Welcome to Whiskeytown!

2-3 Things you need to know

This compilation of essential park information is based on questions frequently asked by visitors. The information is organized alphabetically to help you quickly find what you are looking for.

4-5 Camping and trail information

If you are planning an outdoor adventure, flip here for a complete listing of the park’s extensive trail system and campgrounds that includes essential information for each. A map will orient you to the park.

6 What can I do in the time I have?

Not sure what to do during your park visit? Turn to page 6 for a helpful guide that will aid you in planning your recreational activities according to the time you have, as well as activities for the different seasons.

8 Ranger-led programs

Whiskeytown offers a variety of FREE Ranger-led Programs during the summer season. These programs are fun and family friendly. A program schedule is found on this page, as well as program descriptions.
Things you need to know

Visitor Center

The visitor center is a great place to start when you arrive in the park. The knowledgeable staff and volunteers will help you maximize your visit. The visitor center is located at the intersection of John F. Kennedy Memorial Drive and CA Highway 299. The summer hours of operation are 9:00 am to 5:00 pm from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Winter hours are 9:00 am to 4:00 pm daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s holidays. The visitor center provides information, a variety of use permits, natural and cultural history exhibits, an ADA accessible California native plant garden, as well as books, maps, and souvenir items for sale. In addition, accessible restrooms, first aid, an Automated External Defibrillator, and drinking water are all available here.

Accessibility

Park headquarters, restrooms, and the visitor center are ADA accessible, as well as the Native Plant Garden located directly behind the visitor center. The park has two newly constructed ADA accessible trails: the Crystal Creek Falls Trail, which is paved, and the section of the Guardian Rock Trail from Horse Camp leading to the spectacular Guardian Rock Vista Point. In addition, two accessible picnic sites are available at Oak Bottom and Brandy Creek beaches. Accessible fishing piers are located at Whiskey Creek Picnic Area and at Oak Bottom Marina near the amphitheater.

Amenities

Some food items and essential camping supplies can be purchased at the Oak Bottom Campground Store, which is open from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm during the winter and until 6:00 pm in the summer. The store can be reached by calling (530) 559-2269. Lodging is not available in the park. The nearest hotels are in Redding, 8 miles east of the park. The Oak Bottom Marina is open from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm during the winter and until 8:00 pm during the summer. Fishing bait, tackle, and lures are all available for purchase at the marina store. Snack bars are located at both Brandy Creek and Oak Bottom beaches. They are open during the summer and sell a variety of made-to-order foods, cold drinks, sun block, water toys, and swim diapers. For vehicles, the closest fuel is in Redding. Motorboat fuel can be purchased at the Oak Bottom Marina.

Alcohol

Alcohol is prohibited on the park’s four designated public swim beaches: Brandy Creek, Oak Bottom, Whiskey Creek Group Picnic Area, and East Beach. The legal blood alcohol level for the operators of vehicles and motorboats can not exceed 0.08, but boat operators and drivers may be impared and incapable of safe operation at lesser levels.

All-terrain vehicles

ATVs and off-road vehicle travel are prohibited in the park.

Backpacking

Backpacking permits and regulations are available at the visitor center at no cost.

Bicycling

Bicycles are permitted on all trails except the Camden Water Ditch, Shasta Divide, Davis Gulch, and Crystal Creek Water Ditch trails. Mountain biking trail information is available at the visitor center. Helmets, gloves, and glasses are recommended for all riders. Always maintain a safe speed for road and trail conditions and stay within your level of riding experience. Cyclists must obey all traffic regulations. Hikers and equestrians always have the right-of-way.

Boating

There are no boat launching fees at Whiskeytown Lake, but visitors must display a Day Use Pass or other valid entrance pass (see “Fees/passes”). There are boat launches at Brandy Creek Marina, Oak Bottom, and Whiskey Creek. A variety of boats ranging from a one-person kayak to a ten-person deck cruiser are available for rent at Oak Bottom Marina. Please call (530) 359-2671 or visit www.whiskeytownmarinas.com.

