

Pagosa Springs, Colorado

TRAVEL GUIDE

Seasons Edition:
Fall '25

RESTAURANTS · LEAF PEEPING · ACTIVITIES

8 TIPS TO SOAK IN FALL'S COLORS
IN PAGOSA SPRINGS, COLORADO

Fall is a *local favorite* soaking season...

Autumn is one of the most breathtaking times of year to explore our mountain town.

Whether you're dreaming of soaking in mineral-rich waters beneath golden trees, hiking through fiery aspen groves, or simply unwinding in your robe with a warm drink in hand, this guide is here to help you plan it all.

Fall in Pagosa Springs invites you to slow down, tune in, and explore a quieter side of the mountains. At The Springs Resort, you'll find rich experiences designed to help you reconnect with yourself.

Inside, you'll find our favorite things to do in Pagosa Springs during fall, plus wellness experiences, spa treatments, seasonal dining, and special ways to make the most of your time at The Springs Resort.

So go ahead, soak into the season.

Fall is calling.



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KNOW BEFORE YOU GO *Fall Temperatures*

September:

Expect mild afternoons in the lower 70s °F (around 22 °C), while mornings and evenings chill down to the mid-40s °F (near 6 °C). It's the kind of weather that demands a sweater and a sense of wonder.

October:

Daytime highs steadily dip from the upper 60s °F (around 20 °C) into the mid-50s °F (about 13 °C). Overnight lows slip between the low 30s °F (around 0 °C) and upper 30s °F (~4 °C).

COLORFEST WEEKEND SEPTEMBER 19TH - 21ST, 2025

Celebrate the beauty of fall in Pagosa Springs with a weekend of colorful hot air balloons, live music, and seasonal flavors. Festivities begin Friday at 6 PM with the Passport to Pagosa Wine & Food Festival. On Saturday, enjoy the Bands & Brews Festival starting at 3 PM, then gather at dusk for the Evening Balloon Glow.

Hot air balloon mass ascensions lift off around 8 AM on both Saturday and Sunday, filling the skies with vibrant color over golden aspens. Begin your day with a sunrise soak, then stroll to the launch site for unforgettable views. (All balloon events are weather permitting.)

Insider Tip: Views from the Water

Several pools at The Springs Resort offer a front-row seat to the morning launches. Sip your coffee, relax in the hot springs, and watch hot air balloons rise into the air.



HOT SPRINGS FEST WEEKEND NOVEMBER 7TH - 9TH, 2025

Celebrate Pagosa Springs' geothermal heritage with a weekend of soaking, wellness, and community. A festival pass grants you access to soak in all three of Pagosa's hot spring locations - The Overlook, Healing Waters, and The Springs Resort. Plus special wellness activities throughout the weekend, from Aqua Sound Bathing to guided Warrior Plunges.

Don't miss the festive Robe Parade, where guests stroll through town in their favorite robes. Between wellness activities, enjoy live music, seasonal bites, and warm drinks as autumn lingers in the mountain air.



Insider Tip: Stay & Soak for Less

Guests staying at The Springs Resort or Healing Waters receive a discount on their festival pass. Plan your stay early to enjoy the comfort of soaking just steps from your room.



From glowing night pools and to daytime wellness classes, robe parades, and endless soaking at all three of Pagosa's hot spring facilities, Hot Springs Fest is where relaxation meets celebration.

3 BUCKAROO'S HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE RIDES

One of our close resort partners, Buckaroo's Horse-Drawn Rides offers guests a chance to slow down and enjoy the Rockies. Offered daily at 5:00 PM through November 14, this 40–45 minute horse-drawn ride travels through a secluded ranch with fall views.

This experience includes meeting the draft horses, sipping a beverage, and capturing plenty of photos. After November 14, Buckaroo's transition to festive sleigh adventures when the snow arrives.



Insider Tip: Fall Views by Carriage

For the most vibrant colors, book your ride in late September or early October, when the aspens are at their peak and the golden light makes every photo unforgettable.



Take the reins on relaxation with a scenic 40–45 minute horse-drawn ride through a private ranch. Enjoy mountain views, crisp air, and time to meet the draft horses before your return. Fall rides run daily through November 14, with snowy sleigh rides to follow.

