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ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



joiseyshowaa

One-Day Tour of Boulder

Boulder, 1 Day

Table of contents:

Guide Description	2
Itinerary Overview	3
Daily Itineraries	4
My List	5
Boulder Snapshot	10

Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: You already know about the mountains, the ridiculously fit citizens and the alternative lifestyles that Boulder is famous for-- but at the heart of the people's Republic is a wealth of great restaurants, beautiful parks and places to see in the downtown area.

Itinerary Overview

Day 1

DAY NOTE: If you only have one day in Boulder, it's worth your while to sample what the city offers both culturally and naturally. Whether you are escaping Denver or just want to see what all the fuss is about, this itinerary is a good intro to Boulder. Start off your day with a good breakfast--Dot's Diner is classic diner food that is filling and easy on the wallet. If you'd like something a bit more exotic, try Lucile's where a mix of American and Caribbean food makes for some tasty meals, served in the atmosphere of an old-style Victorian house. Be warned, there can be a bit of a wait on weekends so try to get there early. The rest of your morning is encouraged to enjoy some of Boulder's natural beauty. A thrilling drive up Flagstaff Road offers spectacular views of the city and the mountains to the west and has several pull outs to stop and take pictures, including a parking lot with some short hiking trails at the summit of Flagstaff. At the base of Flagstaff's curvy road is the fabled Chautauqua Park, where open fields blend into dozens of hiking trails that line the base of the Flatiron rock formations. Most days you'll be able to see rock climbers scaling the inclined rocks and there are hiking trails to the summits of the peaks that rise above them. Another great option for those who want to hike instead of drive is to visit Mount Sanitas, a modest little dog-friendly mountain whose parking area is found off of Mapleton Drive on the west side of town. Fit hikers will be able to summit the peak in less than an hour and enjoy great views from the top. A loop trail comes down into a flatter valley trail for those who don't want to gain the 1,500 ft. plus of elevation to the summit. After getting some fresh air, head downtown to the Pearl Street Mall, where you can easily spend a leisurely afternoon perusing the assortment of shops, restaurants and exhibition galleries. The Boulder Contemporary Art Museum is just off of Pearl St. and showcases a lot of great art in a small building. You can also head up the paved path along Boulder Creek to Settlers' Park and take in the fresh air while people watching (or taking a quick dip in the creek). Trattoria's on Pearl St. is a fantastic dining option if you're a fan of exquisite Italian food. If pub fare is more of your thing, you can't go wrong with the Hungry Toad, just down the road from the Pearl St. Mall. For nightlife, Pearl Street has several happenin' bars and establishments as well as the Boulder Theater, which features a variety of musical acts, movies and shows. The Catacombs offers live music and a good bar scene with room to breathe. If live theater is your taste, the Boulder Live Dinner Theater has fantastic performances with good meals to boot. No matter how you balance nature and culture, Boulder is a place you'll want to visit again and again--this primer only touches the tip of the iceberg of what's going on in one of America's premier outdoors cities.

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contact:

tel: +1 303 449 1323
http://boulder.citysearch.com/profile/1865203/boulder_co/dot_s_diner.html

location:

2716 28th Street
Boulder CO 80301

hours:

7a-2p M-F, 8a-2p Sa-Su

1 Dot's Diner

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Be sure to take note of Dot's Diner's daily omelet specials on their chalkboard, as these are typically the most interesting breakfast options offered.

DESCRIPTION: This small nook of a restaurant, which serves nothing but breakfast, is a throwback to the Eisenhower administration in both look and price. All that is missing is the Everly Brothers on the radio. Booths and classic chrome counter stools give the room its time machine look. The all-breakfast menu offers the usual morning staples of pancakes, eggs, French toast, hash browns and biscuits all at great prices. Keeping with the mood of Boulder it serves organic coffee. Their other location is located on the University Hill at 1333 Broadway St.
© wcities.com



citysearch

contact:

tel: +1 303 442 4743
fax: +1 303 939 9848
www.luciles.com

location:

2124 14th Street
Boulder CO 80302

hours:

7a-2p F, 8a-2p Sa-Su

2 Lucile's

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Be prepared for a wait on the weekends (and cramped quarters once you're seated), but it'll be well worth it if you make sure to try their delicious homemade jams and ketchup, and their fresh squeezed orange juice. Be forewarned that breakfasts come with an enormous biscuit that is so large that you may want to order a half-entrée.

