



DAY TRIP TO RUSH

From Yellville · Marion County, Arkansas



OTHER MINING
AND OIL



Photo: NPS photo, Wikimedia Commons, Public domain

NATIONAL RIVER

Managed by the National Park Service as the Rush Historic District. Open to visitors year-round, free.

From Yellville, Rush makes an easy half day: a slow drive down the valley past the houses, store and smelter, the short Morning Star loop, then the Mine Level Trail if your legs are up to the first climb. The park pages list no store or café at Rush, so bring lunch and water.

A SAMPLE DAY

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| ☐ Morning | Leave Yellville on AR 14 south and turn onto Rush Road, about 36 minutes in all. |
| ☐ Late morning | Park at the small gravel lot with the wooden shelter. Walk back along the road to the houses, store and smelter just before it, then take the quarter-mile Morning Star Interpretive Loop. |
| ☐ Midday | From the top of the loop, take the Mine Level Trail past the fenced mine entrances. It ends at the Rush launch lot, 1.5 miles on. |
| ☐ Afternoon | Walk back the way you came, or have lunch by the river at the launch first. |

Recreation.gov warns that the two creek crossings into Rush can flood after heavy rain. If it has been wet, call the park at 870-439-2502 before you set out.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The general store.** The Taylor-Medley General Store, by the road on the way to the trailhead. Step back down the road to set it in the trees.
- **The smelter.** The 1886 rock smelter that proved the ore was zinc. It stands by the road near the Rush Creek crossing, just before the trailhead lot.
- **House Row.** The frame houses of about 1899 line up along the valley. Fall color behind them works well.
- **Mine entrances.** The fenced portals on the Mine Level Trail. Shoot through the fencing; don't climb it.
- **Rush Creek.** The creek and the waste rock hills show how the mines reshaped the valley.



USGS topographic map, 1893 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	16 mi, about 36 min each way from downtown Yellville. From Little Rock: 122 mi, about 3 h 03 min.
OPEN	Year-round. The park posts no visiting hours for the townsite or trails; the NPS trail page (June 2024) says any time of day.
ADMISSION	Free. Buffalo National River charges no entry or day-use fee.
TIME ON SITE	The Park Service suggests 1 to 4 hours for the Morning Star Loop (about 0.25 mi) and the Mine Level Trail (1.5 mi one way).
RESTROOMS	Rush Campground, 1.5 miles down County Road 635, has a vault toilet open year-round. Non-campers may be in park campgrounds from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. The NPS trail page lists no restroom at the trailhead.
FOOD AND WATER	None listed in the valley. The campground has drinking water (a hand pump) from about March 15 to November 15. Bring food from Yellville.
ON FOOT	Steep, rocky, uneven ground. The loop is gravel; the Mine Level Trail is very steep at the start. The mines are fenced and closed to entry.
PETS	Not allowed on the Rush trails. Service animals are permitted.
DRONES	Banned. The park prohibits launching, landing or flying drones without the superintendent's written approval.
WEBSITE	nps.gov/buff/index.htm

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 36.13250, -92.57111 • 36°07'57"N
92°34'16"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/arkansas/rush/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

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