



GRAND COUNTY COLORADO TOURISM BOARD PRESS KIT

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Table of Contents

Fact Sheet.....	2-3
Grand County Communities.....	4
Get Your “Ing” On.....	5-6
Grand County Year-Round Destination.....	7
Water, Water Everywhere.....	8-9
Rocky Mountain National Park.....	10
Grand County Dude Ranches	11-12
Scenic Drives	13
Mountain Golf.....	14
Western Heritage.....	15
Meetings and Gatherings.....	16
5-days of Summer.....	17-18
5-days of Winter.....	19

About Grand County, Colo. (www.visitgrandcounty.com)

Located 67 miles west of Denver, Grand County is home to wide-open spaces, breathtaking mountain scenery and authentic old-west towns. Outdoor recreational activities include golf, boating, fishing, biking, hiking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, skiing, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, ice fishing, sleigh rides and tubing. The area features more than 600 miles of mapped and marked trails, one national park, two national forests, two wilderness areas, two national scenic byways, two major ski resorts, five world-class dude ranches and four mountain golf courses. Grand County’s extensive water network includes Colorado’s largest natural lake, 1,000 miles of streams, 1,000 acres of high-mountain lakes and 11,000 acres of reservoirs.

GRAND COUNTY TOURISM BOARD FACT SHEET

Line of business	The Grand County Tourism Board is the official source for information, lodging, events, and activities for the towns in Grand County, Colo. The Board is dedicated to marketing Grand County as a year-round destination.
Web site	www.visitgrandcounty.com
Social Media	facebook.com/GrandCountyColorado @GrandcountyCO Pinterest.com/grandcountyco Youtube.com/user/GrandCountyCO
Address	P.O. Box 131, Granby, Colo. 80446 info@visitgrand-county.com
Location	Grand County is located 67 miles west of Denver on U.S. Highway 40. Known for its extensive outdoor recreation opportunities and authentic western experience, the county is home to many of Colorado's dude and guest ranches, a major hot springs resort, and the most extensive network of mountain biking trails in the country.
The towns	Granby Grand Lake Hot Sulphur Springs Kremmling Winter Park/Fraser Valley
Activities	Biking Water sports: boating, jet skiing, canoeing, sailing, kayaking, rafting, fishing, ice fishing Golfing Camping Mountaineering, rock climbing Hiking, backpacking Horseback riding Snow and ice sports: Alpine and Nordic skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, sledding, snow-tubing, snowmobiling, ice skating Dog sledding
Attractions	Rocky Mountain National Park Dude and guest ranches Hot springs resort Historic districts Museums

Lakes reservoirs, rivers, streams
Shopping districts

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The Many Faces of Grand County, Colorado

One of the things that makes Grand County, Colorado, such a special place to visit is the varied nature of the towns that make up our community. In each case, weather, landscape, history, and business climate have combined to make a unique destination for visitors of all interests.

- At the east end of the county at the western base of Berthoud Pass, the **Winter Park and Fraser Valley** area was originally settled in the 1880's by ranchers and lumbermen drawn by the lush timber and wide open meadows. Some 50 years later, with rail access from Denver greatly improved with the completion of the Moffat Tunnel, skiers began discovering the quality of our snow and the speed of our slopes. Today, Winter Park Resort is "Colorado's Favorite," with over 3,000 acres of prime trails, terrain parks, and backcountry-style skiing. During the summer, mountain bikers are drawn to the area's 45 miles of single- and double track. The towns of Winter Park and Fraser cater to the ski and bike visitors with a wide variety of restaurants, shops, and lodgings.
- Conveniently located at the intersection of Highways 34 and 40, **Granby** is literally the commercial and tourist crossroads of Grand County. Originally founded to service the newly built railroad, the town has long served as a commercial and service area for local farmers and ranchers. Today, the town's central location makes it an excellent base for exploring the surrounding area, which includes the lakes and forestlands of the Arapaho National Recreation Area and National Forest. The town is home to many service and retail businesses, including a supermarket, medical clinic, drug store, movie theater, hunting/sporting goods, laundromat, train station, library, banks, schools, motels and restaurants. Granby is also known as the "Dude Ranch Capital of the USA" for its concentration of dude and guest ranches featuring everything from rugged lodges to posh resort-style accommodations.
- The hot springs that line the narrow canyon along this stretch of the Colorado River have been attracting visitors to the area since long before the first permanent settlements. Today, the town of **Hot Sulphur Springs** is the county seat and still boasts a resort and spa offering a swimming pool, 22 mineral indoor and outdoor hot pools, and private baths. The Grand County Museum is located here, and provides a detailed look at the early history of the area through photos, artifacts and historic buildings from throughout the area. The nearby waters of the Colorado, including the stretch through the town's Pioneer Park, offer easy access to some of the finest fly-fishing in the state.
- The town of **Grand Lake** owes its very existence to the rugged beauty of the Rocky Mountains. Surrounded by snow-capped peaks, uninhabited wilderness, alpine creeks, and crystal lakes, Grand Lake has been a family tourism destination since the 1880's. With the creation of Rocky Mountain National Park in 1915, the village became the gateway to 265,000 acres of rugged, unequalled, scenic beauty. Today, Grand Lake is home to a lively community of artists, musicians and outdoor enthusiasts ready to help you enjoy the wealth of year-round activities, from boating to cross-country skiing. Nearly every month the town is host to a festival or concert of some sort, and the many restaurants and lodgings ensure that your stay will be as memorable as the entertainment.
- Settled two hundred years ago by hardy pioneers, the town of **Kremmling** is still proud of its western heritage. Visitors drawn by the sweeping vistas, magnificent mountains and abundant recreational opportunities will find Kremmling's stores, services, and lodgings to be just as outstanding. Old West adventures abound here, from hunting and fishing on the trophy waters of the Colorado River to rounding up cattle on one of the area's dude ranches. Summer visitors will find fantastic boating and mountain biking, as well as motorsports events including ATV rodeo, rock crawls and 4x4 tournaments. Winter activities include excellent Nordic skiing and snowshoeing, and unique events such as dog sled races and ice fishing contests.

