

BOULDER SELF-GUIDED BIKE TOUR

DISCOVER THE ULTIMATE CYCLING DESTINATION

Considered the fittest city in the US, Boulder boasts a thriving bicycling culture and its 300 miles of dedicated bikeways make it one of the best places in the country to ride. Don't miss the opportunity to ride at your own pace in this bicycling mecca with the Rocky Mountains, the towering Flatirons, and canyon roads with rocky twists as your backdrop. The epic scenery, the splendid climate, the vibrant culture, and the quirks of an amazing college town will captivate you throughout our self-guided Boulder bike tour. Based out of one prime destination, the boutique Basecamp Hotel, this self-guided trip is much more than challenging rides and athletic opportunities. This forward-thinking town is sure to beguile you as you walk through the historic downtown Pearl Street, among street performers, world-class restaurants, and dozens of independent shops. We have everything planned for you to enjoy a vacation on your own terms in this "25 square miles surrounded by reality. [Book your trip with confidence »](#)

From
\$2299

Rider Type
Active / Avid

Hotel Style
Explorer

Duration
6 days | 5 nights

Start | End
Boulder, Colorado

Dates
Dates Coming Soon

[Learn if a self-guided trip is right for you »](#)

TRIP WOWS

Stay at a unique boutique hotel perfectly located downtown Boulder and walking distance to acclaimed restaurants and stores

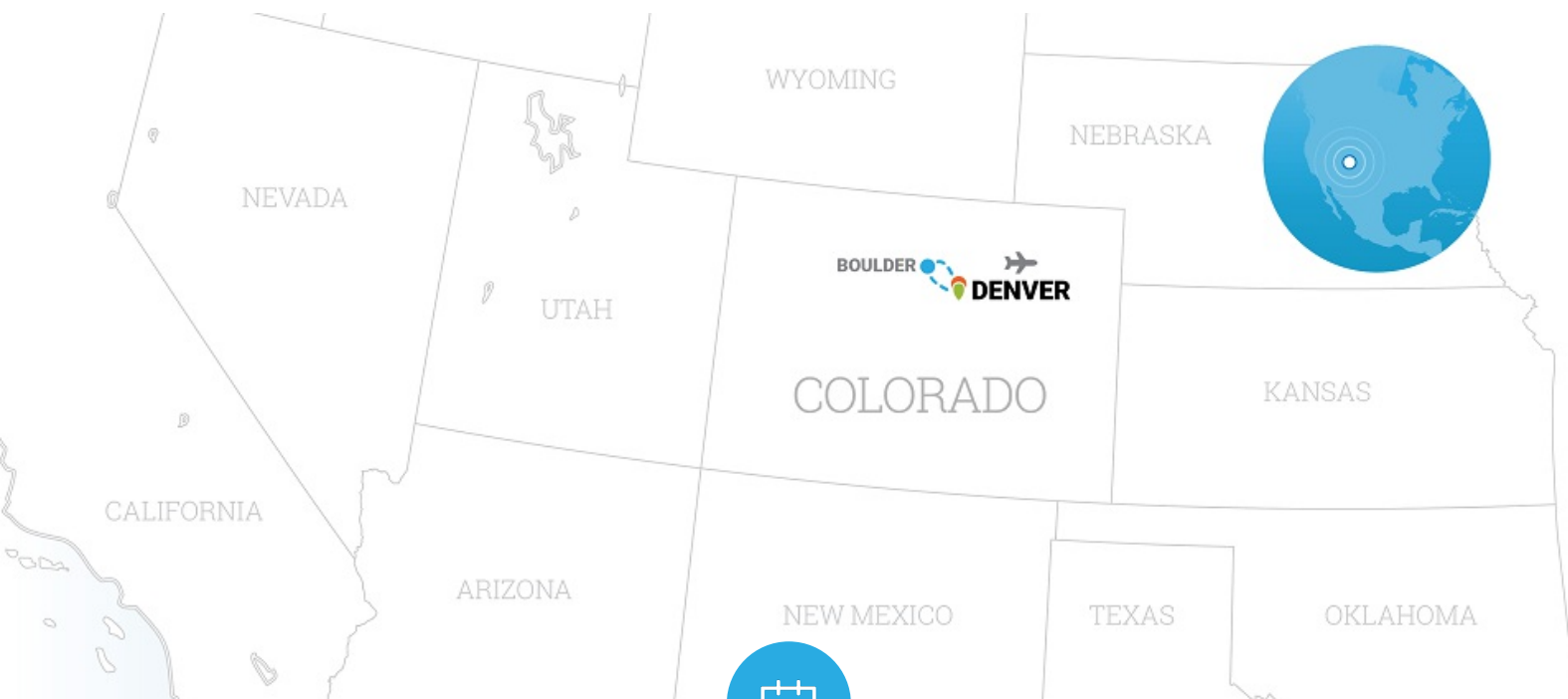
Enjoy riding in one of the most bike-friendly cities, at high altitude and with nearly perpetual sunshine

