

# EXPLORING OURAY, COLORADO SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Brought to you by:



45 3rd Ave. Ouray, CO 81427  
800-327-5080  
www.BoxCanyonOuray.com

Welcoming visitors to Ouray  
for over 50 years!



## Something for Everyone!

Whether you are visiting Ouray for the first time, or have been coming to Southwest Colorado for years, there are always new and exciting adventures to be had! Once a booming mining town, it is as if you have travelled back in time but with all of the modern comforts of home.

Waterfalls, wildlife and the majesty of the San Juan Mountains surround you in this tiny mountain town.

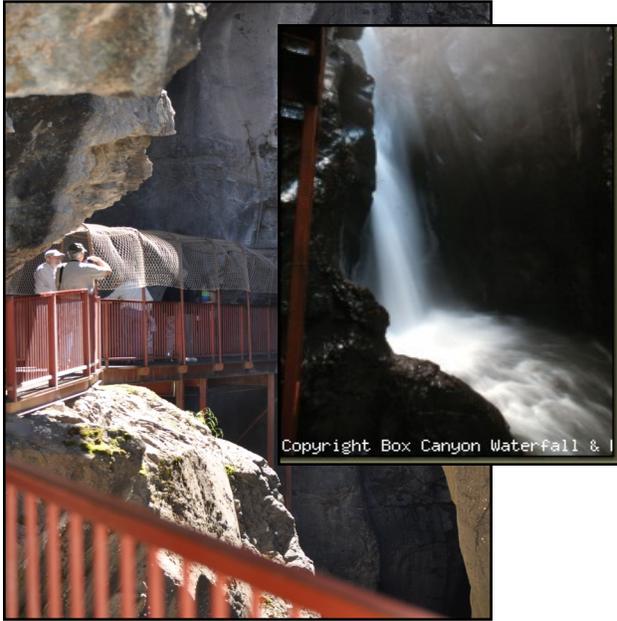
Ouray is the perfect vacation spot for family reunions, weddings or a simple getaway for two, it is located close to many types of entertainment; allowing for virtually limitless options, and at the end of the day, after enjoying all of the wonders of the best kept secret in Colorado, what better way to wind down than a soak in the soothing natural mineral hot spring tubs at the Box Canyon Lodge & Hot Springs!



## Summer Activities In and Near Ouray, Colorado

### Natural Hot Springs:

Sacred miracle waters. These were the words used by the first inhabitants of this peaceful valley, the Tabeguache Ute. Today, people still come to Ouray and the Box Canyon Lodge and Hot Springs to enjoy the therapeutic water as people have done for centuries. Our natural hot springs come out of the ground at 140°. After cooling it in a holding tank, we then feed the water into our redwood hot tubs at a more comfortable temperature, between 103°-109°, depending on the time of year.



### Box Canyon Waterfall and Park:

Just a short walk or drive from the southwest corner of town, and designated an important bird watching area in 2001 by the National Audubon society, The Box Canyon Waterfall and Park is a must see when visiting Ouray. Along a perfectly maintained walkway and suspension bridge, just past the visitors center, the lower trail is a five or ten minute walk to the base of the falls. There is a steeper, longer trip to the bridge above the falls, but well worth it for the spectacular views of town far below. Picnics and group gatherings can be enjoyed in any of the gazebos, located in several places about the park, some with grills and some without.

### The Ouray Hot Springs Pool:

Whether you want to swim laps, play water sports, practice your diving skills or just relax in the shallow area with the young ones, over a million gallons of virtually sulfur free natural mineral water ranging from 106 down to 94degrees provide the perfect solution. An 1800 square foot Fitness Center located at the pool is perfect for all of your exercise needs, and what better way to finish off a work out than to slide into the healing waters just downstairs!



## Summer Activities In and Near Ouray, Colorado

### Jeeping and Jeep Tours:

Whether you are a seasoned jeeper ready to explore on your own, or prefer to ride along on one of our many tours, with drivers who have been travelling these passes for years, who will pick you up right at your hotel, and drop you back at the end of the ride, Ouray, known as the Jeeping Capital of the World boasts trails for every taste. You can spend hours or days exploring the four wheel drive roads in the area. The levels of difficulty range from simple dirt roads appropriate for a two wheel drive sedan to breathtaking tracks requiring the use of a winch, all of which offer a photographers dream of old mines, rainbows of wildflowers, wildlife and unbelievable views.



