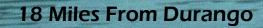
# Vallecito Lake colorado





#### Vallecito a Hispanic word for Little Valley

Vallecito has never been an actual town. It is simply a valley where the Pine River (Los Pinos) and the Vallecito Creek join. As settlers ventured in, some ranches sprang up along the edges and bottom of the widest part of the valley where the rivers actually join, and other ranches were located up both of the individual rivers. No real boundaries to "Vallecito" have ever existed.

Since the construction of the Pine River Dam Project, the community has turned sharply from agricultural and ranching toward a heavy reliance on a recreational, tourist market. The people who now live in Vallecito are there for the area's crisp mountain air and an easy-going lifestyle. Tourists come back for exceptional hiking, biking, boating, fishing and camping. You'll continue to come back for our genuine Colorado hospitality - Vallecito-style!

#### **Tour of Carvings**

14 unique carvings located around the valley commemorating the firefighters and support personnel that fought the Missionary Ridge Fire of 2002. Each one stands 18 feet tall and weighs around 2,600 pounds. Most of the carvings are mounted on concrete piers and can be found all around the lake area. A brochure is available detailing the carvings and their locations.

Vallecito Lake is home to thousands of Ponderosa Pine trees, many over 200 years old and standing up to 175 feet tall. Many of the trees were lost in that fire. Pagosa Springs artist Chad Haspels

carved some of those fallen trees as a memorial.

#### Fishing

The southwestern half of the Weminuche Wilderness Area is drained by two major streams, the Los Pinos and Florida Rivers and their tributaries. Vallecito Reservoir, where water from the Pine and Vallecito Creek is impounded, is great for those seeking less of a wilderness experience. It provides easy access and large fish such as rainbow, brown trout, walleye, smallmouth, Kokanee salmon and northern pike. Fish can be caught all year but mid-May through mid-June is best for trout and pike. The reservoir offers a good opportunity to fish in late spring, when the rivers in the area are high with runoff.



The Weminuche Wilderness, which is easily accessed from the Vallecito Lake area, is Colorado's largest, offering more than a half million acres of wild public land. In many respects, the Weminuche is an outdoor adventurer's nirvana. Hunters and hikers alike can lose themselves for days on its 500 miles of trails. The area around Vallecito Lake is a top pick for hunting Elk, Mule Deer, Turkey and Bear.

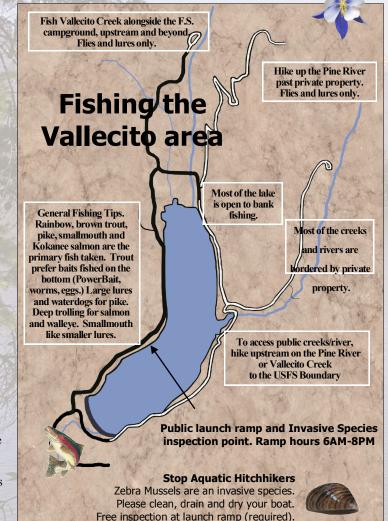
**History**... Vallecito is the ancestral home to many of Colorado's Ute Indians. Vallecito Dam was constructed 1938 – 1941, and is a 162-foot-high.

**The Lake**... Vallecito reservoir is managed for irrigation and downstream usage. The water levels fluctuate with the seasons. **Elevation**... Approximately 8,000 feet above sea level.

**Climate**... Transition zone between semi-arid and mountain zones. Summer highs are in the 70's to 80's, nighttime lows in the 50's. Winter highs can be in the 40's, nighttime lows in the 10's. **Population**... Approximately 400 – 500 full time residents and about 2,000 summer residents.

Nearby Towns... Durango, Ignacio, Bayfield, Pagosa Springs Vallecito Event Center... Facility available for rental with indoor and outdoor space. 970-884-6080

X-Country Skiing... Groomed and un-groomed trails. Snowmobiling... Miles of trails; no rentals available. Camping... RV and camping sites on private and USFS land.



### **Hiking Trails**

#### **1** Vallecito Creek Trail - Easy to Moderate

A stunning day hike, or a great four-to-five day backpack trip. You follow rapidly flowing Vallecito creek tumbling down a narrow glacial valley; the creek is among the loveliest in the West. In the first 2 miles you will rise more than 500 ft. above the creek with fantastic vistas, then the trail drops down right beside the creek. There are many side trails that lead to beautiful pools, great for fishing or relaxing. The first foot bridge, at 3 miles, is a great day hike. The alpine meadows are full of blooming wildflowers in late July and in August. In the spring the creek is a committed Class V+ whitewater run for experts only. In the winter a popular snowshoeing trail.

