

NATIONAL PARK JOURNAL
Rocky Mountain

6 Amazing Road Trips

WHY WAIT? HIT THE ROAD NOW FOR LIFE-CHANGING ADVENTURES

BONUS!
SPECIAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK POSTER INSIDE

BEST OF THE WEST

FROM HOT SPRINGS TO VINEYARD TOURS, DISCOVER 8 DAZZLING DESTINATIONS IN THE ROCKIES

\$5.99US \$6.99CAN 03>



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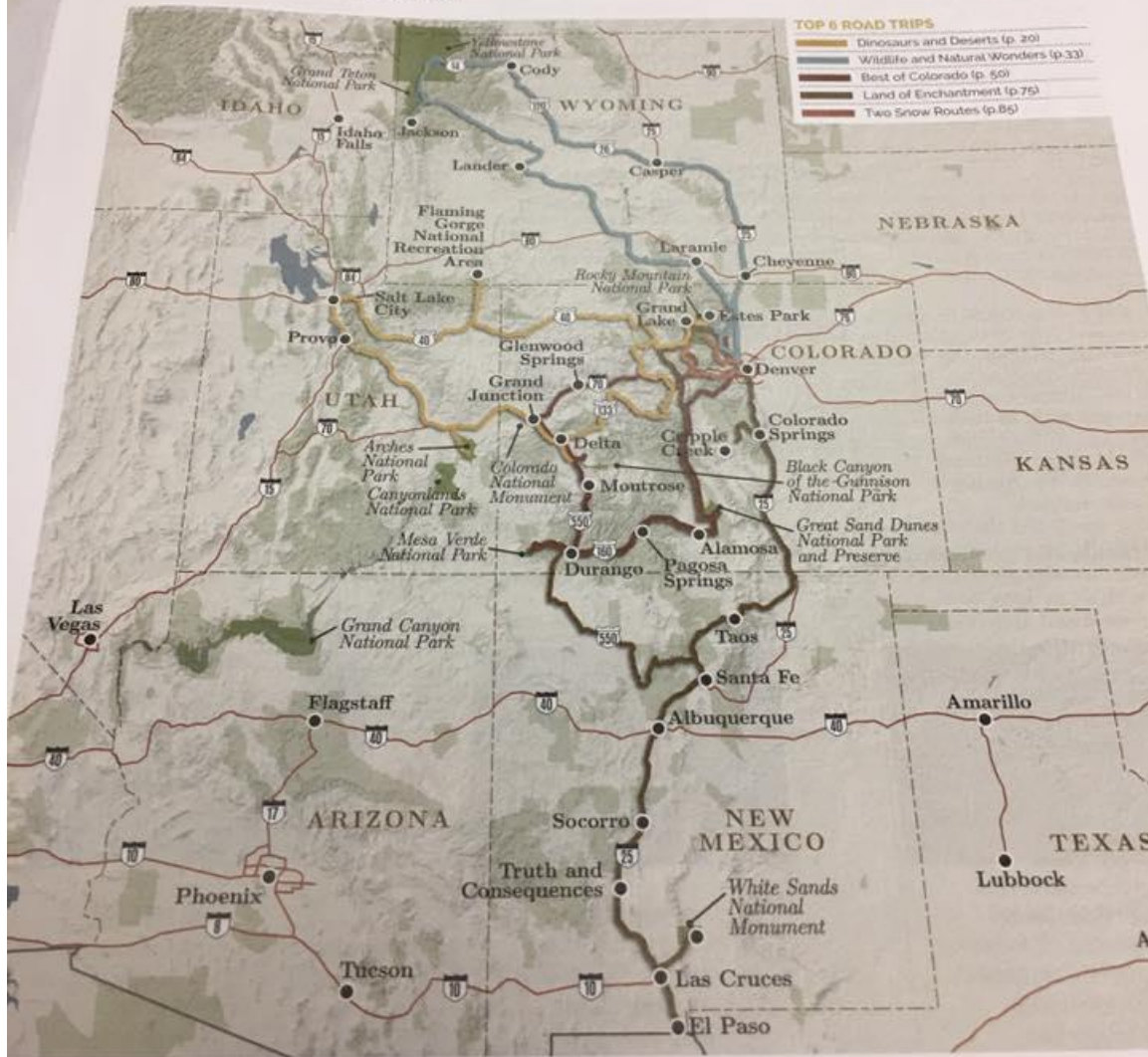
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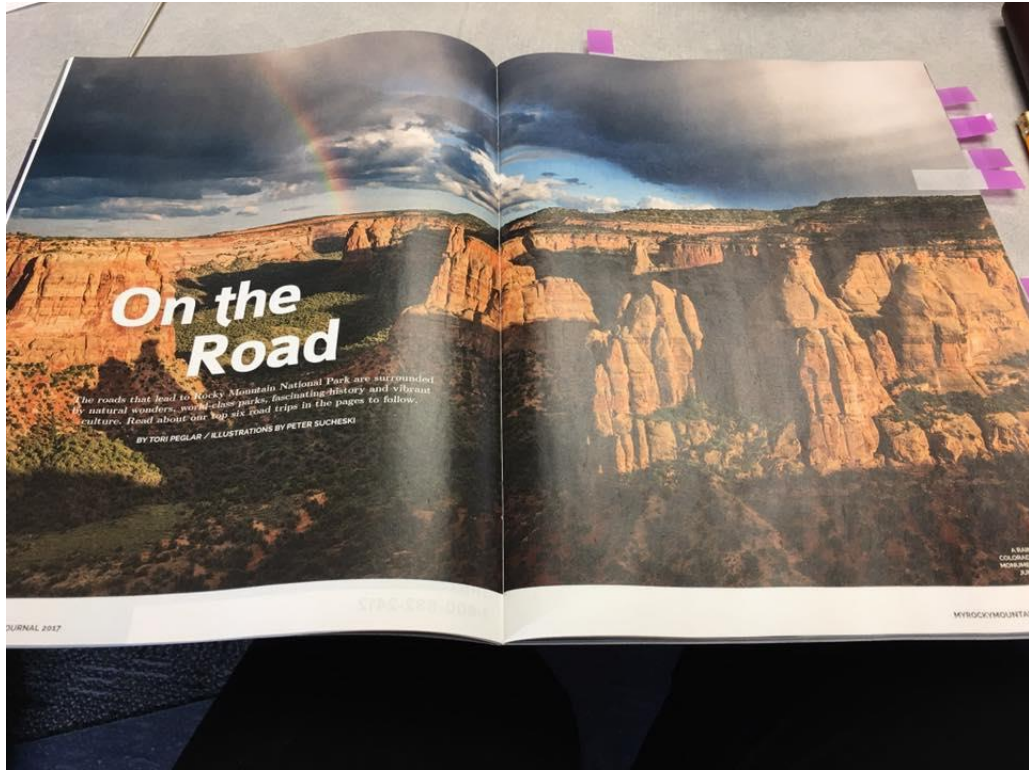


