

5-Day Road Trip Itinerary for Colorado on US Route 6

If you're craving a road trip packed with breathtaking scenery, rich history, and charming mountain towns, driving Colorado's stretch of US Route 6 is the ultimate adventure. Starting in Grand Junction and wrapping up in Sterling, this 5-day itinerary includes everything from hot springs to historic mining towns, plus a visit to the Mile High City. Buckle up and get ready for an unforgettable trip!

Day 1: Grand Junction to Glenwood Springs

Highlights

- Explore the Colorado National Monument
- Wine tasting in Palisade
- Relax in Glenwood's hot springs

Kick off your road trip in **Grand Junction**, home to the awe-inspiring **Colorado National Monument**. Take the Rim Rock Drive for stunning vistas of towering canyons and dramatic red rock formations.

Next, swing by **Palisade**, Colorado's wine country, just 15 minutes east of Grand Junction. Enjoy tastings at local wineries like **Grande River Vineyards** or **Colterris** and sample some of the best peaches around.

End your day in **Glenwood Springs**, where you can soak your worries away in the world's largest hot springs pool at **Glenwood Hot Springs Resort**. After a relaxing evening, settle in for the night at a cozy spot like the **Hotel Colorado**.

Day 2: Glenwood Springs to Leadville

Highlights

- Scenic drive through Glenwood Canyon
- Visit historic Leadville
- Stop at the highest elevation town in North America

Start the day by driving one of Colorado's most scenic stretches of road, **Glenwood Canyon**. The winding route follows the Colorado River, offering jaw-dropping views at every turn.

Arrive in **Leadville**, a historic mining town nestled at an elevation of 10,152 feet. Once one of the richest towns in the country during the silver boom, Leadville is full of character. Don't miss a visit to the **National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum**, and stroll through the downtown area filled with historic buildings, quirky shops, and local bakeries.

For a fun detour, drop by **Twin Lakes**, located just a short drive from Leadville. These picturesque alpine lakes are perfect for snapping photos or taking a quick nature walk.

Day 3: Leadville to Denver

Highlights

- Explore the beauty of the Rockies
- Afternoon in Denver's art district
- Dinner in a trendy local spot

Hit the road early to soak in more of Colorado's Rocky Mountains as you head toward *Denver*. On the way, make a quick pit stop in one of Colorado's many charming mountain communities, like **Idaho Springs**, to grab a bite or explore old mining trails.

Once in **Denver**, the Mile High City promises plenty to explore. Start with the vibrant **RiNo (River North) Art District**, brimming with street art, breweries, and creative energy. Not into the arts? Swing by **Union Station**, a Denver landmark turned cultural hub.

Wrap up the day with dinner at a local favorite like **The Populist** or **Root Down**, both known for their farm-to-table dining experience.

Day 4: Denver to Sterling

Highlights

- Scenic drive toward the plains
- Explore Sterling's history and artwork

Leave the hustle and bustle of Denver behind as you drive toward **Sterling**, where the Rocky Mountains give way to the seemingly endless Great Plains.

Once in Sterling, discover the town's rich agricultural and artistic heritage. Check out **Pioneer Park**, home to whimsical metal sculptures by local artist Bradford Rhea. For history buffs, the **Overland Trail Museum** offers a fascinating glimpse into life along the Overland Trail during the pioneer era.

Relax for the evening with a quiet walk by the **South Platte River** or enjoy one of Sterling's local diners for a hearty dinner.

Day 5: Explore Sterling and Wrap Up Your Trip

Highlights

- Discover Sterling's local charm
- Reflect on your US Route 6 adventure

Wake up and enjoy breakfast at a local café, like **The Hot Spot Smokehouse**. Take your time exploring Sterling's quaint downtown or meet fellow travelers to reminisce about your road trip across Colorado.

After spending the morning soaking in this unique town's friendly vibe, it's time to wrap up your US Route 6 adventure. As you reflect on the past five days, you'll surely look back on a trip packed with stunning landscapes, rich history, and small-town charm.

Plan Your Road Trip Now

Inspired to hit the road? Start planning your trip on Colorado's portion of US Route 6 today and experience the unmatched beauty and history this state has to offer. Whether you're after adventure, relaxation, or simply a scenic drive, this itinerary has something for every road trip enthusiast.

Have tips or stories from your own Route 6 adventures? Share them in the comments below!
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