



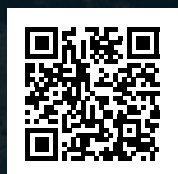
HEATHER COLLECTION

MOUNTAIN SERIES / HIKING COLORADO

Hiking Colorado

A life outdoors.
A place to come home.

Nearby paths. Mountain days.
A state worth exploring on foot.



HEATHER LAY REALTOR®

Your Colorado life, thoughtfully chosen.

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HEATHER COLLECTION / MOUNTAIN SERIES



Hiking is part of why I love Colorado.

I love the feeling of stepping onto a trail and giving the day a different pace. Hiking is central to how I enjoy Colorado, from a familiar walk close to home to a mountain outing that deserves a little more planning.

The point is not to make every walk longer or harder. It is to make room for the experience: the trees, the light, a conversation and the chance to notice where we live.

This collection begins near our northern Colorado Springs home base, then opens into different corners of the state. I want you to find the outings that suit your people and leave you looking forward to going outside again.



The life around the home

A home should support the ordinary week and the things that make the week worthwhile. For me, access to the outdoors is part of that conversation. A shorter familiar walk and a farther journey can both belong to a thoughtfully chosen Colorado life.

Heather Lay

REALTOR® | HEATHER COLLECTION

HEATHER SAYS

"I want to help you choose a home that fits the life you want to live. For me, getting outdoors is a central part of that conversation."

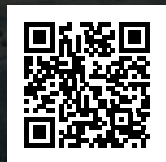


THE COLORADO HIKING LIFE

Step outside. Feel more at home.

Hiking is part of Heather's Colorado life. Make room for a familiar local path, then give the farther places a day of their own.

"Being outdoors is not an occasional extra for me. It is part of what makes living here feel like home."



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Find your next Colorado trail day.

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A statewide collection. A personal way to walk it.

What is covered

Fifty-two selected hikes and adaptable walking outings across nine regions, including all four Colorado national parks, state parks, national forests, BLM land and local open spaces. This is a substantial starting collection, not an inventory of every trail in Colorado.

Read the route, not only the name

The stated distance applies to the described start and turnaround. A trail segment may be one way; an out-and-back outing doubles it. Parking approaches, shuttle stops and added spurs change the total. Network outings are explicitly labeled as chosen circuits.

Planning ranges, not promises

Effort and time are editorial estimates for an ordinary snow-free outing, including some pauses. Fitness, elevation, footing, weather and the group's needs change them. They are not speed targets, winter ratings or guarantees of access.

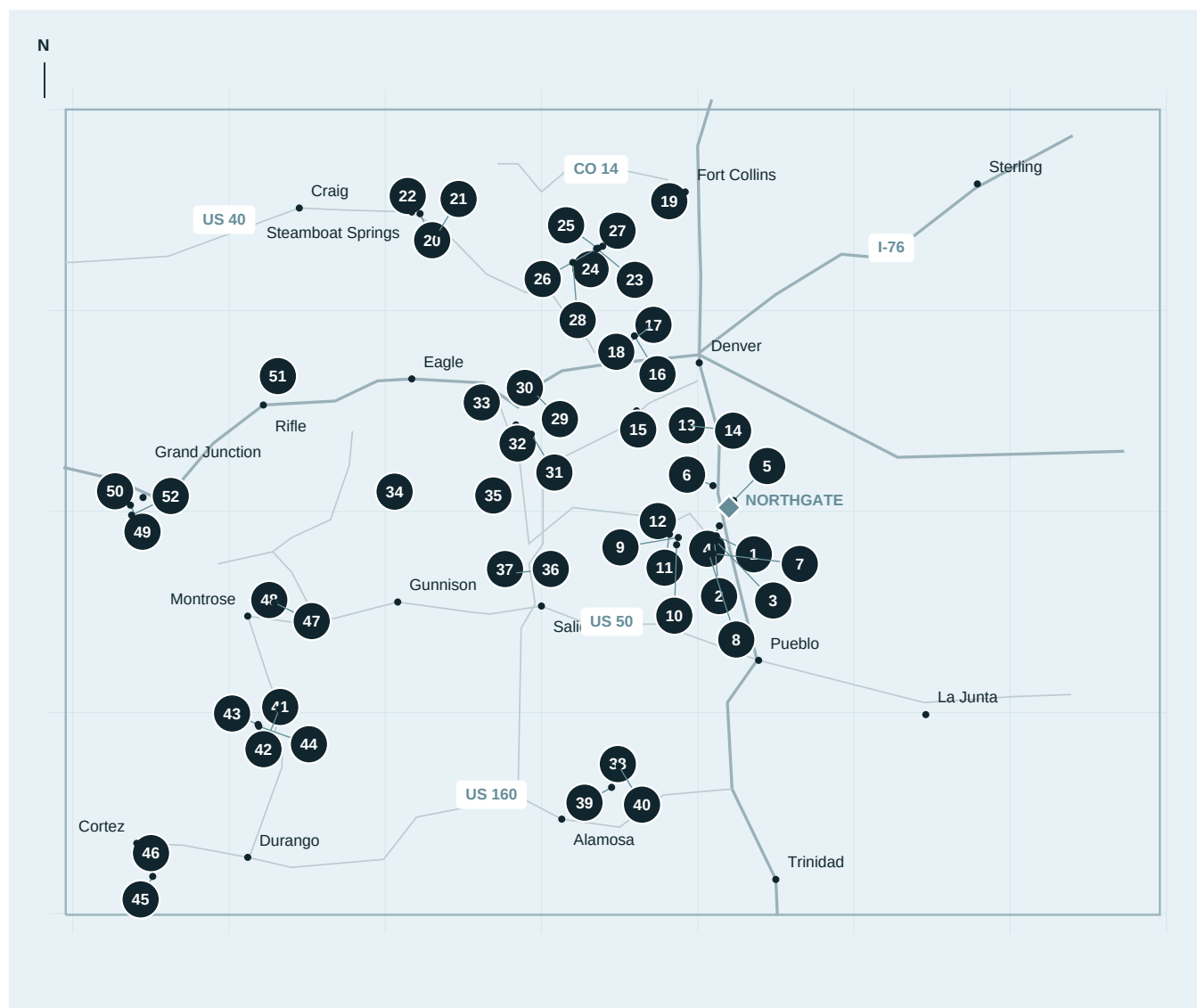
Maps that orient you

Master and area maps use the same numbered approximate trailhead or gateway markers. Highways are generalized. They are geographic locators, not turn-by-turn navigation or detailed trail maps. Use the land manager's current map for the walk itself.

HEATHER SAYS

"The best trip is the one that fits your people, your comfort level and the time you actually have."

One home base. Fifty-two ways to begin.



Geographic locator | approximate markers | highways generalized | not for navigation

Let geography shape the day

The Front Range is a north-south spine, while mountain passes and separate gateways shape travel west. A short trail can require a long approach. Start with a region, choose the actual hike and give the journey enough time.

Numbered circles: featured trail starts or gateways. Northgate diamond: northern Colorado Springs home-base reference.

The collection, at a glance.

- 01 Perkins Central Garden
- 02 Siamese Twins
- 03 Red Rock Canyon: a chosen circuit
- 04 Ute Valley: a chosen circuit
- 05 Fox Run forest trails
- 06 Spruce Mountain upper loop
- 07 Mount Cutler
- 08 Seven Bridges
- 09 The Craggs
- 10 Horsethief Falls
- 11 Outlook Ridge to Raven Ridge
- 12 Wapiti Nature Trail
- 13 Fountain Valley
- 14 Carpenter Peak
- 15 Davis Ponds
- 16 Raccoon Trail
- 17 Rattlesnake Gulch
- 18 Fowler Trail: state park segment
- 19 Arthur's Rock
- 20 Fish Creek Falls overlook
- 21 Rabbit Ears Peak approach
- 22 Mad Creek to the historic barn
- 23 Bear Lake loop
- 24 Sprague Lake
- 25 Alberta Falls
- 26 Emerald Lake

Match these numbers to the master and area maps. The profile gives the route variant and start that the distance describes.

The collection, at a glance.

- 27 Gem Lake
- 28 Adams Falls
- 29 Sapphire Point loop
- 30 Lily Pad Lake from Wildernest
- 31 McCullough Gulch to the lower lake
- 32 Mayflower Gulch to the mining cabins
- 33 Shrine Ridge
- 34 Maroon Lake Scenic Trail
- 35 Interlaken from Twin Lakes
- 36 Browns Creek Falls
- 37 Cascade Creek interpretive loop
- 38 Dunes Overlook
- 39 Zapata Falls
- 40 Mosca Pass
- 41 Ouray Perimeter Trail
- 42 Box Cañon Falls walkway
- 43 Jud Wiebe
- 44 Bear Creek Falls: Telluride
- 45 Petroglyph Point
- 46 Point Lookout
- 47 Rim Rock Trail
- 48 Warner Point
- 49 Devils Kitchen
- 50 Canyon Rim Trail
- 51 Rifle Falls: Coyote circuit
- 52 Mica Mine

Match these numbers to the master and area maps. The profile gives the route variant and start that the distance describes.



Start with the kind of day you want.

The experience	Places to begin comparing
A shorter scenic walk	Perkins Central Garden, Wapiti, Sprague Lake or Fish Creek’s overlook. Check the surface and season for your group.
A familiar weekly routine	Fox Run, Ute Valley or a chosen Red Rock Canyon circuit. Keep the route compatible with the time you truly have.
Forest and moving water	Seven Bridges, Horsethief Falls, Alberta Falls or Bear Creek in Telluride. Distance does not describe slippery footing.
A mountain lake or basin	Emerald Lake, Lily Pad Lake, Mayflower Gulch or McCullough Gulch. Elevation and current snow can dominate the choice.
A longer climbing day	Carpenter Peak, Arthur’s Rock, Mosca Pass or the full Ouray Perimeter. Choose a group ready for the whole return.
A different Colorado	Dunes Overlook, Devils Kitchen, Mica Mine or Mesa Verde’s trails. Desert heat and cultural care belong in the plan.

HEATHER SAYS

“A shorter walk can still give us the feeling we came for. I like leaving time to notice where we are.”

Miles are only part of the decision.

Distance and climb are different

A short steep trail can be harder than a longer rolling one. A route that begins with a descent saves its climbing for the return. When comparing tracks, distinguish cumulative elevation gain from the difference between low and high points.

Our effort language

Gentle means comparatively little climbing on the described outing, not universal accessibility. Moderate adds hills, uneven ground or longer time on foot. Demanding means sustained effort, rough footing, exposure or a combination that deserves a prepared group.

Time belongs to the whole group

Allow pauses, navigation, photographs and the pace of the person who needs the most time. Add travel and transport separately. A turnaround time protects the return even when the destination is close.

Know when the outing changes category

Snow and ice, unbridged water, scrambling, severe exposure or a route beyond the defined turnaround can create a different undertaking. This collection is not a climbing manual, avalanche route book or summit checklist.

HEATHER SAYS

"The details that make a day comfortable are personal. I would rather choose well than assume every trail will feel the same."



Follow the season. Respect the elevation.

Season	How the plan changes
Spring	Lower trails may offer a start while mountain routes remain snowy. Mud closures protect trails; shaded ice can outlast warm weather in town.
Summer	High routes open progressively, not all at once. Start with the camp- or trail-elevation forecast and plan to leave exposed terrain before storms develop.
Autumn	Color and cooler air can be rewarding. Daylight shortens, nights chill and mountain snow can arrive before lower trails change.
Winter	Treat snow travel as its own discipline. Verify access, traction needs, avalanche terrain and daylight; a familiar summer route is not automatically a suitable winter walk.

Let conditions change the destination

Use the forecast for the actual route, then compare it with current land-manager reports. Choose a lower or shorter alternative before leaving. Turn back when weather, footing or someone’s condition makes the original goal a poor fit.

HEATHER SAYS

“I love seeing familiar places in a different season. I also want the day we plan to suit the conditions we will actually find.”



A little preparation. More freedom to enjoy it.

Bring the function	Choose equipment that fits it
Navigation	Current offline trail map, a route understood in advance, a charged phone and an appropriate backup. Know the trailhead and return connection.
Weather	Layers, rain and wind protection, sun protection and footwear suited to the footing. Carry insulation even when the parking lot feels warm.
Food and water	Enough for the route and a reserve. Do not assume natural water is safe untreated or that a seasonal tap is operating.
Delays	Headlamp, spare power, first-aid supplies and emergency shelter appropriate to the outing. Do not plan to use a phone light as the main lighting system.
People	Tell a trusted person the route and expected return. Agree on pace and turnaround. Do not leave a struggling person alone to complete a goal.
The return	Account for the last shuttle, road gate, weather, daylight and the energy needed to descend. Carry out your waste.

HEATHER SAYS

“A little preparation makes it easier to relax. I want to be thinking about where we are, not discovering that something essential is still at home.”

Reserve the access. Then plan the walk.

Rocky Mountain National Park

Seasonal timed-entry requirements distinguish the Bear Lake Road option from general park access. Outlying trailheads can also be covered during controlled hours. An entrance pass and a timed-entry reservation are separate requirements.

