

# One Day Just Isn't Enough: Summer Fun in Cortez, Dolores & Towaoc

## COLO-ROAD TRIPS

ESTABLISHED IN 2017

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3  
days

Stargazing at stunning Ancestral Puebloan archaeological sites, sampling the bounty of local producers at verdant farms and ranches, epic fly-fishing on the Dolores River — there's so much to see and do in Mesa Verde Country.

Sustainability Activity  
Travel Like a Local

There are special places and unique vistas around nearly every Colorado corner. You can help ensure these places exist for generations to come by staying on roads and trails, keeping speeds in check, leaving campsites and picnic spots just as you found them, and following instructional signs while you're out and about in our state.

Day  
1

### Activity

Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Visitor Center and Museum, BLM

Canyons of the Ancients Visitor Center and Museum contains a 3.5 million-item research collection. Exhibits interpret the history and culture of...

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#### Lunch

##### Once Upon A Sandwich

Offers a homemade menu with soups, sandwiches and local favorites.

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#### Activity

##### Fly-Fishing on the Dolores River

From the top of Lizard Head Pass, the Dolores River flows 241 miles until it empties into the Colorado River. The Dolores travels down in a canyon, past the old mining town of Rico and into McPhee Reservoir near the town of Dolores. The major fishing areas are the feeder streams, the river above the town of Dolores and the stretch below McPhee Reservoir.

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##### Insider's Tip

Get Expert Fishing Advice

Stop at Dolores Outfitters for the scoop on the best local angling spots and everything you need for a fly-fishing adventure on the Dolores River.

#### Dinner

##### WildEdge Brewing Collective

WildEdge Brewing Collective is the newest brewery in Cortez Colorado. Creative beer, local food, great community.

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Insider's Tip  
Explore Our Native Roots

The Cortez Cultural Center hosts [Native American dances](#) on summer evenings.

Activity

Cortez Cultural Center

Programs will include Native American music and flute-playing, art, and other opportunities for in-depth appreciation of Southwestern cultures.

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Lodging

Retro Inn at Mesa Verde

There is a lot to see and do while your in Mesa Verde Country, we are surrounded by National Monuments, Parks, Forests, and Rivers. While at the...

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Day

2

Breakfast

Beny's Diner

Beny's Diner in Cortez has been serving breakfast and lunch for 13 years. All of our food is homemade, including the hash browns.

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#### Activity

##### Mesa Verde Farm and Ranch Tours

Agritourism Tours are now available through the Cortez Cultural Center. Experience the inner workings of today's farm and ranch life in Mesa Verde Country. Discover what life on a farm is like as you taste the flavor of the region.

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#### Lunch

##### Blondie's Trophy Room

Blondies Trophy Room is a restaurant & bar serving breakfast, lunch and dinner with great cocktails. Opening daily at 9am for the best BREAKFAST in...

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#### Activity

##### Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Park

Witness a special Native American interpretation of the culturally diverse homelands of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. Spend time with one a Native...

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#### Dinner

##### Stonefish Sushi & More

Delicious sushi rolls, sashimi, nigiri and other specialties. Open for lunch and dinner; happy hour Tuesday through Friday at 4:30pm.

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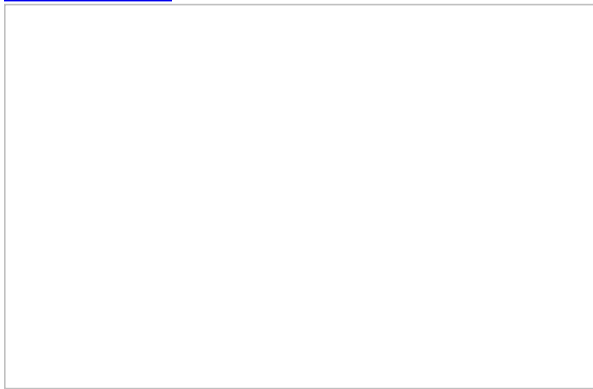
#### Activity

##### Sunflower Theatre

The Sunflower Theatre presents performing arts, musical, cinematic, and educational events to enrich the cultural experience of a diverse rural...

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#### Lodging

##### Baymont Inn & Suites Cortez

Located off Highway 160 in scenic Southwest Colorado. Take in the sweeping views of La Plata, the Blue Mountains, and Mesa Verde Ridge from your room...

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Day

3

#### Breakfast

##### Loungin' Lizard

We are a family friendly restaurant and bar with a chalk board menu that changes often with something for everyone.

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#### Activity

##### Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Visitor Center and Museum, BLM

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##### Insider's Tip

##### Take a Hike

The 7-mile out-and-back Sand Canyon Trail travels through a juniper and pinion pine forest to stunning Ancestral Puebloan ruins.

#### Lunch

##### Beny's Diner

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## Activity

### Horseback Ride with Canyon Trails Ranch

Located near Mesa Verde, Canyon Trails Ranch offers scenic Southwest Colorado backcountry horseback rides in spectacular McElmo Canyon. Visit ancient ruins and learn the history of the Puebloan people via horseback.

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## Dinner

### The Farm Bistro

The Farm Bistro is a casual yet elegant farm to table restaurant in the heart of historic downtown Cortez, Colorado. The lunch and dinner menus...

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## Activity

### Stargazing at Hovenweep National Monument

Due to its remote location surrounded by the Navajo Reservation and BLM public lands, Hovenweep preserves a primordial dark sky largely unaltered by modernity. In 2014, International Dark-Sky Association certified Hovenweep National Monument as the 17th International Dark Sky Park. Stargazing and exploring the night sky is allowed from the visitor center parking lot and campground only.



[Map the Trail](#)

[Visit Website](#)

## Lodging

### Ancient Echoes at Kelly Place

Just northeast of The Four Corners, Ancient Echoes at Kelly Place encompasses 40 acres in the sculpted red rocks of McElmo Canyon at the base of...

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