



# SOUTH FORK

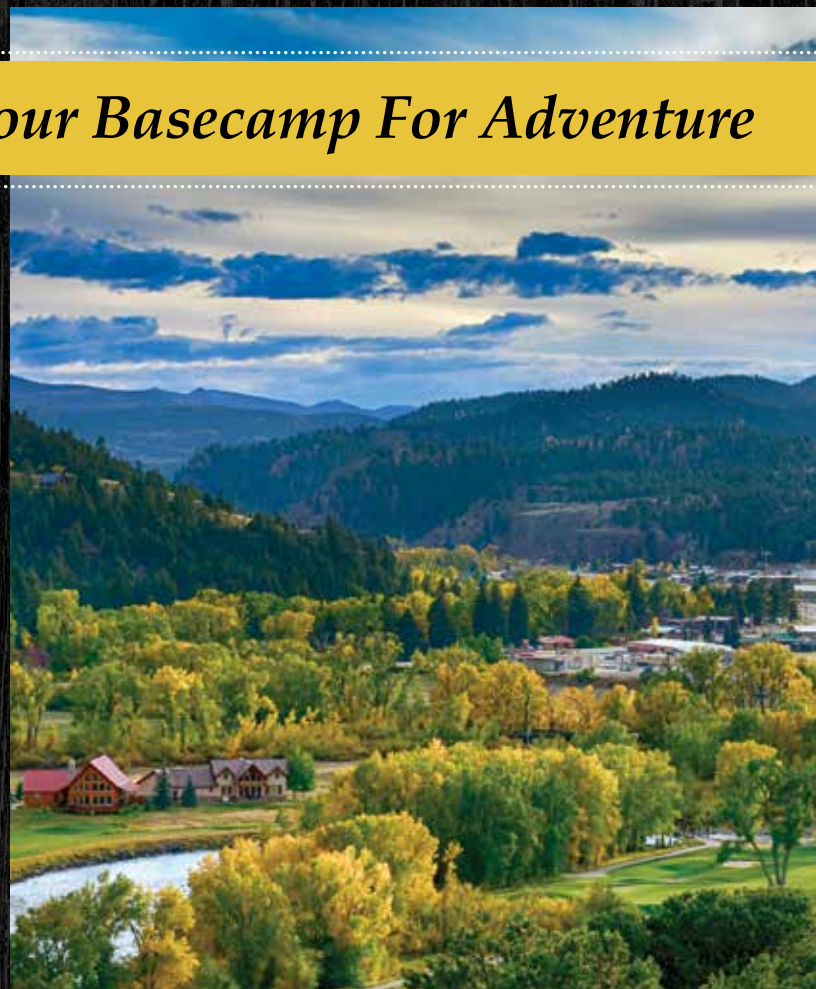
» Near Wolf Creek Ski Area

## COLORADO

Free 2022  
Vacation Guide

*Your Basecamp For Adventure*

[www.southfork.org](http://www.southfork.org)





One of the most isolated places you can catch a play in the United States, but well worth the trip.

— The Wall Street Journal

# CREEDE REPERTORY THEATRE

*Our 57th Season | Come Together*

## STEEL MAGNOLIAS

*by Robert Harling*

## ALWAYS ... PATSY CLINE

*by Ted Swindley*

## NATIVE GARDENS

*by Karen Zacarias*

## THE ROYALE

*by Marco Ramirez*

## SHERWOOD: THE ADVENTURES OF ROBIN HOOD

*by Ken Ludwig*

## BOOMTOWN!

*Improv Comedy*

## PANTS ON FIRE

*Children's Improv Comedy*

*Nationally Recognized  
Education Programs*

**THE KID SHOW  
YOUNG AUDIENCE OUTREACH TOUR  
SUMMER DAY CAMPS**

CREEDERE.P.ORG | (719) 658-2540

## LOWEST MORTGAGE RATES *In the Region*

VA Loans • USDA Loans • Conventional Loans • First Time Buyer



DEL NORTE  
BANK

TRUE • LOCAL • BANK

With our access to national programs like FHA, VA and First Time Homebuyer, you won't beat the rates or service our mortgage professionals can provide. Call us today to learn more.

Our services include:

- home and auto loans
- online & mobile banking
- bill pay, P2P payments, and more
- personal checking & savings accounts
- commercial services like lines of credit, agricultural loans & merchant services

705 Grand Ave  
Del Norte  
719.657.3376

106 S Main St  
Creede  
719.658.0126

Member  
**FDIC**  
NMLS: 446071



www.  
**truelocalbank**  
.com



# IF YOU COME TO A FORK IN THE ROAD... *take both*



## South Fork, CO

South Fork provides visitors with abundant all-season activities from hunting and fishing to skiing, golf, horseback riding and wildlife viewing. Surrounded by nearly 2 million acres of national forest, limitless historical, cultural and recreational activities await visitors. Lodging is available in cabins, motels, RV parks and campgrounds. Our community also offers a unique restaurant selection, eclectic shops and galleries, and plenty of sporting and recreation suppliers. Breathtaking scenery and family-oriented adventure will captivate and draw you back, year after year.

**Winter** brings the “most snow in Colorado” to Wolf Creek Ski Area. Snowmobilers, cross country skiers and snowshoers will find 255 miles of winter recreation trails, plus plenty of room to play. The area also offers ice fishing, skating and sledding.

**Spring/Summer** showcases South Fork as a base camp for a multitude of outdoor activities, events, sightseeing, history, culture, and relaxation.

**Fall** sees nature explode into color, as the dark green forest becomes splashed with shades of yellow, red, and orange. Hunters will delight in the crossroads of three hunting units that boast an abundance of trophy elk and deer.



### A Visitor’s Guidepost

Although South Fork’s official birthday was in 1992, the actual town itself has been around a long time, with roots in the railroad and logging industries dating back to the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad in 1882--but the town didn’t actually incorporate until 1992. Located at the junction of Hwy 160 & Hwy 149 on the edge of the San Luis Valley, South Fork is the starting point and gateway to the Silver Thread Scenic & Historic Byway, linking the towns of South Fork, Creede, Lake City, and Gunnison in Southwest Colorado. The Silver Thread Byway is 117 miles of scenic driving with stops along the way, including Bachelor Loop, Wheeler Geologic Area, Rio Grande Reservoir and headwaters, and over 255+ miles of trails and 17 miles of Gold Medal fishing. Stop by for a cup of coffee and check out the rest of the story at the South Fork Visitor Center, located right next to Town Hall. Cheers,  
Dustin, *Visitor Center Director*

**South Fork Visitor Center**  
719-873-5512  
28 Silverthread Ln • PO Box 1030  
At Junction of Hwys 160 & 149  
South Fork, Colorado 81154  
vcdirector@southfork.org  
[WWW.SOUTHFORK.ORG](http://WWW.SOUTHFORK.ORG)



©2022 PUBLISHER: B4 Studio, LLC  
GENERAL MANAGER: Kara Brittain  
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: South Fork Visitor Center, Kara Brittain, Judith Stone, A.D. Dalton, Kit Salway, Monica Klein, Joel Condran, Mark Teders & Karla Roquemore.  
CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS: Kara Brittain, Mark Niederquell, David Clark, Bob Seago, Ashlee Bratton, John McEvoy, FlickrCC, Matt Entz and more.  
This vacation guide is the product of a collaborative effort between the South Fork Visitor Center, South Fork Chamber of Commerce, Colorado Tourism Office, Rio Grande Country, and B4 Studio, LLC.  
©2022 South Fork Visitor Center. All rights reserved. This guide may not be reproduced in whole or in part without written approval from the publisher.  
Printed by B&B Printers, Gunnison, Colorado.

Cover Photos: Wolf Creek Ski Area, Photo by Ryan Scavo • The Rio Grande in South Fork by John McEvoy • Winter Campfire by Ryan Scavo

South Fork • by Kara Brittain

## Table of Contents

Outdoor Adventures .....	6
Golf .....	15
Fishing / Rafting .....	16
Day Tripper .....	22
Recreation & Town Maps .....	28
Winter Recreation .....	32
Heritage:Then&Now .....	38
Lifestyle, Culture & Events ...	46
Weddings & Events .....	52
Kids’ Activities .....	54
Lodging Guide .....	56
Business Directory .....	60
Visitor Guidepost .....	62





Wheeler Geologic Area • by Kara Brittain

SEEK  
*Adventure*

## Our Favorite Adventures

A trip to Colorado wouldn't be complete without a four-wheel-drive adventure! The Rio Grande National Forest offers something for everyone, from scenic, leisurely trips along the back roads, to technical trips that might leave your jeep with a new scratch or dent! A few of our favorite 4x4 drives:

### Wheeler Geologic Area

#### *A mysterious ghost city*

The Wheeler Geologic Area resembles a mysterious ghost city, with spires and minarets that seem to float like a cloud above the surrounding mountains.

The formations are contained in a tiny 60-acre section of the Rio Grande National Forest where a mound of volcanic ash has eroded into a landscape that is so bizarre it seems to belong on another planet. This unique and somewhat eerie geologic phenomenon originated as part of the violent volcanic history of the San Juan Mountains. After millions of years of erosion, tall spires appear as if a race of giants had sculpted the pinnacles and placed rocks atop them. Erosion of vertical cracks produced rows of ash columns that look like a parade of pale soldiers or huge ghosts. Those who have written about the area describe the panorama of spires and pinnacles as forming castles, cathedrals and mosques.

The area is a wonderful place to see, but getting there requires a good bit of effort. Wheeler is located 24 miles from South Fork on Pool Table Rd. The 14 mile, 4-wheel drive road to the area is quite rough and in wet weather it can get very slick and become impassable. It is an expert level trail. An early start is required, as the trip takes a full day. Potential travelers are advised to check with the Visitor Center and the Creede Ranger District Office prior to making the trip. Visit [www.southfork.org](http://www.southfork.org) for a very detailed trip description.

### Summitville to Elwood Pass & Stunner

#### *Backcountry with History*

Take Hwy 160 southwest from South Fork for 7 miles, and turn left on Park Creek Rd/FSR 380. Here is an area where Multiple Use Management of the Rio Grande National Forest's Resources can be seen. A long-term contract was awarded by the Forest Service in 1954 to harvest 62 million board feet of timber. Ranches from the San Luis Valley also graze their cattle and sheep in these meadows. The efforts of many fishermen are often rewarded along the banks of Park Creek. After about 15 miles along this road you will have two choices:

**OPTION 1.** Turn left on FSR 330 and in 3 miles you will reach Summitville. Gold was discovered here in 1870 by a group of Midwestern friends who



Summitville • Photo courtesy of [www.coloradopast.com](http://www.coloradopast.com)







"Russell has a lie down," Squaw Creek Trail • By rtkloper via Flickr, CC BY-SA 2.0

found their way to this remote section of the San Juans. The secret of "Wightman's Gulch" quickly leaked out, and the following summer brought hundreds of prospectors to what became the largest camp in the district at that time. By 1885 Summitville had over 2,500 staked claims and a population of around 700. A post office, school, daily newspaper, and at least 14 saloons allowed miners to live here year-round, enduring some harsh winters. The boom faded in the later 1880's and the town was nearly abandoned by 1894. Some mines were reopened in 1935 and a significant amount of copper was extracted during World War II. The area had a \$2,000,000 shot in the arm in 1985 when mining resumed with a new process for extracting ore. However, the company filed bankruptcy and Summitville Mine is now closed and in the reclamation process, as a Superfund Site. *Don't drink the water!*

**OPTION 2.** Stay on FSR 380 and travel through picturesque Elwood Pass towards another abandoned mine site, Stunner. Continue on FSR 380 and eventually reach Platoro, 41 miles off Hwy 160. This former boomtown now offers a cafe (open every day all summer), a general store, vacation cabins and RV sites. To return, follow the same route or go back to Summitville and follow FSR 330 to CR 14 (Pinos Creek) toward Del Norte. (See map on page 12)

## Big Meadows Reservoir, Shaw & Hunter's Lakes

### *Into the high country*

Take Hwy 160 southwest of South Fork 12 miles and turn right on FSR 410 to Big Meadows Reservoir, a 600-acre lake with a spillway waterfall, boat ramp, fishing pier and amenities. This area is a delight to campers, fisherman, hikers, and boaters alike, and is a state wildlife area, where deer, bear and moose are easy to spot.

Depending on road conditions, you may choose to continue past Big Meadows for 3 miles to Shaw Lake. If you have a few hours of daylight remaining, drive an additional 11 miles to the parking area for a short 1/3-mile walk into Hunter's Lake. A nice 1-mile hiking trail circles the lake and gives fishermen access to the trout swimming in its waters.

## Beaver Creek Reservoir & Poage Lake

### *Classic Rocky Mountains*

Go south of South Fork on Hwy 160 and turn left on Beaver Creek Road. Follow this road for 7 miles to the Beaver Creek Reservoir. Here you may fish, boat or just admire the scenery. Great creek fishing stretches below the dam for several miles. In the winter, find a great sledding hill and superb ice-fishing on the far side of the reservoir. Continue on this road another 13 miles to Poage Lake. A short 1/4-mile hike gets you to the banks of the picturesque lake. Back-track to the turnoff, and the route also continues on to Summitville and loops back through Del Norte, for a full day's trip.



"Just One Boat," Big Meadows Reservoir • By JusTooLazy via Flickr, CC BY 2.0



Mountain Biking • By Ryan Graber

## Mountain Biking

The Rio Grande National Forest is filled with riding opportunities for beginner and advanced riders. Several trails are within a couple miles drive from town, and some are specifically listed as multi-use for bikes...not to mention the hundreds of miles of forest service access roads open to cyclists of all abilities. Many trails are multi use - so be prepared for hikers, horses, and ATV's along the way.

## Hiking

There are miles and miles of trails that offer fun and adventure for the whole family. From 1/2-mile walks for the novice hiker to 5-mile treks that lead to other trails that go on and on into the wilderness... you will not only get a great workout, but will encounter spectacular mountain scenery and a variety of wildlife!

A few of our favorite hikes:

- Big Meadows Lake Trail • moderate
- Giant Fir Tree Trail • easy
- Hunter's Lake • easy
- Middle Alder Creek • moderate
- Million Reservoir • easy
- Tewksberry Trail • advanced
- Wheeler Trail • expert



Camping Lounge • By Ryan Scavo

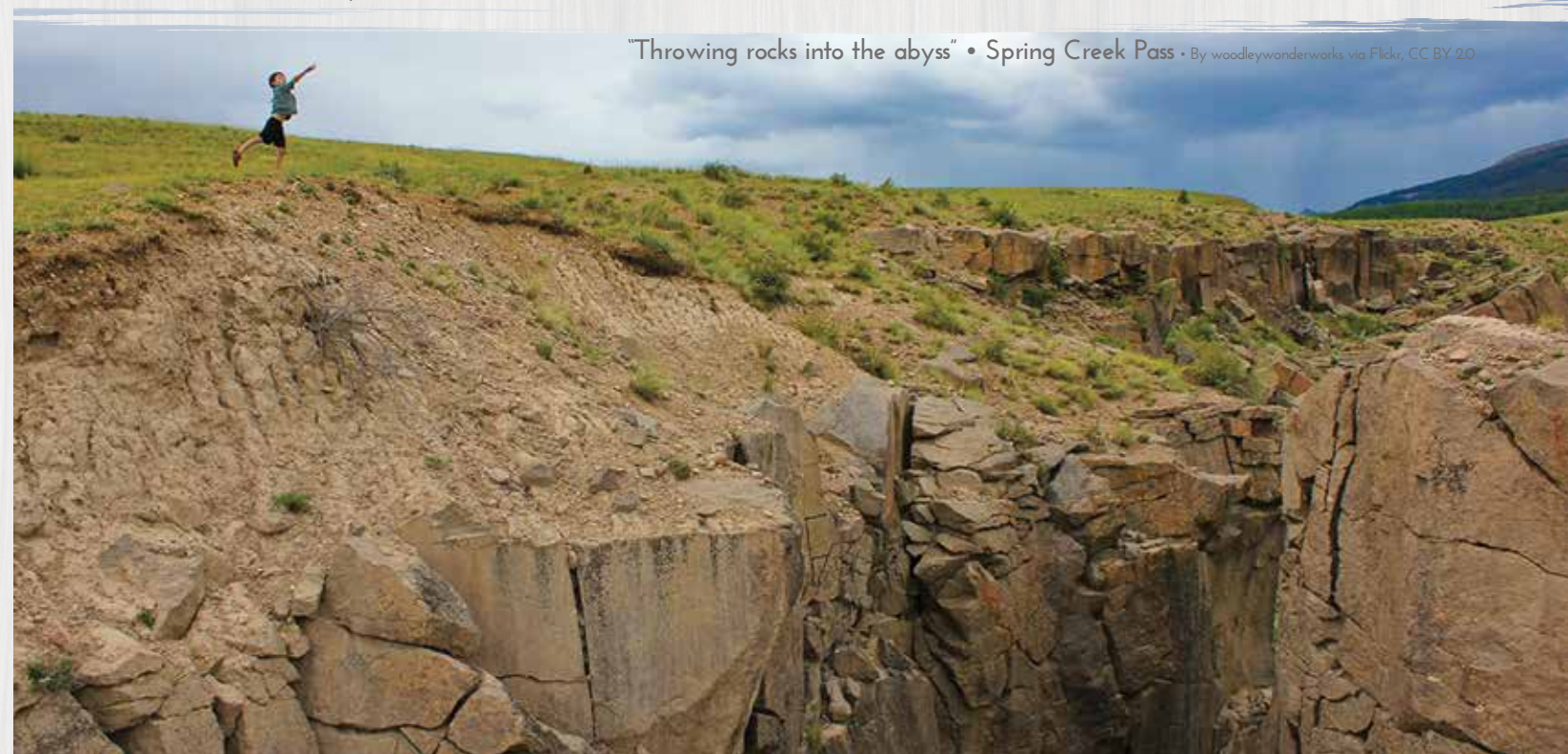
## Camping

The Rio Grande National Forest offers a multitude of camping opportunities. Whether you decide to stay in a portable camper trailer, tent, or rough it under the stars, you are sure to find the perfect location. Almost 2 million acres of national forest surrounds the South Fork area, and approximately 17 campgrounds have been developed along highways 149 and 160. Most accommodate both camper trailers and tents.

Forest Service campgrounds usually offer limited amenities and visitors are allowed to stay up to 14 days. Learn more or make reservations by calling 877-444-6777 or visiting [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

## Silverthreaders Outdoor Club

The Silverthreaders are a diverse group of locals, part-timers, and visitors that enjoy ATV riding, camping, hiking, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, fishing, hunting, skiing, and motorcycling. Their many organized activities aim to preserve the multi-use of our magnificent outdoors and impart responsible recreation use. The group organizes weekly outings for hiking (3x's per week), ATV/4x4 rides, and more. All are welcome. <http://silverthreaders.org>



"Throwing rocks into the abyss" • Spring Creek Pass • By woodleywanderworks via Flickr, CC BY 2.0





Photo Courtesy Mountain Skillz / Matt Entz

### ATV & Jeeping

Looking for adventure, but less work than hiking and mountain biking? Try any of the trails designated for motorized traffic. These trails will take you to mountain peaks and amazing vistas of the San Luis Valley, to creek bottoms and dense forest growth. No matter what your skill level, beginners to advanced riders will find limitless possibilities day after day. Best time to travel the trails is April to November, depending on snow conditions. See pages 28/29 for map of nearby trails. Obtain large map, trail descriptions, and rules/regs from the South Fork Visitor Center.

Visit [southfork.org](http://southfork.org) for a complete trail guide

### Auto Tours

Many scenic miles of well-tended dirt/gravel roads can be reached from the South Fork area and are accessible with conventional vehicles. Please visit the South Fork Visitor Center or download our free app for a guide to fifteen different auto tours!

