



# Lake Mead

## National Recreation Area

Spring 2015



Andrew Cattoir photo

*Brittlebush in bloom near Willow Beach*

### Predicting Spring Bloom

Predicting the spring wildflower bloom in the Mojave Desert is nearly impossible until it begins. With the right temperatures and moisture the desert floor can explode into a riotous carpet of color.

Wildflower blooms may vary from small colorful patches along the edge of roads to huge fields of vibrant purples, yellows, pinks, oranges and white. The really spectacular flower displays are a rarity, possibly only occurring every 10 to 20 years. What will the spring of 2015 bring?

Annual plants (a plant which completes its life cycle and dies within a year) must germinate in the fall to flower in the spring. The ideal time differs according to the species, but it is usually between late September and early December. Temperatures and rain are the controlling environmental factors for the plant to germinate.

Perennial plants (a plant that lives more than two years) are a little heartier than annual plants and can produce a good display, though it's the annuals that are famous for blanketing the desert in color.

To assure the future of desert wildflowers and to protect the delicate balance between animal and plant life in the Mojave Desert, please don't pick the flowers or gather seed. Instead, bring your camera to capture the spectacular desert in bloom.



### Experience Lake Mead and Lake Mohave Wilderness

When people think of wilderness, they seldom think of houseboats, cars or four-wheelers, but at Lake Mead National Recreation Area (NRA), there is a way for visitors to experience the park's wilderness areas using all of these modes of transportation.

Lake Mead NRA is home to nine wilderness areas, all located in Nevada. They were designated in 2002 to preserve the undeveloped land, so each one retains its primitive character and influence. Part of that designation means that motorized vehicles and bicycles aren't allowed in the wilderness areas.

Fortunately for enthusiasts who appreciate nature and a good four-wheel-drive experience or the comforts of home, most of Lake Mead NRA's wilderness areas are bordered by roads and waterways where the restrictions don't apply.

The park has just released six self-guided adventures that range from quick trips by car, to peaceful raft trips down the river to a four-wheel-drive backcountry experience at Lake Mead NRA. All locations are just one to two hours from Las Vegas. Each Explore Map highlights a wilderness area

in the park and describes what makes it unique, including its flora, fauna and geologic features. The maps also include seven *Leave No Trace* principles as guidelines to help protect the resource.

All of the Explore Maps can be downloaded from the park's website at [nps.gov/lake/planyourvisit/explore.htm](http://nps.gov/lake/planyourvisit/explore.htm)



NPS photo

*Muddy Mountains Wilderness Area*



## 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

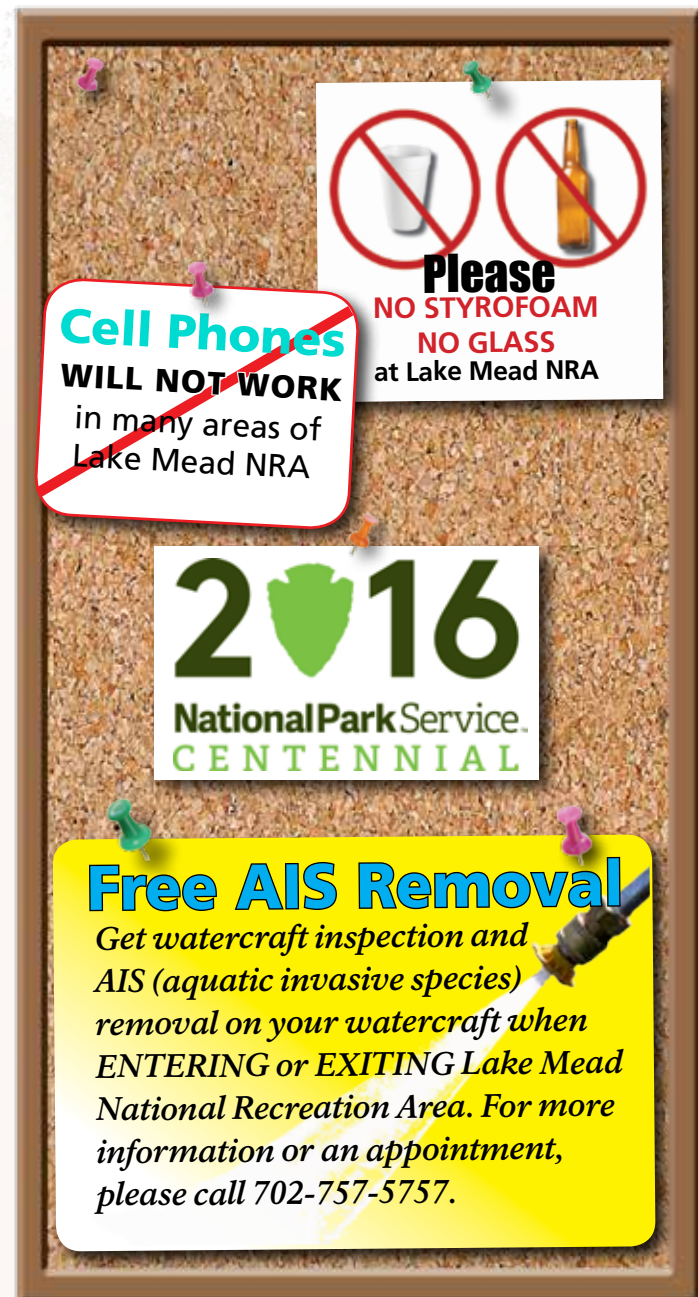
Children age 12 and younger must wear a lifejacket while on board a vessel. Each person aboard a personal watercraft, must also wear a lifejacket.

