



THE BROADMOOR

Surrounded by more than 100,000 acres of national forest,
The Ranch at Emerald Valley is a blissfully quiet and
picturesque place to leave the cares of everyday living behind

Camping, Broadmoor Style

BY ERIN ENGLISH

The renowned Broadmoor in Colorado Springs delivers elegance and grandeur perhaps better than any other resort in the state, and has received countless awards for excellence in hospitality and dining since its doors opened in 1918. But after nearly 100 years, the legendary lodge has decided to mix things up a little.

In August of last year, to the delight of loyal guests and those with an affinity for the outdoors, The Broadmoor unveiled a cozy getaway set entirely on U.S. Forest Service land called The Ranch at Emerald Valley. Guests who arrive at the main hotel are whisked by a four-wheel-drive shuttle eight miles up a dirt road, to a secluded spot resplendent with thick woods, two pretty lakes and mountain views.

The small, all-inclusive lodge, open only in the summer and fall, was a Girl Scout camp until 1916, when Spencer Penrose purchased the hotel and its surrounding 450 acres and transformed the campground into his own private retreat. So visitors shouldn't be surprised to feel a few sweet pangs of nostalgia for their childhood sleep-away summer camp as they wander the grounds and admire the quaint log buildings. One step inside, however, is enough to erase the memory of messy cots and hanging flashlights. The beautifully appointed rooms, otherworldly cuisine, and doting staff are luxuriously grown-up.

Ten cabins (one-, two- and three-bedroom ▾



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The Ranch by the Numbers

- 10 cabins, including
 - 1 wheelchair accessible
 - Staff-to-guest ratio is 1:2
 - 15 friendly horses to ride
 - Breathtaking views at 8,200 ft
 - 2 lakeside hot tubs
- 3 meals a day and house wine, beer and spirits included

The Big News

LATER THIS YEAR, The Broadmoor will debut a second property as part of its "Broadmoor Wilderness Experience." Set atop Mt. Cheyenne with 360-degree views of the area, Cloud Camp is a \$100 million project that includes one- and two-bedroom guest cabins, six rooms in the main lodge, and a special honeymoon cabin. Check broadmoor.com for updates.



CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN ZOO

Cheyenne Mountain ZOO

HOME TO MORE THAN 800 animals, this sprawling zoo boasts the largest giraffe herd of any zoo (and for \$2 you can feed them), with the added bonus of awesome mountain views. Families will love taking the Mountaineer Sky Ride and whirling around on a vintage carousel that dates back to the 1932 World's Fair. cmzoo.org



PIKE'S PEAK COG RAILWAY

Nearby Escapes

Cog Railway to Pike's Peak

The world's highest cog train takes passengers for a scenic ride from Manitou Springs to the top of Pikes Peak. The views are spectacular at 14,110 feet. cograilway.com

Olympic Training Center

The first of three Olympic Training Centers to be built in the United States is located in Colorado Springs, and it is a must-see activity for those visiting the area. Guests just might rub elbows with genuine Olympians while touring the athlete training facilities. teamusa.org

Spa at The Broadmoor

Take The Ranch's shuttle down to the hotel for a five-star spa experience. Try the invigorating signature shower (it douses spa-goers with a whopping 18 shower heads), or the ceremonial turmeric scrub. broadmoor.com

Pike National Forest

Three officially designated wilderness areas lie within this expansive forest on Colorado's Front Range, providing ample opportunity for nature hikes, photography, horseback riding, camping and quiet contemplation. fs.usda.gov/psicc



HOW TO GET THERE: Fly into Denver (DIA) or Colorado Springs (COS) and drive to The Broadmoor (1 hour, 15 minutes from DIA, and 20 minutes from COS). Valet park, and hop on the resort's shuttle for a 30-minute drive to The Ranch.

options) are outfitted with wood-burning fireplaces and richly hued, decidedly masculine furnishings: oversized comfy chairs, museum-quality western artwork and custom designed beds. The largest of the cabins features a gourmet kitchen, and a private chef may be hired for an additional fee.

The main lodge is warmed by two additional fireplaces and includes casual seating, a dining room, and a stunning mahogany-and-stained-glass bar from the personal collection of The Broadmoor's current owner, billionaire Philip Anschutz.

Rather than deliver an exhaustive itinerary full of typical dude-ranch activities, The Ranch offers just a handful of well-executed outings: several guided horseback rides a day, scenic hikes and bikes, and fly-fishing lessons.

However, guests may discover they are reluctant to leave the property for too long, lest they miss out on one of the three included chef-prepared meals offered daily. Tantalizing aromas waft from the kitchen all day, mingling with pine and crisp mountain air (the cabins sit at 8,200 feet).

Freshly brewed "cowboy coffee" is served in charming tin cups on the wrap-around deck each morning, and guests are provided with delicious house-made granola and cookies to pack for the trail. The pie-of-the-day and twice-weekly gourmet cookouts are both big hits.

After unwinding in the evening at one of The Ranch's hot tubs or with a perfectly-prepared cocktail and a decadent gourmet dinner, yet another treat awaits guests in their cabins: fresh Palisade-peach donut holes, part of the turndown service.

The Ranch is billed as a "Broadmoor Wilderness Experience," but this is undeniably a destination for those who enjoy the finer things in life, even when they are taking a walk on the wild side. □