



VELVET ELK VISTA

EAT. EXPLORE. ELEVATE. —
ADVENTURE AWAITS

Savor every moment of your mountain getaway with a guide to local trails, tastes, and toasts — from sunrise hikes and scenic drives to good eats, craft cocktails, and après adventures.

Many adventures are located around or above 10,000 ft. Stay hydrated to avoid Elevation Sickness.

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FOOD & DRINK:

📍 Fairplay

Robbin's Nest — Breakfast Café | \$ \$10–\$20

- Perfect for hearty breakfast or brunch.

Java Moose — Coffee Shop | \$ \$10–\$20

- Great lattes, pastries, and a friendly local vibe.

Mr. Burro — Coffee Shop & Café | \$ \$10–\$20

- Espresso, burritos, and quick bites to go.

Highside Brewing & BBQ — BBQ & Brewery |

\$ \$20–\$30

- Local craft beer, smoked meats, and mountain views.

Otto's — American | \$ \$10–\$20

- Classic comfort food with mountain-town charm.

Casa Sanchez — Mexican | \$ \$10–\$20

- Fresh, flavorful classics and margaritas in a cozy spot downtown.

Salon Mexico — Mexican | \$ \$10–\$20

- Local favorite for tacos, enchiladas, and margaritas.

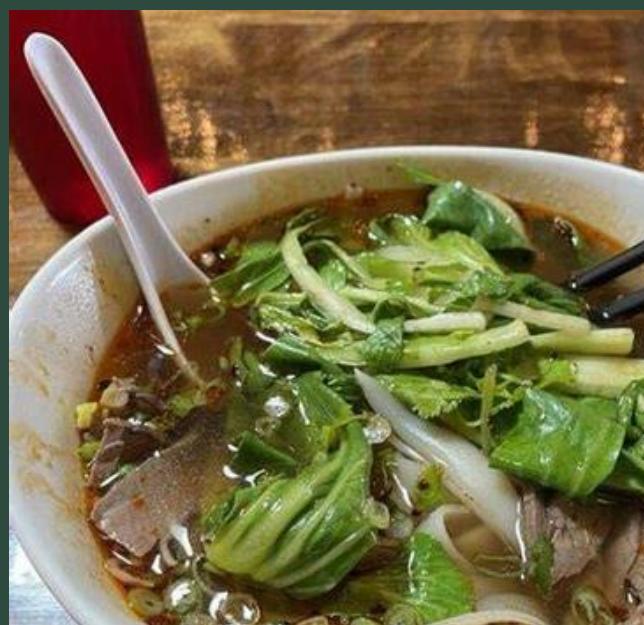
Asian Fusion — Asian | \$ \$10–\$20

- Great variety of sushi rolls, noodles, and stir fry dishes.

Silver Scoop Creamery — Ice Cream &

Dessert | \$ \$10–\$20

- Homemade ice cream and sweet treats for all ages.





FOOD & DRINK:

📍 Alma

South Park Saloon — Bar & Grill | \$ \$10–\$20

- Cozy mountain saloon serving burgers, beers, and good vibes.

Otto's Food Truck — American | \$ \$10–\$20

- Seasonal food truck serving burgers, sandwiches, and local favorites — perfect for a casual bite on the go.

📍 Breckenridge

Whiskey Star Smokehouse — BBQ | \$ \$20–\$30

- Authentic Texas-style BBQ and whiskey cocktails.

Mountain Top Cookie Shop — Dessert |

\$ \$10–\$20

- Famous for giant, gooey cookie sandwiches with frosting and cookie dough—worth the drive!

📍 Keystone

Kickapoo Tavern — American | \$ \$20–\$30

- Great après-ski spot with hearty pub fare and local beers.

The Crepe Stand — Crepes & Café | \$ \$10–\$20

- Sweet and savory crepes, perfect for a snack or lunch.





