



DAY TRIP TO SILVER REEF

From St. George · Washington County, Utah



SILVER MINING



Photo: Nikater, Wikimedia Commons, Public domain

MUSEUM AND RUINS

A small historic core with a museum, run by the Silver Reef Foundation, in a subdivision a mile west of Leeds. Paid admission to the museum.

Silver Reef is 25 minutes from St. George on I-15, an easy half day. Time it for a museum day: Monday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday. Saturday adds the mine exhibit.

A SAMPLE DAY

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| ☐ 9:30 a.m. | Leave St. George on I-15 north. |
| ☐ 10 a.m. | Museum opens. Take the docent-led tour of the Wells Fargo office. |
| ☐ 11 a.m. | Walk the two interpretive trails, about half an hour, then see the jail, Harrison House and the mill overlook. |
| ☐ 12 p.m. | Visit the restored Catholic and Protestant cemeteries south of the old business district. |
| ☐ 1 p.m. | Head back to St. George for lunch. |

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The Wells Fargo office.** The 1877 stone building that houses the museum.
- **The reefs.** The sandstone ridges that held the silver rise west of town. White Reef is marked on the 1954 map.
- **Machinery.** Rusted mining equipment by the museum takes low side light well.



USGS topographic map, 1885 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	18 mi, about 25 min each way from downtown St. George. From Las Vegas: 136 mi, about 2 h 30 min.
OPEN	Museum Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Last tour 2:15 p.m.
ADMISSION	\$5; family of four \$16; extra family members \$4; under 6 free; groups of 10 or more \$4 each.
MINE EXHIBIT	Saturdays, in the museum basement, always with a docent. Call 435-879-2254 to check it's running.
RICE BUILDING	Open on request.
RESTROOMS	The museum's site mentions men's and women's restrooms only in the Cosmopolitan, its lecture hall next door, in describing the building for events.
FOOD AND WATER	The museum's site lists none. St. George has food and fuel.
WALKING	Two interpretive trails, one along the old Main Street and one through the desert, have 23 stops and take about 30 minutes for both, the museum says; its trail guide is a PDF on the Walking Tour page. Watch for cars on the streets and rattlesnakes along the trails, and stay off the private drives around the old town.
WEBSITE	silverreef.org

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 37.25278, -113.36778 • 37°15'10"N
113°22'04"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/utah/silver-reef/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

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