### Ouray Hot Springs Park:

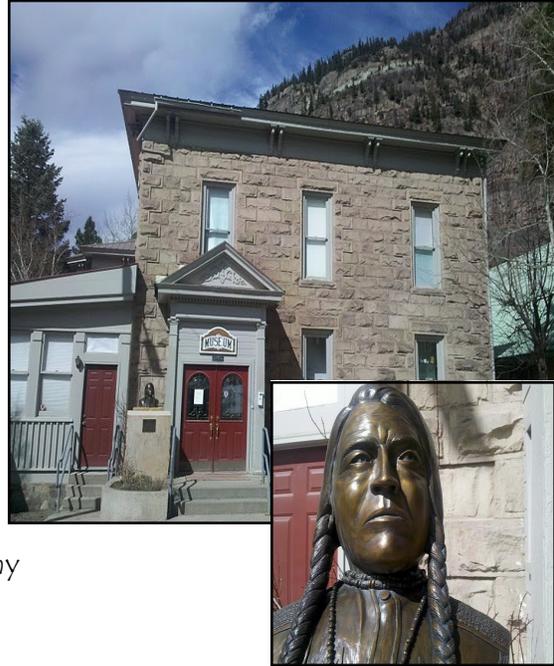
Located on the North end of town right next to the Ouray Hot Springs Pool, the park boasts ample parking both for pool goers as well as picnickers, with several sites both with and without grills. Near the playground is a fish pond, skate ramp, baseball diamond, and large grassy area great for Frisbee, volleyball, or just lounging in the sun.



## Summer Activities In and Near Ouray, Colorado

### Ouray Historic Museum:

Originally St. Joseph's Miners Hospital, the building at 420 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue has operated as a treasury of the spectacular history, geology and geography of Ouray and the surrounding area since 1971. Be prepared to spend at least an hour or so admiring the many displays of photographs, minerals and Indian artifacts in this deceptively small building. Once you have engrossed yourself in the history of the museum, you can continue your journey through the past on one of the many walking tours through Ouray, as one of the museum volunteers will guide you past the many historic residences and buildings in town.

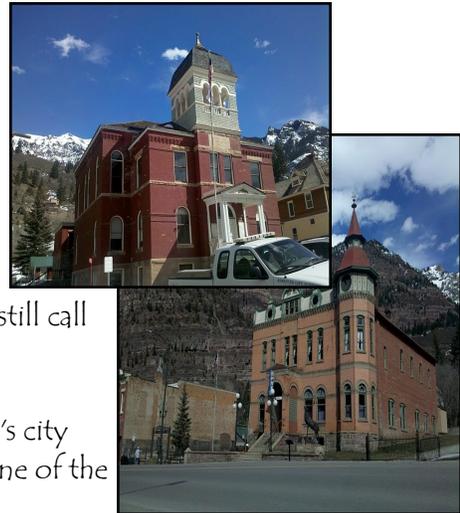


### Walking Tour:

Ouray is eight blocks long by eight blocks wide, and packed with history, lore, and stunning Victorian architecture! The best way to truly appreciate Ouray, and what makes us so memorable, are our memories! Most every building tells a story, some tell stories of the golden days of mining, while others will surely open up a few tales from the residents who still call Ouray home.

The walking tour is a very pleasant walk along a few of Ouray's city blocks and can be an enjoyable afternoon activity; it is also one of the free things to do in Ouray all year round.

For those who prefer to be privy to the juicy stories about the buildings and its inhabitants, past and present, the Ouray County Historical Society now offers private guided walking tours of Ouray led by knowledgeable museum volunteers.. They last 1-2 hrs and focus on both the Victorian homes near Main Street and the 19th Century commercial buildings on Main Street. The tour guides discuss 36 separate buildings. This is a great way to learn about the history of Ouray.



