



DAY TRIP TO PENDARVIS

From Dodgeville · Iowa County, Wisconsin



OTHER MINING
AND OIL



Photo: Bahrsoap, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0

STATE HISTORIC SITE

A Wisconsin Historical Society museum in a living city of 2,581. Buildings open Thursday to Sunday in season; the mine hill trails are open daily.

Pendarvis is about 13 minutes from Dodgeville and under a mile from downtown Mineral Point, so make a day of the town around it. Take a guided tour of the cottages, walk the mine hill, then spend the afternoon on High and Commerce streets. The buildings open Thursday to Sunday in season; the trails are open every day, so an off-season visit still gets you the diggings.

A SAMPLE DAY

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| ☐ 9:45 a.m. | Leave Dodgeville on WI 23 and US 151, about 13 minutes. |
| ☐ 10 a.m. | Park at Pendarvis. Tickets can be booked online through the site. |
| ☐ 10:30 a.m. | Guided tour of Pendarvis House, Trelawny and Polperro. |
| ☐ Noon | Lunch in downtown Mineral Point, under a mile away. |
| ☐ 1:30 p.m. | Walk the Lead Trail loop on Merry Christmas Mine Hill: badger holes and the old diggings. |
| ☐ 2 p.m. | Walk the Zinc Trail loop: the mine shaft, the adit, the compressor and the mill foundation. |
| ☐ 3 p.m. | Back down to Shake Rag Street, then the shops on High and Commerce streets. |

Coming from Madison? The drive is 50.2 miles, about 69 minutes. Out of season, skip the tour and walk the mine hill trails.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **Pendarvis and Trelawny.** Stand across Shake Rag Street to get both cottages behind their stone wall.
- **Polperro.** The log storeys over the stone ground floor show best from the street, slightly to one side.
- **The stonework.** Get close to Pendarvis House's front to show how tightly the buff limestone is fitted.
- **The mine hill.** Low side light shows the hollows of the badger holes in the prairie grass.
- **Drones.** The site's pages don't mention them. This is state property; ask before you fly.



USGS topographic map, 1902 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	8 mi, about 13 min each way from downtown Dodgeville. From Madison: 50 mi, about 1 h 09 min.
OPEN	2026 season: May 28 to October 11, Thursday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., closed July 4. Tours at 10:30 a.m., noon, 1:30 and 3 p.m. The site says it reopens in May 2027. Merry Christmas Mine Hill trails: every day, sunrise to sunset.
ADMISSION	Adults (18–64) \$12, teens (13–17) \$12, seniors (65+) \$11, children 5–12 \$8, under 5 free. A grounds pass for a self-guided walk is \$10 for ages 5 and up. Wisconsin Historical Society members get in free.
TIME ON SITE	The site gives no figure for the tour. Each of the two trail loops on the mine hill is half a mile and about 30 minutes.
RESTROOMS	Not stated on the pages we read.
FOOD AND WATER	No regular food service is listed; the Pendarvis House restaurant closed in 1970. Eat in Mineral Point.
ON FOOT	Rugged paths with uneven ground and steps on the hillside. The visitor center and store are wheelchair accessible.
PARKING	Free on site, with street parking and a lot at the mine hill.
PHOTOGRAPHY	The site takes requests for photo shoots through its website. We found no other photography rules.
WEBSITE	pendarvis.wisconsinhistory.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 42.86389, -90.17250 • 42°51'50"N
90°10'21"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/wisconsin/pendarvis-mineral-point/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

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