

## 3 Scenic Byways: Short Walks, Long Views in Southern Colorado



Three scenic byways in Southern Colorado offer a three-day road tour for travelers who like frequent stops, short walks and awe-inspiring walking trails that are good for both kids and dogs. These mystic miles feature the Highway of Legends Scenic and Historic Byway, Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway and the Silver Thread Scenic and Historic Byway. You'll be seeing the towns of Trinidad, Cuchara, La Veta, Fort Garland, Alamosa and South Fork — all of which offer unique amenities.

## Day 1 - Highway of Legends Scenic and Historic Byway

### Breakfast

#### Bob and Earl's - Trinidad

[Website >](#)

Providing great food since 1993. Here you can leave the mood of the Interstate behind, and pick up the quieter rhythm of a historic two-lane road on Hwy 12.

[Read more >](#)



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### Activity:

#### Trinidad Lake State Park - Trinidad

[Website >](#)

In Trinidad Lake State Park, the half-mile Carpio's Cove Trail is an easy jaunt through pinon and juniper trees with views of a beautiful lake and access to multiple ecosystems – riparian, grassland, forest. Fee for Day Use.

[Read more >](#)



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**Lunch:**  
**Stonewall Shopping Bag Restaurant - Stonewall**  
[Website >](#)

Stretch your legs at the best miniature general store for miles in any direction. Save room for a piece of homemade pie! Engage the friendly owners with questions about the mystic landscapes and awe-inspiring geology that lies ahead.

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**Activity:**  
**Vista View Trail - Cordova Pass**  
[Website >](#)

Native Americans regarded the majestic Spanish Peaks the abode of the Gods. Today hikers enjoy top-down view of this National Natural Landmark via a short half-mile trail that brings them to a majestic view of the entire wilderness.

[CO Trek >](#)



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**Care for Colorado:**



**Cuchara Mountain Park – Cuchara**  
[Website >](#)

Looking to give back to Colorado during your visit? Here is a volunteer opportunity! Work to improve the Cuchara Mountain Park is an ongoing process.

[Sign up here](#)

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**Dinner:****Legends on Main - La Veta**[Website >](#)

Newly opened in 2020, offering an Authentic New Mexican and International food in the European tradition. A small restaurant with an even smaller kitchen produces clean, quality, from scratch food from around the globe. Think locally, cook globally!! Dine in the open air on the spacious adobe courtyard.

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**Activity:****Dark Skies and Walking Tour - La Veta**[Website >](#)

After dinner, take the 4-block walking tour of Historic Downtown La Veta then drive south of town on Hwy 12 to reach deeply dark skies and hopefully an unimpeded view of the Milky Way.

[Read more >](#)

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**Lodging:**  
**Two Fox Cabins and RV - La Veta**  
[Website >](#)

Tuck into a 2-3-or 4-bedroom cabin next to a creek, and located just one block from Downtown La Veta. Imagine yourself on a lazy morning, basking in the Colorado sunshine and enjoying the 360-degree views.



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**DAY 2 - Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway**

**Breakfast:**  
**The Bakery or Charlie's Market - La Veta**  
[Website](#) (Charlie)  
[Website](#) (Ryus)

Ryus - "The Bakery" open 7-2pm T, Th, and Sat.  
Charlie's - open 7 days a week: M-Sat 7-7; Sun 8-5  
If you are lucky enough to be in town on Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday, breakfast at "The Bakery" is a must! If it is any other day, head for Charlie's Market and pick up a deli breakfast. Charlie's is the undisputed center of day-to-day life in La Veta. And you could have an ice cream cone for breakfast!



[Read more >](#) (Charlie's)  
[Read more](#) (Ryus)



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*Insider's Tip*



SANGRE DE CRISTO  
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA  
SDCNHA.ORG

Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area - The Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway is located within the Heritage Area. The mission of the SdCNHA is to promote, preserve, protect, and interpret its profound historical, religious, environmental, geographic, geologic, cultural, and linguistic resources of the Costilla, Alamosa, and Conejos counties.

<https://www.sangreheritage.org/>

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**Activity:**  
**Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center -  
Fort Garland**

[Website](#) >

You'll get your walking accomplished by exploring the parade grounds and historic adobe buildings in the 1858 Fort Garland fort. Learn about the Buffalo Soldiers of the 9th Cavalry and discover Colorado's role in the Civil War.



