



California State Parks

Camping Reservation Guide



California is an unending adventure. California State Parks is your camping and adventure source, with an amazing 1.4 million acres of state parks, beaches, historic sites and recreational areas. It includes nearly 13,500 campsites, 3,000 miles of trails, 625 miles of rivers and lake fronts, and 280 miles of majestic coastline. You'll find something truly extraordinary here.

Whether you are a seasoned outdoor enthusiast or first-time camper, this guide will help you choose the park, campsite and amenities that are right for you. Thanks to California's mild weather, you don't need a summer evening to share a campfire with family and friends. Early spring or fall, the so-called "off-season," is the best-kept secret if you're in search of a campsite in the great outdoors.

We understand that Californians are always looking for something new and adventurous. Try windsurfing at San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area. Or enjoy an April evening docked at one of Lake Oroville State Recreation Area's floating campsites. Whatever challenge you are looking for, we have it here at California State Parks!

Advance camping reservations help you maximize your precious leisure time and avoid long waiting lines or the disappointment of being turned away at the park entrance. These featured campgrounds can be reserved up to seven months in advance through ReserveAmerica™. In addition, many campgrounds are available without reservations during nonpeak seasons, and some even during peak season.

Other California State Parks campgrounds may be available first come, first served. For information call 1-800-777-0369 or (916) 653-6995.

Call 1-800-444-PARK

(Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Days)

International Phone Number: 916-638-5883

TTY Number: 1-800-274-7275

www.parks.ca.gov

Camping in California State Parks

▶ Family Camping

Family campsites accommodate up to eight people. These are developed campsites with amenities that vary from park to park and may include fire pits or fire rings, picnic tables, showers, a water supply and a cleared area for your tent.

Fees include entry for one vehicle and one legally towed vehicle.

Two licensed vehicles—autos; travel, boat, and utility trailers—may be parked at most campsites.

Camper may stay in the same park up to 30 nights in a calendar year. Each campground has a limit on the consecutive number of nights a camper may stay (see chart on reverse). Once this consecutive night limit has been reached, the camper must vacate the campground, and no one in the party may return to camp in the same park for 48 hours.

Youths (under 18 years of age) must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. The Supervising Ranger may approve the stay of a youth who presents written consent from a parent or guardian with the dates of the authorized stay and the park name.

▶ Environmental Camping

Environmental campsites are located in relatively undisturbed natural settings. Each site has a table, a clearing for your tent and a primitive toilet nearby. See chart on reverse for environmental campsite hike-in distances.

- Plan to arrive at your campsite before dark.
- Stays are limited to seven nights.
- No pets are allowed, except service dogs.

▶ Group Camping

Group campsites accommodate groups as small as nine or as many as 100, depending on the park. At some campgrounds, group sites can be combined. Your reservation agent can help you with names and locations of these campgrounds.

- Stays are limited to seven nights.
- Youth groups (under 18 years of age) must be accompanied by at least one adult for every 15 youths.

▶ En route Camping

En route camping is available at some State Parks and is limited to self-contained camping vehicles only. Because these areas provide visitor parking during the day, they must be vacated by 9 a.m. the following morning.

- Visit the California State Parks Web site for a listing of parks with en route camping.
- Call to make sure your vehicle can be accommodated.
- En route camping fees are the same as the campsite fee.

Making Reservations

A non-refundable reservation fee of \$7.50 is included in the fees for EACH campsite. Camping fees can be found at www.parks.ca.gov, under the Reservations and Fees section.

On the first of each month, campers will have access to an entire month of available start dates, up to seven months in advance. You may secure camping reservations as late as two days prior to your planned arrival, subject to availability.

Campsite Sale Dates

For camping in:	Reserve on or after:	For camping in:	Reserve on or after:
January	Jul 1st	July	Jan 2nd
February	Aug 1st	August	Feb 1st
March	Sep 1st	September	Mar 1st
April	Oct 1st	October	Apr 1st
May	Nov 1st	November	May 1st
June	Dec 1st	December	Jun 1st

- You may make two reservations per park and camping start date.
- You may reserve two different start dates per park within a calendar month.
- You may pay by American Express®, Visa®, Discover® or MasterCard®. Your credit card account will be charged at the time the reservation is made.
- If you pay by check or money order, your camping start date must be no sooner than 21 days from the date you contact us. Your check or money order must be received within seven days after you make your reservation or your reservation will be automatically cancelled. We cannot assume responsibility for mail delays.
- You may ask your reservation agent for details about other California State Parks policies.

▶ By Telephone

Have all the information listed in the box below available when you reach the reservation agent.

- Park selections
- Date(s) you wish to start camping
- Type and size of camping equipment
- Number of people that will occupy the campsite
- Number of nights you wish to camp
- Alternative park and camping date choices
- Your phone number with area code
- Method of payment/Credit card number and expiration date
- Mailing address

We are committed to providing a reservation service that meets your needs. The best times to call are midday and midweek, when the phone lines are less busy.

► **Before you hang up make sure...**

Your reservation agent confirms your selection, and verifies the information you have provided.

Your reservation agent provides you with a reservation number.

If time permits, a reservation confirmation letter will be mailed to you. When you receive it, make sure that all information is correct. If any information is incorrect, call Customer Account Services at 1-800-695-2269.

► **Mail-in Reservations**

If you prefer to reserve a campsite by mail, all of the information contained in the box at the bottom of Panel 2 must be provided. Mail-in reservations are subject to the same campsite sale dates noted in the Campsite Sale Dates chart. Send your reservation request, along with a check, money order or credit card information, to ReserveAmerica™, P.O. Box 1510, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-1510. If we are unable to fulfill your camping request, your payment will be returned.

