

2022 TRAVEL GUIDE



CORTEZ • DOLORES • MANCOS

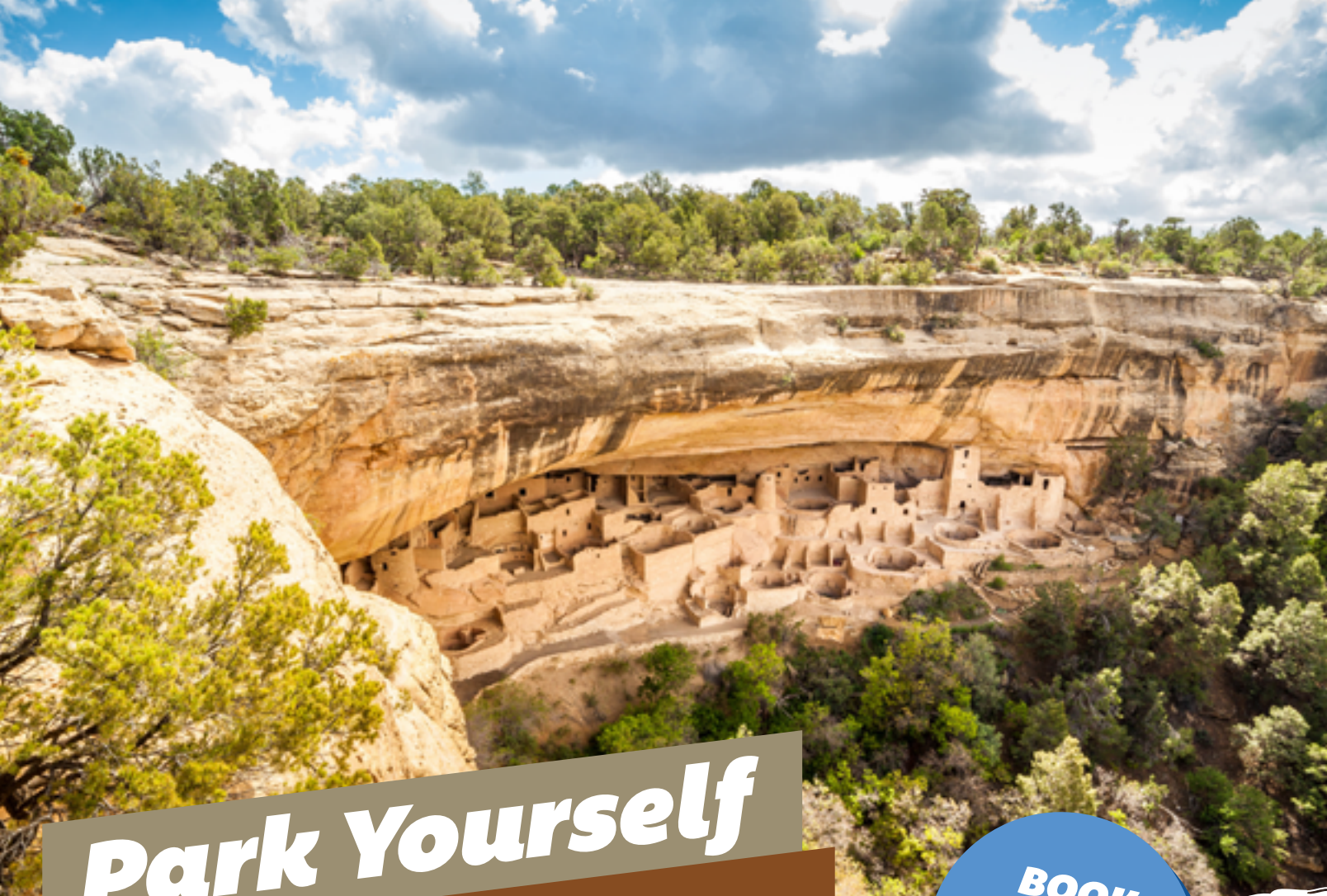
Mesa Verde

COUNTRY

— COLORADO —

PLAN YOUR TRIP
OUTDOOR FUN
CULTURE & HERITAGE

#EXPLOREMESAVERDE
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Here**

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YOUR
VACATION
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**Experience all that Mesa Verde
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mesaverdecountry.com

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info@mesaverdecountry.com

Stay up to date on Colorado Travel & COVID-19 Protocol:
colorado.com/colorado-travel-covid-19 or call 800-COLORADO

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FREQUENTLY ASKED

HOW DO I PURCHASE MESA VERDE NP TOUR TICKETS?

Visit [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) to purchase digital park entrance passes and ranger guided tour tickets. Tickets are available 14 days in advance, 8 a.m. MST, on a rolling daily window. For example, tickets for June 16th will be available starting June 2nd. All tour tickets will be sold online or by calling 877.444.6777.

Purchasing tickets in advance is strongly encouraged.

*Note: Once purchased, passes for Mesa Verde National Park must be printed or saved on your mobile device prior to use. Connectivity is limited or non-existent in the park, therefore printing the permit or saving it on your phone (so you can access it even if there is no wi-fi or cell service) is highly recommended.



ESSENTIALS

MILES FROM

Albuquerque	261
Salt Lake City	358
Grand Junction	227
Denver	379
Phoenix	404

MILES TO

Mesa Verde National Park	8
Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad	45



NEARBY AIRPORTS

Cortez / Durango / Albuquerque / Salt Lake
Denver / Phoenix



ELEVATION

Our elevation ranges from 6200 to 8250'. Altitude sickness can occur so stay hydrated. You'll adjust in a day or so.



WIFI

Cell coverage is spotty, but free Wi-Fi is available at most hotels, restaurants and public buildings in Cortez, Dolores and Mancos. Mesa Verde National Park has service at Far View Lodge & Far View Terrace.

WEATHER

Weather in Mesa Verde Country is usually mild, however snowstorms can occur as late as May and as early as October. June through September are warm to hot, with cool evenings.

Average Sunny Days: 300+
Annual Precipitation: 13"
Average Snowfall: 42"

SPRING

Everything's green! Services are beginning to open. Temperatures range from 50-70°F.

SUMMER

Services are fully open and at its busiest. Find quieter areas of the Park by visiting the walking and hiking trails, Wetherill Mesa Loop, and National Monuments such as Hovenweep, Lowry, and Sand Canyon Pueblos. Drink plenty of water in warm months! Heat can be deadly for both pets and humans! Temperatures range from 85-95°F.

AUTUMN

Fall is absolutely magical and the weather is perfect for exploring. Some dwellings and services close in November, but the leaves changing color, warm days and cool nights make it a perfect season for outdoor and cultural exploration. Temperatures range from 40-76°F.

WINTER

A wonderful season for Nordic (cross country) skiing, snowshoeing and walking. Winter trails will be available once there is enough snow. Temperatures range from 28-38°F.

WILL I SEE WILD ANIMALS?

Yes! Deer, elk, coyote, rabbits and even bear have been spotted. Farm animals such as cows, sheep, horses, chickens and goats are grazing in fields. Lizards are common sights in the desert areas. Less common are snakes, but they do live in the desert, so watch where you step.

ARE PETS ALLOWED?

There is a gated dog park in Cortez that offers lots of room to play and stretch. The dog water fountain is running most months. Pets are not allowed in the cliff dwellings at Mesa Verde National Park, but are allowed on most other area trails.

ARE THERE EV CHARGING STATIONS?

Yes! They are located at: Colorado Welcome Center, Main Street, *Cortez*; Boyle Park, on Grand Avenue, *Mancos*; 420 Central Ave, *Dolores*. There is also a Tesla Charging station in Mesa Verde National Park.



RELOCATION INFO

Montezuma County is a great place to live! High desert meets the Rocky Mountains in this 2,040 square mile-four-season-playground. Vast natural and cultural resources, lots of outdoor public land space, and three ski resorts are nearby. Three family-friendly communities total a population of 27,000 people, and average home prices range from \$210,000- 318,000. It's easy to see why we are growing, and would love to have you call Mesa Verde Country HOME!

OUTDOOR FUN



TRAIL BIKING

600 miles of beginner, intermediate and challenging singletrack, climbs, sagebrush, slick rock and old growth forest trails make this the best kept secret in Colorado for biking.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- E-bikes are NOT allowed on many trails; check local regulations before you head out! For the most up-to-date regulations, visit swcocycling.com
- Bicycle and e-assist rentals, equipment and repair are available.
- Higher elevations of the mesas and mountain trails offer incredible views, and cooler temperatures.
- Spring, summer, and fall are the best times to ride, but winter fat biking makes us a year-round biking adventure!

