Your complete vacation guide to
Colorado’s Gold Country
2019
Adventures in the
Cripple Creek and Victor
Gold Mining District

- Historic Sites
- Special Events
- Fishing
- Hiking Trails
- Live Theater
- Mine Tours
- Gold Panning
- Museums
- Scenic Drives
- Fall Colors
- Historic Inns
- Casino Gambling

Welcome to Cripple Creek, Colorado

Welcome to Victor, Colorado

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Gold! Few words can change the character of an entire region like the cry of “gold fever”. Gold was discovered here in 1890; the fever spread like wildfire, bringing thousands to the Pikes Peak region. Prospectors Bob Womack and Winfield Scott Stratton discovered the gold ore that touched off the legendary Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Rush. The ranching country on Pikes Peak’s western slopes was transformed as thousands flocked to the area to seek their fortunes. Towns sprang up on the mountainsides serving 500 gold mines, all requiring fuel, supplies, transportation, and a large supply of labor.

It became a priority to link the Cripple Creek and Victor Mining District to places beyond. Two stage roads and three railroads were built to carry lumber, food, coal, ore, and people to and from the mining district towns. Some of the historic rail routes comprise the segments of a loop of back country adventure called the Gold Belt National Scenic Byway (see map inside). Today the towns are linked with a shuttle service - park in one town at your hotel and ride the Gold Camp Connector to the other to hike and shop.

The famous Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining District is known as The World’s Greatest Gold Camp. The Mining District, an integral part of the Gold Belt, offers an up-close look at the 1890’s mining structures via The Trails of Gold, scenic drives, mountaintop overlooks, historic and modern mining operations, remnants of railroads, active ranching, museums, as well as the cities of Cripple Creek and Victor. Venture off the beaten track - pan for gold, tour a modern and a historic gold mine, take in a theatrical performance, or experience a special event. At the end of the day, find one of our historic inns and hotels for a home away from home.
Hike through time on a series of trails that winds through the mining district’s backcountry. The Trails of Gold and several historic sites offer up-close looks at the remnants of the 1890’s gold rush legacy as well as the active modern mining activities, ranching, and old town sites.

Most of the trails are open to foot, horse, and bicycle traffic in summer, and skiing and snowshoeing in winter. See trailhead information or VictorColorado.com for details. No motorized traffic is allowed on the trails. You can access most all of the Victor side trails from downtown Victor or the Battle Mountain Kiosk just east of town. Cripple Creek trails are accessed from the Cripple Creek District Museum area; you can also use the city shuttle service to get back and forth between the two towns.

The Southern Teller County Focus Group, a Colorado non-profit, works with the local mining companies, governments, and smaller private land owners to provide and maintain this series of trails that lead you through the wealth of gold mining that made Victor and Cripple Creek famous.

Visitors - please remember you are crossing private land and must stay on the trails for your safety; do not enter open mine shafts or historic structures.

The trails are through mountain terrain at elevations of 9,500 to 10,500 feet above sea level. Dress appropriately for mountain weather and bring a hat, sunscreen, and a jacket in case of a rain or snow shower. Some trails are remote and rugged and wildlife may be present; please respect their natural territory.

Access areas to the Theresa, Vindicator, Little Grouse, Gold Camp, and Independence mines are handicap accessible; trails beyond the parking areas are on mountain terrain. Cross country skiing and snowshoeing are best in February to mid-April. There are no services at the trails; no camping or overnight parking is allowed. These are dog-friendly trails, but please keep pets under your control and remove from the trail any messes they make.

There are GPS trail maps located at trail heads and on line at VictorColorado.com.
The Gold Camp Connector Shuttle Service provides transportation between Cripple Creek & Victor. See VisitCrippleCreek.com or CityofVictor.com for information.
Several events are planned throughout the year, some of which are not finalized before this publication's date. See VictorColorado.com, VictorColorado.org, and VisitCrippleCreek.com for final dates, times, and changes in this schedule.

### May
- **May 18**
  - Sunnyside Cemetery Tour, Victor
- **May 24 - September 15**
  - CC&V Mine Tours, from the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum
- **May 24 - June 16**
  - Death Trap, Butte Theater
- **May 25-26**
  - Citywide Garage Sale, Victor

### June
- **June 1**
  - 60th Anniversary Event, Victor Lowell Thomas Museum
- **2nd & 4th Saturdays**
  - Sunny Side Cemetery Tour, Victor
- **June 7 - 9**
  - Cripple Creek Top of the World Rodeo
- **June 14 - 16**
  - Annual Victor Gem & Mineral Show
- **June 20**
  - Cripple Creek Summer Music Series
- **June 21 - July 4**
  - Once Upon a Time in the West Art Show, Cripple Creek Heritage Center
- **June 21 - August 18**
  - My Partner, Butte Theater
- **June 22-23**
  - Cripple Creek Donkey Derby Days

### July
- **2nd & 4th Saturdays**
  - Sunny Side Cemetery Tour, Victor
- **July 4**
  - July 4th Celebration, Cripple Creek
- **July 5 - August 17**
  - Grease, Butte Theater

### August
- **2nd & 4th Saturdays**
  - Sunny Side Cemetery Tour, Victor
- **August 16 - 18**
  - Annual Cripple Creek Salute to American Veterans
- **August 17**
  - Pikes Peak Region's Memorial Wall Dedication, Cripple Creek

### September
- **September 1**
  - Cripple Creek Summer Music Series
- **September 7**
  - Victor Pack Burro Race.
- **September 7 - 8**
  - Cruise Above the Clouds Car Show, Cripple Creek

