

Dead Horse Point State Park, Moab, Utah

Dead Horse State Park is located about 30 miles north of Moab, UT. It is on a high mesa about 2000 feet above the Colorado River with large canyons surrounding it on 3 sides. The name comes because cowboys used to herd horses out to the point via a narrow isthmus and then block it off to capture them. One year they forgot to remove the barrier and the horse died of dehydration, since there is no water on the mesa. There still isn't any water here, the park has to have it hauled in, so the campsites come with electric, but no water or sewer. There is running water in the bathrooms, but no showers, an RV dump, but no water to flush out the system, so bring your own or go dry...

About 20 campsites, each with its own cover picnic table, electric, and usually a couple of tent sites close to each pad. There are some pull thrus and maneuvering is easy, paved roads and pads. Lots to do here, plenty of beautiful scenery, some very good bike trails and of course plenty of hiking trails. Moab is just a short scenic drive away and there are lots of outdoor activities around Moab, to include jeep rides, whitewater rafting, and some wonderful bike trails.

We are close to Arches and Canyon Lands National Parks and will be visiting them during our stay here, see other posts for any information.



Comb Ridge Café and Espresso, Bluff, Utah

While driving between Monument Valley, UT and Moab, UT, we stopped for coffee at a small town called Bluff, UT (pop 300). The Frommer's guide stated that they had basic services and it was a good place to stop. The town is mostly populated by artists and artisan's, about 60% of the shops in town are artist shops or galleries. I think I have the name of the coffee shop correct, but you can't be too confused, the town is too small to have much more than one.

The coffee shop was a pleasant surprise, they serve breakfast until 11:00, blue corn pancakes, which unfortunately I missed. Starting March 31, 2011, they will be serving wood fired pizzas, which I also missed... Anyway, great coffee and very nicely decorated, besides coffee shop fare, they had a nice selection of artisan made jewelry, vintage native american jewelry, and native american pottery, as well as a nice selection of second hand books.

There are a couple of RV parks in Bluff, one across the street from the coffee shop looked the best, but were were moving on to Moab, so we didn't stay here.

Bluff looked interesting enough that we plan a trip back there just to visit that area. Its close to Monument Valley, Natural Bridge, Mexican Hat, and the 4 corners area, so it would be a good base camp area. A very nice looking lodge and plenty of galleries and other quaint shops. A nice find in the middle of nowhere...

I must add that the scenery between Monument Valley and Moab is exceptional. This is our first trip along this route and it has been beautiful. We have been stopping often to take pictures, but they do not show the magnificence and magnitude

of the rock formations, it is breathtaking to see nature in all its glory.

Sequoia National Park, CA

[Sequoia National Park web site](#)

We stayed at [Sequoia Ranch RV Park](#) while visiting the park. It's a nice RV park, with a very friendly staff, but it's close, not much privacy. Roads were tight and moving around when it's full can be problematic. It was Easter vacation, so it was full while we were there, making it hard to get to the dump site and around the park.

3 Rivers is a real small town, with not much going on prior to the summer season, beautiful river and scenery. Don't eat at the Gateway Restaurant, it's too expensive and food is only OK.

Black Rock Campground, Joshua Tree National Park, CA

Black Rock Campground is located at 4,000 feet elevation, has 100 campsites, no utilities, water is available. Fees are \$15 per night.

The entrance road to this campground is bad, potholed and in desperate need of repair. Not sure who it belongs to, the NPS, the state, or the city, but it needs attention. The park roads are not too much better. This is an old style park, made for

car and tent campers, small motor homes, and short trailers. I have a 23' and it was tight in many places. No signage, so arriving after dark makes it really fun and exciting.

We had a pull through, but it wasn't level in any direction, so getting setup was interesting. I don't think we will be returning here.

