

Alabama

Called the Cradle of the Confederacy, Alabama is steeped in Civil War history. Fascinating tours include Montgomery, the first Capitol of the Confederacy. During the Battle of Mobile Bay, Admiral Farragut exclaimed, “Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!” At the **USS *Alabama* Battleships Memorial Park** in Mobile, visitors can explore the park’s namesake as well as over 20 other World War II ships, aircraft, and weapons. The recipient of nine battle stars in World War II, the “Mighty A” saw plenty of action as part of the Pacific Fleet—fighting in Leyte, the Gilbert Islands, and Okinawa. The *Alabama* is lovingly preserved and is open for tours all year. If you’re traveling with a group, you can spend the night in the battleship’s barracks. A World War II submarine, the **USS *Drum***, is also open for tours. Exhibits in the park’s Aircraft Pavilion include a B-52 bomber, and a Blackbird jet, in addition to several Medal of Honor–winning aircraft.

The Civil Rights movement thrust Alabama into the national media spotlight in the 1950s and 1960s. Defining events included the 1955 Montgomery bus boycott and the historic Selma to Montgomery march. You can gain a deeper understanding of the movement at the **Birmingham Civil Rights Institute**. Located across the street from the **Sixteenth Street Baptist Church**, site of the 1963 bombing that killed four little girls, the BCRI walks visitors through the many barriers that were overcome for the advancement of civil rights, with the aid of film, sound, and sculpture. An exhibit dedicated to human rights activists around the world is equally as moving.

Natives call Alabama “the Beautiful,” and we agree. Its northeast corner lies at the southernmost terminus of the **Appalachian Mountain** range. Quaint mountain towns, such as **Mentone**, offer rich fall foliage and excellent craft and antiques shopping. Check out the **Log Cabin Restaurant and Deli**—an intimate soup-and-sandwich shop that has the best root beer float on **Lookout Mountain**. Mentone has plenty of campsites and cabins, but if the weather is nice, spaces are taken up fast—so take the time to call ahead. Mentone is also the getaway for several country music artists. In nearby **Fort Payne** (“The Sock Capitol of the World”), country music fans might want to check out the museum dedicated to hometown heroes Alabama.

Fort Payne’s **Little River Canyon** is one of the deepest gorges east of the Mississippi. A national preserve, Little River Canyon is a sanctuary to a number of rare plants, such as the green pitcher and Kral’s water plantain—an aquatic plant native to this region. Trails for hiking, horseback riding, and ATVs abound. Alabama also has four national forests, and numerous lakes throughout the state provide enthusiasts with plenty of hunting and fishing.

Campers who truly need to get away from it all can find solitude in the **Sipsey Wilderness**. A 25,000-acre spread in northeast Alabama’s **Bankhead National Forest**, Sipsey is a popular spot for camping, hiking, hunting, and getting lost. With over 13 miles of trails, there is plenty of room to accommodate horseback riding, ATVs, and mountain bikes. Sipsey’s climate has somewhat of a challenge for campers—temperature average between 50–75° with frequent rain—so be sure to pack accordingly.

Those looking for warmer climates will be inclined to head for the beach. Alabama’s **Gulf Coast** region is home to moss-covered oak trees and white sand beaches. **Orange Beach** is known for top-notch saltwater fishing. The **Alabama Coastal Birding Trail** dots historic **Mobile Bay** with spots for viewing both wading and shorebirds.

Golf is the feather in Alabama’s outdoor cap. Anchoring the golf offerings are the eight facilities of the **Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail**. An ambitious project designed by the revered architect for which the course is named, the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail is 378 holes of golf that will impress avid and novice players alike. Beautifully sculpted and reasonably priced, it’s not a surprise that five of the eight courses are routinely listed as some of the best in the country.

NASCAR racing fans are familiar with the **Talladega Superspeedway**, home of the **Diehard 500** in April and the **Winston 500** in October. Combination tickets for year-round track tours and admission to the **International Motorsports Hall of Fame** are available. RVers should take note that race time in Talladega is tailgate heaven.

108 ALABAMA Adger

Campground Profiles

ADGER MAP, B-2
Burchfield Branch Park

15036 Bankhead Rd., Adger 35006.
T: (205) 497-9828; www.reserveusa.com.

★★★★	★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★★

Construction was completed on Old Lock 16 Park on Holt Lake in 2002. Every attractive site is situated on the water and features paved back-in parking. Sites are larger than average and nicely spaced, making them quiet. There are a few shade trees, but not enough greenery to provide privacy between sites.

BASICS

Operated By: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
Open: All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; reservations accepted through the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS) at (877) 444-6777 or www.reserveusa.com; reservations can be made up to 240 days in advance, full payment required upon making reservation; credit card preferred (V, MC, D, AE), or pay by money order if at least 21 days in advance of arrival; \$10 fee for cancellation or change of site or dates; cancellation w/in 3 days of arrival charged 1st night, no-show charged \$20 plus 1st night. **Registration:** Gatehouse. **Fee:** \$16. **Parking:** At site, limit 2 vehicles per site.

FACILITIES

Number of Tent-only Sites: 2. **Number of Multipurpose Sites:** 35. **Hookups:** Electric (50 amps), water. **Each Site:** Picnic table, grill, fire ring, lantern post, some decks. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** 40 mi. west in Tuscaloosa. **Market:** Country store 4 mi.; grocery 25 mi. east in Hueytown. **Restaurant:** 10 mi. north in Oak Grove. **General Store:** 25 mi. east in Hueytown. **Vending:** Beverages. **Swimming:** Yes, beach. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Boat ramp, swimming beach, picnic shelter. **Activities:** Fishing, boating, hiking, biking, migratory eagle viewing Oct.–Feb. **Nearby Attractions:** VisionLand, Mercedes-Benz Visitor Center, Birmingham & Tuscaloosa attractions. **Additional Information:** Tuscaloosa CVB, (800) 538-8696; Greater Birmingham CVB, (800) 458-8085; Holt Resource Office, (205) 553-9373.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** In grills, fire rings only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Not allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From I-59, take the Brookwood exit onto CR 59 and go north approximately 5 mi. to AL 216. Turn right and drive east for 2.5 mi. Then turn left back onto CR 59 and go north 18 mi. Turn

left onto Lock 17 Rd. and go north. After 2 mi. (at Lock 17 Grocery) the road veers to the left. Continue 2.5 mi. north to the campground entrance.

ALEXANDER CITY MAP, B-2
Wind Creek State Park

4325 AL 128, Alexander City 35010.
T: (256) 329-0845; www.dcnr.state.al.us/parks.

★★★★	★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

On the shores of 40,000-acre Lake Martin in east central Alabama, Wind Creek State Park is an excellent choice for families. Children will enjoy the large playground and variety of natural and recreational programs. Campers with lakefront sites are allowed to swim and dock boats right at the sites. Anglers will find catfish, crappie and bluegill as well as largemouth, salt water striped, white, and hybrid bass. Wind Creek State Park is not the top choice for peace and quiet as it is full of children and boats. The park should be assiduously avoided on holiday weekends. Security is outstanding at this gated and extremely remote park. The campground at Wind Creek State Park is laid out in five main sections including a primitive overflow area. The large, flat, grid-like section B is nicely shaded by a stand of loblolly and longleaf pine. Section C includes sites on an open peninsula with unobscured views of Lake Martin. Sites C190, C191, and C192 are the prettiest in spite of their complete lack of privacy. Other attractive lakefront sites are found in section D. Section E contains a few sites with lake views and a modicum of privacy (try E32, E33, E34, E36, E38, or E30). All the sites at Wind Creek State Park are small compared to other Alabama state parks. While some sites are extremely shady, the open sites tend to have better views of the lake. The back-in, paved parking spaces are in various states of repair and disrepair and may be peppered with pine straw, gravel, or grass. However, the bathhouses here are in excellent condition—large and clean with no frills.

BASICS

Operated By: Alabama State Parks. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; Alabama State Park reservations system. **Registration:** Main entrance, open 24 hours in-season; night registration available in winter. **Fee:** \$16 for RV camping, \$14 for tent camping, \$3 additional for sewer or waterfront sites, fee includes 4 people, \$2 for each additional person, limit 8 people per site. **Parking:** Limit 2 cars per site, overflow parking available.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 636. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water, 235 sites w/ sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, grill. **Dump Sta-**

tion: Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** 8 mi. northeast in Alexander City. **Market:** 8 mi. north-east in Alexander City. **Restaurant:** 8 mi. north-east in Alexander City. **General Store:** Camp store. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Beach. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Marina, boat launches, 210-ft. fishing pier, picnic pavilions. **Activities:** Hiking trails, fishing, lake swimming, boating (limited boat rentals), organized summer activities, volleyball, horseshoes. **Nearby Attractions:** Lake Martin, Horseshoe Bend Military Park, Charles E. Bailey Sportsplex. **Additional Information:** Alexander City Chamber of Commerce, (256) 234-3461.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At site only. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 50 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Montgomery, take US 231 north for 9 mi. At Wetumpka, turn right onto AL 170 and go east for 10 mi. At Eclectic follow signs to AL 63 north. Follow AL 63 for 18 mi. until you see park signs. Turn right onto AL 128 and travel east 5 mi. to the park. From Birmingham, take US 280 east to Alexander City. Turn right onto AL 63 and go south for 7 mi. Turn left onto AL 128 and go east 5 mi.

BENTON MAP, C-2
Prairie Creek Campground, Woodruff Lake

8493 US 80 West, Benton 36040. T: (334) 872-9554 or (334) 418-4919; www.reserveusa.com.

★★★★	★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★★

Prairie Creek is typical of the top quality campgrounds managed by the Army Corps of Engineers. Sites are extremely spacious and most have uncluttered views of the Alabama River. Spanish moss-laden oak trees provide shade and privacy. Two of the three camping areas, Beaver Point and Eagles Roost, are newer and feature paved back-in parking. The older Whitetail Bluff camping area contains pull-throughs but is now used for overflow camping. At Beaver Point, sites 56–62 are reserved for tent campers. RV campers will not be disappointed with any of the waterfront sites, 27–51. Since so many sites are excellent, choose your site based on proximity to facilities. The campgrounds located on the Alabama River Lake system are all extremely remote. Prairie Creek makes a great summer destination as it only fills to capacity on the busiest holiday weekends. Gates lock at night making the park extremely safe. Prairie Creek is located six miles from Holy Ground Battlefield Park, site of 1813–1814 clashes

between the Creek Indians and the U.S. Army, led by General Andrew Jackson. Today, Holy Ground Battlefield Park is a day-use only recreation area with swimming beach, boat launch, playground, bathhouse, picnic shelters, multi-purpose court, hiking trails, and observation deck. Day-use fees are waived for Prairie Creek campground guests.

BASICS

Operated By: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Open: All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; 60% of sites are available for reservations, accepted through the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS) at (877) 444-6777 or www.reserveusa.com. Reservations can be made up to 240 days in advance, full payment required upon making reservation; credit card preferred (V, MC, D, AE), or pay by money order if at least 21 days in advance of arrival. \$10 fee for cancellation or change of site or dates. Cancellation w/in 3 days of arrival charged 1st night, no-show charged \$20 plus 1st night. **Registration:** Gatehouse or night access lane. **Fee:** \$14–\$16 for waterfront multipurpose sites; \$12 for other multipurpose sites, \$10 for tent sites. **Parking:** At sites, overflow parking available.

FACILITIES

Number of Tent-only Sites: 7. **Number of Multipurpose Sites:** 62. **Hookups:** Electric (50 amps), water. **Each Site:** Picnic tables, grills, fire rings, tent pad at tent sites. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** 20 mi. west in Selma. **Market:** 20 mi. west in Selma. **Restaurant:** 10 mi. southeast in Lowndesboro. **General Store:** 20 mi. west in Selma. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Courtesy docks, boat ramp, fish-cleaning area, picnic shelters, sports court, scenic overlooks. **Activities:** Boating, water-skiing, hiking, hunting. **Nearby Attractions:** Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church & King Monument, Cahawba, National Voting Rights Museum & Institute, Old Depot Museum, Old Live Oak Cemetery Tour, Smitherman Historic Building. **Additional Information:** Selma/Dallas County Chamber of Commerce, (334) 875-7241.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 50 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Montgomery, take US 80 west for 25 mi. Turn right on CR 29 and follow the signs.

BIRMINGHAM MAP, B-2 Birmingham South Campground

222 Hwy. 33, Birmingham 35124.
T: (205) 664-8832 or (800) 772-8832.



Beauty: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★
Security: ★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★



Site Privacy: ★★
Quiet: ★★★
Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Facilities: ★★★★★

Though not as attractive as nearby Oak Mountain State Park, KOA Birmingham South is tidy and offers comfortably spaced sites. Campers sometimes prefer the aesthetically bland sites at KOA to the state park because sites are level and hookups include cable TV. The KOA may also be quieter, as many of the campers here are retirees. Back-in sites numbered B-8 through B-30 are the shadiest, prettiest, and the most popular. If you prefer an open pull-through site, choose from sites 1–36. All roads and RV parking spots are paved.

BASICS

Operated By: AIG Baker. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; reservations accepted. **Registration:** Campground office. **Fee:** \$29 water & electric, \$23 tent, fee includes 2 people; extra charge for sewer, a/c, electric heat or 50 amp hookup. **Parking:** 2 vehicles per site, plus overflow lot.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 116. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 6. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer, cable TV. **Each Site:** Picnic table, paved area, grill on request. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Some gravel, majority paved. **RV Service:** 15 mi. **Market:** 1 mi. in Pelham. **Restaurant:** 0.5 mi. in Pelham. **General Store:** Camp store, Wal-Mart 2 mi. south in Pelham. **Vending:** Beverages. **Swimming:** Yes, heated pool & hot tub. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Gift shop, hot tub, covered pavilion, rental cabins. **Activities:** Game room, horseshoes, basketball, clubhouse w/ TV. **Nearby Attractions:** Oak Mountain State Park (golf, fishing, horseback riding, boating, hiking), Birmingham Zoo & Botanical Gardens, Galleria Mall. **Additional Information:** Birmingham CVB, (800) 458-8085; Hoover Chamber of Commerce, (205) 988-5672.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** At tent sites only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At site only. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 50 ft.

TO GET THERE

From I-65, take Exit 242, then AL 52 west, then right on AL 33, campground is 1 block on the right.

BIRMINGHAM MAP, B-2 Oak Mountain State Park

P.O. Box 278, Birmingham 35124.
T: (205) 620-2527; www.dcnr.state.al.us/parks.



Beauty: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★
Security: ★★★
Insect Control: ★★★



Site Privacy: ★★★
Quiet: ★★★★★
Cleanliness: ★★★
Facilities: ★★★★★

While reasonably attractive, Oak Mountain State park doesn't boast the most gorgeous campground in the state. The camp sites are a little ghostly—we could tell that they used to be lovely. Sites are situated in two main areas, within which site shape, size and privacy vary immensely. Area A contains 71

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sites, 24 of which have full hookups. Area A is prettier, shadier and more woodsy than B, which has 72 sites crammed into half the space of A. In fact, most of area B is downright unattractive, with the exception of tent sites B6, B8, B64, and B65. All RV parking is on untidy gravel and both areas have back-in and pull-through parking. Oak Mountain is exceptional for its proximity to Birmingham. It's a good place to stay while visiting Birmingham and it's also the favored outdoor playground for the city's natives. This means that hiking, mountain biking, and other activities may not provide the solitude we would expect at other parks. Still, the park's broad offering of activities and its proximity to a number of restaurants and attractions make it a good choice for a visit. Security at Oak Mountain is fair. The back gate is never manned, but both gates are locked at night. Avoid Oak Mountain State Park like the plague on holiday weekends and during the hotter summer months.

BASICS

Operated By: Alabama State Parks. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations required for weekends & holidays, 2-night min. stay weekends, 3-night min. stay holiday weekends (Mem. Day, Labor Day, & 4th of July). **Registration:** Country store. **Fee:** \$17 for sites w/ full hookups, \$15 for sites w/ water & electric, \$11 for tent sites, fee includes 3 people, \$2 per extra person, senior discount over 65. **Parking:** Limit 2 cars per site.

FACILITIES

Number of Tent-only Sites: 60. **Number of Multipurpose Sites:** 85. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, grill, fire ring, lantern pole. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved & gravel. **RV Service:** 2 mi. southwest. **Market:** 3 mi. southwest in Pelham. **Restaurant:** 3 mi. southwest in Pelham. **General Store:** Wal-Mart 6 mi. east in Inverness. **Vending:** Beverages. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Boat ramp, lake beach, snack bar, petting zoo, information center, stables, marina, boat rental (no gasoline boats allowed on lake), tennis courts, BMX track, picnic area, Alabama Wildlife Rescue Center, 18-hole golf course, sports fields, picnic shelters & pavilions, conference center. **Activities:** Horseback riding, hiking, mountain biking, fishing. **Nearby Attractions:** VisionLand, Birmingham Zoo & Botanical Gardens, Birmingham Museum of Art, Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame, Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, Sloss Furnaces, Galleria Mall. **Additional Information:** Birmingham CVB, (205) 458-8001; Hoover Chamber of Commerce, (205) 988-5672.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Grill, fire rings only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At site only. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 56 ft.



TO GET THERE

From I-65, take Exit 246 and go west on US 119. Take an immediate left onto State Park Rd. Drive for 3.5 mi. to a 4-way stop. Turn left onto Findlay Dr. The main park gate is ahead. Go 5.5 mi. past the gate to Campground Rd. and turn left.

110 ALABAMA Camden

CAMDEN MAP, C-2
Roland Cooper State Park

285 Deer Run Dr., Camden 36726.
T: (334) 682-4838; www.dcnr.state.al.us/parks.

 ★★ ★★	 ★★ ★★
Beauty: ★★ ★★	Site Privacy: ★★ ★★
Spaciousness: ★★ ★★	Quiet: ★★ ★★
Security: ★★ ★★	Cleanliness: ★★ ★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★ ★★

Golf and fishing are the primary draws at Roland Cooper State Park. Created by a dam on the Alabama River, 22,000-acre Dannelly Reservoir is home to numerous fish species, as well as beaver, waterfowl, and American alligator. The nine-hole golf course is a bargain; greens fees are only \$9 for 9 holes and \$13 for 18 holes. Here, the woodlands are dominated by pine. The majority of the campsites enjoy the shade of a mature stand of loblolly pine. A bit of privacy is provided by the trees, but none of the sites are entirely secluded. Most of the sites are situated on one loop and feature paved, back-in parking. Sites 22, 24, and 28 are pull-through sites, with views of the reservoir and gravel parking. In the primitive tent camping area, site 10 has a nice view of the water. Site size is comfortable but not exceptional. Roland Cooper's rural location and gates that lock at night make it fairly secure. Avoid this park in July and August when summer heat crescendos. Also avoid Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Labor Day, when crowds are at a maximum.

BASICS

Operated By: Alabama State Parks. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted; cancellation w/ 72-hour notice; sites are first come, first served. **Registration:** Entrance office. **Fee:** \$16. **Parking:** Limit 3 vehicles per site, overflow parking available.

FACILITIES

Number of Tent-only Sites: 10. **Number of Multipurpose Sites:** 47. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, grill, fire ring. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** 75 mi. northeast in Montgomery. **Market:** Camp store. **Restaurant:** 5 mi. south in Camden. **General Store:** 5 mi. south in Camden. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Clubhouse, picnic pavilion, 9-hole golf course, driving range, boat ramps, fish-cleaning area. **Activities:** Golf, fishing, boating, swimming, walking trails. **Nearby Attractions:** Bridgeport Beach, Dale Masonic Lodge, Wilcox Female Institute. **Additional Information:** Wilcox Development Council, (334) 682-4929.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire rings, grills only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At site only. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From I-65, take Exit 128. Drive west on AL 10 for 40 mi. At Camden, turn right onto AL 41 and drive north for 4 mi. The park is on the left.

CHILDERSBURG MAP, B-2
DeSoto Caverns

5181 DeSoto Caverns Pkwy., Childersburg
35044. T: (256) 378-7252;
www.desotocavernspark.com.

 ★★ ★★	 ★★ ★★
Beauty: ★★ ★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★ ★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★ ★★
Insect Control: ★★ ★★	Facilities: ★★ ★★

This small, privately owned campground is clean and attractive. Part of a complex that includes DeSoto Caverns and a small amusement park, the campground is sandwiched into the front corner of the property. Because some sites are only a few feet from the amusement park, quiet afternoon naps may be out of the question when the park is busy. The triangular campground offers compact sites which are well shaded by pine trees. Parking is mainly back-in, with a few pull-throughs, and patchy grass invading the gravel. Sites 2 and 3 are farthest away from AL 76 making them the quietest at night. Big rigs should avoid this tight, hilly campground altogether (opt for one of the sprawling campgrounds along Logan Martin Lake). Less than 60 miles from Birmingham, this kitschy-but-fun park will be appreciated by children especially. The Great-Onyx Cavern is the venue for a laser light show and the amusement park includes a fishing hole, gem panning and more. Keep in mind that there is no snack bar at the park. Count on driving about 5 miles to Childersburg if you're not cooking at your site. Security is poor here. There is no gate and the campground is visible from AL 76. Cave touring is a delightful summertime activity. Just steer clear of visits during holiday weekends and big event weekends at Talladega Superspeedway.

BASICS

Operated By: The Mathis Family. **Open:** All year, closed Christmas Day & Thanksgiving. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; reservations accepted for festivals & Talladega Superspeedway race weekends only; full deposit required; 1-week cancellation policy. **Registration:** Gift shop or night registration. **Fee:** \$20 for full hookups, \$15 for tent camping, 4 person max., \$2 per extra person. **Parking:** At site, overflow parking available.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 16. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 3. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, grill, some fire rings. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Gravel. **RV Service:** 5 mi. southwest in Childersburg. **Market:** 5 mi. southwest in Childersburg. **Restaurant:** 5 mi. southwest in Childersburg. **General Store:** Camp Store, Wal-Mart 15 mi. south in Sylacauga. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Caverns, climbing wall, amusement park. **Activities:** Mazes, mini-golf, pedal boats, go-carts, gemstone panning, laser light show. **Nearby Attractions:** Talladega Superspeedway, Kymulga Grist Mill & Covered Bridge, Bryant's Vineyard, Blue Bell

Creameries. **Additional Information:** Childersburg Chamber of Commerce, (256) 378-5482, Talladega Chamber of Commerce, (256) 362-9075.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Not allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From US 280 in Childersburg, drive northeast on AL 76 (DeSoto Caverns Pkwy.) for 5 mi. The entrance is on the left.

COKER MAP, B-1
Lake Lurleen State Park

13226 Lake Lurleen Rd., Coker 35452.
T: (205) 339-1558; www.dcnr.state.al.us/parks.

 ★★ ★★	 ★★ ★★
Beauty: ★★ ★★	Site Privacy: ★★ ★★
Spaciousness: ★★ ★★	Quiet: ★★ ★★
Security: ★★ ★★	Cleanliness: ★★ ★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★ ★★

Named after Alabama's only woman governor, Lurleen Burns Wallace, this lake is popular with anglers. The 250-acre lake is stocked with bream, catfish, crappie, and largemouth and striped bass. Rather not fish? Swim, hike, or canoe. Located 12 miles northwest of Tuscaloosa, this park stays busy all summer so we recommend weekday, spring, or fall visits. Four camping areas (A-D) offer nice-sized sites. Most have paved back-in parking. A few sites have gravel parking. Section B is devoted to RV campers and contains eight pull-through sites. Sites B33-B39 (odd numbers) feature wooden decks overlooking Lake Lurleen. In section A, lake-front sites A2-A14 (even numbers) offer lovely views. While most sites have some shady trees, sites A15 and A16 are exceptionally shady and secluded. In spite of Lake Lurleen's proximity to Tuscaloosa, it feels remote. Gates lock at night making the park extremely secure.

BASICS

Operated By: Alabama State Parks. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/ 1-night deposit; sites are first come, first served. **Registration:** Entrance station. **Fee:** \$14 base rate (MC, V, check, or cash). **Parking:** 2 vehicles per site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 91. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, 35 sites w/ sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** 15 mi. south in Tuscaloosa. **Market:** 7 mi. east in Northport. **Restaurant:** 7 mi. east in Northport. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Yes, lake. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Boat ramps, fishing pier, marina, boat rentals, amphitheater, picnic area, group picnic shelters, swimming beach, beach snack stand, nature center, sports field. **Activities:** Fishing, boating, hiking, swimming. **Nearby Attractions:** Paul "Bear" Bryant Museum, Alabama Museum of Natural History, Moundville Indian

Archaeological Park, Mercedes-Benz Visitor Center, Denny Chimes, Gorgas House, Children's Hands-On Museum, Kentucky Art Center, University of Alabama Arboretum. **Additional Information:** West Alabama Chamber of Commerce (205) 758-7588; Tuscaloosa CVB, (800) 538-8696.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire pit only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Site only, not allowed at beach. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From I-59, take Exit 71-B in Tuscaloosa. Go north on I-359 for 5 mi. Turn left onto US 82 (McFarland Blvd.) and drive west for 5 mi. Turn right onto CR 21 and drive north for 4.5 mi. The park entrance is on the right.

DELTA Cheaha State Park MAP, B-3

2141 Bunker Loop, Delta 36258.
T: (256) 488-5111; www.dcnr.state.al.us/parks.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

With an elevation of 2,407 feet, Mount Cheaha is the highest point in the state of Alabama. Park guests can enjoy the gorgeous mountain view from atop the observation tower. The campgrounds are also very attractive, with spacious sites and a variety of shady hardwood species. Site privacy varies, with dense foliage buffering some sites from their neighbors. There are two campgrounds at Cheaha, Number 1, or "Upper," and Number 2, or "Lower." Campground Number 1 features mostly back-in parking, but there are a few spacious pull-throughs. Parking spots are an amalgamation of dirt and gravel. In campground Number 1, sites 4 and 5 are extremely private and wooded. Large pull-through sites include 30, 31, 34, 35, and 36. Of these, 34 is the shadiest. In campground Number 2, sites 56 and 57 have a gorgeous view. Most sites in Number 2 are pull-throughs. The popularity of Cheaha's campgrounds can sometimes detract from their beauty. The campgrounds are fairly well maintained, but the rest rooms and trash bins sometimes need more attention than they get. Security is fair at this rural state park. We got the idea that gates may or may not go down at night. This Appalachian park stays cooler than most of Alabama during the summer. Nonetheless, we recommend avoiding Cheaha on summer weekends when the park's beauty and myriad activities attract the masses.

BASICS

Operated By: Alabama State Parks. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; reservations accepted w/ 1st night's fee in advance; no refunds allowed, although date of stay can be changed. **Registration:** Country store. **Fee:** \$15 multipurpose sites, \$10 primitive sites, 15% discount for handicapped or 62 & over. **Parking:** Site, limit 2 vehicles per site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 0. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** Undesignated sites. **Number of Multipurpose Sites:** 73. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, grill. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** Yes. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** 25 mi. east in Oxford. **Market:** 25 mi. east in Oxford. **Restaurant:** In park. **General Store:** Wal-Mart 25 mi. east in Oxford. **Vending:** Beverages. **Swimming:** Yes. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Observation tower, CCC Museum, picnic & play area, sandy swimming beach. **Activities:** Fishing, pedal boat rental, hiking, mountain biking. **Nearby Attractions:** Anniston Museum of Natural History, Birmingham & Gadsden attractions.

RESTRICTIONS


Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At site only. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 40 ft.

TO GET THERE

From I-20 take Exit 191. Go south on US 431 for 5 mi. Turn right onto AL 281 and go south. This runs into the park.

DOUBLE SPRINGS Corinth Recreation Area MAP, A-1

1070 Hwy. 33, Double Springs 35553.
T: (205) 489-5111; www.reserveusa.com.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Located 28 miles from the hiking and equestrian trails at Sipsey Wilderness Area, Corinth Recreation Area offers 52 campsites with full hookups. Sites are attractive, spacious, and heavily wooded. Dense brush between sites provides privacy. The campground is laid out in two main loops plus a group camp loop. The Yellow Hammer loop is much prettier than the Firefly loop. All parking is paved. While most of the parking is back-in style, there are five huge pull-through sites. Pull-through sites 17 and 19 are lovely and very private. Although the bathhouses in Bankhead National Forest are small, they are some of the tidiest in the state. Security is excellent at Corinth; the campground is extremely remote and gated at all times. Day-use facilities at Corinth are minimal, so the atmosphere is usually incredibly laid-back. This tranquil campground rarely fills up, so it's a good bet for a summer weekend (if you can stand the heat).

BASICS

Operated By: Cradle of Forestry in America Interpretive Assoc. **Open:** Inquire at campground. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; some loops reservable through National Recreation Reservation System, (877) 444-6777. **Registration:** Gatehouse. **Fee:** \$20 RV, \$10 tent, fee includes 1 vehicle per site, \$3 per extra vehicle. **Parking:** At site; wheels must be on pavement.

Eufaula ALABAMA 111

FACILITIES

Number of Tent-only Sites: 8. **Number of Multipurpose Sites:** 50. **Hookups:** Electric (50 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire ring, grill, lantern post, tent pad. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** 35 mi. east in Cullman. **Market:** 5 mi. northwest in Double Springs. **Restaurant:** 5 mi. northwest in Double Springs. **General Store:** 5 mi. northwest in Double Springs. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Boat launch, swimming beach, paddle boat rental, group picnic shelter. **Activities:** Fishing, swimming, hiking. **Nearby Attractions:** William B. Bankhead National Forest, Looney's Entertainment & Riverboat, Ave Maria Grotto in Cullman. **Additional Information:** Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce, (800) 313-5114.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Not Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 50 ft.

TO GET THERE

From I-65, take Exit 308 at Cullman. Go west on US 278 for approximately 30 mi. Turn left and drive south on CR 57 for 3 mi. to the park entrance.

EUFAULA Lakepoint Resort State Park MAP, C-3

P.O. Box 267, Eufaula 36072. T: (334) 687-8011 or (800) 544-5253; www.dcnr.state.al.us/parks.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Hide your carrots. Lakepoint Resort State Park campgrounds are full of bunny rabbits. The flat campground is situated along Lake Eufaula, home to beaver and American alligator. Four camping areas provide over 500 sites. Of these areas, the Clark Loop, with sites along the lake, is the most attractive. Clark has only water and electric hookups, and is the best choice for tent campers. Even-numbered sites 20-42 have the prettiest views. RV campers should head for the Deer Court area, which has full hookups, and both back-in and pull-through sites. All parking is paved and ground cover consists of grass and pine straw. Site size varies, but sites are generally comfortable. Most sites are nicely wooded with a variety of tree species, some adorned with Spanish moss. None are very secluded. With excellent resort amenities, Lakepoint Resort State Park is a good choice for active families and couples, making its remote location worth the drive. Gated at all times, campground security is excellent. This park becomes chaotic on holiday weekends and should also be avoided in July and August when it's bound to be unbearably hot and humid.

BASICS

Operated By: Alabama State Parks Conservation

112 ALABAMA Fort Payne

Dept. **Open:** All year, except Thanksgiving & Christmas Days. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; reservations accepted through Conservation Dept. or directly, 1 night deposit, 7-day cancellation notice; 3-night min. on holidays. **Registration:** Camp store, night registration available. **Fee:** \$17 for sites w/ sewer, \$15 for sites w/ water & electric, \$12 no hookups fees include 4 people, \$1 per extra person. **Parking:** 2 cars per site, overflow parking available.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 244.

Hookups: Electric (30 amps), water, 80 sites w/ sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** Boat fuel. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** 40 mi. north in Columbus, GA. **Market:** 6 mi. south in Eufaula. **Restaurant:** In park. **General Store:** Camp store. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Marina, boat launches, swimming beach, picnic area, sports field, information/nature center, RV storage, tennis courts, volleyball courts, basketball courts, lodge, 18-hole golf course, lounge, resort motel, video arcade. **Activities:** Fishing, pontoon boat rental, hiking, tennis courts, lodge, 18-hole golf. **Nearby Attractions:** Downtown Eufaula, antebellum homes, walking & driving tours, antique shopping. **Additional Information:** Eufaula Chamber of Commerce, (334) 687-6664.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Grill, fire rings only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At site only. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 60 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Columbus, GA, take US 431 south for approximately 50 mi. Go past the intersection of US 431 and AL 165. The park entrance is the next left.

FORT PAYNE MAP, A-3 DeSoto State Park

13883 CR 89, Fort Payne 35967.
T: (256) 845-5075 or (800) 760-4089;
www.desotostatepark.com.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Situated about halfway between DeSoto Falls and Little River Canyon, DeSoto State Park has a rugged ambience even though it's less than 10 miles northeast of Fort Payne. Sometimes referred to as "The Grand Canyon of the East," Little River Canyon has drops of up to 600 feet. Hardcore outdoorsfolk climb the canyon's sandstone bluffs and paddle the Little River's Class III-V whitewater. The campground at DeSoto State Park is laid out in two loops, each with its own playground and rest rooms. Sites are nicely spaced and the campground is heavily wooded with a variety of hard-

woods and pines, making site size outstanding and site privacy excellent. RV parking spaces are gravel. Of the 78 campsites, 10 are pull-throughs. Since all of the sites are nice, choose your site based on proximity to (or distance from) playgrounds and rest rooms. RV campers may want to procure one of the 20 sites with full hookups. Gorgeous sites make this one of the most popular campgrounds in the state, so visit in the spring to avoid the masses. If you don't mind the constant crowds, visit for fall "leaf-peeping" in September and October. Security at DeSoto State Park is excellent; at night the gate must be opened with a "key card."

BASICS

Operated By: Alabama State Parks. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations required. **Registration:** Country store. **Fee:** \$17 water, electric, & sewer (4 people); \$14 water & electric (4 people); \$8 primitive (2 people); \$3 per extra person; 8 people max.; children under 6 free. **Parking:** At site, limit 2 cars per site.

FACILITIES

Number of Tent-only Sites: Undesignated sites. **Hookups:** Water, 58 w/ electric (30 amps), 20 w/ electric (30 amps), sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, grill, fire ring. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** 35 mi. west in Rainsville. **Market:** Convenience 3 mi., grocery 7 mi. southwest in Fort Payne. **Restaurant:** In park. **General Store:** Convenience 3 mi., Wal-Mart 10 mi. southwest in Fort Payne. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Yes. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Boat launch (7 mi.), nature trails, tennis courts, volleyball court, sports equipment, picnic & play area, lodge, country store. **Activities:** Whitewater paddling (Class I-IV), rock climbing, hiking. **Nearby Attractions:** Little River Canyon National Preserve, Mentone crafts & antiques, Depot Museum, Cloudmont Ski & Golf Resort, waterfalls. **Additional Information:** Fort Payne Chamber of Commerce, (256) 845-2741; Gadsden Chamber of Commerce, (256) 543-3472.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Grills fire rings only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Not allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 50 ft.

TO GET THERE

From I-59, take Fort Payne Exit 218 and drive northeast on AL 35. Drive 8 mi. to the top of Lookout Mountain. At the flashing caution light, turn left onto CR 89 and drive 5 mi. to the park entrance.

GADSDEN MAP, A-2 Noccalula Falls Park and Campground

P.O. Box 267, Gadsden 35904. T: (256) 543-7412; www.rvcampground.com/al/noccalulafalls.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★

Security: ★★★★★ Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★ Facilities: ★★★★★

This city-owned park will be a big hit with the young'uns. The historic Pioneer Homestead consists of over 50 structures which have been preserved by the city of Gadsden. Buildings such as the blacksmith shop and the loom house contain tools typically used by early Appalachian pioneers. Children will also love the passenger train, animal park, and mini-golf. Adults will appreciate the urban location, with shopping and a choice of restaurants found within six miles of the park. Everybody will enjoy the park's centerpiece, 90-foot Noccalula Falls. The campground is attractive, with plenty of back-in sites and a handful of pull-throughs. A few sites have gravel parking, but most are paved. Here, site size varies greatly, with most sites being comfortably sized. The majority enjoy the shade of tall pine trees. But with little foliage between sites, privacy is poor. The prettiest sites (A19-A38) overlook the large bluff that leads down to Black Creek. Security is good at Noccalula Falls. Gates remain open throughout the night, but rangers patrol the park 24 hours a day. Avoid Gadsden in the hotter summer months. Avoid this park completely on holidays. School groups are more likely to visit the Pioneer Village on weekdays in April and May. Call ahead if you would like to avoid them.

BASICS

Operated By: City of Gadsden. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. Reservations available call campground for details. **Registration:** Camp office. **Fee:** \$23 for sites w/ full hookups, \$17 for sites w/ water & electricity, 7th night is free, 10% senior discount. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 83. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 20. **Hookups:** 14 RV w/ electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer, & cable TV; 13 RV w/ electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer; 56 RV w/ electric (30, 50 amps), water; 20 tent w/ electric (30, 50 amps), water. **Each Site:** Picnic table, grill. (Available at most sites. Not guaranteed.) **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Gravel. **RV Service:** 5 mi. east in Gadsden. **Market:** 1 mi. south in Gadsden. **Restaurant:** In park. **General Store:** Country store in park; Wal-Mart, K-Mart, & Lowe's 10 mi. south in Gadsden. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Yes. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Botanical gardens, Noccalula Falls, Pioneer Village, animal park, passenger train, picnic pavilions, souvenir shop, concession stand, rec hall, information center. **Activities:** Hiking, carpet golf, swimming, nature & history study. **Nearby Attractions:** Inquire at campground.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Not allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From I-59 take Exit 188 onto AL 211 (Noccalula Rd.). Go south 3.5 mi. to the 1st light and turn right. The park entrance is ahead.

GREENVILLE **MAP, C-2**
Sherling Lake

P.O. Box 158, Greenville 36037.T: (800) 810-5253; www.gocampingamerica.com/sherlinglake.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

The city of Greenville operates this impeccably manicured campground. The tidy landscaping includes native azaleas and dogwoods with intermittent shade provided by tall pines. The park encompasses two fishing lakes, stocked with catfish, bluegill, brim, bass, and crappie. For golfers, 27-hole Cambrian Ridge (part of the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail) is adjacent to Sherling Lake. Nearly deserted in the spring and fall, this campground is an excellent choice for golfers. For families, the playground is one of the nicest we've seen. The majority of the campsites are situated near the "Top Lake." All sites have ample paved parking and there are plenty of large pull-through sites. Folks with large campers should consider 1, 14, 18, and 25-41. Although all sites at Sherling Lake are spacious, back-in sites often feel a bit more secluded. Though almost every site enjoys some shade, none are completely secluded by greenery. Sherling Lake is only three miles from Greenville, providing easy access to shopping and restaurants. The park fills to capacity on holidays and during coastal hurricane evacuations. The rest of the time it's an oasis of tranquility. Gates lock at night making security excellent.

BASICS

Operated By: City of Greenville. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; reservations accepted, no deposit required. **Registration:** At office, late-comers register next morning. **Fee:** \$22 developed site for up to 4 people, \$20 per tent in primitive area. **Parking:** Limit 1 car per site, overflow parking available.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 0. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** Undesignated sites. **Number of Multipurpose Sites:** 41. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, shelter, fire ring, grill; primitive area includes some tables, fire rings & grills. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** 3.5 mi. south in Greenville. **Market:** 3.5 mi. south in Greenville. **Restaurant:** 3.5 mi. south in Greenville. **General Store:** Snack shop. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Boat launches, picnic pavilions, small meeting room. **Activities:** Fishing lakes, boat rentals, walking trail. **Nearby Attractions:** Adjacent to Cambrian Ridge Robert Trent Jones 18-hole golf course, Historic Greenville, Priesters Pecan Factory & Outlet. **Additional Information:** Greenville Chamber of Commerce, (334) 382-3251.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Grill, fire rings only.



Alcoholic Beverages: At site only. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 45 ft.

TO GET THERE

From I-65, take Exit 130 and head northwest on AL 185 for 1.5 mi. At AL 263, turn left and continue another 1.5 mi. The park entrance is on the left.

GROVE OAK **MAP, A-2**
Buck's Pocket State Park

393 CR 174, Grove Oak 35975.
T: (256) 659-2752; www.dcnr.state.al.us/parks.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Two-thousand-acre Buck's Pocket State Park is exceedingly beautiful and not heavily visited. Built around the 400-foot deep Buck's Pocket Canyon and featuring five moderately difficult hiking trails, the park is appreciated by day hikers. Anglers can access Lake Guntersville at Morgan Cove, seven miles from the park. We were very impressed with the quiet campground that lies in the flat valley of the canyon. Completely shaded by a stand of hardwood trees, the campground features sights adjacent to lovely boulder-lined Little South Sauty Creek. Campsites are not huge, but this campground rarely fills to capacity so you'll have plenty of elbowroom. While internal roads are paved, sites offer back-in gravel parking. If you are looking for solitude, head for secluded site 17. At 900 feet above sea level, this little "pocket" of the southern Appalachians stays cooler than most of Alabama during the hot summer months. Visit Buck's Pocket comfortably during spring, summer, or fall. The park is very remote with poor signage. It is equipped with gates, but as one local said, "there ain't no need to lock 'em!"

BASICS

Operated By: Alabama State Parks. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; reservations accepted for holiday weekends. **Registration:** At park office. **Fee:** \$15 full hookups, \$14 water & electric, fee includes 8 people, \$1 per extra person. **Parking:** At sites.

FACILITIES

Number of Tent-only Sites: 8. **Number of Multipurpose Sites:** 36. **Hookups:** 6 w/ electric (50 amps), water, sewer; 36 w/ electric (50 amps), water. **Each Site:** Picnic table, grill, fire ring, tent pad at tent sites. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** 12 mi. east in Rainsville. **Market:** Convenience store 3 mi. south, Grocery 10 mi. south in Geraldine. **Restaurant:** 10 mi. south in Geraldine. **General Store:** 10 mi. south in Geraldine. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Yes, fishing pier. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Boat launch, observation overlook, picnic area. **Activities:** Hiking & walking trails, fishing, boating.

Gulf Shores ALABAMA 113

Nearby Attractions: Cathedral Caverns, Huntsville Space Museum, Lake Guntersville State Park, TVA Guntersville Dam, Depot Museum.

Additional Information: Guntersville Chamber of Commerce, (256) 582-3612.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire rings, grills only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Not allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From I-59, take Exit 218 at Fort Payne. Go north on AL 35 for 7 mi. At Rainsville, turn left and drive south on AL 75 for 4 mi. At Fyffe, turn right on CR 50, and go 8 mi. Watch carefully for park signs. Turn right onto CR 19 and right again onto CR 556, then left onto CR 73. The park is on the right.

GULF SHORES **MAP, D-1**
Doc's RV Park

17595 AL 180/Fort Morgan Rd., Gulf Shores 36542.T: (251) 968-4511; www.docsrvpark.com.

 ★★★	 n/a
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★★

When we visited Gulf Shores, Doc's RV Park was the quietest in town. Three miles from the beach and within easy distance to restaurants and shopping, Doc's isn't far from touristy hustle and bustle. Campsites at Doc's are built around an elliptical grassy park area. So even though sites are narrow, campers enjoy a view of the grass. Most sites have a little shade provided by trees on the periphery of the park. All sites have back-in, gravel parking which looks a little untidy in some places. The shadiest sites are 46-30. If you want an open site, there are plenty to choose from. Doc's is popular with snowbirds in the winter and popular with families in the summer. For optimal peace and quiet, visit in spring or fall. Doc's is in a quiet Gulf Shores neighborhood, but there is no gate. Security is fair, so guard your valuables.

BASICS

Operated By: Recherche LLC. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations recommended & accepted w/ deposit; 1-week cancellation notice required, 1-month in winter. **Registration:** Clubhouse, self-register at night. **Fee:** \$26 in summertime, \$23 in wintertime (good for 4 people); 2-day weekend min., 3-day holiday min.; Good Sam discount available. **Parking:** At site, limit 2 cars per site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 75. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer, cable TV. **Each Site:** Picnic table. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** 10 mi. north in Foley. **Market:** 2 mi. in Gulf Shores. **Restaurant:** 2 mi. in Gulf Shores. **General Store:** 0.5 mi. in Gulf Shores, Wal-Mart

114 ALABAMA Gulf Shores

10 mi. north in Foley. **Vending:** Beverages. **Swimming:** Yes, pool w/ no lifeguard. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Clubhouse, fire grills in central location, RV storage. **Activities:** Volleyball, horseshoes, weekly campground gatherings in winter. **Nearby Attractions:** 3 mi. from the beach, outlet shopping, Bellingrath Gardens, boat tours, USS *Alabama* Battleship Memorial Park. **Additional Information:** Alabama Gulf Coast CVB, (800) 745-7263.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: Welcome, on leash only. **Fires:** Grill only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From I-10, take Exit 44 onto AL 59 south. Continue past the junction with US 98 another 9.5 mi. Turn west on AL 180/Fort Morgan Rd. and the park entrance will be 2.2 mi. down on the right. Website also has map and directions.

GULF SHORES MAP, D-1 Gulf Breeze Resort

19800 Oak Rd. West, Gulf Shores 36542.
T: (251) 968-8884; www.ehodes.com.

★★★★	▲ n/a
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Gulf Breeze Resort offers extensive and well-maintained recreational facilities. It also boasts the nicest bathhouses in Gulf Shores and the tidiest landscaping. Even though the resort feels like it's off the beaten path, it's close to numerous restaurants and tourist attractions. The nearest beach is just four miles away. The campground is laid out in a giant grid and includes both back-in and pull-through spaces. Most of the spaces are paved although a few have gravel parking. Site size is average and very few sites have any shade. The nicest sites are 46–51, which are adjacent to the small fishing pond. Sites 164 and 171 overlook another small pond and are also attractive. This suburban resort is popular with snowbirds in the winter and popular with families in the summer, so it's almost always busy. Avoid visits during spring break, holiday weekends, and sweltering July and August. There is no gate at Gulf Breeze so protect your valuables.

BASICS

Operated By: Wakefield Enterprises. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; reservations accepted w/ 1-night deposit; 48-hour cancellation required, \$2 cancellation fee if paid by credit card. **Registration:** At office, no late registration—check-in next day by 10 a.m. **Fee:** \$23 for 4 people, \$2 per day per extra person, up to 8. **Parking:** At site, limit 2 cars per site, overflow parking available.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 226. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer, cable TV; 6 overflow sites w/ water, electric only. **Each Site:** Picnic table, concrete patios, some w/ concrete pads. **Dump**

Station: No. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** On call. **Market:** 3 mi. in Gulf Shores. **Restaurant:** 3 mi. in Gulf Shores. **General Store:** 0.25 mi., 5 mi. to Wal-Mart. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Yes. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Pavilion, clubhouse for rent, indoor pool, outdoor pool, children's pool. **Activities:** Fishing lake, paddle boat rental, basketball, horseshoes, shuffleboard, 18-hole mini-golf, hot tub. **Nearby Attractions:** Gulf Shores beaches, Waterville USA, Bellingrath Gardens, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Fort Conde Museum, USS *Alabama* Battleship Memorial Park, Mobile & Pensacola attractions. **Additional Information:** Alabama Gulf Coast CVB, (800) 745-7263.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: Leash only, clean-up enforced. **Fires:** Not allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At site only. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From I-10, take Exit 44 (Loxley/Foley/Gulf Shores). Drive south on AL 59 and go through Foley. Exit at CR 6 and turn right. The park is 1.5 blocks on the left.

GULF SHORES MAP, D-1 Gulf State Park

22050 Campground Rd., Gulf Shores 36542.
T: (251) 948-7275; www.dcnr.state.al.us.

★★★★	▲ ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Unfortunately, the large campground at Gulf State Park offers no campsites within walking distances of the beach. However, the campground is very attractive and perennially popular with families; don't expect any solitude here during the summer months. Site size is acceptable but the bustling atmosphere makes the campground feel crowded. 185 sites offer back-in parking and 25 offer pull-through parking. Parking areas may be paved, gravel, or packed sand. Many of the sites are shady and a few offer views of small Middle Lake. Tent sites offer soft sand tent pads. Of those with lake views, sites 17–39 are the most picturesque. Unless you really want a pull-through, avoid the noisy, highly trafficked sites along the main road. Located just a few miles from the tourist town of Gulf Shores, campers have easy access to excellent dining and other tourist attractions. Amenities within the park are also outstanding, including the state's largest fishing pier (825 feet), an 18-hole golf course, and two-and-a-half miles of white sand beach. The gates at Gulf Shores State Park campground are locked at night and the entrance is manned all day, making security excellent.

BASICS

Operated By: Alabama State Parks. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; roughly half of the sites are available for reservation w/ a 1-night, nonrefundable deposit, 2-nights

on weekends, & 3-nights on holidays. **Registration:** Camp entrance. **Fee:** \$15–\$28 in the summer; \$14–\$22 in the winter. **Parking:** At site, limit 2 vehicles per site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 468. **Hookups:** Electric (15, 30 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes, 11 bathhouses. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 3 mi. in Gulf Shores. **Restaurant:** In park. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Beverages. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Tennis courts, fishing pier, golf course, game room, bicycle rental, beach pavilion, boat ramp, nature center, resort hotel & conference center, picnic area. **Activities:** Swimming, hiking, fishing, golf. **Nearby Attractions:** Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo, Gulf Shores Beach, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Adventure Island, Bellingrath Gardens & Home, Biophilia Nature Center & Native Nursery, Gulf Coast Museum of Science, Gulf Coast Amusement Park, Mobile Bay Ferry, Pirate Island Adventure Golf, USS *Alabama* Battleship Memorial Park, Wildland Expeditions, Waterville USA. **Additional Information:** Alabama Gulf Coast Visitor Information, (800) 745-7263.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** In grills, designated bonfire areas. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At site only. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

At the intersection of AL 59 and AL 182 (Beach Rd.), turn left. Drive east on AL 182 for 3.5 mi. Pass Gulf State Park Resort Hotel and take the next left onto CR 2. Campground is on the right.

GUNTERSVILLE MAP, A-2 Lake Guntersville State Park

7966 AL 227, Guntersville 35976-9126.
T: (256) 571-5455; www.dcnr.state.al.us.

★★★★	▲ ★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Lake Guntersville State Park is really lovely, but the campgrounds are often way too crowded for our tastes. Set in a beautiful stand of tall pines, the huge campground (with over 300 sites) stays full for much of the summer. If you don't mind spending your vacation with an entire village of new friends and neighbors, you may enjoy this park. Here you will find paved back-in sites with very little privacy. Sites are small compared to other Alabama state parks. The campground is laid out in eight grid-like areas (A–F). Tent campers should head for Area A, especially sites 16 and 17. RV campers should try to land a lakeside site in Area D or G. Sites G9, G11, G12, G13, G24, and G36 are among the most attractive. Area E should be avoided as it abuts the picnic pavilion and experiences heavy traffic. Families wishing to camp right next to the playground should head for C51–C59.

Lake Guntersville State Park offers plenty of amenities and activities, but their pride and joy is the American bald eagles that winter here. The campground is gated and guarded, but security isn't fantastic because of the number of folks on the campground. We recommend visiting Lake Guntersville in spring or fall to avoid the crowds.

BASICS

Operated By: Alabama State Parks. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; about half of the sites can be reserved; 3-night min. weekends & holidays, 1-night deposit. **Registration:** Camp store, no late registration—after 9 p.m., beach parking lot has electric hookups for night parking. **Fee:** \$15 for up to 4 people. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 321. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water, 144 sites w/ sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, grill, fire ring. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** Inquire at campground. **Market:** 7.5 mi. southwest in Guntersville, Town Creek Filling Station 5 mi. north. **Restaurant:** In park. **General Store:** Camp store, Wal-Mart 15 mi. southwest in Guntersville. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Yes, beach. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Beach, nature center, art gallery, 18-hole golf course, RV storage, activity building, 3 fishing piers, picnic pavilion, 31 mi. of hiking trails. **Activities:** Swimming, fishing, boating, hiking, tennis, basketball, volleyball, golf. **Nearby Attractions:** American Bald Eagles Convention Center, Cathedral Caverns, Buck's Pocket State Park, Guntersville Museum & Cultural Center. **Additional Information:** Guntersville Chamber of Commerce, (256) 582-3612.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At site only. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From I-59, take the Gadsden exit and go north on US 431 for approximately 38 mi. At Guntersville, turn right onto AL 227 and go northeast for 7 mi. The park entrance is on the left.

GUNTERSVILLE/ MAP. A-2
LANGSTON
Little Mountain Marina Resort

1001 Murphy Hill Rd., Guntersville/Langston 35755. T: (256) 582-8211; www.wakefieldenterprises.com.

 ★★★★★	 n/a
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Little Mountain Resort is noteworthy for its modern amenities rather than its natural beauty. Located on Guntersville Lake, the resort caters to active families and large groups. For fishing and

boating enthusiasts, there's a boat launch, marina, fishing pier, and two covered piers containing a total of 86 boat slips. Land amenities include a 500-seat great hall as well as multiple swimming pools and other activities. The gigantic campground is a no-frills affair with mid-sized sites. There are no barriers to provide privacy between sites. Back-in gravel parking is the rule and no tent camping is allowed. The prettiest sites are numbers 110–119 and 110A–119A, which are adjacent to the lake and have power and water only. The nicest sites with full hookups and views of the lake are 18–20, 27–29, 36, 37, 120, and 121. Avoid sites in the 200s and 300s, which have unattractive views of the boat and RV storage areas. Some sites are completely open while others provide plenty of shade. In spite of Little Mountain's extremely remote location, you may feel like you've arrived in Lower Manhattan once you're here. We recommend weekday visits in the summertime, or visits in spring or autumn. The guard house is staffed 24 hours a day, making security good.

BASICS

Operated By: Earl & Elke Hodges. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; 2-night min. for reservations (must have credit card); cancellation penalty is 1st night's fee on holidays. **Registration:** Guard house (24 hours). **Fee:** \$22, fee includes 4 people, \$2 per extra person. **Parking:** Limit 2 vehicles per site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 309. **Number of Multipurpose Sites:** 34. **Hookups:** 309 w/ electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer; 34 w/ water, electric. **Each Site:** Picnic table, concrete patio, grill (at full hookup sites only). **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** Yes, coin operated. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Exchange only. **Internal Roads:** Gravel. **RV Service:** Mechanic on call. **Market:** 1 mi. **Restaurant:** 6 mi. south in Guntersville. **General Store:** Country store 1 mi., Wal-Mart 15 mi. south in Guntersville. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Yes, pool. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Marina, boat launch, 86-slip covered pier, fishing pier, indoor & outdoor pools, spa, sauna, game room, club house w/ great hall, exercise room, library, TV/card room, Florida room, dining room, chapel, activity pavilion. **Activities:** Tennis, shuffleboard, basketball, horseshoes, mini-golf, fishing, boating, swimming. **Nearby Attractions:** Cathedral Caverns, Huntsville Space Museum, Lake Guntersville State Park, TVA Guntersville Dam, Depot Museum. **Additional Information:** Guntersville Chamber of Commerce, (256) 582-3612.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Grill only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At site only. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 45 ft.



TO GET THERE

From I-59, take Exit 218 at Fort Payne. Go northwest on AL 35 for 7 mi. to Rainsville. Turn left and drive south on AL 75 for 18 mi. At AL 227 turn right and drive north for 10 mi. Turn right onto Old Hwy. 227 and go 0.5 mi. Then, turn left onto Murphy Hill Rd. and go 0.5 mi.

Huntsville ALABAMA 115

HUNTSVILLE MAP. A-2
Monte Sano State Park

5105 Nolen Ave., Huntsville 35801.
T: (256) 534-3757; www.dcnr.state.al.us.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

This flat campground on top of Monte Sano features lovely hardwoods with foliage between all campsites. In some instances, sites are very secluded by dense foliage. Site size is ample, and parking is mostly back-in. Four pull-throughs (14, 30, 62, and 82) are extremely large. Parking spaces are fine gravel. The prettiest sites are odd numbers 49–61 and only have water and electric hookups. Avoid sites 31–44, as they parallel a noisy road. The campground is laid out in two loops, each having its own bathhouse. With over 32 miles of trails, Monte Sano is a hiker's haven. This suburban park lies just outside of Huntsville city limits and is popular with the locals. Monte Sano Mountain has an elevation of approximately 1,500 feet, and stays about 5° cooler than Huntsville proper, making the park a fine summer destination. The park gates lock at night, but its suburban location necessitates caution with your valuables.

BASICS

Operated By: Alabama State Parks. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; no reservations taken except for groups. Individuals must request cottages. **Registration:** Camp store, night registration available until 9 p.m. **Fee:** \$16 for sites w/ full hookups, \$15 for sites w/ water & electric, \$10 for primitive tent sites. **Parking:** At site, overflow parking available.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 9. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 20. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire ring, grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** 8 mi. south in Huntsville. **Market:** 6 mi. south in Huntsville. **Restaurant:** 6 mi. south in Huntsville. **General Store:** Inquire at campground. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Japanese Gardens, 32 mi. of hiking trails, planetarium, camp store, amphitheater, cottage rentals. **Activities:** Hiking, walking, biking. **Nearby Attractions:** U.S. Space & Rocket Center, Huntsville Museum of Art, Twickenham Historic District, Alabama Constitution Village, Cathedral Caverns, Children's Museum, Alabama State Black Archives Research Center & Museum, Burritt Museum. **Additional Information:** Huntsville CVB, (800) SPACE-4-U.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only; no pets in cottages. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Not allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE



From I-65, take Exit 340 and go east on I-565 to

116 ALABAMA Jasper

Huntsville. From I-565, take Exit 17 and go east on Governor's Dr. Go through Huntsville and turn left onto Monte Sano Blvd. At the top of the mountain, turn right onto Nolen St. The park entrance is ahead.

JASPER MAP, B-2 Clear Creek Recreation Area

8079 Fall City Rd., Jasper 35501. T: (205) 384-4792 or (877) 444-6777; www.reserveusa.com.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

In the heart of William B. Bankhead National Forest, Clear Creek offers incredibly spacious sites with majestic views of Lake Lewis Smith. The campground is incredibly remote and quiet, with a dense understory providing an additional noise barrier between campsites. Each site enjoys the cooling shade of mature trees. Parking is paved, and there are both back-in and pull-through spaces. Double sites are available for large families or small groups. Tent campers should head for picturesque lakefront sites 47, 49, and 51. For RV campers, we like a number of sites, including 5, 8, 17, 18, 51, 53, 55, 81, and 82. Site 53 is a pull-through with water view. Facilities here are nice, particularly the swimming beach. Bankhead National Forest and nearby Sipsey Wilderness (35 miles from campground) offer hiking galore. Security is excellent—the park is gated at all times. Visit in late spring, early summer, and fall. Avoid holiday weekends.

BASICS

Operated By: Cradle of Forestry in America Interpretive Assoc. **Open:** Apr. 1–Oct. 15. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. Reservations up to 3 days prior to arrival. **Registration:** Gatehouse 7 a.m.–6 p.m. Mon.–Thurs., 7 a.m.–10 p.m. Fri. & Sat.; no late registration. **Fee:** \$18–\$19 single (up to 6 people, 2 vehicles plus RV or tent); \$27–\$32 double (up to 12 people, 4 vehicles plus RV or tent); Golden Age/Access discounts available. **Parking:** Limited space at sites, all wheels must be on pavement.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 102. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 2 group sites. **Number of Multipurpose Sites:** 102. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water. **Each Site:** Picnic table, grill, fire ring, lantern post, tent pad. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** 15 mi. in Jasper. **Market:** 15 mi. in Jasper. **Restaurant:** 5 mi. west. **General Store:** 5 mi. south. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Yes. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Boat launch. **Activities:** Lake beach, basketball, hiking, mountain biking, fishing, interpretive programs, wildlife education. **Nearby Attractions:** Arrowhead & Twin Lakes golf, Walker County Lake, Rickwood Caverns State Park, William B. Bankhead National Forest, Smith

Lake. **Additional Information:** Walker County Chamber of Commerce, (888) 384-4571.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Not allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** Varies up to 50 ft.

TO GET THERE

From I-65, take US 78 west 41 mi. to Jasper, then AL 195 north 8 mi. Turn right on CR 27, which dead ends at 5 mi. at the park entrance.

LILLIAN MAP, D-1, D-2 Perdido Bay KOA

33951 Spinnaker Dr., Lillian 36549.
T: (251) 961-1717; www.lostbayrv.com.

 ★★★	 ★★
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★★

This KOA is situated on Perdido Bay, within 30 miles of Alabama's Gulf Coast. Though crabbing, fishing, and dolphin-watching are favored activities here, the campground is equipped with all the other amenities we expect from a KOA. The rectangular campground features rows of back-in and pull-through campsites. Parking areas are amoebic in shape and comprised of patchy sand, grass, and dirt. Sites are mid-sized and most afford no seclusion from neighbors. All sites are at least partially shaded by pine trees, with the shadiest sites on row F (F1–F14). Unfortunately, none of the RV sites are near the water. Tent campers should opt for a Kamping Kabin on the water's edge—the alternative is a noisy site adjacent to CR 99. Security is fair at this campground. There is no gate but the park is fairly remote. We recommend visiting Perdido Bay in the spring or fall, when the weather is mild.

BASICS

Operated By: Denise Valentyne. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Often assigned; reservations recommended; credit-card deposit required for reservation; 1-day's notice required for full refund. **Registration:** At office or store. **Fee:** \$20–\$25 (cash, check, V, MC, D). **Parking:** 1 vehicle per site, overflow parking available.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 100. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 6. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, some sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Paved & dirt. **RV Service:** Yes. **Market:** Camp store. **Restaurant:** 1.5 mi. north in Lillian. **General Store:** 3 mi. east in Myrtle Grove, FL. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Yes. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Hot tub, fishing pier, boat launch, RV storage, fax service. **Activities:** Basketball, horseshoes, shuffleboard, fishing, crabbing, beaches. **Nearby Attractions:** Naval Air Museum, Bellingrath Gardens in Theodore, Gulf Shores beaches, Old Mobile. **Additional Information:** Mobile Convention & Visitor Corp.,

(800) 5-MOBILE; Alabama Gulf Coast CVB, (800) 745-SAND.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** At tent sites w/ water hookups. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At site only. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From Pensacola, take US 98 West 15 mi. to Lillian, on the Alabama state line. From Mobile, take US 98 East 40 mi. to Lillian. At Lillian, turn south onto Spinnaker Dr. and go 2 mi. The campground entrance is on the left.

MCCALLA MAP, B-2 McCalla Campground

22191 AL 216, McCalla 35111. T: (205) 477-4778.

 ★★★	 ★★
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★★

This suburban campground is a perfectly acceptable place to stay while visiting Birmingham and Tuscaloosa County. The park is located about halfway between downtown Birmingham and the Mercedes-Benz Plant and Visitor Center in Vance (approximately 12 miles to each). With all of the amenities folks expect at KOAs, this is a relaxing place to be after a day in the city. With the exception of untidy gravel and grass, this park is well kept and reasonably attractive. The campground is laid out in two sections divided by the pool, store, and other facilities. Site size is ample, especially when compared to sites at other KOA campgrounds. Sites numbering in the 60s and 70s are shaded by a variety of tree species. A few sites are completely open. Roads and parking spaces are gravel and almost all sites are pull-throughs. KOA McCalla is less than a quarter mile from I-59 and has no security gate, so protect your valuables. Avoid visits in July and August, when heat and humidity can be unbelievable in this part of Alabama.

BASICS

Operated By: Andy Thompson & Judy Bogol. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; reservations recommended; cancel w/ 24-hour notice or charge of 1st night. **Registration:** Camp office. **Fee:** \$26 (50 amp), \$23 full hookup (30 amp), \$18 tent. **Parking:** 2 vehicles per site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 42. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 8. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer, cable TV. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire ring. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Gravel. **RV Service:** 15 mi. **Market:** 8 mi. Wal-Mart & Winn-Dixie in Bessemer. **Restaurant:** 0.75 mi. **General Store:** Camp store. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Yes, pool (May–Oct). **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Lighted pavilion w/ kitchen, RV storage. **Activities:** Horseshoes, badminton, volleyball, basketball, game room. **Nearby Attractions:**

VisionLand,Tannehill State Park, Mercedes-Benz Plant & Visitor's Center, Birmingham Zoo & Botanical Gardens, Birmingham Museum of Art, McWane Center w/ IMAX theater. **Additional Information:** Tuscaloosa CVB, (800) 538-8696; Greater Birmingham CVB, (800) 458-8085.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Grill, fire rings only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At site only. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From I-20/59, take Exit 100. Go 500 yards west on CR 20 to the park entrance.

MOBILEMAP, D-1
Chickasabogue Park and Campground

760 Aldock Rd., Mobile 36613.T: (251) 574-2267; www.mobilecounty.org-park.

 ★★★★	 ★★★★
Beauty:★★★★	Site Privacy:★★★★
Spaciousness:★★★★	Quiet:★★★★
Security:★★★	Cleanliness:★★★
Insect Control:★★	Facilities:★★★

Operated by the Mobile County Commission, Chickasabogue Park campground includes 47 incredibly spacious sites. Most of the sites are pull-throughs, with plenty of shade and privacy provided by magnolia and post and live oak complete with Spanish moss. These surprisingly lovely sites have gravel parking. Tent campers should head for sites 40–47. RV campers should try sites 1–13, which are commodious, private, and attractive pull-throughs. The campground includes a group camp and three other areas. The bathhouses are nothing to write home about. Bring your own Lysol. This suburban park offers plenty of outdoor activities including an 18-hole disc golf course. Gates are not locked at night, but rangers patrol hourly, making security acceptable. The Mobile Bay should be avoided in July and August when heat and humidity can be unbearable.

BASICS

Operated By: Mobile County Commission. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; reservations accepted w/ 1st night's fee deposit by check or credit card. **Registration:** Camp store, security guard after hours. **Fee:** \$18 for sites w/ full hookups, \$15 for sites w/ water & electric, \$19 for tent sites; fee includes 4 people, \$1 per extra person. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 47. **Number of Multipurpose Sites:** 21. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, 24 sites w/ sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire ring, grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** 5 mi. north in Saraland. **Market:** 5 mi. north in Saraland. **Restaurant:** 5 mi. north in Saraland. **General Store:** Camp store in park, Wal-Mart 5 mi. north in Saraland. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Yes. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Canoe

rentals, boat ramp, 18-hole disc golf course, picnic area, sports field, nature center. **Activities:** Boating, hiking, biking. **Nearby Attractions:** USS Alabama, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Mobile attractions. **Additional Information:** Mobile Convention & Visitors Corp., (800) 5-MOBILE.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** In grills, fire rings only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At site only. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From I-65 take Exit 13. If coming from the north, cross AL 158 (Industrial Rd.) and then turn left onto AL 213 South (Shelton Beach Rd.). If coming from the south, turn left onto AL 158 (Industrial Rd.) and then left again onto AL 213 South. Go south on AL 213 for 2 mi. At the 1st flashing light turn left onto Whistler St. Take the 2nd left onto Aldock Rd. Go 1 mi. to the park entrance.

PELL CITYMAP, B-2
Lakeside Landing

4600 Martin St. South, Pell City 35054.
T: (205) 525-5701; www.lakeloganmartin.com.

 ★★★★	 ★★
Beauty:★★	Site Privacy:★★
Spaciousness:★★	Quiet:★★
Security:★★	Cleanliness:★★★
Insect Control:★★	Facilities:★★★

This park's location is its saving grace. On the banks of Logan Martin Lake, the park maintains boat launches, fishing piers, and a swimming area. Area attractions include the Talladega Superspeedway and DeSoto Caverns. Campers hoping to enjoy the beauty of nature will have to leave Lakeside Landing. We suggest a drive to Pell City Lakeside Park where you'll find walking trails, picnic facilities, and boating and fishing facilities in a more natural setting. The huge campground at Lakeside Landing won't win any beauty contests, but it is clean and well equipped. There are back-in and pull-through sites that once featured paved parking. Now the parking areas are an untidy jumble of pavement, gravel, and grass. The campground is almost completely tree-less and sites are on the small side. We hope you like your neighbors because you'll be able to hear them hiccup. Lakefront sites 174–193 are the most attractive. Some of these lakefront sites have a few shady trees. Avoid Lakeside Landing during summer holidays and major events at Talladega Superspeedway. If you want to camp here on a race weekend, make your reservations 6 to 12 months in advance. Security here is fair; the campground is located just outside Pell City and there are no gates, but the area is well patrolled at night.

BASICS

Operated By: Mark & Cindy Bagley. **Open:** All year, except Christmas Day. **Site Assignment:** No reservations accepted, except race weekends (Apr. & Oct.). **Registration:** Camp store. **Fee:** \$18, \$16 w/ Good Sam discount. **Parking:** At site, overflow parking available.

Pickensville ALABAMA 117

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 215. **Hookups:** Electric (50 amps), water, sewer, cable TV. **Each Site:** Picnic table. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** Yes. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** 0.75 mi. **Market:** Camp store, supermarket 3 mi. north in Pell City. **Restaurant:** 0.75 mi. north in Pell City. **General Store:** Camp store, K-Mart 3 mi. north in Pell City. **Vending:** Beverages. **Swimming:** Yes. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Boat launch, fishing piers, RV storage, snack bar, picnic area, beach on Lake Logan Martin, meeting hall. **Activities:** Fishing, swimming. **Nearby Attractions:** Talladega Superspeedway (NASCAR), DeSoto Caverns, Kymulga Grist Mill & Covered Bridge. **Additional Information:** Pell City Chamber of Commerce, (205) 338-3377; Greater Birmingham CVB, (800) 458-8085.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From I-20, take Exit 155B at Pell City/Ashville. Go 6 mi. south on US 231. The campground is on the left.

PICKENSVILLEMAP, B-1
Aliceville Lake

Pickensville Recreation Area, 61 Camping Rd., Pickensville 35447.T: (205) 373- 6328; www.reserveusa.com.

 ★★★★	 ★★★★
Beauty:★★★★	Site Privacy:★★★★
Spaciousness:★★★★	Quiet:★★★★
Security:★★★★★	Cleanliness:★★★★
Insect Control:★★	Facilities:★★★

The necessity of a waterway connecting the Tennessee River to Mobile Bay was noted as far back as 1770, when the Marquis de Montcalm made a report to King Louis XV. Since before Alabama attained statehood, governors have asked Congress to fund such a project. Finally completed in 1985, the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway flows south from the Tennessee River. Aliceville Lake is now one of many recreation destinations along the Tenn-Tom. Straddling the Alabama-Mississippi border, the lake provides fishing, swimming, and other activities. The Pickensville campground consists of 176 sites laid out in three loops and two spurs. Though mostly flat, the campground is very attractive. Sites are shaded by a variety of tree species and the water's edge is graced with lovely cypress trees. All roads and parking spaces are paved. Most of the sites offer back-in parking and a good deal of privacy. Eight pull-through sites are gigantic, but lacking in privacy. Riverside sites, numbered 105–138, have the nicest views of the water. Built next to a cypress-lined creek, sites 49–61 are also very pretty. Security at Pickensville Campground is outstanding, with 24-hour gate attendance. We recommend avoiding this area in

118 ALABAMA Rogersville

July and August when insects, heat, and humidity can be oppressive.

BASICS

Operated By: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; reservations accepted through the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS) at (877) 444-6777 or www.reserveusa.com; reservations can be made up to 240 days in advance; full payment required upon making reservation; credit card preferred (V, MC, D, AE), or pay by money order if at least 21 days in advance of arrival; \$10 fee for cancellation or change of site or dates; cancellation w/in 3 days of arrival charged 1st night, no-show charged \$20 plus 1st night. **Registration:** Gatehouse. **Fee:** \$16–\$20 (cash, check, V, MC, D, AE). **Parking:** 2 vehicles per site, additional charge for more vehicles.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 176. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, some sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, grill, fire ring, lantern post, concrete pads. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** 25 mi. north in Columbus, MS. **Market:** 15 mi. southeast in Aliceville. **Restaurant:** 3 mi. east in Pickensville. **General Store:** 3 mi. east in Pickensville. **Vending:** Beverages. **Swimming:** Yes, beach. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Boat launch, fish-cleaning station, picnic shelters, group campfire ring, game courts, swimming beach, wildlife viewing area. **Activities:** Fishing, tennis, volleyball, basketball, boating, walking trails. **Nearby Attractions:** Antebellum Visitors Center in Pickensville, U.S. Snag Boat Montgomery, Aliceville Museum & Cultural Arts Center w/ German POW Camp, attractions in Columbus, MS. **Additional Information:** Aliceville Chamber of Commerce, (205) 373-2820.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only, not allowed on beach. **Fires:** Fire rings, grills only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Not allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From Tuscaloosa, take US 82 west 20 mi. to AL 86. Go southwest 24 mi. to Pickensville. Continue 3 mi. west to the Recreation Area. From Columbus, MS take MS 69, which becomes AL 14, to Pickensville. Turn right onto AL 86, and go 3 mi. west to the Recreation Area. The entrance is on the right.

ROGERSVILLE MAP, A-2
Joe Wheeler State Park

201 McLean Dr., Rogersville 35652. T: (256) 247-1184; joewheelerstpk@mindspring.com.

★★★★★	★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Straddling Wheeler Lake, and connected by a bridge over Wheeler Dam, Joe Wheeler State Park

is a favorite among anglers. A variety of fish species is found in the lake. Two boat launches serve Wheeler Lake and a third provides access to adjoining Wilson Lake. A marina store augments the fishing experience with fuel and supplies. Joe Wheeler State Park provides a variety of activities on land as well as facilities for large groups. The campground is laid out in three loops with 116 improved sites, and one loop with primitive sites. Site size is ample but not outstanding. Parking is paved, and most sites are back-in. The prettiest sites, 9, 10, 22, 24, and 26, have partial views of Lake Wheeler. The campground is surrounded by lovely thick woods, which provide shade at most sites but very little privacy between sites. The tent camping area consists of a nicely wooded loop of gravel road surrounded by trashcans and fire rings. Like many exceedingly attractive tent areas, there are no designated sites. This remote state park is gated and guarded, making security outstanding. Avoid late summer heat and humidity at Joe Wheeler State Park; plan a visit in spring, early summer, or fall.

BASICS

Operated By: Alabama State Parks. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; reservations recommended Mar. 1–Oct. 31, 2-night min. required & 3-nights on holidays. **Registration:** Campground office; security will register late-comers. **Fee:** \$16 for improved sites, \$10 for primitive sites; fee includes 4 people; \$2 each additional person, \$5 for 2nd tent. **Parking:** At sites, limit 2 cars per site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 0. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 50 primitive. **Number of Multipurpose Sites:** 116. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** Boat fuel. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** 15 mi. west toward Florence. **Market:** 4 mi. east in Rogersville. **Restaurant:** In park. **General Store:** Camp store. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Yes, on beach. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Marina, boat ramps, boat fuel, sandy beach, 18-hole golf course, group meeting room & lodge, resort lodge, picnic pavilions. **Activities:** Boating (rentals available), swimming, hiking trails, day-use tennis, basketball. **Nearby Attractions:** Athens, W.C. Handy Birthplace Museum & Library in Florence, Civil War Walking Trail, Cook's Natural Science Museum, Oakville Indian Park & Museum. **Additional Information:** Decatur/Morgan County CVB, (256) 350-2028.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** In grills, fire rings only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Not allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 50 ft.

TO GET THERE

From I-65, take US 72 west for 22 mi. The park entrance will be on the left 2 mi. west of Rogersville. The campground is 3 mi. inside the park.

TALLADEGA MAP, B-2, B-3
Logan Landing RV Resort and Campground

1036 Paul Bear Bryant Blvd., Talladega 35014. T: (256) 268-0045 or (888) 564-2671; www.loganlanding.com.

★★★	★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Attractive and clean with friendly owners, Logan Landing is a good choice if you plan on spending a few days in the area. The campground offers boating and other activities, and drive times are short to Logan Martin Lake, DeSoto Caverns, and Talladega Superspeedway. Cheaha State Park can be reached in less than one hour. Because this is a popular recreation area, summer weekends are busy. By all means avoid the two biggest race weekends at Talladega Superspeedway—the Die Hard 500 in April and the Winston 500 in October. If you want to stay here on a race weekend, make advance reservations. Two camping areas are situated next to a small private lake. Section A contains no lakefront sites and may be preferred by tent campers because the sites are wooded. We prefer section B for RVs because sites are generally larger and more level. Even-numbered sites 58–80 have lake views but little shade. As you move away from the lake in section B, sites become shadier. Each of the mid-sized sites in section B has gravel parking and a cement patio. Section C is unattractive. The variety of tree species in the campground includes some dogwood. Of the 145 campsites, only a few are pull-throughs. With its remote location in Alpine, Alabama, and gated entrance, this campground has very good security.

BASICS

Operated By: Gerald & Helen Rossman. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; reservations accepted for holiday weekends & recommended for Talladega Superspeedway race weekends. **Registration:** At office in camp store. **Fee:** \$25 for sites w/ full hookup, \$23 for sites w/ water & electric, \$18 primitive, fee includes 2 adults & 2 children. **Parking:** At sites.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 140. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 30. **Number of Multipurpose Sites:** 40. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, some sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, grill (most sites), fire ring. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Gravel. **RV Service:** 11 mi. north in Pell City. **Market:** 11 mi. north in Pell City. **Restaurant:** 3 mi. north. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Inquire at campground. **Swimming:** Yes, no lifeguard. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Private lake, boat ramp, paddleboats, canoes, enclosed pavilion. **Activities:** Fishing, croquet, horseshoes, Lake Logan Martin swimming beach, live music, volleyball, planned

activities on weekends. **Nearby Attractions:** Talladega Superspeedway (NASCAR), DeSoto Caverns, Davey Allison Park, Kymulga Grist Mill & Covered Bridge, Cheaha State Park, Barber Motorcycle Speedway & Museum. **Additional Information:** Talladega Chamber of Commerce, (256) 362-9075.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire ring, grill only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At site only. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 50 ft.

TO GET THERE

From I-20, take Exit 158 at Pell City. Go south on US 231 to Rte. 34 and turn left. Go to CR 207 and turn right (south). Take CR 207 to Rte. 54, turn right at Bama Grocery store. Follow signs for 2 mi. and turn right onto Paul Bear Bryant Rd. The campground is about 1 mi. ahead on the right.

WILMER MAP, D-1 Escatawpa Hollow Campground

15551 Moffett Rd., Wilmer 36587.
T: (251) 649-4233; yerfdogiw@aol.com.



Beauty: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★
Security: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★



Site Privacy: ★★★
Quiet: ★★★
Cleanliness: ★★★
Facilities: ★★★★★

If your kids are the strong-swimming adventurous type, they will delight in the river and woods at Escatawpa Hollow. Because of its popularity with gregarious families, this campground is anything but quiet on summer weekends. The picturesque private campground is situated on the bank of the Escatawpa River near the Alabama-Mississippi border. An exceptionally clean blackwater river, the Escatawpa is lined with white sand beach, creating a delightful swimming area. The bream, catfish, and bass in the river are purported to be the best-tasting in the state (if you can catch them). Paddlers enjoy the mellow flat water of the Escatawpa. Boat rental and shuttle arrangements are available at the campground.

BASICS

Operated By: Larry & Janice Godfrey. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; reservations accepted; deposit required on holidays; 2-day notice for refund. **Registration:** At office. **Fee:** \$10-\$20. **Parking:** 2 vehicles per site, overflow parking available.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 0. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 15. **Number of Multipurpose Sites:** 22. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30 amps), water. **Each Site:** Picnic table, most sites have a grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Most paved, some gravel & dirt. **RV Service:** 15 mi. southeast in Mobile. **Market:** 4 mi. east in Wilmer. **Restaurant:** 4 mi. east in

Wilmer ALABAMA 119

Wilmer. **General Store:** camp store, 1 mi. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Yes, on beach. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Canoe & tube rentals, canoe trips including shuttle service (reservations required), walking trails, rope swings. **Activities:** River swimming, canoeing, kayaking, fishing. **Nearby Attractions:** Bellingrath Gardens in Theodore, Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, USS Alabama, Mobile attractions, HQH Western World Zoo. **Additional Information:** Mobile Convention & Visitors Corp., (800) 5-MOBILE.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: In RV sites only, on leash only. **Fires:** At tent sites only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Not allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From I-65, take exit 5B at Moffett Rd. and US 98. Go 22 mi. west on US 98 to the 0-mi. marker at the Mississippi state line. The park entrance is on the left.

Alaska

Alaska, seemingly the granddaddy of destinations for RVers and campers, lives up to its reputation as the last frontier in several ways. Glaciers, mountains, crystal-clear streams, and wildlife appear as otherworldly entities that make you reconsider your standard perceptions of an untamed wild. However, in this state you will also be entering another world of RV parks and campgrounds. After you cross the mountainous border, you notice that the quality of both state and private campgrounds changes dramatically. Here, many private RV parks look like they were constructed hastily, without consideration for aesthetics and privacy. Bulldozed lots that sandwich vehicles together are more standard than not. State campgrounds and facilities don't fare much better for RVers. Although generally more private, they tend to have bumpy roads, uneven campsites accommodating only the shortest of vehicles, few facilities, and no hookups.

Primitive though the campgrounds may be, they are nothing compared to the road system. Although most of the state's main roads are now paved (some just recently), what is considered a highway in Alaska is a backcountry road to the rest of the nation. Except for Anchorage and Fairbanks, even modern thoroughfares are mostly narrow, single lanes without shoulders, curb banks, or passing areas. Factor in the many unexpected curves, a stargazing trucker in front of you, slower speed limits, or the occasional moose blocking the way, and your travel time increases significantly. As a general rule, it would be very difficult to cover more than 300 miles in one day if you planned on making any pit stops. A three-week minimum stay is recommended to see Alaska, though travel agencies and tour guides say at least two months. Visitors are always surprised just how far it is from one civilized destination to another and how slow the pace can be. However, your trip will be worth every pothole, irregular campsite, and outhouse. Alaska is worth every square foot you drive.

If you're the adventuresome type and need a distraction from all the distractions, the 49th state has a few peculiarities for your fancy. If in Nome on the Seward Peninsula around Labor Day, make plans to attend the **Great American Bathtub Race**. If heading back east at the start of March, and you enjoy seeing frozen water get sculpted, Fairbanks holds the annual **World Ice Art Championships**. Arriving early could mean witnessing an ice harvest from O'Grady Pond. Still around Fairbanks in July? Might as well attend the city's **Golden Days** festival to witness the hairy chest, legs, and beard contest or the rubber duck race on the Chena River. To see the northernmost totem pole in the world, though, you'll have to head due north to **Barrow Point**, the northernmost inhabited locale in the United States.


The scenery in Alaska is unrivaled, and you will find yourself gasping and holding your breath countless times a day. Just when you begin to think you've captured the mountains from every possible angle, suddenly you turn a corner to see a heart-stopping scene that makes you feel like you're the first to glimpse these giant rocky wonders. The massive hanging and piedmont glaciers are visible right from the highway, the turquoise water of the lakes and streams, sprawling forests of spruce and birch, and seemingly endless fields of wildflowers all conspire to woo you.

In addition, if viewing wildlife is your goal, there is nowhere better than Alaska. Wake up very early to increase your chances of seeing moose by the roadside. Besides moose, there are caribou, Dall sheep, 300 varieties of migrating birds, whales, wolves, foxes, coyotes, and bears—just some of the animals you have a chance of glimpsing on your trip. If it's fish you came here for, then welcome, anglers, to the state where the fabled 98.5-pound king salmon and 395-pound halibut were caught. Fishing opportunities are as bountiful as mosquitoes are chummy in this state.

Campground Profiles

ANCHORAGE MAP, B-3 Anchorage RV Park

1200 North Muldoon Rd., Anchorage 99506.
T: (907) 338-7275 or (800) 400-7275;
www.anchrvpark.com.

 ★★★★★	▲ n/a
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Anchorage RV Park, located 15 minutes east of downtown, takes camping in Alaska to an entirely new level. This immaculate and well-maintained campground spoils RV travelers for all other parks. With 195 full-hookup sites, one might think that campers feel overcrowded here; however, plenty of birch and spruce trees, coupled with manicured flower gardens, make it easy to forget that you are at the largest campground in the state's largest city. And besides, one can always seek reprieve in the cedar-lined lounge area, where a fireplace, TV, games, books, and coffee make guests feel like they are back home in their living rooms. For travelers who don't want to waste time shopping, Anchorage RV Park has a general store and gift shop right on the premises. And for those who can't quite get used to the cooler temperatures of the state, Anchorage RV Park offers rest rooms with heated floors to keep those toes toasty. Both back-in and pull-through sites are available, although the latter are a bit more expensive. We preferred the most wooded sites, 101–115, but keep in mind these are quite far from the rest rooms and showers. Anchorage RV Park is located adjacent to Elmendorf Air Force Base, so if you hear a deep rumble, look up for F-16s flying daily maneuvers. Also keep your eyes peeled for the fox and moose that like this part of town.

BASICS

Operated By: CIRI Alaska Tourism. **Open:** May 15–Sep. 15 or later depending on the weather. **Site Assignment:** Reservations are strongly suggested in Jun. & Jul.; a credit card number is required to hold a spot & a \$10 fee is charged for cancellations w/ 30-day notice; cancellations w/in 30 days are non-refundable. **Registration:** Office hours are from 7 a.m.–10 p.m.; if you arrive after hours, a map w/ your site assignment will be posted on the door & payment can be settled by 8 a.m. the next morning; if you don't have a reservation, look for maps w/ high-lighted available spaces. **Fee:** \$30–\$38 per night, rate dependent on season. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 195. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30, 50 amps), water, sewer, cable TV, phone. **Each Site:** Picnic table. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes, coin operated. **Pay Phone:** Yes, several w/ a terrace & chairs. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes; facilities are clean, modern, & heated. **Fuel:** 3 mi. down the road at Muldoon Texaco. **Propane:** At Muldoon Texaco. **Internal Roads:** Gravel, pristine condition. **RV Service:** There are several service

centers in Anchorage, including mechanics that will come to you. Inquire in the office. **Market:** A Fred Meyers is located a few mi. south on Muldoon.

Restaurant: Several to choose from in Anchorage. Ask for suggestions at the front office. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Soft drink, candy, & newspaper dispensers located by the rest rooms. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** There is a covered picnic & grill area on the west side of the campground. **Activities:** Inquire at campground. **Nearby Attractions:** The Native Heritage Center is just across the street, & downtown Anchorage is a 15-minute drive. There is also a paved bike trail & stop for the local bus service nearby. Information on activities can be found at the front office.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: Must be leashed. Waste bags are available throughout for clean up. **Fires:** Not allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Prohibited in communal areas. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

Take the Glenn Hwy. To the Muldoon North Exit. Follow Muldoon North almost to the end of the road, where you will see the Elmendorf Air Force Base gates. Turn left just before these gates at the lighted Anchorage RV Park sign.

ANCHORAGE MAP, B-3 Granite Creek Campground

Alaska Recreational Management, Inc.,
800 East Diamond Blvd., Anchorage 99515.
T: (907) 522-8368; arm@alaska.com.

 ★★★★★	▲ ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

If you are looking for a truly Alaskan camping experience, Granite Creek campground, tucked into a trio of Chugach mountain peaks, will not disappoint you. This campground is only a half mile off the Seward Hwy.; but it can still be considered "off the beaten track," since Anchorage locals tend to occupy the campground on weekends, and out-of-state visitors rarely find their way here. You'll have to come prepared with plenty of food and fuel (as well as mosquito spray from mid-June to mid-July) because you will not find convenience stores or other amenities for at least 25 miles in any direction. However, the nature-lover will be entertained merely by listening to the rushing waters of Granite Creek, taking in the stunning views of the Chugach mountains, or identifying the lush variety of wildflowers that fill in the gaps between spruce trees. All sites are back-in, spacious, and private. However, the loop layout is a bit tight for extra-long vehicles, and it is not recommended for RVs 30 feet or longer. You'll find the most impressive views at sites 8, 11, 12, and 16, although a bad site does not exist at Granite Creek Campground. Chances of spotting moose are high

here, particularly if you are an early riser. Ask the campsite manager where to look.

