

COLORADO TRAIL



*COLORADO IS THE PLACE TO
PLAY IN THE MOUNTAINS.*





TRIP OVERVIEW

With the most elevation of any state in the lower 48, Colorado is the place to play in the mountains.

The stunning peaks and raging rivers of the Rockies offer an unparalleled playground for those looking to explore the outdoors. On this Colorado trail trip, you'll get the full spectrum of Colorado's greatness, from climbing, hiking, rafting, and ziplining. Between sunrises over the Great Sand Dunes and sunsets along the granite walls of the Royal Gorge, you will learn what it takes to live in the wild, and how to enjoy every moment. It's a rush in the Rockies.



EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Backpack the majestic San Juan Mountains
Criss-cross the canyons of Salida on a zipline tour
Explore the surreal Great Sand Dunes on a sunrise hike
Whitewater raft down the historic Arkansas River

DAY 1

Travel to Denver and meet your group at the airport. Once we've all arrived, we'll head to our rafting base along the Arkansas River. Spend your first night together getting to know each other and preparing for an exciting rafting adventure.

DAY 2-3

Welcome to the world of whitewater! Today you'll load up your rafts for a two day journey down the Browns Canyon section of the Arkansas River. Learn to paddle as a team and navigate over the thrilling class III and class IV rapids. This technical stretch of river includes the famed "Twin Falls," making it the perfect opening for your adventure. Spend the night on the banks of the Arkansas cooking and camping beneath the stars as you get to know your group better.

DAY 4

Travel to Salida, where you'll get to experience the Rockies from a whole new vantage point. Harnessed up, we hit the cables and soar across canyons on a zipline tour! Through towering red sandstone and water carved canyons, you'll get a unique look at this unique landscape as you ride through at 40 mph! Keep an eye out for bighorn sheep and other wildlife as you take flight. The day will culminate in traveling to Great Sand Dunes National Park.

**Itinerary and order of activities subject to variation.*





DAY 5

Awaken in the dark for an early morning hike in the Great Sand Dunes National Park. With only the moonlight and your headlamps, you'll begin the hike to the summit of Star Dune, the highest dune in North America. The sunrise on top of Star Dune is a surreal experience, and will be made all the more magical by beginning in the dark. Jump, roll, skate, and slide your way back down to camp where you'll rest and begin preparations for backpacking.

DAY 6-9

Begin your four-day backpacking section in the San Juan National Forest. With everything you need on your back, you'll learn to cook, camp, navigate and live comfortably in the mountains. The lakes along the trail are also host to mountain trout, and you'll get a chance to try your hand at fly fishing. In this section you'll develop solid wilderness skills while forming strong bonds with your group.

DAY 10-11

After walking the passes and peaks of the mountains, you'll be primed to take on another level of rock knowledge. Travel to Crested Butte and prepare to get your hands on the sandstone monoliths of Taylor Canyon. Spend two days learning to belay, tie into your harness, and take vertical lines up the rock. Camp in the gorgeous Gunnison wilderness.