Get Your 'ing' on in Grand County, Colorado
- Start vacation planning with moving, playing, recreating play in Colorado outdoor mecca -

When it's time to plan the family vacation, and mom wants to hike, dad wants to fish, teenage boys want to raft and the girls want to horseback ride, where's a family to go?

Located just 67 miles west of Denver, Grand County is home to wide-open spaces, stunning mountain scenery, authentic old-west towns, and enough opportunities to get mov/NG to satisfy even the most demanding of visitors. From bird watching to mountain climbing, there's an activity with an "ing" on the end for everyone.

- **Fishing** – Home to the Colorado River headwaters, Grand County offers world-class fishing. Several stretches of the Colorado River bear the official designations of "Gold Medal Streams" and "Wild Trout Waters." Wolford Mountain Reservoir's 66,000 acres offer excellent Kokanee, rainbow and brown trout fishing. Muddy Creek, a newer tailwater below Wolford Mountain Reservoir, is another favorite, with rainbows of up to five pounds taken in the tailwater pool, and up to 16 inches downstream. The Fraser River holds wild rainbows, browns and cutthroats. Williams Fork Reservoir offers nearly 16 miles of shoreline and 1,900 acres of surface area – with northern pike, kokanee salmon, mackinaw, and brown, cut-bow and rainbow trout. Green Mountain Reservoir offers another 2,100 acres of surface area.
- **Boating, swimming, sailing** – Three major lakes, including Grand Lake – the largest natural body of water in Colorado – offer summer boating, swimming and sailing with 360-degree views of majestic mountains. Grand Lake, at the western entrance of Rocky Mountain National Park, is framed by the quaint town of Grand Lake. Between the three lakes are more than 150 miles of scenic shoreline for camping, fishing or hiking. And, along with fishing, the Colorado River and headwaters are favorites for whitewater rafting, kayaking and canoeing.
- **Horseback riding** – The Grand County Colorado Dude & Guest Ranch Association's four ranches specialize in riding for every level, from trail-riding greenhorns to seasoned riders. Visitors will find extensive supervised programs for children and teens, personal instruction, horsemanship clinics, and authentic cattle drives with local ranchers. And on the ranches, guests get their "ing" on as well with swimming, rafting, mountain biking, hiking, fly fishing, western dancing, and learning archery, riflery and cowboy skills.
- **Biking, hiking** – The Winter Park-Fraser Valley area of Grand County contains more than 600 miles of mapped and marked trails. Grand County is the gateway to the western side of Rocky Mountain National Park. The park is a renowned national treasure, offering unforgettable walks and hikes through pine meadows, up rugged slopes, and into open alpine highlands.
- **Golfing** – The Grand Links offers four golf courses within 30 minutes' drive. Pole Creek has been named Golf Digest's "Best New Golf Course in America" and "Number-One Place to Play in Colorado. Nearby are the Nicklaus-designed Golf at Granby Ranch, Grand Lake Golf Course and Grand Elk Ranch and Club – Colorado's first Heathland-style course.
- **Snowmobiling** – The "snowmobile capital of the United States," the town of Grand Lake is one of the few in the United States where snowmobiles are allowed on the streets.
- **Ice fishing** – Come winter, Wolford Mountain and Green Mountain Reservoirs – along with Lake Granby, Shadow Mountain Lake and Grand Lake – offer ice fishing, replete with contests for all ages.
- **Driving** – Dropping 1,700 feet in elevation from end to end, the 69-mile Colorado River Headwaters National Scenic Byway follows the Colorado River past reservoirs and lush ranchlands, and through narrow canyons flanked by the railroad. Wildlife abounds, and access to miles of public land offers year-round recreation and views of mountain landscapes and geology.