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 your boat

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.



## Grapevine Canyon; A Unique Perspective of the Mojave Desert

To many first time visitors, the Mojave Desert seems barren and desolate, but a walk through Grapevine Canyon in the Bridge Canyon Wilderness Area, at the south end of the park, offers another perspective. A fresh water spring flows out of the canyon floor in non-drought years. This desert spring provides life-giving water to a variety of plants and animals. The presence of the water and the abundance of plants and animals attracted the local Indian tribes to this area, as well.

Evidence of the Indian tribes who lived in this area for thousands of years can be found by following the trail from the parking area to the mouth of the canyon, an easy ¼-mile walk. Rock drawings known as petroglyphs are etched on the large boulders on the mountain sides at the entrance to the canyon. They are believed to have been created by these early people.



These sites are sacred and have spiritual significance for the Indian tribes in the area. In addition, they are cultural treasures for all Americans. Please be respectful of these areas. Even the simple act of touching the petroglyphs with your hands can leave oils behind that can alter the chemical makeup of the rock surface and cause the petroglyphs to degrade. Leave only footprints and take only pictures and your memories of these irreplaceable resources home with you. Lake Mead National Recreation Area's archeological resources are protected

by federal law and regulation. On lands administered by the National Park Service, it is unlawful to excavate, remove, disturb, deface or destroy any historic or prehistoric building, structure, ruin, site, or in-place exhibit, artifact or object, or to collect, appropriate, excavate, damage, disturb or destroy artifacts, pictographs, petroglyphs, objects of antiquity, fossils or scientific specimens. Criminal penalties can include a year in jail and/or a \$100,000 fine. Violators may also be responsible for restitution and reimbursement of costs associated with mitigation and restoration.

Alert rangers immediately at 702-293-8998 if you see anyone vandalizing sacred petroglyphs or anything else at the park. For visitor information, please call 702-293-8990.



View of vegetation at Grapevine Canyon



# 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  
 Visitor 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 station)  
 Fish cleaner  
 Showers  
 Laundry



NPS photo

Callville Bay Marina

### Echo Bay

702-394-4000, toll free: 800-255-5561  
[www.lakemeadrivillage.com](http://www.lakemeadrivillage.com)

Launch ramp  
 Fuel (auto)  
 Campgrounds  
 Visitor 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)  
 Scenic boat tours and private charters with food service and snack bar on floating dock.

### Lake Mead RV Village

702-293-2540  
[www.lakemeadrivillage.com](http://www.lakemeadrivillage.com)

Visitor trailer village  
 RV park (some lake views)  
 Pump-out  
 Store (gift/convenience)  
 Activity center/meeting room

Dry boat storage  
 Showers  
 Laundry  
 Full hook-ups

### Las Vegas Bay

702-293-1191 Las Vegas Boat Harbor  
 702-293-3484 Lake Mead Marina Complex  
[www.boatinglakemead.com](http://www.boatinglakemead.com)

Fuel (auto)  
 Campgrounds

Dry boat storage  
 Fish cleaner

### Las Vegas Boat Harbor Complex

702-293-1191 Main Number  
 702-293-3484 Lake Mead Marina Complex  
[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 station)  
 Showers  
 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  
 Campgrounds  
 Visitor trailer village  
 RV park  
 Pump-out  
 Motels/cabins  
 Store (gift/convenience)

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

## 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 (beach front)  
 Campgrounds  
 Visitor trailer village  
 RV park  
 Pump-out  
 Store (gift/convenience)

Dry boat storage  
 Boat repair  
 Café  
 AIS RS (aquatic invasive species removal station)  
 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  
 Visitor trailer village  
 RV park  
 Pump-out  
 Store (gift/convenience)

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

### Willow Beach Harbor

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 station)  
 Fishing pier  
 Fish cleaner  
 Laundry

# Plant Nursery Restores Desert



Desert dandelion



Desert chicory



Lupine

Desert dandelion, desert chicory and lupine are some of the plants Song Dog Native Plant Nursery staff have planted in the park's new five-acre garden. The garden is located just north of Boulder Beach and has been fenced for growing native wildflowers and other plants that desert tortoise love to eat.

The plants are not grown to directly feed the tortoise, but instead to harvest the seeds in order to restore prime tortoise habitat that has been destroyed by wildfires. Native wildflowers are an important part of the desert tortoise's diet.

