

Cache la Poudre Scenic & Historic Byway Photo courtesy of Colorado Tourism

### CONTENTS

#### **COLORADO TRAVEL RESOURCES**

- Getting Here is Easy, Getting Around is Easier
  Map, welcome centers, Amtrak routes, airports
- Colorado's Scenic Railways
  Stations of Colorado's historic railroads
- Pikes Peak Cog Railway Reopens

  Enjoy the updated cars and visitor center
- Care for Colorado
  Leave No Trace
- Colorado's Cowboy Culture
  Rodeos, ranches and roundups
- Moffat County
  Dinosaur lore and pioneer history
- Southern Ute Tribe Experience
  Cultural Center and Casino Resort

#### SAMPLE ITINERARY

Summer Fun in Northern Colorado

#### TOUR COLORADO MEMBERS

- 22 Member Listings
  A directory of Colorado attractions, destinations, hotels and service providers
- 30 Member Spotlight
  Leisure West Tours
- 31 Member Spotlight
  Visit Fort Collins

ON THE COVER Pikes Peak Cog Railway (Photo courtesy of Cog Railway)





#### **Editorial & Advertising Office**

Premier Travel Media 621 Plainfield Road, Suite 406 Willowbrook, IL 60527 P 630.794.0696 • F 630.794.0652 advertising@ptmgroups.com

Publisher - Jeffrey Gayduk jeff@ptmgroups.com

Associate Publisher - Dave Bodle dave@ptmgroups.com

Managing Editor - Jason Paha jason@ptmgroups.com

Managing Editor - Miles Dobis miles@ptmgroups.com

Director, Design & Production - Lisa Hede lisa@ptmgroups.com

Production Coordinator - Kelsey Ledford kelsey@ptmgroups.com

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info@tourcolorado.org www.tourcolorado.org

**Tour Colorado Executive Director -**Julianne Fredrick

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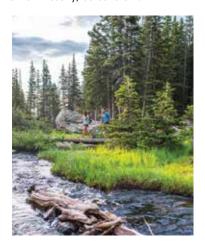
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### Unforgettable Rocky Mountain Adventures Await in Colorado!

We are proud to present the 2023 edition of our Colorado Group Tour Planner. This edition will take you on a tour full of history, culture and

outdoor adventure. You will learn about the updated Pikes Peak Cog Railway, the state's rich cowboy heritage, the "Care for Colorado" program and more! There is always something exciting around the next corner. We look forward to sharing our beautiful state with you and helping you plan your next tour.

We would like to thank all our members for their continued support. Please take a moment to look at their listings and reach out to them for information and assistance in your itinerary planning. Within those



listings you will find attractions, hotels, destinations and service providers. All our members are eager to help you plan that perfect tour!

I, the Tour Colorado Board of Directors and our members are excited to welcome you, your clients and groups to Colorado!

#### Julianne Fredrick, Executive Director, Tour Colorado

Tour Colorado is a Proud Partner with the Colorado Tourism Office and Proud Member of NTA, ABA and TAP

P.O. Box 4017, **Durango, CO 81301** 888-401-4330 www.tourcolorado.org



Learn more about Colorado's group travel opportunities!







#### **GETTING HERE IS EASY.**

## EASIER.

#### **COLORADO WELCOME CENTERS**

en Official Colorado Welcome Centers are located throughout the state and easily accessible from every major highway entering the state. Services provided by dedicated volunteer Colorado experts are free. More information is available at colorado.com/official-colorado-welcome-centers.

#### **CANYONS & PLAINS**

- 1. Colorado Welcome Center at Lamar 109 E. Beech St. Lamar, CO 81052 719-336-3483 leslie.stagner@colorado.com
- 2. Colorado Welcome Center at Trinidad 309 Nevada Ave. Trinidad, CO 81082 719-846-9512 marty.hackett@colorado.com

#### ■ DENVER & CITIES OF THE ROCKIES

3. Colorado Welcome Center at Fort Collins 3745 E. Prospect Rd., Suite 105 Fort Collins, CO 80525 970-491-4775 drew@ftcollins.com

#### ■ MOUNTAINS & MESAS

4. Colorado Welcome Center at Cortez
928 E. Main St.
Cortez, CO 81321
970-565-4048
cortezwelcomecenter@mesaverdecountry.com

5. Colorado Welcome Center at Fruita 340 Hwy. 340 Fruita, CO 81521 970-858-9335 fruita@colorado.com

#### **MYSTIC SAN LUIS VALLEY**

6. Colorado Welcome Center at Alamosa 610 State Ave. Alamosa, CO 81101 800-258-7597 or 719-589-4840 welcome@alamosa.org

## THE GREAT WEST Glenwood Springs Breckenridge Delta Gunnison MOUNTAINS & MESAS Lake City . Telluride **Dove Creek** Del Norte Monte Vista 4 ortez

#### **■ PIONEERING PLAINS**

7. Colorado Welcome Center at Burlington 48265 I-70 Burlington, CO 80807 719-346-5554 rhonda.peterson@state.co.us

8. Colorado Welcome Center at Julesburg 20934 County Road 28 Julesburg, CO 80737

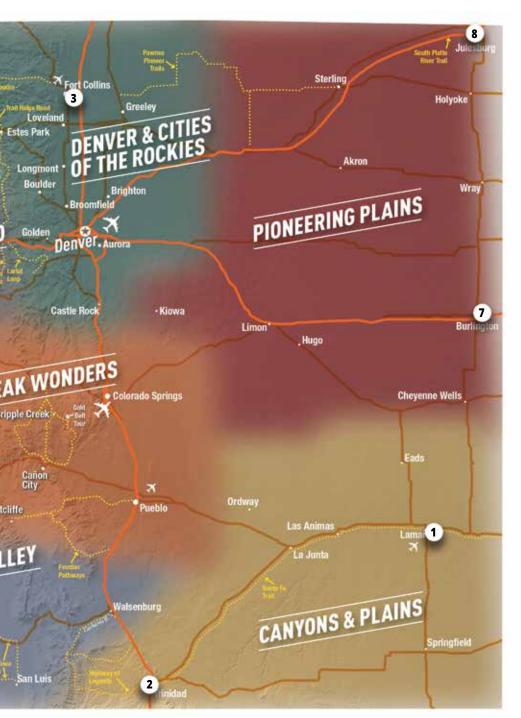
Julesburg, CO 80737 970-474-2054 sue.carter@colorado.com

#### **■** ROCKIES PLAYGROUND

 Colorado Welcome Center at Silverthorne 246-V Rainbow Dr. Silverthorne, CO 80498 970-468-0353

#### **■ THE GREAT WEST**

10. Colorado Welcome Center at Dinosaur 101 E. Stegosaurus St. Dinosaur, CO 81610 970-374-2205 cheryl.mcdonald@colorado.com



#### AMTRAK SERVICES COLORADO

Two Amtrak passenger train routes travel though Colorado. The California Zephyr connects San Francisco and Chicago with regular stops in the newly renovated Denver Union Station, Granby, Grand Junction, Glenwood Springs, Winter Park and Fort Morgan. The **Southwest Chief** connects Los Angeles and Chicago with stops in Trinidad, La Junta and Lamar, Colorado. (amtrak.com/west-train-routes) Introduced in 2017, the **Winter Park Express** seasonal route links Denver Union Station and Winter Park Resort and is ideal for groups seeking a day of winter sports or mountain air. Developed for ride-in/ride-out skiing, the Express operates Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays between January and April.

#### TAKE FLIGHT TO COLORADO

Denver International Airport is serviced by 23 airlines that provide direct non-stop service from 215 destinations, including 28 international destinations. Denver has the the third-busiest airport in the United States, eighth-busiest in the world and—with more than 58 million passengers—is one of the busiest airline hubs in the world. Travelers looking to explore the I-70 corridor should consider Aspen/Pitkin County **Airport** for unbeatable access to the area's ski resorts and national forests. American, Delta and United travelers can also fly into Eagle County Regional **Airport** if they wish to experience the mountains. Steamboat Springs, another premier outdoor destination, can be accessed from the **Yampa Valley Regional Airport** in Hayden, which features non-stop flights from 15 destinations. Colorado Springs Airport welcomes Southwestern, American, Delta, Frontier and United flights daily, ideal for visitors to the Pikes Peak Wonders Region. Grand Junction Regional Airport receives flights from Denver, Chicago, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Dallas, Los Angeles and Salt Lake City for visitors seeking Colorado's wine country. Durango-La Plata County Airport welcomes American and United travelers. Smaller regional airports also include Montrose Regional Airport and Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport.

