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Welcome to

California's beautiful deserts

Hello friends, thank you for your interest in visiting our beautiful desert. Many tourists have never experienced the deserts on the eastern sides of the Sierra.

Visitors will find activities for all interests, and attractions to fit any theme – geological landmarks, outdoor sports, museums, wildlife, ghost towns, California history, stargazing and more.

Increasingly popular among eco-tourists, the California high desert is home to exotic plant and animal life. The alien terrain is a hot spot for geo-caching, off-roading, and rock climbing. Hike the famous Pacific Crest Trail, John Muir Trail, and Mount Whitney. Cosmic enthusiasts seek out our high elevation and protected horizon for the most incredible star-gazing in California year round.

We hope your visit is both exciting and comfortable. The city of Ridgecrest has 18 hotels and 65 restaurants to choose from.



Nestled at the crossroads of three major highways and only 3 hours away from

- Death Valley National Park
- Disneyland
- Yosemite National Park
- Paso Robles wine country
- Mammoth Mountain ski resort
- Los Angeles
- Las Vegas

Whether you are looking for some peace and quiet, a new place to call home or are just passing through, we have what you need to make the most of your desert experience.

Doug Lueck

Executive Director, RACVB

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MUSEUMS

Maturango Museum

Founded in 1962, the Maturango Museum is an important educational and cultural resource. In addition to the exhibit galleries, which feature the natural and cultural history of the Upper Mojave Desert, the Museum sponsors many programs and tours, including tours to the world-famous Coso petroglyphs. Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily 100 E. Las Flores Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555 (760) 375-6900



China Lake Museum

The China Lake Museum of Armament and Technology showcases missiles and other defense technology developed by the scientists and engineers here at China Lake. The docents, many of them retired scientists, share their experiences as you follow the evolution of weaponry from WWII to the present. Open Mon - Fri 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (760) 939-3530

Historic USO Building

The Historic USO Building first opened on October 13, 1945 to serve the sudden influx of military and civilian personnel due to the opening of the new Naval Station at China Lake. Since then, it has served the community in many capacities, including court house, fire department and dance hall. Inside you will find photos and artifacts about the birth and growth of the Indian Wells Valley as well as a gift shop with local art and books. Open Mon-Sat 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. 230 W. Ridgecrest Blvd. (760) 375-8456



Rand Desert Museum

The Rand Desert Museum is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving, protecting and sharing the historic cultural resources and architectural history of the Rand Mining District. Here you can learn about the myriad of small towns that boomed to life during California's mining era. Open weekends 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 161 Butte Ave., Randsburg, CA 93554 (760) 371-0965

SEE MUSEUMS, PAGE 44



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RIDGECREST PETROGLYPH AND HERITAGE FESTIVAL



Ridgecrest is home to ancient rock drawings called Petroglyphs. This Native American rock art resides in the canyons of the Coso Mountains. These sites are protected, and can only be accessed by a guided tour. The rock art carvings tell stories of life as it was thousands of years ago. This has slowly become the city's branding, the first time was celebrated in November 2014, along with the opening of Petroglyph Park. This park will contain similar replicas of the ancient art on boulders, and will be surrounded with native desert trees and shrubs. Walking paths allow you to meander through the art and plant life, and is conveniently located near the Maturango Museum and Gift Shop. The festival will be full of vendors, food, music, and displays. November is a fresh and sunny time of the year in the desert. A great time is guaranteed! For more information, Contact the Ridgecrest Area Visitors Center @ 1-800-847-4830

Artist Olaf Doud describes his process of recreating petroglyphs at Petroglyph Park in February.

**What to Do
Where to Go
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RIDGECREST AREA ANNUAL EVENTS

For updated event information please visit www.ridgecrestchamber.com/calendar.

January

- Indian Wells Valley Concert Association, www.iwvca.com

February

- Whiskey Flat Days (Kernville), www.kernvillechamber.org
- Elks Crab Crack, www.elks.org
- Maturango Museum Annual Dinner, www.maturango.org
- Economic Outlook Conference, www.ridgecrestchamber.org
- Indian Wells Valley Concert Association, www.iwvca.com

March

- Petroglyph Tours, www.maturango.org
- Trona Spring Fling
- Respect for Law Dinner, www.elks.org
- CLOTA, Spring Theater Production, www.clota.org
- Ridgecrest Musical Enrichment Society, www.Facebook.com/RMES
- Indian Wells Valley Concert Association, www.iwvca.com

April

- Petroglyph Tours, www.maturango.org
- Wildflower Exhibit, www.maturango.org
- Desert Community Orchestra Concert, www.Facebook.com/Desert-Community-Orchestra-Association
- Sierra Art Guild, Fine Arts & Crafts Show, www.Facebook.com/Sierra-Art-Guild

May

- Petroglyph Tours, www.maturango.org
- China Lake Museum Dinner & Auction, www.chinalakemuseum.org
- Rocky Mountain Elks Dinner, www.Facebook.com/RockyMountainElkFoundationRidgecrestCaBranch
- Ridgecrest Star Follies, www.ridgecrestchamber.com

June

- Petroglyph Tours, www.maturango.org
- Chamber Installation & Awards Luncheon, www.ridgecrestchamber.com

July

- Independence Day Celebration, www.desertempirefair.com
- Chamber of Commerce Casino Night, www.ridgecrestchamber.com

August

- Over the Hill Track Club, Robber's Roost Run (pm) & Repeat (am), www.othtc.com

September

- Petroglyph Tours, www.maturango.org
- Annual Dinner & Auction, www.maturango.org
- Desert Community Orchestra Concert, www.facebook.com/Desert-Community-Orchestra-Association
- Parade of 1000 Flags, 9/11 Memorial, Ridgecrest Exchange Club
- CLOTA Fall Theater Production, www.clota.org
- Ridgecrest Musical Enrichment Society, www.Facebook.com/RMES
- Randsburg Old West Days, 760-793-3147.

October

- Petroglyph Tours, www.maturango.org
- Open Studio Tours, www.maturango.org
- CLOTA Spookhouse, www.clota.org
- Man vs Horse, Indian Wells Ultra, www.mvtrailevent.com
- American Cancer Society, Relay for Life, www.relayforlife.org/ridgecrestca
- Indian Wells Valley Concert Association, www.iwvca.com
- Viewfinders Motocross Grand Prix, www.viewfindersmc.com
- Desert Empire Fair, www.desertempirefair.com
- Searles Lake GEM-O-RAMA, www.1iwvisp.com/tronagemclub/
- Lone Pine Film Festival, www.lonepinefilmfestival.org
- Navy Ball – NAWS China Lake

November

- Ridgecrest Petroglyph Festival, www.rpfestival.com
- Petroglyph Tours, www.maturango.org
- Over the Hill Track Club, Randsburg Walk/Run, www.othtc.com
- Desert Community Orchestra Concert, www.Facebook.com/Desert-Community-Orchestra-Association
- IWV Gem & Mineral Show
- Marine Corps Ball
- Sierra Art Guild Fine Arts & Craft Show, www.Facebook.com/Sierra-Art-Guild
- Ridgecrest Desert Classic, www.highsierracyclists.club
- Indian Wells Valley Concert Association, www.iwvca.com

December

- Santa's Art Shop
- Indian Wells Valley Concert Association, www.iwvca.com
- Altrusa Holiday Home Tour
- Elks Children's Christmas Parade, www.elks.org
- Petroglyph Tours, www.maturango.org
- Over the Hill Track Club, High Desert Ultra Marathon, www.othtc.com

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Mission

To support the Fleet, fighter and family fighting the Global War on Terror with consistent, standardized and reliable performance at China Lake by providing the right service, at the right time, at the right cost, and to be ready to defend the installation should the war come to our gate.

Support Provided For:

- Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division, the Center for Weapons and Armaments Technology
- Air Test And Evaluation Squadron THREE ONE (VX-31)
- Air Test and Evaluation Squadron NINE (VX-9)
- Marine Aviation Detachment (MAD)
- Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Operating Unit (EOD MOU) THREE Detachment
- Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training and Evaluation Unit (EOD TEU) ONE Detachment
- Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest China Lake Detachment
- Naval Facilities Engineering Service Center Geothermal
- Branch Health Clinic
- ...and more.

The People of NAWSCL

- 694 Military
- 4,471 Civilian Employees
- 1,850 Contractors On-Site

The Naval Ordnance Test Station (NOTS) was established Nov. 8, 1943 as a partnership between the Navy and the California Institute of Technology for the testing and evaluation of rockets developed by the academic institution as well as other aviation ordnance. This partnership created a pattern of cooperation and interaction between civilian scientists and engineers and experienced military personnel that has made China Lake one of the preeminent research, development, testing and evaluation (RDT&E) institutions in the world.

Located 150 miles north of Los Angeles, NAWS China Lake's remoteness, near perfect flying weather and practically unlimited visibility proved an ideal location, not only for testing and evaluation activities, but also for a complete research and development establishment.

Since 1943, China Lake civilian and military personnel have developed and/or tested nearly every significant airborne weapon system used by the military today, including the famed Sidewinder air-to-air missile, the Shrike anti-radiation missile, the Zuni rocket, a series of aircraft rockets, an entire family of freefall weapons, torpedoes, the TV-guided Walleye glide bomb, the Joint Stand-Off Weapons (JSOW) and the Joint Direct-Attack Munitions (JDAM), to name a few.



Infrastructure

- 2,132 buildings and facilities
- 329 miles of paved roads
- 1,801 miles of unpaved roads
- Replacement value for the infrastructure is roughly \$3 billion

Land

China Lake represents 85 percent of the Navy's land for RDT&E use and 38 percent of the Navy's land holdings worldwide. In total, its two ranges and main site cover more than 1.1 million acres, an area larger than the state of Rhode Island. As of 2010, at least 95 percent of that land has been left undisturbed.

Armitage Airfield

- More than 18,000 manned and un-manned military sorties are conducted out of Armitage Field by all U.S. services each year.
- Foreign military personnel use the airfield and ranges to conduct more than 500 test and evaluation operations each year.

Airspace

The 19,600 square miles of restricted and controlled airspace at China Lake makes up 12 percent of California's total airspace and provides an unprecedented venue for integrated testing and training of today's war fighter.



