



**Hosted by the Rocky Mountain Region Clubs:**

**Buffalo Pathfinders (WY); Colorado Springs Walking Club;  
Falcon Wanderers; Rocky Mountain Wanderers; Woodland  
Wanderers**





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# GARDEN OF THE GODS

[GardenOfGods.com](http://GardenOfGods.com)

July 28 – August 2, 2026

Start Point Altitude: 6,320 Ft.

In 1871, General William Jackson Palmer founded Colorado Springs. Palmer repeatedly urged his friend, Charles Elliott Perkins, the head of “the Q” Railroad, to establish a home in the Garden of the Gods and to build his railroad out to Colorado Springs. Perkins did purchase two-hundred and forty acres in the Garden of the Gods for a summer home. He later added to the property but never built on it, preferring to leave his wonderland in its natural state for the enjoyment of the public.

Perkins died in 1907, before he made arrangements for the land to become a public park. Although it had already been open to the public for years, it was his children’s decision that sealed the park’s fate. In 1909, Perkins’ children, knowing their father’s feeling for the Garden of the Gods, conveyed his four-hundred eighty acres to the City of Colorado Springs.

It would be known forever as the Garden of the Gods, “where it shall remain free to the public, where no intoxicating liquors shall be manufactured, sold, or dispensed, where no building or structure shall be erected except those necessary to properly care for, protect, and maintain the area as a public park.”

The Garden of the Gods is a National Natural Landmark with more trails (23 miles) than you can walk and more views than you can photograph. Large natural sandstone monoliths, as well as numerous smaller formations, are reached on the trails throughout the park. Scenery within the area, as well as outward to the mountains, is unparalleled.

Do the walk and make the time to explore the rest afterwards. One-track trails, improved trails, and some paved trails are part of the experience. Check out

<https://gardenofgods.com/>.

**LOCATION:** GoG Visitor Center Overflow Parking Area, Southwest of Gateway Drive and N. 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Colorado Springs, CO

**DISTANCE:** 5 & 10 Kilometers (3.1 / 6.2 miles)

**EVENT SANCTION NUMBER:** [131882-2026](#) Y3865

**TRAIL DESCRIPTION:** Bring your walking sticks and enjoy walking through the Garden of the Gods. The trail, mostly paved with two long dirt sections, is rated a 3C, because of some hills and the altitude. Route is through some pinyon-juniper forest around and through spectacular sandstone formations. Bring your cameras. Restroom is available along the trail.

**WATER/FOOD:** Carrying water is highly recommended. Water, snacks, souvenirs are available at the Garden of the Gods Visitors Center which is very near the start point.

**DIRECTIONS:** From I-25, take exit 146 (Garden of the Gods Road) and proceed west. Turn LEFT onto N 30<sup>th</sup> Street to the traffic circle. Make the first RIGHT from the circle onto Gateway Drive, and make the immediate LEFT into the Rock Ledge Ranch drive. Turn LEFT into the unpaved parking area.



# PAINT MINES INTERPRETIVE PARK

[Parks.ElPasoCo.com/parks-andrecreation/paint-mines-interpretive-park](https://Parks.ElPasoCo.com/parks-andrecreation/paint-mines-interpretive-park)

July 28 – August 2, 2026

Start Point Altitude: 6,703 Ft.

The Paint Mines Interpretive Park is one of El Paso County's most unique open spaces. The Paint Mines are named for their colorful clays that were collected by American Indians to make paint. Brightly colored bands, caused by oxidized iron compounds, are found in varying amounts throughout the many different layers of clay.

The Paint Mines Interpretive Park is located in the northeast section of the county near Calhan with approximately 750 acres. The park features fantastic geological formations including spires and hoodoos that form through erosive action that also creates exposed layers of selenite clay and jasper. The park includes four miles of trails, interpretive signage, and many natural wonders.

**LOCATION:** 29950 Paint Mines Road, Calhan, Colorado

**DISTANCE:** 5 & 10 Kilometers (3.1 / 6.2 miles)

**EVENT SANCTION NUMBER:** 131937 – 2026                      **Y3872**

**TRAIL DESCRIPTION:** Stay on designated trails at all times. Climbing and/or scrambling on Paint Mine formations is prohibited. All plants, wildlife, rocks, minerals, and historic artifacts within park boundaries are protected by law. Do not remove, destroy, or disturb any of these features. **NO pets** are permitted inside the park.

**WATER:** Carrying extra water is highly recommended.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take Hwy 24 east from Colorado Springs to Calhan, turn south (right) on Yoder Road/Calhan Highway, turn east (left) on Paint Mines Road and look for the third designated parking area.



