

OFFICIAL INFORMATION GUIDE

BISHOP

& EASTERN SIERRA

California



inside

LODGING | DINING | SHOPPING | EVENTS | SMALL TOWN, BIG CHARACTERS

E.S.T. Road Trip: Explore the oldest, highest, lowest & wildest places in California. // PG 36



HOME OF THE
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#VISITBISHOP



Be a part of our story

Bishop Surprise: Unexpected Delight

“I was an accidental tourist at the Bishop Visitor Center. I missed my ride (to Mammoth) due to a late-arriving flight. Upon arriving at the Bishop Visitor Center, I was warmly welcomed with sincere greetings, light hospitality, and an education about the local region that rivaled visitor centers operated by the National Park Service. I learned this county boasts the highest point in the continental United States (Mount Whitney), the lowest point in the continental United States (Badwater Basin in Death Valley), and the oldest living organism in the world (Bristlecone Pine Trees, which are purportedly 5000 years old). I also got an outstanding healthy meal recommendation which I followed - The Rolling Chef 395 - where I am not exaggerating - I consumed the best burrito I have ever eaten in my life. I then walked it off by taking a safe stroll down Main Street where I observed many vibrant businesses bristling with activity like the famous Erik Schat’s Bakkery. Simply put, I could not overstate the good fortune that ensued my unexpected stopover at the Bishop Visitor Center. I not only am recommending a stop here for friends en route from Southern California, but also vowing to come back!” – *TripAdvisor Review March 2024*

Please share your experiences with us.

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MORE INFO



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BISHOPVISITOR.COM

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DIRECTIONS & TRANSPORTATION

Bishop and the beautiful Owens Valley have been described as “California’s Hidden Treasure.”

While it’s true that treasures abound in the Eastern Sierra, Bishop is not quite as “hidden” as you might imagine. In fact, Bishop is located in the very middle of California, where Highways 6 and 395 intersect. Whether you are traveling from Southern or Northern California, or a major city in Nevada, you’ll drive 4 to 5 hours to reach Bishop. From any direction, the roads are well maintained and the views are spectacular. We recommend traveling during the day so you don’t miss any of the spectacular sights along the way. Getting here is part of your vacation and we hope you enjoy the journey.

“KNOW BEFORE YOU GO” – ROAD CONDITIONS

Be sure to check current weather & road conditions. In winter months, desert passes may be flooded, snowy roadways may be closed or require traction devices to travel north of Bishop. **All motor vehicles, including AWD & 4WD must carry traction devices in winter.**

Check California road conditions – www.roads.dot.ca.gov or (800) 427-7623

Check Nevada road conditions – www.nvroads.com

Downtown Bishop to the following locations by car...

WHERE TO?	HOW?	MILES	HOW LONG?
Laws Railroad Museum	Highway 6 North	5.3	9 minutes
Tonopah, NV	Highway 6 East, 95 South	116	1 hour, 55 minutes
South Lake	168 West. Left on South Lake Road	21.8	34 minutes
Lake Sabrina	168 West	18.7	24 minutes
Rock Creek Lake Trailhead	395 North. Left on Rock Creek Road	32.9	44 minutes
Crowley Lake	395 North	28.2	31 minutes
Mammoth Mountain Ski Area	395 North, Highway 203 West	46.1	51 minutes
June Lake	395 North	56.1	57 minutes
Lee Vining/Mono Lake/ East Yosemite Entrance	395 North	64.6	1 hour, 3 minutes
Bridgeport	395 North	89.9	1 hour, 31 minutes
Reno, NV	395 North	205	3 hours, 35 minutes
Sacramento	395 North, 50 West	271	4 hours 59 minutes
Schulman Grove	395 South, 168 East	38	1 hour, 1 minute
Las Vegas, NV	395 South, 168 East, 266 East, 95 South	266	4 hours, 21 minutes
Manzanar National Historic Site	395 South	48	48 minutes
Lone Pine	395 South	57	57 minutes
Whitney Portal	395 South. Right on Whitney Portal Road	68.9	1 hour, 16 minutes
Furnace Creek/ Death Valley	395 South, 190 East	84.4	1 hour 44 minutes
Los Angeles	395 South, 14 South, 5 South	266	4 hours, 12 minutes
San Diego	395 South, 215 South, 15 South	354	5 hours, 43 minutes

YOSEMITE

Tioga Pass (Yosemite east entrance, SR 120) closes **Nov. - May** due to snow. No vehicle access from US 395 (Lee Vining) during this time. **YARTS** buses (summer only) connect Mammoth Lakes, June Lake, Lee Vining, and Yosemite Valley.

BY AIR (BIH)



UNITED

Bishop Airport (BIH) is the new entrance gate to California, connecting Bishop to San Francisco (SFO) and Denver (DEN) with commercial direct flights, offered by United Express. The Bishop Airport is situated 2 miles east of downtown.

Airport Transportation

Sierra Shuttle Service
(760) 914-2746

Mammoth All Weather Shuttle
(760) 709-2927

Mammoth Taxi
(760) 924-8294

ESTA Dial A Ride
(800) 922-1930

Pre-book your Car or Shuttle (limited reservations available)

BY BUS/SHUTTLE

The Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA) provides shuttle bus service from Reno to Lancaster, connecting the communities in between. Reasonable round-trip and one-way fares available. For current schedules and reservations call (760) 872-1901, or visit www.estransit.com.

CAR RENTALS

National Car Rental (760) 709-4214 • Enterprise Car Rental (909) 204-1759

EV CHARGING STATIONS

Tesla Supercharger: 151 S Warren St, Bishop

Tesla Charging: 1335-1373 Rocking West Drive (Behind BIG 5, Bishop)

Caltrans Charging: 500 S Main St, Bishop

Electrify America Charging: 1190 N Main St, Bishop

welcome

Manahüü

BIENVENIDO

Welkom

SALUT

Willkommen

Benvenuti



Bishop has much to offer. Whether you're here for a few days or a full week, be sure to stop at the Bishop Area Chamber of Commerce & Information Center for friendly, knowledgeable advice about things to do and places to visit. We're located right next to the beautiful Bishop City Park at 690 N. Main Street.

The Bishop Area Information Guide has been created to entice you to extend your vacation. Take a tour through these pages of unique adventures and find a trail, or a stream, a waterfall, a vista, or a road to ride that takes you to your essence. Whether you are enlightened by a walk among the planet's oldest living beings or **love** to climb, ride, hike, fish, run, fly or simply gaze at the starry, starry night - we are certain there's a place and a time here in our big backyard that will fulfill your dreams. Begin with the maps of the many wonderful places that encompass the Eastern Sierra and **PICK YOUR PATH!**

Look for this throughout the magazine!



BISHOP AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INFORMATION CENTER

760.873.8405
690 N. Main Street
Bishop, CA 93514

ON THE COVER:
Upper left & bottom left:
Emily Taylor; Upper right:
Gigi DeJong, Lower right:
Matthew Herman

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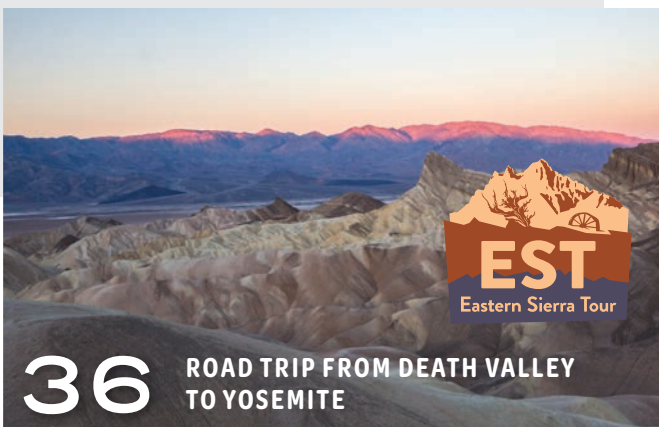
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Photo by Betsy Forsyth

kid friendly

POOL!

