

# FACT SHEET

## Welcome to Colorado Springs

*Situated along the front range of the Rocky Mountains, Colorado Springs is one of the most beautiful cities in the world, and is frequently recognized for its career opportunities by Forbes magazine. Colorado Springs was also ranked the 2nd best city in which to live in the U.S. News & World Report, and the 3rd healthiest city in the U.S. by ValuePenguin.com.*

### Cost of Living

- **Median Pay-** Colorado Springs has a median pay \$3,000 above the national average. The cost of living index in Colorado Springs is almost 20% lower than the state average, and locality pay for MDA employees adds to the value of making Colorado Springs your next home! (Niche.com)
- **Job Growth-** Colorado Springs has had over 15% employment growth over the last 5 years, after seeing over 4% job growth over the past year. (USAToday.com)

### Local Attractions

- **Pikes Peak-** Only 12 miles outside of downtown Colorado Springs, Pikes Peak is the highest peak in the southern Front Range of the Rocky Mountains towering at 14,115'.
- **Garden of the Gods-** This national park has red sandstone formations over 300' tall. The Garden of the Gods is truly a site to behold. Garden of the Gods visitors can hike, bike, and ride through the park.
- **U.S. Olympic Training Center-** Watch world-class athletes train, witness Olympic events, and take free tours of elite sports training facilities right in the middle of town!
- **Red Rocks Open Space-** Experience one of the premiere live music venues in a natural amphitheater, and enjoy the hiking, biking and outdoor recreation this park has to offer outside of nearby Denver.
- **Craft Brewery Tours-** There are 33 breweries listed on the Visit Colorado Springs website. All of the craft breweries are local, and do tours of their facilities.

### Local Events

- **Rocky Mountain Oktoberfest-** A two day celebration of German heritage with live music, German food, beverages, arts, crafts, and more!
- **Vino & Notes Festival-** A Jazz celebration featuring fine wine and dining. Guests are served a 5 course meal with wines matched to each course.
- **Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo-** This annual event has been a long-standing tradition since 1937, and sells out nearly every year. Enjoy watching bare back riding, barrel racing, bull riding, and steer wrestling.
- **The Pikes Peak Marathon-** Starting elevation of 6,300' with an elevation gain of 7,815' throughout its course. There is also the Pikes Peak Ascent which is a ½ marathon ending on top of Pikes Peak.
- **Colorado Springs Labor Day Lift Off-** This hot air balloon festival really has it all, and is a family-friendly event. Start the day off with breakfast, and watching over 70 balloons lift off. There are sky-diving lessons, wake-boarding, chainsaw carving, and many other activities for guests to enjoy.

### Schools

- **Elementary Schools and Middle Schools-** Cheyenne Mountain Elementary and Middle School are two of the top-rated schools in the area receiving an 'A' rating for having over 70% of students at or above proficiency in reading and math. (Niche.com)
- **High Schools-** Cheyenne Mountain High School is ranked 9th in the state for STEM education, 10th in the state, and 12th for college prep in the state by Niche.com. Multiple schools in Colorado Springs have received 'A' or even 'A+' ratings. (Niche.com)
- **Colleges/Universities-** The University of Colorado – Colorado Springs is the best nearby public university, and for those looking to go to a private institution, Colorado College is the #2 ranked college in the state. Aside from the great local colleges and universities, Colorado has many other nationally ranked colleges such as Colorado State University and University of Colorado – Boulder. (Niche.com)

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Approved for Public Release 19-MDA-10149 (15 Jul 19)

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