POPULAR RIDES	MILES	ROAD NAMES
MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK	15-50	Park System Roads
DOLORES / MANCOS / CORTEZ	46.2	Highways 184, 160 & 145
HOUSE CREEK (ONE WAY)	11.7	County Road 30, Forest Service Roads 526 & 528
LEBANON ROAD & TOTTEN LAKE ROAD	26.2	County Road 25, Highway 184 & County Road 30
WEST FORK OF THE DOLORES RIVER (ONE WAY)	34.9+	Highway 145 & County Road 38

GREEN / BEGINNER:

- TRUST LOOP** - (part of Phil's World, Cortez) is a great trail for beginners and those who just want a fun ride. The 3.5 mile singletrack loop offers a fun ride the whole family can enjoy. mtbproject.com/trail/4536821/trust-loop
- ADD HIPPIY LOOP** - a nice loop off Trust loop to extend mileage.
- BOGGY DRAW** - (Dolores) This is a great ride for those hot summer months. The old growth ponderosa forest of the San Juan National Forest keeps the trail mostly shaded and cooler than other local rides. E-bikes not allowed.
 - 8.4 miles, generally smooth, and mostly singletrack, which makes a family friendly day!
mtbproject.com/trail/4352303/boggy-draw-loop

BLUE / INTERMEDIATE:

- CHICKEN CREEK** - (Mancos) - Chicken Creek Road, #385 is a great beginner route, and you can head off on the "out-and-back" loop from here. It's a nice doubletrack option to extend further up CC as long as time or energy allows.
- PHIL'S WORLD** - (Cortez): 26.8 miles of trails, 100% singletrack, e-bikes are not allowed. One of the Bureau of Land Managements "Backyard to Back Country" treasures, "Roller coaster singletrack through the high desert of SW Colorado." — Jeff Fox
- CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS** loop 7.5 mile intermediate-difficult blue trail singletrack
 - This is your trail if you like fun slightly techy singletrack, great scenery, and amazing cliff dwellings. The East Rock Creek Trail section is easy to moderate with a number of short, technical sections. Be on the watch for these sections. They are short and can easily be walked.

ENDURANCE BIKING

Talk about lucky! Road cyclists can enjoy our hundreds of miles of scenic high-altitude drives and byways!

DON'T MISS

The 12-Hours of Mesa Verde Endurance Bike Race!
12hoursofmesaverde.com

HIKING

Check for seasonal closures, rules and other information:
fs.fed.us/r2/sanjuan

TRY THESE TRAILS:

- MCPHEE OVERLOOK TRAIL**
(Trail #155, San Juan National Forest)
 - Starting elevation: 6,943 ft.
 - Trail length: 8.9 miles one way
 - Hiking level: easy to moderate
Horses and mountain bikes are allowed on this trail
 - WHY IT'S COOL:** Trail follows the rim of McPhee Reservoir.
Can you see the Ghost Town beneath the water?
- GEYSER SPRING TRAIL** (#648, San Juan National Forest)
 - Starting Elevation: 8,600 ft.
 - Trail length: 1.3 miles one way
 - Hiking level: moderate to difficult
 - WHY IT'S COOL:** Trail ends at a small pool fed by the only true geyser in the state of Colorado. No swimming allowed.
- THE BOX CANYON TRAIL** (#617, San Juan National Forest)
 - 6.5 miles long. It begins at Forest Road 561 (West Mancos Road) and ends at Forest Trail 621 (West Mancos Trail). The trail is open for the following uses: hiking, horseback riding and motorcycle trail riding.



Canyon Trails Ranch

SINCE 1996

EXPERIENCE THE BACKCOUNTRY

RIDE INTO CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS!

*RV/horse camping/or try a night in an authentic shepherd's wagon!

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CORTEZ, CO
CANYONTRAILSRANCH.COM

GUIDED HIKES AND TOURS

SWCOCANYONS.ORG/TOURS

FRIENDS OF CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS

EXPERIENCE THE CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS LIKE NEVER BEFORE! GUIDED HIKES AND EXCURSIONS FOR ALL SKILL LEVELS

SOUTHWEST COLORADO CANYONS ALLIANCE
TOURS.SCCA@GMAIL.COM

FISHING & BOATING

WATER, WILDLIFE, WOW!

Rent or bring your boats, kayaks, paddle boards and pontoons and enjoy breathtaking pristine places to add WOW to your stay!

- > **MCPHEE RESERVOIR** - The second largest body of water in Colorado, with over 50 miles of shoreline and vermillion cliffs backing up to the San Juan National Forest. A water sportsman paradise, with water skiing, jet skiing, fishing, exploring and feeling the cool lake breeze, McPhee should be a must do on your vacation list. Features a large boat ramp for motorized boating access, and two major entrances into the lake. Doc’s Marina is open 7 days a week from May - Oct and offers boat slips and boat rentals, along with jet skis, paddleboards, pontoon boats and more.
- > **DOLORES RIVER** - Major tributaries offer good fishing for rainbow, cutthroat and brown trout. Rafters, kayakers and tubers float down the Upper Dolores during the summer, which empties into the McPhee Reservoir. The Lower Dolores is rafting by permit only during times of large runoffs from McPhee Reservoir. Hop on the River Trail within the Town of Dolores! visitdolores.com
- > **JACKSON GULCH RESERVOIR** - Excellent camping, boat ramp. The calm waters of the Jackson Gulch Reservoir provide great family-friendly fishing. Stocked with rainbow trout. Canoes, kayaks and wakeless boating are allowed on this lake. Located in Mancos State Park. 970.533.7065 / cpw.state.co.us



HUNTING

Plan your hunt: Large and small game can all be found here! With the right preparation you can have a successful hunt! To plan your hunt, remember these important points:

- **DO YOU HAVE HUNTER EDUCATION?**
- **WHICH SPECIES TO YOU WANT TO HUNT?**
- **WHERE DO YOU WANT TO HUNT?**
- **WHEN YOU DO WANT TO HUNT?**
- **WHAT DO YOU WANT TO HUNT WITH?**
- **TYPES OF LICENSES YOU CAN GET:**
- **DO YOU WANT TO HUNT WITH A GUIDE?**
- **DO YOU NEED LODGING OR CAMPING INFO?**

All brochures can be found at: cpw.state.co.us/bg/brochure

All the information to answer these questions and more can be found at: coloradooutfitters.org / cpw.state.co.us

> **ALL TERRAIN VEHICLE (OHV/ATV)**

There’s no end to the experiences you can have! Check out some of the many trails designated for motorized use. Side-by-sides, motorcycles, and OHVs are welcomed on San Juan National Forest designated trails. For detailed maps go to Dolores Ranger District Office, 29211 Hwy 184, Dolores 970.882.7296 fs.usda.gov/main/sanjuan. Pick up a Motorized vehicle use map at the Dolores public lands office, or download the Avenza app (avenzamaps.com) for more information.

ASPEN LOOP TRAIL - (Trail #631, San Juan National Forest) - A multipurpose trail constructed by the San Juan National Forest and the Four Corners Trail Club. The trail is open to OHV’s, motorized trail bikes, horseback riders, hikers, and mountain bikers. This 39-mile loop trail was designated as an OHV trail to accommodate motorized recreation enthusiasts. The parking lot is designed as a turnaround to accommodate trailer parking.

BOGGY DRAW OHV TRAIL - (#194) - The Boggy Draw OHV trail is 30 miles long. It begins at Forest Road 527 Boggy Draw Rd. and ends at Boggy Draw OHV. The trail is open for the following uses: Off Highway Vehicles (OHV) less than or equal to 50 inches wide. Check with the Dolores Public Lands Office for additional trails and routes. Call 970.882.7296 for more information.



HORSEBACK RIDING

Four Corners Backcountry Horseman’s Club educates, encourages and solicits active participation in the wise use of the back country resources. Visit 4cbch.org

WEST MANCOS TRAIL - (#621, San Juan National Forest) - This trail is ten miles long. The West Mancos Trailhead is located adjacent to the Big Al Trail in the Transfer Recreation Area. Due to the steep nature of the upper portion of this trail, it can be very tricky in wet conditions and, if using this trail in early spring, be especially careful if you are on horseback. The West Mancos Trail continues upstream on the west side of the canyon before dropping to the West Mancos River level, then climbs steeply to Horsefly Flat, an open, grassy area. The trail ends at the Sharkstooth Trailhead, at the base of Hesperus Peak.

WILDLIFE

Mesa Verde Country is a high desert region, so you will see desert animals as well as mountain type animals. Be on the look out for the Collared and sagebrush lizards, Mule Deer, sage grouse, prairie dogs, elk, coyotes, mountain lions, bats, snakes, turkeys and even bear.

