

# Plano Photography Club

## Fall 2026

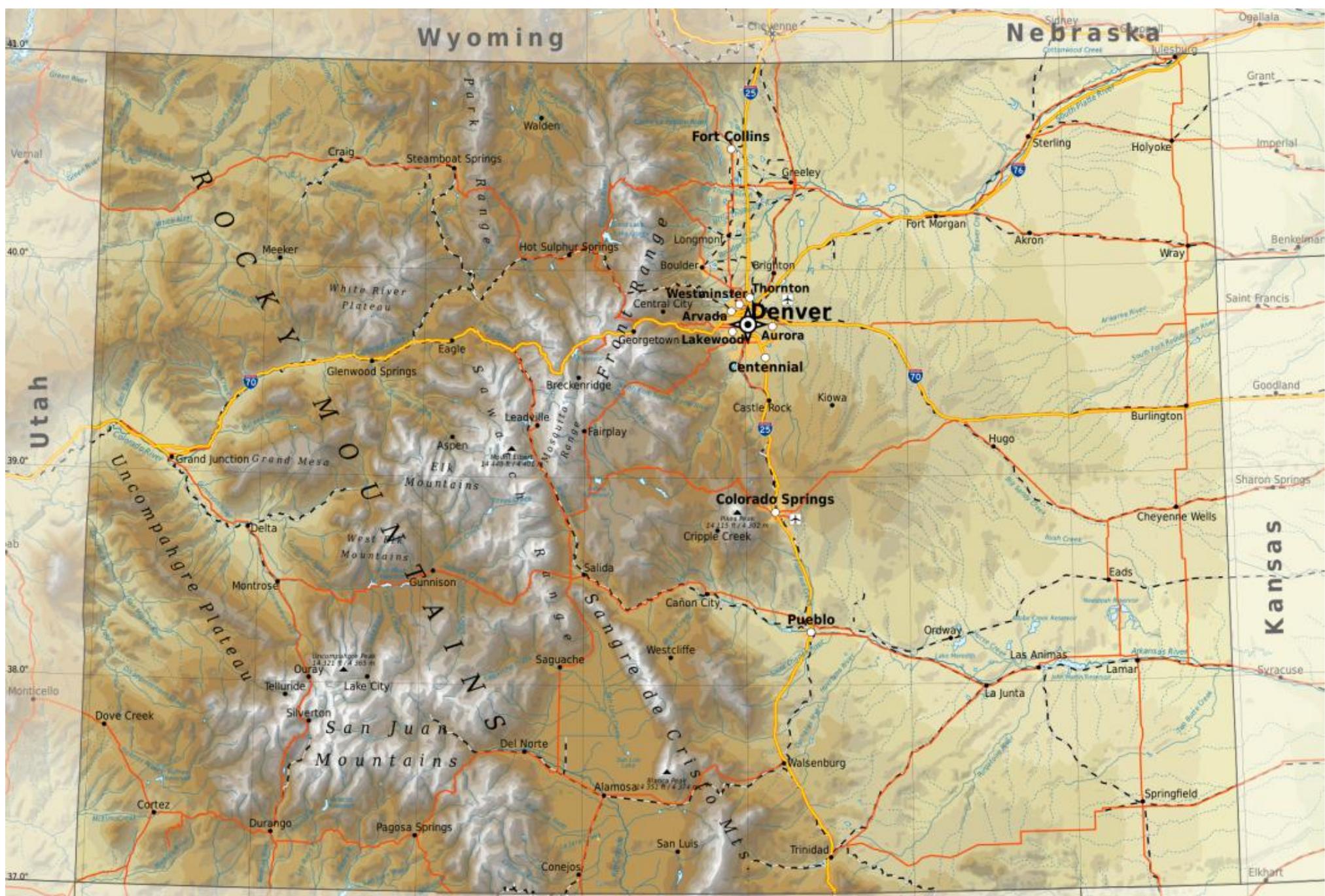
### Ouray, Colorado

Dennis Fritsche

March 19, 2026

# Ouray, Colorado

- Pronounced “yur-ay”
- Centrally located in the majestic San Juan Mountains of South/Center-West Colorado.
- Called the “Switzerland of America”
- Peak Foliage in Ouray: Late September to early October.
- Things to do
  - Leaf peeping in the mountain splendor
  - Durango/Silverton Train
  - Ironton Ghost Town
  - Waterfalls
  - Getting there and back



# When and Where

- Recommended
  - Check In– Monday, September 28
  - Stay 5 nights
  - Check Out – Saturday, October 3
- Ouray Riverside Resort
  - [Ouray Riverside Resort | Your All-In-One Ouray Colorado Lodging](#)
  - Lodge, Cabins, Rustic Cabins, RV sites
  - Restaurant, Jeep Rentals



# References

- [Photographing the Southwest: Colorado & New Mexico: Martres, Laurent: 9780916189143: Amazon.com: Books](#)
- [Artists on the Loose by Alan Whiteside | Blurb Books](#)
- *Fall Color 2025 Trip to North Carolina*  
- Tips for Fall Foliage and Waterfalls 2024 - [PDF](#)

