

MAP YOUR NEXT

PRIVATE WORKING GUIDE

PLAN A BETTER ESCAPE

VISIT COLORADO

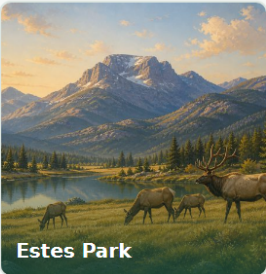
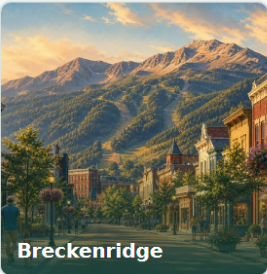
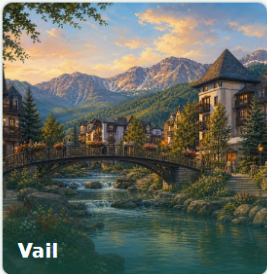
A 10-day Colorado mountain-loop vacation across five stops, from Durango's rails to Rocky Mountain National Park.

Original commissioned illustrations created for this guide — artwork, not photographs.

5 STOPS

10 DAYS

ONE THOUGHTFUL ROUTE





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Your Top 5 & the route

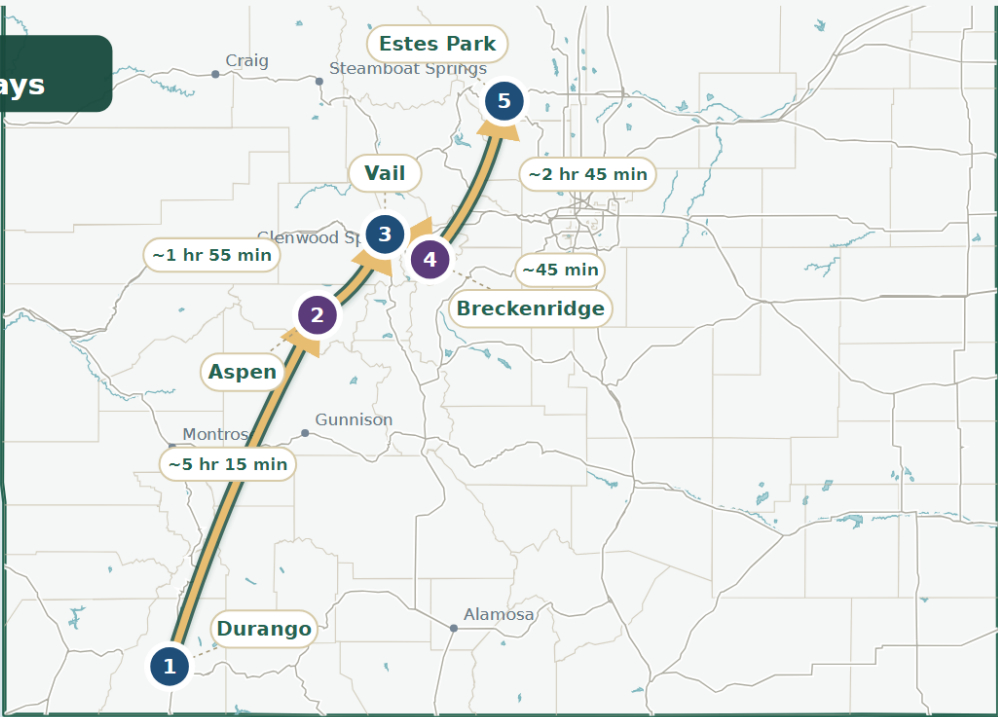
RANKED THE WAY YOU RANKED THEM



THE FIVE STOPS

STOP	SETTING	TYPICAL DAILY COST	VISITOR ESSENTIALS
1 Durango	San Juan rail town	Moderate · verify live rates	Year-round DRO nonstops; walkable Main Avenue
2 Aspen	Elk Mountains resort	High · book early	Reserve Maroon Bells access in season
3 Vail	Alpine village	High · book early	Park once; the village is walkable
4 Breckenridge	Victorian high town	Moderate to high · verify live rates	Acclimatize gently; it sits at 9,600 ft
5 Estes Park	Rockies gateway	Moderate · verify live rates	Book RMNP timed entry ahead

THE VACATION ROUTE Five stops · ten days





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The 10-day itinerary

Two days in each stop, south to north; swap any day that doesn't fit — the long Durango-Aspen drive is the trip's one big push.

DAY 1 Land in Durango

Fly into DRO, stroll historic Main Avenue, and end with the Animas riverwalk at dusk.

DAY 2 Rails or ruins

Ride the historic narrow-gauge train toward Silverton or day-trip to Mesa Verde's cliff dwellings — both sell out, book ahead.

DAY 3 The San Juan Skyway day ~5 hr 15 min

Start early: US-550 north past Ouray's box canyon, then over McClure Pass to Aspen — the trip's long, spectacular drive.

DAY 4 Maroon Bells morning

Reserve the Maroon Bells shuttle for early light, then give the afternoon to Aspen's walkable core and galleries.

DAY 5 Hot springs, then Vail ~1 hr 55 min

Break in Glenwood Springs for a soak, follow I-70 up Glenwood Canyon, and settle into Vail Village by evening.

DAY 6 Vail from above

Ride the gondola for a summit view, walk Betty Ford Alpine Gardens, and let the village carry the evening.

DAY 7 Over Vail Pass to Breck ~45 min

An easy morning hop over Vail Pass; spend the afternoon on Breckenridge's mining-era Main Street.

DAY 8 High-country day

Hike a Tenmile Range trail or ride the gondola, then settle onto a Main Street patio — at 9,600 feet, pace yourself.

DAY 9 North to Estes Park ~2 hr 45 min

Cross the Divide and swing up through Boulder on US-36; watch for evening elk along Lake Estes.

DAY 10 Rocky Mountain finale

Use your timed-entry reservation for Rocky Mountain National Park — Trail Ridge Road when open — before the drive home to Denver.