

Historic Denver Walking Tour

Introduction

Hi. Welcome to iziTRAVEL's Historic Denver Walking Tour, presented by ListenUp Audio. We're so glad you'll be joining us today! I'm _____ and I'll be your guide. A few notes before we get started. This tour takes approximately an hour and a half to complete. You can stop at any time and start again at the same spot later. If you'd like, you can put your phone in your pocket and just listen from here. I'll be giving you clear directions and the audio will automatically start playing when you get close to the next point of interest. If a site is closed or your path is blocked, don't worry. Just go around it. The tour will pick up at the next location. And this is important: PLEASE make sure you stay aware of your surroundings at *all* times and obey *all* traffic signals.

(pause)

Welcome to Historic Denver, Colorado, where sunshine, cultural diversity and natural beauty collide to form one of the most beloved cities west of the Mississippi. Hailed as "The Mile-High City" by tourists and locals alike, it remains one of the country's most spectacular playgrounds, firmly nestled in the rugged beauty of the Rocky Mountains. On this tour, we'll take you through its many vibrant districts and locations, highlighting the city's cultural significance from its roots during the Pike's Peak Gold Rush, to its modern-day status as the state's capitol and a testament to American perseverance, creativity, and ingenuity.

Whenever you're ready to begin, Head southwest on Blake St toward 20th St, and then turn right onto 17th St. The first destination will be on your left.

Coors Field

We begin our tour with a stop at the famous Coors Field, home to Denver's own Colorado Rockies baseball team. Opened in 1995 to the general public, with the first official game played on April 26th of that year, the stadium is named after the Coors Brewing Company of Golden, Colorado. Being the second stadium to host the team since their inception in 1993, it's remained a staple of the city and the franchise ever since, with its owners and operators hailing it as a perfect blend of classic baseball feel and modern technology.

One of the few baseball-only National League Parks to exist at the time (Dodgers Stadium had been the first and only up to this point when it was built in 1962) Coors Field boasts an impressive seating capacity of 50,445, unobstructed views regardless of seat or seat level, and a host of other amenities. Starting with the area just beyond the center-field wall, with its seven water fountains shooting forty feet into the air after every home run or win, and its seven different types of Colorado trees laid out among its granite boulders and vibrant Navajo ruby sandstone, this small enclosure, only a fraction of the 76-acre lot encompassing the 3-acre playing field, paints a breathtaking portrait of the Colorado landscape renowned throughout the country as some of the most beautiful to be seen.

With its brick-by-brick construction, each meticulously engraved with the field's name, Coors Field was massive undertaking shared amongst a wide variety of contractors and subcontractors, its totaling cost hovering just below \$500 million when adjusted for current inflation. Featuring heated cables beneath the field's green to melt potential snow during the regular season (as it can and sometimes does snow during April and May in Colorado), special mile-high seats painted the team's signature deep purple, and a special Hall of History at club level to commemorate the team's 20th anniversary, there's plenty to see at Coors Field.

And for those particular of their views, the stadium's own Tavern Ballpark, located at rooftop level, offers its patrons the chance to sit, drink, eat, and watch the game directly at mile-high level, serving an impressive 52 craft beers on tap along its 52 ft. 80 in. bar top in honor of its location 5,280 ft. above sea level. There, fans *might* just catch a glimpse of a few home runs as they slice effortlessly through the thinner air, an added edge to the stadium's location and a favorite among home run enthusiasts. Sore losers beware, however, as unruly or overly intoxicated fans have been known to spend time in the stadium's very own jail cells deep within the depths of its lower portions.

When you're ready to continue, Head northwest on 17th St toward Wynkoop St. The destination will be on your left.

The Oxford Hotel

Moving beyond the stadium and its splendor, we come now to Denver's Oxford Hotel, the city's finest and oldest still in operation. Built in 1891 by local brewer Adolph Zang, its rooms and halls adorned with fine oak furnishings, silver chandeliers, frescoed walls, and a host of other amenities, it represents the standard in Gilded Age luxury that remained prominent towards the end of the 19th century.

Featuring an impressive array of the latest technological advancements to the era, such as electric and gas lighting, steam heating, elevators, and even bathrooms with separate wall closets, the hotel was an instant hit with residents and visitors alike, earning it a reputation as one of the finest establishments to stay in west of the Mississippi.

Yet while guests enjoyed and have continued to enjoy a standard night's sleep within the hotel's walls for the past 125 years, a few for the past 118 have sometimes found their rest interrupted by unexplainable and even paranormal activity. Concentrated primarily in the hotel's infamous Room #320, some male guests have woken suddenly to the sensation of their arms being pulled, the feel of their sheets being ripped from their bodies, or even to the sounds of water being turned on and off throughout the night. Even still, others have sworn by the tale of the type writer that would all but run on its own, forcing the hotel staff to store it in the hotel's attic, lest it terrify guests.

