

RECREATION AND TRAIL GUIDE ISSUE 2 | 2024







f www.CucharaValleyRec.com

Annual Stonewall Century Ride 102 Miles • August 10, 2024 Scenic. Challenging. Delicious.



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The Spanish Peaks Guide is funded in part by generous matching grants by the Spanish Peaks Chamber of Commerce, Spanish Peaks Country, and generous donations from business sponsors, nonprofit organizations, and individual donors.



La Veta Trails is a 501(c)3 nonprofit founded in 2015 to develop and maintain parks and trails systems in Huerfano County that connect people of all ages and abilities to the outdoors, inspire volunteerism, and contribute to the health and economic vitality of the region. For more information on its mission and how you can help, please visit www.lavetatrails.org, or contact info@lavetatrails.org.

La Veta Trails assumes no liability for injuries or accidents that occur while engaging in activities that are outlined in this guide. Participants should act in accordance with their abilities and knowledge of the activities described.

MAPS

David Gonzalez

DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Rebecca Leigh Designs, LLC

PRINTING

Publications Printer Corp.

FRONT COVER PHOTO

Kayla Griego (Lathrop State Park)

BACK COVER PHOTO

Nicole Copel (Cuchara Mountain Park)

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WELCOME TO THE SPANISH PEAKS REGION



VISITOR RESOURCES

La Veta Visitors Center

111 Park St, La Veta, CO 81055 For Visitor Center operating hours, call 719-742-3676 May 25 - September 3 huerfanochamber.org

Francisco Fort Museum

306 S. Main St., La Veta, CO 81055 719-742-5501 | www.franciscofort.org May 15 - October 5, 2024 Wednesday - Sunday, 10 am - 4 pm

U.S. Forest Service Office San Carlos Ranger District

103 E. Field St., La Veta, CO 81055 719-742-3681

www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/psicc/recreation Typically is open year-round (Tuesday - Saturday) Please call ahead to make sure the office is open

Cuchara Visitor Center

Located in the Cuchara Mountain Mercantile 1120 Panadero Ave., Cuchara, CO 81055 Summer hours, May 8- October 22 Monday - Saturday 9 to 6 pm Winter hours, October 23 - March 30 Wednesday - Saturday 9am - 3 pm *Closed March 31-May 8

Cuchara Digital History Center

cucharafoundation.org

Lathrop State Park Visitor Center

70 County Road 502, Walsenburg, CO 81089 719-738-2376

cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/parks/Lathrop Open Year-round, Monday - Friday, 8am - 4 pm

Spanish Peaks Country Visitor Center

928 Russell St., Walsenburg, CO 81089 www.spanishpeakscountry.com

Walsenburg Mining Museum

112 W. 5th St., Walsenburg, CO 81089 719-738-2840 or 719-738-1992 (Seasonal) www.huerfanohistory.org

Hours subject to change. Call ahead to confirm.

CLOSEST EMERGENCY ROOM

Spanish Peaks Regional Health Center 23500 US-160, Walsenburg, CO 81089

719-738-5100

ABOUT LA VETA TRAILS

La Veta Trails is a 501(c)3 nonprofit founded in 2015 to develop and maintain parks and trails systems in Huerfano County that connect people of all ages and abilities to the outdoors, inspire volunteerism, and contribute to the health and economic vitality of the region. We work with our partners to develop and maintain a network of multi-use parks and trails, provide Volunteer Stewardship opportunities for adults and youth, host events, and promote outdoor recreation through this guide and website www.lavetatrails.org.

WE WANT TO THANK WHO HELPED

Destiny Chapman Cale Dancho Arthur Ellege Sarah Jardis Devon lensen

Tim lenson Stacey Koury Helena Laliberte Les Lewis Evan Molyneux

Ashlee Sack Nancy Schuster Mike Smith Bill Velarde

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Gonzalez Marilyn Russell Judy Fisher Mark White

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL!



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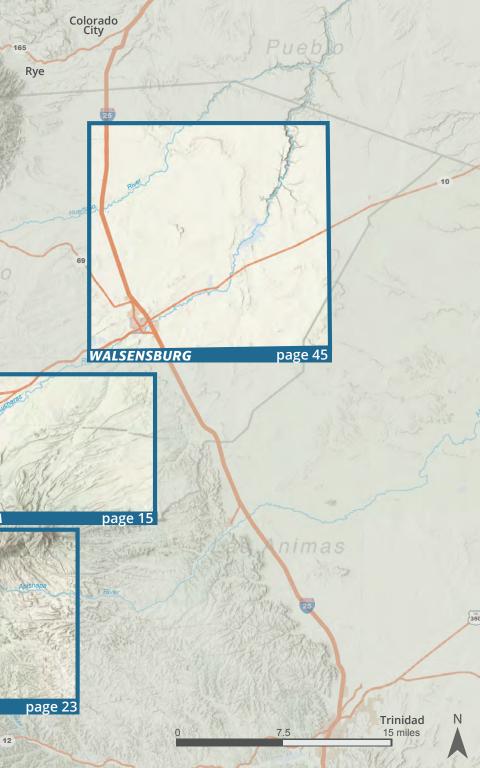
WAYS TO SUPPORT

La Veta Trails relies on the generosity of businesses and donors to achieve our mission and goals. Please make a donation to support our work at www.lavetatrails.org.

Connect to La Veta Trails to get updates on our activities, events, projects, volunteer, and sign up for the newsletter.







CARE FOR COLORADO LEAVE NO TRACE SEVEN PRINCIPLES

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- · Almost half of Colorado is public land. Learn about the area you plan to visit before adventuring out so you can enjoy and help protect the spaces we all share.
- · Colorado's weather and scenic terrain is stunning but can change drastically. Check conditions before you depart, pack layers, sun protection and rain gear, wear appropriate footwear ... and enjoy your trip.
- Journey to places with minimal crowds to maximize your connection with the great outdoors. Have a backup plan in case the parking lot at your original destination is full.
- Pack reusable water bottles to stay hydrated, limit waste and save money.

STICK TO TRAILS

- Embrace the adventure as intended by only walking on designated trails — even if it's wet, muddy, slushy or icy. This will help avoid erosion and protect the homes of local wildlife.
- Shortcuts and that perfect selfie can be tempting, but staying on the path will decrease your risk of injury and protect trailside plants.
- · Camping? Set up in one of thousands of designated campsites in Colorado. They boast some of the most scenic views and protect the landscapes. And remember to camp at least 200 feet from waterways to leave space for wildlife.

LEAVE IT AS YOU FIND IT

- Enjoy discovering plants? Rocks? Historical and cultural items? Be sure to leave them as you found them so everyone can experience the joy of discovery.
- Colorado has more than 2,000 different species of wildflowers, all with their own unique part to play in our ecosystem. Admire their beauty by taking a photo, not a flower.
- Cleaning boots, bike tires and water crafts before and after every outing not only makes your gear last longer, it prevents the spread of harmful invasive species.
- Colorado's trees give us beautiful leaf peeping photos, shade on summer days, unmatched ski runs and, of course, oxygen (which at this altitude, is a big help). But the smallest carving can kill or disfigure them.

TRASH THE TRASH

- · Pack in the beautiful views by packing out the trash and leaving a place better than you found it. And make sure not to forget the peels and cores. Just because it's good for you, doesn't mean it's good for the wildlife.
- No bathroom around? No worries. Be prepared with a disposable WAG bag (found in most outdoor stores), and conveniently pack out your waste. Alternatively, find privacy 70 steps from water and the trail, dig a 6- to 8-inch hole and then bury your business.

BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE

- · Build the perfect Colorado campfire (and avoid sparking a wildfire) by first making sure campfires are allowed in the area. Then, keep them small, manageable and attended. When it's time to extinguish, make sure the embers are cold to the touch to avoid reigniting a flame.
- Buy or gather firewood locally; it'll save you space in your car, plus it prevents the introduction of any invasive species like the destructive pine beetle.
- Use care when smoking anything (and we do mean anything) in Colorado's dry climate. One of the biggest causes of fires are discarded butts.

KEEP WILDLIFE WILD

- Colorado is home to tens of thousands of furry, scaly and feathered creatures. To keep them — and you — safe, make sure to keep you (and your dog's) distance. And if you're ever unsure, follow the rule of thumb: If you can cover the entire animal with your thumb, you're at a safe distance.
- Everyone loves the smell of bacon (not just humans). So always store food, trash and anything with a scent in bear proof lockers, canisters or secured vehicles. This will protect you and prevent wildlife from being exposed to behavior changes, predators or even euthanasia.

SHARE OUR TRAILS & PARKS

- Everyone experiences and enjoys the outdoors in different ways. Be mindful of your group's noise level so everyone can appreciate our shared spaces.
- Yield to the uphill hiker and biker they need the momentum. Wheelchair users and equestrians always have the right of way.



La Veta Trails is a proud member of the Care for

TRAIL STEWARDSHIP

Each and every ride, run, or hike offer an opportunity to be a trail steward. You can help keep trails free of debris, clear of rocks, and fee from long-term damage by assisting in the following areas. Thank you for maintaining our public trails and parks!









TRAIL CARE

Everyone can be a trail monitor and/or contribute to everyday trail maintenance.

- If you see branches, weeds, or loose rocks on the trail, stop to throw them aside
- Do not engage in unauthorized trail modifications, including removing or altering features.
- Extensive trail issues can be reported to info@lavetatrails.org.
- Stick to the established trails and avoid creating harmful 'social trails'.

MONITOR CONDITIONS

After rain or snow storms, trails need time to dry out. Leaving footprints, hoof prints, or tire tracks on trails created places where water and mud collect, leading to longer-term damage and poor surface conditions

- Check LaVetaTrails.org for updates.
- Don't use muddy trails.
- Adhere to all trail use guidelines.

PACK OUT ALL TRASH AND WASTE

Please remember that waste of any kind - pet and human - is a blight on all our trails. Use waste bags and dispose of waste in proper receptacles (no on the side of trails, please).

Plan to use restrooms before you head out to hike or bike. For emergencies, please carry (and use) a waste disposal bag or bury your waste at least 6" deep.

PLEASE STAY ON DESIGNATED TRAILS.

Please comply with posted trail closings and re-vegetation signage. Do NOT trespass on private property.

YIELD TO AND BE MINDFUL OF OTHERS **ON THE TRAIL,** including hikers, bikers, and equestrian riders. Use a bell or call out to let others know that you are near. Please dismount and wait on the side of the trail for equestrians to pass; do not assume that they see you and simply ride by.

LEAVE WILDLIFE ALONE. If you encounter wildlife, please remember these lands are theirs, too.

BE PREPARED. Always know your own abilities, limitations, and equipment. You should be able to fix your equipment, provide basic first aid, and navigate trail systems.

ESSENTIALS

- 1. Appropriate footwear
- 2. Map / compass
- 3. Extra food / water
- 5. Knife
- 6. Sunscreen/sunglasses
- 7. First-aid kit
- 8. Extra clothing layers
- 9. Trail map

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR BIKING:

- 10 Patch kit
- 11. Spare tube(s)
- 12. Handheld pump
- 13 Bike multi-tool
- 14 Bike bell

OBSERVE ALL FIRE BANS

It is important to note that fire bans may change depending on the governing agency of the land you're camping on. Know if you are on City, County, BLM, or USFS land when you camp.

