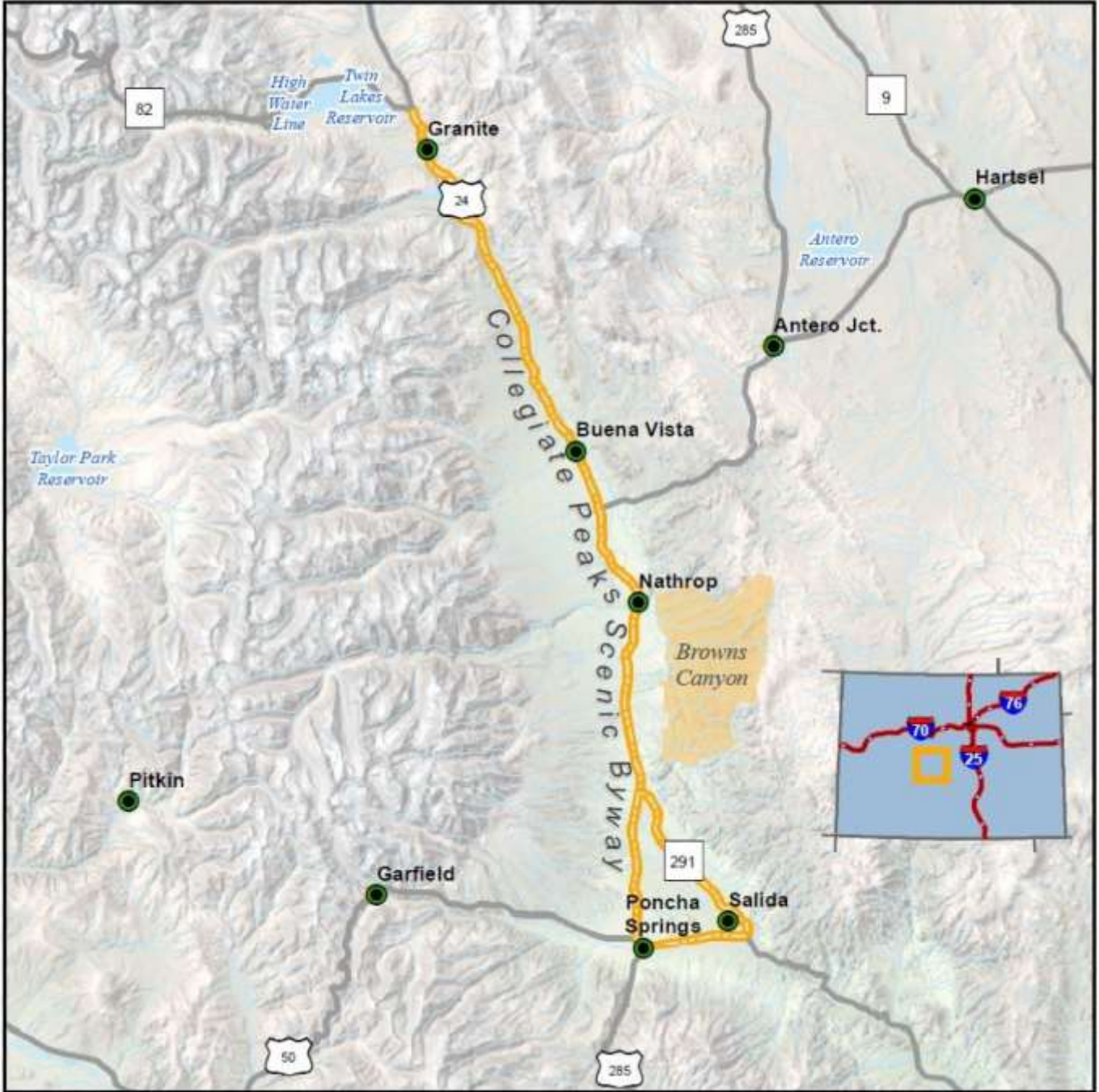




Collegiate Peaks Scenic and Historic Byway

Taming the high country on the Continental Divide surrounding the Collegiate Peaks Scenic and Historic Byway took hardy pioneers, willing to live in tents before they could get a cabin built, and wives who worked to spruce up the wilderness with lace curtains and wallpaper. Towns sprang up and lived on the edge until gold was discovered, bring a whole new way of life to the region. More than gold the Colorado Mineral Belt yielded a wealth of silver, copper, iron, zinc, lead, coal, limestone, marble, fluorite, travertine, gypsum, molybdenum and feldspar. Towns sprang up with stores, saloons, mills, post offices and schools which were prone to fires that frequently leveled early boomtowns, ultimately rebuilt with more sophisticated less flammable building materials provided by the railroads and local brick factories. The Victorian buildings that survived form today's historic town centers, now filled with arts, antiques, and locally-owned restaurants. While you drive the Byway, you'll be surrounded by the grandeur of Colorado's mountain beauty, including three Wilderness Areas, the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation, the San Isabel National Forest, and wildlife areas. Dramatic 14,000 foot peaks and the Arkansas River's whitewater canyons punctuate the way.



Heritage on the Byway Experience



Driving the Byway

Your journey begins in the beautiful mountain town of Crested Butte, where you can explore for a day before heading out on Day Two for Gunnison and Salida, where you can explore Browns Canyon National Monument stretched between Salida and Buena Vista. Spend a delightful evening at a hot springs resort, where before or after your day, take a side trip off the Byway to Elmo, to the Chalk Creek Mining District. On Day Three, you'll be headed for Leadville, the highest town in the state and the headquarters of fascinating mining history. The characters who lived in Leadville were world renown.

Day One



Crested Butte

The quaint 1880s mining town of Crested Butte is the wildflower capital of Colorado. As a supply depot for hard rock mining, by 1882, Crested Butte was home to five hotels, a bank, saloons and restaurants, livery stables, sawmills, doctors, lawyers and the Union Congregational Church, which is still standing. It was named one of the Dozen Distinctive Destinations of the National Trust in 2008. Stroll downtown where locally owned shops and restaurants are housed in beautiful late-1800s-era storefronts.

Day One

Historic Walking Tour of Crested Butte



