

COLORADO

2022 EDITION

GROUP TOUR PLANNER

SCENIC & HISTORIC BYWAYS

7 ROUTES FOR AN AUTHENTIC
COLORADO ADVENTURE

ROCKY MOUNTAINEER

COLORADO'S NEWEST
RAIL EXCURSION

GROUP ITINERARY

EXPLORE DESERT DUNES AND
MAJESTIC MOUNTAINS

COLORADO CARES

PRESERVING THE ROCKIES'
NATURAL BEAUTY

WWW.TOURCOLORADO.ORG

COLORADO

2022 EDITION

GROUP TOUR PLANNER

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(Photo courtesy of Visit Durango)



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Unforgettable Rocky Mountain Adventures Await in Colorado!

We are proud to present the 2022 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 an exciting new train service, Colorado scenic byways, 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.

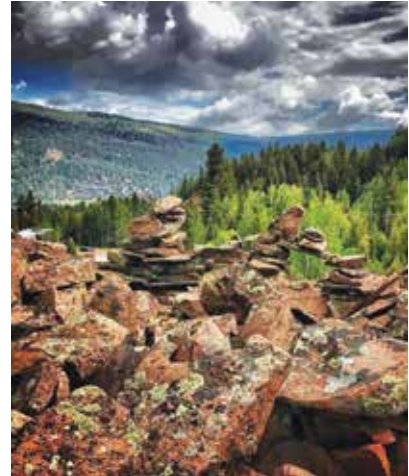
We would like to thank all our members for their continued support. Please take a moment to look at their listings and reach out to them for information and assistance in your itinerary planning. Within those listings you will find attractions, hotels, destinations and service providers. All our members 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



GETTING HERE IS EASY. GETTING AROUND IS EASIER.

COLORADO WELCOME CENTERS

Ten 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
cheryl.glanz@colorado.com

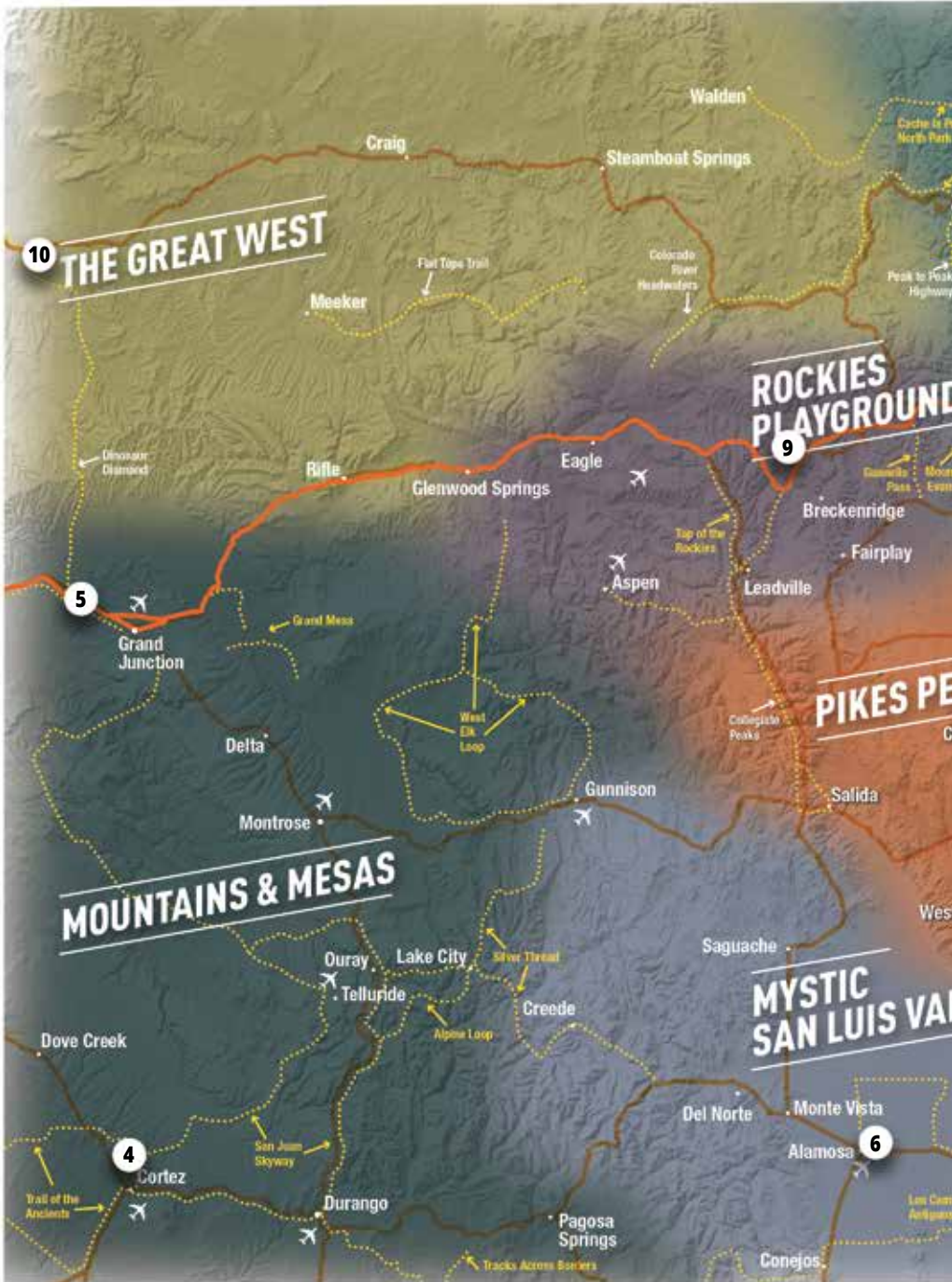
■ MOUNTAINS & MESAS

4. Colorado Welcome Center at Cortez
928 E. Main St.
Cortez, CO 81321
970-565-4048
scrow@cityofcortez.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
savannah.schlaufman@colorado.com



■ PIONEERING PLAINS

7. Colorado Welcome Center at Burlington
48265 I-70
Burlington, CO 80807
719-346-5554
burlington@colorado.com

8. Colorado Welcome Center at Julesburg
20934 County Road 28
Julesburg, CO 80737
970-474-2054
sue.carter@colorado.com

■ ROCKIES PLAYGROUND

9. 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 through Colorado. The **California Zephyr** connects San Francisco and Chicago with regular stops in the newly renovated Denver Union Station, 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 Saturdays, Sundays and select Fridays through March.

TAKE FLIGHT TO COLORADO

Denver International Airport is serviced by 23 airlines that provide direct non-stop service from 188 destinations, including 25 international destinations. Denver has the the third-busiest airport in the United States, eighth-busiest in the world and—with more than 69 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 14 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**. **Cortez Municipal Airport** offers commercial flights from Boutique Air to Denver and Phoenix.

