



## **Colorado Springs in Brief**

Just as geology and petroleum has been the life blood of Saudi Aramco and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, geology, gold, silver, and tourism have been the lifeblood of Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak region.

Colorado Springs' history is unusual compared to how the rest of the west was won. Founded in 1871 by General William Jackson Palmer, the quaint town offered a resort area called "Little London" because of its popularity with English tourists. General Palmer had a grand vision for a sophisticated town to please his wife.

The Antlers and The Broadmoor are two grand historic hotels operating in Colorado Springs. Two years after founding the town, General Palmer opened the Antler's Hotel, an important landmark in Colorado Springs history. When Spencer and Julie Penrose, Cripple Creek gold mine magnates, opened The Broadmoor in 1916 in Colorado Springs, the master plan was to create a place where European elegance met Western hospitality in the perfect blend of style and service excellence. The resorts welcomed visitors from around the world and those seeking the health benefits of the plentiful sunshine and dry climate.

Today's Colorado Springs history has a military flair. Colorado Springs is home to major military installations including Fort Carson, Peterson Air Force Base, the U.S. Space Command, NORAD (North American Aerospace Defense Command), Schriever Air Force Base and the United States Air Force Academy.

Colorado Springs offers a delightful mix of Western culture. It's a crossroads for historians, sportsmen, architects, artists and foodies. Sunny skies and crisp mountain air make it a perfect place for golf, tennis, or a picnic in one of dozens of well-maintained parks.

The region welcomes about 23 million visitors annually. Over 3 million people visit Garden of the Gods annually. TripAdvisor has over 170,000 reviews of Colorado Springs hotels, attractions, and restaurants.

## **Tour Options**

A variety of group tours are being planned for Hafla 2020 and you'll always have the option of exploring on your own. Treat yourself and venture out to take in the area's many wondrous attractions that we will have available as tours described below: Pikes Peak, the Garden of the Gods, the Air Force Academy, and fabled frontier mining town of Cripple Creek where you can visit a hard rock gold mine or take your chances at one of many casinos found there. Other noteworthy

attractions for those with more time include the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Manitou Springs, the Cave of the Winds, the Manitou Cliff Dwellings, and the Royal Gorge with the highest bridge in North America. Please consider that you have the option of coming early and staying late to make the most of your Hafla 2020 reunion experience. You may never want to leave!

**The Garden of the Gods Park and Air Force Academy Tour (Box Lunch)** Approximately 4 hour tour. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended.



The history of the **Garden of the Gods Park** begins with its geology. 250 million years ago, Garden of the Gods was comprised of sandy beaches on an inland sea. The 300 foot orange sandstone rocks in the Garden of the Gods were once sand dunes. As the Rocky Mountain Front Range Mountains rose from 70 to 35 million years ago, the overlying sedimentary rocks were bent upward into vertically standing fins. Over time, the softer rocks eroded and valleys were created leaving harder sandstones standing as the tall ridges in the Park.

In 1879, Charles Elliott Perkins, the head of the Burlington Railroad, purchased an area encompassing much of the Garden of the Gods. In 1909, Perkins' children, knowing their father's desire to preserve the natural beauty of the Garden of the Gods, willed four-hundred eighty acres to the City of Colorado Springs. The proviso being that it would be known forever as the Garden of the Gods "where it shall remain free to the public."

Explore Colorado Springs' paradise in distilled into one magical adventure. The Garden of the Gods Park is a registered National Natural Landmark, a free city park of Colorado Springs, receiving over 3 million visitors annually. "Pictures of the landforms in the West just don't do them justice. Seeing the Rockies and driving through the Garden of the Gods was just breathtaking."

Imagine dramatic views, three hundred foot towering vertical sandstone rock formations against a backdrop of Pikes Peak and brilliant blue skies. This world-class Visitor & Nature Center and museum is the most visited attraction in the region with all new interactive exhibits.

Wildlife abounds in the park. Bighorn Sheep can be seen near the main parking lot on rocky outcrops to the north. In the central garden area, look high in the cliffs for harriers, red-tailed

hawks, ravens, magpies, scrub jays, Steller jays, swallows, meadowlarks, and spotted towhees. Over 170 species of birds have been cataloged in the park. Mammals include mule deer, coyotes, squirrels, cottontails, black bears, bobcats, and elk. Among reptiles that can be seen are rattlesnakes, bull snakes, garter snakes, and fence lizards.

The **United States Air Force Academy** (USAFA) is a military academy for officer cadets of the United States Air Force. The Academy's stated mission is "to educate, train, and inspire men and women to become leaders of character, motivated to lead the United States Air Force in service to our nation."