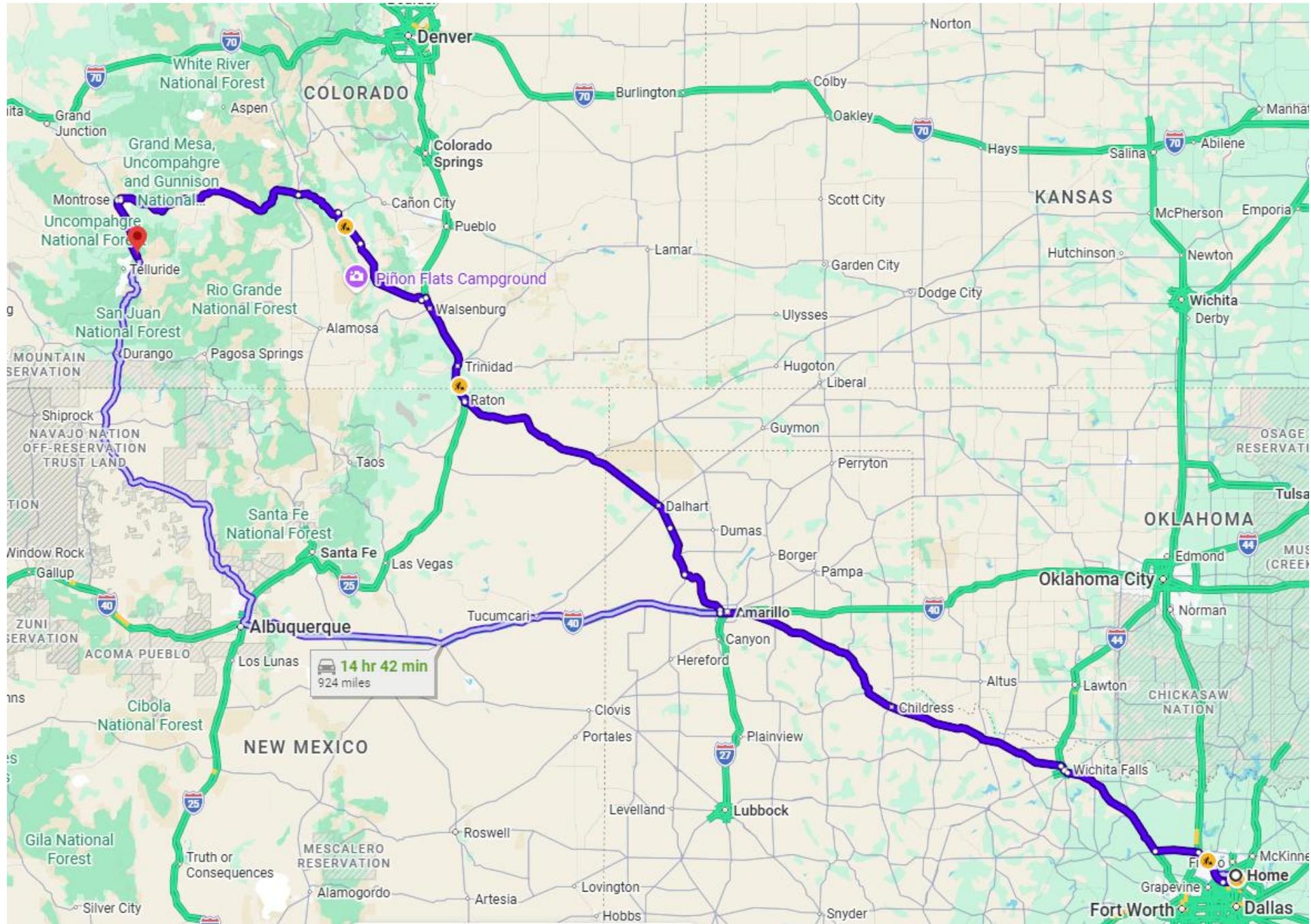
# Cautions

- Some of the county roads can be dicey when wet, snowy, or dry.
- The high-country roads are enticing, but I recommend only for experienced mountain drivers.
- If you rent a jeep, don't get overconfident.
- The *Million Dollar Highway* is beautiful and scary. Approach with respect!



# Getting There and Back

- By car is a two-day drive
  - My preferred method
  - Many choices for stops along the way
  - Go one way and come back another
- Nearest airport is Montrose Regional Airport
  - About an hour from Ouray



# Artists on the Loose

## Dallas Camera Club Trip 2022

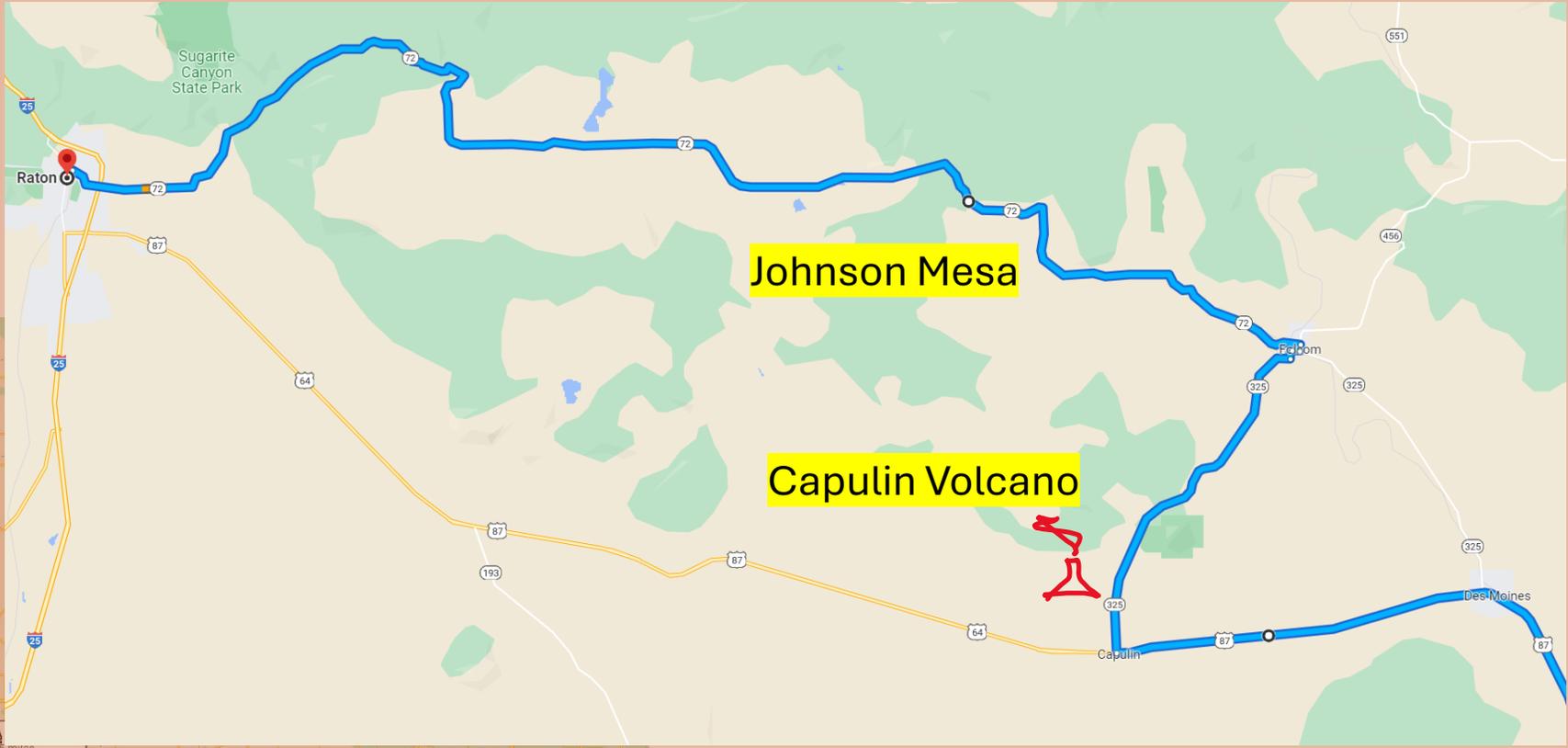
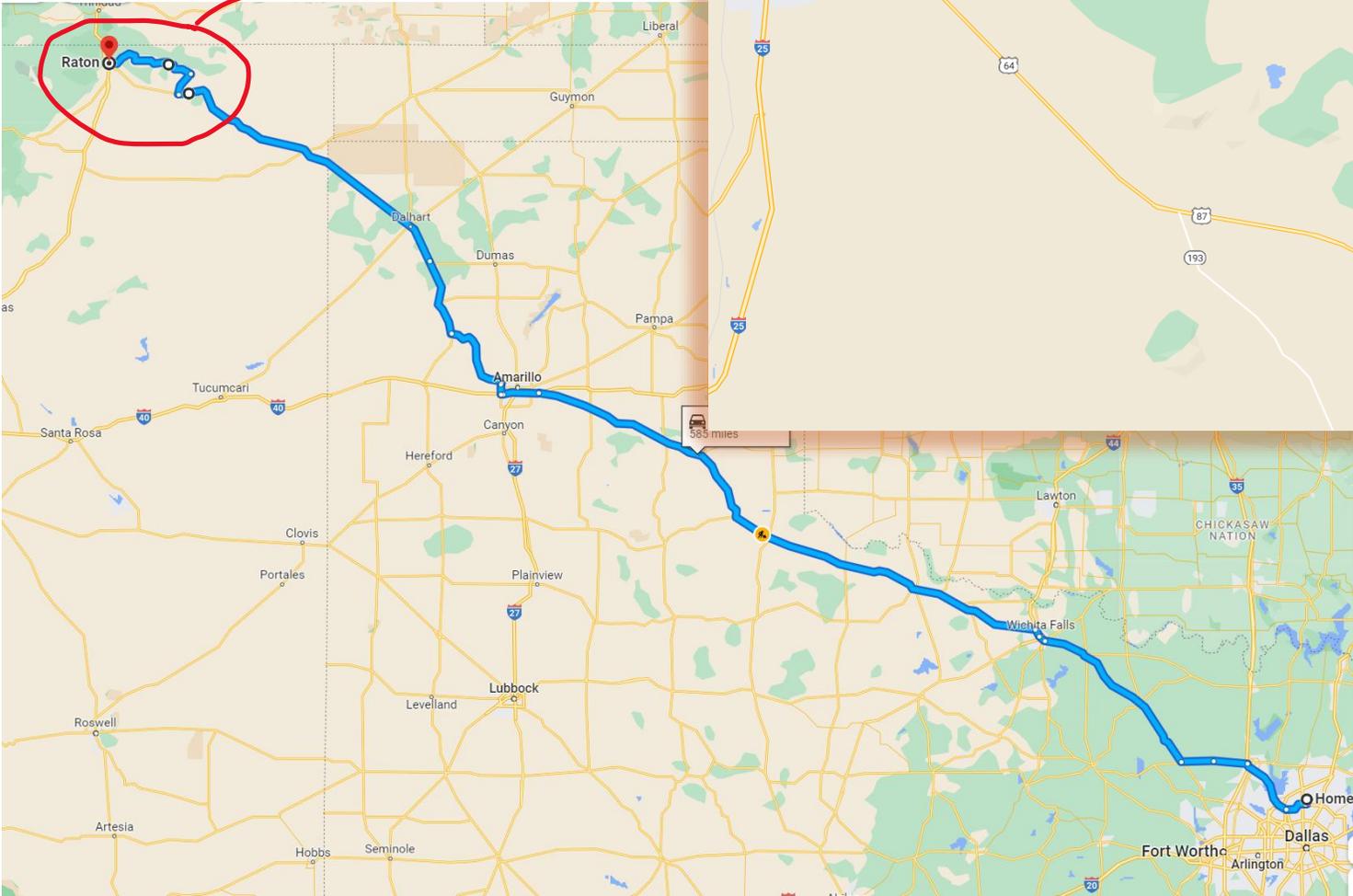


