



Relocation Guide

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IOR makes every effort to ensure the information contained in this guide is as current as possible. If you notice errors, or information which is no longer accurate, please contact us immediately so we may correct the issue.

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WELCOME AND OVERVIEW



The City and County of Denver is the capital and most populous city in Colorado. Denver is located in the South Platte River Valley on the western edge of the High Plains just east of the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains. The Denver downtown district is located immediately east of the confluence of Cherry Creek with the South Platte River, approximately 12 miles east of the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Denver is nicknamed the Mile-High City because its official elevation is exactly one mile (5,280 feet) above sea level, making it one of the highest major cities in the United States.

The city of Denver was founded in 1858 after gold was discovered at the junction of Cherry Creek and the South Platte River. This western town flourished with the construction of the railroads and an influx of fortune seekers over the next several years. By 1870, Denver had become the second largest city in the Western United States after San Francisco, California.

With its prime mountain location, skiing and tourism have become two of the top industries for Denver and other towns in Colorado. The climate is cool, dry, and sunny, with 300 sun-filled days per year, more than San Diego, California or Miami, Florida. Denver boasts a vibrant art scene, as well as its' own unique contemporary southwest cuisine. The diverse cultural heritages of the city are celebrated with a number of events throughout the year, from the nation's largest Cinco de Mayo celebration in the spring to the Longs Peak Scottish Irish Festival in the fall. The city is also home to several professional sports teams, including the Colorado Rockies, the Denver Broncos, Colorado Avalanche and the Denver Nuggets.



City of Denver Overview

- [Official Website of the City and County of Denver](#)
- [Mayor's Office of Denver](#)
- [Denver Parks and Recreation](#)
- [Denver Public Library](#)
- [Denver Maps](#)
- [Current Weather in Denver](#)
- Population: 649,495 (2013) and 2,814,330 in the Denver Metro area
- Land Area: 153 square miles

History

- [Denver History](#)
- [History Colorado Center](#)
- [Colorado History Timeline](#)
- [Early Denver History](#)

What to See, Sightseeing Tours, Tourist Information

- [Visit Denver](#)
- [What to Do in Denver](#)
- [Free Denver Tours](#)
- [14 Top Rated Attractions in Denver](#)
- [17 Inexpensive Denver Attractions](#)

Where to Find Arts and Entertainment

- [The Denver Post](#)
- [Denver Arts Complex](#)
- [Denver Arts and Culture](#)
- [Yelp Arts and Entertainment](#)

Where to Eat

- Make an online reservation on [Open Table](#)
- [Yelp Restaurant Reviews](#)
- Local food blogs
 - [Denver on a Spit](#)
 - [Eat Drink Denver](#)
- [Denver Restaurant Week](#): Hundreds of Denver's top restaurants will offer multi-course dinners for the tasty price of \$30 per person for one week. Denver Restaurant Week is a great chance to sample Denver's finest dining for an affordable price.

EMERGENCY

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY DIAL 911 FOR FIRE, POLICE & AMBULANCE

Language line: If the person calling 911 is unable to speak English, they can tell the operator what language they speak. The 911 Operator will have an interpreter on the line within one minute to assist with the translation.

They will ask for the following information so keep this page close to your phone:

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

If you accidentally call 911, please do not hang up. The police will automatically be dispatched to your home to make sure there are no problems. Explain to the Operator the call was an accident.

[POISON CONTROL](#) (800) 222-1222

[ANIMAL POISON CONTROL](#) (888) 426-4435

Other Important Numbers:

PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN

WORK PHONE NUMBER

Hospitals & Clinics

- [Children's Hospital Colorado](#)
- [Porter Adventist Hospital](#)
- [Presbyterian/St. Luke's Medical Center](#)
- [Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children](#)
- [St. Anthony Hospital](#)
- [Swedish Medical Center](#)
- [University of Colorado Hospital](#)

Veterinary Clinics

- [Broadview Animal Clinic](#)
- [Overland Animal Hospital and Pet Resort](#)
- [Urban Vet Care](#)

Pharmacies

There are several major pharmacy chains in Denver, found on nearly every block on commercial streets. These pharmacies are also general stores and carry a large selection of cleaning, house care, pet care, and other supplies. Click on “Store Locator” and enter your zip (postal) code to find the pharmacy near you. Many pharmacies are open 24 hours. Check for hours of operation.

- [CVS](#)
- [Rite-Aid](#)
- [Walgreens](#)
- [List of Pharmacies in Denver](#)

A lease is an agreement that outlines the obligations of the owner and the tenants of a house or apartment. It is a legally binding document, so it is important for you to know the exact terms of the lease agreement before you sign it. Please do not sign a lease without reviewing it with your IOR DS Consultant.

