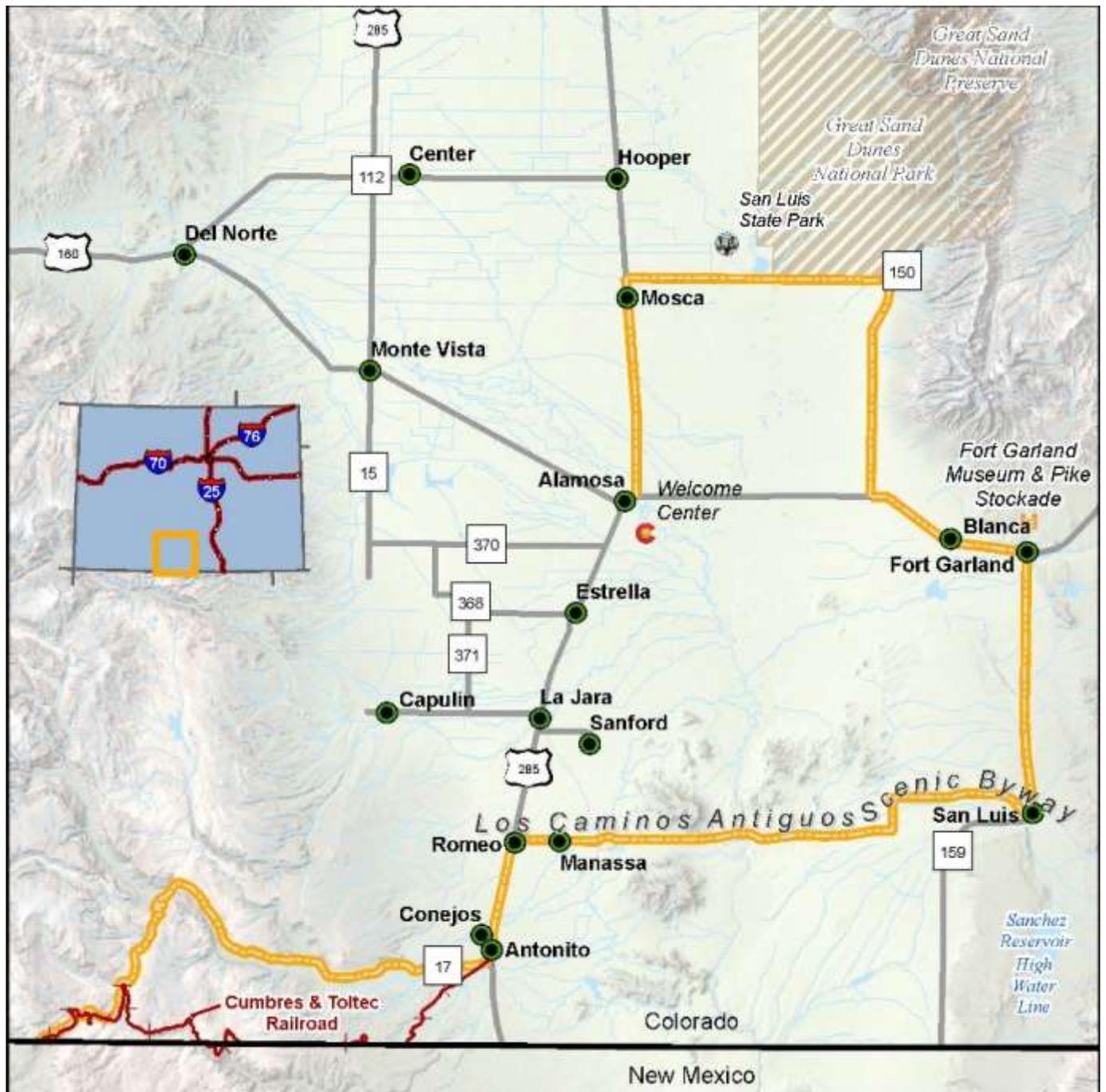




Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway

Following the trails of Spanish Conquistadors, the Los Caminos Antiguos (the ancient roads) Scenic & Historic Byway travels through the areas at the northernmost boundary of 16th century Spanish territorial expansion. The route winds along the Upper Rio Grande River through some of Colorado's oldest towns, including the first, San Luis, surrounded by panoramic views in all directions. The San Luis Valley was the cradle of Hispanic culture celebrated by the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area, appropriate since this part of America was under Spanish rule longer than part of America. The scenic route, where the landscape is an enchanting basin where sandhill cranes feed in the marshes, farmers till the soil, and Mustangs roam free, the naturally beautiful countryside includes 14,000+ foot mountain peaks and the tallest sand dunes in North America. Looking beyond the breathtaking scenery, the Native American and Hispanic influences come to life in historic adobe structures that pepper the landscape. See for yourself where waves of settlers descended on newly formed towns as families sought to make a new life for themselves, bringing their religious beliefs and traditions with them. Close knit communities descended from the early pioneers can still be found where agriculture thrives with the production of potatoes, alfalfa, lettuce, and wheat.



