

Gather By the River

A Bridal Veil Lodging Guide to Family Reunions &
Thanksgiving at Slippery Rock River Ranch



AN INTIMATE RIVERSIDE RETREAT.

WELCOME TO YOUR FAMILY RETREAT

Some holidays call for more than a dining room table. If your family is dreaming of a Thanksgiving or reunion where everyone can slow down together — expansive river views, a hot tub under the stars, and enough space that nobody is sleeping on an air mattress in the hallway — Slippery Rock River Ranch near Dolores, Colorado is worth a look. Here's what to know if you're considering the ranch for your next family gathering.

THE VENUE

Slippery Rock River Ranch is designed for the large family gathering. This 36+ acre property sits along the Dolores River in the Four Corners region and includes:

- **The "Confluence" main lodge** — chef's kitchen, formal dining area, and a loft game room, ideal as the heart of the reunion for cooking together, playing games, and Thanksgiving dinner itself.
- **Sleeps 12 across the property** – One larger cabin accommodates four guests with a queen bed and two twins, in addition two seasonal riverside glamping tents.
- **An outdoor shower, hot tub, yoga studio** (with weights, a spin bike, and mats), and a spacious back deck.
- **Horseshoes, cornhole, a private pond** with a small beach, and over 1,000 feet of private river frontage for fishing.
- **Gravel paths** connecting the lodge and cabins to ease moving between spaces.



Scan the code to
preview the ranch
and ceremony
grounds.

*Or visit [bridalveillodging.com](https://bridalveillodging.com/properties/slippy-rock-ranch)
/properties/slippy-rock-ranch*

A FEW THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU BOOK:



3-night minimum stay



Maximum of 12 guests on-property



Waiver form required for all bookings



No RV parking on the ranch, however Priest Gulch RV park is .6mi up the road.



Access to fly fishing, hiking, mountain biking, and skiing right on-site



Contact Bridal Veil Lodging directly at **admin@bridalveillodging.com** or **(970) 973-7054** to confirm capacity, policies, and request concierge support before locking in a date. Our team is here to help!

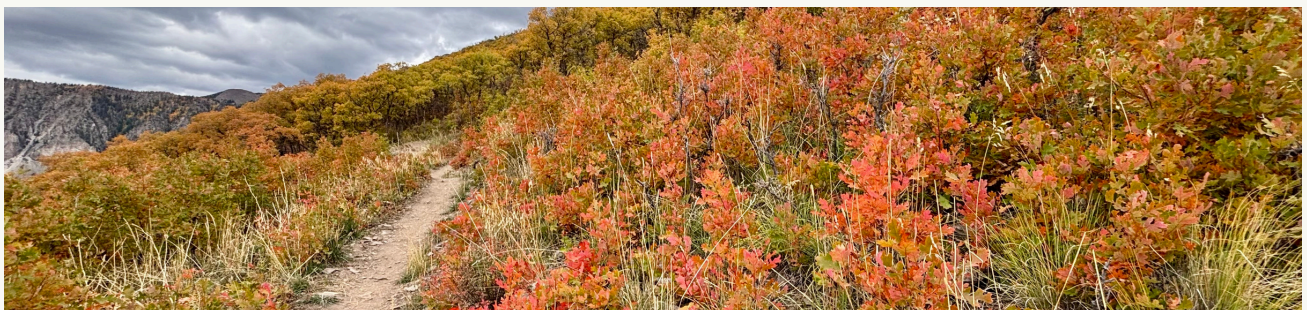
GETTING THERE

The ranch is near Dolores, Colorado, and about 40 miles (approximately 55 minutes) from Telluride via Highway 145. If you're gathering for Thanksgiving specifically, keep in mind that late-November mountain driving can bring snow, ice, and occasional pass closures — build extra time into travel plans and check road conditions before heading out.

AIRPORT OPTIONS:

- Telluride Regional Airport — about 39 miles from the ranch
- Cortez Municipal Airport — about 41 miles from the ranch
- Durango-La Plata County Airport — more commercial flight volume, about 84 miles and 1.5 hours away

We highly recommend arriving at the ranch with personal transportation or a rental vehicle. While nearby attractions are within a short drive of the ranch, you will need a car for access.



