



Outdoor Adventure Itinerary in Northern Colorado

BOULDER – DAY 1

Enjoy breathtaking views over breakfast at Chautauqua Dining Hall

900 Baseline Road
303.440.3776.

While you're there:

- Drive up **Flagstaff Mountain** for a bird's-eye view of Boulder.
- A magical voyage in a hot air balloon ride with **Fair Winds Hot Air Balloon Flights**, 303.939.9323. OR **Life Cycle Balloon Adventures**, 303.216.1990

Experience some of Boulder's recreational activities: (Call 303.442.2911 for rentals and instructors)

- **Hike** in the open space next to Chautauqua. Stop at the Ranger Station for trail maps.
- Bike or casually stroll along **Boulder Creek Path**, which spans 5.5 miles through the center of town.
- Visit the **kayak course** on Boulder Creek. Located just west of Eben G. Fine Park at the west end of Arapahoe Avenue.
- Try **fly-fishing** in Boulder Creek with a professional guide.
Rocky Mountain Anglers, 629-B S. Broadway, 303.447.2400
Front Range Anglers, 2344 Pearl St. 303.494.1375
- Enjoy a **tubing** adventure down Boulder Creek. Tubes can be purchased at Conoco Gas Station, 1201 Arapahoe Avenue, 303.442.6293.
- Try **rock climbing** with instructors.
Boulder Rock Club, 2829 Mapleton Avenue, 303.938.1411
The Spot Bouldering Gym, 3240 Prairie Avenue, 303.379.8806
Movement Climbing and Fitness, 2845 Valmont Rd., 303.443.1505
- Rent a paddleboard or a canoe at the **Boulder Reservoir**, 303.441.3456

Pack a delicious picnic lunch at a local food store:

- Whole Foods 2301 30th Street 720.563.0115
- Whole Foods 2584 Baseline Road 720.420.8400
- Alfalfas 1651 Broadway 303.442.0082
- Ideal Market 1275 Alpine Avenue 303.443.1354
- Cured 1825 Pearl St 720.389.8096
- Stop by the **Boulder Farmer's Market**, located on 13th Street between Canyon & Arapahoe. Saturdays 8am-2pm, April-October and Wednesdays 4-8pm, May-October.

In the afternoon, take pleasure in:

- A scenic glider ride with **Mile High Gliding**, 303.527.1122.
- A stroll along **Pearl Street Mall**, filled with shops, galleries and sidewalk cafés, 303.449.3774.

- Explore one of Boulder's **45,000 acres of open space**, 303.442.3282.
- A scenic drive along **Peak to Peak** highway, 303.442.2911 or visit **Rocky Mountain National Park**, 970.586.1206.

Enjoy dinner at one of Boulder's unique restaurants:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| • Flagstaff House | 1138 Flagstaff Road | 303.442.4640 |
| • The Sink | 1165 13 th St | 303.444.7465 |
| • Salt | 1047 Pearl Street | 303.444.7258 |
| • Boulder Chophouse & Tavern | 947 Walnut | 303.443.1178 |

*Find more Boulder adventures at www.BoulderColoradoUSA.com.

ESTES PARK – DAY 2

In Estes Park, the base camp for Rocky Mountain National Park, you will find adventures at every level! Whether hiking in your car or with a guide, climbing a cliff or sleeping on it, you will enjoy a wide variety of outdoor adventure in and around Estes Park that could last you days! Find more outdoor adventures in the area at VisitEstesPark.com.

Grab a picnic and 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."

Spend your afternoon and your night on a cliff

The newest thrill in Estes Park is Cliff Camping with [Kent Mountain Adventure Center](#). Expert guides will take you hundreds of feet off the ground to spend the night on a Portledge, suspended on the rock wall. The true adrenaline-junkie camping experience!

Looking for something a bit tamer? Learn basic climbing skills at one of Estes Park's climbing gyms. The [Estes Park Mountain Shop](#) and the [YMCA of the Rockies](#) both offer climbing gyms to learn basic technique or hone your skills. Area guides also offer on-site climbing lessons for all stages.

Have an après-climb drink and dinner at a local adventurer hot spot

The local hikers and climbers have their favorite places, and so should you. Take in a fresh taco and margarita with the climbing crowd in a local Mexican restaurant or a craft beer and local cuisine at a historic tavern. Find all your dining options at VisitEstesPark.com/Restaurants.

Overnight in a streamside cabin or comfortable cottage

In Estes Park, your dream to escape to a cabin in the woods or a cottage by the river can come true. With offerings that spin from rustic and primitive to luxurious and well-appointed, there's a cozy house for every taste, style and budget. [Cabins and cottages](#) become homes away from home, promising couples privacy, friends opportunities to dine-in and families the occasional washer and dryer. Some provide hot tubs; others come with fireplaces. Scattered throughout the valley, the options lie within walking distance of the village, near trailheads or close to Rocky Mountain National Park. Yes, after a day of adventures, a cabin or cottage offers an amazing retreat to refresh for the next day!