STAGE 1 RESTRICTIONS

Campfires must be in a developed site (such a s a campground or picnic area) in a permanent fire pit. No charcoal grills.







STAGE 2 /3 RESTRICTIONS / RED FLAG DAY

NO WOOD OR CHARCOAL BURNING FIRES.

Exception: Stoves or grills that use liquid or gas and include a shut-off valve.









For bans for individual counties in Colorado



(BLM) Rocky Mountain Region Fire Ban Information



(USFS) Rocky Mountain Region Fire Ban Information

TRAILS OVERVIEW

I A VFTA ARFA ☐ School Nature Trail 劳务 0.25 mi Wahatoya State Wildlife Area ☐ Daigre Reservoir Trail Loop 1.0 mi ☐ Wahatoya Lake Trail Loop 1.0 mi CUCHARA AREA San Isabel National Forest (South) 林林林 ☐ Baker Trail #1301 3.5 mi 防衛務 ☐ Bear Lake Trail 0.8 mi 防賴和 ☐ Blue Camp Trail 0.8 mi 防煎厂 ☐ Dike Trail #1389 3.4 mi 抗食病毒 ☐ Dodegton Trail #1302 4.5 mi ☐ North Fork Trail #1309 4.5 mi 林林林 林 柳 添 ☐ Shortcut Trail #1300A 1.5 mi Spanish Peaks Wilderness Area 方· 村 ☐ Apishapa Trail #1324 3 5 mi 方式 村 ☐ Levy-Krier Trail #1392 3.0 mi 方: 村 ☐ Vista Point Trail #1392A 0.5 mi ☐ Schafer Trail #1392 方· 村 3.5 mi ☐ Wahatoya Trail 14.0 mi **苏州** ☐ West Peak Trail 2.5 mi **苏州 GARDNER AREA** Huerfano State Wildlife Area 方: 村 ☐ Stanley Creek Trail 15.0 mi WALSENBURG AREA Lathrop State Park \$\$ 6€ × Cuerno Verde Trail 3.0 mi ☐ Hogback Trail 2.0 mi KK 1.2 mi ☐ William Henry Jackson Trail **Cucharas Canyon** 方· 村 Cucharas Trail 7.5 mi

● Easy Moderate ♦ Difficult











SUGGESTED ITINERARIES



The Spanish Peaks Region has a wealth of activities and local businesses to make your trip memorable.

FAMILY FRIENDLY

La Veta

Morning

- · Visit the Francisco Fort Museum.
- Fish the Wahatoya State Wildlife Area.
- Ride your bike or walk the town.

Lunch / Afternoon

- · Grab a bite to eat in town.
- Hike the School Nature Trail
- Grab an ice cream cone at Charlie's Market.
- · Shop at the many galleries and shops.

Dinner / Evening

- · Dinner in La Veta, or grab a take- out and head to the Town Park.
- Attend a concert at La Veta Mercantile.
- · Stop for a local crafted beer at Mountain Merman Brewing.

Walsenburg

Morning

- · Visit the Walsenburg Mining Museum.
- · Ride your bike or walk the town.

Lunch / Afternoon

- Grab a bite to eat at the many restaurants in the city.
- Shop at the many stores and gift shops.
- Visit the Huerfano Heritage Center.

Dinner / Evening

- · Attend a concert at Miner's Plaza.
- Attend a movie at Fox Theater.
- · Stop for local crafted beer at Crafty Canary.

ADVENTURE ITINERARY

Cuchara

Morning

- · Grab a coffee at one of the coffee shops.
- · Hike the West Peak Trail.
- · Play mini-golf at the Bear's Den.

Lunch / Afternoon

- Have lunch on one of the restaurant decks.
- · Shop at the local shops.
- · Take a hike, mountain biking ride, or play disc golf at Cuchara Mountain Park

Dinner / Evening

- Dine at one of Cuchara's restaurants.
- · Take an evening hike on one of the nearby San Isabel National Forest trails.



KID FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES





SWIMMING

Lathrop State Park - Martin Lake

The park offers a number of wonderful kid-friendly activities, including a swim beach. No life guard on duty. All vehicles are required to have an entrance pass.



BIKING

Lathrop State Park - Cuerno Verde Trail

Start your bike ride at the Visitor's Center. The 3-mile concrete trail is easy and circles Martin Lake. All vehicles are required to have an entrance pass.

Cuchara Mountain Park - Bike Park

The pump park offers a fun way for kids to develop their maintain biking skills.



HIKING

School Nature Trail - La Veta

Park at the corner of E. Garland and Birch Streets. The guarter-mile interpretative trail offers signs to people of all ages to the diversity of plants, shrubs, and trees in a prairie eco-system. No bikes are allowed on this crusherfines trail.

Spanish Peaks Wilderness Area - Salazar Trail

Park at the Cordova Pass day area on Forest Service Road 46. This .5 mile trail takes you to vista point with its fantastic views of the dike walls and the Town of La Veta in the distance.



FISHING Wahatoya State Wildlife Area -Wahatoya Lake

Park at the west entrance on Elm St. in La Veta, or on the County Road 358 entrance. A fishing license is required for everyone 16 or older. Swimming is not permitted.

San Isabel National Forest -Blue and Bear Lakes

Located on Forest Service Road 442 off CO Highway 12. A day-use pass is required.



EVENTS IN THE SPANISH PEAKS REGION

MAY 2024

25th Porch Fest (W)

25th - 26th FarOut Murals (W)

JUNE 2024

19th - 20th Junior Golf Camp (LV)

JULY 2024

4th Parade (C)

4th Family Fun Run/Walk (C)

6th Independence Day Parade (LV)

6th - 7th Art in the Park (LV)

27th Francisco Fort Day (LV)

AUGUST 2024

10th Stonewall Century Ride (LV)

17th Vintage Trailer Rally (LV)

Mountain Mining Days Marathon Relay (W)

28th Mountain Mining Days (W)

30th-Sept 1st Caveman Festival (MLR)

31st BATIK USA Art Show (LV)

OCTOBER 2024

5th Oktoberfest (LV)

NOVEMBER 2024

Holiday Parade of Lights (W)

JANUARY 2025

1st First Day Hike (LSP)

31st - Feb 2nd OSO Cold Winter Festival

LOCATION LEGEND

١V La Veta Cuchara

CMP Cuchara Mountain Park

W Walsenburg Gardner G

LSP Lathrop State Park

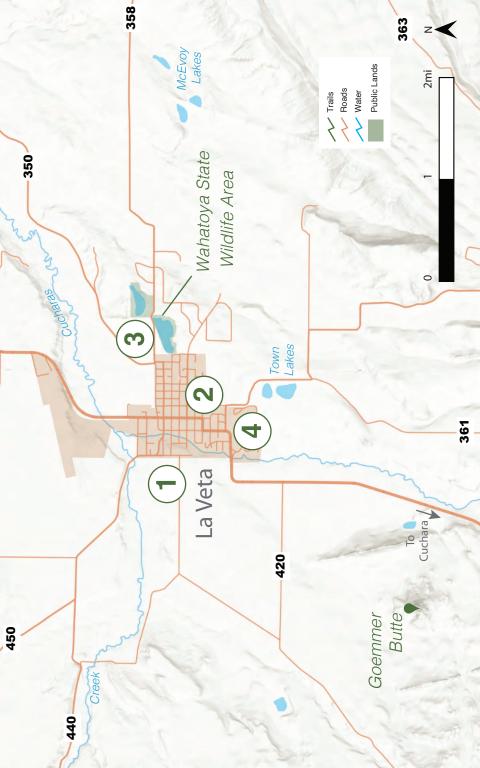
WGC Walsenburg Gold Course MLR Monument Lake Resort



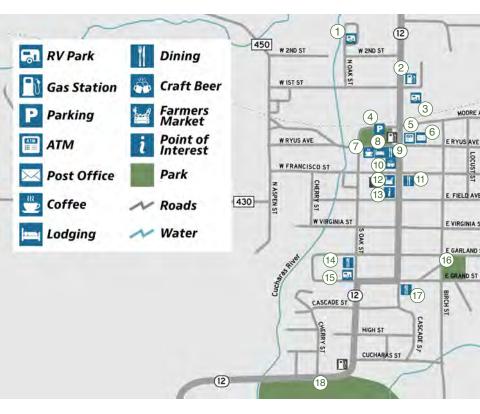
Note: Please check www.discoverbachman.com/community-calendar or scan the QR code for more event information.



FEATURE	Shopping / Restaurants	Hiking / Walking	Non-Motorized Biking	Motorized Biking	}eeping	guifiloĐ	gniqms2w\VЯ	gnidsi∃
1. Downtown La Veta (page 18)	•	•	•				•	
2. School Nature Trail (page 22)		•						
3. Wahatoya State Wildlife Area (page 20)		•						•
4. Grandote Peaks Golf Course (page 60)	•					•		
5. Spanish Peaks Wilderness Area (page 32)		•						



DOWNTOWN LA VETA



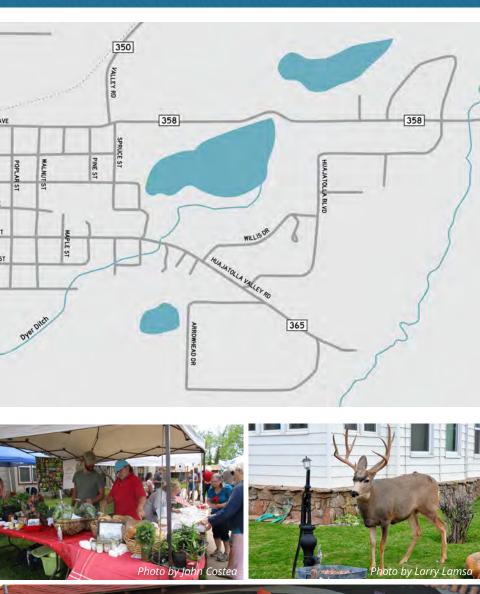
La Veta is a picturesque, historic railroad stop town nestled in the foothills of Southern Colorado. A haven for artists, the La Veta downtown district features unique galleries and shops. Visitors will find delicious food, a thriving small town theater, and endless recreation opportunities near by from hiking to horseback riding.

PLACES TO STAY, DINE AND VISIT

- 1. We RV Champions
- 2. La Veta Country Store
- 3. Sammie's Campground
- 4. Town Depot / Town Park
- 5 ATM
- 6. Post Office
- 7. The Parkside Art Gallery and Cafe
- La Veta Inn
- 9. Stiano's Italian Trattoria

- 10. Mountain Merman Brewing
- 11. Legends on Main
- 12. Farmer's Market (spring, summer, fall)
- 13. La Veta Public Library
- 14. Alys' Restaurant
- 15. La Veta Pines RV Park
- 16 School Nature Trail
- 17. Lokal Burger
- 18. Grandote Golf Course

Farmers Market: Thursdays May 22 to October 17 from 3:00pm to 5:00pm





WAHATOYA STATE WILDLIFE AREA



The Wahatoya State Wildlife Area, with its 203 acres, offers two cold-water fishing lakes, each with a one-mile hiking trail. County Road 358 divides Wahatoya Lake and Daigre Reservoir. There is a connector trail with a pedestrian crossing to cross the county road safely. Colorado Parks and Wildlife stock the fishing lakes regularly. Allowed activities include fishing with flies and lures only, hiking, and wildlife viewing. Biking is not a permitted activity in order not to disturb wildlife. A Colorado State fishing or hunting license or a State Wildlife Area annual pass is required to access the area

GETTING THERE

Parking is available at the Wahatoya State Wildlife Area entrance on Elm St. in La Veta. From Main St., drive east on Francisco St. Road bears to the right. The parking area will be on your left; Two parking areas are located on County Road 358. From La Veta, drive east for about 1 mile to a parking area for Wahatoya Lake on the right. Continue through the s-curve to the parking area at Daigre Reservoir on the left.

