

Boulder, Colorado: Day Trips

Boulder's close proximity to Denver makes Colorado's capital an obvious choice for a daytrip however the area is teeming with natural attractions, making escapes into the scenic surroundings equally appealing. Here are some of the most appealing daytrip destinations within easy reach of Boulder.

- Colorado Rockies The mighty Rocky Mountains stretch for miles all around Boulder, with the most visited section being the nearby Rocky Mountain National Park. An overwhelming three million visitors pass through the park each year to see the beautiful snow-capped peaks, which rise above 10,000 feet in places. From Boulder, the park can be accessed by road via Highway 36, which leads to the gateway town of Estes Park.

- Colorado Springs A 2-hour drive from Boulder, Colorado Springs offers a welcome break from the ski resorts that dot the rest of the state. Leave Boulder's mountains behind for a day and enjoy the farm and grass lands of this popular city, which sits at the base of Pikes Peak. City attractions include the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame and the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, as well as the interesting red sandstone rock pinnacles that comprise the Garden of the Gods.

- Denver The capital of Colorado is less than an hour's drive from Boulder, making it the perfect daytrip destination. Also known as the Mile High City, Denver is characterised by glass and steel skyscrapers that mark the threshold of the Rocky Mountains. Built from mineral wealth, the city offers visitors abundant attractions including top-notch museums, botanic gardens and performing arts venues. Those with children might want to hit Six Flags Elitch Gardens on the outskirts of town for a day of theme park fun.

- Steamboat Springs This favourite mountain resort sits to the west of the Rocky Mountain National Park and is accessible via Highway 40. Boasting a pioneer feel, the rustic town is slowly transforming into an upscale skiing hangout with its boutiques, health centres and hot springs. Outdoor opportunities abound, with horseback riding, mountain biking, whitewater rafting and snowmobiling all available, depending on the season.

- Winter Park Popular in the winter months, this ski resort is not Colorado's most sophisticated yet it offers a good selection of runs for all levels. Snowmobiling along the Continental Divide is a highlight here, with 1-hour tours available. Not only for winter holidaymakers, summertime visitors can enjoy walking and biking along trails as well as a handful of music festivals.