Rental Agents

In most situations, your IOR consultant will partner with a local realtor to have access to the most current and extensive property listings as well as the realtor's expertise in preparing and negotiating leases. This agent receives a commission for their assistance, in most US locations this commission is paid by the Landlord, not the tenant. Your IOR DS Consultant will discuss this with you.

Renter's Rights

Tenants who lease or rent property are protected against discrimination by [The Fair Housing Act](#). If you think your rights have been violated, you may write a letter or telephone the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) office nearest you. You have one year after the alleged violation to file a complaint with HUD, but you should file as soon as possible.

While you can generally expect the same service from landlords, it's important to know your state's laws. Each state and most major cities have their own tenant rights, laws and protections. [Here are Colorado's](#). You can also visit the [HUD website here for a full guide to renters' rights by states](#).

If your rental property ever suffers any defects that make your place uninhabitable, your landlord has a duty to fix it. While some apartments let you make online requests for repairs, as well as provide a phone number for "emergencies," always make sure you document your request in writing. The landlord will then have a certain amount of time to make those repairs.

Privacy

You have the right to privacy. While the landlord owns the property, they can't access it anytime they want. All states have laws stating renters have a right to privacy while renting. Typically, the only time the landlord may enter your rental without permission or notice is when they're responding to an emergency that threatens injury or property damage.

Any other time the landlord wants to enter your apartment, they need to have your permission and in most cases give you 24-hours' notice before entering.

What to expect from the landlord:

In most states, you are legally entitled to:

- Safe structural elements including floors, walls, roofs and secure doors and windows.
- Privacy as described above.
- Functioning electrical, plumbing, heating and air conditioning systems.
- Working hot and cold water.

- Exterminating infestations of rodents and other insects.
- Access to trash receptacles.
- Landlords cannot discriminate based on race, gender, sexual orientation or disabilities.
- Apartment buildings sometimes come with laundry and dryer machines in the basement.
- Water, electricity and gas bills are your financial responsibility. **Your IOR DS Consultant will assist you with this process.**

Utilities and Appliances

Your IOR DS Consultant will assist you or provide information on connecting your utilities. It is possible some will be included in your rent, but typically most are not.

****Note that you will need a social security number in order to register and pay for utilities****

Recycling

Denver offers Recycling Services. Information [here](#).



The Lease Process

Review your housing budget with your IOR DS Consultant

Your DS Consultant can help you understand what kind of property you can afford. You also need to take into account that you may be responsible for some of the utility costs of your rental.

Know what you want

What are you looking for in a property? Do you want a studio or a single bedroom? Maybe you want to rent a single family home? Do you need the property to come with appliances, including washer and dryer? Do you want it to be close to school or your work? Do you want it to be within walking distance of retail, like groceries or coffee shops? Are you looking for a child friendly area?

Keep in mind that outside of the city center in major cities, there is not much public transportation and most locals drive everywhere.

Identify potential apartments

IOR offers home finding services to aid you with this process. Your consultant may work with a local real estate agent who will help to organize appointments and visit properties. They will also assist in the rental application and the leasing process.

Common Abbreviations and Acronyms used in rental housing listings

Acronym	Meaning
24-hr mtn	24-hour emergency maintenance
AC or A/C	Air conditioning
Appls	Appliances
Apt	Apartment
BA	Bathroom
BR	Bedroom
Bsmt	Basement
CAC	Central air conditioning
DA	Dining area
Det	Detached
Dk	Deck
DR	Dining room
Dw (D/w)	Dishwasher
Eff	Efficiency
EiK	Eat-in kitchen
Fin bsmt	Finished basement
FDR	Formal dining room
FHA	Fair Housing Act
FMR	Fair market rent
FP	Floorplan
Gar	Garage
H/A	Handicapped accessible
H/W	Hardwood floors
Hi ceil	High ceilings
HVAC	Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning

Acronym	Meaning
LA	Living area
LR	Living room
MBR	Master bedroom
MBTH	Master bathroom
Neg	Negotiable
Ofc	Office
OSP	Off-street parking
Pkg	Parking
PM	Property manager (management)
Pvt	Private
Pwdr rm	Powder room (1/2 bath)
RE	Real estate
Renov	Renovated
Rf	Roof
Rm	Room
SF	Single-family
SFA	Single-family attached
SFD	Single-family detached
Sp, Pl (S/p)	Swimming pool
Sq. ft	Square feet
Th (T/H)	Townhouse
Vw (vu)	View
W/A	Wheelchair accessible
W/W	Wall-to-wall carpeting

Visit

Make this process as efficient as possible by visiting as many potential properties as you can in one or two days. Try to go sometime during the week, if possible. Your IOR DS consultant will work with you to set an appropriate schedule and to ensure that the properties you visit meet your needs as closely as possible.