Taking advantage of its rich, paranormal history (and to make some extra money on the side), The Oxford Hotel offers its annual Paranormal Theater Package to patrons every Halloween season, with special accommodation to its luxury suites, tickets to the unique "Paranormal Theater-A Magic Show," and the chance to try the hotel's signature "Spirit-Inis" in the Cruise Room bar. While enjoying their drinks, guests of the hotel might even catch a glimpse of the Oxford's other resident ghost, a bar-hopping frozen postman who mutters constantly about "needing to get to the children." Regardless of the need for your stay, whether it be rest, a quiet drink, or even some ghost hunting, remember to make reservations early. Rooms fill quickly, and "haunted" rooms fill even quicker.

When you're ready to continue, Head southeast on 17th St toward Wazee St. Turn right onto Larimer St. The destination is on your right.

LoDo District

Having enjoyed The Oxford's worldly and otherworldly accommodations, we move now to Denver's famous LoDo district, home to some of its earliest and finest history as the "Mile High City." Established as the city's base in 1858 with the discovery of gold, Denver's LoDo district was originally founded by General William Larimer, an American settler and land developer who would later go on to serve as a Kansas State senator before his death in 1875. Having chosen the name "Denver" in honor of Mr. James W. Denver, then governor of the Kansas Territory, General Larimer marked the plot of land that would become Denver's LoDo district with a pile of cottonwood logs, aggressively working to develop the plot into the bustling, and often wild city that it is today.

With surges of migrants, miners, and trailblazers making their way into Denver for gold and their chance at the American Dream, Denver's population, along with its reputation as a land of opportunity, quickly soared, ultimately becoming the capitol of the

Colorado Territory in 1861. Having been instrumental to the process, Larimer continued to aggressively sell mining tracts to any and all who would stake their claim in Denver's fortunes, declaring "I am Denver City" as he watched his small plot continue to grow and flourish.

The city, and particularly its LoDo district, continues to flourish to this day, hailed for its vibrant nightlife, rich variety of urban adventures, and seemingly endless supply of outdoor activities, thanks in large part to its proximity to Cherry Creek and its adjacent parks and walking/biking trails. Regarded as the city's dining hotspot, LoDo features some of the city's best restaurants, taverns, and clubs, with highlights such as the 1515 Restaurant, Rioja, The Kitchen Denver, and The Denver Chophouse & Brewery comprising just a handful of the district's best offerings. Hailed as one of the best places in all of Denver to work, play, or live, LoDo is an experience unto its own in the greater tour of Denver city, steeped in the very fiber of Denver's rich, historical past.

When you're ready to continue, Head southwest on Wynkoop St toward 16th St. Turn left onto 16th St. Turn right onto Larimer St., and the destination is on your left.

Writer's Square

Nestled within the buildings and warehouses overlooking of 1512 Larimer St., its name etched in gold lettering across a stone plaque, we come now to Writer's Square, one of Denver's quieter, relaxing spots to sit, enjoy a coffee, people watch, or even do a little window shopping. Opened in 1980 and owned by LaSalle Investment Management, it's regarded by the locals as one of the better places to enjoy some time away from work, offering an assortment of specialty stores and boutiques, each with their own unique blend of Denver fashion and flair.

With stores like Overland Sheepskin Apparel, an anchor of Writer's Square and a staple in the leather industry of the western United States since 1973, visitors and locals alike can find beautiful, high-quality sheepskin coats, hats, mittens, slippers, and even luxurious home and auto accessories to take home as souvenirs, with styles ranging from "rugged Western to the most elegant of classic and contemporary."

Additionally, visitors to the square who find themselves in desperate need of something to eat or drink have a number of options to choose from. From their favorite cup of coffee at the local Starbucks, to fine European cuisine at The Writing Square's own Red Square Bistro, or even Italian options at the nearby Cafe Colore, each restaurant, offering their own indoor and outdoor seating, offers a unique experience found only at the square.

Yet while Writer's Square is mostly known for its restaurants and boutiques, a unique opportunity to rent or own condos in the square exists as well. Priced at the high end with access to above and underground parking, along with outstanding views overlooking historic Larimer Square, condos at Writer's Square have been and continue to be an attractive option to those interested in staking their own claim in the Mile-High City.

When you're ready to continue, Head southwest on Larimer St toward 15th St. The destination will on your right.

