

News Release



For Immediate Release
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Contact: Kevin W. Buchanan
(559) 822-2332

NOTE: Digital pictures of the eagles and lake are available upon request.

Special opportunity up close and in the wild

Public Can View Bald Eagles, Other Wildlife At Millerton Lake SRA

FRIANT —Visitors to Millerton Lake State Recreation Area will have the opportunity beginning January 7th, through the end of February to take a boat ride and see our national bird, the Bald Eagle, and other wildlife up close and in the wild.

Millerton Lake SRA will soon begin taking reservations for its annual winter Bald Eagle tours, taking place on Saturday's and Sunday's in January and February. The cost of the three-hour tour is \$15 per person, which includes entry into the park. The maximum capacity for the tour barge is 25 visitors; walk-ons are welcome if space is available. The entire boat can be reserved for \$375.

Visitors can expect to see Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles, in addition to other wintering birds and raptors at Millerton Lake. Park Rangers and naturalists will give an audiovisual presentation before embarking on the tour. The tour barge that is used is covered, so some protection is offered if it rains. Visitors are advised to dress warmly and be prepared for seasonal weather, as barge the barge has open no windows. Coffee and hot chocolate will be served on the tour.

Children are welcome, although children six years and under must wear their own Coast Guard approved child-size lifejacket. The park has lifejackets available for each person onboard the vessel over six years of age. Visitors should bring binoculars for the best viewing of the Bald Eagles and other wildlife.

Special group tours can be arranged for midweek if the entire boat is reserved. Those tours are subject to the availability of staff to conduct the tour. Arrangements may be made by contacting the San Joaquin Sector Office, to schedule your special group tour.

For energy efficient recreation –
California State Parks on the Internet: <<http://www.parks.ca.gov>>



For further tour information, contact the San Joaquin Sector at (559) 822-2332. Reservations will begin being taken starting November 1st, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Reservations will be taken on a first come first serve basis, so call early as the tours do fill up fast. Visitors attending the tours will meet at the historic Millerton Courthouse, built in 1867, at 8 a.m.

Millerton Lake SRA is located 20 miles northeast of Fresno via Highway 41 and Highway 145.

The lake was created by construction of the Friant Dam across the San Joaquin River in 1944.

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Media interested in developing stories on the wintering Bald Eagles, are welcome to contact the park staff for assistance and can make arrangements for a boat tour of Millerton Lake with advance notice.