

RIDE IN HISTORY

NARROW GAUGE TREK

Getting to and from Cripple Creek in the 1890s was a matter of determination. Most miners rode horseback, packed mules or walked. Stage routes were developed as the mining activity grew. Railroads soon were built and transported goods, ore and passengers up the winding canyons that led to the gold fields. The first railroad to open was the Florence & Cripple Creek July 1, 1894. The next day the train derailed. Two other railroads served the district, including the Short Line and Midland Terminal from Colorado Springs. The last train to run to Cripple Creek was in 1949.

In historic Cripple Creek, the locals know it's summer time when they first hear the wail of the authentic steam train whistle from the Cripple Creek & Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad.

The railroad, established in the 1960s, boasts three 100-plus-year-old engines and four more modern passenger cars.

The train route winds through some of the historic mining region and affords breath-taking scenery along the route. An added bonus is narration by the engineer telling the passengers about the historical sights along the way. The trip lasts about 45 minutes.

There is also a gift shop housed in an his-

toric building that was originally built in 1894 as the Anaconda train station.

A ride on the Cripple Creek & Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad is not to be missed while you visit the historic Cripple Creek Mining District. The train station is located at 5th & Bennett Ave. and is open mid-May to mid-October. For information, call 719-689-2640 or visit cripplecreekrailroad.com.



GO UNDERGROUND, SEE REAL GOLD



Descend 1,000 feet underground in America's only vertical shaft gold mine tour. Experience the Old West as it was for hard rock gold miners of The World's Greatest Gold Camp. Under the earth 100 stories,

witness the evolution of underground mining methods from 1891 to present day.

Experience the sights and sounds of air powered mining equipment. View gold veins in their natural state and a large mineral collection. Receive a free gold ore specimen after the tour.

An exciting adventure for all ages. For over 70 years the Mollie Kathleen Gold Mine has given visitors a look into Colorado's mining history.

For more information, visit goldminetours.com or call 719-689-2466; 1 Mile North of Cripple Creek on Hwy. 67.

VICTOR LOWELL THOMAS MUSEUM

Explore Gold Rush History

Past & Present in
The World's Greatest Gold Camp

MODERN MINE TOURS
GOLD & GEM PANING
HEAD OF THE TRAILS OF GOLD
LOWELL THOMAS MEMORABILIA
GIFT SHOP

HOURS
MAY 23-SEPT. 7
WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY &
WEEKENDS FROM SEPT. EMBER
THRU OCT. 11
9:30-5:00

2009 ADMISSION PRICES
\$4 ADULTS
\$3 SENIORS
\$2 CHILDREN 12 & UNDER
\$3 GROUP RATE FOR 20 OR MORE
ADMISSION IS FREE WITH
MODERN MINE TOURS

DISTRICT-WIDE HISTORY

If you're looking for Gold Rush history, the Cripple Creek District Museum is the place to visit. The 50-plus-year-old museum is full of photos of yesteryear, artifacts and exhibits that show how the district's gold was discovered, how the towns were settled and then grew into one of the most important and noted gold mining camps in the world.

Located at the east end of Cripple Creek's Bennett Avenue, the museum is classified as one of the best small-town museums in America. Don't miss a turn-of-the-century assay office, the former Colorado Trading & Transfer Company with the city's most unique gift shop, the best area book store, and two courtyards containing mining machinery and other memorabilia.

Open daily from May through October 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on weekends from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. the rest of the year. For information, visit cripple-creek.org or call 719-689-2634.

GO DIRECTLY TO JAIL

Visitors to the new Outlaws & Lawmen Jail Museum can get a taste of the shadier side of early life in the gold camp. The museum is housed in the historic red-brick building that served as the Teller County Jail from 1902 until the 1990s. The original cells have been left intact so visitors can examine them from the inside. Displays highlight the laws and the lawless, with samples of police logs from the 1890s, examples of early city ordinances, and newspaper accounts of crimes big and small.

The museum features a gift shop. Located on Bennett Ave. and A St., the Outlaws & Lawmen Jail Museum is open seasonally. For information, call 877-858-4653 or visit cripplecreek.com.