

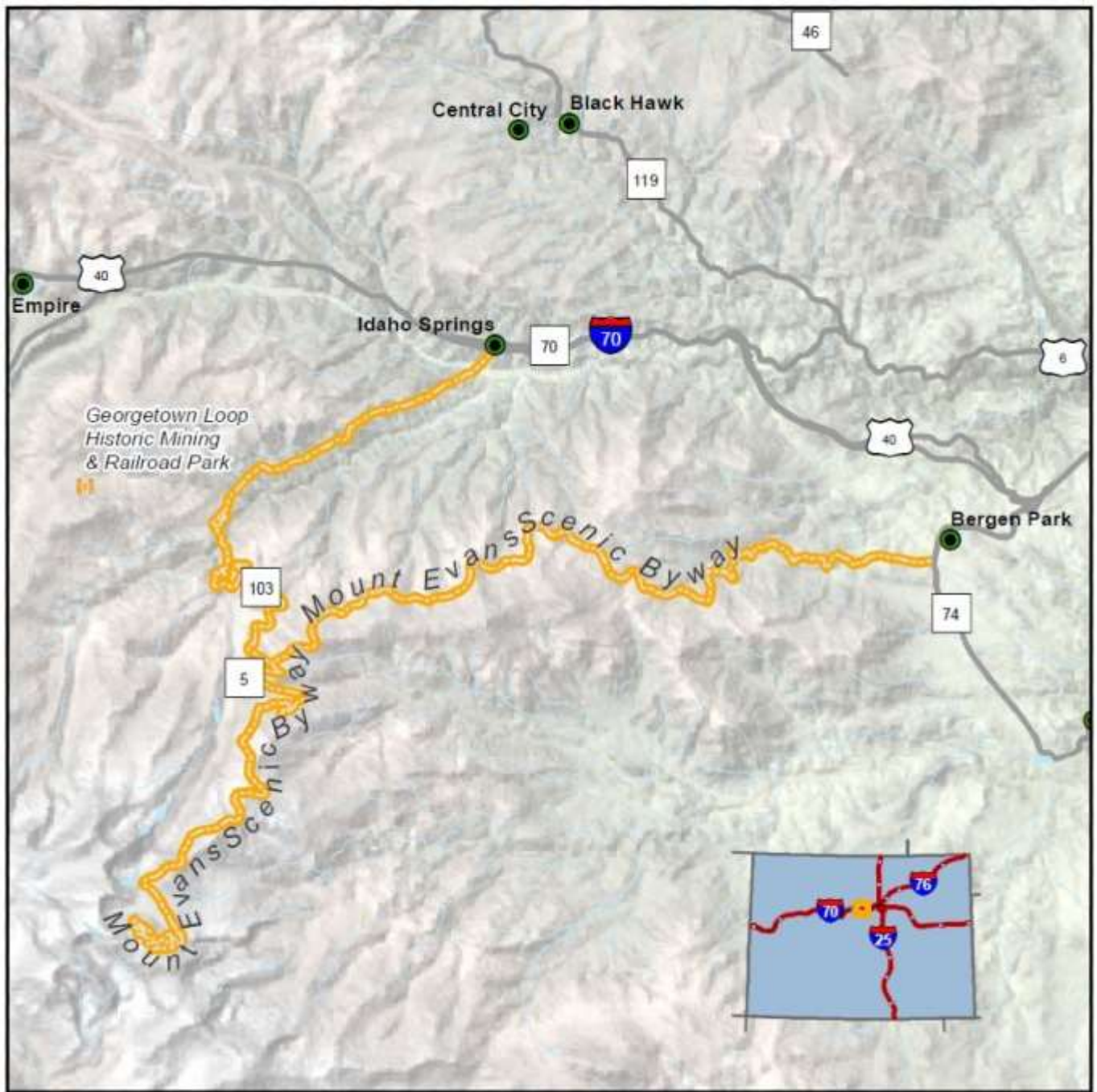


## Mount Evans Scenic and Historic Byway

Climb your way to a Rocky Mountain High through several climate zones traveling the highest paved road in North America on the Mount Evans Scenic and Historic Byway which snakes and climbs through 9,000 feet of elevation and five climate zones is the highest paved road in North America, reaching the summit of Mount Evans at 14,264 feet. As you make your way through the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest, to 14,000, you delight in high alpine lakes and stunning wildlife. And when you reach the top, the entire Front Range sprawls at your feet. Natural wonders on the route include the Mount Goliath Nature Area, Summit Lake Park, the Crest House at the summit and Echo Lake Park. Expect to find hardy wildflowers, lichens and grasses, furry mammals, pikas, marmots and rock-jumping mountain goats in the rarified world above the timberline.

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## Climbing the Mountain Experience



### Driving the Byway

After enjoying the drive through Clear Creek Canyon and exploring Golden, on Day Two, you'll be traveling to Idaho Springs which gold was first discovered in Colorado. Attractions provide a unique view of this very important industry. After exploring a bit, it's time to head up the mountain to the summit of Mount Evans, and back down again. Fourteen miles up Colorado 103 you'll reach Echo Lake, part of Denver's mountain park system, created to preserve mountain treasures surrounding Denver. The system includes Red Rocks Park & Amphitheatre and Buffalo Bill's grave, which sits high atop Lookout Mountain and even though it's 40 miles from Denver, they decided to include Echo Lake. You can stop at the Echo Lake Lodge for lunch before climbing three more miles to Walter Pesman Alpine Garden, with 1,700 year old Bristlecone pines. At 13,000 feet, Summit Lake is also a Denver Mountain Park, where bighorn sheep and mountain goats frolic. At the very top, there is a short trail to the summit. The view from the top is one of the grandest panoramas in Colorado. Enjoy!