Larimer Square

Moving along from Denver's quaint Writer's Square, we come to historic Larimer Square, named for the city's founder General William Larimer. Established in 1858 alongside the city's primary development, construction at Larimer broke ground with the erection of Denver's first cabin, a 16 x 20 structure with coffin lids for doors, and a window made of a semi-transparent glazed material. Following Colorado's establishment as a territory of the United States in 1861, Larimer himself watched as his city began to flourish, and before long, its one cabin soon became a collection of over 25 buildings, including the city's first bank, bookstore, photographer and dry goods store, and even the city's first post office.

Featuring exquisite Victorian-type architecture prevalent to the era, many of Larimer Square's buildings, such as its famous Graham Clayton Building (or Granite Building, as it later came to be called), became landmarks of their own, signaling the city's rise from a pile of logs near LoDo district to the bustling metropolis it is today. Housing a number of the city's first businesses, such as MacNamara Dry Goods store, predecessor of the Denver Dry Goods Company, buildings like The Granite, with its beautifully hand painted stained-glass windows and towering four-story construction, became anchors of the city, bringing a sense of rich, Victorian luxury to the wild, wild west.

Yet like many historic structures from that era, Denver's own collection also came into a time of neglect and disrepair during the early 1960s. Though politicians were apt to demolish the entire block, hoping to pave the way for a giant skyline instead, a woman named Dana Crawford had a different vision for the 1400 block of Larimer Street. She saw the opportunity to preserve the best of both worlds, both Denver's historical value and its legacy into the future, and with the formation of the Larimer Square Associates in 1963, she, a "porcelain-skinned society dame with serious business chops," went toe-to-toe with Denver's banks, politicians, and representatives of the Denver Urban Renewal Authority (DURA) to secure her vision.

The result was the Larimer Square you see before you today, named a historical district in 1971 thanks in no small part to the hard work of this amazing and tenacious young woman. Thanks to Mrs. Crawford's vision, residents can wine and dine in some of the city's finest restaurants, browse the host of specialty boutiques unique to the square, and even catch a show at the nearby Comedy

Works comedy club named one of the nation's top five and featuring acts from Jerry Seinfeld, Chris Rock, Dennis Miller, and many more.

When you're ready to continue, Head southwest on Larimer St toward 14th St. Turn left onto 14th St., and the destination will be on the right.

Denver Performing Arts Complex

Making our way down 14th Street, we come to the famous Denver Performing Arts Complex, home to some of the city's finest in Broadway, Cabaret, Opera, and a host of other spectacular events. Situated in the heart of the Theatre District and known locally as "The Plex," "The DCPA," or simply "The Denver Center," the Denver Performing Arts Complex is one of the largest of its kind within the United States, containing an impressive 10 performance spaces, each with matching seating accommodations, all held beneath the massive eighty-foot glass rooftop marking its location against the skyline.

Born from the vision of occasional-actress, Denver Post owner, and philanthropist Helen G. Bonfils and her partner, Broadway Producer/ Wall Street lawyer Donald R. Seawell, the Denver Performing Arts Complex is owned and operated by The City and County of Denver's Arts & Venues, with its Ellie Caulkins Opera House, Boettcher Concert Hall and Temple Hoyne Buell Theatre housing the bulk of the complex's shows and occupants. As a home and venue to four signature resident companies, the Colorado Ballet, Colorado Symphony Orchestra, Denver Center for the Performing Arts and Opera Colorado respectively, the DCPA has substantially changed the face of Denver's cultural arts community since its inception in December of 1974, forever changing the quality of life for all of Denver and its citizens in the process.

Pumping more than \$500 million into Denver's economy annually, with a wide variety classic, contemporary, and new plays totaling more than 375 productions, including 125 premieres, shows at the DCPA are plentiful and year-round, making a trip to the center a necessity for any and all fans of the arts. From the Tony Award-winning Broadway rendition of Disney's "Beauty and the Beast," to Sondheim's magnificent "Sweeny Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street," there's something for everyone, and visitors are encouraged to check out the full schedule on the center's website.

When you're ready to continue, head southeast on 14th St toward 14th St. The destination will be on your right.

The Colorado Convention Center

Having checked out the upcoming shows (or even purchased a few tickets) at Denver's Performing Arts Complex, we turn now to Denver's Colorado Convention Center, located just down the street from and adjacent to the Emily Griffith Opportunity School.

Opened in 1990, it offers 584,000 contiguous square feet of exhibit and event space, hosting a wide variety of the city's most important exhibitions, events, trade shows, and product launches annually.