### October
- **September 20 - Oct. 6**
  - You Can't Take it With You, Butte Theater
- **September 21, 22, 28, 29**
  - Two Mile High Club Aspen Tours, Cripple Creek
- **September 28**
  - Taste the Gold, Victor
- **September 28 - 30**
  - Big Aspen Happnin' Fall Festival, Cripple Creek

### November
- **November 22 - January 1**
  - Gold Camp Christmas Headframe Lighting
- **November 23 - December 24**
  - All I Want for Christmas Is: More Olio, Butte Theater

### December
- **December 6**
  - Victor Highlights Parade
- **December 7-8**
  - Gold Camp Christmas Cripple Creek and Victor

### February 2020
- **February**
  - Cripple Creek Ice Festival and Victor events; ice skating and more.
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INVITES YOU TO SHOP, EAT, STAY IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN VICTOR, COLORADO
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2019 Events Schedule
Celebrating 125 Years
June 14-16 Victor Gem & Mineral Show
Gold Rush Days July 20-21
Victor Celebrates the Arts Aug. 31-Sept. 2
Victor Pack Burro Race Sept. 7
Gold Camp Christmas Dec. 6-8

Activities for all Ages
Scenic Hiking & Biking Trails
Gold Panning ~ Gold Mine Tours
Parks ~ History Museums
Wildlife Viewing/Birding ~ Fishing
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MORE INFO AT VICTORCOLORADO.COM
Gold was first discovered in Colorado in 1848 by the Cherokee on their way to California. But the news did not travel far nor cause much excitement until 1858 when William Green Russell and a group met with the Cherokee and explored their findings further. In July of 1858, Russell’s group found “good diggings” at the mouth of Little Dry Creek on the South Platte, the first significant gold discovery in the region. The site of the discovery is in the present-day Denver suburb of Englewood. More deposits were located at what were to become Central City and Idaho Springs.

The Colorado Gold Rush officially began in 1859 (when the land was still in the Kansas Territory) and lasted throughout the early 1860s. The Colorado Gold Rush occurred about a decade after the California Gold Rush and resulted in a dramatic influx of emigrants into the Rocky Mountains. “Pikes Peak or Bust” became the nemesis for the rush of prospectors that flooded the mountains with gold fever.

This influx led to the creation of many early towns in the region, including Denver and Boulder, as well as many other smaller mining towns, some of which have survived. Many of the smallest gold mining communities became ghost towns. The first decade of the boom was largely concentrated along the South Platte River at the base of the mountains, the canyon of Clear Creek in the mountains west of Golden, and South Park. As prospectors flooded the region in search of riches, the population growth led to the creation of the Colorado Territory in 1861 and to the State of Colorado in 1876. The easy-to-reach gold deposits in the northern parts of Colorado were largely played out by 1863 and things were quiet... until a major strike was made in 1890 and 1891 in Cripple Creek and Victor. Cripple Creek and Victor are located on the western slopes of Pikes Peak, about 35 miles southwest of Colorado Springs. In prehistoric times, the area was volcanic, creating the riches that made the mining district famous, and the 6 square miles that make up the Cripple Creek & Victor Mining District are located in the caldera of an extinct volcano.

Soon the word spread and the last great gold rush in the lower 48 states began. Prospectors from all over the country flocked to the sunny side of Pikes Peak, looking for riches and a new life in the West. The millions made from 1891 through the present earned this newly discovered area the title of The World’s Greatest Gold Camp.
Victor is a historic mining town full of character and adventure at nearly 10,000 feet above sea level on the southwest side of Pikes Peak. The 1890’s architecture, the sunny days, fresh mountain air, and friendly small-town atmosphere provide an opportunity to escape the city life and find adventure in the Gold Rush era.

Victor is a unique mountain get-away along the Gold Belt National Scenic Byway, with over 300 days of sunshine each year. The downtown has undergone a major renewal with sidewalks, an event plaza, and restored facades. Several of the original 1899 brick buildings still line the historic streets, housing shops and eateries. The local experience includes antiques, broom and tinware making, gold panning, mine tours, museums, and local crafts. Enjoy homemade goodies at a German bakery, ice cream at an old-fashioned soda fountain, and food and drink at three bars. The annual Gold Rush Days celebration, Gem and Mineral Show, Christmas events, cemetery tours, pack burro race, and hiking trails round out the fun.

A shuttle makes an easy ride from Cripple Creek to Victor and back. For information, see CityofVictor.com. The town’s visitor center is located on east Victor Avenue. For more information, visit VictorColorado.com, VictorColorado.org, and CityofVictor.com.

Photos by Ruth Zalewski and Scott D. Smith.
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Warren, Harry, and Frank Woods came to Victor in 1892. Warren Woods, the father, was president of most of the Woods’ enterprises. The Woods purchased the Mount Rosa Placer and incorporated the Mt. Rosa Mining, Milling, and Land Company January 9, 1892. The area was platted into lots, and the investment paid off - the 137 acres of Victor on the side of Battle Mountain netted the Woods over $50,000 by 1895. By the time the town was platted in 1893, it was already known as the City of Mines because the largest and richest gold mines of the Cripple Creek and Victor Mining District were located just above Victor on Battle Mountain. Victor and its environs played the biggest role in the production of the nearly $434,000,000 in gold (in 1890’s value). In the spring of 1894, the town was officially incorporated and the first town council was elected in July of that year. March 3, 1898, Victor became a statutory city in Colorado. By then the town had a population of 8,000 residents. In August of 1899 the downtown burned and was rebuilt in brick.

Victor was named after one of the town’s first pioneers and ranchers, Victor Adams. According to family members, the townsmen decided to draw names from a hat to select the town’s name. Adams, who lived in Victor long before it became a gold mining town, was the lucky draw.

