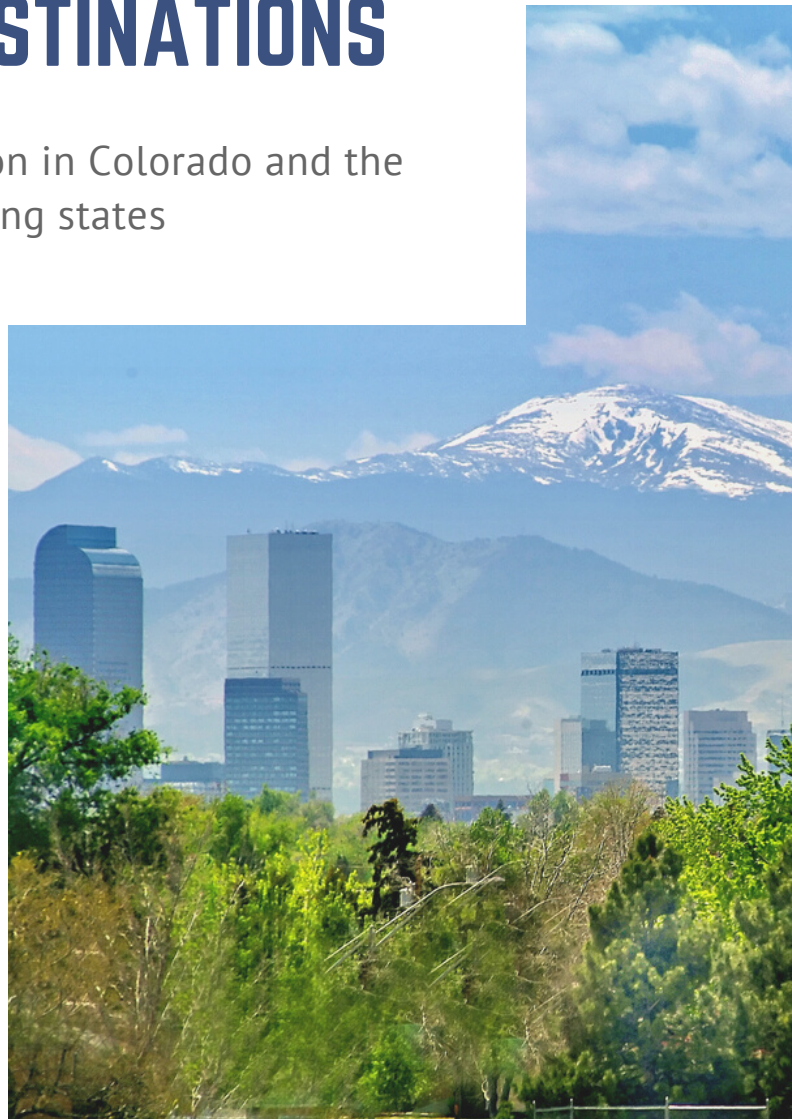




The Adventuring Mines Exchange Student

TOP NO-FLY TRAVEL DESTINATIONS

For exciting exploration in Colorado and the
neighboring states





DENVER METRO AREA

DOWNTOWN DENVER

16 Mi, 22 min drive

No car is necessary to explore Colorado's largest city center! You can drive or take the LightRail directly from Golden the heart of Denver, Union Station, to enjoy all the sights, restaurants, bars, clubs, and sports the city has to offer!



16TH STREET MALL

16 Mi, 22 min drive

The 16th Street Mall is a 1.25 mile long pedestrian mall, and is the main thoroughfare through Downtown Denver. It's a hub of restaurants, bars, shopping, and entertainment, and connects Union Station to Capitol Hill.

THE DENVER ZOO

17.8 Mi, 23 min drive

The Denver Zoo is an 80-acre zoological garden, founded in 1896. It is home to hundreds of species, including the largest herd of male Asian elephants in North America.



MUSEUMS

Within Downtown Denver

Downtown Denver is home to many renowned museums including the Denver Art Museum, the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, the Money Museum, the Museum of Contemporary Art, the History Colorado Center, and many more.



OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Denver has so much to offer including the Denver Botanic Gardens, Coors Field, the Denver Mint, the Colorado Capitol Building, Elitch Gardens, the Downtown Aquarium, and more!

AROUND GOLDEN

A walk or a short drive

There are many sites and opportunities for both indoor and outdoor activities right in Mines' backyard!

RED ROCKS PARK & AMPITHEATER

10 Mi, 20 min drive

Red Rocks is a nature park filled with hiking trails as well as a famous open-air amphitheater built into the rock structure. Thousands of bands and artists have played there, including the Beatles.



