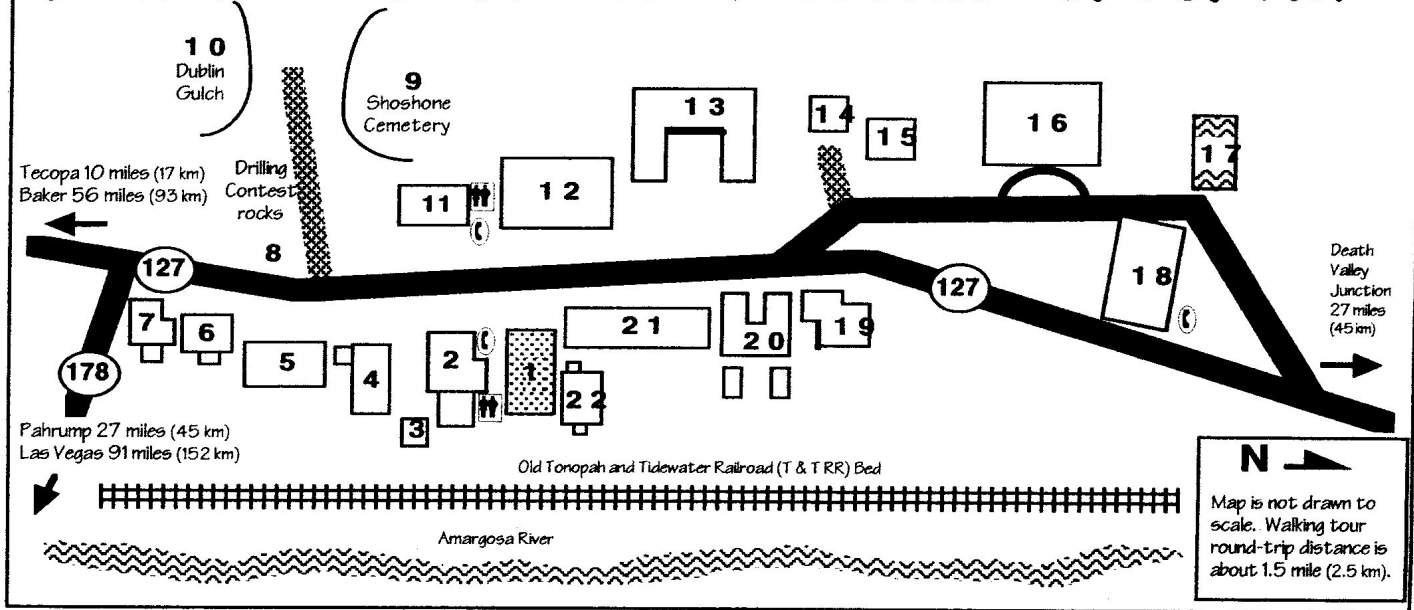


WALKING TOUR OF HISTORIC SHOSHONE



1. **Shoshone Museum:** Built in Greenwater in 1906 as a miners' union hall, this structure was moved first to the town of Zabriskie and then here in 1920. In Shoshone it was the original general store and gas station. The Mammoth Wing was completed in 1998 to accommodate skeletal remains found nearby. The museum also houses interesting exhibits about old Shoshone, Death Valley women, and the T&T railroad. Death Valley information, souvenirs, maps and books are available. (760 852-4414) The Death Valley Chamber of Commerce is also located in this building. (760 852-4524)

2. **J&R Crowbar Cafe & Bar:** (760 852-4180) The restaurant was built in the late 1930s and still serves hearty meals in a traditional Western atmosphere. The adjoining bar was added in the early 1950s. In 1982, Jill "Lady Buffalo" Thacker, well known for exquisite iron art work, was commissioned to weld the names of local mines onto a railroad rail for a footrest at the base of the bar.

3. **The Sizzler** was a miner's shack at the Gerstley Borax mine and originally came from Boulder Dam.

4. **The Adobe Building:** The original restaurant for the T & T RR burned down in 1925. The fire occurred when the men were at the mines, and burned so quickly that the building could not be saved. Embers threatened the store (now the museum) next door, so "Ma" Fairbanks organized the women of the town into a bucket brigade. They poured water onto the roof of that building, saving it as well as the rest of the town. The present structure was built by the T&T bridge gang from adobe brick made on the site. It served as the restaurant until the present cafe was built next door and now houses the Inyo County Sheriff (760 852-4313) and the BLM (760 852-4402).

5. **The Flower Building** was built in the late 1930s by the Tecopa-Shoshone Woman's Improvement Club. In the beginning, it was just a cement slab used by the local children for games and roller-skating. Later it was enclosed and a stage was added. In the late 1940s, it was used as a one-room school house for grades 1-12. The flowers were originally painted by a local artist, Ethel Rook Messer, but over the years, they faded in the desert sun and have required repainting several times. The building still serves as a community center.

6. **Ernest Huhn Residence** was built in 1951 by Ernie Huhn. Ernie was a popular local prospector with legendary skill at poker. By this time, he was receiving a comfortable income from the Grantham Talc Mine, but lived here for only a short time before he died in 1952. "UFO" (Unique Found Objects), is an antique shop operated by David Washum of cafe C'est Si Bon, next door.

