

# THINGS <sup>to</sup> do <sup>in</sup> DENVER WHEN YOU ROCK



THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO SUPPORTING  
DENVER'S BEST INDEPENDENT BUSINESSES  
(AND HAVING FUN WHILE DOING IT)

**We at Suburban Home Records realized one day that there are some great things to do in Denver that many people living here and probably most people visiting don't know about. We try our best to support independent businesses whenever possible so we decided to make a list of what we think are Denver's best locally owned places. The list is primarily aimed at touring bands, but we hope some locals might discover some new places as well. If you live in a city outside of Denver, we encourage you to do the same for your city as well. If there is something you think we missed, please contact us! These are our favorites, in no particular order.**

### **FOOD:**

- **Watercourse Foods:** 206 East 13th Avenue (between Sherman and Grant Streets on 13<sup>th</sup>). (303) 832 – 7313. Open from 8:00am - 10:00pm Tuesday - Sunday, closed on Mondays. Parking is on the street and sometimes very hard to find, but worth it for the amazing **all vegetarian** cuisine – breakfast served until 5PM and most items can also be prepared vegan. Menu online at [www.watercoursefoods.com/menu.htm](http://www.watercoursefoods.com/menu.htm)
- **Mercury Café:** 2199 California Street (on the corner of 22<sup>nd</sup> & California). (303) 294-9281. Dinner Tuesday - Sunday 5:30pm - 11:00pm (not open for lunch *on Weekdays*) - Brunch Saturday and Sunday 9am - 3pm - desserts, drinks and coffee served all evening until 1:30am. Parking is on the street (not hard to find) or paid in the lot next door. Great natural home-cooked style meals. **Vegetarian and meat options.** Also offers live entertainment, swing dancing lessons, open mic nights, etc. Menu online at [www.mercurycafe.com/food.html](http://www.mercurycafe.com/food.html)
- **Tommy's Thai:** 3410 E. Colfax (on the corner of Cook & Colfax – near the Bluebird Theater). (303)377-4244. Open Monday - Thursday 10:30am - 9pm Friday 10:30am - 10pm Saturday 12pm - 10pm. Small lot attached for free parking or available on the street (not too hard to find). Arguably the best Thai food in town – good, moderately priced, and plenty spicy. **Vegetarian and Meat options.** Menu online at: [www.westword.com/products/295/index.html](http://www.westword.com/products/295/index.html)
- **Jack n Grill:** 2524 Federal Blvd (between 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> on Federal). (303) 964-9544. Open Tuesday - Friday 11am – 3pm and 5pm - 8pm; Saturday 9am – 9pm; Sunday 11AM-8PM; Closed Monday. Free parking in the lot behind the restaurant on the other side of the alley – DON'T park at Mickey Manor next door – they will tow! Really good authentic New Mexican food (love the Chicken Tacos!) with free homemade chips & salsa. Stop by in late summer / early fall for fresh fire roasted New Mexico green chiles sold by the bushel. **Vegetarian and Meat options.**
- **Fontana Sushi:** 534 East Alameda Ave (between Pennsylvania and Pearl on Alameda). (303) 778-8818. Open Monday -Thursday 11am-10pm; Friday 11am-11:30pm; Saturday 12pm -11:30pm; Sunday 4pm - 9:30pm. Parking available on the

neighboring streets, sometimes very difficult to find but worth it for great sushi! The best time to go is happy hour when sushi is only \$1.00 per piece - Sunday through Thursday from 6-10 pm, and Friday and Saturday nights from 7 pm until closing. They also have a great lunch special – \$9.95 for 3 sets of 6 piece rolls (18 pieces total), miso soup, and salad. **Vegetarian and meat options.**

