



TOURS AND EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

Great National Parks of the Western USA

Departures from July to September 2018 and from July to September 2019

Explore some of the world's finest National Parks, with North America's most truly spectacular and extraordinary scenery, coupled with the endlessly fascinating history of the 'Old West'

Tour highlights

- Experience Yellowstone, the world's first National Park, with its geysers, hot springs, waterfalls and herds of bison, elk and grizzly bears
- Visit Mount Rushmore in South Dakota
- Drive through classic cowboy country in Wyoming and learn about its famous historical figures such as Wild Bill Hickok, Calamity Jane and Buffalo Bill
- See the site of Custer's famous 'Last Stand' on the Little Bighorn battlefield
- Explore some lesser-known sights such as the Devil's Tower, Mesa Verde and the Black Canyon of the Gunnison
- Gaze in awe at the incredible Arches National Park
- Travel on the Durango & Silverton steam railway amongst the spectacular scenery of the Colorado Rockies
- Return flights from the UK, plus all hotel transfers
- Stay in hand-picked three-star hotels, with eleven breakfasts included
- The services of an experienced and insightful tour manager



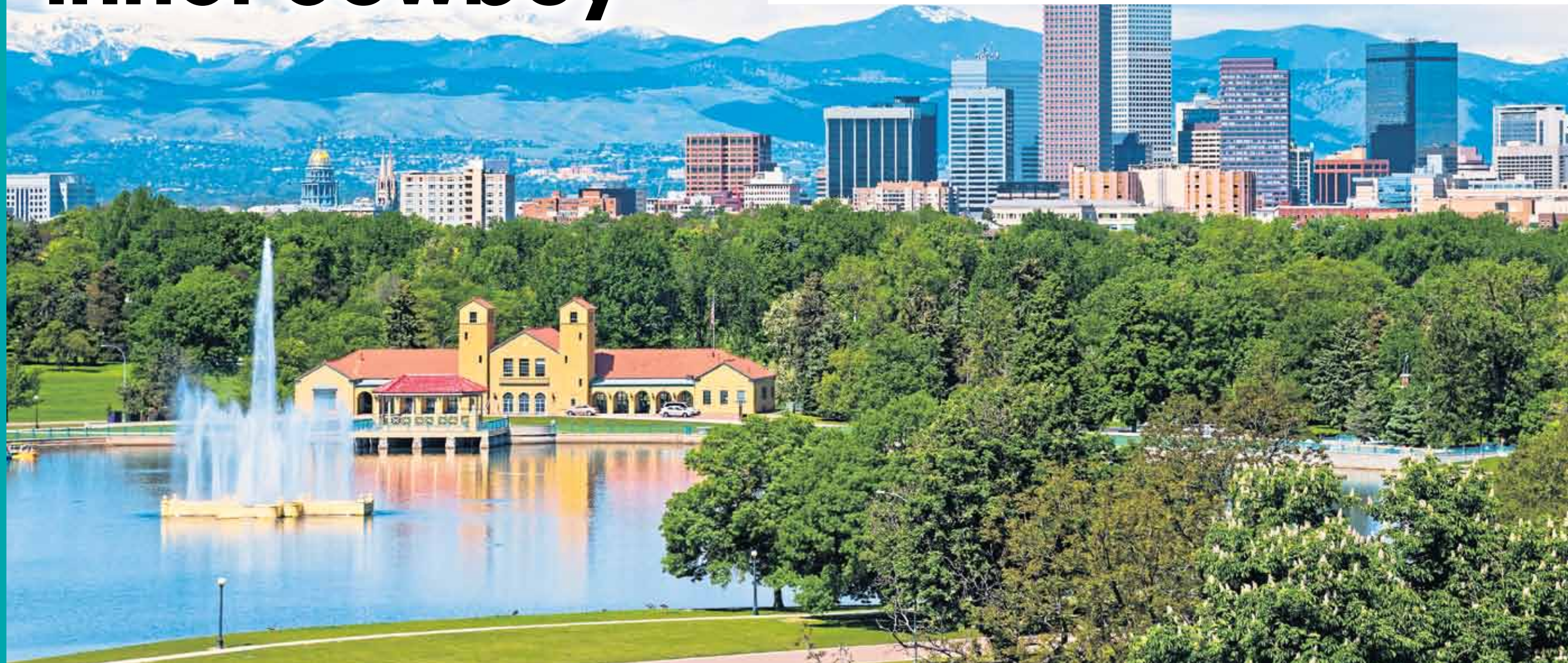
For a brochure or to book call
01283 245324
quoting Sunday Post or visit
www.sporiviera.co.uk
Opening times: Mon to Fri 9:00 - 19:00
and Sat to Sun 10:00-16:00

Organised by Riviera Travel ABTA V4744 / ATOL 3430 Protected. Single room supplements apply. Subject to availability. Per person based on two people sharing a twin room. Additional entrance costs may apply. Image used in conjunction with Riviera Travel. When making an enquiry about the holidays shown in this advertisement we may pass your details onto our participating tour operator partner to contact you regarding your enquiry.



