

# PAGOSA SPRINGS

## OFFICIAL VISITOR GUIDE™



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LODGING

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PEOPLE  
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THE ARTS  
& EVENTS

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ADVENTURES  
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# WELCOME HOME TO PAGOSA SPRINGS



Juli Morelock



Tim Plate



Diane Burnett



Kim Brown



Team Christians



Mardie Lewis



Keyes Team



Tina Valles



Steve Crow



Layne Poma



Stan Zuege



Bill Kinsley

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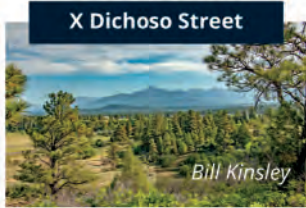
# FEATURED PROPERTIES



**624/200 Morning Glory**

*Kim Brown*

10 Acres - 5BR/4 BA + Apt.  
Big Views - 2 Heated Shops  
\$2,749,000 (803361)



**X Dichoso Street**

*Bill Kinsley*

65 Acres - Along Hwy. 160  
Residential/Commercial  
\$2,300,000 (801871)



**1376 Lakeside Dr.**

*Kim Brown*

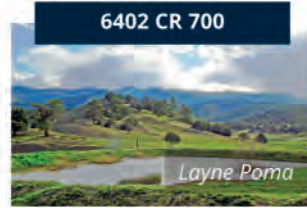
2 Acres - Lakefront Custom  
Borders Green Space - Views  
\$2,175,000 (MLS TBD)



**1462 Lodge Pole Dr.**

*Burnett/Valles*

35 Acres - 3,183 SF Log Home  
Huge Views - 6-Car Garage  
\$2,075,000 (MLS TBD)



**6402 CR 700**

*Layne Poma*

317 Acre Hunting/Cattle Ranch  
5 Ponds - Manuf. Home/Shop  
\$1,875,000 (810572)



**949 Majestic Drive**

*Juli Morelock*

5.34 Acres - 3,034 SF  
Big Views - 992 SF Garage  
\$1,195,000 (811137)



**417 Stevens Circle**

*Juli Morelock*

1.8 Acres - 3,926 SF  
4 BR/4 BA - Furnished  
\$1,125,000 (MLS TBD)



**521 Spring Creek Cir.**

*Keyes Team*

3 Acres - 2,968 SF  
Mtn./Lake Views - Shop w/Bath  
\$1,055,000 (811462)



**351 Gold Circle**

*Marcie Lewis*

24.59 Acres - 3,080 SF - Views  
New Shop - Updated Barn  
\$989,000 (803027)



**56 Fox Pl.**

*Keyes Team*

5.4 Acres - 3,183 SF Log Home  
Views - New Shop  
\$975,000 (807565)



**813 8 Mile Loop**

*Diane Burnett*

5 Acres - 2,516 SF Home  
4-Car Garage/Shop - Furnished  
\$929,000 (MLS TBD)



**TBD Hwy. 160**

*Stan Zuege*

5 Acres - Prime Location  
Commercial Land  
\$895,000 (795289)



**222 Lakeside Dr.**

*Team Christians*

2,379 SF Home - 4 BR/3 BA  
Big Views - Greenbelt  
\$849,500 (808596)



**197 Lakewood Street**

*Marcie Lewis*

1,600 SF - 3 BR/2 BA  
Paved Street - Oversized Gar.  
\$599,000 (807224)



**28 W Peregrine Circle**

*Team Christians*

2,001 SF Townhome - Views  
2 BR/2 BA + Loft - Garage  
\$535,000 (810377)



**X Archuleta Mesa**

*Layne Poma*

39.26 Acres - Borders BLM  
Huge Views - Natl. Forest  
\$295,000 (803007)



**247 Davis Cup Drive**

*Bill Kinsley*

1,027 SF - Furnished Condo  
Fireplace - 1 BR + Murphy Bed  
\$274,900 (810276)



**90 Incline Circle**

*Diane Burnett*

1.1 Acre Lakefront - Gated  
Paved Roads - Utilities  
\$249,000 (806712)



**832 Rosita Street**

*Stan Zuege*

Multi-use Commercial  
Downtown - Opp. Zone  
\$179,000 (806316)



**974 West View Road**

*Tina Valles*

1.3 Acres - Big Views  
Huge Views - No HOA  
\$36,900 (808111)





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# SUN

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# Welcome

If you are planning your first visit to Pagosa Country, rest assured you will enjoy an incredible environment — one full of outdoor recreational opportunities the likes of which are rarely duplicated; one where our unique amenities in this paradise of geothermal waters, flowing mountain streams and alpine delights will satisfy your every need.

If you are returning to Pagosa Country, everything you enjoyed during previous visits remains, and there is even more to sample when you arrive.

In all cases, this will not be your last trip here.

If you are considering a visit, read this guide and get an idea of what awaits when you decide to travel here. You will not be disappointed when you do. You will find yourself in one of the most beautiful places imaginable.

When you are in Pagosa Country, you are in magnificent surroundings. Your task is to determine what you will do once you are here.

Pagosans are eager to help you. The friendly residents of Pagosa Country are ready to help you find great accommodations and, once you are settled in, to provide whatever you need.

We are ready to give you tips on the myriad opportunities for outdoor recreation. If there is anything Pagosa Country provides, it is access to fun in the high country during the summer season. Fishing, hiking, boating, rafting, floating, biking — it's all here, in spades. And our local businesses can outfit you for any and all of these pursuits. Don't miss the chance to indulge your passion for outdoor recreation; you are at the heart of it all. Of the best of it all.

We're here to feed you, and feed you well. It doesn't matter where your tastes lead you, chances are you can find the food and drink you desire. Our local establishments give the discerning diner a full range of cuisines and prices.

We're here to entertain you. We boast one of the Southwest's premier theater companies, incredibly talented locals, and a number of art galleries.

Indulge the pleasure of soaking in our geothermally heated waters. The giant spring in town issues forth from a mighty aquifer, providing Pagosa Country with some of the most relaxing and restorative waters anywhere in the world.

Finally, shop for the mementoes that will remind you of your visit. Pagosa's shopkeepers can provide you with whatever you need that will remind you that you will return.

Welcome to Pagosa Country.

## Road construction

Beginning in the summer of 2024, Pagosa Springs will be undergoing a major downtown road construction project.

The Colorado Department of Transportation project will replace the existing asphalt with tougher concrete, widen many sidewalks, add street lights and trees, build bike lanes and create safer crosswalks.

While the work is much-needed and the results will improve the downtown corridor for years to come, the work may cause delays when traveling through the downtown area. During the project, traffic will continue to flow through town, with one lane moving in each direction. But, during the busiest times, drivers and pedestrians may experience occasional delays.

Please note that businesses will be open during construction, with parking available on side streets.

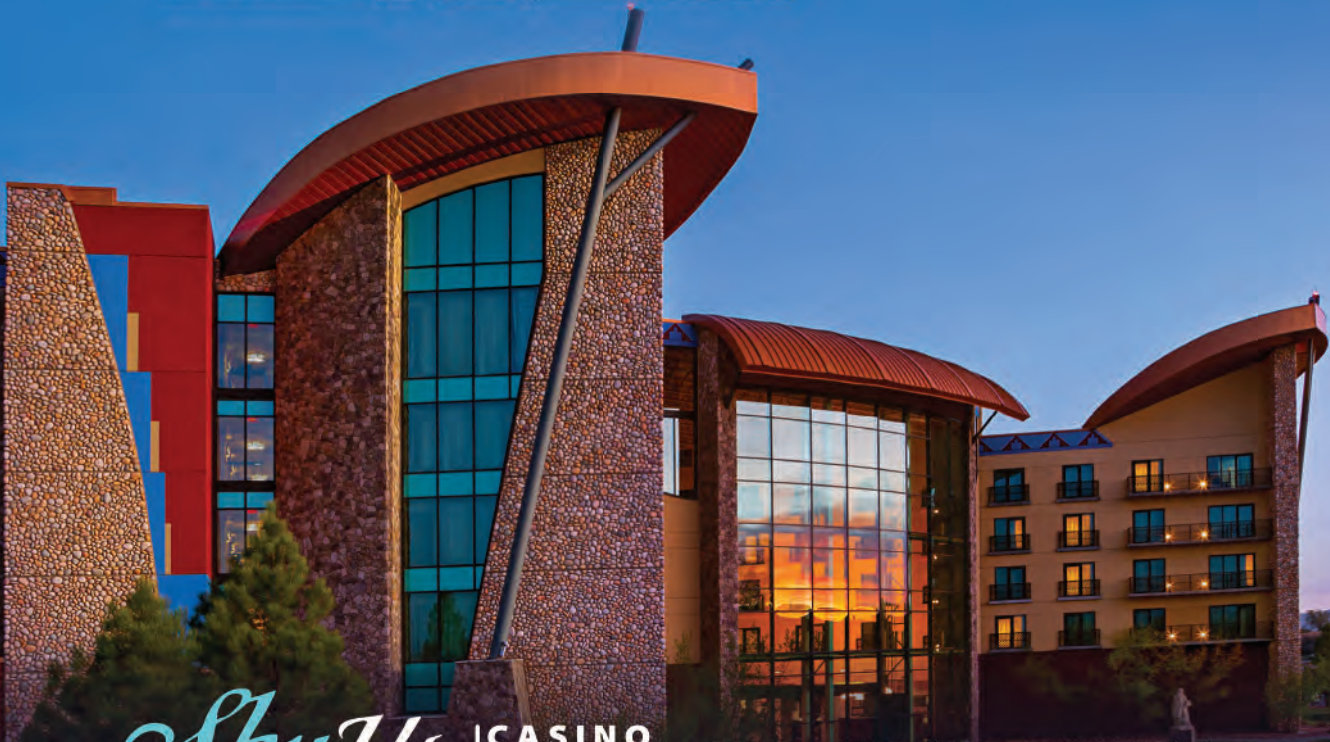
For the latest updates, download the Visit Pagosa Springs app or visit [www.visitpagosasprings.com](http://www.visitpagosasprings.com). The Town of Pagosa Springs, led by the Pagosa Springs Main Street Advisory Board, will be actively working throughout the construction project to keep businesses, visitors and residents informed to help ease the pains of this much-needed project.

MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY



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**Where is Pagosa Springs?**

Pagosa Springs sits at 7,079 feet in southwest Colorado at the base of the Continental Divide. Featuring rushing rivers and streams, lakes galore, hiking and biking trails, spectacular fall colors, ancient ruins, deep powder in the winter at nearby Wolf Creek Ski Area, incredible hunting, amazing wildlife, clean air and 3 million acres of National Forest surrounding the area, Pagosa Springs offers plenty of opportunities for our valued visitors, any time of year.

**Who can I contact for info?**

The Pagosa Springs Area Tourism website at [www.visitpagosasprings.com](http://www.visitpagosasprings.com) will link you to the Visitor Center, or call the vacation line at (866) 438-4917. Visitor information can also be found at [www.ExplorePagosa.com](http://www.ExplorePagosa.com) and [www.PagosaSUN.com](http://www.PagosaSUN.com).

Keep up on the news and events with The Pagosa Springs SUN, the community's weekly newspaper, with daily updates online at [www.PagosaSUN.com](http://www.PagosaSUN.com).

**What is it like at that altitude?**

Regardless of physical fitness, acute mountain sickness can strike anyone not acclimated to Pagosa's 7,000-foot elevation. To guard against altitude sickness:

- Drink 3 to 4 quarts of water per day.
- Avoid overexertion and keep caffeine and alcohol intake moderate for the first few days.
- Seek medical attention if persistent headache, fatigue, poor coordination or shortness of breath occur.

**What is the weather like?**

Archuleta County is located in the "Colorado Sunbelt," just north of the New Mexico border and along the Western slope of the Continental Divide. This combination of high-desert plateau and dramatic Rocky Mountains to the north and east creates an unusually mild climate compared with much of the surrounding Southwest. We are favored with some 300 days of sun each year, as well as four distinct seasons. With low wind and warm sunshine, residents can enjoy a variety of year-round recreational activities.

**Average temperatures and precipitation:**

Average Days of Sunshine: 300 per year

Annual Precipitation: 20.21 inches/year

Annual Snowfall: 101.4 inches/year

Month	High	Low	Precipitation	Month	High	Low	Precipitation
Jan.	37.9°F	1.4°F	1.97"	Jul.	83.1°F	45.2°F	1.88"
Feb.	42.6°F	7.0°F	1.42"	Aug.	80.7°F	44.6°F	2.52"
Mar.	49.2°F	15.9°F	1.60"	Sep.	74.3°F	36.6°F	1.85"
Apr.	59.2°F	23.9°F	1.36"	Oct.	63.7°F	26.3°F	2.29"
May	68.3°F	30.2°F	1.20"	Nov.	49.7°F	15.4°F	1.39"
Jun.	78.3°F	36.3°F	.95"	Dec.	39.6°F	5.0°F	1.78"

**Is there a medical facility?**

Pagosa Springs Medical Center includes a critical access hospital located at 95 S. Pagosa Blvd. The emergency room is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Phone (970) 731-3700. Dial 911 for emergency services.

There are multiple primary care clinics in the community offering a variety of services, including urgent care.

**Important phone numbers:**

EMERGENCIES DIAL "911" (Ambulance, EMT, Fire, Police)

Nonemergency ambulance, fire, EMT or Law Enforcement, dial (970) 731-2160

Emergency Medical Services .....	(970) 731-5811
Pagosa Springs Medical Center.....	(970) 731-3700
Pagosa Urgent Care.....	(970) 372-0456
Axis Integrated Healthcare .....	(970) 264-2104
Pagosa Springs Police Department .....	(970) 264-4151, Ext. 228
Archuleta County Sheriff's Office .....	(970) 264-8430
Pagosa Fire Protection District .....	(970) 731-4191
USFS Pagosa District Ranger .....	(970) 264-2268
Pagosa Springs Town Hall .....	(970) 264-4151
Archuleta County Commissioners .....	(970) 264-8300
The Pagosa Springs SUN .....	(970) 264-2100
Pagosa Springs Post Office .....	(970) 264-5440
Pagosa Senior Center .....	(970) 264-2167
Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library .....	(970) 264-2209
Archuleta School District 50 Jt. ....	(970) 264-2228
Navajo Lake State Park .....	(970) 883-2208
Airport Flight Base Operations .....	(970) 731-2127
Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District .....	(970) 731-2691
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# Getting Here From There

## Stevens Field Airport

Archuleta County's Stevens Field, located just 3 miles west of downtown Pagosa Springs, is one of the most scenic airports around.

In addition to beauty, the airport boasts a fully lit asphalt runway that is 100 feet wide and 8,100 feet long. That runway has aircraft weight capacities of 70,000 pounds for dual-wheel gear and 59,000 pounds for single-wheel gear. Flight safety at the high-altitude, general aviation airport is reinforced with a Precision Approach Path Indicator system.

The airport has seen a steady stream of improvement over the years, with more to come.

In 2006, workers widened and resurfaced Runway 10/19 and built a new fixed-base operations building at midfield to provide fuel and services to local and visiting aircraft. In 2008, a new 3,000-foot parallel taxiway was constructed. Alongside the other improvements, new hangars have appeared, an automated weather observation system (AWOS) has been installed and is set to be updated, and the airport identifier became KPSO.

In keeping with its commitment to Archuleta County and Stevens Field, the Federal Aviation Administration also completed and published a GPS instrument approach for pilot use during nighttime and low-visibility landings.

In 2015, nearly \$6 million was spent to extend the parallel taxiway and complete other associated projects, further increasing

the efficiency of aircraft movement and safety.

Work has continued since, aiming to improve the operations of the airport year-round and provide the best service possible.

Those improvements have not only increased safety, but have also helped solidify the airport's status as an economic driver for the community. According to an economic impact study completed by the airport's advisory committee, for every dollar Archuleta County invests in the airport, the county receives a return of \$10.86. The 2020 Colorado Aviation Economic Impact Study also touted the economic impact of local airports like Stevens Field.

For more information on the airport, visit [www.archuletacounty.org/45/Airport](http://www.archuletacounty.org/45/Airport). For specific airport management questions or concerns, call the airport manager at (970) 731-3060.

The AWOS system is available on frequency 127.175 or by phone at (970) 731-0365.

And once you've landed, Pagosa Springs has car rental agencies and transportation companies to help you get around.

## Fixed-Base Operator

For aviation services or to visit Avjet Corporation, the fixed-base operator, travel 3 miles west of town, then approximately 1 mile northwest on Piedra Road (CR 600). Turn right (northeast) on Cloman Boulevard and proceed to 61 Aviation Court.

The FBO offers a number of amenities,

including restrooms, telephone, shower facilities, a flight planning room, pilot snooze room, Internet, vending machines, concierge and catering services, coffee, a lounge area, heated hangar and more. Avjet also provides fuel, Avgas and Jet-A rated fuel.

For more information about these and other airport services, call Avjet at (970) 731-2127.

## La Plata County Airport

The Durango-La Plata County Airport offers daily service with American Airlines and United Airlines. The airport offers a full range of services within the terminal to make your visit comfortable. The airport has short- and long-term parking, full rental car services and shuttle/taxis.

The airport is located 60 miles from Pagosa Springs at the intersection of Airport Road and County Road 309A, approximately 1 mile from County Road 309.

For more information about flights and ancillary services, visit [www.flydurango.com](http://www.flydurango.com).

## Mileage from Pagosa

Durango, Colo.	61 miles
Cortez, Colo.	104 miles
Denver, Colo.	277 miles
Colorado Springs, Colo.	242 miles
Farmington, N.M.	101 miles
Santa Fe, N.M.	160 miles
Albuquerque, N.M.	212 miles
Phoenix, Ariz.	514 miles
Oklahoma City, Okla.	699 miles
Dallas, Texas	813 miles





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# Marijuana laws: remain responsible and legal

Marijuana — both for medicinal and recreational purposes — is legal in Colorado.

But, while it may be legal, there are a few things you should know if you plan on partaking to remain responsible and legal.

First, there are differences in the laws regarding medicinal and recreational marijuana.

To obtain marijuana for medicinal purposes, you must be a Colorado resident with a state medical marijuana card, which can only be obtained with recommendation from a doctor. With that card, medicinal users can obtain marijuana from a licensed center, primary caregiver or can grow a limited amount themselves. For more information about medical marijuana, visit [www.colorado.gov/enforcement/marijuanaenforcement](http://www.colorado.gov/enforcement/marijuanaenforcement).

To buy or possess retail marijuana for recreational purposes, you must be 21 or older. It's illegal to give or sell retail marijuana to minors.

Retail marijuana can be purchased at licensed retail stores. There are multiple licensed retail stores within the Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County area.

Adults 21 and older can purchase and possess up to 2 ounces of marijuana at a time in the state of Colorado. Having more can result

in legal charges and fines.

Marijuana, however, cannot be consumed publicly, on public land (including, but not limited to, town parks, the national forest and Wolf Creek Ski Area), or be accessible to the public. It also cannot be consumed in any indoor, but public, areas like restaurants, bars or common areas in buildings.

Private lodging facilities can choose whether or not to allow marijuana in the establishment. To determine if consumption is allowed in any lodging establishment or not, check with the company's staff.

Marijuana is permissible in cars, but cannot be in an open container or cross state lines. It is illegal to consume marijuana in vehicles or to drive while under the influence of marijuana.

Possession and consumption rules are the same no matter the form (edible or to be smoked), and violators are subject to prosecution, with penalties ranging from fines to possible jail or prison sentences.

It should also be noted that marijuana, of all kinds, remains illegal at the federal level.

Too, any partaking should be done carefully and responsibly.

For more information and the most up-to-date regulations, visit [www.colorado.gov/marijuana](http://www.colorado.gov/marijuana).

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BETH TOLLEFSEN

# Pagosa Springs

When John Denver sang “thank God I’m a country boy,” it’s hard to imagine he was talking about what you’ll find along the I-70 corridor today. But, get away from the hustle and bustle and noise surrounding the bigger metropolitan centers, come down to the Four Corners area of southwestern Colorado, and you’ll find the kind of small-town charm people still sing about.

There’s plenty to fall in love with: warm sunshine, pristine rivers, abundant wildlife, stately stands of pine and aspen groves, verdant valleys and breathtaking vistas. It’s impossible to describe what it feels like to be sitting around a campfire at night, to look up through the pines at a clear night sky so full of stars it makes your heart race. It’s just something you need to experience for yourself.

Pagosa Springs still represents the idyllic vision of what Colorado was always meant to be. While many resort towns have become so overrun by the glitz, glamour and flash of Hollywood that real people can’t afford to go there anymore, Pagosa Country has retained its Old West charm while still offering the amenities of the 21st century.

## So small, but so much

With an excellent public library, art galleries, churches, specialty shops, live theater and a movie theater, Pagosa Springs provides more than enough to inspire the mind and spirit, while also offering ways to either heal or

exercise the body.

If you need directions or information for any of these (or other) amenities, stop by the Pagosa Springs Visitor Center, which offers a wealth of information on everything from Wolf Creek Ski Area to Chimney Rock National Monument and beyond.

## Like no other place on Earth

Backpackers, campers, hikers, mountain bikers and other adventuresome souls will want to visit the U.S. Forest Service Pagosa Ranger District Office located at 2nd and Pagosa streets, just two blocks east of Hot Springs Boulevard on U.S. 160. The staff there can provide a wealth of information about hiking and biking trails, campsites, fishing spots and horseback riding, as well as various tours of the area including the ancestral Puebloan ruins at Chimney Rock National Monument.

## Pagosa rocks

Needless to say, there is plenty of rock climbing around Pagosa Springs, but once you rappel down, there’s plenty of music to greet you. The Four Corners Folk Festival, for example, plays out on Labor Day weekend.

## Water, water everywhere

A short walk south from the Visitor Center will take you to what stands as the world’s deepest hot spring, commonly referred to

locally as the mother spring

If you’re a swimmer, the Healing Waters Resort and Spa at the corner of San Juan Street and Hot Springs Boulevard offers an outdoor pool and indoor mineral baths. The Springs Resort and Spa also offers an outdoor pool and outdoor geothermal hot tubs located next to the river. The Overlook Spa on Pagosa Street offers an opulent Victorian experience for soaking.

Nevertheless, and nearer still, Pagosa Springs provides ample opportunity to splash and smile. Late summer finds bathers and tubers alike taking to the river to enjoy a tame — and refreshing — float down the San Juan River.

## Fall in love

Windsurfing? Navajo Lake awaits you. Ballooning? Golf? Tennis? It’s all here, under the clearest blue sky you’ve ever seen.

For the earliest native inhabitants of the area, Pagosa was considered a land of healing waters. For today’s vacationers, Pagosa is a land of invigorating experiences.

If this is your first time to Pagosa Country, make yourself at home in the midst of the most beautiful scenery and friendliest people in Colorado.

If you’ve been here before, welcome back. If you’ve never been here, come find out why so many have said, “The first time I came here, I fell in love with the place.”



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MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

# Arboles & Navajo Lake

Pagosa Country is the place for fans of water fun. Navajo Lake is a summer recreation paradise for boating, camping, fishing, hiking, water skiing and wind surfing. The lake is less than an hour's drive from Pagosa Springs and extends 20 miles into New Mexico, with 15,000 surface acres of water.

Fed by the Piedra, San Juan and Pine rivers, Navajo Lake is a wonderful getaway for locals and visitors alike. Getting there is easy, via a relatively short and scenic drive through tall ponderosas and pinon pine country. From Pagosa Springs, travel west on U.S. 160 approximately 17 miles, until you see the spires of Chimney Rock, the site of ancestral Puebloan ruins, and turn south on Colo. 151. From that point on, enjoy the scenery as the 20-minute trip winds through the lower Piedra River Valley to the friendly town of Arboles and on to Navajo State Park. When you reach Arboles, turn left (southeast) on County Road 982, and it's a quick 2 miles to the park's Visitor Center.

Navajo Lake Marina has almost everything for boating and water skiing enthusiasts. The marina has boat slips and mooring buoys for rent as well as a restroom on the dock. At 110 feet, the park boasts one of the longest boat ramps in the state. Boat rentals are also available. For information and reservations, contact the marina at (970) 883-BOAT (2628).

All state parks in Colorado require reservations for camping, and campgrounds can

fill up during busy summer weekends and holidays.

Navajo's developed campgrounds have 118 campsites, camper services buildings with showers and flush toilets, and two cabins.

Campsite reservations may be made by calling (800) 244-5613 or by reserving online at <https://www.cpwshop.com/camping/navajo-state-park/r/campgroundDetails.page?parkID=50033&media=3>.

A valid Colorado State Parks Pass is required for all motor vehicles entering the park and for travel in all park grounds surrounding Navajo Lake. Daily permits cost \$10 per vehicle. An annual pass is \$80 and Colorado seniors 64 and older can purchase an Aspen Leaf annual pass for \$70. A transferable hangtag annual pass is available for \$120. Annual passes are good for all 41 Colorado State Parks.

Residents of Colorado are eligible to obtain a Keep Colorado Wild pass for \$29 on vehicle registrations, which allows access to all of Colorado State Parks. The cost is almost a 60 percent savings off the annual parks pass. It supports state parks, backcountry search and rescue, avalanche safety programs and wildlife conservation.

Whether you're camping, boating, fishing or just spending a sunny day by the water, be sure to visit the "Watchable Wildlife" observation deck, located where Colo. 151 crosses the Piedra River. From the deck, visitors may see mule

deer, elk, foxes, coyotes, bears, rare river otters, bald eagles, waterfowl and migratory birds.

The lake itself contains a variety of cold- and warm-water game fish. Prized brown trout, rainbow trout and crappie thrive in the cold waters. Navajo has also become well-known to bass fishermen throughout the southwest since its warm surface waters harbor largemouth and smallmouth bass. Bluegill and catfish are also plentiful.

Trotlines are allowed at the lake, but they must conform to Colorado fishing regulations.

The northern part of Navajo Lake lies in Colorado, where valid Colorado fishing licenses are required for anglers. Colorado licenses are available at the Visitor Center. If anglers cross south into New Mexico, they need to have a valid New Mexico state fishing license, which can also be purchased at the Visitor Center. Anglers without a boat can access excellent fishing spots on the rivers feeding the lake. Ample parking is located within walking distance of many fishing spots. A fully accessible fishing area is located on the Piedra River just west of Colo. 151.

As a gateway to one of southwest Colorado's finest recreational waters, Arboles has a gas station, cafe, convenience store, motel and post office in addition to boat storage and RV parks.

For additional information and updates, call the Navajo State Park office at (970) 883-2208 or visit [cpw.state.co.us](http://cpw.state.co.us).





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DIANE BIGLEY

# Chromo

Part-time residents and fifth-generation natives. Mountain peaks and foothills. Cattle ranches and chicken farms. Majestic elk country and cougar territory.

Pagosa Country is a land of variety and contrasts — geographic and cultural.

And the little town of Chromo is a microcosm of the binary observances this land holds.

Chromo is not a far drive from Pagosa Springs; just take U.S. 84 south for 24 miles. And the drive, though short, is full of fun destinations and picturesque viewpoints.

About 3 miles south of town, you'll see Echo Lake on your right-hand side. Drive only a couple of miles more, and look to your right. There will be a large sign for the Rocky Mountain Wildlife Park, home to an array of live animals typical of local wildlife, including black bears, a grizzly bear, mountain lions, wolves, coyote, foxes, bobcats and elk. There are even emu, though they aren't native to the area. Don't be scared; pull over and take the time to gander at the wondrous creatures that call

Pagosa Country home.

