



BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK

Where Time Stands Still

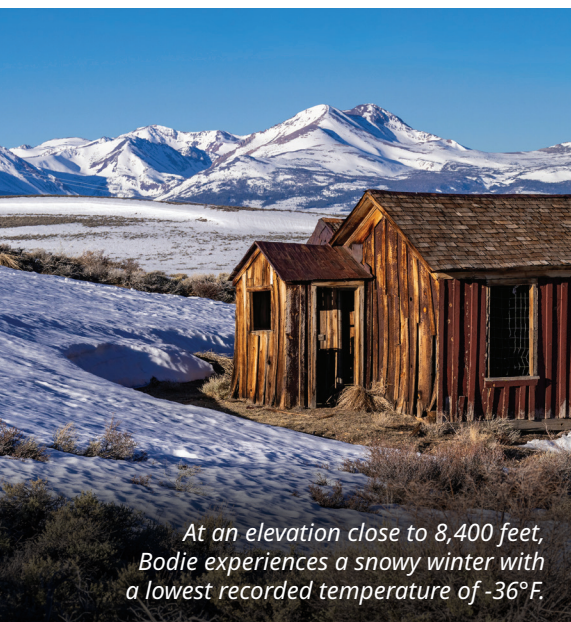
ACTIVITIES & AMENITIES



ESTABLISHED
1962

National Historic
Landmark

One of
your 280+
California
State Parks



At an elevation close to 8,400 feet,
Bodie experiences a snowy winter with
a lowest recorded temperature of -36°F.

THE RICH HISTORY OF BODIE

The townspeople of Bodie are long gone, but the deserted buildings remain. This mining town is now frozen in a state of “arrested decay” — preserving how the town looked when California State Parks acquired it in 1962.

The Gold Rush transformed this landscape and attracted investors and workers from around the world. This unique community included Irish, Canadian, Mexican, Chinese, German and Slavic immigrants. Chinese residents, barred from working in the mines, built thriving businesses in other trades such as wood hauling. They formed a vibrant Chinatown along King Street. The diverse community was shaped by cooperation, conflict and the challenging realities of life in the high desert.

KOOTZADUKA'A LIFEWAYS

Native people were a part of the boomtown, working in local industries. The Kootzaduka'a people have lived throughout the Eastern Sierra since time immemorial. The arrival of miners and townspeople disrupted food sources and land access. The seasonal lifeways, trade networks, artistry and environmental knowledge of the Kootzaduka'a people continue to have influence on the region. Today, tribal communities remain active partners in stewardship and interpretation throughout the region.

A HIGH DESERT MINING BOOMTOWN

With the discovery of a major vein of gold in 1875, Bodie grew rapidly. By 1878, Bodie featured a main street with flourishing businesses from hotels and newspapers to banks and general stores. The air was filled with the noise of stamp mills, a rail line and lumber operations that supported around-the-clock mining and processing of gold ore. Saloons, dance halls and gambling, as well as parades and a baseball team, provided entertainment for the town.

The census of 1880 counted over 5,000 permanent residents. However, the number of people in Bodie during its height was likely closer to 7,000-8,000 as miners and tradespeople came and went in search of the next mining boom.

Gold is Discovered (1859)

W. S. Bodey (the namesake of the town “Bodie”) discovers gold, marking the start of the Bodie mining district.

Industrial Boomtown (1870s)

Bodie transforms from a remote Gold Rush site into a bustling town with advanced mining technologies.

From Boom to Bust (1880s-1910s)

The gold output and population dwindles. After a series of destructive fires, Bodie becomes known as a deserted ghost town.

Arrested in Time (since 1962)

State Parks continues to preserve Bodie without modern changes.

*This historic mining landscape —
whose buildings are preserved in a
state of arrested decay — keeps alive
the diverse stories of those who lived
and worked in this remote town.*



Bodie's Standard Mill processed gold and silver ore.

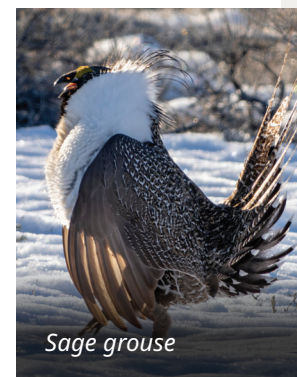
A REPUTATION FOR LAWLESSNESS TAKES HOLD

As Bodie's population grew, the town became infamous for stories of gunfights, robberies and stagecoach holdups. Nearly unregulated gambling, sex work and opium dens contributed to the notoriety. Despite the reputation, conflicts and violence were generally contained along King and Bonanza streets.

Elsewhere in Bodie, children went to school and people celebrated holidays such as Fourth of July. Life more resembled other communities in California rather than the Wild West image that was popularized after the 1870s.



Bodie in the early 1900s.
Courtesy of the California History
Room, California State Library.



Sage grouse

BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK
12515 Bodie Road, Bridgeport, CA 93517
760-647-6445 (711, TTY Relay Service)

OUR MISSION

The mission of California State Parks is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.