ESTES PARK – DAY 3

Take on a family adventure at high altitude

Challenges bring families together, and what better way to face a challenge together than on an adventurous high-ropes course? The [Open Air Adventure Park](#) in Estes Park is open through September and offers 32 challenge elements for family members age 7 and above.

Explore the national park on a late morning guided hike

Think [guided hikes](#) are only for beginners? Think again! Hiring a guide can offer beginners the security of knowing where to go and how to get there safely, however a backcountry guide is more than a safety net, they're your coach. Experienced hikers can perfect their pace, their navigational skills and their form by going with an expert guide. Additionally, with their vast knowledge about the park, plants and animals, and the wilderness, these guides will teach you things about your surroundings that will make you a better hiker and a better conversationalist.

Grab lunch in open-air seating

Whether you want to sit along the downtown riverwalk with a juicy burger or handmade pasta, or take in the views at a lakeside tavern, Estes Park offers many restaurants with patios and decks where you can take in the fresh mountain air while enjoying fabulous locally perfected plates. Find all the lunch options at VisitEstesPark.com/Restaurants.

Afternoon on the river

Explore Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park rivers while on a [guided fly fishing](#) excursion. Local outfitters offer a variety of trips and know all the best fishing holes in the area. You can rent your gear, too, so no need to make a large investment as a beginner. More experienced anglers can explore the lakes, rivers and streams on their own and use the [national park's information](#) as a tour guide.

LOVELAND – DAY 4

How does it feel to let go of obligations; to be freed from practicality? What does it mean to let go of the everyday and truly live? In Loveland, we were born to play. With the sun on our skin and the fresh Colorado air soaking into our lungs, Loveland offers diverse outdoor recreation you love. Loveland's 300 days of annual sunshine and mild temperatures set the stage for a memorable outdoors experience. Backed by a picturesque view of the Rocky Mountains, adventure abounds for visitors no matter the season. Recreation you love is found throughout the City's parks, natural areas, open spaces and golf courses, not to mention the area's copious lakes, rivers and streams perfect for boating, fishing and swimming. Whether you are a novice or a proficient explorer, Loveland offers an outdoor experience for everyone! Find more adventures at www.VisitLovelandCO.com.

Bike the trail: *Plan to stay: 1.5 hours.*

Biking along Loveland's [17.5 miles of paved recreational trails](#) offers a healthy and fun way to enjoy the clean Colorado air and 300 days of annual sunshine in Loveland. Various trails exist around the city, whether you are looking for a scenic nature path near the foothills, along Big Thompson River, [Devil's Backbone](#) or a ride around one of Loveland's beautiful lakes. Striking views of the Rocky Mountains and wildlife such as deer, elk, eagles, hawks, geese and more can be seen during many bike rides throughout the city.

Practice your golf swing: *Plan to stay: 2 hours.*

Loveland, Colorado – where the crisp mountain air meets well-manicured greens. Less than an hour's drive from Denver are [three separate golf experiences](#) that are perfect for masters or beginners. Whether you choose award-winning Mariana Butte with its soaring elevated tees and challenges holes that border the rushing Big Thompson River; The Olde Course offering a carefully cultivated progression, tree-lined fairways and undulating greens; or the Cattail Creek Golf Course with water challenges throughout, Loveland has golf you love – all with the breathtaking vistas of the Rocky Mountains as a picturesque backdrop.

Fishing: *Plan to stay: 1.5 - 2 hours.*

With close proximity to the Big Thompson River that flows from Colorado's Rocky Mountains, and its abundance of still water and lakes, [Loveland is a haven for fishing and fly-fishing fans](#). Families and children will enjoy peaceful, calm locations such as the fishing pier on Flatiron Reservoir, Jayhawker Ponds, North Lake Park, Long Haggler Reservoir, Pinewood Reservoir and Carter Lake. The Big Thompson River is ideal for fly-fishing. Locally-owned Fly Fishing Shop, Elkhorn Rod & Reel offers guided fly-fishing trips along the Big Thompson and in Rocky Mountain National Park where there are 147 fishable streams and 56 lakes, year-round.

Hike Devil's Backbone: *Plan to stay: 1.5 hours.*

Enjoy a self-guided late afternoon stroll at Devil's Backbone Open Space, one of the most impressive and visible geologic landmarks in Larimer County. Visitors to the 2,198-acre open space often experience red-tailed hawks soaring above and grasslands carpeted with wildflowers as they hike, bike or walk through the towering rock formations. 12 miles of trail connect Devil's Backbone to Rimrock Open Space and Horsetooth Mountain Open Space for hiking, running, horseback riding, mountain biking, wildlife viewing, observing nature, as well as enjoying close-up inspection of the rock outcrop and long vistas.

Located west of Loveland off of US Highway 34, just past mile marker #88

Larimer.org

FORT COLLINS – DAY 5

Breakfast at the Mountain Café

A local diner in business for 20 years. You will receive a feeling of home and community value here. Stop by for a traditional, filling breakfast before your outdoor adventure begins.