What to do once you're there

As you look at the rental unit, be sure to ask a lot of questions. While you should keep small concerns to yourself about the unit while looking at it, feel free to ask the landlord or apartment manager any questions you might have that will help in your decision. Here are some possible questions you may consider asking:

- What's the monthly rent?
- Are any utilities included with the rent?
- How much is the security deposit?
- When is rent due? Do you have auto-pay?
- What's the parking situation like? Do you pay for a parking spot?
- Does the landlord take care of small maintenance issues or am I responsible for some of the repairs in the property?
- Am I able to re-paint the walls or make other modifications?

Again, be friendly and polite when you ask these questions.

The Application

The next step in the leasing process for an apartment is to submit a rental application for the location you want. The manager or landlord will be able to give you the application as well as anything else that they may need to have filled out. Your IOR DS Consultant will assist with this process. For a single family home there will likely be a rental application.

You will need your driver's license/passport, Social Security number, and proof of employment. Some landlords may charge you an application fee which could be between \$20 to \$400 dollars, depending on the landlord. This could be a combination of an application fee and move-in fee.

Once you've done this, it can take up to a few days to hear back from the property manager. Once your application has been approved the lease approval process will begin with IOR and likely your employer.

Signing the lease

DO NOT SIGN THE LEASE until your IOR DS Consultant has reviewed it in full with you, making sure you are comfortable with the terms of the lease. Please note that a lease review is NOT a legal document, rather a checklist identifying main clauses that affect the assignee's responsibilities as a tenant. Further, the IOR lease reviewers are also DSCs.

The lease is a binding contract, so it is very important to pay attention as a leasing agent goes over it

with you. It is perfectly normal for you to take your time and read all the fine print for yourself. If you are working with an IOR DS Consultant, make sure to talk with them and receive their input before signing. You will also be given a copy of the lease to take with you and keep for your records, but it is very important to know everything included in your lease from the start.

Some things to look for in a lease:

- Term of the lease and any important dates such as when the rent is due.
- Extra fees for parking spaces or storage, garbage collection and pets.
- Information regarding utility providers and whether you or the landlord is responsible for those bills.
- Notification requirements in case of renewal.
- Requirements/responsibilities of the tenants to do routine repairs such as lawn maintenance, cleaning or notification of repairs.
- Clauses that allow the landlord to change the terms of the lease after it is signed.
- Restrictions that would prevent you from living normally or comfortably in the home.

Sometimes landlords will ask for a security deposit before you sign the lease. This is normal, but you shouldn't pay in cash. Make sure all payments are made out as a check or money order.

What to expect from the lease

Most leases include the following or a variation thereof:

- Your employer may require that your lease include a Break Clause in case you are transferred for work or personal needs.
- Contracts will often be for periods of a year or more.
- Security Deposit. Landlords will expect you to pay a deposit (usually about one to two month's rent) that they will hold for the duration of your lease. You will receive your security deposit back at the end of the lease provided you don't break any specific clauses in your lease, such as moving out without proper notice, not paying rent, causing damages to the property, etc.
- Landlords should not be given unchecked access to your apartment. If there isn't anything in your lease about landlord's rights to enter the leased premises, suggest the following clause:

Entry by the Landlord. Landlord or his agent will not enter Tenant's home except to deal with an emergency; to make necessary or agreed repairs; to supply necessary or agreed services; or to show the unit to potential purchasers, tenants, or repair persons. Unless there is an emergency, Landlord will give Tenant at least 24 hours' written notice of the date, time, and purpose of the intended entry and will schedule entries during normal business hours, Monday–Friday.

Most landlords will be hard-pressed to say no to such a reasonable clause. If the landlord refuses, it's a sure sign that he won't be reasonable in other respects, too. Continue on in your housing search.

Moving In

On your selected move-in date, after the lease has been signed, and deposits have been paid, you should be given your keys and more than likely a move-in form to fill out. Your IOR DS Consultant will assist you with an initial walk through of your apartment looking for dings in the walls, cracked windows or other irregularities and report them on this form. This documentation will indicate that these things were there before you moved in and you will not be held responsible for them at the end of the lease term.

