

ARE YOU COLO-READY?

DUDE RANCH EDITION

With a little preparation, a spirit of adventure, and a soft spot for nature and the past, you'll be on the trail to exploring Colorado like a local.



LEAVE NO TRACE – CARE FOR COLORADO PRINCIPLES

01 KNOW BEFORE YOU GO



- This land really *is* your land. Our state and federal agencies manage 42 percent of Colorado's majestic landscape, and our cities and counties maintain even more. Learn about and respect the spaces we all own, share and sing about.
- Stay back from the pack. Find your way to less-visited and off-peak destinations to minimize down time and maximize your connection with special places.
- Bring along reusable water bottles or hot drink tumblers to limit waste and stay hydrated in our dry climate.

02 STICK TO TRAILS



- With 39,000 marked trails and 13,000 designated campsites, there's no need to venture beyond. By sticking to these areas and camping at least 200 feet from lakes, rivers and streams, you're helping natural areas stay natural.
- Even though shortcuts can be tempting, please don't take them. A few extra strides on the path will protect plants and the homes of the true locals.

03 LEAVE IT AS YOU FIND IT



- Leave plants, rocks and historical items as you find them so others experience the joy of discovery.
- Any of our 750 different species of wildflowers will live forever in a photo. Snap away, but only with a camera.
- Colorado is beautiful all on its own. Building structures or campsites on public land isn't cool. Keep it pristine for everyone to enjoy.
- Treat all living things with respect. Carving or hacking plants and trees may kill or disfigure them.

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04 TRASH THE TRASH



- Pack it in, pack it out. Or pick it up to leave a place better than you found it. Put litter, even crumbs, peels and cores in your nearest waste/recycling bin.
- Wash yourself, your dog or whatever else needs cleaning at least 200 feet from waterways, and use biodegradable soap. A bubble bath is no treat for fish.

05 BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE



- Colorado's low humidity has perks, but can create dry, dangerous conditions. Keep campfires small and manageable to avoid sparking wildfires.
- When putting out a fire, water it until you can handle the embers. Never let a fire burn unattended.
- Use care when smoking in Colorado's dry climate. Always put cigarettes out completely, and don't leave your butts behind.
- Always check for local fire restrictions.

06 KEEP WILDLIFE WILD



- Colorado is home to tens of thousands of furry, scaly and feathered creatures. To keep them – and you – safe, don't approach them.
- It is not adorable to feed wild animals. You could alter natural behaviors, exposing them to predators or even euthanasia.
- Keep your furry buddies leashed when enjoying dog-friendly trails, and pack out their waste. All the way to a trashcan.

07 SHARE OUR TRAILS & PARKS



- Chances are you're not out in nature to people watch, so try out the lesser-known paths and sites.
- Silence your cell phone before stepping into nature, and speak softly without using the speaker function.
- Be considerate when passing others on the trails and yield to the uphill hiker and biker – they need the momentum.
- Listen to nature. Keep your voice and music soft so all can enjoy the peace of Colorado.

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With a little preparation, a spirit of adventure, and a soft spot for nature and the past, you'll be riding the trails of a Colorado Dude Ranch and exploring Colorado like a local before you know it.



COLORADO PACKING LIST

“DRESS IN LAYERS!” ARE WORDS TO LIVE BY.

Our dramatic elevation changes mean we can ski in the mountains and then drop a few thousand feet to bike or drink a craft brew on a sunny patio.

DUDE RANCH PACKING MUSTS:

01



SUNSCREEN, LIP BALM, A HAT & SUNGLASSES. Remember, you may be a mile or more closer to the sun, and much of Colorado gets 300 days of sunshine every year.

02



BATHING SUIT & FLIP-FLOPS/ SANDALS. You don't want to miss out on taking a plunge into a natural hot spring, a rafting adventure, or a pristine creek or waterfall.

03



REFILLABLE WATER BOTTLE OR HYDRATION SYSTEM (such as a CamelBak). Start drinking water as soon you arrive in our dry, elevated climate. And don't stop.

04



RAIN JACKET. The atmospheric conditions that bring winter snow make for sudden afternoon showers in the summer, especially on our loftiest peaks.

05



HIKING BOOTS OR OTHER STURDY, ATHLETIC SHOES. You never know when you're going to want to answer the call of a beautiful trail.

06



LIGHTWEIGHT FLEECE OR VEST. Even on our hottest days, temps are chillier after sunset, especially at higher elevations.

07



DAY PACK. This is standard gear in Colorado to carry all of the above.

