



**PIKES
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COUNTRY**

Attractions



Mollie Kathleen Mine



Cave of the Winds



Pikes Peak

2011 Pikes Peak Country Attractions Press Kit

Welcome to Pikes Peak Country, Colorado! For well over a century visitors from around the globe have been putting Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak Region on their travel itineraries. Our destination is family friendly, affordable and offers a remarkable mix of geological wonders, developed attractions, historical marvels, one of a kind adventures and entertaining performances, all taking place in and around celebrated Pikes Peak. Our member attractions are in Colorado Springs, Manitou Springs, Canon City and Cripple Creek.

This press kit includes:

- General facts about Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak Region
- A guide to what's new in 2011
- Events calendar
- Story ideas
- A natural history of Pikes Peak
- A profile of our native tribes, colorful characters and founders
- All 26 of our member Pikes Peak Country Attractions listed "By the Numbers", starting with 1 Magnificent Mountain: Pikes Peak

I welcome your inquiries and look forward to meeting and talking with you this year. A range of high resolution photos is available online. Members of the media may contact me, Michele Carvell, at michele@pikes-peak.com or 719-685-5894, or Dianne Perea, at dianne@pikes-peak.com 719-685-5894.

Find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter



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www.Twitter.com/VisitPikesPeak

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Garden of the Gods



Manitou Springs



Garden of the Gods

Pikes Peak Country Specifics

Pikes Peak Country is defined as the region around Pikes Peak, America's Mountain, in southern Colorado. The peak reaches an elevation of 14,115 feet above sea level. At its base are Manitou Springs and Colorado Springs. Cripple Creek and Victor, famous gold camps of the 1800s, are west of Colorado Springs. Canon City, Royal Gorge and the Arkansas River are southwest of Colorado Springs.

ABOUT COLORADO SPRINGS

Population

City: 414,658 Metro Area: 626,227

Elevation

6,035 feet

Average Annual Precipitation

17.4 inches

Average Humidity

63% morning; 40% afternoon

Average Days of Sunshine Annually

300

Average Annual Snowfall

43 inches

Airport

Colorado Springs Airport | www.flycos.com

Allegiant Air, American, Continental, Delta, United

Major Highways

Interstate 25, U.S. 85/87 and 24, Colorado 21, 83, 94, 115 and 122

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What's New in 2011

New Visitor Center at Royal Gorge

The new Royal Gorge Bridge Visitor Center welcomes guests to the Canon City region. Located on U.S. Highway 50 and open daily from April 30-October 16 from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM, the 4,000 square foot facility will showcase visitor attractions, activities and accommodations in the area. Located about three miles from its parent attraction, the Royal Gorge Bridge and Park, the new visitor center will pre-sell tickets to the park and offer guests an inviting place to stop, eat and shop. The Country Café serves up barbecue, gourmet ice cream, breakfast, appetizers and sandwiches. The Gift Shop offers unique mementoes, crafts and keepsakes. For more information call 888-333-5597 or go to www.royalgorgebridge.com.

Cave of the Winds Introduces Wind Walker Challenge Course

The Wind Walker Challenge Course, a cross between a zipline, a jungle gym, a maze and a ropes course, is opening in spring 2011 at the Cave of the Winds. The new attraction is suitable for people of all ages and varying skill levels, and lets visitors experience the thrill and adrenaline rush of ascending into the structure -- and then stepping out into what feels like thin air! Wearing a special safety harness, visitors cross swinging bridges, cargo nets, tightropes and more. The course difficulty is progressively more challenging with each feat and the structure consists of three levels: one is 15 feet, the second is 40 feet above the ground, and the third level juts away from the main structure and extends over the canyon rim, more than 600 feet above Williams Canyon. Thrill-seekers, this is for you, but it is also a safe and fun challenge for the whole family. For more information call 719-685-5444 or go to <http://caveofthewinds.com/what-to-expect/wind-walker-challenge-course>.

A New Way to Do the Peak

What goes up must come down. Now you can go up Pikes Peak on the Cog Railway and come down by bike with Challenge Unlimited. This "bucket list" adventure starts with breakfast and a leisurely ride to the top of Pikes Peak aboard the Cog Railway. Then Challenge Unlimited guides you down on the Pikes Peak Highway with plenty of great photo opportunities. Park your bike at the Wines of Colorado and enjoy lunch. Everything including meals, bikes and all weather gear is included in the price. For more information call 719-633-6399 or go to www.bikithikit.com.

Santa's Elves Have Been Busy

Santa's helpers have been busy adding new games to the arcade at the North Pole. The pony carts are open again and the new "Rodeo Rider" promises to be a crowd-pleaser. The elves spent weeks refurbishing the beautiful popcorn wagon. For more information on updates and new attractions at Santa's Workshop at the North Pole, call 719-684-9432 or go to www.santas-colo.com.

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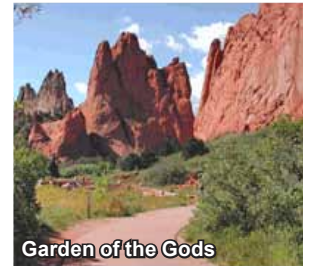
Attractions



Miramont Castle



Garden of the Gods



Garden of the Gods

What's New in 2011 Continued

Museum Musings

The Spoils of War, a 2011 exhibit at Miramont Castle, features 1930s German model railroad cars and accessories from the estate of a World War II Air Force Colonel stationed in Germany. The exhibit of this priceless donation is being augmented by military relics from other conflicts and wars. Judge Young's Office, honoring John Carlton Young, a Colorado Springs resident who presided at the Nuremberg war crime trials following World War II, is another new display at Miramont Castle. It features many of Judge Young's personal effects. For more information, call 719-685-1011 or go to www.miramontcastle.org.

Walk, Talk, Gawk

Getting Fit at the Garden, a free weekly walk for wellness, is offered every Wednesday morning. Start in the lower lobby of the Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center at 9:00 A.M. The program gets underway with a fitness tip and a free map of the park with suggested walking routes for one, two or three mile courses. Return to the Visitor Center for a complimentary nourishing treat and some fun facts about the Garden of the Gods. For more information call 719-634-6666 or go to www.gardenofgods.com.

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Events Calendar

Entertaining events take place in the Pikes Peak Region virtually every month of the year. Here are some highlights from the 2011-2012 calendar:

Territory Days

Memorial Day Weekend: Saturday, May 28, to Monday, May 30, 2011 (10:00 AM – 7:00 PM Saturday and Sunday; 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM Monday)

Old Colorado City, Colorado Avenue on the blocks from 23rd through 27th Streets

The annual Territory Days celebration returns to Old Colorado City on Memorial weekend. The historic district on Colorado Avenue between 23rd Street and 27th Street will be buzzing with free live music, food, craft vendors and family entertainment that harkens back to 1859, when Old Colorado City was a rough-hewn territorial capital. One of Colorado's largest craft and food vendor fairs, Territory Days also offers pony rides, a kids play area, petting zoo, mechanical bull, cowboy church service, toy train rides, gold panning, Wild West gunfight reenactments, live blacksmithing, costumed portrayalists, live birds of prey, Native American dancers, a quick draw competition and beer gardens. A free shuttle is provided from Coronado High School and Rock Ledge Ranch, enabling guests to avoid parking hassles. Visitors are also encouraged to cycle to the event, and a free bicycle valet is provided courtesy of CS West Bikes. For more information on Territory Days, contact Jim or Pam Wear at 719-487-8005, or go to www.shopoldcoloradocity.com/

Manitou Springs Colorado Wine Festival

Saturday June 4, 2011, 12:00 PM – 6:00 PM; gates close at 5:00 PM

Manitou Springs

Already renowned for its free and delicious water that bursts from dozens of springs around town, Manitou Springs is becoming increasingly well known for its annual wine festival, which puts fine wines from 25 Colorado wineries front and center at Soda Springs Park each June. Guests can learn about the grapes firsthand from the growers, then purchase wines directly from the vintners. Live entertainment, local food, and exhibitors with themed wine-related gifts for purchase add to the festive atmosphere. Admission is \$30 per person or \$25 in advance, and includes a commemorative sampling glass. The first 1,500 festival-goers receive a six-bottle wine tote. A \$5 military discount is offered; designated drivers are welcome to attend the festival free of charge. Free shuttles and parking will be available. For more information on the Manitou Springs Colorado Wine Festival, call 719-685-5089 or 800-642-2567, or go to www.manitousprings.org.

