



DAY TRIP TO MEERS

From Lawton · Comanche County, Oklahoma



GOLD MINING



Photo: Crimsonedge34, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 3.0

OPEN

One building survives, and it is a working restaurant on a state highway. The townsite around it is pasture and a few homes.

Meers is a lunch stop half an hour from Lawton, and the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge next door fills the rest of the day. The camp's one surviving building is the Meers Store & Restaurant, open four days a week. The rest of the townsite is pasture and private homes.

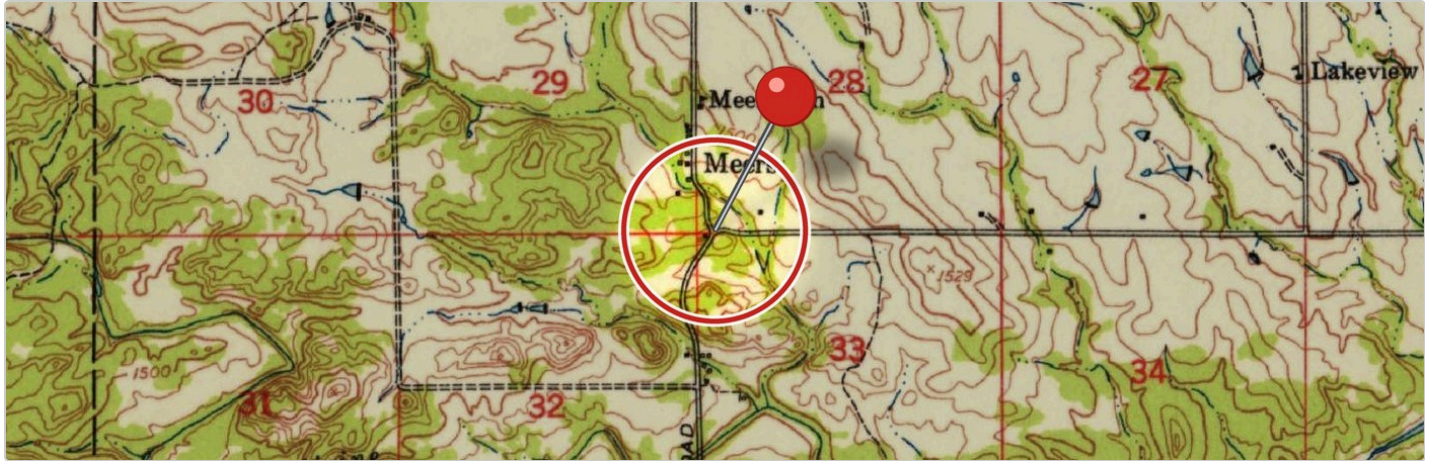
A SAMPLE DAY

- ☐ 10:15 a.m. Leave Lawton on I-44 north to exit 45, then OK 49 west past Lake Lawtonka and OK 115 north to the store, about 35 minutes.
- ☐ 11 a.m. The restaurant opens. Look over the old building and the photographs inside, then have lunch.
- ☐ 12:30 p.m. Drive back south on OK 115 and west on OK 49 into the wildlife refuge.
- ☐ 1 p.m. Stop at the refuge visitor center, open until 5 p.m., for maps and trail advice.
- ☐ Afternoon Drive or walk in the refuge, then head back to Lawton on OK 49 and I-44 before sunset, when the refuge closes.

Coming from Oklahoma City? It's about 1 hour 45 minutes on I-44, part of it the H. E. Bailey Turnpike, a toll road. Leave by 9:15 a.m. to be there when the doors open.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The store front.** Shoot from across OK 115 to get the false front and the later additions in one frame.
- **Inside.** WorldAtlas (June 2026) describes walls of decor and old photographs. Ask before photographing other diners.
- **Drones.** Prohibited on the refuge. The restaurant's page doesn't mention them, and the land around the store is private.



USGS topographic map, 1950 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	22 mi, about 34 min each way from downtown Lawton. From Oklahoma City: 93 mi, about 1 h 44 min.
OPEN	The restaurant posted on Facebook on September 26, 2026 that from October 1 its normal hours are Thursday to Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Hours have changed before, so check its page or call.
PHONE	580-429-8051 (the restaurant's Facebook page).
FOOD	Burgers, fresh cobbler and ice cream, by the restaurant's own post. Bring water for the refuge.
THE TOWNSITE	The store is all that stands. The ground around it is pasture and a few private homes; the original 1901 site is inside the refuge.
REFUGE	The Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge is open daily, sunrise to sunset, with no charge to visit. Its visitor center is open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).
REFUGE RULES	Drones are prohibited on the refuge. Don't dig or collect.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Check the status with the land manager before you go; conditions change.
- Stay out of mine shafts, tunnels and unstable buildings.
- 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 34.78278, -98.57889 · 34°46'58"N
98°34'44"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/oklahoma/meers/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

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