Walk through historic and bustling downtown Pearl Street, a brick-paved pedestrian corridor that's always alive with

street performers

Pamper yourself with the elegant ritual of afternoon tea at the Dushanbe Teahouse, an elaborate and creative teahouse where you can take a respite in a warm atmosphere

Tackle Colorado's high mountain roads and savor the most spectacular views of Boulder



DAILY ITINERARY

2021

Day

1

TODAY'S RIDE:

Lee Hill Loop

Approximately 25 miles with 3,040 feet of climbing

SHORT OPTION:

Morgul Bismark Loop

Approximately 26 miles with 1,680 feet of climbing

DESCRIPTION:

Welcome to Boulder! After leaving your luggage at your beautiful retreat in downtown Boulder, meet your Trek Travel contact at the Trek Bicycle store located one and a half miles from the hotel. There they will familiarize you with your Trek bicycle and make sure you have a comfortable fit for the week ahead. Then, it's off on your first biking adventure, choosing between a classic ride north of Boulder or a more mellow loop in the south. Whatever option you choose, it is going to be an incredible day! The Morgul Bismark Loop south of Boulder features lots of rollers and the renowned "Wall," while enjoying great views of the foothills. This course has more history than any in Colorado, having been a part of the Red Zinger Classic and the Coor Classic races back in the 1970's and 1980's. On the other hand, if you opt for the locals' training favorite, the Lee Hill Loop, you will surely get your climbing legs warmed up! Lee Hill is a challenging four and a half mile climb that descends then kicks up again. Once you reach the top of Lee Hill, get ready for a fast and fun descent from the backside as you drop into Left Hand Canyon. You will have a little reprieve before tackling the Olde Stage Road and the locals' secret, Wagon Wheel Gap. After the ride, take a bit of time to relax, perhaps by unwinding in the hotel hot tub before enjoying dinner of your choosing in one of the many bistros, just walking distance from your accommodation.

HOTEL:

The Basecamp Hotel

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

Day

2

TODAY'S RIDE:

Left Hand Canyon and Jamestown Loop

Approximately 53 miles with 5,430 feet of climbing

AVID OPTION:

Left Hand Canyon and Jamestown Loop with Brainard Lake Climb

Approximately 64 miles with 6,490 feet of climbing

DESCRIPTION:

Today is a very special day as you have the opportunity to experience Left Hand Canyon, one of the most popular road rides in Boulder and a top climb in the United States! Left Hand Creek will run alongside the majority of the climb and when you don't see it, you are close enough to hear it or hear the wind blowing through the trees that fill the canyon, making it a very calming and peaceful ride. The grade rarely approaches double digits and while the sustained climb lasts over an hour, it will test your legs without being overwhelming. With a final segment of about one and a half miles at 8.5% gradient, you will reach the top of the climb in Ward, a town that is worth a visit to see remnants of the mining rush and a perfect opportunity to refuel with some food before continuing on. If you feel like adding a few bonus miles of climbing, the avid option will lead you to a peaceful road surrounded by thick forest reaching Brainard Lake at 10,500 feet above sea level! Take a rest here, breathe in the fresh alpine air while enjoying exceptional views of stark surrounding peaks. Then you will descend towards Jamestown, a sleepy mountain town nestled in the heart of the mountains. After a visit to this small historic mining town, get ready for a high-speed descent. The combination of shady wilderness, a wide and paved shoulder mixed with some of Colorado's hard-packed gravel, the steady rumbling of nearby creeks, and the chance to ride through some of Colorado's authentic mountain towns makes for a truly great day.

