DAY TRIP TO BODIE

From Bridgeport · Mono County, California

GOLD MINING

Photo: daveynin from United States, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 2.0

STATE HISTORIC PARK

Run by California State Parks with the Bodie Foundation. Paid admission, open every day.

From Bridgeport, Bodie is about an hour each way, and the town is big enough to fill most of a day. There's drinking water and restrooms but no food or gas, so pack a lunch and fill the tank before you leave 395.

A SAMPLE DAY

☐	8 a.m.	Leave Bridgeport. Head south on US 395 and turn onto CA 270, about an hour in all.
☐	9 a.m.	The park opens. Buy the tour book and start on Main Street.
☐	10:30 a.m.	Walk Green Street to the Methodist church and look into the houses along the side streets.
☐	12:30 p.m.	Picnic lunch near the parking area.
☐	1:30 p.m.	Visit the Miners Union Hall museum if it's open, then walk up to the cemetery.
☐	3 p.m.	Head back to Bridgeport. The park closes at 4 p.m. from November 1 to May 1 and at 6 p.m. the rest of the year.

Coming from Reno? It's about 3 hours 35 minutes each way, so leave by 5:30 a.m. or plan to stay in Bridgeport.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The Methodist church.** The 1882 steeple is the tallest thing in town. Shoot it from Green Street with the hills behind.
- **Through the windows.** Rooms still hold furniture and goods. Press the lens to the glass to cut reflections.
- **The stamp mill.** From Wood Street the mill rises behind the houses, as in the photo at the top of this page.
- **Old vehicles.** Trucks and cars sit where they were left. Low morning or late light brings out the rust.
- **Drones.** Prohibited in the park.

USGS topographic map, 1909 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	23 mi, about 1 h 04 min each way from Main Street in Bridgeport. From Reno: 138 mi, about 3 h 35 min.
OPEN	Daily. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in summer, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. from November 1 to May 1.
ADMISSION	Adults $8, ages 4 to 17 $5, 3 and under free. The park says special rates may apply at peak times, holidays and weekends. Bring cash as well as a card.
TOUR BOOK	A $3 self-guided tour book supports the Bodie Foundation.
RESTROOMS	Flush toilets at the parking lot and picnic area, and outhouses across from the parking lot and near Main and Green Streets.
FOOD AND WATER	Drinking water is available. There's no food or gasoline in the park.
TOURS	The museum is open only part of the year; ask there about daily tours. Stamp mill tours are over for 2026.
PETS	Leashed dogs are allowed, but not in historic buildings, including the stamp mill, or the museum.
DRONES	Prohibited in the park.
WEBSITE	parks.ca.gov/?page_id=509

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 38.21222, −119.01222 · 38°12′44″N 119°00′44″W

Directions Google Maps

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/california/bodie/

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