At the Air Force Academy, we will have a guided tour of this beautiful and historic campus. The Barry Goldwater Air Force Academy Visitor Center serves as the gateway to the United States Air Force Academy for hundreds of thousands of tourists each year. The center provides information on the Academy's history, cadet life, and campus attractions. Unfortunately, the iconic Cadet Chapel at the United States Air Force Academy will be closed for renovations until late 2022.

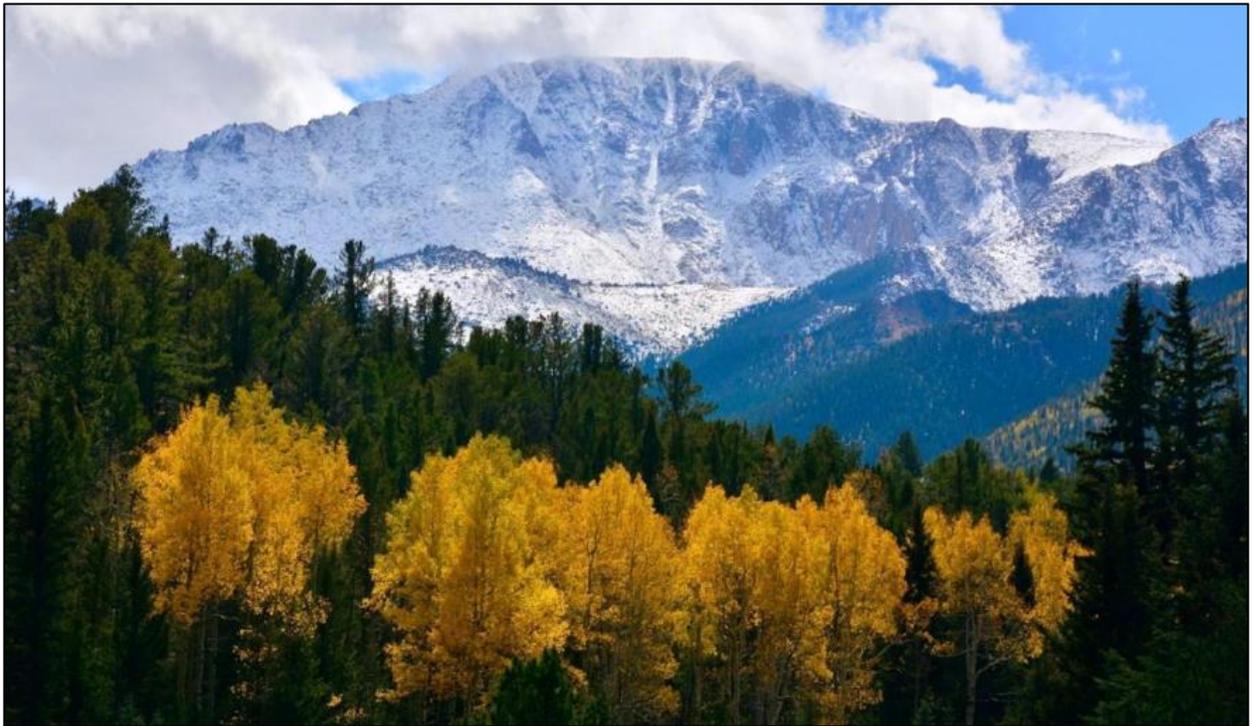
"It's not just our cadets who operate at a different altitude—our campus facilities and programs also continually reach for new horizons. Our labs and research centers are home to cutting-edge technology. Our buildings feature stunning midcentury modern architecture. Our redesigned athletic and military training facilities foster fierce competition and leadership training. Even our publicly accessible trails are cared for and updated to provide local hikers, bikers and equestrians with beautiful vistas."

**Pikes Peak Tour (Box Lunch)** Approximately 4 hour tour. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended. The altitude at the summit is not suitable to those with breathing difficulties.

Pikes Peak is the highest mountain summit of the southern Front Range of the Rocky Mountains. The prominent 14,115-foot mountain is located in Pike National Forest, 12 miles west of downtown Colorado Springs, Colorado. The mountain is named in honor of American explorer Zebulon Pike - even though he was never able to reach the summit due to weather.

Pikes Peak is one of Colorado's 53 fourteeners, mountains more than 14,000 feet above sea level. The massif rises 8,000 feet above downtown Colorado Springs. Pikes Peak is a designated National Historic Landmark. Geologically, It is composed of billion year old pink granite that solidified miles below the surface. The pink rock is called Pikes Peak granite with the color of a mineral called potassium feldspar.