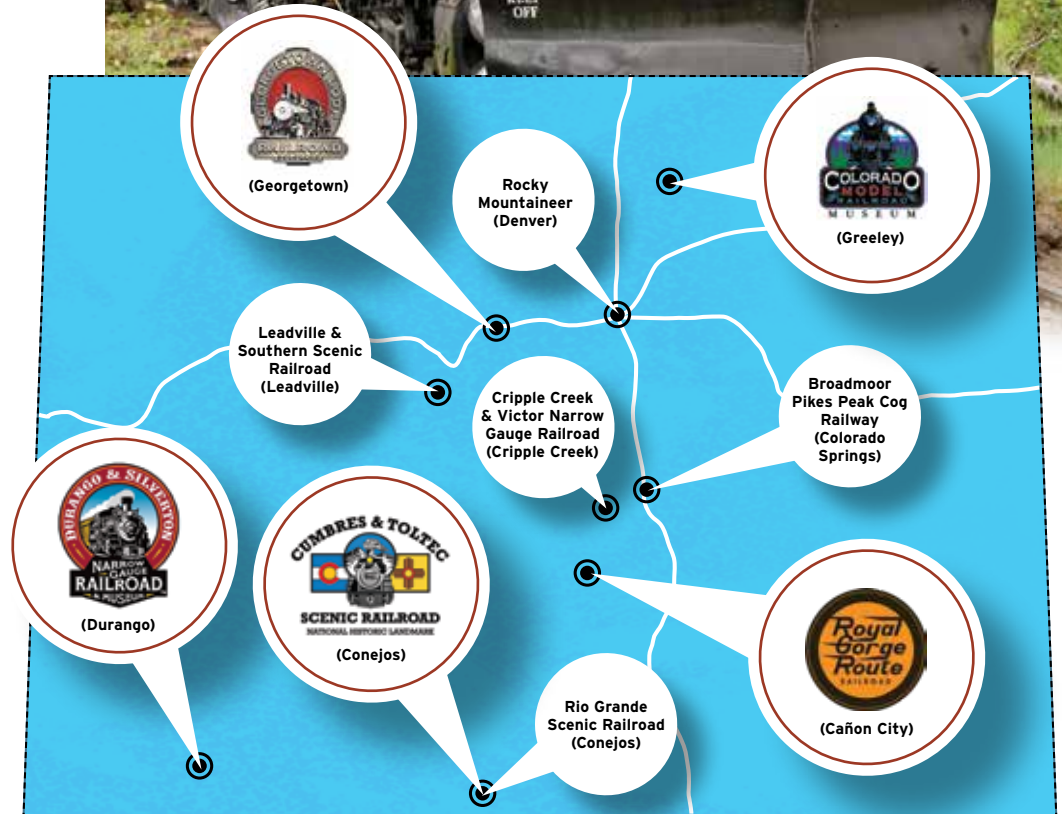
Colorado Travel Fun Facts

- 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 the world is over the Royal Gorge near Cañon City. The Royal Gorge Bridge spans the Arkansas River in Fremont County at a height of **1,053 feet.**
- Denver International Airport is the largest in North America by volume and welcomes over 64 million passengers annually. The ever-expanding 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
- **Rio Grande Scenic Railroad**
610 State Ave., Alamosa, CO 81101
coloradotrain.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
royalgorgeroad.com



Big news in 2021 and beyond

Greeley Stampede Historic 100th Anniversary Scheduled for 2022

The Greeley Stampede's rich tradition began in the 1800s. The annual event, held for 12 days and tied to the July 4th holiday, sees an average of 250,000 visitors. Throughout the year, Greeley Stampede offers numerous community events from concerts to a golf tournament to a rousing kickoff. greeleystampede.org

New Pikes Peak Summit Visitor Center Now Open for Visitors

The new, sustainably built Summit Visitor Center has replaced the old facility atop Pikes Peak: America's Mountain. The new building (accessible via the updated Pikes Peak Cog Railway) features new food and drink options, a gift shop and the world-famous summit donuts that can now be customized with various toppings. coloradosprings.gov

Rocky Mountaineer Launches New Colorado Route in 2021

Rocky Mountaineer will bring its luxury train journeys to Colorado with the Rockies to Red Rocks Route. The journey will make stops in Denver, Glenwood Springs and Moab, Utah and will include fine dining and stunning scenery. The new route will offer attractive group rates and customizable experiences. rockymountaineer.com

Escape to the
extraordinary.

COME TO LIFE

Witness the breathtaking views of our mountains from every angle, bask in the beauty of the great outdoors, and discover works of art sprinkled throughout the city. Start planning next year's adventure, today.

TOURS.COLORADO.COM



COLORADO'S SCENIC & HISTORIC BYWAYS

SCHEDULE AN ADVENTURE ON ONE OF THESE 7 ROUTES



Estes Park Aerial Tramway
Visit Estes Park

Visitors to Colorado will be greeted by a collection of landscapes that rival anywhere else in the nation for diversity and beauty. Groups can experience the majestic Front Range Mountains, high desert plateaus of Grand Valley and the rolling plains in the state's eastern half along Colorado's Scenic & Historic Byways. These 26 routes cover every corner of the state and are excellent ways to structure your Colorado group itinerary. Below are seven routes that showcase Colorado's urban playgrounds, beautiful national parks and rich history.

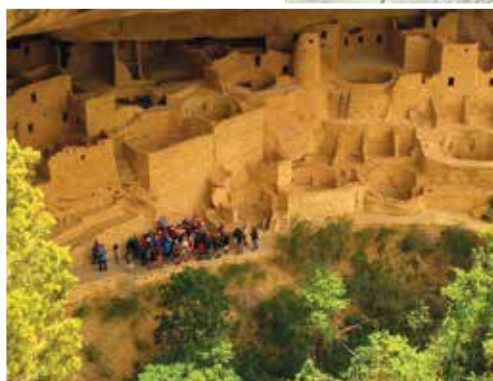
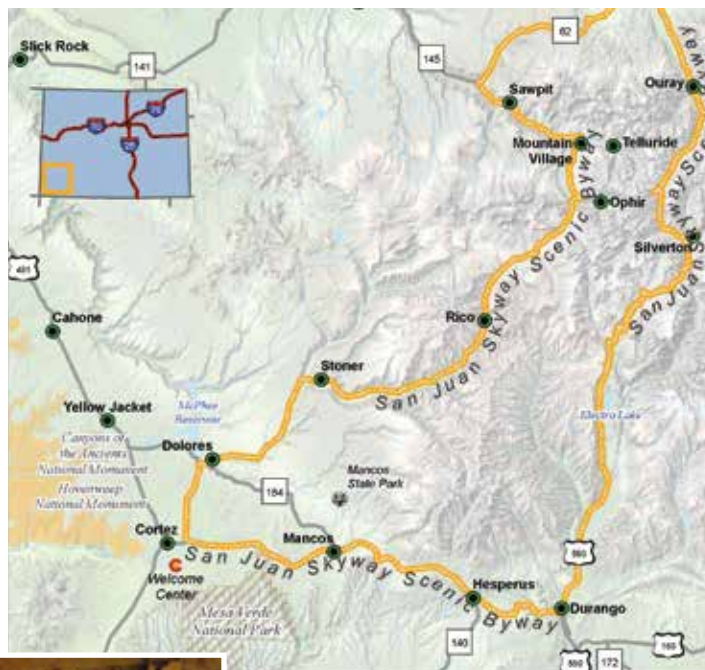
SAN JUAN SKYWAY

Passing through the gorgeous San Juan Mountains, this loop in Colorado's southwestern corner includes stops in beautifully preserved heritage sites, historic mining towns and soothing hot springs. Begin your adventure in Durango, which developed in the 1880s as a railroad hub and welcomes visitors with blocks of Victorian, Greek and Spanish Colonial Revival architecture. Walk through the Main Avenue Historic District to pass by the Strater Hotel (an opulent building that catered to railroad barons) and Rio Grande Railroad Depot before boarding the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad.

