

# PRESS RELEASE

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## COLORADO SCENIC & HISTORIC BYWAYS PROGRAM AND TRAVELSTORYSGPS LAUNCH 10 FREE AUDIO TOURS ACROSS CO'S SCENIC BYWAYS

*New App-Based Tours Cover Mountain Passes, Prairie Trails, River Canyons, and Historic Routes —Just in Time for Summer Road Trip Season—Available Free Statewide*

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**Denver, CO** — The Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways program and TravelStoriesGPS today announced the launch of **free self-guided audio tours covering 10 of Colorado's official scenic byways**—giving drivers an expert-narrated companion for some of the state's most spectacular and historically significant routes.

The tours span the full breadth of Colorado—from the 14,000-foot peaks of the Collegiate Peaks and Mount Blue Sky to the windswept prairie of the Pawnee Pioneer Trails and the canyon country of the Silver Thread. Each tour features GPS-triggered audio narration, curated photography, and in-depth storytelling that brings Colorado's geology, Indigenous history, pioneer heritage, and vibrant communities to life as drivers travel the road.

**All 10 tours are completely free and are available now on the TravelStories™ app for iOS and Android.**

*"Colorado has some of the most spectacular drives in the world, but too often, people whiz by without really knowing what they're seeing," said Story Clark, founder/CEO of TravelStoriesGPS. "TravelStories tours feel like having a local guide along for the ride—spotlighting key sights, sharing colorful stories, and helping you experience the places you pass in a whole new way. They turn a road trip or long drive into something engaging, educational, and fun."*

"Partnering with TravelStorysGPS gives us a powerful new way to help travelers connect to the rich history along some of our outstanding Colorado Byways during the America 250-Colorado 150 anniversary," said Lenore Bates, Colorado Byways Program Manager. "Whether you're a visitor or a local, these free audio tours make it easier than ever to enjoy truly inspiring guided explorations of Colorado's exceptional landscapes and communities."

## ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP

Colorado Byways, (with funding from the Colorado Outdoor Industry), teamed up with TravelStorysGPS to develop audio tour content for 10 of these corridors, creating an accessible, always-available companion that enhances every drive without requiring a guide, a reservation, or any cost to the traveler.

## THE 10 COLORADO SCENIC BYWAY TOURS

All tours are free on the TravelStorys app.

<p><b>1. Collegiate Peaks</b> <i>Central Mountains</i></p>	<p>Wind through the heart of Colorado's highest terrain, past four 14,000-foot peaks—Harvard, Columbia, Yale, and Princeton—along the Arkansas River Valley. The tour covers mining boomtowns, alpine ecosystems, and the enduring culture of Leadville.</p> <p><b>Key highlights:</b> Buena Vista, Leadville, Arkansas River Valley, 14ers</p>
<p><b>2. Grand Mesa</b> <i>Western Slope</i></p>	<p>Grand Mesa is the world's largest flat-top mountain—a geological wonder that rises nearly 11,000 feet above the desert floor near Grand Junction. This tour explores its ancient volcanic origins, Ute heritage, and the farming communities nestled in its shadow.</p> <p><b>Key highlights:</b> Grand Junction, Cedaredge, volcanic geology, Ute history</p>
<p><b>3. Guanella Pass</b> <i>Front Range/Georgetown</i></p>	<p>One of Colorado's most stunning alpine drives, Guanella Pass climbs from Georgetown through dense spruce forest to open tundra with sweeping views of Mount Bierstadt. The tour reveals the silver mining history of Georgetown and the fragile ecology of Colorado's high country.</p> <p><b>Key highlights:</b> Georgetown, Mount Bierstadt, alpine tundra, silver mining</p>
<p><b>4. Mount Blue Sky</b> <i>Front Range/Clear Creek County</i></p>	<p>Mount Blue Sky's scenic byway is the highest paved road in North America—reaching 14,130 feet. This tour narrates the Indigenous significance of the mountain (formerly known as Mount Evans), its role in Colorado's conservation history, and the remarkable wildlife found at altitude.</p> <p><b>Key highlights:</b> Highest paved road in North America, mountain goats, tundra, Idaho Springs</p>
<p><b>5. Pawnee Pioneer Trails</b> <i>Northeast Plains</i></p>	<p>Far from the mountains, Colorado's northeast plains hold their own dramatic story. This drive across the Pawnee National Grassland traces the footsteps of homesteaders, the legacy of the Pawnee people, and the striking landscapes that stretch to the horizon beneath enormous skies.</p> <p><b>Key highlights:</b> Pawnee Buttes, Pawnee National Grassland, homesteader history, prairie wildlife</p>
<p><b>6. Top of the Rockies</b> <i>Central Mountains/Steamboat Springs Area</i></p>	<p>Connecting Leadville, Minturn, and the Vail Valley, this byway crosses the Continental Divide twice and passes through some of the most storied terrain in the Rockies. The tour brings alive the mining booms, railroad history, and mountain communities that shaped this corridor.</p> <p><b>Key highlights:</b> Leadville, Tennessee Pass, Continental Divide, mining history</p>

