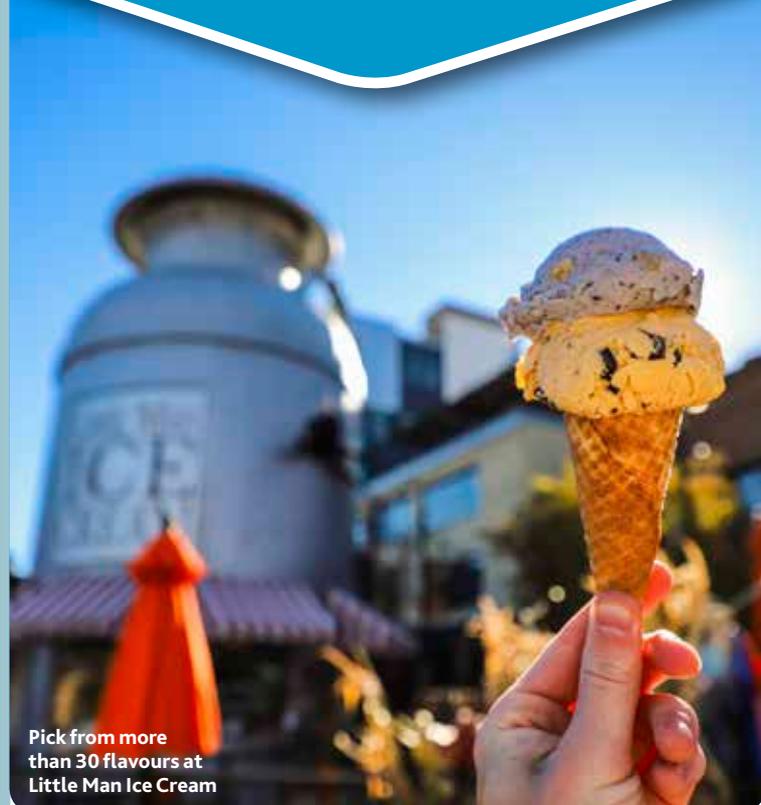


Food and drink in Denver



Pick from more than 30 flavours at Little Man Ice Cream

Colorado's cosmopolitan state capital has come a long way as a centre of food and drink. This gateway to the Rocky Mountains now delights with an array of excellent restaurants, brewpubs and bars.

✕ EATING

Acorn AMERICAN £££
(denveracorn.com);
3350 Brighton Boulevard)

The oak-fired oven and grill are the shining stars of this superb restaurant, where small plates of innovative and shareable eats make up meals. The menu changes seasonally, and dishes such as crispy fried pickles, oak-grilled broccolini and smoked-pork posole are hits.

City O'City VEGETARIAN £
(citycitydenver.com);
206 E 13th Avenue)

This popular vegetarian restaurant mixes retro decor with an innovative spin on greens, grains and seitan. The menu has a wide offering of items such as kimchi pancakes, pumpkin curry pasta and fried cauliflower with

waffles. More traditional offerings include big salads and the best vegan pizza pie in town.

Civic Center Eats VEGETARIAN £
(civiccenterconservancy.org;
cnr Broadway & Colfax Avenue)

When it gets warmer, head to Civic Center Park for lunch. A huge variety of food trucks – everything from BBQ and pizza to sushi and Indian – roll into the park and serve up hearty meals. Tables are set up, live bands play, office workers picnic on the grass. It's Denver at its best.

Hop Alley CHINESE ££
(hopalleydenver.com);
3500 Larimer Street)

Hop Alley was a slur used for Denver's hardscrabble Chinatown in the 1880s, until a race riot and

anti-Chinese legislation scattered the community. The moniker was reclaimed for this small bustling restaurant located in (what else?) a former soy-sauce plant. Come for authentic yet inventive Chinese dishes and equally creative cocktails, named after the signs of the Chinese zodiac.

Little Man Ice Cream £
(littlemanicream.com);
2620 16th Street)

You can't miss the eight-metre-high dairy jug outside. From the shop window, cones of handmade ice cream, including vegan options, are doled out from morning until night. Flavours change daily: expect everything from chunky chocolate to Earl Grey tea and cookies.

