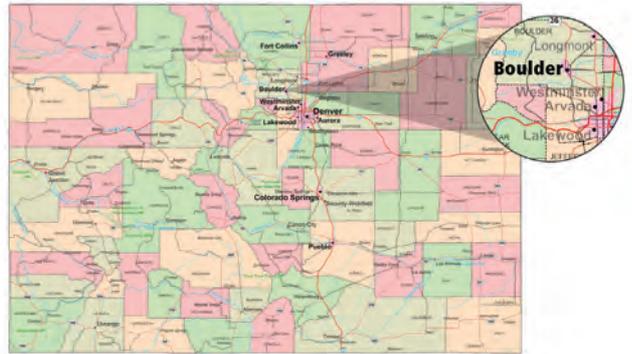


# Boulder, Colorado



Located at 5,430 feet above sea level, Boulder, Colorado, is in the Boulder Valley where the Rocky Mountains meet the Great Plains. Boulder was established by gold seekers and was developed as a supply base for miners going into the mountains in search of gold and silver.

Boulder's mining history is displayed in the James F. Bailey Assay Office Museum; prospectors would take their ore samples to the assayer to determine their value. Other museums include the Boulder History Museum, Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art, Carnegie Branch Library for Local History, Charles A. Haertling Sculpture Park, and Leanin' Tree Museum & Sculpture Garden of Western Art. The Shelby American Collection Museum exhibits some of the most famous Shelby American racecars.

The University of Colorado operates the University of Colorado Heritage Center, which is devoted to presenting and preserving the history of the University; the University of Colorado Natural History Museum; and the Fiske Planetarium/Sommer Bausch Observatory. Boulder is home to several national research organizations that offer tours, including the National Center for Atmospheric Research and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which have exhibits about weather, climate, and atmospheric research; and the National Institute of Standards and Technology, which develops precision measurement tools, such as the atomic clock. Other attractions in Boulder include the Colorado Chautauqua National Historic Landmark; Underwater Fish Observatory; and The Wonder of Science at Twenty Ninth Street, which has permanent interactive scientific exhibits.

The Boulder Ballet; Boulder Philharmonic; Colorado Light Opera; Colorado Shakespeare Festival; Colorado Music Festival; Frequent Flyers Productions; and other theater, dance, and musical performances are held at the University of Colorado, Boulder Theater, Fox Theater Boulder CO, Chautauqua Auditorium, and the Dairy Center for the Arts.

## NEIGHBORHOODS

Boulder's downtown area, known as Pearl Street, consists of an eclectic mix of homes, a pedestrian-only outdoor mall, and large office spaces. Historic downtown homes have Victorian details, interesting shapes, front porches, small yards, and big trees. Architectural details of the brightly painted homes in Whittier, which is adjacent to the downtown, include slanted rooftops, curved windows, stone facades, arched shingles, and contrasting trim colors. The Mapleton Historic District contains houses built in most of the late 19th- and early 20th-century architectural revival styles, and many homes combine elements from various historical sources. Whereas one area of the district is composed of large mansions on large lots, another area consists of modest homes on smaller lots. Some of the original mansions have been converted into multifamily housing. University Hill, which is contiguous to the University of Colorado campus, has single-family homes, duplexes, condominiums, and apartments. Victorian stonework, big front porches, and ornamental details are common architectural elements. Some Victorian homes have been converted into apartments.

Further from the downtown, the Wonderland Hills neighborhood surrounds Wonderland Lake and has spacious modern houses on large lots. Most of the single-family homes in Table Mesa were built of solid brick or brick and vinyl in the split-ranch style and have large backyards. The new and larger houses built on the hillsides above Table Mesa have been constructed from stucco, wood, metal, and glass and overlook a lake and the Harlow Platts Park.

Boulder has been committed to infill development and reuse of historic buildings. In addition, Boulder was the first municipality in the country to mandate a residential green code that requires cost-effective and sustainable remodeling and building methods for new home construction and additions that are more than 500 square feet.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

Boulder has 61 parks, 35 trails, 2 outdoor pools, 3 indoor pools, an outdoor skate park and 3 in-line skating facilities, an outdoor ice rink, a golf course, 22 ball fields, 15 soccer fields, 48 tennis courts, and 10 sand volleyball courts. The extensive trail system accommodates hikers; horseback riders; and, in some locations, cyclists. Boulder Creek Path is a 5.5-mile trail through Boulder and ends in Boulder Canyon. The Flagstaff Nature Center is located on the summit of Flagstaff Mountain.

The Chautauqua Park Historic District is composed of the Auditorium, Dining Hall, Community House, Missions House Lodge, Columbine Lodge, Academic Hall, more than 100 cottages, and landscaped parks. Many trails emanate from this park but are not part of the park. Chautauqua Park hosts cultural, educational, social, and recreational events.

The Andrews Arboretum is located in the heart of the city and exhibits trees and plants for scientific and educational purposes. Several wineries and breweries, a meadery, and a tea company offer tours of their facilities.

Boulder does not have professional sports teams. However, the University of Colorado's teams compete in many sports, including basketball, soccer, tennis, golf, and football.

## EDUCATION

Boulder Valley School District serves 28,500 students in Boulder, Gold Hill, Jamestown, Lafayette, Louisville, Nederland, Superior, Ward, and parts of Broomfield and Erie. The Boulder Valley School District operates 16 elementary schools, 7 middle schools, and 5 high schools in Boulder. The International Baccalaureate, bilingual, Montessori, and arts focus are among the special programs offered. The district also has an online public school serving grades 6 to 12, a school that provides therapeutic behavioral interventions and strategies to students and their families, and a school with a career focus program.

Traditional and nontraditional higher education opportunities are available in Boulder. The University of Colorado at Boulder is a research university offering bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees. Rivendell College is a Christian liberal arts college with undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Naropa University integrates Eastern and Western educational traditions in its undergraduate and graduate programs. Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine are taught at Ruseto College and Southwest Acupuncture College. Other educational opportunities are available at the Boulder College of Massage Therapy, Culinary School of the Rockies, and Homeopathy School International.

## HEALTH CARE

Boulder is served by two divisions of one hospital that combined have 265 beds.

### CITY STATS

**2009**

City Population	100,160
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	303,482
Per Capita Personal Income, Boulder, Colorado, MSA	\$47,489