

# SOUTHWEST COLORADO

## Traveler Info Guide

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## Southwest Colorado POINTS OF INTEREST

### Black Canyon

**MONTROSE**-Just 5 miles out of Montrose, the Black Canyon of Gunnison's unique and spectacular landscape was formed slowly by the action of water and rock scouring down through hard Proterozoic crystalline rock. No other canyon in North America combines the narrow opening, sheer walls and startling depths offered by the Black Canyon of the Gunnison. Operating Hours and Seasons South Rim: Open every day, limited access in winter. The South Rim road is open from mid-April to mid-October. North Rim: Open every day, North Rim Road and ranger station are closed in winter. **970-249-1914 x423**

### Mesa Verde

**CORTEZ**-Spanish for "green table", offers an unparalleled opportunity to see and experience a unique cultural and physical landscape. The culture represented at Mesa Verde reflects more than 700 years of history. The archeological cliff dwelling sites found in Mesa Verde are some of the most notable and best preserved in the United States. Mesa Verde National Park offers visitors a spectacular look into the lives of the Ancestral Pueblo people. To fully enjoy Mesa Verde National Park, plan to spend a day or two exploring its world-class archeological sites as well as its beautiful landscape. The entrance to the park is 9 miles east of Cortez and 35 miles west of Durango in Southwestern Colorado on US Highway 160. **800-449-2288**

### Anasazi Heritage Center

**DOLORES**-An archeological museum that displays and preserves artifacts and records from excavations on public lands in the Four Corners area, one of the richest archeological regions in the United States. The museum is also the headquarters for Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. The museum features permanent displays on the Ancestral Pueblo people, many of them being hands-on and interactive. The grounds contain two 12th century ruins, the Dominguez and Escalante Pueblos. Open 9 a.m.-5 p.m., March-October; 10 a.m.-4 p.m., November-February. Admission \$3 for adults, 17 and under are free. 27501 Hwy. 184, Dolores, CO. Call **970-882-5600** for more information.

### Ouray's Natural Hot Springs Pool

**OURAY**-Open since July 4th, 1927, it offers a 250 by 150 foot public pool containing over a million gallons of natural hot springs water. Temperatures of soaking sections vary from 96 to 106 degrees. The pool also has a lap swimming section, a diving area and a game area for water volleyball. The crystal-clear water, free from the strong smell of sulfur typical of many hot springs, makes the Ouray Hot Springs Pool more enjoyable and popular with visitors from around the world. Open year-round. \$10 for adults ages 13-61, \$8 for ages 7-12, \$5 for ages 3-6. Call for hours. **970-325-7073**

### Pagosa Hot Springs

**PAGOSA SPRINGS**-The Ute Indians called the springs "Pah gosh," a term translated in recent years as meaning "boiling water" or "healing water". However, a Ute elder once suggested that a more accurate translation would be "water that has a strong smell". The "strong smell" of the Great Pagosa Hot Springs derives from its remarkably high mineral content which many believe gives the water its naturally therapeutic value. Call the Spring Inn Resort, which now owns the springs, for prices and hours at **800-225-0934**.

### Museum of Western Colorado's Dinosaur Journey

**FRUITA**-Fun for the whole family, Dinosaur Journey blends robotics and science together for both entertainment and education. Wander among the skeletons and robotic dinosaurs, real fossils, interactive learning centers and an active paleontology laboratory where you can watch scientists prepare REAL dinosaur bones! Open 7 days a week, Mon-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 12 p.m.-4 p.m. Hwy. 340 and Jurassic Court, Fruita, CO. **970-858-7282**

### Fort Uncompahgre Living History Museum

**DELTA**-(un-come-paw-gray) was first established as a fur trading post around 1826. Today it recreates the sights, sounds, feelings and experience of visiting the original post. Rated one of the top tours in "Best Places to Take Your Kids in Colorado". It's FUN, EDUCATIONAL and ENTERTAINING! You may choose to take part in activities or just listen and learn! You will be guided and entertained by interpreters clothed in period attire. The interpreters still trap beaver, make buckskins, knap arrowheads and work the forge. Step back in time! Open April-October, Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Admission: \$3.50. **970-874-1718**

### Ute Indian Museum

**MONTROSE**-The museum lies on the original 8.65-acre homestead owned by Chief Ouray and his wife, Chipeta. Built in 1956 and expanded in 1998, the museum offers one of the most complete collections of the Ute people. The grounds include the Chief Ouray Memorial park, Chipeta's Crypt, and a native plants garden. Recently renovated and expanded, the museum now includes the Montrose Visitor Information Center, gallery space, classrooms and a museum store. Open Tuesday-Saturday 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission: adults \$4.50, seniors \$4, students or kids (6-16) \$1.50, kids under 6 are free. Call **970-249-3098** for further information.

