

Black Canyon Water Trail

Black Canyon Wilderness

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Lake Mead National Recreation Area



Explore!

The first nationally designated water trail in the Southwest, Black Canyon Water Trail will delight adventurers of all ages with spectacular scenery and wildlife viewing.

Whether you bring your own paddle craft or rent one from one of our professional outfitters, the cool, clear water and slow current are a perfect getaway for all skill levels.

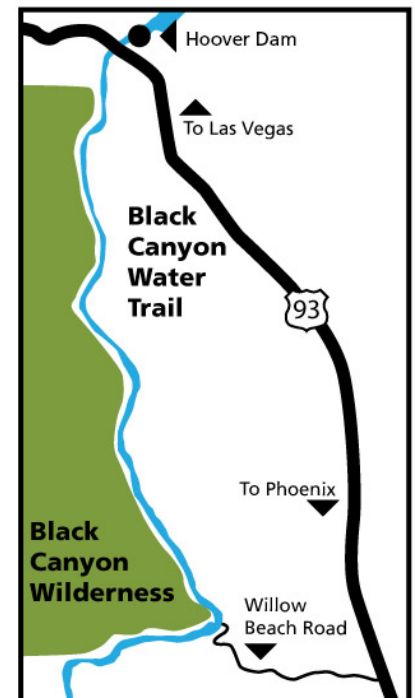
Located below Hoover Dam the water is a continuous 54 degrees F. Although Black Canyon can reach triple digits during the summer the cool breezes off of the water are welcoming.

Bring a camera to capture the rugged high, dark cliffs contrasting with the bright blue sky and cool, clear river. Bring binoculars for a close-up look at desert bighorn sheep and great blue heron.

Directions

Take Highway 93 to the Willow Beach turn off (approximately 11 miles south of Hoover Dam). Follow Willow Beach Road to Willow Beach to launch your paddlecraft.

If you are interested in launching below Hoover Dam please call Black Canyon/Willow Beach Adventures for permit information at 702-494-2204.



Flora



The rugged cliffs towering over the Black Canyon Water Trail provides a habitat for solitary barrel cactus, mesquite, acacia, desert fir and rabbit brush.

Hanging off of the walls of the canyon you can find fern and rock nettle.

On the beaches you can find arrowweed, prince's plume, burdock and desert star.

Fauna



Mammals found in this area include desert bighorn sheep, cottontail, ground squirrels, bobcats, coyotes and mountain lion.

Reptiles include side-blotched lizards, zebra-tailed lizards, collared lizards, chuckwallas and rattlesnakes.

Watch for great blue heron, coots, egrets and other migratory water birds. Peregrine falcon live and nest in the canyon.

Geology



Looking up at the towering cliffs from the water, use your imagination to envision all of this area was once a huge lava flow. The Colorado River, flowing for millions of years, carved out this canyon and the Grand Canyon upriver from Lake Mead.

Things to do...



7 Leave No Trace Principles

1. Plan ahead and prepare
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces
3. Dispose of waste properly
4. Leave what you find
5. Minimize campfire impacts
6. Respect wildlife
7. Be considerate to other visitors

CAUTION

Backcountry travel is not recommended in the summer at Lake Mead National Recreation Area. Temperatures can get as high as 120 degrees F. Always carry plenty of water, wear a hat and sunscreen, share your itinerary, know your limits and wear sturdy hiking shoes. Plan ahead. Stay safe.