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- Counter Improvised Explosive Device (C IED) technology

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• VX-31 (China Lake) • VX-30 (Point Mugu)

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Facilities and Ranges

Navy Region Southwest

China Lake. 150 miles NE of Los Angeles (desert)

Point Mugu. 50 miles N of Los Angeles (coast)

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Direct Conflict Involvement (Examples)

NAWCWD has had a significant role in every U.S. military crisis beginning with World War II. Operation Iraqi Freedom quick response topics: CH-53E, Cobra Dos, Low Collateral Damage Bomb, Electronic Warfare Database Support, GBU 24E/B Laser Guided Bomb, Improvised Explosive Devices, Countermeasures, Intrepid Tiger Pod, Jammer Technique Optimization, Joint Direct Attack Munition, Man Portable Air Defense Systems, MH-60R, Precision Strike Suite for Special Operations Forces, P-3C search capability, Rapid Attack Information Dissemination and Execution Relay, Shared Reconnaissance Pod. New technologies are now being developed for the ongoing war on terror.

Weapons (Examples)

Advanced Anti-Radiation Guided Missile, Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile, Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System, Bombs, Evolved Sea Sparrow Missile, Free-Fall Weapons, Harpoon, Hellfire, High-speed Anti-Radiation Missile, Joint Direct Attack Munition, Joint Standoff Weapon, Laser-Guided Bombs, Low-Cost Guided Imaging Rocket, Miniature Munitions, Rolling Airframe Missile, Sidewinder, Sparrow, Standard Missile, Standoff Land Attack Missile Expanded Response, Tomahawk, Trident

Programs/Projects/Systems (Examples)

Active Electronic Scanned Array, Airborne Early Warning Ground Integration System, Airborne Laser Test Bed Automatic Radar Periscope Detection and Discrimination, Distributed Ground-Based Threat Detection System, EW Systems, Joint Helmet-Mounted Cueing System, Hercules Airborne Weapons Kit (HAWK) Tool, High-speed Weapons, Infrared and Electronic Countermeasures, Link-16, LITENING Pod, Multifunctional Information Distribution System, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Parachute Development Verification Strike Accelerator, Tactical Aircraft EW, TIGER Pod





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Saturday FAMILY DAY

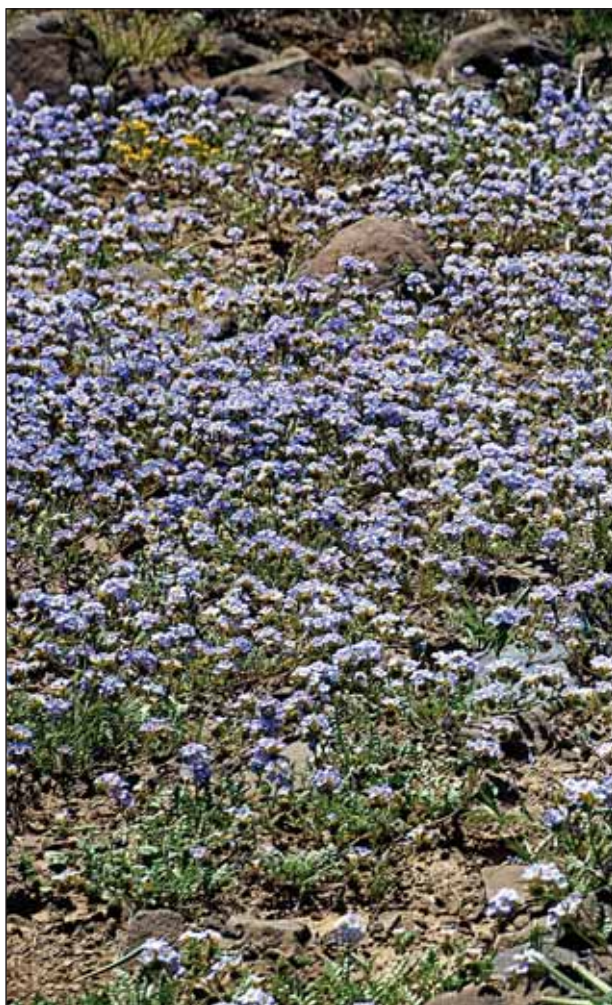
Kids EAT FREE*

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DESERT WILDFLOWERS



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OWENS PEAK

Owens Peak is the highest point in the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains at more than 8,400 feet. The peak stands near the center of the OWENS PEAK WILDERNESS which was designated by United States Congress in 1994, and it now has a total of 74,060 acres. The eastern watershed of



Owens Peak is composed of three main canyons: Grapevine Canyon, Short Canyon, and Indian Wells Canyon (north to south, respectively). The Sierra Nevada meets the Great Basin and the Mojave Desert here, creating an unusual ecosystem.

Owens Peak is named after Richard Owens (1812–1902), an Ohio born explorer (aka "Owings"), who accompanied John C. Fremont on his third expedition to California (1845–1946). Fremont also named a valley, river and lake for Owens, whom he considered "cool, brave and of good judgment". Owens served as Captain in Fremont's California Battalion during the Mexican-American War, and was California's Secretary of State

SEE OWENS PEAK WILDERNESS, PAGE 45

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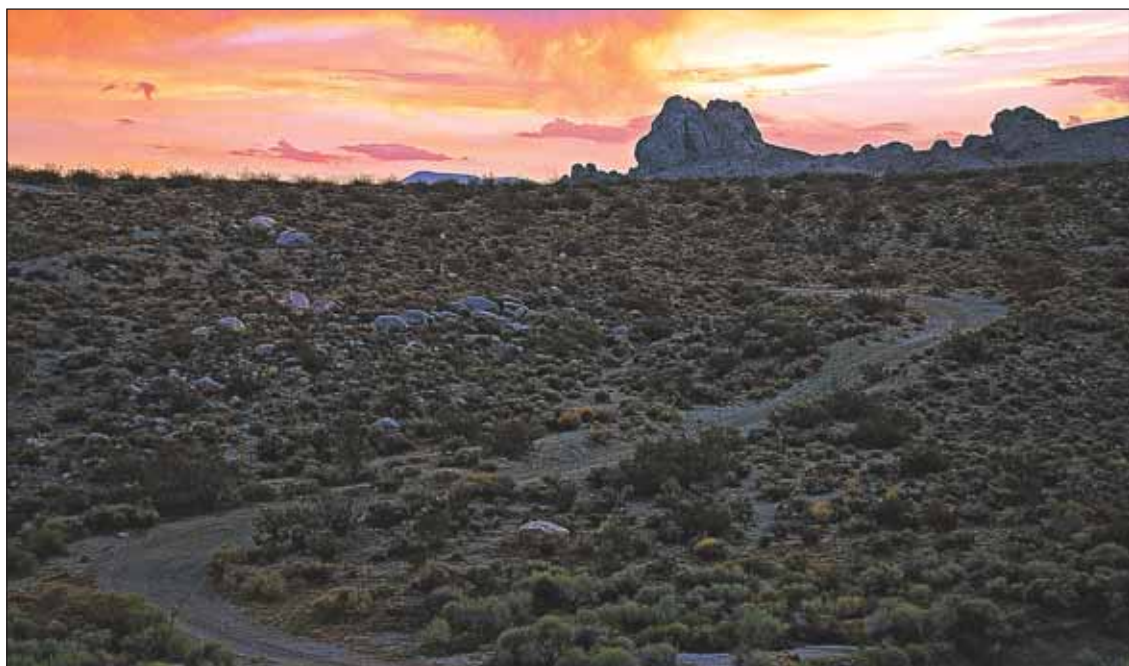


760-375-8000



RAVCVB SELF-GUIDED 7-DAY TOUR

SEE MAP, PAGE 24, 25



Begin your high desert adventure in Ridgecrest. Located in the northern Mojave Desert, Ridgecrest is easily accessible via highways 395, 14 and 178. Ridgecrest is located just two hours southwest of Death Valley National Park, and only a 2-1/2 hour drive from metropolitan Los Angeles, or the tranquil Sequoia National Forest.

Ridgecrest is an exciting new travel destination, and is the perfect hub for a wide variety of desert attractions. The unique beauty and history that is the Mojave Desert can be found all around - fascinating geological formations, ancient Indian cultural sites, unspoiled canyon trails, clear blue skies, spectacular sunsets and flawless starlit nights, antique and modern mining operations and endless photographic opportunities.

Ridgecrest is also the perfect hub to explore the Eastern Sierra Nevada Mountains. Whitewater rafting, giant sequoias, pack trails among the pines, waterfalls and campsites are all within a short drive from Ridgecrest. After a full day of sun, fun and wide open spaces, travelers will appreciate the many amenities Ridgecrest has to offer. We offer first-rate accommodations at affordable prices; Weekend rates are as low as \$39! This town of 30,000 boasts a full range of gift shops, specialty shops and services to meet the visitor's every need.

DAY ONE

Begin the day in Ridgecrest with a visit to the MATURANGO MUSEUM, 100 East Las Flores Ave. Ridgecrest, CA 93555, phone 760-375-6900. Open Daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. except major holidays. The Maturango Museum offers exhibits and displays featuring both the natural and the cultural history as well as the diversity of the Northern Mojave Desert. They offer changing art displays, lectures, children's activities, and a full gift shop. Check with the Museum about availability of trips to local geologic, historic, Rock art sites.

The U.S. NAVAL MUSEUM OF ARMAMENT AND TECHNOLOGY, 1 Pearl Harbor Way, China Lake CA 93555-0217,



SEE TOUR, 36

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT WILD HORSE AND BURRO PROGRAM

Established in 1982, through cooperation with the Naval Weapons Station and Death Valley National Park, this facility is designed to support wild horse and burro management activities throughout the three state region of Southern California, Nevada and Arizona.



There are twenty-two wild horse and burro herd management areas located throughout Southern California. Professional Wranglers based from this facility perform roundups throughout the year in order to keep these herd management areas in thriving ecological balance with their habitat. At this facility, captured animals are prepared for adoption which includes vaccinations, worming and blood tests and branding. During this 30 - 45 day period, the animals are fed daily, acclimating the animals to domestically grown hay. On an average year, the corrals will prepare more than 1,000 animals.

The corral facility sits on 57 acres of Navy withdrawn and BLM lands just four miles east of Ridgecrest, on the Randsburg-Wash Road off California Highway 178. The facility business hours are Monday through Friday, from 7:30 am to 4:00pm and closed all federal holidays.

