



DAY TRIP TO CALICO

From Barstow · San Bernardino County, California



SILVER MINING

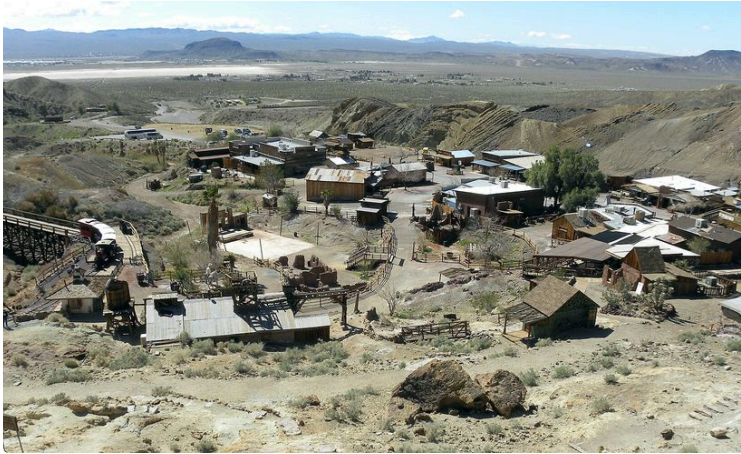


Photo: Mark A. Wilson, Wikimedia Commons, Public domain

COUNTY PARK

A restored ghost town run as a county regional park, with shops, restaurants, attractions, camping and cabins.

Calico is about 20 minutes from Barstow and makes an easy day. Arrive at the 9 a.m. opening, take the mine tour and the train before the midday heat, and eat in town.

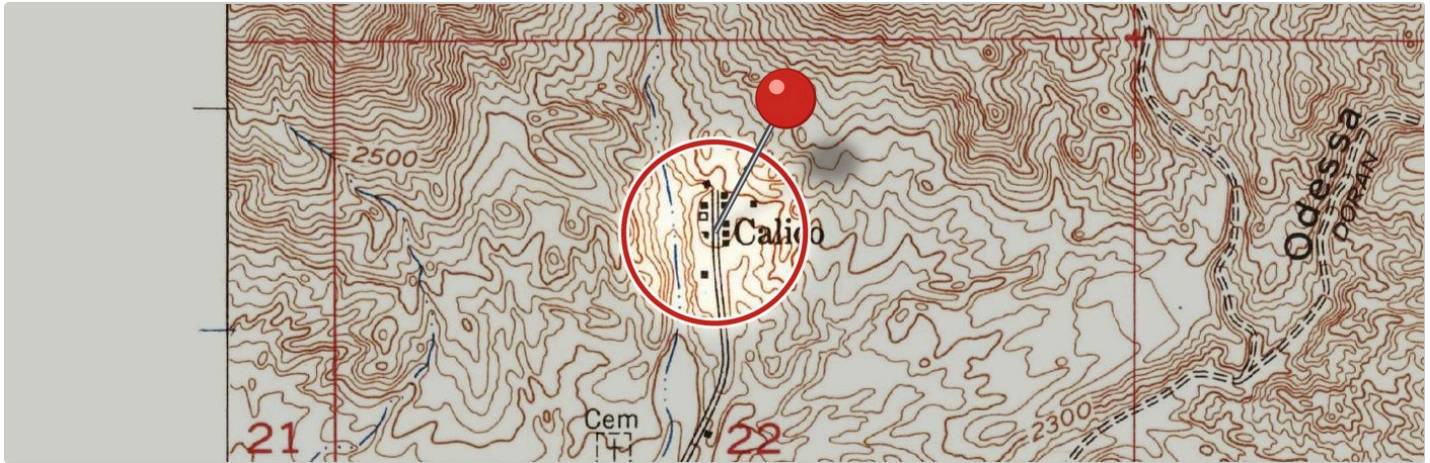
A SAMPLE DAY

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| ☐ 8:30 a.m. | Leave Barstow on I-15 north. Exit at Ghost Town Road and follow it to the gate, about 20 minutes. |
| ☐ 9 a.m. | The park opens. Walk Main Street and visit the free Lucy Lane Museum in one of the original buildings. |
| ☐ 10 a.m. | Tour the Maggie Mine, an 1880s silver mine with about 1,000 feet of tunnels, before the day heats up. |
| ☐ 11 a.m. | Ride the Calico Odessa Railroad, or try gold panning. |
| ☐ 12:30 p.m. | Lunch at the Calico House Restaurant. |
| ☐ 1:30 p.m. | Look for Lil's Saloon and Joe's Saloon among the original buildings, then head back to Barstow. |

Coming from Los Angeles? The drive is about two and a half hours without traffic. Leave by 6:30 a.m. to arrive at opening.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **Main Street and the hills.** The banded Calico Mountains behind the false fronts are the classic shot. Morning light from the east lights the street.
- **The CALICO letters.** Wikipedia notes giant letters spelling CALICO on the peaks behind town, visible from the highway. Frame them over the rooftops.
- **The mine entrances.** Timbered portals in the hillside make strong frames. Stay outside closed workings.
- **The train.** The narrow-gauge Calico Odessa Railroad is good for video as it rounds the hillside.



USGS topographic map, 1953 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	12 mi, about 22 min each way from central Barstow. From Los Angeles: 126 mi, about 2 h 27 min.
OPEN	Daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Christmas Day.
ADMISSION	\$8 adults, \$5 ages 4 to 11, free 3 and under. Festival days cost \$10 to \$20 for adults. A \$50 annual family pass covers Calico only.
ATTRACTIONS	The Maggie Mine, the Calico Odessa Railroad, the Mystery Shack and gold panning cost extra. Prices at calicoattractions.com or 760-254-3719.
MUSEUM	The Lucy Lane Museum is free with admission, open 9 to 5.
FOOD	Calico House Restaurant, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., plus Silver Rush Burger, snacks at Lil's Saloon, a sweets shop and a popcorn wagon.
DOGS	\$1 a dog, on a six-foot leash at all times.
OVERNIGHT	RV sites, cabins and bunkhouses; campers get into town free. Book at parkreservations.sbcounty.gov .
PHONE	909-387-2757, the county parks line. The county says the Calico line, 760-254-1123, is down.
WEBSITE	parks.sbcounty.gov/park/calico-ghost-town-regional-park

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 34.94889, -116.86417 · 34°56'56"N
116°51'51"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/california/calico/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

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