

DO COLORADO RIGHT WITH THE CARE FOR COLORADO LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLES

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO



Almost half of Colorado is public land. Learn about the area you plan to visit before adventuring out so you can enjoy and help protect the spaces we all share.

Colorado's weather and scenic terrain are stunning but can change drastically. Check conditions before you depart, pack layers, sun protection and rain gear, wear appropriate footwear ... and enjoy your trip.

Journey to places with minimal crowds to maximize your connection with the great outdoors. Have a backup plan in case the parking lot at your original destination is full.

Pack reusable water bottles to stay hydrated, limit waste and save money.

STICK TO TRAILS



Embrace the adventure as intended by only walking on designated trails — even if it's wet, muddy, slushy or icy. This will help avoid erosion and protect the homes of local wildlife.

Shortcuts and that perfect selfie can be tempting, but staying on the path will decrease your risk of injury and protect trailside plants.

Camping? Set up in one of thousands of designated campsites in Colorado. They boast some of the most scenic views and protect the landscapes. And remember to camp at least 200 feet from waterways to leave space for wildlife.

LEAVE IT AS YOU FIND IT



Enjoy discovering plants? Rocks? Historical and cultural items? Be sure to leave them as you found them so everyone can experience the joy of discovery.

Colorado has more than 2,000 different species of wildflowers, all with their own unique part to play in our ecosystem. Admire their beauty by taking a photo, not a flower.

Cleaning boots, bike tires and water crafts before and after every outing not only makes your gear last longer, it prevents the spread of harmful invasive species.

Colorado's trees give us beautiful leaf peeping photos, shade on summer days, unmatched ski runs and of course, oxygen (which at this altitude, is a big help). But the smallest carving can kill or disfigure them.

TRASH THE TRASH



Pack in the beautiful views by packing out the trash and leaving a place better than you found it. And make sure not to forget the peels and cores. Just because it's good for you, doesn't mean it's good for the wildlife.

No bathroom around? No worries. Be prepared with a disposable WAG bag (found in most outdoor stores), and conveniently pack out your waste. Alternatively, find privacy 70 steps from water and the trail, dig a 6" hole and then bury your business.

BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE



Build the perfect Colorado campfire (and avoid sparking a wildfire) by first making sure campfires are allowed in the area. Then, keep them small, manageable and attended. When it's time to extinguish, make sure the embers are cold to the touch to avoid reigniting a flame.

Buy or gather firewood locally; it'll save you space in your car, plus it prevents the introduction of any invasive species like the destructive pine beetle.

Use care when smoking anything (and we do mean anything) in Colorado's dry climate. One of the biggest causes of fires are discarded butts.

KEEP WILDLIFE WILD



Colorado is home to tens of thousands of furry, scaly and feathered creatures. To keep them — and you — safe, make sure to keep your and your dog's distance. And if you're ever unsure, follow the rule of thumb: If you can cover the entire animal with your thumb, you're at a safe distance.

Everyone loves the smell of bacon (not just humans). So always store food, trash and anything with a scent in bear proof lockers, canisters or secured vehicles. This will protect you and prevent wildlife from being exposed to behavior changes, predators or even euthanasia.

SHARE OUR TRAILS AND PARKS



Everyone experiences and enjoys the outdoors in different ways. Be mindful of your group's noise level so everyone can appreciate our shared spaces.

Yield to the uphill hiker and biker — they need the momentum. Wheelchair users and equestrians always have the right of way.

TEN WAYS TO MAXIMIZE YOUR TRIP TO COLORADO

PACK A FIRST-AID KIT

You never know if you or someone in your crew might get hurt on a hike. Plan ahead and bring a first-aid kit that includes foot care and insect repellent. Be sure you know how to use everything inside it.

DON'T SKIMP ON THE WATER

Bring more than you think you'll need, typically carrying at least 2 liters per person. Hydration packs, like the ones sold by Osprey, are especially handy because they can carry lots of water and fit in your backpack.