#### Colorado Travel Fun Facts

- Colorado features North America's highest paved road. The Mount Evans Scenic Byway passes through five distinct climate zones before reaching a final height of
- 14.130 feet.
- · The Eisenhower-Edwin C. Johnson Memorial Tunnel is an engineering marvel and the highest auto tunnel in the world, bored under the Continental Divide at an elevation of
- 11.158 feet.
- The highest suspension bridge in America is over the Royal Gorge near Cañon City. The Royal Gorge Bridge spans the Arkansas River in Fremont County at a height of

956 feet.

 Denver International Airport is the largest in North America by volume and welcomes over 64 million passengers annually. The everexpanding airport covers

33,531 acres.

## Colorado's Scenic Railways

- Broadmoor Pikes Peak Cog Railway 515 Ruxton Ave., Manitou Springs, CO 80829 cograilway.com
- Colorado Model Railroad Museum 680 10th St., Greeley, CO 80631 cmrm.org
- Cripple Creek & Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad
   520 E. Carr Ave., Cripple Creek, CO 80813
   cripplecreekrailroad.com
- Cumbres & Toltec Railroad
   5234 B Hwy 285,
   Antonito, CO 81120
   cumbrestoltec.com
- Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad 479 Main Ave., Durango, CO 81301 durangotrain.com
- Georgetown Loop Railroad 646 Loop Dr., Georgetown, CO 80444 georgetownlooprr.com
- Leadville, Colorado & Southern Railroad 326 E. 7th St., Leadville, CO 80461 leadville-train.com
- Rocky Mountaineer
   1100-980 Howe St.,
   Vancouver, BC, V6Z 0C8
   rockymountaineer.com
- Royal Gorge Route Railroad 330 Royal Gorge Blvd., Cañon City, CO 81212 royalgorgeroute.com





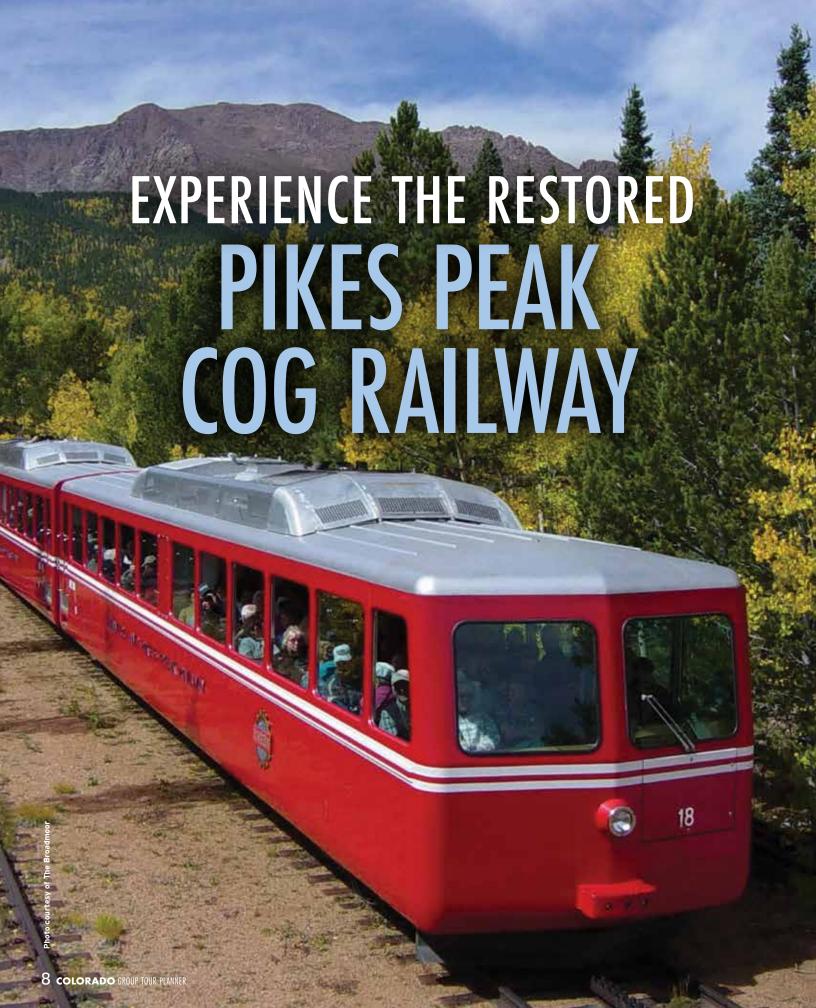
Discover the wide-open spaces of Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak Wonders Region. Perfect for a group outing, reignite your sense of adventure with a variety of exciting excursions. Climb aboard the historic Broadmoor Manitou and Pikes Peak Cog Railway, enjoy an authentic old-timey western experience at the Flying W Ranch and discover your inner champion on an inspirational tour of the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum. Whether your group is looking for leisurely activities or exciting adventures, Colorado Springs has the activities they're looking for.

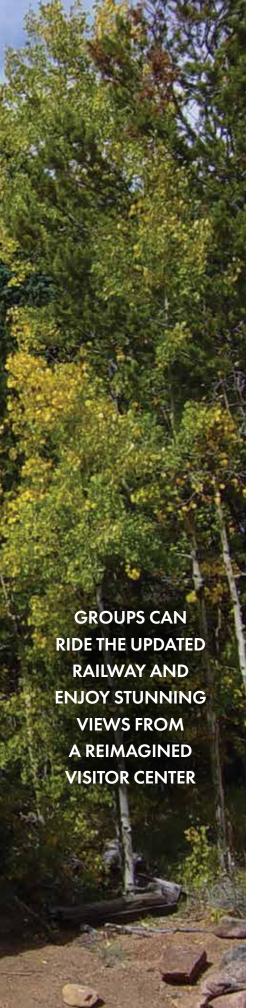
Learn more at **VisitCOS.com/tours** 



#### CHERYL MCCULLOUGH

Senior Director Cheryl@VisitCOS.com | 719.685.7642





fter three years and \$100 million in renovations, the historic Pikes Peak Cog Railway has reopened to whisk visitors to one of America's most famous mountains. Visitors can also enjoy a state-of-theart visitor center, updated onboard amenities and a restored depot as they climb the 14,115-foot peak.

"Recognized as the world's highest cog railroad, The Broadmoor Manitou and Pikes Peak Cog Railway is an important part of the heritage of the Western United States," says the railway's website. "Taking this journey is like walking the footsteps of history, and now the adventure is even more iconic and inspiring."

The railway first opened in 1891 after businessman Zalmon Simmons visited nearby Manitou Springs and bemoaned the arduous two-day trip by mule required to reach Pikes Peak. The track was constructed by laborers by hand, with only the assistance of pickaxes and mules, and the innovative cog-and-rack system allowed conductors to control speeds for downward descent. The railway was acquired by the nearby Broadmoor Hotel in 1925, and the result was a legacy of success. Over a century of incremental improvements brought diesel locomotives, electric vehicles and hydraulic-powered coaches to the tracks, but after 126 years of operation, the railway decided that major structural renovations were necessary safety reasons and for an ideal visitor experience.

Groups will begin their adventure at the restored depot, which maintains its 19th century mining town design but has been refreshed with bright blue paint, a second train platform, an overhead walkway and remodeled bathroom and gift shop spaces. Next, board a new 214-foot-long aluminum train outfitted with upholstered, cushioned seating for the journey to Pikes Peak. The trains travel 10 miles per hour on a 70-minute single-cog rail trip that slowly winds up Rocky Mountain ridges. Passengers will travel through Pike National Forest to see cascading waterfalls, ancient quartz boulders and canopies of Colorado spruce. You'll also see plenty of

wildlife, including elk, eagles and Colorado's iconic big horn sheep.

Once you've reached the famous summit of Pikes Peak, your group can admire the Collegiate and Sangre de Cristo mountain ranges and even spot the skyscrapers of downtown Denver on a clear day. You will also want to spend time in the new Pikes Peak Visitor Center, a beautiful space with design elements that echo the colors and textures of the mountain's granite. The state-of-the-art space was constructed with environmentally sustainable materials and passive design strategies that significantly reduce the building's energy needs. A highly insulated concrete shell retains heat, solar arrays supply electricity, and prefabricated rooms helped minimized fuel for transportation (even vacuum-sealed toilets reduce trips for water replenishment).

ADA-accessible and designed with catwalks and immense windows to maximize the beautiful views, the center educates visitors on the mountain's history, climate and conservations initiatives through interactive exhibit galleries and interpretive trails that circle the building. Visitors can download the Pikes Peak Summit Experience app to learn about the region's history and immerse themselves in the interactive interpretive space. Users can identify wildlife during a hike, collect "stickers" for stopping at various Colorado Springs locations and play trivia games to learn frontier history.