Featuring state-of-the-art ballrooms like the Mile-High Ballroom, with its spectacular lighting system providing the illusion of the night sky, and the Four Seasons ballroom, used in conjunction for some of the city's hottest fundraisers and events, much of the space in the CCC is used year-round. Events such as the Great American Beer Festival and the World Conference on Lung Cancer marked its 25th anniversary, while special accommodations are made annually for the graduation ceremonies of students of The Art Institute of Colorado, Community College of Denver, Metropolitan State College of Denver, Regis University and the University of Colorado Denver respectively.

In addition, the CCC hosts a wide variety of public art throughout its interior and exterior, with its most visual piece, a sculpture by the artist Lawrence Argent titled *I See What You Mean*, situated just to the left of its main entrance on 14th Street. Built in 2005, the 40-foot tall sculpture, carved in the form of a lapis lazuli-colored bear, stands on its hind legs, its paws and face pressed against the CCC's outer glass wall, peering at visitors as they walk around inside. Others, like artist William Matthews' collection of 12 vibrant, watercolor paintings titled *Colorado Pioneer*, take a more standard approach, chronicling the viewpoint of Colorado's Native American ancestors, its first North American explorers, ranchers, and pioneers, and its other various cultural figures as they settled and lived their lives along the Colorado frontier.

Even still, residents of Denver and tourists alike have more to look forward to, as the CCC's expansion in 2004 has brought with it even more space with which to house events, effectively doubling its size and scope for future possibilities. Setting the world record for "most people taking part in a ground-breaking ceremony," the CCC's expansion has been seen as yet another hallmark to the cultural reawakening of Denver's downtown districts, effectively helping to boost it to the No. 1 spot on U.S. News & World Report's list of the 2016 Best Places to Live.

When you're ready to continue, head southeast on 14th St toward California St. Turn right onto Welton St. Turn left onto 13th St. Make another left W Colfax Ave and the destination will be on the right.

United States Mint

Moving beyond the Colorado Convention Center, we come now to the United States Mint of Denver, known also as The Denver Mint to locals and employees of the facility. Established in 1863 shortly after the city's birth during the Pike's Peak gold rush, The Denver Mint began as nothing more than an assay office in the Clark, Gruber and Company Bank Building, a place where miners finding gold

of gold dust and nuggets along Colorado's foothills and rivers, could come to have their findings melted, assayed and cast into bars stamped with their weight and quality.

Continuing this practice over the next forty-six years, employees at the Assay Office of Clark, Gruber and Company soon found themselves deeply entrenched in Colorado's booming gold and silver industry, and by 1895, the Assay Office was flourishing, bringing in more than \$5.6 million in gold and silver deposits annually. Sensing the need to expand The Assay Office to accommodate the ever-increasing yields, The United States government took action to convert the Assay Office in 1904 into a working mint, constructing the new building, a gorgeous Italian Renaissance style modeled after a Florentine palace, along Denver's West Colfax Avenue and Delaware Street. After successfully advancing its status to a Branch Mint, or satellite operation for the National Mint, the new Denver Mint produced some 167,371,035 gold and silver coins during its first year in operation in 1906, a value totaled and just around \$27 million. That number has since ballooned to an excess of over 50 million coins a day, making it one of the largest distributors of gold and silver coins throughout the entire United States.

When you're ready to continue, Head east on W Colfax Ave toward Cherokee St. Turn right onto Bannock St., and the destination is on the right.

Denver Courthouse

Sitting adjacent to The U.S. Mint of Denver, we come to the Denver Courthouse, home to Denver's first formation of government after the Pike's Peak Gold Rush of 1859. Established on October 24th of that same year, Denver's government was the result of a need for a provisional government for the many goldfields springing up along the frontier surrounding Pike's Peak. Starting with the election and approval of Robert Williamson Steele as Governor of the Territory of Jefferson, steps were taken to organize the Territory of Jefferson from its extralegal and unrecognized status into something more incorporated within the territory of the United States.

Understanding the citizens of Denver's desire for this legislation, President James Buchanan signed an Act of Congress on February 28, 1861 declaring the Jefferson Territory the new Territory of Colorado, with President Abraham Lincoln, then brand new to the office, appointing William Gilpin the first Governor of the Territory only a few weeks later. Shortly after that, Colorado's new General Assembly met for the first time to establish seventeen new counties, ultimately creating Arapahoe County and inaugurating Denver City as its seat. Only a few years later, having established itself as a city that physically encompassed the offices and meeting places of its respective government, Denver City shortened its name to Denver and became the Territory's capitol in 1865, with permanent capitol status to follow years later in 1881.