AREA INFORMATION

START: Begin your fishing/hiking at one of several parking areas.

FITNESS EFFORT: Easy to moderate

SEASONS: Best in the spring, summer, and fall. The trails can be slippery or muddy in the winter or after rain.

TERRAIN: The routes meander on natural surface trails through meadows, woods, and the water's edge.

TRAIL USES: Fishing with flies and lures only, hiking, and wildlife viewing. No boating unless actively fishing. See page 62 for information about fishing.

DOG FRIENDLY: Dogs must be on a leash to protect wildlife. Please bring waste bags and clean up after your pet.

FACILITIES: A vault toilet is located in the Daigre Reservoir parking lot. There are no other facilities.

TRAILS WAHATOYA LAKE TRAIL LOOP:

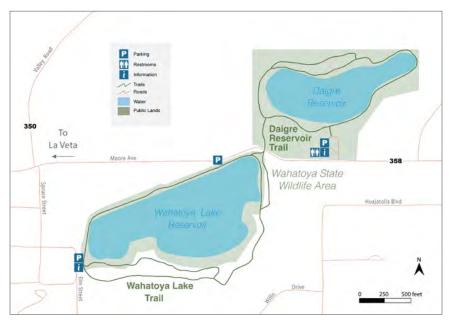
This loop trail is on natural and gravel surfaces. The trail meanders through fields, woods, and along the lake edge. There is a set of steps through a small arroyo on the south side of the lake. The trail follows a berm on the north side, offering a beautiful view of the Spanish Peaks and Mt. Maestas. Distance: 1 mile. Elevation Gain: n/a

DAIGRE RESERVOIR TRAIL LOOP:

This loop trail is on natural and gravel surfaces. The trail traverses on the top of a berm on the south side and through woods on the north side with stunning views of the Spanish Peaks and Mt. Maestas.

Distance: 1 mile. Elevation Gain: n/a





Note: Biking of any kind and camping are not allowed activities. A Colorado State fishing or hunting license or a State Wildlife Area annual pass is required to access the area.



SCHOOL NATURE TRAIL



The School Nature Trail is a popular quarter-mile interpretative trail that offers beautiful views of Mount Mestas and the Town of La Veta, as well as a unique opportunity to learn about history and vegetation native to a prairie ecosystem via informational kiosks and plant identification markers.

GETTING THERE

Southeast corner of E. Garland and Birch St. in La Veta. Vehicle parking at the corner of Birch and E. Garland Streets.

TRAIL INFORMATION

START: Begin your walk at the corner of

Birch and E. Garland St.

ELEVATION GAIN: +/- 10 feet

FITNESS EFFORT: Easy to Moderate

DIFFICULTY: Easy

SEASONS: Year-round

TERRAIN: Crusher fines trail surface

TRAIL USES: Hiking and walking. Bicycles

are not allowed on the trail.

DOG FRIENDLY: Yes. The Town of La Veta requires all dogs to be on a leash. Please carry bags and pick up your pet's waste.

DISTANCE: .25 mi

FACILITIES: Benches, interpretative signs that describe plants and local history.





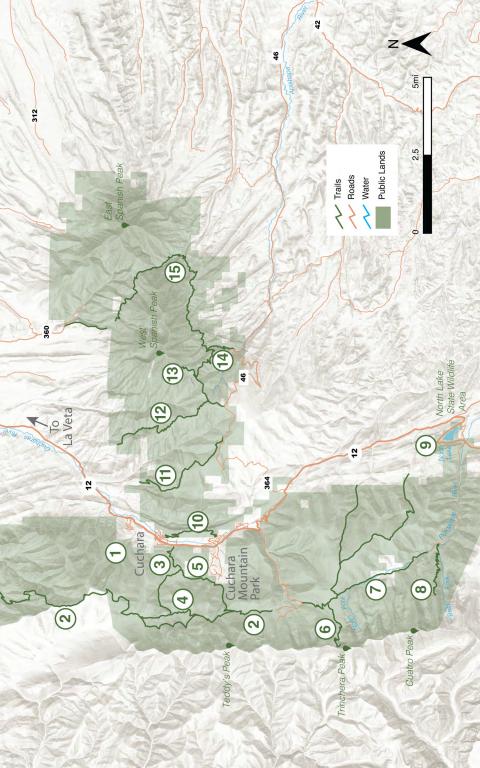


Note: The School Nature Trail was built in 1999-2000 by Emery Ashby, a La Veta High School Science teacher, and his students with help from the community. Students researched the plants that are featured on the interpretative signs.



CUCHARA AREA RECREATION

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gniqmsD													•	•	
gniîloĐ															
Jeeping						•		•							
Motorized Biking	•	•								•					
Non- Motorized Biking	•	•	•	•	•		•			•					
Horseback Riding	•		•	•	•		•			•	•	•	•	•	•
Hiking / Walking	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Shopping / Restaurants	•														
FEATURE	1. Cuchara Village (page 26)	2. Indian Trail (page 31)	3. Spring Creek / Dodgeton Trail (page 31)	4. Shortcut Trail (page 31)	5. Baker Creek Trail (page 31)	6. Trinchera Road (page 59) CLOSED FOR 2024 SEASON	7. North Fork Trail (page 31)	8. Fan Dike Road (page 59)	9. North Lake State Wildlife Area (page 34)	10. Dikes Trail (page 31)	11. Schafer Trail (page 33)	12. Levy-Krier Trail #1392 (page 33)	13. West Peak Trail (page 33)	14. Apishapa Trail (page 33)	15. Wahatoya Trail (page 33)



CUCHARA VILLAGE



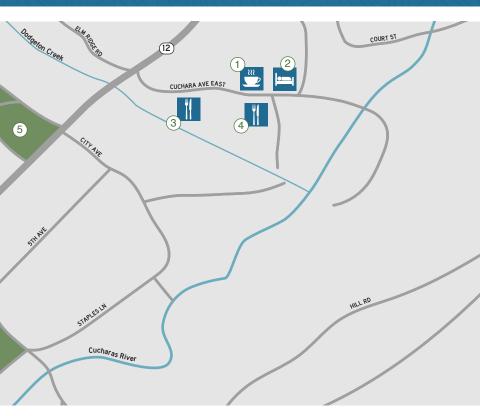
Nestled in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Cuchara is located in southern Colorado. It is a hidden gem, with tremendous views of the East and West Spanish Peak, as well as other mountain ranges and rock outcrops. Down the Highway of Legends people fall in love with the crisp, clean air that takes visitors far away from the city life. With just a few gift shops and restaurants, the town is mainly operational during the summer.

PLACES TO STAY, DINE AND VISIT

- 1 Lokal Perks
- 2. Cuchara Lokal
- 3. Cuchara Yacht Club
- 4. Dog Bar

- 5. Parkway
- 6. Community Park
- 7. Cuchara Mercantile & Cuchara Visitor Center

Farmers Market: Fridays May 25 to September 20 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm (weather dependant)









CUCHARA MOUNTAIN PARK



The Parker-Fitzgerald Cuchara Mountain Park is a Huerfano County public park and offers year round outdoor recreation opportunities, surrounded by the beauty of Spanish Peaks Country.

The ski area on Cuchara Mountain first opened in 1981 as "Panadero Resort" and operated under many owners and names until its permanent closure in 2000. Despite management challenges, skiing gave life to Cuchara in the winter, helped to support a year-round economy, and created lifelong memories for locals and visitors alike.

In 2017, using funds raised by Cuchara Foundation, Huerfano County purchased the former resort land and converted it into a county public park, now Parker-Fitzgerald Cuchara Mountain Park

GETTING THERE

From La Veta take CO Highway 12 to Panadero Ave (south of Cuchara) and turn right. Follow Panadero Ave to 1234 Panadero Ave for parking.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES AT THE PARK

- Hiking
- Disc Golf
- Wildlife & Bird Watching
- Bike Playground
- Kids' Natural Playground
- Access to National Forest and Indian Creek Trail System

- Snowshoeing
- Backcounty Skiing and Snowboarding
- Nordic Skiing
- Mini Golf
- Scenic Views
- Stargazing





SAN ISABEL NATIONAL FOREST (SOUTH)



The San Isabel National Forest in southern Huerfano County offers miles of multiuse trails through wooded areas with scenic views of the Spanish Peaks and the Culebra Mountain Range. In addition to scenery, the suggested mountain biking loop landscape offers a variety of ecosystems rich in history, geology, wildlife habitat, and recreation opportunities. The Pike-San Isabel National Forests & Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands covers nearly three million acres from western Kansas and Colorado's highest mountain peaks along the Continental Divide that has been protected starting in 1892.

AREA INFORMATION TRAILHEAD LOCATIONS:

Spring Creek TH: Co Rd 423, Cuchara, CO 81055; Baker Creek TH: Access via Cuchara Mountain Park Other trailheads are currently closed.

SEASONS: Late spring, summer, and early fall due to early and late snow.

TERRAIN: Natural surface with rocky sections

TRAIL USES: Mountain biking, horseback riding, hiking, and motorbiking.

DOG FRIENDLY: Yes, dogs must be on a leash, or under voice control.

FACILITIES: Parking, horse trailer parking, and information kiosk at the Baker Creek Trailhead. Restrooms are located at the Spring Creek Trailhead.





Note: San Isabel National Forest trails are subject to seasonal closures due to snow or rain damage. Please respect closure signs. The San Isabel National Forest is maintained and operated by the U.S. Forest Service, San Carlos Ranger District. Check for current alerts and notices www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/psicc/alerts-notices.

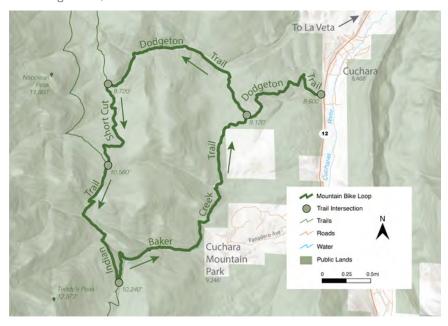
SAN ISABEL NATIONAL FOREST TRAILS

Trail	Mileage	Elevation Change	Difficulty
Baker Trail #1301	3.0 mi	1,500′	
Bear Lake Trail	0.8 mi	n/a	•
Blue Camp Trail	0.8 mi	n/a	•
Dike Trail #1389	3.4 mi	300′	
Dodgeton Trail #1302	4.25 mi	1,200'	
Indian Trail #1300	13.0 mi	1,880'	♦
North Fork Trail #1309	4.5 mi	1,600′	•
Shortcut Trail #1300A	1.5 mi	1,200′	

SUGGESTED MOUNTAIN BIKING LOOP ROUTE

DODGETON (#1302) - SHORTCUT (#1300.A) - INDIAN (#1300) - BAKER CREEK (#1301) - DODGETON (#1302): Park at the Spring Creek Trailhead. The trails in this loop allow non-motorized and motorized uses. Please respect other users by following Trail Etiquette Rules. Please note, this route is an advanced-intermediate route; it's not technically challenging, but requires an advanced level of fitness to enjoy it.