DAY 12

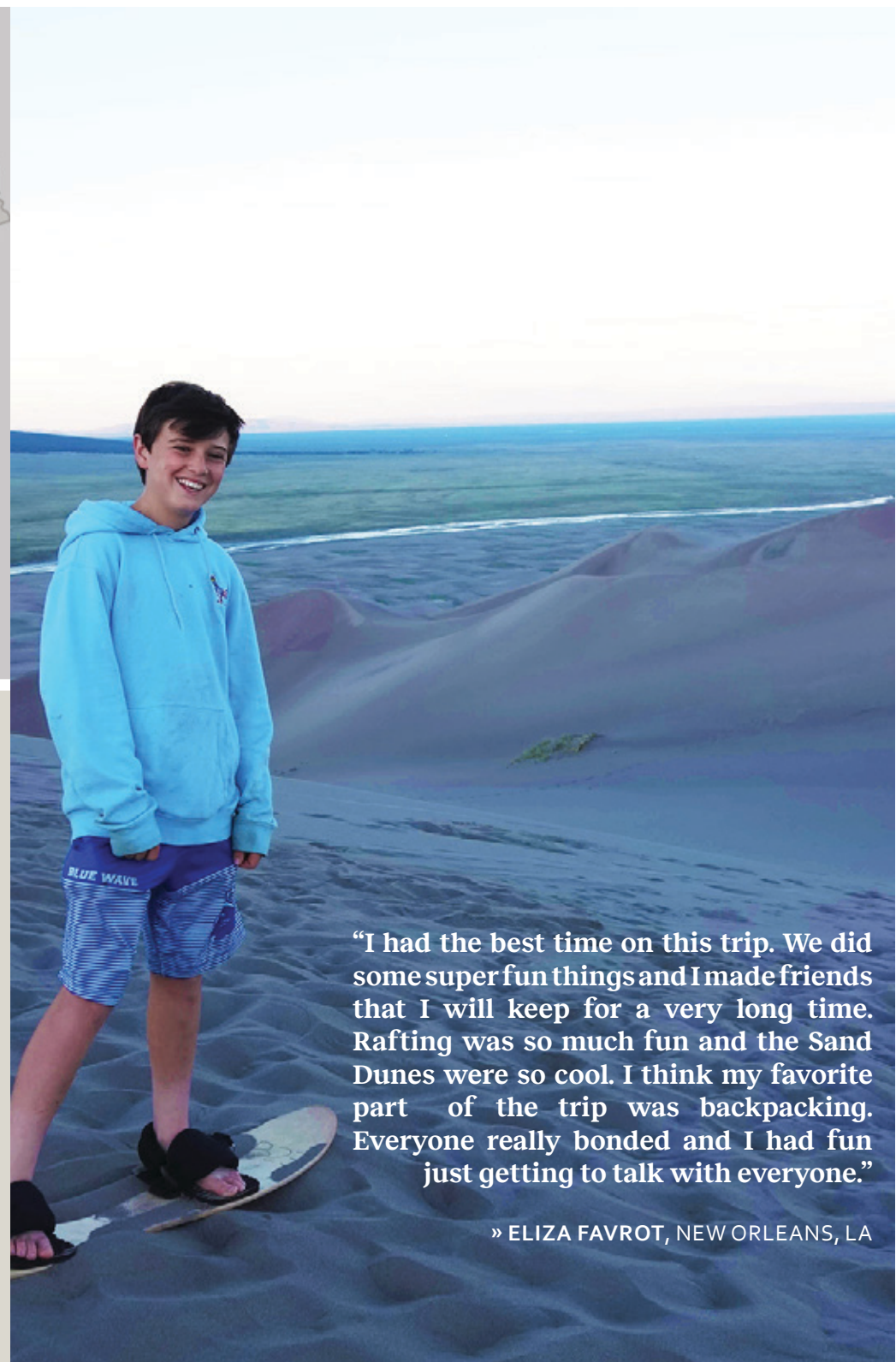
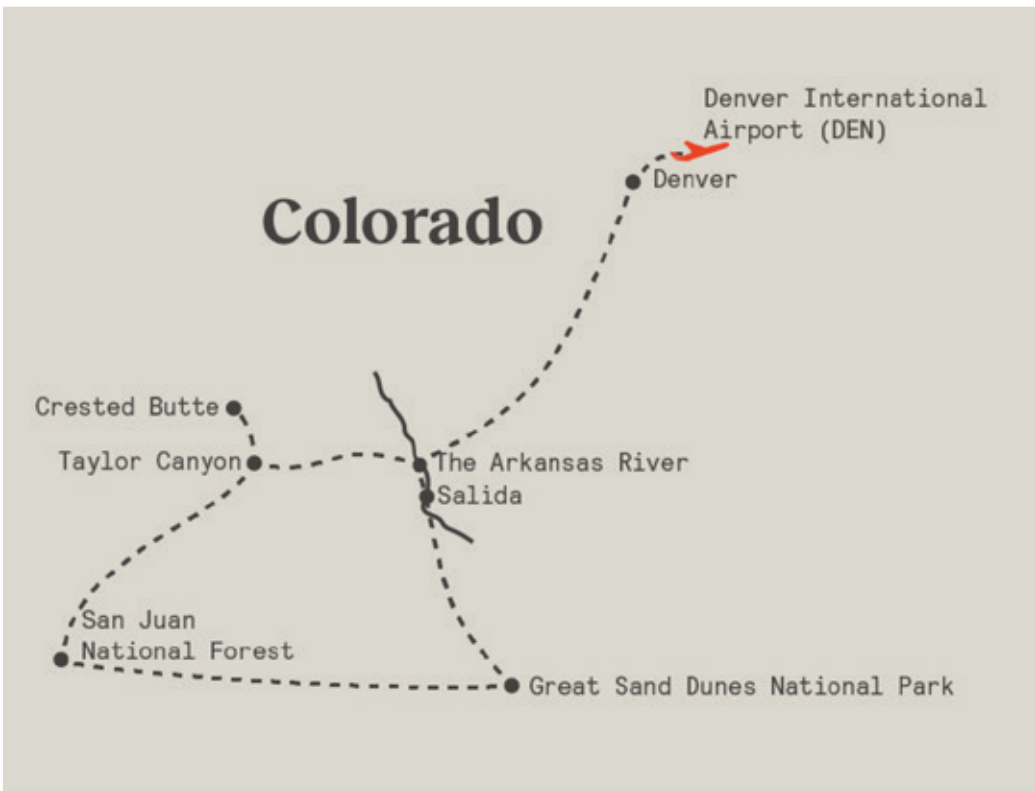
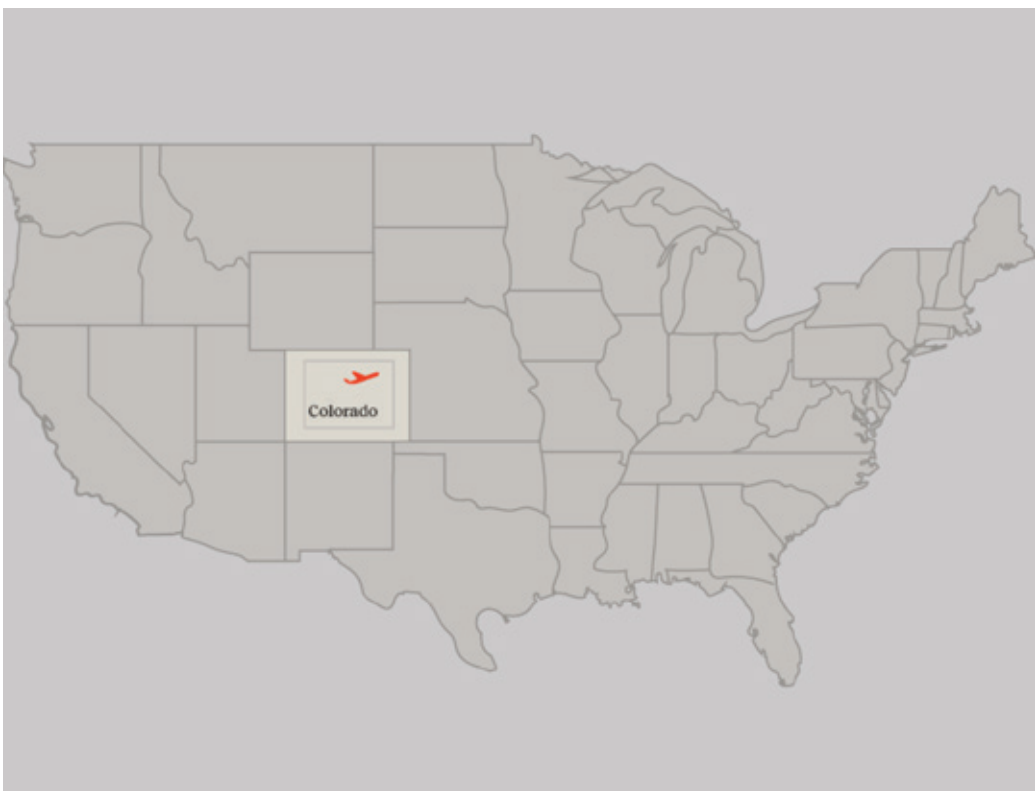
Travel back to the Arkansas River for the culmination of your Colorado journey; a trip down the Royal Gorge. Descending your most challenging and exhilarating whitewater yet, you and your group will marvel at the experiences you've had together in Colorado. You'll never feel more like a team then as you face this last adventure together.

