Newmont’s Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mine Tour Information

Newmont conducts guided tours of their surface operations Memorial Day-Labor Day. Tours originate at the Lowell Thomas Museum, at 298 Victor Ave., Victor, CO. All proceeds from the tours are donated to the museum as part of Newmont's community support program.

Parking: Please park on the street near the museum or in the lot on 3rd street just north of the museum and across from the post office.

Note that children must be at least 5 years old to go on this tour.

Tours are about 2 hours in length. Please arrive 30 minutes prior to your tour time to sign waivers and view a safety video. Reservation holders who do not arrive 15 minutes early may be replaced with a standby and your reservation will not be refunded. Our RMAG tour begins at 10 am so please be there by 9:30 am.

The elevation will vary as will the temperatures and the driving/walking surfaces will be rocky; please dress for cold, windy weather and wear appropriate walking shoes - only fully enclosed shoes are allowed (sandals); full-length pants are required - no shorts are allowed.

The tours are not wheelchair friendly.

Policies

Newmont has policies in place to keep you safe and trained tour guides who will ensure these policies are followed.

All children and adults must be well behaved and under control at all times. The tour guide reserves the right to refuse tours to any unruly person or children. No refunds will be provided for these situations.

Tour participants must wear closed toe shoes (no sandals allowed) and long pants (no shorts allowed) and will be required to wear hardhats and safety glasses provided by Newmont.

A customer taking the tour who is not able to safely and comfortably fit in a single seat and properly attach a seat belt is required to purchase an additional seat at the regular ticket price subject to availability. A customer who declines to purchase a ticket for an additional seat will lose their place on the tour with no refund.
Victor Area Tour – Led by RMAG’s Gary Curtis

Following the Newmont tour, Gary Curtiss, former Project Manager with the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, will lead us on a visit to sites of interest around the Victor area and discuss the region’s unique geology and mining history. Gary was involved with reclamation projects in this area is a subject matter expert! We will begin this portion of our tour with a lunch break (please bring your own lunch; we’ll provide extra water) at the Independence trail head and then visit several other historic sites. This tour will include some short drives and hikes on gravel roads and trails. We’ll wrap up this portion of the trip by mid-afternoon and then drive to the town of Cripple Creek (10-15 minutes away) for the Mollie Kathleen Mine tour.

Mollie Kathleen Gold Mine Tour Information

Tour Length:  Approximately 1 hour. We anticipate this final portion of the tour will end at 5-5:30 pm.

Location:  9388 Highway 67 in Cripple Creek, CO. Mine is at intersection of Highways 67 and 82. Parking available at location.

Physical Requirements
• About a quarter mile of flat and level walking
• A short ride on an underground rail car
• You are on your feet for most of the tour.

Claustrophobia
The tour itself is not claustrophobic but, the descent in the shaft is very close for 2 minutes (each way). "You can do it."

Due to Limited Space and Safety
Please leave the following items above ground:
• Backpacks
• Large items
• Camera equipment
• Large purses
• Food-drink
• Pets

Things to Bring Underground
• Cameras
• Jackets (50 degrees F, 10 degrees C). Jackets are recommended.
Restrooms

*Please USE THE RESTROOM BEFORE THE TOUR IS ANNOUNCED, *there are no restrooms underground!*

The Mollie Kathleen is an authentic 1890's gold mine and is not ADA accessible.

**Items Not Allowed**

- Large oxygen tanks
- Wheelchairs
- Crutches-walkers
- Service animals

About 10 minutes before your tour begins your ticket color will be announced and you will head to the staging area.

Hard hats will be provided. (Underground temperature is 50 degrees Fahrenheit, 10 degrees Centigrade), Jackets are recommended. Walking shoes recommended, but all shoes allowed.

**FAQ’s for the Mollie Kathleen Mine Tour:**

**What is the Underground Temperature?**

50 degrees F. / 10 degrees C. The tour is conducted entirely underground. *Jackets are recommended.*

**How Long do Tours Last?**

The tour lasts about an hour.

**Are Tours Guided?**

Yes. Tour guides are very knowledgeable miners well versed in hard rock gold mining and the history of the Cripple Creek Gold Camp.

**Who is Mollie Kathleen?**

Mollie Kathleen Gortner discovered her mine in 1891. For details, please visit: [History](#)

**Is This a Real Gold Mine?**

Yes. The mine is as-real-as it gets. The Mollie Kathleen is documented by the National Geological Survey as a gold production mine.

**Will I See Real Gold?**

Yes. Visitors to the Mollie Kathleen view several exposed gold veins in their natural state.
What do We Learn on the Tour?
A local born and raised resident of the Cripple Creek mining district (now in her 70's) best described her impression of the Mollie Kathleen mine tour this way.

"Growing up here, my entire family, including my husband and his family, all made their lives in the mines of Cripple Creek. My husband even worked in the Mollie. I never really understood what he went through, or what mining was all about, until I took the tour of the Mollie Kathleen. It was a wonderful experience."

What is the Descent Like?
Entering the mine is comparable to riding an elevator. The Shaft ride itself takes two minutes at a speed of 500 feet per minute (roughly 5 mph). This may seem fast, however, many modern elevators travel up to 23 mph.

Are their lights underground?
Yes. Both the mine shaft and tour areas are well lit.

Is This a Walking Tour?
Yes. Once you arrive on the tour level, your group will depart the man-skip and advance on a flat and level surface, at a slow walking pace, between displays, for about 1/4 mile.

Is the Tour All Walking?
No. The ride up and down the shaft is like an elevator. Halfway through the tour, visitors board a Tram-air locomotive and ride about 1/4 of the tour distance. They then depart the train and continue on foot, until they load the man-skip and are hoisted to the surface.

What Should We Wear?
State required hardhats are provided. Jackets are recommended. Good walking shoes are suggested.

Is the Tour Area Claustrophobic?
No. The mine is not claustrophobic. In order to mine underground, one must haul equipment in and gold out. Therefore, a hard rock mine is made to work in not crawl through.

Are Strollers Allowed Underground?
No. Due to limited space, strollers are not allowed underground. For safety reasons only front-mounted baby packs can be used for carrying infants.
Are Wheelchairs Allowed Underground?
No. The Mollie Kathleen is a real gold mine and is not ADA accessible. Therefore, these items are not allowed underground.

Are Pets Allowed Underground?
No. If you bring pets on the mine property they must be on a leash or contained.

Are There Restrooms Underground?
No. All restrooms are located on the surface of the mining property.

Are Backpacks Allowed on the Tour?
No. Due to limited space on the man-skip elevator, backpacks and other large items are not allowed underground.