Total Distance: 8.0 mi. **Elevation Gain**: The trailhead starts at 8,600' elevation with an elevation gain of 1,500'



SPANISH PEAKS WILDERNESS AREA



If you are looking for a horseback riding and hiking experience far from crowds, Wilderness trails are for you. The Spanish Peaks Wilderness Area offers a pristine environment and secluded trails with access to the West Peak at 13,623' and the East Peak at 12,708'. We wish to thank the Rocky Mountain Back Country Horsemen for the riding information on Wilderness trails.

GETTING THERE

To West Peak Trailhead at Cordova Pass: From La Veta take CO Highway 12 to Cucharas Pass, turn left on FSR 46 and continue on dirt rd. for 6 mi. to the Cordova Pass Campground. Contine an additional 4 miles (through the Apishapa Arch) for the Apishapa Trailhead.

To the Wahatoya Trailhead: From La Veta take CO Highway 12 to County Road 360, drive six miles to the intersection with FSR 442. High clearance 4WD is needed on the FSR to drive the two miles to the Wahatoya Trailhead.

ARFA INFORMATION

START: Begin your ride/hike at one of the several trailheads.

FITNESS EFFORT: Moderate to difficult

SEASONS: Late spring, summer, and early fall due to early and late snow at this elevation.

TERRAIN: Primitive, natural surface with rocky sections

TRAIL USES: Horseback riding and hiking

DOG FRIENDLY: Yes, dogs must be on a leash, or under voice control.

FACILITIES: Trailer parking at the West Peak, Apishapa, and Wahatoya trailheads. There are no hitching rails or high line posts. There is no water at the trailheads. Water is available from the South Trujillo Creek (Wahatoya Trail) and Apishapa Creek (Apishapa Trail) but must be treated. See page 61 for information about camping at Cordova Pass.

SPANISH PEAKS WILDERNESS AREA TRAILS

Trail	Mileage	Elevation Change	Difficulty
Apishapa Trail #1324	3.5 mi	1,500′	
Levy-Krier Trail #1392	3.0 mi	2048′	♦
Schafer Trail #1392	3.5 mi	2114′	•
Vista Point Trail #1392a	0.5 mi	152′	•
Wahatoya Trail #1304	10.0 mi	1,200'	•
West Peak Trail #1390	2.5 mi	2,352′	•

Note: Wilderness trails are non-motorized which means motorized equipment and equipment used for mechanical transport are prohibited. This includes the use of ATVs, motorcycles, and all types of bicycles.



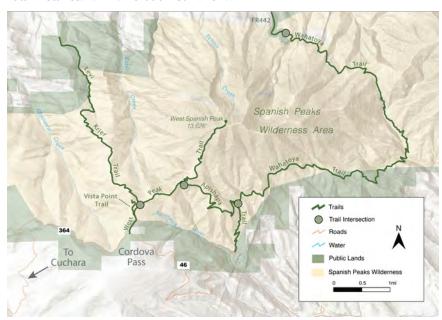
SUGGESTED ROUTES

WEST PEAK TRAIL IN/OUT: Start at the West Peak Trailhead (Elev. 11,248 feet) at Cordova Pass, You ascend the trail towards the West Peak, The one-way distance to the treeline is 2.5 miles with an elevation gain of 713'. Continuing on to the West Peak is an additional 0.8 miles and an additional 1,645' elevation gain.

Total Distance: 5 mi. Elevation Gain: 2,352'.

SALAZAR TRAIL TO VISTA POINT #1392: Start at the West Peak Trailhead (Elev. 11,248 feet) at Cordova Pass. After .3 miles the Vista Point Trail will break off to the left. For a view of the Cuchara Valley, Greenhorn Mountain and the Wet Mountain Valley to the north, and the Culebra Range to the West and South.

Total Distance: 1.4 mi. Elevation Gain: 152'.



NORTH LAKE STATE WILDLIFE AREA



The North Lake State Wildlife Area with its 840-acres offers cold-water lake and stream fishing. Colorado Parks and Wildlife stocks North Lake on a regular basis. A CO State fishing or hunting license, or a State Wildlife Area annual pass is required to access the area.

GETTING THERE

From Cuchara, travel south on CO Highway 12 for 13.2 mi to North Lake.
From Trinidad, travel west on CO Highway 12 for about 41.5 mi to North Lake.

AREA INFORMATION

PARKING LOCATIONS: Parking can be found on various lots aroung the lake on HWY 12.

FITNESS EFFORT: Easy to moderate

SEASONS: Best in the spring, summer, and fall. In winter ice fishing is possible.

TERRAIN: The routes meander on natural surface trails through meadows, woods, and along the water's edge.

AREA USES: Fishing with flies and lures only, ice fishing, hiking, wildlife viewing, picnicking, and hunting. See page 62 for information about fishing.

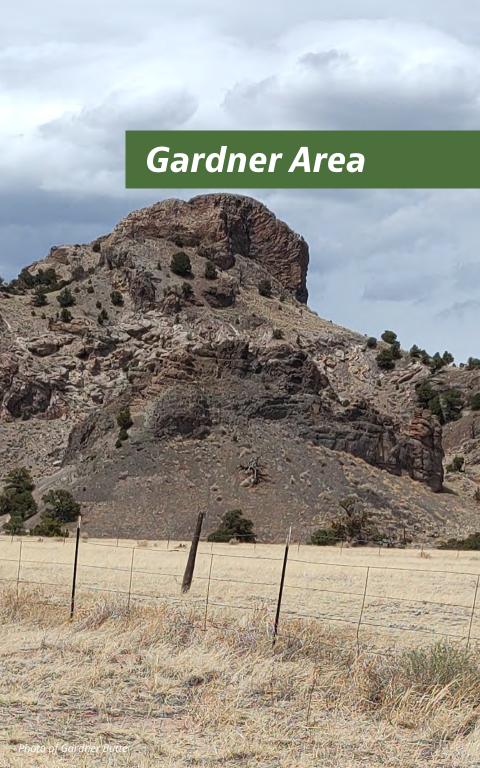
DOG FRIENDLY: Dogs must be on a leash to protect wildlife. Please bring waste bags and clean up after your pet.

FACILITIES: Boat ramp and restroom

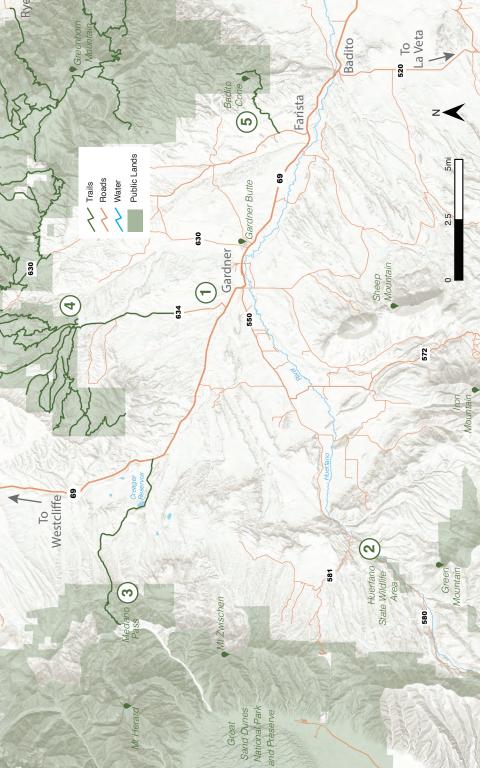
TRAILS: There are no developed trails, but plenty of open space to explore.



Note: Biking of any kind, camping, and horses are prohibited activities in order not to disturb wildlife. Recreational boating is not allowed except while fishing using a float tube, or hand-powered boat. No motorized boat or watercraft is permitted. A Colorado State fishing or hunting license, or a State Wildlife Area annual pass is required to access the area.



FEATURE	Shopping / Restaurants	Hiking / Walking	Horseback Riding	Non-Motorized Biking	Bniking bəzirotoM	}edping	gnifiloĐ	gniqmeD	gnid≥i∃	gnilidomwon2
1. Gardner Community (page 38)	•	•		•						
2. Huerfano State Wildlife Area (page 40)		•	•					•	•	
3. Medano Pass Primitive Road (page 57)		•		•		•				
4. Ophir Creek and Greenhorn Mountain (page 42)		•								•
5. Badito Cone Road (page 56)		•		•		•				



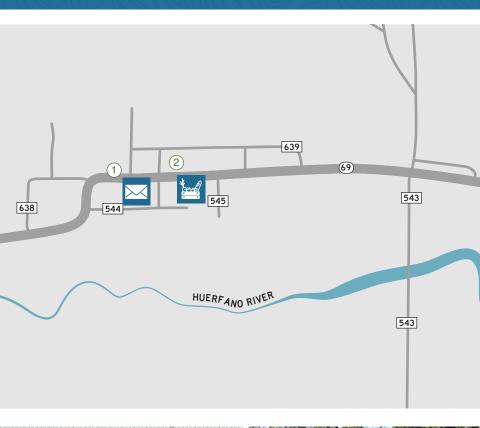
COMMUNITY OF GARDNER



The Gardner community is between the Wet Mountains and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. The unincorporated town of Gardner, located between the Wet Mountains and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, is slowly growing. Gardner offers a Farmers Market May-October under the pavilion next to the Methodist church on RT 69 in Downtown Gardner.

PLACES TO STAY, DINE AND VISIT

- 1. Post Office
- 2. Gardner Community Center









HUERFANO STATE WILDLIFE AREA



The Huerfano State Wildlife Area is west of Gardner (CO 69). It consists of 544 acres, with the Huerfano River running through it. Operated by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, it offers secluded opportunities for horseback riding, fishing, and camping. A Colorado State fishing or hunting license, or a State Wildlife Area annual pass is required to access the area. We wish to thank the Rocky Mountain Back Country Horsemen for the riding information.

GETTING THERE

From Gardner, drive west on CO 69 to County Road 550. After 7.4 miles, 550 becomes a dirt road. After 4.5 miles on the dirt road, bear left at a "Y" onto County Road 580 following a sign for "Lily Lake Trailhead 10 mi." The group area is located 1.5 miles into the Huerfano State Wildlife Area. The total driving distance from CO 69 is 13 miles





AREA INFORMATION

START: Begin your horseback ride at the Stanley Creek Trailhead

FITNESS EFFORT: It's mountain riding, so horses/riders should be in shape.

DIFFICULTY: Easy flat meadows to moderate hill climbing. One very steep hill at the beginning.

SEASONS: Summer and fall.

TERRAIN: Mountains.

TRAIL USERS: Horseback riding, fishing,

hiking, and hunting.

