

Where We Eat v2

Indian food, vegetarian, Manitou diners, walkable from the North End, brunch, cocktails, coffee, pizza, date night

June 2026 · Colin + Nicole

Top 10 Don't Miss

1. **Mausam Indian Flavors** — Former Michelin Bib Gourmand chef. 4.9–5.0 everywhere. Best Indian in COS.
2. **The Rabbit Hole** — Underground fine dining in a former morgue. Reservations required.
3. **Four by Brother Luck** — Celebrity chef. 4-course tasting + vegan tasting menu.
4. **Adam's Mountain Cafe** — 65% vegetarian. Creative global cuisine in Manitou.
5. **Ephemera** — 5-course tasting menus. "Fine dining without pretension."
6. **Shuga's** — 1910 grocery store. Cheese boards, lavender lemonade, great patio.
7. **RYZE Skyline Lounge** — NEW 2025. 11th-floor rooftop. Panoramic Pikes Peak views.
8. **Sahara Cafe** — Manitou #1 on TripAdvisor. Shawarma + falafel at casual prices.
9. **The Burrowing Owl** — COS's first vegan dive bar. Full bar + plant-based comfort food.
10. **Switchback Coffee** — Steps from your rental. Pay-what-you-can drip. One of CO's best roasters.

Indian Restaurants

Mausam Indian Flavors — 3167 W Colorado Ave — \$\$–\$\$\$

Chef Dharam Singh earned a Michelin Bib Gourmand (2018–2020). Best Indian in Colorado Springs, full stop.

Order: Biryani, Kashmiri Pulao, lamb dishes

<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Mausam+Indian+Flavors+Colorado+Springs+CO>

Little Nepal — 1747 S 8th St — \$\$

19 consecutive years voted "Best Indian Restaurant" in COS. The local institution.

Order: Lunch buffet (~\$16), momos, tikka masala

<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Little+Nepal+Colorado+Springs+CO>

Everest Nepal — 28 E Bijou St — \$\$

Multi-generational Nepali family. Indian, Nepali, Thai, Tibetan. Downtown walkable.

Order: Momos, freshest naan in town

<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Everest+Nepal+Colorado+Springs+CO>

Shri Ganesh — 11550 Ridgeline Dr (Briargate) — \$\$

Family-run, 4.7/5. Far north — worth the drive if up that way. Thursday entertainment.

Order: Garlic basil naan, thali platters

<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Shri+Ganesh+Indian+Restaurant+Colorado+Springs+CO>

Curry Culture — 162 Tracker Dr #130 — \$–\$\$

NEW 2026. Fast-casual Indian. Modern, fresh-daily.

Order: Butter chicken, tikka masala, garlic naan

<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Curry+Culture+Colorado+Springs+CO>

Pakwan — Colorado Springs — \$\$

Featured in 2026 Gazette. Strong vegetarian selection.

Order: Traditional vegetarian-friendly dishes

<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Pakwan+Indian+Restaurant+Colorado+Springs+CO>

Vegetarian / Vegan

The Burrowing Owl — 1791 S 8th St — \$

100% vegan dive bar. COS's first. Punk rock energy. 11am–midnight daily.

Order: Vegan comfort food, craft cocktails

<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Burrowing+Owl+Colorado+Springs+CO>

The Joint — 19 N Tejon St — \$–\$\$

100% vegan street food. Downtown on Tejon. Scratch-made everything. Tue–Sun.

Order: Scratch-made vegan street food

<https://maps.apple.com/?q=The+Joint+Vegan+Street+Food+Colorado+Springs+CO>

Adam's Mountain Cafe — 26 Manitou Ave — \$\$

65% vegetarian. Participates in COS Vegan Restaurant Week. Breakfast, lunch, dinner.

Order: Avocado Quinoa Bowl, Malai Dumplings, Charred Cauliflower

<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Adams+Mountain+Cafe+Manitou+Springs+CO>

Sweet Elizabeth's Organics — 1625 W Uintah St — \$\$

Dedicated vegan and gluten-free bakery-cafe. Everything organic and from scratch.

