



DAY TRIP TO GOLDEN

From Grants Pass · Josephine County, Oregon



GOLD MINING



Photo: Susan Rose from U.S.A., Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 2.0

STATE HERITAGE SITE

Owned and managed by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. Open for day use all year.

Golden is about 40 minutes from Grants Pass. The site is small, with four buildings, so a morning covers it. State Parks keeps it open for day use all year.

A SAMPLE DAY

- ☐ 9 a.m. Leave Grants Pass north on OR 99.
- ☐ 9:45 a.m. Arrive at Golden. Start at the church, then walk to the old store and post office building.
- ☐ 10:45 a.m. Walk the edge of the site above the creek, then head back toward Grants Pass.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The church.** Its shingled steeple and side porch stand against tall conifers. Step back to fit the steeple and the trees.
- **The false-front building.** The weathered front and porch sit right beside the heritage site sign.
- **Buildings in the trees.** The board buildings stand among tall trunks. Shade is heavy, so expose for the buildings.



USGS topographic map, 1904 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	24 mi, about 41 min each way from downtown Grants Pass. From Medford: 52 mi, about 1 h 13 min.
OPEN	Day use, year-round (Oregon State Parks).
ADMISSION	The State Parks page for Golden lists no entry or parking fee.
TIME ON SITE	State Parks doesn't suggest one. The site is four buildings, so most visits are short.
RESTROOMS, FOOD AND WATER	The park page lists exhibit information as the only feature, with no restrooms or water. Plan on none.
PHONE	Park information 541-582-1118, or State Parks at 800-551-6949.
WEBSITE	stateparks.oregon.gov/index.cfm?do=park.profile&parkId=189

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 42.68275, -123.33042 · 42°40'58"N
123°19'50"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/oregon/golden/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

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