



DAY TRIP TO TORTILLA FLAT

From Apache Junction · Maricopa County, Arizona



RAILROAD AND
ROAD



Photo: Beyond My Ken, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0

OPEN DAILY

A privately run stop on a Tonto National Forest lease, with six residents. Saloon, store, gift shop and museum open daily.

Tortilla Flat makes an easy half day from Apache Junction on the paved Apache Trail. Come for a meal at the saloon, browse the store and walk to the schoolhouse museum at the end of the street. Canyon Lake is on the way in.

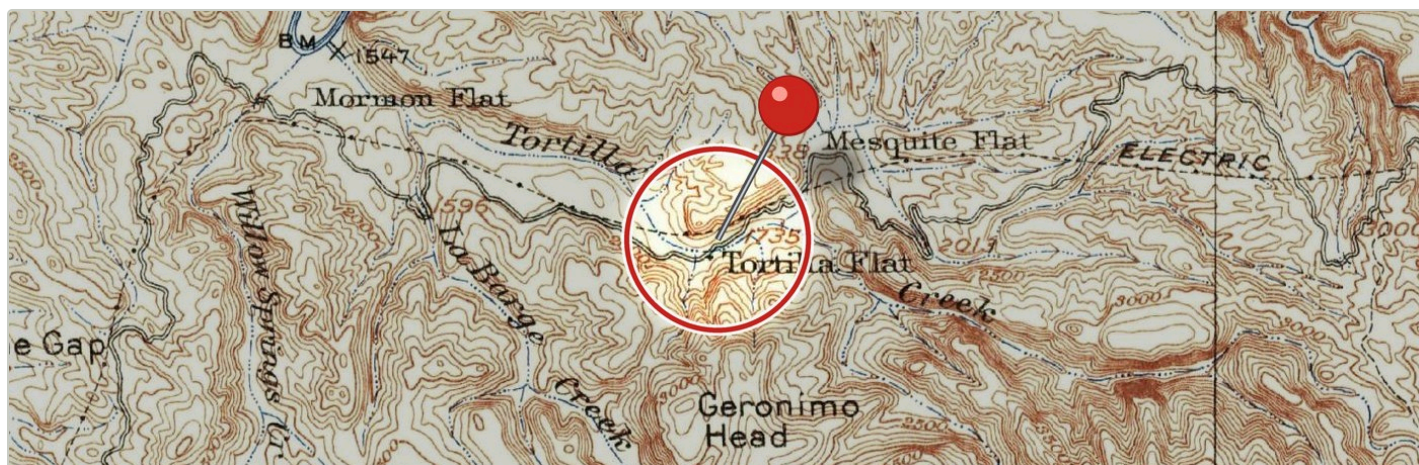
A SAMPLE DAY

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| ☐ Morning | Leave Apache Junction and drive north on the Apache Trail (AZ 88), about half an hour, past Canyon Lake. |
| ☐ Late morning | Walk the street: country store, mercantile, the false fronts and the schoolhouse museum at the end of town. |
| ☐ Lunch | Eat at the Superstition Saloon, among the signed dollar bills and saddle bar stools. |
| ☐ Afternoon | Head back on AZ 88. Don't continue east unless you drive a high-clearance 4WD; the road turns unpaved beyond town. |

On weekends, arrive by 8 a.m. for breakfast at the saloon.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The street from the southwest.** Step back to fit schoolhouse, store, saloon and mercantile in one frame, as in the 2021 panorama.
- **The saloon walls.** Dollar bills paper the walls and saddles serve as bar stools. Light is dim, so expose for the interior.
- **Boardwalk toilet seats.** The website names the toilet seats hanging off the boardwalk as a favorite photo spot.
- **The schoolhouse.** The red replica schoolhouse at the end of town holds the museum.
- **Drones.** The website doesn't mention them. The town is a private business on forest land, so ask before you fly.



USGS topographic map, 1907 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	17 mi, about 29 min each way from downtown Apache Junction. From Phoenix: 51 mi, about 1 h 14 min.
OPEN	Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., per the town's website. Weekend breakfast runs 8 to 10:30 a.m.
ADMISSION	The website lists no admission charge for the town or the museum.
TIME ON SITE	The website doesn't say. The street is short; a meal and a walk around fit in an hour or two.
RESTROOMS	In the saloon, which the website pitches as a photo stop of its own.
FOOD AND WATER	The saloon and restaurant serve burgers, chili and drinks daily. The country store sells prickly pear gelato, fudge and nuts.
SUN AND SHADE	The website doesn't say. Summers are hot at 1,750 feet, so bring water and a hat.
PHOTOGRAPHY	The website invites visitors to post photos tagged #tortillaflat and lists no photography rules.
WEBSITE	tortillaflataz.com

BEFORE YOU GO

- Check the status with the land manager before you go; conditions change.
- Keep out of unstable buildings and off fenced ruins.
- 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 33.52640, -111.38990 • 33°31'35"N
111°23'24"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/arizona/tortilla-flat/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

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