



*In 1874, Oglala Lakota Chief Long Dog organized
one of the last buffalo hunting expeditions on the high plains of Colorado.
This information comes from a 1933 interview with a
Logan County rancher who recalled the event from his youth.*

Save the Past for the Future

COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION WEEK

MAY 14-20, 1995

This poster was produced with the assistance and cooperation of:

Bureau of Reclamation • USDA Forest Service • National Park Service • Colorado Association of Cemeteries • Bureau of Land Management
• Colorado Archaeological Society • Colorado Historical Society • Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists • Colorado Preservation, Inc.

For more information, contact:

Colorado Archaeological Society – P.O. Box 1004, Boulder, Colorado 80306

Colorado State Archaeologist 303-866-3395



Welcome to Colorful Colorado! Colorado has been the home to pre-historic Indians since at least the end of the last Ice Age about 12,000 years ago. This guide is intended to help you find your way to the more important archaeological sites that are open to the public; however, space prohibits the inclusion of every attraction in the State.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES ARE A WINDOW INTO THE PAST

Archaeology is the study of people where the only evidence of their presence is through an investigation of the remains of their homes, tools and other artifacts they left behind. Unfortunately, prehistoric people did not always stay very long in a single place, and usually left very few things for us to find.

Archaeologists are scientists trained to create a picture of the past from a puzzle with most of the pieces missing. Archaeologists use any and all pieces of information to try and tell the story and an archaeological investigation may employ the talents and expertise of a botanist, soil scientist, geologist, artist, cartographer, computer specialist, wildlife biologist, historian — and other specialists.

Clues to helping with the understanding of past lifeways lie not only in the artifact itself, but just as importantly in the artifact's spatial association with other items and with the geology of the site: what and where it's context.

"Take only pictures, leave only footprints" is always good advice and makes you welcome everywhere you go. The collecting and removing of artifacts such as broken pottery arrowheads, and other stone tools, or writing on rocks, destroys our heritage and makes it almost impossible for archaeologists to tell the story about earlier inhabitants. Moreover, it is illegal to collect on Federal and State lands, and on private lands without permission of the landowner.

Unlike animals and plants, archaeological sites and artifacts do not reproduce — what we have is all that we will ever have, and sites are being destroyed at an alarming rate. "Pothunters" are vandals who dig and collect in order to make money by selling what they find. These selfish individuals destroy the heritage of all Americans. The removal of an arrowhead, stone tool, a ceramic vessel, or defacing rock art is like taking a page out of the only copy of an important book. Pick it up! Look at it! — but PLEASE put it back where you found it!!!

If you like puzzles — especially hard puzzles — join a local archaeological society. The State Historic Preservation Office will be happy to put you in touch with these organizations.

BEFORE YOU GO

- It's a long way from here to there. Check your gas tank! Do you have a good spare tire with air in it? Many parts of Colorado are a long way from any services and we want you to enjoy your stay; thumbing a ride to buy a can of gas or to get a tire fixed is not our idea of fun either.
- It gets hot — even in the mountains — take plenty of water and sunscreen. Sunburns happen very easily in the thin mountain air.
- It gets cold — even in the summer — be prepared for sudden changes in temperature or other adverse weather if you are in the "high country".
- It's high — Denver is the "Mile High City" and most of Colorado is over 5,000 feet above sea level and much is over 10,000 feet — take it easy until you get used to the altitude.
- It's not all that buggy in Colorado, but a good insect repellent will be a blessing if you camp out.

- Most of the places listed can be reached over paved roads or gravel roads in good condition — check with the locals if you have doubts.
- Sorry, we're closed! Most attractions listed are open seven days a week during the summer season. However, check ahead if you are in doubt or if you need special information.
- The Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (303-866-3437) and local Chambers of Commerce can provide you with valuable information to help you enjoy your stay. Visitor centers are also located throughout the State to help guide you to some interesting places.

ON YOUR VISIT

Most brochures have a section on "do's and don'ts" — mostly don'ts — this one is no exception. Archaeological sites are fragile and irreplaceable. Once they are disturbed, they are destroyed forever and our only window to the past is closed. Leave the sites in the condition you would like your children and grandchildren to find them.