4 TOP FALL SCENIC DRIVES IN PAGOSA SPRINGS

1. **East Fork Road (Forest Road 667)** – Golden aspens line this riverside dirt road, leading toward Silver Falls. A true hidden gem in peak season.
2. **Piedra Road to Williams Creek Reservoir** – Meadows, dense forests, and a sparkling alpine lake framed by autumn colors.
3. **Fourmile Road** – Aspens, sweeping views of the San Juans, and a sense of solitude just minutes from town.
4. **Mill Creek Road** – Less traveled, with intimate aspen stands and stunning mountain backdrops.
5. **Wolf Creek Pass (US 160)** – Classic high-elevation drive with jaw-dropping views and expansive color.

Insider Tip: End with a Soak

After your drive, slip into Alpenglöw and Dawn Patrol pools to watch the mountains blush pink in the fleeting light of alpenglow, a breathtaking finale to your day in the high country.



5 TOP FALL HIKES IN PAGOSA SPRINGS

1. **Reservoir Hill Trails** — Easy strolls just minutes from the resort, with downtown and mountain views.
2. **Opal Lake Trail** — A short hike through white aspens to a reflective, turquoise lake.
3. **Fourmile Falls Trail** — Crisp mountain air, golden aspens, and a waterfall finale.
4. **Coyote Hill Loop** — Gentle loop with open views, perfect for a late-afternoon golden hour walk.
5. **Williams Creek Trail** — Forested paths and meadows that glow in autumn light.

Insider Tip: Hike, then Soak

After the trail, move through a Contrast Circuit, alternating between invigorating cold plunges and soothing hot springs to reduce soreness and boost circulation.

LEAF PEEPING

Opal Lake Trail



6 SEASONAL DINING IN PAGOSA SPRINGS

Fall in Pagosa Springs is a season of hearty flavors and cozy meals, with local restaurants embracing the season. Our signature restaurant, **Wild Finch** led by Chef Daya Myers-Hurt, features thoughtfully crafted staples like Pastured Chicken with spiced potato and peanut sauce, and Tooth & Gill Polenta with all the local mushrooms over creamy lemon polenta.

In town, **Alley House Grille** offers upscale, seasonal dishes, while **Kip's Grill** delivers a casual, Southwestern-inspired twist on ingredients. Wherever you dine, expect menus that capture the rich flavors of fall in the Rockies.

Insider Tip: Plan Ahead for Dinner

An earlier dinner gives you time to catch the golden sunset over the mountains, enjoy a relaxed meal, and still make it back for an evening soak under the stars.

WILD FINCH



Now open! Savor fresh, flavorful fare just steps from the pools at Wild Finch. Led by Chef Daya Myers, our menu blends seasonal ingredients with vibrant global flavors, the perfect pairing for a day of soaking at The Springs Resort.

PICNIC WITH A CHARCUTERIE BOARD

Sometimes the best meals are the simplest. Pick up a charcuterie board from 1881 Poolside Provisions with a selection of cheese, meats, crackers, and a touch of fresh fruit.

It's an easy option for a light lunch, an afternoon snack, or something to enjoy between soaks, on a scenic drive, after a fall hike, or in your favorite autumn spot around the resort. Take it to a shady spot along the riverwalk, settle into a private cabana, or snack poolside while watching the steam rise from the hot springs.



Insider Tip: Make it a Memory

Pair your board with your favorite beverage and time it for golden hour. The mountain backdrop and sound of the San Juan River create a relaxed, picture-worthy moment you'll want to remember.



Picnic made easy with a fresh charcuterie board from 1881 Poolside Provisions. Take it to the riverwalk, a sunny lawn, or your favorite quiet corner of the resort and savor cheese, meats, crackers, and fruit between soaks.

8 SUNRISE HOT AIR BALLOON RIDE

There's nothing quite like seeing Pagosa Springs from above as the first light touches the mountains, the river, and the steam rising from our geothermal pools. Fall is prime season for a hot air balloon flight, with crisp air, clear skies, and vivid color stretching across the valley.

Offered through trusted local partners, Rocky Mountain Hot Air Balloon Adventures, this unforgettable experience gives you a whole new perspective on the landscape and your stay.



Insider Tip: Morning Magic

Book your balloon ride early! Fall spots go fast. If you're staying grounded, enjoy the view from the pools as balloons drift over the resort at sunrise.



