



DAY TRIP TO BANNING

From Sandstone · Pine County, Minnesota



OTHER MINING
AND OIL



Photo: Paul VanDerWerf from Brunswick, Maine, USA, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 2.0

RUINS IN A STATE PARK

Ruins in a state park, per a hiking video posted August 2025 and a visitor's photo of May 27, 2025: roofless quarry buildings beside an open trail. Nothing of the town's houses is visible.

Banning is a half-day walk in a state park. The town's stone ruins are on the Quarry Loop, a self-guided trail under two miles long, and the Kettle River runs beside it through rapids that kayakers come for in spring. Sandstone, six miles south, has the nearest services. Banning State Park is run by the Minnesota DNR: check its park page for hours, the vehicle permit and trail conditions before you go.

A SAMPLE DAY

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| ☐ Morning | Drive north from Sandstone on MN 23 and into the park. |
| ☐ Late morning | Walk the Quarry Loop: the roofless quarry buildings, the quarried walls and their drill holes. |
| ☐ Midday | Follow the river trail to the rapids, staying back from the edge. |
| ☐ Afternoon | Return to Sandstone, or ride the paved spur to the Willard Munger State Trail. |

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The arched windows.** Shoot through the window openings of the long quarry wall for the forest behind.
- **Drill holes.** Low side light shows the rows of drill holes in the quarried faces.



USGS topographic map, 1961 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	6 mi, about 12 min each way from downtown Sandstone. From Minneapolis: 95 mi, about 1 h 50 min.
LAND	Banning State Park, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.
HOURS AND PERMIT	See the DNR park page. We could not confirm this year's hours or fees from the DNR itself.
WALKING	The Quarry Loop is under two miles and relatively flat, per the Grand Forks Herald (2021). The park has 17 miles of hiking trail.
RIVER	A sign on the riverside trail, photographed in 2017, warns: very dangerous rapids for the next two miles. Kayakers run Hell's Gate, a gorge up to 40 feet deep, each spring, per Wikipedia.
WINTER	Wikipedia lists 11 miles of groomed ski trail and 6 miles of snowmobile trail in winter.
BICYCLES	A paved path links the park to the Willard Munger State Trail.
WEBSITE	dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/park.html?id=spk00118

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 46.16051, -92.85187 • 46°09'38"N
92°51'07"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/minnesota/banning/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

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