



An interior shot of the World Figure Skating Hall of Fame exhibit. The three cases in the foreground showcase the following costumes (left to right): Gillis Grafstrom's Swedish National 1920 Olympic costume (1920, 1924, 1928 Olympic men's gold medalist); Kristi Yamaguchi's Olympic costume (1992 Olympic ladies gold medalist); Ekaterina Gordeeva and Sergei Grinkov's costumes from the 1989 World Championship long program (1988 and 1994 Olympic pairs gold medalists).

Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak region are rich in colorful history and modern day amenities.

In the early 1870s, General Palmer's social spa in the wild west had become an overnight success. There were events such as polo matches, riding to the hounds and cricket games. The English gentry became so prominent that Colorado Springs was known as "Little London." Manitou Springs, a few miles west, also attracted people from all over the world. Its healing mineral springs brought those in search of rest, health and recreation.

Pikes Peak Country continues to be a tourist mecca offering numerous museum, attractions and historical sites.

Museums

American Numismatic Association

The largest coin collection museum west of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. Exhibits of gold and silver coins, tokens, medals and paper money from ancient to modern times. Free. 818 N. Cascade, 632-2646, www.money.org.

Fine Arts Center

One of the first facilities to house both the visual and performing arts, the Center contains two unique museum collections, a theater for performing arts, and art classes for children and adults. Admission for non-members; entrance to gift shop is free. The shop features authentic Native American pottery, baskets and jewelry, Hispanic artwork and a good selection of books and cards. At the corner of Dale and Cascade Ave. Open Tuesday-Sunday, 634-5581, www.csfineartscenter.org.

Ghost Town Museum

This authentic preservation of an Old West town 100 years ago has earned many awards and national recognition. Complete with shops, blacksmith, saloon, livery stables and a chance to pan for gold! Call for hours, admission fee. 400 S. 21st Street, 634-0696, www.ghosttownmuseum.com

May Natural History Museum

Approximately 7,000 invertebrates from the world's tropical climates are displayed including unusual butterflies, 9" beetles and 16" stick insects. The Museum of Space Exploration is also on site. 710 Rock Creek Canyon Rd., south of the city. 576-0450, www.maymuseum-camp-rvpark.com.

Miramont Castle

Constructed in 1895 for a French priest, the castle features nine styles of architecture using local stone and wood. It is dedicated to preserving the Victorian heritage of the area. Closed Mondays. 9 Capitol Hill Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1011, www.miramontcastle.org.

Peterson Air & Space Museum

The museum portrays the aviation and space history of Colorado Springs and the base itself. Exhibits feature Binational, North American and U.S. commands. The museum's Airpark collection includes 16 aircraft and four missiles. Open Tuesday-Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. 21st Space Wing/MU, 150 East Entrance Ave., Peterson Air Force Base, www.petemuseum.org.

Please Note: Due to security conditions access to the museum may be restricted. Call the Public Affairs Office, 556-4696, to check current policies.

Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame & Museum of the American Cowboy

Depicts the history of the cowboy who created rodeo, America's original sport. Self-guided tours include tracing the evolution of modern rodeo; Wild West Show exhibit; rodeo sculptures & artwork; and the main Hall of Champions, displaying trophies and winnings of rodeo's world champions. Open daily. I-25 at Exit 147. 101 Pro Rodeo Drive, 528-4764, www.prorodeo.com.

Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center

Housed in a great building, it's all about education, science, exhibits and a "dino" store. 201 S. Fairview Street, Woodland Park, 686-1820, www.rmdrc.com.

Western Museum of Mining & Industry

Guided tours of gold and silver mining. Learn to pan for gold. Exhibits include machinery used in early hard rock mining with demonstrations. Open daily. 1025 Northgate Blvd., I-25 at Exit 156A, adjacent to U.S. Air Force Academy, 488-0880, www.wmmi.org.

World Figure Skating Hall of Fame & Museum

Honors national and international skaters and features artifacts, costumes, national and international medals and trophies. Open daily. 20 First Street, 635-5200, www.worldskatingmuseum.org.

Attractions

Air Force Academy

Built along the base of the majestic Rampart Range, this is one of Colorado's most popular destinations for visitors. The elite four-year military institution has a variety of areas open to the public including the Cadet Chapel, concerts at Arnold Hall, Falcon Stadium, and a visitors center. Call 333-2025 to confirm hours of operation. I-25 at Exit 156B (Northgate Blvd.), www.usafa.af.mil.

The Broadmoor

One of the country's finest resorts, it was built in 1918 as a grand hotel and for years has enjoyed a Mobile 5-star rating. Offers golf, tennis, swimming and spa. One Lake Avenue, 634-7711, www.broadmoor.com.

Buckskin Joe Frontier Town & Railway

Located at the foot of the Greenhorn Mountains in Canon City, gunfights, live entertainment, animals and everything in between will have you living in the Wild West! John Wayne movies were filmed here and the History Channel filmed a documentary "The Haunted Rockies" here on location.

Also of interest is the **Royal Gorge Scenic Railway**. This mountain train takes you to the edge with views of the Gorge and famous bridge. Hours vary subject to dark days, call for times. Admission fee for each attraction. Located eight miles west of Canon City on Hwy. 50. 275-5149, www.buckskinjoes.com.

You can also take the **Royal Gorge Route Railroad** dinner train that takes you on a three hour journey 24 miles through the Gorge. For more information and prices call 888-724-5748 or visit www.royalgorgeroute.com.