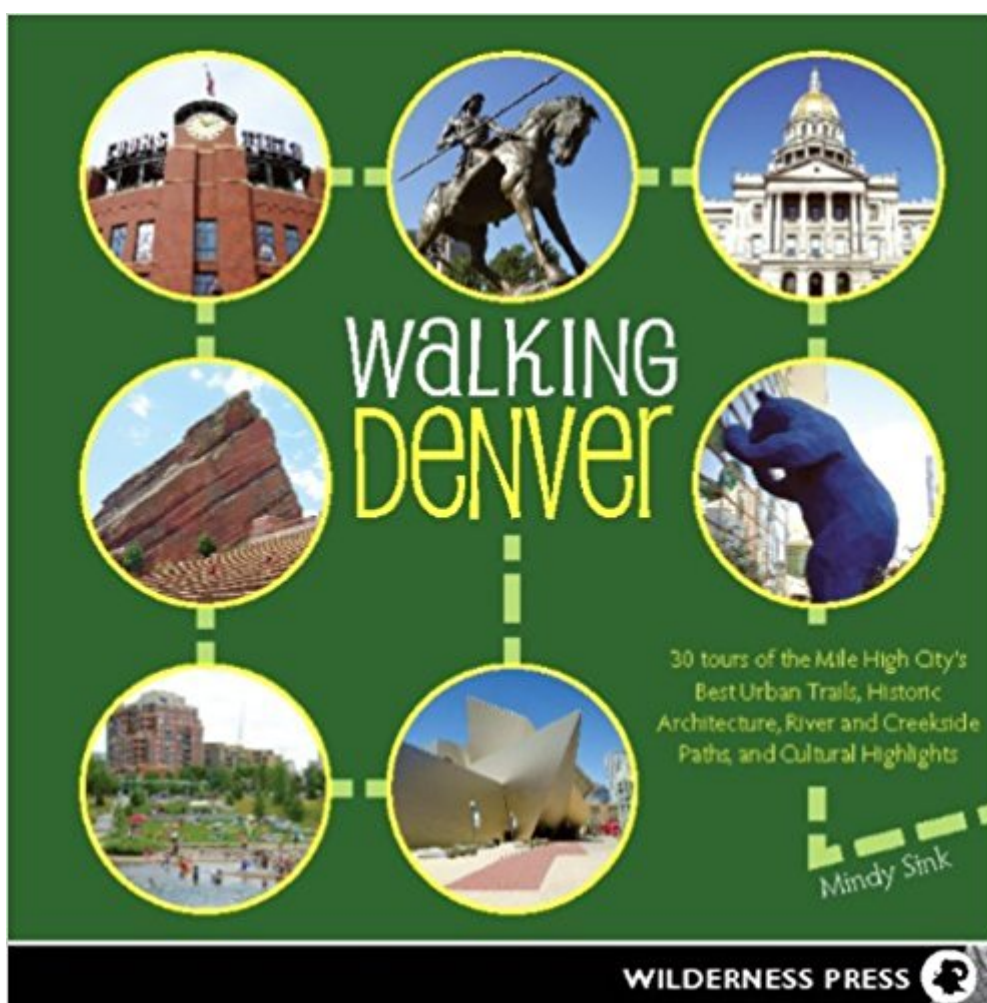


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# Walking Denver: 30 Tours Of The Mile-High City's Best Urban Trails, Historic Architecture, River And Creekside Path



