



DAY TRIP TO RHYOLITE

From Beatty · Nye County, Nevada



GOLD MINING



Photo: Terrisa Meeks from Las Vegas, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 2.0

OPEN · BLM DAY USE

Ruins on federal and private land; the BLM's Tonopah Field Office manages the historic area. Day use only, no fee listed.

Rhyolite is 15 minutes from Beatty and fills a morning: the ghost town and the Goldwell sculptures next door. It sits just off NV 374, the road from Beatty into Death Valley National Park.

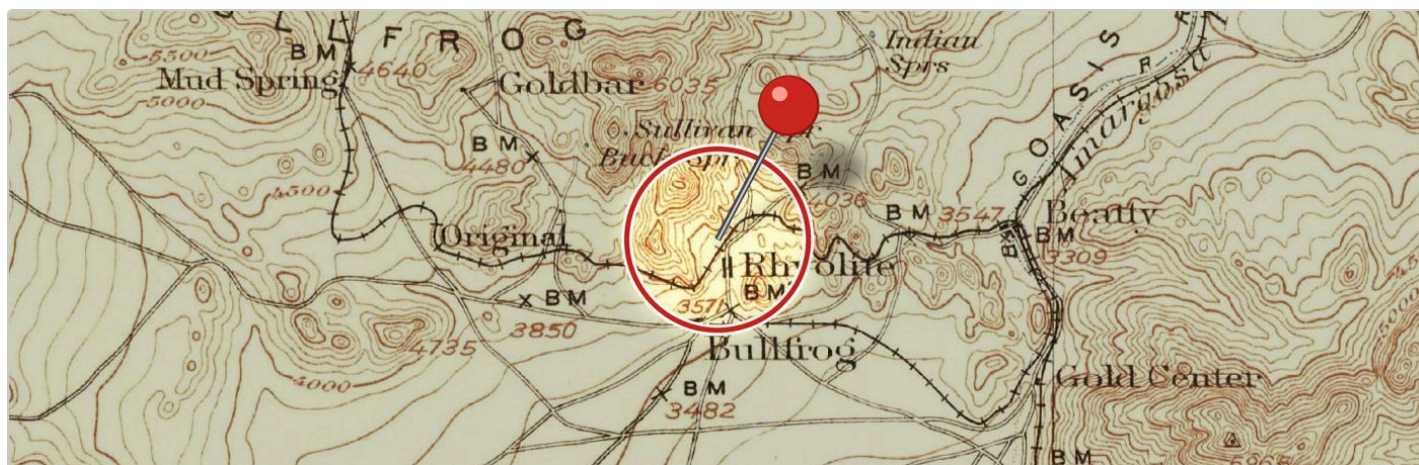
A SAMPLE DAY

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| ☐ 9:45 a.m. | Leave Beatty on NV 374 and turn up Rhyolite Road, about 15 minutes. |
| ☐ 10 a.m. | Walk the Goldwell sculptures first, while the visitor center is open. |
| ☐ 11 a.m. | Walk up Golden Street to the Cook Bank and the school. |
| ☐ Noon | See the depot from outside, then the bottle house and the miner's cabin. |
| ☐ 12:30 p.m. | Picnic at the townsite, then head back to Beatty or on into Death Valley. |

Coming from Las Vegas? It's about 2 hours 25 minutes on US 95. Leave by 7:30 a.m. to be there by 10.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The Cook Bank.** The best-known ruin. Shoot the shell from Golden Street, with the Bullfrog Hills behind.
- **The bottle house.** Side light brings out the bottle ends in the walls.
- **Ghost Rider.** The museum is open around the clock, so you can shoot Szukalski's figure at dusk or after dark.
- **The depot.** Privately owned, so shoot the mission-style front from outside.
- **Drones.** Neither the BLM page nor the Goldwell site addresses them. Goldwell is private, so ask there first.



USGS topographic map, 1908 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	6 mi, about 13 min each way from central Beatty. From Las Vegas: 123 mi, about 2 h 24 min.
OPEN	The BLM townsite is day use only. The Goldwell museum is open 24 hours, 7 days a week.
ADMISSION	Neither the BLM nor the Goldwell museum lists a fee. Goldwell is a nonprofit and asks for donations.
VISITOR CENTER	Goldwell's visitor center and gift shop: Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., which the museum calls approximate. In summer it usually closes by 2 p.m. because of the heat.
TOURS	Goldwell says one-hour walking tours run every month but doesn't post a schedule; call +1 775 438-2001 for group or personal tours. A free self-guided tour brochure is available. BLM archaeologists led a guided walk of the townsite on Nevada Day weekend in 2024.
CAMPING	Not allowed at the townsite.
PHOTOGRAPHY	Personal photography is fine at Goldwell any time. Commercial photography and filming there need the owners' permission.
CONTACT	BLM Tonopah Field Office, 775-482-7800.
WEBSITE	blm.gov/visit/rhyolite-historic-area

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 36.90389, -116.82917 · 36°54'14"N
116°49'45"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/nevada/rhyolite/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

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