The historic walking tour (pdf included with the detailed itinerary) of Crested Butte begins at the Crested Butte Heritage Museum and end at the Union Congregational Church, with 40 stops in between. Enjoy strolling this very quaint and impeccably preserved historic town.

Tour begins at 331 Elk Avenue. Allow 1 hour

Crested Butte Mountain Heritage Museum



The 1883 building that houses the Crested Butte Mountain Heritage Museum still displays the original coal stove and merchandise displays of Tony's Hardware, the longest running business in Crested Butte. Changing exhibits feature forgotten pieces of local history, including a model of the town and the railroad, coal mining history, skiing history in the Butte, and more.

331 Elk Ave, Crested Butte, CO 81224 970-349-1880
7 Days, 11AM-5PM, Allow 1 hour, \$5.00 per person

Crested Butte Creative District



Completely intertwined in downtown Crested Butte, the Crested Butte Creative District encompasses the Center for the Arts, 16 artist-owned studios and galleries, three co-op galleries, 10 performance venues and a year-round schedule of creative events. It is a community identity that sets Crested Butte apart from other mountain towns.

507 Maroon Ave, Crested Butte, Co 81224 970-349-5338,
Retail hours generally 11AM-6PM, Allow 1 hour

Crested Butte Destination Distinctive Accommodations and Dining



Destination Distinctive Accommodations: The Ruby of Crested Butte **624 Gothic Avenue, Crested Butte, CO 81224 970-349-1338**

The Ruby celebrates the life of Ruby Elkourie, the former owner's grandmother who lived by the motto "a stranger is just a good friend you haven't met yet." She was the embodiment of The Ruby – colorful, authentic and connected, truly Crested Butte. Attention to detail, impeccable service, and outstanding breakfasts are the order of the day.



Coal Creek Grill at Forest Queen Hotel

129 Elk Avenue
Crested Butte, CO 81224
970-349-6645

The Coal Creek Grill is housed in the 1881 building of the Forest Queen Hotel, the only lodging on Crested Butte's Elk Avenue. In its early years, it was reported to have been part of the Main Street red light district with a saloon downstairs and brothel on the second floor. Legend has it that a lovelorn lady named Elizabeth, commonly known as Liz, who gave all her money to a gambler who left town with it, still haunts the hotel. Shortly afterwards she threw herself out of a second story window into Coal Creek.

Day Two



Gunnison

Gunnison is a quintessential Western ranching and rodeo town, which feels like a cattleman's town. Originally summer hunting grounds for the Ute Tribe, subsequent waves of migration shaped the community, when gold and silver were discovered in the area. Gunnison still holds the oldest rodeo in Colorado, along with authentic hoedowns.

