

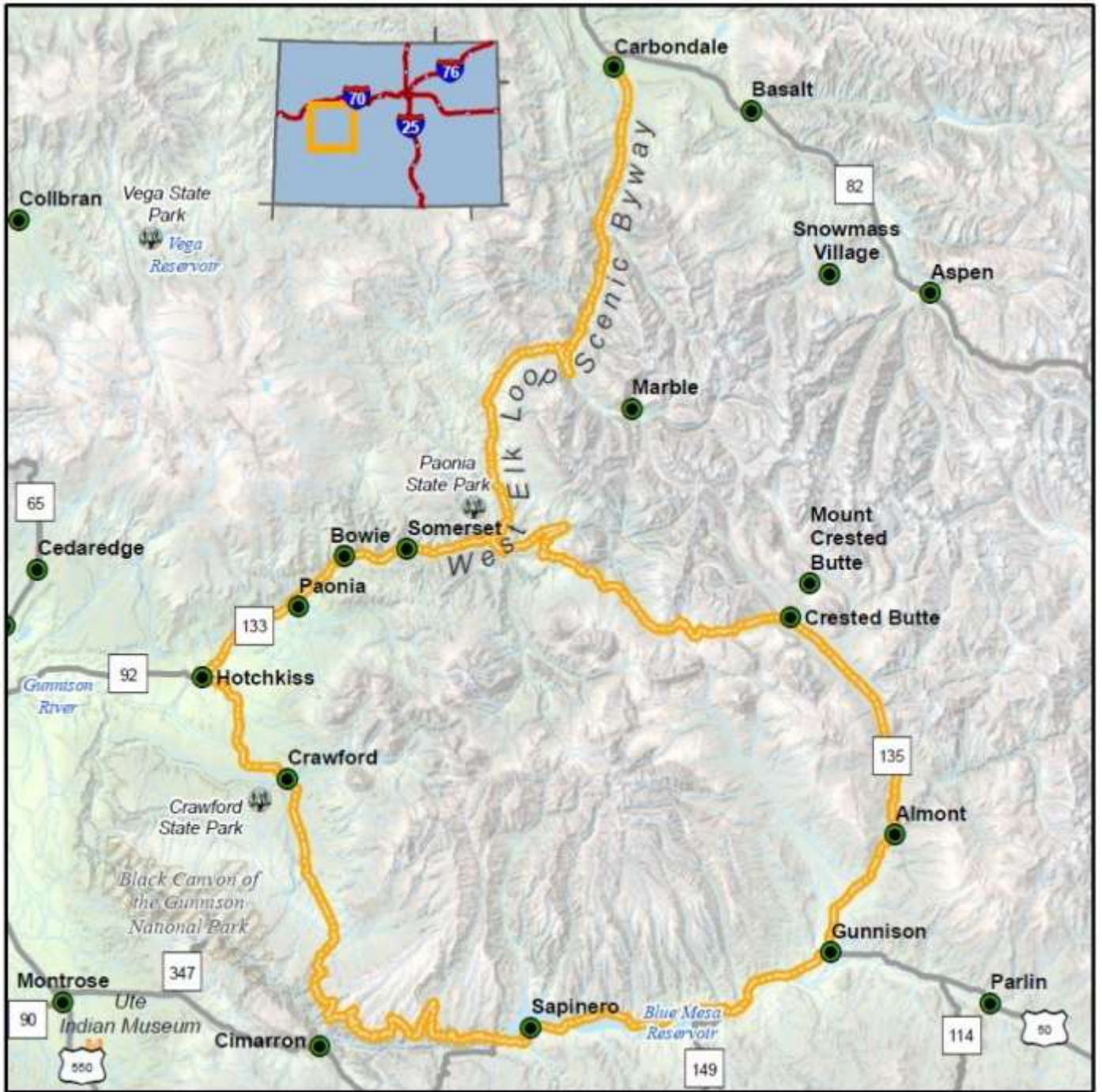


## West Elk Loop Scenic and Historic Byway

The remarkable drive known as the West Elk Loop Scenic and Historic Byway resembles a lasso around the West Elk Mountains. It spans some of Colorado's most spectacular scenery and is likely the closest you can come to a wilderness experience in a passenger car. Up here, the drive is about the massive mountain landscapes and the joy of mountain driving. You'll be in awe of geological wonders like Mount Sporis, the Black Canyon of the Gunnison, White River National Forest, Gunnison National Forest, Glenwood Springs and the West Elk Wilderness. Yet, the Byway is not just about the beauty of Colorado's rugged landscapes. People have lived in the area for more than 5,000 years. Like so many other areas in Colorado, miners, farmers, and stone cutters came in droves, but mining here is more about coal, marble and other hard rock resources than gold and silver. Fertile soil made ranching co-equal, with expansive ranches established centuries ago still growing fruit and raising cattle. As of late, producing art glass, ironwork and weaving have found their way to the area, adding a new dimension to the region's culture.

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## Circling Majestic Mountains Experience



### Driving the Byway

On your way into Glenwood Springs, Interstate 70 traverses spectacular Glenwood Canyon, where about 12 miles east of Glenwood Springs, you'll pass Hanging Lake. After exploring Glenwood Springs and soaking in the hot spring pools on Day One, on Day Two, you'll be on your way to Carbondale and ultimately Redstone, in the Crystal River Valley, built to house workers who tended the coke ovens. After a day in Redstone, you'll be traveling to the hub of marble mining in Colorado, and then on to Crested Butte. We've designed a stop in Crested Butte to allow you to spend the whole day exploring both the South and North rims of the Black Canyon. From there, it's a short trip to Gunnison, the gateway to Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, one of America's least known treasures. After a stay in Crawford, to view the Black Canyon from the north side, you'll be finishing up the Byway in Hotchkiss and Paonia. A portion of this Byway overlays Colorado's Cultural Corridor.

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## Day One



