



GHOST TOWN CLUB

OF COLORADO

Exploration, enjoyment, and preservation of historical sites

Field trip: Snowshoe trip to Sts. John; a Ghost Town Club tradition.

Date of trip: 03/26/2022

Meet at 10:00AM at Peru Creek Trailhead

Leader: Josh Robinson

Snowshoe trips are fun. Snowshoe trips to Ghost towns are infinitely more so. As Bob Brown put it in his book, *Jeep Trails to Colorado Ghost Towns*; *“in winter, the hike up from Montezuma on Snowshoes is an invigorating experience that I recommend highly. For the camera enthusiast, Saints John, half buried in snow, offers many rewarding compositions framed against the distant mass of Grays and Torreys peaks”* - Bob Brown, *Jeep trails to Colorado Ghost Towns*, pg. 191, 1963. This trip over the years has become a tradition in the GTC. One of the trips lead often and by many people, including Bob Brown.

Description of the day:

We will start off by meeting at the Peru Creek trail head. From there, we will reduce the cars and caravan up to Montezuma, find a place to park in town. From there we will begin the 1-mile snowshoe trip up to the town site of Saints John. This is an 1860s town site that is seasonably inhabited by a caretaker. During the winter this will be a complete ghost. The road would be rated as Moderate according to the GTC Field trip Guide. For hiking it would rate at a 4 according to the GTC field trip guide- A more difficult walk, poorly maintained paths and steep or hilly inclines. Not suitable for strollers, wheelchairs, or persons with health problems.

The ruins we will see:

This is an early townsite, with many ruined buildings to see. Two buildings at the West end of main street have been semi restored today for seasonable use by a caretaker. The main street is littered with lumber piles and foundations, which we will be able to identify based on historic photos, including the Hotel, Library, Post office, Boarding house, among others. (There was never a Saloon). We will also explore the ruined mill site and see about walking up to the first smelter stack built in Colorado (with permission). The town site is well defined with a clear street grid with an upper and lower street, and a primary cross street running into the mill.

Itinerary:

Meet at 10:00AM

Location: Peru Creek Trailhead (along left side of the road about a mile before you get to Montezuma)

Leave Peru Creek Trailhead, caravan up to Montezuma, Begin 1 mile snowshoe trip to Sts. John:

Roughly a 1-mile snowshoe trip to the site. The road to Sts. John is relatively steep with several switch backs.

Note: you will need snowshoes, and poles for the entire journey.

Arrive near the site, begin walk:

Once we arrive at the site, we will walk around the site and explore/discuss. Lead by Josh
Note this is a true ghost town and will require hiking gear (winter gear/Snowshoes). Also, bring along snacks and drinks. And whatever else you will need. Remember dress in layers, as we shoe you will get warm and want to shed some layers.

Snowshoe rating.... Hiking rating as a 3+ . The ground is a natural setting with debris, and unmaintained roads and paths, hilly inclines. Not suitable for strollers or wheelchairs, or persons not in good physical health. Or difficulty walking.

Once at the site Josh will lead a talk discussing the history with a focus primarily on the architecture and archeology found at the site today comparing 19th and mid-20th century photos with what can be found at the site today.

Eat lunch at Sts. John:

Around 12:00 we will eat lunch in town. Pack your own lunch, drinks, and snacks, or whatever else you will need.

Snowshoe to the surface buildings and the smelter stack at the mill site:

After Lunch, we will snowshoe to the Mill site, and up to the smelter stack.

Head back down to Montezuma:

3:00 head back down to the parking area.

DINNER SOMEPLACE!!!

To sign up for the trip, or any questions, call Josh Robinson for more information
724 630 0631 Email: joshr@ghosttownclub.org