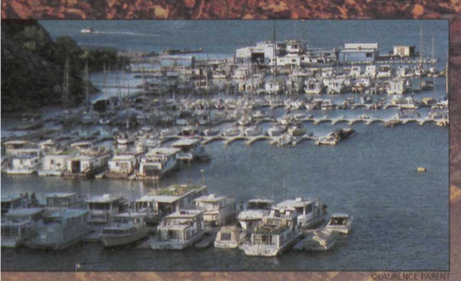
Lake Meredith
Alibates Flint Quarries

Lake Meredith National Recreation Area
Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument
Texas

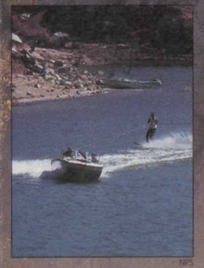
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Contrasting spectacularly with its surroundings, Lake Meredith lies on the dry and windswept High Plains of the Texas Panhandle. Through this plain—as flat as any surface in the world—the Canadian River has cut and recut 200-foot canyons called breaks. Lake Meredith was created by the construction of Sanford Dam on the river and now fills many breaks whose walls are crowned with white limestone caprock, scenic buttes, pinnacles, and red-brown, wind-eroded coves. Above lie the mesquite, prickly pear, yucca, and grasses of arid plains. Up in the sheltered creek beds are cottonwoods, soapberry, and sandbar willows. Historically, the Canadian River allowed eastern woodlands to extend their range along its banks deep into the otherwise arid plains region. Humans have lived on this harsh plain for about 12,000 years. Pioneer settlement began in 1875, with a railroad following in 1877 to serve cattle ranching. Discovery of oil and natural gas in the area caused a boom in the 1920s. Water, grasslands, oil, and gas are the resources that comprise the region's economic base. Lake Meredith is named for A. A. Meredith, who championed the Canadian River dam project and its aqueduct system. Sanford Dam, completed in 1965, supplies water for 11 Texas Panhandle cities, including Amarillo and Lubbock, via 322 miles of pipeline, 10 pumping plants, three regulating reservoirs, and four chlorination facilities. Today the national recreation area attracts visitors who enjoy its variety of activities. On the water you can boat, fish, and swim. On the land you can camp, hike, and view wildlife. Best of all, Lake Meredith is a park where you can relax with friends and family in an exceptional Texas setting.


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Activities on the Lake

Boating Boat launch ramps and a marina are shown on the large map *(see other side of this brochure)*. Boating fees are charged. Be alert for sudden onset of severe weather; high winds cause most boat swampings and capsizings. Get a current weather forecast before setting out. Obtain complete boating regulations from a park ranger. Boat rentals are available at Marina at Lake Meredith at Sanford-Yake; call 806-865-3391.

Fishing Anglers try for largemouth, smallmouth, and white bass, catfish, white crappie, sunfish, carp, and walleye from the lakeshore and boats. Lake water levels determine access in many areas. Contact the park for information and regulations.

Waterskiing, Sailing, Sailboarding Waterskiing is permitted from sunrise to sunset. An operator and a competent observer must be in the towing vessel. Observe no-skiing regulations and respect the rights of anglers. Always wear a lifejacket.

Swimming and Scuba Diving You may swim at the beach below Sanford Dam in Spring Canyon. Lake swimming is not recommended and is at your own risk. Avoid head, neck, and spinal injuries—never dive into water of unknown depth. Poor visibility limits scuba diving. Divers' flags are required. Swimming and diving are prohibited in launch areas and near docks and the dam.

BACKGROUND PHOTO: ©LAURENCE PARENT

Alibates Flint Quarries


NPS

Flint for Toolmaking Alibates flint is a form of agatized dolomite. It is hard as steel, but it can be shaped by chipping (called flint knapping) to make sharp cutting edges. Indian toolmakers knapped it to make knives, hammers, drills, awls, scrapers, gravers, dart points, axes, arrowheads, and spear points.


