Blacks played in the settlement of Colorado as miners, soldiers, homesteaders, schoolteachers, ranchers, blacksmiths, cowboys and lawmen. This unique museum, located in the former home of Colorado's first Black woman doctor, hosts countless photographs, artifacts and interactive exhibits that tell the story of the Wild West through a different lens.

Brown Palace Hotel Spa

321 17th St.

www.brownpalace.com



After then-unheard of construction costs of \$1.6 million, downtown Denver's Brown Palace opened its doors on August 12th, 1892 - and hasn't closed them for a single moment since. This historic four-star hotel remains one of the city's crown jewels today with its stunning stained glass atrium lobby, extravagant suites and four extraordinary dining venues. Enjoy the luxurious spa services and then relax with a scrumptious afternoon tea!

Byers-Evans House Museum

1310 Bannock St.

www.byersevanshousemuseum.org

One of Denver's great historic homes, built in 1883 by Rocky Mountain News publisher Williams Byers and sold in 1889 to the family of William Gray Evans, an officer of the Denver Tramway Company, the Byers-Evans House Museum offers keen insight into the early days of Denver. Guided tours take visitors through the elegant residence, richly filled with original Evans family furnishings.

Children's Museum of Denver

2121 Children's Museum Dr.

www.mychildsmuseum.org

The Children's Museum of Denver is all about children and their grown-ups learning through play. With interactive exhibits, year-round special events, and daily educational programming, there is always something fun and exciting to do!

Colorado State Capitol Tour

200 E. Colfax Ave.

www.colorado.gov/capitoltour

The Colorado State Capitol, modeled after the Capitol Building in Washington D.C., is a stunning spectacle embellished with stained glass depicting events and people inherent to Colorado, coupled with gorgeous Colorado white granite, rose onyx and yule marble. To see if you've got what it takes to adjust to the altitude, climb the 99-step spiral staircase to an open-air deck affording jaw-dropping views of the city skyline and Rocky Mountains. The Corinthian-styled building, famed for its gold-plated dome rising 272 feet above the ground, offers temporary exhibits, visitor galleries, and complimentary tours by reservation. Note: The Capitol Dome will be undergoing major structural renovations for 2-3 years and not offering tours during that time-frame.



Denver Art Museum

100 W. 14th Ave. Pkwy.

www.denverartmuseum.org



The spectacular Denver Art Museum (DAM) is the largest art museum between Kansas City and the West Coast. Designed by world-renowned architect Daniel Libeskind, the new Hamilton Building is a work of art in itself - and since it was completed in 2006, has become a bona fide arts world icon. DAM is filled with amazing pieces, from classics by Monet, Picasso and Matisse to more modern works by Warhol and O'Keeffe. All in all, the museum contains a collection numbering more than 55,000 works from around the world, including intriguing pieces from Africa and pre-Columbian America. The DAM is also home to one of the greatest collections of American West art in the world - if you love paintings, photographs and sculptures by Frederic Remington and his ilk, you'll love visiting the Denver Art Museum.

Denver Museum of Nature & Science

2001 Colorado Blvd.

www.dmns.org

In 1868, pioneer and naturalist Edwin Carter arrived in Breckenridge, Colo., and devoted himself to his true love-the birds and mammals of the Rocky Mountains. Carter soon assembled one of the most complete collections of Colorado fauna and displayed his specimens in his log cabin home, dubbed the Carter Museum. As word spread, the need became apparent for a larger fireproof building to preserve and display his growing natural history collection. The Colorado Museum of Natural History (now Denver Museum of Nature & Science) was incorporated on December 6, 1900. A new building in Denver's City Park was completed and opened to the public in July 1908. Over the years the Museum has expanded with the addition of Phipps Auditorium (1940), Gates Planetarium (1968), an IMAX theater (1983), a major 187,000-square-foot addition in 1987, and the Leprino Family Atrium and Anschutz Family Sky Terrace (2002). Today the Museum continues to evolve, expanding in both size and breadth of activities, as our exhibits, programs, research, and collections continue to offer many opportunities for discovery.