The facility is available for individual and group tours and has a nice little dirt perimeter road allowing the motorist a quality view of the animals. For further information about the Wild Horse and Burro program contact CJ Wallace, Program Administrator, at 760-384-5765.

Adoptions are by appointment only by calling (760) 384-5765 or 1-800-951-8720.



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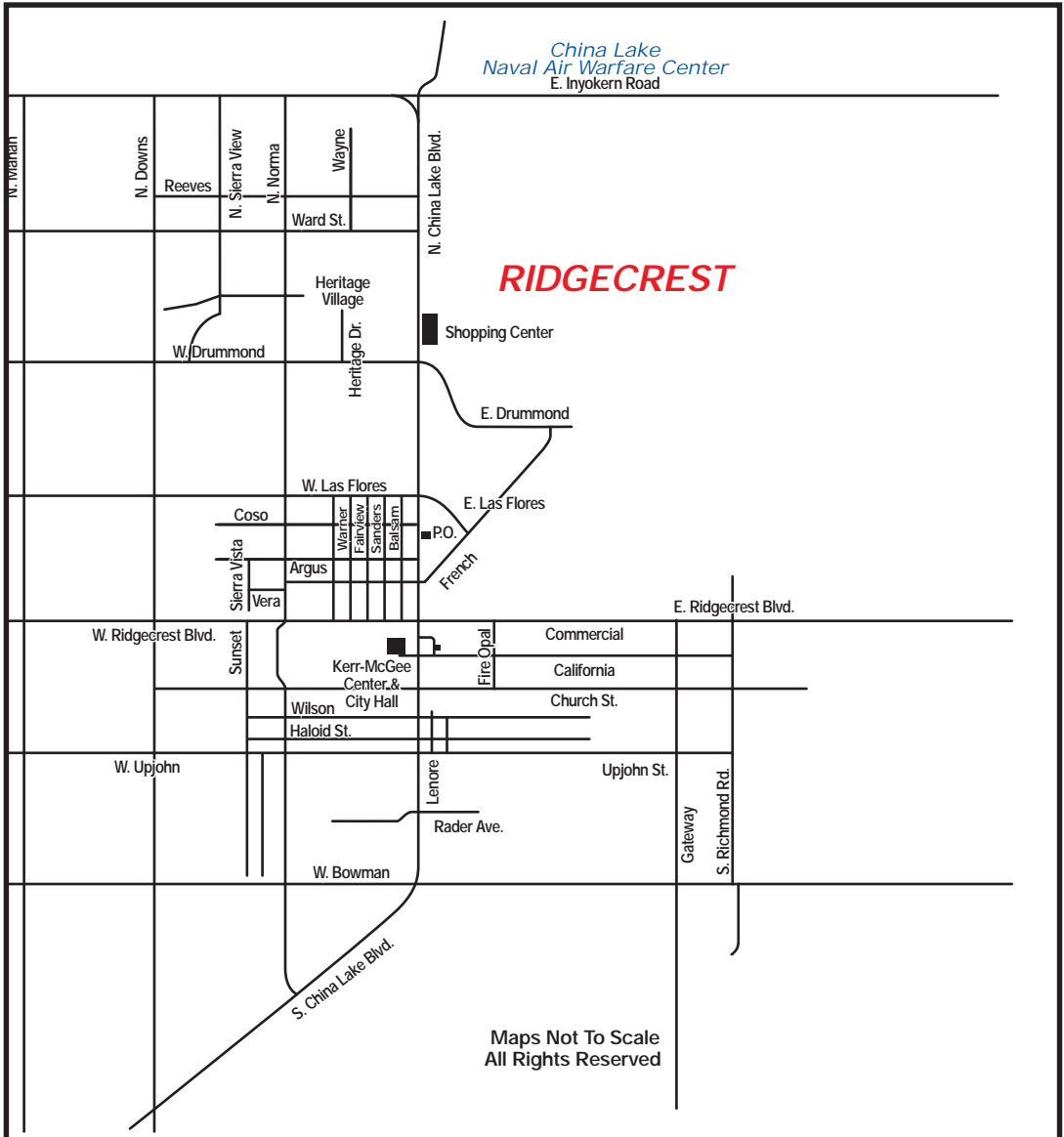
	Lunch	Dinner
Mon	11:00-2:30	5:00-9:30
Tue	11:00-2:30	5:00-9:30
Wed	11:00-2:30	5:00-9:30
Thu	11:00-2:30	5:00-9:30
Fri	11:00-2:30	5:00-10:30
Sat	12:00-2:30	2:30-10:30
Sun	12:00-2:30	2:30-9:00



(760) 384-1948

**890 N. China Lake Blvd. Ste. #A
Ridgecrest, CA 93555**

PETROGLYPH CHALLENGE LIST



Many business owners and residents have added petroglyph art work to their homes and businesses, can you find them all?

- The Daily Independent, 224 E. Ridgecrest Blvd.
- SASS and Indian Wells Valley Self Storage, 808 W. Ridgecrest Blvd.
 - Rusty Warren's Automotive, 501 W. Ridgecrest Blvd.
- Desert Area Resources and Training, 201 E. Ridgecrest Blvd.
 - Casey's Steak and Barbecue, 1337 N. China Lake Blvd.
- IWV Water District, 500 W. Ridgecrest Blvd.
- Cordell Construction, 643 N. China Lake Blvd.
- The Swap Sheet, 619 W. Ridgecrest Blvd.
 - Kristy's Family Restaurant, 430 S. China Lake Blvd.
- Desert Dog Pet Store, 211 N. Balsam St.
- Senior Services, 417 W. Drummond Ave.
 - IWV Insurance, 1310 N. Norma St.
- Cardinal Plumbing, 1501 N. China Lake Blvd.
- Romancing the West, 237 N. Balsam St.
 - Wayne Silva, 912 W. Perdew Ave.
 - Farmer's Insurance, 1281 N. Norma St.
- Furnish Brothers Barber Shop, 113 Grande Way
 - Shanghai Boutique, 201 N. Balsam St.
- Balsam Street Cleaners, 221 N. Balsam St.
 - Desert Valleys Federal Credit Union, 100 E. Ward Ave.
- Historic USO Building, 230 W. Ridgecrest Blvd.
 - Kern County Environmental Health, 250 W. Ridgecrest Blvd.
 - Hairitage Beauty Salon, 976 N. Norma St.
- Security Engineering, 127 W. Ridgecrest Blvd.
 - Minerals Unlimited, 127 S. Downs St.
- Petroglyph Park, North China Lake Boulevard and East French Avenue
- Maturango Museum, 100 E. Las Flores Ave.

RECREATION

Off Roading

Ridgecrest hosts several off-road races and events throughout the year. Jawbone Canyon, Spangler Hills, Dove Hills, El Paso Wilderness, and the Rand Mountains are criss-crossed with popular trails and off-road camping sites. Get a trails map at the Ridgecrest Visitors Center or Jawbone Station.



Hiking

The mountains surrounding the China Lake basin are full of trails to challenge every skill level. Popular trails include the nearby Rademacher Hills, Short Canyon, and Five Fingers. Test your hiking skills on Owens Peak, or join up with the Pacific Crest Trail at Walker Pass just North of town.

Geo-caching


Gear up for a GPS treasure hunt. The challenging desert landscape combined with hundreds of local caches makes Ridgecrest a geo-caching paradise. Check out RCGeo.com for local information and instructions for beginners.

Stargazing


Cosmic enthusiasts seek out our high elevation and protected horizon for some of the best star gazing in California. The best viewing can easily be found a few miles South of town on Brown Road or in Red Rock Canyon. Check out the China Lake Astronomical Society for star-viewing events and field trips.
chinalakeastrosoc.org/

Rock Climbing/Bouldering

Conveniently located at the half-way point between Los Angeles and Yosemite, Ridgecrest is surrounded by epic rock-climbing and bouldering challenges. From the boulders at Wagon Wheel to the smooth lava walls at Fossil Falls, climbers can diversify their climbing skills within a short drive of premium hotels and restaurants.



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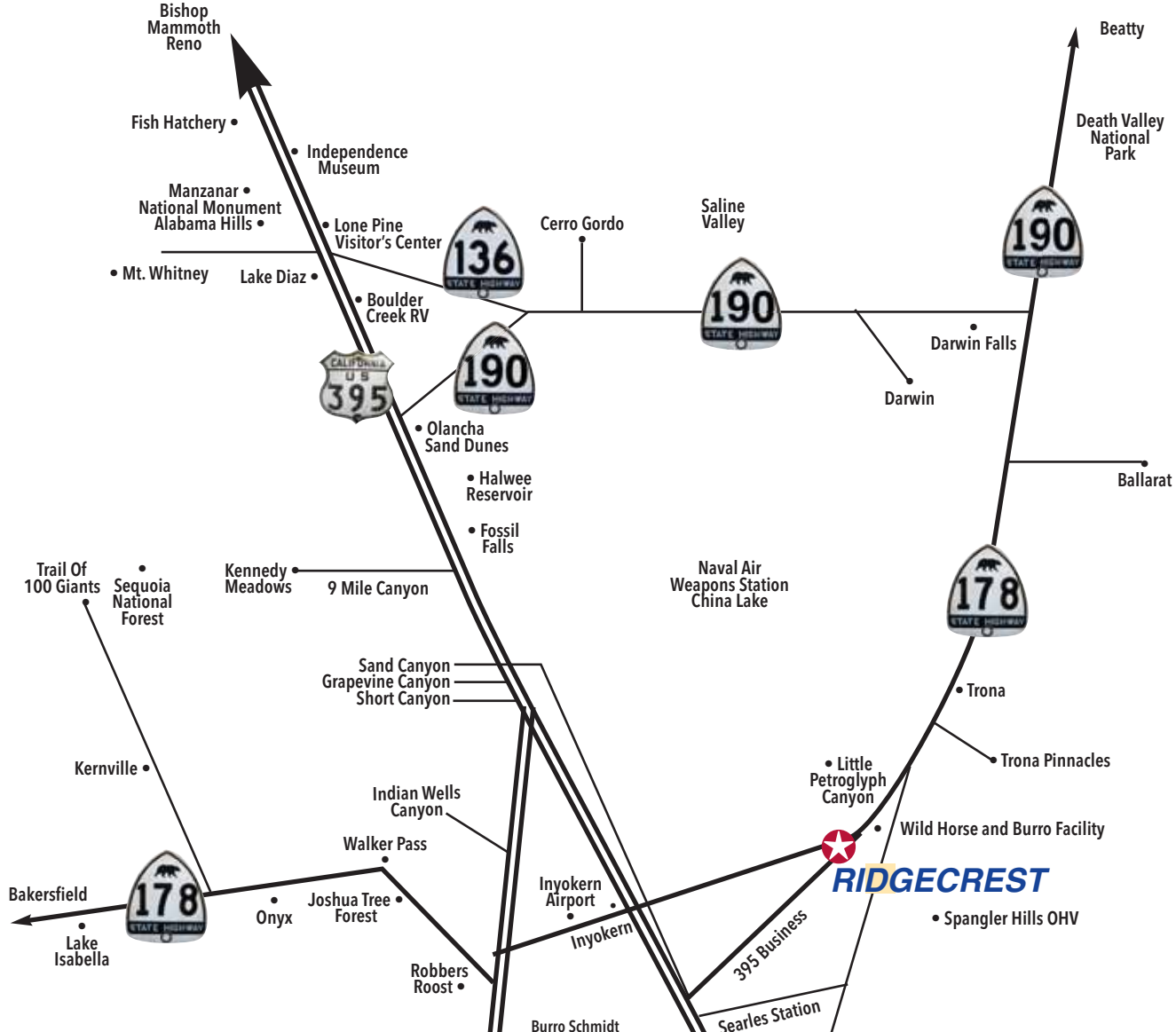
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

