



# ACTS 2024

## THINGS TO DO COLORADO SPRINGS

Deciding if you want to go to ACTS 2024 in Colorado? Why not make a trip of it and head out to the sunshine state early or stay a few days after to see some sights or do some fun things? Colorado Springs is one of the top ten destinations in Colorado featuring Pikes Peak rising from the plains where it snows most months of the year due to the 14,115 feet above elevation. This was the symbol among pioneers and explorers during the 1859 Colorado gold rush who used the slogan "Pikes Peak or Bust." The area is home to many unique outdoor features, arts, culture and recreational activities.

I remember being young growing up in the north of Denver. Every time family members came to visit from the Midwest, my parents would plan a trip somewhere close that was a marvel of this beautiful state. The state averages 300 days of sunshine, but April and March are the snowiest months of the year. I've sat at opening day baseball in Coors Field, home of the Colorado Rockies, in 26-degree and 80-degree weather. Bring good sunscreen if you plan for outdoor activities because you are closer to the sun and can burn more quickly at altitude.

"Altitude Sickness" is common for people who live at or close to sea level. The air is "thin" which means the oxygen pressure is lower with less available oxygen and less humidity. Drink plenty of water, 3-4 quarts a day, as this restores the oxygen levels and watch for dizziness, headaches and muscle weakness.

No matter the weather around the conference in April of 2024, you can find something that is interesting and fun to do in town or the Pike National Forest areas to the west. I asked the members of the Colorado Association of Real Estate Appraisers (CAREA) what their favorite fun things were to do in and around Colorado Springs.







## OUTDOORS

### **GARDEN OF THE GODS**

A popular hiking destination for its beautiful red landscape and rocks rising from the green grass, this destination is a must see for any visit to the city. There is a loop that can also be driven for those just wanting to take in the beauty, sweat free. The visitor center is worth stopping at to understand how these amazing rock formations came to be. <https://gardenofgods.com/>

### **PIKES PEAK**

Colorado Springs sits at the base of this mountain with the Cog Railway taking visitors to the summit and visitor center. The heartier souls can drive the highway that hosts a race to the top but descend slowly because the steep winding road can burn up brakes in a hurry!

### **NORTH CHEYENNE CANON PARK**

This canyon west of town includes hiking, Helen Hunt Falls, Starsmore Visitors Center and the Seven Bridges Hiking Trail. Seven Bridges is a moderate to difficult hike for those more experienced. Gold Camp Road or Cheyenne Canyon Road can take you into the area with winding mountain roads and tunnels to travel through.

### **CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN STATE PARK**

This state park is a newer area that has many awesome hiking trails for all levels, a bow and arrow shooting range, and campground. <https://cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/parks/CheyenneMountain>

### **CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN ZOO**

Bring your walking shoes to one of the best things to see and do close to Colorado Springs. The zoo has daily events, new exhibits and programs as well as group tours and custom animal experiences. Just on the west side of town close to the hotel and only takes an hour or two. <https://www.cmzoo.org/>

### **SEVEN FALLS**

The Broadmoor Seven Falls is in Cheyenne Cañon with a 0.8-mile walk to reach the base of the falls and Restaurant 1858. From there, you will ascend 224 steps to the top of the falls with trails, leading to other waterfalls. The views of the city from here are astounding. <https://www.sevenfalls.com/>

### **CAVE OF THE WINDS**

Between Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs are two unique features of Colorado Mountains. Cave of the Winds takes visitors on a 45-60-minute adventure of natural caves and rock formations lit up with educational tours. There is a TERRORdactyl ride and wind walker challenge for the daring visitors. Check the spot where visitors touch the cave walls to see what body oil does to the natural rock formations. <https://caveofthewinds.com/>

### **MANITOU CLIFF DWELLINGS**

A small example of the many cliff dwellings found in the western United States, you can explore the past inside the cliff dwellings and learn how the native people accessed their homes from above the creek below. This is another shorter tour just outside of town. <https://www.cliffdwellingsmuseum.com/>



## **MANITOU INCLINE**

It is not for the lighthearted but for the avid sportsman. Reservations are required for the trail and steps that rise 2,000 feet in elevation in less than one mile. Located near the cog railway, reservations are free, but research parking options and head out before the afternoon storms roll into the area.

