

FUN FACTS

Character Defining Moments

- On Aug. 12, 1892, The Brown Palace Hotel opened its doors in the heart of downtown Denver. The hotel has remained open every minute of every day since opening.
- Every U.S. president has visited The Brown Palace since Teddy Roosevelt (1905), with the exception of Calvin Coolidge, who did not visit Denver.
- The Brown Palace contains 12,400 surface feet of onyx, a semiprecious variety of quartz, which was the most ever used in a single building at the time the hotel was constructed.
- Caring so much about the details, the contractors, the firm of Geddes and Seerie, imported sea sand to use in the mortar to assure that the joinings of the stone would be uniformly thin.
- The hotel's original artesian well is located 720 feet deep beneath the lobby floor and still provides water to every faucet in the hotel.
- The profile of Henry C. Brown, the hotel's founder, is forever etched into the stone near the Broadway entrance.
- Four of the hotel's suites are named for their famous residents: The Beatles Suite, Eisenhower Suite, Reagan Suite, and Roosevelt Suite.
- The kitchen, dining room, and convention hall were originally on the eighth floor and stretched two stories high. From the grand dining room, patrons could view more than 300 miles of Rocky Mountain grandeur.
- In 1937, the hotel opened the Skyline Apartments which housed permanent residents in suites with kitchens on the top two floors of the hotel. The last of these residents moved out in the mid-1980s.
- Before the Beatles' visit in 1964, the hotel saw a great surge in applications for housekeepers by young girls. After the Beatles' stay, monetary offers were made for the dishes from which they ate and the sheets on which they slept.
- The Brown Palace Club, located on the second floor, served as campaign headquarters for Dwight D. Eisenhower prior to his election as president.
- Two of the cast iron grillwork panels on the railing surrounding the hotel's eight-story atrium are upside down.

- Soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division tried rappelling from the balconies during a visit to the hotel during World War II. A re-enactment of this was performed for guests during the hotel's Centennial celebration in 1992.
- Room 321 served as an Officer's Club during World War II.
- Except for crackers and sandwich bread, the hotel prepares all of its own baked goods in a unique, carousel oven – catalogued at more than 50 years old. The oven is one of only three in the world known to be in existence and is still used every day.
- The hotel generated its own electricity in an engine room until the 1950s.
- The hotel houses its own upholstery and carpentry shops.

Entertaining Dignitaries

- Teddy Roosevelt was the first president to stop at The Brown Palace Hotel. He came to Colorado to hunt bear in the spring of 1905. During his trip, he spoke to a group of businessmen at an elaborate banquet at the hotel. Roosevelt preceded the trend for cigar smoking; 1,500 cigars were smoked during the event.
- President Roosevelt's first request on arriving at the hotel in September of 1912 was a "tub of ice water." It seems his throat was a bit dry after speaking in five Colorado towns that day. This was during his campaign for president on the Bull Moose Party ticket.
- In 1955, President Dwight D. Eisenhower had a travel allowance of \$40,000 per year. A Denver reporter estimated that an eight week vacation in Denver would cost \$25,000. That included \$2,500 per week for lodging and meals for a staff of 17, nine Army Signal Corpsmen and an undisclosed number of Secret Service agents.
- President Eisenhower loved to fish. To please the president, the hotel created an ice carving of a mountain complete with pine trees and a miniature lake at the base of the mountain in which swam three tiny trout. Ike was completely enchanted with the creation and could hardly keep his eyes off the lake and its tiny inhabitants. Thus, when one trout suddenly flipped himself out of the pool and onto the carpet, Ike leaped out of his chair to the rescue, nearly upsetting the table in his eagerness to save the fish.
- The executive chef at The Brown Palace created a special dish for President Eisenhower – Beef Tenderloin a la Presidente. Ike liked it so much, he ordered it three days in a row.

- Ike hit a wayward golf ball while practicing in the room and made a dent in the fireplace mantel in the Eisenhower Suite. It remains today as a souvenir.
- The Gold Room on the second floor of the hotel, site of President Clinton's oval office for the Denver Summit of the Eight, was also the room President Eisenhower used to pen some of his memoirs.
- It is said that a presidential salute was fired from a cannon on the roof of the hotel when Woodrow Wilson was a guest.
- A report during President Harding's stay in July of 1923 said that "the White House for a few hours is on the eighth floor of The Brown Palace Hotel, and it will hold this temporary site until the party resumes its western jaunt at 1:30 o'clock this afternoon."
- In 1919, room service head waiter Randolph Witek, who had served presidents Taft, Roosevelt and Wilson at the hotel, reported that President Wilson was the lightest eater of the three. President Taft, he recalled, ate an enormous breakfast, while the appetite of President Roosevelt was scarcely less hearty.

