


Contents at a Glance

Introduction	1
Part I: Introducing Colorado	7
Chapter 1: Discovering the Best of Colorado	9
Chapter 2: Digging Deeper into Colorado	15
Chapter 3: Deciding When and Where to Go	21
Chapter 4: Following an Itinerary: Four Great Options	35
Part II: Planning Your Trip to Colorado	41
Chapter 5: Managing Your Money	43
Chapter 6: Getting to Colorado	52
Chapter 7: Getting Around Colorado	59
Chapter 8: Booking Your Accommodations	68
Chapter 9: Catering to Special Travel Needs or Interests	74
Chapter 10: Taking Care of the Remaining Details	80
Part III: The Front Range	87
Chapter 11: Denver	89
Chapter 12: Side Trips from Denver	134
Chapter 13: Boulder	142
Chapter 14: Colorado Springs	161
Part IV: The High Country	179
Chapter 15: Rocky Mountain National Park	181
Chapter 16: Middle Park	202
Chapter 17: Summit County	212
Chapter 18: Leadville and the Upper Arkansas Valley	224
Chapter 19: Vail and the Vail Valley	240
Chapter 20: Aspen and the Roaring Fork Valley	251
Chapter 21: Steamboat Springs	274
Chapter 22: Gunnison, Crested Butte, and the Black Canyon	286
Part V: The Western Slope and Southern Colorado	297
Chapter 23: Grand Junction and the Western Slope	299
Chapter 24: The Southwestern High Country	312
Chapter 25: The High San Juans and the San Luis Valley	352

<i>Part VI: The Part of Tens</i>	367
Chapter 26: Ten Signature Colorado Experiences	369
Chapter 27: Beer, Beer, Beer — Ten Breweries and Their Signature Brews	374
<i>Appendix: Quick Concierge</i>	379
<i>Index</i>	387

Maps at a Glance



Colorado	22
Driving Times & Distances	60
Denver Neighborhoods	93
Denver Accommodations & Dining	104
Denver Attractions & Nightlife.....	114
Boulder	146
Colorado Springs	164
The High Country	182
Rocky Mountain National Park	187
Middle Park.....	203
Summit County.....	213
Vail	242
The Roaring Fork Valley	252
Aspen.....	255
Steamboat Springs.....	276
The Western Slope.....	301
The Southwestern High Country	314
The Southern Rockies	354

Table of Contents

<i>Introduction</i>	1
About This Book	1
Conventions Used in This Book	2
Foolish Assumptions	3
How This Book Is Organized	4
Part I: Introducing Colorado	4
Part II: Planning Your Trip to Colorado	4
Part III: The Front Range	4
Part IV: The High Country	5
Part V: The Western Slope and Southern Colorado	5
Part VI: The Part of Tens	5
Quick Concierge	5
Icons Used in This Book	6
Where to Go from Here	6
 <i>Part I: Introducing Colorado</i>	7
Chapter 1: Discovering the Best of Colorado	9
The Best Outdoor Adventures	9
The Best Old (And New) West Experiences	10
The Best Ski Areas	10
The Best Luxury Hotels	11
The Best Restaurants	12
The Best Small Towns	12
The Best Accommodations for Families	13
The Best Natural Wonders for Kids of All Ages	13
Chapter 2: Digging Deeper into Colorado	15
History 101: The Main Events	15
Taste of Colorado: Local Cuisine	17
Background Check: Recommended Books and Movies	19
Chapter 3: Deciding When and Where to Go	21
Going Everywhere You Want to Be	21
Traveling the Front Range	24
Going beyond the Front Range: The High Country	25
Scheduling Your Time	26

Revealing the Secrets of the Seasons	27
Spring	29
Summer	29
Fall	30
Winter	31
Looking at Colorado's Calendar of Events	31
January	32
February	32
March	32
April	32
May	33
June	33
July	33
August	34
September	34
October	34
November	34
December	34

Chapter 4: Following an Itinerary:**Four Great Options35**

Taking In the High Passes (And Higher Peaks)	35
Touring Colorado with Kids	37
Colorado for History Buffs	38
The Ski-Til-You-Drop Tour	39