CAMPING

Colorado was made for camping! Be sure and check with our local resource offices for developed (fee based) and dispersed (free) details. Dolores Public Lands Office: 29211 Hwy 184, Dolores 970-882-7296 / mesaverdecountry.com; fs.usda.gov/main/sanjuan



WILD WEST ADVENTURE IN DURANGO, COLORADO



Photo: Anthony D'Amato



Colorado's Historic Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad

Experience world-famous canyon views on board our vintage trains. Join us on a scenic excursion or at one of our special events for adults and kids. Durango, CO is in the heart of America's Southwest Grand Circle; it is the only point in the U.S. shared by four states. The circle has the largest concentration of national parks and monuments in the U.S.

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UTEMOUNTAINCASINO.COM



ARE YOU COLO-READY?

With a little preparation, a spirit of adventure, and a soft spot for nature and the past, you'll be on the trail to exploring Colorado like a local.



LEAVE NO TRACE – CARE FOR COLORADO PRINCIPLES

01 KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- This land really is your land. Our state and federal agencies manage 42 percent of Colorado's majestic landscape, and our cities and counties maintain even more. Learn about and respect the spaces we all own, share and sing about.
- Stay back from the pack. Find your way to less-visited and off-peak destinations to minimize down time and maximize your connection with special places.
- Bring along reusable water bottles or hot drink tumblers to limit waste and stay hydrated in our dry climate.

02 STICK TO TRAILS

- With 39,000 marked trails and 13,000 designated campsites, there's no need to venture beyond. By sticking to these areas and camping at least 200 feet from lakes, rivers and streams, you're helping natural areas stay natural.
- Even though shortcuts can be tempting, please don't take them. A few extra strides on the path will protect plants and the homes of the true locals.

03 LEAVE IT AS YOU FIND IT

- Leave plants, rocks and historical items as you find them so others experience the joy of discovery.
- Any of our 750 different species of wildflowers will live forever in a photo. Snap away, but only with a camera.
- Colorado is beautiful all on its own. Building structures or campsites on public land isn't cool. Keep it pristine for everyone to enjoy.
- Treat all living things with respect. Carving or hacking plants and trees may kill or disfigure them.

04 TRASH THE TRASH

- Pack it in, pack it out. Or pick it up to leave a place better than you found it. Put litter, even crumbs, peels and cores in your nearest waste/recycling bin.
- Wash yourself, your dog or whatever else needs cleaning at least 200 feet from waterways, and use biodegradable soap. A bubble bath is no treat for fish.

05 BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE

- Colorado's low humidity has perks, but can create dry, dangerous conditions. Keep campfires small and manageable to avoid sparking wildfires.
- When putting out a fire, water it until you can handle the embers. Never let a fire burn unattended.
- Use care when smoking in Colorado's dry climate. Always put cigarettes out completely, and don't leave your butts behind.

06 KEEP WILDLIFE WILD

- Colorado is home to tens of thousands of furry, scaly and feathered creatures. To keep them – and you – safe, don't approach them.
- It is not adorable to feed wild animals. You could alter natural behaviors, exposing them to predators or even euthanasia.
- Keep your furry buddies leashed when enjoying dog-friendly trails, and pack out their waste. All the way to a trashcan.

07 SHARE OUR TRAILS & PARKS

- Chances are you're not out in nature to people watch, so try out the lesser-known paths and sites.
- Silence your cell phone before stepping into nature, and speak softly without using the speaker function.
- Be considerate when passing others on the trails and yield to the uphill hiker and biker – they need the momentum.
- Listen to nature. Keep your voice and music soft so all can enjoy the peace of Colorado.

ARE YOU COLO-READY?

COLORADO PACKING LIST

"DRESS IN LAYERS!" ARE WORDS TO LIVE BY. Our dramatic elevation changes mean we can ski in the mountains and then drop a few thousand feet to bike or down a craft brew on a sunny patio.

SUMMER PACKING MUSTS:

01 SUNSCREEN, LIP BALM, A HAT & SUNGLASSES

Remember, you may be a mile or more closer to the sun, and much of Colorado gets 300 days of sunshine every year.

02 BATHING SUIT & FLIP-FLOPS/SANDALS

You don't want to miss out on taking a plunge into a natural hot spring, or a pristine creek or waterfall.

03 REFIILLABLE WATER BOTTLE OR HYDRATION SYSTEM

Start drinking water as soon you arrive in our dry, elevated climate. And don't stop.

04 RAIN JACKET

The atmospheric conditions that bring winter snow make for sudden afternoon showers in the summer, especially on our loftiest peaks.

05 HIKING BOOTS OR OTHER STURDY, ATHLETIC SHOES

You never know when you're going to want to answer the call of a beautiful trail.

06 LIGHTWEIGHT FLEECE OR VEST

Even on our hottest days, temps are chillier after sunset, especially at higher elevations.

07 DAY PACK

This is standard gear in Colorado to carry all of the above.

08 JEANS

Relax, denim is acceptable attire nearly everywhere.

IN WINTER, BRING ALL OF THE ABOVE, WITH A FEW ADDITIONS:

01 BEANIE

Keep one handy for under your ski helmet, a night by the fire or even a wintry dip in a natural hot spring. Even guys wear the ones with pomps.

02 WINTER COAT

Dress like a local in anything from puffy down to a snow-ready, water-resistant parka.

03 SNOW GEAR

A thermal layer and warm, waterproof boots, snow pants, and gloves are essential if you're planning to play in the powder.

04 SUN-SHIELDING ITEMS

Nothing like an intense goggle tan on your face to make you value sunscreen, no matter the season.

ACT LIKE A LOCAL

OK, NOW YOU'RE DRESSED LIKE A LOCAL. HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO PASS FOR ONE.



LEARN THE LINGO!

FOURTEENER

This is what we call those peaks that rise more than 14,000 feet above sea level. We've got 58 of them, more than any other state in the continental U.S. Hardy hikers aim to "bag" – or summit – all of them.

FRONT RANGE

The Rocky Mountain range most visible from Colorado's most populous cities – Denver, Colorado Springs, Fort Collins and Boulder – and from much of the Eastern Plains. Much of the urban region near these mountains is known as the Front Range as well.

CONTINENTAL DIVIDE

Also known as "the Divide," this ridge runs along the crests of the Rocky Mountains north to south. Rivers and streams west of the Divide flow to the Pacific Ocean, and east of the Divide to the Gulf of Mexico.

WESTERN SLOPE

This region refers to all of Colorado west of the Continental Divide. It's home to the Grand Mesa, the largest flat-top mountain in the world (near Grand Junction).

5280

Denver is the Mile High City because it sits 5,280 feet (or one mile) above sea level. To be precise, the 13th step of the Colorado State Capitol Building or the line of purple seats in Coors Field will put you exactly at 5280. (Pronounced: fifty-two eighty)

ALTIITUDE

Denver is the Mile High City, and many popular destinations are even higher altitude. Staying hydrated and adjusting for a day or two before embarking on a strenuous adventure is the best way to make sure being high up doesn't get you down.

ALCOHOL

It has more impact at altitude, so take it easy until you get your "mountain legs."

CELL COVERAGE

You won't have any trouble staying connected when you're in a town, but once you head out on a trail, river, slope or back road, that could change. Let others know where you are and finish posting your pics before you head off the grid.

SPARSE SERVICES

If you spot a sign saying "No gas or services for the next 50 miles," believe it. You're probably encountering a bear-proof trash can. Look for instructions on the can – there's usually a lever or button to push that's too tricky for hairy paws to manage.

BEAR-PROOF TRASHCANS

If you want to toss your trash and the lid won't budge, you're probably encountering a bear-proof trash can. Look for instructions on the can – there's usually a lever or button to push that's too tricky for hairy paws to manage.

FOUR CORNERS

The point where Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Utah come together at one point in our extreme southwest corner, 40 miles from the Colorado city of Cortez.

HIGH COUNTRY

A fancy way to say "the mountains," uttered mostly by local weathercasters.

THE TUNNEL

If you are headed to or from the High Country on I-70, you'll likely pass through the Centennial Tunnel. Since 1973, the tunnels have provided easy passage across the Continental Divide.

POWDER DAY

Powder days follow snowy nights. That fresh snowfall means the conditions are set for skiing and boarding that feels like you're floating down the slopes on air. Our deep, dry, fluffy powder is also good for cushioning the occasional fall.

LODO

Short for Lower Downtown, Denver's lively, walkable, historic downtown.

LOHI

Short for Lower Highlands, a neighborhood full of exceptional food and drink with outstanding views of downtown Denver.

RINO

Short for River North, a hip cultural and food scene emerging in Denver's former warehouse district.

