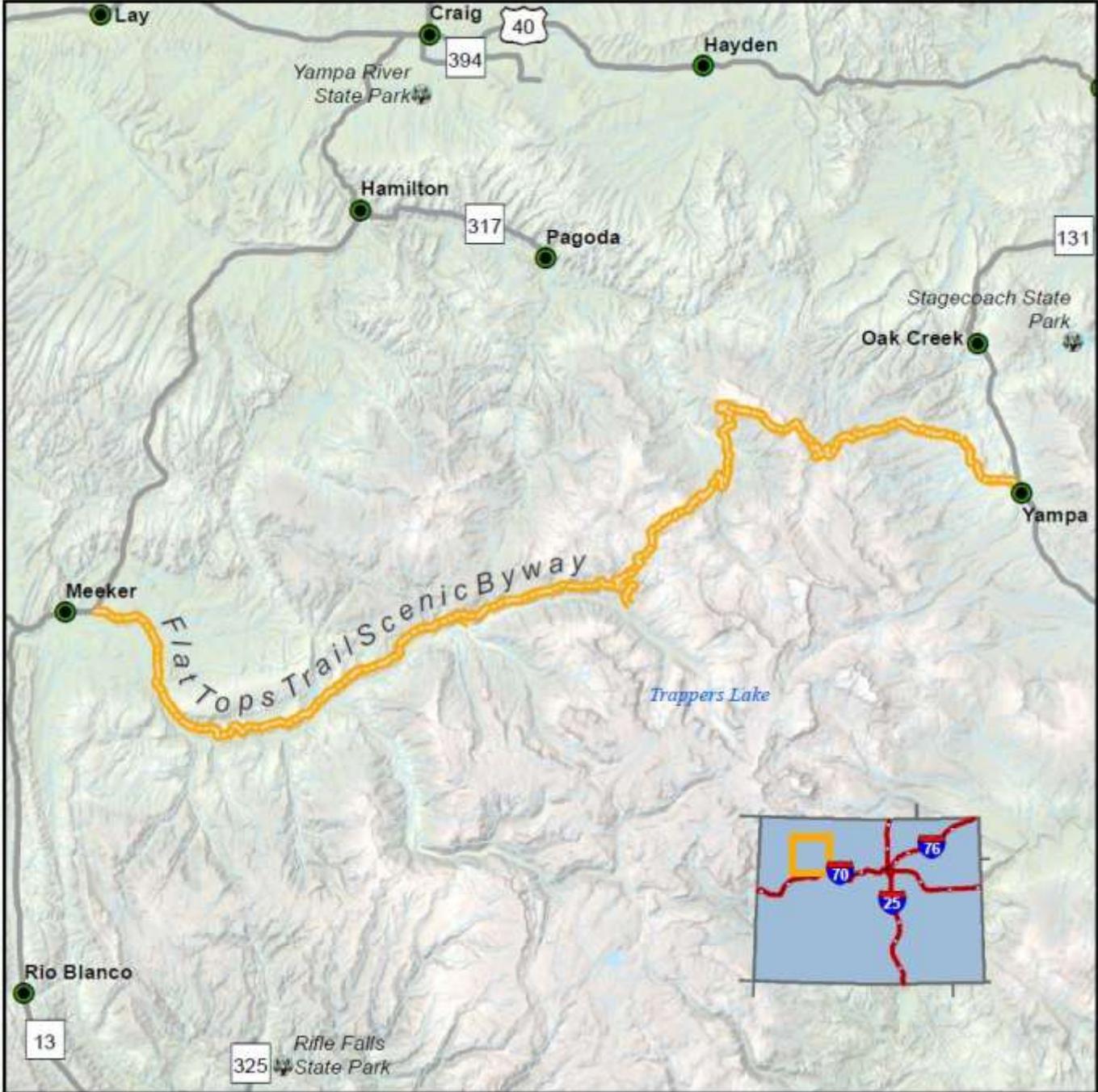




Flat Tops Trail Scenic and Historic Byway

It's called a "working byway" traveling through the White River National Forest providing access to public lands as well as rangeland for sheep and cattle ranchers. The Flat Tops Trail Scenic and Historic Byway is the backbone road through the Flat Tops Wilderness, one of the largest wilderness areas in the world, with 350,000 acres of public land. In addition to the White River Plateau Reserve and other vast public lands, the towns of Meeker and Yampa also contain a cache of interesting history. Both towns have enjoyable museums with old photos and antique possessions, clothing ranging from wedding gowns to soldiers' uniforms and a variety of Ute Indian artifacts, making this a unique drive with both natural beauty and interesting heritage.