- **Thai Basil:** 540 E. Alameda Ave (on the corner of Alameda and Pearl, next to Fontana). 303-715-1188. Open 11am to 10pm Monday - Saturday, 4:30pm to 9:30pm Sunday. Parking available on neighboring streets & can sometimes be very hard to find. Large portions of spicy, flavorful and creative Thai food in a colorful, loud hustly-bustly setting. Expect a 20-30 minute wait during typical busy times - but its well worth it. **Vegetarian and meat options.**
- **Toms Home Cookin’:** 800 E. 26th Ave (take a soft right onto 27<sup>th</sup> street from Welton and its 1 block up on the corner of 26<sup>th</sup> & Clarkson – the streets run a little funky in this area and 27<sup>th</sup> turns into 26<sup>th</sup> when you turn so don’t get confused by the directions). (303) 388-8035. Open Monday - Friday 11am – 3pm or until sellout so the earlier you get there, the better. Free parking in the attached lot. Hands down the best comfort food this side of the Mississippi – the menu changes slightly daily but usually contains some combination of catfish, fried chicken, meatloaf, pot roast, and other various southern main courses with sides like mac & cheese, peach cobbler, and collard greens – and Southerners will be elated that they also serve sweet tea. A plate consists of large portions of one meat, two sides, a bread (we recommend the jalapeño cornbread), and a drink – vegetarians can order the “plate of sides” with four different sides – either way you’re not leaving hungry. **Vegetarian and meat options.** Call (303) 388-8035 for a recording with the daily menu.
- **Wolfe BBQ:** 333 E Colfax Ave. (on Colfax between Logan and Grant – across from the state capitol). (303) 831-1500. Open Monday - Friday 11am - 3pm; 5pm - 8pm. Parking off the adjacent streets or paid parking available in the lot behind Wolfe’s. A wonderfully sweet, thick, and spicy (mild or hot) sauce accompanies traditional BBQ options as well as BBQ tofu good enough to convert the world’s biggest meat-lover. Get a big BBQ sandwich with a side (great potato salad, vegan coleslaw, and vegetarian baked beans) and chips for under \$5 & leave full. Wolfe runs everything by himself so expect a small wait around peak lunch hours, but it is well worth it. It looks a little divey, but don’t be thrown off – Wolfe’s is traditionally in the top scoring Denver restaurants for cleanliness and health department ratings. **Vegetarian and meat options.**
- **Colfax Center Deli:** 1510 Humboldt St (on the corner of Humboldt and Colfax – shares the building with the Streets of London Pub and Scooter Liquors). (303) 830-7283. Open Monday - Friday from 8am - 6pm, and Saturdays from 10am - 6pm. Parking available on the street – usually there are spaces right in front. Basic Deli fare but bigger and better. The cheaper ‘more than ½’ size of any sandwich is usually large enough for a standard lunch. Great soups too – call for soup of the

day. **Vegetarian and meat options**, delivery available. Menu online at:  
[www.colfaxcenterdeli.com](http://www.colfaxcenterdeli.com)

- **Illegal Petes:** 1530 16th St (on 16<sup>th</sup> between Wazee and Blake Streets downtown). 303.623.2169. Open Sunday – Wednesday 11am – 10pm You can't drive on 16<sup>th</sup> street because it is a pedestrian mall, but parking is available on the neighboring streets (although it is downtown so you may have to drive around for a while) – you can also take the free 16<sup>th</sup> street mall bus to the end of the line and walk another couple of blocks down. Huge burritos and other quick & cheap Mexican options with a full bar complete with rock & roll employees and clientele. Don't miss Thursday nights (Evil Heat) with a hipster DJ, 100 of Denver's hippest kids, and two-for-one drinks – the Illegal Tea is not to be missed. **Vegetarian and meat options, open late-night**. Menu available online at:  
[www.illegalpetes.com/order/MENU.htm](http://www.illegalpetes.com/order/MENU.htm)
- **Two-fisted Marios:** 1626 Market St (between 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> on Market St. downtown). (303) 623-3523. Open Sunday - Wednesday 11am-2am; Thursday-Saturday 11am-3am. Parking is on the street & can be very hard to find. Punk rock pizza, loud music, who could ask for more – except maybe some beer, and they have that too. **Vegetarian and meat options, open late-night**, delivery available.
- **The Spicy Pickle:** 988 Lincoln St (between 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> on Lincoln). 303.860.0730. Also at 745 Colorado Blvd (between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> on Colorado). 303.321.8353. Open 11am - 9pm Monday - Thursday; until 6pm Fridays & Saturdays. Parking for the Lincoln location is on the street in front & not too hard to find – the Colorado location has a small lot in front. Hot and cold sandwiches, panini, and more with enough meats, cheeses, spreads, and toppings to make 1,728 possible variations. The key is to get crazy and invent your own sandwich because the choices for their signature sandwiches aren't incredibly creative. **Vegetarian and meat options**. Menu online at [www.spicypickle.com/themenu.htm](http://www.spicypickle.com/themenu.htm)
- **Jerusalem:** 1890 E Evans Ave (on Evans between High and Williams). (303) 777-8828. Open daily 9am-4am. Parking available in the attached lot. Authentic Middle Eastern dishes and to-die-for hummus and falafels at cheap prices. **Vegetarian and meat options, open late-night**. Menu available online at:  
[www.westword.com/products/256/index.html](http://www.westword.com/products/256/index.html)
- **The Denver Diner:** 740 W. Colfax Ave (near the corner of Colfax and Speer). (303) 825-5443. Open 24/7. Parking in attached lot. Typical diner food – greasy, fattening, and not the most flavorful thing in the world, with the exception of the large amount of Mexican food available on the menu. But if you're drunk or it's 3am and you really want some eggs this is the place to go. Also great for people-watching around 2am (expect a wait around this time as well). **Vegetarian and meat options** (if by vegetarian you mean fries and toast), **open late-night**.

