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PHOTOGRAPHY

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Location Guide

*The Ultimate Guide to the Best Colorado
Locations from Denver to The Rocky Mountains*

Made For the *Wild at Heart*

Colorado is home, and after years of exploring every corner of it, I've put together this guide to share some of my absolute favorite spots. From the energy of downtown Denver to the most breathtaking corners of the Rocky Mountains, this state has no shortage of stunning backdrops for your wedding, elopement, or session. I hope this guide helps you find the perfect place to tell your story.





Denver

HOTEL & CITY VIBES

The CLIO Hotel Cherry Creek

This beautiful hotel is perfect for stylish and intimate photos. They don't charge to shoot there and are extremely accommodating, which makes it an easy favorite of mine.

Union Station

Downtown Denver is the perfect setting for old fashioned, city style portraits. Shooting inside the old train station at the Terminal Bar, as well as outside among the older Denver architecture, sets up a perfect classy vibe.

RiNo

The RiNo Arts District in Denver is fun for a colorful, graffiti filled, industrial vibe. It's one of my favorite spots for couples who want something a little more unexpected.

Lady Jane

This cute little cocktail spot in the Highlands is perfect for a cozy, intimate photoshoot. It does cost \$100 to rent the space for an hour, but it's worth it for the vibe.

Salt & Acres Vineyard

Located just outside of Denver, this cute vineyard and winery is a beautiful setting for any photoshoot. Note that there could be an additional cost to shoot here, so it's worth checking ahead.



Indoor Spaces & Studios

PeerSpace

If you're looking to rent out a cute, stylized space by the hour for your photoshoot, I recommend PeerSpace. I've used them for several shoots and love this platform.

Realm

This studio space is the best for a stylized photoshoot indoors, with lots of gorgeous natural light and clean, minimalist backdrops to work with.

Airbnb

If you're visiting Colorado or want to do a little staycation for your photoshoot, booking an Airbnb or VRBO is a great option for a private, photo ready space.

The Denver Photo Collective

This Highlands studio is a beautiful space for photoshoots, perfect if you want a polished, editorial feel without leaving the city.



Local Parks

Confluence & Riverfront Park

Located in the heart of Denver, you can capture both industrial city views and lush greenery around the park, making it a versatile spot for any session.

Washington Park

This beautiful park has it all. Lakes, trees, and even beautiful gardens during the summer make it one of my favorite spots for a relaxed, scenic session.

City Park

This expansive park just east of downtown Denver has old fountains and greenery to shoot around, with the city skyline as a beautiful backdrop.

Sloan's Lake

The view from this lake on a clear day has a gorgeous view of the Rockies, so it's one of the best golden hour spots around.

Highline Canal

Full of grassy fields and dirt paths, this location is a beautiful, low key spot for photos with a relaxed, natural feel.

Chatfield State Park & Hudson Gardens

Chatfield Park is nestled against the Rockies and includes mountain views, lakes, and even a botanical garden. There may be an additional fee to shoot in the gardens.





Within a 1 Hour Drive of Denver

Red Rocks

This is the perfect location for those wanting to capture the beauty of these magical rocks just outside of Denver, with dramatic formations unlike anywhere else.

City Park

This expansive park just east of downtown Denver has old fountains and greenery to shoot around, with the city skyline as a beautiful backdrop.

Matthew Winters Park

Located north of Red Rocks, this park is perfect for those looking for golden fields and foothills, with an open, sweeping feel.

South Valley Park

Located just south of Red Rocks, this beautiful landscape incorporates golden fields with a glimpse of red rocks in the background.

Lost Gulch Overlook

This used to be my unknown gem of a photoshoot location in Boulder, but the secret is out now. A popular place for couples to elope, the rocks and views do not disappoint.

Sunrise Amphitheatre

Located close to Lost Gulch Overlook, this appropriately named amphitheater is perfect for a sunrise shoot with sweeping views over Boulder.



Within a 1 Hour Drive of Denver

Flatirons Vista

If you want the gorgeous Flatiron mountains for your backdrop, I suggest this stunning trail entrance. A short walk from the parking lot provides all the views you could want.

South Mesa Trail

Located close to Boulder, this popular photography spot has a multitude of backdrops ranging from rivers to mountains. One of my favorite spots for fall foliage as well.

