



VisitGolden.com

Golden At A Glance...

Location: Golden is the last major stop before climbing to the top of the Continental Divide and is nestled between two volcanic mesas and against the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Golden is approximately 8 square miles and located approximately 15 miles west of Denver, with an official elevation of 5,675.

Population: Approximately 19,000

History: Golden was founded in 1859 and was the territorial capitol of Colorado from 1862 until 1867. It was originally called "Golden City," not only for being the supply center for miners of the region during the Pikes Peak Gold Rush, but also after Thomas L. Golden, one of the first prospectors to pan for gold in the area.

Attractions: **Coors Brewery Tour:** Come see and taste traditional brewing in the Rocky Mountains! Since 1873, Coors Brewing Company has thrived on a legacy of quality, innovation and customer service. The newly upgraded experience includes a 30-minute self-paced tour highlighting the malting, brewing and packaging processes, sampling of Coors fine products in its hospitality lounge and shopping in the Coors & Co. gift shop. Product samples are limited in quantity and available only to those 21 years and older with valid ID. Non-alcoholic beverages are also available. Guests under 18 years old must be accompanied by an adult. Tours are free. 13th & Ford Streets, (303) 277-BEER (2337), Tour Info - (866) 812-2337, www.MillerCoors.com

Foothills Art Center: Award-winning art exhibits in a historic setting. Located in the heart of downtown Golden, the galleries are situated in a gorgeous Gothic church, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Exhibits showcase artists of regional, national and international renown, featuring traditional and contemporary artwork. Art classes are available for people of all ages and abilities, and the gift shop offers high quality, affordable works by Colorado artists, including jewelry, ceramics, glass, paintings and much more. 809 15th Street, 15th and Washington Avenue, (303) 279-3922, www.foothillsartcenter.org

Heritage Square: A unique family fun experience offering go-karts and amusement rides. Rides operate weekends in the Spring and Fall: daily Memorial Day through Labor Day. Located in the beautiful foothills of Golden, 18301 W. Colfax Ave (Hwy 40), (303) 279-2789, www.heritageamusementpark.com

Miners Alley Playhouse (MAP): Recently nominated for The Best Season by a Theatre Company by Denver drama critics and The Henry Awards, MAP's reputation has spread throughout the Denver metro area. From topical dramas, to world premieres, to the finest of international comedies, Miners Alley Playhouse strives to offer a spectrum of productions that will appeal to everyone. Enjoy our visual art gallery featuring some of the regions most talented artists set in our beautiful lobby with our full service bar. Keep an eye out for special events throughout the year including Acoustic Alley concerts presented throughout the year. 1224 Washington Ave. (13th & Washington), 303-935-3044, www.minersalley.com

National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL): Learn more about renewable energy research at NREL's distinctive Visitor's Center, just off I-70 in Golden. In addition to exhibits and other educational opportunities, the Visitor's Center features energy-saving technologies such as a Trombe wall for comfortable efficient heating. NREL is a national laboratory of the US Department of Energy. 1617 Cole Boulevard, (303) 384-6565, www.nrel.gov

Museums: Golden is proud to be home to ten museums.

The Astor House: Currently closed for major renovations. 822 12th Street, (303) 278-3557, www.goldenhistorymuseums.org

Bradford Washburn American Mountaineering Museum: Golden's newest museum opened its doors in February 2008 to be the first and only museum in the United States dedicated to the heroism, technology, culture and spirit of mountaineering. The museum brings visitors into the world of mountain and rock climbing and honors the achievements of mountaineers from America and around the world. Exhibits on climate, science, cultures and the humanities as they relate to mountains promise to make the visitor experience rich, exciting, and interactive. 710 10th Street, (303) 279-3080, www.mountaineeringmuseum.org

Buffalo Bill's Gravesite and Museum: Exhibits exploring Buffalo Bill's life and times include Wild West show outfits and posters, Indian artifacts, and antique firearms. Temporary exhibits, changed every year, explore a variety of Western themes. Children and adults alike can try on cowboy outfits and get a picture while seated on "Stumpy," the Museum's fiberglass horse. The complex on Lookout Mountain includes the Buffalo Bill Museum, Buffalo Bill's grave, and the

Pahaska Teepee gift shop and snack bar. 987 1/2 Lookout Mountain Road, (303) 526-0747, www.buffalobill.org

Clear Creek History Park: Get outside and see how Golden's early settlers worked and played in the late 1800s (1867–1915, to be precise). The park is ideally located along Clear Creek in downtown Golden. Its outdoor setting recreates the look and feel of a late 1800s mountain ranch complete with gardens, a working blacksmith shop, schoolhouse and chicken coop (chickens included). The grounds are open from sunrise to sunset every day of the year. Stroll around for free and peek through the windows of these beautiful old buildings. For a more in-depth experience the buildings will be open with scheduled activities Thursday – Saturday from 10:00am – 3:00pm in June, July and August. (303) 278-3557, www.goldenhistorymuseums.org

