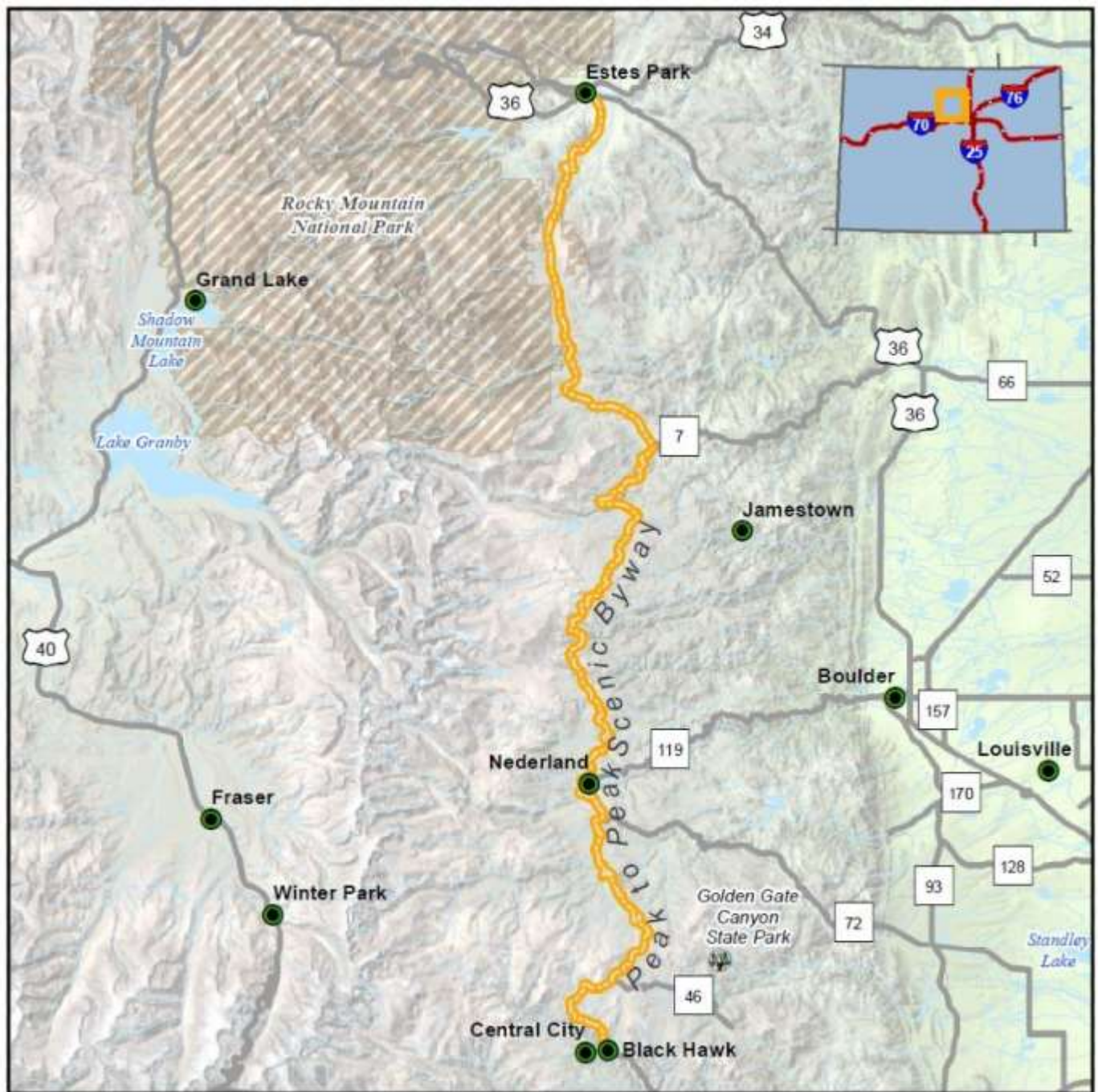




Peak to Peak Scenic and Historic Byway

Delivering incomparable views of the Continental Divide and its timbered approaches, the Peak to Peak Scenic and Historic Byway will have you meandering at the top of the world, with astounding views and unfolding landscapes. Every so often, you'll come upon a ghost town or an abandoned mining camp, preserved in time. Complete with charming Victorian towns, still boasting hotels, homesteading cabins, saloons and rich history and lore, coupled with the chance to mine for gold, the mountains and forests provide the scenic beauty as you see the American West unfold right before your eyes. Imagine outlaws mingling with miners, ladies in general store for sundries and listening to the walls tell stories of love and loss, fortune and fame. While exploring the story on the showcase of the Front Range, you'll be surrounded by some of Colorado's best natural treasures – Rocky Mountain National Park, Golden Gate Canyon State Park, Arapaho National Forest, Roosevelt National Forest, and Indian Peaks Wilderness Area. A series of gravel roads that crisscross the main highway lead to high-country lakes, trailheads, campgrounds and even a couple of ghost towns, tucked deep in the mountain landscapes.



