



Boulder and Boulder County Leading the Way in Green

- Tours -

- Smart Growth
- Healthy Living
- Climate Advancements
- Research Facilities
- Renewable Energy

Smart Growth

Hike or bike and explore Boulder's 43,000 acres of preserved land. Learn about Boulder's wide open spaces, our mountains and the gorgeous hiking trails. Lots of photographic opportunities. This short guided walk is easy and the trail is well maintained.

Expert: [Julie Johnson](#), City of Boulder's Open Space and Mountain Parks Department, 303-441-3440

[Open Space and Mountain Parks History](#)
www.bouldercolorado.gov

Want to see how a Zero Waste Boulder business is profitably succeeding? Take a tour of Boulder's only Zero Waste hotel with Dan King, the general manager of the [Outlook Hotel](#). He is a state-wide leader in "greening" hotels. Watch this [video](#).

Expert: [Kim Farin](#) Boulder Convention and Visitors Bureau 303-938-2066

This isn't exactly a tour but check it out. This website, www.GoBikeBoulder.net is similar to MapQuest, but this one is dedicated to bicycles. Not only will it tell you how to get from Point A to Point B, it also tells you how many calories you'll burn getting there, and it calculates how much you save in gas money by not driving. Pretty cool!

Expert: [Andrea Robbins](#), City of Boulder/GO Boulder, 303-441-4139

www.goboulder.net

There are three self-guided phone tours. From any phone, anywhere in the county, you can learn about sustainable building by listening about [The](#)

[Environmental Center of the Rockies](#), the [Boulder County Recycling Center](#) or our [local hospital](#) (the first LEED certified hospital in the country). Dial 703-342-0606 – each takes about 30 minutes. It helps if you're actually in town, but you don't have to be!

Expert: [Kim Farin](#) Boulder Convention and Visitors Bureau 303-938-2066

Healthy Living

Learn about Boulder's wide [open spaces](#), our mountains and the gorgeous hiking trails. A short guided walk is easy and the trail is well maintained. Lots of photographic opportunities.

Expert: [Julie Johnson](#), City of Boulder's Open Space and Mountain Parks Department, 303-441-3440

[Open Space and Mountain Parks History](#)
www.bouldercolorado.gov

Take a guided tour of [Boulder's Farmers' Market](#), a [goat dairy](#), or [Pangea](#), the fastest growing organic skincare line in the world. Check out [REI's](#) greenest store in the country or our favorite wind-powered shops on the [Pearl Street Mall](#). Or visit one of the [community gardens](#) to learn about sustainable gardening or a [solar home](#) to learn about the innovations and viability of solar power.

Expert: [Kim Farin](#) Boulder Convention and Visitors Bureau 303-938-2066

Tour the factory at [Celestial Seasonings](#) and see leaves turned into tea and tea turned into teabags. Smell the

mint in the mint room (you won't forget it). Some say this was the origin of Boulder becoming the epicenter of the natural products industry.

Expert: [Kim Farin](#) Boulder Convention and Visitors Bureau 303-938-2066

There is an abundance of lively and energetic people in our town with vibrant stories to tell. We can connect you with just the right person or place.

Expert: [Kim Farin](#) Boulder Convention and Visitors Bureau 303-938-2066

Climate Advancements

The National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) Mesa Laboratory offers a wealth of weather and climate exhibits at the Walter Orr Roberts Weather Trail, North America's first weather-oriented nature trail. Self-guided tours are available 8-5 weekdays and 9-4 weekends, with drop-in guided tours at noon each day. Organized group tours can be arranged. For more information, see www.eo.ucar.edu/visit/ or call 303-497-1174.

www.ncar.ucar.edu
www.ncar.ucar.edu/organization/about
www.eo.ucar.edu/visit
www.ucar.edu/news
www.ucar.edu
www.ucar.edu/org/about-us.shtml
www.ucar.edu/org/history.shtml

The highlight of a visit to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Boulder site is a dramatic visualization invention, Science-on-a-Sphere®, which presents spherical animations of climate change, ocean currents, hurricane formation, tsunamis, and other natural phenomena. Visitors can get a close look at two 24/7 operational forecast centers: one for our daily local weather, the other for the world's space weather. Among other tour stops is a working laboratory, where air samples arriving from around the world are analyzed to track carbon dioxide and other atmospheric gases. Visitors learn about computer models of weather and climate and see the latest observing instruments developed here and used around the nation and the world. NOAA Boulder also gives visitors a scientist's view of what's below Earth's surface and above its atmosphere.