The public swimming pool at Bishop City Park is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day and has set times for lap swim, water aerobics, public swim, swim lessons, pool parties, and dive-in-movies! Looking for a year-round swimming option, check out **Keough's Hot Springs Pool** on page 23.

PARKS!

Did someone say PLAYGROUNDS?? Located in the center of town, the **Bishop City Park** offers two playgrounds, skate and bike park, baseball and soccer fields, tennis courts, volleyball, plenty of grass for yoga and a beautiful gazebo that rests above a pond filled with playful ducks and giant trout. Relax in the shady areas along the stream and have a picnic. Explore the arboretum and community gardens. Need more PLAYGROUNDS?? **Millpond Recreation Area**, 6 miles NW of Bishop features a pond for swimming (no motorized boats), softball fields, horseshoe pits, disc golf and two playgrounds. **Izaak Walton Park**, 3 miles west of Bishop on Line Street also offers play equipment and a shady creekside picnic area.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS!

Welcome to the Eastern Sierra playground! Get into it, on top of it, or above it - all year-round! The great outdoors is our backyard, and we invite you into the fresh, clean air, sparkling blue skies and healthy backdrop for all outdoor activities.

As most parents know, when the kids become bored, it leads to misery. And guess who suffers – that's right – you the parent does!

So, let them pick their path...



Pick up a secret map to a hidden adventure at Cardinal Village or select something out of the free box at the Bishop Information Center - where it's Christmas everyday!

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hey there!
TIME TO RELAX



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Traveling with your canine best friend can be super rewarding, and all the outdoor spaces around Bishop make it an ideal place to bring your dog. Many hotels, cabins and campgrounds in the region are pet friendly and most trails in the front country and paths in town welcome well-mannered dogs on leashes. As you plan your trip to Bishop, here are some options to keep your pet happy and healthy throughout your journey.

BISHOP DOG PARK!

Is your pet restless from long car rides? At the northeast corner of the downtown Bishop City Park lies the Bishop Dog Park where you can let your dog run and play off leash in a safely fenced and spacious area.

Dining with your Dog

Many indoor restaurants are prohibited from allowing pets in the dining facility, but some restaurants have outdoor patios which are pet-friendly. Those that do include: **Amigos, Astorga's Mexican Grill, Bishop Looney Bean, Cardinal Village Café, Schat's Roadhouse, Black Sheep Cafe, Erick Schat's Bakery, Good Earth Yogurt, Great Basin Bakery, Holy Smoke Barbeque, Mountain Rambler Brewery, Pupfish, and Pizza Factory.** While all these places welcome pets, don't forget that not everyone will be delighted to feed your dog table scraps—be courteous.

Top Spots for Dog Walking

Grab a copy of our winter hiking and walking trails brochure to find canal walks to stretch your legs.



pet friendly

Above: photo by @jens_wild_ramblers

DID YOU KNOW?

- >> It is important to pick up after your pet even when out and about exploring the desert or mountains. Pet waste damages the ecosystem - the scent of dog poop will drive away animals from their natural habitat.
- >> **PRO TIP** - take your pup to Tailwaggers for a do-it-yourself bath or yummy treat.

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Small Town BIG CHARACTERS

No scripts, just pure passion. Watch this authentic interview with Dr. Craig London.



Holly Mullanix BISHOP TWIN THEATRE

Holly Mullanix was sweet sixteen when she arrived in Bishop and fell in love. Holly loved movies, and she fell in love with the Bishop Twin Theatre. Her first job in Bishop was working behind the counter at the theatre.

"I've always worked at the theatre," says Holly.

Since the mid-1990s she's helped run the theater. For over 35 years it was a part-time job, alongside a professional career in medical administration, but it was her full-time passion. Proving to be her most enduring love, she bought the theatre in 2015.

Since purchasing the theatre, Holly and her husband, Larry, have renovated the interior, upgraded the equipment, and plan to restore the façade to its former art deco glory.

On March 20th, the theatre celebrated its 100th anniversary. It is and always will be, says Holly, a locally owned, community movie house that is affordable. It's where a family of four can come see a matinee for \$5 per person, throw in a bucket of their 'world famous popcorn' and you're all in for \$26!

Gary Gunsolley BISHOP FLY FISHING GUIDE

Gary Gunsolley started fishing in the Eastern Sierra at age 10. Like so many kids growing up in the Los Angeles area he accompanied his dad on weekend trips to fish the lakes and streams in Bishop's big backyard.

In Bishop, Brock's Sporting Goods store was the place to go for bait and tackle. This store, with its extensive array of fishing gear, made an impression on the young angler.

"I'm gonna own that place one day," the 12-year-old told his parents.



In 1989 Gary bought the store. It had been in business successfully for 30-years. In the mid-1990s he transitioned to carrying only fly-fishing gear and changed the name to Brock's Fly Fishing, and included guiding as an integral service of the business. His dad was one of his part-time employees.

Gary is now retired from the retail business, and still happily guiding. "It's not about how many fish you catch, it's about the places you go."

Tara Frank
**OWENS VALLEY PAIUTE-SHOSHONE
CULTURAL CENTER**



Tara Frank is Nüümü Huupi (a Paiute woman) from the Bishop Paiute Tribe, coming from the Timbisha Shoshone and Navajo people. Few residents in Bishop have a local lineage as long as Tara's, spanning at least six generations within the Owens Valley.

"It's always been home," says Tara, "Wherever we go within this world, this place is our homeland."

"As a young adult she was encouraged to travel and experience life beyond the valley and spent about 14 years in Southern California. It was during her time working at Sherman Indian High School in Riverside that she developed a better understanding of intergenerational connection and the importance it holds within families and communities. Tara Frank is now the Director of the Owens Valley Paiute-Shoshone Cultural Center.

She says returning to Bishop is a highlight for her. It is about, "Coming home to reconnect to this beautiful place, to be closer to family while utilizing my experiences to strengthen our local cultural platforms."

What began as a museum concept by the Owens Valley Board of Trustees in 1978, is today the Owens Valley Paiute-Shoshone Cultural Center, which serves as both the preservation of the culture through expertly curated exhibits and a resource for cultural education through events and activities.

The center now has a staff of seven and they welcome everyone to visit. Entry to the museum is by donation. A purchase from the gift shop is welcomed and supports local artists and the community.

"The space we created is more than a museum," Tara says, "It is a living center, a place to absorb and learn from each other. We encourage you to stay an extra half hour to read or have a conversation with us."

Thanks to Gayla Wolf/The Honey Bee Photography for the beautiful portraits of these beautiful people.

Manny Astorga
ASTORGA'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT

It's all about people. For Manny Astorga, part owner and general manager of Astorga's Mexican Restaurant his daily life revolves around people—family, community, and service to others.

It began as a small mom and pop shop started in 2001 by his parents, Lee and Ramona Astorga. For 12-years they grew their reputation, but with a maximum capacity of only 27 diners, they eventually outgrew their location.

Expanding to a prime location on N. Sierra Highway, Astorga's now comfortably accommodates up to 150 patrons, plus a great patio space for a proper margarita. Don't have time to sit? Order online or place a local delivery.

