



ACT LIKE A LOCAL

OK, NOW YOU'RE DRESSED LIKE A LOCAL.
HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO PASS FOR ONE.



LEARN THE LINGO!

FOURTEENER

This is what we call those peaks that rise more than 14,000 feet above sea level. We've got 58 of them, more than any other state in the continental U.S. Hardy hikers aim to "bag" – or summit – all of them.

CONTINENTAL DIVIDE

Also known as "the Divide," this ridge runs along the crests of the Rocky Mountains north to south. Rivers and streams west of the Divide flow to the Pacific Ocean, and east of the Divide to the Gulf of Mexico.

5280

Denver is the Mile High City because it sits 5,280 feet (or one mile) above sea level. To be precise, the 13th step of the Colorado State Capitol Building or the line of purple seats in Coors Field will put you exactly at 5280. (Pronounced: fifty-two eighty)

FRONT RANGE

The Rocky Mountain range most visible from Colorado's most populous cities – Denver, Colorado Springs, Fort Collins and Boulder – and from much of the Eastern Plains. Much of the urban region near these mountains is known as the Front Range as well.

WESTERN SLOPE

This region refers to all of Colorado west of the Continental Divide. It's home to the Grand Mesa, the largest flattop mountain in the world (near Grand Junction).

CENTENNIAL STATE

Colorado's official nickname refers to the year it earned statehood. That happened in 1876, the centennial anniversary of the United States' declaration of independence.

FOUR CORNERS

The point where Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Utah come together at one point in our extreme southwest corner, 40 miles from the Colorado city of Cortez.

HIGH COUNTRY

A fancy way to say "the mountains," uttered mostly by local weathercasters.

THE TUNNEL

If you are headed to or from the High Country on I-70, you'll likely pass through the 1.7-mile Eisenhower/Johnson Memorial Tunnel. Since 1973, the tunnels have provided easy passage across the Continental Divide.

POWDER DAY

Powder days follow snowy nights. That fresh snowfall means the conditions are set for skiing and boarding that feels like you're floating down the slopes on air. Our deep, dry, fluffy powder is also good for cushioning the occasional fall.

MUD SEASON

This glorious harbinger of spring is typically slotted on the calendar for late April or May. It occurs when winter's snow starts to melt and rivers swell, making for amazing fishing, thrilling whitewater rafting and great High Country lodging deals.

DENVER SHORTHAND

LODO

Short for Lower Downtown, Denver's lively, walkable, historic downtown.

LOHI

Short for Lower Highlands, a neighborhood full of exceptional food and drink with outstanding views of downtown Denver.

RINO

Short for River North, a hip cultural and food scene emerging in Denver's former warehouse district.

ALTITUDE Denver is the Mile High City, and many popular destinations are even higher altitude. Staying hydrated and adjusting for a day or two before embarking on a strenuous adventure is the best way to make sure being high up doesn't get you down.

ALCOHOL It has more impact at altitude, so take it easy until you get your mountain legs.

CELL COVERAGE You won't have any trouble staying connected when you're in a town, but once you head out on a trail, river, slope or back road, that could change. Let others know where you are and finish posting your pics before you head off the grid.

SPARSE SERVICES If you spot a sign saying "No gas or services for the next 56 miles," believe it.

FOR HIKES, ROAD TRIPS & OTHER EXCURSIONS, pack more food, water and cold-weather wear than you expect to need so you won't be caught unprepared.

BEAR-PROOF TRASHCANS If you want to toss your trash and the lid won't budge, you're probably encountering a bear-proof trash can. Look for instructions on the can – there's usually a lever or button to push that's too tricky for hairy paws to manage.