



Are you looking for a different kind of vacation?

The perfect time to get outdoors in Colorado is anytime.

No matter the season, Colorado’s mountains, wilderness areas, and national parks beckon those looking for unparalleled scenic beauty and perhaps a little adventure. Colorado’s national parks encompass some of the world’s most wondrous and diverse scenery and offer countless opportunities for adventure, education, recreation, and enjoyment.

Find Your Adventure — Explore YOUR national parks

Colorado’s 12 national park sites are among more than 415 parks, monuments, historic sites, and recreation areas administered by the National Park Service for the “enjoyment of present and future generations.” We manage these special places for their natural, historical, and cultural qualities. History happened where some of Colorado’s original landscape remains for today’s explorers.

The national parks and monuments in Colorado range widely across both topography and history. Rocky Mountain National Park contains some of the world’s most scenic alpine terrain. Trail Ridge Road climbs to 12,183 feet as it crosses the Continental Divide. In the state’s southwest corner, the spectacular cliff dwellings of Mesa Verde National Park (a World Heritage Site) hint at the mysterious lives of Ancestral Puebloan people who lived there for more

than 700 years. Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park has some of North America’s steepest cliffs and oldest rock. At Bent’s Old Fort National Historic Site in the southeast, a rebuilt 1840s adobe post on the Santa Fe Trail reflects a time when fur trappers, travelers and Plains tribes met peacefully for trade. Living historians re-create the sights and sounds of that frontier era. Speaking of trails, the Park Service’s National Trails Program in Santa Fe, NM, administers three famous routes across Colorado: the Santa Fe, Old Spanish, and Pony Express national historic trails.

Rich in natural and human history, these sites and others await your exploration. We invite you to #FindYourPark in the national parks and monuments of Colorado.



Bent’s Old Fort
National Historic Site

A historically accurate reconstruction of an 1833 trading post built along the Arkansas River is the centerpiece of this national historic site. The fort was an important trading post between 1833 and 1849, when Indians and trappers met there to exchange furs and trade goods. On-site staff members wearing period clothing explain the fur trade in the Southwest and the fort’s evolving history as an important supply stop on the fabled Santa Fe Trail. The site was also used as a staging area for the U.S. Army during the Mexican War in 1846.

How to get there
From La Junta on U.S. Hwy 50, take Hwy 109 north, 1 mile to Hwy 194, then east on Hwy 194 for 6 miles. From Las Animas on U.S. Hwy 50, take Hwy 194 west for 13 miles.

Visitor information
Phone: 719-383-5010
www.nps.gov/beol
Mailing address:
35110 Highway 194 East
La Junta, CO 81050-9523



Black Canyon of the Gunnison
National Park

No other canyon in North America combines the narrow opening, sheer walls, and startling depths offered by the Black Canyon of the Gunnison. The canyon walls are composed of volcanic schist, predominantly black in color, and as the gorge reaches depths of more than 2,000 feet while often being only 1,500 feet across, sunlight illuminates the walls briefly – hence the name “Black Canyon.” Roads along both the north and south rims offer spectacular views. Trails into the canyon reward more adventurous visitors.

How to get there
The park’s south entrance is 15 miles east of Montrose, on U.S. Hwy 50 and Hwy 347. The north rim is 11 miles south of Crawford, via Hwy 92. The North Rim Road is closed in winter.

Visitor information
Phone: 970-249-1915
www.nps.gov/blca
Mailing address:
102 Elk Creek
Gunnison, CO 81230



Colorado
National Monument

These bold, big, and brilliantly colored canyons and mesas, with towering and fascinating rock sculptures, cover 32 square miles of rugged terrain. The famous Rim Rock Drive is one of the grandest scenic drives in the American West and offers motorists and bicyclists access to 23 miles of breathtaking landscape. The drive also provides access to the visitor center and campground, 19 interpretive viewpoints, and 14 hiking trails ranging from 1 to 14 miles long. Magnificent views of the Colorado River Valley, the Book Cliffs, and Grand Mesa highlight the skyline.

How to get there
Hwy I-70 to Fruita, take Exit 19 to the west (main) entrance of the monument.

