

TIPS



Please be careful: As a visitor to the Eastern Sierra, you have a responsibility for your personal safety during activities you might pursue. Natural hazards exist. It is your responsibility to know the hazards involved and to use the proper safety precautions to minimize the inherent risks to your activities. Various laws, regulations and restrictions apply to the activities and areas mentioned on this map, in order to protect natural and cultural resources and for your safety and enjoyment. It is your responsibility to learn and follow applicable laws and restrictions. Contact appropriate agencies for specific information.

Before you go... Tell someone the three Ws: WHERE you are going, WHEN you are returning, and WHO you are going with.

Be prepared: When enjoying winter recreation, it is your responsibility to be aware of winter safety and be prepared for survival. **Survival Kit:** Check your gear, and make sure it is in good shape. A survival kit is a must. The following equipment could make the difference between adventure and calamity:

- A space blanket, a poncho or two large plastic trash bags for emergency shelter
- Warm clothes for layering (wool or synthetics are best)
- Water, sunglasses and sunscreen
- An ensoilte pad provides insulation from snow and ice
- Whistle for emergency signaling (3 blasts mean "help")
- Waterproof matches or lighter in case you need a fire
- Carry a map and compass with you, and know how to use them

Avalanches may occur at any time during the winter. None of the routes or areas open to winter use are controlled for avalanche, and it is the responsibility of the user to take any necessary precautions.

Avoid mountainous terrain after heavy snowfalls or long periods of high wind. Avoid crossing steep hillsides and entering narrow, steep-sided canyons. If crossing potentially dangerous areas is unavoidable, one person in the party at a time should cross the danger zone with all others watching until that person crosses safely.

Creeks and Lakes: Be aware of snow-covered water courses. Crossing creeks, snow bridges or lakes is dangerous. To assure your safety, stay off frozen lakes.

Weather: Be aware of the current conditions. Obtain a weather report before your trip and recognize that conditions can change rapidly in the mountains. Avoid traveling during heavy storms and whiteout conditions.

Call 1-800-427-ROAD for Caltrans road conditions.

Hypothermia: Caused by exposure to cold aggravated by wetness, wind and exhaustion, hypothermia is a lowering of the inner temperature of the human body, resulting in rapid and progressive mental and physical collapse. Untreated, hypothermia can result in death. Take proper clothing, eat sensibly and carry quick-energy foods.

Searches and/or rescues can be difficult and must be timely in a winter environment.

- Emergency Numbers**
- Inyo County Search and Rescue 760-878-0385 (24 hours)
 - Northern Inyo Hospital (Bishop) 760-873-5811
 - Southern Inyo Hospital (Lone Pine) 760-876-5501



SHARING THE FOREST >>



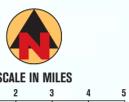
WILDLIFE

Respect wildlife at all times. The Eastern Sierra is home to more than 80 species of mammals and is also visited by at least 300 species of birds. If you encounter wildlife, please keep your distance and allow them to move off at their own pace.

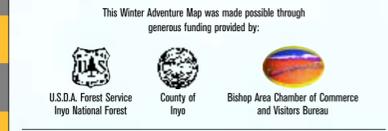


>> LEGEND <<

- Paved Roads and Highways
- Unpaved Roads (may require 4WD)
- Motor Touring Route
- Hiking Trails
- Wilderness Boundary (NO bicycles or motorized vehicles allowed in designated wilderness)
- National Park Boundary
- Winter Road Closure
- Gate
- Locked Gate
- Mine or Quarry
- Point of Interest, Historic or Geologic Site
- Eastern Sierra Scenic Byway Kiosk
- Visitor Center / Information
- Ranger Station
- Hospital
- Roadside Rest Area
- Picnic Area
- Year-Round Camping
- Year-Round RV Camping
- Parking
- Photography Vista Point
- Wildlife Viewpoint
- Snow Park
- Cross Country Skiing
- Snowshoeing
- Hiking
- Mountain Biking
- Motor Touring
- Year-Round Fishing
- Seasonal Fishing (Check regulations for dates and locations)
- Bouldering or Rock Climbing
- Recreational Walking
- Rock Hounding
- Golf Course
- Stargazing
- Bird Watching
- Elk Viewing
- Game Bird Hunting
- Hunting
- Filming Location
- Wildlife Viewing
- Fall Color Viewing