Soar above the San Juans with Rocky Mountain Hot Air Balloon Adventures. Fall flights offer crisp air, clear skies, and sweeping views of mountains, rivers, and the steam rising from Pagosa's geothermal pools.

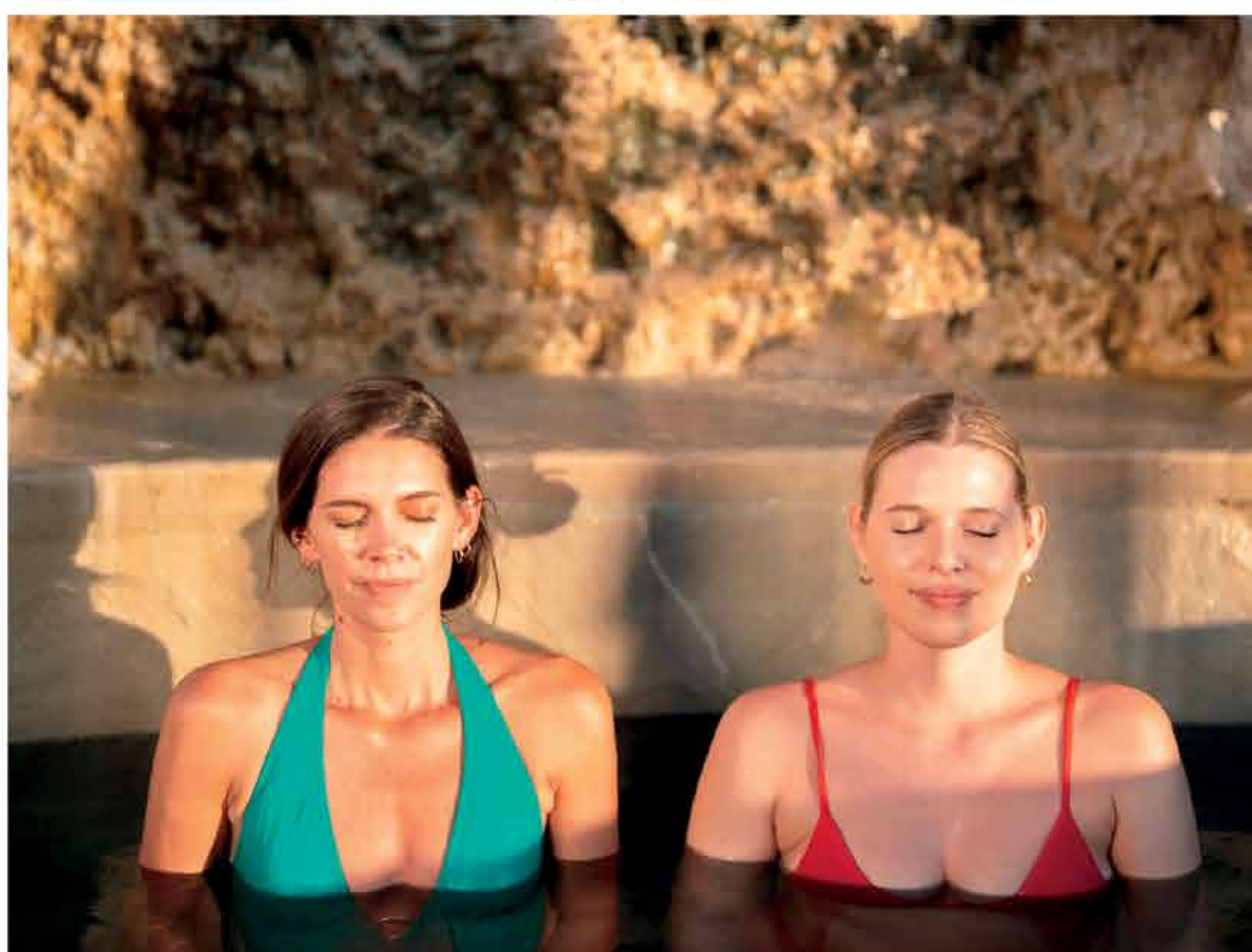
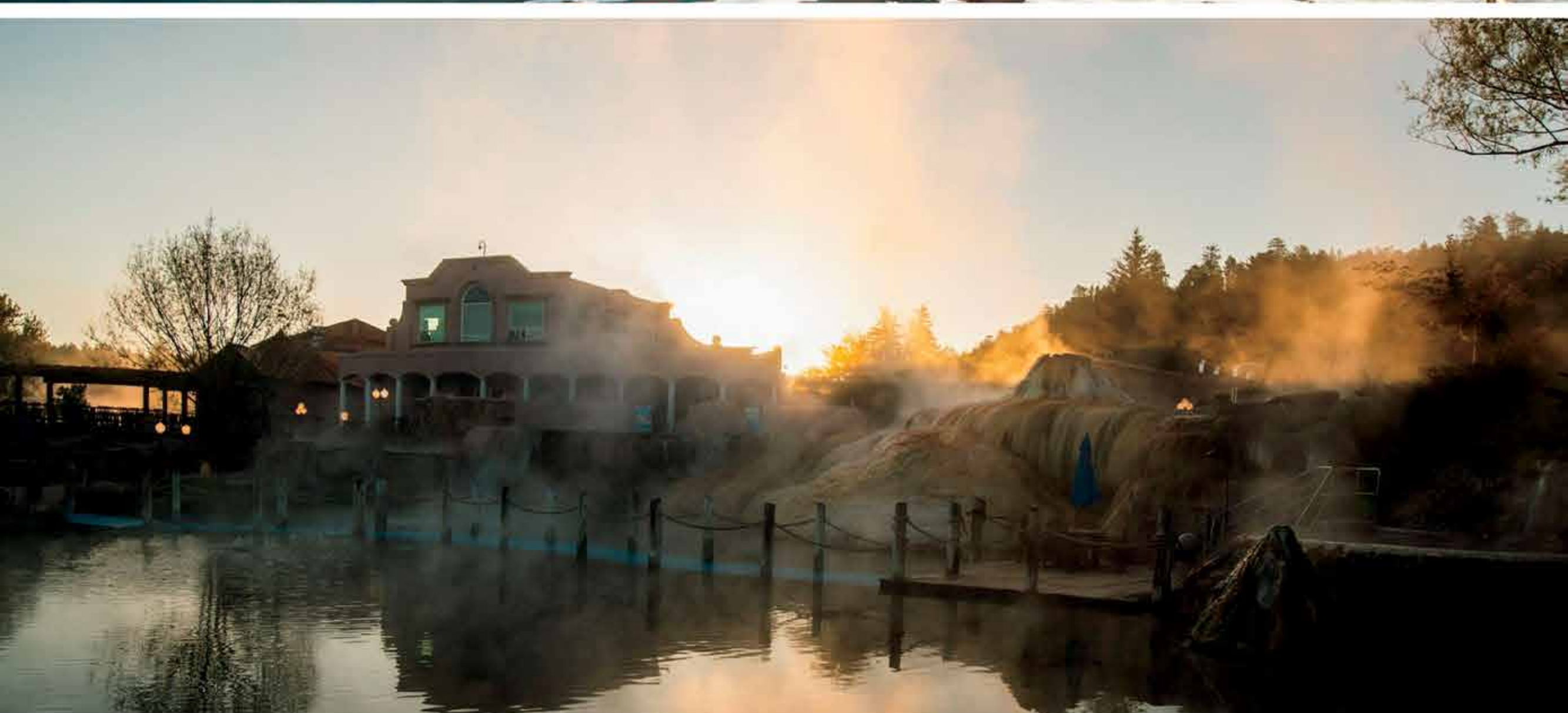
SOAK IT ALL IN

