

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
History Colorado

## PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY

### Archaeological Sites

#### **Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site**

Location: 7 miles east of the town of La Junta  
Open: June 1-Aug 31, 8:00am to 5:30pm; Sept 1-May 31, 9:00am to 4:00pm  
Phone: 719.383.5010  
Address: Superintendent's Office, 35110 Highway 194 East, La Junta, CO 81050-9523  
Web site: [www.nps.gov/beol/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/beol/index.htm)  
Administered by: National Park Service

Reconstruction based on historical records and archaeological excavations, of an 1830s-1840s fur trading post. There is a museum, visitor center, and a gift shop.

#### **Canyon Pintado Rock Art Historic District**

Location: along and near State Highway 139 approximately 10 miles south of the town of Rangely  
Open: daily  
Phone: 970.878.3800  
Address: BLM, White River Field Office, 220 E. Market St., Meeker, CO 81641  
Web site: [http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/wrfo/wrfo\\_cultural\\_resources/canyon\\_pintado\\_historic.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/wrfo/wrfo_cultural_resources/canyon_pintado_historic.html)  
Administered by: Bureau of Land Management - White River Field Office

Self-guided tours with brochure available from the BLM. Over 50 Fremont-age (AD 600-1300) rock art sites.

#### **Canyons of the Ancients National Monument**

Location: west and northwest of Cortez, CO  
Open: daily  
Phone: 970.882.5600  
Address: Anasazi Heritage Center, 27501 Highway 184, Dolores, CO  
Web site: [www.blm.gov/co/st/en/nm/canm.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/nm/canm.html)  
Administered by: USDI Bureau of Land Management

More than 6,000 archaeological sites are preserved in this sprawling national monument in southwestern Colorado. Visitors are encouraged to visit the Anasazi Heritage Center for orientation and further information before exploring the area on their own. Most sites are unmarked, but a few of the featured places to visit include Lowry Pueblo, Painted Hand Pueblo, and Sand Canyon.

#### **Chimney Rock National Monument**

Location: between 17 miles west of Pagosa Springs, 50 east of Durango, 3 miles south on State Highway 151  
Open: guided and self-guided tours/hikes between May 15 and September 30  
Phone: 970.883.5359 or 970.731.7133  
Address: Pagosa Springs Ranger District, PO Box 310, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147  
Web site: [www.chimneyrockco.org/](http://www.chimneyrockco.org/)  
Administered by: San Juan National Forest - Pagosa Springs Ranger District

Chimney Rock contains ruins of Ancestral Pueblo Indian villages perched atop a high mesa overlooking the Piedra River. The high mesa community contains 16 excavated sites, among them are the Chacoan structures of the Great House, Guardhouse, and Great Kiva. Two developed trails lead to both excavated and undisturbed sites.

### **Dominguez and Escalante Ruins**

Location: 3 miles west of the town of Dolores on State Highway 184  
Open: daily, 9:00am to 5:00pm, March - October, 10:00am to 4:00pm November to February  
Phone: 970.882.5600 (Anasazi Heritage Center)  
Address: 27501 Highway 184, Dolores, CO 81323  
Web site: [www.blm.gov/co/st/en/nm/canm/Archaeological\\_Sites.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/nm/canm/Archaeological_Sites.html)  
Administered by: Bureau of Land Management

Ancestral Puebloan (or Anasazi) pueblo ruins dating to the 12th century AD. Located a short half-mile walk up the hill from the Anasazi Heritage Center, the ruins offer a panoramic view of the Four Corners area.

### **Hovenweep National Monument**

Location: approximately 30 miles west of Cortez  
Open: daily  
Phone: 970.562.4282, ext 10  
Address: Hovenweep National Monument, McElmo Rt., Cortez, CO 81321  
Web site: [www.nps.gov/hove/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/hove/index.htm)  
Administered by: National Park Service

Six clusters of Anasazi ruins featuring several tower ruins. Self guided tours on a dirt and gravel road.