COOLER WEATHER ACTIVITIES

NEARBY SKI RESORTS

Whether you're chasing powder, cruising groomers, or sipping cocoa slopeside, you'll find world-class skiing and snowboarding within easy reach of Velvet Elk Vista.

Resort	Drive Time	Vibe	Highlights	Tip
Breckenridge (EPIC)	45 min	Lively & iconic mountain town.	5 peaks, charming Main Street, après-ski galore.	Arrive early – parking fills fast.
Keystone (EPIC)	1 hour	Family-friendly fun.	Night skiing, ice skating, sleigh ride dinners.	Stay late for the lights – night skiing is rare in Colorado!
Copper (IKON)	1 hour	Laid-back & local.	Naturally divided terrain, terrain park, tubing hill.	Grab a bite and live music at JJ's Tavern.
Arapahoe Basin (A-Basin) (IKON)	1 hour 10 min	Old-school & adventurous.	Long season, steep terrain, “Beach” tailgating.	Dress warm – it's one of the highest ski areas around.
Loveland	1 hour 10 min	Local favorite.	Affordable, uncrowded, great snow.	Quick stop for breakfast burritos at Loveland Pass café.
Monarch Mountain	1 hour 15 mins	Hidden gem.	Powder days, short lines, low-key charm.	Pair with a soak at Mount Princeton Hot Springs.
Vail (EPIC)	1 hour 30 mins	Luxury resort experience.	Massive terrain, Back Bowls, upscale village.	Park in Lionshead Village for easier access to the gondola and fewer crowds.

ADVENTURES BEYOND SKIING

Snowshoeing & Nordic Trails

Where: Beaver Creek Trailhead, Limber Grove, or Breckenridge Nordic Center.

Vibe: Peaceful forests, mountain views, and plenty of fresh powder.

Tip: Rent gear from Breck Nordic for easy setup. We also will offer two pairs of snowshoes for use if you are interested!

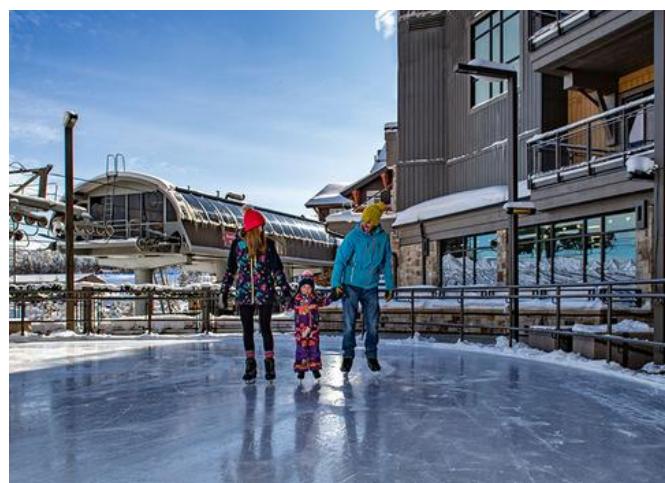


Ice Skating

Where: Grand Colorado on Peak 8 in Breckenridge, Dercum Square Ice Rink at Keystone Resort and Keystone Lake Ice Rink.

Vibe: Family fun meets alpine charm. Keystone Lake is the largest Zamboni-maintained rink in North America — skate under the stars!

Tip: Most rinks offer skate rentals, making them perfect for a spontaneous outing. Visit during the day for sweeping mountain views, or at night to glide under twinkling lights and alpine skies.



Tubing

Keystone: Mountaintop Snow Tubing

Ready to laugh and scream your way down the slopes? Head to Keystone's Mountaintop Tubing Hill at the top of Dercum Mountain for multi-lane fun and an easy magic-carpet ride back up.

Details:

- Open 10:15 AM–3:30 PM
- Check in: River Run Village (by the gondola)
- Lift ticket or pass required
- Must be 42" tall, 4+ years old, under 350 lbs
- One rider per tube; no ski boots, lap riders, or pregnant guests
- Cancel at least 24 hrs ahead for a refund (970-496-4386)

Tip: Go early—morning rides have shorter lines and the best mountain views!



