

Recreation

All Terrain Vehicles

All Terrain Vehicles must be licensed. Check with Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management for rules and regulations and areas where you can ride. 719 655-2547

Bird Watching at Russell Lakes State Wildlife Area

Nine miles south of Saguache on Highway 285, then 1.5 miles east on County Road R, available from County Road N and R. See Eagles, Mountain Bluebirds, Sandhill Cranes, Waterfowl, Raptors and many more species. The American Avocet makes its home in Saguache County.
Colorado Division of Wildlife 719 852-4783

Camping

San Luis Valley Campground, Villa Grove	719 655 2220
Hot showers, good hunting, meat cooler	
Camper Village, Winter call: 719 256-4171, Summer call: 719 256-4856 PO Box 237, 69265 County Road T, Crestone, CO 81131	
North Crestone Park: host on grounds, can be reserved by calling	719 256-4171
San Luis Lakes State Park and Wildlife Area	378-2020
Crestone Park & North Crestone Campgrounds	719 256-4110
South Crestone Park & Willow Park	(no number)
Great Sand Dunes National Monument Campgrounds, Mosca	719 378-2312
Rio Grande National Forest Campgrounds	719 655 2547
46525 Highway 114, Saguache, CO 81149	
Tables, fireplaces, water, toilets provided. No reservations.	
Buffalo Pass - fee	
Luders - no fee	
Storm King - fee	
Poso - fee	
Stone Cellar - no fee	
North Crestone - fee	
Bureau of Land Management	719 655 2547
Penitente Campground, La Garita	

Fishing

Dome Lake, off Highway 114 after North Pass - 30 miles west of Saguache
Saguache Creek - north of Saguache
Pauline Creek and many more
Lakes in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains

Free fishing information

U.S. Forest Service, 11691 Highway 114, Saguache, CO 81149.....719 655 2547

Golf

Los Cumbres Golf Course & Pro Shop, 9-hole course, Crestone.....719 256-4856
PO Box 237, 67581 County Road T, Crestone, CO 81131

Hiking

Many beautiful hiking trails in the Sangres from three mile to twelve-mile hikes.

Call the U. S. Forest Service 719 655-2547 or log on to <http://www.wildernet.com>.

For trail map and information, call Rio Grande National Forest Office.....719 655 2547

For Search and Rescue719 256-2547

Horseback Riding

Baca Grande Stables, Crestone (See Business Directory and Display Ad)719 256-4756

Hot Springs/ Pools

Valley View Hot Springs719 256-4315

County Road GG / PO Box 65, Villa Grove <http://www.vvhs.com/soak>

Lodging, campground. Call for membership or reservations. Clothing optional

Mineral Hot Springs Spa, Hwy 17, north of Moffat719 256-4328

Sand Dunes Swimming Pool (hot springs), Off Hwy 17, Hooper719 378-2807

Hunting

Thousands of areas for hunting elk, deer, antelope, Big Horn sheep and bear. Pick up regulations from the Division of Wildlife or the U. S. Forest Service, 46525 Highway 114, Saguache719 655 2547

La Ventana Natural Arch

In the La Garita area, ask for the San Luis Valley brochure at the Welcome Center or the Forest Service.

Mountain Biking

Many mountain biking trails are accessible in the Bonanza, La Garita, Villa Grove and Saguache area. Ask for information at the U. S. Forest Service or purchase the Colorado San Luis Valley Mountain Bike Guide at the Forest Service or the Museum for \$2.50.

Museums

Saguache County Museum, on Hwy 285 in Saguache719 655-2557

Pioneer Museum of original seven room 1908 house filled with treasures, and the original 1908 jail.

Open from Memorial Day to third weekend in September. Admission.

For tours before and after these dates.....719 655 2557 / 719 256-4234

Saguache Hazard House Museum, 807 Pitkin Avenue, Saguache719 655-2488

Lodging: Hotels, Retreat Centers, and Bed & Breakfasts

Throughout Saguache County there are many wonderful places for visitors to stay. The many bed and breakfasts offer the personal and specialized touches that make everyone feel at home.