Dikeou Collection

1615 California St., Ste. 515

www.dikeoucollection.org

There's nowhere else you're going to see a pair of inflatable, 16-foot-tall rubber bunnies, right? One of the Mile High City's most fascinating art locales, The Dikeou Collection is a private collection of contemporary art, with photography, drawings, sculptures, and installations by more than 25 artists from around the world. Free and open to the public, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment.

Forney Museum of Transportation

4303 Brighton Blvd.

www.forneymuseum.org

"Anything on wheels" is the Forney Museum of Transportation's motto, and the museum boasts a one-of-a-kind collection of more than 500 exhibits relating to historical transportation. Highlights include Big Boy, the world's largest steam locomotive, legendary aviator Amelia Earhart's Gold Bug Kissel, and a rare 1916 Detroit Electric Opera Coupe, one of the world's first electric cars.

Hammond's Candy Factory Tour

5735 N. Washington St.

www.hammondscandies.com



Anyone with even the smallest sweet tooth will love this free tour, which gets you behind the scenes at Hammond's Candy Factory, a company that has been making candy in Denver since 1920. They still make hard candy the old-fashioned way: small batches, hand-pulled, hand-twisted and hand-shaped. Specializing in Candy Canes, Lollipops, Ribbon Candy, traditional hard candy and Christmas Candy. Free tours Monday through Saturday, every 30 minutes.

History Colorado Center

1200 Broadway

www.historycolorado.org

The doors of the new History Colorado Center swung open in April 2012 to tell the stories of colorful Coloradans with fun, family-friendly activities inside a beautiful new building in Denver's Golden Triangle Museum District. The new space gave the state's historical society the opportunity to start from scratch — to create new ways to experience Colorado's history. The opening exhibits highlight the courage, persistence, triumphs, tragedies and character of the men and women who created Colorado.

Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art

1311 Pearl St.

www.kirklandmuseum.org

Called "Denver's most interesting museum" by the Denver Post, The Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art showcases the work of Colorado's distinguished painter, Vance Kirkland (1904-1981), whose visionary abstract paintings influenced an entire generation of artists. The museum is also filled to the brim with Colorado and regional art and more than 3,500 works of Arts & Crafts, Art Nouveau, Glasgow Style, Wiener Werkstätte, De Stijl, Bauhaus, Art Deco, Modern, Pop Art and Postmodern.

Molly Brown House Museum

1340 Pennsylvania St.

www.mollybrown.org

Denverite Molly Brown's name is known around the world as a Titanic survivor, thanks to stage productions, classic films and blockbuster historical dramas. But that's just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to this "unsinkable" woman. The Molly Brown House Museum tells her story, and stands as an enduring symbol of the Victorian era and the city of Denver.



Museo de las Americas

861 Santa Fe Dr.

www.museo.org

The only museum in the region devoted exclusively to Latino culture, collecting, preserving, and interpreting the art, history, and cultures of the Americas from ancient times to the present. Located in the heart of Denver's Santa Fe Art District, the Museo de las Americas founded in 1991 and boasts an ever-changing selection of exhibits, not to mention a wide array of educational offerings.

Museum of Contemporary Art

1485 Delgany St.

www.mcadenver.org



MCA DENVER is an innovative forum for contemporary art that inspires and challenges all audiences, creating understanding and dialog about art of our time. As Denver's first institution devoted entirely to contemporary art, MCA DENVER is housed in a new environmentally sustainable facility designed by David Adjaye. Visit MCA Denver's website for current hours, exhibitions, programs and parking information.