Following the Old Road Experience



Driving the Byway

This splendid road through the valley floor served Spanish explorers as the gateway into Colorado. Since Chama is featured in the Tracks Across Borders Scenic Byway, we begin this trip in Taos, where the road originated. After exploring the multi-cultural dimensions of arts and heritage in Taos, on Day Two you'll be headed for Antonito where you can explore the murals along Main Street, and up into the Rio Grande National Forest. Moving on to Conejos, visit Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Colorado's oldest congregation and stop at Conejos County Museum and Visitor Center. After spending the night in San Luis, where Colorado began, visit the Sangre de Cristo Heritage Center. On Day Three, you'll be heading up to Fort Garland, where the Fort Garland Museum is a must see. From there, it's time to spend the rest of the day at Great Sand Dunes National Park before staying at Zapata Ranch in luxury accommodations on a working ranch. Your trip ends in Alamosa, which serves as the central crossroads of commerce and travel in the valley. Squeeze in a trip on the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad if you can and top off the day with dinner.

Day One



Taos

Don Fernando de Taos, established in 1780, is one of the oldest European settlements in New Mexico. The town was built around a traditional Spanish fortified plaza ringed by low adobe buildings. Taos quickly outgrew its original defensive walls to become an important center for trade on the Santa Fe Trail. In the late 19th century artists settled in and around the plaza leading to Taos' reputation as a world class arts location. Each period of history is evident in the Downtown Historic District, where Spanish Colonial Style residences stand side by side with Territorial, Mission Revival and Pueblo Revival style houses.

Day One

Enchanted Circle Scenic Byway



Since you are in Taos, you have the opportunity to drive the Enchanted Circle Scenic Byway, which circles 13,000 foot Wheeler Peak, the highest point in New Mexico. The route, which begins in Taos, travels for 83 scenic miles through mountains, valleys, a mesa and forest land in absolutely captivating landscapes.

Taos Pueblo



Taos Pueblo is considered to be the oldest continuously inhabited Native American community in the nation. It is a World Heritage Site and a National Historic Landmark. As a member of the Eight Northern Pueblos, Taos is one of the most private, secretive, and conservative. Residents almost never speak of their religious customs to outsiders and their language has never been written down. The ancestors of the Taos people lived in Pueblo long before Columbus discovered America and hundreds of years before Europe emerged from the Dark Ages. The major buildings were most likely built between 1000 and 1450 A.D. The first Spanish explorers arriving in New Mexico in 1540, believing that the Pueblo was one of the fabled golden cities of Cibola. Two structures: Hlauuma – the north house- and Hlaukwima – the south house are said to be of similar age.

120 Veterans Highway, Taos, New Mexico 87571
575-758-1028 Monday-Saturday 8AM-4:30PM, Sunday
8:30AM-4:30PM, 30 minute tour on the hour, \$16 per
person

Day One

Hacienda de los Martinez



The Hacienda de los Martinez is one of the few northern New Mexico late Spanish Colonial period, “Great Houses” remaining in the American Southwest. Built in 1804, this fortress-like building became an important trade center at the northern boundary of the Spanish Empire. As the final terminus of the Camino Real, the road between northern New Mexico and Mexico City, the strategic location was also the focal point for extensive ranching and farming operations. Today the Hacienda’s 21 rooms surrounding two courtyards provide the visitor with a rare glimpse of the rugged frontier life and times of the early 1800s. Regularly scheduled demonstrations present the traditions of northern New Mexico.

708 Hacienda Way, Taos, New Mexico 87571
575-758-1000 F, St, M, Tu 11AM-4PM, Sunday Noon-4PM
Allow 1 hour, \$8 per person

Historic Taos Plaza



The Plaza is the heart of Taos, the center of the Taos Historic District and the center of local trade and gossip for centuries. In 1796 the Don Fernando de Taos Land Grant was given to 63 families by the King of Spain resulting in the building of the Plaza. Taos quickly became the most important settlement along with the ancient Taos Pueblo two miles to the north. Homes were built in large quadrangles in fortress-like structures to thwart hostile raiders from entering the village. Sentries were stationed day and night and a huge gate was the only means of entry. The enclosure also served as a refuge for livestock at night, and merchants displaying their wares during trade fairs.

