

# OFFICIAL VISITORS GUIDE



**VISITDELTA COUNTY.COM**





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# *Adventure*

**IN DELTA COUNTY**

**DELTA COUNTY IS AN AGRICULTURAL  
GEM OF ORCHARDS, SPRAWLING  
RANCHES, WORLD-RENOWNED  
VINEYARDS, AND YEAR AROUND  
RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES...**

**ONE OF THOSE RARE PLACES WHERE  
STRANGERS STILL SMILE AND WAVE...**

**VISIT TODAY....MOVE YOUR  
BUSINESS HERE TOMORROW!**

**CEDAREDGE • CRAWFORD • DELTA • HOTCHKISS • ORCHARD CITY • PAONIA**



**ONE**  
DELTA COUNTY

 **DELTA VRLA**  
VALLEY RECREATION LEAGUE ASSOCIATION

**NFV**  
North Fork  
Valley Chamber



# Welcome to Delta County!



**Darnell Place-Wise**  
Delta County Tourism  
560 Dodge St., Delta  
970-874-2108

**D**elta County is located on Colorado's western slope at the base of Grand Mesa, the largest flat top mountain in the world. This region is home to the beautifully unique communities of Cedaredge, Crawford, Delta, Hotchkiss, Orchard City and Paonia. Delta County's history is one of agriculture pioneers, mining, land, and water development; as a result, we are home to endless opportunities for family fun and adventure.

Delta County offers not only diverse communities, but a distinct and wide ranging traveler set. From those who crave the multitude of recreation opportunities like fishing, biking, rafting and skydiving, to those who prefer to relax at one of our incredibly delightful wineries, to those who seek out local art that can be found throughout the county; Delta County offers it all. Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall, Delta County offers something for everyone!

We invite you to plan your next trip to Delta County and experience the beauty that we call home, we promise, we are worth the drive! For more information: [visitdeltacounty.com](http://visitdeltacounty.com), or connect via email at [tourism@deltacountyco.gov](mailto:tourism@deltacountyco.gov).



## Inside:

Calendar of Events .....	4
Things to see and do in Cedaredge .....	6
Things to see and do in North Fork Valley .....	8
Things to see and do in Delta .....	10
24 Hours or Three Days in Delta County .....	12
Cedaredge Town Overview .....	14
Orchard City Town Overview .....	16
Delta Town Overview .....	18
Crawford Town Overview .....	20
Hotchkiss Town Overview .....	22
Paonia Town Overview .....	24
Looking at the Past .....	26
Movie Theatres .....	28
Ginnison Gorge .....	30
Fun and Fish .....	32
The Arts .....	34
On the Water .....	36
Food & Wine Tours .....	38
Festivals .....	40
Skydiving .....	42
Fairgrounds .....	44
Hunting .....	46
Dominguez-Escalante Canyon .....	48
Camping .....	50
Winter Activities on Grand Mesa .....	52
Fort Uncompahgre .....	54
Libraries .....	56
Relocating .....	58



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023

## May

**5/5** Cinco de Mayo – downtown Delta

**5/5** Blue Sage Concert Series – Jarabe Mexicano – Blue Sage – Paonia

**5/5** Live Music at Big B's, Dustdrops – Hotchkiss

**5/5** Full Moon Paddle Board – Sweitzer Lake– Delta

**5/6** Delta County Partners Palooza – Cleland Park – Delta

**5/6–7, 5/12–13** Shakespeare at the Fort – Fort Uncompahgre – Delta

**5/11** – All Points Transit Brews & Bites – Delta

**5/12** – Friday Night Live – Live Music at Big B's, The Fretliners – Hotchkiss

**5/12 – 5/14** – 20th Annual Hotchkiss Sheep Camp Stock Dog Trials – Delta County Fairgrounds – Hotchkiss

**5/19** Friday Night Live – Live Music at Big B's, Float Like a Buffalo – Hotchkiss

**5/19** Spring Concert Series with Jon Chandler – Grand Mesa Arts & Events Center – Cedaredge

**5/24** Art & Song Concert Series with Eric Ramsey – Grand Mesa Arts & Events Center – Cedaredge

- **5/26 – 5/28** Folk 'n' Roots Rendezvous Weekend – Big B's – Hotchkiss
- **5/26** Live Music at Big B's, Folk 'n' Roots Rendezvous – Hotchkiss
- **5/27** Refind Art Festival – Grand Mesa Arts & Events Center – Cedaredge

## June

- **6/2** Delta Music Series with Emma Wise featuring David Hauze – Delta
- **6/2** Friday Night Live – Live Music at Big B's, Easy Jim – Hotchkiss
- **6/2** Grand Mesa Arts & Events Center Music Series – Dana Cooper – Cedaredge
- **6/2** Full Moon Paddle Board – Crawford State Park – Crawford
- **6/3** Outdoor Heritage & Safety Day – Confluence Park – Delta
- **6/3** Spring Park Bike Jam – Cedaredge Skate Park – Cedaredge
- **6/7** Art & Song Concert Series with Jeff Plakenhorn – Grand Mesa Arts & Events Center – Cedaredge
- **6/8–10** 44th Annual Crawford Pioneer Days
- **6/9** Friday Night Live – Live Music at Big B's, Pixie & The



## July

- Partygrass Boys – Hotchkiss
- **6/9** Grand Mesa Arts & Events Center Music Series – Cup A Jo – Cedaredge
- **6/9–6/11** North Fork Uncorked – North Fork Valley
- **6/10** Spring Mud Bike Run – Grand Mesa
- **6/15** Music at the Fairgrounds – Kipori Woods – Delta County Fairgrounds – Hotchkiss
- **6/16** Grand Mesa Arts & Events Center Music Series – Ken Gaines – Cedaredge
- **6/16** Friday Night Live – Live Music at Big B's, James Martin Band – Hotchkiss
- **6/17** Spring Surface Creek Klunker Bike Run – Grand Mesa Visitor Center
- **6/21** Cleland Park Concert Series – Delta
- **6/23** Grand Mesa Arts & Events Center Music Series – The Last Spike – Cedaredge
- **6/23** Friday Night Live – Live Music at Big B's, Dead Floyd – Hotchkiss
- **6/24** Pea Green Pedal – Pea Green
- **6/24** Blue Sage Concert Series– Hazel Miller & The Collective – Blue Sage – Paonia
- **6/30** Grand Mesa Arts & Events Center Music Series – Havilah Rand – Cedaredge
- **6/30** Friday Night Live – Live Music at Big B's, Gasoline Lollipops – Hotchkiss
- **7/1** Full Moon Cedaredge Night Bike Cruise – Cedaredge Park – Cedaredge
- **7/1–2** – Celebrate Cedaredge – Cedaredge
- **7/3–7/4** 77th Annual Paonia Cherry Days – Paonia
- **7/3–7/4** 4th of July Western Sky Balloon Festival – Confluence Park – Delta
- **7/6** Music at the Fairgrounds – Fast Eddie and the Lugnuts – Delta County Fairgrounds – Hotchkiss
- **7/7** Grand Mesa Arts & Events Center Music Series – Ordinary Two – Cedaredge
- **7/7** Friday Night Live – Live Music at Big B's, Coffis Brothers – Hotchkiss
- **7/8** County Line Bike Tour – County Line Trail Head – Grand Mesa
- **7/12** Art & Song Concert Series with The Solar Brothers – Grand Mesa Arts & Events Center – Cedaredge
- **7/14** Grand Mesa Arts & Events Center Music Series – Buddy Mundlock – Cedaredge
- **7/14** Friday Night Live – Live Music at Big B's, Caitlin Krisko & The Broadcast – Hotchkiss
- **7/15** Summer Park Bike Jam – Cedaredge Skate Park – Cedaredge
- **7/20–7/24** 100th Annual Deltarado Days



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023

**7/21** Grand Mesa Arts & Events Center Music Series – Dan West – Cedaredge

**7/21** Friday Night Live – Live Music at Big B's, Handmade Moments – Hotchkiss

**7/22** Delta Allycat Fixed Gear Bike Race – Confluence Park – Delta

**7/28** Grand Mesa Arts & Events Center Music Series – Stone Fly – Cedaredge

**7/28** Friday Night Live – Live Music at Big B's, Tropa Magica – Hotchkiss

**7/29** – Full Moon Delta Night Bike Cruise – Confluence Park – Delta

**7/29–8/6** 118th Annual Delta County Fair – Delta County Fairgrounds – Hotchkiss

**7/31** Full Moon Paddle Board – Crawford State Park – Crawford

## August

**8/2** National Night Out – Cleland Park – Delta

**8/3–6** – International Serenity Run – Cedaredge

**8/4** – Grand Mesa Arts & Events Center Music Series – Dean Bonzani – Cedaredge

**8/4** – Friday Night Live – Live Music at Big B's, Finkel – Hotchkiss

**8/4–6** – West Elks Wine Trail – North Fork Valley

**8/5** – Ward Trail Tour Bike Ride – Ward TrailHead – Grand Mesa

**8/5** – Roubidoux Concert Series – Fort Uncompahgre – Delta

**8/11** – Grand Mesa Arts & Events Center Music Series – The Bell Creek Band – Cedaredge

**8/11** – Friday Night Live – Live Music at Big B's, Lowdown Brass – Hotchkiss

**8/12** – Cedaredge Orchard and Wine Tour Bike Ride (21+) – Silent Custom Cyclery – Cedaredge

**8/12** – Roubidoux Concert Series – Fort Uncompahgre – Delta

**8/18** – Grand Mesa Arts & Events Center Music Series – Lipbone Redding – Cedaredge

**8/18** – Friday Night Live – Live Music at Big B's, Sexbriuse? – Hotchkiss

**8/19** – Scenic Hwy 65 Hill Climb Bike Challenge – Silent Custom Cyclery – Cedaredge

**8/19** – Roubidoux Concert Series – Fort Uncompahgre – Delta

**8/25** – Grand Mesa Arts & Events Center Music Series – Liz Barnez – Cedaredge

**8/25** – Friday Night Live – Live Music at Big B's, Secret Six Jazz Band – Hotchkiss

**8/26** – Old Grand Mesa Gravel Bike Tour – Silent Custom Cyclery – Cedaredge

**8/26** Roubidoux Concert Series – Fort Uncompahgre – Delta

**8/29** – Full Moon Paddle Board – Sweitzer Lake – Delta

**8/30** – Art & Song Concert Series with Michael Lille – Grand Mesa Arts & Events Center – Cedaredge

## September

**9/1** Grand Mesa Arts & Events Center Music Series – David Starr – Cedaredge

**9/1** Friday Night Live – Live Music at Big B's, Agrupacion Clave 5 – Hotchkiss

**9/2** Old Grand Mesa Klunker Bike Run – Grand Mesa Visitor Center

**9/8** Friday Night Live – Live Music at Big B's, Ayla Nereo – Hotchkiss

**9/9** Cedar Mesa Road Bike Tour – Silent Custom Cyclery – Cedaredge

**9/10** – Tour de Cedars – Cedaredge

**9/10** Honor Run – Cedaredge

**9/15** Car Show & Downtown Cruise Night – Delta

**9/15** Friday Night Live – Live Music at Big B's, Greg Schochet & Little America – Hotchkiss

**9/16** Surface Creek Colors Gravel Bike Tour – Silent Custom Cyclery – Cedaredge

**9/21** Music at the Fairgrounds – David Nunn and the Bad Habits – Delta County Fairgrounds – Hotchkiss

**9/22** Friday Night Live – Live Music at Big B's, Mountain Harvest Festival – Hotchkiss

**9/22–24** Mountain Harvest Festival – Paonia

**9/23** Gears n Beers Cedaredge Bike Cruise (21+) – Cedaredge Park – Cedaredge

**9/27** Cleland Park Concert Series – Cleland Park – Delta

**9/29** Friday Night Live – Live Music at Big B's, Easy Jim – Hotchkiss

**9/30** Harvest Sunset Cedaredge Bike Cruise – Cedaredge Park – Cedaredge

## October

**10/6–10/8** 46th Annual Cedaredge Applefest – Cedaredge

**10/6** Applefest Surface Creek Klunker Bike Run – Grand Mesa Visitor Center

**10/7** Applefest Park Bike

Jam – Cedaredge Skate Park – Cedaredge

**10/8** Applefest Tour de Cedaredge Bike Ride – Silent Custom Cyclery – Cedaredge

**10/14** Blue Sage Concert Series – Gasoline Lollipops – Blue Sage – Paonia

**10/21** Daddy / Daughter Dance – Bill Heddles Rec Center – Delta

**10/27–10/29** Ciderfest – Big B's – Hotchkiss

**10/31** Trick or Treat Main Street – Delta

**10/31** Trick or Treat Trail – Cedaredge

## November

**11/1** Dia de los Muertos – The Fort – Delta

**11/11** Blue Sage Concert Series with Nicolo Spera – Blue Sage – Paonia

## December

**12/1** Parade of Lights – Delta

**12/1** Christmas at the Fort – Delta

**12/1** Jingle Mingle – Grand Mesa Arts & Events Center – Cedaredge

**12/2** Parade of Lights – Cedaredge

**12/9** Blue Sage Concert Series with Andrew Krimm, Erin Patterson, and Madoka Asari – Blue Sage – Paonia



# 3 Things

# TO SEE & DO IN CEDAREGE

**Keep history alive at Pioneer Town.** As one of the historical staples of Cedaredge, Pioneer Town offers both education and entertainment for people of all ages. Founded 41 years ago, it is known to change and renew with new exhibits, events and stories every year. The beautiful Chapel of the Cross was named 2020's best wedding venue in Delta County. Located at 388 S. Grand Mesa Drive, Pioneer Town is open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday from Memorial Day Weekend through the first week of October and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday-Saturday the rest of the year. More information can be found at [pioneertown.org](http://pioneertown.org).