Get Renter's Insurance

Renter's insurance covers any loss to your personal property due to robbery or accidents. It also covers any damage you might cause to other tenant's property. For example, let's say your washing machine springs a leak and water seeps through the floor and ruins your neighbor's antique dresser. Renter's insurance would cover that.

Renter's insurance will cost approximately about \$15-125 a month, perhaps less if you tack it onto another policy (like auto) you have with an insurance company. A few popular options are [Allstate](#) and [StateFarm](#).

Checking and Savings Accounts

To open a checking or savings account you will need the following information:

- Two forms of picture identification including but not limited to your passport, driver's license, or work ID.
- Social security number.
- Local mailing address. You may use your office address as your mailing address, but be prepared to call your bank branch as soon as you have your permanent address.
- Letter of Employment
- Cash for the initial deposit can range from ~\$25-\$150 dollars

Security

Always pay attention to the other people around you at an ATM. Do not use the machine if you are suspicious of someone's behavior. It is safer to find another ATM or to come back later. Do not put your PIN number in with anyone close enough to see it.

Credit card theft is another increasing problem. In order to protect your card from being abused, never give your credit card or credit card number to a service provider you have not called. Another precaution is to destroy or shred copies of receipts and bills. Criminals will not hesitate to dig through the trash to find a copy of your credit card number.

Major US Banks

Below is a list of links to some of the larger banks available in Denver. In some cases you may find that the local bank is a better option for you than some of the larger banks. Your IOR DS Consultant can help you in selecting a bank by sharing the various options available locally.

- [Bank of America](#)
- [Bank of the West](#)
- [Chase](#)
- [Citibank](#)
- [HSBC](#)
- [TD Bank](#)
- [US Bank](#)
- [Wells Fargo](#)
- [List of banks in Denver](#)

SCHOOLS IN YOUR AREA

Public Schools in Denver

The public school system in Denver is managed by [Denver Public Schools](#). DPS is comprised of 185 schools, including traditional, magnet, charter and pathways schools, with a current total enrollment of 87,398 students.

Students may enroll in any school in the district, regardless of where they live, if there is space available and they meet the entrance requirements. The best thing to do is visit a few schools of interest to you and your child. Your IOR DS Consultant can answer any questions you may have about choosing a public school. To locate your neighborhood school, search online by entering your home address at the Denver Public Schools [School Match](#).

For more information on how to select a Denver Public School for your child to attend, click [here](#). For more information about enrolling in Denver Public Schools, enrollment guides are available [here](#). For a complete listing of schools in the Denver Public Schools system, click [here](#).

Private Schools in Denver

There are over 80 private schools in Denver, ranging from early preschool education to high school. In general, many private schools in the U.S. require high application standards and entrance exams, and some may align with a specific religion when devising a curriculum. Listed below are some of the most acclaimed private schools in Denver:

- [Aspen Academy](#)
- [Bellevue Christian School](#)
- [Colorado Academy](#)
- [Denver Jewish Day School](#)
- [Denver Waldorf School](#)
- [Kent Denver School](#)
- [Valor Christian High School](#)

Colleges and Universities

- [Colorado Christian University](#)
- [Community College of Denver](#)
- [Metropolitan State University of Denver](#)
- [Regis University](#)
- [Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design](#)
- [University of Colorado-Boulder](#)
- [University of Colorado- Denver](#)
- [University of Denver](#)



University of Denver

LOCAL REGISTRATION

Obtaining a Driver's License/State ID Card

If you are in Colorado for a short visit and you already hold a driver's license issued by another state or another country, you may use it in Colorado. However, if you will live in the state of Colorado for longer than 90 days, you will be required to surrender your original license and apply for a Colorado driver's license. Details [here](#).

Your Destination Services Consultant will also assist you with the proper procedure.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION/DRIVING

Most of Denver has a straightforward street grid oriented to the four cardinal directions. Blocks are usually identified in hundreds from the median streets, identified as "00", which are Broadway and Ellsworth Avenue. Colfax Avenue, a major east–west artery through Denver, is 15 blocks (1500) north of the median. Avenues north of Ellsworth are numbered, while avenues south of Ellsworth are named.

Denver has a distinct naming system for the city's road system. All roads in the downtown grid system are streets. Roads outside that system that travel east/west are given the suffix "avenue" and those that head north and south are given the "street" suffix. Boulevards are higher capacity streets and travel any direction. Smaller roads are sometimes referred to as places, drives (though not all drives are smaller capacity roads, some are major thoroughfares) or courts. Most streets outside the area between Broadway and Colorado Boulevard are organized alphabetically from the city's center.