### Pickleball

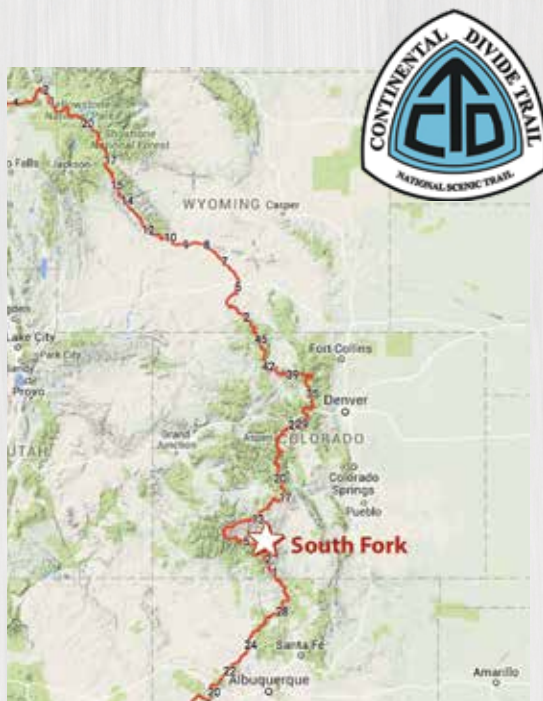
Enjoy the fast growing sport of pickleball. Each week, the South Fork Pickleball Association plays at the South Fork Community Center. You may also play on your own time. Free racquets and balls are available for those new to the sport and wanting to give it a try. For more information and to purchase passes (day pass, \$2; individual annual pass, \$30; couples annual pass, \$50). Stop in the South Fork Visitors Center or call 719-873-5512.

## South Fork designated a Continental Divide Trail Gateway Community

In December of 2015, South Fork was named **the first designated Continental Divide Trail Gateway Community in Colorado**. The Continental Divide Trail Coalition seeks to benefit communities along the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT). Launched in 2013, this program recognized communities for their part in promoting awareness of the CDT as an important national and local resource.

Established by Congress, in 1978, the CDT is one of the most significant trail systems in the world. Considered one of the greatest long-distance trails in the world, it is the highest, most challenging, and most remote of our National Scenic Trails. The CDT passes over US Highway 160, approximately 17 miles west of South Fork, at the top of Wolf Creek Pass, as part of the 3100 miles it traverses from Mexico to Canada. Long distance hikers and day hikers use South Fork as a base or a stopping off point during the most beautiful section of the hike, the majestic San Juan Mountains.

If you would like to help with keeping the CDT the treasure it is, volunteers will be working on projects during the summer. Volunteers are needed and can get more information at the South Fork Visitor Center. To find out more about the CDT, visit [continentaldividetrail.org](http://continentaldividetrail.org).



# Twin Pine Motorsports

*"Where Your Adventure Begins"*

## ATV, UTV and SNOWMOBILE RENTALS and SALES

# 719-873-9873

Please use caution when going into the back country. If you are going more than 30 minutes away from your vehicle, take a day pack with rain gear, jacket, food and water. Be aware of the weather - rapidly changing conditions are common and will surprise you! Always make sure someone knows where you are going and when you plan to return.



## Hunting in South Fork is classified as BTG

In the early fall, the public lands around South Fork are extremely popular with bow, black powder and rifle hunters in search of the perfect elk, buck or big horn sheep. Whether it be a 'guys trip' to the mountains, a father-daughter educational expedition, or a chance to explore the National Forest on horseback, hunting in the area is always an adventure! Local guides and supply stores offer tips about licensing, hot-spots, secret-spots, camping spots and more. Lodging provides a soft place to land after a full day in the back country!

Hunting not only provides people with a unique recreational experience, but also works as an important wildlife management tool. Many of our Big Game licenses are distributed each year on a lottery system. The number of available tags is determined according to current wildlife management information. Over-the-counter licenses are also available for many species, but most have a limited season and/or bag limits. For more info on our three hunting units (76, 79 and 80) and more than 100 huntable species, visit the Colorado Parks & Wildlife website at [cpw.state.co.us](http://cpw.state.co.us)

Elk • Deer • Moose • Black Bear • Big Horn Sheep • Antelope  
Mountain Lion • Turkey • Coyotes • Small Game • Waterfowl

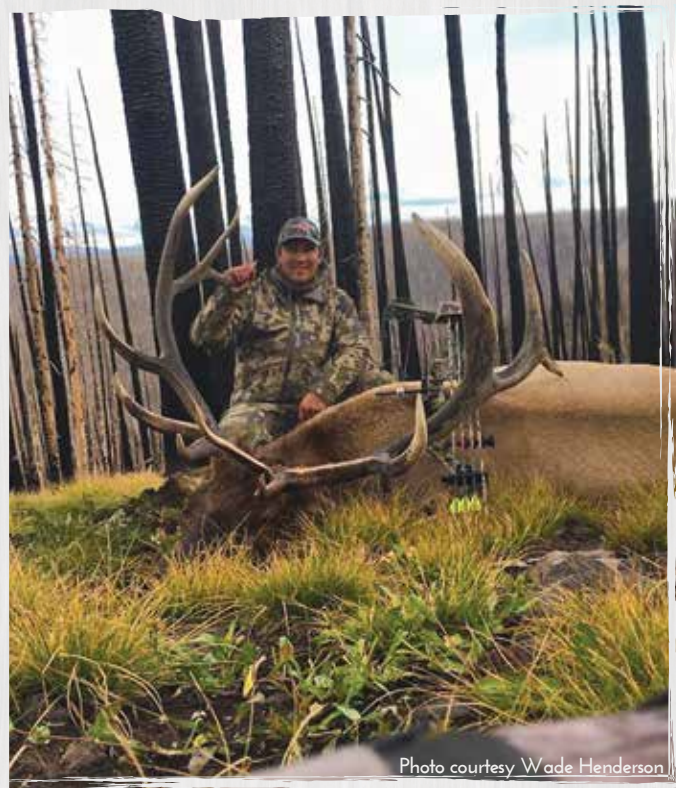


Photo courtesy Wade Henderson

## SCOPE IT OUT

*A likely encounter with 'the locals'*



**Wildlife** • Surrounded by national forest, viewing wildlife is simple. From bugs to bighorn sheep, you are likely to see more animals than you can count. While most commonly seen during early morning and evening

hours, attentive drivers and hikers will find some animals out during the day. The usual suspects include deer, elk, rabbits and squirrels, but others might be just around the bend so don't forget your camera! Remember to keep your distance from any wild animal. More animals you might expect to find: Big Horn Sheep • Bear • Moose • Coyote • Raccoon • Red Fox • Skunk Lynx • Marmot • Bobcat • Mountain Lion • Pronghorn Antelope



"Columbine"  
Photo courtesy South Fork Visitor Center

**Wildflowers** • As you take any of the scenic driving tours in the South Fork area, notice the overwhelming variety of wildflowers that are in bloom along the roadside, in open meadows and under the shade of aspen groves. An entire rainbow of colors range from pale yellow to bright reds and purples.

Note: Our San Juan Mountains are famous for their many, many species and colors of the aster/sunflower family. Please leave flowers for all to enjoy - take a picture home with you instead!

**Birds** • Don't forget to bring your binoculars - many of our homes, cabins and campsites have backyard views of the national forest! Our 260+ species of birds range from shy, modest little brown birds to dramatic, colorful eagles, hawks and hummingbirds. Wild turkeys walk through our snowy yards and roost in nearby pines. A few dippers perform in the Rio Grande and its South Fork, within town limits. The night-songs of owls bewilder with haunting tunes from the forest. Birds-galore show off their colors: bluebirds, hummingbirds, eagles, and jays from shiny black to gray and metallic blue. Soaring predators and flitting prey provide drama, and feeders in town offer a likely sighting from the seat of your car!



"Toad Stool"  
By Curtis Fry via Flickr, CC BY 2.0

**Mushrooms** • Mushroom hunting is always a lesson in patience. What makes the area a great place for mushrooming? The mountains create a variety of mushroom habitats. Common but sporadic July rain showers create just the right amount of humidity and moisture required for a good mushroom crop! Our high altitude is perfect for two popular mushrooms, the Chanterelles and Boletus. Get insider tips and directions to good hunting spots during our Mushroom Foray, typically held in early August. Learn to correctly identify and collect a variety of species, then hit the hiking trails to hunt for the perfect mushroom! Confirm the validity of your finds at the follow-up discussion, and, if you're successful, finish off the evening with a gourmet meal!

ADVENTURE STARTS AT

8200 mountain sports

719.873.1977

30923 W. Hwy 160 | South Fork, CO 81154 | [8200mountainsports.com](http://8200mountainsports.com)

SKI + BOARD RENTALS

#1 Ski Shop in Town!  
Best Gear & Prices  
for Wolf Creek

1/2 Day Guided Raft Trips  
All Gear Provided  
36 years on the Rio Grande

MOUNTAIN MAN RAFTING

GUIDED FLY FISHING

Float Trips - Walk Wade - Lessons  
24 years on the Rio Grande  
South Fork's 1st Guide Service

RAFT, KAYAK, SUP + TUBE  
RENTALS & SALES

Newest & Largest Fleet  
1st Rental Company in Town

FLY SHOP

Rods, Reels, Wader,  
Flies, Supplies and  
Expert Advice

5% OFF RENTALS  
OFF GUIDED RAFTING

Coupon required at time of booking. Certain blackout dates apply.  
Cannot be combined with other offers.

Call Us! 719.873.5200  
Located at the "Y"  
in South Fork

BEER • WINE • COLORADO CRAFT BEER + SPIRITS • LIQUOR + MORE!



**18-Hole Championship Golf Course**  
DINING & GOLF OPEN TO PUBLIC

**Timbers Restaurant, Big River Grille & Meeting Rooms**  
AVAILABLE FOR WEDDINGS, BANQUETS & PARTIES

Memberships Available  
Golf, Gold-Medal Fishing,  
Fitness Center, Fishing Lodge,  
Pool, Tennis, Steam Saunas,  
Happy Hour, & Social Activities

719-873-1995  
[www.riograndeclubandresort.com](http://www.riograndeclubandresort.com)

Onsite Riverfront Townhome Rentals at [www.riverclubvacationrentals.com](http://www.riverclubvacationrentals.com)

**Ride out of your camp, right into the Rio Grande National Forest!**

**GRANDVIEW CABINS & RV RESORT**

0613 Hwy 149, South Fork, CO  
719-873-5541 [grandview-resort.com](http://grandview-resort.com)



## Golfing

### *South Fork's Exquisite Golf Course*

The Rio Grande Club & Resort is an award-winning, 18-hole golf course that borders the Rio Grande National Forest and plays alongside and over the Rio Grande River. The longest par five is a challenging 600 yards, and the course has large stands of cottonwood trees, rugged rock formations and dramatic elevation changes, totaling some 460 feet on the back nine. Six holes on the front nine play along the Rio Grande River, offering a unique shot over the river on the number six hole. The back nine alpine holes play at an elevation of over 8,200 feet, through stunning rock formations, fields of wildflowers, native pine and aspen trees and wildlife habitat along Alder Creek. Incredible views welcome players to #18, along with a dramatic elevation drop onto a generous fairway. Just a chip

and a putt away, and you're headed to the Big River Grill, where the loser buys the first round!

The Rio Grande Club golf course and restaurants are open to the public. The club offers three membership levels that provide additional amenities---social activities, unlimited golf play, access to more than one mile of private Gold-medal fishing on the Rio Grande River, a Fitness Center, pool, hot tub, steam sauna, locker rooms and food discounts. Call the Rio Grande Club for information on membership, dining hours & reservations, wedding & event bookings. Many club tournaments are also open to the public. [www.riograndeclubandresort.com](http://www.riograndeclubandresort.com)

Avid golfers can also try two other courses available in the San Luis Valley, making us the perfect destination for your next golf vacation.

**Alamosa Cattails Golf Course:** Praised for superb condition and a challenging 18 holes. One of Colorado's "best courses to play for under \$50."

**Monte Vista Golf Course:** Nicely cared for 9-hole municipal course.



**QUALITY CHOICE HOTELS**

◆ INDOOR POOL & HOT TUB  
◆ FREE FULL HOT BREAKFAST  
◆ OUTDOOR FIRE PIT / BBQ AREA  
◆ CLEAN ROOMS & SUITES

**(719) 873-5600**

**BOOK NOW**

All Photos this page: Rio Grande Club Golf Course, South Fork





# Fishing THE GOLD MEDAL WATERS



Fishing at Tucker Ponds • Ashography

Fly Fishing, Rio Grande River • By Kara Brittain

## Fish the Upper Rio Grande

The Upper Rio Grande area offers some of the best fishing in Colorado. Gold Medal waters on the river and an abundance of creeks, lakes, and reservoirs provide year-round opportunities for the avid fisherman! Online and in-person, check with knowledgeable outdoor shops, license vendors, fishing lodges, guides and outfitters.

**Gold Medal Waters** - South Fork boasts the longest stretch of Gold Medal Waters in the entire state. Nearly 20 miles of the Rio Grande River receive this designation from the Colorado Division of Wildlife. These designations are given out sparingly and represent the highest quality aquatic habitat in Colorado - your best chance to catch a trophy trout! There are several access point for the Rio Grande, please consult state guide book, and observe all posted private property markers. *(Read more on page 18)*

**Lakes & Reservoirs** - There are over 80 in the area, 13 of which are 20 minutes from town. From high mountain lakes that require a lengthy hike, to nearby reservoirs accessible by any car and outfitted with boat ramps and handicap amenities, you are sure to find water suitable for your style.

**Ice Fishing** - Several lakes in the area are great for winter ice fishing. A few of our favorites include Beaver Creek Reservoir, Big Meadows Reservoir and Road Canyon Reservoir west of Creede.

**Stream & Creek Fishing** - The Rio Grande and its tributaries offer slow running waters, excellent for fly fishing as well as with lures. Many of the river's smaller tributaries offer stream sized fish, and are abundant with aquatic life like cutthroat and rainbow trout. The most popular streams include: Embargo, Beaver, and Rock creeks. The South Fork of the Rio Grande offers good stream and bank fishing, wading, bait, cast and fly fishing for browns, rainbows, and brooks. It is accessible by car with some walk-in areas.

Fishing Licenses are required for people 16 years or older. Visit [www.fishtheupperrio.com](http://www.fishtheupperrio.com) for more info.



Photo courtesy 8200 Mountain Sports/South Fork Anglers



# Floating the Rio

No river is more enjoyable to float and fly fish in summertime than the Rio Grande in Southern Colorado. The river begins in the alpine mountains above Creede, and flows through South Fork, then on to the flattening valley floor at Del Norte. Within this stretch lies one of the most underdeveloped, pristine rivers in all of the Southwest. Both rainbows and browns abound, with many tributaries running into the Rio along the way. The South Fork/Creede area is the perfect destination for a first-time float trip. With the many guest ranches, bed and breakfasts, hotels, campgrounds and RV parks, there is lodging to suit any budget. Much of the area is designated National Forest or Wilderness land, so camping spots are everywhere.

*Fishing guru A.D. Dalton outlines some of our favorite floats. Included is the South Fork float. See all 5 float-trips on our website: southfork.org.*

## Floating the Gold Medal Waters at South Fork

A good start to floating the river through South Fork is just past Masonic Park: a put-in for boats called Lower Collier. This is also a state designated Wildlife Area, so it's likely you will catch a glimpse of a trophy elk or deer as they sip from the mighty Rio.

This adventure takes you through all the good stuff! After putting in at Lower Collier (public access) you will immediately find yourself floating onto private land belonging to the Mason's – view their “Masonic lodges” all along the Rio for about a mile. Strangely, this is the only spot on the Rio Grande where it is legal to keep a rainbow trout - you conspiracy buffs can do the research to figure out why! All I know is that you can keep four trout, rainbow or brown, in accordance with state regulations, from here to the Hwy 149 bridge. The river is wide through this stretch, and the fishing is good right after run-off for stripping streamers. This is also one of the last floatable sections when the water gets low toward the end of the summer. The float meanders through a few quaint neighborhoods of fishing cabins

but mostly enjoys the quiet solitude of cottonwoods, aspens, spruce and pine trees dominating the mountain side. Further downstream you will float through Elk Creek Ranch (also private), before reaching town. Recognize it for the big grassy hay meadows that roll down the hillside to the river.

The hamlet of South Fork six miles down from the put-in is a oasis on the east side of the Continental Divide. Should you need a latte from a local cafe, or a beer at one of our fine restaurants, this town will accommodate! As you float under the Hwy 149 bridge, you are officially in Gold Medal Waters. (See current fishing regulations for Gold Medal Waters, typically two browns over 16 inches and all rainbows returned to the river). Floating through downtown takes you past the beautiful Rio Grande Club and Golf Course, with some of Rio Grande County's most luxurious stay-and-play amenities. It's in these waters that the BIG trout hang out – enjoying deep rock pools and slow-moving water. I know guys that get off work and float just from Hwy 149 bridge to the Lower Alpine take-out in the evening to cast a fly at these hogs. Big dries or drifting with nymphs -- either way its great fishing every time. The float ends at Franke Excavation/CR 19 with a small take-out located on the north side.

**Directions to put-in:** Travel six miles west of the town of South Fork toward Creede.



Fall Fishing on the Rio Grande River • By John McEvoy

Turn at the Lower Collier State Wildlife Area sign on the south side of Hwy 149. **Directions to take-out:** Travel three miles east of South Fork on Hwy 160 toward Del Norte. Turn left on County Road 19 across from Ute Bluff Lodge.

I would also like to add that boats have always been able to put-in/take-out at the Hwy 149 bridge access, and now parking is available, too!

Although the put-ins and take outs are public property, much of the river along the way is private. Please be respectful so all can enjoy the beauty of the river.

## For Another Day on the River:

**Lower Alpine to Hanna Lane Bridge:** “The Hanna Lane float is not for the faint of heart. While one of the best sections of the Gold Medal Waters, it is also one of the longest... With huge cottonwoods, hay pastures and foothills of sage in the distance, its a sight to behold, this piece of the Rio...The biggest brown I've ever seen caught on the Rio was in this stretch.”



Photo by Kara Brittain



Rafting the Rio Grande • Photo courtesy 8200 Mountain Sports / Mountain Man Tours

**Creede to Wagon Wheel Gap:** “This float is a local favorite at the beginning of summer... Bellows Creek comes into the river and throwing dries up under the willows in the dapple is the best way to nab a fish through here...”

**Wagon Wheel Gap to Palisade:** “The float starts out at Wagon Wheel Gap with towering cliffs rising 11,000 feet into the air...and the train bridge you can see down river from the put-in is a tricky booger to navigate...this next section of river is the rock garden, a bony technical stretch to fish because of rapids and the rower stressing on how to ping pong down through it. (hint: stay river right!)...”

**Palisade to Collier State Wildlife Area:** “...a shorter float with lots of potential (especially in the evening, it seems) to catch a fish in the high summer... Towering pine trees dominate this stretch and the river widens considerably... and the take-out is an easy one...”

## Rafting the Rio

The headwaters of the Rio Grande is a very family-friendly stretch of river at it flows past South Fork. The solitude and breathtaking scenery are unparalleled in the state of Colorado and plenty of relaxing stretches of water exist. For the more adventurous, class II-III rapids are available too! May and June are the best months for whitewater action, but no matter the time of season, the river has its own character and each trip is as rewarding as the first. A local rafting company and outdoor shops offer river trips, gear, and information.