Frisco Adventure Park: 1,200-Foot Tubing Lanes

Slide into winter fun at the Frisco Adventure Park Tubing Hill, open November 27, 2025 – April 5, 2026 (weather permitting).



Details:

- The hill operates Thursday through Monday and is closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
- Reservations are required and can be booked online.
- Each one-hour session includes your tube and a carpet lift back to the top.
- Riders must be at least 36" tall and able to ride solo—no lap riding or tube sharing allowed.

Tip: Book early for weekends and holidays—sessions often sell out fast, and mornings usually have the best snow conditions!

Hot Springs Soak

Where: Mount Princeton Hot Springs (Nathrop) and Cottonwood Hot Springs (Buena Vista) - both within an hour drive of Velvet Elk Vista.

Vibe: Natural pools surrounded by snowy peaks.

Tip: Go midweek for fewer crowds and a more peaceful soak.



Sleigh Rides & Snowcat Tours

Monarch Mountain – Snowcat Touring

1,635 acres of expert terrain with bowls, chutes, and glades (~900 ft vertical per run). Advanced skiers/riders only (14+ with guardian). A thrilling, high-adrenaline experience for guests seeking something beyond groomed slopes.



Keystone Resort – Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides

Scenic horse-drawn sleigh rides departing from Lakeside Village to Soda Creek Valley. Dress warmly—blankets provided. Family-friendly and perfect for a cozy winter outing.



Snowmobiling

High Country Tours (near Breckenridge)

What: Guided snowmobile tours departing from the Heeney or Birdseye outposts, serving the Breckenridge/Keystone region.

Highlights: Enjoy 2–3 hour tours through alpine terrain with sweeping views (up to 12,600 ft!), complete with helmet and gear rental.

Tip: Book ahead, dress in warm layers, and bring a photo-ready mindset—this is an easy upgrade from downhill skiing into a full winter adventure.

White Mountain Snowmobile Tours (Leadville)

What: High-altitude snowmobiling adventures at elevations from ~11,000–12,000 ft, with tours on private terrain including the slopes of Mount Arkansas (13,750 ft).

Highlights:

- Multiple tour levels from family-friendly to high-adrenaline “Performance” and “High Adventure” options.
- Gear provided: helmets mandatory; participants bring warm clothing.

Tip: Book ahead (tour slots fill fast) and be sure to dress in layers—this is a true high-country experience.



Dog Sledding

Good Times Adventures – Dog Sledding Tours (Breckenridge)

Highlight: Experience the thrill of mushing your own dog team through snowy mountain trails surrounded by towering pines and breathtaking views. Each sled is pulled by a team of friendly, energetic huskies that love what they do – it's equal parts adventure and heartwarming fun. Perfect for families, couples, or anyone looking to make unforgettable winter memories.

Tip: Dress warmly in layers and bring a camera; tours fill up fast, so book early.



WARMER WEATHER ACTIVITIES

NEARBY HIKING TRAILS

During the summer, the mountains come alive with wildflowers, rushing rivers, and endless trails right outside your door.

Tip: Start early — afternoon storms roll in fast in the high country.

Hike Name	Distance & Elevation	Est. Hike Time	Est. Drive Time	Highlights
<u>Beaver Creek & County Road 655 Loop</u>	~1.7 miles, 242 feet	~0.5-1 hour	~20 mins	Super short loop, easy terrain — perfect for younger kids or a quick outing.
<u>Pika Trail</u>	~1.2 miles, 259 feet	~0.5-1 hour	~30 mins	Quick scenic loop; great for spotting wildlife and mountain views.
<u>Limber Grove Trail</u>	~3.1 miles, 544 feet	~1.25-1.5 hours	~30 mins	Walk among ancient trees; slightly more length but still family-friendly.
<u>The Hilltop Mine Trail</u>	~2.5 miles, 898 feet	~1.5-2 hours	~45 mins	Historic mining site, above treeline — wonderful for older kids & adventurous families.
<u>Rich Creek Trail</u>	~5.6 miles, 1,210 feet	3 hours	~30 mins	Longer hike, lush stream & meadow scenery; good for families comfortable with length.
<u>Tie Hack Trail #659</u>	~5.3 miles, 849 feet	~2.5-3 hours	~15 mins	Good length for older kids; forest road + views make it a bit more adventurous.
<u>Wheeler Lake Trail</u>	~6.5 miles, 1,266 feet	~3-3.5 hours	~30 mins	Destination hike to alpine lake; more effort, but very rewarding family outing.
<u>Buffalo Peaks Loop</u>	~11-12 miles, 2,017 feet	~4-5 hours	~30 mins	For very active families or older kids — a full experience, great views.

