



# GHOST TOWN CLUB

## OF COLORADO

Exploration, enjoyment, and preservation of historical sites

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**Field Trip: Trip to Salida & St. Elmo**

**Dates of trip: July 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Leaders: Bonnie Konopka and Gaylene Stevens**

### **Introduction:**

Salida is the largest historic district in Colorado. Being centrally located it is near to so many of Colorado's historic sites. Being Ghost Town Club of Colorado members and living in Salida we would like to share a weekend of fun exploring the local Salida history museum, the Maysville Schoolhouse, a vibrant and fun walking tour of Salida, and a tour with historian Melanie Roth through the Ghost Town of St Elmo.

### **Description:**

July 16<sup>th</sup> we will start off by meeting at the [Salida Museum](#) at 12:30PM. We will tour the museum and see some uniquely Salida artifacts and hear some stories including Wilbur Foshay's "Fur Bearing Trout" and "Follow the Hearts to Salida" road signs, "Loyal Duke" of the Monte Cristo Hotel, FIBARK boat race, City Marshal Baxter Stingley's famous pocket watch, etc. After that we will carpool up to nearby Maysville and tour the Schoolhouse (1882-1939). A beautifully preserved red schoolhouse with a bell on top and retaining much of its interior and exterior historic integrity. We will then head back to Salida for dinner at Moonlight Pizza or The Boathouse Cantina (depending on number of people). After dinner we will go on an exciting and dramatic walking tour of Salida, gaining insight into its rowdy culture, discover its architectural wonders and be captivated by tales of Salida's exciting and sometimes vicious history.

July 17<sup>th</sup> we will meet at the [Safeway Parking](#) Lot in Salida at 9:00AM. From there we will either plan to carpool as feasible (from Salida or Mt Princeton) or drive separately to the townsite of St Elmo, one of the best-preserved ghost towns in the state of Colorado with buildings dating to the 1880's when the town reached its peak. We will have a tour with historian Melanie Roth who has tirelessly worked to preserve several buildings. She is the president of the nonprofit Historic St Elmo. We will then have a picnic lunch and then head home.

### **NOTE:**

Depending on your schedule, you may decide to participate in only one of the days mentioned above, or both days. Either way, we do hope you will join us!

If you do wish to participate both days, it is recommended (but not required) that you plan to stay overnight in Salida. Should you plan to stay overnight, you will need to book your own accommodations in advance of the trip. Please visit the following website to view Salida motels, hotels, vacation rentals, hostels, and/or campgrounds: <https://salidachamber.org/salida-lodging/>

Both days involve outdoor activity. Bring sunscreen, hat, water, and dress accordingly.

**Itinerary:** Saturday July 16, 2022

**12:30PM - Meet at the Salida Museum Parking Lot**

Parking is free all day

Address: [406 ½ W Rainbow Blvd., Salida, CO 81201 \(On the corner of Hwy 50 and I streets\)](#)

**1:00-2:00PM - Tour the Salida Museum**

We will begin our tour at the Salida Museum, seeing items of interest on our own.

Entry fees are as follows: \$5 adults, \$3 seniors 65 and older

After we're done touring the Salida Museum, we will carpool to the Maysville Schoolhouse (vehicles not being used to carpool may remain at the Salida Museum Parking Lot)

**2:30-3:30PM - Tour the Maysville Schoolhouse (1882-1939)**

We will explore the outside and inside of the schoolhouse including the separate classroom and living quarters for a teacher. We will see a fully furnished school retaining much of its interior and exterior historic integrity. We might even get to pull the rope and ring the school bell!

**4:00-5:30PM - Dinner at Moonlight Pizza, or The Boathouse Cantina**

Let us enjoy a delicious dinner together at one of these highly recommended Salida restaurants!

**5:30-7:00PM - Walking Tour "Outlaws, Whores, and History Tour"**

Meet on the F Street Bridge for this incredible walking tour and learn why Salida's history was intentionally forgotten. Hear the touching story of Salida's beloved dog, "Loyal Duke," see the location of Salida's devastating fires from 1886-1888, uncover a locals-only joke hiding in plain sight and see well-preserved buildings from 1883-1910.

The total distance of this walk is less than a mile.

Entry fees are as follow: \$30 / person

Tour duration: 90 minutes

**Note:** If you wish to purchase tickets in advance for the walking tour, follow these steps:

1. Go to this website: <https://www.salidawalkingtours.com/book-online>
2. Scroll down to "Private Outlaws, Whores & History Tour." Click on "Book Now"
3. On the calendar, select July 16, 2022, with the time of 5:30pm, then click "Next".
4. Fill out all the details and pay online. Please note cancellations can be completed within 72 hours of the date of the tour.

**After the Walking Tour**

Drive home, or to your overnight accommodations.

**Itinerary:** Sunday July 17, 2022

**9:00AM - Meet at the [Safeway \(232 G Street\) Parking lot](#) (NW lot adjacent to the bike trail)**  
Prepare for carpools as feasible or caravan as needed to get to St Elmo. From Salida drive North on 285 to CR 162 (53 miles from Salida to St Elmo)

**10:30AM - Meet at St. Elmo at the [Town Hall Building](#)**

It is a white building with a bell tower. The St. Elmo Town Hall is about 1 block away from the General Store and on the other side of the street. Park in the parking lot on the right side of the road just before you enter the town of St Elmo. The parking lot is about 100 yards from the General Store.

Historian Melanie Roth will then give us a tour of the town of St. Elmo including the interior of the St. Elmo Town Hall, The School House and the Stark Brothers Store and Home Comfort Hotel. We will be walking a few blocks and over dirt roads and boardwalks. We will have a picnic lunch (bring your own) and if time see the nearby Iron City Cemetery and learn it's history.

**1:00PM - Drive Home**

**To sign up for the trip, or any questions, contact the trip leaders:**

**Bonnie Konopka**  
(505) 270-6523  
[bonniekonopka@comcast.net](mailto:bonniekonopka@comcast.net)

**Gaylene Stevens**  
(719) 239-0999  
[Tnmolecular1@aol.com](mailto:Tnmolecular1@aol.com)