- **Petes Kitchen:** 1962 E. Colfax Ave (on the corner of Race and Colfax). 303-321-3139. Open 24/7. Parking in attached lot. This award winning greasy spoon is a Denver institution – famous for its large and flavorful breakfast burritos. Pete is a really important person and prominent business owner in the Denver community (and possibly the Greek Mafia as well but, uuuh, you didn't hear it here). In addition to Petes Kitchen, he owns Pete's Satire Lounge (next door), Pete's Greektown Café, Pete's University Park Café, Pete's Gyros Place, Pete's Ice Cream and Coffee, and Pete's Central One Restaurant. **Vegetarian and meat options, open late-night.** Menu available online at: [www.petesrestaurantstoo.com/petesKitchen.html](http://www.petesrestaurantstoo.com/petesKitchen.html)
- **Benny Blancos Slice of the Bronx:** 616 E. 13th St. (between Pearl and Washington on 13<sup>th</sup> on Capitol Hill – next door to Wax Trax). (303) 831-1346. Open Monday – Saturday from 11am - 3am; Sunday noon-midnight. Parking is on adjoining streets & can be very hard to find. Traditional New York Style Pizzeria with big sloppy floppy slices and pies available until 3am (delivery until 3am as well!). There is nowhere to sit but that's OK, you can always stand on the sidewalk outside and watch hipsters walk in and out of the neat-o shops on 13<sup>th</sup>. **Vegetarian and meat options, open late-night.** Menu online at: [www.westword.com/products/3643/index.html](http://www.westword.com/products/3643/index.html)
- **Nicolos:** 1205 E. 13th Ave (between Marion and Downing on 13th). (303) 831-7000. Open Monday - Thursday 11am – 11pm; Friday & Saturday 11am - 12:30pm; Sunday Noon-10:30pm. Parking is on the street in front and on the adjoining streets & can sometimes be difficult to find. Before Two-Fisted Mario's, before Benny Blanco's, this was Denver's Original Punk Rock Pizza. They still make what some argue is the best pie in town, and the sandwiches aren't bad either. **Vegetarian and meat options.**
- **Little India:** 330 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. (on 6<sup>th</sup> Ave & Grant – 1.5 blocks east of Speer). (303) 871-9777. Open for lunch Monday - Friday: 11:00am -2:30pm; Saturday-Sunday: 11:30am - 2:30pm, and for dinner Monday-Sunday: 5:00pm - 10:00pm. Large portions of flavorful Indian food explain why this is a local favorite which almost always has a wait – and don't miss the lunch buffet on weekdays! **Vegetarian and meat options.** Menu online at: [www.menusfirst.com/denver/littleIndia.htm](http://www.menusfirst.com/denver/littleIndia.htm)
- **M&D's BBQ:** 2004 E 28th Ave (28<sup>th</sup> & Race). (303) 296-1760. Award-winning BBQ pork, chicken and fried fish with mild, medium, hot, and furious sauce options and southern comfort-food style sides to die for (think Collard Greens, Peach Cobbler, and more!). Tip: ask to try a sauce before ordering if you are unsure because the meat comes smothered in it and the hot is HOT. **Vegetarian and meat options.**
- **Gelato D'Italia:** 250 Detroit St. (on Detroit between 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> in Cherry Creek). (303) 316-9154. Open 11am - 10pm Monday – Thursday; till 11pm Friday and

Saturday; noon - 10pm Sunday. Parking is usually readily available on the street in front. This is the Best Gelato I've had – as pointed out to me by a Vegan who swears by it. So yeah, they have **Vegan options** too. Menu online at: [www.gelatousa.com/menu.cfm](http://www.gelatousa.com/menu.cfm)