Central Plaza, Taos, NM 87571

Day One

Kit Carson Home & Museum



Still standing in its original footprint, this house museum preserves the Spanish colonial style residence of frontier leader, Kit Carson. Carson purchased the 1825 home as a wedding gift for his third wife, Maria Josefa Jaramillo, a member of a prominent Taos family. After their deaths 25 years later, the home changed ownership six times before it was purchased by the Grand Masonic Lodge of New Mexico as a perpetual memorial to Freemason Kit Carson.

113 Kit Carson Road, Taos, NM 87571 575-758-4082 7 Days, 11AM-5PM, Allow 1 hour, \$10 per person

Art Galleries and Arts Locations



Taos is a one-of-a-kind art colony with ancient rock art on canyon walls and pottery from the Pueblo people, coexisting with creative pieces from the Taos Society of Artists and other visionaries working today. Art galleries feature traditional art and contemporary fine art, Native American art, Southwest art, Indian art and pottery, glass art, prints, sculpture, fine art photography and other types of visual art and on the first Saturday of each month, feature demonstrations, artist receptions, and other events. Other arts locations include the Couse-Sharp Historic Site, the home and studio of E. I. Couse, the Taos Artist Collective, Enchanted Circle Pottery, Wilder Nightingale Fine Art and 203 Fine Art.

Retail Hours generally 10Am-6PM

Taos Destination Distinctive Accommodations and Dining



Destination Distinctive Accommodations: Hotel La Fonda de Taos **108 South Plaza, Taos, NM 87571 575-758-2211**

In 1820, the first “La Fonda (Spanish for Inn) on the Historic Taos Plaza was a mercantile store that rented rooms. This historic location is where you will find the Hotel La Fonda de Taos today. With over a century of colorful history, it is the only lodging with a premier spot on the plaza when it comes to hotels in Taos, NM. The restaurants, art galleries, museums and other treasures of the Taos historic district are right outside our door, while our completely renovated interior features its own special touches, including the world-famous D.H. Lawrence “Forbidden Art” collection. With a rich history as host and gathering place to numerous artists, writers, celebrities and political dignitaries, Hotel La Fonda de Taos has earned a lasting reputation as one of the finest Taos hotels.



Old Martina's Hall 4140 HWY 68 Ranchos de Taos, NM 87557 575-758-3003

A long time Taos pool hall was given a major facelift by and lovingly renamed in her honor. The enormous great hall was preserved along with the massive adobe walls. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner combine New Mexican and European flavors (like chocolate croissants made by the French pastry chef). Enjoy with a beer or wine.

Day Two



Antonito

Antonito (Spanish for little Anthony) was settled by Hispanic farm families and once served as a sheep herding camp. Founded by the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad, the first train pulled in in 1880 and still runs freight trails to the perlite mines and lava rock to the north. Traveler passing through gave rise accommodations, shopping boutiques, and restaurants. Antonio has not lost its authentic American charm and has carefully preserved important buildings like the historic headquarters of the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad. Taos to Antonito—61 miles

Day Two

Conejos County Museum and Visitor Center



The Conejos County Museum illustrates the multi-cultural heritage of the Ute Indians, Spanish explorers and Mexican ranchers who all called the area home.

5045 US Highway 285, Antonito, CO 81120 719-580-4070
Tuesday & Friday 9AM-5PM, Allow 30 min, Free

Antonito Main Street Murals and Historic Buildings



Antonito is known for murals that convey the key stories of the San Luis Valley's rich history, complemented by several architectural gems including Warshauer Mansion, 515 River Street, built in 1912 by Fred Warshauer, a wealthy German immigrant. Even though he never lived there, the pressed brick and stucco residents is finished with elegant woodwork from Iowa and several murals by Denver artist Jens Eriksen. Ahead of its time, the house, which now serves as the Antonito Town Hall, has a central vacuum system, fire control, steam heating and an intercom. Other structures include the 1925 Society for the Mutual Protection, 603 Main Street, the Palace Hotel, built in 1890, and Cano's Castle at the corner of State Street and East 10th Avenue and the Indiana Jones Bed and Breakfast, filmed in Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish



The oldest parish in Colorado, founded in 1858, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish was originally built of vertical logs lashed together and plastered with adobe. It was later replaced by the current church, a larger adobe structure with prominent bell towers, built around the original building in 1863. A statue of Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe, brought by the first settlers to the area, sits above the entrance.