THE COORS BREWERY

Walking distance from Mines

Colorado is home to hundreds of breweries, the most famous of which is right here in Golden! Tour the Coors Brewery and sample fresh beers.

CLEAR CREEK

Walking distance from Mines

Clear Creek runs through the heart of Golden, providing the opportunity to tube and kayak right through the city! Walking trails can be found along the banks.

WASHINGTON AVE.

Walking Distance from Mines

The hub of restaurants and businesses in Golden, Washington Ave is a great place to start your exploration of Golden!

THE TABLE MOUNTAINS

5-15 min drive

North and South Table Mountain provide some of the best and closest hiking trails to Golden, and have a great view of the Mines campus from the top!





COLORADO

SKI

Colorado has 26 ski areas all over the Rocky Mountains. Golden is in the foothills, a short drive from the slopes!

For First-Time Skiers

ECHO MOUNTAIN

27 Mi, 43 min drive

Echo Mountain is close to Golden, tiny, really affordable, and perfect for first-time and beginner skiers!

COPPER MOUNTAIN

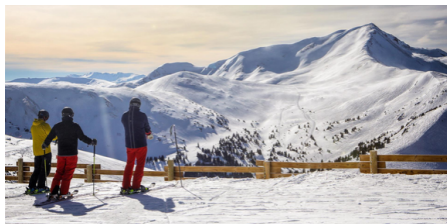
69 Mi, 1 hr 20 min drive

Copper is one of the closest and best ski areas to Golden. The Mines ORC sells discounted lift passes to Copper along with their rental ski gear!

ARAPAHOE BASIN

55 Mi, 1 hr 8 min drive

A-Basin is one of the most popular ski destinations for Mines students due to its proximity to Golden and its relatively cheap lift tickets.



BRECKENRIDGE

72 Mi, 1 hr 30 min drive

Breckenridge is slightly further away and more expensive, but it provides the classic CO experience and is perfect for a ski weekend so you can enjoy the restaurants and bars the charming town has to offer.

THE MINES ORC

The Mines Outdoor Recreation Center (ORC) is your on-campus resource for maps, advice, and rental equipment for outdoor activities including skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, camping, and more! There is also a bike repair shop open to use!

EXPLORE

Colorado is known for skiing, but there are so many other things to do both in the city of Denver and elsewhere!



GARDEN OF THE GODS

79.9 Mi, 1 hr 26 min drive

Garden of the Gods is one of the most spectacular evidences of 300 million years of geological history. Combining massive rock formations, woodlands, and mountain forest. Explore by hiking, biking, rock climbing, or even horseback riding.

THE ROYAL GORGE

139 Mi, 2 hr 30 min drive

The Royal Gorge is home to the highest suspension bridge in America at 956 ft above the canyon floor. An amusement park along the edge and a scenic railroad will fill your day!



GLENWOOD SPRINGS

148 Mi, 2 hr 30 min drive

Take a day trip to this resort city known for its huge natural hot springs, underground caves, and wildlife. The area also features Hanging Lake, one of CO's natural wonders.



OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Estes Park- 57 Mi, 1 hr 20 min

A charming mountain town in Rocky Mountain National Park, also home to the haunted Stanley Hotel.

Mesa Verde- 383 Mi, 7 hr 11 min

Known for its well-preserved Ancestral Pueblo-an cliff dwellings which exhibits ancient Native American culture.

Great Sand Dunes- 217 Mi, 3 hr 50 min

Hike, explore, and sled down the massive sand dunes!

COLORADO PASSTIMES

Hike- Hiking trails can be found all over CO, even within Golden!

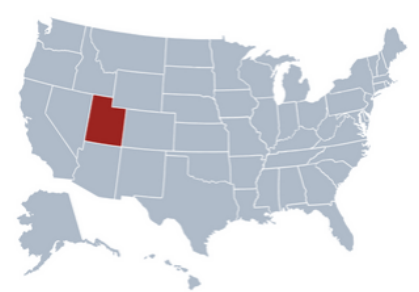
Backpack & Camp- Take a weekend to explore the wilderness!

Eat & Drink- Golden & Denver are home to some of the country's best breweries & restaurants!

Cross-country Ski- Get your exercise & avoid the crowded slopes!

Snowshoe- Enjoy the snow with no training or experience necessary!





UTAH



MOAB

346 Mi, 5 hr 23 min drive

A city in southeastern Utah known for its dramatic red rock formations. It's the gateway to the Arches and the Canyonlands National Parks, and is perfect for the outdoor adventurer!