- **Skiing, snowboarding** – Winter Park and Mary Jane Resorts have been among the country’s top spots for Rocky Mountain powder and backcountry skiing for more than 60 years. With nearly 400 inches of snow annually, Winter Park Resort has the most consistent snow for a Colorado ski resort year after year. Granby Ranch in the Granby area caters to families, with ski-in/ski-out condominiums, gentle terrain and one central base lodge.

For cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, Devil’s Thumb Ranch Resort in Grand County has been named the No.1 cross-country ski resort in the country. Other options include the YMCA of the Rockies/Snow Mountain Ranch, Granby Ranch, Grand Lake Touring Center, CLazyU Ranch and Latigo Ranch. Hundreds more miles of backcountry trails exist in the area’s public lands.

- **Tubing** – Grand County is home to four snow tubing hills, including the legendary Fraser hill (groomed, lighted and complete with lift).
- **Ice skating** – Visitors can head outside for a free spin on the rink at Winter Park’s Cooper Creek Square, or check out the Ice Box, Grand County’s NHL regulation-size, partially enclosed ice rink.

Grand County: Colorado's Year-Round Destination

Grand County is a place where the welcome mat is out all year 'round. Mountains and water, sky and forest – Grand County has the best Colorado has to offer for relaxation and recreation in every season!

Picture dazzling white snow-covered meadows, purple peaks, and blazing blue skies. Add a dash of downhill skiing, the jingle of sleigh bells, and the snap of cold air on your cheeks for a perfect Grand County **Winter** escape. Or just relax in front of the fire, or take a stroll on snowshoes through a quiet pine forest. Expand your choices to include snowmobiling or ice fishing, and you have the makings of a great winter vacation.

In the **spring**, as the snow begins to melt, you can have the place virtually to yourself. Many of the Nordic and snowshoe trails in the higher reaches are still accessible, with weather that's almost balmy. The pace is slower, and lodging bargains are plentiful – it's the perfect time for a weekend getaway and a scenic drive or a soak in the hot springs.

The pace picks up again for the **summer**, and it's all about getting out and about. Take a hike through wildflowers on one of our many backcountry trails, or play a round or two of golf on one of four professionally designed mountain golf courses. The lakes sparkle invitingly, waiting for you to drop a fishing line, power up, or hoist sail. Summer is rodeo season, so plan to spend a Saturday evening watching cowboys engage in the traditional skills of roping, barrel racing, and bull riding at one of two local rodeos. Or time your visit to coincide with one of the many music, arts-and-crafts fairs, or special events that take place throughout the county during the summer.

Each **fall**, Grand County's peaks and valleys blaze with color, and one good way to enjoy it is to take a drive along the Headwaters of the Colorado Scenic Byway that follows the Colorado River, or the Trail Ridge Road Scenic Byway through Rocky Mountain National Park. Fall is also a great time to explore America's western heritage as experienced in Grand County, by visiting one of our local historical homes, museums, or interpretive history events such as Grand Lake's "Tombstone Days" or one of the "Living History Days" at the Cozens Ranch near Winter Park. September is also when the grand finale of the rodeo season is held as part of the Middle Park County Fair in Kremmling.

Another way to enjoy Grand County is to participate in the western lifestyle in any season. With four dude and guest ranches spread throughout a geographic area roughly the size of Delaware, Grand County lays claim to the title of "Colorado's Dude Ranch Capital." Each establishment also takes its own unique approach to the authentic Western experience, from down-and-dirty cattle drives to square dance dinners, and rustic cabins to elegant lodges. The ranches offer all-inclusive packages that include lodging, meals, and great horseback riding, as well as other seasonal activities such as tennis, golf, cross-country skiing, swimming, hayrides, river rafting, overnight pack trips and cookouts.

Water, Water Everywhere...in Colorado Mountains
-- Grand County taps water resources for recreation --

Mention Colorado, and people worldwide are apt to conjure up thoughts of majestic mountains, high altitudes and idyllic ski lodges...not water. But there's one place in Colorado that is home to a surprising abundance of the wet stuff, bringing with it a rare variety of water-based recreation activities.

Grand County is home to wide-open spaces, stunning mountain scenery and authentic old-west towns. It's also home to Colorado's largest natural lake, 1,000 miles of streams, 1,000 acres of high-mountain lakes and 11,000 acres of reservoirs. Visitors to Grand County – summer or winter – will likely find themselves participating in some activity near or on the water.