<p><b>7. Santa Fe Trail</b> <i>Southeast Colorado</i></p>	<p>People traveled the Santa Fe Trail, one of America's great historic trade routes, across southeastern Colorado for centuries. This drive follows the ruts still visible in the prairie, tracing the stories of Bent's Fort, Comanche crossings, and the cultural exchange between Anglo, Hispanic, and Native peoples.</p> <p><b>Key highlights:</b> Bent's Old Fort, Trinidad, Raton Pass, pioneer and Indigenous history</p>
<p><b>8. Silver Thread</b> <i>South-Central Mountains/Gunnison Area</i></p>	<p>The Silver Thread Scenic Byway follows the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River through one of Colorado's most remote and spectacular landscapes. The tour covers the Blue Mesa Reservoir, the ghost town of Lake City, and the dramatic geology of the Gunnison Gorge region.</p> <p><b>Key highlights:</b> Lake City, Blue Mesa Reservoir, Gunnison River, ghost towns</p>
<p><b>9. South Platte River Trail</b> <i>Northeast Front Range</i></p>	<p>The South Platte River has shaped Colorado's history since the Arapaho camped along its banks and gold seekers followed it west. This byway tour traces the river from the prairies near Fort Morgan toward Denver, revealing stories of water, agriculture, and the communities that grew up along its course.</p> <p><b>Key highlights:</b> Fort Morgan, South Platte River, agricultural heritage, Arapaho history</p>
<p><b>10. West Elk Loop</b> <i>Western Slope/Crested Butte Area</i></p>	<p>Circling the West Elk Wilderness, this byway passes through Crested Butte, Gunnison, and the North Fork Valley—one of Colorado's most celebrated agricultural regions. The tour explores the area's coal mining past, its emerging organic farming culture, and stunning volcanic landscapes.</p> <p><b>Key highlights:</b> Crested Butte, Gunnison, North Fork Valley, West Elk Wilderness</p>

## HOW TO ACCESS THE TOURS

1. Download the TravelStorys app—free on iOS and Android
2. Search "Colorado Scenic Byways" or any individual byway name
3. Download a tour to your phone for free. Then start your drive—GPS automatically triggers narration at key points along the route

*Tours work offline once downloaded, making them ideal for remote byways with limited cell coverage.*

## ABOUT TRAVELSTORYSGPS

TravelStorysGPS is a mission-driven company dedicated to connecting people to places through authentic, locally crafted audio storytelling. Its digital library of GPS-guided audio tours brings history, culture, nature, and hidden gems to life in remarkable destinations across the U.S. and beyond. Many tours are free, and paid tours are affordably priced, making meaningful, place-based storytelling accessible to travelers everywhere. For more information, visit [TravelStorys.com](https://TravelStorys.com).

## ABOUT COLORADO SCENIC AND HISTORIC BYWAYS

Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways offer Coloradans and visitors an opportunity to participate in the America 250 - Colorado 150 anniversary (now leading up to 2026). These 26 routes highlight Colorado's shared history and celebrate the people, cultures, and communities that make our state unique. For more information, visit: [codot.gov/travel/colorado-byways](https://codot.gov/travel/colorado-byways), where you can learn fun facts, estimated drive times, key attractions, route length and more. Another resource is COtrip.org and the COtrip Planner App, where you can plan your route ahead of time by clicking on the Scenic Byways layer on the Layers menu.