# Minturn & Red Cliff Visitor Guide

TWO SMALL TOWNS, ONE BIG BACKYARD





**DO MINTURN** 



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### CONNECT WITH RESPECT

Embrace our place and our pace.



### THE SCOOP ON POOP

You're good to go! Just bag it up.



FOLLOW THE TRAIL

Love the trail you're on.





### KNOW **BEFORE** YOU GO

Plan ahead for maximum peace and minimum peeps.



### **KINDLE** WITH CARE

Check for fire bans and restrictions before starting a campfire.



### RESPECT THE RIDE

Keep your wheels on the road and a smile on your face.



### BE PREPARED **FOR WINTER**

Make sure you and your car are winter ready. Check the weather before you head out.

### Discover the **Charming Towns of** Minturn & Red Cliff

Nestled in the Colorado Rockies, Minturn and Red Cliff are just 9 miles apart in Eagle County, offering a gateway to outdoor adventures. Surrounded by the Holy Cross Wilderness, White River National Forest, and the Eagle River, the area is a paradise for nature enthusiasts. Close to Leadville, Camp Hale National Monument, and Vail and Beaver Creek ski resorts, the towns blend old-world charm with modern excitement.

Red Cliff, established in 1879 as a silver mining camp, and Minturn, established in 1904 as a key railroad stop, thrived during Colorado's mining boom. Minturn became a crucial supply center for mining hubs, reinforcing its connection to Red Cliff's prosperity.

Over time, these towns adapted to changes like the closing of the Gilman mine and abandoned rail lines. The development of Vail and Beaver Creek transformed them into tourism hubs while maintaining their distinctive character.

Today, Minturn and Red Cliff offer numerous outdoor activities and promote responsible recreation and conservation. Visitors can enjoy winter sports and summer hikes, preserving the pristine beauty of the surroundings. Minturn and Red Cliff await, ready to enchant with natural splendor and warm hospitality, reflecting a legacy rooted in Colorado Rockies history.



### **MINTURN**

- 1. MINTURN SALOON 146 N. Main Street Originally constructed in 1901, the Saloon has been home to various taverns, restaurants, gambling halls, and more. Recently renovated in 2023 and home to a locally owned, modern, Mexican food restaurant, the building still displays signs of its history with its western exterior and pressed tin ceiling panels on the interior.
- 2. ST. PATRICK'S CHAPEL 458 Main Street In the early 1900s, local Catholics in Minturn, encouraged by monthly masses from Father James P. Carrigan, formed St. Patrick in 1913 and built a chapel in 1925 with funds from the Catholic Extension Society and community events. The chapel is still active today!

# Top 5 "All-Season" Experiences

### A YEAR-ROUND DESTINATION

During the shoulder seasons, Minturn and Red Cliff transition into tranquil retreats. Although you might find some recreational sites and trails closed to facilitate undisturbed wildlife migration, the towns' appeal remains intact. Local businesses often use this period for a well-earned rest, gearing up for the busier times ahead. Despite these pauses, the quieter streets invite you to savor the calm and the region's splendid natural vistas. To make the most of your visit, it's wise to contact local businesses in advance to verify their current hours. Below is a curated list of year-round attractions that promise enriching experiences.

HIKE A TRAIL - PG 12

CAST A ROD - PG 14

DINE & SHOP - PG 36

DRIVE THE TOP OF THE ROCKIES SCENIC BYWAY - PG 8

EXPLORE THE RICH HISTORY - SEE HIGHLIGHT BOX

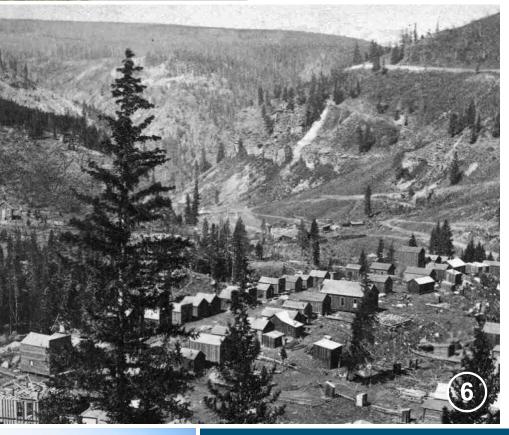


HOLY TOLEDO - 191 Main Street • Built in 1906, the Presbyterian church served its congregation for 96 years before relocating to a larger building. Now a high end consignment shop, the interior still features vast ceilings, original high-peaked windows, and century-old light fixtures, including two from the early 1900s and four from the 1920s.









### **RED CLIFF**

#### 4. THE FLEMING LUMBER BUILDING

188 Water St • Founded during Red Cliff's early development in the late 19th century, the Fleming Lumber and Merch Co. significantly contributed by providing essential building materials and merchandise to support the community and expanding mining operations. Privately owned today, the building maintains its historic exterior.

5. OLD TOWN HALL & JAIL - 367 Eagle St • The Old Town Hall & Jail were once the Eagle County headquarters, as Red Cliff was initially the county seat in the late 1880's. In January of 1882, a prisoner in the Red Cliff jail picked his way to freedom using only a toothpick and a fragment of a nail. Today, the building is empty, and the new town hall is located at the Red Cliff School

#### 6. RED CLIFF SCHOOL & MUSEUM

400 Pine St · Originally built in 1937, the Red Cliff School provided education for all youth in town from early education through high school. The school shut down due to the high costs to operate a school as well as the low enrollment due to the town's low population. Today, the school is the headquarters for the Town Hall, a museum and many local artist studios.



### **EXPLORE HISTORY YEAR-ROUND**

Take a walk through the historic downtowns that offer a peek at historical architecture and important sites that were fundamental in the foundation of Red Cliff and Minturn. Both towns have cemeteries (the Greenwood Cemetery in Red Cliff, and the River View Cemetery in Minturn), with burial sites for founders, doctors, miners, and more, dating as far back as the mid 1800s, before either towns were even established. Visitors are welcome to explore these sacred spaces, but please be respectful as these continue to be active cemeteries today. For more information and to access a full list of historical buildings, explore visitminturnredcliff.com.







### **Welcome to Minturn**

### A HISTORICAL TREASURE OF THE ROCKIES

Cradled in the Eagle River Valley, Minturn offers a slice of history among its youthful neighbors, with remnants of the late 1800s visible throughout town. Named after Robert B. Minturn, a leading 19th-century American merchant and shipping tycoon, the town first embodied the pioneering spirit of early homesteaders.

Earning the title of "lettuce capital of the world" thanks to their highly-desired Everkrisp lettuce, the early pioneers built a strong community foundation that further blossomed with the arrival of miners and the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad in 1887.

