

# *Greenhorn Valley Guide*




## *Graneros Gorge*

Maps, Photos, Stories, and More!

[www.GreenhornValley.org](http://www.GreenhornValley.org)

# *A Guide to* **Graneros Gorge**




Graneros Gorge is truly an amazing site. This little known feature in southern Colorado is dominated by the Wet Mountains with their Spanish Peaks just across I-25. But what makes this gorge amazing is that something so massive, so impressive, could be hidden from view even a few hundred yards away. As you approach this gaping slash in the earth, you're likely to see deer and elk grazing on sage while rabbits scamper and prairie dogs duck. All the while never realizing just how close you are to this amazing geography.

In order to arrive safely, take exit 71 off I-25 just south of Colorado City. You'll see a highway sign for the gorge at the top of the exit. Head east, over the highway, and then north on the frontage road. Here's where it gets a little tricky. The pavement ends quickly and abruptly. You'll be traveling on dirt and gravel from here on in (oddly enough, the roads are organized and include fire hydrants as this area was zoned and planned as a neighborhood in the late 60s). Continue to follow the road until it splits at a "Y". Take the right branch and continue on along for about a half-mile. The gorge will still be hidden by trees and brush, but you'll find a spot that looks like it was made to turn around. Stop there and walk east for just a hundred feet or so...and there it is. I promise you'll be amazed!

When you visit, be sure to follow the directions below carefully because the gorge itself is privately held and trespassing strictly forbidden. But the gazebo (or, more appropriately, what's left of the gazebo) and the land on the west side is owned by the Colorado City Metro District and you are free to explore and gaze down several hundred feet into the earth.

Be sure to stay well back from the edge, however as more than one soul has been lost along the bouldered ledges and crags. In recent years, a man fell to his death in September 2000 and another in March 2004 (you can still see the memorial plaque placed in his memory).

Because it does not lie in the public trust, very little of the interior of the gorge has been explored in recent years. It is believed that this area was prime hunting and camping areas for Comanche Indians for over 200 years!



While you're there...If you head just a bit south on the frontage road from exit 71 you'll see the remnants of a gas station / truck stop. Not very interesting until you see the **BEAR cages** set up to showcase the area's wildlife and entice travelers to stop in for gas and a snack. You'll see this site on the bottom map. It appears on the bottom map below.

**Maps:**







Graneros Gorge from the south



Memorial Plaque



Beginning of the Gorge just south of Exit 71



Looking east



Looking south-east

If you have questions or comments about this or any of our other guides, please feel free to do so. Our email is: [Comment@GreenhornValley.org](mailto:Comment@GreenhornValley.org). Or, fill out the comment card on our website at <http://www.GreenhornValley.org/comment.htm> Thanks!