ON THE ROAD
Wildlife and Natural Wonders
DENVER TO ROCKY MOUNTAIN/GRAND TETON/YELLOWSTONE AND BACK
1,763 miles

Wildlife and Natural Wonders
Hot springs, bison and bears await on this 1,763-mile adventure.

From alpine lakes and herds of elk in Rocky Mountain National Park to the granite peaks of Grand Teton National Park and grizzlies of Yellowstone National Park, this road trip is packed with once-in-a-lifetime sights.

From Denver, head west to Estes Park, Colo., the closest town on the east side of Rocky Mountain National Park. From there, access Rocky’s hidden gems and popular routes, including the legendary Trail Ridge Road, the highest national park paved road. Learn what to do on pages 6-17.

Next head down Big Thompson Canyon to Loveland where you can fuel up before pointing your wheels north to Cheyenne for a dose of Old West culture and then on to Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks. Nearby historic towns of Cody and Jackson make for great stopovers.

On your way home, head to Laramie via the Snowy Range Scenic Byway, an extraordinary, untrammeled route that takes you past gorgeous alpine peaks.
EASTERN BASE CAMP
Launch your Rocky Mountain National Park adventure from Estes Park.

Perched at 7,200 feet and 90 miles away from Denver, Estes Park is a fantastic basecamp for exploring Rocky Mountain National Park’s eastern side. Take a stroll down its lively downtown lined with coffee shops, restaurants and shops. Or sit on a bench along the Riverwalk, which spans the downtown area from the Estes Park Visitor Center to Performance Park on the west end of Elkhorn Avenue.

But don’t miss visiting the iconic Stanley Hotel. The white palatial hotel opened in 1909 and was built by inventor F. O. Stanley who produced steam cars. Author Stephen King’s overnight stay here inspired his best-selling book *The Shining*. In the evening, have a drink at the Whiskey Bar, which has Colorado’s largest selection of whiskey. You may even spot the ghost of Stanley checking in on his establishment.

True Nature
For a peaceful mountain retreat, head to Dao House, which offers lodge rooms, standalone suites and wellness programs in a beautiful forest setting. Dao House offers holistic treatments like massage and herbal aromatherapy, as well as classic western ranch activities like rides on a horse-drawn carriage, wagon or sleigh, one of which brings you to an outdoor campsite for a cowboy dinner.

Is the altitude giving you a headache? Head to the Oxygen Lodge where you can pay to breathe in 90 percent pure oxygen infused with energizing aromatherapy blends. Choose between a 30-minute or 45-minute treatment.

Dao House is located at 6120 Hwy. 7, 7.5 miles south of Estes Park, daohouse.com.
Want a break from the great outdoors after you leave Rocky Mountain National Park?

The road from Estes Park to Colorado’s plains leads to Loveland, a town that prides itself on having a large heart. In addition to putting on a huge Valentine’s Day celebration (it’s three days long), it handstamps valentines from all over the country every year, so loved ones receive a Valentine’s Day card sealed in an envelope stamped with a Valentine’s verse.

**HERE ARE TOP FIVE THINGS TO DO:**

1. Explore the Benson Sculpture Garden, a wonderfully manicured outdoor park with 148 sculptures on permanent display by world-renowned artists.

2. Do a ropes course, play laser tag or climb an ancient Egyptian-themed rock climbing wall at the Loveland Laser Fun Center.

3. Pick up a Loveland brewery passport at any of the city’s eight breweries or the Loveland Visitor Center and sample local craft brews. Win a T-shirt and a pint glass when you get all eight stamps.

4. Shop local boutiques in the historic downtown or go to the Outlets at Loveland where Levi’s, Under Armour and Bose await.

5. Fuel up on groceries and supplies before heading north to Wyoming and Yellowstone National Park. Two major grocery stores, Safeway and King Soopers, are here, in addition to a Walmart Supercenter and The Crunchy Grocer, a natural foods store.
Old West Meets New West

BY JADE LANG

Live the legend of the West in Cheyenne, Wyo., a charming capital city where the rich history of cowboys and western expansion meets amenities of the modern West.

“It’s really the best of both worlds,” says Jim Walter of the Visit Cheyenne Convention & Visitors Bureau. “You’ve got some great historical resources here, whether it’s trains or the West or carriages or the history of rodeo. But then you’ve got the best of what the West is today — craft breweries, rock climbing, hiking, mountain biking.”

A narrated trolley tour that departs from Depot Square will take you on a 90-minute ride through historic downtown, passing by the State Museum and botanic gardens, all the way north to Frontier Park and the Cheyenne Frontier Days Old West Museum.

Switch gears and head further west for outdoor activities at Vedauwoo Recreation Area and Curt Gowdy State Park.

“Outdoor enthusiasts come up here and they’re amazed,” says Darren Rudloff, president and CEO of the visitors bureau. “They love it, simply because you’re not fighting with so many other climbers and mountain bikers every single weekend.”

For a truly unique experience, spend the day hand-feeding a bison herd at Terry Bison Ranch. Then head back into downtown for dinner at the Wyoming Rib & Chop House.


The Visit Cheyenne Convention & Visitors Bureau is located in the Depot Square at 121 W. 15th St, suite 202. Read the complete story at myrockymountainpark.com.

LASSO THE FUN

Feel like a cowboy or cowgirl at these three unique Cheyenne favorites.

Terry Bison Ranch
Take a train through a bison herd, do a trail ride and enjoy Wyoming’s best burger at Senator’s Restaurant: 51 I-25 Frontage Rd; terrybisonranch.com; 307-634-4171.

