

Colorado State Symbols & Emblems

State Flag



State Seal



State Motto

"Nil Sine Numine"
Nothing without Providence

State Nicknames

"Centennial State"
"Colorful Colorado"

State Animal

Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep

State Bird

Lark Bunting

State Fish

Greenback Cutthroat Trout

State Flower

White & Lavender Columbine

State Fossil

Stegosaurus

State Gemstone

Aquamarine

State Grass

Blue Grama

State Insect

Hairstreak Butterfly

State Song

*"Where the Columbines Grow," A.J. Fynn and
"Rocky Mountain High," John Denver*

State Tree

Colorado Blue Spruce

State Mineral

Rhodochrosite

State Rock

Yule Marble

Colorado Fun Facts

- "Beulah red" is the name of the red marble that gives the Colorado State Capitol its distinctive splendor. Cutting, polishing, and installing the marble in the Capitol took six years, from 1894 to 1900. All of the "Beulah red" marble in the world went into the Capitol.
- The world's largest flat-top mountain is in Grand Mesa.
- Trail Ridge Road, the highest continuous U.S. highway, leaves Rocky Mountain National Park on the east and soars to 12,183 feet as it crosses the Continental Divide to the Western Slope.
- Deep in the mountains of southwestern Colorado, Ouray is home to the world's first park devoted exclusively to the sport of ice climbing. The park opened in 1995.
- The highest paved road in North America is the road to Mt. Evans off of I-70 from Idaho Springs. The road climbs up to 14,258 feet above sea level.
- Colfax Avenue in Denver is the longest continuous street in America.
- The thirteenth step of the state capital building in Denver is one mile above sea level.
- The Dwight Eisenhower Memorial Tunnel between Clear Creek & Summit counties is the highest auto tunnel in the world. Bored at an elevation of 11,000 feet under the Continental Divide, it is 8,960 feet long.
- The longest set of dinosaur tracks discovered to date is in Picketwire Canyon near La Junta in southeastern Colorado. Some scientists believe the footprints reveal these dinosaurs were herding animals.
- Leadville is the highest incorporated city in the United States at 10,430 feet elevation. Because there were many "silver" named towns at the time, the founding fathers suggested Leadville.
- Denver has the largest city park system in the nation with 205 parks in city limits and 20,000 acres of parkland in the nearby mountains.
- The tallest sand dunes in America are in Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve outside of Alamosa in south central Colorado. This 46,000-acre landscape of 8,000-foot sand peaks was created by ocean waters and wind more than one million years ago.
- The World's First Rodeo was held on July 4th, 1869 in Deer Trail.
- Lieutenant Zebulon Montgomery Pike explored the southwest portion of the Louisiana Territory in 1806, and though he never climbed the peak that bears his name, he did publish a report that attracted a lot of interest to the area. In fact, a trip to the top of Pikes Peak in 1893 inspired Katherine Lee Bates to write the ballad, America the Beautiful.
- Colorado is home to 54 14,000-ft mountain peaks, more than any other state in the United States.
- Colorado has the highest mean altitude of all the states.

- more -

- The Kit Carson County Carousel in Burlington dates back to 1905, making it the oldest wooden merry-go-round in the United States. It is the only wooden carousel in America that still has its original paint.
- The highest suspension bridge in the world is over the Royal Gorge near Canon City. The Royal Gorge Bridge spans the Arkansas River at a height of 1,053 feet.
- The world's largest natural hot springs pool is located in Glenwood Springs. The two-block long pool is across the street from the historic Hotel Colorado, a favorite stop of former president Teddy Roosevelt.
- Boulder is home to herbal tea maker Celestial Seasonings, located on Sleepytime Drive, where factory tours and tea tastings are the norm.
- Greeley is home to the internationally-acclaimed Greeley Independence Stampede, which dates back to the 1800s and features national rodeo events, live music performances from national headliners, carnivals and more.
- The Stanley Hotel, in Estes Park, has a long list of celebrities and heads of state that have stayed at the luxurious 1909 hostelry, which was also said to be the inspiration behind author Stephen King's novel "The Shining."
- A golf ball flies on average ten percent farther in Colorado than other states because of the altitude. It flies even farther at higher altitudes (above 7,000 feet).
- In Fruita, the town folk celebrate 'Mike the Headless Chicken Day.' Seems that a farmer named L.A. Olsen cut off Mike's head on September 10, 1945 in anticipation of a chicken dinner - and Mike lived for another 4 years without a head.
- More than one third of the land in Colorado is Federal Public Land.
- Colorado has more microbreweries per capita than any other state.
- The highest point in Colorado is Mount Elbert at 14,442 feet.
- The oldest existing Colorado town, San Luis (in south central Colorado), was founded in 1851.
- Around 550 A.D, a basketmaker culture developed in south-western Colorado. Known as Ancestral Puebloans this native tribe formed and built villages in rock canyons. Today parts of their intricate structures still stand at Mesa Verde National Park near Cortez, which was the first national park created solely to preserve the work of humans.
- The Monte Vista and Alamosa National Wildlife Refuges are home to scores of birds, including flocks of migrating giant Sandhill Cranes in the spring.
- There are canyons deeper and narrower than the Black Canyon of the Gunnison, but no other canyon in North America combines this gorge's depth with its width.
- Grand Lake, on the western side of Rocky Mountain National Park, is the largest natural lake in the state.
- For 16 years. Bent's Old Fort was the lifeblood of trade trappers and hunters along the Santa Fe Trail. The fort was created by two brothers, both of whom were known as good brokers of peace with Indian nations in the area.

###