

# Eastern Sierra Nevada & Northern Mojave Desert Recreation Information Update November 15 - 21, 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 US Hwy 395. Trans Sierra roads - SR 120 (Tioga Pass), SR 108 (Sonora Pass) and SR 4 (Ebbets Pass) are closed due to snow; the roads may open if weather conditions allow. SR 89 (Monitor Pass) is currently open. Weather and road conditions can change rapidly this time of year; mountain passes and roads are subject to immediate controls and/or closures. Drivers headed to the mountains need to be sure their vehicles are equipped with chains, including those with snowtires. For California highway conditions and construction schedules, call 1-800-427-ROAD (1-800-427-7623), or visit the web at [www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov). For Nevada roads, call 1-877-NVROADS or visit the website at [www.nevadadot.com/traveler/roads](http://www.nevadadot.com/traveler/roads).

**BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK** road (SR270) is open. The June Lake Loop (SR 158) is open. In Mammoth Lakes, SR 203 is open to the Mammoth Mountain Inn. Rock Creek is open; watch for ice. In Bishop Creek, SR 168 is open to Lake Sabrina and the South Lake road is open to South Lake. These roads are subject to immediate controls and/or closures due to snow or ice.

Major highways through **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK** are open. Hwy 267 is closed east of Scotty's Castle to the junction of US Highway 95. Titus Canyon, Salt Creek, Devils Golf Course and the West Side dirt roads are open. The North Saline Valley and the Charcoal Kilns roads are open; high clearance vehicles recommended. The South Pass into Saline Valley is posted closed by Inyo County due to washouts. The Big Pine Road is open from the west to Eureka Valley road; it is closed to the east at Ubehebe Crater Road. 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/Outdoor Activities") and the Morning Report for current information.

**WEATHER:** Several winter storm systems will move over the Eastern Sierra and Northern Mojave starting on Friday, producing gusty wind conditions, cooler temperatures and cloudy skies, with a chance of valley rain and/or mountain snow through next Wednesday. The snow level is expected to be at approximately 7,500 feet. Highs have been in the 20s in the mountains, lower 50s in the Owens Valley and upper 70s in Death Valley, with the lows ranging from the teens in the mountains, to the 40s in Death Valley.

**CAMPGROUNDS:** **INYO COUNTY** sites are open. Privately operated campgrounds and RV facilities are open throughout the region. **BISHOP BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT** campgrounds at Tuttle Creek (fee/drinking water) and the Pleasant Valley Pit (fee/no water) are open.

**INYO NATIONAL FOREST**, Lone Pine to Lee Vining - the following campgrounds are open: Lone Pine (no water/no fee), Bitterbrush (no water/no fee) and Holiday in Rock Creek (no water/no fee).

**YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK** - Yosemite Valley campgrounds 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 [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov); or call 1-877-444-6777. Sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis at Wawona (SR 41 south of Yosemite Valley), Hodgdon Meadows (SR 120 near Big Oak Flat) and Camp Four walk-in campground in Yosemite Valley. For information, visit the web site at [www.nps.gov/yose](http://www.nps.gov/yose).

**DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK**, open sites include: Furnace Creek, Sunset, Texas Spring, Stovepipe Wells, Mesquite Springs, Emigrant (tent only/no fee) and Wildrose (water/no fee). Reservations for Furnace Creek campsites are available six months in advance for the period of 10/15 to 4/15, or for group sites, 12 months in advance online through [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or call 1-877-444-6777 (and visit [www.nps.gov/deva](http://www.nps.gov/deva)). RV hook-ups are available at Furnace Creek Ranch, Stovepipe Wells Village and Panamint Springs Resort.

Camping sites are available year round in the **MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE** at Hole-In-The-Wall and Mid Hills (no water) on a first-come/first-served basis. For information, call 1-760-252-6108, or visit the web at [www.nps.gov/moja](http://www.nps.gov/moja). Black Canyon Equestrian & Group Campground (across from Hole-In-The-Wall) is open with reservations required, call 1-760-928-2572.

### 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 through 11/15 in the Eastern Sierra. The **OWENS RIVER** south of Crowley Lake (including Pleasant Valley Reservoir and Tinnemaha Reservoir) and **DIAZ LAKE** are open to year-round fishing. California fishing regulations are available at sporting good stores selling fishing licenses, or on the web at [www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov).

**HUNTING:** General hunting season for quail, chukar, pheasant and doves is open. Waterfowl season for ducks (including Mergansers), common Moorhen, American Coot and geese is open. For more information, check the web at [www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov).

**WINTER SPORTS:** **MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN** is open with a 12" - 18" base of machine groomed snow. Please be aware, early season obstacles do exist, the available terrain and number of lifts is limited. Ski and ride with care. For daily lift operations and snow conditions visit the web site at [www.mammothmountain.com](http://www.mammothmountain.com), or call 1-888-766-9778.

**BACKCOUNTRY:** Backpackers should be prepared with winter gear for snowy/icy terrain, freezing temperatures and sudden weather changes. Recent snow makes trails difficult to locate and passes very slick. Roads to many of the trailheads will close with the first significant snowfall. **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 significant damage.

**WILDERNESS PERMITS** are required for overnight travel all year long and for all visitors in the Mt Whitney zone, including day hikers. Trailhead quotas, which daily limit the number of hikers on trails, are no longer in effect for Eastern Sierra wilderness areas. Self-issue permits can be obtained in the night boxes at the following locations: InterAgency Visitor Center (Lone Pine), Bishop Ranger Station, Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center, Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center (Lee Vining) and Bridgeport Ranger Station after 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).

## **ONGOING ACTIVITIES:**

**BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK** is open daily 9:00am to 3:00pm. Visitors should bring warm clothing, drinking water and food for a visit to Bodie; dogs must be on a six foot leash (recreation fee area).

The **MONO BASIN NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC AREA/TUFA STATE RESERVE** Visitor Center, located 1 mile north of Lee Vining on HWY 395, is open Thursday through Monday from 9:00 to 4:30 for displays, information and a video presentation.

Visit the **MAMMOTH LAKES WELCOME CENTER** (on SR 203) for more information on roads, fees, passes, permits, current recreation updates, trail maps and visitor guides; open daily 8:00am to 5:00pm, or call 1-760-924-5500.

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 4:30pm. Self-guided walking and auto tours make it easy to explore the park anytime. A special, *Twice Heroes: America's Nisei Veterans of World War II and Korea*, photo exhibit will be on display through 12/31. For more information, check at the Interpretive Center or the web at [www.nps.gov/manz](http://www.nps.gov/manz).

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 the Furnace Creek Ranch is open daily from 8:00am to 5:00pm. Ranger talks and other interpretive programs are presented daily. An evening program is presented at 7:00pm in a variety of locations. Check at the Visitor Center, or [www.nps.gov/deva](http://www.nps.gov/deva) for information. **SCOTTY'S CASTLE** has "Living History" tours from 9:00am to 5:00pm and "Underground Mystery Tours" daily. Reservations for Scotty's Castle tours are available on the web at [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov), or call 1-877-444-6777.

Information on the **MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE** can be obtained daily from 9:00am to 5:00pm at the **Kelso Depot Visitor Center** (off I 15 at Baker or off I 40 on Kelbaker Road). The Visitor Center features exhibits, bookstore, orientation film and photo exhibit in the Desert Light Gallery. The historic lunch counter known as "*The Beanery*" is open daily. Kelso Depot ranger talks are offered daily at 11:00am and 2:00pm. The **Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center** is open Wednesday through Sunday, from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

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. 11/15/12kcw