You can also pose for a photo on the immense roof decks that are sheltered from the winds by the building and provide panoramic views of the mountains. If your group is hungry, the new Pikes Peak Summit house offers delicious breakfast burritos, fresh sandwiches and pork green chile. You can also try the world-famous Pikes Peak donut, which is based on a 1916 recipe and specifically designed to be deep fried at the mountain's high altitude.

Group leaders should call ahead for a group reserved admission adult ticket of \$63, and accommodations for group meals and tours can be made with advanced notice. This excludes departures between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. For more group tour information, visit www.cograilway.com or call 719-685-5401. •



he Care for Colorado Coalition is an unprecedented collaboration of more than 60 statewide organizations, businesses and agencies that serve to keep Colorado unspoiled. As a proud stewardship partner, Tour Colorado helps cultivate an appreciation and understanding of Colorado's untamed uniqueness by educating visitors. "Destination stewardship is a priority for the Colorado Tourism Office (CTO). CTO was the first tourism office in the United States to reach out to Leave No Trace to develop these seven Care for Colorado Leave No Trace principles as a guide for visitors

Before exploring the wilds of Colorful Colorado, become part of the solution and practice these fundamental principles to keep the Centennial State resplendent for everyone.

and residents to travel responsibly," says Barb Bowman, CTO.

#### **CONSIDER THIS**

Colorado's agencies oversee 42% of the captivating landscape with cities and counties safeguarding even more. Reduce waste and stay hydrated in the dry climate with convenient reusable water bottles and thermal cups. Explore lesser-traveled offseason spots for a deeper connection to nature and less impact on more popular areas. Springtime in Colorado is not immune from late-season snowstorms.

#### TRAVERSE THOUGHTFULLY

When traveling any of the thousands of designated trails, stay in the middle even if they are muddy/slushy. Wet leaves and vegetation along trail edges make them vulnerable to damage and erosion. Shortcuts present the likelihood of plant and habitat destruction. Wear proper footwear such as sturdy, well-insulated, waterproof boots for enjoyable traversing.

#### LOOK, DON'T TOUCH

The allure of discovering Colorado's natural environment brings more than 80 million visitors each year. Leave plants, historical artifacts and rocks as you found them so that others may experience the joy of exploration. Capture scenery with snapshots and forgo natural keepsakes. All flora and fauna are living things, so maintain good intentions and judgments. Don't carve into trees or mar ancient rockfaces as this can kill and disfigure the natural splendor.

#### **KEEP COLORADO CLEAN**

If your group carries it in, carry it out. Pick up refuse and leave a place better than you found it. This includes cores/peels, bottle caps, cigarette buts and litter. When washing yourself, your pets and other items, do so at least 200 feet from bodies of water and use biodegradable soap. Harsh chemicals can kill marine/plant life. Pack out paper products using a disposable waste bag found at most outdoor stores.

#### **FIRE AWARENESS**

The low humidity in Colorado creates a dry climate more susceptible to wildfires. Check for fire restrictions in your group's area before building one. Keep all campfires small and manageable and never leave them unattended. Smokers should be extra vigilant in ashing and properly disposing of cigarettes. When extinguishing, water your campfire until you can manipulate the embers. Avoid building fires at trailheads and parking lots.

#### **RESPECT WILDLIFE**

Tens of thousands of plant and animal species call Colorado home. To ensure their safety and your groups, do not approach, chase or feed wildlife. View them from afar and allow nature to thrive undisturbed. Fleeing animals are forced to expend crucial energy reserved for surviving cold winter months. Springtime is full of blossoming wildflowers and nesting animals, so travel thoughtfully, give them extra space and be sensitive to nature.

#### RESPECT TRAVELERS

Colorado's magnificent environment invites visitors to unplug and reconnect with nature. Silence cell phones and speak softly so your group doesn't disturb others. Allow folks, including those in your group, to resonate with the symphonies of nature. Be considerate and move aside for uphill bikers/hikers so they can keep their much-needed momentum.

For more information about how to prepare for your group's next Colorado adventure and tools for group planning, visit https://oedit. colorado.gov/care-for-colorado-principles-program.



## COLORADO'S COWBOY CULTURE

#### LEARN ABOUT THE STATE'S RICH HERITAGE OF RANCHING, MINING AND HOMESTEADING

omanticized for generations through movies, television and books, the Old West goes far beyond the surface impressions of Stetson hats, saloons and railroad barons. Cowboy culture traces its roots to the 16th century, when Spanish settlers introduced domesticated horses, cattle and sheep to North America. The most potent vision of the "Wild West" in the public imagination remains the 1800s, when ranchers, miners and pioneers populated the region. Colorado remains a global ranching capital, and your group can experience the state's rich Western heritage in its many museums, historic sites and rodeos.

Orient your group to the region's cowboy history at the ProRodeo Hall of Fame & Museum of the American **Cowboy** in Colorado Springs. Visitors can explore the immense exhibition hall that houses saddles, chaps and other equipment from centuries of rodeo history, and the Hall of Champions honors wranglers, stock contractors and rodeo clowns that contributed to rodeo culture. Step into the spurs of 19th century

settlers at Colorado Springs' Ghost Town Museum. Visitors can walk down a wooden promenade through an immense indoor recreation of a pioneer village that consists of preserved artifacts and buildings from the Pikes Peak area. Test your aim at the shooting gallery, try your hand at a printing press and pan for gold.

Learn about the profound and underrepresented influence African Americans had upon Western expansion at the Black American West Museum & Heritage Center. Located in the former home of Dr. Justina Ford (the first Black female doctor in Denver) the center profiles black cowboys, homesteaders and lawmen as the American West rapidly developed after the Civil War. Also in Denver is the **History Colorado Center**, which explores Colorado's development and the expansion of the American West in 15 exhibits across four floors.

Groups can learn much more about cowboy history by venturing beyond the cities to interact with the authentic ranchers and visit settlements that have stood for centuries. Bent's Old Fort in Colorado's southeastern corner was once



a thriving trading post that connected fur trappers, westward pioneers and the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes. Register for an interpretive tour to interact with costumed craftspeople and walk the ramparts of this adobe structure to learn how these disparate groups interacted during the fort's heyday in the 1840s. **The Fort** in the town of Morrison was built in 1962 to match the style of Bent's Old Fort, including an authentic adobe foundation and furniture and doors constructed using 19th century techniques. Groups can call ahead to tour the campus and learn about Colorado's Western past before enjoying entrees of bison, elk and quail in addition to the signature house cocktail that was served in Bent's Old Fort in 1833 (which consists of bourbon, sugar and mint).

You can also learn about Rocky Mountain history at the **Gunnison Pioneer Museum**, a 14-acre campus that



consists of 30 buildings. Tour a preserved schoolhouse, post office and rail depot to learn about the Native Americans and settlers who made a home of this rugged region. If you are staying in the Denver area, venture into the mountains to visit the Buffalo Bill Grave & Museum. The resting place of America's famous cowboy and showman includes artifacts from the touring Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, a peace pipe that belonged to Lakota leader Sitting Bull and beautiful views of downtown Golden.

Colorado's signature Western event is the rodeo. Originally developed as a showcase for vaqueros and cowboys to display their roping and livestock herding skills, rodeos have developed to showcase the ranching lifestyle with a broad array of skills competitions, live music, food and art. Dating back to the late 1800s and once the largest fair in the world, the Greeley Stampede is a massive festival

that welcomes over 250,000 annual visitors and features bull-riding, displays by local artists and performances by internationally renowned country singers. Visitors can watch over 100 cars become rubble in a demolition derby, catch a variety of roping competitions and see beautiful Western-inspired paintings and sculptures at the art show.

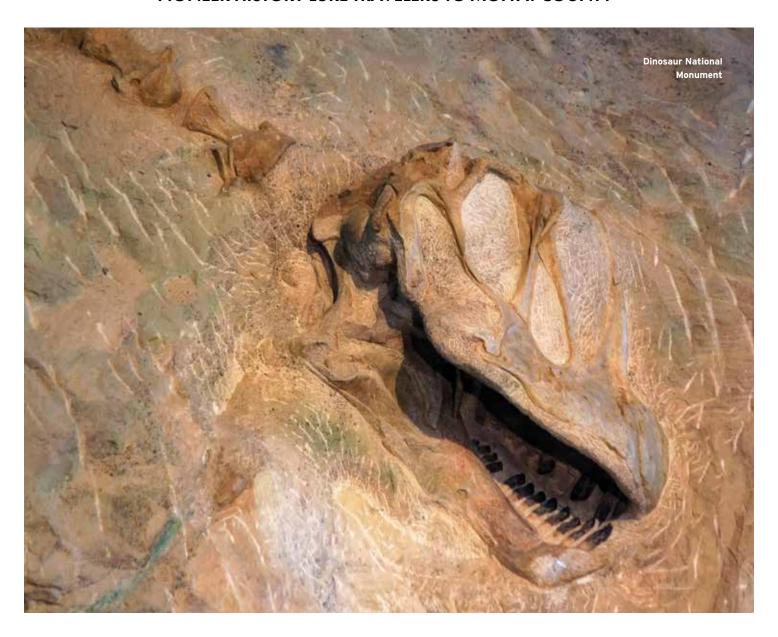
Another must-see spectacle is the National Western Stock Show just north of Denver. Hosting over 15,000 animals, the event includes bull-riding competitions, barrel racing and booths that sell authentic Western ware like cowboy boots, belts and blankets. Groups can also watching trick roping at the Mexican Rodeo, learn about unsung history at the African-American Heritage Rodeo and enjoy impressive tricks during the Super Dogs show. Hosted annually in the fairgrounds outside of Pueblo, the Colorado State

**Fair** will appeal to every member of your group, whether you want to admire the local livestock or indulge in a funnel cake.