The Bishop community has always been steadfast in its support of Astorga's. "This town is amazing," he says, "[Our] local customers are the best." He's also pleased to say that many regular

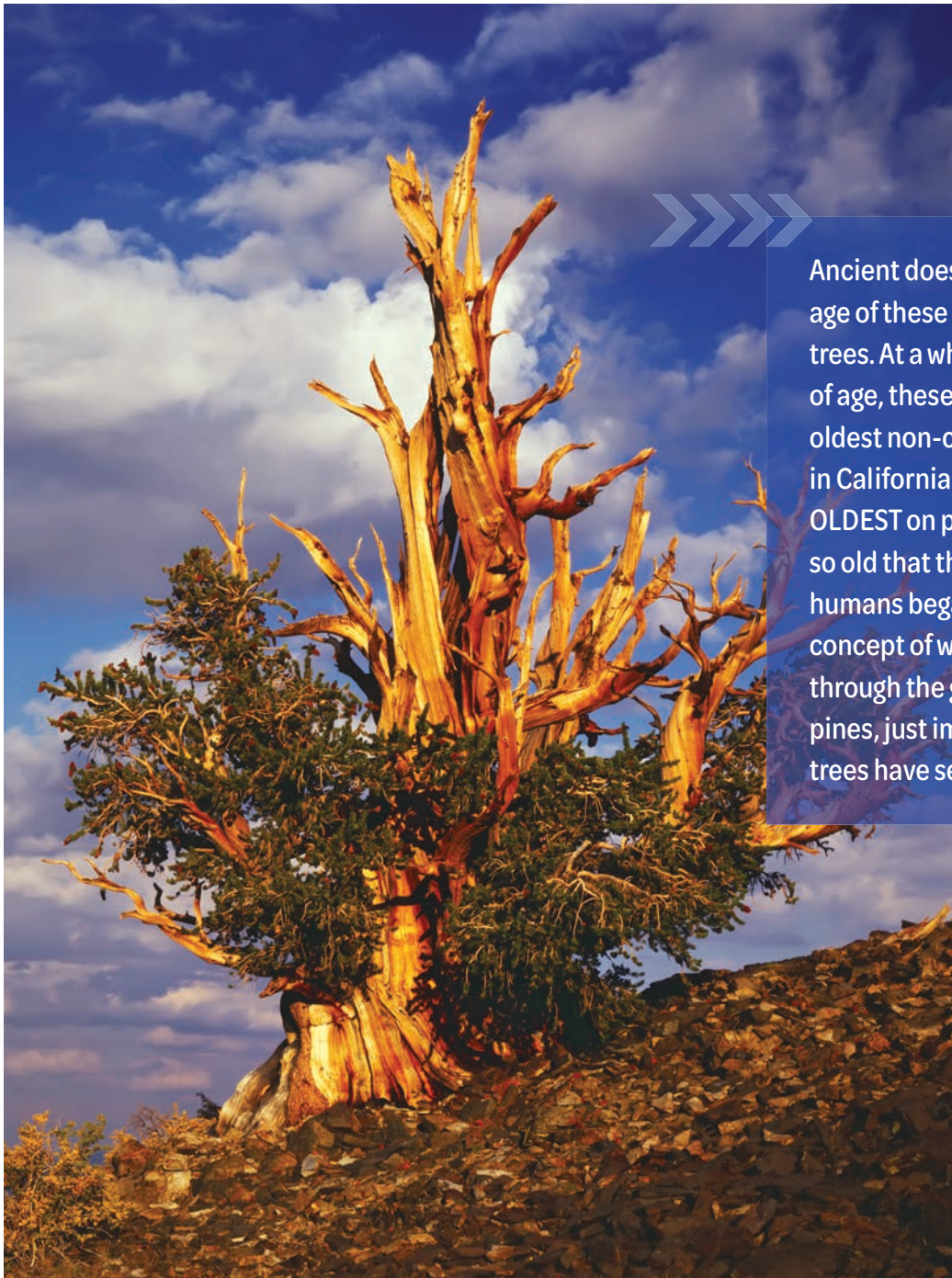


visitors who travel to Bishop say, "We're their spot for lunch or dinner." Folks from as far as Seattle and Texas make a point of coming into Astorga's whenever they're in town. Especially during the town's big events like Mule Days, Astorga's is a favorite dining destination; and they comfortably and happily accommodate large groups.

Now owned and staffed by Manny and his five siblings, the next generation is beginning their journey of service to the community here. When asked what's the best thing about Bishop, Manny says simply, "The people."

ANCIENT BRISTLEcone PINE FOREST

Come and see these ancient beings and let your imagination wander about the passage of time and the history of humankind through which these trees have lived.



Ancient doesn't even describe the age of these woolly mammoth old trees. At a whopping 4,000 years of age, these pines aren't just the oldest non-clonal living things in California or the U.S. but the **OLDEST** on planet Earth! They're so old that they were born when humans began to develop the concept of writing. As you weave through the groves of Bristlecone pines, just imagine what these trees have seen.

Note: These forests grow at an elevation of 9,800 - 11,000 feet above sea level, so the best time to visit is June-October. The road closes due to snow in the winter.



DRIVE TIME: 2 HOURS RT
ACTIVITY TIME: 2 HOURS
BEST TIME: A MIDSUMMER DAY

Few people in the world will ever see these trees in person, so if you find yourself in Bishop with a few hours to spare, make the pilgrimage to visit the ancient ones. They are gnarled, weather-beaten, and resilient. The oldest tree, as yet unnamed, is believed to be 5,070 years old now. This healthy and growing forest is located high in the White Mountains above Bishop. Visitors say they feel a sense of awe and peace when they walk the trails that weave through the groves of old and young bristlecones. The views out across the Owens Valley to the west and the Great Basin of Nevada to the east offer a perspective not seen anywhere else.

The drive from Bishop to the Schulman Grove Visitor Center is about an hour. From Bishop, head south on US Highway 395 for 15 miles and, just north of Big Pine, turn left onto State Route 168 East. Follow the road for 13 miles then turn left onto White Mountain Rd. Ten miles farther you will arrive at the Schulman Grove Visitor Center. On the way up stop at the Sierra View Overlook for a stunning view across the Owens Valley and Sierra Nevada beyond.



Spend a little time in the visitor center and watch a great interpretive film about these incredible trees. Rangers and staff at the Schulman Grove Visitor Center present interpretive programs in the summer. If time and energy permit, take the short walk of just less than a mile along the Discovery Trail, where the gnarled, twisted, highly photogenic trees are located. There are several benches to rest along the way. The trail rises 300 feet in elevation before it descends back to the visitor center at 10,000 ft.

Please note that if you or anyone in your party is unaccustomed to altitude and develops a headache, dizziness, nausea, or appears disoriented, make sure to leave the area immediately. By returning to a lower elevation the symptoms should ease quickly.

Facing page: photo by Dennis Flaherty; Above: photo by @shinwill

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WILDFLOWERS: Desert to Alpine Blooms

Superbloom. The latest Marvel Comic character? A new plant food additive? No, it's the fabulous wildflower phenomena brought to you by El Niño.

It turns out the desert has a sweet spot. It's just the right amount of rain, sunshine, and low winds to coax all sorts of dormant seeds into life, and only once in a while do all these factors align to create a perfect floral storm.

What sets the Eastern Sierra apart from many other desert wildflower regions is its extremes in elevation combined with a diverse geologic environment. It is also the intersection of three major biotic provinces – the upper Mojave, Great Basin, and Sierra Nevada – with the result that this region has a wide variety of vegetation communities. Thousands of species carpet the area and many are unique to the Eastern Sierra.