LOCAL 14ERS (14,000-FT PEAKS)

Several iconic 14ers are within a short drive of Fairplay, including Mount Sherman, Mount Democrat, Mount Lincoln, and Mount Bross. While these peaks offer incredible summit views and bragging rights, **they're no easy stroll—expect steep climbs, rocky terrain, and high altitude that can make even short hikes feel challenging.**

Start early, check the weather, bring plenty of water and layers, and turn back if storms roll in or you're feeling lightheaded.

Hike	Distance & Elevation	Est. Hike Time	Est. Drive Time	Highlights
<u>Mount Sherman via Fourmile Creek</u>	4.6 mi / 2,000 ft gain	3-5 hours	~50 mins	Considered one of the “easier” 14ers, but still steep and exposed near the top. Ideal first 14er.
<u>The Decalibron Loop (Mount Democrat, Mount Cameron, Mount Lincoln, & Mount Bross*)</u>	7.2 mi / 3,320ft gain	5-7 hours	~40 mins	A classic loop linking four 14ers. Expect rocky ridges, steady climbing, and alpine views. Bross summit is often closed—check access. (Check AllTrails, road might be under construction)
<u>Quandary Peak</u>	6.5 mi / 3,400 ft gain	4-6 hours	~30 mins	Steady climb on a well-defined trail. Very popular and great for fit hikers acclimated to altitude.
<u>Mount Bierstadt</u>	7.0 mi / 2,800 ft gain	4-6 hours	1 hour 10 mins	Stunning wildflowers and views. Moderate trail —can get muddy and busy on weekends.
<u>Pikes Peak via Barr Trail</u>	25 mi / 7,800 ft gain	8-12 hours	1 hour 23 mins	A massive hike with huge elevation gain. Many visitors take the Cog Railway or drive the Autoroad.

ADVENTURES BEYOND HIKING

Fly Fishing

Fairplay sits in the heart of Colorado's high country—home to some of the best trout waters in the state.

Fairplay – South Platte River (5–10 min)

Known as one of Colorado's premier fly-fishing destinations, the South Platte River runs right through Fairplay, offering Gold Medal waters filled with large brown and rainbow trout. Stop at Ty's Fly N Tackle in downtown Fairplay to stock up on supplies.

- **South Park Fly Fishers** – Local guides offering half- and full-day trips, casting lessons, and insider knowledge of the best pools and hatches. Perfect for beginners or experienced anglers.
- **Fairplay Beach** – A hidden gem in town where you can fish the river or cast into the stocked pond. Free public access and a short walk from Main Street—great for a relaxed morning or evening session.



Buena Vista – Arkansas River (~40 min)

A wide, scenic river framed by the Collegiate Peaks, the Arkansas River is a must-visit for fly-fishing enthusiasts. It offers healthy trout populations, consistent hatches, and beautiful stretches for both wade and float trips.

UpRiver Fly Fishing – 107 US Hwy 24 S, Buena Vista, CO

- A premier full-service fly shop offering world-class guided trips on the Arkansas River and nearby high-mountain lakes. Great for beginners and experts alike.

ArkAnglers – 517 S Hwy 24, Buena Vista, CO

- Known for the largest selection of flies and tackle in the area, plus a team of highly experienced guides who know the river inside and out.