Road Through the Wilderness Experience



Driving the Byway

Your journey will begin in Steamboat Springs. After a day of exploring, on Day Two you'll be on your way to drive the Byway, meandering through the wilderness landscape between Yampa and Meeker. It will likely be best to pick up lunch in Yampa to enjoy somewhere on the road, since services are limited along the Byway. Arriving in Meeker, you can spend the night before exploring the history of the region.

Day One



Steamboat Springs

The same French fur trappers that named the Cache la Poudre river, thought a spring along the Yampa River sounded like a steamboat – naming the settlement Steamboat Springs. The first homesteaders arrived to raise cattle or sheep, while others worked in the nearby gold and silver mines. Steamboat Springs was an isolated outpost until the Denver, Northwest and Pacific Railroad arrived in 1908 to provide year-round transportation of livestock and coal, as well as passenger travel.

Day One

Tread of Pioneers Museum



Built at the height of prosperity in Steamboat Springs, the heart of the Tread of Pioneers Museum is a 1901 Queen Anne-style Victorian home furnished appropriately for the period. Interactive exhibits feature the history of area Native Americans, skiing, agriculture, mining, pioneer settlement, town development, and more. The Western Heritage Exhibit features an extensive collection of firearms, agricultural history and the story of an infamous outlaw, Harry Tracy.

800 Oak Street, Steamboat Springs, CO, 80487 970-879-2214
Friday-Saturday, 11AM-5PM, Allow 1.5 hours \$6 per person

Steamboat Springs Historic Walking Tour



The Historic Walking Tour of Steamboat Springs begins at the Tread of Pioneers Museum (pdf included with the detailed itinerary) and passes nine of the more than 150 springs in the area. Buildings in the historic district are typical of construction in isolated frontier towns using locally available materials. Those like the Cantina, the Allen Building, and the Spring Drug Store, built in the late 1800s are made of wood, while those like the First National Bank, Routt County Bank Building and the Maxwell Square building date from the 1900s using local quarried sandstone, river rock and other materials. while. The Routt County Courthouse dates from the 1920s.

Tour begins at 800 Oak Street

Scenic Gondola Ride



Take a ride up Mt. Werner and enjoy views that can only be appreciated from Steamboat's gondola in the sky.

2305 Mt/ Werner Circle, Steamboat Springs, CO 80487
7 Days, 10AM-4PM, Allow 2 hours, \$30 per person

Steamboat Springs Destination Distinctive Accommodations and Dining



Destination Distinctive Accommodations: The Victorian Luxury Bed and Breakfast 2405 Ski Trail Lane, Steamboat Springs, CO 80487 970-879-7781

It's hard to believe that the Victorian Luxury Bed and Breakfast was built in 1880 in Kansas. Yes, Kansas. A farmer purchased the house in 1990 for \$65 to save it from demolition. He sold it to Larry Cole and gave him 90 days to move it. Larry dismantled the house, cutting it into five sections with a chain saw. When a friend suggested Steamboat Springs for his planned move to Colorado, Larry could not find a mover willing to relocate his house, saying Victorians could only be moved over the prairie and not across mountains. Larry purchased a tractor-trailer and in 6 weeks, moved the house piece by piece in five trips of 650 miles. Over the years, new owners have made renovations and additions, but today, the house still stands proud under the Gondola and accepts guests, just like it always did.



