



DAY TRIP TO CERRO GORDO

From Lone Pine · Inyo County, California



SILVER MINING



Photo: Clyde Charles Brown, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0

OPEN DAILY

Privately owned and being restored. Free to visit during posted hours.

From Lone Pine it's pavement to Keeler, then the 8-mile dirt climb. Entry is free, and the town is open every day. The official visit page doesn't list restrooms, food or water, so bring what you need.

A SAMPLE DAY

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| ☐ Morning | Leave Lone Pine. Take US 395 south and CA 136 to Keeler, then start up Cerro Gordo Road. |
| ☐ Late morning | Arrive after the 9 a.m. opening. Walk the main street past the general store. |
| ☐ Midday | Look at the ore bins and mine dumps above town, and the view across Owens Lake to the Sierra. |
| ☐ Afternoon | Drive back down before the 5 p.m. close, in daylight. |

Coming from Los Angeles? It's about 205 miles to Keeler on CA 14 and US 395, plus the climb. Most people stay in Lone Pine.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The view west.** From town you look across Owens Lake to the Sierra. Late afternoon puts the light behind the mountains.
- **Main street.** Shoot east along the street to frame the mine dumps and Cerro Gordo Peak.
- **Ore bins.** The timber ore bin below the Estelle Tunnel, on the mountainside below town, stands out against the bare slope.
- **Drones.** The official site doesn't mention them. This is private property, so ask before you fly.



USGS topographic map, 1913 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	15 mi each way from downtown Lone Pine. From Los Angeles: 205 mi. These distances end at Keeler, at the foot of Cerro Gordo Road. Add the owners' 8-mile dirt climb, which the router can't follow or time, and allow extra time for it.
OPEN	Every day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. No appointment needed.
ADMISSION	Free.
VEHICLE	The owners recommend 4WD for the 8-mile dirt road.
FOOD AND WATER	Not mentioned on the official visit page. Bring your own.
RESTROOMS	Not mentioned on the official visit page.
MAIL	No postal address in town. Mail goes to PO Box 490, Lone Pine, CA 93545.
WEBSITE	cerrogordomines.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 36.53778, -117.79500 • 36°32'16"N
117°47'42"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/california/cerro-gordo/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

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