Established in 1882 to transport gold and silver through the mountains, this route passes through cascading creeks and virgin pine forests on a steam-powered train. Groups will follow the course of the Animas River while relaxing in open-air coaches before disembarking in the historic city of Silverton. This former silver mining camp offers alpine views and the opportunity to explore sites like Old Hundred Mine (where you can follow a vein thousands of feet into the mountainside) and Mayflower Mill (where you can learn how prospectors extracted precious metals from ore).

Located just south of the San Juan Skyway is Mesa Verde National Park, a collection of over 600 preserved cliff dwellings that housed the Ancestral Pueblo people in the 1200s. The park's most spectacular site is the Cliff Palace, an immense structure that consists of 150 rooms and 23 kivas (spiritual spaces used for religious ceremonies). A variety of ranger-led tours can also guide groups through the Long House, Balcony House and Wetherill Mesa. Continue to the nearby city of Cortez to learn more about the area's Native American history at the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center and browse the galleries of the Mancos Creative District.

The canyon-clinging stretch of the byway between Silverton and your next stop, Ouray, is called the Million Dollar Highway either because it cost so much to build or the amount of gold ore that



Mesa Verde National Park
Visit the USA

remained in the roadway's fill. Promoted as the Switzerland of America, this tiny alpine town boasts gorgeous snow-capped scenery and numerous outdoor pursuits. Plan a dip at the healing Ouray Hot Springs Pool, which began operating in 1927. Be sure to explore the town's mining-era buildings preserved within its own National Historic District.

Conclude your visit in the city of Telluride. Shaded by the San Juan Mountains and lined with Victorian architecture, this former gold mining town attracts skiers in the winter and movie stars during its acclaimed fall film festival. However, its secluded location has preserved its hidden gem status for groups seeking outdoor recreation during the summer. Low-impact hiking routes include the Cornet Creek Falls Trail, Bridal Veil Falls Trail (to see the tallest free-falling waterfall in Colorado) and the San Miguel River Trail. Looking for hip art galleries and boutiques? Downtown Telluride and the Mountain Village base area are connected by a free gondola, and the monthly art walk encourages visitors to sip a glass of wine while admiring the work of local painters.

LARIAT LOOP

Circling through the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, this route passes through spectacular rock formations and landmarks of Old West history, and it makes for a great day trip for groups using Denver as their hub-and-spoke. Begin in the city of Golden, which began as a Pikes Peak Gold Rush town in 1859 before becoming a thriving university community located in the shadow of Lookout Mountain. Learn about

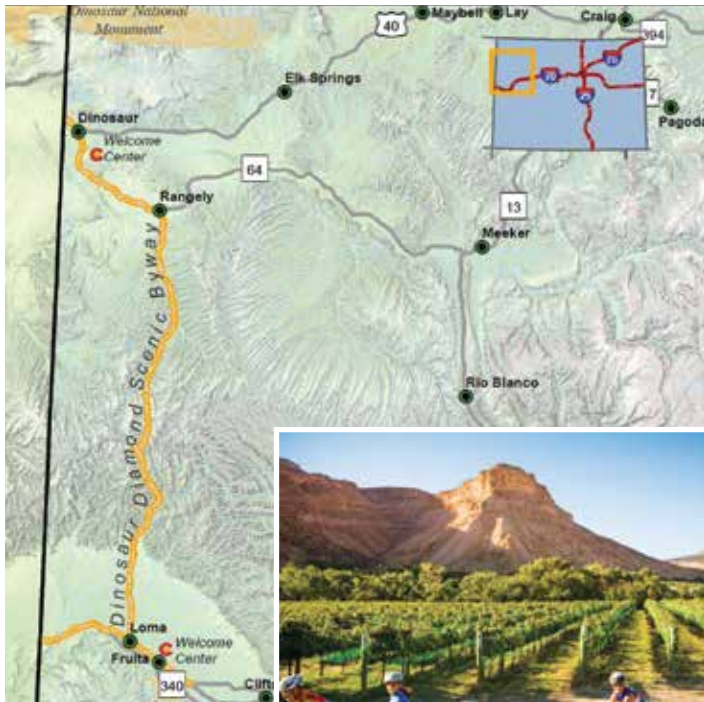
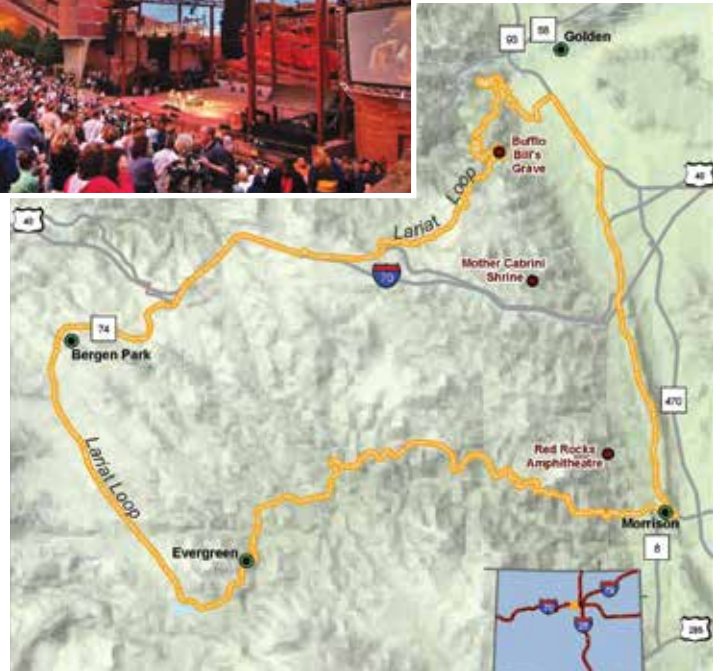
COLORADO'S SCENIC & HISTORIC BYWAYS

the Front Range's gold rush legacy at the Mines Museum of Earth Science, tour the Arts & Crafts-style Boettcher Mansion and enjoy the bistros and bars that line historic Washington Avenue. Golden is most famous as the headquarters of Coors Brewing Company, and your group can register to tour the world's largest single brewing facility in the world.

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. Continue into the mountains and the town of Evergreen, whose hillsides are populated with bighorn sheep during the winter months as they descend to lower elevations for food. Embark on a 1.4-mile hike around Evergreen Lake before touring Hiwan Heritage Park (a former summer camp and home to one of the state's first female doctors) and Dinosaur Ridge (where you can view preserved Stegosaurus bones and Iguanodon tracks in an outdoor museum). Conclude your loop at Red Rocks Park & Amphitheatre, an immense outdoor performance venue carved into the sandstone walls of the Fountain Formation. Take part in a morning yoga session, hike uphill for views of downtown Denver and tour the Colorado Music Hall of Fame.