Order: Vegan pastries, cafe items

<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Sweet+Elizabets+Organics+Colorado+Springs+CO>

Manitou Springs

Sahara Cafe — 954 Manitou Ave — \$

#1 of 37 restaurants in Manitou on TripAdvisor. Middle Eastern/Mediterranean.

Order: Chicken + lamb shawarma, gyros, falafel

<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Sahara+Cafe+Manitou+Springs+CO>

Mo's Diner — 108 Manitou Ave — \$

Cash-only old-school diner. Exactly the spot you hope to find. Wed–Sun 7am–2pm.

Order: Green chili, biscuits & gravy, classic diner breakfast

<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Mos+Diner+Manitou+Springs+CO>

Mona Lisa Fondue — 733 Manitou Ave — \$\$\$

In a preserved 1875 building. Multiple intimate dining rooms. DiRoNA Award. 2+ hours.

Order: 4-Course Fondue Dinner, cheese fondue, chocolate fondue, wine

<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Mona+Lisa+Fondue+Restaurant+Manitou+Springs+CO>

The Cliff House Dining Room — 306 Canon Ave — \$\$\$\$

DiRoNA Award, AAA 4 Diamond. Inside the historic Cliff House hotel (1873).

Order: Seasonal New American fine dining, multi-course

<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Cliff+House+Dining+Room+Manitou+Springs+CO>

Walkable from the North End

All within ~15–20 min walk from S Institute St / E Moreno Ave

Shuga's — 702 S Cascade Ave — \$\$

Eclectic Mediterranean in a 1910 grocery store. Design-forward. Great patio.

Order: Cheese boards, Brazilian Coconut Shrimp Soup, lavender lemonade

<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Shugas+Restaurant+Colorado+Springs+CO>

Four by Brother Luck — 321 N Tejon St — \$\$\$

Celebrity chef. Seasonal 4-course tasting. Vegan tasting available. Tue–Sun 3–10pm.

Order: Seasonal tasting menu or a la carte

<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Four+by+Brother+Luck+Colorado+Springs+CO>

The Rabbit Hole — 101 N Tejon St — \$\$\$

Underground Wonderland-themed. Former morgue. 2,400+ Yelp reviews. Daily 4–11pm.

Order: Creative seasonal entrees + inventive cocktails

<https://maps.apple.com/?q=The+Rabbit+Hole+Colorado+Springs+CO>

Totem — 315 E Pikes Peak Ave — \$\$

NEW Oct 2025. Sister restaurant to the original in Mazatlan. Cultural fusion. Packed since opening.

Order: Global comfort food, specialty coffee, Bake Bake pastries

<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Totem+Restaurant+Colorado+Springs+CO>

Night Ramen — 324 E Pikes Peak Ave — \$\$

Late-night ramen in a converted 1940s building. Fire pit patio. Opens 5pm.

Order: Tokyo shoyu ramen, mushroom fries w/ miso honey mustard

<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Night+Ramen+Colorado+Springs+CO>

Jax Fish House — 11 S Tejon St — \$\$\$

Colorado-based. Flies in fresh seafood daily. Oyster happy hour.

Order: Oyster bar, daily specials

<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Jax+Fish+House+Oyster+Bar+Colorado+Springs+CO>

Ivywild School — 1604 S Cascade Ave — \$-\$\$

Converted elementary school → food hall + brewery + distillery. Walk around with drinks.

Order: Decent Pizza (Detroit-style), Bristol Brewing, Axe & the Oak whiskey

<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Ivywild+School+Colorado+Springs+CO>

Brunch

Urban Egg — 28B S Tejon St — \$\$

Most popular brunch downtown. Colorado-sourced. Mon–Fri 7am–2pm, Sat–Sun til 2:30.

Order: Creative egg dishes, specialty pancakes, breakfast burritos

<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Urban+Egg+Downtown+Colorado+Springs+CO>

King's Chef Diner — 131 E Bijou St — \$

Featured on Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives. Retro diner. Cash-friendly.