MOTORIZED CRAFTS

Motor boats with two or four-stroke engines are allowed on Whiskeytown Lake and must observe posted no-wake areas. Engine noise cannot exceed the maximum decibel level of 75 dBA (decibel equivalent of a dishwasher or vacuum cleaner). Noise levels from other equipment or electronic devices cannot exceed 60 dBA from 50 feet (See “Noise levels”). Boats cannot exceed 36 feet in length. Occupied vessels can remain on the water overnight provided they move at no more than one-half linear mile each hour. Overnight camping on boats is prohibited. For your safety and the safety of others, please be aware of other lake users. Non-motorized craft always have the right-of-way. The use of personal watercraft is prohibited in all areas. Stay safe! Wear a life jacket!

Bookstore

The bookstore, located at the visitor center, is managed by Western National Parks Association (WNPA) whose mission is to promote the preservation of the national park system and its resources. A variety of books, maps, guides, postcards, souvenirs, and other items can be purchased here. Local products are available, as well as books written by local authors. In addition to stock on hand, WNPA has an even larger selection of items available for purchase from their online store at www.wnpa.org. WNPA members receive a 15% discount, and educators receive a 20% discount on all bookstore items. A portion of the proceeds from each sale is donated to the park to support education, interpretation, and research programs.

Fees/passes

Entrance fees for the park are $5 per vehicle for a Day Use Pass. A weekly pass can be purchased for $10, and the Whiskeytown annual pass costs $25. In addition, the annual pass from Lassen Volcanic National Park, the Interagency Annual Pass, Senior Pass, Access Pass, and the Golden Age or Access Passports are all honored at Whiskeytown. All passes must be displayed on the driver’s side of the dashboard whenever a vehicle is parked within the park boundary. A pass is not required while visiting the Whiskeytown Cemetery. Fee free days in 2012 are April 21-29, June 9, September 29, and Nov. 10-12. You do not need a pass on these dates.

Fires

Federal law permits people who can legally possess firearms under federal and State of California laws to possess firearms in the park. It is the visitor’s responsibility to understand and comply with all applicable state and federal firearms laws. Firearms are prohibited in most federal buildings in the park, including the visitor center and park headquarters. Firearms may only be used in the park during hunting seasons in authorized areas, and pursuant to the lawful taking of game in compliance with California laws and regulations.

Fishing

California Department of Fish and Game regulations apply at Whiskeytown. Fishing is allowed year-round in the lake; however, the streams feeding Whiskeytown can only be fished from the last Saturday in April through November 15. The nearest location to purchase a fishing license is Tops Fresh Market, six miles east of the visitor center.
Gold panning
Recreational gold panning is permitted in the park. A valid annual gold panning permit is required for all persons 17 and older. Gold panning regulations, as well as the $1 annual permit, can be obtained at the visitor center.

Hiking
Hiking can be enjoyed year-round at Whiskeytown. With over seventy miles of trails in the park, most of which can be ridden by mountain bikers and equestrians, there is something for every ability level and interest (please see page 4 for trail information). Be prepared for changing conditions while enjoying the park’s backcountry and be sure to carry an adequate amount of water for each person. Summer daytime temperatures often exceed 100°F.

Horses & pack animals
Horses, burros, mules, and camels may be ridden on designated multiple-use trails in the park. Horse Camp primitive campground is accessible to vehicles towing horse trailers and is the only location in the park where camping with horses is allowed. There are two sites available and a potable water spigot.

Lost and found
Lost and found items can be reported, turned in, or claimed at the visitor center.

Mines
Old mine workings in the park are dangerous and unstable. When hiking cross country, be on the lookout for uncovered mining shafts. Stay out, and stay alive!

Noise levels
In order to keep natural soundscapes and motorized equipment or electronic devices (e.g. cell phones, CD players, MP3 players) at a distance of 50 feet. In addition, noises below these levels are deemed unreasonable. Quiet hours in the park are from 10:00 pm to 6:00 am.

Special Use Permits
Special events such as weddings, sporting events, and commercial filming are permissible by obtaining a Special Use Permit. Applications and information are available on the park website. For more information, please contact Chief Ranger Jim Richardson at (530) 242-3413.