Red Rocks
Colorado Tourism



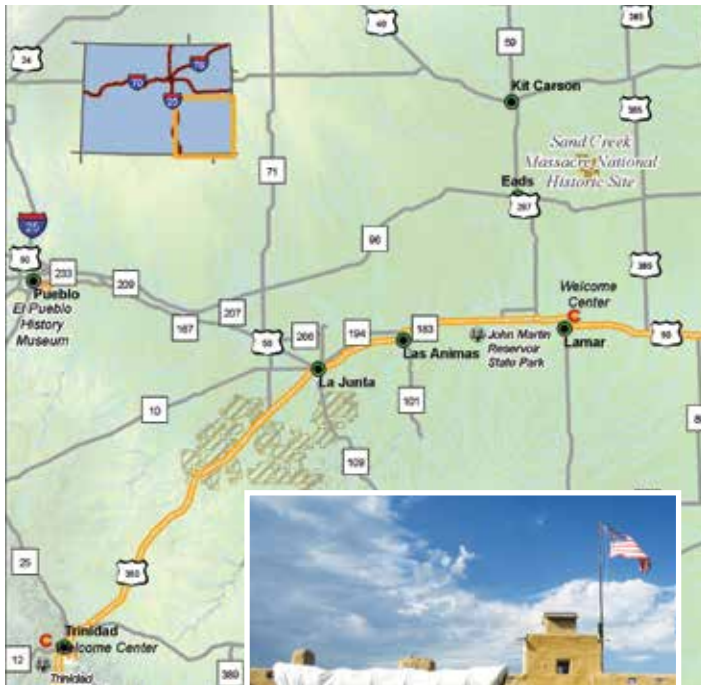
DINOSAUR DIAMOND

Over 150 million years ago, the arid region along Colorado's western edge was a lush jungle populated by massive ferns and towering dinosaurs. Begin in Dinosaur National Monument, a 210,000-acre landscape where you can drive through ancient waterbeds, hike through dramatic river canyons and view the massive fossil display at the Quarry Visitor Center (located on the Utah side of the park). The center houses an immense slab of exposed rock that contains over 1,500 bones of species such as the Stegosaurus and Allosaurus. Enjoy the local eateries and kitschy sculptures in the town of Dinosaur before heading south to the Canyon Pintado National Historic District. Occupied by the prehistoric Fremont Indians 11,000 years ago, this canyon is filled with mysterious petroglyphs often defined with depictions of Kokopelli: the hunched flute player.

Travel through Douglas Pass to arrive in Grand Valley. Nourished by the convergence of the Gunnison and Colorado Rivers, this area is famous for its bountiful orchards and vineyards. Sample creations from nearly two dozen wineries after an invigorating hike through the colorful canyons of Colorado National Monument, and enjoy outdoor dining and the over 100 pieces of public art in downtown Grand Junction. The nearby city of Fruita offers desert sidetracks for mountain bike enthusiasts, an official Colorado Welcome Center and more rare fossils at the Dinosaur Journey Museum.



Grand Valley Wine Country
Colorado Tourism



Bent's Old Fort
Colorado Tourism

SANTA FE TRAIL

Thousands of covered wagons traversed the Santa Fe Trail from Missouri to New Mexico during the route's heyday in the 1800s. Begin at the Colorado Welcome Center in Lamar. Before you leave town, admire the art deco designs of the Lamar Theatre and expansive World War I poster collection at the Big Timbers Museum. Learn about sobering moments of American history in the nearby town of Amache and the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site. U.S. volunteer soldiers attacked a village of Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians in 1864 and ultimately killed 230 people. These innocent victims are honored by a memorial that overlooks Big Sandy Creek, and a park ranger can lead groups on Monument Hill Trail to provide historical context.

Pass through the city of Las Animas to John Martin Reservoir Park, the second-largest body of water in Colorado. Here your group can enjoy a picnic and spot rare species like the piping plover and interior least tern along the lakeshore. Continue to Bent's Old Fort and Battle Site, a reconstruction of a once-thriving trading post that connected fur trappers, local Indian tribes and westward pioneers. Register for an interpretive tour to interact with costumed craftspeople and walk the ramparts of this adobe structure. Drive through Comanche National Grassland and spot beautiful songbirds before ending your route in Trinidad, a small city with a quaint Victorian downtown.

CACHE LA POUDE-NORTH PARK

Meaning "hide the powder" in French, the Cache la Poudre was bestowed its name by French trappers in the 1820s who were caught in a snowstorm and forced to bury their gunpowder along its banks. Today the river is the essential natural feature of Fort Collins, a thriving university town, craft beer hub and starting point of this scenic byway. Founded as a military outpost and later a thriving agricultural center, downtown Fort Collins retains much of its original Western facades and is home to hundreds of charming storefronts and group-friendly restaurants. Groups can register for a tour of New Belgium Brewing, learn about the city's Prohibition history and walk the Poudre Trail along the river.

Follow the Poudre upstream through the vast woodlands of Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests to Cameron Pass, where you can witness the river's strongest rapids. Descend to North Park and the city of Gould, which has been dubbed Colorado's Moose Capital. You can learn more about these extraordinary animals at the State Forest State Park's Moose Visitor Center.



Cache la Poudre River
Visit Fort Collins



COLORADO'S SCENIC & HISTORIC BYWAYS



Rocky Mountain National Park
Colorado Tourism

TRAIL RIDGE ROAD

Bisected by the Continental Divide, Rocky Mountain National Park is a awe-inspiring landscape of craggy peaks, serene alpine lakes and dense spruce forests. Trail Ridge Road, used by Ute Indians for centuries before it was widened for vehicles in 1926, is the highest paved through-road in the United States and offers jaw-dropping views. Be sure to stop at the Alpine Visitor Center, the highest elevation building in the National Park System.

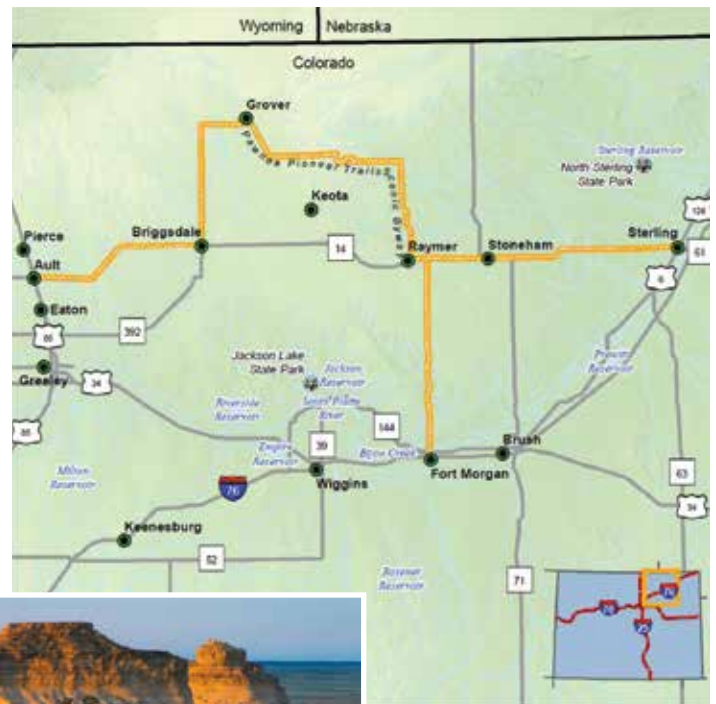
Before you embark on the trail, spend time in the charming mountain community of Estes Park. Popular attractions include the Estes Park Aerial Tramway (an enclosed gondola that whisks guests to an elevation of 9,000 feet at Prospect Mountain), the Stanley Hotel (a haunted lodge that inspired the Overlook Hotel in Stephen King's *The Shining*) and the Riverwalk (where the Thompson River and Fall River wind through the city).

