

# Don't Crush the Brush



Desert plants keep the soil healthy and provide homes and food for wildlife.

While these plants are specially adapted for their environment, they can be destroyed easily if walked on or run over by a vehicle. Stick to designated trails and roads to keep your public lands healthy.

The Bureau of Land Management and the Alabama Hills Stewardship Group care for this area with the goal of keeping the hills in as close to a natural state as possible for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

## In an Emergency

- Call 9-1-1
- Inyo County Sheriff (760) 878-0383
- Nearest hospital:  
Southern Inyo Hospital (760) 876-5501  
501 East Locust Street, Lone Pine, CA



## For More Information:

Bureau of Land Management  
Bishop Field Office  
351 Pacu Lane, Suite 100  
Bishop, CA 93514  
(760) 872-5000  
<https://www.blm.gov/california>

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U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

# Alabama Hills

## Recreation and Scenic Area

## Map & Guide

The Alabama Hills are a formation of rounded rocks and eroded hills set between the jagged peaks of the Sierra Nevada and the Owens Valley. The hills consist of nearly 30,000 acres of public land located west of Lone Pine that are managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

## Care for and Enjoy the Alabama Hills

The indigenous people of this valley still reside in this place where their ancestors have lived for thousands of years. They ask that you respect and care for this land. Do not disturb or destroy anything that you may find.

- **Pack out all trash.** There are no trash services. In the high desert environment, even natural items like orange peels take years to decompose.
- **Travel on existing roads and trails.** Vegetation in this climate can take decades to recover when crushed by off road driving or parking.
- **Camp in campgrounds.** Using campgrounds reduces the number of vehicles, so that the great views are not blocked.
- **Use the restroom in town or at nearby campgrounds.** If that isn't an option, bury human waste in catholes 6 inches deep and 200 feet away from water, trails and camp. There are no restrooms in the hills.
- **Have a great time.** The Alabama Hills are a great place to explore natural wonders and experience your public lands.



Tent site at Tuttle Creek Campground near sunset by Josh Hammari

## Day Use

The Alabama Hills is a small recreation and scenic area best suited for day use. Here are just a few things you can do:

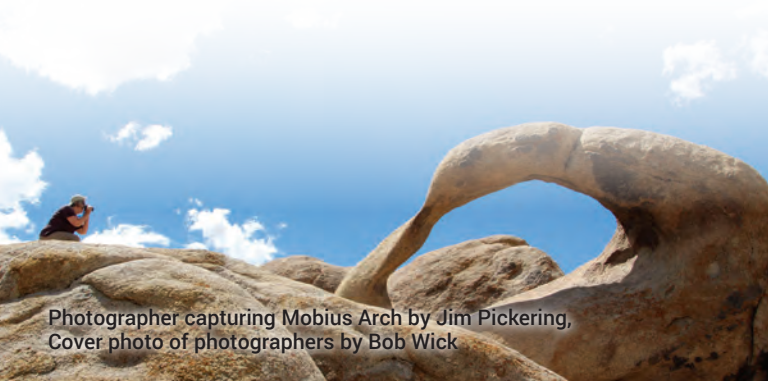
- **Tour film sites.** Explore the locations of over 400 movies that have been filmed here.
- **Take pictures.** The Alabama Hills scenery has been an inspiration for photographers for decades.
- **Have an adventure.** Hike, fish, rock climb, explore natural arches, mountain bike, ride horses, view the wildflowers or find your own adventure.

## Overnight Use

Tuttle Creek Campground offers more than 80 sites for affordable camping with spaces for tents, RVs, and trailers. The campground boasts views of Mt. Whitney, and has large campsites with plenty of space for longer vehicles. Drinking water and restrooms are available. Tuttle Creek runs through the campground, providing fishing and birding opportunities.

Camping is also available at the Portagee Joe Campground just to the east of the Alabama Hills and the Lone Pine Campground on the Whitney Portal Road.

Camping in campgrounds helps maintain the great scenery and recreational opportunities. City of Los Angeles owned lands in the area are open for day use only.



Photographer capturing Mobius Arch by Jim Pickering,  
Cover photo of photographers by Bob Wick





Photo from *The Lawless Range* courtesy of Beverly and Jim Rogers Museum of Western Film History

## Film & Television

Beginning in 1920, Hollywood filmmakers began to take an interest in the Alabama Hills for its natural scenery. Since then, over 400 movies have been filmed here.

Movie stars such as Tom Mix, Hopalong Cassidy, Gene Autry, and the Lone Ranger, shot it out with outlaws. Classics such as *Gunga Din*, *Yellow Sky*, and *How the West Was Won* were filmed on Movie Flat Road. The 1990 Sci-Fi classic *Tremors* was filmed almost entirely on location in the Alabama Hills. During 1993, portions of *Maverick* were filmed here. More recently, *Star Trek Generations*, *Gladiator*, *Iron Man*, and *Django Unchained* were filmed in the Alabama Hills.

Find a copy of the Movie Road Touring Brochure online or at the Museum of Western Film History in Lone Pine.

Each October the community of Lone Pine hosts the Lone Pine Film Festival. This festival features speakers, actors and bus tours that showcase movies filmed in the Alabama Hills. The area continues to attract film crews, benefiting the local economy.

**The hills were named after the C.S.S. Alabama**, a Confederate warship responsible for wreaking havoc during the Civil War. Prospectors sympathetic to the Confederate cause named their mining claims after the Alabama and eventually the name stuck.

