



DAY TRIP TO CHARLESTON

From Tombstone · Cochise County, Arizona



SILVER MINING

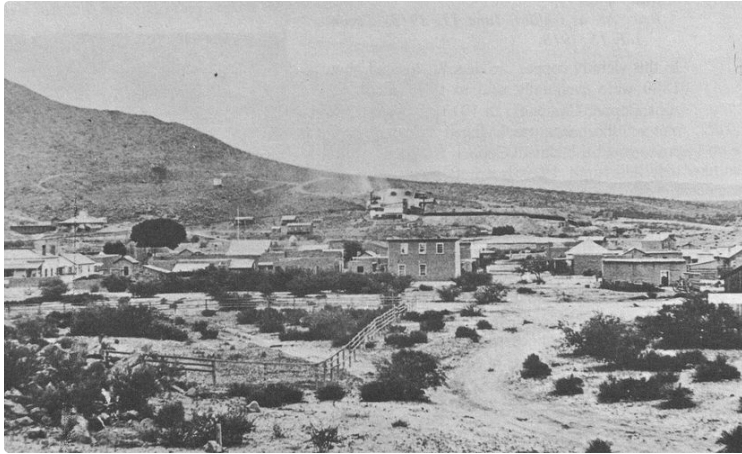


Photo: C. S. Fly, Wikimedia Commons, Public domain

PUBLIC LAND · NO TRAIL

BLM conservation area with free day use. No trail to the Charleston ruins; the Millville trail across the river is the way in.

There's no trail to the Charleston ruins, and the BLM doesn't encourage visits. The way to see the site is from the Millville trail on the east bank, 15 minutes from Tombstone on paved Charleston Road. Pair it with Fairbank's schoolhouse and the walk to the Grand Central Mill, and finish in Tombstone, whose ore these mills once processed.

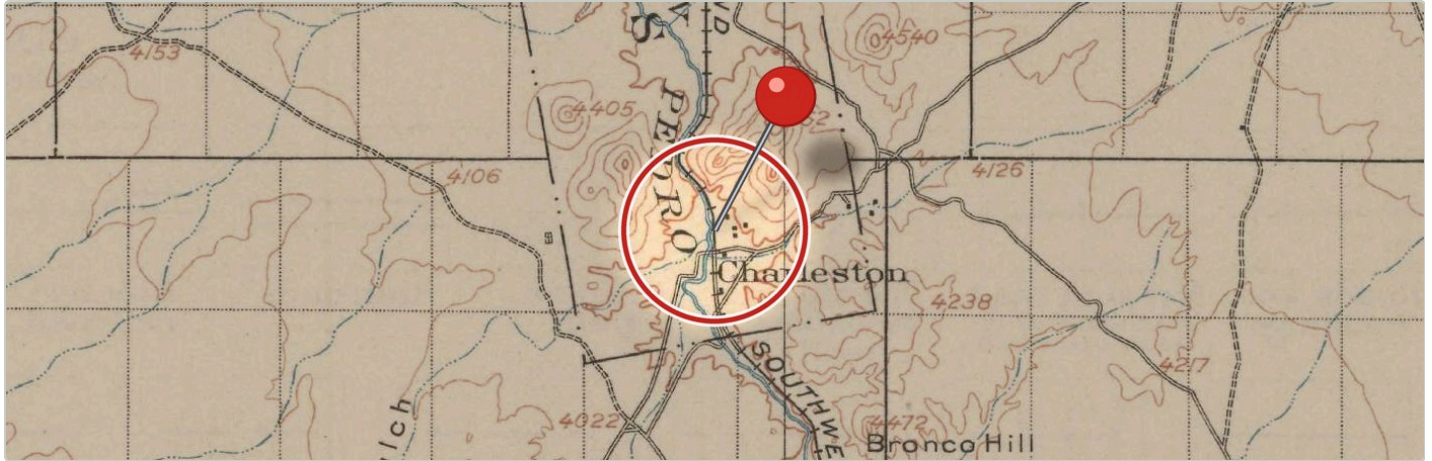
A SAMPLE DAY

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| ☐ 8:30 a.m. | Leave Tombstone on Charleston Road, about 15 minutes to the Millville trailhead. |
| ☐ 8:45 a.m. | Walk the Millville trail to the mill terraces. The men who worked these mills lived across the river in Charleston. |
| ☐ 10 a.m. | Take the branch to the petroglyph panels by the river, then walk back to the car. |
| ☐ 11 a.m. | Drive back through Tombstone to Fairbank , about 18 miles. Its schoolhouse museum opens Friday to Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. |
| ☐ Noon | Picnic at Fairbank's shaded tables, then walk the gravel trail to the Grand Central Mill, 1.25 miles each way. |
| ☐ 3 p.m. | Back in Tombstone . From October to May the courthouse museum is open until 4:30 p.m. |
| ☐ Dinner | The Longhorn Restaurant on Allen Street, open until 8 p.m. |

On Saturday, November 14, 2026, the Friends of the San Pedro River lead a free history walk at Millville, 9 to 11 a.m.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **Millville's mill terraces.** The stacked-stone walls step down the hill. Low sun early or late in the day brings out the stonework.
- **The bosque.** Charleston stood in the dark mesquite west of the river. The walls are hidden, so photograph the tree line that marks the townsite.
- **Petroglyphs.** Shoot from the trail and don't touch the rock.
- **Charleston Road.** The paved road drops from Tombstone to the river crossing. A dashboard camera makes a good opening for a video.



USGS topographic map, 1915 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	9 mi, about 16 min each way from Tombstone's historic district. From Tucson: 84 mi, about 1 h 41 min.
OPEN	Daylight hours. Day use in the conservation area is free and needs no permit.
ROAD	Paved Charleston Road from Tombstone. Park at the Millville trailhead on the north side of the road, about half a mile east of the river.
CHARLESTON ITSELF	No trail or road reaches the ruins on the west bank. They're hidden in thick mesquite, and the BLM doesn't encourage visits.
ON FOOT	The Millville trail is about 1.5 miles round trip to the mill ruins and 2.5 miles with the petroglyph panels. It's uneven dirt and gravel and crosses a deep wash.
RESTROOMS	A vault toilet at the Millville trailhead.
FOOD AND WATER	None listed for the site. Bring water and plan to eat in Tombstone.
SHADE	None on the Millville walk, the Friends of the San Pedro River say. Wear a hat.
RULES	Leave artifacts where they lie. Removing or damaging historic material on BLM land is against federal law.

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 31.63490, -110.17690 • 31°38'06"N
110°10'37"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/arizona/charleston/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

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