



# Lake Mead

## National Recreation Area

Fall - Winter 2015 - 2016

### Historic Railroad Trail

Andrew Cattoir photo

FIND YOUR **PARK**

## Historic Railroad Trail Awarded National Designation

One of Lake Mead National Recreation Area's most frequented trails is now a part of the National Trails System. The Historic Railroad Trail at Lake Mead was designated as a national recreation trail by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis June 6, 2015.

The designation as a national recreation trail means that the trail will be preserved to promote the enjoyment, outdoor areas, appreciation and historic resources, and to encourage public access and citizen involvement.

The Historic Railroad Trail is the only remaining section of the Hoover Dam Railroad system that is not highly disturbed or under water. The terrain of the trail is flat, and the entrance to the trailhead is close to the Lake Mead Visitor Center, giving visitors easy access.

"Trails provide millions of Americans with outstanding opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors," said Jewell.

The 3.7-mile, multi-use trail connects the National Park Service's visitor center within Lake Mead National Recreation Area with the Bureau of Reclamation's Hoover Dam and visitor center.

The trail, constructed on an old railroad grade that goes through five tunnels used during dam construction, offers panoramic views of Lake Mead, Boulder Basin, Fortification Hill, massive crystalline rock formations and the rugged Mojave Desert.

"We are honored that the Historic Railroad Trail received such an esteemed designation," said Patrick Gubbins, Lake Mead NRA deputy superintendent. "The beautiful lake views along this trail combined with the Hoover Dam history make it one of Southern Nevada's most unique trail experiences."

Hiking in the desert can be an enjoyable experience. It can also be a hazardous adventure if you travel unprepared. Never hike alone, and tell someone where you are going and when you plan to return. Carry plenty of water, at least one gallon of water per person. Drink often.

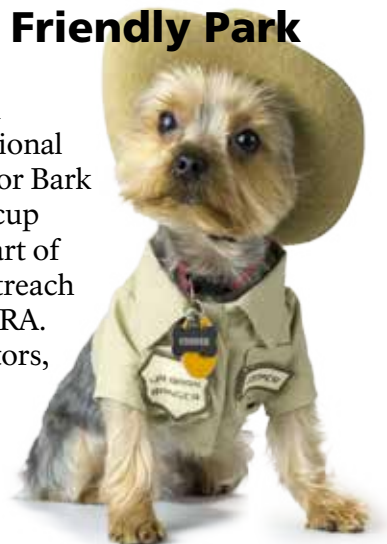
"By designating these exceptional trails as part of the National Trails System, we recognize the efforts of local communities to provide outdoor recreational opportunities that can be enjoyed by everyone," said Jewell. "Our world-class network of national trails provides easily accessible places to get exercise and connect with nature in both urban and rural areas while also boosting tourism and supporting economic opportunities in local communities across the country."



Visitors exploring the tunnels of the Historic Railroad Trail

## We Are a Pet Friendly Park

You and your pet are welcome to come and enjoy Lake Mead National Recreation Area. Junior Bark Ranger Cooper, a teacup Yorkshire terrier, is part of the education and outreach team at Lake Mead NRA. He helps educate visitors, especially his four-legged friends about our pet friendly park.



Take a hike along the Historic Railroad Trail, enjoy a picnic, go for a jog on the River Mountains Loop Trail, go camping, take a cruise on a boat or take a dip in the lake. Most activities at Lake Mead are pet friendly.

### Please Remember:

- All pets must be kept on a six-foot leash at all times
- Never leave pets unattended because animals, such as coyotes and mountain lions, are natural predators that live in Lake Mead National Recreation Area.
- Pets are not allowed in buildings or where it is signed 'no pets'.
- Remember to bring plenty of water for you and your pet.
- Always pick up after your pet and help to keep our beaches, trails and backcountry unspoiled.



# Visitor Information

## Emergencies

In case of an emergency, dial 911 or contact the police using your marine band radio on channels 16 or 22A. Report suspicious activity and non-emergencies to 702-293-8998. Emergency call boxes are located throughout the park. See the map on the back page for locations.

