

10 GREAT REASONS TO TELL YOUR AUDIENCE ABOUT LEADVILLE AND TWIN LAKES!



1. Breathtaking scenery, including Colorado's two highest peaks, the Top of the Rockies Scenic & Historic Byway and spectacular fall foliage, all just an easy drive from Denver or Colorado Springs.
2. 10th Mountain Division Memorials at Camp Hale and Ski Cooper.
3. Abundant winter recreation, including downhill and cross-country skiing, snowboarding, ice fishing, dog sled races, ice climbing and snowshoeing.
4. More than 70 square blocks in the National Historic Landmark of Victorian Architecture.
5. Authentic mountain town experience and Colorado's largest glacial lakes at Twin Lakes Village.
6. Six museums, a walking tour and driving tour celebrate the town's rich mining history.
7. The paved Mineral Belt Trail is just one of the area's many trails for hiking, biking, and rollerblading.
8. Ski-joring at the Winter Carnival, one of many unique special events throughout the year.
9. Specialty shops, restaurants, galleries, elegant Victorian hotels, inns, B&Bs, lodges, and cabins — a fun and affordable vacation destination.
10. Fishing, camping, golfing, marathons, horseback riding, mountain climbing, plus almost 35,000 acres within four Wilderness Areas and more than 300 days of sunshine a year.

Contact Mandy Gauldin at 970-945-5534 for more information.





LEADVILLE/TWIN LAKES | fact sheet

- ABOUT THE AREA** At an elevation of 10,152 feet, Leadville is the highest incorporated city in North America, located in the geographic center of Colorado, 103 miles west of Denver and 129 miles northwest of Colorado Springs. All of the highways in Lake County have been designated as the Top of the Rockies Scenic and Historic Byway. Just 15 minutes from Leadville at the eastern gateway to Independence Pass, Twin Lakes is the largest glacial lake in Colorado. The area is known for its authentic, small-town atmosphere; year-round outdoor recreation; and historical treasures.
- HISTORY** Once one of America’s richest, longest-lived and bawdiest mining boomtowns, Leadville’s mining history began in 1860 with the discovery of gold. During the next five years, prospectors found more than \$4 million worth of gold — more than found at any other Colorado site. Once the gold played out, prospectors discovered the area was also rich in silver and lead. By 1880, Leadville was home to more than 30,000 residents, along with stores, hotels, saloons, dance halls, gambling joints and brothels. The upper class included David May, of May D&F, Charles Boettcher, and Horace Tabor, the infamous founder of the Tabor Opera House that left his wife to marry “Baby Doe.” The Opera House presented an incredible variety of talent, including Harry Houdini, John Philip Sousa, Oscar Wilde and Sarah Bernhardt.
- RECREATION** With an average of 310 days of sunshine a year, the state’s highest mountains — Mt. Massive and Mt. Elbert, both more than 14,400’ — and almost 35,000 acres within four nationally designated Wilderness Areas, the area features abundant opportunities for outdoor high-country recreation. Activities include downhill and cross-country skiing, snowboarding, ski joring, dog sled races, snowmobiling, 10th Mountain Hut-to-Hut Trail System, ice climbing, snowshoeing, sleigh rides, mountain climbing, fishing, camping, golfing, hiking, hunting, horseback riding, marathons, four-wheeling and biking.
- HERITAGE** Seventy square blocks of downtown Leadville has been designated as a National Historic Landmark of Victorian Architecture. Highlights include six museums; historical walking and driving tours; the second-oldest Federal Fish Hatchery; Camp Hale, site of the training grounds for the 10th Mountain Division; and the Leadville Colorado & Southern, the highest railroad in the West. Twin Lakes has also been designated a National Historic District.
- SHOP, STAY, DINE** Leadville features a charming selection of specialty shops, restaurants, galleries, and coffee shops, along with lodging options ranging from an elegant Victorian hotel, inns and B&Bs to lodges, cabins, campsites and vacation rentals. At the historic Twin Lakes village, travelers will find hotels, lodges, cafés, gift shops and art galleries.



LEADVILLE AND TWIN LAKES OFFER YEAR-ROUND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN A BEAUTIFUL HIGH-COUNTRY SETTING

LEADVILLE, Colo. — With an average of 310 days of sunshine a year, almost 35,000 acres within four nationally designated Wilderness Areas, and the state’s highest mountains, Lake County, Colo., features abundant opportunities for year-round, high-country recreation. Trail information and maps for both winter and summer activities are available at the U.S. Forest Service and the Visitor’s Centers in Leadville and Twin Lakes.