Peaks Lounge – Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center

650 15th Street

<http://denverregency.hyatt.com/en/hotel/dining/PeaksLounge.html>

Enjoy breathtaking views of downtown Denver, Colorado and the surrounding Rocky Mountains from atop Hyatt Regency Denver at Peaks Lounge, voted one of Denver's Best Scenic Sixteen. This delightful 27th floor bar provides the perfect backdrop for sophisticated gatherings and special occasions. Enjoy an extensive selection of Colorado cocktails with local libations and organic juices and garnishes. Celebrate a job well done with a bottle of wine or champagne from our extensive collection. Top off an evening out with delicious appetizers, succulent desserts and Irish Coffee. Whether you're a guest of Hyatt Regency Denver or live in the Mile High City, you'll find this unique spot the perfect place to sit back and enjoy the view.

Rockmount Ranch Wear

1626 Wazee St.

www.rockmount.com

A Denver original, fashion pioneer and CEO of Rockmount Ranch Wear, Papa Jack Weil - who passed away in 2008 at the grand old age of 107 - invented the western snap-button shirt and opened shop back in 1946. He sold his shirts to presidents and rock stars alike, including Eric Clapton and Bruce Springsteen. Stop by the flagship store and museum to browse the incredible selection of Western-style shirts, hats and accessories.



Tattered Cover Bookstore

2526 E. Colfax Ave.

www.tatteredcover.com

No visit to Denver would be complete without a journey through the Tattered Cover Bookstore, one of the top independent booksellers in the country. This astounding literary marvel boasts several Metro Denver locations, but the newest store, in the renovated Lowenstein Theater on a burgeoning stretch of East Colfax, is the talk of the town. Grab a latte from the in-house java joint, plop down in one of the overstuffed chairs or sofas to wrap your hands around the latest best seller, or attend a free book signing or author lecture from big names like John Gray, Al Gore, Annie Leibovitz, and Garrison Keillor.

United State Mint Tour

320 W. Colfax Ave.

www.usmint.gov

To see where your currency is conceived (sorry, no free handouts), follow the money trail to the Denver U.S. Mint, one of only two mints in the United States. Hour-long weekday tours led by knowledgeable guides provide a fascinating look into the history of coinage, and both kids and adults love getting up close and personal with the shiny pocket change that streams off the production lines. Admission is complimentary, but reservations must be booked in advance.

Wings Over The Rockies Air & Space Museum

7711 E. Academy Blvd.

www.wingsmuseum.org



Located in a 150,000-square-foot 1930s-era former Air Force hangar, Wings Over The Rockies is heaven for the aerospace enthusiast. The museum is home to more than three-dozen historic airplanes and space vehicles, including a massive B-52 Stratofortress, a 1926 Eaglerock "longwing," and - Star Wars fans take note - an X-Wing fighter.

Beyond Denver

Boulder, CO

(30 miles from Grand Hyatt Denver)

<http://www.bouldercoloradousa.com>

Visit Boulder, Colorado and discover a beautiful community, nestled at the foot of the mountains, that combines outdoor adventure with hip, urban entertainment. When you visit Boulder, you'll be treated to warm sunny days followed by refreshing, brisk evenings. At night, Boulder's sophisticated culture



comes to life with concert series and festivals year-round. Enjoy unexpected entertainment on the Pearl Street Mall in historic downtown Boulder. Dine at one of the award-winning pedestrian district's quaint sidewalk cafes, browse through its many boutiques and galleries or enjoy free entertainment by watching the street performers. Boulder's many beautiful trails offer hiking, biking, and climbing within minutes of downtown Boulder. Whether you're in search of a relaxing day hike or a rigorous climb, you'll appreciate the variety of fun things to do in Boulder. With great weather, friendly people and an action-packed lifestyle, it's easy to see why so many people love to vacation in Boulder, Colorado. Come discover this picturesque city for yourself!

Buffalo Herd Nature Preserve

Genesee, CO (20 miles from Grand Hyatt)

<http://mountainparkshistory.org/Parks/genesee.html>

Located 20 miles west of Denver at I-70 Exit 254, the Buffalo Herd Nature Preserve is a great place for an afternoon picnic. The Buffalo (which are really bison) are direct descendants of the last wild buffalo herd left in the United States. It's a great opportunity to see the last of its kind and get a great photo op. Guests are invited to come and watch the animals, though they are still kept within their natural setting to maintain their numbers.

