

Save the Past for the Future



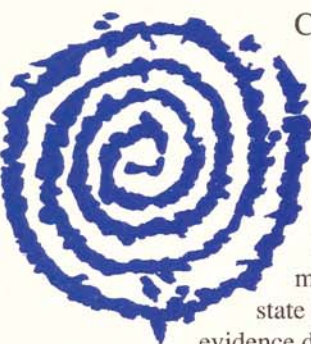
Lowry Pueblo National Historic Site

Lowry Pueblo was constructed by the ancient inhabitants of the Four Corners area about A.D. 1060. The pueblo contained 40 rooms and 8 ceremonial chambers and was home to approximately 100 people before its abandonment around A.D. 1200. The stabilized site is located on public lands in Montezuma County, Colorado.

Photograph by Tom Bartels, Round House Productions, Durango, Colorado

Colorado Archaeology and Historic Preservation Week
May 10-18, 1997

This poster was produced with the assistance and cooperation of: Bureau of Land Management □ Bureau of Reclamation □ Colorado Archaeological Society □ Colorado Association of Cemeteries □ Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists
□ Colorado Department of Transportation □ Colorado Historical Society □ Colorado Preservation, Inc. □ National Park Service □ USDA Forest Service
For more information contact: Colorado Archaeological Society, 1608 Sunset Drive, Louisville Colorado 80027, or call the Office of the Colorado State Archaeologist, (303) 866-3395
The statewide Preservation Week events calendar is available online at <http://www.aclin.org/other/historic/chs/index.html>



Colorado is rich in both natural and cultural resources. From ancient fossil remains encased in stone to 10,000 year-old archaeological sites, from historic mining camps to mansions, our state contains a fascinating array of evidence documenting the past. This guide is intended to assist you in finding your way to some of the more interesting cultural and paleontological "sights" open to the public throughout Colorado.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES ARE A WINDOW INTO THE PAST

Archaeology is the scientific investigation of the material remains of past cultures in order to reconstruct how people lived. Because the lifeways of ancient groups often required considerable mobility, many Native American peoples did not stay long in a single place and usually left behind little tangible evidence.

As scientists, archaeologists are trained to create a picture of the past from a puzzle with most of the pieces missing. Archaeologists use pieces of information to try to interpret the story. Contemporary archaeological investigations often employ the talents and expertise of many specialists, including botanists, soil scientists, geologists, artists, cartographers, computer specialists, wildlife biologists and historians to recover and interpret the evidence found at a site.

Clues to help understand past lifeways are not limited strictly to the artifact. An artifact's spatial association with other items found at a site, and understanding when and how natural and cultural layers were deposited, are equally important.

Unlike animals and plants, archaeological sites and artifacts do not reproduce. The subtle evidence of past lifeways--the archaeological record--is being destroyed at an alarming rate by urbanization, development, and intentional vandalism. Vandals who dig and collect in order to make money by selling what they find selfishly destroy our shared national heritage. Removing an arrowhead, stone tool, ceramic vessel, or fossil, 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!**

BEFORE YOU GO

- Many attractions listed here are open seven days a week during the summer season; however, please call in advance if you are in doubt or need special information.
- The Colorado Tourism Board (800-433-2656), Colorado Visitors Information Service (303-427-0488), and Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (303-866-3437) can provide valuable information to help you enjoy your visit. Visitor centers are located on major highways throughout the state to guide you to some interesting places.
- Whenever possible, learn some general information about the places you plan to visit before you go. A brief listing of publications to help get you started on your journey to the past is provided elsewhere in this guide.
- If you like puzzles--especially hard puzzles--join the Colorado Archaeological Society or other local organizations dedicated to preservation.

ON YOUR VISIT

- Archaeological sites are fragile and irreplaceable. Once disturbed, they are damaged forever and our only window to the past is closed. Leave sites in the condition you would like your children and grandchildren to find them. Remember it is illegal to collect on Federal and State lands, and on private lands without permission of the landowner.
- Don't climb on archaeological ruins--they are extremely fragile. Even ruins that have been stabilized are not indestructible.

