DAY TRIP TO AUBREY LANDING

From Parker · Mohave County, Arizona

COPPER MINING

Photo: CWanamaker, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 3.0

UNDER LAKE HAVASU

Townsite submerged by Lake Havasu after Parker Dam was finished in 1938. No remains above water.

Nothing of Aubrey is left above water, so this is a short trip to look at the lake over the townsite and the dam that drowned it. BLM's Take Off Point, a free day-use area, is the nearest shore we can reach. Add the Bill Williams River refuge just up AZ 95 and you're back in Parker for lunch.

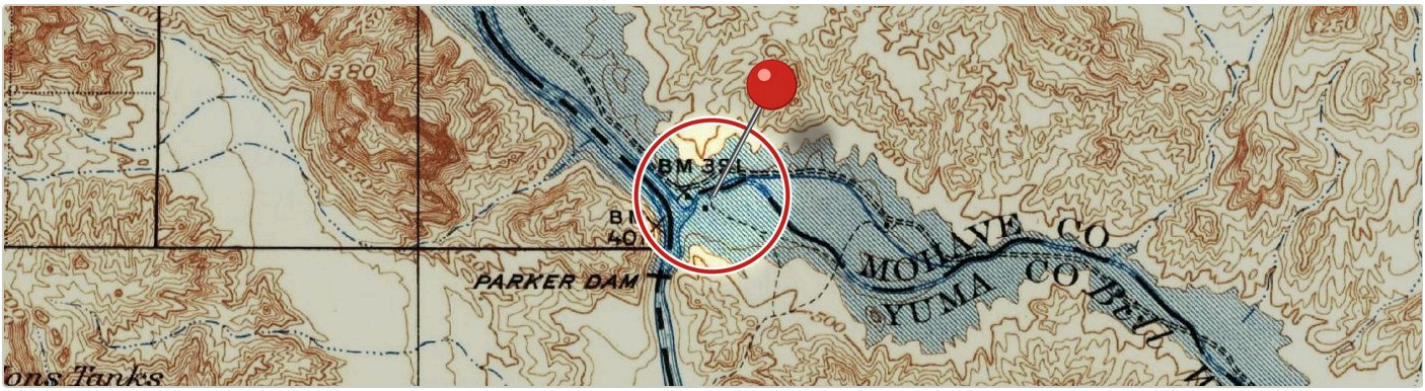
A SAMPLE DAY

☐ 9 a.m.	Leave Parker north on AZ 95 along the river. It's about 20 minutes to Take Off Point.
☐ **9:20 a.m.**	Take Off Point. Walk the interpretive walkway and look north-northeast across the water. The old confluence, and the townsite with it, lies about a third of a mile out. Parker Dam is just downstream.
☐ 10:30 a.m.	Drive north on AZ 95 to the Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge at milepost 161. The visitor center is open weekdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; trails open half an hour before sunrise and close half an hour after sunset.
☐ 11 a.m.	Walk the half-mile Delta Loop Trail to the ridge over the marsh at the mouth of the Bill Williams, the river the town stood beside.
☐ Lunch	Head back to Parker. Tierra Caliente on Joshua Avenue is a Latin American restaurant and meat market, open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day.

Coming from Phoenix? Leave by about 6 a.m. to reach Take Off Point by 9:20.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The water over the town.** From Take Off Point, frame the lake toward the old confluence. Nothing marks the spot, so keep a shoreline or the dam in frame for scale.
- **Parker Dam.** The dam that drowned the town. The gallery's 1941 photo shows its face from the California side.
- **The buoy line.** It closes off the water just above the dam. A long lens stacks the buoys against the hills.
- **The Bill Williams delta.** From the Delta Loop Trail ridge, the marsh where the river now meets the lake.
- **Drones.** Not on the refuge, where takeoff and landing are banned. BLM's Take Off Point page doesn't mention them.



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

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	16 mi, about 22 min each way from downtown Parker. From Phoenix: 178 mi, about 3 h 18 min.
OPEN	Take Off Point is day use only, and BLM lists no hours. BLM's Take Off Point page.
ADMISSION	Free at Take Off Point and at the refuge.
RESTROOMS	Accessible pit toilets at Take Off Point. At the refuge, restrooms in the visitor center on weekdays and vault toilets at the Peninsula Trail and the fishing docks.
FOOD AND WATER	We found no food or drinking water named at Take Off Point beyond picnic tables. Eat in Parker.
SUN AND SHADE	A shade structure and a shaded fish-cleaning station at Take Off Point.
ROAD	Paved AZ 95 and Parker Dam Road, then the short Takeoff Point Road to the lot. OpenStreetMap doesn't record that last road's surface.
ON FOOT	A walkway with interpretive signs and accessible fishing piers at Take Off Point. At the refuge, the Delta Loop Trail is a half-mile gravel walk to a ridge over the Bill Williams delta marsh.
FISHING	An Arizona fishing license is required from age 10.
PHOTOGRAPHY	BLM's Take Off Point page has no photo or drone rule. Drones may not take off or land on the Bill Williams River refuge.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Check the status with the land manager before you go; conditions change.
- Stay out of mine shafts, tunnels and unstable buildings.
- 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 34.30500, −114.13300 · 34°18′18″N 114°07′59″W

Directions Google Maps

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/arizona/aubrey-landing/

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