Incredible Views Experience



Driving the Byway

Your journey will begin in Estes Park, a majestic mountain town with watchable wildlife and scenic beauty. Plan to arrive early enough to take the Trolley tour and marvel at the view from the aerial tramway, before checking into the Hotel Stanley, the inspiration for Steven King's "The Shining." Maybe you'll have your own paranormal experience to tell! On Day Two, you'll be heading to Allenspark, a charming town where vintage log cabins date back to the turn of the century. Begin to learn about hard rock mining in Nederland, a mill site for silver and tungsten ore. Take in the Caribou ghost town before settling in for the night at The Goldminer Hotel. On Day Three, you'll discover remains of ghost towns and the preserved Victorian architecture on the way to Central City and Blackhawk, which takes its historic preservation very seriously. From there, it's a short drive to Golden, with its remarkable historic districts and eight historic neighborhoods. If there's time stroll on the self-guided walking tour that takes you on cobblestone streets to territorial capital buildings, wild west saloons, and high style residential areas.

Day One



Estes Park

Sitting at 7,522 feet, Estes Park is long in majestic views of iconic mountain peaks and fertile valleys that splay out in every direction. Unlike so many other Colorado mountain towns Estes Park did not start as a mining town. It grew from a small group of buildings clustered at the corner of Elkhorn and Moraine Avenues when it was laid out in 1905. The early infrastructure of electricity, the water system and the sewerage system, was courtesy of F. O. Stanley, owner of the magnificent Stanley Hotel who came to the area hoping to recover his health. The needs of the residents were taken care of by residents with Western self-sufficiency for decades. Today, in town merchants and restaurants still sell locally made products and regional farm to table fare, while decorating in ranch, Western and lodge styles. Jeans and boots are just as common as flip-flops and sundresses. Galleries range from high-end, one-of-a-kind items to whimsical trinkets. On some days, wildlife is so plentiful that elk wander down the streets. After strolling through town, be sure to enjoy the bench-lined Riverwalk and charming sculpture garden.

Day One

Estes Park Trolley Tour



Since there is no historic walking tour of Estes Park, we suggest you start your visit with a two hour Discover Estes Trolley Tour to introduce you to the area. Knowledgeable guides deliver both the history of Estes Park and glimpses of what life is like in this small mountain town all along the way.

1340 Big Thompson Avenue, Estes Park 80517
970-481-8531 9AM-11AM Daily, 2 hour tour, \$50 per person

Aerial Tramway



After your tour of Estes Park, get ready for a birds-eye view without hiking up mountains. The Estes Park Aerial Tram whisks you above the treetops to the summit of Prospect Mountain. One of few European-style cable cars operating in America, instead of using towers to support the wires, the tram travels across a free span of wires strung between top and bottom stations. Spend your time at the top marveling at the stunning views and get photographs of the gorgeous panoramas.

420 East Riverside Drive, Estes Park 80517
970-475-4094, 9AM-6PM, Allow 1 hour, \$14 per person

Day One

McGregor Ranch



Ranching has been a part of life up here since settlement began. In towns with no mining heritage, it is still integral to life. Visit MacGregor Ranch to explore a living history showplace dating from the 1870s. As soon as you step into the front gate, you'll move back in time watching the Preceron draft horses and ranch hands working in the meadows. The main house is furnished with original pieces and personal possessions of three generations of the MacGregor family. Clothing, handcrafts, original paintings, rock collections, personal diaries, books and early photographs are all on display. Historic outbuildings include a milk house, root cellar, smokehouse, blacksmith shop and antique farm equipment yard.

180 MacGregor Lane, Estes Park, CO 80517
970-586-3749, Tuesday-Friday 10AM-4PM, Saturday 11AM-2PM, Allow 1 hour, \$7 per person

Estes Park Riverwalk



After dinner, stroll along The Riverwalk following the Big Thompson and Fall Rivers as they wind through the heart of downtown Estes Park. Wander past babbling brooks and beautiful sights, statues, bridges, fountains and more all along the way.