#### 2 M Lake Eileen Trail - Difficult

Watch for the Forest Service Work Center on CR 501 north of the lake, the trailhead is on opposite side of road. A trailhead sign is visible from the road. Park on the east side of the road, the trailhead is on the west side. The trail passes through aspen forests to the small, shallow lake covered by water lilies and surrounded by aspen trees. A short climb to the ridge gives you great views of the lake and forests. All though only four miles round trip, there is a 1,140 ft. elevation gain, allow up to four hours.

#### **3** The Lake Trails - Easy

Most portions of this trail skirt the edge of the Lake. Watch for "Walk Path" signs as you drive around the Lake. There are benches and picnic tables along the way and plenty of fine fishing spots. There is a "Flowers from the Lake trails" brochure available at many businesses to help you identify the wildflowers.

A North Canyon, East Creek & Graham Creek Trails - Moderate These trails head up the ridges on the east side of Lake, following creeks with water falls to open meadows.



The Vallecito Event Center ...for your next event

LakeEventCenter.com 970 884 6080

#### Organizations, Attractions, Info

Vallecito Sporting & Conservation Association www.VallecitoSportingClub.org

Vallecito Nordic Club www.SkiVallecito.wordpress.com

Tour of Carvings www.TourOfCarvings.org

Vallecito Service League www.VallecitoServiceLeague.org

USFS Campground Reservations www.recreation.gov 877 444 6777



#### 5 M Pine River Trail - Easy to Moderate

The Pine River alternates between meadows and canyon, frequently flowing peacefully on the flat valley floor. The boundary of the Weminuche Wilderness is 2.7 miles up the trail, the fishing is fantastic, and the turnoff to Emerald Lake is at mile 6.3 (Trail #528). The trail continues to ascend, sometimes gradually and sometimes moderately.

#### 6 K Cave Basin Trail - Most Difficult - map skills suggested

Drive up Middle Mountain Road (USFS Road # 724 - gravel) to the turn off at the ten mile marker. Cave Basin Trail begins at an elevation of 10,800 ft. If you go all the way you'll end at an elevation of 12,360 ft. (the Overlook of Emerald Lake). Ten mile round trip, but any portion of is great way to experience some high elevation hiking. The trail starts off wide and well defined but disappears after about 3 miles due to the gray limestone that forms benches. Use your map and compass skills to progress across the gray limestone benches, past meadows and sinkholes. The alpine

meadows are full of blooming wildflowers in late July and in August. This area offers excellent views and photographic possibilities. As with all highaltitude areas, storms can move in rapidly bringing severe wind, lightning, rain, snow, or hail any time of the year. Plan accordingly.



#### **7** Tuckerville Trail - Easy

Follow directions to Cave Basin Trail and continue to the end of road 11 miles to an open area which was the mining town of Tuckerville. All the building have been removed, there were 6 bunkhouses, shop, and a mess hall, in full operation from 1920 to 1929. There are many trails leaving from there, some starting as ATV trails. If you bear left you will reach a wonderful overlook where there were mines in the cliffs below.

**Trail Courtesy** - Be courteous to others when hiking. Remember horses can be spooked by unseen sources. Show respect by making your presence known. Step off the lower side of the trail while they pass.

**Altitude Sickness** - When hiking in higher elevations, it is easy to experience altitude sickness. Symptoms include nausea, insomnia, restlessness, headache, nasal congestion and becoming easily fatigued. To adapt to the change in elevation, eat lightly, avoid alcohol and drink plenty of water. Rest appropriately and do not over exert yourself.

**Travel Time** - In the Colorado Mountains, hiking conditions are most favorable from June to October, If you travel in the spring, snow may inhibit your trip. Keep in mind that July and August afternoon thunderstorms are common.

**First Aid** - When hiking remember to bring a first aid kit. Make your own. Bring water, adhesive bandages, antiseptic, aspirin, eye wash, adhesive tape, insect repellent, sun screen, tweezers and lip balm.

