

# MORGAN COUNTY

TOURISM GUIDE

## Discover Colorado's BEST KEPT SECRET

COME FOR ADVENTURE,  
STAY FOR DINNER!

Festivals,  
Shopping,  
Food & Fun!  
IT'S ALL HERE! P. 6

Road Trip  
to Pawnee  
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Rodeo On! P. 6

WHERE THE DEER,  
ANTELOPE AND  
YOU PLAY! P. 2

South Platte  
River: Gateway  
to the West P. 2



Somewhere, over the  
Rainbow Bridge in  
Fort Morgan, bluebirds  
actually do fly.



# THE FUN RISES IN THE EAST

**HORACE GREELEY FAMOUSLY** advised everybody to head west. From the look of I-70, that's just what they did. But sometimes it feels better to run away from the crowds, especially if you want to relax and enjoy yourself. So why not try a weekend in Morgan County, Colorado? It's just eighty miles east of Denver on I-76, out where the sky is big and the opportunities are even bigger. **The South Platte River** runs through here (p. 2), which is why the bison roamed nearby, and the

Arapahoe, Kiowa, Sioux, and Pawnee people called it a homeland. The **great cattle drives** stampeded through here (p. 3), and it's a migratory stopover for **birds of all feathers** (p. 5). The fish seem to like our rivers and lakes too, if you can believe the **anglers** who cast their lines here (p. 3). The great plains have their own chill and charm, with the majestic Pawnee Buttes rising among the wildflowers (p. 9), and the **Dark Sky preserve at Jackson Lake State Park** (p. 2) gives you

a view of a thousand points of light. But that isn't our only form of nightlife, with a **locavore restaurant movement** taking root in our fertile fields, and a **local winery** where you can sip and sample Morgan County vintages (p. 7). Head for the sunrise, and see what else is up in Morgan County.

## Visitors Centers

**Brush:** (970) 842.2666  
**Fort Morgan:** (970) 867.6702  
**Morgan County Tourism:**  
(970) 542.3508



# TOP 10 ATTRACTIONS OF MORGAN COUNTY

Scan here,  
to turn your  
phone into a  
Morgan County  
tour guide.

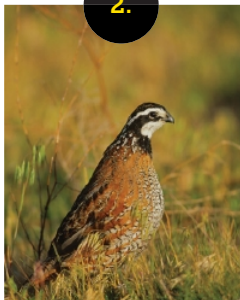


JAMES A. MICHENER SET HIS EPIC NOVEL *CENTENNIAL ON THESE PLAINS*, because this is where Colorado's story really begins. Morgan County will launch tales on your Instagram account as well. Here are ten picks likely to click with your family and friends.



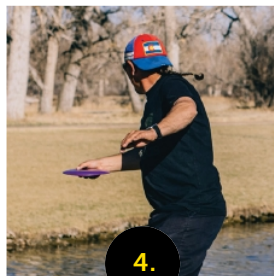
1.

**Jackson Lake State Park** | Welcome to our waters, kayakers and pleasure-craft captains! And when the sun goes down, settle in our campgrounds for s'mores, and for the stars that spangle our Dark Sky preserve.



2.

**Pawnee Grasslands Birding Tour** | Bobwhite, quail, pheasants, lark buntings, waterfowl, and wild turkeys inhabit game preserves in Brush, Weldon Valley, and at the Jean K. Tool State Wildlife Area.



4.

**Disc Golf/Pickleball Heaven** | Optimist Disc Golf Course, Pessimist Disc Golf Course, and Watrous Park offer 54 holes to flip a disc. Or, hit the pickleball courts in Optimist Park, in Fort Morgan.



3.

**The Bobstock Music Festival** | Every July, Fort Morgan's City Park features national headliners on three stages. Free admission. Tie-dye optional.



5.

