

# 10 Fun Facts to Know About Denver

From parks to sports to beer to culture, there's a lot to know about Denver's rich history. Here are 10 interesting facts about the Mile High City.

**Denver really is exactly one mile high.** There is a step on the State Capitol Building that is exactly 5,280 feet above sea level. In Denver's rarified air, golf balls go ten percent farther. So do cocktails. Alcoholic drinks pack more of a wallop than at sea level. The sun feels warmer, because you're closer to it, but your coffee is cooler, because water boils at 202 degrees.

**Denver has the 10th largest downtown in America** and one of the most exciting and walkable. Within a mile radius, downtown Denver has three major sports stadiums, the nation's second largest performing arts center, three colleges with 30,000 students, an assortment of art and history museums, a mint producing 10 billion coins a year, a river offering white water rafting, more than 8,400 hotel rooms, a \$140 million amusement park, a \$100 million aquarium and 300 restaurants.

**Denver is near the mountains, not in them.** There are 200 named peaks visible from Denver, including 32 that soar to 13,000 feet and above. The mountain panorama visible from Denver is 140 miles long.

**Denver has 300 days of sunshine a year.** Located east of a major mountain range, Denver has a mild, dry and sunny climate with more annual hours of sun than San Diego or Miami Beach. In winter, Denver is dryer than Phoenix with an average daily high of 45 degrees in February. Golf courses remain open all year and have been played as many as 30 days in January.

**Denver's history is short, but colorful.** In 1858, there was not a single person living in the Denver metro area. Thirty years later, Colorado was a state with a population of almost 200,000. It was a Gold Rush that caused this boom, and in a 30 year period Denver saw some of the wildest events in the Wild, Wild West. This fascinating period lives again in museums, old gold mining villages and hundreds of elegant Victorian buildings.

**Denver has the largest city park system in the nation.** Denver has more than 200 parks within the city and 20,000 acres of parks in the nearby mountains, including spectacular Red Rocks Amphitheatre. The city has its own buffalo herd and every year plants more than 200,000 flowers in 26 formal flower gardens.

**Denver is a cultural city with the second highest educated population in America.** In its Old West days, Denver had a performance of Macbeth before it had a school or a hospital. Today, the Denver Performing Arts Complex has nine theatres seating 10,000 people and is second only to New York's Lincoln Center. The seven county metro area has a self-imposed sales tax for the arts that raises up to \$40 million a year, which is distributed to 300 arts organizations and facilities.

Denver also loves its sports. **Denver is one of only a few cities to have seven professional sports teams.** Denver also has horse racing and a professional rodeo. Denver has 90 golf courses, 850 miles of bike paths and the nation's largest city park system.

**Denver is a city of many colors and cultures with great diversity.** Denver grew by 30 percent in the 1990s – an average of 1,000 new people a week, every week for ten years. Denver's diversity is celebrated at numerous festivals and events including the nation's largest Cinco de Mayo celebration and the annual Juneteenth and Dragon Boat Festival.

**Denver brews more beer than any other city.** Coors Brewery is the world's largest. Denver's Great American Beer Festival is the largest in the nation with 2,400 different beers. The Wynkoop Brewing Company is the largest brewpub in America. On an average day, Denver brews more than 100 different beers.

Source: [www.denver.org](http://www.denver.org)