


$\tau$
he Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways program is a statewide partnership intended to provide recreational, educational, and economic benefits to Coloradans and visitors. This system of outstanding touring routes in Colorado affords the traveler interpretation and identification of key points of interest and services while providing for the protection of significant resources. Scenic and Historic Byways are nominated by local partnership groups and
designated by the Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways Commission for their exceptional scenic, historic, cultural, recreational, and natural features.


The columbine is Colorado's state flower. The Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways Commission has adopted the columbine as its logo. As you tour the Byways, the columbine signs will identify your route.

$\sigma_{\text {deal }}^{\prime}$rom high plains in the east to majestic mountains in the west, Colorado is gifted with magnificent beauty and variety. The state offers its residents and visitors memorable experiences as they travel its byways.
Colorado also has a rich and ancient history. The Anasazi civilization dates back thousands of years; the Spanish explored the state's southern reaches in the 1500s and left an indelible cultural stamp; and explorers, trappers, and miners in the nineteenth century brought with them a new civilization. Today, from its mountains to mesas to fields of golden grain, Colorado's mystique lures the traveler.

## Colorado's Scenic and Historic Byways

Southwest
1 Alpine Loop
2 Trail of the Ancients
3 San Juan Skyway
4 Unaweep/Tabeguache
5 West Elk Loop
North Central
6 Guanella Pass
7 Mount Evans
8 Peak to Peak
9 Cache la Poudre-North Park
23 Trail Ridge Road-Rocky Mountain National Park

Northwest
10 Colorado River Headwaters
11 Flat Tops Trail
12 Grand Mesa
22 Dinosaur Diamond
South Central
13 Los Caminos Antiguos
14 Top of the Rockies
15 Silver Thread
16 Gold Belt Tour
17 Frontier Pathways
Northeast
18 Pawnee Pioneer Trails
19 South Platte River Trail
Southeast
20 Highway of Legends
21 Santa Fe Trail


The Alpine Loop leaves pavement and people behind, crossing the remote, rugged, spectacular heart of the San Juan Mountains.
It's demanding - the two 12,000-foot passes (Cinnamon and Engineer) require a high-clearance 4-wheel-drive vehicle-but the well-prepared motorist reaps unparalleled rewards: pristine mountain views, hiking and biking trails, great camping opportunities, and ample solitude. These rocky roads were first used by 19th-century miners, who carted their ore off to Silverton, Ouray, and Lake City in mule-drawn wagons. Spend an afternoon exploring abandoned townsites, structures, and other former mining haunts-if you want to commune with ghosts of Colorado's rich past.

Length: 63 miles Driving time: 4 to 6 hours Special considerations: Bring full tank of gas, extra food/water; roads can be muddy; closed in winter Special features: 7 ghost towns, 2 high alpine passes, BLM/USFS wilderness areas Contact: BLM-Gunnison Resource Area, 216 N . Colorado, Gunnison CO 81230 /(970) 641-0471


The Anasazi-the "Ancient Ones" to the later Navajo-guarded their secrets closely. We know they dominated the Colorado Plateau for hundreds of years, yet basic questions about them-who they were, how they lived, what they believed-remain less than fully resolved. This 114-mile route across the broken, arid terrain of their former civilization is heavily laden with clues: cliff dwellings, rock art, pottery shards. Hovenweep National Monument and Mesa Verde National Park both contain dense clusters of Anasazi remains, and the Anasazi Heritage Center in Dolores offers background and interpretive information. One branch of the byway leads to the Four Corners Area, connecting with Utah's Trail of the Ancients byway.

Length: 114 miles Driving time: 3 hours
Special considerations: Some gravel surfaces, muddy when wet Special features: Mesa Verde National Park, Hovenweep National Monument, Anasazi Heritage Center, Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Park Contact: Anasazi Heritage Center, 27501 Highway 184, Dolores CO 81323 / (970) 882-4811





For a quick study in Rocky Mountain ecosystems, you could hardly find better instruction than here. This well-settled road leapfrogs the steep divide between the South Platte and Clear Creek watersheds, passing through a succession of distinct environments. The lower elevations are green and wet, thick stands of spruce, fir, aspen, and pine rising along cascading creeks. Higher up, the streams snake through broad meadows, succoring thirsty mammals, nesting birds, and the industrious beaver. The road crests well above timberline, where every spring the grasses and flowers stubbornly renew, and the fragile tundra thaws and blossoms. This old logging and mining area flanked by Mounts Bierstadt and Evans boasts two of the state's best-preserved Victorian towns, Georgetown and Silver Plume.

