

# Crested Butte



# Mt. Crested Butte



COLORADO



## **Chamber Welcome**

Welcome to the place we call home—a place rich in character and an authentic sense of place. Nestled in the Rocky Mountains, Crested Butte is surrounded by breathtaking snow-covered peaks and clear rivers, part of what makes this special place “Colorado’s last great ski town.” Take a moment to explore our unique shops and restaurants amid a historic downtown alive with culture and vibrant Western heritage. From our local flair and festivals to the gateway into the great outdoors, you are sure to find paradise here.



## Introduction

Nestled within Colorado's picturesque southwestern region, surrounded by the majestic Elk Mountain Range, are the uniquely historic towns of Crested Butte and Mt. Crested Butte that comprise the Crested Butte area. Embodying true small-town hospitality and a down-to-earth, laid-back lifestyle, these communities possess a distinct character that is not found anywhere else.

Crested Butte has a rich and exciting history that dates back to the Ute Indians and the subsequent arrival of European miners from the Balkans in the late 19th century. Crested Butte is recognized as the eighth-largest National Historic District in the state, and in 2008, it was named one of the "Dozen Distinctive Destinations" by the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP).

The scenery here is unrivaled, and in the spring and summer, the high mountain landscape is covered in brilliant wildflowers—a characteristic that has led to the area's designation as the "Wildflower Capital of Colorado." This unique distinction is celebrated every year at the annual Crested Butte Wildflower Festival, a weeklong event featuring guided mountain tours, in-town garden tours and plenty of opportunities for education, hiking, 4x4 tours, birding, biking, photography and more.

A true Colorado gem, the Crested Butte area has established itself among the greatest year-round destinations. Set against magnificent mountain views and acres of national forest and wilderness, it is an outdoor lover's paradise. Summer brings unrivaled opportunities for fishing, hiking, mountain biking, rafting, rock climbing and camping in the surrounding Gunnison National Forest, while winter welcomes Alpine and Nordic skiers, snowboarders, snowmobilers and other winter sports enthusiasts.

Within the communities, one will discover charming Victorian storefronts, an eclectic mix of restaurants and bars

and vibrant entertainment featuring live music virtually every night. Throughout the year, the area hosts numerous festivals and has cultural resources made up of vibrant theatres, galleries and museums that belie its size.

In addition to the unmatched natural environment and assortment of outdoor activities, Crested Butte and Mt. Crested Butte are home to a community of diverse, active and supportive residents. These residents are certainly the towns' biggest asset, as they regularly donate their time and efforts to nearly 40 nonprofit organizations and initiatives for the arts, education, environment, social services and safety. The Crested Butte Fire Protection District is an all-volunteer-led department providing fire protection, prevention, rescue and EMS services to a 250-square-mile area.

There is no doubt about it; this mountain community is authentic and it has it all. The easygoing way of life found in Crested Butte and Mt. Crested Butte is the envy of surrounding areas and beyond. Whether you are a lifelong resident, a part-time vacationer or just visiting for the weekend, you are invited to discover its unmistakable charm.



## Homes

The quality of life in Crested Butte and Mt. Crested Butte is truly unrivaled. From the winsome scenery and outstanding recreational opportunities to the charming homes and friendly people, who wouldn't want to live here? In fact, in addition to the 2,500 full-time residents, the area is home to an abundance of seasonal residents from around the world who place an immeasurable value on the life and location far removed from the fast pace of the city.

The town of Crested Butte is filled with classic Victorians, new and old, as well as contemporary residences, restored mining cabins and multi-colored cottages—all located within walking distance of the shops, dining establishments and public spaces. Mt. Crested Butte has spacious townhomes and condominiums, along with a range of beautiful custom-built mountain retreats. The outlying areas are spotted with communities boasting lots from a half acre to well over 35 acres. These include Skyland, Crested Butte South, Red Mountain Ranch and Trapper's Crossing.



## **Tourism**

There is no doubt that Crested Butte and Mt. Crested Butte are the places to be when it comes to hitting the slopes. Residents and visitors alike can access extensive Alpine and Nordic skiing trails, backcountry skiing, extreme ski terrain, hockey, ice skating, snowboarding, snowmobiling and snowshoeing, to name a few of the winter sports to be enjoyed. But the area is also a great destination in the summertime, drawing in people from all over to fish the region's more than 3,900 miles of streams and lakes and take advantage of great opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, rock climbing, boating, canoeing and rafting. There are also opportunities to participate in widely popular hockey and softball leagues, as well as competitions and events such as the U.S. Extreme Freeskiing Championships, the Elk Mountain Grand Traverse, Fat Tire Bike Week, the annual Slush Huck and much more.

This breathtaking mountain region is complete with a number of national forests and parks, which beckon people to enjoy the serene environment of Southwest Colorado. Notable are the Gunnison National Forest, the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, Curecanti National Recreation Area, Hartman Rocks Recreation Area and the Blue Mesa Reservoir, the largest body of water in the state. These gorgeous surroundings can be experienced by taking a scenic drive along U.S. Highway 50, Colorado Highway 149, Colorado Highway 92 and the West Elk Loop Scenic and Historic Byway.

