

# Destination Guide- GRANBY/WINTER PARK, Colorado

Created by Toccara from [Forget Someday](#)

This guide is designed to make the planning of your upcoming trip a little easier! This is not a comprehensive guide of these particular destinations, as I can only give reviews based on what we experienced during our visit.



**Denver International Airport (DEN)** is located a little over 90 minutes southeast from Grand County (and less than an hour southeast from Boulder). It is the main airport serving this area of Colorado and offers non-stop service to and from more than 180 cities worldwide. Once you turn off of I-70-W onto US-40-W, heading towards Grand County, be prepared for your drive to get curvy and steep as you navigate mountain roads! Snow chains may be required in the winter months.



You will need to have/rent a car to explore all that Grand County has to offer, as everything is spread out. Also, if you want to take a day-trip into Boulder, like we did, you will need a car for sure!



## When is the best time of year to visit the Granby/Winter Park area?

We visited in late November and although it was pretty cold (never reaching above 40 degrees), we were well layered and the weather was perfect! The week after we left, a huge snowstorm came through bringing with it chilling temperatures with highs in the single digits and lows in the negative teens! That being said, however, this snowfall makes for great skiing, sleighing, snowmobiling, and tubing conditions! Summer is also a great time to visit to take advantage of the wide array of outdoor adventures, such as biking, hiking, camping, horseback riding, kayaking and zip line tours. Fall is a wonderful time of year in Colorado, as the leaves are changing creating a beautiful display of colors!



[The Winter Park & Fraser Chamber](#) is a great resource for what there is to see and do in Grand County!



We stayed at the [Inn at Silvercreek](#) in Granby. Although I made numerous phone calls ahead of time to request a specific location within the resort, we were placed on the not-so-scenic parking lot side with a lovely view of the local McDonald's. Oh well... at least there were mountains in the distance! Despite our lousy view, the resort has all of the amenities one would want in their 'home away from home'. Guests have access to a heated (indoor/outdoor) pool, 3 hot tubs, sauna, fitness center, racquet ball and tennis courts, on-site bar/restaurant, arcade, salon, etc. Each room has a wood-burning fireplace and depending on the room type, could have a full kitchen. The furniture and décor were a little dated, but all-in-all, it was a decent place to stay for our week in Granby. We booked at ISC through a timeshare exchange, although rooms are available to book on an individual and multi-night basis.



## Restaurants / Tasting Rooms We Visited

### Grand County

- [Java Lava Café \(\\$\)](#) (Granby)
  - Excellent breakfast, good portion sizes, great prices, friendly staff, and according to others, the coffee was wonderful (I'm not a coffee drinker!)
- [Deno's Mountain Bistro \(Lunch- \\$\\$/Dinner-\\$\\$-\\$\\$\\$\)](#) (Winter Park)
  - Nice ambiance, excellent food, and good drinks (We enjoyed Thanksgiving dinner here.)
- [Smokin' Moe's BBQ Ribhouse & Salon \(\\$\\$\)](#) (Winter Park- Located in the Cooper Creek Plaza)
  - Decent BBQ, large portions, and good happy hour selection and prices
- [Mountain Grind Coffee \(\\$\)](#) (Winter Park- Located in the Cooper Creek Plaza)
  - Hit-or-miss coffee (again, according to others), scary-looking gelato, and decent fudge
- [The Back Bowl Soup Company \(\\$\)](#) (Winter Park- Located in the Winter Park Resort Village)
  - Great selection of tasty home-made soups, yummy sandwiches and healthy salads
- [Heck's at Devil's Thumb Ranch \(Lunch- \\$\\$/Dinner-\\$\\$-\\$\\$\\$\)](#) (Tabernash)
  - Gourmet food selection. We only visited for happy hour- drink specials were incredible!

### Boulder (day-trip from Grand County)

- [ModMarket \(\\$\)](#)
  - Farm fresh food made from simple/whole ingredients. Many healthy/gluten-free options.



