



LAKE CITY HINSDALE COUNTY

WELCOME TO LAKE CITY & HINSDALE COUNTY



Visit Hinsdale County and the town of Lake City and *actually* get away from it all.

Made up of 96% public land, Hinsdale is the most remote county in the lower 48, making it the ideal getaway for visitors seeking peace of mind and a respite from their busy lives at home.

It's easy to leave civilization behind in minutes as Hinsdale County offers seemingly endless miles of trails, 21 public campgrounds, five fourteeners, three National Forests, one BLM district, four wilderness areas, and two wilderness study areas—much of which is accessible just miles from downtown Lake City.

HINSDALE COUNTY

Summertime draws visitors who delight in hiking, biking, boating, and more. Lake San Cristobal, the second largest natural lake in Colorado, is especially popular with anglers, and the Alpine Backcountry Byway—a network of four-wheel drive roads connecting Lake City, Ouray, and Silverton—draws OHVs, and showcases old mine, ghost towns, natural wonder, beautiful wildflowers, and abundant wildlife.



Visitors also enjoy more leisurely activities like driving the Silver Thread Scenic Byway, exploring Lake City's rich history at the Hinsdale County Museum, walking the wooden boardwalk of the preserved, downtown historic district.

During the winter, visitors relish Hinsdale County's quiet beauty and great outdoors. Recreational opportunities include over 100 miles of snowmobile and multipurpose groomed trails, a local ski hill and terrain park, and the Hinsdale County Haute Route. Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating, ice fishing, and ice climbing at Lake City's Ice Park are also popular.

Regardless of what visitors choose to fill their days—climbing, ghost towns, fishing, history—Lake City offers something for everyone and a remote, yet enthralling experience unlike anything else.



LAKE CITY'S ANNUAL EVENTS

FEBRUARY

ICE CLIMBING FESTIVAL

Top-roped and lead speed events with prizes.

MATT MILSKI MEMORIAL SKI RACE

Downhill, telemark, and snowboard races for all ages. BBQ, firepit, and prizes.

SNOWSHOE RACE

5k and 10k snowshoe races (1k for the kids), BBQ, fire pits, and prizes.

ICE FISHING DERBY

Join fisherman from all corners on Lake San Cristobal.

JUNE

LAKE SAN CRISTOBAL RACE

A scenic 5k/10k race from Lake San Cristobal into Lake City.

HISTORIC, CEMETERY, AND GHOST TOURS

The Hinsdale County Historical Society hosts tours throughout the summer.

SAN JUAN SOLSTICE RACE

A 50-mile run benefiting Lake City EMTs.

JULY

OLD FASHIONED FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

This long-standing tradition of family entertainment includes a parade, races in town park, delicious food and drink, live music, fireworks, and more.

DUCKY DERBY

A rubber ducky race where ducks race from Henson Creek to Memorial Park.

ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL

Fine arts and crafts and good food.

AUGUST

STICK HORSE SHOW

Just like a real rodeo, but with stick horses. Events include bucking horse, pole bending, calf roping, barrel racing, a farrier race, and English jumping.

BACK IN THYME VICTORIAN TEA

A very special tea time organized by the Lake City Historical Society.

SEPTEMBER

OHV RALLY AND FESTIVAL

Three nights of free, live music, a cash bar, a community dinner, raffles, and more.

UNCORKED WINE & MUSIC FESTIVAL

Good wine, good music, good friends, and a celebration of fall colors.

NOVEMBER

TURKEY TROT

Warm refreshments and light snacks await sprinters and casual walkers returning from the 2-mile trek, which starts and ends at the museum.

DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS IN LAKE CITY

Experience the peaceful past of holiday shopping and fun in today's beautiful, historic Lake City while also participating in seasonal festivities.

LAKE CITY STATS & INFO

HINSDALE COUNTY
ENCOMPASSES
MORE THAN 1,000
SQUARE MILES OF
UNTAMED
COLORADO BEAUTY

Lake City reconstructed
over 500 feet of original
boardwalks in its historic
downtown

Lake City's Lake San Cristobal
is the second largest natural
lake in Colorado

Summer daytime highs are
typically in the 70s or low
80s F, while lows are in the
40s or upper 30s F

Lake City is located at the
crossroads of two major
scenic byways—Silver Thread
Scenic Byway and Alpine Loop
Backcountry Byway

Lake City was designated a
National Historic District in
1978 and boasts over 200
historic structures



HINSDALE
COUNTY
IS MADE UP OF
96%
PUBLIC
LANDS



Six game management units occur partially in Hinsdale County: 65, 66, 67, 76, 77, and 751.

Hinsdale County has the fewest miles of roads per person and the most land area located far from roads, making it the most remote county in the lower 48

A typical winter day may have high temperatures in the upper teens to low 30s, with lows at night from 10° to 30° below zero F.