Riverwalk starts at George Hix Riverside Plaza

Estes Park Destination Distinctive Accommodations and Dining



Destination Distinctive Accommodations: Hotel Stanley **333 Wonderview Avenue, Estes Park, CO 80517 970-577-4000**

The Hotel Stanley is THE place to stay in Estes Park! Built by Yankee inventor Freelan Stanley, who arrived in Estes Park weak and underweight from illness. When after just one summer his health was better, he vowed to return each year, but had to create a life for his wife, who was not happy in the West. Together, they opened the Hotel Stanley transporting guests in stylish Stanley-designed steam cars. In a town mostly occupied by hunters and homesteaders, the hotel had electric lights, telephones, ensuite bathrooms, a staff of uniformed servants and a fleet of automobiles.



Seasoned—An American Bistro 205 Park Lane Estes Park, CO 80517 970-586-9000

Seasoned is a small restaurant with a defined menu, yet flavors that celebrate the cuisine of the Americas to deliver an exciting dining experience. An ever changing menu uses seasonally grown produce to inspire the fare of the day.

Day Two



Allenspark

Nestled in a high meadow surrounded by mountains, sitting atop St Vrain Canyon, looking out at majestic Long's Peak, Allenspark is filled with vintage log cabins, many dating back to the turn of the century. The town also has a natural spring with clear, sparkling water. Estes Park to Allenspark—16 miles

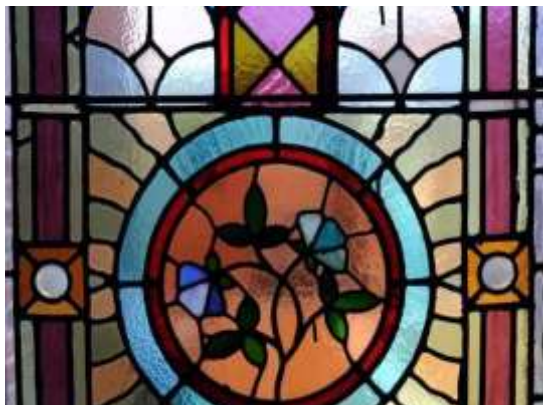
Day Two

Eagle Plume's Trading Post



Established a year before Allenspark was founded, Eagle's Plume Historic Trading Post is home to the Charles Eagle Plume Collection of Native American Art with over 1,000 historic and prehistoric pieces of art from several indigenous tribes across the United States and Canada. The trading post also features contemporary arts and crafts created by Native Americans, ranging from jewelry and textiles to basketry, ceramics, beadwork, and sculpture.

9852 Colorado Route 7, Allenspark, CO 80510
303-747-2861, Th, Fr. Sat, M, 10AM-5PM, Sun Noon-5PM



Allenspark Community Church

This little 1922 log church in the middle of town is a striking architectural centerpiece. Each of the delightful stained glass windows illustrates a different Colorado wildflower.

16 Washington Street, Allenspark, CO 8510
303-747-2821, Church office hours Monday-Friday 9AM-Noon (this is a working church)



Rock Creek Tavern & Pizzeria

6 Ski Road
Allenspark, CO 80510
303-747-9000

Focusing on a simple menu of pizza, sandwiches, beer, wine and soda, this cozy spot is owned by a mother and daughter duo. The menu is made-to-order, featuring pizzas with unique topics, sandwiches and wraps, with sides of hummus, pretzels and spinach salad.

Day Two



Nederland

This scenic mountain town, known for its eclectic mountain vibes, is the gateway to the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area. Rich in mining history, Nederland offers a glimpse into the world of hard rock mining during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Allenspark to Nederland—26 miles

Day Two

Nederland Mining Museum



From a steam shovel used to dig the Panama Canal and old wooden water pipes to the "crusher" from a local mill, Nederland Mining Museum illustrates engineering marvels as well as the processes of extracting precious metals from deep in the mountains. Learn about the lives of the miners of yesteryear in both indoor and outdoor displays that include trams, ore carts, engines, historic photographs and rare mining claim maps.

S200 North Bridge Street, Nederland, CO 80466
303-258-7332, Friday-Sunday 11AM-5PM, 2PM
presentation, Allow 1 hour

Carousel of Happiness



Go back to your childhood riding on the restored 191 Looff Carousel of Happiness, a magical menagerie with 56 whimsical, hand-carved animals, to the music of a 1913 Wurlitzer organ. Owing its creation to local sculptor Scott Harrison and to the generosity of thousands of donors, the Carousel is a simple joy for all ages.