## Fires

Fires are permitted using fire pits in developed areas. Campfires are permitted throughout the backcountry except when fire danger is high (watch for notices). Firewood may be purchased at marinas and most local grocery stores.

## Firearms

Federal law allows people who can legally possess firearms under applicable federal, state and local laws to possess them in the park. Firearms are prohibited in federal buildings, such as visitor centers and ranger stations. It is the responsibility of the visitors to understand and comply with all applicable firearm laws before entering the park. Target shooting is prohibited.

## Social Media

Join the conversation. Follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/lakemead](http://www.facebook.com/lakemead) to learn about programs and other events. Post your questions and a ranger will get back to you. Follow us on Twitter at @LakeMeadNRA to learn about park news. View pictures of the park and events on flickr at [www.flickr.com/lakemeadnra](http://www.flickr.com/lakemeadnra) and our videos at [www.youtube.com/LakeMeadNRA](http://www.youtube.com/LakeMeadNRA).

## Pets

Pets are allowed on all trails and beaches within the park unless there is a sign that says otherwise. Pets must be under physical control on a leash no longer than six feet at all times. Pets should not be left in cars at Lake Mead NRA. Please consider your pet's needs for water and shade in warmer temperatures.

## Wear it for life

Children age 12 and younger must wear a lifejacket while on board a vessel. Each person aboard a personal watercraft, must also wear a lifejacket.

Due to the cold temperatures and currents between Hoover Dam and Mile 43 on Lake Mohave, all occupants of hand-propelled craft in that area must wear lifejackets when underway. Lake Mead NRA recommends wearing a lifejacket while on or in the water.

## Clean, Drain and Dry

Don't move a mussel – a quagga mussel that is. It's the law. Quagga mussels are small aquatic invasive species that can latch onto your vessels and hitchhike to other bodies of water. Once there, the mussels can cause millions of dollars in damages.

Help us keep quagga mussels out of other lakes. Before you leave the park, CLEAN plants, animals and mud from your boat, motor and trailer. DRAIN water from the bilge, live-well and engine. DRY the watercraft, vehicle and equipment.



## Lizette Richardson Named New Superintendent of Lake Mead National Recreation Area

Lizette Richardson has been appointed as superintendent of Lake Mead National Recreation Area. She succeeds William Dickinson, who retired from the National Park Service. Richardson previously worked at the park and will begin her new assignment in early October.

"Lizette is an outstanding addition to the senior executive leadership at the National Park Service," said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. "She brings a deep background in park operations and knowledge of Lake Mead National Recreation Area's extraordinary landscape. I'm confident that her leadership will help the park reach new audiences as the National Park Service celebrates 100 years and prepares for our second century of service."

Richardson is currently the Chief of the Construction Program Management Division in the National Park Service's national office in Denver, Colorado, where she is responsible

for developing policy, program formulation, and implementation of planning, design and construction for all National Park Service major capital improvement programs.

Richardson worked at Lake Mead National Recreation Area from November 2004 to June 2013 as the Chief of Maintenance and Engineering. In this role, she was responsible for the planning, design, construction and oversight of many varied projects, including more than \$200 million in funding for park infrastructure improvements and visitor enhancements, as well as day-to-day park maintenance operations.

"I'm looking forward to the challenges in protecting the world-class resources at Lake Mead National Recreation Area," said Richardson. "I feel truly blessed to be able to come back to the park where I started my NPS career and work with such a dedicated, professional team. It's an exciting time with the NPS Centennial right around the corner, and I also look forward to working with the community, partners and stakeholders, as well

as the newly established park, Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument and Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument."

Prior to coming to the National Park Service, Richardson was a project manager with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, where she was responsible for multi-million dollar civil works projects, including a \$344 million flood control project. Richardson has managed several offices at U.S. Air Force installations and has also worked as an engineer in the private sector for Holmes and Narver and TRW, Inc. She holds a B.S. in civil engineering from Manhattan College and is a registered professional engineer in the state of Nevada. She enjoys golfing, traveling and spending time with her family.