Is your group hankering for an interactive cowboy experience? Flying W Ranch in the foothills of Colorado Springs offers dinner & show in an operating cattle ranch. Sit down for a famous three-course chuckwagon feast and enjoy delights like the mouthwatering meats, Dutch-oven buttermilk biscuits and savory trail beans while being serenaded by one of the country's oldest cowboy singing groups in their brand-new performance venue. The Flying W Ranch is also a great place to learn new skills and understand more of daily life in the Old West. Try your hand at Navajo rug weaving, silversmithing, horse shoeing or hat making, and get up close with the many ranch animals living on site. •

# DISCOVERING NORTHWEST COLORADO

OUTDOOR RECREATION, DINOSAUR LORE AND PIONEER HISTORY LURE TRAVELERS TO MOFFAT COUNTY



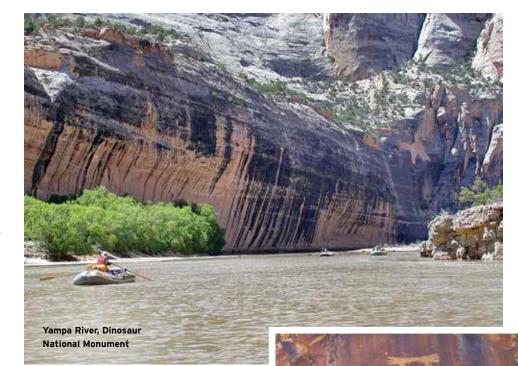
he far-flung corner of northwest Colorado appeals to adventuresome travelers looking to stray off the beaten path and lose the crowds. A land of expansive vistas, magnificent canyons and free-flowing rivers, not to mention dinosaur fossils and wild horses, the wide-open spaces of Moffat County invite discovery.

Amid mountain scenery that has changed little since frontier times, wildlife sightings abound in this neck of the woods. The county, for example, boasts the nation's largest migratory elk herd. Birders flock to the area for the chance to see the rare ruffed grouse, plus herons, ibises and sandhill cranes, among nearly 300 other avian species.

Claiming 1.7 million acres of picturesque public lands, the state's second-largest county has just a few small towns. The population is so sparse that it numbers only three people per square mile. Craig, with about 10,000 residents, is the only town of any size and serves as the gateway to area attractions and activities.

Dinosaur National Monument, a vast chunk of real estate straddling the Colorado-Utah border, is one of the best-kept secrets in the National Park Service system. Fans of the huge planteaters and fierce carnivores that lived millions of years ago get oriented viewing exhibits at the visitor center in the town of Dinosaur, Colorado. On the Utah side, they can actually touch dinosaur fossils on the "Wall of Bones" inside the Quarry Exhibit Hall, a modern building covering a cliff face embedded with the remains of Stegosaurus, Allosaurus, Apatosaurus and other species. The native rock wall exposes more than 1,500 dinosaur fossilsmany still in the complete skeletal shapes of the beasts. Would-be paleontologists will see protruding skulls, femurs and vertebrae preserved in their original form. An 80-foot-long mural tells the story of dinosaurs and other animals in the late Jurassic period.

Dinosaur National Monument is much more than dinosaur fossils, though. Canyon trails reveal artwork by nomadic



tribes that lived there 1,000 years ago. Trails lead to both petroglyphs (patterns chipped or carved into rock) and pictographs (patterns painted on rock) adorning the sandstone cliffs. The national monument is also home to 400 different species of wildlife, including bighorn sheep, mule deer, pronghorn antelope and bald eagles. The monument's rugged terrain can be appreciated on two paved touring roadsthe 23-mile Harpers Corner Scenic Drive and 22-mile Tour of the Tilted Rocks Scenic Drive.

Two of the West's premier whitewater rivers, the Yampa and Green, flow through the monument's awe-inspiring canyons. Authorized concessionaires operate guided rafting adventures—a great way to cool off on a hot summer's day-that range from gentle one-day float trips to rollicking, multi-day rides involving Class III, IV and V rapids.

Float trips on an eight-mile, cottonwoodlined stretch of the Yampa River outside of Craig are particularly scenic and afford views of bald eagles, osprey and other big birds of prey, says Tom Kleinschnitz, director of Visit Moffat County/Moffat County Tourism Association.

New for Craig next year will be a whitewater park where paddlers can enjoy the rapids in a confined setting. In reviewing plans for the facility and experiences with such parks in other cities. Kleinschnitz discovered that whitewater centers are just as big an attraction for spectators. "While I thought it would be mostly people coming to warm up for bigger trips on the river," he said, "it seems that many people come out just to watch the action."

**Dinosaur National** Monument petroglyphs

Other recreational options in Craig include the only wave pool on Colorado's western slope and the 18-hole Yampa Valley Golf Course, which offers public play through 240 acres of cottonwoods and wetlands.

Elkhead Reservoir State Park, nine miles from Craig, is Moffat County's big



water recreation playground. A highdesert oasis in the Yampa Valley, the 900acre manmade lake offers boating, water skiing, fishing, hiking, biking and wildlife watching. It has a swimming beach and newly built campground.

Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge, near the tiny town of Maybell in the extreme northwest corner of Moffat County, is set in an isolated mountain valley formed by the Green River. Animal sightings might include bald eagles, pronghorn, mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep, mountain lion, black bear, moose and wild turkey.

Wild horses are the draw at Sand Wash Basin HMA (Herd Management Area), a rugged expanse of high mountain desert located just northwest of Maybell and 48 miles west of Craig. Tackling gravel, dirt and sand roads in four-wheel-drive vehicles, visitors are rewarded with the breathtaking site of horses running free on public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Binoculars are recommended, as visitors are required to maintain a minimum distance of 100 feet from the horses. A wide range of other wildlife, from elk to prairie dogs, resides at Sand Wash Basin.

In the old Colorado State Armory Building in downtown Craig, impressive displays at the free-admission Museum of Northwest Colorado span three levels covering 10,000 square feet. They tell the story of the American West, spotlighting early settlers, mountain men, cowboys and Native Americans. The museum's chief claim to fame is its collection of cowbov and gunfighter memorabilia, one of the largest such repositories anywhere. Artifacts include firearms, holsters, saddles and spurs. Some of the guns belonged to notable lawmen and outlaws. Exhibits also showcase the stagecoach era and early railroads. Horse-drawn stagecoaches were a major form of transportation in the area as late as 1915.

The Marcia Car in Craig's City Park was the private Pullman car of banker and mining magnate David Moffat, who was instrumental in bringing railroad transportation to northwest Colorado.

Wyman Living History Museum, just east of Craig, is an eclectic treasure trove of Americana, featuring everything from a Sherman tank and other military memorabilia to antique cars and farming implements. Browsers will find a sheep wagon, vintage hearse, and collections of chainsaws and Colorado license plates. Historical buildings on the premises include a hay barn, blacksmith shop, one-room schoolhouse and general store filled with period goods.

John Jarvie Homestead, a pioneer history attraction near Browns Park, features a dugout home, store and blacksmith shop along with a cemetery and museum. First settled in 1880, the 35-acre homestead once boasted a post office, trading post and river ferry. It was a regular stopping place for travelers and a secret meeting place for outlaws.

Also well-traveled is the region's Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Highway, a diamond-shaped National Scenic Byway that makes a 500-mile-long loop through western Colorado and eastern Utah. Interpretive signs and museums in both states spotlight dinosaur lore.

Craig offers some two dozen restaurants and more than 450 hotel/ motel rooms. Quality Inn & Suites, Best Western Plus, Candlewood Suites and Hampton Inn & Suites are among lodging brands represented.

More information on area attractions and activities is available from Moffat County Tourism Association's website, www.visitmoffatcounty.com.