- Don't touch rock art or mark it in any manner. Rock art is extremely delicate--even the natural oils from your hands can severely damage pictographs (painted art). Some individuals mistakenly use chalk to outline petroglyphs (rock art created by pecking) to make photographing easier. Although this practice sounds harmless, chalk absorbs water and the winter freeze/thaw cycle chips away at the art. Defacing rock art with spray paint and graffiti is not only thoughtless, it's illegal.
- Don't disturb natural vegetation--it often helps to stabilize and protect archaeological sites. For your own protection as well as the protection of the site, please stay on marked trails unless you are informed otherwise.

COLORADO'S ANCIENT CULTURES

The earliest peoples to inhabit Colorado are known as the **Paleoindians**. Because several of the first Paleoindian sites to be investigated contained the remains of mammoths, giant bison, and other extinct mammals, the Paleoindians have traditionally been characterized as "big game hunters." Evidence from more recent archaeological research, however, suggests that some of the later Paleoindian groups were more diversified and exploited plant resources in addition to game animals. Known Paleoindian sites, dating from about 10,000 years B.C. to 7,000 B.C., are concentrated on the Plains, in the San Luis Valley, and remote, often rugged areas. Although these sites are not open to the public, collections and displays interpreting the lifeways of Paleoindians can be found in major museums.

Archaic sites (ca. 8,000 B.C. to A.D. 100) are found throughout Colorado. Archaic peoples were hunter-gathers who exploited a wide variety of plant and animal resources, expanding the trend towards diversification and technological innovation that probably began in late Paleoindian times. Evidence of Archaic houses and permanent campsites is very scarce. Sites dating to this time period are available for public viewing in the Gunnison area on a seasonal basis.

Woodland (or Ceramic) occupations (ca. A.D. 100 to A.D. 1250) are known primarily from the Plains area of the state. Plains Woodland peoples used the bow and arrow as well as pottery. There is evidence that corn was grown in minor amounts in the some areas. Woodland houses are variable in size and shape and are known from very few sites; they are not easily preserved for public viewing. Other groups, possibly the antecedents of the modern Ute Tribe, were living in the mountains during this time.

Apishapa and Sopris (ca. A.D. 1200 to A.D. 1450) were two groups that occupied southeastern Colorado. The Apishapa were marginally horticultural peoples who lived in a Plains environment and built multi-room structures reminiscent of southwestern Pueblos; however, they appear to have had a closer affiliation with other Plains peoples farther to the south and to the east. Conversely, the Sopris sites seem to be affiliated with the Pueblos of New Mexico, Arizona, and southwestern Colorado. Sopris peoples lived in pit houses and above ground stone and wood structures in the upper Purgatoire River valley near present-day Trinidad, Colorado. Like the Apishapa, the Sopris people raised corn and beans as well as engaging in hunting and gathering activities for subsistence. Apishapa and related sites are present in southeastern Colorado, northeastern New Mexico, and the Oklahoma and Texas panhandles.

Sites of the **Fremont** culture (ca. A.D. 500 to A.D. 1450) represent horticultural villagers in northwestern Colorado. The major Fremont occupations, however, are farther to the west in Utah. Although Fremont material culture and houses resemble those of the Pueblos, they were a distinct people.

The **Ancestral Pueblos** (ca. 100 B.C. to A.D. 1300) occupied pithouses, above ground stone-walled villages, and stone houses built in rock shelters. Noted for their beautiful Black-on-White and polychrome ("many colored") pottery, the Ancestral Pueblos were horticulturalists who raised corn, beans, and squash. They participated in a widespread prehistoric trade network that extended throughout the southwest and into Mexico. The most spectacular archaeological sites in Colorado are Pueblo sites, such as Lowry Ruin, featured on the reverse side of this guide, and those within Mesa Verde National Park. Today, the descendants of the prehistoric Pueblos--heirs to an enduring cultural legacy--live in New Mexico and Arizona.