## Geology

The rounded, oddly shaped contours of the Alabama Hills form a sharp contrast to the glacially carved ridges of the Sierra Nevada. While both landforms consist of a similar granitic rock that was uplifted around 100 million years ago, the hills were shaped by a type of erosion known as chemical weathering.



Mobius Arch



Eye of the Alabama



The Corridors

## Wildlife



Chuckwalla lizard



Red-tailed hawk



Townsend's big-eared bat

## Plants



Scarlet mik-vetch



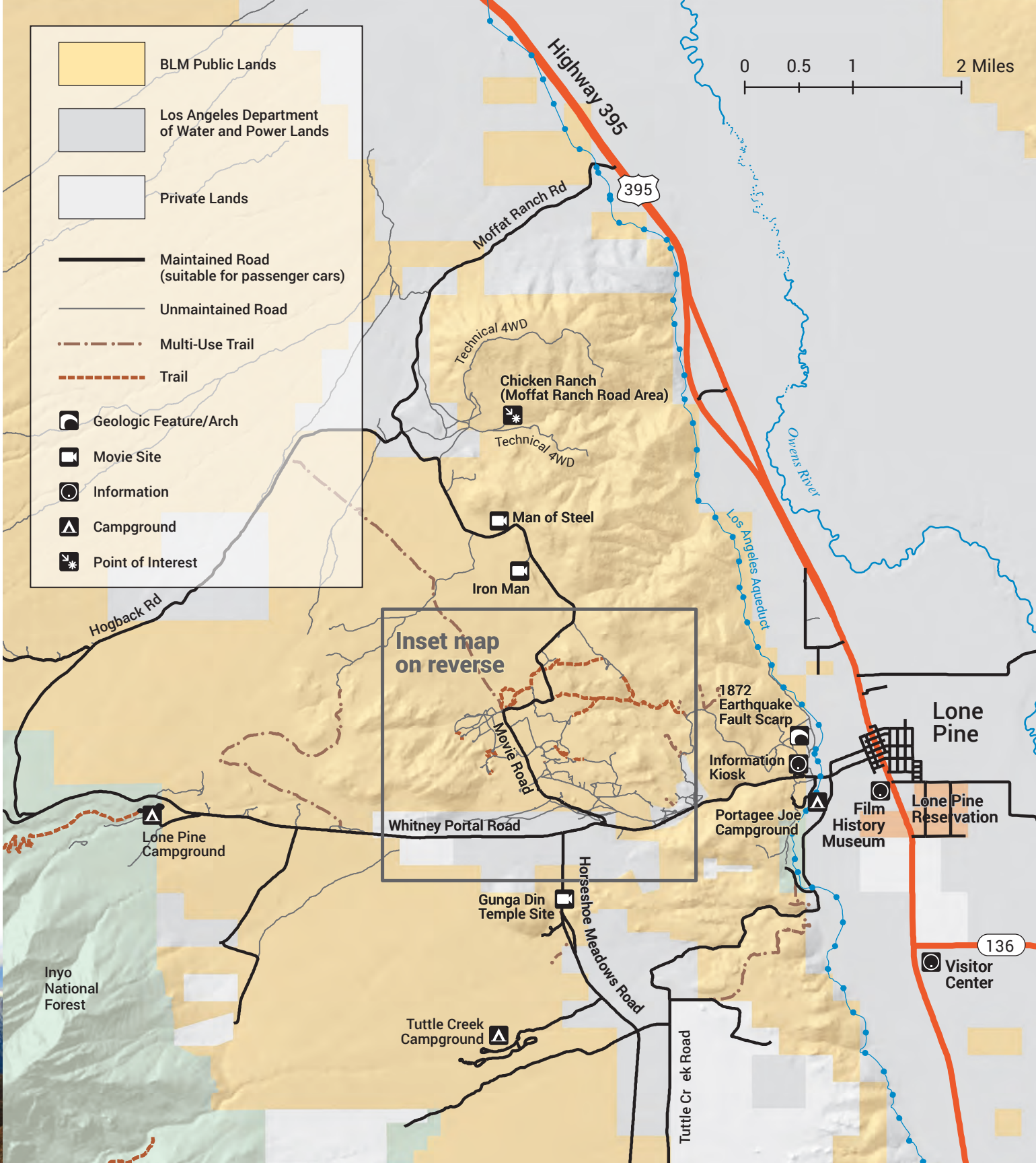
Desert needlegrass



Barrel cactus



Alabama Hills with Mt Whitney in the distance by David Kirk







U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

# Alabama Hills

Recreation Area and Scenic Area

BLM Public Lands

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Lands

Private Lands

Maintained Road  
(suitable for passenger cars)

Unmaintained Road

Multi-Use Trail

Trail

Geologic Feature/Arch

Movie Site

Rock Climbing Area

Hiking/Trailhead

Horseback Riding

Bicycle Trail

Motor Bike Trail

Parking



## Travel Tips

- Travel on existing roads and trails. Don't park on vegetation.
- Creating new roads and trails harms the landscape and is illegal.
- Most roads in this area are unpaved and require 4-wheel drive.
- Spring and fall are the most popular seasons.
- Be sure to bring plenty of water.
- Remember to leave plants, rocks, and artifacts as you found them for others to discover.

Have a great time!

