

The gold mining cities of Cripple Creek and Victor were built from the mountainsides in the 1890s, home to thousands who flocked to find the promise of gold on the west side of Pikes Peak. Cowboy Bob Womack discovered his long sought after gold mine in 1890 and soon the gold rush was on. The gold boom made millionaires of entrepreneurs like carpenter Winfield Scott Stratton, whose famous Independence Mine still stands as a nationally recognized historic site.

Several towns and over 500 working mines sprung up on the mountainsides in the Cripple Creek Mining District and three railroads served the area.

The towns of Cripple Creek and Victor were built from wood found on nearby mountainsides, later shipped in by rail from neighboring areas. In 1896 Cripple Creek burned to the ground in a series of two fires that laid waste to the social hub of the mining camp. In 1899 the act was repeated in Victor, leaving a gaping hole in the City of Mines' business district.

Both towns rebuilt in sturdy, more fire resistant brick. Today the brick structures of both towns line the streets that once were a mayhem of gold mining activity. In Cripple Creek, the one-time stock exchanges, department stores and pharmacies now house casinos and the city is alive with limited-stakes gambling. Victor's commercial area is home to shops, an old-fashioned soda fountain, art gallery and hotel.

Cripple Creek's sunny weather, fresh mountain air and wealth of gold mining history invites you to come take a look around, learn about the gold rush in our museums and on our back roads and trails. Our historic inns and bed and breakfasts offer quiet Victorian respite for those who opt to spend a few days discovering The World's Greatest Gold Camp. For packages to enjoy all the attractions, visit cripplecreekpackages.com.

CRIPPLE CREEK DISTRICT MUSEUM

The Museum at 5th & Bennett Avenue offers exhibits depicting the gold rush era. Located in the original Midland Terminal Railroad depot, it is open daily from mid-May through mid-September. There is a small admission charge. 719-689-2634. cripplecreek-org

PIKES PEAK HERITAGE CENTER

Multiple hands-on exhibits educate and entertain visitors of all ages using interactive technology, tactile, audio and video techniques. On its lower level, the PPHC serves as a hub of information for dozens of other attractions in the area. It is the only center of this scope and size in southern Colorado. The PPHC is one mile northeast of Cripple Creek on Colorado Highway 67. Admission is free, and it is open 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., 7 days a week.

OUTLAWS AND LAWMEN JAIL MUSEUM

The museum features a gift shop with books and items from the Cripple Creek area. Located on Bennett Ave. and A St., the Outlaws & Lawmen Jail Museum will be open mid-October. For more information, call 877-858-4653 or check www.visitcripplecreek.com

MOLLIE KATHLEEN GOLD MINE

This underground mine tour takes you 1,000 feet down into an original 1890's gold mine. Tours start at 9 a.m. daily. 689-2466. 1 mile north of Cripple Creek on Highway 67. goldminetours.com



CC&V NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD

The 45-minute train ride through backcountry mining district scenery is a great way to enjoy our Colorado sunshine. The train leaves the depot at 5th & Bennett. 689-2640. cripplecreekrailroad.com

CASINOS

Take a chance & pull the handle in one of our many fulfilled casinos; maybe you will go home with gold as the miners did in yesteryear.

VICTOR LOWELL THOMAS MUSEUM - CITY OF MINES

In Victor, City of Mines, take in the gold rush history in the Lowell Thomas Museum at 3rd & Victor. Drive to the highest gold mine in the district - the American Eagles Overlook offers grand views of the Continental Divide and current-day mining operations. Hike the Vindicator Valley Trail, Golden Circle, Independence Mill Site and Battle Mountain Trails past the historic mines and learn about the 1890's gold rush. Visit Stratton's Independence Mine & Millsite and the famous Gold Coin Mine in Victor. victorcolorado.com

MORE TRAILS OF GOLD & KID FUN

More hiking trails lie between Victor and Cripple Creek. The Little Grouse Mountain trail begins the south end of the Highway 67 bridge over Arequa Gulch, the highest bridge on the state highway system. Gold Camp Trail begins above the Mollie Kathleen Gold Mine (or hike up from the Cripple Creek District Museum) and winds through Poverty Gulch. Cripple Creek Parks & Recreation offers programs, trail info, classes. 689-3514.

GETTING INFORMATION

The Pikes Peak Heritage Center on North Hwy 67 offers information on accommodations, attractions & events. stop by & learn more about Cripple Creek. For more area Information: By Phone: 1-877-858-GOLD; 719-689-3315. On the Web: visitcripplecreek.com; cripple-creek.org; butteopera-house.com; goldminetours.com; victorcolorado.com



THE CITY OF CRIPPLE CREEK SHUTTLE
 offers transportation to and from local hotels and the gaming district.
 The City Bus Hours of Operation: 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 a.m.
 The City Bus Fare is: \$0.50 Cents
 The Contact Phone Number to be picked up: (719) 689-7711

