



Riders are rewarded with breathtaking panoramic views from the top of Pikes Peak when they take a trip on the COG Railroad from Manitou Springs. PICTURE COURTESY OF COG RR

**Catamount Institute / Beidleman Environmental Center**

Administrator of Sonderman Park in Colorado Springs and a 177 acre mountain campus just south of Woodland Park, CO. This field campus offers camping, educational programs, hiking, workshops, tobogganing, tracking and more. Open to all nature lovers! For more information call 578-7088 or visit [www.catamountinstitute.org](http://www.catamountinstitute.org).

**Cave of the Winds**

Travel deep into the Rocky Mountains. Guided 7/8 mile tour takes you through millions of years of geological history. View stalactites, stalagmites, flowstone, plus many other cave formations. Six miles west off Hwy 24 in Manitou Springs, 685-5444, [www.caveofthewinds.com](http://www.caveofthewinds.com).

**Cheyenne Mountain Zoo**

America's ONLY mountain zoo features over 500 rare and endangered animals representing some 140 species from around the world. Includes the Will Rogers Shrine of the Sun. The zoo's newest interactive attraction, The African Rift Valley Exhibit, opened in 2003, allows visitors to hand feed the giraffes plus other activities. Open daily. 4250 Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Rd., 633-9925, [www.cmzoo.org](http://www.cmzoo.org).

**Cripple Creek & Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad**

Enjoy unobstructed views from open cars and interesting narrations about gold mines and trestles as you travel to Anaconda, a nearby deserted mining camp. Runs daily, May-October, 5th and Bennett Avenue, Cripple Creek, 689-2640, [www.cripplecreekrailroad.com](http://www.cripplecreekrailroad.com).

**Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument**

Just west of Divide, this area provides a fascinating look into the distant past. Enjoy interpretive exhibits, a Visitor's Center and trails for summer and winter activities. Administered by the National Park Service. Admission. Open daily. 15807 Teller County Rd., 748-3253.

**Flying W Chuckwagon Supper**

This working ranch consists of restored buildings, authentic contents, ranch style suppers and western entertainment. Open seven nights week, May through August. 3330 Chuckwagon Rd., 800-232-3599, [www.flyingw.com](http://www.flyingw.com).

**Garden of the Gods Park**

Natural park of 1,300 acres containing massive formations of red sandstone, including Gateway Rocks, Balanced Rock, and the Cathedral Spires. There are nature walks, foot and horse trails, and picnicking. New Visitor's Center at 30th St. and Gateway Rd. features exhibits, gift and coffee shops. Open daily. 1805 N. 30, 634-6666, [www.gardenofgods.com](http://www.gardenofgods.com).

**Manitou Cliff Dwellings**

In beautiful Phantom Cliff Canyon, this outdoor museum portrays the lives and architectural achievements of the Indians during the Great Pueblo Period (A.D. 1100-1300). Open daily, May through October. Located five miles west on Hwy. 24 in Manitou Springs, 685-5242, [www.cliffdwellingsmuseum.com](http://www.cliffdwellingsmuseum.com).

**Mollie Kathleen Gold Mine**

The United States' only 1,000 foot vertical shaft gold mine tour complete with viewing areas, air powered tram-air locomotive and mineral display.

Discovered in 1891, it is maintained as a mineable property. Continual updates are being made including crosscut tunnels to enhance the experience. Admission fee. Open seven days a week April through October. Group tours available year round. Located one mile north of Hwy. 67 in Cripple Creek, 689-2466, [www.goldminetours.com](http://www.goldminetours.com).

**North Cheyenne Canon Park**

The oldest city park in Colorado Springs, located on N. Cheyenne Canon Road, it is cut 1,000 feet deep into 1.5 billion year old granite. Outstanding plant and animal life abound. Activities include driving *Gold Camp Road*, a steep, scenic nine mile route into the mountains with great hiking trails and "pullouts" for leisurely viewing of mountains, valleys and waterfalls.

*Helen Hunt Falls Visitor Center* is located at 4075 N. Cheyenne Canon Rd. with exhibits, hiking trail maps, books, etc. Seasonal hours (opens in May). Call 578-6146 (winter) or 633-5701 (summer) for more information.

*Starsmore Discovery Center* is located at 2120 S. Cheyenne Canon Rd. and offers dioramas, nature exhibits, bird watching, climbing wall, books and maps. Seasonal hours (opens in May), 578-6146. Additional information about this wonderful park can be found at [www.springsgov.com](http://www.springsgov.com), then click on "park".

**North Pole & Santa's Workshop**

Twenty-five acres of family fun visiting Santa. Featuring a host of friendly animals, artisans, and 22 amusement rides. Open May to Christmas. Ten miles west on Hwy. 24 to Cascade, 684-9432, [www.santas-colo.com](http://www.santas-colo.com).

**Old Colorado City**

The Old Colorado City Historic District is an extraordinary blend of heritage and architecture. In the historic buildings there are restaurants, art galleries, studios, and specialty shops. W. Colorado Ave. between 24th and 28th, 635-7506, [www.history.oldcolo.com](http://www.history.oldcolo.com).

**Pikes Peak Cog Railway**

World's highest railway takes visitors on an unforgettable panoramic trip to the 14,110 ft. summit of America's most famous peak. Runs daily May-September. 515 Ruxton Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-5401, [www.cograilway.com](http://www.cograilway.com).

**Pikes Peak & Pikes Peak Highway**

Drive to the 14,110 ft. summit of the peak that inspired the song "America the Beautiful" in the comfort of your car. Open daily year round, weather permitting. There is a road toll charge. West on Hwy. 24 in Cascade, 385-7325, [www.pikespeakcolorado.com](http://www.pikespeakcolorado.com).

**Royal Gorge**

World's highest suspension bridge spans Colorado's most famous canyon and the Arkansas River. Picnicking and hiking trails. Open daily. West of Canon City on Hwy. 115, 275-7507, [www.royalgorgebridge.com](http://www.royalgorgebridge.com).

**Seven Falls**

The Falls cascade down a steep canyon in seven distinct steps. Best viewed from Eagle's Nest, at the top of a 206-step stairway, elevator available. Open daily. Seven miles west of downtown, 2850 S. Cheyenne Canon Rd., 632-0765, [www.sevenfalls.com](http://www.sevenfalls.com).

**U.S. Olympic Complex**

This mega-complex is not only headquarters for 12 USOC organizations, it also holds the training center, including aquatics, numerous gyms, sports medicine and science centers, dining room, residence halls, and other member organizations. Free tours. 1750 E. Boulder (aka 1 Olympic Plaza), 866-4618, [www.usoc.org](http://www.usoc.org).

**Photo tours of Colorado Springs and surrounding towns can be viewed at [www.HelloColoradoSprings.com](http://www.HelloColoradoSprings.com)**