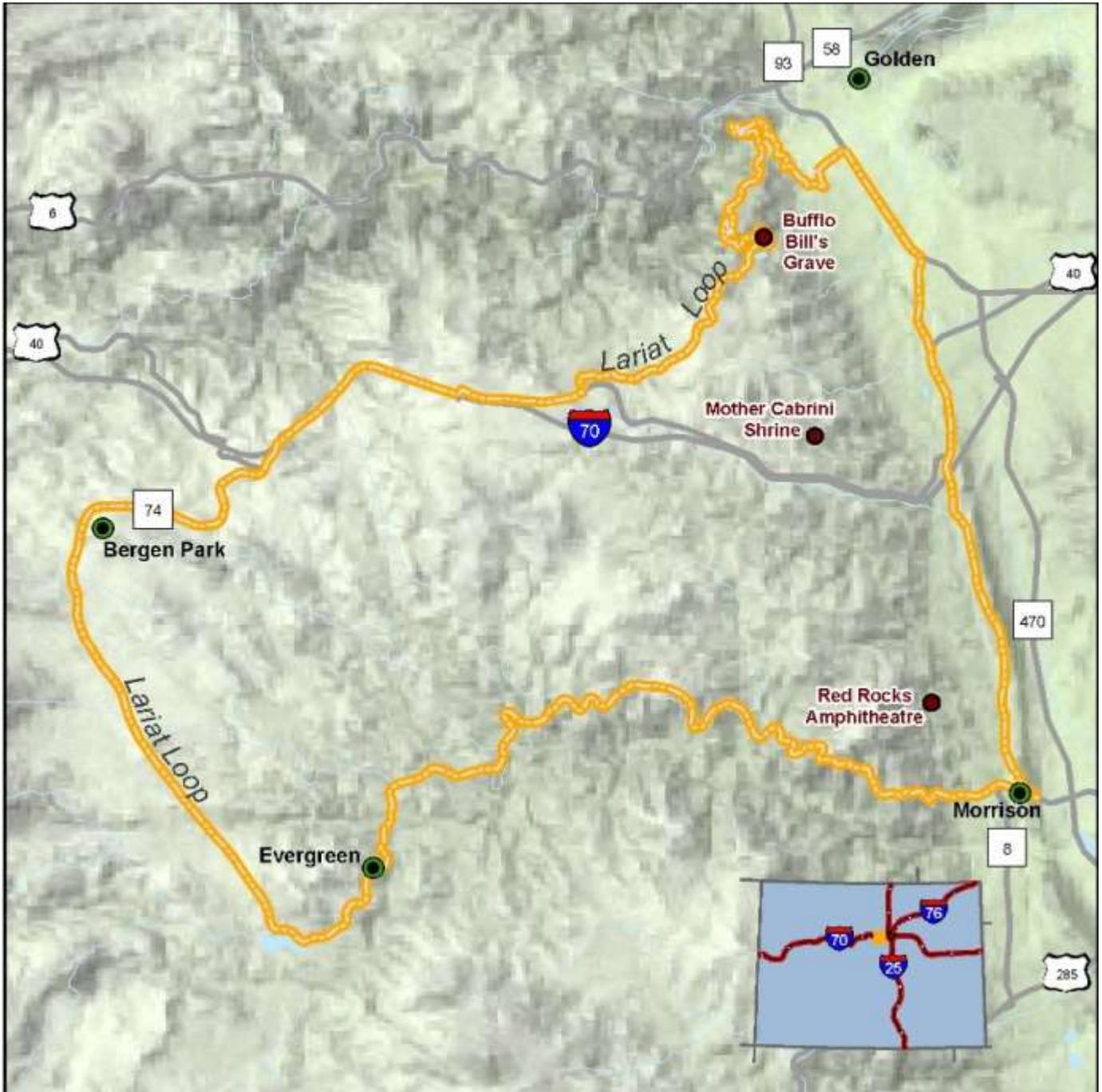




Lariat Loop Scenic and Historic Byway

At the dawn of the age of motoring, long before I-70 was a glint in anyone's eye, Colorado's mountains beckoned travelers to get out into the rugged landscapes. They wanted to drive their new automobiles on winding roads with sharp curves and spectacular views. To attract these visitors, between 1915 and 1920, Denver developed a series of 24 parks including the Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Buffalo Bill's Grave and the Buffalo Herd Overlook, connected by "scenic circles" - drives that let motorists experience the mountains above the city. The 40-mile Lariat Loop Scenic and Historic Scenic Byway encompasses two of these scenic circles: the Lariat Loop Scenic Mountain Drive and the Bear Creek Canyon Scenic Mountain Drive. The Lariat Loop takes its name from the Lariat Trail, a five-mile spectacular feat of engineering traveling from Golden up Lookout Mountain to Buffalo Bill's Museum and Grave. The road gains 1,300 feet in just 4.3 miles punctuated with drop-offs and viewpoints. It climaxes at the 7,379-foot summit of Lookout Mountain with sweeping views in every direction. When you drive the Lariat Loop, we've included locations along the road in this trip that existed in the 1920s. To make the driving adventure even better, we've added the drive through Clear Creek Canyon, a not to be missed adventure, when you're in the area.



