

BOUNDLESS LANDSCAPES & SPIRITED PEOPLE

NORTHWEST COLORADO CULTURAL HERITAGE

ways of life

The remoteness of northwest Colorado has always attracted self-determined and resilient explorers. There is a legacy of connection here—between spirited people and boundless landscapes.

Vast and diverse, the region offered rich yet rugged ways of life. Here, people created strong traditions and cultures that were sustained by the land.



NATIVE PEOPLE

Fremont People: First People

The Fremont people were semi-nomadic hunters and farmers who lived in the region from AD 700 to 1300. They recorded their cultural stories in paintings on canyon walls.

Ute People: Noochev

Present day Colorado was once the home of these nomadic people. One of the seven Ute bands, the Yampatika, lived and hunted in northwest Colorado. Spiritually connected to nature—they held the rivers and springs of the region as sacred. Prominent in their culture is the bear, and in the spring Ute gathered for the *Momaqui Mowat*, or Bear Dance to celebrate life and the end of winter.

Above: Ute family in front of tipi ca. 1890



SURVEYORS

John Wesley Powell: Fortieth Parallel

In 1869 the Powell Expedition ran the Green River and camped at its convergence with the Yampa River (Echo Park). Two years later, at the top of Harpers Corner, the expedition penned, "We could look over Echo Wall [Steamboat Rock] 1000 feet high...down into the Canyon of Lodore..."

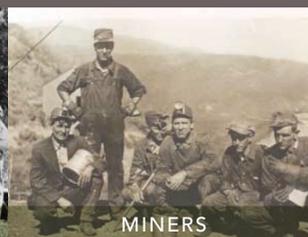
Ferdinand Hayden: Geological Surveyor

Exploring Colorado in the 1870s, the Hayden Survey produced maps and conducted scientific studies. An expedition member wrote, "think of my climbing seven great peaks in nine days. Three of these ascents were over 14,000 feet." During Hayden's explorations of the Yampa River Valley, he camped near the present day town of Hayden.

Arthur Carhart: The Cradle of Wilderness

While surveying Trappers Lake for private development, Carhart realized its value as wilderness: "Perhaps the rebuilding of body and spirit is the greatest service...from our forests, for of what worth are material things if we lose the character and quality of people that are the soul of America?"

Above: Ferdinand Hayden on expedition, 1870s

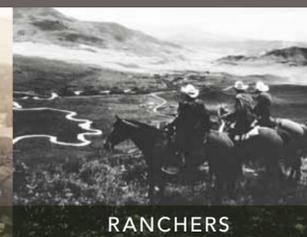


MINERS

Argo Mine & Haybro Mine: The Miner's Life

Mining booms—coal ore, gold, and silver—brought men and their families to the region to labor in the open cut and underground mines. After the bust times, many stayed to ranch and build northwest Colorado communities.

Above: Argo Mine workers near Oak Creek, 1910

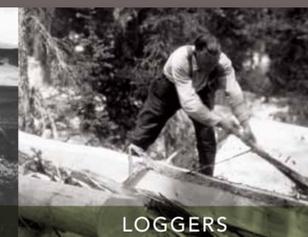


RANCHERS

Working the Land: Time Honored Life

Abundant grasses and water lured early cattle and sheep men to the region. Cowboys trailed large herds into the mountains during summer and back to the valleys before winter snowfall.

Above: Ranchers survey land along the Yampa River

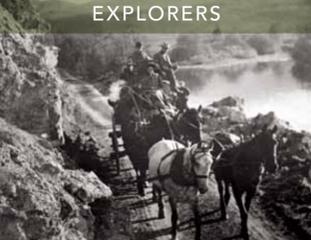


LOGGERS

Bockman Lumber Camp: Gould, Colorado

One hundred men and their families once lived in Colorado's largest logging camp. Tie hawks felled trees, cut them to length, and flattened four sides with a broadaxe to make railroad ties.

Above: Tie hawk making railroad ties from felled trees



EXPLORERS

In visiting northwest Colorado you follow a long line of daring explorers who made the arduous trek by foot, horse, and wagon. Not until David Moffat's railroad pushed through the Continental Divide was the region linked to Denver and the nation.

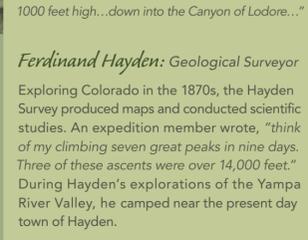
For the stories and legacy of northwest Colorado visit: www.nwcoloradoheritagetravel.org



Culture: Art, Dance, and Theater

Living in the remote communities of northwest Colorado, residents created their own cultural traditions. Performing and visual arts, schools, libraries, and churches thrived.

