

# Eastern Sierra Nevada & Northern Mojave Desert

## Recreation Information Update

July 27 - August 2, 2011

### Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Junction of US HWY 395 & SR 136  
Lone Pine, California 93545

(760) 876-6222  
TDD 876-6228

**Open Daily: 8:00am to 6:00pm; starting 7/31 closing at 4:30pm**

**ROADS:** Eastern Sierra roads are open including US Hwy 395. Trans Sierra roads are open. Call 1-800-427-ROAD (1-800-427-7623), or visit the website at [www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov), for California highway conditions and construction schedules. For Nevada roads, visit the web at [www.nevadadot.com/traveler/roads](http://www.nevadadot.com/traveler/roads) or call 1-877-NVROADS (1-877-687-6237).

Don't miss the sights - Let someone else drive! **YARTS** (The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System) runs daily from the communities of Mammoth Lakes, June Lake & Lee Vining to Yosemite Valley; visit the web at [www.yarts.com](http://www.yarts.com) for a schedule.

Shuttle bus service to **DEVILS POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT** and Reds Meadow is in operation. Day visitors and backpackers must use the shuttle bus, as access and parking is limited. Visit the **MAMMOTH LAKES WELCOME CENTER** for shuttle information, current recreation conditions, trail maps, wilderness permits and visitor guides; open 8:00am to 5:00pm daily, or call 1-760-924-5500.

Major highways through **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK** are open; know and use **hot weather** travel safety tips. The Big Pine, Titus Canyon, Salt Creek, Natural Bridge, Devils Golf Course, West Side and Upper Wildrose dirt roads are open. 20 Mule Team Canyon dirt road is closed, due to recent flood damage, until further notice. The North Saline Valley road is open; 4x4 high clearance vehicles recommended. The South Pass into Saline Valley is posted closed by Inyo County (4x4 high clearance vehicles recommended). Rangers ask visitors traveling to remote desert valleys to leave a complete itinerary at home, obtain a good backcountry road map and be prepared for the unexpected. Drivers need to be sure their vehicle is in good condition and to carry an additional spare tire, extra gas, food and water. For descriptions of backcountry roads, check the web at [www.nps.gov/deva](http://www.nps.gov/deva) (Plan Your Visit/Things To Do) and the Morning Report for current information.

**WEATHER:** Sunny days and above normal temperatures will persist in the Eastern Sierra and Northern Mojave through Friday. A chance of thunderstorms will develop this weekend as moist air moves over the region. Drier air will spread into California and work east early next week reducing the chance thunderstorms by Tuesday. Highs have been in the 50s in the mountains, around 100 in the Owens Valley, and over 115 in Death Valley, with the lows ranging from the upper 30s in the mountains, to the lower 90s in Death Valley.

**CAMPGROUNDS:** **INYO COUNTY** campgrounds are open. Privately operated campgrounds and RV facilities with hookups are open throughout the region. The **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT** campgrounds (fee area/no drinking water) at Horton Creek and Crowley Lake are open. Tuttle Creek and Goodale Creek are closed for renovations.

**INYO and HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE NATIONAL FORESTS**, Lone Pine to Bridgeport, campgrounds are open. **BEARS ARE ACTIVE** - use food storage lockers when provided and check with campground hosts for more information. Please make sure that all food and trash is properly stored. Some Forest Service campsites are reservable; family sites 240 days in advance and group sites 360 days ahead of arrival. Check the website at [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov) or call 1-877-444-6777 for more information.

**YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK** - Yosemite Valley, Wawona (SR 41), Hodgdon Meadows (SR 120 near Big Oak Flat), Crane Flat and Tuolumne Meadows have sites open and reservable. Reservations are accepted five months in advance on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, for a one-month block through [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov); or call 1-877-444-6777. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis at Porcupine Flat, Yosemite Creek, White Wolf, Tamarack Flat, Bridalveil Creek (on Glacier Point Road), Camp Four walk-in campground in Yosemite Valley and one-half of Tuolumne Meadows. Call 1-209-372-0200 for recorded Yosemite information or visit the park web site at [www.nps.gov/yose](http://www.nps.gov/yose).

In **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK**, open sites include: Texas Springs, Emigrant (tent only/free), Thorndike (no water/free), Mahogany Flat (no water/free) and Wildrose (water/free). RV hook-ups are available at Furnace Creek Ranch, Stovepipe Wells Village and Panamint Springs Resort. Visit the park web site at [www.nps.gov/deva](http://www.nps.gov/deva) for information.

Campsites are available throughout **SEQUOIA\KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS** on a first-come/first-served and reservation basis. For recorded information to plan a visit, call 1-559-565-3341; or check the web at [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki).

### Cooperating Agencies of the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Inyo County  
California - Department of Fish & Game  
City of Los Angeles - Department of Water & Power

California - Department of Transportation  
National Park Service

Bureau of Land Management  
Mono County  
USDA - Forest Service

**FISHING:** The general fishing season is open in the Eastern Sierra and its waters are stocked regularly by the California Department of Fish and Game. The 2011 Eastern Sierra Fishing Guide is available at sporting good stores throughout the region. The Mono County website at [www.monocounty.org](http://www.monocounty.org) has fishing reports for many of its lakes and streams. Copies of California fishing regulations are available at the Visitor Center, or on the web at [www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov).