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EASTERN >> SIERRA

WINTER ADVENTURE MAP

Bishop Area from Rock Creek to Haiwee Reservoir

ACTIVITIES

Bird and Wildlife Viewing

Birders could spend the entire winter exploring different birding sites and never see all the species that populate or pass through the Owens Valley. At Billy Lake (southeast of Independence off Mazourka Canyon Road) you can see everything from small sage sparrows to mighty red-tail hawks, golden eagles, and turkey vultures.

Tinemaha
Reservoir, located just off Hwy. 395 about 8 miles south of Big Pine, is another favorite birding spot. This large, shallow body of water hosts a variety of water birds, shore birds and fancy gulls. During the winter it's not unusual to spy bald eagles and tundra swans in the vicinity.

At Fish Springs, five miles south of Big Pine, you'll find both winged and non-winged critters. The alfalfa fields there are the winter home for herds of tule elk. The fields and surrounding area are also a great place to spot raptors working the fields. Sparrows and mountain bluebirds like to winter around Fish Springs. And the stream near the fish hatchery is a good place to look for ducks, rails, wrens, and sparrows.

Pick up your free Eastern Sierra Birding Trail Map at Bishop Visitor Center or at www.easternbirdingtrail.org



Climbing & Bouldering

While the Owens River Gorge north of Bishop can be a bit on the hot side during the summer, it's a rock climber's delight during temperate winter days. Boulders will find that winter is the best time to take on the world-famous boulders of the Buttermilks, the Happy Boulders, and the Sad Boulders. The Alabama Hills outside Lone Pine offer world-class bouldering and sport climbing, too. And just because the high country is covered with snow doesn't mean the end of alpine climbing if you are willing to make long treks on snowshoes or cross country skis. Find more at www.BishopVisitor.com

Cross Country Skiing & Snowshoeing

Cross Country skiers and snowshoe enthusiasts have access to some of the most spectacular winter landscapes in the world. You can do the relatively short but beautiful trek from Aspendell to Lake Sabrina or multi-day snow-camping journeys in the high country wilderness.

Fall Colors

The fall is a special time in the Owens Valley. The dramatic altitude difference between the high peaks of the Sierra (including the highest peak in the 48 contiguous states) and the valley floor makes for an exceptionally long and beautiful fall colors season that typically begins in September and runs through October and into November.

Whether your fancy leans to quaking aspens at higher altitude or colorful cottonwoods at lower altitude, the Eastern Sierra is a "leaf peeper's" paradise. The north fork of Bishop Creek is a popular spot.

Pick up your Fall Color Guide at the Visitor Center in Bishop located at the City Park or in Big Pine at the Chamber of Commerce.

Filming Locations

If you look closely in the background of the 1939 movie classic, Gunga Din, you won't see the high mountains of India, where the movie was set. What you will see is behind the movie's stars, Douglas Fairbanks Jr. and Cary Grant, the 14,497' peak of Mt. Whitney.

That movie, like many, many others, was shot in the Owens Valley. The Alabama Hills, west of Lone Pine, have been a particular favorite of filmmakers for decades. Not only can you tour many of the old movie locations, but in October Lone Pine hosts an annual film festival. It's three days of movie screenings, tours, and close encounters with actors who shot on location in the Owens Valley in some of the country's most memorable movies.



Eastern Sierra fall fly fishing ©JOHN DITLU

Fishing

Whether your pleasure is warm water or cold water; flies, lures, or bait, there's something for everybody in the Owens Valley, even during the winter months.