Photo courtesy 8200 Mountain Sports/South Fork Anglers






**Ramon's**  
Mexican Restaurant

31519 Hwy 160 South Fork, CO 81154  
**(719) 873-0231**



**A Taste of Mexico**  
Taste the History of Old Mexico ... at Ramon's Mexican Restaurant in South Fork, Colorado.  
Open from 11am to 9pm Monday - Thursday and Sunday. Fridays and Saturdays 11am to 10pm.  
Weekly Lunch Specials, including \$1 off all plates during lunch service and Happy Hour every day!  
Ramon's Mexican Restaurant is a taste of Mexico... it's the perfect place for family gatherings, meetings, events, parties, and date night. The atmosphere is calming, the margaritas are tasty and the food is delicious. *We look forward to seeing you at Ramon's.*





**RIVERBEND RESORT**

Stocked River Fishing  
Nearby ATV/OTV Trails  
Hunting Units 76,79 & 80

**Year Round Cabins  
Seasonal RV Park & Tent Sites**  
*Home of Nat'l Lampoons Vacation "Kamp Komfort"*  
(719) 873-5344 • 33846 W. Hwy 160, South Fork  
[www.riverbend-resort.com](http://www.riverbend-resort.com)

DAILY & WEEKLY RATES  
BOOK YOUR GLAMPING EXPERIENCE  
719-289-0995  
[SOUTHFORKRVRENTALS.COM](http://SOUTHFORKRVRENTALS.COM)



**SOUTH FORK**  
RV RENTALS



**WORRY FREE DELIVERY TO  
your destination!**

**WE DELIVER & SET UP AT YOUR LOCATION  
OR YOU PICK UP AT 29919 US HWY 160, SOUTH FORK**





We are an equal opportunity service provider and employer. We operate under special use permit from the USDA Forest Service, Rio Grande National Forest.

2 hour, 4 hour & full day trips  
wildlife viewing • fall colors  
sunrise • sunset



headwaters of the Rio Grande  
historic mining sites • high mountain lakes  
limited trips to Wheeler Geologic Area



**MOUNTAIN SKILLZ**  
with Matt Entz

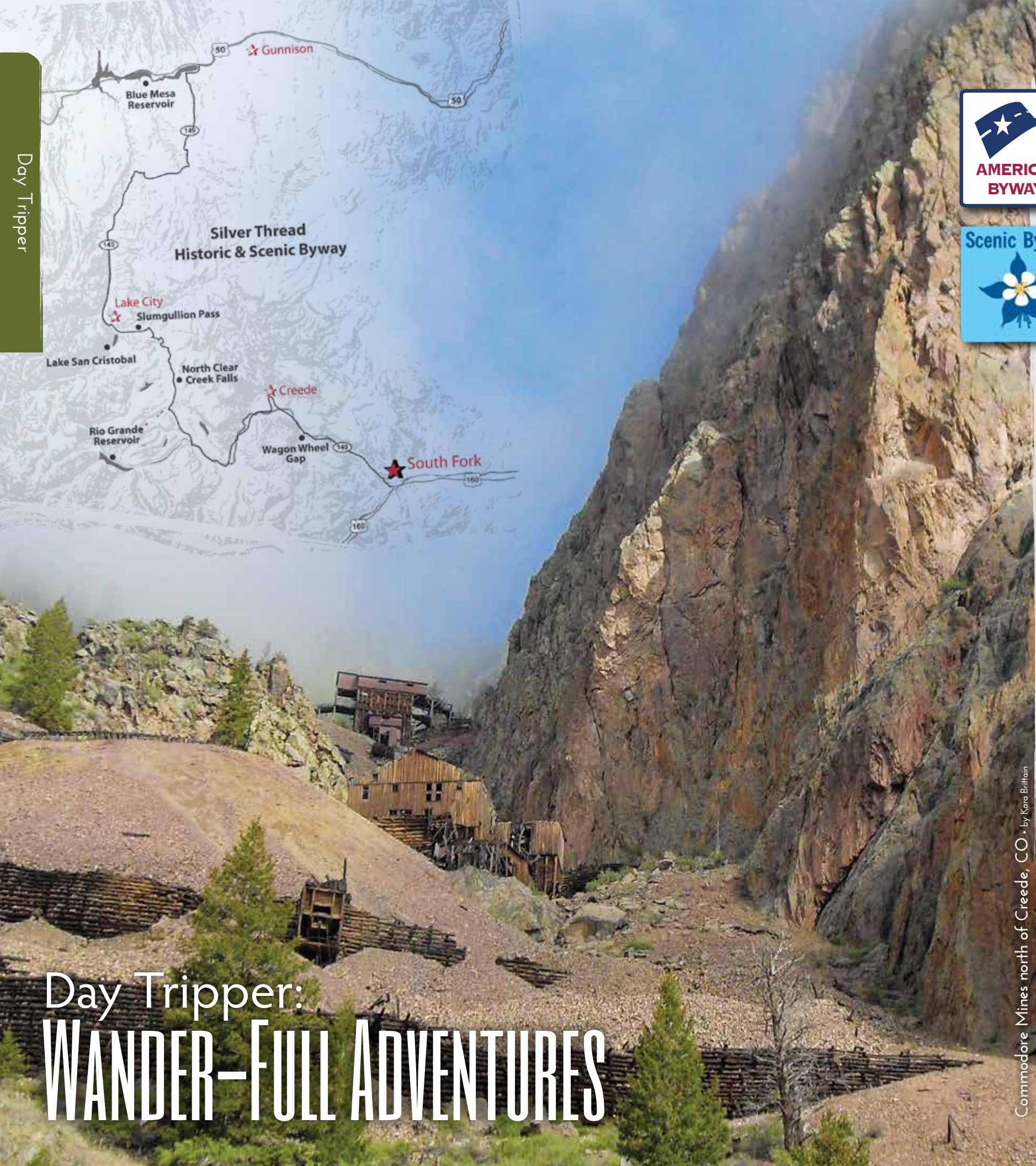
*Guided Mountain Adventures*




**Vacation Rental in South Fork!! • 719-849-3168 • [www.mountainskillz.com](http://www.mountainskillz.com)**  
**Please text or email for pricing and availability.  
We proudly offer military and family discounts!**  
**South Fork: 0023 Buck St  
Creede: Main Street**

\*\*Mountain Skillz is an equal opportunity service provider operating under a special use permit in the Rio Grande National Forest\*\*

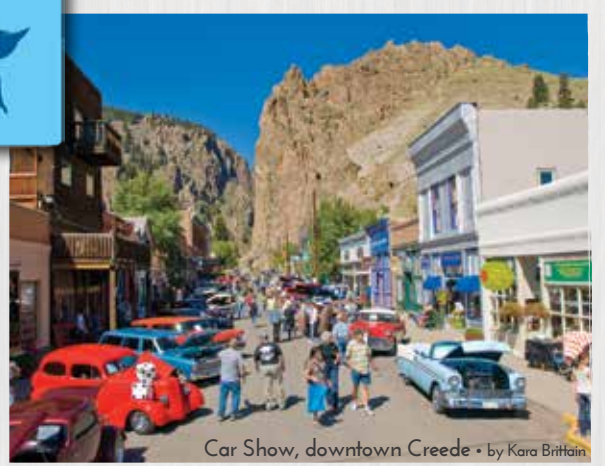




# Day Tripper: WANDER-FULL ADVENTURES



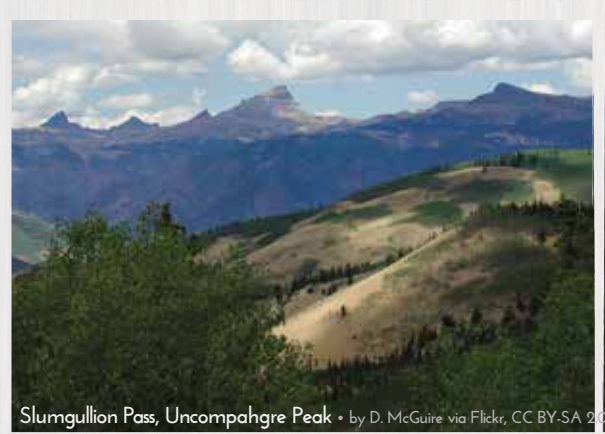
Fall Colors on the Rio Grande near South Fork • by B4 Studio



Car Show, downtown Creede • by Kara Brittain



North Clear Creek Falls • by B4 Studio



Slumgullion Pass, Uncompahgre Peak • by D. McGuire via Flickr, CC BY-SA 2.0



Blue Mesa Reservoir • by dbking via Flickr, CC BY 2.0

Commodore Mines north of Creede, CO • by Kara Brittain



SOUTH FORK • CREEDE • LAKE CITY • GUNNISON

*117 mile road trip through the Rockies*

The colorful old mining and logging camps of the Silver Thread National Scenic Byway offer a wealth of history, while the surrounding Wilderness and National Forest lands serve up a huge dose of scenic beauty. Follow the Byway as it traces the routes of old toll roads, stagecoach lines and railways. Grab breakfast in **South Fork**, and start the first leg of your trip at the old water tower, which serviced steam locomotives til 1956. Hwy 149 then winds along the banks of the mighty Rio Grande. Catch a glimpse of an elk or deer as you travel by Collier State Wildlife area (where the Ute Indians set up their hunting camps). Marvel at the Palisade rock formations and take a quick peak inside Post Office Rock, where early settlers would leave notes for those in the mining camps. Pass through Wagon Wheel Gap and travel on to the historic mining town of **Creede**. Browse art galleries on their dramatic main street and tour the Underground Mining Museum (yes, visitors enter mine shafts bored into the cliff face, wander through tunnels mined from solid rock, and visit with former hard-rock miners!). Continue up the canyon a bit for a spectacular view of the Commodore mines.

As you get back on Highway 149, Bristol Head Mountain looms ahead. You will loop around its southern side, and meet back up with the Rio Grande as it snakes its way through the outer rim of an ancient volcano. Travel by San Juan City, a former toll road stop, and begin climbing Spring Creek Pass. A bounty of natural wonders preside, including the sparkling and spectacular North Clear Creek Falls, the Slumgullion earth slide, and the shark-like fin of Uncompahgre Peak. Spring Creek Pass is steep, and must be traveled carefully. These mountains can be unforgiving so be prepared before embarking on any journey. (Legendary John C. Fremont lost 1/3 of his men in 1848 here, and a quarter of a century later Packer cannibalized his companions in two ill-fated winter expeditions). Take in the turquoise-colored Lake San Cristobal from a steep vantage point, and descend into **Lake City**. This picturesque town has over 200 buildings in the historic register. Stop for lunch and a walk around town. Head out through the steep canyon walls of the Lake Fork, passing by The Gate, an impressive rock formation. This final leg of the trip takes you towards **Gunnison**, through widening valleys where successful ranching communities sprang up and prospered. End your trip crossing the Blue Mesa Reservoir (a hot-spot for trophy lake trout) and entering Gunnison, a former Ute Indian summer camp - turned ranching community / college town.

Your return trip back over Spring Creek Pass will be met with a spectacular view of the sun setting over the San Juan Mountains. Stop in Creede for dinner and a showing at the highly-acclaimed Creede Repertory Theatre, then return to South Fork where hospitality is as big as the west!



## The Great Sand Dunes



Photo courtesy South Fork Visitor Center

### *A Sea of Sand*

Across the San Luis Valley and against the backdrop of rugged 14,000-foot peaks, the Great Sand Dunes provide a stunning sight to behold. Over 30 square miles of dunes appear as a “sea of sand” against the nearly vertical face of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. These unique dunes, created by the continuous work of water and wind moving sand, provide a recreation area unlike any other. Medano Creek flows seasonally at the base of the dunes, providing a place where visitors enjoy sand, water and sun in a spectacular mountain setting. Climb the “High Dune,” nearly 700 feet above the valley floor, and sand board or “sled” back down! Before leaving the park, be sure to visit Zapata Falls. A half-mile hike leads uphill to an intriguing waterfall. Along the trail, enjoy panoramic views of the surrounding country, including the Great Sand Dunes far below. If you wish to spend a little more time in the area, we recommend a stop by the Colorado Gator Farm, where you may view and feed over 400 gators as well as dozens of pythons, turtles, rattlers, iguanas, dragons, geckos, parrots, tortoises, and more. Learn more at [www.nps.gov/grsa](http://www.nps.gov/grsa) - Approximately 80 miles from South Fork.



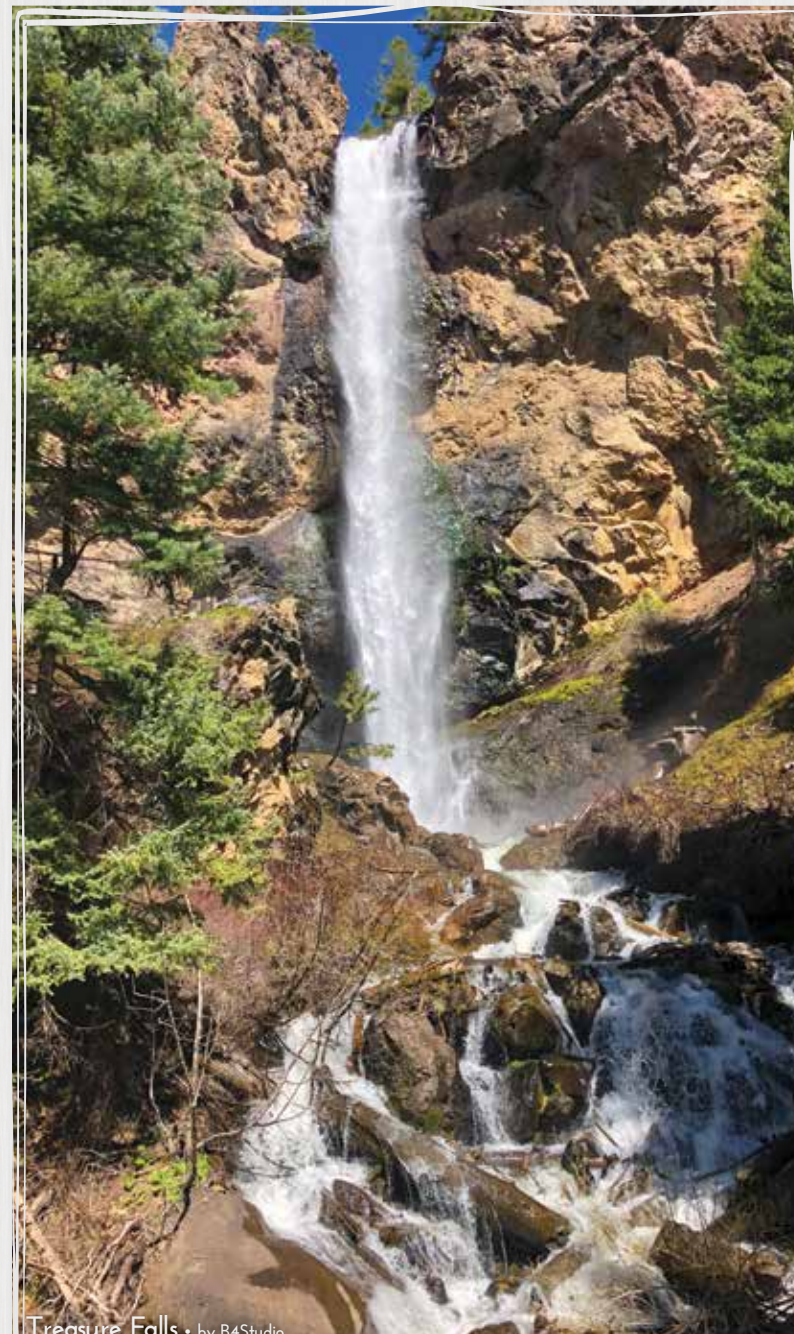
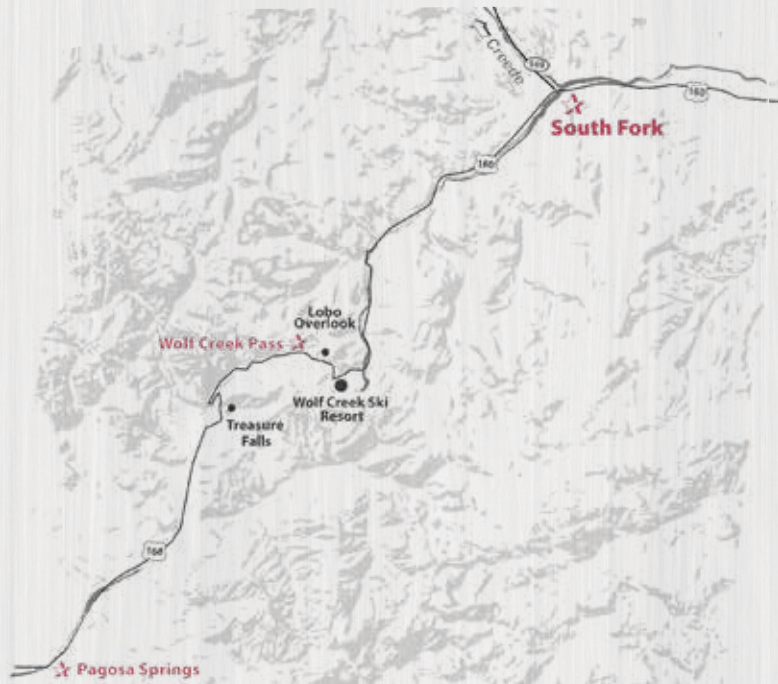
## Wolf Creek Pass to Pagosa Springs

This day trip will take you on a dramatic adventure to the top of the world, on a hunt for lost treasure, and at last to an epic natural hot springs to soak it all in...

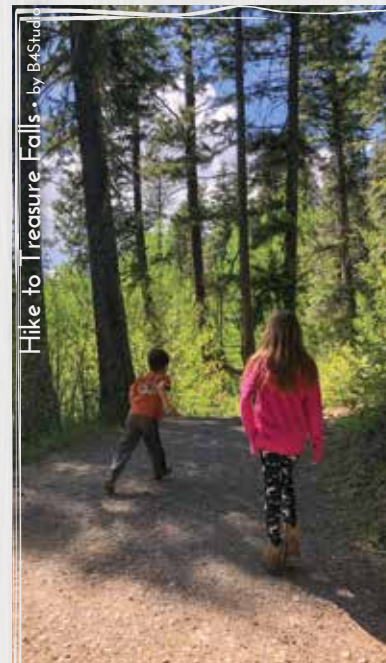
Head out of town on Highway 160, tuning your Spotify to CW McCall's humorous song “Wolf Creek Pass,” in which an out of control truck driver attempts to navigate the steep and winding road. When you reach the summit, just past the Wolf Creek Ski area, you will be on top of the Continental Divide. For a view from the top-of-the-top, take a side tour to the Lobo Overlook (Exit the highway to the right, just before you reach the large pull off/parking area onto County Rd 402. Note this road is occasionally



“Distances are deceiving at the Great Sand Dunes” • By woodleywonderworks via Flickr, CC BY 2.0



Treasure Falls • by B4Studio



Hike to Treasure Falls • by B4Studio



Wolf Creek Pass

closed to all but hikers and bikers). A steep 5.1 miles gets you high atop Thunder Mountain and provides stunning vistas of the surrounding San Juans. To the south you see Treasure Mountain, an area rich in folklore and stories of buried treasure. One legend suggests a chest of gold was buried on the mountain by soon-to-be-captured Frenchmen running from either Spaniards or Native Utes. If you are feeling extra ambitious, a hike around the area might result in a huge payout!

To the far southeast is the Summitville mining district (another great day trip, though 4x4 is required). To the northwest lies the Weminuche Wilderness, the largest wilderness area in Colorado. Notice the windswept conditions of the trees living at “timberline,” and hunt for a few alpine wildflowers!

