

Del Norte, Colorado - Town Guide

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- Miles from Denver, CO: 230 miles southwest
- Population (latest estimate): ~1,600
- Estimated Elevation (in feet): 7,884 ft
- Nearby Towns: South Fork (16 mi), Monte Vista (15 mi), Creede (45 mi)
- Map Link: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/uF64Ar6vA7GhSTXz5>

Things to Do in Del Norte

1. Penitente Canyon Recreation Area - A hidden gem for rock climbing, hiking, and mountain biking, offering unique rock formations and spiritual history.
2. Rio Grande National Forest Access - Explore trails, alpine lakes, and wildlife in this expansive forest.
3. Lookout Mountain Trail - This moderate hike gives panoramic views of the San Luis Valley.
4. Historic Downtown Del Norte - Walkable streets with historic architecture and artisan shops.
5. Three Barrel Brewing Co. - A funky, family-friendly brewery and wood-fired pizza spot.
6. Windsor Hotel History Tour - Step back into 1870s Colorado with a tour of this restored hotel.
7. Summer Concert Series at Town Park - Free concerts and events during summer.

Places to Eat in Del Norte

- The Mystic Biscuit - Breakfast and brunch with massive cinnamon rolls and housemade biscuits.
- Colorado Grille & Tap House - Steak, wild game, and cocktails at the Windsor Hotel.
- Boogies Restaurant - Diner-style burgers and milkshakes.
- Three Barrel Brewing Co. - Hand-tossed pizzas and fresh brews.

Where to Stay in Del Norte

- The Windsor Hotel - Historic luxury with modern amenities.
- Mellow Moon Lodge - Renovated retro-style motel with mountain views.
- Del Norte Town Cabins - Rustic-to-modern Airbnb rentals.
- Trailhead Inn - Budget-friendly, clean rooms with trail access.

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Local Events Calendar

- Rhythms on the Rio Music Festival (August): Roots, folk, and jam bands by the Rio Grande.
- San Luis Valley Quilt Festival (June): Showcasing quilting artistry.
- Christmas in Del Norte (December): Tree lighting and carriage rides.

Tips & Insider Advice

- Best Season: Late spring through early fall.
- Hidden Gem: Elephant Rocks - a granite boulder cluster just outside town.
- Local Quirk: Expect a slower pace and friendly locals.
- Access: Right off U.S. Hwy 160; great overnight stop between Great Sand Dunes and Creede.