**Try the "flavors" of Cedaredge,** which boast a tempting array of locally crafted foods and beverages, including heritage apples, two branch-to-bottle hard apple cideries, award-winning wineries, goat cheese from Grand Mesa Creamery, local beef, veggies, Granma Cheryl's killer apple fritters, Rick's Real Bar-B-Que sauces and bloody mary mixes, handcrafted kettle corn and chocolates...and the list goes on!

The Grand Mesa Creamery, for example, offers artisanal farmstead cheese made by hand in small batches. And the kicker — it's made with goat cheese! They state on their website, "We follow the principle that the healthiest and happiest animals produce the best products. We believe in sustainable agriculture, and a humane, natural approach to animal husbandry. It is our desire to create



a sustainable lifestyle and business built on the cornerstone of respect for the consumer, land, animals, and the strength of commitment in local communities."

**Main Street: restaurants, retail and recreation!** For residents, Main Street is one of the primary places to be in Cedaredge. "Cedaredge has an amazing selection of small and locally-owned businesses," Town Administrator Kami Collins said. "We have a fantastic shopping selection, everything from locally-made art and jewelry to an outstanding antique mall, to unique one-of-a-kind treasures you won't find anywhere else in Delta County." Cedaredge's diverse businesses extend far

beyond Main Street, and wherever residents decide to go in town, they can support local business and help the town grow. "You build the kind of community you want with where you spend your dollars. We all have a hand in shaping our communities into vibrant, healthy and engaging places, the kinds of places that turn a town into a hometown," Collins said. "It's up to us, the consumer and the resident, to support the businesses that shape our community by spending locally." Local favorites include Ollie Jane's, Hintercraft Handmade, Silent Custom Cyclery, Ribbons & Roses Antique Mall, The AppleShed and Lost Mesa Grill, in addition to SIPS on Main, The Pondy, and Molly's on Main.





# THINGS TO SEE & DO IN NORTH FORK VALLEY

Charming B&Bs, restaurants serving farm fresh to table food, locally produced wines, art studios by renowned artists, music performances, ongoing entertainment events and festivals, make the three towns of Crawford, Hotchkiss, and Paonia of the North Fork Valley a special place to visit. Located on the east side of Delta County, on the Western Slope of Colorado.

The North Fork Valley is a beautiful and pristine area tucked away in the West Elk Mountains nestled between the North Fork and South Fork of the Gunnison River and two National Forests and the majestic Black Canyon National Park.

Starting with river activities, enjoy Gold Medal fishing on the **North Fork of the Gunnison River**. Try stand up paddling out of Hotchkiss. Go on guided raft trips and fishing trips out

of Crawford or at Pleasure Park near Hotchkiss. We have experienced guides for all activities along the river or enjoy your own solitude at several accessible river spots in the National Forest and BLM land.

**Hiking and biking** are favorite activities in the area. Rent bikes in Paonia and find a bike trail leaving the town towards Jumbo Mountain. Or hike our numerous hiking trails around all three towns. And for the heartier, hike down from Crawford's North Rim of the Black Canyon to the Gunnison River. The North Rim of the Black Canyon is the more secluded "road less traveled" and is a great area for camping.

A trip to the North Fork Valley is not complete without tours of our area **wineries** and **organic farms and orchards**, some of which have onsite Bed and Breakfast accommodations.

The North Fork Valley is recognized as an American Viticultural Area (AVA) with a climate and elevation conducive to producing high-end wines by a dozen local wineries. Visit, grab a taste of wine and take home a bottle of your favorite using the West Elks AVA map as your guide (map). And try out our area brew pubs for beer and **Big B's Delicious Orchards**, a local manufacturer of hard cider.

While touring the wineries, also plan your trip around visits to some of the numerous organic farms and orchards. The North Fork Valley has one of the highest concentrations of organic growers organized by the Valley Organic Growers Association (VOGA) who provide both a printed and online directory of farms and tours at the area's visitor kiosks in each town. Every town has a farmer's market to easily purchase local food and, typically, arts and crafts. And catch one of The Learning Council's pop-up kitchens that serve vegan and gluten-free lunches by our area creative chefs using locally grown food.

Peaches, apples, cherries, plums, apricots and pears make up the bulk of the harvest from the North Fork Valley orchards. Grapes for wine grow particularly well in our higher altitude vineyards.

Budget time to check out the **local art scene** centered around the Paonia Creative District, which is one of only twenty-three creative districts in Colorado. The North Fork Valley Creative Coalition, based in Paonia and the Creamery Arts Center in







Hotchkiss anchor the art activities in the area. A stroll down Paonia's Grand Avenue, with historic buildings that house numerous art studios, is a must! The historical Creamery Arts Center hosts a beautiful and large collection of local artists' best work that is available for purchase.

Don't forget to **browse our local merchants** that provide the more traditional goods to the more eclectic fine apparel, glassworks and more from our local creative artists. We have two historical museums, one in Hotchkiss that showcases Hotchkiss and Crawford history and one in Paonia which includes a historical schoolhouse.

And while enjoying the daily activities, save some energy for evening fun with the available **music and theatrical performances** at the Blue Sage Center for the Arts and Paradise Theater in Paonia and the Creamery Arts Center in Hotchkiss. Local bands play at Big B's outdoor restaurant (great climate) between Hotchkiss and Paonia and at the Boardwalk in Crawford, and Pickin' in the Park in Paonia during the summer

months, to name a few of the several music venues.

Now let's talk about the area's numerous annual festivals and events. Favorites of locals and visitors alike include **Pioneer Days** in Crawford in June, **Cherry Days** in Paonia in July, and the **Delta County Fair and Rodeo** in Hotchkiss in August! In spring, April's outdoor "**Hestival**" at Big B's is hosted with Pickin' in Park, followed by the **Hotchkiss Sheep Dog Trials** and **Ute Trails Auto Show** over Mother's Day weekend, in Hotchkiss. September brings **Mountain Harvest Festival** in Paonia. Art events occur year-round, culminating in November with several holiday arts and craft fairs in Hotchkiss, followed by the **Paonia Holiday Art Show** in December

Getting to the North Fork Valley from Denver or surrounding counties is part of the fun. Enjoy coming to the North Fork Valley via the **West Elk Scenic Byway**, which is a 205-mile National Forest Scenic Byway and Colorado Scenic and Historic Byway. The Byway reaches its zenith at

Kebler Pass, elevation 10,007 feet, open only in the summer months, connecting Paonia and Somerset to Crested Butte. It's a great day trip from the North Fork Valley.

The North Fork Valley is 60 minutes from the Montrose Airport and 75 minutes from the Grand Junction airport. Both take you to Delta, where you pick up Highway 92 to Hotchkiss, and then Crawford or Paonia (via Highway 133). Aspen is two hours away by car over beautiful McClure Pass and Denver is five hours away either by I-70 or the more scenic McClure Pass that goes by the Redstone Castle and the Paonia State Park. And if you come by way of Gunnison and the North Rim of the Black Canyon to Crawford, you will see why the three towns of Crawford, Hotchkiss, and Paonia are part of the West Elks Scenic Byway.

The North Fork Valley is beautiful, charming, and pristine with numerous activities to make for a special vacation,

See [NorthForkCreative.org](http://NorthForkCreative.org) and [NorthForkValley.net](http://NorthForkValley.net) for more information.

# 3 Things

# TO SEE & DO IN DELTA

BY DANIEL ROMAN

## Go to the park: Cleland, Confluence, Sweitzer and more

Delta has a number of parks and public outdoor recreation areas that offer activities for residents of all ages. Some parks, such as Sweitzer Lake State Park, are farther from town and allow for things like boating, biking and birdwatching; while others such as Cleland Park are more residential and offer activities such as covered picnic areas, playgrounds and sports areas.

City parks alone include activities

such as fishing, hiking and trail walking, and parks provide picnic areas, playgrounds and lakes.

Cleland Park's extensive playground area is, in fact, newly constructed, having celebrated its grand opening in the summer of 2021. There is also the potential for another nine holes of disc golf at Confluence Park. More information on Delta's parks, including information about other nearby recreational opportunities such as Bill Heddles Recreation Center and Fort Uncompahgre, can be found at [cityofdelta.net](http://cityofdelta.net) under "Parks and Recreation."



## Eat healthy and support locals at farmer's market

Established in 1989, the Delta Farmer's Market offers produce, meats, breads and pies, jams, hydroponics and potted plants, arts and crafts, CBD products, jewelry and more from local vendors. The market has expanded this year to include products that were not offered before and even more vendors.

"It's just local people getting together and working together," said Tracy Roberts, market coordinator. Tracy also has a honey vendor at the Delta Farmer's Market, having fallen in love







with the area's crisp mountain air. "We're offering things this year that we haven't been offering in the past, and it's a wide variety of products. It keeps the money in the community, it goes to Delta County and it's supporting our local people."

In addition to providing for the local economy, Roberts also said that buying local produce and food is often a healthier option.

As harvests come in, more produce will be available at the market throughout the season. The Delta Farmer's Market is located at Fifth and Meeker streets and will be open

from 8 a.m. to noon every Saturday and Wednesday through September.

### **Delta, the City of Murals**

Have you seen the murals around the City of Delta? Twenty murals can be found on the sides of various buildings in Delta. Artwork is from large to small in size and represents the history of Delta and more. New murals include the two new works by Seth Weber on either side of West Legacy Park in downtown Delta. The north-facing one was commissioned by the Delta Rotary Club and the south-facing one pays homage to the

city's old industry in sugar beets.

Others include: "Ute Country," by Connie Williams; "Gateway to the Canyons," by Richard Doherty and Seth Weber; and "Anna Dora Opera House" by Richard Doherty.

Along with murals, you can also find a variety of sculptures with many themes. The most famous one is of Antoine Robidoux and the Ute Indians which can be spotted off of Highway 50 (by McDonald's and City Market).

Artwork is created by local artists and is a great way to take in the sites of the City of Delta.



# 3 DAYS IN Delta County

## 24 HOURS *in Delta County*

Bright and early, start your 24 hours in Delta County with an amazing 18 rounds of golf at Devil's Thumb Golf Course in Delta, where hopefully the resident antelope will join you on throughout the course.

For lunch, head to Cedaredge and enjoy a local favorite Lost Mesa Grill, then take a lovely stroll around Cedaredge's downtown scene.

Late afternoon, make your way to Stone Cottage Cellars in Paonia and prepare yourself for the most relaxing stay one can imagine in the Stone Cottage, surrounded by a beautiful garden that's yours for the picking, and of course, enjoy a beautiful selection of wine in the tasting room, derived from the very land from which you are so lucky to be enjoying.

Rio Bravo is a must stop for dinner, with delicious Mexican cuisine!

Breakfast brings a quick drive back down to Delta for a rib sticking good old fashioned breakfast at C&J's Cafe, in Delta. Nothing starts the day off better than a great big plate full of creamy biscuits and gravy, golden hash browns, and sizzling bacon.

Enter Delta County from any direction and you will see posted on our welcome sign "Delta County - canyons, rivers, and mountains". It is easy to appreciate this beautiful topography from the road, however in this immersive itinerary We'll share a little local knowledge to help you fully experience the nature-made playground that we call home. Your path winds through land, water, and sky, with stops along the way to enjoy great culinary, historic, and artistic traditions which you will find here among the canyons.

### **Day 1 – Black Canyon National Park and Crawford Country**

The Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park tops the list of things to see here in the area. Over 2 million years the Gunnison River has carved one of the steepest, oldest, and most spectacular canyons in North America. In a word: overwhelming.