<https://coloradosprings.gov/parks/page/manitou-incline>

## **ROYAL GEORGE**

Located west of Canon City, a day trip to the area is well worth the highest suspension bridge in America. Spanning the Arkansas River as it heads east, you can stand atop the bridge 956 feet above the river, swing over the edge at 50 mph on the Skycoaster or take a leisurely ride across in the gondolas. You can also take a train ride on the narrow-gauge tracks and travel through the gorge from the river level.

<https://royalgorgebridge.com/>

<https://www.royalgorgeroute.com/>

## **FLY FISHING - SOUTH PLATTE RIVER**

Northwest of Colorado Springs is a small hamlet with some of the best gold-medal fly fishing waters where a quiet day can get you Rainbow Trout that exceed 20-inches in length.

<https://troutsflyfishing.com/a/info/rivers/south-platte-river-deckers>

## **SPINNEY MOUNTAIN**

These three large reservoirs and two forks of the South Platte River are west of Colorado Springs along US Highway 24 in Park County. There are gold-medal waters for rainbow trout, ice fishing, fly fishing and camping.

[https://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Maps/SouthPlatteInSouthPark\\_FishingRegulations\\_GeoPDF.pdf](https://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Maps/SouthPlatteInSouthPark_FishingRegulations_GeoPDF.pdf)

## **PAINT MINES PARK**

One of the most unique open spaces, about one hour northeast of Colorado Springs, are the natural colorful clays that were collected by American Indians. Open from dawn to dusk, this free open space has many trails to explore.

<https://communityservices.elpasoco.com/parks-and-recreation/paint-mines-interpretive-park/>

## **ZIPLINING & AERIAL PARKS**

Manitou Zip Lines straddle the canyons back and forth just outside of town. There is also a Pikes Peak Zipline location. This company offers jeep tours, balloon rides and many more including biking DOWN Pikes Peak.

<https://advoutwest.com/>

<https://www.broadmoor.com/adventures/soaring-adventure>

## **WEST OF TOWN**

Between Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs are two unique features of Colorado Mountains. Cave of the Winds takes visitors on a 45-60-minute adventure of natural caves and rock formations lit up with educational tours. There is a TERRORdactyl ride and wind walker challenge. If these don't suit your style, just west of town, you will find camping, off-roading on ATVs or Razors and hiking trails to please any outdoor enthusiast. Colorado Parks and Wildlife has information about camping, reservoirs, fishing, hiking and much more. <https://cpw.state.co.us/> For information on the Pike-San Isabel National Forest, visit the US Forest Service website.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/psicc>

for the daring visitors. Check the spot where visitors touch the cave walls to see what body oil does to the natural rock formations.

<https://caveofthewinds.com/>







# RESTUARANTS, MUSEUMS & QUAINT ACTIVITES

## ***HISTORIC OLD COLORADO CITY***

Established in 1859, you can explore architecture from the Gold Rush Days of Colorado from outdoor cafes or gourmet restaurants. Old Colorado City is also home to many local artisans who display their goods on the first Friday from 5-8 pm where you can browse and watch live demonstrations and meet local artists.

<https://www.shopoldcoloradocity.com/>

## ***MANITOU SPRINGS***

From fine dining to pubs and brews, the downtown area of Manitou Springs will delight visitors. Turn-of-the-century architecture and quaint shops mixed between local restaurants are ready to be explored. From the Cliff House at Pike Peak to Pub Dog, the only dog-friendly restaurant with an indoor dog park, you will find plenty of local specials to feed your appetite.

<https://manitousprings.org/>

## ***DOWNTOWN COLORADO SPRINGS***

The area offers some great restaurants where you can find steak at The Famous Steak House, seafood at Jax Fish House & Oyster Bar, and International Cuisine at CO.A.T.I., La'au's Taco Shop or the Odyssey Gastropub. Fine dining includes the Warehouse Restaurant and Gallery, Springs Orleans or Antlers Grille at the Antlers Hotel. <https://www.visitcos.com/blog/your-guide-to-restaurants-in-downtown-colorado-springs/>

## ***TOURS***

History buffs will enjoy the 30+ museums in the area that offer a wide variety of historical looks at different topics from trains and motorcycles to cowboys and mining.

