

# Denver to Denver

## ROCKIES AND THE BLACK HILLS

Driving Distance:     Approx 1900 Miles  
Driving Time:         Approx 45 Hours  
Recommend Trip:     13 Days

- Day 1            Arrive in Denver, Colorado, check into a hotel and adjust to the time change.
- Day 2            Pick up your motorhome and drive to Estes park, Colorado on the edge of Rocky Mountain National Park. Once you're in Estes Park visit the historic Stanley hotel which was the inspiration for the Stephen king movie "the shining." Also take a ride on the prospect mountain aerial tramway to see the spectacular view of the continental divide. Your host tonight is the Estes Park KOA.
- Day 3            Today you can visit the Rocky Mountain National Park Visitor Center which highlights more than 400 square miles of park attractions and recreational opportunities. Spend the rest of the day sampling some of those many adventures. Your host once again is the Estes Park KOA.
- Day 4            Drive from Estes Park to the Black Hills area of South Dakota. On the way visit Fort Laramie, Wyoming and "Register Rock" where the early pioneers carved their names while making their way out west on the Oregon Trail. Try your luck at the casinos in Deadwood, South Dakota. Stay the night at the Mt Rushmore/ Hill City KOA.
- Day 5            A full day to explore the Black Hills area. Visit Mount Rushmore, Chief Crazy Horse Monument, Wind Cave National Park, Jewel Cave and Custer National Park. Another night at the Mt Rushmore / Hill City KOA.
- Day 6            Leave the Black Hills and drive to Billings, Montana. Stop at Hardin, Montana and visit the Battle of the Little Bighorn National Monument. Also visit the Pictograph Cave State Park, just a couple miles outside of Billings. Your host tonight is the Billings Metro KOA, "the site of the first KOA Kampground ever built."
- Day 7            Leave Billings and drive to West Yellowstone, Montana. Your host this evening is the Yellowstone Park/West Entrance KOA. Expect to see some beautiful scenery along the way.
- Day 8            The entire day to explore Yellowstone National Park. A few of the stops on your itinerary might be Old Faithful, Yellowstone Lake, Yellowstone Falls, the Fountain Paint Pot Trail, Tower Fall, Specimen Ridge or the Canyon Village. Your host is once again the Yellowstone Park / West Entrance KOA.
- Day 9            Drive to Jackson, Wyoming just outside Grand Teton National Park. Your host this evening will be the Jackson South / Hoback Junction KOA. Tour the town of Jackson Hole which has maintained an old-fashioned Western look with its boardwalks. The many art galleries and craft shops make Jackson an intriguing stop. Don't miss the Silver Dollar Bar that has

saddles for bar stools or the arch at the center of town made entirely out of elk antlers. Also visit the National Elk Refuge, just outside of town.

- Day 10 Drive through Wyoming to Vernal, Utah. Along the way you might want to detour off to see the South Pass City State Historical Site. South Pass was settled during the gold rush of 1867. It was the home of western legend Calamity Jane and Esther Morris, the first woman to hold elected office in the US. When you get to Vernal you might want to visit the Utah Field House of Natural History State Park where you can view 14 life-size replicas of dinosaurs and prehistoric animals, prehistoric Native American displays and minerals that glow in the dark. Your host for the evening is the Vernal KOA.
- Day 11 Take a leisurely drive to Grand Junction, Colorado today. Along the way explore the two Dinosaur National Monuments, one in Jensen, Utah and one in Dinosaur, Colorado. Both monuments have dinosaur bones in abundance along with geological sites and natural wonders. Another geological and ecological wonder is the Colorado National Monument located in Fruita, Colorado, which is right along your route. Your host tonight is the New Castle/Glenwood Springs KOA.
- Day 12 Drive from Grand Junction over the Vail Pass to Denver, Colorado, check into a hotel and prepare to return home. Along the way you might stop at the Glenwood Canyon to see spectacular views of waterfalls and hot springs. For any fans of skiing be sure to stop in Vail to see the Colorado Ski Museum and Ski Hall of Fame.
- Day 13 Return your motorhome and enjoy a safe trip home.