

# COLORADO



<http://www.colorado.gov/> click on this website for more information @ Colorado

## MAJOR CITIES:

Central Colorado	Denver, Colorado Springs, Boulder
North Colorado	Fort Collins, Sterling
West Colorado	Grand Junction

## COLORADO – CLIMATE

The climate of Colorado is more complex than states outside of the Mountain States region. Unlike most other states, southern Colorado is not always warmer than northern Colorado. Most of Colorado is made up of mountains, foothills, high plains, and desert lands. Mountains and surrounding valleys greatly affect local climate.

As a general rule, with an increase in elevation comes a decrease in temperature and an increase in precipitation. Northeast, east, and southeast Colorado are mostly the high plains, while Northern Colorado is a mix of high plains, foothills, and mountains. Northwest and west Colorado are predominantly mountainous, with some desert lands mixed in. Southwest and southern Colorado are a complex mixture of desert and mountain areas.

Eastern Plains

Center-pivot irrigation of wheat growing in Yuma County

The climate of the Eastern Plains is low humidity and moderate precipitation. The area is known for its abundant sunshine and cool, clear nights, which give this area a great average diurnal temperature range. The difference between the highs of the days and the lows of the nights can be considerable as warmth dissipates to the space during clear nights, the heat radiation not being trapped by clouds.

In summer, this area can have many days above 95°F (35°C) and often 100°F (38°C).<sup>[18]</sup> On the plains, the winter lows usually range from 25 to –10°F (–4 to –23°C). About 75% of the precipitation falls within the growing season, from April to September, but this area is very prone to droughts. Most of the precipitation comes from thunderstorms, which can be severe, and from major snowstorms that occur in the winter and early spring. Otherwise, winters tend to be mostly dry and cold.<sup>[19]</sup>

In much of the region, March is the snowiest month. April and May are normally the rainiest months, while April is the wettest month overall. The average July temperature is 55°F (13°C) in the morning and 90°F (32°C) in the afternoon.

### West of the plains and foothills

West of the plains and foothills, the weather of Colorado is much less uniform. Even places a few miles apart can experience entirely different weather depending on the topography of the area. Most valleys have a semi-arid climate, which becomes an alpine climate at higher elevations. Humid microclimates also exist in some areas. Generally, the wettest season in western Colorado is winter while June is the driest month.

The mountains have mild summers with many days of high temperatures between 60 and 85°F (16 and 29°C), although thunderstorms can cause sudden but brief drops in temperature. The western slope has high summer temperatures similar to those found on the plains, while the winters tend to be slightly cooler due to the lack of warming winds common to the plains and Front Range. Other areas in the west have their own unique climate.

### Extreme weather

Snow highlights the rugged mountains, as well as the urban and agricultural landscapes of the Colorado plains.

Extreme weather changes are common in Colorado, although the majority of extreme weather occurs in the least populated areas of the state.

Thunderstorms are common east of the Continental Divide in the spring and summer, yet are usually brief. Hail is a common sight in the mountains east of the divide and in the northwest part of the state. The Eastern Plains have had some of the biggest hail storms in North America. The Eastern Plains are part of the extreme western portion of Tornado Alley. The plains are also susceptible to occasional floods, which are caused both by thunderstorms and by the rapid melting of snow in the mountains during warm weather.

Much of Colorado is a very dry state averaging only 17 in (430 mm) of precipitation per year statewide and rarely experiences a time when some portion of the state is not in some degree of drought.<sup>[22]</sup> The lack of precipitation contributes to the severity of wildfires in the state. However, some of the mountainous regions of Colorado receive a huge amount of

moisture from winter snowfalls. The spring melts of these snows often cause great waterflows in the Yampa River, the Colorado River, the Rio Grande, the Arkansas River, Cherry Creek, the North Platte River, and the South Platte River.

