



PRESS RELEASE

Southwest Colorado's Mesa Verde Country Announces What's New for 2024 Summer Travel Season

Cortez, Colo. – [Mesa Verde Country](#) in Southwest Colorado's Four Corners Region offers visitors an experience full of rich history, premier cultural attractions, exciting outdoor adventures and friendly hospitality. Now, the destination has even more to offer travelers.

"We are excited to announce several new additions to Mesa Verde Country that will enhance the experience of travelers coming to our region," said Brian Bartlett, Tourism Director of Mesa Verde Country. "These new establishments join our cache of familiar businesses to roll out a warm welcome to visitors. We look forward to having you visit."

Here's a look at what's new in Mesa Verde Country:

Agave Azul Taqueria & Bar (44 W Main St., Cortez |

<https://www.facebook.com/people/AGAVE-AZUL-taqueria-bar-llc/100090083795114/>)

Since its recent opening, Agave Azul in downtown Cortez has become a favorite with locals and visitors alike. The food is fresh and delicious, portion sizes are generous, prices are reasonable, and the staff is friendly.

The Boathouse on Grand (114 W Grand Ave, Mancos | <https://www.theboathouseongrand.com/>)

The Boathouse on Grand in downtown Mancos brings a taste of Spain to the Four Corners Region. The cozy restaurant serves dinner Thursday-Sunday from 4pm-close with a menu that changes throughout each week to incorporate the seasonal local ingredients used to prepare the homemade food. They also offer a curated wine list featuring unique finds from around the world, as well as from Montezuma County. In addition, they feature Manzanilla sherry & Spanish vermouth on tap as the perfect aperitif.

Community Coffeehouse at Cortez Cultural Center (25 N Market St., Cortez | <https://cortezculturalcenter.org/>)

The new Coffeehouse is open at the Cortez Cultural Center in downtown Cortez. This cozy, welcoming place is a gathering spot for residents and visitors to enjoy a good cup of java, locally made pastries and lively conversation. Open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Sky Kiva and Star Tower Guest Houses at Canyon of the Ancients Guest Ranch (7950 Road G, Cortez | www.canyonoftheancients.com)

The always-amazing Canyon of the Ancients Guest Ranch has added two new guest houses that are inspired by nearby Hovenweep National Monument. The houses are built into the landscape and constructed to look like remains of ancient dwellings. Canyon of the Ancients Guest Ranch is one of the area's premier lodging experiences. It is not a B&B, but rather a private home and rental cabins where the hospitable owners share their passion for the history, archaeology, and beauty of Southwest Colorado. (There are even some adorable sheep, chickens and dogs on the property for guests to interact with!)

Kelly's Kitchen (315 Central Ave, Dolores | www.kellyskitchendolores.com)

Owner Kelly Gregory turned her dream of opening a local coffee shop into reality when she opened Kelly's Kitchen in Dolores. The café is open for breakfast and lunch Wednesday-Saturday. In addition to a robust breakfast and lunch menu, packaged products, including homemade salsa, dips, sushi, and pastries are available.

Love's Travel Stop (7006 US-160, Cortez)

The popular Love's Travel Stop opened its first new location of 2024 in the town of Cortez. It is open 24/7 and offers all of the amenities Love's is know for, including food, drinks and a Subway restaurant. There are also four RV parking spaces.

ZU Gallery (48 W Main St, Cortez | www.zugallery.com)

Named for its location in MonteZUma County, Zu Gallery was founded with a hope of creating physical community space that includes local art, meeting/classrooms, a wine bar/lounge area (that also serves local beer), and a photography studio. Zu Gallery features rotational exhibits from local artists and hosts a range of events like painting classes, acoustic jams, and writers workshops. Thanks to the community-mindedness of Zu Gallery owner, Jodi Jarhling, the City of Cortez Community and Economic Development department (C&ED) and the LOR Foundation recently announced a new creative grant program for 2024: 81321 Launch. It is a small project arts grant program that aims to generate positive change in the community.

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/>.

Tips for Responsible Travel to Mesa Verde Country

Just as traveling to Mesa Verde Country will leave a positive impact on you, there are many ways you can leave a positive impact on the places you visit. Please do this by: limiting your water usage, practicing fire safety, leaving archaeological artifacts where you find them, **leaving no trace** by disposing of waste properly and being considerate of wildlife, and finally being respectful of the local people and cultures you encounter. To learn more about responsible travel tips, click [here](#).

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