



## Trans-Colorado Airlines

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Trans-Colorado Airlines was a commuter airline founded in 1980 in Gunnison, Colorado and later moving its base to Colorado Springs. The carrier operated Swearingen Metroliner aircraft and began service to Albuquerque on December 16, 1983 with three daily flights to Durango and continuing onto Gunnison, Colorado. Nonstop service to Colorado Springs was added the following year and seasonal service to Cortez, Colorado with a stop in Durango was implemented to access Telluride, Colorado for the 1984/85 and 1985/86 ski seasons. The carrier had planned to fly directly from Albuquerque to Telluride however its' aircraft were not approved to operate into the highly restricted mountain airport at this ski city. New service from Albuquerque to Farmington and Roswell, New Mexico as well as from Farmington to Denver began in February, 1986 however the Albuquerque-Farmington flights were discontinued two months later. After the suspension of service by Pioneer Airlines in May of 1986, Trans Colorado joined with Rocky Mountain Airways to take over the feeder carrier service for Continental Airlines at Denver and began a Continental Express affiliation in June 1986 which included the Albuquerque to Durango and Roswell plus the Farmington to Denver routes. Trans Colorado discontinued all service at Albuquerque and Roswell one month later however the carrier returned on January 1, 1987 with Continental Express flights from Albuquerque to Durango and Colorado Springs. Flights from Albuquerque to Farmington and Roswell were reinstated on April 1, 1987 as Continental Express as well as new service from Albuquerque to Tucson, Arizona in which a 50-passenger Convair 580 aircraft was obtained for. The Roswell flights were extended onto Carlsbad and El Paso as well as a new route from El Paso to Alamogordo, New Mexico, all beginning on April 1 as well. The El Paso and Alamogordo flights only lasted two and a half months before their service ended in June, 1987. In addition to the Tucson flights, the Convair 580 also made two roundtrips between Albuquerque and Farmington but it too was also short lived, ending later in April, 1987, ending the Tucson flights as well.

Trans-Colorado reached a peak at its Albuquerque hub during the summer of 1987 operating 15 departures each day. However the carrier was being strained financially with its Continental Express operations and the remaining service at Albuquerque, Farmington, Roswell, and Carlsbad was all discontinued on July 31, 1987. The carrier then joined with Britt Airways providing Continental Express flights at Houston however Trans-Colorado declared bankruptcy in April, 1988 and shut down three months later.



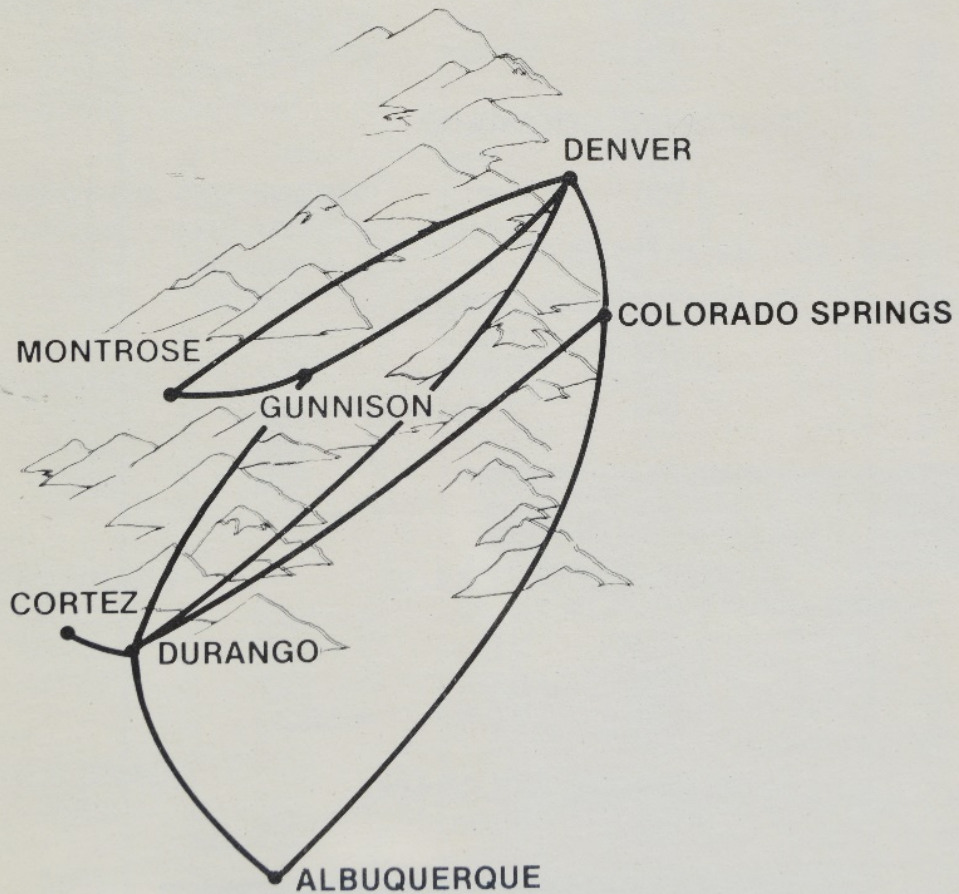
Trans-Colorado Swearingen Metroliner at the Albuquerque International Sunport



Trans Colorado Swearingen Metroliner in the livery of Continental Express.