Below: Dancers at the Perry-Mansfield Performing Arts School and Camp in Steamboat Springs

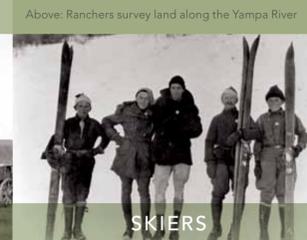


OILMEN

Geology and Resources: Roughnecks

Oil has been bubbling to the surface in the Rangely area for millennia. Since the 1900s the risk and reward of drilling for oil and extracting shale oil in the Roan Plateau near Rifle, Parachute, and Battlement Mesa, has lured men to the dangerous, demanding work in the region.

Above: Early oilmen on the site of a drilling operation



SKIERS

Skating Tradition: A New Recreation Pursuit

Early northwest Colorado pioneers strapped on homemade wooden skis for transportation. In 1913, Carl Howelsen, the "Flying Norseman," introduced Steamboat Springs' residents to ski jumping and skiing as a recreational sport.

Above: Skiers—Carl Howelsen is second from right

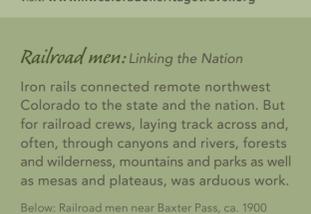


ARTISTS

Hide Outs: Browns Park

Notorious rustlers, gunmen, bank and train robbers escaped Western justice in remote areas of northwest Colorado. Rancher, Ann Bassett of Browns Park and her sister Josie befriended the outlaws of the Wild Bunch, including Butch Cassidy and Kid Curry.

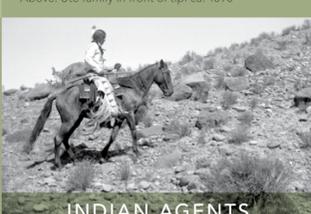
Below: Queen Ann, friend of Butch Cassidy, ca. 1900



Railroad men: Linking the Nation

Iron rails connected remote northwest Colorado to the state and the nation. But for railroad crews, laying track across and, often, through canyons and rivers, forests and wilderness, mountains and parks as well as mesas and plateaus, was arduous work.

Below: Railroad men near Baxter Pass, ca. 1900

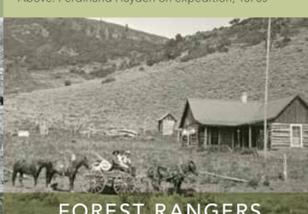


INDIAN AGENTS

White River Agency: Clash of Cultures

An Indian Agency, established in the White River Valley on Ute Indian land, caused a deadly conflict in 1879 between settlers who wanted to farm the land and the nomadic Ute who valued the region for grazing their horses and racing them on open land.

Above: Ute horseman riding up mesa, ca. 1899

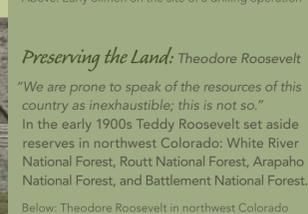


FOREST RANGERS

James Cayton: First Ranger Station

In the early 1900s, Cayton's duties required twenty-mile rides a day to keep track of the number of cattle grazing in the forest, survey boundaries, post signs, build and repair telephone lines, inspect homestead claims, and be a resource for local ranchers.

Above: James & Birdie Cayton at ranger station, 1909



Preserving the Land: Theodore Roosevelt

"We are prone to speak of the resources of this country as inexhaustible; this is not so." In the early 1900s Teddy Roosevelt set aside reserves in northwest Colorado: White River National Forest, Routt National Forest, Arapaho National Forest, and Battlement National Forest.

Below: Theodore Roosevelt in northwest Colorado



OUTFITTERS

Scouting the Land: Guiding Expeditions

Outdoorsmen, willing to share their skill and knowledge of northwest Colorado, outfitted expeditions and back country hunting trips. In 1905, Jake Borah (pictured) helped guide Teddy Roosevelt's hunting party through Glenwood Canyon in Garfield County.

Above: Jake Borah, guide for Theodore Roosevelt, ca. 1900



OUTLAWS

YAMPA

Gateway to the famed Flat Tops Mountains and the Flat Tops Trail Scenic Byway, Yampa began as a hunting camp in the 1880s. Freight wagons and stagecoaches were prominent in town. Later, agriculture and a booming lumber industry in the forests surrounding Yampa kept life buzzing.

