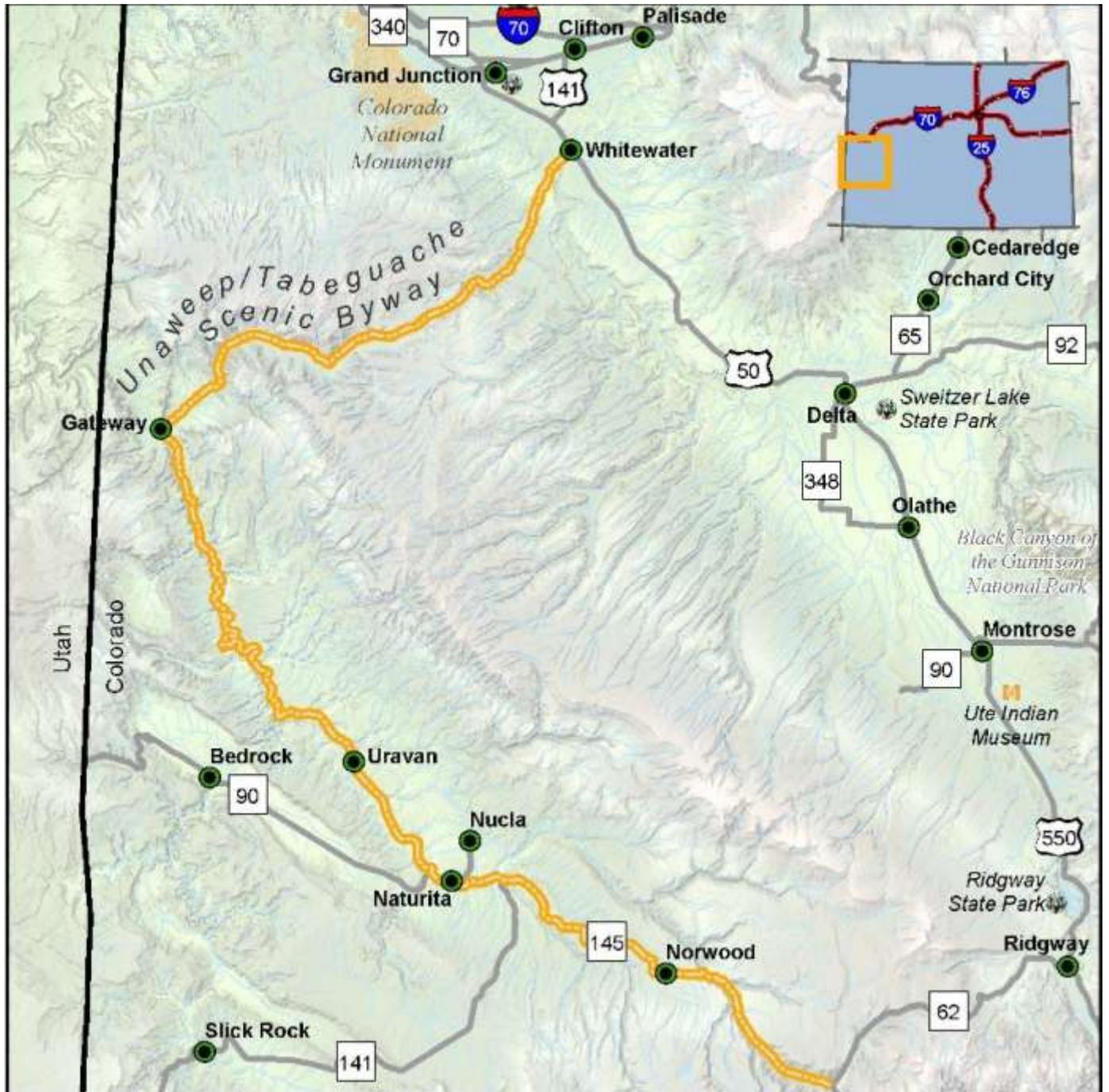




Unaweep Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway

Knifing through the sandstone of the Uncompahgre Plateau, the geologically unique Unaweep Canyon drains in two different directions. Likely it was the original riverbed of the Gunnison and Colorado rivers before they were diverted into the Grand Valley. The Utes lived a traditional nomadic lifestyle here for at least 10,000 years before Spanish conquistadores arrived. Pioneers came to mine gold in 1858, turning the traditional lifestyle completely upside down, with Ute homelands occupied by miners, settlers and ranchers. They finally gave up challenging these new settlements and were moved to Utah. Traveling through the canyon, the Unaweep (Ute for canyon with two mouths) Tabegauche. (Ute for people who camp on the sunny side of the mountain) Scenic and Historic Byway tells the story of the ancient cultures as well as that of the miners, ranchers and Old West characters that occupied the barns, towns and vernacular buildings in communities such as “Uncompahgre” (Ute), “Sewemup” (ranching) and “Uravan” (mining), revealing the perils living in this challenging landscape



