

VISIT DURANGO'S

FALL PHOTO GUIDE

Ready to get out and explore Durango, Colorado this year? There's no better time than the Fall season. Check out our Fall photo guide to get inspired for your next trip to Durango.



VISIT **DURANGO**
COLORADO

VISIT **DURANGO**
C O L O R A D O

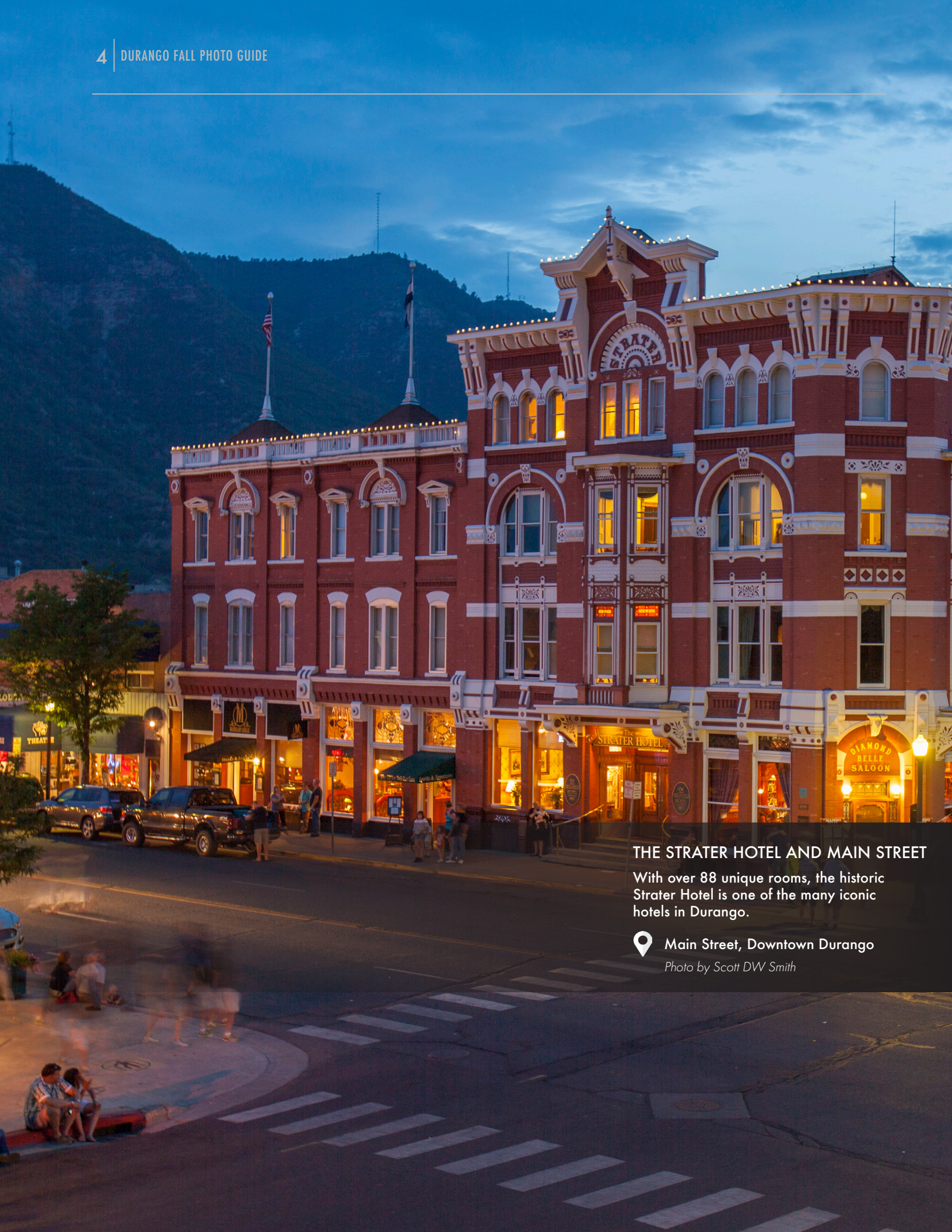
DURANGO.ORG/FALL
MARKETING@DURANGO.ORG
(970) 247-3500
@VISITDURANGO

TABLE OF CONTENTS



04 | INTRODUCTION
06 | MOUNTAINS
08 | D&SNGR
10 | SCENIC DRIVES
12 | HIKING

14 | MOUNTAIN BIKING
16 | ART GALLERIES
18 | RESTAURANTS
20 | BARS AND BREWERIES
22 | DOWNTOWN DURANGO



THE STRATER HOTEL AND MAIN STREET

With over 88 unique rooms, the historic Strater Hotel is one of the many iconic hotels in Durango.