The Wrangler
Breathe in the smell of fresh leather and gear up with authentic cowboy boots, hats and other western apparel at this Cheyenne classic; 1518 Capitol Ave; 307-634-3048.

Cheyenne Frontier Days
Old West Museum
See cowboy and cowgirl memorabilia along with the third-largest carriage collection in the country; 4610 Carey Ave; oldwestmuseum.org; 307-778-7290.
Cheyenne Frontier Days™
July 21-30, 2017

Hiking, Biking, and Rock Climbing at Vedauwoo Recreation Area, Medicine Bow National Forest, and Curt Gowdy State Park

Old West Museum and Store
Historic Cheyenne Depot
Wyoming State Capitol and State Museum
Trail Rides at Terry Bison and Bit-O-Wyo Ranches

Plus There’s So Much More!

Cheyenne, Wyoming!
At the intersection of I-25 and I-80

Cheyenne.org 800-426-5009
ON THE ROAD

Wildlife and Natural Wonders
CHEYENNE TO YELLOWSTONE AND GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARKS
442 miles, 7 hours

Since 1872, Yellowstone National Park has inspired visitors from all over the world. Grizzly bears, wolves, bison and black bears still inhabit the world’s first national park. Half of the world’s geysers, including Old Faithful, are here.

Just several miles from the South Entrance to Yellowstone National Park along the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Parkway is Grand Teton National Park. With Jenny Lake and Jackson Lake at 6,320 feet and the summit of the Grand Teton at 13,770 feet, the park’s elevation ranges create one of the nation’s most awe-inspiring landscapes. Experience this majestic park by hiking, boating, wildlife-watching, rock climbing and fishing.

The park’s southern end stretches a few miles short of Jackson, Wyo., a vibrant mountain town full of high-end boutiques, great restaurants and hotels for a range of budgets.

Get detailed park itineraries at yellowstonepark.com.

CULTURE IN CODY

Fifty miles from Yellowstone’s East Entrance is Cody, Wyo., named for the man who founded it: Buffalo Bill Cody. With his legendary reputation cemented in popular Buffalo Bill dime-novels, he and his Wild West shows were tremendously popular.

Discover the man behind the stories at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West. An affiliate of the Smithsonian Institute, the five-museum complex brings to life the West’s history, geography and culture. Your ticket is good for two days. When you enter, you’ll understand why so many people stay an extra day in Cody to absorb all the center has to offer.

See our favorite things to do in Cody online at yellowstonepark.com/cody-wyoming-yellowstones-eastern-gateway.

GRANDIOSE EXPERIENCES

Explore Yellowstone National Park and then head south to Grand Teton National Park for twin, action-packed adventures.
TRAVEL IS THE ONLY THING YOU BUY THAT MAKES YOU RICHER.

THAT’S WY

THE SNOWY RANGE SCENIC BYWAY (WY 130)

THROUGH THE MAJESTIC SNOWY RANGE, PAST GLITTERING GLACIAL LAKES, PASTORAL MEADOWS, RUSHING MOUNTAINS STREAMS AND AWE INSPIRING GRANITE PEAKS. GO TRAVEL. YOU WILL BE RICHER FOR IT!

BOOK ONLINE:
WWW.VISITLARAMIE.ORG OR TOLL FREE: 800-445-5303
LARAMIE’S TOP 10
Founded in the mid-1860s as a lawless tent city, Laramie has been home to dinosaurs, Native Americans, railroad crews, outlaws and outdoor enthusiasts. Here are the top 10 things to do in this authentic town. Learn more at visitlaramie.org.

University of Wyoming Anthropology Museum
See bones from a woolly mammoth, a replica of the famous Lucy skeleton, as well as an exhibit tracing the evolution of humans from Africa to the rest of the globe.

University of Wyoming Art Museum
Home to a fascinating collection of works by Albert Bierstadt, Edward Hopper, Winslow Homer, Roy Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol, this award-winning museum is free and open to the public.

Coal Creek Tap
Get a taste of Laramie’s former Wild West days when you sip the award-winning Bucket of Blood double red IPA. It’s named after Laramie’s first bar, Bucket of Blood, run by three thieves who were half brothers. For a lighter drink, try Laradise, an extra pale ale celebrating Laramie in the summer.

Deerwood Ranch Wild Horse EcoSanctuary
Just 35 miles west of Laramie is the Deerwood Ranch Wild Horse EcoSanctuary. It’s home to 300 wild Wyoming mustangs that roam on 4,700 acres. Visits by appointment only at 307-399-9956.

Louisa Swain Statue
In 1870, Louisa Swain became the first woman in America to vote. Fact: Wyoming gave women the right to vote 50 years before the rest of the country.

Wyoming Territorial Prison Historic Site
Built in 1872, this building houses exhibits on Butch Cassidy and others. Don’t miss the broom factory to learn how brooms are made by hand.

Culture and Arts

Outdoors

Vedauwoo Recreation Area
Camp, bike, hike and climb on the spectacular granite rock formations here. Pronounced “vee-da-voo,” this area is referred to by the Arapaho Indians as “Land of the Earth-born Spirit.”

Happy Jack
Home to three campgrounds, there are short trails to explore by foot, bike or cross-country skis.

Snowy Range Scenic Byway
Constructed as a wagon road in the 1870s, this stunning road takes you past glacial lakes, granite peaks, gorgeous meadows and over the second-highest mountain pass in Wyoming; closed mid-November to Memorial Day weekend.

University of Wyoming Geology Museum
See dinosaurs up-close, including a former Laramie resident, the 75-foot-long Apatosaurus that ate 1 ton of vegetation daily and weighed 25 tons. Disney-Pixar’s 2015 The Good Dinosaur featured an Apatosaurus named Arlo.

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