ACCESSIBILITY

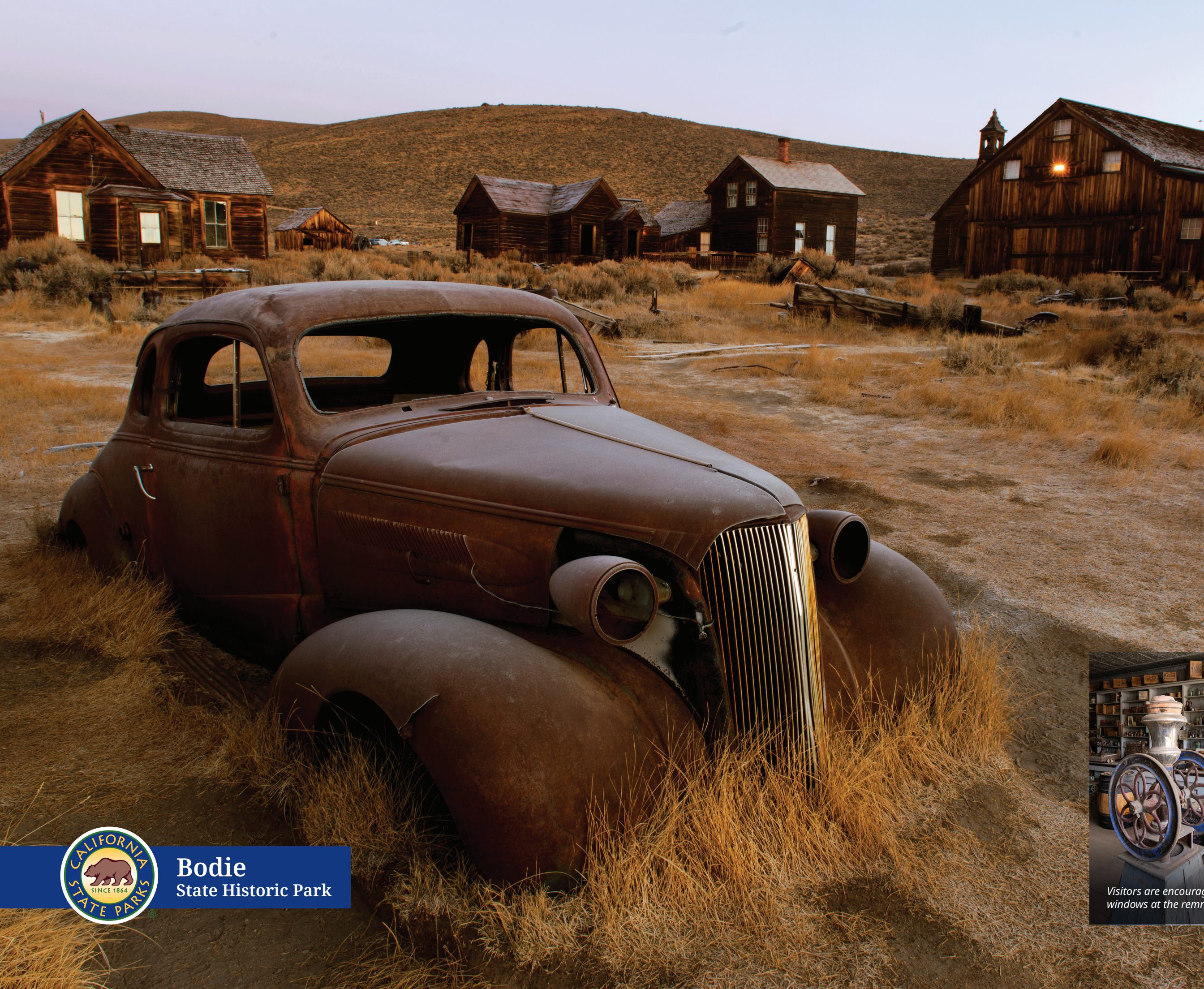
California State Parks supports equal access. For accommodation requests including alternative formats, please contact 760-647-6445. For information about accessible features at this park, visit parks.ca.gov/AccessibleFeatures.



FOR PARK INFORMATION
parks.ca.gov/Bodie

SUPPORTED BY
The Bodie Foundation
BodieFoundation.org





DECLINE AND PRESERVATION

Bodie's initial boom was brief. The introduction of electricity and cyanide mining in the 1890s gave Bodie another short-lived boost. A fire in 1892 destroyed hundreds of structures. By 1915, Bodie was described as a ghost town and suffered another fire in 1932. With improved roads and the advent of the automobile, Bodie found a new life in tourism, building on its now notorious Wild West image. The surviving portion of Bodie became a National Historic Landmark in 1961 and became a California state park shortly after.

California State Parks adopted a preservation philosophy known as arrested decay. This calls for State Parks to maintain the remaining structures as they were left when the state acquired them. The buildings are not repaired using modern alterations but are also not allowed to fall into complete collapse. State Parks and partners like the Bodie Foundation replace roofs and windows, fix foundations, and make other repairs to keep the buildings stable.

Today, only park staff live in Bodie. Visitors can imagine daily life of its former inhabitants through original furnishings, tools and possessions still resting inside historic homes and businesses.



Visitors are encouraged to explore the townsite and gaze into the windows at the remnants the former residents left behind.



Bodie
State Historic Park