
Kelly's 2026

COLORADO

Fall

Bucket List

Explore
Hikes,
Festivals, Drives
&
more this Fall

COMPASS





PEAK FALL COLOR CALENDAR

Fall color timing varies each year depending on weather conditions. During especially dry years, peak color may arrive earlier and fade more quickly. Be sure to check local fall foliage reports and news updates before your trip for the most current conditions.

- **NORTHERN COLORADO (STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, ESTES PARK, STATE FOREST STATE PARK): SEPTEMBER 15-25**
- **CENTRAL MOUNTAINS & I-70 CORRIDOR (VAIL, ASPEN, CRESTED BUTTE, BRECKENRIDGE, GEORGETOWN, WINTER PARK, GRAND MESA, TWIN LAKES): SEPTEMBER 18-29**
- **SOUTHWEST & WEST-CENTRAL COLORADO (TELLURIDE, GUNNISON, OURAY, RIDGWAY): SEPTEMBER 22 – OCTOBER 3**
- **SOUTHERN COLORADO (DURANGO, PAGOSA SPRINGS): OCTOBER 1-10**
- **FRONT RANGE (COLORADO SPRINGS, DENVER, PUEBLO): OCTOBER 8-16**



PUMPKIN PATCHES

- Rocky Mountain Pumpkin Ranch-Longmont
- Miller Farms-Platteville
- Anderson Farms - Erie
- Mile High Farms - Bennett
- Colorado Pumpkin Patch - Monument
- Rock Creek Farm - Broomfield
- Wishing Star Farm - Calhan
- Munson Farms - Boulder
- Cottonwood Farms - Lafayette
- Trinity Acres Pumpkin Patch - Byers
- The Bartels Farm - Fort Collins
- Moon Farm - Fruita
- Osborn Farm - Loveland
- Miner's Pumpkin Patch - Colorado Springs



APPLE ORCHARDS

- Adam's Apple Orchard and Country Store - Fort Collins
- YaYa Farm and Orchard's - Boulder
- Triple M Orchard - Olathe
- Happy Apple Farm - Penrose
- Black Bridge Winery and Orchard - Paonia



BEST SCENIC LEAF DRIVES

SCENIC DRIVE

APPROX MILES

LOCATION

HIGHWAY 41 (STATE FOREST STATE PARK)	20 MILES	WALDEN ↔ GOULD
• BOREAS PASS ROAD	22 MILES	BRECKENRIDGE ↔ COMO
• GUANELLA PASS SCENIC BYWAY	22 MILES	GEORGETOWN ↔ GRANT
• INDEPENDENCE PASS (HWY 82)	32 MILES	TWIN LAKES ↔ ASPEN
• MILLION DOLLAR HIGHWAY (US 550)	25 MILES	SILVERTON ↔ OURAY
• COPPER MOUNTAIN TO LEADVILLE (US 91)	21 MILES	COPPER MOUNTAIN ↔ LEADVILLE
• WEST ELK LOOP SCENIC BYWAY	205 MILES	CARBONDALE ↔ PAONIA ↔ GUNNISON ↔ CRESTED BUTTE
• POUDRE CANYON SCENIC BYWAY (CO 14)	101 MILES	FORT COLLINS ↔ WALDEN
• PEAK TO PEAK SCENIC BYWAY	55 MILES	BLACK HAWK ↔ ESTES PARK
• SAN JUAN SKYWAY	236 MILES	DURANGO ↔ CORTEZ ↔ TELLURIDE ↔ RIDGWAY ↔ SILVERTON
• COLLEGIATE PEAKS SCENIC BYWAY	57 MILES	GRANITE ↔ BUENA VISTA ↔ SALIDA
• HIGHWAY 67	24 MILES	DIVIDE ↔ CRIPPLE CREEK
• GRAND LAKE SCENIC AREA (TRAIL RIDGE APPROACH)	20 MILES	GRAND LAKE ↔ ESTES PARK
• BUFFALO PASS ROAD	22 MILES	STEAMBOAT SPRINGS ↔ SUMMIT LAKE
• KEBLER PASS	33 MILES	CRESTED BUTTE ↔ PAONIA
• LAST DOLLAR ROAD	21 MILES	RIDGWAY ↔ TELLURIDE
• KENOSHA PASS (US 285)	9 MILES	JEFFERSON ↔ GRANT
• MUDDY PASS (US 40)	18 MILES	KREMMLING ↔ RABBITS EAR PASS
• GRAND MESA SCENIC BYWAY	63 MILES	I70 NEAR PALISADE ↔ CEDAREDGE

BEST SCENIC LEAF HIKES

HIKE

MILES

ELEVATION GAIN LOCATION

EASY

• Maroon Bells Scenic Loop	2 miles	167 ft	ASPEN
• Bear Creek Trail to Castle	2 miles	157 ft	IDLEDALE
• The Grottos Trail	.5 miles	29 ft	ASPEN
• Adams Falls	.8 miles	104 ft	GRAND LAKE