With an established railroad, Minturn quickly became a vital transportation and industry nexus, with hardworking settlers transforming the town into an imperative hub for the mining industry which was then thriving between them and Leadville. Minturn's vibrancy led to its incorporation in 1904, catering to its growing community. Over the years, Minturn transitioned from its agricultural roots to a beloved mountain getaway. Despite inevitable changes, Minturn retains its unique character, thriving with outdoor recreation, art, restaurants, and boutique businesses.

Today, Minturn is celebrated as a true mountain town: a friendly haven where the spirit of the Old West greets the new. It invites you to explore its storied streets, to become part of its living history, and to experience the genuine hospitality that makes it a Rocky Mountain gem.



#### **LOCAL SPOTLIGHT**

"My favorite thing about living in Minturn is exploring and discovering so many of our world's wonders with my family – right outside our door!"

— Lindsey | 14 years in Minturn





### Discover Red Cliff

### A HIDDEN GEM TUCKED **UP HIGH IN THE ROCKIES**

Welcome to Red Cliff, the oldest town in Eagle County, founded in 1879. Named for the striking red sandstone and quartzite cliffs surrounding it, Red Cliff began as a bustling hub for gold and silver mining, with streets lined by banks, saloons, and brothels built by settlers seeking mountain riches. Today, it's a peaceful town of about 280 residents, home to families, artists, and outdoor enthusiasts.

Situated at an elevation of 8,750 feet along the Top of the Rockies Scenic Byway, Red Cliff offers a serene retreat engulfed by a mountain landscape. The town's entrance is marked by the iconic 1940s Red Cliff Bridge spanning the Eagle River. A gateway to endless outdoor recreation, the town sits surrounded by the White River National Forest, Shrine Pass Recreation Area, and the Mount of the Holy Cross Wilderness.

Though small in size, Red Cliff radiates charm, with its local businesses providing everything needed for an unforgettable mountain retreat. Whether you're here to hike, fish, or simply enjoy the tranquility, Red Cliff embodies the spirit of "Real Colorado"— no fuss, no resorts, just fresh mountain air. With a rich history and access to the best of the Rockies, Red Cliff is a perfect destination for those seeking a quiet, unspoiled corner of Colorado.



#### LOCAL SPOTLIGHT

"I love the great group of kids in Red Cliff. It is a great place for children to get out and experience nature right in their backyard. They love to explore with each other in our safe community."

- Kristina | 8 years in Red Cliff



### **Getting Here**

### PLAN AHEAD, TAKE IT SLOW

Minturn and Red Cliff are just 9 miles or 15 minutes apart along Highway 24, the Top of the Rockies Scenic Byway. Your choice of transportation—car, public transit, or air travel—depends on your preference for convenience, scenery, and overall travel experience.

### **BY CAR**

Traveling by car offers the most flexibility and scenic views when visiting Minturn and Red Cliff.

From Denver or Grand Junction, take I-70 towards the mountains, then exit 171 to Highway 24 East, entering Minturn via the Top of the Rockies Scenic Byway. Red Cliff is a mere 9 miles south from Minturn, with the journey offering stunning vistas as you ascend Battle Mountain.

EV Stations are available in Minturn, with a Level 1 charger at Shop & Hop, and a Level 2 charger at Town Hall.

### **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

While public transportation options are limited in these smaller towns, there are still viable ways to visit without a car.

Core Transit offers services that connect larger towns in Eagle County. We recommend checking the schedule at

https://evta.colorado.gov to plan your travels. Taxi services and ride shares are possible, but not always available.

### SHUTTLE SERVICES

Various shuttle services like Bustang and Epic Mountain Express operate from Denver International Airport and other local airports, providing transportation to the Vail Valley. For more information on drop-off locations, we recommend referring to their websites.

### **AIRPORTS**

There are three airports that are all great options offering rental car or shuttle services to Minturn or the Vail Valley.

**Eagle County Regional Airport (EGE):** Located 32 miles or 30 minutes to Minturn traveling I-70 Eastbound

**Denver International Airport (DEN):** Located 125 miles or approximately 2-2.5 hrs to Minturn traveling I-70 Westbound

**Grand Junction Regional Airport (GJT):** Located 117 miles or 2 hrs to Minturn traveling I-70 Eastbound









### **Know Before You Go**

### **PLANNING A TRIP TO MINTURN & RED CLIFF?**

Here are some essential tips to ensure a smooth and enjoyable visit.

### **LOCAL TIPS**

- · High Altitude: Minturn and Red Cliff are located between 7,800 and 8,700 ft. Drink plenty of water, eat well-balanced meals, and limit alcohol consumption to avoid altitude sickness. And of course, always wear sunscreen!
- Off-Peak Seasons: Visit during spring or fall for lower accommodation prices and fewer crowds. Fewer people mean quieter trails, faster commutes, and more spontaneity.

### **MOUNTAIN CONDITIONS AND** TRAVEL PREPARATION

- Mountain weather can be unpredictable. Check the forecast regularly and drive slow in winter conditions.
- · Verify road conditions before traveling and be prepared for delays during adverse weather. When visiting in the winter or planning to explore dirt roads, request an all-wheel drive or 4WD vehicle from your rental company.

### SUPPORT THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

- · Local Businesses: Check which businesses are open. Spring and Fall can be transitional seasons for many shops and restaurants.
- Respect Their Space: We love to welcome visitors to our towns! Remember that Red Cliff and Minturn are our home. Be respectful follow speed limits, park appropriately, and respect private property.



## **Top of the Rockies Scenic and Historic Byway**

### **TRAVEL HIGHWAY 24 FROM** MINTURN TO LEADVILLE

When it comes to scenic byways, Colorado boasts some of the most spectacular stretches in the country. Among them is the Top of the Rockies Scenic and Historic Byway, a blissful 33-mile segment of Highway 24 that connects Minturn to Leadville. This road trip offers stunning landscapes, historic sites, outdoor adventures, remote charm, and breathtaking vistas.

To enrich your road trip, download the TravelStorys app. This GPS-based, self-guided audio tour program offers curated stories about the history, wildlife, and culture of the area. Scan the QR code on this page.

### **MINTURN**

Minturn marks the northern end of the byway. Park downtown and explore Minturn's historic buildings, many of which are now home to local shops and restaurants. Stretch your legs with a walk along the Eagle River or take a hike up one of Minturn's many trails for beautiful views. More About Minturn - pg. 4

### **BATTLE MOUNTAIN**

Head south to Red Cliff, and ascend Battle Mountain. This 9-mile stretch follows high above the Eagle River headwaters and the old mining tracks. Your drive will treat you to panoramic views of the 13,243 ft peak, Notch Mountain. Be sure to stop alongside the historic Gilman Mine, an abandoned mining town that reminds traveler's of Colorado's rich mining heritage.

