



joiseyshowaa

Top 10: Hidden Gems of Boulder

Boulder, 1 Day

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: Everyone gets tired of feeling like a tourist. So do you want to stay in the hotels where locals' families stay? Want to find delicious food that is the best bang for your buck? Want to meet some locals and stay away from tours and shopping? This list of Boulder Hidden Gems will lead you right to the hotels, events, and restaurants you want: quiet mountain lodges, beautiful music venues, and local, tasty food.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Boulder



Boulder Outdoor Cinema
Interactive Theater



Colorado Shakespeare Festival
World-class acting and atmosphere



Eben G. Fine Park
Park for picnicking and creek for tubing



Leaf Vegetarian Restaurant
Conscious dining for vegetarians and omnivores alike



Boulder Outlook Hotel & Suites
Across from Univ. of Colorado with indoor pool, hot tub, restaurant and blues club



V.G. Burgers
Healthy, organic, vegan



Conference on World Affairs
Attendees go to free panels, plenaries, and performances on nearly limitless topics



Macky Auditorium Concert Hall
Knocking On Music's Door



Boulder Mountain Lodge
Multiple lodging options



Juanita's Mexican Food
Locals' secret Southwestern feast



Briar Rose Bed and Breakfast
Cozy, English country inn

Day 1 - Boulder

QUICK NOTE

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

location:
1750 13th Street
Boulder CO 80302

1 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: 303 492 0554
fax: 303 492 6121
<http://www.coloradoshakes.org/>

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

hours:
Vary

2 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: 303-413-7200
<http://www.bouldercolorado.gov/index.php>

location:
3rd St. & Arapahoe Ave.
Boulder CO 80501

3 Eben G. Fine Park

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Seriously, if you decide to go tubing down the Creek, wear a helmet. You won't look stupid...you'll look smart.

DESCRIPTION: In the summer, Eben G. Fine is the place to be. There's plenty of big trees providing shade for lounging, there's a shelter with grills and picnic tables (that's available to rent), there's a playground for the kids, and perhaps best of all, there's the Boulder Creek. This is the prime spot for tubers in



Jess Steinitz

the summer, although the water can get quite rough, especially from snowmelt early in the summer. This beautiful park is right along the Boulder Creek Path and is the last stop before the Path heads up Canyon Blvd. into the mountains.

© NileGuide

contact:

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

location:

2010 16th St.
Boulder CO 80302

hours:

Lunch: M-Su 11:30 a.m - 3 p.m., Dinner: Su-Th 5 p.m. - 9 p.m., F-Sa 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.

4 Leaf Vegetarian Restaurant

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Be sure to try one of their infused vodkas and a slice of vegan "cheesecake for dessert," made with silken tofu and a chocolate oatmeal crust. Finally, a dessert you don't have to feel guilty about stuffing yourself with!

DESCRIPTION: Leaf Vegetarian Restaurant creates delicious meals that vegetarians and omnivores alike will enjoy, although omnivores may not recognize everything on the menu. Leaf uses organic, seasonal ingredients and provides an international cuisine with menu items such as Oaxacan Mole, Jamaican Jerk Tempeh, and Matar Panir. One of Boulder's best health-conscious dining options, Leaf also provides a full bar highlighted by an environmentally-friendly wine list and Boulder's own organic Vodka 14 martinis. © NileGuide



Photo courtesy of Leaf Vegetarian Restaurant

contact:

tel: +1 303 443-3322
fax: +1 303 443 0397
<http://www.boulderoutlook.com>

location:

800 28th St.
Boulder CO 80303

5 Boulder Outlook Hotel & Suites

DESCRIPTION: The Boulder Outlook is located across the street from the University of Colorado campus and a half-mile from Boulder Creek. The hotel's indoor recreation area brings a little bit of Boulder and the Foothills indoors with its 11-foot bouldering rock (with a smaller one for adventuresome youngsters), its chlorine-free indoor pool with a waterfall, and its flagstone spa tub. They also offer a fitness facility and dry saunas.

Located within the hotel is Blues & Greens, which is not your common hotel restaurant. Blues & Greens serves locally produced food that is sure to satisfy businesspeople to families traveling on a budget to those requiring special diet, including many vegetarian and vegan options.