Part II: Planning Your Trip to Colorado41**Chapter 5: Managing Your Money43**

Planning Your Budget	43
Totaling up your transportation	44
Calculating lodging costs	45
Eating out	45
Budgeting for attractions	46
Pricing activities and tours	46
Shopping for Colorado goods	46
Controlling nightlife costs	47
Cutting Costs — But Not the Fun	47
Handling Money	49
Using ATMs and carrying cash	49
Charging ahead with credit cards	49
Dealing with debit cards	50
Toting traveler's checks	50
Dealing with a Lost or Stolen Wallet	50

Chapter 6: Getting to Colorado	52
Flying into Colorado	52
Getting the best deal on your airfare	53
Booking your ticket online	54
Driving In	55
Arriving by Rail	55
Joining an Escorted Tour	56
Choosing a Package Tour	57
Chapter 7: Getting Around Colorado	59
Driving around Colorado	59
Handling the highways	59
Negotiating road hazards	61
Getting the best deal on a rental car	64
Winging It	66
Riding the Rails	66
Taking the Bus	67
Chapter 8: Booking Your Accommodations	68
Lining Up Your Lodging Choices	68
Booking a B&B	68
Bunking down at a motel	69
Staying at historic or luxury hotels	69
Choosing a chain	69
Going to a guest ranch or dude ranch	70
Camping out	70
Finding the Best Room at the Best Rate	70
Surfing the Web for hotel deals	72
Reserving the best room	73
Chapter 9: Catering to Special Travel Needs or Interests	74
Traveling with the Brood: Advice for Families	74
Making Age Work for You: Advice for Seniors	76
Accessing Colorado: Advice for Travelers with Disabilities	77
Following the Rainbow: Advice for Gay and Lesbian Travelers	78
Chapter 10: Taking Care of the Remaining Details	80
Playing It Safe with Travel and Medical Insurance	80
Staying Healthy When You Travel	82
Staying Connected by Cellphone	82
Accessing the Internet away from Home	83
Keeping Up with Airline Security	85

Part III: The Front Range87

Chapter 11: Denver89

- Getting There89
 - Arriving by air89
 - Arriving by car92
 - Riding in (Not on horseback)92
- Denver Neighborhoods92
 - Downtown (the Central Business District)95
 - Lower Downtown (LoDo)95
 - The Golden Triangle95
 - Uptown96
 - Capitol Hill96
 - Cherry Creek96
 - Central Platte Valley96
 - Other Denver neighborhoods97
- Getting Information after You Arrive97
- Getting Around Denver98
 - By mass transit98
 - By taxi99
 - By car99
 - On foot100
- Where to Stay101
- Where to Dine107
- Exploring Denver113
 - The best things to see and do113
 - Touring historical sites119
 - Other things to see and do119
- Staying Active121
- Seeing Denver by Guided Tour123
 - Faux trolley tours123
 - Real trolley tours123
 - Guided tours124
- Considering One-, Two-, and Three-Day Itineraries124
- Shopping in Denver125
 - The best shopping areas125
 - What to look for and where to find it126
- Nightlife128
 - Hitting the local clubs128
 - Drinking up130
 - The performing arts131
- Fast Facts: Denver133

Chapter 12: Side Trips from Denver134

Riding through the Golden Circle134
 Getting there134
 Exploring Golden, Idaho Springs,
 and Georgetown135
 Where to stay and dine138
 Following Five Classic Mountain Drives139
 Guanella Pass Road139
 Mount Evans139
 St. Mary’s Glacier140
 The Peak-to-Peak Highway140
 U.S. 285 to South Park and beyond140

Chapter 13: Boulder142

Getting There143
 Getting Around144
 Where to Stay145
 Where to Dine149
 Exploring Boulder153
 The best things to see and do153
 Other things to see and do154
 Staying active155
 Hitting the slopes156
 Shopping157
 Nightlife157
 Fast Facts: Boulder160

Chapter 14: Colorado Springs161

Getting There161
 Getting Around162
 Where to Stay163
 Where to Dine167
 Exploring Colorado Springs169
 The best things to see and do169
 Other things to see and do172
 Guided tours173
 Staying active173
 Shopping174
 Especially for kids174
 Nightlife174
 Hitting the bars and clubs174
 Enjoying classical music175
 Fast Facts: Colorado Springs175

