



DAY TRIP TO ASHCROFT

From Aspen · Pitkin County, Colorado



SILVER MINING



Photo: Lorie Shaul from Washington, United States, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 2.0

HISTORIC SITE

Run by the Aspen Historical Society under a Forest Service permit in the White River National Forest. Honor-box admission.

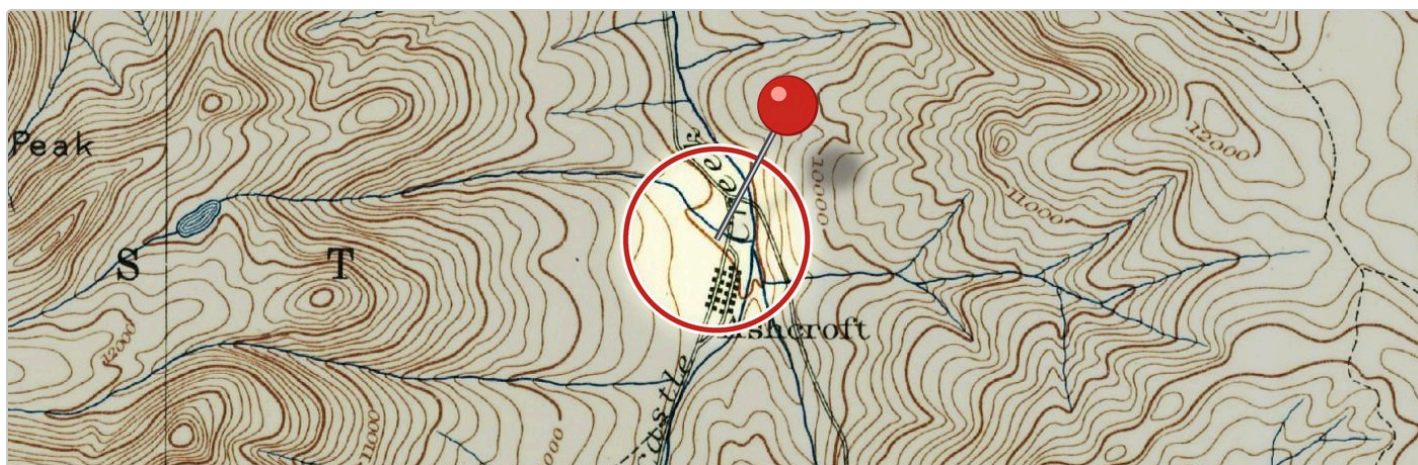
Ashcroft is about half an hour from Aspen and an easy morning. In summer a docent is on hand and the gift shop is open. Bring food and water from town; we found no food service at the townsite itself.

A SAMPLE DAY

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| ☐ Morning | Drive out of Aspen to the roundabout and up Castle Creek Road, about half an hour. |
| ☐ Late morning | Pay at the honor box, then walk the meadow trails: the post office, the log buildings and the interpretive signs. |
| ☐ Midday | In summer, talk to the docent and visit the gift shop. Join a guided tour if one is scheduled. |
| ☐ Afternoon | Back down to Aspen. The historical society's Wheeler/Stallard Museum and Holden/Marolt museum cover the rest of the valley's story. |

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The meadow panorama.** Step back across the meadow to fit the buildings against the mountains, as in the 2017 panorama in the gallery.
- **The "Slow Ghosts Ahead" sign.** It stands beside Castle Creek Road at the townsite.
- **Log corners.** The cabins show their notched log construction up close.
- **Drones.** The site is national forest land under a permit. The historical society's page doesn't cover drones, so ask before flying.



USGS topographic map, 1893 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	13 mi, about 31 min each way from downtown Aspen. From Denver: 208 mi, about 4 h 27 min.
OPEN	Year-round for self-guided visits. Docents are on site 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the summer months.
ADMISSION	\$5 per adult at the honor box on the welcome sign. Children 18 and under (with an adult) and active military go free.
TOURS	The Aspen Historical Society runs 1.5-hour guided tours from the welcome cabin. Check its activity calendar for dates.
RESTROOMS	The historical society's page doesn't list restrooms, and the Forest Service listing for the Ashcroft Nordic area, at the same spot, says there are no restrooms or drinking water. Plan on Aspen.
FOOD AND WATER	No food service is listed at the townsite. The Forest Service notes the Pine Creek Cookhouse restaurant in the Nordic area beyond it.
ON FOOT	Trails link the buildings across the meadow. At about 9,500 feet, walk slowly and drink water.
DOGS	Not permitted in the ghost town.
WEBSITE	aspenhistory.org/ashcroft-ghost-town

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 39.05360, -106.79980 • 39°03'13"N
106°47'59"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/colorado/ashcroft/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

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