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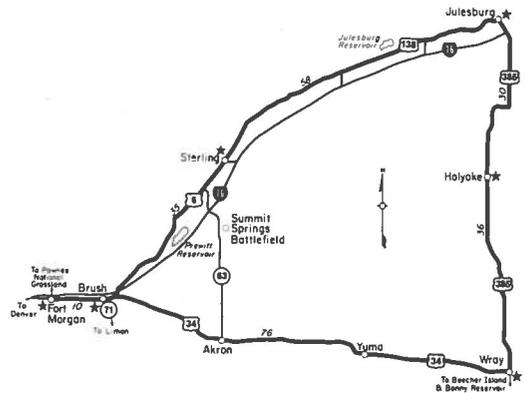
MINI-TOURS



Colorado is so high, wide and wonderful that it is impossible to see it all at one time or on one trip. This folder was designed to introduce just a few of the circle tours available to you in all parts of Colorado. Each trip was planned to keep you on easy-to-drive, paved roads. They cover some of the most dramatic and historic areas of the state and keep the mileage down to the average tankful of gas. Each trip can be made in a short day, or you can spend many days leisurely exploring these wonders in detail. The 15 tours listed represent just a small fraction of the hundreds of possible mini-tours available in Colorado. Keep this folder and an official Colorado Highway Map in your glove compartment and you'll be set for unlimited Colorado adventures any time of the day or week.

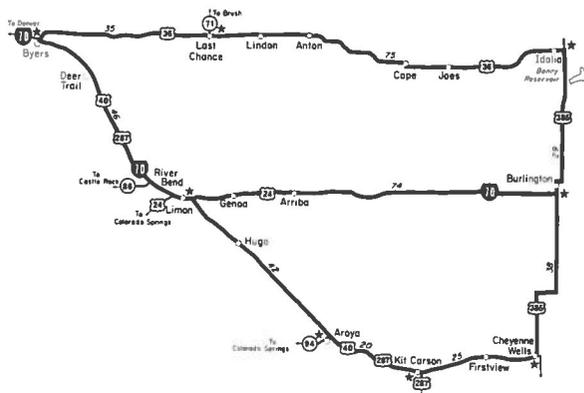
Productive Plains

(245 miles)



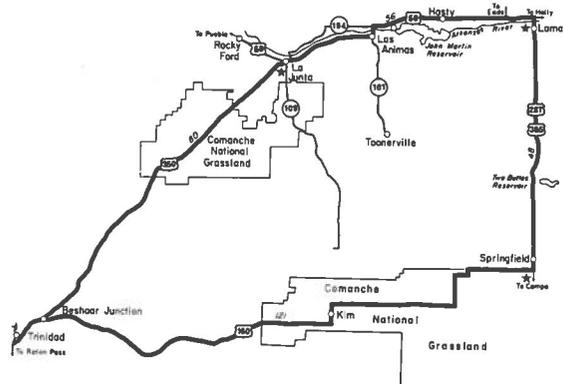
More than a third of Colorado is high plains. Take time to get the feel of this great land, much of it unchanged since warmed by Arapahoe tepee fires. Take your camera and capture a prairie dog village, unusual flowers, oceans of wheat, picturesque farms, and immense reaches of grass the red man called the "carpet of the Great Spirit." Fort Morgan, a military post during the gold rush, lies in a fertile sugar beet region. Pioneers first saw the Rockies here. You can see three of Colorado's most interesting historical museums at Fort Morgan, Sterling, and at Julesburg. North of Brush is the Pawnee Buttes; one of the richest fossil areas in the world. There's good warm water fishing and water recreation near Brush and Sterling. Summit Springs battlefield near Sterling is the site of an Indian battle. Continue northeast over the broad, level prairies to Julesburg. Trading center of a large agricultural region, Julesburg was a division point on the Overland Mail. Here occurred the celebrated fight between Jules Reni and Jack Slade. Buffalo Bill Cody rode Pony Express through here. South of Wray lies the battle site of Beecher Island. Farther south is Bonny Reservoir, a 2,000-acre state recreation preserve. Returning west, enjoy the pioneer museum at Akron and see a mighty symphony of sight as you return to Brush to see the sun kiss the peaks of the Front Range "goodnight."

