

About Villa Jubilee



Villa Jubilee is unique retreat center, a place of "welcome" and hospitality. It is also an ideal film or photo shoot location, event venue (small weddings, house concerts, or small family reunions), and conference center located on 200 beautiful and hike-able acres in southern Colorado.

Stan and Sharon spent 18 years designing and building this home. We hope you enjoy it as much as we've enjoyed creating a contextually sensitive and artistic habitat. We harvested native rock to rock-face the building and we tried to create a low profile on the cliff so that the villa looks like it grows out of the rock. It's been an intense labor of love.

Our primary mission is to create a safe and quiet refuge for those who need a retreat location. Each large and comfortable bedroom has its own bathroom. There are areas for contemplation, group meetings, and entertainment with an ample kitchen designed to accommodate large groups. ***For your convenience, a facility manager is always onsite.***

For photo shoots, its primary photographic asset is that it is a "one-stop shoot." It includes striking architectural details, artistic whimsy, stunning natural light (120 windows!), ample room for large photographic equipment, a generously sized circular driveway for production trucks, quirky Moab-like rock formations, meadows, mountains, views from the property, complete privacy, and wildlife. What other location offers you so much all in one place?

We have amateur photo galleries on our website at www.VillaJubilee.com. It is temporarily "password protected," so please contact Sharon or Stan to request the password so you can browse and see the beauty of the location. Each photo has a roll-over caption, so if you are interested in a particular photo, roll your cursor over it to learn more.

Facility Description

Villa Jubilee is located in southern Colorado, a pristine and under-appreciated area. If you have not been to southern Colorado, it is very similar to northern New Mexico (think "Santa Fe"). The climate is usually 5-to-10 degrees warmer than Denver year round, with 340+ days of sunshine per year. It is "high desert" with little precipitation. It is a healthy, dry climate at an altitude of 6100' (higher than Denver, lower than Santa Fe).

It is an easy and beautiful 90-min drive from Colorado Springs (closest major airport). Since the route heads *away* from metropolitan areas toward an unpopulated rural area, there is very little traffic and the scenery is awesome!

We designed and built Villa Jubilee ourselves and we are very proud of it. Everyone who sees it agrees it is an architectural wonder, with many unusual artistic touches. The architecture is Tuscan-inspired, with Mediterranean and Spanish Colonial influences, suited for this area of the United States that was formerly Mexico.

The facility is 12,500-sf on a 16,000-sf footprint (loggias and courtyards), situated on a cliff, nestled on 200 acres. With 120 windows in the facility, the views are virtually 360 degrees.

The entire building is rock-faced with native rock that we harvested ourselves – approximately 15,000 rocks. It took one year to place the rocks and nine months to mortar them!

Entry and Main Hall: Walking through a double-entry of two sets of round-top ornamental iron doors, visitors are greeted by a striking hand-made compass-within-a-compass mosaic. Then they step into the 92' long x 16' wide hallway that ends in a huge Great Room with a rock fireplace studded with mining artifacts collected on the property. Two interior courtyards open off the hallway, one on each side, producing extra space for entertaining, meditating, reading, or soaking up sun. Twelve-foot ceilings all over the main floor give the facility a light, sunny, airy feeling.

Owner's Suite: We've always intended Villa Jubilee to be used in some sort of commercial application (retreat center, bed & breakfast, dude ranch), so all of our design choices were very intentional, including creating a private area for us to retire to when there are guests. The owner's suite consists of a master bedroom/bathroom suite with an exercise room and two walk-in closets. This "private" area can be locked or shut off if necessary. For most functions, one of us will be on site to serve as your host, but we can disappear into our owner's suite when you don't need us.

Library: The library (with a fireplace, floor-to-ceiling bookshelves, two study carels, a rolling ladder, and a full-size wall map of the world) provides a quiet place for private study, an intimate place for small group conversation, or a dramatic backdrop for a photo shoot!

Kitchen: The kitchen is pure genius! It is approximately 868-sf size, *plus* there is a large, separate pantry with commercial shelving, *plus a separate solarium for kitchen herbs.*

In the kitchen, there are three specific functional areas:

1. "Food Prep," with extra deep (30") countertops in the prep area and a charming reclaimed wood bar-top above it. The prep area has two sinks and a dishwasher.
2. The "Serving" (the buffet line) is designed for smooth flow of traffic from the dining area, and contains a dishwasher for clearing and a warming drawer.

3. The “Beverage Center,” with ice maker, beverage cooler, wine cooler, entertainment sink, and coffee bar keeps the buffet and prep areas uncongested.

Guest Wing: There are five guest rooms, each with a shower, a beautiful Talavera sink in a countertop/cabinet (no pedestal sinks!), and toilet. Each guest room can accommodate two queen beds. Three guest rooms open onto a west-facing (sunsets!) balcony. The five guest rooms are on a second level a “split” or “half” level above the main floor) and have a “foyer” with a fireplace, where guests can sit and mingle.

Bell Tower: A stairway leads from the guest foyer to the whimsical bell-tower atop the house, where guests can enjoy true 360 degree views of the Spanish Peaks, Pikes Peak, the Cucharas (in the Sangre de Cristo Range), the Green Horn (the “Cuevo Verde” in the Wet Mountain Range) and the eastern plains.

Misc: There is a four-car garage, and a circular driveway with a high, drive-under canopy in front of the house for protecting guests from the weather at the front door.

We have radiant floor heat that is powered by an impressive solar installation, with a conventional propane-fueled boiler as backup. With 340+ days of sunshine a year, we harness the most economical, God-given fuel to heat this large building.

There are two wood-burning fireplaces (great room and the master bedroom in the owner's suite) and five gas fireplaces (library, kitchen, guest foyer, and two offices).

