



DAY TRIP TO MENTRYVILLE

From Santa Clarita · Los Angeles County, California



OTHER MINING
AND OIL



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PUBLIC PARK

A historic park with restored buildings, trails and the Pico No. 4 well site. Parking is \$5.

Mentryville is a short hop from Santa Clarita, and an easy half day from Los Angeles. Walk the old town, then add a hike up the canyon trails if you want a longer outing. Bring a picnic: MRCA lists picnic tables, but no food.

A SAMPLE DAY

- ☐ 9 a.m. Leave Newhall on Lyons Avenue, which becomes Pico Canyon Road. The drive takes about 15 minutes.
- ☐ 9:15 a.m. Park, pay the \$5 fee and walk the old town: the barn by the entrance, Mentry's house and the Felton School.
- ☐ 10:15 a.m. Walk up the canyon to the Pico No. 4 well site, California's first commercially productive well.
- ☐ 11 a.m. Continue up the trail to Johnson Park, a picnic spot 0.7 mile from town that the Friends of Mentryville say the oil men favored, or picnic at the park's tables.
- ☐ 12:30 p.m. Head back to Santa Clarita for lunch.

Coming from Los Angeles? It's under an hour without traffic. Leave by 8:15 a.m. to arrive at 9.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The barn and main street.** The red barn by the entrance gate frames the town against the hills.
- **Mentry's house.** Step back across the yard to fit the whole 13-room house in.
- **Felton School.** The one-room school and its outbuildings make a tidy group portrait.
- **Oil equipment.** Rusting tanks and wagon wheels beside the Felton School are good for close-ups and slow pans on video.
- **Drones.** MRCA park rules don't allow them.



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

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	5 mi, about 13 min each way from Old Town Newhall, Santa Clarita. From Los Angeles: 34 mi, about 47 min.
OPEN	Daily, sunrise to sunset, under MRCA park rules.
FEE	\$5 parking, paid at the lot.
BUILDINGS	The Friends of Mentryville say regular tours stopped after the 2003 fire and flooding. Plan to see the house, school and barn from outside; you don't need a guide for the grounds.
RESTROOMS	The MRCA page lists a restroom at the park.
FOOD AND WATER	None listed. MRCA lists picnic tables; bring your own food and water. Santa Clarita is 15 minutes away.
DOGS	On leash, per MRCA.
ON FOOT	Trails start from a paved road that leads out of the town, open to hikers, cyclists and horses.
PHOTOGRAPHY	Commercial filming and photography need an MRCA permit. MRCA parks don't allow drones.
WEBSITE	mrca.ca.gov/parks/park-listing/mentryville

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 34.37900, -118.61100 • 34°22'44"N
118°36'40"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/california/mentryville/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

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