6633 County Road 13, Conejos, CO 81120 7 Days,
7:30AM-6PM, Allow 1 hour Donations Accepted

Day Two



San Luis

Established by Hispanic settlers from the Taos Valley in 1851, San Luis is Colorado's oldest, continuously inhabited town. A church built in the central village known as La Plaza Medio in honor of its patron saint San Luis de la Culebra. Boasting strong ties to Spain's religious, cultural, and artistic traditions, San Luis was a part of four Spanish land grants decreed by the King of Spain. The town's adobe architecture and classic Spanish town layout retain the cultural influences that shaped the early communities of Southern Colorado. Antonito to San Luis— 38 miles

Day Two

Sangre de Cristo Heritage Center



The Sangre de Cristo Heritage Center, the centerpiece of the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area, is home to the San Luis Museum, Community Theater, and a Community Kitchen. It also features contemporary murals, historic "Santos," wooden carvings by local Hispanic artists and a replica of a Morada; utilized as a place of worship before churches were built.

401 Church Place, San Luis, CO 81152 719-672-0999
Friday– Sunday 10AM-4PM, Free

Plaza de San Luis de la Culebra Historic District



The San Luis Historic District contains an important collection of buildings that include the County Courthouse, 401 South Church Place, the Convent and Church of Most Precious Blood, numerous residences, and the town's commercial core. The district also includes the La Vega Commons, one of two "commons" in the United States, the other being in Boston, and the San Luis People's Ditch, the oldest irrigation ditch in Colorado in continuous operation.

Day Two

Stations of the Cross: San Luis Bronze Sculptures



Sitting above La Mesa de la Piedad y de la Misericordia (the Hill of Piety and Mercy) in the center of town, the Stations of the Cross encompasses a series of ¾ size bronze statues at each of the 15 stations of the cross, the final hours Jesus Christ. Created by internationally known artist Huberto Maestas, the walk ends at the top at the chapel, La Capilla de Todos Los Santos (The Chapel of All Saints).

Sangre de Cristo Parish, San Luis, CO 81152 719-672-3685
24/7 Outdoor location

R&R Market



The oldest continuously operating business in Colorado, dating from 1857. The building, originally constructed of adobe bricks, was expanded into a beautiful two-story log and stucco building in the Territorial Adobe style. It is still a general store with groceries, hardware and other merchandise, owned by Felix and Claudia Romero, descendants of the original owners, who support local farmers by selling local produce and meats.

367 Main Street, San Luis, CO 81152 719-672-3346
Retail hours Monday-Saturday 8AM-6PM, Sunday
10:30AM-12:30 PM

San Luis Destination Distinctive Accommodations and Dining



Destination Distinctive Accommodations: El Convento Inn 401 East Church Place, San Luis, CO 81152 719-992-0122

.A former convent of the Sisters of Mercy, the now Bed and Breakfast is owned by the Sangre de Cristo Parish. It houses Parish offices and other functional areas on the first floor, plus four guests rooms on the second floor, each individual designed with a southwest motif and kiva fireplace. The high ceilings are covered in traditional vigas and latillas and the Hispanic style furniture and artwork is from local artisans.



Mrs. Rios Restaurant 124 Main St San Luis, CO 81152 719- 672-0211

Featuring Mexican, American and Asian cuisine in a folksy atmosphere.

Day Three



Fort Garland

Built to protect settlers in the San Luis Valley, Fort Garland is home to one of the oldest standing forts constructed during the Great Western Expansion of the 1860's. Although less than 500 people reside here now, there are a number of businesses in its downtown historic district. Like other regional communities, Fort Garland has attracted a a lot of creative types, ranging from artists and painters to crafters and musicians. San Luis to Fort Garland—16 miles

Day Three

Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center



Fort Garland, manned by a garrison of over 100 men, was commanded by legendary frontiersman Kit Carson. Today, you can explore life in the 19th century fort, walk the parade grounds and tour the original adobe buildings. Learn about the Buffalo Soldiers of the 9th Cavalry who were stationed at the Fort from 1876 to 1879 and discover Colorado's role in the Civil War. Exhibits also highlight the women and children who brought a bit of home to the fort. Also visit to Pike's Stockade, where Zebulon Pike and his men camped in the early 1800s.

29477 Highway 159, Fort Garland, CO 81133

719-379-3512 Monday-Saturday 9AM-5PM, Allow 2 hours, \$5 per person

White Mountain Trading Post, Museum and Gift Shop



Take a free guided tour through the 1800's replica buildings and Native American dwellings of the White Mountain Trading Post. After getting a brief overview of the settling of the west, browse the gift which features handmade Native American jewelry, rugs, and pottery, hand carved wood and hand forged metal wares, homemade lye soap, blown glass pieces, elk antler tables, jam, and more.

