

Pitkin County

Aspen District (aka Roaring Fork District)

The Aspen District was considered by Vanderwilt (1947) to contain - or to be synonymous with - the **Roaring Fork, Richmond Hill, and Lenado Districts**. In any case, the principle mines of the district lie within a mile of the town of Aspen. The District was a leading producer of silver, along with some lead and zinc, and minor gold. There was not much pyrite present in the ore, the major gangue minerals being barite and dolomite. Most production occurred from stratabound ores in the Leadville Limestone and Dolomite and the overlying Weber Shale.

The first prospectors arrived in the area in the 1870s, but the fear of Indian attack drove them back to the comparative civilization of Leadville. Finally in 1880, rich ore was struck and mining progressed, inhibited somewhat by poor access. A road over Independence Pass spurred growth, but the coming of the railroad in 1887 was the big event. Aspen was considered in 1893 the richest silver town in the world and was second only to Leadville in production (estimated by Vanderwilt at over \$105M by 1947).

The biggest producer in the Aspen District was the Smuggler Mine. To highlight its status, the mine produced the largest silver nugget in history - a 2054 pound beauty with 93% purity.

Additional references for this District include: Bryant (1971, 1979), Emmons (1888), Freeman (1972), Rohlfling (1938), Spurr (1898, 1909), and Vanderwilt (1935).

Mines listed in the district (mindat.org) include:

- [A-J Tunnel](#)
- [A M & S Group](#)
- [Alta Argent](#)
- [Argentum - Juniata Mine \(Juniata; Argenta Tunnel; Claims: M. & Y.; Golden Fleece; Lost Smuggler; Jesse C.; Amazon; Oriental; Cameron\)](#)
- [Arkansas Tunnel](#)
- [Aspen](#)
 - [Mollie Gibson Mine \(Molly Gibson Mine\)](#)
 - [Smuggler Mine \(I. X. L.; Leadville; Trueworthy; Glendale; Arkansaw; Ground Hog; Accident; Williams Ranch; General Jackson; Claims: Smuggler; Emma; Smuggler - Durant; Silver Brick\)](#)
- [Aspen Contact Mine \(Claims: Tenderfoot; Last Chance; Eureka; River; Lamokin; Annex; Last Chance No. 2; Mollie\)](#)
- [Aspen Mine \(Claim: Aspen\)](#)
- [Aspen Mining and Drainage Tunnel \(Copperopolis; A. M. & D. Tunnel; Copperopolis; Claims: Aspen Mountain Tunnel Lode No. 1\)](#)
- [Aspen Mining and Smelting Company Mine \(Robert Emmett; King Bee\)](#)
- [Aspen placers](#)
- [Aspen Wince](#)
- [Baltic](#)
- [Baystate](#)
- [Benedict Pit](#)
- [Best Friend Mine \(Claim: Best Friend\)](#)
- [Bi-Metallic Tunnel](#)
- [Birmingham](#)
- [Bonnybel Mine \(Claims: Bonnybel; Chloride\)](#)

- Broadway Shaft
- Broadway Tunnel
- Brownlime Tunnel
- Bushwhacker Mine (Claims: Bushwhacker; Alpine)
- Camp Bird Mine (Claims: Camp Bird; Camp Bird M. S.)
- Celeste Mine (Claim: Celeste)
- Champion Shaft
- Clark Tunnel
- Compromise Mining Company
- Conomara Shaft New
- Copperopolis Mine
- Cowenhoven Tunnel
- D. P. Rohlphing Company
- Deep Shaft
- Della S. Mine (Ballarat; Fossil Fraction; Della S.; J. C. Johnson; Alpine; Last Chance; General Jackson; Bushwhacker; Claims: Alma M.; Chatfield)
- Denver Shaft
- Dubuque Tunnel Occurrence
- Durant Mine
- Durgen Tunnel
- Edison Incline
- Emma Shaft
- Enterprise
- Franklin
- Free Silver
- Golcanda
- Good Thunder Shaft
- Gravel Pit (MRDS - 10118053)
- Great Western
- Harkins Tunnel
- Harrisburg
- Highland Tunnel
- Holden
- Homestake
- Homestead
- Hope Mine (Claims: Hope Nos. 1-4; Hope M. S.)
- Igneous Tunnel
- Iowa Chief Mine (Claim: Iowa Chief)
- Iowa Shaft
- Jenny Lind
- Johnson Tunnel
- Justice Mine (Claim: Justice)
- Lasalle
- Last Dollar Mine (O.K.; Minnie Moore; Claims: Last Dollar)
- Late Acquisition Mine (Monarch; Claims: Late Acquisition; Traynor; Hoskins; Iron)
- Leadville Mine (Claim: Leadville)
- Lease
- Lenado
- Lenado Exploration
- Lime Gulch & Hurricane
- Little Annie Mine (Claim: Little Annie)
- Little Cloud Tunnel
- Little May
- Little Nell Shaft
- Little Percy Mine (Claim: Little Percy)
- Martha Washington
- Mary B. Mine (Claim: Mary B. No. 2)
- Mayflower Tunnel
- Middle Tunnel
- Midnight Mine
- Millinee
- Mineral Farm
- Mt Ranger Group
- New York Tunnel
- Newman Tunnel (Bijou; Keystone; St. Paul; Denver; Claims: La Salle; Harrisburg)
- North Tunnel
- Old Pioneer Tunnel
- Old Shaft
- Oriental Gravel Pit
- Park Regent Mine (Cascade; Alaska; Tiger; Lizzie; Iowa No. 2; Regent; Siberia; Claims: Park; Joplin No. 2)

- Park Tunnel (Mayflower; Claims: Jenny Lind; San Jacinto; Bob Ingersoll; Libbie Bell; Celeste)
- Pelland
- Percy Lasalle M & Power Company
- Pioneer Tunnel
- Pride of Aspen Mine (Claim: Pride of Aspen)
- Pride of the Hills
- Princess Louise Shaft
- Red Spruce
- Roaring Fork
- Robert Emmet
- Saint Joe
- Saint Paul Shaft
- Sam Houston
- San Jacinto
- Schiller Mine (Schiller Incline; Claim: Schiller)
- Section of Aspen Mining Belt
- Silver Bell
- Silver Star
- Single Jack Group
- South Tunnel
- Spar Consolidated
- Spar Disc
- Spar No. 2
- Statesman Tunnel
- Stillwell Shaft
- Teaser
- Tilly Shaft (Claim: Tillie)
- Tom Gilmore
- Tower Durant Tunnel and Dump
- Traynor
- Vallejo
- Varney Tunnel
- Veteran
- Visine
- Woody Creek
 - Lenado
- Yankee Tunnel
- Yopsie Tunnel
- Young Shaft

Minerals listed in the district (mindat.org) include:

Acanthite	Glauconite	Siderite
Anglesite	Goslarite	Silver
Anhydrite	'Limonite'	Smithsonite
Baryte	Malachite	Sphalerite
Bornite	Minium	Stromeyerite
Calcite	Muscovite var: Sericite	Tennantite
Cerussite	Palygorskite	Tenorite
Chalcopyrite	Pearceite (TL)	Tetrahedrite
'Chert'	Platinum	'Tourmaline'
Cuprite	Polybasite	Uraninite
Dolomite	Pyrargyrite	Willemite
'Flint'	Pyrite	Wurtzite
Galena	Quartz	

References:

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