

The City of Denver

Located at the base of the Rocky Mountains, Denver enjoys 300 days of sunshine each year. One of America's most beautiful urban centers and often called the "mile high city," Denver is home to the nation's largest municipal park system, a variety of important cultural institutions and 2.1 million metro-area residents.

"We are privileged to live in a place where the landscape and the sky serve as backdrop and inspiration while we continue to build our city," says Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper. The downtown area, the tenth largest in the United States, is an energetic center adjacent to a mile-long pedestrian promenade lined with outdoor cafes and flower baskets. Down each city street are stunning views of the 120-mile-long mountain panorama with its nearly 200 named peaks.

Downtown Denver is home to three new sports stadiums, 300 restaurants, a restored historic district filled with 90 bars and brewpubs, a variety of galleries and shopping, three college campuses and even a new downtown amusement park. Since 1990 the city has also built a new airport, central library, and light-rail commuter system.

Denver's population is one of the most highly educated in the United States, and its residents have demonstrated a great love of and commitment to the arts. This collective passion has been nurtured over the last decade, resulting in "dramatic changes in our cultural landscape," according to Mayor Hickenlooper. The expanded Denver Art Museum will open in fall 2006 with its remarkable Frederic C. Hamilton Building, making it the largest art museum between Chicago and the West Coast.

The Denver Performing Arts Complex is the second largest in the nation. Ten theatres provide seating for a total audience of 10,000 for the theatre, symphony, opera and ballet. The Denver Zoo is the fourth most popular zoo in the nation. The Denver Museum of Nature & Science houses the world's most advanced digital planetarium. Even the new Denver International Airport has a major public art program including 26 site-specific works. The busy Civic Center Park, anchored on each end by the Denver City and County Building and the Colorado State Capitol, is the crossroads for residential, commercial, and cultural hubs.

"The opening of the Museum's new campus enhances our cultural offerings," says Mayor Hickenlooper. "Denver has been transformed into an international cultural destination. The residents of this city are people of courage and enterprise, ingenuity and good will. We have a rich history of civic idealism and engagement."