Golfers also travel to the Crested Butte area to take advantage of the local courses. The Club at Crested Butte is a splendid Robert Trent Jones-designed course that has been recognized as one of the country's top golf courses and was rated the "Best Mountain Golf Course" in the state by Mountain Golf Magazine. The 18-hole championship course stretches over 7,200 yards of play. Golfers can also visit the nearby Dos Rios Golf Club in Gunnison, feature a challenging 18-hole, 6,566-yard course.

For those in need of some retail therapy, historic Downtown Crested Butte and Mt. Crested Butte's charming slope-side stores welcome shoppers to browse through a selection of unique items. Shoppers can enjoy the mountain backdrop while perusing the storefronts of quaint antique shops, art galleries, clothing stores, jewelers, home stores, sporting goods shops and many other boutiques.

In between the various retailers are a number of local eateries, featuring a dining selection that is just as diverse as the options for shopping. Charming coffeehouses and cafés are fused with family-friendly restaurants, fine dining establishments, local dives and popular watering holes serving up the best in foods, spirits and customer service. The selection is impressive and has been noted by Michael Carlton of the Denver Post, who wrote, "Crested Butte has more fine restaurants per capita than any other town in the U.S."

## GETTING HERE, GETTING AROUND

Crested Butte is easily accessible through several modes of transportation. Drivers traveling from Denver will reach the town in approximately four hours via U.S. 285 South. The town is just 28 miles from the Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport, which offers daily connections on United Airlines via Denver International Airport and winter flights on American Airlines and Delta Air Lines.

The Mountain Express service is available to provide convenient, year-round, free transportation between Crested Butte and Mt. Crested Butte. There is also a free bus to Gunnison and bus service to Denver. Locals and visitors alike are regularly seen traveling the streets of Crested Butte on colorful vintage townie bicycles. Most locals own a townie or two, and there are rental shops for guests.



## Arts & Entertainment

Aside from the robust recreational endeavors, Crested Butte boasts of a rich cultural side. Those with an artistic flare will discover plenty of opportunities to invest in fine visual, literary and performing arts events and programming. The area is also home to a number of exciting annual festivals that regularly draw locals and visitors from all over. There is always something happening in Crested Butte, with prominent events such as the Alpenglow Concert Series, Arts Festival Weekend, Wildflower Festival, the annual Vinotok, the end of winter Flauschink festival and the Fall Festival of Beers and Chili Cook-Off, happening throughout the year. The Crested Butte Music Festival in July, has music for all tastes, performed by world-class musicians, including artists of the Metropolitan Opera. And how many other communities can boast of an annual Poo Fest—a spring event inviting community members to help clean up the wintertime doggie waste, while enjoying live entertainment and plenty of prizes.

For more than 20 years, the Crested Butte Center for the Arts has provided a year-round calendar of live musical, dance and theatrical performances on both its indoor and outdoor stages. Additionally, the center's Piper Gallery hosts various local and regional exhibitions and signature events throughout the year, as do the many other galleries in the area. The nearby Gunnison Arts Center is also a fine place to take in the arts of this region. The facility is comprised of three gallery spaces, a 72-seat community theatre, a gallery shop, a dance studio, a clay center and ample space for meetings and classes.

Patrons take in a night at the theatre at the Crested Butte Mountain Theatre (CBMT), a venue which has presented more than 200 productions since it was established in 1972. In addition to producing a schedule of excellent plays and musicals each year, CBMT periodically hosts the Annual Southwest Colorado Community Theatre Festival and variety shows, while also providing outreach programming through its youth-focused Arts in Education Program.

Movie-goers will revel in the selections at the local Majestic Theatre, while history buffs take pleasure in the various historical sites and museums in the area. Among the heritage attractions not to be missed are the Crested Butte Mountain Heritage Museum, the Mountain Bike Hall of Fame and tours through the area's oldest neighborhoods.

Coming soon to the cultural landscape of Crested Butte is the Trailhead Discovery Museum and Arts Center. The two-floor, 5,000-square-foot museum strives to provide an engaging learning environment for children and their families. In addition to the range of interactive exhibits, both permanent and visiting, children are invited to participate in summer camps, arts education, enrichment programming at the public schools, music instruction and various special events.



## **Education**

Crested Butte students are provided exceptional educational opportunities through the Gunnison Watershed School District, a network of eight K-12 facilities with an enrollment of approximately 1,750 students. The district is distinguished by a rigorous traditional curriculum, outstanding Advanced Placement (AP) courses, a successful athletic program and a dedication to helping others such as its work to establish a sister school in northern Afghanistan.

Students in the Crested Butte area attend the Crested Butte Community School, which has been the recipient of the John Irwin School of Excellence Award—a recognition given to Colorado public schools ranked in the top 8 percent for overall academic performance. The school also boasts above-average student performance on the ACT exam and enrolls several Boettcher Scholars.

Adding to the educational offerings of the area are exceptional early childhood education centers, such as the Little Red Schoolhouse, Paradise Place and Stepping Stones.

