



DAY TRIP TO KIRWIN

From Meeteetse · Park County, Wyoming



GOLD MINING



Photo: Unknown author, Wikimedia Commons, Public domain

NATIONAL FOREST

Public land on the Shoshone National Forest, reached by the Wood River Road; rough last miles where four-wheel drive is recommended.

Kirwin is a full day from Meeteetse: about two hours each way on the Wood River Road, and a few hours on site. You need a high-clearance, four-wheel-drive vehicle and dry weather. There are no services past Meeteetse, so bring water and lunch. The Meeteetse Museums make a free walking-tour guide to the camp; download it before you leave town.

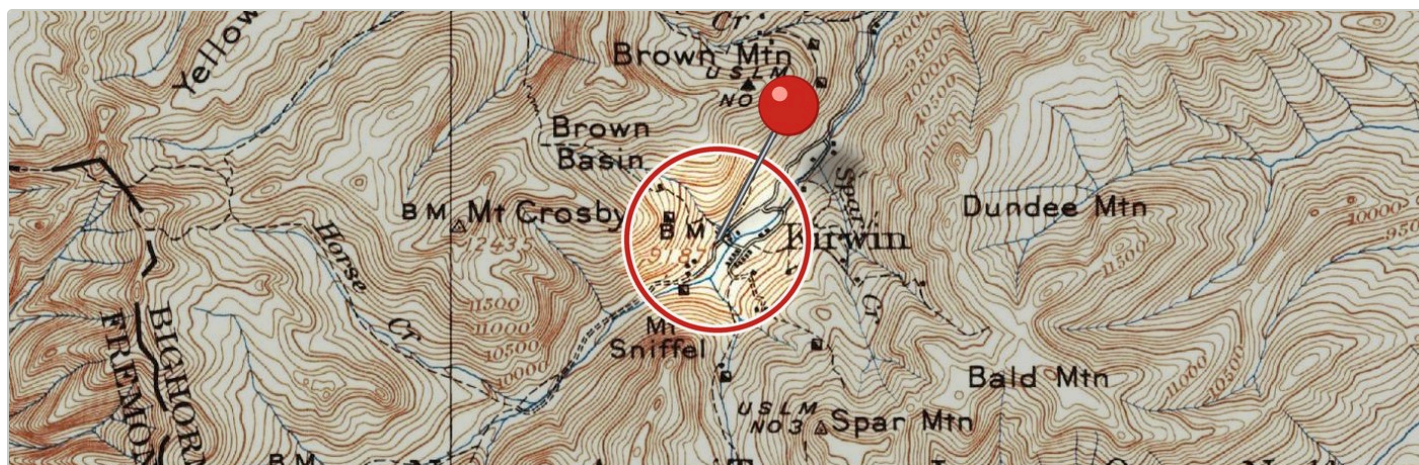
A SAMPLE DAY

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| ☐ 8 a.m. | Fill up in Meeteetse and head west on WY 290, then up the Wood River Road. Allow about two hours. |
| ☐ 10 a.m. | Park at the townsite and walk the camp with the museums' guide. Look for the headframe over the Wolf shaft, which the Forest Service has stabilized. |
| ☐ Noon | Eat your packed lunch in the valley. Leave the buildings and anything around them as you find them. |
| ☐ 1:30 p.m. | Start back down the valley. The museums' app also covers the Double Dee Ranch and the Amelia Earhart cabin site, which WyoHistory places about six miles below Kirwin. |
| ☐ 3:30 p.m. | Back in Meeteetse. The Meeteetse Museums are open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with free admission. |

The museums lead a free guided caravan to Kirwin once a year; in 2026 it ran on August 15. Call them at 307-868-2423 for next year's date.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The Wolf shaft headframe.** Shoot from low down to set the timbers against the sky.
- **Cabins under the peaks.** Step back to fit the cabins and the peaks of about 12,000 feet around the valley in one frame.
- **River crossings.** The fords on the way up make good video. Film from the bank, not while you drive.
- **Drones.** The Forest Service page doesn't mention them. Check with the office in Cody before you fly.



USGS topographic map, 1904 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	34 mi, about 1 h 59 min each way from Meeteetse. From Cody: 65 mi, about 2 h 34 min.
OPEN	The Forest Service lists no hours or season for Kirwin. An undated listing says it can be reached only in summer, and WyoHistory says to go in dry weather.
ADMISSION	The Forest Service page lists no fee.
VEHICLE	The Forest Service recommends four-wheel drive for the rough last miles. The Meeteetse Museums (2026) advise a high-clearance four-wheel-drive vehicle and warn of several river crossings. Call the Forest Service in Cody, 307-527-6241, for road conditions.
RESTROOMS	A vault toilet at Kirwin, and others at the Wood River and Brown Mountain campgrounds on the way (Meeteetse Museums, 2026).
FOOD AND WATER	None. The Forest Service lists no drinking water, and the museums say to pack in water and pack out trash. Fill your tank in Meeteetse.
PHONE AND GUIDE	The museums say you won't have phone service on site. Download their Kirwin, Double Dee and Amelia Earhart cabin site tours in the free Bloomberg Connects app before you go.
BEARS	The museums call this bear country and tell visitors on their tour to follow Forest Service rules and carry bear spray.
WEBSITE	fs.usda.gov/ro2/shoshone/recreation/meeteetse

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 43.87639, -109.29806 • 43°52'35"N
109°17'53"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/wyoming/kirwin/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

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