FAMILY DINNER: COOK TOGETHER OR BRING IN HELP

The main lodge's chef's kitchen — with a gas range, convection oven, two refrigerators, and two dishwashers — is built to handle a big holiday cook. Families who love cooking together will have the kitchen space to do it.

If you'd rather not cook:

Southwest Colorado has a solid roster of private chefs willing to travel to a rental property and handle a holiday meal start to finish — menu planning, ingredients, cooking, and cleanup.

- **Backcountry Catering** (Chef Jeff Rossi) — serves Telluride and all of Southwest Colorado, known for local elk, bison, and organic produce.
- **Lotus Root Catering** (Chef Honga Im) — If you'd like a Telluride-based team to make the trip, Chef Honga Im (as seen in the New York Times, In Style, 5280, Ski Magazine) offers a wide range of menu offerings to suit you and your family's palates and special dietary needs.
- **Take a Chef and MileHighCook** — platforms connecting you with private chefs serving Durango and Telluride; MileHighCook in particular takes holiday bookings, though popular dates (Thanksgiving included) tend to book up by mid-October.

If you're stocking the kitchen yourselves:

- **Dolores Food Market** — closest option (about 18 miles), a family-run market known for local produce, meats, and homemade pot pies — worth a call ahead for turkey availability around the holiday.
- **City Market** and **Safeway in Cortez** — full-service grocery stores for a complete Thanksgiving shopping trip, both offering pickup.
- Because the ranch is remote, **it's worth doing your major shopping in the Durango, Cortez, or Montrose** (depending on where you fly in) a day or two before the holiday rather than counting on last-minute runs — smaller local markets can sell out of turkeys and holiday staples close to the date.

NEARBY DINING

For a more relaxed dinner, we highly recommend Rico's cozy and exceptional culinary gem– **The Prospector**, run by esteemed Chef Eamonn O'Hara. Chef Eamonn is former Executive Sous Chef at Hotel Bel Air in Los Angeles, California, where he worked with world renowned chefs such as Wolfgang Puck. The Prospector offers contemporary modern American cuisine with heavy emphasis on local organic meats and produce with a distinctively regional flair.

If you want something with a bit more local character than a standard restaurant, a few options stand out:

- **Dolores River Brewery** (Dolores) — a laid-back beer garden and brewpub known for wood-fired pizza and live music, and the closest brewery option to the ranch itself.
- **Mancos Brewing Company** (Mancos) — a small-town taproom that works well for a casual, come-as-you-are gathering.
- **Sutcliffe Vineyards** (near Cortez) — if you'd rather pour wine than beer, a working local vineyard with tastings and event space.
- **Fenceline Cider (Mancos)** – a small-town cidery with craft ciders and wines and beautiful river-side patio for gathering and live music.

For grab-and-go breakfast, Rico's **Fireweed Cafe** has become a community gathering spot with excellent espresso, baked goods, savory breakfasts, and reliable wifi. And, don't overlook the **Dolores Food Market** on the main street of Dolores – a local favorite known for its deli spread and scratch-made pies.



FAMILY FRIENDLY THINGS TO DO

Telluride makes an easy home base for family friendly activities. Reach out to Bridal Veil Lodging's concierge team for tailored recommendations and support on planning your holiday.

On the Property

The ranch itself is designed so you don't have to go far to fill a day.

- The **private pond** has a small beach, a nice spot for younger kids to play. Horseshoe pits are set up for casual afternoon tournaments.
- The **outdoor hot tub** is a natural gathering spot after skiing or a cold hike; this stretch of the Four Corners has minimal light pollution, so clear nights are spectacular for star gazing.
- For anyone keeping up a workout routine over the holiday, the **yoga/motion studio** has weights, a spin bike, and mats.

Fly Fishing



With +1,000 feet of private river frontage, the ranch's stretch of the Dolores River is a quiet, uncrowded spot for fly fishing — it's an easy way for a few family members to slip away for some quiet time without missing the gathering. Bridal Veil Lodging can arrange private lessons at the ranch. Or, for a more exploratory day on the river, BVL can recommend local outfitters for guided fly fishing in the local watersheds.

Please note that guests will need a valid state fishing license from Colorado Parks & Wildlife to fish on public and private riverfront property if you are 16 years of age or older. Licences may be purchased [online](#).