Smoky Hill Trail (310 miles)



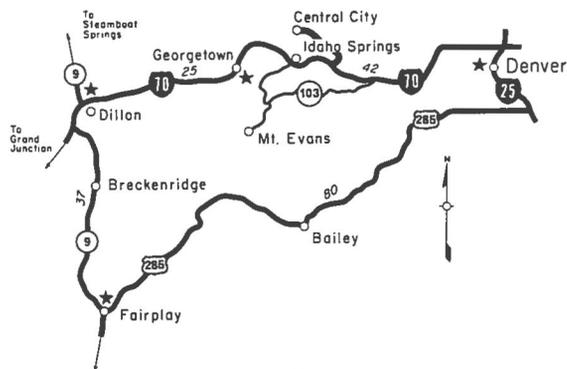
This is the land the gold seekers, sod busters and merchants called "The Smoky Hill Trail." It is a high plains region rich in history, agriculture, and recreation. You can relive history at the site of the Beecher Island Indian battle, just north of Idalia. A monument and gravestones tell the tragic story of the 1868 battle between a band of Cavalry scouts and Cheyenne warriors. There are picnic grounds where you may find an ancient arrowhead or bullet. South on U.S. 385 is Bonny Reservoir, a high plains garden of Eden. This 2,000-acre state recreation area includes a boating, skiing, swimming and fishing lake, plus many ideal camping and picnic sites. Burlington is a modern trading center for the many rich wheat farms in the area. Indian artifacts are found near here. Herds of antelope flit over the grasslands in the Cheyenne Wells area. Firstview on U.S. 40 was the area where pioneers caught their first glimpse of Pikes Peak. Be sure to visit the Kit Carson Historical Museum at Kit Carson. Between here and Limon, farms, immense ranches of grass, prairie wildflowers, and oceans of wheat add to the majestic plains expanse. At Limon, a major railroad and agricultural center, you can go east on U.S. 24 to Flagler Reservoir or west to Ramah Reservoir, both state recreation areas. The colorful paint pots near Calhan are well worth seeing. To the north of Limon is Agate, where excellent specimens of the mineral are to be found. Byers, named for a pioneer publisher, is the gateway to Denver, "Queen City of the Plains."

Santa Fe Trail (305 miles)



"A thoroughfare for freedom across the wilderness." As in "America the Beautiful," such is the famous Santa Fe Trail. It was the route of the Pike Expedition. It was the pathway for fur hunters, merchants, and wagon trains, explorers, the army. The great Arkansas River has transformed its valley into one of the richest agricultural regions in Colorado. North of the Arkansas is cattle range. South, the crops are wheat, sorghum, melons, flower seeds and broom corn. In Trinidad, historic trading post on the Santa Fe Trail, visit the adobe home of ranchero Felipe Baca, and the Victorian mansion of pioneer merchant Frank Bloom. Both are state museums. Kit Carson (see statue), Bat Masterson, George S. Simpson, and Uncle Dick Wooten are famous names associated with Trinidad. Rocky Ford is the "Melon capital of the world." Enjoy them "home-grown." In La Junta, visit the Koshare Kiva, home of the nationally-known Koshare Boy Scout Indian Dancers. South is Comanche National Grasslands, an area set aside for preserving plains wildlife. Bent's Old Fort, east of La Junta, was the "department store" for travelers along the 1,000-mile-trail. Don't miss the Kit Carson Museum at Las Animas. The landscape of this entire area is jeweled with large lakes, ideal for fishing, camping, and picnicking. At Lamar, the Madonna of the Trail monument depicts the courage of Colorado's pioneer women. South is Two Buttes State Wildlife Area. At Springfield join the Navajo Trail, U.S. 160. Many Indian artifacts can be found along the trail from Trinidad to the Kansas border.