July 4, 1891, above what as to be the town of Victor, Winfield Scott Stratton staked claims to the Independence and Washington mines. The news that Stratton, an itinerant carpenter known for his persistent prospecting, could find a paying gold mine gave life to the new Colorado gold rush. He developed the Independence Mine as well as several other claims and was known as an eccentric, although a very generous one. Stratton died before he could prove his theory of the Bowl of Gold, a formation of pure metal in the shape of a wine goblet he believed was the mother lode. But his other theory, “Gold is worth more IN the ground than out,” proved to be ever so true when he later sold the Independence for $11,000,000, making him the first millionaire in the district. Stratton’s Independence Mine and Mill Site can be seen above Victor and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The headframe was restored in 2017 by Newmont Mining Corporation.
In 1895 as the “World Celebration” was started in honor of the town’s incorporation as a city on July 16, 1894. The Miners Reunion continued until 1899 when a fire destroyed most of downtown Victor and some of the surrounding residential areas. Following the fire, the next celebration was in 1904 when the Ringling Brothers was the featured attraction with their “big top” at the corner of Fourth Street and Victor Avenue. After WWII the name of the event was changed to Gold Rush Days and has continued uninterrupted since.

See VictorColorado.com and VictorColorado.org for an updated schedule of events being planned.

Friday, July 19 - Gold Panning; CCV Mine Tours; Chili Dinner at the Elks Lodge.
Saturday, July 20 - Pancake Breakfast; Street Vendors; Mining Games; Gold Panning; CCV Mine Tours; Historic Home and Building Tours; Tractor Pull; Vintage Baseball Game, Old-fashioned Kids games, Reunion Lunch at the Elks Lodge, and more.
Sunday, July 21 - Pancake Breakfast; CCV Mine Tours; Gold Panning; Tractor Pull; Noon Parade.

Annual Gem and Mineral Show
Colorado mineral specimens, jewelry, gems, and fossils will be on display and for sale June 14-16 for Victor’s Gem & Mineral Show. Vendors will be located in downtown Victor near the Elks Lodge on North Third Street and in the North Third Street Plaza. Kids can try their hand at gold panning at the museum. See STCFG.com for events planned during the show. A free geology presentation will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday of the event at the Elks Lodge in Victor. The event is sponsored by the Southern Teller County Focus Group, a local non-profit with a mission of historic preservation, community development, and mining education, with support from Newmont Mining Corporation, and the City of Victor.

Victor Lowell Thomas Museum
Explore Gold Rush History
Lowell Thomas Memorabilia
Access the Trails of Gold on the Gold Belt Scenic Byway
Gift Shop – Rocks – Gold – Books

Victor Gold Rush Days Celebrates Mining

Victor’s Annual Gem & Mineral Show

2019 Hours
Daily 9:30-5:30
Memorial Day Weekend through Sept. 30
April, May
See website for Additional Hours

Admission Prices
$7 Adults $6 Seniors
$6 Children 12 & Under
$6 Group Rate for 20 or more

Gold & Gem Panning
Modern Mine Tours

Victor Lowell Thomas Museum
Explore Gold Rush History
Lowell Thomas Memorabilia
Access the Trails of Gold on the Gold Belt Scenic Byway
Gift Shop – Rocks – Gold – Books
The town of Cripple Creek developed along a small creek winding its way from the mountains near Poverty Gulch, where gold was found in 1890 by ranch hand Bob Womack. There are numerous stories about how the city was named. The most recounted story is of a cow that fell while crossing the small stream that flowed through Poverty Gulch, resulting in the statement, “That’s some Cripple Creek.”

By 1894, what had been a quiet, serene cattle ranch was a booming gold camp of about 50,000. The small camp was to become the fifth richest gold strike in the world, a legacy that continues today with a still actively producing gold mine between Cripple Creek and Victor.

On what was once a ranch, Denver real estate men Horace Bennett and Julius Myers platted out lots, sold, and developed Cripple Creek from its quiet beginnings. The gold rush brought lumber yards, hotels, 100 saloons, over 40 assay offices, an equal number of brokerage firms, 80 doctors, 91 lawyers, and 14 newspapers. Electricity lighted the streets in 1892, and in 1893 the city’s water system was completed. The first (and only) authentic Mexican bullfight was held at Gillett north of the district. The first indoor rodeo was held in Cripple Creek at the Grand Opera House. Several celebrities either grew up here or spent time in the mining district, including: Groucho Marx, Lowell Thomas, Texas Guinan, Wyatt Earp, and Jack Dempsey.

Disaster struck Cripple Creek twice in 1896. In late April of that year, a “taxi dancer” on Myers Avenue (the Red Light District) got into a fight with her beau. During the struggle, a kerosene heater was overturned which started a fire. Due to prevailing winds and the fact that all the buildings were wooden, the eastern half of the Cripple Creek business district burned as well as a good portion of the residences. The resilient Cripple Creekerers refused offers of help and rebuilding commenced the next day. Three days later, a cook at one of the hotels overturned a pot of grease on a hot stove, which started another fire. This second fire burned what was left of the business district, including the start of the new construction, and several more homes. This time, offers of help were gratefully accepted. The city fathers ordained the business district to be built in brick thereafter.
Today, the 1890’s brick buildings that line Cripple Creek’s Bennett Avenue are home to modern-day casinos, shops, and eateries. Several more historic buildings line the city’s side streets and make a superb walking tour of history.

In 1990, the voters of Colorado approved limited-stakes gambling in Cripple Creek, a century after gold was discovered. The surge to build casinos and make civic improvements brought on a new gold rush to the city that began with the meager endeavors of a few ranchers with big dreams in Poverty Gulch.