### **Lowry Ruins**

Location: 8 miles west of the town of Pleasant View  
Open: daily, no Visitor's Center  
Phone: 970.882.5600 (Anasazi Heritage Center)  
Address: Anasazi Heritage Center, 27501 Highway 184, Dolores, CO 81323  
Web site: [www.blm.gov/co/st/en/nm/canm/Archaeological\\_Sites.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/nm/canm/Archaeological_Sites.html)  
Administered by: Bureau of Land Management

Self-guided tours of a pueblo constructed by the Anasazi about AD 1090. Guidebooks for the Lowry ruin and Great Kiva tour are available at the site or at the Anasazi Heritage Center.

### **Mesa Verde National Park**

Location: 10 miles east of Cortez  
Open: museum open daily, various sites open seasonally  
Phone: 970.529.4465  
Address: P.O. Box 8, Mesa Verde National Park, CO 81330  
Web site: [www.nps.gov/meve/](http://www.nps.gov/meve/)  
Administered by: National Park Service

World famous cliff dwellings and mesa top villages dating from AD 600 - AD 1300. The park also offers a wonderful museum in addition to spectacular scenery and wildlife.

### **Ute Mountain Tribal Park**

Location: 20 miles south of Cortez  
Open: half-day tours from 9:00am to 12:30pm, full day tours from 8:30am to 4:00pm  
Phone: 970.565.3751, ext 330 or 970.565.9653  
Address: Towaoc, CO 81334  
Web site: [www.utemountaintribalpark.info](http://www.utemountaintribalpark.info)  
Administered by: Ute Mountain Ute tribe

The park consists of 125,000 acres along the Mancos River with hundreds of pueblo ruins and petroglyph sites. All tours are guided and reservations need to be made in advance.

Note: The information contained in this publication is subject to change without notice.  
Please call to verify before you plan your trip.

### **Vogel Canyon Petroglyphs**

Location: Comanche National Grasslands, south of the town of La Junta  
Open: daily, 8-12:00 and 1:00 to 5:00 Monday through Saturday  
Phone: 719.384.2181  
Address: Comanche National Grasslands, 1420 East 3rd St., La Junta, CO 81050  
Web site: [www.fs.usda.gov/detail/psicc/about-forest/districts/?cid=fsm9\\_032726](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/psicc/about-forest/districts/?cid=fsm9_032726)  
Administered by: USDA Forest Service – Comanche National Grasslands

Vogel Canyon is a tributary of the Purgatoire River and features two permanent springs located at the bottom of the canyon supporting a variety of wildlife. Four hiking trails are available, leading to a number of historical and archaeological attractions. Pecked and incised rock art can be seen on the canyon walls, evidence of the activities of American Indians who lived in the canyon 300–800 years ago. Other sites to see include sections of a stage coach road and ruins of an associated stage station, from the Barlow and Sanderson Mail and Stage Line of the 1870s that ran between Las Animas and Trinidad, and the 1930s era ruins of the Westbrook homestead.

## **Museums**

### **Anasazi Heritage Center**

Location: 3 miles west of the town of Dolores on State Highway 184  
Open: March-Oct, 9:00am to 5:00pm; Nov-Feb 10:00am to 4:00pm  
Phone: 970.882.5600  
Address: 27501 Highway 184, Dolores, CO 81323  
Web site: [www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ahc.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ahc.html)  
Administered by: Bureau of Land Management

The Anasazi Heritage Center is an archaeological museum operated by the Bureau of Land Management, a federal agency that manages, protects and provides for the enjoyment of public land resources. The Heritage Center displays and preserves artifacts and records from research done on public lands in the Four Corners area, one of the richest archaeological regions in the United States.

### **Chapin Mesa Archaeological Museum at Mesa Verde**

Location: 10 miles east of Cortez in Mesa Verde National Park  
Open: daily, 9:00am to 4:30pm; extended hours in summer months  
Phone: 970. 529.4465  
Address: P.O. Box 8, Mesa Verde National Park, CO 81330  
Web site: <http://www.nps.gov/meve/planyourvisit/museum.htm>  
Administered by: National Park Service

An archaeological museum with dioramas interpreting the life of the Ancestral Puebloan people that once lived in the area.

### **Denver Art Museum**

Location: Denver  
Open: Tue-Thu and Sat-Sun, 10:00am to 5:00pm; Fri, 10:00am to 8:00pm; closed Mondays and major holidays  
Phone: 720-865-5000  
Address: 100 W. 14th Ave. Parkway, Denver, CO 80204  
Web site: [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org)  
Administered by: City/County of Denver

Artifacts from cultures throughout the world, including a world famous collection of items from North America.