Return to the highway and prepare yourself for a dramatic experience, despite the major US Highway you are traveling on. Wintertime brings this area the MOST snow in Colorado, so roads are often snow-packed and icy in the winter months. Even summertime sees the occasional snow! As you descend into the valley, stop at the scenic overlook just before the hairpin turns. A spectacular view of the West Fork of the San Juan River will inspire you to pull out a camera! A couple of switchbacks later, and you will want to pull over again. Treasure Falls is a beautiful cascade that runs nearly all year, dropping grandly across the face of a rough volcanic cliff. A large parking area marks the entrance to the hiking path that leads to the base of the falls. The path is about 1/4 mile, well maintained, and suitable for all ages!

The remaining drive into Pagosa Springs is easy and pleasant, leading you through a scenic valley of large ranches and farmland. Pagosa Springs is known for its year-round arts and music festivals. A lively downtown offers several great dining choices and lots of shopping!

Your final, and ultimate destination will be the Springs Resort. With 23 hot tubs filled with natural hot springs mineral water, you will find relaxation and adventure as you travel from tub-to-tub, finding your perfect temperature, mountain view, or proximity to the San Juan River. Bring the whole family, as a full-size pool, mild-temperature tubs, and river-access provide endless hours of fun for the kids, too! -- Approximately 43 miles from South Fork.

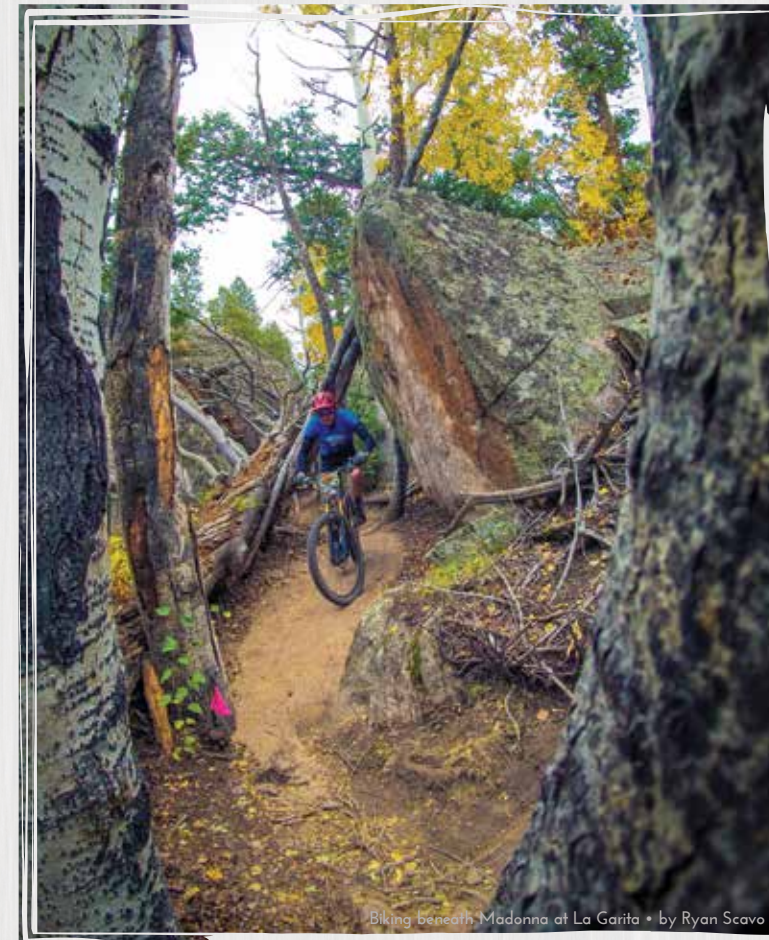


The Springs of Pagosa • by Will Knightley via Flickr, CC BY-SA 2.0





Penitente Climber near the Madonna • Photo by John McEvoy



Biking beneath Madonna at La Garita • by Ryan Scavo

area. The B-loop is best for the beginner, while the A-loop is more fun for an advanced rider. Each route is less than three miles, and can also be hiked.

If you need a snack break, return to CR 38A and drive the short distance to the town of La Garita. Stop at the Cash Store, an old log cabin turned general shop. Visit the picturesque 1924 Catholic church that today houses the San Juan Art Center. Make your return trip via Del Norte. Consider a stop by the Rio Grande County Museum for more about the local heritage and make a note to ask about Colonel Pfeiffer, a well know and respected Indian Agent! Wander Grand Avenue's antique shops and art galleries, and have dinner at the Historic Windsor Hotel.



LaGarita Arch • Photo by David Clark

## Penitente Canyon & La Garita Arch

### *Experience the Power of Place*

Grab breakfast in town before heading east towards the San Luis Valley. To take the “scenic route” east, turn off at the Ute Bluff Lodge onto CR 19, cross the mighty Rio Grande and follow the paved/dirt CR 15 as it snakes along the river, through scenic ranches and farmland for about fifteen miles. Consider a detour at the sign for Colonel Pfeiffer's Grave, and visit the land granted to him by the Native Utes. Pass by Indian Head and other unusual and remarkable mountain outcroppings. Zigzag south-east-north just before getting onto Colorado 112 and travel north along the outer edge of the Valley for just over 2 miles. Follow the signs for Penitente Canyon and La Garita, and turn onto CR33/38A.

You will first take an 11 mile round-trip expedition to see the Arch, or La Ventana (Spanish for “window”), one of southern Colorado's most unusual natural formations. Note the interesting geology of the area: about 33 million years ago during a period of explosive volcanic activity, large amounts of volcanic debris and ash were ejected into the air. Heat and pressure formed the ash into very hard rock, and millions of years worth of erosion deteriorated the softer material, leaving behind what we see today! The Arch was carved out of a volcanic “dike” and you might notice the signs of weathering on nearby companion arches.

**To see the Natural Arch:** Take a left off of

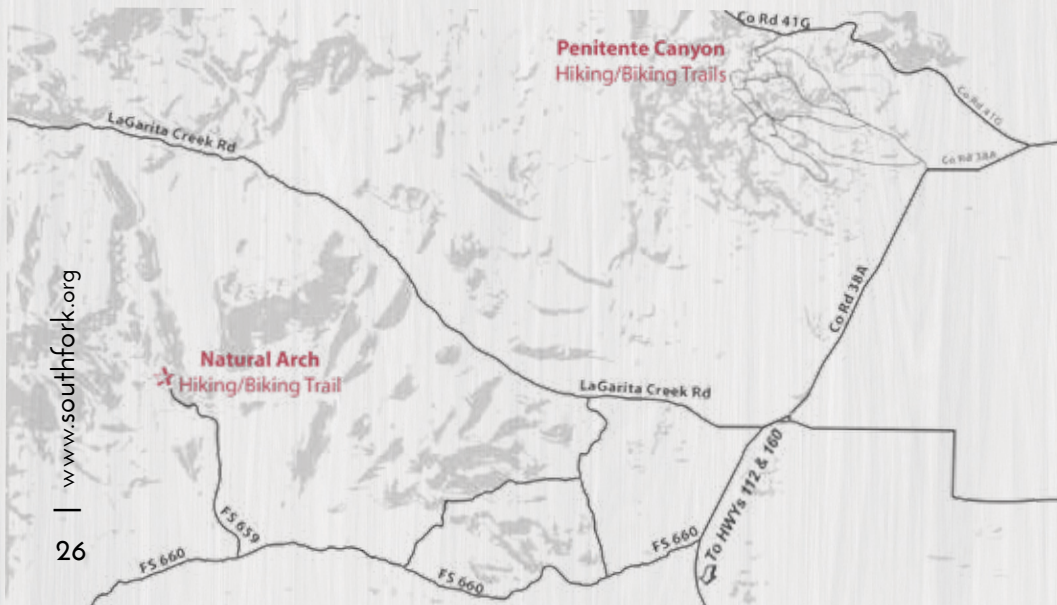
Rd 33/38A onto FS 660/Rd A32. Follow this road for 4.1 miles. Take FS 659/ Rd 35C and go another 1.6 miles north. South Fork to the Natural Arch: aprox 1 hr drive.

Return to Road 38A and continue north-bound. Next up is Penitente Canyon, a designated Special Recreation Area with something for everyone!

**For the sight-seer, hiker and history buff:** Take the short hike up to see the Wagon Wheel ruts, a part of the Old Spanish Trail that served as a pack-animal route for traders traveling west to California in the mid-1800s. Wander throughout the unusual canyons in search of the San Luis Valley's largest collection of pictographs. Most is the work of indigenous peoples who lived in the area 2,000 years ago, but a newer example is the faded blue Madonna high up on a rock face, reportedly painted by locals in the mid 1900s.

**For the rock climber:** Penitente Canyon is an internationally recognized climbing area, providing 60-70 incredible sport climbing routes. The unusual volcanic landscape (rock that eroded and cracked over time) not only created a mystical backdrop for recreation, but the smoothed and rounded rock-face provides good hand-holds! South facing routes can be climbed year-round and range from beginner to advanced levels.

**For the mountain biker:** 2 mountain bike loops offer a great opportunity to see the



**RV PARK**  
**ASPEN RIDGE**  
WHERE YOU RIDE THE TRAILS RIGHT OUT OF THE PARK

**2022 Summer & Fall Themes**

May 27 – May 30	Memorial Day Weekend
May 31 – June 11	Pet Pals & Nature Time
June 12 – June 25	Through the Decades
June 26 – July 9	America the Beautiful
July 10 – July 30	Christmas in July
July 31 – Aug 13	Live'n' on Island Time
Aug 14 – Aug 27	Cowboys & Outlaws
Aug 28 – Sept 5	Wet & Wild Color Fun
Sept 6 – Sept 30	Simply September
Sept 30 – Oct 23	Harvest & Halloween Fun

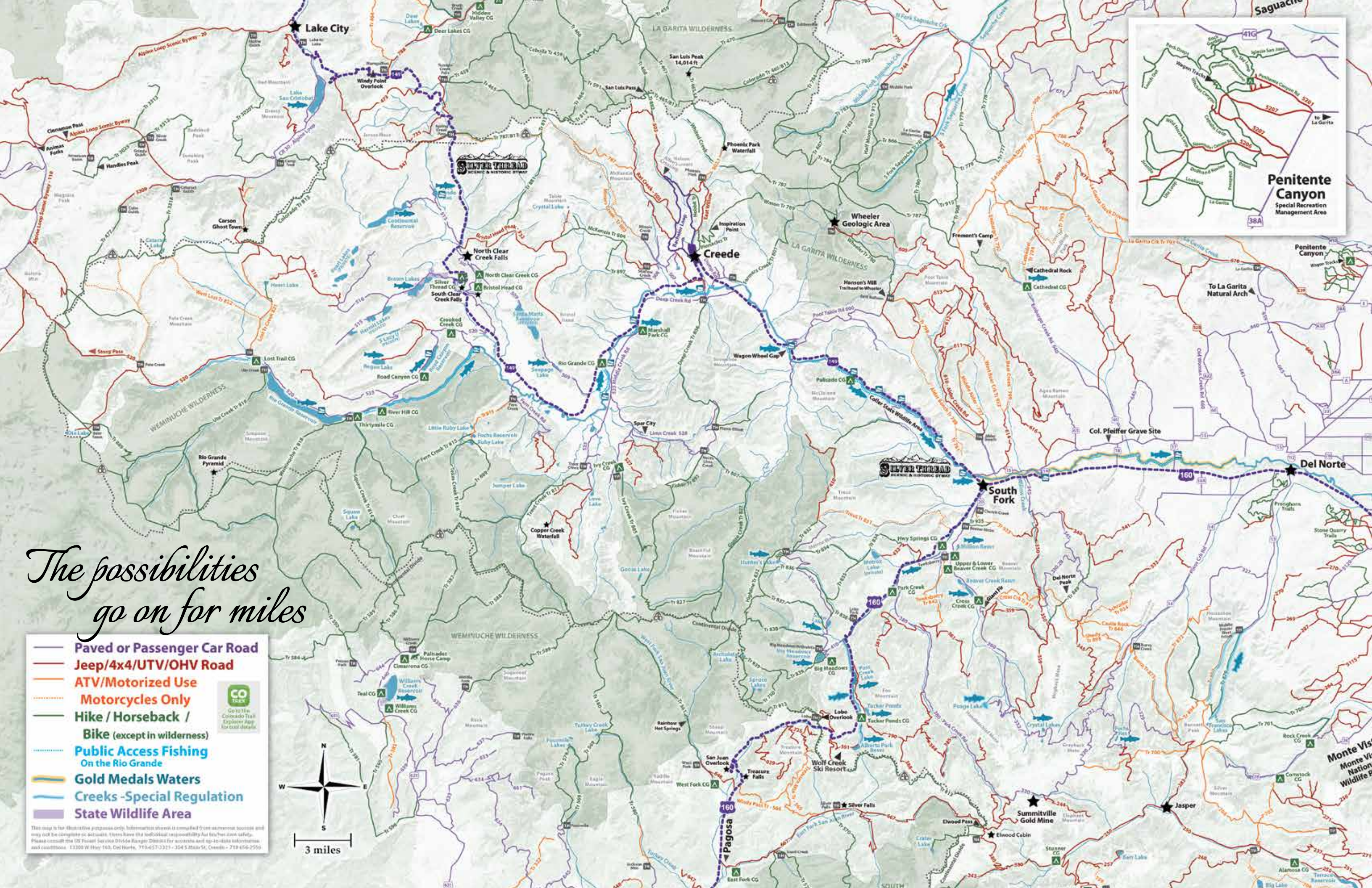
Welcome to Aspen Ridge RV Park... Where It's Fun For All Ages & Kids Always Stay Free!

www.aspenridgerv.com (719) 873- 2248 700 Hwy 149, South Fork, CO 81154

**VETERAN OWNED BUSINESS**

50 Amp Full Hookups  
Overflow Parking & Wifi





*The possibilities  
go on for miles*

Paved or Passenger Car Road

Jeep/4x4/UTV/OHV Road

ATV/Motorized Use

Motorcycles Only

Hike / Horseback /  
Bike (except in wilderness)

Public Access Fishing  
On the Rio Grande

Gold Medals Waters

Creeks -Special Regulation

State Wildlife Area

CO

Trail Explorer

Go to the Colorado Trail Explorer App for trail details

This map is for illustrative purposes only. Information shown is compiled from numerous sources and may not be complete or accurate. Users have the individual responsibility for their own safety. Please consult the US Forest Service Ranger Districts for accurate and up-to-date information and conditions. 13300 W Hwy 160, Del Norte, 719-457-3329 • 304 S Main St, Creede • 719-656-2556





- ATVs shall use shoulder to cross bridge over Rio Grande River.
- Travel between yellow bollards and guardrail.
- Travel in the same direction as vehicular traffic.
- Access closed Nov 1-April 30

## Town of South Fork OHV / ATV Rules & Regulations

- All drivers must have a valid driver's license & proof of liability insurance
- All riders 16 years and under must wear approved safety helmet
- All OHV / ATV driving within South Fork must have South Fork safety flag and Permit Sticker
- NO OHV / ATV on Hwys 160 or 149; unless at designated crossings – see X on Map
- OHV / ATV must drive at or under the posted ATV speed limits
- OHV / ATV shall stop and yield right of way to all other users of Access Trails or Crossings
- After sundown, No Driving on Access Trails or at designated crossings
- No OHV / ATV on streets within RED shaded neighborhoods
- OHV / ATV are to proceed directly to their destination – no "joy riding or cruising"
- OHV / ATV must remain on designated trails or roads – no open lot or field riding
- All OHV / ATV utilize routes at their own risk
- All OHV / ATV are subject to Ordinances 15-03, 17-04, and State Statutes under CRS 33 code.

- Highway - no ATV access, except at crossings
- X ATV Highway Crossing
- ..... ATV Access Trail (yield to all non-ATV users)
- ATV Recommended Route (yield to all non-ATV users)
- X Proposed ATV Highway Crossing
- ..... Proposed ATV Access Trail
- ATVs Allowed. Proceed straight to destination. No Joy-riding.
- No ATVs Allowed

This map is for illustrative purposes only. Information shown is compiled from numerous sources and may not be complete or accurate. Users have the individual responsibility for his/her own safety. Please consult the South Fork Visitor Center, the Town of South Fork, or US Forest Service Divide Ranger District for accurate and up-to-date information and conditions. [www.southfork.org](http://www.southfork.org) • [www.colorado.gov/southforkcolorado](http://www.colorado.gov/southforkcolorado) • [www.fs.usda.gov](http://www.fs.usda.gov)

For more information and detailed maps contact the Rio Grande National Forest Service at 719-657-3321 or the South Fork Visitors Center at 719-873-5512.

## Rio Grande National Forest

### Rules for OHV, ATV, trail bike, and motorcycle use

- (1) Do not operate within campgrounds or developed recreation facilities except upon entering and leaving.
- (2) Do not operate on any State or County road without vehicle license, attached plates, and valid driver's license; except within Town of South Fork. See Town OHV/ATV Rules/Regulations.
- (3) No motorized vehicles of any kind in the wilderness area.
- (4) Do not cross private property to access public land.
- (5) OHV operating on public lands must have a Colorado OHV registration or a nonresident permit. Permits are available from CO State Parks.
- (6) All motorized vehicles must have an approved spark-arresting device; must be stamped on the muffler body "USDA Forest Service Approved."
- (7) All motorized vehicles are restricted to designated routes.
- (8) Motorized vehicles are not allowed off designated roads or trails while hunting. However, in certain areas, 50" or less ATV's are allowed to retrieve downed game. Please contact Forest Service Office for info.
- (9) Do not carry loaded firearms while operating OHVs. No shooting is allowed from an OHV.

As a motor vehicle operator on a National Forest System road, trail, or area you must comply with all Federal, State, and local laws and regulations. Full compliance is your responsibility. For complete information and all rules and regulations, please obtain a FREE 2018-2021 Motor Vehicle Use Map for the Rio Grande National Forest.



## Wolf Creek Ski Area

### *The Most Snow in Colorado*

- 18 miles from South Fork
- 1600 acres of terrain
- 9 chair lifts
- 79 skiable trails
- 1604 ft vertical drop
- 430+ inches snowfall

While the area is largely unknown outside of Colorado, it is beloved by powder hounds. Wolf Creek boasts epic snowfall, generally 430+ inches of the fluffy white stuff each year, more than any other ski resort in Colorado. Snow is so prolific here that the resort typically opens in October, giving it one of the longest seasons in the country.

You won't hear the din of snow-making machines fabricating a beaten path between rocks and dirt, but instead, listen for the distant whoops of avalanche-control bombs...

#### **This is powder country.**

Downhill skiers and snow boarders alike will love the family-oriented atmosphere and limited lift lines. With 1600 acres of terrain, beginners to advanced skiers and boarders will feel right at home. Seven chair lifts provide access to 77 trails, with 20% for beginners, 35% intermediate, 25% advanced, and 20% for experts.

Wolf Creek also offers individual and group ski lessons for all ability levels starting at the age of 5. The Wolf Pup Center is for smaller children, where access to the "magic carpet," Nova lift, and private kid-friendly lodge create the perfect haven for youngsters to learn a new sport. The Hot Shots program is specifically designed for adventurous children aged 9-12 who are looking to explore the mountain. Adult lessons and clinics are great for learning the sport or refining your technique.

There are several restaurants and bars at the mountain base for après ski, including Alberta Grill and the Pathfinder Bar, as well as equipment and apparel shops. Check out the three ski rental shops in South Fork for deals and equipment rental discounts.