Visitor Information
Phone: 970-858-3617
www.nps.gov/colm
Mailing address:
Fruita, CO 81521



Curecanti National
Recreation Area

Panoramic vistas frame the three fjord-like reservoirs and uplands that comprise Curecanti National Recreation Area. Blue Mesa is Colorado’s largest lake and home to America’s largest kokanee salmon fishery. Recently discovered dinosaur fossils, traces of 6,000-year-old Indian dwellings, the route of a historic narrow-gauge railroad and the Gunnison Diversion Tunnel, a national historic landmark, add to the visitor experience. The historic Old Spanish Trail and U.S. Highway 50 both run through Curecanti, along the Gunnison River.

How to get there
U.S. Hwy 50 runs the length of the recreation area between Montrose and Gunnison.

Visitor information
Phone: 970-641-2337 ext. 205
www.nps.gov/cure
Mailing address:
102 Elk Creek
Gunnison, CO 81230



Dinosaur National Monument

Dinosaur National Monument is best known for its exceptional fossil quarry, where some 1,500 bones of 11 different species of dinosaurs from 150 million years ago are exposed to view. Occasionally, visitors can watch as paleontologists prepare recently excavated specimens for study. There is another side to Dinosaur: backcountry roads take visitors to Echo Park, named by explorer John Wesley Powell in 1869. Here, the Yampa River joins the Green River and provides a home for peregrine falcons and bald eagles. Rafting expeditions take visitors past Indian rock art that testifies to the allure of these canyons and rivers to all people.

How to get there
The fossil quarry is east of Vernal, UT. From U.S. Hwy 40, take Hwy 149 and go north 7 miles. Echo Park entrance is 1 mile east of Dinosaur on U.S. Hwy 40.

Visitor information
Phone: 970-374-3000
www.nps.gov/dino
Mailing address:
4545 East Hwy 40
Dinosaur, CO 81610



Florissant Fossil Beds
National Monument

Florissant is in a beautiful mountain valley just west of Pikes Peak and holds spectacular remnants of Earth’s prehistoric life. Huge petrified redwood stumps and incredibly detailed fossils of ancient insects and plants reveal a very different Colorado of 35 million years ago. Easy walking trails guide visitors through the petrified redwoods, fossil quarries and a historic homestead.

How to get there
U.S. Hwy 24 to Florissant, south on Teller County Road 1 for 2 miles.

Visitor information
Phone: 719-748-3253
www.nps.gov/flfo
Mailing address:
P.O. Box 185
Florissant, CO 80816



Great Sand Dunes
National Park and Preserve

Nestled in Colorado’s San Luis Valley, Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve is a lightly visited treasure of visual, geologic, and biological surprises. The site is flanked by some of the highest peaks in the Rocky Mountains and holds the tallest dunes in North America. Endemic insects have physically adapted to life in the sand, alpine lakes and tundra, disappearing creeks, interdunal wetlands, and much more.

How to get there
From U.S. Hwy 160, 14 miles east of Alamosa, take Hwy 150 north, 20 miles.

Visitor information
Phone: 719-378-6399
www.nps.gov/grsa
Mailing address:
11500 Highway 150
Mosca, CO 81146



Hovenweep National
Monument

Five ancestral Puebloan-era villages, spread over a 25-mile expanse of mesa tops and canyons, form the centerpiece of this national monument on the Colorado-Utah border. Hovenweep is famous for its distinctive, multistory towers perched on canyon rims and balanced on boulders. Many visitors not only marvel at the skill of the builders, but wonder at the motivation and determination of these ancient people. Hovenweep sits at the western edge of the vast Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, which is managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

How to get there
From Cortez, CO, travel west on County Road G (the McElmo Canyon Road) for about 45 miles. From White Mesa, UT (south of Blanding), take Hwy 262.

Visitor information
Phone: 970-562-4282
www.nps.gov/hove
Mailing address:
McElmo Route
Cortez, CO 81321



Mesa Verde National Park

The most spectacular prehistoric cliff dwellings in the southwestern United States are clustered along the canyons of Mesa Verde. Ancestral Puebloans lived here for more than 700 years before leaving their homes in the cliffs and on the mesa within the span of one or two generations in the late 1200s. Today, the park protects nearly 5,000 known archeological sites, including 600 cliff dwellings. These sites are some of the most notable and best preserved in the United States.

For a nominal fee, visitors can take guided tours through Cliff Palace and Balcony House. Long House requires reservations.

