

# Eastern Sierra Nevada & Northern Mojave Desert

## Recreation Information Update

May 31 - June 6, 2012

### 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 5:00pm

**ROADS:** Major Eastern Sierra roads are open, including HWY 395 (drivers subject to 20 minute delays at Topaz Lake). Trans Sierra roads - SR 120 (Tioga Pass), SR 108 (Sonora Pass) and SR 4 (Ebbets Pass) are open. *Slow for the Cone Zone*, while traveling through construction work zones. 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, call 1-877-NVROADS (1-877-687-6237) or visit the web at [www.nevadadot.com](http://www.nevadadot.com).

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

The road to **DEVILS POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT** and Reds Meadow is closed due to snow and wind storm damage. Pedestrian and bicycle access on the Reds Meadow road, past the Minaret Vista Station, is prohibited due to hazards associated with roadside cleanup and falling of trees. Visit the **MAMMOTH LAKES WELCOME CENTER** for Reds Meadow road information, current recreation conditions, wilderness permits and visitor guides; open daily 8:00am to 5:00pm, or call 1-760-924-5500.

Major highways through **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK** are open. The Big Pine, Titus Canyon, Salt Creek, Devils Golf Course, West Side, Charcoal Kilns and Mahogany Flat dirt roads are open. The North Saline Valley road is open; 4x4 high clearance recommended. The South Pass into Saline Valley is posted closed by Inyo County (4x4 high clearance vehicles required/travel at your own risk). Rangers ask visitors traveling to remote desert valleys to leave a complete itinerary at home, obtain a 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 backcountry road information, check the web site at [www.nps.gov/deva](http://www.nps.gov/deva) ("Plan Your Visit/Things To Do/Outdoor Activities) and the Morning Report for current conditions.

**WEATHER:** Sunny days and warming temperatures will prevail through most of Friday, as high pressure builds over the Eastern Sierra and Northern Mojave regions. A chance of thunderstorms over the mountains north of Mammoth Lakes is expected Friday evening, as a low pressure system moves over Northern California into the Great Basin. A second system is predicted for early next week to move to the north of the region. This system should keep temperatures cooler and create some breezy conditions. Highs have been in the lower 40s in the mountains, upper 80s in the Owens Valley and around 110 in Death Valley, with the lows ranging from the upper 20s in the mountains, to the lower 80s in Death Valley.

**CAMPGROUNDS:** **INYO COUNTY** campgrounds are open. Additional privately operated campgrounds and RV facilities are open throughout the area. **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**, the following Bishop Field office campgrounds are open: Tuttle Creek (fee/no drinking water) and Crowley Lake (fee/no drinking water). Goodale Creek and Horton Creek are closed for renovations; they will open later this summer.

**INYO and HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE NATIONAL FOREST**, Lone Pine to Bridgeport, many campgrounds are open. Some Forest Service campsites are reservable, check the web site at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or call 1-877-444-6777.

**YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK** - Yosemite Valley campgrounds, Wawona (SR 41) and Hodgdon Meadows (SR 120 near Big Oak Flat) are open and have sites available on a reservation basis. Crane Flat and Tuolumne Meadows will open later in the summer; sites may be reserved now. 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 Tamarack Flat and Camp Four walk-in campground in Yosemite Valley. For park information, visit the web site at [www.nps.gov/yose](http://www.nps.gov/yose).

**DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK**, open campgrounds include: Texas Springs, Mesquite Springs, Emigrant (tent only/free), Thorndike (no water/free), Mahogany Flat (no water/free) and Wildrose (water/free). Furnace Creek campground is closed for sewer and water line replacement. RV hook-ups are available at Furnace Creek Ranch, Stovepipe Wells Village and Panamint Springs Resort. For camping information, visit the park web site at [www.nps.gov/deva](http://www.nps.gov/deva).

### 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 many lakes and streams are stocked regularly by the California Department of Fish and Game. The 2012 Eastern Sierra Fishing Guide is available at sporting goods stores throughout the region. California fishing regulations are available at the Visitor Center, or on the web at [www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov).

All anglers are invited to register for their Eastern Sierra Fishing Passport with deals, discounts on lodging, dining, gear, activities, and more. Visit the web at [www.easternsierrafishing.org](http://www.easternsierrafishing.org) for information.

**MOUNTAIN BIKING:** The Mammoth Mountain Bike Park offers some of the world's best mountain biking. It is open on the lower mountain trails. These trails will be serviced by the Bike Park's uphill shuttle from The Village to the Main Lodge. New trails will open every week. For information, visit the web at [www.mammothmountain.com](http://www.mammothmountain.com) or call 1-888-766-9778

**BACKCOUNTRY:** Backpackers should be prepared for icy terrain, cold temperatures and sudden weather changes. The snow level on the Whitney trail is approximately 11,000 feet (lower on north facing slopes). In Yosemite National Park, the current snow level is approximately 8,500 feet. The **Half Dome Cables** are in place. Wilderness Permits are required daily to hike to the top of Half Dome this summer. For information, visit the web at [www.nps.gov/yose](http://www.nps.gov/yose). **Be Bear Aware** when parking at trailheads, cars must not be left with any food or related items that will attract these animals and result in vehicle 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), White Mountain Ranger Station in Bishop, Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center and the Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center (Lee Vining) during office hours. For more information on Inyo National Forest wilderness permits, including the new reservation system, please visit the web site at [www.fs.usda.gov/inyo](http://www.fs.usda.gov/inyo).

## **ONGOING ACTIVITIES:**

**YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK**, the Tuolumne Visitor Center has opened for the season. Hours are currently 9am to 5pm daily.

**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).

Bird walks are presented on Friday & Saturday in the **MONO BASIN NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC AREA/TUFA STATE RESERVE** at 8:00am. 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.

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.

**BRISTLECONE PINE FOREST** Information Station at Schulman Grove is open Saturday & Sunday from 10:00am to 5:00pm.

**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. Self-guided walking and auto tours make it easy to explore the park. 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.

Discover the natural and cultural history of the **MOJAVE DESERT** at the **MATURANGO MUSEUM AND NORTHERN MOJAVE VISITOR CENTER OF THE INDIAN WELLS VALLEY** in Ridgecrest; open daily 10:00am to 5:00pm.

**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** at Furnace Creek is open daily, 8:00am to 5:00pm. **SCOTTY'S CASTLE** has "Living History" tours from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Reservations for Scotty's Castle tours are available on the web at [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov), or call 1-877-444-6777.

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. 5/31/12kw