- **Grand Lake** – The largest natural body of water in Colorado offers summer boating, swimming and sailing with 360-degree views of majestic mountains. The lake is framed by the quaint town of Grand Lake, and sits at the west entrance to Rocky Mountain National Park. In the winter, when snow replaces summer rainwater, the town becomes the “snowmobile capital of the United States.”
- **Lake Granby** – With 7,256 surface acres, Lake Granby is the second-largest body of water in Colorado. Between Lake Granby, Grand Lake and Shadow Mountain Lake there are more than 150 miles of scenic shoreline for camping, fishing or hiking. Because all three bodies of water – Lake Granby, Grand Lake and Shadow Mountain Lake – are natural lakes, the levels of the lakes remain constantly full.
- **Colorado River** – Several stretches of the river bear the official designations of “Gold Medal Streams” and “Wild Trout Waters.” Other activities range from whitewater rafting and kayaking to photography and bird watching.
- **Colorado River Headwaters** – Wolford Mountain Reservoir's 66,000 acres offer excellent Kokanee, splake, rainbow and brown trout fishing. Muddy Creek, a newer tailwater below Wolford Mountain Reservoir, is another favorite for fishing, with rainbows of up to five pounds taken in the tailwater pool, and up to 16 inches downstream. The Fraser River holds wild rainbows, browns and cutthroats. Williams Fork Reservoir offers nearly 16 miles of shoreline and 1,900 acres of surface area – with northern pike, kokanee salmon, mackinaw, and brown, cut-bow and rainbow trout. Green Mountain Reservoir offers another 2,100 acres of surface area.

Along with fishing, all the reservoirs are favorite destinations for power boating, sail boarding and canoeing. Come winter, Wolford Mountain and Green Mountain Reservoirs – along with Lake Granby, Shadow Mountain Lake and Grand Lake – offer ice fishing, replete with contests for all ages.

- **Colorado River Headwaters National Scenic Byway** – Dropping 1,700 feet in elevation from end to end, the 69-mile byway follows the Colorado River past reservoirs and lush ranchlands, and through narrow canyons flanked by the railroad. Wildlife abounds, and access to miles of public land offers year-round recreation and views of mountain landscapes and geology.
- **Winter Park Resort, Ski Granby Ranch** – When the temps drop, falling rain becomes falling snow, and attention turns to alpine skiing at arguably the best family-friendly resorts in the country.
- **Nordic centers** – Grand County takes advantage of some of the best snow in Colorado with more than a half dozen centers for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Granby Ranch's Nordic trail system encompasses 25 kilometers of groomed trails; Snow Mountain Ranch maintains 100 kilometers of trails; the Grand Lake Touring Center offers 25 kilometers of groomed tracked and skating trails; Latigo Ranch and CLazyU Ranch turn from summer dude ranches to winter Nordic ranches; and Devil's Thumb Ranch Resort houses one of the premiere Nordic centers in the country.
- **Tubing hills** – Grand County is home to four snow tubing hills, including the legendary Fraser hill (groomed, lighted and complete with lift).

- **Ice rink** – Frozen water is in abundance at the Ice Box, the new NHL regulation-size, partially enclosed ice rink.

Rocky Mountain National Park – Minus the Crowds -Grand County Opens Door to Popular Park’s “Quiet Side”-

Rocky Mountain National Park, in northern Colorado, is one of the top 10 most visited national parks in the United States, with 3.2 million visitors in 2012. Want to enjoy this natural wonderland without the hassle? Visit the Park’s “quiet side.” The western side of the Park – accessed via the Kawuneeche Visitor Center – sees only a third of the traffic of the more popular eastern side.

What to Do

On the quiet side, you’ll find sweeping vistas, rugged terrain, peaceful meadows, plentiful wildlife – and no crowds.

- Kawuneeche Visitor Center
- Historic Holzwarth Never Summer Ranch and Trout Lodge
- Adams Falls – short hike from the parking lot at the East Inlet Trailhead, just east of Grand Lake
- Longer hikes – Other local trailheads serve as starting points to hikes to Lone Pine Lake, Granite Falls, and the remains of the former mining camp, Lulu City.

Accessibility

Many of the facilities and draws on the quiet side are wheelchair-accessible.

- Kawuneeche Visitor Center
- Never Summer Ranch
- Restrooms – Beaver Ponds Picnic Area; Green Mountain, Coyote Valley, Timber Lake and Colorado River trailheads
- Bowen/Baker Trailhead – Six accessible picnic tables and firepits, and restrooms
- Baker Gulch one-mile interpretive trail – Not wheelchair-accessible, but offers an easy walk through one of Colorado’s oldest spruce-fir old-growth forests.

Grand Lake

The Village of Grand Lake, at the western gate to Rocky Mountain National Park, is a charming lakeside town with a beach, marina, hotels, shops, and restaurants.