Warm-weather Activities

Pleasant summer temperatures and pure mountain air make Leadville and Twin Lakes popular summertime destinations for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages. From climbing Fourteeners and competing in marathons to horseback riding, four-wheeling or enjoying the wildlife and wildflowers on a leisurely hike, there’s an activity to suit just about anyone.

Hiking, biking and mountain climbing — Mt. Massive and Mt. Elbert, both reaching more than 14,400’, are Colorado’s two highest peaks. A vast network of trails crisscrosses the county, ranging from extremely challenging to paved, ADA-accessible trails.

Fishing — The area is home to some of the state’s best fishing, including Twin Lakes, Turquoise Lake, Mt. Elbert Forebay, Crystal Lake, Halfmoon Creek and many smaller lakes and streams. The National Fish Hatchery offers free guided tours, fish raceways and nature trails.

Golfing — Friendly and affordable Mt. Massive Golf Course, surrounded by the Sawatch, Collegiate and Mosquito mountain ranges, is the highest in the U.S. The course moves through groves of pine, spruce and fir in the open spaces of the Arkansas River Valley.

Racing and marathons — The Leadville Trail 100 races, including a 100-mile running race and a 100-mile bike race, are among the most challenging in the country. Other events include the Firecracker 5K Run, the Leadville High Altitude Duathlon, Turquoise Lake Half Marathon and Mineral Belt 20K Run.

Sightseeing — The Historical Walking Tour of downtown Leadville and Route of the Silver Kings provide visitors the chance to enjoy Victorian architecture and the historic mining district. The Leadville, Colorado & Southern Railroad takes riders on a two-and-one-half-hour journey between downtown Leadville and Fremont Pass, following the headwaters of the Arkansas Rivers, with views of Mt. Elbert and Mt. Massive, mine camps, incredible scenery and wildlife.

Camping — There are hundreds of campsites in Lake County, ranging from an RV park in downtown Leadville to developed campgrounds and dispersed camping at numerous scenic areas through the National Forest Service (*ReserveUSA.com*.)

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Winter Activities

Lake County's abundant snow provides for a vast number of popular winter activities, including snowshoeing, alpine and telemark skiing, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, snowboarding and dog sledding. There are many special events as well, including the Leadville Loppet Race, Winter Carnival, snowshoe races, turkey shoots, ice fishing competitions and Ski 100 Nordic Ski Race.

Ski Cooper — With an origin dating back to World War II, when the U.S. Army developed Cooper Hill and nearby Camp Hale as a training site for the ski troopers of the famed Tenth Mountain Division, Ski Cooper is Colorado's fifth-oldest ski area. Today, five lifts serve 400 skiable acres; an additional 2,500 acres at Chicago Ridge are served by Snowcats. Amenities include a new Children's Center, Day Care, Ski School, Day Lodge, Tennessee Pass Nordic Center and the Tennessee Pass Cookhouse. Ski Cooper's reasonably priced lift tickets make it one of the most affordable ski experiences in the state.

High-country Trails — There are 16 groomed, well-marked trails in Lake County, ranging from beginner to expert, from three to sixteen miles in distance, and between 9,000 and 12,000 feet in elevation. Beginners' trails include Lily Lake Loop with hills, narrow chutes and quick turns. The West Tennessee Lakes Trail has expansive views. Experts can take the Highline Loop through Mount Massive Wilderness to the long and difficult Bear Lake Loop, which includes 16 miles of turns through the Holy Cross Wilderness.

Ski Joring — In this sport, skiers are pulled over a series of jumps by a horse and rider. The goal is to stay on your skis, spear rings and complete the course in the least amount of time. Ski joring is the highlight of Leadville's annual Winter Carnival, which takes place the first weekend in March, along with a snowshoe race series, Loppet race and dog sledding.

Year-round Activities

Tenth Mountain Hut to Hut Trail System — The European tradition of hut-to-hut skiing can be enjoyed in the majestic mountains surrounding Leadville. Huts located in spectacular settings, perched high on mountain ridges with magnificent views, provide skiers a cozy shelter at the end of the trail. The Skinner Hut, Uncle Bud's Cabin, Tenth Mountain Division Hut, and the Sangree M. Froelicher Hut are named in honor the men of the Tenth Mountain Division of the U.S. Army who trained at Camp Hale and Ski Cooper during World War II. Fritz Benedict, a Tenth Mountain veteran, architect and designer of Vail Village, founded the first two backcountry huts in 1981. Each of these huts may be reached by a direct route from Leadville. This is the most extensive backcountry hut system in North America, with 30 huts and 350 miles of U.S. Forest Service trails. Backcountry ski, snowshoe, mountain bike or hike while staying in a safe, comfortable shelter. For more information or reservations, visit www.huts.org or call 970-925-4554.

