

OPTIONAL EXTENSION

ESCORTED BY C. COLSTON BURRELL

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS AND VAIL

JUNE 20 - 24, 2023



# Touring on High

Our Tour Extension focuses on gardens and natural areas around the mountain resort towns of Steamboat Springs and Vail. Steamboat Springs lies within Yampa Valley at 6,732 feet elevation. The town is surrounded by lofty peaks and alpine meadows awash with wildflowers. It's home to ski resorts and geothermal hot springs.

Vail Village sits at 8,150 feet elevation at the base of Vail Mountain, home of the massive Vail Ski Resort. Set within White River National Forest, the town is a gateway for winter sports and a colorful garden village in summer. It's also a favorite destination for golfing, hiking and cultural festivals. The surrounding mountains shelter a wealth of alpine plants.

We will be crossing mountain passes and taking easy to moderately-strenuous wildflower walks at elevations ranging from 6,000 to 8,000 feet. Rabbit Ears Pass is 9,426 feet, and Vail Mountain is 11,570 feet. The gardens on this tour are also at elevation. If you have experienced altitude sickness in the past, please consult your doctor. You may want to take a diuretic to alleviate any possible symptoms.

## Meet Your Field Trip Guide

Mike Kintgen is a Senior Horticulturist at the Denver Botanic Gardens where he oversees the Alpine Collection and nine gardens including the Rock Alpine Garden and South African Plaza. Mike has worked full time at DBG since late 2004, but has volunteered and helped out since the mid-1990s. In 2012 he finished a two-year project to get DBG's collection of alpines recognized in the North American Plant Collection Consortium through the American Public Gardens Association. He interned at both at Chicago Botanic Gardens and at the Rhododendron Species Foundation under Steve Hootman. He has been a member of North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS) since 1993 (age 12) and is currently president of the Rocky Mountain Chapter of NARGS. Traveling since a young age has allowed him to observe alpines in Alaska, Hawaii, Argentina, Morocco, Spain, the Alps and throughout the American West.



# Tour Itinerary Highlights

- Visit 2 iconic mountain cities, Steamboat Springs and Vail
- Enjoy the picturesque drive from Fort Collins to Steamboat Springs
- Walk scenic mountain trails awash with native wildflowers accompanied by our expert local guide Mike Kintgen
- Take a guided tour and enjoy lunch at Yampa River Botanical Park
- Tour 3 exceptional private gardens
- Visit the private garden of field trip guide Mike Kintgen
- Enjoy lunch at The Antlers, a classic western cafe
- Take a tour of Betty Ford Alpine Gardens with curator Nick Courtens
- Walk through Vail Village to explore seasonal horticulture and public art
- Stroll an alpine trail to enjoy early wildflowers
- Enjoy a farewell reception and dinner at a local restaurant



# Tour Details

TOUR DURATION 4 Nights / 5 Days

## TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Airport transfers
- Two nights lodging Steamboat — Nordic Lodge
- Two nights lodging Vail — Tivoli Lodge
- Breakfast on your own in Steamboat
- Breakfast daily in Vail
- Four lunches
- Farewell dinner at a local restaurant
- Escort throughout tour — C. Colston Burrell
- Steamboat field trip guide — Mike Kintgen
- Vail garden guide — Nick Courtens
- Transportation by passenger coach
- Admissions to all parks and gardens
- Guided garden and natural history excursions
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Gratuities for your tour escort
- Gratuities to your local driver and local guides

## NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR

- Round trip airfare from home cities
- Breakfasts in Steamboat Springs
- Other meals not included in the itinerary
- Alcoholic beverages except at receptions
- Travel insurance
- Airport fees, taxes and baggage charges
- Gratuities to luggage handlers and housekeeping
- Optional sightseeing or recreational activities
- Any other items not specifically mentioned as included in the itinerary



# Tour Pricing and Registration

## TOUR DURATION

4 Nights / 5 Days

## PRICING

Based on 16-18 Travelers

\$2,495.00 Land Price — Double Occupancy

\$555.00 Single Supplement

Based on 12-15 Travelers

\$2,795.00 Land Price — Double Occupancy

\$555.00 Single Supplement

~ Fewer than 12 travelers may result in a small surcharge

~ Itinerary subject to change without notice

## DEPOSIT

\$1,000.00 per person with reservation to secure your spot

## TO REGISTER VISIT

<https://www.friendshiptours.net/group-travel>

Select "Group Sign In". Enter the Tour Code **23JUNE13DENVER** in the box labeled "Make a New Reservation."



