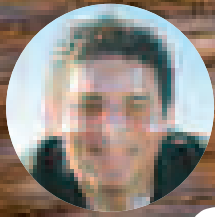


Angel's Be Alive!



Angel Gomez,
Member Services
Manager



The entrance to the Maggie Mine.



The glass bottle house.

Calico Ghost

Hello again!

This month, we travel to Calico Ghost Town, an "Old West mining adventure" in our great state of California. Have you ever been to a real ghost town?

Calico was founded in 1881 and grew to a population of about 1,200 with 22 saloons and more than 500 silver mines. Calico became one of the richest mining districts in California, producing \$86 million in silver and \$45 million in borax.

During the mid-1890s, the price of silver dropped, and Calico's silver mines were no longer economically viable. With the end of borax mining in the region in 1907, the town became completely abandoned. The last original inhabitant of Calico before it was abandoned, Lucy Bell Lane, died in the 1960s. Her house remains as the main museum in town.

In 1951, Walter Knott, founder of Knott's Berry Farm, purchased the town and began restoring it to its original condition, referencing old photographs. Though five of the original town buildings exist today, many others were recreated as replicas of their originals on preexisting foundations. In 1966, Walter Knott donated the town to San Bernardino County, and Calico became a county regional park. Today, the park operates mine tours, gunfight stunt shows, gold panning, a restaurant, the Calico & Odess Railroad and a number of general merchandise stores. It is open daily, and requires an entrance fee. During the tours, one may see silver ore so rich that there are gray spots of silver in the rock.

Walk the streets and examine the life of miners and townspeople, and you may meet Dorsey the Mail Dog (portrayed by Pilot, a Delta Society therapy dog), and visit the original cemetery. Calico is a state historic landmark and survived in the early 1900s because of borax mining within the district. This was the last place in California that the picturesque "20-mule teams" were used. A narrow-gauge railroad operates within town limits, and a hard rock silver mine offers underground exploration. Lil's Saloon and two other eating establishments line Main Street, along with variety of mercantile stores, a schoolhouse, blacksmith shop, and gold panning operation. The bathhouse and barber shop are open daily, and old-fashioned remedies can be viewed at the drugstore. Calico's infamous "Character Hall of Fame" is at the Town Hall building. In the canyons below town, a full-service campground, camping cabins, and bunkhouse provide the opportunity for extended stays.

Some believe that Calico is haunted by the spirits of miners. The town was the basis for the Kenny Rogers and the First Edition album, "The Ballad of Calico."

Calico is a registered California historic monument, and is one of a number of ghost towns in California. It is the "official state silver rush ghost town" of California.

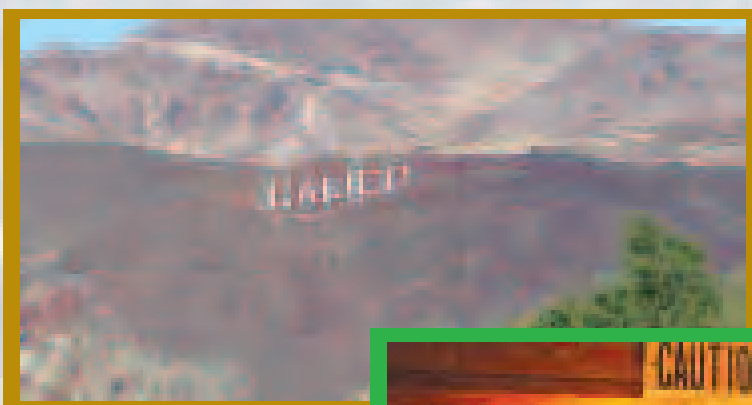
If you are wondering, "Can I stay the night?" The answer is yes, Camping is available. There are about 265 sites, 46 full hookups, 58 partial hookups, three group camping areas, tent and off-road vehicle camping, camping cabins, and admission to Ghost Town included in camping fees, except during special events. The lively events and living history reenactments are hallmarks of this exciting park. Facilities include hot showers, restrooms, public phones, grills, fire rings, restaurants and shops. Calico Festivals during the year are as follows:

- Calico Civil War (Presidents' Day weekend, February)
- Calico Spring Festival (Mother's Day Weekend, May)
- Calico Days (Columbus Day weekend in October)
- Calico Ghost Haunt (October)
- Calico Heritage Fest (November)
- Christmas in Calico (December)

See you next time!



