

Information courtesy of the City of Trinidad Tourism Board

TRINIDAD MUSEUMS

Louden-Henritze Archaeology Museum. Artifacts reveal the lifestyles of prehistoric peoples. A rare fish egg fossil, shark teeth, mammoth tusks, arrowheads, are among the many artifacts on display. Open Jan-Nov, Mon- Thurs, 10am-3pm. Free admission. 719-846-5508.

***Trinidad History Museum,** Property of the Colorado Historical Society. A unique complex featuring the 1882 Bloom Mansion, one of the most unusual Victorian buildings in the state; the Baca House, a two-story adobe from the Santa Fe Trail era; the Santa Fe Trail Museum, where artifacts depict daily life from Santa Fe Trail days through the 1920s; and historic gardens containing heirloom flowers and vegetables. This is where you will find Kit Carson's famous buckskin coat. Open every day May1-Sept 30, 10am-4pm. Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, Mon-Sat 10am-4pm. Oct-Apr call for hours and special tours.. Admission: \$5 adults, \$2.50 students & children, free for children under 6. 719-846-7217.

***A.R. Mitchell Museum & Gallery.** Housed in an early-1900s building of over 40,000 square feet with original tin ceilings, wood floors, and horseshoe-shaped mezzanine, the museum displays an extraordinary collection of Spanish colonial folk art and paintings by A.R. Mitchell and his contemporaries as well as early photography and Old West artifacts. The gift shop features paintings, sculpture, and jewelry from southwestern artists as well as limited edition giclée prints of famous cowboy artist Arthur Roy Mitchell. Open May-Sept, Tues-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun noon-5 p.m. Oct-Apr, call for hours and special tours. Admission: \$2 and free to children under 12. 719-846-4224, mitchellmuseum.com.

***Old Fire House No. 1 Children's Museum.** Youngsters of all ages enjoy the hands-on activities in the museum. Visitors may sound the fire alarm and climb aboard the old red fire truck. Kids love the dress-up area and the model train. In the basement, visitors explore Trinidad's not-so-accommodating original jail cells. Open June-Aug, Mon-Fri 11am-3pm. Call for special tours. Free admission. 719-846-8220 or 719-846-2024.

TRINIDAD AREA MUSEUMS

Bent's Old Fort. 8 miles east of La Junta on Hwy 194. Open every day except Thanksgiving, Dec. 25, Jan 1. Summer (June 1-Aug 31): 8am-5:30pm. Winter (Sept 1-May 31): 9am-4pm. 719-383-5010, nps.gov/beol.

Folsom Museum, Folsom, NM. Open by appointment, 505-278-2122.

Francisco Fort Museum, 306 S. Main, La Veta. In Francisco Fort, eleven rooms feature all facets of pioneer life. Other buildings include the Ritter Schoolhouse, a saloon, an early log cabin, a doctor's office. Outdoors is a collection of farm equipment, wagons and

buggies, a sleigh, and many unique and useful tools. Open Memorial Day-1st Sat of Oct, Wed-Sat 10am-4pm; Sun 1pm-4pm. Admission: \$4 adults, \$3 students 9-18, \$3 senior citizens (over 65), free for children under 9 with adult. 719-742-5501.

Koshare Indian Museum, 115 West 18th, La Junta. A diverse collection of Plains and Southwest art and artifacts. Open daily 10am-5pm and until 9pm Mon & Wed. 719-384-4411, koshare.org.

Otero Museum, 3rd & Anderson, La Junta. Includes an old store, a blacksmith shop, and many other exhibits on area history. Open June 1-Sept 30, Mon-Sat 1-5pm. Call for special tours. 719-384-7500.

Trinchera Museum, Trinchera. Open by appointment, 719-846-2598.