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Swimming
There are four designated public swim beaches in the park: Brandy Creek Beach, East Beach, Whiskey Creek Group Picnic Area, and Oak Bottom Beach. Brandy Creek Beach has lifeguards during the summer months. The area immediately around the buoyed water curtain below the visitor center can be utilized by long-distance swimmers. Swimming is prohibited inside the buoyed-enclosed area around the Glory Hole and Carr Powerhouse, within 300 feet of any boat launch or mooring facility, and within 100 feet of the Whiskey Creek Bridge on CA highway 299. Open-water swimming is dangerous—swim close to shore or have a friend swim with you in open water. Rope swings are prohibited.

Trash
Please pack out all trash when hiking and dispose of it in a responsible manner. There are many parking areas, and the park’s designated swim beaches.

Vehicles
Motorists must obey all posted speed limits as they are allowed on designated roadways. Be alert for pedestrians, bicyclists, and wildlife on the roadways. Use special care while driving at dawn and dusk when wildlife is most active. State and federal wildlife laws apply within the park. Make sure to display a valid park pass on your vehicle’s dashboard.

Water
Potable water is available at the following locations: the visitor center; Brandy Creek Beach, Marina, and RV Campground; Oak Bottom Beach, Marina, Amphitheater, Tent and RV Campground, Carr Powerhouse, Horse Camp, and the Whiskey Creek Group Picnic Area. Water from any natural source should be purified.

Wildlife
Do your part to keep the park’s wildlife wild. Do not feed or otherwise harass wildlife. Enjoy all animals from a safe distance and try to not disturb their natural behaviors. Use the bear-proof storage lockers for all scented items and never leave food unattended.

Annual Meteor Shower 2012
Shower Viewing Period Peak Number per hour r° Velocity Best Viewing† Moon Age °
Lyrids Apr 16 - Apr 25 Apr 22 20 2.1 29.1 mi/sec 4:00 am 01
Eta Aquarids Apr 28 - May 21 May 07 15 2.4 41.6 mi/sec 4:00 am 15
Delta Aquarids Jul 21 - Aug 23 Jul 29 20 3.1 25.7 mi/sec 3:00 am 10
Perseids Jul 13 - Aug 20 Aug 12 60 2.6 37.6 mi/sec 4:00 am 24
Oriónids Oct 04 - Nov 14 Oct 21 25 2.5 41.6 mi/sec 5:00 am 07
Leonids Nov 07 - Nov 28 Nov 18 40 2.5 43.9 mi/sec 5:00 am 05
Puppéd/Velids Dec 01 - Dec 15 Dec 10 7 2.9 24.9 mi/sec 4:00 am 22
Geminids Dec 04 - Dec 16 Dec 13 65 2.6 21.8 mi/sec 1:00 pm 00
Ursids Dec 17 - Dec 23 Dec 22 10 3.0 20.3 mi/sec 5:00 am 09
Quadrantids Jan 01 - Jan 10 Jan 04 40 2.1 25.5 mi/sec 5:00 am 10

Average Temperature and Precipitation
Average High / Low °F
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec
Average High 54/37 58/39 65/43 70/46 80/54 88/60 97/64 96/63 91/58 78/50 62/43 55/38
Record High: 87/50 88/70
Record Low: 24/0 23/0
Average Precipitation 11.26° 10.69° 11.14° 4.22° 2.76° 1.07° 0.41° 0.24° 1.56° 2.95° 8.15° 8.79°

