

**IMIA (AMERICAS) CONFERENCE & MEMBER SHOWCASE**  
**November 02 – 05, 2014**  
**Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center**  
**Denver, Colorado USA**



**Denver Trivia**

Denver is one of only two cities in America with eight professional sports teams.

Local boosters named the frontier mining camp on the South Platte River “Denver” after Kansas Territorial Governor James Denver in hopes of gaining political favor. Unfortunately, Denver had retired by the time they named the town.

There were originally three separate towns, with three separate names, where Denver now stands. In 1859, the other names were dropped in return for a barrel of whiskey to be shared by all. Fittingly enough, the first permanent structure in Denver was a saloon.

Despite being warned by Indians not to build there, early settlers didn’t listen. In its first few years, Denver was destroyed twice, once by fire and once by flood.

Denver is one of the few cities in history that was not built on a road, railroad, lake, navigable river or body of water when it was founded. It just happened to be where the first few flakes of gold were found in 1858.

**Around Colorado**

The mountainous area of Colorado is six times the size of Switzerland, containing 9,600 miles (15,449 km) of fishing streams, 2,850 lakes, and more than 1,000 peaks two miles (3,218 km) high.

The road to the top of the 14,260-foot (4,346 km) peak of Mount Evans is the highest paved road in North America and is maintained and operated by Denver City Parks Department.

In 1893, while on top of nearby Pikes Peak, Katharine Lee Bates was inspired to write the words to “America the Beautiful.”

Central City, located about 45 minutes west of Denver, is known as the “Richest Square Mile on Earth” due to the half billion dollars of gold that was mined there.

The Pikes Peak Railway, located about an hour and a half south of Denver in Colorado Springs, is the highest cog railway in the world, traveling 8.9 miles from 6,571 feet to the summit at 14,110 feet.

The Colorado Trail is a 500-mile-long hiking trail, stretching from Durango to Denver, and crosses eight mountain ranges, seven national forests, six wilderness areas, and five river systems.

### **Denver Attractions**

Denver isn't just called the Mile High City, it truly is a mile high. The 13th step on the west side of the State Capitol building is 5,280 feet (1,609 m) above sea level.

The Denver Zoo is the fourth most popular zoo in America (based on those with paid admission fees) and has the 7th most diverse animal collection. The zoo has 3,500 animals, representing more than 685 species, including 157 that are classified as threatened or endangered. It costs \$38,000 a day to care for the animals and operate the zoo.

Denver Botanic Gardens is one of the top five botanic gardens in America, with more than 32,000 plants, representing over 2,000 species, including seven that are classified as endangered.

On the northern edge of the city is a section of Denver the locals call "LoDo," or lower downtown, where refurbished Victorian and turn-of-the-century buildings and warehouses are home to an eclectic array of restaurants, art galleries, offices, and shops.

The Colorado Rockies opened at home on April 9, 1993 in front of 80,277 fans, the most ever to witness an opening game in baseball history. The team went on to break 11 Major League Baseball records, including the most single-season fans, 4,483,350, a figure that still stands today as the most to attend any American sports team's games in a single season.

Colfax Avenue is the longest continuous street in the United States and hosts an annual marathon.

In 1935, the world's first "cheeseburger" came off the grill at Louis Ballast's Humpty Dumpty drive-in restaurant in Denver. The restaurant is gone now, but a small memorial to this historic dining event can be found at 2776 North Speer Boulevard, in the parking lot of Key Bank.

The dome of the State Capitol in Denver is covered with 200 ounces of 24K gold. But the real priceless material is inside the building, where the wainscoting is made of Colorado onyx, a rare stone found near Beulah, Colorado. The entire world's supply was used in this building and no more has ever been found.

Denver City Parks Department grows 240,000 flowers a year in their own greenhouse and plants them in 506 flowerbeds throughout the city. That's over seven acres of flowers that, if laid out end to end, would stretch for 56 miles (90 km).

Denver is a popular setting for many authors, with at least 25 novels where the action takes place in the Mile High City, including *Waiting to Exhale* by Terry McMillan and Jack Kerouac's classic, *On the Road*.

One of the best sports towns in the country, Denver is home to seven professional sports teams, including the Broncos, Rockies, Nuggets, and Avalanche. Denver is the only city in America to open three new stadiums in 10 years.