Walsenburg Mining Museum, 112 W. Fifth St., Walsenburg. Located in the 1896 Huerfano County Jail, the museum has memorabilia from the original jail and extensive mining displays with vintage photographs, maps, and belongings and equipment revealing the early mining life. Open May 1-end Sept., weekdays 10am-4pm, Sat 10-1pm, Sun 1-4pm. Admission: \$2 adults, \$1 teens, free for children under 12. 719-738-1992 or 2840.

TRINIDAD EVENTS

***Santa Fe Trail Days.** A family street festival with heritage displays; music, dance, and living history performances; activities for kids including pony rides and a bungee pole; food and crafts concessions. Second weekend in June. 866-480-4750.

***R.I.P. Games.** Beginners to advanced skaters, skateboarders, and BMX bikers gather for events and competitions at Trinidad's skatepark, rated by top skater Tony Hawk as one of the ten best in the world. Food and live music. One weekend every August. 719-846-8340.

***Trinidaddio BluesFest.** Thousands fill Trinidad's Central Park for top blues acts. Last weekend in August with a pre-fest event on Friday night. 866-480-4750, trinidaddio.com.

Las Animas County Fair & Rodeo. Every Labor Day weekend with festivities the week proceeding. 866-480-4750.

***ARToberfest.** Month-long October festivities include art shows, the ARToberFeast, studio tours, crafts sale, poetry workshop, masquerade ball, and other events. 719-846-1441, trinidadarts.org.

Southern Colorado Repertory Theatre. Trinidad's professional theatre offers three plays in repertory every summer. Special performances throughout the year. 719-846-4765, scrtheatre.com.

RECREATION IN TRINIDAD AND THE AREA

Golfing

***Trinidad's nine-hole golf** course is rated by Avid Golfer as “one of the ten hidden gems in the country.” 1417 Nolan Drive, 846-4015.

Cougar Canyon, in East Trinidad, is a golf community planned for 1800 homes, a hotel, and many other amenities.

Lathrop Park, west of Walsenburg, has a nine-hole golf course.

Frisbee Golf

***Trinidad's radical frisbee golf course lies next to the skatepark.**

Swimming

Trinidad has a public swimming pool.

Lathrop Park has swimming in the lake.

Skating, Skateboarding, and Biking

***Trinidad's skatepark is rated by top skater Tony Hawk as one of the ten best in the world.**

Rollerskating

Skateland. 424 W. Main, Trinidad. 846-7383.

Hiking – Additional Trails outside Trinidad Lake and Lathrop State Parks

Access at Cordova Pass Trailhead (on Cordova Pass Road, Cnty Rd 46). The trailhead is 6 miles east of Cuchara and 29 miles west of Aguilar. It has 3 one-night campsites with restrooms and trash service. The trails wind into the Spanish Peaks Wilderness Area.

Apishapa Trail (#1324), 4.5 miles, moderate, ties into both West Peak and Wahatoya Trails. Good for car shuttle because an additional trailhead is 4.8 miles east on the same road. The trail crosses several dikes.

Levy-Krier Trail (#1392), 3.5 miles. Forks to the left off Salazar Trail. Dead-ends.

Salazar Trail to Vista Point (#1392a),

0.5 mile, handicap accessible. Winds along a ridge to dramatic views.

Wahatoya Trail (#1304), 12 miles, moderate-difficult, crosses the saddle between West and East Spanish Peaks and has splendid views of the Wet and Greenhorn Mountains. Intersects Apishapa Trail. (Another trailhead is 6 miles south of La Veta on Road 360. Turn right at the sign if you have 4 x 4, or walk from here, and go 2 miles to the trailhead.)

West Peak Trail (#1390), 3 miles, difficult, forks to the right off Salazar Trail. Climbs nearly 800 feet for about 2 miles to timberline. Continues in a steep and rocky ascent for another 0.75 mile to the summit at 13,623 feet. Beware of afternoon thunderstorms.

Other Trailheads on Cordova Pass Road

John Farley Nature Trail, 100 feet, easy. The trailhead is clearly marked, about 0.5 mile from Hwy 12.

