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April 2017

Museums of southern Colorado



*Home to Colorado's
First and Oldest*

Highlighted Museum - Hinsdale County Museum

Events/Exhibits

All through April – the [Homelake Veterans' History Museum](#) is featuring a WWI exhibit.

Thurs, Apr 20th – the [Luther Bean Museum](#) will host “The Early History of Adams State and the Luther Bean Museum,” 6pm. Free.

Sat, Apr 22nd, the [Rio Grande County Museum](#) is holding a reception for their “Historic Summitville, Then and Now” exhibit from 10-4pm.

Sun, May 28th – the [Saguache County Museum](#) opens for their 59th season.

Fri, Jun 30th - Volcanoes of Lake City field trip by the [Hinsdale County Museum](#)

See our [calendar](#) for a full listing of events at the Valley's Museums

The [Hinsdale County Museum](#) was established by the county's Historical Society. The Hinsdale County Historical Society was established in October 1973 and opened its first museum in the Finley Block in July 1975. The building was leased at that time and when it was sold the museum moved to a succession of other rented quarters, including what is now the Cinnamon Inn for a couple years starting in 1979. The Society returned to the Finley Block in 1987 and purchased it in 1989 in trade for four town lots the Society owned in Foote & Richardson Addition and \$65,000 cash, the latter including \$10,000 from the Boettcher Foundation and \$20,000 from the Gates Foundation. Upwards of \$100,000 was expended on improvements, including grants in 1998 and 1999 from the State Historical Fund totaling \$65,000, for new heating system, roof, electric wiring, handicapped accessible bathroom, and stone and mortar repair.



Lake City is located 55 highway miles southwest of Gunnison and 50 miles northwest of Creede on Colorado 149. The town is a center for fishing, hiking and 4-WD adventures in the San Juan Mountains. The Engineer and Cinnamon pass jeep trails lead in and out of town. Four miles south of Lake City is Lake San Cristobal, the second largest natural lake in Colorado. Beyond Lake San Cristobal, Colorado 149 continues south up Slumgullion Pass, and the views from the summit are among the best that can be seen from a paved highway in Colorado.” (Jerry Clark, Narrowgauge.org).

The museum is located in the county's only town, Lake City. “Lake City is one of the most isolated major 19th century Colorado silver camps. Located in the north-central San Juan Mountains, Lake City is the seat of Hinsdale County, the least populated county in the state. Prospecting began in the area around 1871, with good claims throughout the region. However, full development of the mines was dependent on cheap transportation of ore”, specifically the completion of the Lake City Spur of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad.

“The Denver & Rio Grande began to survey a branch to Lake City in 1881. Grading was actually begun by the Fall of 1881, but soon stopped. It was not until 1889 that track laying on the Lake City branch was started. The first official train entered Lake City on August 15, 1889.”

Lake City is located at the crossroads of two major scenic byways: [Silver Thread Scenic Byway](#) (between South Fork and Blue Mesa Reservoir) and [Alpine Loop Scenic Byway](#) (between South Fork, Ouray and Silverton). The town was designated a National Historic

District in 1978, boasting over 200 historic structures. “Established in 1875 as a supply center for the heavy mining activity in the area, people found their way to Lake City via the Saguache-San Juan Toll Road built by Enos Hotchkiss, one of the town founders. A major fire in 1879 destroyed much of the downtown area. Many of the rebuilt buildings of brick and stone remain intact. An economic depression hit Lake City in 1884, and times were hard until the arrival of the railroad in 1889. Subsequently, trade flourished until the silver crash of 1893.” (History Colorado)

Check out this sampling of their Tour and Event listing for 2017 (see [website](#) for full listing):

Summer Season Tours: During the Summer 2017 Season the Museum will be hosting a series of tours:

- **Cemetery Tours** - Thursdays 10:30 am, July 19, Aug. 1 & 15
- **Guided Walking Tours of the Historic District** - Thursdays 10:30 am, June 29 through August 10
- **Ghost Tours** - Fridays 8 pm, June 23 through August 18



Alferd Packer Massacre Site, Lake City

Special Events:

- **Flint Knapping** with Bruce Burks - Projectile Points, Saturday, July 1, 1pm.
- **Scarlet Belles** - A short drama on Lake City's prostitutes, Wed. July 5, 12 & Tues. Aug. 1, 8 & 15 7:30 pm Leo Jo Lowry on piano 7 to 7:30 pm, doors open 6:30 pm. (Now in our 7th “Hit Season”).
- **Alferd Packer** with Michelle Pierce - Thursday July 13, 6:30 pm, limited seating.
- **The USS Hinsdale** with Schuyler Denham - Wed. July 19, 6 pm, limited seating.
- **Ute Ulay** with P. David Smith – Wed. July 26, 6:30 pm, limited seating.
- **Susan B. Anthony and Chipeta (Chief Ouray’s wife)** with Michelle Pierce - Thursday Aug. 3, 6:30 pm, limited seating.
- **The History & Art of Blacksmithing** with Terry Klug, Saturday, Aug. 5, 2 pm.



The **2017 Museum Trail Summer Giveaway!** Visit as many of our museums as you can between Memorial Day and Labor Day Weekends for a chance to win a **\$100 certificate**. Use that certificate to shop at any of our museums’ gift shops. Pick up a punchcard at any of the participating museums, get card stamped at all the visited museums then hand it in at the last museum visited. Three winners will be selected after Labor Day Weekend from those that have visited the most # of museums.

www.museumgiveaway.org