 Main Street, Downtown Durango

Photo by Scott DW Smith

NO BETTER PLACE FOR FALL

Never a dull day
in Durango



At Visit Durango, the official tourism organization of Durango, Colorado, we know the draw of our cozy, little western, mountain town- especially during the months from September to early November.

Know as “Leaf-Peeing Season” by locals, Fall is an incredible time to experience everything that Durango has to offer. With so much to see and do in Durango during fall, you’ll never have a dull moment during your visit.

To inspire your Fall visit to Durango, we’ve created this Fall Photo Guide with incredible photography from local photographers.

Enjoy a visual guide of our town during our favorite season- hopefully, after one visit, it will become yours as well.

The Team at Visit Durango

INTO THE MOUNTAINS

1. A GREAT VIEW FROM YOUR BACKYARD

Nestled on the edge of one of the rolling hills of the San Juan Mountains, an abandoned cabin awaits its owners return for ski season.

 Molas Pass, Highway 550

Photo by Claude Steelman

1

2

3

4



9,500 ft.
10,900 ft.

2. LOOKING DOWN THE CANYON

The La Plata Mountains are broken up by a large valley called La Plata Canyon. The canyon can be accessed by a short drive from downtown.

 La Plata Canyon

Photo by Shonu McEchron

3. STEADY CLIMB INTO THE ASPENS

Over 230 miles in length, the San Juan Skyway Scenic Byway snakes through the San Juan National Forest with views of the Weminuche Wilderness.

 West Lime Creek Trailhead

Photo by Cardwell Aukerman Photography

4. A FALL DUSTING ON TWILIGHT

Towering over 13,000 feet, North Twilight Peak shows off a fall dusting of snow on a warm October Day.

 Lime Creek Road, Highway 550

Photo by Visit Durango

”The best view comes after the hardest climb.




1. CHUGGING THROUGH THE SUN

Known as “The Train” by locals, the historic steam engine takes riders from Durango to Silverton via the same 1882 route.

 Needle Mountains, San Juan National Forest
Photo by Visit Durango

3. ROUNDING ANOTHER BEND

The Train hugging another curve along the famous Animas River. The round-trip ride follows the Animas River Valley the whole way.