20 Lakeview Drive, Nederland, CO 80466
303-258-3457 Thursday-Monday 10AM-6PM Allow 30
minutes, \$2 per person

Caribou Ghost Town



There's not much left except a wooden cabin and two stone ruins in this ghost town, where 3,000 miners once lived. When the Caribou mine was at its peak in 1875, the town thrived with a church, three saloons, a brewery and the town newspaper, Caribou Post.

4898 Caribou Road, Nederland, CO 80466

Nederland Destination Distinctive Accommodations and Dining



Destination Distinctive Accommodations: Goldminer Hotel **601 Klondyke Avenue, Nederland, CO 80466 303-258-7770**

The outside of the Goldminer Hotel appears just as it did when it was built in 1897. The inside, however, has been transformed from 13 very small sleeping rooms, with a meal hall downstairs, into five old-world style bedrooms, four baths, a lobby, the large kitchen and a Social Room. Experience life of the 1890s with amenities expected today.



Sundance Lodge and Cafe

23942 CO-119
Nederland, CO 80466
303-258-3797

This simple, rustic, mountainside lodge is located in a discarded World War II Texas Army barracks dragged to Boulder in the 1950s and used for 10 years as a motel. Perched on a slope overlooking the Peak to Peak Byway it's considered a local institution. Rock stars hung out here in the 1970s and Stephen Stills of Crosby, Stills Nash and Young wanted to buy it.

Day Three



Central City/Blackhawk

With 30,000 residents in its heyday, Central City founded in 1869, was the largest gold rush boom town in Colorado. Today, the mountain-hugging streets are lined with buzzing casinos, shops and restaurants in an Old-West-meets-Vegas atmosphere. Restored historic Victorian buildings contain beautiful original woodwork, ceilings, and ornate furnishings. The hills above town are punctuated with cemeteries, abandoned mines and ghost towns. Nederland to Central City—20 miles

Day Three

Central City Opera House and Historic Properties



In 1877, the citizens of Central City decided they needed a grand opera house befitting the town's reputation as "the richest square mile on earth." Unfortunately, the glory years were short lived when the mines played out the next year. Reopening after the 1932 restoration had legendary actress Lillian Gish as the headliner. New plush seating from 1999 carries on the 1932 tradition of carving the names of notable performers on the back of the seats, where names like Horace Tabor, Buffalo Bill, Beverly Sills and Lillian Gish appear.

The Central City Opera House complex also includes the Teller House, once the most elegant hotel between Chicago and San Francisco that is now used for opera related activities, the Williams Stables, the Teller House livery transformed into an intimate ninety-seat venue used for rehearsals and performances of short works, the Lanny and Sharon Martin Foundry Rehearsal Hall, and two dozen historic miners' cottages that hold cast and crew during the summer festival, plus the 1872 St. James Methodist Church, the oldest operating Protestant Church in Colorado.

124 Eureka Street, Central City, CO, 80427 303-292-6700
Tuesday-Sunday 10AM-4PM Allow 2-3 hours depending on how many properties you select to tour, \$6 per person per building, \$5 per person per building if multiple properties are toured

Day Three

Gilpin Historical Society Properties



Housed in an 1870 schoolhouse, the Gilpin History Museum features a collection of mining and ranching artifacts, antiques and toys. Exhibits include the history of Gilpin County from the 1860s to today with a recreated Main Street, the Mining Room, a school room, and an overview presentation "Gilpin County: Mining Camp to Home." The Gilpin History Museum complex includes the 1867 Thomas House located at 209 Eureka Street, rumored to be built around the entrance to a mine. Typical of a middle-class Colorado family in the early 1900s the house is virtually "frozen in time." The Coeur d'Alene Mine Shaft House, a once active mine perched on the brow of Academy Hill with antique mining equipment, the inner workings of a mine shaft house, and panoramic views of Central City and Black Hawk. Washington Hall, the oldest continually used public building in the state was the original Gilpin County courthouse and jail located at 117 Eureka Street.

228 East First High Street, Central City, CO 303-582-5283
Tuesday-Sunday 10AM-4PM, Allow 2-3 hours depending on the number of properties selected to tour \$6 per person per building, \$5 per person per building for multiple tours

Historic Central City Casino Buildings



Casinos have taken over historic buildings once occupied by jewelry stores, banks, hat shops and even mortuaries. They include Johnny Z's Casino, the Coyote Creek Casino, originally built as a bank, Easy Street Casino, the Famous Bonanza Casino, housing the Central City undertaker, Century Casino,, formerly Goldman's Saloon, Dostal Alley Casino, a former grocery store, Golden Gulch Casino, the old Black Hawk jail, the Gilpin Casino, a former hotel and schoolhouse, and Bull Durham Casino, which kept its Old West storefront with the advertisement for the tobacco was painted in 1912.