Public Transportation

Denver's public transportation is easy, inexpensive and convenient. You can get pretty much anywhere in The Mile High City by light rail or bus, and oftentimes get there faster than by car.

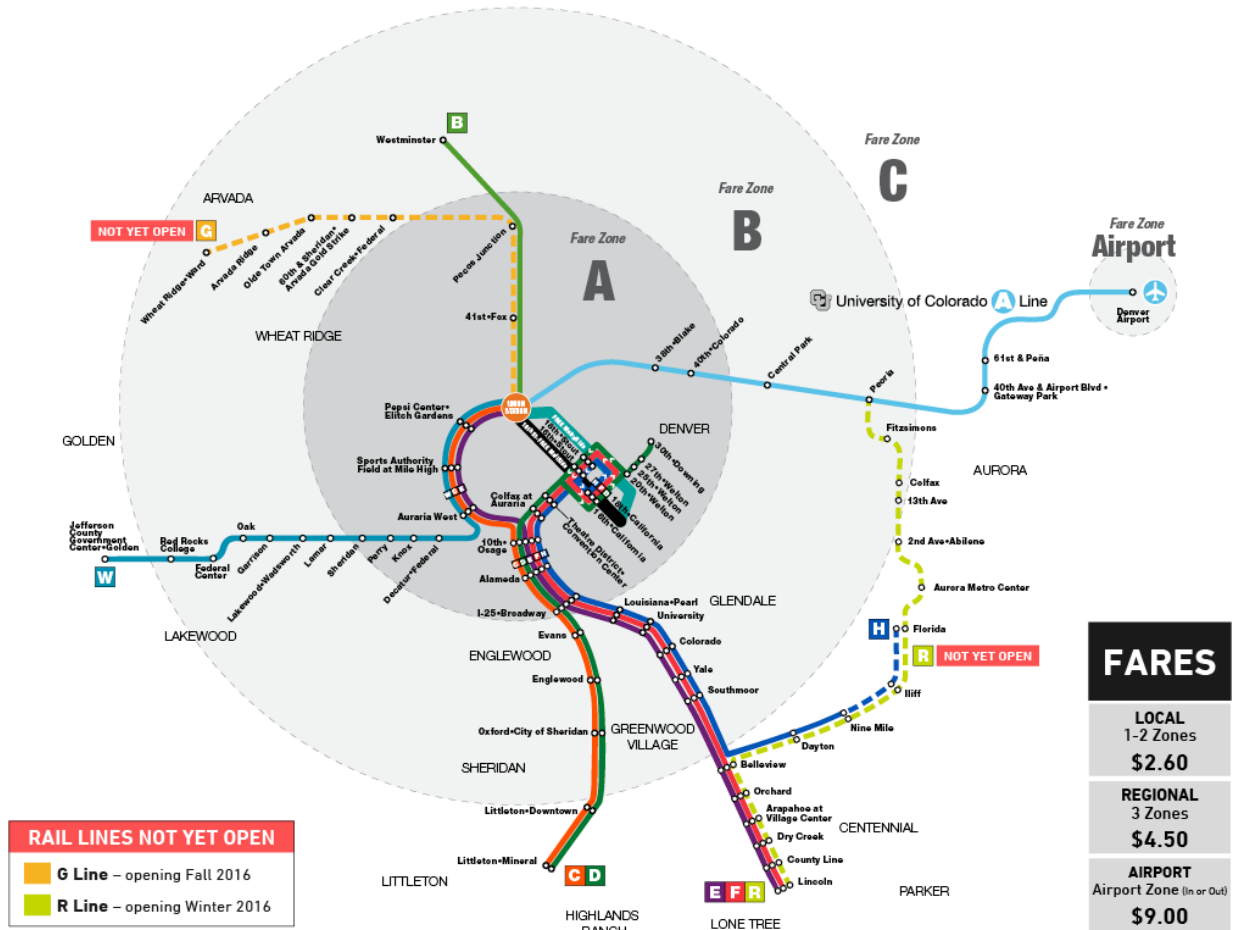


[RTD Denver](#): RTD offers over 125 bus routes throughout the Denver metro area, serviced by a fleet of over 1,000 buses stopping at over 10,000 bus stops and 70 park-n-ride facilities. Bus fares vary by type of service (regional or local) and are paid on a per person basis. Discounts for kids and seniors can apply. Passengers can pay the bus fare in cash upon boarding (exact change is required--bus operators do not provide change) or they may purchase a day pass or ticket book, which are helpful for people who plan to make several trips in a short period or want to avoid the hassle of paying in cash.