As you peer into the canyon depths which plunge well over 2,000 feet to the churning river below, you will likely experience a sense that the view is somehow an illusion. Part of the canyon's magic is the fact that it is deeper than it is wide. Unlike the Grand Canyon, which is 18-miles wide. The Black Canyon has a width of only 40-feet at its narrowest point. Viewpoints dot the

rim road, and nature trails are available for the adventurous. Chasm View Nature Trail is a 1/3-mile loop with views of the Painted Wall and Serpent Point. This is a great place to see wildlife, and experience some of the most astounding scenery in the park. North Vista trail offers panoramic views of the area with 3-mile, and 7-mile round trip options.

From most places in Delta County, the canyon's North Rim is most accessible. On your way to and from the North Rim you will pass through historic Crawford Country. This green valley nestled between the West Elk mountains and Black Canyon National Park is home to the small town of Crawford, and Crawford State Park Reservoir. This valley has been home to generations of ranchers and cowboys dating back to the 1880's. You will still see cattle drives here each spring and fall.

In Crawford, you will find the Lazy J coffee shop, Secret Door Book Store, and accompanying art gallery. If you brought your appetite, stroll across the street to the North Fork Boardwalk for some excellent cowboy fare. On warm summer days you will want to stop into Crawford State Park to take a dip in the cool waters of the reservoir.





## **Day 2 – Raft or SUP the Gunnison River**

The Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area is a place of colorful sandstone canyons, ancient archeology, and tranquil waters. The Gunnison River flows clear and cool through the heart of this wonderland, making it one of Delta Counties best natural playgrounds. Native trout, and otters thrive in the Gunnison's gold medal waters, while bald eagles soar overhead. Foxes, and big horned sheep also call these canyons home. The petroglyph inscribed walls of Eagle Rock Shelter, the "oldest house in Colorado" sit prominently at the mouth of Lawhead Gulch, as they have for the past 13,000 years.

For your second day in Delta County, we recommend an immersive experience in the Gunnison Gorge NCA on a fully outfitted river adventure with Hotchkiss based river outfitter, Western Slope SUP. This trip can be enjoyed as a mellow and scenic rafting float, or a more adventurous stand up paddle adventure. The friendly waters of the Gunnison River cater well to either. The knowledge-

able instructors at Western Slope SUP will introduce you to local wildlife, give a tour of Eagle Rock Shelter, and prepare a delicious locally sourced lunch featuring ingredients from area farms and orchards.

Your river adventure begins and ends at Western Slope SUP's headquarters in downtown Hotchkiss. After your river trip, take a walk down the block to the Creamery Arts Center. As the name implies, you will find more than art in this two-story gallery. Ask for a scoop of Third Bowl Ice Cream, which is hand-made right here in Hotchkiss. A few doors down you will find Delta County's only Thai/sushi restaurant, and Black Cat Pizza.

## **Day 3 – Skydive over Delta**

It's time to go big. Ultimate Skydiving Adventures, the only skydiving center on the Western Slope, is ready to take you 7,500 feet above it all. From Blake Field in Delta, legendary instructor Ben Lowe and his team will fly you into the blue for a one-off perspective on the Grand Mesa, West Elk Mountains, and Black Canyon. Though Ben offers a full learn to

skydive course, the best way to enjoy this adventure in a day is a tandem jump. All you have to do is strap in, let go, and enjoy the view.

After your jump, you will want to let the adrenaline subside. Meander through the nature trails at Delta's Confluence Park, or amble down Main Street Delta. It won't take long to see why Delta, Colorado is known as "The City of Murals". Don't forget to stop in to CB's Tavern for a bite and a beverage. At night in Delta you will have the unique opportunity to check out one of Colorado's last remaining drive-in movie theaters, the Tru-Vu.

There are opportunities for adventures in Delta County to suit just about everyone. Perhaps wine tasting in Paonia is more your speed, or 18-holes at Devil's Thumb Golf Course. However you chose to spend your time, you will be doing it with some of the friendliest people in Colorado, in one of the last untouched, truly unique parts of the state. A place where old tradition lives on, and western heritage looms large. See for yourself why there is no place quite like Delta County, Colorado.

## *Town Overview*

# Cedaredge

**A**ptly named for residing at the “edge of the cedars” of the Grand Mesa, the Town of Cedaredge was officially incorporated on March 25, 1907. Cedaredge is the gateway to the Grand Mesa via the Grand Mesa National Scenic and Historic Byway, which is the world’s largest flat top mountain and offers four seasons of tourism.

Spring and summer bring fishing with over 300 lakes, hiking, backpacking, biking, boating, bird watching, 4-wheeling, star gazing, camping and more. Fall and winter offer hunting, snowshoeing, skiing and ice fishing.

All ages and abilities can find world class outdoor recreational experiences on the Grand Mesa. Cedaredge is also known for its apples, with orchardists who have been growing apples on the same trees for over 100 years, and offers two truly “branchto-bottle” hard apple ciders; Happy Hollow Hard Cider and Snow Capped Cider where 100% of the raw ingredients used to make the ciders. The water and all fruit comes from the Surface Creek Valley. You will also find three wineries in Cedaredge: Williams Cellars, Chill Switch Wines and Stoney Mesa Winery, a multigenerational winery and the state’s oldest continual winery license.

Cedaredge is also home to Pioneer Town. Step back into the past with a visit where thousands of authentic artifacts from more than a century ago can be viewed on a nearly six-acre campus. The three iconic Bar-I wooden silos are original to the site and listed on the National Historic Registry, as is the old Stolte Shed fruit packing house and the cabin of early settlers Otto Peterson and his family. Walk the boardwalk of Pioneer Town’s Main Street, where the saloon, country store and original 1906 Cedaredge jail house can provide entertainment for the entire family. The museum contains a large doll and toy collection, an extensive collection of Indian flint and arrowheads, a lovely arboretum, a collection of antique farm machinery and a delightful gift shop. Most guests spend 60-90 minutes looking at the many exhibits, but some spend the entire day.

Main Street in Cedaredge is quaint and inviting with an impressive guitar shop — Starr’s Guitars. Dining and the arts round out the Main Street experience, including the Grand Mesa Arts & Events Center. Wander off Main and find a large selection of antiques, and if you are a golf enthusiast, the Cedaredge Golf Course features an 18-hole course with spectacular views, well-groomed greens and great weather.







## *Town Overview*

# Orchard City

**A**s you slowly ascend the rolling hillside up to the Grand Mesa, you will pass through Orchard City — a unique agricultural, residential and recreational area nestled between the cities of Delta to the southwest, Cedaredge to the north, and Hotchkiss to the east.

Despite being the largest municipality in terms of square miles in Delta County, Orchard City is primarily recognized by the names of three smaller and older areas within its boundaries — Austin, Eckert and Cory. They all had separate beginnings, but somehow, through a unique course of events, came together.

Several of the buildings on the highway are constructed using local volcanic rock. The Eckert Presbyterian Church is over 100 years old and showcases examples of this rockwork. The Eckert Creamery sold butter to the public until the 1980s and now serves as an antique store.

Wander off in either direction from the highway and you will pass through a countryside that produces a variety of apples, cherries, apricots, pears and peaches. It is also well known for its variety of organic farm produce and livestock including cattle, sheep, elk and buffalo.

Hart's Basin (Fruit Grower's Reservoir) has been a birder's dream come true for many years and was the first Important Birding Area designated in Colorado. This location is now on the Southwest Colorado Birding Trail. Annually in April, the Sandhill Cranes return here on their northward migration. Thousands of birds take brief sanctuary with the occasional pelican among them.







## *Town Overview*

# Delta

**T**he City of Delta, the namesake and seat of Delta County, was originally set up as a trading post for Ute Indians and the new settlers from the east. Delta is situated where the Uncompahgre and Gunnison Rivers come together.

Delta is also known for its abundance of outdoor recreation opportunities, including Devil's Thumb Golf Course, which is rated #1 with the CAGGY Award for Best Public Golf Course on the Western Slope and Southwest Colorado. And after a round of golf, just down the road, you can get your "thrill seeker" on with Ultimate Skydiving Adventures. If you love mountain biking, check out Con-Trail Mountain Biking park located at Confluence Park, which also provides a great family day canoeing, paddleboarding and fishing, or a rousing game of disc golf in the Gunnison's Edge Disc Golf Course.

While in Delta, be sure to stop at Fort Uncompahgre, a reconstruction of the original trading post used by traders, trappers and Native Americans. Antoine Robidoux built the original fort in 1828, where it lasted for 18 years. The Delta County Historical Museum, housed in the old firehouse, is a must see for the history buff and the inner science buff in all of us — fossils, dinosaur bones and a butterfly exhibit which includes some of the only known specimens of now extinct species are on-hand to quench the learning thirst. Take some time to truly explore the "City of Murals," which showcases beautiful wall art up and down Main Street, or seek out the many buildings that are on the local and state historic registers. Just a few miles North of town, discover and hike the newly designated Dominquez/Escalante National Conservation Areas.

If you are into more relaxing activities, take in a movie at the historic Egyptian Theater in downtown Delta, or at one of the few remaining drive-ins in the US — The Tru Vu Drive In. This blast from the past is a can't miss summer event, and to say that the concession burgers are mouthwatering is an understatement!









## *Town Overview*

# Crawford

**T**he town is named after Captain George A. Crawford, whose idea to start a post office in this area resulted in the growth of a town — Crawford — which is the high-altitude beauty of the North Fork Valley.

Crawford is the gateway to the North Rim of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, which provides numerous outdoor activities, such as snowshoeing, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing in the winter and hiking, biking and photography in the summer.

Located along the West Elk Scenic Byway, the Town of Crawford is nestled in the heart of cattle country between The Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and the breathtaking West Elk Wilderness Area. With Crawford's quaint restaurants, outdoor attractions and unique shops to enjoy, there are plenty of things for the whole family to do.

The North Rim of The Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park is a wonderful alternative to the more-visited South Rim. This side offers a touch with nature, primitive campsites, and many trails leading down into the 1500-foot deep canyon to the pristine waters of the Gunnison River.

Needle Rock is one of those sites where you ask yourself, "What on earth do you call that?" Needle Rock is an intrusive of rhyodacite volcanic plug, or volcanic neck, that stands 800 feet tall above the floor of the Smith Fork of the Gunnison River Valley. It originated as the throat of a large volcano about 28 million years ago in the Miocene geological epoch, when molten rock intruded between existing sedimentary rocks. It is a breathtaking addition to the view shed in Crawford along the West Elk Loop Scenic Byway.

Visit the Crawford State Park for many other outdoor sports, including hiking, fishing, biking, boating and stand up paddle boarding, just a mile out of the Town of Crawford. Another natural resource to be explored is the Gunnison Basin National Forest, where the outdoor recreation opportunities are endless.

The annual Crawford Pioneer Days festival the second weekend of June each year; enjoy Fireworks over beautiful Crawford State Park, along with a parade, outhouse races and old-fashioned melodrama, vendors, music in the park, a baking contest, kids events and so much more!







## *Town Overview*

# Hotchkiss

**H**otchkiss, dubbed the “Friendliest Town Around,” truly lives up to its name! Named after the man that founded the little town in 1900, Enos T. Hotchkiss, the town holds many wonders to explore and enjoy.

Hotchkiss is located on the scenic West Elk Loop Byway. Getting here is an enjoyable and scenic trip over McClure Pass out of Glenwood Springs or past the Blue Mesa Reservoir from Gunnison, or via Highway 92, from Delta.

Hotchkiss is surrounded by local vineyards, wineries, and organic farms and orchards. The area is a recognized American Viticultural Area (AVA) and the altitude and climate produce award-winning wines. The area is particularly well known for its fresh farm-to-table produce. Purchase local food from farmers’ markets, direct farm/orchard purchases, or the in-town Farm Runners Market that sells locally grown and produced goods. Big B’s is a local in-town manufacturer of hard apple and other fruit ciders that are sold and served locally.

Downtown Hotchkiss is thriving, with many eclectic restaurants serving Thai, Sushi, BBQ, Burgers, Mexican/TexMex dishes and “Pizza with an attitude.” You will also find three coffee shops and many retail businesses for your shopping pleasure.

