



Visit the Bodie Hills

For more information about the Bodie Hills, please visit www.bodiehills.org

The Bodie Hills contain parcels of private land. Please respect no trespassing signs.

Amy Katz, Conservation Lands Foundation 2019
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- Highway
- Road
- Dirt Road
- Unmaintained Roads
- Bodie Hills CA Boundary
- Wilderness Study Area
- Bureau of Land Management
- Forest Service
- Bodie State Historic Park
- Birding
- Camping
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Historic Site
- Hot Springs



Visiting the Bodie Hills

There are numerous opportunities for hiking, birding, wildlife viewing, mountain biking, OHV'ing, camping, and picnicking in the Bodie Hills. **Enjoy your visit!**

Bridgeport Reservoir

Just north of the town of Bridgeport along Highway 182, the scenic Bridgeport Reservoir was created in 1924 to capture High Sierra snowmelt for agricultural and recreational pursuits. The Reservoir offers many recreational opportunities including bird watching, kayaking, sailing, waterskiing, paddleboarding, and fishing. Indeed Bridgeport Reservoir is home to some of the largest Brown and Rainbow trout caught in Mono County each year. Birding is an increasingly popular activity. The Reservoir features large populations of Western Grebes, American White Pelicans, and other waterfowl who feed on the abundant trout.

Masonic Historic Site

Accessible from the Masonic Road off of CA SR 182 northeast of Bridgeport, Masonic took its name from the Freemasons that opened the Pittsburg Liberty Mine in 1902. Two other mines, the Serita and the Chemung, were also in operation in the area at that time. The Masonic Historic Site includes the ruins of three towns that were home to around 1,000 people at the height of production between 1907 and 1910. Remnants of the towns can be found along the narrow wooded gulch the road follows.

Dry Lakes Plateau

Known for its stunning wildflower displays and summer sightings of pronghorn antelope, the Dry Lakes Plateau is accessible by hiking or cross country skiing along an old four-wheel drive road. The plateau exhibits an otherworldly beauty, offering excellent opportunities for camping, solitude, wildlife viewing, and photography.

Bodie State Historic Park

During its boom time around 1879, this iconic ghost town was home to almost 10,000 people and was one of the largest mining towns east of the Sierra. Its glory was short-lived as mining production dwindled and it was almost entirely bust by 1916. Indeed the town was almost empty when a fire in 1932 burned many old buildings down. The town has been maintained and protected as a State Park since 1962. The park features a Museum and Visitor Center, as well as guided and self-guided tours.

Potato Peak and Bodie Mountain

These two neighboring peaks are the highest points in the Bodie Hills. Great for a summer hike or winter ski, they overlook Bodie State Historic Park and provide views into the Mono Basin and the Sierra Nevada range. Enjoy fields of white lupine as you ascend in June or July. Both mountains sit above 10,000', so be prepared for a strenuous adventure to either or both summits. Both are best accessible from Highway 270 near an untraveled dirt road just before Bodie State Historic Park or from the Geiger Grade Road.

Rancheria Gulch/ Monoville

Monoville was the first European settlement in the Mono Basin. It's ruins can be found at the north end of Rattlesnake Gulch, which lies at the southern end of the Bodie Hills. Depicted as "Mono Diggings" on most maps, the town was home to nearly 1,000 people between 1859 and 1862. During this time, placer miners built the Mono Canal from Virginia Creek over to the mines, a truly ambitious project for its time. Most Monoville residents moved on to Bodie or Aurora by the late 1880s.

Travertine Hot Springs

Located outside the town of Bridgeport at the base of the Bodie Hills, Travertine Hot Springs consists of several man-made hot springs pools. The springs are managed by the BLM as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern to protect its unique geology. The natural hot springs offer visitors a chance to soak while taking in views of the majestic Sierra. Limited car camping space is available on the short dirt road leading to the hot springs, but is not allowed in the immediate area of the pools.

Clark Canyon

This is a moderate hike up a scenic red rock canyon to an expansive meadow and historic mining camp. It is especially enjoyable in the spring when water flows in the perennial stream and temperatures are mild. A small sign marks the start of the trail along Aurora Canyon Road at a cattle guard crossing.

CULTURAL RESOURCES AND SENSITIVE WILDLIFE

The Bodie Hills contain many historic and prehistoric artifacts which are important cultural resources protected under federal law. Please leave objects where you find them. Please also practice Leave No Trace etiquette, especially making sure to pack out your trash. The Bodie Hills are also home to the Bi-State Sage Grouse, a species of special concern. Please do not disturb the birds and always keep dogs on a leash.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

The road to Bodie State Historic Park (Hwy 270) is open and accessible to most vehicles during summer months. However, all roads in the Bodie Hills are dirt roads (except Hwy 270 until 3 miles short of Bodie) and many are not regularly maintained so high clearance four-wheel drive vehicles are always preferable and sometimes necessary. Roads are not plowed in the winter, oversnow travel requires snowmobiles, skis, or snowshoes. As with any outdoor activity, be prepared with plenty of water, sunscreen, food, and appropriate clothing. There is no cell service in the Bodie Hills.