NEW

boundless landscapes

Colorado. Spanning 14,918 square miles, the region encompasses expansive areas of public lands—canyons and rivers, forests and wilderness, parks and peaks, mesas and plateaus preserved for posterity and enjoyment by the National Park Service, United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Colorado State Parks. This remote area has always attracted rugged individuals and today rewards adventurers with experiences where, like explorers, you can find yourself alone and renewed by vast frontiers.

Unrelenting forces of nature have carved immense and intimate landscapes in northwest

Powell Expedition, Hell's Half Mile, Lodore Canyon, 1871 Steamboat Rock & Yampa River Canyon at Harpers Corner

roam with a view: canyons & rivers

Dinosaur Diamond Scenic and Historic Byway connects you to the canyons and rivers of northwest Colorado. Here you can choose a *Heritage Journey* to view time in the geology of the land, discover the painted pictographs and carved petroglyphs of the Fremont and Ute Indians, see where wild horses still roam, or stand 2,700 feet above the Green and Yampa

Irish Canyon Journey: Irish Canyon dates back to the Pleistocene time when a stream pirated from Vermillion Creek began the formation of the 1,000-foot deep dry gorge. Irish Lakes represent one of the few natural playa or dry lakes in this part of the state. Rock art sites abound in the canyon.



Canyon Pintado Journey: Striking rock art of the Fremont people dates back to 1200BC and abounds in the "Painted Canyon." Later the Ute Indians added their art to the canyon walls too. Look for figures called carrot men, flute players, horses, handprints, white

birds, corn, and weapons. Do not touch; oil from fingers

Browns Park Journey: Appearing much as it did one hundred years ago, this high desert valley formed by the Green River, was a favored wintering place for the Ute and Shoshone. In the late 1800s cattlemen arrived lured by its mild winters, game, grass, and water. Due to its remoteness and access to three state borders, outlaws—Butch Cassidy, Sundance Kid, Isom Dart, Tom Horn, and Matt Rash also frequented the area. Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1963 and offers wildlife viewing and scenic solitude.

Journey through Time: Orient yourself at the Dinosaur National Monument Visitor Center, then travel through open rangeland to arrive at the Monument's canyon lands. If you're bold, make the steep descent to the river bottom on Echo Park Road. At Harpers Corner, stand at the precipice above the convergence of the Green and Yampa Rivers and trace where the John Wesley Powell Expedition ran the Green River in 1869 and 1871.

On the trail to Trappers Lake ca. 1900

xial to Yamp liver Energy



roam with a view: forests & wilderness

Flat Tops Trail Scenic Byway, linking Yampa and Meeker, showcases the legacy of Routt National Forest's multiple-use land management. You'll follow a Ute trail recorded by the Ferdinand Hayden Expedition, 1874-1878, through pristine scenery with excellent wildlife viewing. It is a working byway for ranching, logging, and mining operations. Take time on our *Heritage Journeys* to explore Trappers Lake, the Ute legacy at the White River Agency, and Thornburgh Battle Monument. Or, follow the *West Elk Loop*—described by a forest ranger as "the closest you can come to a wilderness experience in a passenger car."

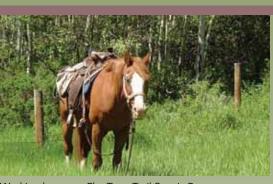
65 Million Years in 65 Miles Journey:

A self-guided loop through BLM land, which was once a shallow sea, reveals sixty-five million years of geological time—from fossils and coal deposits to hot springs. As you travel the landscape of rugged beauty, you'll also find historic homesteads, outlaw hangouts, and open vistas for wildlife viewing.

White River Ute Journey: Northern Utes called the White River "Smoking Earth River" for the clouds of mist rising from the water on cool mornings. In 1879, Indian Agent Nathan C. Meeker's aggressive campaign to convert the nomadic Northern Ute to farmers ignited conflict, resulting in the killing of Meeker, nine of his men, and the troops of Major Thornburgh. In the aftermath, the Ute lost their ancestral home and were forced onto reservations.

Heritage Ranch Journey: The loop passes ranches listed on local, state, and national registers of historic places including the Carpenter Ranch. "Old Fred," the founding stallion of the Quarter Horse breed came from one of these ranches. The routes feature Elkhead Reservoir and State Park as well as the Yampa River.

Elkhead Journey: On this day-long trek you'll travel through stunning California Park on your way to the small ranching town of Slater—marked only by a post office—and then through to the historic mining areas of Columbine and Hahns Peak.



