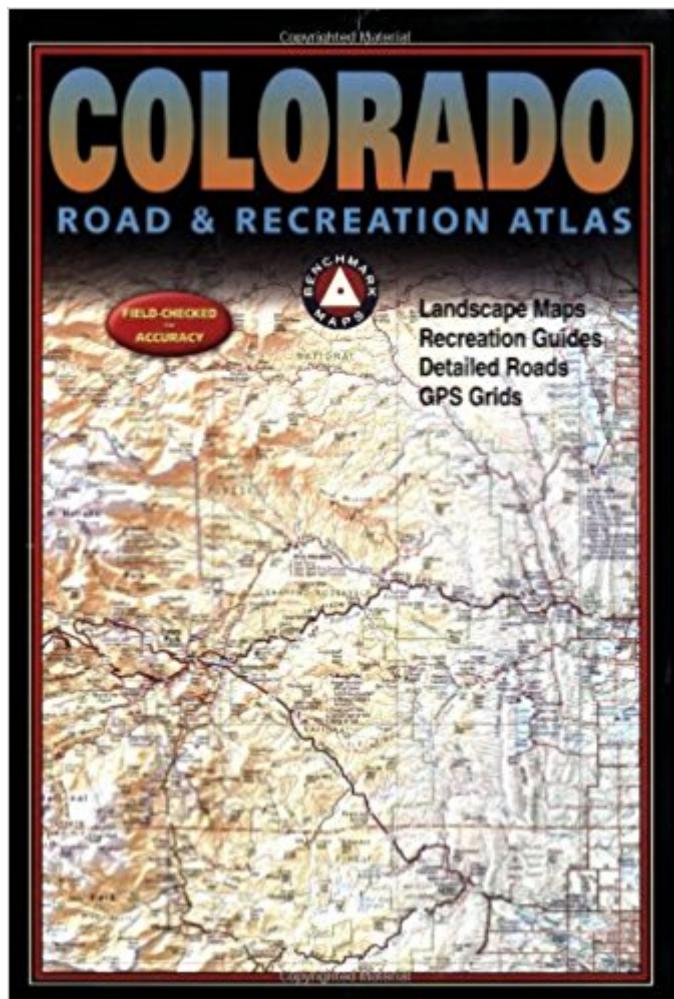


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# Colorado Road & Recreation Atlas



## Synopsis

Colorado's mountains are the source of everything that makes Colorado unique. No other publication can display this entrancing scenery and its recreation potential with more precision than Benchmark's new Colorado Road & Recreation Atlas. The Landscape Maps reveal landforms with amazing realism and detail clearly showing how the state's vast network of roads and local recreation landmarks fit into the countryside. A complete 30-page Recreation Guide lists a myriad of outdoor activities, arranged by category, and is the ideal planning tool for adventures from a simple day-hike to an extended backcountry expedition. Benchmark field-checkers drove over 25,000 miles to make sure the Colorado Road & Recreation Atlas is the most accurate, comprehensive and reliable map product every published for the state.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

We ride motorcycles, and like to explore the backcountry. Although we're set up for gravel and dirt roads, we like to know what we're getting into before we get there. Unfortunately, finding a map that shows exactly what is dirt, what is gravel, and what is paved is nearly impossible. AAA maps do show some gravel or unimproved roads, GPS systems like Tom Tom and Garmin try their best, but mark some gravel roads as paved and some paved roads as "unimproved". I thought we'd always end up guessing and asking the locals, until someone told me about Benchmark. We are heading to Colorado on a motorcycle vacation, so I thought I'd give it a try. I am completely amazed! The detail in these maps is astonishing, and still so simple to read. Roads show transitions from pavement to gravel to 4 wheel-drive. Not only that, the recreation section lists all the Parks, Historical spots,