Participants of the Wooden Ski Rendezvous in Columbine



continuing ways of life

A connection to the land and a respect for time-honored ways of life is passed from one generation to the next in communities across northwest Colorado. To experience the region join us in our heritage celebrations and events.



Sombrero Ranch's Great American Horse Drive

MAYBELL

A storied rural community, Maybell is the gateway to Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge. ***No services after Maybell on RD 318.**



Sheep wagon—a shepherd's home on the range

CRAIG

Set in a high-desert landscape, Craig is a thriving town steeped in cowboy and Native American history as well as gunfighter and outlaw lore.

Sheep Wagon Days: In September, experience the region's history of sheep ranching through hands-on sheep shearing events, working dog demonstrations, and tours of authentic sheep wagons.

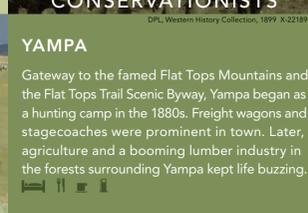
Museum of Northwest Colorado: Featuring one of the world's outstanding Western American "Cowboy and Gunfighter" collections, the museum showcases cowboy gear used on the open range: guns, gun leather, chaps, spurs, and saddles.

Wyman Museum: A unique collection spanning 100 years of American life, ingenuity, and advancement.

HAYDEN

Named for surveyor Ferdinand Hayden, the town is in the heart of the Yampa River Valley. Historically a coal mining and agriculture center, today the town maintains its western spirit and is surrounded by working ranches and farms.

Routt County Fair: Celebrated on the same site since 1914, the annual August event honors the agricultural heritage and traditions of the region.



Cowboy Horse Polo in Yampa



Fourth of July Celebration: Yampa's Historic Moffat Avenue, built double-width to accommodate freight wagons and stagecoaches, cattle and sheep drives, rodeos and horse races, remains a dirt street and now hosts cowboy polo and other 4th of July events.



Yampa Egeria Museum: Stop by the restored 1904 bank building. Then take a historic walking tour of the old opera house, the 1902 Antlers Hotel and Cafe, the Royal Hotel (home of Rufus the resident ghost), and the jail.



OAK CREEK

Immigrants from around the world worked the coal mines surrounding Oak Creek from the early 1900s. The number of different ethnic groups was unusually high for its population during the 1920s to the 1940s. Today, the town embraces its diversity and heritage.



Oak Creek Labor Day Celebration: The community has been staging a large Labor Day event celebrating hard working miners since 1913. Today the event is one of Colorado's largest, featuring a parade, barbecue, games, and contests.

The Tracks and Trails Museum: Located in the 1927 Town Hall building, the museum highlights the region's coal mining, railroad, and local history.

PHIPPSBURG

At the turn of the 19th century, the community was a major hub for the Denver Northwestern & Pacific Railway, and later in 1913, David Moffat's Denver & Salt Lake Railroad. It now serves the Union Pacific Railroad.

Phippsburg Railroad Memorial: In conjunction with the Tracks and Trails Museum in Oak Creek, Phippsburg Community Park features a railroad display and vintage Denver & Rio Grande caboose.

NEW CASTLE

First settled in the 1880s, New Castle grew when coal veins were found on the Grand Hogback. The soft coal mines also produced methane gas, which ignited a tragedy in the late 1800s when explosions ripped through the mines. Today, underground coal veins still smolder beneath Burning Mountain.

Burning Mountain Festival: Three-day event with carnival, pancake breakfast, music, car show, burning mountain games, artisans and food vendors.

Highland Cemetery: Civil War veterans and victims of area mine explosions are buried here, along with Marshall John Rennie, killed on Main Street in 1910.

New Castle Historical Museum: Set in the town's 1893 Town Hall and Fire Station, the museum showcases local history and features a blacksmith shop.



Rafting the Green River in Dinosaur National Monument

DINOSAUR

The western most town in the state, Dinosaur is the site of the Colorado Welcome Center and gateway to Dinosaur National Monument.

Dinosaur National Monument: Established in 1915 to protect the remarkable deposit of ancient animal bones in Utah, the Monument expanded to Colorado in 1938 to preserve the "basement of time." The Green and Yampa Rivers cut through the landscape to reveal rocks a billion years old.

MEEKER

Explorer John Wesley Powell set up a winter camp in the Meeker area. In 1868 the first Indian Agency was established and ranchers soon followed. Today Meeker remains a ranching community—cattle and sheep herds are still driven down Market Street to pasture.

