



DAY TRIP TO GOFFS

From Needles · San Bernardino County, California



RAILROAD AND
ROAD



Photo: Einbierbitte, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 3.0

MUSEUM OPEN · AUG 2026 VIDEO

A nearly empty railroad stop whose restored schoolhouse is a museum. A video posted August 2026 shows it open, with a door sign giving the hours: grounds daily, schoolhouse Friday to Sunday, 9 to 4. The association lists events there through November 2026.

Goffs makes an easy half day from Needles, and a good one on the way across the Mojave on old Route 66. The drive takes about 38 minutes, the last 13.9 miles on Goffs Road, the original 1926 alignment. At the end is the restored 1914 schoolhouse, now a free museum, and several acres of outdoor exhibits from the mines, ranches and railroad of the East Mojave. There's no store or café in Goffs, so bring water and lunch.

A SAMPLE DAY

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| ☐ 9 a.m. | Leave Needles on I-40 west, and take exit 133 for US 95 north. |
| ☐ About 9:25 a.m. | Turn left on Goffs Road, Route 66 from 1926 to 1931, for the last 13.9 miles. |
| ☐ About 9:40 a.m. | Reach the schoolhouse at Lanfair Road. The grounds open at 9. |
| ☐ 10 a.m. | See the schoolhouse museum, open Friday to Sunday, and its bookstore. |
| ☐ 11 a.m. | Walk the outdoor exhibits: the 1887 ten-stamp mill, the old boxcar and the buildings moved here from around the desert. |
| ☐ Noon | Eat the lunch you brought. There's nowhere to buy food in Goffs. |
| ☐ 1 p.m. | Drive back to Needles, about 38 minutes, or carry on west along Goffs Road to Fenner and I-40. |

From Las Vegas it's about 2 hours 4 minutes each way via US 95. The museum opens only Friday to Sunday; the grounds open daily.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The south front.** The arched porch and red tile eaves face Goffs Road.
- **The east windows.** The six big windows were the classroom's only light. Shoot them from the east side.
- **The stamp mill.** Casebier said hardly any stamp mills survive, because they held so much scrap metal. Get the battery boxes and bull wheels together.
- **The plaques.** The 1991 and 2025 plaques at the school tell the town's story in a few paragraphs.
- **Goffs Road.** The old highway runs straight off toward the mountains. Pull well off the road to photograph it.
- **Trains.** Freight trains still run on the main line past Goffs. Photograph them from the road, never from the tracks.



USGS topographic map, 1942 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	30 mi, about 38 min each way from central Needles. From Las Vegas: 108 mi, about 2 h 04 min.
HOURS	Schoolhouse museum Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Grounds and outdoor exhibits daily, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
OTHER DAYS	Call the association at 760-733-4482 or email info@themojaveroad.org two or three days ahead to arrange a visit.
ADMISSION	Free. Donations are appreciated.
ADDRESS	37198 Lanfair Road, on the northwest corner of Lanfair Road and Goffs Road.
RESTROOMS	The association's site doesn't say.
FOOD AND WATER	None in Goffs; the 2025 plaque says the last store and café have closed. Bring your own.
FUEL	Fill up in Needles. Legends of America found no open gas station on Goffs Road.
ON FOOT	The outdoor exhibits spread over the grounds around the schoolhouse. Stay off the railroad.
EVENTS	The association's 2026 calendar lists tour groups, its 47th Mojave Road Rendezvous on October 15–18, a Halloween party on October 31 and a poker run on November 14.
WEBSITE	themojaveroad.org

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 34.91917, -115.06278 · 34°55′09″N
115°03′46″W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/california/goffs/

Directions [Google Maps](#) to the Goffs Schoolhouse Museum, 37198 Lanfair Road

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