 Animas River Valley, San Juan National Forest
Photo by Visit Durango



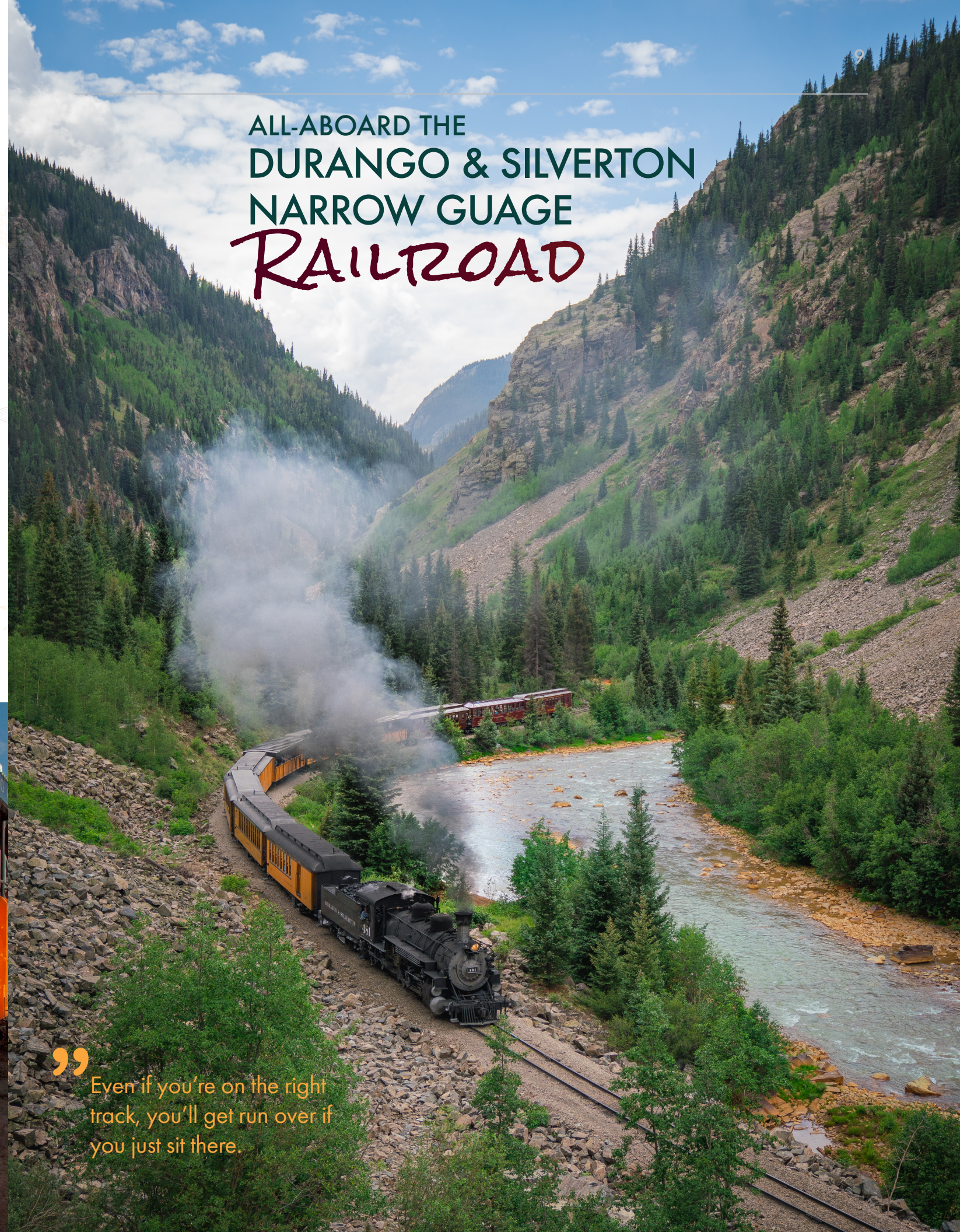
2. A TRIP BACK IN TIME

Dressed in 1800s garb, a crew member of The Train continues the American-vintage look and feel. All staff dress in traditional clothing.

 The Yard, Downtown Durango
Photo by Visit Durango



ALL-ABOARD THE DURANGO & SILVERTON NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD



” Even if you’re on the right track, you’ll get run over if you just sit there.

A SCENIC DRIVE

1. WATCH WHERE YOU DRIVE

The San Juan Skyway Scenic Byway is known for tight curves and passes that make even the most experienced drivers nervous!


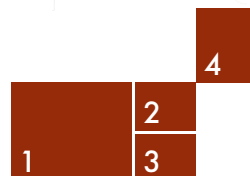
 Coal Bank Pass, Highway 550

Photo by Cardwell Aukerman Photography

” Sometimes the best therapy is a long drive and music.



4. A QUIET MOMENT ON THE ROAD

Snapped from the side of the road during a break in the mid-afternoon "Leaf-Pepping" traffic.


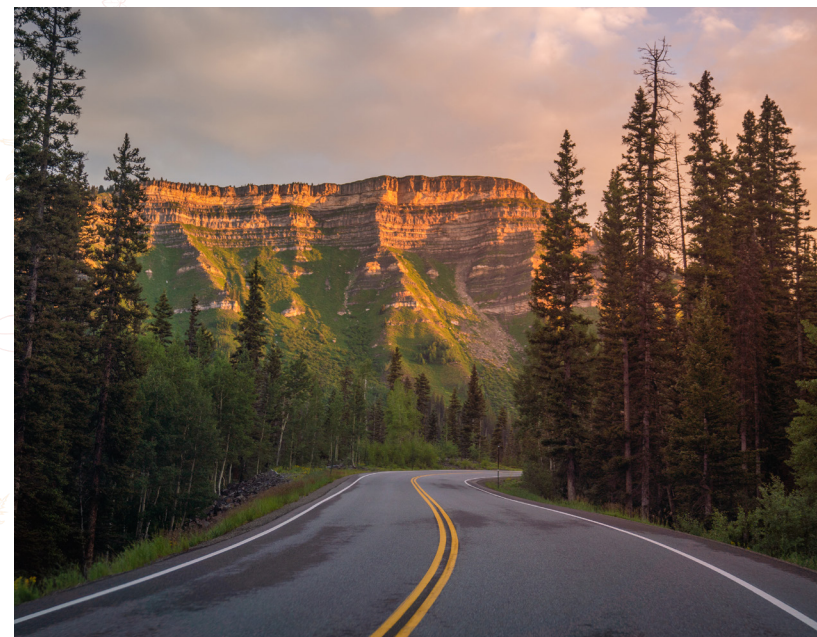
 Highway 550 near Silverton

Photo by Cardwell Aukerman Photography

8,000 ft.
10,500 ft.



2. MORNING LIGHT ON THE CLIFFS

Minutes from downtown Durango, the cliffs at the base of Engineer Mountain bask in the morning light.