Schafer Trail/Chapparal Trail, 3.5 miles, easy. Trailhead is about 4 miles from Hwy 12. Sign is on left side of the road in a curve and difficult to see until you are almost past it. Trail dead-ends at private property.

Access from Cuchara

Dike Trail (#1389), 3.5 miles, moderate, slides along a dike that separates the White Creek and Cucharas River drainages. Trailhead is at the end of Oak St. in Cuchara.

Access from Spring Creek Trailhead & Blue and Bear Lakes

The trailhead is 0.5 miles south of Cuchara off Hwy 12 and has a restroom and picnic facilities. All three trails are multiuse, serving mountain bikes, motorcycles, and ATVs. Unlicensed ATVs must have a Colorado license. Trails are also accessed from Blue & Bear Lakes; ATVs there are not allowed on the main access road (Road 422 off Hwy 12).

Dodgeton Trail (#1302), 5 miles, moderate, is popular for snowshoeing. It intersects Baker Trail (#1301, 3 miles, moderate) at mile marker 1.25 and Indian Trail (#1300, 14 miles, moderate), great for mountain biking, after another 2 miles.

Access from Purgatoire Campground

From Trinidad, take Hwy 12 about 40 miles; turn left on Road 34 (between Monument and North Lakes). Located at the headwaters of the Purgatoire River's north fork, the site has water, restrooms, and trash service.

North Fork Trail (#1309), 4.5 miles, easy. Note: Coal Creek & Wildcat Trails fork off this trail but are not maintained and not recommended.

Note: Trails are for hiking or horseback riding only unless otherwise indicated. Information agrees with the latest U.S. Forest Service output and may not agree with earlier USFS publications.

HUNTING

***Bosque del Oso.** Big game and turkey hunting by limited license. 719-561-5300.

Lathrop State Park. Shotguns and bows only.

719-738-2376.

Trinidad Lake State Park. Shotguns and bows only.

719-846-6951.

Walk-in access to private properties. Pheasant and scaled quail.

719-561-5300, wildlife.state.co.us.

***Spahn & Friends Buffalo Ranch.** Elk and wild turkey.

505-278-2306/2316.

JEEP TOURS

Road 436, a rugged jeep trail of approximately 3.5 miles, climbs from Blue Lake campground to above timberline near the summit of Trinchera Peak in the Culebra Mountain Range. The road dead-ends at 10,400. (From there, hikers may climb to the summit at 13,517'. The hike is difficult and takes 7-8 hours roundtrip. Beware of afternoon thunderstorms.)

Road 421 runs southwest from La Veta for 5 miles and dead-ends. It winds through varying landscapes and goes past Sulfur Springs Ranch, an additional trailhead for Indian Trail.

The Cordova Pass Road connecting Aguilar and Cuchara is bordered by conifers and aspens that occasionally part for magnificent views of the Spanish Peaks and dikes. At Cordova Pass (11,743'), 29 miles from Aguilar and 6 miles from Cuchara, is a trailhead for one-night camping.

FISHING—see Recreation Areas

RECREATION AREAS

Bear and Blue Lakes have 30 campsites, restrooms, good trout fishing, trails. 719-742-3681.

Capulin Volcano. Hike into an extinct ice age volcano. Visitor center open every day except Thanksgiving, Dec. 25, Jan. 1. No food service, lodging, camping (amenities available in Capulin). 505-278-2201, nps.gov/cavo.

Lathrop State Park has swimming, golf, camping, year-round fishing, educational programs. The lakes are stocked with rainbow trout, channel catfish, tiger muskie, bass, walleye, bluegill, crappie. From Walsenburg, go three miles west on Hwy 160 to Road 502. 800-678-2267 or 303-470-1144, parks.state.co.us.

Monument Lake Resort and Campground offers cabins, an adobe-style lodge, RV and camping sites. Only minutes from Hwy 12, the resort feels like a truly out-of-the-way getaway. The lake has pedal boats and is stocked with brown and rainbow trout, kokanee salmon, splake. Live bait is available. 719-868-2226 in season (May-Sept), monumentlakepark.com.

