



DAY TRIP TO PITHOLE

From Titusville · Venango County, Pennsylvania



OTHER MINING
AND OIL



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

STATE HISTORIC SITE

Run by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission through the Drake Well Museum. Grounds open daily; visitor center on summer weekends.

From Titusville, Pithole is a half-hour drive and an easy half day. Pair it with the Drake Well Museum, back in Titusville, where Drake struck oil in 1859. On a summer weekend you get the visitor center and its diorama; the rest of the year you walk the signed grounds on your own.

A SAMPLE DAY

- ☐ 9:30 a.m. Leave Titusville. The drive is 11.6 miles, about half an hour.
- ☐ 10 a.m. On a summer weekend the visitor center opens. Watch the 15-minute film, *Pithole USA*, and the diorama of the city at its peak.
- ☐ 10:45 a.m. Walk the mowed streets: Holmden Street, Mason Street, the carriage stone and the 1959 altar on the Methodist church site, reading the 50 signs as you go.
- ☐ 12:15 p.m. Drive back to Titusville for lunch.
- ☐ 1:30 p.m. Drake Well Museum and Park, 202 Museum Lane, Titusville. From April 1 to October 31 it opens Wednesday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; from November 1 to March 31, Friday to Sunday. Adults \$10, seniors \$8, ages 3 to 11 \$5.

Outside June to August the visitor center is closed, but the grounds and the signs are open every day. Coming from Pittsburgh? Leave by about 7:30 a.m. to arrive at opening.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **Holmden Street.** Stand at the visitor center and shoot down the mowed line of the main street, compare the street grid with the historic view on this page.
- **The carriage stone.** The one original object on the site. Get low to set it against the grass and the trees.
- **The stone altar.** The 1959 memorial on the Methodist church site, best in side light.
- **The diorama.** Inside the visitor center on summer weekends: more than 200 miniature buildings. It's indoors, so expose for the model, not the windows.
- **Drones.** The museum's page doesn't mention them. Ask before you fly.



USGS topographic map, 1927 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	12 mi, about 29 min each way from downtown Titusville. From Pittsburgh: 103 mi, about 2 h 21 min.
OPEN	Grounds: every day, year-round, dawn to dusk. Visitor center: Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., June through August (June 6 to August 30 in 2026).
ADMISSION	The grounds are free. The visitor center is \$5 for adults and \$3 for ages 3 to 11; 2 and under free. Guided grounds tours are available on request when the center is open, with paid admission.
TIME ON SITE	The museum gives no figure. Wikipedia, citing a 1975 newspaper account, says the walking loop of the streets takes about 42 minutes; the film runs 15 minutes.
RESTROOMS	The visitor center's first floor has an accessible restroom, so only on summer weekends. The museum's page lists no restrooms on the grounds.
FOOD AND WATER	The museum's Pithole page doesn't mention food or water. Bring your own and eat in Titusville.
ON FOOT	The grounds are open ground and mowed lanes on a hillside, "not easily accessible for wheelchairs due to the natural terrain." A six-person golf cart serves outside tours when the center is open.
PHOTOGRAPHY	The museum's page says nothing about photography or drones. This is state property; ask at the visitor center.
WEBSITE	drakewell.org/plan-your-visit/what-to-see-and-do/pithole

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 41.52389, -79.58139 · 41°31'26"N
79°34'53"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/pennsylvania/pithole/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

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