BASICS

Operated By: Owned by U.S.F.S. & managed by Alaska Recreational Management, Inc. A campground manager is on-site during operating months. **Open:** The campground may be utilized all year, but is only managed & maintained from Mem. Day weekend–Sep. 15. Sometimes snowy conditions prohibit opening until mid-Jun. **Site Assignment:** This campground is first come, first served only. **Registration:** Occupy a site & return to the entrance sign w/in 30 minutes, fill out a fee envelope, & settle payment. Tear the stub off the envelope, & make sure it is visible through your car or RV windshield. **Fee:** \$10 per night. Holders of a Golden Age Passport pay half price. 14-day limit per camper. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 19. **Hookups:** 2 hand-operated water pumps for entire campground. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** 2 pit toilets both cleaned & well maintained by a campground manager. **Fuel:** Girdwood, 27 mi. north, or Seward, 63 mi. south. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Gravel, sometimes impassable until mid-Jun. due to high snowfall in the area. **RV Service:** Girdwood, 27 mi. north, or Seward, 63 mi. south. **Market:** Girdwood, 27 mi. north or Moose Pass, 34 mi. south. **Restaurant:** Girdwood, 27 mi. north, Portage Lake Lodge near Portage Glacier, or Summit Lake Lodge 18 mi. south. **General Store:** Girdwood, 27 mi. north, or Moose Pass, 34 mi. south. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** The Johnson Pass hiking trailhead, a great family hike, can be found on the highway 0.5 mi. north. There is also an 8-mi. paved biking trail that begins there. **Activities:** Go fishing for Dolly Vardens in Granite Creek, or take a walk & look for the many moose that reside in the area. **Nearby Attractions:** Portage Glacier & the access road to Whittier are only 30 minutes away. The gold mining town of Hope, although a 40-minute drive, would be worth an afternoon trip.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: All pets should be leashed & under owner supervision. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** No restrictions. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** No limit, but RVs over 30 ft. may have difficulties.


TO GET THERE

Take the Seward Hwy. to mi. 63.5 and look for the large blue and white sign for Granite Creek Campground w/ an arrow directing you to Granite Creek Rd. Follow the road approximately 0.5 mi., and you will find a fee box and large entrance sign.

122 ALASKA Anchorage

ANCHORAGE MAP, B-3
Montana Creek Campground

816 Oceanview Dr., Anchorage 99515.
T: (907) 566-CAMP or (907) 733-KAMP;
montanacreekcampground@alaska.com.

 ★★★★★	▲ ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

If you've been traveling awhile and feel that all campgrounds look alike, Montana Creek will offer a refreshing change of pace. Attention to detail is what makes this campground stand out from the rest. Sheila Lankford, the owner and operator of the campground, tends her perennial gardens and campsite grounds personally, and vibrant displays of wildflowers and berries are sure to delight those with or without a green thumb. Sheila was born and raised on a homestead in this area, and she can offer guests great stories and solid traveling advice. Look for her with her dog, Cody. Montana Creek Campground has 18 back-in/pull-through sites with electric hookups available in a grassy area adjacent the creek. All-sized rigs can be easily accommodated here. These sites all have new fire pits and grills, as well as lanterns for the evening hours. For smaller RVs, more scenic, dry camping is available in the meandering campground loops tucked into birch and spruce woods. Campers will enjoy the private, heavily treed sites that have been uniquely named after regular guests. Our favorite spot was "Hilton's Hotel" located right next to the serene Montana Creek bed.

BASICS

Operated By: Owned & operated by Sheila Lankford; co-owned by Bill Nathis. **Open:** May–Oct., exact days depend on snowmelt & weather conditions. **Site Assignment:** This campground is first come, first served only. Space is usually available, but it is recommended that you arrive by Fri. afternoon if you are planning to stay the weekend. **Registration:** A self-registration board & pay box are situated at the entrance of the campground. Find a site, then pay at box. **Fee:** Electric hookup costs \$23, dry camping is \$18. There is a \$6 charge to park for the day & fish. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 110. **Hookups:** 18 w/ electric (30, 50 amps); water is available near the store. **Each Site:** Picnic table, grill, lantern pole, fire pit, & some w/ electrical outlets. **Dump Station:** 3 mi. north at Tesoro Station or 5 mi. south at Mat-Su RV Park. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** No showers or flushable toilets. Only portables are available, but they are extremely well maintained & clean. **Fuel:** Tesoro Station 3 mi. north or Ship Creek Lodge 8 mi. south. **Propane:** Tesoro Station 3 mi. north or Mat-Su RV Park 5 mi. south. **Internal Roads:** Gravel, well maintained. **RV Service:** Talkeetna, 17 mi. **Market:** No. **Restaurant:** His & Hers Lounge & Restaurant located 3 mi. north. Also several restaurants in Talkeetna. The Store just

north of the campground also has a small bakery w/ soups & sandwiches. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** A paved walkway & pedestrian bridge allows guests views of Montana Creek. Several access points to the creek offer excellent fishing opportunities for silvers, kings, pink (even-numbered years), grayling, & trout. A tackle shop on site offers fishing gear for sale or for rent. **Activities:** Live music July 4th. Feature artists vary every year. The Talkeetna Bluegrass Festival is the 1st week of Aug. just 5 mi. north of the campground. **Nearby Attractions:** This campground is a hop, skip, & a jump from the endearing town of Talkeetna (the town which the show *Northern Exposure* inspired). In addition, information is available at the campground on dog sledding, flight seeing, fishing.

RESTRICTIONS


Pets: On leash. **Fires:** Fire pits, grills; forest conditions may trigger temporary restrictions. **Alcoholic Beverages:** No restrictions. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

Take the Parks Hwy. to mi. 96.5 and look to the east. The large sign and a picnic table w/ a statue of two bear cubs sitting on it make this campground easy to find.

ANCHORAGE MAP, B-3
Ship Creek Landings RV Park

150 North Ingra St., Anchorage 99501.
T: (907) 277-0877 or (800) 323-5757;
www.alaskarv.com.

 ★★	▲ ★★
Beauty: ★	Site Privacy: ★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

Only blocks away from downtown, Ship Creek Landings offers guests a resting spot that is within minutes of the highlights of Alaska's largest city. However, this campground is not one to choose for its scenery or quality. Located in Anchorage's warehouse district, dilapidated buildings surround the area, and the Alaska railroad passes directly by. Looming power lines cut through the center of the campground, and even though the city's hub is so close, a steep hill and industrial traffic do not make walking ideal. All of this said, Ship Creek does offer full hookup camping, clean rest rooms and showers, and a convenient location. It is also within the vicinity of Anchorage's prime fishing creek—you guessed it, Ship Creek. This loop-shaped campground consists of mostly back-in sites, but four pull-throughs are also available for larger rigs. A separate area at the back of the campground offers respite for tenters only. Besides a steep birch-lined hill bordering one side of the campground, there is little plant life. About five feet of grass separates individual spaces. We found no one site to be better than another. It is simply a choice between being next to a power line or a fence.

BASICS

Operated By: Best of Alaska RV Parks, Alaska Travel Adventures. **Open:** Call park for details. **Site Assignment:** Reservations are strongly suggested as the campground fills up quickly. The toll-free reservation number (Mon.–Fri.) is for all of Alaska Travel Adventures' campgrounds, so have the name of the one you want in mind. **Registration:** Office hours are from 8 a.m.–9 p.m. If you arrive after hours, late registry is available outside of the office. **Fee:** RV \$14–\$34, tents \$14. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 153. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 20. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** None. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes, coin operated. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** Williams Station on 5th Ave. **Propane:** Williams Station on 5th Ave. **Internal Roads:** Gravel. **RV Service:** Referral. **Market:** A Carrs/Safeway is located on 13th & Gambell. **Restaurant:** Several in Anchorage. Ask for suggestions & menus at the front office. **General Store:** Basic items & snacks are for sale in the office. **Vending:** Soft drink & newspaper dispensers located by the office. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Inquire at campground. **Activities:** Local tours, fishing. Inquire at campground for more info. **Nearby Attractions:** Downtown Anchorage has many attractions. Visit the 4th Ave. Visitor Center for maps & brochures. Some tours can be booked at the campground.

RESTRICTIONS


Pets: On leash & supervised. **Fires:** Not allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** No restrictions. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From the north, take the Glenn Hwy. to Anchorage and turn right on Ingra St. (From the south, take the New Seward Hwy. to Anchorage. The highway will become a one-way street named Ingra.) Go to the end of Ingra, down a steep hill, and turn left on 1st St. You will see the Ship Creek Landings sign on your left. If you cross the railroad tracks, you have gone too far.

ANCHORAGE MAP, B-3
Williwaw Campground

800 East Diamond Blvd., Anchorage 99515.
T: (877) 444-NRRS or (907) 522-8368;
www.reserveusa.com.

 ★★★★★	▲ ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

Relatively new to the RV scene, this immaculate and newly paved campground is a stone's throw away from Portage and Whittier, as well as an ideal overnight stopover for travelers heading to Seward or Homer. Williwaw is a U.S.F.S. campground, and therefore without hookups or other amenities—but waking up to the dynamic blue of the hanging

Middle Glacier, the campground backdrop, is an experience sure to delight young and old alike. Campsites are spacious and private and can easily accommodate the largest of RVs. With both pull-through and back-in spaces available, it is worth planning ahead and making reservations for a campsite with a view of the Glacier. We recommend sites 2–6 or 34–36.

BASICS

Operated By: U.S.F.S. **Open:** May–Sept, depending on weather. **Site Assignment:** By reservation or on a space-available basis. **Registration:** Occupy a site & return to the entrance sign w/in 30 minutes—fill out a fee envelope & settle payment. Tear the stub off the envelope & make sure it is visible through your RV windshield or on the front of your tent. **Fee:** \$12 per single site; \$18 for a double. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 60. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire pit. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No, go to Portage Glacier Lodge 1.5 mi. down the road. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Several pit toilets. No showers or wash facilities available. **Fuel:** None in area, fuel up in Anchorage or Girdwood before arriving. The next gas station will not be available until Seward. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved & in excellent condition. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 10 mi. north in Girdwood. **Restaurant:** Several in Girdwood. **General Store:** Girdwood, 10 mi. north. **Vending:** Soft drinks & candy machine at Portage Glacier Lodge. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Check out the salmon-spawning viewing area adjacent the campground, or take the pleasant Williwaw Nature Trail to get a better look at the Glacier. **Activities:** Inquire at campground. **Nearby Attractions:** Portage Lake & the Begich Boggs Visitor Center are just 1.5 mi. down the road. It is worth catching the movie *Voices from the Ice* at the visitor center (shown 20 minutes after every hour). Boat tours to the face of the Glacier are also available. Portage road then continues to Whittier but there is a fee to drive through the tunnel. Many people catch glacier boat tours out of Whittier.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash & supervised. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Inquire at campground. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

Take the Seward Hwy. to mi. 78. Although your map may say Portage, the town was destroyed in the 1964 earthquake and only a few dilapidated remnants remain. Turn north on Portage Rd. and go 5 mi. to the Williwaw Campground sign (not to be confused w/ the Williwaw Viewing Area sign that you'll see 0.25 mi. before the campground). Turn right at the sign, and you will find the entrance board and campsite manager just down the road.

COOPER LANDING MAP, B-3
Kenai Princess RV Park

Mile 2 Bean Creek Rd., Cooper Landing 99572.
T: (907) 595-1425 or (800) 426-0500;
www.princessalaskalodges.com.

 ★★★	 n/a
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

When you begin to feel the need to pamper yourself after long days on the highway, spend a night at the Kenai Princess RV Park for a bit of luxury. The park itself is nothing extraordinary; however, it's adjacent to the beautiful Kenai Princess Lodge, where RV guests are welcome to dine in the restaurant, enjoy an evening cocktail outside at the bar, use the facility exercise equipment, or dip into the indoor and outdoor Jacuzzis located on the grounds. During your time at this facility, you will feel like a coach passenger who just got bumped to first class. A small campground tucked well away from the main roads, Kenai Princess RV Park is quiet and without traffic. The peak of Cecil Rhode Mountain makes for a stunning backdrop, and the glacial waters of the Kenai River are just a short walk away. The campground has a pleasant border of Sitka spruce, but the individual sites are without trees, and only about ten feet separates campers. All sites are back-ins—the longest being 55 feet—so extra-large rigs might find the campground to be a tight squeeze. No sites stand out as superior or inferior, but we do recommend a spot that is away from the dump station since the tour buses going to and from the lodge utilize the area throughout the day and can be somewhat distracting.

BASICS

Operated By: Princess Cruise Lines. **Open:** May 15–Sep. 15. **Site Assignment:** In Jun. & Jul. reservations are necessary. Spots are held w/ a credit card number & cancellations must be made at least 24 hours beforehand. Reservations are recommended for all months, but occasionally there are spaces available in the early & late days of the season. **Registration:** Office hours are from 8 a.m.–10 p.m. Call if you will be late & a map w/ your site assignment will be posted on the door. **Fee:** \$25 per night. Good Sam discounts available. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 29. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes, \$2 per machine. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes, flushable toilets & coin-operated showers. \$1.25 buys about 15 minutes. **Fuel:** Available in Cooper Landing 2.5 mi. away. **Propane:** Available in Cooper Landing. **Internal Roads:** Gravel, well maintained. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** The Shrew's Nest in Cooper Landing has sundries, including unique Alaskan gifts. Larger supermarkets are available in Soldotna. **Restaurant:** The Kenai Princess lodge offers fine dining, or eat at the bar for a simpler venue. Gwin's Restaurant in Cooper Landing also is recommended. **General Store:**

Denali Park ALASKA 123

Yes. Vending: A soft drinks machine is by the office. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** A gift shop is located across from the lodge. **Activities:** Tours & charters can be booked from the lodge. Many include transportation. **Nearby Attractions:** Most visitors to this region are passionate anglers as the Kenai River is one of the most famous salmon fishing rivers in the state. There are also several local hikes for all skill ranges, including a nature hike on the Kenai Princess Lodge grounds. There are lots of moose in this area—wake up early to find them along Bean Creek Rd.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: Must be leashed & supervised. **Fires:** Not allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** No restrictions. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** Sites are 55 ft. in length & back-in.

TO GET THERE

Take the Sterling Hwy. to mi. 47.7 just before the bridge crossing the Kenai River. You will see a sign for the Kenai Princess Wilderness Lodge and RV Park, followed by the Bean Creek Rd. turnoff to the right. Follow Bean Creek Rd. for 2 mi. and turn left at the lodge sign. Another sign directs you to the campground tucked just down the hill from the lodge.

DENALI PARK MAP, B-3
Denali Grizzly Bear Cabins and Campground

Mile 231 Park Hwy., Denali Park 99755.
T: (907) 683-2696; www.denaligrizzlybear.com.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

If you're looking to capture some of the hearty Alaskan spirit from the days of yore, Denali Grizzly Bear Cabins and Campground will make you feel like you're back in the pioneer times. One of the highlights of this campground is chatting with the workers here. Most of them are part of the Reislund clan, descendants of the family that settled this land decades ago. Siblings and cousins now run the campground in the summer, and they have gone to great lengths to preserve some of the flavor of yesteryear. Take a few moments to admire the unique Alaska paraphernalia that decorates the general store and office. Almost everything you see has a story behind it. With several thickly wooded back-in sites (and two pull-through sites) available, all-sized rigs can be accommodated, but longer vehicles may have some difficulty maneuvering if they wander beyond their designated area. This campground has many loops and turns, making campers feel like they're much farther away from the park highway than they really are. The rushing Nenana River that borders the campground, coupled with the snow-capped mountains in the background, complete the effect of being away from it all. Ask for a riverside site if possible.

124 ALASKA Denali Park

BASICS

Operated By: Owned & operated by the Reislunds. **Open:** May 15–Sep. 12, exact days depend on snowmelt & weather. **Site Assignment:** Reservations are recommended, particularly in Jun. & Jul. 1-night deposit is required to secure a campsite, & a 15% service fee is charged for cancellations. No refunds are given w/in 48 hours of the reserved date. Walk-ins are also welcome, just check into the office before settling into a site. No charge if cancelled w/in 60 days of arrival. **Registration:** Payments should be made at the front office prior to going to your site. Check-in is from 3–10 p.m. If you are not going to be able to make it during office hours (8 a.m.–10 p.m.), call ahead. A map w/ your site assignment will be posted on the office door. **Fee:** Each campsite (up to 4 people) is \$18.50. Extra people are \$3 each. An extra vehicle or tent is \$1. Electric hookup is \$5 per vehicle, & water is \$1 per vehicle. All major credit cards or cash accepted. **Parking:** At site for most spots. Some tent sites are walk-in only w/ designated parking in a separate area.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 45. **Number of Multi-purpose Sites:** 45. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water (most sites). **Each Site:** Picnic table. **Dump Station:** Yes. **2. Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **3. Rest Rooms and Showers:** 3 buildings w/ flushable toilets & pay showers are available to park guests. Facilities are clean & accessible. **Fuel:** A Tesoro station is located in Denali Village 7 mi. north. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Dirt, curvy but well maintained. **RV Service:** No, 18 mi. away in Healy. **Market:** Basic food items are available at the campground general store. **Restaurant:** Yes, across the street. **General Store:** A well-stocked general store is located adjacent to the office & includes coffee & rolls, ice cream, snacks & groceries, ice, liquor, & Alaskan gifts. Hours are 8 a.m.–10 p.m. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** There are 7 covered pavilions for picnics & barbecues. Cabins are available. **Activities:** Airplane rides & horseback riding (nearby). **Nearby Attractions:** The Denali National Park entrance is located 6 mi. north of the RV Park. In addition, a wide array of local tours can be booked in the front office.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash; walked only in dog-walking area. Should not be left unattended. **Fires:** Restricted to pit areas only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** No restrictions. Liquor is sold in the campground general store. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 45 ft.

TO GET THERE

Take the Parks Hwy. to mi. 231. When you near this mi., slow down—the large Denali Grizzly Bear Cabins & Campground sign on the west side of the road sneaks up on you suddenly.

DENALI PARK MAP, B-3
**Denali Rainbow Village
RV Park and Country Mall**

Mile 238.6 Park Hwy., Denali Park 99755.
T: (907) 683-7777; www.denalirvrvpark.com.

★★★	★★★
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

Located at the apex of Denali Village, the development of hotels, restaurants, and gift shops that has sprouted just outside the entrance of Denali National Park, Denali Rainbow Village RV Park puts you where the action is. Use this RV park during your allotted time in Denali, and you will be able to grab a bagel and morning cup of coffee, catch a shuttle to the park, book various tours around the area, go shopping, and find evening entertainment—all within walking distance of your tent or RV. Denali Rainbow Village RV Park is simply a barren gravel lot set behind a boardwalk of tourist shops and attractions, but the facilities are clean, and there are plenty of back-in and pull-through sites that can accommodate all vehicles. There are no superior or inferior sites at this campground, as all share the same sweeping views of the Alaska Range and all are equidistant from the hubbub of Denali Village.

BASICS

Operated By: Owned & operated by the amicable Ed Regan. **Open:** May 20–Sep. 20, exact days depend on snowmelt & weather conditions. **Site Assignment:** Either just show up or make reservations in advance. Sites can be held w/ a credit card, but must be canceled at least 24 hours beforehand if you can't make it. Jun. & Jul. are the busiest months. **Registration:** Check in at the front office before settling on a site. Office hours are 8 a.m.–9 p.m. If you arrive after hours, find a site & place your payment in the box located on the front of the office building. **Fee:** Full hookups \$34, electric w/ water \$30, electric only \$27, dry camping \$20, tents \$15. These prices include tax. After 2 nights, a 25% discount is given for the 3rd night. All major credit card accepted. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 77. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 10. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 50 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, electrical outlet, water faucet. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Flushable toilets & pay showers available to park guests. **Fuel:** Park Mart Tesoro station adjacent to campground. **Propane:** In Healy 10 mi. north. **Internal Roads:** Gravel, flat, & well maintained. **RV Service:** 10 mi. north in Healy. **Market:** Tesoro station has convenience items (at inconvenient prices!). **Restaurant:** Subway on the boardwalk. Black Bear Café next to campground office, notable for its soups & sandwiches. The carrot cake also is recommended. **General Store:** Tesoro station; stock up on supplies before arriving in Denali.

Vending: Soft drink machines are located on the boardwalk. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** The boardwalk offers a jewelry shop, several gift stores, a 1-hour photo gallery, & offices where rafting, horseback riding, flight seeing, & golfing tours can be booked. **Activities:** Inquire at campground. **Nearby Attractions:** The Denali National Park entrance is located just 1 mi. south of the RV Park.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash, cleaned up after. **Fires:** Restricted to pit areas only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** No restrictions. Ed only asks that you "behave." **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

Take the Parks Hwy. to mi. 238. This mi., known unofficially as Denali Village, is a strip of hotels, restaurants, and gift shops for guests to the National Park. Denali Rainbow is smack in the center of this area. On the east side of the highway, look for a boardwalk of cabin-style shops and a large green sign that says Denali Rainbow (just to the left of the Tesoro Station).

FAIRBANKS MAP, B-3
**River's Edge RV Park and
Campground**

4140 Boat St., Fairbanks 99709. T: (907) 474-3681 or (800) 770-3343; www.riversedge.net.

★★★	★★★
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

River's Edge RV Park offers the style of camping guests are accustomed to finding in the Lower 48 states. Clean, pristine, and modern, this campground allows guests easy access to downtown Fairbanks and nearby tourist attractions, while at the same time providing a tranquil setting on the Chena River. Rest rooms and showers are well maintained here, and the friendly atmosphere, coupled with the knowledge of campground staff regarding the general area, will impress guests. This vast horseshoe-shaped campground has several treed sites on the east side with more open, grassy spots on the west. Back-ins and pull-through sites are available, with approximately 20 feet between sites. Larger vehicles are easily accommodated. Sites located near the office seem heavily trafficked and a bit noisy. We prefer the riverside sites, especially sites B-9, D-17, and E-16.

BASICS

Operated By: Owned & operated by husband & wife team Steve Frank & Linda Anderson. **Open:** Mem. Day weekend–Sep. 15, weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** General reservations can be made, but specific sites are not assigned until arrival. Drop-in guests are welcome & usually accommodated. **Registration:** Check-in is required at the office before obtaining a site. If you will be arriving after hours (7 a.m.–10 p.m.) call ahead. A map & instructions will be hung on a bul-

letin board for you to pick up when you arrive.
Fee: Full hookups \$28, water/electric hookups \$25. Dry camping available for \$17. Good Sam discounts available. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 179. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 12. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Coin-operated machines available. Soap & change available in laundry room. **Pay Phone:** Yes, w/ modem access. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Flushable toilets & clean showers. **Fuel:** Airport Way (0.25 mi. away) in several places. (Fred Meyer is known to have the lowest prices.) **Propane:** Airport Way (0.25 mi. away). **Internal Roads:** Gravel, well maintained. **RV Service:** Several service stations available in Fairbanks. The front office will assist you in making calls. **Market:** Fred Meyer & Safeway are both located on Airport Way. Safeway is open 24 hours. **Restaurant:** The front office lists the daily specials for the nearby Chena's Restaurant, & staff will happily make reservations for you. Sample menus for other Fairbanks restaurants are also available. **General Store:** A gift shop & some general items are located on site. Other shopping is abundant throughout Fairbanks. **Vending:** Soft drink machines & newspaper dispensers on site. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Walk to the banks of the Chena River & try your hand at catch-&-release. There is also a sunny deck area adjacent to the office where you can relax & read the newspaper. Car wash on site. **Activities:** Reservations for fishing tours, historical city tours, gold mine tours, & Riverboat Discovery tours can all be booked at the front office. Transportation is provided for most tours. **Additional Information:** Fairbanks CVB, 550 1st Ave., (800) 327-5774, www.explorefairbanks.com.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash. **Fires:** Because campground is in city limits, no fires are allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** No restrictions. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From the Parks Hwy. take the East Fairbanks Exit. Take a left on Sportsmans Way and another left on Boat St. From the Richardson Hwy., take a left on Airport Way, cross University Ave., and turn right on Sportsmans Way. Take an immediate left onto Boat St. Blue camping signs will point you in the right direction.

GLENNALLEN MAP, B-3
Mendeltna Creek Lodge

Mile 153 Glenn Hwy, Glennallen 99588. T: (907) 822-3346; mendeltnalodge@cvinternet.net.

 ★★★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★★

This campground, the halfway point between Tok and Anchorage, is not a destination in itself, but

rather a place to layover before journeying to your next checkpoint. However, the highway-weary traveler will find a surprisingly unique experience at Mendeltna Creek Lodge. Set in the gnarly black spruce forest with the sinuous Mendeltna Creek flowing by, the campground has a bit of a rustic, wild feel to it. This campground has treed sites with plenty of back-ins and pull-throughs. The several loops and slightly bumpy road make some parts of the campground difficult for larger rigs, but ultimately all can be accommodated. The sites are not numbered and seem slightly scattered about. We preferred the creekside sites, but they are the farthest away from the showers and rest rooms. Overall, the campground is clean and on par with Alaska's other RV sites—it simply has a very "seasoned" feel to it.

BASICS

Operated By: Mabel & Russel Wimmer. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations are recommended for holiday weekends & July 4th. Deposits are required during busy times. Otherwise, there is usually room for RVers who just show up. **Registration:** Stop in restaurant/office & pay before you park. If you arrive after hours, find a spot & settle payment in the morning. **Fee:** Full hookup \$20, dry camping \$10, tents \$6. Cabins \$40-\$50 per night. Good Sam discounts available. Cash or credit cards accepted, no checks. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 60. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** Undesignated sites. **Hookups:** Electric (20 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes, coin operated. **Pay Phone:** No, but calling cards may be used in the office. Phone cards available for purchase in the restaurant. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Family style rest rooms available in the restaurant & on the campground. Showers cost \$1. **Fuel:** Yes. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Gravel, a bit bumpy. **RV Service:** In Glenallen. **Market:** In Glenallen. **Restaurant:** A restaurant & bar are on site & are open from 6 a.m. to mid-night. Handtossed pizzas & cinnamon rolls are recommended. Sandwiches & simple meals are also available at relatively reasonable prices. **General Store:** Some basic items available for purchase in the restaurant. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Cozy cabins are available for rent if you want a night out of your camper/tent. **Activities:** Inquire at campground. **Nearby Attractions:** The Drunken Forest museum is on site. This is a fenced-in collection of unusually shaped wood pieces & artifacts that have been found in the local area.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: Allows on leash only, must be cleaned up after. **Fires:** Allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** No restrictions, alcohol available at the bar. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

Take the Glenn Hwy. to mi. 153. You'll see the log lodge on the south side of the highway.

GLENNALLEN MAP, B-3
Northern Nights RV Campground

Mile 188.7 Glenn Hwy., Glennallen 99588.
T: (907) 822-3199; www.alaska-rv-campground-glennallen-northernnights.net.

 ★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

Set just where the Glenn Hwy. T-bones the Richardson Hwy., Northern Nights is a convenient stopover for those en route to Tok, Fairbanks, Valdez, or Anchorage. This spruce-lined campground is tucked away from the roar of the trucks and cars on the highways and has a quaint, cozy atmosphere. It is a good place to refuel, get a hot meal in town, and make preparations for the following day's travel. As an added bonus, if you stay at Northern Nights on a Monday or Wednesday, you can join in on their free bonfire and dessert nights—an attraction worth timing your visit for. Northern Nights is a small campground with a parking lot layout. There are plenty of pull-through sites for larger vehicles, and tenters are able to enjoy a comfortable night's sleep at a padded tent spot. Sites are only about ten feet apart, but a few young trees between each camping space provide a little more privacy. We recommend sites 13-18, simply because they are farthest away from the office and the incoming and outgoing RVs.

BASICS

Operated By: Richard & Tomi Hawes. **Open:** May 1-Oct. 1. If weather permits, opens mid-Apr. **Site Assignment:** Reservations are strongly recommended for Jun.-mid-Aug. No deposit is required but please call by 4 p.m. if you have to cancel. Visitors w/out reservations will be accommodated on a space-available basis. **Registration:** Register at the front office before settling in. If you are going to arrive after hours, call ahead, & a map w/ your assignment will be left on the front door. For those w/out reservations, find a spot & settle payment before 9 a.m. the next day. Office hours are 7 a.m.-9 p.m. **Fee:** RV, \$20-\$22; tent, \$12. No credit cards accepted. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 21. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 5. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire pit. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No, 0.5 mi. down the road. **Pay Phone:** No, but calling cards can be used in the front office. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes, fee for showers. \$3 guests, \$5 non-guests. **Fuel:** A gas station is directly across the street. **Propane:** Available at the gas station. **Internal Roads:** Gravel. **RV Service:** Spark's Automotive Texaco across street. **Market:** Park's Place is 0.5 mi. down the road. **Restaurant:** Check out the Hitchin' Post 1 mi. west for \$2.99 breakfasts & large burgers. The Great Alaskan Freeze & The Caribou Restaurant are other close dining options. **General Store:**

126 ALASKA Homer

Spark's general store is across the road, & the Hub of Alaska is just east of the campground. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Fishing charters. **Activities:** Glennallen has a large 4th of July celebration complete w/ a parade, raft races, & a salmon bake. **Additional Information:** The Glennallen Visitor Center, mi. 189 on the Glenn Hwy., can help you find hiking, hunting, & fishing opportunities. Hours are 8 a.m.–7 p.m. in the summer, (907) 822-5555.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: Must be leashed. Pet sitting is available for a small fee. **Fires:** Restricted to fire pits. Firewood is free. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Glennallen is a dry city. One cannot purchase alcohol here, but if you have your own you may imbibe at your site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

Take the Glenn Hwy. to mi. 188.7. The campground is right at the Glenn/Richardson junction in the town of Glennallen on the north side.

HOMER MAP, B-3 Oceanview RV Park

455 Sterling Hwy., Homer 99603.
T: (907) 235-3951; www.oceanview-rv.com.



★★★



★★★

Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

This full-hookup campground offers a magnificent panoramic view of Katchemak Bay and is conveniently located next to downtown Homer, the very last town on the Alaska highway system. Probably the cleanest and most modern facility on the Kenai Peninsula, Oceanview is an ideal place to get a hot shower, browse a well-stocked gift shop, and get a free cup of coffee in the morning. With both back-in and pull-through sites, Oceanview is a parking lot-style facility with few trees and little privacy between sites. However, the friendly atmosphere and numerous amenities make Oceanview an ideal resting spot. Reserve a waterside site if you can. Sites 26, 43, 64, 83, and 86 are recommended. For shade-lovers, ask for 17B.

BASICS

Operated By: Geri Barling. **Open:** May 15–Oct. 15. **Site Assignment:** By reservation or on a space available basis. Sometimes the entire park is booked by caravans, so a phone call is recommended. **Registration:** Do not occupy a site until you have registered at the front office. If you are going to be arriving after hours (8 a.m.–9 p.m. Mon.–Sat., 9 a.m.–8 p.m. Sun.), call ahead & the campground manager will make arrangements w/ you. **Fee:** Full **Hookups:** \$28, \$24 electric w/ water, electricity \$20, dry camping \$15. Showers are included for all campers. There are no discounts or coupons, but seniors do receive a 10% discount at the gift shop. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 100. **Number of Tent-**

only Sites: 9. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer, cable TV, phone. **Each Site:** Trash can. **Dump Station:** Not on site. City dump is located just down the road. **Laundry:** Yes, coin-operated. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Flush toilets & hot showers available free of charge to all campers. Facilities are clean & well-maintained. **Fuel:** A few blocks away at Tesoro. **Propane:** At Homer Tesoro. **Internal Roads:** Gravel roads in good condition. **RV Service:** In Homer. **Market:** 8 blocks away & open 24/7. **Restaurant:** Several to choose from in downtown Homer. We recommend Sal's for sourdough french toast or Cups for lunch & dinner. **General Store:** Safeway 5 blocks away. **Vending:** Ice, soft drinks, & newspaper machines are all available outside the front office. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** There is a covered picnic area for large groups or grill parties (barbecue pits on back deck by the office). Guests can also take a walk down the hill to the beach for an up close look at the shimmering waters of Katchemak Bay. RV Park guests can arrange for several boating & fishing charters at discounted rates. **Activities:** A fish-fry is hosted for campground guests every Fourth of July. **Nearby Attractions:** Skate park, Boys & Girls Club nearby. **Additional Information:** Chamber of Commerce located on the Sterling Hwy. between Bartlett & Main St., (907) 235-7740.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: All pets should be leashed & under owner supervision. More than 2 animals requires manager approval. **Fires:** No fires in the RV Park, but allowed on beach. **Alcoholic Beverages:** No restrictions. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

Take the Sterling Hwy. to mi. 172.7. Just before you reach downtown Homer, you will see the RV park's large sign off to the right.

HOPE MAP, B-3 Seaview RV Park

P.O. Box 110, Hope 99605. T: (907) 782-3300;
hope@ibm.net; www.home.gci.net/~hopeak.



★★

★★

Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★★

The town of Hope is a tiny speck on the Alaska map that is often overlooked by tourists. However, the traveler who ventures off the Seward Hwy. and down the curvy 18-mile road to this vintage gold-mining community will not regret the detour. Seaview RV Park lies on the edge of Hope and is host to the downtown area's only bar and dinner restaurant. Sweeping views of the Turnagain Arm, coupled with a convenient placement, allow one to ignore the fact that the RV park itself is a barren, crowded lot with back-in and pull-through sites to accommodate all vehicles. Since there is little to no privacy between sites (and because there is a bar next door) this is not a campground for a person who sleeps lightly. However, for the more sociable,

Seaview RV Park is an ideal place to meet local Alaskans, fish for salmon in Resurrection Creek, and explore a few well-preserved remnants of the gold rush.

BASICS

Operated By: Owned & operated Renna Stanley-Harris. Sometimes you'll find her running the bar. **Open:** May 1–Sep. 20. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served, or by reservation. There is usually plenty of space at the beginning & end of the season, but reservations are recommended from mid-Jul. until the end of Aug. **Registration:** Occupy a site & find someone in the bar or restaurant for payment. If you arrive after hours simply pay the next day. This campground operates on the honor system. **Fee:** \$10 per RV site, \$15 w/ electric. Tents are \$5. **Parking:** At site or on road.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 28. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** Undesignated sites. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30 amps); 1 water hose available on the side of the bar. **Each Site:** Electrical outlet, fire pit. **Dump Station:** No, but can go to Eagle Rising 1 mi. down the road. **Laundry:** No, Eagle Rising is available. **Pay Phone:** No, but calling cards can be used in the bar or restaurant. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Several portables of dubious cleanliness are available. Showers can be taken at Eagle Rising for a miniscule fee. **Fuel:** Hope has a gas station, but the availability of fuel is hit or miss & there are no set hours of operation. Fuel-up beforehand in Anchorage (when coming from the north) or Seward (when leaving the south). **Propane:** Available at Eagle Rising. **Internal Roads:** Gravel, average condition. **RV Service:** None. **Market:** No. Hope has a small gift shop w/ the basics, but it is expensive here. **Restaurant:** The Seaview Restaurant is famed for its seafood chowder & Alaskan fish & chips. Also featured at various times are exotic meats such as ostrich, caribou, musk ox, kangaroo, & rattlesnake. Discovery Cafe, the town's other restaurant, is also recommended. **General Store:** Again, you'll find the basics at the local gift shop, but be prepared to pay a hefty price. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** The park has a spectacular view of the Turnagain Arm & Resurrection Creek. **Activities:** Ask in the restaurant or bar for Gold Rush Peck. This eccentric Alaskan will give you a 2-hour gold-panning lesson for \$7. Fish for salmon in Resurrection Creek from mid-Jul. through the end of the summer. From Aug. through mid-Sep., pick berries. **Nearby Attractions:** There are several nearby hiking trails that cater to all levels. Rafting trips & guided fishing tours are also available in the area. Inquire in the restaurant or bar. **Additional Information:** www.home.gci.net/~hopeak.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire pit only; firewood is available for sale. **Alcoholic Beverages:** No restrictions. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.



TO GET THERE

Take the Seward Hwy. to mi. 56 just over the Canyon Creek Bridge and turn north at Hope junction. There is a large sign pointing the way. Follow the Hope Hwy. 16.9 mi. and turn right on Old Hope Rd. A short stretch on Old Hope

brings you to Main St. Turn left and follow this road 2 blocks to its end.

HOUSTON MAP, B-3 Riverside Camper Park

Mile 57.7 Park Hwy., Houston 99694.
T: (907) 892-9020; aksalmon@mtaonline.net.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Riverside Camper Park is a clean, tranquil park that offers the perfect break before going to the big city of Anchorage just an hour's drive away. This loop-shaped campground is just off the park highway and is conveniently located within walking distance of a restaurant, post office, grocery store, and service station. It can also be recommended for its clean rest rooms and home-style showers. For fishing fans, bank fishing on the Little Susitna River is available all summer, and boat charters can be arranged at the campground. There are plenty of spacious back-in and pull-through sites available. Spruce and birch line Riverside Camper Park, but no trees or flowers separate the grassy campsites. Request the spots farthest from the highway; sites 27 and 28 are next to the water.

BASICS

Operated By: Owned & operated by Kenny & Sheila Mortensen. **Open:** May–Sep., exact days depend on snowmelt & weather conditions. **Site Assignment:** Either just show up or make reservations in advance. Sites can be held w/ a credit card, but must be cancelled at least 24 hours beforehand if you can't make it. **Registration:** Check in at the front office before settling on a site. Office hours are 9 a.m.–9 p.m. If you arrive after hours, instructions are on the front gate for check-in. **Fee:** Full hookups cost \$20. Good Sam & military discounts given. All major credit cards accepted. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 56. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 2. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water, sewer, modem access available in the front office. **Each Site:** Picnic table, electrical outlet, water faucet. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes (coin-operated). An iron & ironing board are available free of charge. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Clean & modern rest room facilities are available free of charge to all guests. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Gravel, well maintained. **RV Service:** In Wasilla 15 mi. away. **Market:** Miller's Place is located next to the campground w/in easy walking distance. Items are cheaper in Anchorage, but immediate needs can be met here & fishing licenses are also available. Ice cream fans will find the largest soft-serve cones in Alaska. **Restaurant:** Hamburgers are available at Miller's Place. For more variety, The Houston Lounge is located just down the road. **General Store:** Miller's Place stocks a variety of basic supplies. **Vending:** Soft drink & candy machines &

newspapers are all vendable items in the Riverside front office. One can also buy or trade from a large variety of used books here. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** There is a boat ramp & bank access to the Little Susitna River, & horseshoe pits on site. **Activities:** The 3rd Sat. of Aug. is Houston's Annual Founder's Day. This is a community barbecue w/ games, activities, & the best fireworks display you've ever witnessed! **Nearby Attractions:** This area of the state is famed for lake & river fishing. Houston is also renowned for its fireworks stores.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only, must be cleaned up after. **Fires:** Restricted to pit areas only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** No restrictions. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

Take the Parks Hwy. to mi. 57.7. You cannot miss the tiny strip of convenience shops and the large, dark brown building w/ Riverside Camper Park displayed above the front door.

NINILCHIK MAP, B-3 Scenic View RV Park

127 Sterling Hwy., Ninilchik 99639.
T: (907) 567-3909; www.scenicviewrv.com.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

This campground is justly named. On a clear day, the view of the famous mountain trio I.R.S. (Iliamna, Redoubt, Spur) will remind you why you came to Alaska. Although just off of the Sterling Hwy., Scenic View feels more remote than other RV Parks on the Kenai Peninsula, with very little development in the surrounding area. Scenic View would make a wonderful stopover on the way to Homer, as well as offer a great rest stop for adventurers who want to try their hand at digging up razor clams at the nearby Clam Gulch. Scenic View Campground is located on a gently sloping hill reaching downward toward the Cook Inlet. All sites here are back-in, but larger vehicles can be accommodated. There is about five to ten feet between camping spots, and grass or shrub-covered strips separate sites. Request a site next to the ocean and away from the highway. Wherever you end up, you'll have an amazing view.

BASICS

Operated By: Ann Musarra. **Open:** May 15–Sep. 1. **Site Assignment:** Reservations are strongly suggested. A credit card number is required to hold a spot & 1 night's charge will be applied to the card if cancellations are made w/in 24 hours. **Registration:** Office hours are from 7 a.m.–10 p.m. If you arrive after hours, occupy a spot & find Ann in the morning to settle payment. **Fee:** \$12–\$22 per night. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 27. **Number of Tent-only**

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Sites: Undesignated sites. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30 amps), water, sewer, phone access. **Each Site:** None. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes, coin operated. **Pay Phone:** No, calling cards may be used in the office. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. Showers are clean but cost \$2. **Fuel:** 6 mi. west in Ninilchik. **Propane:** 6 mi. west in Ninilchik. **Internal Roads:** Gravel & in good condition. **RV Service:** In Ninilchik. **Market:** In Ninilchik. **Restaurant:** In Ninilchik, ask at the front desk for recommendations. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** There is a shared picnic & barbecue area at the center of the campground. **Activities:** Fishing charters for halibut & salmon can be arranged at the front office. **Nearby Attractions:** Fishing, hunting, & clamming are the main activities that draw travelers to this area. The quaint Russian Orthodox town of Ninilchik is just a 15-minute drive away, & Homer, the famous "end-of-the-road" Alaskan town is another hour beyond that.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: No restrictions. **Fires:** Allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** No restrictions. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

Take the Sterling Hwy. to mi. 127 and turn right at the large Scenic View sign.

PALMER MAP, B-3 Mountain View RV Park

Mile 1 Smith Rd., Palmer 99645.
T: (907) 745-5747 or (800) 264-4582;
www.mtviewrvpark.com.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

We chose to feature this park because it is a bit off the beaten path, and during busy times when other RV parks are bursting at the seams, Mountain View RV Park will likely be able to accommodate you even at the last minute. This pleasant campground is located three miles off the Glenn Hwy. in Palmer and offers close and personal views of Marsh, Byers, and Lazy Mountains. With spacious, grassy sites and farms on either side, Mountain View RV Park feels more like a stay in the country than a wilderness getaway. Of course, one does have to overlook the many trucks, cars, and engine parts stored behind the campground office. Come here on the Fourth of July, when the owners throw their barbecue bash for the whole town, and you can join the festivities for free. Mountain View RV Park consists of mostly pull-through sites that easily accommodate all rigs. There are no trees on the campground, as the owners say this keeps away insects. Anywhere from five to ten feet separate the sites. We found that sites 1–5 and 22–25 offered the best view of the mountains and were conveniently located.

BASICS

Operated By: Red & Dee Starr. **Open:** May 1–Oct. 1. **Site Assignment:** When possible it is best

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to make reservations. No deposit is required, but please phone if you can't make it. Usually, there is also space for last-minute arrivals who haven't called in advance. **Registration:** Office hours are 8 a.m.–10 p.m. If you arrive after hours, a map w/ your site assignment will be posted on the door & payment can be settled the next morning. **Fee:** \$20–\$22 per night. This includes showers. Senior & Good Sam discounts available. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 119. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes, coin operated. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes, 8 separate rest rooms & showers. **Fuel:** At Tesoro 3 mi. away. **Propane:** At Tesoro. **Internal Roads:** Gravel, good condition. **RV Service:** 10 mi. away in Wasilla. **Market:** A Carrs/Safeway is located 4 mi. away on the Glenn Hwy. The farm adjacent the campground (Arctic Organics) sells freshly picked produce every Fri. from 5–7 p.m. **Restaurant:** Several in Palmer. Ask for suggestions at the front office. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** Newspaper dispensers located by the office. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** There is a covered picnic & grill area in the center of the campground. **Activities:** A 4th of July grill party is hosted on the grounds. It is free to guests. **Nearby Attractions:** The campground owner operates a boat tour to the Knik Glacier that is reputed to be the best new attraction in South Central Alaska. The Palmer reindeer farm is also very near. If you arrive on Labor Day weekend, the Alaska State Fairgrounds are only a few mi. away. Brochures of other local charters & tours can be found at the front office.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only; must be supervised. **Fires:** Not allowed except in the community campfire area. **Alcoholic Beverages:** No restrictions. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

Take the Glenn Hwy. to Palmer and turn east at the Old Glenn Hwy. stoplight (also called Arctic St.). There is a Tesoro station on the corner to use for a landmark. Go 2.8 mi. on the Old Glenn Hwy., over the Matanuska River, and look for the Mtn. View RV Park Sign. Turn left at the sign (Smith St.) and follow this road around a sharp right turn. You will see the campground off to the left. For travelers coming from Anchorage, be sure not to take the 1st Old Glenn Hwy. Exit you see. Go all the way to Palmer, through the Parks Hwy. intersection, and the next light will be the Old Glenn Hwy. access point you're looking for.

SEWARD MAP, B-3
Bear Creek RV Park

33508 Lincoln St., Seward 99664.
T: (907) 224-5725; www.bearcreekrv.com.

★★	★★
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★★

Security: ★★★ Cleanliness: ★★★
Insect Control: ★★ Facilities: ★★

Just off the Seward Hwy., six-and-a-half miles before you arrive in the town of Seward, Bear Creek Campground offers the only full-hookup camping on the south side of the Kenai Peninsula. The campground itself is not much more than an expansive gravel lot carved out of spruce forest, but the Kenai Mountains are in view, and pristine Bear Lake is within walking distance. This campground is a less crowded alternative for travelers who want to avoid the throngs of RVs and tourists in Seward, particularly during the fishing months of June, July, and August. However, despite the campground's generally tranquil location, be forewarned of the early morning train that whistles when passing Bear Creek Rd.

BASICS

Operated By: Owned & operated by Lynn Hettick. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/ a credit card or just show up. Reservations especially recommended for July 4. **Registration:** At office that is well marked & open 8 a.m.–10 p.m. If you arrive after hours, simply choose a site & settle payment the following day. **Fee:** Full hookups, \$31. Parking & facility use w/out hookup, \$28. Tent sites, \$21. MC & D accepted. Good Sam, AAA, AARP, & military receive 10% discount. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 68. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water, sewer, cable TV, phone (long term camping). **Each Site:** Picnic table, electrical outlet, water faucet, cable hookup (some have fire pits, but campground is currently in a "no fire" zone). **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes, coin operated. **Pay Phone:** Yes. Modem in office. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** 0.5 mi. away. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Gravel. **RV Service:** Yes. **Market:** Eagle/Safeway in Seward; open 24 hours. **Restaurant:** Several in Seward; ask for sample menus in the office. **General Store:** Convenience shop & liquor store on site. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No, but if you're brave & like cold water you can jump into Bear Lake. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Inquire at campground. Shuttles to & from Glacier tours. **Activities:** Jet-ski rentals available at the gas station. **Nearby Attractions:** Explore the nearby fishing weir & watch the spawning red salmon in Aug.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: No restrictions. **Fires:** Dependent on Dept. of Forestry restrictions. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

Take the Seward Hwy. to mi. 6.5 (mileposts mark the entire highway) and begin looking for the large blue-and-white sign showing Bear Creek Campground w/ an arrow directing you to Bear Creek Rd. Follow Bear Creek Rd. 0.5 mi. over the railroad tracks, past Gary's Gas, and around the bend. The campground is clearly marked on the right side of the road.

SEWARD MAP, B-3
Waterfront Park

Camp Management, P.O. Box 167, Seward
99664. T: (907) 224-4055; www.seward.net.

★★★	★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★★

This sprawling campground spans almost the entire Seward waterfront, and it's probably one of the most popular RV destinations on the Kenai Peninsula. Visitors will understand why when they arrive; the panoramic views of the Kenai Mountains and Resurrection Bay are breathtaking, and the variety of activities within walking distance from this campground will make you want to schedule more than one night here. Waterfront Park is always active with the hustle and bustle of tourists, and there is very little distance or privacy between RVs. However, you will be too busy sighting bald eagles, looking for whale spouts, and enjoying the ever-changing sunlight in the mountains to notice the crowds. Make reservations for a waterside campsite (sites 12–82 are best), and then bring your walking shoes and take the scenic paved trail either to the Small Boat Harbor, where you can watch the fisherman bring in their daily cache, or to downtown, where shopping and dining are bountiful.

BASICS

Operated By: The City of Seward. **Open:** Apr. 15–Sep. 30. **Site Assignment:** Reservations can be made for caravans of 10 or more vehicles only. Everyone else is first come, first served. Spaces fill up quickly on the 4th of July & for the Silver Salmon Derby the 2nd week of Aug. **Registration:** Occupy a site & return to an entrance w/in 15 minutes to fill out a fee envelope & settle payment. Tear the stub off the envelope & make sure it is visible through your RV windshield or on the front of your tent. **Fee:** \$17 hookups, \$12 dry camping, \$8 tents. **Parking:** At site or extra parking on road.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 400. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 50. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30, 50 amps), water (98 sites). **Each Site:** None. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No, but there is a laundromat on C & 4th Ave. **Pay Phone:** Yes, in the shower house, at the Harbor Master's Office, or at City Hall. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** There are flush toilets in 3 locations & a shower house in the center of the campground (make sure & have \$2 worth of quarters, as there are no change machines). **Fuel:** Essential One on the Seward Hwy. in Seward. **Propane:** At Bay City Motors on 3rd Ave. or at the Seward Hwy. Essential One station. **Internal Roads:** Gravel roads that become somewhat pitted during the rainy months of Jul. & Aug. **RV Service:** At Bay City Motors on 3rd Ave. **Market:** Eagle Grocery is a 24-hour market just off the highway when you arrive in Seward.

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Restaurant: There are several to choose from. Try Ray's in the Small Boat Harbor for dinner or check out the baked goods at the Ranting Raving on 4th Ave. for breakfast. **General Store:** 4th Ave. has all varieties of gift & supply shops. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** There are 2 large picnic pavilions, a baseball diamond, a sand volleyball court, a scenic gazebo, & a paved walkway lined w/ placards showcasing Seward's history & geography. The public boat ramp is adjacent to the campground. **Activities:** Inquire at campground. **Nearby Attractions:** Fishing, glacier boat cruises, hiking, shopping, sled dog rides. Information booths are available downtown, at the Small Boat Harbor, or at the Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center just off the Seward Hwy. before you get to town. Call (907) 224-8051.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire pits only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** No alcoholic beverages allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** No limit, back-in sites only.



TO GET THERE

Take the Seward Hwy. to the town of Seward. When the speed limit drops to 20 mph, the Seward Hwy. becomes 3rd Ave. Take 3rd Ave. to D St. and turn left. D St. turns into Ballaine St. and this street parallels the entire campground. There are several well-marked entrances on Ballaine St.

SOLDOTNA MAP, B-3

Centennial Park Municipal Campground

349 Centennial Park Rd., Soldotna 99669.
T: (907) 262-3151; www.ci.soldotna.ak.us.

 ★★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

If you are going to Alaska to fish, you might as well head straight for Centennial Park Municipal Campground in Soldotna. Located directly on the Kenai River, this campground includes a popular fishwalk where guests can cast for dolly varden, red salmon, and king salmon within walking distance from their campsite. Be careful not to tell too many friends about this coveted fishing hole, since it is a favored area for locals and annually returning guests. Evenings at this campground are lively as fisherman fry up their daily catch and talk about "the one that got away." Centennial Park consists of a series of winding loops and is snugly tucked into a forest of spruce and birch. Vehicles of all sizes can be accommodated, but some of the curves will be a bit tight for larger RVs, and all sites are back-ins. Riverside sites are far superior to the inland ones. Campsites on the water include sites 6, 7, 9, 21, 23, 24, 25, 27–31, 84, 86, 88, 91, 93, 95, 97, 98, 100, and 102.

BASICS

Operated By: City of Soldotna Parks & Recre-

ation. **Open:** May 1–Oct. 1. If there is snow before Oct., the campground closes early. **Site Assignment:** Reservations are not accepted at this campground. Come early in the day to obtain a site.

Registration: Choose a site from a map available at the registration area upon arrival, & pay before setting up camp. The registration booth is usually manned 24/7 during the high tourist season, but hours of operation are not set at the beginning & end of season (drop box available). **Fee:** RVs & tents \$11 a night; \$5 day-use fee; \$7 charge for boat launch. **Parking:** Cars can be kept at the site. Boat trailers are parked in a designated parking area.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 180. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 14. **Hookups:** Water available at 2 campground well houses. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** 2 available on site, but the fee is \$10. However, dumping is free of charge w/ a fuel purchase at the Soldotna Tesoro or Chevron. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Several pit toilets. **Fuel:** In Soldotna. **Propane:** In Soldotna. **Internal Roads:** Gravel, average condition. **RV Service:** In Soldotna. **Market:** Fred Meyers & Safeway in Soldotna. Stock up on food items here as prices will be higher everywhere else on the Kenai Peninsula.

Restaurant: All varieties in Soldotna. **General Store:** Snacks available at information booth.

Vending: Soft drink machines available at the covered picnic area; ice & newspapers can be purchased at the entrance. **Swimming:** No.

Playground: No. **Other:** A covered picnic area can accommodate large groups. **Activities:** There is a public boat launch & angler walk at the end of the campground. A small hut in the parking lot contains several brochures highlighting local charters & tours. Coffee can be purchased here for \$1.

Nearby Attractions: Fishing is definitely the highlight here, but non-anglers can inquire about other attractions at the Kenai Peninsula Visitor Center located on the Sterling Hwy. Call (907) 262-1337.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** In the designated fire grates only. Firewood is for sale at the entrance.

Alcoholic Beverages: No restrictions. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.


TO GET THERE

Take the Sterling Hwy. through Soldotna to mi. 96. Here you will see the junction for Kalifornsky Beach Rd. Take this road west 0.1 mi. (just follow the vehicles pulling boats). You won't miss that campground sign on the right side of the road.

VALDEZ MAP, B-3

Bayside RV Park

P.O. Box 466, Valdez 99686. T: (907) 835-4425 or (888) 835-4425; baysiderv.homestead.com.

 ★★★	 ★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Bayside RV Park is set amongst several other RV parks in Valdez, but this campground stands out for its cleanliness, friendly atmosphere, and water-front campsites. Chuck Dennis, a retired Alaskan who does a lot of RVing himself, started this business as a way to meet people from around the world. If you're looking for information about the surrounding area, or are just in the mood to chat with someone, Chuck is the man to talk to. Bayside RV Park is basically an open gravel lot, but it's set on the edge of tranquil Prince William Sound with 360° views of the Chugach mountains. The campground is within walking distance from all the major attractions, and local tours can be booked directly through Chuck. There are no trees at this campground, so privacy is minimal, but this is the case at most RV parks in Valdez. At Bayside, the availability of full-hookup sites (plus cable) coupled with unlimited hot showers make this campground a welcome sight after driving the somewhat grueling Richardson Hwy. We preferred the waterside sites, odd numbers 1–41. Sites 45–66 are closer to the highway and tend to be a bit noisier. Both back-ins and pull-throughs campsites are available, and all size rigs can be accommodated.

BASICS

Operated By: Charles C Dennis. **Open:** May 1–Oct. 10, later if weather allows. **Site Assignment:** Reservations are recommended, particularly in Jun., Jul., & Aug. However, visitors are also welcome to just show up. If a campsite w/ hookups is not available, Chuck will still find space for you. **Registration:** Payments should be made at the front office prior to going to your site. If you will not arrive during office hours (8 a.m.–10 p.m.), find an open space & pay in the morning. **Fee:** RV, \$17–\$25; tent, \$17. Showers are included w/ all prices. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 100. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30, 50 amps), water, sewer, cable TV, Internet. **Each Site:** Picnic table. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes, \$1.50 for washers & driers. Change is available at campground office. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **2. Rest Rooms and Showers:** Home-style rest rooms have recently been installed & offer handicap accessible showers that are included w/ the camping price. **Fuel:** At Tesoro station across the street. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Gravel. **RV Service:** In Valdez. Sometimes Chuck's brother is on site & available to help w/ mechanical problems. **Market:** At Eagle Grocery 1 block away (5 a.m.–midnight). **Restaurant:** The Totem Restaurant is just across the street & is reputed to have the best breakfast in Valdez. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** Soft drinks & newspaper dispensers on site; microwave & coffeemaker in office. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Public boat ramp 0.25 mi. away. **Activities:** Canyon rides, fishing trips. **Nearby Attractions:** Visit the Valdez Visitor Center for an assortment of handouts & brochures regarding the surrounding area. **Additional Information:** www.alaska.net/~bayside1.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: No restrictions. **Fires:** Allowed. **Alcoholic**

130 ALASKA Wasilla



Beverages: At sites only. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

Take the Richardson Hwy. to Valdez. Just when you are in view of the town look to the left. You will see a light blue sign w/ Bayside RV Park in dark letters. It is the 1st RV park you'll see.

WASILLA **MAP, B-3**
Denali View North Campground

HC 32 Box 6706, Mat-su/CB Area, Wasilla
99654.T: (907) 761-3783;
www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/units/denali.htm.

 ★★★	 n/a
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★
Spaciousness: ★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

For many, one of the primary goals of visiting Alaska is to see the longest rock face in the world, Mt. McKinley (more commonly referred to as Denali by Alaskans). Unfortunately, 75 percent of the tourists who visit this area do not even get a glimpse of this elusive monolith, since it is usually cloaked in a thick layer of clouds. However, if you are willing to take a chance that during your visit the weather will break, then the Denali View North Campground is the place you'll want to be

when the sun finally does shine. Views of Mt. McKinley are the sole reason this campground was constructed, as there are no other attractions or guided activities for 30 miles in any direction. However, if the mountain does reveal itself, seeing it from this campground will be the highlight of your trip. A newly paved lot with extra-long pull-through sites makes this campground easily accessible to even the longest of vehicles. There are no hookups here, but a campground water pump is available, as well as regularly maintained outhouses. Some picnic tables and grill areas line the campground. There are also informational placards, a spotting scope, and benches to rest and enjoy the view. The campground is designed so that all RVs face the mountain. However, this really is a parking lot-style campground, and there is little to no space between sites.

BASICS

Operated By: Denali State Park. **Open:** From snowmelt till the 1st snowfall (Approximately mid-May-mid-Sep.). **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** There is a self-registration box located at the entrance. Park your vehicle & fill out a fee envelope shortly thereafter. Display the receipt in a visible area of your vehicle. **Fee:** \$10 per night. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 23. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** None. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No.

Pay Phone: No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Outhouses are available and are relatively clean. **Fuel:** The nearest fuel station is either north in Cantwell or south at Trapper Creek. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Newly paved & in excellent condition. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** No. **Restaurant:** Mary's McKinley View Lodge is located at mi. 134.5. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** A short loop trail allows weary travelers to walk & stretch their legs. **Activities:** Fishing, bird-watching & hiking. **Nearby Attractions:** The entrance to the Denali State Park (not to be confused w/ Denali National Park) is located at mi. 132.2 & offers several hiking trails for all levels. Flightseeing, horseback riding, & other area tours can be booked at Mt. McKinley Princess Lodge just up Mt. McKinley Princess Dr. at mi. 132.9.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Restricted to grill areas at the back of the campground. **Alcoholic Beverages:** No restrictions. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

Take the Parks Hwy. to mi. 162.7 and turn west at the Denali View sign. Since there are no landmarks before or after the campground, it can be difficult to find if you're not paying attention. A short paved road leads straight to the camp parking lot.

Arizona

Arizona blends a rich Native American past and present with a wild West legacy of cowboys, cattle, and mining. Snowbirds annually flock to Arizona's deserts for the mild winter temperatures, golf, and Major League Baseball's spring training **Cactus League**. Hundreds of RV parks with every imaginable amenity come to life to accommodate the winter influx, and most book up well in advance of the annual RV migration.

The desert has its own distinctive brand of beauty. The hardiest of heat lovers will gladly brave summer temperatures soaring past 110° in capital city Phoenix at **Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument** to take in the splendors of the **Sonoran Desert**. Many opt for the cooler months from fall through the spring wildflower season. Though still in the 100s, Tucson summer temperatures are about 10° cooler than those in Phoenix, and get even cooler if you visit the **Colossal Cave** and learn the legend behind the money supposedly hidden there. If that's not cool enough, the summer monsoons can be refreshing but generally bring flash floods. If you miss the monsoons, visit the world's tallest fountain in **Fountain Hills, Maricopa County**, and get downwind from a breeze to bask in the mist. By August, bird-watchers invade the **Upper San Pedro River Valley** southeast of Tucson, an area about 15° cooler than Phoenix. History abounds in **Bisbee**, an old copper mining town with an RV park overlooking an open pit mine. Few ghost towns rival Tombstone's ambience, not to mention the world's largest rose bush, which blooms there every April. Water-formed **Kartchner Caverns**, where you can witness the largest natural column in the 48th state as well as the most minuscule of formations, satisfies an appetite for geological oddities.

Arizona is also a land of mountains, which means winter sports and summer campgrounds that are a refuge from the desert heat. Both deserts and mountains abound with lakes and reservoirs, and fishing and boating are a popular part of the cooling summer mix. Outside Flagstaff, you can venture to and climb Arizona's highest point, **Humphrey's Peak**, for a tremendous 360° view of the land. The **Colorado River** along Arizona's western border is a water playground with a collage of private RV parks, marinas, and state and county campgrounds between Parker and Lake Havasu, home of the old **London Bridge**. Nearby **Quartzsite** becomes a giant winter flea market and gem show, attracting over a million visitors who park their RVs on Bureau of Land Management land all over the desert. Equally as exciting but more intimate and obscure is the annual solar egg-frying contest every July 4 in Oatman. Anyone can enter, but your egg must be done within the 15-minute time limit. Don't forget to feed carrots to the wild burros that carouse freely around the town—over the years they have been fed and enjoyed one too many eggs, so they are on a more strict diet now.

The **Grand Canyon** to the north is an international attraction and gateway to the **Navajo Nation**. **Canyon de Chelly**, just east of the Hopi Indian mesas, is also on most international itineraries as a link to the past through the 1600-year-old-plus ruins, and through the Navajo who presently reside and farm here. There is no camping inside the **Painted Desert** or **Petrified Forest National Park**, but choices outside the parks, between Winslow and Holbrook, range from archaeological sites and power-plant cooling reservoirs to commercial campgrounds. While in the area and looking for something touristy to do, take a trip out to **Four Corners** and you might get invited to square dance in four states at the same time. South of the Petrified Forest is high mountain country, with a number of forest, lake, and reservoir campgrounds, and even a White Mountain Apache casino RV park for those wanting some Nevada-style action.

132 ARIZONA Ajo

Campground Profiles

AJO MAP, D-2
Twin Peaks Campground

10 Organ Pipe Dr., Ajo 85321.
T: (520) 387-7475; www.nps.gov/orpi.

★★★	★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★

Designated an International Biosphere Reserve by the United Nations in 1976, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument showcases Sonoran Desert plants (28 cactus species) and animals adapted to extremes like summer air temperatures of 118° and ground temperatures of 175°. The Monument's namesake, organ pipe cactus copes in part by only opening its lavender-white flowers at night. Campers cope best by coming from October to April, when daytime temperatures are in the 60s and 70s. The campground stays open through the torrid summer, when the organ pipe and other cacti colorfully bloom and storms suddenly appear out of nowhere, triggering flash floods. Hardy tent campers can head to more primitive campgrounds, some in cooler mountains with juniper, oak, rosewood, agave, and jojoba. Lukeville has Mexican food, and plenty of hookups are available in Why and Ajo, 22 and 36 miles north, respectively.

BASICS

Operated By: National Park Service. **Open:** All year, except Christmas Day. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** Visitor Center (8 a.m.–5 p.m.) After 5 p.m. use self-register station. **Fee:** \$10. (\$5 w/ Gold Access; cash only). Additional \$5 entry fee, pass remains valid for 7 consecutive days. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 208. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Table, grill, cement pad. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Bathhouses but no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Lukeville, 5 mi. **Restaurant:** Lukeville, 5 mi. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Amphitheater. **Activities:** Bird-watching, hiking, biking. **Nearby Attractions:** Mexico, Ajo, Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation. **Additional Information:** Ajo Chamber of Commerce, (520) 387-7742.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. Restricted from trails. **Fires:** Grill only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Not allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 35 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Gila Bend, go 80 mi. south on AZ 85.

APACHE JUNCTION MAP, C-2
Lost Dutchman State Park

6109 North Apache Tr., Apache Junction 85219.
T: (480) 982-4485; www.pr.state.az.us.

★★★★★	★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★

The big news at Lost Dutchman State Park is the addition of showers, though being without hookups this was never the sort of place people came to for RV amenities. The major attractions here are the great views of the spire-like Praying Hand rock formation backed by the tall Flatiron formation, plus many nature trails for hiking and horseback riding. The area's intriguing eroded rock formations are fronted with saguaros, palo verde cholla, and other desert vegetation tall enough to screen the campsites and add privacy. The campground's 35 sites are divided into three small loops within a larger loop, so the natural environment predominates over camping neighbors. These natural environment qualities, not the presence or absence of standard amenities, cause this campground to fill up fast. The group-camping area sometimes doubles as overflow.

BASICS

Operated By: Arizona State Parks. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At office or self-pay fee station. **Fee:** \$12 (V, MC credit card). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 35. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Table, grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Apache Junction, 5 mi. **Restaurant:** Apache Junction, 3 mi. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Group pavilion, amphitheater, gift shop, native-plant trail near ranger station. **Activities:** Horseback riding, hiking. **Nearby Attractions:** Tortilla Flat, Phoenix; Boyce Thompson State Park; Superstition Mountains; Tonto National Forest; Apache Trail. **Additional Information:** Pinal County Visitor Center, (520) 868-9433.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Grill only; ground fires strictly prohibited; no wood gathering. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From junction of US 60 & AZ 88 go 6 mi. north-east on AZ 88.

APACHE JUNCTION MAP, C-2
Mesa–Apache Junction KOA

1520 South Tomahawk Rd., Apache Junction 85219. T: (480) 982-4015 or (800) 562-3404; www.koa.com.

★★★★★	★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Without the age restriction of many of the megacamps in the Mesa–Apache Junction area, this place is a great family destination. The combination of decent-sized lots (50 × 25 feet on average), attractive landscaping, views of the Superstition Mountains, and full services makes this a campground worth your while to visit. Tent sites are well tucked away, but would be improved with grass instead of gravel. RV sites 116 and 177 sport a fine mature shade tree, making them the best for the money. Sites to avoid are 65, 113, 113A, 114, and 114A, as they have no tree to speak of and are located next to the rec room and an intersection in the campground road. Tent sites H–L are located next to shrubs along the border of the property, which adds to their charm. Tent sites E and F are situated closest to the playground, and worse, E has no tree whatsoever.

BASICS

Operated By: Mike & Rosemary Mortensen. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Assigned on registration. **Registration:** At office. (Late arrivals: select site from map of open sites, use drop slot in door.) **Fee:** \$20–\$27. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 140. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 8. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, some shade trees, some trash receptacles. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Hard-packed dirt, gravel, & pavement mix; in very driveable condition. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** On site. **Restaurant:** Next door. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Pool. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Rec building, "dog relief pen." **Activities:** River tubing, TV, some fitness equipment, ping pong, basketball, horseshoes, desert Jeep tours, horseback tours, helicopter tours, hot air balloon rides, dining, tennis, guided pack trips, hiking, golf. **Nearby Attractions:** Mesa Southwest Museum, Champlin Fighter Museum, Superstition Springs Center, Casa Grande Ruins, Roosevelt Dam, Tonto National Monument. **Additional Information:** Apache Junction Chamber of Commerce, (602) 982-3141.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only, clean up after. **Fires:** Allowed (only charcoal in grills). **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites only. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From US 60, take Exit 197 onto Tomahawk Rd., turn north and drive for 1 mi. The entrance is on the left.

BENSON MAP, D-3 Cochise Terrace RV Resort

1030 South Barrel Cactus Ridge, Benson 85602.
T: (520) 586-0600 or (800) 495-9005;
www.cochise-terrace.com.

 ★★★★★	 ★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Far enough from the main highways so that the only external sound is the wind blowing, Cochise Terrace is like a little city with street lights. Streets have bird names like Raven Road and Quail Run, and an 80-foot-tall American flag near the front entrance office doubles as a navigation landmark. Barrel cactus, ocotillo, mesquite, and a wash are reminders that there is a desert surrounding this little oasis of paved streets. There are almost 100 annual residents of Cochise Terrace, and the 200-plus remaining RV sites are particularly popular with snowbirds. So, if the largest 42-foot site is needed for a winter visit, call ahead and reserve it. As far as locations go, this is about as central a base for touring southeast Arizona as there is, being an easy drive to almost all the sights from Tucson and Tumacacori to Tombstone and Bisbee.

BASICS

Operated By: Art & Pat Bale. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; winter reservations recommended. **Registration:** Day-trip planner. **Fee:** Sep.–May 1, \$25; May 1–Sep. 1, \$15. (V, MC, AE, D). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 223. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30, 50 amps), water, sewer, cable TV, phone. **Each Site:** Table. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes, winter only. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Paved, excellent. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Benson, 2 mi. **Restaurant:** Benson, 2 mi. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Pool. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Clubhouse, whirlpool, kitchen, barbecue, picnic area, basketball court, pet walk, mail service. **Activities:** Golf, horseshoes, square dancing. **Nearby Attractions:** Kartchner Caverns, Fort Huachuca, Tombstone, Bisbee, Dragoon Mountains, Cochise Stronghold, San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, Tucson, Arizona Desert Museum in Tucson. **Additional Information:** Benson Chamber of Commerce, (520) 586-2842, www.bensonchamberaz.com.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only & never left unattended. Maximum 2 pets. **Fires:** No open fires. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed on sites. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 40 ft.

TO GET THERE

From I-10 Exit 302, go south on AZ 90 and west on South Barrel Cactus Ridge.

BENSON MAP, D-3 Kartchner Caverns State Park

Hwy. 90, Benson 85602. T: (520) 586-4100 or (602) 542-4174; www.pr.state.az.us.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

The Caverns, which require separate admission tickets (call (520) 586-CAVE for cavern tour reservations), are limestone caves with pooling shelf-stones, spar crystals, cave pearls, dripping stalactites, stalagmites, coral pipes, columns, and drapery. Discovered 49 miles southeast of Tucson by two cave explorers in 1974, the caverns were kept secret until purchased as a state park in 1988. The Discovery Center has an explanatory video, plus a hummingbird garden. The campsites are very large, and include 16 50-amp pull-through sites. Thick mesquite barriers between sites provide privacy, and agave, ocotillo, and prickly pear make this campground one of the most beautiful in the desert. However, the attractive sites fill up early almost every day of the year. Since there are no campground reservations, be prepared to make this a day trip and find alternative campsites in Benson, Huachuca City, and other nearby areas.

BASICS

Operated By: Arizona State Parks. **Open:** All year, closed on Christmas Day. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** Pay upon entrance (after hours self-pay station). **Fee:** \$22 (V, MC; cash only after hours). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 64. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water. **Each Site:** Table. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, good. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Benson, 10 mi. **Restaurant:** Benson, 10 mi. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Some grills, Discovery Center. **Activities:** Cave tours, hiking, walking. **Nearby Attractions:** Ramsey Canyon Preserve, Patagonia Lake, Sonoita, Fort Huachuca, Tombstone. **Additional Information:** Sierra Vista Visitor Center, (800) 288-3861, www.visitsierravista.com; Sierra Vista Ranger District, (520) 378-0311.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only under owner's control. **Fires:** Allowed (gas stoves only, no wood or charcoal fires). **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 74 ft.

TO GET THERE

From I-10, 1 mi. west of Benson, take Exit 302 and go 9 mi. south on AZ 90.

BETATAKIN MAP, A-3 Betatakin (Navajo National Monument)

Navajo National Monument, HC 71 Box 3, Betatakin 86044. T: (928) 672-2700; www.nps.gov/nava.

 ★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★

Roughly 10 miles from the nearest highway and 30 miles to the nearest town of any size, Betatakin campsite is rustic and isolated in the extreme. Hidden amidst piñon, juniper, sage, and a smattering of yucca, sites are far enough away from the visitor center to avoid light pollution. On a clear night, the sky comes alive with stars, and the only sounds to be heard are the chirping, fluttering, or howling of nocturnal animals. This campsite is so natural that there are even black-bear warnings issued, and campers would be wise to keep their sites free of trash or food that might attract a bear. The visitor center contains a small display of artifacts, and shows informative videos upon request. Guided tours to the ruins can be reserved up to two months before your trip, but are only offered between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The canyon is still used by Navajo Indians, who herd sheep and gather herbs that can only be found in this canyon. Hopi Indians also still make a yearly pilgrimage to a sacred spot for a Sun Clan ritual.

BASICS

Operated By: National Park Service. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** Not necessary. **Fee:** None. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 31. **Hookups:** Water. **Each Site:** Picnic table. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Toilets; no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 15 mi. in Black Mesa. **Restaurant:** 15 mi. in Black Mesa. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Inquire at campground. **Activities:** Hiking, seasonal tours to Betatakin & Keet Seel ruins, evening presentations at the Fire Circle. **Nearby Attractions:** Aspen Forest Overlook nature trail, Sandal Trail.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only; not allowed on trails. **Fires:** No open fires. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Not allowed on tribal land. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 25 ft., roads are very narrow.



TO GET THERE

From Kayenta, go 19 mi. west on US 160 and turn right at the sign for the Navajo National Monument at Black Mesa. Go 9.5 mi. to the visitor center. Follow the road around the center and straight into the campground.

134 ARIZONA Bisbee

BISBEE MAP, D-3
Queen Mine RV Park

P.O. Box 488, Bisbee 85603. T: (520) 432-5006.

 ★★★★★	 ★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★

Perched on a circular hilltop just opposite and above the Queen Mine Tour, with RVs circled around the perimeter like a wagon train, the Queen Mine RV Park looks out on orange, ochre, and gray hillside layers exposed by a deep pit copper mine known as the Lavender Pit. Some may call the pit mine a scar on the face of the Earth, but it has its beauty, particularly after a rain when the hillside colors become deeply saturated. For at least a brief moment it is possible to fantasize that a mighty river, rather than copper miners, carved out this three-quarter-mile wide, 950-foot-deep chasm filled with water at the bottom. In any event, it is just a block downhill from this clean, well-run, breezy hillside RV park to the start of Bisbee's historic old Main St. and all the shops, restaurants, hotels, galleries, theaters, and saloons.

BASICS

Operated By: Stan Dupuy. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At office. **Fee:** \$21 (cash, check). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 25. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30, 50 amps), water, sewer, cable TV. **Each Site:** Rock planter w/ small tree. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Gravel, good. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Bisbee, 2 mi. **Restaurant:** Bisbee, 2 blocks. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Inquire at campground. **Activities:** Golf, bird-watching. **Nearby Attractions:** Mine tour, museums, Tombstone, San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area. **Additional Information:** Bisbee Chamber of Commerce, (520) 432-5421, www.bisbearizona.com.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only under owner's control. **Fires:** Allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From AZ 80, take downtown Bisbee Exit and follow road to Queen Mine Tour.

BISBEE MAP, D-3
Shady Dell RV Park

I Douglas Rd., Bisbee 85603. T: (520) 432-3567; www.theshadydell.com.

 ★★★★★	 ★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★

Security: ★★★★★ Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★ Facilities: ★★★★★

Located off a roundabout southeast of the Lavender Pit mine, Shady Dell got its start in 1927 when copper mining was going strong and Bisbee was better known than Phoenix. Getting a campsite here is tough, and late afternoon arrivals are usually of out of luck, as most of the campground is rented out to year-round campers. Even more coveted than the camping sites are the furnished aluminum travel trailer rentals, an homage to American road travel that includes a 1949 Airstream, 1950 Spartanette, 1951 Royal Mansion, and 1954 Crown, all furnished in near original blonde woods and polished aluminum with vintage radios, black-and-white TVs, phonographs, and vinyl records of early rhythm and blues and big bands. Dot's Diner, a ten-stool 1957 art deco Valentine model, makes Shady Dell a good early breakfast stop even if not camping.

BASICS

Operated By: Ed Smith & Rita Personette. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At office. **Fee:** \$10-\$15 (cash, check). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 10. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 2. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water, sewer, cable TV. **Each Site:** Grass, gravel. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** Yes. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Gravel, good. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Bisbee, 2 mi. **Restaurant:** Yes. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Vintage travel trailer rentals. **Activities:** Golf, bird-watching, rock hunting. **Nearby Attractions:** Mine tour, museums, Tombstone, San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area. **Additional Information:** Bisbee Chamber of Commerce, (520) 432-5421, www.bisbearizona.com.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 40 ft.

TO GET THERE

From AZ 80, 1.5 mi. southeast of Bisbee, follow the roundabout at the Chevron station to Douglas Rd.

BRENDA MAP, C-1
Black Rock RV Village

46751 East US 60, Brenda 85348. T: (928) 927-4206; www.blackrockrvvillage.com.

 ★★★★★	 n/a
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

A small, friendly village with a great little bakery guaranteed to defeat efforts to keep off the pounds, Black Rock is a welcome refuge from the January and February crowds jamming nearby Quartzsite.

A few trees and cacti-lined gravel streets with names like Which Way, What Street, Wash Way, Fun Gully, and Easy Street. Desert amenities abound for snowbirds, and people here enjoy walking alongside the road. Winter activities include Sunday afternoon ice cream socials, bean bag baseball, line dancing, cribbage, crafts, painting classes, exercise programs, bingo, darts, pinocle, and jam sessions. The rec hall attracts entertainers like Terry Raff, the singing mountain man. The area to the north is BLM land with ATV and hiking trails, as well as 18 holes of golf and a remote control airfield for flying model planes. For some this is enough to rent a post office box and take up residence.

BASICS

Operated By: Black Rock RV Village. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** Front office. **Fee:** \$22 (V, MC). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 403. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer, phone (modem), satellite TV. **Each Site:** None. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Gravel, good. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Brenda, 0.5 mi. **Restaurant:** Yes. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Soft water car/RV wash, barber, beauty shop, post office, motel, 9-hole golf, R/C model flying field, rec hall, reverse osmosis water, oil change area. **Activities:** Golf, horseshoes. **Nearby Attractions:** Colorado River. **Additional Information:** McMullen Valley Chamber of Commerce, (928) 859-3846, www.azoutback.com.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 100 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Quartzsite go 11 mi. east on I-10 and take Exit 31 to US 60; stay on US 60 heading east for 4 mi.

BULLHEAD CITY MAP, B-1
Davis Camp

P.O. Box 2078, Bullhead City 86430. T: (928) 754-4606, (928) 754-7250, or (877) 757-0915; www.daviscamp.com.

 ★★★★★	 ★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

On the northern outskirts of Bullhead City, along AZ 68, between Davis Dam and the Laughlin Bridge, there are three clusters of camping sites with palms and eucalyptus along the banks of the Colorado River. This former federal housing area for Davis Dam workers, now a regional county park, looks across the river a mile to Laughlin, Nevada's glimmering casinos, and is the area's best

combination of outdoor activities and casino proximity. Hardy outdoor types can swim, boat, jet ski, fish for world record striped bass (59 lbs., 12 oz. caught just below Davis Dam), and walk to Laughlin for food, gaming, and outlet shopping. Children have a safe, shallow swimming cove and spacious play areas with swings, slides, and basketball hoops. Dogs are commonplace, and the roar of the nearby highway and river traffic add to the noise. The most coveted sites, particularly for tents, are the 50 beachfront ramadas with tables and grills near the north beach fishing pier.

BASICS

Operated By: Mohave County Parks Dept. **Open:** All year Annual passes for local & nonresidents. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; reservations required for group area. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$10 beach camping; \$14 electric, water; \$17 full hook-up. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 171. **Hookups:** Electric (up to 50 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Wide pull-through. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, in good condition. **RV Service:** Bullhead City, Laughlin. **Market:** Bullhead City, Laughlin. **Restaurant:** Laughlin, Bullhead City. **General Store:** Bullhead City, Laughlin. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Children's wading pool. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Boat ramp, dock. Storage, maintenance. **Activities:** River fishing, swimming, boating. **Nearby Attractions:** Laughlin casinos, outlet shopping; Colorado River Museum, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Lake Mohave. **Additional Information:** Bullhead Area Chamber of Commerce, (520) 754-4121.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: Must be under handlers' control; leash laws strictly enforced; 2 dog limit; \$1 each. **Fires:** Grill only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Arizona law enforced by park rangers. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 55 ft.



TO GET THERE

At junction of Bullhead Pkwy. (Laughlin Casino Bridge) and AZ 68.

CAMP VERDE
Krazy K RV Park

MAP, B-2

2075 Arena Del Loma, Camp Verde 86322.
T: (928) 567-0565.

 ★★★	 ★★
Beauty: ★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★

Overlooked by a scrub-covered hill with exclusive houses at the crest, this campground is pretty, with well-tended landscaping. The campground is laid out in rows, half located by the entrance, and the other half or so on a terrace at the foot of the hill at the west end of the grounds. Sites are a spacious 30-feet wide, with both pull-throughs and back-ins. This campground is definitely geared more to

RVers than to tenters: tent sites are not clearly defined, and crammed in by the rest rooms. The top terrace and the strip closest to the office are reserved for monthly visitors. Although the campground is close to the highway, traffic noise is not noticeable, but the proximity offers a convenient and quick jaunt into town. Overall, the campground presents a very pretty face, with tasteful decorations inside the rest rooms and laundry, and landscaping using volcanic rock and local plants. Its proximity to area attractions or to destinations such as scenic Sedona are an added bonus to a charming campground.

BASICS

Operated By: Steve & Marlys Parks. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Upon registration (especially when getting full). **Registration:** At office. **Fee:** RV \$18, tent \$12 (no credit cards). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Tent-only Sites: Undesignated sites. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Tree, most have tables. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Gravel. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** No. **Restaurant:** No. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Dog walk, planned rec room w/ Internet access. **Activities:** Sightseeing, cycling, relaxing in nearby hot springs. **Nearby Attractions:** Montezuma Castle National Monument, Tuzigoot National Monument, Childs Hot Springs. **Additional Information:** Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center; (928) 567-9294.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only, 1 animal limit. **Fires:** Not allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites only. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 60 ft.



TO GET THERE

From the intersection of AZ 260 and I-17, go north on I-17 for 2.5 mi., then turn right onto Middle Verde Rd. (Exit 289). Turn right and follow the road east for 1 mi. Turn right again onto Arena Del Loma, and after 1 mi., make a right turn into the gravel entrance at the sign.

CHINLE
Cottonwood Campground

MAP, A-3

P.O. Box 588, Chinle 86503. T: (928) 674-5500
or (928) 674-5507; www.nps.gov/cach.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Ancient Puebloans occupied 83,000-acre Canyon de Chelly National Monument at least as long ago as 350 AD, and sites like the White House Ruins, Canyon del Muerto, and Spider Rock attract visitors from around the world. At least 20 Navajo families still seasonally graze their sheep and plant corn crops here, and 4WD- and ATV-guided tours

into Canyon de Chelly are a tourist staple. Overlook views and the White House Ruins trail are free, as amazingly enough is the campground. When Cottonwood's free sites are gone, private Spider Rock RV Park (P.O. Box 2509, Chinle, AZ 86503; (520) 674-8261; no hookups) ten miles southeast on South Rim Dr. is happy to have the business. But with tall cottonwood trees providing plenty of shade and the Thunderbird Lodge Cafeteria next door staying open odd hours, this is the place to camp.

BASICS

Operated By: National Park Service. **Open:** All year (except Christmas Day). **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; group (15 or more) site reservations (Apr. 1–Oct. 31). **Registration:** Visitor's center. **Fee:** None. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Tent-only Sites: 96. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Table, grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** No showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, good condition. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Chinle, 1 mi. **Restaurant:** Thunderbird Lodge, adjacent. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Museum, Visitor Center. **Activities:** Horseback riding, Canyon de Chelly guided tours, summer campfire programs & hogan talks, ranger-led hikes. **Nearby Attractions:** Hubbell Trading Post, Navajo National Monument, Kayenta Burger King Navajo Code Breakers exhibit. **Additional Information:** Canyon de Chelly National Monument, (928) 674-5500, www.nps.gov/cach.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash (do not feed stray dogs, which are being live trapped). **Fires:** Allowed (in grill, ground fires & wood collection prohibited). **Alcoholic Beverages:** Prohibited on Navajo reservation. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 40 ft.



TO GET THERE

From junction of US 91 and Indian Hwy. 7 in Chinle, go 4 mi. east on Hwy. 7 and then 0.25 mi. south on South Rim Dr.

FLAGSTAFF
Black Bart's RV Park

MAP, B-2

2760 East Butler Ave., Flagstaff 86004. T: (928) 774-1912; www.blackbartssteakhouse.com.

 ★★★	 ★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Although the campground is sandwiched between two busy roads, one side borders woods, and there are enough trees in the park itself (most sites have several) that the camp feels more rural than its urban location should warrant. Noise is a bit of a problem, given the proximity of I-40 and the 75 trains that run daily through town. Furthermore, since tent sites are simply RV sites that "for one reason or another" are unusable for RVs, tenters

136 ARIZONA Florence

would be advised to push on to the Ponderosa Forest campground in Parks. However, RV campers don't have it nearly so bad, and there are some impressive views of Arizona's highest mountain (Humphreys Peak) from inside the park. One RVer who had stayed several nights rated the park an 8 out of 10, and the park is a reasonable, family-oriented destination.

BASICS

Operated By: Helen Kelley. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Upon registration. **Registration:** At antique store; after hours, enclose fee in envelope & slip into slot in door. **Fee:** \$15-\$20. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 174. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 15. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 50 amps), water, sewer; will provide converter for 30-amp vehicles. **Each Site:** Picnic table, trees. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved but potholed. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** No. **Restaurant:** Yes. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Nightly musical revue (singing waiters/waitresses) from 5:30 to close, antique store. **Activities:** Skiing, biking, hiking. **Nearby Attractions:** Coconino National Forest, Lowell Observatory, Arizona Snowbowl, volcanic crater hikes, Humphreys Peak, several museums in town. **Additional Information:** Flagstaff Visitors Bureau, (800) 842-7293.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** No open fires, in summer, "prefer" no open grills due to fire hazard. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites only. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

On I-40, take Exit 198 and take a quick left into the park entrance.

FLORENCE MAP, C-2
Rancho Sonora Inn and RV Park

9160 North AZ 79, Florence 85232.
T: (520) 868-8000 or (800) 205-6817;
www.c2i2.com/~rancho/index.htm.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★

An extremely attractive campground studded with saguaro cacti, Rancho Sonora fills with snowbirds every winter. Halfway between Tucson and Phoenix (60 miles), this extremely well-run family operation has an attractive pool area with relaxing desert views that attract visitors from as far away as Alaska. The surprising beauty found here makes it a welcome haven and escape for those visiting the neighboring state facility, as well as for those using Rancho Sonora as a tourism base to explore surrounding areas. Florence has a good Mexican restaurant and old street facades that show up in

Hollywood movies and TV shows. Nearby Coolidge has major chain stores for stocking up on sundries. The extended host family is very welcoming, and does its best to help guests enjoy their stay to the maximum.