Bets are limited to $100 each. Several casinos sport slot machines, video and live poker, blackjack tables, craps, and roulette. Cripple Creek casinos, large and small, offer a chance to strike it rich in both historic and modern venues. Casinos offer gaming fun, bars, dining, and VIP benefits, free parking, as well as hotel rooms.

Events such as Donkey Derby Days, Salute to American Veterans, rodeos, fall color tours, and July 4th as well as historic venues such as the Butte Theater, Mollie Kathleen Gold Mine, and CC&V Narrow Gauge celebrate the town’s heritage.

Located on Tenderfoot Hill above Cripple Creek, the Cripple Creek Heritage Center displays include geological history, regional recreational activities and attractions, and mining history. The center is well known for its wall of windows that offers stunning views of the Sangre de Cristo mountain range. The staff provides brochures, maps, directions, and other visitor information.

The heritage center is located one mile north of Cripple Creek on Highway 67. For hours and information, call 1-877-858-4653 or VisitCrippleCreek.com.
Living a Mining Heritage

Modern gold mining in the historic Cripple Creek Mining District continues today, over a century after gold was discovered.

Newmont Cripple Creek & Victor Mine (CC&V) operates Colorado’s largest surface gold mine. Over 580 employees work 24 hours a day, every day of the year to produce gold in a safe and environmentally responsible manner. The mine life is currently planned through 2026. Following mining, the land will be reclaimed for wildlife habitat and grazing uses.

CC&V subscribes to international standards and has been certified by independent third parties to be in compliance with the International Cyanide Code. The Colorado Mining Association presented CC&V recognition as “Best of the Best” for their Pollution Prevention Program. CC&V has also received recognition from the State of Colorado for successful high altitude reclamation projects.

Mine Tours
Take a modern gold mine tour at the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum, Third & Victor Ave., Memorial Day through Labor Day.
Tour reservations: online at VictorColorado.com or at 719-689-4211.
Getting to and from Cripple Creek in the 1890s was a matter of determination. Miners rode horseback, packed mules, or walked. Railroads soon were built and transported goods, ore, and passengers up the 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.

On June 28, 1967, Dr. John M. Birmingham opened the Cripple Creek & Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad for tours; the CC&VNGRR has been carrying passengers ever since. Today over 50 years later, the CC&VNGRR is still operated by the Birmingham family and is the only remaining railroad trip in the district. The railroad boasts three 100-plus-year-old engines and four more modern passenger cars. The gift shop and ticket office, originally built in 1894 as the Anaconda train station, is next to the original Cripple Creek Midland Depot which houses the Cripple Creek District Museum at the east end of Bennett Avenue in Cripple Creek.

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. The train station is located at Fifth & Bennett Avenue and is open mid-May to mid-October.

For information, call 719-689-2640 or visit CrippleCreekRailroad.com.
The Phantom Canyon Road is one of the most scenic and historic drives in Colorado. The route, which follows the 1890's bed of the Florence & Cripple Creek Railroad (F&CC), increases in elevation from 5,500 to 9,500 feet and offers the chance to see a wide range of plants and wildlife in their natural setting. The F&CC was built in 1894 as the first connection from Florence to the goldfields of Cripple Creek and Victor. The unique bridges and tunnels offer a visual link to the area's historic past. The F&CC was shut down July 12, 1912, when a flood roared down the canyon, ripping out track and 12 bridges. The route was opened as an auto road in 1918 and today is part of the Gold Belt National Scenic Byway.

The Midland Terminal, which ran from Colorado Springs up to Cripple Creek, opened July 4, 1894, three days after the F&CC arrived. Four passenger trains per day ran on the tracks and gold was hauled to a processing plant on Colorado Springs' west side. The railroad, which is now Highway 67 from Divide to Cripple Creek, closed in 1949 when it was no longer necessary to haul gold down the mountain for processing.

The Short Line (aka Colorado Springs & Cripple Creek District Railway) was the shortest route to Colorado Springs and starting in April of 1901 operated two passenger trains each way daily. The 46-mile route cost over $4.5 million in 1900 values and was paid for by wealthy mine owners. Over 220 box cars and 60 ore cars brought ore from the Cripple Creek and Victor mines down the mountain to the mills in and around Colorado Springs. Theodore Roosevelt proclaimed “This is the ride that bankrupts the English language!” Service on the route ended in 1920. Later it became Gold Camp Road, which winds from Teller County 81 north of Victor down the mountain canyons to Old Stage Road near the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs. The road is maintained, though can be washboardy and in winter may require four-wheel drive or chains. The scenery is spectacular and includes towering rock formations, overviews of Colorado Springs, and in the fall, brilliant gold aspen stands.
The Butte Concert and Beer Hall opened about 1896, when proprietors featured nightly entertainment with a Ladies’ Vienna Orchestra. After ups and downs and being used for storage, early in 1999, the city of Cripple Creek began extensive renovations to refurbish the former theater with fresh paint, Victorian-era wallpaper, and period chandeliers.

The Butte Theater, operated by the Butte Theater Foundation, hosts shows, movie nights, touring acts, and community theater plays January through May and is home to Rocky Mountain Repertory Theater professional shows as well as community productions. For information, see ButteTheater.com. To make phone reservations, call 719-689-3247.

2019 MRT Shows:

**May 24 – June 16**

**Deathtrap.** Gasp-inducing thrills and spontaneous laughter! Unknown dramatist Clifford Anderson has sent his new thriller to award-winning Broadway author Sidney for comment – or has he? Without a success to his credit for some years, Sidney plots with his reluctant wife Myra about how best to plagiarize ‘Deathtrap’ and when Clifford turns up to discuss the play with the ‘Master’ events take a sinister turn. Rated PG-13 for language, suspense and murders.

