



**AMY & JOSH'S
SUMMER GETAWAY TO
SOUTHWEST COLORADO**

Friday August 3rd

United flight 599

Departs Boston at **9:04am**

Arrives Denver at **11:32am**

Connection

United flight 4892

Departs Denver at **2:56pm**

Arrives Durango at **4:10pm**

Confirmation #F8D4T4

Pick up and return rental car at Avis
at Durango's La Plata County Airport
1-970-375-7831

Confirmation is 02760573US4

Base rate is \$243.44

GPS is \$49.99

Estimated total \$293.43

Directions from airport to Strater Hotel (21 minutes/ 14.65 miles)

<http://mapq.st/NtAkW2>

Check into Strater Hotel

699 Main Avenue

(970) 247-4431



You have a Classic King room for the nights of August 3rd and 4th, departing on the 5th. Western writer Louis L'Amour wrote many novels here, by the way.

Confirmation number is #10JOVL

Nightly rate is \$219

How does dinner and theatre at the hotel sound? You can purchase tickets in advance at

<http://www.strater.com/index.cfm/dining-and-entertainment-at-the-strater-hotel/>

Saturday August 4th

You receive a continental breakfast this morning.

Here are your choices for the day:

1. **Raft the Animus River** (2 hour trip). Times are 9am, 11am, 1:30pm, 3:30pm or 5:30pm. Book with <http://www.durangorivertrippers.com>
2. **Relax** in the hot springs at **Trimble Hot Springs**, a national historic site and soothing mineral pools. You can also get a massage here. 7 miles North off Route 550. <http://www.trimblehotsprings.com>
3. **Hike the Animus Mountain Trail**. An easy to moderate 5-6 mile loop and offers terrific views of entire valley. Trailhead at the north end of town. Take Camino Del Rio to 32nd Street and go west until you can't go any further and take a right and follow this road to the parking area at the trailhead. Pictures and description here: <http://4cornershikesdol.blogspot.com/2011/06/animas-mount-ain-trail-durango.html>
4. **Hike at Potato or Spud Lake**—easy 2 mile round trip hike north of Durango. Good picnicking spot.



- Directions:** Head North on Hwy 550. Travel 29 miles north of Durango on U.S. Highway 550 to Forest Road 591 (Old Lime Creek Highway), which takes off on the right side of the road at the curve past Cascade Village. Follow for approximately 3 miles to the trailhead, which is on your left in a flat area across from a beaver pond.
5. **Durango-Silverton train** is an 8-hour tour. The train leaves at 8:15-9:45am daily. Take a bus back for the return. Don't know if you want to take the time to do this activity.
 6. **Shop** historic Main Avenue.

Try a local beer at **Ska Brewing Company** Microbrewery. Dinner either at **Cyprus Café**, local meats and produce; **Nini's Taqueria**, for burritos in a colorful and funky restaurant; or **Seasons Rotisserie and Grill**, a bistro with a Western touch. Authentic Italian trattoria, gelato place and grocery is at **Guido's Favorite Foods**, 1201 Main Avenue.

Dessert can be enjoyed at **Durango Creamery**, all the ice cream is made on premises.

Sunday August 5th

Continental breakfast at the hotel or drive to **Bread**, (42 County Road 250—(970) 247-5100) a bakery loved by the locals, and get freshly baked muffins, pastries or cookies for after a hike or for a picnic.

Another recommended restaurant on the way to Mesa Verde is [The Kennebec Café](#), west of town. Mediterranean and American. Highway 160 West, Hesperus.

Drive to [Mesa Verde National Park](#) on gorgeous and historical San Juan Highway (1 hour 9 minutes/49.55 miles)



<http://mapq.st/PVnh2E>

Much of Mesa Verde is above 7,000 feet and trails can be steep and strenuous. Bring water, hats and sunscreen!

http://www.nps.gov/meve/planyourvisit/upload/visitorguide_summerfall12.pdf

To see the most popular sites, **Cliff Palace** and **Balcony House**, you will need to go to the Far View Visitor Center to get tickets for a ranger-led tour (\$3 per person). This ensures the safety of the site.

I don't know if the timing is the best but you could go on a Twilight tour of the Cliff Palace (1 1/2 hours long and \$10 per person). The tour is restricted to 20 people and the weather is a bit cooler. Tickets for Twilight tours have to be purchased at the Chapin Mesa Archaeological Museum (5 miles from the visitor's center) and they fill up quickly.

Or, just go take a hike! **Petroglyph Point Hike**, a relatively flat 3 mile loop to a large panel of Anasazi Petroglyphs. The return offers great views of the Navajo and Spruce Canyons. It starts at the Chapin Mesa Museum. It can be crowded in summer time. About 2 hours.