NPS

Archeological traces of prehistoric Indians—campsites, workshops, and homes—dot the Canadian River region of the Texas Panhandle. Few sites are as dramatic as Alibates Flint Quarries, where, for 12,000 years, people quarried flint for tools. Before the Great Lakes even formed, Indians of the Ice Age Clovis Culture used Alibates flint for spear points to hunt Imperial Mammoth.

Alibates flint is excellent quality—and it is beautiful. Stones streaked with maroon, cream, chocolate, and gold look like candy or slabs of bacon. Flakes mottled with indigo and emerald resemble jewels. The flint lies below the surface at ridge level, in a layer up to six feet thick. Indians dug flint by hand or with sticks or bone tools. Flakes lying around these shallow quarry pits are the waste pieces, or tailings.

For most of the quarry's history, nomadic people sought flint here—staying long enough to replenish their supply of tools, then moving on. But between 1150 and 1500 many Indians remained, quarrying flint for use as tools, weapons, and trade goods. They hunted game, gathered mesquite beans, plums, and yucca plants, and grew corn, beans, and squash using drylands methods with plants spaced far apart to capture scarce soil moisture.

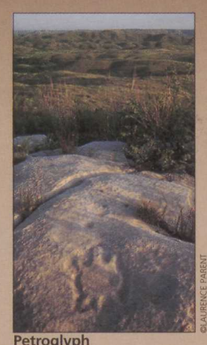
Visiting Alibates Flint Quarries
You may visit the flint quarries only on ranger-led tours. Advance reservations are required. Contact the park for details.

Regulations All natural features, plants and animals, archeological sites, and historical objects are protected by federal law. **Collecting is strictly prohibited.**

For More Information
Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument
P.O. Box 1460
419 E. Broadway
Fritch, Texas 79036
806-857-3151
www.nps.gov/alfl


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Flint knapping

Vast Trading Networks Archeologists find tools made of Alibates flint in many places throughout the Great Plains and Southwest. Its use dates from 12,000 years ago to about 1870. Distinctive for its varied and bright colors, the flint comes from a large area within and nearby Lake Meredith.


©LAURENCE PARENT
Petroglyph

Plains Village Indians Between 1150 and 1500, Indians identified as Plains Village Indians, ancestors of Pawnee or Wichita Indians, lived here in large, permanent villages and smaller, outlying farming and gathering communities. Villages were built of rock-slab houses of from one to 100 rooms. Most were single dwellings, although some rooms were connected. Architecture of this period featured rectangular, semi-circular, and circular rooms, with tunneled entranceways and stone enclosures. It is believed that extensive severe drought, coupled with raids from aggressive tribes to the west, drove these Indians out of the region by the end of the 15th century. The next period, the Plains stage, from 1500 to 1875, was characterized by nomadic tribal groups of hunters, Apache, Comanche, and Kiowa. During this time horses and European trade goods were introduced and eventually U.S. military campaigns and eastern buffalo hunters ended Indian occupation of the area.

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Visiting the Parks



Highlights of the Area Whether you spend a day or a week, you will find many places to explore around Lake Meredith. Contact Lake Meredith and Alibates Flint Quarries about their facilities, services, and activities. Follow these highlights—clockwise from the top of the map.

