



# Three Perfect Days Downtown

It's hard to go wrong in Downtown Fort Collins, but it can be hard to narrow down your choices. We've got you covered with three ready-made itineraries guaranteed to help you make the most of a summer day.



## DAY ONE

### For the Foodie

Catch a whiff of roasting coffee emanating from **The Bean Cycle (1)** as you make your way to the coffee house and gourmet roaster, locally revered for its devotion to all things fair trade, organic, and local. Start the morning with a cup of the much-loved Kerouac (a thick, rich coffee served with Venetian cream over ice) or opt for a Pagan Mocha made with cinnamon and Denver's Ritual chocolate before moseying up to **Kilwins (2)**, a classic sweets shop. Pause at Kilwins to marvel through the window at staff scooping ice cream into homemade cones and cooling fresh batches of fudge on marble tables. Sample plenty of heavenly creations before settling on the sea-salt caramel fudge or a box of assorted truffles. Don't leave without at least trying the toasted coconut ice cream, a quietly famous local favorite. And since you'll already be salivating, pop into **Old Town Spice Shop (3)** to smell and taste scores of spices, sugars, herbs, teas, and flavorings. You can buy by the ounce and test out unique blends without piling more jars into your pantry. Pick up the Ginger Chili Twist marinade mix for your next cookout.

Next, head north to the **Welsh Rabbit Cheese Bistro (4)** for lunch, where the team lovingly serves up foods that used to be eaten in the fields, off their peasant fare menu. The delicious Old World cheeses, meats, tapas, salads, and accompaniments are upscale yet casual. Take home some of the powerful Welsh cheddar or the bison pastrami from their retail shop around the corner.

After lunch, walk or bike off some calories and soak up the surrounding natural beauty that make this city such an enviable place to live. Just steps from downtown, meet up with the Poudre River Trail and see if you can spot a rising brown trout. Or, stroll through the wetlands at Udall Natural Area and grab a pond-side bench for some waterbird watching. As the sun dips, kick back with a glass of wine or a FoCo Creed cocktail on the patio at **d'Vine Bistro and Wine Bar (5)** and mull over the small-plate happy hour specials. Offering over 40 wines by the glass, six rotating wines on tap, local beers, specialty cocktails, tapas, and a full menu, d'Vine is all about casual elegance.



**DAY TWO**

**No Place Like Home**

Spruce up your abode, Colorado-style. Start by immersing yourself in exquisite original works of art by local and international artists at **The Fine Art and Frame Company (6)**. Inquire about their summertime fused glass and painting workshops. Balance out your décor plans by including some home essentials from **Alpine Arts-The Colorado Showcase's (7)** extensive selection of Colorado-specific gifts, woodwork, jewelry, and pottery. While you're at it, make like a proud local and outfit your loved ones with Colorado-flag emblazoned hoodies and ball caps or jewelry made from real aspen leafs dipped in 14-karat gold.

Shift your mindset from mountains to the captivating desert Southwest as you browse **Santa Fe Craftsman (8)**, full of handcrafted items from the Navajo and Zuni Native American reservations in New Mexico and western-style gifts from all over the U.S. You just might end up with a turquoise-inlaid steer skull for the living room.

Complete your home beautification project with a trip to **Perennial Gardener (9)** and its adjoining store **Sense of Place**, where an eclectic mix of inspirations for the home and garden surprise and delight around every corner. Breathe new life into your outdoor spaces by turning your yard into a hot summer day haven with fountains, birdbaths, and artsy wind spinners.

**DAY THREE**

**Hey, Ladies!**

Grab your girls for a full-on retail therapy session. Kick it off by slipping on some über-flattering denim and a pair of Golden Goose boots made for walkin' at **Tula (10)**, the local source for a variety of hard-to-find designer clothes, shoes, and accessories (think Rag and Bone jeans, Jerome Dreyfuss handbags). And a girl's gotta work out, so head to **Prima Bodywear (11)** next, where the owners and staff are all accomplished dancers and experts on the specialty activewear they carry. Stock up on Handful sports bras, hands-down the best you'll ever own, and model the MPG line paired with some sequin leggings for one another. Note

never to miss the last day of their sidewalk sales when you can snag high-end garments priced by weight.

Escape the afternoon thunderstorm and duck into **Rain Boutique (12)** to pick out a bouquet of summer womenswear from lines like Joie, CP Shades, and Trina Turk. Complete your new look with a Peruvian embroidered belt from Jenny Krauss and indulge in a few accessories for your bath and bedroom like the chic and urban White Line pillows from Kriss Lecocq, CB I Hate Perfume products, and locally made Twentyseven Soaps.

Then take some time to pick out gifts to spoil the important women in your life at **Wadoo (13)**, a treasure trove of one-of-a-kind artisan-made gifts, home furnishings, and jewelry that you'll discover for the first time and wonder how you ever lived without. Look for the adorably groovy S.T.A.M.P. watches and must-have mixed metal cuffs welded into cool designs. Support the Women's Bean Project in Denver with a unique necklace purchase and be sure to check out the funky aprons and headbands made from recycled clothing by Plaidypus Freaks of Fashion.

And because Colorado girls are as active as they are stylish, close out the day test riding Trek mountain and road bikes at **Lee's Cyclery (14)**. Ask to see their "geared towards women" section for female-approved products and information on group rides and clinics for women. Ride off into the sunset on a new Electra cruiser bike with a basket, perfect for touring the breweries and hitting up this summer's concerts, backyard potlucks, and farmers' markets.



**Getting There**

**Park It**

Downtown offers five surface lots, on-street parking for two-hour limits, free all-day parking on the periphery of town, and two paying parking structures; the Civic Center garage on N. Mason St. and the Old Town garage on E. Mountain Ave. If you pedaled yourself to town, you'll find racks on most curbs and six large corrals that can fit up to 20 bikes. Rent a bike from the Fort Collins Bike Library for free at the downtown transit center.

250 N. Mason St., [fcbikelibrary.org](http://fcbikelibrary.org)

**Local Motion**

For a \$1.25 fare, hop on MAX, the new rapid transit bus line providing service every 10 minutes along a five-mile corridor on Mason St., from Cherry St. to Harmony Rd., with four convenient stops in Old Town. Bikes welcome on board.

[fcgov.com/max](http://fcgov.com/max)

**More to Love**

If perfect downtown days are your thing, you're usually in luck on Fridays. Check out the self-guided art gallery tours the first Friday of each month, watch for retail shops open late on the second Friday, and enjoy a foodie walk on the third Friday.

[downtownfortcollins.com](http://downtownfortcollins.com)