



Cache la Poudre-North Park Scenic and Historic Byway Itinerary

Length: 101 Miles

Driving Time: 3 Hours

Note: Open All Year

The meaning of the Cache la Poudre river is "Hide the powder" in French. It refers to an incident in the 1820s when French trappers, caught by a snowstorm, were forced to bury part of their gunpowder along the banks of the river. The North Park valley receives its name from being the northernmost of the three large mountain valleys (or parks) in Colorado on the western side of the Front Range.

Consider staying at the Armstrong Hotel in Fort Collins, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, or in remote back-country yurts located within the Colorado State Forest Park.

Start in Fort Collins and explore Old Town. Fort Collins has been revitalized to be one of the model historic downtowns in the nation and offers historic walking tours. Fort Collins is also well-known for local microbrews and wines. From the Museum of Discovery's observation deck, visitors can see Old Town Fort Collins, the Cache la Poudre River, Colorado State University and the mountains of the Front Range.

Schedule a visit in Laporte and experience the Ten Bears Winery vineyard, which uses an exclusive winter hibernation process.

Follow CO14 to Ted's Place and stop at US Forest Service Picnic Rock Picnic Site.

Pull off at Gateway Natural Area, which features the Black Powder Trail, the Overlook Trail, and group picnic shelters. Also, Greyrock Trail is 19.4 miles from Fort Collins and the parking area will hold about two dozen vehicles. More trails and campgrounds are available along this route.

Along the Poudre Canyon highway, the Mishawaka Amphitheatre is a single stage concert venue and restaurant in Bellvue. Also, visit the Arrowhead Lodge & Visitor Center, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, located at 34500 Poudre Canyon Highway, Bellvue.

Travel along the Cache La Poudre River to Cameron Pass. Following this Wild and Scenic River – one of the few rivers in the nation with this federal designation – your terrain will alternate between the tumultuous chaos of the canyon and the serenity of open pastures and alpine meadows.

Drop down into North Park, considered the moose viewing capital of Colorado, with more than 600 moose to be observed year-round. Magnificent forests, mountains, lakes, streams, and wilderness areas around North Park make Jackson County a true recreational playground.

Stop at the Colorado State Forest and the Moose Visitor Center, an educational visitor center and store. Learn about the fun new way to play nature hide-n-seek called geocaching. GPS units are available for rent.

Next go to the Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1967 to furnish waterfowl with a suitable place to nest and rear their young.

Go to Walden and stop at the North Park Pioneer Museum which is filled with treasures of yesteryear, all pertaining to North Park and its people.

Visit the eleven-mile long McCallum Field Auto Tour which starts north of Walden and winds through one of Colorado's historically significant oil and gas fields.

North Park Chamber of Commerce offers:

April - Greater Sage Grouse Lek Tours with the Colorado Parks & Wildlife

June - Never Summer Rodeo

August - North Park the Sky's The Limit Balloon Festival

End in Walden

Other nearby Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways:

South of Walden – Colorado River Headwaters National Scenic and Historic Byway

South of Fort Collins – Trail Ridge Road (All-American Road) National Scenic and Historic Byway

South of Fort Collins – Peak to Peak Scenic and Historic Byway

East of Fort Collins – Pawnee Pioneer Trails Scenic and Historic Byway

Contact Information
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