Mineral Belt Trail — This 12.5-mile all-season, paved ADA-accessible trail passes through the historic district and stands of trees and foliage, with access to multiple trailheads. In the winter, the Mineral Belt Trail is groomed for skate skiing, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. In warmer months, it's perfect for hiking, biking or rollerblading.

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LEADVILLE/TWIN LAKES | top of the rockies national scenic & historic byway

TOP OF THE ROCKIES NATIONAL SCENIC & HISTORIC BYWAY OFFERS BREATHTAKING VIEWS THROUGHOUT LAKE COUNTY

LEADVILLE, Colo. — With altitudes rarely falling below 9,000 feet, the Top of the Rockies National Scenic and Historic Byway is worthy of its name. Travelers cross the 10,424-foot Tennessee Pass on Route 24 from Minturn, en route to the mining town of Leadville, the highest incorporated community in the U.S. This historic town is the ideal gathering place for mining buffs and outdoor enthusiasts alike.

Visitors can relive Leadville's colorful history by visiting the abandoned mines where Tabor, Guggenheim and May made their millions. Venture into the desolate Valley of the Ghosts, where fire ravaged three thriving Victorian towns. More adventurous travelers can enjoy four-wheeling, mountain biking, horseback riding or hiking on Colorado's highest mountains, Mt. Elbert and Mt. Massive, both reaching over 14,400 feet. The national forests surrounding Leadville provide for abundant outdoor activities such as camping, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, fishing and more.

Travelers exploring this route of towering peaks and broad valleys may spot wildlife, like the agile Big Horn Sheep, among the rocks. Slashes of gold, red, blue and white wildflowers adorn the snowy mountainside each spring. Nestled at the foot of Mt. Elbert, the Twin Lakes area bursts with picture-perfect views of soaring peaks and lavish foliage around the state's largest glacial lakes. Unique natural beauty and rich history are showcased beautifully in this living landscape.

In May 2007, Independence Pass was added to the Byway. With a summit at 12,095 feet, this Pass connects Twin Lakes and Aspen, and is open during the summer months. Independence Pass is ringed with 13,000-foot peaks, including Mt. Champion, Geissler Mountain, Twining Peak, Grizzly Peak and Casco Peak.

For more information visit the website at byways.org/browse/byways/2119. Maps are available at the Visitor's Centers in Leadville, Minturn and Copper Mountain.

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**CAMPING- AND OUTDOOR-ENTHUSIASTS FIND
PERFECT GETAWAY SPOTS IN LEADVILLE AND TWIN LAKES**

LEADVILLE, Colo. — Want to get away from it all? Lake County is the place to go, with nearly 35,000 acres of Wilderness Area, more lakes than any other county in the state, and an average of 310 days of sunshine a year. Camping enthusiasts, from tent campers to RVers, can choose from developed campsites and dispersed camping through the U.S. Forest Service, RV parks and private campgrounds. Hikers and mountain bikers can escape civilization for a retreat at any of the 10th Mountain Division Huts.

- Lake County — 75 percent of which is public lands — is an outdoor enthusiast’s dream-come-true, offering an incredible system of trails for hiking, biking and four-wheeling in the summer, or snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling in the winter. Mt. Elbert and Mt. Massive offer climbers the chance to bag the state’s two highest fourteeners. The area is also home to some of the state’s best fishing, including Twin Lakes, Turquoise Lake, Mt. Elbert Forebay, Crystal Lake, Halfmoon Creek and many smaller lakes and streams.
- There are hundreds of campsites in Lake County, ranging from private RV, camping and cabin sites in and around downtown Leadville to developed campgrounds and dispersed camping at numerous scenic areas through the U.S. Forest Service. Whether you’re in a tent, pop-up camper or full-sized RV, Turquoise and Twin Lakes Recreation Areas provide exceptional lakeside camping and boating. Looking for trails, scenery, fishing, or solitude...there’s a spot just for you.
- Named in honor the men who trained at Camp Hale during World War II, the Tenth Mountain Division Huts are located in spectacular settings, perched high on mountain ridges with magnificent views, and provide a cozy shelter at the end of the trail. The Skinner Hut, Uncle Bud’s Cabin, Tenth Mountain Division Hut and the Sangree M. Froelicher Hut may be reached by a direct route from Leadville. This is the most extensive backcountry hut system in North America, with 30 huts and 350 miles of U.S. Forest Service trails, including the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and the Colorado Trail.
- In the fall, Lake County’s scenery becomes even more beautiful when the aspen leaves turn brilliant shades of yellow, gold and orange. Mark your calendars. Fall comes early at this elevation; at 10,152’, Leadville is the highest incorporated city in North America. The best time to catch the foliage is usually early- to mid-September.