Two Denver Scenic Circles Experience



Driving the Byway

Before you get out on the Lariat Loop, leave Golden and drive through Clear Creek Canyon on US 6 West from central Golden. Stay on that route all the way to I-70 for a quick trip back to Golden or opt for the scenic route back. On Day Two, spend the day exploring locations on the Lariat Loop new Golden. In addition to historic sites, everybody has to tour Coors Brewing Company. On Day Three, it's time drive the rest of the Lariat Loop National Scenic Byway, through Evergreen and Morrison, ending at the stunning Red Rock Amphitheatre.

Day One



Golden

Golden hit the map when a small amount of gold was discovered in Clear Creek and quickly became an important supply depot for miners and farmers. The town swelled when coal and industrial clay were discovered in the same area and ultimately was named the capital of Colorado Territory in 1862. Golden also served as the seat of the territorial legislature from 1862 to 1867. At the end of the 1860s, when Denver became the Colorado State Capital, Golden became the seat of Jefferson County and the Jefferson Territory. Today, the City of Golden continues to thrive offering visitors an abundance of recreational, cultural and culinary opportunities, while preserving its historic core.

Day One

Clear Creek Canyon Drive



You can make the drive through Clear Creek Canyon a whole day experience if you choose. In one of the narrowest, steepest and most dramatic canyons in Colorado you might see rafters, kayakers, fishermen, and even panning for gold. If hiking is in order, stop at the Mayhem Gulch Trailhead, 12 miles west of Golden, and hike on the Peaks to Plains Trail. At the junction with Hwy. 119, you have the option to go north to Black Hawk, the largest gambling center in Colorado, and on to Central City, once called the “richest spot on earth.” With 30,000 residents Central City was the largest gold rush boom town in Colorado in the 1870s. Above the town with beautiful brick and stone Victorian buildings, you’ll find historic graveyards, old mines and ghost towns. Southwest of Central City, look for signs for the Virginia Canyon Road, known to locals as the “Oh My God Road.” Legend has it that it got its name from stagecoach passengers looking down at the sheer drop offs and moan, “Oh My God!” Go slow, pause on the narrow turns, and follow the signs for Idaho Springs, another old gold mining town. From there, you can take I-70 to return to Golden or go back through Clear Creek Canyon, viewing the dramatic rock formations from a different direction.

Golden Historic Districts/Golden History Tour



As the territorial capital of Colorado and a hub of activity in the late 1800s, Golden has a remarkable historic district and eight historic neighborhoods. The self-guided Golden History Walking Tour (pdf included with the detailed itinerary), guides you through these fascinating locations, ranging from cobblestone streets and territorial capital buildings to wild west saloons and high style residential areas. If you would rather have a guide, you can sign up for the Wild West Walking Tour.

Tour begins at 718 12th Street

Golden Destination Distinctive Accommodations and Dining



Destination Distinctive Accommodations: The Dove Inn **711 14th Street, Golden, CO 80401 720-608-1714**

Now a chic boutique hotel, The Dove Inn began life as an 1866 Victorian residence. All 10 stylish unique rooms are laden with modern amenities, luxurious baths, Wi-Fi and craft coffee beans from local roasters. Breakfast made from locally sourced ingredients is usually delivered continental style. Rooms are refreshed during your stay, extra towels and other amenities provided as needed. As the owners say, the Inn is an old soul with a new look and impeccable service delivered from behind the scenes.



Old Capitol Grill and Smokehouse

1122 Washington Avenue
Golden, CO 80401
303-279-6390

Built in 1863, Colorado's territorial legislature met in the building that now houses the Old Capitol Grill and Smokehouse, offering classic American fare with some unique twists

Day Two

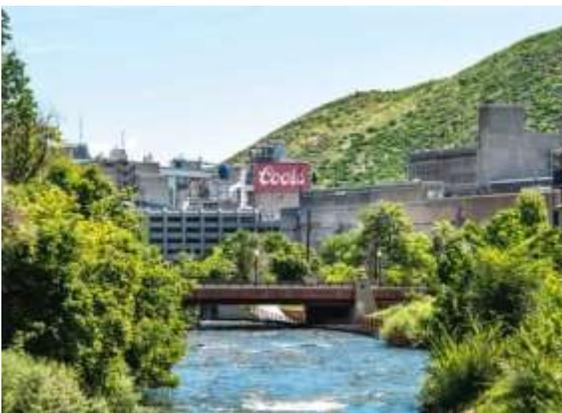
Boettcher Mansion



Dating from 1917, the Boettcher Mansion began as Lorraine Lodge, the former summer home and secluded mountain top retreat of Charles Boettcher. The structure looks down over Denver from a large plate glass window to take advantage of the commanding view. Separated from his wife, at age 66 and having made a fortune from selling hardware, manufacturing Portland cement, processing sugar beets and raising cattle, it was time for some rest and relaxation which Boettcher enjoyed for the next 30 years. The family rooms include a cathedral-beamed living room flanked by a dining room and sitting porch, a downstairs master bedroom suite and upstairs bedrooms. with a shared bath and sleeping porch. The Gazebo offered shelter for picnics and hunting and the Well House provided water to the rocky site.

