PAGOSA SPRINGS OFFICIAL VISITOR GUIDETM

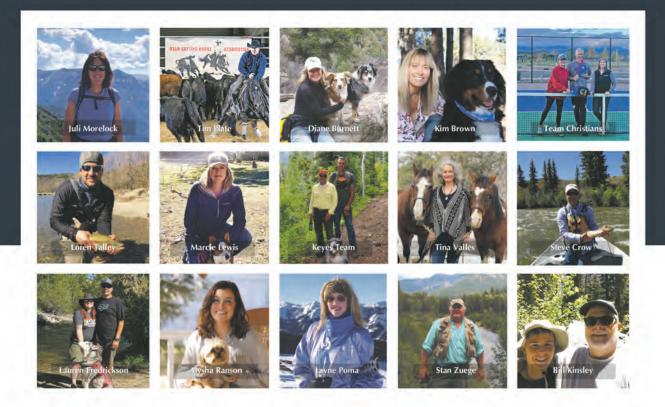
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Welcome Home



There is a special place in Colorado. Here, the sun shines 300+ days a year. Year-round recreation and National Forest are out your back door. And small town charm melds effortlessly with modern day amenities. This is Pagosa Springs - and we'd love to share with you this place we call home.



Scan To View Our Listings & Search All Area Properties In SW Colorado



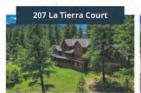
Area Leaders In Real Estate For 19+ Years Info@GallesProperties.com | 970.264.1250

Statistics based on MLS data in cooperation with other Brokers.

Featured Properties

624/200 Morning Glory

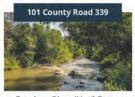
15 Acres - 5BR/4 BA + Apt. 3 Parcels - 2 Heated Shops \$2,897,000 (NEW)



5.11 Acres - 6,630 SF Home Huge Views - Multi-Gen Llving \$1,995,000 (819653)



35.17 Acres - 4,541 SF Home Shop + Barn - Pasture - Fencing Views - Fencing - 3,000 SF Barn \$1,750,000 (821099)



Borders River/Nat'l Forest 16.8 Acres - 1,564 SF Cabin \$998,500 (820756)



1,702 SF Home - 3 BR/2 BA Views - RV Hookup \$623,000 (818433)



Walk To Lake/Golf Course Oversized Lot - 3 BR/2 BA \$497,500 (815946)



35 Acres - 4,567 SF - Big Views 70 Acre - 3,010 SF Log Home 4BR - Barn - Ride to Forest \$2,895,000 (NEW)



8.25 Acres - 3,944 SF Home Timber Ridge - Fully Updated \$1,975,000 (817810)



40 Acres - 4,477 SF Home \$1,379,000 (NEW)



2,174 SF Home - .64 Acre



Saddle Mountain - 3 BR/2 BA Many Upgrades - 2-Car Garage \$599,000 (NEW)



Overlooks Golf Course! 3 BR/2 BA Condo - Furnished \$475,000 (819663)



Views - 2 Garages/RV Space \$2,187,000 (820021)



35 Acres - 4 Bed/4 Bath Home 102.94 Acres - No Restrictions **Extensive Horse Facilities** \$1,975,000 (814984)



3.57 Acres - 2,237 SF Home Timber Ridge - Barn/Shop Views! \$1,335,000 (821599)



NEW BUILD! 1,735 SF



1,345 SF - 3 BR/2 BA Near National Forest \$545,000 (NEW)



Eco-Friendly Townhome Mountain/Lake Views \$375,500 (821511)



5 Acres - 4,187 SF Home **Big Views - Expansive Decks** \$2,100,000 (NEW)

73/7110H Parelli Inst. Dr.

Pasture - Springs, Streams \$1,947,500 (820611)



70.36 Acres - 1,232 SF Cabin Borders Nat'l Forest - Barn \$1,049,000 (812269)



2,090 SF Home - 3 BR/2BA Backs Open Space - Deck \$719,000 (NEW)



1,584 SF - 3 BR/2 BA Updated - Backs Greenbelt \$500,000 (819384)



1 BR/2 BA Condo Backs Open Space \$319,000 (821278)



54 Acres - Stunning Residence Lake Access - Sold Furnished \$1,995,000 (815300)



5.24 Acres - 3,358 SF Home Fully Remodeled - Big Views \$1,900,000 (821007)



3 Acres - 2,968 SF - Shop Mountain/Lake Views \$998,500 (811462)



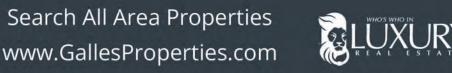
4 Acres - 2,158 SF Home No HOA - Views - Decks \$685,000 (NEW)



Remodeled Home - 1 Acre Horse Setup - No HOA \$499,000 (NEW)



1.37 Acres - Big Views Overlooks 160 Ac. Open Space \$220,000 (817155)



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448 Pagosa Street • Smack dab in the middle of Historic Downtown Pagosa Springs, at the crosswalk!

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.

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 area'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

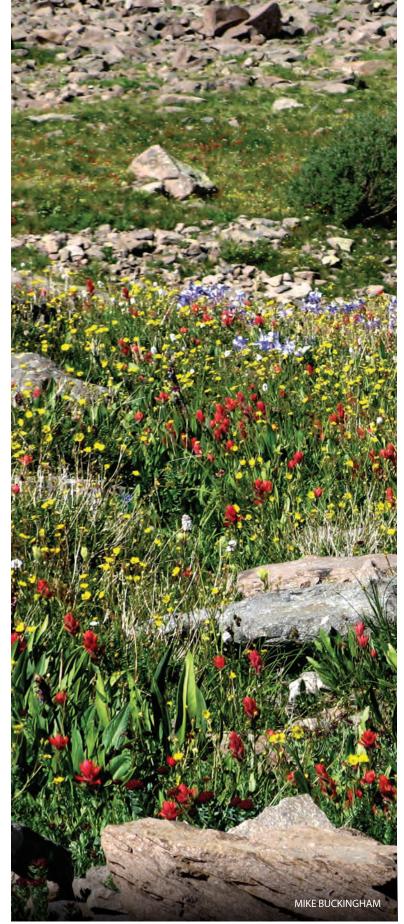
Pagosa Springs is undergoing a major downtown road reconstruction project.

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

While the work is needed and will improve the downtown, 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.

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.



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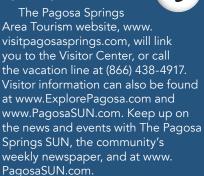
Where is Pagosa Springs?



1

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?



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



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: 21.66 inches/year

Annual Snowfall, 116 4 inches/yee

Annual	Snowfall:	116.4 inc	ches/year		
Month	High	Low	Precip.	Month	Hig
Jan.	37.4°F	1.4°F	2.09"	Jul.	82
Feb.	42.0°F	7.0°F	1.76″	Aug.	80
Mar.	48.5°F	15.6°F	1.94″	Sep.	73.
Apr.	58.6°F	23.7°F	1.34″	Oct.	63
May	67.9°F	30.1°F	1.26″	Nov.	49.
Jun.	78.1°F	36.1°F	.89″	Dec.	39.

onth	High	Low	Precip.
ıl.	82.7°F	45.0°F	2.01″
ug.	80.0°F	44.4°F	2.70″
ep.	73.5°F	36.4°F	1.98″
ct.	63.1°F	26.3°F	2.27″
ov.	49.0°F	15.4°F	1.56″
ec.	39.5°F	4.9°F	1.85″

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 also 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)Jonemergency ambulance, fire, EMT or law enforcement, dial (970) 731-2160Emergency Medical Services(970) 731-5811Pagosa Springs Medical Center(970) 731-3700Pagosa Urgent Care(970) 372-0456Axis Integrated Healthcare(970) 264-2104Pagosa Springs Police Department(970) 264-4151, Ext. 228Archuleta County Sheriff's Office(970) 264-8430Pagosa Fire Protection District(970) 731-4191USFS Pagosa District Ranger(970) 264-2268Pagosa Springs Town Hall(970) 264-2100Archuleta County Commissioners(970) 264-2100Pagosa Springs Post Office(970) 264-2167Puby M. Sisson Memorial Library(970) 264-2209Archuleta School District 50 Jt.(970) 264-2228Navajo Lake State Park(970) 731-2127Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District(970) 731-2691Black Hills Energy(888) 890-5554La Plata Electric Association(970) 247-5786





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Getting here

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.

For more information on the airport, visit 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.

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 Blackhawk Aviation, 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 aviation fuel and aircraft oxygen services, power cart, aircraft towing up to 88,000 pounds, rental car and crew cars, private hangars, tie down aircraft parking, catering and concierge services, secure auto parking, office space and more.

For more information about these and other airport services, call Blackhawk Aviation at (970) 731-2127 or visit blackhawkaviation.net.

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.

Mileage from Pagosa Springs

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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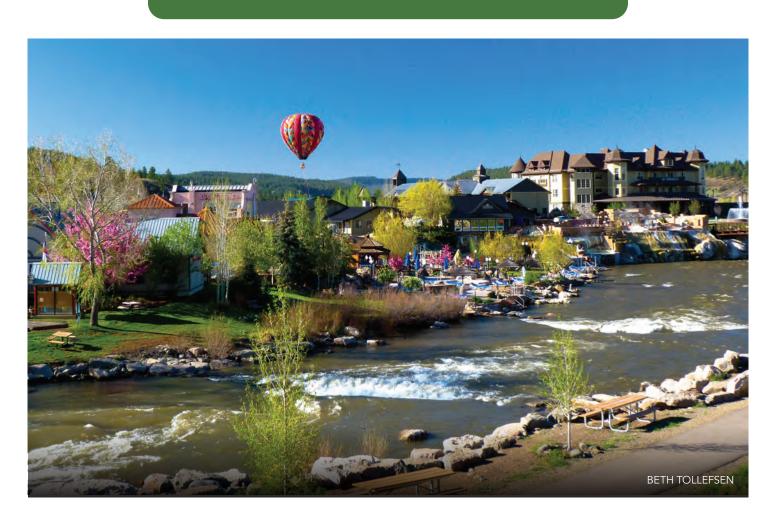
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Pagosa Springs

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

There's plenty to fall in love with here: warm sunshine, 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 and glamour that real people can't afford to go there anymore, Pagosa Country has retained its charm while still offering myriad amenities.

So small, but so much

With amenties like art galleries, churches, specialty shops, live theater, a movie theater and a vibrant public library and more, 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 Pagosa Country.

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 (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.

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.

Within walking distance of the spring are a variety of ways to enjoy the natural mineral water, including indoor and outdoor mineral baths, hot tubs and swimming pools.

Pagosa Springs provides ample opportunity to splash and smile. The San Juan River offers variety, from adventurous rafting in the spring and early summer to tame and refreshing floats later in the summer.

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.

Make yourself at home in the midst of the most beautiful scenery and friendliest people in Colorado.

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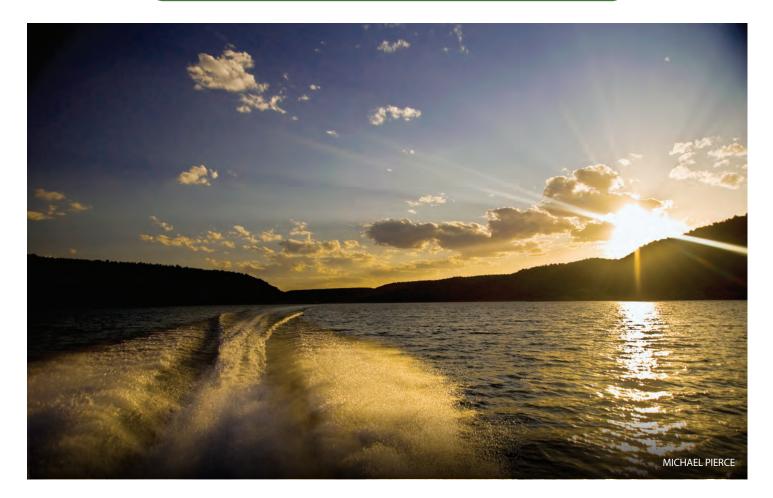
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Featured Properties



Two Locations to serve you |Uptown 2382 Eagle Drive | Downtown 445 San Juan Street www.SherpaRealEstate.com | Pagosa Springs CO | 970.444.2570



Navajo Lake is a summer recreation paradise for boating, camping, fishing, hiking, water skiing and wind surfing. The lake, less than an hour's drive from Pagosa Springs, spans the state line, extending 20 miles into New Mexico.

Fed by the Piedra, San Juan and Pine rivers, Navajo Lake is a wonderful getaway for locals and visitors alike with 15,000 surface acres of water.

In addition to playing in the water, be sure to visit the "Watchable Wildlife" observation deck, located where Colo. 151 crosses the Piedra River. From the deck, you may see mule deer, elk, foxes, coyotes, bears, rare river otters, bald eagles, waterfowl and migratory birds.

Fishing

The lake 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 wellknown to bass fishermen in the southwest since its warm surface waters harbor largemouth and smallmouth bass. Bluegill and catfish are also plentiful.

Navajo Lake

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. An accessible fishing area is located on the Piedra River just west of Colo. 151.

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

Camping at Navajo

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

All state parks in Colorado require reservations for camping.

To make campsite reservations, call (800) 244-5613 or visit https:// www.cpwshop.com/camping/navajostate-park/r/campgroundDetails. page?parkID=50033&media=3.

Navajo Lake Marina

The 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).

Parks pass required

A valid Colorado State Parks Pass is required for all motor vehicles entering the park and for travel on park grounds surrounding Navajo Lake.

Getting there

From Pagosa Springs, travel west on U.S. 160 approximately 17 miles and turn south on Colo. 151. Then, it's a 20-minute trip to friendly Arboles. When you reach Arboles, turn left (southeast) on County Road 982, and it's a quick 2 miles to the park's visitor center.

Visit Pagosa's *Award Winning Hot Springs*





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Starting at \$89, you can discover your perfect soak with options ranging from 20 general admission mineral pools to wellness passes featuring 50 pools and exclusive sauna access.



Thermal Spa Enhance Your Experience with Spa Access

Indulge in ultimate relaxation with rejuvenating spa treatments, a panoramic halotherapy sauna, and a variety of mineral-rich soaking experiences designed to restore body and mind.



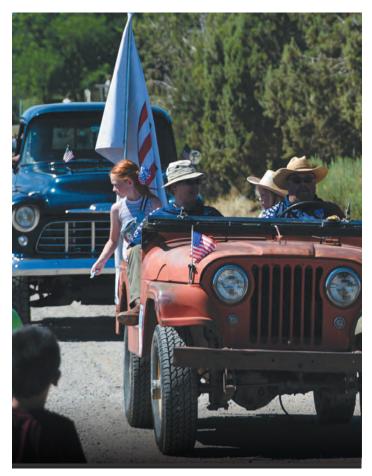
WILD FINCH

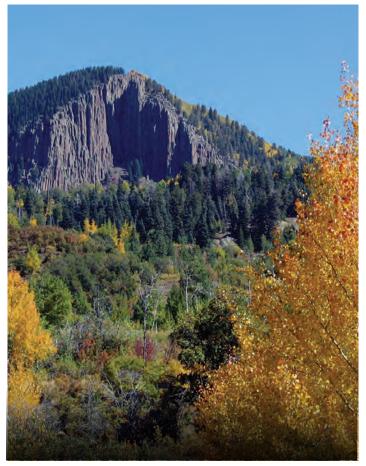
Wild Finch: A Place to Gather

Led by Chef Daya Myers, Wild Finch blends regional ingredients with globally inspired flavors, creating dishes that feel both familiar and unexpected. From the bright, delicate balance of Scallop Crudo to the comforting indulgence of Chicken Fried Elk, every bite is crafted to nourish, spark curiosity, and bring people together.

With an open, inviting design and the legendary Mother Spring just beyond its doors, Wild Finch is a place to gather, share, and savor.

Opening May 2025 at The Springs Resort www.thewildfinch.com





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Arboles

Despite being small, Arboles is well-suited to serve as a gateway to one of southwest Colorado's finest recreational waters — Navajo Lake. Arboles has a gas station, cafe, convenience store, motel and post office in addition to boat storage and RV parks to help fuel you for your adventures.

Arboles — a fitting name meaning "trees" in Spanish — is a growing community thanks to its slightly warmer tempuratures than Pagosa Springs, proximity to Navajo Lake and abundant natural beauty, and the comaraderie of the friendly people who call the area home.

Too, Arboles is part of the larger TARA (Tiffany, Allison, Rosa and Arboles) community, with the TARA Community Center located in Arboles. Watch for details about the community's Fourth of July parade and other celebrations for a true smalltown treat.

