



DAY TRIP TO KLONDYKE

From Safford · Graham County, Arizona



FARM AND
RANCH



Photo: Bureau of Land Management, Wikimedia Commons, Public domain

NEAR GHOST TOWN

A handful of occupied homes and a store that reopened in 2026. Most land is private. Checked against Arizona Highways (2026) and BLM pages (October 2026).

Klondyke is a long way down a dirt road, about an hour and 40 minutes from Safford, so plan a full day and bring what you need. In town, the store, the schoolhouse and the cemetery make a short stop. Most visitors come for Aravaipa Canyon, and hiking there takes a permit booked ahead.

A SAMPLE DAY

- ☐ 7 a.m. Leave Safford west on US 70 through Thatcher and Pima, and turn left on Klondyke Road. The pavement ends within the first mile.
- ☐ 8:40 a.m. Reach Klondyke. See the adobe store and the 1907 schoolhouse, and ask before walking up to the cemetery where the Power family lies.
- ☐ 9:30 a.m. Continue on Aravaipa Canyon Road to the East Aravaipa Trailhead at Bear Canyon. Drive slowly through the creek crossings.
- ☐ Late morning With a permit, walk the 1.9 miles of closed road to the wilderness boundary and on into the canyon. Without one, turn back and picnic at Fourmile Canyon Campground.
- ☐ 2:30 p.m. Start back. It's about 1 h 40 min from Klondyke to Safford, plus the drive out from the trailhead.

From Tucson, the routed drive by way of Bonita takes about 3 h 35 min each way, too long for a day trip. Stay in Safford, or camp at Fourmile Canyon, where 10 first-come sites cost \$5 a night.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The adobe store and schoolhouse.** Klondyke's two landmarks. Shoot them from the road and keep occupied homes out of the frame.
- **The Power headstones.** Jeff Power's stone reads "Shot down with his hands up in his own door." Ask first, and photograph the inscriptions without touching the stones.
- **Aravaipa Canyon.** Sheer walls, a creek that runs all year and saguaros on the slopes. There are no trails inside, so you'll be walking along the creek. Keep your camera in a dry bag.
- **The valley road.** Klondyke Road crosses open range with wide views. Pull fully off the road before you film, and watch for cattle.
- **Drones.** Not allowed in the wilderness. The Nature Conservancy's preserve along the road bans them too.



USGS topographic map, 1938 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	47 mi, about 1 h 42 min each way from downtown Safford. From Tucson: 161 mi, about 3 h 34 min.
STORE	Arizona Highways reports the adobe store open again as of mid-2026. We found no posted hours.
SERVICES	No restrooms or water listed in town. The BLM's Fourmile Canyon Campground, about a mile southwest, has a toilet but no water. Stock up in Safford.
ROAD	Klondyke Road is paved for under a mile, then wide, smooth dirt that most vehicles can handle in good weather. Past Klondyke you need high clearance. The BLM warns of creek crossings with no bridges that flash floods can make impassable; call the Safford Field Office at 928-348-4400.
ARAVAIPA PERMIT	Required to hike in the canyon, even for a day. Book on Recreation.gov up to 13 weeks ahead: \$5 a person a day, plus a \$6 reservation fee. Pets aren't allowed, and drones can't launch, land or be flown from inside the wilderness.
ROAD CLOSURE	As of October 16, 2026, Hurricane Polo damage has closed the road to vehicles past the East Aravaipa Trailhead at Bear Canyon. From there it's 1.9 miles on foot along the road to the wilderness boundary.
CEMETERY	On private land on a hill southeast of town. Ask at the ranch house before you walk up.

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 32.83530, -110.33220 • 32°50'07"N
110°19'56"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/arizona/klondyke/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

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