Colorado Railroad Museum: Twelve acres of narrow and standard gauge locomotives, cars, and 50 thousand rare old photographs, papers and artifacts. The museum itself is a replica of an 1880-style masonry railroad depot. The gift shop has over a thousand railroad books, videotapes, posters, prints, jewelry, and other memorabilia. 17155 West 44th Avenue, (303) 279-4591, or (800) 365-6263, www.crrm.org

Dinosaur Ridge: A world-renowned geological and paleontological outdoor museum, containing more than a hundred dinosaur tracks discovered in 1937. Bones were first discovered in 1877, igniting the dinosaur rush to the West. You can take your own tours with fifteen interpretive signs and guided tours on open days. State Highway 26 (between C-470 and Highway 93), (303) 697-DINO (3466), www.dinoridge.org

Geology Museum: The Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum offers free admission to extraordinary exhibits including Minerals from Colorado, Colorado Mining Heritage, Mining Artifacts, Gold & Silver Display, Gemstones, Mineral Properties & Earth History, special Radioactive exhibits, World Minerals and Fossils. A favorite for many visitors is the representation of a uranium mine, complete with driller and crystal pocket. Colorado School of Mines, 13th and Maple St., (303) 273-3823, (303) 273-3815 Tours Hot Line, www.mines.edu/academic/geology/museum

Golden History Center: From Castle Rock, kayakers, burros, and trains, to Rosebud pottery, Orediggers, and Demons, the history of the second territorial capital runs deep with color and intrigue. Start exploring Golden's unique characters and places through exhibits and programs at the Golden History Center. As far back as 1938, citizens officially began collecting, exhibiting and preserving Golden artifacts. With the Show & Tell exhibit, visitors will see over 80 hand-picked items from the decades-old City of Golden collection of 15,000. Each tells its own story about Golden history. 923 10th Street, (303) 278-3357, www.goldenhistorymuseums.org

Lookout Mountain Nature Center and Preserve: Connect with nature at this 110 acre park. Inside experience exhibits that depict migrating birds and reveal secrets of the ponderosa pine forest. Visit the Discovery Corner and Observation Room. Outside stroll trails winding through forest and meadow, picnic beneath towering pine trees or join a naturalist-guided program. 910 Colorow Road, (720)4977600, http://jeffco.us/openspace/openspace_T56_R14.htm

Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum: Come explore the world of quilts at the Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum. RMQM is dedicated to the preservation of quilts, and the continuation of the art of both traditional and contemporary quilting. We present ten quilt exhibits a year, each with a unique and different style, history and theme. Our Quilt Market is a great place to find quilts and related gifts. 200 Violet Street, Unit 140, Golden, CO 80401 (303) 277-0377, www.rmqm.org

Recreation: Golden is an adventure-lover's paradise. The city maintains approximately 250 acres of parks with thousands of acres of nearby publicly owned open space. These areas include 12 community parks and 4 independent trail systems. The Clear Creek walking paths are incredibly popular and Clear Creek Whitewater Park was built for recreational canoeing and kayaking and offers a quarter mile course. Nearby, Apex Park, White Ranch Park, North and South Table Mountains, and Golden Gate Canyon offer some of the region's best hiking, biking, camping and fishing.

Fun Facts: The Colorado School of Mines maintains one of the country's oldest mountain monograms. Perched on Mount Zion above the campus, every evening, the stone monument of the school's **M** logo is illuminated (these days, with energy efficient light bulbs) and can be seen from miles away.

America's favorite candy, Jolly Rancher, was founded in Golden in 1949 by Bill and Dorothy Harmsen. They called the company Jolly Rancher to suggest a hospitable, western company. Jolly Rancher was originally an old fashioned candy store located on Golden's main street, Washington Avenue, where ice cream, chocolate and hard candy were made. Today, the Hershey Company owns Jolly Rancher.

A statue of Buffalo Bill Cody greets visitors as they enter downtown Golden. Sitting atop Buffalo Bill's shoulders is a laughing child – his granddaughter.

Golden served as the territorial capitol of Colorado from 1862 to 1867. The Colorado Territory legislators voted and passed by a single ballot to move the capitol to Denver on December 9, 1867.

Golden's Armory Building is the largest cobblestone building west of the Mississippi, built in 1913 with 3,300 wagonloads of stream-worn boulders from Clear Creek and quartz from Golden Gate Canyon.

Golden is home to the world's largest single site brewery, Coors Brewery.

Media

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