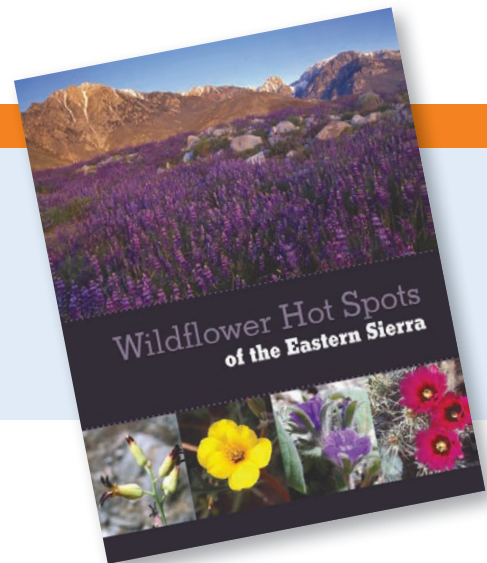
Flower seekers find a floral display of Lupin blooming in July on Piute Pass Trail. (Photo by Dennis Flaherty)

Considerate flower enthusiasts enjoy and photograph wildflowers from adjoining roadsides and trails so others may enjoy untrampled landscapes. The great variety of flowers offers an opportunity for learning about our natural world in our big backyard.

* GUIDE FEATURE

Wildflower Hot Spots of the Eastern Sierra

Download this guide from our spring flower tutorial at bishopvisitor.com/wildflowers.



*Do you stop and smell the flowers? If so, read above. If not, turn to **page 68** for a flour-y bakery delight.*



FALL COLORS: The Longest Fall Color Show in North America

How to Find Fall Colors and Inner Peace in the Eastern Sierra

Enjoy warm, sunny autumn days and mild evenings. There's a hint of winter in the air, but summer won't quite let go. A short journey of no more than 20 miles west of Bishop on US Highway 168 will take you well into the rugged high country. Witness the spread of color that usually begins in early September high above the lakes in the upper reaches of the **Bishop Creek Canyon**. This is the place to start your fall color spotting. The views at each lake basin are mesmerizing for the sheer magnitude of the surrounding crags and the swaths of brilliant color that appear to flow out of the rock toward the deep blue water like lava.

A couple of short, easy hikes in this area will get you into the forest or higher up for greater perspectives on the changing colors.

Toward the end of September and into early October the spill of yellow, orange and crimson descend farther down the canyon. The large groves of aspen surrounding **Cardinal Village Resort** seem to herald the holiday season. Every view and image are picture postcard perfect.

Lower down, where the canyons open up to the broad Owens Valley below, the trees are sparse, but the color creeps relentlessly through the ubiquitous high desert scrub late into October. Take a lazy afternoon drive around **Round Valley** and visit the Millpond Recreation Area. Experience a magical blend of autumnal color with other aspects of this rural community.

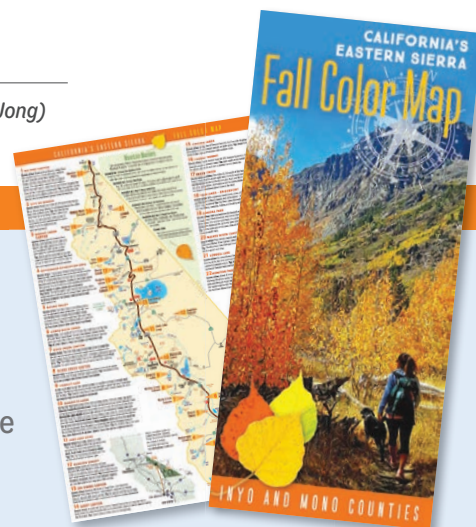
Above: Cardinal Village Resort - every view and image are picture postcard perfect. (Photo by Gigi DeJong)



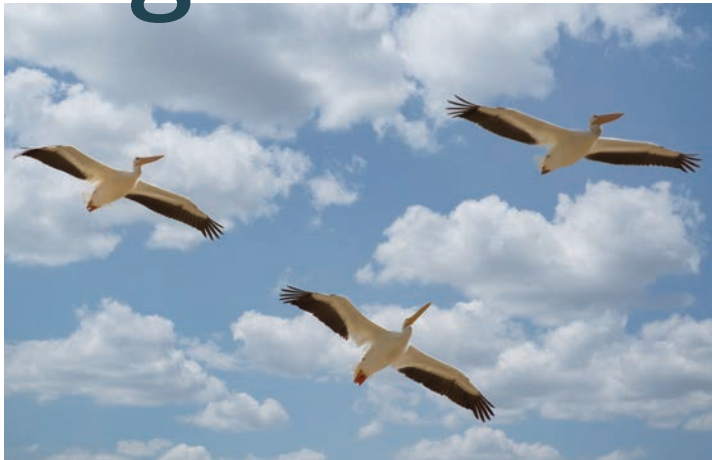
GUIDE FEATURE

Fall Color Map

Experienced fall foliage guests will stop at the Bishop Information Center for this map and monitor californiafallcolor.com to get real time fall colors information so you can visit when the colors are best!



Migrate Yourself



“...magically, an apparition of silvery-white dots formed and sharpened to show thousands of white birds with large yellow bills and black wing tips...pelicans.” - Tom and Jo Heindel, Eastern Sierra Audubon Society

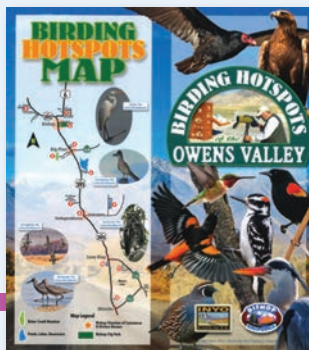
The vast open space surrounding Bishop makes the region a mecca for wildlife viewing enthusiasts! Common sightings include: Mule Deer, Tule Elk and Wild Mustangs. On occasion, you may also see Bighorn Sheep, Coyotes, Jack Rabbits, Bears, Bobcats, Mountain Lions, and Marmots. It is important to remember that all wild animals must be respected for their safety and yours. Never get too close and never feed the wild animals. Do bring binoculars and a longer lens for your camera. Deer, bears and other wildlife regularly cross roads and highways so always be on the lookout.

The Owens Valley supports some 100 birding locations where birders can spend a lifetime exploring, discovering and studying various birds and their habitats. Hawks, Harriers, Osprey and Eagles are regularly sighted. Many species, including ducks at the Bishop City Park, Black-throated Blue Warblers near Laws Museum, California Gulls and Red-Winged Blackbirds in Mono Lake, Egrets at the Owens Lake, Great Blue Herons along the canal in Bishop, and so many more can be seen throughout the year! You'll also find Northern Flicker, Brewer's Blackbird and Eurasian Collared Dove, and if you hit it right, you can catch the white pelican migration.



Clockwise from top left: Migrating pelicans (photo by Santiago Escruceria); Birds taking flight (photo by Ed Nahin); Wild Horses (photo by Ed Nahin); Bighorn sheep (photo by Randy Smith)

Guide Highlight: BIRDING HOTSPOTS OF THE OWENS VALLEY



This brochure presents several notable hotspots between Bishop and Olancho emphasizing a November through May season, focusing on wintering species and spring migrants.

Barefoot in Winter

Holiday  *tip:*

Swing by Cardinal Village Resort for a fresh cinnamon roll and possibly a glimpse of Santa and his Elf, see if your name is on the nice list, or pick out some fresh mistletoe and a Christmas tree!