### Sand Dunes National Park

**ALAMOSA**-Located 35 miles northeast of Alamosa, North America's tallest dunes rise over 750 feet high against the rugged Sangre de Cristo Mountains. This geologic wonderland, containing 30 square miles of dunes, became a national monument in 1932. The park resources also include alpine lakes and tundra, six peaks over 13,000' in elevation, ancient spruce and pine forests, large stands of aspen and cottonwood, grasslands, and wetlands—all habitats for diverse wildlife and plant species. Open year-round. **719-378-6399**

### Canyons of the Ancients National Monument

**DOLORES**-Canyons of the Ancients National Monument was designated in June of 2000. The Monument contains the highest concentration of archeological sites in the nation. These sites represent cultures and traditions spanning thousands of years. Brochures and information about places to visit in the Monument are available at the Anasazi Heritage Center. Four areas have been somewhat modified for the public access: Lowry Pueblo, Painted Hand Pueblo, Sand Canyon Pueblo, and the Sand Canyon Trail. These areas are accessible from maintained county roads, but go to the Anasazi Heritage Center first to get maps, brochures, and current information about places to visit, some roads can be impassible when wet. For more information, call **970-882-5600**, or visit the Monument's website at [www.co.blm.gov/cannm](http://www.co.blm.gov/cannm) or the Center's website at [www.co.blm.gov/ahc](http://www.co.blm.gov/ahc).



### DISTANCE IN MILES BETWEEN DURANGO AND...

Montrose.....	107	Denver.....	335
Grand Junction.....	169	Las Vegas.....	617
Flagstaff.....	355	Gunnison.....	172
Salt Lake City.....	394	Farmington.....	52
Albuquerque.....	215	Telluride.....	120
Santa Fe.....	242	Pagosa Springs.....	61

### HELPFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

ALL EMERGENCIES 911	
Cedaredge Area Chamber of Commerce	(970) 856-6961
Cortez Area Chamber of Commerce	(970) 565-3414
Delta Area Chamber of Commerce	(970) 874-8616
Durango Area Tourism Office	(800) 463-8726
Durango Chamber of Commerce	(970) 247-0312
Fruita Chamber of Commerce	(970) 858-3894
Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce	(800) 352-5286
Gunnison Chamber of Commerce	(970) 641-1501
Montrose Chamber of Commerce	(800) 923-5515
Ouray Visitor Center	(970) 325-4746
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce	(800) 252-2204
Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce	(800) 220-4959
Silverton Visitor Center & Chamber of Commerce	(800) 752-4494
South Fork Visitor Center	(800) 571-0881
Telluride Visitor Center	(888) 605-2578
Vallecito Lake Chamber of Commerce	(970) 247-1573
US Forest Service	(970) 247-4874
Colorado State Patrol-Durango/Cortez	(970) 249-4392
Mercy Medical Center (Durango)	(970) 247-4311
Southwest Memorial Hospital (Cortez)	(970) 565-6666
Road & Weather Conditions (Pagosa Springs)	(970) 264-5555
US Airways	(800) 428-4322
United Airlines	(800) 241-6522

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## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE INFORMATION

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<p><b>Mesa Verde National Park</b></p> <p><b>CORTEZ, CO</b> Operating Hours: Open year-round. Visitor Center: Far View Visitor Center is located 15 miles from the Park entrance. Mid-April to mid-October, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. <b>970-529-4465</b> Entrance Fees: \$10-\$15 per vehicle (depending on time of year) Ranger Guided Tours: \$3 - \$10 per person (depending on time of year) Guided Bus Tours available through Aramark Concessions at additional charge. <b>800-449-2288</b></p>	<p><b>Great Sand Dunes National Monument &amp; Preserve</b></p> <p><b>ALAMOSA, CO</b> Operating Hours: Open year-round. Visitor Center: In winter, the Visitor Center hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily, except for federal holidays, when the building is closed. In spring and fall, the Visitor Center is generally open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Summer hours at the Visitor Center are generally 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. <b>719-378-6399</b> Entrance Fees: \$3 per person over 16 years of age</p>	<p><b>Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park</b></p> <p><b>MONTROSE, CO</b> Operating Hours: The South Rim Road is open to vehicles from early-April to mid-November. In winter, the South Rim Road is open to Gunnison Point. The remainder of the road is closed to vehicles, but open to cross country skiing and snowshoeing. Visitor Center: South Rim Visitor Center is located 2 miles from the south rim entrance on South Rim Drive. Year-round, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Summer, 8 - 6. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Eve. <b>970-249-1914 ext. 423</b> Entrance Fees: \$15 per vehicle</p>
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**Calendar of Events**