Day Two

Historic Walking Tour of Gunnison



It is amazing that this small quaint town includes 38 locations in the historic walking tour (pdf included with the detailed itinerary). Beginning on Main Street, the route continues through the neighborhoods on Virginia Avenue and Wisconsin Avenue, through the Red Light District and back to Main Street.

Tour begins at 102 South Main Street, Allow 1 hour

Pioneer Museum



Located on a 14-acre campus, the Pioneer Museum has created its own frontier town at the base the W Mountain. In this cultural jewel you can explore two frontier schools with their original furnishings, a red dairy barn and pole barn, a Denver and Rio Grande Narrow Gauge train engine and caboose at a railroad depot, a log cabin chapel, water tower, several cabins, the Odd Fellows lodge building, Gunnison's first post office, 10 additional whole buildings filled with displays, outdoor displays on the south and east end of the grounds and the Andy Mallett Antique Car Museum with 55 vehicles.

803 E. Tomichi Avenue, Gunnison, CO 81230
970-641-4530 7 Days, 9AM-5PM, Allow 2 hours
\$10 per person

Day Two



Salida

Named by Outside Magazine as one of the top 10 outdoor downs in America, Salida (Spanish for exit) also has the largest historic district in Colorado. Walk about to find yourself in the 1880s, downtown with 12 nationally designated buildings, and the 1887 Steam Plant that is now the new performing arts center. The courthouse dates to 1932, when the county seat was moved for the third time. Today, artists are so plentiful that the town was the state's first Creative District. Along with art galleries, you'll find antique stores, modern boutiques and delectable restaurants, and a cultural mix that reflects Salida's diverse population of ranchers, artists, artisans and outdoors enthusiasts. Enjoy the walkway along the Arkansas River.

Day Two

Hutchinson Homestead



In many areas in central Colorado, ranching was as important as mining and established well before the gold rush. Established in 1868, pioneers Joseph and Annabel Hutchinson started raising cattle. Now, six generations later, the family is still raising cattle on the same land surrounding the Homestead. The fourth generation of the family established the Hutchinson Homestead and Learning Center to preserve it so future generations could know how people lived and worked in the bygone days. After 12 years of meticulous preservation of the century old buildings, you can now explore life on Colorado's ranching frontier.

8913 US 50, Salida CO, 81201 719-239-0955. Saturday, 10AM—4PM, guided tours at 11AM and 1PM, allow 1 to 1.5 hours, Donations accepted



The Lost Cajun Restaurant

1110 East Highway 50
Salida, CO 81201
719-239-2020

Enjoy lunch prepared by the owner of The Lost Cajun who really is from Louisiana, having left the state after hurricane Katrina. He delivers a daily menu of authentic Cajun cuisine as well as American favorites.

Browns Canyon National Monument



You'll be passing right by a National Monument where more than 70 million years ago, the earth lifted to create Browns Canyon, where elevations range from 7,300 feet to 10,000 feet, delivering stunning views of the Arkansas Valley and the Sawatch Mountain Range. Stretched along the roadside between Salida and Buena Vista, the star of the monument is the Arkansas River where raft, kayak, bike, horseback ride, hike, nature watch, take photographs and stargaze, plus engage in world-class wild trout fishing.

Salida Destination Distinctive Accommodations and Dining



Destination Distinctive Accommodations: Mt. Prince Hot Springs Resort
15870 Colorado Route 162, Nathrop, CO 81236 719-295-2774

Spend an absolutely relaxing evening in a Creekside Suite at this full service resort, while enjoying the Creekside Hot Springs, where hot springs water bubbles up out of the ground at 140 degrees. Mix the cold water in Chalk Creek to create a perfect hot springs pool.



Mt. Princeton Hot Springs Resort Restaurants

Relax for the evening and enjoy your evening meal in one of the restaurants at Mt. Princeton Hot Springs Resort.



Day Three

Chalk Creek Mining District



The Chalk Creek Mining District, made up of St. Elmo, Iron City, Romley, Hancock and Alpine sits at the end of the road from Nathrop. The Mary Murphy Mine, opened in 1870 was the biggest producer of silver and gold in the area. The first cabin was built in Alpine in 1877, which grew to 500 people in three years, with two hotels, a dance hall, 23 saloons, a newspaper and stores. Iron City was a smelter town where gold and silver laden ore was processed and extracted. When the railroad was extended to St. Elmo, the newspaper, bank and other businesses moved to town, now one of the best-preserved historic mining towns in the state. From the 1870s St. Elmo was the trade and transportation center for Chalk Creek's silver mining boom. The restored schoolhouse in St. Elmo is open for touring. The drive is 33 miles round trip.



