

# ROYAL GORGE

REGION



  
**VistaWorks**

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**I**n Colorado's Royal Gorge Region, a river cuts through a giant gorge, geology shares secrets from our past, outdoor recreational opportunities abound, and a strong agricultural community makes it easy to eat locally. Come explore the vast wonders of this southern Colorado region and experience it firsthand.

Fremont County defines the boundaries of the Royal Gorge Region, where the Arkansas River rushes out of the Rocky Mountains and onto the Great Plains. Cañon City, Fremont's county seat, sits at an elevation of 5,332 feet. But tucked into the folds and bluffs of the Arkansas River Valley, the town enjoys a mild climate and boasts the nickname, "The Climate Capital of Colorado."

The Royal Gorge Region's banana belt climate makes for year-round outdoor recreational opportunities limited only by one's imagination. Regardless of what the calendar might say, the Royal Gorge Region's breathtaking landscape beckons adventure seekers.

With far-reaching dirt roads, miles of designated trails, long stretches of rock slabs, and some of America's best whitewater, athletes from all over the world descend upon the Royal Gorge Region to test their skills, strengthen their bodies and minds, and experience the ultimate adrenaline rush.

The entire region is dotted with outfitters who will take you down the Arkansas River, provide you with the gear you need for your next adventure, or share a map of the Oil Well Flats Trail System, Hogbacks Trail System, or Shelf Road Climbing Area.

Orchards and farms in the Penrose area and eastern Fremont County and grass-fed beef from the western part of the county delight the palates of today's visitors with locally produced food and authentic heritage experiences.

In late spring and summer, farmers markets in Cañon City and Florence offer fresh produce, bread, and homemade specialties for all tastes. Fall brings harvest festivals, apple cider, wine tastings, pumpkin



patches, and corn mazes. Specialty shops and restaurants make locally produced food items and craft brews year-round, while Florence's many antique shops have helped the town earn the title, "Antique Capital of Colorado."

Arts and theater thrive in Fremont County, where several organizations work hard to provide locals and visitors first-rate cultural experiences. The Fremont Center for the Arts is the hub of the Royal Gorge Region's art and theater scene, with the Fremont Civic Theater, the Bell Tower Culture Center, and the Royal Gorge Bridge and Park also providing cultural

experiences throughout the year. The region also boasts history museums and geologic and paleontological wonders waiting to be discovered at Garden Park, Temple Canyon, The Royal Gorge Dinosaur Experience, and beyond.

The Royal Gorge Region is perhaps best known for being home to the Royal Gorge Bridge and Park. Walk across the gorge on America's highest suspension bridge, glide over the gorge in a gondola, or scale its walls on the Via Ferrata, the Royal Gorge Bridge and Park's newest attraction set to open summer 2019.











## ANNUAL EVENTS

### MAY

#### ***Blossom Festival***

A celebration of the arrival of the growing season, a tradition that goes back centuries in societies throughout the world.

### JUNE

#### ***Royal Gorge Whitewater Festival***

A two-day river celebration that includes water and land events, music, and vendors showcasing the latest in outdoor gear, unique crafts, and locally brewed beer.

### JULY

#### ***Fremont County Fair***

The Fremont County Fair is a week-long event that hosts competitions in dozens of different categories.

### AUGUST

#### ***Royal 50 Mountain Bike Race***

Choose from a 50-mile course or a 20-mile beginner mountain bike course, each with varying levels of difficulty.

### SEPTEMBER

#### ***Fremont Fall Heritage Days Festival***

A seven-week-long celebration of Fremont County history filled with free events in Cañon City, Florence, and beyond.

#### ***Harvest Festival***

Often considered the quintessential outing during Colorado's ideal time of year, this festival combines wine, artisans, food, and entertainment against Cañon City's gorgeous autumn backdrop.

### OCTOBER

#### ***Boo at the Bridge***

This family-friendly Bridge and Park event provides a safe and fun environment for children to trick or treat, dress up, and enjoy a slew of Halloween-themed activities.