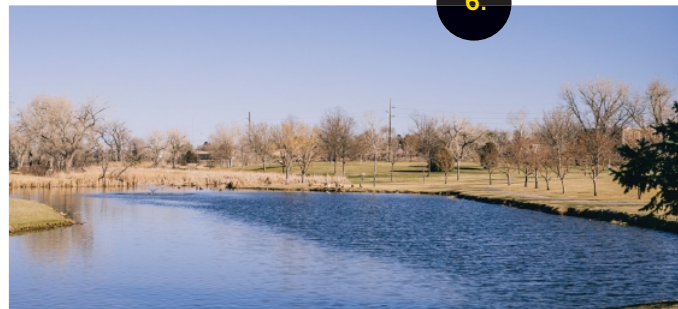
## I-76 Speedway

During the summer racing season (April to October), Fort Morgan's high-banked quarter-mile motorsport track lives by the slogan "Dirt Is Beautiful."

## Rainbow Bridge and Riverside Park

Stroll across the South Platte on an historic span, then set up your picnic at Riverside Park.

6.



7.

**Brush Rodeo** (4th of July) and the **Bucking Bull Battle** (August) | Cowboys once roamed this range, and their skills are still celebrated in Brush every summer. Riders and bulls stampede in from all over the west to join the competition. You come too, and let loose your best "yeehaws."

8.

**Longmeadow Game Resort, Clays Club & Event Center** | Hunting for a sporting destination? Longmeadow has it all, from sporting clays to upland bird, waterfowl, and animal hunts. Hotel rooms, RV sites, camping, and event space, as well.

10.

**The People of Morgan County** | A warm greeting is the best amenity. Settle in. We'll show you a good time today at our quaint merchant shops and hometown eateries, and welcome you back for a weekend or a lifetime.

9.

**Living History** | The Glenn Miller Tour keeps time with the great bandleader's early life, while the Philip K. Dick Festival celebrates the Blade Runner author's sci-fi legacy. The Barn Quilts Tour provides a patchwork history of the area.



Water drives the west. Dip into this precious resource on the South Platte.



# A RIVER RUNS THROUGH US

**THE SOUTH PLATTE RIVER STARTS HIGH** in the Rocky Mountains and rolls 380 miles east across Colorado, nourishing the state's farm fields, providing drinking water, and offering wet-and-wild recreation. The river is the lifeblood of Morgan County, touching all of the major towns and cities, from Orchard in the west, to Fort Morgan and Brush in the center, and to Hillrose out east. Settlers followed the South Platte seeking better lives, and you can make your own history along the river banks, tracing frontier heritage, seeing the wildlife, and exploring the waterways by boat, bicycle, or footpath. Make your splash on *this* stretch of the river and nearby waterways.

## NATURE'S WATER PARK

**A** Jackson Lake State Park will slake your thirst for watery fun. The 2,500-acre reservoir and state park were originally a draw for hunters, but popular activities now include boating, off-road cycling and ATVs, birdwatching, camping, and swimming from its sandy beaches.

## SEEING STARS

Jackson Lake State Park is a certified **Dark-Sky Park**, with limited artificial lighting that encourages astral tourism. Visit on any cloudless night and enjoy the star show.

## NO BOAT? NO PROBLEM!

**Shoreline Marina**, on the west side of Jackson Lake, offers fishing gear and local insight on where they're biting. Call them at (970) 645-BOAT.

## WALK ACROSS THE WATER

The 11-arch **Rainbow Bridge** spanned the South Platte in the 1920s. It's the gateway to Fort Morgan and the starting point of the Pawnee Pioneer Trails Scenic Byway. When a wider road bridge was installed next to it in the 1960s, the span was rededicated for pedestrians, who also enjoy Riverside Park on its south side and Twamore Trails on its north side. Your river stroll starts here.



Wanna go for a walk? Bring Fido (and your partner) to the footpaths of Morgan County!

## A SHORE THING ON THE SOUTH PLATTE

**B** At the foot of the Rainbow Bridge and on the banks of the South Platte, **Riverside Park** is just the place to spread out a picnic and teach the kids how to skip a stone. Follow the park's walking path for more river views or stroll down the scenic paths on the north side of the river for additional glimpses of the water and wildlife.



Yes, the antelope really do play on our great plains.

## WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE, IN MORGAN COUNTY

Where a river flows, wildlife is sure to follow, which is why Morgan County is home to a bounty of birds, wildflowers, and animals. The Andrick Ponds State Wildlife Area, on the west side of Jackson State Park, is a major stop on the Colorado Birding Trail, and there are deer, bobwhite quail, pheasants, waterfowl, and turkeys in preserves in Brush, Weldon Valley, and at the Jean K. Tool State Wildlife Area.



