



A Goldmine *of* Luxury

Sweetly secluded and full of charm, Dunton Hot Springs features authentic touches of Wild Western history

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Over the last century, dozens of Colorado's old ghost towns have been revitalized, but few can rival Dunton Hot Springs, a tiny, late 1800's mining camp turned posh retreat tucked away in the San Juan Mountains. Once home to nearly 300 people at its booming peak in 1905, isolation and poor transportation left the town deserted by 1918.

In 1994, businessman Christoph Henkel and his wife, art dealer Katrin Bellinger, snapped up the 183-acre property with an eye on real estate development. But they fell in love with the location and had a change of heart, deciding >



(above) Dunton Hot Springs’ rustic-yet-luxurious accommodations, combined with a lack of cell phone service, create the perfect escape from modern life.

instead to salvage the site’s turn-of-the-century artifacts and lovingly restore many of the town’s original buildings over the course of seven years.

Today the resort serves as a getaway for an eclectic mix of individuals, including Hollywood A-listers, blue-jeans-clad cowboys, Fortune 500 executives, road-tripping families and honeymooning couples. Twelve hand-hewn, authentic cabins filled with unique memorabilia and furnishings, along with one luxury tent, are available to rent year-round; the whole town, which can accommodate up to 44 overnight guests, may be reserved for special events or corporate retreats.

Have an overwhelming urge to be spoiled? Pampering is all a part of the experience at Dunton, with sumptuous down comforters and super-soft robes at the ready, while an array of restorative treatments await you at the spa. The resident chefs whip up three mouthwatering meals each day using fresh, locally-sourced meats, produce and cheeses, and will happily drive all over the Western Slope to fulfill guests’ special food and drink requests made prior to their arrival.

And yet a stay at Dunton Hot Springs is the comfortable antithesis of a five-star hotel. The staff is small (the bellman does double-duty as a waiter), meals are served family-style at a communal dining table, and the dress code is nonexistent. At every turn, guests will discover quirky features: cabin doors that top out at four-and-a-half feet tall; a copper slipper tub on wheels that once resided in Dunton’s brothel; a well-worn bar in the saloon/dance hall that features a bona fide signature of Butch Cassidy. >



HOW TO GET THERE: The journey to Dunton Hot Springs by car is both bucolic and breathtaking, with dramatic mountain views. Guests may fly into nearby Telluride (TEX), Montrose (MTJ), Cortez (CEZ) or Durango (DRO) airports and drive themselves, or get picked up by the resort’s shuttle service. Dunton Hot Springs is approximately an hour’s drive from Telluride.



A Perfect Hideaway

In 1889, famous outlaw Butch Cassidy robbed the San Miguel Bank in Telluride of more than \$20,000 and spent two nights at Dunton Hot Springs while he planned his next move.



Day Tripping

Mesa Verde National Park
This must-see National Park (above) is home to one of the largest archeological preserves in the United States. Step back in time and discover marvelously intact ancient cliff dwellings once inhabited by ancestral Puebloans. [nps.gov/meve](https://www.nps.gov/meve)

San Juan National Forest Geyser Spring, the only active geyser in Colorado, is just one of many natural attractions located in the San Juan National Forest. Just a few miles away from Dunton Hot Springs, it can be accessed by snowshoe in winter. The Forest is also home to a handful of Fourteeners. [fs.usda.gov/sanjuan](https://www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan)

Telluride
A town well loved for its nightlife, top-notch restaurants, quaint shops

and ski resort, Telluride easily merits a whole-day excursion—or two. It’s worth driving in just to see Bridal Veil Falls, the tallest freefalling waterfall in the state. [telluride.com](https://www.telluride.com)

The San Juan Skyway
This 236-mile loop drive is a federally designated scenic highway featuring stunning views and plenty of spots along the way to grab a bite to eat or pick up a souvenir. [colorado.com](https://www.colorado.com)

Sutcliffe Vineyards
Head down to lower elevation for wine tasting and a picnic lunch at this lovely vineyard (below) located near the town of Cortez. Then return to Dunton Hot Springs and enjoy Sutcliffe wines paired with dinner; they are the official winery of the resort. [sutcliffewines.com](https://www.sutcliffewines.com)



JOSIE PARDEN PHOTOGRAPHY

While the resort’s namesake hot springs are the main attraction, plenty of other diversions are available on-site and nearby, from dog-sledding to heli-skiing. But many folks are just content to curl up with a hot toddy by the fireplace in the two-story library.

One amenity guests won’t find at Dunton Hot Springs is cell phone service, which is the owners’ way of encouraging people to enjoy true downtime during their stay. After a day and night at this heavenly location, chances are plenty of visitors find themselves wishing they could permanently leave their electronic devices in the “off” position. [duntonhotsprings.com](https://www.duntonhotsprings.com) □



Guests are advised to leave their white swimwear at home, as Dunton’s hot springs are rich in iron and tinged red. There are six options for a good soak, both indoors and out, with temperatures ranging from 85°F to 106°F. The resort’s therapeutic waters benefit the mind, body and soul:

- IRON:** good for circulation and smoothing the skin
- MAGNESIUM:** eases muscle aches and pains
- LITHIUM:** known for its mellowing effect