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MESAVERDECOUNTRY.COM 11

EVENT CALENDAR

MAY 7
12 Hours of Mesa Verde Endurance Bike Race
Montezuma County Fairgrounds/Phil's World Trail System / 970.749.1060
12hoursofmesaverde.com

JUNE 9 - 11
Ute Mountain Round-Up Rodeo
Montezuma County Fairgrounds, Cortez
970.565.1000 / utemountainroundup.org

JUNE 18
Burrofest
mancoscreativedistrict.com/events

JUNE 25
Celtic Fair
cortezcelticfair.com

JULY 4
Cortez Fireworks Display
Centennial Park, Cortez / 970.565.3414

JULY 9
Ride of the Ancients Gravel Grinder
rideoftheancients.com

JULY 29-31
Mancos Days
Boyle Park, Mancos / 970.533.7434
facebook.com/mancoscoloradodays

JULY 29 - AUGUST 6
Montezuma County Fair
Montezuma County Fairgrounds, Cortez
970.565.3123
montezumacountyfair.com

AUGUST 5 - 7
Cortez Rendezvous Hot Air Balloon Rally
Parque de Vida, Cortez
fundandgames620@gmail.com

AUGUST 6
Boggy Draw Beat Down
Boggy Draw Trail System
doloresrace.com

AUGUST 20
Mancos Valley Summer Brewfest
Cottonwood Park, Mancos / 970.533.9761
mancosbrewingcompany.com

SEPTEMBER 24
Mancos Valley River Film Festival
Mancos Opera House, Mancos

NOVEMBER 27
Artist Sunday
mancoscreativedistrict.com/events

DECEMBER 2
Olde Fashioned Christmas
mancoscreativedistrict.com/events

DECEMBER 3
Four Corners Realtors Parade of Lights
Downtown Main Street, Cortez
970.565.8408



ONGOING EVENTS

CORTEZ FARMERS MARKET
June – September
(Saturday's 7:30 AM - 11:30 AM)
October
(Saturday's 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM)
109 West Main Street, Cortez
970.565.3123 / cortezfarmmarket.com

DOLORES FARMERS MARKET
June – October
(Wednesday's 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM)
Flander's Park, Downtown Dolores
970.882.7720 / townofdolores.com

MANCOS FARMERS MARKET
June – October
(Thursday's 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM)
Grand Avenue, Downtown Mancos
970.533.7434 / mancosvalley.com

GRAND SUMMER NIGHTS
2nd Saturday May - October
Mancos

THIRD THURSDAYS
June-September
Montezuma Park, Cortez
shopcortez.com

NATIVE AMERICAN DANCES
June – August
(Thursday's 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM)
Cortez Cultural Center, 25 N. Market Street, Cortez / 970.565.1151
cortezculturalcenter.org

*Event calendar is subject to change without notice. Please call ahead or check website(s) for event details.
For more information on events not listed go to lovelocalmontezuma.com

BEST ADVICE

MESA VERDE COUNTRY VISITOR INFORMATION

Colorado Welcome Center 928 E. Main, Cortez
mesaverdecountry.com

COLORADO WELCOME CENTER

928 E. Main, Cortez
Maps, brochures, friendly travel counselors help you enjoy your stay!

HIGH DESERT LIFE OUTDOORS & EXCHANGE

Everything to get you outside! Camping gear, Souvenirs, apparel, backpacks, rafting and much more. We are also a full Outdoor consignment shop.
Facebook and Instagram or highdesertoutdoors.life

DOLORES PUBLIC LANDS OFFICE

Call 970.882.7296 or drop by their office at 29211 Hwy 184, Dolores.
fs.usda.gov/recmain/sanjuan/recreation

CYCLING ASSOCIATION (SWCCA)

These folks make the rules and maintain many of the mountain biking trails in Mesa Verde Country. swcca@swcocycling.com and mtbproject.com/club/4331587/kokopelli-bike-club

DOLORES OUTFITTERS

Outdoor sports rentals - Jeeps, side-by-sides, kayaks, tubes, stand-up paddleboards, fly-fishing equipment, boats, cross country equipment and snowmobiles. 970.676.0066 / doloresoutfitters.com / [f](https://facebook.com/doloresoutfitters) doloresoutfitters

KOKOPELLI BIKE & BOARD

Cross country, downhill skis, fat tire and mountain bikes, equipment rentals, and so much more. 970.565.4408 (Cortez) / 970.676.0060 (Dolores)
kokopellibike.com





Days Inn
BY WYNDHAM

430 N. State Street • Cortez | 970-565-8577
www.daysinncortez.com

Continental Breakfast
Wi-Fi
Heated Outdoor Pool and Hot Tub (seasonal)
Pet-Friendly rooms are available

MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK



Mesa Verde National Park was established in 1906 to preserve and interpret the archaeological heritage of the Ancestral Pueblo people who made it their home. For over 700 years, the Ancestral Pueblo people built thriving communities on the mesas and in the cliffs of Mesa Verde. Today, the park protects the rich cultural heritage of 26 tribes and offers visitors a spectacular window into the past. This World Heritage Site and International Dark Sky Park is home to over a thousand species, including several that live nowhere else on earth..

While still farming the mesa tops, many began living in pueblos they built beneath the overhanging cliffs. The structures ranged in size from one-room storage areas to villages of more than 150 rooms. They continued to reside in the alcoves, repairing, remodeling, and constructing new rooms for nearly a century. By the late 1270s, the population began migrating south into present-day New Mexico and Arizona. Mesa Verde National Park preserves a spectacular reminder of this ancient culture.

For complete information, visit nps.gov/meve or stop by the Colorado Welcome Center, 928 E. Main Street in Cortez.



THINGS TO KNOW:

The park is open all year long. There is so much to see, even when the ranger assisted tours are closed. Visit by car or on a self guided tour; don't miss the beauty that is a sacred place!

- Get oriented at the Visitor Center at the entrance. Guided tours of some of the dwellings must be purchased in advance. Visit recreation.gov to purchase your tickets up to two weeks in advance. Check for current safety conditions and protocols before visiting.
- Interpretive tours can also be purchased at visitmesaverde.com
- Pets are allowed inside the Park, but are restricted in many areas. Be sure and check before you enter the Park for rules on bringing Fido. nps.gov/meve
- Allow 45-60 minutes to drive to the sites from the Visitor and Research area.
- As you travel into the Park, you will notice a change in elevation. Altitude sickness can occur, take it slow, and drink plenty of water.
- Hiking and climbing ladders in and out is a part of most cliff dwelling tours. Visit the mesa top sites for a less rigorous experience.
- Elevations in the Park range from 6,900 - 8,572 feet.
- Enjoy hiking, or traveling with your bicycle. Long House Loop is open seasonally, during the day for hiking and bicycle riding.
- Watch for wildlife – turkey, deer and bear are very common.
- Wander Prater Ridge Trail, and try to decipher the art on the Petroglyph Trail, or discover the lushness of Spruce Canyon.

EXPLORE THE PARK BY CAR >>

MESA TOP LOOP ROAD

A six-mile drive offering amazing canyon views. Learn about the Ancestral Puebloan people's occupation and architecture through time. There are 12 easily-accessible sites, including surface dwellings and cliff dwelling views. Highlights include Square Tower House, Sun Point Overlook, and views of Cliff Palace from Sun Point and Sun Temple stops. Overlooks also found on the six-mile (10 km) Cliff Palace Loop Road.

CEDAR TREE TOWER

Mesa Top Tower and Kiva and Ancestral Puebloan village can be viewed from the road.

FAR VIEW SITES COMPLEX

FIVE MESA TOP VILLAGES & FAR VIEW RESERVOIR

Hike to see Far View House plus four other villages and a dry reservoir on a level 3/4-mile (1.2 km) unpaved trail.

EXPLORE ON YOUR OWN >>

BADGER HOUSE TRAIL

TRAIL TO FOUR MESA TOP SITES

Journey through 600 years of prehistory. The 2.25 mile (3.6 km) round-trip trail through Badger House Community early mesa-top sites begins at Wetherill Mesa Kiosk.

STEP HOUSE

PITHOUSE, PETROGLYPHS & CLIFF DWELLING

This is one of the only alcove sites that contains evidence of both Basketmaker and Pueblo occupation. Total walking distance is about one mile (1.6 km) round-trip. Trail begins near the Wetherill Mesa Kiosk.



RANGER ASSISTED TOURS »

A ranger-assisted tour is a timed-entry experience that allows visitors to move through a cliff dwelling at their own pace and in a socially distanced way. Rangers stationed along the route will facilitate and provide interpretation. Visit recreation.gov to purchase tour tickets, or visit visitmesaverde.com for expanded interpretative tours.

The one cliff dwelling that can be visited without a tour is Step House, on Wetherill Mesa. However, there are many self guided villages and dwellings that can be seen year-round.

Cliff Palace, Balcony House, and Long House are all open for the 2022 season. Visit nps.gov/meve for current dates and times.

- Tours can be strenuous. Due to high demand during the busy summer season, you may be asked to choose only one tour per day.
- Tour tickets for Cliff Palace and Long House must be purchased in person but can be purchased up to two weeks in advance online.



