



joiseyshowaa

Top 10: Art, Theater, & Film in Boulder

Boulder, 1 Day

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: Despite being a relatively small town, Boulder has an incredible wealth of cultural activities. If you love the theater, head to the Colorado Shakespeare Festival or the Boulder Dinner Theater. If you're interested in art, come for the Downtown Art Fair or Open Studios, or check out the Leanin' Tree Museum of Western Art year-round. If you're a film buff, coordinate your time in Boulder with the Boulder International Film Festival, go to the International Film Series during the school year, or to the Boulder Outdoor Cinema during the summer.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Boulder



Colorado Shakespeare Festival

World-class acting and atmosphere



Downtown Boulder ArtFair

Summer arts & crafts fair along the walking mall



Boulder International Film Festival

Annual film festival showcasing independent films



Boulder Outdoor Cinema

Interactive Theater



Leanin' Tree Museum of Western Art (The)

Western art



Boulder Dinner Theatre

Dinner and a show; high quality food and entertainment



Open Studios

Yearly opportunity to visit open artist studios



Boulder Dushanbe Teahouse (The)

Teahouse with impressive tea menu and wonderful ambiance



Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art

Excellent modern art collection in small space



International Film Series

Art-house film series

Day 1 - Boulder

QUICK NOTE

contact:

tel: 303 492 0554

fax: 303 492 6121

<http://www.coloradoshakes.org/>

location:

277, University of Colorado in Boulder
Boulder CO 80309-0277

hours:

Vary

1

Colorado Shakespeare Festival

DESCRIPTION: Considered one of the top three Shakespearean festivals in the United States, this 2-month annual event attracts more than 40,000 theatergoers between late June and late August. Held since 1958 in the University of Colorado's Mary Rippon Outdoor Theatre, and indoors at the University Theatre Main Stage, it offers more than a dozen performances of each of four plays. Actors, directors, designers, and everyone associated with the productions are fully schooled Shakespearean professionals. Tickets run from \$7 to \$54 for single performances, with series packages also available. © Frommer's



contact:

tel: 303-449-3774

<http://www.boulderdowntown.com/events>

location:

Pearl Street Mall
Boulder CO 80302

hours:

Sa-Su 11a-7p

2

Downtown Boulder ArtFair

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Get there early to avoid the crowds, and if you're shopping and not just looking, be prepared to pay for substantial shipping costs as many of the items for sale are quite large.

DESCRIPTION: With tents lined up and down the walking mall of Pearl Street, the Boulder Art Fair is an event not to be missed. Local and regional artists converge to showcase their arts, crafts, and musical talents during this mid-summer event. Whether you're in the market for a piece of art or whether you're just interested in browsing from tent to tent, the Boulder Art Fair is a great way to spend the day. The Boulder Art Fair also has plenty of children's activities prepared to keep the kids happy and busy. © wcities.com



Downtown Boulder

contact:

tel: 303-449-2289

<http://www.biff1.com/>

location:

several venues across the city
(see website for details)
Boulder CO 80301

3

Boulder International Film Festival

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Many films sell out quickly, so if there's one that interests you, buy tickets well in advance!

DESCRIPTION: Held annually on President's Day weekend, the Boulder International Film Festival (BIFF) shows many films, documentaries, and shorts that have gone from unknowns to Oscar nominees. With films screening all day and spread over three venues across town, the BIFF is a great place to discover independent filmmakers, directors, and stars. Look up the schedule on the BIFF's website to find out which films interest you.



<http://www.biff1.com/index.html>

contact:
tel: 303 447 9308
<http://www.boulderoutdoorcinema.com/>

location:
1750 13th Street
Boulder CO 80302

4 Boulder Outdoor Cinema

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Some of the popular cult classics fill up quickly, so if you want to secure a good spot, get there early and bring some dinner to munch on while you wait for the movie to start.