[Free Metro Ride](#): With limited stops between the new bus concourse at Union Station and Civic Center Station along 18th and 19th streets, the Free MetroRide is the perfect option for downtown commuters. This free bus service runs during weekday rush hours (6:00am – 9:00am and 3:30pm – 6:30pm) and provides convenient connections to bus, light rail, and future commuter rail. The Free MetroRide is a fast, reliable alternative and convenient companion to the [16th Street Free MallRide](#).

[RTD Light Rail](#): Denver's growing rail transit system includes three major corridors radiating out from downtown Denver to the west, southwest, and southeast parts of the metro area, and totaling 47 miles in length. A new line runs from Union Station downtown to the airport.

Within the downtown area, rail lines offer service to Denver Union Station as well as the Central Business District, with an extension into the Five Points/Curtis Park district northeast of downtown. Rail lines connect many of the city's major destinations including all three of the city's major sports venues (Coors Field, Mile High Stadium, and the Pepsi Center) as well as the University of Denver.



Light Rail in Denver

Taxis

- [Denver International Airport Taxis](#)
- [Denver Yellow Cab](#)
- [Metro Taxi](#)
- [Union Taxi](#)

Transportation “App” Options

Several web based phone applications to secure a driver are available throughout the area.

- [Uber](#)
- [Lyft](#)

Driving

Denver is primarily served by the interstate freeways I-25 and I-70. The intersection of the two interstates is referred to locally as "the mousetrap", because when viewed from the air, the junction and subsequent vehicles resemble mice in a large trap. Denver also has a nearly complete beltway known as "the 470's". These are SH 470 (also known as C-470), a freeway in the southwest Metro area, and two toll highways, E-470 (from southeast to northeast) and Northwest Parkway (from terminus of E-470 to US 36).

Airport

[Denver International Airport](#): Denver International Airport is the 15th-busiest airport in the world and the fifth-busiest airport in the United States. With more than 53 million passengers traveling through the airport each year, Denver International Airport is one of the busiest airline hubs in the world's largest aviation market. The airport is the primary economic engine for the state of Colorado, generating more than \$26 billion for the region annually.

By Bike

The League of American Bicyclists has rated Colorado as the sixth most bicycle-friendly state in the nation for the year 2014. Many Denver streets have bicycle lanes, and there are over 850 miles of paved, off-road, bike paths in Denver parks and along bodies of water, like Cherry Creek and the South Platte. This allows for a significant portion of Denver's population to be bicycle commuters and has led to Denver being known as a bicycle friendly city.

[Denver B-Cycle](#): Denver B-cycle is Denver's bike sharing system. With 85 stations and 700 bikes throughout ten central Denver neighborhoods, you can check out and return a B-cycle at any station 5 a.m. to midnight, 365 days a year.

AAA Travel Protection

[AAA](#) is a membership organization that offers benefits such as roadside service and towing, discounts on car products and services, maps, reference materials, etc. Call 1-800-352-5382 for additional information and cost.

AREA MAP



TV, Cable, Telephone, and Internet

The main service providers for TV cable, landline telephone, and internet all offer combination packages. They are in stiff competition with each other, so special offers change monthly, sometimes even weekly.

- [AT&T](#)
- [Comcast](#)
- [DirecTV](#)
- [Dish](#)
- [Time Warner Cable](#)

Housewares and Furniture

- [Bed Bath & Beyond](#)
- [Ikea](#)
- [Home Depot](#)
- [Crate and Barrel](#)
- [Furniture Envy](#)
- [Pottery Barn](#)
- [Williams-Sonoma](#)
- [Rooms to Go](#)
- [The Container Store](#)

Food Shopping

Residents in Denver go to a wide range of open air farmers markets, large gourmet markets, small specialty shops, and conventional supermarkets. The main conventional supermarkets are listed below.

They are located all over town and the surrounding areas:

- [King Soopers](#)
- [Trader Joe's](#)
- [Safeway](#)
- [Whole Foods](#)

Listed below are some of the specialty markets located in Denver. They often carry a more specified variety of products, ranging from organic produce to international cuisine and beverages:

- [EVOO Marketplace](#)
- [Marczyk Fine Foods](#)
- [St. Kilian's Cheese Shop and Market](#)
- [Tony's Market](#)

For those looking to get their goods directly from the producer, there are many choices for local farmer's markets in health-conscious Denver. From fresh produce to prepared foods, you can find an available market almost every day of the week:

- [Cherry Creek Farmer's Market](#)
- [City Park Esplanade Fresh Market](#)
- [Landmark Greenwood Village Fresh Market](#)
- [Stapleton Fresh Market](#)

Art and Culture

The arts and design hub of the Rocky Mountain region, Denver is home to bustling neighborhoods abundant with hip design stores, up-and-coming galleries, and plenty of options for the performing arts. Denver's vibrant art scene includes innovative museums, galleries, and public art.

