

West to Colorado

After Kansas comes Colorado, Estes Park

By KAREN KRIEN

Headed for Denver after leaving Kansas? It's 164 miles to Denver from the Colorado line on U.S. 36 and 173 miles on I-70.

There is also less traffic and you end up in Rocky Mountain National Park.

In Colorado, U.S. 36 offers a good view of wide-open spaces, golden wheat fields and wildlife including antelope, deer, turkeys and coyotes. There is also a buffalo herd near Byers.

Traveling west, U.S. 36 merges with I-70 at Watkins and it is just a short distance to Aurora and then Denver, the state capitol

Denver offers city life with a western flavor.

One of Colorado's most famous houses was once the home of Molly Brown, a well-known figure in Colorado politics and a survivor of the Titanic disaster. This house, along with the Byers-Evans house, is open for tours.

Tours can be taken through the capitol, U.S. Mint, Colorado Railroad Museum, Denver Firefighters Museum and the Denver Museum of Nature and Science (which has an IMAX theater). Also, don't forget the Botanical Gardens.

Leaving Denver on U.S. 36 with the Rocky Mountains to the west, motorists travel along the front range through Boulder and Longmont to Estes Park. Depending on the season, there may be fresh fruit and cider stands on the roadside.

As the highway heads into the mountains, the sweet smell of the pines and the mountain air lures people out of their vehicles to view the sights at stopping points along the road.

ESTES PARK

Finally, travelers pop over the hill to see the Stanley Hotel, majestically overlooking Estes Park. Travelers will find motels, hotels, and bed and breakfasts as well as cabins, cottages, lodges and inns, suites, rental condos and homes.

Or, if you take your recreational vehicle, there are lots of campgrounds and parks to choose from. There are more than 150 lodging establishments altogether.

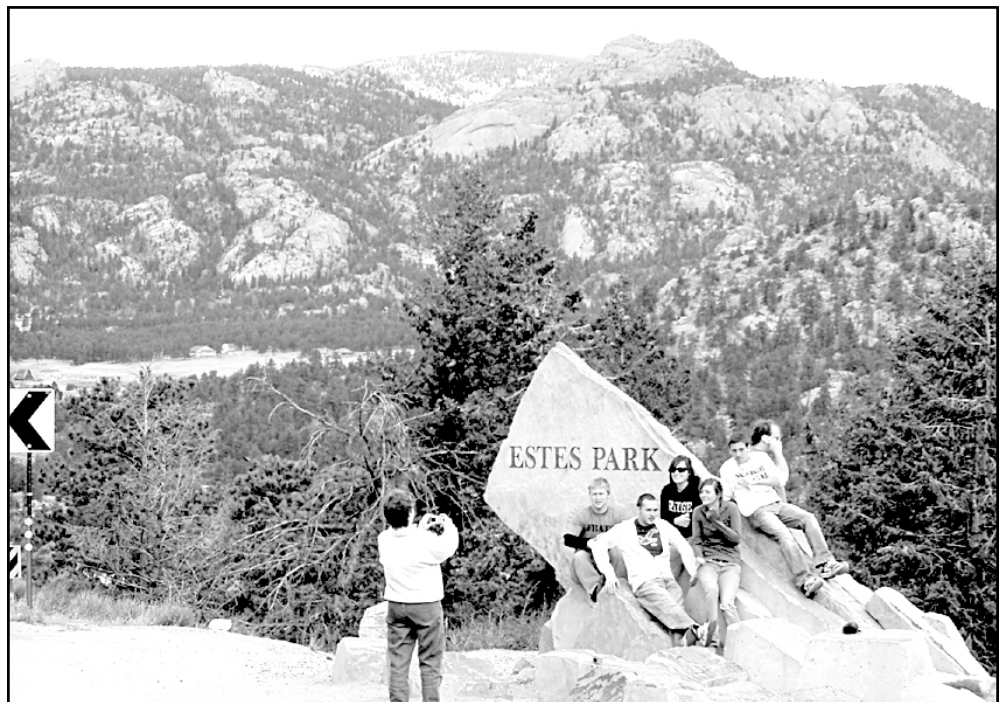
For entertainment and exercise, there are activity centers, places where bicycles and scooters can be rented, fishing, golfing, hiking, horseback riding, movie theaters as well as live theaters, rafting, kayaking, sightseeing tours and even wine tasting.

Every type of restaurant can be found there, from fast food to elegant dining.

The Estes Park Museum has timeless displays, temporary exhibits and a vast collection of memorabilia. There is something for everyone, from a 1909 Stanley Steamer to a furnished historic cabin, from a beaver felt hat to a vintage National Park Service uniform.