Eldorado Canyon

Timed vehicle reservations apply on designated days and seasons. A Colorado state park pass does not replace the reservation. Check the current dates, access rules and transport options.

McCullough Gulch and Maroon Bells

McCullough access uses a locally managed seasonal parking/shuttle system. Maroon Bells uses its own parking and shuttle arrangements. Neither is established by a generic national forest pass or a campsite booking elsewhere.

Everywhere else

Check current road and trail closures, parking, posted hours, fees and any permits for your activity. An open park does not mean every trail is open. Overnight wilderness permits are different from ordinary day hiking.

HEATHER SAYS

"I like doing the practical work before we leave. Once we get outside, I want the day to feel simpler."

Choose the day for everyone coming.

Children and mixed-comfort groups

Choose a manageable start, a clear return and something interesting along the way. Breaks and a shorter turnaround can be part of a successful day. Avoid using a summit or waterfall as a promise that everyone must fulfill.

Mobility and access needs

Ask about the exact parking approach, grade, cross-slope, surface, width, steps, toilets and resting places. A short distance or an accessible overlook does not describe the entire trail network. Confirm current snow and construction.

Dogs

Check the specific trail and transport rules. Mueller prohibits pets on hiking trails; Roxborough prohibits dogs in the park. Rocky Mountain National Park does not allow pets on trails. Other national parks have different exceptions, so do not generalize a rule across the collection.

New arrivals and high elevation

Give the first days a gentler plan and avoid stacking a long drive with a hard climb. If someone feels unwell, stop the ascent and choose a safer return rather than asking them to keep up. Seek appropriate help when needed.

HEATHER SAYS

"The best memories come when the people with us feel comfortable enough to enjoy being there. That is where I start planning."

Leave room for the next person.

Stay on the intended route

Respect closures, private land and restoration areas. Walk through a muddy section only when the trail is open and appropriate; do not widen it by trampling vegetation. Switchback shortcuts erode hillsides.

Keep wildlife wild

Watch from a safe distance, never feed animals and secure food and scented items according to the land manager's rules. Do not approach an animal to get a photograph or use wildlife as a promised feature of a hike.

Share the quieter experience

Yield according to posted rules, keep sound low and control dogs where allowed. Step aside on durable ground when it is safe. A popular trail still works better when people leave one another room.

Respect cultural places

Mesa Verde and other historic landscapes deserve more than a scenic checklist. Leave objects where they belong, avoid touching rock art and follow the allowed route. Carry out litter and use the required waste facilities or method.

HEATHER SAYS

"The places we love are worth taking care of. Leaving them well is part of the experience."



FIND YOUR KIND OF TRAIL

Choose a pace. Make the day your own.

A forest path, a lake, a red-rock canyon or a longer mountain climb. Begin with what you want the day to feel like.

"There is no single right way to enjoy the outdoors. The day should fit the people who are there."



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01 / COLORADO SPRINGS & THE NORTHERN HOME BASE

Make the outdoors part of the week.

Red rocks, pine woods and nearby paths worth returning to.



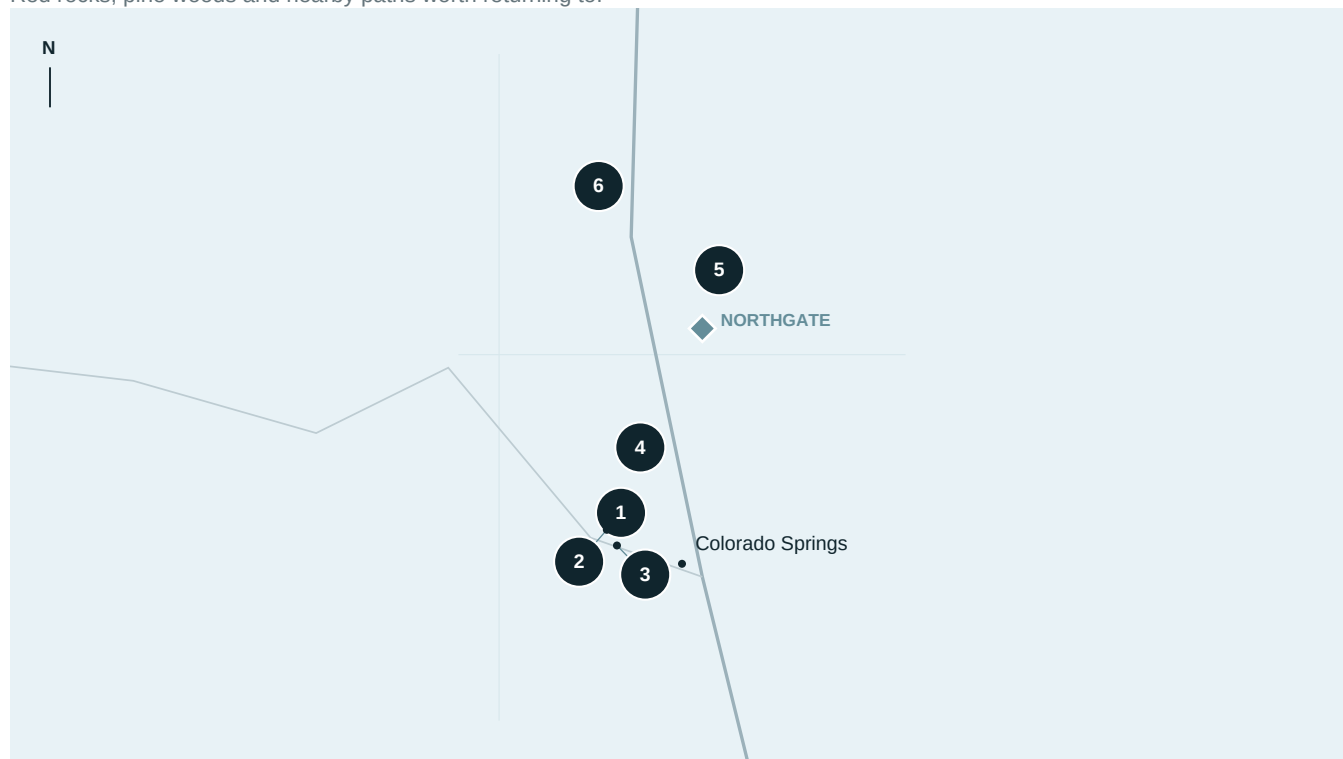
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Geographic locator | approximate markers | highways generalized | not for navigation

- 01 Perkins Central Garden
- 02 Siamese Twins
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- 05 Fox Run forest trails
- 06 Spruce Mountain upper loop

The approach

Begin with a local outing from the home base. Access points are spread across the city and into southern Douglas County; choose the entrance for the actual walk, not simply the park name.

HEATHER SAYS

"I love having a home base that works for everyday life and the freedom to get outside."



01 / Perkins Central Garden

This is a wonderful beginning to a Colorado walking life: the red formations are the destination, rather than a reward reserved for the end of a hard climb. Let visitors settle into the landscape before planning a more ambitious mountain day.

The outing	About 1.5 miles; loop
Effort / time	Gentle 45-90 minutes
Underfoot	Paved paths among sandstone formations
Start here	Garden of the Gods central garden parking; use designated spaces.

The route to choose

Follow the signed central garden paths. Connections, spurs and the walk from your parking space change the total; the named paved core is different from a circuit of the entire park.

Make it your kind of day

Choose this when scenery matters more than mileage. Early light can make a familiar formation feel new, while a slower pace leaves room to notice the shapes and the mountain backdrop.

Before you go

Keep to paved and designated paths. Confirm the accessible approach from your parking area; congestion, sun and seasonal ice still affect comfort. Rock climbing is a separate regulated activity.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



02 / Siamese Twins

A small change of viewpoint creates a very different Garden of the Gods experience. The natural rock window frames the surrounding landscape and gives a shorter walk a clear destination.

The outing	About 1 mile; out and back
Effort / time	Gentle to moderate 45-75 minutes
Underfoot	Natural surface, steps and rolling grades
Start here	Garden of the Gods; begin at the signed Siamese Twins trailhead.

The route to choose

Use the signed trail to the twins and retrace your approach. This profile covers the short route rather than a longer network circuit linking other formations.

Make it your kind of day

It suits someone ready to step from the paved garden onto uneven ground without committing to a long outing. Make the turn back a choice about comfort, rather than a target that has to be reached.

Before you go

Uneven footing and exposed rock deserve attention even on a short route. Stay away from edges and avoid widening the trail around muddy sections.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



03 / Red Rock Canyon: a chosen circuit

Red Rock Canyon makes an everyday outdoor routine feel possible. Sandstone walls, open views and several connected trails let you shape the walk around the time available.

The outing	Choose 2-4 miles; network circuit
Effort / time	Moderate 1-2.5 hours
Underfoot	Natural surface; sandstone, gravel and mixed grades
Start here	Use the official Red Rock Canyon Open Space map and a designated trailhead.

The route to choose

Choose a named, mapped circuit before leaving. Start with lower canyon trails, then add a signed overlook connection only if the group wants the extra climbing. The range here is an editorial outing length, not an official single trail.

Make it your kind of day

A useful choice for repeat visits: change the circuit or the light rather than chasing greater distance every time. It can be a satisfying local day on its own.

Before you go

Expect other permitted users and changing trail work. Obey closures and keep out of quarry hazards. A tempting social path is not a designated route.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



04 / Ute Valley: a chosen circuit

Ute Valley is particularly useful when the goal is to have hiking in the week, not just on a vacation calendar. Open slopes and rocky terrain bring a sense of landscape into a city outing.

The outing	Choose 2-4 miles; network circuit
Effort / time	Moderate 1-2.5 hours
Underfoot	Rocky natural surface, ridges and rolling valley trails
Start here	Choose a designated access point and download the city trail map.

The route to choose

Pick a circuit on the official map that returns to your own entrance. The network has several junctions and different levels of roughness; this is an adaptable outing rather than one prescribed loop.

Make it your kind of day

Choose a shorter valley route when introducing someone to local trails. Add a ridge only when the group is comfortable with the footing and return distance.

Before you go

Share the trail with bikes and other users, keep dogs under the required control and respect posted closures. Short mileage can still include awkward rock steps.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



05 / Fox Run forest trails

Ponderosa shade and a quieter walking rhythm make Fox Run an inviting northern Colorado Springs starting point. It belongs in the same conversation as bigger mountain destinations because regular time outside matters too.

The outing	Choose 1-3 miles; forest network
Effort / time	Gentle to moderate 45 minutes-2 hours
Underfoot	Natural-surface pine woodland trails
Start here	Fox Run Regional Park; select an open trailhead within the park.

The route to choose

The park has about four miles of multi-use trails overall. Choose a shorter connected walk from the current map rather than assuming the network total is one loop. Return to the same parking area.

Make it your kind of day

A forest walk works well when the group wants conversation and an easy change of pace. Keep the itinerary flexible enough to shorten without losing the point of the outing.

Before you go

County pond renovation began in 2025; verify current work zones and open connections. Do not promise access to the gazebo, ponds or a particular shore path from an older photograph.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



06 / Spruce Mountain upper loop

The wooded climb and broad mesa views create a rewarding step up from a short city walk. The landscape also helps explain the transition between northern Colorado Springs and southern Douglas County.

The outing	Roughly 5-6 miles; approach plus loop
Effort / time	Moderate 2.5-4 hours
Underfoot	Forested climb, mesa-top walking and rock-rim views
Start here	Mark Weston Open Space at Spruce Mountain, south of Larkspur.

The route to choose

Use the signed approach to the upper mesa and follow the chosen loop back to the descent. Connector choices change the distance; do not confuse the mountain circuit with the larger Spruce Meadows network.

Make it your kind of day

Give the climb time and save energy for the full return. A shorter turnaround before completing the top circuit is a valid option when weather or energy changes.

Before you go

Rock edges, wind and mixed users require attention. Respect seasonal mud closures and posted hours; use the county map to select the exact circuit.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



02 / PIKES PEAK FORESTS & CANYON COUNTRY

A mountain day can begin nearby.

Waterfall walks, woodland loops and the west side of Pikes Peak.