- Rocky Mountain Repertory Theater – Nightly performances during the summer and fall
- Arts-and-crafts fairs and musical performances - In the town park all summer long
- Bingo – In the Pavilion every Friday and Saturday night during the summer
- Kauffman House Museum
- Ice fish and snowmobile – Colorado’s snowmobiling capital in winter

How to Get There

Year-round, Rocky Mountain National Park’s “quiet side” can be reached from Denver via I-70 and U.S. Highway 40. Trail Ridge Road (U.S. Highway 34) travels through the Park from the town of Estes Park and is open during the late spring through late fall.

The Kawuneeche Visitor Center is open year-round. Snowshoe and Nordic trails on the Park’s western side are accessible in winter, but automobile access further into the park from the visitor center is weather-dependent.

RIDE 'EM, Cowboy (or Girl), To Grand County, Colorado -Dude and Guest Ranches Carry on American Tradition, 2013 Style-

The “Dude Ranch Capital of the United States,” Grand County, Colorado, has four world-class dude and guest ranches (www.dude-ranch.com). Most offer all-inclusive packages that include lodging, meals, trail rides, and activities ranging from tennis, golf, and swimming to hayrides and cookouts. Each ranch has its own distinctive approach to the authentic Western experience. Whether looking for down-and-dirty cattle drives and square dance dinners, or elegant lodges, there's a dude ranch for almost everyone.

Bar Lazy J Ranch

Relaxation and personal attention are the passwords at Bar Lazy J. The owner even keeps a supply of hats and boots for visitors who arrive without them. And during the summer, the staff puts on a Friday night talent show for guests.

- Oldest continuously operated guest ranch in Colorado
- Located on the Gold Medal trout fishing waters of the Colorado River near Parshall
- Favorite fishing destination since 1912
- Adjacent to 30,000 acres of state and federal forestlands

C Lazy U Ranch

An upscale, family style dude ranch, C Lazy U offers luxury accommodations, elegant dining, and first-name-basis service.

- Riding available on 8,000 acres of trails and in the 10,000-square-foot indoor arena
- Tennis, cross-country skiing, downhill skiing (shuttles to nearby ski resorts)
- Extensive supervised programs for children age 3 and up – and teens
- Located on the banks of Willow Creek are the ranch's “spa tents”, luxurious retreats where guests can enjoy traditional treatments including massages, facials and manicures/pedicures
- Working cattle ranch, with guests able to participate in cattle drives and other western adventures

Drowsy Water Ranch

Nestled in its own private mountain valley, the 600-acre ranch has specialized in providing authentic western vacations for over 70 years.

- Focus on children's program, family atmosphere, horseback riding, meals and entertainment
- Swimming, horseshoes, steak fries, trout fishing, square dancing, jeep trips, hayrides, cattle work, gymkhana rodeos, raft trips, nearby golf
- Honored as Best All Inclusive Resort in the World in the 2010, 2011 and 2012 TripAdvisor Traveler's Choice Awards. The Family Vacation Critic named the ranch the No. 1 Best Dude Ranch for Families in 2011.

Latigo Ranch

Located near Kremmling in the western part of the county, Latigo Ranch's focus is on horsemanship – and on creating a personal and intimate feel.

- Homemade caramel corn upon arrival
- Accommodations limited to 35 guests
- Careful matching of guests with horses (temperament, physical requirements, ability, progress)

- Authentic cattle drive with a local rancher available for experienced riders (third week of September)
- The Ranch has been named “Best Dude Ranch in Colorado” in “*Colorado’s Best: The Essential Guide to Favorite Places*” and one of the top 50 ranches in the world by Top50Ranches.com

Grand County from Behind the Wheel: Scenic Back Roads and Byways

Most visitors enjoy Grand County's scenic wonders as part of a recreational experience, while skiing, biking, snowshoeing, or hiking. Exploring by car, however, is one way to really see the county, and at your own pace. The Grand County, Colorado, Tourism Board has suggested several driving tours that show off our area from its best angles.

The State of Colorado has recognized a number of highways for their scenic and historic importance, and Grand County is fortunate enough to have two such drives. **The Colorado Headwaters Scenic and Historic Byway** begins on Highway 34 in Grand Lake and follows the Colorado River south through the towns of Granby, Hot Sulphur Springs, Parshall and Kremmling. The drive ends with a spectacular view of the rugged Upper Gore Canyon along a portion of State Highway 1 locally known as the "Trough Road." Along the way, you'll pass Grand Lake, Shadow Mountain Reservoir, and Lake Granby, all well-known destinations for great fishing and boating. If wildlife is your interest, schedule a brief stop at the Windy Gap Reservoir, just outside of Granby, for a short self-guided walk through the waterfowl sanctuary. The Trail Ridge Road Scenic Byway (US Highway 34) runs through Rocky Mountain National Park, world-famous for the sweeping vistas of the crags and valleys that characterize this part of the Rockies. Trail Ridge is the highest road in the US that is paved for its entire length; much of the drive is above the tree line, and sightings of marmots, bighorn sheep, and moose are common. (Drivers should note that Trail Ridge Road is closed during the winter.)