 Base of Engineer Mountain, Near Purgatory

Photo by Visit Durango

3. EVENING FOG ALONG THE ROAD

Evening rains are common during Fall in Durango. Following these rains you can expect to see fog rolling over the landscape.

 Molas Pass, Highway 550

Photo by Chad Guin



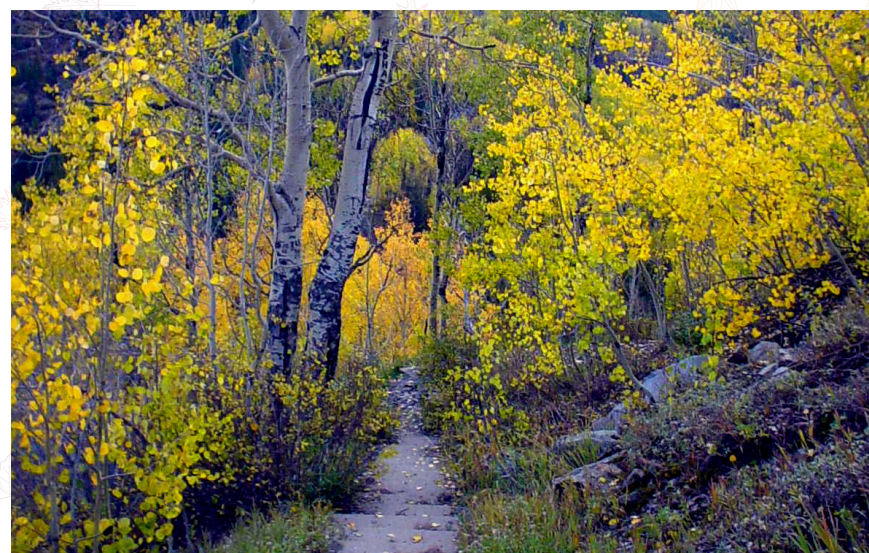
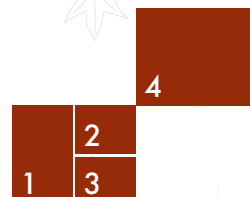
A HIKE THROUGH THE FALL COLORS

7,500 ft.
11,200 ft.

1. AT THE FOOT OF ENGINEER MOUNTAIN

One of the best ways to see this 12,900+ foot peak is the famous "Tour de Engineer" trail that circles the entire mountain.

 Tour de Engineer Trail
Photo by Visit Durango




2. DESCENDING INTO THE ASPENS

With over 500 steps from top to bottom, the Sky Steps connects Fort Lewis College with Downtown Durango on a scenic trail.

 Sky Steps, Durango
Photo by Visit Durango

3. HIKING ABOVE TREELINE

The famous 486-mile Colorado Trail can be accessed at multiple trailheads around Durango.

 Colorado Trail near Little Molas Lake
Photo by Visit Durango

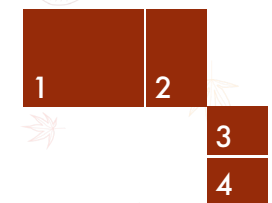
4. WATCH YOUR STEP!

Taking it all in on the edge. Overlooking the entire Animas River Valley during a beautiful Fall afternoon.

 East Animas Cliffs, north of Durango
Photo by Cole Davis


”After a day's walk,
everything has twice its
usual value.





1. PAUSING AT THE TOP

Taking a moment to take in a view of nearby Potato Hill. At the top of one of the 14 trails at the Purgatory Bike Park.

 Purgatory Bike Park
Photo by Dirt Road Travels


TURNING GEARS: MOUNTAIN BIKING



6,500 ft.
11,000 ft.

2. LATE DAY ON THE TRAIL


Catching a fall sunset while heading back after a long day of mountain biking in the Hermosa Creek Wilderness.

 Forest Service Road 576, Hermosa
Photo by Cole Davis

” A bad day on a mountain bike always beats a good day at the office.

3. QUIET RIDE THROUGH TOWN

Biking along the Animas River Trail is a treat during Fall. The 9-mile long trail snakes through Downtown Durango.

 Animas River Trail, Downtown Durango
Photo by Cole Davis



4. CRUNCHING LEAVES UNDER THE TIRES

Mountain biking an untouched trail of the Colorado Trail on a cool morning in October.

 Colorado Trail near Junction Creek
Photo by Cole Davis




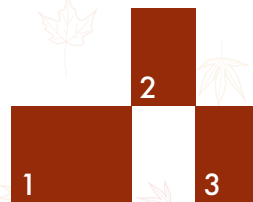
GETTING CREATIVE: ART GALLERIES

6,500 ft.
8,000 ft.

