

# Where Is the Colorado Desperado?

Welcome to our new digital travel adventure! *Where Is the Colorado Desperado?* will be a weekly post with clues to a location in Colorado. This could be a city, a building or a natural area, such as a park. We invite you to join in to help solve the mystery! The following week we will reveal the location and provide information for you to explore more on your own. To help facilitate our virtual exploration, we have created a set of fun characters and their backstory. Learn more about Jimmy Maddo, the Colorado Desperado and his wild west adventures [here](#). Let's have fun and explore the places of Colorado digitally until we get to traveling again!

Jimmy Maddo, the Colorado Desperado, and his sidekick, Opus, are on the hunt to find Ophelia the Outlaw and stop her from her maniacal plan to take over the state! Ophelia has stolen Colorado's prize antlers, a terrible loss for the state's history. Where in Colorado is Jimmy hunting for Ophelia and the Bailey Baddies this week? Check for clues below. To get a backstory and to find out more on Jimmy Maddo and his adventures, go [here](#).

The bells toll high noon at St. Mary's as Jimmy Maddo, the Colorado Desperado, and Opus walk through the streets of downtown. It wasn't just people walking down the streets. Jimmy and Opus saw a giraffe! Opus was scared, of course, thinking he might need a giraffe-raft to get away on the nearby creek, but Jimmy Maddo just kept on walking. He saw that a cowboy had already lassoed the wild beast and was riding it back to its home.

"That must be some cowboy, t'lasso a giraffe!" Opus said.

"Ah, it's nothing for a city like this. Them rodeo cowboys can lasso anything," Jimmy Maddo said, speaking low and squinting under his hat against the noonday sun. He knew Ophelia was here somewhere.

"Well, I'd give 'em a gold medal, for sure," Opus finished, matching his slow stride to Jimmy's

"I wouldn't be surprised if Ophelia set that giraffe loose to confuse us."

"Maybe she done put out all kindsa animals," Opus replied, his eyes wide. "Bears 'n bulls 'n wildcats n' camels!"

"Jus' takes two for kissin'," was all Jimmy had to say to that. He stopped, snapping his fingers with a resounding tone. "I know how we'll find her. They've got tracking technology here that's the best in the state. Sure, it only gets used one night a year these days, but it's still going to work for us. Let's go, Opus!" Jimmy explained his plan.

Opus had been only partially listening just at that moment. He was thinking of the fruited plains east of town because he was hungry, so he was confused at first, thinking they were going to the capital of Wyoming. Jimmy set him straight, though, and soon they were lit by the ghostly green lights of military computers.

"There! There she is!" Jimmy jubilantly cried, pointing to the spot on the map where Ophelia the Outlaw was lurking.

"Five stars!" Opus shouted, for it was, as always, a world-class job well done for Jimmy.

They jumped into the History-Mystery-Mobile and made their way to Ophelia's temporary hideout. Sneaking their way up on her as smoothly as ice, they burst out to find Ophelia and Lariat Louise admiring their stolen antlers.

"We've gotcha now!" Opus shouted.

"Not this time!" Ophelia countered, turning a mirror that was pulling in the shine enshrined on the mountain and using it to blind the do-gooder duo.

By the time they'd regained their vision, Ophelia and Louise were gone.

"Well, at least we got back the antlers," Opus said.

"Not the original, but it's better than nothing. All right, Opus. She got away this time, but we'll keep on her trail. There's no place she can hide where I won't find her, because I'm Jimmy Maddo, the Colorado Desperado!"

"Maybe next time we should put her feet on the other legs. Then she won't get away so easy," Opus suggested.

Jimmy nodded, because what could you say to something like that?



*Illustration courtesy Kole Kostelic*

# Where was the Colorado Desperado?

Founded in 1871 as Fountain Colony, Colorado Springs would become Colorado's second largest city.

General William Jackson Palmer created the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad in 1870 heading south out of Denver. It was on his path south that he created the town of Colorado Springs, the vision being a community with a resort focus, unlike many of the other Colorado towns being founded in the pursuit of Colorado's mineral riches. The city did see its fair share of wealth and splendor, with residents like Spencer and Julie Penrose with their Broadmoor resort (the only five-star resort in the state) and Winfield Scott Stratton striking it rich with the Independence mine in Cripple Creek, bringing the two cities together during the gold rush days. Colorado Springs began to grow significantly post-World War II when the military started to become more of a presence in the area, including being home to the Air Force Academy and NORAD. The Springs has also been a very devout community that stays strong today with many houses of worship.

In the story, we get clues from prominent landmarks or areas of the city such as St. Mary's Cathedral downtown. The animals come from the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, the highest zoo in the United States, and Garden of the Gods with its kissing camels. Colorado Springs is nicknamed "Olympic City USA" because it houses the US Olympic Training Center. It also reflects an admiration for the western spirit as home to the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame. Did you catch the reference to a famous song, the lyrics penned in Colorado Springs? How about the nod to Will Rogers? And the Antlers Hotel?



*Courtesy History Colorado*

Opus's final comment, about moving feet to other legs, is a hidden detail in the Broadmoor Hotel. Upstairs from the check-in desk you'll see angels in the artwork on the ceiling, with laurel wreaths, festoons and everything classical. Just don't look too closely at the feet on those angels. On some of them, the feet are on the wrong legs! The artists did this intentionally, honoring a long-standing tradition from Europe of having an artistic mistake within the building rather than a structural one. Next time you're at the Broadmoor, remember to look up; once you see them, you'll be amazed at the little details the hotel and the whole city have to offer.

There's so much rich history and heritage for you to explore in the bustling community of Colorado Springs!