Donkey Derby Days 2011

June 25-26, 2011

Cripple Creek

Donkey Derby Days in Cripple Creek, Colorado has occurred annually for eight decades, and its main purpose is to celebrate and support the free-roaming Cripple Creek donkey herd. A charitable event hosted by Two Mile High Club, proceeds from the Donkey Derby Days provide veterinary care and feed for the iconic animals who make their home in Cripple Creek. The fun begins with a pancake breakfast at the fire station and continues all weekend with a parade, live music, food court, craft vendors and beer tent. Inventive contests include donkey races, an outhouse race, tobacco spitting, watermelon seed spitting, donkey calling,

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July 4 at Royal Gorge
Bridge and Park



Medicine Man Show



July 4 at Royal Gorge
Bridge and Park

Events Calendar

best beard, hairiest legs, mountain Mama and mountain couple competitions. The Donkey Days parade will be underway on Saturday, June 25, at 12:00 PM and will showcase the 220 member equestrians of the Colorado Range Riders. For more information on Donkey Derby Days, contact Tom Cooper, President of the Two Mile High Club, at 719-689-3315 or e-mail questions to twomilehighclub@gmail.com.

Fourth of July Goes Western at the Royal Gorge Bridge and Park

July 2-4, 2011, 9:30 AM – 7:30 PM daily

Canon City

The Royal Gorge Bridge and Park, in Canon City, Colorado, celebrates the Fourth of July holiday for three days in 2011. In a time honored tradition, the park which features America's highest suspension bridge will treat guests to special entertainment, and the first 500 hundred guests through the gate will receive a souvenir American flag. The western-themed celebration includes family entertainment with Professor Farquhar and Polecat Annie's Great American Medicine Show in the Mountain Man Trading Post. Cowboys on longhorn steers will patrol the old-time street at the trading post. A 21-Gun Black Powder Salute will honor America's pioneers, with several shows and black powder salutes each day. Live oldies and pop music from The Geezers, on the Rocky Dawg stage will take place 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM each day. Admission to the park includes all the weekend entertainment and several attractions, like "The World's Steepest Incline Railway," and one of the World's longest single-span aerial trams. Fireworks begin at dusk on Monday, July 4, and will launch from Skyline Drive, just a short drive from the park. For more information on Fourth of July Goes Western at the Royal Gorge Bridge and Park, call 719-275-7507 or 888-333-5597, or visit www.royalgorgebridge.com.

17th Annual Emma Crawford Festival

October 28-29, 2011

Manitou Springs

Historic Manitou Springs brings the legend of Emma Crawford to life in late October in a high-spirited (if somewhat macabre) fall celebration. Emma Crawford lived in Manitou Springs at the turn of the 20th century. Sadly Emma died quite young of tuberculosis, in 1891, just before she was to marry Mr. Hildebrand, an engineer on the Pikes Peak Cog Railway. Emma was laid to rest on top of Red Mountain, which later proved to be an ill-suited final resting place. Years of the effects of weather on the mountain caused the granite to eventually erode, and Emma's remains are said to have washed down the side the mountain! Legend suggests that Emma was later buried in Crystal Valley Cemetery in Manitou Springs in an unmarked grave, so an official memorial site and marker was granted in 2004 to honor her life. Every year in late October, Manitou Springs remembers this beautiful young woman (who allegedly loved the color red) with an annual Emma Crawford Coffin Race and Festival. The weekend festival begins with a Victorian wake on Friday, and continues with the Parade of Hearses and Coffins, the coffin race, and a lantern-lit walking tour.

On Friday October 28, Manitou Springs begins its celebration with a Victorian Wake at Miramont Castle. Guests can pay respects to "Emma," laid out in the parlor in pure Victorian splendor. A traditional Victorian wake, magnificent with a full Victorian buffet and beverages in the Great Hall, kicks off a boisterous weekend of fun. For reservations to the Victorian Wake, call Miramont Castle at 719-685-1011.

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Bighorn Sheep Day



Royal Gorge, July 4th



Bighorn Sheep Day

Events Calendar

On Saturday, The Parade of Hearses and Coffins and the coffin race, takes place on Manitou Avenue in the town's National Historic District. It starts with the Parade of Hearses, led by the Denver Hearse Association. The Parade of the Coffins starts at roughly noon, and the coffin races begin immediately after at about 12:30 PM. Coffins and "Emmas" race up the main street of historic Manitou Springs. Each coffin is pushed by a team of four mourners and each has an "Emma" riding in it. Trophies are awarded to the top three fastest teams, and also to the most creative coffin, the best "Emma", and the best entourage. This year, special teams of firefighters from Manitou Springs and the region will up the competition ante, with their own side competition in which one team will be awarded a traveling trophy cup.

Ghosts of Old Manitou walking tours begin at 6:30 PM on Saturday, October 29. Tours begin at the Manitou Springs Heritage Center at 517 Manitou Avenue. Usually a sell-out, advance ticket purchase is highly recommended for this popular event. Purchase tickets by calling the Manitou Springs Heritage Center at 719-210-4303.

To find out more about the Emma Crawford Festival, call the Manitou Springs Chamber of Commerce at 719-685-5089 or 800-642-2567, or visit www.manitousprings.org.

Bighorn Sheep Day

February, 2012 (day and date to be determined), 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

View Colorado's state mammal, the bighorn sheep, in its natural habitat. Visitors to Bighorn Sheep Day at the Garden of the Gods can enjoy guided walks, scavenger hunts, craft activities, free cookies and cider. Naturalists give interpretive bighorn sheep talks and presentations, and guests are encouraged to bring personal binoculars to spot these magnificent animals along the wildlife corridor at the park. For more information on Bighorn Sheep Day, call the Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center at 719-634-6666 or go to www.gardenofgods.com/home/index.cfm.

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Story Ideas and Pikes Peak Country Attractions Association Suggested Itinerary

Day 1: Manitou Springs and Pikes Peak

Stay in a classic motel in Historic Manitou Springs, and start out bright and early the next morning on the Pikes Peak Cog Railway to the 14,115 foot summit of Pikes Peak. From there, descend by mountain bike from outfitters Challenge Unlimited, to arrive in time for lunch at Wines of Colorado in Manitou. Choose the nearby Cave of the Winds or Manitou Cliff Dwellings for afternoon exploration. Enjoy dinner in Manitou before heading out again, or have a casual meal at Seven Falls, where you will enjoy the evening light show on this 181-foot cascade of water.

Day 2: Cripple Creek

Fuel up the family with breakfast in Manitou Springs, then fuel up the car for the one hour, approximately 40-mile road trip to Cripple Creek, Colorado. Make the first stop the Cripple Creek Heritage Center to get the lay of the land and the lowdown on this former gold camp. This informative visitor information center is free, and has comprehensive information on the geology, geography, history and attraction in the town, presented with modern interactive displays. Take a mid-morning ride on the Cripple Creek and Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad, and spend the afternoon in the Mollie Kathleen Gold Mine, a one-of-a-kind tour of a 1,000 vertical foot mine shaft and hard rock mine.

