



DAY TRIP TO WALKER

From Prescott · Yavapai County, Arizona



GOLD MINING



Photo: Benjamin Cody, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 3.0

LIVING COMMUNITY

Unincorporated community of private homes inside Prescott National Forest. The 1880s charcoal kiln is on public land.

Walker is 20 minutes from downtown Prescott on paved Walker Road. The old camp is scattered among private homes, so plan a half day: the charcoal kiln, a slow drive through the townsite and a stop at Lynx Lake on the way back. We found no store or restaurant in Walker, so eat in Prescott.

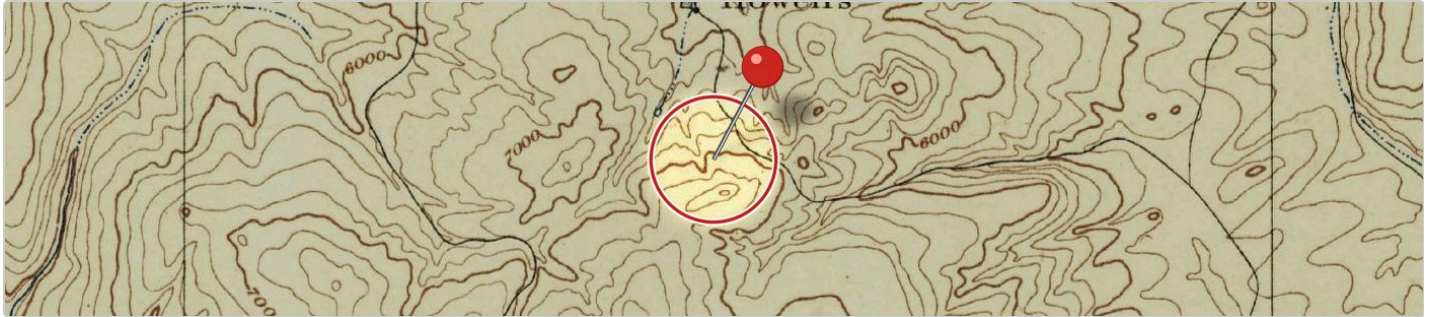
A SAMPLE DAY

- ☐ 9 a.m. Leave downtown Prescott east on Gurley Street, which becomes AZ 69, and turn right on Walker Road. It's about 20 minutes to Walker.
- ☐ 9:20 a.m. Stop at the townsite sign just south of the Big Bug Mesa Road junction. Then walk the quarter-mile trail to the charcoal kiln.
- ☐ 10:30 a.m. Drive on past the fire station, near where the Poland Tunnel's Walker portal was, and the pink car on Pink Car Road. The pavement ends at the Lynx Creek bridge, beside a cluster of more than a hundred mailboxes.
- ☐ 11:15 a.m. Head back north on Walker Road and stop at Lynx Lake's North Shore for a walk by the water.
- ☐ Afternoon Back in Prescott, the Sharlot Hall Museum at 415 West Gurley Street is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday from October to April. It's closed Mondays. Admission is \$17 for adults, \$9 for ages 10 to 17 and free for children 9 and under.

In dry weather you can come back a different way. Past the bridge, dirt Walker Road climbs about 4 miles past Potato Patch to the Senator Highway, which runs 10.9 miles back to Gurley Street and is paved for its last stretch. The Highlands Center guide calls the Senator Highway the smoother of the two. Turn back if Walker Road is muddy.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The charcoal kiln.** A granite beehive about 25 feet high, laid without mortar. Step back to fit the whole dome and the ground-level door in one frame, then move in for the vent holes around the base.
- **Lynx Creek.** The piles of placer rock along the creek are the oldest mining traces here. Shoot them from the road or forest land, not from private lots.
- **The pink car.** It has sat on Pink Car Road since 1939, and it's chained down now. Photograph it from the road.
- **The mailboxes.** More than a hundred boxes at the Lynx Creek bridge, numbered in no order. A wide shot shows the scale.
- **Fall color.** The Highlands Center guide points to maples, oaks and aspens along upper Walker Road, above town, in autumn.
- **Drones.** The Forest Service lets hobbyists fly over national forest land under FAA rules but bans drones in wilderness areas. Walker itself is private homes, so ask before you fly over anyone's land.



USGS topographic map, 1887 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	12 mi, about 20 min each way from downtown Prescott. From Phoenix: 102 mi, about 2 h 04 min.
OPEN	Walker Road is a public county road, open all year. The kiln stands on Prescott National Forest land. Homes, claims and mine workings are private.
FEES	None that we found for Walker or the kiln. Lynx Lake's North Shore day-use site charges \$5 per vehicle per day and is free on Wednesdays. From September through November it is open 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. (as of October 2026).
RESTROOMS	None that we found in Walker. Lynx Lake North Shore has toilets. As of October 2026 its page says the flush toilets are closed for repairs and portable toilets stand in.
FOOD AND WATER	None that we found in Walker. Lynx Lake North Shore has drinking water from May through October. Bring your own the rest of the year.
ROAD	Paved Walker Road to the Lynx Creek bridge in Walker, dirt beyond. 2WD. Snow is possible in winter.
ON FOOT	The kiln is a quarter-mile walk on a trail near the junction of Walker Road and Big Bug Mesa Road. Stay off mine dumps and tailings, and off private lots.
PERMITS	None listed for Walker or the kiln.

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 34.45580, -112.37830 • 34°27'21"N
112°22'42"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/arizona/walker/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

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