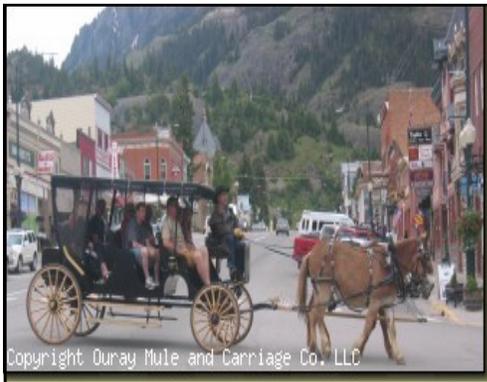
## Summer Activities In and Near Ouray, Colorado

### Hiking:

The U.S. Forest Service and local Ouray Trail Group work together to maintain more than 60 incredible hiking trails in the immediate area, from easy, short hikes, to longer more difficult hiking trails, to even more technical mountaineering.

From the short walk to Cascade Falls or following the meandering footpath of the Portland Trail, both excellent first-time introductions to area hiking, to the challenging Horse thief/Bear Creek Loop Trail, the San Juan Mountains near Ouray has something for hikers of all interests and abilities.

Several trails are easily accessed from the hotel including the Ice Park Loop, Sutton Mine Trail, the Ouray Perimeter Trail, Twin Peaks Trail, Old Twin Peaks Trail, and the Oak Creek Trail. These trails vary in length and steepness. All of them are pure delight!



### Ouray Mule and Carriage Rides, LLC.:

Your journey into the past begins before you even board your stagecoach or carriage. Located at the Livery Barn, built in 1883, right on the corner of 8th and Main, your historical tour of the town begins, morning noon or night. Your knowledgeable driver will tour you through town and entertain you with stories of Ouray's colorful past.



### Horseback Rides at The Bachelors Stable:

What better way to experience the beauty of the land around you than on horseback, with a real cowboy as your guide! No matter what time of year, large or small groups can enjoy a personalized adventure on horseback, just a mile or so outside of town, near the Bachelor Syracuse Mine Tour.

## Summer Activities In and Near Ouray, Colorado



### Bachelor-Syracuse Mine Tour:

Jump into a 'trammer' (a real mine train), and ride past work areas, declines, crosscuts and veins of ore, 3,350 feet into Gold Hill. Your guide will take you back through history, explaining the inner and outer workings of a real gold and silver mine. Once you emerge from your tour, enjoy a meal at the Miners' Outdoor Café, then off for some instruction on panning for gold, and a visit to the Blacksmith Shop. Don't forget to pick up a few things at the Treasure Chest Gift Shop which offers Cranberry Glass, made with real gold, Blacksmith Wares and Prospecting Supplies to name just a few.

### Wildlife Viewing:

You won't have to look very hard to see a variety of wildlife in Ouray and the surrounding area. Deer wander all over town, as well as Foxes, Bighorn Sheep, Elk, and even the occasional Bear or Mountain Lion. Bird watchers have no problem spotting all kinds of species, such as the Black Tailed Swift, which have chosen to make Ouray a nesting site, and cannot be found in many other locations.



### Scenic Drives:

Southwestern Colorado boasts some of the most dramatic and varied scenic byways in the nation. The San Juan Skyway Scenic Byway, which actually runs from Montrose to Durango, and is consistently voted one of the top ten scenic byways in the US. The most popular portion of the drive is the Million Dollar Highway, a section of Highway 500 between Ouray and Silverton. The 76 miles from Ouray to Durango is a feast for the eyes around every (sometimes tight) bend in the road. Dramatic views and phenomenal photo opportunities await!

## Summer Activities In and Near Ouray, Colorado

### Culinary Delights:

Ouray is not home to any restaurant chains or franchises. Small, independent restaurateurs developed the cuisine and dining concepts from years of experience and loads of hard work. Local chefs develop their own menus and so dining in Ouray is a very new experience for many. You can be sure that Ouray dishes up some divine culinary options should you desire some perfect vacation getaway at an affordable price.



"Hutch"

### Mr. Grumpy Pants (But He isn't really all that grumpy):

After a long day of play and adventures, once you have soaked, had your massage, and bought all kinds of gifts for friends and family who couldn't come, (and some for yourself) head on down to the Ouray House on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue for your choice of a small medium or large mug of microbrew in one of the most unique establishments around. Play games, chat with the locals even bring your own food to grill out on the deck as you enjoy the beauty and serenity of the mountains around you.