BASICS

Operated By: Linda Freeman (owner), Diane Ward (manager). **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations needed mid-Oct. to end of Mar. (45-day cancellation, or 1 month's charge applicable to following year's space rental; \$35 cancellation fee). **Registration:** At office. **Fee:** \$18 tent, \$22 RV (V, MC, AE). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 62. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 4. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30, 50 amps), water, sewer, phone (modem). **Each Site:** Table, cement pad. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Gravel, excellent. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Florence, 5 mi. **Restaurant:** Florence, 5 mi. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Heated pool, spa. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Putting green, whirlpool, horseshoes, barbecue, kitchen, clubhouse, pet walk, fax service, Fri. night bonfire. **Activities:** Golf. **Nearby Attractions:** Casa Grande Ruins, McFarland Historical State Park, museums. **Additional Information:** Pinal County Visitor Center, (520) 868-9433.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only (not allowed in clubhouse). **Fires:** No (clubhouse fire pit only). **Alcoholic Beverages:** "Drink all you want." **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 40 ft. width (optional).

TO GET THERE

Go 5 mi. south of Florence on AZ 79.

FOUNTAIN HILLS MAP, C-2
McDowell Mountain Regional Park

P.O. Box 18415, Fountain Hills 85269.
T: (480) 506-2930 or (480) 471-0173;
www.maricopa.gov/parks.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

One of the excellent Maricopa County Parks ringing the Phoenix area, McDowell Mountain attracts many groups; individuals using the Mayo Clinic in Fountain Hills, and mountain bikers coming to race on the competitive track. With over 100 picnic tables and grills, this is also a popular day-use park, featuring 50 miles of mountain biking and horseback riding trails traversing several ecosystems with six different rattlesnake species. Even though surrounded by the Superstition, McDowell, and Four Peaks Mountains, the park is conveniently located near urban areas. An Native American casino is nearby, downtown Phoenix is just 20 miles away, and Scottsdale is within 6 miles

for those wanting to shop and enjoy the urban amenities. The campsites at McDowell's E. I. Rowland Campground are very large and far apart. Barriers of tall desert plants like saguaro, ocotillo, and palo verde between the campsites make the privacy even more absolute.

BASICS

Operated By: Maricopa County Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; group reservations. **Registration:** Self-pay fee station. **Fee:** \$18 (water, electric). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 80. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30 amps), water. **Each Site:** Table, grill, fire ring. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Gravel, good. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Fountain Hills, 5 mi. **Restaurant:** Fountain Hills, 5 mi. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Competitive bike track. **Activities:** Horseback riding for horse owners, biking. **Nearby Attractions:** Phoenix, Scottsdale, Rio Verde. **Additional Information:** McDowell Park Assoc., (602) 837-3026; Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce, (480) 837-1654, www.fhchamberofcommerce.org.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Allowed, Mem. Day-Labor Day only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From Fountain Hills go 4 mi. north on Fountain Hills Blvd. to North McDowell Mountain Rd.

GILA BEND MAP, C-2
Painted Rock Petroglyph Site and Campground

2015 West Deer Valley Rd., Gila Bend 85027.
T: (602) 580-5500 or (602) 580-5580.

 ★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★

Near Painted Rocks Dam and Reservoir, Painted Rock Petroglyph Site and Campground is a place for self-sufficient campers carrying their own water and firewood. It also makes a good picnic lunch stop when approaching or leaving Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument via I-8. The drive to the campground has lots of dips and flood-warning signs, as sculpted hills and grain and alfalfa fields teeming with birds give way to desert scrub. The one-acre rock outcropping behind the covered tables chained to the ground in the eating area is densely covered with petroglyphs depicting spirals and animals as varied as deer, lizards, snakes, coyotes, and birds. During the hot summer months of May to Oct., the campground is rarely used, and there is no fee. The only noise most nights is that of howling coyotes, though there are three huge group areas that have the potential to cause noise disturbance.

BASICS

Operated By: Bureau of Land Management.
Open: All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** Self-pay fee station. **Fee:** \$4 (no fee May 1–Sep. 30; cash, check only). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 40. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Concrete table, grill. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** No showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Gravel, good. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Gila Bend, 30 mi. **Restaurant:** Gila Bend, 30 mi. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Picnic & group area. **Activities:** Looking at petroglyphs, bird-watching, hiking & photography. **Nearby Attractions:** Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. **Additional Information:** Gila Bend Tourist Information Center; (520) 683-7395.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash under owner's control (not allowed on petroglyph rocks). **Fires:** Allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From Gila Bend go 16 mi. west on I-8 to Exit 102, then go 15 mi. north on Painted Rocks Dam Rd. to intersection w/ Rocky Point Rd.

GOODYEAR MAP, C-2
Estrella Mountain Regional Park

14805 West Vineyard Ave., Goodyear 85338.
T: (623) 932-3811; www.maricopa.gov.

 ★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★

One of the Phoenix area's six little-known Maricopa County parks, Estrella is scenically situated 18 miles southwest of Phoenix in 19,200 acres of mountainous terrain with horse and hiking trails. Weekends during the school year, Estrella is crowded with scout and school groups, many camping in the deep mesquite shade of the Navy Area and using the park's many playgrounds. Weekdays and school vacations, with the exception of special events like dog shows and medieval pageants, Estrella is relatively empty. The six sites with RV hookups are near the amphitheater and stable area. Tent campers can camp almost anywhere on acres of flat grass, in the open or among shady mesquite groves. The mesquite tree shade can cool the area underneath by 10°, enough to make summer camping bearable.

BASICS

Operated By: Maricopa County Parks & Recreation Dept. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; reservations required for group area. **Registration:** Entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$5–\$18 (V, MC). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 6. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 100. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Table, grill. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** No showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, in good condition. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Litchfield Park, 6 mi. **Restaurant:** Litchfield Park, 6 mi. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Amphitheater, horse, rodeo, & picnic areas, softball field, sheltered tables. **Activities:** Golf, horseback riding. **Nearby Attractions:** Phoenix International Raceway, museums. **Additional Information:** Maricopa County Parks, (602) 506-2930.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash under owner's control (leash laws strictly enforced). **Fires:** Allowed (grills only). **Alcoholic Beverages:** Beer in cans or kegs; no glass bottles or hard liquor. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From I-10 east of Phoenix, go south on Estrella Pkwy. (Exit 126) 5 mi. to West Vineyard Rd.

GRAND CANYON MAP, A-2
Mather Campground

Grand Canyon National Park, South Rim, Grand Canyon 86023.
T: (928) 638-2631 or (928) 638-6035.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

One can imagine by looking at Mather Campground how the Anasazi slowly ground their way out of existence: a large number of people competing for limited resources. Campers are definitely advised to arrive early—the earlier, the better. Large numbers of people want to camp within the Grand Canyon's boundaries, and with hikers taking advantage of the maximum stay of seven nights, numerous campsites will already be taken when you arrive. By 4 p.m., it is a scramble to pick up any spot, which, naturally, leaves the slimmest picking for the late arrivals. Sites to avoid (if possible) are those closest to the rest rooms, as the lights remain on all night and the doors slam with a thud that can raise the dead. In addition, try to avoid sites close to the busy roads (such as sites 53 and 54 on the Aspen Loop or 318 and 319 on the Pine Loop), with foot and car traffic that will annoy all but the soundest sleepers. Having said that, this is the Grand Canyon after all, and perhaps the greatest natural wonder of the world is only a few minutes' drive away. Also, the campground offers an extremely rugged and wild flavor. If you can abide the few annoyances inherent in a campground of this size, it is definitely worth the stay.

BASICS

Operated By: Spherics. **Open:** All year. **Site**

Assignment: Reservations recommended (Apr. 1–Nov. 30); first come, first served (Dec. 1–Mar. 31). **Registration:** At kiosk at entrance. **Fee:** \$15 (Apr. 1–Nov. 30); \$10 (Dec. 1–Mar. 31); half price for Golden Age/Access cardholders. Cash only. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 312. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** 0.5 mi. away in Market Plaza. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Market Plaza 0.5 mi. **Restaurant:** Market Plaza 0.5 mi. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Inquire at campground. **Activities:** Hiking, helicopter, plane & horseback rides through the Grand Canyon. **Nearby Attractions:** Grand Canyon National Park. **Additional Information:** North Rim park info: (520) 638-7864, South Rim park info: (520) 638-7888 or (520) 638-7770.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only, in campground only. **Fires:** Charcoal or wood in grills only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites only. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 50 ft.

TO GET THERE

From the Grand Canyon South Entrance, take AZ 64 North for 2.6 mi., then turn left at the traffic light. Continue for 0.4 mi. and turn right onto Market Plaza Rd. Drive 0.9 mi., then turn right into the entrance at the sign for the campground.

GRAND CANYON MAP, A-2
Trailer Village

Grand Canyon National Park, South Rim, Grand Canyon 86023. T: (928) 638-2631 or (928) 638-6035; www.grandcanyonlodges.com or www.xanterra.com.

 ★★★	 ★
Beauty: ★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Imagine a department store parking lot during a Christmas tree liquidation sale. That pretty much sums up the aesthetics of Trailer Village. Most lots are divided by low shrubs, and the lucky few contain trees, while some have no vegetation at all. However, as nearby Mather Campground does not offer RV hookups, those who want fuller service should consider Trailer Village—especially as there are no other full-service RV parks on the South Rim. (Some services, such as showers and laundry are shared between Mather and Trailer Village.) Arranged as a grid, the campground offers 50-foot pull-through sites spaced a scant 20 feet apart. Although tents are permitted, the mere thought of camping here in a tent seems ridiculous—unless the campgrounds are all full and you've got to stay in the Grand Canyon. Not nearly as sylvan as Mather Campground, Trailer Village is recommended to travelers who desire a less primitive

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experience than the campground, and don't mind taking in the sight of equal parts RV and forest while at home base.

BASICS

Operated By: Xanterra Parks & Resorts. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations only, up to 23 months in advance. **Registration:** At kiosk. **Fee:** \$24 for 2 adults, \$2 extra per additional adult (no Golden Access discount). **Parking:** At site, parking lot.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 80. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes, Market Plaza. **Pay Phone:** Yes, Market Plaza. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Rest room on-site, showers at Market Plaza. **Fuel:** Outside park. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Market Plaza 0.5 mi. **Restaurant:** Market Plaza 0.5 mi. **General Store:** Market Plaza. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Kennel. **Activities:** Hiking, helicopter, plane, bus tours, mule rides, horseback rides through the Grand Canyon. **Nearby Attractions:** Grand Canyon National Park. **Additional Information:** www.amfac.com.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Charcoal only in grills; no open fires. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites only. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 50 ft.

TO GET THERE

From the Grand Canyon South Entrance, take AZ 64 north for 2.6 mi., then turn left at the traffic light. Continue for 0.4 mi. and turn right onto Market Plaza Rd. Drive 1 mi., turn right at the sign for Trailer Village, and follow the road 0.2 mi. to the entrance.

HOLBROOK MAP, B-3 Cholla Lake County Park

Navajo County Parks and Recreation Dept., Holbrook 86025. T: (928) 524-4251 or (928) 288-3717; www.parksrec@navajo.az.us.

★★★★	★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★

Situated around a manmade cattail-ringed lake whose waters cool and generate electricity at the four adjacent coal-burning Cholla Power Plant units, rustic Cholla Lake County Park provides travelers on I-40 between Flagstaff and Gallup, New Mexico, with a convenient overnight stop or a base for exploring the Petrified Forest, Painted Desert, Mogollon Rim, and nearby Hopi and Navajo Indian Reservations. The lake, one of the largest in northeastern Arizona, can be used for boating and water sports or fishing for large-mouth bass, sunfish, and catfish. For some campers, the power pylons, tall cement smokestacks, and piles of coal waiting to be pulverized will seem a visual blight. Others may enjoy the

educational displays explaining how scrubbers remove sulfur dioxides and particulates.

BASICS

Operated By: Navajo County Parks & Recreation Dept. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; reservations available by e-mail. **Registration:** Self-pay fee station. **Fee:** \$8–\$14 (cash, check). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 25. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water. **Each Site:** Table, grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Gravel, good condition. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Holbrook, 8 mi. **Restaurant:** Holbrook, 8 mi. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Group pavilion, water ski course, jet ski landing, fishing dock, horseshoe pits, sand volleyball court. **Activities:** Fishing, boating, bird-watching. **Nearby Attractions:** Navajo Indian Reservation, Petrified Forest, Painted Desert, Homolovi Ruins, Mogollon Rim, White Mountains. **Additional Information:** Holbrook Chamber of Commerce, (800) 524-2459.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: Leash, crated, or caged (not allowed on swimming beach or in structures). **Fires:** Allowed (in grills only). **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 35 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Holbrook go 8 mi. west on I-40 to Exit 277 (Joseph City), then south onto park access road for 2 mi.

HOLBROOK MAP, B-3 Holbrook/Petrified Forest KOA

102 Hermosa Dr., Holbrook 86025. T: (928) 524-6689 or (800) 562-3389; www.koa.com.

★★★★	★★
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★

Flanked at the entrance by a 200-million-year-old petrified log, the Holbrook/Petrified Forest KOA has more than enough amenities for families and is an excellent location for exploring the area's geology (Petrified Forest, Painted Desert), kitsch (tepee motel, Rte. 66), and Native American (Hopi and Navajo Indian Reservations) sights. Trees line the perimeter and a small café serves up pancake breakfasts and cowboy-style barbecue dinners during the peak tourist season. Fortunately, the campground is far enough from the interstate that truck noise is not a major problem. Though RVs are sometimes parked seemingly close enough to touch, the campground is usually relatively quiet. Pull-through sites 1–20 have cable TV (\$2 extra), and sites 10, 20, 40, 50, 92, and 102 are 50 amp. Tent campers have grass sites, and pet owners are warned to keep their animals off the grass and on the pet walks.

BASICS

Operated By: KOA. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. Reservations available. **Registration:** At office. **Fee:** \$19–\$30 (V, MC, D). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 109. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 20. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30, 50 amps), water, sewer, cable TV. **Each Site:** Table. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Gravel, good. **RV Service:** Yes. **Market:** Holbrook, 1 mi. **Restaurant:** Cookout & pancake breakfast. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Pool. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Game room, pet walk, mail pickup, seasonal cowboy barbecues, cabins. **Activities:** Volleyball, basketball, tetherball, horseshoes. **Nearby Attractions:** Petrified Forest, Painted Desert, Canyon de Chelly, Second Mesa. **Additional Information:** Holbrook Chamber of Commerce, (800) 524-2459; Petrified Forest National Park, (520) 524-6228, www.nps.gov/pefo.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash & under owner's control. **Fires:** Grill only; no open fires. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 50 ft.

TO GET THERE

From I-40 Exit 289 go 1.5 mi. south on Navajo Blvd.

JACOB LAKE MAP, A-2 Jacob Lake Campground

Jacob Lake Inn, US 89A and AZ 67, Jacob Lake 86022. T: (928) 643-7298 or (928) 204-1698.

★★★★	★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

It's camping at its best along five secluded loops in the pine forest at 7,900 feet, just an hour's drive (40 miles south via a slow, windy road) from the forested North Rim of the Grand Canyon. Widely dispersed pull-through sites provide plenty of forested privacy, yet Jacob Lake Campground is within one-quarter mile of a 24-hour gas station, general store, counter café, restaurant, ranger-staffed visitor center and motel. However, water is scarce and available only by the bucketful. In contrast to the North Rim Campground (see Appendix), which books up over a month in advance with reservations, the key to getting a spot here is a very early afternoon arrival, as Jacob Lake Campground fills up just after 4 p.m. most June, July, and August afternoons. Campers wanting hookups should head to nearby Kaibab Camper Village. For a more primitive experience at a smaller campground (23 sites; 30 feet maximum) run by the same concessionaire, head south on US 89A towards the North Rim another 23 miles to DeeMotte Campground (see Appendix).

BASICS

Operated By: U.S. Forest Service/Resource Recreation Management (concessionaire). **Open:** May 15–Nov. 1, weather-dependent. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; group site reservations. **Registration:** Campground hosts. **Fee:** \$12 (cash). **Parking:** Paved loop in front of site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 54. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Table, fire ring. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** No showers. **Fuel:** Gas station across the street. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, bumpy in spots. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 0.3 mi. south, near Visitor Center. **Restaurant:** 0.3 mi. south, near Visitor Center. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Some handicapped-accessible facilities. DeeMotte Campground has smaller sites. **Activities:** Evening ranger programs, mule, deer watching, biking, hiking. **Nearby Attractions:** North Rim of Grand Canyon, Pipe Springs National Monument, Kanab, Lees Ferry. **Additional Information:** Kaibab Plateau Visitor Center, (928) 643-7298; North Kaibab Ranger District, (928) 643-7395.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6 ft leash under owner's control. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 30 ft. & larger RVs.

TO GET THERE

From junction of US 89A and AZ 67, drive 0.3 mi. north on US 89A.

JACOB LAKE MAP, A-2
Kaibab Camper Village

P.O. Box 3331, Jacob Lake 86003. T: (928) 643-7804 (May 15–Oct. 15) or (800) 525-0924 (Oct. 15–May 15, outside AZ); www.canyoneers.com.

★★★★★	★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★★

Tall pines, grassy meadows with picnic tables, the closest hookups to the Grand Canyon's North Rim, and wide pull-through sites make Kaibab Camper Village a top choice for quiet relaxation and North Rim excursions. Management goes to great lengths to keep the campground quiet, even banning electrical generators. Tent campers will appreciate the grassy sites separate from the RV loop. Although it feels isolated in a tall pine forest surrounded by horse pastures and tall mountain backdrops, the campground is only one mile (half via a dusty but extra wide gravel road) from a 24-hour gas station anchoring the U.S. Forest Service's helpful Kaibab Plateau Visitor Center, a motel, an old-fashioned counter café, a sit-down restaurant decorated with Native American rugs, and a general store loaded with curios. All in all, it is hard to go wrong with this combination of wilderness and comforts.

BASICS

Operated By: Canyoneers (Flagstaff, AZ). **Open:** May 15–Oct. 15. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; reservations accepted (nonrefundable prepayment of 1st night). **Registration:** Campground office. **Fee:** \$12 (tents, dry sites); \$22 (hookups); cash, traveler's check, personal check w/ 2 valid IDs. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 62. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 34. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Table, fire ring at most sites. **Dump Station:** Yes, for guests only. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes, pay showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Dirt & gravel. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 1 mi., near Visitor Center. **Restaurant:** 1 mi., near Visitor Center. **General Store:** Yes, very small. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Modem at office; 30-ft.-wide pull-throughs; noon check-out. **Activities:** Inquire at campground. **Nearby Attractions:** Grand Canyon North Rim (40 mi.), Bryce (115 mi.). **Additional Information:** (928) 526-0924.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 10-ft. leash & kept quiet at all times; designated dog walking area. **Fires:** Allowed (only in metal fire pits, firewood sold). **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From junction of US 89A and AZ 67, go 0.3 mi. south on AZ 67 and then 0.5 mi. west on gravel road.

KINGMAN MAP, B-1
Kingman KOA

3820 North Roosevelt, Kingman 86401. T: (928) 757-4397 or (800) 562-3991; www.koa.com.

★★★★	★★★★
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Kingman, a stop en route to the Grand Canyon from Las Vegas, had its heyday when local boy Andy Devine was playing Jingles in cowboy movies, and Rte. 66 was still the place for getting your "kicks" when driving cross country from Chicago to Los Angeles. Downtown Kingman is just now coming out of a deep boarded-up funk, and the KOA is just about the only campground away from the noise of I-40 with a little space for campers to spread out, short of heading out of town into the Hualapai Mountains. The KOA is a little oasis with oleanders and trees between the campsites, a pleasant ambience, free morning coffee, 50 TV channels, and newspaper machines. Tent campers have their own area, and a policy of not running generators ensures quiet.

BASICS

Operated By: KOA. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; reservations

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accepted. **Registration:** At office. **Fee:** \$37 cabins, \$27 water & sewer, \$25 water & electric, \$19 tent (V, MC, AE, D). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 78. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 12. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer, cable TV, phone (modem). **Each Site:** Table, grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Paved, good. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** No. **Restaurant:** No. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Pool. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Rec hall w/ kitchen & TV, video game room, mini-golf, cabins. **Activities:** Golf. **Nearby Attractions:** Grand Canyon, Ghost Towns, museums. **Additional Information:** Kingman Chamber of Commerce, (928) 753-6253, Fax (928) 753-1049, www.kingmanchamber.org.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash & under owner's control; no pit-bulls or Rottweilers. **Fires:** Allowed (only in approved grills). **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From I-40 Exits 51 and 53 take Stockton Hill Rd. or Andy Devine to intersection of Airway and Roosevelt.

LAKE HAVASU CITY MAP, B-1
Islander RV Resort

751 Beachcomber Blvd., Lake Havasu City 86403. T: (928) 680-2000; info@islanderrvresort.com.

★★★★★	▲ n/a
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

On the shores of Lake Havasu, Islander boasts ample amenities, including two swimming pools, boat docks, fish-cleaning stations, and winter activities for snowbirds. Premium and waterfront sites have the best lake views, but inland sites have tall eucalyptus trees and some decent mountain views. Unlike Beachcomber Resort (see Appendix) down the road, which rents empty mobile home spots to RVs, Islander terminates the rental agreement of anyone showing signs of residency like enrolling kids in local schools or taking a job in town. The typical 36-foot wide space has a patio pad and enough space for parking a tow vehicle and boat. Those who like it quiet will appreciate that the park is far from noisy highways, though only a short jaunt from the London Bridge, whose 10,276 granite stones were reassembled in this planned desert city by developer Robert McCulloch.

BASICS

Operated By: Islander RV Resort. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations do not guarantee specific sites. **Registration:** At office. **Fee:** \$34–\$49 (waterfront sites most expensive; V, MC). **Parking:** At site.

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FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 500. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Patio pad, table. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, excellent. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Lake Havasu City, 1 mi. **Restaurant:** Lake Havasu City, 1 mi. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Lake, 2 jacuzzis. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Rec hall, billiards, shuffleboard & horseshoe areas, boat docks & launch ramp, fish-cleaning station. **Activities:** Biking, swimming, fishing, boating, golf (nearby). Seasonal activities include dances, crafts, computer classes, special events, children's programs. **Nearby Attractions:** London Bridge, Havasu National Wildlife Refuge. **Additional Information:** Lake Havasu Tourism Bureau, (928) 453-3444, (800) 242-8278.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: Allowed (subject to separate signed agreement; aggressive breeds like pit bulls not allowed). **Fires:** Not allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Excessive use prohibited. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 50 ft.

TO GET THERE

Get off AZ 95 at Mesquite Ave. and go east on Lake Havasu Blvd., south to McCulloch Blvd., and west across the London Bridge.

LAKE HAVASU CITY MAP, B-1
Lake Havasu State Park
(Windsor Beach)

699 London Bridge Rd, Lake Havasu City
86403. T: (928) 855-2784;
www.pr.state.az.us/parkhtml/havasus.html.

★★★	★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

Formed when the Colorado River was dammed near Parker to end the area's annual spring floods and provide water for Arizona and southern California, 45-mile-long Lake Havasu's boating, fishing, and bird-watching recreational possibilities can be accessed at Lake Havasu State Park's Windsor Beach Campground. The large gravel campsites at Windsor Beach combine camping in the desert scrub with a lakeside location. Plus the palo verde, mesquite, and other desert plants are lush enough here to provide each campsite with a barrier of privacy. For those desiring even more of an escape, Lake Havasu State Park also has 55 campsites accessible only by boat. For those wanting to stay closer to urban amenities, Windsor Beach has the added advantage of being only three miles from the London Bridge and Lake Havasu City's restaurants, three microbreweries, movie theaters, nightclubs, and shops.

BASICS

Operated By: Arizona State Parks. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served.

Registration: Entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$8-\$14, \$45-\$75 for annual passes. (cash, check). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 42. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Table, grill, fire ring. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, good. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Lake Havasu City, 3 mi. **Restaurant:** Lake Havasu City, 2 mi. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Lake. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Botanical garden, group pavilion. **Activities:** Boating, fishing, water sports, bird-watching, golf. **Nearby Attractions:** London Bridge, Havasu National Wildlife Refuge. **Additional Information:** Lake Havasu Tourism Bureau, (928) 453-3444, (800) 242-8278.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6 ft leash; water & shade must be provided. **Fires:** Allowed (no fires when high winds). **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed (state liquor laws strictly enforced). No glass containers. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From the junction of London Bridge Rd. and AZ 95, go 2.5 mi. west on London Bridge Rd.

LAKE HAVASU CITY MAP, B-1
Sandpoint Marina and RV Park

7952 South Sandpoint Rd., Lake Havasu City
86406. T: (928) 855-0549;
www.sandpointresort.com.

★★★	★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

A swimming beach, a marina with 104 boat slips, and rentals of everything from pontoons and sea doos to fishing boats and houseboats makes Sandpoint Marina a worthwhile destination on the shores of Lake Havasu. Sandpoint Marina is actually within Cattail Cove State Park, and is reached via a fork in the road at the entrance to Cattail Cove Campground (see Appendix), which makes a good alternative for large vehicles and has 40 campsites accessible only by boat. Besides the water action and karaoke in the marina café, the London Bridge and Lake Havasu City's three microbreweries are only a short journey away. During the winter, Sandpoint has its own newsletter and a variety of snowbird get-togethers. Monthly fishing tournaments reward the boat catching the largest stripers, catfish, carp, and bass with a trophy and up to \$50 in prize money.

BASICS

Operated By: Arizona State Parks concession. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At office. **Fee:** \$20-\$30 (more for waterfront sites; V, MC). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 173. **Hookups:** Electric

(30, 50 amps), water, sewer, satellite TV. **Each Site:** Sheltered table, grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** Yes. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Paved & gravel, good. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Lake Havasu City, 7 mi. **Restaurant:** Yes. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** River. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Marina, boat rentals, dry storage, horseshoe pits, shuffleboard, rec room. **Activities:** Boating, fishing, water sports. **Nearby Attractions:** London Bridge, Buckskin Mountain State Park, Havasu National Wildlife Refuge. **Additional Information:** Lake Havasu Tourism Bureau, (928) 453-3444, (800) 242-8278.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash at all times (subject to fees; not allowed on swimming beach). **Fires:** Grill only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed (excessive or underage consumption is grounds for eviction). Restricted in some areas. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 37 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Lake Havasu City go 12 mi. south on AZ 95 to Cattail Cove State Park.

MARBLE CANYON MAP, A-2
Lees Ferry Campground

US 89, Marble Canyon 86036.
T: (928) 355-2234; www.nps.gov/glca.

★★★	★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

The surrounding mountains have red, orange, chocolate brown, white, and green bands of sandstone that give the area its name, Marble Canyon. In the 1920s, this was an important area for crossing the Colorado River by ferry, as well as the site of Jerry Johnson's polygamous Mormon colony at Lonely Dell Ranch. Ferry service ended after a deadly accident in 1928, when the historic Navajo Bridge opened. The boat launch near Lees Ferry Campground is still one of the best places to enter the Colorado River where it flows smooth and green beneath both the old and new Navajo Bridges. The National Park Service has an interpretive center at Navajo Bridge, near where the river splits into its upper and lower basins. Only a few camp sites have trees or manmade structures for shade. Noises echo at the campground, but when the neighbors are quiet, this is a peaceful spot. Few places are better for river recreation, and it's away from the hubbub of Lake Powell and Page.

BASICS

Operated By: National Park Service. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** Self-pay fee station at entrance. **Fee:** \$10 (\$5 w/ Golden Age or Golden Access Passport; cash only). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 25. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 24. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Table, fire

grate. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Rest rooms but no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, good condition. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 4.5 mi. southwest at Marble Canyon Lodge. **Restaurant:** 4.5 mi. southwest at Marble Canyon Lodge. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Boat launch ramp, fish-cleaning station (summers only). **Activities:** Colorado River fishing, canoeing, rafting. **Nearby Attractions:** Navajo Bridge, Lake Powell, Jacob Lake, Grand Canyon North Rim. **Additional Information:** US National Park Service, Southern AZ Group, (602) 640-5250; Marble Canyon Lodge, (520) 355-2225; Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, (520) 608-6404.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash under owner's control. **Fires:** Fire receptacles only, no ground fires. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed in moderation. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 45 ft.

TO GET THERE

From US 89A, go 5.7 mi. north at Marble Canyon.

MESA MAP, C-2
Usery Mountain Recreation Area

3939 North Usery Pass Rd., Mesa 85207.
T: (480) 984-0032;
www.maricopa.gov/parks/usery.

★★★★★	★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

Conveniently close to Mesa's urban amenities, Usery Mountain Recreation Area's Buckhorn Family Campground combines lower Sonoran Desert foreground scenery with the majestic backdrop of the Usery, Goldfield, McDowell, and Superstition Mountains. Campsites at this excellent Maricopa County campground named for King Usery, a cattle rancher who robbed stage-coaches to make ends meet, are dotted with intervening patches of mesquite, ocotillo, palo verde, cholla, and saguaro. During spring and fall, Mexican and Basque shepherds can be spotted with their dogs moving sheep across Usery Pass between the high country and the Salt River Valley, an area of ancient Native American village and canal ruins. Seven miles north is Saguaro Lake and Salt River tubing near Stewart Mountain Dam. Campers can also ride their horses or mountain bike park trails. During hot summer months, four covered sites are available (\$110 a week in advance; two-week limit).

BASICS

Operated By: Maricopa County Parks & Recreation Dept. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; group reservations required. **Registration:** Host site near entrance. **Fee:** \$18 camping fee waives \$5 entry fee (V, MC). Additional fee for group camping. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 73. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water. **Each Site:** Table, grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, good. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Mesa, 4 mi. north. **Restaurant:** Mesa, 4 mi. north. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Horse staging area, archery range, gun range, model airplane field, flood lights for group area. **Activities:** Horseback riding, mountain biking, hiking. **Nearby Attractions:** Phoenix, colleges, museums, botanic gardens, river tubing. **Additional Information:** Mesa CVB, (602) 969-1307.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: Dogs on leash under owner's control (horses OK). **Fires:** Grill only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed (glass bottles prohibited). **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From Mesa go 7.5 mi. north on US 60 (Ellsworth/Usery Pass Rd.) to Usery Park Rd.

PAGE MAP, A-2
Lone Rock Beach

US 89, Page 86040.T: (520) 608-6404;
www.nps.gov/glca.

★★	★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

National Park Service rangers patrol Lone Rock Beach, making this two miles of Lake Powell's 1,960 miles of shoreline among the more secure stretches of beach for camping. A large lone monolithic sandstone rock sticking out of the lake and straddling the Arizona/Utah border gives the beach its name. It seems like southern California, complete with beach bums, albeit sans surfboards and backed by the incomparable beauty of Glen Canyon sandstone. Motor homes share the hard beach sand with tents and people sleeping in the open. Off-road vehicle enthusiasts flock here for the sand dunes, and boaters sail in from Wahweap Marina for beach camping. Though a primitive beach camping experience, don't expect much privacy in July and August, when summer traffic jams Page and crowds flock to the beach to beat the heat. Indeed, escaping the summer crowds requires taking a boat (even houseboats are for rent) to the more remote, roadless parts of this 186-mile-long lake.

BASICS

Operated By: National Park Service. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** Entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$6. **Parking:** On beach.

FACILITIES

Number of Tent-only Sites: Undesignated sites. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Beach sand. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes, pit toilets, outdoor

shower. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Pavement ends in hard sand. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Wahweap 9 mi. south. **Restaurant:** Wahweap 9 mi. south. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** In Lake Powell. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Boat launch if you are willing to risk launching on the sand. **Activities:** Beach sports, fishing, off-road vehicles on sand dunes. **Nearby Attractions:** Wahweap Marina, Glen Canyon Dam, Page, Antelope Canyon, Rainbow Bridge National Monument, Escalante Staircase National Monument. **Additional Information:** Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, (520) 608-6404.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash under owner's control. **Fires:** Allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

Go 6 mi. north from Page on US 89, crossing AZ border into UT, then 2 mi. west down road to Lone Rock Beach.

PAGE MAP, A-2
Wahweap Campground

P.O. Box 1597, Page 86040.T: (928) 645-1059 or (800) 528-6154; www.visitlakepowell.com.

★★★	★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Wahweap Campground is more spacious and private in feel than Wahweap RV Park, and the Lake Powell views are surpassed only by camping at Lone Rock Beach. However, RV campers may prefer downtown Page and the more amenity-laden Page-Lake Powell Campground (see Appendix) over Wahweap Campground when Wahweap RV Park's hookups are full. Indeed, the spacious campsites and small loops are tailored to tents and small trailers, with plenty of shade trees and desert scrub separating sites from each other along smallish loops. It is slightly over a mile to the showers (\$2) and Wahweap Marina amenities like pizza, a restaurant, groceries, and the Wahweap Lodge pool (open to campers). Overall, Wahweap Campground is a good tent and trailer choice, combining the feel of camping out with Lake Powell's nearby amenities.

BASICS

Operated By: Aramark. **Open:** Mar. 15–Oct. 31. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served w/ tents; Reservations allowed for full hookups & groups. **Registration:** At new office. **Fee:** \$15–\$27 (V, MC, D, AE, DC). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 90. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 112. **Hookups:** 90 w/ electric, water, sewer. **Each Site:** Table, grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, good condition. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Limited groceries at office store; more at RV park. **Restaurant:** Wahweap Marina. **General**

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Store: Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Lodge pool; lake. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Fine dining at Wahweap Lodge. **Activities:** Boat tours & rentals; float trips. **Nearby Attractions:** Rainbow Bridge, Page, Glen Canyon Dam, Antelope Canyon, Lees Ferry, Escalante Staircase National Monument. **Additional Information:** Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, (928) 608-6404; Page-Lake Powell Chamber of Commerce, 644 North Navajo Dr., Dam Plaza, P.O. Box 727, Page, AZ 86040; (888) 261-7243, www.pagelakepowellchamber.org; info@pagelakepowellchamber.org.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash under owner's control (including barking). **Fires:** Grill only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 45 ft.

TO GET THERE

Take US 198 north from Glen Canyon Dam for 4 mi., turn on Lake Shore Dr. and go to corner of Wahweap Blvd.

PAGE MAP, A-2
Wahweap RV Park

US 89, Page 86040. T: (800) 528-6154 or (928) 645-1009; www.visitlakepowell.com.

★★★★	▲ n/a
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Wahweap RV Park offers plenty of boat parking for nearby Wahweap Marina. An attractive grassy area with trees separates the RV Park from the road, but once inside it is more like a huge parking lot full of boats and vehicles. If hookups and amenities are of more interest than boats and the lake, downtown Page and the Page-Lake Powell Campground (see Appendix) are an attractive alternative. For a more primitive beach camping experience, head to Lone Rock Beach. The views are nothing to write home about, but the whole idea here seems to be get out on the water and play until dark. Despite the tightly packed nature of the RV park, it stays fairly quiet. Tables on cement and shade are among the nice touches. If boating on Lake Powell plus RV amenities equal a good time, then this is the best place to be.

BASICS

Operated By: Aramark. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; reservations (1st night deposit). **Registration:** At office. **Fee:** \$15-\$27 (V, MC, D, AE, DC). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 123. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30, 50 amps). **Each Site:** Table, grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** Yes. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Gravel, good condition. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Yes. **Restaurant:** Wahweap Marina. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Lodge pool, lake. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Boat ramp & boat rentals. **Activities:** Fishing, boating, summer ranger programs, free use of

lodge facilities. **Nearby Attractions:** Antelope Canyon, Glen Canyon Dam, Lees Ferry, Rainbow Bridge, Escalante Staircase National Monument. **Additional Information:** Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, (520) 608-6404; Page-Lake Powell Chamber of Commerce, 644 North Navajo Dr., Dam Plaza, P.O. Box 727, Page, AZ 86040; (888) 261-7243, www.pagelakepowellchamber.org; info@pagelakepowellchamber.org.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash under owner's control. **Fires:** Allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 45 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Glen Canyon Dam go 4 mi. north on US 89, then take Lake Shore Dr. to 100 Stateline Dr.

PARKER MAP, C-1
Branson's Motel and RV Park

7804 Riverside Dr., Parker 85344.
T: (928) 667-3346.

★★★★	▲ n/a
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

With card games, ice cream socials, and potlucks in the rec hall, Branson's caters to snowbirds in winter with its tightly packed concrete pads and grass strip RV sites. German tourists are among those flocking in summer to this hybrid mixture of marina, mobile homes, RV park, and motel units with kitchens. The motel and front row of mobile homes get the river views. But RV patrons can relax on breezy beachfront lawns under palm frond umbrellas and gaze across the lapping waters of the Colorado River to California or use the ample boat facilities for water sports. A public golf course, the top-rated Emerald Canyon, is just across the street. LaPaz County Park's abundant day-use areas and occasional swap meets are next door. After a visit to the nearby solar saloon, younger party animals will want to leave this little community to the elders and head farther north on the road to Lake Havasu.

BASICS

Operated By: Branson's Resort. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; reservations needed in winter. **Registration:** At office. **Fee:** \$21 & up (V, MC). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 70. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer, cable TV. **Each Site:** Table. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, good. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Parker, 8 mi. **Restaurant:** Parker, 2 mi. **General Store:** Yes, basic items. No food. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** River. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Boat ramps, slips & storage, horseshoe pits, volleyball court, exercise room, pool table. **Activities:** Fishing, boating, water sports, golf. **Nearby Attractions:** Nellie E. Saloon, Blythe Intaglios (CA), Quartzsite, Lake Havasu.

Additional Information: Parker Chamber of Commerce, (520) 669-2174, www.riverinfo.com/parker.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: Not permitted. **Fires:** Allowed (when wind is not blowing). **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 45 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Parker go 7.5 mi. north on Riverside Dr.

PARKER MAP, C-1
Buckskin Mountain State Park

5476 AZ 95, Parker 85344. T: (928) 667-3231; www.azstateparks.com.

★★★★	▲ ★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★

If relaxation and plenty of play space for the children are more important than partying, then Buckskin Mountain's paved sites separated by dirt and trees are a better choice than Fox's Pierpoint Landing and Tony's Road Runner. A group-use area with sheltered tables is one mile north at Buckskin Mountain State Park's River Island Unit, which has another 22 campsites and large grass play areas but no hookups on 420 acres with a boat ramp and a Colorado River swimming beach. Island Unit is closer to the highway and farther from the water, but is quieter when not overrun with weekend groups. During the cooler winter months, hiking the short steep trails into the surrounding mountains for spectacular overviews of the area is a worthwhile alternative to water play. Some trails go by abandoned mines and have interpretive stops about the local ecosystems and vegetation.

BASICS

Operated By: Arizona State Parks. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** Self-pay entrance fee station. **Fee:** \$14-\$22 (cash, check, V, MC). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 68. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 21. **Number of Multipurpose Sites:** 89. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water, sewer; 11 sites w/ full hookups. **Each Site:** Table, grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No, boat fuel offered during summers. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, good. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Buckskin Market, in park, seasonal. **Restaurant:** In park, seasonal. **General Store:** Yes, seasonal. **Vending:** Seasonal. **Swimming:** River. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Cactus garden, interpretative center, boutique, boat ramp, basketball court, volleyball, horseshoe pit. **Activities:** Boating, fishing, water sports, hiking. **Nearby Attractions:** Lake Havasu. **Additional Information:** Parker Chamber of Commerce, (928) 669-2174, www.riverinfo.com/parker.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grill. **Alcoholic**



Beverages: Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From Parker go 11 mi. north on AZ 95.

PARKER MAP, C-1
Havasus Springs Resort

2581 AZ 95, Parker 85344. T: (928) 667-3361; www.havasusprings.com.

 ★★★★★	 n/a
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

A true destination resort with plenty of amenities, including an Olympic-sized pool, and enough winter activities to keep snowbirds happy, Havasu Springs Resort has over 250 boat slips, three motels, a restaurant with a bar and lounge, and everything from par 3 golf to houseboat and fishing boat rentals. In contrast to the Colorado River and Havasu partying areas, even teenagers must be under tight adult reign here. Motorcycles are banned, which helps keep the park quiet. Gate security is also relatively tight, and visitors must obtain passes. Though the cement pads here are good, it will be a few years before the trees are large enough to provide some shade to the RV sites. But if protection from noisy Harleys and rowdy party animals is part of the Colorado River recreation game plan, then reservations here may fit the bill.

BASICS

Operated By: Havasu Springs Resort, L.L.C., Bob Atkins. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; reservations a necessity. **Registration:** At office. **Fee:** \$34 basic, \$38 full (V, MC, D, AE). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 150. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer, phone, cable TV. **Each Site:** Table, grill. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** Yes (boat fuel also available). **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Paved, good. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** On premises. **Restaurant:** On premises. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Pool. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Marina, houseboat & fishing boat rentals, fish-cleaning stations, lighted tennis courts, 9-hole golf course, 3 motels, sporting goods store, pool tables, video games. **Activities:** Boating, fishing, golf, tennis. No hunting. **Nearby Attractions:** Parker Dam, Lake Havasu. **Additional Information:** Parker Chamber of Commerce, (928) 669-2174, www.riverinfo.com/parker.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only (subject to management discretion). **Fires:** Not allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 40 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Parker go 17 mi. north on AZ 95.

PARKER MAP, C-1
LaPaz County Park

7350 Riverside Dr., Parker 85344.
T: (928) 667-2069; www.lapazcountypark.com.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★★

Though lacking ice cream socials and some of the snowbird amenities of Branson's Resort next door, LaPaz offers lots of open space and green grass. Golfers can practice on the putting green and cross the street to use the driving range or play 18 holes, and there is a baseball field, tennis court, and plenty else to do besides boating, fishing, and swimming in the Colorado River. During the winter, tent campers have a prime dirt beachfront area along the river, and designated sites are kept open for RVs. But RV sites are open to tent camping during the summer months when the snowbird migration has reversed. Tents can also be placed under trees near the group area when it does not conflict with irrigation schedules. The two-mile-long park has some big pines surrounding the inland RV sites, but beachfront RV sites 5-47 and 84-113 have the best river views.

BASICS

Operated By: LaPaz County Parks. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** Self-pay entrance fee station. **Fee:** \$10-\$15 (cash, check). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 114. **Number of Multi-purpose Sites:** 35. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30, 50 amps), water, cable TV, phone. **Each Site:** Table, grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes (delivered). **Internal Roads:** Gravel, good. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Parker, 8 mi. **Restaurant:** Parker, 2 mi. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** Seasonal. **Swimming:** River. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Boat ramps, putting green, tennis court, softball field, volleyball court, rec hall, horseshoe pits, some sites w/ sheltered tables. **Activities:** Boating, fishing, golf, horseshoes, volleyball, tennis. **Nearby Attractions:** Nellie E. Saloon, Blythe Intaglios (CA), Quartzsite, Lake Havasu. **Additional Information:** Parker Chamber of Commerce, (928) 669-2174, www.riverinfo.com/parker.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash at all times (barking dogs not tolerated; no dogs on beachfront walkways). **Fires:** Allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From Parker go 8 mi. north on AZ 95.

PARKER MAP, C-1
Red Rock Resort

6400 Riverside Dr., Parker 85344.
T: (928) 667-3116; www.redrockresort.com.

 ★★★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★

Boating, fishing, and water sports are the chief attraction at Red Rock Resort, which is notable for its waterfront cabana campsites. The large pull-through sites (41-56) and sites 64-71 near the winter overflow and RV and trailer storage areas are farthest from the Colorado River. However, site 41, a large lawn corner pull-through is closer to the water and worth the small rental premium. The best sites are right on the Colorado River, and are open only to smaller vehicles and tent camping. These waterfront cabanas, which offer the opportunity to barbecue on the banks of the Colorado River and sit in the shade, are numbered 1-40 and are difficult to score, as they are often rented for four months solid during the peak winter season. Good boat facilities, including repair, salvage, and storage, as well as RV and trailer storage, also help make this small waterfront resort with its own bar and café a popular destination.

BASICS

Operated By: Red Rock Resort. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; reservations advised for peak season, holidays, weekends. **Registration:** Front desk. **Fee:** \$20-\$25 (V, MC). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 90. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer, cable TV, phone. **Each Site:** Table, grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Paved, good. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Parker, 9 mi. **Restaurant:** Yes. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** River. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Boat ramp, RV & boat storage, boat repair, game room, café, bar. **Activities:** Fishing, boating, water sports. **Nearby Attractions:** Parker Dam, Lake Havasu. **Additional Information:** Parker Chamber of Commerce, (928) 669-2174, www.riverinfo.com/parker.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From Parker go 9 mi. north on AZ 95.

144 ARIZONA Parks

PARKS **MAP, B-2**
Ponderosa Forest RV Park and RV Campground

P.O. Box 50640, Parks 86018. T: (888) 635-0456 or (928) 635-0456; pondforrv@yahoo.com.

★★★★★	★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

It is hard to imagine a more beautiful campground. Sites are spacious (average 25 feet wide), and nearly all are set into the forest. (There is a treeless strip of gravel for seven larger rigs in the middle of the park that strikes one as slightly out of place.) A gorgeous ponderosa forest surrounds the park for at least ten acres, giving this campground both a rustic feel and the clean fresh air of a mountain forest. Accommodating both pull-throughs and back-ins, Ponderosa Forest offers full amenities while giving the impression of being lost in the woods. While the tent sites could stand a little more room, the overall experience is superior to any of the campgrounds in Williams or Flagstaff. Owner Jane is extremely friendly and full of stories. Whether your destination is the Grand Canyon or Flagstaff, this campground makes a wonderful jumping-off point, and should not be missed!

BASICS

Operated By: Jane & Gurn Stinson; Kevin Stinson, mgr. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Upon registration. **Registration:** At office; late arrivals go to manager's office at back of park. **Fee:** RV \$19, tent \$13. **Parking:** At sites; will help park vehicles of any size.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 29. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 16. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire ring, trash can, most have several trees. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. Firewood for sale. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Packed dirt & gravel, mostly good condition. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Parks 0.5 mi. **Restaurant:** Parks 0.5 mi. **General Store:** Yes, nearby. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Gift shop; post office, fax, copies, hair salon, massage parlor in front of RV park. **Activities:** Hiking, fishing, hunting, 4th of July & Labor Day barbecue & potluck. **Nearby Attractions:** Kendrick Peak, historic Rte. 66, Lava River Cave, local hikes. **Additional Information:** Williams-Grand Canyon Chamber of Commerce, (928) 635-4061.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only; some dog-breed restrictions; do not leave unattended; no barking. **Fires:** Fire ring only; firewood for sale. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From Hwy. 40, take Exit 178, turn north, then take immediate left and follow the road behind the shops.

PATAGONIA **MAP, D-3**
Patagonia Lake State Park

400 Patagonia Lake Rd., Patagonia 85624.
T: (520) 287-6965; www.pr.state.az.us.

★★★★★	★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Situated between Patagonia and Nogales on the Mexican border, Patagonia Lake is reached from AZ 82 via a curving paved road through housing developments and a hillside forest of mesquite and ocotillo. The campground is nestled in low rolling foothills amongst shady mesquite trees, yucca, and cacti. The best campsites for views of the 265-acre manmade lake are 1-37, and are also nearest the swimming beach. Boaters may wish to opt for the other loops, nearer the launch ramps. There are a dozen tent-only areas scattered around the lake, but they are only accessible by boat. Besides being stocked with trout every three weeks between November and late February, the lake offers fishing for crappie, bluegill, bass, and catfish, and bird-watching tours. Almost every Friday the campground fills early for the weekend, and peak season park closures are common.

BASICS

Operated By: Arizona State Parks. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** Self-pay fee station. **Fee:** \$7 day use, \$15 basic, \$22 full hookups (per vehicle). **Parking:** At site (except for tent areas only accessible by boat).

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 106. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 12. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30 amps), water. **Each Site:** Table, grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** Yes. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, good. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Patagonia, 12 mi. **Restaurant:** Patagonia, 12 mi. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Lake. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Marina, boat rentals, disabled-access fishing dock, picnic area. **Activities:** Boating, fishing, bird-watching. **Nearby Attractions:** Tubac Presidio, Tumacacori National Monument, Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve. **Additional Information:** Mariposa Books/Patagonia Visitors Center, (520) 394-9186; Nogales Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce, (520) 287-3685.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash under owner's control. **Fires:** Grill provided; no wood gathering. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 30 ft.

TO GET THERE

From AZ 82, go 4 mi. north on park access road.

PAYSON **MAP, C-2**
Ox Bow Estates RV Park

HC 6 Box 1050 D, Payson 85541.
T: (800) 520-5239; oxbowrvpark@yahoo.com.

★★★★★	★★
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★

With its log cabin-style office and wooded lots and stream, this campground has a very woodsy atmosphere. And well it should, since it abuts Tonto National Forest on one side. (From an aerial photo in the office, you can see just how lost in the woods this campground really is.) The rest of the surrounding area is quiet residential property. Sites are laid out in a grid, with one section divided from the rest by a small creek. Most sites are shaded, including the tent sites, and average a spacious 40 × 50 feet. The campground is peaceful, laid-back, and quiet. Besides Tonto National Forest, where you can get lost within five minutes of leaving the park, the other local attractions are a quick drive away, making this campground a relaxing yet convenient stop. Proprietors Fred and Mimi are friendly, helpful, and full of information about the region.

BASICS

Operated By: Fred & Mimi Hendrix. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Upon registration. **Registration:** At office; if no one is available, use courtesy phone & call number listed; late arrivals: pick a spot & use drop slot in door. **Fee:** RV \$21-\$23, tent \$19. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 50. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer, TV. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire pit, charcoal grill, tree. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Gravel, in very good condition. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 2 mi. to casino. **Restaurant:** 2 mi. to casino. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Creek. Normally dry during monsoon season only. **Activities:** Hiking, biking, fishing, summer potlucks. **Nearby Attractions:** Tonto National Forest, Tonto National Bridge Park, Tonto Cliff Dwellings Mogollon Rim. **Additional Information:** Payson Chamber of Commerce, (928) 474-4515.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** In pit or grill. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Not in buildings. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 45 ft.

TO GET THERE

From the intersection of Hwy. 260 and Hwy. 87 in Payson, go south on Hwy. 87 (towards Rye) for 4.2 mi., then turn right at the sign for the campground (there is no street sign). Drive 0.8 mi. through a residential area and turn into the entrance on the right.

PEORIA MAP, C-2
Lake Pleasant Regional Park

41835 North Castle Hot Springs Rd., Peoria
85382.T: (928) 501-1710;
www.maricopa.gov/recsev.

★★★★★	★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★★

One of six excellent Phoenix area county parks, Lake Pleasant Regional Park contains both the Desert Tortoise and Roadrunner Campgrounds. Roadrunner's hillside sites 7-24 fill up first because of their excellent views. Desert Tortoise's tent-only and improved pull-through sites along Den and Bajada Loop Roads have coveted lake views that are also snapped up fast. On long holiday weekends it seems like all Phoenix is headed here with boats. Since there are no reservations, an early Thursday arrival is advised to ensure snagging a holiday weekend campsite. Most sites easily accommodate vehicles in the mid-30- to mid-45-foot range, though the sites tend to be narrow (e.g. the 80-foot-long site is only 13 feet wide). The native desert hillside saguaro, ocotillo, and brittlebush landscape blooms with yellow, purple, and blue wildflowers after April showers. Park animals include bald eagles, wild burros, javelina, and desert tortoises.

BASICS
Operated By: Maricopa County Parks & Recreation Dept. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** Entrance kiosk (or camp host). **Fee:** \$10-\$18 (cash, check). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES
Number of RV Sites: 66. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 10. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30, 50 amps), water. **Each Site:** Sheltered table, grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, good. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Peoria, 8 mi. **Restaurant:** Peoria, 8 mi. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Lake. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Boat ramp, dam visitor center. **Activities:** Boating, fishing, shooting range, golf. **Nearby Attractions:** Factory shops, museums, Cave Creek, Carefree. **Additional Information:** Carefree-Cave Creek Chamber of Commerce, (480) 488-3381.

RESTRICTIONS
Pets: On leash only under owner's control. **Fires:** Grill only; no ground fires. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 80 ft.

TO GET THERE
From I-17 north of Phoenix take Exit 223, go west on AZ 74 (Carefree Hwy.).

PHOENIX MAP, C-2
Covered Wagon RV Park

6540 North Black Canyon Hwy. 53, Phoenix
85017.T: (602) 242-2500.

★★★★	★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★

This campground is slightly less pretty than Welcome Home, due to a cement retaining wall that runs along the edge of the property from sites 34-44. In addition, while the park seems equally well insulated from highway traffic sounds, noise from a ballpark located across the street invades the entire park when games are on. Still, this is not a bad place to park your RV while you explore the humongous city of Phoenix—and it is certainly much more convenient than the several campgrounds located 30 miles out of town. There are some wonderful flowering trees, giving the grounds a city park-like feel: you know you're in the city, but removed a bit from the action. Definitely not for the tenter looking for a wilderness experience. The Covered Wagon makes a reasonable base of operations for exploring Phoenix, but one more exit on I-17 will bring you to a slightly quieter park.

BASICS
Operated By: Ted & Lee Heiser. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Upon registration. **Registration:** Ring bell at office. **Fee:** RV \$21-\$32, depending on size, tent \$18. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES
Number of RV Sites: 42. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30, 50 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Mature shade trees. (most sites). **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** No. **Restaurant:** 4 blocks. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Yes. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Dataport in office. **Activities:** Swimming, shopping, hiking, sightseeing. **Nearby Attractions:** Mesa Southwest Museum, Champlin Fighter Museum, Superstition Springs Center, Casa Grande Ruins, Roosevelt Dam, Tonto National Monument. **Additional Information:** Phoenix Visitors Center, (602) 254-6500.

RESTRICTIONS
Pets: On leash only, clean up after. **Fires:** Only charcoal in grills. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites only. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE
From the junction of I-17 and Glendale Rd. (Exit 205), merge into the far right-hand lane. Take the frontage road 0.5 mi., turn right, then take the 2nd right (not the immediate right) into the entrance, follow the driveway to the end and turn right. The office is the white building on the left.

PHOENIX MAP, C-2
Welcome Home RV Park

2501 Missouri Ave., Phoenix 85017.
T: (602) 249-9852 or (602) 249-9854.

★★★★	n/a
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Picacho ARIZONA 145

Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★

Certainly one of the closest campgrounds to downtown Phoenix, this park is being converted to accept only RVs. (It currently does not accept tents, but has a few remaining mobile homes.) The grounds are laid out on a loop, with well-shaded, comfortable lots on either side. Lots are 30 feet wide, making them spacious enough for evening outdoor activities. Although situated right next to the highway, there is very little traffic noise spillover. Located on a quiet residential street, the park presents a great little urban getaway without an overly urban feel. Downtown Phoenix is a 20-minute drive away, while the quick access to I-17 provides a convenient way to depart for farther destinations.

BASICS
Operated By: Ed Little. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Upon registration. No reservations. **Registration:** At office; if closed, go to house next door. **Fee:** \$21-\$24; cash preferred, no credit cards. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES
Number of RV Sites: 52. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Trees, grass, some flowering bushes. **Dump Station:** No (sewer available at all sites). **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** 1 block away. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** No shower. **Fuel:** 1 block away. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 1 mi. **Restaurant:** 2 mi. **General Store:** 1 block away. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Yes. **Playground:** No. **Other:** No. **Activities:** Shuffleboard, clubhouse, Christmas dinner. **Nearby Attractions:** Mesa Southwest Museum, Champlin Fighter Museum, Superstition Springs Center, Casa Grande Ruins, Roosevelt Dam, Tonto National Monument. **Additional Information:** Phoenix Visitors Center, (602) 254-6500.

RESTRICTIONS
Pets: On leash only, clean up after. **Fires:** Allowed (only charcoal in grills). **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites only. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE
From the junction of I-17 and Bethany Rd. (Exit 204), merge into the far right-hand lane heading south. Follow the frontage road 0.5 mi. to the entrance on the right.

PICACHO MAP, C-2
Picacho Campground

I-10, Picacho Exit, Picacho 85241.
T: (520) 466-7401 or (888) 562-7453;
www.picachocampground.com.

★★★★★	★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Just off I-10, 75 miles south of Phoenix and 42 miles north of Tucson, Picacho Campground is

146 ARIZONA Picacho

popular with horse owners because it provides corals (\$10). Children are also welcome here, though parents must keep them in sight and under control at all times, particularly around the pool. Visitors here are mostly snowbirds and overnights. Many put out their TV antennas to pull in Phoenix and Tucson stations, which means two NBC and two CBS channels, one each from PBS and ABC and two independents. An attractive oleander perimeter mutes much of the highway truck noise, though not all of it. Cacti, eucalyptus, and an abundance of other trees shade these extra long and extra wide sites, which easily accommodate sliders. The store and office stay open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., adding convenience at this well-run family operation.

BASICS

Operated By: Jerry & Frankie Cross. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; winter reservations advised. **Registration:** At office. **Fee:** \$17 tent, Winter rates \$22–\$24 RV, corals \$5 per horse. Rates are seasonal, \$15 during summer. (V, MC, D). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 70. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 8. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Table. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** Yes. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Gravel, good. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Eloy, 4 mi. **Restaurant:** 4 mi. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Pool. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Hot tub, shuffleboard, dog walk, cabin, corals. **Activities:** Hiking, outlet malls, golf nearby. **Nearby Attractions:** Picacho Peak State Park, Casa Grande Ruins, Sasco ghost town, Desert Museum. **Additional Information:** Eloy Chamber of Commerce (520) 466-3411.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only under owner's control (horses welcome). **Fires:** Fire pits in tent picnic areas only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From I-10 Picacho Exit (211A from Phoenix; 212 from Tucson), go 0.5–1 mi. on Frontage Rd.

PICACHO MAP, C-2
Picacho Peak RV Resort

17065 East Peak Ln., Picacho 85245.
T: (520) 466-7841.

★★★★	▲ n/a
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Often confused with Picacho Campground seven miles to the north, Picacho Peak RV Resort exudes a very different atmosphere. Though the sites are attractively landscaped with medium-sized ocotillo, cacti, and trees, Picacho Peak RV Resort feels like an upscale RV parking annex for the mobile home park sharing the rear of the property. The benefit of

mixing mobile homes and RVs is sharing the clean, well-maintained mobile home amenities. The RVs are closer to the interstate than the mobile homes, and the sandstone-colored perimeter wall and trees do not keep out all the truck noises and nightly train sounds. Also, there is not a convenience store here with the long hours found at Picacho Campground. However, the Resort is affiliated with Adventure Outdoor Resorts, Coast to Coast Network, and Resort Parks International, and members of those groups are promised good deals.

BASICS

Operated By: Picacho Peak Resort. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; winter reservations advised. **Registration:** At office (hosts will come by site to collect money after hours). **Fee:** \$23 (V, MC). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 159. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer, phone (modem). **Each Site:** Table. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** Across street. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Paved, excellent. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Picacho Peak, 1 mi. **Restaurant:** Picacho Peak, 1 mi. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Pool. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Rec room, whirlpool, shuffleboard & volleyball courts, horse-shoes, planned activities. **Activities:** Golf. No horseback. **Nearby Attractions:** Picacho Peak SP, Casa Grande Ruins. **Additional Information:** Picacho SP, (520) 466-3183.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only under owner's control. **Fires:** Not allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From I-10, get off at Exit 219 and go south 0.5 mi. on frontage road.

PICACHO MAP, C-2
Picacho Peak State Park

Picacho Peak Rd, Picacho 85241.
T: (520) 466-3183;
www.azstateparks.com/parks/parkhtml/picacho.html.

★★★★	★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

Picacho Peak, an ancient Hohokam Indian site, is a colorful mixture of 22-million-year-old lava flows and sedimentary rock strata rich in saguaro, cacti, grasses, and cottontail rabbits. Though it doesn't have the swimming pools and amenities of the nearby private campgrounds, Picacho Peak State Park is the best place to experience the raw nature of this historic area. The three loops are far enough back from the interstate that noise is not a problem. The 14-site hookup loop closest to the peak and park entrance is literally just a paved parking lot, albeit with a spectacular view and natural sur-

roundings. Indeed, those who end up here as Catalina State Park overflow casualties are pleasantly surprised by the historic peak that served as a landmark for Father Kino, the Butterfield Overland Stage, and the forty-niners headed to the California gold fields.

BASICS

Operated By: Arizona State Parks. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; group area requires reservations. **Registration:** Contact station or self-pay station. **Fee:** \$12–\$22 (cash, check, V, MC). Debit cards not accepted. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Tent-only Sites: Undesignated sites. **Number of Multipurpose Sites:** 85. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30, 50 amps), water. **Each Site:** Table, grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, good. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Picacho Peak, 1 mi. **Restaurant:** Picacho Peak, 1 mi. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Small visitor center w/ gift shop, some sheltered tables. **Activities:** Horseback riding, hiking, bird & wildlife watching. No golf. **Nearby Attractions:** Casa Grande Ruins, Catalina State Park, Saguaro National Park West. **Additional Information:** Picacho SP (520) 466-3183 (602) 542-4174.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only under owner's control. **Fires:** Allowed (except summer, when fire danger). **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From I-10, take Exit 219, Picacho Peak Rd.

PINETOP-LAKESIDE MAP, C3
Hawley Lake Resort

P.O. Box 448, Pinetop-Lakeside 85930.
T: (928) 335-7511.

★★★★	▲ n/a
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Created in the 1950s by impounding Trout Creek, 300-acre Hawley Lake offers rustic waterfront camping on the lands of the White Mountain Apache. Tall ponderosa pine trees, boulder-strewn meadows, small waterfalls, roadside fishing (requires daily White Mountain Apache permit), and good lake views from many hillside campsites are among the attractions. Rainbow trout thrive in the lake, though Apache, brown, cutthroat, and brook trout are also caught summer and winter (ice fishing). Many prefer fall fishing when the browns come up in the shallows. Wild turkey, deer, elk, and black bear make for good wildlife viewing and attract hunters. Be prepared for cold weather here, as at 8,200-foot elevation, summer temperatures can drop below freezing at night. The last two miles into

the lake are on a gravel road, and big vehicles should call ahead to make sure they can be accommodated.

BASICS

Operated By: White Mountain Apache Tribe.
Open: All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; reservations up to 1 year in advance. **Registration:** At office in store. **Fee:** \$8 regular site, \$25 hookups (V, MC, debit cards). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 100. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Table, grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** Yes. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Gravel, good (chains or 4WD required in winter). **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Pinetop-Lakeside, 24 mi. **Restaurant:** Yes. **General Store:** Yes (summer only). **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Marina, boat rentals, lodge, cabins, summer home rentals. **Activities:** Boating, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, biking, backpacking, archery. **Nearby Attractions:** Lakes, forest, casino. **Additional Information:** White Mountain Apache Tribe Office of Tourism, (520) 338-1230, www.wmat.nsn.us.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only under owner's control. **Fires:** Allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed (drunk driving laws strictly enforced). **Vehicle Maximum Length:** No stated limit (but check w/ tribe before bringing in big vehicles).

TO GET THERE

From Pinetop-Lakeside, go 16 mi. southeast on AZ 260 and 8 mi. south on AZ 473.

PINETOP-LAKESIDE MAP, C3 Hon-Dah RV Park

777 AZ 260, Pinetop-Lakeside 85935.
T: (928) 369-7400.

 ★★★★★	 n/a
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

A popular destination requiring advance reservations, Hon-Dah RV Park is across the street from Hon-Dah Casino's 500 slot machines and offers ample amenities to those visiting the area for boating, fishing, or winter skiing at nearby (20 miles) Sunrise Park Resort. The RV Park is in a wetlands area bisected by Corduroy Creek. There are 140 RV campsites south of the creek, and 58 reached by crossing a bridge and going uphill to the north side of the creek. Though the RV Park is near enough to the highway to hear the hum of passing traffic, tall pines and gravel roads make the campground feel rustic, almost like camping in the wilderness. For those who want their forests and lake country with gambling and nighttime entertainment, this is a friendly place to put down after a day of fishing or boating.

BASICS

Operated By: White Mountain Apache Tribe.

Open: All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; reservations necessary. **Registration:** At office. **Fee:** \$22 (V, MC). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 200. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30, 50 amps), water, sewer, satellite TV, phone. **Each Site:** Table, grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** Yes. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Gravel, well maintained. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Pinetop-Lakeside, 5 mi. **Restaurant:** Casino, across street. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Rec hall, casino, conference center, handicapped accessible facilities. **Activities:** Shuffleboard, horseshoes, gambling, fishing, hunting, boating, winter sports. **Nearby Attractions:** Lakes, forests. **Additional Information:** White Mountain Apache Tribe Office of Tourism, (520) 338-1230, www.wmat.nsn.us; Sunrise Park Resort, (520) 735-7600, www.sunriseskipark.com.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only (requires prior approval; loud barking not tolerated). **Fires:** Allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From Pinetop-Lakeside go 5 mi. east on AZ 260 to junction w/ AZ 73.

QUARTZSITE MAP, C-1 La Posa LTVA

2555 Gila Ridge Rd., Quartzsite 85365.
T: (928) 317-3200; www.az.blm.gov.

 ★★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★

Every winter Quartzsite's few thousand permanent residents are joined by 200,000 in RVs, and during the giant Gemboree (gem show/flea market) the population surges into the millions before its annual contraction back to almost nothing during the scorching summer months. Hundreds of unofficial RV parks spring up to join the official ones. Literally any patch of desert along the roadsides becomes RV habitat, though there is more security in Long-Term Visitor Areas (LTVA) like La Posa, operated by the U.S. Dept. of Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Besides La Posa, BLM operates five smaller no-fee, 14-day limit camping areas (Plomosa Rd., Hi Jolly/MM112, Dome Rock Mountain, Scaddan Wash, Road Runner/MM99) around Quartzsite. Though La Posa lacks RV park amenities, it has the beauty of literally camping out in the desert wherever you choose, provided it is not too near another campsite (to reduce the danger of a fire spreading).

BASICS

Operated By: Bureau of Land Management.

Open: All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** Brown brick entrance con-

Roosevelt ARIZONA 147

tact stations. **Fee:** Winter rates: 2 weeks or less \$30, long-term visitors \$140 (Sep. 15-Apr. 15); \$5 a day during the summer. Season passes available for \$50 (cash, check). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 2,000. **Hookups:** None; well water. **Each Site:** At least 15 ft. distance from neighbors. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** No showers. **Fuel:** No. Provided by contractors. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Gravel, adequate. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Quartzsite, 1 mi. **Restaurant:** Quartzsite, 1 mi. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Well water. **Activities:** Winter ranger presentations, gem show. **Nearby Attractions:** Colorado River, Gravel Pit, Q - Mountain. **Additional Information:** Quartzsite Chamber of Commerce, (520) 927-5600, www.quartzsitechamber.com.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only under owner's control. **Fires:** Allowed (subject to posted rules). **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From junction of I-10 and AZ 95 in Quartzsite, go south 1 mi. on AZ 95.

ROOSEVELT MAP, C-2, C-3 Cholla Recreation Site

Tonto Basin Ranger District, HC02 Box 4800, Roosevelt 85545. T: (928) 467-3200; www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto.

 ★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★

The largest completely solar-powered campground in the United States, Cholla Campground and Boating Site is located on the shores of central Arizona's largest lake, Theodore Roosevelt Lake. Blue shelters make the campground look like a blue-roofed village with solar panels amidst the tall saguaro, mesquite, and palo verde providing the campsites a privacy barrier. The 13 tent-only sites farthest from the boat ramp on the steep slopes at the end of Christmas Cholla Loop and the five tent-only sites at Cane Cholla Loop on the slopes closer to the campground entrance have the best waterfront views. The gravel and sand campsites are flat, and many double sites are available for those with multiple vehicles and big boats. For those wanting a more primitive experience, head to Indian Point on the northeast side of the lake or check out the sometimes crowded beach camping nearby at Bachelor Cove or Cholla Cove.

BASICS

Operated By: U.S. Forest Service. **Open:** All year.

Site Assignment: First come, first served. **Registration:** Kiosk or self-pay station. **Fee:** \$10-\$15 (highest for double sites; half price for Golden Age

148 ARIZONA Roosevelt

pass holders;V,MC). **Parking:** At site; separate walk-in tent site parking near rest rooms.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 188. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 18. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Sheltered table, grill, fire pit (most sites). **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, good. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Globe, 36 mi. **Restaurant:** Roosevelt, 5 mi. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Lake. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Boat ramp, campfire circle, fish-cleaning station, picnic tables, barrier-free wheelchair accessibility. **Activities:** Boating, fishing, waterskiing. **Nearby Attractions:** Tonto National Monument, Roosevelt Dam, Globe, Payson.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only under owner's control. **Fires:** Not allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From Globe take AZ 88/188 west for 36 mi.

ROOSEVELT MAP, C-2, C-3
Windy Hill Recreation Site

HC 02 Box 4800, Roosevelt 85545.
T: (928) 467-3200; www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto.

★★★	★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★

Often packed with local boaters on summer weekends, Windy Hill feels isolated because it is two miles from the main highway and the campsites are widely dispersed among ten loops. Each loop has its own trailheads and is named after a different animal that might be seen in the area, such as javelina, desert bighorn, gray fox, and coati. However, watch out for the rattlesnake (which does not have a loop named after it) here and in most other Arizona campgrounds. Double sites are big enough for a small beach party, packing in up to four cars, two boats, and 20 people. The level ground is good for tenting, and abundant desert plants like palo verde, ocotillo, and mesquite between the campsites add to the feeling of isolation and privacy.

BASICS

Operated By: U.S. Forest Service. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; group reservations. **Registration:** Self-pay fee machines. **Fee:** \$10–\$15 (V,MC; no checks). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 320. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 27. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Sheltered table, grill (most sites). **Dump Station:** Yes (5 mi. east). **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Gravel, good. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Globe, 27 mi. **Restaurant:** Roosevelt, 6 mi. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Lake. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Amphithe-

ater, fish-cleaning station, high- & low-water boat ramps, day-use picnic sites, wheelchair accessible sites. **Activities:** Boating, fishing. **Nearby Attractions:** Tonto National Monument, Roosevelt Dam, Globe. **Additional Information:** Salt River Project (for water level information), (602) 236-3929, www.srpnet., com; Roosevelt Lake Marina, (520) 467-2245.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Allowed (fires prohibited when high winds). **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From Globe take AZ 88/188 west for 25 mi., then go east for 2 mi. on Frontage Rd. 82 at Windy Hill Recreation Site entrance sign.

SEDONA MAP, B-2
Manzanita

2323 East Greenlaw Ln., Sedona 86004.
T: (928) 527-3600 or (928) 282-4119;
www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconano.

★★	★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★	Facilities: ★

Charming, gorgeous, breathtaking, revitalizing—pick any superlative, they all fit. But so does “filled quickly.” This campsite is a favorite in the well-traveled Oak Creek Canyon—and for good reason. Striking red rock bursts out of the forested hills above the creek, while rocky crags jut overhead. The entire canyon is beautiful and, as one local resident put it, “plum fulla history.” The campsites mostly string out along the creek, and these sites (along with 10 and 19 on the ends) are the most highly prized. The sites to avoid are 6 and 7 situated by the outhouse and up against the road. Admittedly, this campsite is not for everyone, and the lack of services or the hairpin turn in the road that prohibits larger rigs may put off more than one. (Those who do want full hookups or don't want to negotiate that curve could press on down AZ 89A to the lovely Rio Verde in Cottonwood.) However, campers looking for a great base for outdoor activities or a really romantic nook should definitely try their luck at scoring one of these spots.

BASICS

Operated By: Coconano National Forest Service. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** Pick a site, register w/ camp host. **Fee:** \$16. **Parking:** At sites.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 19. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, concrete fire pit. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Pit toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** No. **Restaurant:** No. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Creek. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Well water, mur-

mur of Oak Creek. **Activities:** Hiking, fishing, swimming, mountain biking. **Nearby Attractions:** Oak Creek Canyon.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** In pit or grill only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites only. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** Larger than 24 ft. is not feasible, due to a hairpin bend in the road.

TO GET THERE

Five mi. north of “Midgely Bridgely” at the northernmost edge of town on AZ 89A.

SHOW LOW MAP, C-3
Fool Hollow Lake Recreation Area

1500 North Fool Hollow Lake Rd., Show Low 85901. T: (928) 537-3680; www.pr.state.az.us.

★★★★★	★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★★

Established in 1991 as a partnership between the city of Show Low, the U.S. Forest Service, Arizona State Parks, and Arizona Game and Fish, Fool Hollow provides RV campers with large cement pads and hookups in four separate loops (Red Head, Mallard, Ruddy Duck, and Cinnamon Teal). Tent campers have good lake views from their three separate loops (Northern Harrier, Osprey, Bald Eagle). Pines, tall junipers, volcanic boulders, and jack rabbits contribute to the rustic feel. Show Low Creek feeds Fool Hollow Lake, which is stocked with rainbow trout by Arizona Game and Fish. There is also a good chance of catching brown trout, large and small mouth bass, black crappie, and green sunfish. Away from the water are 103 miles of hiking trails within 15 miles, and golf links in the rapidly suburbanizing surrounding area.

BASICS

Operated By: Arizona State Parks. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** Self-pay station. 8 a.m.–5 p.m. **Fee:** \$14 tent, \$20 RV. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 92. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 31. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water. **Each Site:** Table, grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** Show Low, 4 mi. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, excellent. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Show Low, 4 mi. **Restaurant:** Show Low, 4 mi. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Boat ramps, fish-cleaning station, fishing docks, covered picnic tables w/ grills, wildlife island. **Activities:** Boating, fishing, golf. **Nearby Attractions:** Lakes, forests, Mogollon Rim, Petrified Forest, Show Low. **Additional Information:** Show Low Chamber of Commerce, (928) 527-3680.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only (not allowed on beaches or in



buildings). **Fires:** Grill only; firewood sold. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From junction of US 60 and AZ 260, go 2 mi. west on AZ 260 and 1.5 mi. east on Old Linden Rd. to Fool Hollow Rd.

SHOW LOW MAP, C-3
Show Low Lake County Park

Navajo County Parks and Recreation Dept., Show Low 86025. T: (928) 537-4126; www.parksrec@navajo.az.us.

 ★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Show Low Lake was formed when the Phelps Dodge Corporation built Show Low Dam as part of a water exchange agreement with the Salt River Project to supply water to its mining and metallurgical operations elsewhere in the state. Indeed, the park land is leased from Phelps Dodge. Navajo County recently issued a private vendor a special permit to run the park and take campsite reservations. At 7,000-foot elevation in the White Mountains, the area makes a relatively cool summer retreat for Phoenix and the hot desert valleys. Show Low Lake is also a popular fishing spot for trout, walleyes, bluegills, largemouth bass, and catfish. The large, crushed, brown volcanic gravel campsites are shaded by very tall pine trees. For electric hookups request 25, 26, 28, 31, 32, 33, or 35. When the need for manmade necessities strikes, the local Wal-Mart is only a mile away.

BASICS

Operated By: Recreation Resource Management of America. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; reservations available. **Registration:** Store (adjacent host trailer when store is closed). **Fee:** \$12–\$18. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 73. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps). **Each Site:** Table, fire pit. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** Wal-Mart, 1 mi. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Gravel, good. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Show Low, 1 mi. **Restaurant:** Show Low, 1 mi. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Lake. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Boat ramp, boat rental, visitor center. **Activities:** Boating, fishing. **Nearby Attractions:** Lakes, forests, Mogollon Rim, Petrified Forest. **Additional Information:** Show Low Chamber of Commerce, (520) 537-2326.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Allowed (firewood sold). **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From Show Low go 6 mi. south on AZ 260.

ST. JOHNS MAP, B-3
Lyman Lake State Park

P.O. Box 1428, St. Johns 85936. T: (520) 337-4441; www.pr.state.az.us.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

A favorite of local windsurfers and waterskiers because of the lake's smooth surface, boaters like 6,000-foot-elevation Lyman Lake because it doesn't have boat size and motor horsepower restrictions (though there is a no-wake area near the fishing dock). There is a self-guided petroglyph trail on Peninsula Point, as well as a ranger-guided weekend boat trip to another petroglyph trail on the opposite side of the lake. Rangers also lead a summer tour to fourteenth-century Rattlesnake Pueblo for those curious about the ancient Mogollon and Pueblo cultures formerly inhabiting this high plains area. RV campers have 38 electrical and water hookup sites attractively separated by grass and aspen and juniper trees. Tent campers can opt out of the designated sites altogether for more of a wilderness experience and camp along the shoreline beaches of this 1,500-acre reservoir.

BASICS

Operated By: Arizona State Parks. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; group reservations. **Registration:** At office. **Fee:** \$12–\$19 (cash, check). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 61. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** Undesignated sites. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water. **Each Site:** Table, fire pit. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, good. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** St. Johns, 10 mi. **Restaurant:** No. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Lake. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Boat ramp, fish-cleaning station, sheltered picnic tables, tournament-grade water ski slalom course, petroglyph trails, yurts available for rent. **Activities:** Fishing, boating, water sports, volleyball, horseshoes. **Nearby Attractions:** Sunrise Ski Area, White Mountains, Petrified Forest, Navajo Reservation, Indian Ruins. **Additional Information:** St. Johns Regional Chamber of Commerce, (928) 337-4441.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Not permitted. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed (provided quiet hours observed). **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From St. Johns go 11 mi. south on the combined US 191/180.

TEMPLE BAR MAP, A1
Temple Bar Resort

601 Nevada Hwy., Temple Bar 89005. T: (702) 293-8906; www.nps.gov/lame.

 ★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★★

On the Arizona side of Lake Mead, across yucca-studded desert that yields to creosote bush interspersed with brown and black chunks of lava and white hills, Temple Bar is one of the most remote designated campgrounds on Lake Mead. The Temple, a huge monolithic chunk of sandstone that glows brilliant orange at sunset, was an early landmark for Mormon settlers and the site of placer mining operations in the 1800s. The campground is a tightly packed cluster of sites beautifully landscaped with palms, oleander, and eucalyptus that provide privacy. Gravel pads make for good tent camping, and lake and mountain views are common. The campground's remoteness and isolation are part of its beauty, and like the rest of Lake Mead, the activities center around the water. There are 64 boat slips.

BASICS

Operated By: National Park Service. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** Self-pay entrance fee station. **Fee:** \$10. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 166. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Table, grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** Yes. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Paved, good. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Boulder City, 60 mi. **Restaurant:** Temple Bar Resort. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Lake. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible sites, boat ramp, row boat rentals, motel, landing strip. **Activities:** Boating, fishing. **Nearby Attractions:** Lake Mead, Hoover Dam, Las Vegas. **Additional Information:** Temple Bar Resort (Seven Crowns), (800) 752-9669 or (520) 767-3211.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only under owner's control. **Fires:** Allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From Hoover Dam go 19 mi. southeast on US 93 and turn northeast on Temple Bar Rd. for 28 mi.

150 ARIZONA Tombstone

TOMBSTONE MAP, D-3
Wells Fargo RV Park

Box 1076, Tombstone 85638. T: (520) 457-3966 or (800) 269-8266; si-systems.com/wellsfargorv.

★★	★★
----	----

Beauty: ★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

Though at the edge of Tombstone's historic boardwalk, Wells Fargo RV Park becomes almost as quiet as a tomb at night, as this once brawling, saloon- and brothel-filled frontier mining town now shuts down at sundown. Some claim to hear ghosts at night, but usually the only commotion at this tree-lined campground is dogs in a howling frenzy as deer and javelina strolling through like they own the place. Wells Fargo's year-round residents are mostly a friendly group, and many work at local establishments like Big Nose Kate's Saloon. Next door is what locals call the best breakfast place in town, the O.K. Cafe, which also charbroils emu, ostrich, and buffalo burgers. It's "just a biscuit sling from the O.K. Corral," where Doc Holliday joined Wyatt and the Earp brothers for the famous shootout with the Clanton and McLaury families.

BASICS

Operated By: Joe & Buff Huntsman. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; reservations advised Dec. 26–Mem. Day. **Registration:** At office. **Fee:** Call campground for rates. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 71. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 5. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30 amps), water, sewer, cable TV. **Each Site:** Table, cement pad. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Gravel, good. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Bisbee, 19 mi. **Restaurant:** Tombstone, next door. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Activities:** 2 p.m. daily O.K. Corral shootout. **Nearby Attractions:** O.K. Corral, Tombstone Courthouse State Park, Bird Cage Theatre, Bisbee. **Additional Information:** Tombstone Chamber of Commerce, (520) 457-9317 or (888) 457-3929, www.tombstone.org.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only under owner's control. **Fires:** Not allowed, depends on season & conditions. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 30 ft.

TO GET THERE

From junction of US 80 and AZ 82, go 3 mi. south on US 80.

TORTILLA FLAT MAP, C-2
Canyon Lake Marina

18802 NE AZ 88, Tortilla Flat 85278. T: (602) 944-6504; azcanyonlake@yahoo.com.

★★	★★
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Beauty: ★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

At Canyon Lake, 17 miles north of Apache Junction, a gated kiosk and steel fence encloses Laguna Beach Campground, a lakeside stretch of parking lot and grassy campsites (ten hookups) within Canyon Lake Marina. The Marina prides itself on round-the-clock security and being "a gated community with the lake as one border and steel fencing preventing land access." Campers must adhere to strict rules, like no fishing around the boat dock or restaurant without a Marina member. Jet skis, mini-bikes, boats, and trailers are among the items banned from the campground, though they can be left in the parking lot on the other side of the steel fence or stored for a fee. Getting to this maximum security campground is a scenic ordeal via a slow twisting mountain road with one-lane bridges for added adventure. If this sounds like too much of an ordeal, there is always Roosevelt Lake.

BASICS

Operated By: Canyon Lake Marina. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; reservations recommended (no refund on cancellation of reservation made 60 days in advance or for a Fri.). **Registration:** At office. **Fee:** \$18–\$30 tent; \$18–\$30 RV (V, MC, AE, DC). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 27. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 19. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water. **Each Site:** Table, fire ring. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No (boat fuel only). **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, good. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Apache Junction, 17 mi. **Restaurant:** Marina, adjacent. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Lake. **Playground:** Under construction. **Other:** Storage, boat & slip rentals. **Activities:** Boating, fishing, steamboat ride. **Nearby Attractions:** Roosevelt Lake, Tonto National Monument, parks. **Additional Information:** Apache Junction Chamber of Commerce, (800) 252-3141 or (602) 982-3141.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed (glass containers prohibited; \$50 bottle fine). **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 40 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Apache Junction, go northeast 17 mi. on AZ 88 (Apache Trail).

TSAILE MAP, A-3
Wheatfields Lake

2520 Window Rock Navajo Nation, Tsailé 86515. T: (928) 871-6645 or (928) 871-7307.

★★	★★
----	----

Beauty: ★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★

Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★

Just east of Canyon de Chelly at 7,200-foot elevation, Wheatfields Lake is a relatively uncrowded place to catch cutthroat and rainbow trout, though a fishing permit first needs to be obtained from Navajo Fish & Wildlife (call (520) 871-6451) in Window Rock. Unlike Camp Asaayi Campground at Asaayi Lake where the terrain mitigates against RVs, smaller vehicles can squeeze into Wheatfields Lake when the weather is favorable. If the beer cans left behind by those not observing the tribal prohibition on alcohol are too much of an eyesore while shoreline fishing near the roadside, the other side of the lake can be reached by vehicle, and a boat can be launched from the base of the Chuska Mountains. The campground gets plenty of shade from tall ponderosa pines, though with port-a-potties this is a primitive spot in a rural area where careful driving is advised to avoid hitting horses grazing too close to the road.

BASICS

Operated By: Navajo Nation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** Camping permits at office. **Fee:** \$5 per person. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 25. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Table, grill. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** No showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Dirt, bumpy. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Window Rock, 43 mi. **Restaurant:** Window Rock, 43 mi. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Lake. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Fishing in lake. **Activities:** Fishing, boating. **Nearby Attractions:** Canyon de Chelly, Window Rock. **Additional Information:** Navajo Nation Tourism Dept., (520) 871-6436.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only under owner's control. **Fires:** Allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Not permitted on Navajo Reservation. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 20 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Window Rock, go 43 mi. north on Indian Hwy. 12.

TUCSON MAP, D-2
Catalina State Park

Oracle Rd., Tucson 85740. T: (520) 628-5798; www.pr.state.az.us.

★★	★★
----	----

Beauty: ★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★

Big patches of mesquite ensure privacy at Catalina State Park, where the smallest campsite length is 55 feet and half the sites have hookups. Ten years ago this Santa Catalina Mountains desert foothill cattle ranching area was considered remote. Now Tanger-

ine Rd. between I-10 and the park and the whole Oro Valley is filling up with subdivisions for retirees and aerospace engineers commuting to Tucson. Park roads run through a floodplain with flat ridges that provided the ancient Hohokams a home with water. When Sutherland Wash, the key floodplain drainage, becomes impossible to cross, access to hiking trails and Romero Ruins is blocked, though the campground is still reachable. From January through April, Tucson's peak season, morning arrivals snag all the campsites by noon. Afternoon arrivals (overflow) are typically sent to either Gilbert Ray Campground or Picacho Peak State Park. Plans call for alleviating winter-use pressures by adding 75 campsites with electric hookups.

BASICS

Operated By: Arizona State Parks. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; group reservations required. **Registration:** Self-pay station. **Fee:** \$6, day use; \$12, non-electric; \$19, electric & water (cash, check). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 48. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30, 50 amps), water. **Each Site:** Table, grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, good condition. **RV Service:** Yes. **Market:** Oro Valley, 2 mi. **Restaurant:** Oro Valley, 2 mi. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Romero Ruin Hohokam Indian archaeological site. Mountain biking, hiking. **Activities:** Horseback riding, bird-watching, mountain biking, hiking, golf. **Nearby Attractions:** Santa Catalina Mountains, Coronado National Forest, Biosphere 2, Observatory, Museums. **Additional Information:** Santa Catalina Ranger District, (520) 749-8700.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only under owner's control. **Fires:** Allowed (charcoal only; no wood fires, except 1 campfire pit in group area). **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 136 ft.

TO GET THERE

Go 9 mi. north of Tucson on AZ 77 (Oracle Rd.) to mi. marker 81.

TUCSON MAP, D-2
Crazy Horse Campground and RV Park

6660 South Craycroft Rd., Tucson 85706.
T: (520) 574-0157 or (800) 279-6279;
www.crazyhorserv.com.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Far enough back from I-10 to be quiet and near enough a truck stop to have a gas station, mini-mart, and restaurant next door, Crazy Horse is especially attractive to families with children. Thomas Jay Littleton Park, a quiet Pima

County-run park two blocks north, is popular with kids and an easy walk from Crazy Horse. Most sites are pull-through, mostly 24-foot wide and accommodating vehicles up to 45 feet in length (one site accommodates a 60-foot vehicle). The attractive oleander, mesquite and agave landscaping is concentrated around the front of the campground. For more amenities and the feel of a small luxury city, the adult-oriented Voyager RV Resort a few miles down the road is a good alternative. Cochise Terrace in Benson should also be considered if the objective is establishing a base camp near Tucson for exploring places like Tombstone and Bisbee.

BASICS

Operated By: Frank & Billie Anne Weingart. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; reservations accepted seasonally (nonrefundable fee for confirmation by mail). **Registration:** At office. **Fee:** \$19-\$21 (V, MC). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 154. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30, 50 amps), water, sewer, cable TV; phone available on request at most sites. **Each Site:** Table, most sites. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Paved, good (main road only). **RV Service:** No. **Market:** No. **Restaurant:** No. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** Soft drinks. **Swimming:** Pool. **Playground:** No, but w/in walking distance. **Other:** Dog walk, rec hall. **Activities:** Golf, horseback riding. **Nearby Attractions:** Pima Air & Space Museum, Saguaro National Park East, Colossal Cave, Kartchner Caverns, Museums, Tucson. **Additional Information:** Tucson CVB, (800) 638-8350, www.visittucson.org.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only under owner's control. **Fires:** Only in grills. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Not permitted. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 60 ft.



