DAY TRIP TO CASTLE DOME

From Yuma · Yuma County, Arizona

OTHER MINING AND OIL

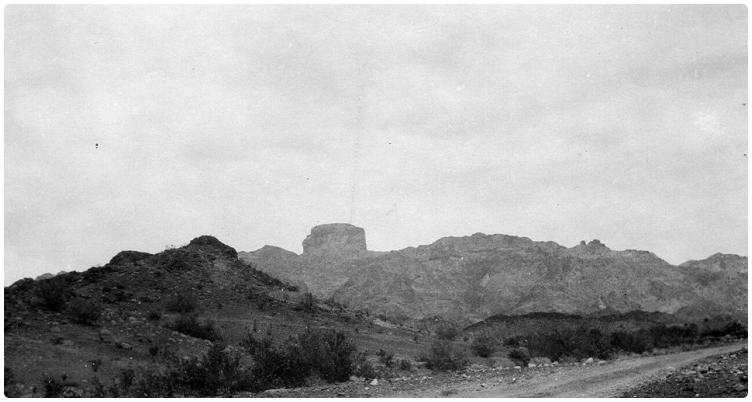


Photo: USGS, Wikimedia Commons, Public domain

OPEN SEASONALLY

Private museum, paid admission. Season and prices from its website; operating as of a March 2026 group tour.

Castle Dome takes a full day from Yuma. The museum sits at the end of Castle Dome Mine Road, about 10 miles off US 95, and its walking loop alone is 1.8 miles. The museum's website lists no food or drinking water, and the refuge around it has none either, so bring lunch and plenty of water, fill the tank in Yuma, and carry cash.

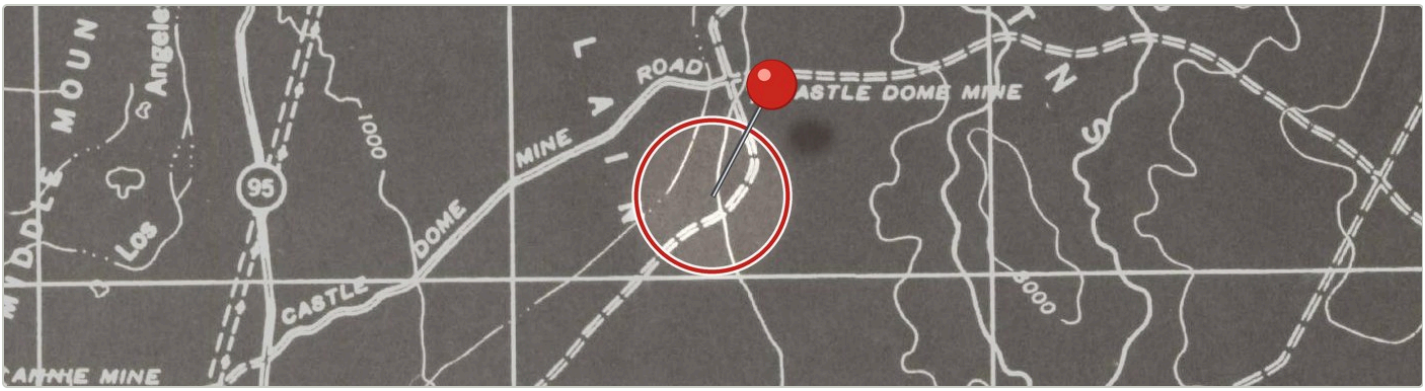
A SAMPLE DAY

☐ 7:15 a.m.	Fill the tank and leave Yuma on US 95 north. The computed drive is about 2 h 40 min. It treats the dirt road as a slow track, so you may get there sooner.
☐ **10 a.m.**	The museum opens. Pay in cash and start the walking loop past the saloon, hotel, mercantile, bank and schoolhouse.
☐ 11 a.m.	If you've arranged the Hull Mine tour, it takes you 600 feet into the mountain to the room of fluorescent minerals. Tour times aren't posted, so call ahead.
☐ 12:30 p.m.	Eat a packed lunch. A 2026 field-trip group planned its lunch in the parking lot.
☐ 1:30 p.m.	Cross the small bridge to the cemetery, the site of the first cabin, the doctor's office and the post office.
☐ 2:30 p.m.	Head back to Yuma, arriving about 5:10 p.m. on the computed time. The museum closes at 5.
☐ Dinner	Lute's Casino on Main Street in downtown Yuma is a pool and domino hall with a kitchen. It's open until 7:30 p.m. Monday to Thursday, 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 6 p.m. Sunday.

From Phoenix the computed drive is over five hours each way, too long for one day. Stay the night in Yuma.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The museum town.** More than 50 buildings, seven of them original. You can walk in, so expose for the dim interiors rather than the glare outside.
- **The 1950s and 1970s section.** Part of the town is set up as those decades. Pair a shot of it with one of the older buildings to show the span of mining here.
- **The fluorescent room.** On the Hull Mine tour, ultraviolet lamps light up the mineral wall. Brace the camera and skip the flash, which washes out the glow.
- **Castle Dome Peak.** The 3,793-foot summit stands about 3 miles northeast of the museum. It makes the backdrop for wide shots of the town.
- **The cemetery.** Across the bridge. Keep to the paths and leave the graves as they are.
- **Drones.** Not on refuge land, where takeoff and landing are banned. The museum's claims are private, so ask there first.



USGS topographic map, 1942 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	41 mi, about 2 h 40 min each way from downtown Yuma. From Phoenix: 183 mi, about 5 h 08 min.
OPEN	October 15 to April 15, daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed Thanksgiving and Christmas. In summer, call 928-920-3062 first.
ADMISSION	Town walking tour $20, children 7 to 11 $7, 6 and under free. Guided Hull Mine tour with the town $75, children 7 to 11 $35. Cash only; there's an ATM on site.
TIME ON SITE	Not stated. A 2026 group on the 11 a.m. Hull Mine tour planned to leave about 2:30 p.m.
RESTROOMS	The museum mentions an outhouse. The refuge's only restrooms are at its Yuma headquarters, weekdays.
FOOD AND WATER	None listed at the museum; no drinking water or fuel on the refuge. Bring lunch and water from Yuma.
SUN AND SHADE	Shade isn't listed. The museum mentions rest spots on the loop, and the buildings are open to walk into.
ROAD	US 95 to milepost 55, then Castle Dome Mine Road: about 3 miles paved and 7 graded dirt to the end of the road. A 2026 field-trip notice says low-clearance cars aren't usually suited to the dirt roads here. The road crosses Yuma Proving Ground and then the refuge, so stay on it.
ON FOOT	The self-guided loop is about 1.8 miles and fenced in, so you can't get lost. The Hull Mine tour goes 600 feet into the mountain.
PERMITS	None that we found. The refuge has no entry fee; the museum is private land with its own admission.
PHOTOGRAPHY	No posted photo rules, and you can step inside the buildings. Drones may not take off or land on the refuge around the museum's claims. The museum says nothing about drones, so ask first.
CELL SIGNAL	Unreliable or absent at the museum, according to a 2026 field-trip notice.
WEBSITE	castledomemuseum.org

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 33.04590, −114.17800 · 33°02′45″N 114°10′41″W

Directions Google Maps

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/arizona/castle-dome/

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