You can grab lunch at **Spruce Tree Terrace Café**. Cafeteria service. If you find yourself at dinner time in the Park, eat at **Matate Room Restaurant** in the Far View Lodge for Southwest Fusion type of food.

Drive to Telluride.

(2 hours 18 minutes/ 97.12 miles)

<http://mapq.st/NoY5AD>

Check in at **Victorian Inn**

401 West Pacific Avenue, Telluride. (970) 728-6601

*ActiveTravels LLC ★89 Roundwood Road, Newton, MA 02464 ★
tel. (617) 614-9877 ★fax. (877) 917-4260 ★www.activetravels.com*



Confirmation number is #202676

You have a Two Queen Suite with a View. Your room should be located in the back of the hotel, as it's quieter there. One block to gondola.

\$321.24 for the 2 nights including taxes.

Jazz festival is ending today. So, if you're interested, you might be able to catch one of the last concerts going on when you arrive.

Specialty Margaritas and Mexican dinner at **Las Montañas**, 122 S. Oak Street. (970) 728-3985. Explores the cuisine of the Southwest, Mexico and South America as well. Home-made salsa, tapas available, and features a long and varied list of margaritas.

Monday, August 6th

Continental breakfast comes with the room.

Some favorite hikes:

Mt. Sneffles Highline Trail (13 miles!/ 3,600 foot elevation gain)

The trail starts on the North side of Telluride at Cornet Creek, circles Dallas Peak and crosses into Mt. Sneffles Wilderness. Wildflowers should be abundant now. You could arrange for transportation to pick you up at Mill Creek Trailhead so you don't have to walk all the way back to Telluride. If you want more info, let us know.

Bear Creek Falls (4 miles roundtrip—shorter and flatter hike) Do this early in morning or later in afternoon/evening)

OR

Ride the Gondola, Shop and Poke Around Telluride

Dinner at **Cosmopolitan**



300 West San Juan Avenue (970) 728-1292. There's also one in Durango. Offers French, American and Thai fusion cuisine and an excellent Award-Winning Wine List. Here's the [menu](#). Allred's, Rustico Ristorante, Telluride Bistro, Flavor, and the Sheridan Chop House come recommended.

Tuesday, August 7th

Continental breakfast comes with the room.

Check out of Victorian Inn.

Drive to Ouray for your Jeep Tour at 1:30pm.

(1 hour 7 minutes/ 49.61 miles)

<http://mapq.st/Mv3S2X>

[San Juan Scenic Jeep Tours](#), 206 7th Avenue, Ouray (970) 325-0089. (They also have an 8:30am jeep tour if you want to take it tomorrow). Make a reservation in advance. \$59 per person. Bring camera, raincoat, sunglasses, sunscreen and water. Bring a bandana if you don't like to breathe in lots of dust from the roads. Ask for Bill or Keith for your guide.

Check in to **The China Clipper Inn** between 3pm and 7pm. If you'll be later, call them at (970) 325-0565.

525 2nd Street, Ouray

Confirmation number is #162890A8543

Room is Premium #5

Total is \$299.44 for the two nights including taxes.

Try **Buen Tiempo Mexican Restaurant & Cantina** for Mexican. Or, ask Innkeepers for recommendations.

Wednesday, August 8th

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Full breakfast at the Inn.

Hike at Bear Creek National Recreation Trail. 4 mile trail that follows old mining route South of Ouray. From Ouray, follow Highway 550 south two miles to south side of tunnel. Trail begins on west side of road and crosses over tunnel to head east; parking on east side of road. First mile of trail is steep up a rocky slope. Excellent views.

OR

Hike at Portland Cascades Falls Trail. 5 mile loop from Ampitheatre Campground.

Elegant last dinner at [Bon Ton Restaurant](#). Located in St. Elmo Hotel.

Ask Innkeepers to pack up a breakfast for you. You will need to leave early tomorrow morning for your ride on the Million Dollar Highway on your way to Durango's La Plata County Airport.

Thursday, August 9th

Wake up early—6ish! Grab breakfast and drive during early morning light on spectacular Million Dollar Highway to Durango's airport.

(2 hours 11 minutes/85.53 miles)

Leave time for a little sight-seeing and driving slow through passes!

<http://mapq.st/LiigL8>

Drop off rental car at Avis.

Check in 1 hour in advance for

United Airlines #5342

Departs Durango at **11:20am**

Arrives Denver at **12:24pm**

Connection

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United Airlines #460
Departs Denver at **2:24pm**
Arrives Boston at **8:21pm**



***This itinerary has been specially prepared
for Amy & Josh
by ActiveTravels***

***Please share your comments and photos
upon your return on our Facebook page,
www.Facebook.com/ActiveTravels***