We’ve partnered with *Travel + Leisure* to help you plan the perfect sophisticated Rocky Mountain adventure. The sights along your commute to work have got to be getting old? so how about trading them for the vistas along a route that’s been coined ?The Most Beautiful Drive in America??

Swap out the strangers in your sardine-can-esque train car for a family SUV, your gray cityscape for snow-capped peaks and dark green forests, and your tired eyes for a fresh outlook as you hit the San Juan Skyway Scenic Byway. On this massive loop taking you through some of Colorado’s most picturesque luxury destinations, you?ll see all the grandeur of the Old West without sacrificing modern comforts? and we?ll even provide the itinerary. Here?s how to make the most of your Skyway visit.

**Day 1**

**Insider's Tip**
**Only-in-Colorado Flavors:** Start your day with some Western fare at Carver’s Brewing in Durango, Colorado’s second-ever brewpub where huevos rancheros are a must-try, served with quintessential Colorado green chili.

**BREAKFAST**

**Carver Brewing Company**

Since 1986, Carvers has offered Durango the very best in food and beer.

**ACTIVITY**

**Shopping at Kelly Cowboy Company**
Outfit yourself and your family with hats, boots and other wild-west ephemera (if you don’t get it here, did you really get cowboy gear at all?).

**Insider's Tip**

**Take a Detour:** On your one-hour drive west from Durango to Cortez, you have optional opportunities to explore the artists’ colony of Mancos or check out Mesa Verde National Park.

**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**

**McPhee Reservoir**

Just a quick jaunt north of Cortez is Dolores, which sits on the edge of both San Juan National Forest and is home to McPhee Reservoir, the second-largest body of water in Colorado. Naturally, you have to get in some jet skiing before heading deeper into the wilderness, so zoom around the lake or rent kayaks to explore some of its quieter creek arms.

**DINNER**

**Dolores River Brewery**

Every community should have a comfortable place to hang out with somebody!

**Insider's Tip**

**Soak It All In:** Head to your home for the evening – swanky Dunton Hot Springs, where you can revel in a post-dinner soak in one of their six natural hot springs.

**LODGING**

**Dunton Hot Springs**

This meticulously restored 19th century ghost town and mineral hot springs are tucked deep in the mountains of southwestern Colorado. Rugged buildings hide luxurious interiors. Discover...

**Day 2**

**Insider's Tip**

**Fuel Up:** Dunton Hot Springs provides a full breakfast every morning at its saloon, using a variety of local and regional ingredients. After getting your fill, hit the pavement again and follow the San Juan Skyway Scenic Byway northeast to Telluride, a quaint mountain resort town.

**ACTIVITY**
Gondola to Telluride Mountain Village

Perched on the slopes above Telluride is Mountain Village? a dizzyingly beautiful (free) gondola ride up the cliffs makes for a supremely laid-back way to take in views of the valley.

LUNCH

La Piazza Del Villaggio

Our resort location is ski-in, golf-in, a spectacular gondola up from Telluride, or a slow stroll from your lodge.

ACTIVITY

Hike the Boulevard Trail

The 2.5-mile Boulevard Trail traverses both the town and the surrounding landscape and provides new perspectives of mountain life.

Insider's Tip

Sunset Vistas: Once dusk approaches, make sure to hustle back to the gondola to descend with the sun? as it settles behind the mountains, you?ll settle into a table at La Marmotte in Telluride, where you?ll enjoy French delicacies like coq au vin in an intimate atmosphere.

DINNER

La Marmotte

For over 20 years La Marmotte has provided elegant bistro fare in the mountain town of Telluride, Colorado. It is set in one of the oldest buildings in town, the historic Ice House.

ACTIVITY

Telluride Brewing

Adventure brought us to these mountains. Friendship made us stay. Community made Telluride our home. These beers brings the best of these to you. Our beer comes straight from Rocky Mountain...

LODGING

The Hotel Telluride

The Hotel Telluride is the premier Telluride hotel for the foremost in hospitality and comfort. Nestled in the heart of historic Telluride, Colorado, The Hotel Telluride offers our guests the best...

Day 3

BREAKFAST
The Butcher & Baker Cafe

Our bakery and cafe specializes in handcrafted, fresh and local cuisine. We feature handmade breads and artisan pastries, fresh salads composed of local greens, fruit and vegetables, locally...

Insider's Tip

Be Prepared: The route to Tomboy ghost town can be a strenuous and daunting, so if you’re not feeling up to it, there are plenty of other activities in Telluride, like shopping or museums.

ACTIVITY

Tomboy Ghost Town

Whether you’re hiking or taking a guided ATV tour, you’re going to need something to warm your soul as you head up to the eerie ghost town of Tomboy. It’s an 18th-century mining town that still retains free-standing elements of its heyday but was abandoned when the ore beneath the town ran dry.

Insider's Tip

Ridgway Bound: Hop back on the scenic byway to make your way to Ridgway, a historic mountain town surrounded by the rugged San Juan Mountains and Cimarron Range that got its start as an 1800s railroad hub.

LUNCH

Taco Del Gnar

After absorbing some local history, it’s time to move on to modern eats? tacos at Taco del Gnar in Ridgway with succulent Korean short rib on the menu, as well as the Porto with Portobello, shredded cabbage, pico de gallo, and queso fresco. Keep in mind there will probably be a line.