DESCRIPTION: Lucile's is a quaint restaurant near the Pearl Street Mall is nestled in a Victorian house complete with a large porch and deck. The staff is friendly, and the food is wonderful. Make sure to get here early on weekends, as the place is always packed. Children are welcome. The chef creates delicious Louisiana-style cuisine. Breakfast selections include fresh baked biscuits, waffles, and Eggs Sardou-a Creole specialty. Fresh fruit and cereal is also available. The lunch menu offers salads, Creole and Po'Boy sandwiches. No alcohol is served, but there are plenty of coffee drinks. © wCities/NileGuide



citysearch

contact:
tel: +1 303 442 1044

location:
Pearl Street
Boulder CO 80302

3 Pearl Street Mall

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Pearl Street gets much busier on the weekends, especially if the weather is nice, but the crowds are half the fun! So grab a spot on a bench or get an outdoor table at one of the many cafés and let the people-watching begin!

DESCRIPTION: This four-block pedestrian mall is a unique and essential part of Boulder. With a wide selection of shops and restaurants, this mall is sure to keep you entertained as you stroll in and out of art galleries, listen to musicians playing free live music, enjoy the shows of buskers (such as the famous Derek Derek), and have a bite to eat on one of Pearl Street's many outdoor patios. It's also a great place for kids, with water spouts that come out of the bricks by 14th street, street performers making balloon art, and big animal statues on which to climb on the east side of the walking mall. In the summer, Pearl Street is host to many events such as Band on the Bricks and the Downtown Boulder Art Fair. The stores also extend both east and west of the walking portion of the Pearl Street Mall, so be sure to continue on to find more interesting stores and restaurants. © NileGuide



contact:
tel: 303 442 3282
<http://www.chautauqua.com/>

location:
Ninth Street & Baseline Road
Boulder CO 80302

4 Chautauqua Park

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

If you're short on cash but still want to hear the music, Chautauqua Auditorium opens its doors for listeners to bring blankets and sit outside the auditorium.

DESCRIPTION: This picturesque park located at the base of the Flatirons has many trailheads that are the gateways to the Rocky Mountains. The park is a wonderful place for walking, picnicking, and people-watching. The park is part of the Chautauqua community, an idea built from the Chautauqua movement popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries that was based around adult education that attempted to provide entertainment and culture for the whole community. The Boulder Chautauqua community opened in 1898 and contains a public dining hall, lodging, a community house for local events, and the beautiful Chautauqua Auditorium, which houses the esteemed Colorado Music Festival in the summer, as well as other concerts throughout the year. © NileGuide



editor

contact:

tel: +1 303 443 2122
fax: +1 303 447 1633
<http://www.bmoca.org/>

location:

1750 13th St
Boulder CO 80302

hours:

Tues-Sat 11am-5pm (Sat 9am-4pm and until 8pm Wed in summer); Sun noon-3pm. Hours change seasonally; call ahead for current information

5 Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

If you're looking to save money on admission, visit the museum during the Saturday Boulder Farmers' Market and get in for free!

DESCRIPTION: This multidisciplinary art museum, created in 1972 to exhibit the work of contemporary artists, has evolved into an exciting venue where one can expect to see almost anything art-related, from the lighthearted to the elegant, political to religious, by regional and international contemporary artists. There are special programs for young children and a variety of other events throughout the year. Performing arts -- from poetry and dance to music and drama -- are occasionally presented in the museum's "black box" performance venue. There are free tours during Farmer's Market (summer Saturdays) at 11am and kid's programs. Allow 30 to 45 minutes. In addition, a separate organization puts on Saturday evening movie screenings in the adjacent parking lot in summer; classic movies such as Citizen Kane and cult classics are shown outside (\$5 suggested donation per person; visit www.boulderoutdoorcinema.com for information). Take a lawn chair or blanket. © Frommer's



wcities

contact:

tel: +1 303 544-0008
<http://www.trattoriaonpearl.com>

location:

1430 Pearl St
Boulder CO 80302

6 Trattoria On Pearl

DESCRIPTION: Trattoria on Pearl features modern Italian cuisine in its warm and cozy restaurant located on Boulder's Pearl Street Mall. It also has a 40 seat patio for people watching during warm days and evenings. Chef Daniel Cofrades, who trained in the best kitchens in France and previously worked with Kevin Taylor and at Adegas, meticulously prepares each dish. Favorites include homemade gnocchi, ravioli, cracker-crisp pizzas, linguine vongole (clams), cioppino, pollo arrosto (roast chicken), and veal scaloppine. Owner Guillermo Casarrubias has put the wine expertise he gained at the Brown Palace in Denver, the Left Bank in Vail, and the Pump Room in Chicago to good use. He has increased the wine list from 50 to 300 bottles of wine from around the world, including French, Italian, California, Colorado, Spanish, Chilean, Australian and Argentinean varieties. Guillermo has also developed specific pairings of after dinner drinks and desserts — the perfect conclusion for the ideal meal.



Photo courtesy of Trattoria On Pearl

contact:

tel: +1 303 441 3408

location:

Flagstaff Mountain Road
Boulder CO 80302

7 Flagstaff Mountain

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Full of hikers and climbers on the weekends, head up Flagstaff on a weekday for a more secluded hike or picnic.

DESCRIPTION: Just west of downtown, the winding road up the mountain provides stunning panoramic views of Boulder,



Photo courtesy of /kallu

Denver, and the eastern plains after a beautiful drive or a strenuous bike ride. There are many picnic tables just off the road where you can park and walk for a few minutes and find yourself in a relatively quiet and secluded area. Flagstaff Mountain also has mountain bike trails and popular climbing routes, as well as the Summit Nature Center (open weekends in the summer) and an outdoor amphitheater. The Flagstaff House, one of Boulder's most upscale restaurants, is also situated on Flagstaff Mountain, which affords it incredible views and quite a romantic atmosphere. © NileGuide

contact:
tel: 303 442 5012
www.thehungrytoad.com

location:
2543 Broadway Street
Boulder CO 80304

hours:
11a-2a M-F, 10a-2a Sa, 10a-
midnight Su

8 Hungry Toad (The)

DESCRIPTION: Step into The Hungry Toad--a restaurant disguised as a pub--and one suddenly gets a strong urge to sport a derby and predict how the Leeds rugby team will fare against York this year. Wooden tables and brick walls make for a perfect setting to order a pint of Guinness or Killians. The menu mirrors the setting by offering such specialty items as a London Broil Steak, and Shepard's Pie. In addition the restaurant also serves pasta, salad and burgers. © wCities/ NileGuide



543 NORTH BROADWAY • BOULDER, CO • 303-442-5012

Photo courtesy of The Hungry Toad

contact:
tel: 303 786 7030
fax: +1 303 440 6455
http://www.bouldertheater.com

location:
2032 14th St
Boulder CO 80302

hours:
Box Office: Noon-6p Mon-Fri;
noon-5p Sat-Sun

9 Boulder Theater

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

The Boulder Theater also screens interesting documentaries and cult classics like The Big Lebowski and Darkside of the Rainbow, where they sync up Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the Moon and The Wizard of Oz.

DESCRIPTION: This posh venue has graced downtown Boulder since 1906. Originally opened as an opera house, the historic building underwent a massive renovation in the 1980s. Located just off the Pearl Street Mall, the complex hosts nightly concerts, film screenings and other community events. National Public Radio hosts the popular weekly environmental and musical radio show E-Town here. While it remains a popular venue for local entertainers, the theater's cabaret-style seating, preserved art deco ornamentation and state-of-the-art sound and lighting system attract national and international artists. Call for a schedule, or check the Web site to order tickets online. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:
tel: 303 449 6000
<http://www.theatreinboulder.com/>

location:
5501 Arapahoe Avenue
Boulder CO 80303

hours:
Tu-Sa 6:30p-10:30p, noon-4p,
6:30p-10:30p Su

10 Boulder's Dinner Theatre

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Weekday and Sunday evening shows are slightly cheaper than Friday, Saturday, and Sunday matinee performances. Reservations are required for all main stage shows.