HAVE A FEW NAVIGATION OPTIONS

It's always good to know where you're going ahead of time and let people know your route. Be sure to pack a paper map, compass, altimeter, personal locator beacon (PLB) and/or GPS device, in addition to your cell phone — depending on your location, you may not have service.

BE READY FOR EQUIPMENT MALFUNCTIONS

Bring along a multi-tool or pocket knife, and duct tape for quick repairs for unexpected trail mishaps like broken shoe laces, flat bike tires or a leaky water bottle.

PREPARE FOR SUN

Colorado's sun can certainly shine bright, especially at higher elevations (you're closer to the sun!). Bring a hat, neck buff, sunscreen, protective clothing and sunglasses to make sure you're keeping things cool.

LIGHT YOUR WAY AFTER DARK

Light up the night sky by bringing a headlamp or two, and be sure to pack some extra batteries so you don't get caught off guard.

COZY UP WITH A CAMPFIRE

When the night falls, Colorado's mountains can get pretty chilly. Bring a lighter or waterproof matches and an emergency tinder so the fire can keep you warm. Learn about fire safety >>

BYO EMERGENCY SHELTER

In case of an emergency, be sure you can take cover. Bring an emergency bivy, blanket, small tarp or even a large, heavy-duty lawn/leaf bag so you're not battling the elements when you could be snug instead.

PACK A SNACK (OR MORE!)

Pack enough for how long you plan to be out, and then bring a little extra just in case — you never know when hunger strikes.

THROW IN SOME EXTRA LAYERS

Colorado's weather is known to change on a dime, especially on the mountain. Be prepared and pack for the chilliest weather possible on your trek so you can stay warm.



HOW TO DO COLORADO RIGHT

Your Guide to Responsible Travel in Colorado

There's nothing like Colorado's great outdoors, where visitors from near and far have found a haven for adventure, moments of peace and a chance to wonder at the pristine natural beauty of our diverse landscape. There's a lot to see and do—but there's also a lot to know about traveling our four-cornered state. By being thoughtful with our actions and aware of our impact, we can keep Colorado a special place for generations to come.



SAFE TRAVEL TIPS



ALTITUDE

Staying hydrated and adjusting for a day or two before embarking on a high-altitude adventure is the best way to make sure being high up doesn't get you down.

ALCOHOL

Colorado is known for its craft beers and spirits, but go slow until you have your mountain legs as it has more impact at altitude.

CELL COVERAGE

It may be hard to come by in some areas, so download maps and let others know where you're going ahead of time.

SPARSE SERVICES

If you spot a sign saying "No gas or services for the next 56 miles," believe it.

FOR HIKES, ROAD TRIPS & OTHER EXCURSIONS

Pack more food, water and cold-weather wear than you expect to need to prepare for changing conditions.

BEAR-PROOF TRASHCANS

Protect the wildlife by using these along the trails. Look for instructions on the can – there's usually a lever or button that's too tricky for hairy paws.



LOW-IMPACT TRAVEL

Colorado offers a variety of seamless transportation options. Some save you money, some save you time, but all of them make it easier for you to take in the amazing Colorado views while being a little kinder to mother nature.



BUSES

Whether you're visiting our bustling cities or exploring the far reaches of Colorado, buses like Bustang, Bustang Outrider and Denver's RTD network will get you there with all the creature comforts you could want.



SHUTTLES

Amtrak's California Zephyr line has stops in Denver, Fraser, Grand Junction and more. Meanwhile, the Rocky Mountaineer trains provide luxury service between Utah and Colorado.



ELECTRIC BYWAYS

If your ride is an electric vehicle, you can continue helping mother nature when you use Colorado's 13 Electric Byways with charging stations available every 100 miles.



CARPOOLS

Ask your friends to join your trip! Carpooling will decrease highway congestion which means you'll theoretically get to your destination faster.



BIKES AND E-SCOOTERS

Feel the wind in your hair as you navigate Colorado's cities with a green-ride option like an e-bike or e-scooter.