**FRIENDSHIP TOURS**  
**THE SHIP SHOP**

Minnesota State  
**Horticultural  
Society** 



**NORTH AMERICAN  
ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY**

# Terms and Conditions

## Rocky Mountain High: Steamboat Springs & Vail - Post Tour

Escorted by C. Colston Burrell

June 20-24, 2023 4 Nights/5 Days

**ARRIVAL:** Tuesday, June 20, 2023 travelers continuing from the Main Tour onto the Post Tour will be transferred from Fort Collins to Steamboat Springs by coach.

**RETURN:** Saturday, June 24, 2023 transfers included from hotel in Vail to Denver International Airport (DEN). Arrange your flight home for departure after 1:00pm.

**COST** (with 16-18 paying guests):  
\$2,495. per person based on double occupancy  
+\$555. per person single supplement

**COST** (with 12-15 paying guests):  
\$2,795. per person based on double occupancy  
+\$555. per person single supplement

### RESERVATIONS VIA FRIENDSHIP TOURS:

**CALL:** 800-243-1630 and ask for **Denver Gardens Tour with C. Colston Burrell**

**ON LINE :** [www.friendshiptours.net/group-travel](http://www.friendshiptours.net/group-travel) and select "Group Sign In". Enter the Tour Code **23JUNE13DENVER** in the box labeled "Make a New Reservation."

**DEPOSIT:** \$1,000 per person with reservation to secure your spot on both the POST TOUR & the MAIN TOUR. **Please reserve now. Small group tour. Commitment required in order for trip to operate.**

**FINAL PAYMENT:** April 3, 2023

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** If a passenger cancels after deposit and before April 3, 2023, the fee is \$500 pp; no refunds if cancelled after April 3, 2023.

**AIR TRAVEL:** Do not purchase air until you have been advised that the minimum number of travelers for this tour has been reached. This trip is based on a minimum of 15 travelers. Flight arrangements are not included in this tour package.

**PRICES & ITINERARY:** Prices are valid at time of publication. Friendship Tours shall not be liable for any fluctuation in price or change in schedule or equipment or accommodations for any travel booking or travel service to be provided by a Travel Supplier. Changes to itineraries may become necessary. These changes will not be considered a material change and will not be cause for cancellation or refund.

**COVID-19: PROOF OF VACCINATION:** All travelers are strongly requested to be double vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine and have a booster(s) wherever possible to participate in this tour.

**ALTITUDE:** Please be aware that Steamboat Springs & Vail are high altitude destinations (6000-8100 ft). Please check with your doctor if you have any concerns about traveling to high elevations.

**TRIP PROTECTION COVERAGE is strongly recommended.** Friendship Tours can assist with the purchase of trip protection coverage. We recommend 2 different policies. For information: <https://www.friendshiptours.net/protection-plan>

The **NTA Travel Protection** plan designed specifically for members of the National Tour Association. The Pre-existing medical condition exclusion can be waived by purchasing the Enhanced Plan within 14 days of your deposit or initial payment. Premium is nonrefundable once paid. Three ways to enroll:

1. Website: <https://nta.aontravelprotect.com>  
Tour Operator Location #076068. You can also view plan details on this site.
2. Call Aon 1-800-388-1470. Tour Operator Location #076068. Customer service agents can also answer questions about each plan.
3. Call Friendship Tours 860-243-1630 or 800-243-1630

**TRIP PROTECTION COVERAGE with CANCEL FOR ANY REASON** coverage is available through **Travel Insured International** when purchased within 14 days of your initial deposit—ask Friendship Tours for more information. Or request a quote online: <https://www.travelinsured.com/agency/?r=http:%2F%2Fwww.friendshiptours.net&p=>