- **Mustards Last Stand:** 2081 South University Blvd (near University and Evans). 303-722-7936. Open daily 10:30am- 9:00pm. Parking available in the adjoining lot. Mustards is like a giant indoor hot dog stand, except with amazing fresh cut homemade french fries and veggie dogs that are so realistic in hot dog taste that you will want to go yell at them for giving you a real hotdog by accident. **Vegetarian and meat options.** Menu online at: [www.wowmenus.com/mustards.html](http://www.wowmenus.com/mustards.html)

### **BEER & LIQUOR / BARS & CLUBS:**

- **Argonaut Liquors:** 718 E. Colfax Ave, Denver, CO (on the corner of Colfax and Washington). 303-831-7788. Parking in attached lot. Monday - Thursday 8am - 10pm; Friday & Saturday 8am - 11:45pm. If it has alcohol in it and it exists in Denver, Argonaut is your best bet at finding it. This is a cheap large warehouse style liquor store with gazillions of choices. Delivery available.
- **Streets of London Pub:** 1501 E. Colfax. (on the corner of Humboldt and Colfax – shares the building with the Scooter Liquors and Colfax Center Deli). Parking is on the street and not usually hard to find. Monday night is punk night, \$2 you-call-it on Tuesdays. Serves mid/over priced drinks and decent bar food, but the best part is the patio on Colfax. Colfax is, after all, the longest street in America and therefore the best place to witness prostitution and debauchery of all sorts while sipping a Guinness.
- **Club 404:** 404 Broadway (on 4<sup>th</sup> & Broadway). Parking is on the street and usually not hard to find. Tuesday is Movie Night: Catch a free flick and 2 for 1s 10:30 to close. Sunday: \$2 Bloody Marys, \$2 Screwdrivers. \$2 Rolling Rock bottles. Rumor has it that there is also a steak for \$4.04 but we haven't dared to try it yet so don't blame us if it sucks. If the free movies and cheap alcohol aren't enough to lure you in – go for the atmosphere. You'll know when you get there . . .
- **Goosetown Tavern:** 3242 E. Colfax Ave (Corner of Colfax & Adams across from the Bluebird Theater). Parking is on neighboring streets & can sometimes be hard to find. Don't park in the lot behind the Goosetown – you will be towed. The first Wednesday of every month they have a white trash party with \$1 PBR drafts, \$2 jello shots, \$1 cans of Old Style & Natty light, free pool until midnight, and a free white trash buffet. You can also get PBR, Natty Light & Old Style here daily for under \$2. Come for the beer, but stay for the velvet Gene Simmons on the wall. **Vegetarian and meat options, open late-night.** If you're hungry they have a full menu – find it online at [www.gossetowntavern.com](http://www.gossetowntavern.com).

- **Larimer Lounge:** 2721 Larimer Street (between 27th and 28th on Larimer St. downtown). Parking is easily found on the street. The Larimer lounge is pretty close to what a Punk Rock bar should be – in a bad area of town, dark & filled with people in the know on any given night. Shows almost every night of the week & \$1 PBR, \$2 wells, \$3 you call its & free pool Monday through Friday. The best part is the huge back outdoor patio in the summer. Shows, drink specials, driving directions and more on [www.larimerlounge.com](http://www.larimerlounge.com)
- **Garageland:** 2721 Walnut Street (27th & Walnut St. downtown). Parking is easily found on the street. Garageland is a great big open DIY warehouse space downtown. They have bands on some nights, serve beer on others – they're not open every night. Check the website for details on shows, parties, etc: [www.thedanceprogram.net/](http://www.thedanceprogram.net/)
- **15<sup>th</sup> Street Tavern:** 623 15<sup>th</sup> St (on 15<sup>th</sup> between Welton and California downtown). Parking is on the street or in a paid lot and can sometimes be hard to find depending on the night. This is another one of Denver's Punk Rock bars, but the drinks are a little on the steep side, especially if you have to pay a high cover to get in to see a band. Live music many nights of the week & happy hour daily from 4-7. Show listings, directions, etc are on the website: [www.15thsttavern.com](http://www.15thsttavern.com)
- **Lions Lair:** 2022 E. Colfax Street (on Colfax between Vine and Race). Parking is on neighboring streets & can sometimes be a little hard to find. This is a small dark dive with all the makings to be a great punk bar; live music almost every night and cheap beer in the can. The only downfall is that the stage is behind the bar, which is in the middle of the room. It's a little awkward, but if you can get over that it is one of the coolest bars ever.
- **Climax Lounge:** 2217 Welton St. (between 22nd & 23<sup>rd</sup> on Welton). Parking is .75 cents in the attached lot. Wednesday Nights = Free Pinball, Thursday \$2.50 Wells all night. The Climax used to be called "The Raven" and for as long as it has existed it has been a punk rock music institution in Denver. Check out a band, get some beer, play some pinball. The website has directions, upcoming shows, etc: [www.climaxlounge.com](http://www.climaxlounge.com)
- **Skylark Lounge:** 58 Broadway (1<sup>st</sup> Ave & Broadway). Parking is on the street and not usually hard to find. When you're tired from a day of shopping for vintage clothing in the boutiques on Broadway, don't forget to wander into the most popular rockabilly bar in town & have a beer while relaxing to some Hank Williams on the jukebox.
- **Williams:** 423 E 17th Ave (Logan and 17<sup>th</sup> in Uptown). Parking is on the street and not usually hard to find. This is the place to go if you don't really want to be seen. Small and dimly lit, it has a little more of a 'neighborhood pub' feel than most local bars & most bars on this list. The jukebox can be really good or really bad