The Experts in National Park Travel

6 Spectacular Road Trips

Get ready to hit the road with any one of our six all-time favorite road trips to Rocky Mountain National Park. Turn to our On the Road section, starting on page 18 for details and itineraries.





ON THE ROAD Discover our Dynamic Land
FRISCO, COLORADO TO GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO
12 miles, 4 hours

1.6 - 17 MILLION YEARS AGO Volcanic features began forming the Colorado National Monument, but the monument isn't established until 1911. One of the Saddlehorn Campground perched above the gorges, and trail to the rock tower.

140 MILLION YEARS AGO Dinosaurs were roaming during the Cretaceous and Jurassic. Saw tracks of the dinosaur *Archaeopteryx* in the Morrison on Pikes or on the 100-mile trail through the 40 miles west of Grand Junction.

10 MILLION YEARS AGO Road vehicles could be on the top of the Grand Mesa, the world's largest flat-top mesa with an area of gold-bearing rocks, being the foundation for future outdoor fun. Today travelers can camp, hike and ski on the mesa and the Poudre Canyon Mountain Resort is nearby.

200 A.D. - 1300 The subject first residents the Fremont, gave the way for future inhabitants.

1880s City founder George A. Crawford starts grapes on 60 acres near Poudre. Prohibition wipes out Colorado's wine industry.

1975 TO TODAY Grapes are planted giving rise to today's vibrant wine scene. Go to Rabbit Creek Cycles in Palisade to pick up a wine-tourist map and a cluster bag with a basket large enough to fit your purchases. Or stop at the Grand Junction Visitor Center, 740 Horizon Dr., or visitingrandjunction.com for a valley wine map and advice.

A GRAND TIME

Just 30 miles from the Utah border, Grand Junction sits in the heart of Colorado's red-rock country. It was named after the Grand River, which was renamed the Upper Colorado River in 1921, and the junction of the Colorado and Gunnison rivers. Now has it gone from the heart of Colorado's outdoor recreation and wine country? Here's how it has evolved into what it is today.