Discover the Impressive Canyon Experience



Driving the Byway

You'll start your journey in Grand Junction, where you can witness the awe-inspiring natural beauty of the Colorado National Monument. After exploring Grand Junction for a day, on Day Two, you'll catch Colorado 141 toward Whitewater, and drive the Byway through the small historic towns of Gateway and Uravan. Just outside of Naturita, you'll catch Colorado 145 and continue to Placerville, the official end of the Byway. Your journey will end in Telluride, a former mining town turned sophisticated historic town.

Day One



Grand Junction

Even though Colorado's famous mountain, Kit Carson, John Fremont and John Gunnison all passed through the Grand Valley in the 1840s and 1850s, Grand Junction was not settled until 1881. After the Ute tribes moved to Utah, pioneers began settling the Ute lands and George Crawford who had founded three towns in Kansas and nearby Delta, selected the town location. First called Ute and then West Denver, Grand Junction was settled on for its location at the confluence of the Gunnison and Colorado Rivers. After the first saloon was opened, literary societies, churches, lodges and music began to flourish as the town began to be polished. Like so many other frontier towns, a land rush increased the population threefold.

Day One

Historic Walking Tour of Grand Junction with Art on the Corner and Art Galleries



Take a walk through historic downtown Grand Junction (pdf included with the detailed itinerary) where 23 historic structures are intermingled with a diverse and eclectic display of over 100 outdoor sculptures placed along Main Street and throughout the downtown area. The showcase began in 1984, as one of the nation's first sidewalk sculpture exhibits. Today, the styles and media of both temporary and permanent pieces varies widely, from abstract stone to realistic bronze. While you meander, stop into any one of Grand Junction's 12 art galleries.

Tour starts at 119 Pitkin Avenue, Allow 2 hours

Museum of the West



Thousands of years of history in Western Colorado is revealed at the Museum of the West, one of the magnificent collection of Western Colorado Museums, known for their high-quality exhibits. You can "ride" in a stagecoach, "fly" on a 1958 Cessna, marvel at ancient Anasazi pottery, venture into a uranium mine, follow a timeline of Western history and more. The Lloyd Files Research Library holds a wealth of historical, genealogical and natural history materials. Freemont and Ute rock art here introduces you to this unique art form.

462 Ute Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501
970-242-0971 Tuesday-Saturday 10AM-4PM Allow 2
hours, \$7 per person

Day One

Colorado National Monument



Best known for its grand Western landscape, Colorado National Monument displays colorful sheer-walled canyons, fascinating rock sculptures, purple-gray Book Cliffs, and a huge flat-topped mountain called Grand Mesa. The White Rocks Rock Art Site, depicting ancient family life is reached the Gold Star Canyon trailhead. The 23-mile Rim Rock Drive is one of the most spectacular drives in America. Red rock canyons, crisp blue skies, and verdant green juniper splash fantastic views along the way. The road is challenging, narrow, and steep and caution should be used on tight corners and hills.

1750 Rim Rock Drive, Fruita, CO 81521 970-858-2800
Open 24/7, Visitor Center 8AM-6PM. Allow 2 hours, \$25

Grand Junction Destination Distinctive Accommodations and Dining



Destination Distinctive Accommodations: Castle Creek Manor **638 Horizon Drive, Grand Junction, CO 81506 970-241-9105**

Castle Creek is not a historic property, it's just a wonderful one. In the most luxurious suites in the Grand Valley, all rooms have comfortable king-sized beds, fireplaces, private bathrooms with a two-person jetted tub, fridge, microwave, Wifi, and more. You can also relax on the large redwood deck with great views. A full country breakfast is served daily.



Bin 707 Foodbar 225 North Fifth Street Grand Junction, CO 81506 970-243-4543

Diners consider this one of the best, or the best dinner restaurant in Grand Junction, noting food is locavore, innovative, and very good. The restaurant attracts a cool crowd, with interesting folks from a number of different places.

