Pipe Spring
Spirit Mountain Wilderness

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

Explore!

Surrounded by majestic granite peaks, Pipe Spring is a secret to most visitors. The geology surrounding this area is composed of granites and metamorphic rock; all about 15 to 17 million years old.

Park at the end of Pipe Spring Road, being careful not to damage the soil, and venture off in any direction into the wilderness and be rewarded with spectacular scenery. 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!

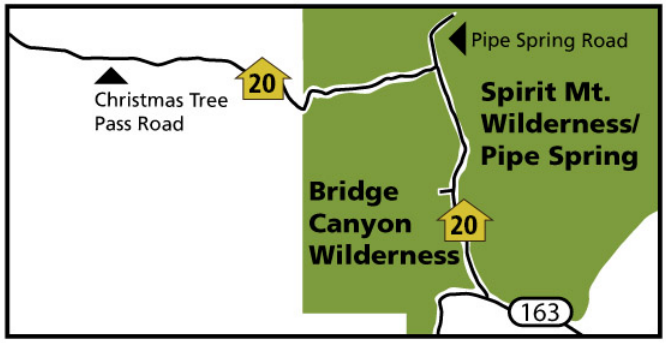
Always carry extra water (a gallon per person) with you when driving, biking or hiking. Know what the weather is supposed to be like, and be prepared for sudden changes. Stay safe!

Directions

Pipe Spring lies to the east of Spirit Mountain, at 5,639 feet above sea level, the highest peak in the Newberry Mountains.

From Las Vegas drive south on Highway 95, past Searchlight and Cal-Nev-Ari, for 54 miles to Highway 163. Turn left onto Highway 163 toward Laughlin and drive east for 12.8 miles to Christmas Tree Pass Road. Watch for a small sign indicating a left turn.

On Christmas Tree Pass Road, drive north on the well-graded dirt road, approved road 20, for 4.2 miles to Pipe Spring Road.



Flora

Spirit Mountain Wilderness has a wide variety of plants due to the varied elevations. The Newberry Mountains rise to an elevation of more than 5,600 feet and support pinyon-juniper woodland.

California juniper, blackbrush, yucca, shrub live oak, Mormon tea and rabbitbrush share the habitat. At lower elevations the habitat is more typical of the Mojave Desert and in washes desert willow and cottonwoods are common.

Fauna

In the higher locations you can find mule deer and desert bighorn sheep. The land is also teeming with burrowing rodents such as pack rats and kangaroo rats. Also look for bobcats, coyotes, black-tailed jackrabbit, cottontail rabbit and a variety of snakes including speckled rattlesnakes.

Watch the skies for red-tailed hawk and sharp-shinned hawk. Listen for the distinct high to low whistle of the canyon wren.

Geology

Spirit Mountain Wilderness is made up of rugged granite peaks with giant granite boulders dotting the landscape. In between peaks are deep canyons and washes. Faults are found throughout the area.

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 Fahrenheit. Always carry plenty of water, wear a hat and sunscreen, share your itinerary, know your limits and wear sturdy hiking shoes. Plan ahead.