Day 3: Garden of the Gods and Northern Colorado Springs Attractions

Head out with snacks and a full water bottle for the Garden of the Gods Visitor & Nature Center, to check out the 125 million year old skull of the only known Theiophytalia kerri dinosaur in the world. Learn about the geology of the Garden of the Gods park, and study a free trail map to identify which hike you will take this morning. After your hike, enjoy lunch at the Garden of the Gods Trading Post Balanced Rock Cafe, the eatery within the largest gift shop in all of Colorado. From there, take the northeast drive to the ProRodeo Hall of Fame for an early afternoon visit to take in the memorabilia of one of America's most beloved sports. You'll still have time for the Western Museum of Mining & Industry in the late afternoon, where you'll meet Oro and Nugget, the burros who live there.

Day 4: The Zoo and More Manitou

Get up early to get to the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo by opening time at 9:00 AM, when the animals are their most active. Spend a full morning here and have lunch on site. For the afternoon, it may be a toss-up between a tour and High Tea at the Miramont Castle Museum in Manitou Springs, or a jaunt up Highway 24 to The North Pole and Santa's Workshop, a year-round theme park that all ages enjoy. That evening, prepare to be entertained, fed and amused by the Iron Springs Melodrama Dinner Theater.

continued



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Ghost Town Museum



Academy Riding Stables



Flying W Ranch

Story Ideas and Pikes Peak Country Attractions Association Suggested Itinerary Continued

Day 5: Old Colorado City

Start the morning at the Ghost Town Museum, with a self guided tour along the boardwalk, in the saloon, blacksmith and general store. Have lunch and do some shopping in Old Colorado City, then head to nearby Academy Riding Stables for a two-hour horseback ride in the shadow of the Garden of the Gods nature park, a 1,350 acre preserve. Since you'll already be dressed in your cowboy duds and likely to be in the mood for more Western fun, plan dinner at the Flying W Ranch, famous for its cowboy band and entertainment, as well as its delicious Chuckwagon steak dinners.

Day 6: Canon City and Royal Gorge

Pack your snacks and your swimsuit and hop in the car for the one-hour drive to Canon City, Colorado. In the morning, ride the whitewater with Echo Canyon River Expeditions on the Arkansas River. The entire afternoon should be enjoyed at the Royal Gorge Scenic Railway and the Royal Gorge Bridge and Park, with enough man-made and natural wonders to leave an indelible memory of a great Colorado vacation. On the way back to your cozy Manitou Springs accommodations, stop into the John May Museum for a quirky and unexpected museum experience, where more than 7,000 tropical invertebrates are on display.

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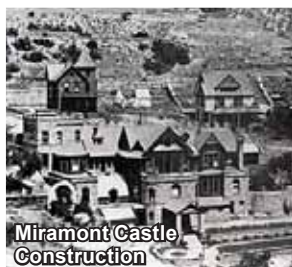
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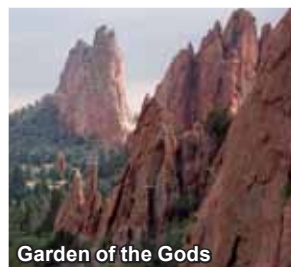


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Miramonte Castle
Construction



Garden of the Gods



Pikes Peak

History

A Natural History of Pikes Peak

Pikes Peak was not formed by a volcano, but from molten magma and a geologic phenomenon called 'uplifting,' then erosion. The once hot molten rock located as deep as 20 miles beneath the earth's surface hardened and cooled as much as one billion years ago. Great forces within the earth's crust pushed the rocks upward through a process called 'uplifting,' which created a dome-shaped mountain covered with a thick layer of soil and softer rock. Erosion and weathering loosened the softer layers and carried them away.

After hundreds of thousands of years of erosion and weathering, a tall granite mountain lay exposed like a large piece of stone waiting for the sculptor to shape it. Anyone seeing this ancient mountain would not have recognized it as the mountain we know today as Pikes Peak. It took the movement of huge glaciers that once existed on the peak to sculpt the mountain. The glaciers lasted about one million years and that ice age ended around 11,000 years ago.

Acting like a giant cookie cutter, the powerful bodies of ice gouged out the rock and left deep, straight-walled basins like the Bottomless Pit with its sharp drop of 1,700 feet. The u-shaped canyons that lead down Pikes Peak were carved by the flowing "rivers of ice." Other v-shaped valleys owe their existence to ordinary streams.

Time Line of Pikes Peak

1803 The Pikes Peak area was obtained in the Louisiana Purchase.

1806 President Jefferson dispatched Zebulon Montgomery Pike to determine the Louisiana Purchase's southwestern borders. Pike set out to climb the peak on November 24, 1806 from the Pueblo area, but was forced back by a blizzard.

1820 The first recorded ascent of Pikes Peak was by Dr. Edwin James, doctor, botanist and historian, and two others from an expedition led by Major Stephen H. Long on July 14, 1820. Major Long gave the doctor's name to the mountain, but Pikes Peak soon became the official name, as shown by military maps of 1835.

1850s Pikes Peak was a symbol to the gold seekers heading west. "Pikes Peak or Bust" became their slogan.

1858 The first woman to climb Pikes Peak was Mrs. Julia Archibald Holmes. She made the ascent with the Lawrence party and stayed on top for two days. Mrs. Holmes is also known as the "Bloomer Girl" because of the bloomers she wore while climbing the mountain.

1860 Work began on the Ute Pass wagon road, the first road past Pikes Peak. U.S. Hwy. 24 now follows part of this route.

1871 The settlement of Colorado Springs began.

continued



History

1873 The Signal Corps of the U.S. Army built a weather station on the summit. This was manned year-round until 1889 by a lone enlisted man who was replaced periodically after a short tour of duty. One Sergeant John O'Keefe gained national notoriety through his tall tales about duty on the Peak. The most famous story was about the death of his baby daughter, Erin from an attack by "mountain rats." There was no truth to any of his stories, but they were published all over the country.

1886 - 88 The carriage road to the summit was built.

1889 - 90 The Manitou and Pikes Peak Cog Railroad was built.

1892 President Harrison established the Pikes Peak Timberland Reserve. Later it became part of the Pike National Forest.

1901 The first automobile to reach the summit (on August 12th) was a two cylinder Locomobile Steamer driven by C.A. Yont and W.B. Felker.

1914 The improvement of the trail up the east face of Pikes Peak was undertaken by Fred Barr and his father. It was completed in December of 1918 and is known as Barr Trail.

1915 Spencer Penrose and his associates conceived the idea of an automobile highway to the summit over the route of the carriage road. This project started early in 1915. The highway cost \$500,000.

1916 The first Pikes Peak Hill Climb race was held August 10 - 12 to commemorate the opening of the Pikes Peak Highway. It is the second oldest auto race in the United States (the Indy 500 being the oldest) There are 156 curves on the 12.5 mile course.

1916 - 36 The highway was operated as a toll road at \$2.00 per person for twenty years. Because of the tremendous cost of snow removal and maintenance, a profit was never realized. It was turned back to the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1936. For the next twelve years the road was operated as a free highway but due to the lack of funds, it so deteriorated as to be threatened with complete abandonment.

1948- The Pikes Peak Highway was set up as a toll road under a permit from the Department of Agriculture.

1948 The City of Colorado Springs took over the management and operation of the Pikes Peak Highway.

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Native Tribes

Several Native American tribes lived in and passed through the Pikes Peak region. Although their nomadic lifestyle fundamentally concluded with the advancement of the railway, gold rush and settlement of the West in the mid 1800s, the Native Americans and their presence in this area is a significant part of its rich history.

Four tribes in particular spent a good deal of their time in the Pikes Peak region, including the Cheyenne, Arapaho, Ute and Kiowa. All were far-ranging people, living in tipi villages that were efficiently set up and dismantled in order to quickly follow the buffalo herds and other abundant migratory game, the staples of their diet.