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LEADVILLE/TWIN LAKES | history of leadville

LEADVILLE — ONE OF AMERICA’S RICHEST, BAWDIEST AND LONGEST-LIVED MINING BOOMTOWNS

LEADVILLE, Colo. — Leadville’s mining history began in 1860 with the discovery of gold south of town. Roughly 8,000 prospectors arrived in “Oro City,” their name for the makeshift town of tents and cabins. During the next five years, more than \$4 million worth of gold was discovered using sluice and pan — more than at any other Colorado site. Within five years, however, the gold was playing out. The next boom would be silver. By 1880, Leadville had more than 30,000 residents, innumerable stores, hotels, boarding houses and, of course, more than 100 saloons, dance halls, gambling joints and brothels. By the late 1880s, the Colorado and Southern High Line, a narrow gauge railroad, was working the mineral belt.

Along with the rough life of the town, an upper class developed alongside the silver boom. Horace Tabor, who owned a general mercantile store with his wife Augusta, invested in mining with incredible success. Making millions from silver mining, he built and opened the famous Opera House in 1879, as well as the Bank of Leadville and the Tabor Grand Hotel. Along the way, he infamously left his wife and married the young “Baby Doe.” He rose from local to state to national political figure, built a mansion in Denver and lived a very wealthy lifestyle.

His Tabor Opera House presented an astounding variety of talent. The world-famous magician Harry Houdini, John Phillip Sousa, the British wit Oscar Wilde, the great actress Sarah Bernhardt and many wonderful operatic performers “trod the boards” of The Tabor during its heyday.

The years 1878 and 1879 marked the arrival of two more future millionaires. David May opened his auction house and clothing store, later buying out his biggest competitor. The company eventually became the nationwide May D&F. Charles Boettcher opened a thriving hardware business, later moving to Denver where he became one of its most successful businessmen and benefactors. Many other brilliant financial careers began in Leadville. The Guggenheims, Marshall Fields, W.B. Daniels, and James V. Dexter owe much to their Leadville beginnings.

Molly Brown arrived as a teenager in the early 1880s, working as a seamstress in a dry goods store. She eventually married J.J. Brown, and became the “Unsinkable” Molly Brown. Texas Jack, Buffalo Bill, “Chicken Bill” Lovell, “Broken Nose” Scotty and Soapy Smith are all part of Leadville’s colorful past. Teddy Roosevelt also paid visits to Leadville.

Of course, Doc Holliday’s stay in Leadville is one of the most infamous. It was marked by ill health, tuberculosis and drinking. Conflicting accounts of his story abound, but the records do indicate that he shot and wounded Bill Allen in August 1884. Supposedly penniless, he was nonetheless released on a total bail of \$8,000, which was raised by his wealthy friends, and in March 1885, he was acquitted and released. Allen was the last man on record shot by Holliday.

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Mining was not the only interest that the nation had in Leadville. In 1889, Congress established a National Fish Hatchery on the east side of Mt. Massive. It's now the oldest fish hatchery west of the Mississippi River.

In 1893, the repeal of the Sherman Silver Purchase Act spelled ruin for Horace Tabor and many others. Baby Doe froze to death almost 40 years later in her one room shack at the Matchless Mine. Mining for other minerals continued, but the silver boom was over.

Local businessmen decided to combat the downturn of the economy by building an incredible Ice Palace during the winter of 1895-1896. Requiring 5,000 tons of ice to be cut from the nearby lakes, the Ice Palace featured life-sized sculptures of prospectors and burros, a skating rink and a "gallery of commerce" with frozen produce, beer and more. A Crystal Carnival, with parade and fireworks, lit up the town and the throngs who came in by train from Denver and around the country. The Ice Palace melted in the spring of 1896, a glorious end to a fascinating era.

Mining continued, with zinc, lead and copper. But its last great resurgence came in 1918 with the opening of the massive Climax Molybdenum Mine north of Leadville. It employed more than 3,000 workers, and supplied half of the world's molybdenum. The mine is scheduled to reopen in 2009.

Today, Leadville has preserved an astounding amount of its history. Seventy square blocks have been designated a National Historic Landmark of Victorian Architecture, featuring more than fifty nineteenth-century buildings. Other historic attractions include a twenty-square-mile historic mining district, an historic railroad, more museums than any town in Colorado, and a yearly Boom Days event in August to celebrate it all.