We think we have the best of both worlds – easy proximity to one of California’s best ski resorts AND easy access to some of the best backcountry snow play in the state. Add to that world-class winter fishing, bouldering, trail-running, mountain biking, and OHV driving. Yes. You read that right. It’s all available in winter in Bishop.

One of California’s premier ski resorts, Mammoth Mountain, is a mere 45-minute drive from Bishop. It’s a hub of high-tech ski slopes, terrain parks, tube runs, and world-class guest services. It’s big, it’s bold, and it’s bursting with energy.

Meanwhile, you can take in the breathtaking mountain awe inspiring Eastern Sierra in flip flops, most days.

Winter is usually sunny and temperate in the town of Bishop, and it’s often sunny and snowy in the High Sierra. The nights are chilly, the days are often warm, the air is clear and crisp, and our big backyard is a natural playground. When SR 168 West is closed beyond Aspendell in Bishop Creek Canyon due to the winter snowpack, the area is a true winter wonderland.

There’s no fun like snow fun. Bring the entire family to enjoy downhill & cross country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling and sledding. Winter trout fishing is great at Pleasant Valley Reservoir and along the Lower Owens River. Winter biking and hiking is popular in the Buttermilk Recreation Area and Volcanic Tableland. If you don’t have the gear you need, pop into **Eastside Sports**, **Sage to Summit**, **Reagan’s Sporting Goods** or **Big 5 Sporting Goods** where you can buy or rent the gear you need.

Bishop is an all-season wonderland. Each season has its own special look and feel that brings joy and offers experiences like nowhere else on earth. Come make your own adventure.

Above: Barefoot in Bishop.
(Photo by Josh Huckaby);
Right: (Photo by SP Parker)



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

- Avalanche Training & Backcountry Ski and Snowboard Guides/
Year-Round Mountain & Climbing Guides

SIERRA MOUNTAIN CENTER

200 South Main Street
Bishop CA 93514
(760) 873-8526

SIERRA MOUNTAIN GUIDES

312 N. Main Street
Bishop CA 93514
(760) 648-1122

Year-Round Fishing Opportunities in the Owens Valley

Bishop has long been considered a world-class fishing destination and is best known for magnificent seasonal fly-fishing in the streams of the Sierra Nevada. But, did you know that fishing in the Lower Owens River is legal all year long? And many more miles of canals and freestone creeks in the Eastern Sierra are open for catch and release year-round. Add to that large reservoirs and protected ponds in the Owens Valley, some offering handicapped-accessible fishing piers, are easily accessible by car. Get a guide and / or get some gear and information from our local outfitters.

The knowledgeable and experienced folks who live and fish in the Eastern Sierra can help you plan a fishing excursion or take you and your family out on a fishing trip that is safe, fun and rewarding. There are many guide services that cater to beginners as well as experienced anglers. The sporting goods stores and outfitters carry something for everyone to build a basic kit or add to your tackle box.

Do some fishing preparation with the kids before you get here to get them excited and ready for this adventure. Take a look at BishopVisitor.com/blog to get your kids ready for fishing.



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

- >> Official **California fishing regulations** can be found at: wildlife.ca.gov/Regulations
- >> A free map to all **Owens Valley warm water fisheries** is available at the Bishop Information Center.

Merry Fishmas

There are many places to fish in the Owens Valley all year long, but what so many anglers look forward to every spring is the California general trout season. Opening day of summer fishing season is the last Saturday in April. Locally known as “Fishmas”, it’s anticipated as eagerly as Christmas is, but by adults. Make a new tradition and celebrate Fishmas in Bishop!



Paul Argueta on Crowley Lake During Fishmas. (Photo by Curtis Benzi)

Here are some of our favorite fishing holes...



The lower Owens River in the wild trout section offers great winter fly fishing for wild brown and rainbow trout. (Photo by Fred Rowe)

FISH – OWENS RIVER (TROUT)

1-hour Itinerary

A mere 3-miles and 5-minute drive from the center of Bishop is the closest access point to the swift, sweeping bends of the Owens River. To clock at least 45 minutes of superb fishing at this beautiful spot, have your gear ready and take a quick drive east on East Line Street, which begins at the junction with Main Street in downtown. At exactly 3-miles, just as you crest a low rise and see the bridge over the river ahead, slow down, look right and turn right onto a broad dirt road. In 400 feet park on the edge of the clearing or curve left to drive up to the riverbank.

Fishing is legal and wonderful all year on the lower Owens River.

Please be aware of seasonal changes and regulations.

Drive time: 7 minutes each way

Adventure time: 45 minutes

Best time: Late spring afternoon

FISH – BUCKLEY PONDS

2-hour Itinerary

The Buckley Ponds, just east of Bishop, is a series of large maintained ponds along Rawson Canal. It’s a short drive from Bishop to the shores of these lovely ponds, where fishing can yield bass, bluegill, carp and even catfish. Large piers have been built over the water to provide wheelchair access.

Pack a picnic, and even if it’s winter, pack sunscreen and a couple of chairs and of course your fishing gear. From the junction of Main Street and Line Street, drive east on East Line Street. At exactly 2.3-miles, 500-feet beyond the cemetery, turn right onto a dirt road that is indicated by one large, lone cottonwood at the junction. Follow the canal road for 2.5-miles until you reach the series of three ponds. Altogether this is a 15-minute drive, which leaves 1.5 hours for fishing and the return trip of 15-minutes. Of course, stay longer if you can, but if you crave a quick fishing outing and all you have is 2-hours, this is it!

Fishing in the Buckley Ponds is open and accessible all year.

Drive time: 15 minutes each way

Activity time: 1 hour & 30 minutes

Best time: A warm winter day



GUIDE FEATURE

Pick up this guide at: Bishop Chamber of Commerce and Information Center, 690 N. Main St., Bishop

FISHING

FISH – INTAKE TWO

3-hour Itinerary

Over two hours of high elevation lake fishing in Intake Two is pretty much a perfect outing. This beautifully maintained reservoir has all the rustic amenities an avid angler could want or need. Paved road access, plenty of parking, a wheelchair accessible fishing pier, a trail all the way around the lake, vault toilets, picnic benches, trees, and regular seasonal fish planting of catchable rainbow trout.

The drive from Bishop takes 20 minutes and it's a straight shot – no, make that a wonderful winding drive – west up SR 168 (West Line Street) to the reservoir nestled in Bishop Creek Canyon. Sitting at an elevation of just over 8,000 feet, this is the place for a quick escape from the summer heat in the Owens Valley.

Depending on the winter snowpack, the lake is typically accessible year-round. This is one of the few lakes in California that allows fishing year-round! Licenses can be purchased in many Bishop fishing and guide services shops.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) offers two Free Fishing Days a year. Check it out. Get started.



Nice Rainbow! (Photo by Fred Rowe)

Drive time: 20 minutes each way
Activity time: 2 hours & 20 minutes
Best time: Summer days are perfect
It's worthwhile to wake up early

A SHOP FOR THOSE WHO KEEP THE OUTDOORS CLOSE

ELEVATED

CURATED GIFTS DECOR & SOUVENIRS

SHOP ONLINE

OPEN DAILY!

📍 371 N MAIN ST, BISHOP, CA

@ELEVATEDBISHOP

Event Highlight

BLAKE JONES TROUT DERBY - MARCH

This pre-season, family-oriented event is one of the largest single-day fishing events in California and has been celebrated in MARCH for more than 50 years at Pleasant Valley Reservoir, six miles north of Bishop, where fishing is allowed in the reservoir and along a stretch of the lower Owens River year-round. The Derby offers a chance to win fantastic prizes and an opportunity to prepare for the general trout fishing season opener. The Blake Jones Trout Derby follows a "Blind Bogey" format so everyone has a chance to win some great cash and gear valued at over \$10,000.



