

HERITAGE TOURS of SOUTHERN COLORADO

An Enterprise of Frontier Pathways Scenic and Historic Byway



Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site

Essential, Accessible Colorado

A Day On The American Frontier

This trip provides an in-depth experience of American-Frontier people who intermarried and lived along the international border, the Arkansas River, that once separated the United States and Mexico. (Until the Mexican-American War, 1846-1848) Trading Posts, also called forts, enabled trade with Native Tribes, and Mexican settlements. Their stories are ones of adventure, conflict, and romance.

Depart for Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site. Travel to La Junta, (an hour east). Situated on the north bank of the Arkansas River in Southeastern Colorado, this non-military fort was one of the most significant outposts on the Santa Fe Trail. It was instrumental in shaping the destiny of the area. It's size, adobe architecture, and authentic detail capture the essence of life on the frontier. (Minor stair climbing involved.)

Lunch in La Junta prior to departing for Pueblo.

Arrive at El Pueblo Trading Post. Frontier traders, with their Mexican families, built El Pueblo Trading post in 1842. This smaller, seemingly insignificant post provides a glimpse of the interaction between Americans, Native Tribes and Spanish Colonials. Trade and intermarriage resulted in a distinct Spanish Borderlands culture. Learn why a Ute tribe attacked the post. Following, tea and Mexican cookies will be provided. Also visit the on-site El Pueblo Community Museum, which features diverse exhibits, and local artisan products.

Board for departure.



Bent's Old Fort



Trail Marker



El Pueblo Trading Post,
History Colorado



El Pueblo Museum & Visitor Center 301 North Union Avenue, Pueblo, CO 81003

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Beckwith Ranch

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Cowboys to Castles (Most Popular)

Depart from Pueblo or Colorado Springs

The trip takes in Pueblo's historic and beautifully preserved Union Avenue through South Pueblo to the rural site of the Charles Goodnight Barn. This famous cattle baron was the originator of the iconic chuck wagon and famous American cattle drives (1860s), along with his partner Oliver Loving. The Drives brought the Mexican longhorn cattle through Indian Territory across the open Plains.

Arrive in Westcliffe located in a mountain valley at the foot of 23 awe-inspiring peaks; where high-valley cattle ranching is still a way of life. Proceed to Beckwith Ranch, established in 1874, by Elton and Edwin Beckwith, once one of the largest cattle operations in Colorado. This is an incredible photo opportunity.

In Westcliffe, take time to soak in the Western atmosphere in galleries and shops, or enjoy a drink in a patio restaurant.

Depart for Music Meadows Ranch, still a working ranch and enjoy lunch in the original chink-and-log barn. Along the way, view the many cattle ranches in the wide-open spaces at the foot of the Sangre De Cristo Mountain Range. Enjoy a meal of organic grass-fed beef and meet authentic working cowboys/girls while trying your hand at some real-life ranching activities.

Depart for Bishop Castle, a medieval wonder in the 21st Century, constructed by one man for over forty years!

Continue on the Byway through San Isabel National Forest, Rye, and Colorado City on the return to Pueblo. View wildflowers, meadows, wildlife and old homesteads. *Optional:* A stop at San Isabel Lake, (adjacent to the highway) for more photos and homemade fudge from the San Isabel Lodge or have the evening meal at the Lodge.

Return



1871 Goodnight Barn



Bishop Castle



Music Meadows Ranch



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Veterans Bridge - Historic Arkansas Riverwalk, Pueblo

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Home of Heroes & Walk of Valor

Pueblo is known as the "Home of Heroes" and has the distinction of having four Medal of Honor recipients, more than any city in the country. President Dwight D. Eisenhower once remarked, "What is it in the water out there in Pueblo ... all you guys turn out to be heroes."

- Arrive at the National Home of Heroes Memorial, that commemorates Pueblo's war heroes, at the Pueblo Convention Center.
- Take the "Walk of Valor" along the beautiful Historic Arkansas Riverwalk of Pueblo (HARP), that includes a stop at Veteran's Bridge Memorial, that pays tribute to Pueblo's veterans.
- Proceed to the Center for American Values (CAV), whose mission is to honor the extreme sacrifice and action of all Medal of all Honor recipients'.
- Board riverboats at the CAV for a box lunch and tour of the Riverwalk. The flags of France, Spain, Mexico and Texas fly over the Arkansas River that was once an international border.
- OR lunch on your own outdoors along the Riverwalk, at any number of restaurants (lunch stipend provided).
- Disembark at Lake Elizabeth Pavilion, board coach.
- Weisbrod B24 Aircraft Museum that preserves Air History on the grounds of a former WWII Air Base.
- Following the tour, enjoy a Q and A session with afternoon refreshments.
- Return

Requires easy-stride walking, approximately 1/2 mile, and some stair climbing.



Historic Arkansas Riverwalk



Center for American Values



Weisbrod Aircraft Museum



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Steelworks Center of the West - Colorado Fuel & Iron Administration Building

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Pueblo Legacy Tour

Pueblo's history is rich and diverse, but the most epic saga of the city is the story of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company. The arrival of immigrants from various countries filled Pueblo's over-flowing ethnic neighborhoods. For over one hundred years, day and night shifts created a vast empire of steel making, mining, and railroads. From the poorest to the richest, Pueblo has a million stories.

Steelworks Center of the West ~ Once owned by John Rockefeller, this museum and extensive archival center, exists in the company's original Mission-Style buildings. It has amazing artifacts that capture America's industrial story of workers who labored in the mill, smelters and coalmines.

Rosemount Museum ~ Built in 1893, this thirty-seven room mansion was home to ranchers and bankers, John A. and Margaret Thatcher. Nearly all furnishings, accessories, decorative arts, paintings, custom paneling, wall and window treatments are original to the home. Lunch is served on the home's lovely veranda.

El Pueblo History Museum ~ View the "Children of Ludlow: Life in a Battle Zone 1913 -1914" Exhibit, that relates the tragedy of the Ludlow Massacre, when a tent colony of striking families was attacked by company militia. Enjoy the bookstore and fine gift shop.

Pueblo Union Depot : (Walk or ride) ~ Enjoy leisurely, afternoon tea and ethnic desserts during a Q and A session, in the midst of an elegant, nineteenth-century rail station. The station was the place where immigrants arrived in a city bustling with streetcars, ethnic markets and a growing entrepreneurial society.

Retrun



Rosemount Museum



El Pueblo History Museum,
History Colorado
Children of Ludlow



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Royal Gorge

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Royal Gorge Bridge & Cripple Creek

The tour takes in Colorado's awe-inspiring Royal Gorge Bridge, that spans a half-mile across the gorge over the Arkansas River, 995 feet below.

Departure: The trip is only one hour from Colorado Springs or forty minutes from Pueblo.

After two hours at the park, lunch can be enjoyed in the Visitor Center Restaurant, indoors, or out on the breathtaking patio.

Departure to Cripple Creek, once one of Colorado's gold-mining boom towns that retains its Western flavor and where people still hope to strike it rich!

Opportunities include:

- Cripple Creek and Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad or
- Gold mine tours
- Free time to enjoy the shops, museums or casinos

Dinner concludes the day at McGill's Casino.

Departure: Tour continues on the Gold Belt Byway through scenic wonders and towns of Woodland Park, Manitou Springs back to Colorado Springs or Pueblo (Either destination works for a half-day tour.)



Bennett Ave, Cripple Creek



Manitou Springs

Cripple Creek Gaming



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