DESCRIPTION: Three levels and about 285 tables surround the thrust stage at this popular venue. The theater puts on an average of four musicals per year and wins numerous yearly awards from the Denver Drama Critics Circle. Come here for an evening of elegant food and phenomenal acting. Following traditional dinner-theater style, the actors double as the wait staff. A delicious meal is served before the show, and dessert is served during the intermission. Try the Chicken Cordon Bleu or prime rib, scrumptious desserts and after-dinner drinks.
© wcities.com



citysearch

contact:
tel: 303 443 0486
fax: +1 303 442 4378
<http://www.boulderado.com/>

location:
2115 13th Street
Boulder CO 80302

hours:
4:30p-2a M-F, 7:30p-2a Sa-Su

11 Catacombs Bar

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Think you know a lot of factoids? Check out their Trivia Night on Tuesdays. Eager to wow the crowd with your rendition of 'Eye of the Tiger'? Wednesday Karaoke Nights are your chance!

DESCRIPTION: Hidden beneath the historic Hotel Boulderado, this cavernous maze of low-lit rooms serves as a Mecca for local and regional blues and rock acts. The classy, yet renegade-like atmosphere draws a range of people, from seasoned music veterans, to yuppies and bohemians. But whatever the flavor, the bar promises an authentic taste of Boulder and an entertaining evening. © wcities.com



Hotel Boulderado

Boulder Snapshot

Local Info

Boulder's natural beauty is second to none, shadowed by the towering Flatirons and surrounded by more than 31,000 acres of recreational open space and nature preserves. Often described as "the little town nestled between the mountains and reality," Boulder is a small town of 28 square miles and only 100,000 people that has the quality of restaurants and variety of activities of a big city.

Downtown

The Pearl Street Mall, Boulder's "downtown," is a four-block pedestrian mall brimming with tourists and locals alike. This tree-lined promenade, long ago a refuge for the wildest of the wild westerners, is alive with cafés, galleries, brewpubs, restaurants, musicians, street performers, and every type of shopping imaginable. In the summer, the Pearl Street Mall is host to popular events such as Bands on the Brick and the Downtown Boulder Art Fair. The Boulder County Farmers Market is a short walk from the Pearl Street Mall, and is one of the most happening summer events in Boulder, offering organic fruits and veggies, local wines, artisanal cheeses, and beautiful flowers. The popular Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art is just next to the Farmers Market, as is the Boulder Creek Path, which runs along the Farmers Market and meanders downtown. The Boulder Creek Path, which is often busy with bikers, joggers, and meanders through town, also heads up the Canyon, which leads to Boulder Falls.

University Hill

The University of Colorado at Boulder—referred to as "CU" not "UC"—is spread across more than 600 acres of landscape, dotted with gorgeous stone buildings with red Spanish-tiled rooftops. Catch a CU football game at Folsom Field, or during the summer, see a performance from the Colorado Shakespeare Festival. The Boulder History Museum is also on the CU Campus, as is Fiske Planetarium—a superb place to catch up on your stargazing. Macky Auditorium Concert Hall is a magnificent venue on campus that hosts a variety of music throughout the year.

Known as "The Hill" by locals, this neighborhood is right next to the CU

Boulder campus and is a popular hangout spot for college students. Literally parked on a hilltop above downtown, this district provides pizza, subs, burritos, coffee, beer in a bucket, and head shops to CU's 30,000 students. Fox Theater is located at the center of The Hill, and is a popular spot for students to go hear their favorite bands play live. The residential neighborhood on The Hill is an odd mix of fraternity and sorority houses, apartment complexes, student rental houses, and huge, beautiful old houses. Chautauqua Park rests at the base of Flagstaff Mountain on the southwest side of The Hill. The park, one of three remaining from the early 1900s cultural movement, features a dining hall and an auditorium that hosts an excellent summer concert series in a unique venue. Flagstaff Mountain is an great place to go hiking or to just drive up and get a spectacular aerial view of the city.

Surrounding Areas

Celestial Seasonings is just a short drive from downtown and offers a tour and plenty of samples. Eldorado Canyon State Park—where the world comes to rock climb—is a 25 minute drive from downtown Boulder, as is the small mountain town of Nederland, home to Eldora Mountain Resort.