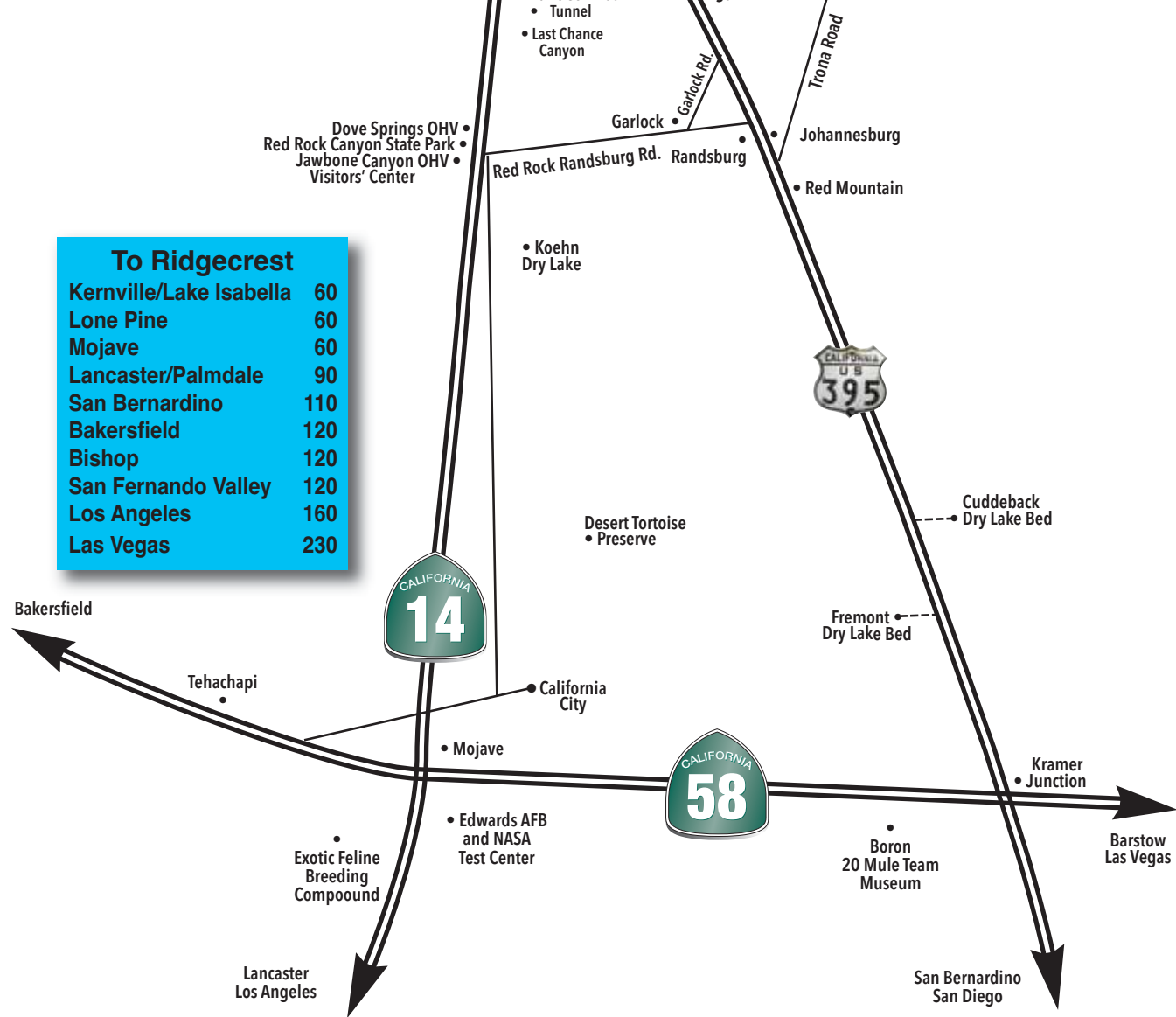
A2Z Lock & Security	129 W. Ridgecrest Blvd.	760-677-2002
Alta One Federal Credit Union	701 S. China Lake Blvd.	760-371-7000
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Beanster's Espresso	1601 Triangle Dr.	760-446-2320
Bertrand Enterprises	1210 Graaf Ave.	760-446-6600
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China Express	723 N. China Lake Blvd.	760-371-9868
China Lake Buffet	138 N. China Lake Blvd.	760-375-9983
China Lake Museum	One Pearl Harbor Way	760-939-3530
City of Ridgecrest	901 N. China Lake Blvd.	760-446-7910
Clarion Ridgecrest	100 W. California Ave.	760-499-5000
Coldwell Banker – Best Realty	710 N. China Lake Blvd.	760-375-3855
Cordell Construction	643 N. China Lake Blvd., Ste. A	760-375-3118
Daily Independent	224 E. Ridgecrest Blvd.	760-375-4481
Damiano Private Investigation	1500 McLean St., #111	760-371-0633
D.A.R.T.-Desert Area Resources & Training	201 E. Ridgecrest Blvd.	760-375-9787
Desert Empire Fair	520 S. Richmond Rd.	760-375-8000
Desert Motel	339 W. Church Ave.	760-375-1371
Desert Valleys Federal Credit Union	100 E. Ward Ave.	760-446-3500
EconoLodge Inn & Suites	201 W. Inyokern Rd.	760-446-2551
Economy Inn & Suites	416 S. China Lake Blvd.	760-375-1591
EZ Rentals & Sales	805 N. China Lake Blvd.	760-371-1368
Farmers Insurance-David Haugen	1281 N. Norma St.	760-446-4560
Fun Time ATV	32629 CA Hwy. 14	760-373-2922
Furnace Creek Inn & Ranch	Hwy. 190	760-786-2345
H&R Block	643 N. China Lake Blvd., Ste. B	760-384-2565
Hampton Inn & Suites	104 E. Sydnor Ave.	760-446-1968
High Desert Talent Agency	643 N. China Lake Blvd., Ste. C	760-384-1042
Historical Society of the Upper Mojave Desert	230 W. Ridgecrest Blvd.	760-375-8456
Inyokern Airport	1669 Airport Rd.	760-377-5844
J&J Automotive	915 E. Ridgecrest Blvd.	760-375-2882
Kristy's Family Restaurant	430 S. China Lake Blvd.	760-375-9132
Law Offices of Ashton Dunn	139 N. Balsam St.	760-375-6100
Liberty Ambulance	1325 W. Ridgecrest Blvd.	760-375-6565
Lugo's Grill	908 N. Norma St.	760-446-6960
Martha J. Willey	1275 N. Norma St.	760-446-2636
Maturango Museum	100 E. Las Flores Ave.	760-375-6900
McDonalds Restaurant	150 N. China Lake Blvd.	760-375-7181
Merced Community College District	WpLRC, Merced College, 630 W. 19th St.	209-386-6735
Mission Bank	1450 N. Norma St.	760-446-3576
Mojave Airport	1434 Flight Line	661-824-2433
Motel 6	535 S. China Lake Blvd.	760-904-6979
N.D.T.I., New Directions Technologies, Inc.	137 W. Drummond Ave.	760-384-2444

Continued next page

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Oasis Mexican Restaurant	321 W. Inyokern Rd.	760-382-1840
Pack Wrap	1500 McLean St.	760-446-3010
Pizza Factory	1601 Triangle Dr.	760-446-7492
Podell Chiropractic	840 N. Norma St.	760-371-1300
Quality Inn	507 S. China Lake Blvd.	760-375-9731
The Randsburg General Store	35 Butte Ave. / P.O. Box 157, Randsburg	760-374-2143 760-446-4300
Red Balloon Realty	1301 N. China Lake Blvd.	760-382-7664
RE/MAX at Your Service	860 N. China Lake Blvd., Ste. D	760-446-3571
Ridgecrest Automotive, LLC	217 W. Inyokern Rd.	760-375-8331
Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce	128 E. California Ave., Ste. B	760-375-1010
Ridgecrest Charter School	325 S. Downs St.	760-446-6543
Ridgecrest Heritage Inn	1050 N. Norma St.	760-375-8406
Ridgecrest Motel	401 S. China Lake Blvd.	760-375-4133
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Ridgecrest Regional Hospital	1081 N. China Lake Blvd.	760-375-7287
Ridgecrest Septic Service	667 S. Richmond Road	760-375-6777
Rose Garden Inn	329 E. Ridgecrest Blvd.	760-375-4123
Rusty Warren's Automotive	501 W. Ridgecrest Blvd.	760-384-1709
S&M Coins & Collectables	216 N. Balsam St.	760-371-7500
Saigon Flavor Vietnamese Bistro	819 N. China Lake Blvd.	760-375-1003
S.A.S.S.	808 W. Ridgecrest Blvd.	760-372-2211
Searles Valley Minerals	13200 Main St.	760-375-2352
Senior Services of I.W.V.	417 W. Drummond Ave.	760-446-5559
Sierra Auto Recycling	401 W. Inyokern Rd.	760-446-1630
Springhill Suites by Marriott	113 E. Sydnor Ave.	760-375-9202
Starbucks	750-A N. China Lake Blvd.	760-446-4279
State Farm-Gary Charlon	995 N. Norma St., Ste. A	760-375-2220
Super 8	426 S. China Lake Blvd.	760-375-5400
The Swap Sheet	619-D Ridgecrest Blvd.	760-384-0000
T'n'T Western Homes	219 Station Ave.	760-371-1364
Temporary VIP Housing	225 E. Ridgecrest Blvd.	760-446-1090
Tender Cut Meats	1111 W. Graaf Ave.	760-375-4311
Toboco Traders	705 N. China Lake Blvd.	760-384-1948
Tokyo House	890 N. China Lake Blvd., Ste. A	760-446-8677
T.O.S.S.	1525 N. Norma St.	760-375-4400
Toyota of Ridgecrest	321 N. China Lake Blvd.	760-384-3575
Travel Inn	131 W. Upjohn Ave.	760-372-5420
Trona General Store	82740 Trona Road, Trona	805-876-4220
Tutos Shave Ice		
United Rentals	1241 W. Inyokern Rd.	760-446-7628
Valley Cabinet & Trim	810 N. Balsam St.	760-375-3779
Vaughn Realty	509 W. Ward Ave.	760-446-6561
Village Retreat	#1 Easy Street	818-519-0369
Wiknich Broadcasting	417 E. Ridgecrest Blvd.	760-375-6555
Corporation, dba KZGN-TV		
Xin Bowl Asian Bistro	1110 N. China Lake Blvd.	760-446-3888