TO GET THERE

Take Exit 268 from I-10 and go north on South Craycroft Rd.

TUCSON MAP, D-2
Gilbert Ray Campground

1204 West Silverlake Rd., Tucson 85713.

T: (520) 740-5830 or (520) 883-4200.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★

A favorite of many for its low cost and location west of Tucson near Saguaro National Park West and the Desert Museum, Gilbert Ray's river gravel sites are a particularly convenient stopping place when driving from Ajo or Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument through the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation en route to Tucson on AZ 86 (Ajo

Hwy.). This large, looping Pima County campground in Tucson Mountain Park is as close as camping gets to Saguaro National Park West without backpacking. Though there are hookups, the campground has few other amenities besides newspaper machines and a large recycling area. Campers here are mostly self-sufficient types whose idea of amenities is an undeveloped landscape with saguaro-studded mountains. Kinney, Gates Pass, and McCain Loop Rds. have roller coaster-like ups and downs near Gilbert Ray, and numerous roadside pullouts double as trailheads for traversing saguaro-rich Tucson Mountain Park.

BASICS

Operated By: Pima County Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** Self-pay station. **Fee:** \$7 tent; \$12 RV (cash, check). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 130. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 5. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Table, grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** No showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, excellent. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Tucson Estates, 5 mi. **Restaurant:** Tucson Estates, 5 mi. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Sheltered tables, recycling station. **Activities:** Rifle range, archery, horseback riding, biking. **Nearby Attractions:** Old Tucson Studios, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Saguaro National Park West. **Additional Information:** Friends of Saguaro National Park, (520) 622-1080, www.friendsofsaguaro.org.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only under owner's control. **Fires:** Charcoal only in grills only; no wood fires. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 30 ft.

TO GET THERE

From intersection of W. Gates Pass & Kinney Rds., go northwest to McCain Loop Rd.

TUCSON MAP, D-2
Voyager RV Resort

8701 South Kolb Rd., Tucson 85706.
T: (520) 574-5000 or (800) 424-9191;
www.voyagerrv.com.

 ★★★★★	 n/a
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Tucson's largest RV resort opened in 1984 with 37,000 square feet of enclosed recreational space, including special crafts rooms for stained glass, lapidary, ceramics, and silver. With its own bank branch, restaurant, travel desk, store, and other facilities, Voyager has the feel of a small self-contained city. Streets are numbered 1-18, and then skip by tens from 20-50 for the pull-through

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area surrounding the recreational facilities. Though daily RV rentals are welcome, the orientation is adult, like many southern Arizona RV parks catering to snowbird retirees. Except during summer, when kids are welcome, families with children will do better at the more child- and family-oriented Crazy Horse Campground. Since the fees are higher here, commensurate with the myriad of recreation options, Voyager is best thought of as a destination resort. But Voyager also works well as a luxury tourism base for exploring Tucson and southeastern Arizona.

BASICS

Operated By: Ike & Blanche Issacson. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** Self-pay entrance fee station. **Fee:** \$28–\$40, depending on time of year (V, MC, D). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 1,576. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30, 50 amps), water, sewer, cable TV, phone. **Each Site:** Paved, table. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** Yes. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Paved, excellent. **RV Service:** Yes. **Market:** Yes. **Restaurant:** Yes. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Pool. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Bocce, tennis, basketball & volleyball courts, mini-golf & 9-hole courses, exercise, poker, computer, crafts rooms, ballroom, library, beautiful, whirlpool, pet walk, pet grooming. **Activities:** Golf, shuffleboard, billiards. **Nearby Attractions:** Pima Air & Space Museum, Saguaro National Park East, Colossal Cave, Kartchner Caverns, museums. **Additional Information:** Tucson CVB, (800) 638-8350, www.visittucson.org.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: Not permitted. **Fires:** Allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites only. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From I-10 Exit 270 go 0.5 mi. south on Kolb Rd.

TUMACACORI MAP, D-2 De Anza Trails RV Resort

HC 65 Box 381, Tumacacori 85640.
T: (520) 398-8628 or (866) 332-6022;
www.deanzatrailsvresort.com.

★★★	n/a
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

A collection of mundane RV parking spaces packaged with an impressive array of amenities, including an indoor pool and weight room, De Anza Trails offers 50 amp electric power, unlike Mountain View next door. However, De Anza falls short in parking convenience, as its spaces are all back-ins and require a security guard to supervise placement, in contrast to Mountain View's pull-through sites. Higher prices than the RV park next door have not helped, and on a recent summer day

(admittedly the slow season this far south), De Anza had one customer while the funkier Mountain View was packed with RVs. Tents are prohibited, as are noisy trucks, cars, and motorcycles. Noise from trucks traversing the adjacent highway linking Tucson and Mexico might bother some people, but inside the clubhouse, library, and other facilities it should not be a problem.

BASICS

Operated By: De Anza Trails. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; reservations accepted (payment in full; 30-days notice for 90% refund, otherwise "No refunds!! No exceptions!!"). **Registration:** Self-pay entrance fee station. **Fee:** \$25 (V, MC). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 82. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30, 50 amps), water, sewer, cable TV, phone. **Each Site:** Pole lights. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, excellent. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Green Valley, 15 mi. **Restaurant:** Tumacacori, seasonal coffeeshop on premises. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Indoor pool. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Pet walk, jacuzzi, rec center, library, exercise/weight room, modem access. **Activities:** Cards, billiards, golf, boating, fishing. **Nearby Attractions:** Missions, Tubac Presidio, Madera Canyon, Buenos Aires Wildlife Refuge, museums, copper mine tour. **Additional Information:** Green Valley Chamber of Commerce, (520) 625-7575, (800) 858-5872, sraney@concentric.net.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only under owner's control. **Fires:** Allowed (limited). **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 50 ft.

TO GET THERE

From I-19 south of Green Valley, take Exit 48 (Arivaca Junction) and go south 2 mi. on frontage road.

TUMACACORI MAP, D-2 Mountain View RV Ranch

HCR 65 Box 380, Tumacacori 85640.
T: (520) 398-9401; www.mtviewrvranch.com.

★★★	★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Along the highway linking Tucson with Nogales, Mexico, a brick wall separates Mountain View RV Ranch from the newer De Anza Trails RV Resort next door. A loyal coterie of supporters keeps Mountain View humming year-round, even during the summer slow season when many other nearby RV parks look like deserted ghost towns. The virtually unlimited vehicle length and 49 40-ft. wide pull-through spaces accommodating slide-outs is one reason for Mountain View's popularity. Tent campers can choose their spot anywhere along a grass strip extending from the small rear mobile

home park to near the front of the park for pool, laundry, and snack bar convenience. Sunday mornings the snack bar serves up free coffee with breakfast, and home-made soups and sandwiches top off the lunch menu. The action here includes Monday night football on a big screen TV, pot lucks, card games, Friday night bingo, and darts.

BASICS

Operated By: Esther Geisman. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; winter reservations advised. **Registration:** In office. **Fee:** \$16 tent, \$17–\$21 RV (V, MC, D, AE). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Tent-only Sites: Undesignated sites. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30 amps), water, sewer, cable TV, phone. **Each Site:** Table. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Gravel, good condition. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Green Valley, 15 mi. **Restaurant:** No. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Soft drink. **Swimming:** Yes. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Dog walk, rental cabins. **Activities:** Shuffleboard, golf, boating, fishing. **Nearby Attractions:** Tubac State Park, Presidio State Park, Tumacacori National Monument, Madera Canyon, Buenos Aires Wildlife Refuge, Native American casinos, museums, copper mine tour, 30 mi. from Mexico. **Additional Information:** Green Valley Chamber of Commerce, (520) 625-7575, (800) 858-5872, sraney@concentric.net.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** In designated area only. Only during summer. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From I-19 south of Green Valley, take Amado Exit 48 South or 42 North.

WENDEN MAP, C-1 Alamo Lake State Park

P.O. Box 38, Wenden 85357. T: (928) 669-2088;
www.pr.state.az.us.

★★★★	★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Nestled amongst saguaros and ocotillos where wild burros roam and golden and bald eagles soar in the Bill Williams River Valley, bass-filled Alamo Lake has a collection of eight developed and primitive camping areas on widely separated loops. The section of camping area A nearest the general store, sheltered picnic tables, and ranger station has 19 covered sites with electric and water hookups. Camping areas A and B have sites with paved pads topped with a pebble layer, and are popular for both RVs and tents. Camping area C off Cholla Rd. also has hookups, though those willing to trade hookups for maximum privacy and beauty should continue down Cholla Rd. towards the lakeshore and camping areas D and E. Though far-

chest from the showers, store, and other amenities, camping area E, which has portable rest rooms and picnic tables because it is sometimes underwater, is best situated to enjoy beautiful lake views.

BASICS

Operated By: Arizona State Parks. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** Self-pay entrance fee station. **Fee:** \$10–\$19 (cash, check). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 250. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water. **Each Site:** Table, grill, fire ring. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** Yes. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved or pebbly, good condition. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** No. **Restaurant:** No. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Soft drinks. **Swimming:** Yes, Lake. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Boat ramps, fish-cleaning & battery recharge station. **Activities:** Mountain biking, fishing, boating. **Nearby Attractions:** Desert. **Additional Information:** Alamo Lake Store (boat rental), (520) 925-0133.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From US 60 in Wenden, go 38 mi. north on Alamo Dam Access Rd.

WENDEN MAP, C-1
Morenga Palms RV Park

P.O. Box 68, Wenden 85357. T: (928) 859-3722.

 ★★★★★	 ★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★

During the five-month winter season, this small RV park is filled by regulars from around the country and Canada, some of whom have been coming here for over a decade to form part of a small community that gathers for evening cocktails while watching the sunset from the clubhouse porch before evening games commence. During the hot summer, when there is space for tent campers to plug into the electric hookups left behind by migrating snowbirds, the surrounding fields are growing cotton, cantaloupes, watermelons, and a variety of fruit and vegetables for the Delmonte cannery. Parker and the Colorado River recreation is 64 miles to the north, but Alamo Lake State Park is within about 30 miles. Wickenburg's bowling alley and many restaurants are 46 miles to the west. All in all, a small isolated gem of a stopping place for those venturing into the Arizona outback.

BASICS

Operated By: Dorothy & Bruce O'Hara. **Open:** Closed during summer. **Site Assignment:** Winter reservations advised. **Registration:** At office. **Fee:** \$18 plus tax. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 52. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water, sewer, phone. **Each Site:** Table, bench, fire ring (only at designated areas). **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Gravel, good. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** No. **Restaurant:** No. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Clubhouse, exercise room, picnic area w/ fire ring. **Activities:** Lake, 40 mi. away. **Nearby Attractions:** Alamo Lake State Park, Quartzsite. **Additional Information:** McMullen Valley Chamber of Commerce, (520) 859-3846.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only under owner's control. (Small dogs only.) **Fires:** In designated areas only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Not permitted. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From Wenden go 3 mi. east on US 60.

WICKENBURG MAP, C-2
Horspitality RV Park and Boarding Stable

51802 US 60, Wickenburg 85390.
T: (928) 684-2519.

 ★★★	 n/a
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★

Founded by German immigrant Henry Wickenburg after the discovery of gold at the Vulture Mine in 1863, Wickenburg sprang into existence 60 miles northwest of Phoenix with the motto "Horses have the right of way on all Wickenburg streets." Though horses no longer wander the streets of this crossroads town of motels and restaurants, Horspitality RV Park continues the tradition of catering to horses with a boarding stable with 65 horse pens. Horspitality also borders BLM land with miles of trails for horses, hikers, and ATVs. There is no general store, but major chain stores and markets are within a mile of the RV park. Palms and deciduous trees add to the country ambience, and some residents settle in for the winter by spreading Astroturf on their concrete porch pads. All in all, a friendly stop for those who don't want to leave their horses at home.

BASICS

Operated By: Jan & Paul Sullivan. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; reservations advised. **Registration:** At office, 8 a.m.–8 p.m. Night registration available. **Fee:** \$16–\$26 (cash, check). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Tent-only Sites: 15. **Number of Multipurpose Sites:** 101. **Hookups:** Electric (15, 30 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** cement pad, table. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes w/ data ports. **Rest Rooms and**

Wikieup ARIZONA 153

Showers: Yes. **Fuel:** Shell Station across street. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** 0.25 mi. **Market:** Wickenburg, 1 mi. **Restaurant:** Wickenburg, 1 mi. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Soft drinks. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Open & covered pens for horses w/ water & heating, dog walk, horseshoes, adjacent BLM trails, round training pen, 110 mi. of horse trails, ATVs. **Activities:** Horseback riding, crafts, barbecue, bingo, video rental, gambling, ATVs, potluck. **Nearby Attractions:** Ghost towns, Grand Canyon, antique stores, team penning, trail rides, museums, Phoenix, Prescott. **Additional Information:** Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce, (928) 684-5479.

RESTRICTIONS


Pets: Dogs on leash only (horses welcome). No attack dogs. **Fires:** Allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From junction of US 60 and 89/93 in Wickenburg, go east 2 mi. on US 60 to milepost 112.5.

WIKIEUP MAP, B-1
Burro Creek Recreation Site

2475 Beverly Ave., Wikieup 86401.
T: (928) 692-4400.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★

Nine miles north of the town of Nothing and near old copper mining towns like Baghdad, Burro Creek Recreation Site is seemingly in the middle of nowhere, though it is just off US 93, the main artery linking Phoenix and Las Vegas, Nevada. Many regulars come back here every year because it is such a good place to just sit and relax, with little else to do besides hiking along the tree-lined creek and looking for the blue and purple agates and Apache tears that endear the area to rock hounds. Day use of the park is free, including the solar-lighted rest rooms and the ample picnic area surrounded by saguaros and mesquite. The small cactus garden is a good introduction to desert botany and nesting desert pack rats. Fishing in the year-round water pools is taboo, as the Sonoran suckers and roundtail chubb are endangered. Bird watchers can spot great blue herons and bald eagles.

BASICS

Operated By: Bureau of Land Management. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; group site reservations. **Registration:** Self-pay fee station. **Fee:** \$10 (cash, check). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 30. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Table, fire ring. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** No showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Gravel, good. **RV Service:** No.

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Market: Wickenburg, 60 mi. **Restaurant:** Wickenburg, 60 mi. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Sheltered tables; 1 wheelchair-accessible site; cactus botanical garden. **Activities:** Rock collecting, bird-watching. **Nearby Attractions:** Hualapai Indian Reservation, Alamo Lake State Park. **Additional Information:** BLM Kingman Field Office, (928) 692-4400.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only under owner's control. **Fires:** Allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From Kingman go 17 mi. east on I-40, then 53 mi. south on US 93 to signed turnoff 1 mi. south of Burro Creek Bridge and follow gravel road 1.5 mi. to campground.

WINSLOW MAP, B-3
Homolovi Ruins State Park

HCR 63 Box 5, Winslow 86047.
T: (520) 289-4106; www.pr.state.az.us.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★★

Mostly used as an overnight stop by travelers on I-40, Homolovi Ruins is farther from the highway and not near a power plant or lake like the nearby and more rustic Cholla Lake County Park. The paved sites have small trees that should eventually grow up to provide some shade. Raised dirt pads make for comfortable tenting, though it is advisable to shake your boots for scorpions before putting them on in the morning. The name Homolovi means little hills in the Hopi language, and the area was a sacred gathering place of the clans and is still visited as a sacred place by the Hopi. The park opened in 1993, but archaeological excavations date to 1896. The over 1,000-room pueblo is the most accessible site in this park, which has good wildlife viewing areas along the Little Colorado River.

BASICS

Operated By: Arizona State Parks. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** Entrance kiosk (use self-pay slot when closed). **Fee:** \$10–\$15 (cash, check). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 53. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water. **Each Site:** Table, grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes (showers May–Oct. only). **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, excellent. **RV Service:** No. **Market:**

Winslow, 3 mi. **Restaurant:** Winslow, 3 mi. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Visitor center, museum, covered picnic tables, wildlife viewing turnouts, archaeological sites. **Activities:** Archaeological dig tours (Jun., Jul.). **Nearby Attractions:** Little Painted Desert, Second Mesa, Mogollon Rim, Meteor Crater, Walnut Canyon, Flagstaff, Petrified Forest. **Additional Information:** Winslow Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center, (928) 289-2434, www.winslowarizona.org.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only (not allowed in buildings). **Fires:** In designated areas only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From Winslow go east 2 mi. on I-40 to Exit 257 and then north 1.5 mi. on AZ 87.

Arkansas

Rice paddies. Catfish fillets. Only country-and-western radio stations. A polite “sir” or “madam” in every sentence. Life in Arkansas draws on the Deep South in ways outsiders may consider out of sync with modern America. With county bans on alcohol sales reminiscent of Prohibition, one native went so far as to call the state “backward,” but that depends on your perception. Residents possess an intimate knowledge and palpable love of the land they inhabit, and visitors are welcomed warmly in the best tradition of Southern hospitality.

Arkansas calls itself “the Natural State,” and the moniker is reinforced by its inhabitants—even businesspeople take weekend hunting trips. Nearly everyone you meet has a fishing pole, knows where to catch a trophy bass (or maybe just dinner), or has photos from the last fishing trip. Perhaps the best way to get to know this state is to camp at some of the many state parks—they give you a feel for the breadth of the state’s natural diversity and the depth of its history. Arkansas is also home to the country’s one and only diamond mine. Rockhounds and fortune-seekers alike will want to visit **Crater of Diamonds State Park** near Murfreesboro, where visitors can keep whatever gems they uncover. Diamonds found in the park have all varied in size and color. One of the biggest finds was by one of the park’s own employees, who found a whopping 16-carat diamond (about the size of a wild pecan) after a rainstorm.

Aside from the hunting, fishing, boating, and hot springs, even just driving through Arkansas is a pleasure. This is such a verdant state you can’t help but revel in its greenery. **Bull Shoals** and the **Ouachita Mountains** are as representative of Arkansas as Little Rock and Texarkana. Lush vegetation wraps around small roads like clothing. Wildlife abounds, including armadillos and even alligators. Go for a drive through the **Ozark National Forest** or along the **Mississippi River**, and you’ll never think of Arkansas the same way again. I-540, which passes through Fayetteville, is 38 miles of billboard-free driving—making for an obstruction-free view of the **Ozark Mountains**. Another inspiring view is **Byway 71**, which runs from Alma to Fayetteville. On this particularly dizzying drive, the amount of breathtaking sights is equaled only by many twists and dipping curves—sort of like a roller-coaster ride through the Ozarks. Need a tour guide? If you’re around Fayetteville in late September/early October, you might be able to get a few folks from the **Bikes and Blues and Barbecue Motorcycle Roll and Music Festival** to give you guided tour. With all that music (everything from rock and country to blues and jazz), food, and great weather (highs averaging in the mid-70s) you might be tempted to stay in Fayetteville for the weekend.



In fact, it seems to be the natural state of being for most Arkansas natives to gather in large numbers and celebrate all things Arkansas. Some festivals of note include the **Arkansas Scottish Festival** (complete with bagpipe music and Highland dancing), the **Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival and Institute**, **Hot Springs Music Festival**, **Mount Ida’s Good Ole Days** (originally called Charlie Weaver Day), the **Pink Tomato Festival**, **Riverfront Blues Festival**, **Purple Hull Pea Festival**, **Hope Watermelon Fest**, **Johnson County Arkansas Peach Festival**, **Greek Food Festival** (in Little Rock), **Mount Magazine International Butterfly Festival**, **Shakespeare Festival of Arkansas**, **White Water River Carnival**, **Turkey Trot Festival**, and (perhaps the most curiously titled festival of the lot) **Toad Suck Daze**.

The question to ask yourself isn’t “Why should I go to Arkansas?” but “Why haven’t I gone there before?”

Campground Profiles

ALTUS MAP, B-1 Wiederkehr Wine Cellars RV Park

3324 Swiss Family Dr., Altus 72821.
T: (800) 622-WINE or (479) 468-WINE;
wiederkehr@centurytel.net.

 ★★★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★

This campground is west of a restaurant, gift shop, and office complex, and north of Arkansas River Valley vineyards. The park itself is little more than a large open parking lot of a gravel, grass, and dirt. Sites 1–10 back up to woods, while 11–20 back up to a pretty agricultural setting. Site 1 is partly in long prairie-type grass, but is close to a shade tree. Sites 7 and 8 are shaded, as is 20. This latter site is probably in the nicest location, as it is farthest from the restaurant complex and next to a large tree. Sites 9–12 are closest to the visitor parking lot. While there is no real maximum length to the vehicles this park can accommodate during off-season, it is unrealistic to haul more than 50 feet during the wine fest—the best time to come to this park (at least, if you don't mind crowds). Tents can cover the entire field to the west during the September wine fest, making it difficult to find a spot. There are few trees anyway, so most tenters will be in the same boat—camping on a hill with no shower facility. Of course, the atmosphere of the festival can override other concerns, but tenters (and RVers without indoor showers) must remember that they will have to spend a day or so without showering. There is one modern unisex rest room that must surely be packed during the festival. This campground is a somewhat dull park without many facilities, although the atmosphere of the restaurant and the wine fest help make up for these shortcomings.

BASICS

Operated By: Gary Wiederkehr. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served (reservations only for wine fest). **Registration:** In office, shop, or restaurant. (Late arrivals select an available site & pay in the morning.) **Fee:** RV \$10 (water, electric), tent \$10 (check, MC, D, AE, CB, DC). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 20. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** Undesignated sites. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30 amps), water. **Each Site:** Varies. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Rest rooms; no shower. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Gravel. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 2 mi. to Altus. **Restaurant:** On site. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Gift shop, vineyards. **Activities:** Picnics in vineyards, shopping, wine tasting. **Nearby Attractions:**

Wineries, antique shops, museums, canoeing. **Additional Information:** Altus Chamber of Commerce, (479) 468-4684.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only, cleaned up after. **Fires:** Grill only; subject to seasonal bans. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From I-40 (Exit 41), turn south onto Hwy. 186 and go 4.6 mi. Turn right at the sign into the entrance.

ARKADELPHIA MAP, C-2 Arkadelphia Campground and RV Park

221 Frost Rd., Arkadelphia 71923.
T: (866) 245-1771 or (870) 246-4922;
arkacamp@aristotle.net.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Most of the sites in this campground are well-shaded, which is good news to summer campers in this part of the state. Laid out in an arc with internal sites, the main camping area has 12 sites around the perimeter that can be used for tents or for small RVs. Site 1 is very close to the road that leads to the northern camping area, and all other sites (except 7 and 8) require either pitching a tent on a serious slope or right on the internal road. RVers may find this normal, but tenters will not like the space. Sites 7 and 8 are the exceptions, with larger spaces and nice trees. Site 24 is an enormous (100-foot-long) pull-through, while the sites next to it (20–23) are half the size and only pull-throughs if the adjacent site is unoccupied. These sites are all next to the forest, under a canopy of trees. Nice 50-foot back-ins that are likewise shaded include 50, 52, 59, and 62. These sites are in the north area of the campground, off the main camping area. Pull-throughs include 51, 55, 58, 60, and 62, which can accommodate a rig of any size. Less pleasant are sites 30 and 31, which are very open, and site 27, which is close to the entrance, Frost Rd., and the propane vending area. The laundry room is clean and spacious, and has a TV to help while away the time while your clothes are being cleaned. The rest room is very clean but looks a little outdated. The campground is undergoing remodeling, and hopefully the rest rooms are slated for modernization. Overall, this is a nice campground, although RVers will enjoy it a little more than tenters.

BASICS

Operated By: The Cristoffersons. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Upon registration (Credit card required for reservations, need 2–3 days notice during holidays. Cancellation by 4 p.m. the day

before arrival). **Registration:** In office. (Late arrivals use drop box.) **Fee:** RV \$20 (full), \$18 (water, electric), tent \$14. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 44. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 12. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer, cable TV. **Each Site:** Picnic table. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. Sell Kerosene. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Gravel. **RV Service:** No. RV Service on-call nearby. **Market:** 7 mi. (Exit 73). **Restaurant:** 1 mi. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Outdoor Pool. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Pet walk area, cabins, fishing pond, cottage (w/kitchen). Can tether horses. **Activities:** Fishing, horseshoes, tetherball, hopscotch, hiking, biking. **Nearby Attractions:** Lake DeGray, Lake Hamilton, Lake Catherine, Lake Ouachita, Hot Springs, Crater of Diamonds. **Additional Information:** Arkadelphia Area Chamber of Commerce (870) 246-5542.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only, cleaned up after. **Fires:** In grills; subject to seasonal bans. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites, not by pool, subject to dry county regulations. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From I-30, take Exit 78 and turn north onto Hwy. 7. Go 0.25 mi. and turn right onto Frost Rd. Go 1.5 mi. and turn left at the sign into the entrance.

BALD KNOB MAP, B-2 Freppon's RV Park

Hwy. 167 North, Bald Knob 72010.
T: (501) 724-6476.

 ★★★	 n/a
Beauty: ★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★

This campground has RV sites and mobile homes. RV sites are situated on the outside of a looped internal road around a large open grassy area. Sites 1–7 are 70-foot back-ins set in a row along the east side, close to the manager's house and the entrance. Sites 10–16, 45-foot back-ins along the north edge, back up to a forested area. Of these, sites 15 and 16 are less desirable, as they are so close to a storage unit that navigating a large rig into one of these sites may be problematic (especially 16). Back-ins 17–26 are located along the southern edge of the park. Of these 17 is the nicest, as it has a tree and more space than the others. There are five pull-throughs (also numbered 1–5) to the west of the manager's house. These are 75-foot sites, with grassy patches. The campground does not offer rest rooms or showers, so self-contained units are the only RVs that should stop here. Campers who require outside rest room facilities may wish to press on.

BASICS

Operated By: David Freppon. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Flexible when sites are available; verbal reservations OK. **Registration:** In mgr.'s house. (Late arrivals use drop box or settle in morning.) **Fee:** \$15. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 27. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 3 mi. south. **Restaurant:** Less than 1 mi. south. **General Store:** Less than 1 mi. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Fishing pond. **Activities:** Fishing. **Nearby Attractions:** Bald Knob National Wildlife Reserve, Big Creek Natural Area. **Additional Information:** Bald Knob Chamber of Commerce, (501) 724-3140.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only, cleaned up after. **Fires:** Grill only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites subject to dry county regulations. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From the junction of Hwy. 64, 67, and 167, go 0.5 mi. north on Hwy. 167. Turn right at the sign into the campground.

BRINKLEY MAP, C-3
Heritage Inn and RV Park

1507 North Hwy. 17, Brinkley 72021.
T: (870) 734-2121.

 ★★★	 n/a
Beauty: ★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★★

Run in conjunction with a motel, this RV park is located in a commercial complex next to a gas station with convenience store, and it is within a block of Wal-Mart and several fast-food restaurants. Sites face either the motel or Wal-Mart. Sites are 75-foot pull-throughs with mostly gravel and some grass. Shade trees grow in even numbers 2–10 and odd numbers 11–21. End sites 1 and 22 seem shortchanged for space, and 9 is encroached upon by a storage shed. The campground offers the convenience of a commercial location, and the recreation possibilities of a pool.

BASICS

Operated By: Pam & Sam. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served Credit card required for reservations. 24 hour cancellation policy. **Registration:** In motel office (24 hours). **Fee:** \$17–\$22. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 24. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer. **Dump Station:** No (sewer at all sites). **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Gravel. **RV Service:** No. NAPA is 2 blocks away. **Market:** Less

than 0.25 mi. south. **Restaurant:** Less than 0.25 mi. south. Several along road. **General Store:** Wal-Mart behind hotel. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Pool for motel guests. **Playground:** No. **Activities:** Swimming, hiking, wildlife watching, duck hunting. **Nearby Attractions:** White River Natural Wildlife Reserve. **Additional Information:** Chamber of Commerce, (870) 734-2262.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only, cleaned up after. **Fires:** Grill only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From I-40, take Exit 216. Turn south onto Hwy. 49 and take the 1st right into the motel complex. Register in the motel office.

BULL SHOALS MAP, B-2
Bull Shoals Recreation Area

P.O. Box 748, Bull Shoals 72619.
T: (870) 445-4424 or (870) 445-4166;
www.bullshoals.com/boatdock.

 ★★★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★★

Sites in this park are situated on a hill that overlooks the marina and the lake. All sites are 30-foot long and 40-foot wide paved back-ins, with the exception of 10, which is 40 feet Sites 1 and 2 have a partial view of the marina—for what it's worth. Sites 3 and 4, set farther back into the woods, are combined, making them best for groups who arrive together—and a possible nuisance if incompatible groups are forced to share these sites. Sites 6–8 are forested sites located along the entrance in the northeast corner, but have the least impressive views. The remaining sites (9–12) are situated just above the marina parking lot, and are closest to the action. This can, however, be both good and bad: they have a great view, but are subjected to the most amount of traffic and noise from a loud-speaker. The pit toilet can get quite messy, and those who depend on it will likely not enjoy their stay as much as fully self-contained units. (Likewise, there are no showers.) This is definitely a place to come to enjoy your boat, and not a place to stay otherwise.

BASICS

Operated By: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served no reservations. **Registration:** Pick a site, then register in office. **Fee:** \$7.50 (water, electric), \$15 (includes boat stall). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 12. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water. **Each Site:** Picnic table, grill, cement prep table. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Primitive rest rooms; no shower. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 0.25 mi. north. **Restaurant:** 0.25 mi. north. **Gen-**

Calico Rock ARKANSAS 157

eral Store: Yes. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Boat stall. **Activities:** Fishing, boating. **Nearby Attractions:** Mountain Village, Bull Shoals Caverns, Top O' The Ozarks. **Additional Information:** Bull Shoals Lake–White River Chamber, (800) 447-1290, (870) 445-4443.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only, cleaned up after. **Fires:** Grill only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites; subject to dry county regulations. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 30 ft.

TO GET THERE

From the town's westernmost name sign, go 2.1 mi. west on Hwy. 178. Turn left onto Shorecrest Dr., then take the 1st left onto Boat Dock Rd., which leads to the marina.

CALICO ROCK MAP, B-2
Cedar Ridge

P.O. Box 236, Calico Rock 72519.
T: (870) 297-4282.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★

This campground is wild, undeveloped, natural, and quiet. It is subtly but attractively landscaped with rock, cacti, and juniper. Sites 1–3 are 42-foot back-ins that back up to the (rather quiet) road. Site 4 is an unshaded site that also abuts the road, but backs to thick vegetation. Sites 5–7 are pull-throughs that average 55 feet in length; 5 and 7 are shaded, 6 is not. Two unnumbered sites in the northeast corner are in an open field, and can accommodate a rig of any size, as can a third site slightly below these two. (This third site, being sheltered somewhat by a juniper, is more welcoming than the two open sites next to it.) The largest sites are 9–11, which average 70 feet in length. The rest room and shower are contained in a single unit, which is modern and decently clean. There is an absolutely wonderful scenic view of the river down a gravel road at the southernmost edge of the campground, which campers should make a point of seeing. In fact, the campground itself is an extremely attractive natural setting that will please campers of all kinds—definitely a destination campground to return to.

BASICS

Operated By: Gene & Reva Lockie. **Open:** Mar 1–Oct. 30. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; verbal reservations OK. **Registration:** In office. (Late arrivals sign register; "Gene will see you later.") **Fee:** RV \$12 (full), \$10 (water, electric), tent \$7. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 17. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 3. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Gravel. **RV Service:** No.

158 ARKANSAS Clinton

Market: 3 mi. into town. **Restaurant:** 1 mi. into town. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Firewood. **Activities:** Fishing, hunting. **Nearby Attractions:** Blanchard Springs Caverns, White River. **Additional Information:** Mountain Home, Chamber of Commerce, (870) 425-5111.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only, cleaned up after. **Fires:** Grill only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From the junction of Hwy. 56 and Hwy. 5, go 1 block south on Hwy. 5 (Main St.) to Calico St. Turn right and go 0.7 mi. Turn left at the sign into the campground.

CLINTON MAP, B-2

Whispering Pines RV Park

8575 Hwy. 65 North, Clinton 72031.
T: (888) 745-4291 or (501) 745-4291.

★★★★	★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Located in a residential area, this property is a quiet, campground, with a large forested area at the back. Sites are extremely large (85 × 50 feet), with a mixture of pull-throughs and back-ins. Sites 1–14 are divided up into three rows, with 1–5 off to the west of the others. Site 11 is a particularly nice pull-through located next to the pavilion. Sites 15–24 are back-ins along the eastern edge of the property. These sites back up to a strip of trees, beyond which lies the highway. (This proximity to the road and the requirement that drivers back in make these sites a little less desirable.) Tenting is possible in a huge open field to the west, beyond which lie acres of forest. (The owner tells of a bear that has been seen in these woods, so hiding food and toiletries in your vehicle couldn't hurt.) Two other sites are located in front of the office, right off the highway, but you'd have to be crazy to camp there: they are literally a dozen steps from the road. The laundry facility is exceptionally clean and cozy, as are the rest rooms. The showers, while clean, are beginning to show their age and could use an overhaul. This is a cute campground with fruit trees, pines, and country kitsch decorating the grounds. RVers and tenters alike will be comfortable staying here.

BASICS

Operated By: Vilene Borgman & Donna Adkins. **Open:** Mar.–Nov. **Site Assignment:** Flexible, depending on availability; verbal reservations OK. **Registration:** In office. (Late arrivals pay in morning). **Fee:** RV \$17 (full), tent \$10. (cash, check). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Tent-only Sites: Undesignated sites. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30, 50 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, grill. **Dump Station:** No (sewer hookup at all sites). **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay**

Phone: Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Gravel. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 7.5 mi. south. **Restaurant:** 0.5 mi. north. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Pavilion, dog run, rec room. **Activities:** Boating, swimming, fishing, darts, horseshoes. **Nearby Attractions:** Branson, Greers Ferry Lake. **Additional Information:** Clinton Chamber of Commerce, (501) 745-6500.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only, cleaned up after. **Fires:** Grill only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From the junction of Hwy. 16 and Hwy. 65, turn north onto Hwy. 65 (towards Marshall), and go 7.3 mi. Turn left into the campground at the sign.

CROSSETT MAP, D-2

Crossett Harbor RV Park

P.O. Box 338, Crossett 71635. T: (870) 364-6136.

★★★★	★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

This campground is divided into a south loop and an east loop. The south loop is farther divided into an inner and outer loop. The most desirable sites are in general on the outer loop 9 especially even 102–106, 109, and odd 113–117), as they have more space and back up to forest, not other camp-sites. Site 85 is set back away from the other sites, and therefore has more privacy. Site 67 (and 69, to a lesser extent) is adjacent to a pond. Sites 86–91 are doubles. Some sites (especially 86, 87, 95, 97, and 98) seem prone to flooding after a rain. Sites on the outside of the east loop back to seemingly endless forest, and the loop feels more “lost” (in a good way) because of this. However, there is also a lot of stuff strewn about this part of the campground: an old bed frame, wood, and even the charred remains of a burnt vehicle! Sites 1–3 are smack dab on the intersection of two roads, and certainly must receive more passing traffic due to their location. Sites 31, 33, 35, 48, and 50 seem prone to flooding. The rest rooms in both areas look well used, and the floors are in a desperate need of a paint job. Despite the bizarre junk found in a few sites, the east loop seems the nicer of the two areas, and campers will certainly enjoy a stay here.

BASICS

Operated By: City of Crossett. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; no reservations. **Registration:** At manager's trailer. **Fee:** \$12, \$9 for seniors (no credit cards). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 119. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water. **Each Site:** Picnic table, grill, fire ring, 50-ft. camping pad, 18×12 tent pad, lantern pole. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay**

Phone: Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 9 mi. east. **Restaurant:** 8.5 mi. east. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Soft drinks. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Boat ramp, picnic shelter. **Activities:** Hiking, boating, fishing. **Nearby Attractions:** Felsenthal Wildlife Refuge. **Additional Information:** Crossett Area Chamber of Commerce, (870) 364-6591, (870) 364-8648.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only, cleaned up after. **Fires:** In grills; subject to bans. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Not allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From the junction of Hwy. 133 and Hwy. 82 in town, turn west onto Hwy. 82 and go 8.1 mi. Turn left at the sign into the entrance.

EDGEMONT MAP, B-2

Blue Clouds RV and Cabin Resort

10645 Edgemont Rd., Edgemont 72044.
T: (501) 723-4999;
www.greersferry.com/blueclouds.htm.

★★★★	★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

This campground is built at the bottom of a hill, upon which are the office and the café. As a result there is a very nice forested view from many of the sites, which are all naturally landscaped. (While this has some appeal, the dirt road may be tricky for some rigs. Sites 1 and 9 are 90-foot pull-throughs, and 14 is a 120-foot pull-through, making it the longest site in the campground. Sites 2–6 are 40-foot back-ins, and 17–25 are 60-foot back-ins. Sites 40–48 back to woods on the south side, making them very attractive sites. All of the sites in this campground, however, are forested and therefore well-shaded. This is a very nice, natural campground for those who enjoy a woody feel without being 25 miles from the nearest conveniences. RVers and tenters alike will enjoy a stay here, although the forested setting and dirt road may make for challenging driving for long rigs—especially those with tows.

BASICS

Operated By: Janice. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Upon registration (credit card required or telephone number for reservation; 24-hour cancellation policy). **Registration:** In office from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Late arrivals select an available site & pay in the morning.) **Fee:** RV \$16 (check, V, MC, D). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 50. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Varies. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Courtesy phone w/ internet access. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** 2 mi. **Propane:**

Yes. **Internal Roads:** Gravel. **RV Service:** Heber Springs, 22 mi. **Market:** 3 mi. east. **Restaurant:** 3 mi. east. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** At lake. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Cabins. **Activities:** Fishing, boating, swimming, golfing, folk music. **Nearby Attractions:** Greers Ferry Lake, Ozark Mt. Folk Museum. **Additional Information:** Greers Ferry Chamber of Commerce, (501) 362-2444.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only, cleaned up after. **Fires:** Grill only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From the westernmost town name sign on Hwy. 16, go west on Hwy. 16 for 0.4 mi. Turn left at the sign into the entrance.

EL DORADO MAP, D-2 Moro Bay State Park

6071 Hwy. 15 South, El Dorado 71651.
T: (870) 463-8555; www.arkansasstateparks.com.



★★★★



★★★★

Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Sites 1–9 are built along the edge of a hill, and some of the space is unusable due to an extreme slope. However, there is a large fenced-in area that contains the picnic table and a large concrete slab for camping. Sites are 42-foot-long back-ins, with two pull-throughs (4 and 9), of 42 feet and 75 feet in length, respectively. Site 1 backs to a large open field, and can allow for recreation right off the site. The rest room is across from site 8, and noise from a large fan in the men's room may be bothersome at this site. The rest rooms are relatively clean and modern, but on our visit the shower needed a good cleaning. Site 10 is located at the crossroads of two internal roads, and may receive more traffic because of this fact. The rest of the sites are along this other road, and are all 42-foot back-ins. Of the sites on this strip, 16 and 17 have a more secluded location at the end of the roundabout. The other sites are pretty much indistinguishable. Tenters will enjoy the wooded sites, but may wish for grassy ground cover instead of a more developed site. Campers of any stripe will enjoy this campground—however, especially those with boats.

BASICS

Operated By: Arkansas State Parks. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. Reservations require cash, credit card, or postal money order deposit; in case of cancellation (cancel w/in 14 days of reservation), 1 night's fee is not refunded. **Registration:** In office 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Sun.–Thurs.; 8 a.m.–8 p.m. Fri. & Sat. (Late arrivals occupy an available site & register at 8 the next morning.) **Fee:** \$15. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 20. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30 amps), water. **Each Site:** Picnic

table, grill, fire pit. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes, bathhouse. **Fuel:** Gas station/country store 5 mi. away. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 15 mi. to Strong or Hermitage. **Restaurant:** 15 mi. to Strong, Hermitage, or Union. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Yes (bay, lake, river). **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Picnic area, fishing licenses. **Activities:** Boating, fishing, basketball, soccer, volleyball, horseshoes, badminton. **Nearby Attractions:** Ouachita River, South Arkansas Arboretum. **Additional Information:** El Dorado Chamber of Commerce, (870) 863-6113.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only, cleaned up after. **Fires:** Grill only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From the junction of Hwy. 167 and Hwy. 15, go 20 mi. northeast on Hwy. 15. Turn left at the sign and continue on to the park entrance.

EUREKA SPRINGS MAP, B-1 Eureka Springs KOA

15020 Hwy. 187 South, Eureka Springs 72632.
T: (479) 253-8036; www.eureka-net.com/koa.



★★★★



★★★★

Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

There are loads of interesting ornaments, plants, logs, rocks, and garden spots in this campground, giving it a somewhat artsy wilderness feel. All of the sites in this campground are forested, undeveloped gravel sites. Sites 1–19 ranging from 30- to 45-foot long on either side of an internal road. Of these, 1–12 back to a hedge, beyond which lies the highway. Sites 11 and 12 are fenced off, giving them added privacy. Site 32 is an exceptionally large (120 feet) pull-through, and 58–69 are only slightly shorter at 115 feet. Sites 41–44 are 60-foot back-ins by the Garden of Meditation, but are slightly sloped. Better sites by the garden are 49–51, which are also 60-foot back-ins, but more level. Tents sites are to the north, away from the RV sites. An exceptional feature of these tent pads is that they contain sawdust instead of crushed gravel, giving tenters a much more comfy bed to sleep on. These dirt sites are located under a canopy of trees, ensuring that all sites are shaded. Many of these sites are along the highway, which is normally quite quiet, but does, of course, carry the occasional vehicle. Sites M and N are the most remote, and R and S are also secluded. The rest rooms and showers are all very clean and spacious. Showers are all tile, which makes them seem as comfy as home. One really neat detail is the wooden number plates at each site, which each have a unique hand-carved cartoon. The Garden of Meditation, also a unique feature, comprises stone, twisted wood, plants, and sculptures, and is an extremely peaceful place to rest for a moment.

Hardy ARKANSAS 159

BASICS

Operated By: Ken Shonka. **Open:** Apr. 1–Oct. 31. **Site Assignment:** Upon registration. Credit card required for reservation; 48-hour cancellation policy, 72-hours cancellation policy for cabins only. **Registration:** In office. (Late arrivals select an available site & pay in the morning.) **Fee:** RV \$25 (full), \$23 (water, electric), tent \$16. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 65. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 24. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire pit. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 5 mi. to Eureka Springs. **Restaurant:** 0.75 mi. towards Eureka. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Pool. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Mini-golf, game room, dataport, picnic pavilion, Garden of Meditation. **Activities:** Fishing, boating, swimming. **Nearby Attractions:** White River, Beaver Lake, passion play, hoedowns, downtown (on National Registry of Historic Places), Onyx Cave Park. **Additional Information:** Eureka Springs Chamber of Commerce, (800) 638-7352 or (501) 253-8737.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only, cleaned up after. **Fires:** Grill only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From the junction of Hwy. 62 and Hwy. 187, turn south onto Hwy. 187 and go 1.1 mi. Turn left at the sign into the entrance.

HARDY MAP, B2 Hardy Camper Park

South Springs St., Hardy 72542. T: (870) 856-2356; hardycamperpark@lycos.com.



★★★★



★★★★

Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

While the north and east sides of this campground face an industrial complex, the south has gorgeous rock cliffs over the river, and the west faces lush vegetation. Just two blocks from Main Street, this campground is convenient for visiting Old Hardy Town on foot, and has a comfortable, city park-like feel. RV sites are mostly open-ended, and can take a vehicle of any size. River sites (42-foot back-ins) have truly wonderful views, and are worth the slightly higher price. While you can't go wrong with any of these sites, 20–23 are definitely the best of the bunch: they are well-shaded and farthest from the entrance. Sites 10 and 11 are also well-shaded, and close to the bathhouse, while shaded sites 1–5 are closest to the entrance/exit. For a cheaper site (not on the river) or a pull-through, 58–63 are better than average. They are well-shaded, full-length (120-foot) pull-throughs. (The other pull-throughs have two sites in an area

160 ARKANSAS Harrison

the same size.) The tenting area is a nice, unmarked grassy area behind the office. There is some shade, but no protection in the event of rain. The bathhouse is a disappointment. The inside is old cement with untreated cement floors. In stark contrast with the attractiveness of the rest of the park, this is an obviously old facility in desperate need of renovation. (It might spur the city to action if enough campers contact the town of Hardy to let them know of this situation.) One additional surprise arrives with every train—loud whistles and rumblings. While infrequent, this may be enough to put off some campers, which is a shame given the camp's enjoyable environment.

BASICS

Operated By: City of Hardy. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Flexible, depending on availability. Reservations require deposit if made more than 3 weeks in advance; cancellation requires 24-hour notice. **Registration:** In office. (Late arrivals either use drop box or pay in the morning.) **Fee:** River-side, \$18, other, \$15, tent, \$4 per person. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Tent-only Sites: Undesignated sites. **Hookups:** Electric (15, 30, 50 amps), water. **Each Site:** Picnic table. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes, renovated winter 2003. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Gravel/dirt. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 1 block (on Main). **Restaurant:** 1 block (on Main). **General Store:** No. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** River. **Playground:** Not one at press time, but there are plans to construct one. **Other:** Boat dock, half-mile walking trail, beach, spring river, biking. **Activities:** Swimming, canoeing, fishing. **Nearby Attractions:** Veterans Military Museum, Old Hardy Town, antique stores, museums. **Additional Information:** Spring River Area Chamber of Commerce, (870) 856-3210.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: Dangerous pets on leash. **Fires:** In grills; subject to bans; campfires allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Dry county regulations. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From the junction of Hwy. 62/412 and Hwy. 63, go 0.25 mi. on Hwy. 62/412 (Main St.) to Spring St. Turn south onto Spring St. (at a building with a large mural). Go 0.2 mi. (just south of the train depot) and turn right at the sign into the campground.

HARRISON
Parkers RV Park

MAP, B-1

3629 Hwy. 65 North, Harrison 72601.
T: (888) 590-2267 or (870) 743-2267;
www.parkersrvinc.com.

★★★

★★★

Beauty: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★

Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Quiet: ★★★★★
Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Facilities: ★★★★★

This campground has very cute landscaping (including shrubs and a bridge), and very tidy gravel and grass sites. sites 1–3 are 75 × 44-foot pull-throughs on the north side of the park, near the highway. These are some of the largest sites. (Site 4, for example, is only 52 feet long.) The only sites that are larger are 10 (a 90-foot pull-through) and 24, which can be a 105-foot pull-through if site 23 is unoccupied. A strip in the middle of the park contains sites 12–17, which are 66 × 44-foot back-ins. On the north side of the “island” in the middle, sites 18–22 are slightly smaller (60-feet) back-ins. For more shade, try sites 25–39, which back to woods on the south side of the campground. There is a covered pavilion between sites 29 and 30, which increases traffic near these two sites. Tenting is restricted to small parties of responsible adults. Tenting groups are discouraged. The rest room facility is one of the nicest you'll find. It is modern, very clean, and extremely comfortable. This park is a very nice stop for RVers, but tenters with children or groups of more than two or three should look elsewhere.

BASICS

Operated By: Gregg Parker. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Upon registration. Credit card required for reservation; 24-hour cancellation policy. **Registration:** In office. (Late arrivals park, “someone will be out to see you.”) **Fee:** \$18–\$21 (check, V, MC, AE, D). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 42. **Hookups:** Electric (50 amps), water, sewer, cable TV, high-speed wireless internet service access. **Each Site:** Picnic table. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Gravel. **RV Service:** Yes, full service RV repair shop. **Market:** 1 mi. south. **Restaurant:** 1 mi. south. **General Store:** Yes, limited. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** RV supplies, rec room, pool table, foosball, dataport, pavilion. **Activities:** Fishing, boating, swimming. **Nearby Attractions:** Buffalo River National Park, Hot Springs National Park. **Additional Information:** Harrison Chamber of Commerce, (870) 741-2659.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only, cleaned up after. **Fires:** Grill only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From the junction of Hwy. 65 and Hwy. 62/412, turn south (right) onto Hwy. 65 and go 1.3 mi. Turn right at the sign into the entrance.

HAZEN
T. Ricks RV Park

MAP, C-2

3001 North Hwy. 11, Hazen 72064.
T: (870) 255-4914.

★★★

★★

Beauty: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★

Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Quiet: ★★★★★
Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Facilities: ★★★★★

This campground is run by the convenience store adjacent to it. Sites are laid out in two strips of 60-foot pull-throughs (1–14 and 20–26) running from east (closest to the highway) to west (towards the forest). There is agricultural land to the south, which enhances the aesthetics of the campground. A strip of unfinished sites lies at the northwest end. The best sites are towards the western edge (9–14 and 20–22), as these sites have shade trees and are located farthest from the convenience store and the highway. Less desirable sites are closer to the traffic: 1–3 and 26. There are swing chairs located between sites 10 and 11, 21 and 22, and 23 and 24. They say that tenting is possible on the RV sites, but a much better bet is a grassy area under one of the many trees around the perimeter—especially towards the north side. This park provides visitors a decent overnight stay. It does offer the convenience of a store and gas station, but the drawbacks include no showers, plenty of traffic noise, and not much to do or to look at.

BASICS

Operated By: Rick Adams & Rick Kent. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; verbal reservations OK. **Registration:** In convenience store (open 24 hours). **Fee:** RV \$18 (30 amps), \$20 (50 amps), tent \$5. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 26. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 6. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes; no shower. **Fuel:** Yes. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 3 mi. south. **Restaurant:** Across the street. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Activities:** Fishing, boating, swimming, hiking. **Nearby Attractions:** Peckwood Lake. **Additional Information:** Stuttgart Chamber of Commerce, (870) 673-1602.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only, cleaned up after. **Fires:** Grill only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From I-40, take Exit 193. Turn south onto Hwy. 63 and take 1st the right. Go straight into the entrance and register in the convenience store.

HOPE
Fair Park RV Park

MAP, C-1

Park Dr., off Hwy. 174, Hope 71802.
T: (870) 777-7500.

★★★

★★★

Beauty: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★

Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Quiet: ★★★★★
Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Facilities: ★★★★★

This campground is in a large city park, and there are hundreds of RV sites available, divided up into sections. Section A is open and grassy, to the north of the ballfield and the coliseum, with open-ended pull-through sites. There are a few trees, but most

sites are not shaded. A2 is between the barns and the coliseum, and consists of open, grassy sites. Section B is to the south of A, and is likewise an open grassy field with no real shade. C is similar, but consists of open-ended back-ins around the baseball field. Section D backs to the woods on the perimeter of the park. Sites to the southeast are better shaded, and are some of the better sites in the park for this reason. Sections E and F are on either side of the office, closest to the rest rooms. This is where tenters are encouraged to stay. There is a decent grass covering, and a tree at the far end of the fence to the north of the office complex. The most outstanding area of the park, however, is section G. This area is shaded, has full hookups, and backs to the woods. Sites are open-ended pull-throughs, which means that any rig could fit in pretty much any site. RVers are advised to check out section G, and tenters can pitch tents in a number of pleasant spots at no cost.

BASICS

Operated By: Paul G Henley. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; no reservations. **Registration:** In office. (Late arrivals use drop box.) **Fee:** RV \$10, tent \$5 (check, no credit cards). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 400. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** Undesignated sites. **Hookups:** Electric (20 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Varies. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** 6 blocks away. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 6 blocks west. **Restaurant:** Less than 1 mi. west. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Pool. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Arena, coliseum, wrestling matches, rodeo. All are pull-through sites. **Activities:** Basketball, swimming, baseball/softball, tennis. **Nearby Attractions:** Watermelon festival. **Additional Information:** Hope Hempstead County Chamber of Commerce, (800) 777-3640.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only, cleaned up after. **Fires:** Grill only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Not allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From I-30, take Exit 30 and go 1.35 mi. south on Hwy. 4. Turn right onto Hwy. 67 and go 0.25 mi. west. Turn left onto Hwy. 174 and go 0.3 mi. south. Turn right onto Park Dr. and go 0.5 mi. through the park to the T-intersection. Turn right and go 0.5 block to the office (green building) on the left.

HOT SPRINGS MAP, C-2
Young's Lakeshore RV Resort

1601 Lakeshore Dr., Hot Springs 71913.
T: (501) 767-7946 or (800) 470-7875;
www.hsnr.com/youngsrv.

 ★★★★★	 n/a
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★

Security: ★★★★★ Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★ Facilities: ★★★

A campground that has the motto "in the city, on the lake," this RV park has nearly lakeside sites towards the back (37 is the closest). Most back-ins around the perimeter are open-ended, with no maximum vehicle size. These sites back to a row of trees that provide some shade, but sites elsewhere in the park are open to the sun. Sites 1-6 are 42-foot back-ins in a strip on the north side of the park. Of these, 6 is the nicest, as it is closest to the trees and farthest from the entrance. Sites 7-20 are in two rows along the entrance road. These are 60-foot pull-throughs with grassy strips. Site 24 is next to both the propane and the entrance, making it less desirable. The lower numbered sites are closer to the entrance, while the higher numbers are farther away. The laundry is slightly unkempt but clean and well-lit. The rest rooms are small with an open toilet, so guests may only want to use them one at a time (which is slightly inconvenient). Children must be accompanied and kept under supervision at all times, so families may want to reconsider this as a destination. Other campers who do not wish to camp with children will be happiest here.

BASICS

Operated By: Jimmy & Ev Young. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Upon registration; verbal reservations OK. **Registration:** In office. (Late arrivals use mailbox next to the door.) **Fee:** \$22 (50 amps), \$20 (30 amps). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 44. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer, cable TV. **Each Site:** Picnic table. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Gravel. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 1.5 mi. east on Hwy. 7. **Restaurant:** 1.5 mi. west or east. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Dataport, boat ramp, lake beach, rec room, picnic area by lake. **Activities:** Fishing, boating, hot spring baths, canoeing, hiking, pavilion w/ barbecue pit, kitchen. **Nearby Attractions:** Hot Springs National Park, Josephine Tussaud Wax Museum, Arkansas Alligator Farm & Petting Zoo, Race Track, Golf. **Additional Information:** Hot Springs CVB: (800) 772-2489, (501) 321-2277.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only, cleaned up after. **Fires:** Not allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From Hwy. 270 (south of town), take Exit 3 and go west onto McLeod St. Go 0.25 mi. straight into the entrance of the park.

JACKSONPORT MAP, B-3
Jacksonport State Park

P.O. Box 8, Jacksonport 72075.
T: (870) 523-2143;
www.arkansasstateparks.com/stay/camping.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
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Jonesboro ARKANSAS 161

Beauty: ★★★★★ Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★ Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★ Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★ Facilities: ★★★

This park is located in a wilderness setting about five miles out of town. There is a boat ramp, swimming beach, picnic area, and museum that explains the history of the area. All of the sites in this park are grassy 50-foot back-ins on either side of a looped road. Sites are extremely spacious, and most contain several shade trees. (All sites but 1, 10, and 11 are well-shaded.) Site 1 has a parking pad for an extra vehicle. Even numbered sites 4-10 and 9, 13, and 16 back to the river, while 2, 5, 7, 11, 12, 15, and 19 back to a large, open recreation field on the interior of the looped drive. Site 7 and 9 are closest to the rest rooms. The rest rooms and showers are very clean, modern, and quite comfortable.

BASICS

Operated By: Arkansas Dept. of Parks & Tourism. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations can be made or first come, first served; 1st night's reservation must be paid 5 days in advance of arrival date; no refunds. **Registration:** In visitor center or self-pay station. (Late arrivals use self-pay station.) **Fee:** RV \$18, tent \$10 (check, V, MC, D, AE). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 20. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30, 50 amps), water. **Each Site:** Picnic table, grill, fire pit, lantern pole. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 3 mi. to Newport. **Restaurant:** 3 mi. to Newport. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** River. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Hunting & fishing licenses, picnic area, gift shop, boat ramp, nature trail. **Activities:** Fishing, swimming, boating, interpretive programs. **Nearby Attractions:** White River, Old Jacksonport Courthouse Museum, Pad-leboat Museum. **Additional Information:** Newport Area Chamber of Commerce, (870) 523-3618.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only, cleaned up after. **Fires:** Grill or pits. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From the junction of Hwy. 367 and Hwy. 69, go 2.9 mi. north. Turn left onto Hwy. 69 Spur (South), and go 0.8 mi. Take a tricky left turn at the sign into the campground entrance.

JONESBORO MAP, B-3
Craighead Forest Park

P.O. Box 1845, Jonesboro 72403.
T: (870) 933-4604 or (870) 933-1645.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★★

162 ARKANSAS Lake Village

Situated in the easternmost edge of the park, this small campground has forested sites on either side of a single road. All sites back to the forest. Sites on the northwest side slope down towards the lake, while those on the southeast side back to flat land, making these sites a little longer than the 50-foot paved parking spaces. All campsites are extremely well-spaced: there is a lot of room between you and your neighbor and plenty of space for extra vehicles. Sites 12–15 are closest to the fishing dock (but there is no swimming access). Sites 14 and 15 are the nicest, as they are adjacent to a grassy field that can be used for recreation and has picnic tables. The rest rooms are a little unkempt, but not any more than those who often camp in public forests might come to expect. This is a small and comfortable campground, well away from even the recreation areas within the park, offering a night of tranquility.

BASICS

Operated By: City of Jonesboro. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; no reservations, no refunds. **Registration:** Campsite attendant (across from site 8). **Fee:** \$15 (water, electric), tent \$78 (check, but no credits cards). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 26. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water. **Each Site:** Picnic table, grill, trash. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 4 mi. to Hwy. 63. **Restaurant:** 4 mi. to Hwy. 63. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Lake. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Picnic pavilions, ballfields, basketball court, paddle boat rentals, ATV trails. **Activities:** Boating, swimming, fishing, hiking, outdoor sports. **Nearby Attractions:** Craighead Forest Lake, Arkansas State University Museum. **Additional Information:** Chamber of Commerce, (870) 932-6691.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only, cleaned up after. **Fires:** Grill only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Not allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 50 ft.

TO GET THERE

From the junction of Hwy. 63 and Hwy. 1B, turn south onto Hwy. 1B and take the 1st right onto the service road (Parker Rd.). Follow this road 0.9 mi., then turn left onto Hwy. 141 (Culberhouse St.), and go 1.9 mi. Turn left onto Forest Park Dr. and go 1.25 mi. to the east end of Forest Park Loop, past pavilion 1, to the campground.

LAKE VILLAGE

MAP, D-2

Pecan Grove RV Park

3768 Hwy. 82 and 65 South, Lake Village 71653.
T: (877) RV-4-FUNN or (870) 265-3005;
www.pecangrove.net.



Beauty: ★★★★★

Spaciousness: ★★★★★



Site Privacy: ★★★★★

Quiet: ★★★

Security: ★★★★★

Insect Control: ★★★★★

Cleanliness: ★★★★★

Facilities: ★★★★★

An old pecan orchard, this campground has a small-farm feel to it. There is very attractive landscaping around the grounds (flowers around trees and lightpoles), and remnants of the farm it once was (barn, farmhouse). Towering pecan trees grow at almost every site. There is also, however, an air of oldness that could be swept away: cobwebs in the corners, dirt from many hands opening doors, etc. The laundry is small, and while the rest rooms are clean, the building itself looks old. Furthermore, the cement walls are speckled with reddish paint. But don't let that scare you. The campground is very nice, and nearly every site is an excellent choice. Numbered sites in the first five rows are reserved for overnights—the rest are for monthly renters. All sites are 80-foot pull-throughs on grassy patches. Sites at the far end of the highway (10, 27, and 35 especially) are the best, as they receive less traffic noise and not much passing traffic (18, also an end site, is directly across from the bathroom). Those at the highway end are a little noisier (9, 17, 26, 34, 42). The tent area is to the northwest of the bathroom. There is an excellent grass cover. Several large trees lend shade, but may be too high to provide much protection from rain. While the campground needs a nice spring cleaning and a little less traffic noise to earn a full rating, it is very nice, and a destination where many campers will be sure to return.

BASICS

Operated By: Bill & Dee Bunker. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Flexible, depending on availability; verbal reservations OK. **Registration:** In office. (Late arrivals use drop box.) **Fee:** RV \$17 (full), tent \$13 (add \$1 for cable or 50 amps). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 116. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 4. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer, cable TV. **Each Site:** Picnic table. **Dump Station:** No (sewer at all sites). **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** Next door. **Propane:** 1 mi. **Internal Roads:** Gravel. **RV Service:** On-call. **Market:** 1.5 mi. north. **Restaurant:** 1 mi. north. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Lake. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Cabins, recreation hall, Lake Chicot, boat ramp, pavilion, dataport, dock, fish-cleaning area. **Activities:** Fishing, swimming, boating, volleyball, horseshoes. **Nearby Attractions:** Lake Chicot, Mississippi River. **Additional Information:** Chamber of Commerce, (870) 265-5997.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only, cleaned up after. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From the junction of Hwy. 65 South, 82 East, and 278 East, go 2.8 mi. on Hwy. 65/82. Turn right at the sign into the entrance. The office is the white house on the left.

LITTLE ROCK

MAP, C-2

Little Rock North KOA

7820 Crystal Hill Rd., Little Rock 72118.
T: (800) KOA-4598 or (501) 758-4598;
www.koa.com.



Beauty: ★★★★★

Spaciousness: ★★★★★

Security: ★★★★★

Insect Control: ★★★★★



Site Privacy: ★★★★★

Quiet: ★★★★★

Cleanliness: ★★★★★

Facilities: ★★★★★

Campers in large rigs will be happy with the numerous pull-throughs in this campground, which include all sites except those around the perimeter. Rows G19–24 and R8–14 are closest to the road, and include 40-foot back-ins. (G15–24 are all in a forested corner of the campground, with gravel sites.) Sites R1–7 are well-shaded 56-foot pull-throughs, while G11–14 are even longer (75 feet). Row B has 75-foot pull-throughs, of which 1–3 face a residence. B15–20 is along the northwest side of the grounds, and has 40-foot grassy back-ins. (B19 is located directly next to the dog walk area.) Row Y, along the northern perimeter, has the least developed sites, but the many pine trees in this area give it a nice, natural feel. Sites Y1–13 are 75 pull-throughs amidst the trees, while Y14–28 back into the forest. Tent site T1 is off in the woods above RV site G24, and T2–3 are even more remote, in the northeast corner. All sites have a finely crushed gravel bed for a tent and plenty of trees. The rest room is very clean, and campers will be delighted to know that it has air-conditioning. The toilet stalls are a little narrow, but everything is clean as a whistle. This is a fine campground to make your home base while exploring the Little Rock area. It has a nice woody feel and is close enough to the attractions to allow for plenty of day trips.

BASICS

Operated By: The Clay Family. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Upon registration. Reservations require credit card; cancellation requires 24 hours notice. **Registration:** In office. (Late arrivals use drop box.) **Fee:** RV \$28–\$36 (check V, MC, D, AE). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 100. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 10. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30, 50 amps), water, sewer, cable TV. **Each Site:** Picnic table, grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 4 mi. west. **Restaurant:** Across the street. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Pool. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Dataport, sauna, hot tub, exercise equipment, snack bar, pool table, dog walk, old-fashioned soda fountain, ice cream parlor, computer center. **Activities:** Basketball, volleyball, horseshoes, swimming, golf, shopping, antiquing, fishing, tennis. **Nearby Attractions:** Burns Park, Wild River Country, Little Rock, Aerospace Education Center, State Capitol, Museum of Dy, Pinnacle Mountain State Park, Civil War Cemetery, Flea Markets.

Additional Information: North Little Rock Advertising & Promotion Commission, (800) 643-4690, (501) 758-1424.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only, cleaned up after; do not leave unattended. **Fires:** Grill only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 95 ft.

TO GET THERE

If coming north from Little Rock on I-30, take I-40 West to I-40. From I-40, take Exit 148. Turn west onto Crystal Hill Rd. and go 1.2 mi. Turn right at the sign into the entrance.

MENAShadow MountainMAP, C-1

3708 Hwy. 71 South, Mena 71953.
T: (479) 394-6099.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Touted by the proprietor as the “only full-service campground within 50 miles,” this campground has full hookups, a pool, and modern facilities in a forested, rural setting. Sites in this campground are not overly developed, adding to the natural charm of the grounds. All RV sites are 65-foot pull-throughs. Sites at the ends of the rows on the east side (2, 7, 13, 14, 28) are generally the best, as they face the forest and are slightly away from the other sites in the rows. Sites 41–51 are right off the highway, making them less desirable than other sites. Unnumbered tent sites are situated down the slope of the RV park and to the south, towards the highway. Sites are grassy, with ample tree coverage, but due to some amount of passing traffic noise is inevitable. The rest rooms are very clean and fairly modern. Showers are very spacious. The laundry room is spacious and contains enough machines for a campground of this size. This is a nice little getaway with an off-the-beaten-path feel but the convenience of a highway location.

BASICS

Operated By: Jerry & Anita Buffington. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Upon registration; reservations require credit card. **Registration:** In office. (Late arrivals use drop box.) **Fee:** RV \$21 (50 amp full hookup) & \$18 (30 amp partial hookup), tent \$13 (water & electric). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Tent-only Sites: Undesignated sites. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30, 50 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 5 mi. to Mena. **Restaurant:** 5 mi. to Mena. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Pool. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Lake, antique soda fountain, firewood. **Activities:** Basketball, swimming. **Nearby Attractions:** Talimena Scenic Drive, Ouachita National Forest, Janssen Park, Queen Wil-

helmina State Park. **Additional Information:** Mean/Polk County Chamber of Commerce, (501) 394-2912.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only, cleaned up after. **Fires:** In rings. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites; subject to dry county regulations. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From the junction of Hwy. 8 and Hwy. 59/71, in Mena, go 4.5 mi. south on Hwy. 59/71. Turn right at the sign into the entrance. The office is on the left; park to the right.

MORRILTONPetit Jean State ParkMAP, B-2

1285 Petit Jean Mountain Rd., Morrilton 72110.
T: (501) 727-5441; www.petitjeanstatepark.com.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Sites in this state park, Arkansas’ first, are divided into four areas, A–D. Area A is east of the Visitors Center, and contains sites 1–35, all 80-foot pull-throughs (except 32, which is 105 feet). Many of these sites are along (or near) the lake, and therefore are preferred or premium sites, costing more than the others. Premium sites closest to the lake are 19, 26, and 27. Preferred sites near the lake are 8, 9, 29, and 30. The end sites 1 and 35 are closest to the entrance, and may not be as desirable. Area B contains the reservable sites. Of these, 44–48 are the nicest, as they back to thick woods and are quieter than other sites. Sites 36–42 back to a road, and suffer from more noise as a result. Area C contains 45–50-foot back-ins. Sites 74–76, 89, and 91 back to thick woods, making them quite nice. Site 71 is across from the bathhouse making access quite convenient. Site 77 is right by the entrance. Area D is for overflow camping. The rest rooms and showers in all of these areas are clean and spacious. This is a wonderful park with loads to do. It makes a great destination for families and anyone in a tent. RVers will enjoy their stay, but do not have the benefit of full hookups.

BASICS

Operated By: Arkansas State Parks. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Upon registration during the day; first come, first served at night. Reservations require deposit of 1-night’s stay, made 5 days in advance; cancellation requires 5-days notice; 1st night’s deposit nonrefundable. Reservations can be made for 60% of the campsites. **Registration:** In visitor’s center. (Late arrivals select an available site & pay in the morning.) **Fee:** \$18 (premium site), \$17 (preferred site), \$15 (water, electric). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 127. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30 amps), water. **Each Site:** Picnic table, grill, lantern pole. **Dump Sta-**

MurfreesboroARKANSAS163

tion: Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** Oppelo, 14 mi. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 20 mi. to Morrilton. **Restaurant:** Yes. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Pool, seasonal (Mem. Day–Labor Day). **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Tennis courts, picnic pavilion, snack bar, boat rentals, amphitheater, Mather Lodge Restaurant, horse facilities. **Activities:** Fishing, boating, swimming, horseback riding, hiking, tennis. **Nearby Attractions:** Waterfall, Museum of Automobiles. **Additional Information:** Morrilton Chamber of Commerce, (501) 354-2393.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only, cleaned up after. **Fires:** Grill only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From the junction of Hwy. 9 and Hwy. 154, turn west onto Hwy. 154 and go 11.3 mi. into the park.

MURFREESBOROMiner’s Camping and Rock ShopMAP, C-1

2235 Hwy. 301 South, Murfreesboro 71958.
T: (870) 285-2722; www.murfreesboro.com.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

This campground is divided into two sections on either side of the highway, the north and south sections. In the north section, sites are arranged on the outside of an internal loop. All sites are back-ins: 5–11 back to the forest, 12–17 to a dirt road. Sites are open-ended, meaning that a rig of any size can fit in most sites. Site 17 is somewhat less desirable due to its proximity to the highway. The main rest rooms are in this section, and are small, modern, and cozy. The shower is extremely spacious, but shares one drawback with the rest room—a cement floor. Sites on the south side of the park all back to the woods. Sites H–K are the best sites, as they are farthest from the highway. Site A is closest to the highway, and therefore less desirable. There are two non-flush toilets here, which are as clean as can be expected. (Take the time to cross the highway and use the full rest room!) Tenting is allowed in an open field on the south side, to the east of the RV sites. There is a good grass cover, but no trees for shade or protection from the elements. Rockhounds—and others—will enjoy this campground just south of Murfreesboro and a couple hundred feet from the Crater of Diamonds State Park. The services are decent, and the campground is attractive and woody.

BASICS

Operated By: J. Goodin. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Upon registration. Verbal reservations OK; call to cancel. **Registration:** In gift shop.

164 ARKANSAS Paragould

(Late arrivals select an available site & settle in the morning.) **Fee:** RV \$15 (full). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 20. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, trash can. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Gravel. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 2 mi. north. **Restaurant:** 2 mi. north. **General Store:** 2 mi. north. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Gift shop, 3 cabins, firewood, fishing pond, pavilion. **Activities:** Hiking, rock collecting. **Nearby Attractions:** Crater of Diamonds State Park, Ka-Do-Ha Indian Village, Hot Springs, Quartz Mines, Washington State Park. **Additional Information:** Murfreesboro Chamber of Commerce, (870) 425-5111.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only, cleaned up after. **Fires:** In pits. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Subject to dry county regulations. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From the junction of Hwy. 26/27 and Hwy. 301, go 2.3 mi. east on Hwy. 301. Turn left at the sign into the entrance.

PARAGOULD MAP, B-3
Crowley's Ridge State Park

2092 Hwy. 168 North, Paragould 72450.
T: (800) 264-2405 or (870) 573-6751;
www.arkansasstateparks.com.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Campsites in the park are situated along a single internal road. Sites on the north side have a sudden slope at the rear, while those on the south side have a more gradual slope. (All parking strips are level.) Tent sites (19–26) are mostly 30 feet off the main road, although sites 22–24 are set back farther. These are extremely spacious (45-foot-wide) dirt campsites set, as all campsites in the park are, back in the forest. Of the RV sites (so designated solely by their electric hookups), 1 is a gigantic (120-foot) pull-through, while the others are mostly 45–50-foot back-ins. (Site 7 is an exception, being only 30 feet long and set very close to the road.) Site 9 offers the most privacy, being set well back from the road; while 8 has much less privacy due to its proximity to a hiking trail head. The rest rooms and showers are astonishingly clean, modern, and spacious (but do lack air conditioning). This is an intimate state park with extraordinarily clean facilities that both tenters and RVers will definitely enjoy.

BASICS

Operated By: Arkansas Dept. of Parks & Tourism. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. Reservations require deposit of 1-night's stay, made 5 days in advance; cancellation requires 5-days notice; 1st night's deposit nonrefundable. Only

5 sites are reservable. **Registration:** In visitors center. (Late arrivals select available site & register next morning after 8 a.m.) **Fee:** \$15 (water, electric), tent \$8 (check, V, MC, D, AE). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 18. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 8. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, grill, lantern pole. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 9 mi. to Paragould. **Restaurant:** 9 mi. to Paragould. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Lake. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Gift shop. **Activities:** Boating, canoeing, hiking, swimming, paddleboating. **Nearby Attractions:** Lake Ponder, Walcott Lake. **Additional Information:** Paragould-Greene County Chamber of Commerce, (870) 236-7684.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only, cleaned up after. **Fires:** In pits. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites (preferably in nondescript containers). **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From the junction of Hwy. 49 and Hwy. 412, go 9 mi. west on Hwy. 412. Turn left onto Hwy. 168 and go 2 mi. Turn left at the sign into campground.

PINE BLUFF MAP, C-2
Saracen Trace RV Park

P.O. Box 7676, Pine Bluff 71611. T: (870) 536-0920 or (870) 534-0711; pbparks@seark.net.

 ★★★★★	 n/a
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Located within a large city park, this campground has open, grassy sites situated along a looped internal road. All sites are 60-foot back-ins, and most (if not all) are very well shaded. Sites on the eastern side of the campground (7–17) back to the lake, and seem to be sought after for this reason. Sites 21–24 back to a golf course adjacent to the campground. Site 43 is desirable for the large amount of open space (large enough for another RV site) adjacent to it. Sites 29 and 30, on the other hand, are less desirable, as they are very close to the entrance and receive more passing traffic than other sites. There is a disabled-access fishing pier between sites 12 and 13, which may also account for increased traffic past these two sites. This campground is on the whole a very pleasant, extremely quiet campground. Sites are grassy and shaded, and campers seeking a relaxing atmosphere should find them extremely comfortable.

BASICS

Operated By: Pine Bluff Parks Commission. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; no reservations. **Registration:** Registration kiosk. **Fee:** \$12. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 52. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30 amps), water. **Each Site:** Picnic table, grill, trees. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** No. **Fuel:** 3 mi. **Propane:** 3 mi. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 6 mi. to town. **Restaurant:** 6 mi. to town. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Lake (at boat dock). **Playground:** Yes. **Activities:** Swimming, fishing, baseball, soccer, horseshoes, hiking, golf. **Nearby Attractions:** Lake Langhofer, The Band Museum, Southeast Arkansas Arts & Science Center, Nature Center, Railroad Museum. **Additional Information:** Greater Pine Bluff Area Chamber of Commerce, (870) 535-0110.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only, cleaned up after. **Fires:** Grill only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From the junction of Hwy. 79B and Hwy. 65B, go 1.2 mi. east on Hwy. 65B. Turn left at the light onto Convention Center Dr. and follow this road into the park. The campground is at the extreme north end of the park.

POCAHONTAS MAP, B-3
Old Davidsonville State Park

7953 Hwy. 166 South, Pocahtontas 72455.
T: (870) 892-4708 or (870) 892-7650;
www.arkansasstateparks.com.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

RV sites in this park are located on either side of a single internal looped road. Tent sites are walk-ins from a common parking area in the southeast corner. All campsites are spacious, forested spaces with a (mostly) dirt floor. Of the RV sites, 4, 8, 16, and 20 are 120-foot pull-throughs, while the rest of the sites run from 45 feet (1) to 75 feet (3) in length. Sites 10 and 11 are a double, suitable for a group camping. Sites 18, 19, and 24 are slightly less desirable sites: 18 is set right on the road, with little privacy; 19 is extremely close to several tent sites; and 24 is located right on the path that leads to the bathhouse, ensuring loads of passing foot traffic. All other sites are very nice, and even these three are only slightly worse off. The tenting area consists of a very spacious walk-in area behind site 19. One (unnumbered) site in the northeast corner of this area is situated well away from the others, and therefore offers more privacy. The rest rooms and showers are extremely clean, modern, and spacious. The campground is very comfortable for both tenters and RVers, and offers a glimpse into frontier life in Arkansas from the early 1800s.

BASICS

Operated By: Arkansas Dept. of Parks & Tourism. **Open:** All year (limited services Dec.–Feb.). **Site**

Assignment: First come, first served; reservations require deposit of 1 night's stay, made 5 days in advance; cancellation requires 5-days notice; 1st night's deposit nonrefundable. **Registration:** In visitor center, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. (Late arrivals select available site & register next morning after 8 a.m.) **Fee:** \$15 (water, electric), tent \$8 (check,V,MC,D,AE). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 24. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 15. **Hookups:** Electric (20 amps), water. **Each Site:** Picnic table, grill, fire pit, trees. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** 10 mi. in Poca-hontas. **Propane:** 10 mi. in Poca-hontas. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** 45 min. to Jonesboro. **Market:** 10 mi. to Poca-hontas. **Restaurant:** 10 mi. to Poca-hontas. **General Store:** 1 mi. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Pavilion, boat ramp, historical exhibits, canoe rentals, gift shop, campfire ring. **Activities:** Boating, hiking, fishing, volleyball. **Nearby Attractions:** Black River, Old Davidsonville. **Additional Information:** Randolph County Chamber of Commerce, (870) 892-3956.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only, cleaned up after. **Fires:** Grill only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites (preferably in nondescript containers). **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From the junction of Hwy. 62 and Hwy. 166, turn south onto Hwy. 166 and go 8.5 mi. (Be sure to follow Hwy. 166 as it turns to the left after 8 mi.) Follow the road straight into the park.

ROGERS MAP, B-1
Rogers/Pea Ridge Garden RV and Campground

15170 Hwy. 62 East, Rogers 72732.
T: (479) 451-8566; www.gardenrv.com.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Sites in this campground are mostly undeveloped, being grassy or, at most, gravel. However, this lends a natural feel to the entire campground that many campers will enjoy. Sites 1–15 are 75-foot pull-throughs, of which 1–8 are mostly without shade. (Sites 10–15 are forested.) Sites 22–26 are smaller (42–54-feet) back-ins, and a little crunched for space. Site 23 is a 60-foot pull-through at the tip of the island inside the looped road. Sites 44 and 45 are 75-foot back-ins that back to the forest, and are the most secluded sites in the park. The tent spaces, 32–40, are in fact one large open space fit for tents. This area has lots of trees but a rather thin grass cover. Tent sites 48 and 50, by the entrance, have crushed gravel pads and loads of shade. The laundry facility is small but very clean. The rest rooms are likewise clean and

very bright. This campground is a very comfortable stay for both RVers and tenters.

BASICS

Operated By: Leslie Thomas & Jack Maertens. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Upon registration; V or MC required for reservation, 24-hour cancellation policy. **Registration:** In office. (Late arrivals use drop box.) **Fee:** RV \$22 (full), \$20 (water, electric), tent \$14 (check,V,MC). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Tent-only Sites: Undesignated sites. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30, 50 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, grill. (most sites). **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** 0.5 mi. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Gravel. **RV Service:** 0.5 mi. **Market:** 2 mi. on Hwy. 62. **Restaurant:** 0.5 mi. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Pool. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Game room, w/in 15 minutes of fishing areas, cabins, pet walk, swimming pool. **Activities:** Fishing, boating, swimming. **Nearby Attractions:** Pea Ridge Military Park, War Eagle Cavern, Beaver Lake. **Additional Information:** Rogers Chamber of Commerce, (501) 636-1240.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only, cleaned up after. **Fires:** Grill only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From I-340 (Exit 82), exit onto Hwy. 62 and go 10.6 mi. Turn left at the sign into the entrance.

RUSSELLVILLE MAP, B-1, B-2
Outdoor Living Center RV Park

10 Outdoor Ct., Russellville 72802.T: (479) 968-7705 or (479) 968-7706; www.olcrv.com.

 ★★★	 n/a
Beauty: ★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★

Although this campground is bordered to the northwest by woods, unsightly storage units to the south detract significantly from the beauty of this park. Sites are laid out in two central rows of 65-foot pull-throughs, with 60-foot back-ins around the perimeter. The nicest of the back-ins (17–25) are along the northern edge, just in front of the woods. Sites 1–16 also back to trees, but the trees don't shade the sites. The pull-throughs are grassy and level, but open to the sun. Site 25 is next to the rec room, and may receive more than the normal amount of passing foot traffic. Likewise, 46, closest to the rest rooms, may be a high-traffic site. The rest rooms are clean and comfortable, and kept locked for added security. This park is a decent overnight stay, but not a destination for most travelers. One word of note: during our visit, the managers were involved in multi-level marketing, and tended to push their product on visitors—to the extent of including a product brochure with each site map!

Siloam Springs ARKANSAS 165

BASICS

Operated By: Richard Shilling. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Flexible, depending on availability; reservations require credit card if arriving after 4 p.m.; cancellation requires 24-hour notice. **Registration:** In office. (Late arrivals pay in morning.) **Fee:** RV \$ 20 (50 amps), \$ 18 (30 amps) (check,V,MC,D). Good Sam & AARP discounts available. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 50. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer, cable TV. **Each Site:** Picnic table (most sites). **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Gravel/paved. **RV Service:** Service Center. 4 mi. **Market:** 2 mi. south. **Restaurant:** 0.25 mi. south. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Dataport, rec hall, RV supplies. **Activities:** Tours, hiking. **Nearby Attractions:** Lake Dardanelle State Park, Hot Springs National Park. **Additional Information:** Chamber of Commerce, (501) 968-2530.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only, cleaned up after; long-term residents may only have a "few" dogs. **Fires:** In own grills; subject to bans; check w/ park for details. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites; subject to dry county regulations. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 62 ft.

TO GET THERE

From I-40 Exit 81, turn west onto Hwy. 7 and go 0.3 mi. north to campground entrance.

SILOAM SPRINGS MAP, B-1
Wilderness Hills RV Park and Campground

13776 Taylor Orchard Rd., Siloam Springs 72734.T: (479) 524-4955; whcg@coxinternet.com.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★

Located in a wilderness setting and surrounded by forest, this campground is shady and quiet. RV sites are huge pull-throughs (75–95-feet) laid out in two strips, and all are well-shaded. Sites 1–10 are farthest from the office, but closest to the entrance. (Sites 1–5 are the farthest from everything—but not by much.) Sites 3 and 4, as well as 5 and 6, are angled into each other, which makes them slightly less private. The longest sites in the campground are 11–15, which are an impressive 95 feet in length. Tenting space is located in the southeast corner. Like the RV sites, this area is well-shaded, and it is closest to the undeveloped forest. While there is but thin grass cover, the dirt is soft and will easily take tent spikes. Tenters will especially enjoy the "lost" atmosphere of this park, although anyone in search of a quiet night in the woods will appreciate it.

166 ARKANSAS Texarkana

BASICS

Operated By: Robert Hammersla. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Upon registration; verbal reservations OK, first come, first served. **Registration:** In office. (Late arrivals use drop box.) **Fee:** RV \$22 (full), \$18 (water, electric), tent \$13 (check, no credit cards). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 25. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, grill. **Dump Station:** No (sewer at all sites). **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** 2 mi. **Propane:** 2 mi. **Internal Roads:** Gravel. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 2 mi. southwest to Siloam Springs. **Restaurant:** 2 mi. southwest to Siloam Springs. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Dataport, lake, stream, golf course, cabins, horseshoes. **Activities:** Fishing, golf, antique, flea markets, horseshoes. **Nearby Attractions:** Ozark National Forest, Beaver Lake. **Additional Information:** Chamber of Commerce, (501) 524-6466.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only, cleaned up after, quiet. **Fires:** Grill only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE



From the junction of Hwy. 595 and Hwy. 412 East in town (just west of the Arkansas state line), go east on Hwy. 412 for 1.5 mi. Turn left onto Mt. Olive St. and go 1.9 mi. Turn right onto Dawn Hill Rd. and go 1.85 mi. Turn left onto Taylor Orchard Rd. and go 1.3 mi. Turn right at the sign into the campground.

TEXARKANA

Texarkana RV Park

MAP, D-1

8225 Camper Ln., Texarkana 71854.
T: (870) 772-0751; rbparkrs@msn.com.

 ★★★	 n/a
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★

Divided into three sections (A, B, and C), this campground has only RV sites, and does not accommodate tenting. Sites are all level, grassy pull-throughs. Row A has 65-foot sites that are all very open. Site 8 has the largest tree (across the internal road, by the grill), making it the best of this row. Site 12 is closest to the highway, making it the least desirable. Row B has 45-foot sites that are mostly open—sites 8, 11, 12, and 14 have shade trees. Row C has 60-foot sites, with the best sites in the higher numbers. Sites 11–14 face a nice field to the north, and have trees across the internal road that provide some shade, but 14 is close to the highway. The campground in general is not highly developed, which lends a natural feel to the sites but also provides for a sometimes choppy road. RVers should take the internal road at a slow speed. The rest rooms are clean and very modern. However, the showers could benefit from a tile scrub-

bing, and some of the lights were not working when the campground was inspected. The laundry is spacious and clean. This is a very reasonable campground to spend several days in, and depending on which site you get, it may prove to be worthy of a longer stay.

BASICS

Operated By: Janet Park. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Upon registration. Reservations recommended & require credit card in busy season; 24-hour cancellation policy. **Registration:** In office. (Late arrivals use drop box.) **Fee:** RV \$20–\$23 depending on 30 or 50 amps (V, MC, D, AE). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 41. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30, 50 amps), water, sewer, cable TV. **Each Site:** Picnic table, grill, trash can. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** 0.5 mi. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Gravel. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 5 mi. to Texarkana. **Restaurant:** 0.5 mi. at Flying J. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Pool. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Small TV lounge. All sites are pull-through. **Activities:** Games, visiting museums, swimming. **Nearby Attractions:** Crater of Diamonds State Park, Dy Place Children's Museum. **Additional Information:** Texarkana Chamber of Commerce, (903) 792-7191.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only, cleaned up after, do not leave tied up. **Fires:** Grill only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE



From I-30, take Exit 7 to Mandeville. Go 0.2 mi. north on Hwy. 108 West, then take the 1st right onto the north service road and go 0.4 mi. straight into the campground.

VAN BUREN

Overland RV Park

MAP, B-1

1716 Fayetteville Hwy., Van Buren 72956.
T: (479) 471-5474; olcrv@mail.cswnet.com.

 ★★★	 n/a
Beauty: ★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★

This RV park is part of an RV-oriented complex in a commercial area off a main road. The park is located next to a sales and service center, while a fence running around the park hides a supermarket, restaurants, and shops. Sites are laid out in three rows. The south row (even 2–32 and 33) contains back-ins of 40 × 22 feet and offers phone hookups. The north row (34–49) offers 50 amps service. Pull-throughs are located in the north and middle rows. These sites are 65 feet in length, with a mixture of gravel and grass. Site 33 is slightly less desirable, as fencing on two sides seems to hem it in. The most desirable sites are in the north row, since they have the greatest amount of open space behind them, while the easternmost sites are far-

thest from the entrance. The shower facility is cleaner than the rest rooms, which are acceptable but not spectacular. At the time of our visit, the floors were utterly exhausted, and needed to be replaced. This campground is a reasonable overnight stay—and an extremely convenient one for those in need of RV servicing—but shouldn't make anyone's destination list.

BASICS

Operated By: Richard Shilling. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; credit card required for reservation; 24-hour cancellation policy. **Registration:** In RV at entrance, on right. If unattended, use mail slot. **Fee:** RV \$17 (50 amps), \$16 (30 amps) (check, V, MC, D). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 49. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer, phone. **Each Site:** Varies. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Gravel. **RV Service:** Yes. **Market:** 1 block. **Restaurant:** 2 blocks. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Pet walk area, pavilion. **Activities:** Railroad rides. **Nearby Attractions:** Arkansas & Missouri Railroad. **Additional Information:** Van Buren Visitors Center, (800) 332-5889.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only, cleaned up after. **Fires:** Grill only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE



From I-40 Exit 5, turn south onto Hwy. 59. On the south side of the highway crossover, go 0.1 mi. to the 1st left turn. Drive straight into the entrance.