- Don't climb on the ruins — they are fragile. Just because we call them "ruins" does not mean that what is left is of no archaeological value.
- Watch for rattlesnakes — especially in the morning, sundown, and at night: our "Colorado Buzzworms" like old piles of rock such as found in prehistoric ruins (another reason for not climbing on ruins).
- Don't collect anything. It's against the law. In fact, the reason we Americans have such laws is so that we Americans don't take everything home where no one else can see them.
- Don't touch the rock art or mark it in any manner — it is very fragile. The natural oils in your hands can severely damage pictographs (painted art). Some people mistakenly use chalk to mark the petroglyphs (art made by pecking) to make photographing easier. Sounds harmless but in fact the chalk absorbs water and the winter freeze/thaw cycle chips away at the art. Painting over the rock art with spray paint or writing your initials and home town on this unreplaceable art is just plain dumb.

PREHISTORIC CULTURES

By "prehistory," we mean people who lived here before the coming of the Euro-Americans and their written records—about 10,000 A.D. to A.D. 1600 in Colorado. Information on the prehistoric sites in Colorado is presented by three major geographic areas: the Plains, the Mountains, and the West. These divisions roughly coincide with the prehistoric cultures recognized by archaeologists.

The earliest people are known as the **Paleo-Indians** who hunted extinct big game such the woolly mammoth and a giant bison. The few known Paleo-Indian sites (ca. 10,000 to 7,000 A.D.) are concentrated in

Plains environment and built multi-room stone buildings reminiscent of southwestern Pueblos. However, they appear to have had a closer affiliation with other Plains Village peoples farther to the east. The Sopris sites seem to be affiliated with the greater southwestern, Anasazi of New Mexico and Arizona (Anasazi is a Navajo word for "Enemy Ancestor" — a term archaeologists use for the prehistoric Pueblo Indians). The Sopris lived in pit houses and in above ground stone and wood structures in the upper Purgatoire River valley near present day Trinidad, Colorado. Like the Apishapa, the Sopris people grew corn and beans as well as engaging in hunting and gathering activities for subsistence. Most of the known Sopris sites were destroyed by the construction of Trinidad Reservoir in the late 1960s and our knowledge of these people is severely limited. Apishapa sites are present in southeastern Colorado, northeastern New Mexico, and the Oklahoma and Texas panhandles.

Sites of the **Fremont** people (ca. A.D. 500 - 1450) represent horticultural villagers in northwestern Colorado, but the major Fremont occupations are farther to the west in Utah. At first appearance, Fremont material culture and houses look like they are Anasazi, but we know them to be a distinct people. Like the Woodland, Apishapa, and Sopris peoples, we are still at a loss to explain the ultimate fate of these people: the archaeological record has yet to yield the information we need.

The archaeological record in the Southwestern part of Colorado has been very kind as we can trace **Anasazi** origins to hunters and gatherers occupying the greater Southwest back about 8,350 years. The Anasazi (ca. 200 B.C. to A.D. 1300) occupied pithouses, above ground stone-walled villages, and stone houses built in rock shelters.

These people raised corn, beans and squash, and are noted for their beautiful Black-on-White and polychrome ("many colored") pottery. The Anasazi participated in a prehistoric trade network that extended throughout the southwest and into old Mexico. The most spectacular archaeological sites in the state are those of the Anasazi in the southwestern corner of Colorado, such as at Mesa Verde National Park. The descendants of the prehistoric Anasazi people can be found today in numerous pueblos in New Mexico and Arizona.

Historic Indians in Colorado include the **Ute** (in the central and south-

BOOKS ON COLORADO HISTORY AND PREHISTORY

- The Archaeology of Colorado* by E. Steve Casells (Johnson Books, Boulder, Colorado, 1983).
- Southwestern Lore: the Journal of the Colorado Archaeological Society*: contact the Colorado State Archaeologist.
- The Best of Colorado* by Susan Kaye (Pruett Publishing Company, Boulder, Colorado, 1988).
- A Colorado History* by Carl Ubbelohde, Maxine Benson, and Duane Smith (Sixth edition), Pruett Publishing Company, Boulder, Colorado, 1988.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

State Archaeologist and the Colorado Historical Society, 1300 Broadway, Denver, CO 80203, (303) 866-3395

PREHISTORIC COLORADO

The numbers shown on the map refer to the numbered descriptions in the text.

THE PLAINS

- Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site**
National Park Service reconstructed 1800s fur trading post and museum. Just east of the town of La Junta on the Arkansas River. Open daily. Entrance Fee. Picnic grounds. Phone: (719) 384-2596.
- Vogel Canyon Petroglyphs**
Prehistoric Rock Art. South of the town of La Junta. Open daily. Free. Phone: (719) 545-8737 (U.S. Forest Service).
- Fort Vasquez State Historical Monument**
Between Denver and Greeley on Highway 85. Self-guided tour of reconstructed 1830s fur trade post museum. Open 10 am—5 pm. Fee. Phone: (303) 785-2832/288.