Pikes Peak, America's Mountain, is the purple mountain majesty as the shining jewel in the center of the mountain panorama. The view inspired Katharine Lee Bates her to write the poem that would one day become the song "America the Beautiful."



The Pikes Peak Highway is the 19 mile toll road from Cascade, Colorado to the 14,115 foot summit. On the Pikes Peak Tour by *Gray Line Experience*, you leave the driving to the experts and summit the awe-inspiring fourteener from the comfort of cozy seats in a roomy, temperature-controlled tour coach. You'll encounter some of the most breathtaking scenery in the world, especially during when the aspens are turning yellow as you see above.

Along with the breathtaking views, you can see four different Colorado climate life zones and perhaps unique animal sightings: Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep, and yellow-bellied marmots. During the tour's four-hour span, you'll make frequent stops at locations such as Crystal Reservoir, historic Glen Cove, the spectacular summit of Pikes Peak and many other points of interest. These

stops allow you lots of opportunities for photography and help you adapt to the altitude instead of running straight to the top.

Wide coach windows allow for excellent viewing when you're in the tour bus. Once you reach the top of Pikes Peak, you'll be able to explore the summit for 30-40 minutes. Take photos of the panorama of the spectacular Rockies stretching over a hundred miles away, peek over the rocks and ledges, and visit the Summit House. Here you can browse the extensive gift shop, use the restroom, and grab a snack. The new Pikes Peak Summit House is scheduled for completion in late summer 2020.

**Cripple Creek Tour (Lunch at your leisure)** Approximately 5 hour tour. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended. The altitude at 9,500 feet can be challenging to those with breathing difficulties.

Cripple Creek is one of the most famous and historic gold mining towns of the Old West. It's the birthplace of famous explorer/journalist Lowell Thomas, inventor of Cinerama. His name and legacy are on display there.



The tour will be designed to make several drops according to your personal interest. Descend into a historic gold mine. Chug through the wilderness in a steam locomotive. Step into a jail that has housed many an outlaw. Cripple Creek's historic attractions will turn back the clock in the coolest ways possible. Cripple Creek is full of fun attractions.

Our current donkey herd is believed to be made up of several direct descendants of the donkeys that were used to work the mines in the Cripple Creek & Victor mining district in the early years of the gold camp. When miners had to leave the area, often their donkeys were let loose to

room. Today, the donkey herd will roam throughout the gold camp, freely walking through the streets, neighborhoods, and hills of the area.

In 1933, two businessmen came up with the idea of holding a Donkey Derby here in Cripple Creek to help encourage tourism. A track was built just south of town and the first Donkey Derby Days Race was held.

**First tour option** - Cripple Creek is home to several of Colorado's casinos where you can try your luck. The casinos bring together the cool vibe of the Old West with the most up-to-the-minute gambling innovations. You'll find the latest slot machines, off-track betting, and all your favorite table games. The casinos offer the highest paybacks, or the loosest slots, based on 2015 Colorado Department of Revenue figures. Casino options include Bronco Billy's, Century Casino, Midnight Rose Casino, and Wildwood Casino.

**Second tour option** - In 1976, the Cripple Creek & Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad started taking passengers on a journey back into gold rush history and into the scenic heart of the Rocky Mountains. With its lovingly restored steam locomotives and historic 1894 station house, the railroad is one of the favorite attractions. Visitors will ride on a winding four-mile trip through the historic gold mining district. Trains leave the depot daily taking visitors on a trip that includes stops at special points of interest and photo opportunities. The track heads south from Cripple Creek, crosses a reconstructed trestle, and stops at a deserted mining town before returning.



