



## 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

Crow Canyon Archaeological Center invites citizen scientists of all ages to contribute to a unique and important mission: empowering present and future generations by making the human past...

### 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**

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### **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**

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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 (Historic Hotel of America Founding Member) is one of the West's iconic hotels and a prominent downtown Durango, Colorado landmark located two blocks...

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 steam-powered locomotive on the same tracks miners, cowboys and settlers of the Old West took over a century ago. Wind through spectacular and...

#### **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**

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Hello World.

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