# ROCKY MTN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

[WWW.FWS.Gov/Refuge/Rocky-mountain-arsenal](http://WWW.FWS.Gov/Refuge/Rocky-mountain-arsenal)

July 28 – August 2, 2026

Start Point Altitude: 5160 Ft.

The Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge is one of the largest urban refuges in the country. It is a sanctuary away from the hustle and bustle of busy urban life where time moves at nature's pace. With its expansive views, wildlife viewing opportunities, and recreation activities, it's easy to take a nature escape!

Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge was established in 2004, in part, to protect our national symbol, the bald eagle. The land has a unique story - it has survived the test of time and transitioned from farmland, to war-time manufacturing site, to wildlife sanctuary. It is one of the finest conservation success stories and a place where wildlife thrives.

The Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge is in the NE Denver Metropolitan Area. With 20 miles of trails covering prairie grasslands, riparian areas, and small lakes, the opportunities for observing wildlife, restored grasslands, and the Colorado Front Range are exceptional. A choice of two 5K trails is offered. The terrain is relatively flat and mostly treeless. The refuge is open from sunrise to 8:00 PM, and there is no fee for this federal reserve. In addition to the hiking trails, there is a driving trail to follow after completing your walk to see the resident bison herd and other wildlife. Check out <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky-mountain-arsenal>.

**LOCATION:** 6550 Gateway Road, Commerce City, Colorado

**DISTANCE:** 5 & 10 Kilometers (3.1 / 6.2 miles) Two 5 Km loops

**EVENT SANCTION NUMBER:** 131939 – 2026                      Y3874

**TRAIL DESCRIPTION:** Restored hi-plains grasslands featuring open trails and trails around riparian areas. Trees only near lakes. Views of the north central Rocky Mountain front range, and even Pikes Peak. Drive the refuge paved loop after your walk to see the resident buffalo herd.

**WATER/RESTROOMS:** Water and restrooms are available in the Visitors Center (not on Mondays, Tuesdays) Restroom is available at the start point.

**TRAIL ETIQUETTE:** **NO pets** are permitted in the Refuge. Water along the trails is non-potable.

**DIRECTIONS:** From northbound I-25 turn RIGHT onto northeast bound I-225 northbound; go LEFT (west) on I-70 to Exit 278b. Turn RIGHT (north) on Quebec St and turn LEFT (west) on Prairie Parkway. Turn RIGHT (north) Gateway Rd to Refuge entrance, go past the Visitors Center and Havana St, and turn LEFT into the parking area.



## BLACK FOREST REGIONAL PARK

[Parks.ELPasoCo.com/parks-and-recreation-black-forest-regional-park](https://parks.elpasoco.com/parks-and-recreation-black-forest-regional-park)

July 28 – August 2, 2026

Start Point Altitude: 7200 Ft.

The Black Forest Regional Park is a large natural area covered with Ponderosa Pine open forest with numerous trails in gentle terrain. See how Mother Nature on the high plains has spent 14 years recovering from a forest fire. Enjoy the quietness and powerful images of the Rampart Range and Pikes Peak to the west. The Black Forest area is northeast of Colorado Springs. Check out

<https://parks.elpasoco.com/parks-and-recreation/black-forest-regional-park/>.

**LOCATION:** 4800 Shoup Road, Black Forest, Colorado

**DISTANCE:** 5 & 10 Kilometers (3.1/6.2 miles)

**EVENT SANCTION NUMBER:** 131936 – 2026                      **Y3871**

**TRAIL DESCRIPTION:** Open evergreen forest with gently rolling terrain, improved unpaved trails, extraordinary views in open spaces.

**DIRECTIONS:** From I-25, exit 153: go east on Interquest Parkway/ Colorado 83 to Shoup Road. Turn RIGHT (east) on Shoup for 2.5 miles to Milam Road. Turn RIGHT (north) on Milam and into the park.



# STRATTON OPEN SPACE

[ColoradoSprings.gov/stratton](https://coloradosprings.gov/stratton)

July 28 – August 2, 2026

Start Point Altitude: 6320

Stratton Open Space offers 318 acres of open, wooded terrain, 15 miles of trails, and wildlife habitat for Colorado Springs. Next to North Cheyenne Canon, the Stratton Open Space offers five distinct ecosystems, miles of trails, a rich variety of wildlife, and access to the Pike National Forest.

It has great views of the city, and travels through pine forests, pinon/juniper forests, and meadows. Mixed use trail with hikers, bikers, and horses. There are some uphill, and some rocky, tree-rooted trail sections, but the views are worth it. Take your time and bring plenty of water. Check out <https://coloradosprings.gov/stratton>.

