

Houseboat

Pinto Valley, Jimbilnan, Eldorado,
Ireteba & Spirit Mountain Wilderness

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



Explore!

Explore the wilderness by water while enjoying many of the comforts of home. Rent a houseboat on Lake Mead or Lake Mohave and cruise across the aqua blue lakes, admiring the preserved lands. Pull up to a cove, and take a day trip into the peaceful backcountry.

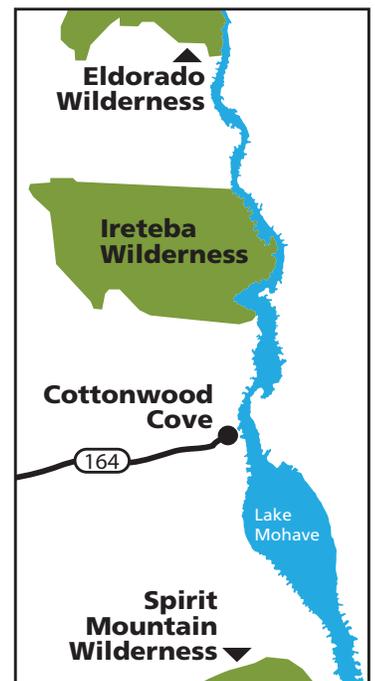
On Lake Mead, as you travel east from Callville Bay through the narrows, you'll pass Pinto Valley and Jimbilnan Wilderness, areas popular for stunning sandstone and volcanic rock formations.

On Lake Mohave, travel north to see Ireteba and Eldorado Wilderness, where it's easy to spot desert bighorn sheep. Or head south to see Spirit Mountain Wilderness, the spiritual birthplace of the Yuman tribes of the lower Colorado River.

Houseboats offer sleeping accommodations for the whole family, plus amenities like kitchens, bathrooms, hot tubs, water slides, satellite TVs, sun decks and more.

Directions

Houseboat rentals are available at Callville Bay on Lake Mead and at Cottonwood Cove on Lake Mohave. To access Callville Bay, take Northshore Road to mile marker 10. To access Cottonwood Cove, take Highway 95 south to Searchlight and turn onto Cottonwood Cove Road. Reservations are required.



Flora



The rugged cliffs and valleys around both lakes provides a habitat for solitary barrel cactus, mesquite, acacia, desert fir, creosote and rabbit brush.

Hanging off of the walls of some of the canyons you can find fern and rock nettle.

On some beaches you can find arrowweed, prince's plume, burdock and desert star.

Fauna



Mammals found in these areas include desert bighorn sheep, cottontail, ground squirrels, bobcats, coyotes and mountain lions.

Reptiles include side-blotched lizards, zebra-tailed lizards, collared lizards, chuckwallas and rattlesnakes.

Watch for great blue heron, coots, egrets and other migratory water birds. Peregrine falcon and bald eagles also nest in the park on both lakes.

Geology



The geology around lakes Mead and Mohave is 'naked', meaning you can see everything without the land being covered by foliage. Almost everywhere you look you can see the results of volcanic eruptions, faulting and shifting.

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.