The Arapaho were a Great Plains tribe and moved around Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska and Kansas. The Cheyenne, at one time an agrarian culture, evolved into a plains tribe when horses were introduced in North America. The Cheyenne roamed and hunted Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas, and also what now South Dakota. According to historians, the Cheyenne and Arapaho were most closely associated with one another for trade and alliances. Utes were hunter-gatherers and moved around Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Nevada. One oft-cited Ute is Chipeta, who was born a Kiowa-Apache and became the wife of the famous Ute Chief Ouray. The states of Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas were the territories of the more southern-based Kiowa tribe.

Although individual tribes might have an occasional skirmish, they primarily lived in harmony with one another. They didn't fight over territory but instead to prove their courage, and so plains war parties' customs included "counting coup," the practice of touching an opponent in battle without harming him, stealing an enemy's weapon or horse, or forcing the other tribe's warriors to retreat. Reportedly, these four tribes were mostly peaceful and accepting with each other, particularly around the springs at Manitou, which they all believed to be a sacred place that should be available for everyone to enjoy equally.

All around the Pikes Peak region, the names of streets, landmarks and points of interest are named after the Ute, Arapaho, Cheyenne and Kiowa Native American residents of long ago.

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Colorful Characters and Founders

Zebulon Pike

Zebulon Montgomery Pike, soldier and explorer, is most widely recognized as the man for whom Pikes Peak was named. Through the lens of history, he might also be characterized as an optimist who sought to discover more about the West; a determined pragmatist who was reportedly skilled at bagging game for his exploration parties and for maintaining morale and common sense when the going got tough in the unfamiliar frontier they explored.

An easterner born in Lambertton, New Jersey in 1779, Pike led his first expedition at the age of 26. In 1805, as an army lieutenant soldier, he began his westward journey, leading 20 men to find the headwaters of the Mississippi river, seek peace treaties with Indian tribes, and assert the United States' legal claim to the area. Although he erroneously identified Leech Lake in northern Minnesota as the Mississippi headwaters, this expedition was the start of his continued westward journey. The next year he was dispatched to the Arkansas River region, near present-day Pueblo, Colorado, where he led his party north to the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains. An attempt to climb his namesake peak was foiled due to weather, and the party proceeded to New Mexico, where they were apprehended by Spanish officials on the charges of illegal entry into New Mexico, escorted across Texas to Natchitoches, Louisiana, and released. Pike served in the War of 1812, attained the rank of brigadier general, and was killed in action during the attack on York.

It's quite possible that Zebulon Pike would be both surprised and pleased that the much celebrated mountain in southern Colorado, named after him, is the center of Pikes Peak Country Attractions.

Katharine Lee Bates

No account of the Pikes Peak region and its colorful characters would be complete without inclusion of Katharine Lee Bates, a Massachusetts native born in 1859. Bates was an author and educator who wrote the text of the national hymn "America the Beautiful," reportedly inspired by her view from the summit of Pikes Peak on a visit in 1893. Bates was educated at Wellesley College where she taught English literature from 1885 to 1925. Among her many works are *The College Beautiful and Other Poems* (1887), *English Religious Drama* (1893), and *The Pilgrim Ship* (1926). Her *America the Beautiful and Other Poems* was published in 1911. Bates died in her home state in 1929.

General William Jackson Palmer

William Jackson Palmer, born in 1836, was an American civil engineer, Civil War Union soldier, industrialist, and philanthropist. A train enthusiast from childhood, he is credited with building the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad, which he later sold, and he was the visionary founder of Colorado Springs.

In 1870, Palmer bought 10,000 acres of land in what is now Old Colorado City, and a year later Colorado Springs was born. Palmer reportedly outlawed saloons, gambling, and alcohol, and went on to build The Antlers Hotel. Other resort facilities soon followed, including golf courses and polo fields. Colorado Springs attracted hordes of wealthy sightseers from the east coast, as well as many international travelers; Pikes Peak, nearby Manitou Springs and the Garden Of The Gods were extremely popular, and the town became known as "Little London" because of the many British visitors. Mansions and tall buildings were built during this period and remain today.



**PIKES
PEAK
COUNTRY**

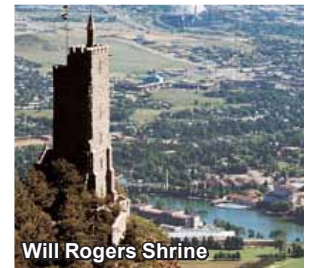
Attractions



Mary Lincoln Mellen,
"Queen"



Spencer Penrose



Will Rogers Shrine

Colorful Characters and Founders

Palmer made many grants of land to the community, including Colorado College, Colorado School For The Deaf And Blind and a tuberculosis sanitarium that eventually became the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (UCCS). He also donated the land designated as Palmer Park, which would have been well outside of the town's core at the time of his influence, but is now a 740-acre natural park and open space that the city of Colorado Springs has grown around.

General Palmer built his dream home in Colorado Springs, a castle designed for his beloved wife and daughters called Glen Eyrie, just north of the Garden Of The Gods. Palmer met and married Mary Lincoln Mellen in 1870 at the age of 20 when he was 34. Palmer called his wife "Queen" and the moniker has always stuck. Queen Palmer founded Colorado Springs' first public school in 1871, when she was just 21 years old.

In 1880, Queen suffered a mild heart attack and her doctors advised her to move to lower altitudes. Queen moved east and eventually to England with the three Palmer daughters. Palmer visited them once or twice a year, and she eventually died at age 44. In 1894 he traveled to England to bring his beloved wife's remains and his girls back to Colorado.

General Palmer was one of the few respected and trusted industrial barons of America's railroad days, with countless lasting contributions to the greater good of the City of Colorado Springs.

Spencer Penrose

Spencer Penrose, originally from Philadelphia, made a fortune in the gold camps at Cripple Creek. A visionary town father of Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak region, Penrose contributed many of its most prominent landmarks. He invested his gold mining windfall wisely and financed construction of the Broadmoor Hotel, the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, the Will Rogers Shrine of the Sun, the Pikes Peak Highway and Penrose Hospital.

Penrose married Julie Villiers Lewis McMillan, and the two left a lasting legacy in the El Pomar Foundation they began in 1937. The foundation is one of the largest and oldest private foundations in the Rocky Mountain West, with assets totaling \$500 million. El Pomar contributes more than \$20 million annually through grants and community stewardship programs to support Colorado non-profit organizations involved in health, human services, education, arts and humanities, and civic and community initiatives.

Spencer and Julie Penrose are buried in the Will Rogers Shrine of the Sun on Cheyenne Mountain, overlooking the Broadmoor Hotel.

Since 1974, the Pikes Peak Country Attractions Association (PPCAA) has been promoting the Pikes Peak region, comprised of Colorado Springs, Manitou Springs, Cripple Creek and Canon City, to millions of destination visitors. The 26 members of Pikes Peak Country Attractions Association offer natural and man-made attractions that are family oriented, safe and that add to quality of the guest vacation experience.

High resolution photos and links to our member attractions may be found at www.Pikes-Peak.com. The PPCAA office is open 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM M-F.

354 Manitou Avenue
Manitou Springs, CO 80829

michele@pikes-peak.com
www.Pikes-Peak.com
800-525-2250 or 719-685-5894



**PIKES
PEAK
COUNTRY**

Attractions
By the Numbers



1

Magnificent Mountain: Pikes Peak

Whether you climb it, drive to its summit, ride the cog railway to the top, or simply admire its view every day from the plains and foothills, massive, magnificent Pikes Peak remains an inspiration and an icon to Colorado Springs -- and even encouraged the moniker for the more expansive Pikes Peak Region which encompasses much of southern Colorado. One of our country's most enduring patriotic songs, "America the Beautiful" by Katharine Lee Bates, was penned in 1893 while Bates gazed at the panorama afforded from the Pikes Peak summit. The peak is now known to many as America's Mountain.