Northern Colorado the cool place to be

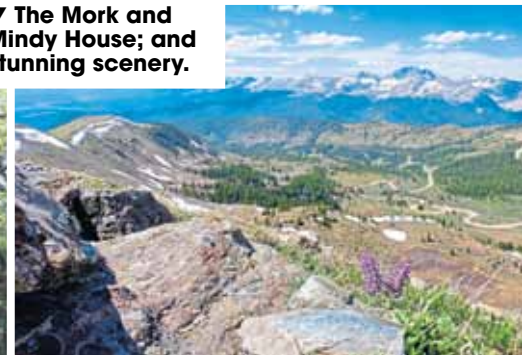
Unleash your inner cowboy



▼ The Wyoming state line.



▼ The Mork and Mindy House; and stunning scenery.



By David Gordon

You join me seated at a table positioned in the middle of the 16th Street Mall in downtown Denver, Colorado.

The sun is shining, the heat is dry and I am glad of the rest, as over the past few days I have walked 45 miles as I wandered around. It is something of an annoyance to me that when at home I can barely walk the length of myself, but put me somewhere different and I become a veritable Forrest Gump and just keep on going.

Now, before you think I

have taken leave of my senses, the Mall is a pedestrianised, mile-long shopping street in the mile-high city. The only vehicles are the free buses which transport shoppers around the area.

At one end, 16th Street is topped by the incredible Union Station, often the first and last building that travellers see as they journey to or from the city. The station is truly stunning and is reminiscent of the great days of rail travel. It's like walking into the 1920s when you go through the door.

If you follow American sport, nearby is Coors Field, the home of baseball in the city, and not too far away is the Mile High Stadium, base of the Denver Broncos.

At the other end of 16th Street, the State Capitol is a beautiful building surrounded by a great park. On the day I visited, the area was full of food trucks, which are big business in the USA and I quite happily meandered around trying samples of the wide variety of dishes available.

The city is, of course, very close to the Rockies so they allow for an easy day trip. I highly recommend the Lariat Loop, a 40-mile trip into the mountains. Attractions include the Coors Brewery, the Colorado Railroad Museum and Buffalo Bill's grave site. Bill Cody was a bison hunter and showman who took his Wild West-themed show on tour all over the USA, UK and Europe in

the late 1800s. He is buried at the top of Lookout Mountain, overlooking Denver and the Great Plains.

Red Rocks, not too far below Lookout Mountain, is a natural acoustic amphitheatre which has seen performances by some of the world's best-known artists. The Beatles performed there in 1964 and were followed by the likes of Jimi Hendrix, Sonny & Cher, and the Blues Brothers.

I am not one for cliches, but I did find my inner cowboy on this trip. I hired a convertible Mustang, bought a Stetson and drove off into the wild blue yonder to find some bison. Cheyenne, Wyoming, is only an hour away from Denver, but it is a different world altogether.

The Terry Bison Ranch is a well-established working farm of 30,000 acres where you get so close to the bison they

literally eat out of your hand.

There is a real sense of heritage when you stand in the centre of Cheyenne.

The railroad building flanks one side of Depot Plaza, with the famous Wrangler western-wear shop on another.

Every summer more than 500,000 people descend on Cheyenne for Frontier Days. Known as "the daddy of 'em all", it is a 10-day rodeo and country music celebration which has run annually since 1897.

While I had the car, I took the chance to visit another city which was ingrained in my head from an early age. The city of Boulder, Colorado, was the base for the classic series Mork And Mindy.

While it is a private residence, the current owners are all too used to seeing random tourists appearing at their fence to get a quick snap. You can continue your own Mork and Mindy trail by visiting the nearby Pearl Street Mall, where the music store and deli were set.

It was while enjoying a meal and beer at the West Flanders Brewing Company that was I was told that within a 10-minute walk from where I was seated I could be hiking in the foothills of the Rockies.

With its temperate climate and easily walkable cities, Northern Colorado and Wyoming are an ideal location to enjoy quite a chilled out way of life.

10 things to see and do

COLORADO

UNION STATION

Known as "Denver's Living Room", find a spot on one of the comfortable couches, people-watch and savour the experience of being in one of the city's most historic buildings.

LARIMER SQUARE

The site where the original gold-rush settlers set up camp, Larimer Square is popular throughout the day, with a number of shops, restaurants and entertainment venues to explore.

MOLLY BROWN HOUSE

Once the home of "the unsinkable Molly Brown" (a socialite who survived the Titanic), this museum offers a glimpse into the life of one of the city's most fascinating residents.

US MINT

This was created to transform the gold found in the Rockies into coins. It produces up to 50 million coins a day. Tours are free, but it is best to book in advance via its website.

COORS BREWERY

Renowned as a Colorado institution, visitors undertake self-guided tours and get to sample the product before they leave.

WYOMING

BIG BOY STEAM ENGINE

Engine 4004 is an imposing sight. The world's largest steam locomotive is seeing out its retirement in Cheyenne's Holiday Park.

CHEYENNE TROLLEYBUS

Jump on board for a narrated history tour of Cheyenne, which has various "hop-on, hop-off" stops.

BOTANIC GARDENS

An oasis on the high plains of Wyoming, visitors can meander through nine acres of landscapes, gardens and plant collections.

CHEYENNE DEPOT

Known as one of the most beautiful railroad stations in North America, this building now houses a visitor centre, restaurant and railroad museum.

BIG BOOTS

When visiting Cheyenne, it's hard to miss the series of 8ft tall Cowboy Boots. Painted by local artists, they depict the region's history.

FACT BOX

David stayed at the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel. Rooms start at £70 per night. Norwegian flies direct from London Gatwick to Denver three times a week. Prices start at £199 one-way.