Laundry Restaurant

127 11th Street
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487
970-870-0681

Sandals and stilettos find equal acceptance at this temple of elevated comfort food housed in the 103 year old Steamboat Laundry Dry Cleaning and Pressing building.

Day Two



Yampa

The Ute Indians, who summered in this area, named it Yampa for the edible plant that grew on the banks of the Yampa River. A surveyor seeking a railroad route over the mountain in 1861 called it Egeria (the deity of clear water and springs) Park. Others refer to the town as the “Gateway to the Flattops,” the nearby massive wilderness area. After a hunting camp was established in 1880, miners from Breckenridge came in 1883, looking for a place to settle, playing cards to decide who would get which plot. The Antler’s Café has been a local gathering place for nearly 100. The Royal Hotel, built shortly after Teddy Roosevelt visited in 1900 with no suitable place to stay, now has a resident ghost. The railroad finally arrived in 1908, opening the area to lumbering and bringing prosperity to the town. Steamboat Springs to Yampa—30 miles

Day Two

Yampa-Egeria Museum



Originally a bank that looks like it did in 1904, the restored Yampa-Egeria Museum features the heritage of the area. Combine your visit with a walking tour to the Old Opera House, the 1902 Antlers Hotel, The Royal Hotel, home of Rufus the resident ghost and the jail.

100 Main Street, Yampa, CO 80483 970-638-4480
Hours vary, Allow 1 hour, donations accepted.

Montgomery's General Store



Established in 1890, Montgomery's General Merchandise is one of the oldest continually operating stores in Colorado. Order at the classic meat counter and be welcomed by the old-fashioned wood carved cowboy.

24 Main Street, Yampa, CO 80483 970-638-4531 Retail
hours Monday-Saturday 8AM-6PM, Sunday 9AM-5PM

Day Two



Meeker

After completing your drive on the Byway, you'll arrive in the small ranching town of Meeker, which has a tumultuous history. The area was originally settled by the Yampatika people, descendants of the Utes, who were involved in the tragic Meeker Massacre and Battle of Milk Creek between the Utes and the US Army. When settlers move into the area, Nathan Meeker (also the founder of Greeley), pushed a farming lifestyle onto the nomadic Utes. Feeling tension, Nathan Meeker dispatched for armed troops from Wyoming and although he wasn't intending to cause a war, that's how it was perceived when an infantry of 153 soldiers and 25 civilians arrived. The town was named for Meeker who was killed in the Meeker Massacre. In the early 1900s, Meeker became a destination for hunting, so popular that Vice President-Elect Theodore Roosevelt visited the White River Valley for mountain lion hunting. Other celebrities who visited included Billy the Kid and a small bank robbery gang. Yampa to Meeker—82 miles

Meeker Destination Distinctive Accommodations and Dining



Destination Distinctive Accommodations: Bar 7 Bed, Bath and Barn
2162 Colorado 15, Meeker, CO 81641 970-878-5080

Stay on a working cattle ranch that has been owned by the same family since 1895. The Ranch House is a fully equipped home with five bedrooms, and the Bunk house is an efficiency with one bedroom. The grounds are well-maintained and offer the perfect setting for a relaxing stay.



Make Dinner at Home

Enjoy your fully equipped home kitchen to relax and make your own evening meal.



Day Three

White River Museum



Housed in two log buildings that were constructed in 1880 as US Army Cavalry Garrison officer's quarters, the White River Museum displays photos of early settlers and artifacts including clothing and jewelry, uniforms from every branch of the service worn by Meeker men, moccasins made by a Ute Indian woman, an original hand printing press used by The Meeker Herald, guns used in the historic Meeker bank robbery of 1896, a Victorian wreath made of human hair and a mounted two headed calf.

565 Park Avenue, Meeker, CO 81641 970-878-9982
Monday– Saturday 9AM-5PM, Sunday Noon-5PM Free

Old West Heritage Cultural Center



Located right next to the White River Museum, the Heritage Center is housed in an “Old West” themed building, theater and research center.

517 Park Avenue, Meeker, CO 81641 Allow 1 hour for both museums, Free

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