



## AREA ATTRACTIONS

### Local Attractions

- Manitou's Penny Arcade – old fashioned arcade in downtown Manitou Springs. Quench your thirst with the mineral water fountains along the streets. The best tasting one is right in front of The Loop (a landmark Mexican Restaurant for the town).
- Cheyenne Mountain Zoo – there is a substantial military discount at the gate. Be sure to bring your walking shoes, it is hilly. <http://www.cmzoo.org>
- Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center - exhibits include marine reptiles, dinosaurs, a working fossil lab, children's play area, and hands on educational activities. It is a smaller type museum but great for a couple hours of fun, especially for younger children.
- Trampoline World (for kids).
- The Golden Bee – this is a great piano bar next to the Broadmoor Hotel. Be sure to get there before the evening rush, piano man shows up at 8:30 pm. <http://www.broadmoor.com/golden-bee.php>
- The Garden of the Gods – a definite landmark. Stop by the visitor's center to grab a map then drive along the loop, park and walk through the central part of the Garden (all free). Also, the Trading Post's café is a great place to eat and they offer a military discount to the active duty member. <http://co-trading-post.com>
- The North Pole – kids will enjoy the rides, chance to see/feed the reindeer and of course meet Santa Clause. You can find discount tickets everywhere so never pay full price.
- Fargo's – This is another landmark restaurant located on Platte Ave. This is a family friendly counter service with a unique atmosphere and cheap prices. The salad bar and pizza are pretty good. You can't beat 5 cent coffees on Wednesdays or an entire cake for \$5.
- Farish Rec Area (Air Force Academy ORC) – this is a military recreation area located in the mountains west of the Air force Academy. If you or your kids want to catch a few rainbow trout, this is your best chance in the local area. They also have camp sites and KOA style mini-cabins available. <http://www.usafaservices.com/orc/farish/htm>
- Pikes Peak – lots of ways to see this landmark. You can take the Cog Railway from Manitou Springs, drive up the Pike's Peak highway (military discount available), hike the Barr Trail or hike up the back from the Craggs Campground. If hiking be sure to get started early due to the distance and afternoon weather.
- Falcon Trail – if you like semi-technical mountain biking on single track or trail running/hiking this is a great local route. This is a 13 mile loop around the Air Force Academy grounds. You can get a map at the Outdoor Rec Center.
- Pikes Peak Running Association – if you like to run there are tons of opportunities in town. Some of the popular runs are Pikes Peak Ascent, Pikes Peak Marathon, Fall Series, Garden 10 mile, St Patrick's Day Run, Salin' Shoes. The main sites are <http://www.pprun.org> and <http://csgrandprix.com>
- Focus on the Family – a fun and free way to spend the afternoon. Be sure to take the kids down to the toy room and let them run around. This is a great indoor place during the cold winter. There is also a great bookstore upstairs that offers a military discount. They also do birthday parties.

- Mr. Bigg's – a huge “fun center” that has laser tag, bumper cars, bowling, mini-golf, buffet, etc. Look for coupons before going and they also have a military discount.
- US Olympic Training Center – another local landmark that offers free tours.  
[http://www.usoc.org/12181\\_19092.htm](http://www.usoc.org/12181_19092.htm)
- Sky Sox –local farm league offers pretty good deals on tickets for the military. Keep an eye out for free or discounted tickets.
- Santa Fe Trail – this trail is the back bone of the Colorado Springs trail system. If you want to pull kids behind your bike or ride on a gently rolling wide dirt trail this is a great place.  
[www.springsgov.com/units/parksrec/maps/mtrails.htm](http://www.springsgov.com/units/parksrec/maps/mtrails.htm)
- Monument Valley Park – picnic on the north end of this park. Some great fields and old trees here at the downtown park.
- Manitou Incline – a must do while you are in the area but make sure you are acclimated first! This is an old cog railroad trail up the mountain without the rails so you climb a mile up by stepping on the railroad ties and then you walk/run back down the Barr Trail. This is not very good for little ones unless they are in a backpack carrier.
- Mueller State Park <http://www.parks.state.co.us/parks/mueller/Pages/MuellerHome.aspx>
- If you like to hike there are a lot of great trails in the area. Local favorites are:
- Kid Friendly – Mount Herman, Mount Cutler, Seven Bridges, St. Mary's Falls, Falcon Trail, Red Rocks Canyon, Helen Hunt Falls, Catamount Trail, Barr Trail
- Not so kid Friendly – Stanley Canyon, Eagles Peak,
- <http://www.cospringstrails.com/>, <http://www.trails.com/activity.aspx?area=11312>,  
<http://www.trails.com/activity.aspx?area=11312>

