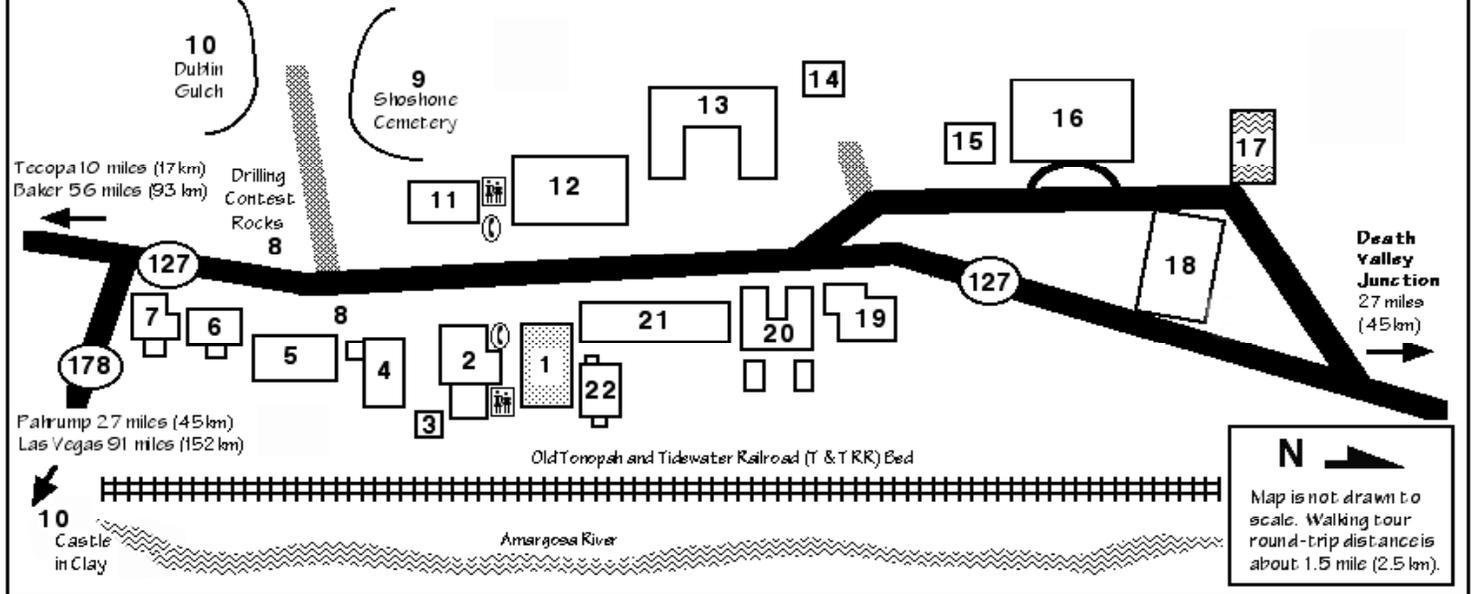


# WALKING TOUR OF HISTORIC SHOSHONE



1. **Shoshone Museum:** Built in Greenwater in 1906 as a miners' union hall, this structure was moved to the town of Zabriskie and then here in 1920 where 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 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 in this building. (760 852-4524)

2. **Crowbar Cafe & Saloon:** The restaurant was built in the late 1930s and still serves hearty meals in a traditional Western atmosphere. The adjoining saloon was added in the 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 footrest at the base of the bar. Wireless internet is available for customers. (760 852-4180)

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. It 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 had 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. He was known as "Siberian Red" because of his red hair and his stories of prospecting in Siberia. By 1951, he was receiving a comfortable income from the Grantham Talc Mine, and he lived here for only a short time before his death in 1952.

7. **C'est Si Bon Cafe:** The T&T RR had crews stationed every 20 miles (33 km) 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. It is now a specialty cafe where David Washum serves delicious crepes, salads, gourmet breads and cheeses, and fine coffees. (760 852-4307)

8. **Drilling Contests** were a popular part of the old "Amargosa Days." Miners competed in "jackleg" drilling contests by drilling dynamite holes in 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. A cemetery guidebook and recorded tours (of both the town and the cemetery) by historian George Ross are available in the Museum gift shop.



10. **Dublin Gulch:** During the 1920s miners carved dwellings in this caliche clay embankment. The name “Dublin Gulch” may have come from an area of the same name in Butte, Montana, where one original resident, Joe Vollmer, had lived. Some caves have split levels, stovepipe chimneys, and garages. No one has lived in Dublin Gulch since 1970. “Castle in Clay” is another cave dug out by Harvey Rutledge near the Amargosa River.

11. **Shoshone Village Office and Post Office:** This, the newest building in town, was built in 1964 to meet the needs of modern Shoshone. The Shoshone Village office is the administrative center of Shoshone. The mural on the south side of the building was painted in the late 1980s by Larry Iwerks who also did the artwork for the mammoth exhibit in the museum. (760 852-4224) (Post Office 760 852-4212)

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:** The “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, HBO, and wireless internet access. (760 852-4335)

14. **The Whiffletree** is a cozy cottage available for extended visits to Shoshone. Contact the Shoshone Village office for rental information. (760 852-4224)

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.

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 (100 km) to attend.

17. **Shoshone Swimming Pool:** The original “pool” was built in 1921 by Tom Weed (a Paiute elder) 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. It is available to guests of the Shoshone RV Park and 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 the community obtained a federal Rural Health Initiative grant in 1980 to establish the Health Center. The clinic provides primary care services to the community. Built in the mid 1940s, the structure has been home to Southern California Minerals and to Pfizer, Inc. (760 852-4383)

20. **SHEAR Center** (Shoshone Education And Research 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. This 1940s building previously housed the Southern California Minerals Co. For more information, contact Terry Pavlis or Laura Serpa, Department of Geology, University of Texas at El Paso, (504 813-8793 or <lfserpa@utep.edu>) or the Shoshone Village office (760 852-4224).

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. **Amargosa Conservancy:** Built from a Sears kit after fire destroyed their first house in 1926, this was the home of Shoshone pioneers, Charles and Stella Brown. Now this nonprofit organization is protecting the land, water and beauty of the Amargosa. (760 852-4339)

#### OTHER NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

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

**Shoshone Airstrip:** South of highway 178, the unattended asphalt runway is 2380 x 30 ft. (725 x 9 m), at elevation 1568 ft. (478 m) with radio-activated lights. For information, call Inyo County Public Works (760 872-2971) or visit <www.airnav.com/airport/LG61>.

**China Ranch:** China Ranch is southeast of Shoshone off of Hwy 127 and the Old Spanish Trail Highway. Located in 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** at China Ranch and on the Old Spanish Trail in Tecopa offers relaxing accommodations at two different beautiful locations. (760 852-4358)

**Hurlbut-Rook Park:** These therapeutic waters in Tecopa draw visitors from around the world. (760 852-4481)

**Tecopa Hot Springs Resort, Pastels Bistro, and Tecopa Basin Art Gallery:** Relaxing hot baths, comfortable accommodations, fine food, and local art can all be found at this historic resort in Tecopa. (760 852-4420)

**Amargosa Opera House and Hotel** in Death Valley Junction offers rooms, original art and in-season live performances by the world famous Marta Becket. (760 852-4441)