How to get there
Entrance is along U.S. Hwy 160, 10 miles east of Cortez.

Visitor information
Phone: 970-529-4465
www.nps.gov/meve
Mailing address:
P.O. Box 8
Mesa Verde National Park, CO 81330



Rocky Mountain
National Park

The massive mountain peaks, high meadows and tundra, glaciers, lakes, and streams of the central Rocky Mountains are featured here in one of America’s premier national parks. Connecting the charming communities of Estes Park and Grand Lake, Trail Ridge Road traverses the park and the Continental Divide, reaching above 12,000 feet. The park has abundant wildlife and is especially noted for elk bugling in the fall. Trail Ridge Road is open from Memorial Day through late fall. Most of the park is accessible by 350 miles of trails rated from easy to very difficult. Because of the high elevation (8,000 to more than 14,000 feet), visitors should take time to acclimate.

How to get there
East entrances on U.S. Hwy 34 and 36 at Estes Park. West entrance on U.S. Hwy 34 through Granby and Grand Lake.

Visitor information
Phone: 970-586-1206
www.nps.gov/romo
Mailing address:
1000 Highway 36
Estes Park, CO 80517



Sand Creek Massacre
National Historic Site

Sand Creek marks the attack on Nov. 29, 1864, by 700 volunteer soldiers on a peaceful village of Cheyenne and Arapaho families. Led by Col. John Chivington, the dawn massacre along Big Sandy Creek in southeastern Colorado killed about 150 people, mostly women, children and the elderly. Condemned after three federal investigations, the assault irreversibly changed the histories of the frontier and the tribes. The site was formally established on April 28, 2007.

How to get there
Take State Hwy 96 east from Hwy 287 near Eads or west from Hwy 385 at Sheridan Lake. Near Chivington, turn north onto CR 54 (or at Brandon, turn north onto CR 59). Follow either road to County Road W. Drive east from CR 54 or west from CR 59 to the park entrance off County Road W.

Visitor information
Phone: 719-438-5916
www.nps.gov/sand
Mailing address:
P.O. Box 249
Eads, CO 81036

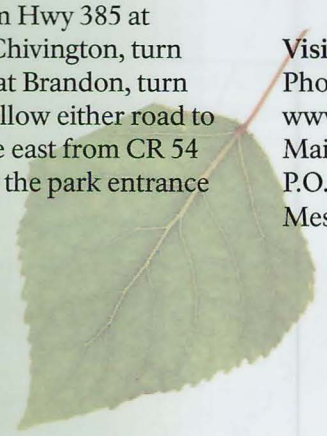


Yucca House
National Monument

Through a continuing tradition of public and private cooperation, Yucca House National Monument preserves one of the largest archeological sites in southwestern Colorado. The unexcavated nature of the site preserves its integrity and beauty for future generations. Experience a sense of discovery by visiting a site that has remained largely untouched for 800 years!