## Synopsis

Its mild climate and abundant sunshine make Denver, one of America's fittest cities, a welcoming place for a walk any time of year. Colorado's capital is the country's fifth most walkable city. There is so much to see when out for a stroll through downtown or a hike in the nearby foothills. This exceptional guide explores the best of the city from Dinosaur Ridge and Red Rocks Park and Amphitheatre to the Mile High Loop in City Park and public art scattered throughout downtown. These 30 specially designed urban treks are not only good exercise but are a great way to soak up the history, culture, parks, and vibe of the Mile High City. The walk's commentary includes trivia about architecture, local culture, and neighborhood history, plus tips on where to dine, have a drink, or shop. Each tour includes a clear neighborhood map and vital public transportation (where appropriate) and parking information. Route summaries make each walk easy to follow, and a "Points of Interest" section lists each walk's highlights. Insider Mindy Sink guides the urban adventurer from the Mile High Loop, the city's newest footpath in City Park, to the Golden Triangle's cultural and architectural gems, and the ever lively Art District on Santa Fe. From the Auraria Campus (home to three universities), to the city's oldest still operating cemetery, this book reveals part of the city even seasoned locals overlook.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Journalist Mindy Sink chooses to live in the heart of Denver where she enjoys walking to downtown, the Platte River, parks, museums, libraries and much more that the Mile High City has to offer. She

is the author of *Moon Denver* and coauthor of *Colorado Organic: Cooking Seasonally, Eating Locally*. While working as the Bureau Manager at the New York Times Rocky Mountain Bureau, Mindy walked to work downtown, but these days she prefers to explore Denver with her 5-year-old daughter and husband. "I feel as if I've rediscovered Denver through my daughter's eyes," Mindy says. "A walk to the store is an opportunity to hear the birds sing, smell the flowers, and discuss the public art we pass."

**Walk 4 Auraria Campus: The First Denver**  
**Boundaries:** Champa St., 9th St., Auraria Pkwy., Speer Blvd.  
**Distance:** 1 mile  
**Difficulty:** Easy  
**Parking:** Free parking lots  
**Public Transit:** RTD light-rail train stops at approx. Colfax Ave. and 9th St.  
**History** can be so enlightening, just like a good education. Naturally there was more than one prospector around the confluence of Cherry Creek and the South Platte River in 1858. The town of Auraria was founded a few weeks before what became Denver City was settled on the other side of Cherry Creek. General William Larimer basically jumped a claim to secure Denver City for his party, and then soon was in competition with the town founders of Auraria. As each city grew, and the discoveries of gold in the mountains lured more and more people to the area, the towns were united in 1860 (legend has it the unification was agreed to over a barrel of whiskey). One hundred years later, much of Auraria was gone and the site was filled with a 169-acre campus for three colleges: the Metropolitan State College of Denver, the University of Colorado at Denver, and the Community College of Denver. This walk threads through the historical buildings still standing and in use - Victorian cottages, churches, and a former brewery - amidst the modern, bustling primarily commuter campus. As with many parts of Denver, this campus has been growing in recent years so you will pass new buildings that may not be mentioned as they were under construction at the time of this writing. **Tour Directions** Begin on 9th and Champa Sts. at the east end of the Auraria townsite, also called the [1] Ninth Street Historic Park. These 13 restored homes and former grocery store were built between 1872 and 1906. Walk west on either side of the grass divider between the houses. Although these charming Victorian-era homes are used as campus administrative office space today, small plaques in front of each house tell about the architectural style and who lived there originally. What makes this preserved block so appealing is how well maintained all of the houses are, including the individual fenced yards and gardens. It's as if the original residents might return to finish pruning the roses any minute and strike up a friendly conversation. At the end of the block, turn right on Curtis St. Walk under the skybridge between the campus buildings to the 10th St. Plaza and keep going to the stone church ahead on the right. Turn right in front of [2] St. Elizabeth of Hungary Roman Catholic Church and walk east past the church