While Arboles is now primarily known for its proximity and access to Navajo Lake, the community was once home to railroad tracks that serviced the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad.

Getting to Arboles 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. Then turn south on Colo. 151. From that point on, enjoy the scenery as the 20-minute trip winds past Chimney Rock National Monment and through the lower Piedra River Valley to Arboles.

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, both geographic and cultural. The little town of Chromo is a microcosm of the binary observances this land holds.

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, several 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.

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

About 3 miles south of town, you'll see Echo Canyon Reservoir. As you continue south, 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. After leaving Coyote Park, you'll cross a small mountain range. Finally, after driving past some awesome green horse pastures, you'll 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.



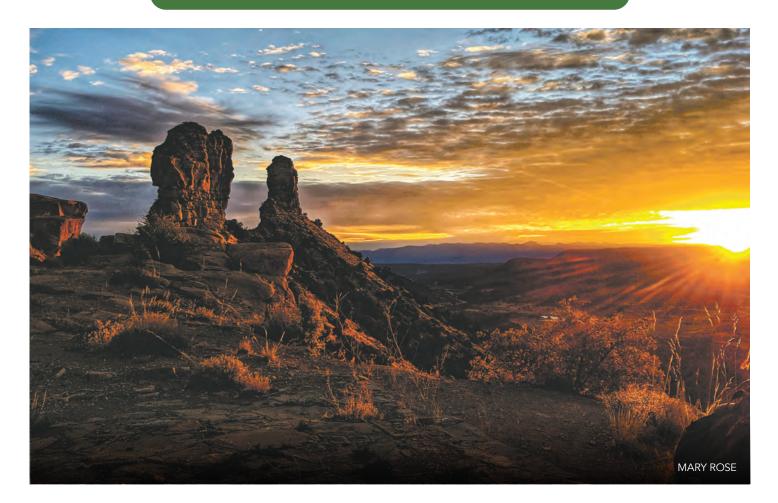
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Chimney Rock National Monument

Chimney Rock National Monument (CRNM) is an intimate, offthe-beaten-path archaeoastronomical 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 the 1,000-yearold architecture and artifacts used by the Ancestral Puebloan people. An impressive testament to this time 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 2025 season will open May 15 and close Oct. 15.

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 and the San Juan National Forest of the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, work in partnership to preserve and develop educational opportunities about the significant archaeological, cultural, geological and biological resources at Chimney Rock National Monument.

Interpretive programs

The Chimney Rock Interpretive Association is a 501(c)(3) non-

profit volunteer organization that offers specialized interpretive programs at Chimney Rock National Monument. Fees for tours/ programs vary.

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.

The Autumnal Equinox Program provides an exclusive predawn experience to witness a 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.

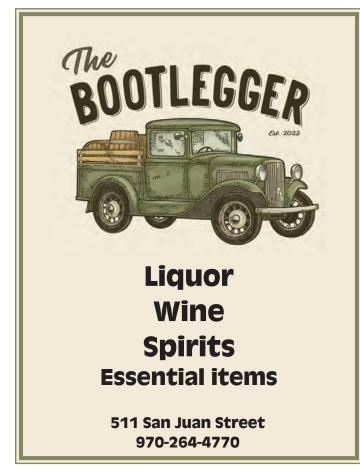
The Birding Tour is presented in partnership with the local chapter of the Audubon Society. It affords a wonderful opportunity to observe and learn about birds that are native to the area.

The Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour explores both the natural and cultural history of the area through geologic time and incorporates the anthropology and archeology of the Puebloan people.

Flute Music at Twilight begins with a guided short walk through a Mesa Village followed by live Native American flute music accompanied by a deepening night sky to reveal celestial bodies.

Forest Service fee-free days are extended to the public on June 7, 8 and 19; Aug. 4; and Sept. 27 when the Forest Service waives 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 Ances-



tral 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 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 7 and 8. This family-oriented event 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.

A Major Lunar Standstill Event will be held in the accessible amphitheater in September. Talks on astronomy, archaeology and culture from leading experts will culminate in a livestreamed viewing.

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

Perseids Meteor Shower Viewing is a fun way to experience nature's nighttime wonders in serenity and silence. This event is held in August.

The Tour of the Night Sky Program focuses on the Ancient Puebloans who once lived here and studied the night skies along with interactive talks about the life cycle of a star, categories of galaxies, telescopes and other topics.

The Stroll of the Three Sisters Tour takes visitors along the Mesa Village Trail, where they will learn about an agricultural vil-

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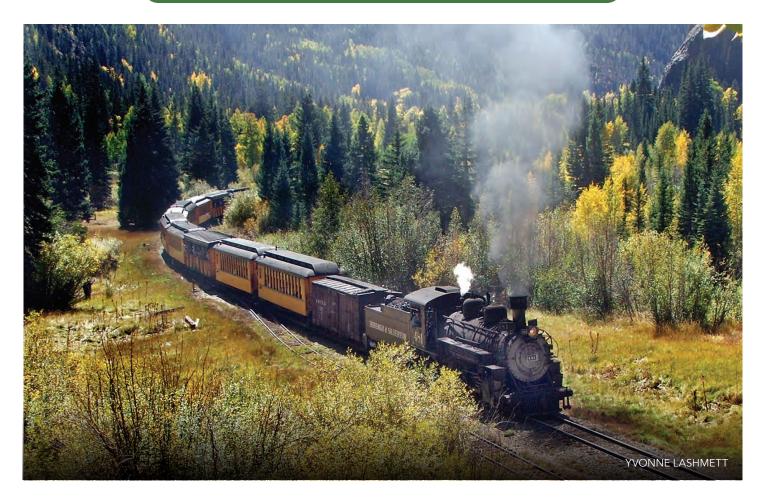


www.pagosaweather.org facebook.com/pagosaweather



lage, and the crops and other foods grown and gathered there.

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 highlighting the importance of such celestial events to the ancient ones.



Regional excursions

Pagosa Country is perfectly located in the midst of interesting attractions and spectacular, varied scenery.

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 to and through the mesa country of northern New Mexico.

About 3 miles south of town, you'll see Echo Canyon Reservoir 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 (which used to call this area home), 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, which leads 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.

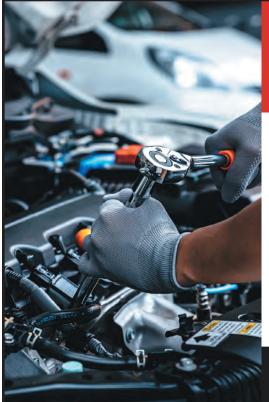
After leaving Coyote Park, you'll cross a small mountain range. At the top of the range is another dead-end road leading east to Buckles and Harris lakes. Finally, after driving past some awesome green horse pastures, you'll cross the Navajo River and find yourself in Chromo.

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

The car-bound can explore the rich history in Dulce, N.M., 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) and Santa Fe offer not only breathtaking landscapes, but also artistic notariety.

Also on U.S. 84 is the quaint and gorgeous town of Abiquiu, N.M., 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 dead end at the Benedictine Monastery of Christ in the Desert. Built by famed Japanese architect George



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SERVICE







RENTALS

SALES

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, N.M., 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, Colorado, 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 for free and follow as they drive it. 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. 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 loudly.

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 trip to Mesa Verde National Park, which sits just hours away from Pagosa Springs and boasts spectacular cliff dwellings.

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 and bowling alley, 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.

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 Aztec Ruins National Monument.

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

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 that features the Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad.

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

Don't miss the 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 take 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 anywhere. 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.

When you return, Pagosa's famed healing waters will greet you, ready to relax your muscles after a day filled with adventure.

"Traveling - it leaves you speechless, then turns you into a storyteller." - Ibn Battuta



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Arts, Entertainment, Events



Encountering art, discovering place

Taking a stroll through town, you're likely to encounter a surprising collection of public art pieces that draw from the natural beauty and cultural heritage of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County.

It's a great way to learn more about the area and, to help get you started, the Pagosa Springs Recreation Supervisor Amanda Gadomski is here to point you in the right direction.

"We have a wide variety of public art that is available to just go see in our parks, alongside our Riverwalk, and within our public facilities, like the [Ross Aragon] Community Center and Town Hall," Gadomski said.

The town's nascent public art program, begun in 2021, is actually a broad collaboration among several area organizations, including Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board, the Pagosa Springs Arts Council and Archuleta County.

Gadomski and her colleagues hope the program draws more visitors to the area and forges a connection that may not have otherwise been made.

"Visitors are able to envision going through Pagosa and seeing this really cool art piece and place themselves there, making that connection, and that's kind of what art is in general," she said.

The permanent installations that dot both uptown and down-

town Pagosa Springs represent the work of mostly local artists, according to Gadomski, and tell the story of the region from a variety of perspectives and traditions.

Take the bronze "Weeminuche Meadows" sculpture, for example, located along the pedestrian walking path in uptown Pagosa Springs. Visitors to the sculpture will discover the story of local sheepherders who historically frequented the area.

This summer, additional aspects of the sculpture are scheduled for installation, including interpretive panels exploring the arborglyph tradition — a way-finding technique used by sheepherders — as well as life-sized bronze sheep and links to oral histories that further envisage the scene.

"This will tie our Weeminuche sculpture to the story of arborglyphs and how sheepherders spent their time in the area before Pagosa was really developed," Gadomski said, "So, it ties a little bit more of that culture all together."

The sheepherder piece is the newest piece in the town's public collection, and one of the few located uptown. To access the others, including vibrant mosaics and playful murals, simply take a stroll downtown and enjoy a look around.

"My favorite pieces are probably along the Riverwalk," Gadomski said. "I really enjoy the new mosaic piece that's up by 1st Street's bridge, and I like the bears (a mural) underneath the Hot



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"So, I would say just a stroll along the Riverwalk gets you access to a lot of pieces," she added. "I would say your main strip of art is there, which makes sense because that's our connection with a lot of parks and that's where a majority of the artwork has gone."

As the public art program continues to grow, Gadomski pointed to future projects and events the town has planned, including the potential return of First Friday Art Walks and open studio tours.

"I'm actually most excited about the new project coming up," she said, hinting at the town's geothermal building as the next canvas for a new mural.

The town's arts program is itself still a work in progress, Gadomski noted, "but we plan on highlighting different artists throughout the year through the public program."

To get started on your walk and access an interactive map of the pieces currently on display, as well as additional information about the artists behind them, visit www.mypagosa.org.

"Visitors are able to envision going through Pagosa and seeing this really cool art piece and place themselves there, making that connection, and that's kind of what art is in general," she said. The only commercial vineyard, winery and tasting room in the Durango/Pagosa Springs area, as part of a 910 acre livestock farm in a stunning Colorado setting.

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MAY

Event dates and information subject to change.

Check www.PagosaSUN.com for up-todate events and information.

May 15-31

Great House Tour Chimney Rock National Monument 10:30 a.m. daily (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

May 10

Walk for Moms Yamaguchi Park, 8 a.m. www.aspirepagosa.org

May 16

Stroll of the Three Sisters Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 1:15 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

May 17

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

May 19

Stroll of the Three Sisters Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 1:15 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

May 20

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

May 23

Birding at Chimney Rock Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Stroll of the Three Sisters Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 1:15 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

May 24

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Flute Music at Twilight Program Chimney Rock National Monument, 6 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

May 26

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Stroll of the Three Sisters Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 1:15 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

May 27

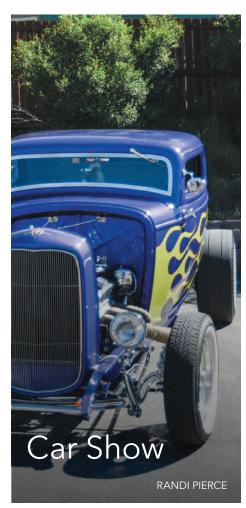
Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

May 28

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

May 30

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org



JUNE

Stroll of the Three Sisters Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 1:15 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

"Something Rotten!"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 7 p.m. Tickets: pagosacenter.org, (970) 731-SHOW (7469)

Tour of the Night Sky Program

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8:15 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

May 31

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

"Something Rotten!"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 7 p.m. Tickets: pagosacenter.org, (970) 731-SHOW (7469)

June 1-30, select dates

Great House Tour Chimney Rock National Monument 10:30 a.m. daily (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

June 2-30, select dates

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Stroll of the Three Sisters Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 1:15 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

June 3

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

June 4

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

June 5

19th Hole Concert Pagosa Springs Golf Club, 5:30-7:30 p.m. www.swcommunityfoundation.org Use our convenient backyard entrance off the Lewis Street alley during the U.S. 160 construction

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Local event calendar 2025

Pagosa Night Rodeo

Western Heritage Event Center Rodeo Grounds, 6:30 p.m., rain or shine (719) 588-9799 www.burrisandsonsbuckingbulls.com

June 6

Birding at Chimney Rock Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco. org

"Something Rotten!" Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 7 p.m. Tickets: pagosacenter.org, (970) 731-SHOW (7469)

June 7

Life at Chimney Rock (fee free) Chimney Rock National Monument, 10 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

"Something Rotten!"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 7 p.m. Tickets: pagosacenter.org, (970) 731-SHOW (7469)

June 8

Life at Chimney Rock (fee free) Chimney Rock National Monument, 10 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

June 10

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Full Moon Program Chimney Rock National Monument, TBD (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

June 11

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

June 12

19th Hole Concert Pagosa Springs Golf Club, 5:30-7:30 p.m. www.swcommunityfoundation.org

Pagosa Night Rodeo

Western Heritage Event Center Rodeo Grounds, 6:30 p.m., rain or shine (719) 588-9799 www.burrisandsonsbuckingbulls.com

June 13

Pagosa Springs Car Show: Street Party South 5th Street, 5 p.m. www.pagosachamber.com

"The WIId Party"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 7 p.m. Tickets: pagosacenter.org, (970) 731-SHOW (7469)

June 14

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Pagosa Springs Car Show: Show and Shine

South 5th Street, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. www.pagosachamber.com

"The WIId Party"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 7 p.m. Tickets: pagosacenter.org, (970) 731-SHOW (7469)

June 17

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

June 18

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

June 19

Juneteenth (fee free) Chimney Rock National Monument 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

19th Hole Concert Pagosa Springs Golf Club, 5:30-7:30 p.m. www.swcommunityfoundation.org

Pagosa Night Rodeo

Western Heritage Event Center Rodeo Grounds, 6:30 p.m., rain or shine (719) 588-9799 www.burrisandsonsbuckingbulls.com

June 20

Summer Solstice Sunrise Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 4:30 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Pagosa Springs ComFest

Concert series in the park Yamaguchi Park, 5:30-8:30 p.m. www.pagosasprings.co.gov

"The WIId Party"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 7 p.m. Tickets: pagosacenter.org, (970) 731-SHOW (7469) **Tour of the Night Sky Program** Chimney Rock National Monument, 8:15 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

June 21

Birding at Chimney Rock Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Flute Music at Twilight Program Chimney Rock National Monument, 6 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

"Something Rotten!"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 7 p.m. Tickets: pagosacenter.org, (970) 731-SHOW (7469)

June 24

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

June 25

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

June 26

19th Hole Concert Pagosa Springs Golf Club, 5:30-7:30 p.m. www.swcommunityfoundation.org

Pagosa Night Rodeo

Western Heritage Event Center Rodeo Grounds, 6:30 p.m., rain or shine (719) 588-9799 www.burrisandsonsbuckingbulls.com

"Matilda" Pagosa Springs High School, 7 p.m. www.curtainsuppagosa.org

June 27

"Matilda"

Pagosa Springs High School, 7 p.m. www.curtainsuppagosa.org

"A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 7 p.m. Tickets: pagosacenter.org, (970) 731-SHOW (7469)

Tour of the Night Sky Program

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8:15 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

June 28

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

"Matilda"

Pagosa Springs High School, 7 p.m. www.curtainsuppagosa.org

"A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 7 p.m. Tickets: pagosacenter.org, (970) 731-SHOW (7469)

June 29

"Matilda" Pagosa Springs High School, 2 p.m. www.curtainsuppagosa.org

JULY

July 1-30

Great House Tour Chimney Rock National Monument 10:30 a.m. daily (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

July 1-31, select dates

"The Wild Party" Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts Tickets: pagosacenter.org, (970) 731-SHOW (7469)

July 2-26, select dates

"Something Rotten!" Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts Tickets: pagosacenter.org, (970) 731-SHOW (7469)

July 5-30, select dates

"A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder" Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts Tickets: pagosacenter.org, (970) 731-SHOW (7469)