RANGELY

Cowboys began driving thousands of cattle into the lower White River Valley in the late 1880s. Called the "Isolated Empire" the area was virtually unknown until the 1940s when a major oil discovery put Rangely on the map. Today the Rangely Oil Field is the largest oil producing field in the Rocky Mountain Region.

Septemberfest: Annual community rodeo and parade with events throughout town—bike rally, chili cook-off, movies in the park, art show, and car show. Don't miss the mud pillow fights or duck race.

Rangely Museum: Featuring Native American and pioneer artifacts as well as exhibits about energy development. Visit the Raven A-1, the first deep well in the region. In 1933, after a year of drilling, an oil company punched into the Weber Sandstone to a vast reserve of crude oil.



Sombrero Ranch's Great American Horse Drive

MAYBELL

A storied rural community, Maybell is the gateway to Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge. ***No services after Maybell on RD 318.**

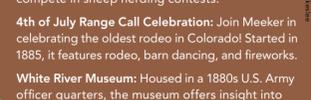


Meeker Classic Sheepdog Championship

Meeker Classic Sheepdog Championship Trials: In keeping with the legacy of sheep ranching, every September national and international working dogs compete in sheep herding contests.

4th of July Range Call Celebration: Join Meeker in celebrating the oldest rodeo in Colorado! Started in 1885, it features rodeo, barn dancing, and fireworks.

White River Museum: Housed in a 1880s U.S. Army officer quarters, the museum offers insight into Ute heritage and pioneering families of the region.



RIFLE

Rifle is a gateway to the Roan Plateau and Flat Tops Wilderness. Teddy Roosevelt hunted bear in the area in 1905, artist Christo hung a 250,000 square foot curtain across Rifle Gap here in 1972, and today Rifle is a thriving new energy hub.



Rodeo princesses at Garfield County Fair in Rifle

Garfield County Fair and Rodeo: Discover how the West has fun—bull riding, motorcycle stunt riding, a demo derby, and live entertainment.

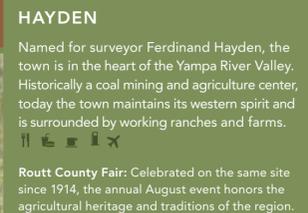
Rifle Creek Museum: Located in the town's former city hall, the museum's themed rooms showcase local history from Native American artifacts to an old-fashioned general store.



Carpenter Ranch conserves Yampa Valley heritage

Carpenter Ranch: Offering tours and exhibits, this working ranch is part of the Nature Conservancy's efforts to conserve the Yampa Valley's natural, historical, and agricultural heritage. Built by "J. B." Dawson, one of the first to trail cattle from Texas to Colorado, it was later owned by cattleman and Harvard educated lawyer Farrington Carpenter.

Hayden Heritage Museum: Located in the 1918 Hayden Depot, the museum interprets the town's ranching heritage, historic architecture, and the area's legacy in developing the Quarter Horse breed.



Miners Memorial in New Castle

SILT

Bordered by thousands of acres of BLM land and just minutes from Harvey Gap State Park and the White River National Forest, Silt is a sportsman's gateway to fishing and hunting.

Chautauqua Days: A two-day event celebrating life as it was a century ago, which features special activities for youth.

Silt Historical Park and Museum: Period buildings reflect life in Silt at the turn of the last century.



Power generating solar flowers

PARACHUTE & BATLEMENT MESA

The town of Parachute, located at the base of Mt. Callahan, was the site of the Kid Curry Train Robbery in 1904. Today, Parachute is the heart of multiple natural energy resources, including oil shale, natural gas—and three 27 foot solar flowers, which power the town's Welcome Center Rest Stop.

Located on a mesa across the Colorado River from Parachute, the community of Battlement Mesa was once home to the Ute Indians and later ranchers. Today, the planned community is home to the historic Battlement Schoolhouse.

Grand Valley Days: A community event, held since 1908, featuring rodeo, parade, pie and ice cream social, and street dance.



Miners Memorial in New Castle



Winter Carnival event on Lincoln Avenue



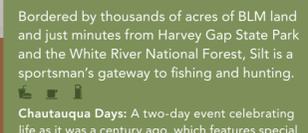
Winter Carnival: Started in 1914, Winter Carnival is the oldest winter celebration of its kind in the West. Introduced by skiing pioneer Carl Howelsen, the iconic carnival brought ranchers and skiers together and still continues to break up and add excitement to the Routt County winters.



