SHASTA LAKE UNIT
Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area

WELCOME TO SHASTA LAKE — Shasta Lake in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest offers recreationalists a variety of outdoor activities including: boating, water skiing, swimming, fishing, camping, picnicking, and hiking.

PART OF A NATIONAL RECREATION AREA — Shasta Lake is one of three units in the 203,587-acre Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area, which was established by an Act of Congress on November 8, 1965.

The Shasta Lake and Clear Creek (Trinity-Lewiston) Units are within the Shasta-Trinity National Forest and administered by the U.S. Forest Service. The Whiskeytown Unit is administered by the National Park Service.

MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE — Shasta Lake, heighest of the Trinity Valley Projects, is the largest man-made reservoir in California. When full, its 370 mile shoreline extends south of Saint Francis Bay to Hog Island, the second largest and tallest concrete dam in the United States. It was completed between 1935 and 1945, and the lake was filled in 1948.

The construction of Shasta Dam impounded three major creeks that drain into the lake: the Pit, McCloud, and Sacramento. Referred to as arms, each one retains its own character, environment, and history, for 60 years or more.

People who have never been to Shasta Lake may get the impression they are seeing several lakes as they pass by in the boat. In a way, there really are more lakes than one.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO AROUND THE LAKE

Shasta Lake is one of the dominant features in Northern California. Visitors have more than a dozen swimming areas, including the Dam; Bailey Cove; Packers Bay; and the O’Brien Rest Area, and the Pit River Bridge on Interstate 5. The ѕсаmmq the Shasta Lake area, Mt. Shasta — can be seen from the Shasta Dam Vista Point.

The Forest Service offers a variety of tours and evening astronomy programs at Shasta Lake. Complete campground bulletin boards for time and location of these activities.

WHERE TO GO?

IT DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU WANT TO DO...

There are literally hundreds of coves and bays within the 370-mile shoreline of Shasta Lake. Wooded areas, steep rocky hillsides, secluded coves, occasional waterfalls, and thousands of acres of mountaneous country surround the lake.

A broad spectrum of facilities, ranging from primitive to luxurious, provide the many, varied recreational opportunities. At the upper end of the scale, there are full-service campgrounds with amenities such as running water, flush toilets, and hot showers. Most campgrounds are equipped with picnic tables and fire rings.

For the more independent visitor, the Forest Service manages 28 campgrounds. These vary from vehicular campgrounds with water, flush toilets, and hot showers, to more primitive areas where fire rangers must carry their own water.

There is no shortage of activities to do around the lake. Visitors can enjoy the cool, refreshing waters of the lake for boating, swimming, and fishing. Others prefer to hike on the steep, forested slopes of the lake or camp in one of the many areas within the lake. Many campgrounds are open all year. Campers can be found year-round near the lakeshore.

The rugged country, rugged shoreline, and sheer size of Shasta Lake tends to break the lake into different areas, each with its own opportunities, moods, and settings.

LAKEAREA

The lake area, with its fast pace and easy access off Interstate 5, is one of the most popular and largest areas within the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

Camping facilities range from a commercial recreation vehicle park to the Forest Service drive-in or the more secluded walk-in camps. Cabins are also available. The two marinas have complete services. Additional stores, restaurants, gasoline, and other services can be found near downtown.

For a vacation full of variety and action, the Lakehead Area is a good choice.

SALT CREEK AREA

Salt Creek is easily accessible from Interstate 5 and wonderfully suited to the boater, boater, or fisherman. It is located near a community which has many services.

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CAMPING ON THE PIT ARM

Boat on the McCloud Arm? It’s here, with two words of caution: pack it in, pack it out. The lake is the last chance for services. Beyond lies “bear country.” Keep in mind that bears are present in the area.

Be aware of the presence of bears and wildlife. Be certain to follow the rules and regulations of the Forest Service. Take care of your garbage and keep the area clean. Pack it in, pack it out.

The O’Brien Area is at the hub of the lake and provides central access to all areas. Though rural in nature, the area holds a variety of activities. Each camping area and campground appears secluded amidst the thick oak and pine forests.

In the Shasta Lake area, call 911 for a life support emergency. Please use this number only in a real emergency.

OTHER EMERGENCY NUMBERS ARE:

Poison Information: 243-2712
Ext. 184 or Emergency Room
Sheriff (Shasta Lake Area): 243-3221
Highway Patrol: Ask operator for Zenith 1-2000
U.S. Forest Service: 246-5234
Ranger Service: 243-6340

In Case of an Emergency

COUNTY OF SHASTA - Shasta Lake Unit

TO REPORT A FIRE: Call 243-6621
Camping and Hiking are permitted on the lake.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES:

Shasta Lake offers a variety of activities, including boating, fishing, and picnicking.

For more information, contact the Forest Service.

Shasta Lake Unit
Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area

LAKE STATISTICS

Shoreline
370 miles
Surface Area
30,000 acres
Average Annual Flow
5.17 feet
Dam Height
602 feet
Average Depth
1,410 feet
Total Drainage Area
4,110,000 acres
Average Elevations
6.2 million acres

LOADING — Motor accommodations are available in the Lakehead area and at Bridge Bay. These accommodations are available at many resorts and marinas. Commercial marinas operate 24 hours per day.

TRAILER CAMPS — Hookups are available in the Lakehead and Bridge Bay areas. Many Forest Service campgrounds and resorts have full hookup sites. Larger trailers, 22-30 feet, should use commercial facilities in the Arroyo, Pine Point, and Bay Campgrounds. See the table below the map for specific trailer facilities.

TENT CAMPS — Shasta Lake offers both conventional and walk-in camps. Walk-in camps provide a central parking area, but equipment must be carried a short distance to the campsite. The Jocotar Campground and Lakehead area parks are popular with skiers, as are some of the more remote campgrounds such as the Biggs and O’Brien areas. Visitors prefer the quiet waters of the McCloud, off Girard Road, or the backcountry camps that are farther away from the lake.

ACCESS CAMPS — Many campgrounds on Shasta Lake are accessible only by boat, hike, or vehicle with a walk-in trail. Each campground provides a unique camping experience away from the ordinary.

PIECING - Picnic facilities are available at Fisherman’s Point, near Shasta Dam, and O’Brien Rest Area. Pack your own food and utensils. The Antlers Public Grill has take-out food and outdoor dining.

ROCKS — The marinas have rental boats. Choices range from small fishing boats or sailboats to large, well-equipped cabin cruisers.

It is important to remember the lake is a large body of water, and the wind is often strong. Be aware of the possible hazards associated with boating and swimming.

Boating is permitted in selected areas, particularly in the vicinity of the Jocotar, Jocotar, and Bridge Bay areas.

Lakehead and Bridge Bay areas are popular with skiers, as are some of the more remote campgrounds such as the Biggs and O’Brien areas. Visitors prefer the quiet waters of the McCloud, off Girard Road, or the backcountry camps that are farther away from the lake.

SHADY SHORES — Shady Shores is a popular area for boating and fishing. The lake is surrounded by a deep, forested shoreline.

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