Working horse on Flat Tops Trail Scenic Byway

Cradle of Wilderness Journey: Located at 9,600 feet in the White River National Forest and accessible by the Flat Tops Scenic Byway, Trappers Lake offers striking views of the Flat Tops Mountains as well as opportunities for fishing, hiking, and camping. Considered by many to be the birthplace of the U.S. Wilderness Area system and the "Cradle of Wilderness," this lake inspired Arthur Carhart in 1920 to preserve the area in its natural form for all people rather than develop it for private residences.

Gove Pass Journey: Tracing the historic stage route south from Steamboat Springs, this scenic detour passes through the historic mining and railroad towns of Oak Creek and Phippsburg. Stop by the Tracks and Trails Museum in Oak Creek for a preview of the area's coal mining and railroad heritage. Then, visit Yampa for a glimpse of ranch life before leaving the Yampa Valley and climbing to 9,527 feet on Gore Pass over the Gore Range.



roam with a view: mountains & parks

Cache la Poudre-North Park Scenic and Historic Byway follows the federally designated Wild and Scenic River, the Cache la Poudre, from Fort Collins to Walden. Traveling through the river canyon you'll ascend to 10,276-foot Cameron Pass, cross between the Never Summer and Medicine Bow mountain ranges, and then descend into North Park. Now called "Moose Country," the Ute Indians named the area the "Bull Pen" for the great buffalo herds, which grazed in the valley. Three *Heritage Journeys* let you explore mountains and parks in Routt



Buffalo herd ca. 1900 - 1910

Buffalo Pass Journey: The pass was originally a Native American trail over the Continental Divide, which provided hunting access to buffalo herds in North Park. The route later served mountain men and fur traders. Rarely open to travel before July 4th, the journey provides remarkable opportunities for scenic vistas as the pass climbs over 3000 feet.

Hahns Peak Gold Journey: Following Joseph Hahns discovery of gold in the late 1800s, the area boomed and was once the Routt County seat of government. After the gold bust, Hahns Peak became a mining ghost town, yet over time timber harvesting brought people back into the area. Today, Hahns Peak is a quiet historic village near Steamboat Lake. Here you can learn about early pioneer life at the Hahns Peak Museum before venturing north to Columbine, a former gold mining camp and stagecoach stop, and then on towards Hahns Peak itself.

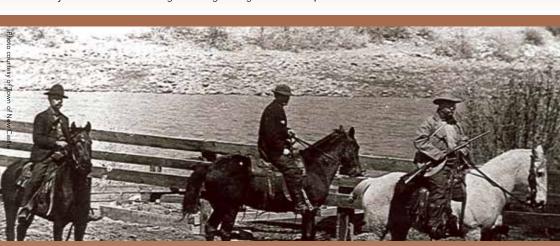
North Park Journey: This scenic detour rises from the sagebrush flats of the valley floor up into the forest. Lake John, a remote 656 acre high plains lake, offers expansive water and mountain horizons, which powerfully reconnect you with the natural heritage of this remarkable region. Trappers and mountain men hunted the area and intrepid settlers carved out ranching and logging enterprises that continue today. In Routt National Forest, the Big Creek Lakes are fishing destinations where you'll compete with osprey and golden eagles for the

Check with the U.S. Forest Service for local road conditions.



Migratory birds in Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge

Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge: Created in 1967, the Refuge provides habitat for waterfowl and moose. Bring your camera and take the six-mile self-guided tour to learn about the Refuge, its wildlife, and habitats.



roam with a view: mesas & plateaus

The Colorado River defines this region—its waters coursing through the mesas and plateaus and geologic time—to carve Glenwood Canyon and nourish its valleys. Recognized as one of the most biologically diverse areas on the Western Slope, the Roan Plateau provides outstanding habitat for fishing, deer, and other wildlife. Sixty percent of the area is public land where for generations outdoorsmen have come to camp and hunt. Here you can follow

Mesa Journey: Morrisania Mesa, just east of Battlement Mesa, features the "fruit basket" of the western U.S. Here, early fruit farmers cultivated cherries, apples, and apricots. This Journey also travels to the trailhead of historic Battlement Reservoir, a chain of reservoirs carved out by horse-drawn equipment in the 1890s. Today, the area offers a pristine high mountain setting for fishing and hiking.