WALDRON

Big Pine RV Park

MAP, C-1

1085 North Main St., Waldron 72958.
T: (479) 637-1000 or (903) 665-8648;
bjem@valuelink.net.

 ★★★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★

This overnight park is located in a residential area, with little to enhance its beauty. Sites are grassy and open, and situated rather close to the road. (Sites 12–16 are especially close. Mainly unshaded, they are as open to the sun as they are to passers-by.) While sites are open-ended, anything larger than 60 feet or so seems not feasible, especially if a number of sites are occupied. Sites 10 and 11 are perhaps the nicest, with a couple of trees around them to reduce the amount of direct sunlight that reaches them. Site 16 also has a tree, making it slightly better than the other roadside sites. Of the remaining sites, 1–8, are the better sites, being farthest from the highway. Perhaps a telling detail: a warning sign that reads "Not Responsible For

Accidents" is displayed prominently in the campground, suggesting that entering and exiting the premises is somewhat difficult in traffic. But then, unless you are running late you probably won't want to bother to find out.

BASICS

Operated By: Billy & Esther Murphy. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. No reservations. **Registration:** "Pick a spot & park." Register when someone is around. **Fee:** RV \$14. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Tent-only Sites: Undesignated sites. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Varies. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** No. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Gravel. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 1 mi. south. **Restaurant:** 1 mi. south. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Activities:** Fishing, boating, swimming, hiking. **Nearby Attractions:** Ouachita National Forest, Blue Mountain Lake. **Additional Information:** Chamber of Commerce, (501) 637-2775.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only, cleaned up after. **Fires:** Grill only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 60 ft.

TO GET THERE

From the junction of Hwy. 71 and Hwy. 71 B north of town, turn south onto Hwy. 71B South, and go 0.7 mi. Turn left at the sign into the park.

WEST MEMPHIS MAP, B-3 America's Best Campground

7037 I-55, West Memphis 72364.
T: (888) 857-4890 or (870) 739-4801;
www.camp_memphis.com.

★★★★★	★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

West of the highway, with a cornfield to the north and an agricultural field to the south, this campground has attractive landscaping (using bushes at the ends of rows) and towering shade trees. Nearly all sites in the park are very well shaded, with a grass floor. Sites 1, 2, 4, and 9 are enormous (100-foot) pull-throughs, while 3 and 5-8 are 75-foot back-ins. End sites 16, 24, 32, 40, 48, and H have enormous leftover space at the ends of the rows. Sites 50-54 are 60-foot back-ins in a strip across from the office. Adjacent to these sites are sites 55-62, arranged in a semi-circle in the grass. These are undeveloped sites in a wooded area, with a very natural, almost wild, feel. (These sites can accommodate any size of rig, and can be pull-throughs if the adjacent area is clear.) Sites A-H face a residential area, and A and B are the least best sites in the campground, lacking shade trees. However, there is nary a truly bad site in the park. The rest rooms and showers are immaculate, well-lit, and tastefully

decorated. The laundry is contained in its own cute little cabin, and is open 24 hrs. Located 15 miles to most attractions, and 22 miles to Grace-land, this park boasts very friendly management and is worth the drive out, especially given the state of other local campgrounds.

BASICS

Operated By: Jim & Sue Alkire. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Upon registration. Reservations require credit card or cell phone number, & are recommended; cancellation must be made 1 day before arrival. **Registration:** In office. (Late arrivals use drop box.) **Fee:** RV \$28 (full), \$18 (water, electric), tent \$18. Winter rates are RV \$26 & tent \$16. **Parking:** At site, w/ plenty of visitor parking.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 125. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 3. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Gravel. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 4 mi. south (Exit 10). **Restaurant:** 4 mi. south (Exit 10). **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Yes, outdoor pool. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Dataport, rec room, pet walk area, horseshoes. **Activities:** Swimming, visiting museums, city tours, shopping. **Nearby Attractions:** Graceland, Sun Studio, Beale St., Pink Palace Museum, Rock 'n' Soul Museum, IMAX Theater. **Additional Information:** Arkansas Visitor information Desk, (901) 543-5333.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only, cleaned up after. **Fires:** Grill only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites, no bottles. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From I-55, take Exit 14. Take the 1st right (following the sign for Memphis). Follow the road around and take the right turn so that you are driving parallel to the interstate on the west service road. Go 0.2 mi. and turn right at the sign into the campground.

WYNNE MAP, B-3 Village Creek State Park

201 CR 754, Wynne 72396. T: (870) 238-9406;
www.arkansasstateparks.com.

★★★★★	★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

This is a large campground divided up into three camping areas: South (1-41), West (42-73), and North (74-104), in order from the entrance. All sites are forested, and have a paved parking area for an RV or other vehicle. Most sites open to a grassy field that campers can use for recreation. The South Area consists of two loops in a figure 8, the more northerly of the two loops containing reservable sites. Sites 1 and 8 are set very close to the road, which makes them less desirable; while 7 is set back

farther than most, making it rather more private. Sites 23 and 24 are on either side of a hiking trail head, and may experience more foot traffic for this reason. Sites 25 and 26 together form a double. The West Area is close to Lake Dunn; sites 46-50 are the closest campsites to the swimming beach. Sites 53-57 back to the lake (with a strip of forest behind them), while 59 is close to the rest room facility. Sites 48 and 49 make a double, and 72 and 73 are very close to one another. 60-67 are located on a side street, making them slightly more private. Of these sites, 61 and 62 are the most remote. The North Area contains the most number of doubles, which will interest groups of campers. These include sites 75 and 76, 93 and 94, and 101 and 102. Site 74 is right at the entrance, but 85 and 86 are tucked away in a corner. This is a pleasant wilderness campground that will appeal to many campers for its quiet and natural setting.

BASICS

Operated By: Arkansas Dept. of Parks & Tourism. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. Reservations require deposit of 1-night's stay, made 5 days in advance; cancellation requires 5-days notice; 1st night's deposit nonrefundable. **Registration:** In visitors center. (Late arrivals select available site & register next morning after 8 a.m.) **Fee:** \$15 (check, V, MC, D, AE), 8 person limit. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 104. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30, 50 amps), water. **Each Site:** Picnic table; fire pit; tent pad (only at 37 sites). **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** W/in 1 mi. **Propane:** W/in 1 mi. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 7 mi. to Wynne. **Restaurant:** 7 mi. to Wynne. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Lake. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Cabins, auditorium. **Activities:** Tennis, hiking, driving range, basketball, bicycles for rent. **Nearby Attractions:** Village Creek State Park, Parkin Arch State Park. **Additional Information:** Chamber of Commerce, (870) 238-2601.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only, cleaned up after, not in cabins. **Fires:** Grill only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** At sites (preferably in nondescript containers). **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From the junction of Hwy. 1 and Hwy. 64B/284, turn east onto Hwy. 64B/284, and go 1.9 mi., making sure to take the two turns within the 1st 0.7 mi. to stay on this highway. At the junction of Hwy. 64B and Hwy. 284, go 4.9 mi. south on Hwy. 284. Turn left at the sign into the park entrance.

California

California's motto, Eureka, means "I have found it!" That sentiment is just as applicable to campers today as it was when it was first adopted a century and a half ago by the '49ers of the gold rush era. Indeed, the camping prospects are richer by far than what remains of the Golden State's mineral resources. From its 840 miles of shoreline, millions of acres of federal land, and 264 state parks (with scores more on the county level), California's scenery is a glittering reflection of all that is rare and wonderful in the natural beauty of the United States. With its relatively mild climate, many campgrounds remain open all year.

As one might expect in a state California's size, this is a land packed with extremes and superlatives: from **Mount Whitney**, the highest peak in the Lower 48 states, to **Badwater** in **Death Valley**, the lowest point in the Western Hemisphere. Its coast redwoods are the tallest trees in the world, and the bristlecone pines of the **Inyo National Forest** are the planet's oldest living organisms. To the south are sun-parched deserts awash in cacti and colorfully eroded landscapes that explode with wildflowers in the spring. Up north are the **Cascade Mountains**, iced with snow, scarred by lava, laced with trout streams, alpine lakes, and thousands of miles of hiking trails. In between are snow-cruised glaciers in the **Sierra Nevada Mountains**, one crashing waterfall after another, especially in **Yosemite Valley**, more national parks and monuments than any other state in the country, and a number of historical sites honoring Native American, Spanish, and Mexican explorers and African and Chinese pioneers, among others.

Beyond its silky-smooth beaches and tide pools, where passing whales and nesting seals can be observed, in addition to the superb fishing and boating in pristine lakes, rivers, and reservoirs, California's abundance of wildlife is icing on the camper's cake. Grizzly bears are long gone, but you will find Tule elk, Roosevelt elk, and fallow deer among the animals gracing the coastal preserves; big horn sheep, kangaroo rats, and desert tortoises in the arid areas; and black bears, coyotes, and black-tail deer roaming throughout. One needn't be a sharp-eyed birder to enjoy the sight of condors, Canada geese, bald and golden eagles, acorn woodpeckers, hummingbirds, valley quails, and herons of various types warbling among the oaks or winging across the marshlands.

Under the Clinton presidency, the Golden State gained the newly created **Mojave National Preserve** and two national monuments, **Carrizo Plain** and **Giant Sequoia**. The domains of **Pinnacles National Monument**, **Death Valley**, and **Joshua Tree National Parks** were substantially expanded. Hundreds of properties within California's national forests have been revamped and are now run by concessionaires intent on keeping them clean, secure, and profitable. Dispersed camping on lands administered by the National Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management offers serious solitude-seekers and the budget-minded a less structured approach to camping.

The 31st state also is chockfull of fascinating destinations should you get an itch for the kitsch. Just outside San Francisco Airport in Burlingame, you can relive your childhood while at the **Museum of Pez Memorabilia**. Every October the Santa Barbara County city of Carpinteria hosts its **Avocado Festival**, where it is highly probable that you will be encouraged by the locals to participate in helping create the world's largest bowl of guacamole. But if what you really desire is to be in the middle of things, we suggest a trek to Felicity, otherwise known as the **Center of the World**, and have your name not only inscribed on the **Wall for the Ages** but entered into the electronic archive.

Whatever your interests and however you like to camp, despite the confines of your itinerary, California has so much beauty and space that on pulling into a campground you may well feel inspired to imitate the '49ers by exclaiming with exuberance, "Eureka!"

Campground Profiles

ADIN MAP, A-2
Upper Rush Creek

CR 198A, Adin 96006. T: (530) 299-3215;
www.r5.fs.fed.us/modoc.

★★★	★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★

You will have to pass Lower Rush Creek to reach this campground and may very well feel inclined to stop there for the night. No problem, the two are comparably pleasant, and Lower Rush has several walk-in sites, hidden away beyond a small wooden bridge, that are perfect for reclusive tenters. Upper Rush, though, is the more densely forested, tranquil of the two and offers a better array of sites. Conifers tower over the hilly dominion, providing shade and—through their fallen needles—soft padding for tents. To the north of camp is a volcanic outcropping, while the narrow, trickling Rush Creek sluices along its southern boundary. Some of the real estate here is not very level, but sites overall are very roomy and scattered well apart. Units 3–5, nestled above the creek, are the most picturesque. This facility is in the Modoc National Forest, 35 miles southwest of Alturas, off of Hwy. 299. It is nearly a mile high in altitude, making for cold nights early and late in the season. In winter, spigots are capped and no potable water is available.

BASICS

Operated By: Modoc National Forest, Big Valley Ranger District. **Open:** May–Oct. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$6, cash, check; no fee in winter when water spigots are capped. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 13. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, barbecue grill. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Dirt, good condition. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 10 mi. south in Adin. **Restaurant:** 10 mi. south in Adin. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Activities:** Hiking, fishing. **Nearby Attractions:** Lava Beds National Monument; Modoc National Wildlife Refuge & Modoc County Historical Museum in Alturas. **Additional Information:** Alturas Chamber of Commerce, (530) 233-4434.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 22 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Adin, drive 7.5 mi. northeast of Adin on Hwy. 299 to Alturas. The campground is 1.5 mi. off Hwy. 299 on a dirt road.

BAKER MAP, E-4
Hole-in-the-Wall

Mojave National Preserve, Black Canyon Rd., Baker 92311. T: (760) 255-8801;
www.nps.gov/moja.

★★★	★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

If you chanced to visit this campground when the Mojave National Preserve was first created in 1994, there was a very good likelihood that you had the entire grounds to yourself. Times have changed as word has spread about the subtle beauty of this area, and now you will probably have neighbors. Unless, of course, you make the mistake of visiting this piece of desert in summer when it becomes a sweltering inferno without a single shade tree to be found in the camp's single loop. But at an elevation of 4,400 feet, Hole-in-the-Wall can be pretty comfortable in both autumn and spring, even if late afternoon winds often require the donning of jackets and hats for warmth. And while the yucca plants and pencil chollas don't provide much in the way of screening, sites, with both pull-through and back-in parking, are roomy, well spaced apart, and attractively positioned just below a rough looking canyon. The sunset view of the surrounding mountains is an added plus, as is the Rings Trail hike, with its trailhead half a mile to the south.

BASICS

Operated By: National Park Service. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$12, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 35. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 2. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire ring. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Hole-in-the-Wall Visitor Center, 0.5 mi south. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Pit toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Dirt, in good condition. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 60 mi. west in Baker. **Restaurant:** 60 mi. west in Baker. **General Store:** 28 mi. in Fenner. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible sites, information center. **Activities:** Hiking, bicycling, horseback riding. **Nearby Attractions:** Mitchell Caverns, Kelso Dunes, Teutonia Peak. **Additional Information:** Mojave Desert Info. Cntr., (760) 733-4040.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

Exit I-40 at Essex Rd., drive 10 mi. north and turn right on Black Canyon Rd. Drive 10.3 mi. and turn left into campground. Or: Exit I-15 at Cima Rd. and drive south for 22 mi. Turn left on

Cedar Canyon Rd. and after 6 mi. turn right on Black Canyon Rd. Proceed for 9.5 mi. to the campground on the right.

BANNING MAP, E-3
Lake Hemet

56570 Hwy. 74, #4, Banning 92561.
T: (909) 659-2680.

★★★★★	★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

To paraphrase Dickens, Lake Hemet offers the best of campgrounds and the worst of campgrounds. It has a fine sandy beach but doesn't allow swimming in its namesake lake (wading is allowed in Hurkey Creek by the playground). The rugged, natural atmosphere radiating from the surrounding San Jacinto and Thomas mountain ranges is partly diminished by the cluttered cluster of the long-term residences. Several stands of mature ponderosa pines are scattered around the property but sites of dirt, sand, and a smattering of grass are largely exposed to the sun. And unless you like plenty of company, forget about a waterside location, especially among the RV hookups; the outlying areas without electricity are your best bet for space and seclusion. Security is one feature this facility is unequivocal about, with an entrance gate, regular patrols, and a county sheriff's office on the edge of the grounds.

BASICS

Operated By: Lake Hemet Municipal Water District. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance office. **Fee:** \$17, cash, V, MC. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 367. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** Undesignated sites. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire ring, some w/ a barbecue grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** Idyllwild. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Mostly paved, some dirt roads. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 9 mi. north in Idyllwild. **Restaurant:** 9 mi. north in Idyllwild. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, boat launch. **Activities:** Fishing, hiking, volleyball, basketball, horseshoe pit, boat rentals. **Nearby Attractions:** Pacific Crest Trail, Gilman Historic Ranch & Wagon Museum in Banning, San Jacinto Valley Museum. **Additional Information:** Banning Chamber of Commerce, (909) 849-4695.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash no longer than 15 ft., \$1 fee. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 40 ft.

TO GET THERE



From Banning head south on Hwy. 243, off I-10,

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and drive 31 mi. Turn left on Route 74 and continue for 5 mi. to the campground on the right.

BANNING MAP, E-3
Stone Creek Campground

Mount San Jacinto State Park, 25905 Hwy. 243, Banning 92549.T: (909) 659-2607; (800) 444-7275; www.sanjac.statepark.org.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★	Facilities: ★★

The scenic mountain drive along Hwy. 243 to Stone Creek is a good warm-up for your arrival at this gorgeous highland park. Set in a hilly, boulder-strewn forest of oak and incense cedar, manzanita, and ponderosa pine, the camp lies at 5,900 feet of elevation, so plan for cool evenings throughout the year. Regrettably, the somewhat wild, natural look of the place is balanced by sites that tend to be grouped a bit close together, with several lacking level tenting space. Best choices for RVers from the series of loops are sites 45, with a large pull-through slot, and 50, for privacy. Site 26 is the most secluded among the tent options. Birders will enjoy the lively community of acorn woodpeckers nesting in the vicinity and hikers should aim their boots in the direction of trails that lead into the neighboring San Jacinto Wilderness.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. Reservations accepted w/V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$10–\$12 (\$7 Sep. 15–May 14), cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 23. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 27. **Hookups:** Electric, water, sewer; ranges from no hookup–full hookup. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, food storage box. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Idyllwild** has flush toilets & showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Idyllwild w/in walking distance. **Restaurant:** Idyllwild w/in walking distance. **General Store:** Idyllwild. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Some wheelchair-accessible facilities. Movie theater in Idyllwild. **Activities:** Hiking, bird-watching, nature programs in summer, Movie theater in Idyllwild. **Nearby Attractions:** Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, Palm Springs Desert Museum, Oasis Water Park in Palm Springs, Gilman Historic Ranch & Wagon Museum in Banning, County Nature Center. **Additional Information:** Idyllwild Chamber of Commerce, (909) 659-3259.

RESTRICTIONS


Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 24 ft.

TO GET THERE

From I-10 in Banning exit south on Hwy. 243. Drive 20 mi. and turn left at the campground sign.

BARSTOW MAP, E-3
Afton Canyon

I-15, Afton Canyon Rd., Barstow 92311.T: (760) 252-6000; www.ca.blm.gov/barstow/afton.html.

 ★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★

Your first impression of Afton Canyon may well be that it is a dusty God-forsaken over-sized sandbox where even the lowly creosote bush has difficulty putting down roots. And your second impression might echo your first, especially if a freight train should chance to rattle down the nearby tracks while you are there. But give your eyes—and your other senses—an opportunity to take in the surroundings and you may just find the low-key beauty of the place growing on you. Some of the level, sandy sites are screened by mesquite bushes, and most are spaced well apart, while desert dunes and the russet colored namesake canyon lend texture to the setting. (So, too, does a disturbing amount of litter, but that's another story.) There's a chance you'll see the elusive desert tortoise here, though rosy boas and kangaroo rats are more likely visitors. Bring plenty of water—the source here is unreliable—and note that while the campground is less than four miles south of I-15, a hairpin curve on the dirt and gravel washboard of an access road is all but impassable for vehicles over 22 feet in length.

BASICS

Operated By: Bureau of Land Management. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** self-pay entrance station. Place fee in box. **Fee:** \$6, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 22. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire ring; most sites have ramada & barbecue grill. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vaulted toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Packed, rocky dirt but manageable. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 37 mi. west in Barstow. **Restaurant:** 37 mi. west in Barstow. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Some wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Hiking, hunting, bird-watching, rock & mineral collecting, horseback riding, 4WD exploring. **Nearby Attractions:** Mojave National Preserve, Early Man Site, Death Valley National Park. Hunting available in area; call California Dept. of Fish & Game at (310) 590-5132. **Additional Information:** Bureau of Land Management, Barstow Field Office, (760) 252-6091; Dept. of Fish & Game, (310) 590-5132 for hunting information.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash & supervised. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed, on leash & under owner's supervision. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 22 ft., some sites will accommodate larger RVs.

TO GET THERE

From Barstow drive 40 mi. east on I-15. Exit on Afton Rd. and drive 3.5 mi south on a dirt and gravel accordion road that leads to the campground on the left.

BARSTOW MAP, E-3
Owl Canyon

Fossil Bed Rd., Barstow 92311.T: (760) 252-6000; www.ca.blm.gov/barstow/awl.html.

 ★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★

Rock hounds like this area for its abundance of fossils, but they're overlooking the obvious: Owl Canyon is a diamond-in-the-rough. Conveniently located next to Rainbow Basin National Natural Landmark, just 11 miles north of Barstow, this campground is dramatically set against a colorful, eroded canyon of bentonite and limestone. Roomy, level sites are well spaced along a tri-pronged loop, with numbers 12–23 among the more private. Tableside ramadas are an essential campsite accoutrement in an otherwise primitive locale that consists of just desert scrub and a few sparse Joshua trees for vegetation. Owl Canyon lies at an elevation of 2,600 feet and can be scorching hot from mid-spring through early autumn. Whenever you visit pack plenty of water, as none is available at the campground. And drive carefully, as the last time we traveled through we encountered a large, shy desert tortoise crossing the camp's dirt access road.

BASICS

Operated By: Bureau of Land Management. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. No reservations. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$6, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 31. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire ring, barbecue grill, ramada (most sites). **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Gravel, decent condition. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 10 mi. south in Barstow. **Restaurant:** 10 mi. south in Barstow. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Some wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Hiking, horseback riding, scenic loop drive through canyon, bird-watching, rock & mineral collecting. **Nearby Attractions:** Rainbow Basin National Natural Landmark, Mojave National Preserve, Afton Canyon. **Additional Information:** BLM, Barstow Field Office, (760) 252-6091; Barstow Area Chamber, (760) 256-8617.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** In fire ring. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 35 ft.

TO GET THERE

In Barstow follow the I-15 Business Loop and head north on 1st St. After 0.8 mi. turn left on Irwin Rd. and drive 6 mi., then turn left on Fossil Bed Rd. Proceed for 3 mi. and turn right. The campground is located 1.6 mi. down the road. The last 4.6 mi. are dirt w/ washboard stretches.

BASS LAKE MAP, D-2
Lupine-Cedar Bluff

CR 222, Bass Lake 93604.T: (559) 877-2218 or (877) 444-6777; www.fs.fed.us/r5/sierra.

 ★★★★★	 ★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

A question to ask before heading out to this campground is, how much time will you be spending at the site? Bass Lake, a pretty green mountain reservoir, is right across the street, an attractive venue for fishing, boating, and waterskiing. The surrounding national forest land and Yosemite National Park, 25 miles away, beckon to hikers. If you plan to put in most of your time soaking up the natural splendor of the environment, go ahead and book a spot at Lupine-Cedar Bluff. On second thought, make that a double. For while its hilltop setting, among an array of manzanita, oak, cedar, and pines, is superb, the exposed, grassy sites are disappointingly small and crammed right up against each other. In many cases the dimensions are so tight you won't be able to set up a tent and safely light a fire. The dozen walk-ins are OK for tenters, but this is more of a camp for motor homes, with paved parking slips and the vast majority of its spots set aside as multiple units. There are a handful of fine single sites, but the concession that runs this property—and dares to charge \$18 a night—does not permit reservations by number, only by type (single, double, on up to quadruple).

BASICS

Operated By: California Land Mgt., concessionaire. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations recommended w/ V, MC, D. **Registration:** At Forest Service office 2.7 mi. west of campground. **Fee:** \$18, cash, check; up to \$64 for quadruple site. **Parking:** At site or designated area for walk-ins.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 62. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 12. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** No, 2 mi. away. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Flush toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 10 mi. west in Oakhurst. **Restaurant:** Several options on Bass Lake. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** In Bass Lake. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Some wheel-

chair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Fishing, hiking, waterskiing, boating, eavesdropping on your neighbors. **Nearby Attractions:** Yosemite National Park; Fresno Flats Historical Site in Oakhurst; Yosemite Mountain Sugar Pine Railroad in Fish Camp, Nelder Grove of giant sequoias. **Additional Information:** Bass Lake Chamber of Commerce, (559) 642-3676.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 40 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Oakhurst drive 3 mi. north on Hwy. 41. Turn right on CR 222 and continue for 7 mi., bearing right at 2 consecutive forks, to the campground on the right.

BIG PINE MAP, D-3
Big Pine Creek

Glacier Lodge Rd., Big Pine 93513.T: (760) 873-2500 or (877) 444-6777; www.r5.fs.fed.us/inyo.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

Of the several campgrounds along Glacier Lodge Rd., Big Pine Creek, at an elevation of 7,700 feet, is preferable for its green grassy look and close proximity to the rocky jaw-line of the overhanging mountains. It is a gorgeous, natural setting, shot through with Sierra granite, a creek running by, and an abundance of Jeffrey pines complementing its flush of aspens. There is only one blemish to all this beauty, the presence of a handful of private cabins at the center of the property. As is typical of mountain camps, many sites run toward the miniature, and seem to offer less privacy than you'd enjoy at a nudist colony. The exceptions, though, make this a winner, with the spots by the creek providing the best space and seclusion. The pick of the park are numbers 9, appealingly set in an old stone foundation, and 21–23, which are roomy and private. Showers, a snack bar, bait and tackle, and other basic supplies are available at the lodge.

BASICS

Operated By: American Land & Leisure, concessionaire. **Open:** May–mid-Oct., weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. Reservations accepted, V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$13, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 36. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No, available in Big Pine. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, narrow, bumpy. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 9.5 mi. east in Big Pine. **Restaurant:** 9.5 mi. east in Big Pine. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No.

Big Pine CALIFORNIA 171

Other: Some wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Hiking, fishing, horseback riding, photography. **Nearby Attractions:** Inyo National Forest; Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest & Laws Railroad Museum & Historic Site in Bishop; Death Valley National Park; John Muir Wilderness. **Additional Information:** Bishop Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau, (760) 873-8405.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 35 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Big Pine on US 395 head west on Crocker St. (which becomes Glacier Lodge Rd.). Drive 9.5 mi. to the campground entrance on the left.

BIG PINE MAP, D-3
Grandview

White Mountain Rd., Big Pine 93514.
T: (760) 873-2500; www.r5.fs.fed.us/inyo.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★

Your first question on arriving at this notably primitive place will probably be, "Where's the view?" Don't despair. While none of the remarkably spacious, well-separated sites offer vistas of anything much beyond the sage-covered meadow at the center of the large loop, walk a few minutes in almost any direction and you will find rewarding panoramas of the outlying valleys and mountain ranges. The best of this national forest land, though, lies five miles farther up the road, at the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, with trails leading past some of the oldest trees on the planet. (The relatively new visitor center there keeps irregular hours.) Pull-through parking slots are available at a number of sites, and most of the latter benefit at least partly from the shade cast by mature junipers, piñons, and other conifers. Weather can be scorching in late spring and early autumn, but at 8,600 feet of elevation, expect nights to be cool and quite breezy. There is no water available, and trash must be packed out.

BASICS

Operated By: Inyo National Forest, White Mountain Ranger District. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** Not necessary. **Fee:** None. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 26. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Packed dirt, good condition. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 13 mi. south in Big Pine. **Restaurant:** 13 mi. south in Big Pine. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Activities:** Hiking, photography, stargazing. **Nearby Attractions:** Inyo

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National Forest; Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest & Laws Railroad Museum & Historic Site in Bishop; Death Valley National Park. **Additional Information:** Bishop Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau, (760) 873-8405.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From Big Pine on US 395 drive 13 mi. east on Hwy. 168. Turn left on White Mountain Rd. and continue 5.5 mi. to the campground entrance on the left.

BIG SUR MAP, D-1
Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park

Hwy. 1, Big Sur 93920. T: (831) 667-2315; (800) 444-7275; www.cal-parks.ca.gov or www.bigsurcalifornia.org.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★	Facilities: ★★

The redwood trees of Pfeiffer Big Sur are neither the largest nor oldest along the California coast. In fact, there is a more impressive grove just two miles south, at the privately operated Ventana Campground. The trees are so numerous there and grow so close together that the property, with small sites priced around \$40 a night, seems perpetually moist and dark. The trees at Pfeiffer, on the other hand, are big without blocking the sunlight. They compose only one part of three distinct habitats represented over the five dispersed loops, with an oak woodland and grassy meadows making up the balance. The Big Sur River parallels the campground, which consists of level sites of dirt and leaves. Those in the first two loops are a bit more spacious than elsewhere. There are some excellent hiking trails in this ever-popular park, with Buzzards Roost in particular delivering superb views of the surrounding hills. Poison oak is abundant around the campground and beggar squirrels can strip your table of food before you're even aware they've invaded.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations recommended can be made 7 months in advance for summer season; V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$16, cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 214. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, barbecue grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes, Jun.–Labor Day. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 1 mi. north in Big Sur. **Restaurant:** Big Sur Lodge, w/in the park. **General Store:** Yes.

Vending: Yes. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Some wheelchair-accessible facilities, Big Sur Lodge. Wood available at Big Sur Lodge. **Activities:** Hiking, beaching, winter whale-watching, redwoods exploring, photography. **Nearby Attractions:** Several state parks in the vicinity: Julia Pfeiffer Burns, Andrew Molera, Garra pata, Limekiln State Park in Lucia, Big Sur coastal vistas. **Additional Information:** Big Sur Chamber, (831) 667-2100.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On 6-ft. leash, not allowed on trails. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 32 ft. motor home, 27 ft. restriction on trailers.

TO GET THERE

From the Big Sur Post Office on Hwy. 1, drive 1.5 mi. north and turn right into the campground.

BISHOP MAP, D-2
East Fork

Rock Creek Rd., Bishop 93514. T: (760) 873-2500 or (877) 444-6777; www.r5.fs.fed.us/inyo.

 ★★★★★	 ★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★

East Fork is nestled in a rocky canyon with snow-capped Sierra peaks looming above, a thrilling setting very near the gorgeous Rock Creek Lake. The creek itself gurgles through the property, which consists of a hodge-podge of sites, some shaded by lodgepole pines and junipers, others screened by aspen trees, and many exposed to the sun. While most are respectably scattered apart, sites are on the small side, with some so snug there's not enough room to set up anything but a bivvy tent. Still, we find this Inyo National Forest facility infinitely preferable to that at the lake, which is basically a campers' corral in a parking lot. Creek-side site 86 is especially recessed and private, 108 is quite large, and 110–112 and 114 are very good runners-up. At 9,000 feet elevation, this high altitude camp can get hit by snow at almost any time of year, so plan your trip accordingly.

BASICS

Operated By: American Land & Leisure. **Open:** Mid-May–Oct., weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/ MC, V, D. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$15, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 80. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 53. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, barbecue grill, food storage at some sites. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Flush toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 21 mi. north in Mammoth Lakes. **Restaurant:** 3 mi. northeast in Toms Place. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No.

Activities: Hiking, fishing, bicycling. **Nearby Attractions:** Devils Postpile National Monument, outlet shopping in Mammoth Lakes, museums in Bishop, Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest in the Inyo National Forest. **Additional Information:** Bishop Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau, (760) 873-8405.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 45 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Bishop head north on US 395 for 24 mi. Turn west (left) on Rock Creek Rd.; continue for 6 mi. and turn left to the campground access road.

BLAIRSDEN MAP, B-2
Upper Jamison Creek Campground

Plumas-Eureka State Park, 310 Johnsville Rd., Blairsden 96103. T: (530) 836-2380; www.cal-parks.ca.gov.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

"Stunning," "drop-dead gorgeous," and "breath-taking," all describe the spectacular beauty of this high altitude campground that is encircled by a series of jagged, snow-patched Sierra Nevada peaks. The rugged landscape is enhanced by its position next to Jamison Creek and the great variety of conifers, as well as willows, alders, and cottonwoods, that provide it with shade. Flourishing though the forest is, a fair degree of sunlight manages to warm the property. Most sites are roomy and set pretty well apart along a small series of loops. Eureka Peak was once known as Gold Mountain, a testimony to the extensive mining activity that went on in the Jamison area from the gold rush days through the end of the first world war. A mining history museum within the park preserves buildings and equipment from that era. Once a month, in summer, docents in period dress attempt to recreate a sense of what camp life was like in the 1890s.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** May 15–Oct. 15, weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. No reservations. **Registration:** At park office. **Fee:** \$15, cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 55. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 12. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, bearproof box. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Museum, 1 mi. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 6 mi. east in Graegle. **Restaurant:** Johnsville. **General Store:** No. **Vending:**

No. **Swimming:** Lake. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Some wheelchair-accessible facilities, visitor center, museum. **Activities:** Hiking, bicycling, fishing, swimming, summer tours. **Nearby Attractions:** Portola Railroad Museum; Lakes Basin Recreation Area in Graegle; Plumas County Museum in Quincy; Plumas National Forest. **Additional Information:** Plumas County Visitors Bureau, (530) 283-6345 or (800) 326-2247.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 30 ft., varies.

TO GET THERE

From Portola drive 10 mi. west on Hwy. 70. 1 mi. beyond Blairsden after the junction w/ Hwy. 89, turn left towards Johnsville and continue for 0.6 mi. At the stop sign turn right on the Graegle-Johnsville Rd./A14. The park entrance is 4.5 mi. ahead.

BLYTHER **MAP, F-4**
Mayflower Park

4980 Colorado River Rd., Blythe 92225.
T: (760) 922-4665; www.riversidecountyparks.org/parks/mayflower.htm.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

In the dusty desert landscape common to this part of the state, Mayflower is a welcome oasis and, situated just seven miles north of I-10, a convenient one to pilgrims sailing along the highway. Well manicured, grassy sites are partially shaded by mesquite trees, eucalyptus and cottonwoods, with the tent area—separated from two other RV loops—especially appealing. The view of the Plomosa Mountains across the state line in Arizona is superb, but it is the border itself, marked here by the Colorado River (which flows just below the campground and is accessible via an in-camp boat ramp and swimming lagoon) that is the real attraction for most visitors. Peace-and-quiet seekers take note: boating on this stretch of river during summer months—weekends especially—is more popular than a high school prom queen, so be prepared to hear the constant whine of two-stroke engines being pushed to their limits. That activity largely fades away in the off-season, but winter brings hordes of a different sort of camper, snowbirds by the RV-load.

BASICS

Operated By: Riverside County. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. Reservations can be made for holidays. **Registration:** At entrance office. **Fee:** \$15–\$16, cash, CA check, V, MC. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Tent-only Sites: 30. **Number of Multipurpose Sites:** 152. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate

(tent sites only). **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Mostly paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 7 mi. southwest in Blythe. **Restaurant:** 7 mi. southwest in Blythe. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** In mudwallow lagoon, Colorado River. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, boat ramp. **Activities:** Fishing, horseshoe pits, bowling lawn, shuffleboard, swimming, water activities. **Nearby Attractions:** Colorado River, Mojave National Preserve, Cibola & Imperial National Wildlife Refuges, in Arizona. **Additional Information:** Riverside County, Regional Park & Open Space District, (909) 955-4397.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only, \$2 fee. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From I-10/US 95 drive 3.7 mi. north on Inlake Blvd. Turn right on 6th Ave. and drive 3.2 mi. into the campground.

BODEGA BAY **MAP, C-1**
Bodega Dunes Campground

Sonoma Coast State Beach, Hwy. 1, Bodega Bay 94923. T: (707) 875-3483 or (800) 444-7275; www.parks.ca.gov.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

This good-looking, spacious campground is right off of Hwy. 1, just a short trail's walk from the ocean. Three separate loops undulate across sandy dunes in a semi-forested environment colored by ferns, dune grass, Monterey pines, and eucalyptus. Sites of grass and sand are decently roomy and planted well apart, with a number of pull-through parking slips on hand. Of the latter, numbers 3 and 4 are very private and shaded by conifers. Similarly isolated are 24, 32, 36, 69, 86, and 88, and their nestled-in-the-dunes position is a welcome buffer against road noise and brisk coastal breezes. The steady drone of a distant foghorn is less a disturbing influence than a contributor to the pleasant seaside atmosphere. In spite of its beauty, this facility is often wonderfully under-populated. With whales routinely passing in winter months and a seal rookery located by the egress of the Russian River, you will want to pack binoculars.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/ V, MC, D. Recommended 7 months in advance. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$16, cash, CA check; \$4 additional vehicle; senior rates available. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 98. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, food stor-

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age box. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 2 mi. south in Bodega Bay. **Restaurant:** 2 mi. south in Bodega Bay. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Some wheelchair-accessible facilities. En route camping for hikers & bikers (\$2 night). **Activities:** Fishing, sunning, surfing, tide-pooling, beachcombing, horseback riding, bicycling, winter whale watching at Bodega Head. **Nearby Attractions:** Santa Rosa museums & Luther Burbank Home & Memorial Gardens; Fort Ross, Kruse Rhododendron State Reserve & Salt Point State Park in Jenner. **Additional Information:** Bodega Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, (707) 875-3422.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 31 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Bodega Bay drive 2 mi. north on Hwy. 1. Turn left into the park.

BORREGO SPRINGS **MAP, F-3**
Borrego Palm Canyon Campground

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, 200 Palm Canyon Dr., Borrego Springs 92004.
T: (760) 767-5341 or (800) 242-0044; www.cal-parks.ca.gov.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

This campground is situated in the mouth of the expansive Borrego Palm Canyon near the heart of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. That central location ensures a level of use and popularity well beyond most of the many other camps in this, the largest of state parks in the Lower 48 states. A good range of facilities adds to its appeal, with drinking water, showers, full hookups, and even a few partially enclosed stone shelters (complete with fireplaces) available. Though shade is scarce, ramadas over tables provide some relief from a sun that is scorching much of the year. Tent pads are of a coarse gravel, but the overall landscape is hardly lunar, with fan palms lining one stretch of the camp road and ironwood, ocotillo, staghorn cholla, and creosote bushes sprinkled throughout. Largely comparable sites are fairly well fanned apart, with a good number equipped with pull-through parking slots.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/ V, MC. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$29, cash, CA check, V, MC. **Parking:** At site.

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FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 132. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water, sewer, cable TV, phone. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, ramada (tent loop only). **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 2 mi. east in Borrego Springs. **Restaurant:** Yes. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Some wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Hiking, bicycling, seasonal nature programs. **Nearby Attractions:** Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, San Diego Wild Animal Park in Escondido. **Additional Information:** Borrego Springs Chamber of Commerce, (760) 767-5976.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 35 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Borrego Springs drive 1 mi. west on CR S22. At the bend in the road continue straight on Palm Canyon Dr. for 0.2 mi. The campground access road is 1 mi. ahead to the right.

BORREGO SPRINGS MAP, F-3
Bow Willow Campground

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, CR S2, Borrego Springs 92004. T: (760) 767-5311; www.anzaborrego.statepark.org.

★★★★	★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★	Cleanliness: ★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★

As the largest state park in the Lower 48 states, Anza-Borrego has many attractions: a varied desert landscape, beautiful wildflowers in the spring, a mastodon site, and no shortage of fine camping options. Of these latter, Bow Willow is one of the standouts, with a pair of loops meandering along the lower contours of a rocky canyon. Sandy sites are marginally screened from each other by ocotillo, mesquite, salt bush, and cholla cacti, with numbers 1 and 16 at the periphery the most private. An easy 1.5-mile trail out of camp leads to several shady groves of California fan palms, where we spotted a black hooded oriole and a fluorescent green hummingbird our last time through. No-fee overflow camping is available one mile up the road at the primitive Mountain Palm Springs.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$7-\$9, cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 16. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, ramada. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Pit toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Sandy

washboard, decent condition. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 44 mi. northwest in Julian. **Restaurant:** 44 mi. northwest in Julian. **General Store:** 10.5 mi. north in Agua Caliente Hot Springs. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Activities:** Hiking, rock scrambling, bird-watching. **Nearby Attractions:** Palm Springs Desert Museum, Agua Caliente Cultural Museum. **Additional Information:** Borrego Springs Chamber of Commerce, (800) 559-5524.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

Turn off I-8 at the Ocotillo Exit. Follow CR S2 north through Ocotillo, and turn left into campground after 18 mi.

BORREGO SPRINGS MAP, F-3
Culp Valley Primitive Camp

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, CR S22, Borrego Springs 92004. T: (760) 767-5311.

★★★★	★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★

To those who appreciate the low key beauty of the desert and enjoy roughing it, Culp Valley, nine miles west of Borrego Springs, is a hidden gem. Large granite boulders litter a chaparral landscape punctuated by buckwheat, cat's claw, staghorn cholla, and dwarf oak. Most sites are extraordinarily spacious, and several are shielded from view by high hedges of sugar bush, which makes for a more peaceful experience than what is possible in the more popular—and populated—developed campgrounds elsewhere in Anza-Borrego. The trade-off is that creature comforts are limited to surprisingly clean vaulted toilets; no water is available, and you will have to pack out your trash. A greater nuisance though is the biting wind that tends to whistle through camp from late fall through early spring. That, and an altitude of 3,400 feet, will make you glad you packed a heavy sweater, should you visit in the off-season. If you come in summer, you'll very likely find yourself alone in the whole blazing park.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** No fees. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 15. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Space & privacy. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Hard sand, some rock, some washboard, negotiable. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 9 mi. west in Borrego Springs. **Restaurant:** 9 mi. west in Borrego Springs. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No.

Playground: No. **Activities:** Hiking, photography, stargazing, rock scrambling. **Nearby Attractions:** Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, San Diego Wild Animal Park in Escondido, historic Julian, scenic views. **Additional Information:** Borrego Springs Chamber of Commerce, (760) 767-5976.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Not allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** No limit, but think twice if over 22 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Borrego Springs drive 9 mi. east on CR S22. Check for a sign between mile markers 9 and 10 on the right (north) side of the road.

BRIDGEPORT MAP, C-3
Honeymoon Flat

Twin Lakes Rd., Bridgeport 93517. T: (760) 932-7070 or (877) 444-6777; www.reserveusa.com.

★★★★	★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★

A campground sporting the name Honeymoon Flat had better be the sort of cozily romantic place you'd want to take your sweetheart. Well, go right ahead, as this idyllic spot lives up to that promise, and then some. Twin Lakes Rd. divides it into two sections, with both hugging Robinson Creek. Many of the grassy sites along the camp's series of sandy loops abut the water, allowing you to fish for trout from tent-side, or simply dandle your toes in the rippling water. Though sites are a shade small, privacy is well above average, with screening provided by a mix of pines and, especially, the luminescent leaves of quaking aspen. Most of the sites are back-ins, however, seven pull-throughs are available. Site 3, very recessed and with water flowing by on three sides, might well be the envy of Diana. Number 5 is similarly romantic. Bears sitings in the park are common and generally cause little fuss. There are half a dozen other campgrounds in the neighborhood, but this is the only one that hasn't been smothered by an excess of asphalt. When you are at 7,000 feet, surrounded by the high Sierras, a campground shouldn't look like a parking lot. Due to the altitude, the road leading to the campground is extremely winding and not recommended for large RVs.

BASICS

Operated By: American Land & Leisure, concessionaire. **Open:** Late Apr.-Oct., weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/ V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance bulletin board. **Fee:** \$11, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 31. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 4. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No, 2 mi. **Pay Phone:** No, 2 mi. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Sandy, some-

what bumpy. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 2 mi. **Restaurant:** 2 mi. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Bears sightings are common in the park. **Activities:** Hiking, fishing, whispering sweet nothings into your sweetheart's ear. **Nearby Attractions:** Bodie State Historic Park in Bridgeport; Lower Twin Lake, Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve in Lee Vining. **Additional Information:** Ranger Station (760) 932-7070.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 45 ft.

TO GET THERE

From US 395 on Bridgeport's west side, turn south onto Twin Lakes Rd. Drive 8.2 mi. to the campground entrance on both sides of the road.

BUÉLLTON MAP, E-2 Figueroa

Figueroa Mountain Rd., Buéllton 93441.
T: (805) 925-9538; www.r5.fs.fed.us/lospadres.

 ★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★

As far as rustic campgrounds go, this one, set at 4,000 feet among alpine meadows and mixed tree communities high in the rugged mountains of the Los Padres National Forest, is almost perfect. It is so far out—the nearest town is more than 15 miles away—that the only sounds likely to disturb you will come from Steller's jays, acorn woodpeckers, owls, or coyotes. Unless you happen to have particularly obnoxious neighbors. Even so, most of the dirt and pebbly sites along the double loop are regally spacious and far apart, screened by manzanita, live oak, and Coulter pines, with an accent here and there of shiny, putty colored rock outcroppings. Shade is abundant, though several units are open and sunny, and a few offer superb vistas of sunsets and the valley far below. In spring the hills are a velvety green that is a delight to behold, but be alert to changing weather as the pockmarked road leading here can be very tricky when wet. Figueroa is a pack-in, pack-out facility with an unreliable water supply.

BASICS

Operated By: Los Padres National Forest, Santa Lucia Ranger District. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** Not necessary. **Fee:** No fee, but National Forest Adventure Pass (\$5 per day, \$30 annual pass) required. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 33. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, barbecue grill. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:**

23 mi. southwest in Buéllton. **Restaurant:** 23 mi. southwest in Buéllton. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Some wheelchair-accessible facilities. The road leading to the campground is winding. **Activities:** Hiking, bird-watching watching, fishing, stargazing. **Nearby Attractions:** Mission Santa Inés & museums in Solvang, La Purísima Mission State Historic Park in Lompoc, Lake Cachuma. **Additional Information:** Buéllton Visitors Bureau, (805) 688-7829.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 22 ft.

TO GET THERE

In Los Olivos on Hwy. 154 head north on Figueroa Mountain Rd. Watch out for potholes on this narrow, windy road. Drive 13.8 mi. and turn right into the campground.

CAMP NELSON MAP, D-2 Quaking Aspen

Western Divide Hwy., Camp Nelson 93208.
T: (559) 539-2607 or (877) 444-6777;
www.r5.fs.fed.us/sequoia.

 ★★★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★

In most respects Quaking Aspen is a very average, unextraordinary campground. Yet its position, at 7,000-foot elevation in the heart of Giant Sequoia National Monument's southern unit, makes it an ideal base for day hikes into the area's redwood groves. There is a grassy meadow on one side of this pretty, peaceful, hillside camp, and Freeman Creek flows nearby. Fair-sized sites of dirt and pine needles are set reasonably far apart around the double loop, and shaded by an abundance of lodgepole pines—but curiously few aspens. Units 12, 19, 21, and 29 are among the more recessed and shady, and 23 and 24 the more private ones in the meadow area. Tenters may want to consider Belknap (no trailers or RVs allowed), nine miles west on Hwy. 190, where they can strike camp under the protective aura of redwood trees. Telephone, gasoline, propane, and a general store are available two miles south at Ponderosa Lodge.

BASICS

Operated By: California Land Management, concessionaire. **Open:** Mid-Apr.–mid-Nov. (weather permitting). **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$14, cash, check. **Parking:** At site or in designated area.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 32. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Ser-**

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vice: No. **Market:** 40 mi. west in Porterville. **Restaurant:** 25 mi. west in Springville. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Some wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Hiking, fishing, horseback riding. **Nearby Attractions:** Sequoia National Forest; Porterville Historical Museum & Zauld House & Gardens; California Hot Springs. **Additional Information:** Springville Chamber of Commerce, (559) 539-2312; Porterville Chamber of Commerce, (559) 784-7503.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 24 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Porterville drive 40 mi. east on Hwy. 190 (which becomes the Western Divide Hwy.). The campground entrance is on the right.

CAMPO MAP, F-3, F-4 Lake Morena County Park, South Shore Campground

2550 Lake Morena Dr., Campo 92006. T: (877) 565-3600; www.co.san-diego.ca.us/parks.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Lake Morena Reservoir is home to some of the better bass and trout fishing in the area, with the record for the former weighing in at a whopping 19 pounds, 3 ounces. But even when the water has been drawn down to the size of a pond, typically by late July or early August, there is still plenty to do here, from biking and hiking the nature trails to hooking up to the Pacific Crest Trail, which cuts through the park. Granite-spiked hills surround the domain, with the campground's grassy, fairly tightly concentrated sites well shaded by thick-limbed live oaks, incense cedars, and Jeffrey and Coulter pines. Best for spaciousness and lake view—at least when water levels are high—are sites 81 and 85, with 6–14 good fall-back options. And though rest rooms are a bit shabby looking, they are kept reasonably clean. Dogs are supposed to be kept on leashes, but enforcement is lax. Tent campers looking for more space and privacy may want to stake out a spot at the North Shore primitive area.

BASICS

Operated By: County of San Diego, Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC, D. \$3 reservation fee. **Registration:** At entrance booth or ranger office. **Fee:** \$12–\$16, \$25 for cabins, cash, V, MC, D. **Parking:** At site. \$2 per extra vehicle.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 86. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30 amps), water. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No.

176 CALIFORNIA Capitola

Propane: No. **Internal Roads:** Mostly paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 1 mi. south in Lake Morena Village. **Restaurant:** 1 mi. south in Lake Morena Village. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Some wheelchair-accessible facilities, boat launch. **Activities:** Fishing, bicycling, hiking, campfire programs, boat rentals. **Nearby Attractions:** Coral Canyon OHV Area, Pacific Crest Trail, only 8 mi. from the Mexican border, historic Campo. **Additional Information:** County of San Diego, Dept. of Parks & Recreation, (858) 694-3049.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash. Not allowed on trails. \$1 per pet. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site, not exceeding 40 proof. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 60 ft.

TO GET THERE

From San Diego head east on I-8 for 54 mi. Exit on Buckman Springs Rd. and continue south for 5.5 mi. Turn right on Oak Dr. and proceed for 1.5 mi. Turn right again on Lake Morena Dr. The park is 0.5 mi. ahead.

CAPITOLA MAP, D-1

New Brighton State Beach

1500 Park Ave., off Hwy. 1, Capitola 95010.
T: (831) 464-6330 or (800) 444-7275;
www.cal-parks.ca.gov.

★★★★	▲★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

Tired of sweeping buckets of sand out of your tent or RV after every trip to the beach? Then you owe it to yourself to check out this splendid campground, located just five miles east of Santa Cruz off of Hwy. 1. The bluff-top real estate is lush and grassy, graced with a comforting balance of shade and sun that filters through a high canopy of pines and eucalyptus trees. Many of the refreshingly spacious spots enjoy great vistas of the crashing surf. And of those that do not, a hefty share have the edge in privacy, being buffered by dense hedges of coastal chaparral. Sites 25 and 94 are the most isolated, while 36 is the best screened of the view options. And if sand in your shelter isn't a problem, you can always bring a bucketful back from the idyllic beach, reachable via a short trail next to site 50. Poison oak thrives around the edge of this park. At the time of publication, this park was scheduled to close for up to one year for reconstruction so contacting the park before scheduling your camping trip is advised.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations recommended; V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$12, cash, CA check. \$3–\$26 day-use fee, depending on number of people. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 112. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, food storage box. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 5 mi. west in Santa Cruz. **Restaurant:** 5 mi. west in Santa Cruz. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** In Pacific Ocean. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Some wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Surf fishing, sunning, hiking, ranger-led programs in summer. **Nearby Attractions:** Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, mission, museums, Seymour Marine Discovery Center, Arboretum & Natural Bridges State Beach; Roaring Camp Railroads in Felton. **Additional Information:** Capitola Chamber of Commerce, (831) 475-6522; Santa Cruz County Conference & Visitors Council, (831) 425-1234 or (800) 833-3494.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 36 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Santa Cruz drive 5 mi. south on Hwy. 1 and take the New Brighton Beach Exit. Drive 1 block west to the stop sign. Turn left on McGregor Dr. After 0.2 mi. turn right into the park.

CARLSBAD MAP, F-3

South Carlsbad State Beach

Carlsbad Blvd./Pacific Coast Hwy. 101, Carlsbad 92008.T: (760) 438-3143 or (800) 444-7275;
www.parks.ca.gov.

★★★★	▲★★
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

There is much to like about South Carlsbad State Beach. Such as the pretty beach and its convenient location just off I-5, 25 miles north of San Diego. Sites are positioned side-by-side high above the sea on a sandy bluff, and are both spacious and buffered with thick hedges that provide a certain degree of privacy. The straight-in linear layout of the camp road endows half the property with fine views of the Pacific Ocean. Of course, the narrowness of the bluff means that you are likely to have neighbors on three of your spot's four sides when the camp is busy, which is most of the year, given its near-constant use by hordes of college-age campers. At those times the flow of traffic can seem never-ending, a problem compounded by the busy external road that parallels the park's entire length. True, that constant hum of vehicles helps drown out the boisterousness of other campers and the squealing whistles of Amtrak trains that tend to pass the property on an hourly basis, but that may be of small consolation to light sleepers. At least the ocean-side sites benefit from the sonorous sound of the surf. Overall, South Carlsbad is qui-

eter than San Elijo State Beach to the south, where the deafening roar of railroad and highway vehicles seems to be bearing down on one's tent. San Elijo does, however, offer some sites with hookups.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations recommended; V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$16, cash, CA check, V, MC, D. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 222. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire ring. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 4 mi. north in Carlsbad. **Restaurant:** 4 mi. north in Carlsbad. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Pacific Ocean. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Sunning, surfing, rock & shell hounding, surfboard rentals, fishing. **Nearby Attractions:** Coastal air tours, outlet shopping, Museum of Making Music, Legoland. **Additional Information:** Carlsbad CVB, (760) 434-6093; San Diego CVB, (619) 232-3101.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash no longer than 6 ft.; not allowed on the beach. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 35 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Carlsbad drive 4.5 mi. south on Hwy. 101. Bear to the right into the campground, which is easy to overshoot since signs are lacking.

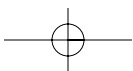
CARMEL MAP, D-1

Saddle Mountain Recreation Park and RV and Campground

27625 Schulte Rd., Carmel 93923.T: (831) 624-1617; www.saddlemountaincamping.com.

★★★★	▲★★
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★★

Planning to be in the Monterey vicinity? If you are hauling a trailer or driving an RV you will find that Saddle Mountain has a lot going for it. Like full hookups, including cable TV, a heated swimming pool (Memorial Day through Labor Day), basketball, volleyball, horseshoes, hiking, and even fishing in the nearby Carmel River. Its suburban location is a plus, too, just five miles from Carmel in the hills of Potrero Canyon, with great vistas of the surrounding mountains. Terraced clusters of sites are rather close together but shady and well-screened by cypress trees, Monterey pines, and flowering oleanders, with a pretty rock garden adding to the attractive landscaping. Tent sites, sequestered up the hill from RVs, are similarly shaded and slightly more spacious. A latticed pic-



Castella CALIFORNIA 177

nic area and deck overlook the pool. Although the moderate climate makes it possible for this privately operated campground to remain open throughout the year, maintenance slackens somewhat in the off-season.

BASICS

Operated By: Saddle Mountain Recreation Park & RV & Campground. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC. **Registration:** At office. **Fee:** \$30–\$45, cash, V, MC. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 25. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 25. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30 amps), water, sewer, cable TV. **Each Site:** Picnic table, barbecue grill. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, dirt in the tent area. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 5 mi. west in Carmel. **Restaurant:** 5 mi. west in Carmel. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** In heated pool seasonally. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Limited wheelchair-accessible facilities, game room. **Activities:** Hiking, volleyball, horseshoe pit, golf. **Nearby Attractions:** Mission San Carlos Borromeo del Rio Carmelo, outlet shopping in Carmel; Monterey peninsula w/ its museums & aquarium. **Additional Information:** Carmel Valley Chamber of Commerce, (831) 659-4000.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash no longer than 6 ft.; not allowed in the tent area; never leave unattended. **Fires:** Grill only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 40 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Carmel on Hwy. 1 follow the Carmel Valley Rd. inland for 4.7 mi. Turn right on Schulte Rd. The park is 1 mi. ahead on the windy road.

CARRIZO PLAIN MAP, E-2
NATIONAL MONUMENT
KCL Campground

Soda Lake Rd., Carrizo Plain National Monument 93252. T: (805) 475-2131 or (661) 391-6000; www.ca.blm.gov.

★★★	★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★

Formerly the ranch of Kern County Land Company, KCL is now one of two camps in Carrizo Plain National Monument, a park established near the end of president Clinton's term in office. The monument's staff suggests upgraded facilities are coming, but for now this campground offers nil beyond a portable toilet. No water, no trash pick-up, no host, just a pretty setting alongside a photogenic barn and corral. The large sites are shaded by ancient eucalyptus trees, backed up against the base of the Caliente Mountains and with a view across the grasslands to the San Andreas fault and

the Temblor Range. Ten miles to the east is Painted Rock, a pictograph-covered relic from when Native Americans still roamed the plains. Near that is Soda Lake, a glistening salt-crusted body of water that attracts migrating birds, most notably the sandhill crane, throughout the winter. The tall grass of the plains, where pronghorn antelope and black-tailed deer frequently graze, is streaked yellow with wildflowers in the spring before the scorching heat of summer turns everything brown. Note that the deeply rutted dirt camp road is impassable when wet, and the nearest telephone is at the intersection of Soda Lake Rd. and Hwy. 166, 20 miles southeast of KCL.

BASICS

Operated By: Bureau of Land Management, Bakersfield Field Office. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** Not necessary. **Fee:** No fee, donations accepted. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 8. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire ring. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Pit toilet, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Dirt, can be slick when wet. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 35 mi. east in Taft. **Restaurant:** 35 mi. east in Taft. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Limited wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Hiking, bird-watching, wildflower walks, photography, pictographs, old farm structures to explore. **Nearby Attractions:** Tule Elk State Reserve in Buttonwillow; Kern Oil Museum in Taft. **Additional Information:** Taft District Chamber of Commerce, (661) 765-2165.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: Allowed. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From San Luis Obispo drive 8.8 mi. north on US 101. Exit on Hwy. 58 and head east for 47 mi., through Santa Margarita and California Valley. Turn right on Soda Lake Rd. and drive 26 mi. to the campground entrance on the right.

CARRIZO PLAIN MAP, E-2
NATIONAL MONUMENT
Selby Campground

Soda Lake Rd., Carrizo Plain National Monument 93252. T: (805) 475-2131 or (661) 391-6000; www.ca.blm.gov.

★★★	★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★	Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★

This campground is in a park that is way the heck off the beaten track, with just a portable toilet and non-potable water for amenities. Most of the year wind howls through camp, and when it finally

ceases the heat of summer feels like a blast furnace. So why bother to visit Carrizo Plain, one of the newest monuments in the national park system? For several reasons, actually, such as to see sandhill cranes—and many other water fowl—nesting during the winter by the salt-glistening shores of Soda Lake. And for ranger-led tours of Painted Rock, a 55-foot high rock decorated with Native American pictographs, with some estimated to be as old as 2,000 years. There is also a trail to the San Andreas fault that showcases the awesome power of earthquakes. Spring wildflower displays, too, are sensational. Trails into a Wilderness Study Area, part of the Caliente Mountains, start at Selby and pass through hills dotted with juniper, sage and salt bush. Selby, set at the base of a slanting escarpment, features five oversize, unshaded sites with plenty of parking for even the largest of RVs. The nearest telephone is 14.5 miles away in California Valley.

BASICS

Operated By: Bureau of Land Management, Bakersfield Field Office. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** Not necessary. **Fee:** No fee, donations accepted. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 5. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire ring. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Portable toilet, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Dirt, can be slick when wet. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 45 mi. east in Taft. **Restaurant:** 45 mi. east in Taft. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Limited wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Hiking, bird-watching, wildflower walks, photography, pictographs, old farm structures to explore. **Nearby Attractions:** Tule Elk State Reserve in Buttonwillow; Kern Oil Museum in Taft. **Additional Information:** Taft District Chamber of Commerce, (661) 765-2165.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: Allowed. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From San Luis Obispo drive 8.8 mi. north on US 101. Exit on Hwy. 58 and continue east for 47 mi., through Santa Margarita and California Valley. Turn right on Soda Lake Rd. and drive 16.5 mi. to the campground entrance on the right. Follow the windy access road for 4.7 mi. into camp.

CASTELLA MAP, B-2
Castle Crag State Park

Castle Creek Rd., Castella 96017. T: (530) 235-2684 or (800) 444-7275; www.cal-parks.ca.gov.

★★★	★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★

178 CALIFORNIA Chester

The stark, saw-toothed spires that give this small park its name rise some 4,000 feet from the Sacramento River to the tips of their granite peaks. If the challenging, highly strenuous hike up there from the campground doesn't take your breath away, the spectacular views will. The domain straddles I-5, with the larger part of it, including the crags, lying west of the highway. To the east, just beyond the railroad tracks and right alongside the river, are 12 grassy sites that are ideal for anglers. The main campground, though, is across the road, higher up toward the summit. Its three ascending loops snake through an attractively wooded hillside of oaks, cedars, and pines, with mediocre screening between closely set, shallow sites. The most private is 11, though its rear faces a chain-link fence. Similarly recessed are 14 and 15, and both 26 and 37 have pull-through parking. The stone masonry of the fire pits dates from when the Civilian Conservation Corps was active here more than 60 years ago. The continuous roar of traffic emanating from the interstate is a jarring note to an otherwise splendid setting.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/ V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$14, \$12 w/ senior discount, cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 11. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 52. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, food storage box. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 7 mi. north in Dunsmuir. **Restaurant:** 7 mi. north in Dunsmuir. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** In Sacramento River. **Playground:** No. **Activities:** Hiking, fishing, canoeing, rafting, bicycling nearby. **Nearby Attractions:** Lake Siskiyou; Mount Shasta Ski Park, Mount Shasta Hatchery & Sisson Museum; downtown Dunsmuir. **Additional Information:** Mount Shasta Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau, (530) 926-4865 or (800) 926-4865; Dunsmuir Chamber of Commerce, (530) 235-2177.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 27 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Dunsmuir on I-5 drive 6.5 mi. south to the Castella Exit. Turn west (right) and continue for 0.3 mi. Turn right into the well-signed park. The campground is 0.7 mi. beyond the entrance station.

CHESTER Elam Campground

MAP, B-2

Hwy. 32, Chester 96020. T: (530) 258-2141; www.r5.fs.fed.us/lassen.



Beauty: ★★ ★
Spaciousness: ★★



Site Privacy: ★★ ★
Quiet: ★★ ★

Security: ★★ ★
Insect Control: ★★ ★

Cleanliness: ★★ ★★
Facilities: ★

Elam is a small, primitive national forest facility that is about 15 miles west of Chester, to the south of Lassen Volcanic National Park. It would be quite an appealing camp if it were not overcrowded so much of the time. A bubbling creek flows by one side of its short access lane, a steep embankment parallels the other, and granite rocks and boulders litter the narrow grounds. Why is Elam so popular? The answer, in a word, is trout. The creek is regularly stocked, and unlike other bodies of water in the area, anglers are allowed to keep what they catch. You can spend the day trying to lure the fish onto your hook, then while away the evenings swapping stories with newly made fishing buddies about the huge ones that got away. Level, paved-surfaced sites are small and exposed—not just to each other but also to the picnic area directly across the creek—major shortcomings in such a highly trafficked property. Number 15, at the end of the lane, is the most private site, followed by 14, at the water's edge, and 11, also creekside. The altitude of 4,400 feet justifies packing a sweater, even in summer.

BASICS

Operated By: CSU Chico Research Foundation, concessionaire, & Lassen National Forest, Almanor Ranger District. **Open:** May–Oct., weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$12, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 15. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 16 mi. east in Chester. **Restaurant:** 16 mi. east in Chester. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Activities:** Fishing, hiking, bicycling, bragging about the fish that got away. **Nearby Attractions:** Westwood Museum, Paul Bunyan & Babe the Blue Ox Statues; Lassen National Scenic Byway (Hwys. 89/44/36); Lassen Volcanic National Park; Lake Almanor. **Additional Information:** Chester–Lake Almanor Chamber of Commerce, (530) 258-2426 or (800) 350-4838.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 22 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Chester on Hwy. 36 drive 13 mi. west to the junction w/ Hwy. 32. Turn left on Hwy. 32 and continue for 3.6 mi. The campground is to the right.

COLEVILLE Sonora Bridge

MAP, C-3

Hwy. 108, Coleville 96107. T: (760) 932-7070; www.r5.fs.fed.us/htnf/soncamp.htm.



Beauty: ★★ ★★
Spaciousness: ★★ ★
Security: ★★ ★
Insect Control: ★★ ★★

Site Privacy: ★★ ★
Quiet: ★★ ★★
Cleanliness: ★★ ★★
Facilities: ★

There is a rough-surfaced russet knob of granite on one flank of this expansive camp, a steep rocky slope on another, and all around are fabulous views of the mountains. Thick-trunked Jeffrey pines are the dominant trees in these parts, though the campground is also accented by juniper and such chaparral as salt bush and sage. Unlike Leavitt Meadows, just up the road, there's no river flowing by this turf, but sites here are clearly superior, and many offer pull-through parking. Most are roomier and largely more private, owing partly to a thick undergrowth of mountain mahogany, and partly to their wider distribution along a series of four loops. Additionally, the breathtaking views of the Sierras simply cannot be beat. Unless you strap a pack to your back and hoof it higher into the mountains, or head out to the Walker River to fish for rainbow trout. Elevation at Sonora Bridge, which is 20 miles west of Bridgeport, is 6,800 feet; icy winds whistle through camp early and late in the year, so bring along some warm clothing.

BASICS

Operated By: American Land & Leisure, concessionaire. **Open:** Mid-May–mid-Oct., weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$10, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 23. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Dirt but smooth. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 19 mi. east in Bridgeport. **Restaurant:** 19 mi. east in Bridgeport. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Activities:** Hiking, fishing, stargazing. **Nearby Attractions:** Bodie State Historic Park in Bridgeport; Sonora Pass. **Additional Information:** Eastern Sierra Interagency Visitor Center, (760) 876-6222; Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce, (760) 932-7500.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 30 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Bridgeport drive 17 mi. north on US 395. Turn west (left) onto Hwy. 108 and drive 1.5 mi. to the campground entrance on the left.

CORNING Woodson Bridge State Recreation Area

MAP, B-2

25140 Gardiner Serry Rd., Corning 96021. T: (530) 839-2112 or (800) 444-7275; www.parks.ca.gov.



Beauty: ★★ ★★



Site Privacy: ★★ ★

Spaciousness: ★★ ★
 Security: ★★ ★ ★
 Insect Control: ★

Quiet: ★★ ★
 Cleanliness: ★★ ★ ★
 Facilities: ★ ★

The marked increase in visitation to this sweet gem of a park proves The Secret is out. No wonder, with its grounds, which overlap the Sacramento River, so fertile and grassy, and its recessed, scattered campsites framed by massive, aged valley oaks. Unbelievably, this sylvan glade is not concealed in some forested outback, but instead is located a scant six miles east of Corning and I-5, three miles west of Hwy. 99 and Vina. If fishing is your game, prepare to mark your datebook: king salmon runs are optimum from October through May, the peak for shad is in July and August, striped bass in early fall, steelhead in October and November, and catfish may be caught just about any time of year. If that is not enough to lure you to this appealing recreation area, perhaps its extraordinary bird-watching will, with yellow-billed cuckoos, hummingbirds, pheasants, hawks, falcons, and many other species commonly seen. So are swarms of mosquitoes, from spring through mid-summer—plan to bring repellent. Older guidebooks list Woodson Bridge as having a dump station but fallen trees now make that inaccessible. There are no plans yet to restore it.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$12 from May 15–Sep. 15, \$9 the rest of the year; cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 41. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** No, inaccessible because of fallen trees. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 6 mi. west in Corning. **Restaurant:** 6 mi. west in Corning. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** In Sacramento River. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Some wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Fishing, hiking, bird-watching, boating. **Nearby Attractions:** Tejama County Park in Corning; Chico museums & Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park; outlet shopping in Anderson; William B. Ide Adobe State Historic Park near Red Bluff. **Additional Information:** Corning District Chamber of Commerce, (530) 824-5550; Chico Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Bureau, (530) 891-5556 or (800) 852-8570.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 31 ft.

TO GET THERE

In Corning on I-5 take the South Ave. Exit. Head east for 6.3 mi. and turn left into the campground.

CRESCENT CITY MAP, A-1 Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park

US 199 South, Crescent City 95532.
 T: (707) 464-6101/5112 or (800) 444-7275;
 www.cal-parks.ca.gov.

★★★★ ★★★★★

Beauty: ★★ ★ ★ Site Privacy: ★★ ★
 Spaciousness: ★★ ★ ★ Quiet: ★★ ★
 Security: ★★ ★ Cleanliness: ★★ ★ ★
 Insect Control: ★★ ★ Facilities: ★★ ★

Heading south from Oregon along US 199, Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park is the northernmost of several redwoods-focused state parks. Named for the first white man known to cross the Coast Range of mountains, Jed Smith is a striking introduction to Sequoia sempervirens. These giant redwood trees are the tallest living things in the world, with several old-growth groves towering over the 10,000-acre preserve. The campground is less than ten miles northeast of Crescent City, set beside the emerald-green Smith River. Tan oaks, maples, and rhododendrons thrive among the red barked atavars, with moss and hanging lichen contributing to the cool, shady, rain forest atmosphere. The roomy and well-screened sites are spread decently apart over a series of loops, the most private being 68 (with a river view), 70 (a spacious end spot), and 77. Site 60 has pull-through parking. Years ago local Native Americans gathered the green, stringy lichen that hangs from the trees and dried it to use as soft bedding material. It—and all other vegetation within the park—is now protected by the state.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations recommended; V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$7–\$13, cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 106. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 5. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, food storage box. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 9 mi. west in Crescent City. **Restaurant:** 9 mi. west in Crescent City. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Some wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Hiking, fishing, bicycling, horseback riding, canoeing, rafting. **Nearby Attractions:** Redwood National & State Parks; Battery Point Lighthouse, Ocean World & Del Norte County Historical Museum in Crescent City. **Additional Information:** Crescent City–Del Norte County Chamber of Commerce, (707) 464-3174 or (800) 343-8300.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 36 ft.

Crescent City CALIFORNIA 179

TO GET THERE

From Crescent City drive 3.5 mi. north on US 101. Exit on US 199 and head east towards Grants Pass. Continue for 5 mi. to the park entrance on the right.

CRESCENT CITY MAP, A-1 Mill Creek Campground

Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park,
 1375 Elk Valley Rd., Crescent City 95532.
 T: (707) 464-9533 or (800) 444-7275;
 www.cal-parks.ca.gov.

★★★★ ★★★★★

Beauty: ★★ ★ ★ Site Privacy: ★★ ★ ★
 Spaciousness: ★★ ★ Quiet: ★★ ★
 Security: ★★ ★ Cleanliness: ★★ ★ ★
 Insect Control: ★★ ★ Facilities: ★★ ★

This campground is set in the heart of Mill Creek Canyon among a concentration of red alders and second-growth redwoods. It is a moist, antediluvian environment, with winter rainfall, which averages 100 inches, contributing to a fertile, mossy, jungle-like luminescence. Rhododendrons, azaleas, maples, and ferns thrive here, along with pale yellow slugs as thick as a thumb and a good deal longer. A sextet of loops features level grass and dirt sites that are smallish and rather crowded together, but fairly well-screened by the flourishing foliage and equipped with capacious car slips. One of the larger spots is 38, by the creek, and of the many walk-up units, 4, 5, and 6 offer the best privacy. A pristine stretch of beach is accessible via the challenging Damnation Creek Trail, an old Native American path that loses 1,000 feet as it descends through a grove of old-growth redwoods. Mill Creek is closed to fishing from October through April to protect spawning salmon.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** Apr.–Oct. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$15, cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 145. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, food storage box. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, w/ bumps & potholes. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 6 mi. north in Crescent City. **Restaurant:** 6 mi. north in Crescent City. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** In Smith River. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Some wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Hiking, bicycling, fishing. **Nearby Attractions:** Redwood National & State Parks; Battery Point Lighthouse, Ocean World & Del Norte County Historical Museum in Crescent City. **Additional Information:** Crescent City–Del Norte County Chamber of Commerce, (707) 464-3174 or (800) 343-8300.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alco-**

180 CALIFORNIA Dana Point



holic Beverages: Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 31 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Crescent City head 6 mi. south on US 101 to the marked access road for the State Park. Turn left; the park entrance is 1.5 mi. ahead.

DANA POINT MAP, F-3
Doheny State Beach

25300 Dana Point Harbor Dr., Dana Point
92629.T: (949) 496-6172 or (800) 444-7275;
www.parks.ca.gov.

 ★★★★★	 ★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★	Facilities: ★

This state park provides sun and surf lovers access to more than a mile of beautiful beach, with the good news for campers being that a healthy number of sites are set right on the sand. Stroll from your tent to the shore in one fluid motion, or bask in a sunset radiating over the water from the comfort of your picnic table. If it is high tide, this must be “surfin’ USA”! And if the water is low, grab your children and go check out the tide pools. All of these somewhat tightly packed sites benefit from the fresh breeze of the salty sea, but the ones to the rear of camp are annoyingly close to railroad tracks, and also have the dubious distinction of facing a large housing development across the interstate. Best by far are those on the beach, such as 38–43, and odd numbers from 45–59. Though swimming is ideal from late June through early autumn, solitude-seekers will enjoy camping here in winter, when daytime temperatures are still comfortable.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations recommended; w/V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$16–\$20, cash, CA check.

Parking: At site. \$5 per day.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 122. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, paved parking pad. **Dump Station:** Yes, \$5 fee. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes, coin operated hot showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 1 mi. east in Dana Point. **Restaurant:** 1 mi. east in Dana Point. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** In Pacific Ocean. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Some wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Surfing, swimming, fishing, people-watching, tide pool exploring, volleyball, whale watching. **Nearby Attractions:** San Clemente, Dana Point, Mission San Juan Capistrano. **Additional Information:** Dana Point Chamber of Commerce, Tourism & Visitors Center, (949) 496-1555.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alco-**



holic Beverages: Not allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 35 ft.

TO GET THERE

From San Juan Capistrano head 3 mi. south on I-5 to the Beach Cities/Pacific Coast Hwy. Exit. Turn left onto Dana Point Harbor Dr., then left again onto Park Lantern into the park.

DARDANELLE MAP, C-3
Leavitt Meadows

Hwy. 108, Dardanelle 95314.T: (760) 932-7070;
www.r5.fs.fed.us/htnf/bpcamp.htm.

 ★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★

If you are looking for a taste of the high Sierras without having to venture too far off the road, Leavitt Meadows, at 7,000 feet elevation and 25 miles west of Bridgeport, should be a good fit. This roadside camp, ensconced in a bend in the West Walker River, is close enough to the water that the raging current drowns out much of the noise of passing traffic. Rising across the river is a flinty outcropping, and a granite-streaked ridge looms above camp. Juniper, aspen, sage, and various conifers set the stage around the single loop, where diminutive, dirt sites are well spread apart. The handful of spots nearest the water are the most exposed, and tenters may find the water-ward tilt challenging. An exception is number 9, which is well-screened and has pull-through parking. Away from the river, 15, while a touch small, is under a large pine and shielded by aspens. Drinking water is shut off early and late in the year, due to the higher risk of freezing weather. That is, nonetheless, our preferred time to visit this part of the Sierra Nevadas, when visitation is at its lightest.

BASICS

Operated By: American Land & Leisure, concessionaire. **Open:** Late Apr.–mid-Oct., weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$10, cash, check; \$5 in winter when no water. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 16. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Dirt, somewhat bumpy. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 25 mi. east in Bridgeport. **Restaurant:** 25 mi. east in Bridgeport. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Activities:** Fishing, hiking, horseback riding, stargazing. **Nearby Attractions:** Bodie State Historic Park in Bridgeport; Pinecrest Lake, Sonora Pass. **Additional Information:** Eastern Sierra Interagency Visitor Center, (760) 876-6222; Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce, (760) 932-7500.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 22 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Bridgeport drive 17 mi. north on US 395. Turn west (left) onto Hwy. 108 and drive 7.5 mi. to the campground entrance on the left.

DEATH VALLEY MAP, D-3
Furnace Creek

Death Valley National Park, Hwy. 190, Death Valley 92328.T: (760) 786-3200 or (800) 365-2267;
www.nps.gov/deva.

 ★★★★★	 ★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★
Spaciousness: ★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★

Visit this campground between May and September and you’ll have a good idea of what Hades is all about; you are also likely to have most of the domain to yourself. Certainly the “furnace” half of its name seems apt, with an oppressive blanket of heat clinging to the dry terrain in much the manner that bark hugs the trunk of a tree. As to the “creek,” just be thankful for water spigots. Level sites of hard clay are closely grouped around a series of loops, with a bit of shade provided by mesquite, creosote bushes, and tamarisk trees. The blistering heat seems magnified by the camp’s position at 196 feet below sea level, but we prefer it to Stovepipe Wells, which is little more than a pebbly parking lot without a twig of shade. The park visitor center is next to the campground, and a number of excellent hikes and drives are in the vicinity. Laundry machines, showers, swimming pool, general store, and gasoline are available at Furnace Creek Ranch.

BASICS

Operated By: National Park Service. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations recommended, accepted during Oct. 15–Apr. 15; V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$10–\$16, cash, check (in addition to the park entrance fee). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 101. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 35. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, barbecue grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Flush toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 47 mi. north in Beatty. **Restaurant:** At Furnace Creek Ranch. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, visitor center, museum. **Activities:** Hiking, driving tours, ranger-led activities, photography, frying eggs on the sidewalk. **Nearby Attractions:** Badwater, Scotty’s Castle, Dantes View, Stovepipe Wells Village, mountains, mines, & more in Death Valley National Park.

Additional Information: Death Valley Chamber of Commerce, (760) 852-4524.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On 6-ft. leash; not allowed on trails or off of roads. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 50 ft.

TO GET THERE

From the Furnace Creek Visitor Center drive 0.5 mi. north on Hwy. 190 to the campground entrance on the left.

DEATH VALLEY Mesquite Spring **MAP, D-3**

Death Valley National Park, Grapevine Rd., Death Valley 92328.T: (760) 786-3200; www.nps.gov/deva.

 ★★ ★★	 ★★ ★★
Beauty: ★★ ★★	Site Privacy: ★★ ★★
Spaciousness: ★★ ★★	Quiet: ★★ ★★
Security: ★★ ★★	Cleanliness: ★★ ★★
Insect Control: ★★ ★★	Facilities: ★★

The vast tract of land that is Death Valley National Park is far more than a barren, stagnant desert. Give it a chance and your appreciation for the parched beauty of the scenery will likely grow as you explore the park: from the volcanic craters in the north to the salt water basins to its south, from its shifting sand dunes to the multicolored mountains that range like twin spines up its entire length. You'll be in good position at Mesquite Spring to check out Ubehebe Crater and Scotty's Castle, a lavish 1920s vacation home built in Spanish mission style. This campground is more exposed than Furnace Creek, but it benefits, after the sun goes down, from being 2,000 feet higher. It is set against a mud-colored canyon wall and a dry creek, with two low mountain ridges paralleling its double loop. Dusty, pebbly sites are on the spacious side, and they are grouped farther apart than at Furnace Creek, allowing for a greater degree of privacy. A couple of cottonwoods mark where the spring is. The nearest pay phone is at the Grapevine Ranger Station, 2.5 miles north; fuel is available at Scotty's Castle; a general store is in Stovepipe Wells, 41 miles south.

BASICS

Operated By: National Park Service. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$10, cash, check (in addition to the park entrance fee). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 30. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Flush toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 53 mi. east in Beatty. **Restaurant:** 41 mi. south in Stovepipe Wells. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Some wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Hiking, driving tours, stargaz-

ing, photography. **Nearby Attractions:** Badwater, Scotty's Castle, Dantes View, Stovepipe Wells Village, mountains, mines, & more in Death Valley National Park. **Additional Information:** Death Valley Chamber of Commerce, (760) 852-4524.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash no longer than 6 ft., not allowed on trails or off of roads. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 50 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Furnace Creek head north on Hwy. 190 and drive 19 mi. to Sand Dune Junction. Turn right, direction Scotty's Castle, and continue for 32 mi. Turn left onto the campground access road. Proceed for another 2 mi. into the campground.

DEATH VALLEY Wildrose **MAP, D-3**

Death Valley National Park, Wildrose Canyon Rd., Death Valley 92328.T: (760) 786-3200; www.nps.gov/deva.

 ★★ ★★	 ★★ ★★
Beauty: ★★ ★★	Site Privacy: ★★ ★★
Spaciousness: ★★ ★★	Quiet: ★★ ★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★ ★★
Insect Control: ★★ ★★	Facilities: ★

The wonderful, oleander-shaded picnic area in the dramatically eroded Wildrose Canyon is misleading. You will find nothing so pleasant in the way of plantings at the similarly named campground. Still, there is a Spartan beauty to this arid, primitive camp. Very Spartan. It is located in a side gully of the canyon, with rumpled hills on either side. There are no shade trees to shelter the dusty, pebbly ground, only such scrub as creosote and salt bushes. The same, of course, might also be said of most of Death Valley's other campgrounds; at least Wildrose has potable water. Because the campground, which is 30 miles south of Stovepipe Wells Village, is at 4,100 feet of elevation, evenings are blessedly cooler here than elsewhere in the park. Comparable spots are roomy but exposed, and dispersed in two sections (the upper one being reserved for tents). Even when Furnace Creek and Stovepipe Wells are brimming with campers, you are likely to find plenty of space and tranquility at this remote place. Use it as a base for exploring such Death Valley attractions as the beehive-shaped charcoal kilns, Skidoo, a ghost town, and the Eureka mine.

BASICS

Operated By: National Park Service. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** Not necessary. **Fee:** Park entrance fee). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 11. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 11. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate &/or barbecue grill. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Gravel,

Duncans Mills CALIFORNIA 181

good condition. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 65 mi. south in Ridgecrest. **Restaurant:** 30 mi. north in Stovepipe Wells. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Activities:** Hiking, solitudinous meditation, stargazing. **Nearby Attractions:** Ballarat Ghost Town; Trona Pinnacles. **Additional Information:** Death Valley Chamber of Commerce, (760) 852-4524.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash no longer than 6 ft., not allowed on trails. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 25 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Ridgecrest drive 13 mi. east on Hwy. 178. Turn left on Trona Rd. and continue for 42 mi. to Wildrose Canyon Rd. Turn right and proceed for 9 mi. Bear right at the fork in the road; the campground is 0.25 mi. ahead on the left.

DUNCANS MILLS Casini Ranch Family Campground **MAP, C-1**

22855 Moscow Blvd., Duncans Mills 95430. T: (707) 865-2255 or (800) 451-8400; www.casiniranch.com.

 ★★ ★★	 ★★ ★★
Beauty: ★★ ★★	Site Privacy: ★★ ★★
Spaciousness: ★★ ★★	Quiet: ★★ ★★
Security: ★★ ★★	Cleanliness: ★★ ★★
Insect Control: ★★ ★★	Facilities: ★★ ★★

Not too many years ago this family-operated campground was a dairy farm and many of the rustic buildings from that era remain, along with miscellaneous farm implements that have been decoratively strewn about the property. It is hard to imagine, though, that the scene was any prettier when cows lowed through the grassy meadows and varied woodland than it is today, even when brimming with campers. The level property sits in an oxbow bend of the Russian River, a perfect position that blesses it not only with a number of water-view sites but also a greater amount of serenity than the bucolic camp's road-side counterparks. True, the full hookup area next to a row of pollarded trees at Casini's core is typically congested. If you don't require pull-through parking and can get by without a sewer connection, such pleasantly secluded spots as 88-90, 92-94, and 96-98 are infinitely more appealing. Similarly, 36-40 are the pick of the primitive options, where grassy sites are so spacious and well buttressed by vegetation as to satisfy even the most finicky of tent campers.

BASICS

Operated By: Casini family. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC, D, AE or advance check payments. **Registration:** At entrance booth or office. Register at store during the off season. **Fee:** \$24-\$30 plus 9% local tax, cash, V, MC, AE, D. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 225. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water, sewer, cable TV. **Each Site:** Picnic

182 CALIFORNIA El Cajon

table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Packed gravel & dirt, good condition. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 0.75 mi. away in Duncans Mills. **Restaurant:** 0.75 mi. away in Duncans Mills. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Russian River. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, rec hall, boat ramp. **Activities:** Fishing, kayak & canoe rentals. **Nearby Attractions:** Fort Ross State Historic Park, Kruse Rhododendron State Reserve & Salt Point State Park in Jenner; Austin Creek State Recreation Area & Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve in Guerneville; winery tours. **Additional Information:** Russian River Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center, (707) 869-9212 or (877) 644-9001.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From Guerneville head west on Hwy. 116 and drive 8.4 mi. to Duncans Mills. Turn left on Moscow Rd. and continue for 0.75 mi. to the well-signed campground entrance.

EL CAJON MAP, F-3
Lake Jennings Regional Park

10108 Bass Rd., El Cajon 92040.
T: (858) 694-3049 or (858) 565-3600;
www.co.san-diego.ca.us/parks.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★★

People familiar with Lake Jennings from previous years may be excused if they fail to recognize it in its current state. The most obvious change is the spruced up landscaping, with geraniums and other annuals lending a welcome splash of color to a ridge-top setting marked by holly, acacia, prickly pear cacti, eucalyptus, pepper trees, and a variety of conifers. That's not all, as structural renovations have encompassed the rest rooms and showers, as well as upgraded electrical hookups. Unaffected by these alterations, alas, are the gravel sites themselves, which are shoe-horned close together, several resting on ground so tilted that hammocks might seem preferable to tents. Thankfully, abundant vegetation yields some privacy and many units along the park's spiraling loop road enjoy excellent vistas. Numbers 20, 22, 24, 43, and 45 are among the standout tenting options, with 89–91 tops for RVs. The lake is stocked with trout in the winter and catfish summertime, but boating is only allowed on weekends.

BASICS

Operated By: County of San Diego, Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$12–\$18, cash, V, MC, D. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 94. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 6. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, barbecue grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 2 mi west in Lakeside. **Restaurant:** 2 mi. west in Lakeside. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Fishing, hiking, horseshoe pit. **Nearby Attractions:** San Diego & its waterfront, museums, zoo, historic district. **Additional Information:** Lakeside Chamber of Commerce, (619) 561-1031; City of El Cajon, (619) 441-1776.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On 6-ft. leash; \$1 fee. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site, not exceeding 40 proof. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 35 ft.

TO GET THERE

From I-8 in El Cajon take Hwy. 67 north and drive 4.5 mi. Turn right onto Maple View St. and drive 2.2 mi. The road changes into Lake Jennings Park Rd. The campground entrance is on the left.

EL CENTRO MAP, F-4
Rio Bend RV and Golf Resort

1589 Drew Rd., El Centro 92243. T: (760) 352-7061; www.riobendrvandgolfresort.com.

 ★★★★★	 ★
Beauty: ★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★	Facilities: ★★★★★

In many ways Rio Bend is a community unto itself. RVs are parked side by side along dirt lanes attractively lined with palms, eucalyptus, and citrus trees; the central plaza is colorfully accented with flowering oleanders, a couple of Conestoga wagons, and some bales of hay; there are even a post office, swimming pool, nine-hole golf course, and two stocked fishing ponds on the premises. No wonder then that the resort is also well stocked each winter with snowbirds looking to ride out the cooler months at 50 feet below sea level. True, shade trees are scarce in the short term camping area and tents, relegated to the thick grass outside the office, are given short shrift. But with so many amenities, these small hardships are a little easier to wink at.

BASICS

Operated By: Bill & Wanda Camp, managers. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC. First come, first served. **Registration:** In office at the end of the driveway. **Fee:** \$29–\$32, cash, V, MC. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 500. **Hookups:** Electric (50 amps), water, cable TV, internet available on request. **Each Site:** Full hookups. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No.

Internal Roads: Paved & packed dirt. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 8.5 mi. east in El Centro. **Restaurant:** 8.5 mi. east in El Centro. Only open in the winter. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Heated pool. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, post office, 2 fishing ponds. **Activities:** 9-hole golf course, pool, spa, fishing, shuffleboard, horseshoe pit. **Nearby Attractions:** Shopping in Mexicali across the Mexican border, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge, Sand Dunes (east of El Centro). **Additional Information:** El Centro Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau, (760) 352-3681.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash; keep pets in the pet area. **Fires:** Not allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 40 ft.

TO GET THERE

From El Centro head west on I-8 for 8 mi. Take the Drew Rd. Exit and turn left (south). Drive 0.5 mi. to the resort on the right.

