



DAY TRIP TO PINAL

From Superior · Pinal County, Arizona



SILVER MINING

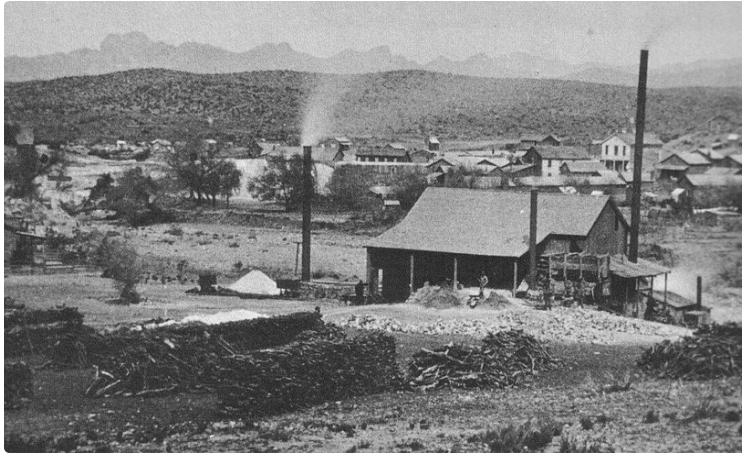


Photo: Unknown photographer, Wikimedia Commons, Public domain

OPEN ON FOOT

Ruins on a public trail, on land reported as Town of Superior or Tonto National Forest land.

You see Pinal on foot. The Legends of Superior Trail runs down the old Main Street, and numbered posts mark the ruins. Go early and carry plenty of water, as the Forest Service advises. [Silver King](#), the mine Pinal milled for, is private and closed, so pair the walk with Boyce Thompson Arboretum, just west on US 60.

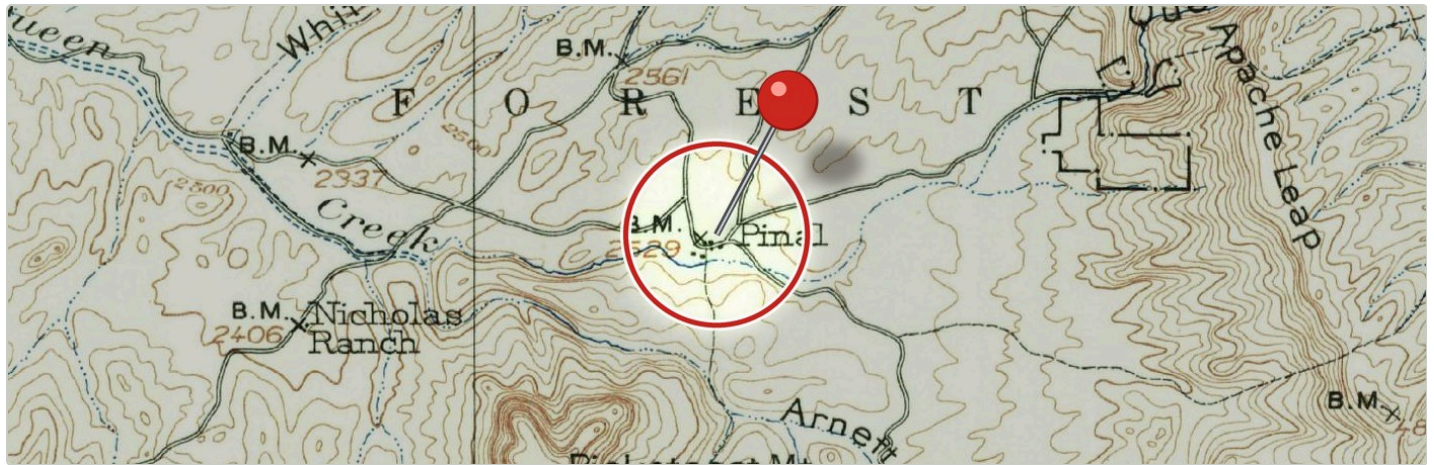
A SAMPLE DAY

- ☐ 7:30 a.m. Breakfast at The Gypsy Sisters on US 60, open from 6 a.m. Tuesday to Saturday.
- ☐ 8:15 a.m. Drive west on US 60 toward the airport, about 10 minutes, and park.
- ☐ 8:30 a.m. Follow the posts west into Pinal City. The trail climbs through melted adobe walls onto Main Street, past the Pinal Hotel foundation and the mill's flat waste dump.
- ☐ 9:30 a.m. Look down on the mill ruins from the top of Mill Hill. Farther on, find the wagon ruts cut into the soft tuff and the grade of the Magma Arizona Railroad.
- ☐ 11 a.m. Walk back to the car before the midday heat.
- ☐ Noon Boyce Thompson Arboretum, on US 60 west of Superior, is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. from October through March, with last admission at 4 p.m. Adults pay \$24.95 and children 5 to 12 pay \$10. Leashed pets are allowed.

From Phoenix the drive is about 1 h 25 min. Leave by 7 a.m. to be walking by 8:30.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **Wagon ruts.** The ruts worn into soft volcanic rock are the townsite's best close-up. Shoot low along them in raking morning light.
- **Picketpost Mountain.** The peak that shares the camp's first name rises to the southwest and makes a strong backdrop for the ruins.
- **Mill Hill.** Shoot the mill ruins from the top, where the Forest Service asks you to stay. A wide lens takes in the walls stepping down the slope.
- **Melted adobe.** The low adobe walls at the east end of Main Street are easy to miss. Side light shows their shape.
- **The cemetery.** The gate and Mattie Earp's memorial marker are worth a respectful photo. The access road is unmarked, so ask the Globe Ranger District first, and leave everything as you find it.
- **Walk-in video.** The numbered posts make a ready-made sequence for a walking video from the trailhead to Mill Hill.



USGS topographic map, 1900 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	3 mi, about 12 min each way from central Superior. From Phoenix: 64 mi, about 1 h 25 min.
OPEN	The trail group says all segments of the trail are open for hiking, biking and riding. No hours are posted.
FEES	None. The Forest Service's trail page listed no fees.
PARKING	The Town of Superior says there's parking at the trailheads. The Forest Service's 2013 brochure starts walkers at the Airport Trailhead, about a mile west of town. We haven't confirmed how it's signed today.
RESTROOMS AND WATER	None listed at the townsite or the Airport Trailhead.
FOOD	None on the trail. The Town of Superior's food list includes The Gypsy Sisters, a café on US 60 open Tuesday to Saturday, 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.
ON FOOT	The Pinal City segment is 1.2 miles of natural-surface trail, 18 to 24 inches wide, on the trail group's 2020 map. Wear sturdy shoes or boots and watch for snakes.
ROAD	Our routed approach ends on about a mile of unnamed dirt tracks that an undated listing rates 4WD. Parking at a trailhead and walking in avoids them.
RULES	Don't disturb the ruins or take artifacts, the Forest Service asks. View the unstabilized mill ruins from the top of Mill Hill. The Historic Pinal Cemetery is protected by federal law.

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 33.27806, -111.13917 · 33°16'41"N
111°08'21"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/arizona/pinal/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

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