



Highway of Legends Scenic and Historic Byway

There are legends upon legends along the Highway of Legends, 82 miles of roadway through rugged terrain between Walsenburg and Trinidad traveling past Spanish Peaks that rise to nearly 14,000 feet. Some say a man named George Simpson saved Trinidad from the marauding Utes by distracting them with taunts. Others say there is a lost vein of gold so rich that a single nugget could support a prospector for a year. Another legend surrounds Juan Humana and his conquistadors who disappeared here in 1594 never to be seen again. Even God gets involved in an ancient legend when the devil came out of hell to survey the world, choosing Cuchara Valley as his doorway. He climbed the Devil's Stairs, sat on the twin mountains and plotted how to take over the area, until God recognized the beauty of the valley and declared it his own. It is thought that Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday traveled along the route and Tom Tobin made a name for himself capturing a couple of serial killers before delivering them to the commander of Fort Garland. The region became a little less like the Wild West in 1876, when coal was discovered and immigrants from all over the world turned Southern Colorado into a melting pot. Today, nearly 400 rock formations known as "dikes" dot the route as they extend from the earth like spokes on a wheel.



Discover the Legends Experience



Driving the Byway

Your journey starts in Pueblo, just 40 miles north of the Byway, for a good introduction into Southwestern frontier culture. After exploring Pueblo for a day, on Day Two, you'll be on your way to Walsenburg, where Fred Walsen opened the first coal mine in the area, which was later complemented by longhorn cattle from Texas, starting ranching industry in the region and also visit La Veta, before moving on to Trinidad for a night's stay, ready to explore the remainder of the Byway in the morning.

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 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.

Tours Begins at El Pueblo Museum Allow time to take 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



Walsenburg

Sitting in the heart of Spanish Peaks Country, Walsenburg has retained its quaint small town charm even though I-25, Highway 160, and Highway 10 all meet in town. It was originally settled as La Plasa de los Leones in 1852, attracting Hispano immigrants from the New Mexico Territory who brought Indian captives as members of their families. Social life revolved around the Fandango dancing events and the wealthier families owned a Colt army revolver and a good horse, saddle and bridle. In the early years, adobe homes with two to three foot thick walls were common and still scattered about town. Most current residents of Walsenburg, renamed after Fred Walsen who ran the most productive coal mine in the area, trace their roots back to the early settlers and share Hispano, indigenous Indian and Anglo ethnicity. Pueblo to Walsenburg—48 miles

Day Two

Walsenburg Mining Museum



With over 100 coal mining camps in Huerfano County at one point, there were constant battles between the miners and the mine operators. At 80 years old, famous workers rights fighter, Mother Jones came to Colorado to help the colliers during a strike, only to be jailed in Walsenburg. After release, she headed to Washington DC to testify about the deplorable conditions the miners endured. The Walsenburg Mining Museum tells the stories of the miners, displays artifacts from their lives, and has created a series of dioramas depicting mining life.

112 West Fifth Street A, Walsenburg, CO 81089
719-738-1992 Monday-Friday 10AM-4PM, Sunday 10AM-1PM, Allow 2 hours, \$2 per person

Museum of Friends



Stop at the delightful Museum of Friends, 6,000 square feet filled with over 600 pieces of contemporary art by Brendt and Maria Berger and their artist friends. New pieces are continually added.

109 East Sixth Street, Walsenburg, CO 81089 719-738-2858
Tuesday-Saturday 10AM-4PM, Allow 1 hour, \$8 per person

Day Two



La Veta

Like so many other southwestern towns in Colorado, La Veta began as a fort. Built in 1862 to protect settlers and travelers through the San Luis Valley, the fort, like many Hispanic influenced towns, was a complete square around an open plaza in the center. As population increased, a post office named Spanish Peaks opened in 1871. When railroad tracks were built several blocks north of the fort in 1876, the town gradually began to move north, creating today's La Veta. In the art hub of the Spanish Peaks Region, galleries feature local, national and international artists up and down Main Street. Well-known, respected instructors teach everything from photography and painting to more unique offerings like Navajo sand painting and bronze clay jewelry making. Walsenburg to La Veta-16 miles

Day Two

La Veta Art Galleries



Enjoy a wide variety of art in seven galleries and working studios of La Veta's resident artists, including Shalawalla Gallery, Gift Shop and School, internationally known for batik, La Veta Gallery On Main, with an extensive collection of ceramics, jewelry, fiber, wood and paper works, Space, which displays changing exhibits year around, La Veta Mercantile, gifts and jewelry, Kathy Hill Studio, local artist who paints scenery and wildlife in the valley, The Painted Horse Gallery and Studio, featuring hand made art, jewelry, knives, teas, gifts and more, and Parkside Gallery of Wood Art, with woodworking, furniture and sculpture.