Western State College of Colorado is a great choice for exceptional higher education close to home. Western ranked No. 30 on Forbes' list of Top 100 Public Colleges and Universities and 215 overall out of 600 schools on the magazine's America's Best Colleges list. Established in 1901, Western is known as the first Colorado college placing a focus on liberal arts curriculum. Approximately 2,400 students a year take advantage of a wide range of academic programs leading to a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. In addition to the academic offerings, Western offers more than 50 active clubs and organizations, a fine athletics program and the only nationally certified college Mountain Rescue Team. The four-year public institution sits upon 140 acres in nearby Gunnison.



## **Lodging**

No matter where visitors choose to stay while in Crested Butte, breathtaking views of the incredible scenery abound, leaving few to wonder what has made this community such a popular getaway. Guests have a selection of exclusive hotels and resorts, historic bed & breakfast inns and rustic rentals in the way of private cabins, homes and condominiums.



The economy of Crested Butte and the Gunnison Valley is dominated by tourism. Because of the area's generous natural attractions, splendid panorama and abundance of outdoor recreational activities, Crested Butte is a regular vacation destination for visitors from around the globe. It is also home to seasonal residents who have invested in the community's amenity-based economy. Visitors and seasonal residents very often choose to retire in Crested Butte or become full-time residents because of the unique amenities and lifestyle.

Over the last several decades, the Crested Butte area has experienced tremendous growth in the amenity-based economy. As a result of visitor and resident demands, the service industries of Crested Butte have ballooned. Growth in the areas of recreation, arts and entertainment, lodging, food services, health and wellness, finance, insurance, real estate and other service businesses is continuous and is sure to develop well into the coming years.

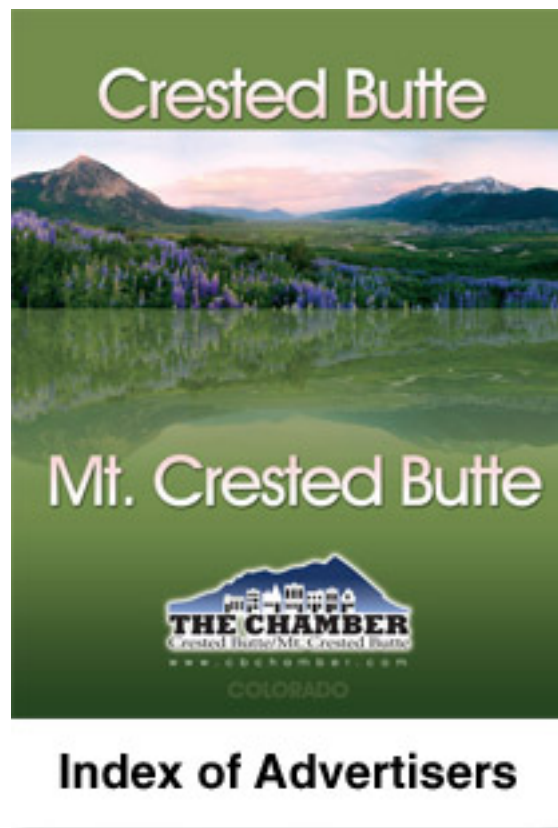


Residents and visitors of Crested Butte are provided convenient access to healthcare options in the area, including medical clinics, a hospital campus and a host of practitioners offering services in an assortment of medical fields.

The Crested Butte Medical Center supplies exceptional medical services to the community and its visitors through two clinic sites. One is the Town Clinic which offers primary and specialty care in the areas of family medicine, urgent care, OB/GYN and pediatric medicine. The second is Crested Butte's oldest clinic, the Ski Area Clinic, a site that is open during the ski season for those in need of primary care and emergency medicine. The Ski Area Clinic is also home to the "Sports Lab," which offers sports performance, cardiac and health assessments.

Further local options for medical attention include: family medicine services by Dr. Joanne Huntington and Dr. Sherry Lynn Niccoli, chiropractic attention at the Sims Chiropractic Walk-In Clinic and Crested Butte Chiropractic, wellness at the Crested Butte Spirit, Mind & Body Clinic and quality sports medicine and orthopedics at the Rocky Mountain Sports Medicine & Orthopedic Clinic and the Alpine Orthopaedics & Sports Performance Center. Additionally, Paradise Pediatrics is a fine choice for children's medical resources and nearby Gunnison offers high-quality mental health services at the Center for Mental Health, a branch of the Midwestern Colorado Mental Health Center.

Patients requiring further medical attention will be referred to the nearby Gunnison Valley Hospital (GVH), a 24-bed, acute-care hospital. Part of the Gunnison Valley Health System, GVH offers a 24/7, state-of-the-art emergency department and Level IV trauma center. Adding to these facilities is an exhaustive list of services, ranging from cardiopulmonary, oncology and surgery to rehabilitation, maternity and radiology/medical imaging.



[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [E](#) [F](#) [H](#) [I](#) [L](#) [P](#) [R](#) [T](#)

[Architects](#)

[Automotive - Service](#)

[Business](#)

[Communications/Broadcasting](#)

[Education](#)

[Electric](#)

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