to see the friary and shrine to St. Francis. The original church building became too small for the booming German, Irish, and other English-speaking parishioners, so it was torn down and this building was erected in 1889. In 1908, the church became infamous when the pastor was murdered during morning communion. The monastery and courtyard were built in 1936. St. Elizabeth was one of three Catholic churches in a five-block area at Auraria, and only two were preserved during urban renewal efforts of the 1960s (St. Leo's was demolished). This church was completely renovated inside in the 1960s, including the stained glass windows you see today. Walk back to the western corner of St. Elizabeth's and turn left. Walk south to the 10th St. Plaza again. Turn right on the 10th St. Plaza. Just past the Lawrence Street Pedestrian Mall (which looks like a park to the left), you will see a very small stone building called the [6] Emmanuel Gallery. Built in 1876 as an Episcopal chapel, this is Denver's oldest church structure. As the neighborhood around it changed, the church became a synagogue in 1903. It was sold, and from 1958 to 1973 the building served as an artists' studio for Wolfgang Pogzeba; in 1969 it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1973 the church became part of the Auraria campus and has functioned as an art gallery since that time. It's as tiny on the inside as it looks from the outside – a mere 24 feet by 66 feet. The gallery is open during typical business hours, so chances are you can go inside during this walk. Continue walking west on the 10th St. Plaza to the Tivoli Commons. In the near distance (or rather, blocking your view of the mountains from this vantage point) is the Pepsi Center. Sitting on 52 acres of the Central Platte Valley, the Pepsi Center opened in 1999 as a state-of-the-art facility for concerts and sporting and political events. Both the Colorado Avalanche hockey team and the Denver Nuggets basketball team play here, and the 2008 Democratic National Convention was held here. (And, it should be noted, the views of the city skyline and the Rocky Mountains are spectacular from six-story atriums inside the Pepsi Center.) But practically right in front of you now is the [7] Tivoli Center. If you step inside this landmark-designated building you will quickly sense that it is comprised of 12 original structures (read: it's like a maze). As early as 1859, Denver had its first brewery, and by 1861 John Good was co-owner of the Rocky Mountain Brewery. In 1870 German-born Moritz Sigi began construction of the Tivoli Center, then called Colorado Brewery. After Sigi's untimely death, Good and another investor bought Colorado Brewery, changed the name to Milwaukee Brewery, and expanded with an opera house, tower building, a bottling company, and more at the site. By 1901 Good was the sole owner and changed the name to Tivoli, after the famous Denmark amusement park, then merged with the neighboring Union Brewery. The Tivoli-Union brewery even survived the Prohibition years by making a non-alcoholic beer called Dash. In the 1960s the name was changed to Denver Beer, and a few years later the brewery closed

its doors for a decade. In the 1980s developers restored the buildings to their former glory with shows in the old opera house, restaurants, and added a three-story atrium to bind the once-separate historic buildings. In the 1990s it was mostly converted to a student union, but has since also returned to being... [8] Tivoli Brewery! At this point in the walk, you can begin to loop back by turning left (see directions in next paragraph), or I recommend seeing more of the campus that features many of the newer buildings. As you walk west in the front of the Tivoli Student Union the [9] Tivoli Quad is to your right. Take a right at Walnut St., keeping the Tivoli Quad on your right. On your left is the [9] Marriott Hotel & Metropolitan State University of Denver Hotel & Hospitality Learning Center. If you stay at the Springhill Suites by Marriott here, you will be part of the classroom. Everyone working here is learning how to work in the events and hospitality business. When you are ready to turn back, head east on 12th St., and walk to Larimer St. and follow it to 9th St. and resume instructions below. Turn left and walk to the 9th St. Plaza. This might be the best spot on this walk to look west for a view of the Rocky Mountains, especially at sunset. You will also see the curved outline of Invesco Field at Mile High, the home of the Denver Broncos, to the left of this view. Also note that the Tivoli Commons connects to Larimer St. going north (or right), Cherry Creek, and Larimer Square. Turn left to walk east on the 9th St. Plaza to [10] St. Cajetan's Church, the first Hispanic parish in Denver that dates to 1925. Thanks to funding from a wealthy Irishman, the church was built on this site near his old home. The Hispanic community grew around this church with a school, credit union, and clinic, only to be pushed out in the 1960s and 1970s. All but the church itself was razed, and it is used today as a theater and conference center for campus functions. As you pass St. Cajetan's, you will see two small homes on your right. The first is a rectory; the second is the relocated former home of Golda Meir. This house is out of place in more ways than one. This is the only remaining U.S. residence of former Israeli prime minister Golda Meir. At age 15, Golda Meir ran away from home in Milwaukee to avoid an arranged marriage and continue her education. She came to Denver where her sister had already moved with her husband and child. Meir attended North High School in the Highlands neighborhood, while also working at her brother-in-law's laundry business. The small brick duplex was narrowly saved from demolition and moved twice before being saved and relocated to this site in the 1980s to preserve it. One half of the home shows off some of Meir's personal belongings and photographs of her, while the other is used as a conference center. Call 303-556-3292 to schedule a tour of the [11] Golda Meir House Museum. Walk east back to the Ninth Street Historic Park and down the other side of the grass divider to learn more about these houses and who lived here originally. Points of Interest Ninth Street Historic Park: Auraria Campus St. Elizabeth of Hungary Roman Catholic Church: Auraria