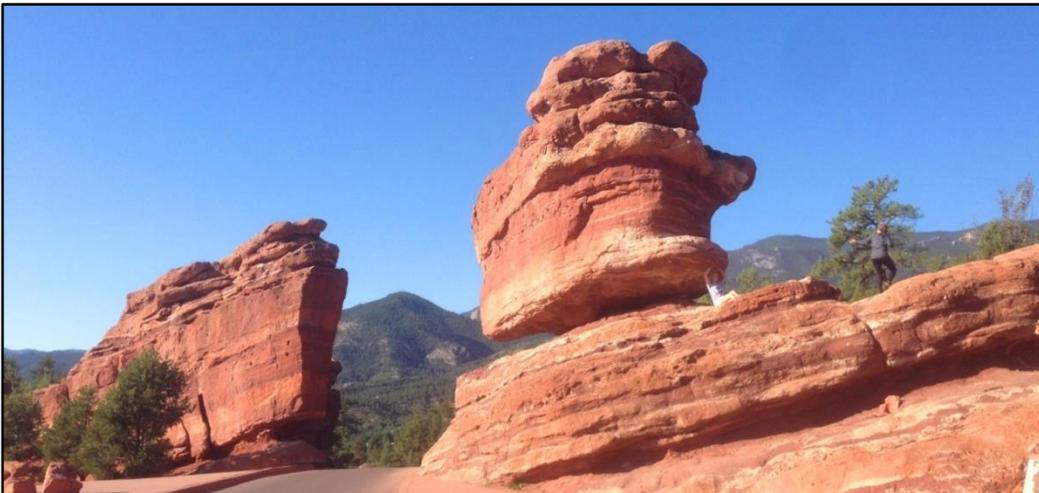
**Third tour option**- Historic Molly Kathleen Gold Mine tour descends 1,000 feet below ground, where visitors learn about how the 1890s hard rock gold miner worked. Guided tours allow visitors to explore the four mining phases used to extract gold from Mollie Kathleen, beginning with a ride on a skip to the lower working levels of the mine. Visitors witness the operation of numerous pieces of air-powered gold mining equipment and ride aboard the last air-powered locomotive. This educational tour reveals how gold veins appear in their natural state and explains the processes

used to extract gold ore for production. You will receive a free gold ore specimen from the Mollie Kathleen Mine!

**Colorado Springs Area Geology Tour (Box Lunch)** Approximately 5 hour tour. Comfortable closed-toed walking shoes are required. Doug Cook, retired Aramco geologist, will be leading a geology tour around Colorado Springs encompassing over a billion years of Earth's history exposed in the sedimentary rocks of Manitou Springs, the Garden of the Gods, Red Rocks Canyon, Austin Bluffs, and Pulpit Rock.



**Garden of the Gods: Vertical standing fin of Lyons Sandstone with Pikes Peak granite batholith behind to the west. Can you find the Kissing Camels?**



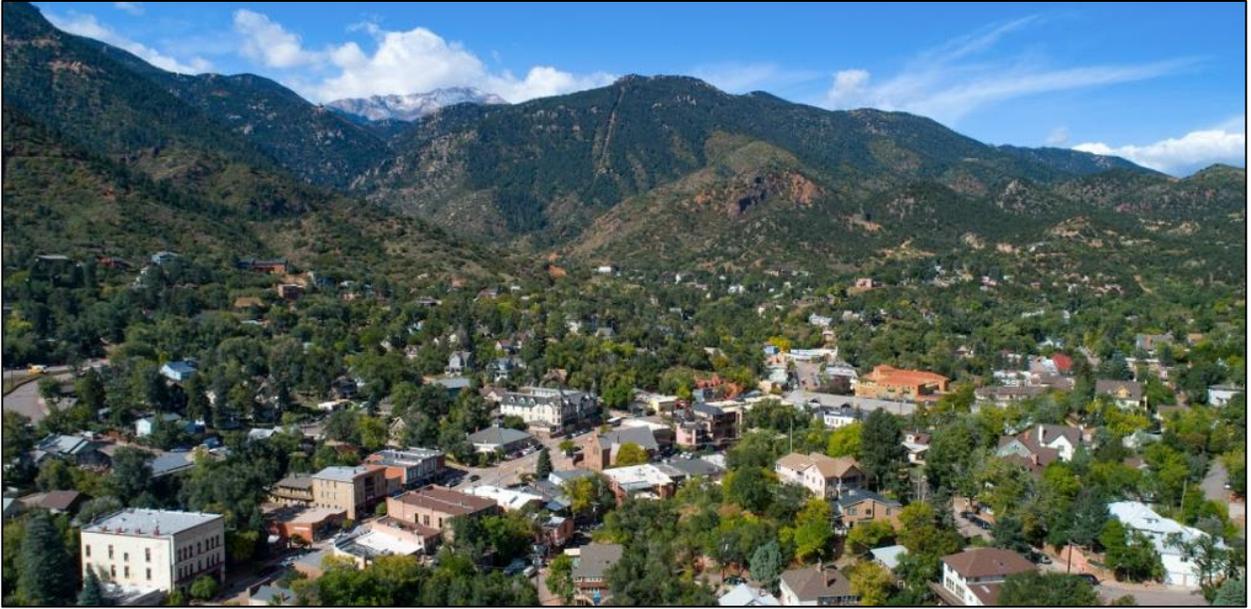
**Fountain Formation- Balanced Rock, Garden of the Gods**