Day Two

Cross Orchards Historic Site



Now a living history museum, Cross Orchards was the site of the Red Cross Land and Fruit Company's massive apple growing operation from 1899 to 1923. At its peak, the orchard hosted 22,000 apple trees. Fortunately for visitors, even though the property is now much smaller than its original acreage, the land is still cultivated regularly so you can learn how apple cider is made during harvest celebrations. A workers bunkhouse, blacksmith shop, country store, a period farmhouse, a recreated train depot, a summer house, Uintah Railway equipment with railroad cars, engine and caboose, horse drawn road building equipment and a collection of vintage farm equipment, implements and tools all reveal life in the orchard at the turn of the 20th century. The 1890s barn, packing shed, and the bunkhouse are all designated historic structures.

3073 F Patterson Road, Grand Junction, CO 81504
970-434-9814 Thursday-Friday 9AM-3PM Saturday 8AM-3PM, Allow 2 hours, Free, train rides \$3 per person

Day Two



Whitewater

This remote town on the edge of a sandstone wilderness is a quiet spot with shady cottonwoods and a wild river – hence the name – and an extensive history that dates back thousands of years.



Raber Cow Camp

Occupied during summers from the 1930s to the 1960s, the Rabers of Kannah Creek set up the Raber Cow Camp as part of their ranching operation. Today, a loop trail through the area illustrates the importance of ranching in the area during the heyday of the cow camp using the photographs and recollections of Winifred Raber who worked here for 30 years. The cow camp was restored by the US Forest Service in 1993 working with Ms. Raber to tell an authentic story.

Forest Road #100, Land's End Road, Eckert, CO 8141
Loop trail with interpretive signs, allow 30 minutes

Land's End Aboriginal Site



Located adjacent to Land's End Road, this archaeological site is believed to date back to the Archaic Prehistoric period. As it is being excavated, the site has the potential to yield important information about aboriginal lifeways in very ancient times on the North American continent.

Lands End Road, Eckert, CO 81418

Day Two

Gateway



First occupied by the Pueblo and Fremont ancestral people, the Utes were living in Gateway when pioneers arrived in 1884. The discovery of gold attracted gangs of cattle rustlers using the canyon walls as hideouts, gold miners seeking their fortunes and ranchers grazing thousands of cattle on the area's windswept grasslands. A post office called Gateway has been in operation since 1903, the same year that homesteading families built a small dirt floored schoolhouse.

Driggs Mansion Overlook



Visit the Driggs Mansion Overlook to view the ruins of the 1914 Italianate mansion built by Colonel Lawrence LaThourette Driggs which sits below Thimble Rock in Unaweep Canyon. Built from local sandstone, the house originally had six rooms, two bedrooms, a common area, and a kitchen. After he abandoned the mansion after only a few months, Driggs became a leading American aviation expert, writing books and giving lectures on flying. He also invested in Colonial Western Airways, which became American Airlines. Meanwhile the mansion slowly fell apart, leaving a shell of its former glory with only stone walls and an archway remaining.

24505 Colorado 141, Gateway, CO

Gateway Destination Distinctive Accommodations and Dining



Destination Distinctive Accommodations: Gateway Canyons Resort and Spa
43200 Colorado 141, Gateway, CO 81522 970-931-2458

Plan to relax and enjoy the sustainable resort build by John Hendricks, the founder of Disney Channel, after he fell in love with red rock country in Colorado. Having heard tales of the area from his family all his life, he visited in 1995 and decided to stay. Hendricks constructed the upscale resort set in adobe buildings to blend into the canyon landscape overlooking a pond, so he could share his find with the world. Rustic-chic rooms, suites and cottages with a southwestern flare are complemented with fireplace cottages, outdoor showers, private decks with fire pits, a heated outdoor pool, a hot tub, spa and fitness center. You can schedule a jeep tour or air tour the day of your stay. Plan to enjoy dinner at one of the three restaurants at the resort.



Dinner at Gateway Canyons

Day Three



Hanging Flume Overlook

Southeast of Gateway on Colorado 141, the Hanging Flume is a unique testament to the gold rush that invaded Colorado in the late 1800s and left just as quickly a few years later. Considered an engineering marvel, the flume was built to transfer water to placer gold mines in the area and despite the rusted remnants, the overall structure rests soundly on iron supports dug deep into the mountainside. The wooden



Uravan

Gold prospectors digging on a ranch in this area discovered carnotite, which contains radium, vanadium, and uranium. The discovery set off a whole new mining operation in southwestern Colorado when radium from the area was used in French scientist Marie Curie's radiation experiments and vanadium became a hardening agent for steel. The Standard Chemical Company built the Joe Jr. Mill here in 1914 and developed a company town for workers and miners. The fenced and guarded WSP Mill built in 1942, was used solely for the WWII Manhattan Project. After WWII, Uravan continued to produce uranium for defense and domestic use, but after boom and bust, DOW Chemical acquired the site in the early 2000's and burned the last two buildings in 2007.