Mary Whiteside, Alan Whiteside, James Walsh, Dennis Fritsche, Scherry Johnson, Frank Richards

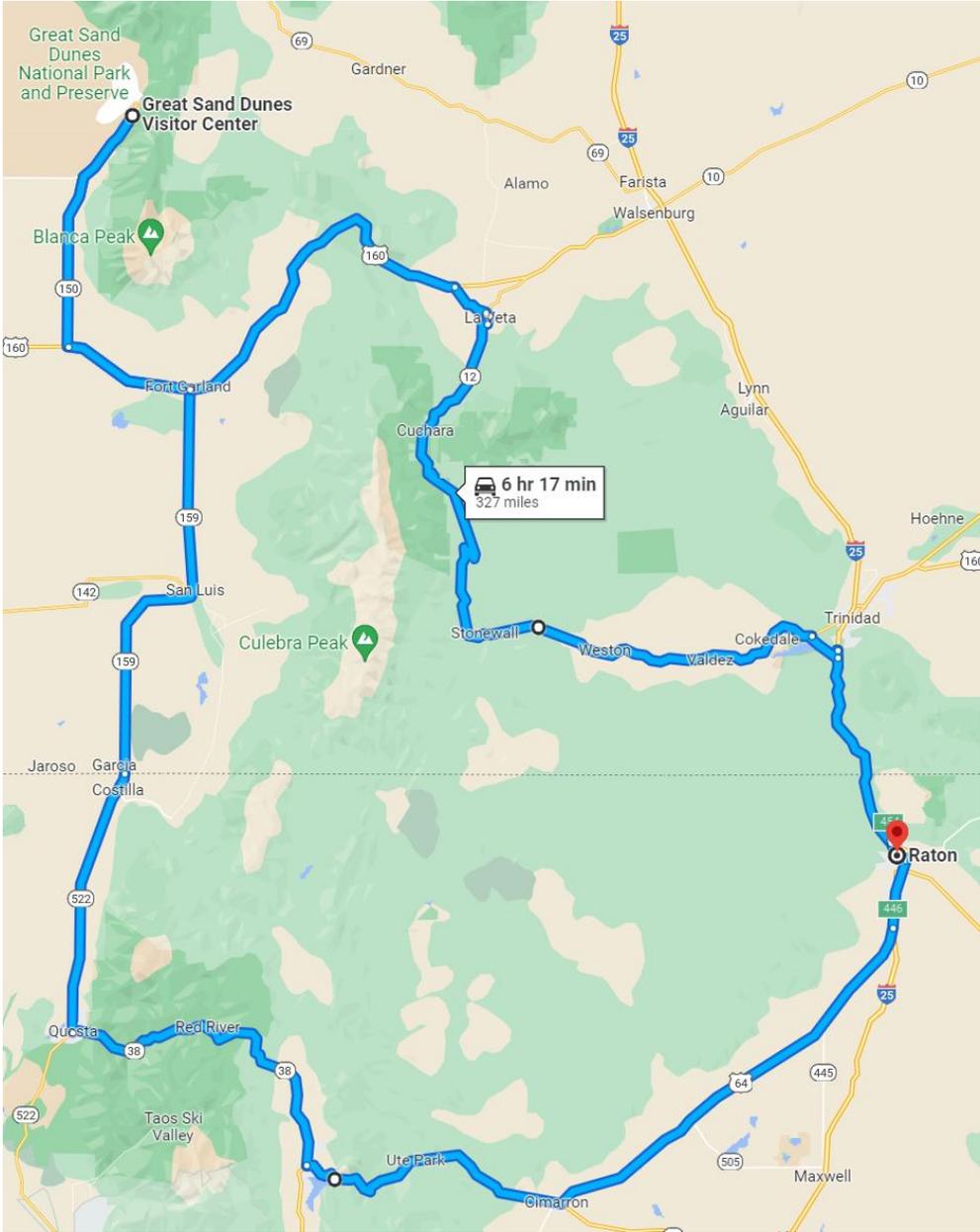
# Fall Colors in Colorado Trip Itinerary

