

STATESIDE JOTTINGS



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GARDEN OF THE GODS

If you are traveling near Colorado Springs, Colorado and have some time, you may wish to stop by the Garden of the Gods. This is a beautiful park that has thrilled people for many years. The land for the Park was a gift from the relatives of Charles Elliott Perkins in 1907. This is a registered National natural landmark and covers 1319 acres. It is located officially in the northern part of Colorado Springs and is very close to Manitou Springs also. The entrance is free to the park and has more visitors each year than any other place.

Thousands of people are drawn to the park each year. The thrill of seeing the grand rock shapes in such beautiful colors is constant amazement for all to see. Colorful formations of sandstone, conglomerates and limestone show colors of red, purple, blue and white. Hiking is a very special activity within





engage in climbing. There are many open areas that allow a person to view large distant landmarks. Pikes Peak is a special sight and basically always allows a person to see snow on the top. You will get a special feeling that you are free and cannot be caged up by populations here. This special feeling is grand and is hard to find in this modern age.

The beginning of the twenty century allowed Charles Strausenback, a local Indian trader, to build a trading post in the Pueblo Indian fashion. Natives worked and lived in the area and created items for sale in the trading post. The current gift shop has a very extensive amount of genuine Native merchandise. The prices of such are high but they are genuine items. Special merchandise from around the world is sold and all is very genuine and worth the price. At the least, the gift shop is a great place to stop and view what they have.

One additional item that is from the park itself is the only 'Theiophytalia kerri dinosaur fossil' in the world at this date. This unique item was found in 1886 by two men and has been on display for the last 100 years. There has never been a similar item found anywhere. This alone makes the park a super stop for adults and children.



the park as a person cannot find many places anywhere else that has such a magnificent array of shapes and colors. Hiking trails are well marked and very clean. Everyone needs to be aware that poison snakes are in the area. As with other such places, few people become involved each year and generally these could have been avoided with proper care.

Rock climbing is a special treat for such activity and is authorized by the park with registration and knowledge of the rules. You must have a minimum of two persons to