After leaving the wildlife park, if you continue south, you will pass the entrances to several side roads — many of them dead end, but all offer an opportunity for more spectacular Pagosa Country mountain vistas.

The turnoff for Forest Service Road 656 leading to the Upper Blanco River Basin is about 7 miles south of town, and about 10 miles south of town is Forest Service Road 652A leading to the Lower Blanco River Basin.

If you continue south along U.S. 84, you'll enjoy the winding drive through Halfway Canyon and on to wide-open Coyote Park. Much of this portion of the road retraces the pioneer stagecoach route into town. If you look closely, you'll see the bed of a narrow gauge railroad track long since abandoned.

You could turn right at Coyote Park onto County Road 359. This will take you to the historic rail hub of Edith. If you continue on, you'll make it to Lumberton in New

Mexico, the old stagecoach destination.

After leaving Coyote Park, you cross a small mountain range. At the top of the range is another dead-end road leading east to Buckles and Harris lakes. Finally, after driving past some awesome green horse pastures, you cross the Navajo River and find yourself in Chromo.

While in Chromo, drive a few miles up County Road 382 for a close look at Navajo Peaks, one of the most highly acclaimed camera points in Archuleta County.

Chromo is one of the best places in Pagosa Country for gaining access to the South San Juan Wilderness Area. During spring and fall, when elk and deer are migrating to and from the high country, a number of migration routes cross the road. Stay alert for elk or deer on the road, but also keep an eye out to the side to catch a majestic sight of the elk or deer running with their herd. If you get a chance while in Pagosa Country, visit Chromo.

Allow plenty of time, because there is plenty to see.





YVONNE LASHMETT

# Regional Excursions

Pagosa Country is perfectly located in the midst of some of the most interesting attractions and spectacular scenery in the world, and being here reminds a person what it means to live in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Sometimes the call of the open road becomes irresistible, and when the urge hits, a little road trip is just the ticket.

## Driving south

Heading south from Pagosa on U.S. 84, your trip offers a wide variety of areas to explore through the mesa country of northern New Mexico.

Just about an hour away, one can explore the Cumbres Pass area by car or rail.

The car-bound can explore the rich history in Dulce, the center of the Jicarilla Apache Nation. Be sure to go for the mid-July Little Beaver Pow-Wow and Carnival celebration.

Traveling south on U.S. 84 to Taos (and Taos Pueblo) is a longer, beautiful drive across the scenic Brazos Mountains from Tierra Amarilla (home of Tierra Wools), arriving at a town of artistic notoriety. Likewise, Santa Fe is a three-hour drive south on U.S. 84, offering not only Native American arts and crafts sold near the Governor's Palace, but also numerous art galleries lining a plaza that includes historic churches and places of interest.

Also on U.S. 84 is the quaint and gorgeous town of Abiquiu, which inspired the painter Georgia O'Keefe. For those interested in exploring the spiritual roots of the area, a quick turn on Forest Service Road 151 not only offers views of the Chama Canyon, but will lead to the Benedictine Monastery of Christ in the Desert. Built by famed Japanese architect George Nakashima, the chapel and original monastery show the simple elegance of southwest architecture. Since Benedictines have taken a vow of hospitality, they will be sure to welcome you with arms wide open. Make sure, though, to ring the bell loud.

## Driving west

A short drive west of town leads to the Chimney Rock National Monument, which provides an introduction to the Ancestral Puebloans who settled here more than 1,000 years ago. This is a perfect complement to a day trip to Mesa Verde.

Continue south and east on Colo. 151 from Chimney Rock and you will pass through Arboles and Allison and make your way to Ignacio — the home of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. After checking out the casino, visit the spectacular Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum for a look into the history of one of the most storied tribes of the Southwest.

Mesa Verde National Park, our nation's third most-visited national park, offers a look back in time at the lives of the Ancestral Pueblo people who mysteriously disappeared from their spectacular cliff dwellings more than 1,000 years ago. The Canyon of the Ancients National Monument is located northwest of Cortez and includes several smaller ruin sites for a quieter and more private experience. South of Durango, across the New Mexico state line, is the Aztec Ruins National Monument.

Traveling further west beyond Mesa Verde on U.S. 160 is the Four Corners Monument at the junction of Colorado, New Mexico,

Arizona and Utah.

Closer to Pagosa is Navajo State Park, just 30 miles from Pagosa on Colo. 151, offering camping, water skiing, sailing, fishing, boating and pretty much everything else.

For a more metropolitan experience, Durango is an hour west of Pagosa Springs on U.S. 160, with Fort Lewis College sitting atop a mesa and a vibrant historical downtown area.

## Driving north

Directly north of Pagosa Country lies a vast roadless area known as the Weminuche Wilderness, so pretty much anything accessed from the north first requires a drive to the east or west.

From the east (up U.S. 160 to Lake City), a drive up the Alpine Loop Scenic Byway, a 65-mile, four-wheel-drive road over Engineer Pass toward Silverton and Ouray, makes for a spectacular — and breathtaking — day trip. To the west, a trip up U.S. 550 from Durango to Silverton, and then on to Ouray (the Switzerland of America), is substantially less taxing on the rear axle.

## Driving east

Almost no one visiting the area misses an opportunity to drive over Wolf Creek Pass. Aside from the opportunity to hike up Treasure Falls, view the Pagosa basin from the overlook, or the short drive up Lobo Overlook on the north side for access to the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, travelers are provided with some of the most breathtaking miles of road offered anywhere in the world. A swing by Big Meadow Reservoir, a few miles from the summit and on the north side of the highway, is well worth the diversion.

On the other side of the pass, South Fork offers the option of driving north on Colo. 149 on the Silver Thread Scenic Byway toward Lake City, or continuing east on U.S. 160 toward the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve.

If choosing Colo. 149 to Creede, an old mining town with a deep heritage, a visitor might enjoy the Mining Museum (at the far north end of Main Street) or a performance at the renowned Creede Repertory Theatre.

North from Creede (as mentioned earlier) and over Slumgullion Pass (named for the yellowish dirt that a mudslide uncovered a thousand years ago) is Lake City. With the natural dam forming beautiful Lake San Cristobal, the highest natural lake in Colorado, Lake City also proudly features the history of Alferd Packer, who was charged, tried and convicted for the crime of cannibalism.

Continuing east on U.S. 160 from South Fork takes visitors into the high desert (8,000 feet) and toward the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, about 15 miles past Alamosa and left on Colo. 150.

At the base of the intimidating Sangre de Cristo range (four 14,000-foot peaks at Crestone, less than 20 miles northeast), the area has had millions of years collecting the sand of the San Luis Valley into dunes several hundred feet high, creating the backdrop for numerous westerns and the awe of millions of visitors.

No matter which direction you choose, Pagosa Springs is the hub for a trip to a destination that promises to be both breathtaking and memorable, with amazing views to capture and a rich history left from those who settled in this area.





# Chimney Rock National Monument

MARY ROSE

Chimney Rock National Monument (CRNM) is an intimate, off-the-beaten-path archaeoastronomy site located at the southern edge of the San Juan Mountains. Chimney Rock is considered a Chacoan “outlier,” part of a complex system of dispersed communities bound by economic, political and religious interdependence centered in Chaco Canyon, N.M. The monument is a 4,726-acre archaeological site and preserves architecture and artifacts used by the Ancestral Puebloan people approximately 1,000 years ago, from about 900 A.D. to 1150 A.D. Ancestral Puebloan farmers lived in villages and on dispersed homesteads. An impressive testament to this life and community is the Great House Pueblo situated at an elevation of 7,600 feet, just below the Chimney Rock pinnacles. Today Native American tribes still have a special spiritual and traditional affinity for this place.

The 2024 season at CRNM opens on May 15 and closes Oct. 21. The monument is located 17 miles west of Pagosa Springs on U.S. 160 and 3 miles south on Colo. 151. The San Juan National Forest Service manages the site and requires the purchase of an activity pass fee of \$20, good for five days. All federal park passes are honored for access.

The Chimney Rock Interpretive Association is a nonprofit volunteer organization that offers specialized interpretive programs at CRNM. Fees for tours/programs vary, with most in the \$20 to \$25 range. Making a reservation through the Recreation.gov website or the call center, (877) 444-6777, is the only way to guarantee a spot for each tour/program. Reservations are strongly recommended.

Art at the Pinnacles is a class that teaches basic art skills using pencils, pen, chalk pastel or watercolors to explore the natural beauty in the landscape. All materials are provided.

The Autumnal Equinox program provides an exclusive pre-dawn experience to witness a most spectacular sun rising from atop the mesa near the Chacoan Great House. Afterward, a tour of the archaeological sites will be conducted with emphasis on the importance of such celestial events to the ancient ones.

The Birding Tour is presented in partnership with the local chapter of the Audubon Society. It affords a wonderful opportunity to observe and learn about the birds that are native to the area.

The Flora Tour provides an introduction to a variety of plant species that grow at Chimney Rock and their uses by the Ancestral

Puebloans.

Flute Music at Twilight begins with a short walk on the nature trail followed by live Native American flute music in the accessible amphitheater as the night sky deepens to allow a view of celestial bodies unencumbered by modern day lights.

Forest Service Fee Free Days are extended to the public on June 8 and 19 and Sept. 28 when the Forest Service does not charge its normal activity pass fee for entrance.

The Full Moon program is a three-hour event culminating in a unique experience of viewing the moon rise from atop Chimney Rock Mesa. Prior to that, a presentation will highlight the Ancestral Puebloan ties to astronomy and the Chacoan culture.

The Early Tour/Full Moon Package combines the Full Moon program with an early, guided tour of the Mesa Village Trail to provide a four-hour event.

The Geology Tour explores local geology and its relationship to the daily lives of the Ancestral Puebloans, the importance of rock types to the area, and how the landscape plays a central role in climate.

The Great House Tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about the ancient Puebloan structures.

The Life at Chimney Rock Festival is a fee-free event on June 1 and 2. This family-oriented festival provides interactive demonstrations of crafts and skills of the Ancestral Puebloan people in addition to a Native American arts and crafts market and food vendors. No reservations are required.

Major Lunar Standstill events are offered throughout the season. A prerecorded program will be held in the amphitheater in June, July and August. A live-streaming program will also be held in the amphitheater in September and October.

Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour provides an in-depth discussion along the Great House Trail about the connection of Chimney Rock to the greater Chacoan culture, the significance of the mesa-top Great House, and the day-to-day lives of the ancestral inhabitants of Chimney Rock.

Our Solar System is timed for viewing the sky when the moon is visible in the early night sky to allow for maximum study of the





RANDI PIERCE

moon's surface along with other night sky objects. Telescopes will be utilized to further enhance celestial bodies. A "tour of the night sky" and a lecture round out the program.

The Plein Air Workshop embraces the concept of painting outdoors to capture the beauty of a natural landscape. The event begins at CRNM in the morning and will finish at an indoor studio in downtown Pagosa Springs. All materials are provided.

Stars and Galaxies is timed for viewing the night sky at its darkest to enhance observance of fainter objects that the moon's light would normally obscure. Telescopes will be employed to further amplify viewing of the wonders of the night sky. A "tour of the night sky" and a lecture round out the program.

The Summer Solstice program provides a unique pre-dawn experience to view the sunrise from atop the mesa timed to take in the expanding sun's rays as light slowly fills the landscape. Afterward, a tour of the archaeological sites will be conducted with emphasis on the importance of such celestial events to the ancient ones.

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RANDI PIERCE

## Kelly Lewis: Bringing joy and connection to nature through art

For Kelly Lewis, choosing art as a career was natural.

"I have always been drawn to art (pun intended!)," the artist writes. "It has been a way to make sense of life, find community, and share beauty and joy. It was something that came naturally at a young age, but I have chosen it over and over again as I moved through life."

Lewis, who studied art in undergraduate and graduate school, currently serves as a high school art teacher and on the board of the Pagosa Community Initiative (which grew out of an after-school art program), calling it "an honor to facilitate the learning of young artists" and adding, "My students blow my mind daily."

"Creating brings us so much in life and I feel very fortunate that I have been able to make a career that keeps creating at the heart of everything I do," she states.

She also works to bring joy to others through her art.

"I like to use bright colors, gestural marks, and expressive subject matter to create a relationship between the viewer and the work that promotes positivity and happiness," Lewis states.

In Pagosa Springs, she does that through multiple public art installations that help bring character, heart and joy to the downtown area such as the bears Lewis completed with Madeline Bergon and Chad Haspels.

Lewis relays it was a no-brainer for her to jump in when the town began focusing more on public art.

"I have had the immense pleasure of creating public art in other places, but it feels exceptionally special when I get to put work up in my home, especially when it means collaborating with incredible town staff and even other artists (like I was able to with Chad Haspels with the bear at Yamaguchi Park)," she writes.

As you wander around town and view the art created by Lewis, you'll notice a distinct theme of nature.

"My art is all about our connection with nature," Lewis writes. "Here especially, we are surrounded by so much wilderness. The first summer I lived here, we had not one, but three bears that would try to get into our trash every night. We had a huge male at 2 am, a younger male at 3, and a mother would come by with her cubs just before the sun came up. It was both terrifying and magical to see these magnificent neighbors of ours so close up. We have a very intertwined relationship with nature here in Pagosa and showing animals up close in a positive light can provide a great way to advocate for positive relationships with the National Forest, wilderness, and wildlife in our area."

Lewis is one of many talented artists who call the area home, and that is not lost on her.

"I cannot express how incredible it is to be a part of such a creative community," she states. "For how small Pagosa is, we are bursting with so much talent. From tattoo artists, to craftsman, potters, silversmiths, photographers, painters, sculptors and so much more, Pagosa is overflowing with phenomenal makers of all kinds!"



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# Local Event Calendar 2024

Event dates and information subject to change.  
Check the calendar at [www.PagosaSUN.com](http://www.PagosaSUN.com) for  
up-to-date events and information.

## MAY

### May 16-31, select dates

#### Great House Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 10:30 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

### May 17-31, select dates

#### Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

### May 31-Aug. 9

#### Summer Reading Program

For all ages  
Ruby Sisson Library, [www.pagosalibrary.org](http://www.pagosalibrary.org)

### May 4

#### Walk for Moms

Yamaguchi Park, 8:30 a.m., [www.aspirepagosa.org](http://www.aspirepagosa.org)

### May 11

#### Pagosa Paddle

San Juan River/Town Park  
Downtown Pagosa Springs  
[www.friendsoftheupper-sanjuan-river.org](http://www.friendsoftheupper-sanjuan-river.org)

### May 18

#### Geology Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

### May 21

#### Geology Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

### May 22

#### Art at the Pinnacles: watercolors

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

#### Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

### May 23

#### Full Moon Program

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8:15 p.m.  
Early Tour/Full Moon Package 7 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

### May 24

#### Birding at Chimney Rock

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)



### May 25

#### Geology Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

#### Flute Music at Twilight

Chimney Rock National Monument, 6 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

### May 28

#### Art at the Pinnacles: pencil drawing

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

#### Geology Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

### May 29

#### Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

### May 31

#### Summer Reading Program kickoff party

Ruby Sisson Library, 2 p.m., (970) 264-2209

#### "Jimmy Buffet's Escape to Margaritaville"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts  
Tickets: [pagosacenter.org](http://pagosacenter.org), (970) 731-SHOW (7469)

## JUNE

### June-September

#### Pagosa Farmers Market

Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., [www.sospagosa.org](http://www.sospagosa.org)

### Through Aug. 9

#### Summer Reading Program

For all ages  
Ruby Sisson Library, [www.pagosalibrary.org](http://www.pagosalibrary.org)

### June 1-Aug. 25, select dates

#### "Jimmy Buffet's Escape to Margaritaville"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts  
Tickets: [pagosacenter.org](http://pagosacenter.org), (970) 731-SHOW (7469)

### June 3-28, select dates

#### Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

### June 4-29, select dates

#### Great House Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 10:30 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

### June 14-Aug. 18, select dates

#### "Beautiful: The Carole King Musical"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts  
Tickets: [pagosacenter.org](http://pagosacenter.org), (970) 731-SHOW (7469)



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# Local Event Calendar 2024

## June 28-Aug. 17, select dates

### "Disney's Beauty and the Beast"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts

Tickets: [pagosacenter.org](http://pagosacenter.org), (970) 731-SHOW (7469)

## June 1

### Life at Chimney Rock (fee free)

Chimney Rock National Monument, 10 a.m.

(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## June 2

### Life at Chimney Rock (fee free)

Chimney Rock National Monument, 10 a.m.

(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## June 3

### Flora of Chimney Rock

Chimney Rock National Monument, 4:45 p.m.

(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## June 4

### Geology Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.

(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## June 5

### Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.

(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## June 6

### Art at the Pinnacles: pastels

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.

(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## 19th Hole Concerts

Pagosa Springs Golf Club, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Jason Rose and Denise Chaney

[www.swcommunityfoundation.org](http://www.swcommunityfoundation.org)

## Pagosa Night Rodeo

Western Heritage Event Center Rodeo Grounds

6:30 p.m., rain or shine

(719) 588-9979, [burrisandsonsbuckingbulls.com](http://burrisandsonsbuckingbulls.com)

## June 7

### Pagosa Springs Car Show: Street Party

Lewis Street, 5 p.m.

[www.pagosachamber.com](http://www.pagosachamber.com)

## Stars and Galaxies Program

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8:30 p.m.

(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## June 8

### Birding at Chimney Rock

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.

(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## Geology Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.

(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## Pagosa Springs Car Show: Show and Shine

Lewis Street, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

[www.pagosachamber.com](http://www.pagosachamber.com)

## National Get Outdoors Day (fee free)

Chimney Rock National Monument, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## June 11

### Art at the Pinnacles: pencil drawing

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.

(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## Geology Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.

(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## June 12

### Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.

(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## "Once Upon a Mattress"

Pagosa Springs High School Auditorium, 7 p.m.

[www.curtainsuppagosa.org](http://www.curtainsuppagosa.org)

## June 13

### 19th Hole Concerts

Pagosa Springs Golf Club, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Bo DePena

[www.swcommunityfoundation.org](http://www.swcommunityfoundation.org)

## Pagosa Night Rodeo

Western Heritage Event Center Rodeo Grounds

6:30 p.m., rain or shine

(719) 588-9979, [burrisandsonsbuckingbulls.com](http://burrisandsonsbuckingbulls.com)

## "Once Upon a Mattress"

Pagosa Springs High School Auditorium, 7 p.m.

[www.curtainsuppagosa.org](http://www.curtainsuppagosa.org)

## June 14

### Our Solar System Program

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8:30 p.m.

(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## "Once Upon a Mattress"

Pagosa Springs High School Auditorium, 7 p.m.

[www.curtainsuppagosa.org](http://www.curtainsuppagosa.org)

## June 15

### Geology Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.

(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## Flute Music at Twilight

Chimney Rock National Monument, 6 p.m.

(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## "Once Upon a Mattress"

Pagosa Springs High School Auditorium, 7 p.m.

[www.curtainsuppagosa.org](http://www.curtainsuppagosa.org)

## June 16

### "Once Upon a Mattress"

Pagosa Springs High School Auditorium, 2 p.m.

[www.curtainsuppagosa.org](http://www.curtainsuppagosa.org)

## June 17

### Flora of Chimney Rock

Chimney Rock National Monument, 4:45 p.m.

(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## June 18

### Geology Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.

(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## June 19

### Summer Solstice Sunrise Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 4:45 a.m.

(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## Junteenth (fee free)

Chimney Rock National Monument, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.

(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)





# Local Event Calendar 2024

## June 20

### Summer Solstice Sunrise Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 4:45 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

### 19th Hole Concerts

Pagosa Springs Golf Club, 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
The San Juan Mountain Boys  
[www.swcommunityfoundation.org](http://www.swcommunityfoundation.org)

## Pagosa Night Rodeo

Western Heritage Event Center Rodeo Grounds  
6:30 p.m., rain or shine  
(719) 588-9979, [burrissandsonsbuckingbulls.com](http://burrissandsonsbuckingbulls.com)

## June 21

### Summer Solstice Sunrise Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 4:45 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

### Birding at Chimney Rock

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

### Pagosa Springs ComFest

Concert Series in the Park  
Town Park Athletic Field, 5:30-8:30 p.m.  
(970) 264-4152, [www.pagosasprings.co.gov](http://www.pagosasprings.co.gov)

### Full Moon Program

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 p.m.  
Early Tour/Full Moon Package 6:45 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## June 22

### Geology Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

### Plein Air Workshop

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## June 25

### Geology Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## June 26

### Art at the Pinnacles: watercolors

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

### Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## June 27

### 19th Hole Concerts

Pagosa Springs Golf Club, 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
Bob Hemenger  
[www.swcommunityfoundation.org](http://www.swcommunityfoundation.org)



RANDI PIERCE

## Pagosa Night Rodeo

Western Heritage Event Center Rodeo Grounds  
6:30 p.m., rain or shine  
(719) 588-9979, [burrissandsonsbuckingbulls.com](http://burrissandsonsbuckingbulls.com)

## June 29

### Geology Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## JULY

### Through Aug. 9

#### Summer Reading Program

For all ages  
Ruby Sisson Library, [www.pagosalibrary.org](http://www.pagosalibrary.org)

### Through Aug. 17, select dates

#### "Disney's Beauty and the Beast"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts  
Tickets: [pagosacenter.org](http://pagosacenter.org), (970) 731-SHOW (7469)

### Through Aug. 18, select dates

#### "Beautiful: The Carole King Musical"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts  
Tickets: [pagosacenter.org](http://pagosacenter.org), (970) 731-SHOW (7469)

### Through Aug. 25, select dates

#### "Jimmy Buffet's Escape to Margaritaville"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts  
Tickets: [pagosacenter.org](http://pagosacenter.org), (970) 731-SHOW (7469)

### Through September

#### Pagosa Farmers Market

Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., [www.sospagosa.org](http://www.sospagosa.org)

### July 1-29, select dates

#### Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

### July 2-30, select dates

#### Great House Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 10:30 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

### July 13-16

#### "Finding Nemo KIDS!"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts  
Tickets: [pagosacenter.org](http://pagosacenter.org), (970) 731-SHOW (7469)

### July 1

#### Flora of Chimney Rock

Chimney Rock National Monument, 4:45 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

### July 2

#### Art at the Pinnacles: pencil drawing

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

### July 3

#### Park to Park Artisan Market

Town Parks, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
[www.pagosachamber.com](http://www.pagosachamber.com)



# Local Event Calendar 2024

## July 4

### Park to Park Artisan Market

Town Parks, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

[www.pagosachamber.com](http://www.pagosachamber.com)

### 4th of July Parade

10 a.m.

(970) 264-4151, [www.pagosasprings.co.gov](http://www.pagosasprings.co.gov)

### Pagosa Springs Community Band Concert

The Springs Resort and Spa, 2 p.m.

### Red Ryder Roundup Rodeo

Western Heritage Event Center Rodeo Grounds, 2 p.m.

[www.pagosarodeo.com](http://www.pagosarodeo.com)

### Fireworks

Downtown, dusk

## July 5

### Park to Park Artisan Market

Town Parks, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

[www.pagosachamber.com](http://www.pagosachamber.com)

### Red Ryder Roundup Rodeo

Western Heritage Event Center Rodeo Grounds, 6 p.m.

[www.pagosarodeo.com](http://www.pagosarodeo.com)

### Stars and Galaxies Program

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8:30 p.m.

(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## July 6

### Geology Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.

(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

### Park to Park Artisan Market

Town Parks, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

[www.pagosachamber.com](http://www.pagosachamber.com)

### Red Ryder Roundup Rodeo

Western Heritage Event Center Rodeo Grounds, 6 p.m.

[www.pagosarodeo.com](http://www.pagosarodeo.com)

## July 9

### Geology Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.

(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

### Author talk: Scott Graham

Graham, writer of the National Park Mystery Series books, will discuss his newest book, the series and his writing process

Ruby Sisson Library, 6 p.m., (970) 264-2209

## July 10

### Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.

(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## July 11

### Art at the Pinnacles: pastels

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.

(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)



## Flora of Chimney Rock

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8:15 a.m.

(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## Pagosa Night Rodeo

Western Heritage Event Center Rodeo Grounds

6:30 p.m., rain or shine

(719) 588-9979, [burrissandsonsbuckingbulls.com](http://burrissandsonsbuckingbulls.com)

## July 12

### Our Solar System Program

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8:30 p.m.

(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## July 13

### Geology Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.

(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## Flute Music at Twilight

Chimney Rock National Monument, 6 p.m.

(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## July 15

### Flora of Chimney Rock

Chimney Rock National Monument, 4:45 p.m.

(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## July 16

### Art at the Pinnacles: pencil drawing

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.

(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

### Geology Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.

(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## July 17

### Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.

(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## July 18

### Pagosa Night Rodeo

Western Heritage Event Center Rodeo Grounds

6:30 p.m., rain or shine

(719) 588-9979, [burrissandsonsbuckingbulls.com](http://burrissandsonsbuckingbulls.com)

## July 19

### Pagosa Springs ComFest

#### Concert Series in the Park

Town Park Athletic Field, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

(970) 264-4152, [www.pagosasprings.co.gov](http://www.pagosasprings.co.gov)

## July 20

### CRUISE-A-THONg

Town Park Athletic Field

[www.friendsoftheupper-sanjuan-river.org](http://www.friendsoftheupper-sanjuan-river.org)

### Geology Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.

(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)



# Local Event Calendar 2024

## **Plein Air Workshop**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## **Full Moon Program**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 7:45 p.m.  
Early Tour/Full Moon Package 6:30 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## **July 23**

### **Geology Tour**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## **July 24**

### **Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## **July 25**

### **Flora of Chimney Rock**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8:15 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## **Pagosa Night Rodeo**

Western Heritage Event Center Rodeo Grounds  
6:30 p.m., rain or shine  
(719) 588-9979, [burrisonandsonsbuckingbulls.com](http://burrisonandsonsbuckingbulls.com)

## **July 27**

### **Geology Tour**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

### **Spanish Fiesta**

Archuleta County Fairgrounds, 3-10 p.m.