SALT LAKE CITY

526 Mi, 8 hr drive

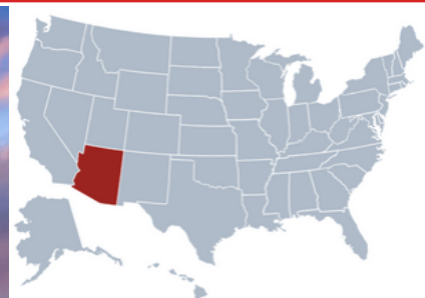
The biggest city in Utah, Salt Lake is known for its backdrop of dramatic mountains. It boasts an eclectic mix of architecture and a budding food scene, a great stop on any roadtrip.



THE NATIONAL PARKS

Range from 5-8 hr drives

Utah is home to the "Mighty 5" National Parks: Canyonlands, Arches, Zion, Bryce Canyon, and Capitol Reef. Explore all Utah has to offer through its many distinctive landscapes!



ARIZONA



THE GRAND CANYON

648 Mi, 10 hr 16 min drive

The famous Grand Canyon, formed by the Colorado River cutting into colorful rock, is a mile deep and up to 18 miles wide. Step out onto the glass skywalk to look straight down to the canyon floor.



TUSCON & SEGUARO NATIONAL PARK

906 Mi, 13 hr drive

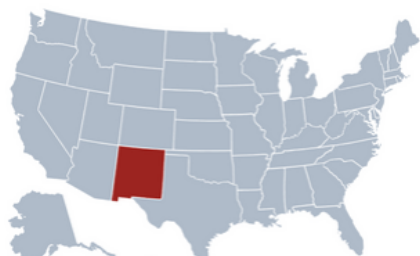
One of the biggest cities in AZ, and with 350 days of sunshine per year, Visit the giant Saguaro cacti, native to the Arizona desert, which grow up to 80 ft tall and view ancient petroglyphs.



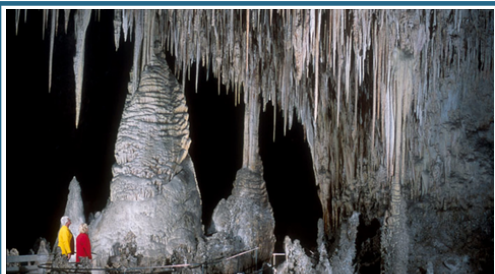
ANTELOPE CANYON

619 Mi, 9 hr 47 min drive

A slot canyon on Navajo land in Northern Arizona, Antelope Canyon is most beautiful as seen from inside. Take a tour of the dramatic cavern-like canyon floor.



NEW MEXICO



CARLSBAD CAVERNS

615 Mi, 9 hr 25 min drive

Carlsbad features over 100 caves, huge underground caverns, and millions of stalactites. Walk through the caves, and, at sunrise and sunset, watch the Carlsbad bats fly.



SANTA FE

402 Mi, 6 hr drive

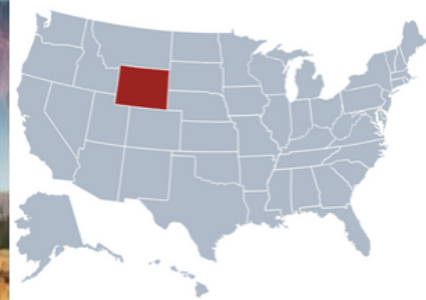
One of the oldest cities in the western US, and founded in 1601 as a Spanish colony, Santa Fe is the capital of New Mexico. It's known for its pueblo-style architecture and creative arts scene.



WHITE SANDS NATIONAL PARK

574 Mi, 8 hr 57 min drive

A 275 sq. mi field on white sand dunes made of gypsum crystals, White Sands is one-of-a-kind. Explore and sled down massive dunes!



WYOMING



OLD FAITHFUL & PRISMATIC SPRINGS

555 Mi, 9 hr 30 min drive

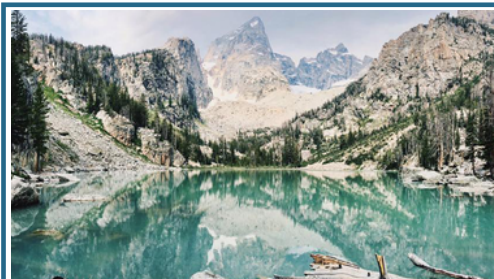
Situated in a corner of Yellowstone National Park, Old Faithful is a cone geyser that has erupted every 44 minutes for the last 20 years. The Grand Prismatic Spring is the 3rd largest hot spring in the world.