### RED CLIFF AND THE BRIDGE

Red Cliff is known for its vibrant history and the striking early 20th-century bridge that marks its entrance, above the headwaters of the Eagle River. Here, you'll find a cozy town of 280 residents and



access to one of Colorado's largest National Forests. For a short detour in the summer, follow Shrine Pass Road out of Red Cliff to the top of Vail Pass. More About Red Cliff - pg. 5

### **CAMP HALE**

A short drive from Red Cliff brings you to Camp Hale National Historic Monument, a historic military training site where World War II soldiers prepared for mountain warfare. Today, Camp Hale is a protected outdoor region with 4x4 trails, ample fishing holes, hiking trails and campsites.

### TENNESSEE PASS

Tennessee Pass is the highest point of the Scenic Byway and a part of the Continental Divide. Here, you can downhill and cross-country ski in the winter, as well as mountain bike and hike in the summer. At the top of the pass, you can also explore a section of the Colorado Trail, a 486 mile trail connecting Durango to Denver.

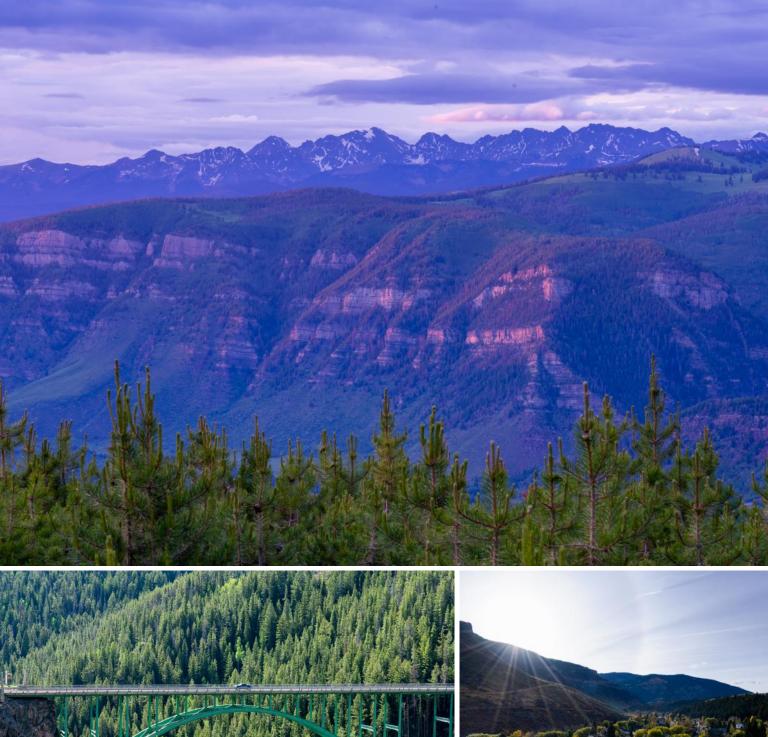
### **LEADVILLE**

Arriving in Leadville, you'll be surrounded by 13,000 and 14,000-foot mountains. As the highest incorporated city in the U.S. at 10,152 feet, this historic town offers attractions like the Tabor Opera House and the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum, built on the legacy of the silver boom.





to enhance your travel experience.







### A Good Time, **Any Time**

### A YEAR-ROUND 2-DAY ITINERARY

Hiking, fishing, shopping, and dining can be enjoyed year-round in Minturn and Red Cliff! While the summer and winter are the most popular, the "shoulder seasons" in Colorado have so much to offer with the benefit of fewer crowds. Lodging rates are also available at lower rates during this time, allowing a more economical or potentially longer stay! Take a look at this 2-day itinerary to get an idea of what you can experience any time of the year.



### MORNING

Start your day with a hearty breakfast in Minturn at a local restaurant and prep for a full day of fishing! Hire a local guide to coach you on casting your line in the best spots. For a peaceful fishing experience, head to Homestake Creek, located just southwest of Red Cliff. This scenic creek is perfect for anglers of all levels.

#### AFTERNOON

Spend the afternoon exploring the towns and perusing through the local shops. Get tips from locals on their favorite hikes, dining spots, and happy hour locations to round out your day.

#### **EVENING**

Explore the local cuisine at one of the area's excellent restaurants. Fun fact — none of the restaurants in Minturn or Red Cliff are chains — you are bound to have a unique experience served up by local chefs!





### LOCAL SPOTLIGHT

"My favorite spot to fish the Eagle River in Minturn is right behind my house! I can't tell you where that is, but my 2nd favorite spot is at the Boneyard Open Space. It has a new ADA fishing platform and is chocked full of Browns, Bows and Brookies!"

— Jeff | 26 years living in Minturn















### **MORNING**

Pack up the car and your cooler for a day on the road. Head south to start climbing the Top of the Rockies Scenic Byway! This beautiful route takes you from Minturn, through Red Cliff, and beyond offering breathtaking views and photo opportunities. Stop by the Red Cliff Bridge, one of only two steel arch bridges in the state, for an impressive photo op. There is much to see and do along this route! Make sure to check out pages 8-9 for more information on this drive.

### **AFTERNOON**

Park at the top of Tennessee Pass and hike along the Colorado Trail. This trail spans approximately 485 miles from Denver to Durango and is easily accessed between Camp Hale National Monument and Leadville. Be sure to carry snowshoes or microspikes if hiking when the snow is still present.

### **EVENING**

Conclude your day with a relaxing evening at the Green Bridge Inn in Red Cliff. Enjoy a leisurely walk around town before joining the locals at Mango's Mountain Grill for dinner.







### **Hiking**

The mountains and forests surrounding Minturn and Red Cliff provide opportunities for hikers of all experience levels to explore stunning landscapes year-round. Each season offers a unique adventure, making these natural sanctuaries a must-visit for nature lovers. Trail conditions are best for hiking from late May to September, while December to March may require traction devices or snowshoes.

### TIPS FOR A GREAT HIKE

- Plan your route Check the weather and grab a map to plan your hike before heading out.
- Prepare for elevation Go easy, give yourself extra time, and pack plenty of water.
- Beat the crowds Start early or hike on weekdays to avoid crowds.
- Leave no trace Pack out all your trash. leaving the trail as beautiful as you found it.
- Respect wildlife Stay off closed trails and provide plenty of space to wildlife.

The Vail Valley Mountain Trails Alliance **(VVMTA)** The VVMTA brings our community together to create, maintain and explore singletrack trails in Eagle County. Our love for outdoor recreation inspires stewardship of our mountain landscape by educating, collaborating and taking action alongside fellow community members. Visit vvmta.org to learn more.









# MEADOW MOUNTAIN /INTURN SHRINE PASS RED CLIFF HOMESTAKE Scan this CAMP HALE code to explore all local trails LEADVILLE

### START WITH OUR FAVORITES!



### **MEADOW MOUNTAIN TRAIL NETWORK**

Rating: Beginner to Advanced

Trailhead Location: Minturn

The Meadow Mountain trail network is vast, offering well-maintained routes with varying difficulty levels, making it perfect for both beginners and seasoned hikers.



