



DAY TRIP TO ST. THOMAS

From Overton · Clark County, Nevada



FARM AND
RANCH



Photo: Prosfilaes, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 3.0

OPEN · NPS TRAIL

Foundations on National Park Service land, reached by the Park Service's St. Thomas Trail (page updated January 7, 2026), which is not on the 2026 summer closure list. The lake was about 110 feet below the townsite on October 23, 2026.

St. Thomas fills a morning from Overton: 9 miles of pavement, 3.5 miles of dirt road, then a 2.5-mile walk through the ruins. The trail has no water and almost no shade, so go early, and in summer go at first light.

A SAMPLE DAY

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| ☐ Morning | Leave Overton on SR 169, which becomes Northshore Road, and turn onto Old St. Thomas Road. Take the dirt road slowly to the trailhead. |
| ☐ Morning | Walk the loop: down the slope from the trailhead, then across the old streets to the school foundation and Main Street. |
| ☐ Late morning | Finish before the heat builds and drive back to Overton. |

Coming from Las Vegas? It's 57 miles on I-15 and the Valley of Fire Highway to the start of the dirt road. The highway crosses Valley of Fire State Park, which charges a day-use fee of \$10 per Nevada vehicle and \$15 for others. Leave early to walk before the heat.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The school steps.** The concrete steps and foundation are the best-known spot. Low morning light shows the edges.
- **Main Street.** Shoot along the line of burned tree stumps toward the mountains to show the old street.
- **The ice cream parlor pillar.** The concrete pillar on its broken wall makes a silhouette against the sky.
- **Drones.** Leave the drone at home. The park's compendium (updated June 2026) bans launching or flying drones anywhere in the recreation area except a model aircraft field near Boulder Beach.



USGS topographic map, 1886 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	9 mi each way from central Overton. From Las Vegas: 57 mi. These distances end where Old St. Thomas Road leaves Northshore Road. Add about 3.5 miles of dirt road to the trailhead, which the router can't follow or time.
OPEN	The Park Service's trail page lists no hours and needs no reservation.
ADMISSION	Lake Mead National Recreation Area fee: \$25 per private vehicle, \$20 per motorcycle, \$15 per person on foot or bicycle, each for 1 to 7 days. The park's own annual pass is \$45 (fee page updated June 25, 2026).
TRAIL	2.5 miles round trip, 85 feet of climb, rated moderate, 1 to 4 hours. Not maintained. It starts downhill on loose rock, then crosses uneven rock and sand; the Park Service suggests a hiking pole.
ROAD	Paved from Overton to Old St. Thomas Road, then about 3.5 miles of rough dirt to the trailhead. OpenStreetMap tags it 4WD only (survey of February 2022); a visitor in a sedan managed about 5 mph and recommends a truck or SUV (account updated June 2023). Monsoon storms from July to September can wash out park roads.
WATER AND SERVICES	None at the trailhead. Bring water for the whole trip.
HEAT	The Park Service warns that heat kills. In summer, start early in the morning or in the evening.
PETS	Allowed on a leash no longer than 6 feet. Clean up after them.
RULES	Don't move or take artifacts, climb on the structures or mark them. Disturbing an archeological site is against the law.
CONTACT	Park rangers, non-emergency: 702-293-8998. Emergencies: 1-800-680-5851.
WEBSITE	nps.gov/lake/learn/historyculture/stthomas.htm

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 36.46583, -114.37028 • 36°27'57"N
114°22'13"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/nevada/st-thomas/

Directions [Google Maps](#) to the St. Thomas trailhead at the end of Old St. Thomas Road

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