As part of its new status as state capitol, and with funds from the newly discovered supplies of silver in the nearby mountains, officials in the new capital of Denver elected to design and build its first courthouse, an opulent and beautiful structure which lasted from its 1883 inception until the current structure was built in 1932. Acting as the court for civil, small claims, traffic and criminal cases occurring within the city as a whole, Denver Courthouse is currently comprised of 17 judges, 15 magistrates, and 245 staff members respectively, with the Honorable John M. Marcucci acting as the Presiding Judge.

When you're ready to continue, Head south on Bannock St toward W 14th Ave. Turn left onto W 14th Ave and the destination will be on your left.

Civic Center Park

Just across from the Denver City Courthouse and located “at the crossroads of government, culture, commerce and community,” we arrive at Civic Center Park, a historic, 12-acre green space dedicated to the gathering of the largest and most important cultural and civic events in the city of Denver. Born from the vision of former Denver mayor Robert W. Speer, Denver’s Civic Center Park was culmination of Speer’s desire to see Denver’s landscape transformed in the spirit of City Beautiful ideas shown to him at the 1893 World Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

As an avid lover of arts and culture himself, Speer could see the potential for Denver to embrace the “City Beautiful” philosophy of promoting harmonious social order through the introduction of beautification and monumental grandeur to urban areas, and with the help of his partners, including Chicago planner and architect Edward H. Bennett, Speer’s vision became a reality with the park’s official opening in 1919. Combining ideas from previous park plans, such as the addition of a Greek amphitheater, a Colonnade, a seal pond, and the realignment of Colfax and 14th Avenues around the park, Speer and Bennett created what has come to be known as an urban oasis, with its vast acreage, filled with shade trees, lush lawns, and sophisticated gardens, transformed into the quintessential cultural and community hub for the city of Denver.

Hosting numerous festivals, parades, and protests throughout the year, the park is also home to many of the city’s largest events, ranging from the National Western Stock Show in January, to the Saint Patrick’s Day parades in March, and even The People’s Fair in June, the city’s largest bohemian festival filled with various music, art, political booths, and other experiences unique to the festival itself.

As Civic Center Park has continued to grow, so too has its reputation as one of the finest landmarks in all of Colorado. In recognition of this fact, the National Park Service, charged with the oversight of all National Parks and many American national monuments

throughout the country, officially dubbed Civic Center Park a National Historic Landmark in October of 2012, catapulting it, and the city of Denver, even further into the pages of United States history.

When you're ready to continue, Head southwest on W 14th Ave. Your destination will be on your left.

Denver Art Museum

Just south of Civic Center Park, we arrive at the prestigious Denver Art Museum. With a history as wide and varied as its collection, including original and contemporary pieces from Native American, African, American, European, Spanish Colonial, Modern and Contemporary, Oceanic, and Pre-Columbian, and many more, The Denver Art Museum has remained an anchor of the city's cultural community since its establishment in 1893. Tracing its roots to the founding of the Denver Artists Club, the museum itself has had many homes, ranging from its start in the city's public library, to its relocation into a downtown mansion and a portion of Denver City and Council Building, to its own permanent galleries on 14th Avenue Parkway in 1949.

Through its mission statement to “spark creative thinking and expression through transformative experiences with art,” The Denver Art Museum is comprised of three main buildings, each hosting a portion of the museum's massive collection of art and exhibitions. From the renowned North Building, with its castle-like façade and million reflective glass tiles distinguishing it as the only one of its kind in North America to be designed by Italian architect Gio Ponti, to the Frederic C. Hamilton Building, geometrically designed to recall the look and feel of the Rocky Mountains surrounding the city, to the newly opened Bannock Administration Building, with its open floor plan featuring various brainstorming zones to provide optimal working and meeting spaces for inspired creativity, the buildings of the Denver Art Museum are as varied as the collections they house, each representing a small piece of Denver's enormous cultural presence.

Past and present exhibitions only compound the city's reputation as a cultural juggernaut, with Denver's unique exhibitions like *Summer Is*, a collection of urban campfires made of native beetle-kill pine, recycled camping rope, and other recycled materials, showcasing Colorado's heritage as a frontier state. In addition, current exhibitions like *Samurai* offer visitors a unique glimpse into the farthest reaches of Japanese culture, telling the iconic story of Japanese Samurai through over 140 objects and artifacts, including decorative Japanese armor and weapons.

All in all, The Denver Art Museum's collection totals at just over 68,000, and continues to grow every year. With affordable pricing (including free admission for children five and under) and flexible hours that extend during the weekend, it's a must-see for any visitor to the city, and a truly unforgettable experience.

