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Colorado
THINK OUTSIDE

OFFICIAL VISITOR'S GUIDE

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 Town of Ridgway Early Spring
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Scan to go to
www.ridgwaycolorado.com



How to Enjoy Ridgway Like a Local

Residents and businesses take great pride in our community and surrounding open spaces. We invite visitors to consider ways to minimize impacts and maximize local benefits. Traveling responsibly means educating yourself on outdoor recreation best practices, local ethics and community expectations.

- **Know Before You Go:** Be prepared and be informed about your destination.
- **Stick to the Trails:** Protect our natural landscapes by staying on the trails and roads.
- **Trash the Trash:** If you pack it in, pack it out.
- **Leave It as You Find It:** Camp in designated areas only.
- **Be Careful with Fire:** Follow seasonal restrictions, and keep campfires small and manageable.
- **Keep Wildlife Wild:** Leash your dogs, pack out waste, and don't feed wildlife.
- **Share Our Parks & Trails:** Try out the lesser-known paths and sites, and minimize noise.

Be Prepared for Adventure

The San Juan Mountains are a rugged, steep mountain range rising to just over 14,000 feet. These beautiful public lands offer adventures year round. If you are interested in exploring the San Juans, be prepared for challenging terrain that sometimes requires technical expertise and knowledge of the area.

Come prepared by doing research online to find maps, rules and helpful guidance from public agencies and user-generated websites. Utilize local expertise when you get into town by stopping in at our local gear stores. We highly recommend working with our local guide services that employ experts who can help you achieve your goals for world-class recreation. You can also take a course in: backcountry skiing, avalanche safety, rock climbing, ice climbing, and other valuable outdoor skills.

More Information:

- www.colorado.com/articles/leave-no-trace-care-colorado
- www.staythetrail.org



Explore Ridgway



Ridgway's Geography & Climate

TIME ZONE: Mountain Standard

COORDINATES: latitude 38.1526° W;
longitude 107.7556° N

ELEVATION: 6,985 feet

CLIMATE: 243 Sunny Days/Year

ANNUAL PRECIPITATION: snowfall: 85 inches;
rainfall: 16 inches

SUMMER TEMPERATURES: days: 70s/80s; nights: 50s

WINTER TEMPERATURES: days: Teens to 40s;
nights: 0 to 20s

More than our area's spectacular scenic beauty will take your breath away. Elevations just within Ouray County vary from 6,340 feet at our northern county line to 14,321 feet at our highest point, Uncompahgre Peak. Altitude sickness is a real condition, and can especially affect visitors, so take time to get acclimated, drink plenty of water, and start your stay with good rest.

Welcome to Ridgway

I have often said that Ridgway is perfect right now and that I wish we could “freeze” it in time. This one-stoplight town was almost flooded in the 1990s when the Ridgway Reservoir was built, and growth has been slower here than many of the surrounding mountain towns, which in my mind, makes it even more of a gem. There are just enough restaurants, amenities, and cultural activities but you still know more than half the people in line at the Post Office.

I encourage visitors (especially if you are on vacation) to take the opportunity to unplug, be patient, and enjoy a slightly slower pace of life. Great ways to do this are to take a stroll down the river path, check out one of our remote backcountry huts, or enjoy outside dining at one of our great restaurants. We have some good restaurants for a small town and I think it is because they know they have to get locals to keep coming back.

One of the best things about small towns is that most people smile or say hello. Ridgway is a friendly community where it doesn't matter if you are a world-class athlete (there are a lot around), rancher, or stay-at-home mom. In Ridgway it can be hard to tell the difference and the difference really doesn't matter. I hope that the character of Ridgway stays the same. It is pretty idyllic with pastoral ranchland leading up to majestic peaks, just enough people, and almost enough dogs.

Whether you are in Ridgway for a backcountry hut trip, as a hub to access other mountain towns, or just passing through, I hope you get a chance to stop for a moment and enjoy the views, enjoy the sun, and enjoy the friendly people!

Happy travels,
Kelly Ryan, Co-Owner, San Juan Huts

Meet Kelly...

YEARS IN RIDGWAY: 12

PREVIOUS HOMETOWNS: A lot of places, but growing up around here, I never really could find anything that compared.

REASON FOR RETURNING: In part to climb and ski with my father, Joe Ryan, before he got “too old” – little did I know that was a few more decades!

PROFESSION: Continuing our family business, San Juan Huts

FREE-TIME ACTIVITIES: Hanging with my daughter, petting my dog and recreating as much as I can, as well as picking away at finishing the house my husband and I built/ are building

MOST AMAZING VIEW IN THE AREA: Ah, there are too many to pick from





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Plan Your Visit



Sunbeams over Hartwell Park – Trisha Oakland



Space to Create Community Room

An Inspiring Destination All Year Long

Ridgway is the ideal basecamp for so many adventures. Our slogan is “Think Outside!” And you’ll see why as you experience the multifaceted nature, culture, food, activities, and attractions that surround you here. Whether you are an outdoor enthusiast, gourmand, history buff, or art lover, the Ridgway area has it all. Come and explore the diversity of what we offer!

Whether you’re looking for the exhilaration of outdoor recreation, the serenity of pristine alpine beauty, or the inspiration of cultural exploration, Ridgway, Colorado is your destination. Our small-town hospitality is a blend of the spirit of the Old West, healthy lifestyles and laid-back, friendly folks.

We welcome you to explore and discover Ridgway in every season!

Ridgway is a welcoming, rural community situated in a beautiful mountain valley in the Mountains & Mesas travel region of Colorado. Our population of nearly 1,000 residents shares a deep connection to the outdoors. We support learning, creativity, and culture. We are committed to being economically sustainable and ecologically responsible. Our

town government supports water conservation, recycling, and non-motorized transit. We have free hookups for electric cars at our public parking lot, and the Ridgway Community Garden promotes local, sustainable food production.

Summer visitors should be sure to stop by the Ridgway Visitors Center, operated by the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce, for great suggestions and answers to your questions about the area. Throughout the year, the chamber is dedicated to providing visitor information through the print and digital Visitors Guide, weekly eblasts, quarterly visitor newsletters, Facebook, Instagram, and other media channels.

To help guests feel welcome and informed, the Town of Ridgway has placed maps and historic photos around the central business district. Travelers of all ages will find it easy to get away from the crowds and enjoy the area’s many recreational options, accommodations, shops, galleries, restaurants, and entertainment. A unique selection of businesses and hospitality providers are ready to welcome you and invite you to explore year round.

Space to Create

One of the most exciting recent additions to downtown Ridgway is the three-story Space to Create. As the newest neighbor on Clinton Street, which is bustling with galleries, eateries, and performance, Ridgway Space to Create Project provides 30 one and two-bedroom live/work spaces for hard-working people who help make our community vibrant. On the street level, a new 2,000-square-foot community space and a resident-run art gallery promise to be hubs of creativity in Ridgway. Keep an eye on the Ridgway FUSE website to find out what’s happening in this new space, and throughout the local creative scene:

www.ridgway-fuse.org

“I love how our little burg has evolved into one of the most vibrant little towns in all of Colorado. We’ve got it all, really, but what I’d say I love most is just wandering down to Clinton Street almost any day of the year, and seeing folks hanging out, checking out the stores and restaurants, and soaking in the views. The energy is wonderful.”

John, The MacDoktor and Ridgway Mayor

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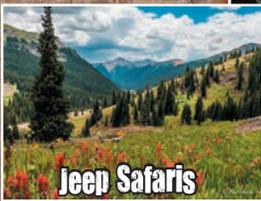
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March Fourth at the Sherbino – Trisha Oakland

Ridgway Area Event Calendar

JANUARY

- Avalanche & backcountry skiing trainings
- Guided First Day Hike, Ridgway State Park
- Guided snowshoe hike, Ridgway State Park
- Ouray Ice Festival, Ouray Ice Park
- San Juan Skijoring, Ouray County Fairgrounds

FEBRUARY

- Got Stump? Fundraiser, Wright Opera House
- Ouray Nordic Council Full Moon Cross-Country Ski
- Paradox Sports camp for athletes with adaptive needs
- Second City Touring Company show
- Sherbino Mainstage Theater Production

YEAR-ROUND EVENTS

- | | |
|---|--|
| Art exhibitions & opening receptions, 610 Arts Collective | Outdoor education/ training programs |
| ARTbar evening art workshops | Photography workshops |
| Comedy shows | Ridgway Library art exhibitions |
| Dance and fitness classes | SherbNerds Trivia Nights |
| Historic tours | Sherb Talks Lecture Series |
| Live music | True Grit Walking Tour |
| Live theater and dance performances | Visual and performing arts workshops for adults and children |
| Movie nights | |
| Ouray County Performing Arts Guild concerts | |

MARCH

- 70's Prom with Disco Fuego, the Sherbino
- Fly Fishing Film Fundraiser, Ouray County 4H Event Center
- Ouray School & Weehawken Creative Arts: Cabaret
- The Young Dubliners, the Sherbino

APRIL

- April Local's Appreciation Day, Ridgway State Park
- Earth Day Celebration, Ridgway State Park
- Sherb Travel Talks, the Sherbino

MAY

- Colorado Public Lands Day: Outdoor Gear Demo (including adaptive gear!)
- Ridgway Farmers Market, Hartwell Park
- Weehawken & Missoula Children's Theater's King Arthur's Quest
- Weehawken Dance Production: Peter Pan

ALL SUMMER LONG

- Adventure Wednesdays, Voyager Youth Program
- First Fridays in Ridgway's Creative District
- Ouray County Historical Society Tours
- Outdoor movies, Hartwell Park

- Ridgway Farmers Market, Hartwell Park
- Ridgway State Park Summer Evening Program Series
- Ridgway State Park 1st Saturday mornings: archery
- Ridgway State Park 2nd Saturday mornings: Nature Detectives
- Ridgway State Park 3rd Saturday mornings: Take Me Fishing Clinics
- Ridgway State Park 4th Saturday mornings: Nature Detectives
- The Courtyard at 610 weekly live music concerts

