

MAGIC[®]

The Gathering[®]

GRAND PRIX DENVER

August 18-20, 2017

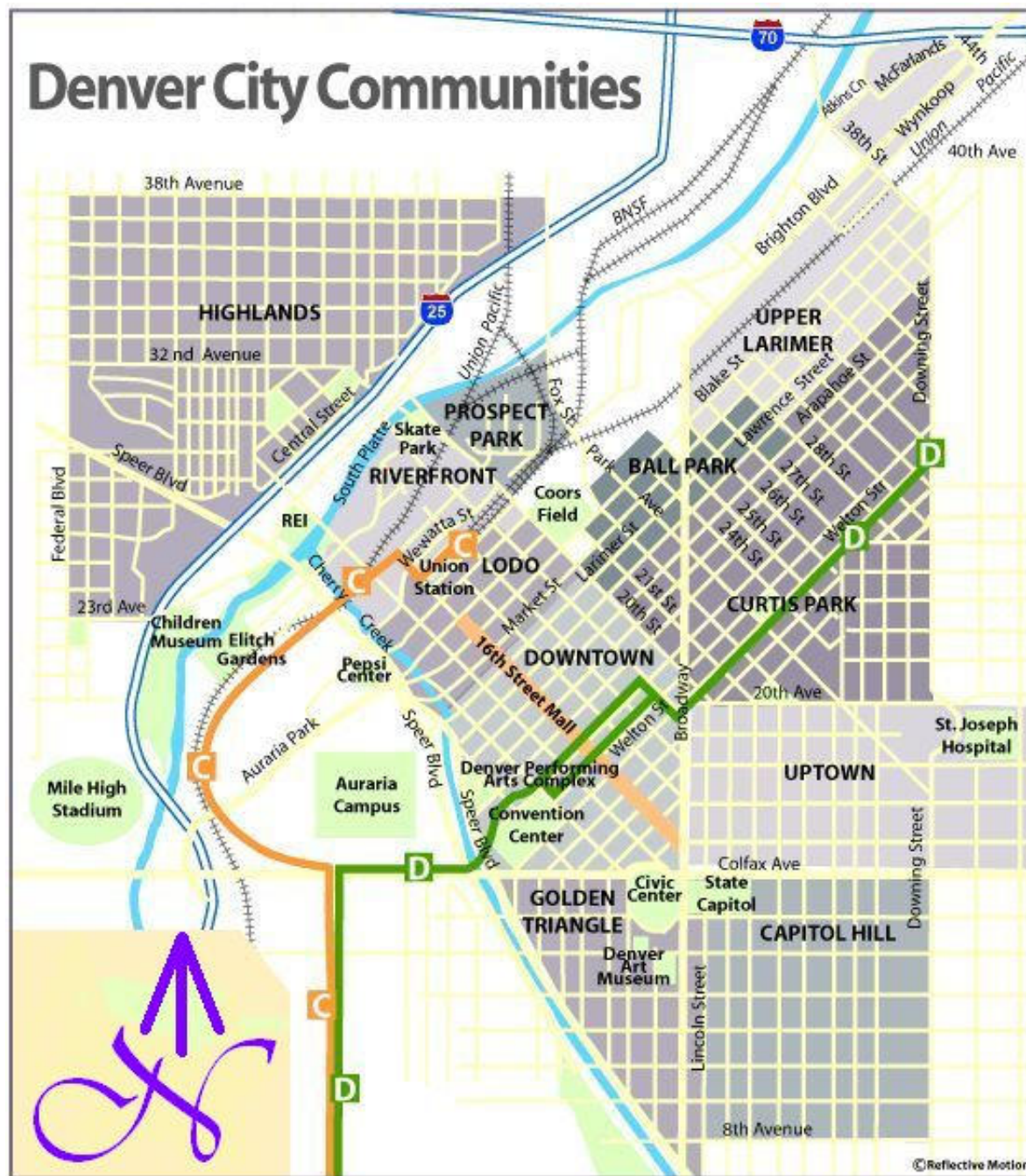


For the first time, a Grand Prix is coming to downtown Denver! In this document, you'll learn about where to stay, what to eat, getting around, and things to do.

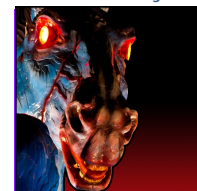


created by Scott Marshall

About the location...



I-70 east takes you to DIA, the only airport you're likely to use for Denver. When you leave the airport, watch for the "demon" horse, the big blue statue with glowing red eyes. It killed its creator. Really.