July 1

Geology Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

July 2

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

July 4

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Park to Park Artisan Market Town Parks, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. www.pagosachamber.com

Stroll of the Three Sisters Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 1:15 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

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

Fireworks Downtown, dusk

July 5

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

July 7

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Stroll of the Three Sisters Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 1:15 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

July 8

Geology Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

July 9

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

July 10

Pagosa Night Rodeo Western Heritage Event Center Rodeo Grounds, 6:30 p.m., rain or shine (719) 588-9799 www.burrisandsonsbuckingbulls.com



Full Moon Program

Chimney Rock National Monument, TBD (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

July 11

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Stroll of the Three Sisters Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 1:15 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

July 12

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

"Roald Dahl's James and the Giant Peach Jr." Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m. Tickets: pagosacenter.org, (970) 731-SHOW (7469)

July 13

"Roald Dahl's James and the Giant Peach Jr." Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m. Tickets: pagosacenter.org, (970) 731-SHOW (7469)

July 14

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Stroll of the Three Sisters Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 1:15 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

July 15

Geology Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

July 16

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

July 17

Pagosa Night Rodeo Western Heritage Event Center Rodeo Grounds, 6:30 p.m., rain or shine (719) 588-9799 www.burrisandsonsbuckingbulls.com

July 18

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Stroll of the Three Sisters Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 1:15 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Pagosa Springs ComFest

Concert series in the park Yamaguchi Park, 5:30-8:30 p.m. www.pagosasprings.co.gov **Tour of the Night Sky Program** Chimney Rock National Monument, 8:15 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

July 19

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Flute Music at Twilight Program

Chimney Rock National Monument, 6 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org



July 21

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Stroll of the Three Sisters Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 1:15 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

July 23

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

July 24

Pagosa Night Rodeo Western Heritage Event Center Rodeo Grounds, 6:30 p.m., rain or shine (719) 588-9799 www.burrisandsonsbuckingbulls.com

July 25

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Stroll of the Three Sisters Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 1:15 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Barn Bash www.aspirepagosa.org

Tour of the Night Sky Program Chimney Rock National Monument, 8:15 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

July 26

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

July 28

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Stroll of the Three Sisters Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 1:15 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

July 29 Geology Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Broadway Gala

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 6 p.m. Tickets: pagosacenter.org, (970) 731-SHOW (7469)

July 30

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

July 31

Archuleta County Fair

Archuleta County Fairgrounds, 344 U.S. 84 www.archuletacountyfair.com

AUGUST

Aug. 1-30

Great House Tour Chimney Rock National Monument 10:30 a.m. daily (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Aug. 1-29, select dates

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Stroll of the Three Sisters Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 1:15 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Aug. 1-30, select dates

"Something Rotten!" Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts Tickets: pagosacenter.org, (970) 731-SHOW (7469)

Aug. 3-29, select dates

"A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder" Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts Tickets: pagosacenter.org, (970) 731-SHOW (7469)

Aug. 7-24, select dates

"The WIId Party" Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts Tickets: pagosacenter.org, (970) 731-SHOW (7469)

Aug. 1

Archuleta County Fair Archuleta County Fairgrounds, 344 U.S. 84 www.archuletacountyfair.com

Local event calendar 2025

Aug. 2

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Archuleta County Fair

Archuleta County Fairgrounds, 344 U.S. 84 www.archuletacountyfair.com

Aug. 3

Archuleta County Fair Archuleta County Fairgrounds, 344 U.S. 84 www.archuletacountyfair.com

Aug. 4

Great American Outdoors Act Signing Day (fee free) Chimney Rock National Monument 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Aug. 5

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Aug. 6

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Aug. 9

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Birding at Chimney Rock Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Full Moon Program

Chimney Rock National Monument, TBD (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Aug. 11

Perseids Meteor Shower

Chimney Rock National Monument, 7 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Aug. 12

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Perseids Meteor Shower

Chimney Rock National Monument, 7 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Aug. 13 A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock

Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Aug. 15

Pagosa Springs ComFest Concert series in the park Yamaguchi Park, 5:30-8:30 p.m. www.pagosasprings.co.gov

Aug. 16

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Aug. 19

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org



Aug. 20

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Aug. 22

Birding at Chimney Rock Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Pagosa Springs Area Art Studio Tour 10 a.m.-5 p.m. www.studiotourpagosa.com

Aug. 23

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Pagosa Springs Area Art Studio Tour 10 a.m.-5 p.m. www.studiotourpagosa.com

Grilling and Distilling

Archuleta County Fairgrounds Tickets: www.pagosachamber.org

Flute Music at Twilight Program

Chimney Rock National Monument, 6 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Aug. 24

Pagosa Springs Area Art Studio Tour 10 a.m.-5 p.m. www.studiotourpagosa.com

Aug. 26

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Aug. 27

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Aug. 30

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Tour of the Night Sky Program

Chimney Rock National Monument, 7:15 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Local event calendar 2025

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 1-30

Great House Tour Chimney Rock National Monument 10:30 a.m. daily (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Sept. 1-29, select dates

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Stroll of the Three Sisters Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 1:15 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Sept. 2

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Sept. 3

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Sept. 6

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Sept. 7

Full Moon Program Chimney Rock National Monument, TBD (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Sept. 9

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Sept. 10

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Sept. 13

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org



Sept. 16

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Sept. 17

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Sept. 19

Tour of the Night Sky Program Chimney Rock National Monument, 7:15 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Passport to Pagosa Wine and Food Festival Town Park Athletic Field www.pagosachamber.com

Sept. 20

Aspen House Color Run Yamaguchi Park www.aspenhousepagosa.org

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Birding at Chimney Rock Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Hot Air Balloon Mass Ascension Downtown, 8 a.m. www.pagosachamber.com

Bands and Brews Festival Town Park Athletic Field www.pagosachamber.com

Sept. 21

Hot Air Balloon Mass Ascension West side of Pagosa Springs, 8 a.m. www.pagosachamber.com

Sept. 22

Autumnal Equinox Sunrise Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Sept. 23

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Local event calendar 2025

Sept. 24

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Sept. 27

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

National Public Lands Day (fee free) Chimney Rock National Monument 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Mountain Chile Cha Cha Yamaguchi Park www.ilovegreenchile.com

Flute Music at Twilight Program Chimney Rock National Monument, 6 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Sept. 30

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

OCTOBER

Oct. 1-15 Great House Tour Chimney Rock National Monument 10:30 a.m. daily (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Oct. 1

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Oct. 3

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Stroll of the Three Sisters Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 1:15 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Oct. 4

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Oct. 6

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org



Stroll of the Three Sisters Tour

Chimney Rock National Monument, 1:15 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Full Moon Program

Chimney Rock National Monument, TBD (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Oct. 8

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Oct. 10

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Stroll of the Three Sisters Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 1:15 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Oct. 11

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Oct. 13

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Stroll of the Three Sisters Tour Chimney Rock National Monument, 1:15 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Oct. 15

A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 p.m. (877) 444-6677, www.chimneyrockco.org

Scan for up-to-date local events





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.

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 2025 Broadway in the Mountains season will feature the musicals "Something Rotten!," "Andrew Lippa's The Wild Party" and "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder."

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

Curtains Up Pagosa

Pagosa Springs is home to a truly exceptional and one-of-a-kind community theater group, Curtains Up Pagosa (CUP), which was founded in 1989. The organization typically stages two productions each THINGAMAJIG THEATRE COMPANY

year.

Each performance features a cast selected through auditions, along with a live pit orchestra made up of talented local and professional musicians.

This summer, CUP will present "Matilda," about a precocious 5-year-old girl with the gift of telekinesis who loves reading, overcomes obstacles caused by her family and school, and helps her teacher to reclaim her life.

As a nonprofit, CUP organizes musicals, concerts, and various events throughout the year.

The organization's mission goes beyond providing entertainment to both residents and visitors; it also actively supports local public schools by funding arts programs. This support is reflected in its diverse productions, which include performers of all ages — from the young to the young at heart — and through scholarships awarded to students pursuing performing arts studies after high school.

For more details about the upcoming show and ticket information, check out The PREVIEW section of The Pagosa Springs SUN newspaper. To learn more about the organization, visit 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, which showcases the progression of talent in our local musicians.

Get your groove on

A quick glance at events and live music listed in The PREVIEW (published each week in The Pagosa Springs SUN newspaper) will show that the local music scene offers a variety to suit your taste for an evening out.

This summer, CUP will present "Matilda," about a precocious 5-yearold girl with the gift of telekinesis who loves reading, overcomes obstacles caused by her family and school, and helps her teacher to reclaim her life.



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, 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 pictureperfect 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.

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.

Marriage licenses

Marriage licenses can be obtained at the Archuleta County Clerk and Recorder's Office, located at 449 San Juan St. (on the main street in downtown Pagosa Springs).

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

Celebrating America

MICHAEL PIERCE

» July 3-6

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. As Archuleta County celebrates its 145th anniversary of incorporation, there may be some added activities throughout the weekend or some special themes highlighted. Following is a description of some of the traditional activities that will be taking place.

The annual Park to Park Artisan Market will kick into gear for a four-day show beginning July 3. It will run until July 6. There will be more than 80 vendors in multiple parks located at the festival in downtown Pagosa. 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 July 6, when the market will close at 4 p.m. While downtown, don't miss out on the unique local shops.

The Fourth of July fireworks will be held the night of 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 75th annual Red Ryder Roundup Rodeo, a legendary

Fourth of July festivity, will be held three consecutive days starting July 3 and running through July 5. The rough-and-tumble rodeo, with regional cowboys and cowgirls and all western rodeo events, will have its first performance July 3 at 6 p.m. On July 4 the rodeo will take place at 2 p.m. and on July 5 the rodeo is back to an evening performance at 6 p.m. 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 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, parking availability, 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. Check The Pagosa Springs SUN or www.PagosaSUN.com for additional festive events.



Pagosa Springs Car Show

CLAYTON CHANEY

» June 13-14

The 2025 Pagosa Springs Car Show will be held June 13 and 14. 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.

The event will take place at Yamaguchi Park on South 5th Street, offering a comfortable, cool place for people to explore, activities for the kids to enjoy and plenty of space to park and see the show.

Festivities will begin at 5 p.m. on June 13 on South 5th Street with the Street Party, which includes car check-in and registration,

Archuleta County Fair

» July 31-Aug. 3

A longtime tradition, the 74th annual Archuleta County Fair will take place July 31 through Aug. 3, and 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.

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

The Horseshoe Tournament and Ranch Rodeo will keep fair goers busy on Saturday. After working up an appetite, head to the 4-H Chuck Wagon Dinner and then to the Livestock Tent.

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 food vendors, a beverage garden and great live music. Even if you don't have a car in the show, you won't want to miss the free live concert.

On June 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the vehicles will return to Yamaguchi Park 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 car-related demonstrations, food, a beverage garden and vendors will be on hand. A fun part of the day is the classic "Pin Up Girl" contest with a "fashion show" and awards. The car awards will be issued at the end of the day.

For information or to register, visit www.pagosachamber.com.

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 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.

A petting farm for kids to enjoy will also be available each day. 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.

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

The full schedule of events will be published prior to the fair in The Pagosa Springs SUN.

For more information, visit www.archuletacountyfair.com. Questions may be emailed to archuletacountyfair@gmail.com. www.archuletacountyfair.com | (970) 264-5931



Grilling and Distilling

» Aug. 23

What is summer without a great outdoor BBQ? Some grillers started out as backyard barbecuers and developed into commercial entities. Other grillers just like to show off their grilling style and share their BBQing passion. Whether you are a commercial entity or the backyard griller, the new Grilling and Distilling event is one you might want to participate in. Pagosa will turn the Archuleta County Fairgrounds into one great big backyard fit for a BBQ cookoff. There will be awards for commercial entries as well as backyard grillers. You can enjoy the meats, sauces and sides, which will all be judged.

And besides bacon, what goes better with BBQ than a





This unique, free, self-guided tour allows local artists to showcase their talents and invites the public into the creative spaces where their art comes to life in our community. event dates AUG 22, 23, 24



smooth shot of whiskey? Colorado is fast becoming a state that is producing some great-tasting, small-batch distilled spirits, and this event is meant to highlight some of Colorado's up-andcoming, award-winning distilleries with a tasting component.

Add in live music featuring multiple performers and you have a crazy good afternoon of song, spirits and searing meats. Whether you're a purist of the BBQ flavor or a sauce fanatic, you can find it all at this event.

Tickets will be available for tasting just the BBQ or inclusive of the whiskey samples. Other beverages (alcoholic and nonalcoholic) will be available along with other food vendors. This new event is perfect if you want to participate or spectate, but either way, make way for some great grilling and distilling. For more information or tickets, visit www.pagosachamber.com.

Pagosa Springs Area Art Studio Tour

» Aug. 22-24

The Pagosa Springs Arts Council is excited to announce the third annual Pagosa Springs Area Art Studio Tour. From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 22-24, local artists will open their working studios for three days only. Find out more about the studios on tour at https://www.studiotourpagosa.com.



» Sept. 19-21

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 Sept. 19, 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 the afternoon of Sept. 20 highlights some of the best breweries in Southwest Colorado, 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 the morning of Sept. 20. 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.

You will enjoy the magic of the hot air balloons as they as-

cend around 8 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday mornings. A mass ascension on Sept. 20 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 Sept. 21 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 information at www.Pagosachamber.com.

Balloon pilots interested in flying can download the pilot application at www.pagosachamber.com/colorfest/.

Mountain Chile Cha Cha

» Sept. 27

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 at Yamaguchi Park 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 and a Salsa tasting. 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.



PAGOSA Adventure



Year Round Balloon Rides Spring/Summer Raft Trips Summer Tube Rentals







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Di



Pagosa Springs History Museum

For more than four decades, the Pagosa Springs History Museum has offered visitors and locals alike a glimpse back into the history of Pagosa Country, at the same time preserving history and displaying precious artifacts from the past.

The museum, which is overseen by the nonprofit San Juan Historical Society, hosts a one-of-a-kind collection depicting early life and industry in the area. The majority of the items on display were found, used or produced in the area, including metal art; a gem and mineral collection; taxidermied bear, mountain lion and deer; and fossils of the extinct mosasaur, an aquatic reptile, that was discovered in Archuleta County.

A few of the exhibits available to view at the museum include logging and railroad, a plethora of old photographs, a general store, ranching and textiles, and household exhibits, which include a wood-fired range, clothes washers that show the evolution of doing laundry, kitchen gadgets and even a convertible table/chair made out of redwood that was crafted in Archuleta County. The museum is located a short walk from downtown Pagosa Springs at 96 Pagosa Street (the corner of U.S. 160 and 1st Street). It is partially housed in the old waterworks building constructed by the WPA in 1938.

While visiting the museum, guests are encouraged to browse the gift shop, where historical society members provide carefully selected items, which may be of particular interest to visitors of Pagosa Country. Also available are handmade items from local crafters, making the perfect memento or gifts for friends back home.

The society has also compiled and published a 13-volume book series, "Remembrances," celebrating the people, places and history of Pagosa Springs and surrounding area.

The museum opens for the season in May.

Donations are accepted to offset the operating expenses. The museum relies on private funding and grants to operate and all donations are greatly appreciated.

For updates or more information, visit www.pagosamuseum.org.









Explore Pagosa Springs' unique story

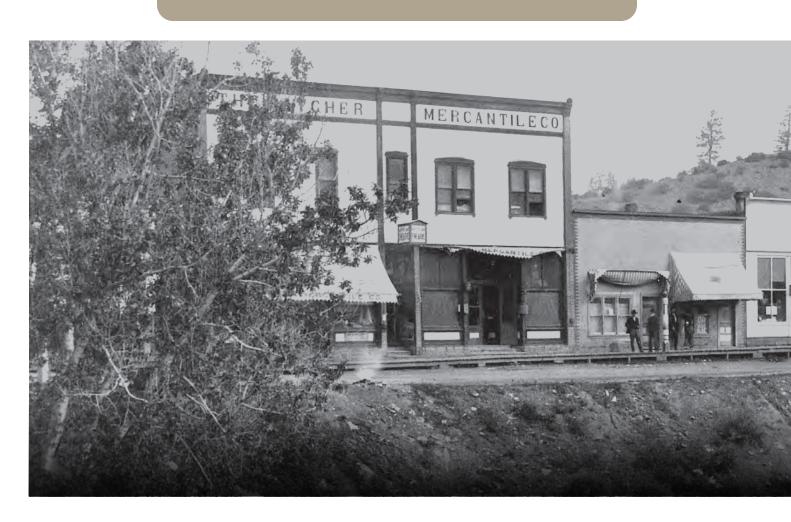
Open Summer Season

96 Pagosa Street corner of U.S. 160 and 1st Street



pagosamuseum.org





Archuleta County'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.