You can fish for trout, bass, and catfish at Diaz Lake and Haiwee Reservoir, and the Owens River south of Bishop. The Owens from just below Bishop north to Pleasant Valley Reservoir is a favorite wintertime destination for trout fishers, particularly the Wild Trout section just below Pleasant Valley Reservoir. And the Pleasant Valley reservoir is open to shore fishing and float tubing year-round. Remember that fishing regulations are subject to change. Current fishing reports are available at www.BishopVisitor.com. Check for current regulations.

Hiking

Warm days and cool nights makes winter day hiking in the Owens Valley extra enjoyable. And there is no shortage of places to hike and things to see along the way. Day hiking is a wonderful way to do some of the other activities listed on this map. Even in the dead of winter, the warm weather in the valley makes day hiking comfortable. And the stunning beauty of the Owens Valley makes it worthwhile.

Hot Springs

With all this winter activity you might really need a good, hot soak in a natural hot spring. The unique geology of the Owens Valley (it's the deepest valley in the United States) created many geothermal hot springs throughout the valley. One of the more popular is a set of public pools located just west of Hwy. 395 on Keough's Hot Springs Road (about 5 miles south of Bishop).

Hunting

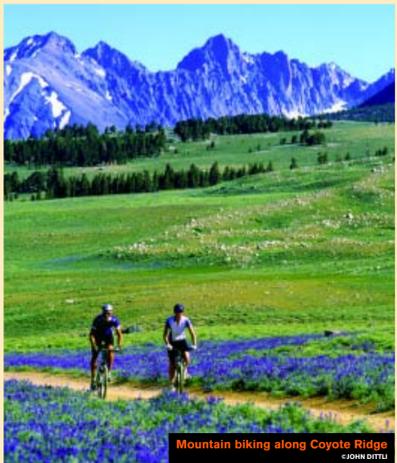
The Owens Valley has a little bit of everything for hunters. Deer season runs through October and into November in some parts of the valley. The Pine Creek area and portions of the White Mountains hold good populations of deer during those months. And fall and early winter brings migrations of waterfowl. The Owens River and its associated lakes and reservoirs are important stopping points for south-bound ducks (including pintails and canvasbacks) and geese. And the same period is the season for hunting upland game birds, including mountain quail, chukers, and doves. Remember to check local and state regulations.

Motor Touring

Do you enjoy pleasant, afternoon rides through the country on paved roads? Or are 4WD tracks more your cup of tea? There's a road adventure waiting for you in the Owens Valley—a chance to get a different look at the geology, wildlife, and beauty that makes the Owens Valley such a special place.

A favorite drive in the south part of the county is the 12.1 mile trek through Movie Flats in the Alabama Hills. Or you might enjoy the 16 mile trek from Lone Pine north on Owens Valley Road past the remnants of the old Lone Pine train Station and narrow gauge train line, ending at Manzanar National Historic Site, which is now a national landmark. Outside of Bishop take the 33-mile loop through Fish Slough, Red Rock Canyon, and Chidago Canyon to petroglyphs that date back thousands of years.

You can pick up a motor touring guide at the Visitor Center located at the City Park in Bishop, or download at www.BishopVisitor.com



Mountain biking along Coyote Ridge ©JOHN DITLU

Mountain Biking

Temperate winter daytime temperatures makes mountain biking a natural sport in the Owens Valley. Trails run the gamut from bone jarring, curving single tracks to easy and enjoyable wider tracks and trails through gentler terrain.

For gentle rides head to the Alabama Hills or Buttermilk Boulders. Single track enthusiasts will enjoy the Rock Creek bike trail, just north of Bishop.

Museums and Galleries

If you're in the mood for some indoor adventuring, there's a lot to see and do in the Owens Valley. The Eastern California Museum in Independence features the artistry of local Paiute and Shoshone Indians, relics from the nearby Manzanar Relocation Center, and other artifacts that tell the fascinating story of the History of the Owens Valley. In Bishop you can take an Art Walk and visit no fewer than eight art galleries. Highlights of the walk include Mountain Light Gallery and the Inyo Council For the Arts (ICA). Mountain Light, located in the historic Bank Building, houses the life works of the late legendary photographer, Galen Rowell. And the ICA gallery showcases the dynamic art of Owens Valley residents. Five miles north of Bishop, just off Hwy. 6, you can explore another aspect of local history at the Laws Railroad Museum. Here you'll find 11 acres of wonderful exhibits, including the original narrow-gauge railroad depot that served the area between 1883 and 1959.