Length: 22 miles Driving time: 1 hour Special considerations: Variable road conditions; popular for fall-color viewing Special features: Georgetown Loop Historic Mining and Railroad Park Contact: Clear Creek County Tourism Board, P.O. Box 100, Idaho Springs CO 80476 / (303) 567-0607


The Mount Evans Scenic Byway climbs more than 7,000 feet in just 28 miles, reaching an altitude of 14,264 feet. At the summit you'll enjoy the big picture-the entire Front Range sprawls at your feet-but don't overlook the details. This highest of Rocky Mountain highs brings you to the rarefied world above timberline, a singular amalgam of hardy wildflowers, lichens and grasses, furry mammals like pikas and marmots, rock-jumping mountain goats, and alpine lakes. This is perhaps the best place in Colorado to catch a glimpse of the stately bighorn sheep. The weather is volatile-be prepared for wind, rain, lightning, snow, and hail any day of the year.

Length: 28 miles (one way) Driving time: 1 hour (one way) Special considerations: Bring warm clothing, sunscreen; summit open Memorial Day through Labor Day only Special features: Highest paved road in North America Contact: USFS-Clear Creek Ranger District, P.O. Box 3307, Idaho Springs CO 80452 / (303) 567-2901

## Scenic and

Historic
Byway


This byway links Fort Collins with verdant North Park, a quiet, bowl-shaped valley just west of the Continental Divide. The road runs through the Cache la Poudre River canyon, once a useful transit corridor for Native Americans and, later, white explorers. Today's visitors lean more toward recreation; whitewater boaters and anglers love the Poudre, Colorado's only federally designated National Wild and Scenic River. At 10,276-foot Cameron Pass the highway intercepts Colorado State Forest, a 70,000-acre preserve of glaciated mountains and evergreen thickets. North Park, once a favorite bison grazing ground, remains heavily populated with deer, antelope, elk, moose, beaver, and coyote; migrating waterfowl flock to the Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge.

Length: 101 miles Driving time: 3 hours
Special considerations: Watch for livestock crossing road, commercial trucks (semis), heavy summer traffic Special features: Roosevelt National Forest, Colorado State Forest, outstanding fishing Contact: Arapaho and Roosevelt NF, Estes-Poudre Ranger District, 1311 S. College Ave.,
Fort Collins CO 80526 / (970) 498-2719



This byway cuts through the heart of the original White River Plateau Timberland Reserve, set aside in the late 19th century as the second unit of what eventually became the National Forest system. Two decades later, in a foreshadowing of the 1964 Wilderness Act, development of any kind was banned around Trapper's Lake (the "Cradle of Wilderness"). The area's longstanding history of preservation and multiple-use land management makes for pristine scenery and superlative wildlife viewing. Yet this remains very much a "working" byway, dotted with active mines, ranches, and timber-producing woodlands. Meeker and Yampa, the route's two endpoints, embody the rugged individualism that lies at the heart of western lore.

Length: 82 miles Driving time: 2 hours
Special considerations: Fill tank in Yampa, Buford, or Meeker; roads muddy when wet Special features: White River National Forest, Flat Tops Wilderness Area
Contact: USFS-Yampa Ranger District, P.O. Box 7, 300 Roselawn, Yampa CO 80483 / (970) 638-4516


he colorful old mining camps of the Silver Thread offer history, scenic beauty, and a heavy dose of authenticity. The heights around Creede and Lake City remain strewn with abandoned mining structures, most of them accessible via rugged backcountry roads. Between the two towns, Highway 149 shadows the upper reaches of the Rio Grande, serving up a bounty of natural wonders-sparkling North Clear Creek Falls, the Slumgullion earth slide, and the sharklike fin of Uncompahgre Peak. These mountains can be unforgiving: In 1848 explorer John C.
Frémont lost a third of his men-and a quarter of a century later the infamous Alfred Packer cannibalized his companions-in two ill-fated winter expeditions.

