



DAY TRIP TO OATMAN

From Kingman · Mohave County, Arizona



GOLD MINING



Photo: Dariusz Jemielniak, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0

LIVING TOWN

A small inhabited town (102 people in 2020) that lives on Route 66 tourism. Checked against January 2026 reporting.

From Kingman, Oatman makes an easy day on old Route 66. The drive over Sitgreaves Pass is half the fun, and it runs right past [Goldroad](#). In town you can walk Main Street, meet the burros and catch a staged shootout. There are restaurants in town. The BLM doesn't list fuel in Oatman, so fill up in Kingman.

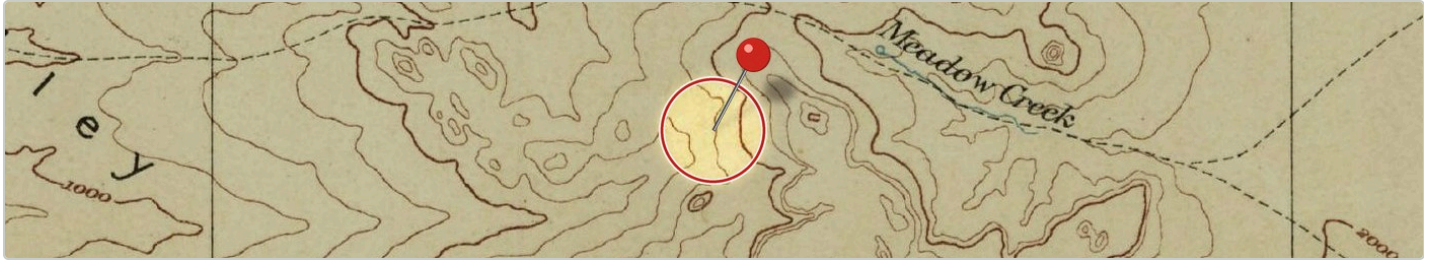
A SAMPLE DAY

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| ☐ 9 a.m. | Leave Kingman on I-40 west. At the McConnico exit, follow Oatman Road, Historic Route 66. |
| ☐ About 9:40 a.m. | Climb over Sitgreaves Pass, 3,550 feet, and wind down the grade past the working mine at Goldroad . The mine is private, so look from the highway. |
| ☐ About 10 a.m. | Reach Oatman, park where you can and walk Main Street. The chamber says about a dozen burros usually show up. |
| ☐ 11 a.m. | Step into the 1902 adobe Oatman Hotel, with its bar and restaurant downstairs and museum upstairs. |
| ☐ 12:30 p.m. | Lunch on Main Street, at the hotel or one of the other restaurants. |
| ☐ 1:30 p.m. | Watch the first shootout of the afternoon on Main Street. There's a second at 3:30. |
| ☐ 2:30 p.m. | Drive back over the pass, about 55 minutes. Or take Boundary Cone Road to Bullhead City, see the Hardyville pioneer cemetery and return on AZ 68. |
| ☐ 3:30 p.m. | In Kingman, the Arizona Route 66 Museum on Andy Devine Avenue is open daily until 5 p.m., last entry 4:30. Adults \$10. |
| ☐ Dinner | Mr. D's Route 66 Diner, at 105 E. Andy Devine Ave in Kingman, is open daily until 8 p.m. |

Coming from Las Vegas? The fastest route runs through Bullhead City and up Boundary Cone Road, which avoids the pass. Leave by about 7:20 a.m. to reach Oatman by 10.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The burros.** Get down to their eye level for portraits. Keep a respectful distance, and don't use food to pose them.
- **Main Street.** Step back to a corner to get the wooden storefronts and the Black Mountains' crags in one frame.
- **The Oatman Hotel.** The National Park Service calls it the only historic two-story adobe in Mohave County. Shoot the front from across the street.
- **The shootouts.** Good for video. Pick your spot along the street before the show starts.
- **Sitgreaves Pass.** The hairpins below the pass made the old postcards. Stop only where it's safe to pull off, since the road is narrow and steep.
- **Elephants Tooth.** The peak named on the USGS sheets rises just east of town. Frame it above the rooftops.
- **Mine country.** Tailings and old shafts ring the town. Photograph them from public roads and stay out of the workings.



USGS topographic map, 1886 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	28 mi, about 55 min each way from downtown Kingman. From Las Vegas: 126 mi, about 2 h 39 min.
OPEN	All year. Oatman is a lived-in town, and shops, saloons and the hotel bar keep their own hours. We found no town-wide schedule.
SHOOTOUTS	The Oatman-Gold Road Chamber of Commerce lists Wild West shootouts on Main Street at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. daily. Times can change with the weather, special events and crowds.
FOOD AND DRINK	The Oatman Hotel has a bar and restaurant on the ground floor and a museum upstairs. Other restaurants and shops line Main Street.
RESTROOMS	None listed by the chamber, the Kingman tourism office or the BLM.
FUEL AND WATER	The BLM lists fuel in Kingman, Golden Valley, Bullhead City and Fort Mohave, and advises carrying water, a spare tire and food on the byway.
ROAD	Paved all the way. The Kingman approach climbs over Sitgreaves Pass with hairpins and steep grades. Vehicles over 40 feet aren't allowed, and the BLM recommends an automatic transmission.
PARKING	Limited. RVs and trailers often struggle to find a space.
BURROS	They're wild animals. Mohave County signs ban feeding any burro standing in the roadway, and the chamber warns that the BLM discourages feeding and that fines can be given. Keep clear when they fight.
ON FOOT	Main Street is about a quarter mile of storefronts along the old highway. Watch for cars and burros in the street.
SEASON	The BLM recommends October through April. Summer heat is severe.
WEBSITE	oatmangoldroad.org

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 35.02750, -114.38390 • 35°01'39"N
114°23'02"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/arizona/oatman/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

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