The laundry area is immediately adjacent to the guest area.

Property Description

Please contact us for the specifics of the facility location, which is a mere three miles off of I-25. The location is a perfect retreat setting because it feels very isolated, with no near neighbors. Yet it is easily accessible! I-25 is so close we can see it from our windows! (See “Transportation” subhead below for more details.)

The rock-faced Villa is contextually sensitive, rising straight out of the cliff as if one piece with its foundation. The old “Peak Mine,” formerly owned and operated by Colorado Fuel & Iron is located on the mountain at the rear of the property. (The adits have been dynamited shut, so are perfectly safe.) This former mining property boasts many mining artifacts, making it a fascinating place to explore. Hiking up the Peak Mountain provides a vigorous cardio workout. Trails through the meadows offer less strenuous walks. Reminiscent of Moab, mysterious rock formations at the front of the property create a compelling and eerie landscape to explore.

Wildlife abounds: we see Pronghorn daily; deer, elk, and bobcats also inhabit the area; hawks, owls, wild turkeys, eagles, and roadrunners delight us with frequent visits. And who can beat the silence of a country night, punctuated only by the sounds of owls or coyotes?

The grounds are not landscaped, although we hope to add a pond adjacent to the house someday. We prefer the completely untamed look of the Wild West.

Children and Pets

As a general rule, this facility is not suitable for children or pets. It is our goal to create a safe and sacred space for all. In the interest of maintaining a quiet, contemplative atmosphere, we cannot allow children or pets. First, we acknowledge that we have two cats who do not mix well with other pets. They earn their living by keeping the facility free of pests. Second, we are concerned about maintaining an allergy-free environment (to the extent we can, while having two cats) so all guests will be comfortable. Third, the facility is located on a precipitous cliff; there are rattlesnakes, coyotes, and other wildlife. Your own peace would be disturbed if you had to constantly supervise children or pets.

We will make an exception for children only when the entire facility is rented by a single group for a family reunion or other event. It is solely and completely the responsibility of the parents to guard the safety of their children.

While we may make exceptions for children, we do not make exceptions for pets.

Accessibility

The facility is wheelchair accessible, and there are two wheelchair bedrooms, although the connected bathrooms are not wheelchair accessible. Please let us know if you need us to reserve one of these rooms for a specific person.

What To Bring

We make it easy for you! Our motto is "mi casa es su casa." We don't nickel and dime you to death by charging for individual items.

We Supply:

- Sheets
- Pillows
- Blankets
- Towels and wash clothes
- Real beds! (No air mattresses unless your group exceeds our normal guest limit!)
- Soap
- Toilet Paper
- Tissues
- Ironing board
- Iron
- Washer
- Dryer

- Firewood (We've actually stayed in places where you are required to buy your firewood from the facility, or bring your own – like you've got room in your car for that!?)
- Free Wifi, although we hope you will make this a “sacred” time and “unplug” for your own benefit.

Fully equipped kitchen with:

- Basic food stuffs (salt/pepper, basic spices, coffee, powdered creamers, etc.).
- All appliances you can imagine: coffee makers, warming drawer, ice machine, double-wall oven, beverage cooler, wine cooler, coffee grinder, chafing dishes, turkey roaster, two dishwashers, etc.)

You supply:

- Casual clothing – no need to get dressed up here;
- Your own toiletries, hair dryers, curling irons;
- Your favorite outdoor/hiking kit: **RECOMMENDED: Sunscreen, hat, hiking boots, water bottle (a hydration pack is even better), layered clothing. We can't emphasize enough that you *cannot hike safely in sandals*.**
- **Your own beverages!** We happily supply tap water, coffee, and tea, but we can't supply the endless variety of beverages that people like. From ice-tea to pop to juice to beer, we just don't *know* what you want. So bring your own favorites and we'll all be happy! Feel free to use our ice-maker and beverage cooler.

Food/Meals:

We do not provide meals, although we are generous with the leftover snacks and beverages that previous guests have left behind. There are four options for your meals on-site.

1. You bring your own food and prepare it yourself. (We have the essentials -- salt, pepper, etc.)
2. You bring your own cook/chef to prepare food for you.
3. Hire a local caterer, restaurant, or cooks. We can supply you with vendors, and you can contact them directly.
4. We create a package deal for you and give you a base price of rooms plus meals and we handle hiring the caterers. There is zero mark-up for this option, we simply do it for your convenience.

Non-Smoking Facility

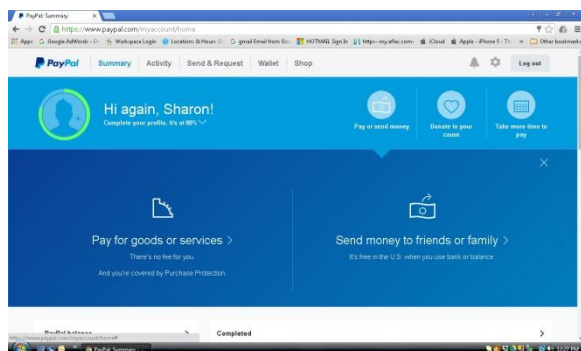
This is a non-smoking facility in a geographical area with high fire danger. No smoking inside at all (the house has already been destroyed by fire once -- we don't want to do that again!) and limited outdoor areas for smoking.

Transportation

We do not provide transportation. We do not have vans or shuttles. If you don't have your own car, we recommend 1) renting a car; 2) car-pooling with another retreatant; or 3) taking the bus. The bus from Denver or Colorado Springs is very convenient and inexpensive. Please check: <https://www.greyhound.com/> for more information.

Payment:

When paying by PayPal, *please make sure to use the "Friends and Family" option (see screenshot below)*. Otherwise, we get charged a fee which we will chargeback to you or your retreat host.



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