Hanging Flume Trip
In the 1880s, miners in western Colorado faced a problem of accessing gold deposits that were hundreds of feet about the Dolores River. They came up with an ingenious solution; a flume was constructed that went thirteen miles up the canyon to a point where the current river was only slightly higher in elevation than the old gold bearing river cobbles. On this excursion, we travel down Highway 141 to visit the feat of engineering and learn about the mining, ranching, and outlaw heritage of the area. Guided tour, approximately 2 hours. $75 per person.

Dinosaur Track and Geology Excursion
The Dolores River Canyon is one of the best places in the United States to find dinosaur and ancient proto-mammal tracks. Over 150 million years of geology will examined while taking the breath-taking drive through the canyon and stops will be made to examine and explore some of the best persevered track sites in the area. Old ranching homesteads can also be spotted and stories of colorful local characters will be shared. Guided tour, approximately ninety minutes. $55 per person.

John Brown Dinosaur Track Site
Explore some of the best preserved dinosaur tracks in the area in one of the most scenic spots around. Over 160 million years ago, large three-toed dinosaurs roamed the ancient landscape and some of their tracks have been preserved in rock. Learn about the paleontology of the area and see the
spectacular tracks and beautiful La Sal Mountains. Along the way, hear the outlaw saga of John Brown, who one November night in 1911 shot and killed both his daughter and son-in-law. Guided tour, approximately 3 hours. $120 per person.

Unaweep Canyon Trip
In 1918, famed author Lawrence Driggs started to build his dream hunting lodge in one of the most beautiful parts of Unaweep Canyon. The beautiful hand-cut stone and massive archway door of the building was an icon for decades before the building was destroyed. On this outing, we will drive up beautiful Unaweep Canyon and stop at the historic Summit School before making our way to the ruins of Driggs Mansion. Once onsite, the story of the building will be brought to life while learning about historic archaeology. The canyon’s fascinating and puzzling geology will also be shared. Guided tour, approximately 2 hours. $75 per person.

Guided Geology and Natural History Hikes
Explore the history, geology, and natural history of the Gateway area while hiking in gorgeous red rock canyon country. The story of the 300 million year old rocks, ancient life including dinosaurs, the 12,000 year-old human story, and tales of the area’s pioneers will all be shared. Guided tour, time ranges from ninety minutes to three hours. $35-$75 per person. Standard tour is ninety minutes at $35 per person.

Calamity Camp
High above Gateway Canyons Resort on the top of the Uncompahgre Plateau is the remains of one of western Colorado’s most fascinating and important mining sites. While Colorado is well known for gold and silver mining, Calamity Camp became profitable off of none of these beautiful minerals. Instead, Calamity and the surrounding area were heavily mined for radium, vanadium, and – most importantly – uranium. The amounts of high-quality uranium in the region is unmatched anywhere
else in the world and for half a century the mining of radioactive materials was one of the strongest industries in the area. At Calamity Camp, you can still see not only evidence from mining but also what everyday life was like during the first part of the twentieth century. Massive stone and wood cabins were built, families moved in, and an entire community was formed. But as quickly as the boom happened, the industry bust and the area was quickly abandoned.

Today, Calamity is a time capsule that has captured the uranium heritage and story of the Uncompahgre Plateau. You can see the amazing craftsmanship of the stone cabins, the thousands of core samples that were taken from the ground to find rich veins of uranium, and the items that people discarded over fifty years that paint a picture of what life in the camp was like. Not only is the site listed on the National Register of Historic Places of interest, but the drive up the Niche Road is one that you will not forget. Rising thousands of feet in just a few miles, the views from the road are unmatched in the area and the thrill of the narrow and steep road is something you will never forget. **Guided tour, three hours. $160 per person.**