<https://cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/parks/CheyenneMountain>

## ***MIRAMONT CASTLY MUSEUM***

Miramont Castle Museum in Manitou Springs, Penrose Heritage Museum, Rocky Mountain Motorcycle Museum, Ghost Town Museum, ProRodeo Hall of Fame, Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, Dr. Lester L. Williams fire Museum, Pikes Peak Trolley Museum, and Western Mining Museum. Find out more at <https://www.visitcos.com/things-to-do/arts-culture/museums/>

## ***HISTORIC CASTLE TOUR***

Glen Eyrie Castle offers 90-minute tours where you will hear stories of the Palmer Family and Colorado Springs History. You can also book one of the 17 guest rooms in the castle for your extended stay before or after the conference.

[https://gleneyrie.org/tour\\_types/castle-tour/](https://gleneyrie.org/tour_types/castle-tour/)

## ***WALKING ARCHITECTURE TOUR***

Tour the Old North End of the city that played a prominent role in the city's history.

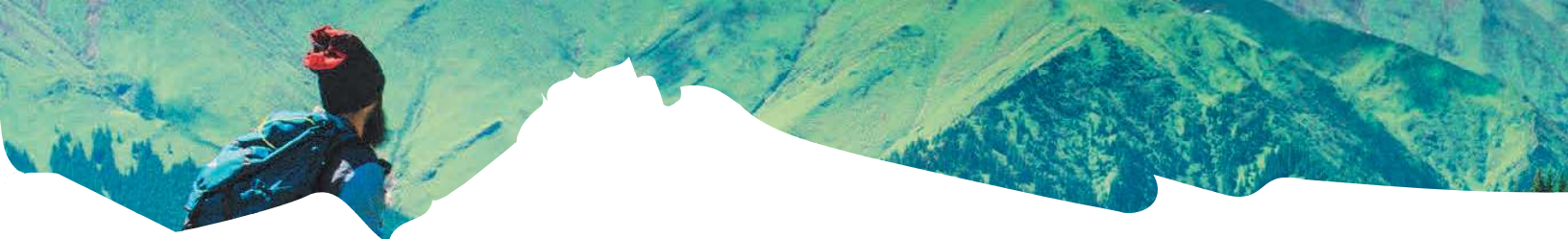
<https://oldnorthend.org/a-tour-of-the-old-north-end/>

## ***HISTORIC PRESERVATION***

The alliance in Colorado Springs offers a variety of tours of local historic homes during the summer and free preservation presentations and lectures. See what is coming up in 2023.

<https://www.cliffdwellingsmuseum.com/>





## OLYMPIC CITY

The training facilities relocated from New York to Colorado Springs in 1978. Twenty-five national governing bodies of sports are headquartered in Colorado Springs where 15,000 athletes train every year.

### **OLYMPIC PARK & TRAINING FACILITIES**

Open Monday through Saturday for one-hour guided tours, visitors see Olympian Way, the aquatics training facility and more sights. Training at 6,000 feet above sea level gives our athletes an endurance advantage for competition. <https://www.teamusa.org/About-the-USOPC/Olympic-Paralympic-Training-Centers/CSOPTC/About>

### **OLYMPIC MUSEUM**

This iconic building design opened in 2020 and features stories of both Olympic and paralympic athletes. You could meet an Olympic athlete, test your skills against former Olympians and view the Hall of Fame from 23 Olympic sports. <https://usopm.org/>

### **THE BROADMOOR WORLD AREA & ICE HALL**

One of the finest training facilities in the world, it is home to the Broadmoor Skating Club which has earned many awards and Olympic ice skaters. This venue is part of the arts culture in the area which hosts Cirque Du Soleil, Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Globetrotters, concerts, sporting events and more. <https://www.broadmoorworldarena.com/arena-info/arena-info-1>

### **WORLD FIGURE SKATING MUSEUM**

Located near the Broadmoor Hotel, the museum features how skating jumps are performed and have a collection of costumes

## MILITARY

### **AIR FORCE ACADEMY**

One of the most iconic places to visit north of town includes many tours of available buildings including the Cadet Chapel. The Chapel is in the final stages of restoration and is estimated to be completed by 2027. This spired chapel is visible for many miles and not the only interesting site on the large campus. A self-guided tour is available where you can visit many of the planes on display, the planetarium and even watch the noon formation of the cadets.

