

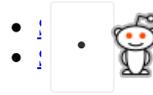


BLOG MEET THE EDITORS GO TO TRAIL'S EDGE >

# Best 5 Hikes in the Denver Metro Area

0 0

Like Tweet



Tell us something cool editor [at] trailsedge [dot] com

SEARCH

CAMPING/BACKPACKING FEATURED POSTS HIKING/TREKKING

Jun 25, 2011 Misty Faucheux Comments



You love going hiking, but driving all the way to the mountains is more time than you have to waste. Skip the grueling I-70 or 285 drive, and get your muscles burning right in your own backyard. The Denver Metro Area has more than a few hikes to satisfy your need for escape. Here are our top five hikes that will satisfy a visitor's quick stay or a local's need for an after-work hike.

### Beaver Brook Trail

The Beaver Brook trail straddles the area between Lookout Mountain's Windy Saddle and Genesee Park. There is very little development in this area since it's been off-limits to construction for nearly 100 years. You'll feel like you've wandered into some backcountry paradise. The trail is 4.7 miles long with a rise in elevation of 1,000 feet. Take the Chief Hosa exit off of I-70.

### Castlewood Canyon State Park

Castlewood Canyon State Park features rocky outcroppings surrounded by the snow-capped peaks of the Rockies. This area offers short trails ranging from 0.5 to 4 miles long. You can bring along the kiddies (furry or otherwise). Combine different trails for a more challenging experience. There is a fee to enter the park, and it is located near Franktown to the south of Denver.

### South Table Mountain

Commuters on I-70 often pass Golden's South Table Mountain without even thinking about hiking the rugged terrain. You really should, especially being just minutes from downtown. This is a perfect after-work hike, especially if you want to get away from the blaring horns of passing cars. From the summit, survey Denver and its suburbs. You can access all trails from either I-70 or Highway 58.



### Golden Gate Canyon

Golden Gate Canyon State Park is only 30 miles from Denver, but you really feel like you have driven miles into the mountain. The park offers over 12,000 acres of peaks, meadows and forest and amazing panoramic views. Trails in the park range from less than 1 mile to over 6 miles long. Besides hiking, the park offers camping, yurts and cabins. This state park is located off Colorado 93.

### Chataqua Park

Chataqua Park is located in Boulder, which is about 30 miles northwest of Denver. Trails in this park include easy walks to your-legs-are-screaming steep hikes, ranging from around 1 mile to over 6 miles long. The most popular trails include the Flatirons and Chataqua trails. The park is free, and it is easily accessible from U.S. 36.

Like

Tweet 0

Trail's Edge on Facebook

Like

451 people like Trail's Edge.

Facebook social plugin

### TheTrailsEdge

TheTrailsEdge A camping pot made of...paper? gearjunkie.com/paper-camp-coo... @TheGearJunkie 5 days ago · reply · retweet · favorite

TheTrailsEdge Barefoot boots! (there's a trend I can vouch for) gearjunkie.com/merrell-m-conn... 5 days ago · reply · retweet · favorite

TheTrailsEdge Cloudveil is one of my all time favorite brands. Now co-founder Stephen Sullivan is starting Stio. trailspace.com/articles/2012/... 7 days ago · reply · retweet · favorite

TheTrailsEdge Our friends at AGR @GearReview take on the Saucony Ride 5 - great for neutral runners. activegearreview.com/running/road-r... 7 days ago · reply · retweet · favorite

TheTrailsEdge 4 leg exercises to keep your legs injury free this summer highlineonline.ca/2012/06/28/fou... 8 days ago · reply · retweet · favorite

Join the conversation

### OUR HOMIES

Active Gear Review

Adventure Skier

Gear Junkie



Leave a Comment



Add a comment...

Comment using...

Facebook social plugin

### Trackbacks

[Outdoorzy](#)

[The Adventure Blog](#)

[The Gear Caster](#)

[TrailSpace](#)

[UpaDowna](#)

[Wend Magazine](#)

### Gear O' the Month Giro Snow Helmets

Resorts are opening and snow is on the ground. But the base is thin, meaning there are plenty of rocks waiting to make a meal out of your skull. Get a helmet on yo head before a rock does!