08



JEANS OR HIKING PANTS. Relax, denim is acceptable attire nearly everywhere; but hiking pants or leggings are great for a day out exploring our wilds.

COWBOY GEAR, (IF YOU'VE GOT IT!):

01



COWBOY HAT. You're not fit for ridin' if the sun's in your eyes. A wide-brimmed hat will solve that problem and get your sense of adventure a Wild West kickstart.

02



COWBOY BOOTS. Flat soles are better for riding horses than hiking shoes and boots with tread. Plus, Western boots' height protects against thorns and other irritants.

03



BUTTON UP SHIRTS. You're bound feel like a true cowboy or gal, not to mention the sleeves can protect you from the sun and tree branches, and warm you in the evenings.

04



A CAMERA. Although we recommend guests do their best to enjoy their natural surroundings without phones or gadgets you'll want to capture family fun and breathtaking sunsets.

ACT LIKE A LOCAL

OK, NOW YOU'RE DRESSED LIKE A LOCAL. HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO PASS FOR ONE.



LEARN THE LINGO!

BUCKAROO

Just another word for a young cowboy or cowgirl.

WRANGLER

The cowboy or gal who handles the animals — and will help teach you how to ride and rope during your stay.

CORRAL

A pen where livestock is kept when not in the stables.

MARE VS. GELDING VS. MUSTANG

A mare is a female horse, a gelding is a male horse and a mustang (typically) refers to a wild horse.

LASSO

A long rope with a loop at the end used for roping horses and cattle.

HITCHING POST

Where you tether your horse til you're done with lunch.

FOURTEENER

This is what we call those peaks that rise more than 14,000 feet above sea level. We've got 58 of them, more than any other state in the continental U.S. Hardy hikers aim to “bag” — or summit — all of them.

CONTINENTAL DIVIDE

Also known as “the Divide,” this ridge runs along the crests of the Rocky Mountains north to south. Rivers and streams west of the Divide flow to the Pacific Ocean, and east of the Divide to the Gulf of Mexico.

5280

Denver is the Mile High City because it sits 5,280 feet (or one mile) above sea level. To be precise, the 13th step of the Colorado State Capitol Building or the line of purple seats in Coors Field will put you exactly at 5280. (Pronounced: fifty-two eighty)

FRONT RANGE

The Rocky Mountain range most visible from Colorado's most populous cities — Denver, Colorado Springs, Fort Collins and Boulder — and from much of the Eastern Plains. Much of the urban region near these mountains is known as the Front Range as well.

WESTERN SLOPE

This region refers to all of Colorado west of the Continental Divide. It's home to the Grand Mesa, the largest flat-top mountain in the world.

CENTENNIAL STATE

Colorado's official nickname refers to the year it earned statehood. That happened in 1876, the centennial anniversary of the United States' declaration of independence.

HIGH COUNTRY

A fancy way to say “the mountains,” uttered mostly by local weathercasters.

FOUR CORNERS

The point where Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Utah come together at one point in our extreme southwest corner, 40 miles from the Colorado city of Cortez.

THE TUNNEL

If you are headed to or from the High Country on I-70, you'll likely pass through the 1.7-mile Eisenhower/Johnson Memorial Tunnel. Since 1973, the tunnels have provided easy passage across the Continental Divide.

MUD SEASON

This glorious harbinger of spring is typically slotted on the calendar for late April or May. It occurs when winter's snow starts to melt and rivers swell, making for amazing fishing, thrilling whitewater rafting and great High Country lodging deals.

ALTITUDE Denver is the Mile High City, and many popular destinations are even higher altitude. Staying hydrated and adjusting for a day or two before embarking on a strenuous adventure is the best way to make sure being high up doesn't get you down.

BE BEAR-AWARE We are in the Rocky Mountains, home to many bears, so make sure you don't leave food out on your cabin porches at night, which may attract unwanted attention from our bear-y neighbors.

SPARSE SERVICES If you spot a sign saying “No gas or services for the next 56 miles,” believe it.

ALCOHOL It has more impact at altitude, so take it easy until you get your mountain legs.

CELL COVERAGE

Dude ranches don't have much in the way of cell service — but we find the specter of horseback riding, trap shooting, hiking, fly-fishing, campfires and overnight pack trips and other ranch activities are plenty of distraction, allowing guests to unplug and truly experience ranch life.

FOR HIKES & OTHER EXCURSIONS

Most ranches pre-pack meals and have necessary hiking items available for guided and independent excursions. Be sure to let a ranch staff member know which direction you are hiking and when you anticipate to return.