[Read more](#) >

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**Lunch:**  
**All-Gon Restaurant and Pizzeria - Fort  
Garland**

[Website](#) >

Order yourself a picnic lunch, then head to the town park for picnic tables and a spectacular view of Blanca Massif. Make sure you stock up on snacks and plenty of water to take with you to the Great Sand Dunes National Park

[Read more](#) >



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**Activity:**  
**Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve - Mosca**

[Website >](#)

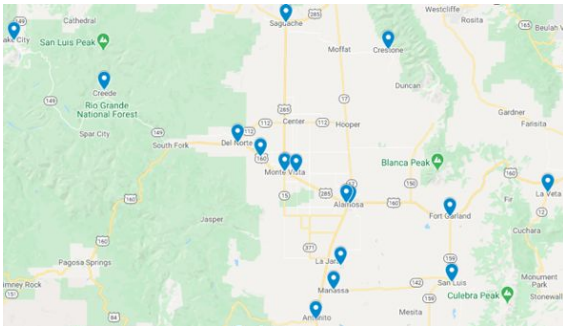
People of all ages play here. They either walk, run, roll or jump on the massive dunes themselves, hike the trails, or splash in the shallow Medano Creek, a seasonal-stream that flows around the base of the Dunes. Visitor Center and restrooms.



[Read more >](#)

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**Care for Colorado:**



**San Luis Valley Museum Association**

[Website >](#)

Looking to give back to Colorado during your visit? Here is a donation opportunity! The San Luis Valley Museum Association is an all-volunteer non-profit that supports the efforts of 22 museums throughout the Mystic San Luis Valley. Donations would go to help on projects to preserve the history, heritage and culture of Southern Colorado.

[Read more >](#)

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**Dinner:**  
**Calvillo's - Alamosa**

[Website >](#)

Calvillo's is dedicated to serving Mexican food in Colorado that is fresh, tasty, and authentic. The culture and cuisine enjoyed inside this restaurant have roots in the family's hometown of Calvillo, Mexico.

[Read more >](#)

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**Activity:**

**Pelican Trail/Crestone Trail Peak - Alamosa**

[Website](#) >

After dinner, head for the town park and take a stroll around Blanca Vista pond. Take in the views of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, enjoy the sunset, or do a bit of birdwatching. Town Park includes a dog park.



[CO Trek](#) >

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**Lodging:**

**Dunes Inn - Alamosa**

[Website](#) >

This recently remodeled property is right in the heart of downtown Alamosa. Six local restaurants are within a three-block walk.



[Read more](#) >



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**Insider's Tip**



The Mystic San Luis Valley's towns of La Veta, Crestone, Westcliffe, Cuchara, Lake City, and Creede as well as the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve are part of the Colorado Stargazing group @ <https://www.colorado.com/coloradostargazing>

Experience the Night!

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## Day 3 - Silver Thread Scenic and Historic Byway

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### **Breakfast:**

#### **Fat Carl's @ Spruce Lodge Restaurant - South Fork**

[Website](#) >

Generations of vacationers can't be wrong! Come and see why people come back year-after-year to dine at the Blue Spruce Lodge.



[Read more](#) >



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### **Activity:**

#### **Alder Creek Rd 610 - South Fork**

[Website](#) >

In and out trail: The trailhead is located behind the Alder Creek Cabin. Keep your eyes and ears open; there is an abundance of wildlife viewing along the Alder Creek Canyon adjacent to Alder Creek Road. Leashed dogs are welcome.



[CO Trek](#) >

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### **Lunch:**

#### **Malt Shoppe - South Fork**

[Website](#) >

Delicious burgers, fries, corn dogs, hotdogs, chicken, fish, ice cream, and shakes.

[Read more](#) >



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**Activity:**

**Big Meadows Loop Trail #839 - South Fork**

[Website](#) >

Trail length is one and half miles. This is a major trailhead to the Weminuche Wilderness as well as a connector to the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. Expect great mountain views and wildlife.

[CO Trek](#) >



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**Dinner:**

**Ramon's Mexican Restaurant - South Fork**

[Website](#) >

Ramon's Mexican Restaurant serves delicious food for an authentic taste of Mexico! Come experience their fresh-prepared burritos, fajitas, tacos, burgers and more specialties!

[Read more](#) >



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**Lodging:**

**Riverbend Resort - South Fork**

[Website](#) >

Cozy log & wood cabins are open year-round. One-night minimum stay for campers and RVS; 2-3 night minimum stay for cabins.

[Read more](#) >



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**Activity:**  
**Giant Fir Tree Trail - South Fork**  
[Website](#) >

Giant Fir Tree Trail: Half-mile total distance. Trailhead is located at the end of Beaver Creek Reservoir. This Douglas Fir tree is the biggest in the Rio Grande National Forest and the second biggest fir in Colorado.

[CO Trek](#) >



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**Care for Colorado:**  
**Beaver Blitz! Citizen Science at South Fork**

Hike along creeks near South Fork and record information about the presence or absence of beavers and help inform riparian management. July 17 -18. Minimum age 18. Contact Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado to register: 303-715-1010 ext 115. Physical difficulty is rated moderate to difficult.

