Chama – Pagosa Springs Loop

This 250 mile loop drive will take you on a scenic drive to Chama, New Mexico and Pagosa Springs, Colorado. The trip is best enjoyed over two days, especially if you choose to ride the Cumbres & Toltec Narrow Gauge Train, soak in the hot springs of Pagosa Springs, or recreate on Navajo Lake.
Chama, NM

Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad
Built in 1880, the track between Antonito and Chama was part of the San Juan Extension of the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad. The decline of silver mining in the 1890s ended the railroad's vital role. The Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad filed for abandonment in 1969, but the most scenic part of its route, its equipment, and its buildings were saved by the states of Colorado and New Mexico in 1970. The C&TSR is America's longest and highest narrow-gauge railway still in operation. Embark from the scenic mountain village of Chama and enjoy the 60-mile ride back into time. Full and half trips run daily between Chama, NM and Antonito, CO from end of May to October.

Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad
Chama Location
500 S Terrace Ave
PO Box 1057
Chama, NM 87520
(575) 741-3126
cumbrestoltec.com

Antonito Location
5234 B US Hwy 285
PO Box 668
Antonito, CO 81120
(719) 472-3983
cumbrestoltec.com

Pagosa Springs, CO

Once inhabited by ancestral Puebloans, Utes, Navajos and Apaches, "Pagosah" hot springs was believed to have extraordinary curative powers. In time, the U.S. military established a post to protect settlers from Indian hostilities and the town of Pagosa Springs was incorporated in 1891, sustained by ranching, logging and lumber. Developers discovered the area in the 1970s, and winter skiing, the hot springs, and tourism has been booming ever since.

www.visitpagosasprings.com

While in Pagosa Springs, visit the Fred Harman Art Museum. The museum exhibits numerous Fred Harman paintings, Red Ryder and Little Beaver comic strips, rodeo, movie and other western memorabilia.

Fred Harman Art Museum
85 Harman Park Drive
PO Box 192
Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147
(970) 731-5785
www.harmanartmuseum.com
1. Chimney Rock National Monument
One of America’s newest national monuments, Chimney Rock is located in southwest Colorado between Durango and Pagosa Springs. The area derives its name from two 300-foot pinnacles that tower over the Chacoan Great House. Chimney Rock contains several excavated and unexcavated ruins. From this high altitude vantage point, visitors overlook the San Juan Mountains and Piedras River Valley. The Chimney Rock Interpretive Program, managed and staffed by the National Forest Service and volunteers of the Chimney Rock Interpretive Association, conducts daily guided walking tours and operates the Visitor Center May 15 - Sept. 30 (weather permitting).

Chimney Rock Interpretive Association
P.O. Box 1662
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
(970) 883-5359
www.chimneyrockco.org

In the vicinity of Chimney Rock National Monument is Lake Capote Recreation Area, a lake and camping facility owned and operated by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Park facilities include camping, restrooms, convenience store, picnic grounds, fishing, and non-motorized boat rentals.

2. Two Rivers Marina
This is where the two rivers of the Piedra and San Juan meet and the northern Colorado access to Navajo Lake State Park. The full service marina offers camping, restrooms, restaurant, fishing accessories, boat slips, rentals, and storage.

Navajo State Park
1526 County Rd 982
Arboles, CO, 81121
(970) 883-2628
cpw.state.co.us/placetogo/parks/Navajo/Pages/Marina.aspx
Ignacio, CO

3. Ignacio
A tri-ethnic community of about 800 people, Ignacio offers a variety of recreational opportunities with its close proximity to Chimney Rock and Navajo Lake. In addition, it serves as the capital for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

Southern Ute Indian Tribe
356 Ouray Dr.
Ignacio, CO 81137
www.southernute-nsn.gov

While in Ignacio, visit the following attractions:

Sky Ute Casino Resort
14324 Hwy 172 North
Ignacio, Colorado 81137
(970) 563-7777
www.skyutecasino.com

Southern Ute Cultural Center & Museum
503 Ouray Dr.
Ignacio, CO 81137
(970) 563-9583
www.southernutemuseum.org

Navajo Lake, CO-NM

Completed in 1963 after a six-year construction on the San Juan River, the earth and rock-filled dam is nearly 0.75-miles long and 400 feet high. It is the central amenity of Navajo Lake State Park and has a world class reputation for outdoor adventure and fishing. Covering 14,500 acres and the second largest lake in New Mexico, Navajo Lake is ideal for a day of fishing, swimming, scuba-diving, water-skiing, wildlife viewing, and hiking or for a week of camping and boating.

Navajo Lake State Park
36 Road 4110 Unit 1
Navajo Dam, NM 87419
(505) 632-2278
www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SPD/navajolakestatepark.html

Navajo Lake Marina
1448 NM 511 NBU #6
Navajo Dam, NM 87419
(505) 632-3245
www.navajomarina.com