Chautauqua & NCAR Road

If you're looking for a gorgeous view of the Flatirons for your shoot, this location is for you. NCAR gives a little more of a remote feel, but both areas are amazing.

Roxborough State Park

This park does require a permit fee but is a beautiful backdrop for photoshoots. Unfortunately dogs are not allowed in this area.

Clear Creek & Downtown Golden

Downtown Golden and Clear Creek are the perfect spots for summer or fall photoshoots. Golden at the right time of year has the most beautiful foliage that is not to be missed.

Lookout Mountain

I love shooting at Lookout Mountain. This location just outside of Denver boasts panoramic mountain views and beautiful Colorado landscape.



Within a 1 Hour Drive of Denver

Mount Falcon West

Located just outside of Morrison, this beautiful park has mountain views, golden fields, and evergreen trees. What more could you ask for?

Squaw Pass

This gorgeous mountain pass is beautiful to shoot at during any time of the year. With several pull offs for hikes and mountain views, it's an ideal location for your shoot.

Elk Meadow Park

Located in Evergreen, this cute little park is perfect during the wintertime for snowy shoots and that quiet mountain town charm.

Mount Evans

This epic location can be a little windy, but if you're looking for something different with incredible mountain views, this is definitely a location to consider.

Idaho Springs

Downtown Idaho Springs is a super cute location for those wanting a mountain town feel. Walking in and out of small shops and grabbing a coffee or beer is the perfect touch to a lifestyle shoot.

Echo Lake

This beautiful location is accessible during the summer and fall for photos. It's a bit of a hidden gem, and I absolutely love working with couples here.





A Little Further Away...

Rocky Mountain National Park

Rocky Mountain National Park is a beautiful spot to take photographs. Although this location is a bit more expensive due to park fees and permits, the views cannot be beat. Specific spots I recommend within the park: Dream Lake (requires a 2 mile hike), Bear Lake, Sprague Lake, Moraine Park, Trail Ridge Road (about a 2.5 hour drive), and 3M Curve.

Garden of the Gods & Bear Creek

Located outside of Colorado Springs, this beautiful location is used for everything from weddings to family photos. If you're looking for that red rock look with mountain views, this is the location for you.

Loveland Pass

This location is beautiful if you're looking for alpine lakes and mountain views. Although a bit windy, this remote location is perfect for an epic photoshoot.

Brainard Lake & Lake Isabelle

This is one of my favorite locations to shoot at. Located outside of Nederland, the lake and mountain views simply cannot be beat.

Blue Lakes

Located outside of Breckenridge, this gorgeous location is perfect for those seeking beautiful mountain and lake views.



A Little Further Away...

Sapphire Point and Dillon Reservoir

A popular location for both elopements and photoshoots, the views do not disappoint. I love shooting here at any time of year.

Gold Hill, Breckenridge

This secret trail is a beautiful spot for sunrise or sunset photos with stunning mountain backgrounds and wildflowers during the summer.

Montgomery Reservoir

This secret spot is a stunning location for photos in the summer. Although it's a bit off the beaten path, the views cannot be beat. A true gem.

Paint Mines

Located about two hours south of Denver are the Paint Mines. If you haven't been, I highly recommend a visit. This location is best to shoot in the spring or fall when the weather is cooler.

Acorn Creek Trail

This is one of my favorite hikes and photoshoot locations in Colorado. Located outside of Silverthorne, this trail has some of the best mountain views and wildflowers during the summer.

Guanella Pass

This mountain pass is especially beautiful in the fall during peak foliage, with sweeping views worth the drive.



A Little Further Away...

Vail Village

Vail Village is super cute to photograph in the summer or winter. Set along the creek, this idyllic town is perfect for photos.

Grand Lake

This is one of my favorite hikes and photoshoot locations in Colorado. Located outside of Silverthorne, this trail has some of the best mountain views and wildflowers during the summer.

Officers Gulch

This location is just off the highway but is a stunning and easy to walk to spot for photos with a mountain backdrop.

Shrine Pass

Located just before Vail Pass, this off the beaten path location is a stunning sunset spot for photos. You'll need access to a 4WD vehicle to get there.

Every great story *starts somewhere.*

Thank you so much for taking the time to look through this guide. I hope it gave you a glimpse into some of my favorite places across Colorado to bring your vision to life. If one of these spots caught your eye, or you're not sure where to start, I'd love to help you find the perfect setting for your story.

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