Accommodations of Choice Town houses and private homes, Crestone	719 256-4243
Dome Sweet Home Bed and Breakfast, Crestone	800 770-3239...or...719 256-4370
Panner-Rama House B&B , Crestone	719 256-4981
Rainbow Bed and Breakfast / Reiki Healing Center, Crestone ...	800 530-1992...or...719 256-4110
Sangre de Cristo Bed and Breakfast, Moffat	719 256-4277
Silver Star Bed and Breakfast, Crestone	719 256-4686
White Eagle Village, Hotel & Conference Center, Crestone	800 613-2270...or...719 256-4865
Willow Spring Bed and Breakfast, Moffat http://www.willow-spring.com	719 256-4116

Off-highway Vehicles (OHV)

OHVs must be registered with the State of Colorado in order to be used on public lands. This applies to residents of Colorado. Non-residents must have their OHV registered in their own state. If their own state does not have a registration program, the OHV should be registered in Colorado before using it on public lands. For more information on the State OHV Program and riding areas:

Colorado State Parks, 1313 Sherman Street, Room 618, Denver, CO 80203303 866-3203

Old Mining Towns

Bonanza

Once the bed of an inland sea, the San Luis Valley is level, except for occasional rocky upthrusts, islands in those distant times. The silt laid down then makes rich farming soil and it was this fertility that nourished the miners of Bonanza and surrounding camps in the '80's. With an elevation of just under 8,000 feet, the growing season is short.

Near its northern end, the San Luis Valley is squeezed closely by the Sangre De Cristo Range on the east and the Cochetopa Hills on the west. In this scenic situation lies the quaint little town of Villa Grove, one of the supply centers for the mining camp of Bonanza. It was never a big place but it was lively. Its stores offered variety: one sign reading "Fresh Eggs, Rubber Boots, Corsets." Extending from Villa Grove westward and at stretches, almost straight up, is the old road to the camps which have almost disappeared except for Bonanza.

Crestone

Eight peaks of the Sangre De Cristo Mountains rise to 14,000 feet, and close to the base of them, with the Crestone Needle spiring up to 14,191 feet, the mining camp of Crestone struggled into recognition in the 1880s.

In 1879, prospectors were pecking at the rocks in these mountains, and along the whole length of the Rockies. Considerable gold was found, a mild boom developed, then leveled off, and in 1890, good free-milling gold was found in "gash veins." The town again took on new life in '99 when another good vein was uncovered. Having learned no lesson from the earlier fiascoes, Crestone again boomed. This time a hotel was built, real estate changed hands overnight and the railroad was extended to the town. The population had reached a new high of 2,000.

Miners were making strikes in every crack of the Sangre de Cristos, and in 1901, the count shot up still higher when the exciting strike at the Independent was made. Surely this vein, the miners said, would be a good one. It would yield for years and keep Crestone on the map.

Mining, Continued -

Current Opportunities on Federal Lands

There are three basic types of minerals on Federal lands: locatable, leasable, and salable. These types of minerals have been defined by Federal laws, regulations and legal decisions.

The major Federal law governing locatable minerals is the Mining Law of 1872, as amended (30 U.S.C. 22-54). The law provides citizens of the United States the opportunity to explore for, discover and purchase certain valuable mineral deposits on those Federal lands that remain open for that purpose.

For more information, contact the BLM office or <http://www.blm.gov>

Abandoned Mines Are Potential Killers

Mining was a dangerous business in the old days. The mines were full of risks even for the miners who were well prepared for them. When the ore ran out, the old mines were abandoned and left unattended. Over the years, they have become increasingly unstable and extremely dangerous. The curious who are tempted to enter abandoned mine structures today can face risks far more serious than those faced by the original miners.

Six reasons why it could be your last adventure

- Rotted support structures
- Open shafts
- Deadly gases and lack of oxygen
- Becoming lost or disoriented
- Explosives and toxic chemicals
- High walls and open pits

The Colorado Division of Minerals and Geology reminds everyone that abandoned mines are dangerous. Of the estimated 23,000 ABANDONED mines, 3,300 have been made safe. The mines are unstable and extremely dangerous. If you come across abandoned mines the best motto is: "STAY OUT AND STAY ALIVE". For more information on abandoned mines, contact: <http://www.blm.gov/narcs/sites.html>

Outfitters

(See Business Directory, Outfitters, for more information.)