If you'd like to explore on a bicycle, check out Denver's Bcycle:



You'll want a basic grasp of our cattywumpus downtown layout before planning things like lodging or activities before & after the Grand Prix. Notice how the downtown streets run NE-SW or NW-SE? Weird...

In that map above, you'll spot the Colorado Convention Center, the venue for Grand Prix Denver 2017 - fairly centrally located in the downtown area. There's lots of hotels and restaurants within two blocks of the venue, but there's also a pedestrian mall - that thick, orange line, labelled "16th Street Mall" - and there's a free shuttle that runs the entire length of that mall, from Union Station to Broadway. Because of that, anything within walking distance of the mall is walking distance from the venue!

Also, the metro area's bus service - RTD - is very good about getting people to & from downtown. With just a little bit of extra work with Google Maps and RTD's website, you may be able to find a suburban hotel, Air BnB, VRBO, etc., as an alternative to downtown hotels, yet be able to get to the venue via bus or light rail. RTD's website includes a Google-powered ride planner, and it actually works well. Buses are usually on time, except during blizzards - and we don't get snow in August!

Note that parking at the convention center is expensive - up to \$25 for 24 hours - typical of downtown; parking at many of RTD's light rail stations is free (but not always - read the fine print!).

 <http://www.rtd-denver.com>

Where to stay...

Grand Hyatt	139
Hyatt Place	139
Hyatt House	148
Embassy Suites	154
Warwick	157
Magnolia	161
Crowne Plaza	166
Hyatt Regency	169
Aloft	171
Holiday Inn Express	185
Sheraton	186
Denver Marriott	159
Hilton Garden Inn	191
Hampton Inn 15th St	194
Homewood Suites	194
Hampton Inn Sherman St	199
SpringHill Suites	200
Courtyard	201
Stay Alfred Premier Lofts	205
Hotel Indigo	210
Residence Inn	219
Westin	219
Renaissance	220
Hotel Monaco	237
Maven	262
Hotel Teatro	263
Nativ Hotel	263
Curtis	269
Brown Palace	270
the ART	290
Oxford	330
Crawford	349
Four Seasons	397
Ritz-Carlton	437

This list is based on prices, per night, from <http://www.hotels.com> for Thursday, August 17th through Monday August 21st. Obviously, those prices are subject to all sorts of changes; they're listed just for comparison.

Since I live here in Denver, I don't often stay in hotels - but I can say that the Residence Inn is nice; the Ritz-Carlton was nice many years ago, before it became a (very pricey) Ritz-Carlton; and, the most famous and quite historic Brown Palace is outstanding. (Their Sunday brunch is exceptional and probably worth the expense!)

As always, my advice is to check not only price, but look for things like free wi-fi and free breakfast - expensive add-ons when not included.