Unusual Requests, Granted with a Smile

- 222 pieces of luggage arrived with the Rolling Stones when they visited the hotel for just two nights in 2003.
- For Sarah Ferguson, Duchess of York, a helicopter ride to Crested Butte, Colo., was arranged so she could have dinner with a friend before retiring for the night.
- Ann Margaret's two dogs slept on new Brown Palace dog beds during their stay while she appeared in the production "Best Little Whorehouse in Texas."
- During one of his visits, pop star Billy Joel played a duet with the pianist in the atrium lobby for elated guests enjoying cocktails.
- Action film star Steven Segal asked the concierge to store the elk from his successful hunting trip in the hotel's freezer during his stay.
- Rock star Don Henley requested that his bed, stored in a truck that follows him on his travels, be placed in his hotel room. However, he later asked that it be removed because he found The Brown Palace bed so comfortable.
- A wealthy man arranged for room service on hotel china covered with silver domes to be served to his dog on the sidewalk. The dog dined al fresco and slept in a rented limousine outside the hotel.
- Actress Carol Channing, who suffered from allergies, had special cleaning soap and laundry soap sent ahead to be used while she was at the hotel. Her own staff did the cleaning.

Four-Legged Friends and More

- As a special amenity for the first Morris-the-Cat visiting Denver to promote his book, the hotel's print shop produced personalized stationery for him. The paw prints used in the design of the paper were replicated from paw prints found in the hotel's basement, possibly left by Lizzie, the hotel's cat in the 1900s.
- In 1945, TT Regent I and TT Regent II were the first cattle to be displayed in the atrium lobby. Owned by Dan Thornton, who later became governor of Colorado, the cattle were sold at the National Western Stock Show for a record price of \$50,000 each.
- Because of its long-standing association with the National Western Stock Show, The Brown Palace has a tradition of displaying a grand champion steer in the atrium lobby during Afternoon Tea each January.
- Cowboy star Monte Montana rode his horse, Rex, into the hotel and roped the general manager. Monte then rode Rex up the grand staircase to a meeting of the Rodeo Cowboys Association.
- In 1982, 10 Black Angus cattle lined the red carpet below the grand staircase as part of the black-tie auction hosted by Lovana Farms. The auction raised \$1.7 million, part of which was donated to charity.

Celebrity Sightings

1892-1900

Buffalo Bill Cody
Marshall Field
Adolph Coors

1901-1910

Thomas Alva Edison
Lillian Russell

1911-1930

Helen Keller
Jack Dempsey
Margaret Tobin "Molly"
Brown
Col. Charles A. Lindbergh

1951-1960

Jack Benny
Victor Borge
Bob Hope
Jimmy Stewart

1961-1970

John Wayne
James Cagney
Helen Hayes
Debbie Reynolds
Ann Margaret
Ginger Rogers

1971-1980

Truman Capote
Bette Davis
Luciano Pavarotti
Gloria Steinem
Howard Cosell

1981-1990

Elizabeth Taylor
Phil Donahue
Katharine Hepburn
Alan Alda
John McEnroe

1991-2000

Joan Rivers
Jerry Seinfeld
Cindy Crawford
Goldie Hawn
John F. Kennedy, Jr.
Kevin Costner
Michelle Kwan

2001-2006

Robin Williams
Glenn Close
Mary Higgins Clark
James Earl Jones
Oprah Winfrey
Steven Spielberg
Dave Barry

2007-2009

Eddie Murphy
Bill Murray
Wayne Brady
George Lopez
Madeline Albright
Nancy Pelosi
Desmond Tutu

Musical Guests

Classical

Itzhak Perlman

Andre Watts

Yo Yo Ma

Country/Folk

Reba McEntyre

Clint Black

John Denver

Roseanne Cash

Joan Baez

Carrie Underwood

Clay Walker

Musical Legends

Tony Bennett

Burt Bacharach

Harry Belafonte

Jerry Lee Lewis

Neil Diamond

Tom Jones

Neil Young

Groups

The Beatles

Rolling Stones

Eagles

U2

Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young

Dave Matthews Band

Bon Jovi

Aerosmith

Pop/Rock/Rap

Bruce Springsteen

Billy Joel

Snoop Dog

Kanye West

Gloria Estefan

Pete Townsend

Prince

Cher

The Brown Palace Hotel and Spa is a Forbes Four Star, AAA Four Diamond luxury landmark located in the heart of downtown Denver. It is a charter member of National Trust Historic Hotels of America and is managed by Quorum Hotels & Resorts, a full service management company headquartered in Dallas. For more information or to make reservations please call (303) 297-3111, (800) 321-2599 or visit www.brownpalace.com.

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