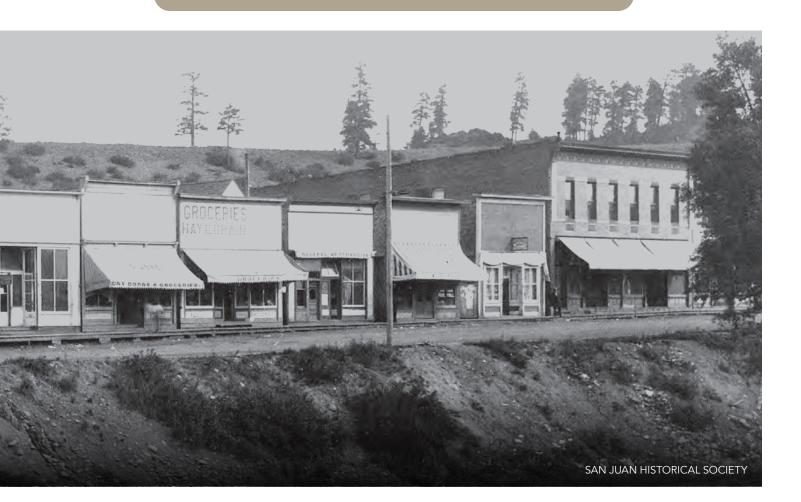
Hispanics wandered into Nuevo Mexico in the 16th century, hoping to fill their packs with gold. Even though they didn't uncover fabulous golden riches, they stayed and, in order to survive, traded with the Native Americans. As a result, a trading party led by Juan Maria Rivera visited Pagosa Country 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 fourlegged 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.

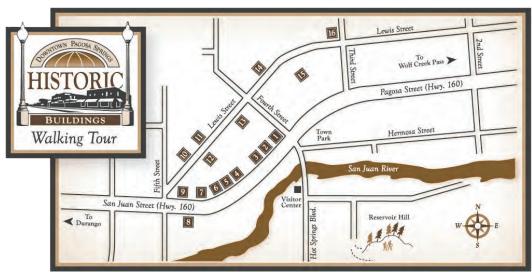
Along about 1970, a number of land developers, ears tuned

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-thebeaten-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.

Even though the Old West is gone, the Old West background of soaring mountains, strident streams and abundant wildlife continue to dominate life here.



ILLUSTRATIONS AND TOUR COURTESY TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS

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. 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 twostory 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 building 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. In 1943, a fire almost completely destroyed the building. The existing building was constructed after 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. 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 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 fifthand 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.



Family Fun

CHARLES MARTINEZ

Birdwatching in Pagosa Country

For those seeking an immersive, choose-your-own adventure through the scenic beauty of Pagosa Springs, birdwatching can be a rewarding and inexpensive experience that is fun for seasoned enthusiasts and curious newcomers alike.

Turns out, it may also be good for your relationship.

Just ask Charles Martinez, who found his way to birdwatching one day in 2017 when his partner, Jean, a member of the Weminuche Audubon Society since 2007, invited him along one of her treks.

Having just read a magazine article encouraging couples to find an activity both partners could do together, Martinez accepted.

"But I had not a clue of what the heck I was really doing," he recalled.

After walking for a few miles across the gently sloping hills of Navajo State Park, Martinez recalled Jean asking, "Well, what do you think?"

"To be honest with you," he remembers answering, with a slight chuckle, "I think it's pretty boring."

Looking out the window on the drive home, though, a flitter of color caught his eye. A mysterious, beautiful bird had alighted on a signpost.

"And then my mind goes, 'click.' If I had a camera, I could have taken a picture of it, went home, looked at a book and ID'd the bird," Martinez said of the moment.

A few days later, he did just that — "and I got hooked." In the eight years since, Martinez has become a prominent local advocate for birds and birdwatching, helping Cornell University scientists compile regional biodiversity data as well as volunteering in area classrooms.

To hear Martinez describe it, any day is a good day to be a birdwatcher, whether you're out on the trail or observing a feeder from your porch.

"You're getting fresh air, you're being part of your surroundings and nature," he said. "The Native American side of me, well, that's my life, is being part of what the Creator created. You're being part of this."

Local habitats, unique opportunities

The unique geography of Pagosa Country, with its combination of mountains, rivers and meadows, provides an ideal habitat for a rich variety of birds.

Venture into any area and you're likely to encounter everything from elusive high-elevation species to migratory birds that pass through each year.

"We have a little bit of everything," Martinez said. "We can go down south of Pagosa and have that mountain desert area. We can go there by the Riverwalk, where we have the wetland area. You can start at a relatively low elevation and go up really high."

In the summer months, hummingbirds are a particular highlight, Martinez noted, with up to four species visiting the area.

This year, he added, be on the lookout for rare California spe-

cies that may have drifted east after being displaced by winter fires.

"The exciting thing for me is ... finding rare birds that are migrating through or got lost," Martinez said. "How did they end up over here? They'll stay for quite a while and then all of a sudden they're gone. The path that they're traveling is just interesting."

Tips for new birdwatchers

While binoculars are among the mainstays in his birding kit, patience tops Martinez's list of essential tips for the beginner birdwatcher, along with an appreciation of the surrounding environment.

Keeping those in mind, regardless of how many birds you spot, a rich experience awaits so long as you're willing to look.

"There are some birdwatchers that are out there for sometimes just numbers," he said. "But what were you actually enjoying? We'll take a mile and spend three hours. Not only are we stopping to look at birds, but we're stopping looking at rocks, we're looking at flowers, we're just looking at everything."

And although the old saying, "The early bird gets the worm," can be true, Martinez doesn't discourage those never-early risers from heading outside and having a look around.

"Sometimes we'll bird in the morning, we'll bird in the evening," he said. "The birds are more active during the morning because they are feeding ... but basically I believe you could birdwatch all day."

Martinez also advises new birdwatchers against wearing white (birds can spot it from farther away) and, if possible, covering your hands to avoid scaring away a potential find.

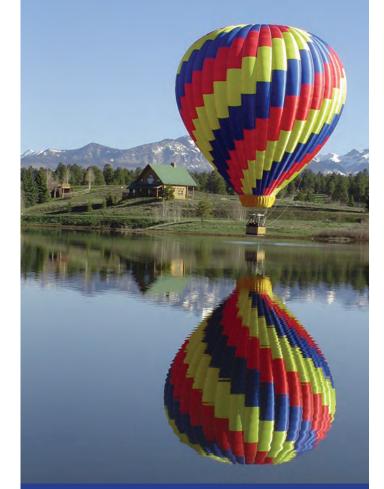
Birds can also be frightened by moving vehicles, making birdwatching by car "kind of tricky," said Martinez, who learned the lesson when, after three years of searching for a particular wren, finally spotted the elusive species while driving home one day.

"I got out of the car and, sure enough, the bird took off. I got out and I just waited — that's where the patience comes in — I just waited, and waited, and waited and watched. And that bird pops back up." he recalled. "To me, that was exciting. Every time it's just very exciting."

For more local birdwatching resources and tips, visit www. weminucheaudubon.org.

BALLOON RIDES

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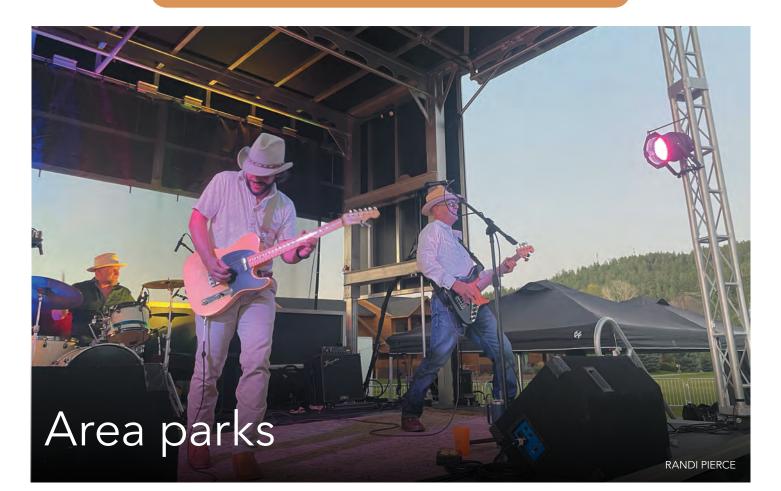
Birding

Southwest Colorado is home to a wide variety of birds, with some calling the area home year-round, some calling the area home during the warmer months and some using it as a resting spot on their migrations. Birdwatching in Pagosa Springs is easy and can be done from anywhere. A few areas touted by Audubon for birding include the San Juan Riverwalk, Echo Canyon Reservoir, Lake Capote and Chimney Rock National Monument. See pages 90-91 for some birds to watch for. These birds are highlighted by local members of the Weminuche Audubon Society and Audubon Rockies. Break the Earthly bonds of gravity with the oldest, most experienced balloon company in Pagosa Springs.

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The parks of Pagosa Springs run the gamut from the wild and natural pine forest on Reservoir Hill to the manicured fields of Yamaguchi Park. The town's parks are open from dawn to dusk.

While all the parks have parking areas, many also tie into the San Juan Riverwalk that runs in the downtown area.

Reservoir Hill

Reservoir Hill features hiking and biking trails, open space, a gazebo, 18-hole disc golf course with regular and alternative tee boxes, overlook views and restrooms.

The parking area is located on Park Street.

Centennial Park

Centennial Park runs along the Riverwalk and features picnic areas, the Geothermal Greenhouse Project growing domes, a native plants garden, amphitheater and restrooms.

The parking area is located off of South 5th Street.

Town Park

Town Park features a pirate ship-themed playground (in honor of the local schools being the Pirates), climbing boulders, a wind harp, picnic tables, barbecue grills and a white-water feature in the adjacent river. Across the street is a public athletic field.

The park is located on Hermosa Street.

Yamaguchi Park/ Yamaguchi Park South

Yamaguchi Park and its extension — Yamaguchi Park South



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465 Cloman Blvd., Pagosa Springs

— feature a skate park with fullsized bowl and plaza elements, athletic fields, basketball court, playground areas, a kayak/raft launching facility and two whitewater features, bocce ball court, pickleball courts, a fenced dog park, a labyrinth, restrooms and more. New outdoor exercise equipment and outdoor cornhole sets will open in the summer of 2025, and work is underway on a future bike park.

The Park is located on South 5th Street.

Mary Fisher Park

Mary Fisher Park features 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, and restrooms.

The Park is located on San Juan Street.

River Center Park

River Center Park features two small fishing ponds with a handicap-accessible pier, access to the river for launching rafts and kayaks and a playground climbing structure for kids.

The park is located along the river off of East Pagosa Street.

South Pagosa Park

South Pagosa Park features picnic tables, barbecue grills, a picnic shelter, horseshoe pits, a playground, sand volleyball courts, a field, restrooms and more.

The park is located on South 8th Street.

Cotton Hole Park

Cotton Hole Park allows for access to the San Juan River for tubing and kayaking in a natural setting.

The park is located at the end of Hermosa Street.

Cloman Park

Cloman Park features an 18-hole disc golf course, hiking and biking trails, open space and more.

The park is located on Cloman Boulevard.

"My perfect weekend is going for a walk with my family in the park. I don't think there's anything better." – Anne Wojcicki

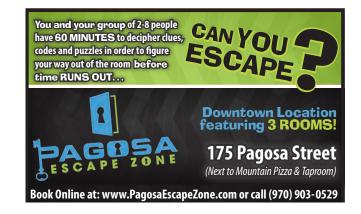


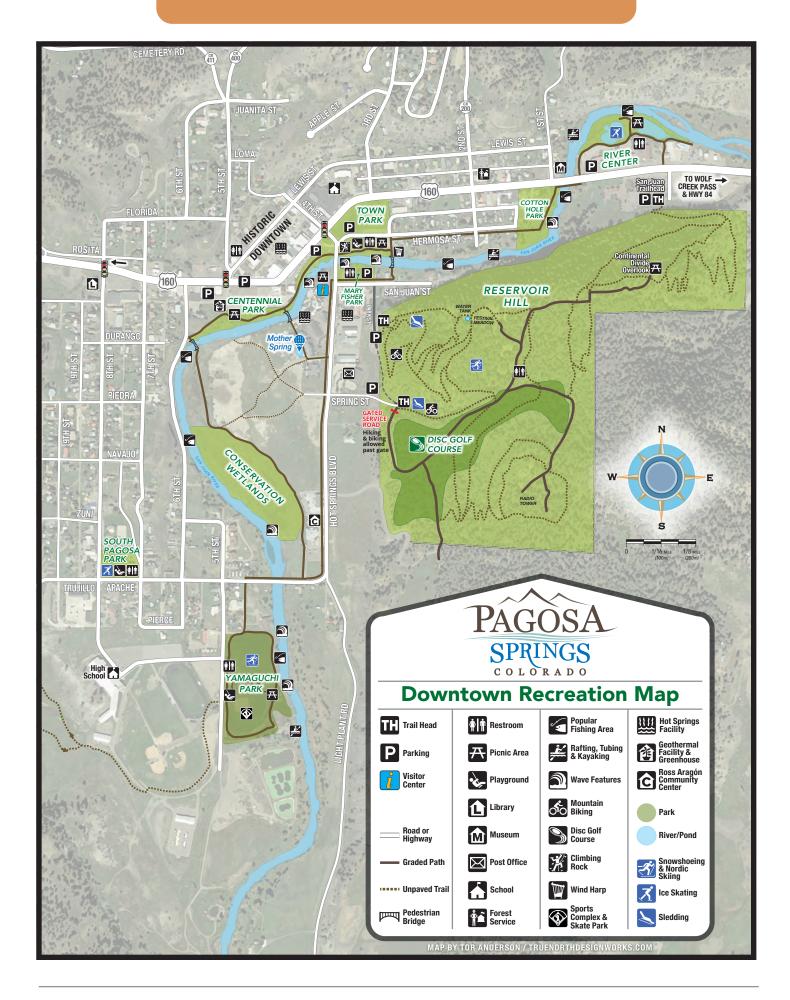
Veterans Memorial Park

Veterans Memorial Park, developed by a local nonprofit, features multiple memorials honoring past, present and future service members, as well as a walking trail and picnic areas. The Park is located on Vista Boulevard.

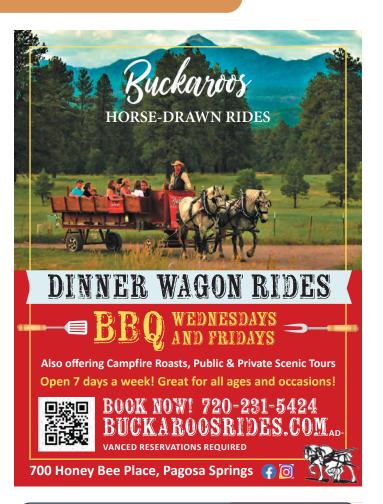
San Juan Riverwalk

Downtown Pagosa Springs also features the San Juan Riverwalk, with the trail meandering along the river, through parks and through the downtown wetlands area from River Center Park to Yamaguchi Park.











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Stargazing

Pagosa Country, nestled in the mountains and away from the hustle, bustle and city lights, is a wonderful place to take the wonders of the night sky. The area strives to be dark-sky friendly, meaning you can take in the stars and planets from almost anywhere. In addition, multiple local astronomy groups help make the night sky more accessible through special programs and educational opportunities.



Doors Open 5:00 pm Early Bird 5:45 pm Regular Bingo 6:00 pm Pope John Paul II Catholic Church 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. Pagosa Springs, CO

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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, isn't just for locals.

The library also welcomes visitors and offers a number of things even those who are only in the community a short time can take advantage of, among them visitor library cards, numerous free events for all ages, public computers, and more.

It also features a section dedicated to books about the area. The library is named for Ruby Murel Cales Sisson — an educator, philanthropist and rancher who, through her will, donated the trust funds to the library and Methodist Church.

Sisson taught school locally from 1929-1978, with the exception of one year during World War II. From 1936-1948 she alternated between teaching at the Blanco Basin school, a one-room schoolhouse where she taught all eight grades, and Pagosa Springs High School, where she taught math. The first school in Blanco Basin was held in a chicken coop at the Sisson ranch in 1905.

Sisson's trust funds helped build the current public library in Pagosa Springs, and also provided for high school scholarships.

The collections for that first library came from an attorney, Frank Spickard, who made his persnal library available to the members of a young ladies' literary club, and a weathly benefactor in New York whose estate donated 48 books. The library opened in February of 1907 in the basement of the Methodist Church.