DESCRIPTION: The Boulder Outdoor Cinema redefines going to the movies. Once a week during summer months, viewers set up lawn chairs and blankets on the green behind the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art and prepare to make noise. Yes, moviegoers are encouraged to sing along and call out lines from the film. The Applause-O-meter and contests like "Best Film Related Costume" promote audience participation and a lot of fun. A different classic or cult favorite runs each week. Past features have included *The Wizard of Oz*, *War of the Worlds*, and *Pee Wee's Big Adventure*. All shows are suitable for family entertainment. © wcities.com



contact:
tel: +1 303 530 1442
<http://www.leanintreemuseum.com>

location:
6055 Longbow Dr
Boulder CO 80301

hours:
8a-4:30p M-F, 10a-4p Sa-Su

5 Leanin' Tree Museum of Western Art (The)

DESCRIPTION: Ed Trumble, founder and owner of Leanin' Tree Company, started selling greeting cards with a distinctive western flair to local ranchers over 50 years ago. As his business evolved, he began collecting original works from the artists that adorned the cards. In 1974, he opened a museum to display the works, and today it is one of the largest collections of Western art in the nation. Featuring 93 artists and an array of paintings and bronze sculptures, the museum has welcomed more than 500,000 visitors since its conception. The museum's gift shop offers an assortment of Western souvenirs including the famous Leanin' Tree greeting cards. Free admission. © wcities.com



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

location:
5501 Arapahoe Avenue
Boulder CO 80303

6 Boulder Dinner Theatre

DESCRIPTION: Since 1977, Boulder's Dinner Theatre has been committed to providing live, Broadway-quality entertainment with fine dining to create a unique experience for groups, families and discerning theatre-goers. Members of our company have performed on stages all over the country, from New York and Chicago to Hollywood. They've been cast in sitcoms and feature films. Some have been nominated for Academy Awards. But they all call Boulder's Dinner Theatre "home."

contact:
tel: 303.444.1862
<http://www.openstudios.org/>

location:
various locations around
Boulder
Boulder CO 80301

7 Open Studios

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

You can see one piece of each artist's work at the Boulder Public Library, which will help you choose your favorites (mid-September through mid-October). Then, look through the Open Studios online guidebook, select your favorite artists, and map out your bike route.

DESCRIPTION: Once a year, during the first two weekends in October, the private art studios of Boulder open to the public. Rent bikes and enjoy a fall day in Boulder as you ride around Boulder, viewing studios of sculptors, painters, jewelers, and woodworkers among others, and speaking with the artists about their work. Open studios is a unique opportunity to watch artists at work in their own studios and to view art that is not exhibited elsewhere. Buy the guidebook to make your tour easier.



Open Studios

contact:
tel: 303 442 4993
www.bouderteahouse.com

location:
1770 13th St.
Boulder CO 80302

hours:
Daily 8a-9p

8 Boulder Dushanbe Teahouse (The)

DESCRIPTION: The Boulder Dushanbe Teahouse was given to us by our sister city of Dushanbe. Built between 1987 and 1990, more than 40 artisans from cities across Tajikistan created the elaborate, creative elements of the Teahouse, including its hand-carved and hand-painted ceilings, columns, and ceramic panels. The Teahouse is in central Boulder, just next to Central Park and the Boulder Farmers' Market, making it a perfect place to stop for a midday tea. Choose between sitting indoors and marveling at its ornate decorations, or sit outside under the trellis and enjoy the sounds of the Boulder Creek trickling by.



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

9 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



wcities

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

contact:

tel: 303.492.1531

<http://www.internationalfilmseries.com/index.php>

location:

Muenzinger
Boulder CO 80309

International Film Series

DESCRIPTION: Established in 1941, the International Film Series (IFS) was Boulder's first art-house film series. The IFS played a crucial role in building up an audience in Boulder for the works by such directors as Akira Kurosawa, Ingmar Bergman, Federico Fellini, John Cassavetes, and many more. As other theaters took notice of this growing audience they also began to expand their programming and, up through the 1980's, there were many single-screen theaters in town, some of which were also dedicated to art-house cinema. While most of those screens are now defunct, the IFS remains committed to eclectic cinema that is locally programmed. The IFS screens over 100 films every year at its two venues, both located on the CU Campus. © NileGuide



IFS

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.

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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.

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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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