

Frontier Pathways Scenic and Historic Byway

Mirroring the paths of Zebulon Pike, Charles Goodnight, Juan Bautista de Anza, Arthur Carhart, and Cuerno Verde, Frontier Pathways showcases rugged mountains, carpets of wildflowers, piñon-dotted foothills, and clusters of golden aspen. Visitors can experience the Sangre de Cristo Mountains -- 22 peaks over 13,000 feet.



Length: 103 miles / 164.8 km

Time Two hours to drive or four-
to eight hours to experience

Allow: the byway

Local Information

Frontier Pathways Historic and Scenic Byway

719-583-8631

[Send E-mail](#)

Visitor Services

Fees



Campgrounds and picnic areas may have use fees.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities



This area is a mountain biker's paradise with many roads and trails to choose from. Tour biking is a popular activity, and the byway's paved shoulders (typically four feet in width) accommodate this enormous user group.

Virtually every type of pedestrian-based recreational activity is accommodated. Whether it is a walking tour of Pueblo's Union Avenue Historic District, a meadow or mountain hike, a backpacking trip, or the historic walking tour of Westcliffe and Silver Cliff, pedestrians experience many wonderful natural attractions. The nationally renowned Rainbow Trail attracts many visitors each year, too.

Camping



There are four U.S. Forest Service campgrounds either directly accessible or very near the byway.

Food



All of the byway communities offer restaurants to the public, ranging from elegant dining in Pueblo to local favorite country cafés.



Gasoline

Gasoline is available.



Lodging

Pueblo, Colorado City, and Westcliffe provide travel lodging. Pueblo has an abundance of hotels, motels, and bed and breakfasts with considerable capacity and 24-hour service.



Retail

The byway communities boast an array of shops, such as antique stores in Pueblo and the charming and flourishing artisan shops in Westcliffe.

Special Considerations

State Highways:

State Highways 96 and 165 are maintained year-round by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). There are no seasonal restrictions. CDOT plows both highways during and after all snowstorms. It is very rare for any section of the road to be closed for a significant time due to snow accumulation. Visitors travel the byway year-round, thus necessitating a high level of maintenance. Aside from brief but sometimes intense thunderstorms, adverse weather affecting traffic during the summer is very rare. During the winter, visitors drive the byway to view the snow-draped Sangre De Cristos or to ski. They rarely encounter any problems.

County Roads:

Many of the Frontier Pathways loop tours are on county gravel roads. All significant county roads are plowed quickly after storms, although plowing along these roads may take a little longer than the state highways.

U.S. Forest Roads & Trails:

There are many US Forest Service access roads that connect with or are near the byway. Most forest roads are maintained in the summer but are not plowed in the winter. US Forest Service trails are open year-round. Many people enjoy hiking the trails in the summer and cross-country skiing on the same trails in the winter. The only accessibility limitations to these trails occur when county roads are not yet plowed or when easy access to a trail is via a closed Forest Service road.

Please be aware:

- Wildfires are an ever-present danger in the dry summer months. Please follow all posted signs regarding campfires, and do not throw cigarettes out the car window.
- Abandoned mines are extremely dangerous -- look, take pictures, but do not explore.
- If you are driving a large RV and find you are relishing the scenery more slowly than those in your rear view mirror, please be courteous, pull over, and let them pass.

- Please respect property owners' rights; don't trespass and don't litter.
- This byway traverses high mountain passes; 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.
- There are rare winter closures due to snowfall.

Seasons

Best Time to Drive

The best time to drive depends on whether you enjoy snow-covered peaks and pines of winter or the greenery and flowers of spring and summer.

High Season

Summer is Colorado's busiest tourist season, but winter also brings a lot a ski-season traffic.

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 starts in the town of Pueblo on CO 96, or East 4th Street.
- From here head west along CO 96 until CO 165.

- Here you can choose to continue west on CO 96 into Westcliffe, CO, where the byway ends on South 6th Street.
- Or, at the junction of CO 96 and CO 165, you can take the southern spur by driving south on CO 165 into Colorado City.