THE MOUNTAINS

- Vail Pass Campsite**
Multiple time period prehistoric site. Rest area on I-70 at Vail Pass. Open year round. Free. Picnic area.
- Fort Garland State Historical Monument**
The oldest military fort in Colorado, restored. East of Alamosa, just south of Highway 160 in the town of Fort Garland. Open 10 am—5 pm. Fee. Phone: (719) 379-3512.
- Pike's Stockade State Historical Monument**
Lt. Zebulon Pike's 1806 winter encampment. East of La Jara, Colorado, near Highway 285. Open daily 10 am—5 pm. Free. Phone: (719) 379-3512.

THE WEST

- Canyon Pintado Rock Art District and Native American Rock Art Tours**
Fremont and Ute Petroglyphs, A.D. 600-1300. Rock art sites in the vicinity of town of Rangely. Open daily. Free. Self-guided tours—brochure available from town of Rangely. Phone: (303) 876-3601 (Rangely Museum). (303) 675-8469 for tours.
- Cub Creek Rock Art and Swelter Shelter**
Fremont and earlier period petroglyphs and pictographs and prehistorically occupied rockshelter in Dinosaur National Monument and vicinity. Phone: (303) 374-2216 (Dinosaur National Monument).
- Chimney Rock Archaeological Area**
Anasazi Village. South of Highway 160 between Durango and Pagosa Springs. Tours at 9 am daily. Free. Camping in area on Forest Service lands. Phone: (303) 264-2268 (U.S. Forest Service).
- Dominguez and Escalante Ruins**
At Anasazi Heritage Center, North of Cortez near town of Dolores. Open daily. Free. Camping at McPhee Reservoir. Phone: (303) 882-4811 (Anasazi Heritage Center).
- Crow Canyon Archaeological Center**
Anasazi sites being excavated. Tours or participation in an excavation. Fee. Reservations required. Phone: 1-800-422-8975 or (303) 565-8975.

- Lowry Ruins (Closed for rehabilitation)**
Anasazi village with Ceremonial Great Kiva. West of Pleasantview, 26 miles north of Cortez on Highway 666. Open daily. Free. Self-guided tour. Phone: (303) 882-4811 (Anasazi Heritage Center).
- Hovenweep National Monument**
Anasazi villages with stone towers. About 40 miles west of Cortez over a gravel road. Open 8 am—5 pm. Free. Camping and picnic grounds. Phone: (303) 529-4465 (Mesa Verde National Park).
- Mesa Verde World Heritage Site**
World famous Anasazi Cliff Dwellings and other sites ca. A.D. 450 to 1300, 10 miles east of Cortez on Highway 160. Open daily. Fee. Camping. Lodging. Museum. Tours. Phone: (303) 529-4465.
- Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Park**
Anasazi Cliff Dwellings. South of Cortez on Highway 160 in the town of Towaoc, Colorado. Guided tours. Fee. Phone: (303) 565-3751, extension 282.

MUSEUMS

Colorado is proud of its many museums with displays about Colorado history and prehistory. The following is a partial list of the major museums in the State that have large displays devoted to prehistory or related subjects of interest.

- Colorado History Museum**
History and Prehistory. Broadway and 13th Avenue in Denver near the State Capitol. Open Mon - Sat, 10 am—4:30 pm; Sunday noon to 4:30 pm. Fee. Phone: (303) 866-3682.
- Denver Art Museum**
Pre-Columbian Art and exhibits. 100 W. 14th Avenue Parkway (near Civic Center and Colorado History Museum in Denver). Open Tue thru Sat, 10 am—5 pm; Sunday noon—5 pm. Free on Saturday. Phone: (303) 575-2793.
- Denver Museum of Natural History**
A to Z including Archaeology and Dinosaurs. City Park at Colorado Boulevard and 22nd Avenue, Denver. Open daily. 9 am—5 pm. Entrance Fee. Phone: (303) 322-7009.
- Henderson Museum**
Museum with numerous exhibits. Boulder—University of Colorado Campus. Open Mon thru Sat, 9 am—4 pm; Sunday 10 am—4 pm. Free. Phone: (303) 492-8881 (University of Colorado).
- Koshare Indian Museum**
115 W. 18th in La Junta. Open 9 am—6 pm. Fee. Phone: (719) 384-4411.