#### **GROUSE CREEK LOOP**

Rating: Intermediate to Advanced

Trailhead Location: Minturn The Grouse Creek Loop near Minturn offers interconnected trails with switchbacks, wildflowers, and creek crossings.



#### THE COLORADO TRAIL

Rating: Beginner to Advanced

Trailhead Location: Camp Hale National Monument or Tennessee Pass Access part of the 486-mile Colorado Trail from Camp Hale or Tennessee Pass. Enjoy wildflowers in summer and picturesque valley views in fall.



### **LOCAL SPOTLIGHT**

"Segment 8 of the CO Trail is my favorite hiking trail in the area. Why? 25 miles of everything Colorado has to offer; creeks, waterfalls, high alpine views, wildflowers all summer long, wildlife, and the best part is you can do segments of segments depending on mood and time."

— Michele | 5 years in Red Cliff





### **Fishing**

The headwaters of the Eagle River originate just south of Red Cliff near the Camp Hale National Monument, marking the Continental Divide. Along the 20-mile stretch from Tennessee Pass to Dowd Junction, anglers will find prime spots to cast a line from shore, in waders, or on a boat.

Expect to catch rainbow trout, brown trout, and mountain whitefish. The river's diverse aquatic life and scenic surroundings offer a perfect escape into nature. From March to April, enjoy spring or pre-runoff conditions when trout are hungry and active, and the rivers are quieter. For the most fruitful adventures, contact a local guide or tour company.

### RECOMMENDED SPOTS

- · Minturn Boneyard Open Space
- · Homestake River Flats
- · Eagle River: Tigiwon to Minturn section

#### **TURQUOISE LAKE**

This 1800-acre fishing site is located just 35 minutes south of Red Cliff, and it's home to mackinaw. rainbow, lake, and brown trout. For a more off-thebeaten path adventure, reach out to Nova Guides or Minturn Anglers for a trip to some hidden waters. During the summer, fishing in the morning will help you to avoid fishing when the sun warms the temperature too high. Generally, water temperatures above 65 degrees Fahrenheit is the mark to pull your flys out of the water and give the trout a break.

#### WINTER TIP

Visit Turquoise Lake near Leadville for excellent ice fishing on its vast frozen surface during the colder months.





### RESPONSIBLE RECREATION

Keep it Clean: Water resources are essential to locals and wildlife. Pack out your trash and do not dispose of anything into the rivers.

**Heed River Restrictions:** Be aware of water levels and temperatures, and only fish in safe conditions for both you and the fish.

Get Licensed: Obtain a Colorado fishing license from local outfitters or online before fishing.



### Summer Time, & the Livin's Busy

### **3-DAY SUMMER ITINERARY**

Warm summer days are perfect for getting outside, exploring the towns, and taking in the views. Use this itinerary to discover why so many come for the winter but stay for the summer.



### **EXPLORE MINTURN**

### MORNING

Start your day in downtown Minturn with a hearty breakfast at one of the many local restaurants in town. After your belly is full and your pack is stocked, head for a hike up Game Creek Trail.

### **AFTERNOON**

Enjoy a leisurely lunch in one of Minturn's local eateries. Spend the afternoon mountain biking at the local bike park, or on one of the many mountain biking trails accessible from Minturn.

### **FVFNING**

Keep your ears open for live music — free concerts can be found regularly at local establishments or at Little Beach Park. Stay overnight in one of Minturn's cozy accommodations and immerse yourself in the town's welcoming atmosphere.



#### LOCAL SPOTLIGHT

"Hiking with my pup in Minturn lifts my soul. The beautiful scenery on our hiking trails changes with every season, and we love it! From spring through fall, we especially enjoy the wildflowers, creeks, trees and colors on Cross Creek and Game Creek trails. In the winter, we love the snow and views on Meadow Mountain and Martin Creek trails. The best!!"

— AnneMarie | 16 years in Minturn











### **CAMP UNDER THE STARS**

#### MORNING

Enjoy breakfast at your lodging or grab a quick bite to-go from a local cafe. Be sure to stock up on provisions for your night under the stars, and carry plenty of layers and water.

### **AFTERNOON**

Pack your camping gear and embark on an overnight trip in the White River National Forest. Options range from primitive, dispersed camping along pristine lakes, or booking a spot at an official campground in the area.

### **EVENING**

Set up camp, prepare a delicious meal over the campfire, and spend the night under a canopy of stars, surrounded by the serene sounds of the wilderness.

### **DISCOVERING RED CLIFF**

#### MORNING

After breaking camp down, make your way to the historic town of Red Cliff. Rent an ATV or side-by-side and head out for a day of adventure and 360-degree views up Shrine Pass.

### **AFTERNOON**

Spend the day exploring the town's rich history and scenic beauty. Grab lunch at the local restaurant and chat with residents in the downtown hotel and convenience store. Be sure to stroll through the Greenwood Cemetery for a look at the town's rich history and remember to respect the sacred ground.

#### **EVENING**

Conclude your adventure with a relaxing evening at the Green Bridge Inn. Spend the evening with the locals at Mango's Mountain Grill, or join them in the park for a movie under the stars. Reach out to the town for a schedule of live music or local events.





### **Mountain Biking**

As spring arrives, Eagle County bikers swap skis for wheels. Minturn and Red Cliff offer numerous trails for summer rides. Most are multi-use, so share respectfully. Remember: Bikers yield to horses and hikers; downhill riders yield to uphill. Explore our favorite routes below!

### MINTURN BIKE PARK

Free public trails for all skill levels. Features dirt jumps, rock drops, wood obstacles, and technical routes, catering to both beginners and advanced riders.

Level: Beginner - Advanced

Location: 1010 Cemetery Rd, Minturn, CO

### MEADOW MOUNTAIN SYSTEM

This extensive single-track trail system connects local's to their favorite trails including Meadow Mountain Loop, Everkrisp, Whiskey Creek, Grouse Creek and more.

Level: Intermediate - Advanced

Location: Meadow Mountain Parking Lot, HWY 24

### SHRINE PASS ROAD

This 8.5-mile ride on Forest Road 709 from Red Cliff to the top of Shrine Pass is a steady 2,300 ft climb on gravel and traverses through wildflower fields, alpine valleys, and ends with a 360-degree mountain view.

Level: Intermediate - Advanced Location: Forest Road 709, Red Cliff

### RESPECT THE TRAILS

Avoid Wet Trails: If the tires are leaving muddy tracks, return a different day.

Stay on the Trail: Going around rough trail spots causes more damage to trails, increasing their width, disturbing native and protected lands, and increasing the need for maintenance.

Respect Closures: Trails may be closed for many reasons, including snow conditions, wildlife migration, and trail hazards.







