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Live Large

Colorado Springs — A Pictorial Essay

by **Barbara Petty**
March 2009

Our travel story this month is a slightly different format: A brief history of Colorado Springs is flanked by photographs. As Rod Stewart says, "Every picture tells a story."

Two people were extremely helpful in gathering information and photos for this story:

Chelsy Offutt, Manager of Public Relations with the "Experience Colorado Springs Convention & Visitors Bureau" (719.685.7639, experiencecoloradosprings.com).

Allison Scott, Director of Communications, The Broadmoor, Colorado Springs (broadmoor.com, Reservations, 866.837.9520). There are other places to stay in Colorado Springs, but why would you?

A Brief History

The Pikes Peak region's first inhabitants were American Indian people. The Ute, Cheyenne, Arapaho and other tribes gathered at the base of Pikes Peak, in what is now called Garden of the Gods Park. The Ute name for Pikes Peak, Ta-Wa-Ah-Gath, translates to "Sun Mountain Sitting Big", for the way its slopes collect and reflect the sun's rays.

The Pikes Peak region lies along the extreme southwestern edge of what was the Louisiana Territory, which was purchased by President Thomas Jefferson in 1803.



The end of the Cog Railway on top of Pikes Peak.

Photo: bgautreau, flickr.com.

In 1869, General William Jackson Palmer, a Civil War hero from Pennsylvania, first came to the area and described its "most enticing scenery." One year later, he founded the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad and purchased land to create Colorado Springs along its route. His plans for the city included broad, tree-lined streets, and he donated land for parks, schools and churches. In 1871, the Victorian spa resort town Palmer envisioned became a reality.

The sunny conditions and dry, mild climate of Colorado Springs and the natural spring waters of Manitou Springs made these communities popular for people suffering from poor health, especially tuberculosis.

In the 1890s, gold was discovered on the western slope of Pikes Peak, one of the richest gold strikes in American history. Almost overnight, the Cripple Creek Mining District grew to more than 50,000 people. By the turn of the 19th century, Colorado Springs was called "the city of millionaires." One of these millionaires was Spencer Penrose. He used his vast resources to build the Pikes Peak and Cheyenne Mountain Highways and to establish the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Will Rogers Shrine and The Broadmoor Hotel.

At the turn of the century, inspired by a trip to the summit of Pikes Peak, Katharine Lee



Balanced Rock is one of the most photographed images at the Garden of the Gods Park.

Photo: Barbara Petty.

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A view of Pikes Peak and a stand of Aspen trees in the fall.
Photo: Experience Colorado Springs at Pikes Peak Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Bates penned what has become our country's most famous poem and song, "America the Beautiful."

In the 1940s, the U.S. Army opened Camp Carson, marking the beginning of what is now a strong military presence in this region. In 1954, the Air Force broke ground for the United States Air Force Academy to continue this military tradition. Today, Colorado Springs is home to major military installations including Fort Carson, Peterson Air Force Base, the U.S. Space Command, NORAD (North American Aerospace Defense Command), Shriever Air Force Base and the United States Air Force Academy.

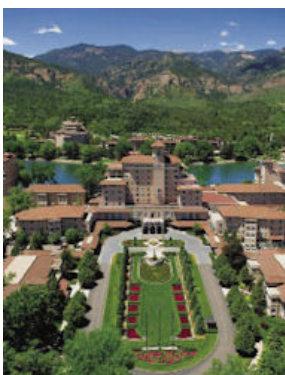
Reprinted from *The Colorado Springs Convention & Visitors Bureau Web site: experiencecoloradosprings.com*

Landmarks & Legacies

Following is a list of must-see destinations in Colorado Springs:

- Cave of the Winds (caveofthewinds.com)
- Cheyenne Mountain Zoo (cmzoo.org)
- Cripple Creek (visitcripplecreek.com)
- Garden of the Gods Park (gardenofgods.com)
- Ghost Town Wild West Museum (ghosttownmuseum.com)
- Manitou Cliff Dwellings (cliffdwellingsmuseum.com)
- Manitou Springs (manitousprings.org)
- McAllister House (nscda.org)
- Old Colorado City (shopoldcoloradocity.com)
- Pikes Peak (pikespeakcolorado.com)
- Pikes Peak via the Cog Railway (cograilway.com)
- Royal Gorge (royalgorgebridge.com)
- Seven Falls (sevenfalls.com)
- The Broadmoor (broadmoor.com)
- United States Air Force Academy (usafa.af.mil)

Places to Eat (recommended by family —two brothers that have lived in the Springs for years...)



A view of THE BROADMOOR grounds.
Photo: broadmoor.com

The Bro^Admoor (1 Lake Avenue, Colorado Springs, 719.634.7711) — 18 different places to eat from The Golf Club Grille to the Five Star Penrose Room.

Amanda's Fonda (3625 W. Colorado Ave. Colorado Springs, 719.227.1975) Authentic Mexican food prepared by fifth-generation chefs; ask for a table outside if it's not too cold.

Thai Basil (7882 N. Academy Blvd. Colorado Springs, 719.268.1688) A chain restaurant, but prepared like a boutique eating establishment — yummy!

Luigi's (947 South Tejon, Colorado Springs, 719.632.7339) Family-owned and operated, nothing pretentious, just delicious Italian food served in generous portions.

Meadow Muffins Sports Grill & Saloon (2432 W. Colorado Ave, Old Colorado City, 719.633.0583) Home of the Idle Hour Theatre and the Waycott Opera House built in the late 1800s. Typical sports

bar food, but the building and artifacts are worth a visit.

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