A few of the famous people who attended high school in Denver include Golda Meir, a future Israeli prime minister, who attended North High School, and Douglas Fairbanks, who was expelled from East High School before attaining fame as one of the biggest silent movie stars of all time. Hattie McDaniel, the first African American to win an Academy Award for her performance in "Gone with the Wind," also attended East High School.

### **Downtown Denver**

The Brookings Institution ranks Denver as the fourth most walkable downtown in the nation. You can save on shoe-leather by riding the free shuttle bus on the 16th Street Mall – it makes everything downtown easy to reach.

### **Colorado State Capitol**

[www.state.co.us](http://www.state.co.us)

Stand exactly 5,280 feet above sea level (one mile high!) on the west steps, then climb to the rotunda for a panorama of snowcapped peaks. It is against state law to block the view of the 200 named mountains visible from the dome. Free tours on weekdays. The Capitol Dome will be undergoing major structural renovations for 2-3 years and not offering tours during that time-frame. Help restore the Capitol dome.

### **Denver Art Museum**

[www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org)

There are two buildings – one a fortress-like structure from Italian architect Gio Ponti, the other, a structure that resembles a titanium crystal with peaks and shards designed by Daniel Libeskind. Inside, find the world's greatest collection of Native American art and 68,000 other art objects, including works from European masters, Old West classics, and phenomenal traveling exhibits.

### **The Clyfford Still Museum**

[www.clyffordstillmuseum.org](http://www.clyffordstillmuseum.org)

Clyfford Still, considered one of the most important painters of the 20th century, was among the first generation of Abstract Expressionist artists. The museum, which opened at the end of 2011, was founded to promote the late artist's work and legacy. Still's estate - 2,400 artworks - has been sealed off from the public since 1980.

### **U.S. Mint**

[www.usmint.gov/mint\\_tours/index.cfm?action=StartReservation](http://www.usmint.gov/mint_tours/index.cfm?action=StartReservation)

Learn how to make money! The Mint produces 50 million coins a day, each one stamped with a little "D" for Denver. Free tours show every step in the process of turning a dull, blank, metal slug into shiny pocket change. Reservations recommended.

### **History Colorado Center**

[www.historycoloradocenter.org](http://www.historycoloradocenter.org)

The History Colorado Center, one of Denver's newest cultural attractions, is designed to ignite imaginations of all ages about Colorado history through high-tech and hands-on exhibits, programs for children and adults, and special events.

### **The Blue Bear at the Colorado Convention Center**

[www.denverconvention.com](http://www.denverconvention.com)

The Colorado Convention Center is home to "I See What You Mean," AKA the giant blue bear that peers into the Center's interior. Created by Colorado-based artist Lawrence Argent, the curious blue bear stands 40 feet tall – you can walk under it and get a great photo.

### **16th Street Mall - Pedestrian Mall**

Lined with 200 trees and 50,000 flowers, this festive, mile-long pedestrian promenade has 28 outdoor cafes and offers Denver's best people-watching. I.M. Pei designed the gray and pink granite pathway to resemble the pattern of a diamondback rattlesnake. Hop on the bus – they're free and stop on every corner. After dark, horse-drawn carriages clatter up and down the Mall.

### **Larimer Square**

[www.larimersquare.com](http://www.larimersquare.com)

This trendy block of Victorian buildings is home to chic shopping, dance clubs, a comedy club, outdoor cafes and a dozen of Denver's best restaurants. For 40 years in downtown Denver, it's hip to be at the "Square."

### **LoDo Historic District**

[www.lodo.org](http://www.lodo.org)

Denver's happening historic district is filled with turn-of-the-century warehouses, now home to 90 brewpubs, sports bars, restaurants and rooftop cafes. Stop by Rockmount Ranchwear for a snap button Western shirt at the store where they were invented; browse from 6:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Tattered Cover Bookstore; listen to jazz at El Chapultepec, one of *Esquire* Magazine's 50 best bars; or sip a handcrafted beer at the Wynkoop Brewing Company, Denver's first brewpub opened by former Denver Mayor (now Colorado Governor), John Hickenlooper.

