



DAY TRIP TO MILLVILLE

From Tombstone · Cochise County, Arizona



SILVER MINING



Photo: Unknown author, Wikimedia Commons, Public domain

PUBLIC LAND · TRAIL

BLM conservation area, free day use in daylight. Signed trail from Charleston Road to the mill ruins and petroglyphs.

Millville makes a short morning from Tombstone. It's 15 minutes on paved Charleston Road, then a walk of 1.5 to 2.5 miles. There's no water or shade on the trail, so start early. Add the Battle of the Bulls monument at the river and a picnic at Fairbank, and you have a full day.

A SAMPLE DAY

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| ☐ 8 a.m. | Leave Tombstone on Charleston Road, about 15 minutes to the trailhead. |
| ☐ 8:15 a.m. | Start walking. The path leads to an overlook above the mill site, drops into a wash and climbs to the terraces. |
| ☐ 9:15 a.m. | Explore the mill foundations, the outline of Gird's house and the slag piles. |
| ☐ 10 a.m. | Take the branch trail to the petroglyph panels along the river, then walk back to the car. |
| ☐ 11 a.m. | Drive a quarter mile down Charleston Road to the river crossing, where a monument marks the 1846 Battle of the Bulls. |
| ☐ Noon | Drive back through Tombstone to Fairbank , about 18 miles, and picnic at its shaded tables. Its schoolhouse museum opens Friday to Sunday until 4:30 p.m. |
| ☐ Dinner | Back in Tombstone , Big Nose Kate's Saloon on Allen Street serves food until 8 p.m., or 8:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. |

Coming from Tucson? Allow about 1 hour 40 minutes, and leave by 6:30 a.m. to start walking at 8:15.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The overlook.** The view from above the mill site shows how the terraces step down the hill. Early light picks out the stone.
- **Dry-laid walls.** The mill walls were stacked without mortar. Get close and fill the frame with their texture.
- **Slag.** Dark slag below the pale stone walls makes a strong contrast.
- **Petroglyphs.** Shoot from the trail and don't touch the rock. Removing or damaging rock art on BLM land is against federal law.
- **The trailhead sign.** The BLM sign at the parking area names the Millville Historic Townsite and Rock Art Discovery Trail. It makes a clean opening shot for a video.



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

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	9 mi, about 17 min each way from Tombstone's historic district. From Tucson: 84 mi, about 1 h 41 min.
OPEN	Daylight hours. Day use is free and needs no permit.
ROAD	Paved Charleston Road from Tombstone to the trailhead parking area on the north side of the road, about half a mile east of the river.
RESTROOMS	A vault toilet at the trailhead parking area.
FOOD AND WATER	None listed for the site. Bring water and a snack, and plan to eat in Tombstone.
SHADE	None on the walk, the Friends of the San Pedro River say. Wear a hat and sun protection.
ON FOOT	About 1.5 miles round trip to the mill ruins and 2.5 miles with the petroglyph panels. The trail is uneven dirt and gravel and crosses a deep wash. Wear sturdy shoes.
GUIDED WALK	The Friends of the San Pedro River lead a free history walk here on Saturday, November 14, 2026, from 9 to 11 a.m. Meet by the trailhead vault toilet. No reservation is needed, but you sign a waiver.
RULES	Leave artifacts, slag and rock art as you find them. Overnight backcountry camping needs a BLM permit, \$2 per person per night.

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 31.63630, -110.17170 · 31°38'11"N
110°10'18"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/arizona/millville/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

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