Natural areas of note, Campgrounds, and other highlights of that particular grid on the map. You could plan an entire vacation just by reading the concise descriptions of the tourist destinations listed here. The layout is incredibly easy to work with, flip to the grid overview and find what section you want, then go to the page number. Want to follow a road to the next grid section? The page number is listed at whatever edge you're looking at, just flip to that page and continue on. My only complaint is the size, at 15" x 11", it's nothing I'll be stuffing in a tank bag. I would happily pay twice the price for a book half the height and width and including more pages, especially if the pages were made of waterproof tyvek or similar material. Because of the way motorcyclists use maps, I have a feeling we'll be disassembling the book and folding individual pages into the map holder on a tank bag. Regular map paper doesn't survive very long in these conditions, so something made of stronger stuff would be most welcome. But the maps themselves are absolutely amazing. I swear they read my mind and made the map book of my dreams.

Since moving to Colorado from the UK in 06 I've been looking for a detailed enough map of Colorado - and I think I've found it. I've worked with maps and GIS back in the UK and have always appreciated the level of detail provided by the Ordnance Survey, but struggled to find a comparable line of products for the US. I do a great deal of hiking, mountain biking, 4 wheeling and general exploring of the State, and wanted a comprehensive map which would show me trails, roads and interesting features/places. The atlas is separated into 5 sections. Section 1 shows regional maps: Entire US (1:9600000), western mountains (1:4500000) from Dallas in the SE to Bend (Oregon) in the NW, and Colorado (1:650000). Section 2 shows recreational maps and separates the whole of Colorado into 13 areas. Each one goes into great detail about the recreational facilities of each area, lists climate info and gives addresses and phone numbers for all kinds of services, camp grounds etc. Scale is 1:500000, except for the eastern plains area which is at 1:1350000. The final map shows locations of all the 14ers, major ski areas and 22 popular off road trails. Section 3 shows landscape maps at 1:200000. These are fantastic and show all the trails I've ever hiked, biked or wheeled. Section 4 shows the metro areas of Denver, Colorado Springs and the Boulder area at 1:125000. Section 5 has a comprehensive index. Overall this is an invaluable resource and miles better than any other Atlas I've looked at (and I've looked at them all!). A great all in one buy and a bargain at the moment on. Other products to consider: Latitude 40 produce some great, detailed maps at a smaller scale, but they cover selected areas and some sections are about 15 years out of date. National Geographic maps are best for hiking in the wilderness, but are only available for limited areas.

BENCHMARK ATLASES ARE THE BEST! Your so-called "smart" phone can't hold a candle to the detail of these atlases, especially for rural roads, forest service roads, etc. Also: you don't need cell service to use these. These are the best, most detailed Atlases around. My only complaint is that they don't have them for EVERY state and providence!

This book is indispensable if you are planning a trip for sightseeing, hunting, hiking or backpacking and/or camping. Each recreational guide map has Latitude/Longitude indications, great for entry into a GPS if you want to pre-set a point for exploration. Campgrounds are marked and Wilderness area and National Forest boundaries are well outlined. A nice feature is that the Colorado Game Management Units (GMU's) are outlined which is extremely valuable when planning a hunting trip for the first time in Colorado. Many points of interest are noted if your interest is more in sight seeing than in the more physical activities. Roads and trails are clearly marked. I like more detail so I order supplementary Topographic maps of areas of interest but for many people this book is all that you will need for a Colorado vacation.

I particularly like using the historic locations noted in the tiny font when trying to locate ghost towns. This book works so Good I Bought One for a Friend who is an experienced artifact hunter.

Bought this atlas so I could find some hidden spots to camp and hike in Colorado. It's a great resource, and I pull it out often when we're on camping trips in order to examine the topography around me. It could be a little more detailed, but well worth the money.

We bought this map to use on our Colorado vacation and it was very helpful. It allowed us to take some more roundabout (and scenic) routes and provided enough details to assist in our vacation planning. It fits into a backpack and is definitely worth purchasing if you're going to be traveling extensively around the state.

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