© NileGuide

Things to Do Insights

Outdoor Activities

If there is one thing you must not miss during your time in Boulder, it is a chance to view and explore the iconic Flatirons. Try hiking or climbing on Flagstaff Mountain, or simply picnic in the gorgeous Chautauqua Park. The Boulder Creek Path is also a great place to go for a walk or bike ride, as it meanders through town before heading up the Canyon to Boulder Falls. The Falls are beautiful, but the incredible drive there through the mountains makes it all the more worthwhile. Another great place slightly outside town is Red Rocks Park, which is a spectacular drive as well and has some beautiful, relatively easy hikes. This park is in the same location as Red Rocks Amphitheater, which is arguably one of the best venues in the country to see live music.

Boulder is infamous for its winter sports because of its proximity to multiple ski resorts, the closest of which—and the cheapest and least crowded of which—is Eldora Mountain Resort, so keep that in mind when you're deciding which winter clothes to pack.

Sightseeing

Spending an afternoon just wandering around the campus of the University of Colorado at Boulder is worth it simply because of the beautiful buildings and the weather, which is almost always beautiful as well. While you're there, stop in and check out the CU museum to learn some history about the school and the town.

Boulder has several unusual tours available, including Banjo Billy's bus tour and the tour of Celestial Seasonings, which will also allow you to sample a wide variety of teas. Speaking of tea, the Dushanbe Teahouse is a beautiful piece of architecture with hand-carved and hand-painted ceilings, columns, and ceramic panels that warrants a visit even if you aren't a tea fanatic (but do try the tea—it's delicious). If you're interested in finding more experiences to engage a variety of senses, check out the Boulder Creek Winery, Redstone Meadery, and the Belvedere Belgian Chocolate Shop.

Shopping

The Pearl Street Mall, a 4-block pedestrian mall in downtown Boulder, has the best shopping in town. With an eclectic combination of art galleries, outdoor gear shops, and clothing stores, Pearl Street is the place to go for one-stop shopping. Be sure to check out the stores just off the walking mall, too, as they are equally as good but often get missed; among these is Willow, which has lovely, affordable, local art.

Events

Popular summertime events in Boulder include the Farmers' Market, Downtown Boulder Art Fair, Boulder Creek Hometown Fair, and Folks Festival. Another incredibly popular event in Boulder happens in early

Boulder Snapshot continued

April—theConference on World Affairs—which brings in speakers and panelists from around the world to talk about and debate nearly everything imaginable. Held annually on President's Day Weekend, theBoulder International Film Festival draws crowds from around the country. Every year in early October,Open Studios provides people an opportunity to bike around town visiting the homes and studios of local artists.

© NileGuide

Fun Facts

1. Interesting fact: Baseline Road is a significant east-west route to both Boulderites& cartographers, for it marks the 40th parallel on world maps.

2. Weird fact: Boulder's Third Flatiron, which towers 1,400 feet high-- a few hundred feet

higher than the Empire State Building-- has been climbed by people without using their hands, on roller skates, naked, and in 8 minutes(by separate climbers).

3. Fun fact: Robert Redford was a janitor atThe Sink, before moving on to become famous!

4. Random fact: Boulder has more used bookstores per capita than any other city in the country.

5. TheFlatiron Mountains got their name by pioneer women who said they looked like flat, metal irons used to iron their clothes.

6. TheUniversity of Colorado at Boulder's buildings are built with red sandstone, quarried in nearby Lyons.

7. With Coors, Anheuser-Busch, and local microbreweries such asBoulder Beer andAvery Brewing, this area has become the largest beer-producing triangle in the world.

8. In 1967, Boulder became the first city in the United States to tax itself for funds to be used specifically for the acquisition, management, and maintenance of Open Space.

9. One of Boulder's sister cities is Dushanbe, Tajikistan, which gifted us theBoulder Dushanbe Teahouse.

10. Boulder is surrounded by more than 31,000 acres of recreational open space and nature preserves.

11. Boulder has been referred to as the"Boulder Bubble" and"28 square miles surrounded by reality."

12. Boulder has received myriad accolades over the years, ranging from Foodiest to Brainiest City, from Best Biking City to Best City for Teleworking, from Best City for Young People to Best City to Retire in Style.

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