



With rugged and expansive terrain, Colorado attracts adventurers from near and far. But here, we like to up the ante through new, unique and extreme experiences that are sure to bring out the daredevil in you.

CLIFF CAMPING

If spending the night suspended off the side of a sheer rock face is your idea of a good time, then cliff camping is for you. **Kent Mountain Adventure Center** in **Estes Park** will guide you to a perch high above the valley floor, where you'll set up a portaledge and tuck in for the evening. Prefer to commit to just lunch (or dinner)? "Cliffnics" can be arranged — talk about dining with a view.

HELI FLY-FISHING

Not exactly your average fishing trip, an outing with Vail Valley-based **Minturn Anglers** will have you boarding a helicopter to reach a remote ranch and its untouched waters. **Gateway Canyons Air Tours** on the Western Slope also organizes excursions via helicopter to Bar ZX Ranch, the perfect secluded, backcountry spot to reel in the catch of a lifetime.

WATERFALL CANYONING

Let the expert instructors of **Canyoning Colorado** in **Ouray** show you the ropes of exploring river canyons and rappelling down waterfalls. Whether you're a newbie or no stranger to shimmying over flowing water, daily half- and full-day tours through the summer provide a structured environment for thrill-seeking nature lovers.



SKI BIKING

Also called snow biking, these contraptions are like a traditional bike, but with wheels replaced by skis, and are an alternate way to hit the slopes in the winter. Several ski resorts offer lessons and certification, including **Crested Butte**, **Winter Park**, **Keystone** and **Steamboat**. Another take on cold-weather cycling is fat biking: these mountain bikes with wide tires let you blaze trails in snowy conditions, with excellent opportunities found around **Leadville** and **Eagle**, to name a few. Learn more at COLORADO.com/Snowbiking.

SANDBOARDING

Zip down the tallest dunes in North America at Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, with the help of a sandboard or sled. **Kristi Mountain Sports** in **Alamosa** rents and sells these superior sliding devices year-round, while the **Great Sand Dunes Oasis** store just outside the park rents them from spring through fall.

INSIDER TIP: You'll reach even faster speeds using a specially formulated sand wax.



BURRO RACING

Donkeys are notoriously stubborn, so it's only natural that intrepid Coloradans in the 19th century would think up an activity involving them. Now a summer heritage sport, participants run while leading a burro, resulting in hilarity for spectators. Trot alongside a four-legged partner in the "Triple Crown" races in **Fairplay**, **Leadville** and **Buena Vista**, or enter two other contests in **Georgetown** and **Idaho Springs**.

VIA FERRATA

Not for the faint of heart, this historical method of climbing and traversing started in the Alps. Enlist **San Juan Mountain Guides**, **Telluride Mountain Guides**, **San Juan Outdoor Adventures** or **Mountain Trip** for an outing to the Telluride Via Ferrata, a narrow path outfitted with a fixed ladder-and-cable system that boasts breathtaking views of Bridal Veil Falls and the town below. New to **Idaho Springs**, **Arkansas Valley Adventures'** Iron Way Via Ferrata can be combined with a whitewater rafting trip.

PEDAL THE PLAINS

Each September, hundreds of cyclists descend on the eastern plains for a cycling race that covers nearly 200 miles over the course of three days. And it's a traveling party of sorts, with events, live music and great food in various communities along the way. Though less grueling than other bike-based events in the state, if you're apprehensive about the long haul, opt for the Century-PLUS one-day experience, which is an extension of Day 2.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: KENT MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE CENTER; VIA FERRATA IN TELLURIDE; MOUNTAIN TRIP; SANDBOARDING AT GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE; KENNAN HARVEY.

WANT MORE? COLORADO.COM/ADVENTURETOURS