900 Colorow Road, Golden, CO 80401 720-497-7630
Monday-Friday 8AM-4PM, Allow 1 hour for history tour,
\$5 per person

Coors Brewery Tour



No one should visit Golden without touring the Coors Brewery, the largest single-site brewery in the world which still stands where Adolph Coors set up shop in 1873. A 30-minute tour takes you through the brewing process, malting and packaging. At the end you can enjoy sampling the great beer.

13th Street and Ford Street, Golden, CO 80401
866-812-2337 Thursday-Monday 10AM-4PM, Sunday
Noon-4PM, 30 minute tour, \$10 per person

Day Two

Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave



Even though Buffalo Bill is best known for his Wild West Show in Wyoming that reaped more than a million dollars each year in profits, it was his request to be buried on top of Lookout Mountain. His funeral in 1917 was the largest in Colorado history. His grave and museum, with exhibits covering Buffalo Bill's entire life, are located on one of the mountain top parks owned by Denver.

987 ½ Lookout Mountain Road, Golden, CO 80401
720-865-2160 7 Days 9AM-5PM, Allow 1 hour, \$5 per person



Indulge Bistro and Wine Bar

1299 Washington Avenue
Golden, CO 80401
303-277-9991

Offering fresh foods like fantastic hand cut steaks, chicken, pork, fish, vegetables, fruits, bread, as well as wine and pre-mixed cocktails. They also have a great selection of dinner kits that include the mains, sides and salads.

Day Three



Evergreen

Unlike so many other Colorado towns which began with mining, Evergreen was founded in 1859 by a group of families who came to ranch. Gradually, residents from Denver came “up the hill,” to build summer camps and hunting cabins. Evergreen Lake, created in 1928, made the area even more popular. Downtown’s walkable “Heart of Evergreen” is still a community where city dwellers visit for a day in the mountains to enjoy the many block historic district bordered by a pink cliff wall and rapidly flowing Bear Creek. The street is lined with arts and crafts, bistros, coffee shops, boutiques, live music and dining. Golden to Evergreen—20 miles

Day Three

Hiwan Museum



Hiwan Museum was originally Camp Neosho, the home of Civil War widow, Mary Neosho Williams, who hired a Scottish carpenter to convert a simple log structure into a 25-room hand-hewn log lodge in 1942. Overnight guests stayed in tents equipped with wood floors, stoves and double canvas walls. When she passed, the house was sold to Tulsa oilman, Darst Buchanan whose wife renamed it Hiwan Ranch after Buchanan's Hiwan Hereford cattle renowned throughout the country.

28473 Meadow Drive, Evergreen, CO 80439 720-497-7650
Tuesday-Sunday Noon-4PM, 30 minute tour, Free

Humphrey History Park and Museum



To meet Denver's growing demand for lumber, John Clarke established Kinnikinnick Ranch in 1878. The small cabin he built still exists as the oldest part of the house. Lee and Hazel Humphrey bought the ranch in 1921 when Lee became head of the copy desk at the Rocky Mountain News. Known as Denver's first commuter, he drove a Model T named Mary Ann for two and a half hours daily to work. At the time of his death in 1946, the Rocky Mountain News estimated that he had driven over a half a million miles - just to get back to the family he loved each night.

620 Soda Creek Road, Evergreen, CO 80439 303-674-5429
Tuesday-Saturday 10AM-2PM, Guided tours 10:30AM,
11:30AM, 1PM, Allow 1 hour, \$7 per person

Buffalo Herd Overlook



Denver's largest mountain park, Genesee, means "shining valley" an apt background for one Denver's buffalo herds, descendants of the last wild herd of bison in North America located at Yellowstone National Park. They may be seen on either side of the road, since they have their own tunnel under I-70. 26771 Genesee Lane, Golden, CO 80401
720-865-0891

Day Three



Morrison

The town of Morrison started when the narrow-gauge Denver and South Park Railroad was constructed from the Platte River to Mount Morrison. The town, incorporated in 1872 by the Morrison Stone, Lime and Town Company, became a natural stopping place for miners headed for the mines in South Park. The railroad brought wealth to the little community as the lifeline for building stone and other products brought from Morrison's quarries. Evergreen to Morrison - 10 miles

Day Three

Red Rocks Amphitheater



Red Rocks is perhaps the best known of Denver's parks. Native Americans thought it was magical and early pioneers staged concerts here taking advantage of the natural "bounce" rock that Mother Nature placed behind the stage. The curving wood benches and red sandstone stairs were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1941. The Beatles were the first rock group to perform here, followed by lots of famous name musicians. There are also exhibits of the 70-million-year-old rocks, which once formed the beach of an ancestral sea covering Colorado and Kansas.

18300 West Alameda Parkway, Morrison, CO 80465 Free self-guided tour daily sunrise to sunset, subject to change for performances.



Twin Forks Tavern

19423 North Turkey Creek Road
Morrison, CO 80465
720-536-4191

Twin Forks offers a farm fresh menu coupled with flights of wine, cocktails in an elegant dining room.