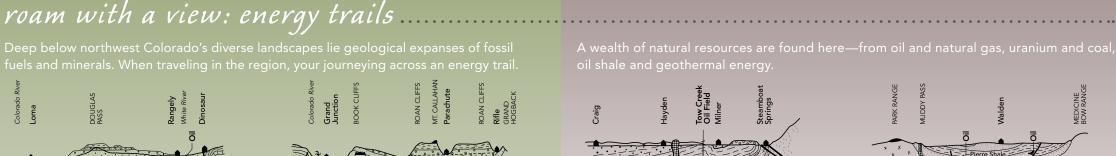
Theodore Roosevelt Journey: During a hunting trip in 1905, in which he bagged three black bears and three lynx, TR rode to the Little Blue School House on Divide Creek (south of Silt) and addressed 1,400 residents. He then returned to the Colorado Hotel for a dip in the hot springs. The first ranger station in the area is also featured. Rifle Falls Journey: A scenic loop featuring Rifle Falls State Park, offers a trio of side by side, 90-foot cascading waterfalls and limestone caves. Within Rifle Gap State Park and Harvey Gap, is a 350 acre reservoir for swimming, boating, water skiing, fishing, and ice fishing. Rifle Mountain Park, in a narrow box canyon, provides world-famous rock and ice climbing opportunities for advanced climbers. Don't miss Rifle Arch in the Grand Hogback, a 60foot high sandstone arch, which spans 150 feet.

Whitehouse Mountain Journey: Trek to Marble where, at 9,500 feet, snow-white Yule marble was cut from a steep mountainside and hauled over a three-mile wagon road. Colorado Yule Marble graces the Lincoln Memorial, the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery, and the Colorado Governor's Residence.



Section between Dinosaur and Loma on CO 139*

Modern day drilling near Rangely



Douglas Pass Energy Trail: Paralleling the Canyon Pintado Journey, this trail traces the story of oil. Ute Indians used oil seeping from the ground for the Roan Cliff area. medicinal purposes. Early explorers encountered places where oil mixed with surface water. But it wasn't until the 1930s that technology enabled oilmen to drill over a mile down to a vast pocket of trapped oil. Measuring ten miles long and five miles wide the deposit of natural gas and oil floating heating the shale to 900 degrees Fahrenheit. on a reservoir of water makes the area the most

Roan Plateau Energy Trail: The world's largest known source of oil shale was deposited 50 million years ago in a series of intermountain

*Sections courtesy of Roadside Geology of Colorado, Halka Chronic and Felicie Williams, Mountain Press Publishing Company

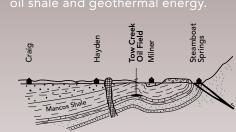
productive oil field in Colorado.



lakes in an area north of Rifle. It is estimated that 1.8 trillion barrels of oil exists within the shale of

When traveling between Rifle and Parachute on Interstate 70, you'll see a dark brown layer of an oil bearing strata called the Mahogany Ledge. Oil extraction, from this strata of a waxy compound called "kerogen," involves a costly process of

As you travel north of Rifle on Colorado 13 and west on Colorado 64, you'll traverse the Roan Plateau where, west of the junction at Rd 122 and Hwy 13, an oil shale reserve lies buried in geological time.

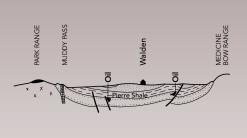


Garfield County's Union Mine Workers, 1913

U.S. 40 section between Craig and Steamboat Springs* Axial to Yampa River Energy Trail: Traveling north on Colorado 13 to Craig you enter coal mining territory. Here, 65-million years ago, a retreating sea left coal beds in the White River Plateau from Hamilton to Oak Creek. This "black gold" enticed miners to the region beginning in the

1870s. Today coal is mined in the northwest counties of Garfield, Moffat, Routt, and Rio Blanco. Near Oak Creek on Colorado 127, Twentymile Coal is the world's most productive coal mine in terms of output per man-year.

Following US 40 east from Craig to Steamboat Springs, you pass near the Tow Creek Oil Field, which is south of Milner. Oil is pumped from a



Battlement reveals geological layers

Northeast-southwest section across North Park* layer of limestone 2,500 feet deep. Further east, in Steamboat Springs, at depths of 12,000 to 15,000 feet, geothermal activity creates a potential source for alternative energy.

North Park Energy Trail: Glacial meltwater carved rock terraces and faults, which trapped and collected oil in the North Park basin. In this wide valley, ringed on three sides by mountain ranges, oil was first drilled west of Walden in 1926. Named McCallum Field, this first drill site has accounted for more than half the oil production in North Park. Early in the 21st century, 153 wells throughout the Park region produced 96 thousand barrels of oil and 1.3 billion cubic feet of natural gas.