Monthly normal high and low temperatures for various Colorado cities <sup>[25]</sup>												
City	(°F) (°C)											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Alamosa</b>	35/-2 2/-19	40/6 4/-14	51/17 11/-8	60/24 16/-4	70/33 21/1	79/41 26/5	83/47 28/8	80/46 27/8	73/37 23/3	62/25 17/-4	47/12 8/-11	36/1 2/-17
<b>Colorado Springs</b>	43/18 6/-8	45/20 7/-7	52/26 11/-3	60/33 16/1	69/43 21/6	79/51 26/11	85/57 29/14	82/56 28/13	75/47 24/8	63/36 17/2	51/25 11/-4	42/18 6/-8
<b>Denver</b>	44/19 7/-7	46/21 8/-6	54/27 12/-3	61/35 16/2	71/44 21/7	82/53 28/12	89/59 32/15	86/58 30/14	78/49 26/9	65/37 18/3	52/26 11/-3	43/18 6/-8
<b>Grand Junction</b>	38/18 3/-8	46/25 8/-4	57/32 14/0	66/39 19/4	76/48 24/9	88/57 31/14	94/64 34/18	90/62 32/17	81/53 27/12	67/41 19/5	51/29 11/-2	39/19 4/-7
<b>Pueblo</b>	47/14 8/-10	51/18 11/-8	60/26 16/-3	68/34 20/1	77/44 25/7	88/53 31/12	93/59 34/15	90/58 32/14	82/48 28/9	70/34 21/1	57/23 14/-5	46/14 8/-10

## **CULTURAL ACTIVITIES**

<http://www.colorado.com/colorado-history-heritage?qclid=Cl-vjtvI0b4CFc1QOgodkR8AXA>

Click on this site for more cultural activity ideas

### Colorado History & Heritage

Some of the best things to do on a Colorado vacation revolve around its ancient and historic past. Once roamed by mighty dinosaurs, then formed by native people, westward exploration and expansion, Colorado historic sites and landmarks are waiting to be discovered.

#### Ancient Colorado History

Stand in the footsteps of Colorado's oldest residents — the dinosaurs! Dig sites, museums and other [family attractions](#) offer access to fossils. At Dinosaur National Monument, Dinosaur Ridge and Picketwire Canyonlands, you can walk the same paths Colorado's prehistoric dinosaurs. At the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, the Dinosaur Journey Museum and the Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center, explore interactive exhibits about Colorado dinosaurs and learn about other creatures from Colorado's history.

Visitors can experience Colorado's earliest human residents, the Ancestral Puebloans, at Mesa Verde National Park, Hovenweep National Monument and the Anasazi Heritage Center. Colorado's history is full of rich American Indian heritage that can be experienced at galleries and festivals across the state, in addition to history museums and sites such as the Ute Indian Museum, Koshare Indian Museum and along the Trail of the Ancients Scenic and Historic Byway.

#### Wild West History in Colorado

The exploration of the West and life on the frontier can be seen at numerous historic forts, including Bent's Old Fort, Fort Garland and Fort Uncompahgre. Along the Frontier Pathways Scenic and Historic Byway, travelers can experience living on the new frontier and the views that rewarded the settlers as they arrived at the base of the mountains.

The 19th-century mining boom drew many people to Colorado with a hope of striking it rich. Today, travelers can experience a mining train trip 3,000 feet into the Bachelor Syracuse Mine in southwest Colorado and see the prosperous, historic main streets of mining towns such as Breckenridge, Leadville and Central City.

#### More History Attractions

From cliff dwellings to historic railroads, ghost towns to [scenic byways](#), [museums](#) and more — you'll find many ways to experience our distinctive history and character, as well as plenty Colorado vacation ideas.

## GROCERY SHOPPING

Trader Joe's Market Publix Super Market Whole Foods Market	The Kroger Company ALDI Grocery Stores Safeway Supermarkets
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<https://www.google.com/search?q=supermarkets+in+the+state+of+colorado> Click on this site for more grocery stores in Colorado.