Mt. Elbert, Colorado's highest peak, looks down on a revitalized town, known for its abundant outdoor activities, authentic small-town atmosphere and rich history. Leadville booms again.

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LEADVILLE/TWIN LAKES | leadville colorado & southern railroad

LEADVILLE COLORADO & SOUTHERN RAILROAD PROVIDES PASSENGERS WITH SCENIC, HISTORIC JOURNEY THROUGH UNTOUCHED WILDERNESS

LEADVILLE, Colo. — High in the Rocky Mountains, the Leadville Colorado & Southern Railroad takes sightseers, historians and train buffs on a scenic journey through untouched wilderness. Along the way, passengers experience the beauty of the Arkansas River Valley and spectacular views of Colorado's two highest peaks, Mt. Elbert and Mt. Massive.

During the two-and-a-half hour journey, passengers may also catch a glimpse of a deer or marmot as they relive history riding along the line built in the 1800s. At the depot, which was built in 1896, they can view old steam engine #641 and have a picture taken with the engineer.

The Leadville Colorado & Southern Railroad departs daily from Memorial Day weekend through the beginning of October. Sights change as the seasons turn. In early June, the end of the Colorado winter, views include snow-capped mountains. During the fall, passengers see the mountains ablaze as the aspen trees turn gold, red and orange. All summer, the train takes passengers in the 1955 diesel engine up to timber line and the headwaters of the Arkansas River. Both open and enclosed cars are available for guests to move about at their discretion. A thousand feet above the valley floor, the top of the line stops at an overview of the Climax Molybdenum Mine and Freemont Pass. Mid-way, a stop at the water tower provides a great photo opportunity and a chance to tour the engine and caboose. The conductor and other crew members will be happy to answer questions about the history, wildlife or wildflowers of the area.

This year, the train is hosting Roundhouse tours for the first time. Every Friday, passengers can see the historic resting place of many engines from the Denver South Park and Pacific Railway, and learn how the older building is still in use today.

The train is ADA-accessible with space to move about and a restroom on board. Well-behaved pets are allowed to ride. Passengers should bring along a jacket or sweater since mountain temperatures vary.

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LEADVILLE/TWIN LAKES | mineral belt trail

THE SCENIC MINERAL BELT TRAIL PROVIDES YEAR-ROUND, PAVED ACCESS TO AREA'S HISTORIC AND CULTURAL SITES

LEADVILLE, Colo. — This 12.5-mile, all-season, paved ADA-accessible trail offers unsurpassed views of the Sawatch and Mosquito ranges, along with a glimpse at some of the area's most significant historic sites. The trail loops the city of Leadville, traveling through aspen groves, conifer forests, wildflower meadows, and open vista sage parks. With numerous trailheads and access points, it serves as a pedestrian gateway to the 70-square-block Leadville National Historic Landmark District and the famed Leadville Mining District. In spite of the rugged terrain through which it passes, the entire trail is ADA accessible.

In the winter, the Mineral Belt Trail is groomed for skate skiing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and winter biking. In warmer months, it's perfect for hiking, biking or rollerblading. In the fall, the colorful foliage provides an incredible backdrop to an already spectacular setting. In addition, there's a motorized van tour each September for seniors.

The Mineral Belt Trail provides access through some of the community's most significant historic and cultural resources, from evidence of early exploration to the transportation systems that were built to service the active mines, the community that sprang up to meet the needs of the residents, and the smelting industry that processed the ores.

The trail integrates portions of the grades of the three major rail lines that served the Leadville Mining District around the turn of the century. Its alignment parallels California Gulch, site of Leadville's first gold strike and earliest settlement, and cuts through the heart of the mineral belt that earned Leadville the moniker of "Colorado's Silver City." The trail instills in you the sense of the pioneering spirit of the rugged men and women who endured the unbelievable hardships of the harsh alpine environment to scrape and gouge a living from the unforgiving mountainsides, and carve Leadville from the inhospitable landscape above 10,000 feet.

Along the way, the trail chronicles the rags-to-riches stories of such notable figures as Horace and Baby Doe Tabor, Meyer Guggenheim, Charles Boettcher, David May, Father John Dyer and the Unsinkable Molly Brown. It also tells the story of the building of the "Cloud City," whose ornate Victorian architecture once housed the entrepreneurs, gamblers, miners, outlaws, and ladies of the evening of Colorado lore.