Day 1	9/28/22, Dallas to Raton, NM	Breakfast—Armadillo Grill Capulin Volcano, Johnson Mesa Road (NM 72) Dinner at motel
Day 2	9/29/22, Raton, NM to Great Sand Dunes National Park, CO	Cimarron, Cimarron River Canyon, Red River Lunch—Red River Evening shoot at Great Sand Dunes National Park Snacks—under the stars
Day 3	9/30/22, Great Sand Dunes to Ouray, CO	Morning shoot at Great Sand Dunes National Park White House, Mosca, CO; Creede; Silver Thread Highway (CO 149) Dinner—steakhouse at Ouray Riverside Resort
Day 4	10/1/22, Ouray and Ridgway	Owl Creek Road and Owl Creek Pass; lunch at Gnar (gnarly tacos), Ridgway. San Juan Skyway to Placerville, Telluride, & Pandora Mill Dinner—snacks with Dennis
Day 5	10/2/22, Ouray and Ridgway	CR 7 very rough road to overlook of valley with river and mountains. CR 5 good road with aspens, rail fence, fog. Lunch at Gnar. Rain forced us back to hotel. Dinner with DCC at The Outlaw.
Day 6	10/3/22, Ouray to Silverton	Box Canyon Waterfall; then Million Dollar Highway (US 550) south to Silverton, waterfall overlook, Red Mountain lake, Ironton ghost town, Yankee Girl and Gaston old mines Dinner—pizza at Gold Belt
Day 7	10/4/22, Ouray to Telluride	Last Dollar Road from CO 62 to mud hole where we turned around. Gondola ride from Mountain Village to Telluride; short trip up Last Dollar Road from Telluride side Dinner—Ouray Brewery
Day 8	10/5/22, Ouray to Durango	Another trip up Last Dollar Road (Telluride side). CO 145 to Cushman Lake, Ophir ghost town; Lunch in Dolores, CO Mesa Verde National Park Appetizers—Italian restaurant, Durango
Day 9	10/6/22, Durango to Cuba, NM	Durango & Silverton Train to Cascade Canyon, O’Keeffe’s Black Place Dinner—El Bruno’s Restaurante y Cantina, Cuba, NM
Day 10	10/7/22, Cuba, NM to Clarendon, TX	Mesa Chijuilla; soft and muddy from previous rain Lunch—Four Star BBQ, Moriarty, NM Snacks with Dennis
Day 11	10/8/22, Clarendon to Dallas	Lunch—Armadillo Grill, Bowie, TX

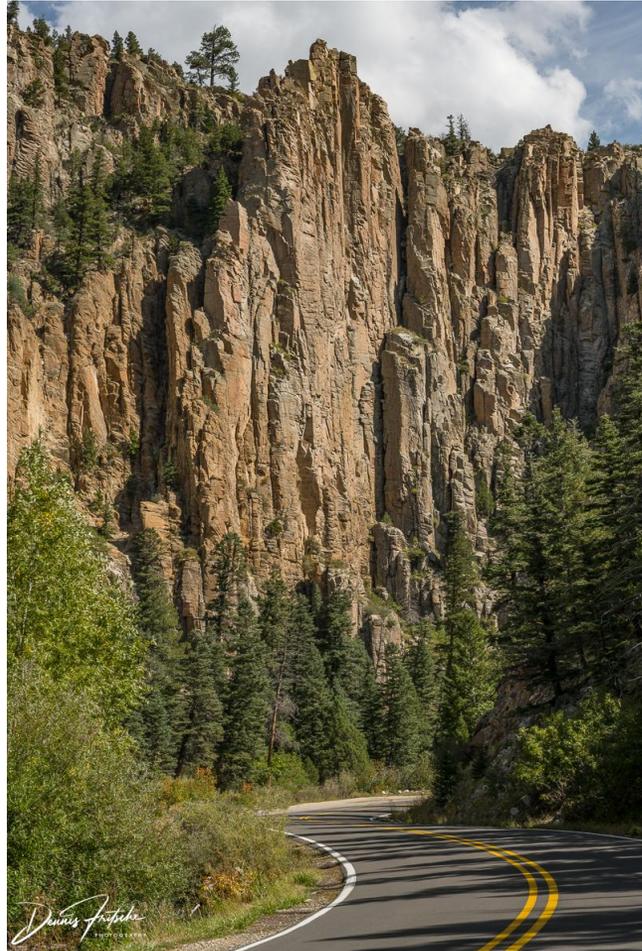
# Wednesday-September 28 – Plano to Raton