## Glenwood Springs

The area around Glenwood Springs has been a destination for health seekers since the Ute Indians partook of the bubbling hot springs. The earliest European settlers recognized the potential for the town as a world class resort, yet the development did not begin until the early 1800s. Originally known as Defiance, the first town was a tent camp of saloons and brothels, populated with gamblers, gunslingers and prostitutes. The founder's wife convinced him to change the name to Glenwood Springs after her home in Iowa. As more lodging properties appeared, the arrival of the railroad in 1887 brought the first tourists and the Glenwood Hot Springs Bathhouse was constructed in 1888. President Teddy Roosevelt spent one entire summer living out of the Hotel Colorado. Doc Holliday spent the final months of his life here. Coal mines and ranches still surround the resort community, bringing a different perspective to life.

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## Day One



### Historic Walking Tour of Glenwood Springs

Begin the Historic Walking Tour of Glenwood Springs (pdf included with the detailed itinerary) at the famous Hotel Colorado and enjoy the full complement of Victorian buildings preserved in town.

Tour begins at 576 Pine Street, Allow 1 hour

### Glenwood Hot Springs Pool



Native Americans, the first visitors to Glenwood Springs, called it "Yampah," meaning Big Medicine, due to the 15 minerals found in the water that relieve aches and pains. Other visitors have been arriving for more 130 years, to soak in hot highly concentrated mineral water that helps naturally eliminate toxins, increase circulation and reduce blood pressure. Today, you can still enjoy the world's largest hot springs in this unique and historic destination for stress reduction.

401 North River Street, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601  
970-947-2955 7 Days, 9AM-9PM, \$16.25 per person

### Glenwood Springs Frontier Museum



The Glenwood Springs Historical Society has made it a mission to preserve the stories of gunslinger Doc Holliday, the Unsinkable Molly Brown, Buffalo Bill, President Teddy Roosevelt and more who have come to enjoy this appealing hot springs resort town. In addition to the main museum downtown, there is a satellite Doc Holliday collection at the former Glenwood Hotel. In addition, the annual Ghost Walk to the Linwood Cemetery that commemorates Doc Holliday is wildly popular.