**June 22 – August 18**

**My Partner: Classic Melodrama and Olio.** It’s a melodrama and an olio! This classic originally performed by The Imperial Players returns to Cripple Creek.

Boo, hiss, cheer, get ready for a roaring good time.

Rated PG and great for families!

**July 5 – August 17**

**Grease!**

Here is Rydell High’s senior class of 1959: duck-tailed, hot-rodning “Burger Palace Boys” and their gum-snapping, hip-shaking “Pink Ladies” in bobby sox and pedal pushers, evoking the look and sound of the 1950s in this rollicking musical. Head “greaser” Danny and new (good) girl Sandy try to relive the romance of their “Summer Nights” as the rest of the gang sings and dances its way through such songs as “Greased Lightnin’,” “It’s Raining on Prom Night,” “Alone at the Drive-In Movie” recalling the music of Buddy Holly, Little Richard, and Elvis Presley that became the soundtrack of a generation. Rated PG-15 for adult themes.

**August 30 – September 15**

**The Andrews Brothers.** A USO performance from the Andrews Sisters is in jeopardy of cancellation when they fail to appear shortly before curtain. Thankfully three earnest stagehands are determined to go on with the show! The Andrews Brothers is filled to the brim with 30 songs made famous by the Andrews Sisters and other top artists of the era. Mistaken identities and madcap adventures along with the music of an entire generation high-wonderful valentine to the heroes of World War II. Rated PG.

**September 20 – October 6**

**You Can’t Take It With You.** An eccentric family allows each member to pursue his own ambition in the home, but their routine is disrupted when a daughter with a regular job wants to bring her fiancé and his Wall Street family to dinner in George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart’s Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy. Rated PG and great for families!

**October 11 – November 3**

**The Great American Trailer Park Musical.** There’s a new tenant at Armadillo Acres—and she’s wreaking havoc all over Florida’s most exclusive trailer park. When Pippi, an attractive dancer on the run, comes between the Dr. Phil-loving, agoraphobic Jeanie and her tollbooth collector husband—the storms begin to brew. A country rock musical! Rated PG but with adult humor and themes.

**November 22 – December 29**

**All I Want For Christmas Is: More Olio!** A full-length olio revue! Rated PG and great for families!
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Sledding Hill - Martial Arts - Zumba
Skatepark - Indoor Skating - Belly Dancing
Picnic Areas - Playgrounds - Facility Rentals
Community Greenhouse - Garage Sales
Easter Egg Hunt - BOOzaar - Craft Fair
Women's Bible Study - Trips - Craft Classes
Silver Sneakers - Silver & Fit - Yoga
5K Route - 2.5K Hiking Trail
Multi-use Court (Basketball, Volleyball, Pickleball & Badminton)
Visitors to the Cripple Creek 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. For information, call 877-858-4653 or VisitCrippleCreek.com.

Named a Top 10 Western Museum by True West Magazine, the museum is full of photos of yesteryear, artifacts, and exhibits that show how the district’s gold was discovered, how towns were settled, and how they grew into one of the most noted mining camps in the world.

Don’t miss a turn-of-the-century assay office, the former Colorado Trading & Transfer Company with the its unique gift shop, rock shop, the book store, two courtyards containing mining machinery and memorabilia, as well as an assay office.

The museum has hundreds of files in its archives, including photographs, newspaper articles, documents, letters, scrapbooks, city directories, death and burial records, marriage and baptism records, and correspondence from ancestors of the folks who lived in the Cripple Creek District. Located at the east end of Bennett Avenue.

For more information, visit CrippleCreekMuseum.com or call 719-689-2634.

The Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center (RMDRC) was founded in 2004 by Mike and J.J. Triebold, of Triebold Paleontology Incorporated (TPI). RMDRC is located in downtown Woodland Park and encompasses 20,000 square feet, of which more than half is dedicated to exhibits. Visitors can see a wide collection of fossilized animals, see a working fossil laboratory and enjoy life-restoration as well as skeletons of these fascinating animals. The RMDRC is located at 201 S. Fairview St. Woodland Park. For information call 719-686-1820 or visit RMDRC.com.

North of Cripple Creek about 28 miles, the peaceful ponderosa pine forests and rolling meadows of modern Florissant are a sharp contrast to the violent volcanic activity that occurred there millions of years ago. Volcanic ash and mud flows preserved a priceless legacy - petrified redwood stumps and delicate plant and insect fossils dating to 35 million years ago - set aside as the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. The historic 1800’s Hornbek Homestead is located at the north end of the monument. Located about 18 miles north of Cripple Creek on Teller County Rd.1. 719-748 3253 nps.gov/flfo
At the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum, you can pan for real gold and gems and take in two floors of artifacts, books, exhibits, and photographs depicting the life in Victor from its earlier days to the heyday of gold mining. Exhibits highlight the life of Lowell Thomas and other pioneers of The World’s Greatest Gold Camp. Celebrating 60 years in 2019!

Take a modern mine tour and see how gold is taken from the earth with 21st century technology. Check the museum website for guided cemetery walking tours on summer Saturdays at 10 a.m. as well as special programs such as the Strong Mine event in October.

Take off on a tour of the Trails of Gold right from the museum’s front door, with access to miles of hiking and biking trails that wander past 1890’s mines, homes, and the scenic gold mining district.

The gift shop offers Victorian hats and gemstone jewelry, new and rare used books, historic maps, postcards, gold ore, one-of-a-kind gifts, and rocks.

The museum, at 3rd St. and Victor Ave., is open daily Memorial Day through Labor Day, weekends through Christmas. For information, call 719-689-5509, or visit VictorMuseum.com.