DOG FRIENDLY: Dogs must be on a leash to protect wildlife. Please bring waste bags and clean up after your pet.

FACILITIES: The Stanley Creek Trailhead is in the group camping area. There are no corrals or high-line posts. There is trailer parking, pit toilets, picnic tables, and an information kiosk. Water is available from the Huerfano River but must be treated. See page 61 for information about camping.

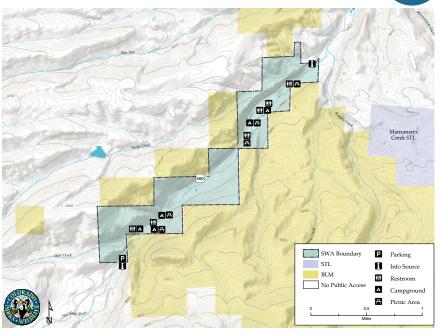
TRAIL

STANLEY CREEK TRAIL: There is a water crossing at the trailhead. Depending on the snowmelt, water can run very fast and deep or be an easy crossing. There is a bridge for hikers. The trail ascends quickly with a very steep climb that takes you to a meadow at the top, where the trail begins to flatten but still climbs. The trail forks after reaching the meadow. Whichever direction you take, you will return to the trailhead like you went up through the meadow, down the steep hill, and back across the water crossing.

Distance: 6 mile loop or 15 mile loop. Elevation Gain: 1,000'

Note: Colorado Parks and Wildlife requires weed-free certified livestock forage





OPHIR CREEK AND GREENHORN MOUNTAIN **SNOWMOBILE TRAIL SYSTEM**



The Ophir Creek and Greenhorn Mountain area offers 78 miles of groomed snowmobile trails in the San Isabel National Forest. The deep powder, well groomed trails, and beautiful views of the Wet Mountains are a snowmobilers paradise! All trails within the system are marked with orange diamonds and orange poles. All trails are groomed and easy. We wish to thank the Sangre Snowrunners Snowmobile Club for the snowmobile information.

GETTING THERE

The Ophir Creek Trail System is located on Colorado Highway 165, near mile marker 11.

AREA INFORMATION

START: Begin at the Ophir Creek

Trailhead.

ELEVATION GAIN: +/- 2,330'

DIFFICULTY: Easy **SEASONS:** Winter

TERRAIN: Groomed snowmobile trails

TRAIL USES: Snowmobiling and

cross-country skiing

DOG FRIENDLY: Yes, dogs must be on

a leash, or under voice control.

DISTANCE: Varies.

FACILITIES: Restroom





Note: Excessive speed is strongly discouraged. Although many of the trails are maintained, the widths may vary and many of the curves are blind. Please stay to the right on blind curves. Visit sangresnowrunners.com for valuable information about road conditions, weather conditions, and current avalanche forecasts.

Sangre Snowrunners

FOUR SEASONS OF OUTDOOR FUN IN THE SPANISH PEAKS













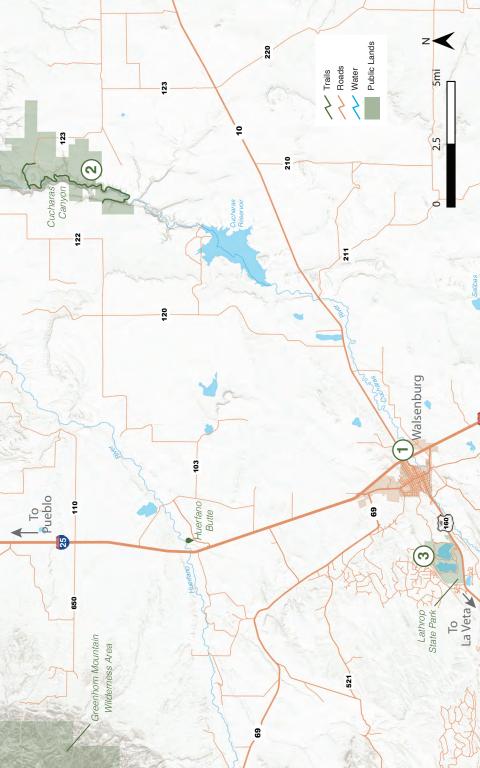


Walsenburg Area

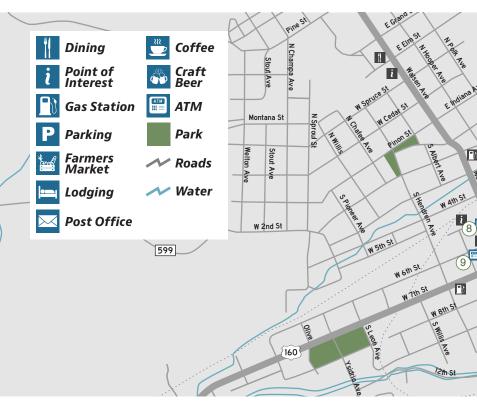


WALSNEBURG AREA RECREATION

FEATURE	Shopping / Restaurants	Hiking / Walking	Horseback Riding	Non-Motorized Biking	Motorized Biking	gniqə∍∫	gnifloð	gniqms⊃	gnid≥i∓	
1. Downtown Walsenburg (page 48)	•	•		•			•			
2. Cucharas Canyon (page 52)		•	•							
3. Lathrop State Park (page 50)		•	•	•				•	•	



DOWNTOWN WALSENBURG



At the junction of I-25, Highway 160, and Highway 10, Walsenburg is a popular stop when heading to and from adventures in the Spanish Peaks region. Downtown Walsenburg features antique shops, restaurants, the Walsenburg Mining Museum, and more!

PLACES TO STAY, DINE AND VISIT

- 1. Heritage Park / Farmer's Market
- 2. Walsenburg Mercantile
- 3. The Whistle Stop Lofts
- 4. U.S. Post Office
- 5. Crafty Canary Brewery

- 6. The Lofts Downtown
- 7. Serendipity Coffee House
- 8. Community Banks of Colorado
- 9. First National Bank in Trinidad



Photo by Jeffrey Beall

LATHROP STATE PARK



As Colorado's first state park, you can explore 1,460 acres of outdoor recreational opportunities with exceptional views of the Spanish Peaks, and Greenhorn Mountain. Just a short drive from Walsenburg and La Veta, Lathrop State Park is a destination for people of all ages.

GETTING THERE

From I-25 north take the Walsenburg exit 52 and from the south take Walsenburg exit 49 once in downtown Walsenburg, take Hwy-160 West to Lathrop State Park. Turn onto County Road 502 into the park. From Alamosa, take Hwy-160 East over La Veta Pass approximately 15 miles. The park is located across the highway from the Spanish Peaks Regional Hospital.

PARK INFORMATION

FACILITITES: Visitors center/gift shop. archery range, boat ramp, camping, conference room, horse trailer parking, showers, restrooms, and swim beach.

ACTIVITIES: The Park's two lakes offer a variety of boating and angling opportunities for all types of water recreation. Martin Lake offers water skiing, power and sail boating, and a swim beach. Horseshoe Lake is a peaceful haven for canoeists, kayakers, sailboats at wakeless speeds. Fishing offers catfish, bass, walleye, trout, pike, blue gill, and large tiger muskies.





Visit the website for a complete description of the facilities and all the things you can do at the park.

LATHROP STATE PARK TRAILS

Trail	Mileage	Elevation Change	Difficulty	Terrain	Uses
Cuerno Verde	3.0 mi	n/a	•	ADA accessible concrete loop	ķ 36
Hogback Nature Trail	2.0 mi	300′		Natural	济 东
William Henry Jackson Trail	1.2 mi	15′	•	Natural	序系

SUGGESTED ROUTE

CUERNO VERDE LOOP: Start at the Visitor Center parking area and head northeast on the fully paved path. The path will lead you around Martin Lake. This route offers exceptional views of the Spanish Peaks, Sangre de Cristo Mountain Range, and Green Mountain. The path has access to several restrooms, picnic tables, the swim beach, and more. This flat trail is perfect for strollers, inline skates, and wheel chairs. Distance: 3 miles Elevation Gain: n/a'



CUCHARAS CANYON



Just east of Walsenburg on the eastern plains of Colorado, the Cucharas River created the Cucharas Canyon, a deep 1,866-acre wild canyon that you can horseback ride or hike. The Bureau of Land Management operates Cucharas Canyon, which offers opportunities for solitude due to few visitors. We wish to thank the Rocky Mountain Back Country Horsemen for the riding information in Cucharas Canyon.

GETTING THERE

To the west side of the canyon to Sheep Crossing, from Walsenburg, travel east on CO Hwy 10 for 5.1 miles, then turn left onto County Road 120. Follow County Road 120 for 10.4 miles, then turn right at the" T" intersection. Follow the road for another three miles. You can go straight ahead for one mile to the Sheep Crossing Trailhead at this intersection

AREA INFORMATION

START: Begin at the Sheep Crossing Trailhead, off county road 120.

FITNESS EFFORT: Moderate to strenuous on the steep sides of the canyon. Mild at the canyon floor.

DIFFICULTY: The trail descending into the canyon from Sheep Crossing Trailhead is not difficult. It is very rocky in some places, but it is a gradual descent. Going down into the canyon from Wilson Crossing Trailhead is not recommended by horseback. Only experienced horses/riders should attempt the Wilson Crossing Trailhead and only ascend.

SEASONS: Year around depending on ice formation on the Cucharas River and snowfall on the eastern plains.

TRAIL USERS: Horseback riding and hiking.

TERRAIN: Primitive, natural surface with rocky sections along the canyon sides. There are several water crossings since the trail meanders back and forth across the Cucharas River. Some are narrow crossings, and others are wide. There are also rocky sections on the trail: sometimes, the trail is hard to find due to the high water covering what would typically be the trail.

DOG FRIENDLY: BLM requires dogs to be on a leash.

FACILITIES: Sheep Crossing Trailhead has trailer parking, a kiosk, and highline posts. Water from the Cucharas River must be treated. See page 61 for information about camping at Cucharas Canyon.

SUGGESTED ROUTES

CUCHARAS CANYON IN/OUT TRIP: From Sheep Crossing, you descend the trail towards the canyon floor to see beautiful rock formations. The canyon unfolds before you when you pass through a gate and head to the left. The trail meanders along the bottom of the canyon and crosses the Cucharas River several times. Near the canyon's end is the Wilson Crossing Trail intersection. If you make this ride an in/ out, you return to Sheep Crossing when you reach this intersection. Distance: 8 miles Flevation Gain: 1.610'

CUCHARAS CANYON LOOP TRIP: The same as above, except you turn left at the Wilson Crossing Trail sign to climb a very steep but short trail to the top, where you end up at the Wilson Crossing Trailhead. Once you reach the trailhead, you can ride the guiet county road back to Sheep Crossing.

