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Road Map Travel Guide

Colorado United States Highway #550 "Highway 550 - Durango to Montrose"

Road Map Travel Guide by Main Street Bed and Breakfast
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MILE	KM	ITEM	SUMMARY	MILE	KM
25.0	40.2	Durango to Silverton Rail	Durango to Silverton narrow gauge tracks are visible along 550. Southbound travelers first see tracks near mile marker 33. Part of this Highway Travel Guide is called 'San Juan Skyway', a National Scenic Byway.	104.0	167.4
25.9	41.7	Durango, Colorado city limits.	The north city limits are at this mileage. Elevation is 6,512 feet. Attractions in and around Durango: Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, Vallecito Lake, Historic Downtown Durango, The Animas River, Durango Mountain Resort, Mesa Verde, San Juan National Forest.	103.1	165.9
27.0	43.5	Glider rides.	A small airport featuring glider rides is on east side of the road.	102.0	164.1
27.5	44.3	Bueno Tempo Ranch	The Bueno Tempo Ranch and horseback riding stables are on the east side of the road.	101.5	163.3
30.5	49.1	Trimble Hot Springs and Dalton Lake Golf Course	The turnoff to Trimble Hot Springs is to the west, and Dalton Lake Golf Course is visible to the east.	98.5	158.5
33.5	53.9	Ranch valley and red cliffs.	A beautiful valley ranch and high red cliffs are visible on east side of road.	95.5	153.7
35.0	56.3	KOA	KOA campground is on east side of road.	94.0	151.3
39.5	63.6	Tamarron Golf Course	Tamarron Golf Course lies on east side of road.	89.5	144.0
40.0	64.4	Red cliffs	A wall of red cliffs rises to the west of 550 and parallels it for several miles.	89.0	143.2
41.5	66.8	Haviland Lake exit	Haviland Lake exit turns to the east.	87.5	140.8
48.0	77.2	Range cattle	Range cattle may be seen, or may cross the highway between miles 48 and 54.	81.0	130.4
49.0	78.9	Purgatory ski area	The Purgatory ski area is on the west side of the road.	80.0	128.7
49.2	79.2	Hermosa Road/campground.	Hermosa Road National Forest Access (NFA). Also there is a National Forest campground.	79.8	128.4
51.2	82.4	Old Lime Creek Road	Old Lime Creek Road NFA turnoff.	77.8	125.2
52.5	84.5	Runaway truck ramp.	There is a runaway truck ramp on the west side of the road for southbound vehicles.	76.5	123.1
56.4	90.8	Coal Creek Pass	Coal Creek Pass. Elevation 10,640.	72.6	116.8
57.0	91.7	Twilight Peak	Excellent view of Twilight Peak to the east.	72.0	115.9
57.9	93.2	Waterfall	A nice, smaller waterfall can be seen on the west side of the road.	71.1	114.4
62.4	100.4	Rest site	East Lime Creek rest site is at this point.	66.6	107.2
62.9	101.2	Andrews Lake	The turnoff to Andrews Lake is to the east. To the south can be seen Engineer Mountain a very large, exposed rocky mountain.	66.1	106.4
64.0	103.0	Molas Pass viewpoint	At this mile marker is Molas Pass scenic viewpoint on the east side of the road. Molas Pass has an elevation of 10,010 feet.	65.0	104.6
64.4	103.6	Little Molas Lake	Little Molas Lake turnoff is to the west.	64.6	104.0
65.1	104.8	Molas Trail	Molas Trail turnoff is to the east.	63.9	102.8
65.5	105.4	Molas Lake	Molas Lake and campground are on east side of the road. The Grenadier Mountains lie as a background.	63.5	102.2
70.0	112.6	Silverton	From this mile marker, the historic mining town of Silverton is seen in a valley to the east of 550. Several Victorian buildings adorn the town, many of which are on the National Register of Historic Places. The Million Dollar Highway between Silverton and Ouray begins here. Also, many Jeep trails originate in the area.	59.0	94.9
70.0	112.6	Photo	Photo of South Mineral Creek, near Silverton	59.0	94.9
71.0	114.3	Miner's Shrine	As 550 heads east-west at this point, there is a turnoff to the north to the Miner's Shrine, less than 1/2 mile off 550.	58.0	93.3
71.0	114.3	Photo	View from highway, of The Valley of Silverton	58.0	93.3
72.5	116.7	South Mineral Campground.	Turnoff to South Mineral Campground on south side of road. South Mineral Creek flows along the highway.	56.5	90.9