JUNE

- Ridgway Amateur Sculpting Contest, Weehawken
- Ridgway Area Trails RAT Fest
- Ridgway Fete de la Musique, downtown Ridgway
- Ridgway-Ouray Community Council Citizen of the Year Celebration
- Ridgway RiverFest, Rollans Park
- Trail Town 10-Miler, San Juan Mountain Runners
- ROCC Ouray County Citizen of the Year
- UpstART Theater That Moves: Big Love, the Sherbino
- The Sherbino presents Goldpine, CSB Rooftop
- Woman's Club of Ouray County Rummage Sale



For specific event dates and times, please visit

- www.ridgwaycolorado.com/news-events/events
- www.ouraycountycalendar.com
- www.ridgway-fuse.org/events

JULY

Artists' Alpine Holiday Fine Arts Show and Sale
 July 4th Camp Host Golf Cart Parade, Ridgway State Park
 July Lake Appreciation, Ridgway State Park
 Ouray County Historic Ranch Tour & Luncheon
 Ridgway Concert Series, Hartwell Park

AUGUST

Fortuna Tierra Club's Log Hill Hustle Fun Run/Walk
 Mt. Sneffels Marathon, Half-Marathon, 10K & Kids Fun Run
 OCPAG San Juan Chamber Music Fest
 Ouray Canyoning Festival
 Ouray County Fair, 4H Event Center & Fairgrounds
 Ridgway Rendezvous Arts and Crafts Festival, Hartwell Park
 Top of the Pines Dark

Sky Week
 Upstart Theater That Moves: Othello, Wright Opera House

SEPTEMBER

Don't Get Me Started Gameshow, the Sherbino
 Labor Day Rodeo, Ouray County Rodeo Association
 Love Your Gorge day, Ouray Ice Park
 Ouray County Railroad Days
 Ouray County Ranch History Museum Gallery Show & Demos
 Ourock! Festival, Ouray Climbers Alliance
 National Public Lands Day, Ridgway State Park
 Ridgway Farmers Market, Hartwell Park
 Ridgway Old West Fest, Ridgway Western Heritage Society
 Ridgway Spirit Fest
 September Public Bird

Banding Day, Ridgway State Park
 September Star Party, Ridgway State Park
 Weehawken's Sneffels Fiber Arts Festival

OCTOBER

Halloween Readers Theater, the SherBOOno
 Halloween at the SherBOOno Live Music
 October Bat Fest, Ridgway State Park
 Paint-in-the-Park
 Plein Air Event
 Ridgway 1k Rally thru the Alley (Run for the Arts)
 Ridgway Farmers Market, Hartwell Park
 San Juan Barrel Fest with live music

NOVEMBER

Ouray County Ski & Gear Swap
 Ridgway Independent Film Fest

Spirit of the Season Bazaar and Talent Roundup
 Warren Miller films, the Sherbino

DECEMBER

Avalanche & backcountry skiing trainings
 MountainFilm at the Sherbino
 Ouray County Chorus Holiday Concert
 Ridgway Noel Night
 Sherbino Mainstage holiday production
 Weehawken's Gin & Gingerbread Decorating for Grown Ups
 Weehawken Dance Public Performances of The Polar Express
 Weehawken's Family Gingerbread House Decorating Workshop
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Outdoor Adventure

Peak and Milky Way – Ouray Image

Recreational Choices for All Seasons

Grand landscapes rise up to clear, sunny skies by day and star-filled wonder by night. Mountain springs, waterfalls, streams, and lakes connect an outdoor playground with almost limitless possibility. The Ridgway area has all the elements to create great adventures and amazing memories, from valley floor to high mesas. Outdoor activities include hiking, biking, rafting, kayaking, sailing, windsurfing, stand up paddle boarding, fishing, camping, wildlife viewing, horseback riding, rock and ice climbing, peak bagging, jeeping, hunting, backcountry Nordic and alpine skiing, and snowshoeing.

Our natural beauty is accessible at night as well. Being surrounded by public lands and wilderness, the Ridgway area has some of the best night-sky views in

the world. In fact, Ridgway is an international Dark Sky Community, recognized for the visibility of celestial features. Be sure to make time for an evening outing or hot springs soak under the brilliant moon, stars, and silhouetted mountain peaks.

All year long, Ouray County is full of out-of-the-ordinary adventures for the whole family. From rocks that sparkle and aspen trees with eyes to wildlife and water in many forms, our landscapes have endless opportunities for discovery. The San Juan Mountains are the perfect destination for young people to explore and ignite their imaginations. Nonprofit organizations offer various outdoor activities for local students and visiting youth to learn and develop their athletic skills, scientific understanding, and leadership abilities.

Worth a Visit!

Dennis Weaver Memorial Park is an 80-acre wildlife preserve along the Uncompahgre River, and home to eagles, blue heron, deer, foxes and more. Gifted to Ridgway by the Weaver family, the park's assets include a bronze Eagle Monument with a 20-foot wingspan; an astronomically aligned medicine wheel made from stones; picnic areas; and paved and shaded paths as well as dirt trails with wide-open views.

Info: <https://dennisweaverpark.com/>

Top of the Pines is an outstandingly beautiful outdoor recreation area, environmental education basecamp, special event destination, open space preserve and International Dark Sky Park. At the foot of the Sneffels Range, this 175-acre pine tree-encircled oasis offers a remarkable place to learn, recreate, and celebrate. Summer activities include disc golf, biking, hiking, stargazing, and camping.

Info: <https://www.topofthepines.org/>

Other local parks: Frontier Park with tennis courts, pickleball courts, skateboard park, athletic fields, gazebo, and picnic pavilion; Rollans Park on the Uncompahgre River with a forested hangout, restroom, and picnic tables; Ridgway Apiary and Ridgway Community Garden.

The Ultimate Array of Outdoor Experiences

Southwest Colorado is synonymous with outdoor wonderland. Exploring the backcountry or hanging out around Ridgway just after dawn or at dusk, the scenery and wildlife astound and inspire you to discover more. Recreational opportunities abound for young and old alike to enjoy in this grand landscape in all four seasons.

Photography: Amateur and professional photographers can easily capture amazing scenery throughout the year, with snowcapped mountains, stunning sunrises and sunsets, spectacular night skies, dazzling waterfalls, and fantastic fall leaves. The San Juans are the most photographed mountains in Colorado, and Owl Creek Pass is one of our favorites for access to amazing landscapes and wildlife.

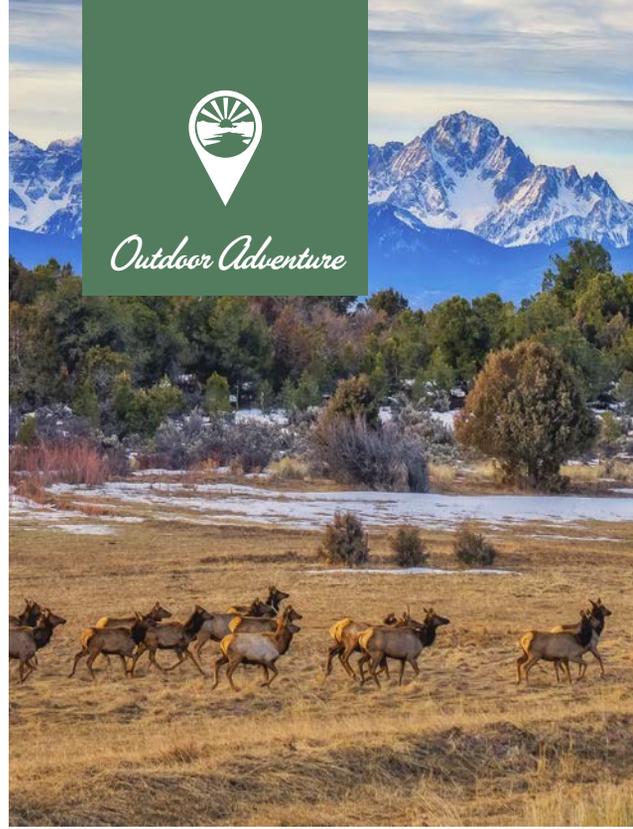
Wildlife Viewing: Most notable of the indigenous wildlife in and around Ridgway are mountain lions, badgers, deer, elk, moose, bears, coyotes, lynx, wild turkeys, porcupines, and bald eagles. Birding opportunities also abound, with more than 140 species of migratory and resident birds in the area.

Hunting: As summer ends and temperatures cool, thousands of elk and deer come down to lower elevations. Ridgway is surrounded by the Uncompahgre National Forest, which boasts prime elk management units and excellent hunting grounds for big and small game.

Golf & Disc Golf: The award-winning 18-hole golf course at the Divide Ranch & Club is located amid the rugged Ponderosa pine beauty, and features 7,039 yards of challenging play. For golfers of another kind, Top of the Pines' disc golf course is expanding to 18 holes in 2023, offering a great way to enjoy the forest with friends.

"Ridgway is right at a transition point in terms of climate. I live on the north edge of town where cactus grows and I can see storms roll in and blanket the mountains with snow. Weather and temperatures can change quickly and be very different in a relatively close area."

Kelly, San Juan Huts



Sneffels elk herd – Ouray Image

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RIGS Fly Shop & Guide Service
970.626.4460
San Juan Hut Systems, Inc
970.626.3033

Skyward Mountaineering
970.325.3305
Voyager Youth Program
(summer & school breaks only) 970.626.4279

Climbing & Canyoning

The mountains are just a few steps from your front door in the Ridgway area. So, if you crave adventures that take you off the ground, you'll find year-round opportunities for mountaineering and canyoning. A summit photo from our iconic 14-er, Mount Sneffels, or less-explored peaks like Hayden, Chimney and Courthouse mountains, will be a treasured souvenir of your trip to the San Juans (and the envy of all of your friends).

From bouldering to sport climbing and multi-pitch climbs, Ouray county has great options for beginners and families, and the number of high-quality routes for the most experienced climbers are growing. The Ouray Via Ferrata opened in the Uncompahgre Gorge in 2020, and a more advanced section was added in 2021. These courses offer ladders and metal steps, available unguided and guided depending on experience level. Proper safety equipment is required.