Initially volunteers ran the library, with the and in February of 1910, the Pagosa Springs Civic Club taking over operations in February of 1910, when the collection numbered 202 books. Between 1910 and 1960, the library resided in a church, a log cabin and the old town hall.

In 1960, the library moved into two small rooms in the new town hall that had been built at the corner of U.S. 160 and Lewis Street (now the location of Bell Tower Park). When Archuleta County took over the library in 1966, it became possible to hire a full-time librarian. The Upper San Juan Library District was formed in 1985 to give the library a stable funding base.

The library opened in its current location at U.S. 160 and 8th Street in February of 1989 after the Pagosa Springs Women's Civic Club and the Friends of the Library raised in excess of \$700,000 for a permanent building.

For more about the library, visit www.pagosalibrary.org.

Pickleball

Pickleball is one of the fastest-growing sports in the country, and Pagosa Springs is at the forefront of the trend. Yamaguchi Park South on South 5th Street features eight pickleball courts, and there are often indoor pickleball events locals and visitors alike can partake in at the Ross Aragon Community Center. The local pickleball club numbers in the hundreds and offers organized play and lessons.

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 snowing, you'll 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 should go soak.

While the mother springs is too hot for soaking, multiple downtown locations offer either indoor or outdoor pools (or both) and temperatures varying between hot and very hot, giving soakers more than enough choices of where to relax and stretch out those sore muscles.

Choices for relaxation

From rustic to luxurious, the Pagosa area offers multiple ways to enjoy one of our most famous resources — the healing water.

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.

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.

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 is down home, western and friendly.

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 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. 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 is 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 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.

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.







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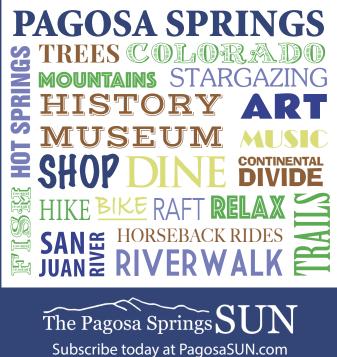


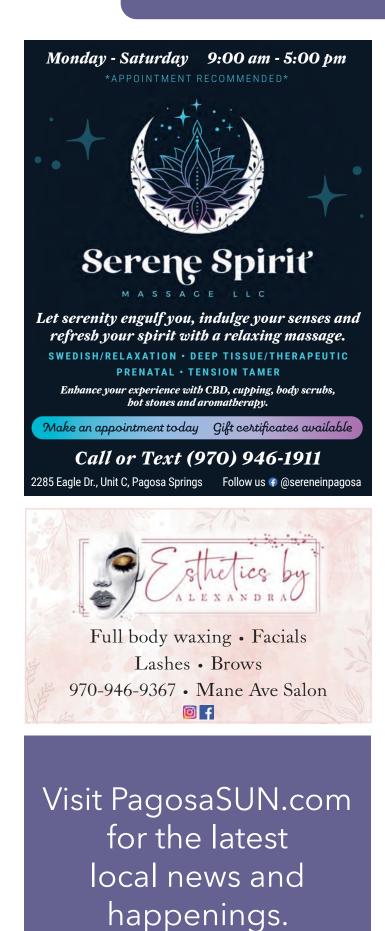
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Rest Your Head



Plugging into nature with The Springs Resort and Spa

The hot waters around Pagosa County have been drawing people to the area for centuries now, providing a healing oasis in the beautiful yet rugged San Juan Mountains.

From humble beginnings as merely a hole dug on the banks of the San Juan River built out with old railroad ties to a modernday resort offering numerous wellness programs, the healing properties of the mineral rich geothermal waters have stayed the same, providing people a place to rejuvenate and connect to the world around them.

Reasons for visiting the hot springs may vary from person to person. Whether you're looking for a fun time with friends or need space for some solo decompressing, there's room for each adventure at The Springs Resort and Spa.

The recent expansion doubles the size of the resort while introducing some new unique features, like a grotto-style tub that mimics a vapor cave, a new sauna with a salt diffuser treatment promoting respiratory health and a reflexology walk that helps guests become grounded by activating thousands of nerves on the bottom of their feet.

With a new \$70 million expansion opening this May, the resort now offers nearly 50 geothermal soaking pools, more than 150 lodging rooms, countless wellness activities and a brand new restaurant that sources local food — The Wild Finch.

While day visitors and hotel guests have access to the new

restaurant, it is also open to the public for those looking for "globally inspired and regionally infused food," Vice President of Marketing Jesse Hensle said, noting some highly anticipated dishes include a chicken-fried elk plate and a local mushroom risotto.

On top of serving locally sourced meals, the restaurant is situated on the property that opens up to a beautiful outdoor space that will feature live music, markets, and other events for guests to enjoy and immerse themselves in.

Hensle also explained the expansion was designed with wellness features intentionally integrated into the property by offering private pools designed for specific aqua therapy treatments and water runoff canals that spread throughout the property, creating a peaceful atmosphere that drowns out noise from the town.

In addition, guests have access to the river for a traditional cold plunge, or they can use the new "contrast bathing" feature, where guests can walk under and sit behind a waterfall that has half cold river water and half hot geothermal water. Guests will also have access to a natural cold pool in the expansion where the temperature is dependent on the temperature of the river.

The expansion also includes a new adults-only area, offering a quiet space with more intimate soaking pools as you move farther down the property along the San Juan River.



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With plenty of activity opportunities and a variety of soaking pools to choose from, guests will also find a plethora of lodging options sure to accommodate any party, including rooms that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The expansion offers traditional king-bed-style rooms, mutliroom suites with vaulted ceilings and even a couple presidential-style suites with outdoor balcony seating areas or corner windows with nearly panoramic views of the mountain ranges to the north that are perfectly situated to soak up every second of the alpenglow sunsets.

A new banquet room, with balcony access, big enough to accommodate up to 75 persons is available for companies and organizations to rent out, as well.

Hensle explained that the resort's staff is composed of dedicated wellness instructors who make it their mission to help people heal and unwind by simply inviting them to take their time at the hot springs to slow down in an increasingly fastpaced society.

"Our instructors are ... so good at slowing down; that's their passion," Hensle said.

Wellness starts to happen naturally once you enter the springs, he explained.

Whether you're looking for a fun time with friends or need space for some solo decompressing, there's room for each adventure at The Springs Resort and Spa. "It's really just plugging people into this situation," he says, highlighting people develop a connection to their natural environment, and others, through these hot springs. "These connections happen once you get in that water."

The resort's dedication to the wellness of its guests doesn't stop once the sun goes down either, as it places a big focus on quality rest and sleep for all overnight guests.

"Sleep is a major portion of what we deliver to our guests," Hensle said.

Each room comes stocked with a sleep tray that contains information from the resort's medical director on how to use the water for rest, and recovery tips to ensure a good night's sleep.

No matter which adventure guests choose, The Springs boast unique opportunities to relax, slow down and plug in to nature.



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'A gathering place': Rosie's offers more than just pizza

Six years ago, Kirk and Audrey Bliss took a chance on a dream. Wearied by the pace and congestion of Denver-area living, the Blisses found themselves longing for a community reminiscent of the ones they knew growing up — somewhere to raise their young daughter where fences are a little lower and neighbors greet one another by name.

As Audrey put it, "We wanted out."

And so the search began.

When Kirk, a career chef and restaurant business operator, happened upon an ad for a small pizzeria for sale in Pagosa Springs, the couple loaded their then-2-year-old in the car and headed south.

When they arrived, they found a bustling business with delicious food and obvious local appeal.

"It was extremely busy when we came to scout out the place," Kirk recalled. "We knew that Rosie had created a great brand with tons of potential to expand because there was always a wait; there was always a crowd."

Crossing over Wolf Creek Pass on their second trip to visit the restaurant and town, Audrey encountered a not-so-subtle sign that, perhaps, the family was on to something.

"It had been raining and over the valley was two rainbows," she remembered with a laugh. "No joke. We drove through one of the rainbows, and I was like, 'Are you kidding me?'"

The family ate at Rosie's for the next four days, sampling the

menu, meeting members of the community and falling in love with both.

"The goal for us was to find a business that was viable and find a community again," Kirk said. "Community spirit, community vibe, less hustle and bustle of the city. This ended up being the perfect place."

But as often happens after passing through a rainbow, challenges arose almost immediately for the young family.

Barely three months into living their new venture, COVID-19 hit. "When we got shut down because of COVID, we were actually on a date," Audrey remembered. "It was ugly cries, and what have

we done? It was my idea to kind of move here, and I thought I had ruined our marriage and all the things."

Forced to adapt, the new owners opened an outdoor tent for car-side service. That tent, they noticed, was bigger than the restaurant's existing dining room, which sent their minds wondering.

"We were like, wow, we can do more," Kirk said. "And it continued all the way through that summer."

"Being brand new in town," Audrey recalled of the moment, "it was either people were going to love and embrace our need and want to be here ... or we were going to get shut out. And the community was phenomenal. They just showed up."

That sense of belonging continued to grow for the Blisses, perhaps never more poignantly than when locals showed up to support a staff-appreciation night hosted by the couple.

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"They just wrapped their arms around our staff to make sure that they were taken care of," Audrey said. "It was kind of then that we were like, 'OK, we are in the right place.' We really wanted a place to raise our daughter that was very community-centric, and we felt that we had found our home. It was incredible. I still get teary about it every single time."

Sensing the restaurant could expand its capacity, and with the town continuing to show its support, Kirk and Audrey leapt at an opportunity to double Rosie's size when the space next door became available nearly two years after first taking the helm.

According to Kirk, it's been full ever since.

That may be because the couple took pains to preserve what so many first loved about the place — from the colored ceiling lights to the collapsible neon straws.

"When you come in here when we're full, everyone's having a good time," Kirk beamed. "It's not serious, it's a gathering place. It's like an old-school 'Cheers,' in a pizza way. You'll see people walking around, talk to other tables, because everyone knows each other. But then the visitors fit in, too. They look around and they go, 'Wow, this is the locals' hangout,' but they don't feel like they're left out. And people love our staff."

"You would not believe how many fishing hole secrets have been given out, and places to hunt and camp and all that," Audrey added. "It's a really good place to dial in on what's happening in town."

Beyond the pizzas on Rosie's dietary-conscious menu, which includes vegan and gluten-free options, the Blisses urge you not to miss the stuffed garlic knots or the underrated wings and salads, too.

Wondering how to spend a perfect day in Pagosa Springs? The Blisses recommend an afternoon along the river, stopping by Bliss Scoops and Sweets — the couple's old-fashioned candy and ice



cream parlor downtown — and then head on up to Rosie's for a refreshing drink on the restaurant's outdoor patio, perfect for cool summer evenings.

"It's a great place just to catch your breath and respite," Audrey added. "There's so many great days."

"They just wrapped their arms around our staff to make sure that they were taken care of," Audrey said. "It was kind of then that we were like, 'OK, we are in the right place.'"





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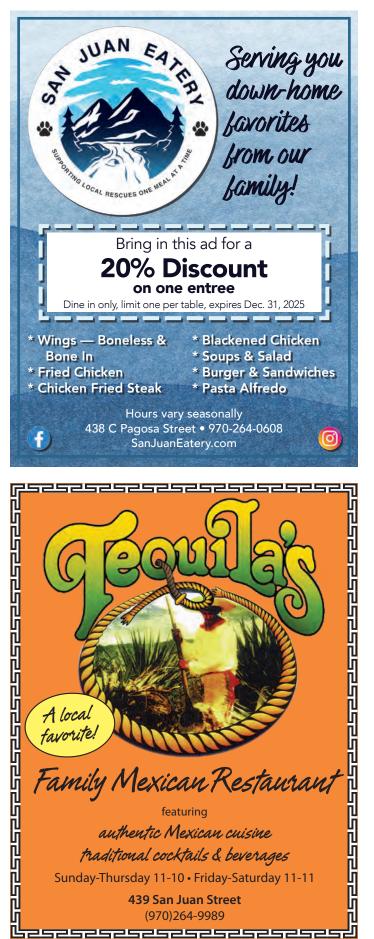
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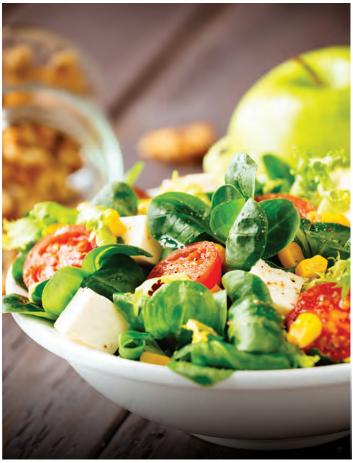
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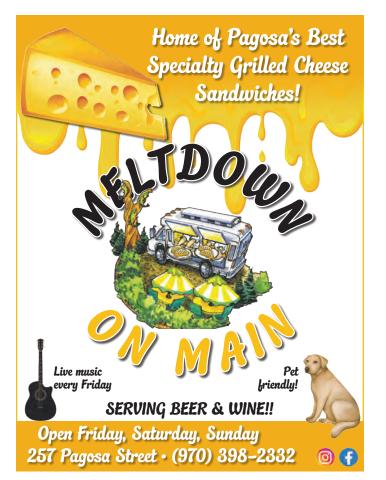
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Happy Trails: where fashion meets a friendly smile

It may be true that, in the end, it's the way you ride the trail that counts, but why not look good while doing it?

In the 33 years Maria MacNamee has owned and operated Happy Trails Ladies Boutique, she's been helping residents and visitors do just that, hand selecting every piece on display inside her downtown Pagosa Springs location.

A former computer analyst for the U.S. Marine Corps — "a great career, but not my first love" — MacNamee has slowly transformed Happy Trails from a specialty supplier of western wear into a boutique destination offering small-label fashions of heirloom guality.

"My passion, my love has always been clothes, people," MacNamee said.

Inside her boutique, MacNamee's personal touch and passion are evident everywhere, from the front-facing window displays to the latest designer coat she spotted while on a buying trip to Las Vegas fashion week.

Over the years, listening to customers wandering in, MacNamee has curated the revolving collections inside Happy Trails to reflect a refined yet sensible selection that is, above all, unique.

"Every decade there's been changes, and changes kept us growing," she reflected. "I just decided I wanted to be different. I wanted to bring unique. I wanted to bring fashion."

At first, it took some courage to be different. When just starting out in Pagosa Springs, there were few — if any — boutiques like hers, MacNamee recalled. Even today, there isn't a dry-cleaners to be found.

"I've tried to stay always servicing the customer," she explained. "What is that customer looking for?"

Since those early days, MacNamee has fostered long-lasting relationships with customers that have helped sustain Happy Trails even as retail trends and shopping habits have radically shifted.

"They've become friends," MacNamee said, smiling. "I am now selling to the next generation. And that's been such an important aspect of it.

"I will say that most of our customers, they are ladies that appreciate quality. In other words, they're not fad-oriented. We sell quality that can withstand different years, different seasons."

Offering an example, MacNamee rushed toward one of her latest prized finds: a studded leather jacket with a fox-fur collar. Reaching fondly for another item, this one a boldly embroidered tunic from New York, and it's easy to see why year after year MacNamee's customers find her enthusiasm so contagious.

Although the collections inside Happy Trails lean toward contemporary styles, there are still traces of the boutique's western roots. Pointing to one set, MacNamee calls it, "very southwest, very feminine — beautiful pieces that can be worn to a wedding, a reunion or even to work if you want to wear it with jeans."

That variety, along with the store's distinctive flare, is a point of



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pride for MacNamee, who attributes her willingness to stand-out as partly responsible for her boutique's enduring appeal.

