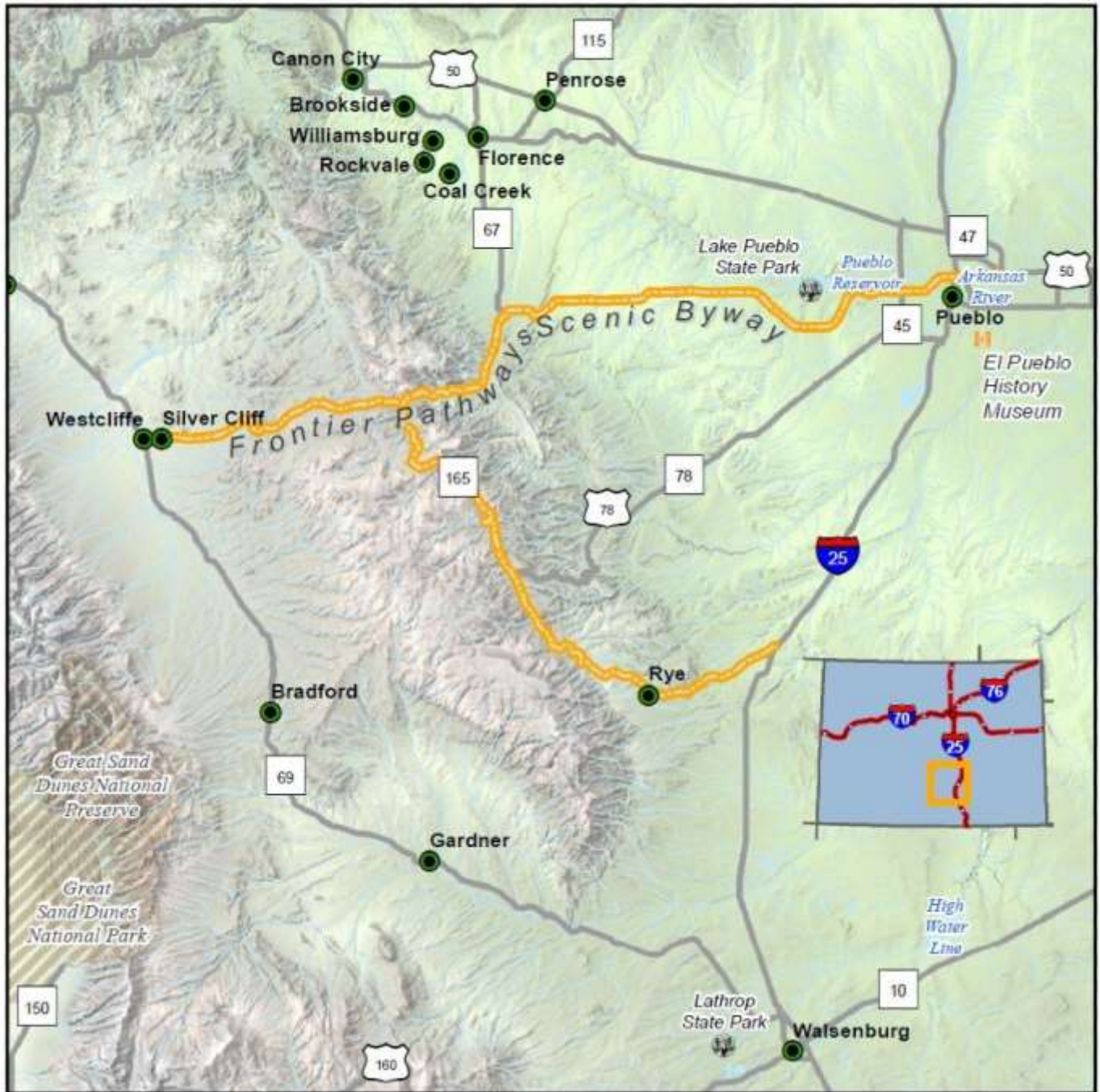




Frontier Pathways Scenic and Historic Byway

West of the Front Range was a rugged place in the early 1800s. Early mountain men were the first to arrive in Ute territory looking for beaver pelts. They were followed by pioneers heading west over the Wet Mountains. The Spanish came for precious minerals, followed by homesteaders and ranchers. Eventually, Native Americans, the Spanish, the miners and others all coexisted, sometimes peacefully, sometimes not. In 1872, the discovery of gold swelled the tiny town of Rosita to more than 1,500 residents, making \$3.00 for a 10-hour day. This is the story told on the Frontier Pathways Scenic and Historic Byway. As you travel the 103-mile route, the flatlands of the first 20 miles are punctuated with buttes. From there, the vistas become more dramatic and once you reach the San Isabel National Forest, the Sangre de Cristo mountains loom overhead. Amazingly, some of the high-country ranches and untouched meadows look the same as they did when the soon to be millionaires seeking silver and gold arrived to make their fortunes. Historic buildings have been well preserved in Victorian towns, bearing witness to long-lost mining operations.



