Hidden Gems of Southwest Colorado
5 days
More Itineraries
Go beyond Mesa Verde National Park, Cortez and Durango to find the farm bistros, guest ranches and lesser known towns and monuments of Colorado’s southwest corner.

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
Crow Canyon Archaeological Center

...

LUNCH
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 are comfort food with style, and features locally...

ACTIVITY

Sip & Explore

Pop into some of the local vineyards around Cortez for a taste of their special vintages.

DINNER
Canyon of the Ancients Guest Ranch

Experience a true Southwest Colorado vacation at our Canyon of the Ancients Guest Ranch and vacation rentals. Located in the countryside of Cortez, Colorado near Mesa Verde National Park. Our...

LODGING

Settle in for the Evening

Settle in and relax in the peace and quiet of the ranch for your overnight stay. Tour the barns and vegetable garden, feed the baby sheep, hike the easy trails around the property or the nearby Canyons of the Ancients National Monument towers.

Day 2

Insider's Tip

Stay for Breakfast: The ranch's breakfast is packed with fresh organic produce from the area, so be sure to savor the local flavors before heading out for a day of activity.

ACTIVITY

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

Canyons of the Ancients National Monument contains a huge number of...

COTREX

Map the Trail

LUNCH

Thai Cortez

Serving Thai lunch and dinner specialties in Cortez.

ACTIVITY

Hike Sand Canyon Trail

This 6.5-mile trail is used for hiking and mountain biking. You'll pass through one of the largest prehistoric settlements in this region with 420 rooms, 100 kivas, and 14 towers, but no exposed walls.

COTREX

Map the Trail

DINNER
Metate Room

Mesa Verde Metate Room Restaurant received "Award of Culinary Excellence" from the American Culinary Federation Colorado Chefs Association in the area of sustainable cuisine. Colorful Native...

ACTIVITY

Mesa Verde National Park

We want to welcome you as our guest to the nation's richest archeological preserve, where amazing cliff dwellings and more than 4,000 ancient sites.

COTREX
Map the Trail

LODGING

Mesa Verde - Far View Lodge

Far View Lodge is the only lodging inside Mesa Verde NP. Breathtaking views, award winning cuisine, guided tours of Ancestral Puebloan dwellings, invigorating solitude and endless wildlife...

Day 3

BREAKFAST

Far View Terrace Cafe

Casual food-court setting features breakfast burritos and omelet station, a yogurt bar, and standard breakfast fare. For lunch, daily specials including our signature Navajo tacos, sandwiches and...

ACTIVITY

Take the 700 Years Tour

The Mesa Verde 700 Years Tour provides you with an overall historical view of the Ancestral Puebloans' architectural, horticultural, cultural, and religious dimensions of their lives in the Southwest.

LUNCH

Spruce Tree Terrace Cafe

Patio Dining at its best! Stop at Spruce Tree Terrace Café, located in the heart of Mesa Verde National Park, for favorite American classics and Southwest specialties.

ACTIVITY
Far View Sites

Tour the park’s Far view Sites Complex, which can be explored by a trail system that weaves through several excavated sites.

COTREX
Map the Trail

DINNER

Metate Room

Mesa Verde Metate Room Restaurant received "Award of Culinary Excellence" from the American Culinary Federation Colorado Chefs Association in the area of sustainable cuisine. Colorful Native...

ACTIVITY

Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum

The museum displays dioramas illustrating Ancestral Puebloan life. There are also many exhibits of prehistoric artifacts, a chronology of Ancestral Puebloan culture, and other items related to the...

LODGING

Mesa Verde - Far View Lodge

Far View Lodge is the only lodging inside Mesa Verde NP. Breathtaking views, award winning cuisine, guided tours of Ancestral Puebloan dwellings, invigorating solitude and endless wildlife...

Day 4

BREAKFAST

Absolute Bakery & Cafe

Dedicated to the art of food, the Absolute Bakery & Cafe prepares food from scratch, using only the finest of organic and local ingredients. It's no secret that the burgers taste better because the...

ACTIVITY

Mancos Creative District

Facilitated by a vibrant community of more than 150 artists, the growing downtown Mancos Creative District has eight...

LUNCH
Fired Up Pizzeria

Fired Up Pizzeria is dedicated to the ingredients, quality and traditional methods of producing authentic Neapolitan pizza. Our pizzas are created with handmade dough, fresh mozzarella, and hand...

ACTIVITY

Check into the Historic Strater & Tour Its Living Museum

We invite you to step inside our lobby and walk around and be part of our history by joining us. You'll see shadow boxes depicting stories of the old west and mining times and witness unsurpassed craftsmanship at every turn.

DINNER

El Moro Spirits & Tavern

El Moro sources meats, produce & beverages from local and regional partners whenever possible. Local beers, spirits & meats are always on the menu!

ACTIVITY

Four Leaves Winery

Four Leaves Winery Durango is a boutique winery located in historic Durango, Colorado. We import the highest quality grapes and then handcraft, blend, and ferment all of our wines right in front...

Insider's Tip

Durango Wine Experience:
If you're visiting in May, check out the Durango Wine Experience: Three delicious days of educational seminars, wine dinners and unique tastings featuring hundreds of wineries, artisan spirits and craft beers.

LODGING

Historic Strater Hotel

Built in 1887, the historic Strater Hotel is one of Durango's prominent downtown landmarks and is located two blocks north of the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad in the center of town....

Day 5

BREAKFAST

Mahogany Grille
Enjoy handcrafted cuisine while stepping back in time in the ambiance of the Victorian Old West as we serve you an array of eclectic culinary specialties. Handcut Steaks, seafood, and vegetarian...

**ACTIVITY**

**Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad and Museum**

Experience the adventure of traveling by a historic coal-fired, steam-powered locomotive on the same tracks miners, cowboys and settlers of the Old West took over a century ago. Wind through...

**Insider's Tip**

**Have Lunch on the Train:** Pre-order a boxed lunch and munch your sandwich as you ride the rails alongside the Animas River.

**ACTIVITY**

**San Juan Skyway - Scenic and Historic Byway**

The 232-mile San Juan Skyway Loop takes about 7 hours to drive or can be a great 2 or 3 day trip with multiple opportunities to stop and enjoy scenic, recreational and historic sites....

**DINNER**

**El Moro Spirits & Tavern**

El Moro sources meats, produce & beverages from local and regional partners whenever possible. Local beers, spirits & meats are always on the menu!

**ACTIVITY**

**Animas River Trail**

The Animas River provides gold medal waters for fishing, kayaking and rafting. The centerpiece of the city's trail system, this paved multi-use trail stretches nearly 7 miles through Durango's...

**COTREX**

[Map the Trail](#)

**LODGING**

**Historic Strater Hotel**

Built in 1887, the historic Strater Hotel is one of Durango's prominent downtown landmarks and is located
two blocks north of the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad in the center of town.

Hello World.

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