→ Scan this QR code for a complete list of Morgan County's bird and animal residents.





Jackson Lake is an angler's paradise, but kayakers, stand-up paddlers, and inner-tube floaters make waves there, too.



Maps provided in this publication are not to scale.

- 1.** Pawnee Buttes: Where eagles fly and flowers bloom
- 2.** Jackson Lake State Park: Where fish (and you) swim

- 3.** Fort Morgan: Walk the Rainbow Bridge and adjacent nature trails. Stay for dinner.
- 4.** Brush: Rodeo Days, July 4th weekend. Saddle up!

- 5.** Pawnee Pioneer Trail: Hitch up your RV and explore
- 6.** Texas-Montana Cattle Trail: History on the hoof



Scan the QR code for web access to all of Morgan County's great outdoors.



**( PLUS )**

## Make a Little History, Yourself

—> When the gold rush hit Colorado in the 1850s, the South Platte was thought of as the pathway to riches. It still is, with access to the Pawnee Pioneer Trails, the Overland Trail to Denver, and the Texas-Montana cattle trail.



A

Sharpen your aim, and pursue your game, at Longmeadow Game Resort in Wiggins.



# SPORTS OF ALL SORTS

## MORGAN COUNTY IS HOME

to 29,000 people, but its surface area is 1,294 square miles. So you can have a stretch of it all to yourself, to hit your golf ball on an uncrowded fairway, fling your disc into a chain basket, catch dinner at Jackson Lake, ace your pickleball opponents, or add the Ferruginous Hawk to your life list. Pack your clubs, boats, racquets, bike, binos, walking shoes, and sense of adventure, and come out and play with us.

## TRACK YOUR TROPHY

**A Longmeadow Game Resort, Clays Club & Event Center** offers small game and upland bird hunting and touts one of the top sporting clays clubs in Colorado. It's also a premiere event venue with RV and hotel accommodations. 8604 Co Rd 6, in Wiggins, (970) 483-8368. Scan the QR code for a **Morgan County Hunting Map**.



## REEL ONE IN

**Jackson Lake State Park**, in Orchard, is stocked with wipers, walleye, catfish, rainbow trout, and crappie. Find out what's biting, where, at **BAM Bait and Tackle**, 23574 Co Rd 23, Fort Morgan, or call (970) 768-2098.

## FIND THE FAIRWAY

**B** Tour the nine holes at **Petteys Park** (2301 Mill St in Brush), or hit 18 fairways at **Quail Dunes Golf Course** (117586 County Road T5, Fort Morgan).



B

Yes, you should pack your golf clubs. Links in Brush and Fort Morgan.







Spot flying saucers at The Optimist (27 holes) and Pessimist (18 holes) Disc Golf courses.

### HIKE, BIKE, & ATV

**C** Looking for a great day hike? Hit the **Pawnee Buttes Trailhead** an hour north of Fort Morgan, in Grover, Colorado. **Road bikers** will enjoy flat terrain, miles of open road, and sweeping views in Morgan County. Watch ATV and motocross riders roar through **Sweney Cycle Park**, 31250 Co Rd G, in Brush. (Off-road racers can compete, as well.)



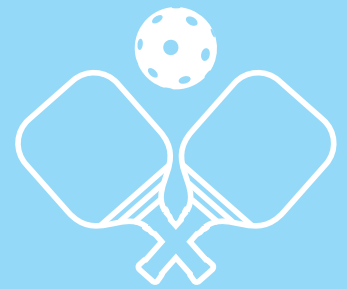
**C** Take a road trip, and a hike, to the national grasslands and Pawnee Buttes.

### DISC GOLF PARADISE

**D** Care to flip a disc? The **Optimist Disc Golf Course**, at Riverside Park in Fort Morgan, has 27 rolling holes with water hazards. The **Pessimist Disc Golf Course**, 18 holes at 1511 Barlow Rd in Fort Morgan, runs along the South Platte River. **Watrous Park**, at 2810 Mill St in Brush, sports nine holes for disc golf.