- Alan Palmer, Moffat719 256-4817
- La Garita Llamas, La Garita <http://www.lagaritallamas.com>719 588-2907
- Ed Wiseman, Moffat.....719 256-4866

Rock Climbing

- Penitente Canyon, La Garita, Call Bureau of Land Management719 655-2547
- Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Call U. S. Forest Service719 655-2547

Saguache Sheriffs Office

719 655-2544

Search and Rescue

719 655-2525

There is a state search and rescue fund established to assist agencies for costs incurred in search and rescue activities involving persons holding hunting or fishing licenses, vessel, snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle registrations, or a hiking certificate. A twenty-five cent surcharge from each hunting or fishing license, and each vessel, snowmobile or off-highway vehicle registration sold, will be added to this fund. More information may be obtained from the State Statute, Title 33 on this Fund.

Skiing

Monarch Ski Area, Monarch	888 996-7669
Wolf Creek Ski Area	970 264-5639
http://www.wolfcreekski.com e-mail: wolfcreekski@wolfcreekski.com	
Ski Report, Box 2800, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.....	800 ski wolf./..800 754-9653

Stargazing

Every area in Saguache County

Tours and Transportation

Lady Bug Tours, Crestone http://www.ladybugtours.com	719 256-4089 / 877 BUG-LADY
Alternative Building Tours	719 256-4407

Other Activities In and Near Saguache County

Alligator Farm, and Egg Watching Event	719 378-2612
Blanca Wetlands (BLM)	719 274-8971
Creede Repertory Theater	719 658-2541...or...719 658-2343
Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Rail Road	719 376-5483
Fort Garland Museum, Ft. Garland, CO.....	719 379-3512
Great Sand Dunes National Monument, Mosca	719 378-2312
J. Kyle Leadership Foundation	719 539-7277
Jack Dempsey Museum, Manassa (Open in Summer)	719 843-5207
Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic & Historic Byway	719 379-3512...or...719 589-9166
Luther Bean Museum, Adams State College, Alamosa	719 587-7011
Monte Vista/Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge	719 589-4021
Old Spanish Trail, Ron Kessler.....	719 852-5225
Rio Grande County Museum, 580 Oak St., Del Norte, CO 81132	719 657-2547
San Luis Valley Museum & Cultural Center, 401 Church Place, San Luis, CO	719 672-3611
Silver Thread National Scenic Byway, South Fork <i>Begins in South Fork where Hwy 160 and 149 meet, to the headwaters of the Rio Grand River in the San Juan Mountains, then to Lake City.</i>	
Stations of the Cross, San Luis	719 672-3611
Underground Mining Museum, 407 N. Loma, Creede, CO 81130	719 658-0811
UFO Shop, Hooper, off Hwy 17	719 580-7901
Wheeler Geological Area, Cottonwood Cove, South Fork or Creede	
Zapata Falls Recreation Area (BLM)	719 274-8971
Zapata Medano Ranch, The Nature Conservancy	719 378-2503

Additional Sources of Information

Center Recreation Department, Call City Hall.....	719 754-3497
Crestone Moffat Business Association, Crestone Community Web Site http://www.crestone.org CMBA Directory Links, Events Calendar, info on Saguache County, tourism & area attractions	
Colorado State Forest Service, Alamosa District Office	719 589-2271
Monte Vista Historical Society, Peggy Barr	719 852-2518
Saguache Recreation, Lori Vigil	719 655-2466

Saguache County Tourism Board mbyork@fone.net719 655-2805
SLV Historical Society, Edward R. Crowther
PO Box 982, Alamosa, CO 81101719 589-9217
SLV Information Center, Monte Vista800 214-1240...or...719 852-0660
U.S.D.A. Forest Service & U.S.D.I. Bureau of Land Management, Saguache
Field Office.....719 655-2547
[http: www.fs.fed.us/r2/riogrande](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/riogrande)



———— **NOTES** ————