Back to Pioneer Colorado Experience



Driving the Byway

Your journey begins in Pueblo, where you will begin to learn the story of life on the frontier in southern Colorado. The culture of descendants of the original settlers blends Western, Native American and Hispanic. Plan to arrive early enough to visit El Pueblo Museum to begin to learn the story of the Byway, take the walking tour of the historic district and stroll the Creative District. In the evening after dinner, stroll the Historic Riverwalk. After spending part of Day Two exploring Pueblo, you will start driving the Byway on your way to Wetmore and Westcliffe, exploring frontier heritage along the way. After a good night's stay in Westcliffe, enjoy the remainder of the Byway, on your return to Pueblo.

Day One



Pueblo

The Arkansas River which runs through Pueblo, was once the border between the United States and Mexico. As the area transformed from the meeting place of indigenous tribes to a physical border between nations with clashing geopolitical events, Fort Pueblo was established in 1842 to keep the peace. Pueblo grew as a shipping point for both ore and agricultural products and ultimately by the Colorado Fuel, Iron and Steel Mill. Four separate towns combined to form the City of Pueblo attracted immigrant laborers in what became one of the most culturally diverse cities known as the Melting Pot of the West. More than 40 languages were spoken at the steel mill and 25 foreign language newspapers circulated in the community.

Day One

El Pueblo Museum



Located on the site of the original fort, El Pueblo History Museum replicates an 1840s adobe trading post and plaza. Artifacts excavated on the site are on display and exhibits illustrate the region's historic and ongoing collection of cultures, ethnicities, landscapes, industries, religions and identities, a fascinating historic panorama in all.

310 North Union Avenue, Pueblo, CO 81003 719-583-0453
Monday-Saturday 10AM-4PM Allow 1 hour, \$5 per person

Historic Pueblo Walking Tour Loops



After you visit El Pueblo Museum, take the Historic Pueblo Walking Tour Loops (pdf included with the detailed itinerary) that begins at the museum. The trail through the main part of historic Pueblo on a North Loop and South Loop incorporates the most prestigious Victorian mansions in town along Grand Avenue and 14th and 15th Streets, plus prestigious commercial buildings from the 1880s: the Thatcher Building, Stockgrowers Building, the Union Depot and several churches. Many of the historic structures have been repurposed for use today, yet still manifest their historic architectural character.

Tour begins at El Pueblo Museum, Allow time for the loops you select



Pueblo Creative Corridor

The Union Avenue Historic District and the Mesa Junction Historic District are both a Certified Creative District with art galleries, public art and arts events. You can take a ghost walk, see a gondolier, see ballet, take a carriage ride, see the longest levee art mural in the world, and see talented artists at work along the route.

Districts begin 100 North Union Avenue

Day One

Pueblo Heritage Museum



The exhibits at Pueblo Heritage Museum concentrate on interpretation of the ethnic heritage of Pueblo and Southeastern Colorado's past in all its multicultural perspectives. Items range from Lucky the Horse, the Pueblo Dodgers, and Apishapa Rock Art, to the footprints of an Allosaurus and the wide range of languages spoken by the area's settlers. Small group walking tours on a one-mile route through the Union Avenue District introduce you to the fascinating and varied history of this part of the city.

201 West B Street, Pueblo, CO 81003 719-295-1517
Wednesday-Sunday 10AM-6PM, Allow 2 hours, \$6 per person

Historic Arkansas River Walk



For years city leaders talked about beautifying the area of the cooling ponds established to eliminate regular flooding in the city. When a conservancy district was established in the early 1980s, a handful of Pueblo residents envisioned a river park similar to San Antonio's River Walk. Today, you can enjoy the result of the vision as excursion boats ply the one-mile channel, enhanced with 54 pieces of art.