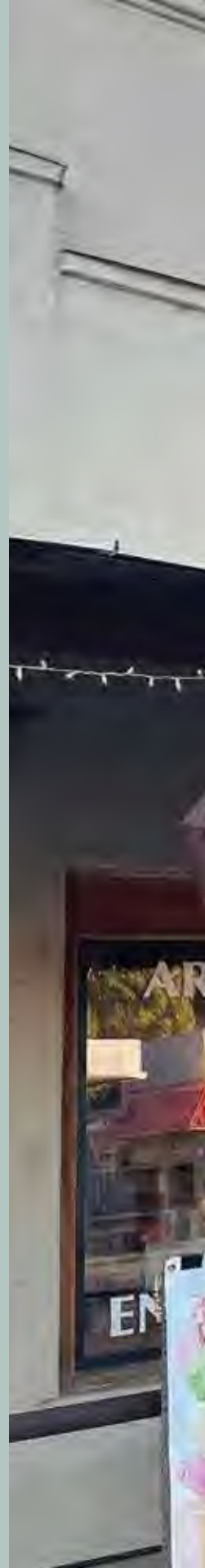
Local artists display their talent at the beautiful Creamery Arts Center, which also hosts local musical performers and provides classes that include pottery-making, jewelry, and other artistic interests. The Creamery also provides locally made ice cream from Third Bowl Ice Cream, made just a few blocks away. The Hotchkiss-Crawford Historical Museum houses the history of the North Fork Area and is a

great place to visit, research and sift through all of the local historical information and vast collection of items from the past.

Outdoor activities are numerous given the proximity to the Grand Mesa, Gunnison National Forests and the spectacular Black Canyon National Park, with its sheer cliffs leading down to the South Fork of the Gunnison River. Local guides and outfitters provide equipment and experiences for rafting, fishing and SUP (stand up paddling) up and down the Gunnison River via the boat/raft launch at the Delta County Fairgrounds. The Hotchkiss National Fish Hatchery replenishes our area reservoirs with over 600,000 new trout annually, along with providing tours. The Eagle Rock Shelter and Hiking Area and the Gunnison River Pleasure Park are only two of several places to recreate and camp. Fall brings many hunters to the area and winter brings snowmobiling, skiing and snowshoeing.

The North Fork Recreation District, located along Highway 92, includes an outdoor pool, a bike pump track and ball fields. The Nature Connection offers fantastic opportunities for outdoor activities for kids year-round. Hotchkiss is also home to the Delta County Fairgrounds which will host the 118th Delta County Fair from July 29 – August 6, and is considered one of the premier events in the county each year.

Hotchkiss hosts several other annual events. The Sheep Dog Trials kick off the season on Mother’s Day weekend in May, bringing in the top dog handlers in the U.S. You will also find outdoor concerts at Big B’s Delicious Orchards. Add these events to those held in Paonia and Crawford, with both towns only 13 minutes away, and there is always something to do in the North Fork Valley. Come for a visit and stay at the charming B&Bs, the locally owned Hotchkiss Inn, or camp nearby, and see what Hotchkiss has to offer!





# CREAMERY ARTS CENTER



# Paonia

**P**aonia is a unique community, born from a rich history of miners, ranchers, artists, activists, agriculturists, foodies and artisans.

Legend has it that Samuel Wade, who settled the area with William Clark and Enos Hotchkiss, wanted to name the town after one of his favorite flowers, using the Greek spelling Paeonia. Whether the name was misspelled intentionally or by accident, when the town was incorporated in 1902, it was officially named “Paonia.” Peony plants from the original stock are said to be growing today in the Town Park more than 100 years later. The Valley was originally inhabited by Ute Indians, the only Indians indigenous to Colorado. Ute history can be traced to an early Fremont man who migrated the Bering Strait 10,000 years ago and occupied west-central Colorado. The Utes practiced a universal religion in a natural sanctuary of mountains, rivers and forests.

Paonia was later known as the banana-belt of the Rockies holding the highest concentration of organic farms in the State of Colorado. It is naturally air conditioned by warm air flowing up the valley at night and cool air from the mountains during the day, resulting in optimal conditions for growing cherries, apricots, grapes, peaches, plums, pears, nectarines

and apples. You’ll find sustainably raised meats, value-added products and award-winning wines. Indulge in some of the highest quality, cleanest food in the world when you visit the North Fork Valley.

Paonia is a focal point of back roads and trails leading into the forest, attracting nature lovers, hunters, hikers, cyclists and cross-country skiers. Hunters outfit themselves in Paonia before setting out to get their wild game. Few places offer such a wonderful combination of climate, scenery, lifestyle and recreation.

As a certified “Colorado Creative District,” folks can experience the vast expression of creativity via performing arts, public murals and art galleries. Paonia is home to many creatives, including painters, jewelers, sculptures, dancers, actors, musicians, vintners, brewers and culinary artisans.

Paonia’s several local media sources include KVNf (90.9), a public radio station that broadcasts from Grand Junction to Lake City and beyond, The High Country News, which is an internationally renowned, award-winning environmental newspaper and the High Country Shopper/Spotlight, a weekly newspaper with everything for buy, sell or trade in Delta County.

Unique accommodations to suit any taste can be found via Historic lodging like Simpler Time Bed & Breakfast or Bross Hotel, operating since 1906. You can stay in at the castle at <https://wisehartspringsinn.com/>

or try a school bus or yurt at <https://sageviewranch.com/>. A complete list of lodging can be found on our Paonia Lodging page.

### Activities

Paonia Town Park is the social heart of town, hosting annual events and year-round enjoyment. The park occupies an entire city block and is filled with amenities for all ages, including picnic tables and barbecue, a playground, skate park and sports field. The park hosts an impressive canopy of tall trees in a wide array of species. Insider tip: Tuesday night Arbol Farmers’ Market, April – October.

Numerous orchards offer U-Pick for locals and visitors with enormous varieties of fresh fruit: crisp apples and juicy peaches to tart cherries and mouth watering apricots, pears and grapes. Do NOT miss a trip to one of the nine valley wineries or two craft breweries downtown.

On a hot summer day, grab a locally made ice cream at the Hearth Ice Cream Shop and walk or ride bikes down to the Paonia River Park for a quick dip on summer day. Be sure to visit the Paonia Museum at the entrance to the park packed with awesome finds and old photographs of the town’s history.

Stroll downtown Grand Avenue to visit boutiques, thrift stores, galleries and restaurants.





### Arts & Entertainment

Two community-owned performing arts centers occupy the town center, offering rich year-round programming. The Blue Sage is known for their classic chamber music series, contemporary music on the second stage at “Sage Alley” and an array of classes in the Great Hall.

The 95-year-old Paradise Theater screens new releases and independent films and is known for its renowned national musical acts and theatrical productions.

### Food, Wine and the Great Outdoors

Working with local farms, ranches,

orchards and wineries, the North Fork Valley restaurants create a diverse, seasonal experience that express the particular terroir of this abundant region. Just outside town are numerous orchards and vineyards. Paonia sits in the middle of the West Elks American Viticulture Area, a nationally designated wine growing area. \*See events listing

Fresh fruit is available during the summer at local orchards, such as Delicious Orchards, First Fruits and Orchard Valley to name a few. Paonia’s fruit bounty includes cherries in early July, peaches in August, apples and grapes in the fall and fresh vegetables all summer

long.

Arbol Farmers Market at Town Park on Tuesdays April – October. Valley farmers and value-added makers feature their freshest fruit and vegetables with live music and food vendors.

Paonia State Park features great scenery packed with flora and fauna. Camp near a babbling stream where folks can canoe, water-ski or stand up paddle board in the fresh mountain reservoir. Explore the majestic Ragged Mountains.

Hike or bike Jumbo Mountain single-track trails or cross country ski and sled in the winter months.



# Looking at the Past

It was the summer of 1893 when three members of the McCarty Gang came into town. On Sept. 7 the trio (Tom McCarty, his brother Bill and Bill's son Fred) executed their plan to rob the Farmers and Merchants Bank on Main Street.

Days before, they had cased the bank under the guise of ranchers in the market for land. Tom stayed with the horses while Bill and Fred entered the building, guns in hand. Tellers Andrew Blachly and H.H. Wolbert were staring down the barrels of the McCartys' guns as they were told to empty the safe. To warn attorney W.R. Robertson, an attorney who held an office at the back of the bank, Blachly yelled that the bank

was being robbed. When he refused to quiet down, Fred shot him dead sounding the alarm.

Ray Simpson heard the shots and sprang into action and posted up on the corner of Main and Third streets.

Simpson, who was part owner of the local hardware store (which would eventually become Delta Hardware), was standing in the doorway of his shop with his .40 caliber Sharps rifle

nearby. Rumor has it that Simpson, a dead shot with his rifle, had a dream the night before about a robbery and was discussing it with his father when he heard trouble.

After Fred shot Blachly, he and Bill grabbed a bag of coins and a stack of cash before meeting up with Tom in the alley. Tom had his gun on Robertson and soon the three fled.

As they rode away, Simpson shot,



hitting Bill with his first attempt. Fred turned around firing shots at Simpson but missed. Soon the merchant shot again, hitting Fred. Tom was able to get away.

Simpson was acknowledged nationwide for his actions. He even received telegrams from Scotland Yard congratulating him.

Events like these have put Delta County on the map. History buffs can find out more about this story as well as others that have happened around Delta County at local museums. There are two in Delta: Fort Uncompahgre Interpretive Center (440 Palmer St., Delta; 970-874-8349) and The Delta County Historical Society (251 Meeker St., Delta; 970-874-8721). One in Hotchkiss: the HotchkissCrawford Historical Museum (180 Second St., Hotchkiss; 970-872-3780), and one

in Cedaredge: Pioneer Town (388 S. Grand Mesa Drive, Cedaredge; 970-856-7554).

Jim Wetzel, who is part of the Delta County Historic Landmark Board, said there are many historic buildings found throughout the county listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties, as well as local historic registers. As Wetzel explains, through the history of Delta County, the tearing down of many original buildings did not happen, but rather owners restored them. And now, many welcome visitors.

The Delta County Historic Landmark Board is the group that is responsible for reviewing sites. The board includes five people who represent the communities around the county. Those who would like to have a building or a site on the registry, go

through a process with the board.

The applicant collects his or her supporting documentation and turns it into the board along with the application and a \$10 fee. The board reviews the material, and if it checks out, will present the information to the Delta County Commissioners requesting it to be placed on the historical register.

For those looking for the application, board members can supply it. For more information, call 970-874-8721.

Full details on Delta County historic sites on the National Register of Historic Places and the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties can be found at [historycolorado.org/national-state-register-listed-properties](http://historycolorado.org/national-state-register-listed-properties) (filtered by "county"). There are other sites such as that of the Ute Council Tree — a cottonwood tree where the local Ute Indian Tribe would hold its council meetings which often included Chipeta (Chief Ouray's wife) — which is not listed but is a draw for tourists (a sign can be seen on the highway directing folks to the site). Information on these sites can be found at the museums.

## Listed Historic Sites:

**Bross Hotel:** 312 Onarga Ave., Paonia

**Bruce Estate:** 1468 Colorado Hwy. 133, Paonia

**Captain Smith's Cabin:** Escalante Road west of US Highway 50, Delta vicinity

**Cedar Mesa Community Club:** 15637 Peach Road, Cedaredge

**Cedaredge Consolidated School:** 360 N. Grand Mesa Drive, Cedaredge

**Crawford School:** 425 Colorado Hwy. 92, Crawford

**Curtis Hardware Company:** 228 Grand Ave., Paonia

**Delta County Bank Building:** 301-305 Main St., Delta

**Delta National Bank (Delta City Hall):** 360 Main St., Delta

**Delta Post Office and Federal Building:** 360 Meeker St., Delta

**Delta Public Library (a NeoClassic Carnegie Library):** 211 W. Sixth St.,

**Delta Egyptian Theater:** 452 Main St., Delta

**Elmwood School:** 2876 O Road, Hotchkiss vicinity

**Fairlamb House:** 700 Leon St., Delta

**Ferganchick Orchard Rock Art Site:** Austin vicinity

**First Methodist Episcopal Church of Delta,** 199 E. Fifth St., Delta

**First National Bank Building:** 226 Grand Mesa Ave., Paonia

**First Presbyterian Church of Eckert:** 13011 Colorado Hwy. 65, Eckert

**Garnethurst:** 509 Leon St., Delta

**Hotchkiss Homestead:** 422 Riverside Drive, Hotchkiss

**Hotchkiss Hotel:** 101 Bridge St., Hotchkiss

**Hotchkiss Methodist Episcopal Church:** 285 N. Second Ave.,

**Hotchkiss Lovett House:** 210 Aspen St., Cedaredge

**Mathews House:** 40467 Mathews Lane, Paonia

**Paonia First Christian Church:** 235 Box Elder Ave., Paonia

**Stell House:** 1122 2100 Road, Orchard City vicinity

**Stolte House:** 1812 Colorado Hwy. 65, Cedaredge

**Surface Creek Livestock Company Silos:** 315 SW Third St., Cedaredge

**Tru-Vu Drive In:** 1001 Colorado Hwy. 92, Delta

**Walker Cabin:** Escalante Road, west of US Hwy. 50, Delta vicinity

# Area Theatres





# Paradise Theatre of Paonia

The Paradise Theatre of Paonia is a nonprofit organization with the mission of elevating community culture through diverse, quality art and entertainment. Located on Grand Avenue in downtown Paonia, the theater juggles classics, senior

specials, partner programs with other organizations and a variety of live performances.

