

Bodie California: A Hauntingly Beautiful Ghost Town

Nestled high in the remote and unforgiving Sierra Nevada mountains of California, Bodie is a ghost town that stands frozen in time, offering a haunting glimpse into the past and a vivid reminder of the American frontier.



Bodie, California Ghost Town: A Self-guided Pictorial Walking Tour (Tours4Mobile, Visual Travel Tours Book

10) by Andy Weeks

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language	: English
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Once a bustling mining town in the late 19th century, Bodie was home to over 10,000 people, drawn by the promise of gold. But the boom didn't last, and by the early 20th century, the town was abandoned, its buildings left to crumble and its streets deserted.

Today, Bodie is a California State Historic Park, preserved as a living museum of the Wild West. Visitors can wander through the empty streets,

explore the abandoned buildings, and imagine the lives that once unfolded here.

History of Bodie

Bodie was founded in 1859, when prospector William S. Bodey discovered gold in the nearby mountains. The town quickly grew, and within a few years, it was home to a diverse population of miners, businessmen, and outlaws.

Bodie's heyday was in the 1870s and 1880s, when it was one of the largest and most prosperous mining towns in California. The town boasted over 60 saloons, several hotels, a schoolhouse, a church, and even a stock exchange.

But the boom didn't last. In the early 1890s, the price of gold plummeted, and the mines in Bodie began to close. By 1910, the town was almost completely abandoned, and it was officially declared a ghost town in the 1940s.

Exploring Bodie

Today, Bodie is a California State Historic Park, and it is one of the best-preserved ghost towns in the United States. Visitors can explore the town's empty buildings, including the schoolhouse, the churches, and the saloons.

The most popular way to explore Bodie is on a guided tour. Tours are available from the park's visitor center, and they offer a fascinating insight into the town's history and its unique characters.

If you prefer to explore on your own, you can purchase a self-guided tour brochure from the visitor center. The brochure includes a map of the town and information on each of the buildings.

Photography at Bodie

Bodie is a photographer's paradise. The town's abandoned buildings and deserted streets provide a unique and haunting backdrop for capturing stunning images.

If you're interested in photography, here are a few tips for capturing the best shots:

- Use a wide-angle lens to capture the expansive views of the town.
- Look for details in the buildings and streets to tell the story of Bodie's past.
- Experiment with black and white photography to create a timeless and atmospheric feel.
- Visit Bodie during the off-season to avoid the crowds and capture the town in its most serene state.

Getting There

Bodie is located in the remote Sierra Nevada mountains, about 130 miles southeast of Reno, Nevada. The town is accessible by car via a 13-mile dirt road.

The road to Bodie is well-maintained, but it is not suitable for all vehicles. Four-wheel drive is recommended, especially during the winter months.

Planning Your Visit

If you're planning a visit to Bodie, here are a few things to keep in mind:

- The park is open daily from 9am to 5pm.
- The entrance fee is \$8 per person.
- Guided tours are available from the park's visitor center.
- There are no restaurants or lodging in Bodie.
- The town is located in a remote area, so be sure to bring plenty of water and snacks.

Bodie is a fascinating and unique place to visit. It's a place where you can step back in time and experience the Wild West firsthand. If you're looking for an adventure, I highly recommend adding Bodie to your travel itinerary.