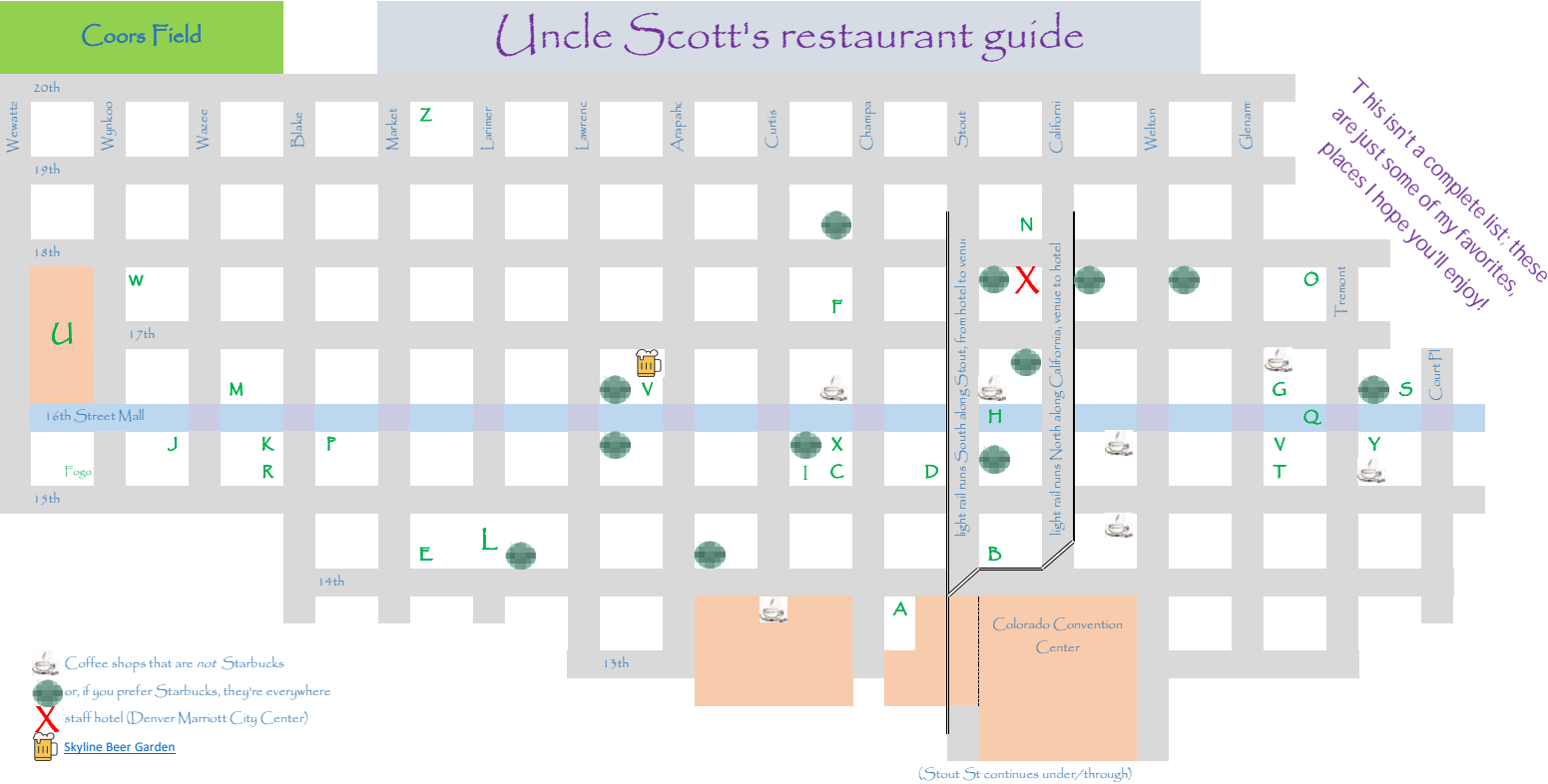
Note: the staff hotel is the Denver Marriott City Center, at a \$30 savings; click on Denver Marriott, at left, to get the group rate.



above, The Brown Palace (1930);

below, The Ship's Tavern in The Brown Palace





A	Pizza Republica	pizza, Italian	it may get busy, but it's really good
B	Stout St. Social	beer, pub food	Mahi Mahi fish tacos, great beer selection
C	Los Cabos II	Peruvian	roast chicken is great, so many other unique tastes
D	mici	pizza, Italian	good Italian food, good prices
E	Euclid Hall	upscale pub grub	housemade sausages, poutine
F	Panzano	Italian	once saw Alton Brown eating here (yeah, it's that good)
G	Cook's Fresh Market	★ grocery/deli	lots of fresh-made meals, not just sandwiches
H	Asada Rico	★ food cart!	best breakfast burritos in Denver (so says The Post)
I	Sam's No. 3	★ Mexican & diner fare	popular with the theater crowds, but good at turnaround
J	Lucky Pie	upscale pizza	my favorite pizza, great beer selection, other tasty bites
K	Cho Lon	"modern asian"	soup dumplings, try you must!
L	Larimer Square	(various)	including rioja, the best in Denver
M	bd's Mongolian Grill	stir fry bowls to order	choose your ingredients, watch them cook it

N	Guard & Grace	steak house, oysters	everything I've had was great
O	La Loma	Mexican	haven't been since they moved, it's probably still good
P	Crave Real Burger	amazing burgers	the Luther: bacon, cheddar, egg, onion; 2 glazed donuts as the bun
Q	Liang's Thai	food cart!	great Thai food, cooked to order (requires patience)
R	Rio Grande	Mexican	dangerously strong margaritas
S	Duck Soup	soups, sandwiches	I've only had the watermelon gazpacho, but ... wow!
T	Maggiano's	Italian	a chain, but very good at feeding large groups
U	Union Station	★ (various)	my favorite is Stoic & Genuine for great seafood
V	Corner Bakery	★ Maggiano's deli	two locations, good chain for quick bites to go or eat in
W	Wynkoop Brewing	brewpub	Denver's first brewpub ('88), and still one of the best
X	Boney's BBQ	barbecue	good BBQ close to the venue (but see Yazoo's)
Y	Yard House	beer, pub food	yes, it's a chain, but the food is fine and the beer selection is insane
Z	El Chapultepec	Mexican...	...but you go there for the live jazz, and the history; not the food

Other options, off the map or just not listed...