The Paradise hosts two different film festivals each year — the Cabin Fever Festival in the early months of the

year and Paonia Film Festival in late fall.

For insight to the Paradise Theatre's full schedule, visit [paradiseofpaonia.com](http://paradiseofpaonia.com).

## Egyptian Theater

The 425 seat Delta Egyptian Theater, built in 1928, is the crown jewel of Main Street in downtown Delta, and benefits the whole community. By the 1930s, the Delta Egyptian Theater was one of over 100 theaters across the country to decorate itself in an Egyptian Revival style. This historic theater owes this connection to the discovery of the tomb of King Tut in 1922. That discovery set off a nationwide interest in everything Egyptian. There are only six remaining Egyptian Theaters in the United States today.



The Delta Egyptian Theater offers traditional movies in addition to live music such as Opera and Musical Theatre, comedy shows, community

events and so much more!

For more information on the Delta Egyptian Theater visit [deltaegyptian.org](http://deltaegyptian.org).

## Tru Vu Drive In

Having opened to the public in 1955, during the height of the drive-in era, the Tru Vu Drive In is a single-screen drive-in theater that still seasonally plays double features to this day. Recently acquired by

father-daughter duo George and Jesikah Rodriguez, the iconic retro venue is in the safe hands of former employees and fanatics of the drive-in culture.

This year, the outdoor movie venue will open into a revival of 1950s vibes, aided by theme nights and classic movie events, alongside regular theatrical releases.

# THE GUNNISON GORGE

## *National Conservation Area*

**T**he Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area, designated as such by Congress in 1999 is the jewel of Delta County. A variety of landscapes and terrain, in the 62,844 acre will satisfy anyone's need to recreate.

Raft, canoe or kayak rapids up to class IV on the 14 mile river. Exciting class III and IV rapids can be accessed at the Chukar Trail or the calmer class I and II waters at the Gunnison Forks.

Horseback riding, biking, and hiking are enhanced by the breathtaking views the NCA offers, including the Uncompahgre Valley along with West Elk, San Juan and Grand Mesa mountains.

Day use and overnight camp sites are clearly marked so you can choose how long you wish to stay, play and explore.

Discover prehistoric rock art panels and historic rock configurations. But it's the diverse terrains that completes your exploration and fully takes you back in time. Traversing on trails through adobe formations, sandstone canyons and the uplands gives you the sense of what Native Americans generations ago experienced.

There are so many other motorized and non-motorized trails to explore throughout the county. For more information you can visit [deltacountycolorado.com](http://deltacountycolorado.com) or visit the following websites.

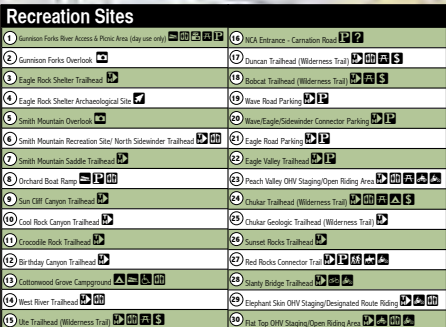
**Biking county-wide:** Visit the Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association at [cpmoba.org](http://cpmoba.org).

**Hiking Grand Mesa:** [alltrails.com](https://www.alltrails.com) and type in "Grand Mesa" to link to descriptions and maps for multiple trails on Grand Mesa.

**Exploring Dominguez-Escalante and Gunnison Gorge National Conservation and Wilderness**

**Areas:** [blm.gov](https://www.blm.gov) then select "Programs", Colorado, then click on "National Conservation Area".





# Fun and Fish in the Delta Region

By Joel Evans

Looking to chase a fish? Visitors and residents alike can find water most any direction from Delta. Being Colorado, numerous lakes and rivers shout, “Fishing is fun!” Follow me on a quick tour of prime destination fishing spots within an easy day trip of Delta.



**C**onfluence Lake - Confluence Lake is a quiet park and picnic area on the western side of downtown Delta. Since its opening in the early 1990s, this city park has seen multiple improvements over the years, with much to do besides fishing. The point here is that this is a great place to take kids for fishing without driving very far. Given the short attention span of kids, if they tire quickly, then the time to get back home is minimal. Or they can find multiple

other activities in the area such as playgrounds, the Fort Uncompahgre Museum, ball fields, and if nothing else, skipping rocks on the lake or watching the ducks. Kids will do best with spinning gear. Adults can hook a trout themselves either with spin gear or fly gear. Not to be ignored are the large carp in the lake, a challenge to even the experienced fisherman. Not for kids, but at low-flow season, adults can access the Gunnison and Uncompahgre Rivers, which join

here.

Sweitzer Lake – Just a short distance south of Delta is Sweitzer Lake, a Colorado Parks and Wildlife State Park. Considered primarily a boating and recreational lake, Sweitzer offers fishing for warm water species such as largemouth bass, bluegill, catfish and carp. Another place for the kids to fish and play for a day.

Grand Mesa National Forest – A beautiful setting of endless fishing



opportunity. Numerous lakes, some natural, but most actually are a reservoir, the lakes generally fall into one of two fishing categories. Either they are easily accessed as they are close to the main road, in which case they are heavily stocked with catchable trout. Or they are down an unimproved road or require a hike, in which case they see fewer fishermen which increases the chances of a trophy fish. While rainbow trout are the primary catch, other trout such as brown, brook and cutthroat are scattered throughout the Grand Mesa. Some lakes are managed for specific species, such as grayling, splake and tiger trout, and may have special limited or no-kill regulations. Cutthroat trout are the only native trout to Colorado, but today exist only in limited waters.

The small creeks of the Grand Mesa harbor cutthroats. These creeks are very small and may only flow a short distance from one reservoir to the next. The Colorado Parks and Wildlife has published a locally available book about fishing on the Grand Mesa. Not so much a fishing guide book, it is more of a reference book that gives a brief synopsis of the many waters, listing the lake size and depth, how to access the lake by vehicle or trail, and what kinds of fish to expect in that water.

**Gunnison River** – The best river fishing the area has to offer and even nationally famous for good reason, the Gunnison boasts one of the highest counts of fish per mile in the entire nation. Big rainbows and abundant brown trout rarely mean a slow day. Public water extends its entire length from east of Delta at the confluence of the North Fork of the Gunnison and the main stem of the Gunnison, which travels all the way from Blue Mesa Dam east of Montrose. Along that journey, the river courses through the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation and Wilderness Area. The most secluded section of the



river lies within the National Park. Available only by foot and only to the strongest of heart, the river in the deep canyon is beautiful and bountiful with fish. One can drive to the river in only a few places.

The closest to Delta is the confluence, where one can park at the river. Except for times of high flows, the public water is upstream from the confluence for miles for those willing to walk and wade. For the hearty hiker, the Gunnison Gorge is accessed by dirt roads off of the highway south of Delta, near Olathe. These sometimes rough roads wind and lead upward to the distant canyon rim. At the rim, one parks the vehicle, grabs a carefully thought-out backpack, to descend steep foot trails down into the canyon.

Hikes of 30 minutes to an hour or more lead to wade fishing in a wonderful pool and pocket water. Chukar Trail, the shortest and most popular of four designated trails, is the access point for private and commercial rafting. Inquire locally about trail maps and float trips on the Gunnison. There are special fishing regulations for the Gunnison.

The Black Canyon National Park is accessed out of Crawford to the north rim or Montrose to the south rim. Either way leads to outstanding

fishing, but very steep and difficult trails limit the trip to only the hardest of hikers. An overnight backpack trip is a wonderful experience. But this is a trade-off – a day trip is less time on the water but doesn't require carrying a heavy pack. An overnight gives more time to fish, but requires hiking up a long and very steep trail with a pack. More – This is western Colorado – with abundant public lands, particularly higher elevation national forests which provide cold water for fishing. Within a few hour's drive or less, particularly east of Delta, there are numerous lakes and streams within an easy day trip of Delta.

Other access points include the Hotchkiss National Fish Hatchery on the North Fork of the Gunnison River, the North Fork River further upstream near Somerset, Crawford State Park, and Vega State Park.

Check with the local sporting goods stores for more information. Also stop in at the offices of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the Bureau of Land Management, or the Forest Service offices, all with offices in the area or with information available online. Visitor or resident — does not matter. Take some time and go fishing.

Joel L. Evans is an avid fisherman, outdoor writer and photographer who has explored Colorado for decades.

# The Arts Flourish

## IN DELTA COUNTY



Delta County boasts a vibrant arts community—an enterprise so diverse that a visitor, literally, needs a program to comprehend it all. Here's a run-down in three acts:

### *Act One:*

#### **If You Build It, They Will Come**

Arts begin at the grassroots level when talented artists and performers gravitate to a region. For coastal areas of the nation, the ocean is a magnet. For other spots, a major

university may provide the catalyst. In Western Colorado, the attraction comes from the divergent chemistry of spectacular sprawling vistas and small-town audacity. People in small places tend to dream big and their dreams often materialize in the form of a repurposed historic building. Such is the case in the communities of Paonia,

Hotchkiss, Cedaredge and Delta.

It may be small, but the town of Paonia packs a potent artistic punch. Two main venues sit on Grand Ave, the town's main thoroughfare. The Paradise Theatre, a movie house that traces its ancestry to 1928, is located at 215 Grand. The Blue Sage Center for



the Arts occupies vintage retail buildings which stretch from 226-228 Grand. Literally a stone's-throw apart, the two neighboring sites offer a host of shared and complementary events including live music and theater, contemporary and vintage cinema, art shows and creative classes. Happenings often spill onto sidewalks and streets and into nearby parks. Go online for current events: the movie house is at [paradiseofpaonia.com](http://paradiseofpaonia.com). The center for the arts is at [bluesage.org](http://bluesage.org). Phone the Paradise Theatre at 970-527-6610 and the Blue Sage at 970-527-7243.

The town of Hotchkiss sits at the intersection of two rural highways: Colorado 92 and 133. Self-described as "The Friendliest Town Around," the modest community has converted a former farm factory into an artistic showplace. Featuring classrooms, an art gallery, an active courtyard and performance stage, The Creamery Arts Center at 165-W. Bridge St hosts live music, art exhibits, classes and other community events. For current offerings visit the website [creameryartscenter.org](http://creameryartscenter.org). Phone 970-872-4848.

Cedaredge is home to the newest addition to the Delta County arts community. Opening in June 2018, the Grand Mesa Arts & Events Center (GMAEC) occupies an historic building which, in the past, has served as a bank, a beauty shop, a repair garage, a movie theatre and a mortuary. The site currently houses an art gallery, classrooms and black box theatre. Located at 195-W. Main St in downtown Cedaredge, the place has become a popular destination and, in a very real sense, it functions as the heart of the community. For current events visit [grandmesaartscenter.com](http://grandmesaartscenter.com). Phone 970-856-9195. Cedaredge

is also home to an artists' co-op: ImpressionZ Gallery. ImpressionZ is housed in a historic apple sorting complex known as the AppleShed which is a gallery in its own right. Both enterprises are located at 250 S. Grand Mesa Dr. The ImpressionZ website is [impressionzgallery.org](http://impressionzgallery.org); phone 970-208-6898. The AppleShed Fine Art Gallery website is [theappleshed.net](http://theappleshed.net); phone 970-856-7007.

The City of Delta has reclaimed the most imposing of the county's historic buildings by repurposing the auditorium contained in the city's old high school building. Early photographs of Delta show a three-story building which dominates the eastern fringes of the growing settlement. Graduating its first high school class in the late 1800s, the building's auditorium was in full use during succeeding decades featuring lectures, music and theatrical performances. Currently known as the Delta County Performing Arts & Education Center, the vintage building now hosts a full array of programs under the banner of The Delta-Montrose Community Concert Association. For current listings, visit the webpage [concertassociation.net/DeltaCO/](http://concertassociation.net/DeltaCO/). Phone stage manager 970-250-5257. Delta is also home to a thriving "coalition of creatives" who gravitate around the TADA Your Art Space. Housed in a vintage downtown building at 459-Main St, TADA features a gallery and book signings by local authors. Visit their Facebook page under "tadayourartspace." Phone 970- 209-5293.

## *Act Two:*

### **Crafting a County Mosaic**

Delta County neighbors have formed an important mosaic of

artistic endeavors. Managed by the North Fork Valley Creative Coalition, the Paonia Creative District is the hub of arts and cultural activity in the region adjacent to the North Fork of the Gunnison River. The coalition and its managed district encompass artists, performers and venues in the towns of Paonia, Hotchkiss and Crawford. With an emphasis on creative industries, the district promotes the diversification and stability which supports "many types of makers, including, but not limited to: visual artists, designers, performing artists, culinary artists and value-added food makers, arts activists, young artists and healing arts practitioners." For current activities visit the org.

