



DAY TRIP TO ALAMO CROSSING

From Wickenburg · Mohave County, Arizona



OTHER MINING
AND OIL



Photo: duroc2006, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 2.0

UNDER ALAMO LAKE

Submerged since 1968 in a flood-control reservoir. The lake and shore are Alamo Lake State Park, open year-round for a fee.

Alamo Crossing is under the lake, so this trip is a long drive to the shore of Alamo Lake State Park, where you look out over the water that covers the town. Plan on about two and a half hours each way from Wickenburg. The park has restrooms, a small store and trails, but no restaurant. Pack food and water, and fill your tank in Wickenburg.

A SAMPLE DAY

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| ☐ 7:30 a.m. | Fill up and leave Wickenburg on US 60. Wenden is about an hour west. |
| ☐ 8:30 a.m. | In Wenden, turn north onto Alamo Road. The last 35 miles to Camp Area E take about an hour and a half. |
| ☐ 10 a.m. | Pay the entry fee at the visitor center and pick up a map. |
| ☐ 10:30 a.m. | Drive Cholla Road to Camp Area E. The townsite lies about a mile and a quarter across the water, roughly 40 feet down at the September 2026 level. |
| ☐ 11:30 a.m. | Walk a shoreline trail, or the Rattlesnake Overlook trail for a view over the lake. |
| ☐ 12:30 p.m. | Picnic lunch by the water. |
| ☐ 1:30 p.m. | Head back. You'll be in Wickenburg by about 4 p.m. |

From Phoenix the drive is about 3 hours 40 minutes each way by I-10 and Salome. That makes a long day, so consider staying over: the park has campsites and camping cabins.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **Artillery Peak over the lake.** The pointed peak across the water is the view in the 2008 photo on this page. Early or late light keeps the bare ridges from washing out.
- **The water over the town.** From Camp Area E, frame the open water toward the old crossing. Load the 1966 map on your phone to match the road, the buildings and the cemeteries to the shore in front of you.
- **The bare shoreline.** A pale band of bare ground marks where the lake rises and falls. It shows best from a high point such as the overlook.



USGS topographic map, 1923 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	84 mi, about 2 h 25 min each way from downtown Wickenburg. From Phoenix: 157 mi, about 3 h 41 min.
OPEN	The park is open 24 hours, year-round, with day use from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. The visitor center and park store are open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. from October through May.
ADMISSION	\$10 per vehicle with one person, \$20 with two to four people, \$5 on foot or by bicycle.
RESTROOMS	At the visitor center, in each campground and at each boat ramp.
FOOD AND WATER	No restaurant. The park store sells ice cream, soda, bottled water and ice.
FUEL	None at the lake. The nearest is in Salome, west of Wenden and off the route from Wickenburg.
SUN AND SHADE	The park lists day-use group ramadas south of Campground A and in Campground E, and doesn't describe other shade. Summer heat is extreme; the record high is 124°F.
ON FOOT	Trails follow the shoreline and branch into the desert, among them the Crosscut, Rattlesnake Overlook and Wild Burro trails. Dogs must be leashed.
ROAD	Paved all the way. Cholla Road to Camp Area E, the closest shore to the townsite, has reopened for the season.
DRONES	Arizona State Parks prohibits all recreational drone use in state parks. Commercial filming needs a park permit.
WEBSITE	azstateparks.com/alamo-lake

BEFORE YOU GO

- Check the status with the land manager before you go; conditions change.
- Keep out of unstable buildings and off fenced ruins.
- Leave artifacts where they lie. Removing them can be a crime.
- Carry water, a paper map and a charged phone; signal is often poor.

Coordinates 34.26060, -113.58280 · 34°15'38"N
113°34'58"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/arizona/alamo-crossing/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

Details checked October 2026. Hours, prices and access change: confirm before you go.