Buena Vista

Serving as an agricultural center, Buena Vista sprang to life in 1879. By 1880, the St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church that now serves as the Chamber of Commerce was constructed. The 1882 Courthouse is now a school. The Denver, Leadville & Gunnison Depot dates from 1890.

Buena Vista Heritage Museum



The Buena Vista Heritage Museum preserved three of the most important buildings in town, including the 1882 Historic County Courthouse, which was a school from 1930-1970. The Buena Vista Model Railroad Society built a model of the Arkansas Valley Railroad that ran from Leadville to Royal Gorge in the 1800s on the upper floor. The Historic Turner Farm is a good example of homes in the Valley at the turn of the century. The Buena Vista Depot and Transportation Museum features exhibits illustrating the importance of the railroad and stagecoach lines that served the area. Summer Hours: Thursday-Saturday 11AM-4PM, Courthouse: 506 East Main Street, \$5 per person, Turner Farm: 829 West Main Street, \$5 per person, Depot: 116 US Highway 24 North, \$1 per person. Allow 3 hours to tour all.

Day Three



Leadville

Over 150 years of mining in Colorado had a dramatic effect on Colorado's economy. From its earliest gold strikes, Leadville played a central role in the thriving economy, in spite of its Wild West reputation. Gold brought the first 10,000 people to Leadville, and silver brought 20,000 more. At the height of its heyday, there were hotels, saloons, gambling halls, stores, boarding houses, and brothels, while the fortunes of big city industrialists like the Guggenheims, Marshal Field, and David May were being made. Brimming with colorful characters like Horace and Baby Doe Tabor, Doc Holiday, and the Unsinkable Molly Brown, in all 55,000 ounces of gold worth \$91 million were extracted from the mountains. Over 240 million troy ounces of silver were also mined. When the Silver Boom came to an abrupt halt silver prices plummeted, mines closed, and residents left for greener pastures. Leadville has done a remarkable job preserving a 70 square block National Historic District, in addition to the local legends. A 20-square-mile historic mining district, complete with ghost towns, is protected as The Route of the Silver Kings. The Mineral Belt Trail tells more of the story. For those intrigued with mining heritage this is where it is.

Leadville Destination Distinctive Accommodations and Dining



Destination Distinctive Accommodations: Delaware Hotel 700 Harrison Avenue, Leadville, CO 80461 800-748-2004

The 1886 Delaware Hotel combines Victorian propriety with the excitement of the “Old Wild West.” As the last remaining grand hotel from the “glory days” of the strike-it-rich era, the hotel is part museum, part gallery, and part country inn, while offering true Western hospitality.



Treeline Kitchen 615 Harrison Avenue Leadville, CO 80461 719-293-2200

Locally owned since 2017, the Treeline Kitchen focuses on sustainable and local sourcing for the best available ingredients to promote sustainability and health.

Day Four

Historic Walking Tour of Leadville



Take the historic walking tour (pdf included with the detailed itinerary) that takes you past nearly all of the key historic attractions in downtown Leadville.

Tour begins at the 100 Block of West 10th Street, Allow 1 hour

Tabor Opera House



Bringing culture to the remote mountains, Horace Tabor built the Opera House by shipping the stone, brick, iron and Portland cement needed for construction by wagon over Colorado's rough mountain passes. Completed in 100 days, the building included two retail stores, an elegant theater, and a third-floor enclosed skyway to a hotel next door. The interior was adorned with richly painted walls, ceiling frescoes, custom carpets and hand painted stage curtains, which the first gaslights in Leadville made sparkle. Tour the Tabor Suites, historic treasures on the second floor, the ballroom where the Tabor's danced and the elegant performance hall where luminaries like Oscar Wilde, John Philip Sousa, Buffalo Bill and Harry Houdini performed. .

