

From the

# EDITOR



Steamboat Springs Cowboys' Roundup Days



Royal Gorge Bridge & Park



Downtown Leadville



John Denver Sanctuary in Aspen



## THE ROAD TO COLORADO

When I was in first grade, we spent a day celebrating Colorado heritage by dressing up in Western duds, going on horse-drawn wagon rides and learning about what life was like for the state's early inhabitants. While what I remember the most from that day seems insignificant (seeing a horse nay in living color for the first time), it was my first connection with Centennial State history.

These days, I'm fascinated with how Colorado's distinctive sights and landscapes can tie us to those who came here before us and help us understand what brought them to our turf, whether it was dreams of fortune, a better life — or the off-the-charts mountain beauty that continues to draw visitors here.

Here are a few other places I've felt a special connection to the past that you might consider on your Colorado journey:

- ▶ Watching cowboy-hat-clad ski jumpers leap across plastic surfaces at **Steamboat Springs Cowboys' Roundup Days** — a beloved spectacle at the 114-year-old July event and a nod to the town's Western roots.
- ▶ Taking a family trip to the monstrous suspension bridge that stretches across **Cañon City's** 1,200-foot deep **Royal Gorge**, one of the first places my father visited when he immigrated to Colorado from Thailand in the late 1970s (evidenced by an old pic of him wearing bell bottoms and a gravity-defying afro with the bridge in the background).
- ▶ Wandering the streets of **Leadville**, once a lawless mining boomtown that still has 70 square blocks lined with colorful Victorian buildings, and wondering how 1870s-era gold-seekers managed to establish a town at 10,152 feet without power tools.
- ▶ Visiting the **John Denver Sanctuary in Aspen** last summer to pay tribute to my favorite folk singer, who famously called the enclave home and immortalized his love for the state in song. Learn more about the park on p. 18.

**So here's to living the Colorado dream. Come fulfill yours today.**

*Patricia Kaowithumrong*  
 —Patricia Kaowithumrong, Editor



Looking for Colorado's hidden gems, special outposts and lesser-traveled hot spots? Visit [COLORADO.com/FieldGuide](https://colorado.com/FieldGuide) for itineraries, trip ideas and much more!

COUNTER-CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: STEAMBOAT SPRINGS COWBOYS' ROUNDUP DAYS; MILES/MATT INDEN; ROYAL GORGE BRIDGE & PARK; MILES/MATT INDEN; DOWNTOWN LEADVILLE; LEADVILLE; JOHN DENVER SANCTUARY, C2 PHOTOGRAPHY; WESTERN WEAR; GETTY IMAGES.