**RESPONSIBILITY:** This package is subject to our full terms and conditions which can be found on our website at <https://www.friendshiptours.net/tour-policies>. Paper copies are available upon request. **By signing up for the tour, making a payment and continuing to use our services, you are agreeing to be bound by the Terms and Conditions.**



**FRIENDSHIP TOURS**  
**THE SHIP SHOP**  
705 Bloomfield Ave, Bloomfield, CT 06002  
860-243-1630 • 800-243-1630  
[www.friendshiptours.net](http://www.friendshiptours.net)

# Itinerary

## DAY 8 - Tuesday, June 20 Fort Collins to Steamboat Springs

After our included breakfast, we check out and begin our scenic three-and-a-half-hour journey to Steamboat Springs. Our route takes us north through Laramie, Wyoming, giving you a chance to add a new state to your list! We traverse open prairie before climbing into the mountains along beautiful Grizzly Creek. We stop for a box lunch at **Dumont Lake Campground**. Here we meet **Mike Kintgen**, our guide for an afternoon wildflower excursion. Dumont Lake is a high elevation lake on top of **Rabbit Ears Pass**.

Mike will take us on a walk to enjoy the many wildflowers in the vicinity of the lake and the pass. Depending on altitude and snow melt, we may see fields of *Erythronium grandiflorum* or early season wildflowers such as lupines, white gillia, Nuttall's larkspur and Nuttall's phlox. We will explore short trails that allow access to both meadow and woodland wildflowers.

After our walk, we head into Steamboat Springs to check into our hotel. Dinner is on your own. Night in Steamboat Springs at Nordic Lodge. B, L

\*\*\* Please note that the Nordic Lodge does not have a restaurant \*\*\*  
Breakfast will be on your own while in Steamboat Springs



# Itinerary

## DAY 9 - Wednesday, June 21 Steamboat Springs

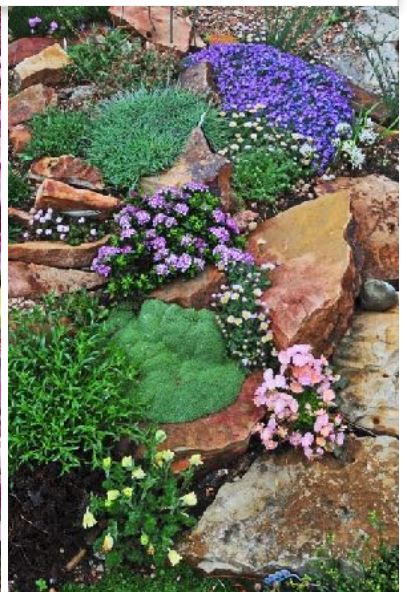
This morning, enjoy breakfast on your own before we visit **Mike Kintgen's Garden**. Mike started the garden in 1988 when he was seven years old. It has grown into a diverse collection of plants that thrive at 8,150 feet and provide a long season of interest. Fueled by his passion for travel and work at Denver Botanic Garden, conifers, Rocky Mountain natives, alpiners and rock garden plants from around the world mingle in beds and rockeries. Collections of *Saxifraga*, *Androsace*, *Salix*, and *Penstemon* are highlights. Cold tolerant palms, agaves and other succulents add a touch of the unexpected.

Our next stop is **Yampa River Botanic Park**, a six-acre botanical garden that was transformed from a horse pasture along the Yampa River and opened to the public in 1997. There are 63 individual gardens with different themes, designs and types of plant collections, all nestled below a canopy of 500 trees. Native and high-altitude plants from around the world thrive in the Zone 4 gardens. There are 19 pieces of sculpture and sweeping views of Emerald Mountain. After our tour, enjoy a catered lunch in the garden.

Next we visit with **Lisa Godbolt**, who grows cut flowers on a hillside where perennial gardens and lush beds envelope the house. Tucked under trees and in the shade of the house, hellebores, bleeding hearts, *Lewisia* and *Astrantia* thrive. A small greenhouse for vegetables, and an herb garden provide food and flavor.