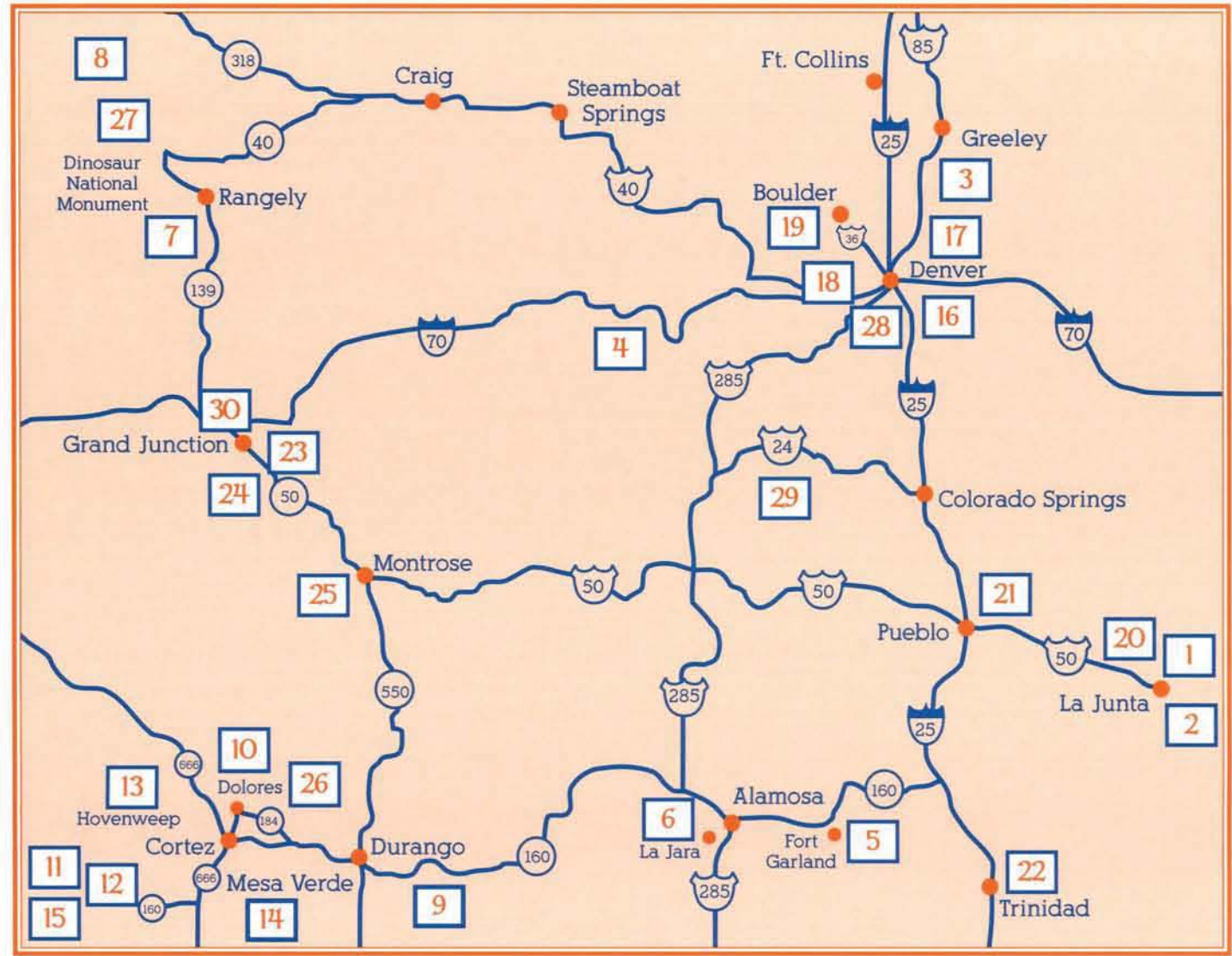
- El Pueblo Museum**
History of the area including reproduction of 1842 fur trading post, 324 W. 1st St. Pueblo. Open Tue - Sat, 10 am—5 pm. Fee. Phone: (719) 583-0453.
- Louden-Henritze Archaeology Museum**
In the Freudenthal Library on Trinidad Junior College campus in Trinidad. Open June—August, Mon - Fri noon to 4 pm. Free. Phone: (719) 846-5508.

- Museum of Western Colorado**
History of western Colorado. 248 S. Fourth Street, Grand Junction. Open Tue thru Sat, 10 am—4:45 pm. Free. Phone: (303) 242-0971.
- Dinosaur Valley Museum**
Dinosaur exhibits and working paleontology laboratory. 4th and Main, Grand Junction. Open 9 am—5 pm. Fee. Phone: (303) 243-3466.