Tour hotline: 303-497-3333

www.esrl.noaa.gov/outreach/tours.html

Research Facilities

The NCAR Mesa Laboratory offers a wealth of weather and climate exhibits at the Walter Orr Roberts Weather Trail, North America's first weather-oriented nature trail. Self-guided tours are available 8-5 weekdays and 9-4 weekends, with drop-in guided tours at noon each day. Organized group tours can be arranged. For more information, see www.eo.ucar.edu/visit/ or call 303-497-1174.

www.ncar.ucar.edu

www.ncar.ucar.edu/organization/about

www.eo.ucar.edu/visit

www.ucar.edu/news

www.ucar.edu

www.ucar.edu/org/about-us.shtml

www.ucar.edu/org/history.shtml

Hike or bike our open space
Tour a wind technology center
Explore a weather trail

Tours of the [National Wind Technology Center](#) are available by prior arrangement and NREL's Visitors' Center is open Monday-Friday, 9 am – 4 pm. If you can't get to Boulder or Golden, check out this [website](#). It's full of info including a [virtual tour](#). The National Wind Technology Center, one of three national research centers at NREL, is located about 6 miles from Boulder. Wind energy is one of the fastest-growing forms of electricity generation in the world. Industry experts predict that, with proper development, wind energy could provide 20% of this nation's energy needs. Much of the wind industry's success can be attributed to the research conducted at this facility.

Expert: [George Douglas](#), (303) 275-4096

www.nrel.gov

www.nrel.gov/wind

Boulder's new shopping district, Twenty Ninth Street, is an unexpected place to find information about our scientists and research facilities. On permanent display is a 35-foot rocket outside near the movie theater. The rocket is authentic and was previously used in atmospheric studies. There are six other outdoor permanent displays that give overviews of some of the research labs located in Boulder. This is a perfect illustration of how Boulder's science community is interconnected with Boulder's lifestyle. Cool, interesting exhibits for kids.

Expert: [Kim Farin](#) Boulder Convention and Visitors Bureau 303-938-2066

[The Wonder of Science](#)

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is a world-class research agency that develops precision measurement tools, data, and standards that enable innovation in all technology areas. NIST invites reporters to sign up for laboratory tours. We can accommodate a limited number of visitors on a first-come, first-served basis. Tours will cover "green" topics such as NIST's new materials laboratory for hydrogen pipeline testing and chemistry research on biofuels. Tours also will cover NIST's world-leading research in other areas such as the world's most accurate and smallest atomic clocks, nanotechnology, quantum computing, and health and safety. Tours will include an overview of a new \$77 million state-of-the-art laboratory, to be built starting in 2008, that will enable continued innovations.

Media Contact: [Laura Ost](#), 303-497-4880

www.nist.gov
http://www.nist.gov/public_affairs/factsheet/Boulder_overview.htm
www.boulder.nist.gov

The highlight of a visit to the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Boulder site is its dramatic visualization invention, Science-on-a-Sphere, which presents spherical animations of climate change, ocean currents, hurricane formation, tsunamis, and other natural phenomena. Visitors can get a close look at 24/7 forecast centers: the local Weather Forecast Office and the unique Space Weather Prediction Center, which issues the official forecasts of solar storms and their impacts. Among other tour stops is a working laboratory in NOAA's Earth System Research Laboratory, where air samples arriving from around the world are analyzed to track carbon dioxide and other atmospheric gases. Visitors learn about computer models of weather and climate and see observing instruments developed here and used around the world.

Tour hotline: 303-497-3333

www.noaa.gov
www.esrl.noaa.gov
www.ngdc.noaa.gov

Renewable Energy

Tours of the [National Wind Technology Center](#) are available by prior arrangement and NREL's Visitors' Center is open Monday-Friday, 9 am – 4 pm. If you can't get to Boulder or Golden, check out this [website](#). It's full of info including a [virtual tour](#). The National Wind Technology Center, one of three national research centers at NREL, is located about 6 miles from Boulder. Wind energy is one of the fastest-growing forms of electricity generation in the world. Industry experts predict that, with proper development, wind energy could provide 20% of this nation's energy needs. Much of the wind industry's success can be attributed to the research conducted at this facility.

Expert: [George Douglas](#), (303) 275-4096
www.nrel.gov
www.nrel.gov/wind

Visit real homes of real people who use the sun to heat, cool, and power their homes. Discover that solar homes are comfortable, practical, reliable and affordable.

Expert: [Kim Farin](#) Boulder Convention and Visitors Bureau 303-938-2066
[Boulder Solar Week](#)

Photo Credits:

- City of Boulder Open Space & Mountain Parks
- Celestial Seasonings
- Twenty Ninth Street