

# Eastern Sierra Nevada & Northern Mojave Desert Recreation Information Update August 23 - 29, 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. 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 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 hikers must use the shuttle bus, as parking is limited. Visit the **MAMMOTH LAKES WELCOME CENTER** for shuttle information, current recreation conditions, wilderness permits and visitor guides; open daily 8:00am to 5:00pm, or call 1-760-924-5500.

Highways through **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK** are open, except for Highway 267, between Scotty's Castle and the junction of US Highway 95. Know and use **excessive heat** safety tips while driving through Death Valley. Due to extreme heat and remoteness, the Park Rangers recommend travelers stay on the paved roads from June through September. Many back country dirt roads, including the Big Pine road, have been closed by recent flash flooding. Rangers ask visitors traveling to any remote desert locations to check on current road conditions which are available at the Furnace Creek Visitor Center or Scotty's Castle. For general 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 daily conditions.

**WEATHER:** A ridge of high pressure will build over the Eastern Sierra and Northern Mojave through the weekend, producing mostly dry conditions, clear skies and near normal temperatures. The high is expected to move slowly east early next week, producing slightly lower temperatures and periods of gusty winds. Highs have been in the 40s in the mountains, mid 90s in the Owens Valley and around 110 in Death Valley, with the lows ranging from the lower 30s in the mountains, to the upper 80s in Death Valley.

**CAMPGROUNDS:** **INYO COUNTY** sites are open. Privately operated campgrounds and RV facilities are open throughout the area.

Bishop **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT** campgrounds at Tuttle Creek (fee/drinking water), Goodale Creek (fee/no drinking water), Horton Creek (fee/drinking water) and Crowley Lake (fee/no drinking water) are open.

**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, Camp Four walk-in campground in Yosemite Valley and one-half of Tuolumne Meadows. For more park information, visit the web site at [www.nps.gov/yose](http://www.nps.gov/yose).

In **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK**, open sites include: Mesquite Springs, Texas Springs, Emigrant (tent only/no fee), Wildrose (water/no fee/no campfires), Thorndike (no water/no fee/no campfires/high clearance vehicles) and Mahogany Flat (no water/no fee/no campfires/high clearance vehicles). RV hook-ups are available at Furnace Creek Ranch, Stovepipe Wells Village and Panamint Springs Resort. For more information, visit the web at [www.nps.gov/deva](http://www.nps.gov/deva).

Campgrounds are open in the **SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST** on the Kern River and at Lake Isabella on a reservation, or a first-come/first-served basis. For more information call 1-760-376-3781, or visit the web at [www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia](http://www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia).

## Cooperating Agencies of the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Inyo County

California - Department of Transportation

Bureau of Land Management

California - Department of Fish & Game

National Park Service

Mono County

City of Los Angeles - Department of Water & Power

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).

**WATER SPORTS:** RAFTING SEASON on the **KERN RIVER** is a *fast ride* - experience required. Permits and special restrictions are in effect. For information contact the Kern River Ranger Station in Kernville, or call 1-760-376-3781.

**HUNTING:** Archery season for quail, chukar and Blue/Ruffed grouse is open in the Eastern Sierra. Archery season for deer is open in zones X-8, X-9a/b/c, X-12 (zones in Alpine, Mono and Inyo Counties east of the Sierra crest) and X-10 (the Kern Plateau). Archery on the west side of the Sierra Nevada is open in zones D-6, D-7 and D-8. Areas of Kern County (D-9 & D-10) are also open. Hunters should keep in mind that many people use these areas for other types of recreation, it's much safer to avoid hunting near developed sites, roads and trails. Hunting is not permitted in National Parks.

**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. Hikers should be aware; archery hunting season for upland game birds and deer is open for many locations in the Sierra Nevada (except National Parks). In areas open to hunting, it's a good idea to wear brightly colored clothes and stay on the trails.

**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 information on Inyo National Forest wilderness permits, including the reservation system, please visit the web site at [www.fs.usda.gov/inyo](http://www.fs.usda.gov/inyo).

**FIRE DANGER: RESTRICTIONS ARE IN EFFECT** on the Inyo National Forest, Sequoia National Forest, the Bridgeport and Carson Ranger Districts of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests, the BLM lands of the Bishop, Bakersfield and California Desert Districts. Restrictions are also in place on state lands within San Bernardino, Inyo and Mono counties.

## **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 and 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, 1:00pm 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.

**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.

Visit the **KERN VALLEY MUSEUM** to explore the fascinating history of the Old West through artifacts and memorabilia that make history come alive, in Kernville; open 10:00am to 4:00pm, Thursday through Sunday.

**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 10:00am to 4:00pm. Reservations for tours are on the web at [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov).

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. 8/23/12kcw