- Ute Indian Museum**
Historic Ute Tribe displays. 17253 Chipeta Drive, Montrose. Open May 15 to Labor Day, 10 am—5 pm. Call for hours after November 1. Fee. Phone: (303) 249-3098.
- Anasazi Heritage Center**
Anasazi Prehistory of Four Corners Area. Just north of Cortez near Dolores on Highway 164. Open daily. 9 am—5 pm. Free. Phone: (303) 882-4811.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

- Dinosaur National Monument**
Dinosaur quarries and exhibits. Northwestern Colorado off Highway 40 near the Colorado-Utah border. Open daily in summer, 8 am—5 pm; Mon. thru Fri. after Labor Day. Free. Camping and picnics. Phone: (303) 374-2216.
- Dinosaur Ridge**
Dinosaur quarries and dinosaur foot prints. Near the town of Morrison on west edge of Denver. Guided and self-guided tours and museum. Contact Morrison Natural History Museum for information and hours. Phone: (303) 697-1873.
- Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument**
Insect and Plant Fossil quarries and exhibits. West of Colorado Springs on U.S. Highway 24. Open seven days, 8 am - 7 pm. Fee. Picnic grounds, camping in area. Phone: (719) 748-3253.
- Riggs Hill, Rabbit Valley Quarry, and Dinosaur Hill Trails**
Three dinosaur quarries in the vicinity of Grand Junction. Open daily. Free. Self-guiding trails. Contact Bureau of Land Management for information. Phone: (303) 243-6552.



the Plains, San Luis Valley and remote areas, and are not open to the public; collections and displays can be found in the major museums.

Archaic peoples were generalized hunters and gatherers and occupied the entire state from about 7,000 B.C. until about A.D. 100 when the bow and arrow and pottery were introduced to Colorado from the east. Like the Paleo-Indian peoples, evidence of Archaic houses are very rare, and no sites of this time period are available for public viewing.

Occupations by **Woodland** peoples are known best from the Plains area from about A.D. 100 to 1250. They used the bow and arrow and pottery (which originated in eastern Kansas and Nebraska) and there is evidence that corn was grown in some areas (but in very minor amounts). Houses were variable in size and shape but are known from very few sites; they are not easily preserved for public viewing. People were living in the Mountains at this time but we are still not sure what to call them — they very likely may have been the predecessors of the modern Ute Tribe.

Apishapa and **Sopris** were two groups that occupied southeastern Colorado between about A.D. 1200 and 1450. The Apishapa lived in a

ern mountains, **Shoshoni** (in the northern mountains), **Pawnee**, **Kiowa**, **Apache**, **Comanche**, **Arapahoe**, **Cheyenne** (on the Plains), and **Navajo** in the extreme southwest. The Ute Mountain and Southern Ute Indian Reservations are located in the southwestern corner of the State.

Early **Spanish** forays from New Mexico include Ulibarri (1706) in extreme southeastern Colorado; Valverde (1719) to just south of Denver; Villasur (1720) and Vial (1793 and 1805) both in the extreme southeast; and de Rivera (1761-1765) and the Dominguez-Escalante Expedition (1776) in southwestern Colorado. Zebulon Pike explored the State in 1806-1807 and Stephen Long in 1820. Bent's Old Fort (1833-1849) on the Plains near modern La Junta and Fort Vasquez (1835-1842) near Denver represent early fur trapping and trading endeavors with the Plains Indians. The famous Santa Fe trail crossed southeastern Colorado from a point near Liberal, Kansas to Trinidad, Colorado. Our short story ends here with the discovery of gold in 1859 near the confluence of Cherry Creek and the South Platte River in what is now downtown Denver. Additional sources of information on the history and prehistory of the State are given below.

SPONSORS
This pamphlet was produced with the assistance and cooperation of:

- Bureau of Reclamation
- USDA Forest Service
- National Park Service
- Colorado Association of Cemeteries
- Bureau of Land Management
- Colorado Archaeological Society
- Colorado Historical Society
- Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists
- Colorado Preservation, Inc.



PHOTOS:

CREDITS:
DESIGN — J. Keith Abernathy
GRAPHICS — Leslie Foster
LAYOUT & PRODUCTION — Vaughn Hamby & Joan Klipping, Studioworks
TEXT — William Butler, National Park Service

For your travel convenience, this poster is designed to be folded.

The publication is financed in part with federal funds from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior nor does mention of trade names constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior.

Regulations of the United States Department of the Interior strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination in federally assisted programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, and/or handicap. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility operated by a recipient of federal assistance should write to: Director, Office of Equal Opportunity, United States Department of the Interior, Washington DC 20240.



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

A VISITOR'S GUIDE TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGHTS IN COLORADO