Distance: 15 miles Elevation Gain: 1,610'

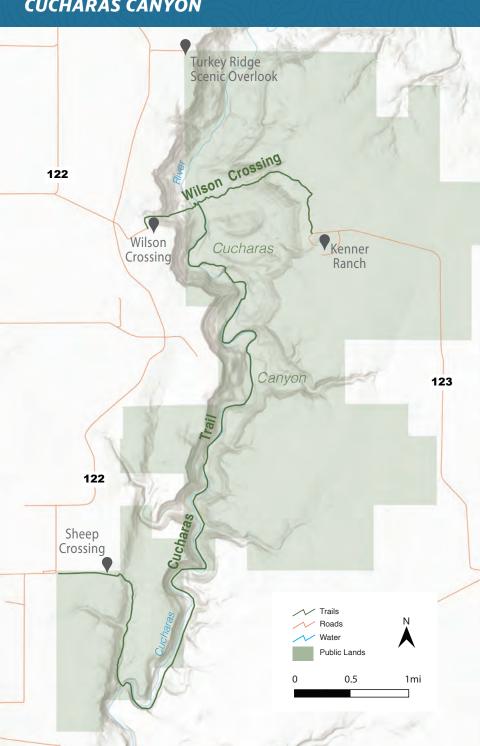


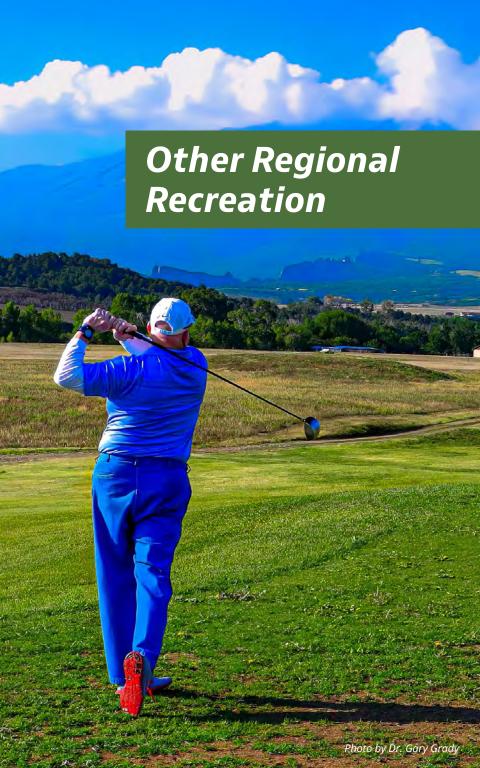


Note: Depending on the time of year, the water will either be low and easy to cross or running high and swift, making some crossings difficult.



CUCHARAS CANYON





NORTHERN HUERFANO JEEP ROADS



Gardner offers off-road adventures in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains that take you through diverse environments with Alpine forests, mountain terrain, rocks, ledges, and up and down steep hills with spectacular 360-degree views. Grab your picnic basket for a half-day or full-day adventure while exploring the pristine Spanish Peaks region on U.S. Forest Service roads. We wish to thank the Southern Colorado Offroaders for their assistance with the off-road jeep routes.

GENERAL INFORMATION

START: Begin your Jeep adventures on several U.S. Forest Service roads.

DIFFICULTY: Difficult due to rough

roads

SEASONS: Summer and Fall

TERRAIN: County and Forest Service Roads that may be rough due to

washouts

TRAIL USERS: Off-road 4WD vehicles. mountain biking, fat tire biking and gravel biking.

DOG FRIENDLY: Yes

FACILITIES: There are no public facilities on U.S. Forest Service roads.

ROUTES

BADITO CONE ROAD (FSR 438): The Badito Cone Road is on the south and southwest flanks of and dead ends at the Greenhorn Mountain Wilderness, about seven miles east of the community of Gardner. Public access is limited to the Badito Cone Road, which is very rough and sometimes impassable after washouts from summer thunderstorms. High clearance 4WD is recommended on this in/out road Badito Cone's distinctive volcanic cone is a landmark for much of the surrounding area, as are the much higher peaks of Greenhorn Mountain Wilderness to the north.

Getting There: From Gardner, drive East approximately 6.5 miles to CR 620 North, stay on 620 for 1 mile to BLM road 6283 which turns into FSR 438. You may encounter closed gates, please close them behind you.

Distance: 5.5 mi. Elevation Gain: 1.200'.



MEDANO PASS PRIMITIVE ROAD (COUNTY

ROAD 559): This is a rough road connecting the Great Sand Dunes with the Wet Mountain Valley and Colorado State Highway 69. Set high in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, you will drive through areas of soft deep sand around the dunes, then cross Medano Creek nine times to the summit of Medano Pass. The ride takes about 2.5-3.0 hours. A high-clearance 4WD vehicle is required to drive this road. Reduce your tire pressure to about 20 psi if the sand is dry and soft. A free air station is available near the south entrance to the road in warmer months between the hours of 7AM and 9PM. If you reduce pressure, you will need to reinflate using your own air compressor before driving over rocks in Medano Canyon. Getting There: From Gardner, drive west on CO

State Highway 69 approximately 8 miles to the U.S. Forest Service "Medano Pass Road" sign (County Road 559). Distance: 22.0 mi. Elevation Gain: 2,017'.



Note: The road is subject to seasonal closure, usually from November to mid-to-late May. Snow can block trail well into summer. It's only passable in good weather during the summer. The road can be closed anytime by heavy snows or high creek levels. It is highly recommended that you contact Great Sand Dunes National Park to assure the pass is not closed due to snow or high water.



LILY LAKE ROAD (COUNTY ROAD 580): Located west of Gardner, the road to Lily Lake takes you through the Huerfano State Wildlife Area, The road will suit most 2WD vehicles for about half of the drive to the Lily Lake Trailhead. 4WD with clearance is recommended due to erosion in the early summer and standing water. Getting There: From Gardner, drive 0.5 miles west of town and turn left on County Road 550, the Mosca Pass road. Just after the start of the road, a USFS signs should say "Huerfano and Lily Lake Trail heads," 21.5 and 22.5 miles, respectively. After 7 miles, the paved road turns to dirt. Continue 4.8 more miles and stay left on County Road 580. Drive 3.4 miles and enter private property, where another sign indicates Huerfano TH is 5.3 miles away. Continue 3.4 miles and stay left at the entrance to the Singing River Ranch. Drive 0.9 miles and pass the entrance to the Aspen River Ranch. Drive 3.4 miles to enter the San Isabel National Forest. Drive 0.8 miles and pass some signs for the Huerfano and Zapata Trails. Finally, come to the Lily Lake Trail in one more mile. Distance: 23 mi. Elevation Gain: 1.800'

Note: Forest Service Roads are public roads operated by the U.S. Forest Service to benefit outdoor recreation users. Because of the access road elevations, the Forest Service closes, or may close a road, due to conditions. Please be a good steward of public land. Do not litter, pick up after your dog, follow the principles of Leave No Trace, and follow Off-road Trail Etiquette. cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/TrailEtiquette.aspx



LOWER HUERFANO JEEP ROADS



La Veta-Cuchara area offers off-road adventures in the Spanish Peaks region that take you through diverse environments with Alpine forests, mountain terrain, rocks, ledges, and up and down steep hills with spectacular 360-degree views of the San Isabel National Forest, Spanish Peaks, Culebra Range, and the Sangre de Cristo Range. Grab your picnic basket for a half-day or full day adventure while exploring the pristine Spanish Peaks region on U.S. Forest Service roads. We wish to thank the Southern Colorado Off-roaders for their assistance with the off-road ieep routes.

GENERAL INFORMATION

START: Begin your leep adventures on several U.S. Forest Service roads.

DIFFICULTY: Easy to Moderate

SEASONS: Summer and Fall

TERRAIN: Rocky, Sandstone, Rough

TRAIL USERS: Off-road 4WD vehicles,

mountain biking, gravel biking.

DOG FRIENDLY: Yes

FACILITIES: There are no public facilities

on U.S. Forest Service roads.





Note: Forest Service Roads are public roads operated by the U.S. Forest Service to benefit outdoor recreation users. Please be a good steward of public land. Do not litter, pick up after your dog, follow the principles of Leave No Trace, and follow Off-road Trail Etiquette.

ROUTES

BULL'S EYE MINE: Located at 11,240 feet elevation on the West Peak, the historic Bull's Eye Mine, once part of La Veta's historic mining history, is now part of the San Isabel National Forest. The mine was a past producer of gold, lead, silver, and copper. This trail leads to the Wahatoya hiking trailhead. The primary rock in this area is sandstone from the Eocene epoch 56.00 to 33.90 million years ago.

Getting There: From La Veta take County Road 360, drive six miles to the intersection with Forest Service Rd. 442. High clearance 4WD is recommended on this road. Distance: 2 mi. Elevation Gain: 2,800'

TRINCHERA PEAK: CLOSED FOR 2024 SEASON

FAN DIKE: Located south of Cuchara and Cuchara Pass, Fan Dike is a steep, narrow, out-and-back trail with many switchbacks and areas of loose rock. You will need a high-clearance 4WD vehicle. Some areas have steep drops, and the trail ends abruptly, but there is plenty of room to turn around. There is a wonderful view of Cuatro Peak from the top.

Getting There: Take Highway 12 south from Cucharas Pass to Forest Service Road 437 on your right and drive to the Purgatoire Campground, also known as Potato Patch by locals. Before you reach the campground FSR 437 will be on the left-hand side the road. Distance: 3.5 mi. Elevation Gain: Starts at 9.600' and tops out at 11,700' - an elevation gain of 2,100'







Enjoy our Spanish Peaks Region golf courses, where you can practice your putts, watch your drives soar or relax and unwind.



GRANDOTE PEAKS GOLF COURSE 5540 US Highway 12, La Veta, CO 81089

TEE TIMES: Daily 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. Book and pay online. Golf cart rentals available.

PHONE: 719-999-7529

WEBSITE: www.playgrandote.com

DINING OPTIONS: The Grandote Grill and Peaks Steakhouse & bar. Check the website for hours of operation.

OVERVIEW

Set in Cucharas Valley, the Grandote Peaks Golf Course offers 18 holes with spectacular views of the Spanish Peaks and Sangre de Cristo mountain range. Enjoy the cooler temperatures of this mountain course, and the abundant wildlife, the Cuchara river, and the artsy town of La Veta. Championship tees play over 7,000 yards, but with four sets of tees to choose from, men and women of all skill levels can challenge themselves to an exhilarating round of golf. At the end of the day, relax on the clubhouse deck and take in a gorgeous mountain sunset.



WALSENBURG GOLF COURSE

1399 County Road 502, Walsenburg, Co.

TEE TIMES: Golf 10:00 am- 2:00 pm, 7 days per week. Golf cart rentals available.

PHONE: 719-738-2730

WEBSITE: www.golfwalsenburg.com

DINING OPTIONS: 2nd Street Grill Restaurant and Bar, 4:00-8:00 PM, 7 days per week.

OVERVIEW

Set in Lathrop State Park with spectacular views of the Spanish Peaks, the Walsenburg Municipal Golf Course offers 9 holes with two sets of tees, mini-golf, and a driving range. The front tee plays 3,110 yards, par 36, and the back tees will play 3,285 yards, par 36. The course rating is 65.7, and the slope is 101. Women's tees play 2,970 yards, with a course rating of 67.4 and a slope of 108. At the end of the day, relax in the restaurant and bar and enjoy the stunning views of the mountains.

Note: The golf course shares its main entrance with Lathrop State Park. No state park pass is required to visit the golf course.