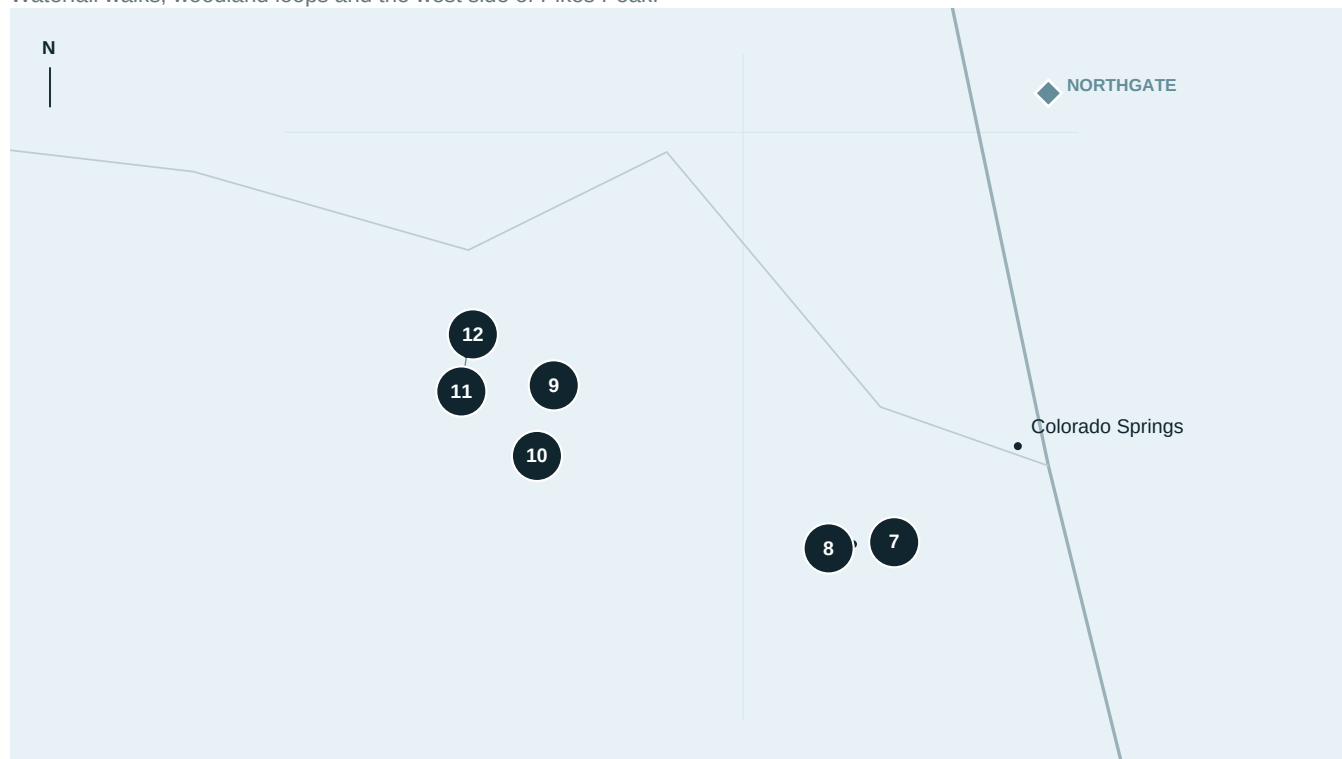
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Waterfall walks, woodland loops and the west side of Pikes Peak.



Geographic locator | approximate markers | highways generalized | not for navigation

- 07 Mount Cutler
- 08 Seven Bridges
- 09 The Craggs
- 10 Horsethief Falls
- 11 Outlook Ridge to Raven Ridge
- 12 Wapiti Nature Trail

The approach

North Cheyenne Cañon serves the city-side canyon walks. US 24 west leads toward Divide and Mueller; CO 67 and Forest Road 383 serve different west-side trailheads.

HEATHER SAYS

"The best trip is the one that fits your people, your comfort level and the time you actually have."



07 / Mount Cutler

Mount Cutler offers a summit-shaped outing without the scale of a high alpine day. It is a useful way to experience the canyon country above Colorado Springs while keeping the overall walk manageable.

The outing	About 2 miles; out and back
Effort / time	Moderate 1.5-2 hours
Underfoot	Woodland trail with climb and exposed viewpoints
Start here	North Cheyenne Cañon; Mount Cutler trailhead on the canyon road.

The route to choose

Follow the signed Mount Cutler route and return the same way. Do not substitute a neighboring mountain or an informal ridge extension for the defined outing.

Make it your kind of day

Choose it for a shorter hill walk with a clear destination. The climb and viewpoints matter more than the modest mileage suggests, especially for someone new to the local elevation.

Before you go

Road parking is limited. Check canyon access before leaving, stay back from drops and do not rely on mobile reception inside the canyon.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



08 / Seven Bridges

Water and trees change the mood of the outing. Counting bridges gives the walk a natural rhythm, while the surrounding forest makes it feel farther from town than the approach suggests.

The outing	About 3.5-4 miles to the seventh bridge and back
Effort / time	Moderate 2-3 hours
Underfoot	Creekside forest, rocks and repeated bridge crossings
Start here	Upper North Cheyenne Cañon access; include the connecting approach from legal parking.

The route to choose

Reach the signed Seven Bridges trail using the current mapped connection. Turn around at the seventh bridge for this version; higher trails continue beyond it and belong to a different plan.

Make it your kind of day

It is a good step beyond a short overlook walk when everyone is comfortable on rocky trail. Leave room for breaks without building the afternoon around another distant destination.

Before you go

Bridges and shaded rocks can be slick. High water, ice and snow change the difficulty. Keep people and pets out of fast water and respect trail or road closures.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



09 / The Crag

The west side of Pikes Peak offers a different mountain perspective. Forest gives way to the granite forms that make the destination memorable, with a larger sense of country beyond the trees.

The outing	About 5 miles; out and back
Effort / time	Moderate to demanding 3-4 hours
Underfoot	Forest climb to granite formations and open views
Start here	Crag trailhead #664; check Forest Road 383 conditions and seasonal access.

The route to choose

Follow the Crag route to its rock formations and return. The Forest Service describes a 2.5-mile trail with about 800 feet of elevation change; the out-and-back plan doubles that length. This is not the summit route to Pikes Peak.

Make it your kind of day

Choose a stable weather day and start with the expectation of a genuine mountain walk. An appealing photo of the rocks does not show the cold or wind you may find there.

Before you go

Use designated parking and check the road before driving it. Snow can persist; do not continue toward Devils Playground by accident at a junction.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



10 / Horsethief Falls

This route has the satisfying progression of a woodland climb ending at water. The falls are a reason to walk, but the forest and open stretches deserve time too.

The outing	About 2.5-3 miles; out and back
Effort / time	Moderate 1.5-2.5 hours
Underfoot	Initial climb, forest and waterfall approach
Start here	Horsethief Park trailhead near the former highway tunnel on CO 67.

The route to choose

Use Horsethief Park trail access and the signed falls branch. Return from the falls for this outing. Pancake Rocks and the longer network connections are separate destinations with substantially more climbing.

Make it your kind of day

Choose it when the group wants a compact mountain outing rather than an all-day effort. The opening grade means it should not be judged only by the total distance.

Before you go

Park legally clear of the highway. Wet rock can be slippery; do not climb into the falls or assume that a winter photograph describes ordinary walking conditions.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.

11 / Outlook Ridge to Raven Ridge

Mueller combines meadow, forest and the quiet of a park walk with a mountain-country setting. This shorter selection makes the overlook the focus without requiring a long circuit.

The outing	About 1.4 miles; out and back
Effort / time	Moderate 1-1.5 hours
Underfoot	Descending woodland trail and rock overlook spur
Start here	Mueller State Park; Outlook Ridge trailhead.

The route to choose

Follow Outlook Ridge #7 and the Raven Ridge #8 spur, then retrace your steps. Additional overlook spurs change the outing. Remember that a descent at the beginning becomes a climb on the way back.

Make it your kind of day

A thoughtful choice for someone who wants a shorter trail but is comfortable with hills and uneven ground. Save time for the view instead of trying to include every spur.

Before you go

Mueller does not allow pets on hiking trails or in the backcountry. Park entry is separate from camping reservations. Verify snow, ice and the correct trailhead before walking.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



12 / Wapiti Nature Trail

A short interpretive walk can make the landscape more interesting rather than merely make the outing shorter. Wapiti provides an inviting way to slow down and notice the living details of Mueller.

The outing	About 0.8 mile; loop
Effort / time	Gentle to moderate 45-75 minutes
Underfoot	Short natural-surface interpretive loop
Start here	Mueller State Park visitor center area; follow the current signed Wapiti route.

The route to choose

Use the signed nature trail from the visitor center area. Do not accidentally follow the longer Rock Pond connections when intending the short loop.

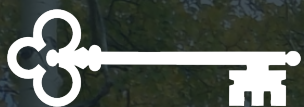
Make it your kind of day

Choose it for a gentle introduction to the park, a shorter day or a companion who enjoys learning as much as covering ground. High elevation still belongs in the comfort decision.

Before you go

No pets on Mueller hiking trails. Natural surfaces and winter conditions may change access; confirm the actual route if a wheelchair, walker or stroller is part of the plan.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



03 / FRONT RANGE FOOTHILLS

Find the day that fits your pace.

Red formations, forest loops and canyon-side views.

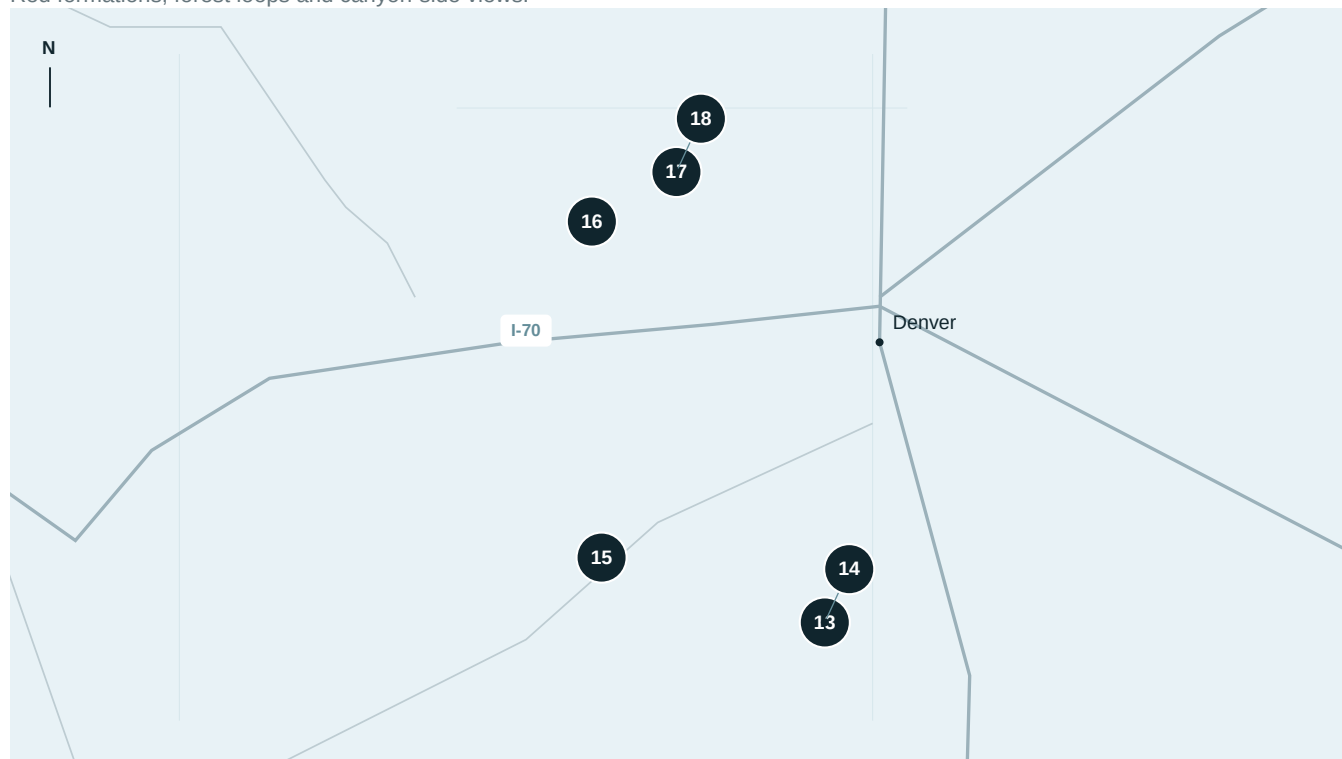


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- 13 Fountain Valley
- 14 Carpenter Peak
- 15 Davis Ponds
- 16 Raccoon Trail
- 17 Rattlesnake Gulch
- 18 Fowler Trail: state park segment

The approach

I-25 and the Denver-area road network connect to separate foothill gateways. Roxborough, Staunton, Golden Gate Canyon and Eldorado are distinct destinations, not one convenient cluster.

HEATHER SAYS

"There is no single right way to enjoy the outdoors. The day should fit the people who are there."



13 / Fountain Valley

The tilted sandstone creates an immersive foothill walk with a very different character from an alpine lake. This is a place to look closely and let the landscape be the event.

The outing	About 2.5 miles; loop
Effort / time	Gentle to moderate 1.5-2 hours
Underfoot	Rolling natural surface among red sandstone formations
Start here	Roxborough State Park visitor center trail area.

The route to choose

Follow the signed Fountain Valley loop from the visitor center area. Overlook spurs and pauses add to the time; stay on the official route through the formations.

Make it your kind of day

Choose it for geology, spring or autumn light and a walk that leaves time to stop. The current CPW description lists 2.5 miles; older descriptions may use a shorter figure.

Before you go

Roxborough does not allow dogs. Expect exposed sun and possible mud or ice; the loop is not a blanket accessible route despite its relatively gentle character.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



14 / Carpenter Peak

Carpenter Peak is the longer commitment within the Roxborough setting. It suits a day when the group wants sustained walking and a higher perspective, rather than a brief tour of the red rocks.