Tip: Early mornings and late evenings are prime times to fish—especially during summer hatches. Don't forget your Colorado fishing license, available online or at local outfitters in Fairplay and Buena Vista.

Mountain Biking

Fairplay Area

Tie Hack Trail #659

- Moderate ~5–6 mile trail close to Fairplay. Accessible terrain with scenic views—perfect for a shorter ride.

Sheep Creek Loop

- ~13-mile high-elevation singletrack through aspen groves and meadows. Stunning especially in fall foliage and peaceful away from traffic.

Crooked Creek Trail

- Remote singletrack with raw terrain and solitude. Ideal for riders looking for a less-crowded, off-the-beaten-path experience.



Buena Vista Area

Browns Creek / Chalk Creek Trails

- Flowing singletrack along creeks and scenic valleys. Ideal for intermediate riders about 30–40 minutes from Salida.

Marshall Pass / North Cottonwood Trail

- Long climbs and thrilling descents with panoramic mountain views. Great for intermediate to advanced riders.

Silver Creek / Monarch Pass Loops

- High-country trails with alpine lakes, wildflowers, and epic vistas. Perfect for a summer day trip.

Salida Area

Arkansas Hills Trail System

- Close to downtown, offering beginner and intermediate loops like “Frontside” and “Chicken Dinner.” Perfect for a quick ride or a full afternoon adventure.

Methodist Mountain Trail System

- Less crowded trails with scenic loops such as “Little Rainbow” and “Race Track.” Fun and accessible for beginners and intermediates.

Monarch Crest Trail

- High-altitude, advanced singletrack with epic mountain views—ideal for experienced riders seeking a challenge.

Fourmile Trail

- Classic intermediate ride with a mix of climbs and forested singletrack. Great for a half-day adventure.

S Mountain Trails

- Short, family-friendly loops with easy singletrack and nice views of Salida.

Absolute Bikes Guided Rides

- Rentals and guided tours for all skill levels—perfect for visitors who want insider tips on the best trails and current conditions.

White Water Rafting

Get ready for one of Colorado's most thrilling summer adventures! The Arkansas River near Buena Vista offers world-class whitewater — from scenic family floats to adrenaline-pumping rapids. Whether you're a first-timer or a seasoned rafter, there's an outfitter and section perfect for you.

Performance Tours Rafting

📍 115 Gregg Drive, Buena Vista, CO 81211
(~40 minutes)

- Offers both half-day and full-day trips with routes for all skill levels — from easy family floats to advanced “Numbers” runs.
- Long-time local operator, ideal for groups with mixed abilities or limited time.

Tip: Choose between short or full-day adventures depending on your group's enthusiasm and schedule.



The Adventure Company

📍 12847 US Hwy 24/285, Buena Vista, CO 81211 (~40 minutes)

- Established in 1987 and known for exceptional guides and safety standards.
- Offers everything from family-friendly floats to advanced whitewater runs — great for couples, families, or adventure groups.

Tip: When booking, ask about beginner vs. advanced trips to match your comfort level.



River Runners – Browns Canyon Outpost

📍 24070 County Road 301, Buena Vista, CO 81211 (~45 minutes)

- Veteran outfitter (since 1972) offering Class II–IV trips through the scenic Browns Canyon National Monument.
- Excellent balance of nature and excitement for guests of all levels.

Tip: Perfect choice if you want both incredible views and a bit of splash-filled adventure.

AVA Rafting & Zipline

📍 40671 US-24 North, Buena Vista, CO 81211 (~1 hour)

- Experience the iconic Browns Canyon National Monument, known for its dramatic granite walls and exciting yet manageable rapids.
- Offers both mellow and challenging sections, perfect for families, friends, or thrill-seekers.

Tip: Bring a change of clothes and water shoes. Weather can change quickly, so pack layers for comfort.