Gateway to Gold (184 miles)



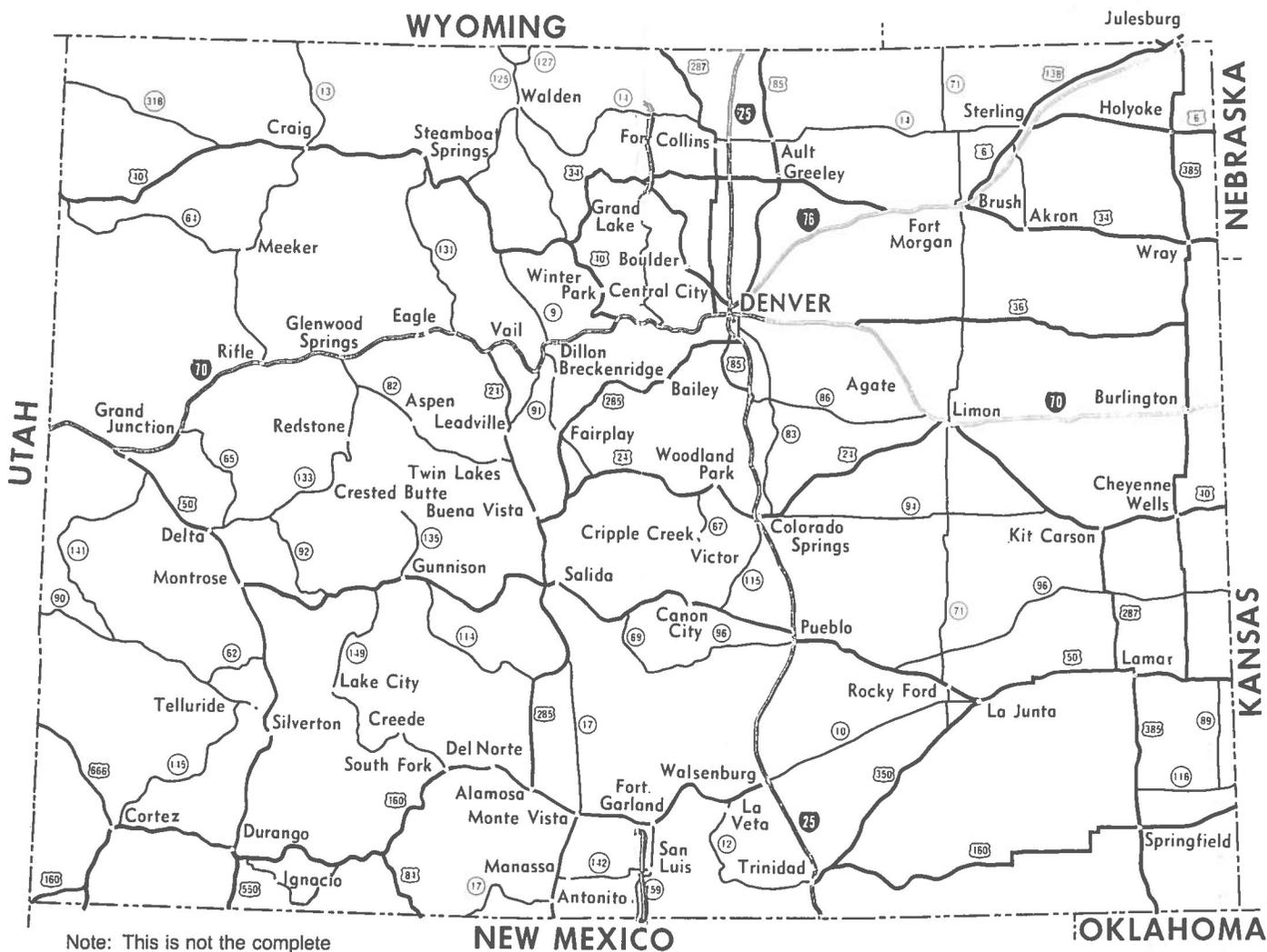
This is the land of gold! Abandoned mine tunnels yawn beside the highway. Historic mining towns—Central City, Idaho Springs, Georgetown, and Breckenridge—climb the red gulch walls. Gold mills, Victorian-styled homes, quaint churches, and relic-filled museums unlock Colorado's golden past. At Central City see the century-old Opera House and Teller House. View the Colorado Central Narrow Gauge. In Georgetown, there's the Hotel de Paris, Hamill House, and Maxwell House. Idaho Springs offers tours through the Edgar Mine, hiking at St. Mary's Glacier and hot mineral baths. The tomb and museum of Buffalo Bill are on Lookout Mountain near Golden. World-famed Red Rocks outdoor theater near Morrison is spectacular. Enjoy a concert here. Giant peaks lean against the sky, and mighty passes climb to the clouds. See buffalo roam at Genesee Park. Drive the world's highest paved highway to the 14,264-foot summit of Mt. Evans. Enjoy water sports at giant Dillon Reservoir. The drive over Kenosha Pass, as it enters the mountain-rimmed valley of South Park, is awesome. At Fairplay, visit South Park City, an authentic restoration of an early mining town. See the monument to Prunes, 63-year-old ore-hauling burro. Broad highways tread wide valleys between the rugged cliffs of the Mosquito Range and the Continental Divide. Near Grant at Santa Maria, look toward the heavens and thrill to the inspiring 52-foot "Christ of the Rockies" statue. Enjoy the resort activities offered in the beautiful Bailey area. Exciting jeep trails, picturesque campgrounds, and family-style guest ranches lace this gold-dusted area.