Old Parlor House Open

Between Cripple Creek’s famous fires in April of 1896 and the following November, Madam Pearl Devere built a palatial parlor house. As the fanciest of bordellos, the Old Homestead included running water, electricity, a telephone, as well as a full staff of chambermaids, housekeepers, a cook and a musician.

The Old Homestead, the last of the infamous pleasure palaces of Cripple Creek, stands in quiet dignity today on Myers Avenue - in mute testimony to its raucous, glamorous past. The bright lights, the tinkling pianos, the coarse shouts of the pleasure-seeking miners are gone, but the Homestead remains.

The Museum is Located One Block South of Bennett Avenue at 353 Myers Ave., Cripple Creek, the museum is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 7 days a week mid-May through October. OldHomesteadHouse.com

More in Victor

Victor’s Gold Camp Ag & Mining Museum.

The home for this collection is the historic Fillabaum Ford Dealership located at 102 Second Ave., Victor. Call 719-651-5569 for information. VictorsAgMiningMuseum.com
Just off the busy downtown main street of Cripple Creek you can find first-class respite in one of the finest historic hotels.

Carr Manor, an 1890’s school at Carr Avenue and 4th St., is appointed as a boutique hotel. Conference facilities, a grand ballroom, a spa/fitness room, and a gift shop complete the amenities. Some suites feature four-poster beds reminiscent of the period; all offer exquisite furnishings. Walls of fine art and historical memorabilia make for the finest lodging experience in the district.

The Cripple Creek High School was one of 17 school sites in the Mining District and today is one of only two original schools still standing. The other is the Victor High School located 5 miles away in the City of Victor.

Famed individuals who attended the school include Colorado Governor Ralph Carr, who served during World War II and was honored for his humanitarian work.

Gary and Wini Ledford purchased the property in 2003 and completed the process of a full restoration and reconstruction of several rooms and suites, a conference center and a Grand Ballroom. Many of the rooms in the Manor have theme names and historic reflections of times gone by.

Carr Manor - 350 East Carr Ave., Cripple Creek; 719-689-3709; CarrManor.com.
Unique Gifts & Souvenirs
Fine Art · Textiles
Woodcrafts · Jewelry
ArtGlass & More
All by Local Artists

100 S 2nd St. in Victor, CO
For info call Marjie at 689-5700

Also Visit the
Victor’s Gold Camp Ag & Mining Museum
102 S 2nd St. Victor Ave & 2nd St
Wed - Sunday 10 AM to 5 PM
689-3461

7th Annual VICTOR GEM & MINERAL SHOW
Downtown Historic Victor, Colorado

Free Admission

FREE Regional Geology Presentation
Saturday, June 15 at 1 p.m. Victor Elks Lodge

June 14-16, 2019
Friday, Saturday 9-5 pm & Sunday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m
SFGFG.com
The Newmont Mining Corporation’s Cripple Creek & Victor Mine (CC&V) operates the modern, high-tech surface gold mine, the largest in Colorado, between Cripple Creek and Victor. CC&V is now approaching 6 million ounces of gold mined from the Cresson Project, which started in 1995.

Since the rush began in 1890, the Cripple Creek Mining District has produced over 25,000,000 ounces of gold. Driving around the area you can see modern mining methods that keep the district’s gold mining legacy alive - from surface mining along county roads, to the valley fill/gold recovery processes along Highway 67 northwest of Victor, to the Ceylon Beard, Altman, and Squaw Gulch toe-berm reclamation sites. CC&V invites you to tour this amazing mining operation - see VictorMuseum.com for tour reservations and information.

At one time, over 500 underground mines operated in the district. CC&V has worked with the local communities to preserve some of the remaining historic structures that have not been lost to time. Several of these structures include the recent $1.3 million restoration of the Independence Mine Headframe, relocation of the Cresson headframe in Victor, the Anchoria Leland Mine near Cripple Creek, American Eagles, and the Rittenhouse headframe on South 4th Street in Victor. The company has also provided access to several sites on its land that offer safe, up-close views of the historic mining structures. Please be aware that old mine sites can be dangerous, so enjoy them from the established roads and trails. Please do not harm historic sites so that others may enjoy them. Stay out, stay off, stay alive.

CC&V is a proud member of the community. Its 560-plus employees have donated thousands of hours of volunteer time to local organizations. CC&V has an active donation program contributing over $450,000 in 2018 to economic development projects, emergency response, education, and events. In addition, Newmont pays all administrative costs and matching funds for an employee donation program called the Legacy Fund. In 2018, the first year of the campaign in Colorado, CC&V employees contributed over $140,000 to local non-profits with the company match.

Based on permitted surface mining plans, and its ongoing geological exploration, which may include additional surface and potential underground operations, Newmont Mining Corporation will be a part of the district’s heritage for years to come.
Tours through the modern gold mining operations of Newmont Mining Corporation’s Cripple Creek & Victor Mine are offered in the summer months. See giant haul trucks, shovels, and drill rigs in action. Watch a massive crusher reducing boulder-sized ore into gravel and learn about modern refining methods while helping to preserve the 1890’s history.

All tour proceeds go to the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum in downtown Victor, where the tours start. Modern mine tours begin Memorial Day Weekend and are an affordable way to see a real working gold mine.

**Tours in 2019 are offered at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. as follows:**

May 24-Sept. 2 daily except no tours on Thursdays; see VictorMuseum.com for additional times and dates. Reservations are strongly encouraged.

The cost is $8.50 per person, all ages (plus a small booking fee). The maximum on each tour is 13.

Please be sure to reserve your tours early as they are very popular and fill up quickly. Tours leave from the museum on the corner of Victor Avenue and Third Street.

**Reservations strongly recommended:**

Online at VictorMuseum.com, or by calling 719-689-5509 during museum hours (9:30-5:30).