CLIFF PALACE

MESA VERDE'S LARGEST CLIFF DWELLING

Please visit nps.gov/meve for current, detailed information on this tour. Please visit recreation.gov to purchase tour tickets. This one-hour, Ranger-guided tour involves climbing four 8-10ft. (2.6-3m) ladders on a 100ft (30m) vertical climb. Total walking distance is about 1/4-mile (.4km), round-trip. The tour begins at Cliff Palace Overlook, a 23-mile (37km), one-hour drive from the Visitor and Research Center.

BALCONY HOUSE

The most adventurous tour in the park and not for the faint-of-heart. You will scale the face of a cliff via several tall ladders, squeeze your way through a narrow tunnel on your hands and knees, and explore some of the same passages used over 800 years ago!

For those ready for the challenge, this tour offers you the chance to follow in the footsteps of the Ancestral Pueblo residents who lived there. For a virtual tour, visit go.nps.gov/BHvideo

LONG HOUSE

MESA VERDE'S MOST IN-DEPTH TOUR

Please visit nps.gov/meve for current, detailed information on this tour for 2022. Please visit recreation.gov to purchase tour tickets. Start at Wetherill Mesa information kiosk for a two-hour Ranger-guided tour. This tour involves hiking at least 2.25 miles (3.6km) round-trip, and climbing two 15-foot (4.5m) ladders within the site. The tour ends at the Long House trailhead, giving you a choice of returning to the kiosk or exploring more of Wetherill Mesa on your own. Allow about 2.5 hours (total) for tour and return to the kiosk.



FOUR CORNERS REGIONAL MAP





ANCIENT CEDARS
MESA VERDE RV PARK
GATEWAY TO MESA VERDE

AT THE GATEWAY TO MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK

The Closest Premium Park to The Mesa Verde Ruins



WIDE ARRAY OF CAMPING & RV SITES • BIG RIG SITES OVER 70' STARGAZING • MINI-GOLF • POOL & HOT TUB • RECREATION CABIN
3 GROUP FIRE PIT PICNIC AREAS • HORSESHOE PITS • FREE WIFI
2 FENCED DOG PARKS • ACTIVITIES BARN FOR LARGE GROUPS
INDIVIDUAL TENT SITES

(970) 565-3517
www.ancientcedarsmesaverde.com
34979 Hwy 160 Frontage Road, Mancos, CO 81328

CULTURE & HERITAGE



» PUBLIC SITES TO VISIT WITHIN CANM:

CANM MUSEUM & VISITORS CENTER

CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS NATIONAL MONUMENT

At a whopping 176,000 acres, CANM has the highest known density of archaeological sites in the United States. More than 6,000 ancient sites have been identified, including villages, cliff dwellings, underground ceremonial chambers, and rock art. The Monument has been used or inhabited by humans for thousands of years, and continues to be used by humans today. CANM was declared a National Monument in 2000.

- Stop at the CANM Visitor Center and Museum for orientation, maps, and current conditions, visit blm.gov/learn/interpretive-centers/CANM-visitor-center-museum, or call 970.882.5600.
- Did you know? Canyons of the Ancients is part of the **Trail of the Ancients National Scenic Byway!**

THINGS TO KNOW:

- Dog-friendly with a leash. Please pick up after your pet.
- BRING WATER with you in warm weather.
- Some sites in this “outdoor museum” are not apparent to the untrained eye, and precise locations are not publicized.
- Do not dig in the sites! Do not pick up artifacts! **It is illegal to remove artifacts.**
- Cell and WIFI service are intermittent.
- Many roads are primitive and unpaved.
- Primitive camping is allowed in most areas.

This museum is also headquarters for Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, and is considered Southwest Colorado’s premier display of the culture and history of the Ancestral Puebloan people, and other Native tribes. The museum also displays methods that modern archaeologists use to reveal the past, and preserves artifacts and records from excavations in the Four Corners area. They also feature special rotating exhibits and events annually.

This museum is family-friendly and wheelchair-accessible, and also offers audio-captioned visuals, public restrooms and bus parking. Golden Pass and/or America the Beautiful Pass holders get in free. Don’t miss the amazing views, picnic areas and two excavated sites on location, which are also wheelchair-accessible.



HOVENWEEP NATIONAL MONUMENT

Hovenweep is the largest site within CANM, and was once home to over 2,500 people. This village was built between A.D. 1200 and 1300, and building similarities in architecture, masonry and pottery styles indicate Hovenweep inhabitants were closely associated with other groups living at Mesa Verde. Explore a variety of structures, including multistory towers, and learn about the people who planted and farmed this area long ago.

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT HNM:

- Admission is free.
- Do not use GPS to find your way to Hovenweep. Follow the directions from their webpage below.
- Hovenweep trails are open year-round, sunrise to sunset, depending on weather conditions.
- 31 tent campsites open year-round. Picnic tables and flush toilets available.
- Square Tower is the most accessible of the five sites within Hovenweep.
- Bring your hiking shoes for some really wonderful trails to hike. Be aware that cell service can be intermittent.
- Pets on a leash are allowed on trails. Please pick up after your pet.
- Summer gets HOT!! Pets can die from heat exhaustion. Do not leave your pets inside of your vehicle in the summer.
- Call 970.562.4282 or visit nps.gov/hove

DON'T MISS »

LOWRY PUEBLO

The only developed recreation site within the Monument. It has standing walls that have been stabilized, 40 rooms, eight kivas and a Great Kiva - underground ceremonial chamber. The picnic area, restroom, and trail are all wheelchair-accessible. There is no water or phone service.

SAND CANYON TRAIL

This 6.5-mile trail is used for hiking and mountain biking. It is one of the largest prehistoric settlements in this region, and has 420 rooms, 100 kivas, and 14 towers, but no exposed walls. Sand Canyon Pueblo is adjacent to the upper (north) trailhead for Sand Canyon. There is a small parking area, but no water, restroom, phone or wheelchair-access.

UTE MOUNTAIN TRIBAL PARK

The 13 Ute Bands are the oldest residents of Colorado, and historically roamed throughout Colorado, Utah, and New Mexico as hunter-gatherer societies. The separate bands moved with the seasons for the best hunting and harvest. The present-day Weenuche Band live in the communities of Towaoc and White Mesa to the west in Utah. This thriving Band celebrates the Bear Dance and Sun Dance every year, which connect old ways with the new in rich, colorful pageantry of song and dance. The Bear Dance celebration is open to the public.

An in-depth experience not to be missed. Knowledgeable Ute Tribal Guides will lead you on an incredible adventure, while they interpret tribal culture, pictographs, cliff dwellings, surface ruins and artifacts. Half-day (easy) tours will visit Ancestral Pueblo petroglyphs, scenic lands, pictographs panels, geological land formations, and surface sites. Full-day (active) tours involve a three-mile walk on unpaved trails and a climb of five ladders to visit four well preserved canyon cliff dwellings in Lion Canyon. A round trip drive on gravel and dirt roads of roughly 80 miles on the full day, and 40 miles for the half-day tours.

- Visit mesaverdecountry.com/ute-mountain-tribal-park 970.565.9653 / email: utepark@fone.net
- Visit the Colorado Welcome Center in Cortez for brochures and tour information.
- Tribal Park Visitor Center: Corner of Highway Junction 160/491
- Main Tribal Park Office: 480 Sunset Blvd. in Towaoc.
- Operating Hours: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, seasonally.

NOTAH DINEH TRADING CO. & MUSEUM

This trading company was established in 1961 and features the largest collection of Navajo rugs, jewelry and Native American arts & crafts in the Four Corners. Trading posts are a time-honored tradition of working with American Indian artists, and still exist throughout the Southwest. The free museum displays a wonderful collection of antique weavings and other treasures. 800.444.2024 / notahdineh.com/museum.html

THE FOUR CORNERS MONUMENT

This is the only place in the United States where four states meet: Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado. The nearest town for services and accommodations is Cortez, Colorado roughly 38 miles away.

The original marker erected in 1912 was a simple cement pad, but has since been redone in granite and brass. Navajo vendors sell handmade jewelry, crafts and traditional Navajo foods nearby. Picnic tables and self-contained restrooms are available. This area is very remote, and offers no running water, electricity, or telephones. There is limited cell service.



ESTABLISHED 1961

Notah-Dineh

TRADING CO. & MUSEUM



Navajo Rugs - Native American Jewelry and Pottery - Old Pawn Jewelry - Museum

Visit our trading post and museum in Cortez, open 6 days a week. Notah-Dineh features the finest in Native American arts and crafts in the Four Corners.