Know Before You Go: All forms of climbing are technical sports that require knowledge and experience to ensure safety. Check with one of our local guide services who can teach you the ropes safely. You can also learn a lot by participating in the Ouray Canyoning Festival, OuRock! Festival, and Ouray Ice Festival (see events page for dates).



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Outdoor Adventure



Fat biking to a San Juan Hut

Snow Sports – Beyond the Lift Line

Visitors can enjoy Ridgway’s small-town hospitality, while accessing world-class skiing and snowboarding at the nearby resorts in Telluride, Silverton, and Durango. For solitude and pristine powder, nothing beats the backcountry slopes and meadows of the San Juan Mountains around Ridgway. Alpine skiing and snowboarding as well as Nordic (cross-country) skiing, snowshoeing, and other snow sports are available throughout the winter plus for a few weeks before the resort lifts open and after they close.

Winter is a great time for adaptive sports, and our area is a popular home and destination for athletes with limited sight, hearing, and mobility seeking outdoor recreation. As a hub of established adaptive sports programs, several sports are available to youth, veterans, and family members with various athletic abilities.

Know Before You Go: Local outfitters rent winter equipment such as alpine touring skis, fat bikes and snowshoes. In the backcountry, safety gear is a must, including helmets, avalanche transceivers, shovels, and probes. Outfitters also offer avalanche safety courses and guided excursions.

Snowshoeing, Cross-Country Skiing & Fat Biking

Nothing compares to the solitude of a cross-country skiing or snowshoeing under blue skies, falling snow, or a full moon.

Exploring the area on snowshoes or Nordic skis allows you to see and photograph not only wildlife and snowy landscapes, but also historic mining sites. Fat bikes are also a great way to explore our winter wonderland. The area has a variety of venues for beginners to experienced winter sports enthusiasts, including Ironton Park up Red Mountain Pass and Owl Creek Pass where Ouray County Road 12 is closed and snow covered.

Ice Climbing

From mid-December to mid-March, ice climbing is just 20 minutes away. Bring your own crampons, ice tools, and harness or get outfitted by a local guiding company to check this world-class experience off your bucket list. The Ouray Ice Park offers a variety

of routes from low-angle climbs like the Kids’ Wall to steep ice walls throughout the Uncompahgre Gorge. Challenging ice climbs can also be found in the surrounding backcountry. No matter your skill level, local companies offer climbing clinics, lessons, and one-on-one guiding for every age.

The Ouray Ice Festival, scheduled for January 19-22, 2023, is the largest celebration of ice climbing in North America. Attracting athletes from around the globe annually since 1996, the whole event from competitions to parties is fun for all. Information: www.ourayicepark.com

San Juan Skijoring

To observe a truly unique winter sporting event, visit Ridgway on January 14-15, 2023 and January 13-14, 2024. Skijoring, a mix of horseback riding and skiing or snowboarding, is a thrilling spectacle that combines our local ranching heritage with our love for winter sports. Brought to you by Ouray County Rodeo Association, novice to advanced competitors entertain spectators on a specially designed track at the Ouray County Fairgrounds. Information: www.ouraycountyrodeo.com.



San Juan Skijoring

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Top of the Pines Explore. Educate. Enjoy.

1035 Highland Dr, Ridgway, CO 81432

Located at the foot of the Sneffels Range in southwestern Colorado near the towns of Ouray and Ridgway, this 175-acre wilderness jewel offers local communities and visitors a remarkable place to learn, recreate, and celebrate, while also providing an inspiring gathering place for everyone interested in exploring the beauty of the San Juans.

New for 2023 Top of the Pines (TOP) completed renovations to its Pavilion including a prep kitchen, large classroom, and A/V equipment that enhances the venue.

There's an activity for everyone at Top of the Pines! Contact us at info@topofthepines.org

- Hiking • Disc Golf • Tent Camping • Wedding/Event Venue • Nordic Skiing
- Biking • Stargazing/Astrophotography/Star Parties • Birdwatching • Outdoor Education

Top of the Pines is a non-profit organization that relies on generous donations, yearly memberships, and daily user-fees to maintain and improve the facilities. Help us continue to grow and provide an amazing outdoor experience for years to come by adding to the donations boxes or donating through our website www.topofthepines.org/donate. Thank you!





Ridgway Area Trails – Ridgway Adventure Sports

Breathtaking Bike Rides Around

Whether you are looking for an easy bike path, a long-distance ride on pavement, or an off-road mountain experience, you can access a wide variety of back roads and trails for spectacular rides around Ridgway. The area has more than 40 miles of singletrack in some of the most beautiful scenery in the country, below and through the San Juan Mountains. Cyclists and mountain bikers of all ages and levels will find fun and challenges around the area.

The amazing road-biking route on Highway 62 from Ridgway to Placerville was part of the Ride the Rockies route in 2021. The highway provides a small but adequate shoulder, hits a top elevation on Dallas Divide of 8,970 feet, and rewards the strenuous climbs with

tremendous views of the Sneffels range.

A challenging multi-use trail system with fantastic mountain bike terrain was created by the Ridgway Area Trails Group (RAT), the Sneffels Chapter of the Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Association (COPMOBA). The trails are on the edge of Ridgway and open June through Dec. 1. Go online to www.copmoba.org/ridgway for a trail map and information about local biking.

For biking in all seasons, try the beginner trails at Dennis Weaver Park; they are short but accessible all but a few weeks of the year. Gravel grinding on the lower-elevation county roads is also accessible in summer, spring, fall and the sunnier weeks of winter.

TOP-RATED TRAILS

Easy:

Top of the Pines

ROUNDTrip: 1.5 miles

HIGHLIGHTS: This kid-friendly mountain bike trail begins and ends at the Top of the Pines pavilion. It descends into a shallow draw, gently climbs up the other side, goes along the ridge top, and loops back to the pavilion through ponderosa forest and scrub oak. With no logs, rocks or other obstacles, this trail is also suitable for visitors with disabilities. Info: www.topofthepines.org

Moderate:

County Roads 23 and 17

ROUNDTrip: 24 miles

HIGHLIGHTS: Ouray County Roads 23 and 17 between Ridgway and Ouray provide a scenic ride (12 miles one way) through rolling ranchland. When starting in Ridgway, the dirt and gravel route is more challenging, with a gradual steady climb, and from Ouray, includes more coasting on gentle downhills. See area map.

Challenging:

Ridgway Area Trails

ROUNDTrip: 3 to 30 miles

HIGHLIGHTS: With trails spread on both sides of Highway 550 between Dennis Weaver Park and Ridgway State Park, many of the trails are a great thrill for experienced riders, while some are geared for the less experienced. With names like Big Cheese, Exterminator and Speedy Gonzales, the 30 miles of trails offer really sweet, fat-tire, singletrack fun. Info: www.copmoba.org/ridgway

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Explore on Foot on our Abundant Trails

Whether you call it hiking, trekking, walkabout, or rambling, putting your feet into motion and heading into the hills is a wonderful way to experience the Ridgway area. The San Juan and Cimarron Wilderness Areas, Uncompahgre National Forest, and abundant

Know Before You Go: Be sure to pick up the excellent Ouray Trail Group map from local bookstores and visitor centers for descriptions, distances, difficulty, and topographic information. Information on the status of many trails, with some maps and pictures, is also available at www.ouraytrails.org.

public lands offer not only hundreds of miles of trails, thanks to the Utes, explorers, surveyors and miners, but also the highest concentration of 14,000-foot peaks in Colorado.

Dirt trails, gravel roads, and paved paths provide walking,

hiking, and running opportunities for all ages and experience levels, ranging from easy and short to longer and more challenging terrain. Whichever route you decide to follow, each is sure to provide postcard-perfect backdrops and awe-inspiring views.

From day trips to overnight backpacking, many choices are available. Many of the lower elevation trails are accessible on foot year-round. Warmer, turdy footwear and layering of clothes is the key to enjoying uncrowded trails from October to April.



Wetterhorn Peak and Basin

TOP-RATED TRAILS

Easy:

Uncompahgre River Trail

ROUNDTrip: 7.6 miles

HIKING TIME: 1 to 3 hours

HIGHLIGHTS: The trail begins in downtown Ridgway and travels gently toward Ridgway State Park Dallas Creek area. The family-friendly, ADA-accessible concrete trail runs primarily on the former Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad. You can choose how far to walk, run, or bike; go as far as Dennis Weaver Memorial Park (1.7 miles one way) or keep going for a longer trek.

Moderate:

Enchanted Mesa Trail

ROUNDTrip: 5.4 miles

HIKING TIME: 2 to 3 hours

HIGHLIGHTS: A hidden treasure inside the Pa-Co-Chu-Puk Entrance of Ridgway State Park. The trail begins at 6,695 feet with an ascent on switchbacks, and then turns into a flat and rolling dirt path on the mountainside along the eastern edge of the Ridgway Reservoir at about 7,035 feet, with inspiring views of the water and surrounding mountains.

Challenging:

Wetterhorn Basin Trail

ROUNDTrip: 5.48 to 9.3 miles

HIKING TIME: 4 to 8 hours

HIGHLIGHTS: To get away from the crowds on other trails, choose a moderate hike on the lower portion of this route or a more challenging one by continuing to the summit. Accessible up Owl Creek Pass, enjoy extraordinary views of the Cimarron peaks and Cow Creek. Horseback riding is also allowed on this U.S. Forest Service trail.

Insider’s Tip:

For a totally unique experience, the San Juan Hut Systems has fully stocked huts, strategically located on dirt roads and singletrack trails from high alpine areas to canyon country.



Outdoor Adventure



Fishing the Uncompahgre – Natalie Heller

World-Class Fishing Year Round

Many excellent fishing opportunities can be found in and around Ridgway. Whether you are an expert or novice, you can experience great year-round fishing on our rivers and lakes, as well as float fishing or walk-and-wade, guided fly-fishing trips and instructional clinics.

Visiting during the fall and winter gives you access to great fishing with less pressure, leading to more productive days and colorful trout. If you have never tried fishing during your winter vacation, you'll discover there's nothing quite like having the whole river to yourself on a crisp, sunny winter day.