Historic Indian groups in Colorado include the Ute in the central and southern mountains and Shoshoni in the northern mountains. Many distinct Plains groups have been documented in Colorado, including the Pawnee, Kiowa, Comanche, Arapaho, and Cheyenne. Athabaskan-speaking groups--representatives of a late wave of entrants into North America--include the Navajo in the Four Corners area and the Apache on the eastern plains.

In spite of overwhelming changes during the past 400 years, the Native American peoples of Colorado and their unique cultural legacies have endured. Today, the Ute Mountain and Southern Ute Indian Reservations are located in the southwestern corner of the state. Many Native Americans also live and work in urbanized areas and continue to celebrate their cultural heritage.

Early Spanish expeditions are known to have entered Colorado from Santa Fe, then the northernmost outpost of the Spanish Empire. These include the Ulibarri (1706), Villasur (1720), and Vial (1793 and 1805) parties in southern and southeastern Colorado; and the de Rivera (1761-1765) and Dominguez-Escalante (1776) expeditions in the southwestern part of the state. Early Anglo-American explorers in Colorado include Zebulon Pike (1806-1807) and Stephen Long (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 tribes. The famous Santa Fe Trail crossed southeastern Colorado from a point near Liberal, Kansas, and passed through Trinidad, Colorado.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ATTRACTIONS