Mountains to Prairies (190 miles)



To Horace Greeley the rich black loam of the Platte Valley was a marvel. Combine a visit to the town named for the great editor with a tour of the natural wonders along Poudre Canyon. North on U.S. 85 you pass agriculturally rich Brighton and Fort Lupton. Fort Vasquez State Historical Monument at Platteville is a faithful reconstruction of the original adobe post burned by Indians in 1842. Greeley, home of the University of Northern Colorado, is one of Colorado's prettiest cities. Horace Greeley, editor of the New York Tribune, was so impressed with this region that he and his agricultural editor, Nathan Meeker, purchased 12,000 acres of land and established a colony here in 1870. Visit the Meeker Memorial Museum. Continue north through fertile farmlands which annually produce \$150 million worth of cattle and crops. Turn west at Ault to Fort Collins, home of Colorado State University, an excellent pioneer museum, and the hub of a variety of outdoor attractions. Horsetooth Reservoir bids welcome to fishermen. Nine miles northwest is "Colorado's Trout Route," the Poudre Canyon, gateway to the million-acre Roosevelt National Forest. Fort Collins Mountain Park is a magnificent recreation area. If time permits, drive west through 10,285-foot Cameron Pass or north to Red Feather Lakes. Return to Stove Landing and then south on the forest road passing Buckhorn Mountain and Masonville. Loveland, the "Sweetheart City," is the heart of the Colorado-Big Thompson project. Carter Lake, Boyd Lake, and Lake Loveland are ideal for water recreation and picnicking.

"For Purple Mountain Majesty. . ."

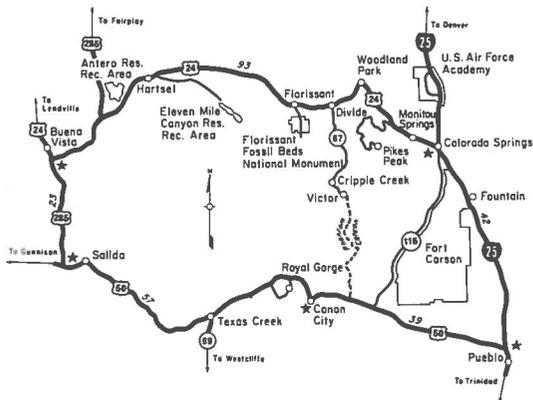


Note: This is not the complete Colorado Highway System



"For Amber Waves of Grain. . ."