- may**  
12: 20th Anniversary Celebration!
- may**  
12: Kitchens In July Home Tour
- may**  
20-22: Logger Days Festival
- august**  
Silverthread Wildflowers Hike
- september**  
Labor Day Weekend: Fork Fest - Run for Beer 1/2 Marathon

Contact the Visitor Center for a free information packet.  
South Fork Visitor Center  
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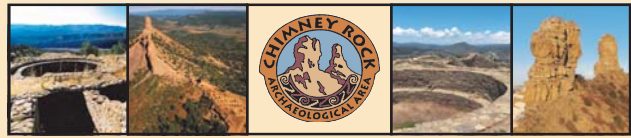
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Transit of Venus: June 5

Local Appreciation: May 25-28  
Full Moon Programs: June 3, July 3, Aug. 1, Aug. 31, Sept. 29  
Night Sky Programs: June 17, July 18, Aug. 17, Aug. 19, Sept. 15  
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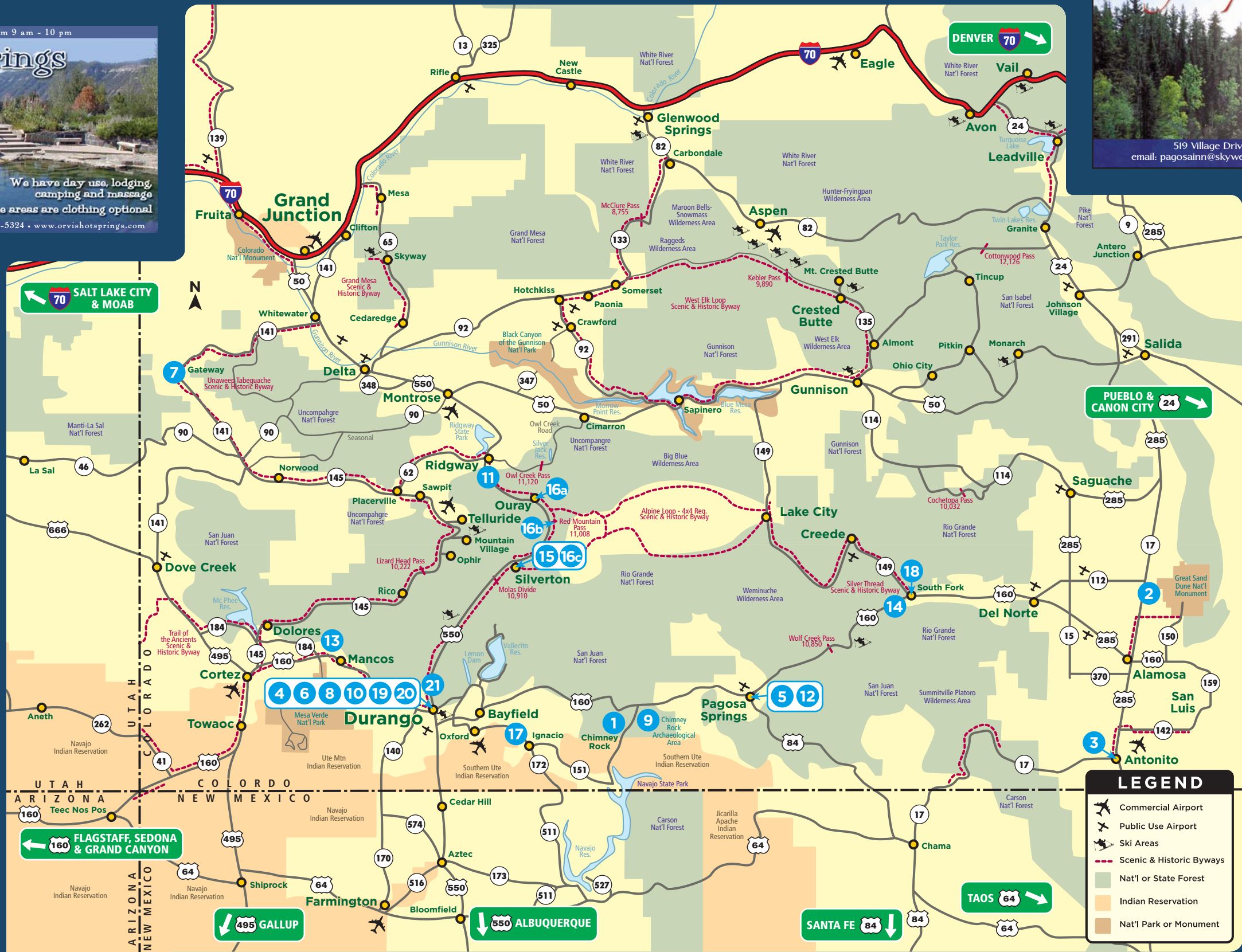
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