

First of all we welcome you to our Beautiful State! To get to Manitou Springs you will take exit 141 off of I-25 and head west towards the mountains. You will be west bound on Hwy 24, about 4 miles and exit at Manitou Springs

As for things to do, we could keep you busy here for a week or more. Some of the must dos are:

**Pikes Peak** – Either drive it or the COG Railroad. The drive is beautiful and will take a minimum 2 hours round trip. The highway entrance is West of Manitou up on Highway 24 in the town of Cascade, about 5 miles from Manitou Springs.

The COG Railroad depot is at the western end of our town. During peak season trains are scheduled at 8:00, 9:20, 10:40, 12 Noon, 1:20, 2:40, 4:00 & 5:20 Seasonally and Weather permitting the COG now runs year round. You must make a reservation, we can do that for you when you arrive and we suggest you make it at least the day before to ensure you can get on the train you want. You have to plan on about 4 hours. You need to arrive at the depot about ½ hour ahead of schedule and the round trip is about 3 hours and 20 minutes. Some visitors actually do both, the drive one day and the COG another as the experience is different for each.

**Miramont Castle** – A Victorian Historic Landmark, built by Father Francolon, a Catholic French Priest in 1895. It represents 9 styles of Victorian architecture. It has a beautiful Tea Room where you can lunch from 11-4pm. There is much history here and many ghost stories.

**Our Historic Downtown** - Known for our free natural mineral springs. You can drink from 11 of our preserved springs. Known throughout the world for their healing powers, each has different iron and mineral content and they are all slightly, naturally carbonated! Some favorites are Seven Minute Spring (we make sparkling lemonade from it), Twin Spring & Stratton Spring. You are welcome to bring your own bottles to fill up from your favorite. We offer free maps and tasting cups here at the Chamber so stop by and pick some up.

And of course we have lots of wonderful shops, galleries and dozens of wonderful places to dine, from simple to elegant, our restaurants are where the locals dine. Oh and no chain food restaurants here in town. Just good food for the locals.

**Manitou Cliff Dwellings** – These are the actual Cliff Dwellings of the Anasazi Indians. This site is now a preserved museum. You do this as a self guided tour and we recommend at least 1 – 1 ½ hours, more if you really take your time.

**Cave of the Winds** – Discovered by two young boys in 1881, for century's water persisted against the internal rocks to leave behind a crystalline trail. The Cave is an underground mansion of rooms and passages filled with limestone stalactites and flowstone curtains. This is a guided tour and lasts about 50 minutes but plan on 1 ½ hours total. Definitely worth it especially if you've never experienced any natural caves. They offer the standard Discovery Tour or for the more adventurous the Lantern Tour. If you are a thrill seeker you've got to experience the brand new Wind Walker. Sort of Bungee, sort of Zip Line and rope yourself 600 feet above the Canyon below.

**Garden of the Gods** – Our 1350 acre FREE City Park features 19 unique and magnificent red rock formations. Historic Balanced rock has been visited since the 1800's. The park is A MUST SEE. Make sure you enter through the visitor's center and take in the 12 minute HD presentation that gives you an incredible history of how these formations came to be. You can drive the park and stop along the way, which will take about 45 minutes, but we strongly recommend that you take in at least one of the easy to navigate trails. Pack a picnic lunch, arrive early and plan on spending a few hours. DONT' forget you camera!

If you like hiking we have more than a dozen perfect places to hike in or near Manitou Springs. Our newest open space is Red Rock Canyon. You can stop by the Manitou Springs Visitors Bureau to pick up a detailed map of Red Rock Canyon and a list of other area trails.

Also in Garden of the Gods you can do a 1 hour or 2 hour horseback ride with the Academy Riding Stables. They are located in the Park via the Beckers Lane entrance off of El Paso Blvd. This is a beautiful way to see the Park from a totally different perspective.

If you enjoy culinary delights you might experience the unique culinary flavors of Manitou Springs during a 2.5-hour walking tour offered by Manitou Springs Food Tours. They will take you to six diverse dining locations where you will be served a generous tasting of food and drink. Along the way, gain historical and cultural insights into this eclectic and magical town at the base of Pikes Peak and have an opportunity to drink from its world-famous mineral springs. Tours occur weekly. Check their website for tour schedule and to purchase tickets.

Seven Falls – Is in Colorado Springs, near the Broadmoor Hotel. Drive is about 20 minutes from Manitou Springs. Seven cascading falls in one running a distance of 181 feet. You can climb the 224 step stairway to the top or view it from the Mountain elevator. This is just more of Colorado's natural scenic beauty. Aside from the falls there is a wonderful hiking trail at the top of the falls that leads to Midnight Falls and incredible views of the City and the Great Plains. Give yourself at least one hour and more if you want to take in the trails. Also near Seven Falls is North Cheyenne Canon & Stratton Open Space which offers many beautiful trails for hiking, a favorite is to Helen Hunt Falls.