Photography

Considering the natural beauty of the region, it's no wonder that so many world-class photographers visit—and live in—the Owens Valley. You can make stunning photographs here, ranging from sweeping landscapes to intimate wildlife portraits. Most any of the locations marked on this map are an outdoor photographer's studio.

Spring Wildflowers

The Owens Valley comes alive in the spring, and in good years there is a bumper-crop of wildflowers. Division Creek, southwest of Aberdeen at the very base of the Sierra, there are tremendous fields of beautiful lupines. On the outskirts of Bishop, east of Hwy 395 on Brockman Lane, gigantic fields of wild iris make an annual appearance. And on the rim of the Owens George, about 13 miles north of Bishop and just west of Hwy. 395, are alternating fields of desert paintbrush, white layia, and evening snow, resulting in breathtaking splashes of color across an already breathtaking landscape.



Columbine and lupine ©ROB HENDERSON

LOCATIONS



North Lake fall color ©JOHN DITLU

1 North and South Haiwee Reservoirs

North Haiwee Reservoir has a surface area of approximately 600 acres. South Haiwee Reservoir is slightly larger, with a water surface area of approximately 800 acres. Black bass, rainbow trout, brown trout, bluegill, carp and channel catfish populate both reservoirs, and many animals, including mule deer, bobcat and coyote, use them as watering holes. These large bodies of water also attract scores of different species of birds.

- Activities:** Birding Wildlife Viewing Fishing Hiking

Directions: There are a number of routes heading east off Hwy. 395 to North and South Haiwee. The two most obvious are to take North Haiwee Road to reach the north reservoir and South Haiwee Road to get to the south reservoir.

2 Diaz Lake

A massive earthquake rocked the Owens Valley, the area surrounding Lone Pine in particular, in 1872. A happy byproduct of this calamity is Diaz Lake, which formed when the earthquake opened a depression in the earth, which subsequently filled with water. Today Diaz Lake is a popular day use area. There's also a nice campground on the western shore.

- Activities:** Birding Camping Fishing Hiking

Directions: Diaz Lake is on the west side of Hwy. 395, 3 miles south of Lone Pine.

3 Alabama Hills

Some people have mistakenly called these rounded, weathered hills the oldest mountains in the United States. They are actually the same age as the sharp and jagged Sierra Nevada mountain range. Both were formed 100 million years ago by a violent uplifting of the earth. But the Alabamas were buried for millions of years. Water seeped into fissures and caused the granite blocks to disintegrate. The result is the beautiful rounded landscape that lies just west of Lone Pine.

Today the Alabamas are a popular winter playground, offering a variety of recreational opportunities. Dozens of movies, television shows, and commercials have been filmed in the Alabama Hills.

- Activities:** Climbing Photography Hunting Motor Touring Hiking Visiting Film Locations Mountain Biking

Directions: There are many ways to access the Alabama Hills. The most obvious starting point is in the middle of Lone Pine at the intersection of Hwy. 395 and Whitney Portal Road. Go west on Whitney Portal Road. From there you have your choice of a number of routes.



Mt. Whitney and the Alabama Hills ©STEPHEN INGRAM

4 Manzanar National Historic Site

Manzanar has a long and varied history. Paiute and Shoshone peoples called the area home for centuries. A cattle ranching homestead located there in the late nineteenth century. Soon a small town sprouted at the site. By the early 1900s the town of Manzanar became a thriving, albeit short-lived, community—the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's land-purchasing program spelled the end of the tiny village. The land remained vacant until the outbreak of World War II when it became one of ten relocation centers where people of Japanese descent were held. Today it's an 814-acre National Historic Site administered by the National Park Service. Efforts are underway to restore much of the camp buildings and area.

