Redstone
Pinto Valley Wilderness

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

Explore!

A hidden treasure, Redstone, is found just off of Northore Road at mile marker 27. Ancient sand dunes have become a modern day geologic wonder.

Newly constructed picnic shade structures are nestled among giant rocks in the picnic area and accessible restrooms are next to the parking lot.

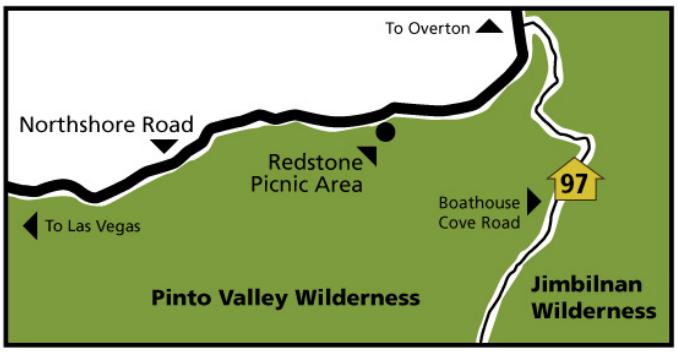
Behind the picnic area follow the trail around an 'island' of giant red rocks in the Pinto Valley Wilderness. Please note that there is no water available at Redstone.

Redstone is a perfect place to show off the amazing scenery at Lake Mead National Recreation Area without navigating dirt roads or hiking into the backcountry. The loop trail is basically level and meanders through ancient sand dunes that formed millions of years ago and are now sandstone today. Nature continues to erode the outcroppings as they turn back into sand. Sand to rock, rock to sand.

Directions

Lake Mead National Recreation Area is located about 45 minutes east of Las Vegas, Nevada.

At the Recreation Area drive north on Northshore Road towards Overton, Nevada. If coming from the north drive south towards Callville Bay. Turn right or south at mile marker 27 into the Redstone Picnic Area parking lot. The trailhead is at the south end of the parking lot or you can access the trail on the other side of the picnic area. The easy loop takes approximately 15 minutes to walk.



Flora

The Pinto Valley wilderness area has a variety of Mojave Desert plants. One of the more common is the creosote. Creosote was used for centuries by the Native Americans for medicinal purposes. The small leaves have a waxy coating to protect the plant from sun and heat.

Gypsum soils in the area provide the perfect habitat for growing Las Vegas bear poppy; a rare and protected plant. When conditions are right the plant produces beautiful and delicate yellow flowers. Please never pick any wildflowers in the desert.

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 large raptors such as hawks, eagles and falcons. All have been found to nest in the park.

Geology

The Pinto Valley Wilderness has amazing geology; towering cliffs, deep narrow canyons, red sandstone outcroppings and ancient lava flows.

The spectacular red sandstone outcroppings are actually ancient sand dunes that pop up throughout the Pinto Valley.

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.

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