



Scenic Cruise to Cripple Creek

Friday, June 19th

Following the Pikes Peak Scenic Mountain Tour, participants are invited to continue the drive through the beautiful Colorado mountains toward the historic mining town of **Cripple Creek**. This relaxed cruise allows drivers to enjoy winding mountain roads, scenic overlooks, and historic towns along the way.

We anticipate many from the group will depart the **Pikes Peak Summit House** parking area at approximately 12:00pm once everyone has had time to enjoy the summit views.

This is a non-competitive cruise. Please obey all posted speed limits and drive safely.

Once you have had your fill of the beautiful views at the Pikes Peak Summit, here are some recommendations for other scenic spots you can check out on your way to Cripple Creek.

We look forward to seeing you all at both the Mountain Tour and our Show & Shine on Saturday June 20th!

North Pole – Santa’s Workshop Stop

Optional Stop During Descent

As participants descend **Pikes Peak**, they may wish to stop at the whimsical mountain attraction **North Pole – Santa’s Workshop**, located just off the **Pikes Peak Highway**.

This unique Christmas-themed park has been a Colorado tradition since 1956 and served as the staging location for the start of the Scenic Mountain Tour earlier in the day. The park features festive shops, holiday displays, rides, and incredible views of the surrounding mountains.

Participants are welcome to stop by the gift shops, enjoy the festive atmosphere, or take photos with Santa’s sleigh and other classic displays before continuing their scenic drive.

Parking is available near the entrance, and the stop provides a fun and lighthearted break before continuing toward **Woodland Park** and eventually **Cripple Creek**.



Crystal Reservoir Scenic Stop

Early Afternoon

After descending **Pikes Peak**, participants may stop at **Crystal Reservoir**, located partway down the mountain along the **Pikes Peak Highway**.

This peaceful alpine lake sits at over 11,000 feet and offers incredible views of the surrounding mountains and forests. It is one of the most photographed locations on the highway.

Participants are encouraged to take a few minutes to stretch, enjoy the fresh mountain air, and capture scenic photos of their vehicles with the reservoir and alpine peaks in the background.

Parking is available near the reservoir for short scenic stops.

Woodland Park Scenic Break

Estimated Arrival: Early Afternoon

The mountain community of **Woodland Park** is often referred to as the “City Above the Clouds,” sitting at nearly 8,500 feet in elevation with sweeping views of the mountains.

Participants may wish to take a short break here to explore the downtown area, grab refreshments, or simply enjoy the mountain atmosphere.

Nearby parks and overlooks provide beautiful views of **Pikes Peak**, making this another great location for group photos.

Fuel, food, and restrooms are widely available in Woodland Park before continuing the scenic drive south.



Florissant Fossil Beds Scenic Stop

Optional Stop

Drivers interested in local natural history may choose to visit **Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument**, located just off the route between Woodland Park and Cripple Creek.

This unique site preserves fossils from an ancient lake environment that existed nearly 34 million years ago. Visitors can see enormous petrified redwood tree stumps and explore the visitor center to learn about the area's prehistoric ecosystem.

Short walking trails around the monument provide a relaxing break from driving while offering views of the surrounding meadows and mountains.

Florissant Historic Town Stop

Mid-Afternoon

Participants may also wish to stop in the historic community of **Florissant**, a small town with roots dating back to Colorado's early mining and ranching days.

One highlight is the **Hornbek Homestead**, a preserved 19th-century homestead that provides a glimpse into early pioneer life in the region.

The quiet rural surroundings and wide-open landscapes make Florissant a relaxing stop along the drive.

Gold Belt Scenic Byway Drive

Historic Mountain Route

As participants approach Cripple Creek, they will travel along portions of the historic **Gold Belt Scenic Byway**, a route that winds through former gold mining communities of the late 1800s.



This scenic drive features rolling mountain views, historic mine structures, and dramatic landscapes that once produced some of the richest gold deposits in Colorado.

Drivers are encouraged to take their time and enjoy the winding mountain roads that made this region famous during Colorado's gold rush era.

Historic Victor Mining District Stop

Estimated Arrival: Late Afternoon

Before arriving in **Cripple Creek**, participants may stop in the nearby historic mining town of **Victor**.

Victor was founded during the 1890s gold rush and still retains much of its original architecture and mining heritage. The town sits at over 9,700 feet and offers spectacular views of the surrounding mountains and mining operations.

Visitors may explore the town's historic district, visit the **Victor Lowell Thomas Museum**, or walk along Victor Avenue to view preserved buildings from the mining era.

This stop offers one final opportunity to experience the rich history of the **Cripple Creek & Victor Mining District** before the short drive into Cripple Creek.