Next, **Karen Vail** welcomes us to her tiny garden full of surprises! From an empty pasture 27 years ago, the garden is now full of life. It includes rockeries of alpine and desert plants, xeric gardens with native and native adapted plants, troughs with wee treasures, veggies, an orchard, and natural areas for wildlife. Based on permaculture concepts and gardening for pollinators and wildlife, the garden is vibrant, diverse and creative.

After our garden visits, we return to the hotel. Dinner is on your own. Night in Steamboat Springs, Nordic Lodge. L





# Itinerary

## DAY 10 - Thursday, June 22 Steamboat or Vail

After breakfast on your own, we check out and join **Mike Kintgen** for another scenic wildflower walk. **Stillwater Reservoir Road** leads through national forest land to the headwaters of the Yampa River in the scenic flattops south of Steamboat. Along this winding road we will make several stops to enjoy the views. Wildflowers include Colorado columbine, penstemons, Indian paint brushes, mules ears (Wyethia), blue flax and buckwheat (Eriogonum). Mountain bluebird, Townsend's solitaire, and are a few of the birds we might encounter. We may even see some bighorn sheep.

After our wildflower excursion, we stop for lunch at **Antler's Café** in Yampa. Noted for excellent chef-prepared food, this hidden gem of a restaurant offers rustic Western ambiance and great food and drink.

After our tour, we head south to Vail to check into our hotel. Dinner is on your own. Night in Vail at Tivoli Lodge. L



# Itinerary

**DAY 11 - Friday, June 23**

**Vail**

After our included breakfast, we head to **Betty Ford Alpine Gardens** for a guided tour with Nick Courtens. The garden was founded in 1985 by the Vail Alpine Garden Foundation and named in 1988 in honor of former First Lady Betty Ford. The Gardens is an internationally acclaimed collection of alpine plants in the Rocky Mountains known for its alpine horticulture, education and conservation. Betty Ford Alpine Gardens, at 8,200 feet, is the highest elevation botanical garden in North America. The Gardens attracts more than 120,000 visitors annually to see its unique display of alpine and mountain plants collected from around the world. The entire plant collection showcases more than 3,000 species of high-altitude plants, many of which are from the Rocky Mountains, as well as some from other regions of the world.

After visiting the gardens, we begin an hour-long walking tour **Hort and Art - A Great Pair** to see the amazing public art installations in the Village, and learn what it takes to design and plant seasonal color! We end our tour with pre-ordered lunch from **Big Bear Bistro**. After lunch relax in town or board the gondola for a scenic ride to the top of **Vail Mountain**. Early season alpine wildflowers abound as we walk the one mile trail to Lionshead. We catch the gondola down, board our coach and return to our hotel to freshen up.

