

peak_to_peak

One of our favorite summer rides is the Peak to Peak Scenic Byway, the oldest scenic byway in Colorado. It is located in the mountainous north-central section of the state and features great opportunities for scenic riding.

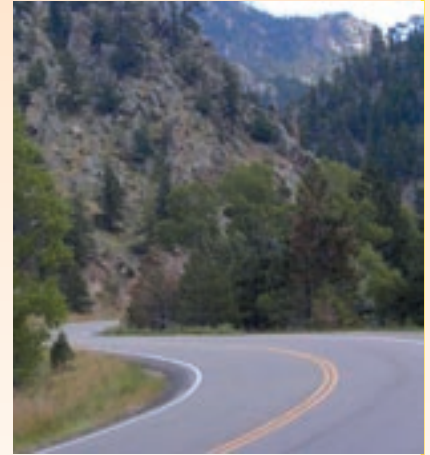
The Peak to Peak Established in 1918, will take you from the first gold mining town of Idaho Springs, through the historic old gambling towns of Black Hawk and Central City, then to Estes Park, where it ends (or begins)? Throughout this 55-mile journey of Colorado Front Range's mountainous terrain, you will catch a glimpse of the Continental Divide as you dart in and out of the forest and cruise by open meadows. The ride is even more beautiful in the fall as the Aspens, Oaks and Birches paint the forest land with different variations of gold, orange and red; and the smell of fresh air...

This region was one of the first to be settled in Colorado and also the first to bring tourism to the state. It's a great day ride from Denver and outlying areas, Northern Colorado and Cheyenne or Laramie. We often do a short loop from Loveland if we don't have a lot of time, taking the Glen Haven route to Estes Park, then highway 36 or 7 down into Lyons, and back to Loveland. Make sure you pack your gear for any mountain riding during any time of year. There is always a significant change in temperature when you get to higher elevations. Afternoon summer thunderstorms are common and snow is possible at any time of year in the highest elevations.

Climate - Mountainous terrain ranges in elevation from 7,000 to 10,000 feet. In the valley bottoms, summer high temperatures extend into the mid 80s, with cool evenings that can often dip into the 30s.

From Denver: Take I-70 to Highway 6, then Highway 119 north to Nederland. In Nederland, take Highway 72 west. Just past Raymond, take Highway 7 north.

From Boulder: Take Highway 119 south to Highway 72 in Nederland. From there, you can go north or south. North will take you to Estes Park and south will take you to Black Hawk.



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