depending on who is on the staff at the time – but there are always decent prices on beer and plenty of dark corners to sit in.

- **Charlie's:** 900 E Colfax Ave (on the corner of Emerson and Colfax across from the Ogden Theatre). Parking is free in the attached lot. Charlie's is Denver's oldest and best gay cowboy bar. If you think dancing to Garth Brooks with a 6.5 foot tall drag queen rules (and believe me, it does) then this is the place to be. They are most famous for the Wednesday and Sunday night beer busts where you can drink all the beer you want for \$5.
- **PS Lounge:** 3416 E. Colfax Ave. (on Colfax between Cook & Madison Streets one block west of the Bluebird Theater). Parking is on the street & not hard to find. Owned by yet another Greek Pete, this is by far Denver's best dive. Cash only, strong drinks, and the city's best jukebox (featuring lots of Sinatra, Patsy Cline, and even a song called 'Talk To Me, Bitch'). Free roses for the ladies and Alabama Slammers for everyone around midnight every night.
- **Gabor's:** 1223 E 13th Ave. (on 13<sup>th</sup> Ave and Downing). Parking is on the street and can be very difficult to find. Gabor's is a great spot to see and be seen on any night of the week – frequented by everyone from Rockabillys to Capitol Hill mental cases, it is dark with huge cushy booths & nightly drink specials.
- **Pints Pub:** 221 West 13th Ave. (between Bannock and Cherokee on 13<sup>th</sup>). Parking is free in the lot for the restaurant "Dozens" across the street. Beyond having some of the best beer in Denver, Pints has great Fish & Chips (the chips/fries are some of the best ever). Pints features authentic traditional British cask conditioned/live ales, which are unfortunately hard to find in the US – they also have the largest selection of Single Malt Whiskey outside of Scotland. Stop by the British phone booth at the door and pick up a copy of the London Times to read while you sit in one of the huge booths. This is definitely as close as you will ever get to an authentic British pub in Denver.

### **RECORD STORES:**

- **Wax Trax Records:** 1143 13th Ave (between Pearl and Washington on 13<sup>th</sup>). (303) 831-7246. Open Monday - Saturday 11am-9pm; Sunday 12pm-6pm. Parking is on the street and extremely difficult to find, but it is worth it. Wax Trax has been around for 25 years, and for good reason. Wax Trax is comprised of a few stores all in a big line next door to each other on 13<sup>th</sup> Ave – the corner store is where one would find new CDs – but there is also an oldies and used section, a vinyl store, a t-shirt and accessories store (Across The Trax). It's a bit dusty (an understatement) – but that's the charm of a place like this. You may have to dig, but there is a 95% chance that no matter how obscure or hard to find it is, you will find it here. This is not only the best place to go if you are a record snob, but also the best place to go if you would like to be made fun of by one.



