DAY TRIP TO ROCKERVILLE

From Keystone · Pennington County, South Dakota

GOLD MINING

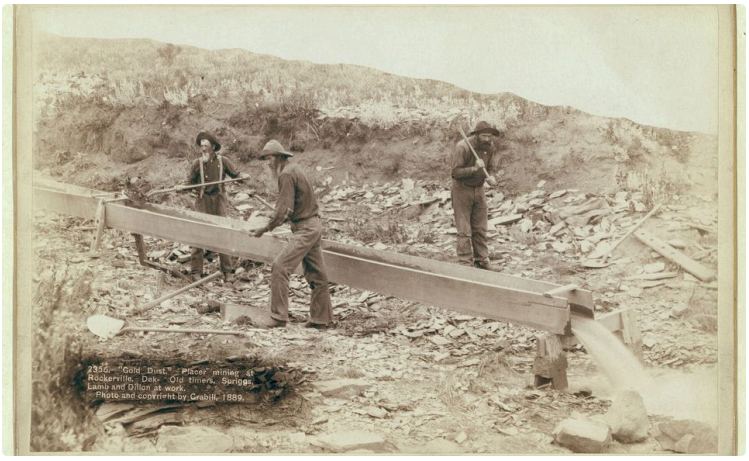


Photo: John Grabill, Wikimedia Commons, Public domain

SMALL COMMUNITY

A lived-in unincorporated community with its own volunteer fire department, which fought a house fire there in January 2025. Wikipedia says nearly all the tourist-era buildings are gone; we could not confirm which old buildings or businesses remain.

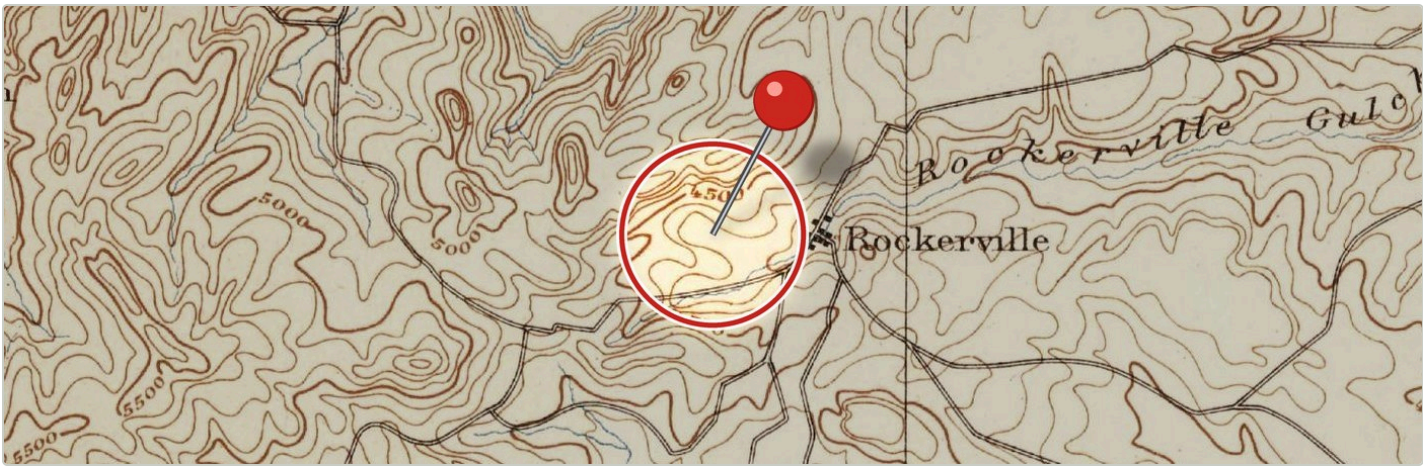
The way to see Rockerville's mining past is on foot. The Flume Trail follows the bed of the 1880 flume west from the Coon Hollow trailhead, just off US 16 at Rockerville. Walk out and back as far as you like, then eat in Keystone or Rapid City.

A SAMPLE DAY

☐	Morning	Drive from Keystone on US 16A and US 16 to Rockerville and park at the Coon Hollow trailhead.
☐	Late morning	Walk west on the Flume Trail from Coon Hollow and turn back when you like. Watch for flume remains along the old grade.
☐	Afternoon	Back to Keystone for lunch, or on to Rapid City.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The flume bed.** The level grade cut into the hillside is easier to read in low side light.
- **Grabill's views.** Compare today's gulches with the 1889 photographs in the gallery.



USGS topographic map, 1894 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	8 mi, about 13 min each way from Keystone. From Rapid City: 13 mi, about 18 min.
TRAIL	The tourism association gives the Flume Trail as 11 miles plus loops: Section 1 is 6.6 miles, Loop A 2.7 miles and Loop B 3.8 miles.
TRAILHEAD	Coon Hollow, the trail's eastern end. Exit US 16 at Rockerville onto Silver Mountain Road and go 0.2 miles.
HOURS	Day use only, 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., per the Forest Service.
ADMISSION	No fee at Coon Hollow, per the Forest Service.
RESTROOMS AND WATER	None at Coon Hollow: no restroom and no drinking water. Bring your own.
ARTIFACTS	Flume remains lie along the trail. Leave them where they are.

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 43.95806, -103.35861 · 43°57′29″N 103°21′31″W

Directions Google Maps

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/south-dakota/rockerville/

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