Early Fall Colors, Golden Hour MashUps and Fall Festivals Offer Plenty of Reasons to Visit Golden

GOLDEN, CO, UNITED STATES, September 14, 2026 / EINPresswire.com/ -- Fall is arriving early in Colorado, and Golden shines in autumn with changing foliage, community celebrations, arts and culture, live music and plenty of reasons to linger a little longer.


Fall is a beautiful time to visit Golden, Colorado.

The Colorado Department of Transportation recently advised travelers to plan ahead for a potentially earlier leaf-peeping season, with the Colorado State Forest Service forecasting peak foliage in the foothills and Front Range from late September into early October.

For visitors looking to enjoy the colors without venturing deep into the mountains, Golden offers an easy fall escape just west of Denver — with scenic trails, historic streets, local shops and restaurants, and a packed calendar of fall events. And there's an added bonus - Golden hikes - experience the changing foliage on foot and leave the traffic jams behind. Golden's network of trails and open spaces offers plenty of opportunities to walk, hike, bike or climb among the fall colors, making it possible to enjoy the scenery without spending the day navigating the traffic that can accompany peak leaf-peeping drives.

Here are a few highlights happening in Golden this fall. Find more details on all events at visitgolden.com/events.

- Shiny Sphere Search, through Sept. 30 — There's still time to join one of Golden's favorite fall traditions. Throughout September, hand-blown glass orbs created by Colorado artists are hidden throughout the city, with clues posted online to help hunters locate the treasures. Finders keep what they discover, making the daily hunt part outdoor adventure, part art discovery and part scavenger hunt. Clues are posted on Instagram @shinysperesearch.

- Golden Hour MashUp: Where the West Lives, Sept. 16 — Golden's popular evening series continues on Sept. 16 from 6–9 p.m. with a Western-themed celebration. Visitors can don their best boots, bandanas or frontier-inspired attire and explore participating Golden businesses offering exclusive deals, live music and other surprises. The free event is presented by the Downtown Development Authority and Visit Golden.

- 20th Annual Golden Gallop, September 20 - Join Golden's biggest annual race offering several options (5K, 10K, Kids Fun Run, 20K Challenge and even a Sleep-In option) to raise money for Golden Schools Foundation.

- Stories Worth Telling Festival, Oct. 16–18 — The Stories Worth Telling Festival brings creatives and audiences together for a weekend celebrating the art of storytelling through film and live storytelling. The 2026 festival takes place Oct. 16–18.

- "Knock Your Boots Off" Golden Beverage Tasting & Chili Cookoff, Oct. 17 — Golden's beloved chili and beverage celebration returns to Parfet Park on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 1–4 p.m. The event features chili cooks, beverage and food samples, live entertainment and more.

- Golden Hour MashUp: Ghouls' Night Out, Oct. 14— Golden's fall fun continues with another free Golden Hour MashUp on Oct. 14 from 6–9 p.m. The "Ghouls' Night Out" theme invites visitors to embrace Halloween with costumes, creepy accessories, exclusive deals, live music and other surprises at participating businesses.

With fall foliage expected to arrive earlier than usual in some areas, visitors are encouraged to plan ahead and consider weekday trips to make the most of the season. For a complete calendar of events, seasonal activities and ideas for planning a Golden getaway, visit VisitGolden.com. Follow @VisitGoldenCO on social media.

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