## Confluence Park

[www.greenwayfoundation.org](http://www.greenwayfoundation.org)

Denver was founded here as a gold mining camp in 1858. Today, the river park is the heart of Denver's 850-mile bike trail network, and is surrounded by attractions. Gear up for the mountains at the REI Flagship store; ride the Platte River Trolley to the Downtown Aquarium to see stingrays and sharks and The Children's Museum of Denver, with dozens of interactive "playscapes" for younger kids; eat and drink in the nearby neighborhoods of Riverfront, LoHi and Highlands; or scream your head off on the Mind Eraser at Elitch Gardens Theme and Water Park – Denver's downtown theme park.

## City Park

Denver's largest park has several lakes, spectacular mountain views, flower gardens and a hiking/jogging trail that is exactly one mile high.

## Denver Museum of Nature & Science

[www.dmns.org](http://www.dmns.org)

The fourth largest museum in the U.S. is a maze filled with treasures of the earth – dinosaurs, dioramas, space exhibits, science experiments, a digital planetarium, IMAX theatre and touring shows.

## Denver Zoo

[www.denverzoo.org](http://www.denverzoo.org)

Lions and tigers and bears – and so much more, on lovely grounds make this the fourth most popular zoo in America. Go underwater with polar bears at Northern Shores, or eyeball-to-eyeball with a gorilla in *Primate Panorama*. *Predator Ridge* recreates the plains of Africa with a pride of lions, while *Tropical Discovery* is rainforest teeming with crocodiles and gila monsters. The zoo's biggest new addition is *Toyota Elephant Passage*, a phenomenal 10-acre home for the Zoo's elephants, gibbons, rhinos and more, all in the heart of a re-created Asian village.

## Denver Botanic Gardens

[www.denverbotanicgardens.org](http://www.denverbotanicgardens.org)

This 23-acre oasis in the middle of the city has 45 different gardens (some 33,000 plants), as well as one of the nations' top 10 conservatories. Relax in the Japanese Garden, climb through the Rock Alpine Garden and explore the new Mordecai Children's Garden. Don't miss *Catalyst: Colorado Sculpture*, a phenomenal open-air art exhibit on view through Jan. 12, 2014.

## Golden

Colorado's first capital celebrates its Old West history and mountain location with a trendy downtown filled with galleries and recreation shops. Sip a beer at an outdoor café, while kayakers float by on fast rushing Clear Creek.

### **Red Rocks Amphitheatre & Visitors Center**

*[www.redrocksonline.com](http://www.redrocksonline.com)*

Carved from towering red rock monuments, this 9,000-seat arena is one of the world's most renowned concert venues and has hosted everyone from the Beatles to Bruce Springsteen. Listening to a concert here is on the "bucket list" of every true music fan. When there's no concert, the Visitor Center has a museum and Performers' Hall of Fame, while the surrounding park has hiking trails that weave in, around and over the colorful red rocks.

### **Coors Brewery Tour**

*<http://www.millercoors.com/who-we-are/locations.aspx>*

"Taste the Rockies!" The world's largest brewing site still uses the same Rocky Mountain spring water that Adolph Coors discovered in 1873. Free, self-guided tours show every step in the brewing process, and end with free samples for those over 21.

### **Buffalo Bill Museum & Grave**

*[www.buffalobill.org](http://www.buffalobill.org)*

Welcome to the Wild West! Buffalo Bill Cody's exciting story as Pony Express rider, army scout, buffalo hunter and showman comes to life at this fun museum, high atop Lookout Mountain. Enjoy views of the snowcapped Rockies in one direction, the Great Plains in the other. For those with strong nerves, drive to the museum on the hairpin Lariat Loop Drive ... then continue to I-70, exit 250, to see a live herd of buffalo.

### **Colorado Railroad Museum**

*[www.coloradorailroadmuseum.org](http://www.coloradorailroadmuseum.org)*

Surrounded by towering Western buttes, the Colorado Railroad Museum combines a spectacular location with more than 100 narrow and standard gauge locomotives, cabooses and cars. Exhibits include a working Roundhouse, model railroads, photographs and artifacts, much of it housed in a replica of a 1880s-style depot. Train rides every Saturday on the Galloping Goose take guests on a third of mile loop of track, while "Steam ups" and special events including "A Day Out With Thomas" occur throughout the year.