#### **Favorite Local Restaurants:**

- Edelweiss Restaurant (probably the best German restaurant in town, good food and atmosphere)
- Phantom Canyon Brewery & Restaurant
- Ted's Montana Grill
- Colorado Mountain Brewery
- Sonterra Grill
- PJs Bistro of Manitou (Polish food)
- Red Leg Brewery (Near Trinity - new place, run by former military members)
- The Latigo Grill in Black Forest (watch a rodeo while eating)
- Trinity Brewing Co
- Tucano's Brazilian Steakhouse
- Giuseppe's Old Depot Restaurant (dine in the old train depot)
- Jack Quinn's (authentic Irish Pub downtown)
- Salsa Bravo Fresh Mexican Grill

#### **Out of town places:**

- Sign up at [www.Recreation.gov](http://www.Recreation.gov) to reserve campsites on Federal property. Summertime is very busy and there are limited first come/first serve campgrounds. This site helps a lot for securing a spot.
- For those seeking the high country challenge (Class 1, 2, and 3 mountains do not require technical equipment): <http://www.14ers.com/>
- Snow Fest – this is almost a military open house up at Keystone and very popular. There are lots of giveaways, food and performances.
- If you like skiing you will have lots of options. Some of the more popular season passes for the military are Keystone/A- Basin, Winter Park, Loveland, Monarch. If you want to buy some old rentals and purchase ski tickets, be sure to go to the Outdoor Rec's Snow Fest on base and camp out 1.5 hours before they open. If you just want to rent gear for the season the best bet is to rent from Peterson AFB or the Air Force Academy.
- Breckenridge's Alpine Slide – this is a lot of summertime fun at the base of Peak 8 but it can be a little expensive. You will probably want to go down a few times so buy a multi-punch pass. There are also mazes, trampolines, climbing walls, etc.

- Breckenridge Lodge and Spa (Military discount, \$100 per night): <http://thelodgeandspaatbreck.com/>
- The Donut Mill – if you are going skiing at Keystone/Breck/A-Basin this is a good stop along the way. It is located in Woodland Park and opens at 5:30am.
- Beau Jo's Pizza and Tommy Knocker Brewery – if you are coming home from skiing or the mountains via I-70 this is worth the stop in Idaho Springs. This is a great pizza place in a unique building. Make sure to use the honey for the huge loaf of bread clinging on the rim of your pizza (aka crust). You will buy your pizza by the pound! Walk next door to Tommy Knockers if you want some good beer.  
[www.beaujos.com/index.cfm](http://www.beaujos.com/index.cfm)
- If you are coming back from skiing via Hwy 9 and Hwy 24 you can stop off at Alma's South Park Saloon. (Yes, this area is called South Park and is the supposed location for the cartoon.) This is the highest saloon in the U.S. This is a true locals place but also a good after ski stop.
- REI Flagship Store – if you are up in Denver and like outdoor supplies don't miss REI's flagship store for three stories of shopping with a rock climbing wall and a children's playground in the women's section.  
[www.rei.com/stores/18](http://www.rei.com/stores/18)
- If you want to climb a 14er in Colorado before you leave, here is a great website to get you started on the different hikes in the state. [www.14ers.com](http://www.14ers.com)
- Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo <http://www.pikespeakorbust.org/>
- Denver Aquarium <http://www.aquariumrestaurants.com/downtownaquariumdenver/>
- Target Practice in the National Forest (free, however, there are specific rules).  
[http://www.fs.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsinternet!/ut/p/c4/04\\_SB8K8xLLM9MSSzPy8xBz9CP0os3gjAwhwD Dw9\\_AI8zPyhQoY6BdkOyoCAGixyPg!/?ss=110210&navtype=BROWSEBYSUBJECT&cid=stelprdb5163234&navid=11000000000000&pnavid=null&position=Not%2520Yet%2520Determined.Html&ttype=detail&pname=Arapaho%2520&%2520Roosevelt%2520National%2520Forests%2520Pawnee%2520National%2520Grassland-%2520Recreation](http://www.fs.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsinternet!/ut/p/c4/04_SB8K8xLLM9MSSzPy8xBz9CP0os3gjAwhwD Dw9_AI8zPyhQoY6BdkOyoCAGixyPg!/?ss=110210&navtype=BROWSEBYSUBJECT&cid=stelprdb5163234&navid=11000000000000&pnavid=null&position=Not%2520Yet%2520Determined.Html&ttype=detail&pname=Arapaho%2520&%2520Roosevelt%2520National%2520Forests%2520Pawnee%2520National%2520Grassland-%2520Recreation)

