



DAY TRIP TO JEROME

From Cottonwood · Yavapai County, Arizona



COPPER MINING



Photo: dbking from Washington, DC, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 2.0

LIVING TOWN

Incorporated town with shops, galleries, a state park and a mining museum. Open to visitors year-round.

Jerome is an easy day from Cottonwood, 15 minutes down the hill. It's a living town, with restaurants and shops on Main Street, and most of its history is on the street or in two small museums. Start at the state park when it opens, before the town's paid parking begins at 10 a.m., then walk the town.

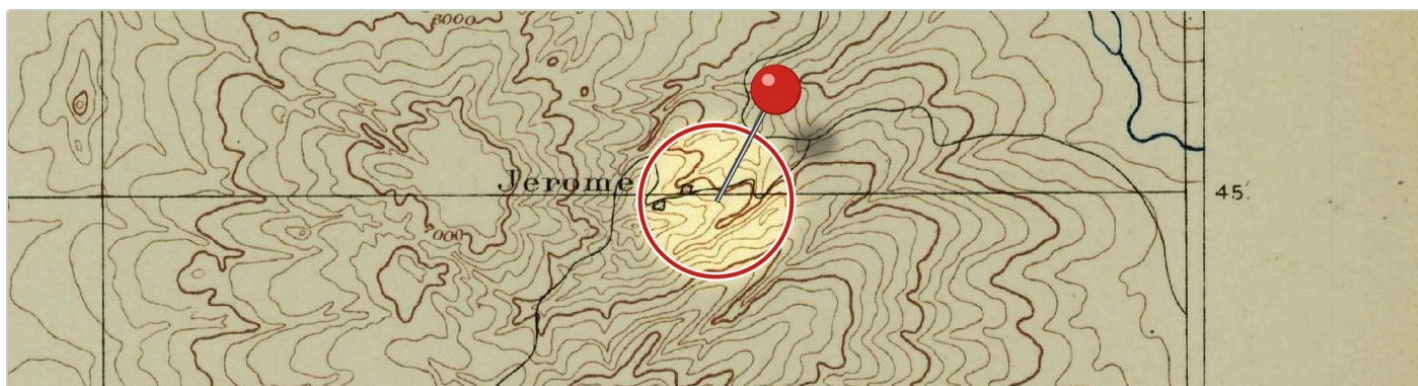
A SAMPLE DAY

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| ☐ 8:45 a.m. | Leave central Cottonwood on AZ 89A. It's about 15 minutes up the hill. |
| ☐ 9 a.m. | Jerome State Historic Park opens. In the 1916 Douglas Mansion, see the 3-D model of the town and the mines beneath it, the video and the mineral displays. |
| ☐ 10:30 a.m. | Drive up into town and park for the day. On Fridays, weekends and some holidays, you can park free at the 300 Level lot instead and ride the shuttle from 11 a.m. Start at the Sliding Jail beside the lower lot. |
| ☐ 11 a.m. | The Jerome Historical Society's Mine Museum on Main Street, with mining tools, ore carts and saloon relics. |
| ☐ Noon | Lunch on Main Street. |
| ☐ 1 p.m. | Walk Main Street and Hull Avenue past the brick business blocks, then climb to the old high school galleries. The Jerome Grand Hotel, once the United Verde Hospital, looks down from the top of town. |
| ☐ Late afternoon | Drive back down to Cottonwood, about 15 minutes. |

Coming from Phoenix? The drive is about 2 h 10 min each way. Leave by about 6:45 a.m. to reach the state park when it opens.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The Sliding Jail.** It sits beside the lower parking lot, about 200 feet below where it was built. Frame it with the slope above to show how far it moved.
- **Main Street from above.** Walk a block or two uphill and shoot down over the rooftops toward the Verde Valley, as in the photo at the top of this guide.
- **The Douglas Mansion.** Shoot the front from the lawn. The picnic area beside it has a wide view over the Verde Valley.
- **The Little Daisy Hotel.** It stands north of the mansion and is seen only from outside, so bring a longer lens.
- **The Jerome Grand Hotel.** The old hospital sits at the top of town and shows in most views up Main Street.
- **The San Francisco Peaks.** They can be seen from town on the northeastern skyline, as a gallery photo shows.



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

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	8 mi, about 13 min each way from central Cottonwood. From Phoenix: 110 mi, about 2 h 10 min.
STATE PARK	Jerome State Historic Park, 100 Douglas Road: daily 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., closed Christmas, shorter hours on Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve. \$10 for adults 14 and over, \$5 for ages 7 to 13, free for younger children.
MINE MUSEUM	The Jerome Historical Society's museum at 200 Main Street is open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., hours subject to change. Admission is \$2 for adults and free under 12.
PARKING	Town lots and parts of Main Street and Hull Avenue cost \$5 a day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., by card at the kiosks. Disability placards park free. The 300 Level lot on Perkinsville Road is free.
SHUTTLE	A free town shuttle runs Fridays 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturdays, Sundays and some holidays 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Stops include the 300 Level lot, Main Street and the state park.
RESTROOMS	Accessible restrooms at the state park. The town's website doesn't list public restrooms.
FOOD AND WATER	Restaurants on Main Street and Hull Avenue. The state park has a picnic area outside the mansion, but no food or drink is allowed in the museum.
ROAD	AZ 89A is paved the whole way and fine for any car. It switchbacks steeply through town.
ON FOOT	The town climbs Cleopatra Hill, so every walk has hills. Keep to streets and public paths, away from mine workings. Most historic buildings are homes or businesses.
PETS	Leashed pets are allowed on the state park grounds, but not inside the museum.
DRONES	Arizona State Parks bans recreational drones in its parks. Commercial filming there is reviewed through a state parks filming permit.
WEATHER	July highs average about 90°F, January highs about 50°F. Some winter snow; windy spring and fall.
WEBSITE	jerome.az.gov

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 34.74890, -112.10830 • 34°44'56"N
112°06'30"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/arizona/jerome/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

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