

Grand Mesa Scenic and Historic Byway

This "playground in the sky" climbs from the rugged Plateau Canyon floor to the cool evergreen mesa forests, 11,000 feet up. Featured are hundreds of sparkling lakes, wildflower meadows and forests of shimmering aspen and pine. Take a side trip to Lands End Overlook where the Grand Valley unfolds below.



Local Information

Delta County Tourism

877-825-7514

Grand Mesa Scenic Byway

Welcome Center

970-856-3100

Length: 63 miles / 100.8 km

Time Two hours to drive the entire byway, or 90 minutes to

Allow: along Highway 65 and 30 minutes roundtrip on the spur road to Land's End

Visitor Services

Fees



There are no fees for traveling the byway. There are overnight campground fees per USFS schedules and private campground fees.

Accessibility



Grand Mesa Visitor Center is handicap accessible. The Lands End Observatory is not handicap accessible.

Camping



Camping is available along the byway in a number of locations. All campgrounds include picnic tables, water, fire pits, latrines, and wooded areas.

There are no RV hookups and no dump stations. There is a 14-day, two-vehicle limit. Campgrounds are located at: * [Cobbett Lake](http://www.recreation.gov/camping/Cobbett_Lake_Co/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=NRSO&parkId=73877&topTabIndex=CampingSpot)

* Island Lake * Jumbo Campground * Little Bear (wheelchair accessible) * Spruce Grove * Ward Lake

Food



Dining facilities are available between Mesa and Cedaredge.



Gasoline

Gasoline is available.



Information

Information Centers are located at: * Cedaredge Welcome Center * Grand Mesa Visitor Center * Lands End Observatory Interpretive signs are located at: * Land O'Lakes Trail & Overlook * Raber Cow Camp Interpretation & Trail * Grand Mesa Visitor Center * Cedaredge Welcome Center * Lands End Observatory Interpretation & Trail



Lodging

Lodging is available between Mesa and Cedaredge.



Phone

Public phones are available along this byway.



Restrooms

There are toilet facilities along this byway.



Retail

There are places to shop along this byway.

Special Considerations

- Please be aware that wildfires are an ever-present danger in the dry summer months. Follow all posted signs regarding campfires and do not throw cigarettes out the car window.
- If you are driving a large RV and find that you are relishing the scenery more slowly than those in your rear view mirror, please be courteous and pull over to let them pass.
- Please respect property owners' rights by not trespassing or littering.
- This byway traverses high mountain passes, so be prepared for all types of weather.
- High altitudes bring increased sun exposure and reduced oxygen, so wear sunscreen and sunglasses and don't overexert yourself.

Restrictions

The main road is open year-round. However, Spur Road to Land's End is closed October through May.

Seasons

Best Time to Drive

To see wildflowers, the best time to drive the byway is late spring and early summer for wildflowers. To view vibrant foliage, the best time to drive the byway is late September.

High Season

The byway is busiest from June through September.

Map and Directions



Legend:

 Point of Interest	 Campground	 Featured Byway	 Water	 State Border
 Park	 Picnic/Rest Area	 America's Byways	 Wildlife Refuge	 Urban Area
 Mountain	 Interstate	 Other Byway	 Wilderness Area	 Tribal Nation
 City	 U.S. Highway	 Other Road	 Other Federal Lands	 Military Base
 Capital	 State Highway	 Trail	 Other State Lands	

Driving Directions

- The byway begins at the junction of I-70 and CO 65, just northeast of Palisades, CO.
- From this junction, head west on CO 65 until it meets CO 330.
- At this junction, continue on CO 65 heading south until it meets F.S. 100 Rd on the western side of the road, which is the beginning of westward spur.
- Follow F.S. 100 Rd for about one mile before heading northwest on A. Rd for about ten miles.
- After enjoying the beautiful scenery of Grand Mesa National Forest, head back to CO 65 and continue making your way south to Ceder Edge, where the byway ends.

Getting to the Byway



Nearby cities

Denver, CO (226 miles / 363.71 km, 3 hours 30 minutes)

Start:  4600 Washington St. Denver, CO
 N 39.780° W 104.979° [?]

Directions:

- Take I-70 west out of Denver.
- Follow I-70 until the intersection with CO-65 where the byway begins.

Junction with byway: * Exit 49 from I-70 to CO-65
 N 39.184° W 108.281° [?]



Road Trip: Grand Mesa Must See Tour

Departure: Lands End Observatory, Colorado

Destination: Cedaredge Welcome Center and Pioneer Town, Colorado

Time to allow: 1 day

The impressive Grand Mesa, formed by lava flows, glaciers, and erosional forces, dominates the rugged scenery in this tour. At an elevation of over two miles above sea level, overlooks offer magnificent views of alpine forests, numerous lakes and streams, and mountains of the surrounding region. Starting at the Lands End Observatory, the tour descends more than 6,000 feet through four ecological zones that support a vast array of plant and animal life. Finish the tour with a visit to the restored Cedaredge Pioneer Town. Here, you will learn about the history of the area and of the people who first settled the land.

Day 1

- **Start: Lands End Observatory**

The tour begins with spectacular views around the Lands End Observatory. This structure, which is listed on the register of historic sites, was built in the late 1930s as a Public works project. It is perched on the edge of Grand Mesa and offers views of the valley 6,000 feet below and the La Sal mountains in Utah to the west.



- **Stop 1: Land-O-Lakes Overlook**



From previous stop: same location

Directions: From Lands End Observatory, take CO 65 and drive south to the sign for the Land-O-Lakes Overlook.

Suggested time at this stop: 30 minutes

Due to its distinctive geology, the Grand Mesa is dotted with over 300 lakes and reservoirs. A short trail to this overlook provides an incredible view of many of these lakes and also of the West Elk Mountains to the East.

- **Stop 2: Grand Mesa Visitor Center**

From previous stop: same location

Directions: From Land-O-Lakes Overlook, follow CO 65 east. CO 65 will go north, then curve to the south. Grand Mesa Visitor Center is at the intersection of CO 65 and Forest Development Road 121.

Suggested time at this stop: 2 hours

Visit this beautiful log structure located at the intersection of CO 65 and Forest Development Road 121. It is open from 9 to 5, seven days a week from June to September with the same hours on weekends for most of the rest of the year. Visitor information, exhibits, interpretive materials, and a hiking trail provide for interactive enjoyment.

- **End: Cedaredge Welcome Center and Pioneer Town**



From previous stop: same location

Directions: Leaving Grand Mesa Visitor Center, take CO 65 south until you come to the town of Cedaredge.

These facilities are located in the town of Cedaredge. Exhibits are open to the public from 9 to 5, seven days a week from Memorial day to Labor Day. Both provide visitor information, exhibits, and a tour of a reconstructed town which depicts the life of early pioneers in the area.

Totals for Day 1

Total Distance Traveled: 0 miles / 0.0 km

Total Travel Time: 0 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 2 hours 30 minutes