ARE YOU COLO-READY?

RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL EDITION

With a little preparation, a spirit of adventure, a soft spot for nature and a safety-savvy traveler’s mindset, you’ll be on the trail to caring for our destinations and people.

LEAVE NO TRACE – CARE FOR COLORADO PRINCIPLES

Learn more at COLORADO.com/CareForColorado.

01 KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- This land really is your land. Our state and federal agencies manage 42 percent of Colorado’s majestic landscape, and our cities and counties maintain even more. Learn about and respect the spaces we all own, share and sing about.
- Stay back from the pack. Find your way to less-visited and off-peak destinations to minimize down time and maximize your connection with special places.
- Bring along reusable water bottles or hot drink tumblers to limit waste and stay hydrated in our dry climate.

02 STICK TO TRAILS

- With 39,000 marked trails and 13,000 designated campsites, there’s no need to venture beyond. By sticking to these areas and camping at least 200 feet from lakes, rivers and streams, you’re helping natural areas stay natural.
- Even though shortcuts can be tempting, please don’t take them. A few extra strides on the path will protect plants and the homes of the true locals.
- Walk down trails single file and give others 6 feet of room when passing. If you have to step off the trail to let people by, look for durable surfaces, like rocks or bare spots, to help prevent erosion.

03 LEAVE IT AS YOU FIND IT

- Leave it as you find it. Leave plants, rocks and historical items as you find them so others experience the joy of discovery.
- Any of our 750 different species of wildflowers will live forever in a photo. Snap away, but only with a camera.
- Colorado is beautiful all on its own. Building structures or campsites on public land isn’t cool. Keep it pristine for everyone to enjoy.
- Treat all living things with respect. Carving or hacking plants and trees may kill or disfigure them.

04 TRASH THE TRASH

- Pack it in, pack it out. Or pick it up to leave a place better than you found it. Put litter, even crumbs, peels and cores in your nearest waste/recycling bin.
- Wash yourself, your dog or whatever else needs cleaning at least 200 feet from waterways, and use biodegradable soap. A bubble bath is no treat for fish.

05 BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE

- Colorado’s low humidity has perks, but can create dry, dangerous conditions. Keep campfires small and manageable to avoid sparking wildfires.
- When putting out a fire, water it until you can handle the embers. Never let a fire burn unattended.
- Use care when smoking in Colorado’s dry climate. Always put cigarettes out completely, and don’t leave your butts behind.
- Always check for local fire restrictions.

06 KEEP WILDLIFE WILD

- Colorado is home to tens of thousands of furry, scaly and feathered creatures. To keep them – and you – safe, don’t approach them.
- It is not adorable to feed wild animals. You could alter natural behaviors, exposing them to predators or even euthanasia.
- Keep your furry buddies leashed when enjoying dog-friendly trails, and pack out their waste. All the way to a trash can.

07 SHARE OUR TRAILS & PARKS

- Chances are you’re not out in nature to people watch, so try out the lesser-known paths and sites.
- Silence your cell phone before stepping into nature, and speak softly without using the speaker function.
- Be considerate when passing others on the trails and yield to the uphill hiker and biker – they need the momentum.
- Listen to nature. Keep your voice and music soft so all can enjoy the peace of Colorado.

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COLORADO PACKING LIST

"DRESS IN LAYERS!" ARE WORDS TO LIVE BY.
Our dramatic elevation changes mean we can ski in the mountains and then drop a few thousand feet to bike or sip a craft brew on a sunny patio.

IN SUMMER, BRING ALL OF THE ABOVE, WITH A FEW ADDITIONS:

01
SUNSCREEN, LIP BALM, A HAT & SUNGLASSES
Remember, you may be a mile or more closer to the sun, and much of Colorado gets 300 days of sunshine every year.

02
BATHING SUIT & FLIP-FLOPS OR SANDALS
Don’t want to miss out on taking a plunge into a natural hot spring, a rafting adventure or a pristine creek or waterfall.

03
ECO-FRIENDLY GEAR
Look like a local with reusable cutlery and straws and a refillable water bottle or HydraPak. (Drink up! You’ll need more water in our arid climate.)

04
RAIN JACKET
The atmospheric conditions that bring winter snow make for sudden afternoon showers in summer, especially on our loftiest peaks.

05
HIKING BOOTS OR OTHER STURDY, ATHLETIC SHOES
Make sure your feet are ready to answer the call.

06
LIGHTWEIGHT FLEECE OR VEST
Even on our hottest days, temps are chiller after sunset, especially at higher elevations.

07
HEALTH & SAFETY KIT
Stock a travel kit with first-aid items, masks (or a bandana), hand soap and sanitizer, a thermometer and sanitizing wipes.

