

Welcome to Beautiful Boulder, Colorado!

We are so pleased to celebrate our home grown SWE President, Heather Doty together! Boulder is home to outdoor fun, a world-class university, great local businesses, craft breweries and distilleries galore, and friendly people.

In this guide you'll find listings for all kinds of places you might want to go while you are here. Many are within walking distance of the Hotel Boulderado, as the Pearl Street Mall is the heart of downtown and a popular destination for people watching. An important note: life on the Front Range of Colorado means quickly becoming familiar with cardinal directions: the mountains are always to your west while you're in a Front Range city. Find them, and you instantly know north, south, east and west! In this case, they are behind the Boulderado, which is across the street from the Rembrandt Yard. Knowing this will make it easy to navigate around Pearl Street.

If you have any specific questions, just ask! We are very familiar with Boulder and can point you in the right direction for whatever you are looking for.

Madalene Fetsch

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Transportation from the airport

The [RTD AB Bus](#) is a good option for getting from the airport. It is direct to the downtown Boulder station, and fairly low cost at \$10.50 (exact change) cash fare. From there it is 3 blocks to the Rembrandt Yard (and Boulderado hotel, should you wish to stay there).

Taking a Lyft or Uber or the [Green Shuttle](#) are also good options, more expensive but available at more times.

Housing in downtown Boulder

Downtown Boulder has some nice hotels and even some Airbnbs nearby. The location of the event is 1301 Spruce Street in Boulder. Across the street is the [Boulderado hotel](#) – a great and historic option, and also where the SWE Rocky Mountain Section hosted iCON16, the Region I Conference, so you may find it familiar!

A few blocks west is the [St. Julien](#), a much fancier option, and a few blocks to the south is the [Boulder University Inn](#), a more budget option. All three hotels are within six blocks of the venue.

Parking near Rembrandt Yard

After 7pm, parking is free at all street spots, so you may wish to grab a spot and pay through 7pm. There are also paid lots nearby at Spruce and 11th, and other locations [in this link](#). There are also rentable regular AND ebikes at stations around downtown, including on the corner across Spruce Street from the Rembrandt Yard.

Restaurants & Bars (see [✉](#) below for late night <21 options!)

At the Boulderado:

Spruce Farm and Fish – Upscale fine dining featuring market seafood, local meats, and fresh produce on the main floor.

Corner Bar – Cocktails and appetizers in a classic setting on the main floor. Sit at the bar, or grab a quiet table in the back with friends. Patio usually available.

License #1 – Upscale fine cocktails and mixology deep underground the Boulderado at the historic bar that holds the 1st liquor license in the City of Boulder! Long-time Boulder residents know it best in its previous incarnation, the (rowdier) Catacombs.

Walking distance:

Avanti Food and Beverage – the newest of Boulder's food halls, filled with a variety of food booths and serviced by a bar. Nice rooftop.

Bohemian Biergarten – German style beer hall, with community seating. Mix of students and non-students and is located a half block south from the Boulderado. Patio available.

☒ **Boulder Baked** – This novel spot just off Pearl and Broadway serves up sweet treats like fresh baked cookies and coconut cream pie as well as fries, nachos and other items. It's often packed on weekend nights until 2am.

Boxcar Roasters/Cured – An interesting combination, a coffee roasting company/coffeehouse next door to a cured meats and vegetables shop with a cheese counter as well. You're sure to find something for your tastebuds at either of these.

Centro – Classy and creative Latin American cuisine with a busy patio

Dushanbe Teahouse - Not only does this place have a menu sure to satisfy most dietary habits, the teas are delicious and the atmosphere is beautiful. Check out the display case of our sister city's traditional garments at the front. Fantastic outdoor and indoor seating.

Hapa Sushi Grill & Sake Bar – Popular local sushi spot, make sure to try the more outrageously named sushi on the menu for an indulgent treat. Outdoor seating on Pearl Street Mall.

☒ **Illegal Pete's** - Local burrito spot with both delicious breakfast and all day burrito choices, has a bar inside for 21+ but stays open to all ages until 2am. Outdoor seating on Pearl Street Mall.

Jaipur Indian Restaurant - Sit down place with good lunch buffet, full service at dinner. Patio on Walnut Street.

Jungle – Cool bar/lounge with a clever jungle theme and some massive and prettily presented island cocktails. Includes indoor and outdoor seating.

☒ **The Laughing Goat** – Probably the most social coffee shop downtown. Sometimes has live music, and is frequently open late on weekends.

Leaf Restaurant - All vegetarian fancy sit-down restaurant close to the Boulderado. Garage door style open windows.

☒ **Lindsay's Deli** - A sweet little deli at the corner of Broadway and Pearl, open until midnight on weekends and has a Haagen-Dazs counter inside.

Lucille's – New Orleans style breakfast in an older Victorian house just off Pearl, delicious and popular. Outdoor seating available.

Ozo Coffee Co – One of downtown's best coffee shops, with plenty of people working/studying and skilled baristas.

Rosetta Hall – Downtown Boulder now has two food halls, where small booths house interesting concepts in food, and everyone can order what they want and sit at the same table. Rooftop service as well.

Snooze, an AM eatery - Trendy breakfast place with decadent breakfast offerings – best to make reservations ahead of time, can be a wait. Small patio.

Spruce Confections - European style breakfast café with fresh baked pastries each day.

Breweries, Wineries & Distilleries

Walking distance:

Mountain Sun Pub - The local's favorite brewery, decent pub food and you can get a free taster of any beer you'd like to try. Small patio.