The native flower garden has 12 large beds, but in 2015, after years of drought, there was only enough seed gathered to plant one of the beds. The plants are protected from rabbits and rodents by using hardware cloth and flashing on a four-foot-high chain link fence. The native plants are watered to supplement naturally occurring rain as they are already adapted to an arid environment.

The seeds had been gathered from all corners of the park and were carefully cleaned and stored until the early spring planting. The goal is to raise healthy, viable plants that will produce a robust harvest of seed for future restoration of tortoise habitat.

# Park Store and Visitor Center



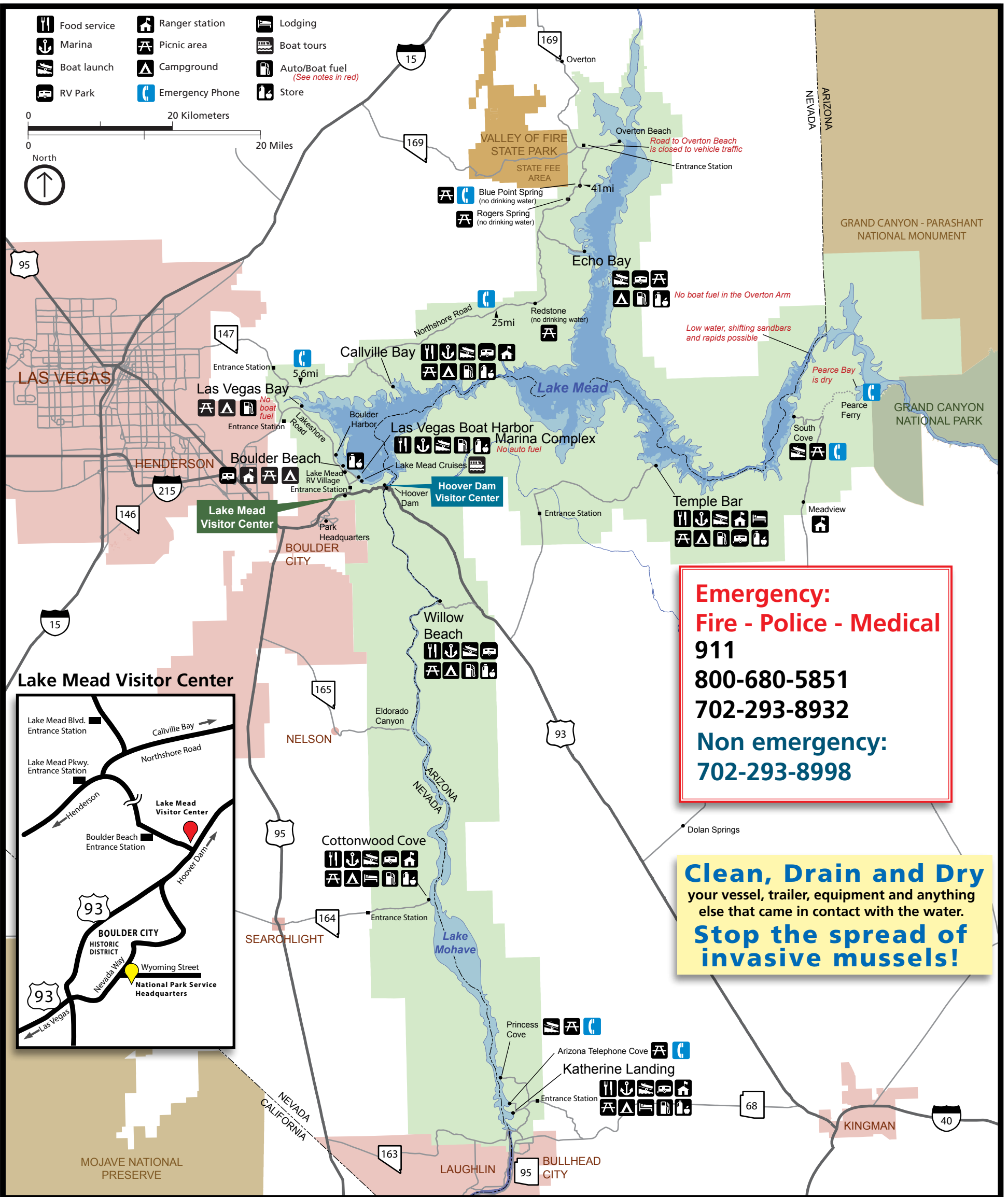
- Interactive Exhibits
- Outerwear
- Cinema presentation *Life in the Desert*
- Native American Art - Jewelry - Crafts
- Children's Games and Toys
- Books
- Maps
- Purchases are tax free and support educational programs at Lake Mead National Recreation Area

The Park Store is located off 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)





**Emergency:**  
**Fire - Police - Medical**  
**911**  
**800-680-5851**  
**702-293-8932**  
**Non emergency:**  
**702-293-8998**

**Clean, Drain and Dry**  
 your vessel, trailer, equipment and anything  
 else that came in contact with the water.  
**Stop the spread of**  
**invasive mussels!**

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

**Visitor Information**  
 702-293-8990

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

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

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

