

ADVENTURE AWAITS: EXPLORE COLORADO'S HIDDEN ESCAPES

# DENVER LIFE

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**HOOVES  
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A GOAT STORY

“We wanted to offer women a service where they didn’t have to do an iota of the planning involved in trying an adventure sport and know that other women would be there to support and encourage them.” – Kelly Kocher



Zip-lining is just one of the many experiences that Vela Adventures helps check off the bucket list.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF VELA ADVENTURES

Vela Adventures creates lasting bonds among Denver women.



# A Drop in the Bucket

Vela Adventures reminds Coloradoans why adventure is a significant aspect of being healthy and happy.

BY KALEIGH LAWSON

Everyone has a bucket list of dreams and accomplishments. You may daydream about learning to rock climb or whitewater raft, but could never find the courage or time. That is where Vela Adventures (VA) steps in, creating an all-inclusive opportunity for Denver-area women to build bonds and memories that will last a lifetime.

VA was founded in 2013 by two Denver moms, Kelly Kocher and Heather Fleck. They realized that they needed more adventure in their lives, and thus the idea of adventures planned by women for women came to fruition. Many spend their days developing careers and caring for their families, and VA wanted to give women the chance to have fun and prioritize themselves. With this provider of all-inclusive adventure outings, you don't have to do any planning or organizing; everything from the actual adventure to the snacks and lunches are provided.

Being able to participate in an adventure during the day and still be home in time to pick up the kids from camp or school is a feat that many moms desire, but few can accomplish alone. "We know firsthand how extremely busy women are and how few adventure sports venues there are geared only towards women," says Kocher. "So, we wanted to offer women a service where they didn't have to do an iota of the planning involved in trying an adventure sport and know that other women would be there to support and encourage them."

Though it's still a young company breaking into the Denver market, VA has already begun making an impact on the women involved. "The response from our participants has been so positive and encouraging that we've honestly been surprised at how fast business has taken off," says Kocher. Not only have Denver women been eager to participate, but as Kocher says, "We've heard from women as far as Fort Collins and Colorado Springs who are planning on joining us on an adventure."

July is usually a month of summer camps for little ones, and VA wants to give mothers a similar opportunity. In July, they will offer a four-day summer camp for moms living in the Boulder area. Each day starts around nine in the morning and ends by two, allowing you to get home in time to pick up the kids from their summer activities. Like other trips, attendees will enjoy adventures such as stand-up paddle boarding, whitewater rafting and wine tasting or mountain biking and painting. Whether you take advantage of the summer camp or just enjoy a day trip, VA is a safe place to challenge yourself, meet new friends and have fun.

"Watching an idea that was born over a glass of wine between two friends actually come to life is pretty amazing," says Kocher. "And how fast we've been able to grow the business and the number of women we've been able to empower, challenge and excite has definitely exceeded all our expectations." It's only the beginning of many more conquered bucket lists! 

## Vela Adventures' Bucket List Challenge

Complete 10 "Bring on Your Bucket List" challenges, such as the ones below, by December 28, 2014, and you'll be entered to win VA's grand prize, which includes massages, apparel, skincare products, local gift certificates and more.

- Dog sledding
  - Fencing
  - Indoor skydiving
  - Archery
  - Rock climbing
  - Whitewater rafting
  - Summitting a 14er
  - Stand-up paddle boarding
  - A Vela Adventure of your choice
- Visit [velaadventures.com](http://velaadventures.com) for more info