7. **Old T&T RR Building:** The T&T RR had "section crews" stationed every 20 miles or so to maintain the track. This building was originally in Evelyn (north of Shoshone) where it served as the crew's office and residence. It was moved here in the 1940s and was a residence until it recently became a specialty internet cafe and coffee shop, "C'est Si Bon". (760 852-4307)

8. **Drilling Contests** were a popular part of the old "Amargosa Days." Miners demonstrated their skill at jackleg (mechanized) drilling on these rocks.

9. **Shoshone Cemetery:** Four-year old Ralph Modine, who died in a tragic fire in 1924, was the first person known to be buried here. Since that time it has become the final resting place at least 55 people, many in unmarked graves.



10. **Dublin Gulch:** During the 1920s and '30s miners carved dwellings into this caliche clay embankment. The origin of the name "Dublin Gulch" is unknown, but may have come from an area of the same name in Butte, MT where one original resident, Joe Vollmer, had lived. Some caves were quite elaborate with split levels, alcoves, stovepipe chimneys, and garages for automobiles. No one has lived in Dublin Gulch since 1970.
11. **Shoshone Development Company Office** (760 852-4224) and **Post Office** (760 852-4212): This, the newest building in town, was built in 1964 to meet the needs of modern Shoshone. The Development Company is the administrative center of Shoshone. The mural on the south side of the Post Office was painted in the late 1980s by Larry Iwerks who also did the artwork for the mammoth exhibit at the Museum.
12. **Charles Brown General Store** was built on the site of the "Snake Room" where old-timers played poker. Later, the poker game was moved to the "Mesquite Club" near the railroad tracks and the "Snake Pit" bar opened in Tecopa. The present store was opened in 1949 when a larger retail facility was needed in town. Groceries, supplies, souvenirs, gas and Lotto tickets are available daily. (760 852-4242)
13. **Shoshone Inn Motel:** The famous "Old Timers Inn" was built near this site in 1925. The present 16-unit motel was constructed in 1958. The comfortable rooms have phones, cable TV and HBO. (760 852-4335)
14. **The Studio** features stunning paintings by Mary Burke King and marvelous photographs by Frank King. Gallery hours are by appointment. (760 764-0138)
15. **First High School:** Now a private residence, this cement block building was constructed by Charles Brown in 1949 as the town's first high school. It was designed so that it could later be used as a home, as it was hoped that a larger school would soon be built in Shoshone.
16. **Death Valley Academy:** Home of the Scorpions, the school was built in 1957 on land donated by Charles Brown. This 7th-12th grade school presently has 50 students who travel up to 60 miles to attend.
17. **Shoshone Swimming Pool:** The original "pool" was built by Tom Weed (a Paiute elder) in 1921 out of timbers and railroad ties at the site of a natural hot (105°F, 40.6°C) spring. The present cement pool was dug deeper and constructed in 1944-5 by Charles Brown and others in Shoshone. It is available to guests of the Shoshone RV Park and the Shoshone Inn.

18. **The Shoshone RV Park** offers 26 full hookup sites and additional tent or dry RV sites. Showers are also available for a fee. (760 852-4569)

19. **Death Valley Health Center:** This vast area was without access to medical care until Susan Sorrells obtained a federal Rural Health Initiative grant in 1980 to establish the Health Center. The clinic provides primary care services to the community (760 852-4383). Built in the mid 1940s, the structure was home first to Southern California Minerals and later to Pfizer, Inc.

20. **SHEAR (Shoshone Education and Research) Center:** The SHEAR Center is a nonprofit organization started in the late 1980s to promote education and research into the geological, biological, and other natural aspects of the desert environment in the Death Valley area. For more information, contact Terry Pavlis, Research Professor, Department of Geology and Geophysics, Univ. New Orleans, (tpavlis@uno.edu or 504-280-6797) or the Shoshone Development Office (760 852-4224). The building dates from the mid 1940s and was also part the Southern California Minerals facility.

21. **Old Motel:** Now closed, but soon to be remodeled, this building was constructed in the late 1930s and served as a motel until the mid 1980s.

22. **Brown Residence:** Built after fire destroyed their first house in 1926, this was the home of Shoshone pioneers, Charles and Stella Brown until her death in 1970.

OTHER NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church: Built in 1967 on land south of town donated by Bernice Sorrells, the church offers 5pm Mass the first Sunday of each month. Much of the construction was performed by local miners and other area residents. (760 876-4356)

Shoshone Airport: South of highway 178, the unattended asphalt runway is 2380 x 30 ft. (725 x 9 m), at elevation 1568 ft. (477.9 m) with radio-activated lights. In the 1940s, part of the hill located here was hauled 1/2 mile north to be used as landfill for a section of highway 127. For information, contact the Shoshone Development Office. (760 852-4224)

China Ranch/Ranch House Inn: China Ranch is southeast of Shoshone off of Hwy 127 and the Old Spanish Trail Highway. Located a short drive down a dramatic canyon, this desert oasis has been an agricultural center for over a century. Spectacular hiking trails, delicious date bread and shakes, and souvenirs are available daily. (760-852-4415) The Ranch House Inn offers relaxing accommodations in a beautifully restored 1920's ranch house. (760 852-4358)

Tecopa Hot Springs/Hurlbut-Rook Park: Open year-round, these therapeutic waters draw visitors from around the world (760 852-4481)