### FLOCK ON OVER

You're not the only eager visitor to eastern Colorado. Every year, the region is on the migratory flyway for a wide variety of birds, and they attract binocular-toting species as well. The first circuit on our birding tour begins in Briggsdale, Colorado, less than an hour northwest of Fort Morgan. Find **Pawnee Grasslands Birding Tour** on your smartphone, and follow the two-hour route to spot Ferruginous Hawks, Lark Buntings, Burrowing Owls, and maybe a majestic Golden Eagle. The **Brush Prairie Ponds**, in Brush, flood in early summer, which attracts a flutter of migratory shorebirds, Lapland Longspurs, and in winter, Horned Larks. Another high-flying highlight is the **Prairie Oases Trail**, linking wetlands from Jackson Lake State Park, just north of Orchard, up to North Sterling State Park. Come on out, and make some fine-feathered friends. The incredible Great Blue Heron can be seen from the nature trails in Fort Morgan's Riverview Park along the South Platte River.



## HAVE A (PICKLE) BALL WITH US

Pickleball was invented as a children's game in the 1960s, but why let kids have all the fun? Now it's one of the fastest growing sports in the country, and **Optimist Park**—1000 Vickie St, Fort Morgan—is in on the craze, with two courts. Bring your racquet, pickleball, and spirit of competition then bash away.

Round up your foursome and hit the Pickle Ball courts in Fort Morgan.



Looking for more Morgan County fun? Scan the QR code for outdoor options.







# FUN, FESTIVALS, SHOPPING, AND FOOD!

**THE ANDREWS SISTERS**, with an assist from Fort Morgan's own Glenn Miller, put the country "In the Mood" in the early 50s. That feeling still resonates with Morgan County's home-grown **adventures, festivals, shopping, and food**. You're invited to dinner, to share the fun of music, beer, and car fests, and even to jump (safely) out of an airplane. March your big band out to Colorado's great plains, and we'll put you all in the mood, in double time!

## ADVENTURES

**A** Looking for a fast start to your vacation? Head over to the **I-76 Speedway**, in Fort Morgan, where dirt-track racing is fast and furious from April to October. Or watch the mud fly

at **Sweney Cycle Park** in Brush, where ATV and motocross competitors roar around a dirt track. Or you can actually fly—like a bird—at **Skydive Orange Skies**, on Highway 52 in Fort Morgan. As Eddie Van Halen so memorably sang, "Just Jump!" They'll provide safe instruction, the plane, and a parachute!



Parachute into a thrilling view of Morgan County, with Skydive Orange Skies in Fort Morgan.

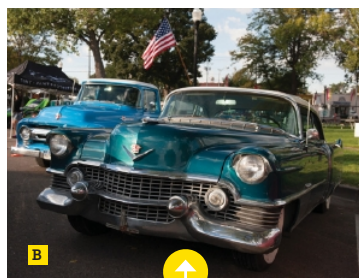
## FESTIVALS

**B** Morgan County is all about home-made fun. July features two events unique to Morgan County. **The Bobstock Music Festival**, in Fort Morgan's City Park, has free admission and features national headliners on three stages. For more traditional cattle-country entertainment, saddle up for the **Brush Rodeo and Dance**, which has been lighting up July 4th weekend for 65 years. Or lock horns at the **Bucking Bull Battle**, held every August in Brush.





If you prefer your horsepower under the hood, rather than on the hoof, motor over to Fort Morgan's Fall Harvest Car Show. Also in September: Brush Oktoberfest. Break out your lederhosen and dirndls, and help them roll out the barrel!



Roll into Fort Morgan for the Fall Harvest Car Show. Beep! Beep!

## SHOPPING

Find out what's in store in Fort Morgan. Padink's Boutique and The Dressing Room bring fashion happy hours to Main Street. And the craft store Rebel Girl Kollektables, and the stitchery center Double R Embroidery, offer fashion and fun, as well. To get your fill of hand-dipped chocolates and fancy gift baskets, head over to All About U, also on Main Street. At the nearby The Flower Petaler, business is blooming! Unique home furnishings and furniture can be found at Furniture Mart and the Better Sleep Store.

## FOOD

Morgan County has enough roadside joints, Mexican fiestas, gastropubs, and fine dining to make you Yelp(.com) for joy. Come for a day of adventure, stay for an ice-cream cone, a sizzling meal, and maybe even a great breakfast.