Also check out: Salida (~1 hour 15 minutes from Fairplay)

Salida's stretch of the Arkansas River offers calmer waters and relaxing scenic floats — a great fit for families with younger children or anyone wanting a laid-back day on the river. Several local outfitters in town offer guided half-day or full-day options.

ATV & Off-Road Adventures

Kick up some dust and experience Colorado's high country from behind the wheel. Whether you're craving adrenaline or a scenic backcountry cruise, these local outfitters offer incredible off-road adventures for all skill levels.

American Safari Ranch – Fairplay (25 mins)

Located just down the road, American Safari Ranch offers both horseback riding and ATV tours from the same scenic base. Explore wide-open ranchland and mountain terrain with guided rides for ages 16+ (double rides available for younger passengers).

- Convenient, fun, and family-friendly for guests who want adventure close to home.

Offroad Life Rentals – Breckenridge (~50min)

Adventure at your own pace with self-guided ATV and UTV rentals for half- or full-day mountain rides. Explore rugged alpine trails and backcountry roads surrounded by incredible scenery.

- More freedom and thrill—great for confident drivers and small groups ready to tackle off-road terrain.
- Compact machines allow access to tighter trails and high-elevation routes near Breckenridge.

BV Jeeps & UTVs – Buena Vista (~1 hr)

Rent a Jeep or UTV for a full-day backcountry adventure through the Arkansas River Valley and the Collegiate Peaks. Perfect for groups wanting a mix of comfort and rugged fun.

- Jeeps offer a smoother ride and space for multiple passengers—ideal for families or anyone wanting a full-day scenic drive with mountain views.



Horseback Riding

Saddle up and explore South Park's wide-open landscapes the classic Colorado way. From gentle family rides to open-range adventures, these local outfitters offer unforgettable experiences for riders of all levels.

Platte Ranch – Right Across the Street!

You can't beat the convenience—guests can see the horses from Velvet Elk Vista. Enjoy guided trail rides through rolling ranchland.

- Perfect for all experience levels, from first-timers to confident riders



American Safari Ranch – Fairplay (25 mins)

A local favorite that combines horseback riding and ATV tours in one scenic location. Riders enjoy more freedom to explore side-by-side, rather than nose-to-tail.

- Horseback rides for ages 8+, and ATVs for ages 16+ (with doubles available for younger riders).

Red Valley Rebels – Fairplay (20 mins)

A smaller, family-run outfitter offering relaxed, side-by-side trail rides for ages 8 and up. They also provide pony rides for younger kids, making it a fun and approachable option for families.

- Great for a more personal, local riding experience.

Adventure Parks

From mellow treetop walks to heart-pounding ziplines, these adventure parks offer something for everyone—families, thrill-seekers, and everyone in between.

Treehouse Adventure Park – Bailey (~1 hr)

Nestled among tall ponderosa pines, this self-guided aerial park features zip lines, bridges, and balance challenges in a peaceful forest setting.

- Best for families with kids or anyone looking for light outdoor fun without extreme heights.

Royal Gorge Bridge & Park – Cañon City (~1 hr)

Home to the legendary “Cloudscraper” Zip Line—America’s highest zip line, soaring 1,200 feet above the Arkansas River. The park also offers a via ferrata climbing route, aerial gondolas, and play zones for kids, making it perfect for mixed-age groups.

- Unforgettable views and adrenaline in equal measure.



Captain Zipline Aerial Adventure Park – Salida (~1.5 hrs)

With over 120 aerial challenges and 6+ ziplines, this park brings the thrill factor. Courses range from moderate to advanced, with cliffside obstacles and high-rope routes for the bold.

- Ideal for adventurous guests, older kids/teens, or groups seeking a true adrenaline rush.

Colorado Adventure Center – Idaho Springs (~1.5 hrs)

An aerial adventure and zipline park featuring 60+ elements, obstacles, and zips for all ages. Conveniently located 35 miles west of Denver off I-70.

- A great option for families and mixed-ability groups who want something active but not over the top.