NEARBY TRAILS

For families or reunion groups with hikers, trail runners, or mountain bikers in the mix, the ranch sits in one of the best-connected pockets of the San Juan National Forest for non-motorized trail access. A few options, in order of how close they are to the property:

Right Down the Road

Bear Creek Trailhead — about half a mile from the ranch, this trail crosses the Dolores River on a footbridge before climbing switchbacks. It's a long trail (15+ miles round trip if you go the full distance), but there's no obligation to do the whole thing — the first mile offers a solid, scenic there-and-back for families, while more ambitious hikers can push further toward the alpine meadows higher up. Best hiked May through October.

Priest Gulch Trailhead — directly across the road from the ranch, this trail follows Priest Creek up through meadows and conifer forest. Like Bear Creek, it's a big trail if you do it end to end (7.5 miles one-way), but a shorter out-and-back from the trailhead is a very doable half-day hike, and there's a shorter loop option (around 5 miles) via the Priest Gulch Cutoff Trail if you want a defined turnaround point.

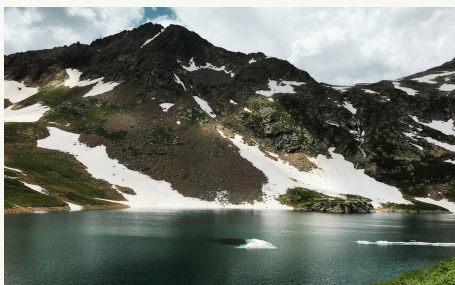
Boggy Draw — About 15–20 minutes from the ranch, on the mesa above the town of Dolores, Boggy Draw is the area's biggest and best-known trail system — over 30 miles of well-groomed, mostly smooth singletrack across four connected loops. It's shaded, family-friendly, and considered a great "practice ground" for mountain bikers.

Rico

The small mountain town of Rico, about 20–25 minutes north of the ranch, is a hidden gem for trail access and is home to the [Rico Trails Alliance](#) (RTA), the local nonprofit that builds and maintains the area's non-motorized trail network. Their trail system includes:

- **The RGS River Trail** — a gentler, river-corridor trail along a former railroad grade, specifically noted as accessible for families with young children.
- **Salt Creek Trail** — a well-known, more advanced singletrack loop popular with experienced mountain bikers.
- **Cross Mountain Trail #637** — a widely praised intermediate trail running north from Rico toward the base of Lizard Head Peak. It winds through wildflower meadows and thick evergreen forest before climbing more steeply for a final push above treeline, opening onto sweeping views of the Lizard Head Wilderness along the ridge.

Near Trout Lake



Hope Lake is one of the most-loved day hikes in the Telluride area and worth the detour. It's about a 5–6 mile round trip from the trailhead near Trout Lake, climbing around 1,100–1,200 feet. It's rated moderate — a good goal hike for reasonably fit adults and older kids, though the elevation (the trailhead itself sits above 10,000 ft) means it's worth acclimatizing a day or two first if your group isn't used to altitude. Best done between summer and early fall.

A FEW MORE THINGS TO PLAN FOR

- **Winter road conditions:** if you're traveling over Thanksgiving, check CDOT conditions for Highway 145 and Lizard Head Pass before departure, and make sure vehicles are equipped for snow.
- **Grocery timing:** it's recommended to shop a day or two ahead of the holiday. If you are flying into or driving through Durango, Cortez or Montrose, we recomend stopping for a grocery haul.
- **Kid and elder-friendly notes:** the gravel paths between cabins are easy walking but not paved — worth mentioning to anyone bringing a stroller, wheelchair, or walker.
- **A shared plan for the big meal:** if you're not hiring a chef, a simple sign-up sheet for who's bringing or cooking what keeps the kitchen from getting crowded on the day itself.
- **Timing and Conditions:** If you plan on hiking, note that many of the higher-elevation trails in this area top out above 10,000 feet. If your gathering falls around Thanksgiving, expect snow at higher elevations and check current conditions before planning any high-elevation hiking— the RGS River Trail in Rico or the first mile of Bear Creek are better bets for a late-November outing than a full alpine push. Nordic skiing in the town of Rico is a great way to get outside in the winter months.

GET IN CONTACT



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