



Great Things to do in our State

Colorado is one of the most beautiful and active states in the US, and there are a tremendous amount of things to experience here. With staycations becoming more popular, here are a few suggestions:

The [Denver Post](#) published a list of their Top 10 Things to do in Colorado in your lifetime:

1. **Climb a Fourteener** – Did you know Colorado has 54 14ers? At 14,060 feet, Mount Bierstadt is one of the easiest to climb with a wide trail winding its way through swamps and high-mountain meadows. Long’s Peak by moonlight may be the ultimate adventure. For young or elderly, www.14ers.com has good information to review options.
2. **See a Concert at Red Rocks** – While swaying to good music, this is a concert experience like no other. With the moon over the stage and amphitheater, Denver’s city lights in the background, sitting on rock-hewn seats, you can’t help but enjoy the surroundings. Easter sunrise service is also a popular event for any faith.
3. **Explore Mesa Verde** – Cliff dwellings in our national park near Cortez could be visited over and over like other ancient ruins around the world. Explore on your own or take a guided tour, some tours are even available on horseback.
4. **Sink into Strawberry Park Hot Springs** – In this natural setting near Steamboat Springs, masonry walls create pools of different temps so you can always find one that’s “just right.” Other natural hot springs bubble around the state including Glenwood Springs, Hot Sulphur Springs near Granby, or Mount Princeton Hot Springs near Buena Vista.
5. **Visit Great Sand Dunes National Park** – One of the state’s greatest natural phenomena, snowboard or simply walk down the dunes. The park is open 24x7 so you can enjoy sunlight or a moonlit sky. Marvel at Crestone Peaks, dip your toes in Medano Creek, or climb 750 feet to the top of Star Dune.
6. **Touch Dinosaur Tracks** – You don’t have to travel far to see dinosaur footprints and bones. At [Picketwire Canyonlands](#) south of La Junta, walk a trail with more than 1,300 tracks. Museums and trails are located near Grand Junction, or [Dinosaur Ridge](#) in Morrison lets you see tracks, bones and fossils etched along “dinosaur highway.”
7. **Listen to Elk Bugle** – One of the most ideal locations for this is near Estes Park. Plan to spend a few hours in [Rocky Mountain National Park](#) in Sept/Oct when males are calling out. Moraine Park is also a favorite, although more cars and people take a little magic from the experience.
8. **Navigate a Mountain Road** – Independence Pass from Leadville to Aspen offers a unique driving and scenic experience. Over 12,000 feet, the top of this narrow pass is well above tree line and only open in the summer. Or try out America’s highest paved road, the Mount Evans Scenic Byway - less scary but as scenic as Independence. The parking lot is at 14,130 feet where you can also hike up a winding trail to the top. Try Trail Ridge Road where you can imagine snow drifts up 25 feet tall.
9. **Board a Train** – Trains still create interest for young and old. Step back in time and ride the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, Georgetown Loop, Pikes Peak Cog Railway, or Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge to name a few. Experience travel like our ol’ miners and cowboys.
10. **Raft the Arkansas** – Take a leisurely float trip or ride Class 5 rapids. The wildest water runs early May as the snow pack melts and milder, family-friendly trips occur in August/September. Other greats to experience include the mighty Colorado, Yampa, or Poudre.

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Here are just a few more activities to mention:

- A. **Skiing** – We would be remiss not to mention the amazing ski opportunities in Colorado. Take a 1-day lesson on the slope if you’ve never skied before, or try cross-country for a different perspective.
- B. **The Royal Gorge Bridge and Park** – One of the world’s highest suspension bridges exists in this gorgeous canyon. Bravely walk the bridge or enjoy other park activities.
- C. **Pikes Peak** – Walk, hike, bike or drive to the peak of this most visited mountain in the US. Beyond the scenery, shop or dine while there at a visitor center.
- D. **Garden of the Gods** – This National Natural Landmark has dramatic views and 300’ towering red rock formations (some appear they may fall at any moment) against a backdrop of typically snow-capped Pikes Peak. Some secure areas allow climbing.
- E. **National Western Stock Show** – Over 106 years in existence, this premier event is host to one of the world’s richest professional rodeos, largest horse show, and Colorado’s largest tradeshow.
- F. **In general, get outdoors** – hike or bike the Colorado Trail; go fishing in one of the many streams or lakes; hike to a mountain lake, such as Hanging Lake; enjoy a festival like the Breckenridge or Aspen Music Festivals, Ice Festival in Ouray, Blues and Brews Festival in Telluride, or Cherry Creek Arts Festival; see the Denver Botanic Gardens, Cheyenne Mountain or Denver Zoo.
- G. **Stay indoors** – Colorado has museums, arts and cultural events for every interest. Visit the Denver Art Museum, Museum of Nature & Science, or Museum of Contemporary Art; attend a performance at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center or Denver Center for Performing Arts; or check out a local brewery or winery to test your palate.



If you are visiting a certain town or city in Colorado, TripAdvisor has quite a list of local attractions. This may prove to be a valuable resource for your adventure, go to www.TripAdvisor.com.

This is only a small sampling of what Colorado has to offer. Get out, experience it, and you can form your own top ten list of things to do in this beautiful state.



Disclaimer:

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