

CELEBRATING
18
YEARS

ON THE JOB

A fly fishing guide shares lessons in patience and connection.

VEGGIES MEET VODKA

A savory, herb-laced drink, perfectly crafted for summer.

CHECK IN

Hotel Maxwell Anderson blends history and modern luxury in Glenwood Springs.

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PEAK SUMMER

Adventures

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PEAK. SUMMER.



Life at elevation hits differently. When the snow melts and the trails open, a whole new kind of adventure begins. Think fly fishing in rushing rivers, paddleboarding on glassy alpine lakes, biking single-track through wildflower meadows, or saddling up for a trail ride into the backcountry. Whether you're chasing thrills or just chasing the sunset, the mountains are wide open—and summer is at its peak.

BY JESSICA HUGHES



PHOTO COURTESY OF GO FRUITA



BOOTS, BIKES & BACK- ROADS

From epic mountain descents to horseback rides through high-country trails, these land-based adventures are all about going full throttle into summer.

TWO WHEELS: *Single Track*

For thrill-seekers, Colorado's singletrack mountain biking trails deliver big. On the Western Slope, Fruita and Palisade offer world-renowned systems like 18 Road, the Kokopelli Trails, and Rabbit Valley—packed with fast descents and punchy climbs for all skill levels. Advanced riders can tackle the Sarlace Trail, an 8-mile stretch that winds across the top of the Book Cliffs with sweeping views of the valley below. And for a true bucket-list ride, the Palisade Plunge drops 6,000 feet over 32 miles from the Grand Mesa to downtown Palisade.

Front Range riders can start with the Erie Singletrack at Sunset Open Space or Littleton's beginner-friendly Two Brands Trail. Intermediate and advanced bikers should head to the south side of Pueblo Lake State Park or tackle the Elk Range Trail at Centennial Cone Open Space—12+ miles of near-backcountry riding, complete with biker-only days for uninterrupted flow.

Wherever you are, the Trailforks app is a great tool to scout trails and skill levels in real time. (trailforks.com)



LEFT PHOTO COURTESY OF BRECKENRIDGE TOURISM; RIGHT PHOTO COURTESY OF ACADEMY RIDING STABLES



HORSEBACK

If you're ready to embrace the "Cowboy Core" trend sweeping travel this year, there's no better place than Colorado to saddle up and live out your Wild West daydreams. With deep roots in cowboy culture, the state offers horseback riding adventures ranging from scenic trail rides to immersive ranch experiences.

Start in Breckenridge, where Breckenridge Stables (breckstables.com) sets up each summer on Peak 9. Just a short ride from town via the QuickSilver chairlift, their gentle 1.5-hour guided trail winds through the White River National Forest, crossing creeks and alpine meadows with views of the Ten Mile Range. With no age restrictions—children under four ride with a parent—it's a perfect family-friendly adventure.

In the Aspen/Snowmass area, where the state's longest-running rodeo takes place, riders can explore over 23 miles of trails. Maroon Bells Guides and Outfitters (maroonbellsaspen.com) lead scenic trips through the breathtaking Maroon Bells Wilderness, one of Colorado's most iconic landscapes.

Farther afield, the Western Slope near Durango is rich with frontier spirit. Bears Ranch (bearsranch.com) offers classic Western riding, while Over the Hill Outfitters (overthehilloutfitters.com) takes riders deep into the Weminuche Wilderness—Colorado's largest—on backcountry horseback trips across ridges, valleys, and streams.

For a more pampered take on the cowboy lifestyle, head to Grand County, where four all-inclusive dude ranches—Bar Lazy J, Drowsy Water, Latigo, and the luxurious C Lazy U—deliver upscale Western getaways with all the rugged charm and none of the roughing it.

◀ During the summer, Breckenridge's ski hill transforms into horseback riding trails, complete with river crossings and black diamond descents.



GIDDY-UP WITHOUT GOING FAR

Hitch a ride closer to home with a horseback riding experience in Garden of the Gods with Academy Riding Stables (academyridingstables.com). Ride amongst the towering red rocks with a one- or two-hour wrangler-led horseback tour that's fun for the entire family and offers unbeatable photo ops. Or take the trek north to Livermore, just 35 minutes from Fort Collins, and saddle up with Tattered Saddle (tatteredaddle.com) at Gordon Creek. It hosts everything from a beginner trail ride to a "Scratch-and-Ride" experience that allows participants to "be a cowboy for a day." Plus, advanced trail ride options, so you can trot instead of just walk, are available after passing a quick riding test beforehand. You'll feel miles away from city life, even if you're just a short drive from home.