

HOT SULPHUR SPRINGS, COLORADO

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Hot Sulphur Springs, located adjacent to the Colorado River, is between Kremmling and Granby, Colorado, on US Highway 40. It is located at 7,600 feet (2,300m) near the Continental Divide, and is fed by Springs at 125°F (52°C), flowing over 200,000 gallons per day (757m³). The resort has 24 pools and private baths with no chemicals added to the spring water which is used at 98° to 112°F (37° to 44 °C).



The main resort building and swimming pool.

The springs were originally used by the Ute Indians, who were pushed back by the early European settlers. The Utes tried to discourage these early settlers and soldiers by resorting to a scorched earth policy, but to no avail.

In 1863, William Byers, publishers of the *Rocky Mountain News*, bought the springs from a Sioux woman in what was a questionable transaction. That was contested in the courts as the Utes were considered the rightful owners. Byers prevailed and built a four-story hotel (which burned in 1903), a racetrack, a covered pool and his personal summer house on the site. Early visitors had to come by coach or on horseback, and had to ford the Colorado River to reach the resort. The Moffat Tunnel, through the Front Range, allowed the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad to reach the site in 1928. Unfortunately the resort never grew into the high-profile destination that Byers had envisioned.

Notables who have visited the site are Zane Grey, who rented a cabin nearby, and John Wesley Powell who practiced on the rapids on the river in preparation for his historical Grand Canyon expedition.

For many years it was only a summer resort as it was difficult to reach this isolated site during winter months. Now it is both a summer and winter destination resort.

The present owners have revitalized the resort's swimming pool and have added soaking tubs, massage treatments, a conference room and private baths for individual use. There is also a vapor cave and a grotto pool with a massage waterfall (Ute Cave pool), seventeen room hotel with no television or telephones in the rooms, available for overnight guests. There is also a refurbished 1840's cabin overlooking the resort that is also available for overnight guests.



Two of the small soaking tubs.

When the resort reopened in 1997, two eagles flew over while the Ute Holy Man was blessing the spring's water – a very auspicious sign.



The Ute Cave Pool with massage waterfall.

The spring water is mainly of a sodium (435 ppm), sulfate (145 ppm), and chloride (145 ppm) composition with some silica (33 ppm), potassium (24 ppm), calcium (15 ppm), fluoride (11 ppm), magnesium (3.2 ppm), lithium (1.3 ppm), and traces of iron, manganese, zinc and arsenic.

During my visit there last summer, I was impressed with the many levels holding soaking tubs with views of the surrounding area, including Longs Peak (elevation 14,255ft – 4336m). It was a very clean, peaceful and friendly resort, worth a day or longer visit, as there is much to do in the area. The small town of Hot Sulphur Springs is not much to look at, but has a gas station, grocery store, hotel and other services available. The spa's motto is "Soaking and relaxing at its best."

REFERENCES

Resort Brochures and website: www.hotsulphursprings.com
Phone: (970) 725-3306 or 1-800-510-6235

Frazier, Deborah, 2000. *Colorado's Hot Springs*, (2nd edition), Pruett Publishing Company, Boulder, Co.

Wambach, Carl, 1999. *Touring Colorado Hot Springs, A Falcon Guide*, Falcon Publishing Company, Boulder, Co.



A view of the resort from one of the upper soaking tubs.

