

BOULDER CITY DAY TRIP VO

4/16/2024

00 INTRO-OUTRO

00a Intro Stuff

Dale VO:

When you live in Las Vegas, where can you go to escape the crazy pace? Somewhere less than 30 miles away, steeped in history, and chock full of mid-century charm...the best antique stores...the best burgers and brews...even a live performance on demand...does such a place exist?

Paula Live:

You betcha! It's Boulder City, and we ran away from home on Monday to take in all that and more. Oh yeah, and there's a world-famous dam somewhere nearby too!

Dale Live:

[IMG_0224]

00b Outro Stuff

[Most of that 208 square miles is owned by the city - undeveloped, and restricted to stay that way - preserving the small town aspect.

They worried that Interstate 11, the bypass, would hurt business, but that hasn't proven to be true.

So...when are we going to cabaret night at the Cleveland Lounge?

Talk about the music festivals in the late 70's that had the orchestras from the shows on the strip play.]

01 TRAVEL FOOTAGE-93

It has been several years since we gave Boulder City some love on our channel...and in that time, we hope we've gotten better at showing you cool things. This town is definitely worth a fresh look! Today, we are on U.S. Highway 93, just 26 miles southeast of Las Vegas, but a world away. We're going to spend some time in Boulder City's Historic District.

[4263 gets blurry 7 seconds in; 4264 clears 10 seconds in, then goes almost 2 min to historic arch]

01b Vintage Motels I

This section of the highway has been renamed Nevada Way...and between here and downtown is a collection of 514 buildings and structures that were placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. They were all built during and just after the era of Hoover Dam. Let's take a closer look. [driving footage 4265]

El Rancho Boulder is a classic motel from the days when road trips first became a thing. It sits in the heart of the historic district, and offers simple lodgings and friendly service. [Rancho]

A few doors down, the Sands Motel has been proudly family owned and operated since 1951 - what a great run, it's been around as long as I have! The rooms are newly renovated mid-century modern...and how much do you love this vintage mural on the side of the building? [Sands]

Not all the businesses are thriving...but we still love the historic, vintage look to them. Who knows? Maybe they'll have new life someday. [Kitchenette, Grille]

01c Vintage Motels II

Across the street, the Boulder City Inn got a new name and a makeover in 2019. We're big fans of the neon sign. [Inn]

We read in the local paper last November that the Flamingo was bought up by a local couple, with plans to revive this retro motel. [Flamingo]

Now, if you prefer more 21st century accommodations, there's a nice Best Western here, equipped with spa, fitness center, and onsite restaurant and bar. [\[BW\]](#)

01d Southwest Diner

And, ideally situated among the motels is a homey restaurant called the Southwest Diner. The decor is kitschy...the patio is popular...and the portions are hearty. Their tagline is "homemade is our specialty" - the ultimate American and Tex-Mex comfort food.

[\[0208, 0207, homemade pic 0221; other pics as you choose\]](#)

02 NEVADA WAY

02a Video-Photos-Crowe Park

Not only is Boulder City proud of its dam heritage - in truth, Boulder Dam, later renamed to Hoover Dam, is the sole reason the town exists - but also, its parks and green spaces. [\[clip 4284; photos 0243/4280; clip 0254\]](#)

This one is dedicated to the dam's Construction Engineer, Frank T. Crowe. Mr. Crowe's job is best described with this quote:

"For five long years, the mud, the remorseless current, the swift floods, the jangling telephones, were his responsibility"

And, under his leadership, the dam was completed nearly 2 years ahead of schedule!

[\[clip 0249; plus photos 0255 or 4282, then 0248, 0252, 0253\]](#)

Here's a fun fact: The very first time the hard hat was required as mandatory equipment on the job was in the building of the dam! And now you know. [\[clip 0251; photo 0250\]](#)

02b Park w Mural

One street over is a green wedge-shaped park where that mural you saw in the video opening is located. I'd call this a statement piece.

[0225 OR 0226; plus photo 0227]

On the street end of the park is one of many statues erected in the heart of Boulder City. This one, called “Rag Town Goddess”, represents the character and resiliency of the miner families who lived in this hostile environment in the 1930s - in tents!

[0247, then 0246, plus pics 0244, 0245]

[Caption:

“Rag Town Goddess”, artist Sandra Messina]

02c Alabam Statue

[play 0236 Paula story; supplement with 0233, 0234, and pics]

[Caption:

“Alabam, artist Steven Liguori]

02d Other Statues

A few others we captured in our wanderings - and all of them donated and put in place less than a decade ago...