HOTEL:

The Basecamp Hotel

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

INCLUDED MEALS:

Breakfast

Day

3

TODAY'S RIDE:

Coal Creek Loop

Approximately 65 miles with 6,070 feet of climbing

AVID OPTION:

Coal Creek Loop with Left Hand Canyon

Approximately 78 miles with 7,560 feet of climbing

DESCRIPTION:

Today's ride is an absolute rush! Begin your ride with a few warm-up miles pedaling south before you venture on an epic long and twisty ascent through Coal Creek Canyon, passing several hand-carved rock tunnels and enjoying amazing vistas over the surrounding mountain ranges. Pace yourself as this is a big day of climbing, with more than 6,000 feet elevation! Grab some food and coffee at Salto in the lovely little ski town of Nederland and, if you choose the avid option, prepare for a bit more climbing and more breathtaking views. If you choose to take the short route back, get ready for a few miles of hard-pack gravel descending to the sweet pavement of Sugarloaf Mountain, providing views of Longs' Peak to the west, rolling prairies to the east, and the lights of Denver to the south. If you opted for the avid option, cycle north out of Nederland town on the scenic Peak to Peak Highway, climbing all the way to the small mountain town of Ward. The rewards for your efforts are the stunning views of rocky canyon walls and snow-capped mountains all around. After working your way up into the mountains, you will get relief from the steady 17-mile descent back down toward Boulder. Tonight, an array of specialties are at your fingertips in town. Just choose the restaurant that best suits your tastes for dinner to celebrate the accomplishments of the day.

HOTEL:

The Basecamp Hotel

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

INCLUDED MEALS:

Breakfast

Day

4

TODAY'S RIDE:

Carter Lake Loop

Approximately 72 miles with 2,940 feet of climbing

SHORT OPTION:

Hygiene Loop

Approximately 36 miles with 1,500 feet of climbing

AVID OPTION:

Carter Lake Loop with Poll Hill Climb

Approximately 78 miles with 3,980 feet of climbing

DESCRIPTION:

Starting from bustling downtown Boulder, ride for several warm-up miles through some of Boulder's prettiest neighborhoods. This route will treat you to gorgeous views all along the way, starting with the Colorado Rockies' front range as you head into the tiny town of Hygiene. If you're hungry or want to hang out with the locals, stop at the Crane Hollow Cafe on your right or at the Mountain Fountain on your left. Remember to fill up your water bottles here, as this is the last place to do so until you get to the marina at Carter Lake, 35 miles into the route. From Hygiene, continue pedaling north on rolling, flat roads, until you'll head east on the five-mile ascent up to Carter Lake, a popular destination offering water sports, including boating, fishing, swimming, and scuba diving. Although the final mile features some switchbacks and is quite steep, the efforts will be rewarded with a breathtaking view back east over the plains. The ride around the eastern shores of Carter Lake Reservoir crosses three different dams. Just east of the last dam, you'll find the Carter Lake Marina, a great place for a break and to refill your water bottles, as there won't be another chance until you pass through Hygiene again on your return trip. For dinner tonight, choose from the list of our recommended restaurants in town to celebrate another memorable day of cycling immersed in the natural beauty of the Colorado Rockies.

