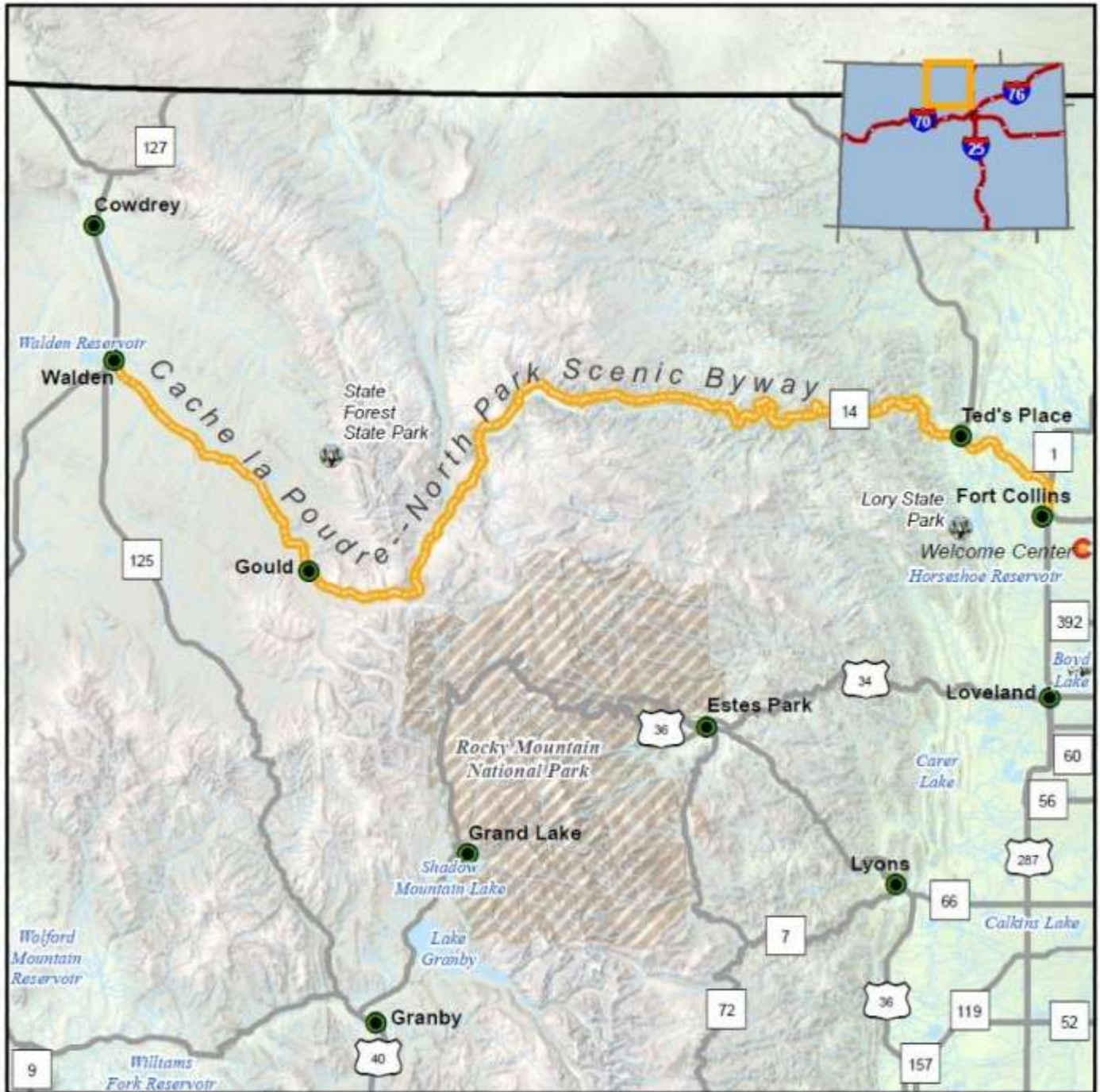




Cache la Poudre-North Park Scenic and Historic Byway

. In the far northern plains of Colorado that locals call North Park, the Cache la Poudre National Wild and Scenic River meanders through Roosevelt National Forest following paths first trod by French fur trappers. In fact, the river was named by these hardy frontiersmen as, “the powder’s hiding place.” Later Kit Carson, Captain Gaunt, Jim Bridger, Old Bill Williams and Jim Baker all ran trapping lines in North Park before John Fremont came through and was taken with the place he described it by saying that “no river could ask for a more beautiful origin than the Platte.” Even though this area is considered the plains (as opposed to the rugged Rockies), the land is not flat. The river passes through Cache la Poudre Canyon, as it moves toward the bowl-shaped valley just west of the Continental Divide. Traveling the Cache LaPoudre-North Park Scenic and Historic Byway will make you feel like you’re driving through a postcard. Surrounded by jaw-dropping jagged mountains, vast meadows, lodgepole forest, and glistening lakes. As you summit Cameron Pass at 10,276 feet, you’ll be surrounded by the Cache la Poudre Wilderness Area, Comanche Peak Wilderness Area, Rawah Wilderness Area, Neota Wilderness Area and State Forest State Park as you make your way along the route. Near the conclusion of the Byway, you’re likely to see antelope, deer and even moose enjoying their favorite grazing grounds.



