

GTC CRIPPLE CREEK & VICTOR FIELD TRIP - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

Purpose of this trip: Purpose of this trip: To introduce you to mining methods of the 19th and early 20th centuries, then show you how modern gold mining is accomplished. Have a wonderful time exploring!

8:00 Meet at *Park Meadows Mall* (south side near Dillard's). Caravan to Cripple Creek.

10:00 Gather at the *Cripple Creek Heritage Center*, 9285 S Hwy 67, Cripple Creek (719) 689-3315. Self-guided tours of three levels of the history of Cripple Creek, its people, mining activities, and local lore. See the large diorama of what Cripple Creek looked like during its prime mining era, then turn around to see the difference today through the floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the city. Cripple Creek has a rich and diverse history. It is the site of the last and greatest mining boom. Over the past 150 years, Cripple Creek has transformed from a booming gold rush town to a ghost town, and then into a lively gambling destination. It boasts a story of resilience, triumph, and enduring spirit. Be sure to pick up maps of Cripple Creek, Mt. Pisgah Cemetery, and Victor at the Heritage Center.

11:00 Drive through Cripple Creek to the famous *Mt. Pisgah Cemetery* where many notable citizens of Cripple Creek are buried. Search for the grave of Doc Susie Anderson, the role model for the TV series "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman." Also, find the grave of Pearl De Vere, a local prostitute and successful madam of the Homestead House on Myers Ave. There are separate sections at the cemetery for The Benevolent Order of the Elks, the Masons, Grand Army of the Republic, Redmen, Eagles, and Woodmen of the World, all beautifully landscaped and well taken care of. The US military is well represented throughout the cemetery.

Have the opportunity to win the coveted Ghost Town Club of Colorado trophy. Details of the search will be provided at the cemetery.

12:00 Drive along a picturesque aspen-lined highway where we will stop for a short (1/4 mile) hike to visit with *Rita the Rock Planter*, a giant troll created by Danish artist, Thomas Dambo. The mountain scenery along this hike is incredible. There are multiple benches along the way to stop, catch your breath, and take in the view. (Parking is available at the top. At the bottom is a display of mining equipment.)

1:00 Head to Victor for *Victor Heritage Days*. (Parking for the event is on the side streets in town) We will meet up at the Lowell Thomas Museum located at the corner of Victor Ave. and 3rd St. Several historic buildings and homes will be open for tours. If you brought your lunch, you can enjoy it at the *Gold Bowl Park* at the corner of Victor Ave and 2nd Street. If you would like to try some local cuisine, there is *Dirty Sally's Pizza*, at 306 W. Victor Ave for pizza by the slice or order a whole pizza. Don't miss *Gold Camp Bakery* located at 1121 S 3rd Street for incredible soup, sandwiches, and baked goods. You will find some of the best sandwiches, cakes, cookies, and pies in the state. Next door to the bakery is the *Victor Trading Co. & Mfg. Works* where you can see and purchase the finest handmade brooms being made or admire a huge collection of brooms displayed on the wall. Handcrafted tin cans (circa 1850-1920) are a

specialty with incredible art work. They also feature handcrafted jewelry, homemade wax candles, letterpress-printing items, antiques, and much more.

A self-guided tour of the *Lowell Thomas Museum* (donation) is also worth seeing. There are two floors of artifacts, books, exhibits, and photographs depicting life in Victor from its beginnings to the heyday of gold mining. (There is a \$10 admission charge for this museum.)

3:30 We will meet at the *Gold Coin Mine* (est 1894) and the *Wire Rope Sewing Facility* located along Diamond Avenue and N 5th Street. Here you can see how strands of wire were woven together to make a strong rope used to lower buckets down into the mines for the miners to load with rocks and ore. Much of the equipment is on display at the site. (Parking at the site and along the road.)

4:00 Head to *Vindicator Valley Trail*, Highway 81/Lazy S Ranch. This is a two-mile trail around the historic Independent mining camp. We will just explore the top section of the trail since there has been a lot of walking involved in the day. Several of Victor's largest mines are located here. There are over a dozen mines on the hillside as well as a school and a house that belonged to the mine manager and served as a boarding house. Interpretive signs line the path. (Park at the upper parking lot.)

4:50 Our last stop for the day will be at the *Grassy Valley Mining Overlook*, on County Road 82. Here you can climb up the backside of a huge Caterpillar dump truck for a spectacular view of active mining.. You will be amazed at how many steps it takes to reach the top. The Ana Belle Mine is directly in front of you, hundreds of feet below. This mine operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

5:00 - Field trip concludes. For those interested, there is legal gambling in Cripple Creek, or you may want to gather for dinner. We hope you have had a wonderful, exciting, and educational day with the Ghost Town of Colorado Club.

BE SURE TO BRING SUNSCREEN, A HAT, AND PLENTY OF WATER. WE WILL BE OUTSIDE A LOT AND AT HIGHER ELEVATIONS ALL DAY!