Rioja MODERN AMERICAN £££
(riojadenver.com);
1431 Larimer Street)

This is one of Denver's most innovative restaurants. Smart, busy and upscale, yet relaxed and casual, Rioja features modern cuisine inspired by Italian and Spanish traditions and powered by modern culinary techniques.

DRINKING
Black Shirt Brewing Co
(blackshirtbrewingco.com);
3719 Walnut Street)

Artisanal brewers create the all-red-ale menu at the popular BSB. The ales take anywhere from two months to three years to brew. So careful are they with the handcrafted beers, the brewers developed lopsided glasses to showcase the aromas. Live music is part of the culture here, as is good food.

Crema Coffee House
(cremacoffeehouse.net);
2862 Larimer Street)

Noah Price, a clothing designer-turned-coffee impresario, selects, brews and pours what is possibly Denver's best coffee. The espresso and French-pressed are complete perfection, but it's the oatmeal latte, delicately infused ice teas that put this place at the very top.

Infinite Monkey Theorem
(theinfinitemonkeytheorem.com);
3200 Larimer Street)

Infinite Monkey surprises with its sophisticated wines, made on site

using mostly grapes from Colorado's western slope. It surprises again by serving them not only by the glass but also by the can, slushy machine and even Popsicle. Unorthodox yes, but also tasty. Seating is in a cool-cat lounge with a 1960s ambience, and outdoors on a spacious patio.

Matchbox
(matchboxdenver.com);
2625 Larimer Street)

Located in the ever-hip RiNo art district, this hole-in-the-wall appeals to the heavy-specs and blue-jeans crowd. Daily drink specials always include a beer and a shot for \$6. And there's a bocce ball court out back.

Williams & Graham
(williamsandgraham.com);
3160 Tejon Street)

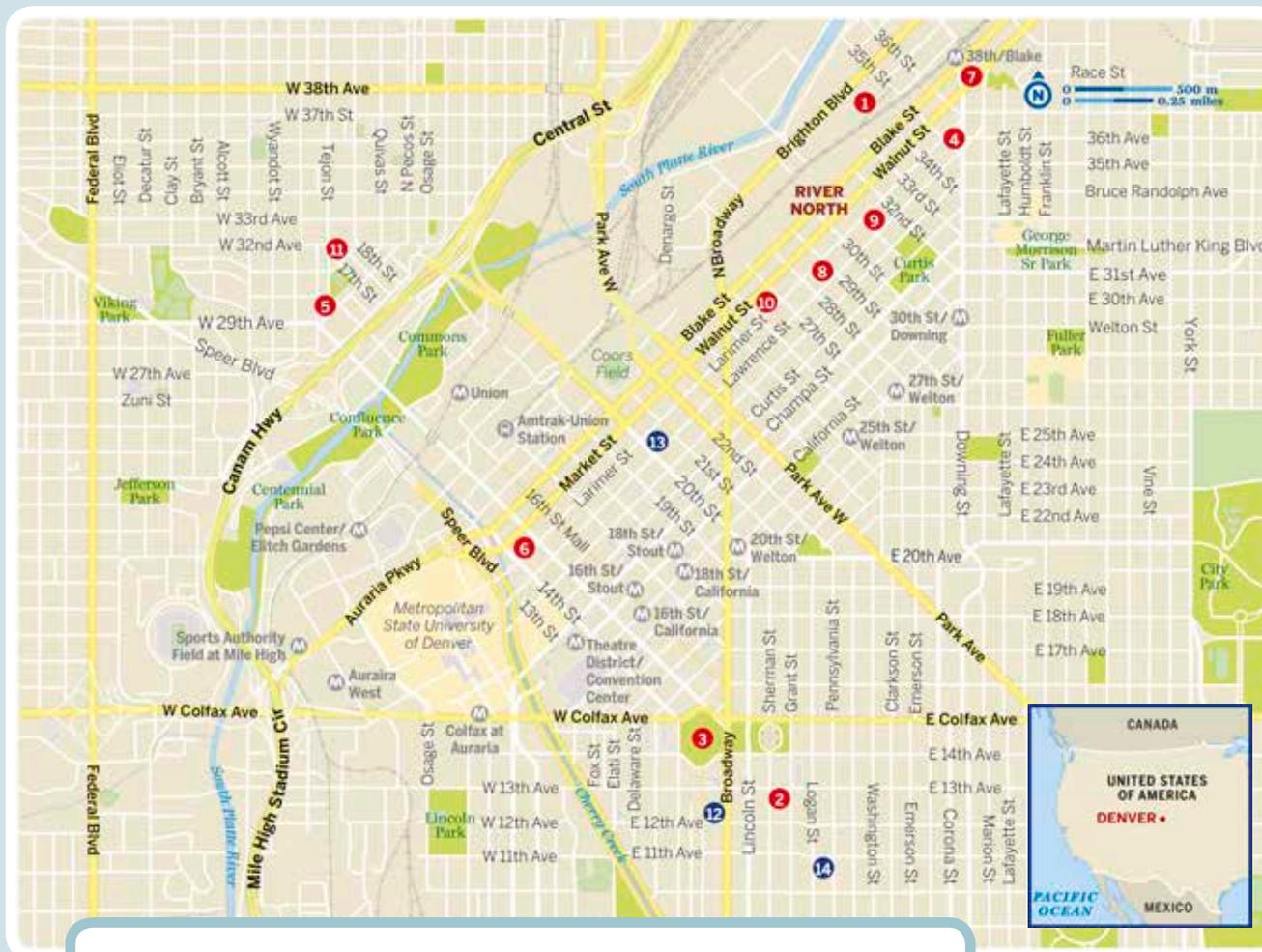
What looks like a bookstore from the old West is in fact a speakeasy: ask for a seat and the cashier will push aside a wall of books to give entry to the bar. Polished wood, gleaming brass, antique lamps, tin ceilings and mixologists in aprons await. Cocktails are creative, artfully prepared and almost too beautiful to drink. Almost.