Celestial Seasonings Tour

Boulder, CO (30 miles from Grand Hyatt)

www.celestialseasoningstour.com

See how Celestial Seasonings, the largest specialty tea manufacturer in North America, blends, packages and ships its teas, then enjoy free samples of every variety they make, and discover a gallery of original artwork from their famous tea boxes.



Central City and Black Hawk Casinos

Central City, CO (35 miles from Grand Hyatt Denver)

www.centralcitycolorado.com

www.blackhawkcolorado.com



Once called the "Richest Square Mile on Earth", Central City and Black Hawk are two historic old mining towns from the 1870's that have come alive. The two towns offer more than 30 casinos with over 10,000 slot machines, blackjack tables and poker games, and they are open 24 hours a day. The two cities are also known for having some of the best-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 opera. 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.

Coors Brewery Tour

Golden, CO (14 miles from Grand Hyatt Denver downtown)

www.millercoors.com

See and taste traditional brewing in the Rocky Mountains! The brewery experience includes a 30-minute self-paced tour through our malting, brewing and packaging processes, sampling of Coors fine products in our hospitality lounge and shopping in the Coors & Co. gift shop. Samples are limited in quantity and available only to guests 21+ with a valid ID. Non-alcoholic beverages also available.

Tours run 10am to 4pm

Flagstaff House

Boulder, CO (28 miles from Grand Hyatt)

www.flagstaffhouse.com

Flagstaff House Restaurant is an unparalleled Colorado dining experience. Co-owners Don Monette, and his sons Mark and Scott Monette, combine a multi-award-winning wine list from their 15,000 bottle wine cellar, exquisite, French-American cuisine, and impeccable service, along with the personal touches of a family-owned restaurant. Although just a five-minute drive from Boulder, Flagstaff House restaurant is built into a mountainside, and overlooks the city at an elevation of 6,000 feet, offering breathtaking views of Boulder and the mountain wildlife all around.



The Fort Restaurant

Morrison, CO (20 miles from Grand Hyatt)

www.thefort.com



The Fort, an award-winning restaurant located in Southwest Denver, is one of the nation's most recognized establishments and sells more buffalo steaks than any other independently owned restaurant in the country. Featuring fine beef, buffalo, game and seafood, The Fort's menu offers a tantalizing selection of old and new foods from the Early West. The Fort has been featured in local and national publications such as the *New York Times*, *Sunset*, *Bon Appetit*, *Modern Maturity*, *5280 Magazine*, *Plate Magazine*, *Rocky Mountain News*

and *Westword*. In February 2008 The Fort was featured on the *Today Show* with Al Roker. The Fort has won the *Wine Spectator's* Award of Excellence for the 7th consecutive year.

Mount Evans

Idaho Springs, CO (33 miles from Grand Hyatt)

www.denver.org/things-to-do/day-trips-around-colorado/mount-evans/

Mount Evans has the highest paved auto road in North America snaking its way to the 14,260-foot (4,346 m) summit. The road (\$10 for a three-day pass) is open from the Friday before Memorial Day through the first Monday in October, and frequently has snow on it, even in August. (The road closes at Summit Lake after Labor Day, preventing you from reaching the top). 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

Colorado Springs, CO (70 miles from Grand Hyatt)

<http://www.pikes-peak.com>

As the most visited mountain in North America and the second most visited mountain in the world, Pikes Peak forms a stunning backdrop for Colorado Springs. At an altitude of 14,115 feet above sea level, Pikes Peak is the 31st highest fourteener out of 54 in Colorado. Pikes Peak is a must-see on your next vacation to the area, but there are so many other things to do in Colorado Springs: Garden of the Gods, Pikes Peak Cog Railway, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Cripple Creek, Manitou Cliff Dwellings, Royal Gorge Bridge & Park, and Santa's Workshop, just to name a few!