FISHING PROMOTER: The late Blake Jones, an icon in the Sierra, holds a trout.

did you know?

Blake Jones was the inventor of a form of cheese bait that revolutionized the fishing industry. Whenever you bait your hook with Powerbait or other modern cheese bait, you have Blake to thank. His enthusiasm for fishing was infectious and he helped many people learn to fish and improve their skills. Bishop's Annual Blake Jones Trout Derby is held in his honor.

#RecreateResponsibly
#PackOutAllTrash



Clean. Affordable. Friendly.



"Excellent Hotel for a great price. Very clean, comfortable, nice beds, big refrigerator. Quiet location. Marie the manager was very accommodating, professional, and polite. I highly recommend this place."

MARLINDA E. JANUARY '23

(760)873-4242

730 West Line Street
Bishop, CA 93514



Looney Bean



COFFEE
GOOD FOOD
HOUSE MADE PASTRIES
SMOOTHIES
FRAPPES



Located at 399 North Main Street in Bishop
Open 6am-9pm everyday
order online at looneybeanbishop.com

relax & rejuvenate

HOT SPRINGS GUIDE

Some people come to Bishop for all of the outdoor activities. Some people come to Bishop to relax. Others come to do both! Whether you have been out playing hard and need to have a self-care day, or have just come to take some time off and treat yourself to a relaxing vacation, Bishop will not disappoint. Make sure to contact or visit any of the businesses listed below to ensure your mind, body and soul get the love they need during your vacation! Visitors can enjoy a couple of different mineral bath experiences at either Keough's or Benton Hot Springs.

The historic **Keough's Hot Springs Resort** is a favorite for many Bishop locals and visitors. This facility offers two pools: The large pool is 100 x 40 ft and 3ft to 8 ½ ft deep. This pool is kept at 86 – 89 degrees in the summer heat and 90 to 92 degrees in the chill of the winter. The Hot Pool is 15 x 40 ft with an average depth of 2 ft and is kept at a comforting 104 degrees year round. Make sure to check the website for days and hours of operation. There are certain times that it is strictly a lap pool, and others when it is available for family fun.



Keough's Hot Springs (Photo by Emily Taylor)

Large Pool, Hot Soaking Pool, RV, Camping, Gift Shop

7 Miles South Of Bishop, Just off Highway 395
800 Keough Hot Springs Rd., Bishop, CA 93514
(760) 872-4670 • www.keoughshotsprings.com



The Inn at Benton Hot Springs offers two experiences:
1. A bed and breakfast, with seven rooms and two cottages. There are three shared outdoor natural spring-fed hot tubs available.
2. Camping at one of the 11 private natural hot spring-fed tubs. Tents and RVs are welcome, but no hook-ups are available. Reservations required.

Rustic Lodging, Full Breakfast, Hot Tubs available daily or overnight with Camping.

The Old House & Inn at Benton Hot Springs
555137 Hwy. 120
(760) 933-2287 • www.bentonhotsprings.org

Benton Hot Springs (Photo by Emily Taylor)

Pamper yourself

LUXE SALON 307 South Main Street, (415) 823-0819

C & C NAIL SALON 487 W. Line Street, Unit C, (760) 920-0208

HIGH SIERRA WELLNESS CENTER 106 S. Main St., Suite 203, (760) 222-0329

PHILLIPS AESTHETIC DERMATOLOGY

873 N. Main Street, (760) 937-4858

SIERRA SHANTI YOGA STUDIO 275-B S Main St., (704) 877-4717

ENTERTAINMENT & FUN

FORE!

For many people, no vacation is complete without at least one round of golf. Good news – there are several great public courses in the area that offer challenging play with spectacular views! Be sure to pack your clubs and play in Bishop, Lone Pine, Death Valley or Mammoth Lakes.

BISHOP COUNTRY CLUB

South of Bishop on Hwy. 395 • (760) 873-5828 • www.bishopcountryclub.com

FURNACE CREEK RESORT, DEATH VALLEY

(800) 236-7916 • www.furnacecreekresort.com

MOUNT WHITNEY GOLF COURSE, LONE PINE

(760) 876-5795

The golf course at Bishop Country Club.

INDOOR ENTERTAINMENT

PIZZA FACTORY ARCADE

970 N. Main St., Bishop • (760) 872-8888

THE BACK ALLEY BOWLING

649 N. Main St. (Behind Cielo Hotel), Bishop,
(760) 873-5777

*11th lane café, open bowling, cosmic bowling,
arcade games and fun for all!*

WANAHA CASINO

2742 N. Sierra Highway, Bishop
(760) 873-4150 • www.wanaaha.com

*Enjoy round-the-clock gaming with 300+ slot
machines, live poker and blackjack tables.
Grab a bite at the TuKaNovie Restaurant.
Conveniently located just three miles north of
downtown Bishop on Highway 395.*

HISTORIC BISHOP TWIN THEATRE

237 N. Main St., Bishop • (760) 873-3575

SAGE TO SUMMIT INDOOR ROCK CLIMBING GYM

312 N. Main St., Bishop • (760) 872-1756

live music

Many Bishop eateries and taverns regularly feature live music: **Mountain Rambler Brewery**, **Black Sheep Coffee Shop and Café**, **Aaron Schat's Roadhouse**, **Whiskey Creek**, **Rusty's Saloon** and **1903 Taphouse** are popular with locals and visitors alike. **Inyo Council for the Arts** regularly host concerts and the **Bishop Community Band** plays in the park on Monday evenings all summer. Don't miss the **Summer Concert Series at Tri-County Fair & Event Center** and **Millpond Music Festival**, held each September featuring an eclectic mix of musical talent.



Photo courtesy Tri-County Fairgrounds

ART & PHOTO GALLERIES

Be sure to visit these Chamber-member art galleries.

BISHOP ART SUPPLY

125 N. Main St., (760) 873-9240

Many local artists show and sell art here.

C5 STUDIOS COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER

210 S. Warren St. (760) 258-1059 www.c5studios.org

INDEPENDENT PROJECT PRESS

186-A Willow St., (760) 873-3600
www.independentprojectpress.com

Distinctive and unique printed projects plus rotating featured artist exhibits.

INYO COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS

150 Willow St., (760) 873-8014 www.inyo.org

Ever-changing gallery exhibits feature paintings, photos, sculptures and jewelry by local artists.

OWENS VALLEY PAIUTE-SHOSHONE CULTURAL CENTER

2300 W. Line St., (760) 873-3584

Native American art and crafts.

WALKING TOUR • DOWNTOWN

Art Highlight

mural walk

*Be sure to pick up a mural map at the Bishop Information Center.



A mural in Downtown Bishop.

Fine art, antiques, unique shops and restaurants are located throughout the Bishop area. Many restaurants and retail shops display and sell local art. For a real treat, explore Downtown Bishop and experience shopping the way it used to be – with hometown hospitality and an atmosphere that harkens to a time gone by.

Since 1997, the Bishop Mural Society has worked to display our heritage in a spectacular outdoor gallery. More than fifteen colorful murals showcase the fascinating history of Inyo County on buildings throughout the city. Visitors are invited to savor our unique culture with a walking tour. Bishop has a vibrant arts and music scene.