**Roc Creek Rock Art Hike** – People have been using and living in the canyons around Gateway for hundreds of thousands of years and have left clues behind to help us understand what everyday life was like. Roc Creek contains some of the most dazzling and intriguing rock art in the region. The oldest images were carving into the sandstone one thousand years ago and evidence for a possible village site can be found in the area. This tour involves a two mile round trip moderate hike with outstanding views of the Dolores River Canyon and Roc Creek as well as information on the vast and rich human history of the area. **Three-hour tour, $75 per person.**
John Christian Cabin Hike – The hermit John Christian worked for the famous Club Ranch and built a small cabin out of wood salvaged from the Hanging Flume. His life is surrounded in mystery but remnants of this cabin still remain near the Dolores River. This short hike will offer fabulous views of the Dolores River, the Hanging Flume, and a drive through the red rock canyon country. When we arrive at the historic site, we will discuss archaeology and piece together what we can about the life of Mr. Christian.

**Guided tour and hike, three hour program. $75 per person.**

**Wild Steer Canyon Uranium Tour** – The Paradox Valley was one of the last truly wild and untamed places in the American West and the canyon rims on both sides of the valley hold vast amounts of uranium. Wild Steer Canyon contains some of the best preserved uranium mines and camp sites. On this tour, we will take the scenic River Road from Gateway to the Paradox Valley and into the very remote mining site. There, we will explore and discuss the Uranium Boom days and what is being done to preserve Cold War era history. **Guided tour and hike, four hour program. $160 per person.**

**Talks and Lectures (approximately sixty minutes):**

**Rock Art of the Colorado Plateau** – The American Southwest has been home to man for 10,000 years and in that vast amount of time, people have changed and adapted to the landscapes and have formed different ways of life. This lecture will discuss from the earliest hunter-gathers to contemporary Native American cultures that have long called the Colorado Plateau home by looking at the different styles and ways that each group left behind images on stone.
U-Boom: Uranium Fever – The Colorado Plateau is one of the world’s greatest deposits of uranium and Gateway has been the center of booms and busts for radioactive mining for almost a century. From isolated mining camps that turned into cities to secret government projects and experiments, western Colorado and eastern Utah saw it all. Some, like Charlie Steen and Vernon Pick, would strike it rich and be the inspiration for an entire atomic obsessed generation. This talk will share the hopes and dreams of the U-Boom and discuss if a new atomic age is on the horizon and will focus on Calamity Camp, a history uranium settlement located high above Gateway on the Uncompahgre Plateau.

Ancient Astronomy: How the Ancients Used the Sky – Over a thousand years ago, the Ancestral Puebloans (formally called the Anasazi) developed a complex society based in the harsh deserts and canyon country of the Southwest. In addition to building magnificent buildings, creating beautiful pottery, and leaving behind fascinating rock art, the ancient culture also created a complex system of calendars. This lecture will focus on three Ancestral Puebloan sites, Mesa Verde, Hovenweep, and Chaco Canyon, and examine how the ancients used the heavens above in every day life.

Gateway Area History – Gateway, Colorado is a place that not only captures the idea that most people have of the American West (cattle rustling, outlaws, mining, Native American cultures) but is a place where the traditional West is still very much alive. In this program, we will examine the story of the isolated communities of Gateway and Unaweep Canyon. Thousands of years of human history, ranching and cattle thieves, bank and train robberies, and unsolved
mysteries will be highlighted as will as the area’s fascinating and puzzling geology.

**Fouilly Murdered.**

Paradox Convulsed by an Inhuman Murder.

Murder, Madams and Mayhem - A county commissioner who with one bullet shot his daughter and son in-law at a dance. A mine watchman who’s decapitated body was found in chicken feed. A body found in the ground buried under a mattress while the murderer spent a small fortune at a house of ill repute. All of this and more happened on the open ranges and small towns of western Colorado and eastern Utah. This talk will examine the more seedy side of local history when we were truly a part of the Wild West.

**Go West, Young Man: Exploring the American West**— The phrase popularized by Horace Greeley inspired generations of settlers to move away from the industrial East and into the largely unknown West. But before the area could truly be opened up to settlement, the lands needed to be mapped, examined, and surveyed. The amazing stories of two of the West’s greatest explorers, John Wesly Powell and Ferdinand Hayden, will be shared, as will early Spanish exploration parties.