# TRANS-COLORADO AIRLINES, INC.

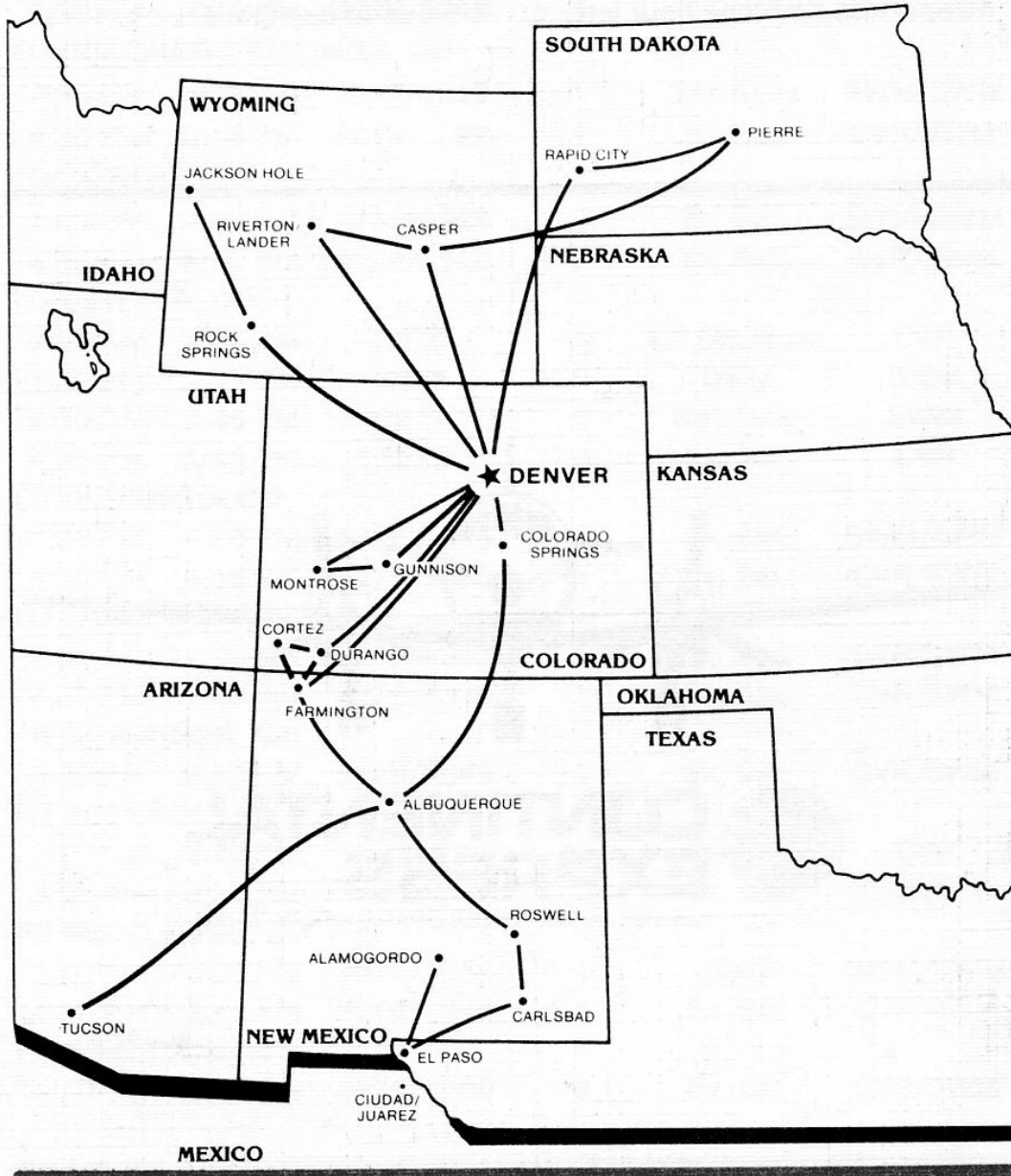


Trans-Colorado route map from December, 1984.

# CONTINENTAL EXPRESS

TRANS-COLORADO AIRLINES

## ROUTE MAP



Trans Colorado/Continental Express route map, April 1, 1987.