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Trails of Whiskeytown

Easy Hikes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail Name</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Elevation</th>
<th>Highlights and Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buck Hollow</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>130 ft.</td>
<td>Wildflowers, seasonal streams, lots of shade, views of Shasta Bally Mtn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camden Water Ditch</td>
<td>1.1 Loop</td>
<td>Mostly level</td>
<td>Camden House, historic orchards, El Dorado Mine, Willow Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crystal Creek Water Ditch</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>30 ft.</td>
<td>Shaded, historic water ditch, remnants of old dams, elevated water flume</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crystal Creek Falls</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>Mostly level</td>
<td>50 ft. falls and picnic area, ADA accessible and paved from the trailhead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Bottom Ditch</td>
<td>2.75</td>
<td>20 ft.</td>
<td>Scenic views, swimming opportunities, lake access</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Moderate Hikes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail Name</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Elevation</th>
<th>Highlights and Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boulder Creek Falls</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>80 ft.</td>
<td>138 ft. falls, one creek crossing with plank bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandy Creek</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>500 ft.</td>
<td>Follows the spectacular Brandy Creek, swimming holes, ample shade. There are four small creek crossings and you hike twice on the road (signs guide you)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clear Creek Canonical</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>30 ft.</td>
<td>Beautiful series of cascades, views of Brandy Creek, shade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clear Creek Vista</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>400 ft.</td>
<td>Historic District and scenic views of Clear Creek, east end comes out near Carr Powerhouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davis Gulch (Closed to bikes and pack animals)</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>170 ft.</td>
<td>Lots of shade, lake views, scenic and quiet coves, swimming, resting benches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guardian Rock</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>Negligible</td>
<td>ADA accessible section from Horse Camp to the Clear Creek Canyon Vista. Views of Clear and Orloino Creek, Remnants of historic mining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logging Camp</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>415 ft.</td>
<td>Restored logging road and watered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Shasta Mine Loop</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>540 ft.</td>
<td>Historic mines, Orloino Creek, and beautiful views of Shasta Bally and South Fork Mountain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mule Mountain Pass</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>700 ft.</td>
<td>Creeks, scenic views of Mt. Lassen, great for hikers, bikers, and horses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peltier</td>
<td>1.75</td>
<td>380 ft.</td>
<td>Paige Boulder Creek, small waterfall, wildflowers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt Creek Loop</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>300 ft.</td>
<td>6 creek crossings, mountain views, shade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shasta Divide Nature Trail</td>
<td>0.4 Loop</td>
<td>190 ft.</td>
<td>Lots of shade, access to Whiskeytown Lake, swimming, views of mountains, benches along the trail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Difficult Hikes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail Name</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Elevation</th>
<th>Highlights and Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boulder Creek Falls</td>
<td>2.75</td>
<td>950 ft.</td>
<td>138 ft. falls, Boulder Creek views, 3 creek crossings with no bridges. Footbridges for the crossings will be completed late summer 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James K. Carr Trail</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>520 ft.</td>
<td>At 220 feet, park’s tallest falls, beautiful views of Crystal Creek, some shade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kanaka Peak</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>1,430 ft.</td>
<td>Panoramic views of the Trinity Alps, Mt. Lassen, Igo and Ono, Yolla Bolly Mtns., Clear Creek Canyon, beautiful Whiskeytown Lake Whiskeytown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mill Creek</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>350 ft.</td>
<td>20 creek crossings, lots of shade, north end of the trail connects with the Tower House Historic District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papoose Pass</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>900 ft.</td>
<td>Spectacular views, sections follow the East Fork of Boulder Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rich Gulch</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>500 ft.</td>
<td>Shaded, creek, views of Shasta Bally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt Gulch</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>800 ft.</td>
<td>Views of Mt. Lassen, Whiskeytown Lake, Southern Cascade Range, Trinity Alps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Camping

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Camp Name</th>
<th>Number of Sites</th>
<th>Price per Night</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
<th>Reservable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oak Bottom Tent Campground</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>$20 regular, $22 for shoreline*</td>
<td>year-round</td>
<td>6 people</td>
<td>2 tents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Bottom RV</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>$18 *</td>
<td>year-round</td>
<td>10 people</td>
<td>no tents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandy Creek RV</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>$14 *</td>
<td>year-round</td>
<td>10 people</td>
<td>no tents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry Creek Group Camp</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$75</td>
<td>4/1 to 10/31</td>
<td>50 people</td>
<td>(20 minimum)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primitive Camp Sites</th>
<th>Obtain permits at the visitor center. Camping trailers are permitted in primitive sites if length is 15 feet or less.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brandy Creek</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep Camp</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peltier Bridge</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse Camp</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crystal Creek</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coggins Park</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Notable Features

- **Water**
  - *Summer rates from 4/15–10/15. During the rest of the year tent sites are 1/2 price. There are four ADA accessible sites. For reservations call (530) 359-2269.*
  - *Summer rates from 4/15–10/15. During the rest of the year all RV sites are $10. No shade.*
  - *Price from 5/15–9/15. During the rest of the year, all sites are $7. Water and dump station may be shut off periodically during winter to prevent freezing.*
  - *If arriving after hours, camp in an unoccupied site and pay immediately when visitor center opens.*

- **Shower**
  - Flush
  - Flush
  - no toilet

- **Toilet Type**
  - Vault
  - Vault
  - Vault
  - Vault

- **Notes**
  - Steep downhill road to reach the campsites.
  - Caution: Sites are near a steep drop-off to the creek.
  - Vault: All of the sites are near Clear Creek.
  - Vault: Only campground where camping with horses is allowed. Call (530) 242-3412 for more information.
  - Vault: Both sites are very close to Crystal Creek.
  - 4WD or high-clearance vehicles are highly recommended for the unpaved road to the remote campsites.