For more info and a snow report, visit  
[www.wolfcreekski.com](http://www.wolfcreekski.com)



Photo by Ryan Scavo

Wolf Creek Ski Area - Alberta Peak in the Distance - by Ryan Scavo

# Winter

## WELCOME TO POWDER COUNTRY





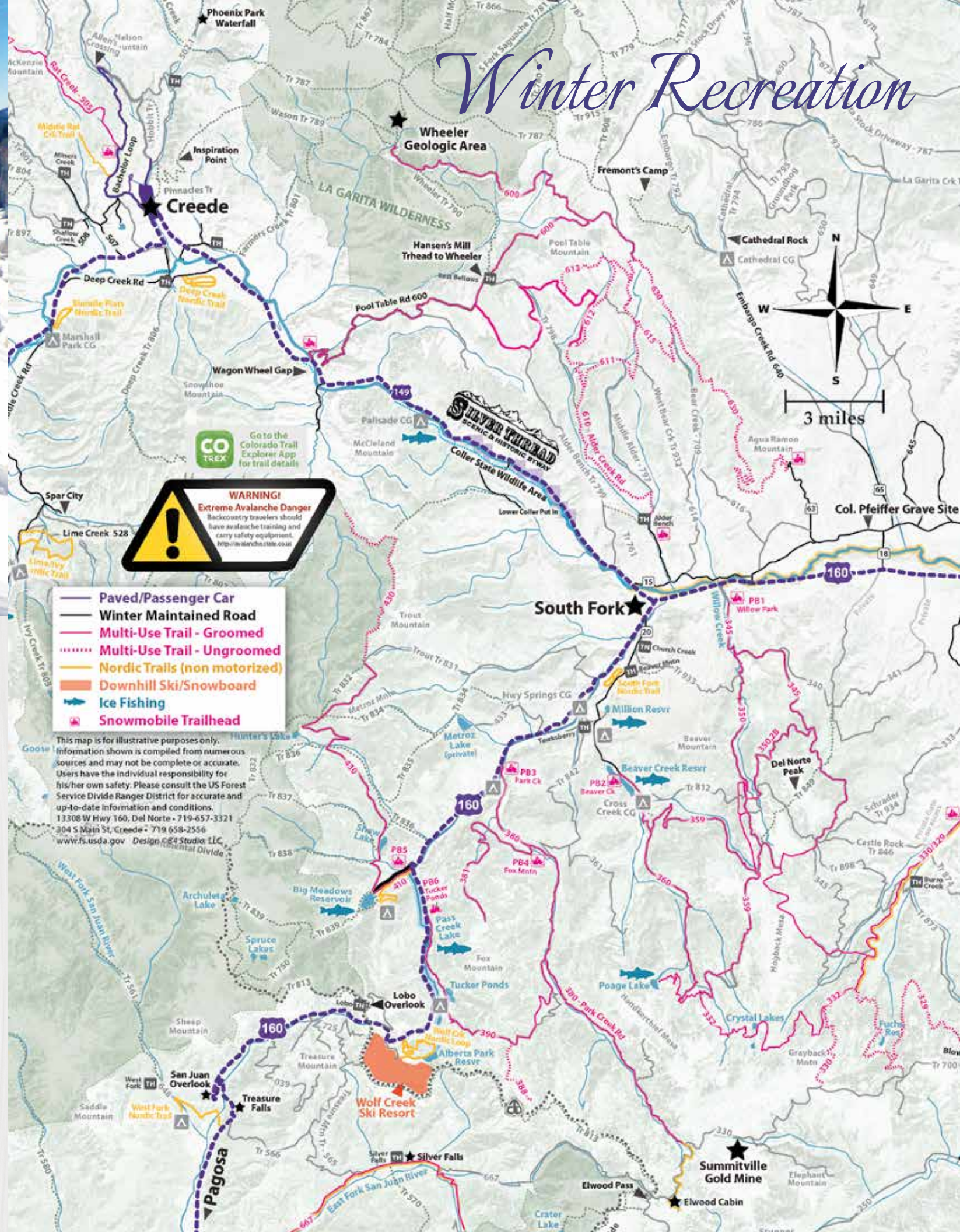
Wolf Creek Ski Area • Photo by Robert Tadlock via Flickr, CC BY 2.0

## 6 Reasons to Plan a Trip To Powder Country

- 1 Powder Country** Wolf Creek Ski Area boasts the most snow in Colorado year after year with an average of 430+ inches.
- 2 Skip the Crowds** Discover little traffic, short lift lines (seriously...maybe 10 people), and untouched powder everywhere.
- 3 Super Affordable** South Fork and Wolf Creek Ski area are so affordable you can stretch a two-day vacation budget for other areas into four days here!
- 4 Remote Yet Accessible** Stop Looking For the Remote. You've found it. Luckily, it's only a four hour drive from Denver... without routing you down the traffic-jammed I-70.
- 5 Endless Possibilities** Tired of skiing or just seeking a different powder adventure? Try exploring the back-country on cross country skis or snowshoes or find a lake for ice fishing. If a great time involves fast machines roaring through heaps of snow, check out our 255 miles of groomed snowmobile trails with innumerable off-trail opportunities on wide-open ridges, rolling parks and steep climbs. Access to Colorado's most scenic wintertime vistas at 12,000+ feet will take your breath away! Affordable rentals won't.
- 6 Did we mention the Powder?** Nothing compares to a winter forest buried in waist-deep powder: dampened silence, crystal clear air and breath-taking vistas shrouded in sun-sparkling snow.



Playing in the Snow • Photo by B4 Studio





## 255+ Miles of Winter Rec Trails

Cabin fever? Winter blues? Get out and enjoy a sleigh ride with the Wolf Creek Mountain Folks, ice skating at the public rink by the Community Building, a moonlight snowshoe hike with the Silverthreaders, or spend the day knee-deep in powder at Wolf Creek. Snow is abundant in the San Juan Mountains, and a variety of winter recreation is just a snowball's throw from any of South Fork's lodging options.

### Snowmobiling

If your idea of a great time involves fast machines roaring through heaps of snow, check out our 255 miles of groomed trails with innumerable off-trail opportunities on wide-open ridges, rolling parks and steep climbs. Access to some of Colorado's most scenic wintertime vistas (at 12,000+ feet) will take your breath away!

### Nordic Skiing & Snowshoeing

Because of the area's plentiful snow and wide variety of terrain, those who prefer less-developed places to ski have a bounty of options. Local outdoor clubs groom trails perfect for snowshoers and will link skiers to the freshest back-country available. Both adventurous and inexperienced snow bunnies will find something to their liking.

Visit [southfork.org](http://southfork.org) for a complete trail guide



Photo by MarleneePhotography; courtesy MountainSkillz.com



Photo courtesy MountainSkillz.com and Matt Entz



Snowshoeing • Photo by Bob Seago



**RESTAURANT / BARISTA BAR**  
Specialty Coffee Served Authentic Italian Style  
All-Natural Smoothies and Pastries  
Full Breakfast & Lunch menus • Free WIFI  
Online Ordering • Outdoor seating  
Loft lounge area • 719-657-1134

**GIFT SHOP**  
Unique and beautiful gift items for all occasions • South Fork and Colorado souvenirs • 719-657-1023

**TINY HOME & CABIN LODGING**  
719-57-1023

**SPA** coming summer 2022

[www.tinytimbersresort.com](http://www.tinytimbersresort.com)  
28422 Hwy. 160, South Fork, CO

Open to the public 7 days a week



**TINY TIMBERS**  
*A Tiny Home Resort*

Cabin Rentals  
Coffee Bistro  
Breakfast & Lunch



### Ice Fishing

Several of the most popular summer spots for fishing make for great ice fishing, too. Beaver Creek Reservoir, Big Meadows Reservoir and Road Canyon Reservoir west of Creede are a few that freeze over sufficiently for safe access.

### Sledding

Popular spots include a small hill in town at Rickel Park and a much larger hill at Beaver Creek Reservoir. Or you can choose your own location from the surrounding 2 million acres of national forest.

### Skating & Hockey

Free skating rink at Rickel Park. Pick up skates right next to the rink and is usually open mid-December through mid-February. Pick-up hockey games are organized by locals, and nearby Creede hosts a fun pond-hockey tournament every January.

### Local Outdoor Clubs

The Silverthreaders and Powderbusters are diverse groups of locals, part-timers, and visitors that enjoy ATV riding, camping, hiking, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, fishing, hunting, skiing and motorcycling. They organize weekly snowmobile and snowshoeing outings in the winter months.

Consult local sources concerning directions and trail conditions before going out. Never enter the backcountry alone and always leave detailed information with someone. More info at <http://silverthreaders.org> - A FREE recreation map is available at the South Fork Visitor Center or online at [www.southfork.org](http://www.southfork.org)



Sledding on Wolf Creek Pass • by Robert Tadlock via Flickr, CC 2.0



Fat Biking • by Ryan Scavo



# !LOGGER DAYS

## Annual Event in South Fork

July 15-17, 2022

### FESTIVAL

You are surrounded by more than 2 million acres of forest. This mountain land has produced lumber since the 1870s, when the first loggers arrived — and the trees are still growing — a slow dance of green growth. The Annual Logger Days continues a festive tradition of making work skills fun! Loggers and their friends compete in contests to gage their skills as lumberjacks:

- Men, boys, and girls throw spinning hatchets at targets
- Axes and saws drop tall poles to exact spots on the ground
- Cheer along as noisy chain saws cut logs into precise pieces
- Hold your breath as climbers scurry up a 60 foot pole

**Who Participates in Events?** Experts at logging, milling, and forestry and Amateurs who want to experience the thrill!

### Definitions:

**LOGGERS:** Woodsman who use saws and axes to cut down trees, cut and trim them into logs, then move them to the roadside or the sawmill. They must be experts with horses (real or mechanical), saws, axes, poles, ropes, and especially good sense.

**MILLERS:** Machinery experts who shape logs into finished boards, posts, poles, flooring, railroad ties, and dozens of other products. Around a dozen portable mills were scattered throughout the forest, as well as the center of South Fork from the 1870s until 2001. In the 1950-60s, the South Fork mill was the biggest in the state of Colorado. Five small mills still hum in the San Luis Valley.

**FORESTERS:** Scientists who plan balanced use of federal, state, and private forests for long-term production of wood, water, wildlife, recreation, grazing, and wilderness. They work all over this area.

### Raw Materials

Logger Days celebrates the Tree and Wood production processes. For the past 140 years, the most valuable trees have been:

- Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*). These trees have dense, strong wood suitable for railroad ties, bridges, and framing.
- Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*) and Blue spruce (*P. pungens*). These trees have lighter wood, good for paneling, ceilings, decorations, shelving, etc.
- Firs - white and sub-alpine (*Abies* spp.) and Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*). These softer woods recently became "commercial" lumber and are used for matches, excelsior, and ceiling/wall panels.

### Life in the Woods

Loggers were tough and alert while doing dangerous work in beautiful country. Some of the loggers and millers in this area were Ute Indians, the original inhabitants. Hispanics, whose ancestors came into the San Luis Valley in the 1850s, were among the most skilled sawmillers and loggers. In the past 50 years, loggers and skidders from Arkansas and Alabama left home to work in these San Juan Mountains.

Some were skilled horse loggers in the 1940s to the 1960s, along with local experts such as John Graeser. Well-trained horses pulled downed logs for several hundred yards to roadsides, where trucks could be easily loaded. In rough terrain, the horse was often quicker than a mechanical tractor-like skidder.

Back in the 1870-1950 period, loggers often spent summer weeks alone or with one or two others in the forest. They built small cabins with simple kitchens, a couple of beds and some were nice enough to even have a front porch. There are still remains of these cabins back in the forest, most of them small ruins that are sinking into the ground. (South Fork's hiking group comes across several of them every summer.)

Food was sometimes quite simple in the forest. A welcome logging partner was one who could catch and cook a porcupine and make it taste like a banquet. Loggers went into South Fork on weekends to see the wife and kids, get fresh clothes and food supplies, go to church (yes, they did!), and maybe have a picnic with their neighbors. By the mid 1950s, they started to commute in cars or pickups, going into town nearly every evening.

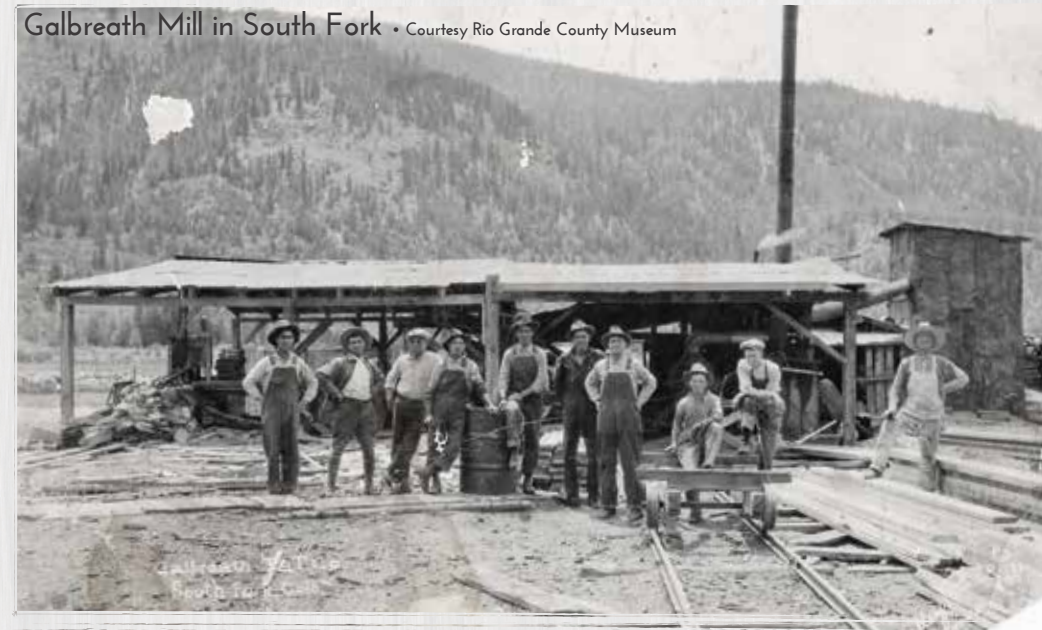


Photo courtesy South Fork Visitor Center



Photo courtesy South Fork Visitor Center

Galbreath Mill in South Fork • Courtesy Rio Grande County Museum



All photos this page courtesy South Fork Visitor Center



Photo courtesy South Fork Visitor Center

The logging season lasted as long as the snow and muddy roads would allow, usually 5-7 months. In the winter, men came back to town to settle in until next season, or to work in the sawmill. Some young, single loggers followed the good weather south to get in extra months of work in New Mexico, eastern Texas and Arkansas.

### Where did the Wood Products Go?

Del Norte was founded in 1871. Naturally, wood was the key building material for the first houses and stores. Soon, a few stone buildings used the nearby quarry rock.

Trains reached up to South Fork in 1882. The railroad gradually continued up to Creede. As silver mining grew rapidly, loggers worked hard to harvest Douglas Fir and Pine for strong railroad cross-ties, many thousands of mine props, and related structural timbers. A good supply of these came from both sides of the tracks, several hundred yards up the hills, all along the train route from South Fork to Creede.

Of course, as South Fork grew, sawmills turned out the lumber and roof materials for new houses, barns and businesses. The Galbreath Mill had a big fire in May of 1920. When






John Hansen Saw Mill in South Fork • Courtesy Rio Grande County Museum

renovating, local lumber went into the new sawmill and planer mill. So did a new store, log cabins (for rent), expanded hotel, community building, and even a museum of the lumber industry. By 1940 Galbreath again modernized his mill and planer, employing 50 people. That year, he produced \$40,000 worth of rough and finished lumber. A decade later, the mill employed about 100 people.


Mills in the area experienced several fires. These often started in sawdust or shavings piles. A fire in 1967, at what was then

the Douglas Studs Mill, burned 10 million board feet of lumber — doing \$2 million worth of damage! This contributed to the already declining timber business. The once proud “biggest mill in the state” was now just producing low-profit 2 x 4 studs. The main source of raw material was no longer coming from the local National Forest.

Long-haul costs from New Mexico and other sources caused the company to gradually shut down. By 2001, the closure was complete. South Fork’s sawmill days were over, memorialized only in a grassy property across the tracks from the town’s railroad siding in front of the Spruce Lodge. The lodge’s guests now help support the local economy of Colorado’s youngest incorporated town.



## South Fork Lumber Company



7:30am to 5pm, Monday - Friday  
8am to 12pm Saturday  
29160 West Hwy 160 • South Fork  
719-873-5481



# SOUTH FORK EQUIPMENT RENTALS

Quality rental equipment...to go.



719-289-1409

[southforkequipmentrentals.com](http://southforkequipmentrentals.com)



# History of the Area

1868

1874

1881

1882

1883

1891

1892

1916

1935

1992

2002

Today



The Utes

**THE UTES:** Prior to 1868, the Capote (Kapota) band of Ute Indians lived throughout the region of the southwest that includes the San Luis Valley. A hunting and gathering people, they called themselves "Nuche" or "Nuustiye," meaning "the people" or "the mountain people." They were called "Yutas" by Spanish explorers, then "Utes" as the United States expanded. In the summer, the "Nuutsiys" lived in extended nomadic family groups, and often wintered in New Mexico or Northern Arizona. The Utes made a treaty of peace with the United States in 1849. Shortly thereafter, settlers from New Mexico established several settlements in Colorado. In 1868, the Utes were removed to a reservation in western Colorado, until they lost their expansive reservation as a result of the Meeker massacre in 1879.

**THE TOWN OF SOUTH FORK:** Prior to the arrival of the railroad in 1882, South Fork was primarily known as a stage stop where passengers could stretch before continuing on to northern destinations. The railroad brought cheap and reliable transportation, allowing residents to profit from the area's abundant resources. Saw mills sprung up to supply local timber to the ever-growing railways and surrounding mining districts. Cattle and sheep were introduced during these early years. In the 1870s, vegetable production, mainly cauliflower, lettuce, potatoes and peas, were the main agricultural resources grown between South Fork and Del Norte. In the latter part of the 20th Century to present day, the tourism industry proved most important to South Fork's continued economic development. One of Colorado's newest towns (incorporated in 1992), South Fork remains a regional hub for agriculture, timber, breathtaking scenery, boundless wildlife and family-oriented adventure!

**MASONIC PARK:** This was the first Masonic Park in the United States. The land was homesteaded in 1892, and consisted of 160 acres. In 1914, the San Luis Valley Masonic Association purchased the property to be used as an annual meeting place. After a bridge was built over the Rio Grande and a water system was installed, the park was platted and lots were available for sale to approximately 800 members.



**BARLOW AND SANDERSON STAGE COMPANY:** In 1874, the Barlow and Sanderson Stage Company's line reached from Missouri to Del Norte but needed to continue west. Alonzo Hubbard was hired to build roads from Del Norte to Antelope Springs, and on to Lake City. Not only was it a passenger route for the company, it provided freight to the quickly developing mining areas. A few toll roads built by a young Russian, Otto Mears, also became part of this route. From Del Norte going west, the first stage stop was at the Edwin Shaw Ranch, famous for their hay and hospitality. Located at the present day Rest Area on Highway 160, the little cabin overlooking the Highway is part of the original ranch. The way station for changing horses was at Bunker Hill, a mile down the road. In 1883, the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad had achieved building rail lines from Del Norte to Wagon Wheel Gap and on to Lake City, making the Stage Route obsolete. Parts of the Barlow / Sanderson road can still be seen along the Silver Thread Scenic Byway.