North Lake SWA has excellent fishing in the lake and streams, a boat ramp, restrooms. Flies and lures only. No camping or fires.

Purgatoire Campground. From Trinidad, take Hwy 12 about 40 miles and take a left turn on Road 34 (a few miles past Monument Lake and before you reach North Lake). Located at the Purgatoire River's north fork, the site has water, restrooms, trash service.

Spanish Peaks Wilderness Area. Go to Cokedale, then 18 miles north on Reilly Canyon Road, Cnty Rd 57.7 (to the left when it forks near the Bon Carbo post office). Follow DOW signs northwest. Restrooms, campgrounds, and water. Fishing is not allowed.

Trinidad Lake State Park, 3 miles west of Trinidad, has an 800-acre lake for year-round fishing that is stocked with rainbow and brown trout, crappie, largemouth bass, channel catfish, saugeye, walleye, wipers, bluegill. Camping (5 sites for persons with disabilities), hiking, mountain biking, many interactive programs for children, Native American dancing, concerts, and presentations on local wildlife and the early history of the area. 719-846-6951; camping reservations: 800-678-2267; parks.state.co.us.

RANCHES

Echo Canyon Guest Ranch. Dude ranch with horseback riding, cattle drives, rodeo events, fly fishing, archery, hiking, rifle range, nightly cowboy entertainment. 800-341-6603 or 719-742-5524, guestecho.com.

Yellow Pine Ranch. Historic dude ranch with horseback riding, fishing, barbecues, hiking, large meeting barn for reunions and weddings. 719-742-3528, yellowpine.us.

Spahn & Friends Ranch. Entertaining tours of a working buffalo ranch, buffalo burger picnics, camping overnight. Bring your own food and prepare your breakfast in the big-house kitchen. Morning and afternoon tours on Mon & Fri, mid-June thru Labor Day, or by special arrangement. 505-278-2306/2316, spahn-friends.com.

Colt Ranch. Adventure ranch with horse-drawn carriage and stagecoach rides, chuckwagon cookouts, dutch oven cooking demonstrations, gourmet cooking classes, wine tastings, tours of a mining ghost town. 719-845-0353, coltranch.com.

HERITAGE SITES IN AND NEAR TRINIDAD

***Corazon de Trinidad.** Trinidad's downtown district (as well as its neighborhoods) has a wealth of historic buildings.

***Ludlow Monument. Honors those who died in the 1914 Ludlow Massacre.** The sobering story of the tragedy and the mining life is told on signage at the site. 15 miles northwest of Trinidad on I-25, Exit 27. Free admission.

Kit Carson Statue in Kit Carson Park, Trinidad. Widely considered one of the finest equestrian works in North America.

Engine 638, Trinidad. The last coal-burning stream engine in service with the C&S Railroad rests near the Animas Street Bridge.

The Coal Miners Memorial, in downtown Trinidad, honors those who labored in the nearby coal camps.

***Cokedale and nearby coke ovens.** Cokedale, known in 1907 as a model mining camp, is still much as it was in the early days. Seven miles west of Trinidad on Hwy 12.

Ceramic mural at Mt. San Rafael Hospital, Trinidad. This tile tapestry of Trinidad's growth was created by Sister Augusta Zimmer, early Trinidad artist.

Ghost Towns. Pick up F. Dean Snead's Las Animas County Ghost Towns and Mining Camps at Great Escape Books in Trinidad for a guide to the many ghost towns in the area.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

***The Trinidad Trolley** offers free tours hourly from 10am to 3pm every day, Memorial Day through Labor Day and Saturdays in winter, weather permitting. The trolley stops at the Welcome Center and all the museums. For private group reservations winter or summer, call 846-9833, x33.

***Trinidad's Riverwalk**, 3.5 miles, is part of an expanding trails system.