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## Day One



## Golden

Golden hit the map when a small amount of gold was discovered in Clear Creek and quickly became an important supply depot for miners and farmers. The town swelled when coal and industrial clay were discovered in the same area and ultimately was named the capital of Colorado Territory in 1862. Golden also served as the seat of the territorial legislature from 1862 to 1867. At the end of the 1860s, when Denver became the Colorado State Capital, Golden became the seat of Jefferson County and the Jefferson Territory. Today, the City of Golden continues to thrive offering visitors an abundance of recreational, cultural and culinary opportunities, while preserving its historic core.

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## Day One

### Clear Creek Canyon Drive



You can make the drive through Clear Creek Canyon a whole day experience if you choose. In one of the narrowest, steepest and most dramatic canyons in Colorado you might see rafters, kayakers, fishermen, and even panning for gold. If hiking is in order, stop at the Mayhem Gulch Trailhead, 12 miles west of Golden, and hike on the Peaks to Plains Trail. At the junction with Hwy. 119, you have the option to go north to Black Hawk, the largest gambling center in Colorado, and on to Central City, once called the “richest spot on earth.” With 30,000 residents Central City was the largest gold rush boom town in Colorado in the 1870s. Above the town with beautiful brick and stone Victorian buildings, you’ll find historic graveyards, old mines and ghost towns. Southwest of Central City, look for signs for the Virginia Canyon Road, known to locals as the “Oh My God Road.” Legend has it that it got its name from stagecoach passengers looking down at the sheer drop offs and moan, “Oh My God!” Go slow, pause on the narrow turns, and follow the signs for Idaho Springs, another old gold mining town. From there, you can take I-70 to return to Golden or go back through Clear Creek Canyon, viewing the dramatic rock formations from a different direction.

### Golden Historic Districts/Golden History Tour



As the territorial capital of Colorado and a hub of activity in the late 1800s, Golden has a remarkable historic district and eight historic neighborhoods. The self-guided Golden History Walking Tour (pdf included with the detailed itinerary), guides you through these fascinating locations, ranging from cobblestone streets and territorial capital buildings to wild west saloons and high style residential areas. If you would rather have a guide, you can sign up for the Wild West Walking Tour.

Tour begins at 718 12<sup>th</sup> Street

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## Golden Destination Distinctive Accommodations and Dining



### **Destination Distinctive Accommodations: The Dove Inn** **711 14th Street, Golden, CO 80401 720-608-1714**

Now a chic boutique hotel, The Dove Inn began life as an 1866 Victorian residence. All 10 stylish unique rooms are laden with modern amenities, luxurious baths, Wi-Fi and craft coffee beans from local roasters. Breakfast made from locally sourced ingredients is usually delivered continental style. Rooms are refreshed during your stay, extra towels and other amenities provided as needed. As the owners say, the Inn is an old soul with a new look and impeccable service delivered from behind the scenes.



### **Old Capitol Grill and Smokehouse**

1122 Washington Avenue  
Golden, CO 80401  
303-279-6390

Built in 1863, Colorado's territorial legislature met in the building that now houses the Old Capitol Grill and Smokehouse, offering classic American fare with some unique twists

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## Day Two



## Idaho Springs

In 1859 prospector George Jackson discovered placer gold where Chicago Creek emptied into Clear Creek, making Idaho Springs the place where gold was first discovered in Colorado. Even though he kept the find secret, others soon discovered gold veins in the rocks of Clear Creek Canyon. With gold spread about the area, hard rock underground mining became the mainstay of the town long after the gold-bearing gravels of the canyon were exhausted. In 1903, a violent miners strike demanded eight hour working days, the beginning of the conflict that ultimately the Western Federation of Miners pressured the mining companies into improving conditions. Golden to Idaho Springs—24 miles

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## Day Two

### Visitor Center and Heritage Museum



Make your first stop in Idaho Springs at the Visitor Center and Heritage Museum to begin learning about the culture and history of Idaho Springs.

2060 Miner Street, Idaho Springs, CO 80452 303-567-4382  
9AM-5PM Free

### Phoenix Gold Mine



The Phoenix Gold Mine gives you a chance to see underground gold mining. The Phoenix has produced over 100,000 troy ounces of gold over the years from wide underground tunnels, with gold still naturally occurring in the rock. Knowledgeable guides illustrate how the mining and milling process works, plus teach you how to pan gold in the gently flowing mountain creek near the mine. Many visitors have turned up gleaming gems.

830 Trail Creek Road, Idaho Springs, CO 80452  
303-567-0422 Friday-Monday 10AM-5PM, Tuesday-Wednesday 10AM-4PM, 1 hour tour, \$22 per person

### Argo Mill and Mine



The Argo Mill and Mine Tunnel shows a completely different side of mining. Construction of the Argo Tunnel to provide water drainage, ventilation and transportation of gold ore from the many mines began in 1893. It took 17 years to complete to Central City 4.5 miles away. The Argo Mill which processed the gold ore from the mines along the tunnel, ultimately became the largest gold ore mill in the world, processing over 100 million dollars of gold ore, which in today's dollars would be 3 Trillion!

2350 Riverside Drive, Idaho Springs, CO 80452  
303-567-2421 7 Days 10AM-6PM Tours on the hour, \$23 per person

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