Campus Emmanuel Gallery: Auraria Campus, 303-556- 8337, [emmanuelgallery.org](http://emmanuelgallery.org) Tivoli Center: Auraria Campus Tivoli Brewery: Auraria Campus, 720-458-5885 Marriott Hotel & Metropolitan State University of Denver Hotel & Hospitality Learning Center, <https://msudenver.edu/hospitality> St. Cajetan's Church: Auraria Campus, 720-556- 3291 Golda Meir House: Auraria Campus, 303-556-3292, [mscd.edu/golda/house](https://mscd.edu/golda/house) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Walking Denver is a terrific guide for not only seeing but experiencing the Mile High City. This 230 page volume is a perfect size for carrying, especially for those travelers who tire of the too-narrow pages of some books where the photos, maps and text seem to get lost in the binding. As compact as the city of Denver itself, Walking Denver features thirty tours, many of which can be combined in a single outing. The author notes that within a one-mile radius, visitors can stroll to most of the historic, architectural, and cultural highlights. Each walk description includes a full-page map with clearly marked routes and sites along the way. Logistics of the walk are added: distance, difficulty, parking available, and using public transit. The author might have added locations of the city's bike parking stations for its bike share program as well. The descriptive text is in large, bold type making it easier for quick glancing especially during the many bright days in the city. Some readers might want more photographs of the sites, but walking and seeing directly is the priority here. Route summaries are helpful and a list of Walks by Theme as well. I used this guide for a five-day stay in Denver and was happy to have it every day. Michael Helquist, author, MARIE EQUI: Radical Politics and Outlaw Passions

This is a clear, concise guide for walking around Denver. The maps are easy to follow and not overly detailed. The book includes interesting history of the areas covered. We visited our children who just moved into a LoDo condo. They also learned about their new community. The locals agreed with the restaurant recommendations. The distance and level of effort needed is included with each walking tour. I would suggest leaving more time than suggested, however, as we stopped for ice cream, read historical signs, shopped and watched people playing to stretch a 30 minute walk into 2 1/2 hours!

I've used 4 other books in this series, and they are all great. And this one is, too. I like the variety of walks (both in distance and location), and how places to eat are included in the itineraries. Probably should warn readers about safety issues in some of the downtown locations, but otherwise this was a book we enjoyed on our last trip to Denver.

I walked Denver and got tired.

I've had this book since summer and have used it quite a bit. It's very informative, with lots of side notes and historical facts (which I LOVE), and is just the right size to follow along as you walk. As I get older sometimes I have a hard time reading, but this book has a nice and large font that's very pleasant on the eyes. Some black and white pictures, nothing in color, but if you are doing the walks you'll be seeing the real thing anyway, up close and personal. Take a camera and this book to explore the wonderful and historical areas of Denver.

Good.

Such a fun book for kids. We did several of the walks this summer and learned a ton about different areas. Looking forward to doing more!

Fast easy service.. Good Book.. Useful on the go; The map sections could have been better integrated showing where one leaves off and another starts as some are extensions of the others.. also could have had a bit more detail on maps so I can locate alternate routes,, but overall pretty good book..

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