Next, admire the glacier-carved valleys and crystalline lakes of Rocky Mountain National Park along Trail Ridge Road. Groups can stop at the Holzwarth Historic Site (a preserved 1920s homestead), Lulu City (an abandoned mining town) and animal observation areas where your group can spot herds of elk, bighorn sheep and moose. Exit the park and conclude your route in the town of Grand Lake, a quaint village named for Colorado's highest natural lake. Visitors can walk the historic boardwalk to enjoy an old-fashioned ice cream sundae, enjoy Broadway-caliber productions at the Rocky Mountain Repertory Theater and embark on a short hike around the lake itself.

PAWNEE PIONEER TRAILS

Groups looking for an alternative to mountain routes should consider the High Plains of Colorado's northeastern corner. Named for an offshoot of the Oregon Trail that followed the South Platte River and passed through the town of Sterling, the Overland Trail Museum commemorates westward expansion and the early pioneers of eastern Colorado. The museum campus includes a schoolhouse, church, general store and barn that all predate 1915, and local historians can demonstrate how 19th century smiths and farm machinery worked. The route then dips south to the town of Fort Morgan, a former military outpost where your group can learn about the Gold Rush prospectors who traveled along the Overland Trail at the Fort Morgan Museum and see elegant Victorian homes in the Sherman Street National Historic District.

Continue west to experience the amazing biodiversity of the Pawnee National Grassland, where you can spot mountain plovers, skylarks and burrowing owls along several trails. This area may appear dry, but there are fields of delicate wildflowers in bloom every spring. The Pawnee Buttes, two fortress-like sandstone mesas that date back 40 million years, can be seen up-close from a 1.5-mile trail off the main road. Note that some of these vehicle trails are unpaved. ●



Pawnee Buttes
Colorado Tourism

EXPERIENCE THE AUTHENTIC WEST!



**Ride the Historic
Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad
Memorial Day Weekend thru Mid-Oct
Departs Antonito, CO & Chama, NM
877-890-2737
groups@cumbrestoltec.com**

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VISIT **DURANGO**
COLORADO

SPLENDID SCENERY, ATTENTIVE SERVICE ON THE NEW ROCKY MOUNTAINEER TRAIN JOURNEY

“ROCKIES TO THE RED ROCKS” IS A TWO-DAY TRIP FROM DENVER,
TO MOAB, UTAH, OVERNIGHTING IN GLENWOOD SPRINGS.



Rocky Mountaineer

Impeccable
SilverLeaf Service with
an engaging host.

The Rocky Mountaineer's new "Rockies to the Red Rocks" route is a multi-day, daytime train journey that features incredible scenery, regional cuisine and the outstanding service that have long been the staple of the company's three rail routes in Western Canada.

"Rocky Mountaineer will bring a new, luxury train tour to explore the historic rail route between Denver and Moab. Over the past 30 years, Rocky Mountaineer has become renowned for our world-class train travel experiences, and now we are opening our newest train experience in the region where train travel history began," said Peter Armstrong, founder of Rocky Mountaineer. "This region—with its magnificent scenery, national parks, vast opportunities to explore—will be a delight."

The new service will launch its preview season with 40 departures across 10 weeks from August 15 to October 23, 2021. The Rocky Mountaineer experience will showcase the epic scenery of the southwestern United States. "Rockies to the Red Rocks" will have all the company's Western Canada trademarks and more. The 2022 season will run from April to November.

The approximate schedule for the "Rockies to the Red Rocks" route follows:

WESTBOUND

Day 1 - Depart 9:00 a.m. from Denver, Arrive 5:00 p.m. in Glenwood Springs

Day 2 - Depart Glenwood Springs 7:00 a.m., Arrive Moab 12:00 p.m.

EASTBOUND

Day 1 - Depart Moab 2:00 p.m., Arrive Glenwood Springs 7:00 p.m.

Day 2 - Depart Glenwood Springs 9:00 a.m., Arrive Denver, 5:00 p.m.

From Denver to Glenwood Springs, the route parallels the Colorado River through a series of canyons with steep, rugged rock walls. In Glenwood Springs you'll discover an exceptional dining scene with a local flavor and plenty of fun things to do. Between Glenwood Springs and Moab,



Rocky Mountaineer

the journey offers a variety of scenery from mountain vistas to desert cliffs to rock formations.

This is not your daily commuter train zipping along from station to station. Traveling only during daytime, the Mountaineer travels just around 30 miles-per-hour giving guests every opportunity to marvel at the scenery. The pace and oversized custom windows give the photographer great opportunities.

In addition to the majestic scenery on the "Rockies to the Red Rocks" journey, impeccable SilverLeaf service enhances the experience. Oversized glass-dome windows are perfect for taking in the spectacular views. The multi-course breakfast and lunch menus feature premium cuisine, and both meals are served at your seat. The meals feature the flavors and ingredients from this area of the Southwest. Gourmet sweets and savory snacks are included.

Two hosts and a culinary team member will attend you. Engaging hosts are storytellers ready to share the history, flora, fauna and wildlife along the way. There is complimentary baggage delivery to your overnight hotel accommodation in Glenwood Springs.

"Rockies to the Red Rocks Classic" package (Denver, Glenwood Springs; Moab) is a 4-day/3-night trip with 2 days Rocky Mountaineer SilverLeaf Service. The trip includes two breakfasts and a lunch. From Moab, one breakfast, one lunch

and one dinner are part of the package. Three nights' accommodations in Denver, Glenwood Springs and Moab are included as are luggage handling and rail station transfers.

A variety of additional packages are available, beginning with the basic "2-day Rail, Moab-Denver," which features SilverLeaf Service, breakfast, lunch and dinner both days, hotel accommodations in Glenwood Springs and luggage handling and rail station transfers in Moab. This package also can depart from Denver with changes to the dining portion of the package. Return trips can also be packaged.

Extend your Colorado experience and visit Denver to explore the city's thriving cultural scene, magnificent attractions and must-try restaurants. There are plenty of options to fill your days and nights. Get started at denver.org

Add a day or two in Glenwood Springs, and regardless of your group's interest you'll find plenty of options to experience, including the relaxing mineral hot springs and a vibrant downtown. Look for more details at visitglenwood.com.

Group travel is important to Rocky Mountaineer and their commitment to their newest journey, "Rockies to Red Rocks," is certainly no exception. You can reach out to your travel professional, or look to Tour Colorado for details on building full itinerary at 1-888-401-4330, tourcolorado@gmail.com and tourcolorado.org. ●

CARE FOR COLORADO LEAVE NO TRACE

THIS MESSAGE FOR COLORADO TRAVELERS WAS DEVELOPED IN A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE COLORADO TOURISM OFFICE AND LEAVE NO TRACE CENTER FOR OUTDOOR ETHICS.

Courtesy of U.S. Forest Service



The Care for Colorado principles empower travelers to protect the very qualities that attracted them to visit Colorado in the first place.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Colorado and federal agencies manage 42% of Colorado's majestic landscape. Cities and counties maintain even more. Learn about and respect the spaces we all share.

Stay back from the pack. Find your way to less-visited and off-peak destinations to minimize downtime and maximize your connection with special places. There are plenty of options available for groups.

Bring along reusable water bottles or hot drink tumblers to limit waste and stay hydrated in Colorado's dry climate. Check the conditions where your group is planning to visit. In Colorado, even late spring can bring snowstorms, so be aware of the latest news for weather and snow as well as for road and trail closures.