[4 total - just make a montage here]

[One Thing:

“If It Isn’t One Thing It’s Your Mother”, artist Jerry Anderson]

[Last Reign:

“Last Reign”, artist Jerry Anderson]

[Catching Wind:

“Catching the Wind”, artist Gregory Johnson]

[Romance:

“Romance”, artist Jeannine Young]

[Tortoise:

“Desert Tortoise”, artist Gary Hauschulz]

02e DWP - NPS

A couple notable buildings at the Wyoming Street intersection: the National Park Service offices, building circa 1950, where you can get all the Lake Mead fishing and boating info you need... [\[NPS 0229, 0242\]](#)

And the historic Department of Water and Power building, constructed in 1937, and a fine example of late Spanish Colonial Revival architecture. [\[DWP 0237, 0239\]](#)

03 BC DRIVING TOUR

03a Downtown Area

OK, back in the truck and further on towards Lake Mead. Boulder City is a rare example of a town that was fully planned and owned by the federal government, to house dam workers. [\[4266\]](#)

The streets in one direction were named by letters of the alphabet, and in the other, for the states along the route of the Colorado River. [\[google map\]](#)

Let's circle back again - Compare the corner of Nevada Way and Avenue B today to the early days, in 1932! [\[4344, about 15 seconds in to do the compare, web pic from 1932\]](#)

03b Coffee Cup July2020

The Coffee Cup cafe was made famous years ago on one of the earliest episodes of Food Network's Diners, Drive-Ins, & Dives. Paula and I stopped in there for breakfast on our channel back in 2020. Not only good food, but just the greatest decor! [\[0777, plus photos of sign and exterior; 2 clips of us - use one; 3 pics of wall decor, plus one of front\]](#)

03c Residential Streets

Before we start exploring the town center on foot, we want to drive down a few of these residential streets and show you a slice of life in Boulder City. These houses were built either for the dam workers per the original plan, or by the companies who brought in their employees to actually run the dam once it was operational. You can guess the relative importance of the person's job by comparing the sizes of the homes...from the small squares... to the lovely duplexes... to the red clay roofs and stucco finishes.

[4268, 4270 - square

4269 - bigger

4270 - siding, red tile, park

4285, 4288 - stucco, red tile]

04 LUNCH-THE DILLINGER

04ab Video-Photos-Dillinger

[start with Paula welcome, 4296]

In the heart of town is what was once the Bank of Nevada building, circa 1941. Since 2011, it's been home to gourmet burgers and craft beer, an establishment called The Dillinger.

[photos 0277, 0259, 0273 of exterior; clip 0260 walks in]

Named for infamous bank robber John Dillinger, the interior is described as having rugged charm, with a mix of wood, steel and concrete. The bank is fondly remembered on the back wall...

[0263, 0265, or photo 0264 of wall]

...the menu promises fresh, never frozen burgers and fresh-made sandwiches...

[menu photos 0256, 0257 over top of 4294]

...and the bar offers ice cold barley brews and the most extensive whiskey selection in town. Now here's a fun fact: Boulder City was dry from its beginnings in 1931, until 1969! Not only that...there's no gambling here, and never has been. [4289]

04d Lunch-Tasting / 04c Food Pics

[No VO]

05 BC WALKING TOUR

05a BC Theatre

Let's go for a walk. First up, the famous Boulder Theatre. It opened in 1932, with 550 seats and the only air conditioning in Nevada! The owners offered free movies to the construction workers, 24 hours a day. Years ago, the theatre was purchased and restored by Desi Arnaz Jr and his wife Amy, and was home to a ballet company and film festival.

[0275 walk to it, photo from 1932 and now]

05b Shermans Antiques

Sherman's House of Antiques has been here ever since we've been visiting Boulder City - in fact, their Facebook page says 68 years. We always love how the merchandise spills out to the sidewalk - and since they are licensed estate liquidators, you can always find great vintage furniture.

[pic 4325 or 4308 from corner, clips 4310, 0279, reflection 0272]

05c Western Mexican Center

This place is probably the most colorful address in the whole city! The Western & Mexican Center occupies a building originally built in 1950, and has been run by the same family, multiple generations, since 1965.

[4313, then 4311, then 0282, then 0284]

The inside of the shop is crammed with lovingly selected arts, crafts, and gifts that represent the desert southwest in all its colorful glory. We dare you to walk out of here without buying something!

[clips 0286, 0287; photos 0285, 0288, 0289, 0290]

05d Boulder Brewing

Not everything here is old. Boulder Dam Brewing Company opened a brewpub in 2007...but in doing so, they incorporated 1930s decor and even some actual artifacts from the dam build. It's a family business, with Todd Cook as master brewer.

[2 clips, 2 pics, pic of family from web]

05e Cornish Pasty Co

Also fairly new to Boulder City is the Cornish Pasty Company...you may remember we featured the downtown Las Vegas location on our channel in the past. They serve traditional, made-from-scratch English hand-held meat pies, called "pasties", and they're great.

[0311, 0304; pic 0306]

Last summer we stopped in here for lunch, and each of us ordered a pasty. This humble all-in-one meal has a long and storied history, as far back as the 1200s - eaten by tin miners in Cornwall, England.