Take the Waterfall Challenge

IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SUPPORT your healthy lifestyle and enhance your park experience, we invite you to take the Whiskeytown Waterfall Challenge. To complete the challenge you must hike, bike, or ride your horse to all four of the park’s waterfalls. You will want to stop by the visitor center to pick up your Waterfall Challenge Passport to take with you as you visit each waterfall and make a rubbing impression in the square provided. The rubbing plates are unique to the individual falls and are located on the trail register boxes near the base of the falls.

Please bring your completed Waterfall Challenge Passport to the visitor center to stamp it with the special “I Hiked The Falls” cancellation stamp. During Waterfall Week, Whiskeytown’s celebration of National Park Week, visitors may receive a special prize for completing the challenge while supplies last. Completing the challenge is a remarkable accomplishment, but visiting the park’s waterfalls does not need to be a race to the finish—it can also be a journey of beauty and discovery. Although the falls lie at the end of the trail, there are natural wonders that you can see, hear, feel, smell, and perhaps most importantly, be touched by, as you make your way toward these wonders of nature.

Happy Trails!

Visitors well on their way to completing the Whiskeytown Waterfall Challenge
A park for all seasons

Walk by the wayside exhibits outside the visitor center and enjoy the scenic views.

Come inside the visitor center and learn about Whiskeytown’s Native American and California Gold Rush history through the various exhibits.

From the visitor center parking lot, enjoy a leisurely stroll down the Shasta Divide Nature Trail to the shores of beautiful Whiskeytown Lake.

From Horse Camp, walk the ADA accessible portion of the Guardian Rock Trail to the beautiful vista point overlooking Lower Clear Creek Canyon.

Take a short walk (0.3 miles) to Crystal Creek Falls and enjoy your lunch at the picnic site.

Pan for gold along Clear Creek (see “Goldpanning” on page 3 for more information).

Take a quiet walk on a trail and spend time familiarizing yourself with the various plants and animals you encounter. Use all of your senses—enjoying the encounters is more important than naming the species.

Spend the afternoon at Brandy Creek and enjoy a picnic on the beach or in one of the many shaded picnic sites under the trees and near the creek.

TAKE A HIKE ALONG THE CLEAR CREEK VISTA, Fall

Explore the newly re-routed Kanaka Peak trail and enjoy the spectacular views from the summit.

For an extreme and rewarding day, you can complete the Whiskeytown Waterfall Challenge (see page 5) in one day by hiking to all four of the park’s waterfalls.

Beat the summer heat by taking a hike to Boulder Creek Falls or Brandy Creek Falls. Spring is great time to see them during their peak flow as the mountain snowpack begins to melt; use caution as the trails will be slippery. Hike any of the park trails to experience the incredible bloom of wildflowers. Great trails for spring wildflower viewing are the Mt. Shasta Mine Loop, Davis Gulch, Guardian Rock, Lower Brandy Creek, and Boulder Creek trails.

Walk by the wayside exhibits outside the visitor center and enjoy the scenic views.

Come inside the visitor center and learn about Whiskeytown’s Native American and California Gold Rush history through the various exhibits.

From the visitor center parking lot, enjoy a leisurely stroll down the Shasta Divide Nature Trail to the shores of beautiful Whiskeytown Lake.

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Spend the afternoon at Brandy Creek and enjoy a picnic on the beach or in one of the many shaded picnic sites under the trees and near the creek.

TAKE A HIKE TO THE PARK’S FOUR WATERFALLS, Spring

Hike Crystal Creek Water Ditch Trail or hike to Boulder Creek Falls via Mill Creek Rd Trailhead.

Hike the Peltier Trail and enjoy a beautiful unnamed waterfall on Paige Boulder Creek.

Hike to Whiskeytown Falls or Brandy Creek Falls. Hike the Mt. Shasta Mine Loop Trail.