## SHOPPING

Area	City	Mall
Colo Springs Area	Colorado Springs CO	<a href="#">Chapel Hills Mall</a>
Colo Springs Area	Colorado Springs CO	<a href="#">The Promenade Shops at Briargate</a>
Colo Springs Area	Pueblo CO	<a href="#">Pueblo Mall</a>
Denver Area	Aurora CO	<a href="#">Southlands</a>
Denver Area	Aurora CO	<a href="#">Town Center at Aurora</a>
Denver Area	Boulder CO	<a href="#">Twenty Ninth Street</a>
Denver Area	Broomfield CO	<a href="#">FlatIron Crossing</a>
Denver Area	Castle Rock CO	<a href="#">Outlets at Castle Rock</a>
Denver Area	Centennial CO	<a href="#">The Streets at SouthGlenn</a>
Denver Area	Denver CO	<a href="#">Cherry Creek</a>
Denver Area	Denver CO	<a href="#">Northfield Stapleton</a>
Denver Area	Denver CO	<a href="#">Tabor Center</a>
Denver Area	Lakewood CO	<a href="#">Belmar</a>

Denver Area	Lakewood CO	<a href="#">Colorado Mills</a>
Denver Area	Littleton CO	<a href="#">Aspen Grove</a>
Denver Area	Littleton CO	<a href="#">Southwest Plaza</a>
Denver Area	Lone Tree CO	<a href="#">Park Meadows</a>
Denver Area	Silverthorne CO	<a href="#">Outlets at Silverthorne</a>
Denver Area	Westminster CO	<a href="#">The Orchard Town Center</a>
Fort Collins area	Fort Collins CO	<a href="#">Foothills Mall</a>
Fort Collins area	Fort Collins CO	<a href="#">Front Range Village</a>
Fort Collins area	Greeley CO	<a href="#">Greeley Mall</a>
Fort Collins area	Loveland CO	<a href="#">The Outlets at Loveland</a>
Fort Collins area	Loveland CO	<a href="#">The Promenade Shops at Centerra</a>
	Longmont CO	<a href="#">Twin Peaks Mall</a>
Western CO	Grand Junction CO	<a href="#">Mesa Mall</a>

<http://www.mallseeker.com/coloradomalls.aspx>

click here for more information

## **PHARMACIES**

Walgreens

CVS Pharmacy

Target

Kroger

Rite Aid

Wal-Mart

<http://www.yellowpages.com/colorado/pharmacies?q=colorado&q=pharmacies>  
click here for locating other pharmacies in Colorado.

## **POST OFFICES/SHIPPING**



<http://www.postofficehours.net/state/CO.html>

click here for more information



<http://local.fedex.com/search/Colorado/>

click here for more information



[https://www.ups.com/dropoff?loc=en\\_US](https://www.ups.com/dropoff?loc=en_US)

click here for more information

## **TIME ZONES**

### **Colorado Time Zone – Colorado Current Local Time - Daylight Saving Time**

Colorado is in MDT (Mountain Daylight Time) Zone

<http://localtimes.info/search/?s=colorado&x=0&y=0>

click here for more information

## **COST OF LIVING IN Colorado**

<b>Cost of Living</b>	<b>Colorado, CO</b>	<b>United States</b>
<b><u>Overall</u></b>	<b>112</b>	<b>100</b>
<b><u>Grocery</u></b>	<b>100.3</b>	<b>100</b>
<b><u>Health</u></b>	<b>102</b>	<b>100</b>
<b><u>Housing</u></b>	<b>139</b>	<b>100</b>
<b><u>Utilities</u></b>	<b>93</b>	<b>100</b>
<b><u>Transportation</u></b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>
<b><u>Miscellaneous</u></b>	<b>99</b>	<b>100</b>

Our cost of living indices are based on a US average of 100. An amount below 100 means Colorado, CO is cheaper than the US average. A cost of living index above 100 means Colorado, CO is more expensive.

Overall, Colorado, CO cost of living is 111.50

[http://www.bestplaces.net/cost\\_of\\_living/state/colorado](http://www.bestplaces.net/cost_of_living/state/colorado) click here for more information

## **MINIMUM WAGE**

State	2016 Minimum Wage	2016 Tipped Wage
CO	\$8.31	\$5.29

<http://www.minimumwage.com/in-your-state/> click here for more information

## **WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION**

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdle/dwc>

Click here for more information

## **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

Denver: RTD (Regional Transportation District)  
CDOT (Colorado Dept of Transportation  
Commuter Rail)

Colorado Springs: Springs Transit

Westminster: NMCS (North Metro Community Services)

Littleton: ACTS (Arapahoe County Transportation Services)

<http://www.apta.com/resources/links/unitedstates/Pages/ColoradoTransitLinks.aspx#a1>

click here for more information