# FIND YOUR PARK

2016  
National Park Service  
CENTENNIAL

## National Park Service Celebrates 100 Years



### Find Your Park at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument

Lake Mead National Recreation Area and Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument are joining national parks, programs and partners across the country to encourage everyone to find their park and share their stories online at [FindYourPark.com](http://FindYourPark.com).

Find Your Park is a national campaign, celebrating the milestone centennial anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016.

"This is an exciting time for the National Park Service and our community," said Patrick Gubbins, deputy superintendent, Lake Mead NRA. "Find Your Park will re-introduce the world to America's 408 national parks, including our local national recreation area and national monument.

"We want you to find your park and share your experience," he added.

Beyond vast landscapes, the campaign highlights historical, urban and cultural parks, as well as the National Park Service programs that protect, preserve and share nature, culture and history in communities nationwide.

Find Your Park invites the public to see that a national park is more than a place. Parks generate feelings, a state of mind and a sense of American pride.

"There is something for everyone in our national parks, whether it is the breathtaking landscapes or the historical and cultural sites that tell the story of our country," said Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell. "As we approach the centennial anniversary of the National Park Service, this is a perfect time for all Americans – especially young people – to Find Your Park,



Visitor observes peregrine falcons nesting in Black Canyon

from neighborhood parks to national parks and all public lands in between."

Lake Mead National Recreation Area stretches 1.5 million acres across Southern Nevada and Northern Arizona. Known for its reservoirs, Lake Mead and Lake Mohave, the recreation area is a popular summertime destination for millions of water enthusiasts. But it's so much more. With nine wilderness areas and miles of urban and backcountry roads, the park is world renowned for hiking, cycling and scenic driving.

Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument is one of the nation's newest parks. Located just north of Las Vegas, the 22,650-acre park was established in December to preserve ice age fossils that are prevalent in the area. There are no services in this new park, but you can explore the area and hike along the desert badlands that were once home to Columbian mammoths, lions and sloths.

We hope you find your park while you're here. We'd love for you to share a photo using #FindYourPark.

### Every Kid in a Park

Calling all 4th graders. What do you know about America's federal lands and waters? You can find them almost everywhere. From Puerto Rico to Maine and Virginia to the Pacific Islands, some of America's most spectacular destinations await your discovery.

If you are a United States 4th grader (including home schooled and free-choice learners 10 years of age) you can download your own voucher to gain unlimited, free access to any federal lands or waters now through August 2016.

Getting a pass is simple. Visit the "Get Your Pass" section of [www.everykidinapark.gov](http://www.everykidinapark.gov). Complete an online game, and download and print a personalized voucher. This paper voucher can be exchanged for a more durable, Interagency Annual 4th Grade Pass at Lake Mead National Recreation Area and other federal lands and waters sites.



[www.everykidinapark.gov](http://www.everykidinapark.gov)

Explore cool places like Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument, Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, Spring Mountains National Recreation Area and Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument. Our country has more than 400 national parks and millions of acres of federal lands and waters to visit and learn about your heritage and connect with nature.

2016  
National Park Service  
CENTENNIAL

The National Park Service is turning 100 in 2016. We created a list of ways to #FindYourPark at Lake Mead National Recreation Area. What sounds fun? Pick an activity you can do, post a picture or video of your experience on social media using the hashtag #FindYourPark. *We can't wait to see what you do.*

# there must be.. TWENTY WAYS TO FIND YOUR PARK

1 Raft down a river. Black Canyon/Willow Beach River Adventures will take you down the Black Canyon Water Trail through high cliffs, hidden springs, caves and historic remnants of the Hoover Dam construction project. <http://blackcanyonadventures.com/raft-tours/>

2 Channel your inner Bill Nye. Become a citizen scientist. <http://www.nature.nps.gov/biology/biodiversity/bioblitz.cfm> <http://www.citizenscientists.com/>

3 Discover history around you. Hike Lake Mead's Historic Railroad Trail. The trail was recently designated as a national historic trail and is the only remaining section of the Hoover Dam Railroad system that is not disturbed or under water.