LODGING GUIDE

Name/Address	Phone	Brkfst	Dining	Pets	Pool	WiFi	Mtg Rms	Fitness Rm
American Inn & Suites 553 S. China Lake Blvd.	760-375-3020							
Americas Best Value Inn & Suites 131 S. China Lake Blvd. www.abviridgecrest.com	760-371-7454	X				X		
Best Western China Lake Inn 400 S. China Lake Blvd. www.bestwestern.com	760-371-2300	X		X	X	X	X	X
Budget Inn 831 N. China Lake Blvd.	760-375-1351		X			X		
Clarion Ridgecrest 901 N. China Lake Blvd. www.clarionridgecrest.com	760-446-7910	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Desert Motel 339 W. Church St. www.desertmotelsuites.com	760-375-1371					X		
Econolodge Inn & Suites 201 W. Inyokern Rd. www.econolodge.com/hotel/ca294	760-446-2551	X		X	X	X		
Economy Inn & Suites 416 S. China Lake Blvd. www.economyinnridgecrest.com	760-375-1591			X	X	X		
Hampton Inn & Suites 104 E. Sydnor Ave. www.hilton.com	760-446-1968	X			X	X	X	X
Motel 6 535 S. China Lake Blvd. www.motel6.com	760-904-6979			X	X	X		
Quality Inn 507 S. China Lake Blvd. www.choicehotels.com	760-375-9731	X		X	X	X		
Ridgecrest Heritage Inn 1050 N. Norma St. www.heritageinnsuites.com	760-446-6543	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ridgecrest Motel 401 S. China Lake Blvd. ridgecrest.motel@yahoo.com	760-371-5969					X		
Rose Garden Inn 329 E. Ridgecrest Blvd.	760-375-6777			X	X	X		
Springhill Suites 113 E. Sydnor Ave. www.marriott.com	760-446-1630	X			X	X	X	X
Super 8 426 S. China Lake Blvd. www.super8.com	760-375-2220	X		X		X		
Travel Inn 131 W. Upjohn Ave. www.travelinnridgecrest.com	760-384-3575	X		X		X		

DINING GUIDE

* Denotes RACVB Members

				Meals offered
Ale's Steakhouse	1030 N. Norma St.	Ridgecrest	760-446-8644	L/D
Arby's	830 N. China Lake Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-375-7572	B/L/D
Bangkok House Restaurant	303 W. Inyokern Rd.	Ridgecrest	760-446-6971	L/D
Baskin Robbins	501 N. China Lake Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-384-3131	Ice Cream
Beansters Espresso*	1601 Triangle Dr.	Ridgecrest	760-446-2320	B/L
Bernardino's	6601 Inyokern Rd.	Inyokern	760-377-4012	B/L/D
BMC Bistro	901 N. China Lake Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-446-7910	B/L
Burger King	139 N. China Lake Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-384-1299	B/L/D
Carl's Jr.	230 S. China Lake Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-375-8280	B/L/D
Casey's Steaks & Barbeque*	1337 N. China Lake Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-446-8000	L/D
Charley's Grilled Subs	501 N. China Lake Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-384-4541	B/L/D
Charlie's Pub & Grill	901 N. China Lake Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-446-7910	D
China Express*	723 N. China Lake Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-371-9868	L/D
Café Dazzling	1140 N. China Lake Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-499-1417	B/L/D
Casa Corona*	1429 N. China Lake Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-446-5055	L/D
China Lake Buffet*	138 N. China Lake Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-375-9983	L/D
Classic Burgers	6525 Inyokern Rd.	Inyokern	760-377-4555	L/D
Cocina Caliente	901 S. China Lake Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-375-3999	L/D
Del Taco	1020 N. Norma St.	Ridgecrest	760-446-6198	B/L/D
Denny's	104 N. China Lake Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-375-5572	B/L/D
DJ's Pub	135 Garnet St.	Ridgecrest	760-375-3321	
Domino's Pizza	856 N. China Lake Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-384-2800	L/D
Ephen Tacos	634 S. China Lake Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-793-2101	L/D
Esparza Restaurant	13223 Main St.	Trona	760-372-5314	B/L/D
Farris' Diner	309 E. Ridgecrest Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-371-1470	B/L
Farris' Italian Gardens	309 E. Ridgecrest Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-371-1470	D
Golden Dragon	945-D N. Norma St.	Ridgecrest	760-446-3949	L/D
Golden Ox	440 S. China Lake Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-375-3702	B/L/D
Indian Wells Brewing Company	2565 N. Highway 14	Inyokern	760-377-5989	
Indian Wells Lodge	2565 N. Highway 14	Inyokern	760-377-4290	D
John's Pizza	348 W. Ridgecrest Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-375-4407	L/D
The Grape Leaf	901 N. Heritage Dr.	Ridgecrest	760-446-3930	B/L/D
Kentucky Fried Chicken	212 S. China Lake Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-375-4551	L/D
Korean Market & BBQ	305 W. Inyokern Rd.	Ridgecrest	760-499-6005	L/D
Kristy's Family Restaurant*	430 S. China Lake Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-375-9132	B/L/D
La Fiesta	119 N. China Lake Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-375-5901	B/L/D
Little Caesars Pizza	906 N. China Lake Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-446-1051	L/D
Lugo's Grill*	908 N. Norma St.	Ridgecrest	760-446-6960	B/L/D
McDonalds*	150 N. China Lake Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-375-7181	B/L/D
Midway Café	831 N. China Lake Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-375-5961	B/L/D
Miso Sushi	1315 N. Norma St.	Ridgecrest	760-446-2030	L
Oasis Mexican Restaurant*	321 W. Inyokern Rd.	Ridgecrest	760-382-1840	B/L/D
Mon Reve	126 N. Balsam St.	Ridgecrest	760-375-3212	L/D
Olvera's Restaurant	120 W. Ridgecrest Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-375-7200	L/D
Papa John's	820 N. China Lake Blvd. Ste. A	Ridgecrest	760-375-7272	L/D
The Partner's Bar	1033 Inyokern Rd.	Ridgecrest	760-446-4400	
Pizza Factory*	1601 N. Triangle Dr.	Ridgecrest	760-446-7492	L/D
Pizza Hut	1245 N. China Lake Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-446-3200	L/D
Pony Espresso Coffee Shop & Café	1355 N. Norma St.	Ridgecrest	760-446-7669	B/L/D
Pure Healing Foods	972 N. Norma St.	Ridgecrest	760-301-0940	B/L/D
Randsburg General Store*	35 Butte Ave.	Randsburg	760-374-2143	B/L
Saigon Flavor Vietnamese Bistro*	819 N. China Lake Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-371-7500	L/D
Starbucks*	750-A N. China Lake Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-375-9202	B/L/D
Schooner's Patio Grill	1400 N. Norma St.	Ridgecrest	760-446-2700	B/L/D
Subway	815 N. China Lake Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-384-4784	B/L/D
Subway	901 S. China Lake Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-384-5000	B/L/D
Taco Bell	1240 N. China Lake Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-446-4513	B/L/D
Taqueria Bernardino's	841 N. Downs St. Ste. B	Ridgecrest	760-384-3202	B/L/D
Tokyo House*	890 N. China Lake Blvd. #A	Ridgecrest	760-384-1948	L/D
Tommy T's Sports Bar	117 E. Ridgecrest Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-371-4112	
Trails Drive In	84520 Trona Rd	Trona	760-372-5803	L/D
Tutus Shave Ice*		Ridgecrest	805-876-4220	
Weinerschnitzel	220 S. China Lake Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-375-3689	L/D
Xin Bowl Asian Bistro*	1110 N. China Lake Blvd.	Ridgecrest	760-446-3888	L/D

WORSHIP GUIDE

Church

Location

Phone

All Faith Chapel	NAWS-China Lake	(760) 939-3506
Bethal Baptist Church	4200 Johnston Ave.	(760) 377-5915
Calvary Chapel Ridgecrest	210 E. Springer Ave.	(760) 375-3133
China Lake Baptist Church	1311 N. Norma St.	(760) 446-9800
Church of Christ	729 N. Norma St.	(760) 371-9100
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints	1031 S. Norma St.	(760) 375-6998
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints	501 N. Norma St.	(760) 375-3818
Church of the Nazarene	571 N. Norma St.	(760) 375-4433
Cornerstone Bible Church	114 S. Gemstone St.	(760) 371-1689
Crossroads Community Church	235 N. China Lake Blvd.	(760) 384-3333
Desert Christian Center	100 E. Bataan Ave.	(760) 375-9954
First Baptist Church	1350 S. Downs St.	(760) 375-2503
First Church of Christ Scientist & Reading Room	504 Sydnor Ave.	(760) 446-3801
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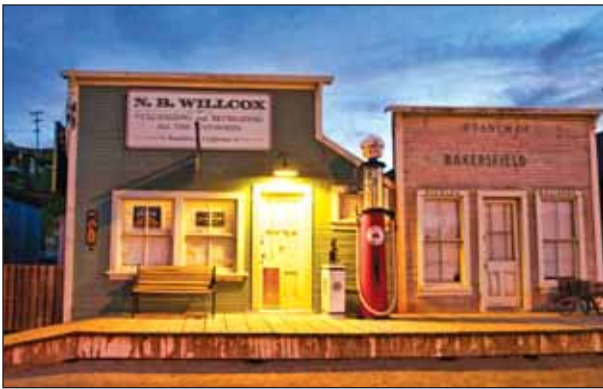


GHOST TOWNS

What is a Ghost Town?