VISIT BISHOPVISITOR.COM/EVENTS TO SEE CURRENT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

■ FEATURE DESTINATION

Bishop Creek Canyon

Bishop Creek Canyon is a large area of about 30 square miles where the North, Middle, and South Forks of Bishop Creek drain down toward the Owens Valley. At the head of each fork is a large lake, including North Lake, Lake Sabrina, and South Lake. Fresh air, granite peaks, pristine lakes, curvy roads to trailheads with lounging spots, wintry solitude, summer wildflowers and the best area to see fall colors in California.



MORE INFO

Bishop Creek



BY THE NUMBERS:

- DISTANCE FROM BISHOP...** 14-20 miles
- DIRECTIONS...** West on Line Street/Highway 168
- DAY USE...** Trailheads with toilets, kiosk displays, picnic tables. Be Bear Aware.
- BACKPACKING...** Wilderness Permit & Bear Canisters Required
- LAND MANAGER...** Inyo National Forest
- CAMPING...** Forest Service and Private campgrounds offer 250+ beautiful spots

Please know there are no gas stations up Bishop Creek. Be prepared to bring your own water or water filtering devices.

MOUNTAIN GETAWAYS:

BISHOP CREEK LODGE

2100 South Lake Road (760) 873-4484
bishopcreekresort.com

CARDINAL VILLAGE RESORT

321 Cardinal Road (760) 873-4789
cardinalvillageresort.com

CREEKSIDE RV PARK

1949 South Lake Road (760) 873-4483
bishopcreeksidervpark.com

PARCHERS RESORT & SOUTH LAKE LANDING

5001 South Lake Road (760) 873-4177 • parchersresort.net

LAKE SABRINA BOAT LANDING

(760) 873-7425 • lakesabrinaboatlanding.com

Above: photo by Ryan Longnecker; Facing page, top: photo by Ron Oriti; middle: photo by Witten; bottom: photo by Ron and Barbara Oriti

THE ULTIMATE PLAYGROUND

It's not a secret, but it certainly is a best-kept area – especially for camping, fishing, hiking, backpacking, thru-hiking, trail running, horseback riding, leaf peeping, boating, kayaking, backcountry skiing, plein air art and nature photography. Easy access to meandering streams and lake fishing plus an expansive trail system that leads you to giant vistas of towering peaks, wildflowers, aspens, more lakes and the John Muir Wilderness is a big draw for visitors and locals alike.

South Lake (Elevation 9,868')

Big fish. Bigger views. Known as the “Hidden Lakes of Bishop Creek” is not only a resupply point for the John Muir Trail and Pacific Crest Trail, but is also a series of trails perfect for day hikes. About 15 miles from town take a left turn at South Lake Road and go to the end. There is long-term and day-use parking at the trailhead, vault toilets, water spigot, and a boat launch ramp with boat, kayak and pontoon rentals available through **Parchers Resort**. Take a trail ride from Rainbow Pack Outfitters - this is often the best trail for wildflowers. **Trailhead access: Bishop Pass, Treasure Lakes, Marie Louise Lakes, Chocolate Lakes, Ruwau Lake, JMT, PCT.**

Lake Sabrina (Elevation 9,128')

Ready for a beautiful hike along the shoreline of Lake Sabrina? It starts out flat and sunny, then turns it up to strenuous and worthy! You will find long and short term parking and pit toilets at the trailhead. **Lake Sabrina Boat Landing**, provides boat and pontoon rentals, free boat launch, fish cleaning facilities, tackle and bait, and a café to quench your thirst and cure your hunger. Grab a slice of pie! **Trailhead access: George Lake, Blue Lake, Hungry Packer Lake, Moonlight Falls, Midnight Lake, Donkey Lake.**

North Lake (Elevation 9,500')

Yield to uphill traffic, tap your horn lightly on blind corners to alert oncoming traffic. This skinny road with amazing views and steep drop-offs is NOT for the faint of heart. After passing through the town of Aspendell, look for the sign to North Lake on the right. You take a bridge over Bishop Creek and continue up the paved, then dirt road which yields easy fishing access. **Bishop Pack Outfitters** can provide you horse transport or a gear drop. Trailers and RVs are prohibited. Limited parking for day visitors and overnight wilderness hikers is available at North Lake. Take the fork up a beautiful, shady hike towards Grass Lake, veer off towards the craggy towering peaks of Lamarck Col or better yet, head up a favorite lupine lined trail towards Piute pass. **Trailhead access: Piute Pass, Lamarck Lakes, Grass Lake, JMT.**



South Lake



Lake Sabrina



Owens Valley

HIKING

Get into it, on top of it or above it!

Located in the heart of the Eastern Sierra, Bishop's proximity to numerous trailheads and extensive options for resupply make this the perfect High Sierra haven. Whether through-hiking or section-hiking, on a shoestring budget or access to ready funds, going solo or in a group or in need of a guide, Bishop has a broad range of businesses that can accommodate all who tread these trails.

For those who walk all or some of the wild Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) and John Muir Trail (JMT) that thread through the trees, over the rocks, around lakes, across streams, and surmount the high passes of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, the journey always provides something special and wonderful for each person. The 215-mile John Muir Trail (JMT) is one of the best ways to explore all this wilderness area has to offer, and is a wonderful opportunity to "enjoy every mile, every meal, and every vista" as the locals do. About 100 of these miles wind through the Sierra, with a handful of trailheads within 30 minutes of downtown Bishop. Have your camera ready to capture the views of the 13,000-foot peaks and turquoise-colored alpine lakes as you follow Muir's footsteps.



QUICK TIP

Free Wilderness permits for overnight trips are available from the White Mountain Ranger Station in Bishop. Day hiking does not require a permit, so just get out there and enjoy the trails!

MOUNT WHITNEY

highest

On the east side of the Great Western Divide, Mt. Whitney stands 14,505 feet, the tallest mountain in the contiguous United States. Hikers reach the summit through Whitney Portal, 13 miles west of Lone Pine. It's a 10.7 mile hike and requires planning, and a wilderness permit. Pay careful attention to advisories regarding the precautions of hiking at high altitudes, obtained within the **Eastern Sierra Visitor Center**, south of Lone Pine.

A good viewpoint from the car for seeing Mount Whitney is along Whitney Portal Road, west of Movie Flat Road in the Alabama Hills.



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

A permit is required to hike Mt. Whitney. To get one, you'll need to apply through a lottery system, which accepts applications from February 1 through March 15.

..... *local tip* You can take a hike up to Lone Pine Lake without a permit.

SUPPORTED HIKING TRIPS

WILDERNESS PERMITS: All wilderness permits for guests who hire a packer for a supported hiking trip, aka dunnage and cache (pack it in/pack it out) are provided through the Pack Station commercial quota allocation. These wilderness permits are not issued from the general public quota. If you are riding or hiking with a pack station, the permit will be issued from their commercial quota.

local tip

The outfitters listed on **page 52** are professionals at getting food and gear into the high country and make these multi-day hiking trips way more enjoyable. Whether you're hiking the full Pacific Crest Trail, need help getting climbing gear into the backcountry, or just out for a family wilderness experience, this is the way to go.

Facing page, top: Enjoying every mile, every meal, and every vista. (Photo by Gen Matsui); bottom: Mt. Whitney trail. (Photo courtesy of Sierra Mountain Center)

HIGH SIERRA
FOURTEENER
TICKLIST

- Mt. Whitney, 14,505
- Mt. Williamson, 14,389
- White Mountain Peak, 14,252
- North Palisade, 14,249
- Mt. Shasta, 14,179
- Mt. Sill, 14,159
- Mt. Russell, 14,094
- Split Mountain, 14,064
- Mt. Langley, 14,032
- Mt. Tyndall, 14,025
- Mt. Muir, 14,018
- Middle Palisade, 14,018
- Thunderbolt, 14,003
- Polemonium Peak, 14,200
- Starlight Peak, 14,200



Brochure Highlight:

EASY HIKING TRAILS AND WINTER HIKING & WALKING TRAILS

For shorter day hikes closer to Bishop, pick up the Easy Hiking Guide or Winter Hiking Trails at the Bishop Information Center at 690 N. Main Street. We have maps, guides, literature and connections to make sure your high sierra or desert trail adventure is all that you imagined and more.

