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



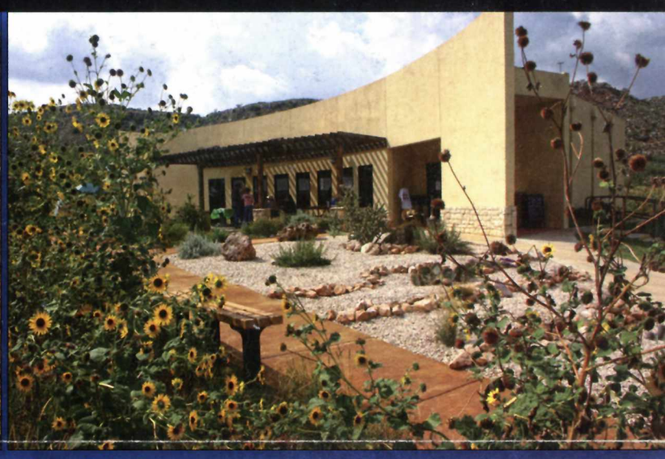
Lake Meredith



Rainbow-hued kayaks on the lakeshore



Hikers ascend a steep hillside at Alibates



Alibates Visitor Center

The Allure of Alibates Flint

At the end of the last Ice Age, some 13,000 years ago, Paleo-Indians quarried flint at Alibates. From it they fashioned small, beautifully crafted spear points to hunt the big game—bison, mammoths, and sloths—that roamed the Great Plains in those cooler, wetter times. Durable, colorful, and smooth, Alibates flint breaks in a predictable pattern when struck, and can be honed to a fine, deadly point.

Points made from Alibates flint were found embedded in skeletons of mammoths unearthed in eastern New Mexico, near Blackwater Draw, a center of the early Clovis culture. Its nomadic hunters possibly came from the south, or may have crossed the Bering Land Bridge from Asia. The wide distribution of Alibates flint points suggests that Clovis people placed a high value on this stone.

Much later, between 1200 and 1450, a Plains Village subgroup, known as the Antelope Creek people, must also have recognized the beauty and utility of Alibates flint. They built masonry structures close to the flint outcroppings along the Canadian River. In the 1930s, excavations organized by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) uncovered the ruins of two structures now inside the monument *(diagram at right)*. Square and rectangular rooms are probably living spaces; round rooms are possibly for storage or burial. Other remains of the now-vanished Antelope Creek culture at Alibates include petroglyphs of turtles, bison, and human feet; cord-marked pottery; and thousands of small, narrow flint arrowheads. Turquoise and shell jewelry, pipes, and obsidian also found at Alibates suggest that Antelope Creek people traded their flint with peoples to the west and north.

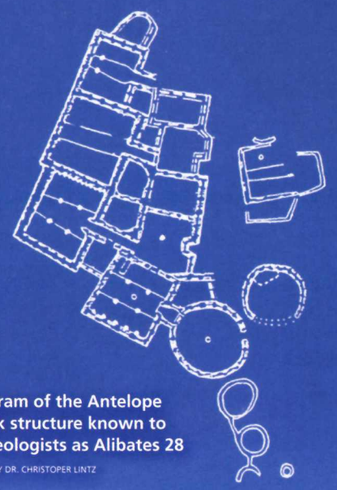


Diagram of the Antelope Creek structure known to archeologists as Alibates 28

COURTESY DR. CHRISTOPER LINTZ

Many shallow pits, probably dug with sticks or tools made from bison or other bone, mark the Alibates landscape. Waste piles scattered across the dry earth near the pits contain broken and discarded tools and flint flakes—the result of knapping, or striking a flint core with a heavier, harder "hammerstone," often a river cobble.

In 1965 Congress proclaimed Alibates a national monument—the first in Texas—to preserve the native peoples' quarries and other records. You may visit the flint quarries only by ranger-led tour; reserve in advance.



Plains zinnia



Indian blanket



Narrowleaf yucca



Prickly pear cactus



Tansy aster



Goatsbeard



Hedgehog cactus



Globe mallow

Lake Meredith National Recreation Area

Seeking to determine the first transcontinental railroad route to the Pacific, Lt. Amiel Weeks Whipple headed a survey of the 35th parallel in 1853. He described the Canadian River valley in his diary: "Turkeys congregate under the dark green foliage of scattered copses . . . an agreeable contrast to the pale red that is spread over the landscape of river and plain."

Today's hunters can still harvest turkey and other game here. The Bureau of Reclamation impounded the Canadian River in 1965, creating Lake Meredith. The lake's depth has fallen greatly since 1973, when it was recorded at 101 feet, but the park remains an oasis. It is a haven for anglers, campers, hikers, and mountain bike and horseback riders, as well as hunters.

Texas Wildflowers

Swales of brilliant, hot color briefly explode during wildflower season, from late April, then give way to muted earth tones.



Alibates flint projectile point

A Canadian River break south of Lake Meredith. Willow, mesquite, and cottonwood trees grow along the riverbanks.