HOTEL:

The Basecamp Hotel

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

INCLUDED MEALS:

Breakfast

Day

5

TODAY'S RIDE:

Hygiene to Lyons with Rabbit Mountain

Approximately 55 miles with 3,100 feet of climbing

AVID OPTION:

Jamestown to Lyons Loop via St Vrain

Approximately 59 miles with 5,349 feet of climbing

DESCRIPTION:

Your self-guided Boulder bike tour continues with two great routes at your fingertips, so you can enjoy another on your own terms! The route to Jamestown and Lyons is nothing but pure canyon riding. Head west and wind up along Left Hand Creek to where it meets James Creek and ascend your way up to Jamestown. Stop at the Mercantile to refresh and then get ready for some 10-12% grades. Once you're at the top, cruise down along the St. Vrain Creek and into the charming town of Lyons. Historically a sandstone quarrying town, today Lyons is known for its art, music, culture, and natural beauty, being nestled in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. If you prefer to opt for a less challenging ride, the route to Lyons via Hygiene is a great local ride that keeps you in the rolling country of Boulder County. Test your time trial skills on the road to Rabbit Mountain and, as you climb, keep your eyes open for raptors, large herds of mule deer, prairie dogs, coyote, and of course, rabbits! While taking in the view from the top, you'll feel like you are miles away from the bustle of Boulder. Continue pedaling over to Lyons to refuel at the famous Oskar Blues, and then make your way back to the hotel. Tonight, get ready to indulge in another tasty dinner from our selection of restaurants, toasting to an incredible week of bike rides in this cycling paradise!

HOTEL:

The Basecamp Hotel

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

INCLUDED MEALS:

Breakfast

Day

6

TODAY'S RIDE:

Flagstaff Mountain to Amphitheater and back

Approximately 12 miles with 1,550 feet of climbing

AVID OPTION:

Flagstaff to Summit (mailboxes) and back

Approximately 13 miles with 2,355 feet of climbing

DESCRIPTION:

It's time to say goodbye to this slice of heaven but don't miss the opportunity of an early morning ride. We saved the most popular one for today, the mighty Flagstaff! Beginning right at the base of historic Chautauqua Park, this iconic climb was once part of the Coors Classic and was put on the cycling map in part by local legend Andy Hampsten. This famous six-mile climb really kicks it up once you have crossed over the stone bridge. You will relish the challenge of switchback after switchback as Boulder and the Flatirons start looking smaller and smaller and your legs get used to the unrelenting ascent. Once you reach the iconic panorama at Sunrise Amphitheatre, if you are still looking for a challenge, you can go even further up what's known locally as "SuperFlag" to the mailboxes at the beginning of Boulder Open Space. Don't be surprised if you see a few pros flying by and making it look easy. The pavement is perfect, the road is twisty, and the views are incredible! Back at the hotel, take a shower and prepare your bags for check out. Before leaving, please return your bike and related accessories to the Trek store at 11:00 AM.

HOTEL:

The Basecamp Hotel

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

INCLUDED MEALS:

Breakfast

WHAT'S INCLUDED

For us, the details matter most

Every moment of a Trek Travel self-guided bike trip has more than you could have ever dreamed. More romance. More scenery. More choice. It's the little additions to every Trek Travel cycling vacation that make it truly special. And that's how we help you create more memories.

What's Included

- Five nights of accommodation at one handpicked hotel
- Daily breakfast
- Daily lunch and dinner recommendations
- Ride a Trek Domane SL 7 disc
- Up to three daily route options on riding days
- Trek Travel water bottles to keep
- Each bike is equipped with a flat pack, frame pump, phone mount, front and rear lights
- Bontrager helmet (optional if you do not bring your own)
- Bontrager saddle (we suggest you bring your own for the most comfortable fit)
- Shimano clipless pedals or flat pedals (optional if you do not bring your own)
- All luggage transfers during your trip
- A bike lock, all necessary chargers and a floor pump
- Bike fit on the first day to help you find your optimal position for comfort, with recreational or avid set-up along with saddle preference
- Ride With GPS app on your phone to navigate and get all the information you need on your self-guided adventure
- Optional daily phone or video call with the guide to prep you for the next day's adventure
- Support on the ground in case of emergency