- [Denver Art Museum](#): The spectacular Denver Art Museum (DAM) is the largest art museum between Kansas City and the West Coast. DAM is filled with more than 55,000 works from around the world, from classics by Monet, Picasso and Matisse to more modern works by Warhol and O'Keeffe.
- [Museum of Contemporary Art Denver](#): This lovely, modern building houses a constantly refreshed set of exhibits - no visit to MCA Denver is the same. The museum creates an innovative forum for contemporary art that inspires and challenges all audiences, creating understanding and dialogue about art of our time.
- **Public Art:** Great art isn't just in museums in Denver. All over the city, you'll find gorgeous murals, whimsical sculptures and other kinds of public art that will delight and inspire. Don't miss Lawrence Argent's massive [Blue Bear](#) (already a Denver icon) at the Colorado Convention Center, or the many Old West-themed sculptures in [Civic Center Park](#).
- [Museo de las Americas](#): The only museum in Colorado focusing on the art, history, and culture of the Latin Americas from ancient times to present. See beautiful Spanish Colonial art from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, pre-Columbian objects, contemporary works and much more.
- [Art District on Santa Fe](#): The hub of the Denver art scene, the Art District on Santa Fe has the largest concentration of art galleries in Colorado, featuring more than 40 galleries, shops, and restaurants.
- [Colorado Symphony Orchestra](#): The region's only full-time professional orchestra, the CSO embraces a tradition of musical excellence with a wide variety of symphonic performances-from classical repertoire to innovative new forms- all in the perfect acoustics of Boettcher Concert Hall.



Denver Art Museum

- [Colorado Ballet](#): With a company of 31 professional dancers of national and international acclaim, 15 studio company dancers, a \$6.6 million operating budget the Colorado Ballet has been dedicated to bringing world-class dance to Denver for over 50 years.
- [Opera Colorado](#): Opera Colorado presents an annual season at its downtown Denver home, the Ellie Caulkins Opera House. The Company presents new works alongside standard repertoire, and reaches more than 35,500 students and community members throughout the Rocky Mountain region through a variety of education and outreach programming.

Attractions

- **Professional Sports Games**: Denver is home to several professional athletics teams. For baseball, check out the [Colorado Rockies](#) at Coors Field. To catch an NFL football game, the [Denver Broncos](#) play at Sports Authority Field at Mile High. For basketball fans, the [Denver Nuggets](#) represent the Mile High City in the NBA. For NFL hockey, check out [Colorado Avalanche](#).
- [Elitch Gardens](#): Excitement-seekers love the adrenaline rush from the roller coasters and other thrill rides at this seasonal Downtown Denver water park/amusement center. Rides and attractions are available for the whole family.
- [Downtown Aquarium](#): A three-storied complex complete with a full service restaurant, the Downtown Aquarium features over 500 different species of creature as well as snorkel and scuba-dive programs.
- [Denver Botanic Gardens](#): One of the top five botanic gardens in the nation, Denver Botanic Gardens is an oasis in the city, offering year-round events, Mordecai Children’s Garden, lifelong learning opportunities and research to preserve Colorado’s precious natural resources.
- [Denver Zoo](#): The Denver Zoo is one of the most popular paid attractions in Denver. The zoo was founded in 1896 with the donation of a black bear cub to the mayor of Denver.
- [Colorado State Capital Tours](#): The Colorado State Capitol welcomes about 250,000 visitors annually, with nearly 60,000 visitors taking tours of the beautiful and historic Statehouse.
- [Red Rocks Park and Amphitheatre](#): Red Rocks Amphitheatre is a geological phenomenon – the only naturally-occurring, acoustically perfect amphitheater in the world. Besides accommodating world famous performers, Red Rocks offers a variety of recreation options from guided tours, hiking, biking, shopping, and dining.
- [Denver Museum of Nature and Science](#): The Denver Museum of Nature & Science is a municipal natural history and science museum, and is a resource for informal science education in the Rocky Mountain region.



