



## TOP TEN THINGS TO DO IN NORTHERN COLORADO

### **BOULDER:**

Located 35 minutes northwest of Denver and 45 minutes from Denver International Airport, Boulder is a captivating community enriched with natural beauty, hip urban culture and a vibrant love of the outdoors. Visit Boulder and experience its distinctive lifestyle overflowing with world-class restaurants, inspired shopping and art, unbeatable people watching, and thousands of acres of wide open spaces.

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

#### **1. Visit the Pearl Street Mall**

The brick-paved Pearl Street Mall is Boulder's heart and soul - the central gathering place where locals and visitors alike come to stroll and shop among the historic storefronts, dine at buzzed-about restaurants, sip a cup of coffee, throw back a microbrew or simply people-watch. If you do only one thing in Boulder, walking this pedestrian mall should probably be it.

#### **2. See a show at the Boulder Theater**

The historic Boulder Theater has been a stage for music and film since 1906, though in various incarnations. Today, the theater's art deco facade and neon marquis are almost as iconic to Boulder as the Flatirons. And from big-name musical acts like Shawn Colvin and Sheryl Crow to local faves such as Big Head Todd and the Monsters and The Samples, the Boulder Theater has put on some of the finest shows in Boulder's history.

#### **3. Cruise around on Banjo Billy's Bus Tour**

First of all, if you don't take Banjo Billy's Bus Tour, you'll constantly be wondering what you're missing by the third or fourth time you spot the recognizable school-bus-turned-hillbilly-shack rambling around town. More importantly, you're bound to learn a lot more about Boulder on this unique tour that covers ghost stories, legend and lore while you sit on a saddle, recliner or couch and listen to the entertaining tour guide share fun facts and silly stories.

### **ESTES PARK:**

Estes Park, Colorado is the base camp for amazing adventures in Rocky Mountain National Park and your favorite mountain getaway destination. Whether you are planning a romantic weekend getaway or the family vacation of a lifetime, Estes Park has the events, lodging and activities to create the perfect escape from the everyday. So, go ahead. Start planning today to experience Estes Park tomorrow. [www.VisitEstesPark.com](http://www.VisitEstesPark.com)

#### **4. Drive the famous Trail Ridge Road in Rocky Mountain National Park**

[Trail Ridge Road](#), Rocky Mountain National Park's popular highway to the sky, inspired awe before the first motorist ever traveled it. "It is hard to describe what a sensation this new road is going to make," predicted Horace Albright, director of the National Park Service, in 1931 during the road's construction. "You will have the whole sweep of the Rockies before you in all directions."

#### **5. Experience an incredible Estes Park Tailgate**

The fastest growing pastime in the fall is the Estes Park Tailgate. Bring a spread from your favorite [local deli](#); grab a local [bottle of wine](#) and your picnic blanket into Rocky Mountain National Park to take in the splendor of the elk rut rituals. This time of year, the elk are spectacular! The majestic bulls are bugling and battling for mating rights as they group their harems in the meadows and valleys of Rocky Mountain National Park. Follow elk locations and help others find the herds by using the hashtag #EstesElkWatch.

#### **LOVELAND:**

In the heart of northern Colorado is a small city that beats to the rhythm of adventure: Loveland, Colo. Whether visitors are looking to paint their destiny in an arts mecca, to feel the rock beneath their feet as they hike in a recreation haven, toast with family and friends at one of our award-winning breweries, dance the night away during a summer concert or channel their inner cowboy with an authentic western experience, Loveland has everything you love. [www.VisitLovelandCO.com](http://www.VisitLovelandCO.com)

#### **6. Breakfast Horseback Ride at Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch**

Be prepared to discover your inner cowboy as you start your morning early with a breakfast horseback ride at [Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch](#) complete with a hearty cowboy breakfast on the trail. This riding adventure takes you through the beautiful foothills of this historic 3,200-acre working dude ranch. City slickers and experienced riders will love the trail, scenic views and sounds of nature. The majority of Sylvan Dale horses were born, raised and trained at the Ranch, contributing to their quality and responsiveness.

#### **7. Find the Crocodile at Benson Sculpture Garden**

[Benson Sculpture Garden](#) has provided a beautiful and unique outdoor setting for showcasing sculpture since 1985. It is here that the Loveland High Plains Arts Council hosts its renowned Sculpture in the Park event each summer. Currently there are 144 pieces of beautiful bronze sculpture on permanent display, each telling a unique story.

#### **8. Get your shop therapy fix at the Promenade Shops at Centerra and Marketplace at Centerra**

Get all of your gift shopping done in one area. Start with [The Promenade Shops at Centerra](#), one of the premier shopping destinations in northern Colorado. With over 70 shops including Gap, Express, Banana Republic, Victoria's Secret, Macy's and Best Buy and restaurants, a main plaza that seasonally features outdoor movies and events, and walking paths to Chapungu Sculpture Park, the outdoor lifestyle center is a great place for the entire family. Then, visit the [Marketplace at Centerra](#), the largest outdoor shopping center in northern Colorado where you can find Target, Bed Bath & Beyond, Marshalls, Sportman's Warehouse and more. Both locations have special holiday deals and events including Santa visits, Breakfast with Santa and more.

#### **FORT COLLINS:**

Fort Collins is a city nestled in the foothills of the majestic Rocky Mountains in northern Colorado. It is home to Colorado State University and has been dubbed the "Choice City" for the number of "best of" lists it tops. It offers a thriving and diverse arts scene (Fort Collins received the 2011 Governor's Arts Award), eclectic shops

and restaurants, hundreds of miles of walking and biking paths, a colorful past filled with inspiring characters and access to a seemingly endless list of outdoor pursuits - whitewater rafting, hiking, boating, fishing, hunting, biking, running, swimming to name a few. Downtown Fort Collins is the ideal destination for exploring fine and folk art, craft brews, independent restaurants and distinctive shops, festivals and live performances and a lively urban environment. [www.VisitFtCollins.com](http://www.VisitFtCollins.com)

#### **9. Visit New Belgium Brewery or Odell Brewing Co.**

New Belgium Brewing Company, makers of Fat Amber Ale and other Belgian-inspired beers, began operations in a tiny Fort Collins basement in 1991. Today, the third largest craft brewer in the U.S., New Belgium produces seven year-round beers.

*500 Linden Street*

*Fort Collins, CO 80524*

*(970) 221-0524*

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

Odell Brewing Company is a sustainable, green microbrewery that brews handcrafted and small batch beers, including pale ales, stouts, pilsners, and porters.

800 E. Lincoln Avenue

Fort Collins, CO 80524

970-498-9070

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

#### **10. Afternoon Bike Ride on the Poudre River Trail**

Pick up bikes at the Fort Collins Bike Library, a community funded initiative that allows tourists and residents alike to check out bikes, free of charge, for one day. These bikes can be used for transportation, brewery tours, bike trails and anything else you need. Take the bikes out on the Poudre River Trail, one of Fort Collins' many paved bike/pedestrian trails that link nature and commuting. This trail meanders along the Poudre River for 10.10 miles from the Western foothills to the Eastern Plains of Fort Collins.

*250 North Mason*

*Fort Collins, CO 80524*

*970-419-1050*

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