## *Act Three:*

### **Linking Colorado Communities**

An active creative coalition and district in the North Fork region makes the town of Paonia, and therefore Delta County, part of a greater entity known as the Colorado Creative Corridor. Western Colorado communities tend to be separated by river valleys and mountain ranges and linked by rural highways which traverse high alpine passes. Weaving together unique communities along a trail which stretches for 331 miles, the Colorado Creative Corridor links five state-certified creative districts. The mountain towns of Carbondale, Crested Butte, Paonia, Ridgway and Salida form the corridor. Combining things to do with hotels & lodging and lining up festivals & events, the corridor establishes a readymade road trip which invites visitors to sample the best of Western Colorado.

For a current schedule of events and a recommended 5-day road trip, visit the website [Colorado.com/creative-corridor-channel](http://Colorado.com/creative-corridor-channel).

# *Water* 'ROUND HERE





**T**hese little mountain towns are charming adventures that graciously include water for those hotter summer days.

### **Stand Up Paddle Boarding**

The big one around here is being able to stand on the water and slow-speed surf around on Delta County's lakes.

Recommendations by Western Slope SUP, located in Hotchkiss, include the Gunnison River, Ruby Canyon and Horsethief Canyon. Western Slope SUP also boasts the best quality brands of paddle boards, which can be rented out to the public.

In the Surface Creek Valley area, folks have Grand Mesa Outdoors in Cedaredge to set them up. As a general outdoor supply store, it logically supplies whatever seasonal fun-lover gear is necessary at the time.

Grand Mesa Outdoors is ideally located for Grand Mesa adventures, as the world's largest flat top mountain (featured in this publication) presents more than 300 alpine lakes and reservoirs, including the Eggston Lake area, Baron Lake and Island Lake, most a short detour off the main highway.

### **Rafting and Kayaking**

Delta County also has connections to rafting and kayaking outings, particularly through Western Slope SUP.

If it's May-October, ask about the Gunnison Gorge NCA River Tour, a beginner journey that includes instruction and has the options of kayaks, stand up paddle boards and rafts. The guide, the instruction, transportation and all the equipment is included in the package for a half day up to a full day. \$85-\$129 for adults, \$99-\$119 for ages 12 and under.

There are also organized rafting trips through Western Slope SUP in the Gunnison Gorge, North Fork Gorge, Heart of the Valley and Anthracite Creek.

Visit [westernslopesup.com](http://westernslopesup.com) and [grandmesaoutdoors.com](http://grandmesaoutdoors.com) for more details on either location.

### **Just Swimming**

Or one could just take a step back and chillax with the family.

Bill Heddles Recreation Center in Delta, on Gunnison Avenue, has been a long-time destination for indoor swimming with its traditional 25 yard main pool, a tot pool, a medium pool with lazy river and a hot tub, of course.

For outdoor swimming, the North Fork Pool in Hotchkiss is the place to go, just behind that mountain with the H on it.

The North Fork Pool features a main pool, a tot pool and a hot tub as well as a water slide.

Visit [cityofdelta.net](http://cityofdelta.net) and [northforkrecreation.com](http://northforkrecreation.com) for live information on Bill Heddles Rec Center and the North Fork Pool respectively.

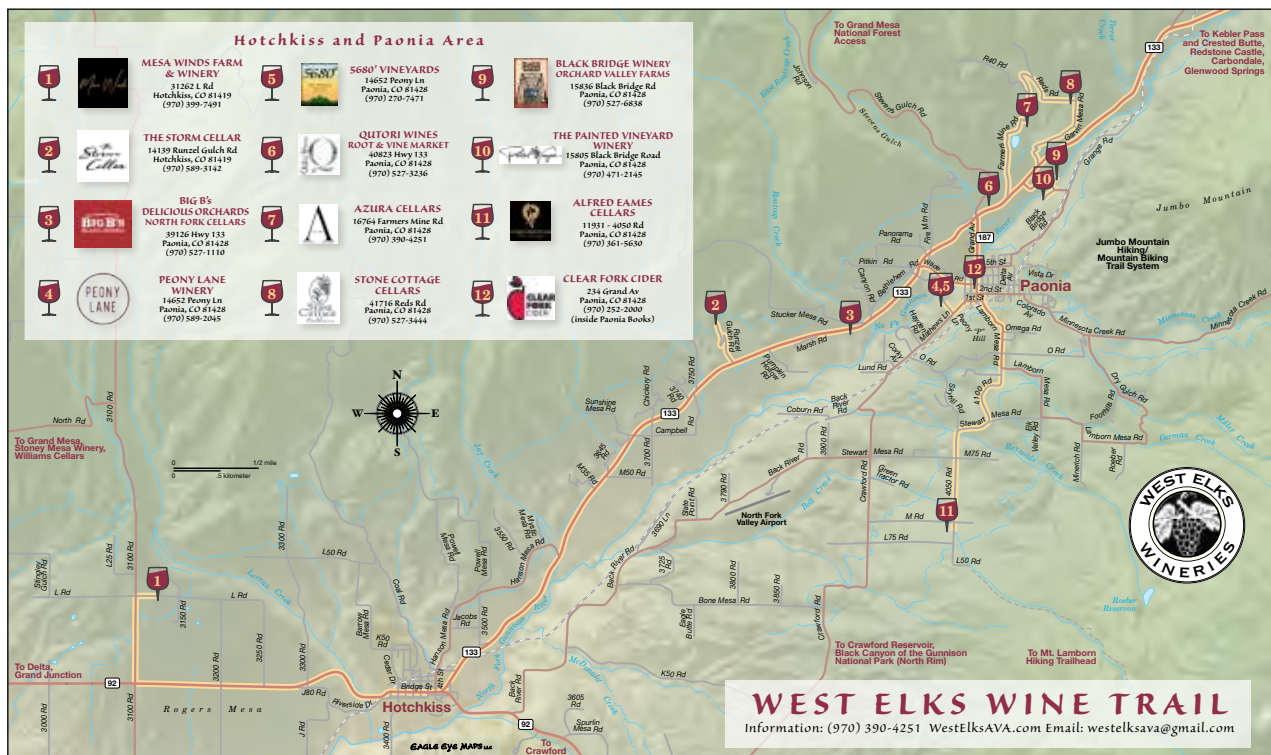


# MAKE THE MOST OF *Food and Wine Tours*

Wine tours are just a small part of what's good about the North Fork Valley. The area is referred to as the West Elks American Viticultural Area, which is a great source for high-altitude Colorado grown and produced wines. With the help of The Storm Cellar (a vineyard overlooking the Hotchkiss and Paonia areas atop Sunshine Mesa) co-owner Jayme Henderson, there is a mini tour around the North Fork Valley. Henderson has a background as a wine director and sommelier in the restaurant industry. She highlighted her favorite spots both for wine and for food. Here is her list along with some helpful information.







## Starting in Delta...

1. Start your day wine-tasting in the high-elevation town of Cedaredge. Williams Cellars, Stoney Mesa Winery, and Chill Switch Wines are all great stops along a beautiful drive.
2. After your first tastings, head up to Farm Runners Station, 235 CO-133 in Hotchkiss, for local produce, Blue Sky Baking Co. for baked goods and local meat/eggs/cheese.
3. After picking up some local goods, head over to Big B's Delicious Orchards for lunch or dinner. This orchard offers you the opportunity to pick vegetables and fruits as well as a tasting room and a cafe. There are live music nights over the summer and 30 camping spaces in the orchard are available.
4. After your night camping, head to Root & Vine Market, 40823 CO-133 in Paonia, for breakfast and coffee treats. This is also
5. Lunch can be found at Berg Harvest, 73 Samuel Wade Road in Paonia. Henderson said there is great pizza available here.
6. After lunch, stop by some of the wineries within the towns of Paonia and Hotchkiss. Stone Cottage Cellars, Azura Cellars, Mesa Winds Winery, Black Bridge Winery, Painted Vineyard are all open for tastings this summer.
7. Along your way, be sure to visit the various shops along Grand Avenue – The Cirque (boutique with unique gifts and local items), Seven Trees (gorgeous ladies boutique with fresh facials on Fridays) and the Refinery (boutique featuring handmade and upcycled apparel).
8. After a long day, stop in for a sweet treat at Ollie's Ice Cream, 140 Grand Ave. in Paonia.

9. Another place for good, local items is Small Potatoes Barn Market and Bakery, 40575 O Road in Paonia. This spot is open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, and features farmfresh produce and wood-fired sourdough breads.
10. To end your tour, visit Western Culture Farmstead and Creamery, 39883 Mathews Lane in Paonia. This location is a goat farm with farm fresh goat cheese. Here are just a few tastings of the valley; for more places to visit check out the West Elks AVA Wine Trail.

## Surface Creek Wineries

### Stoney Mesa Winery

16199 Happy Hollow Rd, Cedaredge  
970-856-9463 | stonemesa.com

### Williams Cellars

250 S Grand Mesa Dr., Cedaredge  
970-856-7006 | williamscellars.com

### Chill Switch Wines

24621 Tannin Rd, Cedaredge  
303-518-0581 | chillswitchwines.com



# Delta County Festivals 2023

**The 44th Annual Crawford Pioneer Days** – June 8 – 10, 2023 is the celebration of the community's roots. Pioneer Days, like many small-town community celebrations, is so very special to the locals. The Town Park is filled with local vendors showing their wares. Crawford Pioneer Days is truly a celebration with neighbors.

A locally produced Melodrama starts Thursday evening and produces much laughter and fun for family and friends; the Melodrama will also have 2 shows on Saturday. Friday evening features the annual Pioneer Days benefit auction and Fire Auxiliary dinner at Town Hall. Saturday morning the festivities kick off with a Fireman's Pancake Breakfast, followed by the fun-filled parade down the main street at 10a. After the parade the whole community heads to Town Park to socialize, enjoy the live music, browse the craft booths,

eat fair food, and watch the outhouse races and hay bale races while the kids participate in the kid's activities.

The grand finale is the fireworks display Saturday evening over the lake at the Crawford State Park!

July 3 – 4, 2023 the City of Delta is hosting its first annual **Western Sky Balloon Festival** at Confluence Park. The two-day event will be filled with family friendly can't miss events such as a community pancake breakfast, a Christmas in July Craft fair, food trucks, wine/beer garden and kids' games and activities and horse and carriage rides. There will also be a Delta Street Rodders parade and 4th of July fireworks over Confluence Lake; it's sure to be a fabulous two-day event!

**The Paonia Cherry Days**, July 3-4, 2023 is one of the longest running community festivals in Colorado, held each 4th of July since 1947. Visitors

arrive from all across the country, and Paonia swells to nearly bursting. The festival features a parade honoring our American Holiday, our foundation, and traditions. Paonia Cherry Days has lots of games and activities, vendors, and delicious food. You will also find great entertainment and music, including many local artists and bands. Each year, a graduating senior is crowned Cherry Days King and Queen, and given scholarships to help in furthering their education.

**The Deltarado Days** celebration started as a week-long event in 1920 and was called "The Annual Farmers Spree." It was held from 1920 to 1936 and was instituted when Holly Sugar was built in Delta. One of the requirements for the sugar factory to locate in Delta was to guarantee that 9,500 acres of sugar beets would be grown in its western Colorado territory. When establishment of the industry became a reality, and





the necessary acreage was under contract, a company banquet was staged for the farmers. In 1936, the Delta Chamber of Commerce held a “name the event” contest and Mrs. Glen Ellington, wife of the postmaster, submitted the name “Deltarado Days,” winning the \$15 prize that was offered.

With war looming on the horizon, the Deltarado Days celebration was discontinued until 1946, when it started back up in full swing. Originally held in February, the Deltarado Days celebration was moved to three days in September and eventually settled in the month of July. This year, the Delta Area Chamber of Commerce will be celebrating the 100th annual Deltarado Days July 20-23, 2023 with fan favorite events like the Altrusa BBQ, movie in the park, and a Farmer/Rancher appreciation dinner and Street Dance. There will also be a parade, vendor village and a

community church service!

**The Mountain Harvest Festival** will be held September 22-24, 2023. Mountain Harvest Festival is an annual celebration of local music, art, farms, food and spirits organized by the nonprofit organization North Fork Valley Creative Coalition. Held in the charming town of Paonia, visitors enjoy the music of the North Fork Valley, browse local arts and crafts and participate in the fun activities like the Great Chili Cookoff, Farm Tours and a Pub Crawl. Plus, all the music performances are free! Mountain Harvest Festival is small town Americana at its best.