Also of historic interest are several modern roads that follow the original stage roads that crossed the county during its earliest days. The **4-Bar-4 Road** is a relatively short (6 miles) drive between Fraser and Tabernash. Cottonwood Pass Road (CR 55) diverges from US Highway 40 about 4 miles east of Granby, and circles south through aspen and pine before rejoining the highway in Hot Sulphur Springs. Both drives take you past horse pastures, aspen groves, pine forests, and the remains of historical stage stops. **Church Park Road**, between Fraser and Hot Sulphur Springs, takes you through spectacular canyons, thick forest, and sprawling ranches, with sweeping views of Byers Peak and several mountain ranges – a two-hour drive.

The original rail lines into Grand County came from the Front Range over Corona Pass, over rocky terrain above the timberline. Today, the abandoned railroad right-of-way has been turned into an unpaved road (4-wheel-drive recommended) that follows the original switchbacks to the top of the pass above the Continental Divide, with views of alpine lakes and the Fraser Valley from the summit. Self-guided tour books are available at the Winter Park Visitor Center.

Grand County Colorado: Mountain Golf at its Finest

In Grand County, golfers passionate about their games are finding their dream vacations and getaways, not only will you find challenging layouts, but at 8,000 feet above sea level, the ball flies 15 percent farther. A better game, and scenery too – this is destination golf at its finest!

Four distinctively different mountain golf courses—all within twenty-five miles of each other—give golfers a variety of terrain and exciting layouts, all framed with spectacular mountain views:

Pole Creek Golf Club, located 12 miles north of Winter Park, offers tree-lined, links-style holes with breathtaking views of the Continental Divide. At 8,600 feet above sea level, it's one of the highest 27-hole courses in North America. Golf Digest rated this 10,709-yard, Par 108 course "Best New Golf Course in America" in 1985 and "Number One Place to Play in Colorado" in 1998. (www.polecreekgolf.com or 800-511-5076)

At **Grand Lake Golf Course** adjacent to Rocky Mountain National Park, you may be sharing the tee with some of the native elk, deer, fox and red-tail hawk that roam this tight, tree-lined course. Each hole of this 6,650 yards–Par 72 course offers a view of Grand Lake, Colorado's largest natural lake, and the surrounding snow-capped peaks of the Continental Divide. (<http://grandlakegolf.com> or 970-627-8008).

Tucked between the sparkling waters of the Fraser River and the mountain splendor for which the Rocky Mountains are famous, **Golf at Granby Ranch** offers golfers of every level and interest an exceptional experience. The front nine of this 7,200 yards–Par 72 course serves as a warm-up to the back nine, where golfers will encounter several memorable holes incorporating lakes, wetlands, elevated tees, and large, deep bunkers. (www.granbyranch.com or 888-283-7458)

Located south of Granby, **Grand Elk Ranch & Club** is the newest golf course addition to Grand County. The 18-hole, 7,200 yards–Par 71 course opened in late 2002 and is Colorado's first Heathland-style golf course. The course sits at an elevation of 7,935 feet, and offers views of federally protected wetlands that are habitat to hundreds of birds. (www.grandelk.com or 970-887-9122)

Come Celebrate America's Western Heritage in Grand County

Famous for its wealth of recreational activities, Grand County, Colorado, is also a great place to explore and experience America's western heritage and history.

The original habitants of Middle Park (as this part of the Rockies is known) were primarily Utes who summered in the area. The first wagon road was built over Berthoud Pass in 1861, and by the 1880's the area around what is now Winter Park and Fraser had been established as a ranching and lumber center. The railroad finally came through the county in 1904, opening up the rest of the area for ranching and tourism – still important parts of Grand County's economy!

The place to begin exploring the county's heritage is at the county seat in the town of Hot Sulphur Springs. The hot mineral springs for which the town is named were a popular destination for visiting Utes, and white visitors soon discovered the benefits of the pungent waters. Today, the town boasts a modern hot spring resort, as well as the Grand County Museum, which houses the town's original courthouse, a blacksmith shop, a 150-year-old ranch house, and several antique rail cars. The Cozens Ranch, near what is now Fraser and Winter Park, also served as stage stop and post office, and the homestead has been restored and maintained as a museum to provide a picture of ranch life during the late 1800s. Just up the road, the YMCA of the Rockies/Snow Mountain Ranch occupies lands originally pioneered by the Just and Rowley families, whose homesteads, including several buildings and much of the original farming and ranching equipment, have been preserved as a nature park and living museum. The Kauffman House in Grand Lake and the Kremmling Museum has also preserved pieces of early Grand County life.