### Shopping:

Regardless of what your tastes might be, Main Street in Ouray boasts shops which cater to everyone, from culinary delights, antiques, jewelry, books, art supplies and local artists works are available in practically every store. Be sure to make some time to wander through every shop and look at the treasures available for you.

## Summer Activities In and Near Ouray, Colorado



### Massage:

Time to really relax! Once you have finished hiking, shopping and sightseeing, pamper yourself at one of our spas. Enjoy a classic massage, or choose from several specialized techniques used by these talented therapists specifically designed to relax and rejuvenate your body and mind.

### Ridgway Reservoir State Park:

Water skiing, fishing, and hiking to your heart's content at this fantastic reservoir just outside of Ridgway. The stark blue of the water against the backdrop of the San Juan Mountain Range is a photographer's fantasy and you may catch sight of one of the pairs of Bald Eagles that call this land home, or spy any number of wildlife as you relax on the beach with your fishing pole at your side.. Day picnic sites are available with grills or without; a great place to gather as a group and enjoy the park.



Courtesy of RIGS Fly Shop and Guide Service

### Fishing:

Within miles of Ouray, you will find lakes, rivers, creeks and reservoirs overflowing with a wide variety of trout. Whether you are looking for a catch and release area, or a more secluded fishing environment, you won't be disappointed. There are not only rainbows, but browns, cutthroat and brook trout as well as salmon at certain times of the year.

## Summer Activities In and Near Ouray, Colorado

### Rafting/Kayaking with RIGS:

Whether you are planning to spend a couple of hours or a couple of days on the river, leisurely floating along or racing through the rapids, RIGS has an adventure for you. Starting about 2 miles past the Ridgeway State Park, enjoy the splendor of the San Juan Mountains in the background as you travel down the Uncompahgre with the only outfitter on the river.



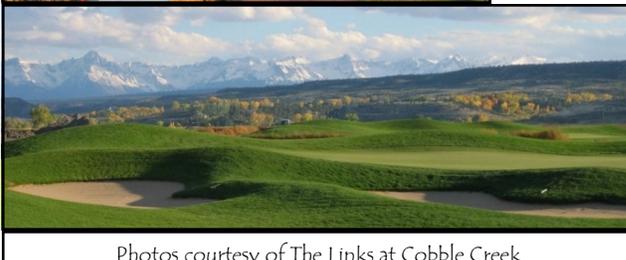
Courtesy of RIGS Fly Shop and Guide Service

### Hot Air Balloon Rides:

Just 10 miles North, outside of the town of Ridgway, board a hot air balloon for a two hour flight over the valley. Views of the spectacular mountain ranges, valleys and mesas below will remain in your heart and mind long after landing for a champagne brunch at the end of your flight. Well worth the early start (rides begin at sunrise), this three to four hour adventure is a once in a lifetime experience not to be missed.



### Golf:



Photos courtesy of The Links at Cobble Creek

Within an hour of the beauty of Ouray, choose between four spectacular world class golf courses. About 15 miles north of town the Divide Ranch & Club boasts an 18 hole championship course. The Links at Cobble Creek , a 72 par, 18 hole course located just outside of Montrose, Colorado, just half an hour or so away. Regardless of where you choose to play, the phenomenal scenery may distract you from your game.

