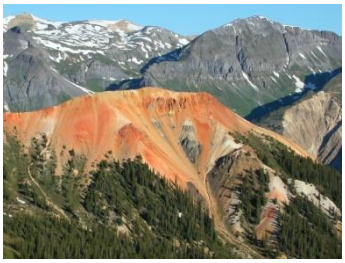
Mines, Mountains, and Hot Springs

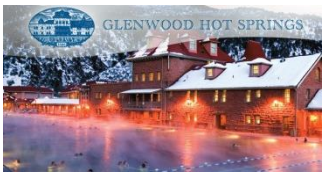
IMWA post-conference tour: August 10-13, 2013



Come join us for a once in a lifetime tour of colorful Colorado. This tour will have a bit of everything for everyone: geology, mine water, abandoned mines, an operating gold mine, tremendous mountain scenery, historic Colorado mountain towns, wildflowers, and great hot springs to relax in.

All food, lodging, and pool admissions are included for the great price of $650 per person and $350 for an accompanying person that shares a hotel room. Maximum number of participants is 30, with a sign up deadline of June 15th.

Saturday, August 10: From Denver, we will drive to Glenwood Springs where we will enjoy the hot springs (www.hotspringspool.com) and a poolside lunch, then head on to Silverton, the center of Colorado's mining boom in the late 1800's. We will be staying at the Grand Imperial Hotel (www.grandimperialhotel.com), which was built around 1882 and is a true "journey back to the old west". Cowboy boots and mining picks are optional!



Sunday, August 11: We will spend the day four wheeling! San Juan Backcountry 4x4 tours will do the driving for us in open topped Suburbans (www.sanjuanbackcountry.com) while geologists/hydrologists explain the geology of the Silverton Caldera, discuss the mining history, and highlight acid rock/mine drainage issues. This will be an unforgettable day of scenery, exploration, and education.

Monday, August 12: We will start the day overlooking the edge of the Silverton Caldera (28 million years old) and then take a tour of the historic Mayflower Mill, which operated from 1930 to 1991, and is now maintained by the San Juan County Historical Society (www.silvertonhistoricsociety.org). After a catered lunch in the Silverton town park, we will drive through the center of Colorado to stay at the Mt. Princeton Hot Springs Resort (www.mtprinceton.com) with another chance to enjoy some thermal waters out in the fresh Colorado air.

Tuesday, August 13: We will drive to the Cripple Creek Mining District to see a regional mine drainage tunnel and an open pit gold mine operated by the Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mining Company (www.ccvgoldmining.com). Afterward, we will head back to Denver for arrival at about 6 PM (dinner and lodging that evening on your own).