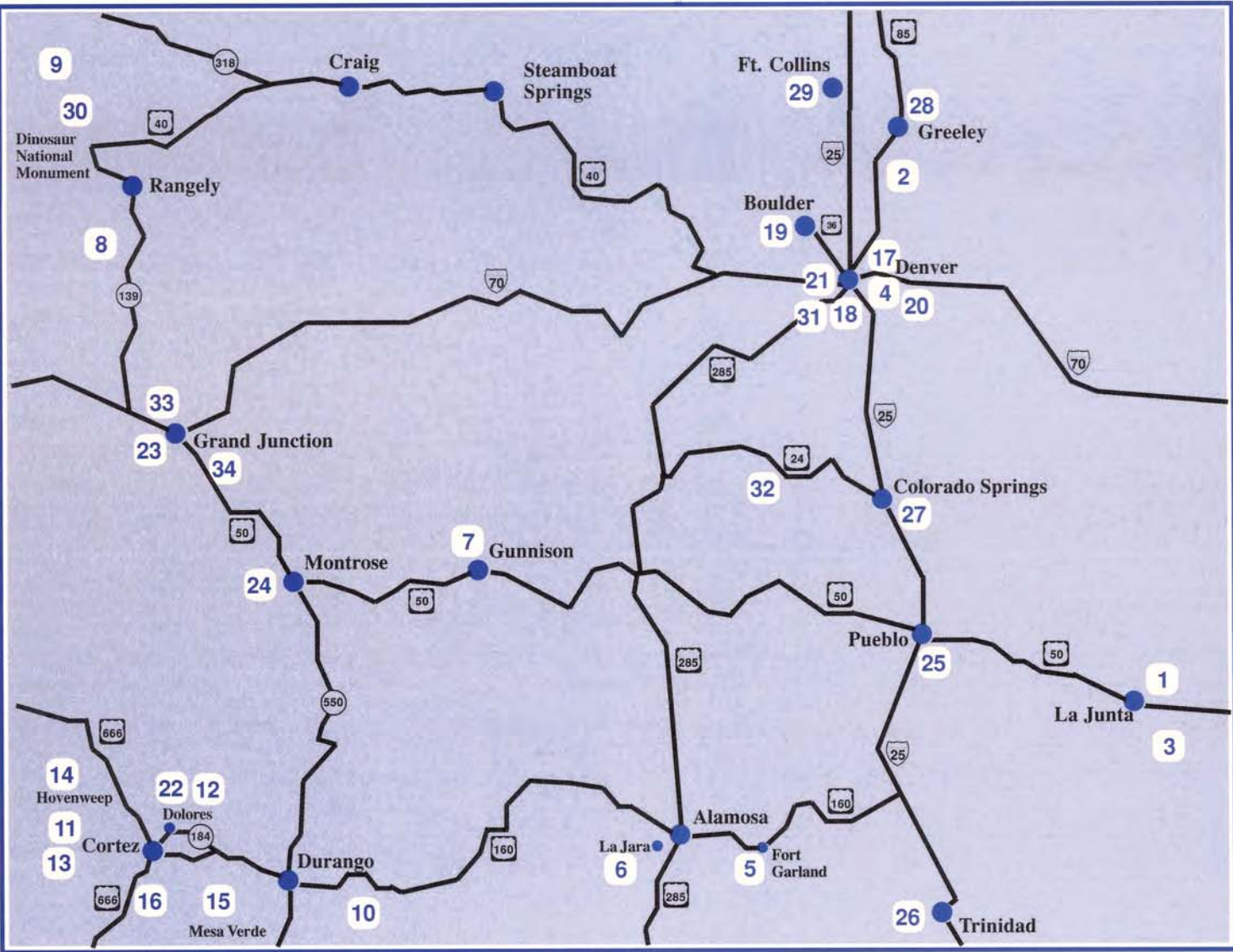
— THE PLAINS —

- Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site.** Reconstructed 1830s fur trading post and museum, on the original site. 35110 Highway 194E, several miles east of La Junta. Open daily, 8 am-5:30 pm (Memorial Day-Labor Day), 9 am-4 pm (all other times). Admission fee. Picnic grounds. Phone: (719)384-2596.
- Fort Vasquez State Historical Monument.** Self-guided tour of reconstructed 1830s fur trading post; museum. One mile south of Platteville on U.S. Highway 85 (between Denver and Greeley). Open Mon.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm, Sun., 1-5 pm. (Memorial Day-Labor Day). Call for off-season hours and tours. Admission fee. Phone: (970)785-2832.
- Comanche National Grassland - Vogel Canyon and Picture Canyon Petroglyphs.** Prehistoric rock art. *Vogel Canyon*: 15 miles south of La Junta of Highway 109. *Picture Canyon*: 35 miles southwest of Springfield via U.S. Highway 287. Open daily. Free. Picnic grounds, camping. Phone: (719)384-4236 (U.S. Forest Service, Comanche National Grassland).
- Four-Mile Historic Park.** Living exhibits of pioneer life on the plains. 715 S. Forest St., Denver. Open Wed.-Sun., 10 am-4 pm (Spr.-Fall); Fri.-Sun., 11 am-3 pm (Winter). Admission fee. Phone: (303)399-1859.
- Fort Garland.** Oldest military fort in Colorado, restored. 26 miles east of Alamosa in the town of Fort Garland. Open Thursday-Mon., 8 am-4 pm (Nov.-Mar.), daily 9 am-5 pm (Apr.-Oct.) Admission fee. Phone: (719)379-3512.
- Pike's Stockade.** Lt. Zebulon Pike's winter encampment. Near U.S. Highway 285, 14 miles south of Alamosa. Open daily 10 am-5 pm (Memorial Day-Labor Day). Free. Phone: (719)379-3512.
- Tenderfoot Site.** A campsite used by American Indians over the last eight thousand years. Located just outside the city of Gunnison. Site tours available by arrangement only; call for reservations. Free. Phone: (970)943-7129.
- Canyon Pintado Rock Art District and Native American Rock Art Tours.** Fremont and Ute Petroglyphs, A.D. 600-1300. Self-guided tour of rock art sites in the Rangely vicinity. Open daily. Free. Phone: (970)675-2612 (Rangely Museum); brochure available from Town of Rangely, (970)675-8469.
- Cub Creek Rock Art and Swelter Shelter.** Petroglyphs and Pictographs and prehistoric rock shelter site located in Dinosaur National Monument and vicinity. Free. Open daily 8 am-4:30 pm. Phone: (970)374-3000 (Dinosaur National Monument).
- Chimney Rock Archaeological Area.** Excavated and stabilized Puebloan village. Three miles south of U.S. Highway 160 between Durango and Pagosa Springs. Tours daily, mid-May to mid-Sept. Admission fee. Phone: (970) 264-2268 (U.S. Forest Service, Pagosa Springs).
- Crow Canyon Archaeological Center.** Research, education, and cultural explorations programs. 23390 County Rd. K, Cortez (4 miles NW of town). Tours or excavation participation available. Fees based on activity. Reservations required. Phone: (800)422-8975/(970)565-8975.