Calico's Census.

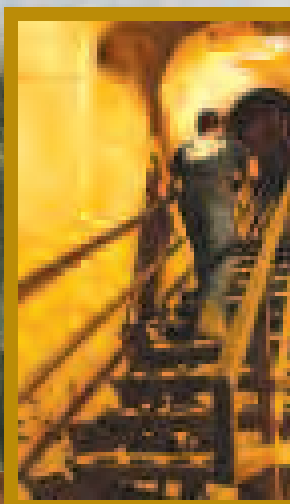


When you see this on the mountain, you'll know you're close.

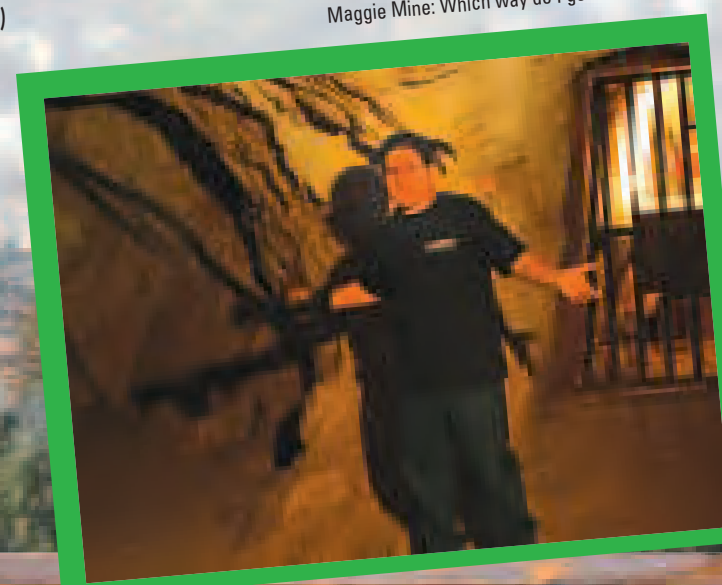
Inside the Maggie Mine.

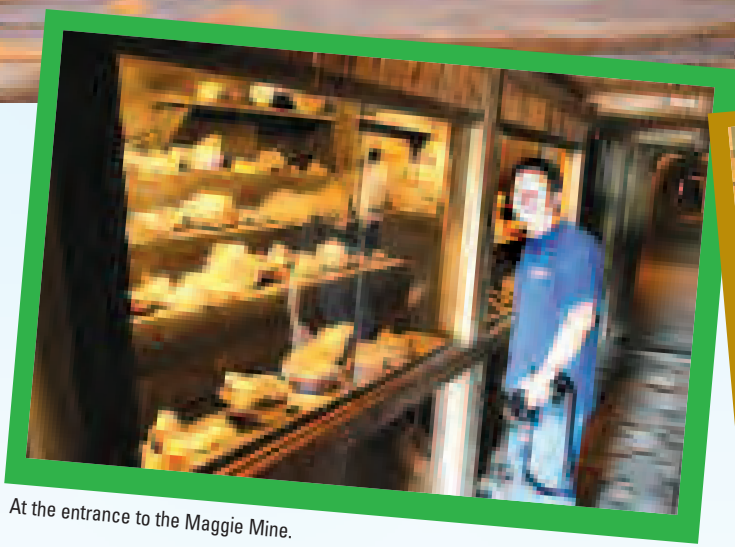


Exiting the Maggie Mine.



Maggie Mine: Which way do I go?





At the entrance to the Maggie Mine.