Pikes Peak Country (254 miles)



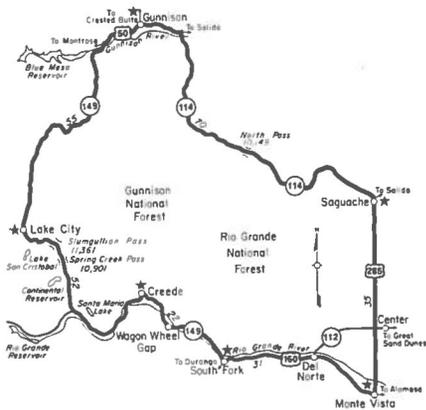
Pike saw it first. . . but, he never made it to the top! Now, each year a half-million visitors reach the summit of Pikes Peak via auto, cog train, bus, or on foot. From the top, the amber plains spread 125 miles eastward to the Kansas border. To the west, the snow-crowned Continental Divide rides the turquoise sky. North and south, majestic, purple-hued peaks shoulder the distant horizon. Gazing upon this colossal expanse in 1893, Katherine Lee Bates penned "America the Beautiful." At Colorado Springs, take a scenic drive beneath the red sandstone cathedral spires of the 570-acre Garden of the Gods. Enjoy the natural wonders of Seven Falls, Cave of the Winds, Cheyenne Mountain, and Manitou Springs. Many fascinating museums are in this area. Ten miles north on I-25 is the United States Air Force Academy, set as a jewel in the rugged Rampart Range. A trip through the 17,900-acre facility is a thrilling experience. West of Manitou Springs on U.S. 24, you pass the spruce-plated hills of North Pole, Green Mountain Falls, Cascade, and Woodland Park. From Divide, via Colorado 67, lies Cripple Creek and Victor, whose hills have yielded more than \$400 million in gold. Take a mine tour, ride the narrow gauge railroad, and enjoy melodrama. Returning to U.S. 24, continue west to Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument with its 40-million-year-old fossils and petrified tree stumps. Enjoy Antero and Eleven-Mile State Recreation Areas. In the Buena Vista and Salida areas, thirteen peaks rise to more than 14,000 feet. Drop a line in the snow-conceived Arkansas River. The Royal Gorge is west of colorful Canon City. Hike, picnic, camp, and relax in the peace of the eternal hills.

Standing Up Country (316 miles)



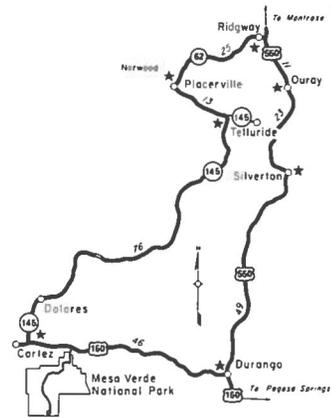
This is "Standing Up Country". . . Stand tall on your toes, stretch until your fingertips tingle. . . "Smile. . . You *live* in Colorado!" This multi-colored region is massive in scale and in natural wonders. Grand Junction is the center of this vast scenic empire. Every highway leads to an exciting discovery. From Rimrock Drive of Colorado National Monument, you look down upon one of the world's great natural wonders. This 18,000-acre amphitheatre west of Grand Junction is carved in deep red sandstone and displays nature's most exquisite statuary of massive ramparts, sheer-walled canyons, and delicately sculptured spires, columns, and minarets. Grand Mesa, to the east, is the world's largest flat-top mountain. This 10,500-foot tableland stands like a colossal island in the sky. Cradled in its forested arms are more than 200 trout-loving lakes. Stop at Sweitzer Lake Recreation Area near Delta. See the Ute Indian Museum at Montrose. Between Montrose and Gunnison is the awesome Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument. This somber granite gorge plunges to a depth of 2,800 feet, narrows to 1,300 feet from rim to rim, and is only 40 feet wide at the narrowest point of the churning riverbed. Bordering U.S. 50 is Blue Mesa Dam, impounding the Gunnison River and creating the largest body of water in Colorado. North of Gunnison, home of Western State College, is the old mining camp of Crested Butte. Doubling back to U.S. 50, take Colo. 92 at Sapinero to Delta for a delightful tour through rich cattle and fruit country. Enjoy fishing or a picnic at Crawford Reservoir.