DAY 13-14

Travel back to Denver, reflecting and reliving the memories and accomplishments you've made on this journey. Celebrate with a well deserved final banquet dinner, and spend your last night under the rocky mountain skies.

**Itinerary and order of activities subject to variation.*





"I had the best time on this trip. We did some super fun things and I made friends that I will keep for a very long time. Rafting was so much fun and the Sand Dunes were so cool. I think my favorite part of the trip was backpacking. Everyone really bonded and I had fun just getting to talk with everyone."

» ELIZA FAVROT, NEW ORLEANS, LA



TRIP DETAILS

LENGTH	14 Days
GRADE FOR CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR	6th-7th
CHALLENGE LEVEL	Challenging
BEGINS/ENDS	Denver, CO (DEN) <i>Suggested flight window provided upon acceptance</i>
GROUP SIZE	12 Students
AVERAGE AIRFARE FROM EAST COAST	\$500

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Three Dynamic Trip Leaders
- Professionally outfitted activities
 - Whitewater Rafting
 - Rock Climbing
 - Zip Lining
- Accommodations
 - 3 person tents
- All Group Gear
 - Cooking Equipment
 - Deuter Backpacks
 - Fly Rods
- New 15 passenger transit van
- All Meals
- Photos taken during your trip

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Airfare to and from Denver, CO
- Baggage fees
- Unaccompanied Minor Fees
- Personal clothing + equipment
 - Full clothing + equipment list provided upon acceptance
- Personal spending money (\$120 recommended)
- Trip Insurance (Highly Recommended)

CONTACT

ADMISSIONS

admissions@moondanceadventures.com

EXPERIENCE MOONDANCE IN 2023

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