



Grand Mesa Scenic and Historic Byway

Imagine, driving on a mountain top where you can see hundreds of miles. You can do this on the Grand Mesa Scenic and Historic Byway with spectacular views and scenery while driving a scenic road with breathtaking landscapes overlooking endless forests and 300 lakes. It's easy to feel like you're on the top of the world, standing on the top of Grand Mesa, the largest flat mountain plateau in the world, high up in the clouds. As the song says on a clear day you can see forever. But there's more than just road. You'll discover Lost Lake, a glacier lake among basalt boulders, Powderhorn Ski Resort and the quaint town of Cedaredge. If you're up for hiking – you'll be up at the ridgeline, where bald eagles glide through the air. The drive encompasses four major ecological zones on one trip and along the route, you're literally above the tree line. Enjoy the astounding scenic beauty!



Up On The Flats Experience



Driving the Byway

Your journey begins in Grand Junction, a gateway to the Colorado Mountains, which has a vast collection of public art and a Smithsonian quality Museum of the West. Getting on the Byway the next morning, you take I-70 out of Grand Junction to get to Colorado Route 65, where the Byway climbs through picturesque Plateau Creek Canyon into evergreen forests 11,000 feet above sea level. Your first stop is in Mesa at Powderhorn Resort. From there, it's on to discover Lost Lake, before heading for the 12 mile in and out drive to Land's End Outlook looking over Colorado's landscapes in every direction. If you didn't bring a lunch with you, you'll want to have lunch in the quaint town of Cedaredge, and visit the Pioneer Town, to learn about the heritage of the area. You can take your time on this beautiful road, since at the end of the day accommodations in Delta will save you from having to rush around on the drive. From there, it's a zip back to Grand Junction, again above the tree line.

Day One



Grand Junction

Even though Colorado's famous mountain, Kit Carson, John Fremont and John Gunnison all passed through the Grand Valley in the 1840s and 1850s, Grand Junction was not settled until 1881. After the Ute tribes moved to Utah, pioneers began settling the Ute lands and George Crawford who had founded three towns in Kansas and nearby Delta, selected the town location. First called Ute and then West Denver, Grand Junction was settled on for its location at the confluence of the Gunnison and Colorado Rivers. After the first saloon was opened, literary societies, churches, lodges and music began to flourish as the town began to be polished. Like so many other frontier towns, a land rush increased the population threefold.

Day One

Historic Walking Tour with Art on the Corner and Art Galleries



Take a walk through historic downtown Grand Junction (pdf included with the detailed itinerary) where 23 historic structures are intermingled with a diverse and eclectic display of over 100 outdoor sculptures placed along Main Street and throughout the downtown area. The showcase began in 1984, as one of the nation's first sidewalk sculpture exhibits. Today, the styles and media of both temporary and permanent pieces varies widely, from abstract stone to realistic bronze. While you meander, stop into any one of Grand Junction's 12 art galleries.

Tour starts at 119 Pitkin Avenue, Allow 2 hours

Museum of the West



Thousands of years of history in Western Colorado is revealed at the Museum of the West, one of the magnificent collection of Western Colorado Museums, known for their high-quality exhibits. You can “ride” in a stagecoach, “fly” on a 1958 Cessna, marvel at ancient Anasazi pottery, venture into a uranium mine, follow a timeline of Western history and more. The Lloyd Files Research Library holds a wealth of historical, genealogical and natural history materials. Freemont and Ute rock art here introduces you to this unique art form.

462 Ute Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501

970-242-0971 Tuesday –Saturday 10AM-4PM, Allow 2 hours, \$7 per person

Grand Junction Destination Distinctive Accommodations and Dining



Destination Distinctive Accommodations: Castle Creek Manor **638 Horizon Drive, Grand Junction, CO 81506 970-241-9105**

. Castle Creek is not a historic property, it's just a wonderful one. In the most luxurious suites in the Grand Valley, all rooms have comfortable king-sized beds, fireplaces, private bathrooms with a two-person jetted tub, fridge, microwave, Wifi, and more. You can also relax on the large redwood deck with great views. A full country breakfast is served daily.

Bin 707 Foodbar

225 North Fifth Street
Grand Junction, CO 81506
970-243-4543



Diners consider this one of the best, or the best dinner restaurant in Grand Junction, noting food is locavore, innovative, and very good. The restaurant attracts a cool crowd, with interesting folks from a number of different places.

Day Two



Mesa

The tiny town of Mesa is the gateway to the Grand Mesa, the largest mountain plateau in the world. As you pass through town stop at the Blink Coffee Company for a cup of joe and take a Chorizo Sausage Casserole to sustain you on the adventurous day ahead. Grand Junction to Mesa—30 miles

Day Two

Powderhorn Resort



Tucked on the northern edge of the Grand Mesa, Powderhorn delivers breathtaking views from over 1,600 acres of mountain terrain. You can fuel up for the day with a quick snack or enjoy lunch from ingredients are all locally sourced including BBQ meats smoked right on the mountain and local craft beers.