345 W. Main St. | Cortez, CO 81321 | 1.800.444.2024 | 970.565.9607 | www.notahdineh.com

ARTS & ARCHITECTURE

The ancient artists who left behind expert woven rugs, painted pottery and interpretive rock art have inspired a modern community of artists, makers and creators who call Mesa Verde Country their blank canvas to create within. Check out these options in Cortez and Mancos, to purchase a must-have creation, or make something of your very own!



TURQUOISE RAVEN ART GALLERY

104 E. Main St, Cortez / 970.529.3597
facebook.com/TurquoiseRavenArtGallery

Workshops, music, poetry, art and more. This gallery is bright and airy, giving it a museum feel. Well placed furniture gives visitors time to relax and enjoy the artwork and the vibe of this creative gallery.

ZU GALLERY

48 W. Main St, Cortez / 970.235.1107
zugallery.com

Zu Gallery features local artists and craftsmen, and offers creative gifts, fun weekly events, plus workshops & classes for all ages and skill levels.

FIND MORE ART IN MANCOS

In Mancos, The **Creative Art District** beckons you to stroll up and down the streets, shopping to your hearts content. You can also get a taste of local history by visiting the **Mancos Common Press**, a 1900's newspaper shop historically restored as an educational print studio. And don't forget Mancos' newest **Boys and Burls Wood Turning Studio** tucked in the middle of town. Don't miss the annual Burro Fest, Artists Sunday Sale, and more! mancoscreativedistrict.com



ARTISANS OF MANCOS

101 Grand Ave, Mancos / 970.533.7040
artisansofmancos.com

An artist co-op chock full of creative works, wearable art, and much, much more.

CORTEZ CULTURAL CENTER

25 N. Market St, Cortez / 970.565-1151
cortezculturalcenter.org

Check their website for current hours of operation. Gift shop, local art for sale, and local Native American artisans are featured in this historic building.

COWBOY FORGE

43290 Rd J.9 Loop, Mancos / 970.903.4036
cowboyforge.com

A traditional blacksmith shop offering classes for all skill levels.

KILGORE AMERICAN INDIAN ART

100 Grand Ave, Mancos / 970.533-9138
kilgoreamericanindianart.net

A world-class collection of rare and antique American Indian art and Native American history.

PAINTED TURTLE STUDIO AND GALLERY

200 W. Grand Ave, Mancos / 970.533.7136
paintedturtlestudio.org

A wonderful space for community and creativity offering classes, a full clay studio, and a paint-your-own-ceramics drop in.

RAVEN HOUSE GALLERY

120 Grand Ave, Mancos / 970.533.7149
ravenhousegallery.com

Raven House is a managed gallery, each of the showing artists taking some time each week to staff the store. It is home to more than a dozen local artists.

SCHOOL OF THE WEST

Work and learn directly in an artist's studio, or outdoors in the beautiful Mancos Valley. schoolofthewest.org



HERE ARE SEASONAL WAYS TO

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR STAY!



SUMMER



FALL



WINTER



SPRING

Services are fully open and at their busiest.
Temperatures range from 85-96°F.
Expect afternoon showers in August.

HIKING

McPhee Trail Overlook - Dolores
Badger House Trail - MVNP

BIKING

Mavericks/Italian Loop - Dolores

WATER FUN: McPhee Reservoir - Dolores

HORSEBACK RIDING: Mancos & Cortez

MOUNTAIN CRAFTED & GROWN

Mancos Brewery - Mancos
Yellow Car Country Wine - Cortez

HERITAGE & HISTORY

700 Years Tour & Wetherill Mesa Loop - MVNP
Sand Canyon Cultural Tours

SCENIC DRIVES

Trail of the Ancients Scenic Byway

EVENTS

Ute Mountain Round Up Rodeo
BurroFest - Mancos
Boggy Draw Beatdown - Dolores
Third Thursdays music event - Cortez
Ride of the Ancients Gravel Grinder Event - Dolores

Fall is our favorite, the weather is perfect for exploring!
Leaves changing color, warm days and cool nights.
Temperatures range from 40-76°F.

HIKING

Geyser Spring Trail, Box Canyon Trail - Dolores

BIKING

Stinking Springs/Phil's World - Cortez
McPhee Trail - Dolores

WATER FUN

Fly Fishing - Dolores

MOUNTAIN CRAFTED & GROWN

Sutcliffe Winery - Cortez
EsoTerra Cider - Dolores

HERITAGE & HISTORY

Far View Explorer Tour - Cortez
Lowry & Sand Canyon Pueblos - Cortez

NATIONAL & STATE PARKS

Mesa Verde National Park

SCENIC DRIVES

San Juan Skyway Scenic Byway

EVENTS

Mancos Valley River Film Festival - Mancos
Mancos Valley Summer BrewFest - Mancos
Dolores Harvest Fest - Dolores

This is a wonderful season for Nordic skiing,
snowshoeing – bundle up and go outdoors!
Temperatures range from 28-38°F.

HIKING

Hawkins Preserve & Carpenter Trail - Cortez

BIKING

Phil's World & George Geer - Cortez

**CROSS COUNTRY SKIING
& SNOWSHOEING**

Prater Ridge - MVNP
Point Lookout - MVNP
Conquistador - Cortez
Chicken Creek - Mancos

MOUNTAIN CRAFTED & GROWN

WildEdge Brewing Collective - Cortez
Dolores River Brewery - Dolores

HERITAGE & HISTORY

Hovenweep National Monument
CANM Museum & Visitor's Center - Dolores
Lowry Pueblo - Cortez

NATIONAL & STATE PARKS

Mancos State Park

SCENIC DRIVES

Trail of the Ancients Scenic Byway
Ancient Voices Audio Driving Tour

Everything's green!
Services at MVNP are beginning to open.
Temperatures range from 50-70°F.

HIKING

Sand Canyon Trails - Cortez

BIKING

Lemon Head/Phil's World - Cortez
Coco Race Abajo/Phil's World - Cortez

HORSEBACK RIDING

West Mancos Trail - Mancos

MOUNTAIN CRAFTED & GROWN

Fenceline Cidery - Mancos

HERITAGE & HISTORY

Cortez Cultural Center - Cortez
Brewery Tours - Cortez, Dolores & Mancos
Canyons of the Ancients National Monument (CANM)
CANM Visitor Center & Museum - Dolores

NATIONAL & STATE PARKS

Mesa Verde National Park

SCENIC DRIVES

Trail of the Ancients Scenic Byway

EVENTS

12 Hours of Mesa Verde Endurance Bike Race - Cortez
Four States Ag Expo - Cortez

TRY ONE OF THESE NEXT!



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



9



8



10

6 Go standup paddleboarding at McPhee Reservoir, or try kayaking, fishing, boating, or hiking, which are also great options for a day on the lake with incredible views.

7 Visit historic Dolores, home of the Rio Grande Southern Museum, depot and Galloping Goose No. 5, which played a major role in Colorado's rich mining history.

8 Gorgeous sandstone cliffs reward hikers at Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. Get your history legs under you by visiting the CANM Visitor center and museum First! Learn about the history of the Ancestral People who lived here through artifacts, rotating exhibits and a fascinating timeline that expresses the cultural experience between past and present.

9 Visit Hovenweep National Monument. Marvel at the towers and differently shaped dwellings. Friendly Visitor Center staff are happy to share information on these mysterious structures and their purpose.

10 Shopaholics rejoice! Artisans, galleries and trading posts showcase arts and culture unique to Mesa Verde Country.

1 Stay overnight in a hotel room, or adventure out with a stay in a yurt, a log cabin, or your own RV.

2 Stand in four states at once. The Four Corners National Monument is the only place in the U.S. where four states intersect at one point. On your return, try your luck at the Ute Mountain Casino.

3 Visit Lowry Pueblo, the only developed site within Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. You'll see an amazing village with 40 rooms and a gathering room called a kiva.

4 Take an interpretive tour with SCCA, a stewardship organization within CANM. swcocanyons.org

5 Mancos is steeped in the cowboy way of life. Catch a cattle drive, go horseback riding, and enjoy a chuckwagon supper.

SCENIC BYWAYS



SAN JUAN SKYWAY >>

The San Juan Skyway, a 232 mile road loop, known as Colorado’s most scenic drive, spanning elevations from 6,200 to 11,008 feet. You will experience majestic 14ers, deep valleys, roaring rivers, and breathtaking views.