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LEADVILLE/TWIN LAKES | **mt. massive golf course**

MT. MASSIVE, NORTH AMERICA'S HIGHEST GOLF COURSE, OFFERS FRIENDLY, AFFORDABLE GOLF IN A SPECTACULAR SETTING

LEADVILLE, Colo. — Mount Massive Golf is a public course on the outskirts of Leadville. Nestled in the open spaces of the Arkansas River Valley near the river's headwaters, ringed by the tallest mountains in the state and surrounded by ranchland and forest, it is in a truly spectacular setting. No buildings crowd the fairways; no interstate noise to jar the senses. At 9,680 feet, Mt. Massive is the highest golf course in North America. Golf at Mt. Massive is truly a walk in the woods.

Golf has been played on the site since the 1930s, originally on sagebrush fairways and sand greens. Today, this affordable and friendly course caters to over 20,000 rounds annually, but is never overbooked or hurried. It is conditioned and maintained to a level that rivals the nearby resort courses, but with a much lower price tag. Players of all skill levels will find golf at Mt. Massive a challenging course with small-town charm.

Amenities include golf carts, a full service grill and bar, advance bookings up to a year in advance, and golf and lodging packages. With a season that starts in late April or early May and runs through late October, Mt. Massive has a long season given the rarified air and high elevation. Daytime temperatures typically top out in the mid-70s, with little or no humidity.

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LEADVILLE'S HISTORY COMES ALIVE THROUGH MUSEUMS AND TOURS

LEADVILLE, Colo. — The history of Leadville is filled with dramatic stories of real people who made, and lost, fortunes in this frontier mountain town. Leadville is one of the most historic towns in all of Colorado, with six museums, a walking tour and a driving tour to give visitors the opportunity enjoy the area's rich history and Victorian architecture.

Healy House Museum and Dexter Cabin

912 Harrison Ave. Open May to October and for group tours.

Glimpse life in a booming silver mining camp. Visit the plush 1870s log cabin built by James Dexter, Colorado's first millionaire. Tour the most lavish Victorian boarding house in Leadville, owned by Daniel Healy. Stroll through the heritage gardens or enjoy the view from the gazebo. This is Leadville's oldest museum.

The Heritage Museum

102 E. 9th St. Open May through October.

Enjoy the story of Leadville's colorful past. See the mining and boomtown miscellany along with Victorian furniture of an exciting era of Western History. Displays include the Leadville Ice Palace Replica and 10th Mountain Division memorabilia from Camp Hale.

The Matchless Mine

1 1/4 miles east on E 7th St. Open May through September.

The Matchless Mine was a cornerstone of the Tabor fortune. In the rags-to-riches-to-rags story, discover the lonely vigil of Senator Tabor's trophy wife, Baby Doe, who waited for the return of wealth until her body was found among the remnants of his empire.

National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum

120 W. 9th St. Open year-round.

The National Hall of Fame and Museum in Leadville is the premier showcase of American mining. It's filled with displays, mine replicas, artifacts, historic photographs and mining treasures. Walk through the underground hard rock mine replica, the prospector's cave, model railroad chugging through a replica mining camp and many rooms containing specimens of gold and other minerals. Massive sculptures and murals grace the public areas and an excellent collection of hammers, drills and tools traces the history of mining technology.

Tabor Home

116 E. 5th St. Open Memorial Day to Labor Day.

This was the home of Horace Tabor and his first wife, Augusta, until 1881. Originally built on Harrison Avenue, it was moved to 5th Street to make room for the Opera House. See the unique child's Murphy bed, family portraits and family furnishings.

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Tabor Opera House

308 Harrison Ave. Open May to Oct. Closed Sunday.

The largest and grandest opera house west of the Mississippi was built by strike-it-rich legend Horace Tabor in 1879. Eight hundred theatergoers could be seated in the red plush leather seats. Houdini, John Phillip Sousa, Oscar Wilde and boxer Jack Dempsey appeared on the stage. Step back in time as you walk across the stage, visit the dressing rooms and sit in the box seats.

Historical Walking Tour

Maps available at the Visitor's Center at 809 Harrison. Open year-round.

Most of the buildings in Leadville were built between 1880 and 1905. There are 70 square blocks included in the National Historic Landmark District of Victorian architecture, including the largest opera house west of the Mississippi, the saloon visited by Oscar Wilde, and two historic 1879 churches.

Route of the Silver Kings

Maps available at the Visitor's Center at 809 Harrison. Open year-round.

The Route of the Silver Kings leads visitors on a driving tour through the 20-square-mile historic mining district surrounding Leadville. There are 12 stops on the tour, including mines, power plants, ghost towns and mining camps.

