

Top 10 Things To Do In Pagosa Springs, Colorado while Staying At Pony Chalet

The links and phone numbers and more information for the events below are found at www.PonyChalet.com
Brochures and information are also found in the Guest Binder at the property.

Updated 10/10/21

1. Hot Springs Resort 970 264 4168

Go more than once! Cost is \$49 each – in and out all day long. So go in the morning and get a day pass and come in and out with shopping and lunch and/or dinner downtown, etc. It is very cool to go at night! Beautiful to try all the tubs and relax by the river. Sooth and relax in the hot mineral water pool! Swim, play or simply lounge, in heated by natural mineral waters. They also have an outdoor hot tub and European style indoor hot bath facilities. These are segregated men and women with steam room and benches to rest on for a quiet relaxation time. They also feature a variety of massage and body treatments but are more expensive than the Overlook Spa, which I recommend.

2. Overlook Spa! Downtown Pagosa 970 264 4168

Make a reservation early in the week when you get there. Couples massage or individual ones. Fee INCLUDES access to soak there that day with in and out privileges so be sure to go at the very top and do at night!

3. Treasure Falls Hike then the Continental Divide Hike

Bring backpacks and pack a lunch. Full day.

Drive north towards **Wolf Creek** ski area on Highway 160 to Treasure Falls. Beautiful scenery! It's about 20 minutes out of town and on the right hand side. There's a nice walk up to the falls and it takes about an hour to hike up and back. Great photo opportunities.

After that continue up to the **Continental Divide** and follow one of the trails as long as you would like up to about 12,000 feet if you have the stamina.

Then....go to Junction Restaurant for dinner

Best fried chicken dinner in town! A really cute gift shop. This is a nice family restaurant to go to after you have been on the hike up at Wolf Creek because it's on that end of town as you drive back home and you're tired and you don't want to cook.

4. Piedra River Trail hike to Piedra Falls.

Bring backpacks and pack a lunch. Full day. It's a little bit of a drive to get to the start of the hike and it doesn't look like much it's kind of open territory for a while on a path but then you get to the Piedra River and follow a beautiful river trail with caves and scenery. Round-trip I it's about 12 miles and at the end you can get to the Piedra River Falls.

Piedra River – Hiking Trail

Difficulty: Easy

Trailhead: The upper terminus of the trail begins on the Piedra Road about 16 miles north of Pagosa Springs. After crossing the Piedra River you will notice the trailhead parking lot ahead of you on the left. The trail starts on the canyon rim and then descends to the river. Sheer cliffs rise on both sides for over several hundred yards.

Description: This is an easy trail for young and old alike if you only go the 3.5 miles to the footbridge across the Piedra.

For a longer hike, follow the river for another 8.5 miles. The trail passes several cool box canyons to end at the bridge on the First Fork of the Piedra Road.

5. Durango - Drive to Durango in the morning and spend the day!

It is a lovely very scenic 55 minute drive from Pagosa, past **Chimney Rock** on the left. Stop and take photos!

You can also rent a **E bikes** in downtown Durango area at one of the bike shops and take a nice bike ride all along the **Animas River Trail** without having to work too hard or just normal bikes to go from downtown along the river for a couple of hours. Very beautiful scenery.

Have pastries at **John Pierre French Bakery** downtown (by 3 pm, they close early) and enjoy lunch or dinner at **Steamworks** or a gourmet dinner at **Ken & Sue's** in the outside patio in the back.

If you want, catch a **movie downtown** or enjoy multiple galleries and all of the fun stores with some great shopping!

Check times and plan your travel accordingly, if you want to take the Durango Silverton Train ride to Silverton. It is a 3 hour trip and pricey like \$100+ each for 3 hours each way to historic Silverton for the stop and then back, but some people say it is the best most scenic ride in the world!

If you like to gamble, from Durango go about 20 minutes on the way home over to the **Ute Casino** for some blackjack and late night snacks at one of their restaurants before you drive home. They also have a nice **bowling alley** there

6. Turkey Creek – San Juan Forest - close to Pony Chalet

Pack a lunch. From Pony Place go left on North Pagosa Boulevard about 1 mile. Drive Past a big red barn on left about a mile and you'll see an entrance to the Gate in a small parking lot. This is private access for those of us who live in that area. You can park at that entrance and take a nice level walk. Follow the maps so you don't get lost with a loop it's about a two hour walk if you take the loop. This park includes 30 miles of mountain biking trails and you'll see mountain bikers and people with dogs coming and going in the area. You can also rent bikes and mountain bike ride here.

Turkey Creek – Hiking Trail

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate. Read the trail maps so you know what you are doing the loop trail is about 2 hours.

7. Bike Rentals or ATV and ride in the San Juan Forest

Ride at Turkey Springs by Pony Chalet or Lake Trails

- **The Hub - Bikes**

<https://www.pagosabikeshop.com/articles/bike-rentals-pg189.htm>

Near City Market – you can rent bikes if you want to rent bikes for the day and ride them in Pagosa on some of the trails around the lakes you need to have a hitch on the car to take them where you want to go.