**MOUNTAIN BIKING:** The Mammoth Mountain Bike Park offers some of the world's best mountain biking. The Panorama Gondola is open daily for scenic rides, as well as bike transport. Trails accommodate all skill levels - from first timers to the best "air" artists. Call 1-760-934-0706 for information, or visit the web at [www.mammothmountain.com](http://www.mammothmountain.com).

**BACKCOUNTRY:** Backpackers should be prepared for sudden weather changes. Sunglasses, sunscreen and mosquito repellent are a must! Watch for lightning, which can occur with thunderstorms. **Be Bear Aware** when parking at trailheads; vehicles must not be left with any food or related items that will attract these animals and result in significant damage.

**BEARS** (and other hungry animals, including marmots) are active in the backcountry. Backpackers should be prepared to protect their food (and all other items that emit odors) from such animals at all times! Backpackers are required to use portable, bear resistant food canisters on the Cottonwood Pass, Cottonwood Lakes, Mt. Whitney, Kearsarge Pass, Bishop Pass, Treasure Lakes, Dusy Basin, Palisade, Little Lakes Valley, Duck Pass/Purple Lake and Rush Creek/Mammoth lakes trails of the National Forest and some Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park trails. They are available to rent at many locations.

**WILDERNESS PERMITS** are required for overnight travel all year long. Trailhead quotas, which daily limit the number of hikers on trails, are in effect for Inyo National Forest wilderness areas. Permits may be obtained at the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center (Lone Pine), Bishop Ranger Station, Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center and the Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center (Lee Vining) during office hours. For information on Inyo National Forest wilderness permits, please visit the web at [www.fs.usda.gov/inyo](http://www.fs.usda.gov/inyo). Reservations for permits (except Whitney) can be made up to six months in advance of the starting date of a trip, by phone at 1-760-873-2483, fax to 1-760-873-2484, or by mail - 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA, 93514.

## **ONGOING ACTIVITIES:**

**MONO COUNTY MUSEUM** in Bridgeport, is open Tuesday - Saturday from 9:00am to 4:00pm, with great exhibits and photos of old mining days and a fine collection of Paiute baskets.

**BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK** is open daily 9:00am to 6:00pm. A history talk is presented daily. Other interpretive programs are offered; check at the museum for more information. The museum is open from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Visitors should bring drinking water and food for a visit to Bodie; dogs must be on a six ft. leash (recreation fee area).

Interpretive programs are offered at the **MONO BASIN NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC AREA/TUFA STATE RESERVE**. Nature walks are presented daily at 10:00am and 6:00pm. Meet at the South Tufa parking lot near the south shore of Mono Lake (recreation fee area). Check at the Visitor Center, one mile north of Lee Vining on HWY 395, open daily 8:00am to 5:00pm for a complete list of activities, information and a video presentation on this remarkable lake.

**MONO BASIN HISTORICAL MUSEUM** in Lee Vining's Old School House (at Hess Park) is open Wednesday through Monday 10:00am to 4:00pm (except Sunday 12:00pm to 4:00pm) with photos and displays on the history of the Mono Basin and Bodie.

The Ranger Station at **DEVILS POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT** is open 9:00am to 5:00pm daily, with a nature walk at 11:00am to the Postpile geologic formation every day.

The **2011 MAMMOTH LAKES MUSIC FESTIVAL** continues through August 5th with a series of concerts featuring a line-up of 20 top notch performers! For information call 1-760-934-7015, or visit the web at [www.chambermusicunbound.org](http://www.chambermusicunbound.org).

Remember the days of the "Slim Princess"! Visit **LAWS RAILROAD MUSEUM & HISTORIC SITE**, four miles north of Bishop on HWY 6, to learn of early days in the Owens Valley. Laws is open daily 10:00am to 4:00pm.

**EASTERN CALIFORNIA MUSEUM** in Independence is open from 10:00am to 5:00pm daily, with exhibits on Inyo County; including a significant collection of Native American baskets and artifacts from Manzanar NHS.

The Interpretive Center at **MANZANAR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**, located 5 miles south of Independence, is open daily from 9:00am to 5:30pm. Check at the Interpretive Center or the web at [www.nps.gov/manz](http://www.nps.gov/manz) for information.

Visit the Beverly & Jim Rogers **MUSEUM OF LONE PINE FILM HISTORY**; with exhibits celebrating the heroes, the films and the locations of the many movies shot in the area. The museum opens daily at 10:00am; closing at 6:00pm Monday through Wednesday, at 7:00pm Thursday through Saturday and at 4:00pm on Sunday.

**BLM JAWBONE STATION REGIONAL OHV FACILITY** is open 9:00am to 5:00pm daily for trip assistance. The station is located 25 miles north of Mojave on SR 14 for pre-trip information; call 1-760-373-1146.

**DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTER** (temporary) at the Furnace Creek Ranch is open daily from 8:00am to 5:00pm. **SCOTTY'S CASTLE** has "Living History" tours from 9:30am to 4:00pm daily.

Reports on current recreation conditions, schedules of planned events and detailed information on visitor destinations throughout the Eastern Sierra Nevada and Northern Mojave Desert are available daily at the Visitor Center.