Hieroglyphic Canyon

Indian writing on rock, painted in yellow, red, black, brown and blue can be found on the underside of a projecting shelf located on the San Miguel River near the Ford Camp of Standard Chemical Company.

Day Three



Nucla/Naturita

Founded in 1904, Nucla's past is deeply rooted in ranching and mining. In fact in this remaining Old West frontier town, you can still ride your horse or your tractor to town and to church and no one blinks an eye. Nearby, the tiny historic town of Naturita which dates to 1881 began as a vibrant ranching community and later became a supply center for nearby mines. Today the town boasts an inn, café, gas station, grocery, and several motels. Grand Junction to Nucla– 104 miles

Day Three

Cottonwood and Tabeguache Caves



Long before Europeans settled the area, the large rock shelter of Cottonwood Cave, site of the earliest dated corn found in Colorado, was occupied as early as 270 BC. The Tabeguache Cave that was once a shelter for the Tabeguache Puebloans still boasts small petroglyphs

320 Main Street, Nucla CO 81424 970-864-7351



Rimrocker Historical Society Museum

Created nearly 60 years ago to preserve the rich history of the region, this small museum features natural history, Native American history, pioneer history and mining history.

411 West Second Street, Naturita, CO 81422
970-865-2100 Hours vary, Allow 30-45 minutes

Day Three

Norwood



Originally settled by the Utes, the large grassland plain of Wright's Mesa was discovered by Telluride miners searching for new claims. Amazed that they could see all the Utah from the vast grassland, caused word to spread about this huge area of unclaimed, unused farmland. Pioneer Harry Copp filed a claim for a new town sitting atop Wright's Mesa in 1885, naming his new home Norwood after his hometown in Missouri. When a road up to the Mesa was constructed, people began pouring in, taking up land and water permits faster than the land could support. Copp built the first structure in Norwood in 1886 to house the post office, general store and hotel. It was soon joined by two hotels, three blacksmith shops, several liverys, three pool halls, two saloons, two general stores and a bank.

Norwood Historical Museum



That first structure built in Norwood, The Log Cabin, as it became known, was moved to its current location on Lucerne Street in 1939 to become the Norwood Historical Society.

Lucerne Street, Norwood, CO 81423 970-327-4833
Hours vary



Kristi's @ The Lone Gone Restaurant

1580 Grand Ave
Norwood, CO 81423-9903
970-327-0344

Located in the historic Lone Cone Saloon, Kristi's serves local organic food for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Seating is at tables, booths and the bar, complemented with a pool table and flat screen TV. Wine, beer, a wide selection of liquor and cocktails complement the meals.

Day Three



Placerville

The official end of the Unaweep-Tabogauche Scenic and Historic Byway, Placerville was named for the placer gold mines under the San Miguel River. Having got its start as a mining camp in the late 1800s, by 1919 five mines in town that produced 30% of the world's vanadium. During the next two decades, 3 million pounds of the valuable mineral had been shipped out. Today, the town's beautiful riverside location is a popular stop for fishermen and hikers. Nucla to Placerville- 39 miles