Red Rocks Amphitheatre

Festivals and Events

- [Great American Beer Festival](#): Each year, GABF represents the largest collection of U.S. beer ever served, in a public tasting event plus a private competition.
- [Cinco de Mayo Festival](#): A weekend filled with food, fun and culture, Denver's Cinco de Mayo 'Celebrate Culture' Festival puts the spotlight on the city's vibrant Latino population. With more than 400,000 attendees expected, it's one of Denver's most fun and family-friendly events.
- [Colorado Dragon Boat Festival](#): Boaters board intricate and colorful dragon boats and race their way across Sloan's Lake in a thrilling race. Beyond the competition, the Dragon Boat Festival serves as an ethnic celebration of Colorado's rich Pan Asian American heritage, showcasing diverse Asian cuisine and performing artists.
- [National Western Stock Show](#): The National Western Stock Show takes place during the month of January in Denver. The 16-day show serves as an entertainment arena, hosting one of the world's richest regular season professional rodeos, the "Super Bowl" of Livestock Shows, nationally recognized Horse Shows and Colorado's largest Western Trade Show.
- [A Taste of Colorado](#): Over 500,000 people make this four-day festival their Labor Day Weekend celebration, enjoying the offerings of more 50 area restaurants, 250 marketplace artisans and vendors, seven stages, and educational programs promoting the diverse cultural and western heritage of the region.

Outdoors

With some of the best riding, rafting, climbing and skiing in the world, Colorado's stretch of the Rocky Mountains are great for those seeking an outdoor adventure. The good news is that even if you are inexperienced, Denver makes exploring Colorado's outdoors easy. Here are the most popular daytrips and adventure activities near Denver.

- [Castlewood Canyon State Park](#)
- [Chautauqua Park](#)
- [Golden Gate Canyon State Park](#)
- [Loveland Ski Area](#)
- [Rocky Mountain National Park](#)
- [Vail Mountain Resort](#)
- [Whitewater Rafting Tours](#)

Volunteer Opportunities

- [Volunteer Match](#)
- [United Way](#)

Parent & Children Resources

- [Mom's Clubs](#) - social groups offering events and outings with mothers and their young children.

Smart Phone Apps for Travel

- [Uber](#) : Similar to a taxi service but all web based. Payment also handled online, do not pay or tip driver directly. Uber driver knows your approximate location based on your phone GPS.
- [Lyft](#) : Wherever you're headed, count on Lyft for rides in minutes. The Lyft app matches you with local drivers at the tap of a button. Just request and go.
- [Google Maps](#) : Map by direction
- [Apple Maps](#) : Map by direction
- [Map Quest](#) : Map by direction
- [Waze](#) : Community based traffic & navigation with alternate route suggestions
- [CityMaps2Go](#) : The #1 travel app lets you discover exciting new places. Beautiful photos and insider tips at the touch of a button. You will receive stories about places you like and can instantly save and find them on your maps and in your lists.

Smart Phone Apps for Communication

- [WhatsApp](#) : Free local & international Real Time messaging
- [Line](#) : Exchange free instant messages with friends whenever and wherever with one-on-one and group chats. LINE is available on all smartphone devices (iPhone, Android, Windows Phone, Blackberry, Nokia) and even on your PC.
- [Viber](#) : Free text, calling, photo messages and location-sharing with Viber users. No registration, alias or invitations required. Instantly integrates with your own contact list. Best-quality mobile calls using 3G or Wi-Fi.
- [Skype](#) : Stay in touch with your family and friends for free on Skype. Download Skype today to chat and call on desktop and mobile.

Smart Phone Apps for Local Information/Reviews

- [Angie's List](#) : Referrals for doctor, dentist, child care, maid, mechanic, painter, plumber, etc.
- [Yelp!](#) : Find local businesses, restaurants, bars, clubs, events, etc. with map, lists, and reviews
- [Next Door](#) : Neighbors share community events, items for sale, recommendations for babysitters, doctors and handymen, crime reports, ideas about how to improve their neighborhood and more.
- [Meet Ups](#) : Meetups are neighbors getting together to learn something, do something or share something. Cultural groups advertise gatherings here as well.

Smart Phone Apps for Weather

- [WTHR13](#) : Local weather and closings; includes radar and forecast
- [Weather Channel](#) : National and international time, temperature & weather
- [Tornado](#) : Set up tornado alerts & siren

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Verify those in your area with Human Resources at your place of business, especially before planning vacations or weekend get-aways!

[Federal Holidays](#)

[Colorado Holidays](#)

The following are federal holidays:

- New Year's Day January 1*
- Martin Luther King Day Third Monday in January
- Memorial Day Last Monday in May
- Independence Day July 4*
- Labor Day First Monday in September
- Columbus Day Second Monday in October
- Veterans' Day November 11*
- Thanksgiving Day Fourth Thursday in November
- Christmas Day December 25*

*If a holiday falls on a Sunday, the day following is observed as the legal holiday.