The outing	About 6.5 miles; out and back
Effort / time	Demanding 3.5-5 hours
Underfoot	Sustained foothill climb with forest and summit views
Start here	Roxborough State Park; use the signed Carpenter Peak approach.

The route to choose

Follow the signed route to Carpenter Peak and return. CPW lists 3.25 miles each way. The wider connected trail system does not turn this into a simple shortcut loop.

Make it your kind of day

Choose it after an easier local hill walk has confirmed the group enjoys a longer climb. Begin with enough daylight and energy for the descent as well as the ascent.

Before you go

Dogs are not allowed in Roxborough. Heat and thunderstorms can change the plan. Carry sufficient water and turn around before a late summit would force a rushed return.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



15 / Davis Ponds

Davis Ponds offers a softer introduction to Staunton than its farther waterfall destinations. Meadow, forest edges and water create an outing that can stay focused on the people walking with you.

The outing	About 2-2.5 miles; chosen pond circuit
Effort / time	Gentle to moderate 1-2 hours
Underfoot	Meadow and woodland paths with pond connections
Start here	Staunton State Park; choose the current Davis Ponds approach from the official map.

The route to choose

Choose a signed pond circuit from the current parking area. Connecting paths and starting lot change the total; the outing range here includes an approach rather than only one named trail segment.

Make it your kind of day

A useful choice for mixed-comfort groups. Confirm the particular accessible fishing arrangement separately if someone needs it; it does not establish the surface of the entire walking circuit.

Before you go

Stay on permitted paths around the ponds and obey current pet and fishing rules. Staunton offers adaptive programs; arrange assistance with the park rather than assuming it is available on arrival.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



16 / Raccoon Trail

Raccoon is an inviting foothill forest outing with enough climb to feel like a hike. It offers a way to enjoy a mountain setting without building the entire day around a high summit.

The outing	About 2.5 miles; loop
Effort / time	Moderate 1.5-2.5 hours
Underfoot	Forested slopes and open mountain views
Start here	Golden Gate Canyon State Park; check the Panorama Point/Reverends Ridge connections.

The route to choose

Follow the mapped Raccoon loop from your selected trailhead. A campground approach or extra overlook connection changes the distance, so choose one version before starting.

Make it your kind of day

Give it a relaxed schedule in a season that suits the footing. A viewpoint is more enjoyable when the group has time to stop rather than needing to make up time.

Before you go

Download the map before arriving; reception can be limited. Check mud, ice and road access. Follow current leash rules and stay on designated trails through sensitive vegetation.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



17 / Rattlesnake Gulch

Eldorado brings a dramatic canyon scale to a foothill day. The climb has a destination and a sense of history, with the higher loop adding a broader outlook.

The outing	About 3.5-4 miles; climb with upper loop
Effort / time	Moderate to demanding 2.5-3.5 hours
Underfoot	Rocky canyon climb, hotel ruins and overlook loop
Start here	Eldorado Canyon State Park; verify vehicle reservation requirements for your date.

The route to choose

Follow the signed Rattlesnake Gulch route past the Craggs Hotel ruins and use the upper loop only if conditions and energy fit. Return along the same lower approach.

Make it your kind of day

Choose it for a more substantial canyon hike than the lower path. Plan arrival and return around actual park access rather than assuming that holding a state park pass guarantees parking.

Before you go

Rocky footing and exposed sections require attention. A timed vehicle reservation can be separate from the entry fee. Use current CPW instructions, not an old reservation calendar.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



18 / Fowler Trail: state park segment

A shorter canyon walk can still feel expansive. Fowler offers a way to enjoy Eldorado scenery without the sustained ascent of the higher trails.

The outing	Up to about 1.4 miles; out and back
Effort / time	Gentle 45-90 minutes
Underfoot	Broad canyon-side trail; selected accessible portion
Start here	Eldorado Canyon State Park; begin at the signed Fowler access.

The route to choose

Use the state park segment and return at a chosen point, up to roughly 0.7 mile each way. The trail continues beyond the park and connects with other routes; this profile does not cover that wider network.

Make it your kind of day

This is worth comparing for a lower-effort group. Ask about the exact grade, surface and accessible start when mobility equipment is involved; do not assume every extension has the same standard.

Before you go

Confirm park access and timed vehicle requirements. Stay clear of cliff edges and avoid lingering below climbing areas where falling objects may be a concern.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



04 / NORTHERN FRONT RANGE & STEAMBOAT COUNTRY

Give the farther places a little more time.

Foothill climbs, a waterfall overlook and northern mountain meadows.



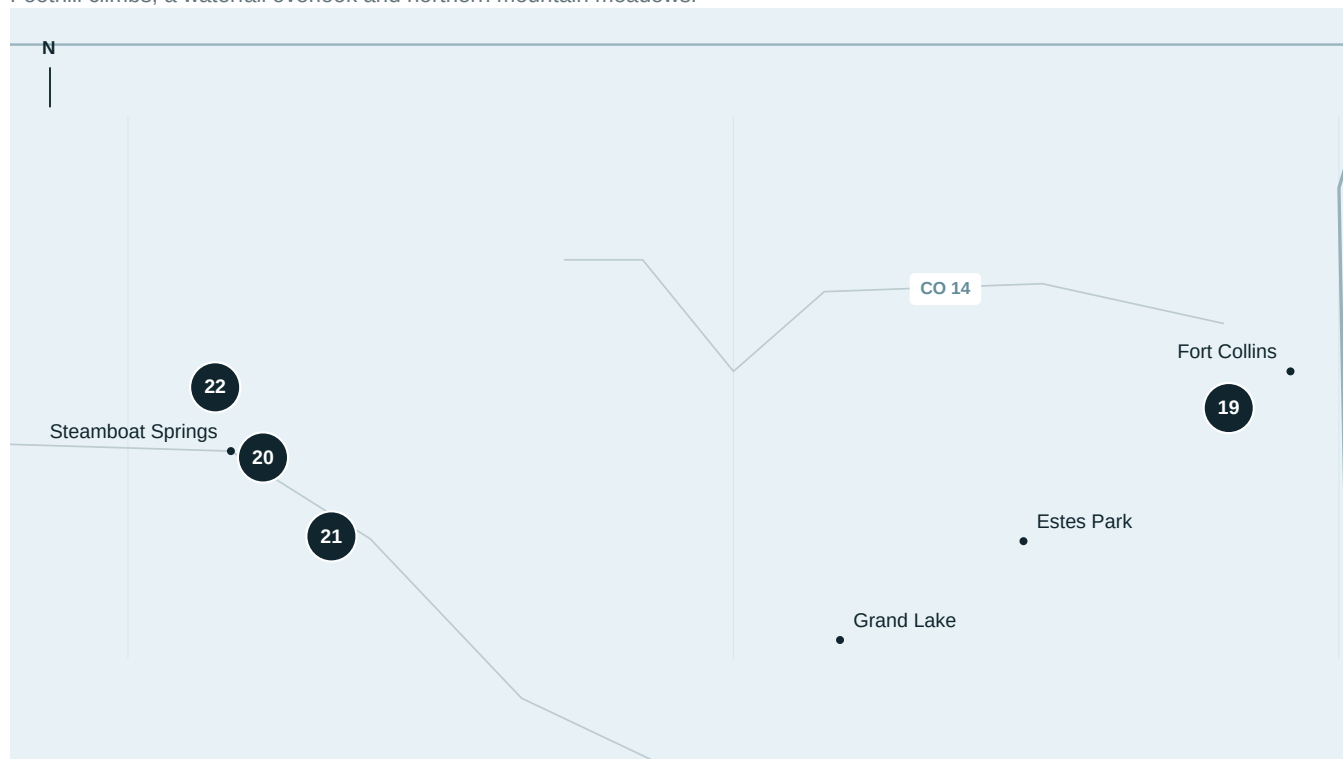
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Give the farther places a little more time.

Foothill climbs, a waterfall overlook and northern mountain meadows.



Geographic locator | approximate markers | highways generalized | not for navigation

- 19 Arthur's Rock
- 20 Fish Creek Falls overlook
- 21 Rabbit Ears Peak approach
- 22 Mad Creek to the historic barn

The approach

Lory is a Fort Collins-area destination. Steamboat Springs and Rabbit Ears Pass belong to a separate western approach via the mountain road network. Do not confuse their closeness on a statewide map with a short connecting drive.

HEATHER SAYS

"I enjoy exploring, and I enjoy coming home. The right Colorado life leaves room for both."



19 / Arthur's Rock

The climb brings the northern Front Range into the collection. Woodland and open views create a day that feels different from both Colorado Springs sandstone and the high alpine basins farther west.

The outing	About 3.4 miles; out and back
Effort / time	Moderate to demanding 2-3.5 hours
Underfoot	Foothill ascent with rocky final approach
Start here	Lory State Park near Fort Collins; Arthur's Rock trailhead.

The route to choose

Follow the signed Arthur's Rock Trail and return. CPW describes 1.7 miles each way and about 1,000 feet of climbing. Nearby connections belong to a separate route plan.

Make it your kind of day

It suits a longer regional visit more comfortably than a hurried drive-and-hike day from Colorado Springs. Match the last rocky approach to everyone's comfort.

Before you go

Check park closures and weather. Keep dogs leashed as required and away from edges. Warm foothill conditions do not remove the need for water or a turnaround plan.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



20 / Fish Creek Falls overlook

A short walk to a powerful landscape belongs beside longer hikes in a well-rounded collection. The overlook lets the waterfall be the destination without requiring the climb to the upper falls.

The outing	About 0.5 mile; overlook outing
Effort / time	Gentle 30-60 minutes
Underfoot	Accessible overlook approach; separate dirt descent
Start here	Fish Creek Falls day-use area east of Steamboat Springs.

The route to choose

Use the accessible overlook route. The dirt path to the bridge and the longer trail beyond it are different outings with different grades, conditions and restrictions.

Make it your kind of day

Choose this for a shorter day or to include someone who prefers a more developed approach. Verify surface and facility access for the actual season, especially if snow is present.

Before you go

The bridge and trail beyond have been subject to closures. Check current Forest Service orders before adding any extension; never cross a closure to reach the upper falls. No potable water is provided.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



21 / Rabbit Ears Peak approach

Open meadows and the distinctive rock forms give this northern mountain day a strong identity. The high starting elevation means even the first stretch is a mountain outing.

The outing	About 6 miles; out and back
Effort / time	Moderate to demanding 3-4.5 hours
Underfoot	Old road, meadows and increasingly steep grades
Start here	Dumont Lake/Rabbit Ears Pass area; confirm the legal parking and road approach.

The route to choose

Use the signed old-road approach toward the formation and retrace it. Stop at a safe viewpoint near the formations; climbing onto the fragile ears is not part of this hiking plan.

Make it your kind of day

Choose stable weather and allow more time than the mileage alone suggests. Wildflowers are a seasonal possibility, not a guaranteed feature on any particular date.

Before you go

Check road and trail conditions, stay on established surfaces and avoid damaging alpine plants. Snow travel adds terrain hazards and should not be treated as the same summer hike.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



22 / Mad Creek to the historic barn

A defined destination and changing landscape make the barn a useful turnaround for a half-day walk. This is a chance to enjoy the valley country rather than make every northern outing about a high peak.

The outing	About 4 miles; out and back
Effort / time	Moderate 2-3 hours
Underfoot	Creek corridor, open slopes and woodland
Start here	Mad Creek trailhead off County Road 129 north of Steamboat Springs.

The route to choose

Follow Mad Creek Trail to the historic barn area and return. The trail continues toward a larger backcountry network; reaching the barn does not commit you to those extensions.

Make it your kind of day

A good companion to a longer Steamboat visit. Keep time for the setting instead of stacking it immediately after another ambitious trail.

Before you go

Expect shared use where permitted and exposed warm stretches. Confirm current trailhead fees and restrictions. Treat the historic structure respectfully and follow any posted access limits.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



05 / ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

Let the lakes set the rhythm.

Short shoreline walks, a higher lake journey and both sides of the park.



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Let the lakes set the rhythm.

Short shoreline walks, a higher lake journey and both sides of the park.



Geographic locator | approximate markers | highways generalized | not for navigation

- 23 Bear Lake loop
- 24 Sprague Lake
- 25 Alberta Falls
- 26 Emerald Lake
- 27 Gem Lake
- 28 Adams Falls

The approach

Bear Lake, Sprague and Glacier Gorge are east-side destinations. Gem Lake uses Lumpy Ridge; Adams Falls begins at East Inlet near Grand Lake. Seasonal Trail Ridge Road conditions affect travel between sides.

HEATHER SAYS

"A shorter walk can still give us the feeling we came for. I like leaving time to notice where we are."



23 / Bear Lake loop

Bear Lake demonstrates how much landscape can belong to a short walk. Mountain reflections and changing light are enough reason to slow down rather than immediately hurry toward the next lake.

The outing	About 0.6-0.7 mile; lake loop with approach
Effort / time	Gentle to moderate 45-90 minutes
Underfoot	Developed lakeside trail with uneven places
Start here	Rocky Mountain National Park; Bear Lake trailhead and seasonal shuttle system.

