

D. L. Bliss and Emerald Bay State Parks include some six miles of magnificent Lake Tahoe shoreline and cover 1,830 acres in California's Sierra Nevada. From the scenic overlook on Highway 89, you can see a brilliant panorama of Emerald Bay, Fannette Island, Lake Tahoe and the distant Nevada shore. Nearby Eagle Creek cascades over three falls and disappears into the lake.

The grandeur of the parks and their setting is a product of successive upheavals of the mountain-building processes that raised the Sierra Nevada. Lake Tahoe, from an Indian word interpreted to mean "Lake of the Sky," lies east of the main Sierra crest at an elevation of over 6,200 feet. After the mountains rose to the east and west, the lake's basin was completed by glaciers and lava seeping from volcanic vents, especially to the north. The lake is over 22 miles long, 12 miles wide and more than 1,600 feet deep. You can see approximately 70 feet into its depths from promontories such as Rubicon Point. The lake level is controlled by a small dam on the Truckee River at Tahoe City. More than 50 streams feed water into the lake. The Truckee river is the only outflow.

The Lake Tahoe area has a wide variety of trees and plants. Tall and majestic sugar pines grow on the thin granitic soil in the center of D. L. Bliss. The parks also contain ponderosa and Jeffrey pines, white and red firs, incense cedar, Sierra juniper and black cottonwood. Along the streams grow a lush



Lester Beach, D. L. Bliss

In 1928 Mrs. Lora J. Knight of Santa Barbara purchased this isolated site at the head of Emerald Bay. She instructed Lennart Palme, a Swedish-born architect and nephew by marriage, to design a home without disturbing a single one of the site's magnificent trees. After a trip to Scandinavia, they decided to reproduce Norwegian farmsteads, wooden stave churches and a castle. Vikingsholm was completed in September 1929. Mrs. Knight also had guest houses and the tea house on Fannette Island built. She spent her summers at the home until her death in 1945. The methods and materials used in the construction of Vikingsholm, including the granite boulders of the foundations and walls, are those used in ancient Scandinavia. Towers, intricate carvings and hand-hewn timbers were used to

VIKINGSHOLM

weather, they are open from late May until the end of September. D. L. Bliss State Park is named for a pioneering lumberman, railroad owner and banker of the region. His family donated 744 acres to the California State Park System in 1929. The nucleus of Emerald Bay State Park, including Vikingsholm, was sold to the State for half the appraised value by Placerville lumberman Harvey West in 1953. The Save the Redwoods League was instrumental in this acquisition.

combination of alders, quaking aspen, mountain dogwood, service berry, Sierra maple, bitter cherry and willow. As for wildflowers, there are columbine, leopard lily, lupine, bleeding heart, mint, yellow monkey flower and nightshade. Brush areas are composed of ceanothus, chinquapin, currant, gooseberry, huckleberry oak, manzanita and other shrubs that provide colorful blooms and fragrances in season. Summer temperatures here range from about 75 degrees during the day to the low 40s at night. Winter temperatures average from a high of 40 to a low of 20 degrees. During extremely cold winters Emerald Bay freezes over. The parks are closed during the winter. Depending on the weather, they are open from late May until the

CAMPING

The parks have 268 family campsites (some accessible), each with a table, cupboard and stove, plus nearby restrooms and hot showers. Although there are no hookups, some sites at D. L. Bliss will accommodate trailers up to 15 feet long or motor homes up to 18 feet. Emerald Bay can accommodate trailers up to 18 feet long or motorhomes up to 21 feet. The group camp-ground will accommodate up to 50 people, with a limit of 10 cars. Reserve campsites by calling 1-800-444-PARK (7275) and charging reservation to your Visa®, Discover®Card or MasterCard®.



Vikingsholm, Emerald Bay

create the home. The sod roofs with their living grass and flowers are reproduced from actual sites in Norway. Many of the furnishings that Mrs. Knight wanted for Vikingsholm were so historically significant that their export was forbidden by the Norwegian and Swedish governments. Therefore, she had the furnishings, down to the measurements, colorations and aging of manzanita and other shrubs that provide colorful blooms and fragrances in season. Summer temperatures here range from about 75 degrees during the day to the low 40s at night. Winter temperatures average from a high of 40 to a low of 20 degrees. During extremely cold winters Emerald Bay freezes over. The parks are closed during the winter. Depending on the weather, they are open from late May until the

There are also 20 primitive campsites that are accessible by boat. While the parks themselves have no launching facilities, boats can be launched from private facilities about 6 miles to the north or south.

