DAY TRIP TO AMERICAN FLAG

From Oracle · Pinal County, Arizona

GOLD MINING

Photo: Ammodramus, Wikimedia Commons, CC0

BY APPOINTMENT

Restored ranch house and post office owned by the Oracle Historical Society, open by appointment. Trailhead parking next door.

American Flag is ten minutes from Oracle, so it fits easily into a day in town. To see inside the house, book ahead with the Oracle Historical Society. Without an appointment you can still see the ranch from the trailhead parking and walk a stretch of the Arizona Trail.

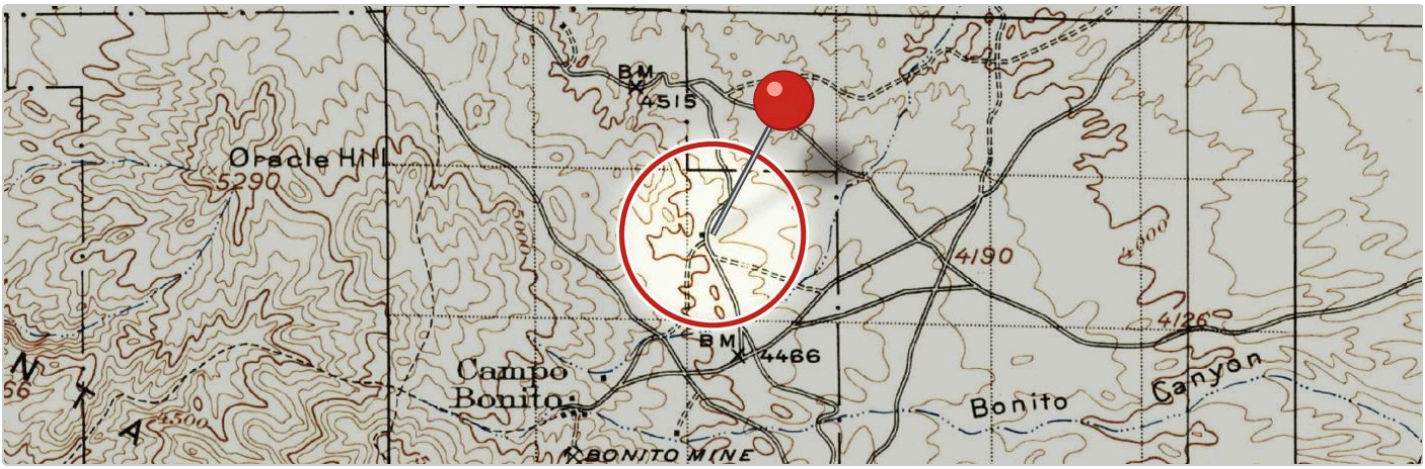
A SAMPLE DAY

☐ 8:30 a.m.	Pick up lunch and water at the Oracle Patio Cafe & Market on American Avenue, open from 8 a.m.
☐ 9 a.m.	Drive east on American Avenue and southeast on Mount Lemmon Road, about 10 minutes. Turn at the trailhead sign onto the dead-end ranch road.
☐ **9:15 a.m.**	At the ranch, see the whitewashed adobe, the barn, the corrals and the historic-site plaque. If you booked, the society opens the house.
☐ 10 a.m.	Walk a stretch of the Arizona Trail from the trailhead and back.
☐ Noon	Picnic back in Oracle.
☐ **1 p.m.**	Oracle State Park is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. from October 1. Entry is $10 per vehicle with one adult, or $20 with two to four.
☐ Saturday	The society's Acadia Ranch Museum in Oracle opens Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

From Tucson, the ranch is about 1 h 10 min by Oracle Road and AZ 77. Leave by 7:15 a.m. to keep the same day.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The adobe and its flagpole.** The classic view is from the north, across the ranch road, with the flagpole over the tin roof.
- **The plaque.** The bronze historic-site plaque on the house tells the story in one frame. Shoot it straight on to avoid glare.
- **Barn and corrals.** Rusting corrugated iron and the log corrals make strong textures in low light.
- **Cattle.** Cattle graze here and wander onto the ranch road. They make good foregrounds for wide shots, but give them room.
- **Watch for snakes.** A hand-painted sign at the ranch says so, and it means it. Look where you step when you frame low shots.



USGS topographic map, 1911 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	5 mi, about 11 min each way from downtown Oracle. From Tucson: 40 mi, about 1 h 08 min.
OPEN	By appointment. Call the Oracle Historical Society at 520-896-9609 and leave a message, or email oraclehistoricalsociety@gmail.com. The society posts no regular open days at the ranch.
ADMISSION	Not stated by the society.
RESTROOMS AND WATER	None listed at the ranch or the trailhead. Bring water from Oracle.
FOOD	None at the ranch. In Oracle, the market at Oracle Patio Cafe & Market is open daily, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Nonna Maria's Pizza opens Tuesday to Sunday, 3 to 9 p.m.
PARKING	At the Arizona Trail's American Flag Ranch Trailhead, beside the house. It sits on a dead-end road and isn't visible from Mount Lemmon Road, so watch for the sign.
ROAD	Paved to the last 0.3 mile, then unpaved. 2WD.
ON FOOT	Passage 12 of the Arizona Trail arrives from the west and Passage 13 starts on the east side. Respect the fences around the buildings.
WEBSITE	oraclehistoricalsociety.org/american-flag-ranch

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 32.58000, −110.72030 · 32°34′48″N 110°43′13″W

Directions Google Maps

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/arizona/american-flag/

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