Holy Family Mission

**HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC MISSION:** By the 1870's farmers and ranchers were well established in South Fork, having filed claims for their land under the 1862 Homestead Act. One of these pioneers, Jose Campos, would have descendants who were still farming his land in the 1930's. For many years, the Campos family invited the mission priest to celebrate Mass services in their home amidst the wheat fields, until they donated the property for a church to be built. The Church was built in the early 1940's where Mass services still continue today.

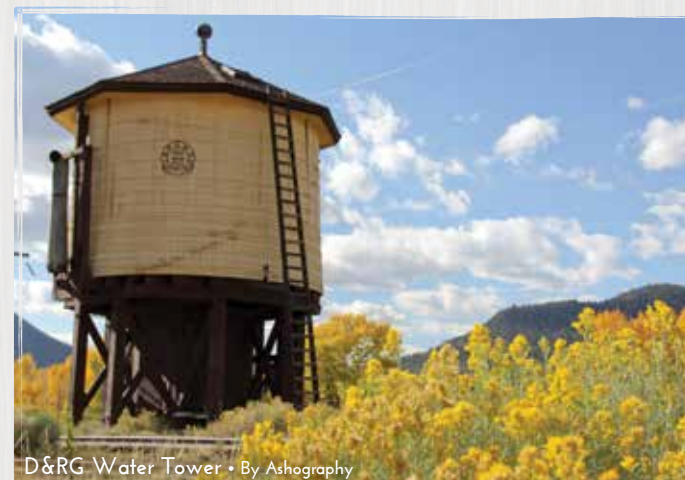


Holy Family Mission

All photos courtesy of the The Rio Grande County Museum & Cultural Center, located in Del Norte, CO. [www.riograndecounty.org](http://www.riograndecounty.org)



D&RG Train Depot, 1883



D&RG Water Tower • By Ashography



D&RG Train in Creede

**WOLF CREEK SKI AREA:** By 1930, a movement in the State of Colorado was made to promote skiing. In 1935, Wolf Creek Ski Area had begun. It originated from a San Luis Valley group of men and women who loved to ski. Invitations were sent to various Chambers of Commerce to discuss possible locations. An area near Creede was considered; however, skiers from Monte Vista found a spot on Wolf Creek Pass that offered ski slopes for all levels of skiers. The original area was on the north side of Highway 160. In 1955, the ski area was relocated across the highway to the present location, adding the installation of a rope tow. Shortly thereafter, the Wolf Creek Ski Development Corporation was formed. In 1960, the Corporation sold the area to a Dallas firm who ran it for two years, after which it came back under the control of the Wolf Creek Ski Development Corporation.

## DENVER & RIO GRANDE RAILROAD

**General Palmer:** General William Jackson Palmer was a visionary who possessed unbounded enthusiasm for building railroads across the west. His tremendous energy brought the Denver & Rio Grande narrow-gauge line from Denver to Pueblo, and hundreds of miles of track across the San Luis Valley. These narrow gauge tracks (thinner by 1-2 feet) allowed rail cars to navigate the steep grades and sharp curves throughout the San Juans. Palmer's D&RG routes ensured shipment of San Juan Territory resources throughout the western United States. Palmer became one of the richest railroad barons in America. 1883, Palmer's rails stretched to Wagon Wheel Gap, home to his newly opened Hotel & Hot Springs Resort, which today is the 4UR Guest Ranch. Due to a crippling horse accident in August of 1907, Palmer himself did not get to visit the resort much. His vacation home still stands, and serves as the Ranch's recreation hall.

**D&RG Water Tower:** In 1881, South Fork's Denver & Rio Grande Railroad water tower signaled the arrival of the railroad to South Fork, and an end to the famous Barlow & Sanderson Stage Line. A wellspring from nearby Harper Mountain, located east of the present day structure, fed water to thirsty steam engines. The spring replenished the large tower, and a tin water spout was lowered to fill steam engines before the journey west to Wagon Wheel Gap or the Creede Mining District. The D&RG Water Tower was refurbished in 2002 with a Colorado Historical Society preservation grant.

**D&RG Rail Line:** By 1883, the Denver & Rio Grande Rail Line reached Wagon Wheel Gap, bringing tourists to a mineral hot springs resort owned by the Railroad's founder. In 1891, it was extended to the mining towns north of South Fork to transport precious minerals and metals out of Willow Creek Canyon. Stringtown, Jimtown and Amethyst were thriving mining camps. Jimtown was eventually renamed Creede after Nicholas C. Creede struck silver and opened the Holy Moses mine. The D&RG Railroad shipped millions of dollars in high quality ore and minerals from these mines. The town of Creede was officially incorporated on June 13, 1892. It was the second town (Telluride, Colorado, being the first) to have electric lights along streets and in homes. This new phenomenon caused Cy Warman to pen this verse in his infamous poem about Creede: "Its day all day in the day-time And there is no night in Creede."

**WOLF CREEK PASS:** In 1916 the automobile boom developed a need for a direct route across southern Colorado. The chosen route, known as the Spanish Trail/Grand Canyon Highway, followed along Wolf Creek. The route was funded by the Del Norte Commercial Club, the towns of Del Norte and Pagosa Springs, Rio Grande and Archuleta Counties, the State of Colorado, the US Forest Service and the US Government. The purpose was to benefit tourism in one of the most picturesque areas of Colorado. Monte Vista businessmen also worked with a federal grant to help improve the roads from Walsenburg to Durango. In August of 1916, the South Fork and Wolf Creek Pass was officially opened with a state-wide celebration.



Opening of Wolf Creek Pass

Where legends whisper to those who listen...



# Museums in the Area

## Rio Grande County Museum & Cultural Center

Del Norte, Colorado. Exploring the history and culture of Rio Grande County and the Upper portion of the San Luis Valley can be experienced at the Rio Grande County Museum and Cultural Center. There are learning experiences for all ages. Native Americans and photos of "Rock Art", fur trappers, Fremont's Fourth Expedition, the settlers from New Mexico with the Mexican Land Grants and farmers, ranchers, loggers, merchants and the gold seekers who settled the area are all represented in exhibits and research.

The Museum Gift Shop offers a variety of books of local interest and some by local authors as well as showing art work of local artists. During the summer months, art shows by local artists are featured.

Summer Hours: 10am - 4pm Tues-Fri, 10am - 3pm Saturday  
Admission \$2. Free for Military  
[www.museumtrail.org/rio-grande-county-museum](http://www.museumtrail.org/rio-grande-county-museum)  
[rgmuseum@riograndecounty.org](mailto:rgmuseum@riograndecounty.org) • 719-657-2847



## Creede Underground Mining Museum

One of Creede's most popular attractions, the Underground Mining Museum, comprises a series of rooms and tunnels blasted into the cliff face of Willow Creek Canyon at the north edge of town. Visitors receive a first-hand taste of the miner's subterranean experience through a series of demonstrations and exhibits in shafts bored specifically for that purpose. Exploring both early silver mining techniques and more recent technology, the Underground Mining Museum provides a fascinating insight into a very important part of western Americana. An exhibit hall with minerals and artifact displays provides a colorful prelude to tours guided by experienced hard rock miners. Self-guided audio tours are available anytime, and guided tours are available by appointment in summer.

Summer Hours (mid-May to mid-Sept.) • 9am - 5pm Daily  
Winter Hours • 10am - 3pm Tues-Saturday  
[www.undergroundminingmuseum.com](http://www.undergroundminingmuseum.com) • 719-658-0811



Photo by B4 Studio

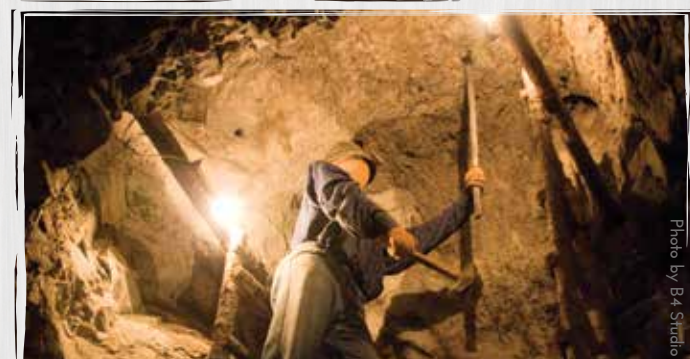


Photo by B4 Studio



Photos courtesy of the Rio Grande County Museum



## Creede Historical Museum & Library

Housed in the Old Denver & Rio Grande Railroad Depot in downtown Creede next to Basham Park, the museum reflects the efforts of an active and dedicated local historical society. Creede's first hand-drawn fire wagon, early pioneer utensils, a horse-drawn hearse, gambling equipment and devices, a large photo collection, early newspapers, and troves of memorabilia and other artifacts comprise the Creede Historical Society's collections. The museum and library archives provide casual visitors, historians, and genealogical researchers with opportunities to examine the daily lives of the homesteaders, prospectors, miners, entrepreneurs, lawmen and notorious characters who helped shape Creede/Mineral County's colorful history.

The Creede Historical Library is located in a small cabin next to the museum. The Library provides research information, books and photos of Creede, Mineral County and Western Colorado. The Library's photo collection contains thousands of photos. To help archive and maintain the photo collection, copies of individual photos are sold for personal or publication use.

Museum Hours: 10am - 4pm Mon-Sat • 1pm - 4pm Sunday  
Open Memorial Day to Labor Day  
Library Hours: Open Year-Round • Thurs, 1-4pm or by appt.  
[www.creedehistoricalsociety.com](http://www.creedehistoricalsociety.com) • 719-658-2004



Above: Two of the largest producing mines on West Willow Creek in 1895. The Amethyst mill is shown on the lower left and the Last Chance mill is shown on the upper right. Note children in the lower right. The cabins, where some miners and their families lived, were part of what was called Stumptown, so named because of the many stumps left from cutting down trees to use in buildings and mines. Al Birdsey Collection, Creede Historical Society Archives, Catalogue #1885-MW-1c4



**Home - Garden - Gifts - Floral**  
**(719) 873-1639**  
Open Year-Round  
W Hwy 160, South Fork (Next to the Malt Shoppe)







# Calendar OF EVENTS



Kid's Fishing Clinic at Tucker Ponds • by Ashography

## Our Annual Lineup *Lifestyle, Culture & Events*

As spectacular as the recreational opportunities in South Fork are, another highlight of traveling here is getting to know more about the area's history, arts, and culture. You might be surprised at the breadth and depth of the creative and cultural activity going on, greatly inspired by our natural beauty and laid-back lifestyle.

### Regular Summer Events

**Bingo:** May–September, Thurs 7pm Community Bldg  
**Bridge:** Tuesdays at 1–4pm  
**Silverthreads:** Weekly Hikes, ATV & Snowmobile rides  
**Pickleball:** Weekly at the Community Center courts

### Silverthreads Outdoor Rec Club

The Silverthreads are a diverse group of locals, part-timers, and visitors that enjoy ATV riding, camping, hiking, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, fishing, hunting, skiing, and motorcycling. Their many organized activities aim to preserve the multi-use of our magnificent outdoors and impart responsible recreation use. The group organizes weekly outings for hiking, ATV/4x4 rides, and more. All are welcome. [www.silverthreads.org](http://www.silverthreads.org)

### Creede Repertory Theatre

The CRT is the oldest professional theatre company in Colorado. CRT's award-winning company produces 7-10 of the best contemporary and classic theatre from the end of May-September each year. In addition to musical events, concerts, exhibits by regional artists in its two lobby galleries, CRT offers exciting educational programming. [www.creederep.org](http://www.creederep.org) • 719-658-2540



Independence Day Parade • by Ashography

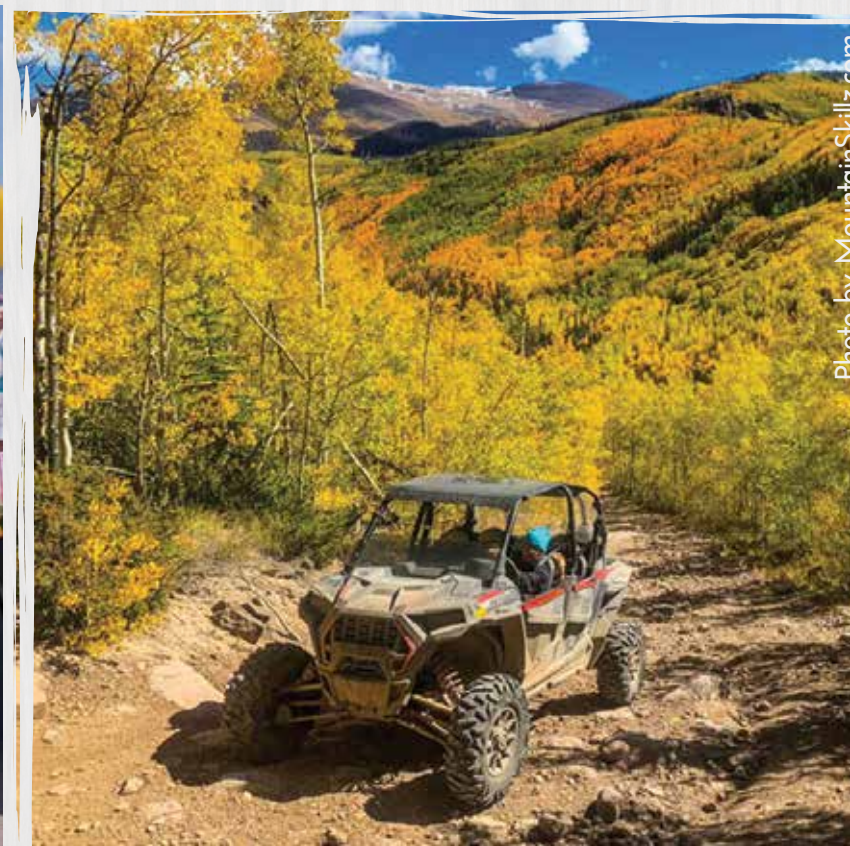


Photo by MountainSkillz.com



South Fork Easter Egg Hunt • by Ashography



Pickleball Courts • Photo by John McEvoy





3rd of July Parade • by John McEvoy



3rd of July Parade • by John McEvoy



Photo by Texas Mustang via Flickr, CC BY 2.0

# SOUTH FORK RODEO

**BURRIS AND SONS BUCKING BULLS**

**ROCKIN' THE RIO GRANDE**

**RICKEL'S ARENA**  
170 Wharton, South Fork, CO

**SATURDAY JULY 2 • SUNDAY JULY 3 • SATURDAY JULY 16**  
Performance @ 6:30PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE at the gate, the South Fork Visitors Center or [www.burrisandsonsbuckingbulls.com](http://www.burrisandsonsbuckingbulls.com)

## Calendar of Events

### April Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday before Easter - Join in on the Easter festivities with over 1,000 eggs to be discovered and an appearance by the Easter bunny! (Rumor has it the Easter bunny arrives on a fire truck!) Games and refreshments provided for all our weary egg hunters. Free admission, open to the public.

### June SF Clean Up / Yard Sale Days

Second Friday/Saturday/Sunday in June - Clean out your closets, empty your garage, clear out your old inventory and get ready for a community-wide garage sale!

### June Kid's Fishing Clinic

Saturday, June 18, 2022 - Celebrate Father's Day Weekend in the South Fork sun. Grab your poles and rods and go fishing at Tucker Ponds. The Division of Wildlife will be on-hand to give lessons and instructions to little anglers. Each child under the age of 16 receives a free rod and reel combo set with registration. Enjoy the hot dog lunch afterwards in the great outdoors. Tucker Ponds, Rio Grande National Forest. Free admission, open to the public.

### June Salmonfly Hatch Days

Third Week in June - Celebrate the hatch with fly fishing along our Gold Medal Waters. Come by the Visitor Center for a free map. Visit [www.fishtheupperrio.org](http://www.fishtheupperrio.org) for more information.

### June July Rodeos at Rickel Arena

You can't visit the area without 'playing cowboy' for a day! Join in on the action during one of the South Fork Rodeos put on by Burris and Sons at Rickel Arena. Bull riding, roping, mutton busting, barrel racing, steer riding, calf scramble and a sheep race are a few of the events.

### July Independence Day Celebration

July 3rd - Start off the day with the annual Parade and then head over to the South Fork Fire Department Fish Fry and Ice Cream Social to fill your belly with goodies! Be sure to find time to check out the wonderful shops in South Fork between events, and then it's time to eat again at one of our locally owned restaurants. Finally, don't miss the South Fork Rodeo that evening at Rickel Arena. Bull riding, team roping, barrel racing and much more are followed by a fireworks show!

### July Logger Days Festival & Car Show

July 15-17, 2022 - South Fork celebrates the area's culture and history during the Logger Days Festival. Events and competitions taking place throughout the weekend celebrate the time-honored tradition of logging, an initial economic draw for the area. Crowd-favorite competitions include chainsaw carving, the ax throw, the two-man cross cut, and a relay-type race with team members pulled from the audience. A car show will add to the weekend fun!

This annual festival also features music, food, arts & crafts, on-site wood carving, children's activities, raffles and more! Over 70 vendor booths are set up. Free Admission, open to the public. **See pages 38-40 for details and a full history of the event!**

### August Mushroom Foray

Early August - For mushroom enthusiasts and wanna-be mushroom enthusiasts. Get quick tips regarding the proper way to identify and collect mushrooms from an expert and then head out for a nearby hike to look for and collect mushroom species. Once all of the mushrooms have been collected, the participants return to the Visitor Center for identification and discussion of what was discovered.

### August Silver Thread Studio Tour

Mid August - A self-guided "behind the scenes" tour of studios, art demonstrations, and galleries along the Silver Thread Scenic Byway. Sponsored by the Creede Arts Council - [creedeartscouncil.com](http://creedeartscouncil.com)



Logger Days • Photo courtesy South Fork Visitor Center

## CREEDE ARTS COUNCIL

For updated info visit [creedeartscouncil.com](http://creedeartscouncil.com)

**Music in the Park** Basham Park  
Local bands featured during the summer

**National Small Print Show**  
Late Spring – Summer 2022

**Mountain Shoot Out Photography Show**  
Summer Months; Creede Visitor Center

**Silver Thread Studio Tour**  
South Fork & Creede, August 2022

**Steamroller Printmaking**  
Creede's Main Street, TBA 2022



# Calendar of Events

continued

## September 12 Hours of Penitence Mountain Bike Race

Fall 2022 - The '12 Hours of Penitence' endurance mountain bike race takes place in mid-October at Penitente Canyon, located just 28 miles from downtown South Fork. The location is cool and unusual, off the beaten path, family-friendly, and provides great trails. The surrounding towns and natural wonders are equally unique. See page 24 for more about this area. The racecourse provides each mountain bike racer with a 12-15 mile race lap. Racers and teams complete continuous laps throughout the day. The racecourse is planned to begin and end at the main Penitente Canyon trail head area, where spectators, vendors, volunteers, pit crews, and others will congregate. Don't miss this exciting new event during a beautiful time of year in the San Luis Valley! 12hoursofpenitence.com

## October Colorfest in South Fork

Late September/Early October - What a glorious time of year to be in the mountains and watch the leaves change from yellow to orange and red! Join us for a peaceful hike by the lakes and through the forests. Looking for more? Check out the events highlighting this beautiful time of year while enjoying the uncongested roads and trails. Contact the Visitor Center to find out more about the ATV Poker Run through the liquid gold of falling aspen leaves. And be sure to check in to the Visitor Center to sign up for the Colorfest Fishing Tournament. Who knows you might just be the winner!



by B4 Studio

## October Chili Cook-Off

October 13, 2022- Hunters, residents & visitors are invited to come from 5-8:00 pm to sample the delicious recipes, as well as judge and cast a ballot for "The Best Chili and Salsa in South Fork." There are always great desserts and drinks that can be purchased to go with your chili. Hunters are invited to this event as Division of Wildlife and Forest Service personnel will be on hand to answer last minute questions before the season opens the following morning.