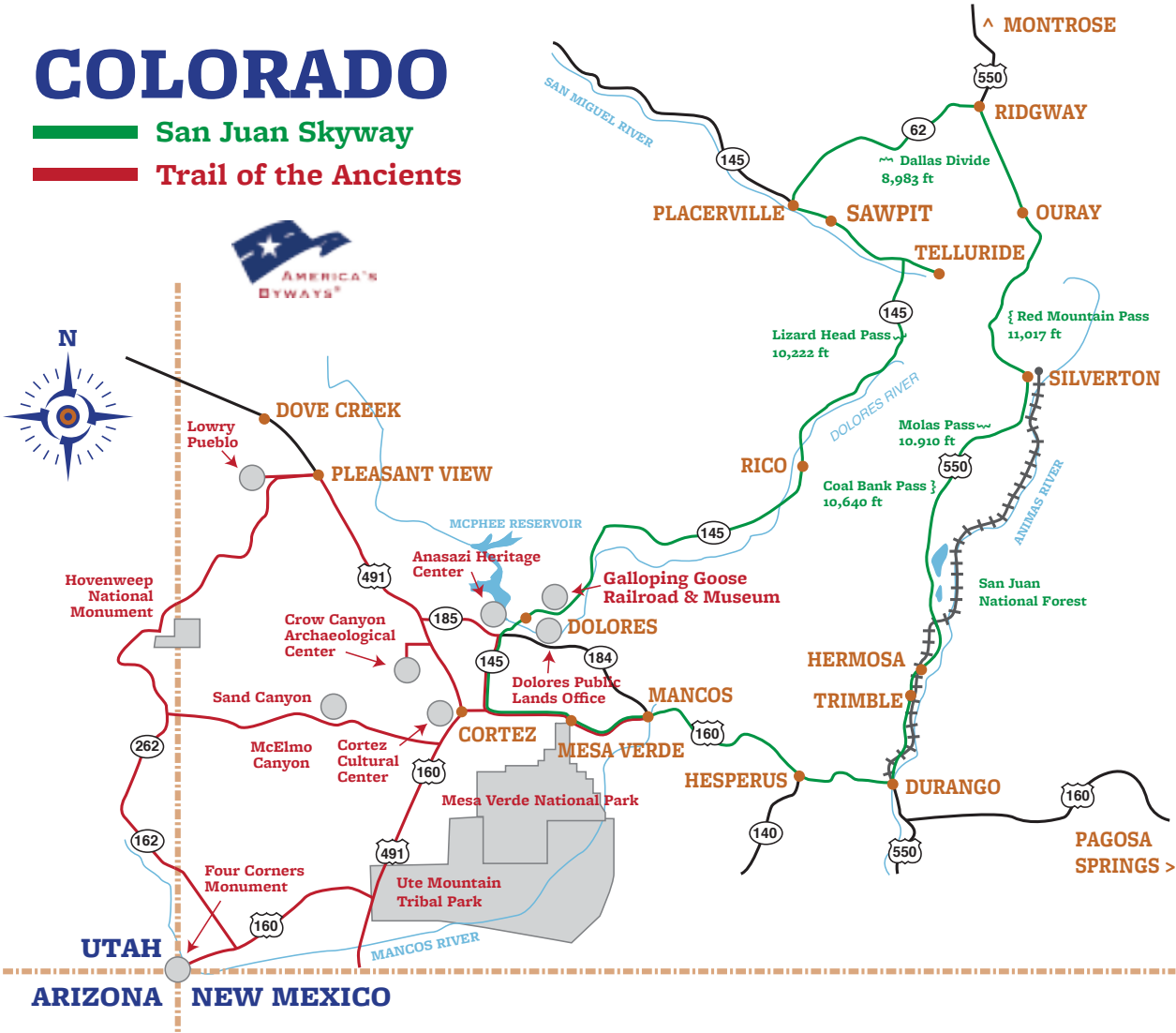
- > Start in Cortez, Dolores or Mancos, and head north into the San Juan National forest. You’ll see fresh, subalpine forests, historic mining towns, expansive cattle ranges and present-day resort communities. Visit sjma.org or mesaverdecountry.com.

TRAIL OF THE ANCIENTS >>

This 114-mile historic portion of a larger byway highlights the long and intriguing story of the Native American peoples who made this valley their home. This area is truly the archaeological heartland of America, and takes you on a journey from the past to the future, and from adventure to understanding. Visit mesaverdecountry.com for more information.

SO MUCH MORE TO EXPLORE

HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY									APPROX. DISTANCE FROM (MILES)			TIME
Attraction	ARCHAEOLOGY	CULTURE	CAMPING	HIKING	NATURE	TOURS	MUSEUM	BIKING	CORTEZ	MANCOS	DOLORES	VISITATION
CORTEZ CULTURAL CENTER 25 N. Market Street, Cortez / 970.565.1151 cortezculturalcenter.org	.	.					.		0	15	10	1-2 HOURS
CANM VISITOR CENTER 27501 Hwy. 184, Dolores / 970.882.5600 blm.gov/learn/interpretive-centers/CANM-visitor-center-museum		10	20	3	□-1 DAY
MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK 970.529.4465 nps.gov/meve	SOME	10	7	20	1-2 DAY
CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS HEADQUARTERS 27501 Hwy. 184, Dolores / 970.882.5600 blm.gov/learn/interpretive-centers/CANM-visitor-center-museum	10	20	3	1-3 DAYS
UTE MOUNTAIN TRIBAL PARK Towaoc, Colorado / 970.565.9653 utemountaintribalpark.info	SOME	18	36	29	□-1 DAY
LOWRY PUEBLO Pleasant View, Colorado / 970.882.5600 blm.gov/visit/lowry-pueblo-national-historic-landmark				28	42	20	□ DAY
HOVENWEEP NATIONAL MONUMENT 970.562.4282 nps.gov/hove		43	51	53	1 DAY
NEARBY ATTRACTIONS									APPROX. DISTANCE FROM (MILES)			TIME
TRAIL OF THE ANCIENTS 970.565.8227 trailoftheancients.com		0	10	10	3-4 DAYS
SAN JUAN SKYWAY 970.247.4874 colorado.com/sanjuanskyway	CONNECTS CORTEZ, MANCOS AND DOLORES			1 DAY
FOUR CORNERS MONUMENT 928.206.2540 navajonationparks.org		.							38	52	49	1 HOUR
DURANGO & SILVERTON NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD 888.872.4607 durangotrain.com					.	.	.		45	27	49	5-10 HOURS
ARCHES NATIONAL PARK 435.719.2100 nps.gov/arch	SOME	114	132	110	2-4 HOURS
MONUMENT VALLEY 435.727.5870 navajonationparks.org		118	136	129	□ DAY



CORTEZ

#MORETOEXPLORE



Cortez is just eight miles from Mesa Verde National Park, and considered the cultural center of Mesa Verde Country. Strong Agricultural traditions and Native American heritage offer a glimpse into the valley that is shadowed by Mesa Verde. Ancient cliff dwellings, cowboys, and farms mingle with art galleries, shopping and lodging accommodations.

Cortez has long been a trade route for Native and Spanish settlers, and is still considered the trade center for the Four Corners region. Its culture is steeped in the ancient history of the indigenous people who still call this high desert valley home. See intricate artwork, artifacts and customs of the native people at the Cortez Cultural Center. And make Cortez your base camp for the 114-mile Trail of the Ancients Scenic Byway, that tours through natural wonders and archaeological points of interest.

Locally sourced cuisine, Colorado wines, ciders and craft breweries mark the agricultural traditions that date back to the Ancestral Puebloans' cultivation here. Heirloom and heritage corn, beans and squash have been raised in Cortez for centuries. What you see growing in the lush fields translates to the bounty in our local restaurants and weekly farmer's markets.

With more than 600 acres of parks, trails, and open space there's plenty of room to play. To the north, you'll find Carpenter Natural Area with 176 acres and easy access to trails. To the south, visit the 122-acre Hawkins Preserve, where you can hike, bike, rock climb and star-gaze from the slick rock trails to the canyon edge overlooking McElmo Creek. Don't miss the excavated archaeological sites in the preserve. After a day making memories, settle in for the night at a cozy Cortez lodge, so you're well-rested when you begin the next day's adventures.

Stop by the Colorado Welcome Center, 928 E. Main St. for local information on tours, lodging and things to see while visiting. Relocating? We can help with your newcomer questions!