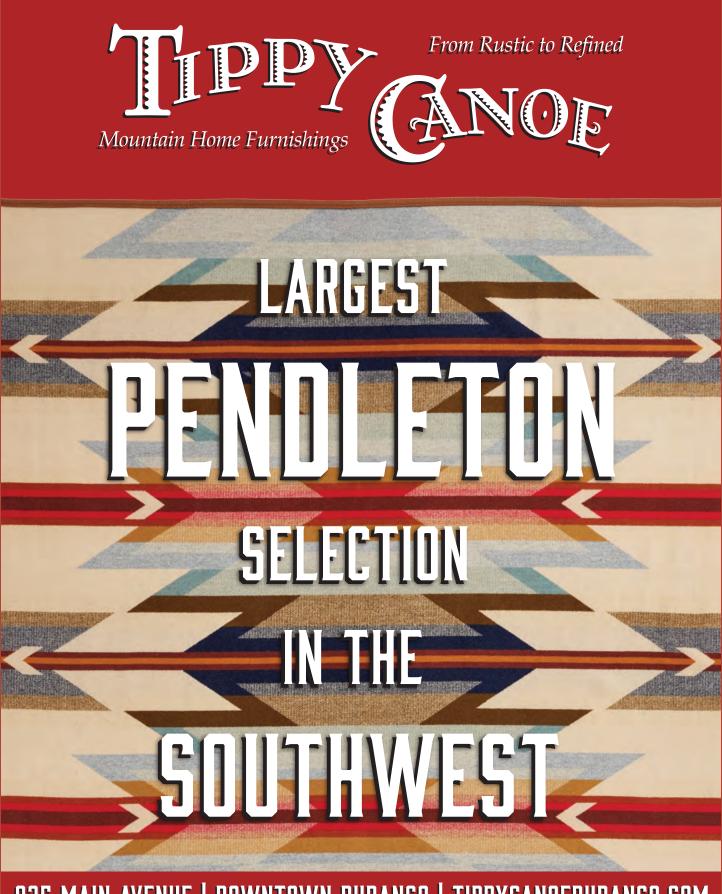
"Over the years, developing that reputation for staying current, for bringing in new items every single season, we have become a destination. I have groups of women ... and they'll come in on their first day in town and say, 'We just want to see what you have, and we'll be back.' And they do come back."

She added, "I am blessed. I feel that we are established enough that we have that loyalty of customers that want to see us survive."

She couldn't have known it when she first began, but from her love of people and fashion, and a willingness to be different, a cornerstone of the downtown business community would be born.

"I love being part of the business community in Pagosa — it's special, it really is. We all help each other and try to work together. That's important," she said. "I had no idea this was my dream job. And then it became such a great adventure."





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NELLA



A true native

Whether you are visiting for the first time or return year after year, you know that an abundance of beautiful and awe-inspiring nature surrounds Pagosa Country. Being in the heart of the San Juan National Forest and spanning more than 1.8 million acres of the southwest region of Colorado, visitors and residents have countless opportunities to explore this unique nature.

It's hard to imagine Pagosa Country looking much different than it does today, as much of the natural landscape is still very similar to how it was in the mid-1800s when European settlers began making their way here. The forests stretch on for miles and are filled with rivers and streams of some of the freshest and cleanest water around — a habitat that is essential for one longtime local.

The rediscovery of the San Juan cutthroat trout shows how unique this landscape is and how valuable its resources are.

In order to survive, "cutthroat trout require exceptionally clean and cold water," said Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Senior Aquatic Biologist Jim White, who played an important role in locating and identifying the once-thought-to-be-extinct species.

The story of the San Juan cutthroat trout dates back more than a century ago to 1874, when a man named Charles Aiken collected a pair of trout specimens from the San Juan River in downtown Pagosa Springs.

Aiken was a part of the Wheeler Survey crew that was on a five-year-long expedition to gather information about the region. Those specimens were sent off to the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, where they sat mostly untouched for the next 100 years.

White described the work of identifying the San Juan cutthroat trout as part of a "long-standing journey" he and other researchers have embarked on to determine which cutthroat lineages are native to each river basin across the Western Slope of Colorado.

White explained that several years passed with the conclusion that these fish were gone and no longer a part of the natural landscape, until additional genetic research took place in 2018.

Six populations of San Juan cutthroat trout were identified throughout the Animas River, San Juan River and Navajo River drainages.

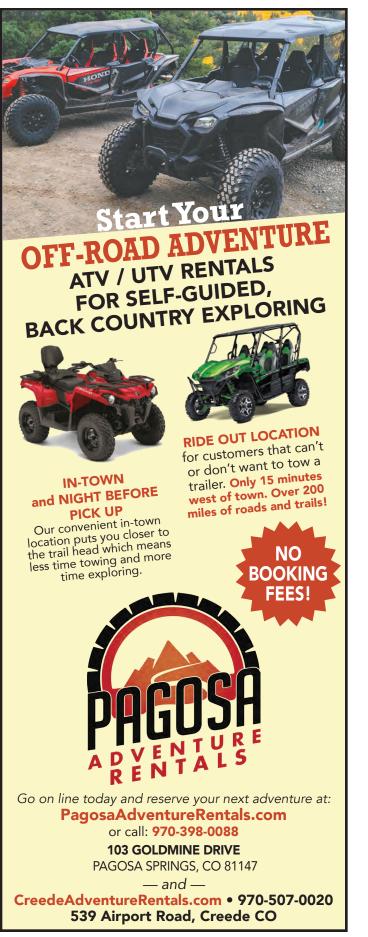
Researchers from the University of Colorado used advanced genetic testing looking at mitochondrial DNA, which found that the San Juan cutthroat trout had been essentially "masked" by another trout lineage originating in the northwest, White explained, noting the trout was "hiding in plain sight."

Today, the CPW is working extensively to remove nonnative trout from the San Juan drainage and replace them with the native San Juan cutthroat trout, White explained.

He noted that the headwaters atop of Wolf Creek Pass have been restored with its native trout, which "should be large enough to catch at this point."

White also indicated that the CPW is working on other areas in the Animas drainage to extend the population of the native trout downstream.

When talking about the rarity of the San Juan cutthroat trout, White noted that these fish can only be found "in the most





pristine habitats" and that it's worth taking a step back and recognizing the Pagosa area and the San Juans as a place capable of offering those habitats to these fish.

White urges anglers and outdoors enthusiasts to always be aware of best practices, such as cleaning off boots, in order to prevent aquatic nuisance species and protect the pristine waters available to communities downstream.

The San Juan cutthroat trout also now have a permanent home in downtown Pagosa Springs on Lewis Street in the Tennyson Sculpture Garden, where a bronze statue depicting three San Juan cutthroats stands as a centerpiece in the park.

An up-close examination of the statute reveals the intricate history and connection these fish have to Pagosa Country. From weaving the trout's unique DNA helix into the design, to the hand representing the "arm of responsibility" holding the trout, artist Dave Lamur Jr. highlighted the meaning of being native to this landscape and the responsibility its inhabitants have in preserving these habitats.



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World-class waters

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 or more actively pursue fly-fishing, wading into the water and practicing different casting techniques, fishing is the perfect activity to help wash your worries 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 Lake 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, but many other fishing spots lie deep in the 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, fiveday and annual licenses are available. You can also purchase licenses online.

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 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.

Fishing the river in the heart of Pa-

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

gosa Springs can be as good as it gets.

Years ago, 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 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 at River Center Park. A ramp to one of the ponds allows easy access, 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.

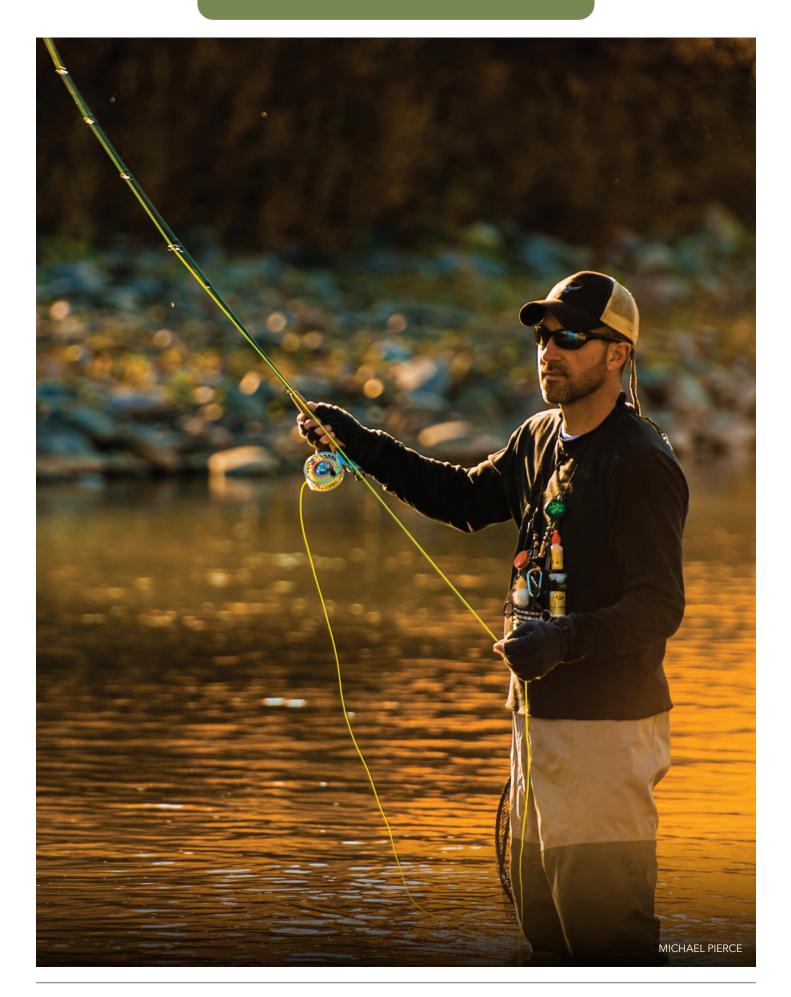
vegetation later in the season makes a canoe, float tube or a small boat and trolling motor useful.

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 Indian 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, picnic areas and nature trails in addition to great fishing.

Large catfish, trout, bass, pike, crappie, 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 provide 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.

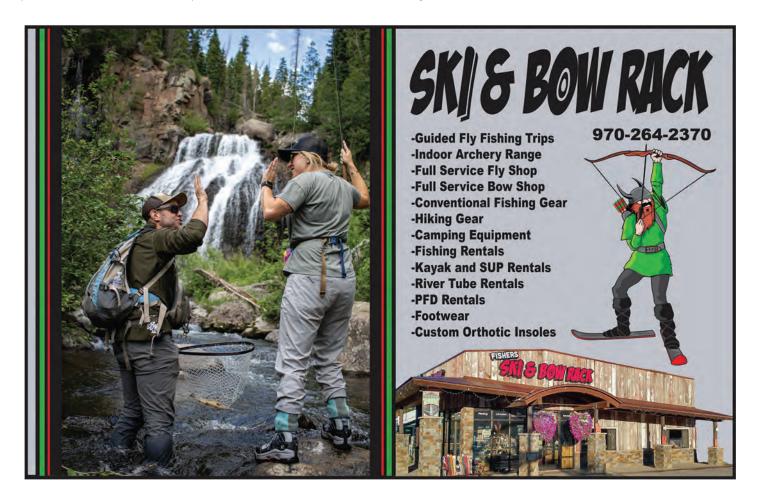
Wilderness

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 highcountry 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.



San Juan River Quality Fishing Project

Game fish 2 fish limit Cuthroat trout Armonia stash on either side of the throat beneath the lower jaw; heavier spotting towards the tail Composition of the throat beneath the lower jaw; heavier spotting towards the tail Composition of the throat beneath the lower jaw; heavier spotting towards the tail Composition of the throat beneath the lower jaw; heavier spotting towards the tail Composition of the throat beneath the lower jaw; heavier spotting towards the tail Composition of the throat beneath the lower jaw; heavier spotting towards the tail Composition of the throat beneath the lower jaw; heavier spotting towards the tail Composition of the throat beneath the lower jaw; heavier spotting towards the throat beneath the lower jaw; heavier spotting towards the tail Composition of the throat beneath the lower jaw; heavier spotting towards the tail the lower jaw; heavier spotting towards the lower jaw; heavier spotting towards the lower jaw; heavier spot 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.

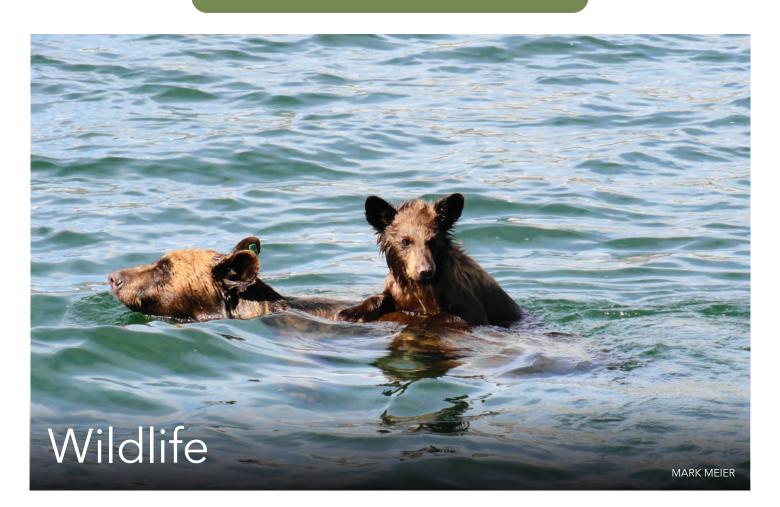
If you do keep fish, please stay at or under the daily two-fish limit so that we can keep more fish in the river for everyone to catch. Also note the wild, native fish to the Western Slope and release these immediately, as they are protected species and taking them from the water is illegal in Colorado.

Please enjoy our wonderful river. Happy fishing!



Native Western Slope fish





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.

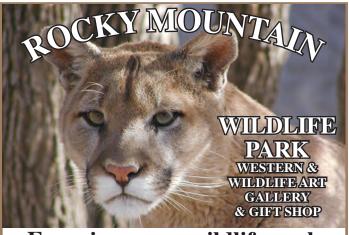
In the lower reaches, short-horned lizards, eastern fence lizards, western rattlesnakes and ringtail cats share sandy sage flats, arid rocky slopes, deep canyons and sandstone mesas with jackrabbits, prairie dogs, elk and mule deer. Piñon jays, turkey vultures, red-tailed hawks and golden eagles commonly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



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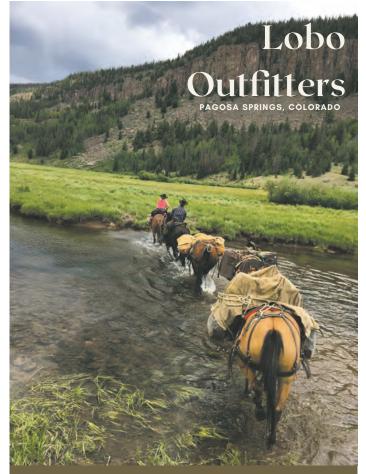
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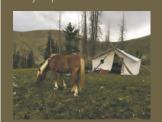
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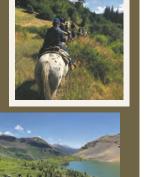






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BIRDING





American dipper Cinclus mexicanus

An aquatic songbird of fast-flowing streams often found perched on a rock in the water, bobbing up and down. It dives into the water, and walks and swims along the bottom to forage for insects.



Great blue heron

Ardea herodias

A tall, stately sentinel of aquatic shorelines. It stands motionless at the water's edge or wades slowly into shallow water while scanning for food before striking quickly at prey within range.



Steller's jay Cyanocitta stelleri

This crested western jay ascends a tree by hopping from branch to branch. Excellent mimic; can imitate cats, dogs, redtailed hawks. It is quick to spy handouts at backyards, picnic tables and campgrounds.



Yellow warbler Setophaga petechia

A common summer resident in riparian trees and shrubs where males sing a sweet song. It is always on the move searching for insects along slender branches and leaves.



Bullock's oriole Icterus bullockii

A bird with a sweet tooth attracted to juicy fruits, flower nectar and hummingbird feeders. Orange-colored males appear tropical. Less flashy females suspend woven nests from the tips of cottonwood branches.



Western tanager Piranga ludoviciana

This bird arrives in May, bringing a splash of tropical color to open coniferous forests. Sings and forages in the upper layer of trees and shrubs, plucking insects from branches, twigs, leaves and flowers.

RIPARIAN



Belted kingfisher Megaceryle alcyon

This bird patrols its territory near a river or lake, announcing its presence with a loud, rattling call. It watches from a perch or hovers over water before diving in headfirst to spear its prey.



Lewis's woodpecker Melanerpes lewis

This colorful woodpecker watches from a high perch and sallies out like a flycatcher to snag aerial insects. Numbers are declining across their range, but they are still fairly common here.



Black-headed grosbeak Pheucticus melanocephalus

Both sexes fill summer forests with their long, sweet, loud songs and share duties of raising young. Its thick conical bill is used to crack seeds and crush hardbodied insects and snails.

Southwest Colorado is home to a wide variety of birds, with some calling the area home year-round, some calling the area home during the warmer months and some using it as a resting spot on their migrations. Birdwatching in Pagosa Springs is easy and can be done from anywhere. A few areas touted by Audubon for birding include the San Juan Riverwalk, Echo Canyon Reservoir, Lake Capote and Chimney Rock National Monument. Watch out for some of these birds, highlighted by local members of the Weminuche Audubon Society and Audubon Rockies.