Regular retail hours, generally Tuesday-Saturday 11AM-4PM

Francisco Fort Museum



When Colonel John Francisco arrived in the Cuchara Valley, legend has it that he declared "this is paradise enough for me" and chose to settle down. He built a four-sided fort, resembling a Spanish Plaza in 1862 to protect from danger. Today, that fort is the Francisco Fort Museum, the oldest surviving adobe fort in Colorado. Exhibits feature artifacts from the entire region, including Native American cultures, the Hispanic legacy, Anglo settlement, ranching, blacksmithing, a log school house, a coal mining museum, weapons, pioneer artifacts, adobe ovens, wagons, saddles, clothing and a saloon from La Veta's old Main Street, complete with the bullet scarred bar owned by Bob Ford after he shot Jesse James. You'll leave with an appreciation for the area's culture which combines indigenous peoples, Spanish explorers, soldiers, Hispanic settlers, farmers, ranchers, miners and merchants.

306 Main Street, La Veta, CO 81055 719-742-5501
Tuesday-Saturday 10AM-4PM, Allow 2 hours, \$5 per person

Day Two



Trinidad

The culture of Trinidad that included adventurers, frontiersmen, revolutionaries, Native Americans, and Spanish is one of the most blended in southwestern Colorado. It was in Trinidad that coal miners fought in a deadly conflict for fair treatment, where a counter-culture was born of the youth of Drop City, and for over half a century that welcomed thousands of individuals seeking to become who they were born to be. Today, Trinidad is an almost perfectly preserved Victorian city with a historic downtown studded with Italianate stonework facades that give the city a European look. La Veta to Trinidad—65 miles

Trinidad Destination Distinctive Accommodations and Dining



Destination Distinctive Accommodations: Tarabino Inn **310 East Second Street, Trinidad, CO 81082 719-846-2115**

Six Tarabino brothers who arrived from Italy in the 1800s, first settled in a mining camp south of Trinidad, later moving to Trinidad to open the Famous Department Store in 1899, which eventually became the largest in town. Brothers John and Barney decided to build a house they could share as their families grew, near Peter and Luigi who had homes nearby. The now Tabarino Inn was constructed in 1907 on the foundation of one of the earlier homes.

The Café 135 East Main Street Trinidad, CO 81082 719-846-2696



The Cafe offers a unique selection of sandwiches, salads, and soup as well as a daily variety of fresh baked goods. Enjoy your meal street side while people watching or using the free Wi-Fi.

Day Three

Santa Fe Trail Museum and Trinidad History Complex



Filling an entire city block, the Trinidad History Museum includes the Santa Fe Trail Museum, an 1870s adobe Baca House, 1882 Victorian style Bloom Mansion and the Borderlands of Southern Colorado exhibit. Together, the locations along with the Baca-Bloom Heritage Gardens, recount the history of the city from the mid-1850s to the early 1930s. Displays of historic photographs, commercial goods, and family heirlooms from Trail will be of interest to travelers on the Trail. A fringed buckskin coat that Kit Carson gave to a pioneer mayor is a local treasure.

312 East Main Street, Trinidad, CO 81082 719-846-7217
Tuesday-Saturday 10AM-4PM, Allow 2-3 hours, \$5 per person

A.R. Mitchell Museum of Western Art



Located in the historic 1906 Jamieson's Department Store with pressed tin ceilings and a horseshoe shaped mezzanine, the museum features the work of Arthur Roy Mitchell, King of the Pulp Western Cover Artists. His iconic western scenes of cowboys, horses and cattle have captured the hearts and minds of pulp western readers from the 1920s to today.

150 East Main Street, Trinidad, CO 81082 719-846-4224
Tuesday-Saturday 10AM-4PM, Allow 1 hour, Free