To get a taste of what life might have been like for our early ranchers, attend a local rodeo, where the traditional cowboy skills of roping, barrel racing, and bull riding come alive. The weekly High Country Stampede Rodeo, held at the John Work Arena near Fraser, showcases the best local amateur and professional contestants every Saturday night during July and August. For an authentic small-town rodeo, check out the weekly action at Granby's Flying Heels Arena on Saturday evenings during July and August. The rodeo season's finale is the annual Middle Park County Fair Rodeo held each September in Kremmling.

Real hands-on experience can be yours by signing up with one of our local outfitters for a horseback trail ride or overnight pack trip, or by lodging with one of our world-famous dude ranches. Home to four world-class dude and guest ranches, Grand County has earned its spurs as the "Dude Ranch Capital of the USA." From down-and-dirty cattle drives to square dance dinners, and rustic cabins to elegant lodges, each establishment takes its own unique approach to the authentic Western experience. In addition to riding lessons and pack trips, guests can participate in the more modern Western activities like whitewater rafting, fly fishing, golf, or jeep tours.

Meetings and Gatherings in Grand County

From the first tour groups in the late 1890's to today's corporate retreats, Grand County has been welcoming groups for meetings and gatherings for more than a century. Located just 90 miles from the Denver metropolitan area, the area offers the twin benefits of experience and convenience, not to mention the scenic mountain resort setting.

Groups of all sizes and interests have been enjoying Grand County hospitality on a regular basis, from church ski groups to weddings to large special events; for example, the Ski for Light skiing program for blind, visually impaired, and mobility impaired adults has been bringing its biennial 250-person international gathering to Snow Mountain Ranch and the Inn at SilverCreek since the early '90's. "There's something for everyone," says Lindsey Morrow, Sales Manager for the Grand County Colorado Tourism Board (GCCTB). "From casual family reunions and weddings to down-to-business corporate retreats, you can't find a better destination."

The lodging: Grand County lodging can accommodate groups from 5 to 1,500 in facilities ranging from the casual to the corporate. Choose from bed-and-breakfasts, economy motels, resort-style hotels, condominium units, and even camping facilities. Grand County is also known as the "Dude Ranch Capital of America," and several of the ranches offer special group packages.

Group and meeting facilities: Grand County boasts 122,500 square feet of meeting space, including small meeting rooms, banquet and meeting halls, and outdoor venues for weddings and other events.

The activities: Grand County offers a wealth of year-round activities for groups of all sizes and inclinations. During the summer, the choices include golf, hiking, biking, boating, horseback riding, fishing, and river rafting. During the winter, your group can enjoy alpine and Nordic skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, sledding, and ice-skating. Rocky Mountain National Park is at the northern end of the county. All year round, local outfitters can set up your group for trail rides, sleigh or hay rides, and even a hands-on cattle drive! Our indoor entertainment options include historical sites and museums, shopping, live theater, and musical performances.

5-days of Summer in Grand County, Colorado: Get Up Here!

There may still be traces of snow on the highest peaks of the surrounding Rocky Mountains, but the meadows are in full bloom, the trails are cleared, and the lakes are sparkling...and it's all waiting for you this summer in Grand County. Just 67 miles from the Denver metropolitan area, in Grand County, a five-day summer or fall getaway can introduce you to the best of the Rockies.

Day 1: Arrival at Altitude

If you've arrived from the lowlands, be smart and take a day to acclimate while getting an introduction to the area.

- Daytime – Take a drive on the Colorado Headwaters Scenic and Historic Byway
 - Begin on U.S. Highway 34 in Grand Lake.
 - Follow the Colorado River south for 80 miles, through the towns of Granby, Hot Sulphur Springs, Parshall and Kremmling.
 - Along the way, you'll get a preview of the fun to come, passing Grand Lake, Shadow Mountain Reservoir, and Lake Granby.
 - End with a spectacular view of the rugged Upper Gore Canyon.
- Evening – Relax.
 - Hot Sulphur Springs Resort – Kick back with a relaxing soak in the waters.
 - Dinner – Choose from restaurants offering everything from casual family style to upscale resort dining.

Day 2: The Western Experience

First settled in the 1880s as a ranching, farming and lumber center, Grand County has maintained many of its original buildings and sites as museums.

- Grand County Museum (Hot Sulphur Springs) – On the site, see the town's original courthouse, a blacksmith shop, a 150-year-old ranch house, and several antique rail cars. Other local historical sites and museums are open for visitors in Fraser, Grand Lake, and Kremmling.
- Horseback ride – For a true hands-on western experience, contact one of the local outfitters who offer half- and full-day horseback rides.
- Rodeo – On Saturdays during the summer, the traditional cowboy skills of roping, barrel racing, and bull riding come alive at Fraser's High-Country Stampede Rodeo and Granby's Flying Heels Arena.