PHOTOS: BYRON GRECO, CHARLES MARTINEZ, JEFFREY REICHEL



Western meadowlark Sturnella neglecta

Often detected in open fields by its bright yellow breast with black V or fluty effervescent song that signals spring. It nests in open grassland depressions and benefits from thoughtful mowing practices.



Western grebe

Aechmophorus occidentalis

Elegant birds of large lakes, where their loud songs ring across the water. They disappear during long dives for fish. Choreographed courtship displays include pairs running together across the water's surface.



Osprey

Pandion haliaetus

This large, vocal raptor plunges feet first into river or lake to grab a fish in its talons. It arrives in spring from Central or South America to build huge stick nests on snags or man-made platforms.



Ruby-crowned kinglet Corthylio calendula

A small, gray-green busy bird of the summer high country that often flicks its wings. It has white wing bars and partial white spectacles. It is more easily located by its exuberant song from the tops of trees than by sight.



Ruddy duck

Oxyura jamaicensis

This small, compact, diving duck holds its long, stiff, tail straight up. The colorful summer male has sky-blue scoop-shaped bill, white cheeks and black cap. It often feeds at night and sleeps during the day.



Bald eagle

Haliaeetus leucocephalus

This bird of prey prefers fish, but will eat what's available. It makes large stick nests in trees close to water often reused year after year. Takes 3-4 years for juveniles to attain recognizable full adult plumage.



Dusky grouse Dendragapus obscurus

This bird spends much of its time foraging on the ground in chickenlike fashion. Females are a brown and white camouflage; males are slate blue/gray/brown with a yellow eyebrow.



Green-winged teal

Anas crecca

A small dabbling duck that feeds along shorelines, on wetland ponds and mudflats. Fine comb-like projections on the edge of bill allow it to filter invertebrates from water. In flight, deep green wing patches are visible.



Song sparrow Melospiza melodia

A resident of brushy habitats, often near water. Males sing from exposed perches. Makes short-distance flights to cover. Identified by a striped crown, long tail and coarse brown streaks on breast with central dark spot.

River sports Decision

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 and 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 eightweek 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.

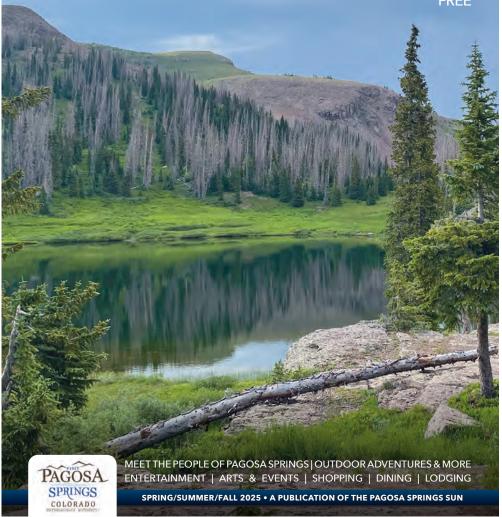
Further west, the upper Animas River has a reputation as one of the top five stretches of river for rafting thrills in North America. Boasting dramatic scenery and intensely long stretches of rapids, the upper Animas can be rafted and kayaked from late May to early August. In high water from early to 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 pages 54-56 for downtown San Juan River features, including put-in and take-out areas, changing areas and wave features.



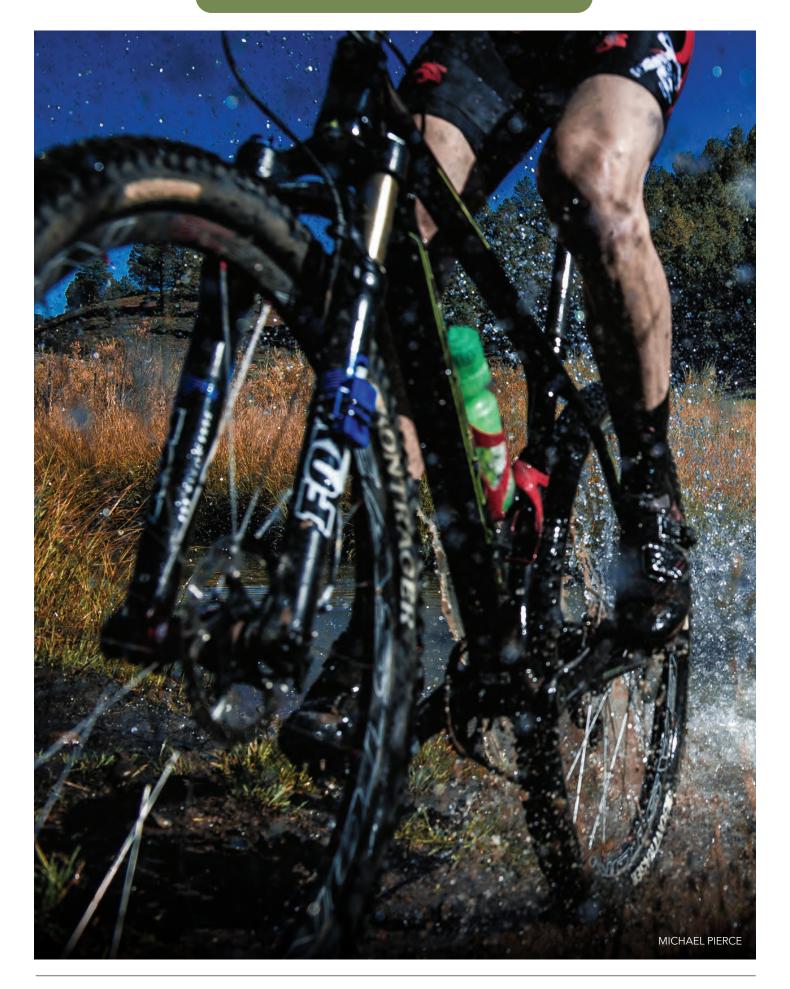


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MOUNTAIN BIKING



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. Factor in time to acclimate before setting out on longer and fs.usda.gov/recmain/sanjuan/recreation or www.pagosatrails.org.

When mountain biking, please observe a few precautions:

1. Wear a helmet.

wear or bring clothing for capricious weather conditions.

3. Bring plenty of water.

4. Carry bike repair tools, including a

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

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

Please pay heed to the following rules of the trail:

trails when muddy and wet to prevent

2. Leave no trace. Pick up trash.

- 4. Always yield to hikers.
- 5. Never spook animals.

6. Plan ahead: consider the elevation, of ride.

wheelclub.org, fs.usda.gov/recmain/ sanjuan/recreation, mtbproject.com, pagosatrails.org, singletracks.com and dustx2.com.

Trails in the Town of Pagosa Springs

Reservoir Hill

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

Though quite challenging and secluded, the trail is easily accessible, and can be connected to the Dakota Springs Trail System with a short ride on the San Juan River Trail or Hot Springs Boulevard.

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

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.

have maps.

Dakota Springs Trail System

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 multiloop trail counterclockwise as it winds behind the high school with two intercon-

Getting there: Drive 1.3 miles north on Piedra Road from U.S. 160. Turn right 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 System

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

necting 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

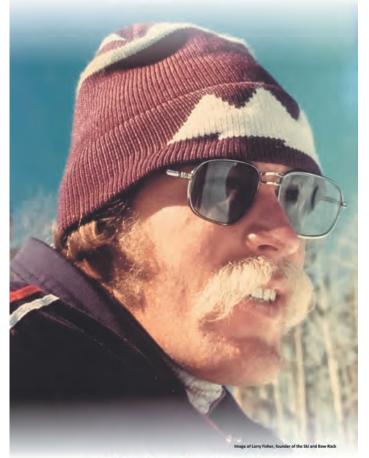
This single-track connector trail connects the Dakota Springs Trail System to Yamaguchi Park.

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.



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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.

Treasure (565)

Difficulty: Advanced Mileage: 8.1 miles Route: Shuttle, out and back Trail: Dirt, single track

This is 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 passenger vehicles will be able to reach the lower trailhead off East Fork Road. 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.

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 graveled county road for 4.3 miles.

4.3 — This is the entrance to Fourmile Ranch. Ranch own-

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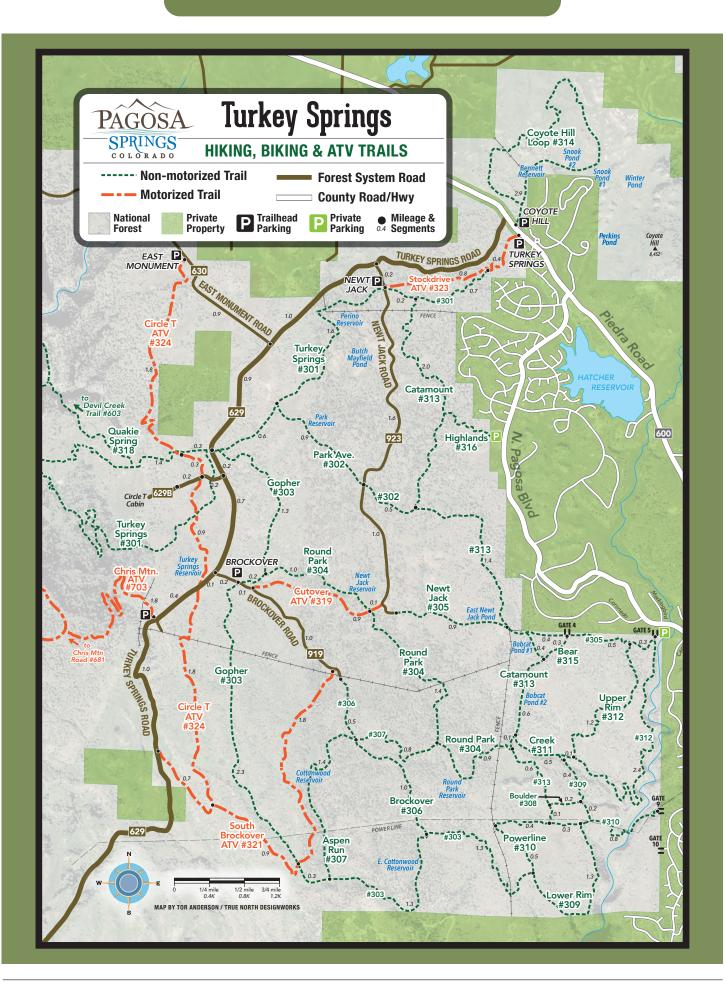
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ers have agreed to allow access to the Forest Service road through the ranch, by proceeding through the ranch entrance and staying on the road. You will pass the ranch manager's house on the right. Looking to the north, one can begin to see Pagosa 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.

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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.

Lefthand Canyon to the Rito Blanco

Difficulty: Intermediate

Mileage: 18 miles

Route: Out and back

Trails: Graded and primitive roads, doubletrack (there is not an open ATV trail at this location)

Elevation Range: 7,400 to 8,400 feet

Beginning in the pine/oak valleys of Blanco Basin, this route climbs steadily into aspen/fir forest along Porcupine Road, ending at the tumbling Rito Blanco Creek. The first half of the ride travels along a mostly smooth, unmaintained primitive dirt road. At the end of this road, a steep and somewhat rocky doubletrack leads you to the top of Lefthand Canyon and onto the graded, maintained Porcupine Creek Road. From here, a moderate climb and descent ends at the Rito Blanco Creek, an excellent spot for a picnic lunch. Your return will be rewarded with an exhilarating descent back to the trailhead. (This trip can be done as a one-way, mostly downhill — see below.)

Getting there: From the junction of U.S. 160 and U.S. 84, drive south for 8.2 miles to Blanco Basin Road. Make a left and drive 3.3 miles up Blanco Basin Road to its junction with Lefthand Canyon Road (FR 011), on your left. Park and start here.

0.0 — Follow the steadily ascending Lefthand Canyon Road as it meanders north through rolling hills of pine, oak and meadow. You will climb about 600 feet to a fork in the road.

1.0 — Take the right fork. The road becomes primitive and less used while winding along a densely vegetated north-facing slope. To the left is Lefthand Canyon, mostly obscured by vegetation and topography. The canyon drains the lower reaches of the Rito Blanco. Look carefully for a doubletrack ascending a hillside meadow on your right.

3.4 — Follow the doubletrack to the top of the meadow. From here a rough doubletrack continues upward, in a northeasterly direction. Take this trail as it climbs over rocks and gullies for almost three-quarters of a mile.

4.4 — The trail ends, exiting onto the southern end of the graded and graveled Porcupine Road (FR 024). The rest of your ride to the Rito Blanco will be on this road. Continue on Porcupine Road as you ascend into the cooler forests of fir and aspen. Reach the high point of the ride at mile 5.8, which also marks a good turnaround spot for tired riders. A cool shady respite awaits those who continue the descent to the banks of the Rito Blanco at mile 9.0.

Ride option: This ride may be done as a shuttle by leaving a car at the junction of Blanco Basin Road and U.S. 84. If you choose to do so, your trailhead then becomes the northern end of Porcupine Road. To get there, you must drive back to Mill Creek Road (CR 302, which becomes FR 662) located on U.S. 84 one-quarter mile south of the U.S. 160/U.S. 84 junction. Drive up Mill Creek Road about 9 miles, then take FR 665, which branches to the right. Porcupine Road (FR 024) intersects FR 665 in a little over 2 miles. Park here and ride. The Rito Blanco is about 1 mile downhill from here. The ride back to the shuttle car is mostly downhill.

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HIKING AND HORSEBACK RIDING

A bright blue 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.

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.

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 at www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/sanjuan/ recreation.

Current information about trail conditions are available at www.pagosatrails. org, the Visitor Center located at 105 Hot Springs Blvd., and the Pagosa Ranger District office at U.S. 160 and 2nd Street. The Forest Service office is open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It is closed for all federal holidays.

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 to the falls is approximately 3.5 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.

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.

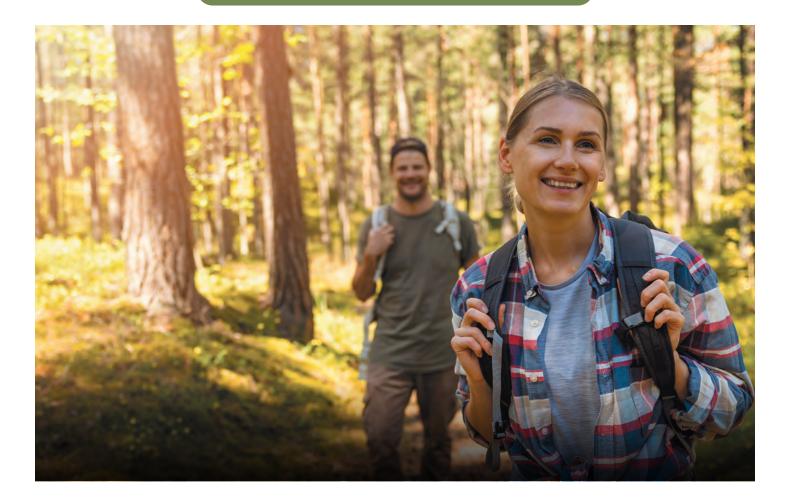
Piedra Falls (671)

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 ends at 8,340 feet. Do not attempt the road in wet weather. The hike is .4 miles, or 15 minutes, each way. It 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.

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. Whether or not the treasure actually exists, 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. The 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 .25 miles 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. The elevation gain is 325 feet.



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.

Anderson Trail (579)

Length: 8.5 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.

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.

Piedra River Trail (596)

Length: 11.2 miles | Difficulty: Moderate/difficult

The upper terminus of the trail begins on 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

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. 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.)

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.

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. The 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.

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 stay on the trail. At 4.5 miles, there is a junction with the Beaver Creek Trail (560). 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.

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.

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 .75 miles 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.