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**SKI COOPER OFFERS FUN AND AFFORDABLE
WINTER RECREATION FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY**

LEADVILLE, Colo. — Ski Cooper, located atop Tennessee Pass, ten miles north of Leadville on U.S. Highway 24, is Colorado's fifth-oldest ski area. Building on its unusually rich history and prime location, Ski Cooper has in recent years earned recognition as one of the nation's most successful and innovative small ski areas. With full-day adult lift tickets priced at just \$39, Ski Cooper is one of the most affordable ski resorts around.

Ski Cooper's origin goes back to World War II, when the U.S. Army developed Cooper Hill and nearby Camp Hale as a training site for the ski troopers of the famed Tenth Mountain Division. Following the war, Cooper Hill opened to the public as a county-operated ski area under the auspices of the U.S. Forest Service since it's located in the San Isabel National Forest. Ski Cooper has come a long way since then.

Today it is a seven-day-a-week operation drawing skiers and riders from all around the world. Five lifts serve the 400 ski-able acres. There are 26 runs: 30 percent beginner, 40 percent intermediate and 30 percent expert. Ski Cooper averages 250 inches of natural snowfall a year. The longest run is Trails End, at 1.4 miles. The base sits at an elevation of 10,500 feet, with the summit at 11,700 feet.

The base facilities include the Ski School, which offers alpine, telemark and snowboard instruction; a Day Lodge with guest services, ticket offices, first aid room, lunch room, restaurant and bar; a rental shop; the Children's Center, featuring a Children's Ski School, rental equipment and Day Care for children ages 2-8; the Tennessee Pass Nordic Center, with rental equipment for cross country skiing, telemark gear and snowshoes; and the Tennessee Pass Cookhouse, which serves dinner daily and lunch on weekends. In 1988, an additional 2,500 acres were opened for a guided, backcountry experience accessible only by Snow Cat on Chicago Ridge, adjacent to the lift-served area.

Ski Cooper hosts events throughout the winter, including the Special Olympics, the Telefast, Santa with live reindeer, telemark and women's clinics, Senior Days, a Nastar race course, Youth Ski League Championships, Masters, High School races, Speed camps, and the Tenth Mountain Division reunion and memorial service located at the monument.

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**LEADVILLE AND TWIN LAKES HAVE ALL OF THE INGREDIENTS
FOR A MEMORABLE MOUNTAIN VACATION**

LEADVILLE, Colo. — Leadville and Twin Lakes are known for their authentic, small-town charm and affordable prices. Quaint shops and eateries line the Victorian-style streets of downtown Leadville, mixed in with elegant 1880s inns and B&Bs and modern-day motels. Whether you're looking for a romantic getaway; a girls' or guys' hiking, biking or skiing weekend; or a week-long family vacation to explore the local museums and enjoy the clean, fresh air, there's something to suit your needs.

Stay

Lake County's lodging options range from an elegant Victorian hotel, charming inns and B&Bs to lodges, cabins, and vacation rentals. You'll find some located in the heart of the National Historic Districts in Leadville and Twin Lakes, while other are nestled in the woods. Lake County also has hundreds of developed campsites on public lands and in privately-owned campgrounds, as well as dispersed camping available through the U.S. Forest.

Dine

Hungry? If you're looking for a quick bite to eat, an elegant dinner for two, or a casual family meal, Leadville and Twin Lakes offer a surprisingly wide selection of eateries — many of which boast of local, Colorado and national recognition. Choices includes coffee, pizza and sandwich shops, a brew pub, Mexican cantinas, a steak house, and restaurants specializing in Italian, Chinese, American and bistro-style cuisines.

Shop

Feeling the need for some retail therapy? You'll find antique shops, bookstores, bike and ski shops, along with specialty stores packed with Western fashions and accessories, gifts, souvenirs, sporting goods, accents for the home, and more. Several galleries feature the works of local and regional artists.

Leadville, the highest incorporated city in North America, is located in the geographic center of Colorado, 103 miles west of Denver and 129 miles northwest of Colorado Springs, on US Highway 24, part of the Top of the Rockies Scenic and Historic Byway. Once one of America's richest, longest-lived and bawdiest mining boomtowns, 70 square blocks of the downtown area has been designated as a National Historic Landmark of Victorian architecture.

Activities include skiing, fishing, camping, golfing, hiking, whitewater rafting, four-wheeling, biking, museums, historical tours and a train ride. Nearby Twin Lakes, located 15 minutes from Leadville at the eastern entrance to Independence Pass, is also a National Historic District and a popular summer destination for camping, boating, hiking and fishing. Go to *VisitLeadvilleColorado.info* for more information.

