

Additional Activity Suggestions

Historic Walking Tour

The tour consists of 12 interpretive signs within a five-block area depicting the early history of the Uncompahgre Valley and highlighting downtown buildings and the people associated with them. Tour maps are available at the Downtown Visitor Center.

Ute Indian Museum

This fascinating museum offers one of the most complete collections of Ute artifacts in the nation. Dioramas, changing exhibits, and programs bring history and culture together for all to learn about and enjoy. Open year-round—call 970.249.3098 for hours or go to VisitMontrose.com/museum.

Cimarron Canyon Railroad Exhibit

Once a center of activity for transporting livestock from local ranches, Cimarron is now the home of the Cimarron Canyon Railroad Exhibit. Travel up the canyon to see the 1882 Denver & Rio Grande Railroad trestle, the last remaining structure from the former Black Canyon route of the Rio Grande Narrow Gauge Railroad. Exhibits are open year-round. For more information call 970.249.4074.

East Portal and the Gunnison Tunnel

Located in the canyon below the South Rim entrance of Black Canyon National Park, the tunnel diverts water from the Gunnison River to the thirsty agricultural lands of the valley. This six-mile long tunnel, completed in 1909, is an enduring engineering masterpiece and a testimony to the intrepid spirit of Montrose.

Ouray County Ranch History Museum

The museum provides a glimpse into farm and ranch life in Ouray county from the 1880s to today. Open 1 to 5 pm every Sunday, May through September, or by appointment during the off-season. Learn more at ocrhm.org or call 970.318.1190.

Museum of the Mountain West

Discover an impressive collection of Old West artifacts, all displayed in authentic settings. Inside the 10,000 square foot main museum building is a recreated western town containing nine storefronts: a saloon, drug-store, dry goods, grocery store, millinery, and old-fashioned doctor and dentist offices.

An 1890 school house, a 1913 church, an 1882 railroad section house, and other historic buildings from the Montrose area are also featured. Open year-round—call 970.240.3400 for hours or visit MountainWestMuseum.com

Location

The Montrose County Historical Museum is located among many historic buildings in downtown Montrose.

21 N Rio Grande Ave
PO Box 1882
Montrose, CO 81401

Admission and Hours

Adults: \$6.00
Students: \$2.00
Active Military: \$2.00

Open May through September
Monday – Friday: 9 am to 5 pm
Saturday: 10 am to 2 pm

Contact Us

970.249.2085
montrosehistory.org
info@montrosehistory.org



MONTROSE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

CULTURE

The Montrose County Historical Museum is located in the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad Depot, now on the National Register of Historic Places. Built in 1912, the building showcases the stories and dreams of people that have lived in the high-desert Uncompahgre Valley for more than 130 years.

The museum focuses on all facets of early-day pioneer life and includes an authentic homesteader's cabin, horse-drawn farm machinery, and a delightful display of dolls, toys, and baby furniture.

While visiting the museum you will also see a caboose, vintage machinery and equipment, and a rare original stagecoach that once traveled between Montrose and Ouray.

The museum was founded in 1964 by the Montrose County Historical Society. The collection focuses on the pioneering and settling of western Colorado with the mission of preserving the heritage of the Montrose area.

Montrose Visitor Center
107 S Cascade Ave
970.497.8558 or
855.497.8558

Get your app!
VisitMontrose.com/mobileapp



Displays and Exhibits

Located in the historic 1912 railroad depot, a wide collection of objects reflect the settlement of the Uncompahgre Valley.

Explore an authentic railroad caboose, a cowboy line cabin, and a homestead cabin.

Enjoy the vintage collection of farm equipment, machinery, an authentic stage coach, an ice wagon, and mining implements.

Discover instruments used in early medical practices and the mapping of the Gunnison Tunnel, along with tools from early Montrose craftsmen.

Investigate a general store, toys of yesterday, and Native American artifacts.

Learn what it was like to live in the early pioneer days, and experience these unique collections from Montrose and the surrounding area.

Mission

The mission of the Montrose County Historical Society and Museum is to preserve, display, and interpret the historical and cultural legacy of Montrose.



About Montrose

The City of Montrose was founded in 1882 as the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad drove its tracks into the Uncompahgre Valley. Farming, ranching, transportation, education, and medicine quickly grew as people seized opportunity and built a community.

At the heart of economic success is the Gunnison Tunnel, dedicated in 1909. The tunnel brings water to fields and farms as agriculture continues to innovate and bring to market farm-to-table products to meet the changing tastes of Colorado and the nation. This rich cultural heritage is reflected back to visitors at the museum.



Research and Reference

The museum is a primary research facility with an extensive collection of historic newspapers, records, photographs, and more. Contact the museum for research needs.

Copies of photos can be obtained from the museum or Tim Frates Laser Engraving & Custom Framing, 970.615.7050 or engraveandframe.com.

Help with local genealogical research is also available.

Montrose Historical Society Presents

Monthly programs are held to provide guest speakers opportunities to present topics of historical interest. Held the first Wednesday of each month, 7 pm, at the Montrose County Fairgrounds, visitors can learn of other upcoming activities and events.

Contact the museum for additional activities including:

- Historic walks of the back alleys of old Montrose
- Tours of downtown, including some 10 buildings listed or eligible on the National Register of Historic Places. Self-guided materials are also available.
- Guided cemetery walks.