© NileGuide



Hotels.com

contact:
tel: +1 303 440 2400
<http://www.vgburgers.com/>

location:
1650 Broadway St.
Boulder CO 80302

hours:
11a-10p M-Su

6 V.G. Burgers

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Don't miss the agave-sweetened sodas and vegan shakes and ice cream!

DESCRIPTION: The food is all organic and is even vegan -- although based on your preconceptions of vegan food, you might not believe it after having tasted this delicious food! In addition to being quick and healthy, it's zero waste and wind powered. The quintessential Boulder restaurant. © NileGuide



VG Burgers

contact:
tel: 303.492.2525
fax: 303.492.3934
<http://www.colorado.edu/cwa/>

location:
University of Colorado
Boulder campus
Boulder CO 80309

7 Conference on World Affairs

DESCRIPTION: Founded in 1948 as a forum on international affairs, the Conference on World Affairs (CWA) has expanded to encompass nearly every other aspect of life, including the arts, media, science, technology, environment, spirituality, politics, business, etc. Over the years, the Conference on World Affairs has been graced by such personalities as Roger Ebert, Patch Adams, Eleanor Roosevelt, Ralph Nadar, and Henry Kissinger. Attendees can attend free panels, plenaries, and performances on these nearly limitless topics over the course of the week of the CWA. © wcities.com



Jess Steinitz

contact:
tel: +1 303 492 6309
<http://www.colorado.edu/mac ky/>

location:
CU Boulder Campus Box 285
Boulder CO 80309

Macky Auditorium Concert Hall

DESCRIPTION: Macky Auditorium Concert Hall is one of Colorado's premier concert halls. Built in 1912, it is also one of the oldest musical institutions in the city. The hall's play list features classical and dance performances as well as screenings of films. It is home to the Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra as well as CU Boulder University band and choir, who are very talented and will keep you duly entertained. © wcities.com



University of Colorado at Boulder

contact:
tel: +1 800 458 0882(Toll Free) /+1 303 444 0882
fax: +1 303 541 0665
www.bouldermountainlodge.com

location:
91 Four mile Canyon Road
Boulder CO 80302

8 Boulder Mountain Lodge

DESCRIPTION: This charming, family-owned mountain hideaway, five minutes north of downtown Boulder, occupies a scenic spot along a quiet canyon and offers breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape. The location between Boulder and Eldora Ski Resort makes it ideal for a business traveler on an extended stay, or a leisure traveler searching for panoramic accommodations. There are several types of lodging available on the property including motel rooms, kitchenettes, suites and



camping at the adjacent campground. Campsite rentals include use of showers, streamside hot tubs, and the seasonal pool. Space is available for both tents and RVs. © wcities.com

contact:

tel: 303 449 5273

fax: 303 440 0815

<http://www.juanitas-boulder.com/>

location:

1043 Pearl Street
Boulder CO 80302

hours:

Restaurant 11:30a-10p M-Th,
11:30a-11p F-Sa, 1p-10p Su,
Bar until 2a

9 Juanita's Mexican Food

DESCRIPTION: Do not let the hole-in-the-wall facade and dilapidated interior of this restaurant fool you—Juanita's is one of Boulder's best-kept secrets. The overflowing portions of Mexican and New Mexican regulars, blue corn tortillas, steaming enchiladas, pinto beans and green chile satisfy the stomach, while an array of specialty margaritas quench the thirst. Every meal begins with seriously deep fried chips and homemade spicy salsa. The restaurant's comfortable booths are good for resting tired feet and antsy kids. © wCities/ NileGuide



citysearch

contact:

tel: +1 303 442 3007 / +1 888
786 8440 (Toll Free)

fax: +1 303 786 8440

<http://www.bedandbreakfast.com/colorado-boulder-briarrosebedbreakfast.html>

location:

2151 Arapahoe Ave.
Boulder CO 80302

A Briar Rose Bed and Breakfast

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Be sure to reserve your spot far in advance if you're in town for a big event like CU graduation.

DESCRIPTION: Find your sanctuary in the heart of Boulder at the foot of the Flatiron mountains. Discover the brilliant subtlety of sencha green tea as our innkeepers enrich your stay with quiet attention and lively conversation. Green hotel. Private baths. WIFI internet. Welcome home to the Briar Rose.



more at BedandBreakfast.com

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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