Follow the Roads Once Traveled

and see old mines, historical buildings, and remnants of old time mining equipment. Along the way, you can also view present-day environmental restoration projects and beautiful vistas overlooking the San Luis Valley. Keep a lookout for elk, bighorn sheep, sage grouse, and mule deer. Enjoy your travels!

Route Information

- Slaughterhouse/ Kerber Creek 9 miles 45 min
- Otto Mears Toll Road 11 miles 120 min
- Whale Hill 6 miles 120 min
- Turquoise Mine 7 miles 60 min
- Alder Creek 9 miles 60 min
- Clover Creek 8 miles 90 min

All routes require high-clearance 4 x 4 vehicles and off-road driving experience.

Bonanza Historical Tour

"Boy, she's a bonanza!" shouted a prospector two miles upstream from Bonanza. That's how Bonanza got its name. Imagine riding horses, buggies, stagecoaches or wagons to the towns and mines on this map. The roads were steep and treacherous and accidents occurred along the way. This was rough country and as fast as the 5,000 people arrived in 1880, they left in 1890 when the price of silver dropped and mining was no longer prosperous. Some people stayed around after 1890 and continued to mine, but this area was never the same again.

Come and join us on a journey into the past and see what remains of a life that once was ...

4 x 4 Touring Information

The main road going to Bonanza from Villa Grove is accessible by two-wheel drive cars; but, for all other roads, high-clearance 4x4 vehicles are recommended. Most of the roads are one-lane winding mountain roads with steep sections. Inquire at the local Forest Service/Bureau of Land Management office in Saguache for information on current road conditions.

Be safe!

1. Always tell a friend or family member where you are going and when you will return.
2. Carry a survival kit in your car.
3. Have plenty of gas and a spare tire.
4. Always stay on designated Forest Service/Bureau of Land Management roads.