U.S. Forest Service Campgrounds, visit www.recreation.gov, or call 877-4544-6777. For requirements and other specific information about campgrounds managed by the San Carlos Ranger District, visit fs.usda.gov/recarea/psicc/recreation. Lathrop State Park Campgrounds, visit www.cpwshop.com or by calling 1-800-244-5613.	Land Manager	Reservations Required	Electricity	WIFI	Picnic Tables	Fire Rings	Vault/Toilets	Potable Water	Trail Access	Fishing Access
Bear Lake Campground fs.usda.gov/recarea/psicc/recreation	USFS	•		_	•	•	•	•	•	•
Blue Lake Campground fs.usda.gov/recarea/psic/recreation	USFS	•		_	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cordova Pass Picnic Area & Campground fs.usda.gov/recarea/psicc/recreation	USFS				•	•	•		•	
Dakota Campgrouind /www.coloradodirectory.com/dakotacamp	Com	•	•		•	•	•	•		
Huerfano State Wildlife Area cpw.state.co.us/learn/Maps/HuerfanoSWA	CPW				•	•	•		•	•
Lathrop State Park Campgrounds cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/parks/Lathrop	CPW	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•
La Veta Pines RV Park lovetapines.com	Com	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	
Purgatoire Campground fs.usda.gov/recarea/psicc/recreation	USFS	•			•	•	•	•	•	•
Sammie's Campground sammiescampground.com	Com	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	
We RV Champions wervchampions.com/communities/ we-rv-champions-of-la-veta/	Com	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	

RESERVATIONS + ADDITIONAL INFORMATION





San Carlos Ranger District



Annual fishing licenses are valid March 1 through March 31 (13 months). Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) provides a range of options for anglers from the annual fishing license to a one- day fishing license. Youth under age 16 fish for free. Buy a fishing license today!	Land Manager	Day Use / Entrance Fee	Day Use Only	Lake / Reservoir	River / Stream	Artificial Flies / Lures Only	Kid-Friendly	Shore Fishing	Fishing Float tubes / Craft Only	Fishing Hand / Wind Propelled
Bear Lake Day Use Area fs.usda.gov/recarea/psicc/recreation	USFS	•		•			•	•		
Blue Lake Day Use Area fs.usda.gov/recarea/psicc/recreation	USFS	•		•			•	•		
Daigre Reservoir/ Wahatoya State Wildlife Area cpw.state.co.us/placestogo	CPW		•	•		•	•	•	•	•
Huerfano State Wildlife Area cpw.state.co.us/placestogo	CPW				•			•		
Lathrop State Park cpw.state.co.us/placestogo	CPW	•		•			•	•		
Monument Lake Resort themonumentlakeresort.com	Priv			•						
North Lake State Wildlife Area cpw.state.co.us/placestogo	CPW			•	•	•		•	•	•
Wahatoya Lake/ Wahatoya State Wildlife Area cpw.state.us/placestogo	CPW		•	•		•	•	•	•	•

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



Fishing in Colorado



Colorado Park & Wildlife Fishing Brochure



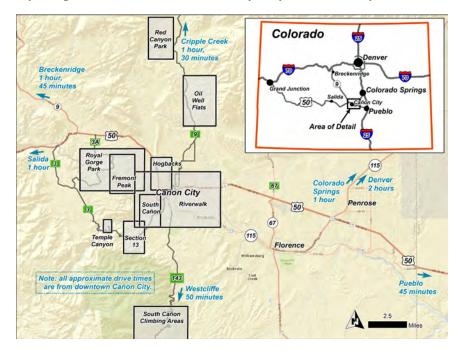
Spanish Colorado Park & Wildlife Fishing Brochure

For specific information about fishing in Colorado, visit cpw. state.co.us/thingstodo



WHERE TO GO FROM HERE FREMONT ADVENTURE RECREATION

The Royal Gorge Region (including Cañon City, Florence, Penrose, and western communities) boasts over 62 miles of singletrack trails. Divided primarily between four major trail systems - South Cañon Trails, Hogbacks Open Space, Oil Well Flats, and the Royal Gorge Park - there's an adventure for every ability and a wide variety of modalities.



For flat, wide trails walkers, runners, and bikers will enjoy the Arkansas Riverwalk, with several access points along the 7.5-mile scenic trail and access to additional mileage.

Trail users looking for significant elevation changes and technical features will enjoy South Cañon Trails, which links the downtown area to Temple Canyon Park via several singletrack trails. Hikers and mountain bikers will find ample enjoyment (and incredible views) at the Royal Gorge Park, located 10 miles west of town near the famed Royal Gorge Bridge & Park.

For more information, including maps, route suggestions, and more, visit joinFAR.org.



Fremont Adventure Recreation is a volunteer organization dedicated to building, promoting, and maintaining trails in the Royal Gorge Region. Use the QR code to find additional trail information.



WHERE TO GO FROM HERE TRINIDAD TRAILS ALLIANCE





The Trinidad Trails Alliance is an all-volunteer organization committed to engaging, educating, and empowering Trinidad residents and visitors in supporting sustainable outdoor recreation through trail building, maintenance, and stewardship of local outdoor spaces.

Contact us at trinidadtrailsalliance@gmail.com

Look for us on Facebook at Trinidad Trails Alliance



Map of Trinidad City Trails by Jay Gillespie

WHERE TO GO FROM HERE SAN LUIS VALLEY GREAT OUTDOORS



San Luis Valley Great Outdoors (SLV GO!) is a regional nonprofit working to increase outdoor recreation and conservation opportunities throughout the San Luis Valley. Our trail crew, the Great Outdoors Action Team (GOATs) often work with public land agencies, counties, municipalities, and other trail organization to help build and maintain trail and recreation amenities across the SLV. We are excited to share some of the best trails the SLV has to offer! Be sure to check out our website at slvgo.com and find our newly released SLV Gravel Adventure Field Guide.







Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @SLVGO Coalition



TRAIL SUSTAINER - \$2,500



BACHMAN AND ASSOCIATES REAL ESTATE

222 S. Main Street, La Veta | 719-742-5551 | discoverbachman.com Four Office Locations: La Veta, Cuchara, Walsenburg, Trinidad. Featuring The Most Spectacular Real Estate In Southern Colorado.



TRI-STATE GENERATION & TRANSMISSION ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 33695. Denver | 303-452-6111 | tristatecoop.com Tri-State and our cooperative members deliver reliable, affordable and responsible electricity across four Western states.

TRAIL STEWARD - \$1,000



ALYS' RESTAURANT AND GO ASK ALYS CATERING

604 S. Oak Street, La Veta | 719-742-3742 | alvsrestaurant.com Open for dinner only by reservation. We are a fine dinning restaurant in a homey setting.



CHAE ORGANICS

23300 US Hwy 160, Walsenburg | 719-738-2000 | chaeorganics.com Our core mission is to provide you and your family with products that are Certified ToxicFree®



CODE OF THE WEST REAL ESTATE

215 S. Main Street, La Veta | 719-742-3626 | cotwrealestate.com COTW Real Estate is your choice for Real Estate. We have the expertise, proven track record, and resources to help you achieve your real estate goals.



CUCHARA FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 316, La Veta | 720-272-2106 | cucharafoundation.org Our mission is to honor the history, respect the environment, and support opportunities to learn and have fun in the Cuchara Valley



LA VETA COUNTRY STORE

200 N. Main Street, La Veta | 719-695-5607 | lavetacountrystore.com Groceries, beer, wine. Fresh made breakfast burritos, smoked barbeque and pizza. Gifts! Lowest fuel prices and friendly service!



LA VETA PINES RV PARK

226 W Grand St, La Veta | 719-742-3252 | lavetapines.com Full Hook-up RV sites, walking distance to restaurants, shops and galleries. Closest RV Park to Cuchara with plenty of shade.



MOUNTAIN MERMAN BREWING

220 S. Main Street, La Veta | 720-628-9625 | mountainmerman.com Craft brewery and Taproom, family and dog friendly with food and non-alcoholic drink options

R.A.I. Enterprises 719-859-3799

R.A.I. ENTERPRISES

1955 Hwy 12, La Veta | 719-859-1906

Tree trimming, Stump removal, Excavation, Sewers, Septics, Water lines, Ports-Potty's, Hydo-excavation, Roll-off Trash containers w/dump Truck and Trailers



SAMMIE'S CAMPGROUND

124 N. Main Street, La Veta | 719-742-5435 | sammiescampground.com Gateway to the Spanish Peaks. Full RV hook-ups, Online Booking, close to downtown



WE RV CHAMPIONS

126 W. 2nd St., La Veta | 719-988-6190 | wervchampions.com We RV Champions is the perfect adventure destination or quiet retreat for families, groups, or solo travelers.

TRAIL BUILDER - \$500



CRAFTED IN COLORADO

205 S. Main Street, La Veta | 303-366-3339 | craftedincolorado.com Retail shop carrying home and personal goods made in the state of Colorado. Supporting local artists and industries since 2013



CUCHARA LOKAL

73 Cuchara Ave., Cuchara | 719-742-3685 | cucharalokalhotel.com Stay and play at Cuchara Lokal. Our hotel will make you feel at home while you explore this charming mountain oasis.



CUCHARA VALLEY RECREATION PROGRAM

Cuchara Community Center | cucharavalleyrec.com Get out and socialize while enjoying summer in Cuchara! Programming includes bingo!, hikes, education, and the annual Cuchara Art Show.



CUCHARA YACHT CLUB

30 E. Cuchara Ave., Cuchara | 719-742-3218 | cucharayachtclub.com A restaurant, bar and music venue in beautiful Cuchara Colorado offering craft cocktails, local beer, delicious food and live Spring through Fall.



EXTREME TERRAIN

600 Cedar Hollow Road, Paoli, PA | 1-877-870-8556 | extremeterrain.com Clean Trail Initiative provides eligible motorized/non-motorized groups an opportunity to apply for a \$250 trail improvement grant.



FIRST NATIONAL BANK IN TRINIDAD

135 W. 6th Street, Walsenburg | 719-738-3549 | fnbtrinidad.com The Huerfano County Branch provides services such as loans, deposit accounts and mobile banking with excellent customer service.



HIGH COUNTRY FENCE

6840 CO Hwy 165, Colorado City | 719-489-2346 | highcountryfence.com High Country Fence has been serving Colorado and surrounding areas since 2003, providing a large variety of fence materials at competitive prices

SPONSORS



JUDITH DESIGNS

La Veta | 719-989-8587 | judithbakermontano.com World-renowned Canadian fiber artist, teacher, photographer, and author. Visit my website for books and class schedule.



LA VETA INN

103 W. Ryus Ave., La Veta | 719-742-5566 | lavetainncolorado.com Take a load off at the historic La Veta Inn where you will enjoy charm and nostalgia, surrounded by breathtaking scenery.



LA VETA MERCANTILE

300 Main Street, La Veta | 719-742-3387 | lavetamercantile.simpletix.com Art, music, and refreshments. Visit our gift shop and checkout out live music venue.



LEGENDS FLOORING & INTERIOR

726 Main St. Walsenburg | 719-738-2033 | legendsflooringco.com We carry carpet, commercial carpet, luxury vinyl planks, tile, hardwood, sheet vinyl and laminate flooring. We install everything we sell.



