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## Best College Towns

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### BOULDER COLORADO

Mind-Blowing  
Greenery  
(and the Outdoors  
Are Nice, Too)

→ At the foot of the jagged Flatirons, Boulder has the kind of spectacular mountain setting that makes you question why you live anywhere else. It's a mecca of mellowness populated by 100,000 Patagonia models masquerading as townies. They don't come close to filling the place, especially when the University of Colorado empties out for the summer, which means you have the peaks, the creeks, and the newly legal Colorado weed all to yourself.

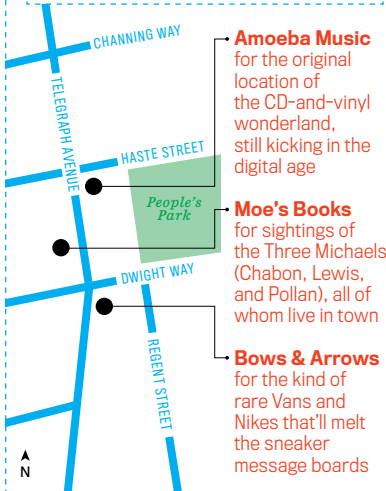
This spring, **The Farm**, a medical-marijuana dispensary that's less like a sketchy head shop and more like the J.Crew of pot, finally got its retail license. Alternatively, you can score from at least thirty retail stores in Denver, which you have to fly into anyway.

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### Shop Like You're Stocking Your Dorm Room

> BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA



**Amoeba Music** for the original location of the CD-and-vinyl wonderland, still kicking in the digital age

**Moe's Books** for sightings of the Three Michaels (Chabon, Lewis, and Pollan), all of whom live in town

**Bows & Arrows** for the kind of rare Vans and Nikes that'll melt the sneaker message boards

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### The Boulder of the East

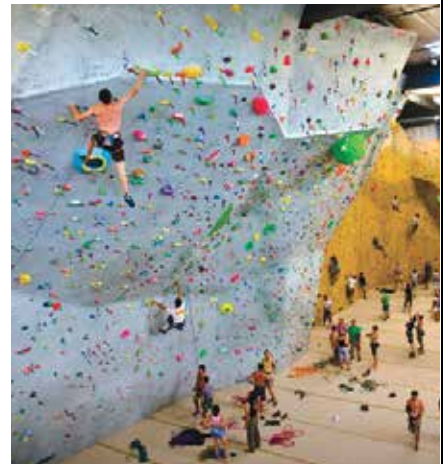
> ITHACA, NEW YORK

• You've undoubtedly cringed at countless Cornell grads wearing those "Ithaca Is Gorges" tees. But don't let the bad pun deter you from tackling the outdoorsiest college town east of the Mississippi. It's got more than a hundred waterfalls, a totally legit Finger Lakes wine scene, and all those gorges to hike—plus **Moosewood**, the hippie-dippy restaurant that somehow makes vegetarianism seem like a desirable option.

Once your buzz is sorted out, drop your bags in a mountain-view room at the swanky **St Julien** and get your ass outside. Your first stop is the **Boulder Bikesmith**, which'll rent you a sweet road bike and give you directions to a mountain hamlet like Jamestown. That ride is thirty-six glorious round-trip miles past wild sunflowers and grazing horses, with a lovely payoff at the top—a fresh mountain stream to splash on your sweat-streaked face.

Head back to the hotel. Unwind with a trip to the steam room, sauna, or whirlpool, and then amble over to Pearl Street, the town's pedestrian drag. Poke around fashion boutique **Weekends**, which sells Billy Reid polos and Jack Black grooming products.

By this point, you'll be starving for dinner. At **Frasca**, you'll enjoy a four-course Italian-by-way-of-



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Colorado tasting menu. (Think venison ravioli with sunchoke, smoked cherry, and balsamic.) Or go casual: Waltz into farm-to-table joint

**Oak** and grab a seat at the chef's counter, which is available even at eight o'clock.

In the morning, learn to rock-climb on the 18,500 square feet of walls at **Movement** gym. Then hike up to **Royal Arch**, a sandstone landmark so far above town that you can see CU's campus spread out beneath you. Finally, ask the folks at **Whitewater Tubing** to set you up with an inner tube to cruise the light rapids of Boulder Creek, a river of Rocky Mountain snowmelt. If you'd like to heighten your appreciation of the scenery, don't forget to pack a Ziploc.—NICK MARINO

- 1 Highway 36 to Jamestown.
- 2 Royal Arch hikes leave you breathless.
- 3 As legal as oregano.
- 4 Movement, where the floor is cushioned.
- 5 Fancy food at Frasca.
- 6 Oak's doughnuts: your reward for all that exertion.
- 7 Boulder Creek tubing.