Hidden Gems

Just north of Grand Junction in Delta County, with a backdrop of isolated towns offering incredible outdoor experiences without crowds. Dispersed in these areas are unspoiled and unspoiled towns, all with natural beauty. Delta County includes the towns of Cedaredge, Crawford, Delta, Blaine and Fruita. Head to Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and walk along the canyon edge on the North Vista Trail. From the North Rim, Eagle-Stearns to Eastman Peak, the trail is rated "technical" and is 9 miles roundtrip. Get details at the ranger station.

Discover more at delatocountycolorado.com.

The deepest, narrowest canyon in North America
Come in for a Close Look!

Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park ~ North Rim

Hours: 9am - 5pm (May 1st - October 31st)

OUR SIDE OF THE DIVIDE

DELTA COUNTY - COLORADO
delatocountycolorado.com

IT'S DRAMATICALLY DIFFERENT HERE

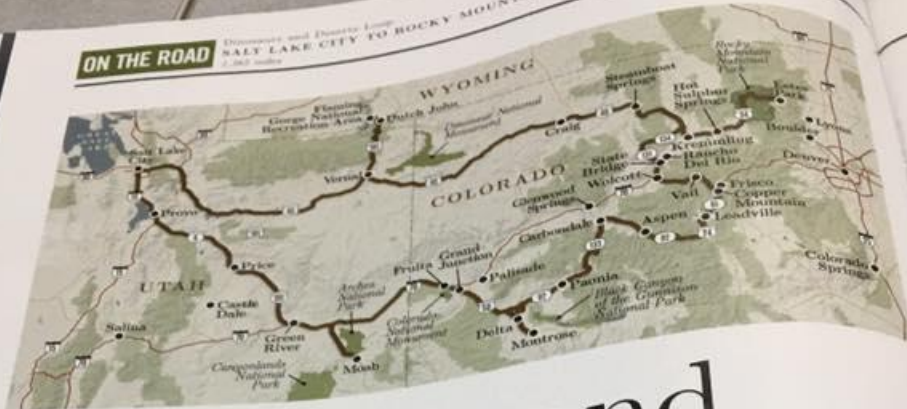
Grand Junction is a different side of Colorado, a land where you can be exhilarated. Where you can mountain bike from a desert trail into any of the 23 wineries, wine and dine next to the Colorado River, explore the Grand Mesa and Colorado National Monument in an afternoon, and find a great B&B, hotel, motel, or the perfect place for your RV or camper.

So come, stay awhile, and enjoy the dramatic difference of Colorado's Wine Country.
visitingrandjunction.com or call 800-962-2547

GJ GRAND JUNCTION COLORADO'S WINE COUNTRY

ON THE ROAD

Dinosaurs and Deserts Loop
SALT LAKE CITY TO ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK AND BACK
1,365 miles

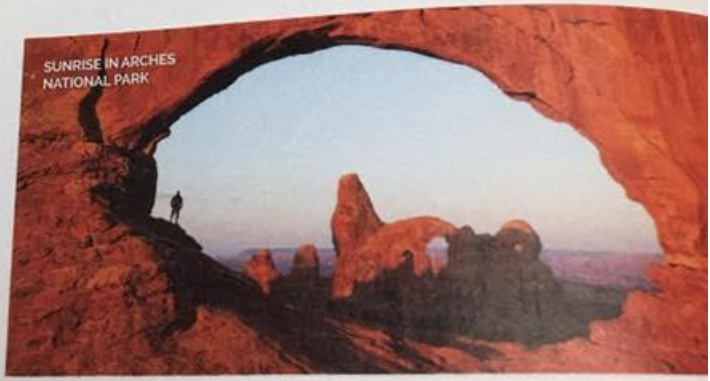


Dinosaurs and Deserts Loop

Explore some of the country's most amazing red-rock landscapes and hidden hot springs on this 1,365-mile tour.

Some of the least-crowded and most beautiful red-rock canyons, rivers and recreational opportunities await you on this fantastic road trip. Start in Salt Lake City where a thriving performing arts scene and records detailing your family tree await. Then, leave the city behind as you head east to Vernal, Utah. Discover dinosaur bones and tracks, along with fantastic water recreational opportunities. A highlight is floating on the crystal clear Green River just below the Flaming Gorge Dam in your own raft. Farther east lies Dinosaur National Monument. Stop in Craig, Colo., and explore the area and the monument. In Steamboat Springs, stroll the downtown of this ski town that has churned out a record 80-plus Winter Olympic athletes since 1932. Then head to Kremmling and Hot Sulphur Springs, home to hot springs, en route to the breathtaking histori-

cal town of Grand Lake just a five-minute drive from Rocky Mountain National Park [read about the park on pages 6-17]. Afterwards, raft the Colorado River near Kremmling. Visit Frisco and explore the stunning desert landscapes in Colorado National Monument and Arches National Park.



