

Lyons, Colorado - Denver getaway

August 24th, 2010 11:36 am MT

By **Jerome Shaw**, Denver International Travel Examiner



Soda Fountain & Bakery on Main Street Lyons, Colorado
Photo: Lyons Area Chamber of Commerce by Brian Donnell - Ducks in a Row Studio

Sandwiched between Boulder's hip funkiness and Estes Park's mountain grandeur, Lyons is quickly becoming a destination rather than just a pit stop on the way to Rocky Mountain National Park.

Lyons is located just under an hour northwest of Denver. The relaxed atmosphere and small town feel give you a sense of belonging the first time you walk in to one of the many antique shops or drop in at the [Stone Cup Cafe](#) for a cappuccino.

Instead of passing through Lyons next time spend the weekend. [Stone Mountain Lodge](#) offers visitors the seclusion of mountain cabins just minutes from town. The quaint property takes you to an earlier era. You can envision a time when cars of 40's and 50's were parked in front of each cabin. Now you are likely to find SUV's topped with bikes. Lyons has become a destination stop for mountain biking. The lodge offers both motel style rooms and cabins. A campground is also available. The cabins offer cooking facilities. They range in size from studios to 2 bedrooms and several offer a separate dining/living area. Cabin 19 & 20 can be connected to accommodate a group of 10. Cabin 19 is one of my favorites with its retro appeal.



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While mountain biking is one of the draws for visitors, another is a pinball parlor to rival anything a would-be wizard could find in the city. [Lyons Classic Pinball](#) offers a smoke-free environment filled with a glorious collection of 32 pinball and 11 video games (all kept in top-working condition). The colorful, clanging games date from the 60's, 70's, 80's and 90's, as well as classic video games from the 80's. The earliest machine currently being played is "Kismet", the 1961 electro-mechanical pinball game made by Williams. The newest machine is the 1999 dot matrix display game, "Revenge from Mars", also made by Williams.

Having worked up your thirst flicking your flippers, head over to the Soda Fountain and Bakery. While they serve sandwiches and soups, the real draw is the old time soda fountain. Maybe an old-fashioned sarsaparilla ice cream soda is what you need or perhaps a New York Egg Cream. My choice was clear. I was going to have a malt. Choosing the flavor proved to be the challenge. I settled on Raspberry Truffle. You may opt for the most popular flavors Chocolate or Vanilla or some of the other intriguing flavors such as Chai Cream, Mango Blast, or Wide Awake (an espresso flavored delight). My only wish was that they serve the malts in a real glass rather than plastic cups and give you the "extras" in the metal mixing canisters, just like I remembered from my childhood.

For malty beverages of a different variety try [Oskar Blues](#), Lyons oldest brewpub. Whether your tastes run to the warm hopiness of the Imperial IPA, the smoky malted strains of Old Chub Scottish Ale, or something lighter (they served bottled beer too) you can sate your desires. On the food menu you will find the signature Southern and Cajun dishes, Jambalaya, Shrimp Creole, and Seafood Gumbo to name a few. Looking for some comfort food? Try the rack of ribs with a savory/sage rub (that will have you thinking of Thanksgiving) and slathered with a thick zesty BBQ sauce. I recommend substituting mashed potatoes for the usual fries. You can end your evening with live music downstairs at Oskar Blues before heading back to your cabin at Stone Mountain Lodge.

If You Go Details:

- [The Stone Cup Cafe](#) 442 High Street 303-823-2345
- [Stone Mountain Lodge](#) 18055 N. St.Vrain Dr. 800/282-5612
- [Lyons Classic Pinball](#) 339-A Main St. 303/823-6100
- Lyons Soda Fountain and Bakery 400 Main St. 303/823-5393
- [Oskar Blues](#) 303 Main St. 303/823-6685
- [Lyons Info](#) : 303/823-5215 | Toll-Free: 1 877/ LYONS CO