**Cedaredge Applefest** is in its 46th year, and will be held October 6-8, 2023. The Surface Creek Valley is known for its temperate climate, and early settlers took advantage by growing award-winning apples, peaches, and other fruits. In 1909, Cedaredge and other Surface Creek

fruit growers entered the National Apple Show, winning more prizes than any other entrants from across the nation.

Cedaredge Applefest has been celebrating area fruit growers annually since 1977 on the first full weekend in October, commemorating the fall harvest and rich agricultural heritage of our area.

Festivities include live music, art, craft & food vendors, 5 Alarm Chili Cook Off, Golf Tournament, Car, tractor & motorcycle show, Pinup Competition, a 5K run, and much more!

Bringing together our local businesses, apple orchards, artists, musicians, 180+ vendors, and over 20,000 event attendees, you definitely don't want to miss this amazing community event with distinct Cedaredge flair and flavor.



## *Fall out of the sky at* Ultimate Skydiving Adventures



For some people, falling from 7,500 feet is second nature. But for many others, it's an experience they have yet to encounter. For 7 years Ultimate Skydiving Adventures in Delta has offered that once-in-a-lifetime experience without traveling far. "For the people that live here, it's something new that's never been done in Delta," owner Ben Lowe said. "It allows people to see where they've been living for the past 10, 20, 30 or 40 years, and they see it in a whole different light. It

offers amazing views." For people who have jumped before, the views offered at Ultimate Skydiving Adventures are unique to the Delta County area. The San Juans, the Gunnison River and sights out to Paonia and Crawford allow for views that aren't seen anywhere else, visible during a four to five minute parachute ride after free fall.

Skydiving is available for both adults and kids, and packages are available to learn to skydive as well. More information, including booking and jump information can be found at [ultimateskydivingadventures.com](https://ultimateskydivingadventures.com).



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## DELTA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

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The Delta County Fairgrounds boasts over 50 acres of space for a plethora of activities, and is located in Hotchkiss. Delta County Fairgrounds hosts many events throughout the year including an annual BMW rally, a Shemanic Summer Festival, and several 4-H and FFA events. Mother's Day weekend each year brings the Hotchkiss Sheep Camp Stock Dog Trials to the fields adjacent to the Fairgrounds, which overflows into the Fairgrounds Park with lots of family friendly activities throughout the weekend.

The Delta County Fairgrounds' beautiful park has playground equipment and a wonderful StoryWalk provided by Delta County Libraries that provides

delightfully engaging stories within the park that serves as a fantastic opportunity to foster the love of reading in children, while getting outside and active at the same time. The Fairgrounds also has a disc golf course and horse shoe pits.

The Delta County Fairgrounds has one large outdoor riding arena that hosts barrel racing, team roping, and rodeo events each summer. There is also a covered arena that is often used for small show events or sales. If you are in need of a large event space for a wedding reception, birthday party or corporate meeting, Heritage Hall is the perfect option as it will seat up to 200, and has a warming kitchen area. Smaller meetings or

events can be accommodated in the Maloney House.

The Delta County Fairgrounds is home to the Delta County Fair which takes place during the first full week of August each year. This is the 118th year for the Delta County Fair "Country Fans and Cattle Brands" which kicks off with a free Community Night BBQ put on by Delta County on Friday, July 28, 2023, and is packed full of Fair events and activities through Saturday, August 5. For more information on the Delta County Fair visit [deltacountyfair.com](https://deltacountyfair.com).

For additional information on the Delta County Fairgrounds, or the use of one of the venues, visit [deltacountyfair.com/255/Fairgrounds](https://deltacountyfair.com/255/Fairgrounds).



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# THE HUNT IS ON IN DELTA COUNTY



**D**elta County is your home base for big game hunting, whether you are planning to hunt in Delta County or the surrounding area. Delta County offers big game hunting for such species as elk, mule deer, pronghorn, moose, mountain lion and bear.

Experienced hunters can go it alone but Delta County offers a variety of guide companies to increase your chances for a successful hunt.

**Colorado Parks and Wildlife** has all the information you need concerning hunting in Colorado.

You can visit their website at [cpw.state.co.us](http://cpw.state.co.us) or call their office in Montrose at 970.252.6000.

Waterfowl hunting is plentiful in Delta County. Hunters enjoy

success hunting public lands on the many rivers, streams and lakes.

If upland game bird hunting is your passion, then **Black Canyon Wing & Clay** can provide you with an excellent experience. Situated on 730 acres you can hunt with or without a guide. Located on the aptly named Pheasant Rich Rd just south of Delta call 970.874.7195 or visit [bcwandc.com](http://bcwandc.com) to schedule your hunt.

## DELTA COUNTY BIG GAME HUNTING GUIDE LIST

### Silver Spur Outfitters

970.249.4242  
[huntsilverspuroutfitters.com](http://huntsilverspuroutfitters.com)

### Surface Creek Outfitters

970.312.7952  
Find them on Facebook

### West Elk Outfitters

970.640.9461  
[westelkoutfitters.com](http://westelkoutfitters.com)

### North Rim Trophy Hunts

970.250.0569  
[northrimtrophyhunts.com](http://northrimtrophyhunts.com)

### Hubbard Creek Outfitters

970.201.2278  
[hubbardcreekoutfitters.com](http://hubbardcreekoutfitters.com)

### Rugged Creek Outfitters

970.778.9211  
[ruggedcreekoutfitters.com](http://ruggedcreekoutfitters.com)

### Elk Basin Outfitters

970.921.3877  
[elkbasinoutfitters.com](http://elkbasinoutfitters.com)

### Huntsman Mountain Outfitters

970.527.6147  
[huntsmanmountainoutfitters.com](http://huntsmanmountainoutfitters.com)

### Saddle Mountain Outfitters

970.921.3651  
[saddlemountainoutfitters.com](http://saddlemountainoutfitters.com)

### Sawbuck Outfitters

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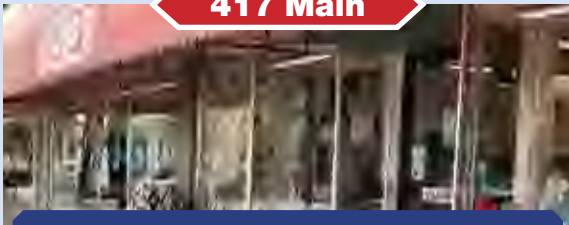
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**21  
JUN**

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CLELAND PARK | DELTA, CO

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CONFLUENCE PARK | DELTA, CO

**SAT  
AUG**

**ROBIDOUX PICKIN' SERIES**  
FORT UNCOMPAHGRE | DELTA, CO

**02  
AUG**

**NIGHT-OUT**  
**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**  
CLELAND PARK | DELTA, CO

**15  
SEP**



**CAR SHOW & DOWNTOWN CRUISE**  
MAIN STREET | DELTA, CO

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## Dominguez-Escalante Canyon

**T**he best way to approach the huge site known as Dominguez-Escalante is to think of it as two distinct entities.

Part of the sprawling area is accessible by car, the other is a large road-free wilderness which can only be reached by floating the Gunnison River or embarking on trails to hike, ride horseback or bike through breathtaking vistas.

The all-encompassing Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area and the area's interior portion known as the Dominguez Canyon Wilderness are managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The conservation area encompasses 209,610 acres (about 327 square miles) including

the 66,000-acre wilderness which is one of the state's largest road-free regions. The area stretches across three Western Colorado counties, with a sizable share of the most accessible acreage falling in Delta County.

In 1776, two Franciscan priests — Fathers Dominguez and Escalante — set out to explore New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Arizona. Although their route did not include the sites that would eventually bear their names, their detailed journal describes topography similar to that included in the present-day conservation area: semi-arid land, large and small rivers, colorful vistas and deep canyons.

Keep in mind that the place is huge, about a third the size of Rhode Island. Given its size, a map is an essential

resource. Visitors can obtain an area brochure which includes a map at the Delta Area Chamber of Commerce at 301 Main St., or at Fort Uncompahgre in Delta's Confluence Park at 440 N. Palmer St. At the Fort, be sure to ask for the newest Dominguez-Escalante Travel Map.

First-time visitors can access a scenic portion of the area by car. Highway 50 connects Delta and Grand Junction. The Escalante Canyon Road is on the west side of Highway 50 between mile markers 59-60. Barring heavy rain or snow the dirt road is passable year-round with a passenger car, but a four-wheel drive is recommended beyond the first 17 miles where the roadway reaches Escalante Forks. Although the road passes through several miles of private property which are not accessible for hiking, there



are viewpoints all along the road including historic cabins, spectacular red rocks, and occasional herds of mountain sheep. And the Potholes Recreation Site area (12 miles in) offers camping, picnicking, hiking and seasonal swimming with the precautions of wearing a life jacket and refraining from diving into a watery cauldron which has claimed at least eight lives.

With a map in hand, a hike through Big Dominguez Canyon will give visitors an intimate sense of the place. The full journey is over 16 miles one way and requires a full day to hike in and back out again, but explorers can shorten the distance as they wish and still encounter spectacular scenery along with ancient petroglyphs. Start at the Bridgeport Trailhead which can be reached by taking Bridgeport Road on the west side of Highway 50 near mile marker 52.

The newly-designed Escalante Triangle Mountain Bike Trail System can be accessed from Delta by traveling west on West Fifth Street which becomes G Road. Take the fork to Sawmill Mesa Road which leads to Escalante Rim Road. A more detailed map can be obtained online by searching for “Escalante Triangle Mountain Bike Trail System.”

Rivers of the Dominguez-Escalante area are prized by white water kayakers as well as those who paddle canoes and rafts. Search the internet for tips using the “lower Gunnison River” as a search term in tandem with “canoeing” or “floating.”

The Cactus Park region on the north-western edge of the conservation area includes roads for motorized recreation along with horseback riding, mountain biking, and traditional hiking. Portions of Escalante Canyon Road are also open to all-terrain vehicles and motorcycles.



# Many places to pitch a tent

Like all of the Western Slope of Colorado, there is camping around in Delta County, whether you like to get in the backcountry or take your family to a nice camping spot, there are endless possibilities for you and your family to get out and camp.



## State Parks

Delta County is home to three beautiful state parks that range in scenery and activities.

The first is **Crawford State Park**. It's near the Black Canyon of the Gunnison (one of Colorado's national parks).

Crawford State Park has fishing, boating, hiking and more. It makes for a nice retreat for outdoor recreation, but there is also camping available. It's by reservation only.

***cpwshop.com or 800-244-5613.***

**Paonia State Park** plunges deep into nature as a narrow lake park. There are steep mountainsides, beautiful water attractions, alpine scenery

and plenty more for nature lovers. In addition to water-skiing, picnicking and sightseeing, there is some camping available. But there is no drinking water available in the park, so bring your own water.

***cpwshop.com or 800-244-5613.***

**Sweitzer Lake State Park** is known well to locals. It started out as a dream for the community and provides tons of recreation and relaxation for locals in addition to visitors. It was built solely for recreation, so this is the one state park where you aren't going to find anything in the way of camping. But there are plenty of park activities you can find on the 210 acres and in the 137-acre reservoir in the park.

## Unique Camping

While there are plenty of public lands, there are some unique adventures in camping on private campgrounds.

One good example is **Big B's Delicious Orchards** in Paonia. They call it "The Campground at Big B's" and it offers a chance to camp among the orchards that grow fruit for delicious cider.

They offer showers and several campgrounds. They also allow pets at these campgrounds, which include spots for tents, cars, campers and RVs. Depending on the site, the cost varies.

***bigbs.com/camping or email camping@bigbs.com or text/call 970-812-3342***





## More Public Lands and Backcountry Camping

### The Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area

comprises 210,172 acres of protected public lands and includes the 66,280-acre Dominguez Canyon Wilderness. It's one of the gems of the area, located between Grand Junction and Delta County.

It's managed by the Bureau of Land Management, so that means you can camp pretty much anywhere you'd like, if you're adventurous enough. During the day, people find fun recreating on trails with mountain bikes, dirt bikes and more.

They also offer plenty of fun in the

form of hiking and floating (the Gunnison River flows through the area).

*[blm.gov](https://blm.gov)*

### Cottonwood Grove Campground

is another popular spot in Delta. It actually has six campsites, but is on BLM land, so camping can be done in more than just the campsites.

Site amenities include a boat ramp, shade structures, picnic tables, fire rings and a vault toilet. It gives people access to water recreation and beaches for yourself or your pet.

*[blm.gov/visit/cottonwood-grove-campground](https://blm.gov/visit/cottonwood-grove-campground)*

**Island Lake Campground**, near Cedaredge, is at 10,000 feet and located on Colorado's Grand Mesa, which is home to more than 300 fishing lakes.