Ski groups, before you head out on

your spring-skiing adventures, take the Colorado Backcountry Winter Safety Awareness Pledge (colorado.com/BackcountryPledge) and commit to protecting yourself and others while exploring.

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.

Melting snow leaves trails and vegetation more open to damage. Be sure to stick to trails and walk in the middle of the trail – even if it's wet, muddy, slushy or icy – to avoid erosion and damage to trailside plants. Make sure to wear sturdy footwear – like insulated, waterproof hiking boots – so you can always stick to the trail, particularly in spring and early

summer when trails are more likely to be wet and muddy from melting snow.

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 Colorado's 750 different species of wildflowers will live forever in a photo. Snap away, but only with a camera. Treat all living things with respect. Carving or hacking plants and trees may kill or disfigure them.

Colorado is beautiful all on its own. Building structures or campsites on public land isn't cool. Keep it pristine for everyone to enjoy. Dismantle any snow structures you build before you leave.

When taking a skiing or snowshoeing hut trip, leave your hut better than you found it. Be considerate of other users and follow the instructions. Don't leave food or trash behind, as it may attract mice or other unwanted creatures.

TRASH THE TRASH

Pack it in, pack it out. Or pick it up to leave a place better than you found it.



Browns Canyon National Monument in the upper Arkansas River Valley

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. If you have to poo, walk at least 70 steps from trails, water and people. Dig a cat hole six inches deep, do your thing in the hole, cover it and pack out your TP. Or, use a wag bag (a disposable bag found in most outdoor stores) so you can pack out your waste.

BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE

Colorado's low humidity has perks, but it 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.

Always check for local fire restrictions. Regardless of the season, avoid making

fires in areas where there is little or no dead and down wood, where fires may scar the landscape, or in parking lots and at trailheads.

KEEP WILDLIFE WILD

Spring can be a particularly sensitive time for wildlife since many species are nesting, having their young or coming out of hibernation. Be sure to travel quietly and give all wildlife extra space during this time.

Colorado is home to tens of thousands of furry, scaly and feathered creatures. To keep them – and you – safe, don't approach them. Do not feed wildlife no matter how hungry you think they might look.

Keep your furry buddies leashed when enjoying dog-friendly trails, and pack out their waste all the way to a trashcan.

All wildlife, from squirrels to moose, has to work a lot harder to survive in winter. Observe all wildlife from a distance, and do not follow or pursue them. Fleeing forces them to burn energy they need to survive the colder months.

SHARE COLORADO'S 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. Keep noise to a minimum when near others on the trail and let nature's sounds prevail.

This information is provided by Colorado Tourism Office and Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics and can be found online at colorado.com/articles/leave-no-trace-care-colorado. Brochures that are great for groups prior to their departure for Colorado, or serve as an on-coach narrative, are also available at the link shown above. - *Colorado Packing List, Act Like a Local and Are You Colorado Ready?* ●

ITINERARY

History & Culture, Memorable Vistas, Outdoor Adventure & More

Trains, trams, gondolas, jeeps and kayaks are all great ways to enjoy the scenic wonders of the Centennial State's most beautiful sites. Combine some early Colorado history and a little outdoor adventure regardless of your agility, and you have one perfect itinerary.

5 UNIQUE EXPERIENCES

- Historic Arkansas Riverwalk
- Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad
- Great Sand Dunes National Park
- Monarch Crest Scenic Tramway
- Royal Gorge Bridge & Park

DURATION: 4 Days

AVAILABLE: Spring/Summer/Fall

THIS ITINERARY IS IDEAL FOR:
Adults 18+ & Extended Families



Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve

Photo Courtesy of National Park Service

Day 1

Arrive in Pueblo and visit the **El Pueblo History Museum** for a self-guided tour. Through innovative exhibits, including "The Borderlands of Southern Colorado" and the award-winning "Children of Ludlow," the region's cultural and ethnic groups are showcased. Enjoy lunch along Pueblo's **Historic Arkansas Riverwalk**. Depart for a 90-minute drive south to Fort Garland.

Arrive at the **Fort Garland Museum & Cultural Center**. Explore life in a military fort built in 1858. Five original adobe buildings still exist and tell the history of the fort. From the Buffalo Soldiers of the 9th Cavalry to Colorado's role in the Civil War in the West, you'll discover a rich military history. Depart for a 30-minute drive to Alamosa.

Located in the unique geography of the San Luis Valley, Alamosa restaurants feature locally grown food. Enjoy dinner before checking into your group-friendly accommodations.

Day 2

Depart for Antonito onboard **Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad**. Deemed the "Best Scenic Railroad" by *USA Today* in 2019, the railroad runs for 64 miles from Antonito, Colorado to Chama, New Mexico.

The highlights are nothing short of dramatic. The ride includes the Cumbres Pass, the highest mountain pass reached by rail in the United States. Traveling through the Toltec Gorge, the train appears pressed in by the steep, rocky sides. The train stops for lunch at the scenic Osler train station before proceeding across the 137-foot-tall Cascade Creek Trestle. Traveling with you are friends of the railroad that act as docents who share and describe what you see along the journey.

Return to Alamosa for dinner and a good night's sleep.

Day 3

Breakfast and checkout at your hotel before departing for the **Great Sand Dunes Visitors Center**. There you'll see a short film on the history of the dunes along with exhibits showing the formation of the tallest sand dunes in North America. The diverse system of the park ranges from the 30 square miles of sand dunes to forests. The dunes and surrounding mountains are a great place to enjoy unspoiled natural beauty.

After the visitors center, check out the dunes from the Dunes Parking Area and Medano Creek. Sand sledding down the dunes is popular. Several retail outlets provide sand-sled and sandboard rentals. A hike to Mosca Pass pays off with great views, while the adventurous hikers will take on the Star Dune—the tallest in North America. Lots of water is highly recommended.

Head to Villa Grove and a stop at **Villa Grove Trade**. It's a restaurant and perfect for lunch today, along with being a convenience store and grocery store. Depart Villa Grove and it's a scenic 30-minute drive to Salida.



Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad/Alamosa CVB

Enjoy a scenic train journey.

Board your gondola for the **Monarch Crest Scenic Tramway**. The tramway and gift shop are located on the top of Monarch Pass. At 11,312 feet you'll be on the Continental Divide at the southern end of the Sawatch Mountain Range. As you ascend to more than 12,000 feet in elevation, you'll see marvelous panoramic views. The gift shop opened in 1954 as a Greyhound bus stop and now attracts visitors from all around the world.

It's back to Salida in the heart of the Rockies. Check into your accommodations and enjoy the culinary delights of Salida's culinary scene. There are world-class chefs doing everything from sushi to locally harvested specialties.

This evening, it's a visit to the **Salida Creative District**, one of only two "Certified Creative Districts" in Colorado. The city's growth as an art and culture center took many years, but the project has blossomed. Within the downtown Salida Creative District there are more than 230 locally owned businesses.

Day 4

Enjoy an early breakfast and check out from your hotel. You enjoyed the Arkansas River from El Pueblo's Historic Riverwalk, and now we're headed to **Bill Dvorak Rafting, Kayak & Fishing Expeditions** and a half-day rafting on the Arkansas River. Colorado's first licensed outfitter specializes in watersport rentals. For the less experienced, join a guided trip down the river on Class II to V levels. If your water interest is more in-line with fishing, try the half-day "Beginner Fly Fishing Clinic" or a "Float Fishing Trip on the Arkansas River." Regardless of your agility level, there's a fun experience waiting for you.