308 Harrison Avenue, Leadville, CO 80461, 719-486-8409.
Tours by reservation only, Allow 1 hour, \$12 per person

National Mining Hall of Fame



The Museum commemorates the men and women who pioneered processing of our nation's underground natural resources. Known as the Smithsonian of the Rockies and the Premier Showcase of American Mining, the museum tells the story of mining, its people, and its impact on the American society. " Over 25,000 square feet of interactive and informative exhibits sharing the narrative of mining and its relationship to our everyday lives.

120 West 9th Street, Leadville, CO 80461 719-486-1229
7 Days, 9AM-4:45PM, Allow 2 hours, \$12 per person.

Day Five

Leadville Heritage Museum and Gallery



The Heritage Museum that has been collecting memorabilia since 1971, now displays Victorian furniture, mining artifacts, 10th Mountain Division artifacts, fine art, an assay office (where minerals were tested for purity), theatrical cabinet cards of entertainers who performed in Leadville, and a scale model replica of the world's largest palace of ice.

102 East Ninth Street, Leadville, CO 80461 719-486-1878
7 Days, 10AM-5PM, Allow 30-45 min, \$6 per person

Dexter Cabin and Healy House Museum



Built in 1878 by August Meyer to give his bride a social life, their residence was a sought-after house where boarders played croquet and Nellie Healy entertained. Today it is beautifully restored with lavish Victorian furnishings. Look out onto the formal garden with Victorian urns, statuary, garden benches, and gazebo and stroll through the many native plants. The surprisingly plush 1879 log cabin was built by Leadville banker James Dexter as a hunting lodge. Besides being an avid hunter, he collected coins, gems, etchings, and paintings. The cabin quickly became known as the "stiffest and most exclusive private poker club" in Leadville.

912 Harrison Avenue, Leadville, CO 80461 719-486-0487
Thursday-Saturday 10AM-2PM, Allow 1.5 hours, \$6 per person.

Leadville Colorado and Southern Railroad



Enjoy a railroad journey punctuated with a humorous narrative about Leadville's colorful past. You'll learn about Molly Brown and Horace, Augusta and Baby Doe Tabor, the Guggenheims and Doc Holiday, with spectacular views of Fremont Pass, Mount Massive and Mount Elbert.

326 East Seventh Street, Leadville, CO 80461
719-486-3936, 2.5 hours, Departures vary, \$42 per person

Day Six

The Tabor Home



When Horace Tabor decided the location of his home on Harrison Avenue was perfect for the Opera House, the residence known as the Tabor Home as moved to its current location. Built during the most exciting time in Horace Tabor's life, when his store, mining claims, and wealth were all increasing, it was also when he met Elizabeth McCourt (Baby Doe) and left his wife for her. As his reputation was in tatters, Augusta went on to become a millionaire in her own right. Today, the Tabor Home features some original Victorian furnishings and household goods, which you can view while tour guides tell the story of financial gain, a devastating divorce, a crumbling career, and ultimate ruin.

116 East Fifth Street, Leadville, CO 80461 719-486 3900

Silver Dollar Saloon



After "Doc" Holliday's gunfight at the O.K. Corral, he moved to Leadville. Trained as a dentist, he was also a notorious gunfighter and gambler, dealing cards, tending bar, and playing the piano. "Molly" (Margaret) Brown, known as "The Unsinkable Molly Brown" and her engineer husband were regulars at the saloon. Step inside and encounter is a windbreak which prevented wives from seeing their husbands inside. The original walk up only bar is flanked by a white oak bar, swinging doors, the mahogany front bar, and 3/4 inch diamond dust mirrors.

315 Harrison Avenue, Leadville, CO 80461 719-486-9914
Regular retail hours

Day Six

Matchless Mine and Baby Doe Cabin



Horace Tabor purchased what would turn out to be one of the richest silver mines in all of Colorado in 1879, enabling he and his mistress-turned-wife "Baby Doe" to live in high style. Even though when Tabor served as a Senator, they flaunted their wealth in Washington, DC, their high-flying lifestyle was not to last. Tabor died in 1899 leaving his family nearly penniless and for nearly 36 years following his death, Elizabeth struggled to profit from the Matchless Mine. She leased the property for iron, zinc, manganese, and silver ore mining operations, though it never produced what it had during the boom days. Elizabeth became a recluse, preferring to spend her time in the small cabin on the Matchless property. Sadly, her body was discovered frozen in the cabin in March of 1935, at age 81.

Country Road 3, Leadville, CO 80461, 719-486-1229
Tuesday-Saturday, 11AM-4:30PM, 1 hour tour, \$12 per person