Order: "The Thing" — mile-high hash browns, bacon, eggs. Green chili everything.

<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Kings+Chef+Diner+Colorado+Springs+CO>

Burnt Toast — 112 N Nevada Ave — \$\$

Chef-driven breakfast. Full cocktail bar at breakfast. Locally sourced.

Order: Inventive twists on morning classics, mimosa flights

<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Burnt+Toast+Colorado+Springs+CO>

Margarita at Pine Creek — 7350 Pine Creek Rd — \$\$\$

Voted Best Restaurant in COS. SUNDAY BRUNCH ONLY 10:30am–2pm. Reservations recommended.

Order: Crab Eggs Benedict, Eggs Cubano, green chili huevos

<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Margarita+at+Pine+Creek+Colorado+Springs+CO>

Craft Cocktail Bars

RYZE Skyline Lounge — 125 N Cascade Ave, 11th Floor — \$\$\$

NEW 2025. Rooftop. Panoramic Pikes Peak views. Fire pits. Tue–Sat 4–10pm, Sun 2–8pm.

Order: Handcrafted cocktails, elk carne asada tacos, bison sliders

<https://maps.apple.com/?q=RYZE+Skyline+Lounge+Colorado+Springs+CO>

The Archives — 15 S Tejon St (downstairs) — \$\$-\$\$\$

Underground speakeasy. After 10pm enter through the backdoor in AdAmAn Alley.

Order: Craft cocktails in a hidden speakeasy setting

<https://maps.apple.com/?q=The+Archives+Underground+Libations+Colorado+Springs+CO>

Shame & Regret — 15 E Bijou St, Ste C (in the alley) — \$\$-\$\$\$

Back-alley whiskey bar. 110 American whiskeys, 120 single malt scotches. Daily 4pm–2am.

Order: 110+ whiskeys, monthly rotating cocktail menu

<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Shame+and+Regret+Colorado+Springs+CO>

Allusion Speakeasy — 323 N Tejon St — \$\$-\$\$\$

Revolving quarterly themes — entire new decor, cocktail menu, and experience every 3 months.

Order: Theme-specific cocktails (past: Star Wars, Beetlejuice)

<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Allusion+Speakeasy+Colorado+Springs+CO>

District Eleven — 218 N Tejon St — \$\$-\$\$\$

Enter through a bank vault door. 200+ whiskey varieties. Tue–Sat.

Order: 200+ whiskey varieties, craft cocktails

<https://maps.apple.com/?q=District+Eleven+Colorado+Springs+CO>

Coffee

Switchback Coffee — Moreno — 909 E Moreno Ave — \$

STEPS from your rental. Pay-what-you-can drip. One of Colorado's best micro-roasters. Mon–Fri 7am–1pm, Sat–Sun 7am–2pm.

Order: Single-origin pour-overs, espresso

<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Switchback+Coffee+Roasters+Colorado+Springs+CO>

Switchback — Shooks Run — 330 N Institute St — \$

Also very close. Mon–Sat 6:30am–3pm, Sun 7am–3pm.

Order: Same great roasts, larger space

<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Switchback+Coffee+Roasters+Colorado+Springs+CO>

Loyal Coffee — 408 S Nevada Ave — \$-\$\$

US Barista Championship finalist. "Small in focus but grand in execution." Daily 6am–7pm.

Order: Specialty espresso, single-origin coffees

<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Loyal+Coffee+Colorado+Springs+CO>

Building Three Coffee — 2727 N Cascade Ave — \$

Veteran-owned micro-roaster in Lincoln Center. Intimate, quality-focused.

Order: Micro-roasted single origins, espresso

<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Building+Three+Coffee+Colorado+Springs+CO>

Corter Coffee — 406 S 8th St — \$

100% veteran-owned. 4.9-star. Serious about sourcing and roasting.