### Camping

Should you choose, you can visit Minturn and Red Cliff without spending one night indoors. Surrounded by National Forests and hundreds of miles of backpacking trails, your options for a night under the starry skies are unlimited.

### DISPERSED CAMPING

Backcountry camping offers a no-frills, self-reliant adventure that does not require any reservations! Choose responsible campsites and practice Leave No Trace: pack out all waste, set up camp and bathrooms 200+ feet from water and trails, and use durable surfaces. This minimizes environmental impact while allowing immersion in pristine wilderness.

### **RECOMMENDED SPOTS**

Cross Creek Trail to Missouri Lakes
Fall Creek Trail to Lake Constantine

**Designated Campsites:** These campsites are established and overseen by the forest service. Spots are first-come, first-served, and are sometimes equipped with designated campfire rings. Unless otherwise posted, these sites are free. Amenities are typically not provided on site, but can be found at trailheads.



### **CAMPFIRE SAFETY**

**Know Restrictions:** Contact Eagle County Emergency Management or Holy Cross Ranger Station.

**Build Fires:** Only in designated fire rings; keep small and attended.

**Firewood:** Buy/gather locally to prevent invasive species.

Smoking: Use care; butts can cause fires.

**Douse It:** Abandoned campfires can reignite days later if not properly extinguished. To ensure safety, douse the fire with water, stir the remains, and repeat until the area is cold to touch. Don't be deceived; embers can retain heat for an extended period.

### RECOMMENDED SPOTS

Shrine Pass Road to Vail Pass Homestake Valley Tigiwon Road

### OFFICIAL CAMPGROUNDS

Forest Service campgrounds offer the most comfortable camping experience with designated spots for tents, vehicles, and RVs. Amenities typically include picnic tables, toilets, trash facilities, and fire pits with grills. Often located near popular trails and outdoor activities, these reservable sites serve as ideal basecamps for wilderness exploration. Visit recreation.gov site for reserving official campgrounds.

#### RECOMMENDED SPOTS

Halfmoon Campground
Camp Hale Memorial Campground
Hornsilver Campground



### **Off-Roading**

There are countless trails leading from Red Cliff and Minturn that offer exhilarating off-roading adventures for hours or even days. Off-highway vehicles (OHVs) include ATVs, dirt bikes, Jeeps, and side-by-sides (UTVs/SxS). Numerous local outfitters provide guided and unguided tours. Remember, if you plan to bring your own vehicle, respect local ordinance & register - OHVs are not allowed on the town streets and all OHVs must be registered with the Colorado State Parks' program before you start your adventure.

### **RECOMMENDED TRAILS**

Shrine Pass Recreation Area Tigiwon Road out of Minturn Homestake Valley Recreation Area



**Leave No Trace:** Leave plants, rocks, and cultural items as found.

Admire Wildflowers: Take photos, not flowers.

Respect The Area: Keep noise under 96 decibels, use proper exhaust, abide by speed limits, and minimize dust.

Gate Etiquette: Leave gates as you find them.

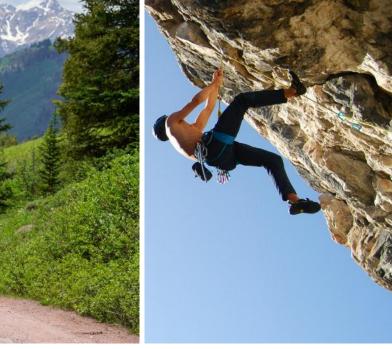
Stay on Trails: Use designated trails; avoid town roads.











### **Rock Climbing**

With stunning views and diverse routes, climbers of all levels can enjoy an unforgettable adventure. Whether you're top-roping towering cliffs or free-soloing around glacial boulders, the immense amount of routes and "problems" will surprise you. Many of these routes are considered local gems - do your part to respect the space and leave the sites in pristine condition.

### RECOMMENDED CLIMBING SPOTS

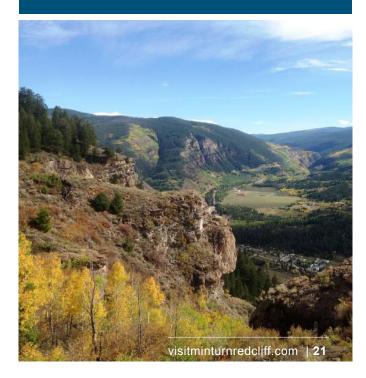
The Klettergarden Gilman Canyon Homestake Valley

### **RESPONSIBLE RECREATION**

**Bring a Buddy:** Most climbing spots are found in remote areas with no cell phone service.

Know Your Limits: Choose a route based on your skills & equipment

**Hire a Guide:** Local guides can bring you to the best spots and provide extra coaching and safety.











### River Activities: Kayaking, SUPing & Rafting

The hot summer days in Minturn and Red Cliff can be cooled by an array of river activities for adventure seekers and nature enthusiasts alike. As the snow melts and feeds the local waterways, the Eagle River and its tributaries come alive, providing the perfect playground for water sports enthusiasts. From gentle float trips to heart-pounding kayak lines, the area caters to all skill levels and preferences. Local tour operators pick destinations based on run-off, guiding you to the best destination of your floating dreams.

### KAYAKING THROUGH MINTURN

Local kayakers often enjoy the stretch from the Boneyard Open Space down to the Minturn Saloon and beyond. Many adventurous paddlers continue through the challenging Dowd Chute, known for its intense rapids and beautiful surroundings.

### VAIL RECREATION DISTRICT'S DOWNRIVER DASH

This annual kayak race takes place in Minturn, starting at the Boneyard Open Space and finishing at the Minturn Saloon. The event also includes a 2-person raft category, showcasing the versatility of the river.

### STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING (SUP)

The calmer sections of the Eagle River through Minturn have become increasingly popular for SUP enthusiasts. This activity offers a unique perspective of the river and surrounding landscape while providing a full-body workout.

### RESPONSIBLE RECREATION

**Keep it Clean:** Water resources are essential to locals and wildlife. Pack out your trash and do not dispose of anything into the rivers.

**Play Safe:** Always wear a properly fitted Personal Flotation Device (PFD).

### **Golden Autumn Adventures in Red Cliff and Minturn**

### **EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC OF FALL IN COLORADO'S HIDDEN** MOUNTAIN GEMS

Fall offers visitors a breathtaking display of autumn colors as the aspen trees transform the landscape into a golden wonderland. These charming mountain towns provide a perfect base for outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy crisp hiking trails, exhilarating mountain biking routes, and scenic drives through the surrounding White River National Forest, all while avoiding the summer crowds. Here's a sample itinerary to inspire your next fall visit.



### MORNING

Start your day with a hike to the top of Lionshead Rock via Cougar Ridge trail. The 6 mile out-and-back hike rewards hikers with a birds eye view of Minturn and breathtaking views of fall foliage.