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LEADVILLE/TWIN LAKES | 10th mountain division

CAMP HALE, TRAINING SITE OF THE 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION, PREPARED TROOPS FOR WINTER SURVIVAL DURING WORLD WAR II

LEADVILLE, Colo. — In 1941, Minnie Dole approached the United States Army with the need to train troops for winter survival and skiing. The site, 17 miles north of Leadville and 7 miles north of Tennessee Pass, was chosen.

The camp was planned to house more than 15,000 soldiers and support personnel of the newly established Tenth Mountain Division. Construction of Camp Hale was completed in November 1942. The camp lay at 9,300 feet altitude and was selected for its abundance of snow. Four trails were cut and the longest T-Bar in the country was installed at Cooper Hill.

In 1945, after two years of rigorous training, the Tenth Mountain Division was ordered to Italy to spearhead an advance of the U.S. Army. In a series of actions that included Riva Ridge and Mt. Belvedere, the Tenth Mountain Division breached the supposedly impregnable Gothic Line in the Apennines and secured the Po River Valley to play a vital role in the liberation of northern Italy. By the time the Germans surrendered in May 1945, 992 ski troopers had lost their lives and 4,000 were wounded. This was the highest casualty rate of any U.S. division in the Mediterranean.

A monument has been placed at the entrance to Ski Cooper in memory of the soldiers killed in action in Italy. A second, adjacent monument commemorates the soldiers of the 99th Battalion, Norwegian nationals who liberated Norway in May 1945. Each year a Memorial Day service is held in May and a Ski-in-Reunion in March.

Many ski troopers returned to Colorado after the war and were instrumental in the development of the Colorado ski industry. Several books have been written about these special veterans. Oliver North filmed a special segment of his “War Stories” about the Tenth Mountain Division on the slopes of Ski Cooper.

Camp Hale was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on April 10, 1992. There are interpretive signs at the site of Camp Hale and at the entrance to Ski Cooper. U.S. Highway 24, from Leadville to Minturn, has been designated as The Tenth Mountain Division Memorial Highway and is on the National Scenic and Historic Byway.

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TWIN LAKES, ONCE DUBBED “MOST CHARMING SUMMER MOUNTAIN RESORT IN COLORADO,” IS STILL A POPULAR VACATION DESTINATION

TWIN LAKES, Colo. — The breathtaking natural beauty of Colorado’s largest glacial lakes, reflecting some of the nation’s highest peaks, makes Twin Lakes one of the world’s most scenic places. A fifteen-minute drive from Leadville, or hour-long journey over Independence Pass from Aspen, will take travelers to a peaceful world of pristine mountain landscapes.

The Historic Village of Twin Lakes, once busy as a mountain transportation hub between Aspen and Leadville during the gold rush days, was described in 1885 as “the most charming summer mountain resort in Colorado.” Very little has changed in Twin Lakes since then.

The Red Rooster Tavern and Brothel is now home to the Twin Lakes Visitors Center. The general store, hotel, blacksmith shop, schoolhouse, and vacation homes of the early miners are part of the National Historic Register. The year-round population is less than 50, but travelers will find hotels, lodges, cafés, gift shops, kayak and canoe rentals, boat tours, and art galleries all within a short walking distance. The world-famous Interlaken Hotel, popular in the 1880s, can be accessed by trail or boat and is a fascinating trip back in time.

Twin Lakes is a hiker’s dream; the Colorado Trail, Continental Divide Trail, a spectacular 12-mile trail around the lake, the Mount Elbert Trailhead (14,433’) and numerous local trails are all centered from the Village. The Twin Lakes Visitor’s Center staff can direct hikers to the trailheads.

There are five National Forest Service campgrounds in the Twin Lakes area: Dexter, Lakeview, Parry Peak, Twin Peaks and White Star. Campsites at Dexter, Parry Peak and Twin Peaks Campgrounds are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Lakeview and White Star Campgrounds have a combination of reservable and non-reservable sites (*ReserveUSA.com.*)

The lakes, formed by glacial activity, were enlarged to provide water storage for urban areas along Colorado’s Front Range. Twin Lakes covers 1,700 surface acres and has a maximum depth of 70 feet. Boat tours, kayak and canoe rentals are available.

Visitors will find the central location of Twin Lakes makes it an ideal place to stay while taking day trips to Aspen, Leadville and Buena Vista. Surrounded by undeveloped public lands, every day in Twin Lakes can be a new experience. Ghost towns, lake and stream fishing, hidden beaver ponds, bagging Fourteeners, touring historic mines, wildlife viewing, summer snow sliding, canoeing and windsurfing are just a few of the activities that make Twin Lakes one of Colorado’s best-kept secrets.

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