The route to choose

Walk the signed shoreline loop. Published totals differ with the trailhead approach included; this profile keeps the short circuit separate from the longer lake trails that leave the same area.

Make it your kind of day

Choose it as a deliberate outing, especially on an acclimation day. Gentle distance does not make the elevation, winter surface or crowds irrelevant.

Before you go

Check the correct Bear Lake Road timed-entry option, parking and shuttle operation. Pets are not permitted on this trail. Ask about the specific accessible segment rather than assuming the full loop is uniformly accessible.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



24 / Sprague Lake

Sprague Lake is a place to let a mountain morning unfold at a quieter walking pace. The broad setting makes a shorter outing feel complete.

The outing	About 0.5-0.8 mile; loop with approach
Effort / time	Gentle 45-90 minutes
Underfoot	Generally level developed lakeside circuit
Start here	Rocky Mountain National Park; Sprague Lake parking and Bear Lake Road access.

The route to choose

Follow the lakeside loop and return to your starting point. The walking total depends on parking and the access path, which explains the range between common descriptions.

Make it your kind of day

Compare this for a group seeking a lower-effort park walk. It is also a useful alternative when the day should be about adjusting to elevation rather than climbing farther.

Before you go

Bear Lake Road access rules still apply. Confirm the actual accessible path and any seasonal ice or snow. Pets are not allowed on the trail, and wildlife must be watched from a distance.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



25 / Alberta Falls

A forest approach and the sound of moving water make Alberta Falls an appealing first step beyond a shoreline loop. There is a clear destination without needing an all-day commitment.

The outing	About 1.6 miles; out and back from Glacier Gorge
Effort / time	Moderate 1.5-2 hours
Underfoot	Forest trail, rock steps and waterfall viewpoint
Start here	Rocky Mountain National Park; Glacier Gorge trailhead or current shuttle stop.

The route to choose

Start at Glacier Gorge for the stated version and return from the falls. Beginning at Bear Lake changes both distance and climbing; continuing to higher lakes creates a different outing.

Make it your kind of day

Choose it when everyone is comfortable with uneven trail and some climb. Protect enough time at the falls to enjoy the experience without crowding a rock edge.

Before you go

Use the required seasonal Bear Lake Road access arrangement. Wet or icy rock is slippery. Pets are not permitted, and the stream is not a safe place for scrambling or play.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



26 / Emerald Lake

Several lakes turn this into a sequence of experiences rather than a single finish line. Forest, open water and the surrounding walls create an immersive mountain day.

The outing	About 3.4 miles; out and back
Effort / time	Moderate to demanding 2.5-4 hours
Underfoot	Mountain-lake ascent past Nymph and Dream Lakes
Start here	Rocky Mountain National Park; Bear Lake trailhead.

The route to choose

Follow the signed route past Nymph and Dream Lakes to Emerald, then return. The NPS corridor table lists 1.7 miles one way and about 771 feet of gain. Dream Lake can be a sensible earlier turnaround.

Make it your kind of day

Choose it after considering elevation and weather, not just its familiar name. A shorter lake destination still gives the day a purpose when the group needs a gentler plan.

Before you go

Confirm timed entry, shuttle and trail conditions. Snow and ice can persist well beyond warm weather in town. No pets on the trail; keep away from steep shore edges and thin ice.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



27 / Gem Lake

Gem Lake offers a granite-country experience different from the Bear Lake corridor. The interest is in the rock forms, views and climb as much as the small lake itself.

The outing	About 3.4 miles; out and back
Effort / time	Moderate to demanding 2.5-3.5 hours
Underfoot	Rocky steps, granite formations and steady climb
Start here	Rocky Mountain National Park; Lumpy Ridge trailhead near Estes Park.

The route to choose

Use the signed Gem Lake route from Lumpy Ridge and return. This is not the longer circuit around Lumpy Ridge, and the lake should not be mistaken for a large alpine shoreline destination.

Make it your kind of day

Choose it for a group comfortable with sustained steps. Its shorter total can conceal the effort of climbing and the need to descend the same uneven surface.

Before you go

Check seasonal timed-entry rules for outlying park areas too. Carry water and expect sun on exposed sections. Pets are not permitted on park trails.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



28 / Adams Falls

The west side of the park deserves its own visit. Adams Falls gives a shorter walk a memorable water destination without presenting the east and west gateways as interchangeable.

The outing	About 0.6 mile; out and back
Effort / time	Gentle to moderate 45-75 minutes
Underfoot	Short forest trail with rocky waterfall area
Start here	Rocky Mountain National Park; East Inlet trailhead near Grand Lake.

The route to choose

Follow East Inlet access to the signed falls area and return. Continuing toward the meadows or deeper East Inlet backcountry adds distance and changes the plan.

Make it your kind of day

Choose this as part of a Grand Lake stay rather than an assumed quick add-on from Estes Park. Seasonal Trail Ridge Road access can change the entire journey between sides.

Before you go

Check current access and timed-entry rules. Keep away from wet rock and drops, supervise children closely and do not enter the water near the falls. No pets on the trail.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



06 / SUMMIT COUNTY, VAIL PASS & ASPEN

Choose the weather. Then choose the climb.

Lake walks, mountain basins and a ridge worth planning for.



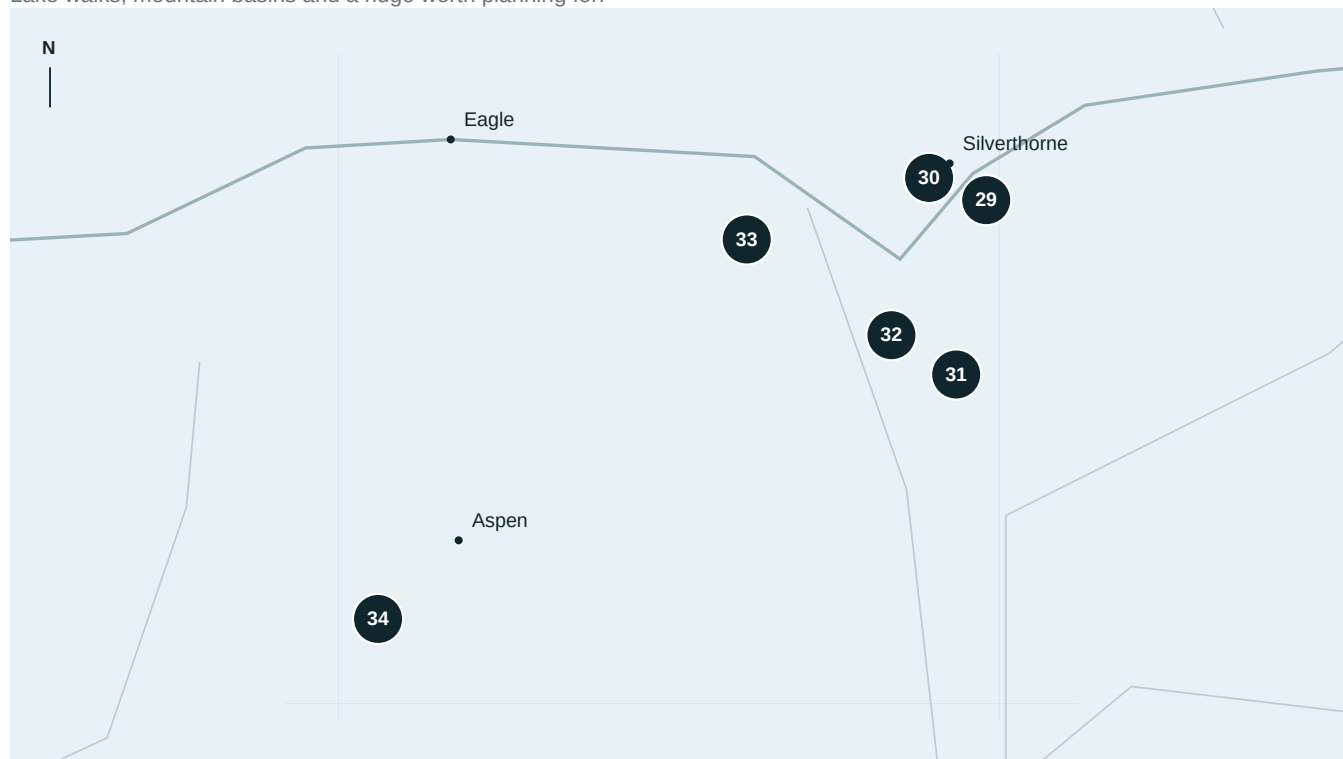
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Choose the weather. Then choose the climb.

Lake walks, mountain basins and a ridge worth planning for.



Geographic locator | approximate markers | highways generalized | not for navigation

- 29 Sapphire Point loop
- 30 Lily Pad Lake from Wilderrest
- 31 McCullough Gulch to the lower lake
- 32 Mayflower Gulch to the mining cabins
- 33 Shrine Ridge
- 34 Maroon Lake Scenic Trail

The approach

Summit County trailheads, Shrine Pass and Aspen occupy different mountain gateways. Scenic access may include seasonal roads, reserved parking or a shuttle; plan around the actual start.

HEATHER SAYS

"I like doing the practical work before we leave. Once we get outside, I want the day to feel simpler."



29 / Sapphire Point loop

A reservoir outlook can make a shorter walk feel generous. Sapphire Point suits a day when you want the mountain setting without another long climb.

The outing	About 0.6 mile; loop
Effort / time	Gentle to moderate 45-75 minutes
Underfoot	Short overlook circuit at high elevation
Start here	Swan Mountain Road between Dillon and Breckenridge; designated parking only.

The route to choose

Use the open signed circuit and viewpoints. The short distance is the walking portion, not an assurance of parking or a uniform accessible surface.

Make it your kind of day

Treat it as a scenic outing with room to pause. An overlook should not become an obligation to stand near an edge or disturb another group using the site.

Before you go

The Forest Service changed event reservations to the new North overlook in June 2026 after renovation. Check the current layout and open paths; event reservations do not confer exclusive public use of the entire area.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



30 / Lily Pad Lake from Wildernest

This is a quieter kind of Summit County goal: time in the trees and a lake destination rather than a push toward a high ridge. It makes a useful contrast to the more exposed routes nearby.

The outing	About 3 miles; out and back
Effort / time	Moderate 2-3 hours
Underfoot	Forest trail to a lake setting
Start here	Ryan Gulch Road/Wildernest trailhead above Silverthorne; verify parking.

The route to choose

Use the Lily Pad Trail from the Wildernest side and return. A Meadow Creek/Frisco start is another route with a different climb; confirm which trailhead the chosen description uses.

Make it your kind of day

Choose a pace that leaves time at the water while still respecting the return. The forest can hold snow and mud after open slopes look dry.

Before you go

Review Eagles Nest Wilderness rules and current pet requirements. Stay on durable surfaces at the shore and do not create new paths around wet places.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



31 / McCullough Gulch to the lower lake

The drainage offers a concentrated high-country experience: old-road access, a waterfall viewpoint and a lake beneath steep mountain walls. It deserves more respect than a short mileage figure can convey.

The outing	Roughly 3-4 miles from the hiking trailhead; approach varies
Effort / time	Demanding 3-5 hours including access
Underfoot	High-elevation rocky trail, falls and lake approach
Start here	Quandary/McCullough access system; verify the current parking or shuttle arrangement.

The route to choose

Follow the signed route toward White Falls and the lower alpine lake, then return. Do not add higher lakes casually. Road walking, shuttle drop-off and the legal starting point can substantially change the total.

Make it your kind of day

Choose this for a prepared group on a stable day. Set a turnaround before leaving and allow the transport schedule to support the hike, not push a late climb.

Before you go

Seasonal reserved parking or shuttle access is managed locally. Remain on the allowed corridor beside private land. Snow, lightning and route-finding difficulty can make this a different undertaking.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



32 / Mayflower Gulch to the mining cabins

The basin opens gradually, giving a forest walk a striking mountain reveal. The historic cabin area is a satisfying stopping point without adding the longer high-country extensions.

The outing	About 3 miles; out and back to the cabin area
Effort / time	Moderate 2-3 hours
Underfoot	Old road through forest into a high basin
Start here	CO 91 trailhead; this version starts at the lower highway parking area.

The route to choose

Follow the established road/trail to the old mining cabins and return. Upper viewpoints and basin explorations increase distance and exposure. Starting farther up a road is not the version described here.

Make it your kind of day

Choose it when the group wants mountain scale and can handle a high starting elevation. Make the cabin area the planned destination rather than an automatic invitation to keep climbing.

Before you go

Do not enter unstable mine workings or buildings. Winter and spring routes can involve avalanche terrain; a summer route description is not a snow-travel plan.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



33 / Shrine Ridge

Shrine Ridge is the sort of outing where the transition from forest to open country is the story. The ridge rewards a day chosen for weather as well as views.

The outing	About 4 miles; out and back
Effort / time	Moderate to demanding 2.5-4 hours
Underfoot	Meadows, forest and exposed ridge approach
Start here	Shrine Pass Road #709; confirm road opening, surface and legal parking.

The route to choose

Follow the signed trail to the ridge and your selected safe viewpoint, then return. Choose a clear turnaround rather than wandering toward every visible high point.