**LOCATION:** 1504 Ridgeway Ave, Colorado Springs, Colorado

**DISTANCE:** 5 & 10 Kilometers (3.1/6.2 miles)

**EVENT SANCTION NUMBER:** 131938 – 2026                      Y3873

**TRAIL DESCRIPTION:** Mostly 1-track unpaved trails through evergreen forest, pinon/juniper forest, and meadows; some hills and rolling terrain. Extraordinary mountain scenery in open spaces.

**WATER:** Carrying water is highly recommended.

**DIRECTIONS:** The Stratton Open Space is located adjacent to North Cheyenne Cañon Park. Take 21st Street South (this street turns into Cresta Road) and go right on LaVeta Way to the trailhead parking lot. There is also a trailhead on Ridgeway Avenue. The trailhead to the Chamberlain Trail is past Starsmore Discovery Center on the right.



# VICTOR

[victorcolorado.com/](https://victorcolorado.com/)

July 28 – August 2, 2026

Start Point Altitude: 9,770 Ft.

Our gold-mining adventure walk is in Victor, The City of Mines. This well-preserved gold mining town has 1890's mine structures, shops and homes, museums, hiking trails, and scenic drives. The town is central to the Gold Belt National Scenic Byway and is designated as a National Historic District. Expect clean, cool mountain air and plenty of year-round sunshine. Victor has an elevation near 10,000 feet, so we recommend you do this one last to get acclimatized to the altitude. The 10K goes to the Vindicator Valley Trail where you will wind around the historic Independence mining camp where Winfield Scott Stratton discovered gold around 1891. (Yes, the Mr. Stratton that Stratton Open Space is named for.) Be sure to check out the Gold Camp Bakery Café & Deli, 112 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Victor – YUM!

Victor is also home to Rita, the Rock Planter Troll, so you will have the opportunity to do a separate walk to visit her. Again, make sure you carry plenty of water and take your time in order to breathe. Check out <https://victorcolorado.com/>.

**LOCATION:** Victor, Colorado

**DISTANCE:** 6 & 10 Kilometers (3.7 / 6.2 miles)

**EVENT SANCTION NUMBER:** 131940 – 2026 **Y3875**

**TRAIL DESCRIPTION:** Mine headworks, ruins, tailing piles, rail lines, and communities more than a century old. Evidence of current mining activity. Fantastic views of the Arkansas River Valley and Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take US Hwy 24 West to Divide. Turn LEFT (south) on Colorado Hwy 67. Left on Hwy 81 (Lazy S Ranch Rd.).



# Other Walks in Colorful Colorado

Go to: <https://ava.org>

At the top, click on “FIND A WALK”, on the dropdowns select “Search for a Walk”, “By State”, and “Colorado” to see all sanctioned events in Colorado.

For specific information about the **Rocky Mountain Rendezvous Fest**, click on “FIND A WALK”, on the dropdowns select “Search for a Walk”, “By State”. Then click on “Go to search”, click on “Multi-Day Events (Fests)”, and on “Details” for the Rocky Mountain Rendezvous.

Ten additional walks are recommended as additional walks in the Central Colorado area.

Directions and stamps will be available at the Hospitality Room at Drury Inn.

These walks cover all of the beauty of Colorado, be it in the mountains, near the river or on the Prairie. Want to go Troll hunting—we have you covered.



Rita the Rock Planter

You can find Rita when doing the Victor Mine Walk. Look for the trailhead to Little Grouse Mountain – or ask any Victor resident for directions.

To Pre-register for the Rocky Mountain Rendezvous thru Zeffy:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/rocky-mountain-rendezvous-july-28-august-2--2026>

For mobile users, scan QR code:



Hospitality Room is located in:

Drury Plaza Hotel Colorado Springs  
Near the Air Force Academy

Hospitality Room Is Open:

Tuesday: 7:00 am to 3:00 pm

Wednesday: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Thursday: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Friday: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Pickup: Event Badge, Walk Instructions, Stamps, info on 10 other walks, Publicity Items

On-Site Registration also available

Pre-Registration Is Encouraged

For Lodging:

Falcon Wanderers - Rocky Mountain Rendezvous

<https://www.druryhotels.com/bookandstay/newreservation/?groupno=10181350>

Please make your reservations by Saturday, June 13, 2026 to receive your group rate. Reservations made after this date will be subject to prevailing rates and availability.

Reservations may also be made by calling **1-800-325-0720** and referring to our group number **10181350**.

For additional information or questions please send an email to:  
[rendezvous@AVAClubs.org](mailto:rendezvous@AVAClubs.org)