Campers can enjoy swimming, sunbathing and fishing for rainbow, brown and Mackinaw trout and Kokanee salmon (a landlocked form of the Pacific sockeye), all successfully introduced into the lake. During the summer, interpretive programs are scheduled. Hiking is also popular. Hikers must stay on the trails. Smoking is prohibited on the trails since fire is an ever-present danger.

Parking and restrooms at D. L. Bliss are barrier free, and videotapes and scripted videos of the tours are available at Emerald Bay. Call the parks for specific accessibility information.

Dogs are allowed in the parks. However, they must be kept on a leash during the day and in an enclosed vehicle or tent at night. Due to the possible danger to wildlife and other park visitors, dogs are not permitted on the trails, beaches or in the Vikingsholm area.

PLEASE HELP

The unspoiled beauty of the Emerald Bay area was recognized in September 1969, when it was designated as a National Natural Landmark by the U.S. Department of Interior. Please help us to keep it that way so your children and their children will be able to enjoy it as well.



Our Mission

The mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.



California State Parks does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. Prior to arrival, visitors who need assistance should contact the park at the phone number below. To receive this publication in an alternate format, write to the Communications Office at the following address.

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS
P. O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001
 For information call: (800) 777-0369
 (916) 653-6995, outside the U.S.
 711, TTY relay service

www.parks.ca.gov

D. L. Bliss & Emerald Bay State Parks
P. O. Box 266, Tahoe, CA 96142
D. L. Bliss (530) 525-7277
Emerald Bay (530) 541-3030 (summer only)
Lake Sector Headquarters (530) 525-3345



D. L. BLISS & EMERALD BAY STATE PARKS

D. L. Bliss & Emerald Bay State Parks Trail System

- Balancing Rock Nature Trail (self-guided)
0.5 mi.
- Rubicon/Emerald Bay Trail (Calawee Cove to Eagle Point)
6.3 mi.
- Calawee Cove to Vikingsholm
4.6 mi.
- Calawee Cove to Boat Camp
3.6 mi.
- Overlook Trail
1.1 mi.

This park is supported in part through a nonprofit organization. For more information contact:
The Sierra State Parks Foundation
 • P. O. Box 28 • Tahoma, CA 96145
 • (530) 525-9460 • www.sierraspf.org

	PAVED ROADS
	TRAILS
	CAMPING
	PICNICKING
	SWIMMING
	TELEPHONE
	FISHING (fair to good)
	RESTROOMS
	RESTROOMS WITH SHOWERS
	BUOYS
	LOCKED GATES
	ACCESSIBLE

SCALE IN MILES
0 1/4 1/2

1980 Landslide
 Vikingsholm Area open for day use only
 Park day use hours:
 6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Eagle Falls Picnic Area (U.S. Forest Service)

LESTER BEACH
 CALAWEE COVE BEACH
 RUBICON POINT
 Campsites 141-165
 Campfire Center
 Group Campground
 OLD LIGHTHOUSE
 Campsites 91-114
 Campsites 115-140
 Camp Host Campsites 1-90
 Check-in Station
 Park Headquarters and Visitor Center
 Entrance
 Service Yard
 Park Residence

D. L. Bliss Campsites 79 thru 86 are barrier free. The five shower/restroom combo buildings are barrier free.

TRUCKEE
 SUNNYSIDE
 HOMEMOOD
 Tahoma
 SUGAR PINE POINT SP
 Meeks Bay
 RUBICON BAY
 D. L. Bliss SP
 EMERALD BAY SP
 CASCADE LAKE
 FALLEN LEAF LAKE
 MEYERS
 UPPER ECHO LAKE
 LOWER ECHO LAKE
 SOUTH LAKE TAHOE
 Kings Beach SRA
 Tahoe SRA Gatekeeper's Museum
 Kings Beach
 Agate Bay
 Carnelian Bay
 Glenbrook Cove
 Zephyr Cove

0 2 4 MILES

D. L. Bliss State Park

1982 Avalanche Path

Emerald Bay

1980 Landslide

FANNETTE ISLAND
 TEA HOUSE
 Sightseeing Only
 No Picnicking or Camping

Emerald Bay State Park

Note: 15 MPH throughout the entire bay

EAGLE POINT
 Lower Eagle Point Campground (campsites 35-100)
 Accessible campsites: 73A & 74A

Boat Camp (20 units)
 Beach
 Fire Road
 Campfire Center
 Upper Eagle Point Campground (campsites 1-34)
 Entrance

To South Lake Tahoe (8 miles)