Stocked, wild and native trout (brook, brown, cutthroat, and rainbow) can be found in the Uncompahgre River and its tributaries, including a designated Blue

Ribbon catch-and-release tailwater fishery below Ridgway Reservoir. In addition, nearby are the Gold Medal Waters of the Gunnison River and gin-clear waters of the freestone San Miguel River. Fishing in surrounding alpine lakes may be the preferred choice for those seeking solitude and grand vistas.

Know Before You Go:

A fishing license is required to fish all public Colorado waterways. Information on licenses and regulations may be found at www.cpw.state.co.us.



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Prime Fishing Spots

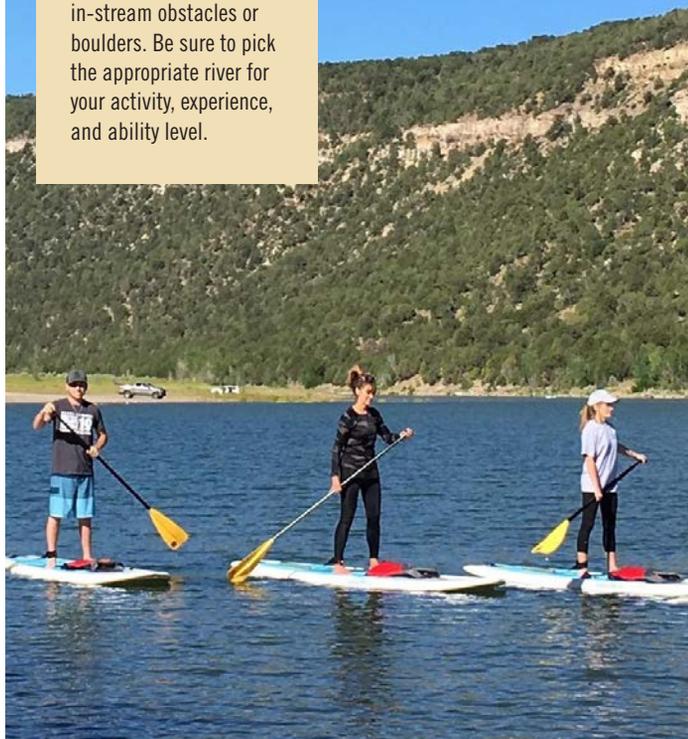
- Uncompahgre River at the Pa-Co-Chu-Puk entrance of Ridgway State Park
- Canyon Creek
- Ridgway Reservoir
- Crystal Lake
- San Miguel and Gunnison Rivers
- The Forks of the Cimarron River
- Silver Jack Reservoir



Outdoor Adventure

Local's Tip:

Rivers are rated at five difficulty levels based on the water flows and geography such as the elevation change and in-stream obstacles or boulders. Be sure to pick the appropriate river for your activity, experience, and ability level.



RIGS Fly Shop & Guide Service

Fun on the Water for All Ages

Sparkling, mountain lakes and tree-lined, winding rivers provide the perfect settings for exploring the Ridgway area by raft or kayak and cooling off on hot summer days! Nearby lakes provide peaceful locations for a stand-up paddle board or canoe session with stunning views of the San Juan and Cimarron Peaks. Paddle sport rentals are available by the hour at Ridgway State Park.

Spring snowmelt from high in the San Juan Mountains brings increased water flows and the thrills of rushing rivers, enjoyed by rafters, kayakers, and other water recreation buffs May through August. Late summer and autumn offer reflections of colorful leaves while enjoying a relaxing stream-side picnic, boating, or paddle boarding in the midday sun.

"I love the juxtaposition that Ridgway has in the region – not a resort town, not a service center, but just the perfect balance of livable community and small-town character. It's easy to access all the amenities in the region, but small enough to have its own personality. I also appreciate the cultural history and ranching heritage that brings character to the area and helps preserve the vistas and open spaces we all enjoy."

*Tim, RIGS Fly Shop & Guide Service
Co-Owner*



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DOWNTOWN RIDGWAY WALKING MAP



See directory listing for location/contacts

- MAP KEY**
- ACCOMMODATIONS
 - ENTERTAINMENT
 - SHOPPING, ART & GIFTS
 - PUBLIC RESTROOM
 - BANKS
 - HEALTH, WELLNESS & BEAUTY
 - VARIETY, CLOTHES & GEAR
 - CULINARY EXPERIENCES & MARKETS
 - HISTORY, HERITAGE & LIBRARIES
 - ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, CANNABIS, ETC.
 - GAS STATION
 - PUBLIC PARKING
 - VISITOR CENTER
 - POLICE DEPT
 - FIRE DEPT
 - MEDICAL SERVICES
 - EV CHARGING
 - POST OFFICE
 - MECHANICS

ACCOMMODATIONS

- 16 Colorado Boy Pub & Brewery**
602 Clinton St.
970.626.5333
17 Eatery 66
520 Sherman St.
970.626.5901
18 El Agave Azul
565 Sherman St. Unit #3
970.626.9897
19 Four Corners Restaurant & Sky Bar
304 S. Lena St.
970.626.6853
20 Kate's Place
615 Clinton St.
970.626.9800
21 Land & Ocean Costa Rican
185 Sherman St.
970.626.3663
22 Lazy Dog Saloon
153 N. Highway 550
970.626.2000
23 Lotus Root Kitchen + Market + Catering
618 Clinton St.
970.626.4108
24 Million Roadhouse
Intersection Hwy 550 & Hwy 62
970.626.5444
25 Mountain Market
490 Sherman St.
970.626.5811
26 Mountain Top Restaurant & Bar
225 County Rd. 23
970.325.9856
27 Panny's Pizza
259 Palomino Dr.
970.626.2122
28 Provisions Cafe & Catering
616 Clinton St.
970.626.9861
29 Ridgway Farmers Market
P.O. Box 2118
970.316.1389
- 1 Basecamp 550**
20725 Highway 550
970.400.7275
2 Chipeta Lodge
304 S. Lena St.
970.626.3737
3 Double G Ranch & Guest Lodge
5351 County Rd. 1
Montrose
970.986.7068
4 Orvis Hot Springs & Spa
1585 County Rd. 3
970.626.5324
5 Ouray KOA Campground
225 County Rd. 23
970.626.5444
6 MTN Ridgway Lodge
Intersection Hwy 550 & Highway 62
970.626.5444
7 Ridgway State Park
28555 Highway 550
970.626.5822
8 San Juan Hut Systems, Inc
Multiple Hut Locations
970.626.3033
- BANKS**
9 Alpine Bank
119 Liddell Dr.
970.626.4100
10 Citizens State Bank
145 W. Sherman St.
970.626.5462
- CULINARY EXPERIENCES & MARKETS**
14 Cafe Ridgway A La Mode
380 W. Sherman St.
970.626.9752
15 Cimarron Coffee & Books
380 Sherman St.
970.626.5858
- 30 Taco Del Gnar**
630 W. Sherman St.
970.626.9715
31 Thai Paradise
146 N. Cora St.
970.626.2742
32 True Grit Café
123 N. Lena St.
970.626.8739
- ENTERTAINMENT**
11 Sherbino Theater
604 Clinton St.
970.318.0892
12 Steps Tavern
630 Sherman St.
Lower Level
970.626.5894
13 The Courtyard @ 610
610 Clinton St.
970.318.0892
- HEALTH, WELLNESS & BEAUTY**
33 Abigail Seaver, N.D, Lic
195 S. Lena St Unit B
970.626.3188
34 Balance Medical Integration
177 Sherman St. #101
970.626.7137
35 Chipeta Lodge, Resort & Spa
304 S. Lena St.
970.626.3737
36 Glow Day Spa & Salon
545 Sherman St.
970.318.0383
37 Herbal Roots Apothecary
565 Unit 1A Sherman St.
303.518.9879
38 Pneuma Chiropractic
620 Clinton St.
720.285.9256
39 Orvis Hot Springs & Spa
1585 County Rd. 3
970.626.5324
- 40 Ridgway Center for Whole Health**
195 S. Lena St. Unit A
970.626.6026
41 Ridgway Pilates
565 Sherman St. Unit 10
970.628.5744
42 Ridgway Yoga Shala
565 Sherman St. Unit 1B
contact@ridgwayyogashala.com
43 Salon Monti Ridgway
615 Clinton St. 102
salonmonti.GlossGenius.com
44 Stacie's Apothecary Shoppe
112 Village Square West
970.626.7100
45 The Salon
167 N Cora St.
480.869.2600
46 Wholeness Massage
640 Sherman St. Suite J
303.726.2807
- HISTORY, HERITAGE & LIBRARIES**
47 Ouray County Ranch History Museum
321 Sherman St.
970.316.1085
48 Ridgway Library
200 W. Charles St.
970.626.5252
49 Ridgway Railroad Museum
200 N. Railroad St.
www.ridgwayrailroadmuseum.org
- SHOPPING ART & GIFTS**
50 610 Arts Collective
610 Clinton St.
970.318.0892
51 Amy Leiner Designs, LLC
609 Clinton St.
203.809.0369
52 Art By The Park
380 W. Sherman St.
970.626.3163
- 53 Cimarron Art Glass**
294 S. Lena St.
970.626.9808
54 Dragonfly Creative
631 Sherman St.
323.536.2155
55 Fine Art & Framing
609 Clinton St.
970.708.1283
56 Issenberg Design/Kitella
609 Clinton St.
970.626.3399
57 The Joinery
540 Sherman St.
970.318.1019
58 Kane Scheidegger Fine Art Photography
133 N. Lena St.
970.901.4880
59 LoneCone Photography
Natalie Heller
loneconephotography.com
60 Mountain Girl Gallery
609 Clinton St.
970.318.0382
61 Nature's Finest Images
naturestfinestimages.com
303.973.5184
62 Ouray Image Photography
549 Clinton St.
970.615.0546
63 Paws for Art Gallery & More
140 Railroad St.
970.318.0382
64 Ridgway Office Supply & Mercantile
631 Sherman St.
970.626.3680
65 Rocky Mountain Jewelry
145 N. Cora St.
970.433.2690
66 Rootwings Art @ Herran House
146 N. Cora St.
619.885.5521
67 Timber Creek Gallery
117 S. Lena St.
970.708.2474
- 53 Cimarron Art Glass**
294 S. Lena St.
970.626.9808
54 Dragonfly Creative
631 Sherman St.
323.536.2155
55 Fine Art & Framing
609 Clinton St.
970.708.1283
56 Issenberg Design/Kitella
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117 S. Lena St.
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- 68 Lucky Find Consignments**
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71 Ridgway Wrench
380 Sherman St., Unit 3
970.318.0799
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1075 Sherman St. #101
970.626.4460
73 Second Chance Humane Society Thrift Shop
309 Sherman St.
970.626.3233
74 The Vault Vintage & Consignment
380 Sherman St.
508.560.9931
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75 Crazy B's Smokeshop
140 Palomino Trail Unit B
970.626.9888
76 Fiddlers Green
402 Palomino Trail
970.626.4029
77 High Spirit Liquors
144 US Highway 550
970.626.5746
78 Mountain Annie's Dispensary
157 US Highway 550
970.626.4099
79 Ridgway Liquors
580 Sherman St.
970.626.5197
80 Rocky Mountain Cannabis
153 US-550 #102
970.626.4009
81 San Juan Liquors
177 Sherman St.
970.626.4060