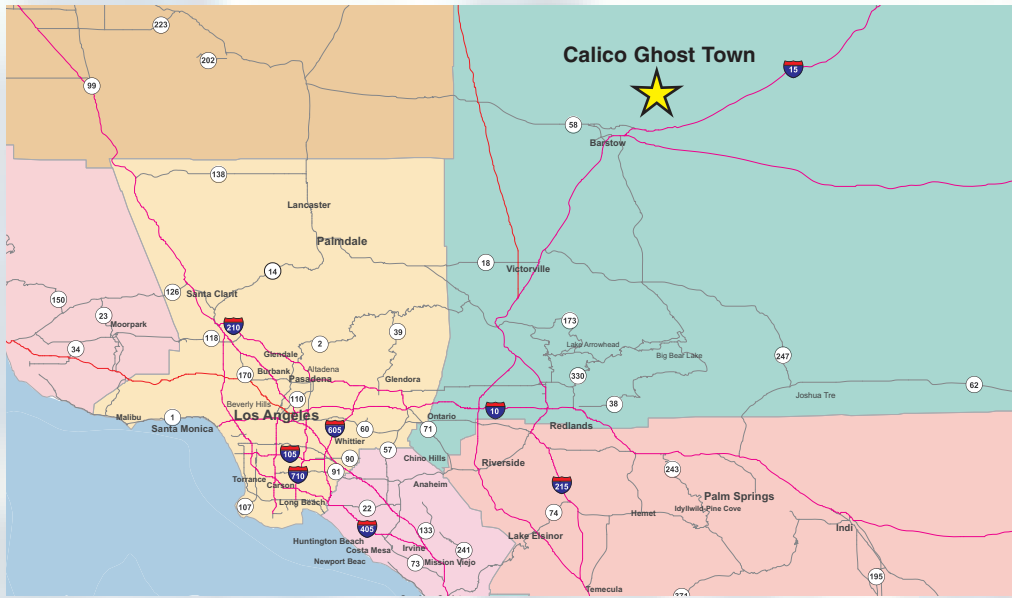


Inside the Maggie Mine.



More scenes inside the Maggie Mine.

Town



Directions:

Calico Ghost Town

- Calico Ghost Town is just northeast of Barstow. Take the ghost Town Road exit from Interstate 15. (When you see the letters C-A-L-I-C-O on the side of the mountain you'll know you're close.)
- GPS coordinates: 34°56_56_N 116°51_51_W34.94889, -116.
- The address: 36600 Ghost Town Road, Yermo, CA 92398. Map can be found at: <http://www.calico-town.com/mapweather/>
- Distance from Los Angeles: 145 miles (2 hours and 30 minutes).
- Call (800) TO CAICO or (760) 254-2122, or email: calico@mscomm.com
- Website: www.calicotown.com
- Hours: Open daily (closed Christmas Day) from 8 a.m. to dusk
- Cost: Adult: \$6
Children 6 - 15: \$3
Children 5 and under: Free
- Campgrounds: Open 24 hours a day
- Camping cost per night:
Non-hookup: \$18
Full hookup: \$22
Partial hookup: \$21
Camping cabins: \$33

Look for this sign off the 15 Freeway.



The entrance to the narrow-gauge train.



Royce the Engineer and me.



December Events

Downtown on Ice

Downtown's holiday event returns to Pershing Square through Jan. 21.

- Hours: Mon. - Thurs.: Noon to 9 p.m.; Fri. - Sun.: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Extended holiday hours: Dec. 14 - Jan. 6 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Call for special hours Christmas and New Year's Eve and Day.
- Open every day and all holidays.
- Admission: \$6 per session. Skate rental: \$2. Group and party rates available.
- Information: (888) LA-PARKS (527-2757), or www.laparks.org

Julius Shulman's Los Angeles

Enjoy this free photo exhibit at the Central Library downtown through Jan. 20. Free. This exhibition, organized by the Getty Research Institute, features 150 rarely seen photographs from the Julius Shulman photography archive in the special collections of the Research Library at the Getty Research Institute.

- Information: www.lapl.org

Tidepool Walk

CMA's Education staff conducts tours of the Point Fermin Marine Life Refuge. Attend an informative slide show in the auditorium, then come along on the naturalist-led ramble on the rocks to see animals in their natural habitat. Outdoor clothing and sneakers advised.

- Jan. 19-20, noon to 1:30 p.m. \$1. Available *en Español*.
- Cabrillo Marine Aquarium
3720 Stephen M. White Dr., San Pedro.
- Information: (310) 548-7562 or www.cabrilloaq.org

The Color Purple

Ahmanson Theatre
The Tony Award-nominated Broadway musical, based on Alice Walker's novel and Steven Spielberg's film, plays through March 9 at the Ahmanson Theatre.

- Tickets range from \$150 to \$30.
- Information: www.centertheatregroup.co

Ticket Guy Recommends:

"I recommend the Pirates' Dinner Adventure. Drink and be merry and receive gold treasures. Oh, and get out of the cold. It's a great show for the kids."

Purchase your tickets through the Club Store. See contact information on the second last page of this issue, or go to www.cityemployeesclub.com

