DAY TRIP TO HARSHAW

From Patagonia · Santa Cruz County, Arizona

SILVER MINING

Photo: The Old Pueblo, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0

ROADSIDE RUINS

Townsite on a public forest road. Most buildings are on a private ranch. Checked against Forest Service (2025) and local news (2025) sources.

Harshaw is 20 minutes from Patagonia on Harshaw Road, an easy morning on its own. Most of its buildings belong to a working ranch, so you see them from the road, but the roadside cemetery is open to visitors. For a full day, carry on around the Forest Service's 45-mile Patagonia Mountains and Harshaw Scenic Loop.

A SAMPLE DAY

☐	8:30 a.m.	Pick up coffee and a sandwich for later at Gathering Grounds on McKeown Avenue in Patagonia.
☐	9 a.m.	Drive south on Harshaw Road, about 20 minutes to the townsite.
☐	**9:20 a.m.**	Stop at the Forest Service sign and the cemetery on the west side of the road.
☐	10 a.m.	Bear left at the Y for about a quarter mile to see the Finley House from the road. Look for the Arias adobe at the edge of the ranch.
☐	11 a.m.	Continue south on FR 49 to Washington Camp and Duquesne. Both are private; look from the road.
☐	12:30 p.m.	Eat your packed lunch at a pullout. There are no facilities on the loop.
☐	1:30 p.m.	Take Duquesne Road (FR 61) west over the mountains to AZ 82, then follow AZ 82 northeast back to Patagonia to close the 45-mile loop.

Coming from Tucson? Allow about 1 hour 40 minutes, and leave by 7:30 a.m. to reach Harshaw a little after 9.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The Finley House.** Use a longer lens from the road, since you can't go closer. The red roof and long porch stand out against the trees.
- **Adobe walls.** The Arias ruin and the walls near the Y are roofless, so low morning or evening light falls through the doorways.
- **The cemetery.** Many graves carry painted crosses and fresh flowers. Shoot respectfully, and close the gate behind you.
- **Harshaw Creek.** The creek runs beside the road under big trees north of the townsite. Check the crossings before you drive through.
- **Drones.** The Coronado National Forest allows recreational flights under FAA rules, in daylight, within sight and below 400 feet, and not near wildlife. The ranch is private, so don't fly over it.

USGS topographic map, 1905 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	8 mi, about 20 min each way from downtown Patagonia. From Tucson: 69 mi, about 1 h 40 min.
FEES	None. The Forest Service charges no fee for the Harshaw Road scenic drive.
ROAD	Paved most of the way, then dirt. The Forest Service says the dirt roads suit most vehicles but recommends high clearance, and they can be impassable after rain or snow. Harshaw Creek crosses the road four times; check the depth before you drive through.
TRAFFIC	Expect mining trucks between Patagonia and South32's Hermosa mine.
RESTROOMS	None on the drive.
FOOD AND WATER	None past Patagonia, which the Forest Service names as the nearest place to buy water. Pack a lunch, or picnic at the shaded tables in Patagonia's central park.
FUEL	The Forest Service advises bringing plenty of fuel, tools and a spare tire. We couldn't confirm a gas station in Patagonia in October 2026, so arrive with a full tank.
CEMETERY	The roadside cemetery is on Forest Service land and open to the public. Visit respectfully, and close the gate when you leave.
PRIVATE LAND	The Finley House and the ranch adobes are private. Arizona Highways says you may look at the Finley House from the road as long as you go no closer.
CELL SIGNAL	Limited, the Forest Service says.
RULES	Federal rules bar removing or damaging historic objects on national forest land. Stay on designated roads.

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 31.46730, −110.70700 · 31°28′02″N 110°42′25″W

Directions Google Maps

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/arizona/harshaw/

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