GILPIN COUNTY

Gilpin County Administration
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Cover Photographs:
Gilpin County view of James Peak
Winter scene
Autumn aspen
Local Indian paintbrush
Residents
Gilpin residents enjoy a quality of life enhanced by rural neighborhoods nestled amongst scenic natural beauty, low taxes, and a financially secure local government. The county’s close proximity to the Denver metro area adds relative convenience to a rural mountain life, and the variety of community events and programs, the new recreation center, the local school systems, public library and free local public transportation system add to the strong sense of community.

History
Gilpin County is one of the original 17 counties in Colorado, formed with the institution of Colorado Territory in 1861, and named for its first territorial governor, Colonel William Gilpin. Central City, near where John Gregory struck gold on May 6, 1859, became the county seat, and remains so to this day. Gilpin County, and its two cities, Black Hawk and Central, are steeped in rich mining history. Walking tours, historical home tours, an opera house, museums, a visitors’ center and even an annual “cemetery crawl” offer a genuine local history experience.

Events
Our recreation center and fairgrounds are host to many fun and educational programs for children, adults and families. Annual events, such as the county fair, flea market, fall and winter festivals not only add to the excitement, but are free to the public.

Visitors
Hiking, camping, fishing, biking, snowshoeing, cross country and backcountry skiing are among the many activities enjoyed by Gilpin County visitors. Our spectacular outdoor playground includes Golden Gate Canyon State Park, the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests, the James Peak Wilderness area, the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and the Peak to Peak Scenic and Historic Byway.

Limited-stakes gaming, historical tours, museums, an art gallery, the Central City opera, shops, and community events such as a spring flea market, the summer county fair, and fall and winter festivals also offer visitors a taste of excitement, history, culture and community.

Gilpin County is a rural community in Colorado’s high country, neighboring the continental divide, yet less than an hour west of downtown Denver. Gilpin County is host to vast recreational opportunities offered by Golden Gate State Park, the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests, the limited stakes gaming in the cities of Black Hawk and Central and a state-of-the-art recreation center and fairgrounds.