Outdoor Adventure

Ridgway State Park – Mike Boese

Four Seasons at Ridgway State Park & Reservoir

Ridgway Reservoir is a major recreational resource at the heart of Ridgway State Park, surrounded by an outdoor playground with five square miles to explore and enjoy. With unparalleled scenery, the park is an inviting destination with diverse amenities to keep all ages occupied for an afternoon or several days.

While summer offers a wide range of water sports, fishing is available year round. Visitors can also enjoy nearly 14 miles of developed trails for hiking and biking, along with birding and wildlife viewing opportunities in every season. The park also offers campgrounds, event facilities, a marina, and picnic and playground areas.

Winter camping fees range from \$28 to \$60 a night for tent, electric RV spots, and yurts. The daily park pass is \$9 per vehicle and is separate from the camping fee. Starting January 1, 2023, Colorado residents can opt in for the \$29 annual Keep Colorado Wild park pass with their vehicle's license plate registration through the Department of Motor Vehicles. Out-of-state residents will still need a

Amenities in Each Park Entrance

Pa-Co-Chu-Puk, which means "Cow Creek" in the Ute language, is located below the Ridgway Dam. In the winter, this area offers walk-in only campsites, pond and river trout fishing, and access to hiking and biking trails.

Dutch Charlie site is named after a pioneer who ran a boarding house near the present-day swim beach. In the winter, RV, car and yurt camping are open, many trails are accessible, and the Visitors Center with a book store and interpretive displays is open.

Dallas Creek site, furthest south, provides daytime activities and picnic sites throughout the winter. Located at the confluence of the Uncompahgre River and Dallas Creek, it is a perfect place for viewing wildlife and hiking, including a trail that connects the park to the Town of Ridgway.



Tipi in Ridgway State Park

daily or annual park pass. Keep Colorado Wild pass information: <https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/pages/keep-colorado-wild-pass.aspx>

In winter, the park is a peaceful, beautiful place to stay when visiting for skiing, ice climbing, snow shoeing, and hot springs. A yurt stay surrounded by snow-covered mountains is simply magical. The RV/yurt area has a heated flush restroom accessible year round. Plus, a walk-in type of camping site is open during the colder months for the very hearty.

The Park Visitor Center is open seven days a week all year except Thanksgiving and Christmas days, and rangers offer various family-friendly programs when conditions allow. The Visitor Center has many items that it lends for free, including fishing poles and tackle, life jackets, and "Family Activity Backpacks" fully equipped with journals, binoculars, magnifiers, guidebooks and magnifying bug boxes, along with suggested activities and fun facts sheets. Snowshoes are lent out in the winter as well. Information: www.cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/parks/ridgway

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Ouray & Beyond



Highway 62 outside of Ridgway – Kane Scheidegger

Epic Day Trips Around the Area

The winding mountain roads and charming western towns surrounding Ridgway make for epic car and motorcycle tours. Ridgway is the perfect place to stage a series of classic day trips, complete with hot springs and friendly pubs to soothe away your road weariness when you return at the end of the day. We are part of many historic and scenic routes that connect our rural burghs to nearby towns and points of interest with shared history and purpose. The Alpine Loop is one of our most well-known but only accessible by four-wheel drive.

Cimarron Mountains and Owl Creek Pass

Considered one of the most scenic drives in the U.S.A., this pass travels through jagged cliffs, babbling brooks, sites of Western movie sets, and has great opportunities for wildlife viewing and fishing. This route, laced with stands of aspen, is especially beautiful in the fall. This adventurous day trip will take you into the heart of the magnificent Cimarron Mountains. The peaks of Chimney Rock and Courthouse Mountain will watch over you as you drive along a dirt road, which once was a cattle drive trail.

Million Dollar Highway and San Juan Skyway

A trip to Ouray County isn't complete without a ride along the Million Dollar Highway, the section of Highway 550 between Ouray and Silverton with many historic buildings and mines. Extend this to

cover the entire San Juan Skyway Scenic and Historic Byway, a 233-mile loop to meander through Ouray, Ridgway, Telluride, Rico, Dolores, Cortez, Durango, and Silverton. The drive is stunning in any season: spring offers hundreds of waterfalls along the route, summer brings fields of wildflowers, fall provides iconic golden-colored vistas, and winter gives you a high-contrast trip with robin's egg blue skies and endless white powder fields.

Recommended by Locals

- **Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park** – south and north rim drives, Montrose, Ute Indian Museum, Montrose County Historical Museum, antique shops
- **Telluride** – National Historic District, a world-class ski and golf resort, free summer gondola, San Juan Mountain high country
- **Silver Thread Scenic Byway** – historic districts of Creede and Lake City, Lake San Cristobal, Rio Grande River
- **Unaweep Tabeguache Scenic Byway** – picturesque canyons, historic Hanging Flume, Gateway, Whitewater, Grand Junction, Colorado National Monument
- **Trail of the Ancients** – Four Corners, Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, Lowry Pueblo, Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Park, Galloping Goose Railcar & Museum

When visiting Ouray please be sure to visit these Ridgway Chamber Members

Box Canyon Lodge & Hot Springs
970.325.4981

Horseback Adventures
970.325.3006

Mountain Dog Arts
970-239-3434

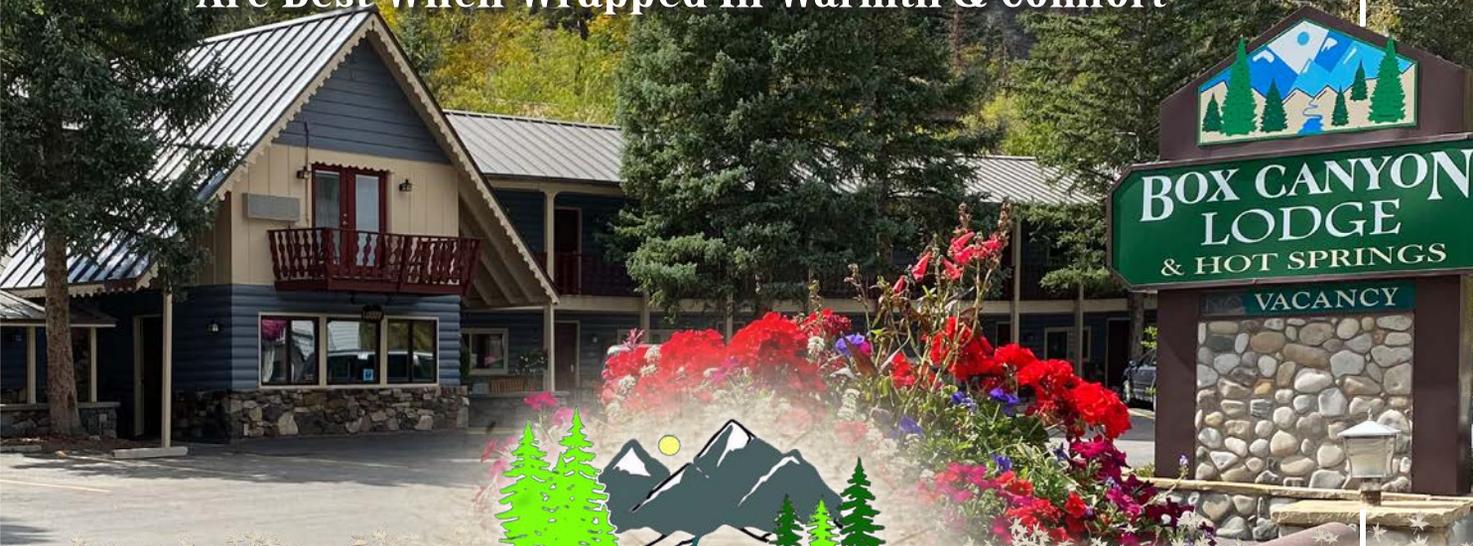
Mountain Trip
970.369.1153

O'Toys
970.729.2388

Ouray County Performing Arts Guild
970.626.2970

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Jeep Adventures
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Health & Wellness



Dandelions – Kane Scheidegger

Mind, Body & Spirit – a Destination for Whole Health

Southwest Colorado is a hub for wellness professionals and services. Whether you seek relaxation and rejuvenation from massages, hot springs, and other health resort amenities, or you are looking for an expert chiropractor, nutritionist, or other holistic medicine practitioner, Ridgway delivers. Our lodges have pools, saunas, steam rooms,

and hot tubs. We have specialists in natural and homeopathic medicine, and massage therapists trained in a variety of techniques, including deep tissue, Swedish, hot stone, aromatherapy, and pediatric massage. Need a little high altitude relief? Balance Natural Medicine even has a hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

You can also find yoga, dance, and fitness classes from Pilates to martial arts. Ridgway is home to personal trainers – many who are world-class athletes in a variety of sports disciplines. Indoors and outdoors, drop-in classes,

retreats, special trainings, and workshops are offered. Whether you are a local or a visitor, the area has a lot to offer to those seeking a little guidance plus a bit of positive comradery while maintaining or increasing fitness levels, or preparing for upcoming athletic competitions.

