

SILVER JACK RESERVOIR & OWL CREEK PASS

DAY TRIP

John Wayne loved this area, and so will you. Scenes from *How the West Was Won* and *True Grit* were filmed along this magnificent route winding through national forests and river basin country. The stunning peaks of Chimney Rock and Courthouse Mountain pierce the blue Colorado sky as you drive down this 1885 cattle-drive trail. Tall white-barked aspen trees, spruce and fir, rivers, reservoirs and seas of wildflowers nestled among towering peaks set the scene for the Owl Creek Pass drive. Take a picnic lunch and a camera, and enjoy one of Colorado's most charming byways for rest and relaxation—western style.



85 MILES ROUND TRIP
3 HOURS TO ALL DAY

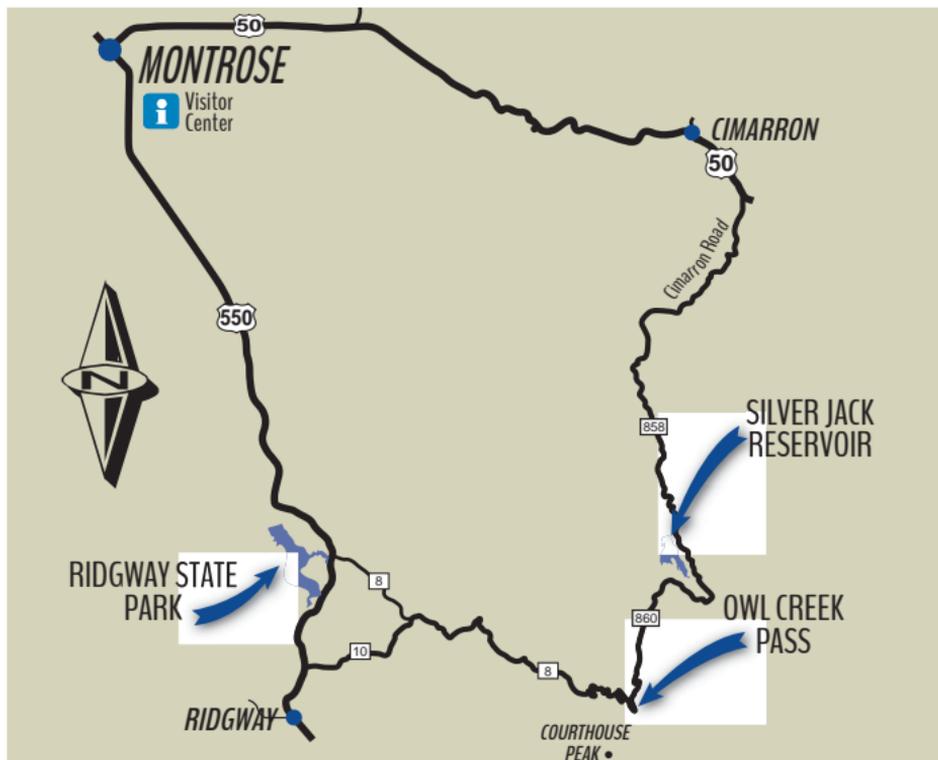
Travel 23 miles south of Montrose on U.S. Highway 550, and turn left at the U.S. Forest Service sign for Owl Creek Pass. Follow the maintained gravel road (suitable for conventional cars) along Cow Creek about seven miles to Debbie's Park where Debbie Reynolds filmed the Wild West breakfast scene in *How the West Was Won*.

You are in the Uncompahgre National Forest now, and over the next eight miles you will climb to the crest of 10,114-foot Owl Creek Pass. Silver Jack Reservoir, a favorite fishing spot for local residents, is about 15 miles from the pass and boasts five miles of shoreline. Hikers will enjoy an abundance of scenic trails in the area.

Excellent fishing and camping among the pines can be found at Beaver Lake, a short distance up the road. The 18-mile route from Beaver Lake to U.S. Highway 50 parallels the Cimarron Canal that carries water to the arid Uncompahgre Valley.

Turn left on U.S. Highway 50 and travel to the Cimarron Visitor Information Center where you will find a railroad exhibit and the original trestle crossing Cimarron Creek. This is also the entrance to the 469-foot Morrow Point Dam, built in 1971. Montrose is only 20 miles from Cimarron over Cerro Summit.





Planning Your Trip

All of the Montrose scenic day trips have been designed to enhance your stay in the Black Canyon country. The following few precautions will help ensure a delightful adventure.

Before you begin your tour, it is a good idea to fill your gas tank, plan where you will lunch, and check weather and road conditions for the route you are taking. Several of the trips include stretches where no services are available.

Prepare for a variety of weather. Montrose enjoys 250 sunny days each year, making good water supplies, sunscreen, and lip balm essential equipment. Summer showers and high-country breezes can come up unexpectedly, so take a jacket and rain gear along.

High-clearance or four-wheel drive vehicles are recommended for traveling unimproved roads. Avoid these roads during or immediately following heavy rain. Cell phone service can be lost in remote areas so be sure to inform someone of your planned route and your expected return time.

The Montrose area offers many roads leading to or along magnificent scenic highways. Take your time and explore some of the wonders that make Montrose a special place.

Additional Day Trips

- Curecanti National Recreation Area
- San Juan Skyway Scenic Byway
- West Elk Loop Scenic Byway
- Black Canyon National Park
- Grand Mesa National Forest

Montrose Visitor Center

107 S Cascade Ave
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