Oskar Blues – Now one of Boulder County's older craft brewers, they have a large space on west Pearl with plenty of TVs for sports, a big patio, and sometimes live music.

Post – Known for a wide variety of beers and fried chicken. Patio seating available.

Driving distance:

Asher Brewery – Best known organic brewery in the area, northeast of Boulder. Known for bold, hoppy beers.

Avery Brewery – Best place to go if you crave extra hoppy or sour beers, it has an excellent restaurant inside this big, new building northeast of Boulder.

Boco Cidery – A newer cidery in North Boulder, focuses on natural fermentation

Bookcliff Vineyards – One of Boulder's wineries, north of Boulder in a more rural setting close to Settembre Cellars.

Kettle and Spoke – A teeny-tiny brewery run out of a cargo bike shop in east Boulder, open irregular hours

Locust Cidery – A Seattle based outpost, variety of sweeter ciders.

Redstone Meadery – A fine meadery, making several different kinds of honey wine (mead).

Sanitas Brewing – big patio, often have discounted beers when the train goes by, located in east Boulder

Settembre Cellars – One of Boulder's wineries, north of Boulder close to Bookcliff Vineyards.

Twisted Pine Brewing Company – An older craft brewery in Boulder, well-loved by locals with pizza and appetizer food on site.

Upslope Brewing – Has both a north Boulder and an east Boulder location – contains a nice selection of their canned beers and usually has snack foods on hand.

Vapor Distillery - Fancy tasting room in the back of a warehouse district, with tasty drinks.

VisionQuest Brewing – Run by two guys who launched this venture from their homebrew supply store next door. Known for hazy beers and pushing the envelope on creative beers.

Entertainment & Indoor Recreation

Walking distance:

Boulder MoCA – Boulder's Contemporary Art Museum, across 13th Street from the Civic Area Park.

Boulder Theater – One of two primary live music venues in Boulder, 1 block southeast from the Boulderado, with a small restaurant attached. Check online to see who is playing.

Color Me Mine – Boulder's Paint Your Own Pottery Studio, with lots of great choices.

Enigma Escape Rooms – The hottest new group activity: you are locked in a room with your group, and you must solve the clues to escape before the time runs out!

Yoga Pearl – A yoga studio with several classes available.

Driving distance:

Boulder History Museum – Close to campus, contains all of Boulder’s historical exhibits. Open by appointment only.

Century Theatres – Boulder’s main movie theater, situated in the 29th Street Mall shopping area. Carries new releases and has discounts for students and seniors.

The Dairy Center for the Arts – Plays, movies, art exhibits are all hosted here on a rotation basis. Their schedule is available online.

Fiske Planetarium – This planetarium, on the CU campus hosts both free and paid events, including star talks and laser shows set to every kind of music imaginable. Discounts for students and seniors.

Fox Theatre – One of two main music venues in Boulder, on the Hill next to the CU campus. Check online to see who’s playing.

Museum of Natural History – Boulder’s museum of natural history, close to the CU campus.

North Boulder Recreation Center – The closest recreation center to downtown, ~1.5 miles north of the Boulderado. Day passes are available – it has a pool, gym, and a strong rotation of drop-in classes.

The Spot Rock Climbing Gym: Into rock climbing walls? This is possibly the most popular climbing gym in Boulder, reachable by bus or drive from the Boulderado.

Shopping (see below for late night <21 options!)

Walking distance:

☒ **Boulder Bookstore** – Excellent local bookstore with three stories to explore, and is open until 10pm on weekends.

Peppercorn - Huge kitchen goods store, with lots of interesting kitchen tools.

Savory Spice Shop - Great local spice purveyor. This is a great choice for souvenirs or just a tasty item to bring home.

Starfish Jewelry – Cute jewelry shop on Pearl Street Mall, one block west on Pearl Street from the Boulderado.

Trident – Old School Boulder bookstore with coffeeshop inside. You'll find interesting gatherings and they've made a special outdoor space out back.

Note: downtown Boulder now has close to a dozen Flagship stores for outdoor gear. If you are looking for your next ski outfit or more hiking gear, shopping on Pearl will have many choices!

Good Hiking Opportunities (if the weather allows)

Weather on the Colorado Front Range is highly unpredictable in the winter. We do get snow, but it tends to melt off within a day, so your time in Boulder may be cold and snowy, warm and slushy, or even dry and windy! If you want to take a hike, here are a few good options:

Chautauqua: The beautiful park set up in the foothills is a popular hiking spot, you can park in the lot accessed from Baseline and Grant (between 9th and 8th as you travel west on Baseline) and hike along any of the trails. Again, bring water and good shoes for wet trails and do not leave valuables visible in your vehicle.

Mount Sanitas: The trailhead is at 4th and Alpine, around 2 miles from the Boulderado to the northwest. The trail itself has wide sunny vistas of Boulder, some steep parts and lots of friendly fellow hikers and dogs. The loop is just over 4 miles, and 1100 feet in elevation gain, so bring water and good shoes for wet trails.

NCAR trails: NCAR sits just below the foothills in south Boulder. A system of trails extends from the parking lots nearby, reached by traveling west on Table Mesa as far as you can and following the signs to NCAR. There are many options from this point, and this may be slightly less popular than the Chautauqua trails, though many in Boulder hit the trails any time the weather allows.

Other Locations of Interest

Downtown Post Office – This location has a machine inside where you can mail packages and buy stamps even when the main desk is closed, including your postcards!

NCAR – The National Center for Atmospheric Research is both an interesting hotbed of scientific research into atmospheric science, and a significant employer of STEM professionals in Boulder.