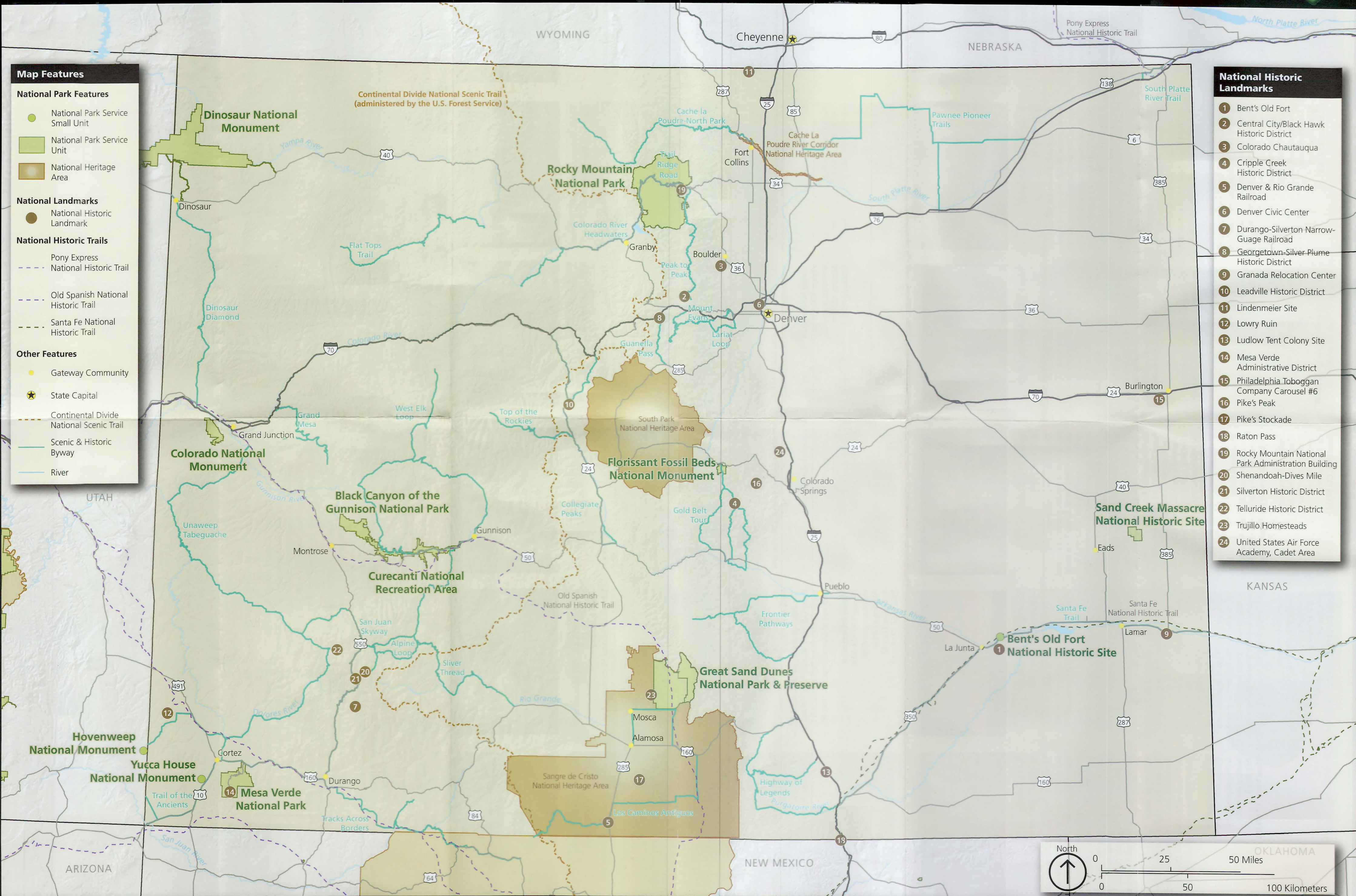
How to get there
The monument is located west of Mesa Verde National Park between the towns of Towaoc and Cortez, CO. There are no visitor facilities or services available on site.

Visitor information
Phone: 970-529-4465
www.nps.gov/yuho
Mailing address:
P.O. Box 8
Mesa Verde, CO 81330



The National Park Service in Colorado

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Map Features

National Park Features

- National Park Service Small Unit
- National Park Service Unit
- National Heritage Area

National Landmarks

- National Historic Landmark

National Historic Trails

- Pony Express National Historic Trail
- Old Spanish National Historic Trail
- Santa Fe National Historic Trail

Other Features

- Gateway Community
- ★ State Capital
- Continental Divide National Scenic Trail
- Scenic & Historic Byway
- River

- National Historic Landmarks**
- 1 Bent's Old Fort
 - 2 Central City/Black Hawk Historic District
 - 3 Colorado Chautauqua
 - 4 Cripple Creek Historic District
 - 5 Denver & Rio Grande Railroad
 - 6 Denver Civic Center
 - 7 Durango-Silverton Narrow-Gauge Railroad
 - 8 Georgetown-Silver Plume Historic District
 - 9 Granada Relocation Center
 - 10 Leadville Historic District
 - 11 Lindenmeier Site
 - 12 Lowry Ruin
 - 13 Ludlow Tent Colony Site
 - 14 Mesa Verde Administrative District
 - 15 Philadelphia Toboggan Company Carousel #6
 - 16 Pike's Peak
 - 17 Pike's Stockade
 - 18 Raton Pass
 - 19 Rocky Mountain National Park Administration Building
 - 20 Shenandoah-Dives Mile
 - 21 Silverton Historic District
 - 22 Telluride Historic District
 - 23 Trujillo Homesteads
 - 24 United States Air Force Academy, Cadet Area