JACKSON HOLE

519 Mi, 8 hr drive

Home to 3 ski areas, tall peaks, and beautiful scenery, Jackson Hole is the gateway to 3 national parks. It's a great place to spend a weekend in any season!

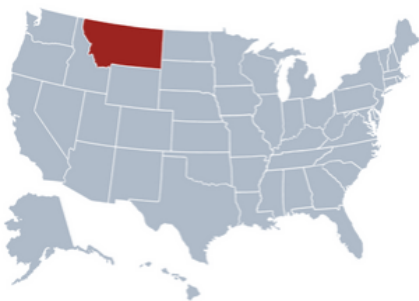


GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

486 Mi, 7 hr 45 min drive

Grand Teton is filled with opportunities to see beautiful lakes, interesting wildlife like Buffalo, and learn about native culture.





MONTANA



BILLINGS

562 Mi, 8 hr drive

Rock climb and mountain bike on the "rims", the sandstone cliffs that surround the city! Billings was also voted the Best Town in 2016 by Outside Magazine.



GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

926 Mi, 14 hr drive

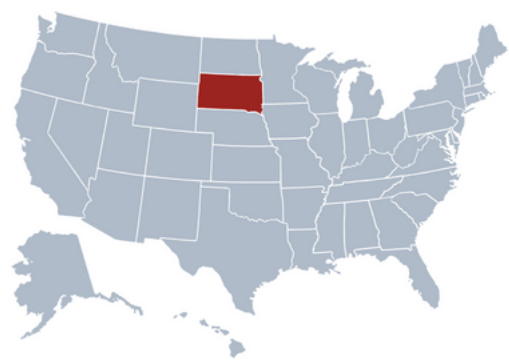
Glacier National Park is 1,583 sq-mi of wilderness area filled with hiking trails and glacier-carved peaks and valleys running to the Canadian border. Explore and see diverse landscapes and wildlife.



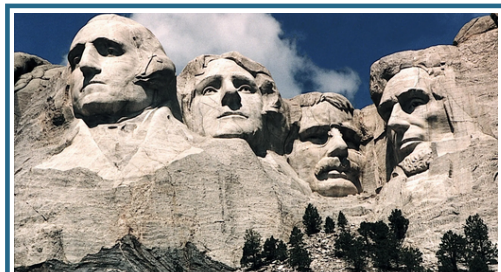
RED LODGE

563 Mi, 8 hr 25 min drive

Red Lodge is the gateway to Yellowstone National Park, and is the best place to ski like a native Montanan (for 1/2 the price of the CO ski areas!).



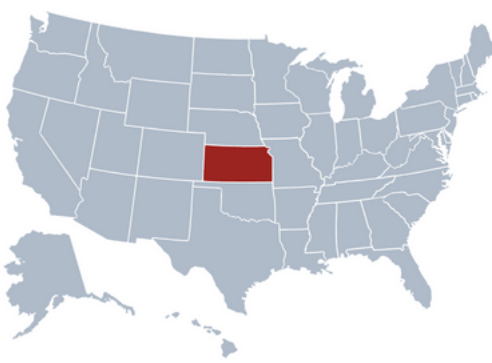
SOUTH DAKOTA



MT. RUSHMORE

373 Mi, 5 hr 50 min drive

Mt. Rushmore National Memorial is a massive carved sculpture in the Black Hills which was finished in 1941. It features 60-ft high granite faces depicting 4 U.S. presidents: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln.



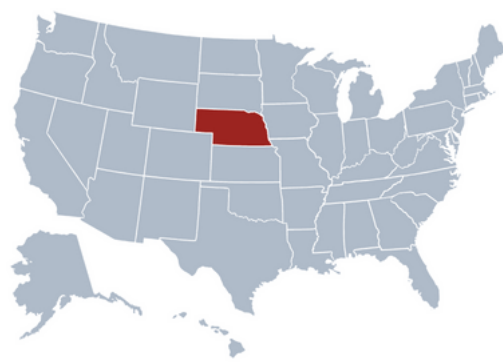
KANSAS



STRATACA

484 Mi, 7 hr drive

Drive through the wide open prairie of Kansas, then go underneath to explore the Strataca Underground Salt Mine. Delve 650 ft underground to tour one of the world's largest deposits of rock salt.



NEBRASKA



FORT ROBINSON

563 Mi, 8 hr 25 min drive

One of the great historic places of the American West, the post began in 1874 as a temporary encampment during the Indian Wars. Experience the history from the frontier days through WWII.