— THE MOUNTAINS —

- Dominguez and Escalante Ruins.** Excavated Puebloan village located outside Anasazi Heritage Center, 27501 Highway 184, Dolores (10 miles north of Cortez, 3 miles west of Dolores). Open daily 8 am-5 pm, weather permitting. Free. Phone: (970)882-4811 (Anasazi Heritage Center; note that Heritage Center hours differ, below).
- Lowry Pueblo National Historic Site.** Puebloan village with ceremonial Great Kiva. West of Pleasant View, 26 miles north of Cortez on Highway 666. Open daily. Free self-guided tour. Phone: (970)882-4811 (Anasazi Heritage Center).
- Hovenweep National Monument.** Puebloan villages with stone towers. About 40 miles west of Cortez via gravel roads. Open daily 8 am-5 pm. Free. Camping and picnic grounds. Phone: (970)529-4461 (Mesa Verde National Park).
- Mesa Verde National Park.** World famous Puebloan cliff dwellings and other sites, ca. A.D. 600 to 1300. 10 miles east of Cortez on Highway 160. Open daily. Admission fee. Camping, lodging, museum, tours. Phone: (970)529-4461.
- Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Park.** Puebloan cliff dwellings. Within Ute Mountain Ute Indian Reservation, south of Cortez on Highway 160 (HQ in town of Towaoe). Guided tours. Admission fee. Phone: (800)847-5485, or (970)565-3751, ext. 282.

Map numbers correspond to numbered descriptions in the text.



MUSEUMS

Colorado is proud of its many museums containing displays about Colorado history and prehistory. The following is a partial list of prominent museums in the state that have exhibits devoted to the cultural history of the state and region.

-- METROPOLITAN DENVER --

- Colorado History Museum.** Numerous exhibits highlighting regional history and prehistory. 1300 Broadway (near Civic Center). Open Mon.-Sat., 10 am-4:30 pm; Sunday, noon to 4:30 pm. Admission fee. Phone: (303)866-3681.
- Denver Museum of Natural History.** Exhibits featuring archaeology, history, and paleontology. 2001 Colorado Blvd. (at City Park). Open daily, 9 am-5 pm, Fridays 9 am-9 pm. Admission fee. Phone: (303)322-7009.
- University of Colorado Museum.** Colorado archaeology and history. 15th and Broadway, Boulder, on the campus of the University of Colorado. Open Mon.-Fri., 9 am-5 pm, Sat. 9 am-4 pm, Sun., 10 am-4 pm. Free. Phone: (303)492-6892.
- Aurora History Museum.** Exhibits on local and regional history and prehistory. 15001 E. Alameda Ave., Aurora. Open Tues.-Sun., 11 am-4 pm; Wed. (summer), 11 am-9 pm. Admission fee (Sun.free). Phone (303)739-6660.
- Colorado Railroad Museum.** History of Colorado railroads, with large and diverse exhibits. 17155 W. 44th Ave., Golden (Exit 265 off I-70). Open daily 9 am-5 pm. Admission fee. Phone (303)279-4591.

