

## For averting meltdowns

**WALNUT CREAM** with a scoop of Walnut Ice Cream, a local standby that's been going strong for decades and has won "Best Ice Cream in Fort Collins" for the last 11 consecutive years. Flavors change frequently and mix-ins quickly, so make haste to try the caramel wafer or Luck Daniels chocolate chip. 125 W. Mountain Ave. [walnuticecream.com](http://walnuticecream.com)



An appealing mix of hipster and cowboy, Fort Collins offers plenty of great spots to play, nosh and shop



## For the most satisfying treat

**SERVING UP** a scrumptious assortment of sweets, **Starry Night Espresso** has plenty of ambience to go with its confections and coffee. Pull up a chair, share a slice of decidedly rich chocolate mochi cake, and—before you sip—advise the barista's Van Gogh-worthy impression in your froth. 112 South College Ave. (970) 499-9090

## FOR A FULL DAY

**STAY** Have a weekend of it by staying at **Armstrong's**, the only historic Fort Collins hotel still in operation, which offers a quirky mix of vintage and modern sleek. Choose from 42 distinctive rooms and suites, some of them pet-friendly, and use one of the hotel's complimentary cruises through historic Old Town (the model for Disneyland's Main Street, U.S.A.). Feeling parched? Head to the hotel's underground lounge.

**ACE GILLETTS**, which pays homage to the big band era with live jazz four nights a week, 209 S. College Ave., [theamstronghotel.com](http://theamstronghotel.com)

**SHOP** Stroll down South College Ave., the town's main drag, and explore the many eclectic boutiques: **White Balcony** ([whitebalcony.com](http://whitebalcony.com)) for pretty, feminine items, **The Cupboard** ([thecupboard.net](http://thecupboard.net)) for all things kitchen and **Clothes Pony** ([clothespony.com](http://clothespony.com)) for stylish threads for the kids.

**PLAY** Head west for a scenic hike, replete with gorgeous views of the Front Range, at **Horseshoe Mountain Open Space**. For the more adventurous, the **Cache la Poudre River** is a local mecca for whitewater rafters and kayakers. [coloradomountains.com/parks](http://coloradomountains.com/parks)

## For the best foam on the range

THE SECOND LARGEST beer-producing town in Colorado, Fort Collins boasts nine craft breweries. Locals and tourists alike flock to **New Belgian Brewing**, the first wind-powered brewery in the United States, which offers free tours daily, complete with generous beer samples (reserve your spot online as they tend to fill up fast). This Colorado company has created a vibrant culture of sustainability and fun, including bike-in cinema during the summer. 900 Linden St. [newbelgian.com](http://newbelgian.com)



## For organic indulgence

LOCALS AND FOODIES AGREE that **Tasty Harmony** makes being vegan, however briefly, a no-brainer. Owner/chef Sacha Steinhauser, who opened the restaurant in 2009 after a 10-year stint in Southern California, adds finesse to all the usual suspects and innovates the rest with zesty abandon (try his jackfruit tacos). 130 S. Mason St. [tastyharmony.com](http://tastyharmony.com)



## For a nostalgic summer night

SPRING IS THE TIME TO get out of the living room and see a movie the way it was meant to be seen in your car. One of eight drive-ins left in Colorado, the **Holiday Twin** makes for a classic way to catch the latest flick. 2206 South Overland Trail. [holidaytwindrivein.com](http://holidaytwindrivein.com)

—Elizabeth Marglin



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