**Tread Lightly** - Pack out what you pack in. Leave the beauty of the land for others to enjoy.

Map Ref.	Wh	ere to Stay @ Vallecito	Cabins	Vac. Homes	RV Spaces	Internet	Pets Okay	Satellite TV	Lodging Rates	RV Rates	Minimum Stay	Season
#1	ALLEST BAST PLANE	Blue Spruce RV Park & Cabins - Enjoy the Colorado Mountains at the "Last Best Place". 80 RV sites. Cabin rentals, country store, laundry, LP gas, Rec. Hall & Pavilion. Retreats. Open all year. 970 884 2641 • 1875 CR 500, Vallecito Lake, CO 81122 • www.BlueSpruceRVPark.com	9	5-	80	Wi-Fi in all	•	٠	\$73 to \$126 Nightly	\$29 to \$39 Nightly	Inquire	All Year
#2		Eagle's Nest Cabins & Homes - Remodeled cabins with rustic charm are spacious and always clean. Quiet & beautiful setting with creek and crystal clear trout ponds. Vacation homes have wonderful views and water features to enjoy. 970 769 5280 • 48 W Vallecito Creek Rd., Vallecito Lake, CO 81122 • www.EaglesNestCabinsAndHomes.com	5	5		Wi-Fi in all	•	•	\$120 to \$240 Nightly		Inquire	May thru Oct
#3		Bayfield/Vallecito Lake Vacation Homes - Office - Fully equipped 1-4 bedroom homes for a relaxing adventure in the mountains. Cabins located overlooking Vallecito Lake/Mountains and the banks of the Vallecito River. 970 884 4320 • 245 Mushroom Dr., Vallecito Lake, CO 81122 • www. Bayfield- VallecitoLakeVacationHomes.com		5		Wi-Fi in all	•	•	\$120 & Up Nightly		Inquire	May thru Dec
#5		Lone Wolf Cabins & Homes - Cool off sconer on the "Green Side" of the lake. You'll enjoy our guest friendly, lawn & play area while lounging away the afternoons in the shade of the western mountains and wooded setting. 970 884 0414 • 18039 CR 501, Vallecito Lake, CO 81122 • www.LoneWolfLodge.com	6	4		Wi-Fi in most	٠	٠	\$120 to \$210 Nightly		Inquire	Apr thru Dec
#6		Bear Paw Lodge Cabins & Homes - Affordable 1-2-3 BR Cabins fully equipped, fireplace or woodstove, satellite TV, Free Wi-Fi. Off-site 2 to 6 BR Vacation Homes fully furnished. Some by water. 970 884 2508 • 18011 CR 501, Vallecito Lake, CO 81122 • www.BearPawLodge.com	7	7		Wi-Fi in most	•	٠	\$110 to \$240 Nightly		Inquire	May thru Oct
#7		Vallecito Lodging - Office - Unique & distinctive private residences fully equipped for families or couples. Each home has either stream or lake view. All amenities you could want. Awesome kitchens & great furnishings. 970 426 9425 • 221 Ho Hum Dr., Vallecito Lake, CO 81122 • www.VallecitoLodging.com	1	2		WiFi in All		•	\$135 to \$300 Nightly		Inquire	May thru Oct
#13	ELK POINT LOOGE	Elk Point Lodge, Stables & Homes - Enjoy our "get away from it all" place on the "Quiet Side". Lakefront/view cabins, river/lake frontage. 1-3 bedroom cabins and off-site private homes. Horseback trail rides, canoes, kayaks on site. 970 884 2482 • 21730 CR 501, Vallecito Lake, CO 81122 • www.ElkPointLodge.com	11	2		WiFi in Lodge	٠	•	\$75 to \$250 Nightly		Inquire	All Year
#14		Five Branches Camper Park - 27 Acres, 106 RV / tent sites, full hook-ups, cabins/cottages, 3000 Ft. lake/river frontage, store, pay showers/Laundromat, pool room, fishing lic., boating / fishing. 970 884 2582 • 4677 CR 501-A, Vallecito Lake, CO 81122 • www.5Branches.com	9	2	106	WiFi at Office	٠	in the second	\$75 to \$105 Nightly	Tent \$18 RV \$35	Inquire	mid May thru mid Sep
#15	Oroll Calicon on Vallecito Lake	Croll Cabins - Lakeshore, large, modern 2-3-4 BR Cabins with full kitchens, Fireplaces, BBQ/TV/ VCR Wi-Fi, fire pits picnic areas and playgrounds. Lake front setting with great views. Fish/boat from your grassy lawn. 970 884 2083 • 4557 CR 501-A, Vallecito Lake, CO 81122 • www.CrollCabins.com	6			WiFi in All	٠	In Some	\$130 to \$170 Nightly		Inquire	May thru Oct
#16		Wilderness Trails Guest Ranch - Stunning, renowned, all-inclusive guest ranch. Horseback riding, cattle work, fishing, water skiing, massage, evening entertainment, fall hunts and more. Exceptional dining. 800-527-2624 • 23486 CR 501, Vallecito Lake, CO 81122 • www.WildernessTrails.com	10			WiFi in All			\$199 Up Nightly		Inquire	M=ay thru Oct
#19		Pine River Lodge - Lakeshore & Lakeview Cabins/1-4 Bdrm Some Fireplaces. Full kitchens / A/C / VCR / BBQ /Firepits. Heated indoor pool/Laundry/Lg. playground/Game room. Hunt, Fish, & ATV permits. Spring/Fall discounts. 970 884 2563 • 14443 CR 501, Vallecito Lake, CO 81122 • www.PineRiverLodge.com	29			WiFi at Office	٠	•	\$80 To \$285 Nightly		Inquire	Some all Year
#20	Unthecity,	Vallecito Resort - The closest resort at Vallecito Lake to Durango, Colorado, Vallecito Resort is your summer "home in the Rockies" offering camping, cabins, and full service RV hookups for individuals and large groups.   970 884 9458 • 13030 CR 501, Vallecito Lake, CO 81122 • www.VallecitoResort.com	13		100	WiFi in All	•	•	\$98 To \$148 Nightly	\$34 To \$37 Nightly		May thru Oct
#21		Horseman's Lodge - Country charm, great views, kitchenettes. Pets welcome and stable facilities for your horses. Close to Lake activities. Nightly and weekly rentals available. Open Year Round. 970 884 9733 • 7100 CR 501, Vallecito Lake, CO 81122 • horsemans@mydurango.net	6 Rms.			WiFi in Most	•		\$74 To \$79 Nightly			All Year