# Durango

ADVENTURE AMPLIFIED



WORTH THE Extra MILE

# EXPERIENCING COLORADO'S UTES

## FROM THE ANCIENTS TO MODERN DAY

#### DISCOVER THE RICH NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE OF SOUTHWESTERN COLORADO

he Ute Creation story tells us that in ancient times Sinawav (the Creator) and the Wolf were Earth's only inhabitants. To increase the population, Sinawav gave Wolf a bag of sticks with specific directions to carry the sticks to the far hills and valleys. At no time was Wolf to open the bag before arriving at the sacred grounds. Wolf did not follow his instructions.

He opened the bag and inside were people that yelled in different tongues as they scattered in all directions. Only few remained in the bag. Wolf continued to the sacred valley and released the remaining few, the Utes. Upon returning Sinawav knew what Wolf had done. Those that escaped the bag would always be a thorn in the side of the Utes. Throughout their history the Utes have been strong warriors and defenders of their land. Fast forward to today.

### Southern Ute Indian Tribe Reservation, Ignacio

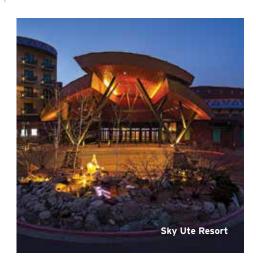
A 30-minute drive from Durango and located on the New Mexico border, the Southern Utes welcome group visitors. The Sky Ute Casino Resort is the group hub for a two- or three-night stay to explore all the reservation has to offer. The 140 resort rooms and suites are a perfect home base. All rooms have access to the resort's full list of amenities from pool, lazy river and fitness center to in-room high-definition television, high-speed internet, refrigerator, microwave and coffeemaker, and 24-hour front desk staff and housekeeping. The hallways feature art that is related to the culture of the area and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

Seven Rivers Steaks Seafood & Spirits is an authentic steakhouse from the past blended with chef's modern culinary twist. Prime cuts of meat, fresh seafood and memorable desserts served with premium wines and spirits make for a lovely evening. Willows Café Bistro on the main floor of the resort is perfect for a delicious breakfast, lunch or dinner. Located closer to the gaming action, Rolling Thunder Grill combines an American casual menu along with friendly and efficient service.

With slots, table games, bingo and sports betting, there's fun for everyone in the casino. There are free refreshments on the casino floor and a non-smoking slot room. There are hundreds of state-of-the-art slot

machines with more than a dozen brand new games such as Zeus, Dean Martin's Wild Swingin' Reels, Pirates Ship, Bier Haus and more! Games offered range from the penny slot to \$25 along with the "Most Liberal Video Poker in the Four Corners!" Sky Ute Casino Resort offers high stakes on select slot machines and on all table games.

If table games are your choice, you'll find some of the best games in Southwest Colorado and the Four Corners at the Sky Ute Casino Resort. Choose your winning strategy between blackjack, craps, roulette and 3-card poker.



Sky Ute Casino Resort has become the premier group base for experiencing the Southwest Colorado and Four Corners region. Check with your group coordinator for dates and rates at 970-563-1757, or online at **skyutecasino.com/** accommodations/groups-bus-tours/.

A visit to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe Reservation is not complete until you've visited the remarkable Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum, Through effective programming and services, they are fostering understanding and respect for the unique origin, culture, language, history and way of life of the Ute people.

The second-level Welcome Gallery features "Nauchus: A Pictorial Gallery." Photographs taken from the late 19th and early 20th centuries portray the longevity and resilience of Colorado's longest continuous residents: the Ute people. The images portray a unique aspect of the Ute culture.

The Permanent Gallery features two exhibits. "Nuuchiyu, We Are the Ute People" tells the story of the Ute people from prehistoric times to the present through photographic curtains, A/V presentations, interactive programs and life-size replicas. "KSUT Public Radio, Featuring 40 years 1976-2016" profiles a small local station that broadcast information to tribal members in their Ute language and grew to become a regional favorite and NPR affiliate. The exhibit showcases photos, promotional items, posters and more from the history of "two stations under one signal."

With their rich culture, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe holds several events annually to keep those traditions thriving. The original meaning of the Bear Dance has been dropped in modern times, but it still shows respect for the bear and its spirit. According to tribal lore, everyone celebrated at the first spring thunder as a long winter came to an end and tensions were released. Today, dancers wear some sort of plumes and on the fourth day leave their plumes and tensions on cedar trees. The sun dance ceremony is



held four days in the middle of summer and is the most important spiritual ceremony in the Ute tradition. The 100th Annual Southern Ute Tribal Fair was postponed until 2022 and will again feature exhibits and competitions.

#### **Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Reservation. Towaoc**

Nineteen miles south of Cortez on the edge of the Fourt Corners of Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico, you'll find the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Reservation between Four Corners National Monument and Mesa Verde National Park.

The Mountain Ute Casino Hotel is the place to stay, eat and play. Relax in 90 comfortable rooms and suites with all the amenities you'd expect at a luxury property.

There's plenty of action in the casino with 700 slot machines, including specialty slots, favorite classics and so much more from a penny to \$25. Recently unveiled Summit Slots feature 70 of the latest slot machines. Live-action table games feature blackjack, Ultimate Texas Hold 'em and roulette.

With more than 400 seats the Bingo Hall is largest in the area. With different buy-ins, fun promotions and jackpot payouts, there's never a dull moment. If your action is more about the court, field or rink, then the Ute Mountain Sportsbook is for you. Get your wager down and follow the games in the multiscreen sportsbook room.

Kuchu's Restaurant is open for an array of breakfast choices, tasty lunch dishes and a delicious dinner menu. Two nights are set aside for tasty signature

buffets. A new snack bar inside the casino is set to open with a full menu of pizza, sandwiches, desserts and beverage center.

Begin planning today by calling 1-800-258-8007, or online at utemountaincasino.com/contact-us/.

#### **Ute Indian Museum. Montrose**

With expanded and newly enriched exhibit space, the Ute Indian Museum reopened in 2017. The project was the product of three years working with the Colorado Ute tribes. Visitors will journey across Colorado learning the culture and history and Ute life. Tribal members will share the stories while Ute life is shown in the exhibits. Included are survival of the culture, political self-determination and economic opportunities, and what's a Ute Museum without celebration of the Bear dance?

In addition to the museum there are expansive grounds with pathways, outdoor seating and shaded lawns all accompanied by informational and educational exhibits. The Ute Ethnobotany Garden is the largest feature with only plants native to the region presented. Panels detail how the plants were used by the Ute from food and medicine to textiles, dyes and soap. The nearby Peace Pole is part of an international project with poles around the world. The same sentiment is proclaimed in hundreds of languages. "May Peace Prevail on Earth" features the message in English and Nuu-'apaghapi, the language of the Ute.

Part of History Colorado, look here for more information - historycolorado.org/ ute-indian-museum.



#### Day 1

For that true Western experience, **Soapstone Prairie Natural Area** is your first stop. Hiking trails are mostly rated Very Difficult. However, the Lindenmeier Overlook is Easy with a quarter-mile paved trail with interpretive signs and seating. With your hike completed, head to Fort Collins and lunch at Choice City Butcher & Deli, an actual butcher shop offering great sandwiches and 37 craft beers.

Delve into the history of Fort Collins this afternoon with a guided tour from Traces of the Past History Tours. Your program presenter is dressed in historic period clothing.

Check into the Elizabeth Hotel, which is situated in the center of Old Town. Relax and refresh before dinner at **The Regional**, a restaurant specializing in hometown American food sourced from Colorado suppliers. Enjoy a unique shopping experience in **Historic Old Town**. There are treasurers to be had.

#### Day 2

Grab a coffee, juice and pastry, and we're off to an early start at Poudre River Waterway Park for stand-up paddle boarding (SUP) and kayaking. It doesn't matter if you're a first-timer or paddle everyday; there are outfitters to set you up.

Depart Fort Collins by following Highway 14 and the Cache La Poudre River, the state's only designated Wild and Scenic River. There are pull-outs along the **Scenic Byway** for photo-ops.

Arrive at State Forest State Park Moose Visitor Center. The terrain is similar to Rocky Mountain National Park but without the crowds. A population of over a thousand moose are the park's calling card. Birding is a great activity on every trail, but the 1.5-mile Ranger Lakes Nature

#### **5 UNIQUE EXPERIENCES**

- Soapstone Prairie Natural Area
- Poudre River Waterway Park
- State Forest State Park
- Arapaho National Wildlife Center
- Yampa River Core Trail

THIS ITINERARY IS IDEAL FOR: Adults 18+ and Extended Families trail is a favorite. Lunch is at the River Rock Café on Main Street in Walden.

