

Day Trip to the Philmont Scout Ranch

From early June to mid-August, over 22,000 Boy Scouts from around the world come to Philmont to hike her majestic mountains west of Cimarron. This 137,000 acre ranch was given by oilman Waite Phillips (of the Phillips 66 family) to the Boy Scouts of America to be used as a high adventure base and working ranch. You may reach the Ranch by driving four miles south along Highway 21, following the Santa Fe Trail.

After passing open fields with a view of mountains on your right and the high plains on your left, you will begin to see buildings. On your left you will pass Villa Philmonte, the home built by Waite Phillips. Shortly after passing the Villa, set back from the road on the left is a square brown building, the Philmont Museum and Seton Library (also serving as a Visitor's Center). There is a parking lot out front. You may inquire about Villa tours at the Museum, as well as see an exhibition of museum items or purchase books and jewelry. Inquire at the Museum about the Philmont Trading Post where Boy Scouts stock up on needed camping supplies.

Continuing south of the museum on Highway 21, you will veer left and climb a small hill. There is a pullout here that provides magnificent views of the plains, mountains and Philmont headquarters.

You may also wish to take a spectacular drive seven miles further south along Highway 21 to visit the former Army Post at Rayado, which dates from the 1850s. From early June to mid-August the Post is staffed by Philmont Museum personnel and is open to the public. And don't miss the quaint Catholic Chapel!

At this point you may either turn around and head back to Cimarron or continue on Highway 21 past a small lake to the "town" of Miami, and then on to Springer. Here you can take Interstate 25 north for three miles to the Cimarron exit. Highway 58 will then lead you due west toward the mountains and back into Cimarron. The view of the Sangre de Cristo Range from highway marker 12 is memorable.

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Philmont Visiting Hours

Philmont Museum and Seton Library

June through mid-August: Everyday 8 am - 5:30 pm,
Rest of year: Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm, Saturday 8 am - 4 pm

Villa Philmonte (tours by appointment only, signup at the Philmont Museum):

June through mid-August: Everyday 8 am - 11:30 pm, 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm, every thirty minutes
Rest of year: Monday - Friday 10:30 am, 2:30 pm only

Tooth of Time Traders (www.toothoftimetraders.org):

Everyday: 8 am - 12 pm, 1 pm - 5 pm

Kit Carson Home at Rayado:

June through mid-August: Everyday 8 am - 5 pm

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