226 W Mountain Ave

Fort Collins, CO 80521

(970) 493-9576

Dadd Gulch Hike

Located in Poudre Canyon off of highway 14 this trail winds up Dadd Gulch 3.5 miles to The Salt Cabin road. About 15 stream crosses are made and beautiful views are seen throughout the hike. Elevation gain is about 1,429 feet and the trail is heavily wooded.

www.resourceanalysis.com/trails/trail35/tr35.html

Lunch at the Mishawaka Amphitheater

A legendary bar, restaurant and outdoor music venue located in the heart of the scenic Poudre Canyon. Located right on the Poudre River the restaurant offers fine American food and local Odell's craft beers. While you're eating enjoy their daily entertainment offered year round.

13714 Poudre Canyon Highway

Livermore, CO 80512
(970) 482-4420
www.themishawaka.com

Mountain Bike Blue Sky Trail (Rent your Mountain Bike at Lee's Cyclery: www.Leescyclery.com)

"The Blue Sky Trail, connecting the Devil's Backbone Open Space to Horsetooth Mountain Open Space along the Front Range mountain backdrop is perfect for mountain biking. Traversing through 4,000 acres of protected foothills open space is one of the premiere regional trails in Northern Colorado for mountain biking and crosses only one road over the total 15-mile distance."

http://larimer.org/parks/bluesky_brochure.pdf

Dinner at Coopersmith's Pub & Brewing

This restaurant located in Old Town Square provides an excellent environment, wonderful food and a chance to visit a local brewery all at the same time. Enjoy the night sitting out on their patio, soaking up the Old Town ambiance.

5 Old Town Square

Fort Collins, CO

(970) 498-0483

www.Coopersmithspub.com

After dinner drinks at Crankenstein

Crankenstein is a bike shop coffee shop bar offering homemade coffee drinks, local craft brews by the tap and a place to have your bike worked on. The local artsy atmosphere gives a sense of community and recreationist find this place home.

215A North College Avenue

Fort Collins, CO

(970) 818-7025

www.cranknsteinlives.com

FORT COLLINS – DAY 6

Breakfast at Lucile's

Experience Creole cooking from around the world in this one of a kind, Victorian-style restaurant. They offer wonderful food and an authentic New Orleans ambiance which includes Cajun music, decorations and a great sense of community.

400 South Meldrum Street

Fort Collins, CO 80521

(970) 224-5464

www.luciles.com

Pick up Lunch To-Go at Backcountry Provisions

Get your lunch to go and take it on hike. This Colorado sandwich shop focuses on fueling you up during your outdoor adventure. Easy ordering online.

140 North College Avenue

Fort Collins, CO 80524

(970) 482-6913

www.backcountryprovisions.com

Hike Arthur's Rock

Located in Lory State Park, the Arthur's rock hike is a moderately difficult 1.7 mile hike with an elevation gain of 1,100 feet. Wildlife is seen throughout the area and native Colorado plant species line the trail. Upon completion you will find yourself on top a large boulder overlooking Fort Collins and the Horsetooth Reservoir. Don't forget the camera!

www.parks.state.co.us/Parks/Lory/Trails/Pages/LoryTrails.aspx

*Eat your Picnic Lunch atop Arthur's Rock

Piano Boulders

Climb Fort Collins' famous bouldering spot. Located on the Horsetooth Reservoir the Piano Boulder along with the West Facing ridge it sits along offers a handful of easy to moderately difficult bouldering lines.

www.mountainproject.com/v/piano-ridge/105745852

Dinner at BeauJo's Pizza

Set in the heart of Old Town, BeauJo's is legendary among Colorado outdoor enthusiasts. They operate in a socially responsible manner through environmental sustainability and offer healthy options where dietary needs are a challenge.

100 N College Ave

Fort Collins, CO 80524

(970) 498-8898

www.beaujos.com

Evening bike ride on the Poudre River Bike Trail (Rent bike from The Fort Collins Bike Library:

www.fcbikelibrary.com).

Take a bike ride through town on the Poudre River bike trail this trail spans 21 miles and is paved for road bikes. It wanders along the majestic Cache la Poudre River through wilderness areas to the Environmental Learning Center.

<http://www.fcgov.com/parks/trails.php?key=trails>

Drinks at the Forge Publick House

Tucked away in Old Town Fort Collins this cozy bar offers a great environment to relax and sip some brews in. The bar houses 10 rotating taps with beer that never disappoints.

232 Walnut Street

Fort Collins, CO 80524

(831) 332-8060

*Other Fort Collins Recreational Options include:

Exploring our 46 Natural Areas (Hiking, Fishing, Mountain Biking, Horseback Riding)

Hiking/Mountain Biking in Horsetooth Mountain Open Space

Fly Fishing in the Poudre River

Find more at www.VisitFtCollins.com.