



DAY TRIP TO VULTURE CITY

From Wickenburg · Maricopa County, Arizona



GOLD MINING



Photo: Andwhatsnext, aka Nancy J Price, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 3.0

OPEN SEASONALLY

Privately owned, paid admission. Self-guided visits Thursday to Sunday in season.

From Wickenburg, Vulture City is an easy half day. The ghost town has restrooms, water and shaded seating. There's no restaurant, so pack a lunch or eat in town. Add Wickenburg's Western museum in the afternoon and you have a full day.

A SAMPLE DAY

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| ☐ 9:30 a.m. | Leave Wickenburg. Take US 60 west, then Vulture Mine Road south, about half an hour in all. |
| ☐ 10 a.m. | The gates open. Pick up the printed map and start with the assay office and the hanging tree. |
| ☐ 11 a.m. | On Sundays, join the free guided history tour. It's included with admission and takes about an hour. |
| ☐ 12:30 p.m. | Eat your packed lunch at the covered dining area. |
| ☐ 1:30 p.m. | Head back to Wickenburg, or stay until the 3 p.m. close for a gold-panning or blacksmithing session. |
| ☐ Afternoon | From Tuesday to Saturday the Sigler Western Museum on Frontier Street is open until 5 p.m. Downstairs, life-size dioramas recreate Wickenburg in 1912. Admission is \$17 for adults and free for children 17 and under. |

Coming from Phoenix? Leave by about 8:15 a.m. to arrive at opening.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The assay office.** Built of stone in 1884. Morning light, soon after opening, shows the texture of the walls best.
- **The hanging tree.** Step well back to fit the whole ironwood and its sign. Wickenburg's house ruins are beside it.
- **The headframe.** Shoot the timber headframe over the mine from low down to set it against the sky.
- **Miner's Manor.** An art installation by Ray Villafane that changes with the seasons. The site bills it as a photo stop.
- **Inside the buildings.** You can step into the restored buildings. Interiors are dark next to the desert glare, so expose for the inside.
- **Smithy and gold pans.** Blacksmithing and gold-panning sessions make good video. They're booked and paid for separately.
- **Saturday shootouts.** Most Saturdays, the Wickenburg Marshals and Vulture City Gunslingers stage Old West shootouts. Check the events calendar for times.
- **Drones.** The official site doesn't mention them. This is private property, so ask before you fly.



USGS The National Map, aerial imagery with US Topo labels (public domain). The ring and pin mark the guide's coordinates.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	15 mi, about 28 min each way from downtown Wickenburg. From Phoenix: 72 mi, about 1 h 42 min.
OPEN	Mid-October to mid-May, Thursday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. In summer it opens only for special events.
ADMISSION	\$16 adults, \$12 seniors 65 and over and veterans, \$8 children 5 to 12, free under 5. Buying online saves \$3 a ticket.
TIME ON SITE	Allow about 1.5 hours to walk it yourself. The free Sunday tour at 11 a.m. takes about an hour.
RESTROOMS	On site, including ADA restrooms.
FOOD AND WATER	No restaurant. Water is available, and there's a covered dining area for a packed lunch. Food vendors come only for special events.
SUN AND SHADE	There's shaded seating around the property. Bring a hat, sunscreen and sunglasses.
ON FOOT	Cars stay in the parking area. Concrete and gravel ADA paths link the main buildings. Wear closed-toe shoes.
PHOTOGRAPHY	Professional sessions such as portraits and engagement shoots need an advance booking at \$175 an hour, which includes admission for up to four people. Commercial filming starts at \$150 an hour with a two-hour minimum.
WEBSITE	vulturecityghosttown.com

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 33.81720, -112.83310 • 33°49′02″N
112°49′59″W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/arizona/vulture-city/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

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