- **Pagosa Mountain Sports – Bikes for River Trail or downtown Reservoir Hill trails (steep)**

<https://pagosamountainsports.com/pagosa-springs-bike-shop/>

Downtown rental location

8. Wildlife Viewing

Rocky Mountain Wildlife Park

4 miles south of Pagosa on Hwy 84

4821 A U.S. Hwy 84 Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

970-264-5546 rmwildlifepark.org

Come see native wildlife in a beautiful natural setting! Take a leisurely stroll around the ¼ mile trail to see the bear, coyotes, wolves, porcupine, fox, bobcat, mountain lion, and elk; join a daily feeding tour; and come inside for a peek at the

gift shop and collection of western art and wildlife displays. Rocky Mountain Wildlife Park is a privately owned facility that has been in operation since 1986. Its purpose is to educate people about native wildlife and provide an opportunity to see these beautiful animals up close in what would be their natural habitats. All the animal residents are non-releasable for variety of reasons. The owners and staff strive to keep the animals happy, healthy and safe for the remainder of their lives.

9. Chimney Tock National Monument – closed unfortunately now in fall after 10/15

<http://www.chimneyrockco.org/>

Takes a chunk of the day .Go in the morning and make a reservation. Pack a lunch and go to the top with the guided tour and have a picnic on site when you're done. (There are two coolers in the garage for keeping sandwiches and drinks cold feel free to use those there on the shelf that has the blue Hot Springs towels next to the washer and dryer)

Chimney Rock National Monument is an unforgettable experience with one of North America's truly great natural wonders! It is e located at the southern edge of the San Juan Mountains in Southwestern Colorado. You'll walk in the footsteps of the fascinating Ancestral Puebloans of the Chaco Canyon, following primitive pathways that haven't changed for 1,000 years. Archaeological ruins and artifacts, abundant wildlife, and its setting in the breathtaking San Juan National Forest make Chimney Rock an incredible experience! Chimney Rock covers seven square miles and preserves 200 ancient homes and ceremonial buildings, some of which have been excavated for viewing and exploration: a Great Kiva, a Pit House, a Multi-Family Dwelling, and a Chacoan-style Great House Pueblo. Chimney Rock is the highest in elevation of all the Chacoan sites, at about 7,000 feet above sea level. From the base, the hike to the top is just a half mile and it's rewarded with dramatic 360-degree views of Colorado and New Mexico.

10. Downtown Pagosa Springs Downtown Shopping & Pagosa & River walk

Enjoy the Riverwalk anytime during the day along the San Juan downtown. Nice to walk at dusk too, very pretty any time of day. You can also rent bikes and ride the paved trail there or on the paths by the lakes. We like to walk along the river after we get a frozen yogurt from **Froyo** which is on Lewis Street off of the main street downtown.

Pagosa Shopping

There are many really cute shops downtown and galleries there to look for souvenirs, etc.!

Art Gallery - 2 Old Crows has nice art on Lewis Street.

Thrift shopping - We like to go thrift and resale shopping in Pagosa as there are several resale stores – there are some amazing finds in those stores - when wealthy people donate things when they move away or sell their expensive homes!

Best Downtown Restaurants – About 10 minutes from Pony Chalet

- **Fro Yo**
Frozen yogurt and soups, downtown
- **Junction Restaurant**
Best fried chicken dinner in town
- **Lost Cajun Restaurant**
Best gumbo and beignets!
- **Riff Raff**
Burgers and salads, often with music, outside dining downtown.
- **Tequila's Mexican**
Great margaritas and gorgeous view of the hot springs for dinner or lunch

Best Uptown Restaurants and Shopping about 6 minutes from Pony Chalet

- **City Market Grocery**
Nice local big grocery store that has everything you could need plus a pharmacy
- **Coyote Bar & Grill**
Karaoke weekly, pool tables, bar type finger food, burgers and salads, usually dance floor on weekend.
- **El Camino Real Store**
Huge Store with massive outdoor sculptures that are fun to look at it and take pictures of. Tons of pottery and sculpture and items and textiles from Mexico. It's fun to walk around there and look at everything
- **Joy's Health Food Store**
Small Store in that same area and carries all the basic homeopathics and supplements
- **Lone Star Café**
A great place to go for breakfast or lunch. It is in that same shopping center with cute Decour and a nice menu for brunch or lunch or even dinner.
- **Gustov's**
Fabulous Italian!
- **Pagosa Brewing Company**
Craft beers and fun food
- **Rosie's Pizza**
Best pizza in town is at that same shopping mall
- **Walmart**
In case you need anything Walmart has it all until midnight

Whatever you do – it will be fun and Pagosa is very beautiful, friendly and is a tourist town!