## **July 29**

### **Flora of Chimney Rock**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 4:45 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## **July 30**

### **Broadway Gala**

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts  
Tickets: [pagosacenter.org](http://pagosacenter.org), (970) 731-SHOW (7469)

## **July 31**

### **Art at the Pinnacles: watercolors**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## **AUGUST**

## **Through Aug. 9**

### **Summer Reading Program**

For all ages  
Ruby Sisson Library, [www.pagosalibrary.org](http://www.pagosalibrary.org)

## **Through Aug. 17, select dates**

### **"Disney's Beauty and the Beast"**

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts  
Tickets: [pagosacenter.org](http://pagosacenter.org), (970) 731-SHOW (7469)

## **Through Aug. 18, select dates**

### **"Beautiful: The Carole King Musical"**

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts  
Tickets: [pagosacenter.org](http://pagosacenter.org), (970) 731-SHOW (7469)

## **Through Aug. 25, select dates**

### **"Jimmy Buffet's Escape to Margaritaville"**

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts  
Tickets: [pagosacenter.org](http://pagosacenter.org), (970) 731-SHOW (7469)

## **Through September**

### **Pagosa Farmers Market**

Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., [www.sospagosa.org](http://www.sospagosa.org)

## **Aug. 1-31, select dates**

### **Great House Tour**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 10:30 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## **Aug. 2-30, select dates**

### **Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## **Aug. 1**

### **Archuleta County Fair**

Archuleta County Fairgrounds, 344 U.S. 84  
(970) 264-8424, [www.archuletacountyfair.com](http://www.archuletacountyfair.com)

## **Aug. 2**

### **Archuleta County Fair**

Archuleta County Fairgrounds, 344 U.S. 84  
(970) 264-8424, [www.archuletacountyfair.com](http://www.archuletacountyfair.com)

## **Stars and Galaxies Program**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8:15 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## **Aug. 3**

### **Geology Tour**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## **Archuleta County Fair**

Archuleta County Fairgrounds, 344 U.S. 84  
(970) 264-8424, [www.archuletacountyfair.com](http://www.archuletacountyfair.com)

## **Aug. 4**

### **Archuleta County Fair**

Archuleta County Fairgrounds, 344 U.S. 84  
(970) 264-8424, [www.archuletacountyfair.com](http://www.archuletacountyfair.com)

## **Aug. 6**

### **Geology Tour**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## **Aug. 7**

### **Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## **Aug. 8**

### **Art at the Pinnacles: pastels**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## **Aug. 9**

### **Summer Reading Program closing party**

Ruby Sisson Library, time TBD, (970) 264-2209

## **Our Solar System Program**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## **Aug. 10**

### **Geology Tour**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## **Birding at Chimney Rock**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## **Aug. 12**

### **Perseids Meteor Shower**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## **Aug. 13**

### **Geology Tour**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## **Perseids Meteor Shower**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## **Aug. 14**

### **Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## **Aug. 16**

### **Pagosa Springs ComFest**

Concert Series in the Park  
Town Park Athletic Field, 5:30-8:30 p.m.  
(970) 264-4152, [www.pagosasprings.co.gov](http://www.pagosasprings.co.gov)

## **Aug. 17**

### **Dancing with the Pagosa Stars**

### **Event Supporting Seeds of Learning**

Ross Aragon Community Center  
(970) 264-5513, [www.growingseeds.org](http://www.growingseeds.org)

## **Geology Tour**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## **Flute Music at Twilight**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 6 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)



# Local Event Calendar 2024

**Aug. 19**

**Full Moon Program**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 7:30 p.m.  
Early Tour/Full Moon Package 6:15 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**Aug. 20**

**Art at the Pinnacles: pencil drawing**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**Geology Tour**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**Aug. 21**

**Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**Aug. 23**

**Birding at Chimney Rock**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**Pagosa Springs Area Art Studio Tour**

10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
[www.studiotourpagosa.com](http://www.studiotourpagosa.com)

**Aug. 24**

**Geology Tour**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**Plein Air Workshop**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**Pagosa Springs Area Art Studio Tour**

10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
[www.studiotourpagosa.com](http://www.studiotourpagosa.com)

**Aug. 25**

**Pagosa Springs Area Art Studio Tour**

10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
[www.studiotourpagosa.com](http://www.studiotourpagosa.com)

**Aug. 28**

**Art at the Pinnacles: watercolors**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**Aug. 29**

**Pagosa Springs ComFest Concert Series in the Park**

Town Park Athletic Field, 5:30-8:30 p.m.  
(970) 264-4152, [www.pagosaprices.co.gov](http://www.pagosaprices.co.gov)

**Aug. 30**

**Four Corners Folk Festival**

Reservoir Hill  
[www.ksutpresents.org](http://www.ksutpresents.org)

**Our Solar System Program**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 7:30 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**Aug. 31**

**Four Corners Folk Festival**

Reservoir Hill  
[www.ksutpresents.org](http://www.ksutpresents.org)

**Geology Tour**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## SEPTEMBER

**Through September**

**Pagosa Farmers Market**

Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., [www.sospagosa.org](http://www.sospagosa.org)

**Sept. 2-30, select dates**

**Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**Sept. 3-28, select dates**

**Great House Tour**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 10:30 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**Sept. 1**

**Four Corners Folk Festival**

Reservoir Hill  
[www.ksutpresents.org](http://www.ksutpresents.org)

**Sept. 3**

**Geology Tour**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**Sept. 4**

**Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**Sept. 5**

**Art at the Pinnacles: pastels**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**Sept. 6**

**Our Solar System Program**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 7:30 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**Sept. 7**

**Geology Tour**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**Sept. 10**

**Art at the Pinnacles: pencil drawing**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**Geology Tour**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**Sept. 11**

**Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**Sept. 14**

**Geology Tour**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**Flute Music at Twilight**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 6 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**Sept. 17**

**Geology Tour**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**Sept. 18**

**Full Moon Program**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 7 p.m.  
Early Tour/Full Moon Package 5:45 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**Sept. 20**

**Passport to Pagosa Wine and Food Festival**

Town Park Athletic Field, 6 p.m.  
[www.pagosachamber.com](http://www.pagosachamber.com)

**Sept. 21**

**Aspen House Color Run**

Yamaguchi Park, 7:30 a.m.  
[www.aspenhousepagosa.org](http://www.aspenhousepagosa.org)

**Geology Tour**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**Birding at Chimney Rock**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**Hot Air Balloon Mass Ascension**

Downtown, 8 a.m.  
[www.pagosachamber.com](http://www.pagosachamber.com)

**Plein Air Workshop**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

**Bands and Brews Festival**

Town Park Athletic Field, 4-8 p.m.  
[www.pagosachamber.com](http://www.pagosachamber.com)

**Sept. 22**

**Autumnal Equinox Sunrise Tour**

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5:30 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)



# Local Event Calendar 2024

## Hot Air Balloon Mass Ascension

Uptown, 8 a.m.  
[www.pagosachamber.com](http://www.pagosachamber.com)

## Sept. 23

**Major Lunar Standstill Livestream Event**  
Chimney Rock National Monument, time TBD.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## Sept. 24

**Major Lunar Standstill Livestream Event**  
Chimney Rock National Monument, time TBD.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## Sept. 25

**Art at the Pinnacles: watercolors**  
Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## Sept. 27

**Stars and Galaxies Program**  
Chimney Rock National Monument, 6:45 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## Sept. 28

**Geology Tour**  
Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## National Public Lands Day (fee free)

Chimney Rock National Monument, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## Mountain Chile Cha Cha

Town Park athletic field  
[www.ilovegreenchile.com](http://www.ilovegreenchile.com)

## OCTOBER

### Oct. 1-19, select dates

**Great House Tour**  
Chimney Rock National Monument, 10:30 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

### Oct. 2

**Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour**  
Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

### Oct. 3

**Art at the Pinnacles: pastels**  
Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

### Oct. 4

**Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour**  
Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## Our Solar System Program

Chimney Rock National Monument, 6:45 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## Oct. 5

**Geology Tour**  
Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## Oct. 7

**Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour**  
Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## Oct. 8

**Art at the Pinnacles: pencil drawing**  
Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## Oct. 9

**Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour**  
Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## Oct. 11

**Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour**  
Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## Oct. 12

**Geology Tour**  
Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## Flute Music at Twilight

Chimney Rock National Monument, 6 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## Oct. 14

**Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour**  
Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## Oct. 16

**Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour**  
Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## Oct. 18

**Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour**  
Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## Full Moon Program

Chimney Rock National Monument, 6:30 p.m.  
Early Tour/Full Moon Package 5:15 p.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## Oct. 19

**Geology Tour**  
Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## Oct. 20

**Major Lunar Standstill Livestream Event**  
Chimney Rock National Monument, time TBD.  
(877) 444-6777, [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org)

## Oct. 21

**Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour**  
Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.



# Colorfest

MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY





THINGAMAJIG THEATRE COMPANY

# Music & Theater

After a day of playing in the river, hiking a local peak, angling for that wall-worthy brown trout or stirring up some mud with the fat tires of a mountain bike, take advantage of the numerous opportunities in Pagosa for the musically minded and the theater lover.

The summer season opens up restaurant patios and beer gardens for local, regional and national talent, while area establishments host bands almost every night during the summer. Doors open wide to allow a refreshing blast of cool air for patrons and a taste of the excitement indoors for those strolling by.

More than that, area stages come alive with comedies, dramas and musicals, making Pagosa Springs a premier destination for theater.

## Get your groove on

While our nationally renowned music festival (listed elsewhere in this guide) may grab most of the glory, a quick glance at events listed inside the front page of The PREVIEW section (published each week in

The Pagosa Springs SUN newspaper) will show that the local music scene ranges from acoustic performances to Zydeco — and everything in between.

## Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts

The Thingamajig Theatre Company in residence at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (PSCA) has achieved a reputation for featuring Broadway-quality productions, earning the distinction as one of Colorado's premiere venues for professional theater.

Thingamajig Theatre Company is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and a constituent member of the Theatre Communication Group, the national organization for professional American theater.

Co-founded in 2011 by Tim and Laura Moore, the award-winning Thingamajig Theatre Company brings in professional talent from around the nation to perform in, direct and design its shows, as well as cultivating local talent.

Thingamajig provides educational opportunities for youth and teens in our community, including theater camps and master classes.

The summer 2024 Broadway in the Mountains season will feature the musicals “Jimmy Buffets Escape to Margaritaville,” “Beautiful the Carole King Musical,” “Disney’s Beauty and the Beast,” and “Finding Nemo KIDS!”

For event and theater information or to purchase tickets, check out the PSCA website, [www.pagosacenter.org](http://www.pagosacenter.org), or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

## Curtains Up Pagosa

Pagosa Springs has an outstanding and unique community theater organization. Curtains Up Pagosa (CUP), established in 1989, typically presents two excellent productions each year.

Each production includes an auditioned volunteer cast that is accompanied by a live pit orchestra of talented local and professional musicians.

This summer, CUP will be present “Once



Upon a Mattress,” a music comedy based on the story of the princess and the pea, in June.

The nonprofit organization puts on musicals, concerts and other events.

The organization strives not only to entertain residents and visitors with the very best of community theater in Pagosa, but also to support local public schools by providing funding for arts programs. That support manifests in its stage productions, with cast members ranging in age from those young to those better classified as young at heart, and also in the scholarships CUP awards for students going on to study performing arts after high school. This support includes local student scholarships for private voice, dance and instrumental lessons.

For more information about the show and tickets, watch The PREVIEW section of The Pagosa Springs SUN newspaper. For more information about the organization, visit [www.curtainsuppagosa.org](http://www.curtainsuppagosa.org).

### Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society

The Pagosa Springs Community Band formed in 2011 and is part of the Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society (PSIMS), a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

The group’s motto is “Music for Life,” and the band includes talented community musicians of all ages.

PSIMS exists to develop musical ability and to raise awareness of the importance of music to people of all ages. The group celebrates the joy of music through teaching and performance opportunities for musicians of all levels of ability in our community.

The band puts on four concerts per year. The Fourth of July outdoor concert features patriotic music we know and love from Sousa marches to “America the Beautiful.” The fall concert that showcases the group’s talented directors and the songs selected by the directors will ring familiar to your ear. The festive Heralds of Christmas Concert, held close to the holidays, is a traditional family favorite and features the talented soloists and the brass ensemble with songs of the season. The Band-o-Rama concert in the spring features the Community Band sharing the stage with our middle school and high school bands. It is truly a wonderful musical experience to hear the progression of talent in our local musicians.

THE THINGAMAJIG  
THEATRICAL COMPANY

BROADWAY  
IN THE MOUNTAINS  
LIVE PROFESSIONAL THEATRE

SUMMER SEASON 2024

JIMMY BUFFETT'S  
*Escape to Margaritaville*  
MAY 31 – AUGUST 31

*Beautiful*  
The Carole King Musical  
JUNE 14 – AUGUST 30

Disney  
*BEAUTY AND THE BEAST*  
THE MUSICAL  
JUNE 28 – AUGUST 17

Disney · PIXAR  
*FINDING NEMO*  
KIDS  
JULY 13 – 16

BROADWAY  
*Gala*  
JULY 30

PAGOSACENTER.ORG  
970.731.SHOW (7469) | 2313 EAGLE DRIVE | PAGOSA SPRINGS, CO

PAGOSA SPRINGS  
CENTER for the ARTS



# Four Corners Folk Festival

The 28th annual Four Corners Folk Festival will take place on beautiful Reservoir Hill in Pagosa Springs over Labor Day weekend, Aug. 30 through Sept. 1.

For over 25 years, the Four Corners Folk Festival has featured three days of live performances, workshops, on-site camping, late-night jams and more. Some of the biggest names in music have appeared on the festival stage through the years, including John Hiatt, Gillian Welch, Keb' Mo', Los Lobos, Sam Bush, Tim O'Brien, Nickel Creek, Hot Rize, Billy Strings and others.

Since its beginnings in the late 1990s, the Four Corners Folk Festival has featured a variety of musical styles, including Americana, bluegrass, newgrass, Celtic, alt-country, blues and rock, all falling under the broad umbrella of folk.

As the great Louis Armstrong once said, "All music is folk music. I ain't never heard no horse sing a song."

Rising above downtown from its prime central location, Reservoir Hill Park provides outstanding campsites located in the 140-acre ponderosa pine forest, just a short walk from the main venue. Many festival-goers choose to stay at one of Pagosa's many lodging estab-

lishments, taking advantage of the free shuttle service up and down Reservoir Hill throughout the weekend.

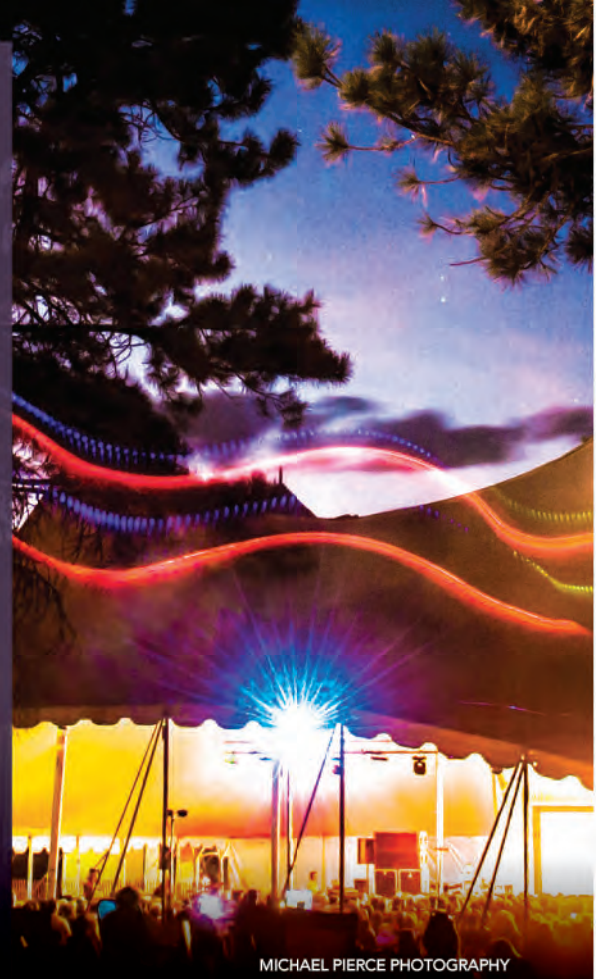
Campground jam sessions are a highlight for many attendees with impromptu jams springing up all day and well into the night.

A secondary tent near the entrance to the festival grounds serves as the center for kids' activities in the day and late-night performances after the main stage shuts down on Friday and Saturday evenings. Other features include music workshops, bluegrass brunches, food court, and beer and wine garden.

The large performance tent provides shelter for the stage and seating for more than 1,300 people, plus there is ample room in the meadow outside the tent to set up tarps and low-back chairs.

The Four Corners Folk Festival is an extremely family-friendly event, offering free admission to children 12 and under (accompanied by an adult), as well as a free children's program with arts and crafts and workshops for aspiring young musicians and their families.

You can keep up to date with this year's festival and purchase tickets at [www.ksutpresents.org](http://www.ksutpresents.org).



MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY



## 4 CORNERS FOLK FESTIVAL

**AUGUST 30-SEPT. 1, 2024**  
**TICKETS AT [KSUTPRENTS.ORG](http://KSUTPRENTS.ORG)**







# Weddings, Reunions & More

Mother Nature provides her decorating expertise free of charge

From a simple, backyard affair to a lavish party for hundreds, Pagosa Springs and the surrounding area might be just what you're looking for to make your wedding or reunion something special.

Pagosa Country is a wonderful background for special events — with the majestic Pagosa Peak, sparkling mountain lakes, bubbling brooks, aspen stands, clear blue skies, colorful and dramatic sunsets, and more available throughout the area. Or, if you're more of the indoor type, a number of venues can be rented for special events and decorated to fit your style.

In addition to Mother Nature providing her decorating expertise free of charge for your event, Pagosa Springs offers the amenities to help put together all the details for your picture-perfect event.

Photographers, florists, caterers and more, all complete with Pagosa flair, are at the ready. The area also offers a variety of unique lodging options for every budget and desire. Area rental businesses can help outfit your events for sound and seating.

Marriage licenses can be obtained downtown at the Archuleta County Courthouse, located at 449 San Juan St. (on the main street in downtown Pagosa Springs).

Licenses can be secured for \$30. Both the bride and groom are required to be present with photo ID to sign the document. A marriage license may be issued and used in any county in Colorado. However, the license must be used within 35 days from the date of issue. The license is issued the day it is applied for and may be used immediately. No blood test is required in Colorado. Additional requirements exist if either or

both parties are divorced.

Additional information and license applications are available at [www.archuletacounty.org/193/Marriage-Licenses](http://www.archuletacounty.org/193/Marriage-Licenses). Call (970) 264-8350 with any inquiries or to make an appointment.

Pagosa Country also provides experiences. It won't be a problem keeping family and friends entertained. A plethora of memorable indoor and outdoor activities cater to every age, skill level and area of interest — shopping, hiking, biking, fishing, ATVing, swimming, golfing and more — all of which can be topped off with a soak in the area's mineral pools or a relaxing massage.



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# Celebrating America

## » July 1-4

The Pagosa Springs area is one of the busiest places in the Southwest during the Fourth of July holiday, and Pagosa will be in full swing again this year. The following is a description of some of the traditional activities that will be taking place.

The Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce's annual Park 2 Park Artisan Market will kick into gear for a four-day show on Wednesday, July 3, and will run until Saturday, July 6. There will be more than 70 vendors in multiple parks at the festival. You'll find artwork, jewelry, woodcarving, pottery, glasswork, clothing, weaving, sculptures, candles, soaps, specialty foods and much more. There will be a food court and a beer garden in one of the parks. Take a break while enjoying the day in the park and try out some tasty food, flavorful beer and live music under the shade tent. The location is conducive to shopping as you stroll through the parks and along the Riverwalk enjoying the crafts and tasty food items. The festival opens every day at 10 a.m. and runs until 5 p.m. except for Saturday, July 6, when the market closes at 4 p.m. While downtown, don't miss out on the unique, local shops located in the downtown area.

The "biggest small-town parade" in the country, hosted by the Town of Pagosa Springs and Rotary Club, is scheduled to be held July 4 beginning at 10 a.m. Everyone loves a parade and, Pagosa's is one of the very best. Due to possible construction on U.S. 160, the parade route is subject to change. Please check [www.visitpagosasprings.com](http://www.visitpagosasprings.com) or The Pagosa Springs SUN for the latest information.

The Fourth of July fireworks will be held Thursday night, July 4. The fireworks festivities will take place on the fields adjacent to Pagosa Springs High School, on South 8th Street in the downtown area. To best view the fireworks, you can enjoy seating at Pagosa Springs High School or at Yamaguchi Park, located on South 5th Street. Gather family and friends, bring a picnic dinner and enjoy the stellar display. The fireworks display typically begins at dark — around 9:15 p.m. This event is subject to fire restrictions and weather.

The 74th annual Red Ryder Roundup Rodeo, a legendary Fourth of July festivity, will be held three consecutive days starting July 4 and running through July 6. The rough-and-tumble rodeo, with regional cowboys and cowgirls and all western rodeo events, will have its first performance July 4 at 2 p.m. and evening performances at 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, July 5 and 6. The Western Heritage Event Center arena is just south of the intersection of U.S. 160 and U.S. 84. Cowpokes under 6 years old can register for mutton bustin' in advance. Visit [www.PagosaRodeo.com](http://www.PagosaRodeo.com) for details.

There is still time between all these activities to enjoy a barbecue, a hike or a bike ride away from the bustle of town — or to partake in any of the other fun experiences available in the area.

For more information, schedules or maps, stop by the Visitor Center at 105 Hot Springs Blvd. or contact them at (970) 585-1200, or check the website [www.visitpagosa.com](http://www.visitpagosa.com).



RANDI PIERCE





MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

# Pagosa Springs Car Show

## » June 7-8

The 2024 Pagosa Springs Car Show will be held June 7 and 8. The event features antique vehicles, model category cars, 4x4s, trucks, rat rods, muscle cars, motorcycles and more — all displaying plenty of classic style.

There will be awards for class winners, as well as special prizes for the Best in Show, People’s Choice and Chamber Choice.

Festivities begin at 5 p.m. on Friday, June 7, on Lewis Street, with the Street Party, which includes car check-in and registration, food vendors, a beverage garden and great live music. This year, renowned Austin, Texas,

entertainer Garrett LaBeau will headline the evening with his brand of blues, R&B and funk.

On Saturday, June 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the vehicles will return to Lewis Street for the Show and Shine. This event gives everyone a chance to admire antique and custom cars up close and speak to the owners about their works of art. Live music, displays, activities for children, specialty demonstrations, food, a beverage garden and vendors will be on hand. The awards will be issued at the end of the day in category classes and special awards.

For information or to register, visit [www.pagosachamber.com](http://www.pagosachamber.com).

## » Pagosa Farmers Market | Mid-June through Mid-September

Just in town for the weekend? Making your stay in Pagosa Country an extended trip? In either case, stop by the Pagosa Farmers Market and pick up some local products to enjoy during your stay or take home with you as a unique token of Pagosa Springs.

The Pagosa Farmers Market is open every Saturday morning from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. from mid-June to mid-September.

Vendors bring to the market locally grown and produced foods such as vegetables, grass-fed beef, pastured pork, cheeses, milk, eggs, breads, honey, pastries and preserved food. Other products might include plants and plant starts as well as tree seedlings, natural skin-care products and handmade articles of alpaca, mohair and wool.

The market offers a unique feature, the Small Growers Coop, where you can purchase vegetables from backyard growers who sometimes

have an excess of one vegetable or another.

In addition to accepting cash or debit cards, market vendors accept SNAP Market Bucks for purchase of market food products, and SNAP beneficiaries receive Double Up Bucks worth \$20 with their first \$20 SNAP purchase at each market.

Last, but certainly not least, you’re invited to hang out and experience the community. The growers and producers are interesting folks from whom you can learn much about what is unique to mountain living in what they do, and local customers can offer insights about the area.

[www.sospagosa.org](http://www.sospagosa.org)





» May 11  
**Pagosa Paddle**

Enjoy the excitement of head-to-head whitewater racing on the San Juan River through downtown Pagosa Springs. This event takes place near Town Park from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more details and registration, visit [www.friendsoftheuppersanjuanriver.org](http://www.friendsoftheuppersanjuanriver.org).

[www.friendsoftheuppersanjuanriver.org](http://www.friendsoftheuppersanjuanriver.org)

» July 20  
**CRUISE-A-THONg**

On Saturday, July 20, the Town Park Athletic Field comes alive with under inflated egos and adventurous spirits. The Average Jo(e) Race is a don't-triathlon designed for the not-so-hardcore athlete in all of us. Like a triathlon, the course consists of three legs; however, this one is a bit more relaxed. The first leg is a "cruiser" bike ride (or other self-propelled method of transportation) along the almost-world-famous Riverwalk, winding through downtown. Next is a thong (that is to say "flip-flop") walk along Hermosa Street toward the river access. Lastly, take a tube float (or other flotation device) down the San Juan River. Registration begins at 9 a.m. and the race will commence around 11 a.m. Following the race is the after party, which consists of live music, libations and a ceremony to award this year's most Average Jo(e). We will also award other not-so-average participants for creative costumes and other not-so-average antics. Sponsored by the nonprofit Friends of the Upper San Juan River. For more information, visit [www.friendsoftheuppersanjuanriver.org](http://www.friendsoftheuppersanjuanriver.org).

» Sept. 28  
**Mountain Chile Cha Cha**

There are few better ways to spend an autumn day than attending the Mountain Chile Cha Cha, a celebration of Pagosa Country's Hispanic heritage. This event takes place in the Town Park Athletic Field and offers a great opportunity to enjoy trail races, food, music and fun. After the races, the fun continues with the Patty Aragon Green Chile Classic, which includes a green chile cook-off and tasting, as well as a popular margarita contest. Attendees can sample dozens of homemade green chiles, many of which are made using recipes passed down through generations. The event also features a Mexican beer garden, a kid's corner, food trucks and green chile roasting. In the afternoon, you can enjoy a live Mexican dance concert. This event is a culinary and cultural treat for locals and visitors alike, and it spotlights the love of green chile, which is an integral part of Pagosa Country's Hispanic heritage.

» Aug. 23-25  
**Pagosa Springs Area Art Studio Tour**

The Pagosa Springs Arts Council is excited to announce the second annual Pagosa Springs Area Art Studio Tour. From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 23-25, local artists will open their working studios for three days only. Find out more about the studios on tour at <https://www.studio-tourpagosa.com>; paper maps can be picked up at The Pagosa Springs Visitor Center and PJ's Fine Bamboo Rods.



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MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

# ColorFest

## » Sept. 20-22

ColorFest weekend rings in the fall season accompanied by a blaze of gold and red hues, complemented by the bright colors of hot air balloons.

ColorFest weekend also celebrates the harvest season, with the Passport to Pagosa Wine and Food Festival and the Pagosa Springs Bands and Brews Festival paying tribute to numerous local and regional foods, microbreweries and music. Add the crisp and glorious Colorado autumn weather, and you have a weekend of fun, friends and unparalleled beauty.

On Friday, Sept. 20, the popular Passport to Pagosa: Wine and Food Festival will be held. Scrumptious food provided by many of Pagosa's superb restaurants, caterers and specialty stores is paired with delicious wines chosen for this event. This event is certainly an epicurean delight, and tickets often sell out. Fantastic live music rounds out the evening. Tickets become available at the end of July.

The Bands and Brews Festival on Saturday afternoon, Sept. 21, highlights some of the best breweries in Southwest Colorado and other parts of the state and Northern New Mexico, with many of the breweries bringing in specialty quaffs just for the season. Growing in popularity in the region is the distilling of hard ciders, with several vendors showcasing this beverage. Multiple live music performances, delicious beverages, food vendors and activities for the children make it one of Pagosa's favorite events.

The Saturday evening balloon glow will be held where the Microbrew Festival is held. Bands and Brews attendees will be able to continue their party while watching the glowing balloons adjacent to the festival as the evening grows dark. This balloon glow is contingent upon the weather.

Aspen House and Aspen Services will host the 5K ColorFest Color Run on Saturday morning, Sept. 21. Get doused with color as you walk or run the designated trail in the downtown area where volunteers welcome you with every color of the rainbow and you can view the hot air balloons as you navigate the course. Check for the festivity

status at [www.aspenhousepagosa.org](http://www.aspenhousepagosa.org).