1001 Colorado Avenue, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601  
970-945-4448 Monday-Saturday 1PM-4PM \$5 per person

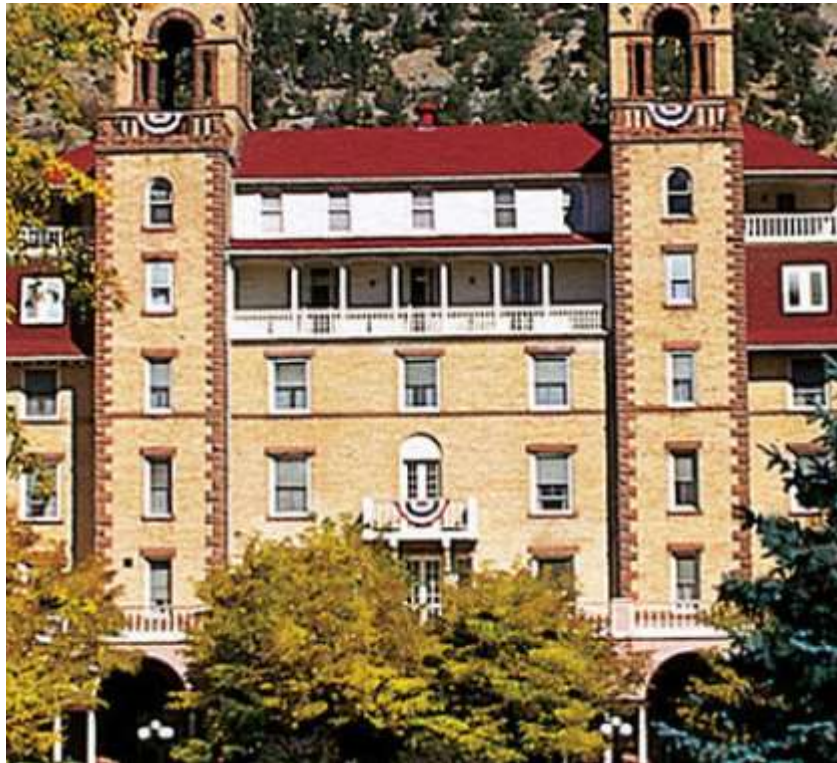
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## Glenwood Springs Destination Distinctive Accommodations and Dining



### **Destination Distinctive Accommodations: The Hotel Colorado** 526 Pine Street, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601 800-544-3998

The west was booming when silver baron Walter Devereux built this hotel in 1893. Prospectors arrived in droves on the promise of a fortune built on gold and silver mining. They also arrived in the West with an adventurous spirit to try a new way of life far from the bustling cities in the East. The Hotel Colorado counts a huge collection of notables among their past guests. You will enjoy being one too.



### **Riviera** 702 Grand Avenue Glenwood Springs, CO 81601 970-945-7692

Few restaurants rate a full five stars in online ratings. Riviera does. Enjoy a fine dinner in Glenwood Springs.

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## Day Two

### Glenwood Caverns



Located at the top of Iron Mountain, the Historic Fairy Caves have been welcoming guests since the 1890s. Having homesteaded the property on which the cave entrance occurs, the Darrow family opened the cave to visitor in 1895. At that point, the cave was thought to be 800 feet, yet today, the entire of Glenwood Caverns extends more than 16,000 feet into the mountain. Unlike early visitors who walked up a trail, road a horse or took a horse-drawn carriage to the cave, you can get there in a gondola on the Iron Mountain Tramway.