Cañon City & Florence are conveniently located in  
south-central Colorado

- Just west of the I-25 corridor
- 45 minutes southwest of Colorado Springs via highway 115
- 30 minutes west of Pueblo on US-50
- Access from the north provided by CO-9



Fremont County is  
named for explorer  
and presidential  
candidate **John  
C. Frémont**

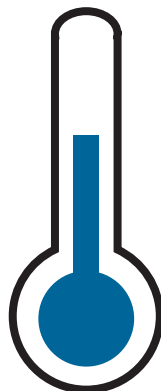
CAÑON CITY:

# *THE CLIMATE CAPITAL*

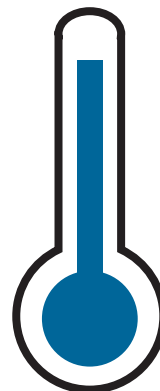
UNIQUE GEOGRAPHY & A 5,300-FOOT ELEVATION PROTECT THE CITY FROM HARSH WEATHER CONDITIONS

# 46,824

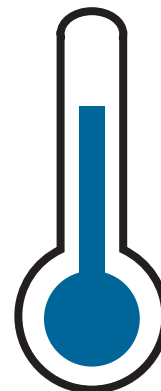
2019 POPULATION



SPRING  
40° - 69°F



SUMMER  
57° - 87°F



FALL  
43° - 74°F



WINTER  
23° - 52°F





TOTAL AREA

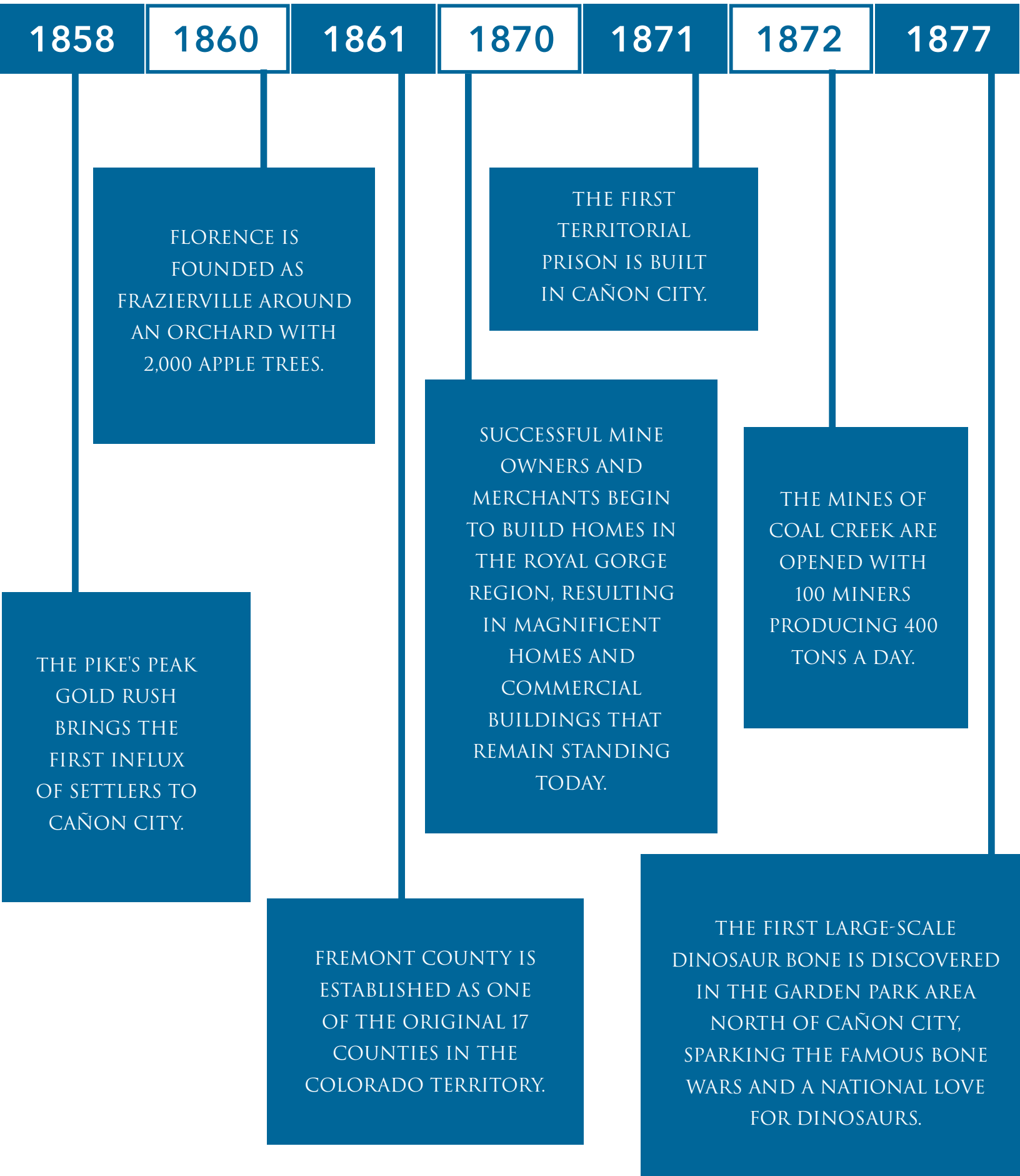
**1,534**  
**SQUARE**  
**MILES**

OF COLORADO

## NOTABLE RESIDENTS

- **ROBERT WESLEY AMICK**  
ARTIST
- **DON BENDELL**  
WRITER
- **JACK CHRISTIANSEN**  
NFL HALL-OF-FAMER (DETROIT LIONS)
- **DONALD S. FREDRICKSON**  
MEDICAL RESEARCHER, FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH, AND FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE HOWARD HUGHES MEDICAL INSTITUTE; BORN IN CANON CITY
- **SKIP KONTE**  
MUSICIAN, "WIZARD OF ALL NORTHERN REALMS"
- **VICE ADMIRAL EMORY S. LAND (U.S. NAVY)**  
BORN IN CAÑON CITY
- **DAVE MERRICK**  
ARTIST