You will enjoy the magic of the hot air balloons as they ascend around 8 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday mornings. A mass ascension on Saturday, Sept. 21, will take place in the downtown area with the beautiful San Juan River in the foreground and the San Juan Mountains as a backdrop. The west side of town will host the balloon ascension on Sunday morning, Sept. 22, with the majority of the balloons ascending from the Pagosa's Lakes area near the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Recreation Center offering fabulous photographic opportunities of lakes and mountains. All balloon-related activities are dependent upon the weather.

For more information about ColorFest, event locations and the status of the weekend's activities, call the Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce at (970) 264-2360 or find out information at [www.Pagosachamber.com](http://www.Pagosachamber.com).

Balloon pilots interested in flying can download the pilot application at [www.pagosachamber.com/colorfest/](http://www.pagosachamber.com/colorfest/).

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# Pagosa's Past

By **John M. Motter**

"Bold and brash" best describes Archuleta County history, a saga of the Old West prescribed by rugged mountain remoteness and the distinctive characteristics of three proud cultures.

At least three national flags have symbolized ownership of Pagosa Country — claims not always recognized by the Indigenous Native Americans who hunted and fished here long before Columbus crossed the Atlantic.

Those flags belonged to Spain, Mexico and the United States, and an argument could be made that France also claimed the area for a period of time.

Evidence of prehistoric human occupation in the San Juan Mountains, including Archuleta County, is fairly abundant. Later, but before white men followed Indian trails into the area, the Ancestral Puebloans pursued a sedentary lifestyle near Chimney Rock and along the Piedra and San Juan rivers in the southwestern part of the county.

More recently, perhaps about the same time Hispanics arrived in New Mexico, Southern Ute, Jicarilla Apache and Navajo Indians found the fertile mountain valleys surrounding the Great Pagosa Hot Spring to their liking. They enjoyed, even worshipped, the medicinal benefits of the mineralized hot spring waters.

Hispanics wandered into Nuevo Mexico in the 16th century, hoping to fill their packs with gold. Even though they didn't uncover fabulous golden riches, they stayed **and**, in order to survive, traded

with the Native Americans. As a result, a trading party led by Juan Maria Rivera visited Pagosa Country in 1765. Not much later, in 1776, the priests Francisco Dominguez and Silvestre Escalante entered Archuleta County near present-day Carracas, intent on finding a path linking Spain's New Mexico colonies with those in California. After reaching the central valley of Utah, the intrepid explorers turned back. Nevertheless, for years, Pagosa Country hills echoed to the clip-clop of mule trains trotting back and forth between California and New Mexico, along paths opened by these men.

By 1820, Pagosa Country acquired a new, if still foreign, ruling government. That is the year Mexico threw off the yoke of Spain and began administering her own affairs. Mexico's greater tolerance for Anglos encouraged a steady stream of fur traders to set their traps in the San Juan watershed.

By 1846, trapping was largely a thing of the past and even bigger changes loomed on the horizon. The United States went to war with Mexico. Following the war, the United States owned about half of Mexico's territory, including Pagosa Country.

Anxious to explore their new domain and to find a railroad route to California, the U.S. Army sent an expedition through Pagosa Country in 1859, headed by Capt. John Macomb. Macomb's party included a number of scientists who mapped the route and rendered exquisite line drawings of the Great Pagosa Hot Spring and Chimney Rock. Macomb's report is the first written description in English we have of





### Pagosa Country.

Soon after Macomb's visit, in 1860, gold was discovered in the San Juan Mountains. For the next 30 years, a steady stream of prospectors and their supporters flowed through Pagosa Country. The growing number of settlers agitated the proud Southern Ute tribes, forcing the U.S. government to respond by sending troops into the area.

The San Juan River adjacent to the great Pagosa Hot Springs was chosen as a good point for locating troops. In 1878, Fort Lewis blossomed on one bank of the river, the town of Pagosa Springs on the other bank. Cattle ranchers chased their four-legged charges through the surrounding foothills.

Pagosa Country assumed all of the attributes of the Old West, with cavalry troops, cowboys and Native Americans, gunfights and barroom brawls, sheepmen and cattlemen, stagecoach holdups — all of the cherished traditions from which western movies are made.

Then, as suddenly as it had arrived, the Old West disappeared. Filling the void were railroads, lumber mills and loggers. Pagosa had its own narrow gauge railroad complete with a downtown depot. Nothing lasts forever and, after denuding much of the countryside, the railroad and logging industry moved out.

Colorado built a relatively modern highway over Wolf Creek Pass in 1916; trucks began to move most of the freight, and telephones, electricity and central water came to town. Local folks were caught between the new and the old. Cattlemen continued to raise beef for

the market. Small lumber mills hacked away at the remaining trees. Then came the Great Depression and World War II. Many of the rural people eking out a scarcely adequate living moved to town, or further away to work in defense plants. The war ended, but few of those who had abandoned Pagosa Country returned. Pagosa had no payrolls.

Along about 1970, a number of land developers, ears tuned to the insistent jingle of change in affluent America's pockets, began to subdivide and sell Pagosa Country land. Buyers responded enthusiastically, infatuated with the mountain panoramas, gurgling streams, seemingly endless ranks of mountain forests, and maybe with the idea that a little of the Old West lived on in Pagosa Country.

Since 1970, the population of Pagosa Country has increased dramatically. Shops have sprung up to meet the needs of new arrivals. Farsighted investors have developed the Great Pagosa Hot Springs and other natural attractions. But, even with change, Pagosa Country has remained unique — a beautiful, off-the-beaten-path refuge for resident and visitor alike.

The history of Pagosa Country, new and old, is etched in her people's dynamic response to change. Even though the Old West is gone, the Old West background of soaring mountains, strident streams and abundant wildlife continue to dominate life here. As it has been from the beginning, Pagosa Country, dominated by God-given natural resources, remains bold and brash.





# Downtown Historic Walking Tour

## 1. 402 Pagosa Street Goodman's Department Store

Following the departure of soldiers from Fort Lewis in 1880, pioneer David Lowenstein opened a clothing store at this location, conducting some of his business with Jicarilla Apache Indians. Through marriage, the Goodman family became associated with the business and eventually remodeled the structure in 1929 by completely enclosing the existing structure and then removing the old store from the inside without closing for a day. In 2000, Goodman's Department Store celebrated its 100th year in the building, continuing its legacy as the longest-operating department store in Pagosa Springs.

## 2. 418 and 422 Pagosa Street Metropolitan Hotel and Liberty Theatre

Pagosa Lumber Company founder A.T. Sullenberger purchased the two-story brick building at this location in 1918, which was previously occupied by Archuleta Mercantile and built by J.M. Archuleta Jr. in the early 1900s. After a fire destroyed the structure in 1919, Sullenberger constructed the Metropolitan Hotel, which featured modern rooms, hot baths for guests and a motion-picture theatre.

## 3. 426 Pagosa Street Sparks Hardware

Constructed in 1919, this structure was originally occupied by Sparks Hardware. Archuleta Motors opened a garage in the building several decades later. After fire damaged the building in 1943, Ben Lynch Sr. moved Jackisch Drug to this location, where it was operated by the Lynch family until 2004.

## 4. 452 Pagosa Street The Hersch Building

Built by Alice Phillips in 1898 and owned by the Hatcher Brothers from 1905 to 1921, this build-

ing was purchased in 1921 and became Hersch Mercantile. The building operated as Hersch Mercantile until the 1970s and has held numerous social and business functions, as well as the law offices of former Colorado Attorney General Alonzo Hubbard.

## 5. 456 Pagosa Street La Cantina

Clock Dry Goods Company operated at this location beginning in 1903. The building was briefly known as the Colorado Tavern from 1937 to 1941. The building was purchased in 1941 and renamed La Cantina by the L.M. Archuleta family. The Archuleta family operated La Cantina into the late 1990s until the building was purchased; renovations followed shortly thereafter, in 2001.

## 6. 468 Pagosa Street Hatcher Hardware

Beginning in 1905, Hatcher Hardware operated at this location for several decades, often sharing ownership of the building with Citizens Bank. In 1943, a fire almost completely destroyed the building. The existing building was constructed following the fire. At the rear of the property is the town's second geothermal well, which was drilled in 1920. The wellhead has the ability to pump approximately 675 gallons per minute and was previously used to heat the building.

## 7. 474 Pagosa Street Citizens Bank

Citizens Bank operated at this corner location for more than 70 years. Fred Catchpole opened the bank following the closure of First National Bank in 1908. The original building, constructed in 1910, was a two-story structure. The structure was remodeled into a one-story building after a fire damaged the second floor in 1943. Catchpole served as county commissioner and county treasurer and was also influential in the

construction of the Wolf Creek Pass road. The original bank vault and Wells Fargo safe still remain inside.

## 8. 449 San Juan Street Archuleta County Courthouse

In 1927, Jay Catchpole approached the Archuleta County Commission and suggested the county purchase the old First National Bank building, along with the adjoining lot to construct a courthouse. The property was purchased for \$5,000 and in 1929, the county moved into its new offices. This building has operated as the Archuleta County Courthouse since 1929 and utilizes a geothermal well behind the building. The original bank vault still exists within the courthouse.

## 9. 480 San Juan Street Moorehead Garage

This building originally functioned as a service station and auto garage and was constructed sometime between 1935 and 1937. A fire in 1943 destroyed a large portion of the structure. Numerous renovations have been completed since the fire, including significant restoration in 2005.

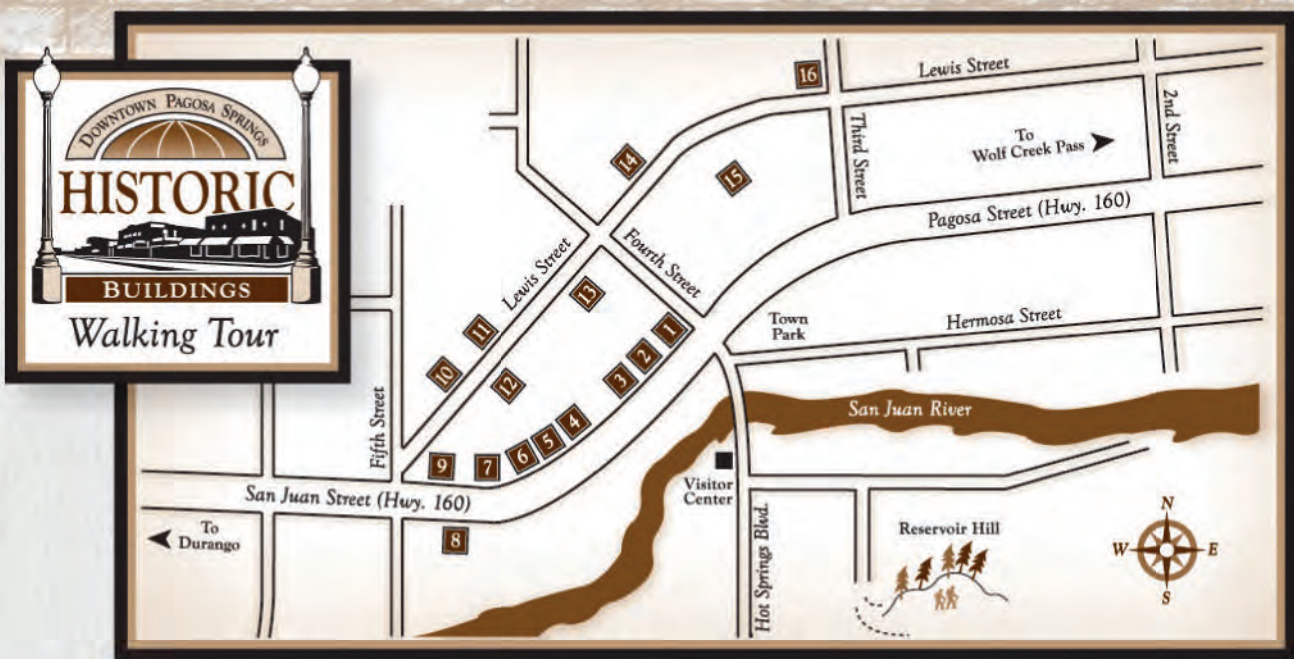
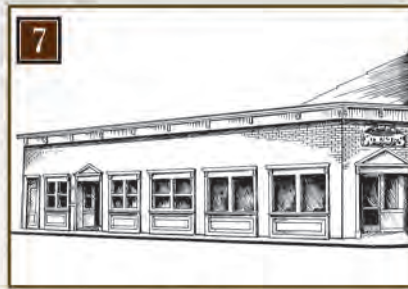
## 10. 468 Lewis Street San Juan Supply

Ralph Morgan constructed this building in 1918 and opened the Electric Garage. The property was purchased by C.O. Dunagan in 1925 and later sold to the Schoonover family. In the 1930s, Paul and Virginia Decker became partners with the Schoonover family and operated San Juan Supply into the mid 1980s. The building has served a variety of commercial enterprises since the closure of San Juan Supply.

## 11. 444 Lewis Street Sparks Residence

This ornamental concrete block building was constructed by Ethel Sparks in 1910. The home





ILLUSTRATIONS AND TOUR ©2007 TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS

was purchased by Bryce and Julia Patterson in 1912. The Pattersons moved to town in 1904 and operated the Arlington Hotel and Bath House, which was across the street from the residence, until 1936.

**12. 451 Lewis Street  
Immaculate Heart of Mary  
Catholic Church**

This building was constructed in 1948 to accommodate an increased congregation at the existing Saint Edwards Catholic Church. The church was dedicated as the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church on May 22, 1949. The original stained glass windows were imported from Spain. Saint Edwards Catholic Church was destroyed by fire in the 1950s.

**13. 409 Lewis Street  
Ray's Hair Care**

Located where the old Fort Lewis military

paymaster's office may have stood, this building was constructed in 1902 by either Joseph Clarke or William Kester. The building has housed a number of businesses throughout the years, with Ray's Hair Care operating at this location from 1976 to early 2020.

**14. 380 Lewis Street  
County Jail and Medical Office**

County records show the jail may have been located on this property prior to 1936. The existing residence was built in the mid-1930s for a local medical doctor. The residence's architecture exemplifies the use of local stone materials.

**15. 338 Pagosa Street  
Pagosa Springs Middle School**

Pagosa Springs' school was completely destroyed by fire in 1924. For a year, students attended school in churches, businesses and the Odd Fellows Lodge until this building, the new

school, was finished in 1925. The building was constructed to be totally fireproof, with ramps instead of stairs, which was thought to be safer. The school originally housed all grade levels; however, today the school accommodates only fifth- and sixth-grade students.

**16. 302 Lewis Street  
Catchpole Residence**

This residence was constructed as a Queen Anne-style home by Fred and Mabel Catchpole in 1910. From 1996 to 2002, the home experienced extensive remodeling, including siding, shingles, doors, windows and roof. The Catchpoles were active community members, with Fred serving terms as county commissioner and county treasurer, and Mabel serving terms on the school board and Methodist Church board. The residence is no longer owned by the Catchpole family.





RANDI PIERCE

## Family Fun

### A timeless tradition: Archuleta County Fair melds the past and present with a lot of fun

A timeless tradition, the 73rd annual Archuleta County Fair will take place Aug. 1-4. It's always a party, so dust off those boots, break out your western wear and get ready to have a great time.

Fair days are full of fun in the sun, with rodeos, entertainers, games, exhibits and demonstrations.

County fairs are ubiquitous, and for good reason.

The fair here in Archuleta County is a timeless tradition not only for the reasons most love a good county fair and its funnel cakes, animals and more, but also because it pays homage to parts of Archuleta County's past, present and future. It also shows respect for the hard work of citizens of all ages who participate in open class and 4-H competitions, and throws in a lot of fun.

The gates open at 9 a.m. daily, closing around midnight on Friday and Saturday to ensure that you have the time to enjoy the festivities. The fair closes at 2 p.m. on Sunday for all exhibits.

4-H members will show their animals including horses, dogs, goats, sheep, steers, chickens, pigs, turkeys, lambs and more during many livestock shows.

The rodeo on Friday night is our action-packed Bulls, Bares and Broncs and our second Tough Enough to Wear Pink Rodeo where we partner with Pagosa Springs Medical Center to bring attention to all forms of cancer and blood disorders. The mid-day rodeo on Saturday and other entertainers will keep fairgoers busy. After

working up an appetite, head to the 4-H Chuckwagon Dinner and then to the livestock area in the Hughes Pavilion.

The junior livestock sale is the culmination of the hard work of 4-H members. The sale exhibits the long-standing livestock traditions and ranching roots of Archuleta County and supports 4-H youngsters who have dedicated themselves to their projects throughout the year. 4-H members display and have their work judged at the county fair and may even get the opportunity to go to the Colorado State Fair. After a full day, two-step on over to hear some live country western music under the Activity Tent.

The festivities continue into Sunday with the Kids' Rodeo and a last chance to see the 4-H animals and exhibits.

During the fair, the exhibit hall will be filled with different projects created by county residents, including quilts, photographs, paintings, vegetables, flowers and baked goods. Vendors will also sell food and various crafts and merchandise.

The fair is held at the fairgrounds just south of town on U.S. 84. Everyone is invited.

Please note that activities and schedules are subject to change. The full schedule of events will be published prior to the fair in The Pagosa Springs SUN.

For more information, visit [www.archuletacountyfair.com](http://www.archuletacountyfair.com). Questions may be emailed to [archuletacountyfair@gmail.com](mailto:archuletacountyfair@gmail.com).



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# Town Parks

RANDI PIERCE

The parks of Pagosa Springs run the gamut from the wild and natural pine forest on Reservoir Hill to the well-manicured fields of Yamaguchi Park. What follows is a list of each park and a description of what it has to offer.

**Reservoir Hill** — The most prominent physical feature of the downtown area, Reservoir Hill towers over the south bank of the San Juan River and is distinguished by the large green water tank visible from U.S. 160.

The park is accessible from three trailheads — located across the highway from the River Center, behind the Healing Waters Spa and next to the U.S. Post Office — and offers miles of hiking and biking trails ranging from gentle and peaceful to steep and technical.

A large meadow right next to the water tank is the home to the Four Corners Folk Festival over Labor Day weekend. A large wooden gazebo in the festival meadow is available to rent for special occasions such as weddings or reunions.

Located one-fourth of a mile east of the gazebo is an overlook that allows one to overlook the town and see stunning views.

Reservoir Hill is also home to one of the best disc golf courses in the region, featuring 18 baskets, 18 regular tee boxes and 18 alternative tee boxes for those experts looking for a bit more challenging game.

There are restrooms available on the hill.

**Centennial Park** — Centennial Park stretches along the river and includes several tables for enjoying a nice family picnic while watching the activities in the river and the hot springs beyond. A pedestrian bridge provides a continuous connection for the Riverwalk that winds through the wetlands behind Town Hall and the Ross Aragon Community Center. A pedestrian bridge at the other end of the park connects to The Springs Resort and Spa.

**Town Park** — On the southeast corner of the U.S. 160/Hot Springs Boulevard intersection, Town Park connects to Centennial Park via the Riverwalk and contains a wind harp, bathrooms, a drinking fountain, picnic tables, barbecue grills, a Pirate ship-themed playground,

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climbing boulders, two special-event 200-amp electrical services and a white-water feature in the adjacent river.

The park and the athletic field across Hermosa Street host several events throughout the year.

**Yamaguchi Park** — Located on South 5th Street between Pagosa Springs High School and the river, Yamaguchi Park is home to a favorite hangout for local kids — the Pagosa Skate Park. The Skaters Coalition for Concrete, a local grassroots organization formed over a decade ago, raised funds and added a full-sized bowl to the 4,500-square-foot concrete terrain at the park.

The park was designed to appeal to skaters of all ability levels and includes several plaza elements and a bowl feature.

The park is open from dawn to dusk throughout the year, provided the skating surface is free of ice and snow in the winter months.

Another amenity of Yamaguchi Park is the kayak/raft launching facility and two whitewater features, complemented by the paved Riverwalk to facilitate viewing activities on the river.

A heated year-round restroom, drinking fountain, picnic tables, barbecue grills and picnic shelter allow for family gatherings, while a state-of-the-art playground, climbing boulder, an outdoor basketball court, a pump track for bicycle use and beautiful soccer and softball fields give plenty of room for the kids to play. An events and performance venue with electrical service is also available.

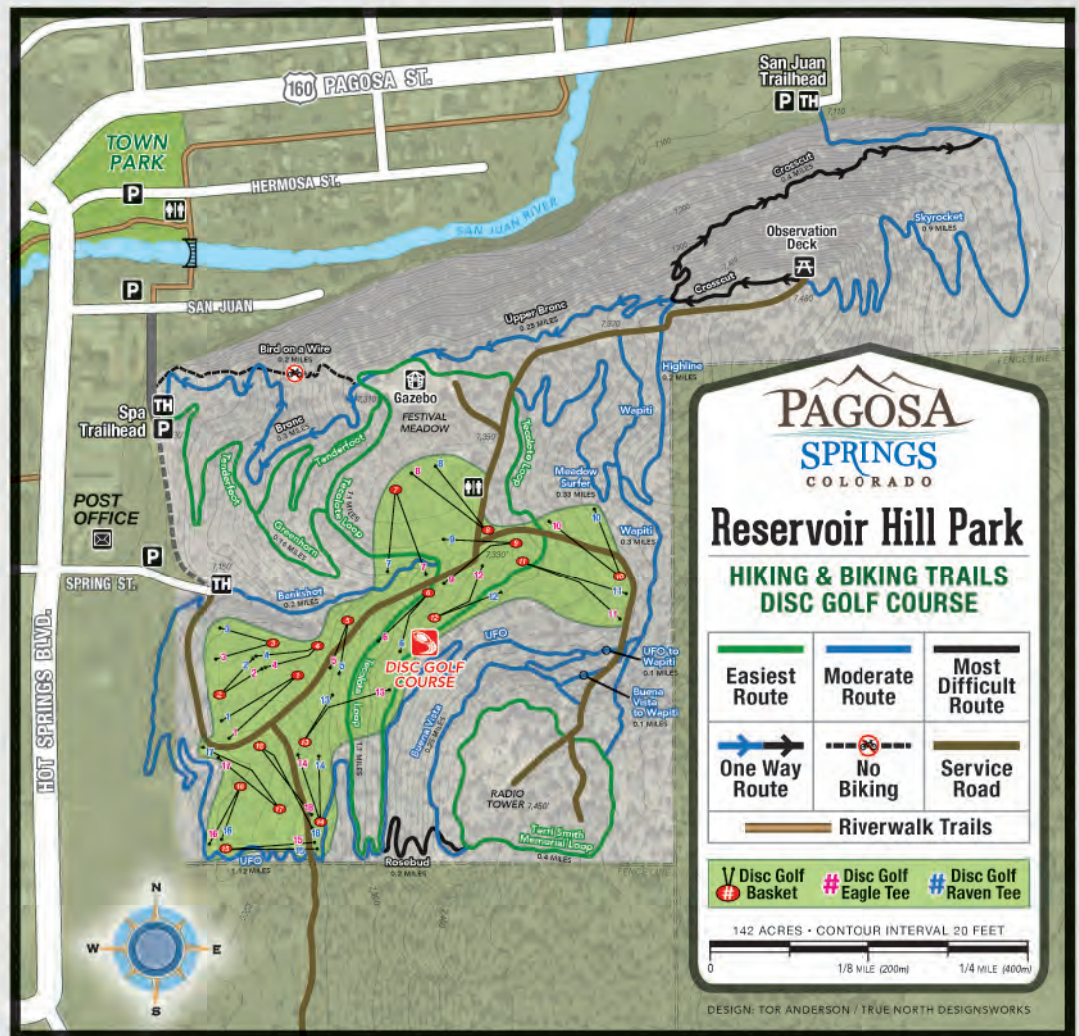
**Yamaguchi Park South** — Yamaguchi Park South is located just south of Yamaguchi Park on South 5th Street. There are 12 acres of park and open space for development. Eight outdoor pickleball courts were completed in 2023.

**Mary Fisher Park** — Along the south bank of the San Juan River directly across from Town Park, and connected to it by another pedestrian bridge, Mary Fisher Park contains several picnic tables, as well as a changing screen for kayakers and inner tubers to use before hitting another one of the whitewater river features. It also has a heated, year-round restroom.

**River Center Park** — Nestled behind the River Center shops on the east end of town (from U.S. 160 go behind the River Center buildings), the River Center Park contains two small fishing ponds with a handicap-accessible pier and access to the river for launching rafts and kayaks. The park also offers a playground climbing structure for kids.

**South Pagosa Park** — A true neighborhood park located on the south side of town on Apache Street between 7th and 8th streets, South Pagosa Park has bathrooms, a drinking fountain, picnic tables, barbecue grills, a picnic shelter, horseshoe pits and a playground. An ice rink is available during the winter months.

**Cotton Hole Park** — Located east of Town Park at the end of Hermosa Street, a concrete trail runs through the park. This park invites



a relaxing environment and the San Juan River is accessible from this park for tubing and kayaking. This park will continue to have a natural setting and will not be over developed.

**Cloman Park** — Located northwest of Pagosa Springs off Piedra Road, at the end of Cloman Boulevard, Cloman Park features an 18-hole disc golf course, hiking and biking trails, and, in the winter, groomed cross-country ski trails.

**Veterans Memorial Park** — Developed by a local nonprofit over the course of a decade, Veterans Memorial Park, located near U.S. 160 off of Vista Boulevard, features multiple memorials honoring past, present and future service members. The park also features a walking trail.

You and your group of 2-8 people have 60 MINUTES to decipher clues, codes and puzzles in order to figure your way out of the room before time RUNS OUT...