#### **AFTERNOON**

After lunch, try your hand (and feet!) at bouldering or rock climbing at the Klettergarten or Gilman Cliffs near Red Cliff. Consider hiring a local guide if you're a beginner.

#### **EVENING**

End your day with a stroll through Greenwood Cemetery, perched above Red Cliff. Enjoy lookout points with stunning views of the Red Cliff Bridge and the vibrant colors of aspen trees.



### **OPTION 1**

Start your Colorado Thanksgiving experience by trying your hand at grouse or big game hunting in the White River National Forest. The hunting season runs from early September to the end of October. Remember to obtain proper licenses and tags from Colorado Parks & Wildlife. For the adventurous, consider setting up your hunting camp in designated campgrounds along the scenic Shrine Pass Road.

### **OPTION 2**

Not quite ready to channel your inner frontiersman? No worries! Downtown Minturn has got you covered with a cornucopia of fall festivities. Whether you catch the last Minturn Farmer's Market of the season, attend the First Friday event, or dress up and participate in Minturn's legendary Halloween bash, there is a fall event that everyone in the family can attend.



Take a scenic drive along the Top of the Rockies Scenic Byway for spectacular leaf-peeping opportunities. The route offers stunning views of fall colors set against Notch Mountain, Mount of the Holy Cross, and surrounding ranges. Make sure to pack your fishing poles and hiking boots - there are plenty of fishing spots and trails along the route where you can stretch your legs and take in the fresh autumn air. More details on the Scenic Byway can be found on page 8.















### **LOCAL SPOTLIGHT**

"Fall Mountain biking in Minturn is an absolute treat. The colors are beautiful and the cooler temperatures make it even more inviting. My favorite mountain bike trail is Everkrisp, which can be accessed from Meadow Mountain. It's a smooth-flowing intermediate trail that can be done as an out and back, or you can take it from Minturn to EagleVail, or EagleVail to Minturn."

— Cindy | Town of Minturn employee of 6 years

### **Leaf Peeping**

Minturn and Red Cliff offer stunning fall foliage displays, with the surrounding mountains and forests bursting into vibrant golds, oranges, and reds. The area's high altitude and diverse landscapes provide breathtaking backdrops for leaf peepers and photographers alike. Whether you're hiking through golden aspen groves or driving along scenic byways, the fall foliage near Red Cliff and Minturn promises a spectacular display of nature's autumn palette. Remember that peak colors typically occur from mid-September to early October, depending on elevation and weather conditions.

### BEST SPOTS FOR PHOTOS AND MOUNTAIN VISTAS:

Top of the Rockies Scenic Byway: This iconic route showcases golden aspen foliage against majestic mountain peaks. Numerous pullouts offer perfect photo opportunities, including near the abandoned Gilman Mine for views of the ghost town and Notch Mountain.

**Tigiwon Road:** South of Minturn, this forest road traverses through the White River National Forest & Holy Cross Wilderness. Enjoy the vibrant foliage while driving or hiking, with numerous pull-offs and trails providing excellent vantage points at different elevations, ensuring a diverse range of fall colors.

**Shrine Pass Road:** Starting from Red Cliff, this 8.5-mile scenic drive to Shrine Mountain Trailhead features stunning fall vistas, including the Mount Holy Cross overlook with panoramic views of colorful aspen groves and surrounding mountains. For extra steps and major views, hike the 2-mile trail to the top of Shrine Mountain.

### RESPONSIBLE RECREATION

Keep a safe distance from any wildlife you may encounter. It's essential to avoid stressing out the animals, as we want to ensure that their natural habitats remain healthy and safe.

Remember that the smallest carving in trees can kill or disfigure them.













### **Hunting**

As autumn paints the landscape with vibrant hues, the areas surrounding Minturn and Red Cliff transform into a hunter's paradise. The fall season brings ample opportunities for big and small game hunting, including grouse, deer, elk, and more. Located within GMU 45, the region's diverse terrain, ranging from dense forests to open meadows, provides ideal habitats for various wildlife. Hunters can experience the thrill of the chase while immersing themselves in the breathtaking scenery of the Colorado Rockies.

Three prime hunting locations in the area include:

White River National Forest: This vast forest surrounding Minturn and Red Cliff offers extensive hunting grounds for various game species. Gain quicker access by driving up Shrine Pass road and camping in one of the designated campsites.

Holy Cross Wilderness: Accessed via Tigiwon Road at the south end of Minturn, this wilderness area provides challenging terrain and diverse wildlife habitats for experienced hunters who want to hike-in for their adventure.

Game Management Unit 44: Although not directly in Minturn or Red Cliff, this nearby unit is one of the most coveted deer hunting areas in the Western states, featuring diverse elevations and habitats.

### **BEFORE YOU GO**

Make it Official: It's crucial to obtain the necessary licenses and familiarize yourself with local regulations.

Get Informed: Contact the Colorado Parks & Wildlife office in Glenwood Springs or visit their website for up-to-date information on hunting regulations, licenses, and seasonal restrictions.

Be In Season: Hunters should follow archery and rifle seasons closely and not hunt out of season.

### **A Winter Wonder**land Escape

# TWO

### A 3-DAY SNOW PACKED ADVENTURE

Experience the magic of winter in Minturn and Red Cliff, Colorado, where snow-capped peaks and crisp mountain air create a picturesque alpine wonderland. From world-class skiing and snowboarding at nearby resorts to serene snowshoeing trails and exhilarating snowmobile trails, winter enthusiasts will find no shortage of activities. With fewer crowds than larger ski towns, Minturn and Red Cliff provide an authentic Rocky Mountain winter experience.



### MINTURN AND MEADOW MOUNTAIN

### MORNING

Start your adventure at Meadow Mountain. This area offers an array of activities for the whole family including skinning, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling. If this is your first time to the Rockies, begin with a snowshoe trek to warm up and acclimate to the altitude.

### **AFTERNOON**

After lunch in Minturn, head to Maloit Park for crosscountry skiing. This area boasts 6 miles of trails maintained by the Ski & Snowboard Club Vail. You might even spot Olympic hopefuls training here!

#### **EVENING**

Relax, warm up and refuel in Minturn at one of the many restaurants before getting a great night's sleep at a local hotel.

#### **RED CLIFF AND SHRINE PASS**

#### MORNING

Drive to Red Cliff and start your day off snowmobiling around the extensive Camp Hale National Monument trail system. For the best 360 degree views, head up Shrine Pass Road, enjoying stunning views of the Tenmile Range, Gore Range, and Holy Cross Wilderness.

### **AFTERNOON**

After lunch in town, switch gears for some cross country skiing or snowshoeing. With Red Cliff's abundant snowfall, there are plenty of trails and paths to explore all from the center of town.

#### **EVENING**

Enjoy dinner in town and warm up along with the locals. If you're up for it, take a short night walk or snowshoe through town to experience the tranquility of the winter landscape under starlight.



