



3 Scenic Byways: Leaf Peeping in Southern Colorado

4 days

[More Itineraries](#)

See the reds, yellows, oranges and browns create a kaleidoscope of color in the southern Colorado towns of Lake City, Creede, Alamosa, Antonito, Mosca, La Veta, Cuchara and Trinidad.

Sustainability Activity

Care For Colorado:

Our communities love sharing their wealth of natural beauty and outdoor experiences with you. All we ask is that you have an amazing time while showing [our lands and people plenty of love, kindness and respect](#). We promise to pay it back tenfold.

Sustainability Activity

Day 1

ACTIVITY

Windy Point Overlook

Heading south on the Silver Thread Scenic and Historic Byway, make a pit stop at Windy Point, east of Lake City. This overlook offers superb views of five fourteeners (mountains that stand more than 14,000 feet in height) and endless views of golden aspens.

Insider's Tip

Pick Up a Guide:

Stop by the Lake City Visitors Center for a Mile Post Guide prior to hitting the road and heading south toward Creede.

LUNCH

Climb Elevated Eatery

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

ACTIVITY

Bachelor Loop Tour

This 17-mile, self-guided driving tour showcases amazing foliage and historic mining structures throughout Creede's silver-mining district.

DINNER

Kip's Grill

Kip's Grill started operating out of a caboose on the side of the Highway in Del Norte, Colorado in 1996. The goal was to create seriously fresh, handmade tacos with amazing flavors and provide...

ACTIVITY

Historic Downtown Creede: Walking Tour

Experience the history and charm of the western mining town of Creede. Downtown is home to shops, art galleries, and eateries, as well as the nationally acclaimed Creede Repertory Theatre. Pick...

LODGING

Aspen Inn & Finding Gems Gift Shop

A small inn in a historic building of an old mining town offers accommodations in comfort and natural beauty while retreating from the modern world. The inn is listed on [airbnb](#) and [booking.com](#)...

Day 2

BREAKFAST

Cafe Ole

Fresh-baked pastries and light breakfast, sandwiches, soups and salads for lunch.

ACTIVITY

Pool Table Road Scenic Drive

Views of golden aspens line Pool Table Road, just off the Silver Thread. Scenic views of the Rio Grande River Valley are visible for the first few miles of the trip, which climbs through aspen, spruce and fir to beautiful rolling, grassy, sub-alpine parks. The 9.4-mile scenic drive is accessible by passenger car and leads to Hanson's Sawmill Site.

Insider's Tip

Head to Alamosa:

Take a drive on the [Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway](#).

LUNCH

Rubi Slipper

The Rubi Slipper has classic American cuisine, and is open for lunch and dinner. Famous for their \$1 Taco Tuesdays, they've extended that special to every day. Enjoy burgers, salads, chili, nachos,...

ACTIVITY

Scenic Autumn Drive & Conejos Canyon Overlook

Take a brisk fall drive starting in Alamosa through the southern end of the San Luis Valley to the beautiful San Juan Mountains along the Conejos River. Climb Highway 17 along the Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway through colorful aspen trees and crisp mountain air. Enjoy the views from Conejos Canyon Overlook. You may even spot the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad train rumbling by.

Insider's Tip

Make a Pitstop:

If you have more time, stop at [Elk Creek Bridge](#) before you drive up the switchbacks and take a kayak or tube down the Conejos River (during low water in July and August when it's hot). Stop to see Elk Meadow Ranch on your way back to Mogote on the southeast side of the Conejos River.

DINNER

Dos Hermanas Restaurant

For two delicious decades, Dos Hermanas Restaurant has been a destination for Antonito's best homemade recipes and margaritas.

ACTIVITY

Rio Grande Natural Area

On the way back to Alamosa, turn right on Hwy 142 toward San Luis and drive to the Rio Grande Natural Area at the pull-off just west of the Rio Grande. You might even come across a tarantula ? this is one of the few places in Colorado to find them!

COTREX

[Map the Trail](#)

LODGING

Valley Motel

Valley Motel is a family operated independent economy motel located right of Highway 160 in the beautiful town of Alamosa in Colorado's San Luis Valley. It makes an attractive and affordable choice...

Day 3

BREAKFAST

Milagros Coffee House

Drink Coffee...Love Others! Milagros Coffeehouse not only serves a full line of delicious espresso and coffee drinks, teas, and baked goods, we also support the efforts of La Puente Home in...

ACTIVITY

Colorado Gators Reptile Park

Colorado Gators began in 1977 as a fish farm to raise tilapia for human consumption. The geothermal well is 2050 feet deep and 87 degrees. In 1987, the first alligators were brought in as ...

Insider's Tip

UFO Watchtower:

Drive North past Hooper to see the [UFO Watchtower](#). It's a 360-degree-view observation platform of the San Luis Valley. [Get directions](#), and after you've seen the view, hop on the road to La Veta.

LUNCH

Corners Diner

Breakfast, burgers, steaks and delicious daily specials.

ACTIVITY

JW Ranch Nature Excursions

Fully guided nature excursions on a large mountain ranch in a UTV or 4x4. Observe the abundant wildlife and countless opportunities to photograph beautiful scenery and wild animals.

Insider's Tip

Drive to Dinner:

Hop onto the [Highway of Legends](#) and head south toward Trinidad.

DINNER

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

Trinidad Lake State Park

Pinyon-juniper woodland and short- and mixed-grass prairies occupy park uplands making for excellent photos.

COTREX

[Map the Trail](#)

Insider's Tip

Take the Long Way Round:

Take a more interesting drive to your final destination for the evening: From Trinidad Lake State Park, take the road over the Trinidad Dam (CR 18.3) to Starkville then north on [Santa Fe Trail](#) into Trinidad.

LODGING

La Quinta Inn & Suites Trinidad

Take advantage of our pet-friendly hotel's many modern amenities, free hotel features, friendly service, and convenient location near the city's downtown hub.

Day 4

Insider's Tip

Breakfast: Your morning meal is included in your stay at the La Quinta Inn & Suites.

ACTIVITY

Art Cartopia Art Car Museum

Our wondrous array of art cars has finally opened at fantastic location just off of Interstate 25 (exit 15). The museum is open year round with 25+ art cars on display. That's not all? There is...

LUNCH

Mission at the Bell Restaurant

Mission at the Bell is a cozy, family-owned restaurant, (over 20 years in business) serving Tex-Mex style menu items. Located on the basement level of the historic Bell Block building in the...

Wormhole Loop Trail

Wormhole Loop Trail is a 2.3-mile moderately trafficked loop near Trinidad. Trail run, hike or mountain bike the afternoon away.

COTREX

[Map the Trail](#)

Hello World.

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