-- WESTERN SLOPE --

- Anasazi Heritage Center.** Prehistory of the Four Corners area. 27501 Highway 184, Dolores (10 miles north of Cortez, 3 miles west of Dolores). Open daily 9 am-5 pm, Mar.-Oct.; 9 am-4 pm, Nov.-Feb. Free. Phone: (970)882-4811.
- Museum of Western Colorado.** History and prehistory of western Colorado. 248 S. 4th Street, Grand Junction. Open daily 10 am-4 pm (call for winter hours). Free. Phone: (970)242-0971.
- Ute Indian Museum.** Historic Ute Tribe displays. 17253 Chipeta Drive, Montrose. Open May 15 to Labor Day, 10 am-5 pm. Call for fall and winter hours. Admission fee. Phone: (970)249-3098.
- El Pueblo Museum.** Early history of the Pueblo area and greater southeastern Colorado, including reproduction of 1842 fur trading post. 324 West 1st Street, Pueblo. Open Mon.-Sat., 10 am-4:30 pm; Sun., 12-3 pm. Admission fee. Phone: (719)583-0453.
- Louden-Henritze Archaeology Museum.** In the Freudenthal Library on the campus of Trinidad State Junior College, Trinidad. Summer hours: Mon.-Fri., 10 am-4:00 pm; call for off-season hours. Free. Phone: (719)846-5508.
- Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum.** Exhibits featuring local and regional history and prehistory. 215 S. Tejon St., Colorado Springs, in the historic El Paso County courthouse building. Open year-round Tues.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm (May-Oct.). Free. Phone: (719)578-6650.

--NORTHEAST--

- Greeley Museum.** Three museum facilities highlighting local and regional history. Main museum: 919 7th St., Greeley. Open Mon.-Fri., 10 am-4 pm. Main facility is free (call for other hours and admission fees). Phone: (970)350-9220.
- Fort Collins Museum.** Exhibits on the history and prehistory of Fort Collins and northeastern Colorado. 200 Mathews St., Fort Collins. Open Tues.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 12-5 pm. Free. Phone: (970)221-6738.

PALEONTOLOGICAL MUSEUMS AND ATTRACTIONS

- Dinosaur National Monument.** Dinosaur quarries and exhibits. 4545 U.S. Highway 40, Dinosaur, Colorado (near the Utah border). Open daily 8 am-4:30 pm. Free. Camping and picnic grounds. Phone: (970)374-3000.
- Dinosaur Ridge.** Geological and paleontological outdoor museum, featuring over 100 fossilized dinosaur tracks. Alameda Parkway and Rooney Rd. (south of I-70 near the town of Morrison). Guided and self-guided tours and museum. Free. Visitor's Center open 9 am-5 pm, Mon.-Sat. Phone: (303)697-DINO (3466).
- Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument.** Insect and plant fossil quarries and exhibits. 35 miles west of Colorado Springs, just south of U.S. Highway 24. Open daily, 8 am-7 pm; winter hours, 8 am-4:30 pm. Admission fee. Phone: (719)748-3253.
- Riggs Hill Trail, Rabbit Valley Research Natural Area, and Mygatt Moore Quarry.** Self-guided trails through dinosaur quarries in the Grand Junction vicinity. Open daily (weather permitting). Free. Contact Bureau of Land Management, Grand Junction District Office, for additional information. Phone: (970)244-3000.
- Dinosaur Valley Museum.** Dinosaur exhibits and working paleontology laboratory. 4th and Main, Grand Junction. Open daily, 9 am-5 pm (Memorial Day-Labor Day); all other times, Tues.-Sat., 10 am-4:30 pm. Admission fee. Phone: (970)241-9210.

Further Readings on Colorado History, Archaeology, and Native American Cultures

The Archaeology of Colorado, by E. Steve Cassells (Johnson Books, Boulder, Colorado, 1983).

Legacy on Stone, by Sally J. Cole (Johnson Books, Boulder, Colorado, 1990).

Southwestern Lore: Journal of Colorado Archaeology. Published quarterly by the Colorado Archaeological Society. Contact: Membership Chairperson, 920 Balsam St., Cortez, Colorado 81321-2608.

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).

People of the Red Earth, by Sally Crum. (Ancient City Press, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 1996).

For More Information, contact:
Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
Colorado History Museum
1300 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80203
(303)866-3395

Sponsors

This brochure was produced with the assistance and cooperation of:

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

Design and Printing by:
Colorado Department of Transportation,
Printing and Visual Communications Center

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

This poster/brochure 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

VISITOR'S GUIDE TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL, HISTORICAL, AND PALEONTOLOGICAL SIGHTS IN COLORADO