# Thursday-September 29 – Raton to Great Sand Dunes -Alternatives



# To Raton and Through Cimarron, NM

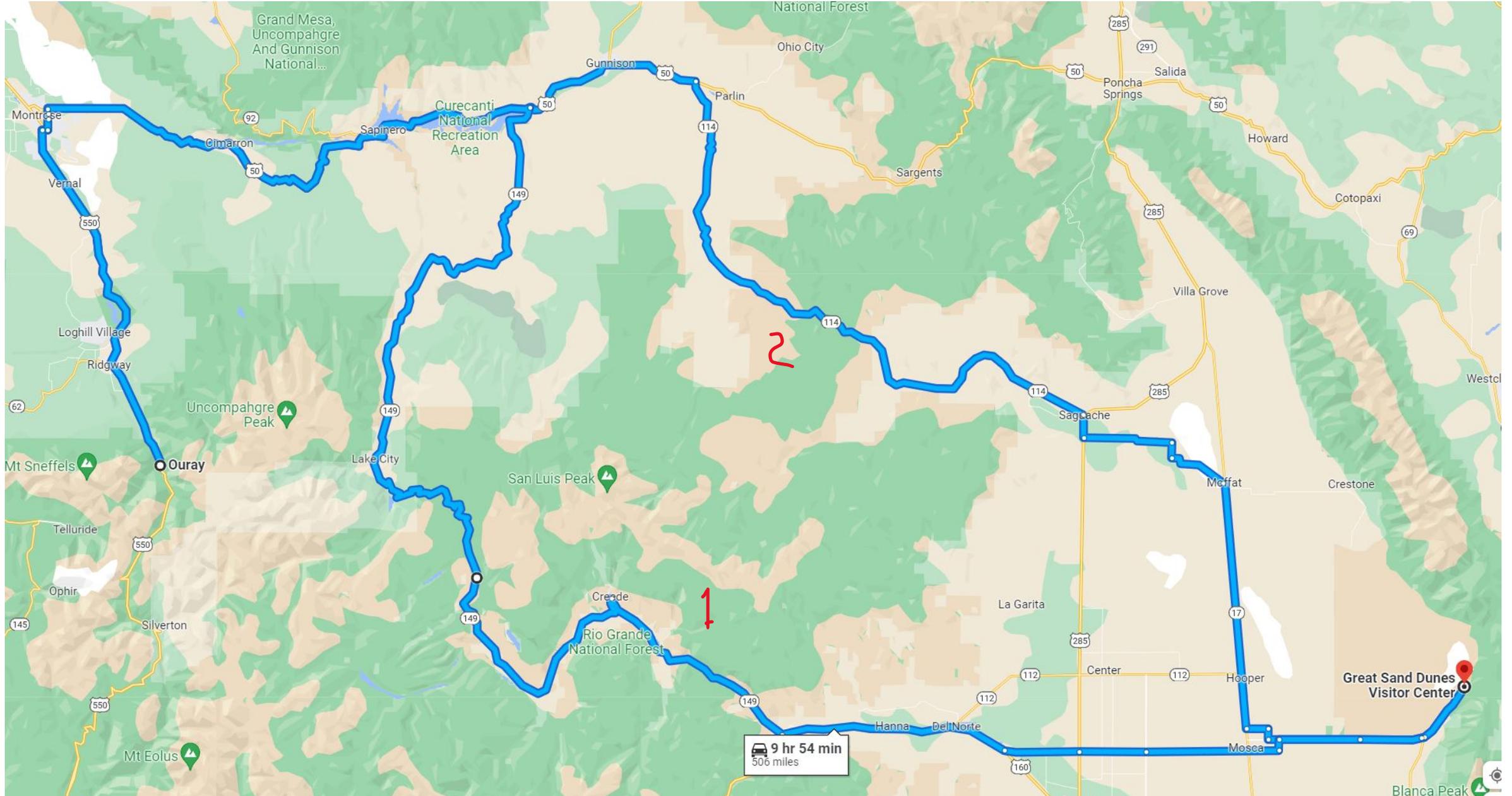


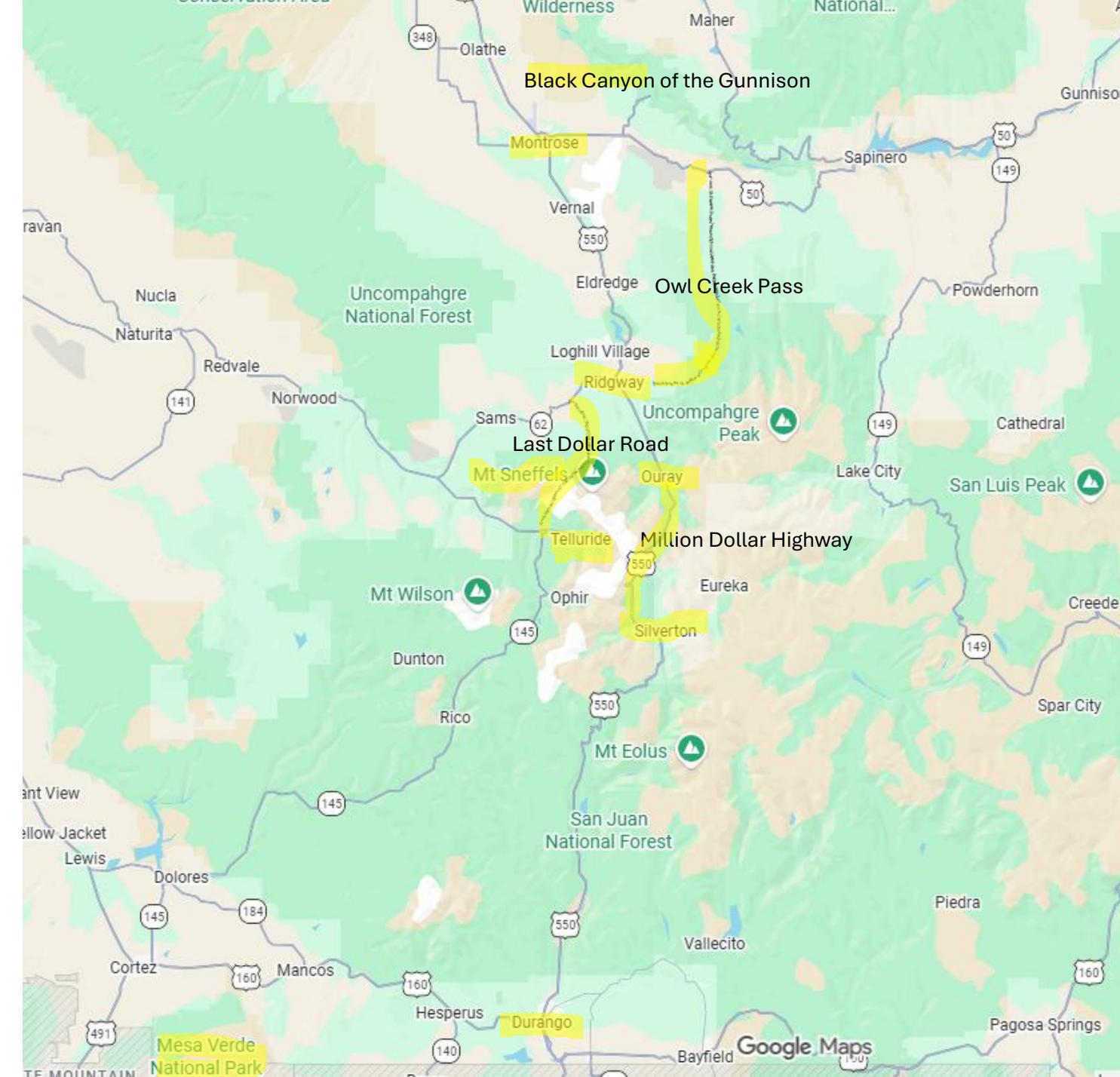
# Great Sand Dunes

[Great Sand Dunes Lodge - ReservationDesk.com](https://ReservationDesk.com)



# Friday-September 30 - Great Sand Dunes to Ouray -Alternatives





Ouray to :

- Ridgeway 10 Miles
- Telluride 50 miles
- Silverton 24 miles
- Durango 71 miles or 154 miles
- Montrose 37 miles
- Black Canyon of the Gunnison 48 miles

