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Coloradans Will Love These 6 Summer Travel Destinations

Hit the road or hop a flight to play the Colorado way—with a change of scenery.

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Tourists flock to Colorado all year long to [schuss our legendary slopes](#), cruise our [unparalleled bike trails](#), and climb our [formidable fourteeners](#). In other words: We live where people vacation. So why would we [boastful owners of a 303 area code](#) want to go anywhere else?

The problem is, we live where *a lot* of people vacation, so we're forced to share our precious Centennial State with the masses—especially in the summer. But rather than hike to [Hanging Lake](#) in a conga line or fight for parking on a Saturday at Chatfield Reservoir, why not consider trying your favorite Colorado activities in a new place? We've rounded up six travel destinations for Denverites who want to live the mile-high lifestyle while enjoying a change of scenery. None will force you too far from your comfort zone, but all will expand your horizons (literally and figuratively).

McCall, Idaho



The Shore Lodge. Photo courtesy of the Shore Lodge

- **Best for:** Getting away from it all
- **Car time from Denver:** 13 hours, 40 minutes
- **Flight time:** 2 hours nonstop from DIA to Boise Airport (BOI), then a 2 hour, 15 minute—drive to McCall

Keen to take it slow this summer? Pack your bags—including that novel you’ve been meaning to finish for the past eight months—and amble over to this lakeside hamlet two hours from bustling Boise. Just west of the Salmon River Mountains, McCall plays home to 1,515-acre [Ponderosa State Park](#), 5,300 acres of glacial water in [Payette Lake](#), and just three people per square mile.

In other words, there are ample opportunities to hike, bike, paddleboard, or pontoon without having to elbow out competition for the most peace and quiet. Yet, while McCall offers plenty of ways to “relax” while pushing your VO2 max to the limit, it *also* provides an idyllic setting for leisurely walks, sunset views, and decompressing with a resting heart rate.

Where to stay: For those prioritizing their to-don’t list, the [Shore Lodge](#) can help you avoid all your responsibilities with ease. Positioned steps from Payette Lake, the 77-key hotel offers analog opportunities aplenty, whether you’re looking to soothe a tension headache with the help of a gurgling hot tub or read under a lakeside beach umbrella.

Choose to reconnect with loved ones over the Scrabble board or tune them out entirely while watching a blockbuster in the 43-seat, on-site movie theater. (Private screenings come with fresh popcorn.) To level up your calm down, book an organic facial and soak in the private saltwater immersion pools at The Shore Lodge’s full-service spa, [the Cove](#). And if all of that sounds just a *bit* too ambitious, laze away the hours sittin’ on the dock of the lake and watching the time roll away.