The Ancestral Puebloans occupied the Four Corners area from approximately A.D. 1 to A.D. 1300 and left remarkable remnants of their civilization throughout the region. The Ancestral Puebloans developed a stable farming life revolving around large communities and established a rich mosaic of culture that survives even today among the pueblos of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah — crossing the beautiful and diverse landscapes of the Colorado Plateau. On this journey of discovery, you'll travel through the deserts of northeast Arizona, the sandstone-mesa rimrocks and pastures of southeast Colorado, and the canyoned mountains and red rock country of southeast Utah. The adventure to the Trail of the Ancients can begin at any point. Local conditions vary from paved highways to graded roads, some requiring self-sufficiency or high clearance. Most stops are on or within a short distance of paved roads.

The area encompassed by the Trail of the Ancients is “the archaeological heartland of America.” The Four Corners area has a dense and highly visible cultural heritage, including numerous archaeological sites, modern communities, and Indian lands. The earliest inhabitants of the area were nomadic peoples who lived in the area from at least 10,000 B.C., sustained themselves by hunting game and gathering food plants.

Colorado

For information on sites in Colorado visit the Anasazi Heritage Center.

The Anasazi Heritage Center is open to the public and is a forum for educating the public and providing information on archaeology and the Ancestral Puebloan culture. The Ancestral Puebloans lived from about 500 B.C. to A.D. 1300 in the Four Corners region of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah. The center is located on County Road 274, approximately 4 miles west of the town of Dolores, off U.S. 160.

The center offers information on the Ancestral Puebloans and their way of life, with exhibits and programs available daily throughout the year. The center is open year-round, weather permitting.

Fort Carson Wilderness Trail

This trail is a link in the Four Corners Monument, a scenic byway highlighting ancient cultures and landscapes from the Four Corners area of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah — crossing the beautiful and diverse landscapes of the Colorado Plateau. The trail begins at any point. Local conditions vary from paved highways to graded roads, some requiring self-sufficiency or high clearance. Most stops are on or within a short distance of paved roads.

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ancients at hovenweep national monument

bill proud

explore the important role of the railroad in this area's history at the rio grand southern railcar and museum.

open seasonally.

every bend. the buttes, mesas, canyons, and free-standing stands and many surviving homes, evidence of the wealth of the community has been home to people for thousands of years. the original fort still stands and many surviving homes, evidence of the wealth of the community has been home to people for thousands of years. the original fort still

ancient communities thrived in grand gulch for more than 1,000 years. ancient communities thrived in grand gulch for more than 1,000 years.

mule canyon ruin

ancient communities thrived in grand gulch for more than 1,000 years.

during the summer months, this archaeological research and education center is open for visitors. a great comprehensive trail traverses the canyon bottom. small archaeological sites are scattered throughout the canyon.

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