



DAY TRIP TO SHANIKO

From Madras · Wasco County, Oregon



RAILROAD AND
ROAD



Photo: Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 4.0

LIVING GHOST TOWN

An incorporated city of 30 people (2020 census) with public streets. The hotel, reopened in 2023, was taking bookings in October 2026.

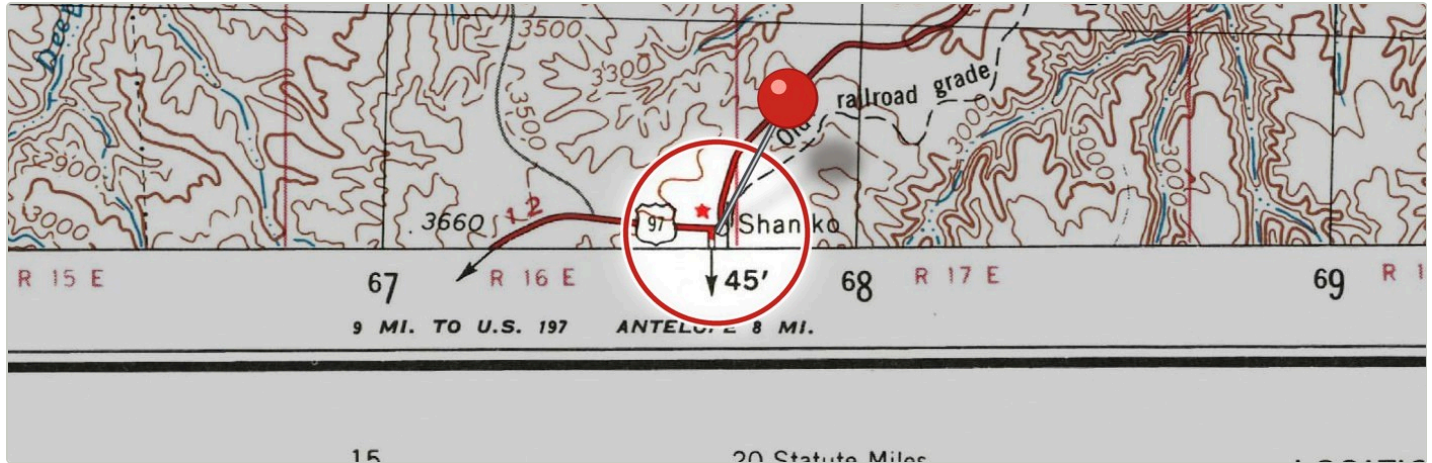
Shaniko is under an hour from Madras on US 97. The town is a few blocks long, so a morning covers it on foot. Legends of America and Wikipedia both say the shops keep an April-to-September season, though neither dates that note. The hotel takes overnight guests; book through its own site.

A SAMPLE DAY

- ☐ 9 a.m. Leave Madras north on US 97.
- ☐ 10 a.m. Park on the street. Start at the hotel and the post office on 4th Street.
- ☐ 10:45 a.m. Walk to the water tower, the school and the old city hall.
- ☐ 11:30 a.m. Walk past the livery barn and the old vehicles around town, then head back south.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **4th Street.** The yellow post office and the false-front shops next to it make the classic street view.
- **The water tower building.** The tall, tapering wooden tower stands out against open sky.
- **Old vehicles.** Rusting cars and farm machinery sit in the grass around town. Late light warms the paint.
- **The plateau.** Wikipedia says Hood, Jefferson, Adams, St. Helens and Rainier can be seen from town on a clear day.



USGS topographic map, 1953 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	37 mi, about 48 min each way from downtown Madras. From Bend: 81 mi, about 1 h 52 min.
OPEN	The streets are public all year. Legends of America and Wikipedia say the shops open from April through September, but neither dates that note, so check ahead.
ADMISSION	None to walk the town.
TIME ON SITE	No source gives one. The town is a few blocks, and the hotel, water tower, school and old city hall are all on foot.
RESTROOMS	The city's site refers to "City Bathrooms" next to the community center. It gives no hours.
FOOD	In 2023 Bend Magazine found lunch and ice cream at the hotel's cafe. The hotel's site mentions an on-site cafe but gives no hours, so bring food.
LODGING	The Historic Shaniko Hotel reopened on August 1, 2023 (Bend Magazine), and its own site was taking bookings in October 2026. Phone 541-489-3441.
WEBSITE	cityofshaniko.org

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 45.00306, -120.75306 · 45°00'11"N
120°45'11"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/oregon/shaniko/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

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