- **Spring Canyon** Shoreline fishing, picnicking, hiking.
- **Sanford Dam** Fishing from its face. Swimming beach below dam at Spring Canyon Stilling Basin.
- **Sanford-Yake** Camping, boat launch usable the longest as lake levels drop. Marina at Lake Meredith (operated by concessioner) has indoor and outdoor fishing docks, courtesy dock, monthly and overnight slip rentals, boat rentals, dump station, phone, fuel, and limited grocery and fishing supplies.
- **Cedar Canyon** Camping, shoreline fishing, courtesy dock, launch ramp usable at lake levels above 75 feet.
- **Fritch Fortress** Camping, amphitheater, short access to main lake from launch (subject to high winds), courtesy dock. Deep-water launch ramp at lake levels above 71 feet.
- **Lake Meredith Aquatic and Wildlife Museum** In city of Fritch. Information and exhibits. Aquariums display species of native fish.
- **Harbor Bay** Camping, shoreline fishing, windsurfing. Boat launch usable between lake levels of 79 and 99 feet.
- **Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument** Guided tours only; reservations required. Contact park.
- **McBride Canyon, Mullinaw Creek** Camping, picnicking, hunter access area, 1903 McBride House.
- **Rosita** Camping, hunter access, backcountry access, off-road vehicle area (4-wheel-drive). Chicken Creek marks lower limits of Rosita. Stay below 3,000-foot elevation (bottom land). Access via U.S. 87-287. Contact the park for information.
- **Plum Creek** Camping, hunter access, horse trail, small boat launching at lake levels above 95 feet.
- **Blue West** Camping, courtesy dock, deep-water launch at lake levels above 70 feet.
- **Chimney Hollow** Camping, shoreline fishing.
- **Blue Creek Bridge** Camping, picnicking, off-road vehicle area (4-wheel-drive, in creek bed only).
- **Blue East** Camping, access by boat only.
- **Bugbee** Camping, shoreline fishing.

Camping Campers may stay up to 14 days. No camping is allowed in launch areas or parking lots. Private campgrounds with hookups are in nearby towns.

Lodging and Food Motels, hotels, RV parks, restaurants, and groceries are found in nearby towns and along some approach roads. Marina at Lake Meredith has limited groceries.

Regulations and Safety

Boating Fees are charged. Buy permits at bait stores or park headquarters. State and federal regulations apply, including those for boat numbering and use of lights and life preservers. Children under age 13 must wear a USCG-approved flotation device when vessel is underway. Riding on bow, transom, or gunwales is prohibited. In designated harbors, operate vessels at wakeless speeds or no more than 5 mph. Report accidents to a park ranger.

Water Pollution Lake Meredith is a municipal water supply—do not pollute the lake or its streams. Pollutants are health hazards and destroy water quality. Do not discharge toilet wastes into lake. Empty holding tanks at designated sanitary dumping stations. Vessels without holding tanks must have toilet facilities sealed. Chumming, baiting, and fish cleaning in the lake are prohibited. Place trash in receptacles provided, or carry it out. Do not bury refuse.

