



Colorado Stargazing: Experience the Night

7 days

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On this trip, you get to visit multiple locations around the state known for their dark skies and jaw-dropping stargazing opportunities ? is that Orion's Belt? The towns of Westcliffe, Silver Cliff, La Veta, Cuchara, Creede and Lake City are waiting to greet you with incredible hospitality during the day too.

Sustainability Activity

Make a Donation:

Help fight to keep Colorado a place that gives us pride to call it our home. Donate to [Conservation Colorado](#) so we can protect the Colorado way of life and continue a legacy of solid protection of our air, lands, waters and people.

Sustainability Activity

Day 1

ACTIVITY

Hike Lakes of the Clouds in Westcliffe

This trail offers a breathtaking, moderate approach and views of some of Colorado's most beautiful lakes. Along the hike is a magnificent waterfall, so bring your camera!

COTREX

[Map the Trail](#)

LUNCH

Tony's Mountain Pizza

Family friendly in Westcliffe. Plan your next get-together here. Occasional live entertainment, casual

cocktail area. Take out available.

ACTIVITY

Bishop Castle

For nearly 60 years, Jim Bishop has been constructing one of the most impressive monuments to perseverance in Colorado. Bishop castle is a monumental statue in stone and iron.

DINNER

Alpine Lodge & Restaurant

Open year round. Quaint mountain cabins nestled among pines and aspens and bordered by San Isabel National Forest with its famous Rainbow Trail to the high country. Two-bedroom cabins sleep 2-4,...

ACTIVITY

Smokey Jack Observatory

The Smokey Jack Observatory boasts a retractable roof and a 14-inch Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope with computer-guided pointing and tracking to view the majestic night sky. Attend one of the free...

Insider's Tip

See the Colorado's First International Dark-Sky Community:

If the observatory is packed head to [DeWeese Reservoir](#).

LODGING

Dark Skies Vacations

Dark Skies Vacations helps travelers experience amazing views from comfortable vacation homes. During the day explore views of nearby wildlife, verdant grassland valleys, rolling hills and the...

Day 2

BREAKFAST

Candy's Coffee

If you're looking for amazing coffee in our tiny town, Candy's is the place to be! More than a coffee shop - Coffee, Tea, Espresso, Gazpacho, Veggie Sandwiches, Paninis, Smoothies

ACTIVITY

Wahatoya State Wildlife Area

The main trail meanders through fields, woods and into a deep arroyo on the south side. There is a by-pass trail for people who prefer not to enter the arroyo. The trail follows a berm on the north...

LUNCH

Charlie's Market

Charlie's has been locally owned and operated in La Veta Colorado since 1937. We are a full-service grocery store with a soda fountain.

ACTIVITY

Tour La Veta's Art Galleries

La Veta may be small and laid-back, but it's also the Spanish Peaks Region's art hub. Galleries featuring local, national and international artists dot the town's quaint Main Street.

DINNER

Alys' Restaurant

Each evening, we offer a delicious selection from our menu choices of lamb, steak, chicken, seafood or vegetarian complemented with fresh vegetables and potato, rice or pasta, along with soup or...

ACTIVITY

Go Stargazing at Uptop Historic District

Located at the top of La Veta Pass, this district is not only a fantastic place to see the stars but also a place filled with history and several historic buildings are currently being restored.

LODGING

Inn at the Spanish Peaks

The Inn at the Spanish Peaks B&B has three guest suites all with private baths and private decks which have spectacular views of the beautiful mountains that grace this unique area.

Day 3

BREAKFAST

Ryus Ave Bakery

We are a small-town artisan bakery in the heart of Spanish Peaks Country serving artisan breads, pastries, breakfast and lunch.

ACTIVITY

Do the Highway of Legends Audio Tour

Travel beneath the iconic Spanish Peaks on the Highway of Legends Scenic Byway while listening to an audio tour that tells stories of historic cities and towns, former mining camps and even a few ghost towns.

LUNCH

Dog Bar & Grill

Long considered the heart and soul of the Cuchara Valley, Dog Bar & Grill is the place to enjoy lunch on the outdoor deck with your favorite canine or a casual dine-in evening for dinner and...

ACTIVITY

Cuchara Mountain Park

The park is roughly 50 acres, mostly at the base of the old ski resort.

DINNER

The Timbers Restaurant and Gallery

The Timbers is an upscale mountain restaurant. Specializing in made-from-scratch items and we use locally grown and organic foods when available. If you have special dietary needs we can usually...

ACTIVITY

Stargaze at Blue Lake or Bear Lake

Located right next to one another, Blue Lake and Bear Lake Campgrounds offer the best stargazing around. Be amazed by the night sky shimmering off the lake in front of you.

LODGING

Yellow Pine Guest Ranch

Enjoy a trail ride on horseback, flyfishing and delicious barbecue - all without leaving the ranch! Serving families Western hospitality for 87 years.

Day 4

BREAKFAST

Paradise Coffee

Family-owned Paradise Coffee was brewed in April 2012. Serving a variety of delicious espresso, lattes and coffees.