## November Kiwanis Thanksgiving Dinner

Thanksgiving Day - Get served a hearty Thanksgiving meal compliments of the South Fork Kiwanis organization and enjoy turkey, mashed potatoes and pie. Proceeds go towards the four local food banks. Free Admission, open to the public.

## Nov/Dec Winterfest in South Fork

Late Fall/Early Winter - As the year winds down, the South Fork businesses and the Town of South Fork come together and put on a party. There are arts and crafts vendors for last minute shopping, sleigh rides pulled by large draft horses, bonfires, hot cocoa and roasted marshmallows, Santa and his elves visiting with the kids while they make Christmas decorations, great food, bake sale items and music. Come share the Cheer in South Fork!

## Dec New Year's Eve Dinner & Dance

Rio Grande Club - Come dance in the New Year. Family-Friendly celebration with live DJ. Dinner by reservation only. Contact Rio Grande Club and Resort at (719) 873-1995.



Colorado's Newest Riverside RV Park

SOUTH FORK, COLORADO  
719-657-1129 Peacock-Meadows.com

Family, Pet and Big Rig Friendly

**Creede OLIVE OIL COMPANY**

719-658-2443

www.creedeoliveoil.com  
Shop online! We Ship Daily!

104 N. Main Street  
Creede, CO 81130

*A small mining town with BIG flavor!!*

**OPEN YEAR ROUND**

**TASTING GALLERY**  
*Extra Virgin Olive Oils from Around the World  
12 & 18-Year Aged Balsamics from Modena, Italy*

**GOURMET GROCERIES**  
**KITCHEN ITEMS & GIFTS**  
*LOCAL! GOSAR SAUSAGES & SUNFLOUR PIES*

**OLIVE OIL SKIN CARE**  
**GIFT SETS & BASKETS!!**

**20% OFF** one bottle of Oil or Balsamic  
Coupon must be presented with purchase.  
Limit 1 per household. Bottle size of your choice.

RAINBOWLODGE&SOUTHFORK.COM

CABINS  
LODGE ROOMS  
RV SPACES

(719) 873-5571  
30359 HWY 160,  
SOUTH FORK

**ATV/UTV RENTALS**  
Must be over the age of 25 to rent  
Open May - Oct • (970) 443-5160  
Same Day Bookings • Located at Rainbow Lodge  
Daily Rates starting at \$175 • Weekly Rates Available

**EXPLORE THE SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS OF COLORADO IN A JEEP WRANGLER!**

**FIND YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE**  
**(719) 873-0275**  
**ElkCountryJeepRentals.com**

Creede  
Pagosa Springs  
South Fork  
Del Norte



# Weddings & Events

Whether you are planning an intimate gathering or a grand affair, we offer incredible outdoor mountain venues with spectacular scenery, quaint inns, a regal golf course and intimate churches—where we are certain you will find the perfect location to tie the knot. Many of our lodging options offer group rates.

Check our lodging guide and business directory, or find extensive info online: [www.southfork.org](http://www.southfork.org)



Wedding at Lobo Peak by Robyn Wolfe

**Ooh La Spa AND BOUTIQUE**

Manicures & Pedicures  
Acrylics • Gel Manicures  
Hair Salon • Spray Tanning  
Full Body Waxing • Massage  
Facials • Mineral Makeup  
Super Frecator Treatments  
(removes minor skin irregularities)  
Full Retail Boutique

**CBD Products**  
Largest selection of Federally legal,  
Hemp derived products in the SLV:  
CBD, CBN, CBG & SO MUCH MORE...

OPEN ALL YEAR • GIFT CERTIFICATES  
[oohlaspacreede.com](http://oohlaspacreede.com) • Main St, Creede • 719-658-3070

**Arbor House Inn**

BED & BREAKFAST ON THE RIVER

**Romantic Riverside Lodging**  
South Fork, Colorado  
5 rooms + 2 bedroom cottage  
400+ feet of river access

**Luxury Elopement Packages**  
(less than 8 people)

- officiant
- bouquet
- champagne toast
- 2 nights / honeymoon suite
- private gourmet breakfast
- professional photography

e) [info@arborhouseinnco.com](mailto:info@arborhouseinnco.com)  
p) (719) 873-5012  
w) [arborhouseinnco.com](http://arborhouseinnco.com)

**ASHOGRAPHY**

**Photography by Ashlee Bratton**  
SERVING THE MOUNTAINS & BEYOND •  
SOUTH FORK • CREEDE •  
PAGOSA SPRINGS • LAKE CITY  
[ASHOGRAPHY.COM](http://ASHOGRAPHY.COM)

# Events Galleries Museums Dining Scenic Drives

# Creede

Visit [Creede.com](http://Creede.com) for Area Info and Upcoming Events.  
Swing by the Visitors Center at 904 S. Main and say Howdy!

Photo Credit: Ed Knight



# Disconnect from the outside world and *reconnect* with your **KIDS**

## Fun Things to Do with the Youngsters

**Sled down a Mountain • Ice Skate at Town Park**

**Raft the Rio Grande • Join the Kids Fishing Clinic**

**Play Lumberjack or Cowboy • Ride an ATV**

**Take Bikes Out on the Trail • Picnic at Big Meadows**

**Become a Wolf Creek Wolf Pup • Scope out wildlife**

**Go Horseback Riding** - Imagine you are a child from the Ute Tribe; you have just traded the Spaniards for your first horse and now venture out to explore the area's backcountry. Many of the hunting and traveling trails used by the natives are still used today, and for the most part offer the same view from the saddle you would have seen hundreds of years ago! Local guest ranches offer a full or half day guided trip.

**Hike a Trail, any Trail** - We suggest the 1/2 mile hike from Million Reservoir, a hike around Big Meadows Reservoir (2 miles), or a hike to the Largest Fir Tree in the Rio Grande Forest (1/3 mile). See pages 4-6 for more information about these hikes!

**Sit around a Campfire at Tucker Ponds** - Roast a marshmallow, tell a ghost story, or marvel at the vast expanse of stars overhead.

**Ice Skate in Town** - Pick up a pair of skates at the visitor Center and skate all day long at the Visitor Center for a small donation! Rink is open mid-December to mid-February. Pick-up hockey games are organized by locals.

**Visit Creede for the Afternoon** - Creede is best known for two things: silver mining and theatre. Get a taste of both in an afternoon: Become a miner for a few hours in the Underground Mining Museum. Enter mine shafts bored into the cliff face, wander through tunnels mined from solid rock, and visit with former hard-rock miners! Next, visit the Creede Repertory Theatre for an award-winning show. Specifically look for an adventurous and entertaining show for kids!

**Go to Summer Camp** - A full retreat center, Beaver Creek Youth Camp offers canoeing, horseback riding, low ropes course, swimming, rock climbing, rappelling and more. Offering camps for 1st graders - high school students. Visit [beavercreekcamp.org](http://beavercreekcamp.org) for more info.



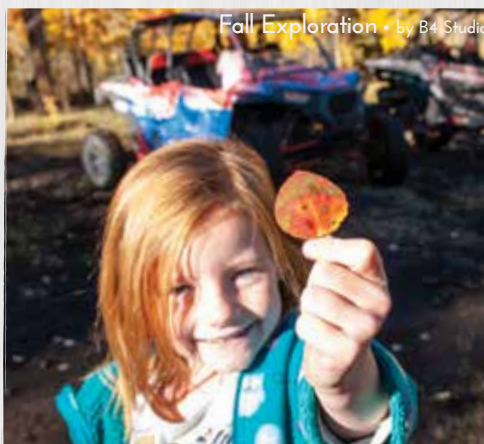
Throwing Rocks • by B4 Studio



Kid's Fishing Derby • by Ashography



Sledding Tumble • by Bob Seago



Fall Exploration • by B4 Studio



Photo by B4 Studio

## ONE AMAZING PRODUCT... MULTIPLE USES IN YOUR RV & HOME



- For RV Black and Gray water tanks
- No harsh chemicals or formaldehyde
- Economical: 2-3 oz. per dump
- Single flush concentrated microbial formula
- Non-toxic and completely biodegradable
- Eliminates odors and leaves clean, fresh smell
- Digests and bio-remediates proteins, oils, grease, and paper
- Keeps liquid level sensors clean and working properly
- Works great on home septic systems, just 8 oz. per month
- FREE SHIPPING to RV Parks or to your home



**Small Case (2) 32oz Bottles: \$37.98**

**1 Gallon: \$49.98**

**Large Case (6) 32 oz Bottles: \$89.94**



**MADE IN AMERICA**  
Micro-Blaze® microbial products are made in the USA



**ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY**  
All products are non-toxic and completely safe for the environment



**FREE SHIPPING**  
Online ordering via UPS direct to RV park or home

**VERDE ENVIRONMENTAL, INC**

HOME OF



**ORDER FROM AND VIEW OUR OTHER AMAZING MICROBIAL PRODUCTS AT:**

**[www.micro-blaze.com](http://www.micro-blaze.com)**



**(800) 626.6598**



# Lodging Guide

Find your place to Stay & Play

		Rooms	Cabin/Home	RV / Tent Site	Hot Tub / Pool	Pets	Laundry	Kitchen Units	Ski Packages	Golf Packages
<b>Alpine Accents</b> 719-873-0228 • www.alpineaccents.net	5 luxury vacation chalets - with full amenities, hot tub on private porch, stocked pond, 600 feet of the Rio Grande River & 13 minutes from Wolf Creek Ski Area.		•		H		•	•	•	
<b>Alpine Trails RV</b> 719-873-0261 • www.alpinetrailsrvpark.com	RV park with 42 sites, full hook-up, rec room, laundry and showers. Cabin for rent - sleeps 4. Free WiFi, cable available in office and rec hall. Close walk to the Rio Grande River, 20 minutes from Wolf Creek Ski Area!			•						
<b>Arbor House Inn B&amp;B</b> 888-830-4642 • 719-873-5012 www.arborhouseinnco.com	Luxurious Inn in gorgeous riverside setting. Five guest rooms: private bath, sat. TV, DVD, Wi-Fi, mini fridge, microwave, coffee service, robes. Romantic honeymoon suite: candelabra fireplace, whirlpool tub. Outdoor hot tub, picnic areas, fire pits. On-site fishing. Gourmet breakfast daily. New: "Cottage on the Creek" extended-stay vacation rental.	•			H			•	•	
<b>Aspen Ridge Cabins</b> 817-996-6470 • 719-873-5921 www.aspenridgecabins.com	Rustic and cozy cabins await you! Our cabins feature full kitchens, stocked with dishes, cookware and utensils. We are located very close to the Rio Grande. We offer satellite TV and free WiFi in all our cabins. Now under new ownership, and cabins have been recently updated. A few cabins have gas fireplaces for chilly nights. Picnic tables & outdoor grills available.		•			•	•			
<b>Aspen Ridge RV Park</b> 719-873-2248 • aspenridgerv.com	Wonderful, clean, fun RV park with 44-50amp full hook ups. No RV? No problem! Stay in one of our fully furnished campers. Bring OHVs and ride right out of the park to trails or into town! Recreation clubhouse, fish cleaning station, dog park, community campfires & planned activities!		•	•		•	•	•		
<b>Beaver Creek Christian Camp/ Retreat</b> 719-873-5311 www.beavercreekcamp.org	Don't just rent a room. Rent a mountain top! Nestled in the Rio Grande National Forest, we are South Fork's newest large group lodging facility. Open Year Round. Great for weddings, family reunions, retreats, conferences, ski trips, and mission trips.		Dorm Style Cabins, Group Lodging					•		
<b>Blue Creek Lodge</b> 719-658-2479 • www.bluecreeklodge.net	Nestled in the heart of the Rio Grande National Forest, Blue Creek Lodge offers the utmost in fine vacationing. Cabins and rooms with private baths and soft mountain water. RV park and gift shop.	•	•	•			•	•	•	
<b>Chinook Cabins &amp; RV Park</b> 888-890-9110 • 719-873-1707 www.chinooklodge.net	Nine log cabins that are nestled in amongst fifty year old Blue Spruce trees. We offer log cabins that sleep from 2-10 people. 18 RV sites with full hookups, along the South Fork.		•		H	•	•	•	•	
<b>Cottonwood Cove Lodge</b> 855-216-2683 • 719-658-2242 www.cottonwoodcove.com	In continuous operation since 1944, we are a family oriented guest ranch with 1, 2, or 3 bedroom cabins, RV sites, full service restaurant, large gift store, horse rides, rafting and more on the beautiful Rio Grande river with gold medal trout fishing, and scenery second to none.		•	•		•	•	•		
<b>Foothills Lodge &amp; Cabins</b> 800-510-3897 • 719-873-5969 www.foothillslodgeandcabins.com	Our cabins are situated in a quiet but convenient location in the heart of South Fork. We are close to local outdoor sports as well as gift shops, restaurants, lounge and grocery store. Offering a wide selection of cabins with 1 or 2 bedrooms sleeping from 1-11 people.	•	•		H	•		•	•	
<b>Four Seasons Lodge</b> 719-657-1140 • fourseasonslodgeco.com	We hope new and returning guests will enjoy their stay with us, as we are in the process of being updated! Stop by, stay with us and enjoy our cozy family atmosphere. Free high-speed internet and Wifi access, Continental Breakfast, Coffee & Tea making facilities, DVD player	•	•		H	•		•		
<b>Fun Valley Family Resort</b> 970-661-2220 • frontdesk@funvalley.us https://funvalley.us	Colorado's finest family resort, offering RV spaces, cabins and motel rooms. Full amenities include dining and rec halls, convenience store, gas station, fishing, mini-golf, hiking, bikes, horseback riding, square dancing, boating, give shop, laundry and more.		•	•		•	•	•		
<b>Grandview Cabins &amp; RV Park</b> 855-713-3251 • 719-873-5541 www.grandview-resort.com	12 cabins and spacious RV sites with full hook-ups are available. Showers, rec hall, spa, cable, pets welcome.		•	•	H	•	•	•		
<b>Lazy Bear Cabins</b> 877-873-1443 • 719-873-1443 www.lazybearcabins.com	Year-round lodging in town. Our tastefully decorated and comfortable cabins offer all the modern conveniences and a fully equipped kitchen. Each cabin sleeps up to six guests, and makes a perfect lodging choice for an outdoor vacation, family reunion, hunting trip, or romantic escape!		•			•		•	•	•
<b>Moon Valley Resort</b> 719-873-5216 • moonvalleyrvresort.com	Family owned campground with along Wolf Creek Pass. 30 amp hook-ups, laundry, showers, and large public club house and kitchen.			•		•	•			
<b>Peacock Meadows RV park</b> 786-453-7380 • www.peacock-meadows.com	New, modern RV Park. Big Rig Friendly and pet friendly - we offer 56 spacious sites with awesome views, picnic tables and fire rings. Every RV site is equipped with 30 and 50 amp electric (some with 100 amp). Free broadband internet. Family friendly "old west" recreation building.			•		•	•	•		
<b>Quality Inn &amp; Suites</b> 800-285-6590 • 719-873-5600 www.choicehotels.com/colorado/south-fork/ comfort-suites-hotels	Spectacular Mountain setting with views in every direction. Located in the center of South Fork. Deluxe King & Queen Rooms & Suites, Indoor Pool & Hot Tub, Complimentary Deluxe Breakfast, Fitness Center, Business Center, Meeting/Banquet Facilities, WiFi, Air Conditioning & more!	•			H/P	•	•	•		•



29257 U.S. HIGHWAY 160,  
SOUTH FORK, CO 81154  
(719)-873-1443  
CABINS@LAZYPEARBECABINS.COM


LAZYPEARBECABINS.COM

Come relax and enjoy a cozy vacation in one of our nine two bedroom, stand alone cabins!



We offer studio and two bedroom cabins with full kitchens, satellite TV, and fiber-optic Wi-Fi

719-873-5921 | 719-850-0768  
710 State Highway 149  
South Fork, CO 81154  
www.aspenridgecabins.com



Let us be your home base for all types of outdoor activities

YEAR ROUND LODGING  
Suites for 2-6 people  
Cabin • Studio  
Free High Speed WIFI

FourSeasonsLodgeCo.com • (719) 657-1140  
30362 Hwy 160 • South Fork



Private Riverside Home on 1 Acre • BBQ Grill • Fire Pit  
20-person Hot Tub  
WIFI • 3Bed/3.5Bath  
Sleeps Up to 12

Book by phone: (970) 443-5160  
2 Night Minimum



SCAN ME



# Lodging Guide

Find your place to Stay & Play

		Rooms	Cabin/Home	RV / Tent Site	Hot Tub / Pool	Pets	Laundry	Kitchen Units	Ski Packages	Golf Packages
<b>Rainbow Lodge</b> 888-873-5174 • 719-873-5571 www.rainbowsouthfork.biz	Groceries, sporting goods, housewares, hardware, RV supplies, Amoco gas, photo developing, hunting/fishing license, motel, RV park, cabins, Blimpie's sandwich shop, frozen yogurt, mini mart, propane, free RV dump. Located at the junction of US Hwy 160 & CO 149	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	
<b>Rio Grande Vacation Rentals</b> 877-873-5776 www.riograndevacationrentals.com	The luxury you deserve with the amenities you desire. Our top-notch accommodations are nestled along the Rio Grande and serve as a perfect vacation basecamp! 2-5 bedroom townhome units with open floor plans, gourmet kitchens, master suites, and back patio. Golfing, fishing, and skiing packages available!		•		H/P	•	•	•	•	•
<b>Rio River Retreat</b> 806-290-2456 • rioriverretreat.com	Rio River Retreat is located on the gold medal fishing waters of the Rio Grande River! With three floors, 6 bedrooms plus a sleeping loft, it will accommodate up to 25 guests. Small Cabin next door; sleeps 6. Perfect for weddings and retreats. On-site horse boarding.		•				•	•		
<b>River Club Vacation Rentals</b> 719-873-1995 www.riverclubvacationrentals.com	Nestled in between the beautiful San Juan and La Garita mountain ranges with breathtaking views. All of the River Club Vacation Rentals are elegantly furnished with fully equipped kitchens, fireplaces, back patios and attached garages.									
<b>Riverbend Resort</b> 800-621-6512 • 719-873-5344 www.riverbend-resort.com	Cozy cabins with fireplaces & decks. Deluxe cabin with private indoor hot tub. FHU RV sites. Riverside tent sites. Sat TV, rec hall, hot tub, game room, gift shop. Pets OK. Stocked river fishing. Ski & Golf packages.		•	•	H	•	•	•	•	
<b>Riverside Meadows Cabins</b> 719-873-5280 www.riversidemeadowscabins.com	Riverside Meadows is located on the banks of the Rio Grande. We have made available 3 beautifully handcrafted log cabins that each offer privacy and seclusion. Amenities include a hot tub, picnic area/fire pit next to the river, kayaks, and more.		•		H	•	•			
<b>South Fork Campground</b> 800-237-7322 • 719-873-5500 www.southforkcampground.com	Large RV sites with huge cottonwood trees on the banks of the Rio Grande River. Gold Medal Waters flyfishing. 30/50 amp, store, laundry, WiFi, tent sites, rec hall and more.		•	•		•	•			
<b>South Fork Lodge &amp; RV Park</b> 877-354-2345 • 719-873-5303 www.southforklodgeandrv.com	Come enjoy our rustic cabins, featuring knotty pine interiors; fully furnished kitchens; living rooms & bathrooms. Free wi-fi; satellite tv; hot tub & coin-operated laundry room. RV park w/large FHU sites, 30 & 50 amp service & rec hall.		•	•	H	•	•	•	•	•
<b>South Fork Vacation Rentals</b> 970-247-0967 • www.vbro.com/22555	Recently remodeled 2000sf log home - river, golf course, and mountain views; 3 bedrooms, large hot tub, sauna, BBQ grill, game room and more.		•		H		•	•		
<b>Spruce Lodge</b> 719-873-5605 • www.sprucelodges.com	The Spruce Lodge is in the National Register of Historic Places. Cabins, hotel, luxury B&B. Newly renovated. Free wi-fi, hot tub and hot breakfast.	•	•	•	H	•		•		
<b>The Wolves' Den in South Fork</b> 719-873-3675 • www.southforkrental.com	Our 4 bedroom, 3 bathroom home is nicknamed "The Wolves Den," a place for family and friends to gather for fun and fellowship.		•		H		•	•		
<b>Tiny Timbers Tiny Home Resort</b> 719-469-2500 • tinytimbersresort.com	Tiny Timbers Resort has 5 cabins in the form of "tiny homes. Enjoy the on-site Coffee Shop and Restaurant		•					•		
<b>Ute Bluff Lodge</b> 800-473-0595 • 719-873-5595 www.uteblufflodge.com	Creatively decorated rustic log cabins, comfortable lodge rooms, and fully equipped RV spaces on 17 beautiful acres is what you will find at Ute Bluff Lodge. Adjacent to the Rio Grande National Forest, close to the Rio Grande River, and just minutes from Wolf Creek Ski Area.		•	•	H	•	•	•	•	
<b>Wolf Creek Cabin</b> 719-286-0070 • www.telemarker.net	Very clean vacation rental with 2 bedrooms. Decks for barbecues, sunrises and sunsets. Master bedroom loft. Full kitchen with quality appliances and laundry. Easy access from Highway 160.		•							
<b>Wolf Creek Ranch Ski Lodge</b> 800-522-9653 • 719-873-5371 www.wolfcreekranchco.com	We are the closest lodging to Wolf Creek Ski Area. Coming to the mountains? Why not stay in the mountains?	•	•		H	•		•	•	
<b>Wolf Creek Luxury Properties</b> www.wolfcreekluxuryproperties.com	Offering clean and comfortable vacation rental properties for your worry-free stay. We keep our standards high so our customers are happy.		•			•	•	•	•	
<b>Wolf Creek Ski Lodge</b> www.thewolfcreekskilodge.com	Reward Yourself with the Best Powder in Colorado! New Owners, New Attitude, Newly Remodeled Units at Bargain Rates! Deluxe rooms, kitchenettes, ski packages. All-American mountain hospitality	•			H	•		•	•	•

