

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.

Montrose County Historical Museum

Located in the historic Denver & Rio Grande Railroad Depot, 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, baby furniture, and more.

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. Open May through September. Call 970.249.2085 or visit MontroseHistory.org for more information.

Location

The Museum of the Mountain West is located four miles east of the Downtown Visitor Center on U.S. Highway 50.

68169 E Miami Road
Montrose, CO 81401

Admission and Hours

Adults: \$10.00

Children (5-18): \$5.00

Call or email for group rates (12 or more)

Monday – Saturday: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

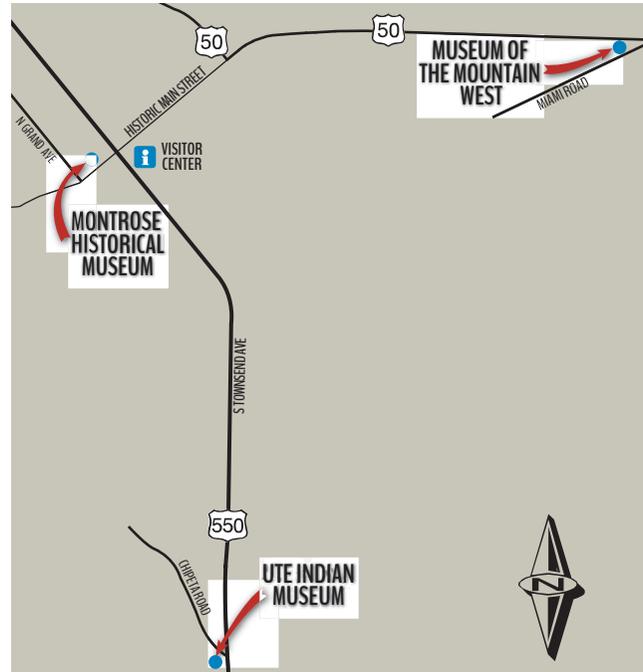
Allow two hours for your tour. All tours are guided.

Contact Us

970.240.3400

MuseumOfTheMountainWest.org

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Montrose Visitor Center

107 S Cascade Ave
970.497.8558 or
855.497.8558

Get your app!

VisitMontrose.com/mobileapp



CULTURE

Learn about the Old West while being guided through 25 historical buildings featuring more than 500,000 artifacts displayed in authentic settings. Hear fascinating stories and see amazing pieces of history on a journey back in time at the Museum of the Mountain West.

Housed in the 10,000 square foot main building are reconstructed essentials of an old western town: an historic post office, doctor's and dentist's offices, drug store, saloon, dry goods store, and many more fascinating displays from the past. From the 1913 German Lutheran Church to the 1882 Denver & Rio Grande Railroad section house, your imagination will be captivated by seeing life as it was over a century ago.

All tours take about two hours and are guided by a knowledgeable docent, offering an experiential taste of what it was like to live in Western Colorado in the early days.

History of the Museum

The Museum of the Mountain West began as a dream of a boy who had his first museum in his home as an eight year old. Richard E. Fike had begun collecting "old things" at age four when he refused to get on a ship in Alaska to return to his Nebraska home... unless he could take the old clock he had found in the garage of the family's Alaskan house. From that day forward, Fike continued to collect "old things" and asked his extended family to store them in their barns and attics.

During his career as a state archaeologist in Colorado and Utah, Fike also served on state committees for historical preservation. His love of western history and his understanding of the need to preserve buildings, memorabilia, and stories of the old west led to the realization of his dream for an historical museum.

Fike founded the museum in 1997 on six acres of land at the edge of Montrose. The original building housed his collection in boxes until the first storefront was built in 1999. He continued to build stores and furnish them with items from his collection while donations of artifacts, construction materials, and volunteer labor began to pour in as the Montrose community learned of the museum.

In January 2000, the public began requesting tours that have grown to include groups of up to 150 people at a time. The MMW is recognized as one of the top western museums in the U.S.



Museum Description

The main museum building contains an 1890s western saloon modeled after the Senate Bar in Kokomo, Colorado, a town that no longer exists. It contains a bar from a pony express and stagecoach station in western Utah. The saloon also contains a collection of music machines from the late 1800s to the 1920s, including a Violano Virtuoso, a player piano, a coin-operated Kalliope music box, and an extremely rare coin-operated Seeburg Derby player piano. The building also contains two dentist and doctor's offices, a 1900s drugstore, grocery store and post office, a millinery display, and a dry goods store.

Adobe Flats features the 1895 Diehl Carriage Works where fighter Jack Dempsey trained while in Montrose, an 1882 Denver & Rio Grande Railroad section house and depot, a 1909 bungalow, a 1913 German Lutheran church, an 1890 school and teacherage, a general store, five log buildings and a granary, and a replica of a two-story brick hotel with an 18-foot-long cherry wood bar from Telluride, Colorado.

Tours, Events, and Support

The MMW is open year-round, Monday-Saturday. All visitors receive a guided tour throughout the main museum building and the town of Adobe Flats, each lasting about two hours and including colorful historical stories and information.

Tours cost \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 5-18 (under 5 are free). Reduced rates are offered for groups.

All fees are used to support the operational costs of the museum and for acquiring additional artifacts and historic structures.

The historic 1913 German Lutheran church building is available to rent for weddings, meetings, banquets, small concerts/theater, and student groups. The museum building contains a conference room that is also used for receptions.

A volunteer board of directors governs the MMW. The museum operates daily through the generosity and commitment of a large group of volunteers. All volunteers are very much appreciated and receive a thorough orientation and training as needed for their roles.