Don't miss

Gorgeously restored, historic **Union Station** has been Denver's main transport hub for over a century – but it's way more than that. The main hall doubles as a waiting area and lounge with leather sofas and chairs, and shuffleboard. Swanky restaurants, boutiques, bars and coffee shops line the building, and on summer Saturdays, a farmers market sets up outside (unionstationindenver.com).



FOOD AND DRINK IN DENVER



TOP PICKS

MAP KEY

✕ EATING

- 1 Acorn
- 2 City O' City
- 3 Civic Center Eats
- 4 Hop Alley
- 5 Little Man Ice Cream
- 6 Rioja

DRINKING

- 7 Black Shirt Brewing Co
- 8 Crema Coffee House
- 9 Infinite Monkey Theorem
- 10 Matchbox
- 11 Williams & Graham

SLEEPING

- 12 Art – a Hotel
- 13 Hostel Fish
- 14 Patterson Historic Inn

Sleeping

Hostel Fish

Best for a snazzy hostel (hostelfish.com; 1217 20th Street) This swanky hostel is stylish, modern and squeaky-clean. Dorms have themes (Aspen, Graffiti, Vintage Biker) and sleep five to 10 people in bunks. Mattresses are thick, duvets plush and each guest gets a locker and individual charging station. The common kitchen and frequent pub crawls make it easy to make new friends. There's a bar with live music on the first floor.

£ **Patterson Historic Inn** (££) Best for Victorian charm (pattersoninn.com; 420 East 11th Avenue)

This 1891 grande dame was once a senator's home. It's now one of the finest B&Bs in town. The gardens are small but pretty, and the Victorian charm, sumptuous breakfasts and well-appointed chambers in the nine-room chateau will delight. Luxurious chandeliered suites include ones named after Leonardo da Vinci and Marie-Antoinette.

££ **Art – a Hotel** (£££) Best for creative interior design (thearthotel.com; 1201 Broadway)

This hotel has intriguing artwork in the guest rooms, and the patio (complete with fire pits and great views) is perfect for happy-hour cocktails. The location, close to downtown restaurants and attractions, could hardly be better. The thing to know about this hotel, though, is its incredible glass and brick façade. You can't miss it – and its holographic effect is something to behold.



FURTHER READING

Our *Colorado* guide (£14.99) has a chapter on Denver which is also available to download separately at lonelyplanet.com (£2.99).