To ensure visitors’ safety, several policies must be followed:

- All tour participants must sign a release form; parents of children under 18 must sign the release form for their children.
- Arrive at the museum 15 minutes early; everyone is required to view a mine safety video.
- No children under 5 allowed on tours.
- Everyone will be required to wear long pants (no shorts), fully enclosed shoes, as well as hard hats, safety vests, and safety glasses provided by CC&V.
- CC&V is an active mining operation; tours may be limited by mining operations.

For information visit VictorMuseum.com.
Visiting historic cemeteries is a perfect way to connect with the past, whether searching for family ties or learning about the events that shaped the District. Two public cemeteries offer paths to the past - Victor’s Sunnyside and Cripple Creek’s Mt. Pisgah are open daily throughout the year. In May each year the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum offers a tour of the Sunnyside Cemetery. Check VictorMuseum.com for other tours held on summer Saturdays. In September each year the Gold Camp Victorian Society holds Mount Pisgah Speaks. Please respect graves and family gatherings while visiting the locations. See VictorMuseum.com and VisitCrippleCreek.com for event information.

**Mt. Pisgah Cemetery**

Land for the 40-acre cemetery was donated on March 21, 1895, by Horace W. Bennett and Julius A. Myers of Denver to the Mount Pisgah Cemetery Association. They retained mineral rights but noted that any mining would be done "without injury to the surface." The earliest marked burial is that of James Gozad, who died May 11, 1892, so the land was in use as a cemetery before 1895.

The veterans section includes graves of 38 Civil War veterans moved in the 1920s or 1930s from the original GAR Cemetery near Victor when gold was mined there. Several Spanish-American War veterans and one Confederate soldier are also buried there. Popular graves include those of Old Homestead madam Pearl DeVere and Dr. Susan Anderson, pioneer doctor of Cripple Creek and Grand County on whom the TV character Dr. Quinn is said to be based.

From Bennett Avenue in Cripple Creek (the main street), drive to the west end and turn right at B Street. Turn left at Carr Avenue and drive approximately one-half mile.

**Sunnyside Cemetery**

The cemetery is unique in that its residents are granted only the "surface ground." Deeper, one finds portions of the Hattie W. Iode, the Cemetery Iode, the Robert E. Lee Iode, and the Anny B. Iode, all now inactive gold mines. One wonders if the residents could indeed "rest in peace," with all the rumblings of mining that once came from below. Hundreds of graves are unmarked or are guarded by wooden markers from which all inscription has disappeared. The many fenced areas reserved for burials of fraternal society members speak to the community's strong social structure. The earliest recorded burial is that of 3-year-old Maggie Ferrans, who died April 26, 1891.

Sunnyside Cemetery is located west of Victor on County Road 87. From Victor Avenue, turn west at Seventh Street on the southwest end of Victor. Drive about 0.9 mile down the dirt road to the entrance of the cemetery.
Skaguay Reservoir, 7 miles from Victor, is a quiet, mountain get-away worth the trip down a scenic backcountry road. Today it is a popular mountain fishing spot. To find the reservoir, drive about 1 mile down Phantom Canyon Road from Victor to the first left, turn at the sign for the reservoir. Fishing is best at the inlet, east shore, and the dam. Boats and camping are allowed. If you need lunch, stop in Victor before heading out.

Beaver Creek is a small stream that makes a 12-mile journey through a secluded canyon, all of which is within Beaver Creek State Wildlife Area. The only way in and out is by hiking. If you're really ambitious, you can hike up or down the canyon, and camp along the way. The trip will take two to three days. Although the canyon is fairly open at the north and south ends, the majority of it is very narrow, with walls as high as 1,000 feet above the stream.

The complete canyon trek requires negotiation of narrow sections and minor rock scrambling. Be prepared to encounter bears as well as mountain lions, bobcats, deer, elk, bighorn sheep, eagles and hawks. Make sure to take water, food, a jacket and be prepared for all types of weather.

Over the 12-mile length, the elevation drops 2,800 feet, so it's more enjoyable to hike down the canyon than up the rugged incline.

Skaguay Reservoir was built in 1900 to power the mining district. The project involved the construction of a large metal-faced dam for water storage, forming a pristine, mountain reservoir.

The Skaguay Hydroelectric plant was opened by the Victor’s founders, the Woods family, in 1901, providing power to Victor, Cripple Creek, Pueblo and Canon City as well as the local mines. The water from Beaver Creek was delivered from the Skaguay reservoir via a long wooden pipe. At one time there was a sawmill, laundry, saloon and dance hall around the brick power house plant, which was located downstream a few miles.

The Woods formed the Pikes Peak Power Company to build the hydroelectric system. The plant would power the trolley haulage system in the Economic / Columbine Tunnel at their Gold Coin Mine. The system was intended to have three plants located one below the other on Beaver Creek to provide this power. The plant deep in the canyon became operational in 1901 thanks to the efforts of more than 500 men who constructed several miles of pipeline along the steep and rugged canyon wall. Victor received power from the plant in May of 1901, and on the Fourth of July a three-day celebration was held.

In 1911, the new Arkansas Valley Railway, Light and Power Company took over the operation of Skaguay. Under the guidance of several owners, the transmission lines were upgraded to serve the increasing demand for electricity in Victor, Cripple Creek and the mining industry.

The hydroelectric plant at Skaguay ceased operation after a cloud burst that broke the dam at Cripple Creek's reservoir above Gillett. The dam held but suffered enough damage that the reservoir had to be drained to complete repairs. That 1965 flood meant the end for the Skaguay power plant and all that is left are the brick ruins and some remnants of a tram that provided a roller coaster access to the island-like location.
Victor kids of all ages know where to hang out in the winter - Brian's Park is the only groomed ice rink in southern Teller County and is open daily from mid December into early March.