Make it your kind of day

This is a summer mountain plan, not a promise of early-season dry trail. Leave room to turn back before the open ridge if cloud, wind or the group's energy changes.

Before you go

Check current maintenance closures and road access. Exposed terrain needs a conservative lightning plan; do not assume a sheltering tree on a ridge makes a storm safe.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



34 / Maroon Lake Scenic Trail

Maroon Lake can be the whole outing. The view deserves time and attention without the need to turn every visit into the longer climb to Crater Lake.

The outing	About 1 mile; chosen scenic circuit
Effort / time	Gentle to moderate 1-1.5 hours
Underfoot	Lake-edge and creekside natural surfaces
Start here	Maroon Bells Scenic Area near Aspen; reserve the appropriate access arrangement.

The route to choose

Follow the signed scenic trail and return using the open circuit. Confirm which paths are operating. This profile does not cover Crater Lake, the Four Pass Loop or overnight wilderness travel.

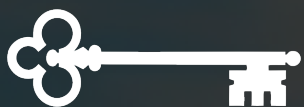
Make it your kind of day

Choose this for a deliberately slower morning. A reserved arrival and a short walk work best when you leave time to enjoy the place between transport connections.

Before you go

Parking and shuttle reservations are separate access arrangements with seasonal rules. Respect lakeshore restoration areas and wildlife, and verify pet rules for the exact segment and transport.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



07 / UPPER ARKANSAS & THE SAN LUIS VALLEY

Follow the trail into a different Colorado.

Lakeshore history, wooded canyons and the edge of the dunes.



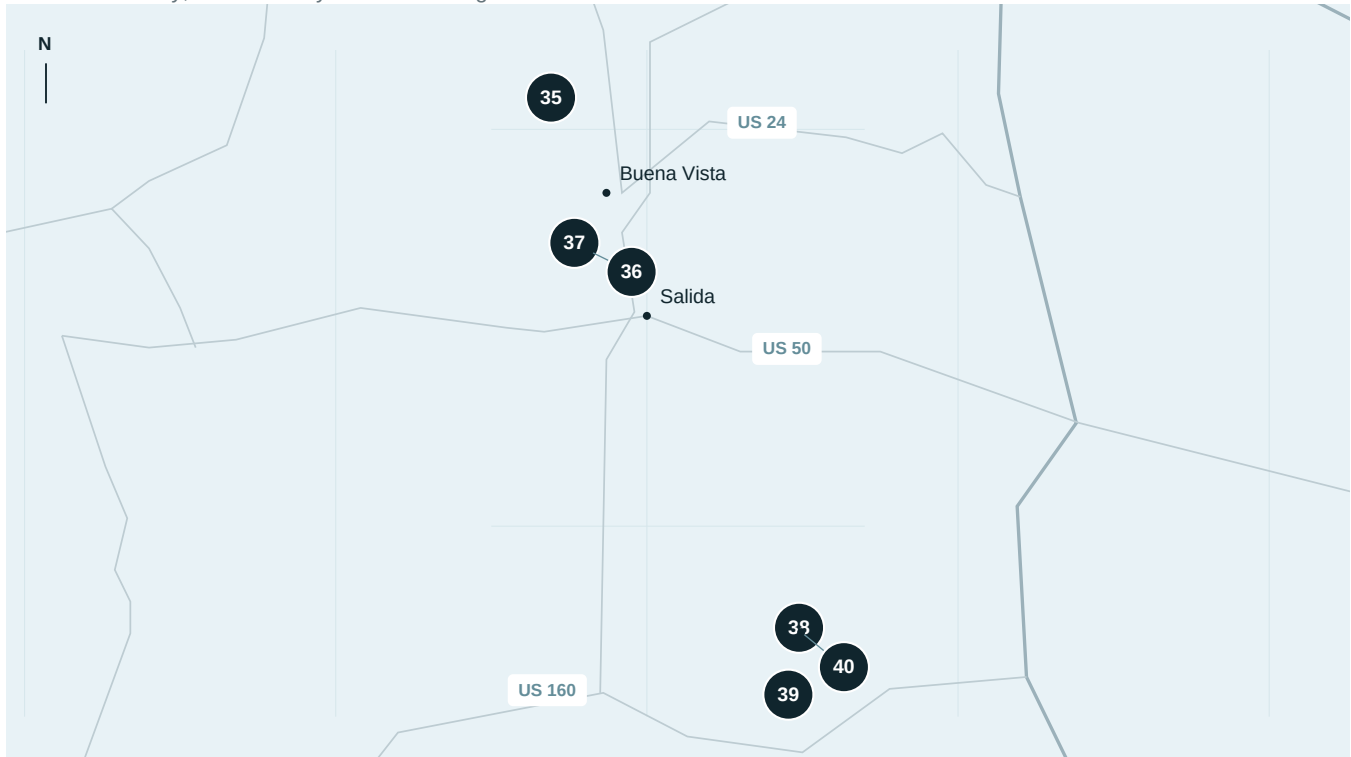
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Follow the trail into a different Colorado.

Lakeshore history, wooded canyons and the edge of the dunes.



Geographic locator | approximate markers | highways generalized | not for navigation

- 35 Interlaken from Twin Lakes
- 36 Browns Creek Falls
- 37 Cascade Creek interpretive loop
- 38 Dunes Overlook
- 39 Zapata Falls
- 40 Mosca Pass

The approach

US 24 and US 285 serve the upper Arkansas country. The San Luis Valley and Great Sand Dunes require their own travel plan farther south. Each named trail has a different approach and parking arrangement.

HEATHER SAYS

"I love seeing how different one part of Colorado can feel from another. That variety keeps me wanting to explore."



35 / Interlaken from Twin Lakes

A lakeshore journey and historic destination give Interlaken a different kind of appeal from a summit. It is an invitation to combine scenery with a slower look at the landscape's human history.

The outing	About 4.4 miles; out and back
Effort / time	Moderate 2.5-3.5 hours
Underfoot	Lakeside trail to historic resort buildings
Start here	Southeast side of Twin Lakes; confirm the Interlaken trailhead approach.

The route to choose

The Forest Service describes 2.2 miles to Interlaken from the southeast side of the dam. Return the same way for this version; Hope Pass is a separate and much more demanding destination.

Make it your kind of day

Choose a day when the group wants steady walking without a summit goal. Allow time at the historic area while leaving enough for the full return along the water.

Before you go

Respect historic structures and posted building access. Lake wind, sun and high elevation still matter. Do not assume seasonal roads or facilities operate year-round.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



36 / Browns Creek Falls

A longer waterfall walk gives the day a satisfying focus. The approach is part of the pleasure, with changing woodland and creek country rather than a quick stop beside a road.

The outing	About 6 miles; out and back with signed falls spur
Effort / time	Moderate to demanding 3.5-5 hours
Underfoot	Forest, rocky climbing and creekside stretches
Start here	Browns Creek trailhead near Nathrop; verify the current mapped approach.

The route to choose

Use the current signed Browns Creek route and the falls spur. Return from the falls for this plan; Browns Lake adds a substantial further commitment. Trail labels in older accounts may differ from current mapping.

Make it your kind of day

Choose it for people already comfortable with several hours on foot. Plan food, layers and the return so that arriving at the falls is the midpoint of the day, not the end of your energy.

Before you go

Check trail and approach-road conditions. Use bridges or permitted crossings as intended; do not scramble into the waterfall or let a photograph dictate a risky position.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



37 / Cascade Creek interpretive loop

This is a shorter Chalk Creek outing for noticing the canyon rather than covering a long distance. Interpretive panels and the surrounding setting make the walk worthwhile on its own.

The outing	About 0.9 mile; loop
Effort / time	Gentle to moderate 45-75 minutes
Underfoot	Short interpretive trail in Chalk Creek Canyon
Start here	Cascade Creek Loop #1433, across from Chalk Lake Campground.

The route to choose

Follow the designated Cascade Creek loop. The Forest Service describes views of Agnes Vaille Falls and explicitly states that the trail does not go to the falls.

Make it your kind of day

Choose this version when looking for the current permitted short walk. Do not use an old Agnes Vaille route description to push beyond the signed trail toward the waterfall.

Before you go

Stay within the designated route and out of rockfall terrain. No drinking water is available at the trail. The short distance does not establish wheelchair access or safe winter footing.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



38 / Dunes Overlook

The dunefield becomes a different landscape when seen from its wooded edge. This is a way to enjoy the dunes as part of a broader mountain-and-valley setting.

The outing	About 2.3 miles; out and back
Effort / time	Moderate 1.5-2.5 hours
Underfoot	Sandy foothill trail and overlook climb
Start here	Great Sand Dunes National Park; trail access near Pinyon Flats campground.

The route to choose

Use the signed Dunes Overlook route and return. This is an established trail on the side of the dunefield, not a cross-country ascent of High Dune.

Make it your kind of day

Choose it when the group wants a defined path and a viewpoint. The sandy surface and elevation can make the outing feel harder than its distance suggests.

Before you go

Carry water and check heat, wind and thunderstorms. Confirm the correct parking and trail access rather than occupying a reserved campsite. Pet permissions vary by park area.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



39 / Zapata Falls

A sheltered waterfall above the San Luis Valley offers a striking change from the open dunefield. The experience is compact, but the final approach determines whether it fits your group.

The outing	About 1 mile; out and back
Effort / time	Moderate; slippery final approach 1-1.5 hours
Underfoot	Rocky trail; creek wading to see the falls
Start here	Zapata Falls day-use area; assess the steep approach road for your vehicle.

The route to choose

Walk the signed half-mile approach. Seeing the falls requires entering the creek on slippery rock; stop before that section if conditions or balance make it unsuitable.

Make it your kind of day

A worthwhile option only when the whole group is comfortable with the required footing. The walk to the creek can be the turnaround; reaching the hidden view is never compulsory.

Before you go

Cold water, ice and falling rock can create hazards. Check flow and weather, wear appropriate footwear and do not treat a frozen waterfall as ordinary trail walking.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



40 / Mosca Pass

Mosca Pass reveals the wooded mountain side of a park often defined by sand. It gives a longer walking day a different character and makes the diversity of the park tangible.

The outing	About 7 miles; out and back
Effort / time	Demanding 4-5.5 hours
Underfoot	Sustained forested climb along a mountain drainage
Start here	Great Sand Dunes; Montville/Mosca Pass trailhead near the visitor area.

The route to choose

Use the signed Mosca Pass route to the pass and return. Montville is a short separate nature-loop option; starting on that path does not mean the pass is a similar commitment.

Make it your kind of day

Choose the pass for a group ready for several hours and sustained climbing. Let the forest journey be the purpose rather than assuming the top will provide a broad dune panorama.

Before you go

Carry water, layers and navigation. Snow and storms can change the route. Verify the current boundary-specific pet rules before deciding whether a dog can join the entire outing.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



08 / SAN JUAN COUNTRY & MESA VERDE

Stay long enough to walk it slowly.

Mountain towns, waterfall canyons and a cultural landscape.



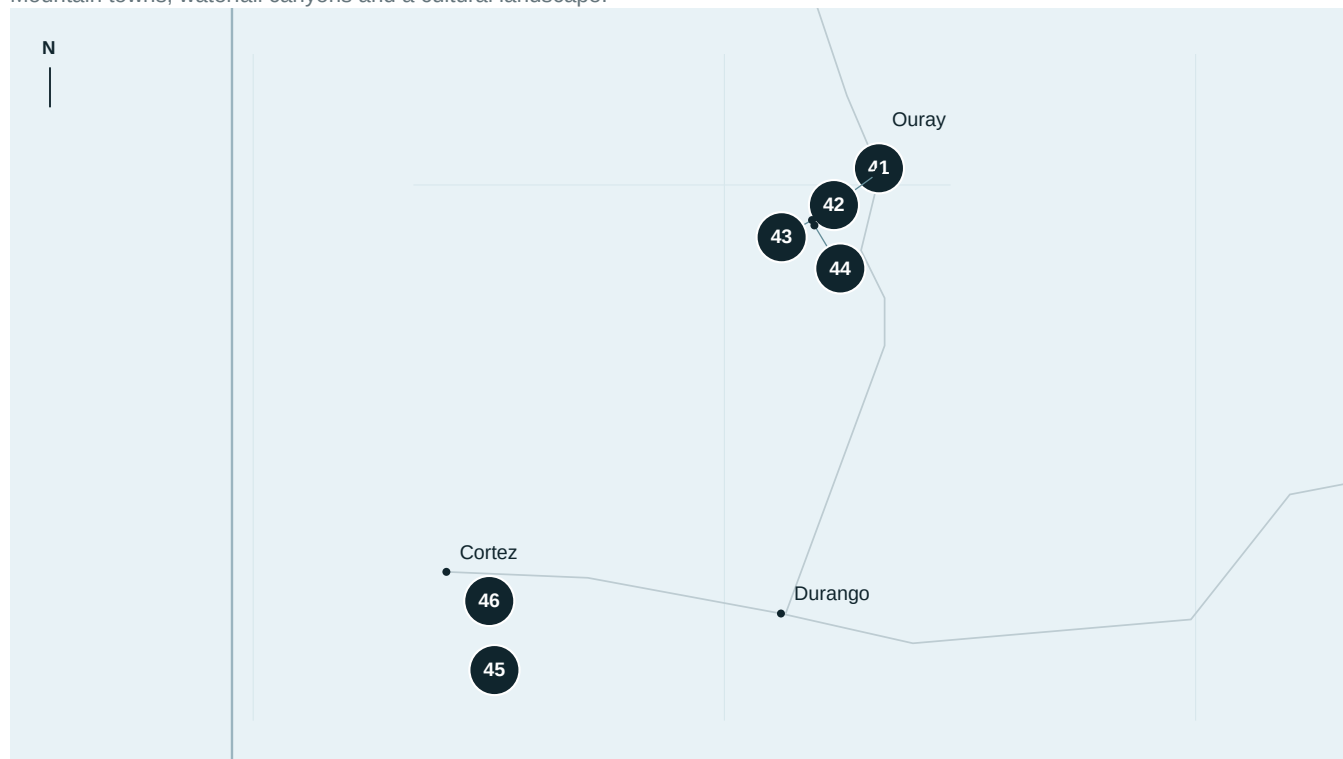
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Stay long enough to walk it slowly.