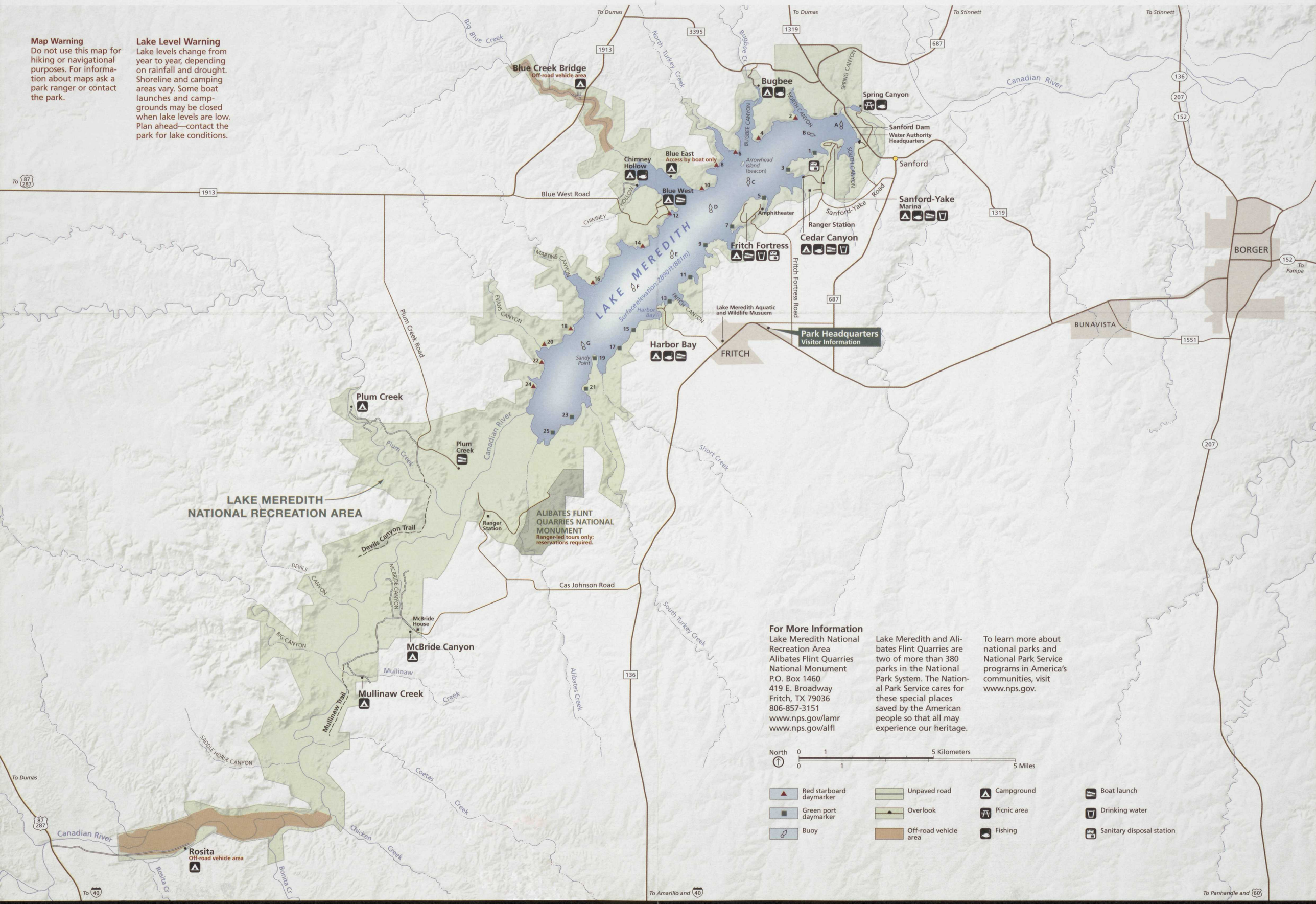
Hunting and Fishing Texas hunting and fishing licenses are required. The National Park Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department enforce regulations; rangers and game wardens may board vessels at any time to inspect documents and vessels. National recreation area lands open to hunting offer the only public hunting lands in the area. Game includes goose, duck, quail, dove, turkey, white-tailed deer, and mule deer.

Fires Protect campfires so fire cannot spread to vegetation. Never leave fires unattended; extinguish completely before leaving.

Emergencies: call 911

Map Warning
Do not use this map for hiking or navigational purposes. For information about maps ask a park ranger or contact the park.

Lake Level Warning
Lake levels change from year to year, depending on rainfall and drought. Shoreline and camping areas vary. Some boat launches and campgrounds may be closed when lake levels are low. Plan ahead—contact the park for lake conditions.



For More Information
Lake Meredith National Recreation Area
Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument
P.O. Box 1460
419 E. Broadway
Fritch, TX 79036
806-857-3151
www.nps.gov/lamr
www.nps.gov/alfl

Lake Meredith and Alibates Flint Quarries are two of more than 380 parks in the National Park System. The National Park Service cares for these special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

To learn more about national parks and National Park Service programs in America's communities, visit www.nps.gov.

North
0 1 5 Kilometers
0 1 5 Miles

- Red starboard daymarker
- Green port daymarker
- Buoy
- Unpaved road
- Overlook
- Off-road vehicle area
- Campground
- Picnic area
- Fishing
- Boat launch
- Drinking water
- Sanitary disposal station