# Around Ouray

- Box Canyon Falls Park
- Crystal Lake
- Cascade Falls Park
- Hot Springs

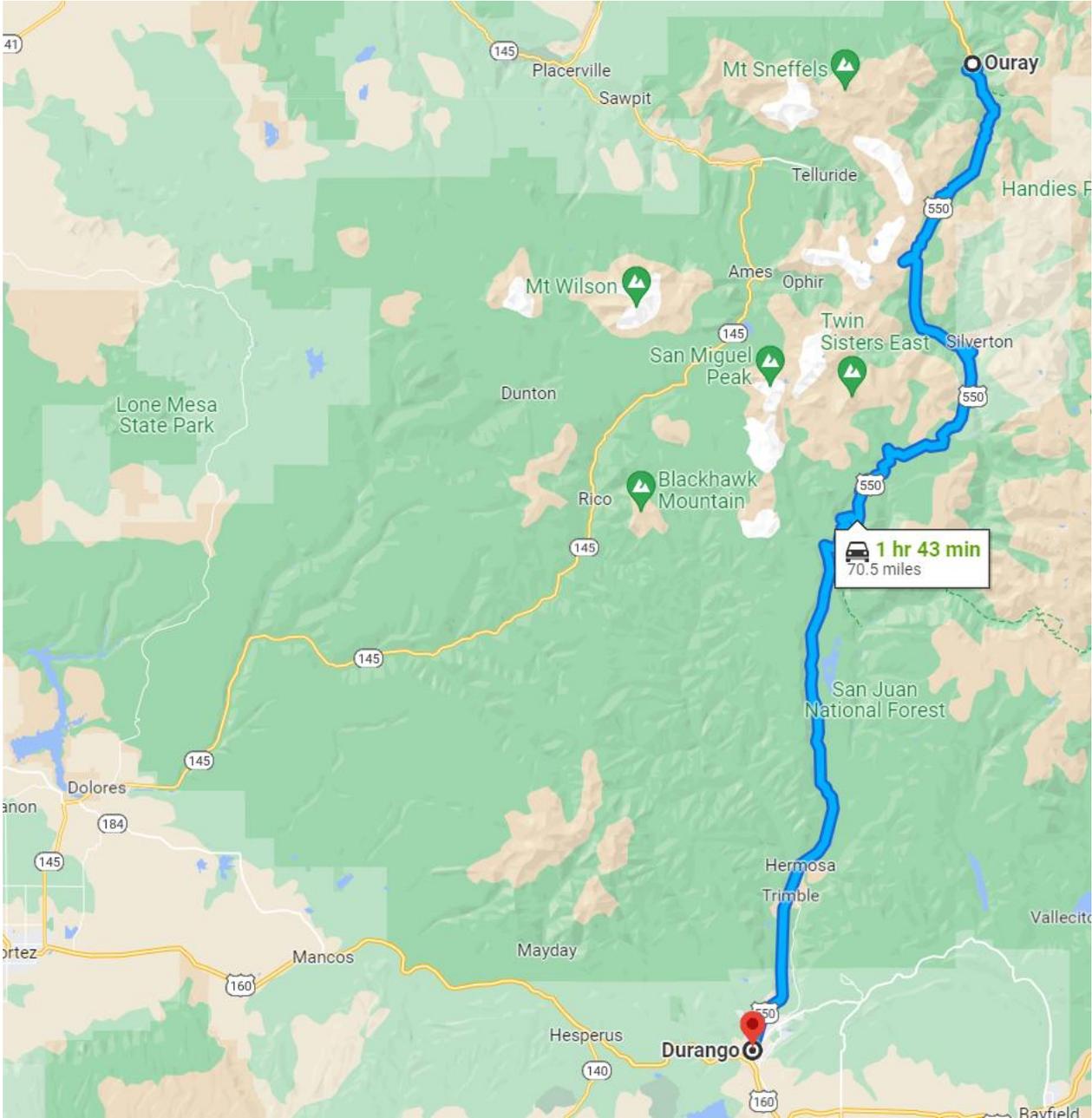


# Around Ridgeway

- County Roads 4 and 5
- Last Dollar Road
- Owl Creel Pass
- True Grit Ranch
- Dining
  - Taco Del Gnar (as in gnarly)

