

LSA 2009 Denver, Colorado Local Guide

Welcome to Denver. You've picked a great time of year to be in Colorado. The days should be pleasantly warm and the evenings cool. Every local will tell you this, but be careful about drinking alcohol and, whatever else you do, be sure to drink plenty of water; the transition from sea level can be a challenge. Also, if you get out and about to explore, be sure to wear sunscreen.

The Grand Hyatt is located in the central business district; it will be packed with office workers during the week, but fairly quiet on the weekend and at night. If you're willing to explore just a bit beyond the hotel, however, you'll be richly rewarded. A good place to start looking for things to do and see is <http://denver.org/>. It has good information on neighborhoods, restaurants, things to do with kids, etc.

Here are some things to see and do within walking distance from the hotel:

- The **Colorado Rockies** are in town Friday-Sunday against the San Diego Padres at Coors Field. The stadium is an easy walk from the hotel, and is a great place to see a ballgame, even if you're not a baseball fan. Selected tickets for Saturday night's game can be purchased at group discount prices at: <http://coloradorockies.com/groups> (username: dusturm password: gorockies). Discounted seats can be purchased up to four hours before game time; walkups are always available as well.
- **Civic Center Park** and the **Denver Museums** are just a few blocks from the hotel. Within easy walking distance of the hotel are the Daniel Liebeskind-designed Art Museum, (<http://denverartmuseum.org>) the Michael Graves-designed Public Library (<http://denverlibrary.org>), the Colorado Historical Museum (<http://coloradohistory.org>), and the State Capitol (<http://state.co.us>). All are great places to take kids.
- The **16th Street Pedestrian Mall** runs between Civic Center and Lower Downtown (**LoDo**). A free shuttle runs the 16 block length of the mall and is a great way to get around. LoDo is the home to bars, restaurants and cafes. Particularly on weekend nights, it will be packed with people eating, drinking, and carrying on. Also home to an outpost of the Tattered Cover, one of the nation's great independent bookstores (<http://tatteredcover.com>)
- Just beyond the end of the 16th Street Shuttle is a string of parks along the Platte River. **Confluence Park**, at the West end of the parks is a great place to watch kayakers, get a coffee at the 100,000 square foot REI flagship store, or for kids to wade in the water.
- Denver has more than 850 miles of off-road bike and walking paths. (denver.org/metro/features/bike-trails). The **Cherry Creek Bike Path** runs for miles from Confluence Park to the reservoir East of town. It's a great place for a walk or a run along the creek, particularly on a hot day.

Farther Afield (each website has information on public transportation):

- Denver has a great network of public parks. Probably the two best are **Washington Park** (for running/biking/picnicking) and **City Park** (home of the zoo (<http://denverzoo.org>), the fabulous **Museum of Nature and Science** (<http://dmns.org>), and a municipal golf course).

- The **Denver Botanic Gardens** (<http://botanicgardens.org>) will be in full bloom at the end of May and is a great place for a walk or a picnic.
- The **Denver Aquarium** (downtownaquarium.com) and **Children's Museum** (mychildsmuseum.org/) are located just beyond Confluence Park.
- If you rent a car, a number of day trips are possible.
 - **Rocky Mountain National Park** (nps.gov/romo/). A chance to see moose, elk, big horn sheep or drive the highest paved road in North America through alpine tundra.
 - **Boulder**. A beautiful college town nestled into the Flatirons about 30 minutes from downtown. Great people-watching, hiking, and dining.
 - **Hiking**. The foothills west of town are filled with hikes that range from easy to challenging. A good list of trails can be found here: go-colorado.com/Denver/Hiking/. Ask the concierge at the hotel to draw you a map based on how challenging a walk you're after.

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### Dining Guide

Denver has become a great dining city, but the area directly around the hotel doesn't necessarily bear this out. If you're willing to venture just a bit further afield, however, you will be richly rewarded.

Don't see what you're looking for below? Feel free to ask me: [skamin@law.du.edu](mailto:skamin@law.du.edu). These are some of my favorites, but if there's something you're in the mood for that you don't see here, please ask.

(All restaurants are wheelchair accessible unless otherwise indicated.)

### Downtown

#### **16<sup>th</sup> Street Mall**

Your best bet for a quick bite around the hotel is probably to walk the block or so to the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Mall where lots of cafes and restaurants have outdoor tables set up this time of year. Below are some suggestions in this area.

**Cook's Fresh** (1600 Glenarm Place, 303.893.2277)

<http://cooksfreshmarket.com>

A gourmet market and deli with prepared salads, sandwiches and entrees; this is a perfect place to grab picnic-makings if you're heading out to explore.