[1636 pan of room has us talking, but it's your birthday - don't know if you want to use the sound or not; 1637 and 1638 are our pasties]

06 BOULDER DAM HOTEL

06a Ext-BD Hotel

Directly across the street is truly the gem of the historic district - the Boulder Dam Hotel. It was built in the Colonial Revival style back in 1933, meant to accommodate official visitors and tourists to the dam.

[0308]

Of course it's on the National Register of Historic Places. In the 1990s, a \$2 million restoration project kicked off, and in the early 2000s, the beautifully restored hotel reopened. [0312 register pic; 4321, 4326]

06bc Video-Photos-BD Hotel

Stepping inside, here's the stairway to the downstairs lounge - more on that in a minute. The restaurant will soon be turning into a steakhouse on weekends...the front desk offers brochures and postcards...and the lobby looks straight out of a movie set. [0314]

The hotel hosted big names in its heyday, and was renowned for fine hospitality and its rich interior. Today, there's big band music playing softly from the vintage jukebox. [0321, 0315]

[Interject Dale & Paula Live here - talk about Sharon, the lounge, Misty, etc - clips 4338, 4339]

06de Video-Photos-Museum July2019

One more thing to note about the hotel: It is home to a wonderful museum, featuring exhibits on the Boulder Canyon Project, building the dam, and the history of the town. These clips are from our visit a few years back.

[4 videos, 7 photos]

07 GOATFEATHERS

07a Ext-Goatfeathers

Who's up for a little antiquing? Let's pop into this building, which in 1948 was the Boulder Laundry, but today is a huge store with the unlikely name of Goat Feathers Emporium. And no, the current owners have no idea where that name came from!

[4341 and/or 0351; 0322/0323 are wall mural]

Boulder City probably has ten or more antique shops, but this one, tucked away behind the main drag, is our favorite. They promise a walk down memory lane, and that it is. [0324]

07bc Video-Photos-Goatfeathers

Every square inch of this huge building, even up to the ceiling, is a time capsule...and as you walk among all the displays, you can't help but recognize things your parents or grandparents had - and that's the memory lane aspect of it. But...most everything is for sale, from unique gifts to rare finds, and it's hard to resist. Just take all this in for a minute...

[start with 0326, 0331, 0344, then 0347 with sound;

Then 0335, 0336, 0349 with sound;

At any point you can throw on some of the photos - there are 18 of them, all very cool - use any you choose]

08 HEMENWAY-LAKE MEAD

08a Travel to Park

Before we leave the area, we always have to head down towards Lake Mead. From this vantage point, we get a great panorama of the town. Believe it or not, Boulder City is the largest in Nevada by land area - 208 square miles - but, by design, it has very low population density. Less than 15,000 people live here. ...And, as we round the bend, there's the lake. [0354]

Our destination is Hemenway Park, and although it's early in the season, we want to check to see if there are bighorn sheep in the park. [0355]

08b No Bighorn Sheep / 08c Sheep

Well...looks like the sheep are still up in the hills...but still, this is a gorgeous park, with that rarest of commodities in the desert, lush green grass and a gorgeous blue lake in the background. [0357, 0358, 0360]

We have certainly seen bighorn sheep here on earlier visits. They come down to the park in the summer months and take up residence - as many as 80 of them. These clips are from summer 2020 and summer 2023. We know that many of you have made the trip to see them, because we told you they were here! [clips in two 08c folders, you choose]

09 HOOVER DAM-HOME

09a Dam Footage

And...we will leave you with this: the reason Boulder City exists. What started as Boulder Dam, and was later christened Hoover Dam, is truly one of man's greatest achievements. [DJI_0136 OR 0137]

In 2010, the Mike O'Callaghan - Pat Tillman Bridge, spanning the Colorado River south of the dam, opened to give us the best possible view of the whole thing. It is part of the new Interstate 11 highway, connecting Nevada with Arizona and bypassing the old road that crossed the dam. No matter how many times we see this view, it still awes us.

[DJI_0132 walk to bridge;

P1070576 signage;

iStock of bridge, and/or P1070592, and/or Web Wiki overhead pic;

Go back to DJI clip and/or photos P1070579, P1070581]

09b Back to LV

[Decided not to use this]

After a truly exceptional day trip, we are heading back to the north and west, with the Las Vegas skyline ahead of us. Back to real life! We hope you enjoyed being with us on our Boulder City getaway...see you back at home. [0366]

Guests at Boulder Dam Hotel

Bette Davis

Mr. & Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt Jr.

Will Rogers

Pope Pius XII

Duchess of Westminster

Maharajah of Indore, India

George Pepperdine

Henry Fonda

Boris Karloff

Sen. Robert Taft

Shirley Temple

Howard Hughes