MODERATE

• Devil's Head Lookout	3 miles	869 ft	SEDALIA
• Gem Lake	3.4 miles	994 ft	ESTES PARK
• Lily Pad Lake	3.4 miles	413 ft	FRISCO
• Rabbit Ears Peak Trail	5.5 miles	1,036 ft	STEAMBOAT SPRINGS
• Upper Upper Trail	7.9 miles	1,322 ft	CRESTED BUTTE
• McCullough Gulch Waterfall	4.4 miles	958 ft	BRECKENRIDGE
• Burning Bear	7.6 miles	1,256 ft	JEFFERSON
• Ouzel Falls	5.5 miles	980 ft	ESTES PARK
• St. Mary's Glacier	1.8 miles	544 ft	IDAHO SPRINGS
• Tenderfoot and Oro Loop	3.2 miles	610 ft	SILVERTHORNE
• Raccoon Trail	2.7 miles	485 ft	GOLDEN
• Upper piney River Falls	5.9 miles	688 ft	VAIL
• Fish Creek Falls	4.7 miles	1,427 ft	STEAMBOAT
• Rainbow Lake, Miners Creek	4.8 miles	620 ft	FRISCO
• Sunny Aspen, Old Ski Run and Lodge Pole Loop	4.4 miles	905 ft	CONIFER
• Mason Creek Trail	8.5 miles	1,571 ft	CONIFER
• Vallecito Creek Trail	11.7 miles	1,466 ft	DURANGO
• Elbert Creek	9.7 miles	1,758 ft	DURANGO
• Bear Creek Falls	4.7 miles	1,095 ft	TELLURIDE

HARD

• Hanging Lake	3.1 miles	1,062 ft	GLENWOOD SPRINGS
• Acorn Creek	6.8 miles	2,647 ft	SILVERTHORNE
• Abyss Lake	16.8 miles	3,389 ft	GEORGETOWN
• Crystal Mill via Schofield Pass Rd	6.5 miles	1,381 ft	CARBONDALE
• Blue Lakes in Ridgway	8.6 miles	2,522 ft	RIDGWAY



HALLOWEEN & FALL ACTIVITIES



- Haunted History Ride - Colorado Railbike
- Magic of the Jack o Lanterns at Hudson Gardens
- Glow at the Denver Botanic Gardens
- Corn Maze at Chatfield Farms
- Show at Adams Murder Mystery Playhouse
- Haunted tour at Cave of the Winds
- Fright Fest at Elitch Gardens
- Lucky Blu Ranch
- Rocky Ridge Farms
- Lil Buckaroo's Petting Zoo
- Hot Air Balloon Ride
- Zipline with Edge Ziplines
- Aiden Sinclair's Underground Show
- Haunted Tour at the Stanley Hotel
- Victorian Death Experiences - Center for Colorado Women's History
- Gondola Rides
 - Breckenridge (FREE)
 - Telluride (FREE)
 - Mighty Argo - Idaho Springs
 - Aspen
 - Steamboat Springs
 - Vail
- Visit the two trolls - Isaak in Breckenridge and Rita in Victor
- Bier Tourer - Fort Collins
- Farm Fusion Harvest Skills Sessions
- Horseback Riding
- Silver Plume UTV Rental
- Rent bikes and ride around Dillon Reservoir
- Take a dip in hot springs
 - Durango
 - Pagosa
 - Strawberry Park
 - Mount Princeton
 - Iron Mountain
 - Indian
 - Glenwood Hot Springs
- Day trip to Piney River Ranch
- Maroon Bells
- Colorado National Monument
- Goat Happy Hour in Vail
- Golden Hayride
- Host a pumpkin carving party
- Reinke Brothers Costume Shop
- Made a fall scented candle - The Weathered Wick
- Take a fun fall themed class at Makeshift Crafts
- Take a class at the Terrorium Shop
- Make a custom fall rug at Tuft Love
- Fall Craft at The Craft Place
- Scenic Train Ride
 - Silverton to Durango
 - Georgetown
 - Leadville
 - Cripple Creek
 - Royal Gorge Route
 - Pikes Peak Cog Railway