ALL PHOTOS NPS

Two Parks, Many Possibilities

LAKE MEREDITH

This park is open year-round. Visitor information is available at the park headquarters building, open Monday through Friday 8 am to 4:30 pm; closed federal holidays. No entrance fee.

CAMPING is free with a 14-day limit. Sanford-Yake and Fritch Fortress have showers. Limited hookups are available at Sanford-Yake by private vendor.

TRAILS Hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding trails are available. Check with a ranger for current trail status.

HUNTING The park offers the largest public hunting lands in the Texas Panhandle. Allowed in season with a Texas state license.

FISHING Allowed with a Texas state license.

BOATING State and federal regulations apply.

Visit the park website for more information.

ALIBATES FLINT QUARRIES

The Alibates Visitor Center is open daily 9 am to 4 pm; closed Thanksgiving, December 25, and January 1. No entrance fee.

QUARRY TOURS You may visit the quarries ONLY by ranger-led tour. April through October, daily tours are offered at 10 am and 1 pm, weather permitting. November through March, impromptu tours and reserved group tours will be available depending on staff availability and weather. Reservations in advance are recommended throughout the year. Call 806-857-6680 for information and reservations. Tours are one mile with several flights of stairs (elevation gain of 170 feet).

MORE INFORMATION
PO Box 1460
419 East Broadway
Fritch, TX 79036

Lake Meredith National Recreation Area
806-857-3151, www.nps.gov/lamr

Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument
806-857-6680, www.nps.gov/alfl

These are two of over 400 parks in the National Park System. Learn more at www.nps.gov.

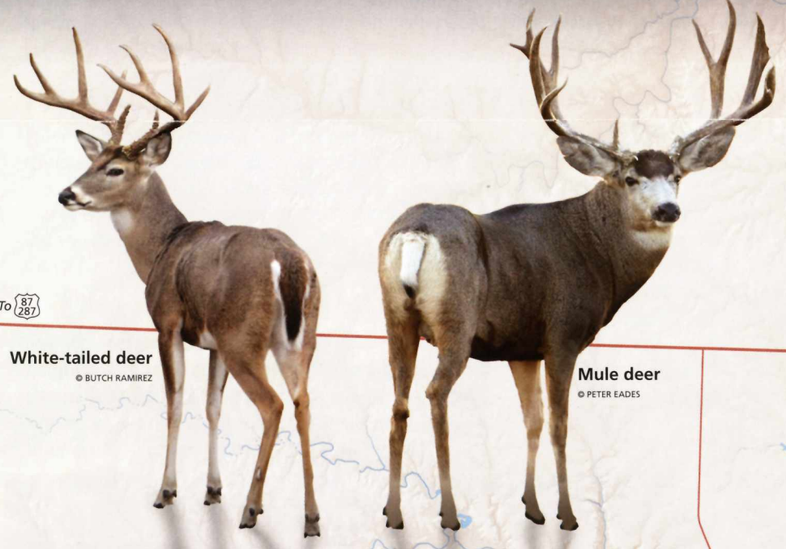


ACCESSIBILITY We strive to make our facilities, services, and programs accessible to all. For information check the park websites.

REGULATIONS Federal laws protect all natural and cultural features in the parks. For firearms regulations visit the park websites.

EMERGENCIES CALL 911


Great blue heron
© KENNETH CONNELLY


White-tailed deer
© BUTCH RAMIREZ

Mule deer
© PETER EADES

Meet the Locals

WHITE-TAILED DEER are often seen in brushy terrain, while MULE DEER prefer the Canadian River breaks and canyons as their habitat.


Bobcat
© STEVEN GIFFORD

Reclusive and most active at night, the BOBCAT sometimes leaves rocky canyons, outcrops, and thickets before sundown to hunt.


Texas horned lizard (Texas state reptile)
NPS


Wild turkey
© JAY PAREDES

Have Fun Safely in the Canadian River Breaks

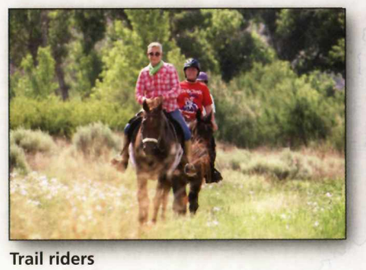
Seeking fun and excitement? Studying American Indian history? Whatever your reason for visiting, expect challenging terrain and conditions. Be prepared for extreme weather in any season.

Check the local weather forecast. • Wear or bring appropriate safety and protective equipment. Know how to use it—hunting, boating, fishing, swimming, scuba diving, camping, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, or off-roading. Check the park websites for required safety equipment. • Build campfires only in designated areas; grasses will carry fire with little to no wind. Monitor campfires and make sure they are completely extinguished when you leave.

Come prepared. Use good judgment. Pay attention. *Your safety is your responsibility.*


Anglers
NPS


Hikers
NPS


Trail riders
© LINDA SHERRILL


Canoeists
NPS

Lake Level Warning
Lake levels change from year to year, depending on rainfall and drought. Call the park in advance of your trip for a list of open boat ramps and campgrounds.

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

National Park Foundation
Join the park community.
www.nationalparks.org

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