Swimming Vallecito Lake is a cold water lake but summertime <u>surface</u> temperatures can reach in to the 60's & 70's. Swimming is allowed and there are a number of gentling sloping areas where you can wade & swim.



Map Ref.	Shopping & Services @ Vallecito Lake	Days Open	Hours	Season	
#4	Vallecito Liquors & Country Market - Looking for some spirits during your visit? Check our prices first! Beer, Wine, Liquor, Groceries, Meats, Fudge, Ice Cream Parlor, Ice, Gas, Propane, & More. 970 884 0844 • 18071 CR 501, Vallecito Lake, CO 81122 • www.VallecitoLakeCountryMarket.com		Sn -Th 7-7 F & St 7-8	All Year	Ref.
#9	Rocky Mountain General Store & Custom Meats - Catering to all your shopping needs from licenses to liquors. 970 884 0999 • 17454 CR 501, Vallecito Lake, CO 81122	7 days	7 AM to 7 PM	All Year	
#9	Coldwell Banker Heritage House Realtors - Marilyn Lang - A name you know and trust for all your real estate needs. Locally Owned - Nationally Known. 970 884 8255 • 17454 CR 501, Vallecito Lake, CO 81122 • www.RealEstateVallecito.com	t Closed Wed Sun	9 AM to 5 PM	All Year	
#10	Justin McCarty Excavation & Construction - Serving Vallecito Lake and surrounding communities with site planning, roads & bridges, septic tanks, foundations and other construction services 970 759 2804 • 17434 CR 501, Vallecito Lake, CO 81122	Closed S & S	9 AM to 5 PM	All Year	
#11	Bayfield Realty, Vallecito Branch - Contact us for your Residential, Recreational, Building Sites or Commercial Real Estate needs. Your local experts with offices in Bayfield and at Vallecito. 970 884 4320 or 970 884 9777 • 17406 C.R. 501, Vallecito Lake, CO 81122 • www.VallecitoLakeCo.com	Closed Sun	10 AM to 5 PM	All Year	

See map on page 5 for business location numbers.