- **Double Entendre Records:** 120 S Broadway (on Broadway between Maple and Bayaud). (303) 744-9314. Open Tuesday – Sunday Noon-7pm. Parking is on the street in front and not usually hard to find. Every city should have a small record store specializing in punk (and related genres) and this is Denver's. Paul, the owner, keeps it very well stocked, organized, very low priced and would love to sit down and play chess with you when it's not too busy.
- **Twist & Shout:** 300 E Alameda Ave Unit B (on the corner of Alameda and Logan). (303) 722-1943. Open Monday - Saturday 10am-10pm; Sunday 10am-8pm. Parking in the attached lot in front. Twist & Shout is Denver's cleanest and most well-organized locally owned record store. If it is currently being pressed, chances are that they have it. They have frequent in-stores where you can have the chance to see big acts for free in an intimate setting (think The Shins, Elvis Costello, Reverend Horton Heat, Ween, etc). And don't forget to go across the street for Twist & Shout Underground – home of their vinyl record selection. Check their website for upcoming in-stores, new releases, sales, etc: [www.twistandshout.com](http://www.twistandshout.com)
- **Independent Records:** 937 E. Colfax St. (on the corner of Ogden and Colfax). (303)863-8668. Open 10am-12 Midnight 7 days a week. Parking is on the surrounding streets and can be very difficult to find. A Colorado Springs import, Independent has a large selection CDs and videos – and even an annex next door for your 'smoking' needs.

### CLOTHING STORES:

- **Fashionation:** 613 E 13th Ave (between Pearl and Washington on 13<sup>th</sup>). (303) 832-2909. Open Monday - Friday 11am-7pm; Saturday 11am - 6pm; Sunday 12pm - 5pm. Parking is on the street and can be very hard to find. Waaaaay before Hot Topic was a glimmer in anyone's eye, Fashionation was the definitive goth & club kid superstore. They have all kinds of funky shoes, clothes, accessories, make-up, hair dye, and anything else you can think of to make yourself pretty and punk rock. The prices are premium, but so is the merchandise and if they don't have it they can order it. They don't have stupid band T-shirts or Osbournes swag so stick to Hot Topic if that's what you're looking for.
- **Mixed Drinks:** 214 e. 13th Ave. (between Sherman and Grant on 13<sup>th</sup>). (303) 839.1446. Parking is on the street and can be very hard to find. This is the best (and only?) place in Denver for scooter fashion and hard-to-find brands from the UK like Ben Sherman and Fred Perry.
- **Imi Jimi:** 609 E 13TH Ave (on 13<sup>th</sup> between Pearl and Washington). (303) 832-1823. Open Monday - Saturday 11am-7pm; Sunday 12pm-5pm. Parking is on the street and can be very hard to find. Imi Jimi has hip clothes, accessories, sunglasses, and hair dye (think Paul Frank alarm clocks and pink Pumas).

- **Sunneshine:** 3003 E. 3rd Ave (3<sup>rd</sup> and Milwaukee in Cherry Creek North). 303-393-1414. Parking is available on the street and can be hard to find depending on the day/hour. Sunneshine has an amazing selection of designer denim for women and men – featuring stacks upon stacks of Diesel, Miss Sixty, Mavi, and more. They also have designer and cutting edge clothes & accessories for both sexes.
- **Sugar:** 26 Broadway (on Broadway between Ellsworth and Irvington). (303) 722-1877. Parking is on the street in front and isn't usually too hard to find. Sugar is one of the most fun stores in Denver – in addition to Dickies, Paul Frank, and other hip fashions, they have stacks of books full of vintage and new iron-on t-shirt designs and racks of shirts to put them on. If you happen to be in the market for a glittery Scott Baio photo or your name ironed on a baseball tee, or a new Dickiesgirl jacket, Sugar is the place.
- **American Vogue:** 10 S. Broadway (on Broadway between Ellsworth and Bayaud). (303) 733-4140. Open 7 days a week from 11:00am- 6:00pm. Parking is on the street in front and usually not hard to find. American Vogue has new and vintage clothing, gifts, knick-knacks, accessories, and shoes. Walk out looking like Jackie-O or Cindy Lauper – they have some stuff for guys, but for the ultimate in boy-wear be sure and visit their sister (or rather, “brother”) store, “American Aces” a few blocks away at 78 S. Broadway - (303) 733-2237. Aces carries huge amounts of vintage Levis, work shirts, jackets, and more for the James Dean look-a-like – not to mention sew-on patches and more..
- **Soul Haus:** 226 E 13TH Ave (on 13<sup>th</sup> between Grant and Sherman) (303) 830-7685. Open Monday – Saturday 12pm–6pm; Sunday 12pm-5pm. Parking is on the street and can be very hard to find. Soul Haus specializes in funky shoes, clothes, and accessories including fetishwear and clubwear for women and men.
- **Five & Dime:** 2037 E. 13th Avenue (on 13<sup>th</sup> between Pearl and Washington; next door to Wax Trax) (303) 399-3735. Open Monday - Saturday 12:00pm- 6:00pm; Sunday 12:00pm- 5:00pm. Parking is on the street and can be hard to find. It might cost you a little more than a dime, but this is definitely the best place to go if you really want a Bon Jovi shirt, some go-go boots, or some vintage Levis but don't feel like spending all day combing through racks at thrift stores.

