



# DAY TRIP TO FORT FRED STEELE

From Rawlins · Carbon County, Wyoming



RAILROAD AND  
ROAD



Photo: Wyatt Perry, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0

## STATE HISTORIC SITE · CLOSED FOR WINTER

A ghost town inside Fort Fred Steele State Historic Site, open in summer only. The newest dated report, a Cowboy State Daily story of September 20, 2025, describes a volunteer from the site leading a tour down the old Lincoln Highway grade. The state lists the site open daily from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

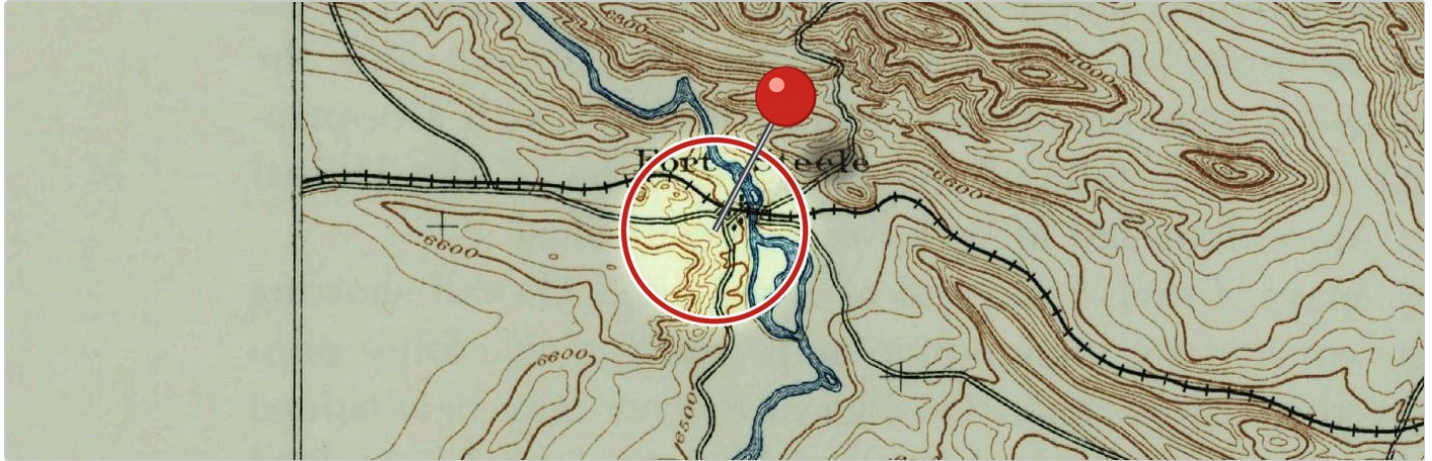
Fort Fred Steele is a short summer outing from Rawlins: about half an hour each way on I-80, then an hour or two on the grounds. The site is open only from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

## A SAMPLE DAY

- |                                              |                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Morning             | Drive east from Rawlins on I-80 to Exit 228 and north on County Road 347.                                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Late morning</b> | Walk the interpretive trail: the powder magazine, the warehouse and officers' quarters foundations, the cemetery. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Noon</b>         | Lunch at the picnic shelter, then the bridge tender's house and the river.                                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Afternoon           | Back to Rawlins.                                                                                                  |

## WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The railroad bridge over the North Platte.** Trains still cross where the fort was built to guard them.
- **The powder magazine.** The one fully intact Army building; low morning or evening light shows its walls best.
- **The bridge tender's house.** The red-painted house, photographed here in 2007.



USGS topographic map, 1893 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

## DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

|                |                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DRIVE          | 17 mi, about 27 min each way from downtown Rawlins. From Cheyenne: 136 mi, about 2 h 27 min.                                                                                                |
| HOURS          | Daily 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Memorial Day to Labor Day. Closed for winter (Wyoming State Parks, read October 29, 2026).                                                                          |
| ADMISSION      | Wyoming's 2026 fee schedule charges historic sites \$4 per adult for residents and \$8 for nonresidents; children are free. The schedule doesn't name Fort Fred Steele, so call to confirm. |
| TIME ON SITE   | One to two hours for the trail and river.                                                                                                                                                   |
| RESTROOMS      | Listed by the state.                                                                                                                                                                        |
| FOOD AND WATER | None listed. Bring them from Rawlins.                                                                                                                                                       |
| SHADE          | A group picnic shelter; little else on the open grounds.                                                                                                                                    |
| WALKING        | A self-guided interpretive trail across the grounds.                                                                                                                                        |
| CONTACT        | 307-320-3013                                                                                                                                                                                |
| WEBSITE        | <a href="https://wyoparks.wyo.gov/index.php/places-to-go/fort-fred-steele">wyoparks.wyo.gov/index.php/places-to-go/fort-fred-steele</a>                                                     |

## 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** 41.77833, -106.94750 · 41°46'42"N  
106°56'51"W

**Full guide** [abandonedtowns.com/wyoming/fort-fred-steele/](https://abandonedtowns.com/wyoming/fort-fred-steele/)

**Directions** [Google Maps](#)

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