Albuquerque, NM......240 Denver, CO......330 Grand Junction, CO.....170 Phoenix, AZ......480

How <u>FAR is it?</u>

## Shopping & Services in Nearby Communities

<b>360 Durango.com</b>	Directory Plus	Southwest Ag, Inc.
<i>Durango's Visual Directory</i>	Accurate AND UP-TO-DATE RESOURCE FOR THE COMMUNITY	REGIONAL SUPERSTORE OF SPECIALTY EQUIPMENT
970.375.3270 • 700 Main Ave Ste. J, Durango, Co 81301	970.259.6500 • 162 Stewart St., Durango, CO 81303	970.884.4101 • 39927 U.S. Hwy. 160, Bayfield, CO 81122
Bank of the San Juans   ONE BIG HAPPY LITTLE BANK   970.247.1818 • 144 E 8th St., Durango, CO 81301	Durango Coca Cola REFRESHING THE FOUR CORNERS SINCE 1915 970.247.1560 • 75 Girard St., Durango, CO 81303	Waste Management of the Four Corners Think Green 970.247.1821 • 258 Stewart St., Durango, CO 81303
Amerigas	First National Bank of Durango, Bayfield Branch	Buchweiser King of Beers, Standard Sales Co. L.P.
THE NATION'S LARGEST PROPANE COMPANY	LET YOUR IMAGIMATION SOAR!	PROUD DISTRIBUTORS OF BEER AND OTHER BEVERAGES
970.884.2629 • 2282 Bayfield Pkwy, Bayfield, CO 81122	970.884.5300 • 351 Bayfield Center Dr., Bayfield, CO 81122	970.247.2330 • 796 Sawmill Rd., Durango, CO 81301
A & L Coors Beer Distributors	Fun Center, Inc.	The Durango Herald
DISTRIBUTORS OF FINE DOMESTIC & IMPORTED BEVERAGES	THE FINEST SELECTION OF ON AND OFF-ROAD VEHICLES	THE CITY'S FIRST NEWSPAPER
970.247.3620 • PO Box 215, Durango, CO 81301	970.259.1070 • 29603 U.S. Hwy 160, Durango, CO 81301	970.247.3504 • 1275 Main Ave., Durango, CO 81301
Lewis True Value Mercantile	La Plata Electric Association	Pine River Valley Bank - PRVB.com
SEE US TODAY FOR ALL YOUR BUILDING PROJECTS	PROVIDING MEMBERS SAFE RELIABLE ELECTRICITY	Proud To BE Your Locally Owned, Hometown Bank
970.884.9502 • 311 Bayfield Center Dr., Bayfield, CO 81122	970.247.5786 • 45 Stewart St., Durango, CO 81303	970.884.9583 • 301 N Commerce Dr., Bayfield, CO 81122

Map Ref.	Where to Eat @ Vallecito Lake See map on page 5 for business location numbers.	Days Open	Hours	Serve Adult Beverages	Season
#4	Vallecito Lake Country Market & Mexican Food - Mexican/America menu, take out/dine in, catering, breakfast, lunch, dinners, sandwiches, Steaks, Gourmet Burgers, Fresh cut French Fries, Chimichangas, Spicy Green Chili, Chips Salsa & More 970 884 0844 • 18071 CR 501, Vallecito Lake, CO 81122 • www.VallecitoLakeCountryMarket.com	Closed Wed	Sun -Thur 7 - 7 Fri & Sat 7 - 8		All Year
#8	Schank House Bar & Grill - Fine steak house dining in a scenic, historic alpine valley 25 Miles NW of Durango. Savor specialty meats, cut & aged in-house. Family recipe bratwursts sausages & sides. 970 884 9150 • 17460 CR 501, Vallecito Lake, CO 81122 • www.360durango.com/Restaurants		11 AM to 9 PM	•	All Year
#18	Pura Vida Restaurant - Vallecito's ONLY lake front dining. Casual, fun atmosphere. Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner. Green chili, chicken fried steak, fish-n-chips, hand cut Ribeye steak, shrimp, specialty burgers, enchiladas, full bar. Patio & Atrium dining with awesome lake view. 970 884 2766 • 14810 C.R. 501, Vallecito Lake, CO 81122 • www.PuraVidaVallecito.com	7 Days	Mon - Fri 10 - 9 Sat & Sun 8 - 9	•	May thru Sep

WELDING ....

