

Grapevine Canyon

Bridge Canyon Wilderness

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



Explore!

To many first time visitors, the Mojave Desert seems barren and desolate, but a walk through Grapevine Canyon in the Bridge Canyon Wilderness Area 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.

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Evidence of the prehistoric Indians who lived in this area 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 at the entrance to the canyon.

The hike farther into the canyon is moderate with some climbing over large boulders required.

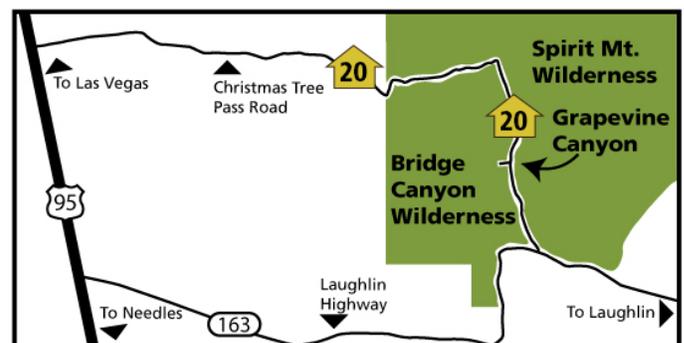
Be sure to take plenty of drinking water (at least one gallon per person). There is no water available in the canyon.

Directions

Grapevine Canyon lies to the south 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 for 1.8 miles to a T-intersection with the Grapevine Canyon access road. Turn left and drive west to the parking area at the end of the road. The trailhead is at the end of the parking lot. Restrooms are available.



Flora



The relatively lush plant growth in the canyon is in sharp contrast to the stark hillsides. This extra moisture from a small spring allows a number of plants to grow here that could not survive on drier slopes. Cottonwood, arrowweed, common reed, canyon grape, cattails and rushes grow in the canyon.

Fauna



A little more than a mile from the trailhead, the canyon broadens out and supports cottonwood groves. The trees attract a variety of bird species. Northern mockingbirds, Gambel's quail, ash-throated flycatchers, American goldfinches, house finches and other species nest here.

Mammals include desert bighorn sheep, cottontail, ground squirrels, bobcats, and coyotes. Reptiles include side-blotched lizards, collared lizards, chuckwallas and rattlesnakes.

Geology



Grapevine Canyon is a rocky canyon nestled in a range of granite mountains. There are huge boulders and outcrops of granite throughout the wilderness area. Granite is an igneous rock formed by volcanic activity.

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.