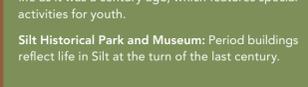
Cowboys' Roundup Days: Rodeo competitions have been a part of Steamboat Springs' ranching heritage since the late 1890s. The community carries on the tradition with the summer Pro Rodeo Series and the 4th of July rodeo. See the cattle drive through downtown and take a working ranch tour.



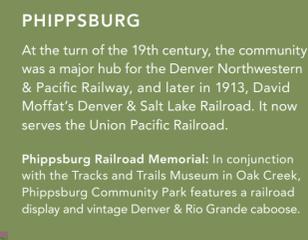
Tread of Pioneers Museum: Visit the 1908 Queen Anne-style Victorian home of the museum and learn about the history of skiing, ranching, pioneer life, and Native Americans in the Steamboat Springs area. While at the museum, pick up brochures with maps of walking tours: Historic Downtown, The Springs of Steamboat, and Olympic Heritage.



Strawberry Days: Originally envisioned as a festival in 1898 to highlight local produce, Colorado's oldest ongoing civic celebration features a parade, carnival, artisan booths, food, and live entertainment.



Historic Ghost Walk: The Frontier Historical Society and Museum host a trek through Glenwood's oldest established cemetery. Actors portray gunslinger, Doc Holliday, outlaw Kid Curry, and other local characters.



Frontier Historical Society & Museum: A 1905 home features mining, ranching, Ute Indians, Doc Holliday, Theodore Roosevelt, and Buffalo Bill exhibits.



Wooden Ski Rendezvous: Held in late February, the annual event includes cross country ski races and skiing at Hahns Peak as well as the Boil em' Up Race where racers are required to boil a cup of snow.



WALDEN / NORTH PARK

Large grassland surrounding Walden sustains large ranches and wildlife populations just as they did over a century ago when settlers first arrived. Nearby forests around Gould were harvested by logging operations. Today, you'll share the area with deer, elk, and moose as well as birds of prey.



Wooden Ski Rendezvous: Held in late February, the annual event includes cross country ski races and skiing at Hahns Peak as well as the Boil em' Up Race where racers are required to boil a cup of snow.



Walden Cemetery: Moose wandering through the Walden Cemetery



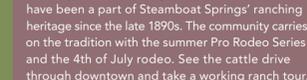
Never Summer Rodeo/North Park Pioneer Reunion: In late June, the town welcomes rodeo competitors, fans, and pioneering families with a Main Street BBQ, dance, live music, and classic small town parade.



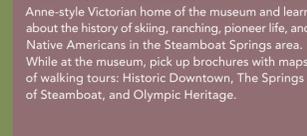
Moose Visitor Center: Operated by the Colorado State Forest State Park and located near the former logging camp of Gould, the Center features info on the park, local history, moose, and other wildlife.



North Park Pioneer Museum: Housed in a cabin built in 1883, the museum's exhibits showcase the region's mining, logging, ranching, and farming heritage.

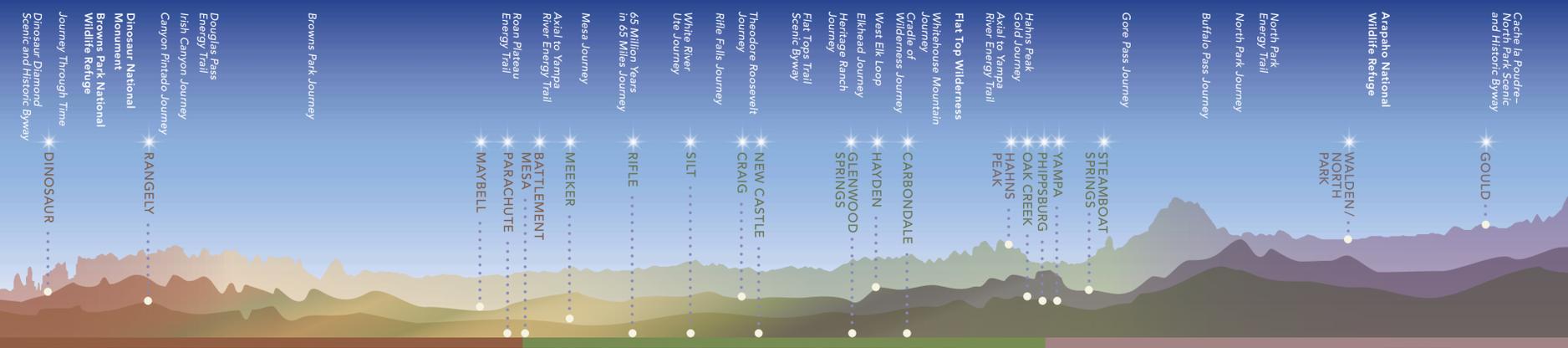


Glenwood Springs Hot Springs Pool



CARBONDALE

Potato Day Parade and Celebration: Held since 1909, the event



Note: NOT all Journey loops are accessible year round. Contact local authorities for current road conditions on specific routes.



