

ANDREW HARPER ✈️ Traveler

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THE CALL OF THE WILD!



ESSENTIAL
AUSTRALIA

MR. HARPER ON
SOUTHERN SPAIN

THE
WORLD


BACKCOUNTRY FLY-FISHING

with *Smith Fork Ranch*


Owner Linda Hodgson of **Smith Fork Ranch** in Crawford, Colorado knows she has something special in the 300-acre, family-owned property, situated within the **Gunnison National Forest**. Because ranch guides have exclusive guiding rights within Gunnison, Smith Fork Ranch offers outdoor adventures you really can't get anywhere else.

Limited to four guests, the ranch's backcountry fly-fishing trip takes you on horseback into one of the most pristine areas in the forest, a region frequented by a mere handful of humans in any given summer. Anglers fish the ponds and streams of Gunnison and the West Elk Wilderness for trout, including a rare A-strain of Colorado cutthroat found in only two locales in the state. Elk, deer and eagles are commonly seen en route, along with the occasional brown bear. The remote, rugged mountain trails are best suited for "folks with adventurous attitudes," says Hodgson, and intermediate riding skills. The adventure is interrupted only for a gourmet streamside lunch and engaging conversation.

TODAY YOU COULD...

 After a hearty ranch breakfast in the Cook House, depart on horseback from the corral with your SFR wrangler and fly-fishing guide for the two-hour ride up into Little Elk Basin in The Gunnison National Forest.

At 8,000 feet, fly-fish and picnic at Little Elk Basin campsite along the North Smith Fork Creek. Enjoy a gourmet riverside lunch and a glass of wine or beer, followed by an afternoon respite.

 Descend the trail back to 7,200 feet and take in the down-valley views in the late afternoon light.

THIS PAGE, TOP: Backcountry fly-fishing at Smith Fork Ranch **OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP:** Heli-skiing at Dunton Hot Springs **BOTTOM:** A Dunton Hot Springs guest enjoys the view from a spring-fed pool.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SMITH FORK RANCH, VILLI BRUNDAGE PHOTO COURTESY OF DUNTON HOT SPRINGS & BRETT SCHNEIDER








HELI-SKIING with *Dunton Hot Springs*

At an elevation of 8,700 feet, **Dunton Hot Springs** is a restored ghost town located in the **San Juan Mountains** of the **Colorado Rockies**. When it comes to wintertime activities, Dunton's Edoardo Rossi says heli-skiing tops his list.

"One of the great things with heli-skiing at Dunton," says Rossi, "is that you don't have to drive anywhere." The helicopters arrive directly on-property to pick you up, a rarity in the United States, according to Rossi. "So you get up in the morning, have breakfast, put on your gear, get on a helicopter," he says. It's that easy. After an epic day of skiing in and around Telluride, you return to Dunton for a soak in the natural hot springs, a cocktail, dinner and conversation. Then do it all again the next day. "Pretty amazing!" he says. We agree! ■

TODAY YOU COULD...

-  Rise early for a morning soak in the hot springs followed by a session in the Yoga Studio and breakfast in the Saloon.
- Depart via helicopter from the center of town, 100 feet from your cabin.
-  Return from an epic day of skiing and relax your muscles in the hot springs.
-  Sip a cocktail in the Saloon before dinner. Later, enjoy an after-dinner drink outside by the fire under the night sky.