Ghost towns are the remnants of the mining era. Miners flocked to new mining deposits in order to stake their claim. Wherever the miners settled, restaurants, barber shops, banks, schools and general stores followed. As the minerals were mined out, the miners eventually moved on to other prospects, leaving only the storefronts, houses, streets, and cemeteries behind. These skeletons of once busy mining towns are known today as "ghost towns." Some of them still stand today as a tribute to the

SEE GHOST TOWNS, PAGE 46



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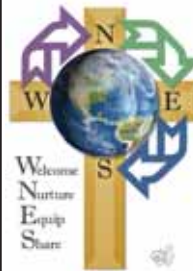
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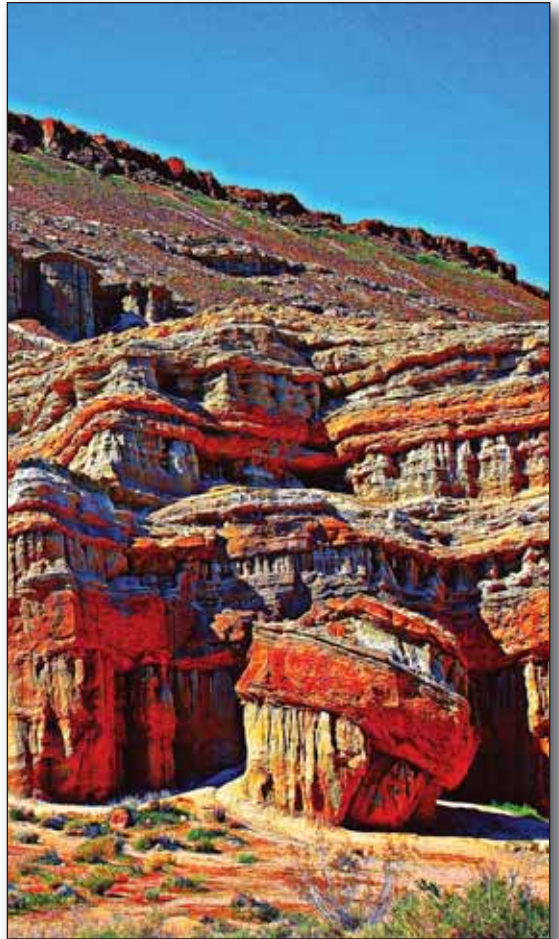
Fossil Falls

The rugged and primitive features of Fossil Falls are the product of volcanic activity. As recent as 20,000 years ago, lava from the local volcanic eruptions poured into the Owens River channel. The erosional forces of the Owens River acted upon this volcanic rock, forming the polished and sculptured features that are now known as Fossil Falls.

The red cinder cone visible to the north is the result of the violent ejection of trapped gases and molten material into the air from a vent in the earth's crust. Cooling quickly when exposed to the air, the molten material formed a porous rock known as scoria, which built up around the original vent forming a cone-shaped hill.

Trona Pinnacles

The Trona Pinnacles are one of the most unusual geologic wonders in the California Desert. This unique landscape consists of more than 500 tufa (calcium carbonate) formations rising from the bed of the Searles Dry Lake basin. These tufa spires, some as high as 140 feet, were formed underwater 10,000 to 100,000 years ago when Searles Lake formed a link in an interconnected chain of Pleistocene lakes stretching from Mono Lake to Death Valley. The Trona Pinnacles are a favorite destination for campers, hikers and photographers. Their other-worldly shapes have also served as the backdrop for dozens of movies and commercials.



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Red Rock Canyon

Red Rock Canyon State Park features scenic desert cliffs, buttes and spectacular rock formations. The park is located where the southernmost tip of the Sierra Nevada converge with the El Paso Range. Each tributary

SEE STATE & NATIONAL PARKS, PAGE 41

MOVIE MAGIC

Imagine standing in the same place as the stars you've seen on the silver screen. Movie making in California goes way beyond Hollywood, in fact, many of your favorite movies have been filmed here in the Mojave Desert.

Grab your camera and join the action! Follow Kern County Geo-photo adventures on a hunt to find the same spot where your favorite movies were filmed.

Trona Pinnacles

The spooky tufa formations of the Trona Pinnacles create the perfect backdrop for alien and pre-historic landscapes.

Star Trek V, Disney's Dinosaur, Land of the Lost, Planet of the Apes, and Priest.



Red Rock Canyon

Over 70 westerns have been filmed in Red Rock Canyon, starring several western greats such as Roy Rogers, John Wayne, and Ronald Reagan. *Zorro Rides Again, The Man from Cheyenne, 20,000 Leagues Under The Sea, Law and Order, The Marx Brothers Go West, Davy Crockett, The 10 Commandments, Jurassic Park, and Holes*

Other films shot in the area:

*Hangover 3 (2013) Inyokern Airport
Blade Trinity (2004) Poison Canyon
Erin Brockovich (2000) Boron
The Kid (2000) Bruce Willis
California City
Behind Enemy Lines (2001)
Lake Isabella
Idaho (1943) Old Kernville
Wonder Woman (1974) Kern River Valley
Iron Man (2008) Olancho Dunes*



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COSO ROCK ART DISTRICT

Coso Rock Art District, containing the Big and Little Petroglyph Canyons, is a rock art site containing over 100,000 Paleo-Indian and/or Native American Petroglyphs. The Coso Range is between the Sierra Nevada and the Argus Range. Indian Wells Valley lies to the south of this location. This north-south trending range of about 400 square miles consists of rhyolitic domes and outcrops of volcanic rock. Also known as Little Petroglyph Canyon and Sand Tanks, Renegade Canyon is but one of several major canyons in the Coso Range, each hosting thousands of petroglyphs (other locations include Haiwee Springs, Dead End Canyon, and Sheep Canyon). The majority of the Coso Range images fall into one of six categories: bighorn



SEE COSO ROCK ART DISTRICT, PAGE 35

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COSO ROCK ART DISTRICT



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sheep, entopic images, anthropomorphic or human-like figures (including animal-human figures known as pattern-bodied anthropomorphs), other animals, weapons & tools, and “medicine bag” images. Fortunately for the petroglyphs, most of the Coso Range is on the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, where visitation is restricted, vandalism is low, and preservation is most likely. China Lake is located near the towns of China Lake and Ridgecrest, California. There are several other distinct canyons in the Coso Rock Art District besides the Big and Little Petroglyph Canyons. The most popular subjects are bighorn sheep, deer, and antelope. Big and Little Petroglyph Canyons were declared a National Historic Landmark in 1964. In 2001, they were incorporated into a larger National Historic Landmark District, called Coso Rock Art District.

A November 2007 Los Angeles Times’ Travel feature article includes it within a top 15 list of California places to visit





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RAVCVB SELF-GUIDED 7-DAY TOUR

SEE MAP, PAGE 24, 25



TOUR

Continued from 18

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phone 760 939-3530. Open Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Sundays and holidays. Located aboard Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, this museum features an up-close look at the technical advances made in the defense industry, through research and testing programs here at China Lake. The Sidewinder Missile is just one of the many weapons on display here. Guest passes allowing entrance to NAWS China Lake are available for visiting the museum. Contact (760) 939-3530 for more information.

Proceed to Trona and enjoy the OLD GUEST HOUSE MUSEUM, HISTORY HOUSE AND TRONA RAILWAY MUSEUM AND CABOOSE California Point of Historic Interest No. 722, 13193 Main St. Trona, Open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday: 9 a.m. to noon. Tuesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and by appointment. Closed Sunday. For appointment call, 760-372- 5222 or email rhartley@iwviwp.com Website: <http://www.iwvisp.com/svhs>.

On your return trip, be sure to stop, just twenty miles east of Ridgecrest, the TRONA PINNACLES provide an “other-worldly” effect for photographers and other visitors. The road to the Pinnacles is a little rough, so use caution. The Trona Pinnacles comprise North America’s most spectacular display of tufa towers. Over 500 towers of stone, some climbing 150 feet into the sky, create the illusion of outer space. Movie fans will recognize the Pinnacles from

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RAVCVB SELF-GUIDED 7-DAY TOUR

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TOUR

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“Planet of the Apes,” “Land of the Lost” and “Dinosaur” among other movies.

Then proceed on Highway 178 West to AMERICA'S LIVING LEGENDS – BLM REGIONAL CORRAL FACILITY. Randsburg-Wash Road off California Highway 178. The facility business hours are Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and closed all federal holidays.

DAY TWO

Step back in time to the wild days of the gold rush in the RAND MINING DISTRICT. Along U.S. Highway 395 between Ridgecrest and Boron. Be sure to visit the Rand Desert Museum, open to the public weekends 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The living ghost town of Randsburg has maintained the look of the late 1800s, when it was a booming gold mining town with over 3,000 residents. Today visitors may stroll through the towns various antique shops, historic jail and saloons or have a sarsaparilla at a genuine soda fountain at the Randsburg General Store; the Randsburg General Store is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week.

Just southwest of Randsburg lies the DESERT TORTOISE NATURAL AREA. This land is set aside specifically for the protection and preservation of the Desert Tortoise, an endangered species. The DTNA features an informational kiosk display, and self-guided interpretive trails. Visit during April or September to see the Desert Tortoise active!

The little town of GARLOCK is the next stop. Another mute reminder of the gold rush, Garlock was once the supply center for all area miners. Buildings made of native stone still stand; the site of the Town of Garlock is California State Historical Landmark #671.

The BURRO SCHMIDT TUNNEL is definitely an example of one man's determination! This 6'x6' tunnel was dug by hand through the solid rock of the El Paso Mountains and is approximately 1/2 mile long. It is as safe today as it was upon its completion!