Next stop is the Arapaho National Wildlife **Center**-one of more than 560 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System and the highest above sea level in the lower 48 states. Wildlife viewing is a key recreational activity. The trails and boardwalks go from a short easy walk to a challenging hike. Some trails feature displays on visual arts, local history and culture or environmental education.

We're on the road again traveling through Rabbit Ears Pass for the 60-mile ride to Steamboat Springs. Check in at the centrally located **Nordic Lodge**. Unwind from a busy day before dinner at Mambo, a true taste of Italy.

#### Day 3

Check out from your lodging and eat breakfast at **Freshies**, a favorite Steamboat Springs stop. Everything is hand-prepared. It's on to the Yampa River Core Trail. Running through the heart of Steamboat Springs along the Yampa River, the trail is 7.5 miles. There are numerous stops along the scenic Yampa River. Watch fly fishermen place the perfect offering in front of the river's trout. The Yampa River **Botanic Park** has grown from a flat horse pasture in 1992 to a six-acre gem with more than 50 gardens. Blending seamlessly with the gardens are ponds, sculptures and benches, making it one of the jewels of northwest Colorado. There are also shopping and art galleries all along the Core Trail. Lunch today is at Yampa Sandwich Co. The menu offers more than 20 sandwiches, plus salads and soups.

You certainly do not want to depart Steamboat Springs without stopping at F.M. Light & Sons. Founded in 1905, this historic downtown Western outfitter carries all the brands you'd expect from a store that has been outfitting the West for 113 years.

LOG OFF & EXPLORE

## COLORADO



#### RING IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Celebrate the most wonderful time of the year with holiday festivities throughout November and December. Catch the Parade of Lights with the family, a spectacular fireworks and lighting ceremony at the Pueblo County Courthouse, a local production of Nutcracker the Ballet and lots of unique shopping options for the perfect gift.

#### SPRING INTO ACTION

Grab your bike and join in a two day cycling road race. Held the weekend of April 23rd and 24th. Includes an out and back road race and a downtown criterium. Hosted by the City of Pueblo and the Rocky Mountain Collegiate Cycling Conference.



#### COLORADO STATE FAIR & RODEO

So much of what there is to love about the state converges onto the famous fairgrounds in Pueblo for an end-of-summer week full of live entertainment, thrilling competitions, quirky vendor booths and good ol' Western fun.

LAST WEEK IN **AUGUST THRU** LABOR DAY

THIRD WEEKEND **AFTER** LABOR DAY

#### PUEBLO CHILE & FRIJOLES FESTIVAL

As summer fades into fall, celebrate Pueblo's rich agriculture while kicking off harvest season. The event features live entertainment, street vendors, cooking competitions, and chilies, chilies!



visit**PUEBLO** 

VisitPueblo.org

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packaged travel to the Centennial State, these attractions, destinations, hotels and service providers are ready to accommodate visitors and make their Colorado experience unforgettable.



#### **Bar D Chuckwagon**

8080 County Rd., Durango, CO 81301 Krystal Scarborough

#### www.bardchuckwagon.com

groups@bardchuckwagon.com • 970-335-9805 The Bar D Wranglers perform songs of cowboys and the Old West, comedy and lively instrumentals after supper to entertain the whole family.



#### Colorado Model Railroad Museum

680 10th St., Greeley, CO 80631 Michelle Kempema

#### www.cmrm.org

michelle@cmrm.org • 970-392-2934

The Colorado Model Railroad Museum houses America's most scenic model railroad; an immersive experience for all ages. Private hours for groups available.



#### Colorado Scenic & Historic Byways

2829 W. Howard Pl. 4th Floor, Denver CO 80204 Lenore Bates

#### www.codot.gov/travel/colorado-byways

lenore.bates@state.co.us • 303-757-9786

Established in 2019, Colorado has 26 Scenic and Historic Byways, totaling 2,565 roadway miles located in 48 counties. These essential routes provide access to eight National Forests, eight National Monuments, two National Historic Sites and four National Parks.



#### Cumbres & Toltec Railroad

500 Terrace Ave., PO Box 1057, Chama, NM 87520 Amanda Vigil

#### www.cumbrestoltec.com

avigil@cumbrestoltec.com • 877-890-2737

The Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad steam trains depart out of Antonito, Colorado and Chama, New Mexico daily at 10 a.m. from Memorial Day weekend until mid-October.



#### **Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad**

479 Main Ave., Durango, CO 81301 Carrie Whitley

#### www.durangotrain.com

cwhitley@americanheritagerailways.com • 970-247-2733 The 3.5-hour journey from Durango to Silverton climbs 3,000 feet through Colorado's majestic Rocky Mountains. Part of the journey travels along jaw-dropping cliff ledges. Step back in time riding on 1880-era cars pulled by a 1920s steampowered locomotive.



#### **Georgetown Loop Railroad**

PO Box 249, Georgetown, CO 80444 Tom Hill

#### www.georgetownlooprr.com

tom.hill@historicrailadventures.com • 888-456-6777 The Loop is a narrow gauge line that offers spectacular views of the mountains April through January. Mine tours with gold panning are available to add to your ride.



#### **Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park**

51000 Two Rivers Plaza Rd., Glenwood Springs, CO 81601 Kate Henion

#### www.glenwoodcaverns.com

khenion@glenwoodcaverns.com • 970-945-4228, ext. 118 Located atop Iron Mountain overlooking Glenwood Springs, Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park offers a unique venue for groups. Your guests travel to the park in fully enclosed gondola cars that offer panoramic mountain views. At the top, choices include thrill rides, cave tours and family-friendly activities.



#### **History Colorado**

1200 N. Broadway, Denver, CO 80203 Zach Werkowitch

#### www.historycolorado.org

zach.werkowitch@state.co.us • 719-583-0453

At History Colorado, we believe in making our history accessible and creating opportunities that connect people to Colorado. Our eight museums around the state offer engaging experiences for visitors of all ages.



#### Pikes Peak Cog Railway

515 Ruxton Ave, Manitou Springs, CO 80829 Ginger Hoolahan

#### www.cograilway.com

ghoolahan@broadmoor.com • 719-685-5401

The Cog Railway is back open for business after a three-year, \$100 millinon rebuild. The trains give sightseers ample time to take in the magnificent panoramas. Passengers may refresh themselves in the brand-new and spacious Pikes Peak Summit Visitor Center.



#### **Rocky Mountaineer**

1100-980 Howe St., Vancouver, BC Inna Germanotta

#### www.rockymountaineer.com

ingermonatta@rockymountaineer.com • 312-882-2187

The Rockies to the Red Rocks experience is a two-day journey between Moab, Utah and Denver. Vast canyons, inspiring deserts, natural archways and enchanting hoodoos are just a start. Available in SilverLeaf Service, this Rocky Mountaineer rail route is filled with beautiful highlights.



#### Royal Gorge Bridge & Park

4218 County Rd. 3A, Cañon City, CO 81212 Dona Webb (Basham)

#### www.royalgorgebridge.com

dwebb@royalgorgebridge.com • 719-276-8310

This quarter-mile journey through the clouds is undoubtedly the high point of any Colorado vacation. Come across the Royal Gorge Bridge & Park.



#### **Royal Gorge Route Railroad**

330 Royal Gorge Blvd., Cañon City, CO 81212 Sarah Martinez

#### www.royalgorgeroute.com

sarahm@royalgorgeroute.com • 719-276-4000

Experience America's most spectacular rolling restaurant aboard the Royal Gorge Route Railroad. Come experience a memorable train ride through the Colorado Rockies and enjoy classes of service where we combine gorgeous scenery and great service with delicious food.



#### Alamosa CVB

610 State Ave., Alamosa CO 81101 Kale Mortensen

#### www.alamosa.org

director@alamosa.org • 717-589-9385

Let us guide you along trails in the San Luis Valley, show you where to get the best bowl of green chile and share our sacred fishing spots on the Rio Grande. Play at Great Sand Dunes National Park, walk through historic downtown or relax aboard the Rio Grande Scenic Railroad.



#### **Canon City-Fremont County Tourism Council**

403 Royal Gorge Blvd. Canon City, CO 81212 Brvan Jordan

#### www.royalgorgeregion.com

marketing@royalgorgeregion.com • 800-704-6743

Let us help you plan a one- or two-day itinerary with lodging in the Royal Gorge Region you will want to market for years to come.



#### Manitou Springs Chamber of Commerce, Visitors Bureau & Office of Economic Development

354 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, CO 80829 Leslie Lewis

#### www.manitousprings.org

leslielewis@manitouchamber.com • 719-685-5089

Enjoy historic charm, mineral drinking springs, boutique shopping, art galleries, dining and lodging. Centrally located to all Pikes Peak Region attractions. Step-on guides and bus parking available by request.