### **Denver Museum of Nature and Science**

Location: Denver (City Park near Colorado Blvd. and 22nd Ave.)  
Open: daily, 9:00am to 5:00pm; closed Christmas Day  
Phone: 303.370.6000  
Address: 2001 Colorado Blvd., Denver, CO 80205  
Web site: [www.dmns.org/](http://www.dmns.org/)  
Administered by: City/County of Denver

One of the premier natural history museums in the country, this institution was founded at the turn of the century to house the collection of Colorado naturalist Edwin Carter. Visitors can see dinosaur and other fossils in the Prehistoric Journey exhibit, and a variety of archaeological displays on North American Indian and Egyptian cultures.

### **El Pueblo History Museum**

Location: Pueblo  
Open: Tues-Sat 10:00am to 4:00pm  
Phone: 719.583.0453  
Address: 301 N. Union Ave., Pueblo, CO 81003  
Web site: [www.historycolorado.org/museums/el-pueblo-history-museum-0](http://www.historycolorado.org/museums/el-pueblo-history-museum-0)  
Administered by: History Colorado (State of Colorado)

This is a full-sized reproduction of a trading post from the mid 1800s with exhibits concerning the history of Pueblo and Plains Indians. Historical archaeological excavations often take place in the summer.

### **Fort Vasquez Museum**

Location: U.S. 85 one mile south of the town of Platteville, 35 miles north of Denver  
Open: Winter, Wed-Sun 10:00am to 4:00pm; Summer, Mon-Sat, 9:30am to 4:30pm, Sun, 1:00pm to 4:30pm; closed January 13 to February 28  
Phone: 970.785.2832  
Address: 13412 Highway 85, Platteville, CO 80651  
Web site: [www.historycolorado.org/museums/fort-vasquez-museum](http://www.historycolorado.org/museums/fort-vasquez-museum)  
Administered by: History Colorado (State of Colorado)

This is a reconstruction, based on historical records and archaeological excavations, of an adobe fur trading post built about 1835.

### **History Colorado Center**

Location: Denver  
Open: Mon-Sat 10:00am to 5:00pm, Sun 12:00pm to 5:00pm, closed on major winter holidays  
Phone: 303.447-8679  
Address: 1200 Broadway, Denver, CO 80203  
Web site: [www.historycoloradocenter.org](http://www.historycoloradocenter.org)  
Administered by: History Colorado (State of Colorado)

The History Colorado Center features a few archaeological displays, notably ancient Puebloan materials in the Living West exhibit, as well as 1930s era dioramas on Gold Rush-era Denver and Balcony House at Mesa Verde National Park.

### **Koshare Indian Museum**

Location: La Junta  
Open: Sun, Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat 12:00pm to 5:00pm, closed Tues & Thurs  
Phone: 719.384.4411  
Address: 115 W. 18th Street, La Junta, CO 81050-0580  
Web site: [www.kosharehistory.org](http://www.kosharehistory.org)  
Administered by: Boy Scouts of America, Troop No. 232.

Approximately 3000 objects relating to Native Americans of the Southwest and Plains regions of the United States are housed in the Koshare Indian Museum. A 30-minute tour includes an in-depth look at the Museum galleries and allows plenty of time for question-and-answers. Tours can be modified to include topics of special interest to you and your group and a scavenger hunt guide is available.

### **Louden-Henritze Archaeological Museum**

Location: Trinidad Junior College Library, Ground level of the Samuel Freudenthal Memorial Library  
Open: Mon-Thurs 10:00am to 3:00pm  
Phone: 719.846.5508  
Address: 600 Prospect, Trinidad State Junior College, Trinidad, CO 81082  
Website: [www.trinidadstate.edu/museum](http://www.trinidadstate.edu/museum)  
Administered by: Trinidad Junior College (State of Colorado).

Various displays concern the regional archaeology, fossils, and geology.

### **Museum of Western Colorado**

Location: Grand Junction  
Open: May-September, Tues-Sat 9:00am to 5:00pm; October-April, Tues-Sat 10:00am to 3:00pm  
Phone: 970.242.0971  
Address: 462 Ute Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501  
Web site: <https://www.museumofwesternco.com>  
Administered by: private administration.