51000 Two Rivers Plaza Road, Glenwood Springs, CO  
81601 970-945-4228 M, W, Th, F 10AM-5PM, Sat-Sun  
10AM-6PM, Cave and Gondola Ride Starting at \$28 per  
person Reservations Required



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## Day Two



## Carbondale

Like so many other Colorado mining towns, the Ute Indians were the first to arrive in Carbondale, followed by prospectors, ranchers, and then, potato farmers. Since then a strong arts community has arisen, with the town now included on Colorado Cultural Corridor. Recently, National Geographic has touted Carbondale as one of the “Top 12 Towns” in the “50 Next Great Places to Live and Play” and Men’s Journey has called the town one of the “50 Best Places to Live in the Most Active Towns.”  
Glenwood Springs to Carbondale– 13 miles

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## Day Two



### Carbondale Public Art

Enjoy a delightful walk around town to view 20 permanent sculptures in downtown Carbondale, and 30 more Art Around Town locations, which change every year.

### Carbondale Historical Society



The Carbondale Historical Society has a priceless treasure in the Thompson House, an old Victorian mansion, built by one of Carbondale's first homesteaders and lived in continuously by the same family for more than 80 years. When they moved out, they left all of the furniture, housewares, décor and personal belongings of the house's original inhabitant Great Aunt Hattie Thompson-Holland. The whole works was gifted to the Carbondale Historical Society to open as a museum. Nearby, an 1887 log cabin and Carbondale's first jail was moved to History Park to serve as the headquarters of the Historical Society and house the collections of local history, photos, recorded narratives and more.

499 Weant Boulevard, Carbondale, CO 81623  
970-414-1078, Hours Vary, Allow 2 hours

### Redstone



Redstone is completely unique among Colorado mining towns. The historic coke ovens, used to refine coal into coke are right on Highway 133. The entire town was built by John Cleveland Osgood to deliver coking coal to his steel mill in Pueblo. In addition to the coke ovens, Osgood's Redstone Castle that has now been converted into a luxury hotel is still standing, along with the Redstone Inn constructed to house the single men who manned the ovens. Try to imagine life when 200 ovens were fired up to 2400°F to cook coal into coking coal.

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## Redstone Destination Distinctive Accommodations and Dining



### **Destination Distinctive Accommodations: The Redstone Castle** **58 Redstone Boulevard, Redstone, CO 81623 970-963-9656**

The west was booming when silver baron Walter Devereux built this hotel in 1893. Prospectors arrived in droves on the promise of a fortune built on gold and silver mining. They also arrived in the West with an adventurous spirit to try a new way of life far from the bustling cities in the East. The Hotel Colorado counts a huge collection of notables among their past guests. You will enjoy being one too.



### **The Redstone Inn** 82 Redstone Boulevard Redstone, CO 81623 970-963-2526

Dine in the quaint Redstone Inn built for workers housing.

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## Day Three



### Marble

In the heyday during the early 1900's, Marble, Colorado was a thriving mining town that was known worldwide for supplying beautiful white marble for the construction of monuments and buildings across the United States, including the Lincoln Memorial and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington, D.C. With the world's largest marble deposit and the world's largest building under one roof, during its boom heyday, the town will filled with churches, a school a movie theater, five general stores, two hotels, a drug store and more. Carbondale to Marble-27 miles

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## Day Three

### Marble Museum



The Marble Museum tells the story of this unique town, started to mine silver and instead thrived mining marble. The same John Osgood who built Redstone shipped a large block of marble to the 1893 World Columbian Exposition in Chicago, which generated tremendous interest in the town's resource. As economic conditions have ebbed and flowed, the population of Marble has risen and fallen, being especially impacted by the departure of the Italian stone workers who have been recruited who returned to Italy to fight in the Italian Army in World War I.

412 West Main Street, Marble, CO 81623 970-963-9815  
Thursday-Sunday 11AM-4PM, Allow 1 hour \$5 per person



### Kebler Pass

Kebler Pass is a terrific high-mountain pass with a summit over 10,000 feet as it passes through Gunnison National Forest. Leading east from Highway 133 to Crested Butte, the area is home to one of the largest groves of aspen in the United States.

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## Day Three



### 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.

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## 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 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  
Regular retail hours generally 11AM-6PM Allow 1 hour

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## 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 @ 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.