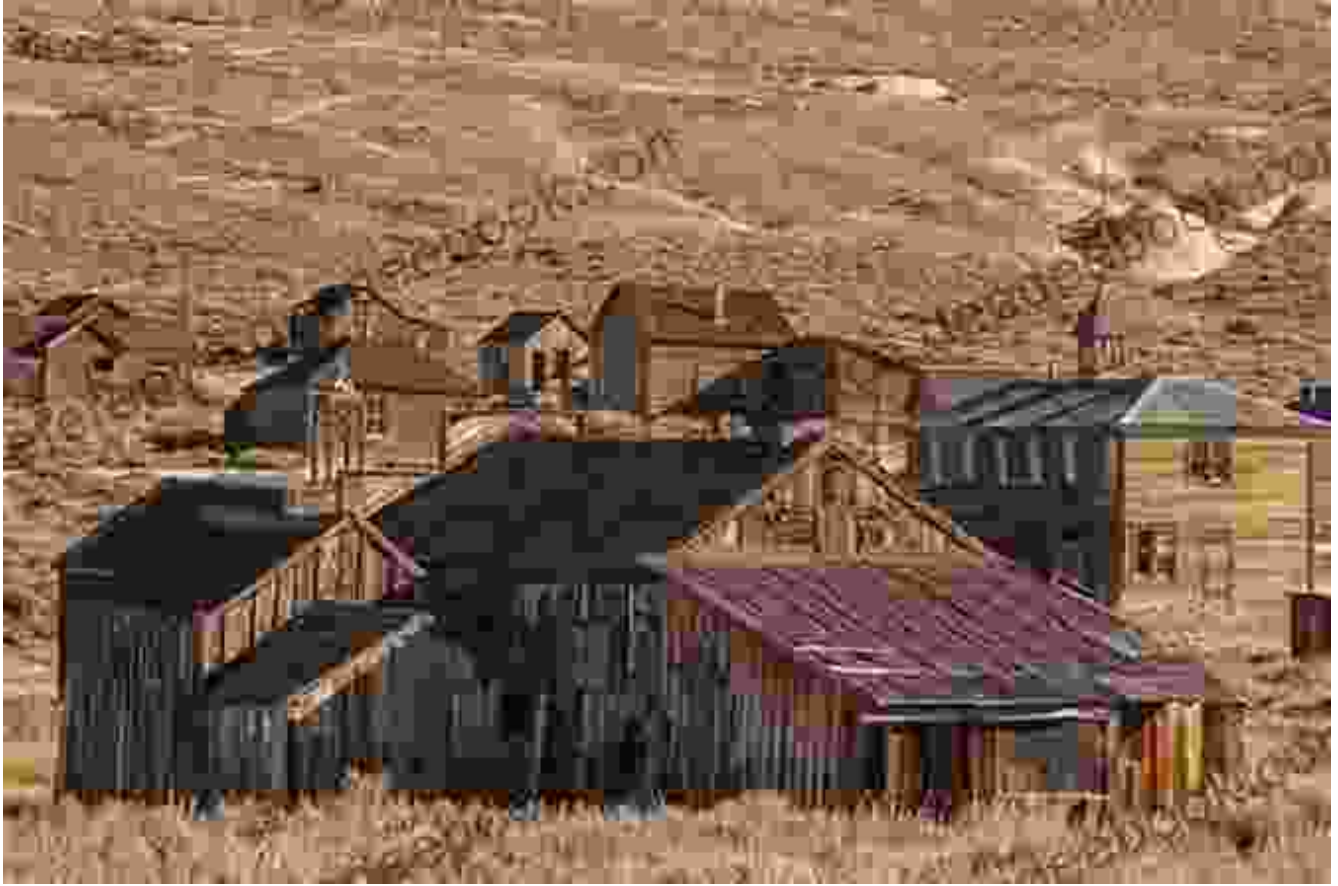
Additional Resources

- [California State Parks: Bodie State Historic Park](#)
- [Friends of Bodie](#)

Image Gallery



An abandoned building in Bodie, California.



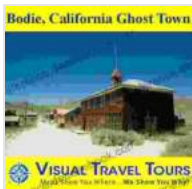
The Bodie schoolhouse.



A saloon in Bodie, California.



The Bodie cemetery.



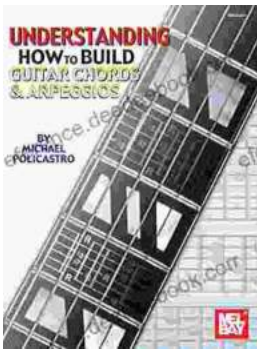
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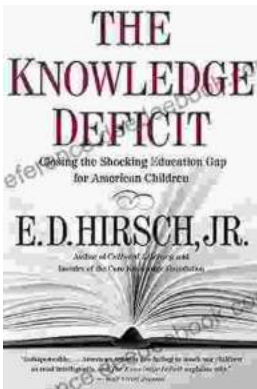
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