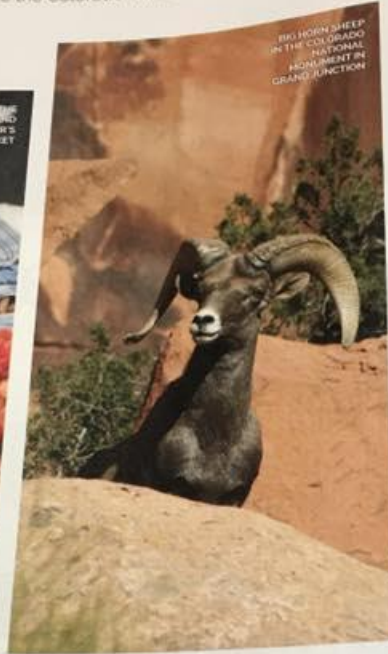
ON THE ROAD West of Colorado
GLENWOOD SPRINGS TO GRAND JUNCTION
49 miles, 1 hour and 25 minutes

Desert Solitaire

Explore the Colorado National Monument and the surrounding area.



PRODUCE AT THE
DOWNTOWN GRAND
JUNCTION FARMER'S
MARKET



BIGHORN SHEEP
IN THE COLORADO
NATIONAL
MONUMENT IN
GRAND JUNCTION



LAKE ON THE
GRAND MESA

John Otto arrived in the Grand Junction area in 1906 to help construct a waterline. But when he explored the stunning canyons and rock formations of what would later become Colorado National Monument, he decided to stay.

It "felt like the heart of the world to me," he said, devoting his efforts to protecting it. His goal was realized in 1911 when the landscape he fell in love with became the Colorado National Monument.

Today, drive or bike along the monument's 23-mile Rim Rock Drive and see the monument for yourself. The striking road snakes along the upper level of a collection of canyons, passing 19 signed viewpoints and 14 hiking trails

(read more on page 28).

Looking for a place to park your RV while you explore the area? Head to Junction West RV Park that has extra wide pull-through sites with full hookups. It's located on the western edge of Grand Junction.

Junction West offers you great access to the Colorado River, the Colorado National Monument and the hundreds of mountain biking and hiking trails in the area. Plus, there are two fenced-in dog runs, clean bathrooms and an air-conditioned laundry room to escape the summer heat.

Learn more at junctionwestrvpark.com. It's located on 793 22 Rd. in Grand Junction.

ON THE ROAD Best of Colorado
DENVER TO FIVE NATIONAL PARK SITES AND BACK
1,130 miles

Best of Colorado

Natural hot springs, high peaks and no fewer than five national park sites dominate this 1,130-mile tour through Colorado.

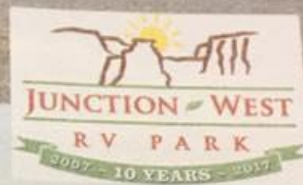


Few road trips take you past spectacular 11,000-foot peaks, soothing hot springs and fantastic historical towns like this Colorado loop. Start in Denver to sample the city's thriving art and food scene. Then head to the vibrant university town of Boulder and nearby Eldorado Canyon State Park. Next stop is Rocky Mountain National Park where wildlife and incredible lakes await. From there head west to the charming town of Grand Lake and the outdoor activity mecca of Winter Park and Dillon

before stopping in Glenwood Springs to soak in the town's legendary hot springs and experience its adventure park. Continue west to the awe-inspiring red-rock landscapes of the Colorado National Monument in Grand Junction. From there, experience incredible alpine scenery and swaths of agricultural land as you travel through Delta, Montrose and Ouray. Discover ancient history in Mesa Verde National Park and authentic towns like Cortez, Durango, Pagosa Springs and Alamosa along the way. Road on to uncover some of the highlights.



BRING THROUGH VINEYARDS IN THE GRAND VALLEY WITH THE ROCKIES IN THE BACKGROUND.



**Reserve your RV or tent site
to enjoy beautiful Colorado
National Monument,
only 15 minutes away.**

Mention *RockyMtn2016* for free firewood & s'mores kit

[970] 245-8531

793 22 Road • Grand Junction, CO 81505



JunctionWestRVPark.com/RockyMtn