125 Riverwalk Place, Pueblo, CO 101 North Union Avenue,
719-595-0242

Pueblo Destination Distinctive Accommodations and Dining



Destination Distinctive Accommodations: Edgar Olin House
727 West 13th Street, Pueblo, CO 81003 719-544-5727

Stay in a completely restored Victorian Bed and Breakfast, complete with carved woodwork and elegant finishes, that has been refitted with all the comforts of today.



Brues Alehouse Brewing
120 Riverwalk Place
Pueblo, CO 81003
719-924-9670

The brewing and culinary philosophies of the alehouse are based upon quality, making everything fresh and from scratch that deliver a memorable experience.

Day Two

Rosemont Museum



John Thatcher and his brothers came to Colorado in the 1860s to make a fortune in the dry goods business. As success mounted, they expanded into banking, mining and ranching. Thatcher's 1893 37-room Rosemont Mansion completed at the height of success remained in the family for 75 years. Today, nearly all the furnishings, accessories, decorative arts, paintings, custom woodwork, wall and window treatments are original to the home. The pink volcanic rock on the exterior and the cherry, mahogany, maple and oak, provide an air of opulence. The golden oak entrance hall with a coffered ceiling is graced with a large Tiffany chandelier. The grand oak staircase leads to an exquisite stained-glass window, *Kingdoms of Nature*. Uniquely different fireplaces are placed throughout, many of the mansion's ceilings are hand painted with gold leaf accents, and "second light windows" are placed high up in the interior walls to allow light to pass through the rooms into the interior space. The third floor houses the Andrew McClelland collection of artifacts, collected by a wealthy family friend as he traveled around the world.

419 West 14th Street, Pueblo, CO 81003 719-545-5290
Tuesday-Saturday 10AM-3PM, 1 hour tours, Allow 2 hours,
\$8 per person

Lake Pueblo State Park Visitor Center



As you leave Pueblo, you have the option to visit Lake Pueblo State Park where 130 prehistoric archaeological sites are located in an area that has been home to diverse groups of Native Americans and early pioneers who farmed, ranched and mined. Try to imagine smoke signals sent from the bluff above the lake at Liberty Point, which floated all the way to Fountain, 30 miles away. A paved trail follows all the main roads in the park.

601 Pueblo Reservoir Road, Pueblo CO, 81005
719-561-9320 Allow 1 hour to tour the park

Day Two



Wetmore

Originally named Hardscrabble by farmers who were “hard scrabbling to get in a crop,” Wetmore is a beautiful little town on the edge of the Wet Mountains. Prior to the arrival of pioneers, the location was a favorite place of early Indian tribes. The Spanish arrived in the 1600s looking for gold and the French came in 1830 to establish a trading post. The town was known as Buzzard’s Roost, Crow’s nest, El Cuervo, Fort LeDeux and Maurice’s Fort before being named Hardscrabble in 1844. It was abandoned in 1846 due to a drought and rediscovered by John Fremont on his journey through the region in 1848. Pueblo to Wetmore—29 miles

Day Two

Hardscrabble Canyon



Traveling the Frontier Pathways Scenic and Historic Byway, you'll pass through Hardscrabble Canyon in the San Isabel National Forest flanked by rocks over a billion years old. Many of the formations were created by intense heat, pressure and chemical change, while the pointed rock formation in the north side, called Lover's Leap, was sculpted by water and ice. At mile marker 18, you can spot the volcanic rocks that look like "big and little sinking ocean liners" on the south side of the road.

Mile Marker 23 on Highway 96



Silver Cliff/Westcliffe

Silver Cliff and Westcliffe are virtually the same town. Silver Cliff was built before the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad bought up the land west of Silver Cliff and laid narrow gauge tracks in 1880. Soon stores and businesses vied for locations next to the new railroad terminus and Westcliffe was born.



Silver Cliff Museum

Housed in the 1879 Silver Cliff Town Hall and Fire House, the Silver Cliff Museum features local history and artifacts.

606 Main Street, Silver Cliff, CO 81252 719-783-2615
Saturday-Sunday 1PM-4PM, Free, Donations accepted

Day Two

Museum of Westcliffe History



The combined community schoolhouse for Silver Cliff and Westcliffe 1891 and 1953 is now the Museum of Westcliffe History. The unusual flat-topped gable roof and fieldstone façade has been restored to its original appearance, including the incorrect spelling of the town name as Westcliff on the front.