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## Day Four



## 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. Crested Butte to Gunnison– 27 miles

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## Day Four

### 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



### Curecanti National Recreation Area

Curecanti National Recreation Area is the gateway to the Black Canyon of the Gunnison, the massive canyon it took the Gunnison River millenniums to carve out.

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## Day Four



### Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park

It all started about 60 million years ago when some metamorphic rock was lifted up, only to be buried by two erupting volcanoes. About two million years ago, the Gunnison River found its way through a crack in the rock and Mother Nature began using the forces of wind and water to keep the crevice growing. Little by little the black rock gave way, creating the massive plunging vertical cliffs that are now the Black Canyon of the Gunnison. Even though fewer people know about the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, it ranks right up there with America's most famous parks. The steepest cliffs, oldest rock and craggiest spires host a sculpted vertical wilderness that is not to be missed. There are two views of the Black Canyon. To get to the North Rim Road, take Colorado Route 92 to Crawford State Park. The North Rim is reached by a gravel road from the east end of the State Park. The road provides access to six overlooks to canyon walls that are almost vertical; some of the most impressive views in the Park. The South Rim is reached by traveling west on US Route 50 to Colorado Route 347, which takes you to the South Rim Visitor Center and 12 overlooks. Be sure to stop at Gunnison Point, Chasm View, Painted Wall and Sunset View. The Visitor Center is located at Gunnison Point.

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## Day Four



### Crawford

Lore has it that, in this true western town, where the post office was in the granary, when George Crawford was passing through on his way to Delta and Grand Junction, suggested the Smith Fork Valley would be a good place to start a town. In appreciation, locals named the post office after him and later the town.

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## Crawford Destination Distinctive Accommodations and Dining



**Destination Distinctive Accommodations: Stone House Inn**  
**270 Highway 92, Crawford, CO 81415 970-589-2903**

Stay in a convenient location to explore the North Rim of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park in the morning.



**Old Mad Dog Café**  
**300 Highway 92**  
**Crawford, CO 81415**

Grab a bite to eat at the end of a long day exploring, right across the street from the Stone House Inn.

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## Day Five

### **Black Canyon of the Gunnison North Rim**



To get to the North Rim Road, take Colorado Route 92 to Crawford State Park. The North Rim is reached by a gravel road from the east end of the State Park. The road provides access to six overlooks to canyon walls that are almost vertical; some of the most impressive views in the Park.

### **Hotchkiss**



Founded on the ethic of hard work in the North Fork Valley based on four or five generations of heritage, Hotchkiss has become home to a rich diversity of stores, services, professionals, organic and conventional farmers, and creatives. Besides the creations of visual artists, products here include fruit, wine, vegetables, livestock, poultry elk and bison.

### **Hotchkiss-Crawford Historical Museum**



Exhibits at the Hotchkiss-Crawford Historical Museum feature a collection focused on the early life of the ranchers who settled in the North Fork Valley.

180 Second Street, Hotchkiss, CO 81419 970-872-3780  
Saturday 1-4, Allow 1 hour, tour appointments can be arranged at other times, \$5 per person

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## Day Five

### Paonia



Now part of the Colorado Creative District, Paonia has the optimum growing conditions for cherries, apricots, grapes, peaches, plums, pears, nectarines and apples. It has also become a real hotbed of organic farming, sustainably raised meats, value added products, organic hops and a truly remarkable wine industry. The town's oldest continuous celebration, the oldest in Colorado, is Paonia Cherry Days held over the Fourth of July holiday. More recently, creatives have joined the community. You will eat some of the highest quality, cleanest food in the world when you visit this Valley.



### The Living Farm Café

120 Grand Avenue

Paonia, CO

970-527-3779

The Living Farm Café is one of the true farm to table restaurants in Colorado, featuring farm-fresh and organic produce, meat, cheese and eggs from our farm and others in the area. Because we use such fresh ingredients, you are sure to notice a tasty difference in your meal.

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