Order: Small-batch roasted coffee, espresso

<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Corter+Coffee+Roasters+Colorado+Springs+CO>

Pizza

Pizzeria Rustica — 2527 W Colorado Ave (OCC) — \$\$
Wood-fired in a Tuscan-imported oven. Inside an 1889 building with art gallery.
Order: White pizza w/ house-made fior di latte, Neapolitan w/ San Marzano
<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Pizzeria+Rustica+Colorado+Springs+CO>

Basil & Barley — 9278 Forest Bluffs View — \$\$
AVPN-certified Neapolitan. Real-deal Acunto oven from Naples. North side.
Order: Margherita, seasonal specials
<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Basil+and+Barley+Pizzeria+Colorado+Springs+CO>

Bambino's Urban Pizzeria — 36 E Bijou St — \$-\$\$
Downtown NY-style. Great for a quick slice after cocktails on Tejon.
Order: NY-style slices, specialty pies, calzones
<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Bambinos+Urban+Pizzeria+Colorado+Springs+CO>

Decent Pizza Co. — 1604 S Cascade (Ivywild) — \$-\$\$
Detroit-style — thick, crispy-edged, cheese-crust. Rare in Colorado.
Order: Detroit-style pizza + a Bristol Brewing beer
<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Decent+Pizza+Company+Ivywild+Colorado+Springs+CO>

Date Night

Penrose Room at The Broadmoor — 1 Lake Ave (atop South Bldg) — \$\$\$\$
Reimagined 2026 by Tihany Design. Hidden speakeasy behind a bookcase door. DiRoNA Award.
Order: Multi-course tasting menus with wine pairings
<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Penrose+Room+Broadmoor+Colorado+Springs+CO>

Ephemera — 514 S Tejon St (upstairs) — \$\$\$
Born from pop-ups. 5-course tasting that changes constantly. "Fine dining without pretension."
Order: Ever-changing tasting menu + wine pairings
<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Ephemera+Dinners+Colorado+Springs+CO>

Prime 25 — 1605 S Tejon St — \$\$\$\$
Colorado Springs' premier steakhouse. Between downtown and The Broadmoor.
Order: Prime steaks, seafood, classic sides
<https://maps.apple.com/?q=Prime+25+Colorado+Springs+CO>

Status Checks — Already on Your List

Restaurant	Status	Notes
Phantom Canyon Brewing	OPEN	2 E Pikes Peak Ave. Craft brewery in historic building. Lunch special Mon–Fri.
Poor Richard's	OPEN (new owners)	New ownership April 2026 after 51 years. Same spirit, new hands.
The Mason Jar	CLOSED	Sold, merged with Trails End, which also closed. Remove from list.
Tony's Bar	OPEN	326 N Tejon. Dive bar. Cheese curds, Frito chili pie. Daily 11am–1:30am.
The Golden Bee	OPEN	Broadmoor. 19th-c English pub shipped from England. Note: 20% mandatory se

Quick Reference by Meal

Meal	Best Bets
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Weekday breakfast	Switchback (steps away), King's Chef Diner, Burnt Toast
Weekend brunch	Urban Egg, Garden of the Gods Market, Margarita at Pine Creek (Sun only)
Quick lunch	Tony's Bar, Bambino's pizza, The Joint (vegan), Sahara Cafe (Manitou)
Casual dinner	Shuga's, Night Ramen, Totem, Phantom Canyon
Vegetarian	Adam's Mountain, Burrowing Owl, Mausam, Four by Brother Luck (vegan tasting)
Indian night	Mausam (best), Little Nepal (classic), Everest Nepal (walkable)
Date night	Ephemera, Rabbit Hole, Mona Lisa Fondue, Penrose Room
Cocktails	RYZE (sunset), The Archives (speakeasy), Shame & Regret (whiskey), Allusion (themed)
Late night	Night Ramen (til 11:30 Fri–Sat), Tony's (til 1:30am), Shame & Regret (til 2am)
Coffee	Switchback Moreno (your block), Loyal downtown, Story Bijou

Closures & Warnings: The Mason Jar — CLOSED. Urban Steam — CLOSED March 2026. Fern's Diner — CLOSED August 2024. Broadmoor restaurants have a mandatory 20% service charge on all checks. Margarita at Pine Creek — Sunday brunch only (not Saturday).