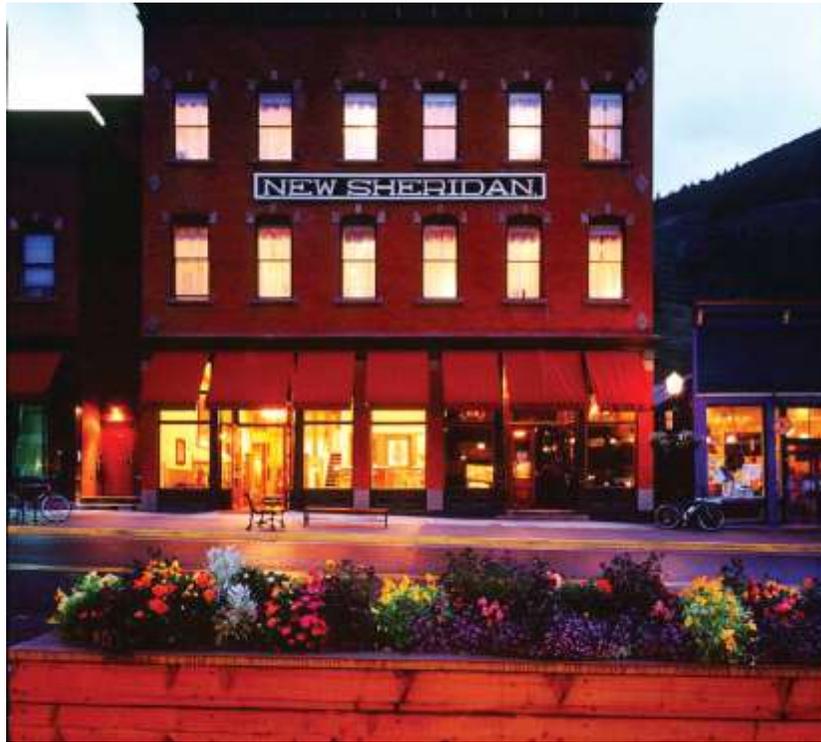
Day Three



Telluride

Just eight blocks wide and twelve blocks long, the tiny town of Telluride, tucked into a box canyon surrounded by 14,000 foot peaks, began as a gold mining camp and ended up in a fairy tale. Even though the mountains around town were loaded with zinc, lead, copper, iron and silver, it wasn't until the gold rush the town grew from cabins and shacks to rows of elegant residences and stately buildings. The National Historic Landmark District is filled with colorful Victorian homes, clapboard storefronts, art galleries, gourmet restaurants, and boutiques, which citizens work hard to keep impeccably preserved. Enjoy the small-town mountain lifestyle in this very sophisticated place. Placerville to Telluride— 15 miles

Telluride Destination Distinctive Accommodations and Dining



Destination Distinctive Accommodations: New Sheridan Hotel **231 West Colorado Avenue, Telluride, CO 81435 970-728-4351**

As the gold rush boomed in southwestern Colorado and more prospectors and profiteers moved to the area, all who needed a place to stay. The Sheridan Hotel was constructed to fill this bill in 1891. When it burned in 1894, it was rebuilt in brick. As Telluride changed from gold mining to skiing, the Sheridan Hotel became the New Sheridan Hotel with 26 handsome rooms and impeccable quality. Today's it's the only historic hotel in town and one of the few of left in Colorado that date from mining days.



221 South Oak **221 South Oak Street** **Telluride, CO 81435** **970-708-1437**

Housed in a tastefully refurbished historic home, 221 South Oak is just steps from the Telluride Gondola. Fresh quality ingredients and an abundance of hard work makes make the meals prepared to order great. Choices include beef, game, poultry, seafood and a full vegetarian menu.

Day Four

Historic Walking tour of Telluride



Settled in 1876, Telluride became one of the West's most iconic Victorian mining towns. Today, many of these elegant Victorian structures and stately brick buildings are filled with modern boutiques and restaurants. Take the self-guided Historic Walking Tour (pdf provided with the detailed itinerary) through Telluride's storied past.

Tour begins at the intersection of Colorado and Oak Streets
Allow 1 hour

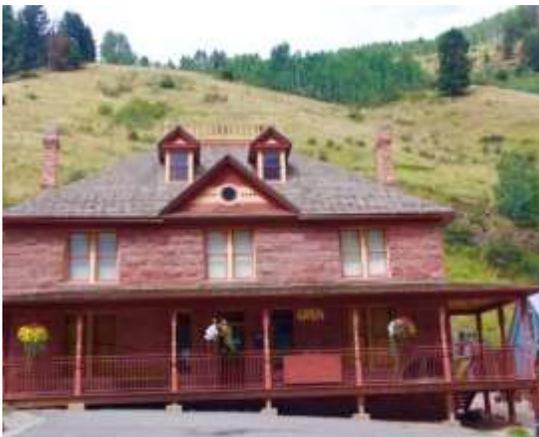
Telluride Ski Resort Gondola



After your walking tour, it's time for a bird's eye view on the gondola that links Telluride with Mountain Village (where the skiing is). The 13-minute ride is the only public transportation of its kind in America, and one that delivers a front row seat to view the magnificent mountain landscape from 10,500 feet.

West San Juan Avenue, Telluride, CO 81435 7 Days
6:30AM-Midnight

Telluride Historical Museum



At one last stop for mining history, the Telluride Historical Museum introduces you to the diverse prospectors, settlers, and entrepreneurs who came to the mountain valley to seek their fortune. The museum illustrates the daily life of Telluride's families in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in town and the mining camps of Tomboy and Marshall Basin.

201 West Gregory Avenue, Telluride, CO 81435
970-728-3344 Wednesday-Saturday 11AM-5PM Allow 1
hour, \$7 per person