Depart for Canon City; it's about a 90-minute drive. Upon arrival, check into one of the area's lodging options. After dinner, enjoy a leisurely evening stroll.

Breakfast at your hotel then depart for **Colorado Jeep Tours**. A scenic half-day adventure is in store. It's a fun way to learn more about Colorado's regional history and geology. The ride is in a customized, open-air jeep.

After lunch, it's the panoramic views from **Royal Gorge Bridge & Park**. One of the world's highest suspension bridges is a Colorado landmark. Depending on your level of adventure, you can crisscross Royal Gorge in an Aerial Gondola 1,200 feet in the air. It's a great view of the gorge, Arkansas River, bridge and park. For the adventuresome try the Cloudscraper Zip Line, the Royal Rush Skycoaster or join your guide for a ferrata.

Enjoy a lovely meal to go along with your Colorado memories. Return to your hotel for a good night's sleep before breakfast, checkout and departure the next morning.

A scenic landscape of Colorado mountains, a forested valley, and a blue lake. The background features rugged, snow-dusted mountain peaks under a blue sky with white clouds. The middle ground shows a lush green valley with dense evergreen forests and a few small wooden buildings. The foreground is dominated by a large, calm blue lake.

MEMBER LISTINGS

Tour Colorado members are ready to serve you! Working to draw domestic tour groups and packaged travel to the Centennial State, these attractions, destinations, hotels and service providers are ready to accommodate visitors and make their Colorado experience unforgettable.



Colorado Tourism



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.cmrmm.org

michelle@cmrmm.org • 970-392-2934

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



Cumbres & Toltec Railroad

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

www.cumbrestoltec.com

groups@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

Ranked in the top 10 scenic railroads in the world. 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 steam-powered locomotive. May through October, four different seating classes, open-air as well as enclosed cars. Visit the free Roundhouse Museum or book a Railyard Tour for a behind-the-scenes experience.



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.



Colorado Tourism



Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park

51000 Two Rivers Plaza Rd., Glenwood Springs, CO 81601
Christine Goodale

www.glenwoodcaverns.com

cgoodale@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.



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

Mary Lynn Hegdahl

royalgorgeroute.com

marylynnh@royalgorgeroute.com • 719-276-4000

Experience America's most spectacular rolling restaurant aboard the Royal Gorge Route Railroad. Come experience not just a memorable train ride through the Colorado Rockies, but enjoy classes of service where we combine gorgeous scenery and great service with delicious food that is sourced locally and prepared fresh right on board the train for breakfast, lunch and dinner.



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



Boulder Convention and Visitors Bureau

2440 Pearl St., Boulder, CO 80302

Angela "Fig" Wirkler, CMP

www.bouldercoloradousa.com

fig.wirkler@bouldercvb.com • 303-442-2911

Boulder offers a variety of experiences for every type of travel. Catch a glimpse of some of Boulder's wildlife while strolling through our 300 miles of trails and 45,000 acres of open space, people-watch at an outdoor café or restaurant on Pearl Street or check out a top attraction like Celestial Seasonings Tea Factory.



Royal Gorge Region

424 Main St., Cañon City, CO 81212

Royal Gorge Region – Cañon City Chamber of Commerce

www.royalgorgeregion.com

contact@royalgorgeregion.com • 1-800-704-6743

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



Explore Sterling

102 N. Riverview Rd., Sterling, CO 80751

Marilee Johnson

www.exploresterling.com

johnsonm@logancountyco.gov • 970-522-0888, ext. 253

Experience our rich past and innovative attractions in the heart of northeast Colorado. Explore our sculptures, museums, rodeos, eateries, state park, concerts, festivals and brewery.



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

Group Sales

www.visitcos.com

groups@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
Percy Stevens

www.durango.org

percy@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 four-season destination.



Visit Estes Park

P.O. 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, and the valley offers unique boutique shopping and year-round outdoor recreation.



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.

STRATER HOTEL
Durango's Historic Landmark Hotel

GOOD TIMES SINCE 1887
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Connect with Durango's unique history in this living museum, where The Strater's restaurants, bars & saloon, and lobby & rooms tell the stories of the past - an authentic western experience.

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Visit Longmont

512 4th Ave., #103, Longmont, CO 80501
 Gera Sivak-Salva

www.visitlongmont.org

gera@visitlongmont.org • 303-776-9011

Just 36 miles from Denver, Longmont features an arts and entertainment district infused with unique shops, world-class dining and beer. Crazy good brews, crazy good views and crazy good energy.



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 year-round outdoor activities, celebrated and varied dining options, one of only 12 state-designated creative arts districts and exceptional business opportunities.



Chipeta Solar Springs Resort & Spa

304 S. Lena St., Ridgway, CO 81432
 Patsy Young

www.chipeta.com

patsy@chipeta.com • 970-626-3737

Located in the heart of the Southern Colorado's San Juan Mountains, Chipeta Solar Springs Resort & Spa provides the perfect Rocky Mountain getaway destination that is central to countless seasonal outdoor activities, music festivals, skiing, relaxing romantic getaways and more.



Clarion Inn Grand Junction

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

www.clarioninngrandjunction.com

tshelton@clarionj.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.



DoubleTree by Hilton Greeley at Lincoln Park

919 7th St., Greeley, CO 80634
 Melissa Lawley

www.hilton.com/en/hotels/dengcdt-doubletree-greeley-at-lincoln-park

mlawley@greeleydoubletree.com • 970-350-5407

Our hotel is one block from the Union Colony Civic Center in downtown Greeley. Local attractions like the Moxi Theater and Doug's Diner are within walking distance, and we're two miles from the University of Northern Colorado. Relax in our indoor pool and outdoor hot tub. Every stay starts with a warm chocolate chip cookie.



Durango Hampton Inn

3777 Main Ave., Durango, CO 81301
 Chris Vivolo

www.durangoco.hamptoninn.com

vivolo@frontier.net • 970-247-2600

Working closely with groups of all shapes and sizes, we can help customize your itinerary and offer exceptional service and group pricing. Making You Happy Makes Us Happy!



Fairfield Inn & Springhill Suites Denver International Airport

6851 Tower Rd., Denver, CO 80249

Kimberly Johnson

www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/denda-springhill-suites-denver-airport

kimberly.johnson@crestlinehotels.com • 303-371-9400

Designed with your needs in mind, Fairfield by Marriott Denver Airport provides easy access to the nearby international travel hub and local attractions such as Aurora Sports Park and Coors Field. You'll find comfort in our hotel's modern amenities, including free on-site parking, business center and Wi-Fi.



Far View Lodge-Mesa Verde

National Park P.O. 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 and is located 15 miles from the park entrance. The traditional Western decor of the lobby and dining room, fantastic views, warm hospitality and superb dining welcome you for an unforgettable vacation. The lodge comprises of 150 rooms in 2 room types, Kiva and Kiva Deluxe View.



Grand Vista Hotel

2790 Crossroads Blvd., Grand Junction, CO 81505

Phyllis Veale

www.grandvistahotel.com

phyllis@grandvistahotel.com • 970-254-7142

Surrounded by western Colorado's beauty, 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.