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Bonus Tip: The best part of your visit is having plenty of time to soak it all in. Literally. As an overnight guest, you'll enjoy 24-hour soaking access to more than 45 hot spring pools and cold plunges, giving you endless ways to experience the magic of fall, day or night.



Best Pools for Fall: Contrast Falls for an invigorating rush without the river. Alpenglowl for golden-and-rose sunsets over the mountains. Moon River to cozy up under the moonlight. Twilight for serene, adults-only soaking. Sunset Social for panoramic evening views. Serendipity for the soothing sound of the river & waterfall feature.



With 45+ mineral pools and cold plunges ranging from 35° to 112°F, The Springs Resort offers endless ways to soak, refresh, and restore. Each pool is fed by the world's deepest geothermal hot spring, rich in minerals that naturally soothe and revitalize. Set along the San Juan River in the heart of Pagosa Springs, it's a one-of-a-kind destination.

HISTORY & CULTURE

Hunting Season



Skilled hunters, the Utes used the horse to become expert big game hunters.

Hunting Then

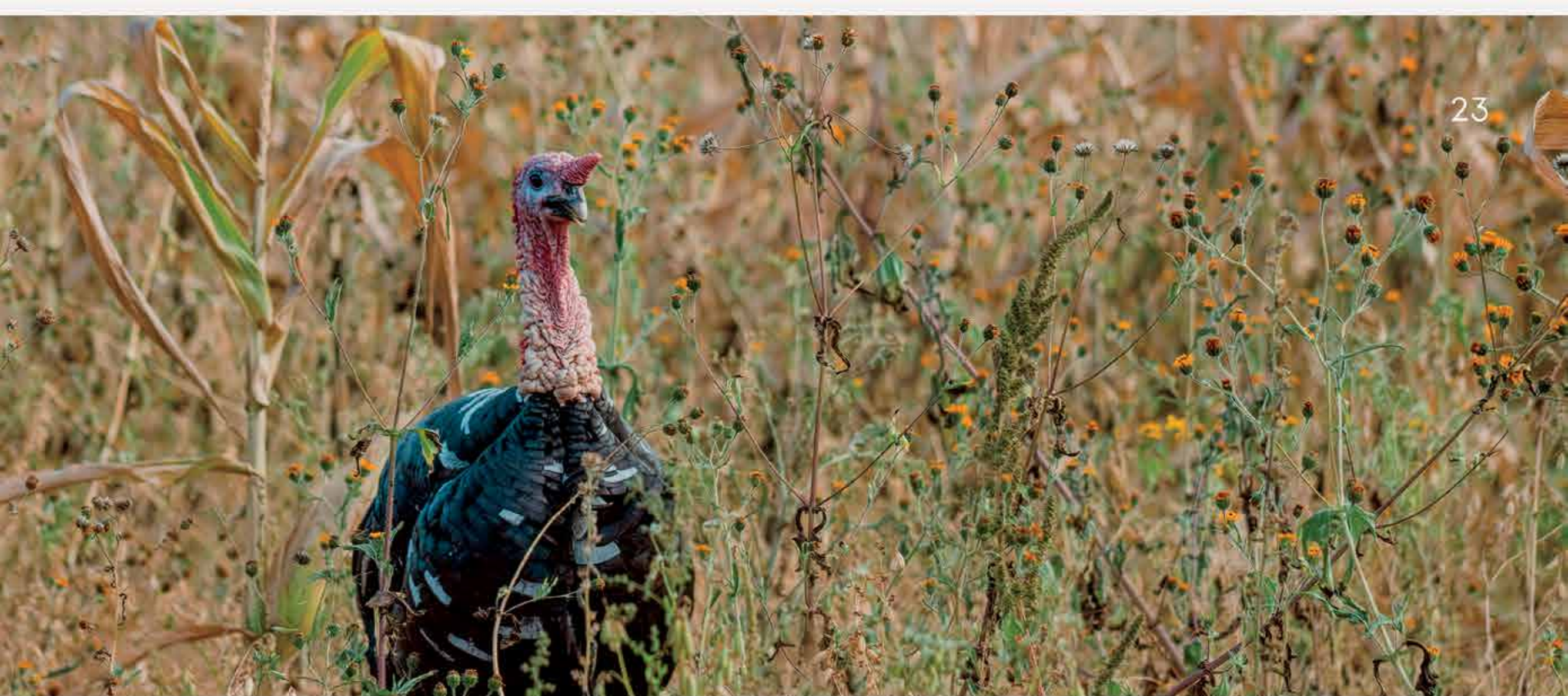
For the Ute people, fall in the San Juan Mountains was the season of preparation. Elk, mule deer, and wild turkey hunts weren't sport, they were survival. Families followed the herds as they grazed the last high-country meadows before snow drove them lower. Every part of the animal was used: meat dried or smoked for winter, hides tanned for clothing and shelter, and bones and antlers carved into tools.

By the late 1800s, settlers had joined the hunt. Some still relied on the meat to make it through long winters, but others came for the challenge and the trophy. Old photographs show hunters in wool coats and wide-brimmed hats, rifles slung over shoulders, standing proudly beside bull elk in the crisp October air.