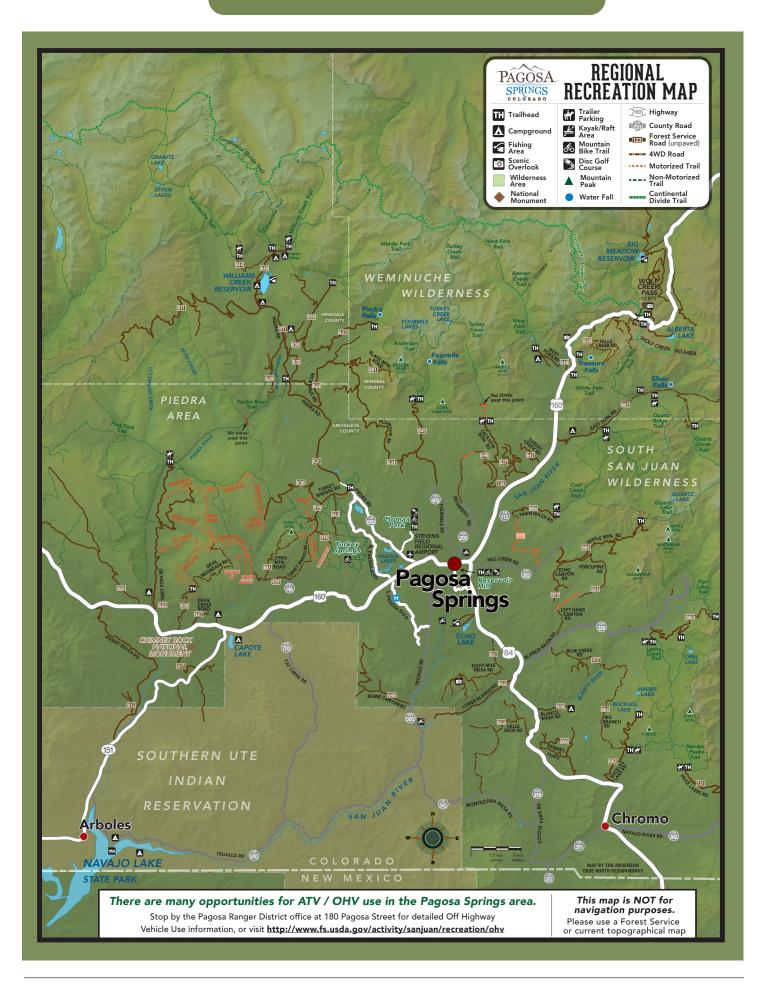
Continental Divide, Alberta Peak (813)

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 a rescue at https://dola.colorado.gov/ sar/cardPurchase.jsf.





SCENIC DRIVES



Much of the incredible natural wonder that surrounds Pagosa Country 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 can 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 th current MVUM.

The map is free, district specific and available electronically at 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™, 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. For more information, contact the Pagosa Ranger District at (970) 264-2268.

East Fork - Silver Falls - Elwood Pass - Quartz Meadow

Approximately 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.

Summitville – Platoro – Cumbres Pass – Chama

Approximately 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 1970s). 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.

Plumtaw - Piedra Loop -Williams Creek Reservoir

Approximately 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. 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.

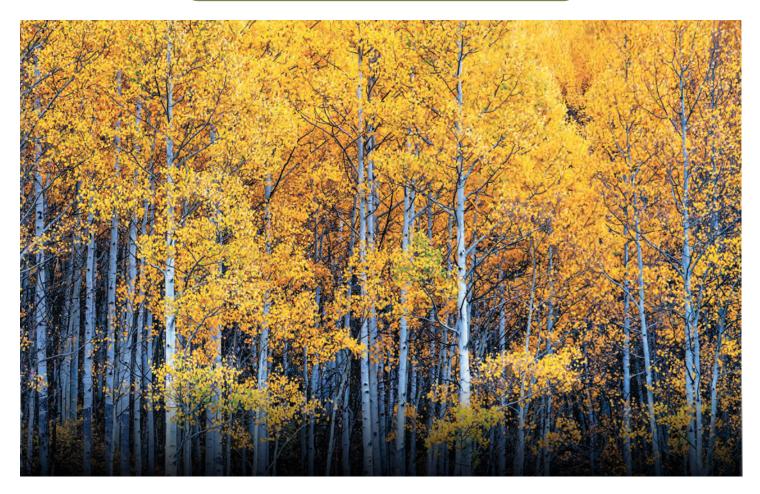
Lobo Overlook - Continental Divide

Approximately 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.

Blanco Basin

Approximately 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.

Mill Creek - Nipple Mountain Road

Approximately 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

Approximately 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 nowdeserted 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 on U.S. 160. The roads are all suitable for conventional vehicles.

Wolf Creek Pass

Approximately 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

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 3.5 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 miles each way. 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. 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.

ing 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.



Real Estate & Home Guide

Rocky Mountain Balloon Adventures

RANDI PIERCE

Take an adventure above Pagosa Springs

In Pagosa Country, it's not uncommon to wake up in the morning and see a hot air balloon taking off or landing just outside your window. Taking a ride in one of these balloon baskets is a must-do excursion for visitors and residents alike, and weather permitting, that is an option any day of the year.

Rocky Mountain Balloon Adventures began flying in Pagosa Springs in 1986, when Mike Marchand, owner and founder, started flying part time, offering vacationers something fun to do.

Today, Mike's son, Austin Marchand, runs the business, which comes naturally to him, given he has been flying since before he could walk.

Austin said he is proud to "carry on the tradition of flying the balloons here that [Mike] started back then."

He learned how to fly balloons from his father and completed his first solo flight at the age of 16, admitting it was "nerveracking," but yet a "kind of surreal experience."

"It's peaceful," Austin said, explaining that the noise coming from town disappears when you are up in a balloon.

"It's like you're standing on a big observation deck."

Getting in a hot air balloon basket may be overwhelming for some, especially those not keen on heights, though Austin said it truly feels as if you're just standing there.

"It's really bizarre; there's no sensation of heights at all," he says, explaining that because of being unable to see the basket meeting the ground, unlike standing on the edge of a cliff, you don't really experience the sensation of having a "pit" in your stomach.

Austin refers to his hot air balloons as "gentle giants" and that those expecting an adrenaline rush from going up in one usually find it to be a more peaceful and relaxing experience.

Flights can be booked for 30 minutes or for an hour and can ascend to heights up to 3,000 feet from the ground, offering patrons a 200-mile panoramic view of four different states. Flights may also hover just a few inches over one of the area lakes for a "splash and dash."

Having the right weather conditions is the most important aspect when it comes to flying a hot air balloon, "and that's what makes Pagosa such a great place to fly," Austin said, with calm and clear mornings a regular occurrence in Pagosa Springs.

"We have such great weather, year-round, especially in the morning time," he said.

Pagosa Country hosts two festivals each year, WinterFest and ColorFest, both started by Mike, with each featuring a day or two of hot air balloon mass ascensions with dozens of pilots from around the country gathering to fly around Pagosa County.

Austin explained that some of the best views come in the fall season when there's just a little bit of snow on the mountains combined with the changing colors of aspen trees and lush

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98 Highland Ave. 3 bed, 2 bath, beautifully remodeled. \$325,000. MLS 814446



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66 Country Center Dr. Building only, current location of Santy's. \$930,000. MLS 817585



529 East Golf, 4 bed, 4 bath well-maintained duplex. \$560,000. MLS 821005



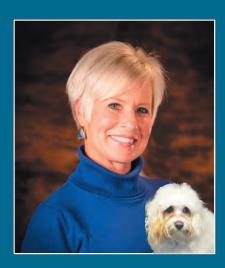
60 East Cotton Ct., 3 bed, 2 bath remodeled 2022. \$500,000. MLS 821045



164 Valley View Dr., main level unit, mountain views. \$205,000. MLS 820146



484 Prospect Blvd., .11 acre, 2 adjoining lots available. \$17,000. MLS 813276



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greenery still in town.

Flying hot air balloons and running his dad's company is more than just a career for Austin; it's a passion that he plans to pursue for a lifetime. He explained it's a reason for him to live, work and play in Pagosa County.

Hot air balloons have taken Austin around the world, giving him the opportunity to fly in places like Switzerland, Mexico and multiple states, but he said he'll always feel most comfortable flying in Pagosa Country.

Those looking to make their time in Pagosa Country a little more special can certainly do so by finding their way into one of these balloon baskets. From proposals to wedding ceremonies to ordinary Sunday mornings, Austin has witnessed some magical moments both for himself and his passengers.

On typical flights, balloons take off from various launching spots uptown and typically travel distances of 8 to 10 miles before landing, Austin noted, mentioning uptown provides numerous safe landing zones with lots of open areas along with remarkable views of town and the mountains surrounding.

So, next time you are up early enough, peek outside to see if you can spot the signature red, yellow and blue Rocky Mountain balloon flying above Pagosa Country. If you're lucky enough, it may even land right off your back deck.

He learned how to fly balloons from his father and completed his first solo flight at the age of 16, admitting it was "nerveracking," but yet a "kind of surreal experience."



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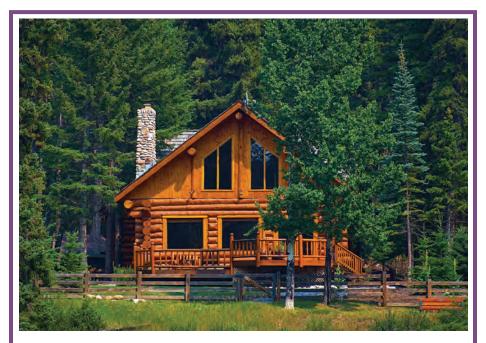
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ABOUT THE AREA



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.

Geography

1,350

Land area (square miles) -

Persons per square mile — 9.9

Housing and Income

Median value owneroccupied 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

Population

Source: US Census Bureau State & County QuickFacts 2023 estimate <u> 14,189</u>

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Water

Pagosa Area Water & Sanitation, (970) 731-2691, www.pawsd.org Sanitation

Pagosa Area Water & Sanitation, (970) 731-2691, www.pawsd.org Town of Pagosa Springs, (970) 264-

4151, 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-

Road conditions

Colorado Department of Transportation 511 or (303) 639-1111, www.cotrip.org

Archuleta County Road Report (970) 264-5555 **New Mexico Road Report** (800) 432-4269, www.nmroads.com



4

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



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. Three county commissioners elected for alternating four-year terms.

Media

Newspaper: The Pagosa



Springs SUN (970) 264-2100

Education

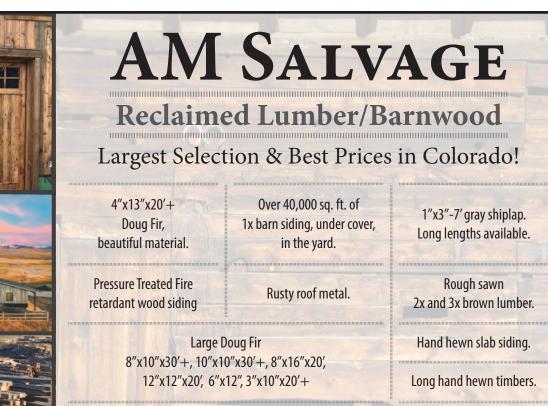
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Tourism & business development

- Pagosa Springs Community Development Corp. www.pagosaspringscdc.org, (970) 264-2360 Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce
- www.pagosaspringschamber.com, (970) 264-2360 Pagosa Springs Area Tourism
- www.visitpagosasprings.com, www.explorepagosa.com (970) 585-1200 or (866) 438-4917
- Region 9 Economic Development District (970) 247-9621, www.scan.org
- Fort Lewis College Small Business Development (970) 247-7009, http://sbdcfortlewis.org/





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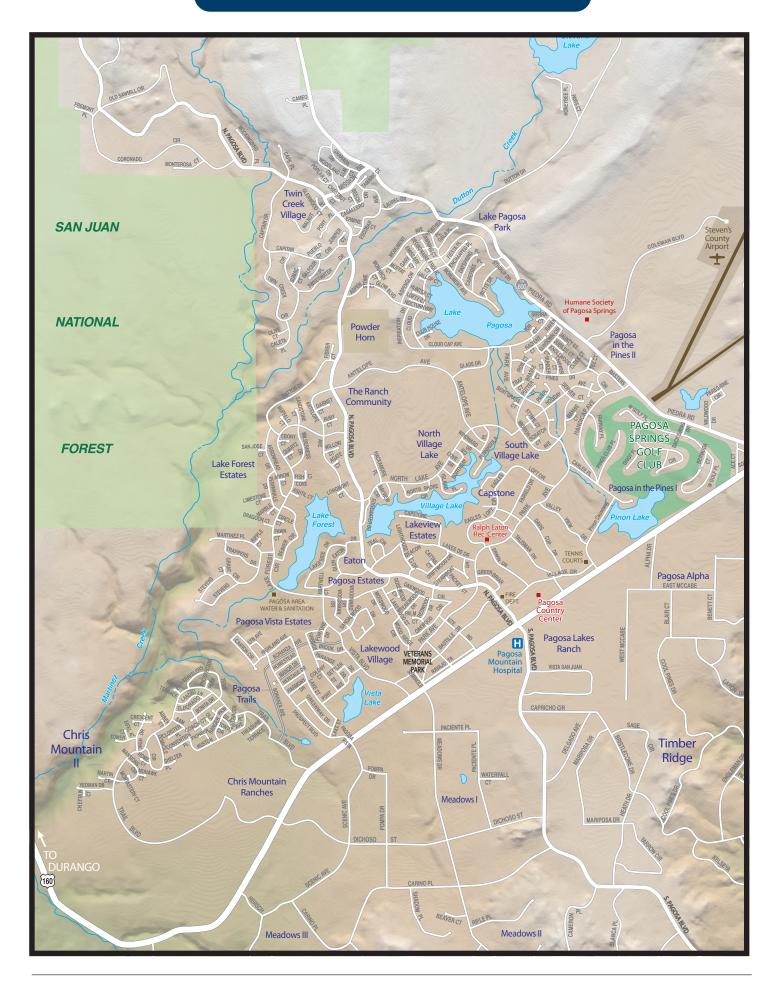
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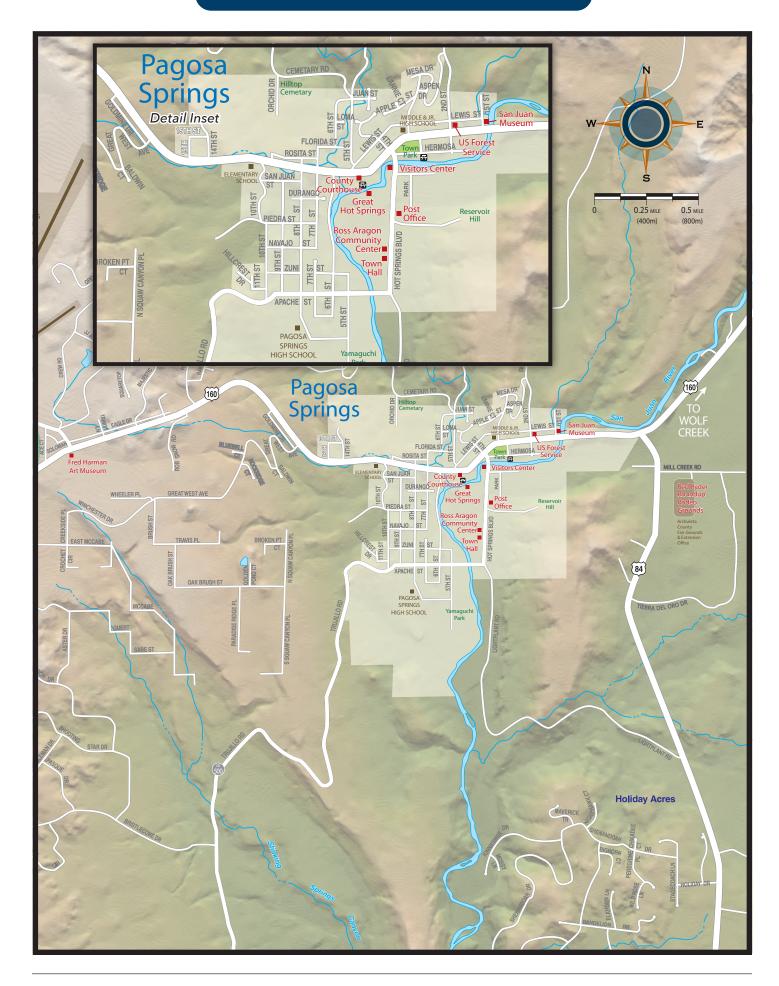
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This 10,500 sq. foot, 5 bed, 9 bath estate is located on 35 acres in the exclusive, gated Hidden Valley Ranch. Elevated above the valley below, unobstructed panoramic views showcase Hidden Valley Lake and the snow-capped peaks of nearby South San Juan Wilderness. Entertaining is a year-round activity with gourmet kitchen, wraparound covered porches, eight enchanting fireplaces, and attached full outdoor kitchen sheltered beneath a timber-frame pavilion overlooking a flagstone fire pit. Enjoy trophy trout fishing in the private lake, pickleball courts, hiking trails and tranquility. 1000 Piney Place, MLS 809012



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