- Mail-in requests must be received no more than 14 days prior to the on-sale date. All mail-in requests received more than 14 days prior to that date will be returned.
- Allow a minimum of 21 days for mail processing and delivery. We cannot assume responsibility for mail delays.
- If time permits, a reservation confirmation letter will be mailed to you. When you receive it, make sure that all information is correct. If any information is incorrect, call Customer Account Services at 1-800-695-2269.

► **Online Reservations**

Online reservations are available on our Web site at www.parks.ca.gov. This service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Reservations will be offered seven months in advance beginning at 8 a.m. on the first reservation day of the month.

What to Expect When You Arrive & Depart

- You may check in any time after 2 p.m. on your reservation start date.
- When you arrive, present your confirmation letter or reservation number and a form of photo identification. If you arranged for a discount when you made your reservation, proof of eligibility must be shown.

- Most campsite assignments are made upon your arrival. If you reserve two sites, the park staff will try to assign adjacent campsites, subject to availability.
- Dogs must be kept on leashes no longer than six feet and in a tent or enclosed vehicle at night. Except for service dogs, pets are not allowed in park buildings, on trails or on most beaches.
- Coin operated showers are available at most campgrounds. Prices may vary.
- Generators may be operated between the hours of 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.
- Check-out is noon of your departure date. Please leave the campsite clean and orderly. The camper who follows you will appreciate it.

Cancellations

To cancel a confirmed reservation, call Customer Account Services at 1-800-695-2269.

- Your original \$7.50 reservation fee is non-refundable.
- If you cancel a confirmed reservation, or must leave the park early, a cancellation fee of \$7.00 per reserved campsite will be deducted from any refund you may be due.
- If you cancel a confirmed reservation and make a new reservation during the same call, a transfer fee of \$7.50 will be charged.
- If you cancel your reservation after 5 p.m. the day before your arrival date, the first night's campsite fee is forfeited.
- A campsite will be held for you until 12 p.m. the day after your arrival date. If you do not call the park before that time, you will be considered a "no show," and the park will cancel your reservation. You will be refunded the amount paid for the campsite, less the nonrefundable \$7.50 reservation fee, the \$7.00 cancellation fee and one night's camping use fee.
- If you miss your first day, but plan to arrive later, you must call the park each day to hold the remainder of your reservation.
- If you must leave the park one or more days early, check-out before 12 noon (there are no exchanges). Retain your camping confirmation letter until you have received your refund or your credit card has been credited. Allow at least 30 days to receive your refund.
- If an emergency or disaster forces closure of a campground, we will try to notify you as soon as possible. All fees, including the reservation fee, will be refunded.
- In cases of inclement weather, when the campground remains open, but you choose to leave, refunds will be issued based on the early out policy.
- If you are unable to honor your reservation due to a medical emergency or death in the family, a cancellation fee of \$7.00 per reserved campsite will be deducted from any refund you may be due.

Looking for Further Value

► **Annual Day Use Passes**

If you are looking for additional value in your outdoor experience, consider the Annual Day Use Pass—great for gift giving, too! The Annual Day Use Pass gives you access to over 200 state parks. Passes are available at most state parks, online at www.store.parks.ca.gov or by calling 1-800-777-0369.

► **Senior Discount**

Campers age 62 or older receive a \$2 per night discount, but only if requested at the time the camping reservation is made. The reservation must be in the name of the eligible person, and that person must occupy the campsite. Proof of eligibility is required.

► **Discount Passes**

California State Parks offers discount passes for those who qualify. For disabled campers, the Disabled Discount Pass offers 50% off regular camping fees and the Disabled Veteran/Prisoner of War Pass gives complimentary camping and day use at all California State Parks. For qualifications and a pass application, call (916) 653-4000, or write to: California State Parks Pass Program, P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296.

California State Parks Tours and Activities

► **Año Nuevo State Reserve**—Each December through March beaches north of Santa Cruz are home to one of the largest colonies of northern elephant seals. This "must see" allows visitors the chance to see marine mammals come ashore to rest, mate and give birth.

► **Hearst Castle**®— On the spectacular Central Coast overlooking the Pacific Ocean, midway between Los Angeles and San Francisco, is the world-renowned home of the late newspaper publisher William Randolph Hearst.

For Año Nuevo or Hearst Castle® reservations, call 1-800-444-4445; TTY: 1-800-274-7275 or reserve Hearst Castle tickets online at www.parks.ca.gov or www.hearstcastle.org. For wheelchair accessible tours at Hearst Castle®, call 1-866-712-2286.

► **State Capitol Museum and Historic Sites**—The historic sites in the Sacramento and Sonoma areas typify California's rich past. California's State Capitol, Sutter's Fort State Historic Park (SHP), Marshall Gold Discovery SHP, the California State Railroad Museum in Old Sacramento, Sonoma Mission SHP, and General Vallejo's home are just some of your choices. For school group reservations, call 1-866-240-4655; for commercial tour groups, call 1-866-361-5111.

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.

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR

MIKE CHRISMAN
SECRETARY FOR RESOURCES

RUTH COLEMAN
DIRECTOR, CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS



For general state parks information or to receive this publication in an alternate format, write to the California State Parks Communications Office, P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296-0001, or call 1-800-777-0369. Outside the U.S., call (916) 653-6995.

California State Parks does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to visitors upon request. Prior to arrival, contact the park office where you plan to visit.



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Cover photo of Red Rock Canyon State Park courtesy of Frank Balthis.



Support your Parks!
Join the California State Parks Foundation today.
(415) 258-9975