Mountain towns, waterfall canyons and a cultural landscape.



Geographic locator | approximate markers | highways generalized | not for navigation

- 41 Ouray Perimeter Trail
- 42 Box Cañon Falls walkway
- 43 Jud Wiebe
- 44 Bear Creek Falls: Telluride
- 45 Petroglyph Point
- 46 Point Lookout

The approach

Ouray, Telluride and Mesa Verde are separate bases. Mountain roads and internal park travel take time. Give each outing a sensible arrival instead of combining distant trailheads into one rushed day.

HEATHER SAYS

"The places we love are worth taking care of. Leaving them well is part of the experience."



41 / Ouray Perimeter Trail

The town and the surrounding walls remain in conversation throughout this walk. It is a memorable way to understand the setting while experiencing more than a single waterfall viewpoint.

The outing	Roughly 6 miles; full circuit varies with open connections
Effort / time	Demanding 4-5 hours
Underfoot	Repeated climbs, ledges, steps and canyon-side paths
Start here	Ouray; select a legal public access and check the current perimeter map.

The route to choose

Follow the current signed perimeter circuit. Different maps and temporary connections change the total. Sections can be walked separately, but plan the return to your own starting point before committing.

Make it your kind of day

Treat the full circuit as a hiking day, not a flat stroll around town. Repeated climbs and exposed portions can make it more demanding than the distance suggests.

Before you go

Check closures and any affected bridge or tunnel segments. Stay away from ledges in ice or storms. Entry to Box Cañon Falls is a separate choice and may carry its own fee and pet restrictions.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.

42 / Box Cañon Falls walkway

The sound and scale of the gorge make a short visit feel immersive. This is a distinct developed attraction, not simply another mile on a natural-surface trail.

The outing	About 500 feet to the falls viewpoint; return the same way
Effort / time	Short walk; steps and confined walkway 30-60 minutes
Underfoot	Developed walkway within a narrow gorge
Start here	Box Cañon Falls Park and Nature Center, Ouray; check hours and admission.

The route to choose

Use the signed falls walkway and return. The High Bridge and perimeter connections are separate options with additional steps and climbing; they are not included in the stated walk.

Make it your kind of day

Choose it when the group wants to experience the gorge without a long mountain hike. Ask directly about the actual access and stairs if mobility or confined spaces affect the decision.

Before you go

No dogs are allowed in the park. Surfaces can be wet and the sound intense. Confirm seasonal operation and admission before arriving, especially when linking it to another Ouray outing.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



43 / Jud Wiebe

A trail beginning beside town can still ask for a real climb. Jud Wiebe provides an elevated perspective on Telluride and the valley that surrounds it.

The outing	About 3.1 miles; loop
Effort / time	Demanding 2-3 hours
Underfoot	Steep town-to-hillside climb and forested traverse
Start here	Telluride; use the signed Aspen Street/Tomboy Road connections.

The route to choose

Follow the signed loop between the town access points. Choose the direction deliberately and understand where the circuit returns; short connectors along town streets may be needed.

Make it your kind of day

Choose it for a prepared half-day rather than a casual afterthought following a long drive. The roughly 1,200 feet of ascent reported by local visitor information explains why three miles can feel substantial.

Before you go

Check trail conditions and wear footwear suited to steep, loose stretches. Snow, mud and ice change the outing; town proximity is not a guarantee of easy footing.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.

44 / Bear Creek Falls: Telluride

Bear Creek offers a gradual departure from the town into a more enclosed mountain setting. A waterfall gives the outing a clear destination while forest and valley views carry the approach.

The outing	About 5 miles; out and back
Effort / time	Moderate to demanding 3-4 hours
Underfoot	Climbing dirt track, forest and waterfall approach
Start here	South end of Pine Street, Telluride; use legal town parking or local transport.

The route to choose

Follow Bear Creek #635 to the falls and return. The Wasatch Trail connection leads toward a larger mountain itinerary and is not a casual loop option for this profile.

Make it your kind of day

Choose a day when you can give the climb and return their own time. This is the Telluride route, not the similarly named Bear Creek trails near Ouray or Colorado Springs.

Before you go

Respect shared use and the preserve. Stay clear of steep wet rock near the falls. Winter travel brings additional snow and avalanche considerations beyond this summer hiking description.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



45 / Petroglyph Point

The trail invites a more attentive relationship with a living cultural landscape. The petroglyph panel and canyon views deserve a respectful pace, not a race to an attraction.

The outing	About 2.4-2.5 miles; loop
Effort / time	Demanding 2.5-3.5 hours
Underfoot	Narrow rocky trail, uneven steps and steep climb
Start here	Mesa Verde National Park; Spruce Tree House area, subject to current access.

The route to choose

Use the designated loop in the direction recommended by the park. The panel is about 1.4 miles from the start along the approach; the return includes a steep climb back to the mesa.

Make it your kind of day

Choose it only if the group is comfortable with narrow passages, uneven stone steps and exposure. The total distance understates its physical and technical demands.

Before you go

Check trail opening and any required registration. Stay on trail, leave artifacts in place and do not touch the panel. Pets are not permitted on this route. Tours of cliff dwellings are separate arrangements.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



46 / Point Lookout

Point Lookout turns the formation seen near the park entrance into a walking destination. It is a strong contrast to a cultural-site day deeper in the park.

The outing	About 2.2 miles; out and back
Effort / time	Moderate to demanding 1.5-2.5 hours
Underfoot	Steep switchbacks to a mesa-top viewpoint
Start here	Mesa Verde National Park; Morefield Campground trailhead.

The route to choose

Follow the signed trail from Morefield to the top and return. NPS lists about 400 feet of elevation change. Other Morefield routes are separate outings rather than simple extensions.

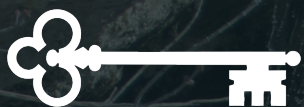
Make it your kind of day

Choose it when a shorter climb fits the day. Allow for the park’s internal travel distances when combining it with a reserved tour or another destination.

Before you go

Keep well back from edges and carry water. Trail access and road conditions are seasonal. Pets are not allowed on this trail. Park admission does not reserve a cliff-dwelling tour.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



09 / WESTERN CANYONS & WATERFALLS

Look beyond the mountain skyline.

Black Canyon, the Grand Valley, desert rock and Rifle Falls.

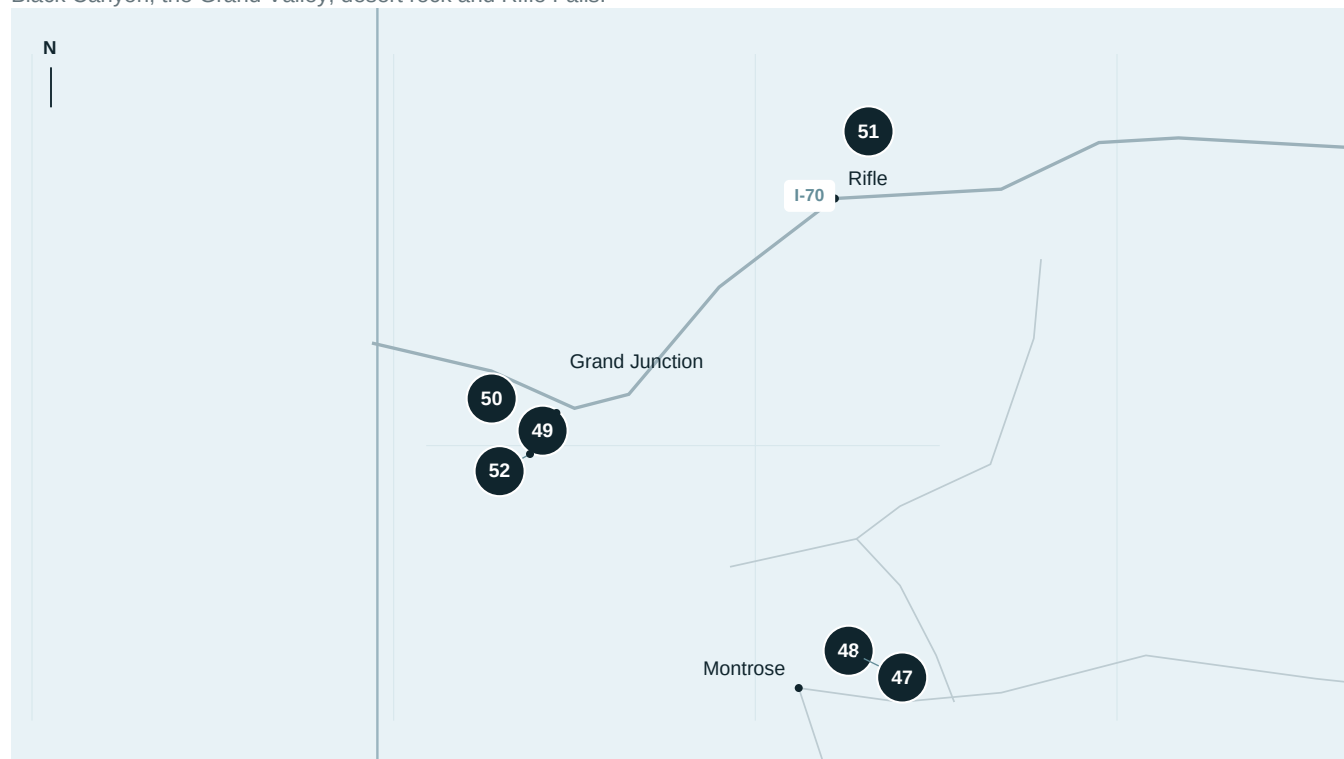


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Look beyond the mountain skyline.

Black Canyon, the Grand Valley, desert rock and Rifle Falls.



Geographic locator | approximate markers | highways generalized | not for navigation

- 47 Rim Rock Trail
- 48 Warner Point
- 49 Devils Kitchen
- 50 Canyon Rim Trail
- 51 Rifle Falls: Coyote circuit
- 52 Mica Mine

The approach

Black Canyon's South Rim, Colorado National Monument, the Bangs area and Rifle Falls are different western destinations. Use US 50 and I-70 as broad orientation, then verify the precise entrance.

HEATHER SAYS

"I love having favorite places to return to. I also love knowing there are still more to discover."

47 / Rim Rock Trail

Walking along the rim lets the depth of Black Canyon emerge gradually. It is a front-country experience that can be complete without descending toward the river.

The outing	About 2 miles; out and back on the one-mile trail
Effort / time	Moderate 1.5-2 hours
Underfoot	Canyon-rim natural surface and exposed viewpoints
Start here	Black Canyon South Rim; confirm the campground/visitor center starting point.

The route to choose

Use the signed Rim Rock trail between its endpoints. The roughly one-mile trail is one way; return doubles the walk unless you have arranged a legitimate alternative.

Make it your kind of day

Choose it for a deliberate rim walk and time to pause. Match the exposure to the group, rather than assuming a front-country route is comfortable for every person.

Before you go

Stay back from drops and check current South Rim access. Inner-canyon travel has separate route, skill and permit demands. Follow posted pet restrictions for this exact trail.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.

48 / Warner Point

The route combines canyon depth with a wider view of the surrounding country. It is a shorter hike that can broaden the visit beyond the familiar roadside overlooks.

The outing	About 1.5 miles; out and back
Effort / time	Moderate 1-1.5 hours
Underfoot	Rolling pinyon-juniper trail and canyon viewpoints
Start here	Black Canyon South Rim; High Point parking at the end of the road.

The route to choose

Follow the signed Warner Point route and return. The trail rolls through woodland, so allow for climbing on the way back as well as outward.

Make it your kind of day

Choose it when the group wants a walk with a clear destination and enough time to sit at the designated viewpoints. Keep the whole South Rim visit unhurried.

Before you go

Check road opening and trail conditions. No pets on this route. Carry water and remain on established paths clear of the rim; scenic reach is not a reason to approach an edge.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.

49 / Devils Kitchen

The rock enclosure gives a short desert hike a memorable destination. It offers a different Colorado texture from a forest or mountain-lake walk.

