



GHOST TOWN CLUB

OF COLORADO

Exploration, enjoyment, and preservation of historical sites

Field Trip: Idaho Springs Tour: The Argo Mill & Stanley Mine (TRIP IS FULL)

Date of trip: 03/18/2023

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Leader: Ashley Doty

“Construction of the Argo Tunnel (then called the Newhouse Tunnel) began in 1893 and lasted ten years until it reached Central City 4.2 miles away. In the Argo history, dozens of mines and hundreds of miles of mine workings connected to and benefited from the Argo Tunnel. In addition to draining the mines of water, the intrepid Argo entrepreneurs sold ventilation air, compressed air, haulage, transportation, and, ultimately, milling services to the mines. The Colorado and Southern Narrow-Gauge Railroad ran directly in front of the Argo and provided easy transport to the smelters and the United States Mint, which was in Denver due to its proximity to these riches. On January 19th, 1943, a catastrophic flood in the tunnel caused the Argo Mill and Tunnel to cease operations. Due to the devastating force of the accident, as well as WWII, the operations ceased permanently.” -Argo Mill Website.

“The Stanley mine, about a mile west of Idaho Springs, is one of the largest and most productive mines in the district. Development of the mine began on the Whale claim south of Clear Creek in 1864 and on the Hukill claim north of Clear Creek in 1871. Later, drifts were driven beneath Clear Creek, establishing that both claims are on the same vein system, and in 1878 the Whale and Hukill Companies were consolidated into the Stanley Mine Company.”
-USGS Mines and Prospects, Idaho Springs District Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties, Colorado

The buildings at the Stanley Mine include the Gehrman shaft house, blacksmith building, 1800s miners' dry, storage shed, stone powder house, stone building (burnt out), stable, and Golden Link shaft house (collapsed).

Description of the day:

We will start by meeting at the Argo Mill in Idaho Springs. We will participate in the 10 a.m. Argo Mill Tour that will last one hour, and individuals can join in panning for gold afterward. We will then meet at Beau Jo's Idaho Springs for lunch at 11:30 a.m. (a reservation has already been made for the club). At 1:20 p.m., we will carpool to the Stanley Mine for a private tour with the owner, Bruce.

Ghost Town Club of Colorado · March 18th, 2023 – Argo Mill and Stanley Mine

Itinerary:

Argo Mill Tour: meet at 9:30-9:40 a.m.
Address: [2350 Riverside Dr, Idaho Springs, CO 80452](https://www.google.com/maps/place/2350+Riverside+Dr,+Idaho+Springs,+CO+80452)
Coordinates: 39.742551, -105.506268

The club will participate in the 10 a.m. tour at the Argo Mill. The guided tour will last one hour, and members can participate in gold panning afterward. Tour tickets have already been purchased online by members attending.

Beau Jo's Lunch: 11:30 a.m.
Address: [1517 Miner St, Idaho Springs, CO 80452](https://www.google.com/maps/place/1517+Miner+St,+Idaho+Springs,+CO+80452)
Coordinates: 39.741856, -105.516686

We will leave the Argo Mill for our 11:30 a.m. reservation at Beau Jo's. A reservation has been made for the Ghost Town Club. Please let Ashley know if you will be dining somewhere else or bringing your lunch. Ashley will confirm with the manager if orders need to be placed before the group arrives due to the group size and timing or if we can order right when we get there.

Stanley Mill Tour: 1:30 p.m.
Address: [500 Stanley Rd, Idaho Springs, CO 80452](https://www.google.com/maps/place/500+Stanley+Rd,+Idaho+Springs,+CO+80452)
Coordinates: 39.745896, -105.543669

We will leave Beau Jo's at 1:20 p.m. and carpool over to the Stanley Mine (5 min drive), depending on how many cars are in the group. The owner, Bruce, will give the group a site tour. Cameras and drones are allowed on site. The field trip will be completed after our time at the Stanley.

Accessibility:

Argo Mill: Due to the extreme vertical terrain and architecture of the mill, the guided tours are not accessible to some people, including wheelchairs and walkers. The room where the tour begins, and the museum at the bottom of the mill are more accessible.

Stanley Mine Buildings: no vertical extremes; however, there is debris due to building deterioration and uneven ground, so it may not be suitable terrain for strollers, wheelchairs, or individuals with difficulty walking.

Cancellation:

If you need to cancel, please call the Argo Mill directly at [303-567-2421](tel:303-567-2421) and cancel your reservation; they do offer refunds ahead of time. You will not receive a refund if you do not call and are a no-show.

Also, please let Ashley know so she can have accurate numbers for lunch and the tours. Some members could only get into lunch and the Stanley Mine Tour, so she can try to get another member into your Argo Mill spot if you need to cancel.

If you have any questions about the field trip or need to contact the leader day of the trip, don't hesitate to get in touch with Ashley Doty (information below).

Ashley Doty

Mobile: (970) 518-5108 Email: ashleyarmitage24@gmail.com