ESCONDIDO MAP, F-3
Dixon Lake Recreation Area

1700 North La Honda Dr., Escondido 92027.
T: (760) 741-3328 or (760) 839-4680;
www.dixonlake.com.

 ★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★★

Dixon Lake is almost too good to be true: the camp's hilltop location lies at just over 1,000 feet elevation, with a dramatic panorama of greater Escondido on one side and the small lake on the other. This latter is actually a stocked reservoir with great fishing for trout in the fall and catfish and bass year-round. Like the fish you'll throw back, some sites may be a tad small, but they are spaced fairly well apart amid a field of granite boulders that just beg to be scrambled over, and amply shaded by an appealing potpourri of trees, including the ubiquitous eucalyptus, live oak, a variety of pines, toyon, and ceanothus, as well as a healthy accent of agave. Aside from the handful of spots near the park road, it is hard to go wrong, with numbers 8, 11, 12, and 37 particularly private and 26 and 29 yielding great city views. And when you tire of boating, fishing, and hiking, the San Diego Wild Animal Park is just a 15 minutes' drive away.

BASICS

Operated By: City of Escondido. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. Reservations accepted w/V, MC. \$5 reservation fee charged. **Registration:** At ranger office. **Fee:** \$16–\$24, cash or V, MC. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 46. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, trash bin. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms**

and Showers: Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 3 mi. south in Escondido. **Restaurant:** 3 mi. south in Escondido. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, snackbar, boat launch. **Activities:** Fishing, bicycling, hiking, horseshoe pit, boat rentals. **Nearby Attractions:** Heritage Walk & Museum, San Pascal Battlefield State Historic Park, Deer Park Auto Museum, San Diego Wild Animal Park. **Additional Information:** Escondido Chamber of Commerce, (760) 745-2125.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: Not allowed. **Fires:** Not allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at campground only. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 50 ft.

TO GET THERE

From I-15 in Escondido take the El Norte Pkwy. Exit and drive 3.3 mi. north. Turn left on La Honda Dr. and continue 1.2 mi. straight into the rec area.

ESCONDIDO MAP, F-3
Palomar Mountain State Park

19952 State Park Rd., Escondido 92060.
T: (760) 742-3462; www.palomar.statepark.org.

 ★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★

Palomar Mountain State Park is located very near an observatory that houses one of America's largest ground-based telescopes, a testimony to the clarity of the night sky in these parts. That facility is off-limits to the public, but barring an overcast sky you should be able to see plenty of stars from the privacy of your campsite. Most are pretty spacious and hug the contours of the hilly mountainside, which compensates for an overall lack of screening. Which is not to suggest that the terraced loops meander over a denuded knob (though there is a fair share of gray granite and mossy rocks scattered about the domain). On the contrary, this charming campground is well forested with cedars, live oak, Douglas firs, and Coulter pines. The rest rooms and a couple of sites are wheelchair accessible, but most of the rest involve negotiating a few stone stairs, solid relics from when the Civilian Conservation Corps was working in the area 60 years ago. The best seasons to camp here are spring and fall, though at an elevation of 4,700 feet the risk of snowfall exists from November through early April. Plan accordingly.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$12, cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 12. **Number of Tent-only**

Sites: 19. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, barbecue grill, food storage box. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 47 mi. northwest in Temecula. **Restaurant:** 47 mi. northwest in Temecula. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Hiking, fishing, ranger-led activities in summer. **Nearby Attractions:** Palomar Mountain Observatory, San Diego Wild Animal Park, Mission San Antonio de Pala. **Additional Information:** Escondido Chamber of Commerce, (760) 745-2125.

RESTRICTIONS


Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 27 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Escondido on I-15 drive 15 mi. north. Turn east on Hwy. 76 and continue for 21 mi. Turn left on CR S6 direction Palomar Mountain. Follow S6/South Grade Rd. for 7 mi., then turn left on East Grade/State Park Rd. The park entrance is 3.5 mi. ahead.

EUREKA MAP, B-1
Burlington Campground

Humboldt Redwoods State Park, Ave. of the Giants, Eureka 95571. T: (707) 946-2409; (800) 444-7275; www.cal-parks.ca.gov.

 ★★★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★

Unlike many of the other state-run campgrounds situated in redwood forests, this one is easy to get to on a smooth piece of road just five miles off US 101, 40 miles south of Eureka. The highly scenic Ave. of the Giants flows through the park, threading for 32 miles past several impressive groves, including the must-see Rockefeller Forest. Of the three campgrounds here, only Burlington is open year-round. Its sites are grouped fairly closely together across a convoluted double loop, with 29 one of the more spacious and 37 a roomy corner spot. There are some impressive specimens of Sequoia sempervirens within Burlington, sturdy red pillars that allow only filtered streaks of sunlight through to the dirt and pine needle-layered forest floor. There are also a handful of decaying logs and a shocking number of redwood stumps. These latter serve as sober reminders of what might well have befallen the remaining giants had it not been for the efforts of conservationists.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Some sites first come, first served. Reservations recommended; V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$15, cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site.

Fall River Mills CALIFORNIA 183

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 56. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, food storage box. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 4 mi. south in Meyers Flat. **Restaurant:** 4 mi. south in Meyers Flat. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** In Eel River. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, visitor center. **Activities:** Hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, fishing, swimming. **Nearby Attractions:** Ave. of the Giants, Richardson Grove State Park in Garberville, Pacific Lumber Company Logging Museum in Scotia, Ferndale museums, Old Town Eureka. **Additional Information:** Garberville-Redway Area Chamber of Commerce, (707) 923-2613; Ferndale Chamber of Commerce, (707) 786-4477.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 33 ft.

TO GET THERE

Exit US 101 at Meyers Flat, turning west on Ave. of the Giants. Drive 4.5 mi. to the campground entrance on the right, immediately behind the visitor center.

FALL RIVER MILLS MAP, B-2
Pit River

Pit No. 1 Powerhouse Rd., Fall River Mills 96028. T: (530) 233-4666; www.ca.blm.gov/alturas.

 ★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★

This inauspiciously named campground, also known as Pit No. 1, is actually in a very pretty—if somewhat overgrown—forested setting abutting the Pit River. You may find it totally vacant, which is ideal since the best site, which is right on the water looking across to a tiny island, is also the most popular. Or the twin loops might be choked with vehicles, especially on weekends from late spring through summer. Most of the level, leaf-strewn sites lie in the shadow of oaks and a few pines, next to a scruffy meadow. The handful of spots by the water are crammed closely together; otherwise there is space and privacy galore. Pit lies at 3,000 feet of elevation, which is quite comfortable for this region of the Cascade Mountain range. Though not exactly an Eden, Pit River has had its share of serpents, in the form of litterers, despite the presence of plenty of trash bins. No potable water is available, nor does the Bureau of Land Management seem to supervise the land. Local police, though, occasionally patrol. The nearest telephone is in Fall River Mills.

BASICS

Operated By: Bureau of Land Management,

184 CALIFORNIA Felton

Alturas Field Office. **Open:** All year, weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** Not necessary. **Fee:** None at press time; will change in the near future. **Parking:** No designated slips.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 10. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire ring. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Pit toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Gravel. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 6 mi. east in Fall River Mills. **Restaurant:** 6 mi. east in Fall River Mills. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** River. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Natural small boat launch. **Activities:** Fishing, hiking, canoeing, bird-watching. **Nearby Attractions:** Lassen Volcanic National Park; Fort Crook Museum in Fall River Mills; McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park in Burney; Ahjumawi Lava Springs State Park in McArthur; Hat Creek Recreation Area in Old Station. **Additional Information:** Fall River Valley Chamber of Commerce, (530) 336-5840; Burney Chamber of Commerce, (530) 335-2111.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: Allowed, on a leash. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 22 ft. is an absolute max.

TO GET THERE

From Fall River Mills drive 4.5 mi. west on Hwy. 299. Turn left on Pit No. 1 Powerhouse Rd. and continue 1.1 mi. to the campground, bearing right at the entrance to Pit River Lodge. The road turns to dirt here and becomes impassable when wet.

FELTON MAP, D-1

Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park

101 North Big Trees Park Rd., Felton 95018.
T: (831) 438-2396 or (800) 444-7275;
www.santacruzstateparks.org.

★★	★★
Beauty: ★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

The first thing you may notice on pulling into the pair of double loops that comprise this campground is that despite the park's name there are precious few burly looking redwoods in evidence. The natural forested atmosphere derives from an abundance of knob cone pines, madrone trees, and moss-covered oaks. The Cowell grove of redwoods is a 40-minute hike (or 5-minute drive) away. Such minor misrepresentations aside, this is a fine park with roomy leaf- and dirt-based sites ranging from sun-dappled to shady, from exposed to well-shielded. Unfortunately, noise carries here and can be a big problem on weekends when Bay Area residents descend in droves. The presence of a summer-time host augments an otherwise lax enforcement of quiet time. Trash tossed into fire grates is another nuisance. Be alert to poison oak

and if you plan to visit in the spring pack along insect repellant.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** Feb. 15–Nov. 30. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted 48 hours in advance w/V, MC. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$16, \$14 w/ senior discount, \$8 disabled discount (must have card to receive discounts), cash, CA check. **Parking:** 1 vehicle per reservation at site. \$5 for additional vehicle.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 112. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, food storage box. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 2 mi. west in Felton. **Restaurant:** 2 mi. west in Felton. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** River. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, horseshoe pit. **Nearby Attractions:** Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, mission, museums, Seymour Marine Discovery Center, Arboretum & Natural Bridges State Beach, Roaring Camp Railroads in Felton, Redwood Trees. **Additional Information:** Santa Cruz County Conference & Visitors Council, (831) 425-1234 or (800) 833-3494.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only, attended at all times. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed only in picnic areas. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 35 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Santa Cruz on Hwy. 1 take Hwy. 9 north. Drive 6.5 mi. to the stop light; bear right on Graham Hill Rd. The campground is 2.7 mi. ahead on the right.

FRESNO MAP, D-2

Pine Flat Lake Recreation Area

Pine Flat Rd., Fresno 93649.
T: (559) 488-3004 or (559) 787-2589;
pineflatinfo@spk.vsace.army.mil.

★★	★★
Beauty: ★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

One of the more pleasant aspects of this county park is that it does not get over-run by hordes of campers, unlike other lakeside camps in the area. Boaters are not in dry-dock country, though; there is good fishing in the Kings River, which flows from the Pine Flat Dam past one side of camp, and boat-ramp access to the reservoir is nearby. The level, grassy turf is attractively punctuated here and there by a great range of such shade trees as oak, sycamore, and black walnut, and encompassed by undulating hills of golden grass and traces of granite. There is a uniformity to the double-loop layout, with open sites so comparable that one is as good as

another. This is an invaluable oasis during the summer, which runs in these parts from May through September. The grounds are raked and well maintained, though some rest rooms lack taps and have a neglected air to them. There is a general store and fuel station in Piedra, three miles to the west.

BASICS

Operated By: Fresno County Parks Dept. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$16, cash or CA check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 55. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, barbecue grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Flush toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 20 mi. southwest in Sanger. **Restaurant:** 20 mi. southwest in Sanger. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** In Kings River. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Fishing, hiking. **Nearby Attractions:** Museums, Forestiere Underground Gardens, Chaffee Zoological Gardens, Rotary Storyland & Playland in Fresno; Sanger Depot Museum. **Additional Information:** Sanger District Chamber of Commerce, (559) 875-4575; Fresno City & County CVB, (800) 788-0836.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grills only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From Fresno drive 15 mi. east on Hwy. 180/Kings Canyon Rd. to Centerville. Bear left on Trimmer Springs Rd. Continue for 10 mi., past the small town of Piedra, then turn right on Pine Flat Rd. Proceed for 2.5 mi., over the bridge, to the campground entrance on the right.

GARBERVILLE MAP, B-1

Shelter Cove RV Park and Campground

492 Machi Rd., Garberville 95589.
T: (707) 986-7474.

★★	★★
Beauty: ★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

Shelter Cove RV Park is for the Bohemian at heart, for people who love the ocean, enjoy fishing for salmon, and don't mind stray dogs wandering through their campsite. It is also for people who live to socialize and don't require much sleep, because in peak season the entire patch of gently tilting grassland that makes up this domain can seem like one continuous block party. On summer weekends there is live music on the patio and sizzling barbecues are centered around the giant crab cooker. Sites are small and shoe-horned together, but enjoy unobstructed views of the ocean, which

is a few yards off the lot. Rugged highlands loom over the inland side of Shelter Cove. A small public park—complete with a diminutive lighthouse—lies immediately to its south, and at the opposite end is a county airport. Unfortunately, the occasional plane that approaches the airstrip comes in so low you might think it's trying to land on top of your RV. Of the single lavatory located at the deli/snack bar, we've seen cleaner facilities at the end of a four-day beer festival. Your best bet is to use the toilets in the public park. This campground lies 25 tortuous miles west of Garberville across the King Range National Conservation Area, a drive that requires your vehicle's brakes to be in good working order.

BASICS

Operated By: Shelter Cove Enterprises. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations recommended; V, MC, D. **Registration:** At store. **Fee:** \$20–\$30, cash, check, V, MC, D. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 50. **Number of Multipurpose Sites:** 53. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water, sewer, internet. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Gravel, good condition. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 22 mi. east in Redway. **Restaurant:** 1 mi. away in Shelter Cove. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Limited wheelchair-accessible facilities, 6-lane boat launch. **Activities:** Fishing, beachcombing, clamming, hiking, whale watching. **Nearby Attractions:** Richardson Grove State Park in Garberville; Smithe Redwoods State Reserve & Standish Hickey State Recreation Area in Leggett; Ave. of the Giants north of Garberville; Humboldt Redwoods State Park in Weott. **Additional Information:** Shelter Cove Information Bureau, (707) 923-1830; Garberville-Redway Area Chamber of Commerce, (707) 923-2613.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only, \$1 fee. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 40 ft.

TO GET THERE

Exit US 101 at Garberville and drive through the downtown, turning left on Redwood Rd. at the sign for the King Range National Conservation Area. After 2.6 mi. turn left on Briceland Rd., which becomes the meandering and steep Shelter Cove Rd. Drive 22.2 mi., turn south on Upper Pacific Rd. and continue for 0.5 mi. to the campground on the right.

GASQUET MAP, A-1 Panther Flat Campground

Smith River National Recreation Area, 10600 US 199 South, Gasquet 95543.
T: (707) 457-3131 or (877) 444-6777;
www.r5.fs.fed.us/sixrivers.



★★★★



★★★★

Beauty: ★★★★★

Site Privacy: ★★★

Spaciousness: ★★★★★ Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★ Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★ Facilities: ★★

This tidy, well-maintained campground is perched just above the Middle Fork of the Smith River, about 20 miles northeast of Crescent City along US 199. Though a rather average facility, it is a worthy alternative to Jedediah Smith Redwood State Park, just down the road, if the latter is full, or if the wild, moldering atmosphere of a moss-encrusted old-growth forest leaves you shivering. Its central location within the Smith River National Recreation Area also makes Panther Flat a suitable base camp for day hikes and fishing the several rivers in the locale. There are only a few redwoods here, of the spindly second-growth variety, and they are overshadowed by tan oaks and madrones. Level gravel sites, well-groomed and equipped with large back-in parking slips, are moderately spacious and evenly distributed around a small grassy meadow at the heart of the elongated double-oval camp lane.

BASICS

Operated By: Six Rivers National Forest, Smith River National Recreation Area. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$4–\$8, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 39. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** 2 mi. south in Gasquet. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 2 mi. south in Gasquet. **Restaurant:** 2 mi. south in Gasquet. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** In Smith River. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Fishing, hiking, kayaking. **Nearby Attractions:** Redwood National & State Parks; Battery Point Lighthouse, Ocean World, & Del Norte County Historical Museum in Crescent City; Rowdy Creek Fish Hatchery in Smith River. **Additional Information:** Crescent City–Del Norte County Chamber of Commerce, (707) 464-3174 or (800) 343-8300.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 40 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Crescent City drive 3.5 mi. north on US 101. Exit on US 199 and head east towards Grants Pass. Continue for 17 mi. to the well-marked campground entrance on the left.

GILROY MAP, D-1 Mount Madonna County Park

Pole Line Rd., Gilroy 95020.
T: (408) 355-2201 or (408) 358-3751;
www.parkhere.org/prkpages/madonna.htm.



★★★★



★★★★

Beauty: ★★★★★

Site Privacy: ★★★

Spaciousness: ★★★

Quiet: ★★★★★

Grass Valley CALIFORNIA 185

Security: ★★★ Cleanliness: ★★★
Insect Control: ★★★ Facilities: ★★★

Redwood trees are what this park is all about, with some groves so dense you may find yourself wondering whether the sun has gone into eclipse. Madrone trees and tan oaks round out a very natural, attractive hilltop forest habitat that is laced with 20 miles of hiking trails. Sites of matted leaves and grass are above average in size and distributed over four separate loops, with those in Tan Oak both more private and open to diffused sunlight. There is also a generous amount of gravel-surfaced pull-through parking slips available throughout the campground. The Civilian Conservation Corps was based here in the early 1930s; fieldstone fire pits in some sites are solid reminders of their efforts. Around the same time, William Hearst donated a pair of white fallow deer to the park. Their descendants are still present, housed in a pen near the visitor center. Black tailed deer, coyotes, foxes, and bobcats also call this part of the Santa Cruz Mountain range home.

BASICS

Operated By: County of Santa Clara, Parks & Recreation Dept. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. Reservations accepted. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$15–\$25, cash, CA check, V, MC. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 118. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30 amps), water. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, food storage box. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 8 mi. west in Watsonville. **Restaurant:** 8 mi. west in Watsonville. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Some wheelchair-accessible facilities, visitor center. **Activities:** Hiking, horseback riding, picnics. **Nearby Attractions:** Mission San Juan Bautista; John Steinbeck House & Library in Salinas; outlet shopping in Gilroy; Monterey peninsula. **Additional Information:** Mount Madonna County Park, (408) 842-2341.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash, 2 pet limit. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site & picnic area. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 35 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Gilroy on US 101 take the Hwy. 152 Exit and drive west for 10.5 mi. Turn right on Pole Line Rd., which leads to the park.

GRASS VALLEY MAP, C-2 Schoolhouse

15924 Hwy. 49, Grass Valley 95922.
T: (530) 288-3231 or (530) 692-3200 (marina);
www.r5.fs.fed.us/tahoe.



★★★★



★★★

Beauty: ★★★★★

Site Privacy: ★★★

Spaciousness: ★★★

Quiet: ★★★★★

Security: ★★★

Cleanliness: ★★★★★

Insect Control: ★★★

Facilities: ★★

186 CALIFORNIA Greenville

Dark Day Campground, a tent-only, walk-in facility just up the road from Schoolhouse, is blessed from its bluff-top aerie with a heavenly vista of Bullards Bar Reservoir. Sites at Schoolhouse, on the other hand, enjoy no water views. Even so, it is a peaceful, engaging camp, located above the lake on a hill that is thick with conifers, madrone, toyon, and dogwood. The triple loop winds its way across an undulating terrain, where roomy sites are granted a fair degree of privacy. There is plenty of pull-through parking available, and many of the back-ins are large enough for vehicles hauling boats. The most secluded spots are 24, 37, and 40, while 26, a pull-through, is very deep. From mid-October through early spring only sites 1–14 are kept open and no potable water is available. Bullards Bar Dam, constructed in 1969, is California's largest, and ranks fourth in size in the United States.

BASICS

Operated By: Tahoe National Forest, North Yuba/Downieville Ranger District & Yuba City Water Agency. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted, V, MC. Recommended during the winter. **Registration:** At Emerald Cove Marina at the dam; permit required. **Fee:** \$14 from Apr. 15–Oct. 15, cash, check, V, MC; no fee in winter when water spigots are capped. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 56. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Flush & vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, some potholes. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 26 mi. east in Downieville. **Restaurant:** 26 mi. east in Downieville. **General Store:** Yes, at marina. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Bullards Bar Reservoir. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Boat ramp, marina. **Activities:** Fishing, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, boating. **Nearby Attractions:** Empire Mine State Historic Park in Grass Valley; Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park in Nevada City; Downieville Foundry/Museum, Gallows & County Museum. **Additional Information:** Grass Valley–Nevada County Chamber of Commerce, (530) 273-4667; Sierra County Chamber of Commerce, (530) 862-0308 or (800) 200-4949.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 35 ft.

TO GET THERE

Exit Hwy. 70 at Marysville and drive 12 mi. east on Hwy. 20. Turn left on Marysville Rd./E21, at the sign for Bullards Bar Reservoir, and continue for 11 mi. Head right on Old Marysville Rd. and drive 17 mi., across the dam, to the campground on the left.

GREENVILLE MAP, B-2
Lake Almanor Campground

15778 Hwy. 89, Greenville 95923.
T: (916) 386-5164; www.r5.fs.fed.us/lassen.

★★★★ ★★★★★

Beauty: ★★★★★ **Site Privacy:** ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★ **Quiet:** ★★★
Security: ★★★ **Cleanliness:** ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★ **Facilities:** ★★

Of the many level, rather spacious sites here, there is a healthy balance between those that are open and exposed and others that are flanked by incense cedars, manzanita, Douglas firs, and ponderosa pines. Shade or sun, boating and fishing versus hiking or swimming, one thing that everybody can agree on is that the sightlines are magnificent from camp to glimmering Lake Almanor and the rumpled mountains looming above. Access to the lake is easy, too, with only a gentle tilt to the ground near the water—instead of the steep embankments of many other reservoir lakes—and loops that hug the meandering contours of the shore. Arguably, the very finest site is 40, isolated on a finger of land projecting into the lake; its neighbor, 41, is a very good runner-up. Similarly situated is 50, a double site that's ideal for large groups or oversize RVs. Tent campers should angle for 12, a cedar-shaded walk-in near the shore. A "camp library" of paperbacks is located in a cabinet across from the "super-visor," an on-site employee of American Land & Leisure, which operates the property for Pacific Gas & Electric.

BASICS

Operated By: American Land & Leisure, concessionaire. **Open:** May 15–Oct. 1. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$15, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 125. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 6. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, food storage box. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 12 mi. south in Greenville. **Restaurant:** 12 mi. south in Greenville. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Lake Almanor. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, boat ramp. **Activities:** Fishing, boating, waterskiing, hiking, bird-watching. **Nearby Attractions:** Westwood Museum & Paul Bunyan & Babe the Blue Ox Statues; Lassen National Scenic Byway (Hwys. 89/44/36); Lassen Volcanic National Park. **Additional Information:** Chester–Lake Almanor Chamber of Commerce, (530) 258-2426 or (800) 350-4838.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only, \$1 fee. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 34 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Greenville drive 12 mi. north on Hwy. 89. The campground entrance is on the right.

GROVELAND MAP, C-3
Moccasin Point

Jacksonville Rd., Groveland 95347.
T: (209) 852-2396 or (209) 989-2206 (marina); www.donpedrolake.com.

★★★★ ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★ **Site Privacy:** ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★ **Quiet:** ★★★
Security: ★★★★★ **Cleanliness:** ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★ **Facilities:** ★★★★★

Given a choice between camping at Moccasin Point or Fleming Meadows, just down the road, the first wins hands down. For one thing, sites at Moccasin are not wedged together quite as tightly, and they benefit from a greater concentration of such shade and privacy providers as oaks, various conifers, and manzanita. Another point in its favor is the picturesque landscape, which ranges from chaparral-covered Sierra foothills to rolling fields of wildflower-dotted golden grass. The layout consists of a figure-8 loop and a triple circuit, both of which descend toward the jade-green water over a series of tiers. The most private sites are B 6, 10, 17, C 7, 8, 15, and 16. One drawback of this fine campground is the dearth of lake views. Oddly, the best water access is available via its primitive D and E overflow loops, the latter being graced with its own lagoon. Site distribution is more concentrated there, but shade is abundant.

BASICS

Operated By: Don Pedro Recreation Agency. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted, V, MC or check. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$12–\$25, cash, V, MC. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 96. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, barbecue grill, food storage box. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 8 mi. east in Groveland. **Restaurant:** 8 mi. east in Groveland. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** In Don Pedro Lake. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, boat ramp, marina. **Activities:** Fishing, waterskiing, motorboat & houseboat rentals, sailing. **Nearby Attractions:** Northern Mariposa County History Center in Coulterville; Tuolumne County Museum & History Center in Sonora; Yosemite National Park. **Additional Information:** Coulterville Visitors Center, (209) 878-3074; Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau, (209) 533-4420 or (800) 446-1333.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: Not allowed. **Fires:** Groundfires not allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From Groveland on Hwy. 120 head 7 mi. west to the junction w/ Hwy. 49. Turn north (right) on Hwy. 49 and continue for 2 mi. Turn right on Jacksonville Rd., followed by another right into the campground.

GROVELAND MAP, C-3
The Pines

Hwy. 120, Groveland 95321. T: (209) 962-7825 or (877) 444-6777; www.fs.fed.us/r5/stanislaus/groveland/camping/pines.shtml.

 ★★★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★

No one cares to stay at The Pines very long, seldom more than one night. That is no reflection on this peaceful haven just off of Hwy. 120, nine miles east of Groveland. It's just that with the entrance to Yosemite National Park 15 miles farther on, this serves more as a brief lay-over camp than a destination. The clean, attractive campground, located behind a forest ranger station, features level, grassy sites scattered over an L-shaped access road. There are plenty of oak trees, manzanita, and cedars sprinkled in among the mature pines, yielding abundant shade to this lush sward. Even so, sites, while somewhat roomy, are rather exposed. Best of the group are a pair of walk-ins, 6 and 7, which are well-recessed amid a clutch of stumps and a small marsh. Elevation is 3,200 feet, auguring for cool-but-pleasant nights most of the year.

BASICS

Operated By: American Land & Leisure, concessionaire. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$10, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 7. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 5. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 9 mi. west in Groveland. **Restaurant:** 9 mi. west in Groveland. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Activities:** Hiking, rafting on the Tuolumne River. **Nearby Attractions:** Yosemite National Park; Don Pedro Lake; Northern Mariposa County History Center in Coulterville. **Additional Information:** Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau, (209) 533-4420 or (800) 446-1333; Yosemite Area Traveler Information, (209) 723-3153.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 22 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Groveland drive 8.5 mi. east on Hwy. 120. Turn right at the sign for the Groveland Ranger District Office and follow the signs to the campground, 0.6 mi. ahead.

GUERNEVILLE MAP, C-1
Bullfrog Pond Campground

Austin Creek State Recreation Area, 17000 Armstrong Woods Rd., Guerneville 95446. T: (707) 869-2015; www.cal-parks.ca.gov.

 ★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

Shortly after the end of World War II, renowned ceramist Marguerite Wildenhain of the Bauhaus school came to settle in this area. She found inspiration in the sublime beauty of her surroundings, a feeling that countless campers have shared since then. If you are able to get your vehicle up the steep, narrow, meandering access road—and that's a big if—you will find stunning mountain views and an enchanting forested atmosphere. Feral pigs, wild turkeys, bobcats, and the elusive spotted owl make their homes in these redwood- and tan oak-covered hills. You are more likely, though, to see frogs by the pond, where the camp lane ends. Fern-freckled sites are distributed fairly well apart and though they are a tad small and some are planted on slanting ground, such minor discomforts seem an acceptable tradeoff for camping in so attractive a place. The park closes when the fire risk is extreme, so be sure to call ahead in summer.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year; weather & fire danger permitting. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At kiosk, 3.2 mi. beyond entrance booth. **Fee:** \$12 for 1 vehicle w/ up to 8 people, \$4 additional vehicle, cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Tent-only Sites: 23. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, food storage box. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Flush toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, narrow & bumpy. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 5.5 mi. south in Guerneville. **Restaurant:** 5.5 mi. south in Guerneville. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, 3 back-country campsites are available. **Activities:** Hiking, fishing, horseback riding, bird-watching. **Nearby Attractions:** Healdsburg Museum & Sonoma County Wine Library, Fort Ross State Historic Park, Kruse Rhododendron State Reserve & Salt Point State Park in Jenner, Brooks Canoes; winery tours. **Additional Information:** Healdsburg Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center, (707) 823-3032 or (877) 828-4748; Russian River Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center, (707) 869-9212 or (877) 644-9001.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash; not allowed on trails. **Fires:** Fire grates only; not allowed when fire danger is extreme. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site.



Vehicle Maximum Length: 20 ft., no trailers allowed.

TO GET THERE

From downtown Guerneville on Hwy. 116, turn north on Armstrong Woods Rd. The park entrance is 2.3 mi. ahead, w/ the campground entrance is 3.2 mi. beyond that.

HAMBURG MAP, A-1, A-2
Sarah Totten

Hwy. 96, Hamburg 96086. T: (530) 493-2243; wrwilliams@fs.fed.us; www.r5.fs.fed.us/klamath.

 ★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★

A popular rafting stretch of the Klamath River flows right by this pretty little campground, with easy put-in access to the water. Like Fort Goff to the west, this is a roadside facility, with a key difference being that Sarah Totten is recessed from Hwy. 96 and thus approaching autos do not seem to be bearing down on one's tent. In fact, road noise in most sites is pretty effectively muffled by the melodious churning of the Klamath. Of the two neighboring loops, the left-hand one contains five walk-in sites, with the oak-shaded number 3 the most spacious. Oak, pines, and horsetail grass also thrive in the second circuit, where peculiar mounds of river stones near the entrance are relics from the Gold Rush era, circa 1850, when extensive mining of the river occurred. Sites 6 and 7, with paved back-in parking, are tailor-made for RVs. The most private spot is 9, hidden behind an overgrown thicket of vines and weeds; it also has a water view. This is a splendid property, 40 miles east of Happy Camp, albeit somewhat neglected and overgrown.

BASICS

Operated By: Klamath National Forest. **Open:** May–Nov. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served; reservations required for group site. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$10, cash, check; no fee when in winter when spigots are capped. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 5. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 12. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, barbecue grill, fire ring. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Emergency phone only. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Mostly paved, also dirt & rocks. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 10 mi. east in Seiad Valley. **Restaurant:** 10 mi. east in Seiad Valley. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Klamath River. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Limited wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Fishing, hiking, rafting, kayaking, bird-watching. **Nearby Attractions:** Klamath National Forest; Yreka National Historic District, Western Railroad, Siskiyou County Courthouse & Museum in Yreka. **Additional Information:** Siskiyou County

188 CALIFORNIA Happy Camp

Visitors Bureau, (530) 926-3850; Yreka Chamber of Commerce, (530) 842-1649.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 22 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Happy Camp drive 30 mi. east on Hwy. 96. The campground entrance is on the left side of the road.

HAPPY CAMP MAP, A-1 Elk Creek Camp and RV Park

921 Elk Creek Rd., Happy Camp 96039.
T: (530) 493-2208;
www.elkcreekcampground.com.

 ★★★	 ★★
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Elk Creek is a privately operated campground with a rocky creek running through it, offering good fishing and swimming opportunities within easy walking distance of sites. The rustic feeling of the locale stems in part from its being thinly forested with maple, oak, madrone, and several types of pine, but also from its chaotic criss-crossing layout of lanes. Sites are level and surfaced either with grass, gravel, or dirt; the ones just above the creek are the roomiest and most secluded. While the setting is generally quite attractive, the appeal of Elk Creek was diminished at the time of our visit by the presence of several unsightly long-term trailers, some of which sport license tags that haven't been renewed in years. A change in management, though, bodes well; the genial new owners are determined to turn this place around. Miniature show horses are bred on the premises.

BASICS

Operated By: Eddie & Jean Davenport, owners. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC, D, AE. **Registration:** At the office. **Fee:** \$20–\$45, cash, check or V, MC, D, AE. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 45. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** Undesignated sites. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer, cable TV, internet. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Dirt & gravel, negotiable. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 1 mi. northeast in Happy Camp. **Restaurant:** 1 mi. northeast in Happy Camp. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** In Elk Creek & Klamath River. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, rec room. **Activities:** Hiking, fishing, kayaking, rafting. **Nearby Attractions:** Oregon Caves National Monument; Yreka National Historic District; Klamath National Forest. **Additional Information:** Siskiyou County Visitors Bureau, (530) 926-3850.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 60 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Happy Camp drive 0.5 mi. south on Hwy. 96 to Elk Creek Rd. Turn left and drive 1 mi. to the campground entrance on the right. The unpaved access road descends steeply.

HUME MAP, D-2 Hume Lake

Hume Lake Rd., Hume 93628. T: (559) 338-2251 or (877) 444-6777; www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia.

 ★★★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

Hume Lake lies just below this good-looking woodland campground. Fishing and boating are popular pastimes here, so much so that you'll need reservations on summer weekends. It is well situated as a base camp for exploring the newly minted Giant Sequoia National Monument, of which it is a part, and launching into the neighboring Kings Canyon National Park. Manzanita, Jeffrey and ponderosa pines, oak, and cedar thrive across this hilly domain, where dirt- and pine needle-surfaced sites are spread decently apart over a convoluted series of six loops. That's the good news. The bad news is that few spots are blessed with lake vistas, and those that are, such as 63 and 64, are not specifically reservable. The concession that manages Hume Lake for the national forest service restricts reservations to "type," not site number. Thus, car campers with a tent might reserve a "type one" spot, while a motor home would require a "type two" or "type three," at a higher fee. Unfortunately, many in the first category have parking slips that are so tight you may wish you rolled in on two wheels instead of four. Gasoline and a general store are available at the Christian camp in Hume, two miles south.

BASICS

Operated By: California Land Management, concessionaire. **Open:** May–Sep., weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$16, cash, check; \$32 for a double site; add \$2 per night for holiday weekends. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 74. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, some sites have bearproof box. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Flush toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** 2 mi. south at Christian Camp in Hume. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 41 mi. west in Sanger. **Restaurant:** 10 mi. southwest in Grant Grove Village. **General Store:** 2 mi. south at Christian Camp in Hume. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Hume Lake. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Boat

ramp. **Activities:** Fishing, boat rentals, hiking, kayaking, swimming, canoeing, horseback riding. **Nearby Attractions:** Giant Sequoia National Monument; Kings Canyon & Sequoia National Parks; Reedley Opera House, Museum & Mennonite Quilting Center. **Additional Information:** Fresno City & County CVB, (800) 788-0836; Reedley District Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau, (559) 638-3548.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 30 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Grant Grove on Hwy. 180 in Kings Canyon National Park drive 6.2 mi. north, direction Cedar Grove. At the sign for Hume Lake make a right onto Hume Rd. and continue for 3.2 mi. to the Hume Lake campground turnoff. Make a left and proceed for 0.4 mi. to the campground straight ahead.

HUME MAP, D-2 Landslide

Hume Lake Recreation Area, Ten Mile Creek Rd., Hume 93628. T: (559) 338-2251; www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia.

 ★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★

Located just down the road from Hume Lake (and 15 miles from Grant Grove Village in Kings Canyon National Park), this thickly forested campground is a worthy alternative to that oft-overrun facility. It's small, and picks up traffic noise from the forest road, but the setting reflects an authentic Sierra Nevada flavor, with granite boulders highlighting the rolling turf, and several meandering streams trickling through. Sizable sites of dirt and grass are positioned well apart along the curvilinear camp lane, with abundant shade provided by incense cedars and Jeffrey pines—but no sequoias. Late spring, when neon-red snow plants push up through the ground, is a good time to visit, but at an altitude of 5,800 feet, evenings then can be downright chilly. Formerly, Landslide was a no-fee national forest camp, but now that it is part of the newly minted Giant Sequoia National Monument, the concession that operates it has imposed a \$12 fee. Gasoline and a general store are located at the Christian camp in Hume, three miles north.

BASICS

Operated By: California Land Management, concessionaire. **Open:** May 25–Oct., weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** Not necessary. **Fee:** \$12, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 9. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest**

Rooms and Showers: Vault toilets, no showers.
Fuel: 3 mi. north at Christian Camp in Hume.
Propane: No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 44 mi. west in Sanger. **Restaurant:** 13 mi. southwest in Grant Grove Village.
General Store: 3 mi. north at Christian Camp in Hume. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Yes. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Very limited wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Fishing, boat rentals, hiking. **Nearby Attractions:** Giant Sequoia National Monument; Kings Canyon & Sequoia National Parks. **Additional Information:** Fresno City & County CVB, (800) 788-0836; Reedley District Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau, (559) 638-3548.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only; check for local restrictions. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 30 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Grant Grove on Hwy. 180 in Kings Canyon National Park drive 6.2 mi. north, direction Cedar Grove. At the sign for Hume Lake make a right onto Hume Rd. (which becomes Ten Mile Creek Rd.) and continue for 7.5 mi. to the campground on the right.

JENNER MAP, C-1
Woodside and Gerstle Cove Campground

Salt Point State Park, 25050 Hwy. 1, Jenner 95450.T: (707) 865-2391 or (707) 847-3221 or (800) 444-7275; www.cal-parks.ca.gov.

 ★★★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★

Hwy. 1 is a sleepy, sparsely traveled stretch of pavement in this part of the state, which is a good thing as it cuts directly through Salt Point State Park. The campground's two loops lie on either side of the road and that quirk of geography could not result in more contrasting realms. The west-facing Gerstle Cove consists of 30 roomy sites spaced well apart around a small grassy meadow. Most of the pines at the perimeter died years ago, victims of a forest fire. As a result, their skeletal limbs have an eerie appearance, especially when veiled in the fog that frequently cloaks this section of the park. When the air is clear, the camp commands a great view of the sandy cove below, one of a series of small bays and inlets in the vicinity. Inland is Woodside, where the dense concentration of mixed conifers, madrones, and ferns emerged unscathed from the fire. Sites here are no less roomy than across the road, but the forest environment contributes to better screening and thus superior privacy. Amateur mycologists will be delighted to find that king boletes and chanterelles thrive in these woods. Divers will want to explore the protected underwater reserve just off shore.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served for selected sites. Reservations accepted w/V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$7-\$12, cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 109. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 30. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, food storage box. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Flush toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 1 mi. south on Hwy. 1. **Restaurant:** 1 mi. south on Hwy. 1. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Ocean. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, underwater park at Gerstle Cove. **Activities:** Hiking, fishing, bicycling, horseback riding, mushroom collecting, abalone diving, tide-pooling. **Nearby Attractions:** Fort Ross State Historic Park & Kruse Rhododendron State Reserve in Jenner; Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve & Austin Creek State Recreation Area in Guerneville; Sonoma County Wine Library in Healdsburg. **Additional Information:** Sebastopol Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center, (707) 823-3032 or (877) 828-4748.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash no longer than 6 ft., not allowed on trails. Check w/ park to confirm. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 31 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Guerneville drive 12.3 mi. west on Hwy. 116 to Jenner. Turn right (north) onto Hwy. 1 and continue for 20 mi. Woodside is to the right, Gerstle Cove is 2 mi. farther on Hwy. 1, to the left.

JULIAN MAP, F-3
Paso Picacho Campground

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, 12551 Hwy. 79, Julian 91916.T: (760) 765-0755; www.cuyamaca.statepark.org.

 ★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★

Paso Picacho is normally open year-round, but the severe cedar fires of 2003 have closed the entire state park until further notice. When it re-opens, and if you come in the winter, plan to dress warmly and don't be surprised if there is snow on the ground. That's because at an elevation of nearly 5,000 feet this is one of the higher camps in southern California, and thus one of the more pleasant—and hugely popular—in summer. Of course its rough-hewn mountainous setting has something to do with that appeal, with roomy sites shaded by oak, manzanita, and pines, and dispersed through a series of loops that snake across the hilly contours of the park. As with many

mountain camps, finding a level site can be a challenge: Best in that department (as well as for privacy and space) are numbers 3-12. Rangers report that area mountain lions have become bold, with a number of sightings, two attacks, and one fatality over the last 14 years.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. Reservations recommended;V, MC, AE. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$15, cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 85. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 11 mi. north in Julian. **Restaurant:** 11 mi. north in Julian. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Hiking, horseback riding, boating & fishing in Lake Cuyamaca less than 2 mi. away, ranger-led activities in summer. **Nearby Attractions:** San Diego Wild Animal Park in Escondido, historic Julian. **Additional Information:** Julian Chamber of Commerce, (760) 765-1857.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash, not allowed on trails. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 27 ft.

TO GET THERE

From San Diego head east on I-8 for 43 mi. Exit on Hwy. 79 north and drive 12.2 mi. The campground entrance is on the left.

JULIAN MAP, F-3
William Heise County Park

4945 Heise Park Rd., Julian 92036.
T: (760) 765-0650 (the ranger); (888) 565-3600; www.sdparks.org.

 ★★★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★
Insect Control: ★	Facilities: ★★★

This agreeable campground mixes grassy meadows with a forest environment and comes up with a series of loops laid out in a terracing of such shade trees as live oaks, Coulter pines, and incense cedars. The largely comparable sites have coarse sand and dirt for tent pads, with 73 and 84 giving tenters the most space and 36 optimum for RVers. You're likely to hear acorn woodpeckers clowning around up in the leafy canopy, and last time we camped here a number of wild turkeys gobbled through our site. There are seven miles of hiking trails in the park, with the scenic overlook on Desert View Trail especially rewarding. Looking for more? How about heated rest rooms, a nicely civilized touch of comfort. The park is just six miles from the scenic mountain town of Julian,

190 CALIFORNIA June Lake

making it a great base when the latter holds its Apple Days festival throughout October.

BASICS

Operated By: County of San Diego, Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. Reservations accepted w/ V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance booth & park office. **Fee:** \$12–\$16, cash, V, MC, D. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Tent-only Sites: 41. **Number of Multipurpose Sites:** 40. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire ring, some w/ a barbecue grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Gravel, some paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 5.5 mi. north in Julian. **Restaurant:** 5.5 mi. north in Julian. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Hiking, bicycling, horseback riding (must provide your own horse), horseshoe pit. **Nearby Attractions:** Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, historic Julian, Lake Cuyamaca. **Additional Information:** Julian Chamber of Commerce, (760) 765-1857.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash; \$1 fee. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site, not exceeding 40 proof. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 40 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Julian head west on Hwy. 78 for 1 mi. Turn left on Pine Hills Rd. and drive 2.3 mi. Turn left again on Frisius Rd. and continue for 2.2 mi. to the park.

JUNE LAKE

Pine Cliff Resort

MAP, C-3

1 Pine Cliff Rd., June Lake 93529.
T: (760) 648-7558.



★★★★



★★★★

Beauty: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★
Security: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★

Site Privacy: ★★
Quiet: ★★★★★
Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Facilities: ★★★★★

June Lake is a lovely body of water, encircled by wavy, golden grasslands, with the choppy, rocky eastern Sierra range looming above. Pine Cliff Resort capitalizes on this rugged setting by positioning many of its sandy, mostly level sites among large gray boulders, while others rub up against high desert chaparral. Jeffrey pines thrive throughout the tilting, mountainous domain, providing shade and highlighting its natural beauty. Despite the trees, there is little screening here, and sites, which are on the small side, are too often crowded together. For the most privacy, try to reserve such perimeter slots as 133, 135, and 136; or any of 66–72, for their dramatic location amid a rift of Sierra uplift. Management deserves credit for the competitive pricing of its fuel and basic supplies, though for “people skills,” campers give it mixed reviews. Pine Cliff Resort lies at 7,600 feet altitude, less than 15 miles south of Lee

Vining. The sandy access road to the beach and boat ramp is very bumpy.

BASICS

Operated By: Pine Cliff Resort. **Open:** Apr.–Nov. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. Reservations recommended; checks only. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$11–\$20, cash only. \$1 additional per pet. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 190. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 60. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Half-size picnic table, fire ring. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** Yes. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Gravel. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 13 mi. north in Lee Vining. **Restaurant:** 13 mi. north in Lee Vining. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** June Lake. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, boat launch, beach, ATM machine, gift shop. **Activities:** Fishing, hiking, volleyball, basketball, horseshoe pit. **Nearby Attractions:** Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve in Lee Vining; Devils Postpile National Monument, Mammoth Mountain Bike Park, Mammoth Museum & outlet shopping in Mammoth Lakes. **Additional Information:** Mono County Tourism Commission, (760) 924-3699; Mammoth Lakes Visitors Bureau, (888) GO-MAMMOTH.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash; 2 max. per site. **Fires:** Fire grates only & out by 10:30 p.m. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 40 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Lee Vining drive 11 mi. south on US 395, ignoring the 1st turnoff for Hwy. 158 north. Turn right on the 2nd turnoff, Hwy. 158 south for the June Lake Loop. Drive 1 mi. to North Shore Dr. and turn right on it. Continue for 0.6 mi., then turn left on Pine Cliff Rd. The campground entrance is 0.4 mi. ahead on the right, well-signed.

KERNVILLE

Fairview

MAP, D-3

Mt. 99, Kernville 93238. T: (760) 376-3781;
(877) 444-6777; www.r5.fs.fed.us/sequoia.



★★★★



★★★★

Beauty: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★
Security: ★★
Insect Control: ★★

Site Privacy: ★★
Quiet: ★★
Cleanliness: ★★
Facilities: ★★

The turbulent Kern River is a rafter's delight, and Fairview puts campers where the action is, right alongside that purling cascade of water. The saw-toothed Sierra range circles this rocky, mountainous setting, which is at an altitude of 3,500 feet. Very small, level sites, with equally tight parking slips, are crowded together over rocky, sandy ground. The host's spot has the best shade; elsewhere over the three loops it is sparsely provided by a few pines and cottonwoods, with Mormon tea and other chaparral making up the ground cover. Spring, when snow melt adds to the Kern's power, is the

best time to visit, but bear in mind that the concession operating this national forest property charges the same fee whether you picnic, day-use, or camp. There are many maverick camps along the Kern that budget-minded campers may want to investigate. Many are sizable enough to handle small RVs and if they don't have facilities, at least they offer more seclusion and fairer river access than this and the many other developed camps in the area.

BASICS

Operated By: California Land Management, concessionaire. **Open:** Apr.–Nov. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. Reservations recommended; V, MC, D. **Registration:** W/ campground host. **Fee:** \$12, cash, check; \$24 for double site; add \$2 per night for holiday weekends. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 55. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved & meandering. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 17 mi. south in Kernville. **Restaurant:** 17 mi. south in Kernville. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Rafting, fishing, hiking, bicycling. **Nearby Attractions:** Sequoia National Forest; Isabella Lake; California Hot Springs; Porterville Historical Museum. **Additional Information:** Porterville Chamber of Commerce, (559) 784-7503.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only, in designated areas. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 40 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Kernville drive 17 mi. north on Sierra Way. The campground entrance is on the left.

KINGS CANYON

NATIONAL PARK

Azalea

MAP, D-2

Grant Grove Village, Hwy. 180, Kings Canyon National Park 93633. T: (559) 565-3341;
www.nps.gov/seki.



★★★★



★★★★

Beauty: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★
Security: ★★
Insect Control: ★★

Site Privacy: ★★
Quiet: ★★
Cleanliness: ★★
Facilities: ★★

One of the more appealing aspects of this campground is its central location, within easy walking distance of the General Grant Grove of massive redwood trees and the Grant Grove Visitor Center. The first thing you may notice, though, on driving in is that many sites are considerably less than mediocre—tiny, unshaded, and exposed, as if carved out of the pine needle-packed ground as an afterthought. Indeed, for a rugged, hilly setting that is rich in redwoods, cedar, manzanita, madrone, and various pines, the overall absence of privacy throughout the many loops is hugely dis-

appointing. Still, spacing between sites is not that bad, and if you persevere you'll notice a few that take advantage of protruding boulders for a little extra cover, with 89 and 113 in this better category. There are also several tent-only spots, though many are grouped closely together. If you have the time, be sure to drive the awe-inspiring Kings Canyon Scenic Byway (closed in winter). Sentinel, near the road's end, is a beautiful, wooded campground laid out around a small meadow.

BASICS

Operated By: National Park Service. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$18, cash, check (in addition to the park entrance fee). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 57. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 56. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, some sites have bearproof box. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 31 mi. west in Sanger. **Restaurant:** In Grant Grove Village. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Hiking, horseback riding, ranger-led activities. **Nearby Attractions:** Giant Sequoia National Monument; Sequoia National Park; Reedley Opera House, Museum & Mennonite Quilting Center. **Additional Information:** Fresno City & County CVB, (800) 788-0836; Reedley District Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau, (559) 638-3548.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On 6-ft. leash; not allowed on trails. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 32 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Grant Grove Village drive 0.2 mi. north on Hwy. 180. Turn left at the sign for Azalea and a quick left again into the campground.

LA GRANGE MAP, C-3 Fleming Meadows

Bonds Flat Rd. 31, La Grange 95329.
T: (209) 852-2396; www.donpedrolake.com.

 ★★★★★	 ★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

In an area where summers are long and hot, Don Pedro Lake, 35 miles east of Modesto, is a marvelous sight. The rolling hills around its multi-pronged arms are speckled green with oaks and awash in golden grass. The reservoir features 160 miles of shoreline, endowing Fleming Meadows campground with no end of water vistas. There is a trade-off for those splendid views; many of the dirt-surfaced sites lack privacy and space. Of the four loops, sites in the A group are better shaded and seem a little more spacious. The optimum are

A 24 and 25, which overlook the lake and are framed by a large oak; A 34, a comfortable unit with pull-through parking; and A 58, 59, 61, 62, and 64. Boaters may also indulge in primitive camping along the opposite shoreline. Not that a boat is necessary to enjoy this huge recreation area. Facilities include a sandy swimming lagoon that is six feet deep and two acres across, a softball field, horseshoe pits, volleyball, and no end of fishing opportunities. Boat service, fuel, a snack bar, and store are available at the marina.

BASICS

Operated By: Don Pedro Recreation Agency. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC or check. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$12–\$25, cash, V, MC. **Parking:** At site or designated area for walk-ins.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 231. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 36. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, food storage box, some sites have a ramada. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No, at Marina. **Propane:** At Marina. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 8.5 mi south in La Grange. **Restaurant:** 8.5 mi. south in La Grange. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** In lagoon. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, boat ramp, marina, beach. **Activities:** Fishing, waterskiing, motorboat & houseboat rentals, sailing, horseshoe pit, volleyball, softball. **Nearby Attractions:** Northern Mariposa County History Center in Coulterville; Turlock Lake State Recreation Area; Yosemite National Park. **Additional Information:** Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau, (209) 533-4420 or (800) 446-1333.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: Not allowed. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From La Grange on Hwy. 132 drive 5 mi. north on La Grange Rd./J59. Turn right on Bonds Flat Rd. and proceed for another 3.3 mi. to the park entrance on the left.

LA HONDA MAP, D-1 Portola Redwoods State Park

9000 Portola State Park Rd. # F, La Honda 94020. T: (650) 948-9098 or (800) 444-7275; www.santacruzstateparks.org/parks/portola.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★

As you make your way along the access road to Portola Redwoods State Park you'll enjoy some breathtaking valley views. Some may feel that is small reward for the clutch-grinding, white-knuckle drive from one hairpin curve to another. But on finally arriving at the park you may have the entire camp-

Lake Elsinore CALIFORNIA 191

ground to yourself, especially if visiting midweek or out of season. The two small loops are deftly arranged across a hilly canyon to maximize the usable space. That is a good thing, as aside from the fallen giants that border some of the fern-dappled sites, screening is minimal. Still, this is a handsomely forested camp, with ancient moss-covered sentinels surrounded by their smaller, second-growth descendants, as well as oaks and azaleas. Site 28 overlooks a creek and is, with neighboring 29, among the better ones for privacy. Numbers 37 and 39 are attractive, too, though on the small side. Pull-through sites are available but drivers of long rigs should think twice about trying to navigate the goat-path of a road up to Portola. Also remember to fill up your gas tank before entering the mountains.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** Mar.–Nov. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance booth or visitor center. **Fee:** \$16, cash, CA check (ID required). \$5 for each additional vehicle. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 9. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 42. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire ring. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 25 mi. east in Palo Alto. **Restaurant:** 25 mi. east in Palo Alto. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** None. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Activities:** Hiking, ranger-led activities in summer, exploring redwood forests. **Nearby Attractions:** Palo Alto museums; state beaches along the coast; Mission Santa Clara de Asis & various museums in Santa Clara; San Jose museums, architecture & zoo. **Additional Information:** Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce, (650) 324-3121; Santa Clara CVB, (408) 224-9660 or (800) 272-6822; San Jose CVB, (888) SAN-JOSE.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash; not allowed on trails or in creeks. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 24 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Palo Alto drive south on I-280 and take the Page Mill Rd. Exit. Turn right (south) and drive 8.8 mi., straight through the stop sign, to Alpine Rd. Follow this road for 3.5 mi., then turn left on Portola State Park Rd. The park entrance is 3.1 mi. ahead.

LAKE ELSINORE MAP, F-3 El Cariso North Campground

Hwy. 74/Ortega Hwy., Lake Elsinore 92530.
T: (909) 736-1811; www.r5.fs.fed.us/cleveland.

 ★★★★★	 ★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★

192 CALIFORNIA Lakeport

This is a small roadside campground in the Cleveland National Forest, conveniently located along Hwy. 74, just ten miles west of I-15. It is a primitive facility with a single loop passing through a grove of aged oak trees and a sprinkling of pines. Sites are well shaded and deep, largely level, and equipped with dirt tent pads. Because Hwy. 74 connects to I-5 on the coast there tends to be a good deal of traffic flowing past El Cariso, making spots 10, 14, 19, 21, and 24, positioned toward the rear of the campground, the most desirable.

BASICS

Operated By: Cleveland National Forest, Trabuco Ranger District. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$15, cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 24. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, barbecue grill. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Pit toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 1 mi. west in El Cariso Village. **Restaurant:** 10 mi. east in Lake Elsinore. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Activities:** Hiking, boating, fishing nearby. **Nearby Attractions:** Lake Elsinore, Orange Empire Railway Museum in Perris, Ortega Falls. **Additional Information:** Lake Elsinore Valley Chamber of Commerce, (909) 245-8848.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 22 ft.

TO GET THERE

From I-15 in Lake Elsinore drive 10 mi. west on Hwy. 74. The campground is on the right.

LAKEPORT Clear Lake State Park MAP, C-1

5300 Soda Bay Rd., Lakeport 95451. T: (707) 279-4293 or (800) 444-7275; www.parks.ca.gov.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★★

Clear Lake is one of the largest freshwater lakes in California. The angling in its shimmering blue-green waters is so good, particularly for bass, bluegill, and catfish, that you just might forget for a moment the other liquids for which this wine-producing region is renowned. There is an appealingly wild, untamed air to the forested hills around the lake, and the park takes full advantage of that by dispersing its campground into four zones ranging from lake and creekside on up into the higher woodland. The prime water sites are 58–60 in the Kelsey Creek loop, where plant life is highlighted by manzanita, willow, cottonwood, and black walnut. The opposite side of that loop overlooks a creek (very buggy in spring) and numbers 29, 31,

32, 38, 39, 41, 42, 44, and 45 are gratifyingly spacious and private. Pines, oak, and sycamore are the dominant tree species at the two Bayview circuits up the road, with 110–112, shady and overlooking the lake, ideal for small RVs. Cole Creek, close and parallel to the access road near the park entrance, is the least attractive of the camping areas.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted May 15–Sep. 15 w/V, MC, D. First come, first served sites available. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$12 off season, \$15 May 15–Sep. 15, cash, CA check. Premium sites \$4 extra. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 145. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 2. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** No. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 4 mi. south in Kelseyville. **Restaurant:** 4 mi. south in Kelseyville. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** In Clear Lake. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, boat ramp, visitor center, fire wood available. **Activities:** Fishing, hiking, waterskiing, bird-watching, kayak rentals. **Nearby Attractions:** Lakeport County Museum in Lakeport; Clear Lake Queen, Outrageous Waters Water Park & Fun Center & Anderson Marsh State Historic Park in Clearlake. **Additional Information:** Lakeport Chamber of Commerce, (707) 263-5092; Clearlake Chamber of Commerce, (707) 994-3600.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 35 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Lakeport head 8 mi. south on Hwy. 29 to Kelseyville. Turn left on Merritt Rd. which leads into Gaddy Ln. Drive 3.5 mi., then turn right on Soda Bay and continue for 1 mi. to the park entrance on the left.

LEE VINING Aspen Grove MAP, C-3

Hwy. 120, Lee Vining 93541. T: (760) 932-5451.

 ★★★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★

There is an enchanting quality to the raw, mountainous beauty of Aspen Grove, particularly in spring, just after its many aspens have leafed out into a fluttering luminescence. Jeffrey pines, sage, and other high desert scrub compose the complement of vegetation at this creekside, county-operated camp, which is just five miles west of Lee Vining along the Tioga Rd. At 7,500 feet elevation, you'll find breathtaking views of the snow-laced Sierra Nevada peaks all around, with Mono Dome,

at 10,622 feet, dominating the scene. Some of the dirt-packed, somewhat rocky sites are on uneven ground, others (most notably, those by the creek) are squeezed for space. The lion's share, though, are delightfully large and very recessed. Among the better choices for RVs are 22, 23, and 25, facing the creek. Great tenting spots include 54, also by the creek; 18, hidden among pines and horsetail grass; and, away from the water, 37 and 39, both being very private. Similarly rustic sites are available at Big Bend campground, half a mile east.

BASICS

Operated By: Mono County Building & Parks Dept. **Open:** May–Oct., weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$7, cash. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 56. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, makeshift fire ring. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Pit & portable toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Dirt, rocky & bumpy. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 6 mi. northeast in Lee Vining. **Restaurant:** 6 mi. northeast in Lee Vining. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Activities:** Fishing, hiking, photography. **Nearby Attractions:** Yosemite National Park; Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve in Lee Vining; Bodie State Historic Park in Bridgeport. **Additional Information:** Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce, (760) 647-6629; Yosemite Area Traveler Information, (209) 723-3153.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 10 ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 40 ft.

TO GET THERE

Just south of Lee Vining on US 395 head west on Hwy. 120. Drive 3.2 mi. and turn left onto Poole Power Plant Rd. Make a quick right onto the campground access road and continue for 1.5 mi. to the entrance on the left.

LEE VINING Ellery Lake MAP, C-3

Hwy. 120, Lee Vining 93541. T: (760) 873-2400 or (760) 647-3044; www.fs.fed.us/r5/invo.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★
Insect Control: ★	Facilities: ★

There is only one site here with a view of the camp's namesake Ellery Lake, lucky 13, a walk-in. Don't let that, or the overall lack of privacy and elbowroom, nettle you, though. This is an exquisite environment, surrounded by the jagged, snow-iced mountain peaks of Lee Vining Canyon, with a small creek gurgling by. The ground is level, parking slips paved, and a smattering of lodgepole pines and low-lying willows vie with boulders and campers

for ground space. You can fish for trout in the creek or, better still, the nearby lake. The campground, which is at an altitude of 9,500 feet, is also a fine base for day trips into Yosemite National Park's high country, its east entrance being a scant three miles away. Nearly half the sites are walk-ins for tenters, with access to them cutting directly through other sites, an unfortunate sacrifice in privacy. The better spots are 9–14, shielded from Hwy. 120 in a nook behind talus rock.

BASICS

Operated By: Sierra Recreation, concessionaire. **Open:** Jun.–Oct., weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$12, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 6. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 6. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 11 mi. east in Lee Vining. **Restaurant:** 11 mi. east in Lee Vining. **General Store:** 0.5 mi. west. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Yes. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Fishing, hiking, photography, boating, swimming. **Nearby Attractions:** Yosemite National Park; Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve in Lee Vining; Bodie State Historic Park in Bridgeport. **Additional Information:** Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce, (760) 647-6629; Yosemite Area Traveler Information, (209) 723-3153.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 30 ft.



TO GET THERE

Just south of Lee Vining on US 395, head west on Hwy. 120. Drive 10 mi. and turn left into the campground.

LEWISTON Cooper Gulch

MAP, B-2

Trinity Dam Blvd., Lewiston 96052. T: (530) 623-2121; www.fs.fed.us/r5/shastatrinity.

 ★★★★★	 ★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★

The first thing you may notice about Cooper Gulch is the high tension wires that run directly over the campground. That impression won't linger. Not when you see how close the five level sites are to the edge of Lewiston Lake. That they are also close to each other and lack privacy is not really a problem, either, since almost everybody devotes their attention to the rippling water just a few steps away. Bring your hammock and anchor it to a couple of the pines and incense cedars that shade this charming spot. And don't forget your canoe or kayak, which can be launched from the small dirt

ramp right in camp. It is hard to go wrong with any of these medium-small, pine needle-carpeted sites, but 4 is closest to the lake and 5, sheltered by oaks, is the most private. Amazingly, a host occupies one of the five coveted slots in summer.

BASICS

Operated By: Hodge Management, concessionaire. **Open:** Apr.–Oct. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$12, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 5. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 4 mi. south in Lewiston. **Restaurant:** 4 mi. south in Lewiston. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, small boat launch. **Activities:** Fishing, boating, hiking, bird-watching. **Nearby Attractions:** Weaverville museums, National Historic District & Joss House State Historic Park; Historic Trinity River Bridge in Lewiston, Trinity Oaks Wilderness. **Additional Information:** Weaverville Chamber of Commerce, (530) 623-3840; Trinity County Chamber of Commerce, (530) 623-6101 or (800) 487-4648.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 16 ft.



TO GET THERE

From Redding drive 26 mi. west on Hwy. 299 to Trinity Dam Blvd./Lewiston Exit. Turn right and continue for 8.6 mi. to the campground entrance on the right.

LIVERMORE Del Valle Regional Park

MAP, C-2

7000 Del Valle Rd., Livermore 94550. T: (510) 636-1684 or (510) 562-2267; www.ebparks.org.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

Del Valle Regional Park is a quiet, unassuming place that just happens to be one of the more beautiful of the many parklands in the immediate Bay Area. A part of the Diablo Range, this rugged canyon setting consists of grassy hills, meadows punctuated by thick concentrations of oak, eucalyptus, knob cone pine, and sycamore, and at its heart a narrow reservoir lake that stretches five miles from end to end. Windsurfers and sailing enthusiasts take to the water like a child to chocolate, with motorboats restricted to a maximum speed of ten miles per hour. Fishing conditions are only average, despite regular plantings of rainbow trout. There are no views of the lake from the campground, but roomy, grass-covered sites are spaced well apart over a double loop, helping to

Lone Pine CALIFORNIA 193

compensate for that handicap. Birders will find pleasure in the many species that make this territory their home, including several wild turkeys and a pair of peacocks. The park loses points, though, for haphazard maintenance: during a recent tour we found sites littered with above average amounts of plastic, paper, bottle caps, and cigarette butts. The open-air rest rooms were also in urgent need of an overhaul.

BASICS

Operated By: East Bay Regional Park District. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC, fee is \$7. First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$16–\$20, cash, V, MC. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 150. **Hookups:** Water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 9.5 mi. north in Livermore. **Restaurant:** 9.5 mi. north in Livermore. **General Store:** Yes, in summer. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** In designated areas of Lake Del Valle. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, marina, boat launch. **Activities:** Hiking, fishing, bicycling, windsurfing, sailing, nature programs. **Nearby Attractions:** Mission San Jose & Ardenwood Historic Farm in Fremont; winery tours; Waterslide Park in Pleasanton. **Additional Information:** Livermore Chamber of Commerce, (925) 447-1606.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only, \$1 fee per night. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Beer & wine only. Allowed at site & picnic areas. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 35 ft.



TO GET THERE

From Livermore and Hwy. 84 head south on South Livermore Ave., which changes into Tesla Rd. After 2.4 mi. turn right on Mines Rd. Continue for 3.6 mi. and bear right on Del Valle Park Rd. The park entrance is 3.2 mi. ahead.

LONE PINE Whitney Portal

MAP, D-3

Whitney Portal Rd., Lone Pine 93545. T: (760) 876-6200 (ranger station); (877) 444-6777; www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

Even if you don't plan to hike Mt. Whitney, which, at 14,495 feet, is the highest peak in the Lower 48 states, this campground is a worthwhile, breath-taking retreat. From its rocky, pine-shrouded sites, up to the aspen-fringed trailhead, from the many streams noisily cascading down the mountain to the saw-toothed, jaw-like peaks that hover menacingly above, this is one spectacular, picture-perfect scene. As you lounge by your tent at 8,000 feet

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elevation, low-floating clouds seem close enough to reach out and grab. Boulders provide respectable privacy between closely grouped sites, and shade is derived from Jeffrey and ponderosa pines, as well as mountain mahogany. The most secluded sites are 8 and 9, flanked by large slabs of granite. Avoid the spots just below Whitney Portal Rd., which pick up more traffic noise than the others, and try to visit on a weekday, when there are fewer mountain climbers in camp. The trailhead picnic area is an Arcadian delight.

BASICS

Operated By: Campground concessionaire.
Open: Mid-May–mid-Oct., weather permitting.
Site Assignment: Reservations accepted w/V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance. **Fee:** \$14, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 43. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate or barbecue grill, sites have bearproof box. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Chemical toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, windy. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 12 mi. east in Lone Pine. **Restaurant:** Yes. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Hiking, fishing, photography, picnicking, backpacking, rock climbing. **Nearby Attractions:** Manzanar National Historic Site & Eastern California Museum in Independence; Diaz Lake Recreation Area in Lone Pine; Mount Whitney. **Additional Information:** Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce, (760) 876-4444; Independence Chamber of Commerce, (760) 878-0084.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 32 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Lone Pine on US 395 drive 12 mi. west on Whitney Portal Rd. to the campground on the left.

LOS BAÑOS MAP, D-1 San Luis Creek Campground

San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area, 31426 Gonzaga Rd., Los Baños 95322. T: (209) 826-1196 or (800) 444-7275; www.parks.ca.gov.

★★★★	★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★★

San Luis Reservoir lies in the heart of California's valley region, just off of I-5, about 40 miles south of Modesto. Summer starts early in these parts, with the sun scorching the neighboring hills brown by April. Water sports are therefore the logical activity of choice and fortunately there is usually enough H₂O in the reservoir to satisfy boaters and swimmers throughout the hot season. Of the three campgrounds in the park, only San Luis Creek on

the O'Neill Forebay has hookups. It is a grassy, peaceful camp with many of its fairly exposed, roomy sites set close to the shore. Adding a splash of color to the setting are eucalyptus trees, pines, and sycamores. The latter are still too small to cast much shade but they are just large enough to attract larks and other songbirds. The only off-key note is the presence of power lines looming above a few of the sites. Showers are available across the street at Basalt Campground.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$15, cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 53. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Pit toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 15 mi. east in Los Baños. **Restaurant:** 15 mi. east in Los Baños. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Reservoir. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Fishing, boating, bird-watching, hiking, picnicking. **Nearby Attractions:** Modesto museums; Mission San Juan Bautista; Los Baños Great Valley Grasslands State Park & Wildlife Area. **Additional Information:** Santa Nella Chamber of Commerce, (209) 826-8282; Los Baños Chamber of Commerce, (209) 826-2495.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash. \$1 fee. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 30 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Gilroy on US 101 follow Hwy. 152 east for 36 mi. Turn left into the park. The campground entrance is 1 mi. ahead to the left.

LUCIA MAP, D-1 Kirk Creek

Hwy. 1, Lucia 93920. T: (831) 385-5434; www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres.

★★★★	★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★

This is a rough-cut, wild-looking campground with a grassy, unmanicured feel to its sites. One might even say bucolic, a quality that is entirely appropriate given its location, just off Hwy. 1 along the unspoiled Big Sur coast. Coastal chaparral and shrubs provide excellent screening for sites that are mostly small, unshaded and tend to tilt toward the ocean. The handsome national forest land slopes steeply to the water and has the auditorium effect of projecting the roar of the surf into camp—thus drowning out the din of passing traffic—and endowing most slots with commanding views of

the Pacific. Best for privacy along the figure-8 loop are 8, 9, 21, 22, and 11, with the latter located next to the beach. Be sure to avoid tiny number 1, which picks up too much road noise. The only abrasive chord is struck by the nightly fee of \$16, a hefty sum given the Spartan facilities. Golden poppies color the hillside in spring.

BASICS

Operated By: Parks Management, concessionaire. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$18, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Tent-only Sites: 3. **Number of Multipurpose Sites:** 33. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire ring, barbecue grill. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Flush toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 4 mi. north in Lucia. **Restaurant:** 4 mi. north in Lucia. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Activities:** Hiking, fishing. **Nearby Attractions:** Hearst Castle, National Geographic Theater in San Simeon; Mission San Antonio de Padua in Jolon; Limekiln State Park; Big Sur coast. **Additional Information:** Big Sur Chamber, (831) 667-2100.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash; allowed 2 pets. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 30 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Lucia on Hwy. 1 drive 4 mi. south and turn right into the campground.

LUCIA MAP, D-1 Ponderosa

Nacimiento Fergusson Rd., Lucia 93920. T: (831) 385-5434; www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres.

★★★★	★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★	Facilities: ★

This isolated camp is located within the tree-choked Los Padres National Forest, 15 miles and an hour's drive from the coast along the windy, occasionally broken up, mountainous Nacimiento Rd. On pulling into Ponderosa, don't expect that Hoss and Little Joe will be there to greet you. In fact, there may not be anyone present at all, which is one of the virtues of this pretty property, in contrast to its overflowing counterparts along the Big Sur coast. Roomy sites of dirt and grass are well separated along the serpentine loop, with a babbling creek running by several and a handful of walk-ins especially secluded. This hilly campground lies at 1,650 feet of elevation near the crest of the Santa Lucia Mountain range and is shaded more by live oaks, oddly, than its namesake pines. We prefer this facility to Nacimiento, two miles to the west, the latter featuring exposed, shallow sites that are very close to the road.

BASICS

Operated By: Parks Management Company, concessionaire. **Open:** All year, weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$14, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 18. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 5. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire ring, barbecue grill. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 20 mi. northwest in Lucia. **Restaurant:** 20 mi. northwest in Lucia. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Pacific Ocean (not advised). **Playground:** No. **Other:** Some wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Hiking, fishing. **Nearby Attractions:** Hearst Castle, National Geographic Theater in San Simeon; Mission San Antonio de Padua in Jolon; Limekiln State Park; Big Sur coast; Pinnacles National Monument. **Additional Information:** Big Sur Chamber, (831) 667-2100.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 35 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Lucia on Hwy. 1 drive 4 mi. south. Turn inland (left) on Nacimiento Fergusson Rd. and follow this windy, ascending road for 14 mi. The campground entrance is to the right.

MADERA MAP, D-2
Millerton Lake State Recreation Area

5290 Millerton Rd., Madera 93626.T: (559) 822-2332 or (800) 444-7275; www.parks.ca.gov.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

State officials estimate that on holiday weekends as many as 25,000 people descend on Millerton Lake, an indication of its popularity, as well as when to avoid visiting. Beyond the charming setting, amid a series of wrinkly, dimpled hills, with long, golden grass and monzo-granite gleaming in the sun, the attraction is obvious, given the scorching temperatures here during summer months. But while the lake is the main show, the campground is no ugly stepchild. Its level sites of grass and dirt are very well scattered over an extended series of loops, endowing many with privacy and prime vantages of the water. Several kinds of oak grace the domain, as well as sycamores, willow, eucalyptus, and various conifers, providing a balance of shade and filtered sun. The best of many fine sites is 59, on a point of land jutting out into the lake; 6–8 are on the small side but secluded. There are also 25 boat-in spots, and a marina with a snackbar and

vending machines. Be sure to visit the Millerton Courthouse, circa 1867, preserved within the park.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC, D. First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$12–\$18, cash, CA check. Seasonal changes on prices. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 138. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30, 50 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, some sites have food storage box &/or ramada. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 23 mi. west in Madera. **Restaurant:** 23 mi. west in Madera. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** In Millerton Lake. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, marina, boat launch, beach when water level drops. **Activities:** Fishing, boat rentals, horseback riding, hiking, waterskiing, windsurfing. **Nearby Attractions:** Museums, Forestiere Underground Gardens, Chaffee Zoological Gardens, Rotary Storyland & Playland in Fresno; Madera County Historical Museum & Quady Winery, Indian Gambling Casino. **Additional Information:** Fresno City & County CVB, (800) 788-0836; Madera Chamber of Commerce, (559) 673-3563.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site; no alcohol on the shoreline. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 36 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Madera drive 16 mi. east on Hwy. 145. Proceed through the intersection w/ Hwy. 41 (where Hwy. 145 becomes Millerton Rd.). Continue 3.5 mi., then bear left. After 1.3 mi. turn right. The campground is 2.2 mi. ahead.

MALIBU MAP, E-2
Leo Carillo State Park

Pacific Coast Hwy., Malibu 90265.T: (805) 488-5223 or (800) 444-7275; www.parks.ca.gov.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

The campground at Leo Carillo State Park is located directly across the Pacific Coast Hwy. from a wide sandy beach. While this detached position may at first appear to be a drawback, it is in fact the best of two worlds, with easy access to the ocean via a walkway under the road and a campground free of coastal winds due to its dramatic nest by the base of the steep Santa Monica Mountains. Gnarly sycamore trees overhang grassy sites along a double loop, with most being fairly spacious and decently screened by such riparian chaparral as bay willow, buckwheat, coastal sage, and black walnut. The largest and most private sites, 54, 57, 59, 61, 63,

and 66, are on the west side of camp along the creek. On weekends, rest rooms can be in an atrocious state, but overall the campground is surprisingly clean, given the high traffic it receives from large family groups. Reservations are highly recommended from Easter through mid-September. Rangers routinely patrol the grounds.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations recommended; V, MC, D. Some first come, first served sites. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$12, cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 139. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 1. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire ring. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 5.5 mi. east in Malibu. **Restaurant:** 5.5 mi. east in Malibu. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Pacific Ocean. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Surfing, fishing, beachcombing, tide pools, cave & reef exploring, nature walks, wind surfing, hiking. **Nearby Attractions:** Hollywood's theme parks, J. Paul Getty Museum, La Brea Tar Pits, Will Rogers State Historic Park, Disneyland, historic Ventura. **Additional Information:** Santa Monica Mountains District, (810) 706-1310.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 36 ft.

TO GET THERE

At the intersection of Trancas Canyon and Broad Beach in Malibu, drive 5.5 mi. west on the Pacific Coast Hwy (Hwy 1). The park entrance is on the right (north) side of the road.

MALIBU MAP, E-2
Malibu Beach RV Park

25801 Pacific Coast Hwy., Malibu 90265.
T: (800) 622-6052 or (310) 456-6052;
www.maliburv.com.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

On the surface Malibu Beach looks like just another run-of-the-mill RV facility. Caravans are wedged one next to another, with a tenting area attached to the end of the serpentine camp lane seemingly as an afterthought. Probe a bit, though, and you will find this a superior property, just six miles west of Malibu on the Pacific Coast Hwy. on the inland side of the road. Shrewd terracing stretches sites up a bluff, thus maximizing vistas of the ocean. Yes, site privacy is nearly nil, but with that ocean panorama and the beautiful sunsets, who cares! Eucalyptus, palms, pines, and sycamores decorate the landscape and while they do little to

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provide shade, at least they don't obstruct the view. Though they will probably be taken already, try to get any of numbers 6–33 or V1–V13. Even the dirt walk-in tenting area atop the bluff is attractive, with small sycamores providing shade. Double-wide sites and pull-throughs are available, as well as a hot tub, game room, and Internet connection.

BASICS

Operated By: Malibu Beach RV Park. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations recommended; V, MC, D, AE, DC. Walk-ins accepted. **Registration:** At entrance office. **Fee:** \$33–\$53 for RV sites, \$21–\$24 for tent sites in summer (May 1–Sep. 30); \$26–\$45 for RV sites, \$16–\$18 for tents in winter (Oct. 1–Apr. 30). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 150. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 50. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer, cable TV, internet (in a community room). **Each Site:** Picnic table, barbecue grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** Yes. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 3 mi. east in Malibu. **Restaurant:** 3 mi. east in Malibu. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Pacific Ocean, adult spa. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, game room. **Activities:** Surfing, fishing, hiking, dolphin & whale watching. **Nearby Attractions:** Hollywood's theme parks, J. Paul Getty Museum, La Brea Tar Pits, Will Rogers State Historic Park, Venice Beach Boardwalk, Santa Monica Pier & museums, Universal Studios. **Additional Information:** Malibu Chamber of Commerce, (310) 456-9025.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: Well behaved pets in RV sites only; no Rotweilers, pit bulls, German shepherds, Dobermans. **Fires:** No wood fires allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 45 ft.

TO GET THERE

From the Pacific Coast Hwy. in Malibu turn inland just 3 mi. west of Coral Canyon Rd. The campground is well signposted.

MALIBU MAP, E-2
Malibu Creek State Park

1925 Las Virgenes Rd., Malibu 91302.T: (818) 880-0367 or (800) 444-7275; www.parks.ca.gov.

 ★★ ★★	 ★★ ★★
Beauty: ★★ ★★	Site Privacy: ★★ ★★
Spaciousness: ★★ ★★	Quiet: ★★ ★★
Security: ★★ ★★	Cleanliness: ★★ ★★
Insect Control: ★★ ★★	Facilities: ★★

If you managed to get a site here without a reservation it may be time to buy a lottery ticket, that's how good your luck is. "Popular" doesn't begin to describe this park, which lies just six miles north of Malibu, on the sloping side of a grassy hill in the shadow of the Santa Monica Mountains. Though a forest of live oak borders the camp, there is scant shade to be found within its single loop. A recent round of plantings holds the promise of many shade trees to come, albeit years from now. And while the

tilt of the terrain and small parking slips make RV camping a challenge, most sites are large enough for tenters to scratch out a satisfactory patch of turf. Heavy visitation means that rest rooms tend to be messy, especially on weekends. Overall, though, this is a remarkably well-maintained place. There are some Hollywood sets in the park, left over from when it was owned by Universal Studios, but most people come for the great hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding. Try to get here in spring, while the long flowing grass is still green and wildflowers are in bloom.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations highly recommended; V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$12, cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 63. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 6 mi. south in Malibu. **Restaurant:** 6 mi. south in Malibu. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, bird-watching, fishing. **Nearby Attractions:** Santa Monica Pier & museums, Venice Beach Boardwalk, Hollywood's theme parks, La Brea Tar Pits. **Additional Information:** Malibu Chamber of Commerce, (310) 456-9025.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only, not allowed after the grass turns brown late spring/early summer. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 30 ft.

TO GET THERE

From the Pacific Coast Hwy. in Malibu head north on CR N1/Malibu Canyon Rd. Drive 6 mi. to the campground entrance on the left.

MAMMOTH LAKES MAP, C-3
Glass Creek

Glass Creek Rd. off of I-395, Mammoth Lakes 93546.T: (760) 647-3044; www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo.

 ★★ ★★	 ★★ ★★
Beauty: ★★ ★★	Site Privacy: ★★ ★★
Spaciousness: ★★ ★★	Quiet: ★★ ★★
Security: ★	Cleanliness: ★★ ★★
Insect Control: ★★ ★★	Facilities: ★

It may be true that there is no such thing as a free lunch, but fortunately for budget-minded campers there are still a few no-fee campgrounds left. Glass Creek is one of those, a primitive national forest camp with no potable water, no trash pick-up, and rickety-looking vaulted toilets. It is also a quietly attractive piece of land that straddles its namesake creek (where the fishing for trout is pretty good), with generously large, dispersed sites on either side of the smooth, dirt access road. The slightly rolling terrain is partly shaded by very mature Jeffrey and

ponderosa pines, and aspens that grow alongside the creek. Its great location, just 12 miles north of Mammoth Lakes, makes Glass Creek a popular base camp for the RV set. While ranger patrols are few and far between, the presence of vacation homes at the perimeter of the property is a reassuring sign of civilization. The nearest pay phone is at the intersection with US 395, directly across the road.

BASICS

Operated By: Inyo National Forest, Mono Lake Ranger District. **Open:** Mid-May–Oct., weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** Not necessary. **Fee:** None. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 50. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate or pit. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** At the intersection with US 395, directly across the road. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Dirt, sand, rocks, but negotiable. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 12 mi. south in Mammoth Lakes. **Restaurant:** 12 mi. south in Mammoth Lakes. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Activities:** Fishing, hiking, photography, backpacking. **Nearby Attractions:** Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve in Lee Vining; Devils Postpile National Monument, Mammoth Mountain Bike Park, Mammoth Museum, outlet shopping in Mammoth Lakes, Yosemite. **Additional Information:** Mono County Tourism Commission, (760) 924-3699; Mammoth Lakes Visitors Bureau, (888) GO-MAMMOTH.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates or pits only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 40 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Mammoth Junction drive 10 mi. north on US 395, past the Caltrans Crestview Maintenance Station. Make a U-turn and head 0.5 mi. south on US 395. Turn right on Glass Creek Rd., a forest service road, and continue for 0.3 mi. to the campground access road on the right.

MAMMOTH LAKES MAP, C-3
Twin Lakes

Twin Lakes Loop Rd., Mammoth Lakes 93546.T: (760) 924-5500; www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo.

 ★★ ★★	 ★★ ★★
Beauty: ★★ ★★ ★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★ ★★	Quiet: ★★ ★★
Security: ★★ ★★	Cleanliness: ★★ ★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★ ★★

To describe this camp as dramatic and pretty, peaceful and exhilarating, is to fall frustratingly short of its true splendor. The pair of lakes that inspired its name rest smack in the middle of a high Sierra canyon. Jagged granite spires soar well above the tops of the highest lodgepole pines. In spring, snow melt courses into Twin Falls, making for a spectacular cascade, visible from the campground. The very best site, with a prime panorama

of the lakes, has been taken by the host. But there are many other agreeable options among the three zones that make up this park-like setting. Forget about the area by the entrance; those sites are too exposed to passing traffic. Better by far are the spots just across the bridge that divides the two lakes: 23, 25, 26, and 28 are small but enjoy their own private lakefront; 31, 33, 36, and 39, at the base of a steep hill, are fairly roomy, and detached from their neighbors; 62 and 70 are tucked into a thicket and blessed with a stunning view of the craggy canyon. The upper loop, in a more mountainous setting away from the lakes, is the roomiest; even the interior sites seem well separated. Given the elevation of 8,600 feet, you'll want to pack, along with a fishing rod, some heavy-weight fleece as a precaution against windy evenings.

BASICS

Operated By: Rocky Mountain Recreation Company, concessionaire. **Open:** May–Oct., weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$14, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 95. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, barbecue grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 4 mi. northeast in Mammoth Lakes. **Restaurant:** 4 mi. northeast in Mammoth Lakes. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Yes. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, boat launch. **Activities:** Fishing, horseback riding, hiking, boat rentals, paddling, water skiing. **Nearby Attractions:** Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve in Lee Vining; Devils Postpile National Monument, Mammoth Mountain Bike Park, Mammoth Museum, outlet shopping in Mammoth Lakes. **Additional Information:** Mono County Tourism Commission, (760) 924-3699; Mammoth Lakes Visitors Bureau, (888) GO-MAMMOTH.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 46 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Mammoth Junction on US 395 head west on Hwy. 203, leading into Mammoth Lakes' Main St., and continue 4 mi. to where Main St. becomes Lake Mary Rd. Proceed straight ahead for 2.3 mi., then turn right onto Twin Lakes Loop Rd. The campground is 0.5 mi. ahead.

MARKLEEVILLE MAP, C-3
Grover Hot Springs State Park

Hot Springs Rd., Markleeville 96120.T: (530) 694-2248 or (800) 444-7275; www.parks.ca.gov.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

The mineral springs of Grover Hot Springs remain a constant 102° year-round, making its hot and cool pools a major therapeutic attraction. There is more to this state park, though, than the chance to bathe oneself in simmering water. Like miles of hiking and riding trails, as well as cross-country skiing in winter. First and foremost, is its strikingly beautiful campground, set at 5,900 feet, with a series of corrugated Sierra peaks contributing an Arcadian quality to its forested, creekside location. The undeveloped, natural look of this gorgeous preserve is furthered by its undulating terrain, which is well-salted with granite boulders, juniper, incense cedar, and Jeffrey and lodgepole pines. Sites covered with grass and pine needles are generally shady, generously large, and fairly well separated, though several lie on uneven turf. The most private are 11, tucked behind boulders, and 22, by a row of Jeffrey pines and a grassy meadow; 58, 66–68, and 73–75 are also worth shooting for. The pools close for maintenance the last two weeks of September, and shut down during thunderstorms, which occur regularly throughout July and August.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations recommended; V, MC, D. First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$15, cash, CA check. For seniors 62 & older, \$13. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 76. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, bearproof box. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 3.6 mi. east in Markleeville. **Restaurant:** 3.6 mi. east in Markleeville. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Hot springs pool. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Hiking, fishing, bicycling, swimming. **Nearby Attractions:** Alpine County Museum in Markleeville; Lake Tahoe, Lake Tahoe Historical Museum in South Lake Tahoe. **Additional Information:** Alpine County Chamber of Commerce, (530) 694-2475.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 27 ft., smaller for tent sites.

TO GET THERE

From Markleeville on Hwy. 89 turn west on Hot Springs Rd. and drive 3.6 mi. The well-signed state park entrance is on the right.

MARKLEEVILLE MAP, C-3
Indian Creek

Airport Rd., Markleeville 96120.T: (775) 885-6000; www.nv.blm.gov/carson/information.html.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Markleeville CALIFORNIA 197

Indian Creek is easily reached along a well-signed, smoothly paved roadway, a rare double-treat for a Bureau of Land Management property. Then, when you pull into camp—the trifecta!—as this is as sweet as it gets for BLM land. It's a beautiful lakeside campground, backed up against the Sierra range, with its two loops enhanced by mature stands of piñon, ponderosa, and Jeffrey pines, as well as a few boulders and such high desert shrubs as salt bush and brittle bush. The first loop, which features walk-in sites for tents, offers the better vantage over Indian Creek Reservoir, where white pelicans were noisily cavorting our last time through. Bird-watching is no less rewarding at the second circuit, which faces the lake on one side and a grassy marsh on another. The optimum sites there are 44, 48, and 49. The ground slopes gently toward the water, but most units are level, distributed well apart and surprisingly clean; even the sandy tent pads are raked by a conscientious host. Situated on the west side of the reservoir, Indian Creek is almost too pretty for words when it is pleasantly illuminated by morning light.

BASICS

Operated By: Bureau of Land Management, Carson City Field Office. **Open:** Mid Apr.–mid Oct. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. Reservations only for group sites. **Registration:** Separate fee collection tubes. **Fee:** \$8–\$12, cash, check. \$5 fee per additional person. **Parking:** At site or in parking lot for walk-ins.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 19. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 10. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, makeshift fire ring, barbecue grill, bear-proof box. **Dump Station:** Yes, \$5 fee. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 6.5 mi. south in Markleeville. **Restaurant:** 6.5 mi. south in Markleeville. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Lake. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Boat ramp. **Activities:** Fishing, hiking, bird-watching, horseback riding, sailing, mountain biking, swimming. **Nearby Attractions:** Alpine County Museum in Markleeville; Lake Tahoe, Lake Tahoe Historical Museum in South Lake Tahoe. **Additional Information:** Alpine County Chamber of Commerce, (530) 694-2475. Markleeville Chamber of Commerce, (530) 694-2475.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 30 ft.



TO GET THERE

From Markleeville drive 2.5 mi. north on Hwy. 89. Turn right onto Airport Rd. and continue for 4 mi., then make a left into the campground.

198 CALIFORNIA McCloud

MC CLOUD MAP, A-2
Fowlers Campground

FR 39N28, McCloud 96057.T: (530) 964-2184;
www.fs.fed.us/r5/shastatrinity.