It is part of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest (GMUG). There's endless recreation around this beautiful camping location. And though it's beautiful, Island Lake is just one of several camping spots on the Grand Mesa. It looks out at one of the hundreds of beautiful mountain lakes on the mesa.

*[To book: recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/233387](https://recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/233387)*



# Four Fun Winter Activities on Grand Mesa

## 1. Skiing and Snowboarding at

**Powderhorn** - Powderhorn averages 250 inches of dry powder every winter. Powderhorn Mountain Resort, perched on the northern edge of Grand Mesa, is a family-friendly ski and snowboard area with affordable prices, 1,600 acres of diverse terrain, 42 trails, two terrain parks, an average of 250 inches of dry Colorado powder every winter—and no crowds. The area, with 20 percent beginner and 50 percent intermediate runs, is perfect for families and novice skiers, while advanced skiers and boarders love Powderhorn's steep runs, moguls, and glade skiing through groves of white-trunked aspens. Besides great skiing, Powderhorn is renowned for its stunning views across the Roan Plateau and Book Cliffs below Grand Mesa. There's lodging at the mountain base and food and drink at the Sunset Bar & Grill.

## 2. Colorado's Best Cross Country Skiing

- Grand Mesa in northern Delta County simply offers the finest cross-country skiing in Colorado. Deep snow blankets the 10,000-foot-high mesa, called the biggest flat-topped mountain in the world, from November through April. Grand Mesa Nordic Council maintains and

grooms 32 miles of ski trails in three different trail systems—Ward, County Line, and Skyway. The trails offer both skate and classic Nordic skiing on either flat or undulating terrain, making it perfect for cross-country winter adventures. Warming huts are near the trailheads. The council also maintains more trailheads on the Mesa for backcountry skiing on ungroomed terrain. Get lessons and ski rentals at Mesa Lakes Resort.

## 3. Snowmobiling in the Deep Snow

- Delta County is western Colorado's snowy playground for snowmobiling. More than 400 inches of powdery snow blankets Grand Mesa every winter, and a dedicated system of snowmobile trails—plus plenty of room for off-trail riding—give you lots of opportunities to take advantage of it all. The trail system includes Land's End Loop, Bonham, Bull Creek, Cold Sore, and Vega trails, along with the longest snowmobile trail in the lower 48 states. The 123-mile Sunlight to Powderhorn Trail, running between Sunlight Ski Area near Glenwood Springs to Powderhorn Mountain Resort on Grand Mesa, is one of the state's best rides. Trails are marked with orange flags, with some also used by cross-country skiers. Remember to share the trail.

Snowmobile rentals, tours, and lodging are available at Thunder Mountain Lodge, Grand Mesa Lodge or Alexander Lake Lodge with Grand Mesa Adventures. Other snowmobile trails are in the North Fork Valley near Paonia.

## 4. Snowshoe Adventures on Grand Mesa

- The broad top of Grand Mesa yields some of Colorado's best snowshoeing adventures, especially for beginners and families with its gentle terrain. The Mesa is also big enough to find solitude and silence in the winter woods away from cross-country skiers, snowmobilers, and ice fishermen. It's best to avoid the groomed X-C trails and instead head into the deep woods and snow-covered meadows where you can snowshoe almost anywhere. A designated two-kilometer snowshoe trail is part of the Nordic Coalition's Skyway Trail System. Other great snowshoeing trails are the Griffith Lakes Trail, Crag Crest Trail, West Bench Trail, and Mesa Lakes Loops. One of the best treks is the 3.5-mile Ward Trail which climbs almost 1,000 feet from the south trailhead on highway 65. Snowshoe rentals and guided tours are available at lodges atop Grand Mesa.

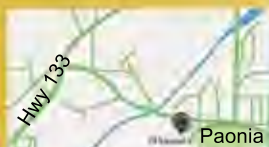


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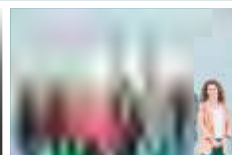
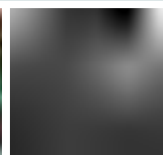
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970.874.0100



# Fort Uncompahgre

**I**f you've ever wanted to take a trip back in time, Fort Uncompahgre Interpretive Center might be the place for you, and it's located right here in Delta.

A replica of the original fort, it takes visitors back to the 1820s and the days of the Old Spanish Trail, where everything is made to authentically replicate what folks would have seen. From furs and dirt floors, to costumes and artifacts, the history lesson begins when you arrive.

When you visit, you'll go through the Visitor Center, bookstore and information center before walking around to other attractions, like a reconstruction of a trapper's cabin.

Visitors will step back in time the moment they enter the unique living history museum, from the blacksmith shop to the live turkeys that roam the grounds.

## **The history**

Antione Robidoux established the trading outpost in the late 1820's in an area known as Robidoux Bottoms near the junction of the Gunnison and Uncompahgre Rivers, just west of Delta, Colorado. This area was a hub

for trails coming north out of the San Juan River Basin in South Western Colorado and north western New Mexico, meeting the North Branch of the Old Spanish Trail (a pack route traveling east and west from Santa Fe to Los Angeles).

The fort remained in operation until the mid 1840s before being attacked by a band of Ute Indians. It has been speculated that the attack on Fort Uncompahgre was the result of built up Ute hostility stemming from the introduction of "Taos lightning" in the



1840s.

With the decline of the beaver population in the intermountain west, compounded by changes in clothing styles, the days of the mountain men were numbered. In 1846, Antione Robidoux joined General Steven Watts Kearny as an interpreter in Kearny's campaign to the west in the war with Mexico. Later expeditions through the area would note the fort in passing, with time taking its toll on the structure.

### Special events and more

Christmas at the Fort takes place in early December each year following the annual Delta Parade of Lights. People can meet, sing Christmas carols and share in festivities.

The fort is entering an exciting new time as the City of Delta takes on a mission to strengthen the venue's importance in the community, increase the indigenous merchandise



in the Visitor Center, expand the existing trail system and construct a schedule of regular programming at the fort's new stage area.

Fort staff is also working to partner with local organizations to improve the educational programming put out by the Fort Uncompahgre.

More events include Saturday Trade

Days and Deltarado Days, a VFW American flag retirement ceremony on the last Saturday in September, a Robidoux Artist Camp, and Mountain Men and the Stars.

**Fort Uncompahgre Interpretive Center is located at 440 N. Palmer St. in Delta. It's open 11 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Saturdays. Call 970-874-8349 for details.**





# FIVE WAYS TO ENJOY EVERY SEASON WITH YOUR LIBRARIES

“No matter the season, libraries strive to meet the ever-changing needs and interests of the communities they serve,” says LaDonna Gunn, District Director of Delta County Libraries.

The libraries transition from season to season, along with the community and, in doing so, offer many services to add enjoyment year-round!

**1) Check Out Seeds.** The Delta County Seed Library has been providing library patrons with access to seeds, seed-saving programs, and seed resources since the spring of 2013. Every year in March, thousands of seed packets are available for library patrons to take home and plant in their gardens.

**2) Walk a Storywalk®.** StoryWalks® are a great way for families to get outdoors and read together by walking along a trail or through a park, while reading a storybook posted on panels. Delta County Libraries, through

various partnerships, offers four StoryWalks® in Delta County. Visit Crawford State Park, Delta County Fairgrounds, Surface Creek Trail, and Sweitzer Lake State Park to enjoy a StoryWalk®!

**3) Get a State Parks Pass.** Would you like to visit a state park in Colorado? Look no farther than your local library! Through a partnership with the Colorado State Library and Colorado Parks and Wildlife, every library in Delta County offers three state park kits that include a pass to enter the parks. The kits check out for one week on a first-come, first-served basis.

**4) Check Out Gear.** Are you still looking for snow in the great outdoors? Then snowshoeing

on Grand Mesa might be the spring activity for you! Through a partnership with The Nature Connection, the Cedaredge Library provides access to snowshoes to help families get outdoors and explore together. Contact Cedaredge Library for more information at 970.399.7674.

**5) Map Kits.** Get outdoors and explore this spring with a map resource kit for our local wilderness areas. Through a partnership with Colorado Canyons Association and the Bureau of Land Management, the libraries offer map resource kits for the Gunnison Basin and the Uncompahgre Plateau.





# Innovation Workspace to be Included in the New Delta Library

The City of Delta is partnering with Delta County Libraries to create the Innovation Workspace at the new Delta Library. The City and Library anticipate opening late summer of 2023. The Innovation Workspace will include a coworking space and a makerspace. The goal is to bring Delta's exceptionally talented community together in a community workshop that can inspire learning and collaboration. The Innovation Workspace is our newest economic development effort and is designed to encourage new product and business creation through mentoring and onsite office and workshop space.

The Innovation Workspace will allow for co-programming with the Library for existing businesses, budding entrepreneurs, and youth. The coworking component will focus on existing and expanding businesses and remote workers.



Office space, and business development tools, classes, and resources will be available. Growing businesses, remote workers, and those that need access to high-speed internet, copiers, or other traditional office resources can utilize this space to meet their day-to-day business needs.

Makerspaces are community, lifelong-learning centers where kids and adults learn the value of persistence, invention, and collaboration, as well as how thinking critically helps drive innovative solutions with an emphasis on the entrepreneurial spirit, science, technology, engineering, and art. The space will include design/think, wood-working, metals fabrication, industrial sewing, technology/3D printing, and audio/visual production workstations. These stations will have tools, equipment, and materials that participants in classes or members of the makerspace can use to learn, create, invent, and prototype.



# Relocating

## **Delta County**

560 Dodge St.,  
Delta, CO 81416  
970-874-2100  
[www.deltacounty.com](http://www.deltacounty.com)

## **Town of Cedaredge**

235 W. Main St.,  
Cedaredge, CO 81413  
970-856-3123  
[www.cedaredgecolorado.com](http://www.cedaredgecolorado.com)

## **Town of Crawford**

425 Hwy 92,  
Crawford, CO 81415  
970-921-4725  
[townofcrawford.colorado.gov](http://townofcrawford.colorado.gov)

## **City of Delta**

360 Main St.,  
Delta, CO 81416  
970-874-7566  
[www.cityofdelta.net](http://www.cityofdelta.net)

## **Town of Hotchkiss**

276 W. Main St, Hotchkiss, CO  
81419  
970-872-3663  
[townofhotchkiss.colorado.gov](http://townofhotchkiss.colorado.gov)

## **Orchard City**

9661 2100 Rd.,  
Orchard City, CO 81410  
970-835-3337  
[www.orchardcityco.org](http://www.orchardcityco.org)

## **Town of Paonia**

214 Grand Avenue,  
Paonia CO  
970-527-4101  
[townofpaonia.colorado.gov/](http://townofpaonia.colorado.gov/)

## **Delta Montrose Electric Association**

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877-687-3632  
[www.dmea.com](http://www.dmea.com)

## **Black Hills Energy**

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## **Delta Health**

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970-874-7681  
[www.deltahealthco.org](http://www.deltahealthco.org)

## **HopeWest**

195 Stafford Lane,  
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970-874-6903  
[www.hopewestco.org](http://www.hopewestco.org)

## **Delta County School District**

145 W. 4th St.,  
Delta, CO 81416  
970-874-4438  
[www.deltaschools.com](http://www.deltaschools.com)

## **Technical College of the Rockies**

1765 US Hwy 50,  
Delta, CO 81416  
970-874-7671  
[www.tcr.edu](http://www.tcr.edu)

## **Delta County Libraries**

149 E. Main,  
Hotchkiss, CO 81419  
970-399-7876  
[deltalibraries.org](http://deltalibraries.org)

## **Delta Area Chamber of Commerce**

301 Main St.,  
Delta, CO 81416  
970-874-8616  
[www.deltacolorado.org](http://www.deltacolorado.org)

## **Hotchkiss Community Chamber of Commerce**

970-872-3226  
[www.hotchkisschamber.com](http://www.hotchkisschamber.com)

## **Crawford Area Chamber of Commerce**

[www.crawfordcountry.org](http://www.crawfordcountry.org)

## **Delta County Board of Realtors**

724 Main St.,  
Delta, CO 81416  
970-874-4727  
[dcbor.com](http://dcbor.com)

## **Delta Workforce Center**

206 Ute St.,  
Delta, CO 81416  
970-874-5781  
[cdle.colorado.gov/wfc](http://cdle.colorado.gov/wfc)

## **One Delta County: An Economic Alliance**

560 Dodge Street  
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May 27, 2023 ~ ReFind Art Festival  
Fridays, Beginning June 2, 2023 ~ Summer Concert Series  
September 10, 2023 ~ Tour de Cedars  
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December 1, 2023 ~ Jingle & Mingle

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