Paddleboarding & Kayaking

Slow things down and soak up the mountain scenery from the water. Whether you prefer calm paddles or high-elevation adventures, there are several great spots near Fairplay to launch your board or kayak.

Fairplay Beach – Fairplay (10 mins)

A local favorite right in town, with easy access to a stocked pond and the South Platte River. Calm waters make it ideal for beginner paddlers or families looking for a relaxing session close to home.

- Free access and walking distance from Main Street—bring your own gear or a picnic for a laid-back afternoon.

Antero Reservoir – Hartsel (~20 min)

A wide-open, scenic reservoir at 9,000+ ft elevation. Known for its fishing, but also great for SUPs and kayaks on calm days.

- Expect wind—best early morning or late evening. No swimming allowed, but paddling is permitted.

Eleven Mile Reservoir – Lake George (~35 min)

One of the most popular lakes in the region with miles of shoreline and clear mountain water. Ideal for longer paddles and exploring hidden coves.

- Bring layers—the lake can get windy. Rentals and launches available at Eleven Mile State Park (day-use fee required).



Gear & Rental Options

- **CKS River Supply** (Buena Vista) – Full-service paddleboard and kayak rentals (SUPs, inflatables, white-water kayaks). Great for a day trip from Fairplay.
- **Twin Lakes SUP & Cycle** (Twin Lakes/Leadville) – Lakeside rentals at a stunning alpine setting. Calmer water and scenic backdrop.
- **Rocky Mountain Outdoor Center (RMOC)** (Buena Vista) – Rentals plus lessons/guided SUP or kayak adventures. Excellent for beginners or mixed-ability groups.



Pro Tips:

- Mornings are typically calmest for paddling before the afternoon wind picks up.
- Colorado State Park day passes or fishing licenses may be required at certain lakes.
- Bring a lifejacket, sun protection, water shoes, and layers—mountain lakes stay chilly year-round.

Scenic Drives & Leaf Peeping

Autumn in South Park is pure magic—crisp air, golden aspens, and mountain vistas that glow in every direction. Whether you're exploring from the driver's seat or stopping for short hikes and photo ops, these routes showcase the best of Colorado's fall colors.

Kenosha Pass (30 min drive)

One of Colorado's most iconic leaf-peeping spots. Hike along the Colorado Trail through endless groves of golden aspens with sweeping valley views.

- **Tip:** Visit mid- to late September for peak color. Bring a thermos of coffee and stop for photos at the summit pull-off.

Weston Pass (15 min drive)

A less crowded dirt road, Weston Pass winds over the Continental Divide between Fairplay and Leadville.

- **Tip:** Ideal for adventurers looking for solitude—bring a picnic and enjoy mountain-top views away from the crowds. AWD or 4WD recommended



Hoosier Pass (toward Alma &

Breckenridge)

Paved, year-round route offering jaw-dropping overlooks of the Mosquito Range.

- **Tip:** Pull over at the summit overlook (11,542 ft) for a quick photo op of snow-dusted peaks framed by fall colors.



Boreas Pass (45 min to Breckenridge side)

A historic railroad route turned scenic byway connecting Como to Breckenridge. Gravel but well-maintained—expect brilliant aspen tunnels and panoramic views.

- **Tip:** Great for sunrise or sunset drives; AWD recommended once the road starts icing.



Scenic & Cultural Adventure

Step Back in Time: Before the ski towns and mountain getaways, this region was home to gold miners, railroad pioneers, and rugged homesteaders. Exploring South Park's historic sites offers a glimpse into Colorado's Wild West past — where you can wander through preserved ghost towns, old mining camps, and heritage landmarks that tell the story of life at 10,000 feet.

South Park Historic Tour

Location: Fairplay & surrounding South Park basin

Focus: Immerse yourself in Colorado's Wild West roots by exploring the preserved 1800s mining town and historic landmarks scattered across South Park National Heritage Area.