08
DAYPACK
This is standard gear in Colorado for carrying all the packing musts listed here, as well as snacks to fuel your adventures.

WESTERN SLOPE
All of Colorado west of the Continental Divide. Home to the Grand Mesa, the world’s largest flat-top mountain, near Grand Junction.

FIVE THOUSAND FEET
5280
Denver is the Mile High City because it sits 1 mile (5,280 feet) above sea level. The 13th step of the Colorado State Capitol Building or the line of purple seats in Coors Field puts you at exactly 5280.

FOUR CORNERS
The state dollar coin. Jeans, T-shirts, ski pants, sandals or cowboy boots fly almost everywhere. Basically, wear whatever you feel like!

POWDER DAY
Powder days follow snowy nights and result in deep, dry, fluffy snow that’s prime for skiing and snowboarding.

COLORADO CASUAL
The state dress code. Jeans, T-shirts, ski pants, sandals or cowboy boots fly almost everywhere. Basically, wear whatever you feel like!

THE TUNNEL
If you’re headed to or from the mountains on I-70, you’ll likely drive the 1.7-mile Eisenhower/Johnson Memorial Tunnel — providing easy passage across the Continental Divide since 1973.

ALPINE Refrigerator
If you’re heading into the mountains, remember to pack a cooler — the 101 degrees inside your car (or even lower if you’ve got a lot of stuff) is much worse than the temperatures up in the mountains.

HEADLAMBS
At night, wear a headlamp to keep your hands free, to get a better view of the trail, and to save battery life for your camera.

ALCOHOL
Colorado Liquid Arts™ — craft beers and spirits, cider and wines — will hit you harder here. Take it easy until you get your mountain legs.

CELL COVERAGE
You’ll be OK in town, but could lose service on trails, rivers, slopes or some roads. Let others know where you’re headed and post pics before you go so your folks know you’re alright.

BEAR-PROOF TRASH CANS
Tossing trash but the lid won’t budge? You’ve encountered one of our bear-proof trash cans. Look for instructions on the can — there’s usually a lever or button that’s too tricky for hairy paws to manage.

01
BEANIE
Keep one handy for wearing while stargazing, a night by the fire or a wintry dip in a natural hot spring. Even the guys wear the ones with poms.

02
WINTER COAT
Dress like a local in anything from puffy down to a snow-ready, water-resistant parka.

03
SNOW GEAR
Thermal layers, snow pants, gloves and warm, waterproof boots are musts for powder days. Shoe traction devices are also handy for winter hikes.

04
SKI GAITER
Perfect for keeping your face and neck warm, and it works double-duty as a mask. (In summer, bandanas do the same and keep trail dust at bay.)

ALTIMETRY
In many areas, you’ll be a mile or more above sea level. Hydration and adjusting for a day or two before setting out on strenuous adventures is key to making sure being high up doesn’t get you down.

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LEARN THE LINGO!

Leavenworth: Ski town near the eastern side of the Continental Divide that’s famous for its fall foliage, Halloween celebration and a host of other fall fun.

Lees Ferry: The town at the bottom of the Grand Canyon, near the Colorado River.

LoDo: Lower Downtown, Denver’s lively, walkable historic downtown area.

Lohi: Lower Highlands, a neighborhood filled with exceptional food, drinks and downtown Denver views.

01
RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL TERMS

A SKI’S LENGTH
This is about 6 feet and the amount of distance you should keep between yourself and others to avoid passing germs back and forth.

SINGLE-FILE SINGLETACK
Head down trails single file and respect the space of others by passing politely — with your mouth and nose covered, giving plenty of room for walking (6 feet when possible), and sticking to durable surfaces.

01
DENVER SHORTHAND

LODO
Lower Downtown, Denver’s lively, walkable historic downtown area.

LOHI
Lower Highlands, a neighborhood filled with exceptional food, drinks and downtown Denver views.

RINO
River North, a hip arts and food scene emerging in Denver’s former warehouse district. (Pronounced: rhino)

THE FAX
Colfax Avenue, the longest street in Denver, stretching 26 miles from Aurora to Golden.

01
HYGIENE, CO

A town whose name points to our long history of being into cleanliness and is now an inspiration for proper handwashing (20 seconds with soap and running water), avoiding touchpoints and using cashless payments.

AIR HUGS & AIR FIVES
Healthy ways to say “Howdy!” and give pals props for summiting a peak or shredding down a ski slope.

LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAVE
Weather, health and other natural events can all affect how Colorado places are able to welcome visitors. Check before leaving home, to make sure you’re following the latest travel advice and local guidelines.

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