

Superlative Downtown Denver Self-guided Tour: Central Platte Valley/Commons Park from Union Station

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Superlative site	Directions	Superlative description
Start: Union Station and Denver's regional transit center	From Union Station go to the end of 16th Street to the Millennium Bridge . (Nearby: DaVita world HQ at end of bridge.)	Union Station is considered one of the most beautiful train stations, part of the regional transit center (light rail, commuter rail, AMTRAK, buses) that is a model for other cities. The original Union Station, built on a duck pond, was the largest depot and building west of the Mississippi.
Millennium Bridge	Go over the Millennium Bridge to Bassett Circle. (Nearby: Menya Ramen & Poke, McLoughlin's, and Ink! restaurants.)	The Millennium Bridge is the world's first cable-stayed bridge using post-tensioned structural construction. Part of a distinctive string of three pedestrian bridges that connect downtown to Highland.
Moffat Station -- Balfour at Riverfront Park Retirement Community	Go left on Little Raven St., turn left at 15th toward downtown, brown brick bldg. on left., incorporated into Balfour.)	The station where David Moffat's trains left to do the impossible--go to "the top 'o the world"--the highest rail line and tunnel in North America, over Rollins Pass to the west side of the Rockies. One of only two train stations left in the city of Denver.
Confluence Park Kayak Chutes	Go down 15th St. to the north end of Confluence Park at the South Platte River. (Nearby: flagship REI store on north side of Platte.)	In the 1970s public and private entities joined forces to turn a neglected and blighted river into a centerpiece of environmental and recreational improvements to enhance urban living in the area. One of the results of the revival of the South Platte has been America's first urban whitewater experience, one of the great urban whitewater runs in the country. Now kayakers, rafters, boarders and tubers can shoot the rapids in the Central Platte Valley, in the only city with four rafting chutes.
Commons Park	From Confluence Park, walk east through Commons Park, the centerpiece of the Central Platte Valley neighborhood, until you reach the 19th St. Bridge.	This residential neighborhood is part of the spectacular transformation of the Central Platte Valley , a former 650-acre wasteland and what was once America's largest undeveloped inner-city zone in the 1980s.
19th St. Bridge	19th & S. Platte River. Bikeway along river goes under the bridge.	Oldest bridge in West outside of the West Coast, built in 1888, one of the few remaining cast-iron bridges in the US. It has

		beautiful, ornate touches of metalwork. Carried vehicles until 1986. The annual Greenway for the Blue Moon After Party on the Bridge is held here.
Denver Skatepark	Go south on 19th St. to Little Raven St. (Nearby: Railyard Dog Park half a block away on 19th on other side of Little Raven.)	The largest free public skatepark in America when built in 2003, rated no. 1 in US and no. 3 in the world.
Return to Union Station	Walk back along Little Raven or the park, turn left to Millennium Bridge to Union Station .	