# CAN YOU ESCAPE?

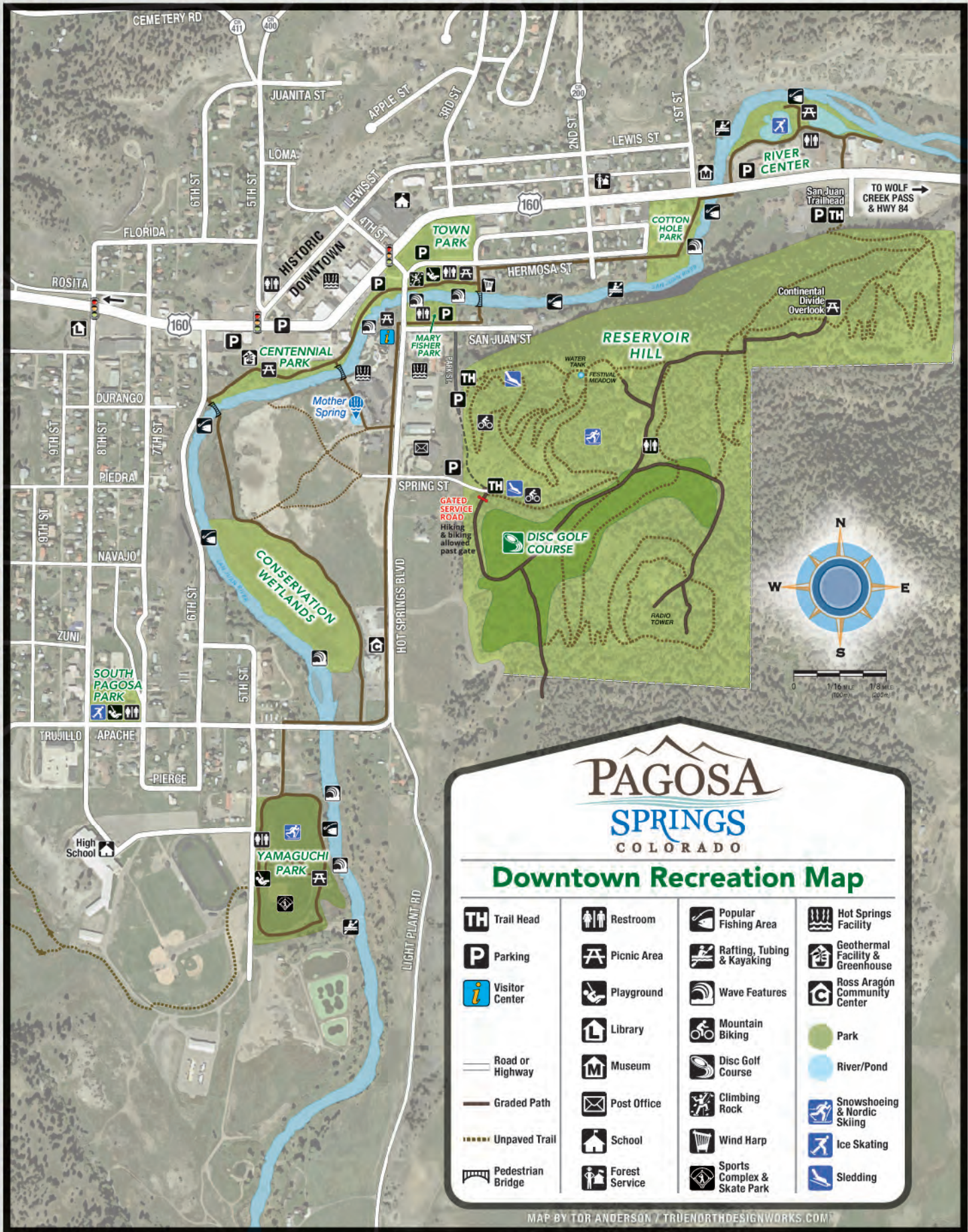
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MAP BY TOR ANDERSON / TRUENORTHDESIGNWORKS.COM

# PAGOSA SPRINGS COLORADO

## Downtown Recreation Map

<b>TH</b> Trail Head	Restroom	Popular Fishing Area	Hot Springs Facility
<b>P</b> Parking	Picnic Area	Rafting, Tubing & Kayaking	Geothermal Facility & Greenhouse
Visitor Center	Playground	Wave Features	Ross Aragón Community Center
Road or Highway	Library	Mountain Biking	Park
Graded Path	Museum	Disc Golf Course	River/Pond
Unpaved Trail	Post Office	Climbing Rock	Snowshoeing & Nordic Skiing
Pedestrian Bridge	School	Wind Harp	Ice Skating
	Forest Service	Sports Complex & Skate Park	Sledding



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Rio Grande Club & Resort

## Tracks Across Borders Scenic and Historic Byway

128 miles (30 miles in Archuleta County)

The bi-state Tracks Across Borders Scenic and Historic Byway travels from Chama, N.M., to Durango, Colo. It is one of 26 designated byways in Colorado and an equal number in New Mexico. The byway traces the historic right of way of the abandoned narrow-gauge Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad, which was instrumental in the development of the region. The byway celebrates other tracks as well — the tracks of the wildlife that inhabit the area, of Native American trails, of Spanish missionaries in the 1600s, of oxen on the Old Spanish Trail and of the wagons of pioneers. The byway begins at the western terminus of the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad in Chama, travels westward through the Jicarilla Apache Nation at Dulce, and the well-preserved railroad bridge and tank at Navajo. Continuing north, rock outcrops and tall pines loom down from either side through the beautiful canyon of the Navajo River into Archuleta County and the ghost town of Juanita. This portion is not a road to drive in wet or snowy weather. From there, the byway passes the old three-span railroad bridge over the San Juan River and on to Pagosa Junction, Arboles, Navajo State Park, Ignacio and, ultimately, Durango. The byway has an interactive app travelers can download on their smartphones for free and follow as they drive the byway. The app, available through Google and Apple stores through the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad, features more than 30 stops. Drive this backcountry byway to step back in time and see the little-changed western landscape and learn about the deep, rich history and culture of this part of Archuleta County and the American West.

## Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library

The Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library, located at the corner of U.S. 160 and South 8th Street in downtown Pagosa Springs, offers a number of things visitors can take advantage of, among them visitor library cards, numerous free events, public computers and more. For more about the library, visit [www.pagosalibrary.org](http://www.pagosalibrary.org).



# Rest & Relaxation



## World's Deepest Hot Spring

SAN JUAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Do people soak in the summer?

After a hard day of skiing or snowboarding, nothing beats the feeling of slowly lowering the body into a tub full of hot water. The muscles relax, the eyes close, a sigh of relief escapes the lips and, especially when the air is really cold, a thick veil of steam rises off the water to block out the rest of the world. If it happens to be storming, you will need to dunk all the way under every so often to melt the snow from the top of your head. This is paradise!

But what about in the summertime?

A poorly kept local secret: Soaking in the healing waters is just as nice, if not better, in the summer as it is in the winter.

Imagine getting up early, throwing on your hiking gear, filling a small backpack with a lunch and some water, grabbing your camera and driving to downtown Pagosa Springs, where you turn from U.S. 160 onto Lewis Street and immediately onto 5th Street, which turns into County Road 400 and then into Forest Road 645. Seven miles north of town you take a right at the junction and 4 miles after that you reach a trailhead.

After a 3-mile hike, you find the most amazing 300-foot waterfall. You eat lunch. You take pictures. You revel in the peace and solitude. You marvel at the glory and the beauty that is Colorado.

Reluctantly, you repack all your stuff and head back to the car. As you drive back to town, you start to notice a satisfying tightness in your leg muscles. Your shoulders start to ache where the straps of your backpack dug in.

What should you do?

The answer hits you. You call up your friends or significant other and say, "Hey! We should go soak."

With three bathing facilities in downtown Pagosa Springs offering either indoor or outdoor pools (or both), and temperatures varying between hot and very hot, soakers have more than enough choices of where to relax and stretch out those sore muscles.

### Three choices for relaxation

Each of Pagosa's three bathing facilities offers its own unique take on the traditional soaking experience, and the savvy soaker does well to switch things up, experiencing how differently each place relaxes the spirit and heals the body.

#### Overlook

Located on the main street of Pagosa Springs at 432 Pagosa St., the Overlook Hot Springs Spa offers soaking and massage services housed within old-world Victorian ambiance.

Offering indoor and outdoor pools, including a private tub room, massage and a steam room, the Overlook provides bathers an opportunity to soak while escaping the elements, or to take in the sights while soaking in pools located on the building's roof, which give the Overlook its name and notoriety.

#### Healing Waters Resort and Spa

The Healing Waters Resort and Spa offers a large outdoor swimming pool, outdoor hot tub, and separate men's and women's indoor hot baths.

The pools are fed totally by mineral water, with no chemicals added that would dilute the water's natural minerals.

The ambiance here is down home, western and friendly. Through long years of service, the hosts have learned to satisfy the needs of the most discriminating guest.

#### The Springs Resort and Spa

Home of the world's deepest geothermal hot spring, The Springs Resort and Spa offers naturally therapeutic soaking pools that are terraced along the banks of the San Juan River and a mineral water swimming pool.

Ranging in temperature from 83-114 degrees, the natural mineral waters from the mother spring feed all the pools and are known for their natural healing properties.



## History and myth

After visitors to the area comment on the friendliness and laid-back demeanor of Pagosans, the next observation they offer is that the locals seem so healthy and vibrant. If you surmised that the reason for that vitality and mellow groove is due to the healing powers of our spring, give yourself a soak; you've arrived at the best answer that we have.

In fact, it's a story that has deep roots in the area's legends. Local spin has it that the Ute phrase "Pagosa" describes the mystical qualities of the legendary Great Pagosa Hot Spring, repeating the apocryphal tale that the phrase translates as "Healing Waters."

Historian John Motter wrote, "According to the dictionary prepared under the auspices of and with the help of Southern Utes in Ignacio, 'pagosa' comes from two Ute words meaning 'stinking water.'" However, locals almost unanimously prefer the following myth to this likely truth.

According to legend, earlier Native American visitors were certain the Great Spirit had endowed the geothermally heated waters with superhuman virtues, and they came to Pagosa Springs to not just soothe sore bodies, but to replenish their souls. The hot springs, it is told, arose after a plague began devastating the tribes. With the disease confounding the potions and power of tribal medicine men, the people gathered on the banks of the San Juan River to offer a plea to the gods. There, they built a huge fire around which they prayed and danced, eventually falling asleep with complete exhaustion. They awoke the next morning to a pool of boiling water bubbling from beneath the coals of the ceremonial fire. Seeing this as a sign from the gods, the afflicted bathed in the soothing water and were, at once, cured. From then on, the great spring became known as "Pag-Osah," a place of peace and healing.

Needless to say, reverence for the "healing waters" has not abated with the passage of time. In recent years, The Great Pagosa Hot Spring has attracted more visitors than ever before. And while Motter's account of the spring's history is probably closer to the truth, a growing number of visitors come to Pagosa Springs for the same reasons that color the myth.

## Science and trivia

Geothermal water has been used to heat a number of businesses and residences in the downtown core, and feeds the three Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership growing domes in Centennial Park (as well as the obvious application for soaking).

Putting aside legends and myth, the "healing waters" that emerge from the earth's surface in Pagosa Springs are the product of geological processes, hundreds of millions of years in the making, that put the area in a unique (and many say, "blessed") situation.

The process essentially begins as water percolates through the earth's surface in its endless cycle of evaporation, condensation, precipitation and collection. Eventually, water descends through super-heated rock and magma, gaining a three- to five-degree increase for every 300 feet of depth. Under pressure, the heated water begins to rise, following cracks and fissures in the rock, eventually making its way to the surface. On the way, it picks up a host of minerals, such as sulfur, silica, calcium, potassium, etc., and if the water retains heat, emerges in the form of hot springs.

While the research has yet to determine the exact size and characteristics of the hot spring, measurements put the Great Pagosa into the pages of the Guinness Book of World Records as the deepest hot spring in the world.

In August 2011, when a 1,002-foot long plumb line was dropped into the "mother spring," it didn't hit the bottom; instead, the plumb line ran out.

So, while the official measurement is now 1,002 feet, the true depth remains unknown. In fact, a previous attempt at measurement using a 2,500-foot plumb line culminated in results similar to those from Guinness: Before the plumb line reached the bottom of the spring, the line ran out.

## The Zen of here and now

While, for the time being, the mystery of the aquifer's ultimate depth remains unsolved, it is the mystery of our water's ability to soothe, heal and relax even the most harried soul that appears to take center stage.

And what is known — that the birth of The Great Pagosa Hot Spring begins well above our heads, forms well beneath our feet, and then realizes itself to the benefit of tired muscles and spent spirits — seems hardly worth a thought. Especially when, after it all comes together, a simple sigh is all that needs to be said.





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The staff was capital-AMAZING!  
Thank y'all so much and definately see y'all soon!  
Kat & Shane Austin TX! 2010

Teena is an absolute blessing! Magic hands, beautiful conversationalist, and she went above and beyond, make our entire day fantastic! We will be giving you a fantastic TripAdvisor rating and ill be back!  
Thanks again! ♡

Dustin & Tara Weldy Lewisburg, OH

Scott & Katie Parker Dallas, TX



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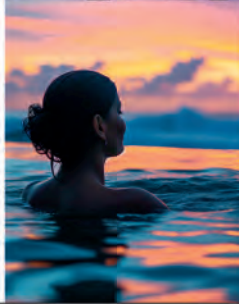
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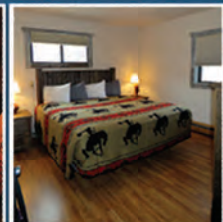
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RANDI PIERCE

# Rest Your Head

## From roughing it to luxury, Pagosa Country has the lodging you're looking for

Pagosa Country offers a diverse experience, whether you're looking to hit the backcountry and see few others during your trip or socializing and making new friends from around the world while you take in the area's world-famous waters.

The area's lodging opportunities are just as varied.

Some come to Pagosa Country to be as far away from the hustle and bustle as they can get. The area boasts a lot of public lands that, in addition to being a great place to recreate, offer a great way to spend a night taking in the area's dark skies, bright stars and breathtaking views of the Milky Way.

The San Juan National Forest offers a variety of places to camp, both in established campgrounds and dispersed, with more information available at [www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan](http://www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan).

For those looking for a step up from camping, several campgrounds, lodgers and resorts offer RV spots. And there's just as much variety there. If you're looking for the comforts of home,

but want to be more remote, there are spots nestled among the trees miles away from town. If you're looking to be a little closer to the dining, entertainment, shopping and soaking in town, there are convenient spots (some still nestled among the pines) located near whatever you're after.

Others offer secluded luxury cabins where you can sit with your morning coffee on the porch and take in the fresh air and mountain views while still being minutes from town.

For those looking to be closer to the pools, restaurants, shops and more but who don't have an RV, there are still a variety of options. The main corridor of Pagosa boasts standard and upscale hotel rooms and suites, lodging domes, cabins, apartments, homes and more.

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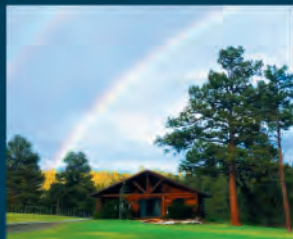
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# Flavor of Pagosa

## From food trucks to fine dining, local dining establishments can whet your appetite

Whether you're in the mood for down-home comfort food, high-end fare, something quick or something new, Pagosa Springs dining establishments likely offer what you're looking for.

From one end of Pagosa Springs to the other, you'll find locally owned and operated restaurants and food trucks offering a wide variety of foods, including American, Italian, Mexican, Chinese, Thai, fusion and more.

Add to that the tried-and-true fast food locations, coffee shops and bakeries, and you're sure to find something for everyone, whether that's artisan or New York style pizzas, barbecue, a smothered burrito, chicken sandwich, seared ahi, filet mignon, local brews or craft cocktails.

You'll also find vegan and vegetarian fare that take advantage of locally grown and seasonal ingredients alongside offerings such as elk tenderloin.

With so many choices, how are you supposed to choose?

When it comes to deciding where to fuel before, during or after a day of adventure and relaxation, most locals (and frequent visitors) are happy to share the places they find the best food, drinks, entertainment and atmosphere, and they're likely to give you enough recommendations for your entire stay or ask you more about your preferences to make sure they point you in the right direction.

Don't be surprised if the directions they give you seem a little unusual for a restaurant — they might also be pointing you in the direction of one of our delicious local food or beverage trucks.

And, as you might expect, most restaurants offer a variety of seating choices — indoor, outdoor or food to go for you to eat at a park, along the river or at your temporary home while you enjoy the mild temperatures and some of the 300 days of sunshine Pagosa Country typically has each year.

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One restaurant even installed a gondola for a unique dining experience, while others expanded their garden and other open-air seating.

While those changes were implemented in the name of public health, many are sticking around because people have enjoyed the changes and the choices.

If you're looking for more than just food to define your dining experience, several places throughout town offer live music and entertainment each week. Live entertainment schedules can be found by asking around or checking The PREVIEW — The Pagosa Springs SUN's arts and life publication that comes out in the weekly newspaper.

Restaurants and their staff members work hard to be flexible and meet the needs and wants of their patrons, and we ask that you show respect and kindness to those trying to help make your time in Pagosa Country something special, enjoyable and delicious.

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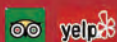
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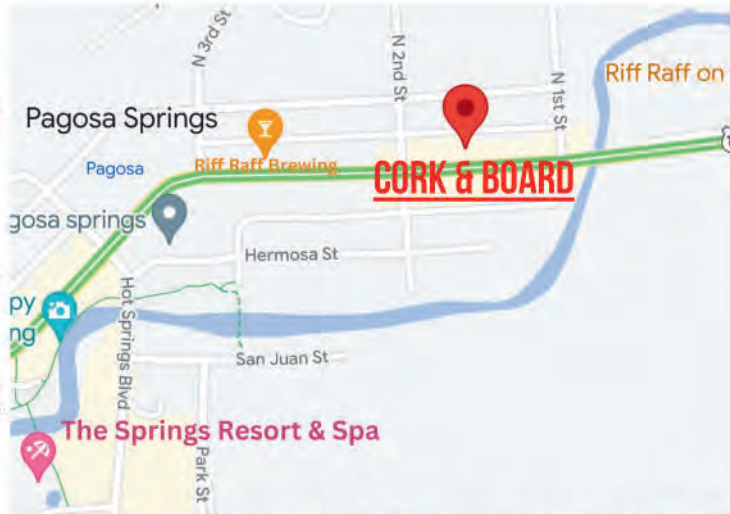


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# Retail Therapy

TERRI HOUSE

## Exploring the local character through shopping

Since long before it was incorporated as a town, Pagosa Springs, and the whole of Archuleta County, has experienced the booms and busts associated with numerous industries, including trading between Hispanics and Native American tribes, prospectors seeking gold, lumber mills and railroads. Over time, the flags of several nations have flown over the area, and multiple Native American tribes have inhabited the region.

But, through it all, Pagosa Springs stood firm, not falling to the same fate as many towns now listed as ghost towns.

Instead, Pagosa grew into a mountain town better known to many for its natural resources and wealth of public lands than its former industries.

Thanks to the varied history and natural beauty and resources in Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County, Pagosa — the county seat — is packed with character, much of which is reflected in the goods you'll find for sale throughout town.

From cabin decor to signs that embody your views on life, natural products of all sorts, on-trend apparel and quirky T-shirts, unique pajamas, western wear and goods that epitomize the western way of life, handmade jewelry with a southwestern flair, antiques, art and seasonal sporting goods, you'll find it and more in Pagosa Springs.

And where you find the goods might surprise you. For example, you'll find coffee shops and hardware stores that carry things like

home goods, clothes, toys and more.

And that's part of the fun: heading into a shop not knowing what might be around the next corner or what perfect gift you'll find for a loved one (or for yourself). Even if you've been to a shop before, it's likely to be an adventure next time, too, since business owners like to keep things fresh and new. Or, in the case of antique stores, something you've never seen before or haven't seen in years.

And, in true small-town style, you'll likely find the people working the stores (often the owners themselves) striking up conversations, finding that shirt in just the right size for someone, or telling you where in town you might find just what you're looking for or their favorite place to grab a bite to eat or a drink. In short, they're usually going above and beyond to make the shopping experience the best it can be for their customers.

And while you're walking in between shops, you can admire and explore parts of Pagosa's past — like the former hotel that now houses shops and offices, a local landmark passed down through generations and the historic movie theater — just check for signs around the buildings indicating their historical significance. You can also take in the growing collection of public art.

Shopping in Pagosa, like much of our county's history and current character, is about exploration — seeing what's around the next corner.





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# Play Outside







JOSH KURZ

# Play Outside

## A tribute to John Fielder

### **By Josh Kurz**

Every kid needs a hero or two, and John Fielder, Colorado's premier nature photographer, was one of mine. As a kid, I'd pour over his coffee table books and hang my favorite images from his calendars and on my walls. After reading his book, "Along the Colorado Trail," I dreamed of future adventures in Colorado's high country. Once I got my driver's license, I traveled further and further west of Denver exploring and photographing the rooftop of the Rockies.

Based out of my hometown, I'd heard rumors that John hired sherpas to carry some of his photographic gear on his summer expeditions. Tagging along with a professional photographer sounded like a phenomenal experience, so when I was 19, I called his office to inquire about a sherpa opportunity. To my surprise, when I asked to speak to John Fielder, his secretary transferred me directly to him. I explained that I was a cross-country runner studying watershed science at CSU and that I had a passion for nature photography. And then I asked if I could be his sherpa.

He was surprisingly receptive and asked me to send him a backcountry resume. I promptly prepared one by listing the mountains I'd climbed, my Bolder Boulder time and Horsetooth Half Marathon time. I was ecstatic when he called to say I could carry his gear on a trip through the Eagle's Nest Wilderness later that summer.

So, in July 1997, I met John and his high school-aged son, JT, and a group of JT's friends at a Gore Range trailhead. I was surprised at John's physical stature (he was a basketball player). I'd heard he was able to hike anyone into the ground with his seasoned mountain legs and lungs.

In a swarm of mosquitoes, we hoisted our heavy packs in the heat and climbed the steep trail. He set a blazing pace out of the gate, maybe to test his backpacking breaking point against mine. We left JT and his buddies in the dust. We must have been 20 minutes ahead of the boys, so we stopped and waited. As we chatted, I sensed that I'd passed an unspoken fitness test.

We spent the next five days hiking to preselected postcards. We would set up camp in time for him to do some scouting before dinner and then, after dinner, he would set up his 4x5 film camera and move from scene to scene in the waning golden light. At dawn, he'd capture silhouettes and reflections created by the first rays of light. As the sun rose higher in the sky, he'd put away his camera and return to camp. There was tremendous planning and effort to capture short sessions of golden light.

After breakfast, we'd pack up camp and hike to the next dreamy destination, and repeat the process. He wouldn't take his camera out during the middle of the day unless the clouds created soft, diffused light.

John probably didn't need me on that trip. He had his son and his son's buddies to divide his gear. Maybe he wanted to pass





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some tips along to a member of a younger generation who shared the same passion for photographing and protecting wild places.

After I graduated from college, I moved to the San Juan Mountains, which was the dramatic, mythical mountain range at the end of his books. The San Juans were always a little out of my reach since they were so far from home, but his images endured and eventually lured me to live within them by the time I turned 22.

Although I've been following his backcountry footsteps since high school, I don't earn my living as a photographer. However, as a science teacher for the past 20 years, I've shared my love of science and nature with more than 2,000 students. For a few of those students, I taught a photography elective based on his book, "Photographing the Landscape: The Art of Seeing." I challenged my students to compose images containing elements that he outlined: form, moment, view, texture and scale. Over his career, John was awarded numerous conservation awards, and I think he'd be proud that I was awarded the San Juan Conservation District's Outstanding Conservation Educator.

Because of John, I was drawn to the heart of the Weminuche Wilderness, and I always hoped our paths would cross again. In fact, last summer, my boys and I came across a camp with llamas during our 40-mile trek through the Weminuche. John often packed with llamas, so my first thought was the camp might be his. When we discovered that the camp wasn't his, I remembered his recent cancer diagnosis.

After learning of his passing, I began looking through a small portion of the 6,000 images that he donated to the public. As I studied his images from the Weminuche Wilderness, many of which I'd never seen before, it was clear that my boys literally followed his footsteps last summer. By coincidence, we camped on the same watershed divide surrounded by dramatic, competing compositions.

I have a picture of my boys with the same backdrop as his llamas and I serendipitously photographed a moose with the same mountain backdrop as the pair of moose he photographed a decade ago.

In thinking about John's work, I am reminded of photographer William Henry Jackson, who accompanied surveyors and scientists on U.S. government-sponsored expeditions to survey undocumented portions of the Rockies in the late 1800s. The images that Jackson captured were printed in early newspapers and captured the imagination of Easterners and eventually led to the creation of our nation's first national parks.

In one of John's most successful projects, "Colorado 1870-2000, Volumes 1 and 2," John completed an ambitious task of replicating 300 of Jackson's images by painstakingly identifying and hiking to the exact location more than 100 years later. In doing so, John was able to document how our state has evolved over the past century. The exhaustive John Fielder collection will also serve as a benchmark for future changes to the Colorado landscape.

And like Jackson's photographs, John's images captured my imagination as well as the imaginations of countless Coloradans. May his images continue to inspire us to follow in his footsteps by appreciating, exploring, and protecting our breathtaking landscape. Thank you, John Fielder, for the impact that you had on my life and for leaving a lasting legacy that will benefit future generations of Coloradans.



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Fishing for sport or as a leisure activity can be learned and practiced by just about anyone. Whether you like to just sit back with a line in the water and have a nice picnic lunch or more actively pursue fly-fishing, wading into the water and practicing different casting techniques, fishing is the perfect activity to help wash the worries of the day away.

For some, fishing is a way to pass time alone or with friends; for others, it's a sport. Whatever type of fishing you enjoy, Pagosa Country has what you're looking for — from pristine mountain rivers best for fly-fishing to lakes and reservoirs perfect for sitting along the shore or fishing from a boat.

Warm, lower-elevation waters in the area at Echo Canyon Reservoir and at Navajo Reservoir hold numerous species, including catfish, bass, perch and pan fish, while higher, cold-water lakes, creeks and ponds teem with Kokanee salmon and numerous species of trout.

There are several waters in or near town easily accessible to fishermen, but many other fishing spots lie deep in the extensive wilderness and backcountry surrounding Pagosa. Though access requires greater effort, remote locations to the north, northwest and east of town afford those willing to travel by foot or horseback true tranquility, seclusion and

excellent fishing.

Listed below are some of the more popular fishing sites in and near town. Anglers should note that a Colorado fishing license is required when fishing in any of these areas, including designated wilderness areas. Licenses, flies, lures, bait and spinning tackle are available at area sporting goods stores, supermarkets and hardware stores. One-day, five-day and annual licenses are available. Annual licenses go on sale April 1 and are valid through March 31, 2025.

Local fly shops offer equipment, flies, sport fishing clothing and guide services, and most retailers will readily provide directions and up-to-date information about numerous fishing destinations.

When choosing bait, keep in mind that state regulations prohibit the use of live bait anywhere in the region except for at Navajo Lake. For more information and special, water-specific regulations, please reference area fishing rules and regulations. Make sure to pick up a Colorado fishing brochure or visit the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) website to view fishing regulations and restrictions on waters where you're planning to fish — anglers are responsible for knowing the regulations. You can also purchase a fishing license online.

Fishing in the San Juan River in the

heart of Pagosa Springs can be as good as it gets. Years ago, the Colorado Division of Wildlife (now CPW) used a Fishing is Fun grant to reconstruct fish habitat and holding waters in sections of the river on both sides of the Hot Springs Boulevard bridge.

These structures are made from large rocks and have numerous shapes. Their purpose is to create calm pools for fish. Anglers should not attempt to fish in the whitewater park area because those structures churn the water too much for fish to be present. Additional work has further enhanced the fishery near the Hot Springs Boulevard bridge and in areas west toward 6th Street.

The Pagosa Quality Fishing Project also began receiving annual contributions from local merchants to purchase hundreds of large, catchable rainbow and brown trout for placement in the river. As a result, anglers of all ages catch fish weighing up to 10 pounds each summer — right in downtown Pagosa Springs.

The Town of Pagosa Springs also stocks ponds located just off the river near the east end of town. A ramp to one of the ponds allows easy access to disabled anglers, and a gazebo beckons to those who packed picnic lunches. Youngsters particularly enjoy fishing the town ponds. Bag and possession limit for in-town fishing is two fish per angler.

## Cast Your Line

### East Fork of the San Juan

The lower stretch of the East Fork offers good fishing for rainbow and brown trout, while its pristine upper reaches are more suited to brook trout and native cutthroat trout.

The East Fork Road turnoff is approximately 10 miles northeast of Pagosa Springs on U.S. 160. This well-traveled gravel road parallels the river for several miles, a portion of which passes through posted private property.