Central City Destination Distinctive Accommodations and Dining



Destination Distinctive Accommodations: Nicki Lee Mansion Bed and Breakfast
201 West First Street, Central City, CO 80427 618-792-8701

The Nicki Lee Mansion is a beautiful Victorian Bed and Breakfast, built by Jeremiah Lee, an ex-slave who came to Colorado and struck it rich on Yankee Hill. The historic 1875 mansion along Bankers Row is beautifully decorated with each room having its own theme and charm.



Lucille Malone's Restaurant at The Gilpin Casino

111 Main St
Black Hawk, CO 80422
303-582-6624

Formerly the Gilpin Hotel, local lore says it is named after a young teacher who jumped to her death a century ago after learning that her lover had been run over by a wagon in front of the hotel. Serving breakfast all day, along with lunch and dinner.

Day Four

Hidee Gold Mine



A tour of Hidee Gold Mine will let you get the feel of an actual mine, descending a 135-foot shaft that goes more than 700 feet into the mountain. The tour includes a chance to try hard rock mining using hammers and chisels. If luck is in the air and a chunk of gold appears in the rock, you're allowed to keep it.

1950 Hidee Mine Road, Central City, CO 80427
720-548-0343 7 Days 9:30AM-4:30PM, \$24.95 per person

Nearby Ghost Towns



Take the opportunity to explore ghost towns and mining camps that once hosted saloons, shootouts, cowboys and sheriffs. Today, stuck in the 19th century and completely devoid of life the towns are historic treasures to be preserved. Just up the hill from Central City, Nevadaville that was located in the western Kansas Territory housed miners from the Burroughs and Kansas lodes. Today, there are several original buildings, and old grave sites, along with several mine sites. Like so many strike it rich stories, Apex mining camp was founded by a miner who discovered a rich ore vein with his last two sticks of dynamite. At its peak, the capitol of the Pine Creek Mining District had about 1000 residents, more than 100 businesses on Main Street, stagecoaches, daily mail service, saloons, dance halls, a newspaper called "The Apex Pine Cone", a general store, post office and hotels. The one year round resident is known as the "Mayor" of Apex. Russell Gulch was known as the "Equal Opportunity," town where females had the same rights as males to purchase mining claims. Remains include a brick schoolhouse, an IOOF Hall, mining relics, an old mule barn, building foundations and a few houses. Various mining tools and equipment, including an old railcar and ore bucket are scattered by the old mine shaft.

Day Four

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.

Day Four



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. Central City to Golden—21 miles

Day Four

Golden Historic District 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 12th Street

Boettcher Mansion



Dating from 1917, the Boettcher Mansion began as Lorraine Lodge, the former summer home and secluded mountain top retreat of Charles Boettcher. The structure looks down over Denver from a large plate glass window to take advantage of the commanding view. Separated from his wife, at age 66 and having made a fortune from selling hardware, manufacturing Portland cement, processing sugar beets and raising cattle, it was time for some rest and relaxation which Boettcher enjoyed for the next 30 years. The family rooms include a cathedral-beamed living room flanked by a dining room and sitting porch, a downstairs master bedroom suite and upstairs bedrooms. with a shared bath and sleeping porch. The Gazebo offered shelter for picnics and hunting and the Well House provided water to the rocky site.

900 Colorow Road, Golden, CO 80401 720-497-7630

Monday-Friday 8AM-4PM, Allow 1 hour for history tour,
\$5 per person

Day Four

Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave



Even though Buffalo Bill is best known for his Wild West Show in Wyoming that reaped more than a million dollars each year in profits, it was his request to be buried on top of Lookout Mountain. His funeral in 1917 was the largest in Colorado history. His grave and museum, with exhibits covering Buffalo Bill's entire life, are located on one of the mountain top parks owned by Denver.

987 ½ Lookout Mountain Road, Golden, CO 80401
720-865-2160 7 Days 9AM-5PM, Allow 1 hour, \$5 per person

Coors Brewery Tour



No one should visit Golden without touring the Coors Brewery, the largest single-site brewery in the world which still stands where Adolph Coors set up shop in 1873. A 30-minute tour takes you through the brewing process, malting and packaging. At the end you can enjoy sampling the great beer.

13th Street and Ford Street, Golden, CO 80401
866-812-2337 Thursday-Monday 10AM-4PM, Sunday
Noon-4PM, 30 minute tour, \$10

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.