 ★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

You are barreling along on Hwy. 89 bound toward McCloud, with a fishing rod in the back of your vehicle and a kayak strapped to the roof. Where do you pull over for some R&R? Fowlers Campground is one of the better options in the area. The McCloud River flows right behind this clean, well-maintained national forest-operated property. Brown trout inhabit the river and rainbow trout are regularly stocked from this point clear down to Lake McCloud. A small put-in for kayaks and canoes is just past the photogenic series of cascades by the day-use picnic area, 0.5 mile beyond camp along the dirt road. The campground's double loop threads by level sites that are situated reasonably well apart and decently shielded by a densely forested mix of incense cedar, manzanita, and various conifers. The tree-to-tree carpet of pine needles is speckled with pumice rocks, which enhances the natural beauty of this wheelchair-accessible camp.

BASICS

Operated By: Shasta-Trinity National Forest, McCloud Ranger District. **Open:** May 1–Oct. 31, weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$12, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 38. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, narrow. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 6 mi. west in McCloud. **Restaurant:** 6 mi. west in McCloud. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Base of Middle & Lower Falls. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, small boat launch, cattle camp, overflow campground 11 mi. east 27 sites, \$12 fee. **Activities:** Fishing, hiking, kayaking. **Nearby Attractions:** McCloud River Falls, Shasta Sunset Dinner Train; Mount Shasta Ski Park, Mount Shasta Fish Hatchery, Sisson Museum in Mount Shasta; Lake Siskiyou, Old Downtown McCloud. **Additional Information:** Mount Shasta Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau, (530) 926-4865 or (800) 926-4865; McCloud Chamber of Commerce, (530) 964-3113.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash; not allowed in wilderness areas. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 30 ft.


TO GET THERE

From Mt. Shasta drive 2 mi. south on I-5. Head east on Hwy. 89 and drive 16 mi., past the town of McCloud, and turn right at the campground

sign. Continue for 0.6 mi. and bear left at the fork. The campground is straight ahead.

MECCA MAP, F-4
Headquarters Campground

Salton Sea State Recreation Area, 100–225 State Park Rd., Mecca 92254.T: (760) 393-3052;
www.saltonsea.statepark.org.

 ★★★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

The attraction here is the Salton Sea, a vast lake that lies 227 feet below sea level and is 25 percent saltier than the Pacific Ocean. The palm-fringed body of water is a Mecca of sorts to boaters and anglers, as well as birders drawn by hopes of sighting some of the great range of migratory fowl that wing through between late fall and early spring. The mildest weather is from January through March, a time that coincides with free ranger-led kayak tours of the lake (call ahead to make reservations). Of the state-run campgrounds in the area, Mecca Beach gives tenters the best beach access, but only has six spots with hookups. Headquarters, on the other hand, has the better fishing. It consists of two loops; one with 15 full-hookup sites facing the water across a paved, level parking area, the other with more space and privacy among desert ironwood trees, brittle bush, and desert scrub. A visitor center, located between the loops, has a short filmstrip on the lake and some interesting exhibits. This would be a delightfully peaceful bivouac if not for the occasional rattling of trains along the tracks by the park road. When the winds blow from the west side of the lake, that sweet briny air that is so reminiscent of the seaside can change in the twitch of a nose to such a strong stench of sulphur you may think you're camping next to a match factory.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. Reservations accepted w/ V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$16, cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 50. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water. **Each Site:** Picnic table, barbecue grill, some w/ a ramada. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 11 mi. north in Mecca. **Restaurant:** 11 mi. north in Mecca. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Salton Sea. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Fishing, boating, hiking, bird-watching, horseshoe pit. **Nearby Attractions:** Joshua Tree National Park, San Andreas Trail, Wister Mud Pots. **Additional Information:** Coachella Chamber of Commerce, (760) 398-8089.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** No ground fires. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 32 ft.

TO GET THERE

Take Hwy. 111 south from Mecca, drive 12 mi. and turn right into the state recreation area.

MIDDLETOWN MAP, C-2
Beaver Creek RV Park and Campground

14417 Bottle Rock Rd., Middletown 95426.
T: (707) 928-4322 or (800) 307-CAMP;
www.campbeavercreek.com.

 ★★★★★	 ★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

This is not a campground where you are likely to feel comfortable sitting in an easy chair watching the clouds drift by. Not in the summer, anyway, when a smorgasbord of activities and distractions keeps the place humming. The family-oriented entertainment ranges from such stalwarts as fishing, kayaking, softball, and basketball, to crafts and games, campfire programs, karaoke, and bingo. Bring the "bug juice" and you will have the complete summer camp experience. The flat grassy camping meadow, tucked below an attractive array of hills, is open, rather crowded, and lacking in shade. The most desirable site is 11, set back under a large oak and pine, right by the creek. There are also clean cabins for rent by the small boat pond. Beaver Creek recently changed its name from Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park Camp Resort, a sure indicator of the declining fortune of the cartoon character and his pal, Booboo. Although open year-round, upkeep tends to slide in the off-season.

BASICS

Operated By: Beaver Creek RV Park & Campground. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/ V, MC, D, AE. First come, first served. **Registration:** At office. **Fee:** \$20–\$49 including tent, RV, & cabins, cash, V, MC, AE, D. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 97. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 11. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Dirt & gravel, good condition. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 12 mi. south in Middletown. **Restaurant:** 12 mi. south in Middletown. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Small pool. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, rec hall, trout creek, cabin rentals. **Activities:** Fishing, hiking, bird-watching, shuffleboard, soccer, softball, kayak & paddleboat rentals. **Nearby Attractions:** Clear Lake Queen, Outrageous Waters Water Park & Fun Center, Anderson Marsh State Historic Park in

Clearlake. **Additional Information:** Lake County Marketing Program/Visitor Information Center, (707) 263-9544 or (800) 525-3743; Clearlake Chamber of Commerce, (707) 994-3600.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash; currently vaccinated. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From Middletown on Hwy. 29 take Hwy. 175 north for 8.7 mi. Turn left on Bottle Rock Rd. and drive 3.4 mi. to the park entrance on the left.

MILL CREEK MAP, B-2
Hole-in-the-Ground

FR 28N06, Mill Creek 96061.
T: (530) 258-2141; www.fs.fed.us/r5/lassen.

 ★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★

In spite of its name, this camp is far more than just a “hole-in-the-ground.” In fact, the contrast to Elam, a few miles to the southeast, couldn’t be more striking. While both consist of sites sprinkled along short camp lanes that are flanked by gurgling streams, the ones here are roomy, well separated, and thickly populated with ponderosa pines and Douglas firs. Privacy is further enhanced by the remoteness of the setting, some three miles down a gravel washboard off of Hwy. 172, about 14 miles from the south entrance to Lassen Volcanic National Park. Amazingly, while Elam is often packed to the gills with rod-slinging campers, you may find Hole-in-the-Ground occupied by only a handful of visitors, if at all. The reason for that is fishing here in Mill Creek is limited to catch-and-release, with barbless hooks. With an elevation of 4,300 feet, snowfall can block access to this park-like campground from mid-October through May. The rusty, old-fashioned water pump is a good incentive to bring plenty of drinking water.

BASICS

Operated By: CSU Chico Research Foundation, concessionaire, Lassen National Forest, Almanor Ranger District. **Open:** May–Oct., weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$12, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 13. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate or makeshift stone ring, some old-fashioned camp stoves. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Packed dirt & coarse gravel. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 4 mi. north in Mineral. **Restaurant:** 4 mi. north in Mineral. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Activities:** Fishing, kayaking, hiking. **Nearby Attractions:** Westwood Museum & Paul Bunyan & Babe the

Blue Ox Statues; Lassen National Scenic Byway (Hwys. 89/44/36); Lassen Volcanic National Park; Lake Almanor. **Additional Information:** Chester–Lake Almanor Chamber of Commerce, (530) 258-2426 or (800) 350-4838.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates or rings only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 25 ft., trailers not recommended.

TO GET THERE

From Chester on Hwy. 36 drive 23 mi. west to the junction w/ Hwy. 172. Turn left and continue for 3.6 mi., then turn left onto FR 28N06 (campground is signposted). After 2.8 mi. take another left onto the access road. The campground is 0.6 mi. ahead. A few sudden rises in the road surface may cause problems for trailers and oversized RVs.

MINERAL MAP, B-2
Butte Lake

Lassen Volcanic National Park, Butte Lake Rd., Mineral 96063. T: (530) 595-4444; www.nps.gov/lavo.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★

The remote location of Butte Lake campground provides a tranquil respite from the crowds of sightseers thronging to Manzanita Lake, Summit Lakes, and such main attractions of Lassen Volcanic National Park as Bumpass Hell and the Sulfur Works. While only one site, B-1, actually enjoys a view of the stunning Butte Lake, the campground’s proximity to the water, to a cinder peak, and to several fine hikes, makes it a winner. Roomy sites, evenly positioned across a slightly undulating hillside, are partially shaded by lodgepole pines and a smattering of ponderosas. As is typical in national park venues, few of them offer much privacy. Of the A and B circuits, the second area has the larger sites and more pull-through parking: best bets, in addition to B-1, are B-3, which overlooks the lava flow field, and the partly screened B-55. Butte Creek, a national forest camp on the dirt and gravel access road to Butte Lake, is a passable alternative when the latter is full or closed.

BASICS

Operated By: National Park Service. **Open:** Jun.–Sep., weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$14, cash, check (in addition to the \$10 park entrance fee). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 98. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, bearproof box. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** 17 mi. west on Hwy. 44 in Old Station. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Flush toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** 17 mi. west on Hwy. 44 in Old

Mineral CALIFORNIA 199

Station. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Gravel, good condition. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 48 mi. east in Susanville. **Restaurant:** 48 mi. east in Susanville. **General Store:** 17 mi. west on Hwy. 44 in Old Station. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Butte Lake. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, boat launch. **Activities:** Hiking, fishing, boating (no motors), bird-watching. **Nearby Attractions:** Hat Creek Recreation Area in Old Station; Lassen Historical Museum & Railroad Depot in Susanville. **Additional Information:** Burney Chamber of Commerce, (530) 335-2111.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On 6-ft. leash; not allowed on trails. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 35 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Old Station at the junction of Hwys. 44 and 89 drive 11 mi. east on Hwy. 44. Turn south (right) on Butte Lake Rd. and follow this dirt road for 6.5 mi. to the campground entrance on the right.

MINERAL MAP, B-2
Manzanita Lake

Lassen Volcanic National Park, Lassen Park Rd., Mineral 96063. T: (530) 595-4444; www.nps.gov/lavo.

 ★★★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Lassen Volcanic National Park was established as a monument in 1907, and upgraded to national park status nine years later. An astoundingly beautiful chunk of the Cascade Mountain range, the park has hundreds of miles of hiking trails, several geothermal attractions, an abundance of wildlife, and a handful of excellent campgrounds. Of those, Manzanita Lake is one of the best, with its namesake body of glimmering water abutting it and snow-capped Mt. Lassen hovering above. Just five miles from Lassen’s north entrance, the camp enjoys an illusion of privacy that stems in part from its thick concentration of various conifers, as well as from the pull-through and back-in sites being well-dispersed through a series of many loops. The shade provided by those evergreens keeps things cool and on the dark side, but tenters will find comfort in the spongy layer of pine needles that has accumulated on the forest floor. Best time to visit is September to mid-October, when the park sees fewer visitors. Just remember, at an altitude of 5,890 feet, Manzanita Lake can be chilly most anytime of year. Extra layers of clothing and rain gear are advised. And use the bearproof boxes to protect your vehicle from a furry intruder. Many sites are wheelchair accessible.

BASICS

Operated By: National Park Service. **Open:** May 25–Sep. 22 w/ water, then w/out water until

200 CALIFORNIA Modesto

snow requires closure. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** Self-registration at entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$16 (summer), \$10 (Sep.–snow closure). Cash, check (in addition to the park entrance fee). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 179. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire ring, barbecue grill, bearproof box. **Dump Station:** Yes, fee charged. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 50 mi. west in Redding. **Restaurant:** 19 mi. west in Shingletown. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Manzanita Lake. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, boat launch, Loomis Museum. **Activities:** Hiking, fishing, boating (no motors), bike rentals, ranger-led programs. **Nearby Attractions:** Westwood Museum & Paul Bunyan & Babe the Blue Ox Statues; Lassen National Scenic Byway (Hwys. 89-44-36); Lake Almanor; Hat Creek Recreation Area in Old Station. **Additional Information:** Burney Chamber of Commerce, (530) 335-2111.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash; not allowed on trails. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 35 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Redding drive 48 mi. east on Hwy. 44 to the junction w/ Hwy. 89. Drive 1 mi. south on Hwy. 89 (which becomes Lassen Park Rd. once you pass the park entrance station). Turn right onto the campground access road and continue for 0.5 mi. to the campground.

MODESTO Modesto Reservoir Regional Park MAP, C-2

Reservoir Rd. 18143, Modesto 95386.
T: (209) 874-9540; www.co.stanislaus.ca.us.

★★★★	★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

Summer seems to last for six or seven months in this steamy stretch of California's Central Valley. That's a major reason why Modesto Reservoir is so popular for much of the year; its cool, shimmering water brings relief from temperatures that frequently top 100°. Even on busy weekends, you are apt to find spots available in the sparsely shaded, full-hookup parking meadow. Far better are the smaller slots that are lined up one against another following the amoeba-like contours of the reservoir's wandering shoreline. What those lack in privacy they more than gain in shade from eucalyptus, plane trees, pines, and juniper. Their tent-side access to the lake is an added bonus. The many small islands that dot the surface of the water not only bless it with pleasing aesthetics, but also serve as safe havens for a variety of bird life, includ-

ing pelicans, Canada geese, blue herons, bald eagles, red tail hawks, pheasants, and burrowing owls. An undeveloped section on the opposite side of the lake allows for more privacy, but lacks tables, fire rings, and potable water.

BASICS

Operated By: Stanislaus County Parks Dept. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$12–\$16, cash, CA check, V, MC; \$2 per night extra for 3-day holiday weekends. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 186. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** Undesignated sites. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, barbecue grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 7 mi. west in Waterford. **Restaurant:** 7 mi. west in Waterford. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Modesto Reservoir. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, boat ramp, marina, beach, archery range. **Activities:** Fishing, boat rentals, waterskiing. **Nearby Attractions:** McHenry Mansion, museums in Modesto; Turlock Lake State Recreation Area in La Grange. **Additional Information:** Modesto CVB, (209) 571-6480 or (800) 266-4282.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: Not allowed. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From Modesto drive 13 mi. east on Hwy. 132/Yosemite Blvd. Turn left on Reservoir Rd. and continue 0.5 mi. to the park entrance.

MOJAVE Ricardo Campground MAP, E-3

Red Rock Canyon State Park, Hwy. 14 at Abbott Dr., Mojave 93519. T: (661) 942-0662; www.parks.ca.gov.

★★★★	★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★

White House Cliffs is a fabulous fairyland canyon of melting sandstone and fluted folds, where cliff swallows nest and great horned owls occasionally perch during their nocturnal vigils. This feast for the eyes, a part of the El Paso Mountain range, serves as host to Ricardo Campground, right at its base, and has been a featured backdrop in more than 130 movies. Coarse sand-surfaced sites are backed up against the eroded nooks and alcoves of the canyon, gaining, in addition to a touch of privacy from their neighbors, a solid shield from the afternoon sun. From this primitive setting one can look across the valley floor, an arid landscape that is enlivened by creosote bushes, Joshua trees, and rabbit brush, to the headlights of distant autos

humming along on Hwy. 14, while still enjoying a brilliantly starry sky. Indeed, the stargazing here is so exceptional that star charts have been posted by the latrines and kiosk. A visitor center and the remains of an 1890s mining operation are in the vicinity.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$9, cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 50. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** 14 mi. south by the Cantil post office. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Pit toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Gravel, good condition. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 35 mi. northeast in Ridgecrest. **Restaurant:** 25 mi. southwest in Mojave. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, visitor center. **Activities:** Hiking, driving tour, photography, bird-watching, stargazing, ranger-led activities. **Nearby Attractions:** Trona Pinnacles; Fossil Falls; Last Chance Canyon & Maturango Museum in Ridgecrest; Desert Tortoise Natural Area in California City. **Additional Information:** Mojave Chamber of Commerce, (661) 824-2481; Ridgecrest Area CVB, (760) 375-8202 or (800) 847-4830.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 30 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Mojave on Hwy. 14 drive 24 mi. northeast to the park entrance on the left. The campground is 1 mi. ahead.

MONO CITY Lundy Canyon Campground MAP, C-3

Lundy Lake Rd., Mono City 93541.
T: (760) 932-5440.

★★★★	★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★

Lundy Canyon, a county park, is one of the better bargains around, especially with the explosion of price hikes at the concession-run national forest options. There is a subtle, understated beauty to this scruffy glen, where Lundy Creek discreetly trickles through and the Sierras tower above. Level, largely grassy sites, which range in size from shoeboxes to palatial, are spread out over several access points along Lundy Lake Rd. Skip the first 15 or so, as many later choices are endowed with superior privacy and a more generous amount of space. Excellent screening between spots is derived from thickets of aspen, as well as juniper and high desert chaparral. This diamond-in-the-rough, at 7,800-

feet elevation, lacks potable water, but the county has recently installed new tables and fire grates in several sites; new vaulted toilets are reportedly on the way. A boat ramp, boat rentals, and groceries are available at Lundy Lake Resort, just up the road.

BASICS

Operated By: Mono County Public Works Dept.
Open: May–Oct., weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk, pay at site 37. **Fee:** \$8, cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 54. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Pit & vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Gravel & dirt, decent condition. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 10 mi. southeast in Lee Vining. **Restaurant:** 10 mi. southeast in Lee Vining. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Fishing, hiking, boating. **Nearby Attractions:** Yosemite, Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve in Lee Vining; Lundy Lake; Bodie State Historic Park in Bridgeport. **Additional Information:** Mono County Tourism Commission, (760) 924-3699; Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce, (760) 647-6629.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On 10 ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 24 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Lee Vining drive 7 mi. north on US 395. Turn left on Lundy Lake Rd. and continue for 2.5 mi. to the campground entrance on the left. Lundy Lake Rd. offers several access points.

MORGAN HILL MAP, D-1
Headquarters Campground

Henry West Coe State Park, East Dunne Ave., Morgan Hill 95038. T: (408) 779-2728 or (800) 444-7275; www.coepark.org.

 ★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

Much of the 135 square miles that compose Henry Coe State Park are devoted to hiking trails, making the largest state park in northern California one of the better places for backpacking. You won't need to strap a 50-pound sack to your back to appreciate the beauty of this area, though, an RV or a tent will do nicely, too. Headquarters Campground, at 2,600 feet elevation, is located on the edge of a steep hillside, a few dozen yards from the well-maintained ranch buildings that date from when the Coe family resided here half a century ago (one of those structures now houses a visitor center). This sloping terrain limits both sites (several of which are on unlevel turf) and parking slips to very confined space. Even the old-style outhouses—

which look as if they, too, date from the Coe era—seem smaller than a telephone booth. Happily, the extraordinary views across the hills toward distant mountains are more than expansive enough to compensate. In springtime the hilltop meadows erupt in an array of wildflowers.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC, D. **Registration:** At visitor center. **Fee:** \$7–\$9, cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site, \$4 fee.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 20. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire ring, ramada or shade tree. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 13 mi. west in Morgan Hill. **Restaurant:** 13 mi. west in Morgan Hill. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Old farmhouse buildings, nature center. **Activities:** Hiking, mountain biking, fishing, stargazing, horseback riding. **Nearby Attractions:** Mission San Juan Bautista, San Jose museums, zoo, parks. **Additional Information:** Morgan Hill Chamber of Commerce, (408) 779-9444.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 22 ft.

TO GET THERE

In Morgan Hill on US 101 take the East Dunne Ave. Exit. Drive for 13 mi. along the windy, narrow, ascending road straight to the park entrance. Use a pull-out along the way to absorb the magnificent valley views.

MORRO BAY/ MAP, E-1
LOS OSOS
Montaña de Oro State Park

Los Osos Valley Rd., Morro Bay Los Osos 93402. T: (805) 528-0513; www.parks.ca.gov.

 ★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★

In many respects this is a very ordinary campground, with adequate elbowroom in the grass and dirt sites but little privacy. Facilities are minimal, and even the camp's immediate setting, with a few Bishop pines punctuating the green confines of the narrow canyon, is just a notch or two above average in pulchritude. Give the park a chance, though—all 8,000 acres of it—and what you will find is a spectacular coastal wilderness that rivals the Big Sur area in its unspoiled beauty. The drive into Montaña de Oro threads past dense groves of aromatic eucalyptus, with eye-popping views of the dune-draped shore and Morro Rock out in the

Mount Shasta CALIFORNIA 201

bay. Tall stands of cottonwood, oak, maple, willow, and box elder thrive elsewhere. Add to that miles of pristine beaches, highland bluffs and miscellaneous meadows, and you have a nature-lover's nirvana. For sunbathers there is Spooner's Cove, a romantic patch of sand and tide pools, just below the campground off the road. The vast array of wildflowers scattered over the hills in late spring is a heaven-scent sight.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC, D. Reservations recommended Mem. Day–Labor Day. First come, first served available. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$10, cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Tent-only Sites: 4. **Number of Multipurpose Sites:** 50. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, food storage box. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 5 mi. northeast in Los Osos. **Restaurant:** 5 mi. northeast in Los Osos. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Pacific Ocean. **Playground:** No. **Activities:** Hiking, bird-watching, bicycling, horseback riding, tide-pooling, fishing, nature programs. **Nearby Attractions:** Mission San Luis Obispo; Morro Bay State Beach & Museum of Natural History. **Additional Information:** Los Osos/Baywood Park Chamber of Commerce, (805) 528-4884.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On 6-ft. leash, not allowed on trails or beaches. **Fires:** Fire grates only, except on primitive sites. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 27 ft.

TO GET THERE

From San Luis Obispo head 3 mi. south on US 101 and exit at Los Osos Valley Rd. Drive 11.7 mi. west, then bear left on Pecho Valley Rd. The park entrance is 1 mi. ahead and the campground is to the left after that.

MOUNT SHASTA MAP, A-2
KOA Mount Shasta

900 North Mount Shasta Blvd., Mount Shasta 96067. T: (530) 926-4029 or (800) 562-3617; www.koa.com.

 ★★★★★	 ★★
Beauty: ★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Admit it, you've always wondered what it was like to camp at a KOA. Well, stop your wondering and get your butane-burner over to this campground. As you might expect, the facilities are topnotch, ranging from a small pool (summer season) and cabin rentals to a game room, volleyball, basketball, and even a horse corral. With snow-capped Mt. Shasta towering over the downtown property,

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you can imagine that you are roughing it while flipping burgers by the barbecue grill. Sites are crowded into two environments, open meadow and sparsely forested. The latter is composed mostly of pines, with support from cottonwoods, cedars, maples, and manzanita. The resulting shade and screening make that area preferable, especially for tent campers, but the narrow, meandering lanes are not recommended for big rigs. The meadow, on the other hand, while exposed to both sun and neighbors, has the virtue of pull-through parking.

BASICS

Operated By: KOA. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance office. **Fee:** \$20–\$29, cash, V, MC, D. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 50. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 51. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Half-size picnic table, some sites have a barbecue grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Paved & forest floor. **RV Service:** Yes, mobile. **Market:** 1 mi. south in Mount Shasta. **Restaurant:** 1 mi. south in Mount Shasta. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Small pool seasonally. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, game room, movie rentals. **Activities:** Horseshoe pit, volleyball, basketball, shuffleboard, nearby hiking, rafting, fishing. **Nearby Attractions:** Lake Siskiyou; Mount Shasta Ski Park, Mount Shasta Hatchery, Sisson Museum; downtown Dunsmuir; Castle Crags State Park in Castella. **Additional Information:** Mount Shasta Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau, (530) 926-4865 or (800) 926-4865; Dunsmuir Chamber of Commerce, (530) 235-2177.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Not allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 85 ft.

TO GET THERE

On I-5 take the central Mount Shasta Exit and drive 0.5 mi. into town on West Lake St. At the stoplight turn left on North Mount Shasta Blvd. and proceed for 0.6 mi. Turn right on East Hinkley Blvd. and drive 1 block to the campground entrance on the left.

NAPA MAP, C-2
Putah Creek Resort

7600 Knoxville Rd., Napa 94558.
T: (707) 966-0794 or (707) 966-0770;
www.napavalleyonline.com/directory/wsparks.html.

 ★★★★★	 ★★
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Like every story, there are two sides to Putah Creek Resort. As in lakeside and creekside. The main

compound overlooks lovely Lake Berryessa, a glimmering body of water that was created by the Bureau of Land Reclamation back in the 1950s. Yuccas and palms, knob cone pines and oaks, oleanders and pollarded hibiscus lend an appealing dash of beauty to a camp so developed it even has motel rooms and a restaurant-bar. Partial hookups are available near the boat launch, painfully close to the bar's open-air patio and within easy earshot of the motorboats and jet skis that often zip by. Across the road is the creek camp, in a greener, more serene setting. It is also endowed with a boat launch, and though many sites are too close to each other for camping comfort, a healthy majority overlook the water. Of the latter, 21–28 offer RVers a fine lateral view of the creek, while 3–8 put tent campers at the shore's edge. One negative to the creek area is that upkeep of rest rooms is sometimes neglected. Both zones are fenced and protected by gate house entrance booths.

BASICS

Operated By: Putah Creek Resort. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC. **Registration:** At entrance gate or in store. **Fee:** \$21–\$26, cash, V, MC. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 55. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 120. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer; 35 full hookup, 20 partial hookup. **Each Site:** Picnic table, barbecue grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** Yes. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 27 mi. east in St. Helena. **Restaurant:** 27 mi. east in St. Helena. **General Store:** Yes, also deli & snack bar. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Lake Berryessa. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Boat ramp, motel, restaurant, lounge. **Activities:** Fishing. **Nearby Attractions:** Bale Gristmill State Historic Park, Bothe–Napa Valley State Park in St. Helena; winery tours. **Additional Information:** Winters District Chamber of Commerce, (530) 795-2329; Napa-Sonoma Wine Country Visitor Center, (707) 624-0686 or (800) 723-0575.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Not allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 40 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Napa head 16 mi. north on Hwy. 121/Monticello Rd. Turn left on Hwy. 128 and drive 5 mi. Turn right on Berryessa Knoxville Rd. and continue for 13 mi. The resort entrance is on the right, just after the Pope Canyon Rd. turnoff.

NEEDLES MAP, E-4
Needles Marina Park

100 Marina Dr., Needles 92363.
T: (760) 326-2197; www.needlesmarina.com.

 ★★★★★	 ★★
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★

Security: ★★★ **Cleanliness:** ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★ **Facilities:** ★★★★★

Of the many campgrounds located along the Colorado River, few are quite as visually appealing as Needles Marina Park, where palm trees blend seamlessly with eucalyptus, mulberry with mesquite, and flowering oleanders lend a splash of color to the desert scene. Add to that a swimming pool and lagoon, a small sandy beach by the river, a boat ramp and marina, a hot tub, cabin rentals and you've got the recipe for one fine vacation spot. All of which is not exactly a well-kept secret, as is easily observed in winter when the campground seems crowded. Even though loops are dispersed in clusters and many sites feature pull-through parking, space is definitely on the small side, and the hard-packed pebbly dirt is inhospitable to comfortable tenting. Sites 162–166, overlooking the lagoon, are the best screened for privacy.

BASICS

Operated By: Needles Marina Park. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC. **Registration:** At office in store. **Fee:** \$28–\$30, cash, V, MC. **Parking:** At sites.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 83. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 75. **Number of Multipurpose Sites:** 158. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, barbecue grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** Boat fuel only. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 1 mi. south in Needles. **Restaurant:** 1 mi. south in Needles. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Pool, spa, lagoon. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Boat ramp & boat slips, marina. **Activities:** Fishing, waterskiing, Needles Municipal Golf Course. **Nearby Attractions:** London Bridge, Mitchell Caverns, Lake Havasu, Providence Mountains State Recreation Area. **Additional Information:** Needles Area Chamber of Commerce, (760) 326-2050.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** In barbecue grills only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From Needles drive 0.8 mi. north on Needles Hwy. Bear right as it turns into River Rd. Take a left on Marina Dr. and continue 0.1 mi. to the park entrance on the left side.

NICE MAP, C-2
Holiday Harbor RV Park and Marina

3605 Lakeshore Blvd., Nice 95464.
T: (707) 274-1136; www.niceholidayharbor.com.

 ★★	 n/a
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Holiday Harbor is at the northern end of Clear Lake, California's second largest freshwater lake and one of the top places for bass fishing in the entire country, according to reputable angling organizations. This is more of a marina than a campground, with comparable gravel-surfaced sites encircling the boat slips at the center of the property. There are a few sycamores and junipers on the lot, and though situated in a residential neighborhood, within easy walking distance of the commercial district of Nice. A wooden fence at the perimeter lends a degree of protective privacy to the lot. A county-owned stretch of beach abuts Holiday Harbor and sunsets viewed from its pier are heart-stoppers. This is one of the few places in which you can sleep within sight of your boat, but if you are not hauling one there really is not much point in staying here. Tent camping is not permitted.

BASICS

Operated By: Holiday Harbor RV Park & Marina.

Open: All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted. **Registration:** At office. **Fee:** \$18–\$20 plus 9% local tax, cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 34. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Half-size picnic table, garden lantern. **Dump Station:** Yes.

Laundry: Yes. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No, but nearby.

Propane: No, but nearby. **Internal Roads:** Gravel. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** W/in 0.5 mi.

Restaurant: Next door. **General Store:** Next door. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** At swim beach on Clear Lake. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Marina, boat ramp, internet access available in office.

Activities: Fishing, boating, waterskiing, hiking, bicycling, bird-watching, wine tasting. **Nearby Attractions:** Lake County Museum in Lakeport; Clear Lake State Park in Kelseyville, casinos. **Additional Information:** Lakeport Chamber of Commerce, (707) 263-5092; Lake County Marketing Program/Visitor Information Center, (707) 263-9544 or (800) 525-3743.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Not allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From the town of Nice on Hwy. 20 at the north end of Clear Lake, turn left on Howard St. Drive 1 block, then turn left again onto Lakeshore Blvd. The campground entrance is 1 block away on the right.

OAKLAND **MAP, C-2** **Anthony Chabot Regional Park**

9999 Redwood Rd., Oakland 94619.
T: (510) 562-2267; www.ebarks.org.



★★★★



★★★

Beauty: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★

Site Privacy: ★★
Quiet: ★★★★★
Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Facilities: ★★★★★

This wooded, pastoral setting is an oasis of calm and beauty only a few minutes drive from the urban bustle of Oakland and Berkeley. Five small loops are spread over a hilltop that is abundantly populated with fragrant eucalyptus trees—though contrary to what may be implied by the name of the access lane, Redwood Rd.—and a few sycamores. Some of the slim, exposed sites enjoy vistas of Lake Chabot, while others overlook a fertile pasture where goats often graze. Best of the latter are 10–12 in the hookup area. The most private of the drive-to sites is number 69 but ardent tenters should consider the even more secluded walk-ins in the direction of the water. In addition to several hiking trails there is a 12-mile bicycling path that is very popular with the thin tire set. The lake, which covers 315 acres, is stocked with fish on a regular basis. Security is good, with ranger patrols and a gate that is locked nightly at 10 p.m.

BASICS

Operated By: East Bay Regional Park District.

Open: All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations recommended; V, MC. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$16–\$22, cash, V, MC. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 63. **Number of Tent-only**

Sites: 12. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump**

Station: Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest**

Rooms and Showers: Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:**

No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No.

Market: 8 mi. east in Castro Valley. **Restaurant:** 8

mi. east in Castro Valley. **General Store:** No.

Vending: No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No.

Other: Some wheelchair-accessible facilities, boat

launch, marina, shooting range (nearby). **Activities:**

Hiking, fishing, bicycling, kayaking, canoeing. **Nearby**

Attractions: Berkeley Botanical Garden & muse-

ums; Oakland museums, zoo, Dunsmuir House &

Gardens Historic Estate, Chabot Space & Science

Center, Jack London Square. **Additional Infor-**

mation: Oakland CVB, (510) 839-5924.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash; \$1 fee. **Fires:** Fire grates only.

Alcoholic Beverages: Allowed at site, beer & wine only. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 40 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Oakland on I-580 drive 5.5 mi. east. Exit on Hwy. 13 north and after 1 mi. turn right onto Redwood Rd. Continue for 7.8 mi. to the park entrance on the right. The campground is 2 mi. ahead.

O'BRIEN

MAP, B-2

Nelson Point

Conflict Point Rd., O'Brien 96051.
T: (530) 275-1587 or (877) 444-6777;
www.fs.fed.us/r5/shastatrinity.



★★★★



★★★★

Beauty: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★
Security: ★
Insect Control: ★

Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Quiet: ★★
Cleanliness: ★★
Facilities: ★

O'Brien CALIFORNIA 203

Nelson Point is a cozy property that rests on a grassy hill just above one rippling arm of Shasta Lake, a little more than 20 miles north of Redding. It is a convenient hop just off I-5, and that is also its major drawback: you may wake up in the middle of the night to the sound of traffic and think for a moment you're in a highway rest area. Oaks and pines hover over the dirt-surfaced sites, which are also spaced well apart along the meandering camp lane. While most spots enjoy water views, number 5, a walk-in of some 20 steps, is tops in spaciousness and occupies a small promontory that is blessed with a 180° panorama of the lake. More private is 7, though it lies close to the road, and 6, too, is tucked away from its neighbors. The appalling amount of broken glass, food debris, bottle caps, and even bullet shells littering the ground indicates this forest service diamond-in-the-rough could use some maintenance. An elevation of just 1,000 feet makes for very comfortable evenings early and late in the year.

BASICS

Operated By: Shasta Recreation Company, concessionaire. **Open:** Apr. 1–Sep. 30. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/ V, MC, D for groups & limited number of sites; otherwise first come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$8, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 8. **Hookups:**

None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, some sites have stone fire ring. **Dump Station:** No.

Laundry: No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and**

Showers: Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No.

Propane: No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Ser-**

vice: No. **Market:** 4 mi. north in Lakehead.

Restaurant: 14 mi. south in Shasta Lake. **General**

Store: No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Shasta Lake

inlet. **Playground:** No. **Activities:** Fishing, boat-

ing, waterskiing. **Nearby Attractions:** Turtle Bay

Museums & Arboretum, Waterworks Park in Red-

ding; Shasta Lake, Caverns, & Dam; Shasta State

Historic Park; Whiskeytown National Recreation

Area. **Additional Information:** Redding CVB,

(530) 225-4100.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alco-**

holic Beverages: Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum**

Length: 16 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Redding drive 22 mi. north on I-5 and exit at Salt Creek Rd./Gilman Rd. Turn left and drive 1 block, then veer right onto Salt Creek Rd. After 0.3 mi. hang a left onto Conflict Point Rd. (opposite the highway underpass). The campground is 0.3 mi. ahead on the left.

204 CALIFORNIA Orick

ORICK MAP, A-1
Elk Prairie Campground

Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, Newton B. Drury Scenic Pkwy., Orick 95555.

T: (707) 464-6101/5301 or (877) 444-7275;
www.cal-parks.ca.gov.

★★★★ ★★★★★

Beauty: ★★★★★ Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★ Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★ Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★ Facilities: ★★

Tall as they are, it is easy to overlook the redwood trees when you visit this delightful park. That is largely due to the presence of a good-sized herd of photogenic Roosevelt elk, which can usually be observed grazing in the open grassland near the park's entrance along US 101, as well as down by the shore close to the primitive Gold Bluff Beach campground. The latter is in a beautiful location, between the ocean and 100-foot-high bluffs, but to reach it you will have to navigate six miles along a dirt minefield of potholes, a stress test for your nerves as well as your vehicle's axles. Prairie Creek's other campground, Elk Prairie, is inland from the bluffs and far easier to reach. Its single meadow loop—favored by RVs—is prime elk-viewing territory, and its wooded double loop allows for shade, space, and privacy. Curiously, there are few redwoods present, but an abundance of other conifers as well as maples and moss-encrusted alders contribute to a lush, rain forest atmosphere. The largest, most private sites are those nearest to the creek, where the gently gurgling water will serenade you to sleep at night.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations recommended; V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$12 off-season, \$15 Mem. Day—Labor Day, cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 75. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, food storage box. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, narrow, winding. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 4 mi. south in Orick. **Restaurant:** 4 mi. south in Orick. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Some wheelchair-accessible facilities, visitor center. **Activities:** Hiking, bicycling, wildlife viewing, photography, beachcombing. **Nearby Attractions:** Humboldt Lagoons State Park, Redwood National & State Parks in Orick; Trees of Mystery in Klamath. **Additional Information:** Orick Chamber of Commerce, (707) 488-2885; Klamath Chamber of Commerce, (707) 482-7165.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 27 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Crescent City drive 37 mi. south on US 101. Exit and turn right on the Newton B. Drury Scenic Pkwy. Continue for 1.2 mi. to the park entrance on the left.

ORLAND MAP, B-2
Buckhorn

Buckhorn Rd., Orland 95963. T: (530) 865-4781 or (877) 444-6777; www.spk.usace.army.mil/cespk-co/lakes/blackbutte.html.

★★★★ ★★★★★

Beauty: ★★★★★ Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★ Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★★★★ Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★ Facilities: ★★★★★

Black Butte Lake may seem like a mirage at first glance, its blue-green surface shimmering in the middle of sun-baked brown hills, with black-mauve volcanic rocks crowning the scene. Go ahead and pinch yourself, it's really there. It is also, as one of the largest lakes in the region, a hugely popular summertime recreation area that attracts anyone with a boat for miles around. Buckhorn is one of two campgrounds on this U.S. Army Corps of Engineers domain, 12 miles west of Orland and I-5. Several loops cling to the undulating contours of the hillside abutting the lake, which results in a high percentage of lake-view sites. A sprinkling of oaks shed adequate shade, and screening and space are average. While all types of watercrafts are permitted, the stiff breezes that often sweep across the lake make sailing especially rewarding. Black Butte Lake is one of the better locations for crappie fishing in northern California.

BASICS

Operated By: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/ MC, V, D. First come, first served sites available. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$14 from Mar. 1–Sep. 30, \$10 the rest of the year; cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 87. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 5. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, barbecue grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Flush & portable toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 12 mi. east in Orland. **Restaurant:** 12 mi. east in Orland. **General Store:** Yes, at marina. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Black Butte Lake. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, boat launch, marina. **Activities:** Fishing, hiking, sailing, windsurfing. **Nearby Attractions:** Tejama County Park in Corning; Chico museums, Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park; outlet shopping in Anderson; William B. Ide Adobe State Historic Park near Red Bluff. **Additional Information:** Corning District Chamber of Commerce, (530) 824-5550; Chico Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Bureau, (530) 891-5556 or (800) 852-8570.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 35 ft., varies depending on sites.

TO GET THERE

In Orland on I-5 take the Black Butte Lake Exit. Head west on Rd. 200/Newville Rd. for 12 mi. Turn left on Buckhorn Rd. and continue straight to the campground.

OROVILLE MAP, B-2
Bidwell Canyon Campground

Lake Oroville State Recreation Area, Arroyo Dr., Oroville 95966. T: (530) 538-2219; (800) 444-7275; www.parks.ca.gov.

★★★★ ★★★★★

Beauty: ★★★★★ Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★ Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★ Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★ Facilities: ★★★★★

When Lake Oroville is full it is a beautiful sight. Unfortunately, its level depends both on winter snow melt and how much it has been drawn down during the summer. Management tries to keep the water near capacity at least through the 4th of July holiday, when the recreation area overflows with campers, but Mother Nature does not always cooperate. Not that campsites are affected either way, since few are endowed with water views. Of the two double circuits, Loop I (numbers 1–39) is the grassier, with limited space between pine- and live oak-shaded sites. The crowding is no better in Loop II (40–75), where the live oaks are complemented by madrone and manzanita. Two of the better sites for privacy are 31 and 44, but overall the constricted layout of this facility makes it more suitable for RV campers than tents. The exceptions are the remote boat-in sites, assuming there is water available to provide access.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/ V, MC, D. Limited first come, first served sites. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$16–\$20, cash, CA check. Lime Saddle Campground \$10–\$14; Bidwell Canyon \$16–\$20. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 74. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 10 mi. west in Oroville. **Restaurant:** 10 mi. west in Oroville. **General Store:** Yes, w/ snack bar at the end of Kellyridge Rd. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Lake Oroville. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, 7-lane boat ramp, marina. **Activities:** Fishing, waterskiing, hiking, windsurfing, horseback riding, boat rentals. **Nearby Attractions:** Oroville Dam, Chinese Temple & Garden, Pioneer Museum, Freeman Bicycle Trail; Gold Nuggett Museum in

Paradise. **Additional Information:** Oroville Area Chamber of Commerce, (530) 538-2542 or (800) 655-GOLD.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 40 ft.



TO GET THERE

From Oroville drive 7 mi. east on Hwy. 162. Turn left on Kelly Ridge Rd. and continue for 1.6 mi. to Arroyo Dr. Turn right and proceed to the park entrance 0.5 mi. ahead.

PALO ALTO
Butano State Park

MAP, D-1

1500 Cloverdale Rd., Palo Alto 94060. T: (650) 879-2040 or (800) 444-7275; www.parks.ca.gov.

 ★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★

You've heard the expression "good things come in small packages"? That is certainly true of this beautiful park, another in the fine constellation of coastal redwood preserves that are located above Santa Cruz and to the east of San Jose. The drive to Butano is easier than the others, along a marginally wider road without quite as many mountainous turns. Sites, too, are roomier and scattered farther apart than those at Portola Redwoods State Park a few miles away. Direct sunlight onto the double loop is largely blocked by the magnificent stands of Sequoia sempervirens, which are so dominant that only a few tan oaks have been able to lay down roots. Tenters will enjoy the privacy of the many recessed walk-in sites, and of the drive-to options, 6 is level and very roomy, and 9, tucked behind a fallen giant, is quite private. We encountered quail, rabbits, and a doe with its tiny fawn on our last visit; they were attracted to the grounds by a small creek that runs through camp.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$15 per night, cash, CA check.; 8 people occupancy; \$4 for additional vehicles. **Parking:** At site; some walk-in sites.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 21. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 17. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, food storage box. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Flush & pit toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 24 mi. north in Half Moon Bay. **Restaurant:** 24 mi. north in Half Moon Bay. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, visitor center. **Activities:** Hiking, bird-watching, exploring redwood forests, backpacking. **Nearby Attractions:** Pigeon Point

Lighthouse, downtown Half Moon Bay; Montara & Gray Whale Cove State Beaches; several redwood forests. **Additional Information:** Half Moon Bay Coastside Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau, (650) 726-8380.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 27 ft.



TO GET THERE

From the junction of Hwy. 1 and Hwy. 92 in Half Moon Bay, drive 17 mi. south on Hwy. 1. Turn left on Pescadero Rd., drive 3 mi. and turn right on Cloverdale Rd. The park entrance is 5.5 mi. ahead on the left.

PASADENA
Monte Cristo

MAP, E-3

12371 North Little Tujunga Canyon Rd., Pasadena 91342. T: (818) 899-1900; www.fs.fed.us/r5/angeles.

 ★★★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★

To reach Monte Cristo you will have to drive 20 miles north of La Cañada along steep, windy roads, with the stretch on CR N3 showcasing highly dramatic craggy peaks. There is no let down at the campground, either, which is tucked under sycamores and oaks in a mountain knoll (3,600-foot elevation) deep in the Angeles National Forest. Agaves and pines round out a setting that is often overrun with family groups, especially on weekends. And no wonder, given that deep sites, surfaced with a mix of grass and dirt, are planted well apart along the camp's figure-8 loop, which is bisected by a small creek. Those spots are largely comparable, though we prefer the ones at the far end of the camp's entrance because that area picks up less road noise. As is typical of many national forest properties, security and maintenance are lax, with the result that litter is often to be found in the fire grates.

BASICS

Operated By: Angeles National Forest, Los Angeles River Ranger District. **Open:** All year, weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$13, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 19. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 20 mi. south in La Cañada. **Restaurant:** 20 mi. south in La Cañada. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Hiking, wading in creek. **Nearby Attractions:** Six Flags Magic Mountain, downtown

Pinecrest CALIFORNIA 205

Pasadena, Hollywood's theme parks. **Additional Information:** La Cañada Flintridge Chamber of Commerce, (818) 790-4289.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 30 ft.



TO GET THERE

From I-210 in La Cañada/Flintridge head north on Hwy. 2. After 9 mi. turn left onto CR N3, direction Palmdale. Drive 10 mi. and turn right into the campground.

PINECREST
Pinecrest

MAP, C-3

Pinecrest Lake Rd., Pinecrest 95364. T: (209) 965-3434 or (877) 444-6777; www.fs.fed.us/r5/stanislaus or www.reserveusa.com.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★★

There is more than merely the aura of a resort town to Pinecrest, it actually delivers the goods. Activities range from hiking and bicycling to fishing, swimming, and boating; amenities include an expansive picnic area near the water, a marina, and, across the street, a post office, restaurant, and general store stocked with everything from fresh produce to liquor to hardware. The huge campground, which is 30 miles east of Sonora, is handsomely framed by its high altitude (5,600 feet) Sierra Nevada locale, rubbing up against the clear blue Pinecrest Lake, with pine and granite studded hills all around. Even Shangri-la has its downside, however, and Pinecrest is no different. Sites of grass and pine needles pinch a bit as space is at a premium over the camp's multiple series of loops. That constricted feeling is accentuated by the presence of private vacation cabins off to one side of the property, which also detract from the rustic atmosphere. Nonetheless, privacy is not bad, as thick groves of cedars, ponderosa, and lodgepole pines, as well as a widespread debris field of glacial erratics, contribute a degree of screening. The grungy, pitted rest rooms are being renovated. Three have been completed and six more will follow as soon as funding allows.

BASICS

Operated By: Dodge Ridge Corp, concessionaire. **Open:** May–Oct., weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** Reservations required May 15–Sep. 5; V, MC, D, AE. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$19, cash, check. **Parking:** At site, 2 vehicles per site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 200. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire ring w/grate. **Dump Station:** No, Pinecrest RV dump 0.5 mi. away. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes, fee. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:**

206 CALIFORNIA Pismo Beach

Across the street is a large, well-stocked general store. **Restaurant:** Across the street. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Pinecrest Lake. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Limited wheelchair-accessible facilities, boat ramp, marina. **Activities:** Hiking, fishing, boat rentals, bicycling. **Nearby Attractions:** Tuolumne County Museum & History Center in Sonora; Yosemite National Park; Ahwahnee Whitewater Rafting in Columbia. **Additional Information:** Yosemite Area Traveler Information, (209) 723-3153; Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau, (209) 533-4420 or (800) 446-1333.

RESTRICTIONS


Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 40 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Sonora drive 30 mi. east on Hwy. 108. Turn right at the sign for Pinecrest Lake and continue for 0.7 mi. to the campground entrance on the right.

PISMO BEACH MAP, E-2
North Beach Campground

Pismo State Beach, Hwy. 1, Pismo Beach 93445.
T: (805) 489-2684 or (800) 444-7275;
www.parks.ca.gov.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

Sand and surf, in a nutshell, are two attributes that make this a central coast standout, one of the prettier stretches of beach in the area. Add to that the wintertime presence of tens of thousands of monarch butterflies, drawn to the park by its towering eucalyptus trees, and it's clear why swarms of tourists descend on the camp like ants to a picnic throughout the summer and most weekends the rest of the year. Located just off of Hwy. 1, one mile south of town, North Beach is separated from the water by a high series of dunes. These obstruct views of the ocean, but also buffer the campground from its blustery breezes. Grassy sites are level and of average size, with Monterey pines and flowering bottle brush enhancing the modest screening provided by the fragrant eucalyptus. Unlike Oceano, two miles to the south, North Beach does not allow day use, meaning that campers enjoy their piece of shore without the added crush of day-trippers. This is also the prettier of the two camps, but its lack of hookups means that if you need electricity Oceano is the place to be.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$13–\$22, cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 103. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, food storage

box. Dump Station: Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 1 mi. north in Pismo Beach. **Restaurant:** 1 mi. north in Pismo Beach. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Pacific Ocean, if you can tolerate it. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Some wheelchair-accessible facilities, visitor's center. **Activities:** Fishing, surfing, clamming, horseback riding, hiking. **Nearby Attractions:** Wineries; San Luis Obispo Mission & museums; Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area. **Additional Information:** Pismo Beach Chamber of Commerce, (805) 773-4382; San Luis Obispo County Visitors & Conference Bureau, (800) 634-1414 or (805) 541-8000.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 36 ft.

TO GET THERE

In Pismo Beach on US 101 take the Pismo Beach State Park Exit. Drive 2.8 mi. west (toward the ocean) on East Grand Ave. and turn right on Hwy. 1. After 0.8 mi. turn left into the campground.

POLLOCK PINES MAP, C-3
Ice House Resort

9000 Ice House Rd., Pollock Pines 95726.
T: (530) 644-2348 or (877) 444-6777;
www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★

The concession that operates Ice House delivers primitive camping conditions for its nightly fee of \$15, which seems appalling at first blush. Don't let price-gouging deter you, though, from coming to this beautiful, rough-cut campground. Its wild, unspoiled appearance is an idiosyncratic reminder of the relative youth and vitality of the Sierra Nevada range, and a bit reminiscent of Grover Hot Springs State Park, at Markleeville. Ice House reflects two sorts of environments, from the reservoir below its two undulating loops to the lofty, snow-dusted mountain peaks high above. Sites of dirt and pine needles are grouped closely together, but are well-buffered by an abundance of enormous boulders and concentrations of ponderosa and Jeffrey pines, incense cedar, and manzanita. The latter appears in especially thick concentrations in the second circuit, which also holds more of the quirkily engaging sites. With an elevation of 5,436 feet, roads in this area can be snow-covered from late October until mid-May.

BASICS

Operated By: American Land & Leisure, concessionaire. **Open:** Mid-May–mid-Oct., weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:**

\$15, cash, check; \$30 for double site. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 66. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 17. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, barbecue grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved but bumpy, windy & narrow. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 21 mi. southwest in Pollock Pines. **Restaurant:** 21 mi. southwest in Pollock Pines. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Ice House Reservoir. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, boat ramp. **Activities:** Fishing, hiking, boating, bicycling, boulder scrambling. **Nearby Attractions:** Fountain-Tallman Museum in Placerville; El Dorado National Forest in Camino; Sly Park Recreation Area in Pollock Pines. **Additional Information:** El Dorado County Visitors Authority, (530) 642-8029 or (887) 588-4FUN; Pollock Pines–Camino Chamber of Commerce, (530) 644-3970 or (530) 644-2498.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 22 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Placerville drive 20 mi. east on US 50. Turn north (left) on Ice House Rd. and continue for 11 mi. to FR 32. Hang a right, in the direction of Ice House Reservoir, and proceed for 1.2 mi. to the campground entrance.

POMONA MAP, E-3
East Shore RV Park

1440 Camperview Rd., Pomona 91773.
T: (909) 599-8355; www.eastshorervpark.com.

 ★★★★★	 ★★
Beauty: ★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

When you arrive at East Shore RV Park you will be handed map of the property, which is a good thing as without it you can forget about navigating your way through its maze of loops. Located just 30 miles east of downtown Los Angeles, above the shores of Puddingstone Lake and within the Frank Bonelli Regional Park, not only is this place attractively landscaped, with undulating meadows accented by such trees as alder, eucalyptus, sycamore, magnolia, and a range of conifers, but it is well endowed with a whole host of facilities. You want boating or fishing? You've got it. Looking to play some golf? No problem. Need to hook up to the Internet? That's a "candoo," too. And security is tighter than a martinet's collar, with both an entrance booth checkpoint and regular ranger patrols. That sites tend to be wedged rather snugly together only really impacts tenters. And for them East Shore has set aside a "wilderness area" meadow, a dubious amenity with undesig-nated sites on ground so curvaceous as to be unus-

able by RVs. Two small knocks on this outfit are the occasional buzz of airplanes using the neighboring county airport and rest rooms that should be equipped with real mirrors instead of the shatter-proof stainless steel more commonly seen in cut-rate national forest properties.

BASICS

Operated By: East Shore RV Park, Phyllis Cook.
Open: All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/ MC, V, D. **Registration:** At office.
Fee: \$32–\$34. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 505. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 14. **Number of Multipurpose Sites:** 3. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30, 50 amps), water, sewer, cable TV. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate (not at every site). **Dump Station:** Yes, \$5 fee. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 3 mi. north in San Dimas. **Restaurant:** 3 mi. north in San Dimas. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** 2 pools. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Fishing, boating, waterskiing, hiking, bicycling, volleyball, horseshoe pit, horseback riding rentals, golf. **Nearby Attractions:** Disneyland, Six Flags Magic Mountain, Riverside & its museums, gardens, historic buildings. **Additional Information:** Pomona Chamber, (909) 622-1256.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only, \$2 fee per night for dogs only. **Fires:** Fire grates only; 20 inches off the ground in other areas. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 45 ft.

TO GET THERE

From I-10 at Pomona, take Exit 44A/Fairplex Dr. Proceed north for 0.7 mi. and turn left on Via Verde. After 0.5 mi., at the stop sign, turn right on Campers View. The park is straight ahead.

POMONA MAP, E-3 Prado Regional Park

16700 Euclid Ave., Pomona 91710.
 T: (909) 597-4260;
www.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/parks/prado.htm.

★★★★★	▲★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

This attractive park is just 35 miles east of downtown Los Angeles, and yet to look at its verdant grounds you might think you were in the middle of farm country. That impression is accentuated by the presence of a neighboring ranch that pens cattle up near one of Prado's two loops. The pitiful sight of so many beasts herded together in a small parcel of muddy, denuded soil is outdone only by the powerful reek of ammonia emanating from their direction, a one-two sensory punch that could convert the most committed of meat eaters to vegetarianism. You won't have much to beef about though if you bring your fishing rod to

Prado, as the lake is well stocked with trout in winter and catfish in summer. Grassy sites are exposed but roomy, set under young sycamores, eucalyptus, and pines. Aim for any of 7–75, as they are not only among the shadier, but also out of view of the bovine stalag. Of the great number of amenities here, one of the more unusual is an area set aside on the lake for radio-controlled model boats.

BASICS

Operated By: San Bernardino County, Regional Parks Dept. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/ V, MC, D. Walk-ins welcome. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$20, cash, check, V, MC, D. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 75. **Hookups:** Electric (50 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire ring. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 8 mi. south in Corona. **Restaurant:** 8 mi. south in Corona. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, boat ramp. **Activities:** Fishing, horseback riding rentals, soccer field, boat rentals, golf. **Nearby Attractions:** Disneyland, Six Flags Magic Mountain, Riverside & its museums, gardens, historic buildings. **Additional Information:** San Bernardino County, Regional Parks Dept., (909) 38-PARKS.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash no longer than 6 ft., \$1 fee per dog. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 60 ft.

TO GET THERE

In Pomona exit Hwy. 60 on Euclid Ave./Hwy. 83 and head south for 0.6 mi. Turn left at the sign for the regional park.

PONDEROSA MAP, D-2, D-3 Peppermint

FR 21S07A, Ponderosa 93208.T: (559) 539-2607 or (877) 444-6777; www.r5.fs.fed.us/sequoia.

★★★★★	▲★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★	Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★

The last time we stopped by this primitive camp we were surprised to find half a dozen motor homes in residence. Not that the dirt access road off of Western Divide Hwy. is bad—it isn't (though the internal lane verges on abominable in places). It's just that for ages Peppermint has been a refuge for budget-minded tenters. Word of its rustic appeal must have spread. There are about a dozen tables scattered around this rocky, forested mountain knoll, mostly downhill by Peppermint Creek. There is also a dilapidated outhouse, of a similar vintage to the one at Quaking Aspen, just up the road. If you want more in creature comforts, you best bring 'em with you or go elsewhere.

Porterville CALIFORNIA 207

Undesignated sites are well hidden among lodgepole, ponderosa and Jeffrey pines, alders and aspens, cedars and dirt. Those with tables are snapped up first, but there are many more across the hill with simply a crude ring of stones as an amenity. Bring your own drinking water, pack out trash, and, since you'll be camping at an altitude of 7,100 feet, dress warmly.

BASICS

Operated By: Sequoia National Forest, Tule River Ranger District. **Open:** May–Oct., weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** Not necessary. **Fee:** None. **Parking:** No restriction.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: Undesignated, dispersed camping. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** 12 scattered picnic tables, many makeshift fire rings. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** 1.5 mi. north at Ponderosa Lodge. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** 1.5 mi. north at Ponderosa Lodge. **Propane:** 1.5 mi. north at Ponderosa Lodge. **Internal Roads:** Rocky forest floor. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 45 mi. west in Porterville. **Restaurant:** 3 mi. away in Ponderosa. **General Store:** 1.5 mi. north at Ponderosa Lodge or 3 mi. away in Ponderosa. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Activities:** Hiking, fishing, whittling. **Nearby Attractions:** Sequoia National Forest; Porterville Historical Museum, Zauld House & Gardens; California Hot Springs. **Additional Information:** Springville Chamber of Commerce, (559) 539-2312; Porterville Chamber of Commerce, (559) 784-7503.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** By permit, issued at the Tule River Ranger District in Springville; use fire ring. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 22 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Porterville drive 44 mi. east on Hwy. 190 (which becomes the Western Divide Hwy.). Turn left on FR 21S07B and after 0.5 mi. turn left again on FR 21S07A. The campground lies straight ahead.

PORTERVILLE MAP, D-2 Tule Recreation Area

Hwy. 190, Porterville 93258.T: (559) 784-0215 or (877) 444-6777; www.spk.usace.army.mil/cespk-co/lakes/success.html.

★★★★★	▲★★★★
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★

Sun-scorched buttes rise above the multi-pronged lake that serves as a focal point to this recreation area. How people cooled off here before the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers created Lake Success in 1961 is anybody's guess. With plenty of iced-down beer, perhaps, and that might still be considered an

208 CALIFORNIA Portola

essential ingredient to any summertime visit. There is a scattered presence of such trees as oak, eucalyptus, buttonwood, oleander, juniper, and various conifers throughout the double-looped campground, but shade remains scarcer than candy in a dentist's office. In a facility that appears to put function ahead of aesthetics, ramadas would be a welcome addition to the sites. But hey!, the extra exposure to the blazing sun is just one more excuse to jump in the water. Not convinced? Then try to land 26, 29, 30, or 41, some of the few, the proud, the shaded. Located just off Hwy. 190, nine miles east of Porterville, the campground is subject to traffic noise. Unfortunately, an above average amount of bottles, cigarette butts, and plastic pollute the grounds.

BASICS

Operated By: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
Open: All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations recommended; V, MC, D. First come, first served sites, 17. **Registration:** At office at the end of the driveway. **Fee:** \$16–\$21, cash, check. **Parking:** At site; 2 vehicle limit per site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 104. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, barbecue grill, lantern pole. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 9 mi. west in Porterville. **Restaurant:** 9 mi. west in Porterville. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** At your own risk. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, 2 boat ramps, marina. **Activities:** Fishing, boat rentals, sailing, waterskiing, hiking, horseback riding (not allowed in the campground area). **Nearby Attractions:** Porterville Historical Museum, Zauld House & Gardens; Kaweah Oaks Preserve in Exeter; California Hot Springs. **Additional Information:** Porterville Chamber of Commerce, (559) 784-7503.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash no longer than 6 ft. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 30 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Porterville drive 9 mi. east on Hwy. 190 to Lake Success. The campground is on the left.

PORTOLA
Grasshopper Flat

MAP, B-3

Grizzly Rd., Portola 96129. T: (530) 836-2575 or (877) 444-6777; www.fs.fed.us/r5/plumas.



★★★★



★★★★

Beauty: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★
Security: ★★★
Insect Control: ★★★

Site Privacy: ★★★
Quiet: ★★★
Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Facilities: ★★

If you are not towing a boat to this delightful lake-side facility you will probably be in the minority. A simple fishing rod will do, though pole-less nature lovers should find the natural beauty of the setting gratifying enough. No sites verge on Lake

Davis, but many of them offer excellent pine-filtered vistas of the water, and short trails make access to the shore as easy as putting a night crawler on a hook. The tidy campground's three loops wind through medium-sized Jeffrey and ponderosa pines. As a result, this facility, at 5,785 feet of altitude, is carpeted with pine needles and cones. There is a respectable amount of space between most sites, and the presence of both double units and pull-through parking simplifies the maneuvering of larger vehicles and trailers. A dump station is located on the opposite side of the street, 0.2 mile south of camp, and the Grizzly store, two miles south across the dam, has basic supplies and pay showers.

BASICS

Operated By: U.S.T. Wilderness Management Corp, concessionaire. **Open:** May–Oct. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC, D for a limited number of sites. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$14, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 70. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 8 mi. south in Portola. **Restaurant:** 8 mi. south in Portola. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Frenchman Lake. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Boat launch 1 mi. north. **Activities:** Fishing, boating, hiking. **Nearby Attractions:** Portola Railroad Museum; Lakes Basin Recreation Area, Plumas-Eureka State Park in Graegle; Plumas County Museum in Quincy; Plumas National Forest. **Additional Information:** Plumas County Visitors Bureau, (530) 283-6345 or (800) 326-2247.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 32 ft.

TO GET THERE

From downtown Portola head north on West St. and follow the sign for Lake Davis Recreation Area. West St. becomes Lake Davis Rd. Drive 7.7 mi. to the stop sign across the dam and turn left onto Beckwourth-Taylorville Rd. The campground is 0.5 mi. ahead on the left.

PORTOLA
Spring Creek

MAP, B-3

Frenchman Lake Rd., Portola 96105.
T: (530) 836-2575 or (877) 444-6777;
www.fs.fed.us/r5/plumas or
www.reserveusa.com.



★★★★



★★★★

Beauty: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★
Insect Control: ★★★

Site Privacy: ★★★
Quiet: ★★★
Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Facilities: ★★

Spring Creek is a splendid oasis of pines and salt-bush, and a smattering of aspen, standing in con-

trast to the refreshing blue-green waters of Frenchman Lake, just below the campground. This arid, mountain-fringed, high desert domain sits on a hillside that is handsomely studded with volcanic rocks and tufa outcroppings. There is little screening between the level, pine needle-carpeted sites, but they are decently spaced apart, with many—even those on the upper tier of the double loop—enjoying great pine-filtered views of the lake. While sites on average are rather spacious, the central positioning of fire rings and tables may pose problems for campers with large tents. Despite the rock-rimmed shore, access to the lake for boating and fishing is as easy as capsizing a canoe, with a boat ramp located at Frenchman Campground, just up the road. Of the reservable spots, the best for space, privacy and water view are 30, 32, and 35. The concession that operates this Plumas National Forest facility offers double-size sites for twice the price of singles, and small bundles of firewood for \$6, indications that inflation is making a comeback.

BASICS

Operated By: U.S.T. Wilderness Management Corp, concessionaire. **Open:** May–Oct., weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$13, cash, check, \$26 for double site. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 35. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 10 mi. south in Chilcoot. **Restaurant:** 10 mi. south in Chilcoot. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Lake Davis. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Fishing, boating, bird-watching, hiking. **Nearby Attractions:** Frenchman Lake; Portola Railroad Museum; Lakes Basin Recreation Area in Graegle; Plumas National Forest; Plumas-Eureka State Park near Graegle. **Additional Information:** Plumas County Visitors Bureau, (530) 283-6345 or (800) 326-2247.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 55 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Portola on Hwy. 70 drive 17 mi. to Chilcoot and turn left on Frenchman Lake Rd. Continue for 8.6 mi., bear right and cross the dam. Proceed for 1.2 mi. and turn left into the campground.

RAMONA
Dos Picos Regional Park

MAP, F-3

17953 Dos Picos Park Rd., Ramona 92065.
T: (858) 565-3600 or (877) 565-3600;
www.sdparks.org.



★★★★



★★★

Beauty: ★★★★★ Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★ Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★ Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★ Facilities: ★★

In the “location is everything” department, Dos Picos comes up a winner. It lies in a hillside riparian forest just a half hour drive from downtown San Diego, and a little less than that from the San Diego Wild Animal Park in Escondido. The dirt and grass surfaced sites, spread out over several loops, are amply shaded by eucalyptus and live oak, with several enormous 300-year-olds among the latter. Of the many amenities here, highlights include a jogging track, soccer field, hiking trails, and a kids-only fishing pond. The park loses points, though, for its rundown lavatories, in which three of four toilets in one men’s room were out of commission on a recent weekend visit, and such noise problems as many low-flying aircrafts and neighborhood dogs barking throughout the night. Drivers of long RVs should plan to reserve site 56, one of the few with pull-through parking, while 9 and 12 are the more private, roomier tent options.

BASICS

Operated By: County of San Diego, Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$10–\$16, cash, V, MC. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 62. **Hookups:** Electric (20 amps), water. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, barbecue grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 5.5 mi. northeast in Ramona. **Restaurant:** 5.5 mi. northeast in Ramona. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Limited wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Hiking, children’s fishing, horseshoe pit, jogging track, soccer field. **Nearby Attractions:** San Diego Wild Animal Park, San Pasqual Battlefield. **Additional Information:** Ramona Chamber of Commerce, (760) 789-1311.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only, not permitted on hiking trails. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site, not exceeding 40 proof. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 35 ft.

TO GET THERE

In Escondido drive 20 mi. east on Hwy. 78 to Ramona. Turn south on Hwy. 67 and drive 3.5 mi., then turn left on Mussey Grade Rd. and drive 1.1 mi. Turn right on Dos Picos Park Rd. The entrance is less than 1 mi. ahead.

REDDING MAP, B-2
Antlers RV Park and Campground

20682 Antler Rd., Redding 96051. T: (530) 238-2322 or (800) 642-6849; www.antlersrv.com.

★★★★★ ▲★★★★

Beauty: ★★★★★ Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★ Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★ Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★ Facilities: ★★★★★

During a recent winter, snow and rain combined with gale-force winds to topple dozens of trees in Antlers RV Park. A lesser property would have been left scarred for years to come by such decimation. Not Antlers. The trunks and limbs were carved up and hauled away, and the campground continues to be a standout beauty. Its lovely perch above the iridescent Shasta Lake offers campers a balance of sun and shade among an abundance of such trees as oak, pine, cedar, and manzanita. Most sites are level, grassy, and surprisingly spacious for an RV-oriented campground. Even those with full hookups have plenty of elbow-room, with 108 one of the best in that class. In the ever-popular lake-view area, A38 and A39, decked with ramadas as well as shade trees, are the prime slots. Tent campers, too, will find more than enough space to spread their canvas, with the forested loops, where mossy boulders accentuate the natural look, providing the most privacy. Although Antlers is a mere two miles from I-5, surprisingly little road noise reaches it.

BASICS

Operated By: Antlers RV Park & Campground. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC, D. **Registration:** At office. **Fee:** \$12–\$28, cash or V, MC, D. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 70. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 37. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer, internet. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, food storage box. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved & gravel. **RV Service:** No. Mobile Mechanic. **Market:** 2 mi. north in Lakehead. **Restaurant:** 1 mi. south. **General Store:** Yes, open from Mem. Day–Labor Day, w/ snack bar. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Pool. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, marina, game room, video rentals. **Activities:** Fishing, boat rentals, waterskiing, hiking, horseshoe pit, ping pong, volleyball, basketball. **Nearby Attractions:** Carter House Natural Science Museum, Turtle Bay Museums & Arboretum, Waterworks Park in Redding; Shasta Lake, Caverns & Dam; Shasta State Historic Park; Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. **Additional Information:** Redding CVB, (530) 225-4100.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only, \$3 fee. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 40 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Redding drive 26 mi. north on I-5 and exit at Lakeshore/Antlers Rd. Turn right and drive 1 block, then turn right again on Antlers Rd. Continue for 1.5 mi. to the campground entrance straight ahead.

Ridgecrest CALIFORNIA 209

RIDGECREST MAP, E-3
Fossil Falls

Cinder Rd., Ridgecrest 93542. T: (760) 384-5400; www.ca.blm.gov/caso/index.html.

★★★★★ ▲★★★★

Beauty: ★★★★★ Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★ Quiet: ★★
Security: ★ Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★ Facilities: ★

Heading north toward Lone Pine along US 395, a sign points the way to Fossil Falls, a geological site and campground. The falls in question are not fossilized, but rather a fantastic flow of hardened basaltic lava, spewed out of the eastern Coso Mountain range during a massive eruption 440,000 years ago. This little-known campground lies in a volcanic debris field in the arid Rose Valley, between the green-dappled Sierra Nevadas to the west, China Lake naval base to the east, and a red cinder peak marking its north side. The sublime beauty of this desolate place is not universally appreciated, especially as the grounds are exposed to an unyielding sun and periodic high winds. There are no shade trees here, just low-lying desert scrub across the mildly undulating terrain. Level cinder-based sites, spread well apart over three loops, are among the largest we’ve come across, and they take advantage of volcanic tufts, spires and mounds as privacy screening. Though this Bureau of Land Management facility lacks potable water and trash pick-up, the absence of ramadas is the most sorely felt omission.

BASICS

Operated By: Bureau of Land Management, Ridgecrest Field Office. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$6, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 5. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 6. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** 3 mi. south at Little Lake. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** 3 mi. south at Little Lake. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Cinder gravel, wide, & bumpy. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 31 mi. south in Ridgecrest. **Restaurant:** 21 mi. south in Inyokern. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Limited wheelchair-accessible facilities, Fossil Falls geological site. **Activities:** Hiking, bird-watching, stargazing, rock scrambling, philosophical ruminating. **Nearby Attractions:** Trona Pinnacles; Last Chance Canyon & Maturango Museum/Death Valley Tourist Center in Ridgecrest; Death Valley National Park; Mount Whitney View; Lone Pine Town. **Additional Information:** Ridgecrest Area CVB, (760) 375-8202 or (800) 847-4830.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 30 ft.



210 CALIFORNIA Riverside

To Get There

From Ridgecrest drive 14 mi. west on Hwy. 178. Turn right on Hwy. 14/US 395. Continue 15 mi. and turn right at the sign for Fossil Falls. Proceed for 0.5 mi. and turn right again. The campground is 0.5 mi. ahead on the left.

RIVERSIDE MAP, E-3
Luiseño Campground

Lake Perris State Recreation Area, 17801 Lake Perris Dr., Riverside 92571. T: (909) 940-5603 or (800) 444-7275; www.parks.ca.gov.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

If time weighs heavily on your hands during your stay at Lake Perris you will only have yourself to blame. That's because this recreation area has a little bit of something for everyone, from fishing and boating (rentals available at the marina), hiking, biking and horseback riding trails, and a Native American museum (open Wednesdays and weekends), to a pair of swimming beaches and a water-slide (summer season only). It is a pretty park, too, with lush grassy turf sloping gently toward the water and rocky hills coloring the horizon. Sites are open but spacious, many shaded by conifers, eucalyptus and pepper trees. That shade is essential, as summer temperatures typically hit 110°, scorching the grass brown and sending everyone with a swimsuit into the water. The weather is milder in the spring, when a fabulous explosion of wildflowers makes this place a must-see. Boating to Alessandro Island for a romantic picnic is considered by many to be a Lake Perris rite-of-passage.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/ V, MC, D. **Registration:** At office. **Fee:** \$11–\$20, cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 254. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 177. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire ring. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 5 mi. south in Perris. **Restaurant:** 5 mi. south in Perris. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Lake Perris, swim beach. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, boat ramp, coffee shop. **Activities:** Fishing, bicycling, hiking, horseback riding, horseshoe pit, wind surfing, boat rentals, golf. **Nearby Attractions:** Perris Valley Historical Museum & Orange Empire Railway Museum; Riverside, its museums, gardens, historic buildings. **Additional Information:** Perris Valley Chamber; (909) 657-3555.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alco-**



holic Beverages: Allowed at site but not in day-use areas. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 31 ft.

To Get There

From Riverside follow I-215/Hwy. 60 east. When the 2 roads split remain on Hwy. 60 for another 4.6 mi. Exit on Moreno Beach Dr. and continue south for 3.5 mi. Turn left on Via del Lago. The park entrance is just 1 mi. ahead.

SACRAMENTO MAP, C-2
Beal's Point Campground

Folsom Lake State Recreation Area, 7806 Folsom-Auburn Rd., Sacramento 95630. T: (916) 988-0205 or (800) 444-7275; www.parks.ca.gov.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★★

Beal's Point is just 20 miles from Sacramento, a convenient proximity that explains why camping reservations are essential between May and mid-September. Once you get over the shock of so many people—and the absence of lake vistas from the campground—you'll be in for a treat. That's because this is a splendid woodland habitat that offers a little bit of something for everyone. At the top of that list are grassy campsites that are roomy, recessed, and shaded by conifers, blue and live oaks, and buttonwood trees. The many walk-ins make tenting here especially pleasant, though RVers do well with any of 16–38, which are level and shady. The lake features 75 miles of shoreline when it is full, and there are hiking, riding, and biking trails in the surrounding foothills. The marina offers both wet and dry slips (the latter when the water drops below 435 feet), as well as a snack bar, marine supplies, and fuel. Full hookups are anticipated within the next couple of years.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations recommended; V, MC, D. **Off season:** is first come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$15, cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 31. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 18. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 3 mi. south in Folsom. **Restaurant:** 3 mi. south in Folsom. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Folsom Lake. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, 4-lane boat ramp, marina, beach, snackbar in summer. **Activities:** Fishing, boat rentals, horseback riding, hiking, bicycling. **Nearby Attractions:** Folsom City Zoo, Dam, Powerhouse, museums, historic downtown, outlet shopping; Sacramento Zoo, museums, Esquire Imax Theatre, state parks. **Additional**

Information: Folsom Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center; (916) 985-2698; Sacramento CVB, (916) 264-7777 or (800) 292-2334.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 31 ft.

To Get There

From Sacramento drive 15 mi. east on US 50 and take Folsom Blvd. Exit. Head north on Folsom Blvd. (which becomes Folsom-Auburn Rd.). After 6.3 mi. turn right into the park.

SAN BERNARDINO MAP, E-3
Camp Switzerland

24558 Lake Dr., San Bernardino 92325. T: (909) 338-2731.

 ★★★	 ★★
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

If you have ever wondered what campgrounds were like in the old days, wonder no longer: Camp Switzerland may be just what you are looking for. Established in 1939, this forested facility looks like something of a relic, but it is also a classic, with boulders and pines, cedars and locust trees in harmony with sites that are packed tightly along a steeply descending lane. The most private of those are at the lowest tier, but if your rig is longer than 22 feet forget about trying to maneuver it down there. The campground lies at 4,500 feet altitude at the north end of Lake Gregory in the San Bernardino Mountains, where it is not uncommon to find snow on the ground well into April. Though the property lacks a view of the water, the attractive lakeside town of Crestline is within modest yodeling distance a few minutes walk away.

BASICS

Operated By: Camp Switzerland, Earl & Jeff Silva. **Open:** All year, weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/ cash, check or money order. **Registration:** At entrance office. **Fee:** \$24–\$25, cash, check. **Parking:** 1 vehicle allowed per site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 30. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 10. **Hookups:** Electric (15, 30 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** In San Bernardino. **Market:** 1 mi. west in Crestline. **Restaurant:** 1 mi. west in Crestline. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Lake Gregory. **Playground:** No. **Activities:** Fishing & boating on Lake Gregory, hiking, water slides. **Nearby Attractions:** Lake Gregory, Silverwood Lake, Lake Arrowhead, Big Bear Lake. **Additional Information:** Crestline Chamber of Commerce, (909) 338-2706.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash w/ tags, \$3. **Fires:** No ground fires. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed in moderation. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 25 ft.

TO GET THERE

From San Bernardino drive twelve mi. north on Hwy. 18. Exit left on Hwy. 138. Drive 1 mi. north, then turn right onto Lake Dr.; Camp Switzerland is 3 mi. ahead on the left.

SAN BERNARDINO MAP, E-3
Mesa Campground

Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area, 14651 Cedar Cir., San Bernardino 92345. T: (760) 389-2303 or (800) 444-7275; www.reserveamerica.com.

 ★★★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Mesa Campground offers something for everyone, from private, well-screened sites situated among thick stands of manzanita, oak, and ponderosa pines, to a network of bike paths and hiking trails. And don't overlook Silverwood Lake, below the campground, which serves triple duty among swimmers, boaters, and anglers. No wonder that reservations are advisable, especially for weekends, from late spring through September. At a distance of less than 30 miles from San Bernardino, Mesa is close enough to Los Angeles to be hugely popular as a getaway destination and yet far enough out that it occasionally has problems with black bears raiding its dumpsters. You are more likely to hear, though, distant sounds of planes, trains, and automobiles, and, alas, your neighbors, as enforcement of quiet hours tends to be lax. Fortunately, sites are well dispersed through a series of eight loops, with numbers 101–106 appealingly shady and both 76 and 86 a little more secluded than the rest. The only site with a water view is 16, but gusty evening breezes make that a mixed blessing.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations recommended; V, MC, D. First come, first served sites available. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$16, cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site, \$5 per vehicle.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 131. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, campfire ring, barbecue grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. Shower coin operated. **Fuel:** Yes, for boats only. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 9 mi. south in Crestline. **Restaurant:** 9 mi. south in Crestline. **General Store:** Marina, beach store. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Silverwood Lake. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, boat launch, marina. **Activities:** Hiking, fishing, bicycling, boat

rentals. **Nearby Attractions:** Pacific Crest Trail. **Additional Information:** San Bernardino CVB, (909) 889-3980 or (800) 867-8366.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On 6-ft. leash. Must have current shots & visible tags or paperwork. **Fires:** Fire grates only; no fires in the boating areas or Miller Canyon. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 34 ft.

TO GET THERE

From San Bernardino drive 17 mi. north on I-215/I-15. Take the Silverwood Lake Exit onto Rte. 138 and drive 11 mi. Turn left into the campground.

SAN CLEMENTE MAP, F-3
San Clemente State Beach

3030 Avenida del Presidente, San Clemente 92672. T: (760) 389-2303 or (800) 444-7275; www.reserveamerica.com.

 ★★★★★	 ★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★

San Clemente seems to be in a constant state of renewal. A few years ago a tent loop was renovated, about a year later it was the picnic area's turn for a face lift, and recently the electrical hookups were upgraded. Now if only some vegetation could be planted in the RV hookup loop to provide buffers between its crowded slots. Until that happens, your best bet is to steer toward the two loops that lack hookups; marginally more spacious and with a bit of screening, sites there are also positioned on grass instead of the dirt surface of the RV lot. Especially roomy are 83 and 85, both of which overlook the beach and cliffs. Monterey pines, eucalyptus, and flowering ceanothus are scattered throughout the park, lending an attractive look to the domain. Less appealing is the occasional use of prison labor for landscaping.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations recommended; V, MC, D. First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$8–\$13, cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site. \$5 per vehicle.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 160. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire ring; non-hookup sites have ramada, barbecue grill, spigot. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes, coin-operated showers. **Fuel:** Boats only. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 2 mi. north in San Clemente. **Restaurant:** 2 mi. north in San Clemente. **General Store:** Marina, beach store. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Pacific Ocean, less than 0.5 mi. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, boat launch, marina. **Activities:** Surfing,

San Clemente CALIFORNIA 211

swimming, bicycling, 2 mi. of hiking trails, boat rentals. **Nearby Attractions:** Pacific Crest Trail. **Additional Information:** San Clemente Chamber of Commerce, (949) 492-1131.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On 6-ft. leash. Must have current shots & visible tags or paperwork. **Fires:** Fire grates only; no fires in the boating areas or Miller Canyon. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 34 ft.

TO GET THERE

In San Clemente exit I-5 on Avenida Calafia and proceed for 0.2 mi. Turn left (west) into the park.

SAN CLEMENTE MAP, F-3
San Mateo Campground

San Onofre State Beach, 830 Cristianitos Rd., San Clemente 92672. T: (949) 361-2531; www.cal-parks.ca.gov or www.caescapes.com.

 ★★★★★	 ★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

San Onofre State Beach is composed of two campgrounds, the Bluff Area by the beach and San Mateo, one mile inland off of I-5. Forget about privacy at the Bluff Area, where sites are lined up one after another on a tiny stretch of turf alongside the parking area. Tranquility is another lost cause: trains hurtle along tracks just 100 feet from camp, basically paralleling its linear layout, and a few yards beyond an interstate reverberates to the continuous roar of traffic. Then there is the multitude of college-age campers that descends on the park from mid-spring through early September, filling it with the off-key melodies of their raucous partying and straining facilities beyond the capacity of the maintenance staff. Sites at San Mateo, by contrast, while not large, are at least scattered over three loops and enjoy decent privacy. The atmosphere is calmer—dare we say more sedate?—and setting more lush, though fine views of the coastal hills are somewhat offset by opposing vistas of power lines and produce fields. Both camps suffer from occasional helicopter overflights from neighboring Camp Pendleton. The best time to visit is from early spring through mid-summer, while the grass in the sites is still soft and green. Your San Mateo receipt covers the day-use fee at the Bluff Area beach.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations recommended; V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** Off-season rates (Dec. 1–Feb. 28): \$13–\$19. Peak rates (Mar. 1–Nov. 30): \$16–\$22. \$5 fee for additional vehicle, cash, CA check, good for day use at San Onofre State Beach Bluffs Area. **Parking:** At site. Extra car is \$5 per night.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 67. **Number of Multi-**

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purpose Sites: 90. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes, showers are coin operated. **Fuel:** San Clemente. 2 mi. north. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** San Clemente. 2 mi. north. **Market:** San Clemente. 2 mi. north. **Restaurant:** San Clemente. 2 mi. north. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Pacific Ocean, 1.1 mi. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Surfing, bicycling, nature trails, skate boarding, helicopter spotting. **Nearby Attractions:** San Clemente, Dana Point, Mission San Juan Capistrano. **Additional Information:** San Clemente Chamber of Commerce, (949) 492-1131.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 36 ft. at sites w/ no hook-ups; 32 ft. max. at hookup sites.

TO GET THERE

From I-5 in San Clemente take the Cristianitos Rd. Exit and proceed inland for 1 mi. Turn right into the campground, which lacks adequate signposting.

SAN FRANCISCO MAP, C-1, C-2
Candlestick RV Park

650 Gilman Ave., San Francisco 94124.
T: (415) 822-2299 or (800) 888-CAMP;
www.gocampingamerica.com/candlestick.

★★★★	▲ ★
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★
Spaciousness: ★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Short of setting up camp in Golden Gate Park, it is hard to imagine bivouacking much closer to San Francisco than in Candlestick RV Park. This facility is located directly across the street from 3Com Stadium, formerly Candlestick Park, just five miles south of downtown. While its parking lot layout and the chain link security fence that encompasses the compound are not very appealing, management has done an admirable job of sowing a variety of exotic plants and trees around the perimeter. As usual for this sort of property, parking slots seem crowded together on the asphalt with no screening and negligible shade. A narrow strip of grass has been set aside for tents but it seems to get more traffic from dogs, despite a rule that mandates dog-walking outside the fence. The rest rooms, on the other hand, tend to be immaculate. Just down the street is Candlestick Point State Recreation Area, with a bike trail, picnic area, and Bay access via a boat ramp. Also nearby, alas, is the airport, with loud flyovers common enough to make you wish your RV had double-pane glass. A shuttle service is available to ferry campers to downtown San Francisco.

BASICS

Operated By: Candlestick RV Park. **Open:** All

year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations recommended; V, MC, AE. **Registration:** At entrance office. **Fee:** \$46–\$49, cash, V, MC, AE. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 165. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 12. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer, internet in the office. **Each Site:** Picnic table in some sites. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** Less than 1 mi. away. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** Inquire in office. **Market:** 4 mi. south in San Francisco. **Restaurant:** 1 mi. south in San Francisco. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, game room, free video tapes. **Activities:** Touring San Francisco, hiking the Bay shoreline, surfing. **Nearby Attractions:** Candlestick Point State Recreation Area; museums, Ghirardelli Square, Fisherman's Wharf, zoo, aquarium, Golden Gate Park. **Additional Information:** San Francisco CVB, (415) 391-2000.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Grill only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 45 ft. max.

TO GET THERE

From San Francisco drive south on US 101 to the 3Com Stadium Exit. Drive around the stadium, about 1 mi., to gate 4. The park entrance is directly opposite to that, to the right.

SAN FRANCISCO MAP, C-1, C-2
San Francisco RV Resort

700 Palmetto Ave., San Francisco 94044.
T: (800) 822-1250 or (650) 355-7093;
www.sanfranciscorvresort.com.

★★★★	▲ n/a
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★
Spaciousness: ★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Pacific Park RV Resort is conveniently located just ten miles south of San Francisco, right off of Hwy. 1 in Pacifica. It is loaded with amenities, from cable TV and Internet connections to a small swimming pool and Jacuzzi, from a horseshoe pit to a video game room. The Pacific Ocean abuts the lot, filling the air with a pleasant brininess, and a very short trail leads down to the sandy beach. The view across the busy road is not bad, either, highlighted by a wavy series of grass-covered hills. The bad news is the parking slots are wedged one against another, and there are no shade trees, no privacy, and no tents allowed. The best bet is to set up as far to the western edge of the grounds as possible, where an unobstructed view of the sun setting into the water is a killer, and the crashing surf is almost loud enough to drown out the noise of incessant air and auto traffic. A shuttle service is available to ferry campers to downtown San Francisco.

BASICS

Operated By: San Francisco RV Resort; Charley Winter, manager. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations recommended; V, MC. **Registration:** At entrance office. **Fee:** \$38–\$69 plus 10% local tax, cash, V, MC. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 182. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer, cable TV, Internet. **Each Site:** Communal picnic table. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 0.25 mi. away in Pacifica. **Restaurant:** 0.25 mi. away in Pacifica. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Small heated pool. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, spa, game room. **Activities:** Sunning, surfing, beachcombing, horseshoe pit, touring San Francisco. **Nearby Attractions:** Museums, Ghirardelli Square, Fisherman's Wharf, zoo, aquarium, Golden Gate Park; Montara & Gray Whale Cove State Beaches. **Additional Information:** San Francisco CVB, (415) 391-2000.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only, must be under 20 pounds. **Fires:** Not allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 60 ft.

TO GET THERE

From San Francisco drive 8 mi. south on Hwy. 1 to Pacifica. Exit on Manor Dr. and continue straight through the stop sign. Manor Dr. becomes Palmetto Ave. The resort entrance is 0.5 mi. ahead on the right.

SAN JUAN MAP, F-3
CAPISTRANO
Ronald W. Caspers
Wilderness Park

Ortega Hwy. 33401, San Juan Capistrano 92675.
T: (949) 923-2210; www.ocparks.com/caspers.

★★★	▲ ★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

Caspers Wilderness Park does not allow pets on the property for the same reason that minors must be accompanied by an adult: concern about mountain lions following a fatal attack 18 years ago. These restrictions have a positive side-effect, endowing the property with a greater degree of quietude than similar establishments elsewhere. Just eight miles inland from San Juan Capistrano and I-5, among the ranch lands and the rolling foothills of the Cleveland National Forest, Caspers occupies a transitional zone, with vegetation ranging from open grassy meadows fringed with prickly pear cacti and agaves, to sycamores and live oak. Most of the sites are rather close to each other, with about half in open grassland and the remainder appealingly sheltered under the high canopy of

aged oaks. In spring there is just enough water flowing through the campside creek to generate a tremendous insect population. So either bring plenty of repellent or aim to bivouac from mid-summer on, when biting bugs should no longer be a problem. There are some fine hiking and riding trails in Caspers, as well as a separate horse camp.