**C The Mav Kitchen & Tap House**  
Draft beers and western chow.

1409 Barlow Road, Fort Morgan, CO  
(970) 542-9482

**Victor's Sushi**  
Fresh fish. That's how they roll.

207 Clayton St., Brush, CO  
(970) 842-7739



Las Americas 6, in Fort Morgan, is a panaderia y tortilleria, which translates to a delicious, home-cooked Mexican meal for toda la familia.

**The Flame Steakhouse**  
When only a BIG steak will do.

14424 US Hwy 34, Fort Morgan, CO  
(exit 75 on I-76)  
(970) 370-2696

**The Course at Pettey Park**  
Dinner and drinks for après-golf.

2301 Mill St., Brush, CO  
(970) 842-5470

**D Zazzy Cafe**  
Sandwiches, soups, and sociality.

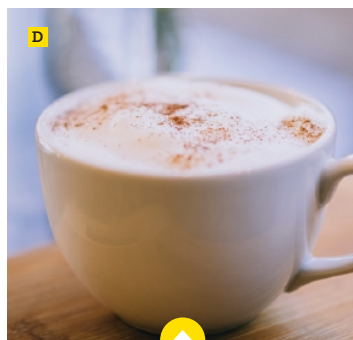
119 W Beaver Ave, Fort Morgan, CO  
(970) 370-2800

**Cables Pub & Grill**  
Famous for thick-cut spaghetti.

431 Main St., Fort Morgan, CO  
(970) 867-6144

**El Jacal Mexican Grill**  
Latino platters, stellar margaritas.

903 Main St., Fort Morgan, CO  
(970) 867-1115



It's not just your average joe, at Zazzy Cafe in Fort Morgan.

**Rosita's Bakery**  
South-of-the-border, hot from the oven.

211 Main St., Fort Morgan, CO  
(970) 867-5550

**Alcapulco Bay Family Restaurant**  
Latin flavors and sea foods, including fresh-water oysters and crab legs by the bucket.

200 Main St., Fort Morgan, CO  
(970) 542-6400

**La Michoacana Ice Cream Parlor**  
Frozen treats, with a Spanish accent.

216 Main St., Fort Morgan, CO  
(970) 370-2828

**All About the Smoke**  
Take-out BBQ and desserts. Your picnic just got a major upgrade.

617 Main St, Fort Morgan, CO  
(970) 768-5117

**Country Roads Vines and Wines**  
Stop for a sip, bring home a bottle.

16985 County Road 21, Fort Morgan, CO  
(970) 768-1450

**Slavinka Food—Bakery & More**  
From their ovens to your heart.

208 Clayton Street, Brush, CO

**E Las Americas 6 Tortilleria**  
Stop in Saturdays for the carnitas special!

120 E Burlington Ave, Fort Morgan, CO  
(970) 867-0888



# ROAD TRIPS! WALKING TOURS! TIME MACHINES!

**IN MORGAN COUNTY THE PLAINS** really *are* great. The views sweep clear to the Rockies, and our history extends as far as the imagination can see. This is where the buffalo roamed, the Native Americans lived, the conestoga wagons rolled, and cowboys drove their cattle. Folks here appreciate that heritage, and they have preserved it so you can enjoy it, too. Plug into the Morgan County time machine, and see this special place as it was back then, and as it is cherished right now.

## TIME TRAVEL

The past is still present in our museums and along our byways. Come on out, and go way back.

**Glenn Miller Tour of Fort Morgan**  
Cue up a Spotify playlist, download the brochure from [morgancountytourism.com](http://morgancountytourism.com), and swing through Miller's time.

**Brush Area Museum**  
The old schoolhouse, the cattle drives, and yes, even the horse racing. Bet you'll enjoy it. 314 S. Clayton Street in Brush. (970) 842-0382

**Fort Morgan Museum**  
More Glenn Miller, plus an old-timey soda fountain and a WW2 plane. March through the decades at 414 Main Street in Fort Morgan. (970) 542-4010

**Barn Quilts Tour**  
Morgan County barns are enormous canvases for dozens of stunning quilt paintings. Scan the QR code to patch together colorful routes through Fort Morgan, Brush, Weldona, Hillrose, and Wiggins.



