DAY TRIP TO FLORENCE

From Grangeville · Idaho County, Idaho

GOLD MINING

NATIONAL FOREST

A Forest Service historic site: cemetery, townsite and interpretive panels, open year-round with no fee (Forest Service, February 2026). Snowbound in winter.

Florence is a long morning's drive from Grangeville into the mountains, and the visit itself is short: a walk around the townsite and the cemetery with the interpretive panels. Go between late spring and fall, when Road 221 is clear of snow, and take everything you need.

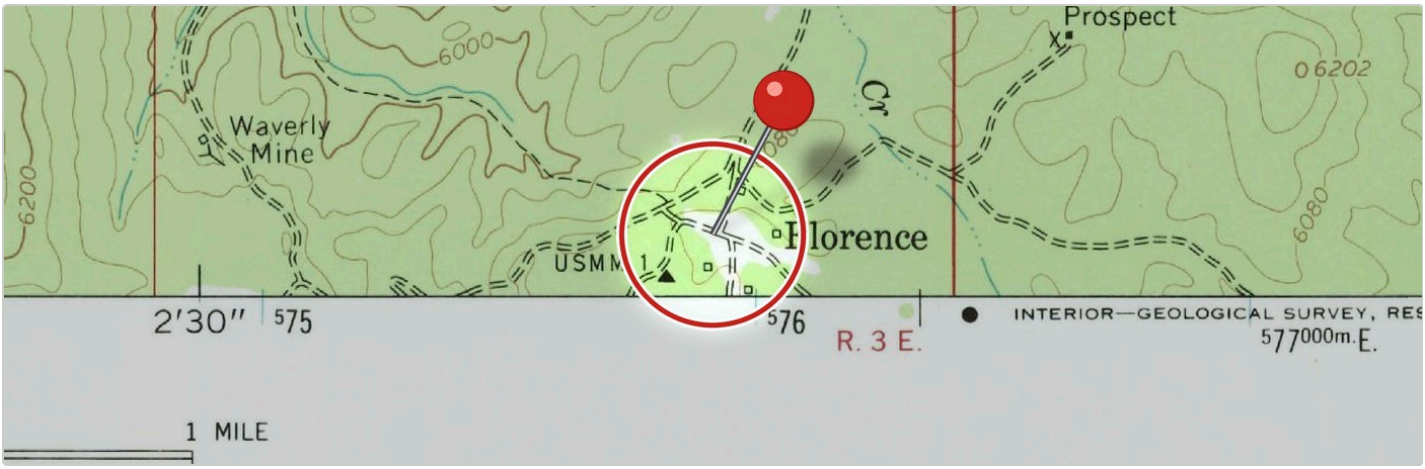
A SAMPLE DAY

☐ 8 a.m.	Leave Grangeville with a full tank, food and water. Climb Mount Idaho Grade and follow Road 221 south.
☐ 10 a.m.	Turn onto Road 394 at milepost 40.4, then Road 643 into the basin. Park and read the interpretive panels.
☐ 10:30 a.m.	Cross the footbridge to the cemetery, then walk the townsite.
☐ Noon	Picnic lunch from what you brought.
☐ 12:30 p.m.	Head back to Grangeville, about two hours.

From Riggins, the Forest Service's southern route climbs out of the Salmon River canyon on a steep single-lane road; we haven't timed it.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The cemetery.** The town's graves in the trees, across the footbridge from the parking area.
- **The basin.** The open meadows of the townsite against the forest, best early or late in the day.
- **The panels.** Read them on site; we don't reproduce sign artwork here.



USGS topographic map, 1963 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	46 mi, about 1 h 55 min each way from downtown Grangeville. From Lewiston: 118 mi, about 3 h 22 min.
OPEN	Year-round, per the Forest Service, but Road 221 is a groomed snowmobile route in winter.
ADMISSION	No fee.
TIME ON SITE	The Forest Service gives no figure.
RESTROOMS	The Forest Service page gives no information on restrooms.
FOOD AND WATER	No drinking water at the site. There's nothing to buy; bring food and water from Grangeville.
ON FOOT	A parking area and a footbridge lead to the cemetery. The cemetery road is primitive.
CONTACT	Salmon River Ranger District, 304 Slate Creek Road, White Bird, (208) 839-2211, as given on the forest's June 2026 road order.
PHOTOGRAPHY	The Forest Service page says nothing about photography or drones. Don't photograph or enter private cabins.
WEBSITE	fs.usda.gov/r01/nezperce-clearwater/recreation/florence-cemetery

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 45.50111, −116.02833 · 45°30′04″N 116°01′42″W

Directions Google Maps

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/idaho/florence/

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