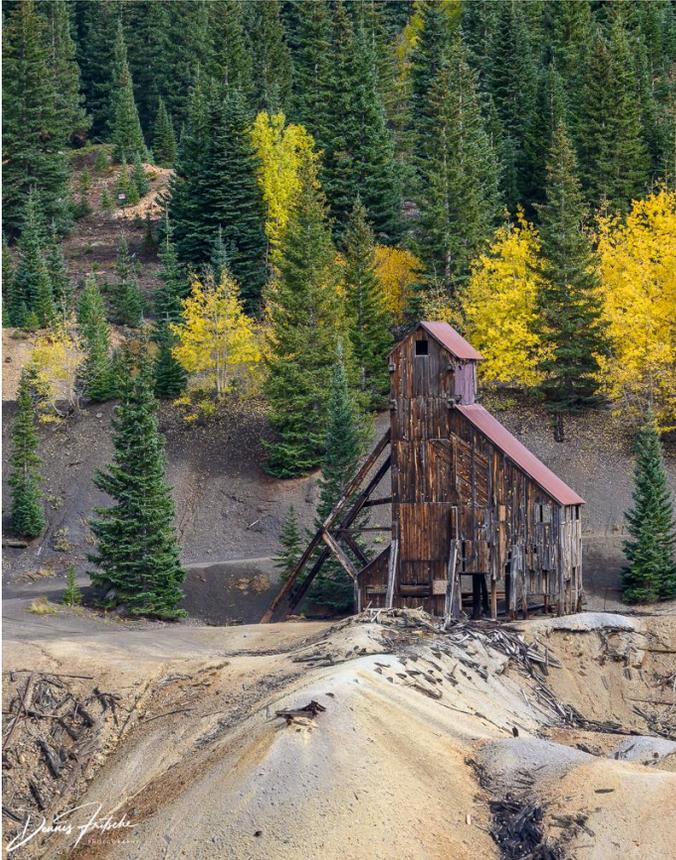


# TBD – Million Dollar Highway

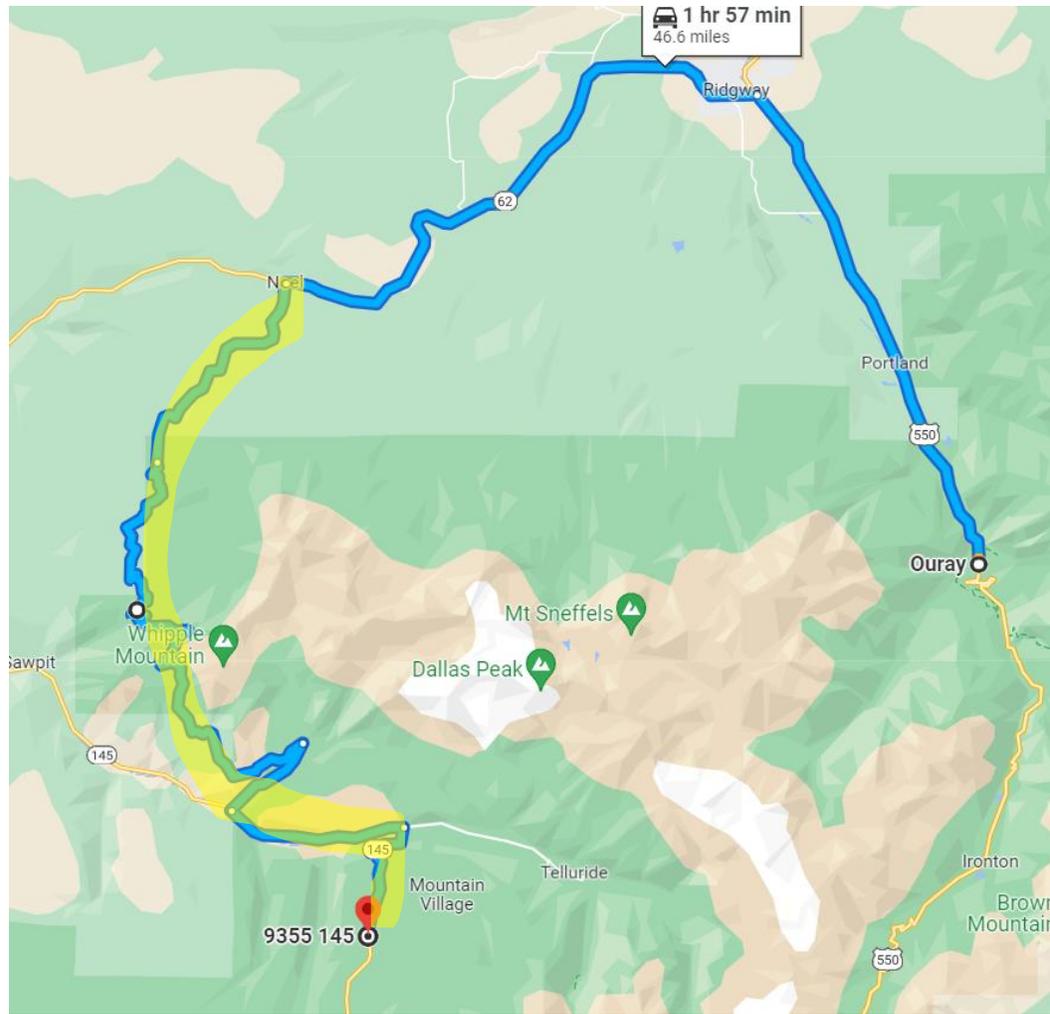
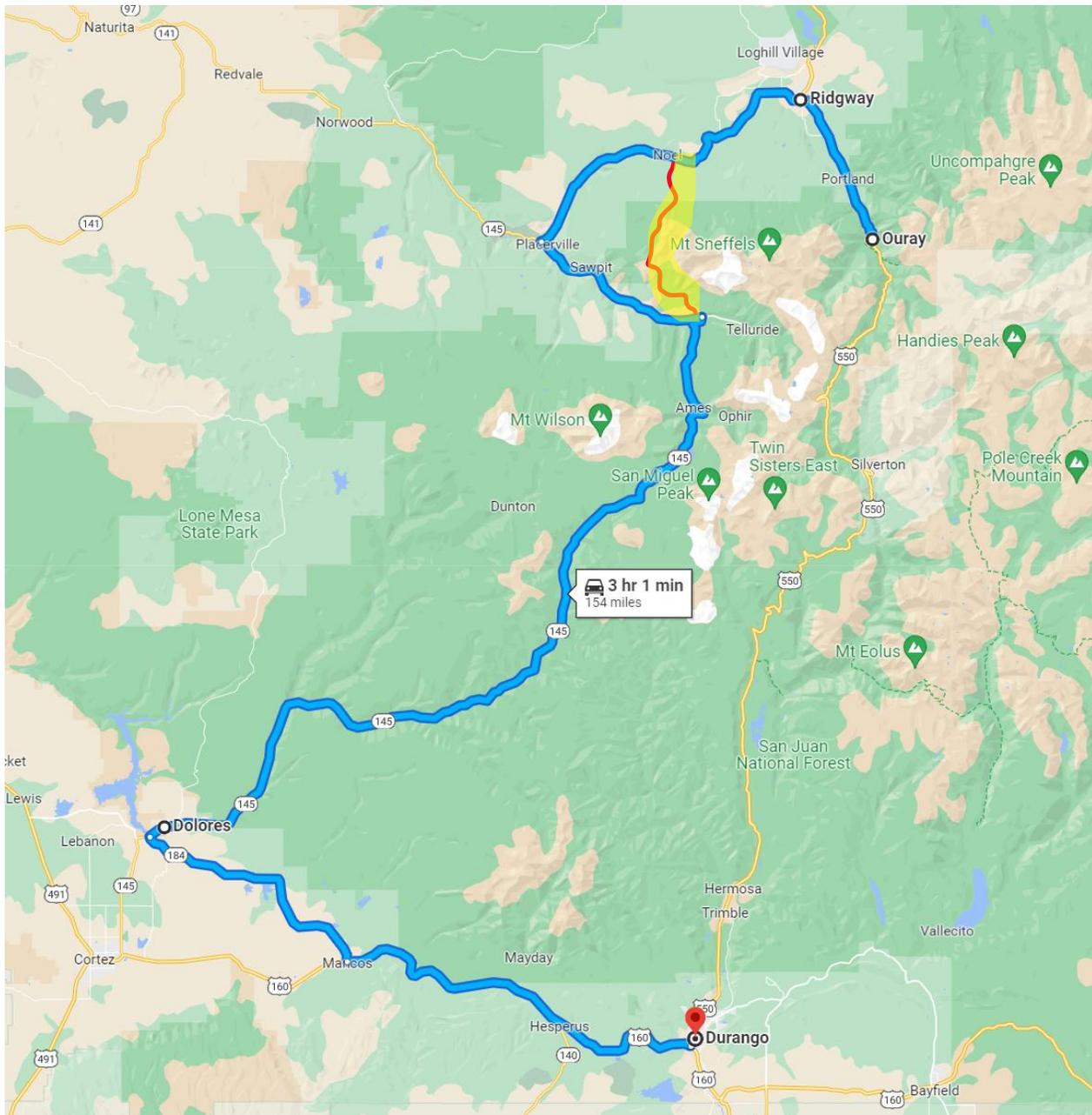