Land of Lakes (265 miles)



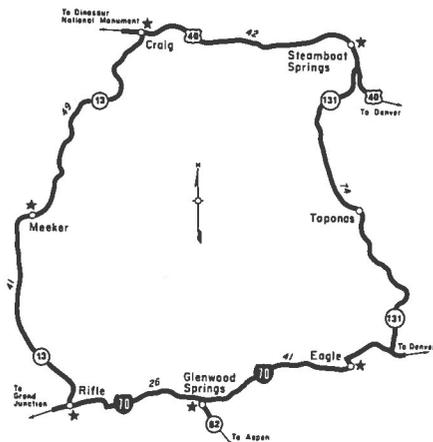
This is a land of giant trout-leaping lakes and high mountain passes accessible by car. In the Gunnison area there are more than 1,300 miles of fishing streams and Colorado's largest body of water, Blue Mesa Lake. To the north is the famous Taylor Park Reservoir and the ghost town of Tincup. Also, the picturesque year-round resort of Crested Butte. To the south is the storied mining town of Lake City with rewarding trout fishing in Lake San Cristobal. Slumgullion and Spring Creek Passes are two of the most beautiful passes in America. Creede shows you the real West of mining days. Wagon Wheel Gap is a covered gorge carpeted with mountain daisies, asters and fragrant star flowers. There's excellent fishing and exciting rafting in the Rio Grande near South Fork and Del Norte. Both of these resort communities were a rendezvous point for trappers, traders and Indians in the 19th century. Don't miss the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge, an important breeding ground for waterfowl. Rio Grande National Forest, which encompasses this "Land of Lakes," offers endless recreational possibilities. Center, the "Capital of the Red McClure Potato," is in a large artesian basin and is surrounded by fertile farm and ranch lands. Saguache (Ute for "Blue Earth") has a fascinating historical museum. Dramatic North Pass completes the "Land of Lakes" circle of varied outdoor recreational pleasure.

San Juan Country (251 miles)



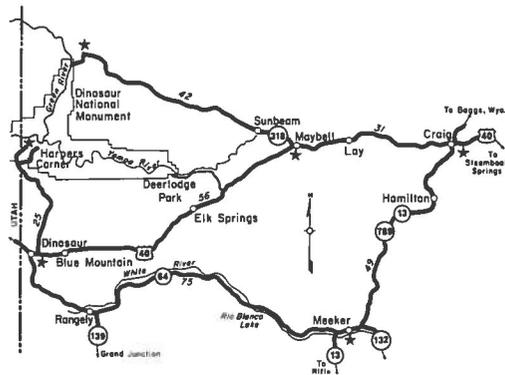
Surely God must have smiled when He created this area closer to heaven itself! The Navajo Trail, U.S. 160, spans the sky country of the mighty San Juans and the colorful Spanish Conquistador land of southwestern Colorado. From Durango, ride the rails into yesterday on the Durango to Silverton narrow gauge. Silverton, location for many westerns, is still the "Old West." Over Red Mountain Pass via the spectacular Million Dollar Highway, lies Ouray in the "Switzerland of America." Enjoy a swim in Ouray's large mineral hot springs pool. Visit the 285-foot-deep gorge of granite-walled Box Canyon and columbine-covered Yankee Boy Basin. Take a jeep trip to legendary ghost towns or pack into the wilderness areas. At Telluride, whose gold mines produced over \$300 million, there are storied trails once used by pack burros for you to hike and ride, wildflower-laden mountains to climb and explore, and treasures galore for rockhounds. See the museum here. Take home in your camera the silver cascades of Ingram and Bridal Veil Falls. Two thousand feet above Montezuma Valley near Cortez, Mesa Verde National Park spreads its 120 square miles of canyon-carved tableland and forests of piñon and juniper. In the pit dwellings of the Basketmakers, the scroll of time rolls to 1 A.D. Elaborate stone cliff houses bring to life the later Cliff Dwellers of a thousand years ago. A lodge, campground, and a museum are part of modern-day Mesa Verde, as are guided bus tours to nearby Wetherill Mesa.