Creede Chamber of Commerce  
719-658-2374 • www.creede.com

Del Norte Chamber of Commerce  
719-657-2845 www.delnortechamber.org

Pagosa Springs Visitor Center  
866-438-4917 • www.visitpagosasprings.com

# RACHEL'S

KEEP ON  
KEEPIN ON



**COFFEE SHOP & FOOD TRUCK**  
South Fork, CO

All-Natural Cuisine from Local Chef  
Indoor & Outdoor Dining  
**BREAKFAST & LUNCH**  
**rachelskoko.com**  
NEW! On-site Vacation Rentals

**Good Food Takes Time**  
Call to Order Ahead 719-657-1157

## WOLF CREEK ANGLERS FLY SHOP

Full Day or Half Day  
Float or Wade Trips

Access the best waters, private & public: the Rio Grande, and many creeks, streams and lakes.



Learn the Art of Fly Fishing with our experienced Guides!

- 2 ½ hrs on private ranch water or Rio Grande
- Learn casting, rigging, basic entomology (bugs!), reading the water, and proper catch and release technique
- Equipment provided • Great for Children and Adults!

**2-PERSON SPECIAL FOR BEGINNERS: \$400 TOTAL**  
2hr Lesson + 2hr Float on Rio Grande for 2 people



**South Fork, CO • wolfcreekanglers.com • 844-746-3474**



**Tim Cooney**  
Managing Broker  
(970) 749-1350



**Trisha Taylor**  
Broker Associate  
(303) 525-7037




**TEAM COONEY**

*Your lifestyle awaits.*



EXIT Realty Home & Ranch is #9 Brokerage office in SW Colorado.  
Team Cooney is one of the Top Producers for EXIT Realty Home & Ranch.

Family Reunions • Weddings • Honeymoons  
Business Retreats • Affordable Family Trips



# Wolf Creek

## LUXURY PROPERTIES

Short and Long Term Vacation Rentals

We offer ski, golf, fishing and rafting packages, live theatre tickets, Concierge Services, and more!

Owners David Thompson & Trisha Taylor

**wolfcreekluxuryproperties.com 303-525-7037**



## CHURCHES

### Chapel of the South Fork

719-873-5753 • chapelofthesouthfork.net

### Emmanuel Chapel

719-873-5411 • 719-873-1577  
www.emmanuelchapelsf.com

### Holy Family Catholic Mission

719-657-3147

### New Hope Church

719-873-1202 • www.newhopechurchsf.org

### St. Francis Episcopal Church

719-873-5358

### South Fork Church of Christ

719-873-1259

## GAS / GROCERY / LIQUOR

### Rainbow Grocery/Conoco

719-873-5545 • rainbowlodgesouthfork.com

### Switchback Liquor • 719-873-5200

### Wild West Wine & Spirits

719-657-3944 • wineandspiritsdelnorte.com

## RETAIL & SHOPPING

### Avon - Karen Miller • 719-873-5466

www.youravon.com/kmiller3546

### Beaver Mountain Quilts • 719-873-1222

### Chapel of the South Fork Thrift Store

719-873-0585

### Docs Outdoor Sports

719-873-5151 • www.docsooutdoor.com

### Dollar General Store • 719-873-2218

### Eclectic Fiber Arts • eclecticfiberarts.com

### Elk Ridge Custom Picture Framing & Gifts

719-657-2322

### Ooh La Spa & Boutique • Creede

719-658-3070 • www.oohlaspacecreede.com

### Rainbow Grocery • 719-873-5545

rainbowgroceryandsportinggoods.com

### Silver Thread Studios @ Lazy Su-Z Ranch

719-873-5740 • silverthreadstudios.com

### The Cabin • 719-873-1639

### The Gallery at South Fork

Junction of Hwy 160 and 149

### Willow Mountain Limited • 719-468-0825

## DINING

### Basecamp Sweets • 702-371-0873

www.basecampsweets.com

### Blimpie Subs & Salads • 719-873-5545

### Candie's Firehouse • 719-873-0169

www.candiesfirehouse.com

### Hot Doughnuts & More • 719-937-1144

### Hunt Brothers Pizza • 719-873-5345

Los Chavalos • Del Norte • 719-657-9038

### Mountain Pizza & Taproom

719-873-9801 • mountainpizzataproom.com

### Rachel's "keep on keeping on"

719-657-1157 • @rachelkeeponkeepinonandcoffee

### Ramon's Mexican Restaurant

719-873-0231 • ramonssouthfork.com

### Rio Grande Club, Restaurant & Grille

719-873-1995 • riograndeclubandresort.com

### South Fork Malt Shoppe • 719-873-5852

### The Windsor Hotel & Restaurant

719-657-9031 • windsorhoteldelnorte.com

### Tiny Timbers Coffee Bistro

657-1134 • tinytimbersresort.com

### Two Rivers BBQ • 719-657-1122

## LODGING - Outside South Fork

*See South Fork Lodging Guide: pg 56*

### Dragonfly Flats Creede • 210-861-8882

www.dragonflyflatscreede.com

### The Windsor Hotel Del Norte

719-657-9031 • windsorhoteldelnorte.com

## HEALTH & BEAUTY

### Good Beauty Shop • 719-873-5457

### Harding Dental Group

719-873-5846 • jameshardingdds.com

### Keri's Kutz Salon • 719-873-0124

### Ooh La Spa & Boutique • Creede

719-658-3070 • www.oohlaspacecreede.com

### Sacred Space Massage • 719-873-0044

### Upper Rio Grande Medical Clinic

719-873-5494 • rio-grande-hospital.org

## REALTY / APARTMENT RENTALS

### Beau Meyer Realty

719-873-5257 • www.beaumeyer.com

### EXIT Realty Home & Ranch

Team Cooney • 303-525-7037

### Land Properties LLC • 719-873-1012

landpropertyssouthfork.com

### Mtn. View Apartments • 719-873-9865

mountainviewapartmentsco.com

### Parr Real Estate

719-588-3815 • www.debraparr.com

### South Fork Heights Apts. 719-873-5513

### Steffens & Company Realty

719-873-1700 • www.steffenscrealty.com

### Team Murphy Realty, LLC

719-873-5050 • teammurphyrealty.com

### Valley Realty

719-873-5559 • century21valleyrealty.com

## SPORTS & RECREATION

### 8200 Mountain Sports

719-873-1977 • www.8200sports.com

### Burris and Sons

www.burrisandsonsbuckingbulls.com

### Cottonwood Cove Horseback Rides

719-658-2242 • www.cottonwoodcove.com

### Creede Arts Council

719-658-0312 • www.creedeartsCouncil.com

### Creede Repertory Theatre

866-658-2540 • www.creederep.org

### Docs Outdoor Sports

719-873-5151 • www.docsooutdoor.com

### Elk Country Jeep Rentals 719-873-0275

www.elkcountrysidejeeprentals.com

### Freemons Ranch - Horseback Rides

Creede • 719-658-2454

### Mountain Man Tours - Guided Rafting

719-873-1977 • mountainmantours.com

### Mountain Skillz

719-849-3168 • mountainskillz.com

### New Hope Gymnasium and Archery

Range - 719-873-1202

### Outdoor Sports Depot

719-873-1060 • www.outdoordepot.biz

### Rainbow Sporting Goods • 719-873-5545

rainbowgroceryandsportinggoods.com

### Revolution Rail Co. Railbikes

(888) 738-0123 • revrail.com

### Rickel Arena • (719) 850-1916

### Rio Grande Club Golf Course & Resort

(719)873-1995 • riograndeclubandresort.com

### Rio Outfitters

719-588-7273 • www.riooutfitters.com

### Rocky Mountain Ski and Raft

719-873-2495 • rockymountainkiraft.com

### South Fork Anglers Guide Service

877-656-3474 • southforkanglers.com

### South Fork Music Association

719-580-1789 • www.southforkmusic.org

## Important Numbers

Town Hall	719-873-0152
Visitor Center	719-873-5512
Police Department	719-873-1040
U.S. Post Office	719-873-5611
Fire Department	719-873-1030
Ambulance	719-873-5544
Community Center	719-873-5512
Carnegie Library	719-873-5079
National Weather Service	719-589-3232
Rio Grande County Sheriff	719-657-4000
Road Information	877-315-7623

### Twin Pine Motor Sports / Storage

719-873-9873 • twinpinemotorsportsinc.com

### Wilderness Adventure Horseback Rides

719-873-5216

### Wolf Creek Anglers

719-873-1414 • www.wolfcreekanglers.com

### Wolf Creek Ski Area

800-SKI-WOLF • www.wolfcreekski.com

## CONSTRUCTION / HOME DÉCOR

### Brooke-Stone, LLC

719-873-5277 • www.brooke-stonellc.com

### Hathorn Construction, Inc

719-873-5804 • www.hathornconst.com

### Helmstetler Architects & Associates, Inc

719-850-8995 • www.helmstetlerarch.com

### Madlson Construction Corporation

719-873-5417 • www.madlson.com

### Mountain Lighthouse & Gallery

719-873-5810 • mountainlighthouse.com

### Mtn. Valley Cabinet Co. • 719-873-0163

### Musick Construction • 719-873-2233

### O'Rourke Excavating • 719-580-9602

### South Fork Lumber Co. • 719-873-5481

### Stephens Custom Homes • 719-873-5801

### The Cabin • 719-873-1639

### The Finishing Edge • 719-873-2221

### Tru Grit Excavating • 719-298-1090

## SERVICES

### Alpine Veterinary Hospital

719-852-2561

### Car Wash on Four Seasons Drive

### Community Banks of Colorado

719-873-5562 • www.cobnks.com

### Cowboy Craft Metalworking

719-873-5228

### Creede Animal Clinic • 719-658-2614

### Creede Visitor Center & Chamber

719-658-2374 • www.creede.com

### Del Norte Bank

719-657-3376 • www.truelocalbank.com

### Edward Jones, Rob McConnell

719-657-0404 • www.edwardjones.com

### Elk Country Storage • 719-873-0180

### Five C's Laundromat • 719-480-3546

### Greater South Fork Community

Foundation • southforkfoundation.org

### Harding Dental • 719-873-6021

www.hardingdentalgroup.com

### Holiday RV South, Inc

719-873-1800 • www.rvstealsanddeals.com

### J&S Appliance Service • 719-580-1185

### Kiwanis Club • 719-873-5466

### KSLV Radio

719-852-3581 • www.kslvradio.com

### La Garita Mtn. Nursery • 719-754-3630

### Master Print & Web Design

866-240-6738 • masterprintandweb.com

### Mark's Restoration & Cleaning Service

719-873-1078

### McGregor Electric • 719-873-9852

### MDS Waste & Recycle

719-658-3060 • mdswasteandrecycle.com

### Mike Musick - Attorney • 719-873-2233

### Network Funding, Joe Ford

719-992-3437 • nflp.com

### Only Garage

719-873-9797

### Rocky Mountain

Beetle Busters

719-873-1000

### Ron Howard Law

Offices

719-873-5901

### Ruff Dogs Daycare

& Boarding

970-485-4378

www.ruffdog.net

### Settings Event Rental

719-539-2434

settingseventrental.com

### Shampooch

719-510-6462

### Silo Ranch Stables

719-657-3208

### SLV Rural Electric

Cooperative

719-852-3538

www.slvrec.com

### South Fork Cemetery

719-873-5805

### South Fork Chamber

of Commerce

719-873-5556

southforkchamber.com

### South Fork Lumber

719-873-5581

### South



# Visitor GuidePOST

## South Fork Fast Facts

- One of Colorado's newest towns, incorporated May 19, 1992
- City limit population of 600 with an area population of 1,200
- Summer peak population reaches 3,500+ residents & tourists
- Located at the southwestern end of the San Luis Valley
- Visitor Center is located at the Junction of Hwys 160 & 149
- GPS 37°40'09"N 106°38'34"W • 37.669065°N 106.642829°W



photo courtesy of Wolf Creek Ski Area

www.  
southfork  
.org

facebook

## Protecting our Public Lands

*take only photographs,  
leave only footprints*

Divide Ranger District • www.fs.usda.gov  
13308 W Hwy 160, Del Norte • 719-657-3321  
304 S Main St., Creede • 719 658-2556

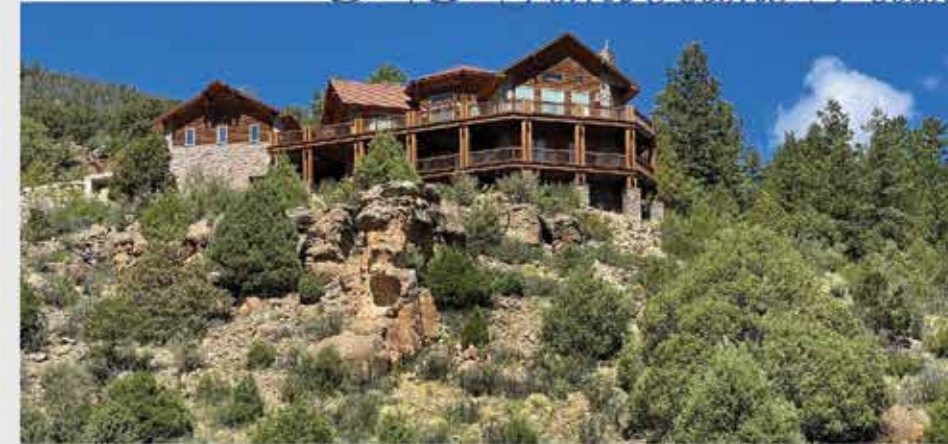
## Distance from South Fork

Wolf Creek Ski Area	18 mi	
Denver, CO	234 mi	4 hr
Colorado Springs, CO	211 mi	3 ½ hr
Pueblo, CO	153 mi	2 ½ hr
Santa Fe, NM	185 mi	3 hr
Durango, CO	99 mi	2 hr
Phoenix, AZ	561 mi	9 hrs
Albuquerque, NM	248 mi	4 hrs
Amarillo, TX	390 mi	6 hrs
Ft. Worth/Dallas, TX	753 mi	12 hrs
Houston, TX	993 mi	16 hrs
Oklahoma City, OK	629 mi	11 hrs

## REAL ESTATE SPECIALISTS

Ranches | Homes | Acreage | Commercial

## 545 Timberline Trail



INCREDIBLE OFFERING in South Fork! This exquisite custom mountain home was built with extreme quality and convenience in mind! Located on a spacious lot at the end of a cul-de-sac and above the 12th green of the Rio Grande Club golf course! The home has too many custom details to list but a few to mention are in-floor heat, hand-crafted light fixtures, granite counters, alarm system, handcrafted carpets, top of the line appliances, and "between the glass" blinds! 3.6± acres - 4,338 Sq. Ft. 4bed/5bath - 3 Car Garage

## 664 Aspen Drive



Beautiful, spacious home in established South Fork neighborhood that is VRBO friendly! Great floor plan with the kitchen, dining, and family room open to one another! The home has an inviting wrap-around porch with mature aspens and pine trees framing the home. There is also a fenced in back yard for the four legged members of the family! 0.67± acres - 2,407 Sq. Ft. 4bed/2bath - Garage

## Two Homes on the River



248 & 252 Amethyst Dr. These two homes are situated on a long stretch of county owned river frontage affording approximately 2600 feet of gold medal fly fishing! Close to Creede with incredible mountain views in all directions. Spacious decks overlook the Rio Grande. These homes can be set up as short term rentals! The Main home is 4bed/5bath with 2-Car Garage. The Guest home has 2bed/1bath with a HUGE motorhome garage and a full basement with two bonus rooms for office/storage space.

Suzy Woodward - Broker Associate

719-850-5042

SUZY@TEAMMURPHYREALTY.COM

29919 US HWY 160, SOUTH FORK, CO

TEAMMURPHYREALTY.COM

TEAM  
MURPHY  
REALTY  
OWN YOUR DREAM

## Today's Weather Forecast: absolutely perfect

South Fork experiences all of the four seasons. However, keep in mind the following saying, "If you don't like the weather in Colorado, wait 15 minutes... and it'll change." Summer temperatures range from 40-50° at night, to 75-85° during the day and light breezes usually keep temperatures relatively mild. Precipitation is variable with an average of 15.8 inches/year, and 80 inches of snow/year. We are also blessed with more than 300 days of sunshine a year, making this an ideal area for outdoor enthusiasts. Warmest Month - July - High: 91°F, Low: 50°F • Coolest Month - January - High: 48°F, Low: 5°F or lower.

If you yearn to live and work where others can only vacation, visit [www.southfork.org](http://www.southfork.org) to find out how to make this recreational haven your new home.





# Great PIZZA, BEER and ATMOSPHERE!

Artisan Brick Oven Pizza baked to perfection and 20 Pour Your Own Beer and Wine Taps within beautiful Downtown South Fork, CO

30483 Hwy 160, South Fork

Open Daily 11AM-9PM Summer  
11AM-8PM Winter

Fresh ingredients... Big on Taste!

*Fast & Easy*

ORDER ONLINE AT [MOUNTAINPIZZATAPROOM.COM](http://MOUNTAINPIZZATAPROOM.COM)



# HART

Custom Builders, LLC

**YOUR DREAM...OUR PASSION**  
**FINE CUSTOM HOMES**

[www.hartbuilders.com](http://www.hartbuilders.com)  
970-264-0110