The San Juans surrounding Lake City make up the largest mountain range in Colorado

There are 5 fourteeners in Hinsdale County:
Uncompahgre, Redcloud,
Sunshine, Handies,

Hinsdale County is made up of four wilderness areas:

Uncompahgre Wilderness
La Garita Wilderness
Weminuche Wilderness
Powderhorn Wilderness

And two wilderness study areas:

Redcloud Peak Wilderness
Study Area
Handies Peak Wilderness
Study Area

LAKE CITY HISTORY LESSON

AUGUST 27,
1871 Harry Henson and three others discovered the Ute-Ulay vein located about five miles upstream from the mouth of present-day Henson Creek.

AUGUST 16,
1875 The town of Lake City was officially incorporated.

FEB/MAR
1874 A prospecting party of six men, one of whom was Alfred Packer, camped along the Lake Fork of the Gunnison and around Lake San Cristobal. Five of the party met their demise due to Packer's supposed cannibalism.

SEPT
1877

City was
ated.

AUGUST 15,
1889

The first passenger train of the
Denver & Rio Grande Railroad's
Lake Fork Branch arrived in Lake
City from Sapinero.

20
77

Susan B. Anthony
addressed the town's
citizens on women's suffrage.

MID
1978

The Lake City Historic District was
placed on the National Register of
Historic Places in recognition of its
significant contribution to the
heritage of the State of Colorado.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Fishing

Camping

Hiking

Rock climbing

Boating

Rafting

OHVing

Hunting

Ice climbing

Snowmobiling

Snowshoeing

Downhill skiing

Cross-country skiing

Ice fishing





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHERE IS LAKE CITY LOCATED?

Lake City is located in the San Juan Mountains of southwestern Colorado, about 55 miles south of Gunnison on State Highway 149 and 74 miles north of South Fork.

HOW CLOSE IS LAKE CITY TO DENVER?

Lake City is 255 miles, or about 4 hours and 45 minutes from Denver. The quickest route is along Hwy 285 into Poncha Springs and then west on Hwy 50 into Gunnison. From Gunnison, you'll drive south on Hwy 149.

WHERE IS THE LAKE CITY VISITOR CENTER LOCATED?

The Lake City Hinsdale County Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center is located at 800 Gunnison Ave., Lake City.

DOES LAKE CITY HAVE AN AIRPORT?

Unfortunately, no. The closest airport is the Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport located at 711 W. Rio

Grande Ave. in Gunnison. This is about 1 hour from Lake City.

WHAT IS THE CLOSEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT?

The closest international airports to Lake City are the Denver International Airport (279 miles) and the Albuquerque International Airport (324 miles).

WHAT IS LAKE CITY'S POPULATION?

Approximately 400

WHAT IS LAKE CITY'S ELEVATION?

8,661 feet

WHAT IS LAKE CITY'S MAJOR INDUSTRY?

While the town was founded on mining, tourism is today's major industry

HOW MANY DAYS OF SUNSHINE DOES LAKE CITY AVERAGE PER YEAR?

300+ days

WHAT IS LAKE CITY'S AVERAGE SNOWFALL?
80 inches

WHEN IS LAKE CITY'S PEAK SEASON FOR TOURISM?
Memorial Day through Labor Day is the busiest times of year for Lake City.

HOW DID THE TOWN OF LAKE CITY GET ITS NAME?
Lake City is named after nearby Lake San Cristobal.

ARE THERE GHOST TOWNS IN LAKE CITY OR HINSDALE COUNTY?
There are five ghost towns in Hinsdale Country: Sherman, Rose's Cabin, Carson, Burrows Park, and Capitol City.

ARE THERE ANY COLORADO STATE PARKS NEAR LAKE CITY?
There are no state parks in Hinsdale, but does there

have to be? With over 1,000 miles of wilderness, there are plenty of outdoor recreational opportunities.

ARE THERE ANY 14,000-FOOT MOUNTAINS IN HINSDALE COUNTY?
Yes! There are five—Uncompahgre, Redcloud, Sunshine, Handies, and Wetterhorn

DO I NEED A FISHING LICENSE, AND IF SO WHERE CAN I GET ONE?
Yes. Colorado fishing license and a free copy of current regulations, available at several locations in Lake City.

WHERE CAN I FIND A HANDICAP-ACCESSIBLE TRAIL IN LAKE CITY?
A loop around Memorial Park in downtown Lake City is handicap accessible. Other accessible trails include the River Access Trail, Henson Creek Trail, and the Historical Loop.

ARTICLES & PUBLICATIONS

TOWN OF TIMELESS CHARM

THE GAZETTE, JULY 8, 2018

FINDING OLD, FADING SHEEP TRADITION

THE GAZETTE, AUGUST 1, 2018

TOURING THE ALPINE LOOP

THE GAZETTE, AUGUST 6, 2018

HAPPY TRAILS

THE GAZETTE, SEPTEMBER 10, 2018



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