320 South Fourth Street, Westcliffe, CO 81252
719-783-2289 Hours vary, Free

All Aboard Westcliffe



A Single Small Engine House constructed in 1901 is now All Aboard Westcliffe. Exhibits that tell the story of the railroad and its importance to mining and ranching in the area are combined with a restoration workshop used to refurbish railroad rolling stock. There is also a small railroad museum showcasing steam locomotive transportation where exhibits include a collage of the old Texas Creek/Westcliffe branch of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad that came into the valley in the early 1900's, and other original railroad memorabilia.

110 Rosita Avenue, Westcliffe, CO 81252 719-783-0945
Hours vary, Free

Day Two

Beckwith Ranch



Ranching was very important in the Pueblo area and the Beckwith Ranch, was the largest ranch in Colorado. Two brothers from Maine owned 3,000 acres, 7,000 head of cattle and 200 horses, roughly half of all the cattle in the Wet Mountain Valley at the time. They were instrumental in the United Rocky Mountain Cattlemen's Association to fight cattle rustling and Elton served one term in the Colorado state senate. When he started a family, the original hewn-log cabin was expanded into the irregular Victorian house that exists today, the roof raised to create two stories, the walls covered with siding and a kitchen wing, pantry, and the striking porte cochere added. In the 1890s they built a bunkhouse, icehouse, garage, cattle barn, horse barn, and servants' quarters, unifying the complex with white walls and red roofs. The restored home, bunkhouse, outbuildings and corrals have been restored and are open for touring.

Colorado Route 69, Westcliffe, CO 81252 719-371-1814

Open by appointment only, Allow 2 hours

FriendsofBeckwithRanch@gmail.com Free

Westcliffe Destination Distinctive Accommodations and Dining



Destination Distinctive Accommodations: Dazzler's Best Casita Bed and Breakfast **5001 Colorado 96, Westcliffe, CO 81252 719-371-4519**

Stay in a true Dark Skies area in the Colorado Mountains for your own private getaway. Sit in stargazing chairs to marvel at the canopy of stars unimpeded by city lights and in the morning, enjoy a hot breakfast cooked to order and served in your Casita at the time you choose or dine al fresco to enjoy the panoramic view of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. In the afternoon, enjoy a snack of homemade, freshly baked cookies. While walking our private ranch road, chances are you will not see another soul except for the owners.



Chappy's Mountain View Bar and Grill

213 Main Street
Westcliffe, CO 81252
719-783-0813

A great downtown restaurant and bar with flame cooked steaks, burgers, chicken, dogs and brat's, served with homemade sides or fresh cut French fries, nachos, soup & salad.

Day Three

Augusta-Keating High Country Homestead District



Travel through the Augusta-Keating High Country Homestead District between Mile Markers 3-11.5 on Highway 165 at 9000 feet above in the Wet Mountains. Once home to 225 people living on quaint log farms eking out a living farming, lumbering and running moonshine. So remote that mail was only delivered three times a week on horseback, the Drake Homestead serving as the Augusta and Keating post office still stands on Highway 165. Several other original 1880s homesteads are also visible on both sides of the highway. Mile Marker 3-11.5 Colorado 165

Bishop's Castle



Towards the end of the Frontier Pathway Scenic and Historic Byway, Bishop's Castle has been under construction by Jim Bishop for more than 60 years. At age 15, he bought 2 ½ acres enclosed by the San Isabel National Forest and he and his dad spent the next ten summers doing groundwork for a family cabin. When he married in 1967 at age 25, Jim began building a cabin in the mountains that started with a one room stone cottage that evolved into the mammoth castle you see today.

12705 Colorado 165, Rye, CO 81069 719-564-4366 7 Days
9AM-6PM, Allow 1 hour Free, Donations Accepted

Cuerno Verde Rest Area and Information Center



At the southern terminus of the Frontier Pathways Scenic and Historic Byway, Colorado City was Colorado's first planned development. The town now includes a golf course, shopping center, trails, a public pool and Lake Beckworth. The name Cuerno Verde honors a Comanche chief who was named by the Spanish for his green-tinted leather headdress with a single bison horn. Stop here for additional information about the region.

6654 Colorado 165, Pueblo, CO 81004