When you're ready to continue, Head north on Broadway toward E 14th Ave. Turn right onto E 14th Ave. Turn left at Grant St. Make a right, then the next left, followed by another left.

Denver Public Library

Breaking away from the creative overload of Denver's Art Museum, we move now to quieter spaces, arriving at the Denver Public Library on 1357 Broadway. Beginning in June 1889 within a wing of Denver High School, the Denver Public Library was the result of City Librarian John Cotton Dana's desire for "a center of public happiness." Nurturing his vision over the next twenty years, Dana saw it come to life in the form of philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, who, in 1910 with the help of his partners, helped to finance construction of the city's Central Library building, an elegant Greek temple design that would ultimately be accompanied by eight library branches, each serving the city for the next several decades.

Yet by 1953, the city realized it was in need of a new building with which to house its growing number of library materials, and by 1956, it had successfully commissioned the firm of Fisher & Fisher and fellow architect Burnham Hoyt to design and construct the library's new structure on 1357 Broadway. Opened in 1956 and standing at twice the size of Carnegie's original building, the Central Library's new location was only slated to last a few decades, as the city's explosive growth along with the growth of new materials would all but necessitate a third move sometime later in the future. And, true to earlier predictions, with three-quarters of Central Library materials stored in basements and warehouses, and its aging buildings unable to adapt to the growing trends and technologies of the Information Age, the city once again commissioned for a new structure to house the library's overflowing expanse of materials.

Newly dubbed the Denver Public Library, the \$91.6 million, 540,000 square foot structure designed by world-renowned architect Michael Graves and the Denver firm of Klipp Colussy Jenks DuBois officially opened in 1995, and currently hosts a staggering 600,000 photographs, 3,700 manuscript archives, 200,000 cataloged books, pamphlets, atlases, maps, and microfilm titles as well as a collection of Western fine art and prints, many of which are said to rival that of the next-door Denver Art Museum.

When you're ready to continue, Head northeast on W 14th Ave toward Broadway. Turn left onto Lincoln St. and walk towards the memorial.

The Veterans Memorial

Standing tall in Lincoln Park between the State Capitol and Denver City and County Building, we come to The Veterans Memorial. Spearheaded by Denver's own Tim Drago, a Vietnam veteran and member of The Colorado Tribute To Veterans, the organization which oversaw the construction of the memorial and its dedication on Veterans Day, 1990, the memorial, an obelisk pointing high into the Colorado sky, stands in dedication to those who lost their lives in service to our country and tribute to veterans of the past, present, and future.

Adorned with five brass disks marking the five branches our Armed Services, its top a shining beacon each and every night, the memorial has become the gathering place for all Memorial Day, 4th of July, Veterans Day activities for the last 20 years, and a place for friends, family, and fellow Veterans to honor fallen loved ones and comrades killed in the line of duty. Engraved with the words "Dedicated by the People of Colorado in Gratitude and Respect for the Men and Women who have proudly served and sacrificed in our Nation's Armed Forces," it is a proud reminder of the strength and sacrifice of all members of the United States armed forces, and a testament to the city of Denver's dedication to honor their memory.

When you're ready to continue, Head east. Turn left toward E Colfax Ave. Turn right toward E Colfax Ave, then make another left toward E Colfax Ave. Once you arrive, Turn right onto E Colfax Ave and continue on until you see the destination on your right.

State Capitol Building

Nearing the end of our tour, we now stand at the State Capitol Building for the city of Denver, home of the Colorado General Assembly and the offices of the Governor of Colorado, Lieutenant Governor, and Treasurer respectively. Constructed in the 1890s from rich, white Colorado granite, the capitol, opened for general assembly in 1894, stands in silent opulence against the Colorado skyline, its bold exterior accentuated by its distinctive golden dome, gilded from the very mines which helped to launch the city's growth and prosperity.

Further accentuating its exterior, stained glass windows depicting events in Colorado's state history glimmer in the sunlight, and its steps, just slightly higher than the rest of the city of Denver, spiral upwards to the capitol's main entrance, with its 15th step engraved with the words "One Mile Above Sea Level," indicating the possibility to see the sun setting behind the Rocky Mountains should one look westward at the proper hour.

Additionally, the capitol building's interior, lined with copious amounts of Colorado Rose Onyx and White Yule Marble along its floors, walls and ceilings, stand in reverence to the wealth and prestige of the state's heritage during the Pike's Peak Gold Rush, with a few of their designs bearing a striking resemblance to George Washington, 1st President of the United States, and Molly Brown, a famous philanthropist and survivor of the Titanic. Further accentuated with decorative portraits of every U.S. president, the interior of Denver's State Capitol Building remains as opulent as its exterior walls, and a pristine example of the Neoclassical architecture on which it was based.