Length: 75 miles Driving time: 2 hours
Special features: Collier State Wildlife Area, Rio Grande National Forest Contact: Creede Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 580, Creede CO $81130 /(719)$ 658-2374


In the early 1890s the mining towns in the shadow of Pikes Peak enjoyed the greatest gold boom the state has ever known. This 131-mile circuit tours historic Cripple Creek, Florence, McCourt, Adelaide, Wilbur, Victor, and other former gold camps. The roads are narrow and rugged in places - one stretch of the Shelf Road clings to a canyon wall 200 feet above the stream bed-but the payoff comes in the outstanding scenery: majestic Pikes Peak, the unspoiled Beaver Creek Wilderness Study Area, spectacular Royal Gorge, and miles of high-country beauty. Two significant fossil areas-Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument and Garden Park Dinosaur Fossil Area-lie along the route.

Length: 131 miles Driving time: 5 hours Special considerations: Phantom Canyon and Upper Shelf roads have rough, gravel surfaces; avoid in wet weather; 4WD recommended on Upper Shelf; no vehicles over 25 feet long on Phantom Canyon Road Special features: Royal Gorge Bridge, Mueller State Park, Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument Contact: BLM-Royal Gorge Resource Area, 3170 East Main St., Cañon City CO 81212 / (719) 269-8500 he name of the byway sums it up perfectly. This old frontier zone south of the Arkansas River marked the intersection of Native American, Spanish, French, and American territories. Thousands left their footsteps in this muchtraveled corridor-first the Ute Indians, then Spanish and American explorers, and finally traders, fur trappers, homesteaders, ranchers, and gold prospectors. Those bygone travelers viewed the same snow-capped mountains, jagged canyons, carpeted meadows, and aspen-covered hillsides that we marvel at today, and the signs of their passage remain. Historic buildings line the route, bearing witness to long-lost cattle empires, mining operations, and Victorian towns. Let this be your pathway to adventure.

Length: 103 miles Driving time: $3^{1 / 2}$ hours
Special features: Designated as a National Scenic Byway, San Isabel National Forest, Lake Pueblo State Park, El Pueblo Museum (Pueblo) Contact: El Pueblo Museum (719) 583-0453, Old Westcliff Schoolhouse (719) 783-2699


Although the shortest of Colorado's 23 byways, the South Platte River Trail is long on history. In the nineteenth century it lay on the main route westward, and was used by tens of thousands of pioneers lured by the promise of wealth, land, and freedom. Beginning at the Colorado Welcome Center, this 19-mile loop features interpretive signage at the original Julesburg townsite, the location of Colorado's only Pony Express home station, and Fort Sedgwick, established in 1864 to protect the trail and telegraph line. Additional markers commemorate the other three Julesburg townsites, the Transcontinental Railroad, and the Lincoln Highway, the first coast-to-coast automobile road in the United States.

Length: 19 miles Driving time: 30 minutes Special considerations: Accessible year-round Special features: Colorado Welcome Center, Fort Sedgwick, Pony Express, Watchable Wildlife and Julesburg 1 through 4 Contact: Sedgwick County Economic Development, 114 East First Street, Julesburg CO 80737 / (970) 474-3504


Did George Simpson really save Trinidad from marauding Utes by distracting them with taunts? Where is the lost gold vein that supposedly offered nuggets so rich a 19th-century prospector could live off one for a full year? And what fate befell Juan Humaña and his band of conquistadors, who disappeared near the Purgatoire River in 1594 and were never again seen alive? You may not find the answers on the Highway of Legends, but you will enjoy the dramatic settings that have inspired tall tales among Native American nomads, Spanish explorers, and Anglo and Hispanic settlers for hundreds of years. From the impenetrable heights of the Sangre de Cristos and Spanish Peaks to the ominous redrock abutments of the Dakota Wall and the Devil's Stairsteps, this land is truly larger than life.

Length: 82 miles Driving time: 2 hours
Special considerations: Bring a camera and a guidebook to the region's geology Special features: Geological formations, Trinidad State Park, Spanish Peaks, Lathrop State Park Contact: Trinidad Welcome Center, 309 Nevada Ave., Trinidad CO 81082/(719) 846-9512