**Corner Bakery** (500 16<sup>th</sup> Street, 303.527.0166)

<http://cornerbakerycafe.com>

Soups, salads, sandwiches and baked goods; another good spot to grab something and go between sessions.

**Katie Mullens Irish Pub** (1550 Court Pl., 303.537.0336)

<http://www.katiemullens.com>

Huge Irish Pub with everything on the menu that you'd expect.

**Marlowe's** (501 16<sup>th</sup> Street, 303.595.3700)

<http://marlowesdenver.com>

Steaks and seafood in a boisterous atmosphere. Happy hour features both drink and appetizer discounts; a great way to unwind and people-watch after a hard day of sessions.

**Paramount Café** (519 16<sup>th</sup> Street, 303.893.2000)

<http://paramountcafe.com>

A noisy, bustling bar and grill associated with the Paramount Theater around the corner. Almost nothing on the menu is over \$10; two happy hours a day, the kitchen stays open 'til 1 a.m.

### **Elsewhere Downtown**

These restaurants, ranging from casual to fine-dining are all within an easy walk of the hotel.

**Ellyngton's** (321 17<sup>th</sup> Street -- in the Brown Palace Hotel, 303.297.3111)

<http://brownpalace.com/dining/ellyngtons.cfm>

A good spot for breakfast or for lunch; modern American cuisine in the sophisticated dining room in the Brown Palace Hotel. The Brown Palace is worth a look even if you're not there to eat.

**Elway's Steakhouse** (1881 Curtis Street, 303.312.3107)

<http://elways.com/downtown>

Yes, that Elway – John, the former Denver Bronco quarterback. His steakhouse is in the Ritz Carlton and the prices reflect that fact. But it's consistently the best steak in town.

**Restaurant Kevin Taylor** (1106 14<sup>th</sup> Street, 303.820.2600)

<http://restaurantkevintaylor.com>

Located in the Hotel Teatro, this is the flagship restaurant in Kevin Taylor's local empire. Fabulous fixed-price menu for those on a generous expense account.

**Rocky Mountain Diner** (800 18<sup>th</sup> Street, 303.293.8383)

<http://www.rockymountaindiner.com/>

Observe the lawyers in their natural habitat at this boisterous diner across the street from the Federal Courthouse.

**Ship Tavern** (321 17<sup>th</sup> Street -- in Brown Palace Hotel, 303.297.3111)

[http://brownpalace.com/dining/ships\\_tavern.cfm](http://brownpalace.com/dining/ships_tavern.cfm)

A pub and grill also located in the historic Brown Palace Hotel, just two blocks from the hotel. Clubby, but less formal than Ellyngton's, above.

**Trinity Bar & Grill** (1801 Broadway -- across from Brown Palace Hotel, 303.293.2288)

<http://trinitygrille.com/>

A Denver institution. A 100-year-old steak house with plenty of atmosphere. Expensive, but cheaper at lunch; get there early to avoid the lunch crush.

## Elsewhere in Town

### **LoDo**

Denver's Lower Downtown (LoDo) neighborhood is worth knowing about for two reasons: 1) It's an easy walk or a short ride on the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Shuttle; 2) It has some of the best places to eat in town.

**9<sup>th</sup> Door** (1808 Blake Street, 303.292.2229)

<http://9thdoor.com>

Tasty, authentic, and relatively affordable Spanish tapas in a lounge setting. The music gets loud and it transitions from restaurant to bar as the evening goes on.

**Osteria Marco** (1453 Larimer, 303.534.8855 (wheelchair accessible via an elevator next door))

<http://osteriamarco.com/>

Part of Chef Frank Bonano's local empire (Others in his group are Luca d'Italia (<http://lucadenver.com>), Mizuna (<http://mizunadenver.com>), and Bones (<http://bonesdenver.com>) – all are fabulous). This informal Italian place is great for a group; pizzas, house-made salumi, and small plates are perfect for sharing.

**Rioja** (1431 Larimer, 303.820.2282)

<http://riojadenver.com/>

Simply one of the best restaurants in town. A focus on Mediterranean tastes and fresh ingredients. Good options for vegetarians as well. A noisy room, but well worth it.

**Sullivan's** (1745 Wazee Street, 303.295.2664)

<http://www.sullivansteakhouse.com/>

Denver has no shortage of steakhouses. This one is a favorite for its cocktails and the consistent quality of the steaks and the sides.

**Tamayo** (1400 Larimer, 720.946.133)

<http://modernmexican.com/tamayo>

Mexican fusion cuisine in an upscale atmosphere. Great drinks and happy hour appetizers, particularly on the terrace upstairs. Worth a stop for a drink even if you're eating elsewhere.