### West Fork of the San Juan

In addition to good rainbow and cutthroat trout fishing, the West Fork offers quality camping in a nearby campground. A left turn from U.S. 160 on to Forest Service Road 648 about 13.5 miles east of Pagosa Springs affords easy access to West Fork waters via public and private lands. The best fishing is in the forest beyond the trailhead at the end of the road.

### Echo Canyon Reservoir

Echo Canyon Reservoir and State Wildlife Area is a cool-water fishery located approximately 4 miles south of U.S. 160 on U.S. 84. It contains rainbow trout, largemouth bass, yellow perch, green sunfish and channel catfish. Trout are best caught with lures, flies or natural bait, while bass are taken with top-surface lures, crank-baits, pork frogs or rubber worms. Perch and sunfish are most easily taken with worms or a fly, and catfish seem to prefer cut baits such as suckers or commercial stink baits. There is good early fishing at the reservoir from mid-April to mid-June. During this time, bank fishing is adequate, but thickening of aquatic vegetation later in the season makes a canoe, float tube or a small boat and trolling motor useful. Remember, live bait is not allowed in Colorado on any water west of the Continental Divide.

### Lake Capote Recreation Area

Lake Capote Recreation Area is owned and operated by the Southern Ute Indian

Tribe. Properly permitted anglers can catch stocked rainbow trout, largemouth bass and channel catfish in the shadow of Chimney Rock.

No state fishing license is required, but anglers must obtain a valid license from the Southern Ute Tribe. The 45-acre lake is open to daytime bank fishers, nonmotorized boaters and belly-boaters using bait, spinning tackle or flies.

To get to Lake Capote, travel approximately 17 miles west of Pagosa Springs on U.S. 160, then turn south on Colo. 151. The well-marked entrance is on the left.

### Navajo Reservoir

Navajo Reservoir and Navajo State Park are Colorado's version of Lake Powell. The park offers a full-service marina with visitor center and conference room, rental cabins, ample tent and RV camping, picnicking areas and nature trails in addition to great fishing.

Large catfish, trout, bass, pike, crappie,





MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY



perch and Kokanee salmon inhabit this 15,000 surface-acre lake. About a third of Navajo Reservoir is located in Colorado, while two-thirds is in New Mexico. Anglers wishing to fish both in Colorado and New Mexico waters must have both valid Colorado and New Mexico fishing licenses.

Anglers can use live bait at Navajo, but only live bait purchased from an authorized vendor at the reservoir. Anglers cannot bring their own live bait. Live minnows may be used as bait in both Colorado and New Mexico waters within Navajo State Park.

To access the park from Pagosa Springs, travel approximately 17 miles west on U.S. 160, then turn south on Colo. 151. Drive another 18 miles to Arboles, then turn left onto County Road 982 and proceed another 2 miles to the park.

### Williams Creek Reservoir

This 508-acre mountain lake affords fine fishing for rainbow trout, cutthroat trout, brook trout and kokanee salmon. Surrounded by lush forest and towering peaks, anglers will find that all standard forms of fishing prove productive at Williams Creek, though salmon are best taken with artificial lures and worms. In the morning and evening hours, bank fishing, a float tube or canoe provides sufficient access to surface-feeding fish. A sturdy motorboat will provide superior safety and access to fish during breezy afternoons. Keep in mind that whitewater wakes are not allowed.

Four Forest Service campgrounds are in the vicinity of Williams Creek Reservoir. To access the reservoir, drive 2 miles west from downtown Pagosa Springs on U.S. 160, then turn north onto Piedra Road. Continue north for approximately 24 miles following signs to Williams Creek.

### Wilderness

Some of the finest fishing in Pagosa Country is found in remote waters in designated wilderness areas. At higher elevations, the chance of anglers finding native cutthroat trout in streams and lakes protected by special regulations increases. In these pristine areas, solitude is the rule.

As in all federal wilderness areas, mechanized travel is prohibited in the Piedra Area and Weminuche and South San Juan wilderness areas — anglers must travel by foot or horseback only. Bicycles and carts are not allowed. Because travel distances can be great in these areas, visitors should be in shape, acclimated to the higher altitudes of the area and plan well for treks into the backcountry.

Weather is unpredictable and high-country travelers should pack accordingly. Layered clothing, relevant forest and topographic maps, a compass or GPS, adequate shelter, food, water, matches and a headlamp or flashlight are essential. Anglers should also inform a responsible party about where they intend to fish and when they plan to return.

Up-to-date information about backcountry

fishing is available from the Pagosa Ranger District office located at 180 Pagosa St. You can call the office at (970) 264-2268.

## How to release a fish:

Any fish you plan to release must be returned to the water immediately.

A fish played for too long will be too exhausted to recover.

Keep fish in the water as much as possible.

Remove the hook as quickly as possible. Single barbless hooks can often be removed while the fish is still in the water.

Gentle handling is essential. Avoid squeezing or placing your fingers in the gills or eye sockets. It's best to hold a fish gently by its belly or by the area in front of the tail.

To revive an unconscious fish. Hold it upright in the water. Move the fish forward and backward so that water runs through the gills. This may take a few minutes.

When it begins to struggle, release it.

When photographing a fish, hold it horizontally and do not squeeze the fish. Do not put your hands in its gills or hold it vertical by its gills.



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Crimson slash on either side of the throat beneath the lower jaw; heavier spotting towards the tail



**Brown Trout**

Spotting pattern is made up of black spots and red-orange spots inside light blue circles



**Brook Trout**

Pectoral, pelvic and anal fins often orange, edged with black and white; body is dark with white and red spots inside blue circles



**Rainbow Trout**

Black spots on a light body and red stripe along sides

We hope you enjoy your time in Pagosa Springs and we want to make your fishing experience as wonderful as possible. In order to maximize the quality of fishing in Pagosa, the town merchants, along with support from local government, have joined together to plant trophy-size trout in the river each summer.

Ideally, we'd like for everyone to enjoy hooking into a playful rainbow or a large brown and, because of that, we're asking that careful catch and release is practiced. Please note that a fishing license is required.

If you do keep fish, please stay at or under the daily two-fish limit so that we can keep more fish in the river for everyone to catch. Also note the wild, native fish to the Western Slope and release these immediately, as they are protected species and taking them from the water is illegal in Colorado.

Please enjoy our wonderful river. Happy fishing!

## Native Western Slope Fish

Release Immediately



**Colorado Pikeminnow**

Adults may be green-gray to bronze on backs and silver to white along sides and bottoms



**Razor Back Sucker**

Bronze to yellow fish with a sharp-edge keel behind the head



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**Bonytail Chub**

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MARK MEIER

# Wildlife

If you've brought your camera and are inclined to trek through the extensive wilderness that composes the greater portion of Pagosa Country, be prepared for the chance to snap the shot of a lifetime.

In a region that ranges from 6,000 to 13,000 feet in elevation, the 1.8-million-acre San Juan National Forest not only hosts a complex diversity of climate zones, ecological niches and microenvironments, but also is home to a vast array of wildlife that call these diverse habitats home. As the country climbs in elevation from the south and east to the mountains north and west, that diversity becomes apparent as high-desert plateau gently transitions into alpine forest, then dramatically ascends beyond the tree line to alpine tundra. While many species of wildlife prefer to inhabit a specific ecological zone, others travel throughout Pagosa Country, seeking resources and habitat wherever they can find them.

Coyotes, foxes, cougars and black bears may roam the region at almost any elevation and are a common sight (and sometimes a nuisance) for residents and visitors alike. A special, but not uncommon, sight is the symbol of our country — the bald eagle — soaring majestically above meadows, lakes or rivers at all elevations. Snapping a photo of one of these birds perched atop a ponderosa pine is a rare treat.

In the lower reaches, short-horned lizards, eastern fence lizards, western rattlesnakes and ringtail cats share sandy sage flats, arid rocky slopes, deep canyons and sandstone mesas with jackrabbits, prairie dogs, elk and mule deer. Piñon jays, turkey vultures, red-tailed hawks and golden eagles commonly grace the sun-drenched skies above the high-desert plateau.

In the high country, observers may see bighorn sheep, snowshoe hares, ptarmigan or a rare Canada lynx. Although normally a denizen of high-country meadows, willow flats, forests and lakes north of Pagosa Springs, it is not unusual for the Shiras moose to be seen at most elevations. The largest member of the deer family, these creatures occasionally wander the streets and outskirts of

town.

While the encroachment of civilization on some of the region's wilderness has decreased the numbers of several species in the area, many other species are thriving and even increasing in numbers, including foxes and coyotes, mule deer, bears, magpies, crows and ravens, golden and bald eagles, wild turkeys and vultures. While mountain lions are normally solitary and secretive, reported sightings have become frequent, particularly between the hours of 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. Visitors and residents are cautioned not to feed local wildlife, especially as prey species can attract lions into residential areas. Food should never be left out to attract bears.

In the spring and early summer, infrequent hikers and wildlife watchers will invariably stumble upon a newborn fawn or elk calf. Baby birds, rabbits, foxes and squirrels may appear quite approachable, yet mother is almost certainly nearby. As long as a potential predator lurks about, she'll not return to feed or coddle her young. Therefore, it is always best to back away and leave little ones as they're found and never touch or pick them up. They have not been abandoned. Survival in the wild is challenging enough without avoidable human interference.

In a bountiful area as rich and diverse as Pagosa Country, vigilant observers will enjoy an array of wildlife matched by few places on earth. The adventurous visitor traveling the canyons, mesas and forests early or late, moving in silence and employing a pair of good field glasses, is almost guaranteed to be rewarded with the sight of wildlife in their natural habitat — and the experience of a lifetime.

For more information about the best hiking trails for wildlife watching in the San Juan National Forest and surrounding wilderness areas, visit the U.S. Forest Service website at [www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan/) or stop by the Pagosa Ranger Station at 180 Pagosa St.

For information about Colorado's wildlife and hunting and fishing licenses, go to Colorado Parks and Wildlife's website at [cpw.state.co.us](http://cpw.state.co.us).



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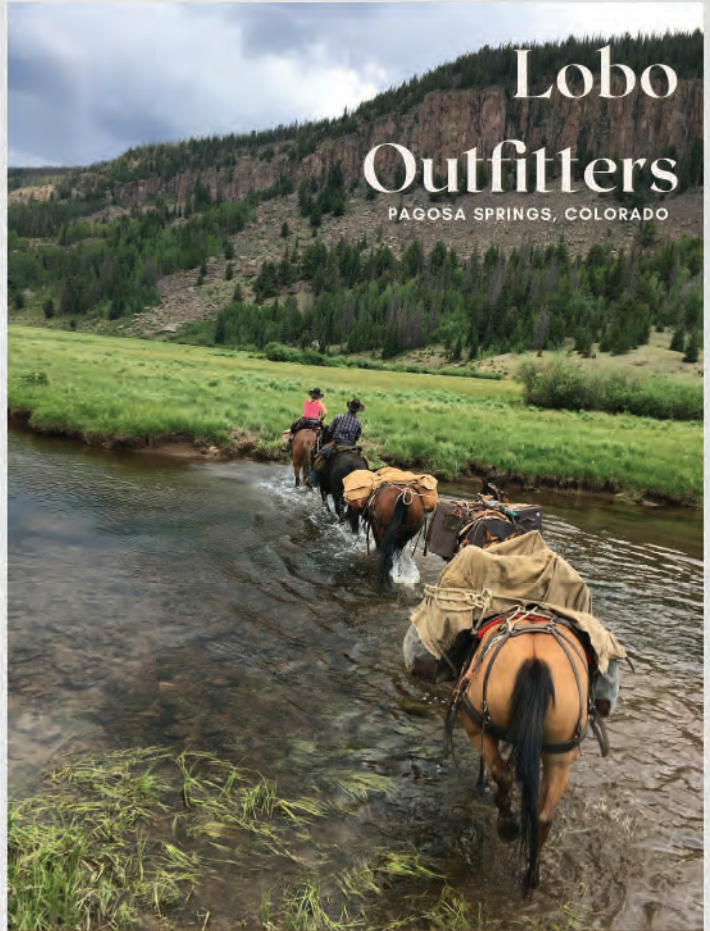
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MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

# River Sports

Feeling lazy on a summer day? Grab a tube and take a float down the San Juan River.

Bored and can't take the heat? Grab a kayak and test your skill set on the rapids in and around town.

Group of friends ready for an adventure? Hop in a raft and let the river be your guide.

Pagosa Country is a popular destination for rafters, kayakers and tubers. With waters both inviting for beginners and challenging to experts, area rivers including the San Juan, Piedra and Animas provide something for everyone.

Flowing through the heart of downtown Pagosa Springs, the San Juan River is perfect for those new to river sports and those who enjoy a gentle float. Offering superb views of the town and, farther downstream, spectacular shale cliffs, rafting or kayaking trips down the San Juan begin as early as March and continue as the season peaks in May or June.

By mid-summer, river flows dramatically taper off and, while rafts and kayaks largely disappear from the river, activity continues as tubers take to the waters. Beating the summer heat in the cool, refreshing waters of the San Juan, tubers can bring their own tubes or rent them from local businesses. Tubers can enjoy surfing several river features in town or just relish a relaxed float down the lazy river. During this time of year, people wade in the cool waters and gather on the banks of the river in this superb recreational corridor running from one end of town to the other, even when flows are at a minimum and river speeds drop to a gentle flow. Personal flotation devices are a must on the water and young children should always be under direct adult supervision.

More experienced boaters can test their skills about 23 miles west of Pagosa on the Piedra River. During a brief six- to eight-week

season (from May through June), waters rush over class III to IV rapids through a pair of breathtaking box canyons offering kayakers and rafters a challenging ride on nearly 20 miles of wild river and whitewater.

Further west, the upper Animas River has a reputation as one of the top-five stretches of river for rafting thrills in North America. Boasting dramatic scenery and intensely long stretches of rapids, the upper Animas can be rafted and kayaked from late May to early August. In high water from early to mid June, the Animas runs with continuous class III rapids and stretches of intermittent class IV and V whitewater.

Several Pagosa Springs companies offer guided rafting trips of varied lengths. Visitors are encouraged to call at least a week in advance to secure the date of their choice. Local companies also offer equipment rental, including kayaks, rafts and associated gear, as well as daily tube rental.

From raging rapids to gentle flows, scenery of soaring cliffs and deep, deep canyons in the backcountry to a small-town landscape, Pagosa Country has it all when it comes to river rafting, kayaking and tubing.

See page 54 for downtown San Juan River features, including put-in and take-out areas, changing areas and wave features.



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# Mountain Biking

MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY



If the mountains surrounding the town weren't hint enough, be assured, there are plenty of places to go mountain biking in Pagosa Country. Many years ago, the Pagosa Springs area was heavily logged, resulting in a multitude of Forest Service roads and trails. Now, more than 80 years later, those trails mean virtually limitless opportunities for mountain bikers. With a wide variety of routes and terrain, Pagosa Springs is an ideal mountain biking destination for riders of all skill levels. Be forewarned, however, that most area rides begin above 7,000 feet. Therefore, flatlanders should factor in time to acclimate before setting out on longer and more demanding rides.

## When mountain biking, please observe a few precautions:

1. Wear a helmet.
  2. Mountain weather changes rapidly — wear or bring clothing for capricious weather conditions.
  3. Bring plenty of water.
  4. Carry bike repair tools, including a spare tire, tire pump and tube patch kit.
  5. Ride in control and with a friend.
  6. Always tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return.
  7. A few of the trails are hours away from outside help — plan accordingly.
  8. Plan to return to your car before dark.
  9. Remember to stay off private land and out of wilderness areas.
  10. Wear blaze orange in the fall during hunting season.
  11. Yield to horses. They are easily spooked.
- Please pay heed to the following rules of the trail:
1. Ride on open trails only. Avoid trails when muddy and wet to prevent damage.
  2. Leave no trace. Pick up trash.
  3. Control your bicycle. Uphill traffic has the right of way.
  4. Always yield to hikers.
  5. Never spook animals.
  6. Plan ahead: consider elevation, weather, location, length and difficulty of ride.

For more information on routes, directions and maps, visit [wolfcreekwheelclub.org](http://wolfcreekwheelclub.org), [fs.usda.gov/recremain/sanjuan/recreation](http://fs.usda.gov/recremain/sanjuan/recreation), [mtbproject.com](http://mtbproject.com), [pagosatrails.org](http://pagosatrails.org), [singletracks.com](http://singletracks.com) and [dustx2.com](http://dustx2.com). Changes can occur on roads and terrain during the winter and early spring. For this reason, bikers need to be alert to their surrounding area at all times and, of course, carry the appropriate maps.

## Rideable trails in the Town of Pagosa Springs

### Reservoir Hill Mountain Park

Difficulty: Beginner to advanced  
Mileage: 1.4 to 4 miles  
Route: Out and back or loop  
Trails: Dirt, single and double track  
Elevation range: 7,280 to 8,000 feet  
It is extremely lucky to have this little loop in the center of town. Though quite challenging and secluded, the trail is easily accessible, and can be connected to the Dakota Springs High School Trail with a short ride on the San Juan River Trail or Hot Springs Boulevard. Future phases of the DUST2 Urban Single Track Trail Initiative will continue to enhance the Reservoir Hill trail system.  
Getting there: Two trailheads access

Reservoir Hill: Spa (above the Healing Waters Resort and Spa on Hot Springs Boulevard) and San Juan (behind the San Juan Motel, on U.S. 160). Both trailheads have maps.

### Dakota Springs High School Trail

Difficulty: Beginner to advanced  
Mileage: 2-mile loop, can be connected with Riverwalk path and Reservoir Hill  
Route: Out and back, or loop  
Trails: Dirt, single track  
Elevation range: 7,280 to 8,000 feet  
The best starting point for this urban single-track is the connector trail off South 5th Street in Yamaguchi Park. Take the connector trail next to the baseball field and then follow this amazing multi-loop

trail counterclockwise as it winds behind the high school with two interconnecting trails.

You can now easily connect your Dakota Springs ride with the Reservoir Hill trail system by taking Hot Springs Boulevard, or the San Juan River Trail to the Reservoir Hill Trailhead.

### DUST2 Connector Route

Difficulty: Beginner  
Mileage: 0.4 miles  
Route: Connector trail  
Trail: Dirt, single track  
Elevation: 7,000 feet  
This single-track connector trail connects Dakota Springs High School Trail to Yamaguchi Park.

## Rideable trails near town

### Cloman Park

Difficulty: Beginner and intermediate  
Mileage: 2.2 miles  
Route: Loop  
Trails: Dirt, single track  
Elevation: 7,300 feet  
Cloman Park is an Archuleta County park with a 2.2 mile, multiuse, single-track figure-eight winding through ponderosa pines. The lower part of the single-track loop is good for beginner riders, while the upper section is intermediate.

Getting there: Drive 1.3 miles north on Piedra Road from U.S. 160. Turn right (east entrance to Stevens Field airport) on Cloman Boulevard for 1.4 miles. Stay left at the fork in the road, which then dead ends at the large parking lot.

### Turkey Springs Trail Network

Difficulty: Beginner to intermediate  
Mileage: 30-plus miles  
Route: Out and back or loop  
Trail: Dirt, single track, double track  
Elevation: 7,000-7,500 feet

This is a great cross-country trail system with 30-plus miles of intertwining beginner and intermediate multiuse trails nestled within a forest. While well marked, it is easy to become turned around or end up on the ATV trails. Stop at each intersection and consult a map.  
Getting there: The Turkey Springs trailhead is 5.3 miles north on Piedra Road from the intersection of Piedra Road and U.S. 160. The parking lot is on the left, immediately after the cattle guard.

## Mountain trails

### Continental Divide Trail (CDT)

Difficulty: Intermediate to advanced  
Mileage: 15-plus miles  
Route: Out and back or loop  
Trail: Dirt, single track  
Description: The CDT is truly an "epic" Colorado trail. One of the area's most beautiful mountain biking venues, the CDT trail has it all.  
Getting there: From the large parking area at the summit of Wolf Creek Pass, pedal

through the meadow on an obvious trail and cross a creek on a wooden bridge. Turn left after crossing the bridge — there's a social trail here that heads right and will lead you off track.

From here, the trail climbs steadily through old-growth forest that's been heavily affected by pine beetles — a large percentage of the pines here are gray and dead. There are a few tight, steep switchbacks, but almost everything is

easily rideable by an intermediate to advanced rider. Shortly after navigating some switchbacks in a scree field, the trail will contour around to a south aspect and you'll come to a "junction" with Treasure Mountain Trail No. 565. There is a USFS sign and a rock cairn, but the trail itself is basically nonexistent.

Past this junction, the trail gains the ridge just west of and below Alberta Peak, at the top of Wolf Creek Ski Resort.



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## Continental Divide Trail/Alberta Peak Loop (813)

Difficulty: Advanced

Mileage: 8.6 miles

Route: Loop

Trails: Single track, dirt road, pavement

Elevation: 10,800 to 12,000 feet

Maps: National Geographic Trails Illustrated Weminuche Wilderness (map No. 140)

Follow the Continental Divide Trail (CDT) south from Wolf Creek Pass as it circles behind the ski area and around the south face of Alberta Peak. This route has it all: smooth, technical, single track, challenging ascents and descents, and "top of the world" riding as one emerges from the subalpine forest into the alpine meadows and talus slopes surrounding Alberta Peak. This is a memorable ride for experienced mountain bikers.

Getting there: From the junction of U.S. 160 and U.S. 84, drive north on U.S. 160 for 22 miles to Wolf Creek Pass. Park in the large parking area on the south side of the highway. The ride starts behind the kiosk on the Continental Divide Trail.

0.0 — From the parking area, follow the CDT across the meadow, crossing a headwater tributary of Wolf Creek on a wooden bridge before entering the forest. Then you will begin a tough and somewhat technical climb. Stay left after crossing the bridge, ignoring hiker-created trails on your right.

0.4 — The trail switchbacks to the right (a trail on your left climbs to the ski area). Continue following the trail, which switchbacks and climbs, often steeply, up the ridge.

1.1 — Switchback up a technical, rocky outcrop leading to a view over a "rock garden" below and to the west. The trail merges into a short section of ski area service road and arrives at Bonanza Run lift tower.

1.7 — From the lift tower, head west 20 or 30 yards. Here the trail continues into the forest along the top of the ridge, heading south, then east. Emerge from the forest into subalpine meadows (look for a CDT trail post) at the edge of the ski area, mile 2.5.

2.5 — Climbing southeast, the trail tops out, then makes a gentle descent to a log drift fence at mile 3. Beyond the drift fence, the trail circumvents the south face of Alberta Peak. Here it is narrow with exposure to steep dropoffs. Drop down and around the peak, with a last steep descent to a ski patrol hut.

3.4 — From here, the trail continues eastward along the lip of the Knife Ridge and its north-facing ski chutes. The first 0.2 miles beyond the hut are technical and exposed, but soon the route eases and wanders over alpine meadows.

4.0 to 4.2 — The trail veers left through a meadow (the trail disappears briefly; look for CDT trail posts) and back into the forest.

4.3 — Begin a steep drop, passing under the Horseshoe Bowl.

4.4 — Continue your steep descent, passing a narrow saddle with easterly views at mile 4.8.

4.8 — You now enter a clear-cut area (heading northeast). Look carefully for a CDT trail post and grown-over double track coming into the trail at a sharp angle on your left.

5.2 — Take this double track down to a jeep road and go right. The road soon bends west and takes you through the ski area and the ski area parking lots leading to the highway.

7.4 — Route arrives at U.S. 160. Turn left onto the highway and return to your car at mile 8.6.

## Treasure (565)

Difficulty: Advanced

Mileage: 8.1 miles

Route: Shuttle, out and back

Trail: Dirt, single track

A remote and solitary high-country trail in the South San Juan Mountains off Wolf Creek Pass with a big descent. It is truly a Colorado classic not to be missed. From the lower trailhead, the trail climbs on moderate grades through scenic aspens and firs. Eventually, the trail intersects Windy Pass Trail.

Getting there: This ride is best done as a shuttle. Many street cars will be able to reach the lower trailhead off East Fork Road. There are some rocky arroyo crossings beyond about 37,402, -106.82 that will



stop low-clearance cars and RVs. Look for parking or camping spots and ride on up the road to the trailhead.

If you plan to do this trail as a shuttle, from the top of Wolf Creek Pass, heed the warning above. You'll ride the Continental Divide Trail to the top of the ski area and look for a rock cairn and a USFS sign posted on a tree. These will be your only clues that there's a trail here because there's literally no signs of an actual path. Make your way down the grassy gully and head right when you reach the flat meadow below. Use of the MTB Project mobile app will be crucial to keeping you on track here. Head left into the trees and down the second pitch. The trail becomes much more apparent here, but it's still faint by most standards.

When you reach Wolf Creek Road (FS 725), head left for about a mile with a little climb to the epic single-track downhill section of the trail. Drop down the steep sidehill through the burn area.

After some great views and narrow sidehill, you'll come to another steep moonscape section. After a few creek crossings and sections of true downhill riding, you'll arrive to a big, open meadow that is the Windy Pass Trail intersection. The rest of the trail has more flow and speed as it sweeps through aspen groves and meadows. Once you arrive at a cattle gate, the ride shreds down a sidehill through oak brush and open slopes until you reach the bottom.

The ride can be done as an out-and-back from the East Fork with many hike-a-bike sections after the Windy Pass Trail intersection. It's better done as a shuttle from the Continental Divide Trail at the top of Wolf Creek Pass or riding up Wolf Creek Road (FS 725) to avoid the top steep section. Most people leave a car at the large parking area at the start of the East Fork Road 667.

### **Do-right Trail (642)**

Difficulty: Advanced

Mileage: 3.8 miles of single track using a shuttle, 12 miles riding loop  
Route: Shuttle or loop one way

Trail: Dirt, single track, gravel roads

Note: Motorcycles are permitted June 15 to Aug. 31 on single-track. This is described as a loop ride, but the gravel road sections can be replaced by shuttling with two vehicles. You will climb from 7,500 feet to 9,100 feet and then descend back down to 7,500. Don't go alone. Advanced riders should find the entire loop rideable.

Getting there: Drive west from Pagosa Springs on U.S. 160 toward Durango for about 22 miles. Turn right onto First Fork Road (FS 622), this is on the east side of the Piedra River. Take First Fork Road north for approximately 7 miles to the Sheep Creek Trailhead and parking.

From the trailhead, do not ride the Sheep Creek Trail. Head east on Monument Road (FS 630) directly across from the trailhead for approximately 7 miles. This is a 1,600-foot elevation climb on a gravel road through aspen trees with big vistas of the Piedra Valley. Once you get to the turnaround at the end of Monument Road, take an immediate left to the west through the steel single track barrier. You are now on the Do-right Trail (642). This is a 3.8-mile, 1,500-foot descent back to First Fork Road. Once you reach the end of the single track, you are at First Fork Road. Take a left and head south for approximately 1 mile back to the Sheep Creek Trailhead.

### **Eightmile Mesa (FS 651)**

Difficulty: Intermediate; long mileage with one steep 4-mile hill

Mileage: 14.4 miles

Route: Out and back

Trails: Graded and primitive roads

Elevation: 7,200 to 8,040 feet

Eightmile Mesa provides an interesting contrast to other rides surrounding Pagosa Springs. After a steep and relentless 2-mile climb, you reach the top of the mesa, then your route becomes a pleasant, rolling journey through pine/oak woodlands interspersed with grassy meadows.