( PLUS )

## Center for Arts and Community Enrichment

—> This lively arts campus, at Morgan Community College ([morgancc.edu](http://morgancc.edu)), is home to a fine arts gallery, a jazz ensemble, and guest speakers and performers. Time your visit to enjoy the monthly third Thursday Art Walk.

Conestoga wagons  
once rolled through  
Morgan County.  
Go west, young  
vacationer!







Start your weekend beautifully with the Third Thursday Art Walk.

## STAY WITH US

What's your hurry? Spend the night, not a fortune, in Morgan County.

### HOTELS

**Best Western Plus Overland Inn**  
1410 Barlow Road  
Fort Morgan, CO  
(970) 370-2322

**Hampton Inn**  
1152 Main Street  
Fort Morgan, CO  
(970) 542-2484

**Comfort Inn**  
1417 Barlow Road  
Fort Morgan, CO  
(970) 867-6700

**Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriot**  
1290 Cottonwood Parkway  
Fort Morgan, CO  
(970) 441-6200

**Boarders Inn & Suites by Cobblestone Hotels**  
975 N Colorado Ave  
Brush, CO  
(970) 842-4241

**Longmeadow Game Resort**  
8604 County Rd. 6  
Wiggins, CO  
(970) 483-8368

**Rodeway Inn**  
1409 Barlow Road  
Fort Morgan, CO  
(970) 867-9481



Amber waves of beauty! We're celebrating thirty years of Scenic Byways.



Scan for a full listing of Morgan County hotels, resorts, and campsites.



**Terrace Park Inn**  
725 Main Street  
Fort Morgan, CO  
(970) 427-5001

**Baymont Inn**  
14378 U S Hwy 34  
Fort Morgan, CO  
(970) 370-9929

### CAMPING

**Silver Spur Campground**  
1509 Barlow Road,  
Fort Morgan, CO  
(970) 441-5119

**Brush Memorial Park & Campground**  
500 S. Clayton Street  
Brush, CO  
(970) 842-5001

**Jackson Lake State Park**  
26363 County Rd. 3  
Orchard, CO  
(970) 645-2555



Play here, stay here, at our hotels, campgrounds, and RV parks.



Pawnee National Grasslands: Where the plains are at their greatest.

## A ROAD TRIP TO PAWNEE BUTTES

Pack a picnic and drive an hour north to the Pawnee National Grasslands, named for the First Nation people who inhabited this land long before the settlers arrived. The **Pawnee Buttes trail** will lead you out among the hawks and wildflowers, until you spot the two striking stone towers that rise 300 feet above the prairie. Scan the QR code for more details.



→ Provision your Picnic at the Edwards Right Price Market (Fort Morgan's fine-foods market, at 1201 E Platte Ave) or the Fort Morgan Mini Halal Market (specialty foods, including Somali cuisine, at 410 E Railroad Ave). Complement it with a bottle of wine from the Country Road Vines & Wines winery located on the outskirts of Fort Morgan (970) 768-1450.



# WELCOME TO MORGAN COUNTY, COLORADO, WHERE...

The deer, the antelope, and you play.

Where the Rainbow Bridge stretches across a river that led settlers west.

Where the cowboys still roam...

And the motocross mud flies...

...And so do the disc-golf saucers.

Where Glenn Miller first blew his horn, and James A. Michener met the Centennial prairie.

Where the stars shine, and it's dark enough to see them.

Where the birds flock, and it's quiet enough to hear them.

Where the Pawnee Buttes soar toward prairie skies...

And your smiles match those of the people you'll meet. Go east, traveler, to Morgan County, Colorado.



## DRIVING DISTANCES TO MORGAN COUNTY

Denver 79 mi.

DIA 74 mi.

Greeley 52 mi.

Fort Collins 82 mi.

Sterling 46 mi.

Mount Rushmore 318 mi.

North Platte, NE 183 mi.

Pawnee National  
Grassland 38 mi.

Colorado Springs 142 mi.



BRUSH | FORT MORGAN | GOODRICH | HILLROSE | LOG LANE VILLAGE | ORCHARD | SNYDER | WIGGIINS