Pikes Peak is the backdrop for the historic City of Colorado Springs, commands a full altitude of 14,115 feet above sea level, and is the 31st highest peak out of 54 Colorado "14ers" (peaks with a summit higher than 14,000 feet). It claims the distinction of being the most visited mountain in North America, and the second most visited mountain in the world behind Japan's Mount Fuji. It is the farthest east of the big peaks in the Rocky Mountain chain, which contributed to its early fame among explorers, pioneers and immigrants and made it the symbol of the 1859 Gold Rush to Colorado with the slogan, "Pikes Peak or Bust."

Over a half million people reach the summit house every year. Some ascend the mountain by the 19-mile Pikes Peak Highway, paved part of the way and open year round, weather permitting. About 15,000 people a year attempt to climb Pikes Peak on foot. The 13-mile trail begins at the base of Pikes Peak in Manitou Springs. Barr Trail is the longest trail leading to the top of any of Colorado's 14ers, and offers the greatest base-to-summit elevation gain in the state, at 7,400 feet. The 8.9 mile cog railroad, now operating year-round, brings many thousands of visitors to the summit, then back, to the peak's Manitou Springs base.

Pikes Peak Highway by Car

The Pikes Peak Highway is open year-round, weather permitting. Travelers should allow at least two hours to make the 38-mile round-trip to the summit and back, and have adequate fuel. Uphill traffic has the right-of-way at all times. The journey to the summit takes travelers through four different life zones, including the foothills, montane, sub alpine and alpine zones. Mile markers offer different amenities:

3 Mile:	Crowe Gulch Picnic Grounds
6 Mile:	Crystal Reservoir, with gift shop, trails and fishing
10 Mile:	Halfway Picnic Grounds
13 Mile:	Glen Cove with gift shop and snacks
18 Mile:	Bighorn Sheep overlook
Summit:	Spectacular views, gifts and snacks

Pikes Peak Highway

5069 Pikes Peak Highway, Cascade, CO

800-318-9505

719-385-PEAK

www.pikespeakcolorado.com



**PIKES
PEAK
COUNTRY**

Attractions
By the Numbers



2

Wheels: Challenge Unlimited

The best way to experience Pikes Peak may be on two wheels, not four. For more than two decades, Challenge Unlimited has been outfitting riders of all abilities with bikes, helmets, weather gear transportation to the summit and safety instruction to be fully prepped for the thrill of a lifetime: a 7,000 vertical foot descent by bike from the summit of Pikes Peak. Challenge Unlimited offers two tours a day, weather permitting, from May 1 to October 31. Guests can choose to ride the passenger van or the cog railway to the top, then descend in the open air via new, top-end Jamis mountain bikes. The morning ride finishes at the world-famous Wines of Colorado, where lunch is served.

Challenge Unlimited

204 S. 24th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904

800-798-5954

719-633-6399

www.bikithikit.com

Class 3 Whitewater: Echo Canyon River Expeditions

Since 1978, Echo Canyon River Expeditions has been sharing Colorado whitewater with families and adventurers. Taking guests on the famed Arkansas River through Bighorn Sheep Canyon, Royal Gorge, Browns Canyon or the famous adventure-class trip, The Numbers, these outfitters have what it takes to ensure a fun, safe, memorable trip that is customized for different ages and ability levels. Inventive packages include the Raft-n-Rail trip, combining a Royal Gorge train ride and lunch with rafting, and the Paddle-n-Saddle, combining a whitewater adventure with a two hour horseback ride and lunch. The Raft-n-Bridge bundles tickets to the Royal Gorge Bridge, lunch and a nine mile raft trip through Bighorn Sheep Canyon. A lavish option for couples is the Whitewater Wine-n-Dine, including a full day whitewater trip, fine dining at Le Petit Chablis French restaurant and a night's accommodation at the Jewel of the Canyons B&B. Echo Canyon's Adrenaline Rafts are available with a guide for groups of four; these smaller, more maneuverable rafts are designed to navigate challenging rapids for adrenaline-seeking guests who are 14 years of age and up.

Echo Canyon River Expeditions 800-630-3246

Between mile markers 270 and 271 on U.S. Highway 50, Canon City, CO

www.raftecho.com



**PIKES
PEAK
COUNTRY**

Attractions
By the Numbers



Royal Gorge Bridge



4

Hooves: Academy Riding Stables

The scenic red rock formations of Garden of the Gods, a 1,350 acre park at the base of Pikes Peak, are the backdrop for a horseback ride with Academy Riding Stables. Accomplished outfitters and horses suited to individual riders' abilities are the hallmarks of this longstanding attraction, which offers daily rides year-round, closed only on Thanksgiving and Christmas Days. One and two hour horseback rides are available throughout the summer months. During the non-peak time after Labor Day and before May 24, guests can enjoy a longer riding experience of about three hours, known as the perimeter ride, around the outer edges of Garden of the Gods park. Academy Riding Stables also offers 15-minute Colorado pony rides for kids ages two to seven. Special occasions and group events call for Academy Riding Stables' hay wagon, surrey or stagecoach rides which can be booked with advance reservations.

Academy Riding Stables

4 El Paso Boulevard, Colorado Springs, CO 80904

888-700-0410

719-633-5667

www.academyridingstables.com/

Top **5 Scariest Bridges: Royal Gorge Bridge & Park**

It's one of the highest suspension bridges in the world, at 956 feet deck height, and a quarter-mile wood-planked journey across the unforgettable Royal Gorge and Arkansas River. In 2009, TripAdvisor listed it as one of the Top 5 Scariest Bridges, a distinction that has brought it even greater fame, but guests should be reassured that this engineering marvel is solidly constructed with safety measures fully in place, like its metal grated railings. Nevertheless, the heights and views are awe-inspiring at this venerable Colorado attraction, constructed in 1929.

If the view from the bridge isn't enough, adrenaline-seekers can try the Royal Rush Skycoaster, described as a free-fall tower that drops 1,200 feet and sweeps riders at a speed of 50 mph to hang momentarily over the Arkansas River below. Other activities at Royal Gorge Bridge & Park include the Incline Railway, on a track built at a 45 degree angle that scales the Gorge walls from top to bottom, the aerial tram, the Plaza Theatre with its educational video, horseback riding around the rim of the Gorge, and the Wapiti Western Wildlife Park. This 10 acre exhibit features bison, elk, and bighorn sheep.

The Royal Gorge Bridge & Park is open year-round, weather permitting, and all-inclusive admission price includes rides, shows and attractions, with the exception of the Skycoaster and horseback rides. The attraction offers special rates for groups of 15 or more.

Royal Gorge Bridge & Park

12 miles west of Canon City off Highway 50

888-333-5597

719-275-7507

www.royalgorgebridge.com



**PIKES
PEAK
COUNTRY**

Attractions
By the Numbers



Seven Falls



Iron Springs Chateau



Main Curio, Seven Falls

6

Course Meal and Entertainment at the Iron Springs Chateau Melodrama Dinner Theater

The dinner fare is straightforward and tasty: fried chicken, barbecue brisket, baked beans, coleslaw, potatoes, bread and dessert. But the real main course at the Iron Springs Chateau Melodrama Dinner Theater is the hilarious, historically themed live entertainment. In historic Manitou Springs, Iron Springs celebrates this art form of the Victorian era. Plots are sensational and usually feature a limited number of characters: the hero, the villain and the heroine, typically engaged in exaggerated themes of love or murder. The waiters and waitresses at Iron Springs Chateau double as performers and involve the audience in their interactive performances. The entertainment is appropriate for all ages.