Also in this area, take the time to visit LAST CHANCE CANYON. These beautiful pink and white cliffs, dotted with sparkling quartz and opals, are still the site of active mining camps (high clearance vehicle required).

RED ROCK CANYON STATE PARK offers excellent photography and challenging climbing opportunities. Stop and admire the ever-changing colors upon these red, pink, orange, and white canyons. Interpretive trails and campsites are available.

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RAVCVB SELF-GUIDED 7-DAY TOUR

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TOUR

Continued from 37

DAY THREE

Route 178 East winds its way into the Southern Sierra's via a stately JOSHUA TREE FOREST. The gnarled branches of these ancient trees are quite intimidating, with their dagger-like leaves. Unique, podlike, white flowers sprout from the branches each April. Beyond the Joshua Trees, Walker Pass lies at an elevation of more than 5,000 feet, and offers a spectacular view of the desert valley from high among the pines.

THE PACIFIC CREST TRAIL passes through here, taking hikers on their journey from Mexico to Canada via the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

LAKE ISABELLA reservoir is open year-round, and offers a variety of activities for the water sports enthusiast. Fishing, swimming, sailing and jet skiing can all be found here. Just north of Lake Isabella lies the little town of KERNVILLE. Each February this little town is transformed into "Whiskey Flat" (as it was known in the gold rush days), with arts, crafts, rodeo, food booths and fun. Year-round visitors will find quaint antique shops and restaurants. The KERN RIVER runs through the heart of Kernville. This river is a paradise to artist and sportsman alike. The artist will find tranquility in its breathtaking landscapes and running water. The sportsman will find high adventure with great fishing and wild whitewater rafting!

Just one hour north of Kernville, is the newly designated GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT. Visitors can marvel at the awe-inspiring sight of the giant sequoias. These trees are among the world's largest living things. Well-marked interpretive trails lead walkers through the huge Sequoias. Campsites are available.

DAY FOUR

The awesome forces of nature can be seen in the lava flows at FOSSIL FALLS. Black lava cliffs were smoothed and shaped over thousands of years by the waters of the Owens River. Fossil Falls is the site of

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SEE TOUR, 39

RAVCVB SELF-GUIDED 7-DAY TOUR

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TOUR

Continued from 38

ancient Indian homesites and petroglyphs. Experienced rock climbers and repellers may want to take the challenge of the dangerously high, smooth cliffs here at the Falls.

Further north in Lone Pine, be sure to visit the Lone Pine Film History Museum, 701 S. Main Street. Travelers may recognize the ALABAMA HILLS as the backdrop for many old westerns - featuring the likes of Roy Rogers and Gene Autry. Look closely as you make the scenic drive through these hills and see visions of faces and animals in the shapes of the rocks.

The highest point in the contiguous United States, MOUNT WHITNEY towers at an elevation of 14,495 feet. A paved road climbs up to the portal and a gorgeous waterfall. Hiking trails abound, and picnic areas are available.

Just off highway 395 the newly renovated MANZANAR NATIONAL MONUMENT. This site served as an internment camp for more than 10,000 Japanese Americans during World War II. Manzanar is now a National Monument site, with interpretive materials and on-site staff.

North of Independence, the MOUNT WHITNEY FISH HATCHERY offers cool respite from the desert sun. Stand in the shade near the old mill pond, and feed the huge trout that live in its water. There's fierce competition for food between the trout and the resident ducks! Children and adults will delight in the battle!

DAY FIVE

East of Ridgecrest via Highway 178, travelers are offered a spectacular panoramic view of the PANAMINT MOUNTAINS and the desert valley below. This area is commonly used during testing of experimental aircraft, and offers a great vantage point for airplane enthusiasts.

Just off highway 190 (leading into Death Valley) travelers will find DARWIN FALLS to be truly an oasis in the desert! An easy half-mile hike through a canyon brings walkers to the cool waters and lush green of lower Darwin Falls. For professional climbers only, another short hike ends at the rushing waters of the upper falls. (dirt road).

Just a handful of residents still live in DARWIN. This living ghost town was once a bustling mining community. At one time, it was even suggested as the site for the California state capitol!

The historic ghost town of CERRO GORDO was the site of the largest silver mine in the continental U. S. Silver ore was mined by the tons, and was shipped out daily to Los Angeles via steamboats that crossed the deep waters of the, now dry, Owens Lake. With up to 45 various mineral specimens, Cerro Gordo is the ideal location for rock hounding. This historical site offers unequaled photographic opportunities, hiking adventures and horseback riding trails. For a day of unlimited exploration, a 4-wheel drive vehicle is recommended. For more information call (760) 876-5030.

DAY SIX

Traveling south on U.S. Route 395, you'll pass through Johannesburg, Red Mountain and tiny Atolia, all with the flavor of 1890's gold mining. Further south you'll see Cuddeback Dry Lakebed on your left, which has been the location for dozens of movies, TV shows, music videos and commercials. As you reach California State Route 58 you'll pass the world's largest solar energy plant on your right.

The 20 MULE TEAM MUSEUM is located on the southwest corner of Boron Avenue and Twenty Mule Team Road and contains memorabilia of Boron and its surrounding area. It is a renovated house from the old campsite at the Baker Mine, Pacific Coast Borax's (U.S. Borax's) first underground mine at Boron. Many exhibits are housed within the museum, ranging from an early Boron kitchen and a beauty shop to scouting and school displays. There are fine examples of early mining equipment from some of the local mines. There are also exhibits of minerals from the U.S. Borax Open Pit and cutting materials from areas surrounding Boron. One of the highlights of the museum is a large illuminated mural of a Twenty Mule Team pulling a set of the original Twenty Mule Team Wagons in Death Valley. For years, the picture

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RAVCVB SELF-GUIDED 7-DAY TOUR

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TOUR

Continued from 39

graced the bar of the Silver Dollar Saloon in Boron and was loaned to the Museum when the Silver Dollar closed. The grounds of the museum contain a number of outdoor exhibits which display various pieces of equipment including an old underground mine pump, a Cletrac Tractor, and a model of the surface of a working two-man underground mine constructed by Melvin English of Boron. Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. everyday, the museum is located at 26962 20 Mule Team Road , Boron CA 93516, or call 760-702-5810.

Now for some of the nature's most beautiful creatures visit the EXOTIC FELINE BREEDING COMPOUND in Rosamond on Mojave/Tropico Road. The EFBC is open six days a week, Thursday through Tuesday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is no admission fee, although donations are gratefully accepted to help them continue their important work of feline preservation. The Compound offers closeup viewing of magnificent rare cats. EFBC houses more than 50 wild cats representing over 15 species ranging from the small Gordon's Wildcat to the larger specimens such as Leopards, Jaguars, and Tigers. Explore the natural habitats and grounds as part of a docent guided tour. You will be amazed at the "up-close" beauty of these powerful animals. Unlike a traditional zoo, most of the animals who reside at the EFBC are only feet away, not yards. Take time to browse in the unique wild cat gift shop.

The beautiful TEHACHAPI VALLEY is an oasis located in the mountains between the San Joaquin Valley and the Mojave Desert, offering a cool haven. Featuring sparkling blue skies that turn into star filled nights with unending depth, the beauty of Tehachapi is seen in every setting. The diversity of the area offers something for everyone, small town neighborhoods, mountains filled with oak and pine trees sheltering the most rustic to the most luxurious homes, sprawling ranches, wineries and everything in between, all beautifully displayed in the splendor of four wonderfully distinct seasons. Recreation plays a prominent role with championship golf, lakes for fishing and boating, trails for hiking and horseback riding, blue skies for gliding and lots of great places to lie back and read your favorite book!

Or head north on State Route 14 and explore the Off Highway Vehicle areas just north of Mojave.

JAWBONE CANYON is signed and easily accessible from State Route 14. Stop by the BLM VISITORS' CENTER and discover all there is to do, or follow Jawbone Canyon Road and explore on your own. Continuing north on "14" you drive through RED ROCK CANYON STATE PARK and just north of the park is DOVE SPRINGS, another OHV area that offers different geography and geology than Jawbone Canyon.

DAY SEVEN

THE CANYONS OF THE SIERRA NEVADA FOOTHILLS make for a beautiful and full day. Located just north of the intersection of California State Highways 14 and 178, start with the southern most canyon, Indian Wells, and work north to Kennedy Meadows.

INDIAN WELLS CANYON is where William Lewis Manly and John Haney Rogers found water after their group of emigrant pioneers traveling from Utah during the California Gold Rush left Death Valley. That water still flows to make this canyon beautiful, year round. Traveling north on Route 395 three miles, the entrance to

SHORT CANYON is at the intersection of Brown Road and U. S. Route 395. April and May are the premier months to visit Short Canyon, the wildflower center of the high desert; but Short Canyon is a treat anytime. A mile or two north on Route 395 is the entrance to GRAPEVINE CANYON featuring springs, rock formations, and looking back, a beautiful view of the Indian Wells Valley. Three miles further north, opposite Brown Road is the entrance to SAND CANYON. Continue past the gravel company and you discover an oasis in the desert with trees and plants as plentiful as Florida and streams and paths for the entire family to explore and enjoy.

Four miles north on Route 395 is NINE MILE CANYON Road. Follow this switch back mountain pass to meadows, Pinyon Pines, the Kern River and KENNEDY MEADOWS campground. Less than an hour's drive from Ridgecrest, Kennedy Meadows is the perfect "primitive" getaway.

Whatever your idea of a desert adventure, we know you will find it in Ridgecrest! 1-800- VISIT-30.