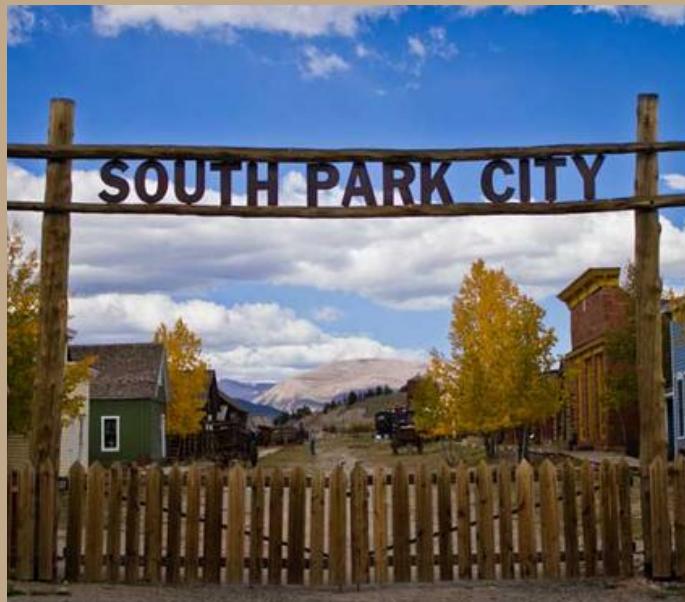
Vibe: A step back in time — old saloons, mining cabins, and rustic mountain scenery paint a vivid picture of frontier life. Great for families, history buffs, and anyone who loves a slower-paced day of discovery.

Highlights:

- **South Park City Museum** (Fairplay): A recreated 1880s mining town with 40 restored buildings and authentic artifacts.
- **Como Roundhouse & Depot**: A rare stone railroad roundhouse once used by the Denver, South Park & Pacific Railroad.
- **Alma & Buckskin Joe**: Former mining camps turned ghost towns with hiking access and historical markers.

Estimated Time: Half-day to full-day depending on stops.

Tip: Pick up a South Park National Heritage Area Map at the Fairplay Visitor Center — it connects the best historic and scenic stops across the region for a self-guided driving tour.



Monarch Scenic Tramway (Summer and Fall)

Highlight: Ride Colorado's highest scenic tramway for sweeping views of the Rockies, wildflower-filled meadows, and vibrant fall foliage. Great for hiking, photography, or just soaking in the mountain air.

Tip: Bring layers—even in summer, temperatures at the top can be chilly—and arrive early to catch the morning light for the best photos.



Hallmark Ranch Alpacas – Year-Round

Highlight: Get up close and personal with friendly alpacas at this charming ranch in Salida. Learn about alpaca care, their soft fleece, and farm life on an informative, hands-on tour.

Tip: Don't miss feeding and petting the alpacas—perfect for photos and family fun. Be sure to browse the gift shop for unique alpaca products like blankets, hats, and yarn.



Salida Farmers Market – Summer & Fall

Highlight: Explore this vibrant seasonal market and savor the best of local flavors—from fresh produce and artisan bread to flowers and handmade crafts. Live music and friendly vendors make it a lively, community-focused experience.

Tip: Stop by the food stalls for a tasty snack or take home unique culinary delights. Bring the whole family—there are often cooking demos and kids' activities!



~Your Mountain Adventure Awaits~

We hope this guide inspires you to explore, unwind, and make the most of your time in the mountains. Whether you're chasing adrenaline on the river, soaking in scenic views, or discovering local gems, there's no wrong way to adventure here.

Each trail, tour, and taste was handpicked to help you experience the very best of Fairplay and beyond. From serene mornings on the water to unforgettable sunset drives, we hope you create memories that last long after your stay.

If you try any of the adventures featured in this guide, we'd love to see your experiences!

📸 Tag us on Instagram [@velvet_elk_vista](https://www.instagram.com/velvet_elk_vista) — your photos might even be featured on our page!

Here's to fresh air, new experiences, and mountain moments you'll never forget.

- *Elijah & Alexa*