Activities @ Vallecito Lake See map on page 5 for business location numbers.	Days Open	Hours	Season	Reservations
<b>#12</b> Altitude ATVs - It's easy to see why the Rocky Mountains are such a popular destination but it's not so easy to get where you want to be. That's when Altitude ATV is there to help, we rent ATV's for all of your wilderness adventures. 970.403.2260 • 19701 CR 501, Vallecito Lake, CO 81122 • www.DurangoATV.com	et to 7	8:00 to 7:00	May thru Nov	Suggested
<b>#13</b> Elk Point Stables & Outfitters - "Come and Cowboy Up". Horse rides at a cool summer elevation. 1 or 2 hr., h full day trail rides, breakfast or sunset dinner rides, summerifall pack trips. Bring your compact camera for lake pic's. 970.884.2482 • 21730 CR 501, Vallecito Lake, CO 81122 • www.ElkPointLodge.com	alf & Closed Mondays	8:00 to 4:00	May thru Sep 15	Required
<b>#17</b> Wallecito Outside - Guide Service - Fish the world class waters of the Rocky Mountains. Experiences the will yield memories and knowledge to last a lifetime. 970.779.8917 • Vallecito Lake, CO 81122 • VallecitoOutside@gmail.com	nat 7	8:00 to clark	All Year	Preferred
Activities in Durango Area	* * *	* * *	* * *	v v v v
Bar D Chuckwagon - The Bar D Wranglers perform their Famous Stage Show after supper with songs of cowboys and the old west, comedy, and lively instrumentals to please the whole family. 970.247.5753 • 8080 CR 250, Durango, CO 81301 • www.BarDChuckwagon.com	7	5:30 to close	Memorial Day thru Labor Day	Required
Durango - Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad - Authentic turn-of-the-century coal-fired, steam powered, na gauge railroad traveling the San Juan Mountains of SW Colorado .     970.247.2733 • 479 Main Ave, Durango, CO 81301 • www.DurangoTrain.com	rrow 7	7:00 to 7:00	All Year	Suggested
Durango Mountain Resort - Visit the Durango Mountain Resort website to view year round activities offered on "the mountain" 970.247.9000 • #1 Skier Place, Durango, CO 81301 • www.DurangoMountainResort.com	7	Varies	All Year	
Henry Strater Theartre - The world-renowned Henry Strater Theatre is one of the oldest and most prestigious continually running theatres in Colorado, offering more than 50 years of quality performances. 970.375.7160 • 699 Main Ave., Durango, CO 81301 • www.HenryStraterTheatre.com	7	Varies	All Year	Required
Flexible Flyers Rafting - Customers become our friends and they return year after year to raft the Animas River wit Flexible Flyers Rafting is the longest family owned & operated whitewater raft company in Southwest Colorado. 970.247.4628 • 890 Roosa Ave., Durango, CO 81301 • www.FlexibleFlyersRafting.com	h us. 7	9 AM to 6 PM	May thru Oct	Required
Mild to Wild Rafting & Jeep Trail Tours - Discover Fun on one our amazing adventure packages for all ages and ac ture levels. Call for a FREE Brochure or to visit with a trip consultant to make sure your Southwest Colorado vacation is a memory of a lifet 800.567.6745 • 50 Animas View Dr., Durango, CO 81301 • www.Mild2WildRafting.com		8 AM to 8 PM	Mid Apr thru Mid Oct	Required
durango relax in an oar rig with one of our experienced guides, or go solo in an able kayak, we have the trip to suit your needs.     970.259.0289   • 720 Main Ave., Durango, CO 81301   • www.DurangoRiverTrippers.com	7	8 AM to 5:30	May thru Mid Oct	Suggested
Mountain Waters Rafting - We believe that rafting is one of the funnest things in the world you can do and we want share that with you. We offer trips ranging from family friendly floats to challenging difficult whitewater. Having fun since 1981! 970.259.4191 • 643 Camino Del Rio, Durango, CO 81301 • www.DurangoRafting.com	to 7	8 AM to 7 PM	May 1 thru Sep 15	Required
Sky Ute Casino -Sky Ute Casino Resort is Southwest Colorado's entertainment headquarters. Stay in our 140 room and play the hottest slots, poker, table games and bingo. Enjoy a great meal in one of our fine dining establishments. 970.563.7777 • 14324 Colorado 172, Ignacio, CO 81137 • www.SkyUteCasino.com	hotel 7	24 Hours	All Year	Suggested for Dining