Reservations: Sites at Black Rock and Indian Cove campgrounds may be reserved from September through the Memorial Day weekend by calling 1-877-444-6777 up to six months in advance of the date you want to reserve. Or you may make reservations online at www.recreation.gov

[Joshua Tree National Park web site](#)

Lake Pleasant Regional Park, Cave Creek, AZ

One of the most scenic water recreation areas in the "Valley of the Sun," this northwest Valley park is a recreationist's dream. The park offers many activities, such as camping, boating, fishing, swimming, hiking, picnicking, and wildlife viewing. At the Lake Pleasant Visitor Center, guests learn about the history of the area and desert wildlife. Step out onto the balcony surrounding the Visitor Center to get a beautiful view of Lake Pleasant and an up-close look at Waddell Dam. The breathtaking views offer visitors a great place to relax, whether it is from a boat or shoreline picnic

site.

Lake Pleasant Regional Park offers 148 sites for RV and tent camping. Each "Developed Site" has water, electricity, dump station, a covered ramada, a picnic table, a barbecue grill and fire ring. Each "Semi-developed Site" and tent site has a covered ramada, a picnic table, a barbecue grill and fire ring. Restroom and shower facilities are available at both types of campsites. All sites in the campground are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

- Desert Tortoise Campground has 76 campsites, 25 Developed Sites, 41 Semi-developed Sites, and 10 tent sites.
- Roadrunner Campground and Picnic Area offers 72 sites for RV and tent camping. All sites are Developed.

Catalina State Park, Tucson, AZ

Catalina State Park is located north of Tucson in the Oro Valley. This park is very popular in the winter, especially January – March. It fills fast, but the staff are very accomodating and work with you to get you in. We had to spend one night without hokups, but were moved into a W/E site early the next morning. My daughter and son-in-law were joining us later in the day and we expected the park to be full, so the host put us in a large pull-thru that would hold 2 trailers. We had no problem getting bot TT in the space, had to part one tow vehicle by the showers, but it all worked out fine.

Catalina State Park sits at the base of the majestic Santa Catalina Mountains. The park is a haven for desert plants and

wildlife and nearly 5,000 saguaros. The 5,500 acres of foothills, canyons and streams invites camping, picnicking and bird watching – more than 150 species of birds call the park home. The park provides miles of equestrian, birding, hiking, and biking trails which wind through the park and into the Coronado National Forest at elevations near 3,000 feet. The park is located within minutes of the Tucson metropolitan area.

Park facilities include a campground, picnic tables, grills, trails, an equestrian center, a group use area for day or overnight use (available by reservation), restrooms, showers, and a gift shop. All restroom and shower facilities are accessible. The park also offers an equestrian center which provides a staging area for trail riders with ample trailer parking.

This scenic desert park also offers equestrian trails and an equestrian center provides a staging area for trail riders with plenty of trailer parking. Bring along your curiosity and your sense of adventure as you take in the beautiful mountain backdrop, desert wildflowers, cacti and wildlife that call this area home.

As of 2014 is available for reservations via the Arizona State Lark system

Buckskin Mountain State Park, Lake Havasu, AZ

Name: Buckskin Mountain State Park

When: Open all year

Where: About 12 miles northeast of Parker, about 25 miles

southeast of Lake Havasu City. Park entrance is off Arizona 95, between mile markers 154 and 155. (928-667-3231)

Admission: \$8 per vehicle day use fee

Camping: 68 campsites, 21 cabana sites. \$19-\$30 per night. A limited number of campsites may be reserved

Facilities: Boat launch, restrooms, hiking trails, playground, basketball and volleyball courts, gas dock, ranger station, camp store, clothing boutique, restaurant, fishing.

URL: www.azstateparks.com

Month/Year visited: 5/2008

Comments: Stays relatively full during the winter months, popular with snowbirds.

River Island Unit, Buckskin Mountain State Park, Parker, AZ

Name: River Island Unit

When: Open all year

Where: About 12 miles northeast of Parker, about 25 miles southeast of Lake Havasu City. Park entrance is off Arizona 95, about a mile north of Buckskin Mountain State Park, between mile markers 154 and 155. (928-667-3231)

Admission: \$8 per vehicle day use fee

Camping: 37 campsites, \$14-\$30 per night.

Facilities: Boat launch, restrooms, showers, ranger station.

URL: www.azstateparks.com

Month/Year visited: 5/2008

Comments: Stays relatively full during the winter months, popular with snowbirds.