Red Rocks Amphitheatre

Morrison, CO (17 miles from Grand Hyatt)

www.redrocksonline.com



If you think of Red Rocks Park as just a beautiful place to see a concert, think again! Around you are 868 acres of deer, dinosaurs, pines and prairie, geological wonders and spectacular vistas. At 6,450 feet above sea level, Red Rocks Park is a unique transitional zone where the Great Plains meets the Rocky Mountains. The diverse environment allows visitors to see plants, birds and animals of both regions. Red Rocks Amphitheatre is a geological phenomenon – the only naturally-occurring, acoustically perfect amphitheatre in the world. From

Sting and The Beatles, to opera stars and U2, every artist aspires to play on this magical, spiritual and emotional stage. Red Rocks offers a variety of recreation options from guided tours, hiking, biking, shopping, dining and a summer concert series. Whatever your pleasure, enjoy discovering Red Rocks Park and Amphitheatre!

Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge

Commerce City, CO (7 miles from Grand Hyatt)

[http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Rocky Mountain Arsenal](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Rocky_Mountain_Arsenal)

Located just northeast of Denver, the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge is a 15,000-acre expanse of prairie, wetland and woodland habitat. The Refuge provides environmental education and interpretive programs, catch-and-release recreational fee fishing, 10 miles of hiking trails, wildlife viewing opportunities, site tours for the public, a self-guided Wildlife Drive auto tour, and is a sanctuary for more than 330 species of animals, including bison, deer, coyotes, prairie dogs, bald eagles and burrowing owls. The land has a unique story - it has survived the test of time and transitioned from farmland, to war-time manufacturing site, to wildlife sanctuary. It may be one of the finest conservation success stories in history and a place where wildlife thrives.

Rocky Mountain National Park

Estes Park, CO (70 miles from Grand Hyatt)

www.nps.gov/romo

www.visitestespark.com

Rocky Mountain National Park's 415 square miles encompass and protect spectacular mountain environments. Enjoy Trail Ridge Road – which crests over 12,000 feet including many overlooks to experience the subalpine and alpine worlds – along with over 300 miles of hiking trails, horseback riding, biking, fishing, wildflowers, wildlife, starry nights, and fun times. In a world of superlatives, Rocky is on top!



Stanley Hotel

Estes Park, CO (65 miles from Grand Hyatt)

www.stanleyhotel.com

The Stanley Hotel, known for its architecture, magnificent setting, and famous visitors, may possibly be best known today for its inspirational role in Stephen King's novel, "The Shining." This Colorado hotel has been featured as one of America's most haunted hotels and with the numerous stories from visitors and staff, The Stanley Hotel continues to "shine" today, as it did in 1909 when first opened. Join our professional and experienced tour guides on a spooky sojourn through time. We offer a wide variety of tours throughout the hotel - ranging from the Stanley Tours to the five-hour ghost hunt and the popular Night Tour. Advance reservations are strongly recommended. Our Hotel Tours are open to the public. Estes Park is the gateway to the Rocky Mountain National Park full of lush forests, thriving wildlife, and over 300 miles of hiking trails. Enjoy the majestic scenery of the Rockies and the unique Colorado lodging The Stanley offers. There is no hotel in Estes Park more appealing and mysterious!



Tiny Town

Morrison, CO (23 miles from Grand Hyatt)

<http://tinytownrailroad.com/>



Tiny Town, located in Morrison just west of Denver, is one of the most charming attractions in Colorado. A miniature steam engine transports visitors through a little town with more than 90 buildings: Victorian houses, shops, a schoolhouse, firehouse, and more. Some of the buildings are decked out with doll-sized furniture and furnishings. All of Tiny Town is meticulously built to 1/6 scale, which means that toddlers can climb inside the buildings and peer out. A playground, shady picnic area, and gift shop are all on the grounds of Tiny Town. Memorial Day through Labor Day, Tiny Town is open seven days a week.

Additional Links:

<http://www.denver.org/about-denver/denver-resources/visitors-guide/>

<http://www.bouldercoloradousa.com/>

<http://www.visitcos.com/>

<http://www.visitestespark.com/>