**444 Ruxton Avenue, Manitou Springs, Colorado Springs, CO
719-685-5104**

7

Falls

There's a reason that being near falling water has a calming effect. The negative ions produced by falling water, in the air that we breathe when we're next to it, is scientifically proven to bring about a higher awareness level in our brains and stimulate a good mood. That in itself may be enough to visit Seven Falls, a beautiful 181-foot waterfall in Cheyenne Canyon, in west Colorado Springs. The Seven Falls attraction is open year-round, with summer nighttime visits enhanced by lights that color the water. The falls can be viewed from the 224-step walkway and guests can take in the views from the Eagles Nest lookout via the in-mountain elevator. Self-guided audio tours, summertime Native American dance performances and an opportunity to feed rainbow trout are popular with kids and families. Seven Falls offers a snack bar and gift shops.

**2850 S. Cheyenne Canyon Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80906
7 Falls 719-632-0765
www.sevenfalls.com**



**PIKES
PEAK
COUNTRY**

Attractions
By the Numbers



ProRodeo Hall of Fame



Flying W Ranch

8

Seconds: The ProRodeo Hall of Fame and Museum of the American Cowboy

Competitive bull riders are required to stay on the back of a 2,000 pound writhing, agitated, bareback bull for eight seconds in order to have a qualifying ride. Visitors can learn all the finer points of bull riding and other rodeo events including saddlebronc riding, bareback bronc riding, barrel racing, bulldogging and calf roping at the ProRodeo Hall of Fame and Museum of the American Cowboy. Honoring the only major competitive sport that evolved from a working lifestyle and the cowboys, cowgirls, horses and livestock who have made it legendary, the ProRodeo Hall of Fame and Museum of the American Cowboy have invaluable memorabilia, artwork, historical facts, photos and interactive displays. The Hall of Fame and Museum is a unique western venue for special events and can accommodate groups of 100 to 2,000.

The ProRodeo Hall of Fame and Museum of the American Cowboy

719-528-4764

www.prorodeohalloffame.com

Top 10 Places in America to experience the most uniquely American meals: Flying W Ranch

The Flying W Ranch remains an actual working mountain cattle ranch in the foothills of Colorado Springs. With its scenic location on Chuckwagon Road, it is not possible to think of the Flying W Ranch without also envisaging grilling strip steaks, barbecue ribs, beef brisket, Rocky Mountain trout and baked beans. Forbes Magazine asserted that the Flying W is one of the 10 places to enjoy a uniquely American meal in its December 2009 edition. With its hearty Chuckwagon Suppers, Western Stage Show, authentic Western Town and traditional cowboy music performed live by the celebrated Flying W Wranglers, the Flying W Ranch has been a southern Colorado tradition for new and repeat visitors since 1953. Flying W is popular for groups, weddings and family reunions. It is open Monday through Saturday from late May to September. Reservations are required.

Flying W Ranch

3330 Chuckwagon Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80919

800-232-FLYW

719-598-4000

www.flyingw.com



**PIKES
PEAK
COUNTRY**

*Attractions
By the Numbers*



Dozens of specialty shops, gifts shops, clothing boutiques, antique stores, and restaurants in Historic Manitou Springs

Historic Manitou Springs, in the foothills below Pikes Peak, is an art, dining, lodging and attractions center. In this pedestrian-friendly town, guests can stay in cabins, classic motels, and bed and breakfasts to visit multiple attractions within minutes. Pikes Peak and the Cog Railway can be accessed from downtown Manitou Springs, and the Garden of the Gods, Cave of the Winds, Manitou Cliff Dwellings, North Pole, Ghost Town Museum, Flying W Ranch and Miramont Castle can be accessed in less than 10 minutes from Manitou's core. Another favorite activity is a visit to the famous springs in and around town, in a guided tour or as an individual exploration.

There are 11 natural mineral springs around Manitou that have been maintained or restored to their original splendor thanks to local preservation efforts. The Cheyenne, Mountain Ute and Arapahoe Native American tribes who spent peaceful winters in this region many years ago considered the land around this town as sacred due to the abundance of springs. The effervescence in the spring water was considered the breath of the Great Spirit "Manitou." Now, walking tours called "Springsabouts" are held, and a brochure with a map is available for visitors who prefer to tour the springs at their own pace. The waters, reputed to have numerous health benefits, are available free to the public.

Historic Manitou Springs
800-642-2567
719-685-5089
www.manitousprings.org

15

Ton Locomotive: Cripple Creek & Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad

The Cripple Creek and Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad (CC & VRR) operates daily, from Memorial weekend through early October, in the famous gold mining town of Cripple Creek. The authentic 15-ton "iron horse" locomotive is typical of early day steam engines and evokes experiences of the mid 1800s when the gold rush and railway development was in its heyday in America. A four-mile round-trip, with departures every 45 minutes, the CC & VRR engineer narrates the journey and points out more than a dozen mines, prime photo opportunities, sites like Poverty Gulch and Million Dollar Fill, and other obscure facts about this tiny town that was once nearly 50,000 people.

Cripple Creek and Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad
719-689-2640



**PIKES
PEAK
COUNTRY**

Attractions
By the Numbers



Old Colorado City



21

Saloons: In the early days in Historic Old Colorado City

Historic Old Colorado City has the distinction of being the oldest town in the Pikes Peak Region. With its rough and tumble beginning in 1859, Old Colorado City attracted a colorful population of outlaws and rabble-rousers who enjoyed the rugged comforts of its 21 saloons, houses of ill repute and (undoubtedly to a lesser extent) its jails. Things have certainly changed in Old Colorado City in the past century and a half. Annexed into the City of Colorado Springs in 1917, and designated as a National Historic District in 1977, this charming section of the city has been restored and revitalized and boasts more than 120 unique retail shops and restaurants, enjoyed by countless annual visitors. Guests of Historic Old Colorado City love to take in the historical atmosphere and attend one of many regularly hosted events in the community, including Art Walks, a Farmer's Market, culinary festivals, live music, and seasonally themed fun around Easter, Christmas and Halloween.

Old Colorado City Associates LLC
PO Box 6206, Colorado Springs, CO 80934
719-577-4112,
www.ShopOldColoradoCity.com

24

Family Rides: The North Pole & Santa's Workshop

This North Pole is actually located in southern Colorado instead of the Prime Meridian. A classic theme park since 1956, open daily from mid-May to Christmas Eve, the North Pole serves up holiday spirit throughout the year at its foothills location between Colorado Springs and Woodland Park on Highway 24. Rides include the Peppermint Slide, Candy Cane Coaster, Ferris wheel, skyride, carousel, train and more. Santa's house and post office are on site, and Santa himself is available to confer with visitors on Christmas wishes. Magic shows, strolling elves, a petting zoo with goats and llamas, places to eat and shopping round out the experience at The North Pole. Seniors are admitted free.

The North Pole
719-684-9432
www.santas-colo.com



**PIKES
PEAK
COUNTRY**

Attractions
By the Numbers



Pikes Peak By Bike



Wind Walker, Royal Gorge



Cheyenne Mountain Zoo

26

**Pikes Peak Country Attractions:
Don't miss a single one!**

Academy Riding Stables
Cave of the Winds
Challenge Unlimited-Pikes Peak by Bike
Cheyenne Mountain Zoo
Cripple Creek and Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad
Cripple Creek Heritage Center
Echo Canyon River Expeditions
Flying W Ranch
Garden of the Gods Trading Post
Garden of the Gods Visitor & Nature Center
Ghost Town Museum
Historic Manitou Springs
Historic Old Colorado City
Iron Springs Melodrama Dinner Theater
John May Museum
Manitou Cliff Dwellings
Miramont Castle Museum
Mollie Kathleen Gold Mine
North Pole / Santa's Workshop
Pikes Peak - America's Mountain
Pikes Peak Cog Railway
ProRodeo Hall of Fame
Royal Gorge Bridge and Park
Royal Gorge Scenic Railway
Seven Falls
The Western Museum of Mining & Industry



**PIKES
PEAK
COUNTRY**

Attractions
By the Numbers



Cheyenne Mountain Zoo



Western Museum
of Mining and Industry



Cheyenne Mountain Zoo

30

Endangered Species: Cheyenne Mountain Zoo

The setting for the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, which is literally built into the side of a mountain, immediately suggests that this place is something special. With over 700 species of animals, 30 endangered species, and exhibits that make full use of its 150 acres of scenic terrain, the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo is a premier attraction in the Pikes Peak region. The Grizzly Bear, Bald Eagle, moose, wolf, lynx and mountain lion displays are particularly impressive and realistic given their sub-alpine setting.