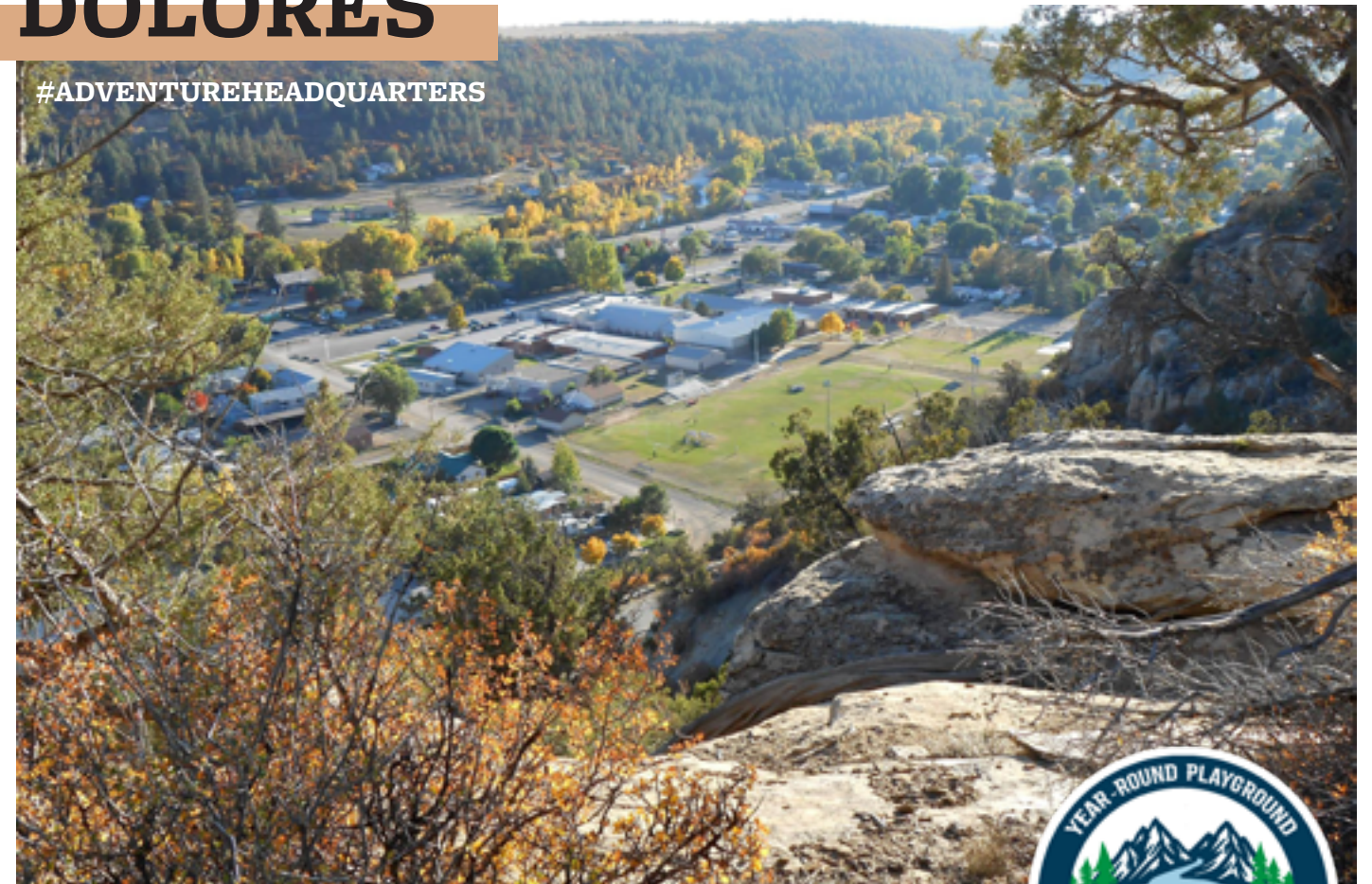
ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Native American Dances at the Cortez Cultural Center.
- Third Thursdays in Montezuma Park.
- Visit a Trading Post like Notah Dineh for souvenirs.
- Sample a brewery, winery or cidery.
- Antiquing in the largest store in the Four Corners!
- Swim, climb, and play ball year-round at the Cortez Recreation Center.
- Play a round of golf at the Conquistador golf course.
- Boulderling in Hawkins Preserve (with a permit, of course!)
- Tennis, Pickleball and Disc Golf! Don't miss in over 600 acres of Cortez Parks and Open Spaces.



DOLORES

#ADVENTUREHEADQUARTERS



ADVENTURE SEEKERS - look no further. This is your base camp for the whole family! With the Dolores River running south into McPhee Reservoir, and beautiful sandstone cliffs surrounding, this charming town offers the perfect location for your next outdoor experience!

Centered between the San Juan National Forest and the Reservoir, Dolores offers plenty of options for stays at motels, cabins and RV Parks, several right on the river. Canyon of the Ancients Museum features two Native American ruins and lots of cultural heritage to wander through.

Mountain bikers and hikers love the uncrowded trails of Boggy Draw, Sage Hen and the River Trail, and fishermen find some of the best fly fishing waters in Southwest Colorado just below the reservoir! Boaters and paddle boarders love McPhee Reservoir, one of the largest and pristine lakes in Colorado, with 50 miles of shoreline and a marina for all your boating and fishing needs.

Trails for horseback riding, dirt biking, hiking and side-by-sides can be found here. Motorcyclists love Dolores for its smooth roads and gorgeous views as they make their way up Highway 145 along the Dolores River. The friendly town welcomes clubs and groups and hosts many public events throughout the season. Winter blesses Dolores with landscape perfect for snowshoeing, snowmobiling and cross country skiing.

Railroad buffs rejoice! In 1891, Dolores became a major stop on the rail line between Ridgway, Telluride and Durango. Check out the Galloping Goose train at the Railroad Museum in Flanders Park, which seats about 20 passengers and still does limited excursions in Durango CO, Chama NM and Ridgway CO. Back in the day it was used to run mail and passengers around the area.

DOLORES EVENTS

Dolores Farmers Market

June - October (Wednesdays 4pm - 7pm) in Flanders Park. Lots of artisans, farmers and crafters, with some dates featuring live music from local musicians.

Dolores RiverFest

(First Saturday in June) Live music all day on two stages, river parade, raft rides, vendors, food and beer garden at Joe Rowell Park. doloresriverfest.org

Dolores SummerFest

(Third Saturday in July) Live bands throughout the day, car show, drone competition, kids play area, vendors, food trucks and beer garden at Joe Rowell Park.

Boggy Draw Beat Down Bike Races

(First Saturday in August) 15-mile, 18-mile, 33-mile and 60-mile courses through the Boggy Draw Trail System.

doloresrace.com

Escalante Days

(Second Saturday in August) The town's Founder's Day Celebration with a parade, duck race, chain saw and arm wrestling competitions, live music, kids games, vendors, food and beer garden at Flanders Park.

Dolores Harvest Fest

(First Saturday in October) Live music, hay rides, car show, kids play area, pumpkin painting, vendors, food and beer garden at Joe Rowell Park.

Check out visitdolores.com for other local events

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Mancos has **mastered the art** of blending old traditions with a new, vibrant community. Historic buildings line downtown, filled with galleries, quaint shops and delicious dining. It's a place where modern-day travelers and locals navigate amongst **stagecoaches, cattle drives and cowboys**. No wonder **Louis L'Amour** gave Mancos Valley a special place in his heart and novels!

The Creative District features local artisans **crafting** beer, cider, pottery, jewelry, and other handmade **treasures**. Don't miss the Native American vintage gallery, or the world-renowned bronze sculpturist!

Mancos is home to **farm-to-table** restaurants, farmers markets, and hometown burger joints as well as one of the oldest continuously operating bars in Colorado. You'll also find plenty of **lodging options**: camping, RV, stunning bed and breakfasts, guest ranches and motels in close proximity to the heart of town. **Horseback rides** and wilderness trips are available with local **wranglers**.

Mancos is the perfect home base for hiking, biking and cross country skiing.

With main **street parades, gallery tours** and **street fairs**, the opportunities to become part of this friendly community present themselves at every turn. You may even see folks commuting around town on horseback!

This blend of old and new, in art and in life, makes Mancos a must-experience part of any visitor's stay. Stop by our kiosk on Grand and Main, or the Visitor Center on Bauer Avenue for more information or call 970.533.7434.

MANCOS EVENTS

MANCOS FARMERS MARKET
June-October (Thursday's 4-7 PM)

MANCOS BURROFEST
June 18th

MANCOS DAYS
July 29-31

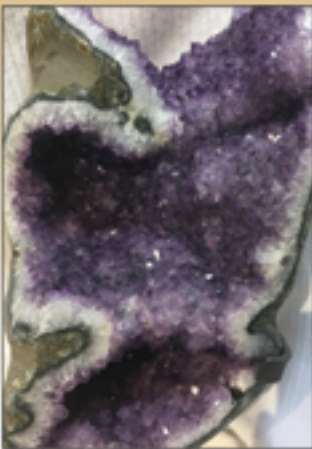


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GallopingGoose5.org

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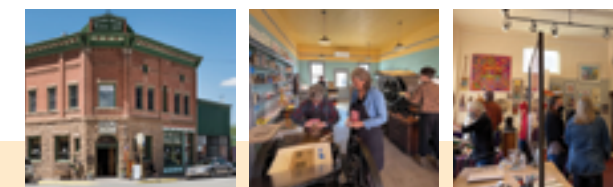
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