ACTIVITY

Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve

Because the dunes and surrounding mountains are designated wilderness, this is a great place to enjoy unspoiled natural beauty in a variety of ways. Whether you play in Medano Creek, build a sand...

COTREX

[Map the Trail](#)

LUNCH

Great Sand Dunes Oasis

The Oasis Restaurant and Store, located at the main park entrance, is the only restaurant within 25 miles of the national park. The Oasis is open April through October.

ACTIVITY

Zapata Falls Recreation Area

Cut from the rock face by glaciers and scoured by millennia of rushing water, cold water crashes through a 30 ft. cleft in the rock walls. The falls are a half-mile hike from the parking area,...

COTREX

[Map the Trail](#)

DINNER

Zapata Ranch

103,000-acre cattle, bison and guest ranch invites you to experience life on a real ranch.

ACTIVITY

See the Stars at Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve

An evening at Great Sand Dunes can include exploring dunes under a full moon, viewing thousands of stars on a clear night, listening for owls along the foothills or observing migrating amphibians on a wet night.

LODGING

Zapata Ranch

103,000-acre cattle, bison and guest ranch invites you to experience life on a real ranch.

Day 5

BREAKFAST

Zapata Ranch

103,000-acre cattle, bison and guest ranch invites you to experience life on a real ranch.

ACTIVITY

Explore Downtown Crestone

Pop into galleries and spiritual centers found throughout town.

LUNCH

Elephant Cloud Market

Elephant Cloud is a full service health food store and produce market complete with a cafe. The Cloud Station dishes up a diverse selection of breakfast and lunch items as well as freshly...

ACTIVITY

Hike Willow Lake

Strap on your hiking boots for this difficult trail that provides spectacular views in the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness.

COTREX

[Map the Trail](#)

DINNER

Crestone Brewing Co

Crestone Brewing Co. is a nano brewpub in the amazing and mysterious San Luis Valley, serving up delicious locally sourced food and craft beverages. Our culinary experts love working with all of...

ACTIVITY

UFO Watchtower

The watchtower is a 10-foot-tall viewing platform that takes advantage of the remote area's high elevation. Pass the time with your eyes on the sky, checking out the Healing Garden or even camping...

Insider's Tip

Stargazing: While the platform at the UFO Watchtower was built for spotting UFOs, it's not a bad place to

check out the stars on a clear night.

LODGING

Enchanted Forest Accommodations

Enchanted Forest accommodations are perfect for small group retreats, family gatherings, weddings, celebrations, Sacred Ceremonies or simply private individual get-a-ways. A magically enchanting...

Day 6

BREAKFAST

Elephant Cloud Market

Elephant Cloud is a full service health food store and produce market complete with a cafe. The Cloud Station dishes up a diverse selection of breakfast and lunch items as well as freshly...

ACTIVITY

Underground Mining Museum

Learn about stoping, what Lymers are, blacksmithing, mucking, blasting and assaying, all underground in the cool heart of the mountain. Twenty-two displays show how mining was done in Creede...

LUNCH

Arp's

Domestic and international comfort food. Full bar. Dine in. Take out. Catering. Eat at Arp's!

ACTIVITY

Wheeler Geologic Area

One of the most astounding geologic sites in Colorado, the area is accessed by hiking a 7-mile trail or driving a 14-mile 4WD road. The 640 acre area is filled with ghostly spires and flowing...

COTREX

[Map the Trail](#)

DINNER

Antlers Rio Grande Lodge & Riverside Restaurant

An old-fashioned American vacation destination with modern riverside cabins, rooms, RVs, private fishing and riverside dining.

ACTIVITY

Go Stargazing at Love Lake Picnic Site

This picnic site sits on the shore of Love Lake and is a secluded place to check out the stars.

LODGING

4UR Ranch

Tucked into the slender Goose Creek Valley of the San Juan Mountains, this historic Colorado guest ranch truly is "one of Colorado's last perfect places." Within its 3000 acres wind 6 miles of...

Day 7

BREAKFAST

MJ's Cafe

Enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner at this local spot in Creede.

ACTIVITY

Silver Thread Scenic and Historic Byway

Weaves past valleys and peaks in the San Juan Mountains connecting the towns of South Fork, Creede and Lake City and ending at Blue Mesa reservoir. Encounter astounding geological formations,...

LUNCH

Lake City Cafe

Our menu is a mix of southern style. We have a little something for everyone.

ACTIVITY

Spend the Afternoon on the Water

Kayak or stand-up paddleboard your way around Lake San Cristobal. If you need to rent equipment, Sportsman Outdoors is a great local joint.

DINNER

Climb Elevated Eatery

Elevated comfort food and craft cocktails served with attentive, friendly service.

ACTIVITY

Go Stargazing at Windy Point Observation Site

An initiative is underway to have a sixty-acre parcel near Lake City designated as a Dark Sky Park by the International Dark-Sky Association. In the meantime, you can visit Windy Point Overlook to see all the constellations.

LODGING

G&M Cabins

G&M Cabins is centrally located in downtown Lake City. Our cabins are completely furnished with kitchens, 1 or 2 bedrooms, private baths and cable TV. FREE WI-FI. No smoking in cabins and no...

Hello World.

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