



DAY TRIP TO CROWN KING

From Prescott · Yavapai County, Arizona



GOLD MINING



Photo: Wiwad, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 4.0

LIVING VILLAGE

Small unincorporated community, about 194 residents in the ZIP code (2020–2024 estimate). Businesses open to visitors.

Crown King is a full day from Prescott: about two hours each way, most of the last stretch on dirt, and a lived-in mountain village at the top. Most old buildings are homes, so the day is Main Street, the saloon and the drive. Add [Bradshaw City](#) if you have high clearance, and stop in [Cleator](#) on the way down.

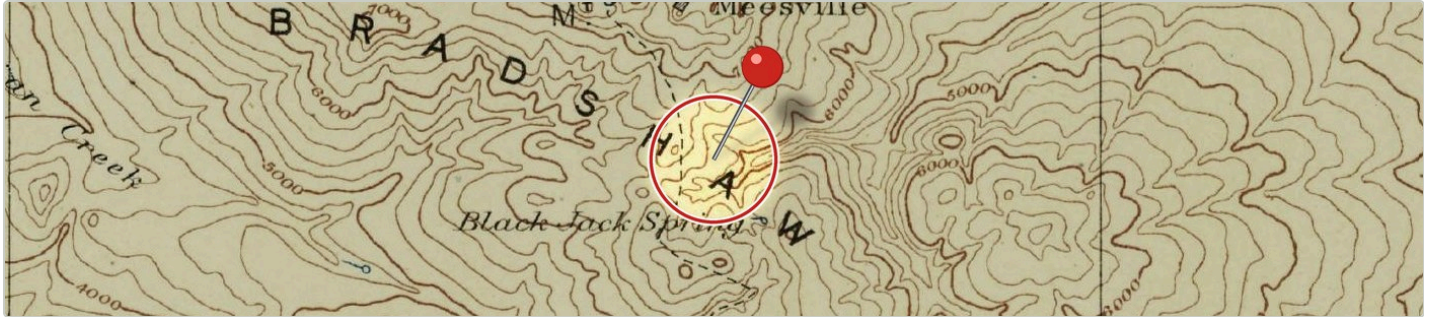
A SAMPLE DAY

- ☐ 8 a.m. Leave downtown Prescott east on Gurley Street, which becomes AZ 69. Our router turns off on Antelope Creek and Blue Bell Mine roads, a back way we haven't checked, then climbs Crown King Road from Cleator. It's about 2 hours.
- ☐ 10 a.m. Park and walk Main Street. Find the general store with the post office, the red one-room schoolhouse and the cemetery nearby.
- ☐ 11 a.m. Lunch at the Crown King Saloon, the two-story building moved here board by board from Oro Belle. It opens at 11.
- ☐ 12:30 p.m. With a high-clearance vehicle, drive about 2 miles out the Senator Highway to [Bradshaw City](#), where stone foundations and a cemetery were reported in 2004–05. Or go about 8 miles north to [Hooper](#).
- ☐ 2 p.m. Start down Crown King Road. After about half an hour, stop in [Cleator](#). Its bar is open until 5 p.m., or 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.
- ☐ 4:30 p.m. Back in downtown Prescott, about 1 h 30 min from Cleator by our router.

Coming from Phoenix? I-17 to exit 248 and Crown King Road takes about 2 h 05 min, so leave by 8 a.m. to arrive around 10. Either way, plan to be off the dirt by dark. The local lodging business advises against driving the road at night if you don't know it.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The saloon.** The two-story front is the town's landmark. It photographs well at dusk with the lights on, as in the gallery below.
- **Main Street.** Frame the saloon with the off-road vehicles parked out front. The photo at the top of this page shows it in an April 2025 snow.
- **The schoolhouse.** The red one-room school still has pupils. Photograph it from the road.
- **The climb.** Crown King Road climbs from saguaros into the pines on the old railroad grade. It's often one lane, so pull fully off before you stop.
- **Drones.** The Forest Service lets hobbyists fly over national forest land under FAA rules but bans drones in wilderness areas. Most buildings in town are private homes, so don't fly over them without permission.



USGS topographic map, 1887 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	51 mi, about 2 h 02 min each way from downtown Prescott. From Phoenix: 79 mi, about 2 h 07 min.
OPEN	A living village on public roads, open all year. Businesses keep their own hours. Most old buildings are homes, so look from the road.
FEES	None to visit the town.
FOOD	The Crown King Saloon & Eatery serves burgers, sandwiches and snacks from 11 a.m. It's closed Tuesdays, and its website contradicts itself about Wednesdays, so call 928-632-7053 first. No pets (as of October 2026).
RESTROOMS	We found no public restrooms listed.
ROAD	Graded dirt for the last 28 miles from I-17, often one lane. Fine for cars when dry; 4WD may be needed in snow or monsoon storms. The Senator Highway from Prescott needs high clearance.
SERVICES	No auto services between I-17 and Crown King. Carry water, blankets and a first-aid kit, and check your tires before you leave the pavement.
CELL SIGNAL	Sketchy in town, a local lodging business says. It reports that AT&T and Verizon work best.
PERMITS	None listed for the town.

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 34.20560, -112.33860 · 34°12'20"N
112°20'19"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/arizona/crown-king/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

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