## Summer Activities In and Near Ouray, Colorado



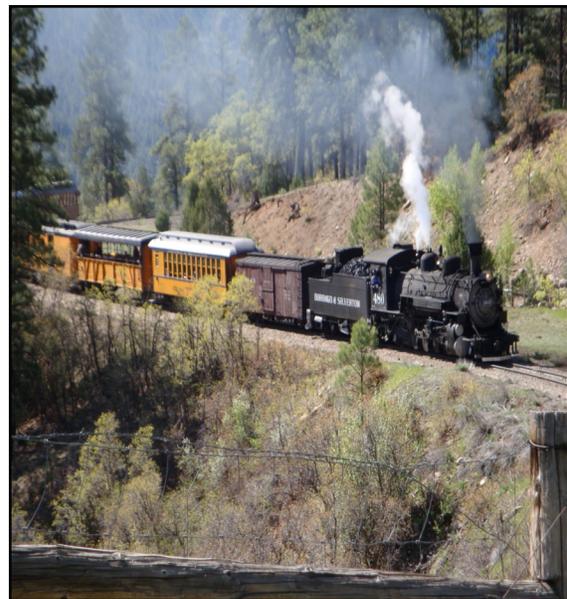
Courtesy of Michael Buck via Flickr.com

### **Telluride-Mountain Village Gondola:**

Just above the town of Telluride, just an hour away from Ouray, park your car and take the free Gondola Ride into town. The fifteen minute ride takes you past the Telluride ski resort down the side of the mountain right to the heart of town. Explore the quaint little ski town for a while, enjoying a lovely lunch in one of the several fantastic dining spots on Main street, then take the gondola back up to your car, reveling in the incredible views and vistas as you rise to over 10,000 feet in elevation.

### **Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad:**

Travel the original railway built by Otto Mears in 1881 on one of the few coal fueled steam engines still operating in the US. Wind through the virtually untouched backcountry of the San Juan Mountains from Durango to Silverton, where you may disembark for a short time to wander the streets of this small town which truly has not changed much since the railway was built, then jump back aboard for a return journey and capture on film the fantastic sights you may have missed the first time around.



Courtesy of Gunnison, Crested Butte Official Website

### **Morrow Point Boat Tour:**

During the summer months, Memorial Day through Labor Day, join a knowledgeable guide on a 42 passenger boat for a journey through the Black Canyon in the Curecanti Recreational area. Learn about the formation, wildlife and foliage of the canyon on this 1 1/2 hour tour which runs twice daily Wednesday through Monday.

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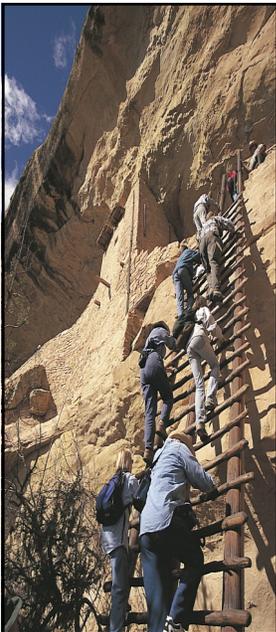


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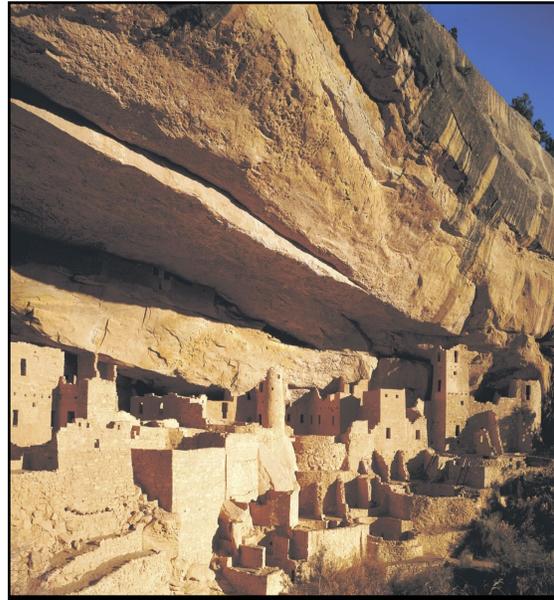
### **Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park:**

Southwestern Colorado offers an amazing range of scenery. In the hour long drive to the entrance of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, you will pass forested high country just below timberline to ranch land, farm land and wine country, entering yet another feast for the eyes and senses. The winding road takes you along the path of the Gunnison River, a breathtaking trip through one of the deepest canyons in the country.

### **Mesa Verde:**



Long before the Ute Indians arrived in Southwest Colorado, the Four Corners was home to the Pueblo People. A short 3 ½ hour drive from Ouray, explore the ancient homes and lives of this civilization, at the first national park of its kind in the nation. Boasting over 600 cliff dwellings among the more than 4700 archeological sites in the park, be prepared to spend at least a few hours to truly experience this wonder of early civilization.



Courtesy of Mesa Verde Country