Getting there: From the junction of U.S. 160 and U.S. 84 at the east end of town, drive 5 miles south on U.S. 84 to Eightmile Mesa Road, identified by a brown Forest Service sign on the right. After traveling up Eightmile Mesa Road a little over a mile and passing the entrance to the Loma Linda subdivision, you will reach the Forest Service gate.

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# Turkey Springs

HIKING, BIKING & ATV TRAILS

- Non-motorized Trail
- Motorized Trail
- Forest System Road
- County Road/Hwy
- National Forest
- Private Property
- P Trailhead Parking
- P Private Parking
- Mileage & Segments



MAP BY TOR ANDERSON / TRUE NORTH DESIGNWORKS



Park here.

0.0 — Starting at the parking area, and after making two short climbs, you reach an open meadow area at 0.9 miles.

1.1 — The road, FS 651, bends westward and begins a steady climb.

2.0 — A final steep climb begins at the 2-mile mark.

2.3 — The climb tapers off and the route rolls along the top of the mesa, passing through oak, pine and grassy meadows.

3.7 — The FS 651 forks, giving riders a variety of options.

Option 1: The fork to your right leads to the Eightmile Mesa lookout tower in 0.6 miles. This tower, positioned directly above the Eightmile Mesa “clamshell,” affords spectacular views of Pagosa Springs and the surrounding mesa, as well as the San Juan Mountains. The tower also provides a convenient turn-around point.

Option 2: Continue straight ahead at the fork to stay on FS 651, the main route, which turns into a primitive unmaintained road. At mile 3.8, FS 651B forks to your left. This doubletrack road rolls gently through wildflower meadows and woodlands for 1 mile to an overlook of the Blanco River Basin and the San Juan Mountains to the east.

Option 3: Continue past the fork on the main road to mile 5.1, where FS 651C junctions to your left. Follow FS 651C southward for 2.3 miles, passing an old, abandoned sawmill site on the way.

Option 4: Stay on the FS 651, which is deeply tracked or sandy in places, but otherwise smooth. Passing one more side road (FS 651D) on your way, pass through large open meadows at mile 5.9. Wildflowers abound in late spring and early summer. The route ends at mile 7.2, overlooking the Blanco and San Juan river basins.

### **Snowball Road (CR 200) and Jackson Mountain Loop (FS 37)**

Difficulty: Beginning skills with intermediate fitness level, two river crossings

Mileage: 22 miles

Route: Loop

Trails: Graveled county road, dirt road, double-track dirt trail, highway with good shoulders

Elevation: 7,200 to 8,200 feet

Taking the entire loop from town is a great workout; however, if you shuttle, the ride can be divided up so one skips the highway or county road portion. There are about three gates on this ride. Remember to leave them either open or closed as you found them. This ride has two river crossings. Obviously, take precautions in the spring or early summer when the water level is up.

Getting there: The loop starts and ends in downtown Pagosa Springs.

0.0 — Starting from the Hot Springs Boulevard bridge in downtown Pagosa Springs, ride east on Pagosa Street (U.S. 160) toward Wolf Creek Pass. Turn left at the Forest Service building on 2nd Street. This street turns into Snowball Road, and eventually the pavement ends. Continue on this gravelled county road for 4.3 miles.

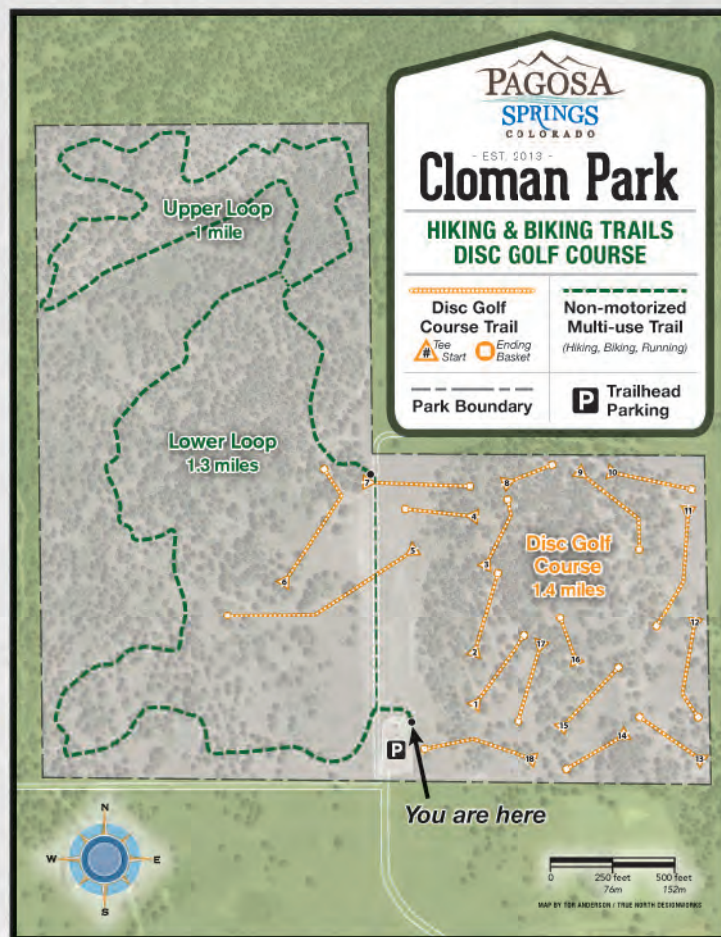
4.3 — This is the entrance to Fourmile Ranch. Ranch owners have agreed to allow access to the Forest Service road through the ranch, by proceeding through the ranch entrance and staying on the road. You will pass the ranch manager’s house on the right. Looking to the north, one can begin to see Pagosa Peak.

5.3 — At this point, there is a Y in the road. The road to the left goes to the house and the iron gate to the right gains access to the national forest. Proceed through the gate on the right (FS 646), leaving the gate as you found it. The next 3 miles are on a pleasant dirt road along Snowball Creek. You will often see and hear hawks on the last part of this trail.

6.3 — At this point, you will ford Fourmile Creek.

8.5 — A driveway passes through a gate onto private property. Follow the road, which curves to the right to a ford of Snowball Creek.

9.6 — Proceed through the gate, go forward and curve to the right, joining a more pronounced trail. Next, stay left for a mile, ignoring the roads that exit to the right.



10.7 — Proceed through the gate. The next .1 mile down to Jackson Mountain Road (FS 037) is very steep.

10.8 — Jackson Mountain Road. Turn right onto the road and proceed for 3 miles to U.S. 160.

13.7 — U.S. 160. Turn right onto the highway and continue for about 8 miles to Pagosa Springs. It is very easy to eliminate this highway ride by leaving a shuttle here. The sign on U.S. 160 calls this the Jackson Mountain Road.

### **Willow Draw (819)**

Class: Intermediate

Mileage: 16 miles

This is a scenic loop from U.S. 160 and U.S. 84 junction. Road conditions range from highway to double track. From downtown Pagosa, ride east on U.S. 160 to the junction of U.S. 84. Turn right onto U.S. 84, then left onto Mill Creek Road. Go 4 miles. You will cross three cattle guards. Immediately after the third cattle guard, look for a double-track dirt road on your left. If you cross over the bridge at Mill Creek, you have gone too far. Once on the double track, you will cross Mill Creek, which may need to be forded on foot. Follow this dirt road generally north for the next 6 miles through Willow Draw and Dry Gulch to Fawn Gulch. Pass through two gates, which are usually closed. When you reach Fawn Gulch Road, turn left for a downhill to U.S. 160. Turn left onto U.S. 160. It is 4 miles back to town.

### **East Fork (FS 667)**

Class: Beginner

Mileage: 8 miles

This is an easy route for beginners as it is fairly flat. The road follows the East Fork of the San Juan River through beautiful canyons into the pristine East Fork Valley (private property for 2 miles), before terminating at Silver Falls guard station. Silver Falls can be seen cascading down the mountainside directly behind the station. The road is a gravel road from U.S. 160 to the forest boundary (.25 mile). The rest is dirt, which can be very slick when wet. Watch for high water across the road in the springtime.





MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

# Big Game Hunting

The public lands and forests surrounding Pagosa Springs provide exceptional big game habitat, and licensed sportsmen and women enjoy some of the finest hunting in North America while visiting Pagosa Springs.

The adjoining San Juan and Rio Grande national forests, together comprising nearly 4 million acres of varied elevation and diverse terrain, are home to black bears, cougars and bighorn sheep, as well as considerable herds of mule deer and elk that migrate seasonally between winter and summer ranges. Though far fewer in number, Shiras moose may also be seen grazing in the high country.

Access to the remarkable hunting grounds surrounding Pagosa Springs is gained via a network of Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management roads. If hunters prefer to trek into the forest by foot or on horseback, they may use the many foot and horseback trails, which offer passage into vehicle-restricted regions such as the rugged and remote Piedra Area and Weminuche and South San Juan Wilderness areas. Designated wilderness areas are closed to all forms of mechanized travel (including bicycles, game carts and wheelchairs) at all times. Hunters should call the Pagosa Ranger District at (970) 264-2268 for travel policy information and travel details including posted road closures and other travel restrictions that may affect specific hunting units. Information related to other activities that might coincide with big game seasons — such as domestic livestock grazing, prescribed burns and special recreational events — is also available.

Through direction from the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Commission, CPW governs bag limits, hunting regulations,

season dates and licensing for big and small game hunts.

Obtaining a license to hunt big game in Colorado may require participation in a drawing. Deer licenses can only be obtained through a lottery. Other limited license species include Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, mountain goat, pronghorn, moose and black bear. Colorado is the only state in the nation where a hunter can buy an over-the-counter bull elk license. The deadline for entering select season draws is always the first Tuesday in April. Hunters can enter these drawings online at [www.cpw.state.co.us](http://www.cpw.state.co.us). All applications must be filed online. Look for a Colorado Big Game Brochure at license agents, or see it at CPW's website.

A mandatory earch and Rescue surcharge is added to the cost of all Colorado hunting and fishing licenses. To improve wildlife habitat and wildlife education, a Public Education Advisory Council surcharge and a Habitat Stamp fee are also added to all license costs. The Habitat Stamp fee is added only to one license purchased by an individual in a given year.

Documentation proving completion of a hunter education course is mandatory for all hunters born Jan. 1, 1949, or after who wish to pursue any game species in Colorado. Licenses will not be granted without hunter education verification. Check the CPW website for information about hunter safety classes.

For complete information on hunting seasons, pick up one of the Colorado hunting brochures at any local sports store. You can also go to the CPW website at [www.cpw.state.co.us](http://www.cpw.state.co.us).

For more information regarding hunting opportunities unique to Pagosa Country, stop by the U.S. Forest Service Pagosa Ranger District office, located at 180 Pagosa St. (U.S. 160 on the east side of town); or call the Durango CPW office at (970) 247-0855.



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# Hiking and Horseback Riding

Bright blue sky, a sky as big as the ocean. Wildflowers and their brilliant colors. A new spring cascading down the mountain's jagged rock. A still lake tucked high near a summit.

This is Pagosa Country.

To look upon these sights is breathtaking, and to see these sights — that's the reason many people come back time and again for the experience.

Leave the roads behind, kiss the asphalt goodbye. The San Juan National Forest is all around you. Pull off the side of the road. Park by a trailhead. Lace up your boots or saddle your horse. Strike out into nature and tread where few have gone.

Backcountry excursions offer visitors an opportunity to experience the sights, sounds and smells of the San Juan National Forest firsthand. Many trails are easily accessible and within relative proximity to downtown Pagosa Springs.

Use your car to reach one of the convenient starting points listed below, then leave it behind to wander trails winding beneath towering pines or along clear mountain streams.

The trails described here cover a variety of

terrain and skill levels. U.S. Forest Service trail numbers are in parentheses next to the trail name.

## Hiking and riding tips

- Set easy-to-achieve objectives. Unless you are backpacking, plan to return before dark.
- Stay on the trail. Shortcutting causes erosion and is hazardous to your safety, as well as to the safety of hikers below you.
- Think safety. Carry a map, water, snacks and clothing to keep you warm and dry. Weather conditions change rapidly in the mountains, and it may rain or snow at any time. Always travel with a friend, and always let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return.
- Pack out your trash. Help keep the forest clean and pack out trash someone else left behind.
- During hunting seasons, wear a blaze orange vest to help keep you safe in the woods.
- Share the trails. The trails listed are shared by many visitors, some using horses, and in some areas, bicycles or ATVs. For the safety of all involved, give horse riders the right of way by moving well off the trail on the downhill side when it is safe to do so. To avoid startling

the horses, say "hello" so they know you are a person, not a predator.

- Trail signs are usually found at trailheads and major junctions of maintained trails. Take a moment to read the information posted at trailheads. Not all junctions or cross-country routes are signed.
  - A Pagosa Country map is available to direct you to the various trailheads. It is also a good idea to pick up a national forest map that clearly shows all access roads, trails and special area boundaries.
- You can also check out the Forest Service Interactive Visitor Map to find out about recreational opportunities: [www.fs.fed.us/ivm/](http://www.fs.fed.us/ivm/) or on the web: [www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan](http://www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan). The San Juan National Forest Visitor Map is available at [www.avenzamaps.com/maps/83403](http://www.avenzamaps.com/maps/83403) (east side) and [www.avenzamaps.com/maps/83402](http://www.avenzamaps.com/maps/83402) (west side).

Current information about trail conditions are available at [www.pagosatrails.org](http://www.pagosatrails.org) and the Visitor Center, located at 105 Hot Springs Blvd., and the Pagosa Ranger District office at U.S. 160 and 2nd Street. The office is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It is closed for all federal holidays.

## #1 Fourmile Falls (#569)

Length: 7.6 miles | Difficulty: Moderate

Take Lewis Street north, veer left immediately on 5th street; stay right on Fourmile Road for 8 miles; (CR 400/FS 645); right at junction to the trailhead. The trailhead elevation is 9,190 feet, at falls 9,600, at end 11,221. The hike is approximately 3 miles each way. The first 3 miles is relatively easy through an open valley. After the waterfall, the trail becomes steep and is not recommended for stock. Hikers should proceed with caution. Fourmile Falls is one of the more popular points of interest, and the trail in can be busy.

## #4 Opal Lake (#564)

Length: 1.2 miles | Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

Drive south on U.S. 84 from Pagosa Springs approximately 8 miles to Blanco Basin Road (CR 326). After driving 10 miles, turn right across the Blanco River Bridge. Follow the Castle Creek Road (FS 660) to the signed junction. Turn right and drive a short distance to the trailhead on the right with an elevation of 8,733 feet, ending at 9,216. The trail to Opal Lake is 1.2 miles and takes about 45 minutes to hike. A portion of the trail is steep before it traverses an open meadow to the lake. The lake is bordered by wooded hillsides and a sheer mountain face. Minerals deposited at the inlet give the lake its milky color.

## #2 Piedra Falls (#671)

Length: 4 miles | Difficulty: Easy

Drive north on Piedra Road (CR 600/FS 631) 17.8 miles to the junction at Sportsman's Supply. Leave Piedra Road and continue on Middle Fork Road (FS 636) for 2 miles. Take the first road to the right, East Toner Road (FS 637). It is 7.5 miles to the end. The trailhead elevation is 8,239 feet and at end 8,340. Do not attempt road in wet weather. Hike is .4 mile, or 15 minutes, each way. A great hike for all ages. Walk upstream to a head gate where the trail begins. The trail continues above and west of the head gate and river to the falls.

## #5 Williams Creek (#587)

Length: 9.4 miles | Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult

Drive north on Piedra Road (CR 600) about 22 miles. Turn right on Williams Creek Road (FS 640) and go past Williams Creek Reservoir and Cimarrona Campground, continuing on to the trailhead at 8,360 feet at the end of the road. The trail follows Williams Creek northward into the Weminuche Wilderness. The old Spanish name for Williams Creek was Huerto — garden-like. The first few miles of Williams Creek trail give the impression of a gigantic walled garden. Across the creek to the right is a group of peaks eroded from volcanic rock. Set your own destination — it continues on to the Continental Divide.

## #3 Treasure Falls (#563)

Length: 4 miles | Difficulty: Easy

Treasure Falls is named for Treasure Mountain, an area rich in folklore and stories of a large buried treasure. Most accounts suggest that a treasure chest full of gold was buried in the area after a group of Frenchmen were "waylaid" by either Spanish explorers or Native Americans. Whatever the circumstances, Treasure Falls offers visitors a breathtaking fortune in scenery. To get there, take U.S. 160 east for 15 miles; take a right into a large parking area. Trailhead elevation is 8,123 feet. To the left of the parking lot is a short trail that will take you to the base of the falls. Follow the trail 1/4 mile to the bridge at the base of the falls. There is a more difficult trail to the right that also leads to the waterfall. Standing in the refreshing spray on the bridge, the falls rush down the cliff toward you. In the winter, these falls create a frozen blue sculpture. The elevation gain is 325 feet.





### #6 Turkey Creek Trail (#580)

Length: 5.2 miles | Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

Drive 7.3 miles northeast of Pagosa Springs on U.S. 160 to Jackson Mountain Road (FS 37) on the left. Follow it for 4 miles to the end of the road. This trail is the longest in this section of the Weminuche Wilderness. It is 5.2 miles to the wilderness boundary, then 14.2 miles to the Continental Divide Trailhead at an elevation of 8,240 feet. There is breathtaking scenery to the Continental Divide. Choose your own destination here. The 5-mile hike will take you to the first creek crossing.

### #9 Anderson Trail (#579)

Length: 9.5 miles | Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult

See Fourmile Falls Trail for directions. This trail begins at the Fourmile Trailhead, at an elevation of 9,190 feet, to the left of the Fourmile Trail. This trail climbs steadily for about 4 miles to skirt the east side of Pagosa Peak. The summit of the peak is 12,640 feet. There is a total elevation gain of 4,391 feet. The trail continues on to Fourmile Lake. It is about 2 miles to the junction with the Fourmile Trail. From the junction, it is 6.6 miles back to the trailhead and very steep in some areas. Snow will linger on this trail into early summer. Check conditions before you go.

### #7 Piedra River Trail (#596)

Length: 11.2 miles | Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult

The upper terminus of the trail begins on the Piedra Road (CR 600), about 16 miles north of town. After crossing the Piedra River, the trailhead parking lot is on the left. The trail starts on the canyon rim and then descends to the river. Sheer cliffs rise on both sides for over several hundred feet. This is a moderate trail if you only go the 3.5 miles to the footbridge. For a longer hike, follow the river for another 8.5 miles. The trail passes several box canyons to end at the bridge on the First Fork of the Piedra Road. Confirm that First Fork Road (FS 622) is open and shuttle a vehicle to the First Fork Bridge for the longer hike. The trailhead elevation is 7,695 feet, ending at 7,116 (which is the beginning for First Fork Trailhead.)

### #8 Continental Divide Trail North (#813)

Length: Depends | Difficulty: Easy/Difficult

Turn left on the dirt road just past the Continental Divide marker at the summit of Wolf Creek Pass. Drive 1.5 miles to the Lobo Overlook parking area and microwave tower site. The trail begins behind the microwave tower and follows the Continental Divide, which is the backbone of the continent and the dividing line for eastern and western watersheds. From the trailhead, you can embark on an easy day hike or begin an extended backcountry journey. Hiking options along the Continental Divide trail seem limitless. The trailhead elevation at Lobo Overlook is 11,747 feet.

## At Altitude

The hikes described here begin at altitudes near 8,000 feet and some top out near 12,000 feet. Each hike is classified as "easy" to "difficult." Only those in good physical condition should attempt the difficult hikes. Remember, when you go downhill you will have to climb back up when you return. Pace yourself, drink water and eat snacks to help prevent altitude sickness. Symptoms include headache, loss of appetite and weakness or drowsiness. If affected, descend quickly. If symptoms persist, seek medical aid.



### #10 Cimarrona Trail (#586)

Length: 8.6 miles | Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult

Drive north on Piedra Road (CR 600) to Williams Lake Road. The trail begins on the left side of Williams Lake Road just beyond the entrance of Cimarrona Campground. Trailhead elevation is 8,375 feet. The first 2 miles of trail are moderately easy, wandering through conifer and aspen stands. Then, many switchbacks start a steep ascent. Choose your destination — the trail continues on to the Continental Divide Trail at Squaw Pass.

### #12 West Fork or Rainbow Trail (#561)

Length: 11.74 miles | Difficulty: Moderate

Drive on U.S. 160 East for 14 miles, then turn left on West Fork Road (FS 648) for 3 miles, passing a campground and the river. The trailhead elevation is 9,040 feet. It is 13 miles from the trailhead to the Continental Divide at Piedra Pass. This trail ascends 3,600 feet with several stream crossings and steep grades. Portions of this trail cross private property, so please stay on the trail. At 4.5 miles, there is a junction with the Beaver Creek Trail (#560), which is closed to through traffic due to safety concerns. Some camping restrictions apply. Check before you go. The highest point is 11,700 feet. The combination of the West Fork Trail and Turkey Creek Trail is known as the Rainbow Trail.

### #13 Ice Cave Ridge Trail

Length: .5 miles | Difficulty: Easy

Drive to the Piedra River Trail (596) parking area to access this trail. From the parking area, start on the Piedra River Trail, elevation 7,695 feet, for several hundred yards, then follow the old road bed to the right. This is an easy, short trail up Ice Cave Ridge. The fissures on the side of the ridge contain snow deposited through the winter that is hidden from the sun. After melting and compressing, the ice remains in the fissures as late as the end of June. From the ridge at the top, you have a good view of the Piedra Valley and other ridges. Use caution when viewing the ice fissures. Watch your footing, and keep children near you and dogs leashed.

### #14 Treasure Mountain Trail (#565)

Length: 8.1 miles | Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult

A spectacular trail to Windy Pass starts from the East Fork Road. Drive 8 miles northeast on U.S. 160, turn right on the East Fork Road and travel approximately 7 miles to the trailhead, elevation 8,179 feet. A small sign on the left side of the road marks the trailhead. After approximately 3 miles, the Windy Pass Trail from the southwest intersects this trail in a large scenic park. Windy Pass is about 3/4 of a mile to the west of this junction. You can return the way you came up, or go down to U.S. 160 (if you left a car there). You could go to the top of Windy Pass from U.S. 160, but it isn't as scenic.

### #11 Continental Divide, Alberta Peak (#813)

Length: 2.5 miles | Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult

Travel east on U.S. 160 22.6 miles to the summit of Wolf Creek Pass. The trail begins on the south side of the road, just east of the Continental Divide information kiosk. The trailhead elevation is 10,856 feet. A trail travels south and climbs to the west of Wolf Creek Ski Area. It then leads to rocky ridges on the west side of Alberta Peak. The trail to the top of the peak (11,870 feet) is not marked, although a 15- to 20-minute scramble will take you to the top. There are many beautiful vistas along the ridge.

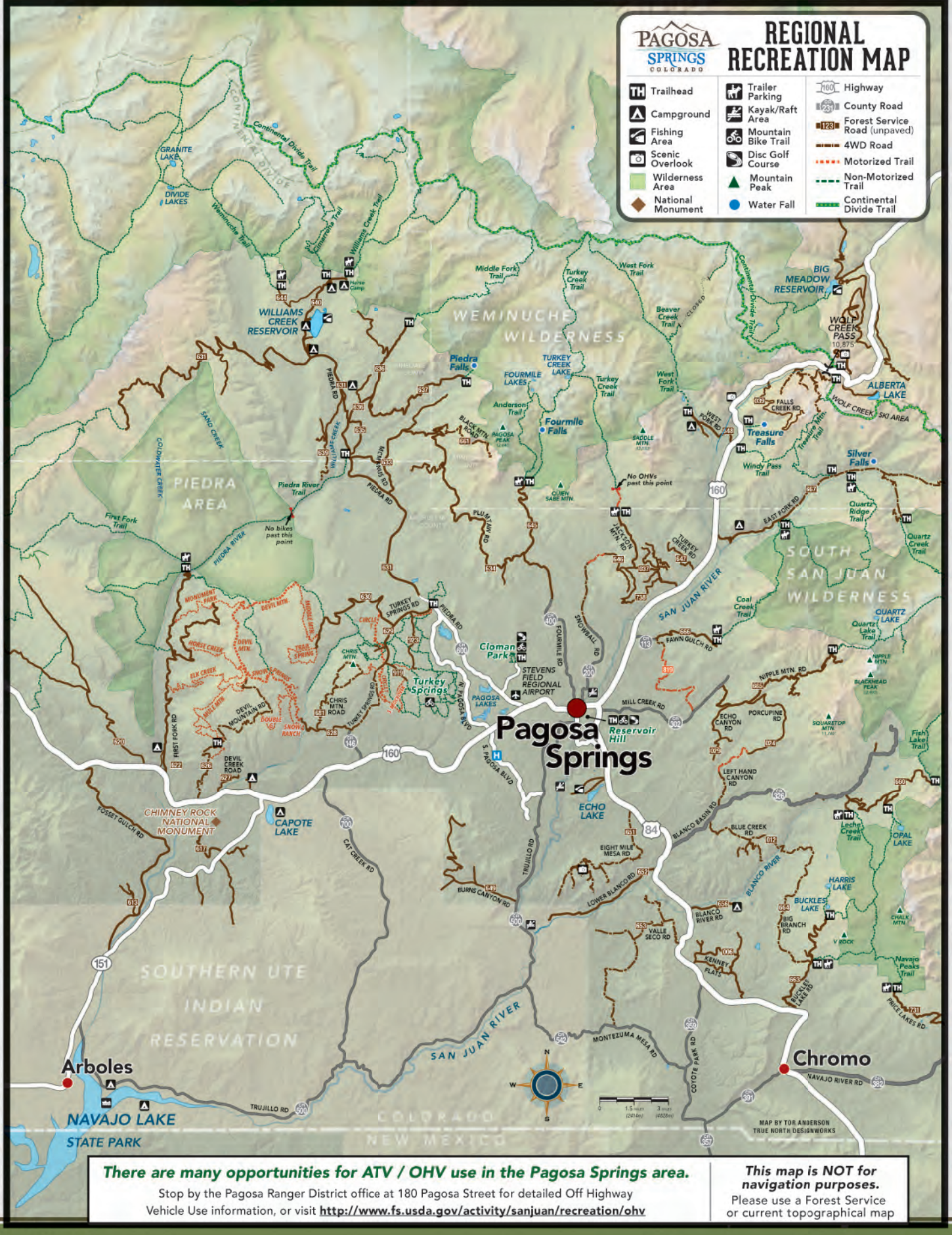
Hikers can purchase a Colorado Search and Rescue (COSAR) card so that search and rescue can get reimbursed for the cost of the rescue at <https://dola.colorado.gov/sar/cardPurchase.jsf>.