The Museum of Western Colorado is a regional museum with four city locations and three natural resource areas. The Museum preserves, investigates, and displays materials relating to the natural, social and cultural history of western Colorado all the way from the continental divide west to the Utah border. The Museum of Western Colorado's interests range from natural history and paleontology to cultural and social history, Native American pottery, and western firearms.

### **University of Colorado Museum**

Location: Boulder - University of Colorado Campus  
Open: Mon-Fri 9:00am to 5:00pm, Sat 9:00am to 4:00pm, Sun 10:00am to 4:00pm  
Phone: 303.492.6892  
Address: 15th & Broadway, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309  
Web site: [cumuseum.colorado.edu](http://cumuseum.colorado.edu)  
Administered by: University of Colorado (State of Colorado)

The paleontology collection features a wide variety of vertebrate, invertebrate, and plant fossils, including approximately 95,000 catalogued specimens representing approximately 600,000 objects from more than 5,600 localities in 44 states and 77 countries. Historical and archaeological specimens also are here in the collections.

### **University of Denver Museum of Anthropology**

Location: Denver  
Open: Mon-Fri 9:00am to 4:00pm, except holidays and days when the university is closed  
Phone: 303.871.2688  
Address: Sturm Hall 102, 2000 East Asbury, Denver, CO 80208  
Web site: [www.du.edu/ahss/schools/anthropology/museum/](http://www.du.edu/ahss/schools/anthropology/museum/)  
Administered by: University of Denver (private)

The Museum of Anthropology teaches about research, care, administration and public interpretation of archaeological and ethnographic collections through student involvement in day-to-day operations. Its collections contain 165,000 objects.

### **Ute Indian Museum**

Location: Montrose  
Open: January-June, Tues-Sat 9:00am to 4:00pm; July-October, Mon-Sat 9:00am to 4:30pm, Sun 11:00am to 4:30pm; November-December, Mon-Sat 9:00am to 4:30pm; closed December 25 and January 1  
Phone: 970.249.3098  
Address: 17253 Chipeta Drive, Montrose, CO 81401  
Web site: [www.historycolorado.org/museums/ute-indian-museum-0](http://www.historycolorado.org/museums/ute-indian-museum-0)  
Administered by: History Colorado (State of Colorado)

The Ute Indian Museum offers one of the most complete collections and exhibits featuring the Ute peoples of Colorado. The grounds of the museum include the Ouray Memorial Park, Chipeta's grave, native plants garden and outdoor display honoring the Dominguez-Escalante Expedition of 1776.

### **Other**

#### **Crow Canyon Archaeological Center**

Location: Cortez  
Open: call for reservations on programs  
Phone: 800.422.8975 or 970.565.8975  
Address: 23390 County Road K, Cortez, CO 81321-9909  
Web site: [www.crowcanyon.org](http://www.crowcanyon.org)  
Administered by: Private Organization

Private archaeological school. Numerous opportunities throughout the summer - weekly excavation programs and tours of Anasazi ruins. Reservations are necessary for programs and tours.

#### **Colorado Archaeological Society**

Location: 11 chapters throughout the state  
Open: activities year around  
Membership: annual dues are \$8.00 and up; see membership application on web site below  
Address: for information: Bev Goering, CAS Membership, P. O. Box 271735, Fort Collins, CO 80527  
Web site: [www.coloradoarchaeology.org/](http://www.coloradoarchaeology.org/)  
Administered by: private non-profit organization

CAS was founded in 1935 as a collaborative organization of professional and avocational archaeologists. It publishes the quarterly journal, *Southwestern Lore*, and is actively involved in the study and preservation of archaeological resources in the state.

#### **Cortez Cultural Center**

Location: Cortez  
Open: Memorial Day - Labor Day 10:00am to 10:00pm, Sept to May 10:00am to 5:00pm  
Phone: 970.565.1151  
Address: 25 N. Market Street, Cortez, CO 81321  
Web site: [www.cortezculturalcenter.org](http://www.cortezculturalcenter.org)  
Administered by: University of Colorado (State of Colorado)

Provides information concerning archaeological sites and tours in the area. There are also interpretive exhibits and evening presentations.