4 Find your park in Spanish #EncuentraTuParque. Using this hashtag share your family's experience in the park.

5 Go on a ranger-led tour and share your experience on social media #RangersPointingAtThings.

6 Take a spin on your favorite bike path. Enjoy biking on the Historic Railroad Trail and the River Mountains Loop Trail and its many spurs.

7 Take a mini-cruise. The pride of Lake Mead Cruises, the Desert Princess, is a three-level paddle-wheeler spaciouly equipped with two climate-controlled enclosed decks and an open promenade deck - perfect for taking in the clean air and wondrous sights. Champagne brunch and dinner cruises available. <http://www.lakemeadcruises.com/>

8 Take a picnic and dine *al fresco*. Check out great picnic areas at Boulder Beach, Redstone, Las Vegas Bay, Callville Bay, Temple Bar, Echo Bay, Rogers Spring, Willow Beach, Cottonwood Cove, South Cove and Katherine Landing.

9 Relax along the water at a scenic marina. The park's marinas offer many amenities including campgrounds, restaurants, gift stores and more.

10 Stamp your park passport and watch the film "Life in the Desert" at the Lake Mead Visitor Center.

11 Get up early and take a sunrise selfie. Set that alarm and say "hello" to the rising sun with your smiling face in the picture.

12 Pose for a family photo in the park. Smile big and share.

13 Dance on the shoreline or strike a yoga pose. Relax and breathe in the spectacular scenery.

14 Get VIP (Volunteer In Park) status. See article on page five to learn how to be on the Trail Watch team or find volunteer opportunities at [volunteer.gov](http://volunteer.gov).

15 Earn a Junior Ranger badge by stopping at the Lake Mead Visitor Center and completing a Junior Ranger booklet or check out a Junior Ranger Explorer Pack. Share your experience (#jrranger) as you are sworn in by the ranger and receive your badge.

16 Find life in the desert. Photograph flowers, lizards, bugs, birds and desert bighorn sheep and share on social media.

17 Share a #tbt park photo. Do you have any of those "good times" photographs from way back when at Lake Mead NRA? Post it on Facebook; share it with #findyourpark

18 Take a photo that matches a historic one #retrogram. Use our Virtual Museum ([nps.gov/features/museum](http://nps.gov/features/museum)) to find historic photos of places around Lake Mead and Lake Mohave. Can you take a photo in the same place and match the historic photo today?

19 Spend a week on a floating hotel. Callville Bay on Lake Mead and Cottonwood Cove on Lake Mohave rent house boats full of amenities, including kitchens, barbeques and hot tubs.

20 Follow Lake Mead on social media. Facebook: lakemead; Twitter: LakeMeadNRA; Instagram: LakeMeadNPS.



## The Trail Watch Team Wants You



Trail Watch volunteers are the eyes and ears of the park. Whether on the River Mountains Loop Trail, the Historic Railroad Trail or one of the many other park trails, they are reporting back what they see happening in the park. By spending time on the trails, volunteers often view some of the park's lesser-seen animals, such as, desert bighorn sheep, desert tortoises and bald eagles.

Do you want to be part of the team during the NPS Centennial? Please give us a call at 702-293-8717 or email us at [LaMe\\_volunteer\\_coordinator@nps.gov](mailto:LaMe_volunteer_coordinator@nps.gov). Once you are a volunteer, you can lace up your boots, don your cap, fill your water bottle and you're on your way to exploring and protecting beautiful places.

## Your "Always Open" Museum - [nps.gov/features/lake/museum](https://nps.gov/features/lake/museum)



Did you know Lake Mead National Recreation Area has a collection of historic photographs and cultural artifacts? The park does not have a museum; therefore visitors were unable to see these items that tell the story of the past, until now. The Lake Mead NRA Virtual Museum was created to introduce these items to the public just in time for the NPS Centennial.

