



Colorado Springs – So Many Choices!

SSA's conference venue offers a wealth of activities for all ages

By John Dunlap

If you are one of the people attending the Self Storage Association's Spring Conference & Trade Show in Colorado Springs, then you already know that you are staying at one of America's great and historic resorts—The Broadmoor Hotel. And you are very likely aware that The Broadmoor has been a top-notch destination since 1918, that it sits on 3,000 acres of land surrounding Cheyenne Lake, that it has three great golf courses as well as a tennis club and 15 restaurants, cafes and lounges. In short, it is a great place for the SSA gathering.

But what you may not know is that there is no shortage of great things to do in Colorado Springs off the grounds of The Broadmoor, be it checking out some of the history of the area, visiting the home of America's top young flyboys (and girls), doing a little gambling or being awed by nature. After all, you are a short distance from the likes of Pikes Peak, Garden of the Gods, Cave of the Winds, Cheyenne Mountain State Park and the Royal Gorge Bridge and Park. It is no wonder that so many Colorado residents are in such great shape with so many outdoor offerings to choose from.

Pikes Peak or Bust

Let's start with Pikes Peak. Named for Zebulon Montgomery Pike, who President Thomas Jefferson dispatched in 1806 to determine the southwestern borders of the Louisiana Purchase, the mountain stands 14,110 feet high. In the 1850s it was a symbol to gold seekers heading west and they used the phrase "Pikes Peak or Bust." It was also one of the first moun-

tains to have a road built all the way to its summit—and after that road was completed, it was the course for one of America's earliest car races. The Pikes Peak Hill Climb Race took place August 10–12, 1916, making it the second oldest race in the country behind only the Indianapolis 500. The ride to the summit provides a spectacular view, but if you don't want to drive, the Pikes Peak Cog Railway Company will do the work for you.

As far as spectacular views are concerned, you can hardly do better than the Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center. The 1,300 acre forest area is a registered National Natural Landmark and will reward you with both scenic splendor and recreational opportunities. Cave of the Winds is an underground mansion of rooms and passages decorated with limestone stalactites and flowstone curtains and has been a mere 200 million years in the making. The Cheyenne Mountains State Park



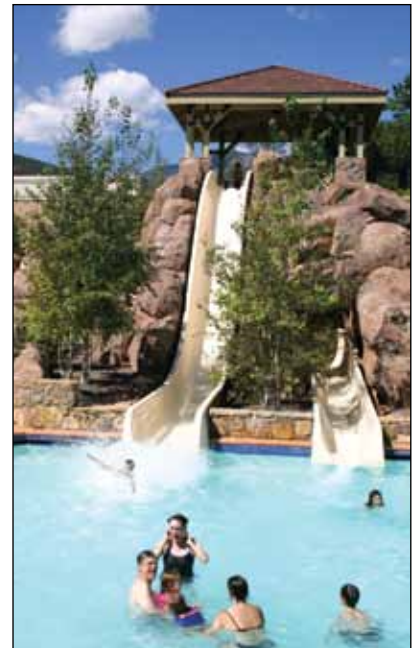


is generally regarded as one of the top state parks in Colorado, with state-of-the-art facilities and recreational opportunities, including hiking and biking.

If you prefer to go indoors, you may want to start with the U.S. Olympic Training Center. The complex is the headquarters for the U.S. Olympic Committee administration and the Olympic Training Center programs. Free guided tours begin at the visitor center and you will definitely want to check out the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame.

Wings

The United States Air Force Academy is the training ground for top young Air Force candidates and is both a military organization and a university. More than 4,400 cadets attend the college, while the 10th Air Base Wing consists of more than 3,000 military, civilian and contract personnel. The Academy is open to visitors daily from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and the visitor center is open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Finally, if you'd like to ride on the coattails of Lady Luck, there are a number of casinos in the Colorado Springs area, including Bronco Billy's Casino, J.P. McGill's Casino and the Brass Ass Casino—all of which are up on Cripple Creek.

To get directions to any of these locations and details about tickets or transportation, check with the concierge service at The Broadmoor Hotel. Of course, you may never want to leave The Broadmoor, but if you do you'll no doubt find something to your liking in and around Colorado Springs. ❖



Photos courtesy of The Broadmoor.