STATE & NATIONAL PARKS

0001

canyon is unique, with dramatic shapes and vivid colors. The park now protects significant paleontology sites and the remains of 1890s-era mining operations, and has been the site for a number of movies. Red Rock Canyon Visitors Center. HWY 14, south of Inyokern (closed during Summer and Winter) (661) 946-6092

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks contain big trees, high peaks, and deep canyons. Located in the southern Sierra Nevada range, the parks' elevations extend from 1,300 feet in the foothills to 14,491 feet at the summit of Mount Whitney, the highest mountain in the contiguous 48 states. The richness of the Sierran flora mirrors that of the state as a whole - the Parks support a wide diversity of plant and wildlife, with over 260 native vertebrate species and 20% of California's vascular plants represented within the park. Foothills Visitor Center. HWY 198 (1 mi north of Ash Mountain entrance) (559) 565-4212

Death Valley

Death Valley National Park's greatest value is as an outdoor natural history museum. The Park contains fine examples of most of the earth's geological eras and the forces that expose them. Plant and animal species, some of which occur nowhere else in the world, have adapted to the harsh Mojave Desert environment here in remarkable ways. Extremes of climate and geography make it the ultimate showcase of American desert. Furnace Creek Visitors Center Highway 190, Death Valley (760) 786-2345



Yosemite

Yosemite National Park boasts nearly 95 percent designated Wilderness. The expansive park's 747,956 acres or 1,169 square miles are home to hundreds of wildlife species and thousands of Yosemite plants. Designated a World Heritage Site in 1984, Yosemite is known for its granite cliffs, waterfalls, clear streams, giant sequoia groves and biological diversity. Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (209) 379-2646





The soul consoling tower, Manzanar cemetery at Manzanar National Historic Site.

Scenic Drive 395

Rated one of the top 10 scenic drives in the US, motorcyclists, classic car clubs and road trip planners will love the landscape along Scenic Byway 395 from Ridgecrest to Carson City. Beginning in the vast high desert, 395 winds North past mountain peaks, glassy lakes, Joshua Trees, quaint towns, and museums, all under the umbrella of an endless, clear blue sky

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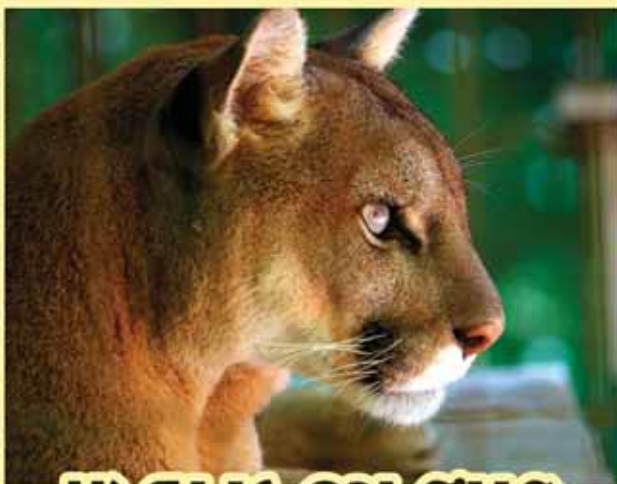
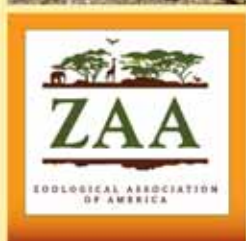
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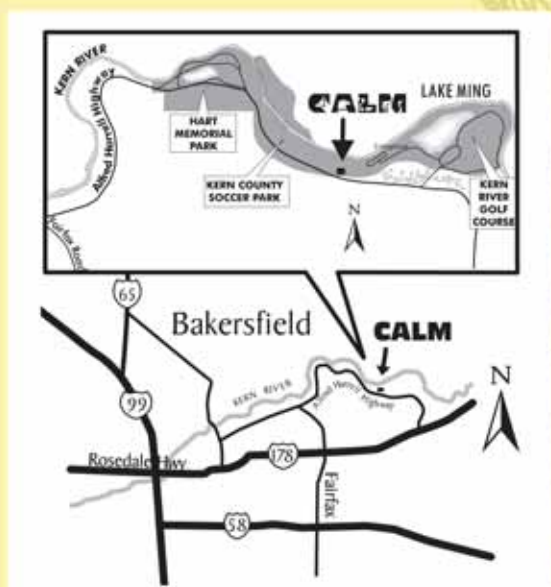
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FROM PAGE 6

Trona

The Searles Valley Historical Society was founded in 1979 as a non-profit corporation. They showcase the mineral mining history of the Argus Range at five locations: The Old Guest House Museum, Searles Valley History House, Trona Railway Museum and Caboose, and Argus Fire Station. Open Mon-Sat 10 a.m. to noon 13193 Main St. Trona, CA 93592 (760) 372-5222



Boron Museums

The Boron Twenty Mule Team Museum memorializes the famous 20-mule teams and the production of boron in the Mojave Desert. Indoor and outdoor exhibits include a Santa Fe Railroad Depot. The Museum also serves at the Boron Chamber of Commerce. Adjacent to the Boron Museum is the Vernon P. Saxon Aerospace Museum, exhibiting rocket science history and a real F4C Phantom fighter jet. 26962 Twenty Mule Team Rd., Boron. Open 10am-4pm, 7 days a week, free admission, (760) 762-5810



Kern Valley Museum

The Kern Valley Museum houses artifacts from the prehistoric times to the present. In addition to local historical information, they also have a large geological and fossil exhibit, mining and ranching artifacts, and an interactive history of the Edison hydroelectric plants. Open 10am-4pm Thurs - Sun 49 Big Blue Rd., Kernville (760) 376-6683

Museum of Western Film History

The Alabama Hills above Lone Pine have been named "Hollywood's Backlot," with over 100 years and 700 films to it's credit. Learn more about Lone Pine's movie heritage right here. Exhibits include the recent installment of the dentist wagon from Quentin Tarantino's "Django Unchained" and new exhibit for the 75th anniversary of the Lone Ranger, as well as a large collection of memorabilia, gift shop and a movie theater showing daily documentaries. Open 10 am- 6 pm Mon-Sat (Sundays 10-4) 701 S Main St, Lone Pine (760) 876-9909. Adults \$5, kids/members/military free.

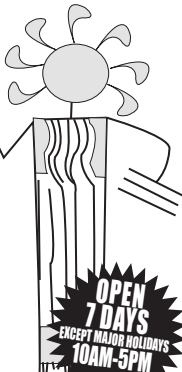


Maturango Museum

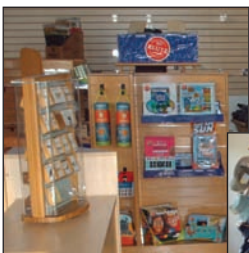
Death Valley Tourist Center
Northern Mojave Visitors Center

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OWENS PEAK WILDERNESS

FROM PAGE 17

during Fremont's brief tenure as Governor (1847).

The trailhead for Owens Peak is best reached by four wheel drive vehicles with high clearance.

The California Desert Protection Act designated Owens Peak and the 74,060 acres surrounding it as wilderness in 1994. At 8,400 feet, Owens Peak provides a grand overview of this wilderness which sees relatively little use from humans.

With the Pacific Crest Trail passing through the wilderness, this is an excellent hiking area. Other recreational opportunities are camping, backpacking and hunting. The ruggedness of this area and the vegetation make for some excellent photographic opportunities.

Vegetation varies considerably with a creosote desert scrub community on the bajadas, scattered yuccas, cacti, annuals, cottonwood, and oak trees in the canyons and valleys and juniper-pinyon woodlands with sagebrush and grey pine on the upper elevations. Two sensitive plants, Nine Mile Canyon phacelia (*Phacelia novemmillensis*), occurs in the pinyon woodlands and monkey flower (*Mimulus lewisii*) grows at lower elevations ranging from 3,500 – 4,000 feet immediately west of Walker Pass.

Wildlife of note in this area includes mule deer, black bear, mountain lion, golden eagle, and prairie falcon. There is one cattle exclosure at the Powers Well in the eastern portion of the wilderness. There are four spring developments and one guzzler located in the western portion of the wilderness maintained by BLM and CDFG.

Wilderness Permits

No permit is required for camping in the Kiavah Wilderness - go for it! Camping is limited to 14 days, after which visitors must relocate at least 25 miles from their previous site.

Maximum Group Size

No more than 15 people and 25 head of stock are allowed on overnight trips.



Bears And Food Storage

Black bears are generally not a problem in the Domeland Wilderness, but it is always advisable to store your food properly.

Campfires

Campfires are allowed with a campfire permit. Gathering wood for campfires is limited to dead and down materials. Live vegetation cannot be cut.

Pets

Domestic pets are allowed so long as they are under control and do not harass wildlife.

Other Considerations

Horses are permitted, however, you may be required to carry weed-free feed.

Removal, disturbance, or attempting to remove archaeological materials is a felony. Selling, receiving, purchasing, transporting, exchanging, or offering to do so is prohibited by law.

Contact

Bureau of Land Management
Bakersfield Field Office
3801 Pegasus Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93308
(661) 391-6000

Ridgecrest Field Office
300 S. Richmond Road
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
(760) 384-5400

<http://sierrawild.gov/wilderness/owens-peak>

GHOST TOWNS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

men and women who spent their lives chasing after fortune.

Where can I see a ghost town?

Randsburg is called a “Living Ghost Town” because it has several buildings that are still in use, including the Rand Desert Museum, two art galleries, and a general store that still serves phosphate sodas.

Silver City, located in Bodfish, just west of Lake Isabella, is considered the sixth most haunted place in America. It is comprised of historic buildings from all over Kern County that have been relocated to one site, where visitors can take educational day tours or lantern-lit ghost hunting tours after dark.

Is it really haunted?

Just because a place is considered a “ghost town” doesn't necessarily mean that there are ghosts; it only means that people don't live there anymore. Ghost hunting professionals who search the abandoned bunkhouses and nameless tombstones occasionally report paranormal activity. Ghosts or not, it's fun to imagine what life was like for the people who once walked the quiet streets and sat on the empty porches.





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Museum of Western Film History

The Alabama Hills above Lone Pine have been named "Hollywood's Backlot" with over 100 years and 700 plus films to it's credit. Learn more about Lone Pine's movie heritage and explore the history and heritage of Western Films from the heroes and heroines of the classic 50's and 60's through today's contemporary stars at the Museum of Western Film History located in Lone Pine, California. Exhibits include the dentist wagon from Quentin Tarantino's *Django Unchained*, a celebration of the Lone Ranger, Hopalong Cassidy and a tribute to many of the early silent film cowboy stars.

While the Museum features Westerns, Lone Pine has also hosted sci-fi as in *Star Wars*, *Star Trek*, *Tremors* and *Iron Man*. For drama fans there is *Bad Day at Black Rock* and Bogart in *High Sierra*.

Open 10am-5pm Mon-Sat (Sundays 10-4) 701 S Main St, Lone Pine (760) 876-9909. Adults \$5, kids under 12/ members/active military are free.

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