Over the years, artifacts and photographs have been carefully cataloged and stored by park archeologists in a climate controlled room to protect and preserve them. Our new Virtual Museum, introduced in the fall of 2015, allows the virtual visitor to explore these photographs and artifacts online.

The Virtual Museum has two main categories: Historic Images and Artifacts. Within these categories are sub-categories to make it easier to navigate through the site. Visitors will find brief descriptions and dates, if available, for each item. There are thumbnails for quick searches and a zoom tool to closely examine details.

Lake Mead NRA's cultural resources and artifacts tell an intriguing story about Native Americans, pioneers, miners, ranchers, settlers and dam builders who lived and thrived in Southern Nevada and Northern Arizona. Historic photographs captured steamships, early settlements, ranger activities, recreation and explorations. St. Thomas, the once submerged town, is also included in the artifact and photo sections of the Virtual Museum.

You can visit our Virtual Museum at [nps.gov/features/lake/museum](https://www.nps.gov/features/lake/museum) and delve into the past of this area that is now Lake Mead and Lake Mohave.




*Kellett KD-1 at Boulder City Airport, May 5, 1941*

# Check out the new Junior Ranger Explorer Packs



The Lake Mead Visitor Center now has Junior Ranger Explorer Packs available for children and their families to check out at no cost. These Explorer Packs were created for families to use for up to three days. They are checked out based on an honor system and are free for the family to use, although items in the pack are available for sale in the Lake Mead Visitor Center.

The Junior Ranger Explorer Pack includes an official Lake Mead National Recreation Area Field Notebook, plant and animal pocket guides, an adventure scope, a thermometer, a wind meter, a list of activity ideas for families to do around the park and more. The idea of the pack is to allow children to explore this park in a deeper and more exciting way.



This new offering at Lake Mead NRA coincides with President Obama's initiative of Every Kid in a Park, where every fourth grader and their family will be able to enter national parks for free. When the family returns to the Visitor Center with their pack and completed Lake Mead NRA Field Notebook, the child will be sworn in as an official Lake Mead Junior Ranger. The new Lake Mead Junior Ranger will receive a badge or patch and a certificate.

## Ranger Led Programs



**Congratulations  
on the NPS's  
100th anniversary  
during the 2016  
Centennial!**

Join a Ranger on the first and third Saturday of the month (October - February) for an evening program at the Boulder Beach Campground Amphitheater. Please inquire at the Visitor Center for specific times and topics at 702-293- 8990.

## Taking your boat out of state?



**Nevada Department of Wildlife  
provides FREE AIS vessel inspections  
and removal at Hemenway Harbor,  
Callville Bay and Cottonwood Cove.  
To make an appointment call  
702-757-5757**





## Meet the Newest Southern Nevada National Park

Although Las Vegas is surrounded by millions of acres of public lands, Lake Mead National Recreation Area has been the only National Park in Southern Nevada...until now.

Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument was established as the 405th unit of the National Park Service December 19, 2014. This Ice Age Park is located only 30 minutes from the Las Vegas Strip. The monument is 22,650 acres. It is located just north of Las Vegas, and stretches along US Highway 95 north of Aliante and Centennial Hills to Creech Air Force Base.

The paleontological period represented at Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument ranges from 250,000 to 3,000 years ago. It is rich with significant paleontological resources from the ice age.

Because it's a new park, there is no visitor center, facilities or parking areas...yet. Right now to access the park, people can park on nearby public roads in the cities of Las Vegas and North Las Vegas, and they can enter the monument on foot. Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument is open during daylight hours.

If you visit the park, stop by the Lake Mead Visitor Center to get your Tule Springs passport stamp.

Thousands of Pleistocene-era fossils have been found in Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument, and thousands remain for scientific excavation, examination and public viewing. What makes this area unique is the vast span of time the fossils represent. Fossils and fossilized pollen in the area span nearly 250,000 years of time, offering important insight into at least two Ice Ages and multiple warming and cooling periods. The ancient animal fossil remains have been hidden undisturbed for centuries.