Day 3: Outdoor Adventure

You've got some choices to make!

- More than 600 miles of trails for hikers and bikers of all abilities and interests. Think about:
 - Easy hike to Adams Falls near Grand Lake
 - Longer hike into the Indian Peaks Wilderness
 - High-adrenaline rush of biking the slopes of one of the ski resorts

Day 4: Rocky Mountain Memories

The Rockies are what it's all about up here! Although Rocky Mountain National Park is one of the top 10 most visited national parks in the United States, its western side is less visited, less crowded, and much quieter.

- Kawuneeche Visitor Center – Just a short drive from the town of Grand Lake, enter the Park at the center for an unforgettable drive through pine meadows, up rugged slopes, and out into the open alpine highlands.
- Hiking trails, picnic areas, scenic overlooks, and wildlife
- Grand Lake – End the day back in town with a stroll along the boardwalk for some last-minute shopping and a leisurely lunch or dinner.

Day 5: Get Wet

Grand County offers the best in both stream and lake fishing, set among some of the most spectacular scenery around.

- The Williams Fork and Wolford Mountain Reservoirs and the five lakes and reservoirs that make up the Arapaho National Recreation Area offer outstanding fishing for rainbow, mackinaw, brown, cutthroat, and brook trout as well as kokanee salmon.
- The 20-mile stretch of Colorado River downstream from Granby have been designated a “Gold Medal” trout stream; the Fraser River and other smaller streams offer equally superb fly fishing.
- All of this water also makes for some great boating: launch your party boat or windsurfer in one of the lakes, hook up with one of several local guides to experience the thrill of Colorado River whitewater, or bring a kayak or canoe and design your own tour.

Experience a Rocky Mountain 5 -Day Winter Vacation Grand County, Colorado

A visit to the Rocky Mountains during winter gives you a whole new appreciation for the grandeur of the area. Long recognized as a winter sports destination, Grand County, Colorado, offers some breathtaking alternatives, and a 4-day getaway is the perfect way to take it all in.

Day 1: A Rocky Mountain Welcome

As the western gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park, Grand County is the western, “quiet side” of this popular destination. Weather permitting, the Kawuneeche Visitor Center in Grand Lake is open during the winter, and serves as the base for snowshoe and cross-country tours. (Trail Ridge Road is closed during the winter.)

Day 2: Ski

Skiing is, of course, Grand County's original destination winter sport. Two alpine ski resorts and five Nordic centers offer skiing experiences for skiers of all abilities, and all offer group or family packages for savings on lessons and passes. More experienced Nordic or telemark skiers can choose to explore Grand County's scenic winter landscape on some of our countless miles of backcountry trails.

- Downhill
 - Winter Park Resort has offered family style skiing since 1940, and now covers more than 3,000 acres.
 - Ski Granby Ranch specializes in the intimate family experience.
- Nordic
 - Devil's Thumb Ranch
 - YMCA of the Rockies/Snow Mountain Ranch
 - C Lazy U Ranch
 - Ski Granby Ranch
 - Grand Lake Touring Center
 - Latigo Ranch
 - Miles and miles of backcountry trails in Grand County's public lands

Day 3: A Day Off

Time to relax and enjoy some local flavor.

- Shop – Try Grand Lake or Winter Park.
- Dine – Local cuisine covers the gamut from casual family pizzerias to romantic, upscale dinners for two.
- Soak – Year-round, Hot Sulphur Springs Resort, in a rugged canyon of the Colorado River, is a great place to relax and enjoy the healing hot waters.
- Listen, watch – In the evening, head to Winter Park for a movie, bowling or night tubing.

Day 4: Snowmobile

Snowmobiling is big here; choose from a guided tour through pine forest to the top of the Continental Divide, or rent or bring your own snowmobiles for some independent backcountry adventure.

- Grand Lake is known as Colorado's snowmobile capital for the wealth of trails available in the area and the town's welcoming attitude towards the vehicles.
- Trails in the surrounding public lands
- On the frozen lakes in the area
- East side of Rabbit Ears Pass, above Kremmling – 300 inches of snow in a season is not uncommon.

Day 5: Ice Fishing

Fishing is a year-round sport. In Grand County.

- Lake Granby, Grand Lake, Shadow Mountain Lake, Wolford Mountain Reservoir, and the Williams Fork Reservoir all offer excellent ice fishing, and local shops sell equipment, supplies and licenses.
- The annual Wolford Mountain, Three Lakes, and Grand Lake contests offer cash and prizes for competitors of all ages.