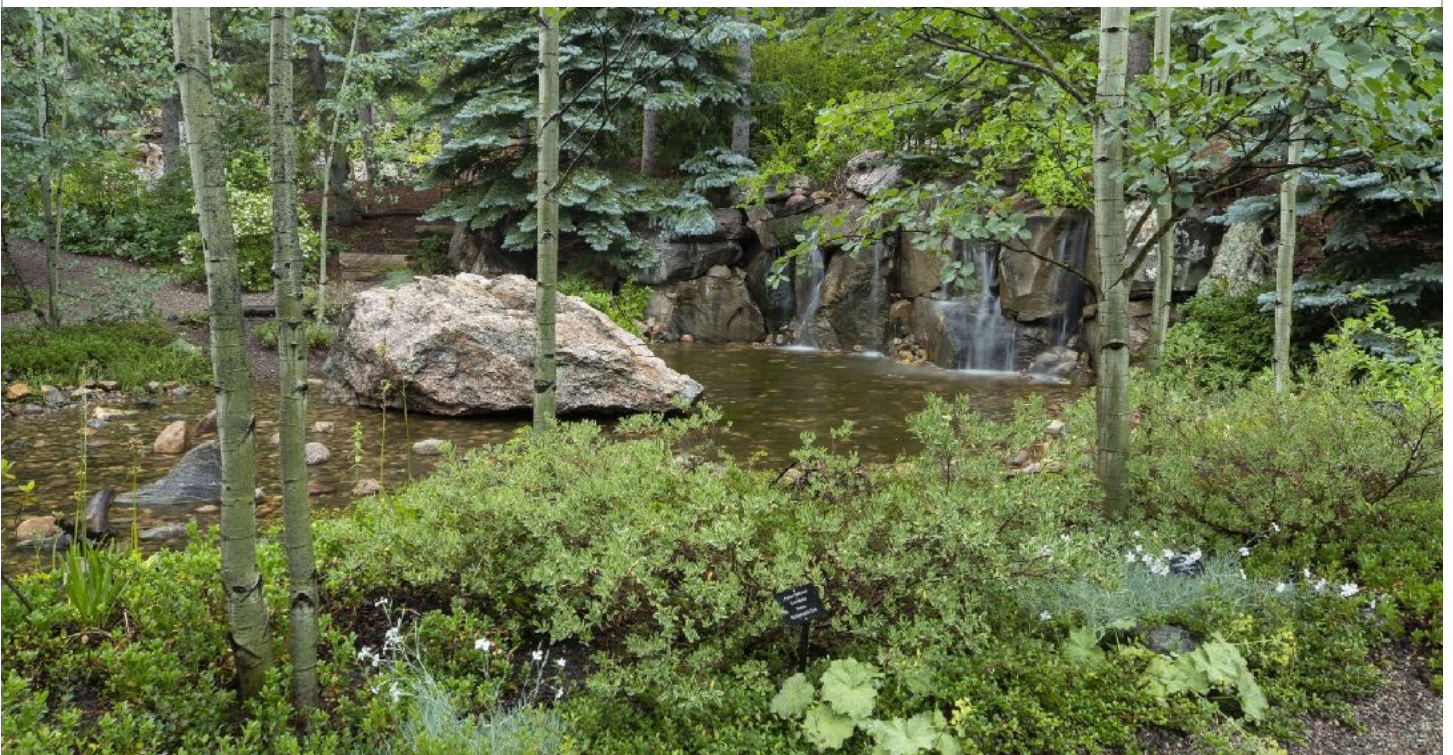
This evening, to bring our tour to a close, enjoy a farewell reception and dinner at a local restaurant. Night at Tivoli Lodge. B, L, D



