

Lake Mead

National Recreation Area

National Recreation Area
National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior



December 2008 Programs

The National Park Service is presenting a variety of guided hikes and programs in December. Hikes and programs will occur at different times and locations in Lake Mead National Recreation Area. For more information and reservations call the Alan Bible Visitor Center at 702.293.8990 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Reservations are required on all hikes. Please leave dogs at home.



Wednesday, December 3

Biking through History

Join Tony on a morning bike ride along the Historic Railroad Trail. Learn the fascinating history of this cultural landmark as you ride into history on the trail that leads to Hoover Dam. Old photos and a great view of the lake are an added bonus. You will rack your bike before walking a short distance to the upper level of the parking garage at Hoover Dam. Bike locks are required and don't forget your helmet. This is a moderate to moderately strenuous 9-mile round trip.

Saturday, December 6

Holiday Open House

Please join us at the Lake Mead Visitor Center for holiday cookies and hot beverages all day long. A fifteen percent discount on all merchandise in the book and gift store is courtesy of Western National Parks Association. Books, music CD's, puzzles, hats, and more would make great gifts or stocking stuffers! There will be a variety of short ranger-led talks and cactus garden walks throughout the day. Open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 6

Tombstone Rock

Wondering how Tombstone Rock got its name? Follow a series of washes to a desert mesa with stunning views of Lake Mead and Las Vegas to find out. This is a moderate 7-mile hike with Joan and Chuck.

Sunday, December 7

Bluffs Trail

Learn about the unique Las Vegas water cycle, riparian wildlife, and natural vegetation as you hike along an elevated bluff overlooking Las Vegas Wash. Birds and other small animal viewing opportunities can be expected. This is a moderate 1 1/2-mile hike with Ranger Kirsten.

Tuesday, December 9

America's Treasure Box - The Story Of National Parks

More than just pretty scenery, our national park sites tell the story of America. Join Ranger Michelle at the Boulder City Library at 7:00 p.m. as she explains our parks from their beginnings to present day. Bring your favorite National Park stories.

Saturday, December 13

Cranes Nest Rapid

Hike down a scenic wash and an increasingly narrow canyon to the Colorado River in Arizona. Enjoy the unique, colorful geology on the drive down to the trailhead. A 4-wheel-drive vehicle is required. Wear sturdy boots for this moderate 5-mile hike with Ranger Sky.

Saturday, December 13

Tunnels by Moonlight

Hike along an old railroad bed and marvel at the light of the Mojave Desert moon. Learn the fascinating history of this cultural landmark and the tunnel passages that trains rumbled through daily on their way to carry supplies to Hoover Dam. Share historical photos with Larry along this easy 3-mile trail.

Sunday, December 14

Teddybear Cholla Forest

Join Carleton and Carol for a hike to a beautiful stand of Teddybear Cholla. Walk a portion of the old railroad bed (now part of the River Mountains Loop Trail) used to haul supplies to Hoover Dam during its construction. For more information and reservations please call Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association at 702-515-5367.

Saturday, December 20

Junior Ranger Program

Have you ever wanted to become a Junior Ranger? Join the rangers at the Lake Mead Visitor Center to learn how you can earn a junior ranger certificate and badge from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Check out the Webrangers website located at www.nps.gov/webrangers/ which has special junior ranger activities, including a scavenger hunt and a special certificate for those who complete it.

Sunday, December 21

Pinto Valley Loop

Hike over a variety of saddles and geologically striking washes and enter the beautiful Pinto Valley Wilderness Area. Keep an eye out for wildlife at the backcountry Cottonwood Spring. This is a moderate to strenuous 8-mile hike with Joan and Chuck.

Saturday, December 27

Family Fun in the Park!

Are you experiencing the post-holiday blues? Are your relatives driving you crazy? Did you over-indulge from Thanksgiving through the holidays? Bring your family and walk off some of the stress on this easy Historic Railroad Trail. Ranger Sky will be walking the trail from 10 a.m. to noon, sharing historical photos and interesting stories about the history of the trail. No reservations are needed. See you on the trail!