#### Mesa Verde Country

PO Box HH, Cortez, CO 81321 Kelly Kirkpatrick

#### www.mesaverdecountry.com

kellyk@mesaverdecountry.com • 970-565-8227

In the communities of Cortez, Dolores and Mancos you'll discover thousands of years of history and endless outdoor adventures. Beyond the National Park, there's more to explore in Mesa Verde Country.



#### Visit Colorado Springs

515 S. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903 Cheryl McCullough

#### www.visitcos.com

cheryl@visitcos.com • 719-635-7506

Pikes Peak, Garden of the Gods Park, outdoor adventure, historic railroads, museums and iconic attractions provide authentic experiences for all ages in Olympic City, USA.



#### **VISIT DENVER**

1555 California St., Suite 300, Denver, CO 80202 Lisa Bruening

#### www.VISITDENVER.com

lbruening@visitdenver.com • 303-571-9445

The Mile High City, where 300 days of sunshine, a diverse arts and culture scene, walkable downtown, chef-driven dining, urban adventure and natural beauty make a great option for groups.



#### **Visit Durango**

802 Main Ave., Durango, CO 81301 Stefanie Panetta

#### www.durango.org

stefanie@durango.org • 970-247-3500

From outdoor pursuits in the surrounding high desert and mountains, to fresh food raised at high-elevation farms, Native American history and Old West heritage, Durango is Southwest Colorado's premier fourseason destination.



#### Visit Estes Park

PO Box 4426, Estes Park, CO 80517 Rebecca Pena

#### www.visitestespark.com

rpena@visitestespark.com • 970-586-0500, ext. 1231 Situated about 90 miles northwest of Denver, Estes Park sits in the heart of the Rocky Mountains. Experience gold medal fishing rivers, iconic peaks, fertile valleys dotted with wildlife plus Rocky Mountain National Park, which is home to 300 miles of hiking trails and mountain wilds.



#### **Visit Fort Collins**

1 Old Town Square, Suite 107, Fort Collins, CO 80524 Katy Schneider

#### www.visitftcollins.com

katy@ftcollins.com • 800-274-3678

Fort Collins' ideal proximity to Rocky Mountain National Park, Denver and Denver International Airport make it a perfect location to bring your tour group. Fort Collins is known for its craft beer scene and all-American downtown.



#### **Visit Glenwood Springs**

802 Grand Ave., Glenwood Springs, CO 81601 Lisa Langer

#### www.visitglenwood.com

lisa@visitglenwood.com • 970-945-6580

Glenwood Springs, where world-famous hot springs meet year-round outdoor adventures and a vibrant dining and entertainment scene. Plan a trip to the Land of Water!



#### **Visit Grand Junction**

740 Horizon Dr., Grand Junction, CO 81506 Elizabeth Fogarty

#### www.visitgrandjunction.com

elizabethf@gjcity.org • 970-244-1480

Known for Colorado National Monument and the Grand Mesa, Grand Junction is an authentic Colorado experience complemented by friendly, hospitable locals. The Downtown Creative District boasts over 100 pieces of art, the region includes 27 wineries and rich regional cuisine.



#### **Visit Greeley**

902 7th Ave., Greeley, CO 80631 Amy Dugan

#### www.visitgreeley.org

amy@greeleychamber.com • 970-352-3567

Let's plan your adventure to Greeley together! We know and love our city and look forward to you spending time with us. Visit Greeley will help with ideas for pre- and post-events, entertainment and day-trips for spouses.



#### Visit Loveland

5400 Stone Creek Circle, Loveland, CO 80538 Cindy Mackin

#### www.visitlovelandco.com

cindy.mackin@cityofloveland.org • 970-962-2626

Whether you are an art lover, foodie, outdoor enthusiast, love to shop or just want to get away, Loveland is the ideal location in the heart of northern Colorado for all your adventures. Book your stay for a vacation you'll remember.



#### **Visit Moffat County**

PO Box 12, Craig, CO 81626 Tom Kleinschnitz

#### www.visitmoffatcounty.com

tomk@moffatcounty.net • 970-824-2335

Moffat County is a little bit off the beaten path and that's exactly why curious explorers and nature-loving stargazers vacation here. Nearly two million acres of pristine public lands and free-flowing rivers distinguish this unspoiled landscape where hundreds of species of wildlife find sanctuary.



#### Visit Pagosa Springs

105 Hot Springs Blvd., Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 Jennifer Green

#### www.visitpagosasprings.com

sales@visitpagosasprings.com • 970-903-9728

Pagosa Springs offers visitors an opportunity to enjoy the world's deepest hot springs and explore stunning scenery in over 2.5 million acres of surrounding wilderness.



#### Visit Pueblo

302 N. Santa Fe Ave., Pueblo, CO 81003 Linda Lutz

#### www.visitpueblo.org

lindal@pueblochamber.net • 719-542-1704

Colorado's most historic and culturally diverse city boasts yearround outdoor activities, celebrated and varied dining options, one of only 12 state-designated creative arts districts and exceptional business opportunities.



#### **AC Hotel Frisco by Marriott**

1202 Summit Blvd, Frisco, CO 80443 Donna Horii

#### www.acfriscocolorado.com

donna.horii@acmarriott.com • 970-368-6280

AC Hotel Frisco is where modern meets the mountains and recreational activities abound. Perfect location for excursions around the mountains, railroads and Lake Dillon, and 6 world class ski resorts within a 25 mile radius. SCENIC BEAUTY – YEAR-ROUND.



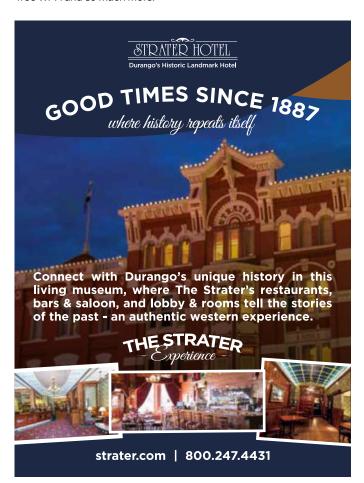
#### **Clarion Inn Grand Junction**

755 Horizon Dr., Grand Junction, CO 81506 Tracy Shelton

#### www.choicehotels.com

gm.clarioninngi@gmail.com • 970-243-6790

Clarion Inn amenities include indoor and outdoor pools and spas, complimentary hot breakfast buffet, an on-site restaurant, fitness center, free Wi-Fi and so much more.





#### **Durango Hampton Inn**

3777 Main Ave., Durango, CO 81301 Jenny Roberts

#### www.durangoco.hamptoninn.com

Jenny.Roberts@hilton.com • 970-247-2600

A gateway to all your itineraries. Hampton Inn Durango has easy access to all the adventures, just minutes from historic downtown and Durango Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad Depot. Not to mention our ample, free parking!



#### Fairfield Inn & Springhill Suites Denver International Airport

6851 Tower Rd., Denver, CO 80249

Kimberly Johnson

#### www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/denda-springhill-suitesdenverairport

kimberly.johnson@crestlinehotels.com • 303-371-9400
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#### Far View Lodge - Mesa Verde

National Park PO Box 277, Mancos, CO 81328 Robin Marquis

#### www.visitmesaverde.com/lodging-camping/far-view-lodge

marquis-robin@aramark.com • 928-645-1119

Far View Lodge is the only lodging inside of Mesa Verde National Park. The traditional Western decor of the lobby and dining room, fantastic views, warm hospitality, and superb dining all welcome you.



#### **Grand Vista Hotel**

2790 Crossroads Blvd., Grand Junction, CO 81505 Phyllis Veale

#### www.grandvistahotel.com

phyllis@grandvistahotel.com • 970-254-7142

The Grand Vista Hotel is located near I-70, offering a full-service hotel with 158 rooms and mini-suites. Dine in Oliver's Restaurant and enjoy live entertainment, karaoke and nightly specials in Bailey's Lounge.



#### **Radisson Hotel Colorado Springs Airport**

1645 Newport Rd., Colorado Springs, CO 80916 Melinda Jackson

#### www.radissonhotelsamericas.com/en-us/hotels/ radissoncolorado-springs-airport

melinda.jackson@radissoncs.com • 719-597-7000 Located less than 10 miles east of downtown and four miles to the Colorado Springs Airport. Enjoy beautiful views of the Front Range.



#### **Sky Ute Casino Resort**

14324 Hwy 172 North, Ignacio, CO 81137 Jeff Lyman

#### www.skyutecasino.com

jeff.lyman@skyutecasino.com • 970-563-1757

Located amidst the rugged beauty and scenic landscapes of the diverse Four Corners region, Sky Ute Casino Resort is the perfect hub from which to explore the endless recreational options that are available.