At the camp entrance you can pick up a tour map for a three-mile self-guided auto tour of the camp. Be sure to visit the interpretive center located in the camp's historic gym.

On the last Saturday of April former internees, their descendants, friends, and the general public hold a pilgrimage near the cemetery monument. There are also educational presentations and ceremonies on that day.

- Activities:** Hiking Motor Touring Photography

Directions: Manzanar is 7 miles north of Lone Pine on the west side of Hwy. 395. Call 760-878-2932 for more information.



Manzanar National Historic Site ©JOHN DITLU

5 Eastern California Museum

The museum was founded in 1925. Its exhibits include art by local Owens Valley Paiute and Shoshone Native Americans. You can also learn more about the history of Manzanar. There is also a collection of historic agricultural and mining implements, including examples of the equipment used in the building of the Los Angeles Aqueduct. The museum gift shop offers a wide selection of educational material regarding Inyo County and the Eastern Sierra. The museum is open Wednesday through Monday from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. There is no admission fee, but donations are accepted. Call 760-878-0258 for more information.

Activities: Museums and Art Galleries

Directions: Three blocks west of Hwy. 395 at 155 N. Grant Street.

6 Billy Lake

Lake Diaz Lake, the 1872 Lone Pine earthquake created this lake. It is now a wildlife wetland, and winter home to a dazzling variety of wildlife and birds. And it's a popular warm-water fishing hole.

- Activities:** Birding Wildlife Viewing Fishing Hiking Hunting Photography

Directions: From Hwy. 395 in Independence, turn east on Mazourka Valley road. Go approximately 3.2 miles. Turn left on unsigned dirt road. Continue .8 miles to Billy Lake.

7 Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery

This unlikely French Tudor-style building was built in 1916. It was the result of an order from a California Fish and Game Commissioner: "A building that would match the mountains, would last forever, and be a show place for all time." The facility originally produced trout fingerling for planting throughout the state. It's now used for brood stock, producing 15 million golden, brown, and rainbow trout eggs annually. It is open daily from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. You can also feed the trout!

- Activities:** Birding Wildlife Viewing Camping Hiking Motor Touring Photography Mountain Biking

Directions: Two miles north of Independence on Hwy. 395, turn west on Fish Hatchery Road. The hatchery is up one mile on the right.

8 Tinemaha Reservoir

This reservoir was formed when the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power built a small earthen dam across the in the Owens River at the Poverty Hills. Today the reservoir holds up to 16,300 acre-feet of water.

Many people think that this is Inyo County's best location to see waterfowl and shorebirds. You can see large numbers of ducks, geese, and American white pelicans during migration. Bald eagles usually winter here. You might also see tule elk in the fields west of the reservoir.



Tinemaha is also a popular fishing spot. The California Department of Fish and Game plants more than 5,000 rainbow trout in the Owens River below the dam each year. This section is also home to warm water species such as largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish.

- Activities:** Birding Wildlife Viewing Fishing Hiking Hunting Photography

Directions: Turn east on Elna Road, 8 miles south of Big Pine. Follow the sign to the parking area.

9 Bishop Creek Recreation Area

The Bishop Creek canyon is a collection of sloping canyons, moraines, cirques and knife-sharp ridges and is also known for its wondrous cross country skiing. And although it's a short drive from downtown Bishop, its vegetation and climate is dramatically different from the Owens Valley floor. Here you'll find an alpine paradise of pine and aspen forests, cascading streams, and jagged mountain peaks.

The waters of Bishop Creek (as well as South Lake, Intake Two, Lake Sabrina, and North Lake) are prime fishing spots in the fall (the creek and all four lakes are closed to fishing during winter months).