<https://www.usafa.edu/visitors/self-guided-tour/>

### **PETERSON AIR & SPACE MUSEUM**

Colorado's oldest aviation museum preserves the rich aviation and space history of the airbase and Colorado Springs. This base was renamed the Space Force Base in 2021 to reflect its new role in the new space service.

<https://petemuseum.org/>

### **NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WWII AVIATION**

This museum opened in 2012 takes visitors through the role aviation played in World War II and the technological advancements in aviation during that time.

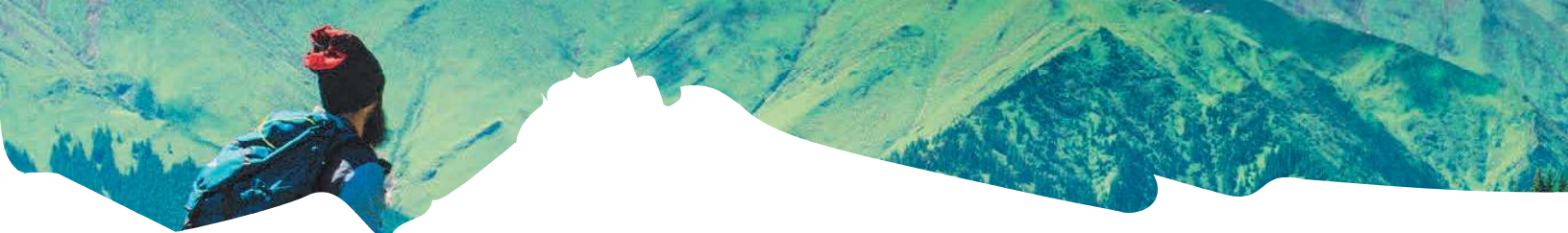
<https://www.worldwariiaviation.org/>

### **NORAD**

The actual bases in the area are not available to the public and must be a guest of base residents. NORAD no longer has tours, but they have offered the Official NORAD Santa Tracker for more than 60 years.

<https://www.noradsanta.org/en/>





## **GOLF COURSES**

### ***PATTY JEWETT GOLF COURSE***

This course is the third oldest course west of the Mississippi River and was built in 1919. It is a public course that offers tree-lined fairways along a time-tested track.

<https://coloradosprings.gov/golf>

### ***THE BROADMOOR GOLF COURSE***

Consistently ranked among the best in the world and host to many US Opens, the two courses play along the base of Cheyenne Mountain and the Historic Broadmoor Hotel.

<https://www.broadmoor.com/activities/golf/courses>

### ***KISSING CAMELS GOLF CLUB***

The 27-hole course plays east of Garden of the Gods with views that are amazing and astounding. This course is a private course, but guests of the Garden of the Gods Club and Resort can play the course.

<https://www.gardenofthegodsresort.com/>

### ***TO FIND ALL THE GOLF COURSES NEARBY***

<https://www.visitcos.com/things-to-do/outdoors/golf/>

## **& MORE**

Can't get enough or want to plan a summer trip to take in more of the area attractions? Not all areas are available before late spring due to the snow levels. Some attractions may be closed during inclement weather. Here are some things that will bring you back to the area for family fun.

### ***NORTH POLE***

Do you love Christmas? Santa's Workshop at the North Pole, open in Mid-May most years, features plenty of fun for the young at heart with unique gift shops, eateries and more than two dozen amusement rides including a 60-foot Ferris wheel. <https://northpolecolorado.com/>

### ***RUN THE RAPIDS***

Aching for a thrill ride? Whitewater rafting is big once the snow begins melting. The Arkansas River provides mild floats to advanced rides with local outfitters available in the area. Between May and August, the creeks are fed by freshly melting snow and are the best time of year to experience this adventure.

<https://www.raftingcolorado.com/colorado-rafting-trips-2/>

### ***ROCKY MOUNTAIN VIBES***

Minor League baseball team that is now independent from major league clubs. This was once the Triple-A affiliate of the Rockies and Brewers where many big leaguers played coming up through the system including Todd Helton, Vinny Castilla, Joe Girardi, Matt Holliday, Nolan Arenado, Craig Counsell and Sandy Alomar Jr.