#### **Soul Community Planet**

2850 S. Circle Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80906 Jenna Wheatley

#### www.scphotel.com/colorado-springs

jennaw@scphospitality.com • 719-430-5400

Mindfully designed for your relaxation and focus, our 174, pet-friendly guest rooms offer SCP's trademark minimalist style, including the use of sustainable and regionally-sourced materials.



#### Strater Hotel

699 Main Ave., Durango, CO 81301 Tori Ossola

#### www.strater.com

tossola@strater.com • 970-375-7122

A historic hotel in the heart of downtown Durango with 93 unique rooms, the Strater Hotel is located near Mesa Verde National Park and two blocks from the Durango-Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad.



#### America 4 U

P.O. Box 2214, Fullerton, CA 92837 Marita Ross

#### www.america4you.net

marita@america4you.net • 714-447-3826

America 4 You is a boutique receptive offering FIT hotels, activities, ranches and fly-drives. As a family business, America 4 You strives to provide hands-on service with customizable itineraries and in-depth knowledge of the United States.



#### **Denver Local Tours**

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#### www.denverlikealocaltours.com

info@denverlocaltours.com • 720-778-1170

Experience Denver through the eyes of a local! We offer fun and exciting walking tours of Denver's iconic neighborhoods. Let us be your insider quide to the Mile High City.



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8 E. 1st Ave., Suite 108, Denver, CO 80203 Hala Faruqi

#### www.gogocharters.com

info@gogocharters.com • 720-216-2068

Since 2012, GOGO Charters has provided high-quality, luxury coaches for groups in and around the United States. Our 24/7 reservation specialists are available to take your call, whether it's for existing trip confirmations or last-minute emergency.



#### **Leisure West Tours & Cruises**

1266 Strong St., Brighton, CO 80601 Lee Dahl & Joan Fields

#### www.leisurewesttours.com

lwt@leisurewesttours.com • 303-659-4858

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#### **Lively Tours and Talks**

PO Box 1554, Grand Lake, CO 80447 Dave Lively

#### www.livelytoursandtalks.com

info@livelytoursandtalks.com • 970-531-1211

Your local step-on guide for Rocky Mountain National Park and your new north-central Colorado itineraries.



#### **Rocky Mountain Guides Association**

4820 E. Kentucky Ave., Unit B, Glendale, CO 80246 Mike Pearl

#### www.rockymountaintourguides.com

rmgapresident@rockymountaintourguides.com • 303-868-0023 Professional, independent members providing tour and travel services throughout Colorado, including tour directors/quides, step-on-quides, tour operators and hospitality services.



#### **Southwest Adventure Tours**

382 E. 650 S. Circle, Cedar City, UT 84720 Jason Murray

#### www.southwestadventuretours.com

info@southwestadventuretours.com • 800-970-5864

Southwest Adventure Tours specializes in group tours to the National Parks in the Western United States. Our tours offer active hiking, scenic and photography experiences.



#### **Warther Tours**

221 Front Ave. SW, New Philadelphia, OH 44663 Mark Warther

#### www.warthertours.com

mark@travelwarther.com • 330-556-4535

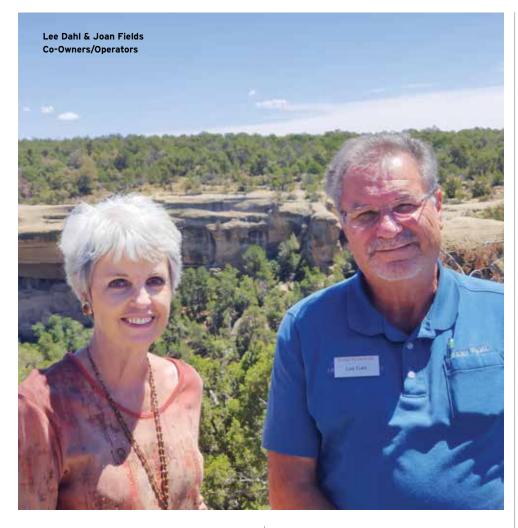
Travel with train historian Mark Warther on a personally designed "Trains and Parks of Colorado" adventure featuring amazing trains, breathtaking scenery, fantastic hotels and great food. Mark's life-long love of trains and the majestic beauty of Colorado makes this Colorado experience a trip like no other.



#### **LEE DAHL & JOAN FIELDS**

Leisure West Tours and Cruises

The tour operators celebrate nearly 25 years of showcasing Colorado



ow did you get started in the tour industry?

Lee: I had been driving motorcoach tours for over 15 years. After driving so many of the tours that I didn't feel were done very well, my thought was that they could be done better.

**Joan:** I had worked in law offices for 30+ years and was burned out and wanted a career change. I am a Colorado native, have a passion for Colorado and love to travel.

**US:** It worked out that we had the opportunity to collaborate together on a tour for a historical preservation organization and realized that our thoughts, strengths and abilities were a good match, and in 1998 we decided to give it a go.

#### What sort of tours/programming does Leisure West Tours offer?

We specialize in Colorado because that is what we love and know the best. We strive to emphasize learning and education about Colorado so those who travel with us have an understanding of the places they visit and what they are seeing and why they are visiting that place.

## What distinguishes Colorado visually and characteristically that makes it such an appealing destination?

We just finished a tour of National Parks and Monuments of Colorado. Each of the Parks or Monuments is totally unique from each other. The differences are so great that



everywhere you go, you can see something new and different. People often think Colorado is just about mountains, but it is so much more than that if you have someone explain it to you and show you the differences. Learning about and appreciating the differences one can experience in Colorado, as well as the commonalities, it is possible to really appreciate the uniqueness of Colorado's landscape, culture and beauty.

#### With nearly 25 years in the business, how has your approach to organizing trips changed, and do participants come with different expectations than 1998?

Tour participants used to want to be led by the hand, shown what they are supposed to see, and follow along. Now they are more independent and somewhat more informed because they can Google everything, and that means we need to be very informed about where we are taking them and what they will be seeing and experiencing.

## Why is it important to also be active in Tour Colorado, primarily a supplier organization?

We find being a member of Tour Colorado gives us a much better relationship with our suppliers and we know that Tour Colorado members are interested in Group Tours. Also Tour Colorado suppliers know what group expectations are. This allows us to work well together in providing groups with the best possible experience. We are confident that Tour Colorado members understand and will meet our expectations and those of a group leader.

Visit Fort Collins



#### hat Fort Collins attractions would you recommend for aroups?

We have a breadth of attractions that are popular with groups. We are the craft beer capital of Colorado, so attractions like New Belgium Brewing and Odell Brewing Company offer tours for large parties and are great introductions to craft beer. Our downtown is also a major attraction for groups because it's the inspiration for Disneyland's Main Street, U.S.A. and provides a very quintessential all-American experience. It's very walkable and easy to explore, with easy motorcoach parking and beautiful views of the Rocky Mountains.

#### Does Fort Collins offer outdoor activities?

We have over 50 natural areas within the city that are protected for environmental purposes that contain many hiking trails and paved pathways that are ideal "soft excursions" for groups that don't want a strenuous experience. We're also next to the Cache la Poudre River. which is the state's only Wild & Scenic River. There are five rafting companies that utilize the river for commercial trips.

#### What Fort Collins dining experience would you recommend for groups?

Ginger and Baker offers fantastic group service and can take reservations in advance. The restaurant is in a building that dates back to 1905, and they have



completely remodeled the beautiful space. The menu focuses on delicious farm-totable ingredients and baked goods, and there is also a teaching kitchen that can really immerse your group in Ginger and Baker's philosophy and showcase how the meals are prepared.

#### What distinguishes Fort Collins from other cities in Colorado?

We are always receiving feedback that people feel they are not a visitor and that they are truly treated like a local in Fort Collins. We're also very well-positioned and in close proximity to quintessential Colorado attractions like Rocky Mountain National Park as well as other group-friendly cities like Cheyenne. We are an excellent hub-andspoke for groups to consider.

#### What would a personal itinerary around Fort Collins look like for you?

I would start the day by heading to Horsetooth Resevoir with my paddleboard after stopping at Vatos Tacos to get a breakfast burrito for fuel. After paddleboarding, I would come back to Old Town for a bite to eat while listening to an outdoor concert or people-watching in the town square. That evening, I would catch a show at the Comedy Fort, which is an incredible stand-up comedy venue that offers performances almost every night.

#### How has Tour Colorado benefited Visit Fort Collins and its other members?

Tour Colorado is really the preeminent voice for group tourism in the state, and they do a phenomenal job representing us at shows for tour operators across the country. Any groups that visit the state and work directly with Tour Colorado are ahead of the game since they are so up-todate on DMOs, hotels and attractions that save the operators valuable time. •