1. RECAPTURING THE MAGIC


Local Durango painters brush under the glow of Fall colors, late-afternoon sun, and the Needle Mountains.

 Lime Creek Road, San Juan National Forest
Photo by Claude Steelman



2. A LOCAL GALLERY'S EXHIBIT

A mixed-medium exhibit. You can find over 10 galleries in Downtown Durango featuring local, regional, and international artists.

 Downtown Durango
Photo by Visit Durango

” Art heals both the creator and the viewer.

3. THE FINAL TOUCHES

Inspired by Durango's scenery, local artist Karyn Gabaldon puts the final touches on an acrylic landscape painting.

 Purgatory Bike Park
Photo by Claude Steelman

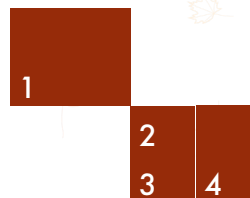




1. GET YOUR PIZZA ON

With over 10 pizza restaurants in Durango, there's no shortage of places to enjoy a slice. From brick oven to New York-style, you won't get bored of our pizza scene!

 North Main Street, Durango
Photo by Visit Durango



” Nothing brings people together like good food.

DURANGO'S EATS: RESTAURANTS

6,500 ft.
6,500 ft.

2. LATE NIGHT FOOD TRUCK GRUB

Located Downtown is the eclectic 11th Street Station with seven restaurants and food trucks. The outdoor seating is perfect for viewing the La Plata Mountains in the distance.

 11th Street Station, Downtown Durango
Photo by Dirt Road Travels


3. NATIONALLY-RECOGNIZED FOOD SCENE

With the most award-winning restaurants per capita in the US, you will not be disappointed with the plethora of food options.

 Main Street, Downtown Durango
Photo by Dirt Road Travels

4. VARIETY OF CHOICES

From breweries and quick-bites to gourmet dining, Durango has something for everyone! Many restaurants update their menus during Fall.

 Main Street, Downtown Durango
Photo by Dirt Road Travels




DRINK UP! BARS AND BREWETRIES

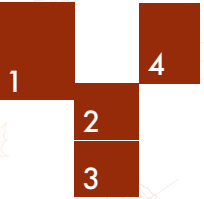
6,500 ft.
6,500 ft.



1. FALL-INSPIRED COCKTAILS

Fall brings new flavors and themes into Durango's bars. As cool weather sweeps over town, you'll keep warm with these Fall cocktails.

 Main Street, Downtown Durango
Photo by Dirt Road Travels



” I followed my heart and it led me to the bar.

4. FALL CONTINUES TO BRING SMILES

Despite Fall being a slower time around Durango, the bartenders and staff still enjoy customers and company at the counter.

 North Main Street, Durango
Photo by Visit Durango



2. SEASONAL BEERS FROM THE BREWERIES

Fall is a favorite time of year for Durango's brewpubs and breweries. Our five microbreweries all brew up seasonal beers themed with Fall flavors.

 Main Street, Downtown Durango
Photo by Visit Durango

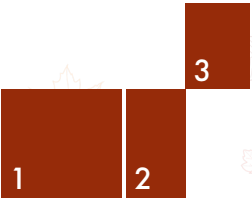
3. COZY SPOTS AND A WARM ATMOSPHERE

As happy hours and late nights move from patios to indoors, Durango has amazing places to enjoy a drink- no matter the mood of your crew!

 Main Street, Downtown Durango
Photo by Visit Durango



THE HEART OF IT ALL DOWNTOWN DURANGO



1. THE HEART OF DOWNTOWN

A spooky September night looking towards Smelter Mountain and South Downtown.

 Main Street, Downtown Durango
Photo by Claude Steelman



3. TRAVEL BACK IN TIME

A great way to experience the historic nature of Durango! Our horse-drawn carriages run most days and nights throughout Fall.

 Main Street, Downtown Durango
Photo by Dirt Road Travels



6,500 ft.
6,500 ft.

2. FALL WINDOW SHOPPING

Strolling down Main Street on a warm Fall day is one of the best things to do in Downtown Durango.

 Main Street, Downtown Durango
Photo by Visit Durango

” Travel is the only thing you buy that makes you richer.

READY TO
EXPLORE?

PLAN YOUR TRIP AT
DURANGO.ORG/PLAN

VISIT **DURANGO**
COLORADO

DURANGO.ORG/FALL
MARKETING@DURANGO.ORG
(970) 247-3500
[@VISITDURANGO](https://www.instagram.com/VISITDURANGO)