
News Release



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Labor Day Weekend 2006

Space Available, Going Fast at CA State Park Campgrounds

SACRAMENTO – Campground reservations at California state parks are filling up fast for Labor Day Weekend, with just 15 campgrounds still taking reservations today for the full three-day weekend, down from 23 a week ago.

In keeping with State Park camping history, the coastal campgrounds, particularly in Southern California and the Santa Cruz area, have filled up first. That means, visitors looking to stay three nights starting on Sept. 1 should look for availability inland and north.

Six of the campgrounds with sites available for all three nights are in the North Coast Redwoods District where visitors often venture for majestic trees, cooler weather and solitude in Humboldt and northern Mendocino counties.

There is plenty of space available for one and two night stays at 33 California state park campgrounds, from Pfeiffer Big Sur on the coast to Mount Diablo and Folsom Lake further inland and the Tahoe State Recreation Area and Emerald Bay to the east. Further south, along the central coast, reservations can still be made for San Simeon State Park and Morro Strand State Beach, both in San Luis Obispo County. Further inland, is the McConnell State Recreation Area in Merced County and Millerton Lake on the border of Madera and Fresno counties. In Southern California, where campgrounds usually fill up first, Lake Perris State Recreation Area in Riverside County still has availability.

For a complete list of available campgrounds, visit http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=22687. Once visitors find a park available, they can make reservations online at <http://reserveamerica.com/> or by calling call the toll-free ReserveAmerica phone line at (800) 444-PARK (7275).

Visitors should be sure to take a look at parks with campsites available on a first-come, first-served basis. A full listing of the walk-in locations and their telephone numbers may be found under Reservations and Fees on the State Parks Web site at www.parks.ca.gov.

Another alternative is to spend the day at a nearby State Park for a hike, picnic or get-together. A great buy is the California State Parks Day-Use pass for \$125 which provides day-use access to 125 state parks. The Golden Poppy Pass is \$90 and provides access to 97 parks. Information is available on the Park Passes section of www.parks.ca.gov

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Here are some helpful camping tips:

- * Determine where you want to camp and be flexible. Have alternative parks in mind in case your first choice is booked.
- * Consider cancellations. Check the ReserveAmerica website, or call 800-444-7275. Cancellations are rare, but they do occur.
- * Make reservations beginning on a Wednesday or Thursday rather than a Friday.
- * The “shoulder season” during the months of April, May, September and October is a good time to enjoy California State Parks. The weather is usually good during these months, and they are generally less crowded.

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