LOKAL BURGERS

701 S. Main Street, La Veta | 719-742-0296 | toasttab.com/local/order/lokal-burger Lokal burger is more than just a burger joint. We offer breakfast, lunch and dinner using fresh and locally sourced ingredients whenever possible.



LOKAL PERKS

27 Cuchara Ave., Cuchara | cucharalokalhotel.com Lokal Perks offers coffee, breakfast, and treats in Cuchara. Enjoy a relaxing morning retreat mingling with locals.



NANCY CARROLL, PHOTOGRAPHER

Cuchara | 719-651-2332 | njcarroll.smugmug.com Nancy is drawn to street, portrait, and travel photographs with a goal to develop fine art Black & White images, seeking the unusual and abstract



NICOLE COPEL CERAMICS

La Veta | nicolecopelceramics.com Making and selling clay art for daily living, based in Southern Colorado. Follow me on Instagram @nicolecopel..



SHALAWALLA GALLERY AND GIFT SHOP

107 W. Ryus Ave., La Veta | 719-742-3453 | Shalawalla.com Batik art by Jonathan and Beth Evans. Visit the studio! Batik classes, all ages and levels. Local art, fair trade gifts, jewelry, and clothing.



SPANISH PEAKS CYCLING ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 586, La Veta | 719-746-0141 | spcycling.org Spanish Peaks Cycling hosts the Stonewall Century Ride to benefit local nonprofits.



SPANISH PEAKS REGIONAL HEALTH CENTER

23500 U.S. Hwy 160, Walsenburg | 719-501-2595 | sprhc.org We provide a rural hospital, Veterans Community Living Center, Family, Speciality, La Veta, Outreach and Women's Clinics, and Retail Pharmacy.



STIANO'S ITALIAN TRATTORIA

103 W. Ryus Ave., La Veta | 719-742-5566 | lavetainncolorado.com Stiano (opening summer 2023) in the La Veta Inn is a Stiano chef driven Trattoria showcasing Reggiani inspired cuisine.



WORLD JOURNAL NEWSPAPER

504 Main Street, Walsenburg | 719-738-1415 | worldjournalnewspaper.com Easily the best newspaper in all of Huerfano and Colfax counties, and one of the top two in Las Animas County

CREW LEADER - \$250



BIG R

1010 Cherry St., La Veta | 719-742-3071 | bigronline.com We are a family-owned business in five states, serving your farm, ranch, and home needs. If you need it, Big R's got it!



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973 US Highway 85 87, Ste 300, Walsenburg | 719-738-2807 | budhutinc.com Specializing in helping you have the best Cannabis experience. People's choice award 4 years. Discounts for veterans, medical card holders & more.



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3765 E. Sunset Rd, Ste., B2-Las Vegas | 702-214-4700 | HardMoneyLoansColorado.com Capella Mortgage is your go to lender for private money loans for fix & flip, commerical, owner occupied, investment & land.



CHARLIE'S MARKET

212-214 S. Main Street, La Veta | 719-742-3651 | Charlie's Market on Facebook A hometown grocery store serving up the best beef with a full-service meat department and fresh items daily. Don't forget a scoop of ice cream!



COMMUNITY BANKS OF COLORADO

501 Main Street, Walsenburg | 719-738-2234 | cobnks.com Committed to common sense banking through building relationships that are based on the principles of fairness and simplicity.



FOX WALSENBURG

715 Main St., Walsenburg | 719-695-2199 | .foxwalsenburg.com



ICONIC DENTAL

624 Main Street, Walsenburg | 719-695-1004 | iconicdentalwalsenburg.com Looking for a Dentist? Iconic Dental provides comfortable dental care using the latest techniques and technology.

SPONSORS





310 Main Street, La Veta | 719-742-3572 | lvpl.org Books! Activities! Internet! An award-winning public library system. Branches in La Veta (year round) and Cuchara (summertime).



MONUMENT LAKE RESORT

4789 State Hwy 12, Weston | 719-680-0580 | themonumentlakeresort.com Plan your getaway for great fishing, hiking, camping, dining, and a little rest in the pristine Sangre de Cristo Mountains.



PANADERO SKI CORPORATION

1234 Panadero Ave., Cuchara | 303-883-7208 | cucharamountainpark.org Fun, affordable, family-friendly outdoor recreation and educational opportunities for everyone.



REBECCA LEIGH DESIGNS

719-284-1492 | rebeccaleighdesigns.com Helping small businesses stand out with unique collateral + strategic marketing. Schedule a free consultation!



SCENIC HIGHWAY OF LEGENDS

309 Nevada Street, Trinidad | 719-846-9512 | colorado.com/byways/highway-legends The Scenic Highway of Legends is an 82-mile stretch from Walsenburg to Trinidad. One of America's Byways, features amazing geological formations.



SPANISH PEAKS ARTS COUNCIL - SPACE

132 W. Ryus Ave., La Veta | 719-742-3074 | spanishpeaksarts.org SPACe sponsors La Veta's annual Art in the Park, exhibits original artwork by area artists, and provides a Youth Art Workshop every summer.



SOUTH CENTRAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

300 Bonaventure Ave., Trinidad | 719-738-2205 | sccog.colorado.gov Providing services to Huerfano/Las Animas; Care Services, Area Agency on Aging, Housing Rehabilitation, Early Learning and public transportation



SPANISH PEAKS ARTS

La Veta | 719-742-5756 | kathyhill.com

Original oil and watercolor paintings of the Spanish Peaks and surrounding area, plus matted prints and notecards.



SPRADLEY CHEVROLET

Various locations | 719-544-8162 | Spradley.com Spradley Dealerships are up the road. Factory sales, service and parts. Authorized service all makes, models.



URBAN SMOKEN

973 US Hwy 85 87, Ste 100, Walsenburg | 719-738-6420 | facebook.com/UrbanSmoken We offer a wide selection of hand-pipes, water-pipes, vapes and more. Our customer service specializes in a wide knowledge of all products.



WALSENBURG LUMBER

403 W. 7th St., Walsenburg | 719-738-3700 | sterlinglbr.com/locations We are proud of our reputation for putting customers and quality first in every area of our operations.



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TRAIL EXPLORER - \$100



ARTISANS ON MAIN

210 South Main Street, La Veta | 719-742-3666 | Artisansonmain.art Beautiful art, photgraphy, ceramics, jewelry and more from regional artisits, including thoughtful curated goods



BEACH MOUNTAIN ESTATES, LLC

600 E. Ryus Ave, La Veta | 719-890-4154

Beach Mountain Estates, LLC is a family owned and operated business specializing in rental homes for the La Veta community.



CRAFTY CANARY BREWERY

107 E. 5th Street, Walsenburg | 719-214-4150 | craftcanarybrewery.com A homey little public house offering house-crafted libations, mocktails, food and community!



CUCHARA COUNTRY STORE

34 Cuchara Ave E, Cuchara | 719-742-3450 | facebook.com/CucharaCountryStore A Cuchara staple providing gifts and apparel for the whole family! T-shirts, hats, cabin decor, groceries & more!



CUCHARA MOUNTAIN MERCANTILE

1120 Panadero Ave., Cuchara | 580-919-9472 | facebook.com/CucharaMountainMerantile Convenience Store, Bakery, Apparel and fresh home cooked food. Event Center for weddings and gatherings large and small.



DOG BAR & GRILL

34 Cuchara Ave E, Cuchara | 719-742-6366 | dogbarandgrill.com Providing burgers and beers @ 8,500 feet, family friendly dinning with burgers, pizzas & sandwiches with live music all summer!



GRANDOTE PEAKS GOLF CLUB

5540 State Hwy 12, La Veta | 719-999-2000 | playgrandote.com Enjoy refreshments, adult beverages at the Grandote Grill. And finish up your day with an outstanding dinner at our Peaks Steakhouse and Bar.



LA VETA LIOUORS

105 W. Francisco Street, La Veta | 719-742-3216 | facebook.com/lavetaliquors Never leave your happy hour to chance: Visit the BEST Liquor Store in town!

SPONSORS



LEGENDS ON MAIN

305 S. Main Street, La Veta | 719-742-3996 | legendsonmainstreet.com Authentic New Mexican Restaurant. Clean, quality, from scratch food from around the globe.



LOHMAN DESIGN STUDIO

La Veta | 830-456-7958 | lohmandesignstudio.com We offer a range of services. Our projects include dream homes, vacation cabins, remodels, reimagined interiors.



PETALS-N-PAPERS

La Veta | 970-231-2065 | CabinPressStudio.com We grow beauty! Petals & Papers is a La Veta based, seasonal cut flower farm and letterpress studio. Bouquets, events, stationery, workshops and more.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

P.O. Box 92, Canon City | 303-906-1359 | facebook.com/rmbch We are a non-profit that protects trails for equines while educating all users on safe and smart backcountry stock use.



SERENDIPITY COFFEE HOUSE

528 Main St., Walsenburg | 719-890-4471 | serendipitywalsenburg.com A fantastic coffee house, with specialty retail. We have homemade ice cream and fresh baked goods.



SPANISH PEAKS GUESTHOUSE

6541 County Road 330, Walsenburg | 719-738-9919 | spanishpeaksguesthouse.com Spanish Peaks Guesthouse is a 3bed/2bath vacation rental south of Walsenburg at the gateway to Spanish Peaks Country



SPANISH PEAKS I.T. SOLUTIONS

La Veta | 719-410-1234 | www.peaksit.com Computer service, support, training and consulting for individuals and businesses in the Spanish Peaks Region.



THE BOOK NOOK (FRIENDS OF THE LA VETA LIBRARY)

207 South Main Street, La Veta | 719-964-1828 | facebook.com/LVbooknook A delightful used book shop run by volunteers supporting the La Veta Public Library.



THE LOFTS DOWNTOWN

500 Main Street, Walsenburg | 719-738-8009 | theloftsdt.com The Lofts Downtown is a home away from home for anyone looking to vacation, recreate, or visit the Walsenburg area, Rates starting at \$99/night.



THE PARKSIDE ART GALLERY AND CAFE

127 W. Ryus Ave., La Veta | 719-298-2522 | theparksideartgallery.com Coffee Shop and Fine Art in the historic Parkside Building across from La Veta Park. Upstairs 3 bedroom vacation rental for max. of 6 persons.

SPONSORS



THE SALON

208 S. Main St., La Veta | 719-742-3019 | facebook.com/thesalonlaveta Need some TLC after a hike? Visit The Salon for your hair care, massages, and facials.



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TWO PEAKS FITNESS

216 S. Main Street, La Veta | 719-742-3555 | two peaks fitness.org
Open 5am-midnight; Two Peaks Fitness is a non-profit fitness center. Accepting
Silver Sneakers and Renew Active. No contracts or initiation fees!



WALSENBURG GOLF COURSE

1399 County Road 502, Walsenburg | 719-738-2730 | golfwalsenburg.com Walsenburg Golf Course is open to the public. Golf cart rentals for your convenience. Restaurant and bar on-site.



WALSENBURG MERCANTILE

408 Russell Ave, Walsenburg | 719-890-1240 | walsenburgmercantile.com Admire, shop, and relax. We have handmade soaps, candles, and baked goods as well the work of the very talented artists all in one beautiful building.