When you're ready to continue, Head south on Pennsylvania St toward E 13th Ave. Turn right onto E 13th Ave. Turn left and the destination will be on the right.

Molly Brown House Museum

Hailed as "one of the most visited historic sites in the state of Colorado," we come now to Denver's Molly Brown House Museum, home of the famous philanthropist and Titanic survivor Margaret "Molly" Brown. Built by William A. Lang in the 1880s utilizing several popular styles of the period, including Queen Anne Style architecture, it was sold to Margaret and her husband in 1894 after its previous owners, financially ruined from the Silver Crash of 1893, could no longer afford to stay there. Basking in their own newfound wealth around this time, thanks in large part to Margaret's husband's previous discovery of gold in the Little Johnny Mine in Leadville, Colorado, the Browns decided to rent the property to members of Denver's wealthy social elite, most notably the Governor of Colorado and his children in the midst of the Governor's mansion undergoing remodeling.

Having dabbled in philanthropy around this time, herself an avid supporter of urban reform amidst Denver's own social and financial crisis still looming from the Silver Crash of 1893, Margaret worked closely with controversial reformer Ben Lindsey (a Denver judge and politician who would later go on to create the national juvenile court system) to install public baths in the courthouse and advocate for more public parks and other city improvements. Though she also tried her hand at a seat in the state-senate, she was touted by her husband for defying the gender conventions of the time, and amidst the controversy, she withdrew from the race prior to election-day.

But 1902 rolled around, and eager to try new pursuits, Margaret and her husband then took time to tour the world, with a trip that eventually took them through Ireland, France, Russia, India and Japan, and other far corners of the world. Though both she and her husband seemed to enjoy the trip, with J.J. Brown giving serious thoughts toward retiring to Ireland sometime in the future and Margaret submitting her experiences with India's caste system to the Denver newspaper, the trip seemed only to delay the inevitable, and in 1909, after 23 years of marriage, the couple quietly separated. While a divorce was never officially finalized, the agreements of

the separation dictating that Margaret would keep their property on 1340 Pennsylvania Street while also receiving a \$700 a month allowance to maintain a life in comfort, the separation nevertheless lasted until J.J.'s death in 1922

It was during this time however, that a fated trip aboard the *Titanic*, one Margaret booked only as the first available ship home to her ill grandson, put her in the path towards her inevitable rise from philanthropic socialite, to her current status as “The Unsinkable Molly Brown.” Surviving the ship’s sinking via one of the lifeboats, her own knowledge in foreign languages helping to calm non-English speaking survivors prior to their rescue from the ship *Carpathia*, legends describe the moment that Margaret stepped onto safe, New York shores with her uttering the quip “Typical Brown luck. I’m unsinkable!” Though the reality of the moment is still debated today, with most sources citing the “Unsinkable” title as the work of fiction from sensationalists looking to capitalize on her story, or even from Margaret’s own experiences aboard the *Titanic* lifeboat in where she and other women were overruled in their desire to row back for more survivors, the ending result nevertheless gave rise to new fame for Margaret Brown, fame she used to fund, fight for, and establish labor rights for workers and restorations for war-torn parts of France post WWI. Though she died in 1932 during The Great Depression, her legend lives on, kept alive in part due to faithful restoration and conversion of her home into a museum via members of Historic Denver Inc. With guided tours every thirty minutes, it’s an event not to be missed.

When you’re ready to continue, Head south on Pennsylvania St toward E 13th Ave. Turn right onto E 13th Ave. Turn left onto Broadway and the destination will be on your left.

History Colorado Center

With our minds firmly on the history of one of Colorado’s more famous citizens, we move now to one of the best places to learn about the state’s history as a whole, Denver’s History Colorado Center. Newly constructed and opened on April 28th 2012, the museum has since quickly become a local favorite, featuring six permanent exhibits, each depicting a different point or dynamic in the history of Colorado’s official timeline, from its original, Native American roots, to its eventual indoctrination as the 38th state of the United States of America.

Beginning with the HCC’s *Living West* exhibit, museum goers are able to explore the dynamics between the state’s people and their living environment, told through its sub-exhibits, including *MesaVerde*, a look into the lives and artifacts of Colorado’s Ancestral Puebloans, *Dust Bowl*, where visitors can experience the devastating economic history and effects of the Dust Bowl that raged through the country on April 14, 1935, and *Mountains*, an exploration of Colorado’s rocky and cultural landscape as defined by its rivers, roads, and natural wildlife.