Gear

- Trek Domane SL 7 disc carbon road bike with Shimano Di2 electronic shifting
- Trek Travel water bottles to keep
- Shimano clipless road pedals, Shimano clipless mountain pedals, or flat pedals (optional if you do not bring your own)
- Bontrager helmet (optional if you do not bring your own)
- Bontrager men's and women's specific saddles
- Bontrager front and rear Flare R lights
- Each bike is equipped with a flat pack, frame pump and phone mount
- A bike lock, all necessary chargers, and a floor pump
- Coupon valued up to \$500 off a new Trek Bicycle. Your coupon will be delivered via email prior to your trip.
- *For the most comfortable ride, you may choose to bring your own pedals, saddle, and helmet on the trip. Your guides will install your gear on the first day during your bike fit.*

THANK YOUR GUIDE, BY TIPPING

Gratuities for your Trek Travel guide are not included in your trip price. We recommend tipping 7.5-10% of your trip price, preferably in the local currency. Please tip your guide at your discretion, based on their level of professionalism, guest care, and service.

What's Not Included

- Airfare and transportation to and from the trip meeting/departing locations
- Lodging before and after the trip
- Personal items purchased during the trip
- Optional activities not scheduled by Trek Travel
- While we provide daily breakfast, the other meals are not included. On self-guided trips, Trek Travel provides restaurant recommendations and invites you to explore the local cuisine at your leisure.

HOTELS



BASECAMP HOTEL

BOULDER, COLORADO

In the heart of downtown Boulder, between the University of Colorado campus and the highly popular Pearl Street Mall, Basecamp is a contemporary boutique hotel, renovated in 2016 with a modern outdoor theme, offering unique, upscale amenities like a hot tub and sauna. Decorative touches throughout the hotel incorporate gear that resonates with active outdoorsy types, like ropes serving as room dividers, lanterns instead of table lamps, and windows and doors that roll up garage-door style. Artwork reflects local flavor, depicting scenes like sunsets over the mountains, landscapes, and wildlife. The hotel has a warm, welcoming feel, due to both the friendly staff and free extras like coffee, cookies, and trail mix in the lobby.



MEETING & DEPARTING

How To Get There

We suggest that you arrive at least one day prior to the start of your self-guided Boulder bike tour, which will enable you to adjust to the time zone and minimize the risk of missing the trip start due to flight-related delays. We recommend that you fly into the Denver International Airport (DIA), approximately 31 miles from downtown Boulder. There is regular

Meeting Time And Location

Your Trek Travel guide will meet you at the Trek Bicycle Boulder store (2626 Baseline Rd, Boulder, CO 80305) at 11:00 AM on the first day of the trip. The store is located one and a half miles from your trip hotel, the Basecamp. At the store you'll be given your bike along with a fitting to ensure comfort for the week. You will also receive important information about the daily ride options, safety highlights and the specifics of cycling in the area. Then you are free to set off on your first warm-up ride of your Boulder bike tour.

If you will be late for the meeting or are going to miss it altogether, please inform the store. You will receive an email a week before the trip start with all the contact

service from most major cities in the U.S. to DIA. There are multiple options to travel to Boulder from DIA, such as a local taxi, car rental, the Green Ride Shuttle, or the Skyride Bus. A taxi from DIA ranges from \$60-\$100, not including gratuity, and the travel time is between 45 and 50 minutes. The Green Ride Shuttle runs every 30 minutes after the hour from ground transportation at the airport. A reservation is not needed from the airport to the hotel. The trip takes approximately 90 minutes. The cost is \$40 for the first person and \$12 for each additional person, each way. To use this shuttle, proceed to the Green Ride Shuttle ticket counter on the fifth level of the main terminal to baggage claim. From the hotel back to the airport, it is necessary to have a reservation. You can make reservations with them at <http://greenrideboulder.com/> or by calling 720-254-8280. The AB Skyride Bus (AB is for Airport/Boulder) takes approximately 60 minutes to arrive in Boulder. The cost is \$10.50 per person. Please have exact cash for the driver. The DIA Transit Center is at Gate 8 found on the lower level of the Westin Hotel. For a copy of their schedule please visit: <http://www3.rtd-denver.com/schedules/getSchedule.action?routelD=AB>

