

WILDFLOWERS

DAY TRIP

While visiting Montrose during the spring and summer, you absolutely must see the wildflowers. The vast landscapes are blanketed with a glorious rainbow of blossoms, including varieties of Colorado columbine, larkspur, monks head, Indian paintbrush, alpine phlox, orchids, glacier lilies, blooming yucca, and elephant's head, to name a few. This itinerary will guide your journey to a few memorable hot spots. Please take only photographs; do not pick or step on the flowers.

Last Dollar Road Lose yourself on Last Dollar Road, one of Colorado's hidden gems. This route will take you through wide-open grassy fields embraced by lush aspen and pine forests surrounded by jagged peaks and breathtaking views.

Wildflower season: May through June

Directions: Take U.S. Highway 550 south for 28 miles to Ridgway. Take a right at the light onto State Highway 62, continue 12 miles, and turn left onto Last Dollar Road. Continue 5 miles to the fork in the road. Take a right and follow 58P Road 6 miles to State Highway 145, or take a left and travel the more scenic, and difficult, 4-wheel 15-mile route leading back to the same highway near Telluride. At the highway take a left to Telluride, or turn right and follow State Highways 145 and 62 back to Ridgway. At Ridgway turn left at the light to return to Montrose for dinner. Caution is advised in rainy conditions.

Distance: Varies by route, plan 3 to 4 hours round trip

Crested Butte Take a day trip to Crested Butte, a community neighboring Montrose, known as the Wildflower Capital of Colorado. Wildflowers are abundant, and the lengthy season is celebrated at the annual Crested Butte Wildflower Festival held each July. Learn more at crestedbuttewildflowerfestival.com.

Wildflower season: Late June through early August

Directions: From Montrose follow U.S. Highway 50 east for about 64 miles, and turn left onto State Highway 135 North (North Main Street) in Gunnison. Follow the highway for 27 miles to the town of Crested Butte.

Distance: 92 miles, 1 hour 44 minutes



Yankee Boy Basin

Yankee Boy is one of the most well known locations in Colorado for wildflowers and waterfalls. Expect nothing short of a spectacular adventure from twin falls, high alpine terrain, a historic town, mining relics, and access to the basin nestled below the famous 14,150 foot high Mount Sneffels summit. High-clearance four-wheel drive is required. This road is rated Class 2 moderate.



Wildflower season: July through early August

Directions: From Montrose follow U.S. Highway 550 south of Montrose for about 37 miles to Ouray. Follow the highway past town for ¼ mile, turn right onto County Road 361 (2WD, dirt), and proceed 6.8 miles toward Yankee Boy Basin. Halfway up, the road will narrow, and four-wheel drive will be necessary to proceed. Stay to the right at all junctions (be careful not to go onto Imogene Pass as it is rated Class 4/5 - difficult). If you choose to go farther, be cautious as the road becomes challenging. A short wheelbase, good clearance four-wheel drive vehicle is absolutely required. Early day trip recommended.

Distance: Total 44 miles, 1 hour 15 minutes

Grand Mesa/Lands End Road The Grand Mesa Scenic and Historic Byway is the gateway to wildflower meadows, forests of shimmering aspen and pine, and hundreds of sparkling lakes. Appropriately named, Lands End Road extends from the byway, leading to the edge of the Grand Mesa where epic views of the surrounding valleys and mountain ranges provide a perfect conclusion to your wildflower-seeking excursion.

Wildflower season: Late June through early August

Directions: Follow U.S. Highway 50 north to Delta and turn right on State Highway 92. Travel 4 miles, and turn left on State Highway 65. Lands End Road intersects the byway at the top of the Grand Mesa.

Distance: Lands End Road turnoff is 57 miles from Montrose, 1 hour 15 minutes

Montrose Visitor Center

107 S Cascade Ave
970.497.8558 or
855.497.8558

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