Following this, history enthusiasts can then visit the museum's focus on the former town of Keota, Colorado, the now abandoned ghost town described as having been filled with immense kindness and community, later wrought with drought and famine. Narrated by several actors portraying residents of the iconic homestead, the tour guides visitors through some town's former locations, including its school, general store, and many others.

Moving along, visitors can then venture into the museum's *Colorado Stories* exhibit, which provides an in-depth look into the people of Colorado's past and present, highlighting how each of them has helped to shape Colorado's history into what it is today. From the struggles of internees at Grenada War Location Center, an intern camp for Japanese-Americans after the attacks of Pearl Harbor, to a glimpse into the life of rangers working in Colorado's silver mines, to an exploration of the hardships and triumphs of Colorado's African American population, there's an enormous amount to see and hear, making this one the larger exhibits of historical significance at the center itself.

Even still, guests of the museum have the option of exploring its three other exhibits, each one taking a different approach to explain and detail Colorado's landscape and the landscape of its capitol. Dubbed *Time Machine*, *Denver A-Z*, and *The Denver Diorama* respectively, each offers a unique perspective on the state's storied history and should not be missed.

When you're ready to continue, Head south on Broadway toward E 12th Ave. Turn right onto W 12th Ave. Turn right at Acoma St, and the destination will be on the left.

Frederic C. Hamilton Building

Mentioned previously on our tour, we come back to the Frederic C. Hamilton Building near Civic Center Park, its jagged construction a recall and tribute to the Rocky Mountains surrounding the Denver's lush landscape. Designed by architect Daniel Libeskind, the iconic stand-alone extension of the Denver Art Museum, with its 9,000 titanium panels reflecting the Colorado sunshine, is truly one of the more visually striking buildings throughout the state's massive capital, and a testament to Colorado's heritage as a state of rich culture and creativity.

Housing a portion of the city's Modern and Contemporary art collection, the entrance to the Frederic C. Hamilton Building is first flanked by the sculpture of giant, bronze spider by French-born American sculptor Louise Bourgeois. Just past this, visitors to the building can gaze upwards to the 120-foot high expanse of the El Pomar Atrium, its dramatically sloping walls, skylight, and grand staircase leading up to the building's galleries as modern and contemporary as the pieces themselves. Featuring an outdoor sculpture

garden housed amongst a landscaped pedestrian plaza also designed by the building's architect, the building's notable sculptures include *The Big Sweep* by Coosje van Bruggen and Claes Oldenburg, a thematic interpretation of the artists' vision of "The Dustbin of History," featuring brooms and pans in action, *Scottish Angus Cow and Calf* by Dan Ostermiller, two giant sculptures of a mother cow and her calf which serve to highlight the importance of livestock in the history and contemporary scenery of rural Colorado, and *Denver Monoliths*, a collection of two towering vertical elements flanking the building's entrance, providing a stark contrast to the building's futuristic zigzagging architecture.

When you're ready to continue, Head south toward W 12th Ave. Turn left onto W 12th Ave. Turn right onto Sherman St and the destination will be on your right.

South of Colfax Nightlife District

Bordered by Lincoln, Speer and Colfax and comprised of a wide variety of nightlife venues, all within walking distance of one another, we arrive at the end our tour to Denver's "SoCo" Nightlife District. Suited to fit all tastes and lifestyles, it's the jack of all trades in entertainment and experience, home to the clubs and entertainment venues in all of Denver. Featuring live and DJ'd music with styles ranging from House and Reggae, to Hip Hop and R&B, to Top 40, Drum & Bass, Salsa and Meringue, and even Blues and Jazz, all spread amongst its twelve clubs and entertainment venues, Denver's SoCo district is the only place to be on a Friday and Saturday night, complete with a special one-entrance fee accommodation to all twelve of its venues.

And, should you find yourself exhausted from all the music, buzz, and entertainment, SoCo offers a plentiful selection of bars, grilles, and even cocktail lounges in which to sit, relax, and grab a bite with friends before heading on to the next venue. With some of the extraneous locations to SoCo also within walking distance of the district, partiers and tourists alike can enjoy some time in the district without fear of going home hungry, with additional hotel accommodations nearby for those who wish to make a full night of SoCo's one of a kind experience.

(pause)

Closing

This concludes our exciting tour of Denver, Colorado. If you wish to return to the starting point, make your way back Head north on Sherman St toward E 12th Ave, then Turn left onto E 12th Ave. Turn right onto Lincoln St, then Slight left onto 20th St. Turn right onto Broadway. Turn left onto Park Ave W. Turn right at Wazee St, then make two more left turns and you've arrived back at Coors Field.