19085 Highway 160, Fort Garland, CO 81133

719-379-7179 Retail hours 7 Days 9AM-6PM

Day Three



Great Sand Dunes National Park

Few know that there is a 30 square mile sand dune field in North America. Against the backdrop of rugged 14,000' peaks of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, the natural system of Great Sand Dunes National Park ranges from great sand dunes to forests, from cottonwood groves to majestic mountain peaks and tundra. As the tallest dunes in North America, they are the centerpiece in a diverse landscape of grasslands, wetlands, conifer and aspen forests, alpine lakes, and tundra. Experience a starry sky on moonless nights, sand board or sled down the dunes, or take a surreal walk on the dunes under bright full moonlight. Begin your visit with the short film on the history of the dunes and exhibits showing the unique formation of the great sand dunes. Your van view the dune field from the parking lot and explore Medano Creek, sand sled down the dunes, or take a four wheel drive tour through the dunes.

Great Sand Dunes Destination Distinctive Accommodations and Dining



Destination Distinctive Accommodations: Zapata Ranch **5305 Colorado 150, Mosca, CO 81146 719-378-2356**

Experience the upscale splendor of historic Zapata Ranch, an old stagecoach station which is now owned by The Nature Conservancy. Featuring a late 19th-century lodge turned sophisticated guesthouse, accommodations at the ranch have elegant southwest décor, peaceful fresh mountain air, and secluded coziness. All of the rooms are located throughout the original main lodge, chinked-log cabin bunkhouse, and the more exclusive Stewart House. Visit the Trujillo Homesteads National Historic Landmark to better grasp regional ranching history and its Hispanic influence.



Dine at Zapata Ranch

Enjoy dinner while relaxing at the ranch this evening.

Day Four



Alamosa

Tucked between the San Juan Mountains and Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Alamosa immediately became a crucial hub for the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad. The town of just under 10,000 residents is a treasure trove of history and culture, where early settlers created a tight knit community powered by agricultural prowess. The small town feel will make you feel right at home. San Luis to Alamosa—25 miles

Day Four

Alamosa Historic District Walking Tour



A walking tour of Alamosa's charming downtown (pdf included with the detailed itinerary) takes you past red brick, pressed metal ornamentation and glazed colored tile, all adorning late Victorian, Mission Revival, and Art Deco styles standing side by side in a very cohesive area. The locations on the tour include the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad Depot and an authentic Locomotive, the Post Office, the first public school building, theaters, Masonic and IOOF halls in the area, plus, a water tower and more.

Tour begins at the Denver and Rio Grand Railroad Locomotive Allow 1 hour

San Luis Valley Museum



Rather than just featuring artifacts, photographs, and collectibles, the San Luis Valley Museum makes early ranch and farm life in the area come to life with an early mercantile/general store, a model of post offices of years past, a typical country grade school classroom, all depicting the town of Wayside Colorado on the Maddox Ranch. In addition to these exhibits, information about the areas Native American artifacts, Hispanic settlers, Japanese-American community, Adams State University and early railroading is also in display.

401 Hunt Avenue, Alamosa, CO 81101 719-587-0667
Tuesday-Saturday 10AM-4PM, Allow 1 hour, \$5 per person

Day Four

Rocky Mountain Scrimshaw and Arts



Scrimshaw is generally acknowledged as the only original American art form, born when the abundance of ivory teeth taken from whales combined with an abundance of idle time to take a jackknife, sharpened nail or canvas needle to scratch a design in a polished surface of an ivory tooth, rub it with lamp black, squid ink or India ink, and wiped away the excess so that only the scratches holding the ink form the design. Owned by Native American artist Tom High, this gallery highlights this 18th century American art form. technique of scrimshaw. Tom has been creating unique Elk Ivory & Claw jewelry for clients around the world since 1997. Like the whalers of old that used ships, whales, and the sea for inspiration, High has perfected artwork of the wildlife and nature that surround him.

5474 CR 112.8 South, Alamosa, CO USA 81101
719-589-2108 Store visit by appointment only



Colorado Farm Brewery

2070 County Road 12 South
Alamosa, CO 81101
720-739-1168

Eight decades and four generations ago, Ray Coody homesteaded land that since, has grown from a sustainable family farm into the Colorado Farm Brewery. Opened in 2017, the brewery uses barley, rye, hops, artesian well water and a strain of yeast native to the property grown that are harvested, processed, brewed, and served. A collar from the mule, that belonged to Josh's grandfather, used to clear the land of chico bushes on the original farm, hangs next to the bar. The bar, tables, countertops and wood trim are crafted from a single tree that grew on the farm until a gust of wind knocked it over.