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75.3	121.2	Ophir Pass	The turnoff to Ophir Pass is on west side of road. The pass goes to Ophir Pass, then to the town of Ophir, and connects to route 145. This is, in most cases, a 4 wheel drive road.	53.7	86.4
77.0	123.9	Beaver ponds/mine buildings	Beaver ponds can be seen along south side of the road as 550 heads west. Old mine buildings are on north side of the road.	52.0	83.7
79.0	127.1	550 south view.	Excellent view of 550 as one looks southward through valley toward Silverton.	50.0	80.5
80.3	129.2	Red Mountain Pass	Red Mountain Pass is 11,000 feet. Views of the 3 Red Mountains lie to the east.	48.7	78.4
82.0	132.0	Idarado Mine Tunnel	The eastern end of the Idarado Mine tunnel is seen here, along with good examples of mine buildings and houses	47.0	75.6
84.3	135.7	10,000 foot elevation marker		44.7	71.9
85.0	136.8	Mine structures	At this point, there are several abandoned mine structures at various stages of disrepair.	44.0	70.8
86.7	139.5	Ironton Park	At this location, on the east side of the road is a sign indicating an Idarado mine reclamation project. Another sign indicates cross-country skiing. A short distance off 550 is a fork in the gravel road that shows Brown Mountain left, and Corkscrew Gulch right	42.3	68.1
87.0	140.0	Ironton	The ghost town of Ironton Park is on the east side of the road. Only a handful of houses remain.	42.0	67.6
88.0	141.6	Memorial	A memorial to road workers who died from avalanches is here, and to members of a family taken by avalanche.	41.0	66.0
88.3	142.1	Avalanche tunnel	A man-made avalanche protection tunnel was built because of frequent, heavy snowslides here.	40.7	65.5
89.5	144.0	Base of Mt. Abram	550 turns east here and goes along base of 12,801 foot Mt. Abram, Ouray's signature mountain. Good views of the Million Dollar Highway are seen to the north as it winds along sheer cliff dropoffs with no guardrails.	39.5	63.6
89.7	144.4	River/falls	A rushing river (Bear Creek) and falls are on the east side of the road. Also, turnoff to the Alpine Loop is to the east.	39.3	63.2
90.9	146.3	Bear Creek trailhead.	You access Bear Creek trailhead here, which passes over the top of a small tunnel cut through the mountain, through which 550 passes.	38.1	61.3
92.5	148.9	Amphitheater turnoff	Turnoff to the Amphitheater Campground is to the south as 550 heads east. There are great views of the Amphitheater, a huge, semicircular wall east of Ouray.	36.5	58.7
93.0	149.7	Camp Bird Road	The turnoff to Camp Bird Road is to the south. Along it is the Camp Bird Mine at about 5 miles, and Yankee Boy Basin at 8 miles, widely known for its wildflowers in July and August. Branching off Camp Bird Road is Imogene Pass, a treacherous 4-wheel drive to Telluride.	36.0	57.9
94.0	151.3	Ouray Information	You approach Ouray, a Victorian mining town, the whole of which is on the National Register of Historic Places.	35.0	56.3
95.0	152.9	Hot Springs	At the north end of town is the football field-sized Ouray Hot Springs, open all year, ranging in temperature from 72 to 104 degrees.	34.0	54.7
101.0	162.5	San Juan Guest Ranch	Turnoff to San Juan Guest Ranch is to the west.	28.0	45.1
101.0	162.5	Photo	View from highway	28.0	45.1
102.1	164.3	Orvis Hot Springs	Orvis Hot Springs lies along the west side of the road. It also has accommodations.	26.9	43.3
103.5	166.6	Ridgway	The small ranching town of Ridgway lies at the intersection of 550 and 62. The Ouray County Rodeo is held around Labor Day weekend. Parts of the films True Grit and How the West Was Won were filmed here.	25.5	41.0
105.4	169.6	Owl Creek Pass	Turnoff east to Owl Creek Pass and Silver Jack Reservoir. Views of beautiful Cinnamon Range to the east.	23.6	38.0
106.1	170.7	Fairway Pines	Turnoff west to Fairway Pines Golf Course.	22.9	36.9
107.0	172.2	Ridgway State Park	Entrance to Ridgway State Park, Dallas Creek area, to the west.	22.0	35.4
108.2	174.1	Ridgway State Park, Dutch Charlie entrance		20.8	33.5
111.7	179.8	Ridgway State Park, Pa-co-chu-puk area	Turnoff west to Pa-co-chu-puk area. A dam is here, at the base of which is good trout fishing.	17.3	27.8
115.5	185.9	Elk farm	An elk farm is on the west side of road.	13.5	21.7
117.0	188.3	Colona	The small townsite of Colona is at this mile marker. It was once a childhood home to Jack Dempsey.	12.0	19.3

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125.3	201.6	Antiques	On the east side of the road are a series of antique shops.	3.7	6.0
125.6	202.1	Ute Museum	On west side of road is the Ute Indian Museum.	3.4	5.5
125.8	202.4	Hanging Tree	The Hanging Tree campground and RV park is on the east side of the road. What is said to be a real hanging tree from old the days still stands.	3.2	5.1
126.2	203.1	Montrose	Enter the city limits of Montrose, a full service town of nearly 10,000 people.	2.8	4.5
129.0	207.6	550 meets route 50	Route 550 ends, and joins U.S. route 50. A few miles to the east is Black Canyon National Park, and approximately 60 miles north (straight ahead), is Grand Junction, home of The Colorado National Monument. -e	0.0	0.0