The stands of aspen found throughout the canyon offer dramatic color changes in the fall, too. During the winter the area is a popular one for all sorts of winter sports. During the spring you can find gorgeous fields of wildflowers. While the creek is often too high for good fishing in the springtime, the lakes offer wonderful fishing opportunities. The small community of Aspendell is a popular year-round birding area.

- Activities:** Birding Wildlife Viewing Fishing Fall Colors Bouldering or Rock Climbing Hiking Motor Touring Photography Spring wildflowers Cross Country Skiing and Snowshoeing

Directions: Take West Line Street (SR 168) west out of Bishop. Chains are often required during snowstorms. Even in clear weather beware of ice on the roads. Portions of the roads in Bishop creek are not cleared of snow during the winter, so South Lake, Lake Sabrina, and North Lake are not accessible by car during the winter.



Laws Museum ©LORIE C. PADELSKY

10 Laws Railroad Museum

In the late 1800s the Carson and Colorado Railroad Company built a railroad from Mound House, Nevada, to Keeler, California. One of its stops was Laws. In 1961 the railroad ceased operation. Of the many buildings that had sprung up around the railroad, only the depot, agent's house, oil and water tanks, and the turntable survived. Today those artifacts stand with other buildings and exhibits on the grounds of this 11-acre museum. Other buildings include an old time doctor's office, an agent's house and a carriage house.

Open 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. daily except New Years, Thanksgiving and Christmas. There is no charge for admission, but donations are accepted. Call 760-873-5950 for more information.

Activities: Museums and Art Galleries

Directions: From Bishop take Hwy. 6 north. After 4.5 miles turn right onto Silver Canyon Road. The museum is on the right.

11 Chalk Bluffs and the Volcanic Tablelands

The Volcanic Tablelands formed 750,000 years ago by enormous eruptions of glowing volcanic ash. Today the tablelands, and the area known as chalk bluffs at their southern edge, is an outdoor enthusiast's delight. Fishing, hiking, birding, photography, climbing—you'll find all that and more in this area.

The Happy and Sad Boulders have become popular with climbers (if you visit these ecologically sensitive areas use only existing access trails and avoid damaged or eroding slopes).

The Owens River, running along the base of the tablelands, is open year-round to fishing. A portion of this section of the river is designated as a Wild Trout area with special regulations. It's a 3.3-mile stretch running from the footbridge in the Pleasant Valley Campground to the redwood sport fishing regulations sign. Fishing here is limited to artificial lures with barbless hooks only, and no take is permitted. The California Department of Fish and Game estimates a density of 2,000-5,000 fish per mile in the Wild Trout area, making it one of the state's more productive fisheries.

- Activities:** Climbing and Bouldering Fishing Hunting Motor Touring Photography Mountain Biking

Directions: From Bishop take Highway 395 north. Turn right on Pleasant Valley Road and proceed to Chalk Bluffs Road. Turn right.

12 Pleasant Valley Reservoir

If you prefer still water fishing, Pleasant Valley Reservoir is the place for you (there's actually good stream fishing in the channel between the power plant at the west end of Pleasant Valley and the reservoir). This body of water is open to shore fishing and float tubes all year. The Blake Jones Trout Derby is held here every March. Contestants have a chance to win over \$10,000 in prizes. The reservoir is also a popular birding site.

- Activities:** Birding Wildlife Viewing Fishing Hiking Hunting Star Gazing

Directions: From Bishop take Highway 395 north. Turn right on Pleasant Valley Road intersection, turn right and proceed to the parking lot at the base of the dam.

13 Owens River Gorge

Climbers will find routes of all description in the Owens River Gorge. In the spring the rim of the gorge is teeming with wildflowers. And fishermen will find feisty trout in the Owens River—open all year in this section—in the bottom of the gorge.

- Activities:** Birding Wildlife Viewing Climbing Fishing Hiking Motor Touring Photography Mountain Biking

Directions: From Bishop, drive approximately 14 miles north on Hwy. 395. Take the Gorge Road east, turn left (north) on the Gorge Parallel Road.



Bishop Creek Canyon ©ROB HENDERSON