#### MISC:

- **Pandora (jewelry):** 220 E 13th Ave (on 13<sup>th</sup> between Grant and Sherman). (303) 832-7073. Open Monday - Saturday 10am-6pm; Sunday 11am-5pm. Parking is on the street and can be hard to find. Pandora is primarily a jewelry store, but is also a great place for funky gifts like fighting nuns and 3-D Mexican wrestler postcards, or expensive candles and crafty journals. This is always a great place to go for gifts for anyone, or a treat for yourself.
- **Crown Mercantile (misc):** 46 Broadway (on Broadway between Irvington and Ellsworth). (303) 715-9693. Parking is on the street and is usually not hard to

find. If you bought all of your furniture and house wares here you would have the coolest house in the world. Its like the Jetsons moved to Hawaii and Frank Sinatra moved in – they’ve got everything from Tiki to Vintage, and more. It’s a great place for gifts as well because of the large selection of off-the-wall items.

- **Decade (misc):** 56 S Broadway (on Archer and Broadway – between Ellsworth and Bayaud). (303) 733-2288. Open Monday - Saturday 11am-6pm; Sunday 12pm-5pm. Parking is on the street but not usually hard to find. Great house wares, furniture, candles, and clothing – vintage and new but all very classy and well mixed. Decade is a great place for wedding gifts, birthday gifts for someone special, etc.
- **Tattered Cover (books):** 2955 E 1st Ave (on the corner of 1<sup>st</sup> & Fillmore across from the Cherry Creek Mall). (303) 322-7727. Open Monday - Saturday 9am-11pm; Sunday 10am-6pm. Parking is free with validation in the attached garage. This could possibly be the best store for new books to have ever existed. Go to Barnes & Noble when you want to steal a book, but stick to The Tattered Cover when you want to find a really great book to buy. There are big cozy chairs everywhere and you are allowed to sit & read for as long as you want – without buying anything – which also makes this a great place to go when you are just plain bored. There are a few locations, but this is the easiest one to get to.
- **Breakdown Book Collective & Community Space:** 1409 Ogden Street (between 14<sup>th</sup> & Colfax on Ogden). 303.832.7952. Open 12pm – 9pm Tuesday – Sunday. Parking is on the street and can sometimes be hard to find. This is a volunteer-run book collective and community space dedicated to everything not included in the mainstream. They have radical literature, videos, and free computer use available – check their website for upcoming events and spoken word: [www.breakdowncollective.org](http://www.breakdowncollective.org)
- **Radio 1190:** tune your dials to Denver & Boulder’s hippest (and only) college station to hear good music, show listings, and all the ‘tude you ever wanted from college DJs. On the AM dial, its 1190. Go to their website for show times, etc: [www.radio1190.com](http://www.radio1190.com)

## TATTOOS:

- **Th’ink Tank:** 1518 Wazee St. (on Wazee between 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> downtown). (720) 932-0124. Parking is on the street and can be very hard to find. In addition to some of the best tattoos this side of the Mississippi, Th’ink Tank hosts a multitude of local and national art showcases. For examples of their tattoos and event listings check out [www.thinktanktattoo.com](http://www.thinktanktattoo.com)
- **Twisted Sol:** 1405 Ogden St (between Colfax and 14<sup>th</sup> on Ogden). (303) 832-1311.. Parking is on the street and can be hard to find. Denver’s other ass-kicking tattoo shop. Funky space with multiple artists & a good selection of piercing jewelry. More info at their website: [www.twistedsol.com/ts\\_main.html](http://www.twistedsol.com/ts_main.html)

## **MOVIE THEATRES:**

- **Mayan:** 110 Broadway (1<sup>st</sup> & Broadway). (303) 744-6796. Parking is free in certain spaces in the attached lot & in the lot across Lincoln Street. The Mayan is Denver's coolest indie movie theater. Built in 1930 and saved from certain doom years ago, it is a testament to beautiful Art Deco architecture. Showing a constant stream of the latest independent films, as well as fun midnight movies on Friday and Saturday nights.
- **Esquire:** 590 Downing St (on the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> & Downing). (303) 733-5757. Parking is free in the attached lot. Owned by the same company (Landmark) that owns the Mayan, the Esquire also shows independent films (different ones than the Mayan). There is one very large screen, but also one very small one – if you get stuck watching a movie on the small one you might feel a little cheated, just try & remember you are supporting independent film-making!