BASICS

Operated By: County of Orange Public Facilities.
Open: All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$12, cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 48. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, barbecue grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved & gravel. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 8 mi. southwest in San Juan Capistrano. **Restaurant:** 8 mi. southwest in San Juan Capistrano. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, equestrian camping. **Activities:** 35 mi. of hiking trails, horseback riding, mountain biking, stargazing, nature center. **Nearby Attractions:** Mission San Juan Capistrano, Dana Point. **Additional Information:** San Juan Capistrano Chamber of Commerce, (949) 493-4700.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: Not allowed. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Not allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 44 ft.

TO GET THERE

From I-5 in San Juan Capistrano take Hwy. 74/ Ortega Hwy. east and drive 8 mi. Turn left into the park.

SAN RAFAEL MAP, C-1, C-2 Samuel P. Taylor State Park

Sir Francis Drake Blvd., San Rafael 94938.
T: (415) 488-9897 or (800) 444-7275;
www.cal-parks.ca.gov.



Beauty: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★



Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Quiet: ★★★★★
Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Facilities: ★★

In 1854 Samuel Taylor stumbled into a redwood grove here and was so enchanted by the sight that he promptly purchased 100 acres of land and set up a paper mill. Present-day visitors to this dark, densely forested park may wish that he had exercised less discretion in his timber harvesting to allow more sunshine to penetrate. No matter, it remains an appealing woodland of intermingled second-growth redwoods, tan oaks, madrones, laurels, and Douglas fir. The compact campground is tightly woven through two loops, with small dirt-surfaced sites rather crowded together. Although the preserve is open to RVs and even has six pull-through spots, narrow cornering and limited parking space make it more practical for tenting. Yet

even the nylon roof set may find most sites a bit shy of elbowroom. Of the two circuits, there is slightly more space and privacy in Orchard Hill (numbers 25–60). If you plan on coming between May and Oct., you will need to reserve far ahead.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted all year w/V, MC, D. Tent camping Creekside Loop Campsites 1–24B, Orchard Hill Loop 25–60, first come, first served sites available. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$15, cash, CA check; off season, \$12. **Parking:** At site or adjacent to it.

FACILITIES

Number of Tent-only Sites: 24. **Number of Multipurpose Sites:** 36. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grates, food-storage box. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, narrow, & windy. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 2 mi. southeast in Lagunitas. **Restaurant:** 2 mi. southeast in Lagunitas. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding. **Nearby Attractions:** Mission San Rafael Archangel, Marin County Frank Lloyd Wright Civic Center & China Camp State Park in San Rafael; Muir Woods National Monument & Mount Tamalpais State Park in Mill Valley. **Additional Information:** San Rafael Chamber of Commerce, (415) 454-4163; Mill Valley Chamber of Commerce, (415) 388-9700.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash no longer than 6 ft., not allowed on trails. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 24 ft.

TO GET THERE

From San Rafael take I-580 south to the Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Exit. Head west for 17 mi. The park entrance is on the left.

SAN SIMEON MAP, E-1 San Simeon Creek Campground

San Simeon State Park, San Simeon Creek Rd., San Simeon 93452. T: (805) 927-2035 or (800) 444-7275; www.caescapes.com-reservations.



Beauty: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★



Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Quiet: ★★★★★
Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Facilities: ★★★★★

The two campgrounds in this state preserve are very average in nearly every respect. San Simeon Creek is the more developed, with rest rooms equipped with showers, water fill-up, and dump stations for RVs, and good-sized Monterey pines sprinkled along its five paved loops. One of those circuits, adjacent to a noisy highway overpass, is reserved for tents. That awkward position makes the more primitive Washburn, up the hill along the park road, a more peace-

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ful option for sleeping in nylon shelters. The cinder surface to Washburn's twin loops is smooth and the vault toilets are well-maintained. In both camps sites are level and grassy, but in need of more shade trees. The high use this rather ordinary park receives throughout the year has little to do with the neighboring beach (which, like the campgrounds themselves, is often cloaked in fog). Rather, it is the location of the magnificent Hearst Castle just five miles north on Hwy. 1 that makes this the ideal overnight spot either before or after visits to the mansion. Just remember to book your tours at (800) 444-4445 well in advance.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC, D. First come, first served available. No reservations made from Oct.–Mar. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$16, cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Tent-only Sites: 19. **Number of Multipurpose Sites:** 115. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 2 mi. south in Cambria. **Restaurant:** 1 mi. north in San Simeon Acres. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Pacific Ocean. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Hiking, fishing, bird-watching, horseshoe pit, campfire programs. **Nearby Attractions:** Hearst Castle & National Geographic Theater, wineries around Paso Robles. **Additional Information:** San Simeon Chamber of Commerce, (805) 927-3500.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash; not allowed on trails. **Fires:** Fire grates only, not allowed on the beach. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 40 ft.

TO GET THERE

From San Simeon on Hwy. 1 take the Hearst Castle' Exit and drive 4.7 mi. south. Turn left on San Simeon Creek Rd., then right into the well sign-posted park.

SANTA BARBARA MAP, E-2 Cachuma Lake Recreation Area

Hwy. 154, Santa Barbara 93105.
T: (805) 686-5054; www.cachuma.com.



Beauty: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★



Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Quiet: ★★★★★
Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Facilities: ★★★★★

Confusion is an understandable state of mind for first-time visitors to Cachuma Lake. For one thing, this is a huge campground, with more than 500 mostly level, grassy sites dispersed through an intricate maze of loops. For another, though the recreation area is less than 20 miles from Santa Barbara, the large shimmering body of water is surrounded

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by the relatively undeveloped Santa Ynez and San Rafael Mountains, giving the impression that you are much farther out than you really are. There will be no roughing it here, though, because Cachuma has just about every possible amenity necessary to comfortable camping (and a good deal that probably aren't), including a snack bar and on-site gas station, and rentals of various size boats, bikes, golf clubs, and even yurts. The large domain is semi-forested with mature sycamores, oaks, manzanita, and holly, and if most sites lack privacy, at least a good percentage overlook the water. At an elevation of only 800 feet, weather at this park is pleasant throughout the year. Be sure to check out the excellent nature center (open weekends) for its Native American exhibits and to make reservations for naturalist-led wildlife cruises.

BASICS

Operated By: Santa Barbara County Parks. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted for group camping only w/V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$18–\$25, cash, CA check. AAA, FMCA, Good Sam, & senior discounts available. **Parking:** At site, 2 car limit.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 154. **Number of Multi-purpose Sites:** 339. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire ring (not in full hookup sites). **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** Yes. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 10 mi. west in Santa Ynez. **Restaurant:** Yes. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Pool, \$1 per hour. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, marina, boat launch, family fun center, nature center. **Activities:** Fishing, hiking, horseshoe pit, boat & bicycle rentals, mini-golf, volleyball, horseback riding, wildlife cruises. **Nearby Attractions:** Solvang & its mission & museums; Chumash Painted Cave State Historic Park; Santa Barbara & its mission, museums, historic buildings, zoo, Stearns Wharf, Botanic Garden. **Additional Information:** Santa Barbara Region Chamber of Commerce, (805) 965-3023.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On 6-ft. leash; proof of rabies vaccination required; \$3 fee; not w/in 50 ft. of shoreline & not in boats. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

In Santa Barbara exit US 101 on Hwy. 154 and drive 18 mi. north to the park entrance on the right.

SANTA BARBARA MAP, E-2
Carpinteria State Beach

5361 6th St., Santa Barbara 93013. T: (805) 684-2811 or (800) 444-7275; www.caescapes.com.

 ★★ ★★	 ★★
Beauty: ★★ ★★	Site Privacy: ★★ ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★

Security: ★★ ★★	Cleanliness: ★★ ★★
Insect Control: ★★ ★★	Facilities: ★★ ★★

The bad news about this state-run property is that many sites border the park road and some industrial buildings, and if you happen to occupy one of those near the railroad tracks you may confuse a passing freight train with an earthquake. The good news? Never mind the distant off-shore oil platforms, a fair number of sites enjoy stunning views of the ocean, and the crashing surf nearby will drown out most of the noise emanating from your neighbors. The campground, which features an attractive balance of palm trees, eucalyptus, conifers, and sycamores, is broken into four separate sections, with Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, and San Miguel providing beach access, while the shady Anacapa is situated away from the water. Not so coincidentally, the latter is the quietest, least crowded area in which to camp, while the former three loops feature sandy sites that are packed together like sardines in a can. The beach at Carpinteria, which is just one mile from Hwy. 101, 12 miles south of Santa Barbara, is also open to day-use and picnicking, and a large grassy meadow near it is excellent for kites and frisbee.

BASICS

Operated By: California State Parks. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations highly recommended (especially in summer); V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$16–\$26, cash, CA check, V, MC, D. **Parking:** At site. Gated lot available for additional parking.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 261. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water, sewer at most sites; 120 sites w/ hook-ups. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 1 mi. north in Carpinteria. **Restaurant:** 1 mi. north in Carpinteria. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Pacific Ocean. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Surfing, tide pool exploring, seal watching, volleyball. **Nearby Attractions:** Mission San Buenaventura, historic Ventura, Mission Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara & its museums, historic buildings, zoo, Stearns Wharf, Botanic Garden, historic Ventura. **Additional Information:** Santa Barbara Region Chamber of Commerce, (805) 965-3023.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only, not on the beach. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 35 ft. in non-hookup areas.

TO GET THERE

From Santa Barbara drive 12 mi. southeast on US 101 and exit on Casitas Pass. Follow Casitas Pass Rd. to the right for 0.2 mi., then turn right on Carpinteria Ave. After 1 block turn left onto Palm Ave. Continue for 0.4 mi. straight into the campground.

SANTA BARBARA MAP, E-2
El Capitan State Beach

10 Refugio Beach Rd., Santa Barbara 93117. T: (805) 968-1033 or (800) 444-7275; www.parks.ca.gov.

 ★★ ★★	 ★★ ★★
Beauty: ★★ ★★	Site Privacy: ★★ ★★
Spaciousness: ★★ ★★	Quiet: ★★ ★★
Security: ★★ ★★	Cleanliness: ★★ ★★ ★★
Insect Control: ★★ ★★	Facilities: ★★ ★★

El Capitan is not your typical beach campground. Though its four loops are set amidst a series of coastal bluffs, there is more of grass and dirt than sand in the surprisingly roomy, agreeably private sites. And aside from the time you spend on the beach, you won't need a parasol: much of the domain, which is just off Hwy. 101, 17 miles northwest of Santa Barbara, lies within a lush forest of live oak, with a few eucalyptus, sycamores, and pines tossed in for good measure. Tent campers looking for a water view should try for sites 75, 76, 78, and 80 in the third loop; RVers desiring the same will do well with 110, 111, 114, and 116 in the fourth and highest loop. The first circuit (sites 1–31), on the other hand, is one to avoid, lying nearest the railroad tracks and with no view of the ocean. This is one of the prettier beach campgrounds we've seen, with the terrain particularly green and delightful in spring.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. Reservations recommended; V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$13–\$16, cash, CA check. \$4 for additional vehicles. **Parking:** At site. 3 vehicle max. \$4 per additional vehicle.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 142. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, barbecue pit w/ grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes, fee for showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 13 mi. east in Goleta. **Restaurant:** 13 mi. east in Goleta. **General Store:** Yes, seasonal (Mem. Day–Labor Day). **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Pacific Ocean. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Fishing, hiking, bicycling, boogie board rentals. **Nearby Attractions:** Santa Barbara & its museums, historic buildings, zoo, Stearns Wharf, Botanic Garden, Mission Santa Barbara, Goleta South Coast Railroad Museum. **Additional Information:** Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce, (805) 967-4618.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash under owner's supervision. Not allowed on beach. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 30 ft.



TO GET THERE

From Santa Barbara drive 17 mi. west on US 101 and exit on El Capitan State Beach. Turn left

(west) and proceed for 0.3 mi., under the railroad trestle, straight into the campground.

SANTA BARBARA MAP, E-2
Gaviota State Park

Hwy. 101, Santa Barbara 93117. T: (805) 968-1033; www.cal-parks.ca.gov.

 ★★★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★

Gaviota was completely renovated recently after flooding buried one loop in mud and stripped out the sod in the other. Aside from the mature eucalyptus trees at the edge of the dusty, drab-looking campground, the few saplings here have only recently been planted; it will be ten or more years before they mature into shade trees—if they survive. Yet this park, which lies just off Hwy. 101, 30 miles northwest of Santa Barbara, is thrillingly set between a steep series of scenic bluffs and an unspoiled beach. To reach the shore you must walk beneath a century-old railroad trestle (more of a curiosity than noise nuisance) elevated some 75 feet off the ground. The pier by the water is fine for fishing and is equipped with a hoist for launching boats. A hot spring is located in the hills above Gaviota. The strong coastal breezes funneling through camp most afternoons and evenings make the packing of a jacket or sweater advisable.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$8–\$13, cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 52. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 11 mi. north in Buellton. **Restaurant:** 11 mi. north in Buellton. **General Store:** Yes (summer only). **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Pacific Ocean. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Fishing, hiking, surfing, horseback riding. **Nearby Attractions:** Mission Santa Inés & museums in Solvang, La Purísima Mission State Historic Park in Lompoc, Santa Barbara & its museums, historic buildings, zoo, Stearns Wharf, Botanic Garden. **Additional Information:** Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce, (805) 967-4618.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 27 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Santa Barbara drive 30 mi. west on US 101 and take the Gaviota State Beach Exit to the left. Continue straight for 5 mi. to the park entrance.

SANTA CRUZ MAP, D-1
Big Basin Redwoods State Park

21600 Big Basin Way, Santa Cruz 95006. T: (831) 338-8860 or (800) 444-7275; www.bigbasin.org.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Unlike the nearby Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park, Big Basin puts campers right in the center of a dramatic redwood forest. A fair amount of sunlight filters through the dense cluster of giants—which dwarf the tan oaks and hemlocks among them—and an abundance of mossy rocks and fallen trees decorate the thick blanket of redwood needles layered on the ground. Average-sized sites offer minimal privacy but their distribution over four separate campgrounds helps to reduce incidental noise. Big Basin was established in 1902 as California's first state park. Of its more than 80 miles of trails, the Berry Creek Falls hike (11 miles round-trip), which threads past a superb series of redwoods to a pretty waterfall, should be atop your to-do list. Although just 24 miles northwest of Santa Cruz, the road into the park, Hwy. 236, is very slow and windy. Tent cabins are in separate loop and are reserved by a concessionaire at (831) 338-4745.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year, although, during the winter most of the campgrounds are closed except for Huckleberry. **Site Assignment:** Reservations recommended during summer; V, MC, D. **Registration:** At park headquarters. **Fee:** \$16, cash, CA check. \$5 fee for additional vehicles. **Parking:** At site. \$5 fee for additional vehicles.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 31. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 68. **Number of Multipurpose Sites:** 38. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, food-storage box. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes, only in the tent cabin loop which is a separate concessionaire. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Paved, some potholes. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 9.5 mi. southeast in Boulder Creek. **Restaurant:** 9.5 mi. southeast in Boulder Creek. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Hiking, photography, exploring redwood forests. **Nearby Attractions:** Mission Santa Clara de Asis, various museums in Santa Clara; Hakone Japanese Gardens, Saso Herb Gardens in Saratoga; state beaches along the coast. **Additional Information:** Santa Clara CVB, (408) 224-9660 or (800) 272-6822; Saratoga Chamber of Commerce, (408) 867-0753.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash. Not allowed on trails. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 27 ft.



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TO GET THERE

From Santa Cruz drive 13.3 mi. north on Hwy. 9 to Boulder Creek. Turn left (west) on Hwy. 236 and continue for 8 mi. to the park entrance. The park headquarters are 1 mi. down the road.

SANTA ROSA MAP, C-2
Spring Lake Regional Park

5585 Newanga Ave., Santa Rosa 95403. T: (707) 539-8092 or (707) 565-2267; www.sonoma-county.org/parks.

 ★★★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Spring Lake is a small body of water encircled by rolling hills of mature oaks, pines, and bay trees. It is a calm retreat just a few minutes from the heart of suburban Santa Rosa. As such, it is hardly a well-kept secret, and you are liable to have company here at almost any time of year. No problem, the grass-covered sites are large enough for you to comfortably spread out your gear, and decently spaced apart around a tree-dotted meadow. Lichen-speckled rocks are scattered across the turf, adding to the natural feel of this agreeable camp. Some sites are impacted by a gentle slope toward the water, and none are graced with a view of the lake. Still, there is a good amount of fine slots, with 28 and 30, at the loop's periphery, ideal for RVers desiring privacy. Five, 26, and 27 are equipped with pull-through parking. Tent campers who don't mind being some distance from their cars should grab 12 or 14, which are secluded and give access to the lake. Note that from October 1 through April the campground is only open on weekends and holidays.

BASICS

Operated By: County of Sonoma, Regional Parks Dept. **Open:** May 1–Sep. 30; weekends & holidays only Oct. 1–Apr. 30. **Site Assignment:** Reservations recommended especially during summer. (V, MC). **Registration:** At entrance office. **Fee:** \$16, cash, CA check. \$5 fee for additional vehicle. **Parking:** At site. \$5 fee for additional vehicle.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 27. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 4. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, food-storage box. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 2 mi. west in Santa Rosa. **Restaurant:** 2 mi. west in Santa Rosa. **General Store:** Snack stand 0.5 mi. from campground. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Swimming lagoon, Mem. Day–Labor Day. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, boat ramp, fishing pier, visitor center, snack stand nearby. **Activities:** Hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, windsurfing. **Nearby Attractions:** Santa Rosa museums, Luther Burbank Home & Gardens; San Francisco Solano Mission, winery tours in Sonoma, Santa Rosa City Park. **Additional**

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Information: Santa Rosa CVB, (800) 404-ROSE; Sonoma County Tourism Program, (800) 5-SONOMA or (707) 565-5383.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On 6-ft. leash; rabies certificate required; \$1 fee. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 40 ft. Some 70 ft. available. Call for details.

TO GET THERE

From Santa Rosa on US 101 take Hwy. 12 east. After 1.25 mi. exit onto Hoen Frontage Rd. which will turn into Hoen Ave. After 1.5 mi. turn left on Newanga Ave., which veers sharply to the right. The park entrance is 0.6 mi. ahead.

SANTEE MAP, F-3
Santee Lakes Regional Park and Campground

9040 Carlton Oaks Dr., Santee 92071.T: (619) 596-3141; www.padredam.org/santee.html.

 ★★★★★	 ★★
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

For comfort in camping, Santee Lakes merits an enthusiastic “thumbs up.” From tight security to remarkably clean rest rooms, from a heated pool to a modem in the office, RV camping does not get much better than this. California sycamores, eucalyptus, and palm trees hover over the lush, grassy grounds, which also encompass a series of seven lakes—ponds, really. One of those is dotted with tiny islands and has been set aside for canoeing and pedal boats. Two others are stocked with fish, and the great number of waterfront sites means that anglers can camp where the action is. Still, despite respectable screening and level terrain, tent camping purists are likely to find the slots a bit too close together. Their best option—short of decamping altogether—is the remote and barren-looking Cottonwood loop (only open weekends), where an absence of such amenities as shade, screening, and barbecue grills guarantees a high level of solitude. An added plus for this park is its close proximity to a San Diego trolley stop.

BASICS

Operated By: Padre Dam Municipal Water District. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$18–\$35, cash, V, MC, D. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 224. **Hookups:** Electric (20, 30, 50 amps), water, sewer, Internet. **Each Site:** Picnic table, barbecue grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 3 mi. east in Santee. **Restaurant:** 3 mi. east in Santee. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Heated pool. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:**

Wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Fishing, bicycling, horseshoe pit, volleyball, canoe & paddle boat rentals. **Nearby Attractions:** San Diego & its waterfront, museums, zoo, historic district.

Additional Information: San Diego CVB, (619) 232-3101.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash; not allowed in day-use area; \$1 fee. **Fires:** Not allowed. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 45 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Hwy. 67 in Santee exit at Woodside/Santee. Woodside changes into Mission Gorge. Drive 2 mi. on Mission Gorge, turn right onto Carlton Hills Blvd. and after 0.5 mi. turn left onto Carlton Oaks. The campground is 0.4 mi. ahead on the right.

SEQUOIA MAP, D-2
SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK
Potwisha

Sequoia National Park, Generals Hwy., Sequoia National Park 93262.T: (559) 565-3341; www.nps.gov/seki.

 ★★★★★	 ★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

Potwisha is named for the Native Americans who once roamed these parts. It is four miles north of Sequoia National Park's south entrance station, 12 miles from the Giant Forest grove of impossibly large redwood trees. Situated at 2,100 feet elevation, Potwisha enjoys an understated beauty, especially in spring when buttercups and other wildflowers decorate its tall green grass, the buckeye trees are ablaze with white blossoms, and the steeply sloping hills are ripe with flowering yucca. There is an authentically natural flavor to this campground, in contrast to the mega-sized Lodgepole, a camper-coral in the heart of the park. Several sites are equipped with pull-through parking, and those along the lower loop, nearer the river, are the more private. Number 18 is all by itself next to a large boulder; 21, 22, and 24, above the river, are roomy and shaded by oaks. Regular bear sightings make using the metal storage lockers a necessity. A highly scenic trail along the Marble Fork leads out of camp by site 17. The road from Potwisha to the Giant Forest and Lodgepole, an uphill, serpentine, white-knuckle drive, ascends 4,500 feet and is not recommended for vehicles over 22 feet in length.

BASICS

Operated By: National Park Service. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$18, cash, check. \$5 park entrance fee. \$20 annual parking pass. **Parking:** At site. \$20 for annual parking pass.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 43. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, bearproof

box. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Flush toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 10 mi. southwest in Three Rivers. **Restaurant:** 10 mi. southwest in Three Rivers. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Hiking, wildlife viewing, white-water rafting on Kaweah River. **Nearby Attractions:** Kings Canyon National Park; Tulare County Museum in Visalia; Kaweah Oaks Preserve in Exeter; Kaweah Lake. **Additional Information:** Visalia Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau, (559) 734-5876; Three Rivers–Lemoncove Business Assoc., (550) 561-0410.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On 6-ft. leash; not allowed on trails. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 32 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Visalia drive 37 mi. east on Hwy. 198 to the park's Ash Mountain entrance station. Continue 4 mi. north on Generals Hwy. The well-signed campground entrance is on the left.

SHELTER COVE MAP, B-1
Tolkan

Kings Peak Rd., Shelter Cove 95589. T: (707) 986-5400 or (707) 825-2300; www.ca.blm.gov/arcata/campground.html.

 ★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★

The Bureau of Land Management is in the midst of an ambitious campaign to revamp many of its long-neglected properties. Nowhere is that more apparent than at this hidden gem, cloaked within the overgrown heart of the rugged King Range National Conservation Area high above the Lost Coast, about ten miles inland from Shelter Cove (the last three are a dirt washboard). Tolkan now features royally spacious, gravel, and dirt sites equipped with new tables, fire grates, and back-in parking slots large enough to handle the most colossal of motor homes. The units have been distributed so far apart that it is hard to go wrong with any, but the most isolated and largest is site 7, handsomely ensconced under a massive pine tree. An old-fashioned water tower rests on four stilts in the center of the single loop, partially screened by the varied conifers, manzanita, tan oak, madrone, and ceanothus that grow so abundantly throughout this mountainous ridge.

BASICS

Operated By: Bureau of Land Management, Arcata Field Office. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$8, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 5. **Number of Tent-only**

Sites: 4. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, food lockers (some sites). **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Gravel & dirt, decent condition. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 9 mi. s.w. in Shelter Cove. **Restaurant:** 9 mi. s.w. in Shelter Cove. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Hiking, mushroom-plucking (permit required). **Nearby Attractions:** Richardson Grove State Park in Garberville; Smithe Redwoods State Reserve, Standish Hickey State Recreation Area in Leggett; Ave. of the Giants north of Garberville; Humboldt Redwoods State Park in Weott. **Additional Information:** Shelter Cove Information Bureau, (707) 923-1830; Garberville-Redway Area Chamber of Commerce, (707) 923-2613.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 22 ft.

TO GET THERE

Exit US 101 at Garberville and drive through the downtown, turning left on Redwood Rd. at the sign for the King Range National Conservation Area. After 2.6 mi. turn left on Briceland Rd. which becomes the meandering and steep Shelter Cove Rd. Drive 18.3 mi. and turn right on Kings Peak Rd. Continue for 3.8 mi. to the well-marked campground on the right.

SIERRA CITY MAP, B-3

Wild Plum

Wild Plum Rd., Sierra City 96125.
T: (530) 288-3231 or (530) 993-1410;
www.fs.fed.us/r5/tahoe.

★★★ ★★★★★

Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★

Gadzooks! What has this book steered me to, a construction zone? may be the first words you voice when, after maneuvering down the bad camp road, you arrive at an expansive mound of river stones. Persevere; the campground, right alongside the musical, rollicking Haypress Creek (which flows into the Yuba River), is a delight and well worth your initial discomfort. Of the three separate loops to this mountainous pine forest, the middle one climbs uphill to the best sites for views of the water as well as neighboring ridge-tops. The most spacious is 32, but 33–36 also overlook the creek. On the lower tracks, 7 is set well back in a corner location and 19 is tucked behind an embankment. While the ground throughout the property is rather rocky, most dirt- and pine needle-surfaced sites have enough smooth, level ground for the staking of a tent. Parking, too, is ample for medium-size RVs and trailers. Wild Plum, which rests at 4,400 feet elevation, is often over-run by youthful kayak-

ers, especially on summer weekends. If you find it full, there is also a fair amount of secluded sites at the less-popular Loganville Campground, 1.5 miles west of Sierra City.

BASICS

Operated By: High Sierra Campground Management, concessionaire. **Open:** May–Oct. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$16, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 21. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 23. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, some equipped w/ bearproof box. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved & some dirt, bumpy. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 2 mi. west in Sierra City. **Restaurant:** 2 mi. west in Sierra City. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Activities:** Hiking, kayaking, fishing, gold panning. **Nearby Attractions:** Kentucky Mine, Stampmill & Museum in Sierra City; Empire Mine State Historic Park in Grass Valley; Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park in Nevada City; Downieville Foundry/Museum, Gallows, & County Museum; Tahoe National Forest. **Additional Information:** Grass Valley–Nevada County Chamber of Commerce, (530) 273-4667; Sierra County Chamber of Commerce, (530) 862-0308 or (800) 200-4949.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 22 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Grass Valley drive about 55 mi. north on Hwy. 49 to Sierra City. Continue for 0.5 mi. and turn right on Wild Plum Rd. Cross a narrow bridge and follow the gravel road for 1.5 mi. over another bridge into the campground.

SONORA MAP, C-3

Boulder Flat

Stanislaus National Forest, Hwy. 108, Sonora 95364. T: (209) 965-3434;
www.fs.fed.us/r5/stanislaus.

★★★★★ ★★★

Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★

Of the great number of Stanislaus National Forest campgrounds along Hwy. 108, Boulder Flat is perhaps the most appropriately named, given its granite-strewn appearance. It is also arguably one of the prettier facilities, reflecting something of a wild, high Sierra Nevada ambience. A spiny alpine ridge flanks one side of camp, the Stanislaus River purls by another, while a series of pointy peaks hover over the scene. Grass and dirt sites, punctuated by several stands of enormous red-bark cedars,

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are larger and more dispersed than at nearby Brighton Flat, and less barren-looking and exposed than those at Eureka Valley (though the latter also features an impressive array of boulders, and has the river sluicing past on two sides). It is true that Boulder Flat picks up auto noise from the Sonora Pass, but the same might be said of all the other campgrounds along this stretch of road. The town of Sonora is 50 miles west, and Dardanelle, where you will find a telephone and general store, two miles east.

BASICS

Operated By: Dodge Ridge Corp, concessionaire. **Open:** May–Sep., weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$15 single, \$17 double, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 20. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 36 mi. southwest in Twain Harte or Dardanelle. **Restaurant:** 36 mi. southwest in Twain Harte. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Activities:** Fishing, hiking, horseback riding. **Nearby Attractions:** Tuolumne County Museum & History Center in Sonora; Pinecrest Lake; Sonora Pass. **Additional Information:** Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau, (209) 533-4420 or (800) 446-1333.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 22 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Sonora drive 49 mi. east on Hwy. 108. The campground entrance is on the left, just beyond Clark Fork Rd.

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE MAP, C-3

D. L. Bliss State Park

West Shore Lake Tahoe, Hwy. 89, South Lake Tahoe 96142. T: (530) 525-7277;
(530) 525-7232; www.cal-parks.ca.gov or www.caescapes.com.

★★★ ★★★

Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★

D. L. Bliss was a pioneering lumberman, banker, and railroad owner whose family donated 744 acres of this land to the state park system in 1929. More than 70 years later, the campground retains an appealingly rustic look. That it lacks the “Hooverville” feel of so many other facilities its size may be chalked up to its pleasingly chaotic Sierra Nevada setting. Huge granite boulders vie for space with incense cedars, lodgepole, and Jeffrey pines across a steep hillside that ends at a sandy

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beach and picnic area on the shore of Lake Tahoe. Roomy sites are tightly clustered over a series of loops, but they don't seem crowded, due to a degree of buffering provided by the boulders. For the most space and best views of the indigo water, try for the loop with sites 141–168, which also has a number of pull-through parking slots. Make time for hiking the Rubicon trail (4.5 miles, one way), which offers stellar views of the lake and a chance to see osprey nesting in the tall trees. It ends at Vikingsholm Mansion (worth a visit), at scenic Emerald Bay. The shorter Balancing Rock nature trail (half a mile long) winds through the forest to a precariously positioned granite boulder.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** Late May–mid-Sep., weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** Reservations recommended; V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$8–\$13, cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 168. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, bearproof box, some sites have barbecue grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 11 mi. south in South Lake Tahoe. **Restaurant:** 11 mi. south in South Lake Tahoe. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Lake Tahoe. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Beach. **Activities:** Hiking, fishing, bird-watching. **Nearby Attractions:** Emerald Bay State Park, Vikingsholm Mansion in Tahoma; Lake Tahoe Historical Museum in South Lake Tahoe. **Additional Information:** South Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce, (530) 541-5255.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 18 ft.

TO GET THERE

From South Lake Tahoe, at the junction of US 50 and Hwy. 89, follow Hwy. 89 north for 11.4 mi. to the entrance of the state park on the right. After making that turn, the campground is straight ahead.

SPRINGVILLE MAP, D-2
Wishon

Camp Wishon Rd./CR 208, Springville 93265.
T: (559) 539-2607 or (877) 444-6777;
www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia.

 ★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

Wishon, at 4,000 feet elevation, is not for the tidy at heart. It's a sprawling campground that overlaps a congested tangle of trees and rocks. The boulder-larded landscape adds convincingly to the mountainous feel here, and to the difficulty in walking

through the domain after dark. The unspoiled allure of this primitive, peaceful setting is accentuated by craggy Sierra ridges that seem to brush the sky overhead. Middle Fork of the North Tule River cuts the camp in half, with the more appealing sites across the small bridge, where aged, spidery-limbed oaks bestow the gift of shade. Additional shelter and screening are provided by ponderosa pines, madrone, manzanita, and cedar. Sites 20, 21, and 28, tucked behind boulders, are the most private. This national forest campground is in the southern unit of the new Giant Sequoia National Monument, making it a great base for exploring trails in the area. The host's residence is adjacent to the property.

BASICS

Operated By: California Land Management, concessionaire. **Open:** All year, weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$14, cash, check; \$28 for double site. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 36. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, barbecue grill. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** 10 mi. west in Springville. **Market:** 28 mi. west in Porterville. **Restaurant:** 10 mi. west in Springville. **General Store:** 10 mi. west in Springville. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Activities:** Hiking, fishing. **Nearby Attractions:** Sequoia National Forest; Porterville Historical Museum, Zauld House & Gardens; California Hot Springs. **Additional Information:** Springville Chamber of Commerce, (559) 539-2312; Porterville Chamber of Commerce, (559) 784-7503.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 24 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Porterville drive 24 mi. east on Hwy. 190 to Camp Wishon Rd. Turn left and proceed 4 mi. to the campground entrance on the right.

ST. HELENA MAP, C-2
Bothe-Napa Valley State Park

3801 St. Helena Hwy. (Hwy. 29), St. Helena 94515. T: (707) 942-4575 or (800) 444-7275;
www.parks.ca.gov.

 ★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★
Insect Control: ★	Facilities: ★★

The Wappo Indians used to call this part of the valley home until being displaced by white settlers in the middle of the nineteenth century. In honor of its first inhabitants the park maintains a small "Native American garden" of herbs and vegetables

the Wappos are believed to have cultivated. Indigenous plants are featured in a more natural setting around the campground, its lollipop loop being abundantly furnished with a variety of conifers and oaks, toyon, bay, madrone, manzanita, and poison oak. Most campers gravitate to the top of the cul-de-sac near the latrines. The more private sites, though, are 1–9 at the front end of the drive, and their gravel parking slips are long enough to accommodate almost any size RV. One of the better trails in Bothe-Napa leads to volcanic ash cliffs atop Upper Ritchey Canyon. And for unusual amenities in a state park, how about the swimming pool, open from Memorial Day through Labor Day? That sure beats wading in the stream that trickles by one side of camp, spawning hordes of mosquitoes in the spring.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC, D. First come, first served sites available. **Registration:** At kiosk opposite site 11. **Fee:** \$16, cash, CA check. \$4 per extra vehicle. **Parking:** At site. \$4 per extra vehicle.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 40. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 9. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, food storage box. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 3 mi. north in Calistoga. **Restaurant:** 3 mi. north in Calistoga. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Pool seasonally. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, visitor center. **Activities:** Hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, bird-watching, interpretive programs, horseshoe pit, Ritchey Canyon, picnicking, swimming. **Nearby Attractions:** Luther Burbank Home & Gardens, Annadel State Park, museums in Santa Rosa; winery tours; Native American Garden. **Additional Information:** Santa Rosa CVB, (800) 404-ROSE.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 31 ft.

TO GET THERE

From St. Helena follow Hwy. 29 north for 4.5 mi. The well-marked park entrance is on the left, beyond Bale Grist Mill State Park.

SUSANVILLE MAP, B-3
Bogard

FR 31N21 off Hwy. 44, Susanville 96130.
T: (530) 257-4188; www.fs.fed.us/r5/lassen.

 ★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★

Searching for a peaceful camp where you are more likely to hear birds chirping and the tapping

of woodpeckers than another camper's voice? Then Bogard is just the place. It is situated in a mountainous—though level—pine and alder forest, with rocks, pine needle, and grass coloring the floor of sites. That there are so few sites is refreshing. Of the many good spots, the very best for privacy are 4, 6, 7, 10, and 11. We prefer Bogard as a base camp to Butte Creek, also a Lassen National Forest campground, even though the second is closer to the Butte Lake section of Lassen National Park. Bogard is used less often by hunters and has thus suffered less wear and tear during the off-season. There is no trash pick-up, and the rustic pump delivers rusty water, so plan to pack-in drinking water and pack-out your rubbish. Surprisingly, the back-in parking slots are paved.

BASICS

Operated By: CSU Chico Research Foundation, concessionaire. **Open:** May–Oct., weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$10, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 22. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 28 mi. east in Susanville. **Restaurant:** 28 mi. east in Susanville. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Activities:** Hiking, fishing, wildlife viewing. **Nearby Attractions:** Bizz Johnson National Recreation Trail; Railroad Depot, Lassen Historical Museum; Lassen Volcanic National Park; Eagle Lake Recreation Area. **Additional Information:** Lassen County Chamber of Commerce, (530) 257-4323.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 28 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Susanville drive 6 mi. west on Hwy. 36. Bear right on Hwy. 44 and continue for 20 mi., then turn left on FR 31N26 (a dirt washboard immediately after the rest area sign). Proceed for 1.6 mi. and take a right on FR 31N21. The campground is 0.5 mi. ahead.

SUSANVILLE MAP, B-3 Goumaz

FR 30N03, Susanville 96130. T: (530) 257-4188; www.r5.fs.fed.us/lassen.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★	Cleanliness: ★★★
Insect Control: ★	Facilities: ★

Aside from a vaulted toilet, which is shared with hikers doing the Bizz Johnson “rails to trails” path that runs by the camp, this place has nada for facil-

ities. If you can do without the other comforts, though, you'll have it made in the glade. Goumaz, at 5,200-foot elevation, is a thinly forested, delightfully pretty, alpine campground in a level, sunny spot right alongside the Susan River. There is plenty of elbowroom between the five sites, and four of those abut the water. Thus, it is hard to go wrong with any of these units, though site 2 enjoys a commanding view of a bend in the river and 4, which has pull-through parking (as does 1), is just 15 feet from a melodic cascade. Pine trees and grassy meadows contribute to a peaceful atmosphere that is marred only occasionally by the buzzing of a passing military jet. Biting flies can be a nuisance from mid-spring through early summer, so bring repellent. Susanville lies less than 20 miles to the east.

BASICS

Operated By: CSU Chico Research Foundation, concessionaire, & Lassen National Forest, Eagle Lake Ranger District. **Open:** May–Oct., weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$8, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 5. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Packed dirt & volcanic cinder, decent condition. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 16 mi. east in Susanville. **Restaurant:** 16 mi. east in Susanville. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Activities:** Hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, bird-watching. **Nearby Attractions:** Lassen National Scenic Byway (Hwys. 89/44/36); Lassen Volcanic National Park; Bizz Johnson National Recreation Trail, Lassen Historical Museum; Lake Almanor. **Additional Information:** Lassen County Chamber of Commerce, (530) 257-4323.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 30 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Susanville drive 6 mi. west on Hwy. 36. Turn right on Hwy. 44 and continue for 7.1 mi. Turn left on FR 30N03/Goumaz Rd. The campground is 3.4 mi. ahead on the right.

SUSANVILLE MAP, B-3 Merrill

Eagle Lake Rd., Susanville 96130. T: (530) 257-4188 or (877) 444-6777; www.fs.fed.us/r5/lassen.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★

Susanville CALIFORNIA 219

The deep blue Eagle Lake is California's second largest natural body of water, a magnificent mountain lake that is ringed by ponderosa, Jeffrey and white pines, with low-slung peaks nuzzling the horizon. The beauty of the scene more than compensates for the shocking impression made by the clear-cutting of national forest land along the drive to Eagle Summit, a process that appears to be turning large patches of forest into mountain heath. Sites at Merrill are evenly distributed over six loops and are either grassy or covered in pine needles, and partially shaded by pines. Many of those lie just 100 feet from the water, with 164 and 180 the most isolated. Also worth reserving are 167, 169, 171, 172, 174, 176, and 178. Security is above average for a national forest camp, with two separate hosts patrolling the domain. Also vigilant in summer are omnipresent game wardens, something to remember if you intend to fish. Showers, pay phones, fuel, groceries, and laundry machines are available at the marina, three miles away.

BASICS

Operated By: CSU Chico Research Foundation, concessionaire, & Lassen National Forest, Eagle Lake Ranger District. **Open:** May–Oct., weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC, D for Aspen & Pine loops. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$14–\$16, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 180. **Hookups:** None, but planned. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Flush toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 14 mi. north in Spaulding. **Restaurant:** 14 mi. north in Spaulding. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Eagle Lake. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, boat ramp, marina. **Activities:** Fishing, waterskiing, canoeing, bicycling. **Nearby Attractions:** Bizz Johnson National Recreation Trail; Railroad Depot, Lassen Historical Museum; Lassen Volcanic National Park. **Additional Information:** Lassen County Chamber of Commerce, (530) 257-4323.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 45 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Susanville drive 4 mi. west on Hwy. 36. Turn right on Eagle Lake Rd./CR A1 and continue for 13.7 mi. to Gallatin Rd. Take a right and proceed for 1 mi. to the campground entrance on the right. The marina is 1 mi. farther.

220 CALIFORNIA Tahoma

TAHOMA MAP, C-3
General Creek Campground

Sugar Pine Point State Park, West Shore Lake Tahoe/Hwy. 89, Tahoma 96142. T: (530) 525-7982 or (800) 444-7275; www.parks.ca.gov.

★★★	★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★★

So close to Lake Tahoe, and yet so far. That, in a phrase, sums up one of the more frustrating aspects of this otherwise fine state park. General Creek Campground, at an altitude of 6,250 feet, consists of several loops that wind through a level pine forest that is uphill and across the street from the lake, but offers no views of the water. There is decent screening between sites, which is fortunate, given how closely they are clustered. The circuit with units 126–175 features the most dispersed spots, while that containing 76–125 runs a close second. This is the only state park in the area to stay open all year, a boon to cross-country skiers and hardy, hot-blooded campers. Spring, though, is one of the better times to come, before the roads are clogged by tourists, and while the snow plants and manzanita are in bloom. The Hellman-Ehrman Mansion, an opulent, pine-paneled summer home built a century ago, is open for tours from July through Labor Day.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations recommended; V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$15, cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 175. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire ring, bearproof box, most sites have barbecue grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes, showers closed in winter. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 1 mi. north in Tahoma. **Restaurant:** 1 mi. north in Tahoma. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Lake Tahoe. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Lighthouse, beach, Nature Center, Hellman-Ehrman Mansion. **Activities:** Hiking, fishing, bird-watching, cross-country skiing. **Nearby Attractions:** Gatekeeper's Museum/Marion Steinbach Indian Basket Museum, Watson Cabin Museum in Tahoe City; Emerald Bay State Park, Vikingsholm Mansion in Tahoma. **Additional Information:** South Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce, (530) 541-5255.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** RVs 32 ft.; trailers 26 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Tahoe City drive 9.7 mi. south on Hwy. 89, past Tahoma. The campground is on the right.

TAHOMA MAP, C-3
Meeks Bay

West Shore Lake Tahoe, Hwy. 89, Tahoma 96142. T: (530) 525-6946 or (877) 326-3357; www.meeksbayresort.com.

★★★	★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★

If your idea of a restful vacation spot is a quiet place to pitch your tent or park your camper, don't even think about stopping at Meeks Bay. Just 11 miles south of Tahoe City, this national forest camp is hunkered up against a bend in Hwy. 89 as it follows the contours of Lake Tahoe, subjecting it to the roar of an ongoing stream of traffic. If, on the other hand, beach time is what makes you tick, drive on in and sink your toes into the soft sandy stretch of shore here at the heart of the scenically gorgeous Meeks Bay. Soak up the rays and enjoy the hazy view of Nevada and its mountains across the lake. Or get out on the water via the boat ramp at the resort next door. As for the attractive campground, at 6,300-foot elevation, its level, sandy, and grassy sites are dispersed around a convoluted series of loops. Though they are rather exposed, many are shaded by mature Jeffrey pines, with smaller conifers, some manzanita, and young incense cedars adding to the beauty of the scene. The Meeks Bay trailhead leads into the Desolation Wilderness, across the road.

BASICS

Operated By: Concessionaire. **Open:** Mid-May–Oct. 31. **Site Assignment:** Reservations recommended; V, MC, D. **Registration:** In general store. **Fee:** \$20, tent; \$25, RV no hookup; \$30, RV w/ hookup. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 38. **Hookups:** Electric, water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire ring, barbecue grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 4 mi. north in Homewood. **Restaurant:** 2 mi. north in Tahoma. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Lake Tahoe. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Beach. **Activities:** Fishing, boating, volleyball, hiking. **Nearby Attractions:** Gatekeeper's Museum/Marion Steinbach Indian Basket Museum, Watson Cabin Museum in Tahoe City; Emerald Bay State Park & Vikingsholm Mansion in Tahoma, shopping, restaurants. **Additional Information:** South Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce, (530) 541-5255.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: Not allowed. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 60 ft. max.

TO GET THERE

From Tahoe City drive 11.2 mi. south on Hwy. 89. The campground entrance is on the left, right after Meeks Bay RV Resort & Marina.

TEMECULA MAP, F-3
Lake Skinner Recreation Area

37701 Warren Rd., Temecula 92596. T: (909) 926-1541 or (800) 234-7275; www.riversidecountyparks.org.

★★★★★	★★
Beauty: ★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Forget the hiking and equestrian trails at Lake Skinner and its proximity to nearly a dozen wineries. There is really only one reason to visit this huge campground, and that reason is spelled f-i-s-h-i-n-g. The lake is stocked weekly from November through May, making it one of the better fishing spots in southern California for trout, bass, bluegill, catfish, and crappie. Serious anglers will appreciate the lake-wide speed limit of ten miles per hour and may want to plan their trips around the derbies held for catfish in August and trout in November, when cash prizes are awarded. Keep in mind, though, that boats must be at least ten feet long and canoes and kayaks are not permitted on the water. Of the campground itself, there are three large loops spread over grassy meadows, with few of the average-looking sites endowed with a lake view. Shade, too, is scarce, despite the scattered presence of sycamores and pepper trees. B and C loops offer sites that appear marginally less crowded together than those in loop A.

BASICS

Operated By: Riverside County Regional Park. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/ V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$15–\$18, cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 300. **Hookups:** Electric (30, 50 amps), water, sewer. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** For boats. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 8 mi. southwest in Temecula. **Restaurant:** 8 mi. southwest in Temecula. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Pool seasonally. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, 2 boat ramps. **Activities:** Fishing, hiking, horseback riding, horseshoe pit, volleyball, boat rentals. **Nearby Attractions:** Numerous wineries, Palomar Mountain Observatory. **Additional Information:** Temecula Valley Chamber of Commerce (909) 676-5090.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On 6-ft. leash; \$2. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 45 ft.

TO GET THERE

From I-15 in Temecula take Rancho California Rd. Exit and head east for 9.5 mi. Turn right on Warren Rd. Campground entrance is straight ahead.

TRINIDAD MAP, B-1
Patrick's Point State Park

4150 Patrick's Point Dr., Trinidad 95570.
T: (707) 677-3570; www.parks.ca.gov.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Visitors to this breathtakingly beautiful state park are in for a special treat. We're not referring to Sumeg, its reconstructed Yurok Indian village. Nor to the thriving tide pools and pretty beach. Beyond the chance of seeing passing whales from towering, pine-shrouded bluffs, Patrick's Point has an ace up its figurative sleeve: its campground is one of the finest in the entire state park system. There is a wild, untamed atmosphere to the domain, with the rock-studded undergrowth thick with ferns and moss. Three detached loop areas feature sites that are uncommonly spacious and well-screened, a generous allowance of space that grants campers a refreshing dignity of privacy. Those in the shady Abalone circuit (from 16–85) are the roomiest, while Agate's (86–97) enjoy more sun exposure and have stunning views of the surf. The RV section, admittedly, is typically tight, but its ocean vistas are a balancing amelioration. Cabin and yurt rentals are also available.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$15, cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 124. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, food storage box. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 6.5 mi. south in Trinidad. **Restaurant:** 6.5 mi. south in Trinidad. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, gift shop in the visitor's center. **Activities:** Hiking, fishing, whale watching, tide-pooling. **Nearby Attractions:** Trinidad State Beach, museums, Memorial Lighthouse & Aquarium; Sumeg Village; Fort Humboldt State Historic Park, Humboldt Bay Harbor Cruise & Maritime Museum, Romano Gabriel Wooden Sculpture Garden, Carson Mansion, Main St., zoo, more in Eureka. **Additional Information:** Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, (707) 677-1610; Greater Eureka Chamber of Commerce, (707) 442-3738.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 31 ft.



TO GET THERE

From Eureka drive 28 mi. north on US 101 and take the Patrick's Point State Park Exit. Drive 0.4

mi. west on Patrick's Point Dr. to the park entrance on the right.

TRUCKEE MAP, B-3
Logger

Stampede Valley Rd., Truckee 96161.
T: (530) 587-3558 or (530) 544-0426;
www.fs.fed.us/r5/tahoe.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★

Campers who make a practice of shying away from oversize properties with numerous loops may want to make an exception for Logger, which is so vast it has west and east entrances. In spite of its inauspicious name, there is an abundance of ponderosa pines across its hillside perch, above the south shore of the deep blue Stampede Reservoir. Sage-colored salt bush and other low-lying shrubs don't add much to the minimal screening between dirt- and pine needle-surfaced sites, but in general, space and shade are above average for such a crowded campground. One of the more private sites is 22, and 39 is well-shaded, with a water view; two of the larger pull-through slots are 32, also with a lake view, and 37. Other fine options include 25, 79, 83, and 84. Logger, which is less than 20 miles from Truckee, is at an elevation of 5,949 feet, making a coat or sweater essential apparel, even in summer. Stampede Reservoir is a popular fishing spot for Kokanee salmon, so don't forget your rod. Seasonal drawdowns, however, can leave the lake disappointingly low by late summer.

BASICS

Operated By: California Land Management, concessionaire. **Open:** May 15–Sep. 30, weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$13, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 252. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, barbecue grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 11 mi. south in Boca. **Restaurant:** 18 mi. south in Truckee. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Stampede Reservoir. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, boat ramp. **Activities:** Fishing, boating, waterskiing, hiking, meeting your neighbors. **Nearby Attractions:** Boreal Mountain Ski Resort, Donner Memorial State Park, Western Skisport Museum, historic downtown Truckee; Lake Tahoe. **Additional Information:** Truckee Donner Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center, (530) 587-2757.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 32 ft.



Tulelake CALIFORNIA 221

TO GET THERE

From Truckee drive 7 mi. east on I-80. Take the Boca/Stampede–Hirschdale Rd. Exit and proceed north for 8.7 mi., past the Boca Reservoir. Turn left onto CR S261 and drive 2 mi. to the campground entrance on the right.

TULELAKE MAP, A-2
Indian Well

Lava Beds National Monument, Lava Beds National Monument Rd., Tulelake 96134.
T: (530) 667-2282/230; www.nps.gov/labe.

 ★★★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★

At just over 46,000 acres, Lava Beds National Monument may not seem a very large preserve. It manages, though, to pack a great deal within the confines of its boundaries. Located 55 miles south of Klamath Falls, Oregon, this high desert terrain has been dramatically painted by lava runoff from the Medicine Lake volcano, and a large swath of its rugged, rocky tufa-terrain saw the final curtain drawn on the Modoc war. Most dramatically, there are over 380 lava tube caves in the park, with two dozen developed for easy—and often thrilling—exploration. Most of those are a short drive from the campground, which is divided into a pair of loops. Cinder and spatter cones mark the approach to camp, and such desert scrub as sage brush, rabbit brush, bitter brush, and mountain mahogany contribute a hint of green to the bituminous landscape. Aged, gnarly junipers scattered over the undulating lava meadow shed shade on a few fortunate sites, such as the roomy, recessed B25 and both A5 and A6, the latter two also being graced with expansive valley views. At 4,770 feet of elevation, nights at Indian Well can be quite windy and cold from late October through early April. Keep an eye out for kangaroo rats after dark.

BASICS

Operated By: National Park Service. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** Self-registration. **Fee:** \$10, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Tent-only Sites: 43. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire ring, barbecue grill. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes, calling cards only. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Flush toilets, vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 14 mi. south in Tionesta (basic supplies). **Restaurant:** 30 mi. north in Tulelake. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, visitor center. **Activities:** Hiking, lava tube caving, bird-watching, ranger programs (summer only). **Nearby Attractions:** Tule Lake, Klamath National Wildlife Refuges; Medicine Lake Recreation Area; Petroglyph

222 CALIFORNIA Twentynine Palms

Section at the northeast entrance of Lava Beds National Monument. **Additional Information:** Tulelake Chamber of Commerce, (530) 667-5312.

RESTRICTIONS
Pets: On 6-ft. leash; not allowed on trails. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE
From Tulelake drive 26 mi. south on Hwy. 139. Turn right (west) on Tionesta Rd. and continue for 2.7 mi. Turn right again on Lava Beds National Monument Rd. and proceed for 14 mi. The campground entrance is to the right, directly across the visitor center.

TWENTYNINE PALMS MAP, E-4
Cottonwood

74485 National Park Dr., Twentynine Palms 92277. T: (760) 367-5525; www.nps.gov/jotr.

★★★	★★★
Beauty: ★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★

This is a neat-looking camp located near the southern entrance to Joshua Tree National Park, just seven miles north of I-10. It is a long drive from here to the park's concentration of granite boulders, which are looked upon almost as totemic objects by amateur climbers, and the celebrated stands of Joshua trees that thrive at higher altitudes. Thus, this facility is usually the last to fill, even on weekends. It is popular nonetheless among RVers, partly because this is one of the few campgrounds in Joshua Tree to provide potable water, and pull-up parking is the norm throughout the two loops. Despite the sites being rather small and closely situated, most are pretty well screened by a mix of mesquite, jojoba, cholla cacti, and other desert scrub. The trail to Mastodon Peak starts in the campground, and that to Lost Palms Oasis is nearby. The nearest telephone is 12 miles east on I-10 at Chiriaco Summit.

BASICS
Operated By: National Park Service. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$10, cash only. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES
Number of RV Sites: 62. **Hookups:** None; water available. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Flush toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 12 mi. east in Chiriaco Summit. **Restaurant:** 12 mi. east in Chiriaco Summit. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Very limited wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Hiking, mountain climbing, bicycling, horseback riding, ranger-led programs. **Nearby Attractions:** Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge, Joshua Tree

National Park. **Additional Information:** Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau, (760) 367-3445.

RESTRICTIONS
Pets: On 6-ft. leash; not allowed on trails. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 27 ft.

TO GET THERE
From the I-10 Exit for Joshua Tree National Park drive 7 mi. north. Turn right at the sign and proceed 0.7 mi. to the campground on the left.

TWENTYNINE PALMS MAP, E-4
Hidden Valley

Park Blvd., Twentynine Palms 92277. T: (760) 367-5525; www.nps.gov/jotr.

★★	★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★

Hidden Valley is fairly typical of the decidedly primitive campgrounds in Joshua Tree National Park. There is no telephone, no water, and the only shade comes from the oversized boulders that decorate much of the park. It is those boulders, composed of tan-colored monzo-granite, that lend Joshua Tree much of its visual appeal. Unfortunately, because monzo-granite is enticingly easy to scale, campground boulders attract amateur climbers at all hours of the day (and occasionally night), something privacy-seekers should keep in mind when selecting their site. The sandy sites here are fairly spacious and decently far apart, with creosote bushes, Joshua trees, and rabbit brush complementing the rocky terrain. Spring, when wildflowers pop up all over the desert, is our preferred time to visit this area, with autumn and the milder temperatures it brings running a close second. Daytime temperatures are mild from late October through March, but nights can be downright icy. Outside of summer months, when the desert heat is blistering, campgrounds fill up most weekends. Beware of beggar coyotes prowling the grounds.

BASICS
Operated By: National Park Service. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** None. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES
Number of RV Sites: 39. **Hookups:** None; water available. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire ring. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Emergency phone. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, but 1 loop is a sandy washboard. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 15 mi. north in Joshua Tree. **Restaurant:** 15 mi. north in Joshua Tree. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Very limited wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Hiking, rock climbing, bicycling, horseback riding, ranger-led

programs. **Nearby Attractions:** Old Shoolhouse Museum in Twentynine Palms, Hi-Desert Nature Museum in Yucca Valley. **Additional Information:** Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau, (760) 367-3445.

RESTRICTIONS
Pets: On 6-ft. leash; not allowed on trails. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 27 ft.

TO GET THERE
From the town of Joshua Tree on Hwy. 62 turn south on Park Blvd. After 14 mi. turn left into the campground.

UKIAH MAP, C-1
Ky-en

1160 Lake Mendocino Dr., Ukiah 95482. T: (707) 462-7581 or (877) 444-6777; www.spn.usace.army.mil/mendocino.html or www.reserveusa.com.

★★★	★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

You do not need to have a fishing rod or boat to enjoy Lake Mendocino, but it will certainly add to your pleasure. This green gleaming body of water receives quite a lot of use, with most of that falling between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Ky-en (also rendered Kyen) is typical of the three campgrounds here (a fourth, Miti, is a boat-in camp), nestled against a sloping hillside between Hwy. 20 and the lake. The most popular sites abut the shore, with 75, 82, and 103 the most private. The screening and shade are far better, though, up the hill where the loops snake through such varied vegetation as juniper, pine trees, oak, toyon, manzanita, and flowering ceanothus. Best of that section are 18 and 22 (both with pull-through parking), and 15, 16, 26, and 42. Security is good, with regular ranger patrols and entrance gates that are locked between 10:30 p.m. and 7:30 a.m. Rest rooms, though, could use a face-lift, and the grounds are disturbingly littered with bottles and cans.

BASICS
Operated By: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC, D, AE. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$8-\$18, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES
Number of RV Sites: 103. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, lantern holder. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, narrow. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 1 mi. east in Calpella. **Restaurant:** 1 mi. east in Calpella. **General Store:** Yes, in summer. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Lake Mendocino. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, 6-lane boat ramp,

visitor center. **Activities:** Fishing, waterskiing, sailing, boat rentals, hiking, disc golf. **Nearby Attractions:** Ukiah museums, Cow Mountain Recreation Area; Mendocino County Museum & Roots of Motive Power/Antique Steam Logging Equipment in Willits; Skunk Train from Willits to Fort Bragg. **Additional Information:** Greater Ukiah Chamber of Commerce, (707) 462-4705.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On 6-ft. leash. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 35 ft.

TO GET THERE

Drive 6 mi. north of Ukiah on US 101. Turn east on Hwy. 20 and after 2.3 mi. turn right on Marina Drive Rd. The campground is 0.3 mi. ahead.

UPPER LAKE Pogie Point MAP, C-2

Hull Mountain Rd., Upper Lake 95469.
T: (916) 386-5164; www.r5.fs.fed.us/mendocino.

 ★★★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

Forget the jokes about “doughboy” campers and “poppin’ fresh” fish: Lake Pillsbury is one pretty haven for boating, fishing, hiking, or just lazing around. There are four campgrounds in this region of the Mendocino National Forest, with Oak Flat, two miles up the road, offering better lake access than Pogie Point. The former, though, is a primitive facility and there is some truth to the waggish suggestion that this status owes more to the people it attracts than its limited amenities. Pogie Point is marginally better in the creature comforts department (though its latrines could use more regular maintenance), but leagues ahead in aesthetics. It rests above a tiny cove that is ideal for launching canoes and kayaks. The grounds are thinly forested with tan oak, moss-covered pines, madrone trees, and oversized manzanita. Sites along its double loop range from uncomfortably small and exposed to reasonably roomy and recessed. Elk, black-tailed deer, and wild turkey frequent these parts.

BASICS

Operated By: Pacific Gas & Electric. **Open:** All year, weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$12, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 45. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 19 mi. west in Potter Valley. **Restaurant:** 19 mi. west in Potter Valley. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Lake Pillsbury. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-

accessible facilities, small boat launch. **Activities:** Fishing, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, windsurfing, boating. **Nearby Attractions:** Lakeport County Museum & Clear Lake in Lakeport. **Additional Information:** Lake County Marketing Program/Visitor Information Center, (707) 263-9544 or (800) 525-3743; Mendocino National Forest, Upper Lake Ranger District, (707) 275-2361.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only, \$1 fee. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 40 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Hwy. 20 in Upper Lake head north on Mendenhall Ave., which becomes Elk Mountain Rd./FR M1. After 17 mi. the scenic road turns to graded dirt, then pavement again after another 9 mi. From that point, the campground access is 5.5 mi. ahead on the right.

VALLEY SPRINGS Acorn West and Acorn East Campgrounds MAP, C-2

New Hogan Lake, 2713 Hogan Dam Rd., Valley Springs 95252. T: (209) 772-1343 or (877) 444-6777; www.spk.usace.army.mil/cespk-co/lakes/newhogan.html.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers created this reservoir in 1964 and continues to manage it. Which is not to suggest that you’ll be rousted out of your sleeping bag by reveille at 0500 hours. It’s more likely that the roar of motorboats will get you up, as this is a popular—though seldom full—boating and fishing spot. The only overt reminders that this is army land are the presence of uniformed volunteers at the entrance booths. In a sense that’s a shame, since the oak-fringed, grassy meadows of the three camp loops, which slope water-ward, could tolerate more thorough litter control. On weekend nights, too, excessive noise, including barking, wandering dogs, can be severe enough to make you want to call in the MPs. Yet sites are well dispersed, if somewhat open, and many are shaded by toyon, pines, and oaks. There are also 30 boat-in spots available (first come, first served) from May through September. Oak Knoll, the primitive overflow area, costs \$6 less per night and offers a few decently private, lake view sites.

BASICS

Operated By: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations for 90% of the sites accepted w/V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$16, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 127. **Hookups:** None.

Each Site: Picnic table, fire grate, lantern pole. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 3 mi. northwest in Valley Springs. **Restaurant:** 3 mi. northwest in Valley Springs. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** New Hogan Lake. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, boat ramp, marina. **Activities:** Fishing, hiking, bird-watching, horseback riding, mountain biking. **Nearby Attractions:** Calaveras County Historical Society & Museum Complex in San Andreas; Amador County Museum in Jackson; planetarium, museums in Stockton. **Additional Information:** Calaveras County Visitors Bureau, (209) 736-0049.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE

From Stockton on Hwy. 99 drive 30 mi. east to Hogan Dam Rd. Turn right and continue for 1 mi. to the well-signed campground access road on the left. The campground entrance is 0.8 mi. from there.

VISALIA Horse Creek Campground MAP, D-2

Lake Kaweah Recreation Area, Hwy. 198, Visalia 93244. T: (559) 597-2301 or (877) 444-6777; www.spk.usace.army.mil/cespk-co/lakes/kaweah.html.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Lake Kaweah is a refreshing body of water that provides welcome relief in a part of the state where summer starts early and runs late. Its level was so high last spring that several of Horse Creek’s sites were underwater. Nonetheless it remains a popular weekend retreat for area families, and for good reason: you can soak yourself in Kaweah’s cool waters while the campgrounds in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are still under snow. Nestled in the Sierra foothills at an elevation of 694 feet, Horse Creek’s environment is framed by the boulder-streaked, grassy ridges that hover over it. Nearer at hand, sites are plentifully shaded by oak, sycamore, buckeye, and cottonwood trees. An elongated loop, with three spur circuits, puts a great number of grass and dirt sites right at the edge of the lake. Privacy-seekers, though, should look toward higher ground, where sites 4 and 5 are roomy, set back from the camp lane, and enjoy a premium vantage of the water. The marina at Lemon Hill has propane and basic supplies.

BASICS

Operated By: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations recommended; V, MC, D, AE. First come, first,

224 CALIFORNIA Walnut Creek

served sites available. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$16, cash, check. **Parking:** At site. Only 2 vehicles permitted per site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 80. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, lantern pole. **Dump Station:** Yes, but not on site. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, occasionally flooded. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 8 mi. east in Three Rivers. **Restaurant:** 8 mi. east in Three Rivers. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Lake Kaweah. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, boat ramp not at the campground. **Activities:** Fishing, boat rentals, waterskiing, hiking, whitewater rafting on the Kaweah River, bailing out your tent. **Nearby Attractions:** Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks; Tulare County Museum in Visalia; Kaweah Oaks Preserve in Exeter. **Additional Information:** Visalia Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau, (559) 734-5876; Three Rivers–Lemoncove Business Assoc., (550) 561-0410.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 45 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Visalia drive 24 mi. east on Hwy. 198 to Lake Kaweah's south shore. The well-signed campground entrance is on the left.

WALNUT CREEK MAP, C-2
Mount Diablo State Park

96 Mitchell Canyon Rd., Walnut Creek 94517.
T: (925) 837-0404 or (800) 444-7275;
www.mdia.org.

 ★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★

The rolling grass-covered hills that make up this highly scenic park are dappled with live oak, knob cone pines, and juniper. If the extraordinary valley views don't take your breath away, you had better check your pulse! Or come back in spring, when an explosion of wildflowers should stimulate even the most colorblind of campers. There are three campgrounds here set at different altitudes, with the no-reservations Junction the least appealing. We prefer the Juniper loop (3,000-foot elevation) because, in a park where sites run toward petite, Juniper's are the larger and better screened. Additionally, many are blessed with outstanding westward vistas. Prime among many fine choices is number 20, detached from its neighbors and nursed by a super-annuated, overhanging tree. In summer months when the heat intensifies, the cool, shady Live Oak loop (1,450-foot elevation) is the sounder choice. As the risk of wildfires escalates in summer, the park may close. Plan to call ahead, therefore, for June through September visits.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year, but may close in summer due to extreme fire danger—call ahead. **Site Assignment:** Reservations recommended; V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$12–\$15, cash, CA check, senior discount. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of Multipurpose Sites: 64. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, food storage box in some sites. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, windy. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 10 mi. north in Livermore. **Restaurant:** 10 mi. north in Livermore. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, visitor center, observation deck, Summit Museum. **Activities:** Hiking, horseback riding, stargazing, mountain biking, rock climbing. **Nearby Attractions:** Berkeley Botanical Garden, museums; Dunsmuir House & Gardens Historic Estate, Chabot Space & Science Center, Jack London Square, museums, zoo, more in Oakland. **Additional Information:** Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce, (925) 934-2007.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On 6-ft. leash. Not allowed on trails. **Fires:** Fire grates only; restrictions are in effect when wildfire risk is extreme. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Not allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 20 ft.

TO GET THERE

From I-680 at Walnut Creek take the North Main St. Exit. Head east (toward downtown) to Ygnacio Valley Rd. Follow that for 2.1 mi. to the traffic light and turn right on Walnut Ave., which turns into North Gate Rd. Proceed to park entrance booth; Junction campground is 6.7 mi. beyond that.

WATSONVILLE MAP, D-1
Sunset State Beach

201 Sunset Beach Rd., Watsonville 95076.
T: (831) 763-7062 or (800) 444-7275;
www.parks.ca.gov.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★

Too often beach-side campgrounds are a compromise in comfort, especially in the southern part of the state. Sites are compact, they are laid out in a parking lot, there's no view of the water, trains thunder by at regular intervals. Sunset State Beach, located just 15 miles south of Santa Cruz, avoids most of those pitfalls, presenting campers with a stellar setting in the process. Plenty of shade is provided by the Monterey pines and eucalyptus trees that thrive throughout the property's three loops, yet sun-worshippers will appreciate that there is also

an abundance of open space. Level sites are grassy, surprisingly roomy, and buffered from ocean breezes by a series of high sand dunes. Arguably, the most appealing loop is South Camp, with 26 particularly private and 25 offering a decent ocean view. The sandy beach is stunningly gorgeous, though slightly marred by the presence of a cookie-cutter housing development at its south end. Surf fishing here is reportedly very good. If you value tranquility don't even think about arriving on weekends from Easter through Labor Day.

BASICS

Operated By: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations recommended; V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$12, cash, CA check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 90. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, food storage box. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 3 mi. northeast in Watsonville. **Restaurant:** 3 mi. northeast in Watsonville. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Pacific Ocean. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Fishing, surfing, beachcombing, hiking, hang gliding. **Nearby Attractions:** Mission San Juan Bautista; John Steinbeck House & Library in Salinas; outlet shopping in Gilroy; Monterey peninsula. **Additional Information:** Castroville Chamber of Commerce, (831) 633-6545.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On 6-ft. leash. Not allowed on beach. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site, not on the beach. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 31 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Hwy. 1 near Watsonville take the Riverside Dr. Exit and head toward the ocean. Turn right after 1 block onto Lee Rd., then a quick left onto West Beach St. Proceed for 1.5 mi. to San Andreas Rd., where you should hang a right. In 2.1 mi. steer left onto Sunset Beach Rd. and follow it into the park.

WEAVERVILLE MAP, B-1
Tannery Gulch

Hwy. 3, Weaverville 96093. T: (530) 623-2121 or (877) 444-6777; www.fs.fed.us/r5/shastatrinity.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★

Gold was discovered in the Trinity River in 1848. The rush that followed left its mark on this entire region, from hillsides washed away with hydraulic pumps to the colorful names attached to various locales. Tannery Gulch is an example of the sec-

ond, and fortunately in its beautiful pine-forested perch above the jade-green Trinity Lake there is little evidence of the first. A few oaks and dogwoods are sprinkled among the tall conifers, and while the forest is fairly dense, a good deal of sunlight radiates through the canopy. As in any hilly area, some sites lack level ground. Most, though, are fine, being above average in spaciousness and distributed reasonably far apart over the property's five loops. Among the better choices for space and their partial views of the lake are 33, 34, 35, 40, 41, and 42. Most people come here for the water sports, but hikers (and horseback riding enthusiasts) won't have to sit idly by watching the moss grow: there are many outstanding trails immediately to the north in the Trinity Alps Wilderness. Weaverville is 12 miles south along Hwy. 3.

BASICS

Operated By: Hodge Management, concessionaire. **Open:** May 1–Sep. 31. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC, D for most sites; First come, first served for sites 50–62. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$15–\$20, cash, check. **Parking:** At site. Additional vehicles \$5.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 82. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Flush & vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 13 mi. south in Weaverville. **Restaurant:** 13 mi. south in Weaverville. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Trinity Lake. **Playground:** No. **Other:** No wheelchair-accessible facilities, seasonal boat ramp for campground use only. **Activities:** Fishing, hiking, boating, waterskiing. **Nearby Attractions:** Weaverville museums, National Historic District, Joss House State Historic Park; Historic Trinity River Bridge in Lewiston. **Additional Information:** Weaverville Chamber of Commerce, (530) 623-3840; Trinity County Chamber of Commerce, (530) 623-6101 or (800) 487-4648.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 40 ft.

TO GET THERE

Exit Hwy. 299 in Weaverville onto Hwy. 3, northward direction. After 12 mi. turn right on CR 172. The campground entrance is 1.25 mi. ahead.

WHISKEYTOWN MAP, B-2 Oak Bottom Campground

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, 14412 Kennedy Memorial Dr., Whiskeytown 96095. T: (530) 359-2027 or (530) 242-3400; www.nps.gov/whis.

 ★★★	 ★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Some jokingly refer to this campground as “Rock Bottom,” but you will probably not be laughing if you roll in hauling a motor home. That is because the area designated for RVs, right by the boat launch, is a paved parking lot with no shade trees or privacy. At least it is near the water, a good thing since you'll want to spend most of your time swimming or boating in summer, when it is so hot in these parts you could fry a trout on the blistering pavement. Tent campers fare far better with grassy walk-in sites situated on an oak- and pine-shaded knoll overlooking Whiskeytown Lake. A number of those are just a few steps from the park loop, but there is less litter and more privacy as you walk farther toward the lake. On average, the walk-ins are surprisingly level, and though many are wedged closely together, they are decently buffered by manzanita, madrone, and ceanothus. The concession that operates this National Park Service property, which is located 13 miles west of Redding along Hwy. 299, needs to devote more attention to the dilapidated rest rooms and neglected grounds. Note that personal watercrafts (e.g. jet skis) are not permitted on Whiskeytown Lake.

BASICS

Operated By: Ken Smith, concessionaire. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations recommended; V, MC, D. **Registration:** At campground store. **Fee:** \$7–\$18, cash, check, V, MC, D. **Parking:** At site or designated area for walk-ins.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 22. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 102. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, bearproof box. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 13 mi. east in Redding. **Restaurant:** 13 mi. east in Redding. **General Store:** Yes, in summer; also snack bar. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Whiskeytown Lake at swim beach. No lifeguards. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, boat ramp, marina, fishing pier. **Activities:** Hiking, bicycling, boat rentals, sailing, windsurfing, fishing, 3 kayak tours. **Nearby Attractions:** Carter House Natural Science Museum, Turtle Bay Museums & Arboretum, Waterworks Park in Redding; Shasta Lake & Dam, Shasta State Historic Park. **Additional Information:** Redding CVB, (530) 225-4100.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On 6-ft. leash. No dogs permitted at swimming beach. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 35 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Redding drive 13 mi. west on Hwy. 299. Turn left at the Oak Bottom sign.

WILLITS MAP, B-1 Hidden Valley Campground

29801 North Hwy. 101, Willits 95490. T: (707) 459-2521; www.rvdestinations.com/hiddenvalley.

 ★★★	 ★★
Beauty: ★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★	Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★

There are campgrounds worth building a vacation around, little islands of paradise one would willingly drive hours to reach, places where the passing of time is happily marked in days, even weeks, and when the moment finally arrives—all too soon, alas—to decamp, sighs of resignation involuntarily rise up from one's chest. Then there are the in-transit campgrounds, those we use while on our way to someplace else. Hidden Valley falls into the second category. It is a pleasant, average-looking camp, conveniently located just off of US 101 about midway between Eureka and San Francisco, six miles north of Willits. Its single lane leads gently uphill from the entrance and by several long-term RVs, past pines, oaks, locusts, and bay trees. The most private and quiet of the somewhat closely grouped sites are 42 and 43, ensconced at the far end of the acreage. Other grass- and dirt-based sites worth reserving include 23, 25, 26, and 28. The security gate is closed between 8:30 p.m. and 6:30 a.m.

BASICS

Operated By: Ed & Carol Rotramel, owners. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC. **Registration:** At entrance office. **Fee:** \$17–\$21, cash, V, MC. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 50. **Hookups:** Electric (30 amps), water, sewer, cable TV, Internet. **Each Site:** Half-sized picnic table, fire grate at most sites. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved & gravel, good condition. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 6.5 mi. south in Willits. **Restaurant:** 6.5 mi. south in Willits. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Hiking, horseshoe pit, ping pong, basketball. **Nearby Attractions:** Skunk Train from Willits to Fort Bragg; Ukiah museums, Cow Mountain Recreation Area; Mendocino County Museum; Roots of Motive Power/Antique Steam Logging Equipment in Willits. **Additional Information:** Willits Chamber of Commerce, (707) 459-7910.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash; rabies certificate required. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 40 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Willits on US 101 drive 6.5 mi. north. The well-marked campground entrance is on the right side of the road.

226 CALIFORNIA Wofford Heights

WOFFORD HEIGHTS MAP, E-2
Tillie Creek

Hwy. 155, Wofford Heights 93285.
T: (760) 379-5646 or (877) 444-6777;
www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia.

★★★★ Site Privacy: ★★★

Beauty: ★★★★★ Site Privacy: ★★★
Spaciousness: ★★ Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★★ Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★ Facilities: ★★

Isabella Lake is a Mecca of sorts for windsurfing, waterskiing, and year-round fishing. Cottonwoods skirt its meandering shoreline, whereas oak trees and pines populate the higher ground, especially around Tillie Creek, on the lake's western rim. The rocky locale in the foothills of the Sierra Nevadas is attractively wild, in a sun-baked area of wavy brown hills. There is plenty of shade throughout most of the multiple loops, with the exception of sites nearest the water, which are uncomfortably exposed. Across the domain, units are so shallow and small that tent campers will find it challenging to use the fire ring without singeing their nylon. There are some larger-sized spots available in the type three and four categories, but none may be reserved by specific number. Thus, you have no guarantee of getting a shady site, or even a lake view. A distressing amount of broken glass litters an otherwise tidy camp. Basic supplies and laundry machines are available in Wofford Heights.

BASICS

Operated By: California Land Management, concessionaire. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** First come, first served. **Reservations accepted w/** V, MC, D. **Registration:** W/ campground host. **Fee:** \$16, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 155. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, barbecue grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 6.5 mi. south in Lake Isabella. **Restaurant:** 6.5 mi. south in Lake Isabella. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Lake Isabella. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities. **Activities:** Fishing, hiking, boating, waterskiing. **Nearby Attractions:** Sequoia National Forest; California Hot Springs; Greenhorn Mountain Park in Alta Sierra. **Additional Information:** Kern County Board of Trade, (661) 861-2367 or (800) 500-KERN.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 45 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Wofford Heights drive 1 mi. south on Hwy. 155. Turn left at the campground sign; the entrance is just ahead.

YOSEMITE MAP, C-3
NATIONAL PARK
North Pines

Yosemite Valley, Southside Dr., Yosemite National Park 95389. T: (209) 372-0265; (800) 436-7275; www.nps.gov/yose.

★★★★ Site Privacy: ★★

Beauty: ★★★★★ Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★ Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★★★★ Cleanliness: ★★
Insect Control: ★★ Facilities: ★★

Given a choice, it is best to see Yosemite Valley in late spring, when its many waterfalls are at their peak and the dogwoods are in bloom. You'll be joining thousands of others then, so make your campground reservations well in advance. There are three campgrounds situated near each other, and where you stay may come down to the one with available space. If possible, aim for North Pines, which is superior for its views of the granite environs and its thrilling position at the confluence of the Merced River and Tenaya Creek. Like the neighboring camps, this is a family-friendly atmosphere that makes a great launching point for a number of excellent hikes. Level sites are, alas, packed rather closely together, and the many stands of lodgepole pine and oak provide only minimal screening. Best for privacy and access to the river are 136, 502, 503, 504, and 506. Do pay attention to the bear warnings, use the metal food lockers, and keep a whistle—or other noise maker—handy after dark. The nearest gas station is at Crane Flat, just outside the valley.

BASICS

Operated By: National Park Service. **Open:** Mar.–Sep., weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** Reservations required; V, MC. **Registration:** At reservation office. **Fee:** \$18, cash, check or V, MC (in addition to the park entrance fee). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 85. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire ring, barbecue grill, bearproof box. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** Yes. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** Yosemite Valley. **Restaurant:** Yosemite Valley. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Ahwahnee Lodge & Curry Village. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Visitor center, several stores, post office. **Activities:** Hiking, fishing, horse & bicycle rentals, rafting, ranger-led activities, bear-spotting. **Nearby Attractions:** El Capitan, waterfalls, LeConte Memorial Lodge, sight-seeing tours, museum, gallery in Yosemite Valley. **Additional Information:** Yosemite Public Information Office, (209) 372-0200.

RESTRICTIONS

Pets: On 6-ft. leash; not allowed on trails. **Fires:** Fire ring only, from May 1 to Oct. 15, 5–10 p.m. only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 40 ft.

TO GET THERE

On entering the park from the west via Hwy. 120, follow the signs first to Yosemite Valley, then to Curry Village. Proceed straight ahead, past Lower and Upper Pines, drive over Clarks Bridge and turn left into the campground.

YOSEMITE MAP, C-3
NATIONAL PARK
Tuolumne Meadows

Tioga Rd./Hwy. 120, Yosemite National Park 95389. T: (209) 372-0265 or (800) 436-7275; www.nps.gov/yose.

★★★★ Site Privacy: ★★★★★

Beauty: ★★★★★ Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★ Quiet: ★★
Security: ★★★★★ Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★ Facilities: ★★

Summer doesn't last long in Yosemite National Park's high country, which translates to a short season for Tuolumne Meadows Campground, elevation 8,600 feet. Perhaps it's that scarcity of available time that lends an extra frisson to the delights of being in this glacier-wracked wilderness camp, which is only 20 miles west of Lee Vining. It is surprisingly attractive, given its enormous dimensions. Young lodgepole pines rise up off ubiquitous slanting slabs of granite and poke past giant boulders, while the fresh, clear Tuolumne River twists and bends, churning noisily by the campground. In late spring, and after heavy rainfalls, the river brims to the very edge of sites, verging on overflowing the campground. Of this camp's two sections, the A loops run closer to the river and offers vistas of Lembert Dome. Best for views, river access or privacy are A 50, 51, 52, 55, 63, 65, 66, 67, 71, 74, and 89. Sites in the B area are in a more forested setting, recessed from the road and a touch roomier. We find the \$18 fee outrageous, given the austere facilities, but if you don't take the site, someone else will. The Tioga Rd. closes in winter, depending on snowfall; call ahead if traveling in late fall or early spring.

BASICS

Operated By: National Park Service. **Open:** Jun.–Sep., weather permitting. **Site Assignment:** Half by advanced reservations, half by same-day reservations; V, MC. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$18, cash, check, V, MC (in addition to the park entrance fee). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 304. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 25. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire pit, barbecue grill, bearproof box. (Grill & bear box at some sites). **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** Yes. **Propane:** Yes. **Internal Roads:** Partly paved, partly dirt, but decent. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 20 mi. east in Lee Vining. **Restaurant:** Tuolumne Meadows. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** No. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Visitor center, bookstore, sport shop, post office. **Activities:** Hiking,

fishing, horse rentals, mountaineering classes, ranger-led activities, backpacking. **Nearby Attractions:** Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve in Lee Vining; Bodie State Historic Park in Bridgeport. **Additional Information:** Yosemite Public Information Office, (209) 372-0200.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On 6-ft. leash; not allowed on trails. **Fires:** Fire ring only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 35 ft.

TO GET THERE

Just south of Lee Vining on US 395 head west on Hwy. 120. Drive 20 mi., past the Yosemite National Park entrance, to the campground on the left.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK Wawona MAP, C-3

Wawona Rd./Hwy. 41, Yosemite National Park 95389. T: (209) 372-0265 or (800) 436-7275; www.nps.gov/yose.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

Sitting in a camp chair, gazing over the South Fork Merced River as the afternoon sun radiates through the oaks, cedars, and cinnamon-barked ponderosa pines onto the enormous boulders protruding from the hilly domain, you may well feel a part of Eden. Go ahead and look for snakes, though bears are more likely nighttime visitors. Wawona, 21 miles north of Oakhurst, near Yosemite's southern entrance, is one of the national park's prettier, more sedate campgrounds. It is also one of the more spacious, as its series of loops are elongated alongside the Merced, rather than being concentrated one against another. As a result of that thoughtful layout, dirt- and grass-covered sites seem less jammed together, and a high number are favored with waterfront locations. Highly recommended are 34 and 37, and to a lesser extent, 51-53; while tent campers should consider such prime river sites as walk-ins 1-4. Away from the water, 42 and 44 are among the more private. The nearby Mariposa Grove trail leads into a forest of numerous spectacular sequoia trees, as well as many other impressive conifers.

BASICS

Operated By: National Park Service. **Open:** All year. **Site Assignment:** Reservations required May-Oct.; V, MC; first come, first served Nov.-Apr. **Registration:** At entrance kiosk. **Fee:** \$18, cash, check, V, MC (in addition to the park entrance fee). **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 89. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 11. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire pit, Bearproof box (some sites). **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest**

Rooms and Showers: Flush toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved, many potholes. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 20 mi. east in Lee Vining. **Restaurant:** 1.25 mi. south in the Wawona Hotel. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** In South Fork Merced River. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Some wheelchair-accessible facilities, hotel, golf course, bookstore. **Activities:** Hiking, fishing, ranger-led walks, campfire programs, horseback riding, swimming. **Nearby Attractions:** Mariposa Grove of giant redwoods; Yosemite Mountain Sugarpine Railroad in Fish Camp; Yosemite Valley & its attractions, Yosemite waterfalls. **Additional Information:** Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau, (559) 683-5697.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On 6-ft. leash; not allowed on trails. **Fires:** Fire pit only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 35 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Oakhurst drive 15 mi. north on Hwy. 41 to the Yosemite National Park entrance station. Continue for 6 mi. to the campground on the left.

YREKA Tree of Heaven MAP, A-2

Hwy. 96, Yreka 96097. T: (530) 468-5351; www.fs.fed.us/r5/klamath.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★★★★	Facilities: ★★

Tree of Heaven is the common name for Ailantus altissima, a non-native tree that grows in this small campground, which lies just eight miles west of I-5. The forest service has thoughtfully installed a sign informing visitors that Ailantus altissima were "planted by early settlers for soil conservation and resistance to air pollution." That they were a fast-growing source of shade is a more likely reason miners settled on them, something campers can be glad of too. Pines, junipers, and maples round out the shady mix of trees here, with grassy, level sites evenly spaced out along a single loop. The grounds and limited facilities show none of the neglect so ubiquitous to forest service campgrounds elsewhere. On the contrary, scrupulous manicuring may leave some campers feeling that the "wilderness" has been snipped right out of the domain. The frothy waters of the Klamath River, which is popular for its rafting opportunities, churn right alongside the property. A fish-cleaning station is located next to the river.

BASICS

Operated By: Klamath National Forest, Scott River Ranger District. **Open:** All year; no water in winter. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted w/V, MC. Make reservations at least 2 weeks in advance. **Registration:** At central kiosk. **Fee:** \$10, cash, check. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Yucaipa CALIFORNIA 227

Number of RV Sites: 19. **Hookups:** None. **Each Site:** Picnic table, fire grate, barbecue grill. **Dump Station:** No. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** No. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Vault toilets, no showers. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 12 mi. east in Yreka. **Restaurant:** 12 mi. east in Yreka. **General Store:** No. **Vending:** No. **Swimming:** Klamath River. **Playground:** No. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, small boat ramp. **Activities:** Fishing, hiking, rafting, kayaking, canoeing. **Nearby Attractions:** Klamath National Forest; Yreka National Historic District, Western Railroad, Siskiyou County Courthouse & Museum in Yreka. **Additional Information:** Siskiyou County Visitors Bureau, (530) 926-3850; Yreka Chamber of Commerce, (530) 842-1649.

RESTRICTIONS



Pets: On leash only. **Fires:** Fire grates only. **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** 34 ft.

TO GET THERE

From Yreka drive 8 mi. north on Hwy. 263. Turn west (left) on Hwy. 96 and continue for 4 mi. to the campground entrance on the left.

YUCAIPA Yucaipa Regional Park MAP, E-3

33900 Oak Glen Rd., Yucaipa 92399. T: (909) 790-3127; www.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/parks.

 ★★★★★	 ★★★★★
Beauty: ★★★★★	Site Privacy: ★★
Spaciousness: ★★★★★	Quiet: ★★★★★
Security: ★★★★★	Cleanliness: ★★★★★
Insect Control: ★★	Facilities: ★★★★★

There is quite a lot to like about Yucaipa Regional Park, from its easy-to-find suburban location just five miles off of I-10, to the lushly manicured grounds that include three ponds stocked with trout and catfish and a one-acre swimming lagoon. Add to this a sandy beach and a pair of 350-foot waterslides, pull-through parking large enough to handle most of the larger RVs, and a separate area for tents complete with soft, sandy pads, and you have the makings for good family fun. Security is tight, with a gate that typically closes at dusk, and there are hosts in residence throughout the year. Critics may carp that the handsome mix of trees does not do much to shade sites, but at least they don't obscure the fine view of the San Bernardino Mountains.

BASICS

Operated By: San Bernardino County Regional Parks Dept. **Open:** Mem. Day-Labor Day. **Site Assignment:** Reservations accepted up to 1 year in advance w/V, MC, D. **Registration:** At entrance booth. **Fee:** \$13-\$22, cash, check, V, MC, D. \$20 senior rates are available Mon.-Thurs. **Parking:** At site.

FACILITIES

Number of RV Sites: 26. **Number of Tent-only Sites:** 9. **Hookups:** Electric (50 amps), water.

228 CALIFORNIA Yucaipa

Each Site: Picnic table, barbecue grill. **Dump Station:** Yes. **Laundry:** No. **Pay Phone:** Yes. **Rest Rooms and Showers:** Yes. **Fuel:** No. **Propane:** No. **Internal Roads:** Paved. **RV Service:** No. **Market:** 0.5 mi. east. **Restaurant:** 0.5 mi. south. **General Store:** Yes. **Vending:** Yes. **Swimming:** Swim lagoon w/ waterslide, seasonal. **Playground:** Yes. **Other:** Wheelchair-accessible facilities, snack-bar. **Activities:** Fishing, horseshoe pit, pedal boat rentals (Mem.–Labor Day). **Nearby Attractions:** Asistencia Misión de San Gabriel, Historical Glass Museum, both in Redlands. Oak Glen Apple Orchards, San Geronio Wilderness Area. **Additional Information:** San Bernardino County Regional Parks, (909) 38-PARKS.

RESTRICTIONS
Pets: On 10-ft. leash. **Fires:** Allowed (In grills only). **Alcoholic Beverages:** Allowed at site. **Vehicle Maximum Length:** None.

TO GET THERE
From San Bernardino follow I-10 east for 15 mi. to the Yucaipa Exit. Drive 2.8 mi. east on Yucaipa Blvd., exit on Oak Glen Rd. and proceed for 4 mi. to the campground on the left.