



DAY TRIP TO SILVER CITY

From Murphy · Owyhee County, Idaho



SILVER MINING



Photo: Bureau of Land Management, Wikimedia Commons, Public domain

OPEN SEASONALLY

A privately owned historic town on a seasonal road, with the Idaho Hotel open Friday to Sunday (2026 hours). Road closed November 1 to late May.

Between late May and the end of October, Silver City makes a full day from the Boise area by way of Murphy. Go on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday if you want a meal at the Idaho Hotel, and leave the morning for the climb up the Silver City Road.

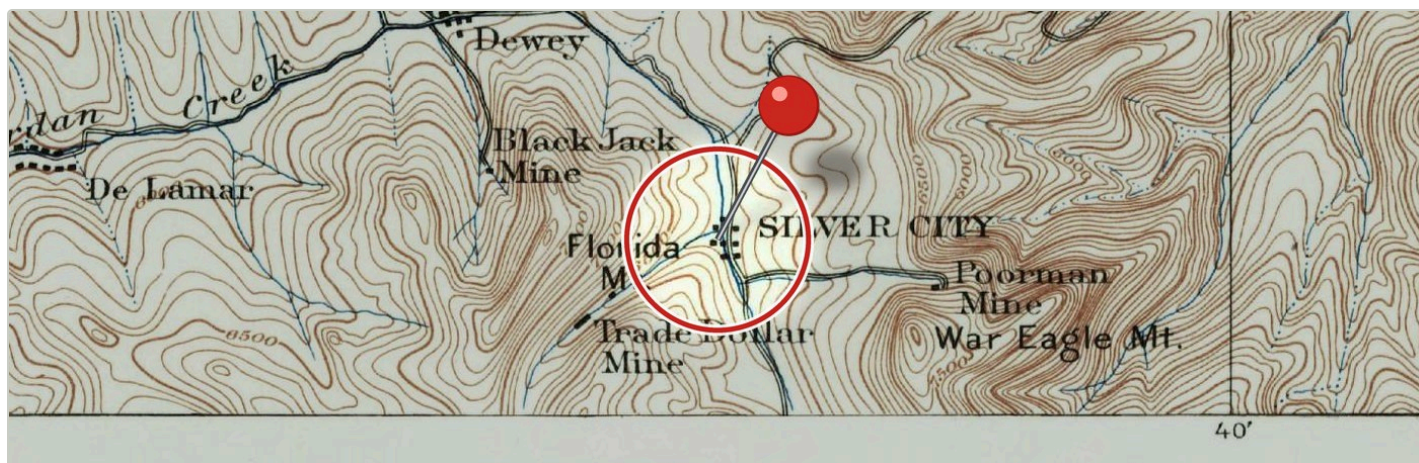
A SAMPLE DAY

- ☐ 8 a.m. Leave Murphy on ID 78 with a full tank and water, and turn onto the Silver City Road.
- ☐ 9:30 a.m. Arrive in Silver City. Walk Jordan and Washington streets and the Idaho Hotel's block.
- ☐ 11:30 a.m. Lunch at the Idaho Hotel (Friday to Sunday).
- ☐ 1 p.m. Walk up to the schoolhouse and Our Lady of Tears, and out to the cemeteries.
- ☐ 3 p.m. Head back down the Silver City Road before evening.

Coming from Boise? The route is about 73 miles and takes about two and a half hours.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The Idaho Hotel.** The hotel at 23936 Jordan Street, from across the street.
- **Our Lady of Tears.** The town's Catholic church, repaired with Idaho Heritage Trust grants as recently as 2023.
- **The streets from above.** Climb a little way up a side gulch for the whole town against Florida Mountain.



USGS topographic map, 1892 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	25 mi, about 1 h 24 min each way from Murphy. From Boise: 73 mi, about 2 h 31 min.
OPEN	The road is closed from November 1 until the Friday before Memorial Day. The Idaho Hotel's 2026 hours: Friday and Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sunday 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; closed Monday to Thursday except Memorial Day and Labor Day. The 2026 sheet gives no closing date; an undated seasons page and a 2013 brochure on the same site say the hotel closes in mid-October.
ADMISSION	No fee to walk the town's streets. The BLM campground is free.
FOOD	The Idaho Hotel's 2026 sheet lists breakfast from 8:30 to 10 a.m., lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and to 3:30 p.m. on Sundays, and family-style dinners around 6:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, by reservation made at least a week ahead, for up to 36 people. Dinner entrees run \$18 to \$40 on its 2026 menu.
ROOMS	The hotel's 2025 rate sheet lists rooms from \$120 to \$160 a night, \$150 for a standard exterior room and \$200 to \$350 for the Empire suite, with a one-night deposit.
WATER AND FUEL	No gas in town, and the BLM says to bring your own water.
RESTROOMS	Not stated on the town's or the hotel's site.
ON FOOT	The buildings are private. Walk the streets and don't enter buildings or yards without permission.
PHONE	Idaho Hotel: (208) 941-1119, the new number on its 2026 hours sheet.
PHOTOGRAPHY	The hotel charges a \$1,500 fee for commercial filming, per its 2025 policies. Neither site mentions drones.
WEBSITE	historicsilvercityidaho.com

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 43.01694, -116.73306 • 43°01'01"N
116°43'59"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/idaho/silver-city/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

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