Hike the Papoose Pass Trail from Sheep Camp to Bally Mountain for panoramic views of Mt. Lassen, Mt. Shasta, the Trinity Alps, and the Central Valley. Rent a motorized or human-powered boat at Oak Bottom Marina and enjoy the cool blue waters of Whiskeytown Lake for the day.

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JOIN US AT THE CAMDEN HOUSE WITHIN THE park’s Tower House Historic District for the annual “Old Time Holiday” celebration and free wreath-making workshop on Saturday, December 1, 2012. Hike along the Brandy Creek, Mill Creek, or Boulder Creek trails to witness the crimson glory of massive gatherings of lady beetles numbering in the thousands as they enter a period of dormancy to conserve energy in the colder months. Bring your binoculars to the quiet coves around the lake to enjoy the beautiful waterfowl that congregate on Whiskeytown Lake during the winter migration. Species commonly seen are Canada Geese, Mallards, Ruffleheads, Common and Hooded Mergansers, Ruddy Ducks, and Ring-necked Ducks. Watch for bald eagles as well!

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WHISKEYTOWN IS A WONDERFUL PLACE FOR families to enjoy the outdoors. In order to ensure that you have a safe time in the park’s backcountry, all visitors should be aware of some potential dangers and how to avoid them. Weather conditions can change rapidly, so be adequately prepared for your backcountry adventure by bringing extra layers of clothing, food, and plenty of water for each person, especially in the summer when temperatures can exceed 100°F. Be alert for wildlife and maintain a safe distance. If you encounter a bear or a mountain lion, try to scare it away by shouting, waving your hands, and throwing sticks or rocks. Never leave food unattended and make sure to hang your sticks or rocks. Never leave food on the ground, never leave food in the car, and never leave any food near your campsite. Poison oak is very common in the park. Leave no trace of it, or you will be caught in the park service’s purgatory for life.

Many of Whiskeytown’s visitors trek through weed-infested lands on their way to the park – unintentionally bringing invasive plants in on socks, shoes, backpacks, and pet fur. Keeping Whiskeytown’s backcountry free of exotic plants is a monumental challenge that requires park staff and visitors to do their best in preventing the introduction and spread of non-native and invasive plant species.

Please help!
- Inspect your clothes, gear, tent, boots, boat, and vehicle for hitch-hiking seeds and brush vegetation and seeds from your pet’s fur.
- Please ensure that all seeds are safely disposed of in the trash.
- Stay on established trails.
- Learn more about invasive plants and spread the word about non-native plant invasions.

Preserve Whiskeytown’s waters!
Quagga and zebra mussels are two exotic species of bivalve that have caused ecological and economic havoc in many areas of North America. Both mussels can be inadvertently spread by contaminated boats being moved from one water body to another. Any time you remove your vessel (motorized and non-motorized) from the water, please do the following:
- Drain all water and dry all areas including the outboard unit and all live-wells.
- Inspect all exposed surfaces using your eyes and hands – small mussels feel like sandpaper to the touch and may not be visible.
- Remove all plant and animal material.
- Wash the hull of each watercraft thoroughly.
- “Clean, drain, and dry!” to stop the spread!

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Ranger-led program offerings

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Ranger-led program descriptions

Kayak Program  
**Daily tours at 9:30 am and 6 pm. An additional 12:30 pm tour is offered on Saturday and Sunday (2½ hours).** Reservations are required; call (530) 242-3462.  
Hop on a kayak with a friend and explore the quiet coves around Whiskeytown Lake while you learn more about the natural and cultural values of the park. Children must be at least six years old. For reservations up to two weeks in advance, call (530) 242-3462. Ask about arranging a group tour (minimum of 12 people).

Special Access Kayak Program  
**Friday evenings during July and August (2 hours)**  
This program has been developed for individuals with special needs so they can enjoy a kayaking adventure. Visitors who have limited mobility, disabilities, developmental issues, or restrictions due to age or illness are encouraged to give kayaking a try. Visitors with special needs are paired with an experienced volunteer. Please call (530) 242-3454 for more information.

Moonlight Kayak Program  
**There are several tours each month from July through September (2½ hours).**  
Experience dramatic changes in the landscape as you explore Whiskeytown lake under the light of the moon. Reservations are required and can be made up to two weeks in advance by calling (530) 242-3462.

