MAP YOUR NEXT

PRIVATE WORKING GUIDE

PLAN A BETTER ESCAPE

VISIT COLORADO

A 10-day Colorado mountain-loop vacation across five stops, from Durango's rails to Rocky Mountain National Park.

Original commissioned illustrations created for this guide — artwork, not photographs.

5 STOPS | 10 DAYS | ONE THOUGHTFUL ROUTE

Durango

Aspen

Vail

Breckenridge

Estes Park

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Your Top 5 & the route

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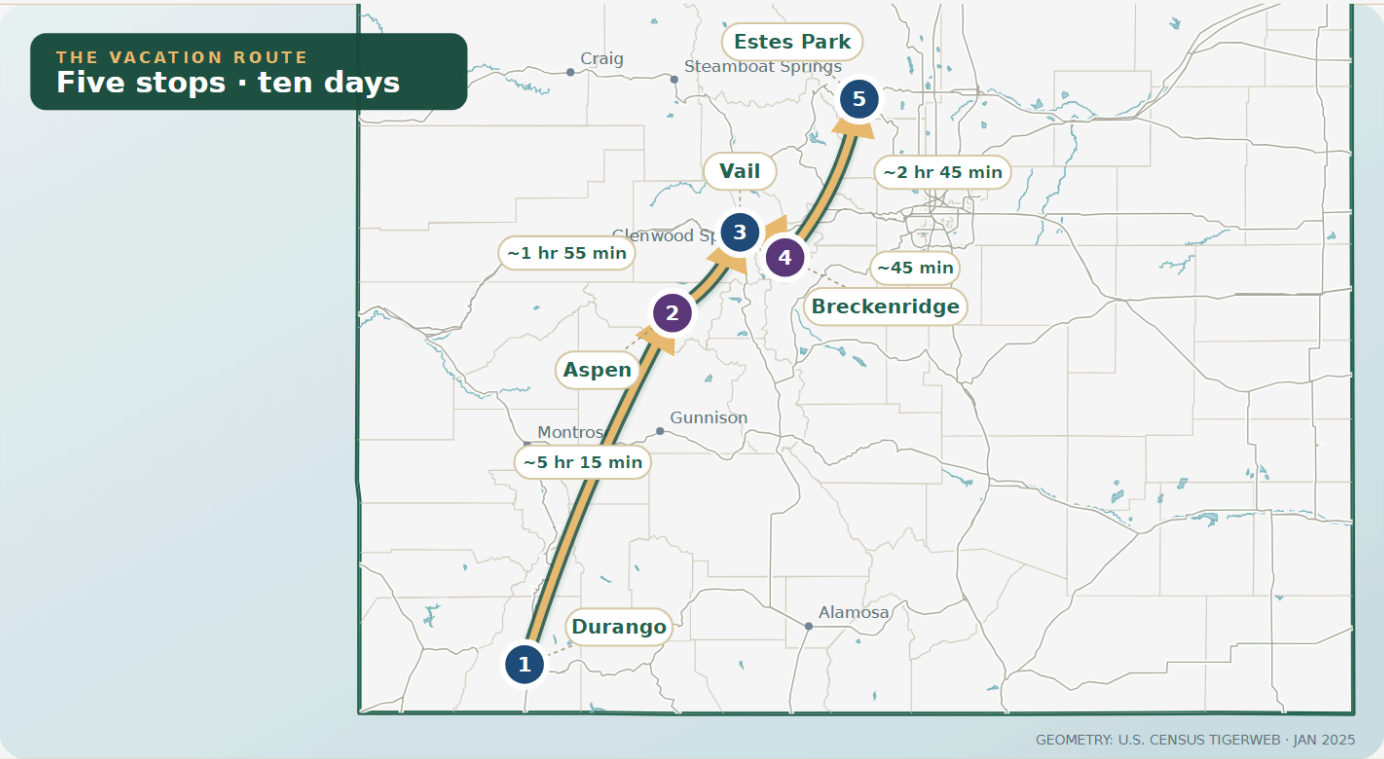
RANKED THE WAY YOU RANKED THEM

1. Signature experiences
2. Great food & evenings
3. Easy pacing
4. Weather & season fit

THE FIVE STOPS

STOP	SETTING	TYPICAL DAILY COST	VISITOR ESSENTIALS
1 **Durango**	San Juan rail town	**Moderate · verify live rates**	Year-round DRO nonstops; walkable Main Avenue
2 **Aspen**	Elk Mountains resort	**High · book early**	Reserve Maroon Bells access in season
3 **Vail**	Alpine village	**High · book early**	Park once; the village is walkable
4 **Breckenridge**	Victorian high town	**Moderate to high · verify live rates**	Acclimatize gently; it sits at 9,600 ft
5 **Estes Park**	Rockies gateway	**Moderate · verify live rates**	Book RMNP timed entry ahead



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The 10-day itinerary

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Two days in each stop, south to north; swap any day that doesn't fit — the long Durango–Aspen drive is the trip's one big push.

DAY 1

Land in Durango

Fly into DRO, stroll historic Main Avenue, and end with the Animas riverwalk at dusk.

DAY 2

Rails or ruins

Ride the historic narrow-gauge train toward Silverton or day-trip to Mesa Verde's cliff dwellings — both sell out, book ahead.

DAY 3

The San Juan Skyway day *~5 hr 15 min*

Start early: US-550 north past Ouray's box canyon, then over McClure Pass to Aspen — the trip's long, spectacular drive.

DAY 4

Maroon Bells morning

Reserve the Maroon Bells shuttle for early light, then give the afternoon to Aspen's walkable core and galleries.

DAY 5

Hot springs, then Vail *~1 hr 55 min*

Break in Glenwood Springs for a soak, follow I-70 up Glenwood Canyon, and settle into Vail Village by evening.

DAY 6

Vail from above

Ride the gondola for a summit view, walk Betty Ford Alpine Gardens, and let the village carry the evening.

DAY 7

Over Vail Pass to Breck *~45 min*

An easy morning hop over Vail Pass; spend the afternoon on Breckenridge's mining-era Main Street.

DAY 8

High-country day

Hike a Tenmile Range trail or ride the gondola, then settle onto a Main Street patio — at 9,600 feet, pace yourself.

DAY 9

North to Estes Park *~2 hr 45 min*

Cross the Divide and swing up through Boulder on US-36; watch for evening elk along Lake Estes.

DAY 10

Rocky Mountain finale

Use your timed-entry reservation for Rocky Mountain National Park — Trail Ridge Road when open — before the drive home to Denver.