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo – Located in close proximity to Seven Falls the zoo is the only Mountain Zoo in the US! It is a very well run facility. It has one of the finest Giraffe exhibitions in the country. At the zoo there are wonderful panoramic views of the city. Included with the admission is entrance to the Will Rogers Shrine high atop Cheyenne Mountain. Give yourself at least three hours.

Ghost Town Museum – On 21<sup>st</sup> street, is an authentic 1800's old west ghost town preserved as a museum. This is not a recreation but the actual buildings, saloon, general store etc. from some of the west's original Wild West towns. Give yourself at least 1 hour.

If you like good old-fashioned entertainment we also have two family offerings, The Flying W Chuckwagon Supper and Western Show and The Iron Spring Chateau Melodrama Theatre. Both require reservations and are great options for your evening entertainment.

Rock Ledge Ranch Historic site, a living history museum illustrating four historical periods of the Pikes Peak Region from the American Indian Encampment through 1907. Several special events are held there throughout the year so check to see if there is something special going on. Give yourself about 1 ½ hours unless there is a special event.

Just a few miles west of Manitou Springs are, Santa's Workshop/The North Pole a Christmas themed Amusement Park (great place to take the little ones) and The Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center, a working research center with awe inspiring displays. Plan several hours for The North Pole and about 1 ½ - 2 hours for the Dinosaur Center.

The Royal Gorge Route offer both Lunch and Dinner trains as well as murder mystery trains. They also offer morning rides. It's a great scenic ride through the Royal Gorge with a great view of the Royal Gorge Bridge way above. Saturday morning trains are a delight and can be enjoyed in the First Class Parlor car with the beautiful scenery.

White Water Rafting – 1 ¼ hours from Manitou Springs at the Arkansas River in Canon City or about 2 hours in Buena Vista. Several levels from mild to advanced. Water should be running great this spring and summer from all of the heavy snow pack we had up north. Plan a half to ¾'s of a day. We prefer morning tours, which leaves the rest of the day for lunch and a nice drive back. Browns Canyon in Buena Vista/Nathrop is a scenic favorite as well as Big Horn Sheep in Canyon City. The Royal Gorge rafting trip in May or early June will give you a full Class V experience, recommended for those with some rafting experience so hold on! If you are new to rafting stay with Class 3 runs, they'll give you a great white water experience that'll make you want to come back for more! Remember the rules of rafting; the water is best when the levels are high so, late May, June and early July are the best white water experiences.

Cripple Creek – Is a scenic one hour drive from Manitou Springs. Although this 1800's town has been converted to mostly casinos, it is worth the drive even if you are not into gambling. . The easy winding road gives you incredible views of Pikes Peak. Once you arrive the old west buildings put you back in time. There is the Old Homestead Museum which was one of the original brothels in the area. The Cripple Creek District Museum contains a wealth of history on

the area. The Butte Opera House has live year round theatre performances. Just further south you come upon the old, almost deserted mining town of Victor. Again very historic and set back in time. Don't miss it! Watch out for the wild mules on the side of the roads. You can also take the train ride on the Cripple Creek & Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad which is about a ½ hour trip. You can also visit a REAL WORKING Mine with the Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Company. On the way there or back you can also take in the original Molly Kathleen Gold mine tour. Plan a least a half day or more.

Colorado Wolf & Wildlife Center in Divide. A working intervention facility, the CWWC has saved wolves and hybrids from horrific conditions. Mostly from thoughtless individuals who thought they could actually raise a wild wolf. Foxes are also part of this compound. They only ask for a small donation for a tour of the facility. Tours run about 45 minutes and give yourself about the same amount of time to get there from Manitou Springs.

Air Force Academy – In Colorado Springs about 20 minutes from Manitou Springs. Tour the Nation's Best! At least an hour to take it in. This is FREE to the public.

US Olympic Training Center – Free tours of where America's best athletes train! About an hour. Worthwhile and FREE to the public

We also have Hot Air Balloon trips, there are two golf courses nearby, Patty Jewett Golf Course & Valley Hi Golf Course, camping, Rock Climbing lesson with The Rock Climbing Center, and ATV rentals.

This should help you plan your trip. Please call us if we can be of any further assistance.

Make sure you stop in and see us at the Manitou Springs Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center when you arrive. You will love your visit to Colorado & we love helping you!

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