### Jon Burpee Named Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument Superintendent

Jon Burpee is serving as the first permanent superintendent of Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument, one of the nation's newest national parks established in December 2014 to conserve a collection of fossils that are up to 250,000 years old.

Prior to arriving, Burpee served as a National Park Service Bevinetto Congressional Fellow. The fellowship included spending a year as a Senate Energy and National Resources Committee staff member and another year working in the NPS's Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs.

Burpee has worked for the National Park Service since 1996 when he started as a volunteer at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site in Washington state. He was later hired on at Fort Vancouver as a seasonal park ranger. Over his career, he has worked at Death Valley National Park, Fort Frederica National Monument in Georgia and Castillo de San Marcos National Monument in Florida.

"I am looking forward to calling Southern Nevada my home and working with our community partners to make Tule Springs another cherished jewel in Las Vegas' crown of premiere destinations," said Burpee.



# Visitor Services

## Lake Mead

### Callville Bay Resort and Marina

702-565-8958, rentals: 800-255-5561

[www.callvillebay.com](http://www.callvillebay.com)

Marina/boat slip rentals  
Launch ramp  
Fuel (auto/boat)  
Boat rental  
Campgrounds  
Trailer village  
RV park  
Pump-out  
Store (gift/convenience)  
Dry boat storage  
Boat repair

Café  
Marina snack bar  
Restaurant  
Lounge  
AIS RS (aquatic invasive species removal)  
Fish cleaner  
Showers  
Laundry

### Echo Bay

702-394-4000, 800-255-5561

[www.lakemeadrvillage.com](http://www.lakemeadrvillage.com)

Launch ramp  
Fuel (auto)  
Campgrounds  
Trailer village  
RV park

Pump-out  
Store (gift/convenience)  
Dry boat storage  
Fish cleaner

### Lake Mead Cruises

702-293-6180

[www.lakemeadcruises.com](http://www.lakemeadcruises.com)

Cruise on a climate-controlled Mississippi-style paddle wheel to the Hoover Dam and back. Brunch and dinner cruises and private charters available.

### Lake Mead Trailer Village

702-293-2540

[www.lakemeadrvillage.com](http://www.lakemeadrvillage.com)

RV park  
Pump-out  
Activity center/meeting room  
Store (gift/convenience)

Dry boat storage  
Laundry  
Full hook-ups

### Las Vegas Bay

702-565-9223

[www.boatinglakemead.com](http://www.boatinglakemead.com)

Fuel (auto)  
Campgrounds

Dry boat storage  
Fish cleaner



### Las Vegas Boat Harbor Marina

702-293-1191 Las Vegas Boat Harbor Marina

702-293-3484 Lake Mead Marina

[www.boatinglakemead.com](http://www.boatinglakemead.com)

Marina/boat slip rentals  
Launch ramp  
Fuel (boat)  
Boat rental  
Pump-out  
Stores (gift/convenience)  
Dry boat storage

Boat repair  
Café  
Restaurants  
Lounges  
AIS RS (aquatic invasive species removal)  
Banquet/meeting room

### Temple Bar Marina

928-767-3211, rentals: 800-255-5561

[www.templebarlakemead.com](http://www.templebarlakemead.com)

Marina/boat slip rentals  
Launch ramp  
Fuel (auto/boat)  
Boat rental  
Motels/cabins  
Campgrounds  
Trailer village  
RV park  
Pump-out  
Store (gift/convenience)

Dry boat storage  
Boat repair  
Restaurant  
Lounge  
AIS RS (aquatic invasive species removal)  
Fish cleaner  
Showers  
Laundry

### Nevada Department of Wildlife

FREE Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) inspection and removal at Callville, Hemenway and Cottonwood. Free AIS removal, 702-757-5757. AIS decal, 866-703-4605



## Lake Mohave

### Black Canyon/Willow Beach Adventures

702-294-1414

[www.blackcanyonriveradventures.com](http://www.blackcanyonriveradventures.com)

Scenic flat water raft trip through Black Canyon with views of Hoover Dam. Lunch is included.