## Dinosaur Diamond




|  |  | Physical <br> Character |  |  |  |  | Ecology |  |  |  |  |  |  | Recreational Resources |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Historical Resources |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Public Lands |  | Visitor Services |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Features <br> Limited Service |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Alpine Loop |  | X |  |  |  |  |  |  | X | X | X |  | X | X | X | X | X |  | X | X | X | X | X |  | X | X |  |  |  | X |  | X | X | X | X | X |
|  | Trail of the Ancients |  |  | X | X |  | X |  | X |  | X | X | X | X |  |  | X |  |  |  | X |  | X |  |  |  | X |  |  | X |  | X | - | - | - | - |  |
| 気 | San Juan Skyway |  | X |  | X |  |  |  | X | X | X | X |  | X | X | X | X | X |  | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |  | X | X | X | X | X |
| o | Unaweep/Tabeguache |  |  | X | X |  | X |  | X |  | X | X | X | X |  |  | X | X | X | X | X |  | X | X |  | X | X |  |  |  | X |  | - | - | - | - |  |
|  | West Elk Loop |  | X |  |  |  |  |  | X |  | X | X |  | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |  | X | X | X |  |  | X |  | X | X | X | X | X |
|  | Guanella Pass <br> Mount Evans <br> Peak to Peak <br> Cache la Poudre-North Park <br> Trail Ridge Road |  | X <br> X <br> X <br> X | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \end{aligned}$ | X | X |  |  | X | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{X} \\ \mathrm{X} \\ \mathrm{X} \\ \mathrm{X} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \end{aligned}$ |  | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{X} \\ \mathrm{X} \\ \mathrm{X} \\ \mathrm{X} \\ \mathrm{X} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \end{aligned}$ | X <br> X <br> X | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{x} \\ \mathrm{x} \\ \mathrm{x} \\ \mathrm{x} \\ \mathrm{x} \end{gathered}$ | X | X | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \end{aligned}$ | X | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \end{aligned}$ | X <br> X | $\mathrm{X}$ $\mathrm{X}$ | X <br> X | X <br> X <br> X <br> X | X <br> X X | X | X | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \end{aligned}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \end{aligned}$ | X <br> X <br> X <br> X | X | X $X$ $X$ 0 0 | X |
|  | Colorado River Headwaters <br> Flat Tops Trail <br> Grand Mesa <br> Dinosaur Diamond |  | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \end{aligned}$ | X | X X X |  | X X |  | X | X | X | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \end{aligned}$ | X | X | X | X | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \end{aligned}$ | X | X | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \end{aligned}$ | X | X X X X | X |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \end{aligned}$ |  | X | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \end{aligned}$ | X | $\mathrm{X}$ | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{X} \\ \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \mathrm{X} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{X} \\ \bullet \\ 0 \\ \mathrm{X} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{X} \\ & 0 \\ & \mathrm{X} \end{aligned}$ | $X$ $X$ X X |
|  | Los Caminos Antiguos <br> Top of the Rockies <br> Silver Thread <br> Gold Belt Tour <br> Frontier Pathways |  | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{x} \\ & \mathrm{x} \\ & \mathrm{x} \end{aligned}$ | X | X | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \end{aligned}$ | X <br> X |  | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \end{aligned}$ |  | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{X} \\ \mathrm{X} \\ \mathrm{X} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \end{aligned}$ X | X X | X | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{X} \\ \mathrm{X} \\ \mathrm{X} \\ \mathrm{X} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{X} \\ \mathrm{X} \\ \mathrm{X} \\ \mathrm{X} \\ \mathrm{X} \end{gathered}$ | X <br> X | X | X | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \hline \mathrm{X} \\ \mathrm{X} \\ \mathrm{X} \\ \mathrm{X} \\ \mathrm{X} \end{array}$ | X | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{X} \\ \mathrm{X} \\ \mathrm{X} \\ \mathrm{X} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \end{aligned}$ | X <br> X X | X | X <br> X $\mathrm{X}$ | X | X $\mathrm{x}$ | - | X | X | X | X |
|  | Pawnee Pioneer Trails South Platte River Trail | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  |  | X | X |  |  |  |  |  | X |  |  | X |  |  | X | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \end{aligned}$ |  | $\begin{array}{l\|} \hline \mathrm{X} \\ \mathrm{X} \end{array}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \end{aligned}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \end{aligned}$ | X | X | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{X} \\ & \mathrm{X} \end{aligned}$ |  | X | - |  |  | - |  |
|  | Highway of Legends <br> Santa Fe Trail | X | X |  |  | X | X | X |  |  | X | X | X | X | X | X | $\begin{aligned} & X \\ & X \end{aligned}$ |  | X | X | X |  | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |  | X | X | X | X | X |  |