Water-Safety Demonstration  
**Saturday and Sunday afternoons (30 minutes)**  
Learn how to stay safe in and around the water, as well as how to rescue someone. Join a ranger for this fun and educational demonstration at Brandy Creek Beach and Oak Bottom Beach.

Walk In Time  
**Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday 3:00 pm (2 hours)**  
Discover how pioneers/prospectors Charles Camden and Levi Tower reshaped the landscape to create a home for their families and an “oasis” for many travelers during and after the California Gold Rush. After a tour of the Camden house, built in 1852, enjoy a leisurely stroll through the area, then try your hand at finding gold the old-fashioned way—with a gold pan in the creek! Meet the ranger at the Tower House Historic District parking lot near the bulletin board.

Evening Program  
**Friday and Saturday at 9:00 pm (1 hour)**  
**Beginning August 3, start time is 8:30 pm**  
Spend the evening with a ranger and learn more about wonders of Whiskeytown through talks, slide shows, or other activities during this one-hour program. Topics include history, wildlife, and current issues related to protecting the park’s natural and cultural resources. Meet at the Oak Bottom Amphitheater.

The Friends of Whiskeytown (FOW) is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping the National Park Service restore and protect the magnificent resources and recreational opportunities at Whiskeytown. Most recently, FOW purchased and donated a new fleet of kayaks to the park for the free ranger-led kayak program. The group’s generous donation has enabled the park to once again offer tours out of the facility near Oak Bottom Marina where the program began more than 10 years ago. Visitors will now be able to experience the beauty of the western end of Whiskeytown Lake by paddling to the mouth of Boulder Creek, around Star Island, along sections of old Highway 299, and exploring the lake from Oak Bottom up to the Judge Francis Carr Powerhouse.

FOW has been instrumental in providing support for park projects and programs over the years, including the hiring of a Student Conservation Association trail crew to build and maintain trails each summer, Whiskeytown’s Artist-in-Residence Program, the annual Volunteer-In-Parks Program recognition event, the Old-Time Holiday and wreath-making workshop at the Camden House, Pick Up Lake Litter Day, and Whiskeytown’s Annual Harvest Festival.

If you would like to join and support FOW, your contribution of $25.00 or more will help the park complete projects that would otherwise go unfunded. And don’t forget to mark your calendar for the third annual Brandy Creek Beach Luau on Saturday, June 9, 2012. This fun event is a fundraiser for FOW and will feature a luau dinner, Hawaiian entertainment, live and silent auction. For further information, call (530) 242-3460 or visit www.friendsofwhiskeytown.org.

Forever Resorts is the National Park Service’s concessioner on Whiskeytown Lake operating Oak Bottom Marina and Brandy Creek Marina. Both marinas offer slip rentals, launch ramps, and seasonal snack bars. Boat rentals at Oak Bottom Marina range from single kayaks to 16’ fishing boats, 20’ ski boats and 26’ deck cruisers. The marina takes reservations on eight hour rentals only. Two and four hour rentals are on a first-come, first-served basis. Slip rentals at both marinas are available annually or seasonally.

Also operated by Forever Resorts, Oak Bottom Campground offers 98 walk-in tent sites and 22 dry-camping RV sites, all within walking distance of the lake and swim beach. The campground has a dump station, restrooms, in-season snack bar, swim beach and access to the boat ramp. A maximum of six people and two tents are allowed at each campsite, which has a fire pit, picnic table, and bear-proof storage locker. Pets are welcome at the campground for a fee of $2.00 per pet, per day. For the safety of all campers, dogs are required to be on a leash no longer than 6 feet and cannot be left unattended (See “Pets” on page 3).

Convenience stores at Oak Bottom are located in the campground office and the marina office. Both sell snacks, ice, bait and tackle, clothing, gifts and sundries. Oak Bottom Marina provides everything you need to enjoy your favorite outdoor recreational activity, and Forever Resorts’ knowledgeable and friendly staff is always ready to assist you with your boating necessities and reservations. For more information, call (530) 359-2269 for camping reservations and (530) 359-2671 for the marina store, or visit www.fofriendswhiskeytownmarinas.com.