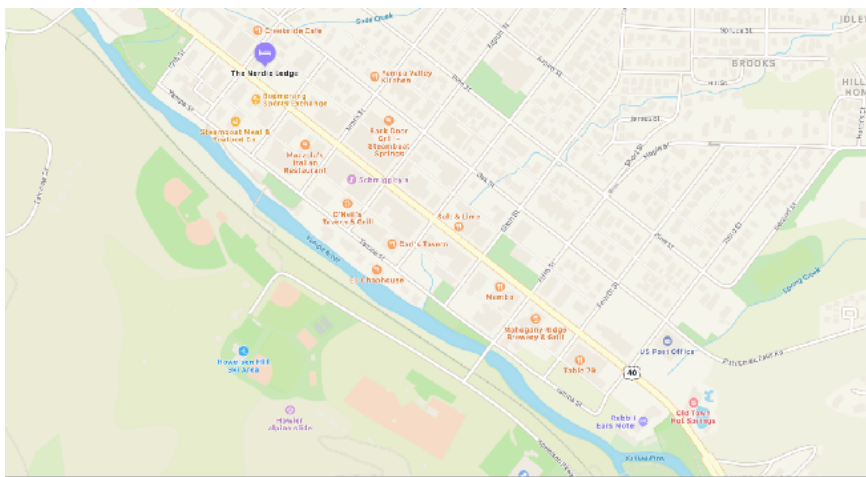
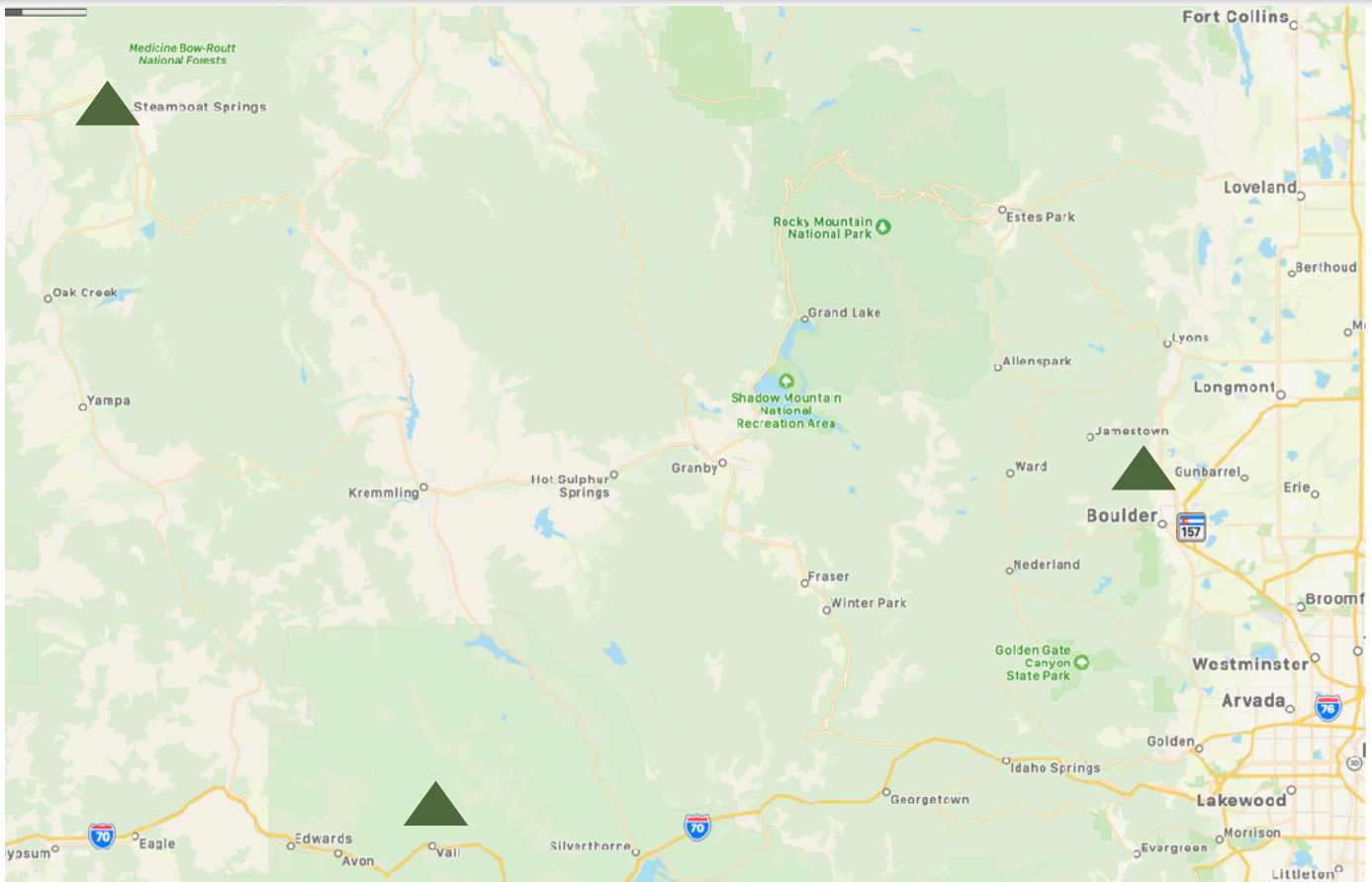
**DAY 12 - Saturday, June 24** Depart for Home

After our included breakfast, we check out and board the coach for the two-and-a-half hour drive to Denver International airport. Please do not plan any departures before 1:00 p.m. to assure ample time for arrival and check in. Thank you for joining us!

# Betty Ford Alpine Gardens



# Steamboat and Vail Maps



Steamboat Springs

Vail

