

Lake Mead

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



Wilderness Self-Guided Tours



Explore Lake Mead National Recreation Area's wilderness! Lake Mead NRA has nine designated wilderness areas throughout the 1.5 million acres that form the recreation area. Many of the wilderness areas are remote with limited access, but these listed here are fairly easy to get to and have designated backcountry roads or are off of main roads within the park. Please practice *Leave No Trace* principles.

It is important to plan well before heading out the door for any adventure. Always let someone know where you will be, who is with you and when you're coming back. Never hike alone! Always carry extra water with you when driving, biking or hiking. Know what the weather is supposed to be like, and be prepared for sudden changes. Stay safe.



Boathouse Cove Road

Enjoy wilderness with a rare four-wheel drive experience. Navigate down Boathouse Cove Road, a 9-mile rugged, gravel, sand and rock road, for an adventure through the wild and remote backcountry of Lake Mead. Enjoy spectacular scenery of mountains, washes, pristine desert and lake views. The 4x4 road provides access to two primitive campsites. Boathouse Cove Road is a corridor between two designated wilderness areas, Jimbilnan Wilderness and Pinto Valley Wilderness.

Turn right or south at mile marker 30 onto Boathouse Cove Road from Northshore Road. Drive at your own risk as this road is not maintained.



Pinto Valley Wilderness - Redstone

A hidden treasure, called Redstone, is found just off of Northshore Road at mile marker 27. Ancient sand dunes have become a modern day geologic wonder. There are many photo opportunities.

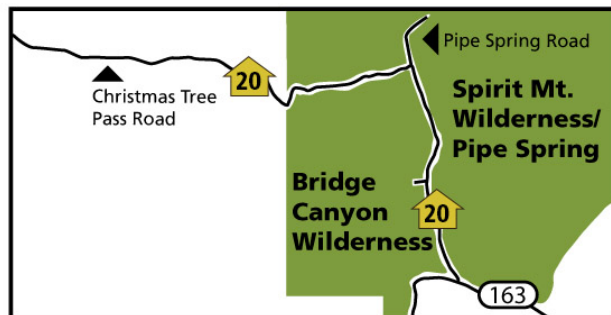
Newly constructed picnic shade structures are nestled among giant rocks in the picnic area, including a group picnic area, and new accessible restrooms are next to the parking lot. Behind the picnic area follow the trail around an 'island' of giant red rocks in the Pinto Valley Wilderness.





Spirit Mountain Wilderness - Pipe Spring

The geology surrounding this area is composed of granites and metamorphic rock; all about 15-17 million years old. Take 163 west of Laughlin, Nevada, and turn north onto Christmas Tree Pass Road. Park at the end of Pipe Spring Road and venture off in any direction into the wilderness and be rewarded with spectacular scenery.



Spirit Mountain is to the northwest and is important to the native peoples of the Mojave and Sonoran Deserts as the center of their creation. Please respect this sacred land.



Black Canyon Water Trail

The Colorado River in the Black Canyon is the perfect place to kayak for beginners and experts. The cold, clear, calm flowing water is relaxing to paddle between rugged high cliffs and magnificent scenery. Watch for the white rump patch in order to spot the well camouflaged desert bighorn sheep.

Please call Black Canyon/Willow Beach Adventures at 702-494-2204 for a permit to launch below Hoover Dam. Paddle 11.5 miles past hot springs, sandy beaches and secluded coves to Willow Beach. Paddlers can also launch at Willow Beach Marina and paddle upstream toward the dam. All paddlers must wear a lifejacket.



Grapevine Canyon

Take 163 west of Laughlin, Nevada, and turn north onto Christmas Tree Pass Road. Follow the road until you get to the Grapevine Canyon sign (approximately two miles). Turn left and continue into the parking lot. A moderate stroll from the parking lot will reward you with views of spectacular petroglyphs etched high up on the rocks of the canyon. The natural spring and plant life on the floor of the canyon attracts wildlife. Restrooms are available.



Prehistoric Native Americans etched these pictures into the rock perhaps hundreds of years ago. No one knows today what they mean.