FALL FESTIVALS & EVENTS

- Labor Day Lift Off - Sept 5-7
- Colorado Pizza Festival - Sept 5
- Long Peak Scottish Irish Highland Festival - Sept 11-13
- Lafayette Art Night Out - Sept 11
- Mactoberfest in Aspen - Sept 12
- Downtown Johnstown Fall Festival - Sept 12
- 5k on the Runway - Sept 12
- Park Hill Fall Arts Festival - Sept 13-14
- Annual Friendship Powwow and Free Day at Denver Art Museum - Sept 12
- RARE Steak Fest - Sept 18
- Chile & Frijoles Festival - Pueblo, CO - Sept 18 -20
- Pirate Festival - Sept 18-19
- Evergreen Oktoberfest - Sept 19
- Telluride Autumn Classic - Sept 24-27
- Denver Firefly Handmade Market - Sept 26-27
- Taste of Fort Collins - Sept 26-27
- Breckenridge Oktoberfest Sept - 25-27
- Autumn Gold Festival in Estes Park - Sept 26-27
- Denver Oktoberfest - Sept 18-20 & 25-27
- La Junta Tarantula Fest - Sept 25-26
- Morrison ciderfest - Sept 26
- Evergreen Elk and Art Festival - Sept 27-28
- Mountain Harvest Festival - End of Sept
- Durango Cowboy Gathering - Sept 30- Oct 3
- Cedaredge Applefest - Oct 2-4
- Grand Junction Air Show with the Blue Angels - Oct 2-4
- Elk Fest in Estes Park - Oct 3-4
- Cider Days in Lakewood - Oct 3
- Handmade in Colorado Expo - Oct 3-4
- Boulder Firefly Handmade Market - Oct 10-11
- Pumpkins and Pilsners Festival - Oct 10
- Pumpkin Festival at Chatfield Farms - Oct 9-11
- Great American Beer Festival - Oct 10 -11
- Applefest at Ya Ya Farm and Orchard - Oct 10
- Aurora Borealis Festival - Oct 10 -11
- FoCo Fall Fest - Oct 10-11
- Telluride Horror Show - Oct 13 - 15
- Glow at the Gardens - Oct 15-18, 21-24
- Rocky Mountain Women's Film Festival - Oct 16 -18
- Witch Paddle at Chatfield Lake - Oct 17
- Broadway Halloween Parade - Oct 17
- Colorado Springs Family Fall Crawl - Oct 21
- Denver Film Festival - Oct 22 - Nov 1
- Dia de los Muertos in Longmont - Oct 24
- Emma Crawford Coffin Races - Oct 24
- Oktoberfest - The Denver Wisen - Oct 22-25
- Dia de los Muertos Denver - Oct 25
- The Shining Ball 2026 at the Stanley Hotel - Oct 24
- Boo at the Denver Zoo - Oct Weekends
- Bloody Mary Festival - Nov 8
- Denver Arts Week Nov 7 -16



HAUNTED HOUSES & GHOST TOWNS



COZY SIPS & BITES

- 13thFloorHaunted House - Denver
- FrightmareCompound - Westminster
- HauntedField of Screams - Thornton
- TerrorintheCorn - Erie
- HauntedStage Stop - Nederland
- DenverTerrors - Haunted Pub Crawl
- DenverTerrors - Ghost Tour
- Slaughter Gulch - Castle Rock
- A Creepy Walk in the Woods - Loveland
- Hell Scream Haunted House - CO Springs
- The Fear Complex Haunted House - CO Springs
- Aftermath Haunted House - Canon City
- St. Elmo Ghost Town - Buena Vista
- Independence Ghost Town - Aspen
- Vicksburg Ghost Town - Buena Vista
- Capitol City Ghost Town - Lake City
- Animas Forks Ghost Town - Silverton
- Ashcroft Ghost Town - Aspen
- Tomboy Ghost Town - Telluride
- Nevadaville Ghost Town - Central City

TOP FALL MOUNTAIN GETAWAYS

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| • Grand Lake | • Georgetown |
| • Vail | • Leadville |
| • Breckenridge | • Crested Butte |
| • Estes Park | • Lake City |
| • Silverton | • Steamboat Springs |
| • Durango | • Mount Princeton |
| • Telluride | • Palisade |
| • Aspen | • Paonia |
- Screamand Sugar Coffee Shop
 - Wolverine Publik House CoffeeShop
 - Nest Coffee Shop
 - Sweetheart Winery
 - Salt and Acres
 - Stem Ciders
 - Black Cat Farm Boulder
 - Winner's Circle
 - Huntington Tavern (Grand Lake)
 - Willow Creek Restaurant
 - Aspen Peak Cellars
 - Larait Lodge Brewing
 - Cabin Creek Brewing
 - Mac Nation Cafe
 - Wine Tasting in Palisade
 - Wine Tasting in Paonia
 - Coffee Lab in Gothic
 - Honeyville - Durango
 - James Ranch Durango
 - Outer Range Brewery
 - Afternoon Tea
 - Babes Tea house in Golden
 - Boulder Tea House
 - Glen Eyrie Castle
 - Miramont Castle
 - Cherokee Ranch
 - Duchess Tea house



KEEP EXPLORING COLORADO

— *This Fall* —

Kelly Thompson Milner



Please check dates and specifics online
before venturing out, as things may change.