Relax & Rejuvenate at World-Famous Hot Springs

Known for our sunny skies and healing waters, the Ridgway area is the perfect destination for revitalizing your body, mind, and soul. Throughout the year, you can soak in the area's hot springs – a centuries-old tradition. Nothing tops off a winter day like a soak in our sulfur-free hot springs, some shopping downtown, a warm meal and drink at one of our cozy restaurants, and a soft bed to fall into.

Orvis Hot Springs has seven soaking areas (four outside and three inside), a sauna and natural landscaping, offering a variety of experiences for the avid soaker. The waters, ranging from 90 degrees to 112 degrees Fahrenheit, have seven main naturally-occurring minerals with various health benefits, including lithium that soothes and melts stress away. Most soaking areas here are clothing optional.

In operation since 1927, the Ouray Hot Springs Pool provides relaxation, family fun, and amazing views of the surrounding peaks, dramatic sunsets, and starry skies. A multimillion-dollar renovation project, completed in 2018, expanded soaking pools, play areas, and accessibility for all users.

You can also find more secluded and private soaking at hot springs and jacuzzis in area hotels. Most can be accessed with or without an overnight stay.



Orvis Hot Springs



AGAVE AZUL



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HOURS:

MONDAY-SATURDAY 10AM-9PM

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History & Heritage



Ridgway Railroad Museum

Explore Our Rich Frontier Past

The Ridgway area offers something for every history buff, from picturesque, wooden, mining-era buildings to scenic ranches and world-class museums. Prior to mining in the 1860s to 1950s, the valley and mountains were the homeland of the native Utes. As mining grew, so did the ranching and railroad industries that supported it. This diverse Western heritage is celebrated today by local storytellers and curators, who help preserve collections of frontier artifacts and historic homesteads weathered by snowy winters and sunny summers. Historical points of interest and museums await your discovery around town and along scenic drives around the area.

Ridgway Railroad Museum

Dedicated to preserving railroading history in Ouray County, the Ridgway Railroad Museum is run solely by volunteers. The outdoor exhibits are north of the historic train depot, which houses the Ouray County Ranch History Museum. The train collection includes a caboose, stock car, box car, drop-bottom gondola, passenger gondola, RGS passenger coach 252, business car, and a water service car. A replica of the Rio Grande Southern (RGS) Motor Car No. 1 is based on a Model T Ford. A restored RGS Galloping

Goose No. 4 is on display except during the summer when it is in Telluride. Rides are given on Motor Car No. 1 along a half-mile track on Saturdays, summer to early fall. The indoor displays in the depot building include a historic diorama of Ridgway's railyard plus many historic photos and artifacts.

Ouray County Ranch History Museum

A project that began in 2002, with recording interviews of local ranch family histories, evolved into the Ouray County Ranch History Museum in 2006. Spending its first 10 years in the Colona schoolhouse, the museum moved artifacts into the Ridgway Depot building, where the collection has grown with regularly donated artifacts. The museum's exhibits include family history exhibits, a schoolroom, a Victorian-era bedroom, the land and water room, a kitchen, a pantry, a tool and tack room, and a section highlighting Western movies created in our area. Outside, several ranching and farming buildings and equipment are also on display.

Ouray County Fairgrounds

The 125-year-old fair and rodeo grounds were renovated to provide a comfortable community gathering place for a variety of events. Just south of the intersection of highways 550 and 62, the outdoor facilities and indoor event center host every kind of event from classic car shows to holiday bazaars, conferences, and film festivals. The three most popular events are the Ouray County Fair, Labor Day Rodeo, and San Juan Skijoring.

Native American Culture

Many geographic features in the Ridgway area are named in the language of the Utes, the area's early inhabitants. The valley and the river that runs through it are named Uncompahgre, which is often translated as hot water, red water, or dirty water. While few cultural artifacts remain here, the Ute Indian Museum at the southern edge of Montrose is an important cultural center with artifacts and history about the Ute people and nearby archaeological sites.



Ouray County Ranch History Museum

“Ridgway hits above its weight for a 1,000-person town. The diversity and quality of restaurants, businesses, and community organizations here is more of what you'd expect from a larger urban area. Match that quality of life with close access to the mountains and desert, and those are the reasons I love Ridgway!”

Jake, Ouray County Commissioner



Visit Famous Filming Locations

The Ridgway area is a favorite among film buffs, especially Western lovers. The rugged peaks, steep canyons, rustic mine buildings, and historic landmarks make you feel as though you are still in the Old West. Many film sites, buildings, props, and embellishments may still be seen around the area today.

Our iconic mountains and charming small towns have been the backdrop for more than 100 films over the years, including *Tribute to a Bad Man* (1956), *How the West Was Won* (1962), *Over the Top* (1987), and Warren Miller's *Flow State* (2012). Ridgway is best known for the original production of the classic Western *True Grit* starring John Wayne. For that illustrious film, the town was turned into Fort Smith, Arkansas, where Judge Isaac Parker, the famous "hanging judge" held court. Ouray's historic courthouse, the meadows on Owl Creek Pass, and a homestead on Dallas Divide were also featured.

The biggest Hollywood name to make Ridgway his home was Billy Dennis Weaver. The late, Emmy Award-winning actor was best known for his television roles in *Gunsmoke* and *McCloud* and as the lead in Steven Spielberg's movie, *Duel*. The Weaver family contributed greatly to the community, building the big barn live entertainment venue (now the Ridgway Christian Center), an energy-efficient Earthship home, and the 80-acre Dennis Weaver Memorial Park.

True Grit Walking Tour

Relive the exciting days in 1968 when Ridgway welcomed John Wayne, Henry Hathaway, Robert Duval and Glen Campbell to film *True Grit*. A knowledgeable guide will escort you to filming locations around town and share historical insights, little-known facts, and anecdotes about the Duke. This tour was voted Reader's Choice for Best Historic Town Tour in *True West Magazine*. Tours start from the Hartwell Park gazebo on Fridays at 3 p.m., June through September 1, and last about an hour. The fee is \$10 per person, age 12 and up. Groups of two or more can request a special tour with enough advance notice. Contact Eve-Becker Doyle at evebeckerdoyle@icloud.com.

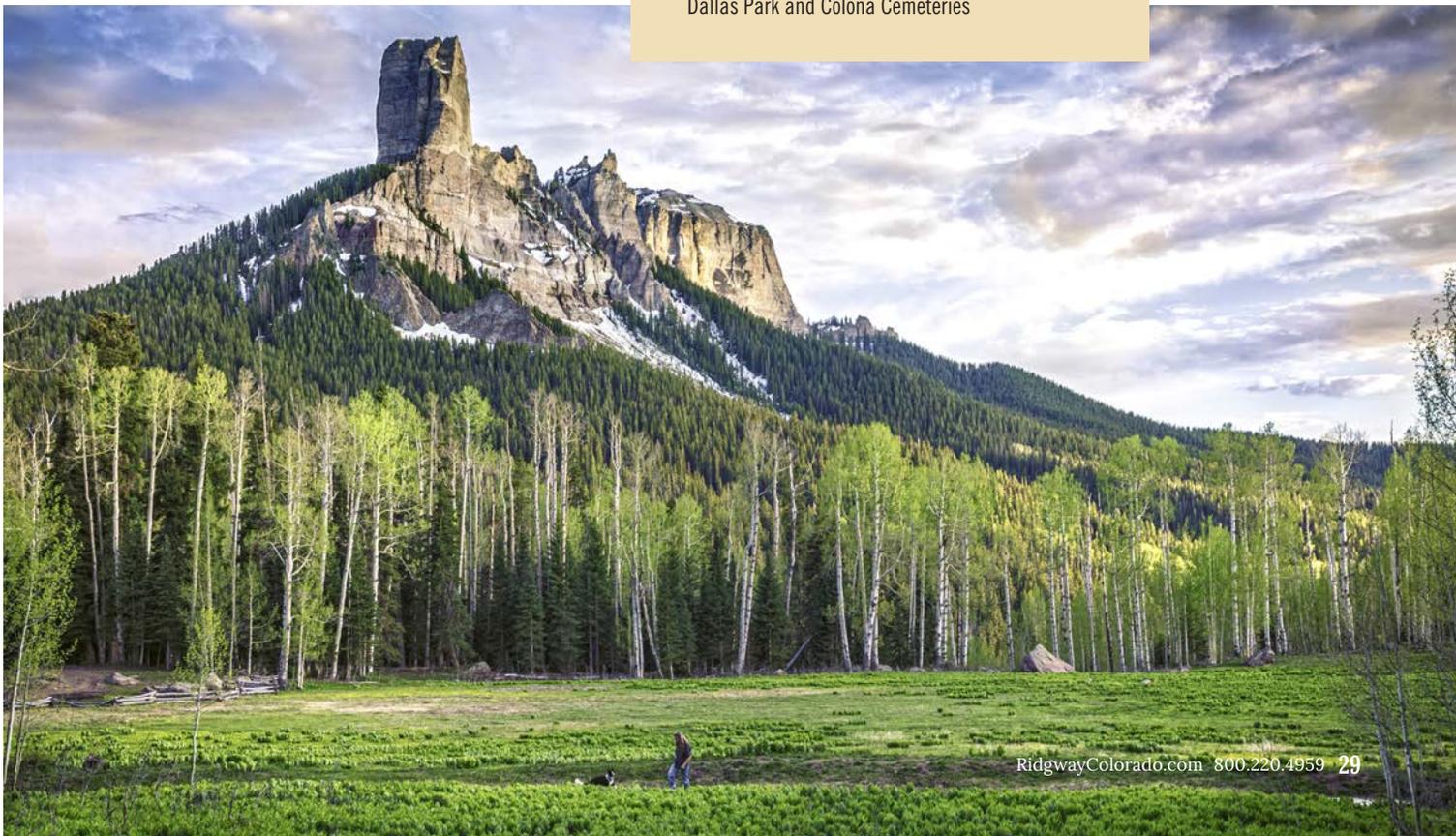
Historic Experiences Further Afield

- Discover yesteryear at the Ouray County Museum and Ouray Alchemist Pharmaceutical Museum
- Venture out to the realistic old west town at the Museum of the Mountain West in Montrose
- Tour the historic Bachelor Syracuse Mine in Ouray
- Photograph historic buildings around the Red Mountain Mining District including the Ironton buildings, Yankee Girl mine headframe, and the Idarado homes

Other Local Historic Activities

- Celebrate Ridgway's movie, ranching and railroad heritage at the Ridgway Old West Fest every autumn
- Take a self-guided historic walking tour of downtown Ridgway
- Investigate the historical grave markers of Ouray County's most famous residents at Cedar Hill, Dallas Park and Colona Cemeteries

Deb's Meadow — Natanie Heller





A Community Dedicated to Artistic Expression

Ridgway is part of the Colorado Creative Corridor, a 331-mile route through a handful of state-certified Creative District destinations, connecting Ridgway to four towns for a collective cultural experience. Our unique event programming and activities are featured alongside mountain town eclecticism, majestic vistas, outdoor recreation, and authentic Colorado mountain culture.

