

The Last Great American Gold Rush took place in the canyons and mountains that you see around you. It was here during the first decade of the 20th century that prospectors, miners, promoters and entrepreneurs sought their fortunes. It began as a silver discovery at Tonopah in 1900. Then in 1902 gold was found 25 miles south, building Goldfield. In 1904 more gold was uncovered on the edge of Death Valley establishing Rhyolite and Beatty. Only a few found their fortunes but for most it was a chance to re-live the old wild west!

Tonopah, 1900

Goldfield, 1902

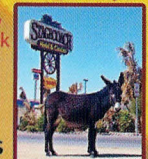
Rhyolite in 1908

1909 Beatty Promotion

Rhyolite, 1905

Beatty, 1904

Death Valley National Park



To Las Vegas

Today you can still re-live the wild west in Beatty and the old ghost town of Rhyolite. As you walk the streets of Beatty and Rhyolite it's easy to imagine prospectors roaming the hills looking for the next big strike. The towns were bustling with excitement as every day brought news of a new gold find in the hills. There was so much enthusiasm that the structures in Rhyolite were built to last with many believing it would be the "Chicago of the West." Beatty became the hub for supplies and an important crossroads where wealthy industrialists and entrepreneurs met in places like the Exchange Club to raise money and develop plans to exploit the rush for gold.



Montgomery Hotel, 1905
Eastern investors visit town.

Beatty remains a supply hub for your wild west adventure. You'll find good food, watering holes, resting spots and plenty of places to load up your wagon with all of your travel needs.



Enjoy your explorations along the Hwy 95 trail of The Last Great American Gold Rush!



8) Here was "Nob Hill" where the 'rich folks' lived. All that's left of the Taylor home (1907) is the chimney. The rest of the house survives in Beatty! (#7 on the Beatty tour.)



6) The Cook Bank, 1908. The tallest building in town. It had two vaults, marble floors, mahogany woodwork. The Post Office moved into the basement in 1909 and was the last business to leave town in 1919.



Cook Bank in 1909.

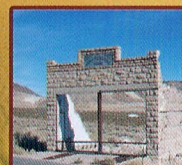


Esmeralda Street

In 1904 prospectors Shorty Harris and Ed Cross found gold in a rock the shape and color of a bullfrog. It was fabulously rich and established the "Bullfrog Mining District." The biggest mine in the district was the Montgomery-Shoshone. The town that grew as a result was Rhyolite, named for a pinkish-looking rock found here. It would have been fine as a temporary mining town but the dreams and hopes of thousands were built on overhyped promotions and inflated stock prices that doomed the town from its start. But even as people left town many had no regrets as they recalled the boom years when, "Every day was exciting!"

Broadway Street

5) The Porter Bros. Store, 1906. HD and LD Porter ran freight teams and stores in California and Nevada. Grand plate glass windows and a front door filled the now-empty opening.



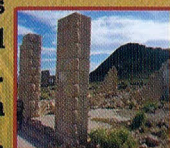
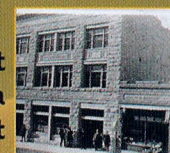
10) Adobe Dance Hall and Saloon, 1905. The divisions of the 'ladies of the night' 'crib' rooms are evident.



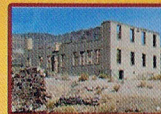
9) 1906, possible 'crib' in 'red light' district.

Golden Street

4) In 1907 Rhyolite resident John Overbury returned from a European vacation and built one of the most modern buildings in the west, rising 3 stories and housing more than 25 elegant offices. It was fitting as Rhyolite's population had peaked at more than 5,000.



Colorado Street



3) School, 1909. By the time this nice school was finished families were moving out and Rhyolite was becoming a ghost town. The roof tiles and windows went to the little school in Beatty (# 17 on the Beatty tour)

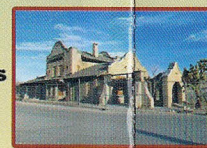
1) The strange statues are part of the Goldwell Open Air Museum.



Visit the cemetery on your way out of town.

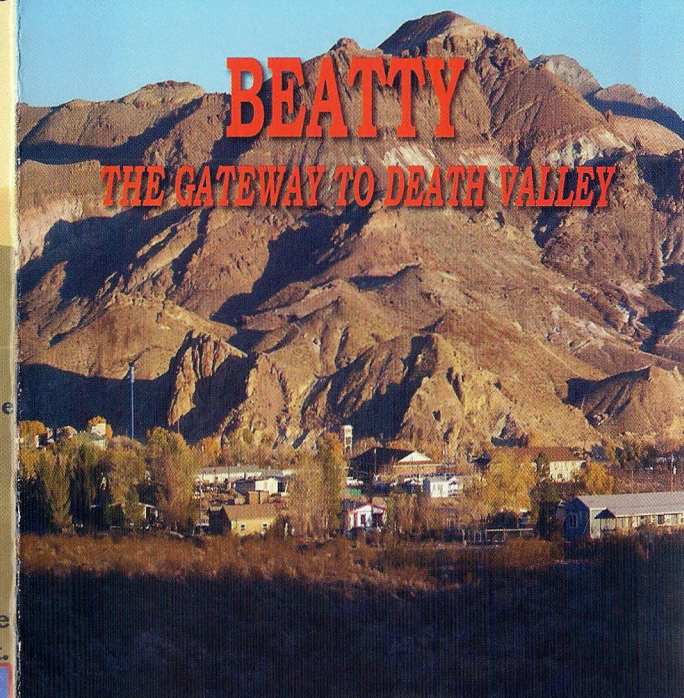
Produced by: www.goldcreekfilms.com and Beatty Museum with a grant from the Nevada Commission on Tourism