**Sawatch, Manitou, and Williams Canyon Formations at Cave of the Winds. Manitou Springs is seen in the background.**

### **Other attractions to visit at you leisure before or after Hafla:**

**Manitou Springs-** This is another famous Old West frontier town offering a rich assortment of activities to visitors. Nestled between Garden of the Gods and Pikes Peak, historic Manitou Springs is centrally-located to the unique attractions of the Pikes Peak Region. The mining town has become known for its mineral springs. For centuries people have been making trips here to taste the magic and mystery of the healing waters. American Natives considered the land around the water sacred and the natural carbonation in the water the “breath of the Great Spirit, Manitou.” It is said that many tribes from different areas put down their weapons in hopes of gaining health and wellness here. Taste the naturally carbonated mineral water that made Manitou famous as you stroll our historic downtown district. Meet the artists as you discover our many art galleries. We are a Colorado Creative District. Find the perfect gift or souvenir in the boutique shops throughout town. Rest & rejuvenate as you relax and dine in one of the many delicious cafes & restaurants.



**Manitou Springs with Pikes Peak in the background.**

**Olympic Museum and Olympic Training Center-** The U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Complex in Colorado Springs is the flagship training center for the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee and the Olympic & Paralympic Training Center programs. USA Swimming and USA Shooting have their national headquarters on complex. You can schedule a tour online and perhaps meet an Olympic athlete! The *new* Olympic Museum will be an architectural marvel. It is expected to be open in 2020.



**Artist's rendering of the new Olympic Museum.**

**Cheyenne Mountain Zoo-** Discover more than thirty species of endangered animals at this iconic zoo. Interact with the giraffes with the opportunity to hand-feed them! Soar over your favorite animal exhibits and take in breathtaking views of the city below on the Mountaineer Sky Ride. Plan to spend two to three hours and wear your walking shoes. The zoo provides you an experience of a lifetime with your visit to America's only mountain zoo.



**Cave of the Winds-** Williams Canyon is a spectacular canyon carved into flat lying limestones that are from 400 to 500 million years old having survived the tectonic upheavals of mountain building. The colorful canyon is as spectacular as a slice of the Grand Canyon. In 1880, brothers John and George Pickett scouted for new caves in the limestones of Williams Canyon. They discovered a small cave near a limestone archway. They noticed that the flames on their lit candles flickered in the wind coming from somewhere within the cave. They crawled through a small opening and emerged into a large chamber that promised an amazing world of exploration. You can enjoy an underground experience where you will learn about the history and geology of the cave while being shown some of the most beautiful cave formations. Explore the electrically lit portion of Cave of the Winds on a one hour guided walking tour which includes fifteen rooms, a half mile of concrete walkways, and 196 stairs.

**Manitou Cliff Dwellings-** The Manitou Cliff Dwellings is a rare historical treasure. Preserved under a protective red sandstone overhang, authentic Anasazi cliff dwellings over 800 years old await you here. You're encouraged to explore the dwellings room by room on a self-guided tour. These fascinating architectural remnants are from an American Indian culture that lived in the Southwest from 1200 B.C. to 1300 A.D. The forty room site was originally located in in the southwest corner of Colorado near Mesa Verde and Dolores. The process of relocating these cliff dwellings began in 1904 and was completed in 1907 when the preserve was opened to the public.

The Manitou Cliff Dwellings overlooks Manitou Springs, Colorado at the foot of Pikes Peak. Wander leisurely through the preserve and explore the fascinating architecture of the Anasazi. This

preserve represents some of the finest architecture of the Anasazi Culture throughout Colorado and New Mexico.



**Seven Falls-** Bask in the majesty of Seven Falls, a magnificent series of cascading waterfalls located in a 1,400-foot box canyon. Explore everything that the new Seven Falls has to offer. There are new dining options—including the exquisite Restaurant 1858, gift shops, walking and hiking trails, the optional Soaring Adventure—a thrilling exploration above Seven Falls, that includes hiking, following rope bridges, and culminating inside Seven Falls Park.



**Royal Gorge-** The Royal Gorge Region near Canon City, Colorado, about an hour drive from Colorado Springs, offers spectacular scenery and year-round outdoor activities. This scenic area is home to America's highest suspension bridge and the roaring Arkansas River that is popular for rafting.



**Wines of Colorado-** Nestled at the foot of Pikes Peak in Cascade, Colorado, The Wines of Colorado is an easy fifteen minute drive from Colorado Springs. There is a gourmet Creekside restaurant, wine tasting room, retail wine sales, and gift shop. The outdoor dining option is shielded from the sun by wispy willow trees and aromatic pines along the Fountain Creek.