Biker Jim's	gourmet hot dogs	Alaskan reindeer! Wild Boar! Plus specials - worth the walk
Pho-natic	pho	some of the best pho in Denver
City Grille	burgers	often voted Best burger in Denver; mac'n'cheese is great
Tacos Tequila Whiskey	insanely good tacos	a short but interesting bus ride east of downtown (better call uber)
Steuben's	best damn diner food	check out the Media page on their site for all the awards
Yazoo's BBQ	barbecue	my vote for best BBQ downtown, 15-20 minute walk from the venue
Fogo de Chao	Brazilian Steakhouse	fear not, Denver has a Fogo
Rodizio Grill	Brazilian Steakhouse	and we also have the "budget" version
El Taco de Mexico	Mexican	one of Denver's favorites, in the heart of the Santa Fe Art District



Tacos, Tequila, Whiskey



Lamb, from rioja in Larimer Square

Things to do near Denver



Coors Brewery tours are often a popular choice, with some tasting at the end. Looks like they're open Thurs-Mon, 10-4 (noon-4 on Sunday).

Note that there are brew-tourish options downtown, too:

<http://www.brewscruise.com/inc/denver-brewhouse/>

<https://www.denver.org/things-to-do/denver-attractions/denver-brewery-tours/>

(and, you might want to click on the beer mug, on the restaurant guide map...)

Red Rocks Amphitheatre may be the best outdoor concert venue anywhere. Certainly, there are many, many artists that make it a priority to perform there.

Click on that picture for a calendar of events in August.



Ever notice a small 'D' on your coins? That tells you the coin was minted in Denver, and you can visit the U.S. Mint. You have to get there about 7am to get tickets for your group (get the East Coast judges to help with the plan!), and the mint closes on Monday, Aug 21, for a couple weeks - you'll have to visit the week before the GP.

If you're an architecture and/or history buff, there's lots to explore; our State Capitol building is next to downtown, a short walk from the venue. Check out the Historic Denver Walking Tour! (click the image)



Denver's Art Museum is also a short walk from the Convention Center, in a rather interesting building. It's right next door to the Denver Public Library, where you can see homeless people surfing the internet... Part of the Art Museum complex includes a very nice restaurant, Palette's (didn't have room for it, above).

Ah, baseball - the quintessential summer sport. Well, some of us love it, anyway.

And Coors Field is a great place to watch a game, visit the craft brewery, get a seriously good dog from Biker Jim's, and just enjoy the Colorado weather.



Denver Museum of Nature & Science

This place has special exhibits, of course (click that picture for info about Vikings), and there's an IMAX theater, and a planetarium - but the dioramas are what visitors usually remember most.

Note that a visit to City Park gets you close - dangerously close! - to Tequilas, Tacos, & Whiskey...

You may have already heard, there's going to be an eclipse; totality is just four hours north of Denver (assuming there aren't a million cars on the road!).

Clicking that image gets you info about the eclipse, specific to Casper, Wyoming.

Also, the Denver Post shared a few things to know:

<http://tinyurl.com/DPostEclipse>



Other useful (?) stuff...

Extreme Weather Conditions?



It will not snow in August, in Denver. Never has. But you will see temperature extremes ranging from about 55 up to 95; make sure you have layers, including a light jacket.

August is usually milder than early summer, but it gets warm in the afternoon, often followed by thunderstorms that cool us off, quickly.

If you have your heart set on seeing snow, just drive about an hour west, up the road to Mt. Evans. Or a little farther Northwest, into Rocky Mountain National Park.

The elephant in the room: legalized marijuana.

Hey, you do you.

But be aware, smoking - anything - is banned in all public facilities, and most hotels are non-smoking.



Drink Water. LOTS of water.

Denver is a dry climate, even after those thundershowers.

Also, the air is thinner up here; it's easy to get winded, just walking up a flight of stairs.

But most of all, staying hydrated is a good way to prevent altitude sickness - be sure you drink lots of water!

Experts say "avoid alcohol and salty foods" - yeah, like we're not gonna enjoy some beer & fries...