Land of Long Ago (273 miles)



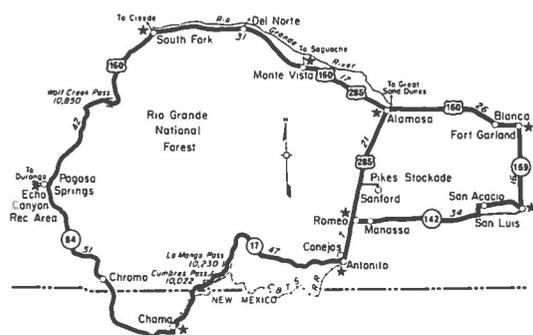
Adventure rides with you into this dramatic region. From Steamboat Springs on the east, mighty biceps of the mountains, bristling with spruce forests, plunge upward through rolling seas of sage-green. At Steamboat Springs, enjoy a swim or bathe in water from some of the 157 hot mineral springs. See spectacular Fish Creek Falls and visit the Tread of Pioneers Museum. From "Ski Town U.S.A." radiate many trout streams and lakes, and hiking and bridle trails in the solitude of national forests. One of America's finest recreational areas is White River National Forest, reached from Craig and Meeker. Within easy distance are several State Fishing Areas where fighting trout await your cast. Visit the Moffat County Museum and David Moffat's private railroad car at Craig. In the northwestern corner, the lonely land is carved by the Green and Yampa Rivers, their up-tilted walls ablaze in fantastic colors. River running is at its best! Dinosaur National Monument, America's "Land of Long Ago," contains the fossilized remains of prehistoric creatures some 140 million years old. In the Meeker and Rifle area, giant sandstone cliffs hold the treasure of trillions of barrels of oil. Relax at Rio Blanco Lake and Rifle Falls State Recreation Areas near these two cities. Glenwood Springs lies at the western end of 18-mile Glenwood Canyon. The sheer canyon walls soar a thousand feet above I-70 and the foaming cascades of the Colorado River. In the mountain-fringed city is the world's largest natural hot springs swimming pool. Recreational pleasure soars high at Eagle at the eastern entrance to Glenwood Canyon.

Dinosaurland (236 miles)



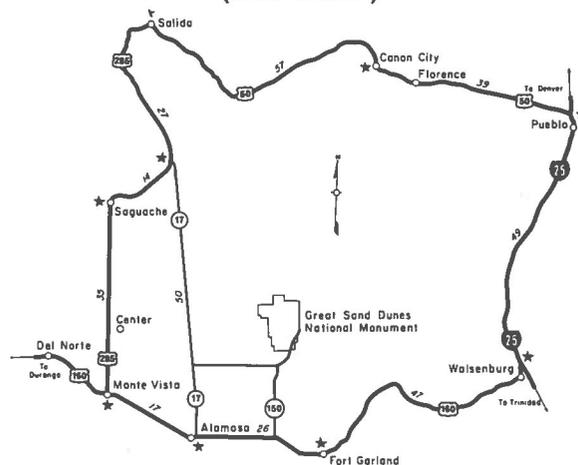
This is a land of contrasts. From the rolling, sage-covered hills around Craig to the peaceful green valleys of the Yampa River, to the derrick-freckled high plateau of the Rangely oil field, you'll see why "colorful" and Colorado are synonymous. Dinosaur National Monument headquarters is 2 miles east of Dinosaur. All the way northward into the monument via paved Harpers Corner Road, alpine flowers border the highway. It is a fantasy of pygmy juniper forests, purple-walled canyons and great ridges reaching toward the unbelievably blue sky. From Echo Park the Green River swings around the base of 2,500-foot Harpers Corner. The one-mile trail from the road to Harpers Corner offers an awesome view. After hiking the forested ridge and enjoying spectacular views of the rivers far below, your trail experience culminates on the rocky promontory of Harpers Corner, with Whirlpool Canyon, Steamboat Rock, Echo Park, Yampa Canyon, and Canyon of the Lodore, spread out in all their magnificence below. Whitewater boating is a popular way to enjoy the canyon wonders. Deerlodge Park at the eastern edge is the launching area for guided raft trips. Craig is in the heart of great cattle and sheep range. The White River flows through historic Meeker. Visit the Meeker Museum near the site of the Meeker Massacre in 1879. Westward are the productive Rangely oil fields.