7) LV&T Depot, 1908. The Las Vegas & Tonopah RR was the first train to arrive in Rhyolite in 1906. Owned by Montana Mining Millionaire William Andrews Clark, the line ran until 1917 when it was abandoned and became scrap metal for use in World War I.

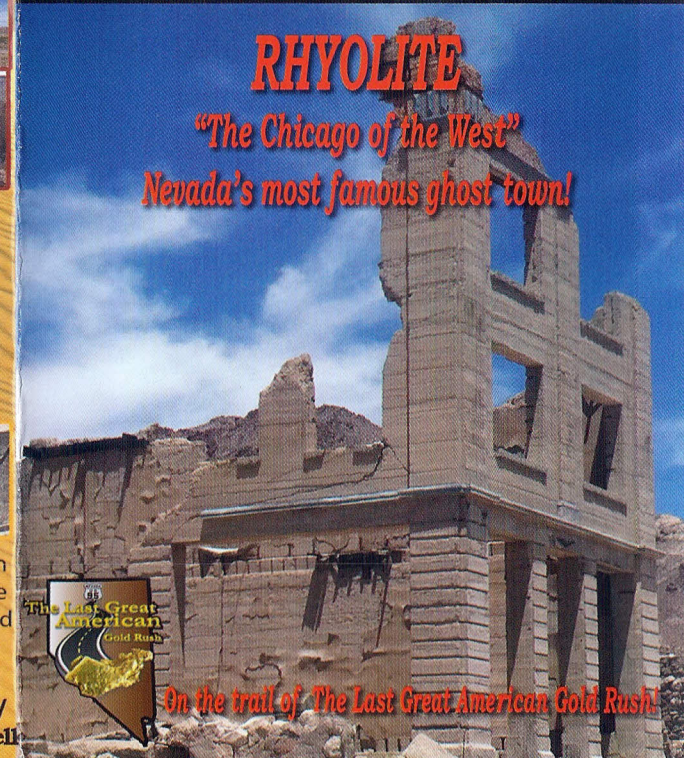


TOUR TWO NEVADA TOWNS

BEATTY THE GATEWAY TO DEATH VALLEY

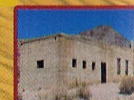


RHYOLITE "The Chicago of the West" Nevada's most famous ghost town!

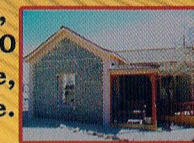


On the trail of The Last Great American Gold Rush!

11) Jail, 1907. The Judge's office was in the front and six steel cells housed Rhyolite's rowdier folks.



2) Tom Kelly's house, 1905, Built with 30,000 bottles of beer, wine, soda and medicine.



As you enter Rhyolite, on the left is the Goldwell Open Air Museum with its ghostly statues. Up the street on the right is Tom Kelly's bottle house. Both have additional tourist information. The Bureau of Land Management manages Rhyolite. Help protect this national treasure by taking home only pictures and staying behind fenced areas.

Thanks: Suzy McCoy, Historian/Photos: rhyolitesite.com/ Bill Miller, Death Valley NP, Mark Holloway, Merilee Mitchell

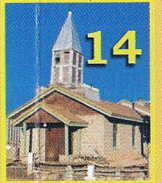
Irving St.



Montgomery St.



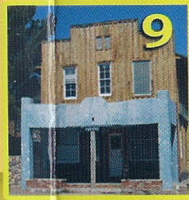
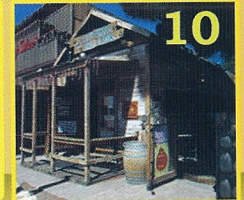
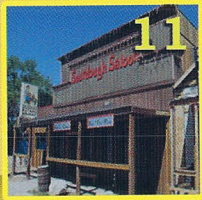
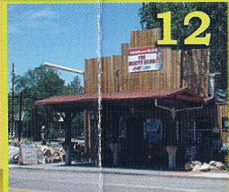
4th St.



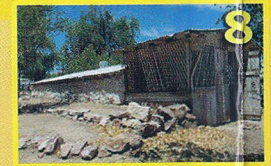
3rd St.