48338 Powderhorn Road, Mesa, CO 81643
970-268-5700

Land's End Observatory



Be sure to take the short detour off Colorado 65 for the 12-mile drive to Lands End Observatory, an old ranger station at the edge of Grand Mesa. Even though the facility is no longer in use, take the drive for the views. The land drops off the edge of the mesa, delivering sweeping views of Colorado's best scenery. A look to the west features the La Sal Mountains in Utah, over 120 miles away. To the southeast you'll see Uncompahgre Peak and other 14ers (what locals call mountain peaks over 14,000 feet). You can also see Colorado National Monument, Unaweep Canyon, and Big Dominguez Canyon from this viewpoint.

Grand Mesa US Forest Service Visitor Center



If you have time, join the visitor center staff on a nature discovery hike, or take in a presentation on topics ranging from wildflowers to moose.

20090 Baron Lake Drive, Cedaredge, CO 81413
970-856-4153

Day Two



Cedaredge

The founders of Cedaredge were thinking ahead when they laid out the town in 1905 to provide for a bank and a store to complement the post office and hotel that were already standing, with the intent to Cedaredge “one of the prettiest towns in this part of Colorado.” Well ahead of its time, by 1913, the town had a water and septic system. An 18-hole golf course is now also a part of the public works.
Mesa to Cedaredge—38 miles

Day Two



Greater Mesa Byway Welcome Center at Pioneer Town

Stop in to learn more about the Grand Mesa National Scenic Byway and surrounding attractions.

338 South Grand Mesa Drive, Cedaredge, CO 81413
970-856-7554

Pioneer Town



Allow plenty of time to explore Pioneer Town filled with 24 historic buildings on five acres in the heart of Cedaredge. The complex includes three restored original Bar I Cattle Ranch silos, an historic apple shed, along with many genuine valley structures, a one room schoolhouse, a cabin, boardwalks, country store, saloon and even a jail. Many of the buildings have been outfitted as they would have appeared 100 years ago. The complex hosts one of the most extensive collections of Native American arrowheads in the west and the Doll House has a large variety of handcrafted dolls.

388 South Grand Mesa Drive, Cedaredge, CO 81413
970-856-7554 Monday-Saturday 10AM-4PM, Allow 2 hours \$7 per person

Creekside Café and Bakery

365 North Mesa Drive
Cedaredge, CO 81413
970-856-3366



Feast on French toast and pancakes or skillet breakfast, lunch salads, sandwiches, wraps, burgers and grab a beer or wine to go with it.

Day Two



Delta

The City of Delta was established in 1882 as a trading post for the Ute people and early settlers, taking its name from the delta of the Uncompahgre River. Early on, while it was still home to the Ute people, the community was involved in agriculture, mining, land and water development. Delta still has 30 buildings from its early days, which have received local historic designation, eight which have received state designation and four buildings have earned national historic designation. Cedaredge to Delta—15 miles

Delta Destination Distinctive Accommodations and Dining



Destination Distinctive Accommodations: Fairlamb Bed and Breakfast **700 Leon Street, Delta, CO 81416 970-874-5158**

.This classic 1906 Four Square with Victorian Arts and Crafts decorative elements was the residence of the Fairlamb family for 72 years. Before it could become a Bed and Breakfast, the interior needed a “facelift.” Decorative doors and original inlaid floors were saved, and the built ins installed by the Fairlambs were also retained. The entryway and hallway light fixtures were salvaged by Elizabeth's father from an old school building in Washington State. The foyer fixture is an Arts and Crafts design of stained glass and brass salvaged from a business in Denver and given to John and Elizabeth. The grandfather clock was built for Elizabeth by her father especially for this house.



Needle Rock Brewing Company

820 Colorado 92
Delta, CO 81416
970-399-3733

Bring on the delicious burgers and sweet potato fries! Great beer and wine selection and even gluten free dessert, truly delicious with great service.

Day Three



Murals of Delta

As you make your way through downtown Delta, you'll spot 20 murals that represent the history of town. In addition, there are sculptures with various themes, including Antoine Robidoux and the Ute Indians.

Fort Uncompahgre



Authenticity reigns at Fort Uncompahgre on the Old Spanish Trail, where you'll discover dirt floors, piles of furs and animals hides just as you would have encountered at the original fort. Antoine Robidoux (one of the sculptures featured in Delta) established the outpost in the 1820's in an area known as Robidoux Bottoms, the meeting place of the trail coming out of the San Juan River Basin and northwestern New Mexico with the North Branch of the Old Spanish Trail. When the beaver population declined and clothing styles changed, the days of the mountain men were numbered causing Antoine Robidoux to join General Kearny as an interpreter in Kearny's campaign in the War with Mexico in 1846.

440 North Palmer Street, Delta, CO 970-874-8349
Monday– Saturday 9AM-4PM, Allow 2 hours, \$5 per person