www.nwcoloradoheritageatv.org

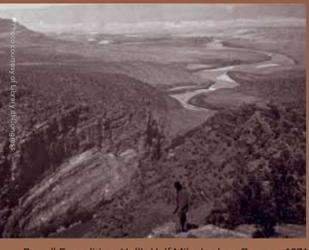
LEGEND

- Heritage Town/Site
- Heritage Journey
- Energy Trail
- Scenic Byway
- County
- Rivers and Streams
- Lakes
- National Wildlife Refuge
- National Park Service
- Preserve
- Roads

Elevation (feet)
High - 14,275'
Low - 4,930'

0 5 10 Miles

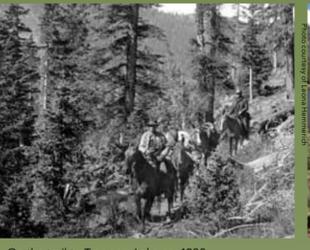
Funds for this project provided by: Colorado Tourism Office, Garfield County Board of Commissioners, Communities of Garfield County, Rifle Visitor Information, Town of Silt Board of Trustees, Steamboat Springs Chamber Resort Association, and Moffat County Tourism Association.



Powell Expedition, Hell's Half Mile, Lodore Canyon, 1871



Steamboat Rock & Yampa River Canyon at Harpers Corner



On the trail to Trappers Lake ca. 1900



Trappers Lake and The Amphitheater, an eroded butte



Hahns Peak village celebrating the Fourth of July, 1907



Hahns Peak in winter snow

boundless landscapes

Unrelenting forces of nature have carved immense and intimate landscapes in northwest Colorado. Spanning 14,918 square miles, the region encompasses expansive areas of public lands—canyons and rivers, forests and wilderness, parks and peaks, mesas and plateaus—preserved for posterity and enjoyment by the National Park Service, United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Colorado State Parks. This remote area has always attracted rugged individuals and today rewards adventurers with experiences where, like explorers, you can find yourself alone and renewed by vast frontiers.

roam with a view: canyons & rivers

Dinosaur Diamond Scenic and Historic Byway connects you to the canyons and rivers of northwest Colorado. Here you can choose a *Heritage Journey* to view time in the geology of the land, discover the painted pictographs and carved petroglyphs of the Fremont and Ute Indians, see where wild horses still roam, or stand 2,700 feet above the Green and Yampa Rivers. You may observe a twenty-five foot waterfall, the Gates of Lodore, or experience the solitude of a wildlife refuge.

Irish Canyon Journey: Irish Canyon dates back to the Pleistocene time when a stream pirated from Vermillion Creek began the formation of the 1,000-foot deep dry gorge. Irish Lakes represent one of the few natural gorges or dry lakes in this part of the state. Rock art sites abound in the canyon.



Irish Canyon rock art

Browns Park Journey: Appearing much as it did one hundred years ago, this high desert valley formed by the Green River, was a favored wintering place for the Ute and Shoshone. In the late 1800s cattlemen arrived lured by its mild winters, game, grass, and water. Due to its remoteness and access to three state borders, outlaws—Butch Cassidy, Sundance Kid, Isom Dart, Tom Horn, and Matt Rash—also frequented the area. Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1963 and offers wildlife viewing and scenic solitude.

Journey through Time: Orient yourself at the Dinosaur National Monument Visitor Center, then travel through open rangeland to arrive at the Monument's canyon lands. If you're bold, make the steep descent to the river bottom on Echo Park Road. At Harpers Corner, stand at the precipice above the convergence of the Green and Yampa Rivers and trace where the John Wesley Powell Expedition ran the Green River in 1869 and 1871.

roam with a view: forests & wilderness

Flat Tops Trail Scenic Byway, linking Yampa and Meeker, showcases the legacy of Routt National Forest's multiple-use land management. You'll follow a Ute trail recorded by the Ferdinand Hayden Expedition, 1874–1878, through pristine scenery with excellent wildlife viewing. It is a working byway for ranching, logging, and mining operations. Take time on our *Heritage Journeys* to explore Trappers Lake, the Ute legacy at the White River Agency, and Thornburgh Battle Monument. Or, follow the *West Elk Loop*—described by a forest ranger as “the closest you can come to a wilderness experience in a passenger car.”

