



DAY TRIP TO JULIAN

From Ramona · San Diego County, California



GOLD MINING



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LIVING TOWN

A living town and historic district of 1,768 people (2020 census), with a pioneer museum open on weekends.

Julian is an easy day from Ramona and a classic day out from San Diego. Come on a weekend, when the Pioneer Museum is open. Walk Main Street and the historic district, see the museum and eat in town.

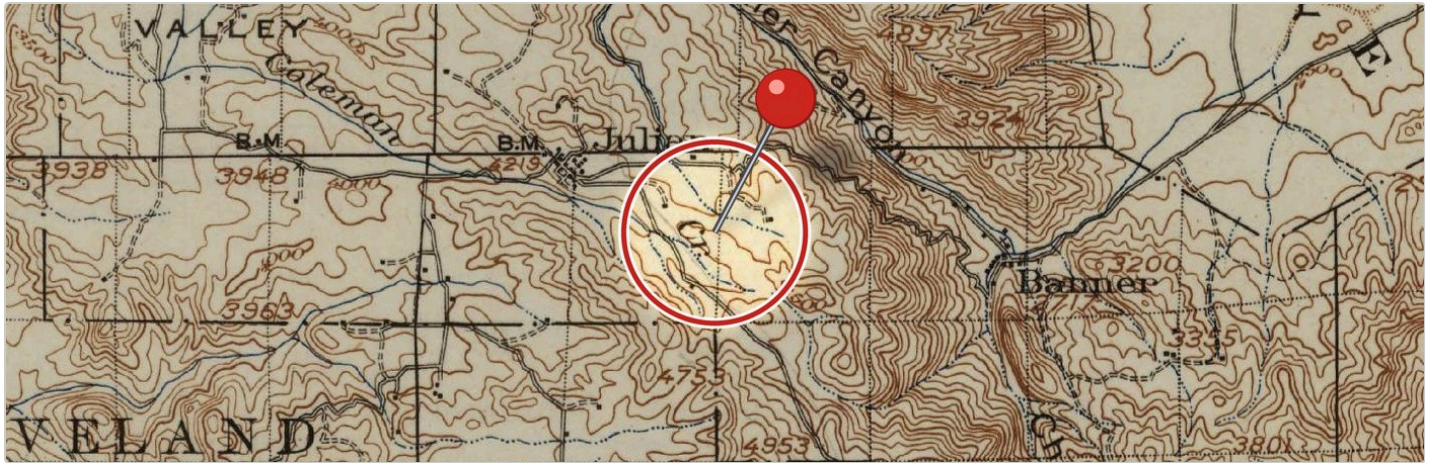
A SAMPLE DAY

- ☐ 9:30 a.m. Leave Ramona on CA 78 east. The drive is about 40 minutes of mountain road.
- ☐ 10:15 a.m. Walk Main Street and the historic district.
- ☐ 11 a.m. On a Saturday or Sunday, visit the Julian Pioneer Museum on Washington Street.
- ☐ 12:30 p.m. Lunch in town, or a picnic at the museum's park.
- ☐ Evening On a clear night, stay for the dark skies before heading home.

Coming from San Diego? Allow about an hour and a half via I-8 and CA 79. Leave by 8:30 a.m.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **Main Street.** The storefronts are best in morning light, before the crowds.
- **The museum.** The late-1800s museum building on Washington Street makes a good establishing shot.
- **Night sky.** As a Dark Sky Community, Julian is a good place for star photography. Use a tripod and a wide lens.



USGS topographic map, 1903 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	24 mi, about 38 min each way from central Ramona. From San Diego: 60 mi, about 1 h 23 min.
TOWN	A living town of 1,768 people (2020 census), with Main Street at its center.
PIONEER MUSEUM	2811 Washington St. The museum's site lists Fridays 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and asks you to call to confirm: 760-765-0227. The county park page lists 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. year-round, call ahead.
ADMISSION	A \$5 donation per person; children 12 and under free.
GROUPS	The museum opens by special appointment for schools and other large groups.
RESTROOMS	At the museum's county park, with drinking fountains and room for a picnic.
NIGHT SKY	Julian is an International Dark Sky Community. Stay after dark on a clear night.

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 33.07083, -116.58556 • 33°04'15"N
116°35'08"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/california/julian/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

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