RANDY OSGA



- |                   |                     |                               |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Trailhead         | Trailer Parking     | Highway                       |
| Campground        | Kayak/Raft Area     | County Road                   |
| Fishing Area      | Mountain Bike Trail | Forest Service Road (unpaved) |
| Scenic Overlook   | Disc Golf Course    | 4WD Road                      |
| Wilderness Area   | Mountain Peak       | Motorized Trail               |
| National Monument | Water Fall          | Non-Motorized Trail           |
|                   |                     | Continental Divide Trail      |



**There are many opportunities for ATV / OHV use in the Pagosa Springs area.**  
 Stop by the Pagosa Ranger District office at 180 Pagosa Street for detailed Off Highway Vehicle Use information, or visit <http://www.fs.usda.gov/activity/sanjuan/recreation/ohv>

**This map is NOT for navigation purposes.**  
 Please use a Forest Service or current topographical map



# Scenic Drives

Sometimes, there is no destination, and that provides the freedom to truly appreciate the beauty, the history and the culture of Pagosa Country. Sure, you can stand outside on a main street and gaze at the peaks of the San Juan Mountains that surround you, listening to the San Juan River as it rolls by. And if that's all you choose to do, you've done well.

Perhaps, however, your interest was piqued. "What else is out there? What views, what wonders, lie just behind the mountain?"

You don't have to be a member of the explorer's club to find out.

Much of this incredible natural wonder can be observed from the comfort of a conventional vehicle. However, one must be warned: Just because the car may be comfortable does not mean the driving conditions are always easy.

Before taking a drive of high-altitude discovery, know that high-mountain driving offers hazards as well as unforgettable views; weather conditions are liable to

change in the blink of an eye. While most of the roads recommended for the tours listed here are all-weather gravel roads, conditions can vary. Some roads require four-wheel-drive vehicles; many will test your driving skills and courage.

Go prepared. A San Juan National Forest map, available at the Pagosa Ranger District, is a benefit.

Excellent scenic vantage areas are located along all routes. Many of the trips are in remote areas with little traffic, so plan accordingly. Water, blankets, a GPS system (or a map and compass for those who prefer to remain old school), a full sack of snacks and leaving an itinerary with someone else is highly recommended.

Check road conditions and check for closures before heading out; call the Pagosa Ranger District at (970) 264-2268.

## Motor Vehicle Use Map

The San Juan National Forest provides a Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) that

identifies all designated roads and trails that are open to wheeled motorized travel on the Pagosa Ranger District. The map is the legal document used to enforce travel rules. It does not identify nonmotorized recreational routes. It is the responsibility of the motor vehicle user to acquire the current MVUM.

The map is free, district specific and available electronically at [fs.usda.gov/main/sanjuan/maps-pubs](https://fs.usda.gov/main/sanjuan/maps-pubs), or paper maps are available at San Juan National Forest offices during operating hours.

Forest maps and MVUM's are also available for purchase and download to use via Avenza Maps<sup>®</sup>, a free mobile app that enables users to navigate in real time across the national forest using official forest maps as the background.

You can also check out the Interactive Visitor Map by visiting [fs.usda.gov/sanjuan](https://fs.usda.gov/sanjuan) and clicking "Maps & Publications" in the left menu. For more information, please contact the Pagosa Ranger District at (970) 264-2268.

### East Fork - Silver Falls - Elwood Pass - Quartz Meadow Approx. 30+ miles round trip



From town, start by traveling 12 miles east of U.S. 160. Take a right on East Fork Road (FS 667). The first few miles of this route are suitable for most passenger vehicles; after that, high-clearance vehicles are recommended as there are multiple water crossings. The canyon opens up into a breathtaking river valley with impressive mountain views. Silver Falls is located about 8 miles from U.S. 160. The trail begins on the north side of the road (left). Hike up past the old guard station about 1/8 mile to reach the base of the falls. At the upper end of the valley, about 12 miles from U.S. 160, at a fork stay left toward Elwood Pass, a more technical drive, or right to Quartz Meadow.

### Plumtaw - Piedra Loop - Williams Creek Reservoir Approx. 35-60 miles round trip



This route takes you past amazing vistas and multiple trailheads for recreational options. From U.S. 160, turn north at Lewis Street and take the immediate left fork in the road. At about 1/4 mile, take the right fork and follow Fourmile Road (CR 400, which becomes FS 645) about 8 miles. Take the left fork and follow Plumtaw Road (FS 634); you can continue your trip in two directions. Where Plumtaw Road descends to the Piedra Road, turn right to the Piedra River Trail and continue to Williams Creek Reservoir, a scenic, high-mountain reservoir with great fishing, hiking and camping. If you turn left, you will continue back to Pagosa Springs. The roads are suitable for all vehicles. This is a great route for viewing fall foliage.

### Blanco Basin Approx. 40 miles round trip



This is one of the most scenic drives in the state of Colorado, especially when fall colors are bright. The route is south on U.S. 84 for 8 miles to the Blanco Basin turnoff (CR 326). Follow the road to the head of the basin and magnificent views of the Continental Divide, Square Top Mountain and Oil Mountain. For an even more spectacular side trip, turn right onto Castle Creek Road (FS 660), cross the Rio Blanco and proceed to the end of the road at Fish Creek, about 6 miles. The last 2.5 miles of the road to Fish Creek is very slick when wet. Roads are all-weather and suitable for conventional vehicles. Return by the same route.

### Summitville - Platoro - Cumbres Pass - Chama Approx. 100+ miles - all-day trip



On Wolf Creek Pass, approximately 6.5 miles from the east side of the summit, take Park Creek (FS 380), and proceed to Summitville (mining ghost town last used in the '70s). Continue toward Elwood Pass and south to Platoro. Upon reaching N.M. Hwy. 17, turn right and cross Cumbres Pass. You will follow the route of the Cumbres and Toltec narrow gauge railroad to Chama, N.M. From there it is 48 miles back to Pagosa Springs via U.S. 17, 84. This route is suitable for conventional vehicles.

### Lobo Overlook - Continental Divide Approx. 45 miles.



Suitable for conventional vehicles and as close to the top of the world as you can get by vehicle in this area. Turn north off U.S. 160 at the summit of Wolf Creek Pass, follow the road up to the transmitter site. A spectacular vantage point and a picnic area are provided at the topographical crest of the mountain. A section of the Continental Divide Trail is accessible from the radio tower; parking is available. The road is accessible late June to early September.





#### Mill Creek – Nipple Mountain Road

Approx. 32 miles round trip



Turn onto Mill Creek Road (CR 302) just north of the county fairgrounds from U.S. 84. At approximately 7 miles, take the right fork (FS 665) and proceed east to the Nipple Mountain area, another 12 miles. The trip will provide a vast panorama of the upper San Juan Valley. Proceed through the saddle separating Oil and Square Top mountains. From this vantage point, you will be able to observe the Blanco Basin. The road dead ends. Return by the same route.

#### Pagosa Junction

Approx. 45-50 miles round trip



Go south on 8th Street out of Pagosa Springs, turning right on Apache Street, which becomes Trujillo Road (CR 500), through the early-day settlements of Juanita and Trujillo. See historic Pagosa Junction. From there, the route goes up Cat Creek Gap (CR 700) past the now-deserted Talian Mine and the Lone Tree Catholic Church, a landmark. Return to Pagosa Springs on U.S. 160. Continuing on CR 500 will take you to Navajo Lake and Navajo State Park. Return to Pagosa Springs via Colo. 151, past Chimney Rock National Monument and U.S. 160. The roads are all suitable for conventional vehicles.

#### Wolf Creek Pass

Approx. 80 miles round trip



You can easily spend a day exploring Wolf Creek Pass. Starting from Pagosa Springs, stop at Treasure Falls about 16 miles east of town. The next stop is the West Fork Valley Overlook, a scene featured in the movie "Vacation" and one certain to leave an impression. You will have a view of Treasure Falls from above — a great vantage point of the valley below. The next stop is the Continental Divide and Wolf Creek summit. As you head down the pass toward South Fork, check out Alberta Reservoir (near Wolf Creek Ski Area), Big Meadows Reservoir or Tucker Ponds to see small alpine lakes.

## Know Before You Go

Many of the trips listed here are in remote areas with little traffic — plan accordingly. Water, blankets, a GPS system (or a map, coordinates and compass for those who prefer to keep it old school), a full sack of snacks and leaving an itinerary with someone is highly recommended.

Please use the recreation map as a guide. Conditions change quickly, check with the ranger district office in the area you plan to visit to get the most current information on road conditions and closures; call the Pagosa Ranger District at (970) 264-2268.





# Waterfalls, Canyons & Rapids

ELISE SONIAT/SOURCE OF LIGHT IMAGERY

Past noon on a clear winter day, cup your hand full of snow and hold it to the sun.

If you are patient, you will see the snow begin to melt and start dripping, drop by drop, through your fingertips.

Now, imagine this is what happens to all the snow capping the mountains surrounding Pagosa Springs. As the seasons change, and the rugged land begins once more to be warm, the water, at first as a drip, begins to roll from the mountain peaks. Before long, the drip turns into a rush, and the mountainsides are filled with waterfalls, streams and rivers.

Many water wonders await the hiker and backcountry mountain runner, horseback rider and biker. Find one of the area's waterfalls and take time to sit and enjoy the calming and beautiful spectacle.

## **Treasure Falls**

Treasure Falls is named for Treasure Mountain, an area rich in folklore and stories of a large buried treasure. Most accounts suggest that a treasure chest full of gold was buried in the area after a group of Frenchmen were "waylaid" by either Spanish explorers or Native Americans. Whatever the circumstances, Treasure Falls offers visitors a breathtaking fortune in scenery.

To get there, travel east on U.S. 160 approximately 15 miles from the San Juan River bridge at the east end of Pagosa Springs. As you approach the base of Wolf Creek Pass, turn right into a large parking area. The trailhead (No. 563) elevation is 8,123 feet. To the left of the parking lot is a short trail that will take you to the base of the falls. Follow the trail a quarter mile to the bridge at the base of the falls. There is a more difficult trail to the right that also leads to the waterfall. Standing in the refreshing spray on the bridge, the falls rush down the cliff toward you. In the winter, these falls create a frozen blue sculpture. The elevation gain is 325 feet. Many visitors photograph the falls and surrounding vistas from the parking area and nearby Overlook Bridge at the base of the falls.

## **Silver Falls**

Day travelers can easily view or visit Silver Falls near the old historic Silver Falls Forest Service Guard Station. Following a scenic

drive on a maintained gravel road into the backcountry, a trail to the falls is short, but fairly steep.

To get there, travel east on U.S. 160 approximately 10 miles from the San Juan River bridge at the east end of Pagosa Springs. Just after crossing the West Fork of the San Juan River, turn right (east) on East Fork Road (FS 667) leading to the East Fork River and campground. Follow the road and river approximately 8 miles where, on the north side (left), you'll see the falls, an old guard station and primitive parking area beyond.

A word of caution — in early spring, there are two vehicle stream crossings that are often hazardous during high water. Also, the last 2 miles of road crosses private land where visitors must respect private property rights and remain in the roadway.

To reach the base of the falls, follow the footpath through a gate and hike about an eighth of a mile.

## **Elwood Creek Cascades**

The route to Elwood Pass and the Elwood Creek Cascades turns to a four-wheel-drive road best suited to high-clearance vehicles with a short wheelbase. Late summer or early autumn, when the aspens are shimmering gold, may be the ideal time to negotiate this rather precarious course. Because travelers must ford the East Fork of the San Juan River near where it begins at the confluence of Elwood and Crater creeks, spring high-water season is not the time to go.

To view these cascades, proceed up the East Fork Road as you would to Silver Falls. About a mile past the old guard station and parking area, East Fork Road branches left from Quartz Meadow Road to the right. From there on, this narrow and primitive course offers many steep grades and seemingly bottomless mud holes. Beyond the river crossing, the road climbs abruptly out of the canyon. From high on the mountainside, Elwood Cascades is visible.

Another word of caution — because the road to Elwood Pass is challenging even when dry, only experienced drivers should attempt its passage.



## Fourmile Falls

The first of two spectacular falls is a tall “bridal veil” fall on aptly-named Fall Creek, but viewing its splendor requires a 3-mile hike (one way) into the Weminuche Wilderness north of Pagosa Springs. A bit further along Fourmile Trail No. 569 (on the right), the more voluminous Fourmile Falls tumbles hundreds of feet over a sheer precipice of dark volcanic rock.

The route to these popular summertime destinations begins in town at U.S. 160 and Lewis Street. Turn north on Lewis, then an immediate left on 5th Street, which becomes Fourmile Road. Follow Fourmile Road (CR 400/FS 645) right at junction to the trailhead. The trailhead elevation is 9,190 feet.

The hike is approximately 3 miles each way. The first 3 miles to Fourmile Falls is relatively easy with gently rolling terrain through an open valley. After the waterfall, the trail becomes steep and is not recommended for stock. Hikers should proceed with caution. There are longer day hikes and backpacking loop options available. Please reference a Forest Service or topographical map for information.

Keep in mind, with Fourmile Falls being one of the more popular points of interest in the Pagosa Ranger District, the trail in can be quite crowded on pleasant summer days.

## Piedra Falls

Piedra Falls is one of the most popular in the Pagosa Ranger District of the San Juan National Forest.

Located at the end of a gentle, 1/4-mile trail where the East Fork of the Piedra River meets the Weminuche Wilderness boundary, it cascades over two large steps among sheer volcanic cliffs.

To get there, drive north on Piedra Road (CR 600/FS 631) 17.8 miles to the junction at Sportsman’s Supply. Leave Piedra Road and continue on Middle Fork Road (FS 636) for 2 miles. Take the first road to the right, East Toner Road (FS 637). It is 7.5 miles to the end. The trailhead elevation is 7,695 feet.

A word of caution: East Toner Road is graveled and typically accessible May through November, depending on snow conditions. Do not attempt this road in wet weather.

The hike on trail no. 671 is .4 mile each way (a half hour round-trip). This is a great hike for all ages. Walk upstream to a head gate where the trail begins. The trail continues above and west of the head gate and river to the falls. The hike is about 15 minutes each way.

## Know before you go

Backcountry travelers should always prepare for unforeseen emergencies before venturing far past civilization. Even relatively minor injuries in a remote area can turn serious, particularly if the victim faces spending a night (or more) in the woods. Sliding off road or getting stuck will almost certainly result in very expensive assistance.

Before setting out, hikers and motorists should review maps and weather reports, determine intended routes and travel times, and inform at least two close friends or family members of their planned destination and when they expect to return. Wilderness trail users should register their entry and departure times at all Forest Service trailheads.

Much of the Weminuche Wilderness has been affected by a large outbreak of spruce beetles, which have killed the majority of mature spruce trees. Recent fires have also weakened the trees. As a result, visitors must use extra caution when traveling in the vicinity of dead or dying trees. Always be aware of your surroundings.

Adventurers ought never travel alone, should dress appropriately for current and forecast conditions, and should carry a first aid kit and know how to use it. If serious injury does occur, tend to the victim’s immediate needs, then get to a landline or within cellphone range and dial 911. For less serious matters where help is still required, call Archuleta County Combined Dispatch at (970) 731-2160.



JAN BROOKSHIER



# Real Estate & Home Guide



RANDI PIERCE

## Hughes Pavilion

### Preserving heritage and tradition through partnership

Agriculture, ranching and rodeo (early rodeo arenas included things such as automobiles placed in a circle) have long been a way of life in Archuleta County, and the community respects those who choose to continue it. For example, the annual 4-H chuck wagon dinner and livestock auction are two of the most heavily attended events annually at the Archuleta County Fair.

And that way of life is not going away.

Over the years, the nonprofit Western Heritage Event Center Inc. (WHEC), funders and Archuleta County have worked to establish and improve venues for education and training for youth, as well as equestrian events. WHEC also puts on the annual Red Ryder® Roundup Rodeo, which dates back to 1948.

WHEC, which is dedicated to preserving the history and traditions of the American West, formed in 1949 as Pagosa Springs Enterprises. Over the decades, the WHEC (it was renamed in the 1990s when it became a nonprofit) has obtained land; built the existing rodeo grounds and a 4-H/western heritage building; and donated land and buildings to Archuleta County.

In recent years, WHEC's dedication has in the form of working with Archuleta County and funders on the Hughes Pavilion covered arena, with the partnership showcasing the county's past, present and future.

Initial plans for the construction of a covered arena were first discussed by WHEC, the Charles Hughes Foundation and the Archuleta County commissioners in 2014, with the commissioners committing \$150,000 in matching funds for the project. Construction began in 2017, and the pavilion took on its official name, the Hughes Pavilion, in 2018.

Donna "Dusty" Hughes formed the Charles Hughes Foundation after the passing of her husband, Charles "Charley" Hughes, to support education and youth in Archuleta County through partnerships with

and grants to the local school district. Later, the governing board opted to partner with WHEC to grant the remaining funds to the construction of a covered arena at the rodeo grounds — a move that honors the intention and legacy of Charley and Dusty.

The Hughes family's history in the area dates back to the late 1800s and includes the Banded Peaks Ranch, located in southern Archuleta County.

In 2021, the pavilion was used during the county fair for the first time.

But that isn't where the effort stopped. The facility has continued to see additions and upgrades funded through the Hott Fund, named after R.D. Hott, a lifelong resident of Archuleta County. Both sides of Hott's family were early European immigrants to Archuleta County, and Hott was raised on the Mill Creek Ranch, riding his horse to town on Mondays for a week of schooling, then riding back to help on the ranch on the weekends.

Hott, who passed away in 2018 at age 86, decided years before his death that his estate would be dedicated to the preservation of western heritage.

In 2022, ownership of the pavilion was transferred to Archuleta County, with the county, WHEC and the Hott Fund also entering into a joint use and development agreement for the cooperative development and use of the rodeo grounds.

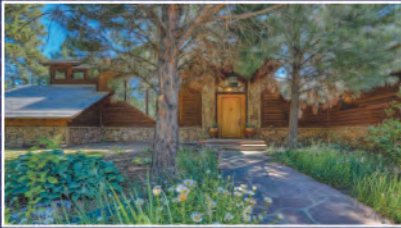
In 2023, the entities held a ribbon cutting during the Archuleta County Fair to celebrate the pavilion and partnerships.

"The Hughes Pavilion is a huge asset to the community and keeping with our western heritage," states Robin Young, the Archuleta County director for Colorado State University Extension. "We are so grateful to all who have contributed to make it possible."



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**970-946-9281**



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2 bathrooms, \$680,000. MLS 811380



620 Lakeside Drive, 3 bed, 3 bath, \$632,000.  
MLS 810975



547 E. Golf Place, duplex, each 2 bed, 2 bath,  
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# About the Area

## Location

Archuleta County is located in southwest Colorado, situated at the junction of U.S. 160 and 84 at an elevation of 7,079 feet. The county seat, Pagosa Springs, is located 30 miles north of the New Mexico border, and 60 miles east of Durango. It is also near the Four Corners region where Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona meet.

## Physical Description

Archuleta County is comprised of 872,960 acres. Only 34 percent of lands in Archuleta County are in private ownership. Tribal lands comprise 14.4 percent of the county. Most of the northern and eastern portions of the county (51.6 percent) are within the San Juan National Forest. There is a total of approximately 2.8 million acres of National Forest and Bureau of Land Management surrounding Archuleta County.

## Population Archuleta County

Source: US Census Bureau State & County QuickFacts

2023 estimate — 14,189

## Housing and Income

Median value owner-occupied housing — \$432,400

Households — 5,738

Persons per household — 2.32

Per capita money income — \$39,155

Median household income — \$66,813

Persons in poverty — 9.8 percent

## Geography

Land area (square miles) — 1,350

Persons per square mile — 9.9

## Taxes

Sales and User Tax: 2.9 percent state, 4 percent county.

County sales tax revenue is divided between county and town.

Lodger's Tax: A 4.9 percent tax is collected from the lodging industry in town limits. The county collects a 2 percent tax for lodging. Lodging tax is used for tourism promotion, among other things.

Primary Source of Town & County Revenue: Retail sales taxes, property taxes and charges for services.

## Government

Town Government: [www.pagosasprings.co.gov](http://www.pagosasprings.co.gov)

Home Rule Municipality

Town council with elected mayor and six councilors elected for alternating four-year terms, town manager is appointed. Date of incorporation: 1891.

County Government: [www.archuletacounty.org](http://www.archuletacounty.org).

Three county commissioners elected for alternating four-year terms.

## Media

Newspaper: The Pagosa Springs SUN

[www.pagosahun.com](http://www.pagosahun.com), (970) 264-2100

## Education

District 50 Joint Office (970) 264-2228

[www.mypagosaschools.com](http://www.mypagosaschools.com)

High School (970) 264-2231

Middle School, 5th-6th grades (970) 264-2256

Middle School, 7th-8th grades (970) 264-2794

Elementary School (970) 264-2229

Pagosa Peak Open School (970) 317-2151

San Juan Mountain School (970) 264-2231, ext. 9247

The Training Advantage (970) 264-5627

GOAL Academy (877) PRO-GOAL

## Utilities

Electric La Plata Electric Association

(970) 247-5786, [www.lpea.coop](http://www.lpea.coop)

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(888) 890-5554, [www.blackhillsenergy.com](http://www.blackhillsenergy.com)

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(970) 731-2691, [www.pawsd.org](http://www.pawsd.org)

Town of Pagosa Springs, (970) 264-4151

[www.pagosasprings.co.gov](http://www.pagosasprings.co.gov)

Trash At Your Disposal (970) 731-4892

Elite Recycling & Disposal (970) 731-2012

Waste Management (970) 264-5622

County Transfer Station (970) 264-5660

## Tourism & Business Development

Pagosa Springs Community Development Corp.

[www.pagosaspringscdc.org](http://www.pagosaspringscdc.org)

(970) 264-2360

Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

[www.pagosaspringschamber.com](http://www.pagosaspringschamber.com)

(970) 264-2360

Pagosa Springs Area Tourism

[www.visitpagosasprings.com](http://www.visitpagosasprings.com)

[www.explorepagosa.com](http://www.explorepagosa.com)

(970) 585-1200 or (866) 438-4917

Region 9 Economic Development District

(970) 247-9621, [www.scan.org](http://www.scan.org)

Fort Lewis College Small Business Development

(970) 247-7009

<http://sbdcfortlewis.org/>

## Related Website Links & Info

Association of Realtors,

[www.pagosaspringsrealtors.com](http://www.pagosaspringsrealtors.com)

U.S. Postal Service

Hot Springs Boulevard, (970) 264-5440

U.S. Forest Service Pagosa Ranger District Office

(970) 264-2268, [www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan](http://www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan)

Colorado State University Extension Office

(970) 264-5931, [www.archuleta.colostate.edu](http://www.archuleta.colostate.edu)

Ruby Sisson Memorial Library

(970) 264-2209, [pagosalibrary.org](http://pagosalibrary.org)

Stevens Field Airport

(970) 731-3060, FBO (970) 731-2127

[www.archuletacounty.org/45/Airport](http://www.archuletacounty.org/45/Airport)

AWOS frequency 127.175

Durango-La Plata County Airport

[www.flydurango.com](http://www.flydurango.com)

## Road Conditions

Colorado Department of Transportation

511 or (303) 639-1111, [www.cotrip.org](http://www.cotrip.org)

Archuleta County Road Report

(970) 264-5555

New Mexico Road Report

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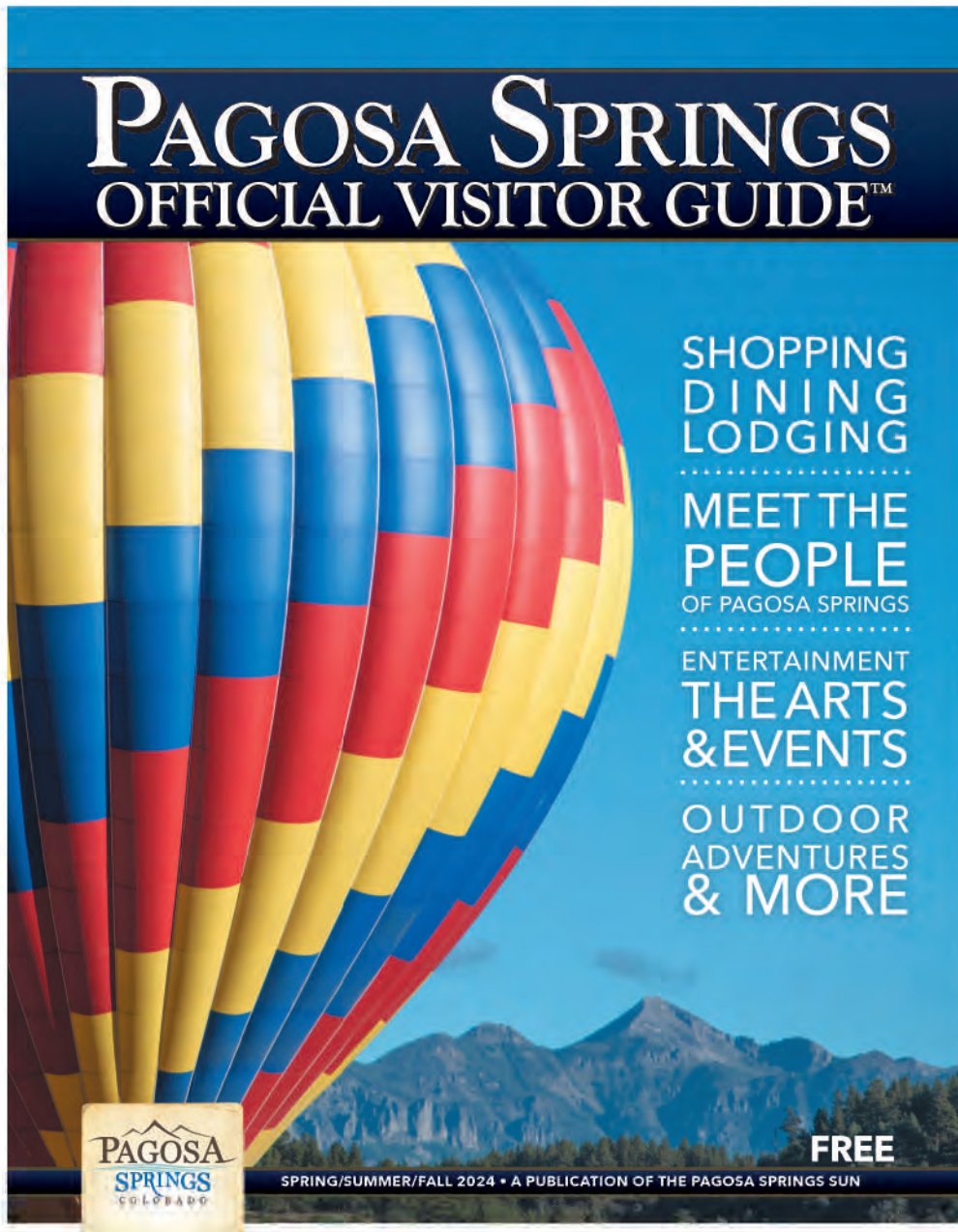
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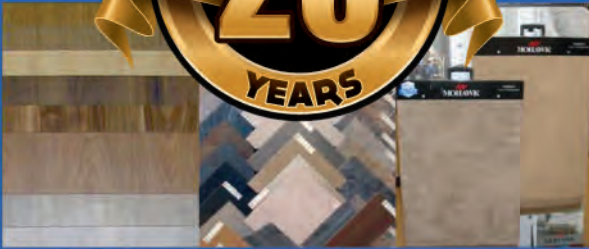
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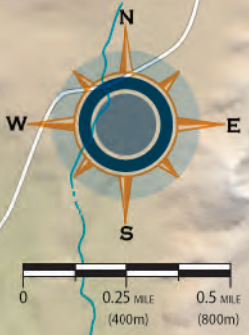
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