Follow the River Experience



Driving the Byway

After exploring Fort Collins for a day, you'll spend most of Day Two driving the Byway. Consider taking a picnic lunch to enjoy in nature along the drive or plan to have lunch in Walden. As you begin driving the Byway, you'll be passing through Cache la Poudre Canyon and near Greylock Mountain. Along the way, you'll see Poudre Canyon Chapel, the Poudre River State Fish Hatchery, the Big Bend Sheep Viewing Area and Profile Rock, before viewing Sleeping Elephant Mountain, Poudre Falls, and Chambers Lake. Toward the end of the drive, the route passes the Barnes Meadow Reservoir, Joe Wright Reservoir and Zimmerman Lake before reaching State Forest State Park and the Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge.

Day One



Fort Collins

It began as Camp Collins, built by the Kansas Volunteer Cavalry in 1862 to protect pioneers on the Overland Trail. A flood in 1864 sent the soldiers to higher ground, which is now Old Town Fort Collins. By 1872, there was a small hotel, general store and post office, a mill, school and brick yard. When the railroad arrived in 1877, the town took off as a thriving agricultural center. Colorado State was founded here two years later. Today, you can stroll through carefully preserved Old Town, where the entire district is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Day One

Historic Walking Tour of Fort Collins



Strolling along the streets of Fort Collins Old Town on the historic walking tour (pdf included with detailed itinerary) puts you in the footsteps of the 19th century settlers who came to seek their fortunes. Today, the handsome brick buildings in this district are filled with cafes, boutiques, galleries and more than 80 restaurants spread across a few city blocks. This Main Street is so special, Disney modeled their Main Street USA on Fort Collins.

Tour begins at Old Town Square and College Avenue, Allow 1 hour

New Belgian Brewery



This famous craft brewery, which has grown to the third largest in America with distribution throughout the country, now employs 450 people, brewing nine different beers. A 90-minute tour, available seven days a week takes you through the brewery, illustrating the brewing and fermentation process, as well as the huge bottling plant.

500 Linden Street, Fort Collins, CO 80524 970-221-0524
7 Days, 90 minute tour, hourly between 11:30AM – 4:30PM, Reservations Needed, Free.

Fort Collins Destination Distinctive Accommodations and Dining



Destination Distinctive Accommodations: The Edwards House 402 West Mountain Avenue, Fort Collins, CO 80524, 970-493-9191

As you approach the 1904 Edwards House, you'd never guess that behind the elegant columns and hexagonal pergola on the east side is a typical Denver four square, 63' by 63' with the main floor divided into four rooms. To enhance the prestige of the owner and create the illusion of neo-classical architecture, the builder included arched windows in the Avery Room and above the stairway landing to allow more daylight into the living area. The columns and front porch add to the effect.



Austin's American Grill North 100 West Mountain Avenue Fort Collins, CO 80524 970-224-9691

Upscale, casual, American cuisine, kid friendly, family friendly, gluten free menu, fresh food, reservations, happy hour specials, appetizer specials, seasonal specials.

Day Two



Walden

Quaint, historic Walden, located on a high glacial plain known as North Park, is the “Moose Viewing Capital of Colorado.” Don’t miss the detour to town when you head to Steamboat Springs. Though it’s smaller than neighboring towns, there are views that you can only see when you’re in Walden. Fort Collins to Walden—101 miles

Day Two



Colorado State Forest Headquarters and Moose Visitor Center

Located near the former logging camp of Gould, the Moose Visitor Center tells the story of the North Park moose and the early timber camps, as well providing information on State Forest State Park and its wildlife.

58363 Colorado 14, Walden, CO 80480 970-723-8366
7 Days, 9AM-5PM, Free



North Park Pioneer Museum

The North Park Pioneer Museum is housed in one of the original cabins built on a strip of land by the Platte River in 1882. After it was moved to Walden in 1961, the museum now has three floors and 27 rooms filled with vintage items representing North Park pioneer lifestyles.