### VAIL PASS AND MINTURN

### **MORNING**

Start early with a backcountry skiing adventure. For experienced skiers, the White River National Forest provides thousands of acres of backcountry access. Rent a snowmobile to shuttle your gear and bring your friends! Remember, this is an unpatrolled run, so exercise caution and ensure you have proper avalanche gear and knowledge.

Wrap up the trip with a visit to the Minturn Winter Holiday Market or mix up some hot chocolate to enjoy fireside while you reflect on your adventures.















### LOCAL SPOTLIGHT

"Minturn, surrounded by National Forest, is a winter wonderland for outdoor activities. One of my favorites is grabbing my Nordic gear and heading to Maloit Park, where 6 miles of cross-country ski trails, maintained by the Ski & Snowboard Club Vail, offer both peaceful scenery and challenging hill climbs. It's amazing to have such a great spot right in our backyard!"

— Deb | Minturn





### **Backcountry Skiing**

With diverse terrain ranging from wide-open meadows to steep chutes and perfect tree runs, Minturn and Red Cliff offers something for every skill level. The region boasts consistent snowfall and breathtaking mountain vistas, making it a paradise for powder enthusiasts.

### NOTABLE BACKCOUNTRY SKIING **DESTINATIONS:**

Minturn Mile: A legendary backcountry ski route connecting Vail Mountain to Minturn. This challenging 3-mile descent offers thrilling powder runs through diverse terrain. Skiers exit Vail's back bowls. navigating trees and steep chutes before reaching Minturn. Proper avalanche gear and backcountry experience are essential for this adventure.

Meadow Mountain: This mild-grade mountain provides excellent backcountry skiing through open meadows and sparse aspen groves. It's suitable for beginner tree skiers and provides an accessible and enjoyable experience. The southeast-facing slopes make it ideal for spring skiing.

Shrine Pass: Shrine Pass offers excellent backcountry skiing with easy access via snowmobile from Red Cliff. At the top, gentle terrain, open snowfields, and great snow conditions await. The 11.000 ft summit offers incredible views of the surrounding snow capped Rockies.

### SAFE RECREATION

Snow and trail conditions are unpredictable in Colorado's backcountry. Here are some tips for exploring the backcountry safely:

- Always check local conditions before venturing
- Carry proper safety equipment
- Consider hiring a guide for unfamiliar terrain
- Backcountry ski touring is for experienced skiers/snowboarders only
- Check Colorado Avalanche Information Center for snow conditions







### **Snowmobiling**

Nestled in the White River National Forest and Shrine Pass Recreation area, Minturn and Red Cliff offer over 100 miles of backcountry trails for snowmobiling enthusiasts. Local outfitters provide sleds and guided tours, catering to all skill levels from novices to experienced riders. This region provides some of Colorado's best snowmobiling experiences, combining breathtaking Rocky Mountain views, high elevations, and diverse terrain for an unforgettable winter excursion.

### **POPULAR ROUTES INCLUDE:**

**Meadow Mountain:** Offers wide-open terrain for beginner riders that want to experience high-elevation gains and mild grades. Riders should obtain a winter Motor Vehicle Use Map from the Ranger Station.

**Tigiwon Road:** An 8-mile forest road south of Minturn that leads to a powder haven! The trail climbs approximately 2,000 feet through pine and aspen forests, providing stunning views of Gilman Canyon.

**Shrine Pass Road:** A must-do ride connecting Red Cliff to Vail Pass, offering over 12 miles of intermediate packed track with spectacular 360-degree views of four mountain ranges.

**Camp Hale National Monument:** Once a training ground for the 10th Mountain Division, it now provides access to over 100 miles of groomed trails across 55,000 acres of picturesque terrain.

Before your adventure, prepare for backcountry conditions with proper safety measures. Note that snowmobiles and trailers are not allowed on town streets in Red Cliff and Minturn. Research designated parking lots in advance and arrive early.



#### LOCAL SPOTLIGHT

"Living in Minturn, I like having the luxury of being able to ride from home and go for a snowmobile ride at Meadow Mountain. It is a beautiful ride." — Gusty | Minturn







### Nordic Skiing & Snowshoeing

Enjoy tranquil winter landscapes in Minturn and Red Cliff while cross-country skiing or snowshoeing along scenic mountain trails, offering invigorating exercise and minimal environmental impact compared to other winter sports. Remember to dress in layers, pack ample food and water, stay on marked paths, keep your dogs close, and leave no trace to preserve the environment.

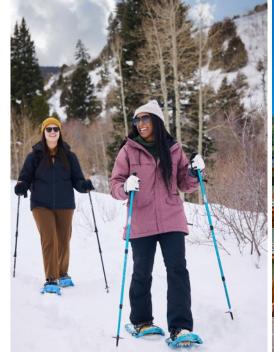
### **ROUTES TO EXPLORE:**

Maloit Park: This nordic skiing destination outside of Minturn features a well-maintained nordic course, perfect for skiing enthusiasts of all levels. While occasional races may temporarily close the course, it's typically accessible to visitors. Maloit Park's scenic location and varied terrain make it a popular spot for outdoor recreation in both winter and warmer months.

Shrine Pass Road: Embark on a scenic cross-country ski adventure up Shrine Pass Road from Red Cliff. The first two miles offer a serene route through snowcovered forests along Turkey Creek. This forest road is closed to vehicle traffic during the winter and provides a gentle grade perfect for skiers, snowshoers, and dogs.

Camp Hale National Monument & the Colorado Trail: Camp Hale National Monument's flat valley offers miles of cross-country skiing where the 10th Mountain Division once trained for World War II. For a challenging adventure, take the Colorado Trail to climb surrounding mountains and explore dense pine forests.

Tennessee Pass Nordic Center: Experience pristine snowshoeing and skiing on groomed trails amid scenic forests and meadows, complemented by breathtaking Rocky Mountain views. Rentals and overnight yurt accommodations enhance the adventure.





















### CAMPGROUNDS

**Halfmoon Campground** Hornsilver Campground **Blodgett Campground** Gold Park Campground Camp Hale Memorial Campground

### Where To Stay

Welcome to Minturn and Red Cliff's cozy hideaways! Forget cookie-cutter resorts – we're all about unique. family-owned stays that make you feel like a local. From snug B&Bs to boutique inns with jaw-dropping views, we've got something for every traveler and budget. Each spot tells a story of our mountain heritage, with hosts as colorful as fall aspens. Whether you're curling up by the fire or swapping tales over breakfast, our lodgings aren't just places to sleep - they're gateways to the authentic Rocky Mountain experience.

### MINTURN HOTELS

Minturn Inn: Previously an original Minturn homestead built in 1915, this bed and breakfast is known for its charming atmosphere and mountain themed accommodations.