- **JAMES HAMILTON PEABODY**  
FORMER COLORADO GOVERNOR
- **DAN SLATER**  
COLORADO POLITICIAN







# ION: A TIMELINE

1879

1905

1925

1929

1937

1983

2000

SKYLINE DRIVE IS  
COMPLETED USING  
LOCAL PRISON LABOR.

THE CAÑON CITY  
RODEO ASSOCIATION IS  
FORMED WITH ITS  
ANNUAL GATHERING  
EVENTUALLY BECOMING  
THE ROYAL GORGE  
RODEO.

THE ROYAL GORGE  
RAILROAD WARS BEGIN  
BETWEEN THE SANTA  
FE AND DENVER AND  
RIO GRANDE RAILROAD  
COMPANIES FOR RIGHTS  
TO LAY TRACKS ALONG  
THE GORGE'S FLOOR.

THE ROYAL GORGE  
BRIDGE IS COMPLETED  
AND OPENS TO THE  
GENERAL PUBLIC WITH  
AN ADMISSION COST  
OF \$.75.

DOWNTOWN  
CAÑON CITY IS  
LISTED ON THE  
NATIONAL  
REGISTER OF  
HISTORIC PLACES.

THE ABBEY MONASTERY IS BUILT AND  
OPENS AS A BOYS' BOARDING SCHOOL.

THE GOLD BELT SCENIC  
BYWAY IS ESTABLISHED  
BY THE U.S. SECRETARY OF  
TRANSPORTATION.











# ATTRACTIONS

ROYAL GORGE ROUTE RAILROAD

ROYAL GORGE BRIDGE AND PARK

THE ROYAL GORGE DINOSAUR EXPERIENCE

SKYDIVING

SEGWAY TOURS

HELICOPTER TOURS

THE MUSEUM OF COLORADO PRISONS

FREMONT CENTER FOR THE ARTS

WINERY AT HOLY CROSS ABBEY

FLORENCE PIONEER MUSEUM

ROYAL GORGE REGIONAL MUSEUM AND  
HISTORY CENTER



## OUTDOOR RECREATION

MOUNTAIN BIKING

ROAD BIKING

WHITEWATER RAFTING

OHVING

CAMPING

DISC GOLF

GOLFING

FISHING

HUNTING

HORSEBACK RIDING

TRAIL SYSTEMS:

- ROYAL GORGE PARKS TRAILS SYSTEM
- SOUTH CANON TRAIL SYSTEM
- OIL WELL FLATS
- HOGBACKS OPEN SPACE
- ARKANSAS RIVERWALK TRAIL
- TUNNEL DRIVE
- SOUTH CANON TRAIL SYSTEM





## PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

### **GOT SPRING BREAK FEVER? GET YOUR FEET TO CAÑON CITY | TAKE A HIKE**

COLORADO SPRINGS GAZETTE | MARCH 16, 2021

### **DITCH THE MOUNTAINS THIS WINTER AND HEAD TO SOUTHERN COLORADO INSTEAD. HERE'S YOUR ITINERARY.**

THE KNOW | FEBRUARY 2, 2021

### **WHO SAYS WINTER FUN IN COLORADO IS ONLY FOUND IN THE MOUNTAINS?**

THE DENVER POST | FEBRUARY 1, 2021

### **THE 11 NEWEST MTB TRAILS FROM AROUND THE WORLD**

SINGLETRACKS | NOVEMBER 30, 2020

### **COLORADO'S ROYAL GORGE REGION IS USING WINE TO REVITALIZE ITS AGRICULTURAL HISTORY**

303 MAGAZINE | NOVEMBER 24, 2020

### **THE BEST THINGS TO DO IN ADORABLE CANON CITY, COLORADO**

TRAVEL AWAITS | OCTOBER 29, 2020

### **GET TO THE GORGE**

COLORADO TRAVELER MAGAZINE | SEPT/OCT

### **DESPITE SETBACKS, HARVEST SEASON IS UNDERWAY AT COLORADO WINERIES**

5280 | SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

### **7 OFTEN-OVERLOOKED MOUNTAIN TOWNS YOU SHOULD VISIT IN COLORADO**

OUT THERE COLORADO | JULY 29, 2020

### **ALL ABOARD THE BREATHTAKING ROYAL GORGE ROUTE RAILROAD**

FOX 21 NEWS | JULY 2, 2020

### **ADVENTURE AWAITS AT THE ROYAL GORGE BRIDGE & PARK**

5280 | JUNE 5, 2020

### **ART & ANTIQUES ON TAP IN VIRTUAL TOUR OF FLORENCE, WESTCLIFFE**

THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN | MAY 11, 2020

### **FRESH DIRT**

ELEVATION OUTDOORS | MARCH 31, 2020

### **HOW TO SPEND A DAY AT ROYAL GORGE**

TRAVEL AWAITS | FEBRUARY 13, 2020



## **NEXT NAPA VALLEY? THE CAÑON CITY AREA IS HOPING WINERIES CAN LEAD TO AN AGRICULTURAL RENAISSANCE**

COLORADO SUN | JANUARY 3, 2020

## **YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE ALEX HONNOLD TO BRAVE THIS ADVENTURE TREND**

THE DAILY BEAST | SEPTEMBER 15, 2019

## **COLORADO WINE IS FINALLY COMING INTO ITS OWN**

THE KNOW | AUGUST 24, 2019

## **A JURASSIC VACATION: HERE'S WHAT TO DO IN ROYAL GORGE, COLORADO'S DINOSAUR AND WINE HUB**

VAIL DAILY | JULY 27, 2019

## **WHICH TRAILS YOU SHOULD BE HITTING ON YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE TO CAÑON CITY, ROYAL GORGE**

THE KNOW | JULY 27, 2019

## **ROYAL GORGE TRAILS THE LATEST IN CAÑON CITY'S OUTDOOR RECREATION REVOLUTION**

OUT THERE COLORADO | JULY 8, 2019

## **THIS REGION IS COLORADO'S UNDER-THE-RADAR ADVENTURE DESTINATION**

FORBES | JUNE 27, 2019

## **NEW ROYAL GORGE ATTRACTION ATTRACTS ADVENTURE SEEKERS**

CBS DENVER | JANUARY 10, 2019

## **MOUNTAIN BIKING CAÑON CITY, COLORADO: THE LITTLE CITY THAT COULD**

SINGLETRACKS | NOVEMBER 16, 2018

## **CONTACT**

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