

RANCH ROAD TRIP

With the days growing longer and warmer, it's easy to feel inspired to hit the road. **Canyon of the Ancients Guest Ranch** in southwest Colorado, about 260 miles from Albuquerque (just over four hours), is an ideal destination for a scenic getaway. The route takes you through northern New Mexico's high desert before crossing into southern Colorado's Ute Mountains. The final half-hour stretch winds past red-rock mesas and juniper-dotted canyons, skirting Canyon of the Ancients National Monument and ranchlands where horses and cattle graze.

Canyon of the Ancients Guest Ranch is a boutique working ranch with five guesthouses, plus two additional, more spacious luxury dwellings tucked farther up the road in a secluded area called Sky Village. Guests are welcomed with thoughtful touches like complimentary coffee and farm-fresh eggs. Morning highlights may include sheep (and one of the ever-vigilant sheepdogs) passing by your patio.

Owners Garry and Ming Adams, who have cared for the property for 20 years, are known for their warm hospitality and deep knowledge of the land. Don't be surprised if Ming knocks on your door and invites you along to see ancient Puebloan petroglyphs on a neighboring property. "We want guests to see what ancient Pueblos once saw—the sweeping canyons, the vast curve of the sky, the timeless arc of the stars—while being gently held by the comforts of modern living," says Ming. "This is a place where land, animals, and people all thrive together."

One standout accommodation option is the Quasi Lookout, a one-bedroom, one-bath cabin with a wraparound porch ideal for grilling. Along with expansive mountain views, the cabin also overlooks the sheep pasture. It's named after Quasimodo, an orphaned lamb the Adamases rescued and raised into a healthy black sheep, whose photo hangs inside the cabin. With a little luck, you might spot him roaming the pasture outside. *The ranch doesn't serve food, but all guesthouses have a full kitchen and grills. Grass-fed beef and lamb from the farm are available for purchase. Rates start at \$325 per night, plus an \$85 cleaning fee.* **▶ ALLISON BELDA**

COURTESY CANYON OF THE ANCIENTS GUEST RANCH (4)



From top left: Quasi Lookout's porch; sheep grazing on the ranch; the Sky Kiva accommodation in Sky Village; the living room at Elden Stone House, which sleeps up to five.