The zoo is an accredited member of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums and is dedicated to conservation, preservation and education with its hands-on experiences, including an opportunity to feed the resident giraffes. Cheyenne Mountain Zoo offers moonlight safaris, WildNights, and the popular Halloween tradition, Boo at the Zoo. Zookeepers schedule daily Keeper Talks, Bestly Bite feeding demonstrations, and Wonders of Wildlife shows which delve into details on survival adaptations in various ecosystems around the world.

A tram runs daily in the summer and when operations permit in the spring and fall. A chairlift-style open-air ride called the Mountaineer Sky Ride is another unique way to take in the zoo with an aerial view on a seven-minute ascent to the top, open seasonally as weather permits. The Will Rogers Shrine, a historic monument just 1.4 miles up Cheyenne Mountain, is accessible and included with a Zoo admission.

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo

719-633-9925

www.cmzoo.org

37

-ton Corliss Steam Engine Flywheel: at the Western Museum of Mining and Industry

Meet Oro and Nugget, the resident burros at the Western Museum of Mining and Industry. Then step inside to see the 1895 Corliss Steam Engine, with its 37-ton flywheel that is still operational. In fact, many of the artifacts, tools and equipment on display from the gold mining boom of the 1800s still work. With guided tours, hands-on lessons on panning for gold, guest lecturers and 27 acres of wetlands, open space and picnic grounds, The Western Museum of Mining and Industry is an excellent place for visitors to learn about the gold rush that sped the settlement of the West, and how its heritage impacts us today.

Western Museum of Mining and Industry

719-488-0880

www.wmmi.org/visitors



**PIKES
PEAK
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Attractions
By the Numbers



View from Heritage Center



Inside Heritage Center

44

Miles Southwest of Colorado Springs: Cripple Creek Heritage Center

The Cripple Creek Heritage Center is unquestionably the place to start an exploration of Cripple Creek, the fascinating gold camp of the 19th century. The Center is big, at 11,600 square feet, and boasts 21st century technology with its interactive exhibits featuring tactile, audio and video presentations and displays. The Cripple Creek Heritage Center overlooks the town and showcases the geology, flora and fauna of the region, and the rich natural and human history of this Colorado treasure. Admission is free, and the Center is open year-round with variable seasonal hours. It is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

Current displays at the Cripple Creek Heritage Center include:

- Early Explorers
- Cripple Creek's First Residents
- Faces from the Past
- American Indians
- Railroads
- Business of Mining
- Gold Camp Lifestyle
- All About Colorado
- Pikes Peak Gems and Minerals
- Time of the Giants
- Colorado's Wildlife
- Regional Recreation
- Treasures of the Cripple Creek Mining District

Cripple Creek Heritage Center

9283 S. Highway 67, Cripple Creek, CO 80813

877-858-4653

www.visitcripplecreek.com



**PIKES
PEAK
COUNTRY**

Attractions
By the Numbers



Ghost Town Museum



Ghost Town Museum



Miramont Castle

Life **100** Years Ago: experience it at the Ghost Town Wild West Museum

The Ghost Town Museum sends its guests to a different place and time the moment they enter: through portrayals representing characters of the Old West, hands-on experiences like panning for gold, a visit with a family in a Victorian-era home, and individual exploration along the boardwalk of the General Store, Blacksmith, and Saloon. Literally bringing the 1800s to life, this interactive museum gives history a fresh and meaningful spin for visitors of all ages. A shooting gallery, antique arcade games and the Stagecoach Trading Post round out a lively day of learning and living in the Old West. Open year-round, with variable hours by season.

Ghost Town Wild West Museum

Highway 24 at 21st Street, in the 1899 Colorado Midland railroad complex next to the roundhouse
719-634-0696
www.ghosttownmuseum.com

116 Years Ago: The Miramont Castle was constructed

The Miramont Castle, 14,000 square feet and 42 rooms, was constructed in 1895. It was commissioned by Fr. Francolon, a French emigrant and Catholic priest who first came to the United States to serve a mission during tumultuous times in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Francolon then moved to Manitou Springs in 1892 to serve as a missionary priest, and reportedly, he hoped to restore his failing health in Colorado at the age of 38. Francolon only lived in the Castle until 1900, when he unexpectedly returned to France. The fascinating and uncharacteristic history of this extraordinary building continues to reveal itself as historians and preservationists discover more.

Guests are invited to arrange a group tour or independently explore the Castle, see its authentic Victorian furnishings, and enjoy its temporary collections, which are considered “museums within a museum.” Collections have included the Manitou Springs Volunteer Fire Department antique and vintage fire equipment from around the Pikes Peak region. The Little London Miniatures are intricate and detailed representations of Victorian Colorado Springs, giving rare insight into life in the late 1800s when elegant Colorado Springs was known as “Little London.”

Year-round, High Tea and Light Victorian Tea feature delicious homemade scones served with Devonshire cream, infused butters and preserves, an assortment of vegetables, a fruit flute, a variety of Victorian-style sandwiches and a sampling of desserts. The Miramont Castle Museum’s unique gift shop has vintage gifts, dolls and candy, and an unusually large selection of Christmas ornaments. The museum is open year-round with hours that vary seasonally, and is closed on major holidays.

Miramont Castle Museum

719-685-1011

888-685-1011

www.miramontcastle.org



**PIKES
PEAK
COUNTRY**

Attractions
By the Numbers



Mollie Kathleen Mine

700

Year-Old Ancient Anasazi Architecture: Manitou Cliff Dwellings

The Manitou Cliff Dwellings are authentic Anasazi cliff dwellings, which were built more than 700 years ago by a somewhat mysterious Native American culture that lived in the Four Corners area (consisting of Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona) from 1200 B.C. to 1300 A.D. The word Anasazi literally means “ancient ones,” and Anasazi are now sometimes termed Ancestral Puebloans.

The intricately constructed cliff dwellings tell of an ancient civilization and lifestyle, which guests are free to explore, touch and climb through. The gift shop on site offers replicas of Anasazi artifacts, Native American jewelry, pottery, rugs, crafts, books and videos. The Manitou Cliff Dwellings are open year-round, closed only on Thanksgiving and Christmas, and have variable seasonal hours.

Manitou Cliff Dwelling

800-354-9971

719-685-5242

www.cliffdwellingsmuseum.com

1,000

feet underground: in the Mollie Kathleen Mine

There are two extraordinary things about the Mollie Kathleen Mine. First, it was started, owned and operated by a woman, Mollie Kathleen Gortner. Second, it is still operational and takes visitors on a subterranean tour to a depth of 1,000 feet below the surface of the earth.

Mollie Kathleen Gortner reportedly visited Cripple Creek in 1891 to see her son. She wasn't planning to file a mining claim during her stay, but discovered some rocks with gold in them when she went out one morning to see a herd of elk she had heard were in a place called Poverty Gulch. Mollie Kathleen hid the rocks in her clothes and went back to town. Her excited son staked a claim for her and she took the survey description down to the local Claims Office, where the manager said she couldn't file a claim because she was a woman. She contested his rule, persisted and signed the documents, and became the first woman ever to file a mining claim in her own name. The hard rock mine produced \$5 million in gold from 1891 to 1961.

