

"Pikes Peak is over 14,000 feet, right in our backyard," Sherfese says, adding that it takes 1.5 hours to get to the top, where groups can shop in the gift store, have a snack and take in the beautiful scenery. "You can almost see to Kansas on a clear day. And

then you get on the train for an hour trip back down. Or groups can go up in vans with bikes and take a guided tour down. Either way, it's a nice morning event."

Attendees often descend at the Colorado Springs Airport—which offers about 90 flights a day and is 15 to 20 minutes from

Happenings

Denver Area

- **The Ritz-Carlton, Denver** (303.312.3800; www.ritzcarlton.com) opened in January with 202 guest rooms, 47 suites and more than 13,000 square feet of meeting space.
- Denver's Adam's Mark Hotel was recently reflagged the **Sheraton Denver Hotel** (303.893.3333; www.starwoodhotels.com), and significant capital improvements are planned.
- The 230-room **Four Seasons Hotel Denver** (888.877.4081; www.fourseasons.com) will open two blocks from the Colorado Convention Center in winter 2009. The hotel, which will occupy the bottom 16 floors of the 45-story Four Seasons Hotel and Private Residences, will feature a full-service spa and approximately 16,000 square feet of meeting space.
- The **W Hotel and Residences** (877.946.8357; www.starwoodhotels.com), which will include 180 guest rooms and 56 residences, is scheduled for completion by 2010.
- Robert Redford's upscale Sundance Cinemas is set to be the first tenant in **Metropolitan Gardens** (312.675.5500; www.josephfreed.com) just outside downtown. The cinema will feature six screens with stadium seating, as well as several bars and bistros, and is expected to open in spring 2010. Metropolitan Gardens, a LEED program participant, will also feature two hotels and retail, dining and entertainment venues. The entire project is scheduled for completion by 2014.
- The 241-room **Brown Palace Hotel and Spa** (303.297.3111; www.brownpalace.com) is currently undergoing an \$8 million guest room renovation, which is scheduled for completion by the end of 2008.
- **Courtyard by Marriott Denver-Downtown** (303.571.1114; www.marriott.com) is updating its guest rooms, lobby, fitness center and business center.
- The 113-suite **Homewood Suites by Hilton Denver Tech Center** (303.706.0102; www.hilton.com) recently opened 35 miles southwest of Denver International Airport in Englewood, Colo.
- Golden, Colo.'s **Denver Marriott West** (303.271.0205; www.marriott.com) completed a \$4 million room renovation of its 303 guest rooms and two suites in early 2008.
- Lakewood, Colo.'s **Sheraton Denver West** (303.987.2000; www.starwoodhotels.com) opened the new Aura Spa & Wellness Center in October 2007.
- Aurora, Colo.'s **Denver Airport Marriott at Gateway Park** (303.371.4333; www.marriott.com) completed a renovation of its guest rooms in mid-April.

Boulder

- **The St. Julien Hotel & Spa** (720.406.9696; www.stjulien.com), which has more than 15,500 square feet of indoor and outdoor meeting space, is on track to become a zero-waste hotel by September 2010. The hotel has begun upgrading its lighting and decreasing waste, and it now uses bio-diesel oil in the kitchen and doesn't use pesticides on its gardens or lawns.
- This summer, the historic **Hotel Boulderado** (303.442.4344; www.boulderado.com) updated its events center.
- The **Colorado Chautauqua** (303.442.3282; www.chautauqua.com) recently added 1,000 square feet to its 2,800 square feet of restored meeting space. The new room is called the Rocky Mountain Climbers Club Room and is dedicated to the group of the same name that met there for almost 100 years.
- **Homewood Suites by Hilton Boulder** (303.499.9922; www.boulder.homewoodsuites.com) recently completed a property-wide renovation, including guest room and meeting space upgrades.

Colorado Springs

- **Cheyenne Mountain Conference Resort** (719.538.4000; www.cheyennemountain.com) recently completed upgrades to its lobby and Mountain View Restaurant, and added a new Internet cafe.
- **Crowne Plaza Hotel Colorado Springs** (719.576.5900; www.ichotelsgroup.com) recently underwent a major renovation, including a new main entrance, upgrades to all 299 guest rooms and meeting space, and the addition of 3,100 square feet of function space.
- **Embassy Suites Colorado Springs** (719.599.9100; www.embassysuites.com) recently finished a renovation that included a new lobby and front desk, upgrades to existing meeting space and guest suites, and additional meeting space.

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Contact Us:

SALES

President
Tim Fixmer
tim.fixmer@stamats.com

Vice President/Group Publisher
Publisher, South
Karen H. Smith
954.432.6028
karen.smith@meetingsmedia.com

Group Publisher, East/MidAmerica
Gregg Anderson
415.788.2005
gregg.anderson@meetingsmedia.com

Publisher, West
Lynne Richardson
415.788.2005
lynne.richardson@meetingsmedia.com

Associate Publisher, MidAmerica
Debbie Richards
415.788.2005
debbie.richards@meetingsmedia.com

Advertising Director, West
Shawne Hightower
415.788.2005
shawne.hightower@meetingsmedia.com

Advertising Director, South
William Freeman
727.707.6020
bill.freeman@meetingsmedia.com

Regional Sales Managers
Tom Bibby
319.360.6107
tom.bibby@meetingsmedia.com

Rod Richards
949.635.4952
rod.richards@meetingsmedia.com

Ridge Tenney
303.679.4330
ridge.tenney@meetingsmedia.com

Kevin Thier
866.965.4207
kevin.thier@meetingsmedia.com

Sieve Zarolnick
800.553.8878 x.5201
sieve.zarolnick@meetingsmedia.com

Account Executive
Jolene Jordan
866.332.3190
jolene.jordan@meetingsmedia.com

Sales Coordinator
Kate Bride
415.788.2005
kate.bride@meetingsmedia.com

Online/E-Media Sales Director
Jim Kroitz
319.364.6167
jim.kroitz@meetingsmedia.com

Director of Live Events
Barb DeMara
319.851.5085
barb.demara@stamats.com

MAIN OFFICE
550 Montgomery St., Ste. 750
San Francisco, CA 94111-2538
415.788.2005; fax 415.788.1358