Ridgway galleries feature an eye-popping array of ceramics, metalwork, blown glass, photography, mixed-media works, pottery, paintings, sculptures, art glass, and authentic Native American crafts, with works by national and regional artists as well. Even the Ridgway Library and Town Hall display fantastic art exhibitions.

Galleries, studios, and shops throughout town specialize in truly unique gifts. Everyone in the family can score just the right souvenir or present for friends and relatives – from African artwork to collectible rocks, chic clothing, custom jewelry, handmade furniture, home décor with a mountain-town twist, eco-friendly instrument cases, and more.

On the first Friday of each summer month, Ridgway businesses celebrate local creativity with special open

houses featuring entertainment, refreshments, product discounts, and opportunities to meet artists. These festive evenings are a great time to shop and dine under the beautiful alpenglow and amazing sunsets.

Be Guided by Your Imagination

In Ridgway, our built and curated landscapes reflect the respect we have for our history and beautiful natural scenery.

Ridgway's trails, parks, and sidewalks feature a menagerie of public art, including more than 20 enchanting sculptures. Our love for local wildlife is exhibited by the many bronze creatures such as three eagles of varying sizes. Public Art in Ridgway



Alley Mural by Artist Regina Ciarfella

(PARC) is responsible for the largest number of sculptures, with most installations in Hartwell Park. For a map of public art locations: www.publicartridgwayco.org/Walking-Tour.php.

Late Ridgway sculptor Michael McCullough started making and installing signs with poetry and art in alleys around town several years ago, and the community has continued the creative effort. Alley Poetry and Alley Art are meant to stop you in mid-stride: read them aloud, to yourself... slowly, quickly, photograph and Instagram them, and just enjoy them. Discover more about them at www.facebook.com/editorinsheaf.

Ridgway FUSE: Let's Light it up!

Ridgway believes in the creative spirit of our people. And it is a good investment! At last count, about 12% of the town's population were employed in the arts and creative industries – among the highest per capita in the state. As one of the first state-certified Creative Districts and designated Main Street Communities, Ridgway FUSE – a Colorado Creative Main Street program brings the spark of artistic innovation to a community that prides itself on standing alone from the herd. You can see it in our streetscape. Where other communities settle for manufactured fixtures out of a catalog, Ridgway established a program to create individual works of art for our benches, planters, and other elements. When it comes to creativity, we Re-FUSE to settle. People are the power behind FUSE – we pride ourselves on being a bit rebellious, welcoming the dreamers and risk-takers, willing to stake a claim on individuality and an inclusive community. Check out the FUSE website at www.ridgway-fuse.org for up-to-the-minute listings of local happenings, an interactive map, and an ever-growing directory of local entrepreneurs and creatives.





Fete de la Musique – Trisha Oakland

Entertainment & Cultural Events for Everyone

Ridgway is a vibrant, creative community that thrives on our inspiring setting, with many arts and entertainment venues and events where artists and performers display their talents. Our rich, year-round cultural scene is sure to stimulate your mind, touch your heart, and excite your senses.

From turn-of-the century theaters to outdoor stages, local and national musicians, singers, actors, comedians, magicians, and dancers display their talents and experts share local history and international issues. The Sherbino Theater is Ridgway's living room with diverse programming all year long. Many events are free or admission is \$20 or less. Information: <https://sherbino.org>

Ridgway loves its festivals as much as nearby festival-capital Telluride. Yes, we have music festivals and even our own film festivals, but we also mix outdoor adventure and our popular past-times into our festivals. Ridgway RiverFest, Spirit Fest, San Juan (beer and wine!) Barrel Fest, Ridgway Rendezvous Art & Craft Festival, and Sneffels Fiber Arts Festival are just a few examples.

Visitors are welcome to join locals at workshops and classes for every imaginable art form from dance and theater to glass blowing and painting, offered by various cultural organizations. Known for its dance classes that produce talented young performers, Weehawken Creative Arts also has drop-in dance, yoga, and Zumba classes for various ages. Theater workshops often run for just a couple weeks providing the opportunity for families on longer vacations to get involved. Many visual art and writing classes are geared for adults, and offered in one or two sessions to easily fit into a vacation plan.

The genres are limitless with professional artists guiding the classes as students create everything from mosaic art and painted landscapes to prose and journals. Information: <https://weehawkenarts.org>

Fete de la Musique

This annual outdoor music event meanders through the streets and parks around Ridgway. Organized by Weehawken Creative Arts and The Sherbino and supported by Citizen's State Bank and other business partners, Fete de la Musique presents free music from more than 10 bands and performers over several hours on a Sunday in June.

Ridgway 1K Rally Thru the Alley

Everyone is invited to participate in this wacky "race" with optional 5K warm-up lap in early October, presented by Citizen's State Bank, Weehawken Creative Arts and The Sherbino. The Ridgway 1K is a silly, costumed race for all ages with plenty of rest stops along the six-block downhill course. The finish line at Hartwell Park features live music and an optional add-on wine and brews tasting festival, San Juan Barrel Fest.

Ridgway Independent Film Fest

The Ridgway Independent Film Festival brings a diverse, eclectic selection of short films from around the world to the Sherbino Theater for two nights each November. Films from all genres are selected, and youth entries are a fan favorite every year.



Clinton Street venues and shops



Culinary Experiences



Barista at Provisions Cafe at the Barbershop

Delightful Food Discoveries Await

The Ridgway area's dining options range from gourmet European cuisine and farm fresh creations to authentic ceviche, expertly made sushi, chocolates and coffee, artisan pizza, traditional Asian cuisine, 'gnarly' tacos, unique bar and grill offerings, specialty breakfasts and sandwiches, and more. Award-winning chefs and food innovators make Ridgway a southwestern Colorado foodie destination. Because our restaurants are small, independent, often family-operated businesses, hours are sometimes limited. Calling ahead to ensure restaurants are open is recommended.

Even with a small population of about 1,000 residents, Ridgway boasts more than a dozen restaurants, dessert shops, cafes, and not one chain restaurant! This means

each business competes for customers by developing original, unique menus specially designed by talented chefs. From fancy French cuisine to freshly made Mexican dishes, our restaurants offer diverse options for discerning palates.

"Ridgway has amazing people, a strong sense of community and is a great place for our family and our business."

Daniel, Colorado Boy Restaurants Owner

For beer snobs and anyone with a hankering for a tasty brew, the beer menus found at local venues are sure to please. From good old American standards to Asian, South American, and European brands, local beer variety features a selection of regional and local brews. Colorado Boy Pub & Brewery is our homegrown craft brewer with ales, ciders, stouts, and seasonal specials. Plus, the San Juan Barrel Fest is an annual brews and wine festival not to be missed.

Fresh & Local at Heart

Ridgway's markets and restaurants specialize in local and organic foods. Our residents thrive on fabulous food, which makes our town a great place for visitors to experience local food culture. Keeping up with the farm-to-table trend, many of our markets, restaurants, and festivals source locally produced meats (including yak), dairy products, vegetables, fruits, and herbs. Our area is also home to a variety of culinary artists from coffee roasters to ice cream and chocolate makers.

Every Friday, from late May through mid-October, grocery shopping is more fun, whether you drop in to pick up a favorite item or spend a few hours at this friendly outdoor event. The market is conveniently located in the heart of Ridgway at Hartwell Park, under the tall cottonwood trees that create a cool, inviting place for the whole family. Come and shop for locally, sustainably farmed fruits, vegetables, meats, and eggs, as well as flowers, soaps, lotions, arts, and crafts, while enjoying live music, prepared foods, baked goods, and food samples.

Besides the markets, many restaurants serve locally sourced meat, produce and cottage-industry produced food items. You can dine in or take out, plus some restaurants like Provisions Café and Ridgway Café a la Mode have market shelves where you can purchase local delicacies to use in your own meals. Ridgway Natural Foods is a great new option for picking up a curated selection of local and organic groceries and prepared meals.





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Shopping



Town of Ridgway sunset – Ouray Image

More Shopping Ideas

- Creative businesses selling art, jewelry, gifts, and other souvenirs
- Museum gift shops and the Visitor Center selling history books, postcards, maps, and mementos
- Outfitters selling outdoor clothing, gear and accessories

A Fun Selection of Independent Stores

The Ridgway area is full of independent, mostly locally owned shops and markets that carry the necessities as well as not-to-be-missed souvenirs. Whether shopping for fun or function,

you can find a variety of products at Ridgway’s eclectic collection of stores and gift shops. The range of products you can pick up here include: antiques, body and hair care, books, clothing and fashion, flowers, groceries, hardware, home furnishings, jewelry and art, outdoor gear, pharmaceuticals, beer and wine, tobacco and pipes, and cannabis.

