

# WELCOME TO COLORADO!

Our state is known for its diverse scenic beauty that ranges from rugged mountains, high-plains deserts and valleys that attract millions of tourists, thousands of new residents each year and inspire long-time locals who seek adventure, peace and healthy living.

## Cruise Into Colorado

The state's dynamic weather conditions and landscapes signal a need to educate new residents and visitors and remind locals about the state's rules of the road.

Cruise Into Colorado provides basic drivers education to all drivers about what to know when traveling Colorado's urban, mountain and rural terrains.

## Traffic Increase

As a result of growing populations and tourism and each year, traffic increases on state highways and roads contributes to congestion.

In addition to increasing traffic, unrefreshed safe driving habits can increase the risk of car crashes. In 2017, fatal car crashes in Colorado totalled more than 600 statewide, an 11 percent increase since 2015.

## Travel Safe Together

Understanding what to expect and how to drive in all areas of the state will help everyone arrive safely to their destinations.



Follow for news and traffic alerts:



@coloradoDOT



@coloradodot

[www.codot.gov](http://www.codot.gov)

Road Conditions and Cameras

[www.cotrip.org](http://www.cotrip.org) or 511

CDOT Customer Hotline

303. 757. 9011

New Resident Driver Services

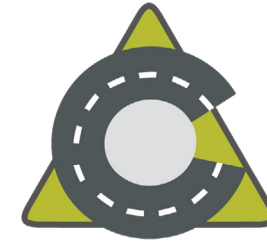
Visit the Department of Revenue website for information on [new resident driver services](#) like driver's licenses and permits and vehicle registration.

Entire Colorado Drivers Manual

Read the [Colorado Drivers Handbook](#) for detailed information about driving practices in all regions of Colorado and to learn important traffic and safety laws.



**CRUISE INTO COLORADO**  
State Driving Information



# CRUISE INTO COLORADO

What you need to know about driving in our state.



# CAUTION

## Bad Weather & Ice

Reduce to appropriate speeds and do not use cruise control when weather conditions turn ugly. Traction and poor visibility are possible with rain, snow, fog, ice, dust and wind. Colorado law requires drivers to obey **tire tread and chain laws** that are enforced by State Patrol officers in snowy conditions.

Remember that snow tires and chains help to improve traction, but do not guarantee that vehicles will not slide.

## Dawn, Dusk & Night

Driving at hours other than daylight are more hazardous due to limited visibility. Colorado law requires drivers to turn on their vehicle headlights from sunset to sunrise or when visibility is less than 1000ft.

## Passing

Each time you pass another driver, there is a chance for collision. To ensure safety, pass only where permitted do not pass multiple cars at once.

## Construction Zones

From 1982 through 2014, there were 24,745 people that died from a work zone crash.

Reduced speed limits in work zones allow drivers enough time to react to the complex work zones and ensure the safety of construction workers and traffic.

## Aggressive Drivers

To report aggressive drivers dial CSP (\*277)

The Colorado State Patrol has a cellular telephone number for motorists and cyclist to report aggressive drivers.

# URBAN

Interstates are designed to move great volumes of traffic quickly, but motorists traveling above or below the posted speed limits disrupt the steady flow of traffic that can result in a car crash.

Understanding interstate etiquette can reduce car crashes and allow motorists to safely reach their destinations.

## Interstate Etiquette

Vehicles traveling below the speed limit must move to the right lane to allow other drivers to pass, but should move to the left or center lane to allow vehicles entering the interstate to merge.

## Entering Freeway

Acceleration ramps allow time to build speed to match interstate traffic. Merge into traffic after the solid white line has ended. Remember to activate blinker before merging and yield to the right-of-way of current traffic.

## Leaving Freeway

The deceleration lane allows time to reduce speed before reaching an exit ramp without also being a hazard to interstate motorists.

Remember to activate blinker before exiting the interstate and exit at the same speed as the interstate and begin slowing down to the posted speed after fully entering the exit ramp.

Never make a last second turnoff if you've missed your exit. There will be an opportunity to turn around at the next exit ramp.

# MOUNTAIN & RURAL

The increases and decreases in elevation that provide breathtaking views of Colorado's mountain landscapes and valleys are the same conditions that motorists must travel with extra care.

## Down Mountain Passes

Control speeds and prevent overheating brakes by using low gear on steep descents and never coast downhill in neutral or by withdrawing the clutch.

Motorists traveling downhill on steep, narrow roads must stop or maneuver to the shoulder to allow space for vehicles driving uphill.

## Up Mountain Passes

Vehicles experiencing difficulties traveling up steep roads must pull off the road at the first place you may do so safely, or stay in the right lane to allow traffic to pass.

## Animals & Wildlife

Common big game such as elk or deer may suddenly leap into the road and cause damage to vehicles, but colliding with the animal may be safer than swerving to avoid it, which can result in a more serious car crash.

## Rural Driving

Trees, brush or crops may sometimes obstruct the view of intersections and ranch driveways and roads.

Be alert for farm equipment and animals, ATV and railroad crossings, and bridges that are narrow or poorly surfaced.