Heading Out to Cañon City and Royal Gorge176
Getting there176
Exploring Royal Gorge176
Finding places to stay and dine177

Part IV: The High Country 179

Chapter 15: Rocky Mountain National Park181

Choosing a Season to Visit184
Getting There184
 Driving to the park184
 Busing in to the park185
Planning Ahead for Your Park Visit185
Learning the Lay of the Land186
Arriving in the Park188
 Paying fees188
 Getting around188
 Considering safety189
Enjoying the Park190
 Taking a hike191
 Roving with rangers194
 Watching wildlife194
Staying Active194
 Inside the park194
 In the gateway communities195
Where to Stay and Dine in Estes Park
 and Grand Lake195
 Estes Park196
 Grand Lake198
Fast Facts: Rocky Mountain National Park201

Chapter 16: Middle Park202

Winter Park and Fraser202
 Getting there204
 Getting around204
 Where to stay205
 Where to dine206
 Exploring Winter Park and Fraser207
Fast Facts: Winter Park/Fraser210
Heading farther into the Parkland210
 Two classic ranch-resort experiences210
 Staying active211
 On the slopes211

Chapter 17: Summit County212

Summit County Essentials212
 Getting there214
 Getting around214
 Where to stay215
 Where to dine217
 Exploring Summit County218
 The best things to see and do218
 Especially for kids219
 Staying active220
 Hitting the slopes221
 Nightlife222
 Fast Facts: Summit County223

**Chapter 18: Leadville and the Upper
Arkansas Valley224**

What’s Where? The Arkansas Valley
and Its Attractions224
 Leadville highlights224
 Buena Vista and Salida highlights225
 Leadville225
 Getting to Leadville225
 Getting around226
 Where to stay in Leadville226
 Where to dine in Leadville227
 Exploring Leadville228
 Staying active in Leadville230
 Hitting the slopes231
 Fast Facts: Leadville232
 Buena Vista, Salida, and the Upper Arkansas232
 Getting there233
 Where to stay in the Arkansas Valley233
 Where to dine in the Arkansas Valley234
 Exploring Salida235
 Staying active in Salida237
 Hitting the slopes238
 Fast Facts: Buena Vista and Salida239

Chapter 19: Vail and the Vail Valley240

Vail Essentials240
 Getting there240
 Getting around241
 Where to stay241
 Where to dine244

Exploring Vail	246
The best things to see and do	246
Staying active	247
Hitting the slopes	248
Shopping	249
Nightlife and culture	249
Fast Facts: Vail	250

Chapter 20: Aspen and the Roaring

Fork Valley251

What's Where? The Region and Its Major Attractions	251
Aspen highlights	252
Glenwood Springs, Carbondale, and Redstone highlights	253
Aspen	253
Getting to Aspen	254
Getting around Aspen	254
Where to stay in Aspen	256
Where to dine in Aspen	258
Exploring Aspen	259
Shopping in Aspen	263
Nightlife in Aspen	263
Culture in Aspen	263
Fast Facts: Aspen	264
The Roaring Fork Valley	264
Getting there	265
Getting around	266
Where to stay	266
Where to dine	267
Exploring Glenwood Springs, Carbondale, and Redstone	270
Shopping	272
Nightlife	273
Fast Facts: The Roaring Fork Valley	273

Chapter 21: Steamboat Springs274

Getting There	274
Getting Around	275
Where to Stay	275
Where to Dine	278
Exploring Steamboat Springs	280
The best things to see and do	280
Other things to see and do	281
Especially for kids	282

Staying active282
 Hitting the slopes284
 Shopping284
 Nightlife and culture284
 Fast Facts: Steamboat Springs285

**Chapter 22: Gunnison, Crested Butte,
 and the Black Canyon286**

Gunnison and Crested Butte286
 Getting to Gunnison and Crested Butte286
 Getting around287
 Deciding where to stay287
 Dining in Gunnison and Crested Butte288
 Exploring Crested Butte and Gunnison290
 Enjoying the nightlife292
 Fast Facts: Gunnison and Crested Butte292
 Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park293
 Getting there293
 Where to stay293
 Exploring the park itself294
 Other things to see and do295
 Staying active296
 Fast Facts: Montrose and Delta296