**Hotel Minturn:** Located in the center of Minturn, this intimate boutique hotel opened in 2011 offering contemporary furnishings and high-end finishes.

**Eagle River Inn:** Renovated and reopened in 2024, this historic inn, originally built in 1909, offers modern luxury accommodations with rustic charm, situated on the banks of the Eagle River.

The Bunkhouse: A budget-friendly hostel option. offering a communal atmosphere, convenient location, and social experience perfect for adventurous travelers.

#### RED CLIFF HOTEL

The Green Bridge Inn: Built in 2008, this 14-room boutique hotel blends Old West charm with modern comforts, honoring Red Cliff's mining heritage while offering contemporary amenities.

Additionally, a number of short term rentals are available in Minturn. For more information on short term rentals, visit www.minturn.org.

Adventurous travelers can also camp in White River National Forest. Check with the local ranger station for designated sites and seasonal information.

### Unforgettable **Events** with a **Splash of Mountain** Magic

### ATTEND AN EVENT OR HOST YOUR OWN IN MINTURN AND RED CLIFF

Minturn and Red Cliff, charming Colorado mountain towns, offer exceptional event experiences. These locations blend rustic appeal with stunning natural beauty, creating unforgettable backdrops for any occasion. Local businesses host diverse events like live music, comedy shows, and holiday parties. Event planners can choose from versatile venues, including historic buildings and picturesque outdoor spaces. Whether attending a local gathering or hosting a special celebration, you'll be captivated by Rocky Mountain vistas and rich mining heritage.

### **BUSINESS VENUES**

Little Beach Park: A popular, riverside, outdoor amphitheater that hosts community events, concerts, and can be rented out for weddings, family gatherings, and more.

Minturn Saloon: Built in 1901, this historic venue was remodeled in 2022 and is available for restaurant buyouts, private patio parties, and customized occasions ranging from weddings to après-ski gatherings.

Maloit Park: Available for private events, this large wooded park with access to multiple trails can be booked for weddings, family gatherings and more.

Mango's Mountain Grill: The 3-story restaurant and bar features the highest rooftop deck in Eagle County, hosting a variety of live music events throughout the year as well as a great venue for a destination wedding.





Camp Hale Weddings: A stunning outdoor venue for large weddings and events, accommodating both intimate and large celebrations with the Camp Hale National Monument as its backdrop.

### NATIONAL FOREST LOCATIONS

Julia's Deck: With breathtaking views of Mount of the Holy Cross, this rustic outdoor venue accommodates up to 30 guests and requires a reservation through the Holy Cross Ranger District.

Tigiwon Community House: This historical, day-use venue is available for private events. accommodating up to 200 people with stunning Gore Range and Red Cliff canyon views.















#### **RESTAURANTS**

- The Mexican Bar & Grill themexicanbg.com
- Minturn Saloon minturnsaloon.com
- Magustos magustos.net
- 4 Minturn Country Club minturncountryclub.com
- 5 Thai Kitchen thaikitchenminturn.com
- 6 Sunrise sunriseminturn.com
- (7) Rocky Mountain Taco rockymountaintaco.com/minturn
- 8 The Crazy Chicken crazychickenminturn.com
- Wirby Cosmo's BBQ Bar kirbycosmos.com

#### LODGING

- Eagle River Inn theeagleriverinn.com
- Hotel Minturn
  hotelminturn.com
- The Bunkhouse vailbunkhouse.com
- Minturn Inn minturninn.com

### MEADOW MOUNTAIN BUSINESS PARK

BLDG

- A Vail Mountain Coffee & Tea vailcoffee.com
- B The Belden Witch thebeldenwitch.com

Tessa Clogs/Swedish Clog Cabin tessaclogs.com

The Grove Studio Gallery jeniferhammond.com

© Mangiare Italian Market mangiareitalianmarket.com





#### SHOPPING / SERVICES

- Minturn Anglers minturnanglers.com
- Alpine Kind alpinekind.com
- (13) Evoke Outdoors evokeout.com
- 1904 progressionbrands.com
- (5) Valbruna Minturn mtimportsinc.com/valbruna-store
- (17) Eagle River Whisky erwhisky.com
- (18) Holy Toledo holytoledo.co
- 19 The Scarab thescarab.com
- Eagle Valley Music & Comics 970-476-1713
- Minturn Mile Liquors 970-827-5220
- **Shop & Hop** 970-827-9855
- Rocky Mountain Adventure Rentals rmar1.com
- The Barn Minturn thebarnminturn.com
- Drinking Vessels/Bat Country Studios drinkingvessels.com
- Minturn Fitness Center minturnfitnesscenter.com



### **Transportation**

### SHUTTLE SERVICE

Bustang, an interregional express bus service from the Colorado Department of Transportation, offers convenient travel between Denver and the mountains. Both their buses and their shuttle service, Pegasus, make stops in our neighboring towns of Vail and Avon, providing easy access to and from the area.

**Bustang** – West Line from Union Station in Denver to the Vail Transportation Center or Avon, **ridebustang.com** • 800-900-3011

**Pegasus Bustang** – Westbound from Union Station in Denver to the Vail Transportation Center or Avon, **ridebustang.com** • 800-900-3011

Summit Express – summitexpress.com • 970-668-6000

Peak 1 Express - mountainshuttle.com • 970-423-7033

### **BUS SERVICE**

Core Transit offers fare-free rides on the Minturn route, connecting Red Cliff and Minturn for easy and convenient travel. For more details on bus schedules, visit **evta.colorado.gov.** 

### **Local Activities**

**Rocky Mountain Adventure Rentals** provides thrilling snowmobile and UTV rentals. **rmar1.com** 

**Evoke Outdoors** offers a range of rentals, including e-bikes, premium bikes, kids' bikes, and bike trailers. **evokeout.com** 

**Minturn Anglers** offers guided fly fishing adventures, giving clients exclusive access to some of the most productive trout waters in the country. **minturnanglers.com** 

### **Important Numbers**

Eagle County Regional Airport	970-328-2680
Eagle County Alert System	970-328-3545
Eagle County Emergency Management	970-328-3545
Eagle River Fire Protection District	970-748-9665
Minturn Fitness Center	970-790-5090
Vail Health Hospital	970-476-2451
Eagle County Paramedic Services	970-926-5270
ECO Transit	970-328-3520
Eagle County Animal Services	970-328-3647
Eagle County Landfill & Recycling	970-328-3470





**Town of Minturn Office** 302 Pine St. PO Box 309, Minturn, CO 81645

Town of Red Cliff Office In the "Old School" at 400 Pine Street PO Box 40, Red Cliff, Colorado 81649

minturnredcliff.com

- facebook.com/visitminturnredcliff
- instagram.com/visitminturnredcliff

Two Small Towns, One Big Backyard



Minturn & Red Cliff Visitor Guide

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instagram.com/visitminturnredcliff