### Cottonwood Cove Resort and Marina

702-297-1464, rentals: 800-255-5561

[www.cottonwoodcoveresort.com](http://www.cottonwoodcoveresort.com)

Marina/boat slip rentals  
Launch ramp  
Fuel (auto/boat)  
Boat rental  
Motel  
Campgrounds  
Trailer village  
RV park  
Pump-out  
Store (gift/convenience)

Dry boat storage  
Boat repair  
Café  
AIS RS (aquatic invasive species removal)  
Fish cleaner  
Showers  
Meeting Room  
Laundry

### Lake Mohave Resort, Katherine Landing

928-754-3245, reservations: 800-752-9669

[www.sevencrown.com](http://www.sevencrown.com)

Marina/boat slip rentals  
Launch ramp  
Fuel (auto/boat)  
Boat rental  
Motel  
Campgrounds  
Trailer village  
RV park  
Pump-out  
Store (gift/convenience)

Dry boat storage  
Boat repair  
Restaurant  
Lounge  
AIS RS (aquatic invasive species removal)  
Fish cleaner  
Showers  
Laundry

### Willow Beach Harbor Marina

928-767-4747

[www.willowbeachharbor.com](http://www.willowbeachharbor.com)

Marina/boat slip rentals  
Launch ramp  
Fuel (auto/boat)  
Boat rental  
Campgrounds  
RV park  
Pump-out  
Store (gift/convenience)

Café  
AIS RS (aquatic invasive species removal)  
Fishing pier  
Fish cleaner  
Showers  
Laundry

## Gila Monsters at Lake Mead



By Ranger Robert Mills

While the name sounds fearsome, Gila monsters (*Heloderma suspectum*) were named after the Gila River region in Arizona where they were first located. They do bite, but your hand must be very close to their mouth to provoke them. Unlike some movies, they don't chase or attack people.

Sightings of Gila monsters in the Mojave Desert are rare but occasionally happen. Several lucky visitors saw these animals in or near the parking lot at Grapevine Canyon. Should you see a Gila monster in the park, please take pictures and let us know so we can document the sighting.

Though the Gila monster (pronounced hee-la) is venomous, its slow, lumbering nature, bright orange and black coloring and large amounts of time spent underground make it easy for humans to avoid. Most bites today occur when humans are harassing or attempting to catch the animals, which is illegal. Gila monsters are protected by Arizona and Nevada state laws.

The Gila monster produces venom in modified salivary glands in its lower jaw. The Gila monster lacks the musculature to forcibly inject the venom; instead, the venom is propelled from the gland to the tooth by chewing. Gila monsters have been observed to flip over while biting a victim, presumably to aid the flow of the venom into the wound. Because the Gila monsters prey consists mainly of eggs, small animals and otherwise "helpless" prey, the venom is thought to be a defensive rather than an offensive weapon. The defensive use might explain the Gila monster's bright coloration, which would tend to warn off predators.