# Ouray to Silverton

- Ironton Ghost Town
- Red Mountain
- Yankee Girl Mine



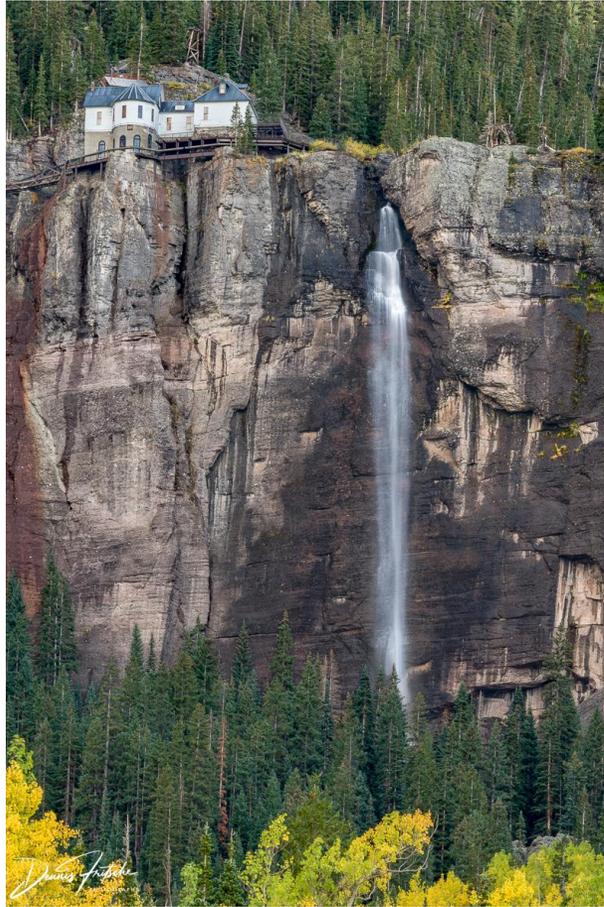
# TBD– Ouray to Durango



**Last Dollar Road** – Requires 4WD if wet

# Telluride

- Drive into town
- Shopping and dining
- Take the free gondola from Mountain Village to Telluride



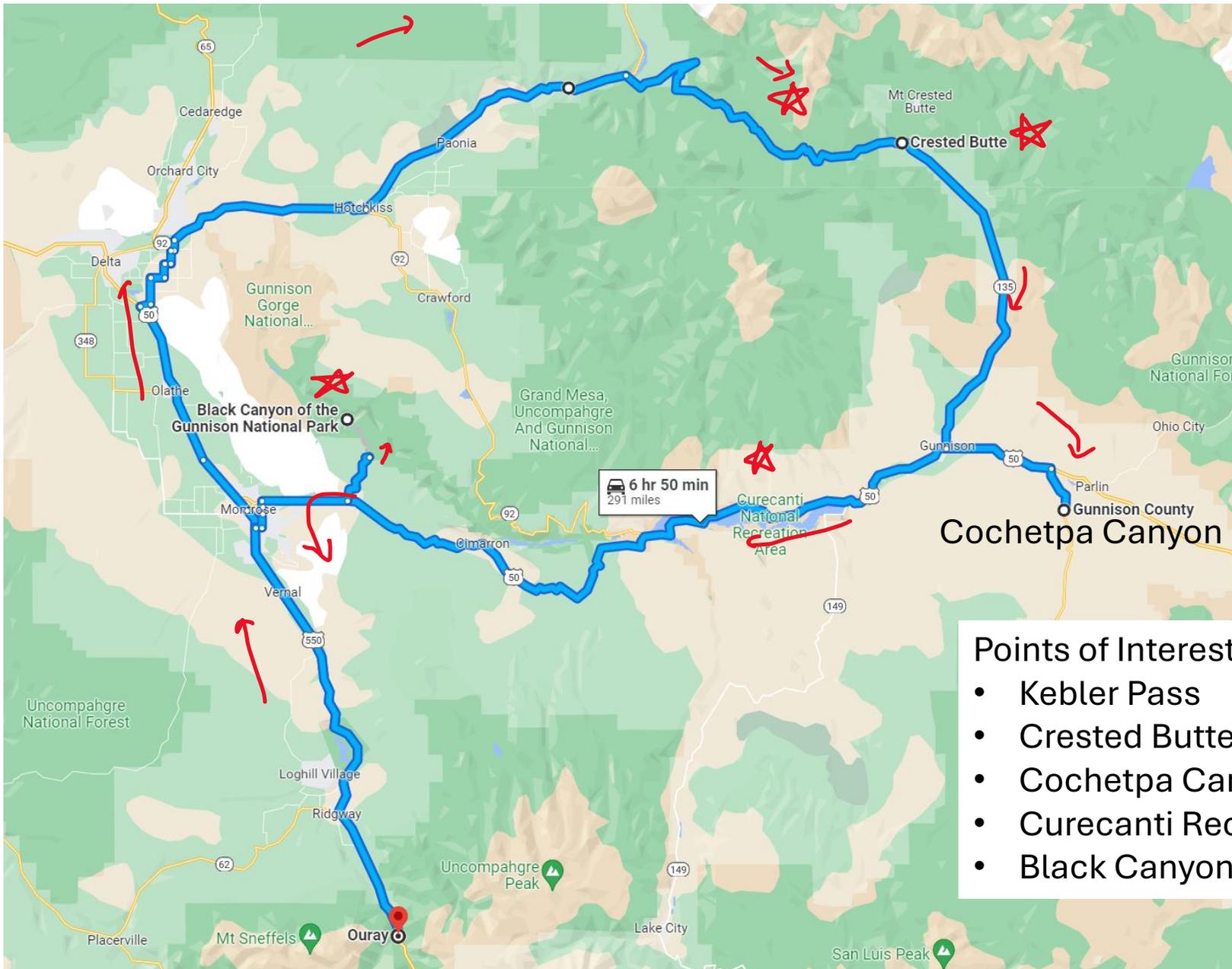
Another Bridalveil Falls



# Mesa Verde and Durango Train



# TBD – Kebler Pass to Crested Butte



- Points of Interest
- Kebler Pass
  - Crested Butte
  - Cochetpa Canyon
  - Curecanti Recreation Area
  - Black Canyon of the Gunnison

# Black Canyon of the Gunnison and Blue Mesa Reservoir



# Dining in Ouray

- Varied
- Outlaw Restaurant
- Yankee Girl Café - Breakfast
- Gold Belt Bar & Grill – pizza
- Smokehouse at Ouray Riverside Resort

## Highway 550 between Bernalillo and Durango

- Holiday Inn Express and *The Range* in Bernalillo
- Near Cuba – Mesa de Cuba and Mesa Chijuilla
- Chaco Canyon
- The Black Place
- Ojita Wilderness Hoodoos
- Ah-She-Sle-Pha