## **INSIDER INFO:**

- The Mountains are West
- The streets start running in a slanted direction downtown so if you aren't familiar with Denver, pay close attention when attempting to go downtown.
- 16<sup>th</sup> Street downtown is a pedestrian mall – no cars are allowed. There is, however, a free bus that runs up and down 16<sup>th</sup> all day and well into the wee hours of the night. If you have a few places to go downtown it might be easier to find a parking space and take the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Mall bus up and down to where you need to go.
- Colfax is 15<sup>th</sup> Street in most of the city except for downtown. So streets in areas that aren't directly downtown will go in the order of 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, Colfax, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, etc.
- Broadway is 0 – everything to the West that runs East/West will have West in the address – if it doesn't say “West” it is assumed to be East.
- The best way to downtown from I-25 is the Park Avenue Exit. Shortly after Coors Field (on the right), it turns into 22<sup>nd</sup> Street. From I-70, take the I-25 South exit – the Park Avenue exit is shortly after.
- LoDo stands for “Lower Downtown”
- 13<sup>th</sup> is a one-way running West, 14<sup>th</sup> is a one-way running East, Lincoln is a one-way running North, and Broadway is a one-way running South. Lincoln and Broadway both turn into two-way streets at the intersection of I-25.

## **• FREE SHIT TO DO:**

- 13<sup>th</sup> street in **Capitol Hill** is a great place to park and wander around. Start around Washington Street – hit Wax Trax, FashioNation, ImiJimi, Benny Blanco’s, and Five & Dime, then head in the direction of the one-way (West) a couple of blocks to Watercourse Foods, Pandora, Mixed Drinks, Soul Haus, and Buffalo Exchange (not listed above because it is a chain).

- Another great place to park & walk is **Broadway**. If you start on 13<sup>th</sup>, keep going down the one-way and you will hit it a couple of blocks past the Watercourse Foods area. Go down until about 1<sup>st</sup> Street, park & walk in the direction of the one-way. You will hit countless vintage, punk & rockabilly clothing stores, as well as a bunch of stores with house wares (listed above). If you want to go to Double Entendre Records, keep walking – it is the last store in the strip.

- **Red Rocks**: Red Rocks is the coolest music venue in the world. It also happens to be a huge park of beautiful rock formations which are millions of years old. There is a decent free museum there with memorabilia from all the famous shows which have been there over the years & the park itself is always free unless there is a show there. To get there take I-70 West, take Exit 259 – go left & you will see signs for parking / the Amphitheatre, etc on your right in about 1.5 miles.

- **Dinosaur Ridge**: Follow the same directions for Red Rocks (above), but turn left into Dinosaur Ridge instead of right into Red Rocks. Its just a little area you can drive along (or get out & walk along) where dinosaur footprints were found in the rocks & have been roped off & preserved. It’s not the most amazing thing in the world, but it’s something to see.

- **16<sup>th</sup> Street Mall** – downtown: For the best people-watching in Colorado go downtown, park around the Broadway area, and walk down 16<sup>th</sup> Street. From Chess players to street performers to businessmen, this is where everyone can be found downtown. There is food & shopping all down the mall, also in the Denver Pavilions (16<sup>th</sup> & Glenarm) and in Larimer Square (go left on Larimer towards 15th).

- **City Park**: Feed the ducks, play tennis, drive golf balls, ride the paddleboats in the lake (about \$5), hit the zoo (about \$10 but a pretty nice zoo), check out the Natural history Museum or Imax (about \$10), or just hang out & enjoy nature. The park is accessible from all directions around it – the borders are 17<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> Streets East and West and York and Colorado running North and South.

- **Denver Library**: Besides the fact that this is a really cool building designed by Michael Graves – it is a great place to go to check your e-mail for free on one of their many computers. It’s on the corner of 13<sup>th</sup> & Broadway. The Art Museum is next door to the West – it is Free on Saturdays for Denver residents, but \$6 for students and \$8 for adults on other days – closed Mondays.