65 Million Years in 65 Miles Journey: A self-guided loop through BLM land, which was once a shallow sea, reveals sixty-five million years of geological time—from fossils and coal deposits to hot springs. As you travel the landscape of rugged beauty, you'll also find historic homesteads, outlaw hangouts, and open vistas for wildlife viewing.

White River Ute Journey: Northern Utes called the White River “Smoking Earth River” for the clouds of mist rising from the water on cool mornings. In 1879, Indian Agent Nathan C. Meeker's aggressive campaign to convert the nomadic Northern Ute to farmers ignited conflict, resulting in the killing of Meeker, nine of his men, and the troops of Major Thornburgh. In the aftermath, the Ute lost their ancestral home and were forced onto reservations.

Heritage Ranch Journey: The loop passes ranches listed on local, state, and national registers of historic places including the Carpenter Ranch. “Old Fred,” the founding stallion of the Quarter Horse breed came from one of these ranches. The routes feature Elkhead Reservoir and State Park as well as the Yampa River.

Elkhead Journey: On this day-long trek you'll travel through stunning California Park on your way to the small ranching town of Slater—marked only by a post office—and then through to the historic mining areas of Columbine and Hahns Peak.

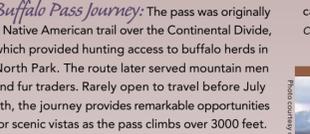


Working horse on Flat Tops Trail Scenic Byway

roam with a view: mountains & parks

Cache la Poudre—North Park Scenic and Historic Byway follows the federally designated Wild and Scenic River, the Cache la Poudre, from Fort Collins to Walden. Traveling through the river canyon you'll ascend to 10,276-foot Cameron Pass, cross between the Never Summer and Medicine Bow mountain ranges, and then descend into North Park. Now called “Moose Country,” the Ute Indians named the area the “Bull Pen” for the great buffalo herds, which grazed in the valley. Three *Heritage Journeys* let you explore mountains and parks in Routt National Forest, the Continental Divide, and Mount Zirkel Wilderness.

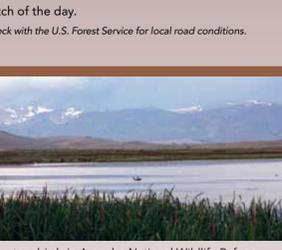
North Park Journey: This scenic detour rises from the sagebrush flats of the valley floor up into the forest. Lake John, a remote 656 acre high plains lake, offers expansive water and mountain horizons, which powerfully reconnect you with the natural heritage of this remarkable region. Trappers and mountain men hunted the area and intrepid settlers carved out ranching and logging enterprises that continue today. In Routt National Forest, the Big Creek Lakes are fishing destinations where you'll compete with osprey and golden eagles for the catch of the day. Check with the U.S. Forest Service for local road conditions.



Buffalo herd ca. 1900 - 1910

Buffalo Pass Journey: The pass was originally a Native American trail over the Continental Divide, which provided hunting access to buffalo herds in North Park. The route later served mountain men and fur traders. Rarely open to travel before July 4th, the journey provides remarkable opportunities for scenic vistas as the pass climbs over 3000 feet.

Hahns Peak Gold Journey: Following Joseph Hahns discovery of gold in the late 1800s, the area boomed and was once the Routt County seat of government. After the gold bust, Hahns Peak became a mining ghost town, yet over time timber harvesting brought people back into the area. Today, Hahns Peak is a quiet historic village near Steamboat Lake. Here you can learn about early pioneer life at the Hahns Peak Museum before venturing north to Columbine, a former gold mining camp and stagecoach stop, and then on towards Hahns Peak itself.



Migratory birds in Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge

Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge: Created in 1967, the Refuge provides habitat for waterfowl and moose. Bring your camera and take the six-mile self-guided tour to learn about the Refuge, its wildlife, and habitats.



Theodore Roosevelt on hunting trip, 1905

roam with a view: mesas & plateaus

The Colorado River defines this region—its waters coursing through the mesas and plateaus and geologic time—to carve Glenwood Canyon and nourish its valleys. Recognized as one of the most biologically diverse areas on the Western Slope, the Roan Plateau provides outstanding habitat for fishing, deer, and other wildlife. Sixty percent of the area is public land where for generations outdoorsmen have come to camp and hunt. Here you can follow in the footsteps of Ute Indians, Theodore Roosevelt, forest rangers, and oil drillers. And, on alternate routes, working ranch land, farm land, and the work of marble stonemasons.