87 Logan Street, Walden, CO 80408 970-723-3282,
Su, M, T, 10AM-4PM, Th, F, St 10AM-4PM, Allow 2
hours, Donations accepted

Day Two

Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge



The Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge, the second largest collection of waterfowl in Colorado was created to offset the loss of nesting habitats in the prairie wetlands of the Midwest. Today, even though it is an important stopover for migratory birds, the refuge supports a diverse array of wildlife including moose. Until the 1970s, there were only a handful of moose wandering in from Wyoming. In 1978, Colorado wildlife managers transplanted 12 moose in the North Park region. The next year, another dozen were released. Now, you can follow the Moose-Goose Nature trail which winds along the Illinois River with the prospect of viewing the resident moose. A six-mile self-guided auto trail takes you through a variety of habitats on the western side of the refuge where waterfowl, prairie dogs and pronghorn sheep reside.

953 Jackson County Road 32, Walden, CO 80480
970-723-8202, 7 Days, 7:30AM-3:30AM, Allow 2 hours,
Free

Walden Destination Distinctive Accommodations and Dining



Destination Distinctive Accommodations: Antlers Inn **460 Main Street, Walden, CO 80480, 970-723-8690**

The frontier craftsmanship of hand-hewn beams, custom made wood doors, and granite counters joins hands with the comforts of modern living at the Antlers Inn. No detail has been overlooked in this treasure where every room is furnished with heirloom quality furniture and bedding fit for a king. Stay in one of the eleven rooms that includes the Presidential Quarters, or in one of three Majestic Suites.



River Rock Café at the Antlers Inn **970-723-4670**

Combine the relaxed atmosphere of Antlers Inn & Majestic Suites, with the dining experience of the River Rock Cafe and you have the recipe for a most enjoyable experience. Create a memory with someone special and then tell your friends about Colorado's best kept secret in downtown Walden.

Day Three



Steamboat Springs

The same French fur trappers that named the Cache la Poudre river, thought a spring along the Yampa River sounded like a steamboat – naming the settlement Steamboat Springs. The first homesteaders arrived to raise cattle or sheep, while others worked in the nearby gold and silver mines. Steamboat Springs was an isolated outpost until the Denver, Northwest and Pacific Railroad arrived in 1908 to provide year-round transportation of livestock and coal, as well as passenger travel. Walden to Steamboat Springs—59 miles.

Day Three

Tread of Pioneers Museum



Built at the height of prosperity in Steamboat Springs, the heart of the Tread of Pioneers Museum is a 1901 Queen Anne-style Victorian home furnished appropriately for the period. Interactive exhibits feature the history of area Native Americans, skiing, agriculture, mining, pioneer settlement, town development, and more. The Western Heritage Exhibit features an extensive collection of firearms, agricultural history and the story of an infamous outlaw, Harry Tracy.

800 Oak Street, Steamboat Springs, CO, 80487 970-879-2214, Tues-Sat 11AM-5PM, Allow 1 hour, \$6 per person

Historic Walking Tour of Steamboat Springs



The Historic Walking Tour of Steamboat Springs begins at the Tread of Pioneers Museum (pdf included with the detailed itinerary) and passes nine of the more than 150 springs in the area. Buildings in the historic district are typical of construction in isolated frontier towns using locally available materials. Those like the Cantina, the Allen Building, and the Spring Drug Store, built in the late 1800s are made of wood, while those like the First National Bank, Routt County Bank Building and the Maxwell Square building date from the 1900s using local quarried sandstone, river rock and other materials. while. The Routt County Courthouse dates from the 1920s. Allow 1 hour

Scenic Gondola Ride



Take a ride up Mt. Werner and enjoy views that can only be appreciated from Steamboat's gondola in the sky.

2305 Mt. Werner Circle, Steamboat Springs, CO 80487, Fri-Sun, 10AM-4PM, \$30 per person

Steamboat Springs Destination Distinctive Accommodations and Dining



Destination Distinctive Accommodations: The Victorian Luxury Bed and Breakfast 2405 Ski Trail Lane, Steamboat Springs, CO 80487, 970-879-7781

It will be hard to believe when you walk into the Victorian Luxury Bed and Breakfast that this house was built in 1880 in Kansas. Yes, Kansas. A farmer purchased the house in 1990 for \$65, to save it from demolition. Not wanting to keep it, he sold it to Larry Cole and gave him 90 days to move it. Larry dismantled the house, cutting it into five sections with a chain saw. When a friend suggested Steamboat Springs for his planned move to Colorado, Larry could not find a mover willing to relocate his house to go with him, who said Victorians could only be moved across the prairie and not across mountains. Larry purchased a tractor-trailer and in the space of six weeks, moved the house piece by piece in five trips of 650 miles. Larry and Brook, the original owners called their Bed and Breakfast Colebrook Manor. Over the years, other owners have made renovations and additions, but today, the house still stands proud under the Gondola and accepts guests, just like it always did.



Laundry Restaurant

127 11th Street
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487
970-870-0681

Sandals and stilettos find equal acceptance at this temple of elevated comfort food housed in the 103 year old Steamboat Laundry Dry Cleaning and Pressing building.