## Park Store and Visitor Center

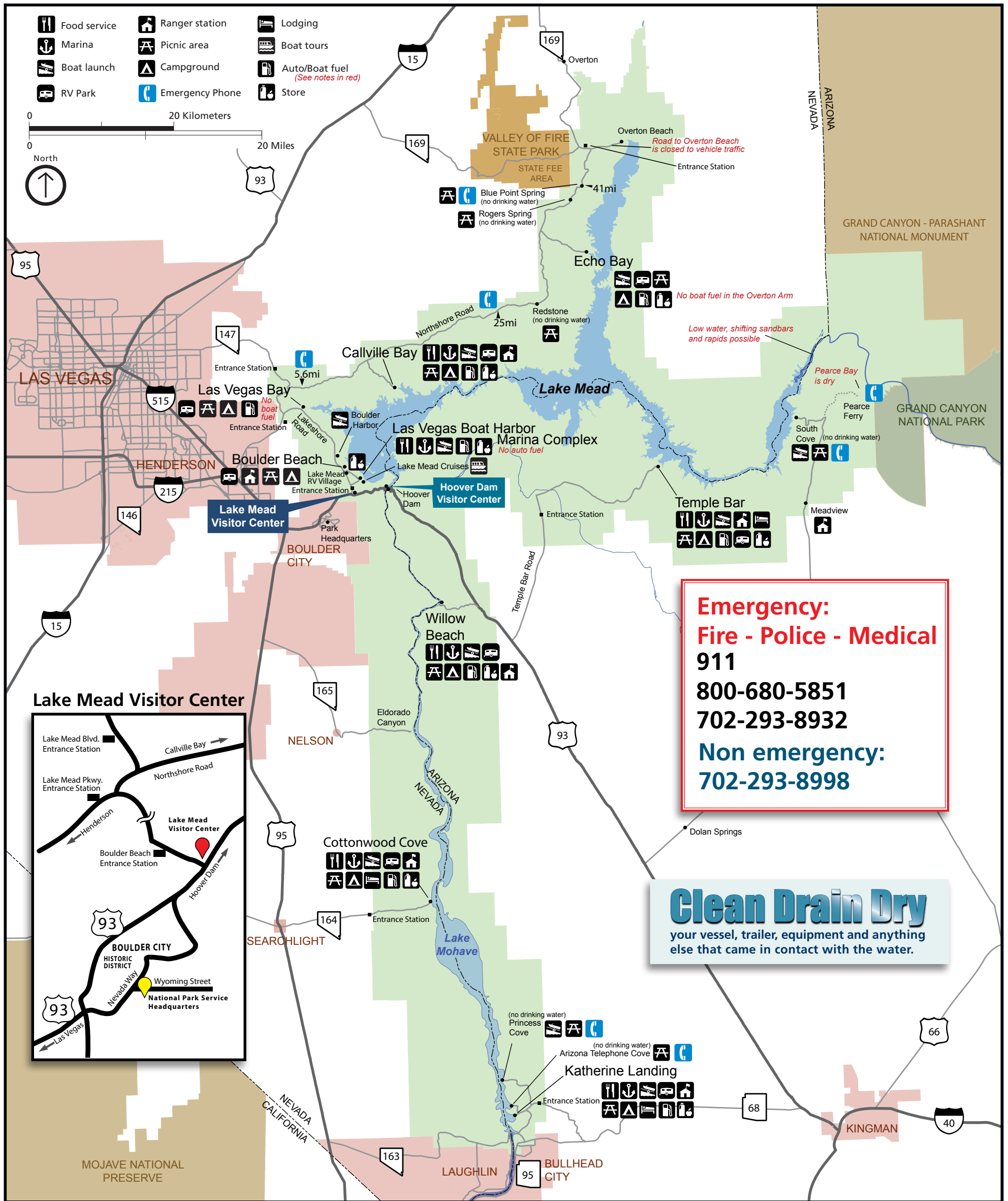


The Park Store is located off U.S. Highway 93, between Boulder City and Hoover Dam and is open every day, except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. See map on the back page for location or call 702-293-8990 for more information.



**Western**  
National Parks  
Association  
[www.wnpa.org](http://www.wnpa.org)

- Interactive Exhibits
- Outerwear
- Cinema presentation  
*Life in the Desert*
- Native American  
Art - Jewelry - Crafts
- Children's Games  
and Toys
- Books
- Maps
- Purchases are tax  
free and support  
educational  
programs at Lake  
Mead National  
Recreation Area



**Mailing Address**  
 Lake Mead National Recreation Area  
 601 Nevada Way  
 Boulder City, NV 89005

[www.facebook.com/lakemead](http://www.facebook.com/lakemead)

**Visitor Information**  
 702-293-8990

[www.twitter.com/lakemeadnra](http://www.twitter.com/lakemeadnra)

**Website**  
[www.nps.gov/lake](http://www.nps.gov/lake)