Before & After: Denver, Colorado

The Mile High City is a big-city getaway with a mountain-town edge. Visitors come here from all over the world for its laid-back feel and cosmopolitan scene. Visit the recently completed Union Station downtown for a hip vibe and world-class restaurants with plenty of patio seating in the crisp, mountain air. Or venture to the foothills, minutes away by car, for a trip to Red Rocks Amphitheater, Lookout Mountain, or the wild west town of Golden where gunslingers still walk the streets. Don't be surprised if you're completely transformed by this unique city, where outdoor activity is more than a hobby. It's a way of life. We recommend the following accommodations for your pre- and post-trip hotel:

details. If for some reason you cannot reach them, please call your hotel, Basecamp Hotel (303-449-7550), and leave a message with your expected arrival time and contact details.

Departing Time And Location

Before your departure, please return your bike and related accessories to the Trek store in Boulder at 11:00 AM on the last day of your Boulder self-guided bike tour.

KIMPTON HOTEL BORN

Ideally situated in Denver and with easy transfer to and from DIA, this 4-star property features furnishings inspired by a modern alpine aesthetic. The terrace with mountain views overlooks the epicenter of Denver's downtown renaissance. The on-site restaurant, Citizen Rail, is one of the best in town!

www.hotelborndenver.com/ | ~ \$ 220

KIMPTON HOTEL MONACO DENVER

With bold, vibrant style and plush upscale rooms, this 4-star hotel puts you at the epicenter of the best of downtown Denver. The richly renovated guest rooms, luxurious amenities, spectacular living-room lobby, and authentic Italian cuisine from Panzano are sure to deliver the most comfortable stay.

www.monaco-denver.com/ | ~\$170

PATTERSON INN

French inspired, featuring historic details from the late 1800s, this redstone chateau is situated on a quarter acre of exquisitely landscaped grounds in the heart of one of Denver's original high-end neighborhoods. Historically intriguing yet complete with all the comforts of modern amenities, this 4-star hotel offers a luxurious reprieve within a 10-minute walk from the Colorado State Capitol.

www.pattersoninn.com/en-us | ~\$300

* Hotels listed above are local properties we love. We do not have special rates available.



FAQS

What Are The Daily Rides Like?

- Rider Type | 3/4 - Active/Avid
- Average Daily Mileage | 47
- Terrain | Mountainous
- Average Daily Elevation | 3,688 feet
- Total Miles | 282
- Total Elevation | 22,130 feet

Averages and totals are calculated from our "Today's Ride" options.

The terrain is varied with rolling, open country roads when you cruise east and challenging climbs into the mountains when you head west.

Please note that all rides are above 5,430 feet above sea level and some rides feature gravel sections, which is hard packed dirt. Our self-guided Boulder bike tour is best suited for our Type 4 Riders who enjoy long days on the bike and challenging climbs. Level 3 Riders will enjoy the Short options and a few of Today's Rides. Also, some rides will give the riders a taste of hard packed dirt/gravel roads. While you may think of gravel as loose, in Colorado they use Magnesium Chloride to keep the surface area hard and intact, while minimizing the loose stones.

What are the options for a non-rider travel companion?

There are a variety of non-riding options on this trip for riders who want to take the afternoon off or travel companions who want to spend little or no time in the saddle. Some of these options may need to be scheduled before your trip—please contact one of our Trip Consultants for more information. Except as specified in the itinerary, expenses and transportation to these activities are not included in the trip price. Some non-riding options on our self-guided Boulder bike tour are:

- Hiking
- Tea Company Factory Tour
- Brewery and Distillery Tours
- Visit the Farmer's Market on Saturdays and Wednesdays
- Shopping
- Visit Museums
- Climbing

Trip Changes

See itinerary for specific daily ride distances and elevation options. On all of our vacations, Trek Travel seeks to find quiet, paved secondary roads or bike paths to experience a region; busy roads are avoided as much as possible. Our itineraries are an approximation of our trips. Trek Travel strives to offer every guest a vacation of a lifetime on every trip. At times routes, hotels, activities, etc. listed here may change at the discretion of the trip designer or guides to improve the trip experience.