***Part V: The Western Slope and
 Southern Colorado297***

**Chapter 23: Grand Junction and
 the Western Slope299**

Grand Junction300
 Getting there300
 Getting around302
 Where to stay302
 Where to dine303
 Exploring Grand Junction304
 Shopping308
 Fast Facts: Grand Junction309
 Taking a Side Trip to Dinosaur and Dinosaur
 National Monument309
 Getting to Dinosaur309
 Seeing the sights309
 Where to stay in Dinosaur310
 Where to dine in Dinosaur311

Chapter 24: The Southwestern High Country312

What's Where? Southwest Colorado and Its	
Major Attractions	313
Telluride highlights	313
Ouray and Silverton highlights	313
Durango highlights	313
The Four Corners highlights	315
Telluride	315
Getting to Telluride	315
Getting around in Telluride	316
Where to stay in Telluride	317
Where to dine in Telluride	319
Exploring Telluride	320
Nightlife in Telluride	323
Fast Facts: Telluride	324
Ouray and Silverton	324
Getting to Ouray and Silverton	324
Getting around Ouray and Silverton	325
Staying in Ouray and Silverton	325
Dining in Ouray and Silverton	327
Exploring Ouray and Silverton	328
Shopping in Ouray and Silverton	332
Finding nightlife in Ouray and Silverton	332
Fast Facts: Ouray and Silverton	332
Durango	333
Getting to Durango	333
Getting around Durango	333
Where to stay in Durango	334
Where to dine in Durango	336
Exploring Durango	337
Shopping in Durango	340
Nightlife in Durango	340
Springing off on a side trip to Pagosa Springs	340
Fast Facts: Durango	341
Mesa Verde and the Four Corners	342
Getting there	342
Getting around	342
Where to stay	343
Where to dine	344
Exploring the world of the Ancestral Puebloans	345
Shopping	351
Fast Facts: Cortez, Dolores, and Mancos	351

Chapter 25: The High San Juans and the San Luis Valley352

Lake City353
 Getting to Lake City353
 Getting around Lake City353
 Where to stay in Lake City353
 Where to dine in Lake City353
 Exploring Lake City355
 Fast Facts: Lake City357
 Creede357
 Getting to Creede358
 Getting around Creede358
 Where to stay in Creede358
 Where to dine in Creede359
 Exploring Creede360
 Staying active in Creede.....361
 Culture in Creede361
 Hitting the slopes in Creede361
 Fast Facts: Creede362
 Alamosa and the San Luis Valley362
 Getting there362
 Getting around363
 Where to stay363
 Where to dine363
 Exploring Alamosa and the San Luis Valley ...364
 Fast Facts: Alamosa366

Part VI: The Part of Tens367

Chapter 26: Ten Signature Colorado Experiences369

Submitting a Fourteener — on Foot
 or (If You Must) by Car369
 Riding the Ski Train to Winter Park370
 Dropping Trou and Soaking in a Hot Spring370
 Taking in a Concert at Red Rocks370
 Dining on Native Game371
 Cowboy Up at the Stock Show371
 Go from the Sublime to the Ridiculous
 in Glitter Gulch371
 Gooooooo, Broncos!!!!372
 Sampling a Colorado Microbrew (Or Two)372
 Getting off the Beaten Track —
 without Getting Lost372

**Chapter 27: Beer, Beer, Beer — Ten Breweries
and Their Signature Brews374**

The Wynkoop Brewing Company, Denver375
New Belgium Brewery, Fort Collins375
Breckenridge Brewery, Denver
and Breckenridge375
Odell Brewing Company, Fort Collins375
Walnut Brewery, Boulder376
Flying Dog Brewery, Denver376
Mountain Sun Pub & Brewery, Boulder376
Golden City Brewery, Golden376
Ska Brewing Company, Durango376
Dolores River Brewery, Dolores377

Appendix: Quick Concierge.....379

Colorado A to Z: Facts at Your Fingertips379
Toll-Free Numbers and Web Sites383
Major airlines383
Major car-rental agencies383
Major hotel and motel chains384
Finding More Information385
Tourist information385
Useful Web sites385
State guides385

Index.....387