

## 2023 OVERNIGHT TRIPS

Due to higher fuel prices, the Hiking Committee is opting to stay closer to home this year, with all three of our overnight trips in-state: Fruita, Silverton and Salida. By staying closer to home with our overnight trips, we also plan to eliminate some of those long drives on day hikes by dovetailing them with overnights.

### **FRUITA, COLORADO (MAY 15-19, 5 DAYS 4 NIGHTS)**

Many of the hikes we've scheduled for our spring trip to Fruita we've done in the past as day hikes. But, in the past, I'd heard complaints that Fruita is "too far" to drive for such hikes. On the other hand, I'd also heard that Fruita was "too close" for an overnight trip. Make mine smoked gouda on a Triscuit with that wine.

We've reserved 25 rooms for this trip at the **Fruita Comfort Inn** with a group discount of about 16%: currently \$93/night, single king or single queen; \$97/night double queen, plus taxes. Please note, however, that the rate you'll pay will fluctuate with the rate currently available to the general public at the time of your booking. And because the rate will likely increase in the future, it behooves you to book early. Every room includes free wireless high-speed internet, free hot breakfast, in-room flat-screen TV, coffee maker, microwave and minifridge. There are an indoor pool and hot tub, fitness center, business center and laundry facilities, as well. To reserve your room in our block of 25 rooms, simply paste the URL below in your browser:

<https://www.choicehotels.com/colorado/fruita/comfort-inn-hotels/co156/rates?checkInDate=2023-05-15&checkOutDate=2023-05-19&ratePlanCode=L100CL>

This link will display a page of room listings at the prevailing rate less your group discount. You should note that there are other rooms & suites that may better suit your particular needs, as well, but at higher rates. But we expect most of you will be happy with the selection of rooms described above. Simply select the room you wish to book. Your credit card will be billed the full amount of your reservation (i.e., for all 4 nights) when you book it, but you may cancel up to 7 days prior to check-in (May 8) and receive a full refund.

### **SILVERTON, COLORADO (AUGUST 7-11, 5 DAYS 4 NIGHTS)**

We are proud to announce our first-ever overnights to this historic frontier mining town. Today, the only silver being mined there is from the pockets of wealthy...and not-so-wealthy...tourists who travel from far and wide to visit this icon of the American Southwest. In fact, it was 1974, when I was still living in Miami, that I first learned of the equally iconic **Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad**. Although I'd never heard of a bucket list back then, it was one of the first items on mine. But it wasn't until 1983 that I finally checked it off. Since then, I've ridden those rails 5 times, summer and fall, with 8 different companions.

We'll be staying at yet another Silverton icon, the **Grand Imperial Hotel**, just 2 blocks from the railway station. Fortunately...or unfortunately, depending on your point of view...we'll be on one trail or another when the iron horse(s) pull into the station. There can be 2-3 trains rumbling into Silverton each day during the peak summer season, and you wouldn't want to get anywhere near one of the local restaurants at lunchtime as rail-riders do their impression of a Le Mans start to out-race their fellow passengers to a table. By dinnertime, however, Silverton returns to its normal laid-back pace of life. But what do I know. I've only spent one night in Silverton, in the winter, to ski the steep and deep.

The Grand Imperial is to Silverton as the Brown Palace is to Denver, the Hotel Jerome is to Aspen, or the Hotel Colorado is to Glenwood. The grand dame of Silverton still retains the same ambience and "charm" as it did when it opened 140 years ago. But I'd be willing to wager that its saloon back then put the "wild" in Wild West. After all, this was a mining town. And no one parties heartier than a miner.

The Grand Imperial has 32 rooms, of which we've reserved 25. We'll receive a 20% discount if we book at least 20 of them. Room prices below (tax included) are based on the 20% discount, and we would prefer that you book with the hotel versus VRBO or AirBnB to ensure that we receive the discount. Call (970) 387-5527 to book a room or suite and be sure to specify that you're with the 100 Club. Your credit card will not be charged until 30 days prior to check-in, and you may cancel up to 7 days prior to check-in (July 31). Before I continue, in the interests of full disclosure, our rooms are on the second and third floors (there are no rooms on the first floor...that's where the lobby...and the aforementioned saloon...are located). And there's no elevator... something to consider when booking your room. The only elevators in the area may have been in the now-defunct mines. So, book early if you want a second-floor room. In the table below, the columns labeled "#" indicate the number of each room type available as of Nov 28.

<u>Room type</u>	<u>Second Floor</u>		<u>Third Floor</u>	
	<u>Price</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>#</u>
Family Suite	\$308.80	1	—	0
Single King Bed	\$197.80	3	\$197.80	3
Single Queen Bed	\$197.80	2	\$197.80	2
Single Double Bed	\$197.80	1	\$182.38	4
Two Queen Beds	\$197.80	1	—	0
Two Double Beds	\$197.80	1	\$197.80	4
Mini Suite	—	0	\$197.80	1

The Family Suite has two bedrooms (single king bed in one and two queen beds in the other), one bathroom, and a common area with fold-out couch, microwave and mini-fridge. The Mini Suite would be perfect for two singles or a single and couple who don't mind sharing a bath. It has two double beds in one bedroom and a fold-out couch in the common area. Amenities include free wi-fi, flat-screen HDTV, room-controlled heat (at 9400' elevation, you might need this), private baths, and hair dryers. Second floor units have step-in showers. Third floor units have clawfoot tubs with shower heads and curtains. Unfortunately, those of you who enjoy the creature comforts of a pool and jacuzzi, might be disappointed. And there are no microwaves or mini-fridges in most units. But there's an ice machine on the second floor, free coffee and tea in the lobby, and you can purchase breakfast for a reasonable price at the hotel's cafe. Since most of our hikes will be a short drive from Silverton, we won't need to make a zero-dark-thirty start.

### **SALIDA, COLORADO (SEPTEMBER 18-22, 5 DAYS 4 NIGHTS)**

We've reserved a block of 22 double queen rooms at the **Loyal Duke Lodge**, 525 Rainbow Blvd (US Hwy 50) in Salida for \$666.48/4 nights (15% off the regular rate), including taxes. Call (833) 550-1286 to make your reservation. Be sure to specify that you're with the 100 Club when you make your reservation. The hotel will honor this discount until August 18, after which any unreserved rooms will be released to the general public. You may reserve your room at any time before the August 18 deadline, but you will be charged the full amount of your reservation (\$666.48) at that time. However, you may cancel and receive a full refund up to 7 days prior to check-in (Sep 11). No refunds will be made after September 11, but if you must cancel after that, we may have a waitlist of people to fill your vacancy.

The Loyal Duke Lodge offers the following amenities: Complimentary continental breakfast from 7:30am to 9:30am; indoor heated pool, one indoor and two outdoor hot tubs; outdoor gas firepit; in-room Direct TV, air conditioning, mini-fridge and microwave. Coffee makers are available at the front desk for those who would like one in their room during their stay. The Lodge does not offer daily housekeeping services. They do offer free trash pick-up and fresh towels, as needed. Guests should leave their trash and dirty towels outside their room by 12:00pm for pick-up. Guests can pick up any additional room supplies they need at the front desk.