Getting to the Byway



Nearby cities

Denver, CO (112 miles / 180.25 km, 1 hour 45 minutes)

Start:

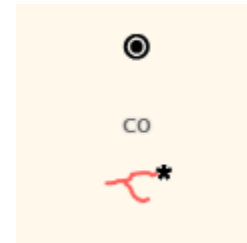
- On ramp to I-25 N from Colfax Ave., Denver, CO
N 39.740° W 105.010° [?]

Directions:

- Get on I-25 south out of Denver.
- Follow I-25 to Pueblo where the byway begins.

Junction with byway:

- * 417 N Santa Fe Ave. Pueblo, CO
N 38.271° W 104.607° [?]



Road Trip: Frontier Pathways Old West Tour

Departure: Pueblo

Destination: Lake Isabel, Colorado

Time to allow: 2 days

Go back in time to experience life in the Old West. Visit museums, ghost towns, and restored nineteenth-century buildings; explore the San Isabel National Forest and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Let history unfold along the Frontier Pathways Scenic and Historic Byway.

Day 1

- **Start: Pueblo**

Pueblo, nicknamed "Home of the Heroes", is the hometown of four living Congressional Medal of Honor recipients.

- **Stop 1: El Pueblo Museum**

From previous stop: 3 minutes / 1.33 mi (2.1 km)

Directions: Start out going north on I-25, take the 1st Street Exit (exit 98B) toward CO-96. Turn left onto E 1st Street. Drive for 0.3 miles until you come to the museum at 325 W 1st Street.

Suggested time at this stop: 2 hours

At this museum, visitors can learn about the interaction of several different cultures: American Indian, Mexican, and American. Fascinating artifacts, colorful murals, and interesting stories bring the history of the Pueblo area to life.

- **Stop 2: Wetmore and Early Settlements**

From previous stop: 45 minutes / 29.1 mi (46.6 km)

Directions: Start out going west on 1st Street toward S Grand Avenue. Turn right onto N Grand Avenue. Turn left onto CO-96 (W 4th Street). Follow CO-96 for 28.8 miles until you come to Wetmore.

Suggested time at this stop: 3 hours

This early settlement was founded over 150 years ago by French traders, fur trappers, and poor American farmers.

- **Stop 3: Rosita**

From previous stop: 35 minutes / 22.1 mi (35.4 km)

Directions: Go west on CO-96 toward CR-395 for 17.7 miles, then turn left. Drive 1.3 miles, then turn left onto CR-341. Follow CR-341 (which becomes CR-329, then CR-323) for about 3 miles until you end at Rosita.

Suggested time at this stop: 2 hours

This town, which was established in 1872, was once a booming mining town with over 400 buildings. Several of these buildings can still be seen today. As you drive to Rosita, notice the majestic Sangre de Cristo Mountains near the road.

- **End: Colorado City**

From previous stop: same location

Lodging is available in Colorado City.

Totals for Day 1

Total Distance Traveled: 52.53 miles / 84.0 km

Total Travel Time: 1 hour 23 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 7 hours

Day 2

- **Stop 1: Bishop Castle**



From previous stop: 1 hour / 40.9 mi (65.4 km)

Directions: Leaving Rosita, go northwest on CR-323 toward CR-328. Drive for 3 miles on CR-323 (which becomes CR-329, then CR-341), then turn right. After 1.3 miles, turn right onto CO-96. Drive for 8 miles, then turn right onto CO-165 (Greenhorn Hwy). Follow CO-165 for 28.5 miles until you come to Rye. Bishop Castle is located at 12705 CO-165.

Suggested time at this stop: 45 minutes

This castle began as a one-man project by Jim Bishop in 1969. All of the work has been done with a wheel barrow and a shovel.

- **End: Lake Isabel**

From previous stop: 5 minutes / 2 mi (3.2 km)

Directions: Follow CO-165 going south a few miles until you come to Lake Isabel.

Suggested time at this stop: 5 hours

Go fishing or boating on this beautiful lake, and spend an entire afternoon enjoying the abundance of water recreation that Lake Isabel offers.

Totals for Day 2

Total Distance Traveled: 42.9 miles / 68.6 km

Total Travel Time: 1 hour 5 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 5 hours 45 minutes