

Excursions

Excursion #1 – Tuesday, July 12, Full-day 8-5

Art Castings of Colorado is located in Loveland and is home to a full service bronze foundry. Learn how these bronzes are made! The foundry was started in 1972 as a 2,500 square feet building that has grown to 25,000 square feet. For more information go to their website at www.artcastings.com.

Benson Sculpture Garden is one of the finest outdoor exhibitions for three dimensional artwork in the United States. Located in Loveland with the Rocky Mountains as a spectacular backdrop the garden has provided a unique and beautiful setting for displaying sculpture since 1985. Currently there are 131 pieces of sculpture on permanent display representing modern, traditional and abstract art.

Lunch on your own in downtown Loveland.

Greeley Freight Station Museum is a model railroad museum beyond compare! The museum is based on the Oregon, California & Eastern Railway with a 5,500 square feet layout size, 2000 cars and 150 locomotives. “*The Ultimate Mountain Layout!*” declared Model Railroader Magazine in December 2008. For more information, go to their website at www.gfsm.org.

Greeley Missile Silo was built in 1959 as part of the United States Cold War Era defense and was deactivated in 1965. Travel underground to see the only Atlas Missile Silo open to the public! It was bigger than the nuclear missiles of today, as tall as a 7-story building, weighing 265,000 pounds with four megatons of nuclear blast power.

Cost \$60 (Limited to 48 people)

Excursion #2 – Wednesday, July 13, Full-day 8-5

New Belgium Brewery is home of “Fat Tire” beer and is touted as being the first Belgian-styled brewery in the US. Inspired by a 1989 mountain bike ride on “fat tires” through several European villages famous for beer, the brewery evolved from a basement homebrewing kit to a commercial brewery in 1991. The Brewery is also known for its environmental stewardship and is the first wind-powered brewery in the US. See how it’s all done! To learn more, check out the brewery’s website, www.newbelgium.com.

Lunch in downtown Fort Collins on your own.

Anheuser Busch was founded in 1852 and perfected Budweiser beer in 1876, preserving the recipe for more than 133 years. The AB Brewmaster Tour gives you a behind-the-scenes visit to the Brew House, Starting Cellar, Quality Assurance, Packaging Facility, Lager Cellar and Clydesdale Hamlet. You will have the opportunity to sample beer from start to finish and be given a variety of commemorative gifts to take home. Closed-toed shoes and pants are mandatory for this tour. www.budweisertours.com/toursBeermaster_ftcollins.htm

Cost \$70 (Limited to 48 people)

Excursion #3 – Sunday, July 17, Evening 4-10pm

Charles Phoenix will lead a tour to two of Denver’s most colorful landmarks! Casa Bonita is an over-the-top, multi-themed restaurant extravaganza. Here you’ll enjoy a “no-host” Mexican dinner (under \$10), a 30-foot-tall waterfall, cliff divers, fire jugglers, strolling mariachi bands, a pirate cave, magicians, puppet shows, skee-ball machines and more. Then it’s off to historic Lakeside Amusement Park, a spectacular art deco wonderland celebrating its 103rd year. Here you’ll enjoy a classic roller coaster, merry-go-round, bumper cars, tilt-o-whirl and rocket jets all aglow in vintage neon. Park entrance fee is included.

Cost \$50 (Limited to 55 people)

Excursion #4 – Monday, July 18, Full-day 8-5

Rocky Mountain National Park encompasses 416 square miles of rock-ribbed wilderness, 150 lakes and 450 miles of streams with at least 60 mountains that exceed 12,000 feet, topping off at 14,259 feet Longs Peak. This spectacular landscape includes mountain meadows, subalpine forests and alpine tundra rising from trout-filled streams and glacier carved valleys in addition to the Continental Divide and the headwaters of the Colorado River. Although the grand peaks comprise the essence of the park, the delicate alpine flowers, clear lakes, rushing mountain waters and impressive forests appeals to all of the senses. An array of wildlife, bighorn sheep, ptarmigan, coyote and elk can be found in the park and we may be lucky enough to get some stereo photos of these animals. The park was designated as a National Park by President Woodrow Wilson in 1915 and hosts more than 3 million visitors per year. Over 1/4 of the park resides above the treeline with elevations ranging from 8,000ft to 14,259ft. You will have the opportunity to engage in easy or strenuous hiking, time at the visitor’s center to learn about the amazing terrain, a trip up Trail Ridge Road to get a “view from the top,” and some time to wander around the beautiful mountain town of Estes Park. A box lunch is included and a backpack and sunscreen are recommended.

Cost \$60