Tour Colorado



Radisson Hotel Colorado Springs Airport

1645 Newport Rd., Colorado Springs, CO 80916

Michele DeVoll

www.radissonhotelsamericas.com/en-us/hotels/radisson-colorado-springs-airport

michele.devoll@radissonamericas.com • 719-597-7000

Less than 10 miles east of downtown, Radisson Hotel Colorado Adventure awaits you at our Colorado Springs hotel. Located less than 10 miles east of downtown, 20 minutes to area attractions and four miles to the Colorado Springs Airport. Enjoy beautiful views of the Front Range from our dining room and lounge. Relax in our large indoor heated swimming pool, outdoor hot tub and gym.



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.



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. Our restaurants and bars — all connected to the Strater Hotel—offer an unforgettable and unique dining and social experience. Join us in the Mahogany Grille, the Office Spiritorium and the Diamond Belle Saloon.



Ute Mountain Casino Hotel

3 Weeminuche Drive, Towaoc, CO 81334

www.utemountaincasino.com

970-565-8800

Just 20 minutes from the entrance to Mesa Verde National Park, the Ute Mountain Casino Hotel offers Southwestern hospitality, friendly faces, great food and lots of gaming excitement. The hotel has 90 renovated rooms, including suites with an indoor swimming pool, Jacuzzi and a state-of-the-art workout facility to enjoy.



Adventures Out West

1680 S. 21st St., Colorado Springs, CO 80904

advoutwest.com

info@advoutwest.com • 719-578-0935

Well on its way to 50 years in the adventure-making business in Colorado Springs, Adventures Out West and its trusty crew of fun-loving guides specializes in bringing you the quintessential Rocky Mountain experience on wheels, on foot, on line and via basket. We charter hot air balloon excursions, ziplining adventures, Segway tours and more.



FunME Events Excursions & Entertainment

650 Peace Rd., Ste. F, DeKalb, IL 60115

Michael Th. Embrey

www.funmeevents.com

m.embrey@funmeevents.com • 815-756-1263

FunME Events and Music Festivals To You provide adult and student groups with entertainment experiences in Colorado. Student performance packages and adult customized tours available.



GOGO Charters

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. With easy access to over 1,000 buses, our transportation services exist in over 30 cities nationwide. Our 24/7 reservation specialists are available to take your call, whether it's for existing trip confirmations or last-minute emergencies.



Leisure West Tours & Cruises

1266 Strong St., Brighton, CO 80601

Lee Dahl

www.leisurewesttours.com

lwt@leisurewesttours.com • 303-659-4858

Have a group? Want to plan a tour of Colorado or the Southwest? We can provide a complete tour package customized to your group needs.



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

Sherry Moon

www.rockymountaintourguides.com

rmgapresident@rockymountaintourguides.com • 720-425-5931

Professional, independent members providing tour and travel services throughout Colorado, including tour directors/guides, step-on-guides, 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.



Tour Colorado



Jason Murray, Southwest
Adventure Tours Owner/CEO

Established in 2013, Southwest Adventure Tours has flourished into a premier tour operator for small groups seeking natural beauty in the American West. What began as the singular passion of founder Jason Murray has grown to include an expanded operations team and a network of over 60 guides that lead groups through America's national parks.

What is a sampling of your tour itineraries, and what has proven popular with groups?

Our main niche is small group travel, which is typically 15 passengers or less. Our most popular tours are our Mighty

Five Tours, which travel from Salt Lake City to Las Vegas and include stops in Utah's five national parks. We also have a National Parks of Colorado tour that started a few years ago and has continued to grow in popularity, and it includes stops at Great Sand Dunes, Mesa Verde and Rocky Mountain National Park. We also offer a Trail of the Ancients trip that incorporates the Ancestral Pueblo lands of Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico that has proven very popular.

What sort of themed itineraries does Southwest Adventure Tours offer?

All of our tours have the ability to be photography tours, and we offer custom



private photography experiences. All of our guides are versed in the general basics of good photography and can point guests to particular National Park areas at certain times to capture a photo. We also have wildlife biologists, geologists and anthropologists who are part of our staff.

What do you feel are the benefits of operating with smaller tour groups?

In the current environment, it's been huge for the health of the company. We've been operating since June of 2020, with groups going out weekly. Just as important is the personal attention you can give a guest in a smaller group. Travel is all about the experience, enriching your life, going to a new place and experiencing new things. Our guests can have intimate one-on-one time with other members of the group and create lifelong friends.

Southwest Adventure Tours has grown so much and you supervise a large team, but do you still lead and supervise tours yourself?

I do. Even though I'm the owner of the company, I still try to join a day tour or multi-day tour once a month, so I can continue to interact with the clientele and get feedback from them. Travel is always changing, and the needs and wants of the customer are always shifting. To understand those changes and be able to respond to them is one of the things I try to do to stay relevant in this industry.

What is your favorite region to explore in Colorado?

Personally, I love Southwest Colorado. I fell in love with the Ancestral Puebloan history, their culture, the ruins sites and the joy of traveling on the Million Dollar Highway all the way up to Grand Junction. There are so many untouched places in that region that are so beautiful. ●



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DONA WEBB (BASHAM)

Royal Gorge Bridge & Park

Dona spotlights the region's beautiful views and outdoor adventure opportunities

Dona Webb (Basham),
Royal Gorge Bridge & Park
Sales Manager



travel from end-to-end. Each car holds up to eight people, so large groups can stay together. This ride is weather permitting.

What is a typical group experience like for Royal Gorge Bridge & Park visitors?

Upon arrival, motorcoach groups are greeted by sales staff who orients the guests with the park layout. The guests are then free to experience and navigate the park to their preference. They can take in the spectacular views of the mountains from the Visitor Center deck before they even reach the bridge itself. After that, they're free to ride the Aerial Gondola or take their time and enjoy the views from the bridge and take group pictures with stunning backdrops. Groups are able to watch a short film about the history of the Royal Gorge and the engineering marvel of the bridge in the nearby Plaza Theater.

Are there activities for group members who prefer more physical activity?

Individuals within the group can ride the Cloudscaper Zip Line, which is a hands-free zip line that runs parallel to the Aerial Gondola. There are no individual stations at which to pause or change routes—it's one long, thrilling ride across the gorge. Guests can also try the Royal Rush Skycoaster where they are hoisted up a 100-foot tower and swung over the edge of the gorge. Both of these rides are extra pay and weather permitting.

What element of Royal Gorge do you enjoy the most?

Personally I love the bridge, our main attraction. It's a massive achievement of architectural wonder, and it allows me to be surrounded by the amazing landscapes in this particular area of Colorado. ●

After an internship at Walt Disney World and approximately 12 years with the Royal Gorge Route Railroad, Dona Webb has worked at the Royal Gorge Bridge & Park in various capacities since 2012 and now serves as the Sales & Marketing Manager.

What is the history of Royal Gorge as a tourist destination?

Tourism in the Royal Gorge region began in 1874 when a photographer came through via the new railroad at the bottom of the gorge and claimed it was a "Royal Gorge" and by the turn of the century, visitors were coming to picnic on the edge of the gorge and admire the views. The

United States government donated the surrounding land to Cañon City in 1906, and the eventual bridge that was built in 1929 was the highest suspension bridge in the world for 72 years, and it currently remains the highest suspension bridge in the United States.

What attractions at the Royal Gorge Bridge & Park are particularly popular with groups?

Groups love to ride the Aerial Gondola, which spans the entire gorge and offers 360-degree views over one thousand feet above the Arkansas River. Our guests board one of six gondola cars, and the ride is amazingly smooth as they

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