**Venice** (1700 Wynkoop, 303.534.2222)

<http://veniceristorante.com>

Formal Italian dining in a gorgeous space across from Union Station. One of the most extensive, and expensive, wine lists in town.

**Vesta Dipping Grill** (1822 Blake Street, 303.296.1970)

<http://vestagrill.com>

The focus is on grilled meats (but with plenty of fish and vegetarian options) served with a variety of dipping sauces. Fun, loud, and trendy.

**Zengo** (1610 Little Raven Street, 720.904.0965)

<http://modernmexican.com/zengodenver>

One of the first restaurants in the new Riverfront neighborhood, this trendy Asian-Latin fusion restaurant is a sister to the more traditional Tamayo in LoDo. Worth taking the bridge over the train tracks for.

## **Uptown**

A long walk or a very short cab ride from the hotel, Denver's Uptown neighborhood is home to gay bars, funky restaurants and cafes. (listed by their distance from the hotel. The closer ones are walkable, the latter ones, definitely not.)

**Steuben's Food Service** (523 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 303.831.1001)

<http://steubens.com>

Barely updated diner classics: Fried chicken and mashed potatoes, lobster rolls, and green chili cheeseburgers are among some of the best. Somehow it manages to have both a great bar and a great children's menu. A pretty easy walk from the hotel.

**Marczyk's Fine Foods** (770 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 303.894.9499)

<http://www.marczykfinefoods.com/>

This gourmet food store is great for those setting off for a day trip: sandwiches to go, premade soups and salads, etc. Their Friday night burger grill (5:00-7:30) has been named "Best Edible Community Service" by Westword Magazine; you'll probably be able to smell it from the hotel.

**Olivea** (719 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 303.861.5050)

<http://olivearestaurant.com>

A brand new addition to the Denver dining scene. From the people who brought us Duo in Highland (see below). And, because it's new, you can probably get a table at the last minute.

**Watercourse Foods** (837 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 303.832.7313)

<http://watercoursefoods.com>

Denver's best known and loved vegetarian restaurant. If you're in the mood for a buffalo tofu sandwich or a tempeh chorizo and homefries scramble (and who's not?) this is your spot.

**D Bar Desserts** (1475 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 303.861.4710)

<http://dbardesserts.com>

Small plates are served from lunch through late night, but the real draw here is the desserts. The cake and shake is a favorite. What's not to like?

**Il Posto** (2011 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 303.394.0100)

<http://ilpostodenver.com>

Fabulous northern Italian cuisine served up in a former garage. Il Posto features patio seating and fabulous service; expect a complimentary glass of something bubbly when you sit down. If they don't have a table for you right away, they'll tell you to go next door to the Thin Man for a drink and they'll find you there. Take them up on the offer; the Thin Man is one of the best funky bars in town.

## Highland

A rapidly gentrifying neighborhood close to downtown, Highland is home to some of the best new restaurants to open in recent years.

**Duo** (2412 West 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, 303.477.4141)

<http://duodenver.com>

Seasonal cuisine in a spare, contemporary space. A great neighborhood restaurant.

**My Brother's Bar** (2317 15<sup>th</sup> Street, 303.455.9991)

Nothing new about this place. A dive bar with great burgers, it's the oldest continuously operating bar in Denver.

**Root Down** (1600 W. 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, 303.993.4200)

<http://rootdowndenver.com>

They bill themselves as "globally influenced seasonal cuisine" with a focus on shrinking the distance from field to table. There's something for all here, meat-eaters to vegans. A funky bar and a terrace with panoramic views of the city make this place worth the trip.

**Sushi Sasa** (2401 15<sup>th</sup> Street, 303.433.7272)

<http://sushisadenver.com>

I know what you're thinking: The nearest ocean is 1,000 miles away. But with fresh fish flown in daily from all over the world, you'll be hard pressed to find better sushi on either coast.

**Z Cuisine** (2245 West 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 303.477.1111 (because of the cramped space, may not be comfortable for those who use wheelchairs))

<http://zcuisineonline.com>

It bills itself as a Parisian Bistro, and it's hard to argue – the tables are small and cramped, the only menu is written on a chalkboard, it's noisy and they don't take reservations for groups smaller than six. It's also probably the best French food in the state. Everything on the menu is fabulous (and the cassoulet isn't usually on the menu, you just have to know to order it). They also run a wine bar next door that serves hearty appetizers – if you can't get into the main restaurant, it's not a bad way to go.