People can touch the past through hands-on exhibits or visit a re-created general store.

The museum is located at the corner of U.S. 36 and Fourth Street. There is no admission fee. From May 1 through Oct. 31, the museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday through Saturday, and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday. From Nov. 1 through April 30, it is open Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.



AN OVERLOOK NEAR ESTES PARK is a picture perfect place for a group shot.

— Photo by Jordie Mann

SHOPPING

If shopping is your thing, you will find the streets of Estes Park lined with shops filled with art, gifts, curio items and clothing. The visitors center, right off U.S. 36, has helpful staff and many pamphlets and books to guide visitors to all the sites.

FALL RIVER

For a half-day treat, travelers are urged to take U.S. 34 through the National Park's entrance to Fall River Road, built in 1920. When you reach Endovalley, the road becomes gravel, one-way and uphill for nearly 10 miles. Waterfalls, glacier deposits, icy pools and breathtaking views are all part of this trip.

This route will take the traveler past Trail

Ridge Road's high point.

TRAIL RIDGE ROAD

Trail Ridge Road is the highest continuous paved road in the United States. It travels through the heart of Rocky Mountain National Park from Estes Park to Grand Lake. It is open from Memorial Day until heavy snowfall makes the route impractical to keep clear, usually some time between late September and Thanksgiving.

Travelers can view alpine tundra, which makes up a full third of the park. At this altitude, the traveler will find a fragile environment of aged, dwarfed plants and animals that have adapted to the high elevation. No other arctic-like world exists that is as accessible.

BIRD CITY

KANSAS

www.birdcity.com

an ice cream at the Heritage Corner Café old fashioned soda fountain and stay for a mouthwatering steak at Big Ed's Steakhouse. While you are here, drive around and see for yourself the pride Bird City residents have in their community. Maybe you'll decide to make Bird City your next home. When you are here, stop by City Hall or the Bird City Century II Development Foundation for more information about our community.

Stop and stretch in Bird City!

Walk the newly constructed walking trail in the renovated city park (clean restrooms onsite). Come on downtown for



ANTIQUE THRESHER SHOW SCHEDULE: July 26, 27, 28, 2007

10:45 a.m. each day Parade of Farm and Harvest Equipment
1:15 p.m. each day Parade of Antique Cars, Steam Engines, and Antique Tractors
7 p.m. Thursday - Old Fashion Literary at the Country School House
7 p.m. Friday - Highway 385 Band
6:30 p.m. Saturday - Tractor Pull

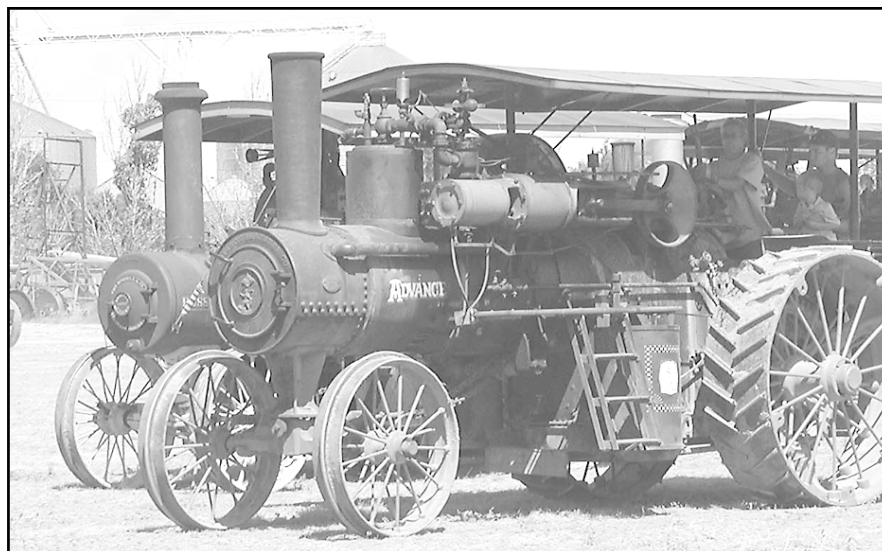
www.threshershow.org



Other amenities and businesses:

Swimming Pool
Cheylin USD 103 (K-12)
Hometown Market Grocery
First National Bank
Hunters B&B
Prairie Song B&B
Bird City Bird Seed

Coming Soon: Bird City Dairy & Monty Nuss Beef Jerky



BIRD CITY CENTURY II DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

"A Community Foundation for the Betterment of the Bird City Community"

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