

Gunnison Area Activities

Black Canyon of the Gunnison (Deep Section) – East Portal (60 miles from Gunnison) Deeper than the Grand Canyon. Spectacular! 2000 feet deep canyon. The Visitor's Center via the South Rim Road is kept open, but please call them just to be sure. Also, I'd highly recommend you take the time to watch the video at the Visitor's Center and then walk the short path to the rim overlook.

<http://www.nps.gov/blca/learn/historyculture/eastportal.htm>

Directions (takes about 1 hour 15 minutes to get there from the house)

1. Take US 50 West for about 57 miles.
2. Turn Right on CO-347N (@ Black Canyon Corner Store – you will see Black Canyon signs here - travel 5.2 miles). The Corner Store is a fun stop too – neat fossils, minerals, hand crafted artwork.
3. When you reach the National Park attendant booth continue straight until you see the visitor's center.

Black Canyon of the Gunnison (Upper Section) – Morrow Point Area (30 miles from Gunnison)

If the weather has been fairly clear I'd recommend you take an afternoon to also visit the upper Black Canyon too as the scenery is simply different – and you get more of the Colorado impression here. The one caveat to this idea is you must walk down 230 steps to get to the bottom of the canyon.

Directions

- From Gunnison, take Highway 50 towards Montrose.
- After you pass the Blue Mesa Dam on the far end of the Blue Mesa Reservoir, start looking for the **mile marker sign 130** on the left side of the highway.
- Directly opposite that sign is a sign on the right side of the highway that says: Pine Creek Boat Tours/Fishing Access.
- Turn right at that sign and go down the dirt road about 3/4 of a mile to the boat tour parking area.
- Walk down 232 steps to the canyon floor.

Scenic Drive through the Taylor River Canyon

The Taylor River is as beautiful a river as you'll find in Colorado. The Taylor is 18 miles long from it's beginning at the top (Taylor Reservoir) to where it flows into the start of the Gunnison River in the town of Almont. Keep your eyes peeled as it's common to see Big Horn Sheep.

From Gunnison simply drive toward Crested Butte about 10 miles. When you reach the town of Almont, hang a sharp right and follow the Taylor River. Also, when you get to the last bridge (18 miles), stop and look over the bridge. You'll see some of the largest trout in the world. The Colorado state records for Rainbow and Brown Trout are from these waters. You can fish this area too if you like. If you have your spinning reels pickup a Rapala X-Rap (Brown Trout) pattern from Taylor's Sporting Goods in Gunnison. Cast it and then jerk it violently, reel a half dozen slow reels, and repeat. This will simulate a wounded fish and will excite the strike. If you are fly fishing I'd recommend #20 Barr's Emergers and #20-22 Mysis Shrimp patterns. The fish here are very smart so presentation is everything when fly fishing. You might get a hatch in the afternoons - probably small #20 dry fly BWOs. The scenic value of driving the Taylor River road is really special even if you don't fish.

Taxidermy – Gunnison (In Town)

You'll see a shop called **Traders Rendezvous** along Route 50 driving through Gunnison. This is a very fun place to stop for folks of any age as they've got every animal imaginable from the Rocky Mountains available to see as well as purchase there. So, you could see elk, big horn sheep, mountain goats, deer, and

every other 4 legged animal in North America practically. Always a hit. There's a number of inexpensive souvenirs to choose from as well.

<http://www.coloradoantlers.com/>

Fishing

If you decide you want to spin fish (if even for a few minutes) I recommend two lures. **Gold #3Vibrax Blue Fox** lure and the **X-Rap Brown Trout**. Both can be purchased at Taylor's Sporting Goods. If you cast across the river in back of the house and aim a little upstream and reel it back you'll catch brown trout in the faster water. These lures are good virtually anywhere you go.

Dog Sledding

<http://www.gunnisonsleddogs.com/index.html>

Shopping

Gunnison – The shops along Main Street in Gunnison provide a mixture of art galleries, antiques, nicknacks, and necessities. Also, there is the local flare in just about any of the cafes and eateries too. Since Gunnison has more of the “real” cowboy influence – you'll see more of a traditional – historic Colorado personality here.

Crested Butte – The shops in CB are for the most part upscale – and catering to a fairly elite class of people – which generally equates to expensive and unique. But that doesn't stop everyone from window shopping as any and all are welcome – and it shows. The people are extremely friendly and the colors are amazing. CB is an amazing place to spend a Christmas season afternoon – you won't be disappointed.

Theater

Gunnison Arts Center – Beth and I went here in June and had an amazing experience. The local Gunnison crowd put on a very unique folk music concert that night. I reluctantly went and was amazed at how much I enjoyed it. Mostly because I saw a piece of Americana that I thought had long since died off. I noticed that on the 23rd they have a Christmas show – So, I'm thinking it is worth taking a chance. Here is the website. If you want to see an old fashioned Colorado town at it's best then I think this is a great idea.

<http://www.gunnisonartscenter.org/>

A Christmas Concert

December 23. 6:30 pm.

The Gunnison Arts Center presents: A Christmas Concert with Alan and Issa & Friends plus a homemade holiday pie auction and sale. Alan's pies are a local favorite featured at the Farmer's Market and auction proceeds will benefit Kids in Care, Gunnison County's Children in Foster Care Fund. Join us Wednesday, December 23rd for a holiday concert event featuring local bands, local pie, and local love all for the holidays! Come celebrate music with us and check out the pie selections for sale while enjoying the classic holiday cheer! Doors open at 6:00pm-Tickets \$10, full bar available.

102 South Main Street, Gunnison, Colorado 81230
(970) 641-4029

Crested Butte has a small movie theater. Hopefully you can catch the new Star Wars movie there as it plays between now and Christmas. Here's the website.

<http://www.cbmajestic.net/>

Crested Butte Options

Sleigh Ride and Dinner at Uley's Cabin (Very Pricey but unique – one of a kind experience)

Dec. 24-25 – call for reservations

<http://www.gunnisoncrestedbutte.com/event/christmas-eve-sleigh-ride-and-dinner-uleys-cabin>

Christmas Eve Torchlight Parade at Crested Butte Mountain Resort

<http://www.gunnisoncrestedbutte.com/event/christmas-eve-torchlight-parade-crested-butte-mountain-resort>

9 Things you must do in Crested Butte (some of these are for winter)

<http://travelcrestedbutte.com/8-things-you-must-do-first-visit-crested-butte/>

Snowmobile Rentals (Guided Trips)

If you haven't gone snowmobile riding this is a lot of fun and they can customize the type of trail to your skill and comfort.

http://www.snowmobilecentralreservations.com/pages/sub_irwin.html

http://www.snowmobilecentralreservations.com/pages/sub_irwin_faq.html

<http://m.mainstreethub.com/snowmobilemonarch>