Fast forward to 2011, and the Mollie Kathleen Mine is the world's only 1,000 foot vertical shaft gold mine tour. Millions of people have visited this authentic, safe, educational attraction over the past 60 years. Tours are guided and narrated by miners, and guests ride an air-powered mining train and witness an 1890s steam hoist in full operation. An ore specimen containing real gold is a memento included in the tour.

Mollie Kathleen Mine

888-291-5689 (9101)

719-689-2466

www.goldminetours.com



**PIKES
PEAK
COUNTRY**

Attractions
By the Numbers



View of Pikes Peak from
the Garden of the Gods



John May Natural
History Museum



Garden of the Gods

1,350

**Acres: free for everyone to explore,
and surrounding the Garden of the
Gods Trading Post**

Colorado is world renowned as a premier travel and tourism destination, so the distinction of the Garden of the Gods Trading Post as being Colorado's largest gift shop and gallery is no small achievement. Set in the southwest corner of this 1,350 acre park that is a registered national landmark, the Garden of the Gods Trading Post was established in the early 1900s by Charles E. Strausenback, known at the time as an Indian art and artifacts trader. He constructed the Trading Post in the tradition of the homes of the Pueblo tribe of Native Americans, with adobe bricks and log posts. Until the mid 1950s, Native American silversmiths and artisans lived and worked at the Trading Post crafting jewelry, weaving blankets and creating pottery. The Trading Post has grown over the years with six different expansions, but still sells world class art in its gallery and offers one-of-a-kind Colorado gifts and mementos. It features works from Colorado fine artists, traditional and contemporary jewelry, Native American jewelry, Navajo rugs, sand paintings and Pueblo pottery in its vast collection. The Garden of the Gods Trading Post now has a restaurant, the Balanced Rock Cafe, and a meeting space known as the Peak View Conference Center.

Garden of the Gods Trading Post

800-874-4515

719-685-9045

www.gardenofthegodstradingpost.com

7,000 of the world's most beautiful and unusual
invertebrates from tropical areas around the globe are
displayed in the May Natural History Museum of the Tropics

As unlikely as a comprehensive tropical collection of global animals and artifacts may seem in the arid semi-desert locale of the museum, the John May Natural History Museum displays 7,000 invertebrates, giant insects and artifacts from tropical areas all around the world. John May amassed one of the largest collections of its kind over 80 years, a testament to one man's interest and enthusiasm on this topic. The John May Natural History Museum of the Tropics is located on the Golden Eagle Ranch RV Park, in southwestern Colorado Springs. Open May 1 to October 1.

May Natural History Museum of the Tropics

719-576-0450

800-666-3841

www.maymuseum-camp-rvpark.com



**PIKES
PEAK
COUNTRY**

Attractions
By the Numbers



Cog Railway



Royal Gorge Scenic Railway



Cog Railway

14,110

**feet at the summit:
Pikes Peak Cog Railway**

The journey begins in the historic Manitou Springs depot at the base of Pikes Peak. Traveling from the foothills to an alpine tundra, this remarkable cog train ascends to a final elevation of 14,115 feet on the Manitou and Pikes Peak railway, constructed more than a century ago. During the trip, the conductor narrates facts on the history, region and engineering feat of the construction of the railway. Wildlife is often spotted on the route, including Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep and Yellow-Bellied Marmots.

From the summit of Pikes Peak, visitors can view four states including Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico, the high peaks of the Continental Divide, the cities of Manitou Springs, Colorado Springs and Denver, and the gold camp towns of Cripple Creek and Victor.

The Pikes Peak Cog Railway is open year-round, weather permitting. Group reservations, complete with lunch, can be accommodated with advance reservations.

Pikes Peak Cog Railway
719-685-5401
www.cograilway.com

3 Million

Riders: Royal Gorge Scenic Railway

Guests enjoy spectacular scenery from the comfort of an open-air train car on the Royal Gorge Scenic Railway. Since 1958, this "Little Train with a Big View" has allowed 3 million visitors to experience some of the most breathtaking views of the Royal Gorge and Bridge during its 30-minute, three-mile round trip journey. The trip is ideal for guests of all ages; well-mannered dogs are even welcome to come along.

Royal Gorge Scenic Railway
719-275-5485
www.royalgorgescenicrailway.com



**PIKES
PEAK
COUNTRY**

Attractions
By the Numbers



Garden of the Gods
Visitor & Nature Center



Garden of the Gods



Garden of the Gods
Trading Post

125 Million Year Old Dinosaur Skull: found in Garden of the Gods Park and on display at the Garden of the Gods Visitor & Nature Center

The world's only *Theiophytalia kerri* dinosaur fossil is on display at the Garden of the Gods Visitor & Nature Center. Discovered in 1886, it is the only one of its kind in the entire world, although for 117 years it was misidentified as a *Camptosaurus*. During the process of creating displays for the new visitor's center, constructed in 1994, Dr. Kirk Johnson and Dr. Ken Carpenter worked on a cast of the skull. Through a series of events, the scientists discovered that "Campi," as the fossil was named, was actually a different species altogether. There has never been another one of these ancient *Theiophytalia kerri* found anywhere, and it's just one of the reasons that the Garden of the Gods is a fascinating place.

Visitors can learn about the 300 million year old rock formations, with famous names like Kissing Camels and Balanced Rock. The Garden of the Gods Visitors & Nature Center is committed to education and to sharing the geology, history and ecology of the 1,350 acre park. Exhibits, maps, brochures, and nature talks are all free. A Blu-ray movie is available. Guided bus tours are available in summer for a small fee. A restaurant and gift shop are also on site. The Garden of the Gods Visitor & Nature Center is open year-round with variable seasonal hours, and closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

Garden of the Gods Visitor & Nature Center

719-634-6666

www.gardenofgods.com/



**PIKES
PEAK
COUNTRY**

Attractions
By the Numbers



Lantern Tour,
Cave of the Winds



500 Million years of mother nature's artistry at the **Cave of the Winds**

The limestone in which Cave of the Winds was formed dates back almost 500 million years, deposited during the Ordovician period of Earth's Paleozoic geological era in history. About 70 million years ago, the seas that covered most of Colorado receded and the remaining limestone was uplifted, forming part of the present Rocky Mountain region.

The Cave of the Winds' system of rooms and passages began to form four to seven million years ago, when the limestone was below the water table. Rainwater mixed with carbon dioxide and formed a weak carbonic acid. The acid solution dissolved away portions of the limestone, leaving behind small passageways that filled with water. As more limestone dissolved over thousands of years, the passageways grew larger and the rooms were formed.

After the water table dropped below the level of the cave system, the passageways and rooms filled with air, and beautiful speleothems, or cave decorations, began to form. Stalactites, stalagmites and flowstone were created within the rooms and passageways due to the effects of dripping calcium carbonate-rich water and its effects over thousands of years.

Now, the Cave of the Winds shares the geology and ecology of this subterranean Rocky Mountain natural wonder with visitors in three breathtaking tours: the Discovery Tour, Lantern Tour and Flashlight Tour. Just two minutes from downtown Manitou Springs, the Cave of the Winds is open 364 days a year, with seasonally variable hours.

The Cave of the Winds

719-685-5444

www.caveofthewinds.com

Since 1974, the Pikes Peak Country Attractions Association (PPCAA) has been promoting the Pikes Peak region, comprised of Colorado Springs, Manitou Springs, Cripple Creek and Canon City, to millions of destination visitors. The 26 members of Pikes Peak Country Attractions Association offer natural and man-made attractions that are family oriented, safe and that add to quality of the guest vacation experience.

High resolution photos and links to our member attractions may be found at www.Pikes-Peak.com. The PPCAA office is open 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM M-F.

354 Manitou Avenue
Manitou Springs, CO 80829

michele@pikes-peak.com
www.Pikes-Peak.com
800-525-2250 or 719-685-5894