The outing	About 1.5 miles; out and back
Effort / time	Moderate 1.5-2 hours
Underfoot	Desert trail, slickrock and carved steps
Start here	Colorado National Monument; Devils Kitchen trailhead near the east entrance.

The route to choose

Use the signed Devils Kitchen route, choosing the correct branch at junctions shared with longer canyon trails. Follow the established steps on slickrock and return the same way.

Make it your kind of day

Choose a cooler part of the day and enough time to navigate deliberately. The rock setting can obscure the route if you focus only on the destination.

Before you go

Bring water, sun protection and shoes with grip. Pets are not allowed on monument trails. Avoid thunderstorms, flash-flood conditions and improvised routes across delicate desert ground.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



50 / Canyon Rim Trail

A shorter rim walk makes room for looking rather than rushing between viewpoints. The desert forms and wide horizon create a strong western Colorado identity.

The outing	About 1 mile; out and back
Effort / time	Gentle to moderate 45-90 minutes
Underfoot	Rim-side natural surface and open exposure
Start here	Colorado National Monument; Saddlehorn Visitor Center/Book Cliffs area.

The route to choose

Use the signed half-mile Canyon Rim trail and return for the stated total. Additional connections toward the campground or other trails increase the walk.

Make it your kind of day

Choose it when the group wants a scenic walk without a longer canyon descent. Its relatively gentle grade does not remove the need for comfort with heights.

Before you go

Check heat, wind and any ice. Stay back from unprotected edges. Pets are not allowed on monument hiking trails; confirm the exact start from the current park map.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.

51 / Rifle Falls: Coyote circuit

The water and green surroundings bring an unexpected mood to this part of western Colorado. The falls can be the focus of a short day rather than a brief roadside stop.

The outing	About 0.9-1 mile; chosen loop
Effort / time	Moderate 1-1.5 hours
Underfoot	Waterfall paths, steps and higher viewpoints
Start here	Rifle Falls State Park; use legal day-use parking.

The route to choose

Follow the signed Coyote circuit using the current map. The base approach, full loop and connected Bobcat trail have different lengths and access standards.

Make it your kind of day

Choose the route that fits the group's footing. Someone wanting the base view may not want the steps and exposure of the upper circuit, and that is a useful distinction to make beforehand.

Before you go

Wet surfaces and ice can be slippery. Check current cave access before entering any opening. Follow leash rules and do not assume pet permission extends into the neighboring wildlife area.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



52 / Mica Mine

Mica Mine gives a canyon walk a geological focus. It is a useful western Colorado outing for people who enjoy noticing the texture of rock and the way a smaller drainage shapes the landscape.

The outing	About 2.6 miles; out and back
Effort / time	Moderate 1.5-2.5 hours
Underfoot	Rocky canyon path in Ladder Canyon
Start here	BLM Mica Mine/Rough Canyon trailhead in the Bangs area near Grand Junction.

The route to choose

Follow the signed Mica Mine route in Ladder Canyon and return. Do not follow the Rough Canyon branch by mistake; the shared trailhead serves different routes.

Make it your kind of day

Choose a dry, cooler day and walk at a pace that allows careful footing. The destination is an opportunity to look closely, not an invitation to collect or disturb the site.

Before you go

BLM prohibits motorized and mechanized use on this trail. Check road access, weather and current restrictions; avoid entering a drainage when flash flooding is possible.

Distance describes this route variant. Time and effort are editorial planning ranges for snow-free conditions; check current manager information before departure.



Four parks. Four different ways to walk.

The park	What shapes the day
Rocky Mountain	Lake and mountain trails on both sides of the park. Bear Lake access, Lumpy Ridge and East Inlet need distinct plans.
Great Sand Dunes	Dunes Overlook and Mosca Pass reveal foothill and forest settings. Cross-country dune travel has no marked trail and separate heat/navigation considerations.
Black Canyon of the Gunnison	Rim trails create a complete hiking visit. Inner-canyon routes require separate preparation and permissions; they are not extensions of the scenic rim paths.
Mesa Verde	Physical effort and cultural respect belong together. Petroglyph Point is rugged; Point Lookout has a shorter defined climb. Cliff-dwelling tours are separate reservations.

HEATHER SAYS

"I love seeing how different one part of Colorado can feel from another. That variety keeps me wanting to explore."

There is always another trail to discover.

Build outward from a route that worked

Keep the trailhead, date, conditions and what your group enjoyed. A growing record of familiar outings is more useful than a checklist of famous names. Use the manager's current map to choose the next step.

The rest of Colorado

This collection is selective. The Eastern Plains, river greenways, local nature preserves, additional state parks and the national forest network offer many more walking possibilities. COTREX helps locate trails and the responsible manager; it does not grant access across private land.

Long-distance and overnight routes

The Colorado Trail, Continental Divide Trail and wilderness backpacking routes involve different logistics from a day outing. Transport, permits, campsites, water and self-sufficiency need their own plan.

Summits and technical terrain

A fourteenner or a route requiring scrambling is not simply the next distance category. Build experience deliberately and use route-specific expert guidance. A guidebook photograph does not establish present conditions or the skills required.

HEATHER SAYS

"I love knowing there is always another kind of trip to grow into. Starting with a comfortable experience is a good way to discover what you enjoy."

A nearby day that still feels like a break.

A flexible half-day | northern Colorado Springs and the local foothills

Choose

Pick Fox Run, a Red Rock Canyon circuit or Perkins according to the group's comfort and the conditions. Choose a current mapped route, not a vague plan to wander.

Begin

Keep the departure simple. Bring the essentials even when home is close and give everyone time to find a comfortable pace.

Walk

Let one route be the main event. A pause for the view or a conversation can be the best part, rather than something delaying the finish.

Come home

Return with enough energy to enjoy the rest of the day. Record what worked so another outing is easy to put on the calendar.

HEATHER SAYS

"A nearby trip still counts. Some of my favorite parts of being outdoors are the simplest ones."

Give a mountain day room to unfold.

A full day | choose one trail, one gateway and a realistic return

Choose

Compare the Craggs, Emerald Lake, Mayflower Gulch or Shrine Ridge only after considering weather, elevation and access. These are alternatives, not one itinerary.

Prepare

Handle parking or shuttle needs, download the map and set a turnaround. Build in travel without promising a fixed journey time.

Walk

Start conservatively. Check the weather and the group as the route unfolds. An earlier turnaround or lower viewpoint can make the better day.

Return

Leave time for the descent and transport. The destination is only part of the outing; everyone returning comfortably is the successful ending.

HEATHER SAYS

"I like leaving enough room in the plan to enjoy the place, rather than watching the clock all day."

Go farther. Keep the pace unhurried.

Three or more nights | a northern or western Colorado walking base

Choose one base

Steamboat, Ouray, Telluride, Grand Junction or a national park gateway can support different walking days. They are separate choices, not stops that must all fit the same trip.

Mix the effort

Pair a shorter developed walk with a longer outing on another day. Let the weather determine which day is best for the more exposed trail.

Keep an alternative

A museum, a town walk or a rest day can make a trip more enjoyable when conditions change. A reservation should not force an unsuitable hike.

Return

Keep the final morning manageable. The pleasure of going farther includes having a home base you look forward to returning to.

HEATHER SAYS

"I enjoy exploring, and I enjoy coming home. The right Colorado life leaves room for both."

Choose the right starting point.

Route	Approximate outing	Editorial effort
01 Perkins Central Garden	About 1.5 miles	Gentle
02 Siamese Twins	About 1 mile	Gentle to moderate
03 Red Rock Canyon: a chosen circuit	Choose 2-4 miles	Moderate
04 Ute Valley: a chosen circuit	Choose 2-4 miles	Moderate
05 Fox Run forest trails	Choose 1-3 miles	Gentle to moderate
06 Spruce Mountain upper loop	Roughly 5-6 miles	Moderate
07 Mount Cutler	About 2 miles	Moderate
08 Seven Bridges	About 3.5-4 miles to the seventh bridge and back	Moderate
09 The Craggs	About 5 miles	Moderate to demanding
10 Horsethief Falls	About 2.5-3 miles	Moderate
11 Outlook Ridge to Raven Ridge	About 1.4 miles	Moderate
12 Wapiti Nature Trail	About 0.8 mile	Gentle to moderate
13 Fountain Valley	About 2.5 miles	Gentle to moderate
14 Carpenter Peak	About 6.5 miles	Demanding
15 Davis Ponds	About 2-2.5 miles	Gentle to moderate
16 Raccoon Trail	About 2.5 miles	Moderate
17 Rattlesnake Gulch	About 3.5-4 miles	Moderate to demanding
18 Fowler Trail: state park segment	Up to about 1.4 miles	Gentle

Compare the profile's exact start and turnaround before using the distance. Network ranges are chosen outing lengths; access walking may change the total. Gentle does not mean universally accessible.

Choose the right starting point.

Route	Approximate outing	Editorial effort
19 Arthur's Rock	About 3.4 miles	Moderate to demanding
20 Fish Creek Falls overlook	About 0.5 mile	Gentle
21 Rabbit Ears Peak approach	About 6 miles	Moderate to demanding
22 Mad Creek to the historic barn	About 4 miles	Moderate
23 Bear Lake loop	About 0.6-0.7 mile	Gentle to moderate
24 Sprague Lake	About 0.5-0.8 mile	Gentle
25 Alberta Falls	About 1.6 miles	Moderate
26 Emerald Lake	About 3.4 miles	Moderate to demanding
27 Gem Lake	About 3.4 miles	Moderate to demanding
28 Adams Falls	About 0.6 mile	Gentle to moderate
29 Sapphire Point loop	About 0.6 mile	Gentle to moderate
30 Lily Pad Lake from Wildernest	About 3 miles	Moderate
31 McCullough Gulch to the lower lake	Roughly 3-4 miles from the hiking trailhead	Demanding
32 Mayflower Gulch to the mining cabins	About 3 miles	Moderate
33 Shrine Ridge	About 4 miles	Moderate to demanding
34 Maroon Lake Scenic Trail	About 1 mile	Gentle to moderate
35 Interlaken from Twin Lakes	About 4.4 miles	Moderate
36 Browns Creek Falls	About 6 miles	Moderate to demanding

Compare the profile's exact start and turnaround before using the distance. Network ranges are chosen outing lengths; access walking may change the total. Gentle does not mean universally accessible.

Choose the right starting point.

Route	Approximate outing	Editorial effort
37 Cascade Creek interpretive loop	About 0.9 mile	Gentle to moderate
38 Dunes Overlook	About 2.3 miles	Moderate
39 Zapata Falls	About 1 mile	Moderate; slippery final approach
40 Mosca Pass	About 7 miles	Demanding
41 Ouray Perimeter Trail	Roughly 6 miles	Demanding
42 Box Cañon Falls walkway	About 500 feet to the falls viewpoint	Short walk; steps and confined walkway
43 Jud Wiebe	About 3.1 miles	Demanding
44 Bear Creek Falls: Telluride	About 5 miles	Moderate to demanding
45 Petroglyph Point	About 2.4-2.5 miles	Demanding
46 Point Lookout	About 2.2 miles	Moderate to demanding
47 Rim Rock Trail	About 2 miles	Moderate
48 Warner Point	About 1.5 miles	Moderate
49 Devils Kitchen	About 1.5 miles	Moderate
50 Canyon Rim Trail	About 1 mile	Gentle to moderate
51 Rifle Falls: Coyote circuit	About 0.9-1 mile	Moderate
52 Mica Mine	About 2.6 miles	Moderate

Compare the profile's exact start and turnaround before using the distance. Network ranges are chosen outing lengths; access walking may change the total. Gentle does not mean universally accessible.

Settle the details. Then enjoy the day.

One final check	What is settled
The route	Exact start, route variant, turnaround and return connection understood by the group.
The access	Parking, road, reservation, shuttle, gate and current closures checked.
The conditions	Route-elevation forecast, snow, water and daylight considered; an alternative chosen.
The people	Comfort, experience, access needs and lawful pet arrangements matched to the outing.
The equipment	Offline navigation, water, food, layers, lighting and appropriate emergency supplies.
The return	A time to turn around and a trusted person who knows the plan.
The place	A plan to stay on trail, protect wildlife and cultural resources, and carry out waste.

HEATHER SAYS

"I love having favorite places to return to. I also love knowing there are still more to discover."

Build the everyday life. Keep the outdoors close.



Start with the life you want

Heather lives in The Farm in northern Colorado Springs. Hiking and camping are central to her own Colorado life. That perspective helps her ask useful questions about the home, the ordinary week and the outdoor experiences someone wants to make room for.

The right fit is personal

A familiar local path and a farther mountain trip can both belong to that life. Consider work, household routines, the home itself and the directions you most often want to explore. Access is part of the choice, alongside everything that makes a home work each day.

HEATHER SAYS

"I want to help you choose a home that fits the life you want to live. For me, getting outdoors is a central part of that conversation."



YOUR NEXT COLORADO CHAPTER

Start with the life. Find the home that fits.

If hiking, camping and exploring are part of the Colorado life you imagine, tell Heather what matters to you. Begin with the everyday home base and the experiences you want within reach.



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