- **[Foolish Craig's \(Lunch-\\$/Dinner-\\$\\$\)](#)**
  - Hand crafted meals made with fresh local ingredients, an in-house bakery and a full bar serving local micro brews and bourbons. Featured on **Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives**.
- **[Readstone Meadery \(\\$\)](#)**
  - Free samples of mead (honey wine). Cans/bottles range from \$9 to \$70 (for reserves)
- **[Bookcliff Vineyards \(\\$\)](#)**
  - Variety of wines, from robust reds to playful whites and sweet dessert wines
  - Inexpensive tasting fee (waived with bottle purchase). We brought some home!

**Denver** *(on the days we flew in and out of Colorado)*

- **[Falling Rock Tap House \(\\$\)](#)**
  - Made-from-scratch food and delicious brews. Over 75 beers on tap, including local crafts.
- **[Freshcraft \(\\$\\$\)](#)**
  - *Fresh* food and *craft* beer... the name says it all!
- **[Little Man Ice Cream \(\\$\)](#)**
  - Hand-made ice cream, gelato and sorbet served from inside a 28-ft tall/14,000 lb ice cream can! Worth waiting in line for, which is common here, even in cold weather!

Average Entrée    \$= <\$10            \$\$= \$10-\$20            \$\$\$= >\$20

**Activities to Enjoy in North Central Colorado**

**Grand County**

- **[Winter Park Resort \(\\$-\\$\\$\\$ Varies\)](#)**
  - Visit the Winter Park Village for lodging, restaurants and shops and access a multitude of winter activities, including skiing, snowboarding, ice skating, tubing, etc.
- **[Rocky Mountain National Park \(\\$\)](#)**
  - Open 365 days a year! 415 square miles with over 300 miles of hiking trails. Drive Trail Ridge Road for stunning scenery (Part of the road closes during the winter season)
- **[Snowmobiling w/ Grand Adventures \(\\$\\$\\$\)](#)**
  - Ride the Continental Divide on beautiful, well-marked trails. Go on a guided tour (ranging from 1-3 hours) or rent a snowmobile and go at your own pace. So much FUN!!
- **[Sleigh Ride w/ Sombrero Stables \(\\$\\$\)](#)**
  - Take a sleigh ride through snow covered meadows (or a wagon ride in the summer months). Sombrero Stables also offers horseback riding year round.
- **[Cross-Country Skiing at Snow Mountain Ranch Nordic Center \(\\$\\$\)](#)**
  - Enjoy tubing, ice skating, and sledding and/or go cross country skiing or snowshoeing on trails covering over 5,200 acres. Rent or bring your own gear. On-site lodging available!



**Boulder**

- **[Flatirons \(\\$\)](#)**
  - Beautiful, massive rock formations. Start at the Chautauqua Trailhead which leads up to the backside of Flatiron #1 with terrific views across the Boulder Valley and Indian Peaks
- **[Pearl Street Mall \(\\$-\\$\\$\\$ Varies\)](#)**
  - 4-block pedestrian mall in downtown Boulder, including a plethora of shops and eateries. Street performers frequent the area.
- **[Wine/Mead/Craft Beer Tasting \(\\$-\\$\\$\)](#)**
  - Boulder is home to a number of wineries, tasting rooms, breweries and distilleries. Many offer tours and tastings.



**Denver**

- **[Tattered Cover Bookstore \(\\$\)](#)**
  - What began as a tiny independent bookstore over 4 decades ago, has grown and evolved into 3 expansive and impressive locations. We visited the location at 16<sup>th</sup> and Wynkoop.
- **[Denver Botanic Gardens \(\\$\\$\)](#)**
  - Multiple locations, all offering a wide array of native plants, themed gardens and exhibits.

\$= FREE or <\$10/pp            \$\$= \$10-\$99/pp            \$\$\$= >\$100/pp