

PRESS RELEASE

Mesa Verde Country Announces Signature Event Line-Up for Fall

From a Fall Fly-in to the solar eclipse – Mesa Verde Country is the place to be for fall fun

Cortez, Colo. – Fall is a wonderful time to visit Southwest Colorado's [Mesa Verde Country](#). Fall travelers enjoy nearly perfect temperatures, as well as fewer crowds than in the summertime. This autumn, Mesa Verde Country has a line-up of fun fall festivals that are a great addition to your Mesa Verde Country vacation itinerary.

"Fall is simply a fantastic time to visit Mesa Verde Country, and our communities of Cortez, Dolores, and Mancos are welcoming fall travelers with open arms," says Brian Bartlett, Mesa Verde Country Tourism Director. "Our fall events line-up is robust and offers an opportunity for visitors to engage with locals in a really fun way."

Here is a look at the fall festivals that are on tap this year in Mesa Verde Country.

Dolores Farmers Market (Wednesdays through October)

Rain or shine, every Wednesday from 4-7 p.m., local purveyors gather in Flanders Park in Dolores (4th & Railroad) to showcase the agricultural aspects of the area. Expect to see fresh fruit and veggie farmers, local ranchers, baked goods, food vendors, herbs and plants, artisans, retailers and young entrepreneurs. There are often musical guests to provide the soundtrack for the event. (bit.ly/44iGltJ)

Cortez Farmer's Market (Saturdays through October)

Located at the corner of Elm & Main Streets in the Montezuma County Courthouse parking lot, the Cortez Farmer's Market features the best produce and artisan creations in the area, complete with live music from local artists. (<https://www.cortezfarmersmarket.com/>)

Third Thursday (Sept. 21, 5-8 p.m.)

Voted "Readers' Choice Best Arts & Crafts Fair" by *Colorado Country Life*, Third Thursday gets bigger and better each season with hundreds of community members and visitors joining together to celebrate Cortez. The annual outdoor market, held in Montezuma Park at the corner of Market & Montezuma in Cortez, features vendors, live music, dancing, food and drink, giveaways, and community fun. Explore a variety of vendor booths and sampling delicious bites, brews, and beverages from local eateries. Join us for the season finale with musical guest The HillBenders featuring WhoGrass: bluegrass meets rock and roll! (<https://shopcortez.com/third-thursdays/>)

Dolores Harvest Festival & Car Show (Oct. 7, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.)

The 2023 Harvest Fest in Dolores is fun for the whole family. The event features a car show, pumpkin painting, bubble pile, hay rides, a kiddie train, inflatable slide, and lots of live music. There are also food and drink vendors on hand to share a taste of Mesa Verde Country with attendees.

Four Corners Fall Fly-In (Oct. 14, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.)

Calling all fans of wings and wheels! The third annual Four Corners Fall Fly-in will happen Saturday, Oct. 14, at the Cortez Municipal Airport. The event features static displays, sight-seeing flights, food trucks, exhibitors, and more. The solar eclipse is also happening on this date, and the Four Corners Region is in the path of maximum eclipse, so plan to check out that celestial phenomenon while enjoying all of the Fly-In festivities. Free eclipse glasses will be provided.

For more information on planning a trip to Mesa Verde Country, call 970-565-8227 or visit www.mesaverdecountry.com.

About Mesa Verde Country (www.mesaverdecountry.com)

Mesa Verde Country is in southwest Colorado near the entrance to Mesa Verde National Park. Named the “Number One Historic Monument in the World” by *Conde Nast Traveler* and one of the "50 Places of a Lifetime-The World's Greatest Destinations” by *National Geographic*, the park is one of the nation’s first World Heritage sites and the largest archaeological preserve in the country. In addition, Mesa Verde Country is loaded with other archaeological attractions, including: Hovenweep National Monument, Canyons of the Ancients Visitor Center & Museum, Ute Mountain Tribal Park, Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, and the Cortez Cultural Center. Mountain biking enthusiasts have recognized Mesa Verde Country as one of the next great mountain biking destinations. The towns of Cortez, Dolores and Mancos provide accommodations, dining, outdoor fun and visitor services. Two national byways pass through Mesa Verde Country. Additionally, Mesa Verde Country has two podcasts that offer an introduction to Southwest Colorado and all its wonders. Download the Ancient Voices Podcast here: <https://mesaverdecountry.com/blog/podcasts/ancient-voices-podcast/> or listen to the Mesa Verde Voices Podcast here: <https://mesaverdecountry.com/blog/podcasts/mesa-verde-voices-podcast/>.

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