2nd St.



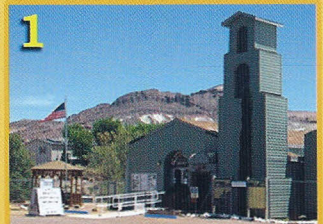
1st St.



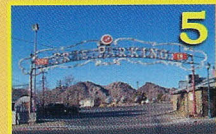
BEATTY, NEVADA

THE GATEWAY TO DEATH VALLEY

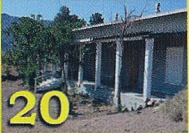
Hwy 374 W to Rhyolite/Death Valley



Hwy 95 S



Your Tour Starts Here at the Beatty Museum!

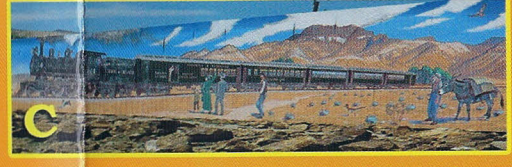
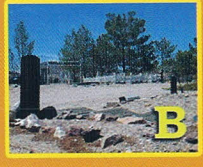


Lewis St.

While Beatty has changed through the years there are still remnants of its wild west days! The town began as a supply center and railroad town starting in 1904. As a transportation hub with a steady source of water it became an important lifeline for the fortune seekers who ventured here for The Last Great American Gold Rush (1900-1913).

Hwy 95 N to Goldfield

Other Features Around Beatty!



- A. Railroad Grade (374 West) 1907 Las Vegas & Tonopah RR heading to the Rhyolite depot.
- B. Cemetery - 1904, Final resting place of Beatty's notable and colorful characters.
- C. Railroad Mural (95 South) - 2007, Captures a common scene in Beatty between 1905-1910.
- D. Amargosa River - Begins north of Beatty flowing above ground and underground, ending at Badwater in Death Valley.
- E. Beatty Fanch (95 North) - 1896, Old Stone storage building for Montelius Beatty's ranch for whom Beatty is named.

- 1. BEATTY MUSEUM - 1955, Former Catholic Church built by volunteers from the Air Force.
- 2. TYPICAL 1920s ERA HOUSE - 1920s, A private residence built in the 1920s.
- 3. SHOSHONE OFFICE - 1930s, Moved from Death Valley, used by CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) during the depression.
Now local offices for Death Valley Timbisha-Shoshone Tribe.
- 4. Formerly the Wagon Wheel Restaurant - 1940s, Before that it was a rowdy bar that one day in 1944, burned to the ground!
- 5. FREE PARKING SIGN - 1968, This sign was moved here from the Silver Slipper Casino in Las Vegas shortly after Howard Hughes purchased the casino. He redesigned the parking lot and the sign ended up here.
- 6. EXCHANGE CLUB - 1906, Early meeting club and bar built by Greenwoods who also owned the Aurora in nearby Springdale.
In the 1940s, Bought by a musician who opened Andre's Market.
- 7. REVERT HOUSE - 1907 & 1925, Formerly the Taylor home in Rhyolite. Moved to Beatty in 1925 by the Revert family.
- 8. UNDERGROUND CHURCH - 1905, Underground storage for meat & liquor. 1953 turned into a non-denominational chapel.
- 9. HOSTEL- 1900s, Originally a hotel it was moved here from Rhyolite in the 1920s.

- 10. HAPPY BURRO - 1920s, Originally an assayer's office (Where prospectors found out how valuable their claims were!)
- 11. SOURDOUGH SALOON - 1940s, Previously the M&M Bar - Watering hole for Beatty's colorful characters.
- 12. BEATTY CLUB - 1930s, Originally the Beatty Cash Store - an old filling station and general store serving Beatty!
- 13. NEWSPAPER OFFICE - 1905, Once the home of the Beatty Bullfrog Miner, one of the mining boom's most important papers.
- 14. EPISCOPAL CHURCH - 1905, Stones moved from a building in Rhyolite in 1926 to build Beatty's first church.
- 15, 16, 18, HOUSES MOVED FROM RHYOLITE - 1905- 1910/1920s, In many ways Beatty is where "Rhyolite Came to Live." Many buildings from the nearby abandoned ghost town were moved here. Note the turn of the 20th century architecture and the distinctive style of the roof, often called a 'hip' roof.
- 17 SCHOOL - 1925, First school in Beatty. Doors, windows and cupola moved here from the Rhyolite school.
- 19. EL PORTAL MOTEL - 1930s, Originally an auto court with a garage for your car next to your room.
- 20. ICE HOUSE - 1905, Built by Lemie Levy Co. of San Francisco. Water from Amargosa River used to make ice.
- 21. BEATTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - Stop in for more information on what to do and see in and around Beatty!

For More Information contact the Beatty Museum: 775-553-2303 or the Beatty Chamber of Commerce: 775-553-2424