Just below Portland Avenue in Victor at Fourth Street, the rink is home to the Victor Penguins Hockey Club. Several divisions play on the rink, from young kids to adults. Hours are posted at the rink. The club has its own Zamboni for ice maintenance and the newly renovated warming house and outdoor area offers a great winter venue. The Penguins sponsor adult hockey and also field youth teams. These teams play against regional hockey teams in January and February. Tournaments are also held during the season.

The Penguins Hockey Club is a nonprofit organization. Donations are always welcome and are tax deductible.

For more information, call Brian Hayes at 719-689-2029.

New Park Offers Cripple Creek Fun

Mountain View Adventure Park just southwest of town offers several options for outdoor fun. The new park is located on County Road 89. Choose from Adventure Playground, Disc Golf, Sledding Hill, BMX Track, Dog Park or our 2.5K Hiking/Biking Trail. Or you can simply pack a lunch and enjoy the fresh mountain air at our Picnic Shelter.

**Disc Golf:** Challenge your friends or co-workers to a little friendly competition at the brand new 18-hole disc golf course. Play with your own set of discs, or stop by Parks and Recreation 128 E. Bennett Ave. and rent a set from us for a $10 deposit.

**Mountain View BMX Track:** Come enjoy the scenery on the improved mountain track. Use of the track is free.

**Dog Park:** All well behaved dogs are welcome as well as their owners to enjoy the park. All dogs must be on a leash until inside the unleashing area. Please clean up after your dog. Waste bags are on site.

**Hiking/Biking Trail:** Cripple Creek Parks and Recreation has designed a 2.5 K Trail that can be used for hiking or biking. Do the trail twice for a 5K experience.
One of the most impressive views of the mining district is from atop Little Grouse Mountain at the new American Eagles Historic Overlook. There are superb views of Newmont Mining Corporation’s Cripple Creek & Victor surface operations as well as historic mining displays at this site. The American Eagles structures were relocated to this new overlook in 2017 by Newmont Mining Corporation. Access to the overlook is south of Victor at the Little Grouse Trailhead. Currently the only access is via hiking trail. An access road for vehicles is planned in the near future.

The Grassy Valley Mining Overlook, which features an amazing CAT 793 Haul Truck Bed converted to an observation deck, provides a safe and dynamic way for visitors to view modern mining operations. The 360-degree view takes in the historic Grassy Valley, a beautiful angle of Pikes Peak, and one of Newmont’s historic mining preservation sites known as the Hoosier Mine. It a must-see for anyone exploring the area’s ongoing mining heritage as it also overlooks the modern surface mine.

You can find this overlook on Teller County Road 82, between Colorado Highway 67 and Teller County Road 81. While you are there, don’t forget to take a hike on the Gold Camp Trail – look for the trailhead at the Hoosier Mine north and west from the overlook about ¼ of a mile on County Road 82.

Color American Eagles photo by Scott D. Smith.
Bottom overlook photo by Brad Poulson, Newmont Mining Corporation.
Packing ore and goods by Spanish burro or donkey was the most suited method of transport in the days of the gold rush.

Pack mules and burros were the individual miner’s best friends. Trains or lines of several burros or mules were used by muleskinners to deliver goods and to carry mining tools and supplies to the high mountain mining camps.

Locally donkeys were used in underground mines where they often lived in the dark pulling ore cars and moving equipment.

Dubbed the “Rocky Mountain Canary” because of their braying sound, donkeys are often considered lazy stubborn creatures. Donkeys in the wild aren’t sedentary. They exercise all day long, as they move about grazing and in the gold rush era they provided a major labor force above and underground, packing supplies and hauling ore cars and timbers for miners, not exactly a lazy lifestyle.

In a typical prospecting venture, the burros were carrying a full load so the miners had to walk, leading the animal with a rope. This tradition has been translated into today’s pack burro racing events.

Seeing donkeys run pack burro races under animal-friendly conditions with loving and caring human partners is part of the modern way of celebrating these icons of the mining district.

The Cripple Creek donkey herd can be found wandering around town. The animals are purported to be the descendants of the donkeys that worked in the mines before electricity reached the District. The Two Mile High Club cares for the animals. Every June the town honors the donkeys with Donkey Derby Days. In its 88th year, this event is the third full weekend of June and includes fun for all ages. See VisitCrippleCreek.com for event information.

Victor’s annual Pack Burro Race is Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019. What better venue for a burro race than Victor, steeped in gold mining history! This race route includes some fantastic views and historic structures galore! This year’s event includes cowboy poetry, home made ice cream, music, and lots of burros. See PackBurroRacing.com and STCFG.com for event details.
2019 Season

The Misfits. The Troublemakers. The Rule Breakers.

Deathtrap May 24-Jun 16

My Partner: Classic Melodrama and Olio Jun 21-Aug 18

Grease Jul 5-Aug 17

The Andrews Brothers Aug 30-Sept 15

You Can't Take It With You Sept 20-Oct 6

The Great American Trailer Park Musical Oct 11-Nov 3

All I Want For Christmas Is: More Olio! Nov 22-Dec 29
Cripple Creek - a historic gambling and mining town that's one of the most dynamic and scenic tourism destinations in Colorado. The grandly restored Old West brick buildings along Bennett Avenue, surrounded by majestic mountains, boast ten unique state-of-the-art casinos, as well as great museums, attractions, restaurants, shops and hotels.

The excitement that drove the Greatest Gold Rush Ever still lives in Cripple Creek, where treasure seekers and hooligans from near and far try their hands at poker, black jack, roulette, craps and slot machines with the highest casino paybacks and most authentic casinos in Colorado.