Our historic downtown area is a great location for perusing pre-owned goods

with three diverse secondhand product shops. Check out our consignment stores with everything from home décor to jackets

and jewelry, and make time to visit the Second Chance Thrift Shop where purchases of clothes, furniture, knickknacks, backpacks, and more support the local humane society.

A Full-Service Mountain Community

Small-town charm and attention to customer satisfaction are the hallmarks of Ridgway’s service businesses. Local professionals ready to serve your needs for financial services, photography, event planning, coworking space, child care, physical therapy, veterinary, graphic design and printing, landscaping, and screen printing.

We are a community with diverse amenities from banks and medical professionals to salons, a hardware store, markets, and the necessities to support your comfortable stay here – whether short, long, or permanent. We have a full-service U.S. Post Office plus an office supply shop with shipping services. When you’re ready to purchase your piece of paradise, we have several realtors and property management companies.

“Ridgway is a great community to live in or visit. We are a community of various backgrounds with individuals living life in a variety of ways, including owning some interesting local shops and restaurants. You will feel the Ridgway vibe of entrepreneurs who enjoy what they do and truly wish the best for each other.”

Lynne, Lucky Find Consignments Owner

Know Before You Buy: While cannabis is legal in Colorado, Colorado law prohibits: the purchase, possession, use, or sharing of cannabis or alcohol by or with anyone under 21. Consuming substances in public including in parks and vehicles is also prohibited. Because transporting cannabis out of state is illegal, buy only what you can use and dispose of leftovers properly.

For a comprehensive, updated business directory, go online to www.ridgwaycolorado.com.



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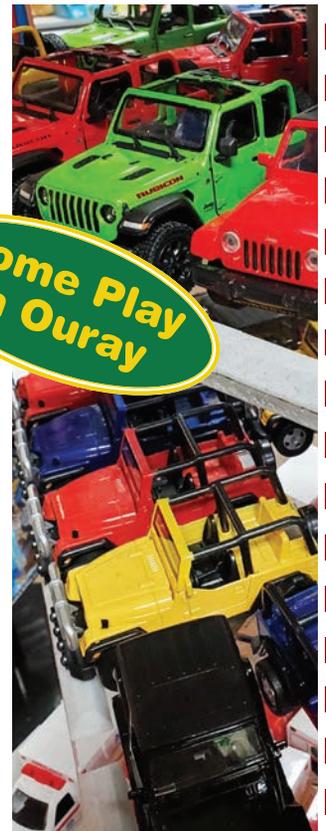


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Come Play
in Ouray





Amenities & Services

To learn about Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce membership, email: info@ridgwaycolorado.com

A Better Place – Natalie Heller

Architects, Builders, Contractors & Building Supplies

- Allison Construction**
970.626.5743
- Alternative Power Enterprises**
970.626.9842
- Ameriss Creative Concrete**
970.626.5715
- Bennett Forgeworks**
970.626.2100
- Conterra Workshop**
970.318.0281
- Dallas Creek Construction**
970.626.9733
- DC Woodwork**
970.626.5064
- Dickerson Construction**
970.626.
- Ed Werner Woodworking**
970.626.9737
- Hines Design**
970.626.2300
- Kent Building Co.**
970.626.5722
- O'Brien's Custom Welding**
970.316.1629

Automotive Services

- Schoonover's Mobile Mechanic Services**
970.901.6103
- Sunset Automotive**
970.626.5504

Business Services

- Alt Space Coworking: Ridgway**
970.239.1272
- Clarnetworx LLC**
970.240.6600
- Fishbone Graphics**
970.626.4350

- GBSM, Inc.**
303.825.6100
- The Mac Doctor, LLC**
970.417.8434
- Next Chapter Development**
970.209.6366
- Peak Media Company**
803.258.0277
- Mr Lock**
970.626.5397
- Mtngeogeek**
970.258.0836
- Urgent Care Computer Repair**
970.318.9185

Churches

- Ridgway Community Church**
970.626.5692
- United Church Of The San Juans**
970.626.5803

Education

- Ridgway School District R-2**
970.626.4320
- Voyager Youth Program**
970.626.4279

Financial Services

- Heather L Smith, CPA & Western Slope Business Solutions**
970.274.1139
- Middleton Accounting**
970.626.3850

Home Service, Landscaping, & Relocation Resources

- Aspen Tree Service**
970.728.7082
- Black Hills Energy**
888.890.5554
- Carpet Caretakers**
970.729.0332
- Horizon Maintenance**
970.708.7648

- Modern Landscaping**
970.626.5855

- Ridgway Self Storage**
970.626.3366

- San Miguel Power Association**
970.626.5549

- Town of Ridgway**
970.626.5308

Medical, Dental & Veterinary Professionals

Also see Health & Wellness section in map directory

- Katrina Toucke – Cert. Nutrition & Lifestyle Coach**
970.231.7980

- Mountain Medical Center**
970.626.5123

- Ouray County Veterinary Services**
970.626.3060

- Ridgway Animal Hospital**
970.626.5001

- Ridgway Family Dentistry**
970.626.3774

- River Peak Dental**
970.512.8700

- Tri-County Health Network**
970.708.7096

Miscellaneous

- Isun Visions**
970.626.3181
- Katrina Toucke Video Productions**
970.231.7980
- Music by David Nunn**
970.729.2035
- Ouray County Plaindealer**
970.325.4412
- River Stone Jazz sax performance**
303.819.7652

Nonprofit Organizations

- EcoAction Partners**
970.728.1340

- Fortuna Tierra**
469.247.2137

- Friends of the Ridgway Library**
970.626.5252

- Ridgway Western Heritage Society**
P.O. Box 1435, Ridgway, CO 81432

- Ridgway Ouray Community Council**
970.626.2599

- Second Chance Humane Society**
970.626.2273

- Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership**
970-325-3010

Real Estate Agents & Property Managers

- Alpenglow CoHousing**
970.318.6428

- Hunter Realty**
970.318.0086

- KW Realty Southwest Associates – Monroe Group**
970.596.0770

- Land Title Guarantee Company**
970.626.3157

- Ouray Brokers**
970.325.0300

- Ponderosa Real Estate**
970.626.9700

- RE/MAX Cimarron**
970.626.5400

- Ridgway Real Estate**
970.626.5455

- Roger's Real Estate**
970.626.2600

- United Country Sneffels Realty**
970.318.2160

- Space to Create**
lindsey.slabaugh@assetliving.com

Shaded listings are Ridgway Chamber members



Top of the Pines – Real Life Photographs

A Great Destination for Special Occasions

With endless mountain vistas, southwestern flair, and Victorian charm, the Ridgway area is the ideal location for your wedding any time of year. Summers are pleasant and warm, crisp air and sunshine is typical for autumn and spring, and winters are spectacular with clear blue skies and glistening snow. Historic local churches and grand buildings are also available for special events. You can arrange all the details right in town, and your guests will be thrilled to experience a real mountain vacation.

If you are planning a gathering of friends and family or want to head to the high country for team building, then the Ridgway area is the place to be. For professional retreats, our offerings certainly beat your standard conference room. After all, nothing inspires clear-mindedness and collaboration like our scenery, clean air, and unique adventures.

Inspiring High-Country Venues

Your Ridgway hosts will make sure your event feels special. Our venues can accommodate groups as small as 10 and larger than 300. Ouray County is full of inspiring event venues, both public and private.

Top of the Pines, at the foot of the Sneffels Range, is a 175-acre wilderness jewel offering a gathering hall where you can celebrate surrounded by peaks. Other inspirational locations with spectacular scenic

backdrops can be found at Ridgway State Park, Grand Mesa Uncompahgre National Forest, and BLM lands.

With panoramic views of the San Juan and Cimarron Mountain ranges, the Ouray County 4-H Event Center offers 5,200 square feet of indoor event space and adjoining patios for groups of up to 320 people. The center can provide tables, chairs, a full-service bar, dishware, glassware,

flatware, linens, and staff for your wedding, meeting, conference, banquet, dinner or other special event.

The Town of Ridgway rents space at Frontier Park Pavilion, Hartwell Park stage, Community Center At Town Hall, and Space to Create Community Room. The historic Sherbino Theater and the inspiring circular “Kiva” Conference Center at the Chipeta Solar Springs Resort offer authentic and elegant event spaces. Additionally, the Chipeta offers a summer event tent from May to September. Other unique lodging options with special event spaces include Double G Ranch and Ouray KOA.

“My favorite part of living in Ridgway is the diversity of the landscape: living in the high desert nestled under the beauty of the San Juan Mountains.”

Amie Minnick, Provisions at the barbershop owner

Insider’s Tip

Check the map directory to find shops and galleries with unique gifts and custom jewelry makers to make your wedding rings.



Beyond the Board catering at the Event Center



Accommodations



Basecamp 550



Double G Ranch & Guest Lodge

A Variety of Options from Rustic to Regal

A stay in Ridgway provides great memories in unique settings including wilderness getaways, deluxe spa suites, and family-friendly lodging. Bed and breakfasts, hotels, resorts, RV campgrounds, short-term rentals, tent camping, cabins, ranches, mountain huts, tiny houses, tipis, and yurts are all among our local options. Whether you are traveling with family, friends, or for business, the Ridgway area offers comfortable overnight stays in one of the most peaceful spots in the state. From romantic weekends to family vacations, our innkeepers and camp hosts are ready to welcome you.

“I believe Dolly Parton described the true Ridgway dweller’s philosophy best when she said, ‘Never get so busy making a living that you forget to make a life.’”

Chris, MTN Ridgway Lodge - Million Roadhouse

BASECAMP 550
www.basecamp550.com

Chipeta Solar Springs Resort & Spa
www.chipeta.com

Double G Ranch & Guest Lodge
www.gg-ranch.com

Ouray KOA Campground
www.koa.com/campgrounds/ouray

MTN Ridgway Lodge
www.ridgwaylodgeandsuites.com

Ridgway State Park
www.cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/parks/ridgway

San Juan Hut Systems
www.sanjuanhuts.com

To learn more, visit
<https://ridgwaycolorado.com/businesses/accommodations>





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