

## **Fort Collins, Colorado (fcgov.com)**

Fort Collins is 65 miles from Denver, CO, 70 miles from the Denver International Airport and 45 miles from Rocky Mountain National Park. (<http://www.nps.gov/romo/>) The city is located as the base of the Rocky Mountains alongside the Cache La Poudre River. Fort Collins was rated the best place to live in America by Money Magazine in August 2006. (Link to article .... <http://money.cnn.com/magazines/moneymag/bplive/2006/snapshots/PL0827425.html>) This ranking was based on 38 quality of life indicators. Some of the indicators that helped push Fort Collins to number 1 were the natural setting, vibrant downtown, presence of Colorado State University as well as overall ease of living.

### **Climate**

Fort Collins sees roughly 300 days of sunshine per year, while receiving 14.5 inches of annual precipitation. Winters are moderately cold but dry, with average January high/low temperatures of 42°/14°. Summers are relatively moderate as well with average July high/ low temperatures of 86°/57°.

### **Outdoor Recreation**

Numerous outdoor activities are available in the region. The city itself owns 33,000 acres of Natural Acres designated for conservation and recreation. The city also has over 800 acres in 44 park sites (<http://fcgov.com/parks/>), as well as 3 public golf courses (<http://fcgov.com/golf/>), 25 miles of paved multi-use trails (maintained year round) (<http://fcgov.com/parks/trails.php>), and 250 miles of bikes lanes and routes. Larimer County also maintains numerous horse trails. (<http://www.co.larimer.co.us/parks/trails.htm>)

The Cache Le Poudre (just Poudre for short) River offers exceptional trout fishing as well as whitewater rafting opportunities. Along the Poudre there are also numerous hiking and camping potentials.

There is close access to both the Arapahoe and Roosevelt National Forests (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/arnf/>). Along with plenty of outdoor recreational opportunities, these areas are known for big game viewing and hunting. In the lower areas both upland and waterfowl species are abundant.

Colorado is also well known for winter sports. With over 25 resorts, the Rocky Mountains are home to such well known resorts as Vail, Breckenridge, Aspen and Arapahoe Basin Resorts. Eldora Mountain Resort is only 70 miles from Fort Collins, but numerous resorts close enough for a day trip.

### **Cultural Activities**

Fort Collins is home to the Lincoln Center (<http://fcgov.com/lctix/>). The Lincoln Center offers music and dance shows, but is probably best known for the Show Stopper Series. (<http://fcgov.com/lctix/series.php?id=1>) Nearby Denver also has numerous venues, including the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. (<http://www.denvercenter.org/home.cfm>) For animal lovers, Denver is home to the Denver Zoo. (<http://denverzoo.com>) There are also numerous professional sports teams in the area.

## **Transportation**

Fort Collins is located along I-25, the major north/south corridor of Colorado. Denver International Airport (DIA) is 70 miles from Fort Collins, while the Fort Collins/Loveland Airport (FNL) is only 15 miles from downtown.

Fort Collins operates 12 fixed bus routes service by Transfort (<http://fcgov.com/transfort/>), as well as regional routes that connect Fort Collins and Loveland.

## **Faculty and Student Activities**

We are an active faculty with varied interests. Throughout the year you might find the faculty and students downhill skiing, cross country skiing, hiking, climbing a 14'er, golfing, playing ultimate Frisbee or disc golf, paintball, mountain or road biking, hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, kayaking or canoeing, visiting friends, taking in a play or having a drink with friends at one of Fort Collins' many microbreweries.