Spanish Conquistador Land (292 miles)



Along the Navajo Trail, U.S. 160, the Spanish influence of the Old West lingers on. Alamosa is the center of the agriculturally rich San Luis Valley and the home of rapidly growing Adams State College. The 10,000-acre Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge for migratory waterfowl is located nearby. Great Sand Dunes to the north is in another mini-tour. To the east is restored Fort Garland, Colonel Kit Carson's last command in 1866-67. San Luis, Colorado's oldest town, founded in 1851, can be seen in its quaint setting 16 miles south on Colorado 159. Manassa, to the west, is Jack Dempsey's home town. Visit the museum here. At Antonito, it's "all aboard" for a 64-mile mountain train ride back into history on the Cumbres and Toltec scenic railroad. You'll thrill to an excursion into the past behind an antique steam locomotive. Passengers may board at either Antonito, Colorado or Chama, New Mexico for an exciting day-long journey. Pagosa Springs is surrounded on the north and west by the high peaks of the San Juan National Forest, and on the south by the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. The great Pagosa ("healing waters") Springs were believed by the Indians to have great healing powers. The Southern Ute Tourist Center at Ignacio to the west is owned wholly by the Southern Ute Tribe and offers complete year-round vacation facilities. Wolf Creek Pass offers one of Colorado's most spectacular vistas. Del Norte and Monte Vista are in a rich livestock and vegetable region. Ballooning is tops near here!

Navajo Trail Country (318 miles)



From the industrial city and home of the Colorado State Fair, Pueblo, take U.S. 50 west across rolling juniper-dotted hills to Canon City, gateway to some of Colorado's most varied scenery. Visit the Municipal Museum and Robison Mansion, enjoy the panoramic vista from Skyline Drive, or thrill to Tunnel Drive. Eight miles west is the Royal Gorge of the Arkansas River. The world's highest suspension bridge and aerial tram spans the 1053-foot deep chasm. Nearby is a replica of the historic mining town of Buckskin Joe. In Salida, enjoy the frontier museum and a swim in the hot springs mineral pool. Three ranges, Sangre de Cristo, Sawatch, and Collegiate, surround this peaceful town. In the spring, the Angel of Shavano spreads her snow-formed wings against the side of 14,299-foot Mt. Shavano. In the Poncha Pass area, off U.S. 285, high mountain lakes and rushing streams challenge the fisherman. Great Sand Dunes National Monument near Alamosa is 57 square miles of glistening white sand, cradled in the snowy arms of the Sangre de Cristo (Blood of Christ) Mountains. Some of the wind-sculptured dunes rise to 700 feet high. Guided walks to the dunes, RV tours, nature talks, a campground, and a picnic area are provided to make your visit even more memorable. Monte Vista is in the heart of Colorado's potato and lettuce country. See Fort Garland, Kit Carson's last command in 1866-67. Francisco Museum at La Veta contains historical displays and Indian artifacts. At Lathrop State Park, near Walsenburg, fish and camp in a picture-postcard setting.

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