

Destination: Ridgway

FOODIE REVOLUTION MEETS SMALL TOWN CHARM

WORDS Evie Carrick | IMAGES Barton Glasser and Courtesy Photos

AT FIRST GLANCE, RIDGWAY MAY JUST SEEM LIKE A CLUSTER OF HOUSES AND BUILDINGS YOU PASS THROUGH ON YOUR WAY FROM THE MONTROSE AIRPORT TO TELLURIDE. IT HAS ONE STOPLIGHT – WHICH MARKS THE TURN TOWARDS TELLURIDE – AND IS THE LAST TOWN YOU SEE BEFORE THE ASCENT OVER DALLAS DIVIDE. IT’S NOTICEABLY SMALL, AND UNLIKE TELLURIDE’S COMPACT, BOX CANYON FEEL, RIDGWAY IS CENTERED IN A VALLEY WITH AMPLE OPEN SPACE AND WIDE-OPEN MOUNTAIN VIEWS.

It’s easy to overlook, especially in the rush to get to Telluride, but Ridgway is evolving from side stop to destination. It’s full of outdoor enthusiasts who raft, kayak, and tube the Uncompahgre River, pedal up the impressive maze of trails that make up Ridgway Area Trails, or soak in the natural, outdoor hot springs south of town. The small town’s dining options have long been impressive, with beloved go-to spots like Kate’s Place and the Adobe Inn, and these four more recently established restaurants have become quickly become out-of-town favorites for the Telluride crowd.



provisions CAFÉ & CATERING

If you’re craving:
freshly baked pastries, European-style dining using local ingredients

THE SCENE: modern and sunny with grab-and-go and sit down service

WHAT TO GET: The EBLT shouldn’t be overlooked. This creative variation on a standard BLT includes a soft-boiled egg, applewood-smoked bacon, roasted tomatoes, and greens sandwiched between house-made bread that’s smeared with a tarragon aioli. Their baked goods are so delicious they’re dangerous, and their selection of bar bites and creative cocktails make it the perfect place to meet friends.

WHEN TO GO: Breakfast/Lunch, Wednesday – Monday, 7:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. Dinner, Thursday – Saturday, 5 – 9 p.m., Sunday brunch, 7:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

WHERE TO FIND IT: 616 Clinton Street



TACO DEL GNAR

If you’re craving:
tacos, margs, and unforgettable queso

THE SCENE: casual, order at the counter service with occasional live music

WHAT TO GET: You can try a soup, salad, or order tacos a la carte, but the Gnar Taco Dinner is really the way to go. The dinner includes two tacos with a side of beans and queso-covered potatoes. Try the Korean short rib taco with a spicy shredded kimchi cabbage or the tuna carpaccio taco with seared Ahi tuna topped with ginger soy, shredded cabbage, kimchi, and a wasabi aioli.

WHEN TO GO: Tuesday – Saturday, 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.

WHERE TO FIND IT: 630 Sherman Street in Ridgway and now in Telluride at 123 S. Oak Street.



COLORADO BOY BREWERY

If you’re craving: pizza and beer

THE SCENE: cozy bar and table dining that’s packed with locals

WHAT TO GET: Try the Rustica pizza topped with garlic oil, artichokes, roasted pepper, capicollo ham, and both mozzarella and Gorgonzola cheese. For lighter fare, order the spinach salad topped with roasted bell peppers, Gorgonzola cheese, roasted walnuts, and a to-die-for pesto vinaigrette dressing. Pair your meal with one of their award-winning beers.

WHEN TO GO: Monday – Friday, 4 – 9 p.m. and Saturday/Sunday 12 – 9 p.m.

WHERE TO FIND IT: 602 Clinton Street



EATERY 66

If you’re craving:
homespun local meals in a funky, outdoor atmosphere

The scene: order food truck style from the 1966 Air-stream and grab a table on the sunny patio

WHAT TO GET: Try the the organic homemade potato chips with the daily dip before delving into The Montauk, a sandwich made with roasted sliced turkey, cheese, smoked bacon, tomatoes, red onion, arugula, and homemade ranch. For a grab and go snack, try the Revive Smoothie made with berries, beets, banana, kale, and agave. For an additional healthy boost, add in SuperGreens.

WHEN TO GO: Thursday – Tuesday, 11 a.m. – dark

WHERE TO FIND IT: 566 Sherman Street ■