Insider's Tip

The Reel Deal:
The Colorado Parks & Wildlife fishing app can help you discover 1,300 fishing locations, check conditions and regulations and more. Search CPW Fishing in the Apple App Store and on Google Play.

ACTIVITY

Fly-Fishing on the Uncompahgre River

Partake in one of Colorado’s time-honored leisure activities at Ridgway State Park, where the Uncompahgre River is a favorite spot for hooking hard-fighting rainbow and cutthroat trout.

Insider’s Tip
Coffee for the Road: Grab a cup of joe at Ridgway’s Cimarron Coffee & Books before you hop back on the San Juan Skyway toward Ouray, known as the Switzerland of America.

DINNER

Bon Ton Restaurant

This historic establishment with a low-key, homey vibe serves old-school Italian & American fare.

ACTIVITY

Ouray Hot Springs Swimming Pool

Nearly one million gallons of clear hot springs water, without the sulfur smell common in many hot springs. There are 3 pools ranging from 80 to 105 degree, plus lap lanes and a Wibit obstacle...

LODGING

Beaumont Hotel & Spa

The historic Beaumont Hotel & Spa is the only luxury hotel in Ouray, Colorado. Modern amenities include wireless high-speed internet & outstanding personalized service paired with...
Day 4

**BREAKFAST**

**Artisan Bakery**

Come enjoy breakfast, lunch, or just a pastry and coffee, in a cozy little restaurant on main street, Ouray CO. Located at the south side of town, right on Main Street, in the old Wright Opera...

**ACTIVITY**

**Ouray Alchemist**

Ouray Alchemist Museum was pieced together by a lover of pharmacological history and chock full of artifacts from previous eras of medicine? the passion here is evident, so don’t hesitate to ask questions. You can impress your coworkers with your knowledge when you get home.

**Insider's Tip**

**Million Dollar Views:** After touring the Ouray Alchemist Museum, drive from Ouray to Silverton. The canyon-clinging stretch of the San Juan Skyway between the towns is called ?The Million Dollar Highway? either because it cost so much to build or the amount of gold ore that remained in the roadway?s fill. Ouray is also close to Yankee Boy Basin, one of the area?s best places for incomparable mountain views. The best (and only) way to get here is to hire an ATV or an off-road vehicle tour. Once there, you?ll see waterfalls, wildlife, and a whole lot of sky.

**LUNCH**

**Kendall Mountain Cafe**

A hidden treasure off the beaten path. Good homestyle food!

**ACTIVITY**

**Llama Hike with Redwood Llamas**

Trek across the mountains with your furry friends to engage in some interspecies bonding and learn the natural history of the area (not from the llamas, from Mr. Redwood himself).

**DINNER**

**Thee Pitts Again**

Unfortunately, the llamas can’t accompany you to dinner afterward at Thee Pitts Again, Silverton?s premier barbecue destination.

**ACTIVITY**

**Golden Block Brewery**
Fresh and bursting with flavor is the experience Golden Block Brewery provides. Serving Silverton, CO we offer great tasting craft beer brewed on premise. Create the perfect meal by combining an...

**LODGING**

**Inn of the Rockies at the Historic Alma House**

We are a traditional and historic Bed and Breakfast located in Silverton, Colorado.

Day 5

**Insider's Tip**

**Made-From-Scratch Deliciousness:** Your final day begins with a home-cooked meal away from home, courtesy of Silverton’s Inn of the Rockies. Your hosts are accommodating and skilled, so indulge in some French toast and freshly brewed coffee before you drive down the byway to Rapp Corral, between Durango and Silverton.

**ACTIVITY**

**Trail Ride with Rapp Corral**

Discover the San Juan Mountains on horseback on a labyrinth of trails through ponderosa- and oak-studded hillsides, wildflower meadows and aspen groves. You’re completing the loop today, a drive down the scenic byway to Rapp Corral, between Silverton and Durango.

**Insider’s Tip**

**Après-Ride Bites:** Your lunch is down the road at Harvest Grill & Greens at James Ranch, 10 miles north of Durango, where you can nosh on sandwiches made with organic produce and locally raised meats and cheeses.

**LUNCH**

**James Ranch Grill**

Our delicious meats, cheeses and vegetables are produced on the James Ranch using organic, sustainable, grass-based practices and have been for over 50 years. We strive to use organic...

**ACTIVITY**

**Durango Hot Springs Resort and Spa**

The most amazing water under Mother Earth, Durango Hot Springs Resort was created as an extension of what has always existed here in the incredible healing properties of the natural mineral hot...

**Insider's Tip**

**Journey Back to Durango:** Durango is the final stop on your San Juan Skyway loop tour. Once you arrive,
stroll the town’s National Historic District, lined with shops, eateries and hotels housed in perfectly restored 19th-century buildings.

DINNER

Eolus Bar & Dining

Majestic Mt. Eolus is the namesake of our dining establishment. We offer rooftop dining year round on our warm heated patio or an interior dining area which offers a warm and inviting...

ACTIVITY

Diamond Belle Saloon

If you're standing in the Diamond Belle Saloon, located in Durango, Colorado, you just may have stepped back in time. Revered as one of the most famous original ragtime piano bars in the Wild...

LODGING

Antlers on the Creek Bed & Breakfast

Boasting the area's most luxurious accommodations, our #1 rated Durango bed and breakfast is only 5 miles from downtown and attractions. Enjoy gourmet breakfasts, happy hour and modern amenities...

Hello World.

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