Hunting Now

Hunting remains a fall ritual in Pagosa Springs, though the landscape of the tradition has shifted. Today, hunters arrive from across the country for over-the-counter elk and deer tags, guided trips into the Weminuche Wilderness, and the thrill of chasing game in some of the most rugged terrain in Colorado. Local outfitters carry on skills passed down through generations, blending modern gear with mountain know-how.

Even if you're not hunting, the season is part of the town's rhythm. You'll see blaze orange at the café counters, hear stories traded at the gas station, and watch the aspen leaves shimmer gold over valleys where hunters once walked in buckskin. It's a reminder that autumn here has always been about gathering what you need to last the winter. Whether that's a full freezer, a photo, or simply the memory of a crisp San Juan morning.



Wild at heart. In Pagosa Springs, you might spot anything from strutting turkeys and grazing mule deer to the stealthy mountain lion and the black bear on the move.



HISTORY & CULTURE

The Ancient Ones



Chimney Rock National Monument
just 30 minutes away from Pagosa Springs

A Changing Season at Chimney Rock

Over a thousand years ago, the ancestral Puebloans timed their lives to the rhythms of the sky, the land, and the changing seasons. The autumn equinox, when day and night stand in near-perfect balance, marked a turning point: harvest time, winter preparations, and gatherings that tied the community together.

Walking the mesa in September or October, you can feel echoes of that season. Corn, beans, and squash were once dried in the sun here, while piñon nuts and wild foods were collected in the surrounding hills. Wildlife was on the move, too, mule deer and elk in their rut, and raptors riding the thermals above the twin spires of Chimney Rock and Companion Rock.

Today, fall visitors experience the same crisp air and golden light that would have framed those ancient harvest days. Cooler temperatures make the climb to the Great House more inviting, and the stonework seems to glow against the clear blue sky.

Just as Chimney Rock was an important outpost in the ancestral Puebloan world, it was also connected to a much larger cultural landscape. To the south, Chaco Canyon served as a central hub of architecture, astronomy, and trade, while Mesa Verde, to the west, flourished with cliff dwellings and farming communities.

Visiting these sites alongside Chimney Rock offers a fuller picture of how these people thrived, and how the changing seasons shaped life across the region.



Fall Events

Open through October 15 and just 30 minutes from downtown Pagosa Springs, Chimney Rock National Monument offers unforgettable cultural and educational experiences for all ages.

As the season winds down, there's still time to explore — tickets are available at [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov).

UPCOMING TOURS & EVENTS:

- A Mystery Tour of Chimney Rock – M/W/F through 10/15
- Autumnal Equinox Tour – 9/22
- Birding at Chimney Rock – 8/22 & 9/20
- Chimney Rock Through the Ages – Tue & Sat through 9/30; Saturdays only through 10/11
- Early Tour & Full Moon Package – 9/7 & 10/6
- Flute Music at Twilight – 8/23 & 9/27
- Full Moon Tour – 9/7 & 10/6
- Guided Great House Walking Tours – through 10/15
- Major Lunar Standstill Celebration – 9/14
- Night Sky Program – 8/30 & 9/19
- Stroll of the Three Sisters Tour – Mon & Fri through 10/13

YOU DESERVE A HOT SPRING GETAWAY THIS FALL

Here's how to make the most of your fall visit to The Springs Resort:

- **Day Passes**: Choose from three ways to soak into the season. General Admission includes access to 20 original pools. The Relaxation Terrace adds five adult-only pools with robe, towel, and locker. The Wellness Day Pass includes 45+ pools, daily wellness activities, and seasonal spa amenities.
- **Resort Bookings**: For a full fall retreat, stay overnight and enjoy 24-hour access to all our geothermal pools including the Wellness Pools and Relaxation Terrace. Your stay includes towels, robes, and warm hospitality from check-in to check-out.
- **Spa Treatments**: Every spa service includes two hours of access to the Spa & Wellness Pools, plus all-day access to the Original Pools. Special pricing is available for locals, hotel guests, and treatment-only visitors. It's the perfect way to complement crisp fall air with warm healing waters.
- **Annual Memberships**: Enjoy year-round access, exclusive benefits, and discounts with an annual membership.

This fall, find your quiet moment right here at The Springs Resort.

Visit us at www.pagosahotsprings.com or call us at 1(800) 225-0934 to finalize your fall escape to Pagosa Springs!