Mesa Journey: Morrisania Mesa, just east of Battlement Mesa, features the “fruit basket” of the western U.S. Here, early fruit farmers cultivated cherries, apples, and apricots. This Journey also travels to the trailhead of historic Battlement Reservoir, a chain of reservoirs carved out by horse-drawn equipment in the 1890s. Today, the area offers a pristine high mountain setting for fishing and hiking.

Theodore Roosevelt Journey: During a hunting trip in 1905, in which he bagged three black bears and three lynx, TR rode to the Little Blue School House on Divide Creek (south of Silt) and addressed 1,400 residents. He then returned to the Colorado Hotel for a dip in the hot springs. The first ranger station in the area is also featured.



Vast body of oil shale, ca. 1910



Modern day drilling near Rangely

roam with a view: energy trails

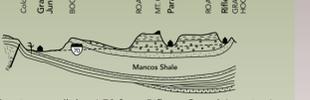
Deep below northwest Colorado's diverse landscapes lie geological expanses of fossil fuels and minerals. When traveling in the region, your journeying across an energy trail.



Section between Dinosaur and Loma on CO 139*

Douglas Pass Energy Trail: Paralleling the Canyon Pintado Journey, this trail traces the story of oil. Ute Indians used oil seeping from the ground for medicinal purposes. Early explorers encountered places where oil mixed with surface water. But it wasn't until the 1930s that technology enabled oilmen to drill over a mile down to a vast pocket of trapped oil. Measuring ten miles long and five miles wide the deposit of natural gas and oil floating on a reservoir of water makes the area the most productive oil field in Colorado.

Roan Plateau Energy Trail: The world's largest known source of oil shale was deposited 50 million years ago in a series of intermountain



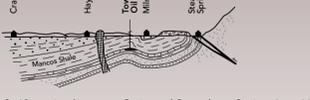
Section parallel to I-70 from Rifle to Grand Junction*

lakes in an area north of Rifle. It is estimated that 1.8 trillion barrels of oil exists within the shale of the Roan Cliff area.

When traveling between Rifle and Parachute on Interstate 70, you'll see a dark brown layer of an oil bearing strata called the Mahogany Ledge. Oil extraction, from this strata of a waxy compound called “kerogen,” involves a costly process of heating the shale to 900 degrees Fahrenheit.

As you travel north of Rifle on Colorado 13 and west on Colorado 64, you'll traverse the Roan Plateau where, west of the junction at Rd 122 and Hwy 13, an oil shale reserve lies buried in geological time.

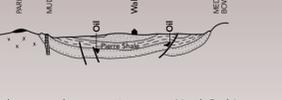
A wealth of natural resources are found here—from oil and natural gas, uranium and coal, oil shale and geothermal energy.



U.S. 40 section between Craig and Steamboat Springs*

Axial to Yampa River Energy Trail: Traveling north on Colorado 13 to Craig you enter coal mining territory. Here, 65-million years ago, a retreating sea left coal beds in the White River Plateau from Hamilton to Oak Creek. This “black gold” enticed miners to the region beginning in the 1870s. Today coal is mined in the northwest counties of Garfield, Moffat, Routt, and Rio Blanco. Near Oak Creek on Colorado 127, Twentymile Coal is the world's most productive coal mine in terms of output per man-year.

Following US 40 east from Craig to Steamboat Springs, you pass near the Tow Creek Oil Field, which is south of Milner. Oil is pumped from a



Northeast-southwest section across North Park*

layer of limestone 2,500 feet deep. Further east, in Steamboat Springs, at depths of 12,000 to 15,000 feet, geothermal activity creates a potential source for alternative energy.

North Park Energy Trail: Glacial meltwater carved rock terraces and faults, which trapped and collected oil in the North Park basin. In this wide valley, ringed on three sides by mountain ranges, oil was first drilled west of Walden in 1926. Named McCallum Field, this first drill site has accounted for more than half the oil production in North Park. Early in the 21st century, 153 wells throughout the Park region produced 96 thousand barrels of oil and 1.3 billion cubic feet of natural gas.

*Sections courtesy of Roadside Geology of Colorado, Halka Chronis and Felicia Williams, Mountain Press Publishing Company