



www.aztecnm.com

New Mexico, USA

  @CityofAztec

Canyons of the Ancients Loop

This approximate 160 mile loop drive will take you through desert canyons and wide open country of southwest Colorado and southeast Utah. You will go through the communities of Cortez, Blanding, Monticello, and Dove Creek.



Great Road Trips Series

110 N. Ash Ave ~ Aztec, NM 87410 ~ (505) 334-9551

Canyons of the Ancients Loop

This road adventure will take about 4 hours with minimal stops. However to enjoy the various attractions and a couple of side detours, allow yourself at least one or two days! It is recommended that the trip be taken in a clock-wise direction starting from Cortez, Colorado. This allows one the opportunity to stay over-night in Blanding or Monticello if necessary.

Cortez, CO

Many consider Cortez the cultural center of Mesa Verde Country. Strong agricultural traditions and Native American heritage characterize this town, located in the valley that is shadowed by Mesa Verde. Ancient cliff dwellings, cowboys and farms mingle harmoniously below the surrounding mountains.



Crow Canyon Archaeological Center

23390 Road K

(800) 422-8975

www.crowcanyon.org

Cortez Cultural Center

25 N. Market St.

(970) 565-1151

cortezculturalcenter.org

Colorado CR G

1. Sand Canyon

As one of the most popular trails in the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, this 6.5 mile trail one-way takes you along Sand Canyon and the vast beauty of canyonlands and numerous puebloan cliff dwellings. The trail is for hikers, mountain bikers, and some horseback riding.

www.blm.gov/learn/interpretive-centers/CANM-visitor-center-museum



As an added experience, there are two wineries along this roadway.



Guy Drew Vineyards

19891 CR G

Cortez, CO 81321

(970) 565-9211

www.guydrewvineyards.com



Sutcliffe Vineyards

12174 Road G

Cortez, CO 81321

(970) 565-0825

www.sutcliffewines.com

UT 413

2. Hovenweep National Monument

Within this monument are six ancestral Puebloan villages spread over a 20-mile expanse of mesa tops and canyons along the Utah-Colorado state line.

The main complex and park facility is located in Utah. From this location, one can hike along a trail system on the mesa top to view numerous structure and ruins.

Camping

A small campground (31 camp sites) is available at a first come first serve basis. Camp sites include tent pads, fire rings and picnic tables with shade structures, however there are no hookups available.

www.nps.gov/hove



Blanding, UT

Blanding is the gateway to Utah's Canyon Country. Surrounded by more state and national parks than anywhere else in the United States.

The Dinosaur Museum

754 South 200 West

(435) 678-3454

www.dinosaur-museum.org

The Dinosaur Museum exhibits a complete history of the world of dinosaurs. Skeletons, fossilized skin, eggs, footprints, state-of-the-art graphics, and beautifully realistic sculptures present the dinosaurs from the Four Corners region.



Edge of the Cedars State Park

1594 W. North Temple, Suite 116

(435) 678-2238

stateparks.utah.gov/parks/edge-of-the-cedars

Edge of the Cedars museum houses the largest collection of Ancestral Puebloan pottery in the Four Corners Area. The museum was built at the site of an ancient village which included dwelling units and a kiva. The kiva and some other structures have been restored and can be viewed behind the museum. The museum offers programs for adults and children, including archeology and art exhibitions, storytelling, and craft workshops.



Monticello, UT

Sheltered by the Abajo Mountains, Monticello is a cool and peaceful summer get-away. It is a small town with a big playground. Popular day tours include Canyonlands National Park, Canyon Rims Recreation Area, Manti-La Sal National Forest, the Needles, and Anticline Overlooks. Monticello is a center for hunting in the fall. While visiting, take the time to visit the following museums.

Canyon Country Discovery Center

1117 N. Main St.
(435) 587-2156
ccdiscovery.org

Frontier Museum

216 S. Main St.
(435) 587-2271



Dove Creek, CO

Deriving its name from the wild doves inhabiting local waterways, Dove Creek is best known as one of the pinto bean capitals of the world! The Adobe Milling company sells the famous Anasazi beans and numerous other locally produced products.

Adobe Milling Co.

60740 Hwy 491
Dove Creek, CO 81324
(970) 677-2620
www.anasazibeans.com