Please tread lightly along our wilderness trails. Stop in the **Ranger Station at 798 N. Main St.** for permits, bear canisters, and loads of good advice. On the trail be bear aware, pack out waste, leave a clean campsite and never feed wild animals.

IDEAL HOME BASE
FOR EASTERN SIERRA ADVENTURE

Groups Welcome!

- Free Breakfast
- Free Wi-Fi
- Free Parking - Large Spaces for Buses & Trucks
- Swimming Pool & Spa
- Guest Laundry




155 East Elm Street, Bishop (760) 872-1771
www.wyndhamhotels.com/travelodge/bishop-california

BISHOP, CA

Where stars shine,
not street lamps.

The dark skies that envelop the Eastern Sierra draw astronomers and photographers from all over the world. As dark skies become more scarce, experts say that 80% of North Americans and one-third of humanity can no longer see the Milky Way from where they live due to light pollution. Meanwhile, here in the Owens Valley, visitors to our area tell us that they are awestruck by the abundant stars and clarity of the Milky Way on a moonless night. The Milky Way is as obvious here today as it was when Galileo first focused his rudimentary telescope at this phenomenon in 1610 and discovered that it was made up of stars. So, pack your evening snack, a thermos with a hot beverage, layers, a good camera, binoculars, telescope, and tripod if you have one! You get to see the oldest things in the universe here at night, and there are plenty of stargazing points to choose from.

SPOTLIGHT

In addition to seeing the stars in the sky, visitors can tour a state-of-the-art radio telescope array, just 15 minutes south of Bishop. The Owens Valley Radio Observatory (OVRO), run by the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), is one of the largest university-operated observatories in the world and hosts numerous projects in radio astronomy and cosmology.

pick up a guide!

Pick up an OVRO self-guided tour handout at the Bishop Chamber of Commerce and Information Center

NIGHT SKY PHOTOGRAPHY

WHEN & WHERE Night sky viewing is a year-round activity in the Owens Valley and should be coordinated primarily with moon phases, the seasons, timing of astronomical events, and the weather.

ALABAMA HILLS A few miles west of Lone Pine is the Alabama Hills National Scenic Area where a view of Mt. Whitney, the tallest peak in the contiguous USA, can be seen through a natural rock arch named the Mobius Arch. Even better, find the nearby hidden overlooked Lathe Arch.

BISHOP CREEK CANYON LAKES This location is one of the most spectacular settings on the planet. Lake Sabrina or South Lake are picture perfect postcard views almost any time of day. Plan it just right and you could have a perfect photo op trip. From late afternoon into the darkness of night during the **early fall**, reward yourself with the onset of fall leaf color changes while the sun sets. Then, look for the Milky Way arching overhead after sunset.

EASTERN SIERRA OBSERVATORY This is the **year-round** glamping version of a stargazing weekend in the Eastern Sierra. Spend a night under the stars above Bishop with a HUGE telescope, Shiftpod accommodations with padded cots, a huge grill, hot tub and the magic view of the Eastern Sierra. www.easternsierraobservatory.com

BUTTERMILK COUNTRY A great place for a **spring** late-night picnic with kids under a canopy of sparkling stars with giant boulders and Mt. Tom as your backdrop.

BENTON HOT SPRINGS The luxury version for a stargazing weekend in the Eastern Sierra. Spend a night under the stars in one of the 10 campsites, each with its own private hot tub. It's secluded, quiet, and very, very dark on a moonless night. Are your stars aligned for a romantic night out? Oohlala.

MONO LAKE The 'tufa towers' are calcium-carbonate spires and knobs, and a unique feature of this lake, which is a protected California State Park and National Scenic Area. A nighttime visit here has an eerie, alien look from the terrestrial to the extraterrestrial.



"Light takes time to reach Earth's observatories from the depths of space, and so you see objects and phenomena not as they are but as they once were. That means the universe acts like a giant time machine: the farther away you look, the further back in time you see—back almost to the beginning of time itself. Within that horizon of reckoning, cosmic evolution unfolds continuously, in full view."

- Neil deGrasse Tyson, Astrophysicist



Gary Young
photographer



*Eastern Sierra
Landscape & Wildlife
Photography*

Canvas, metal and traditional prints available.
www.garyyoungphotography.com

Facing page: photo by Michael Cheung; above: Alabama Hills (photo by Bernhardt)

MUSEUM DIRECTORY

Take a step back in time...

Owens Valley Paiute-Shoshone Cultural Center

2300 W. Line Street, Bishop • (760) 873-8844
"Manahuu" is the Paiute greeting of welcome or hello. Welcome to this beautiful cultural and historical space that reflects on the Nuumu (Paiute) and Newe (Shoshone), descendants of the Nu-Mu, who were the people who lived in the valley before the pioneer settlers arrived in the 1860s. After taking in the cultural displays and artifacts, take a relaxing walk through the Native Garden and trek along the trail through the Conservation Open Space Area. Check out the gift shop before you leave and pick up a couple keepsakes made by local artisans.

Laws Railroad Museum and Historical Site

Silver Canyon Road, Bishop • (760) 873-5950
www.lawsmuseum.org

"Experience what life was like over 100 year ago." READ MORE ON NEXT PAGE

Eastern California Museum

155 North Grant Street, Independence
(760) 878-0258

The Eastern California Museum has a collection of history, geology, botany, mineralogy and Indian anthropology which includes one of the largest collections of Owens Valley Paiute-Shoshone basketry in the nation. Special exhibits are also featured such as an exhibit about Norman Clyde. Don't miss the coyote dentures!

Historic Mount Whitney Fish Hatchery

1 Golden Trout Circle, Independence
(760) 876-4128
www.mtwhitneyfishhatchery.org

Discover captivating exhibits and awe-inspiring architecture in a picturesque landscape when you visit Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery. Enjoy up-close interaction with fingerling fish and ponds of rainbow and golden trout that guests are welcome to feed. Gain deeper insight into local species when you visit the wildlife center. Learn a little more about the history of one of California's first fish hatcheries - in its prime, it had ability to produce up to 2 million fish per year.



Manzanar (Photo by Bert Dennison)

Manzanar National Historic Site

5001 Highway 395 • (760) 878-2194

"The name Manzanar meant nothing to us when we left Boyle Heights. We didn't know where it was, or what it was. We went because the government ordered us to."

- Jeanne Wakatusuki, Houston, in *Fairwell to Manazar*

This was the first of ten American detention camps, where more than 120,000 Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II from March 1942 to November 1945. Located between the towns of Lone Pine and Independence. More than 10,000 Japanese internees were detained at this remote, military style camp, many of the internees were actually American citizens, some of whom were veterans of WWII who fought for America while their families were held in the camps. Artifacts, archives, oral histories, and more can be explored through the museum collections.

Museum of Western Film History

701 S. Main Street, Lone Pine
(760) 876-9909 • lpmuseum.org

Adjacent to Hollywood's rugged backlot, this one of a kind facility in Lone Pine, introduces you to where the Real West becomes the Reel West. For more than a century, filmmakers have cast the Alabama Hills in over 400 locally set films, not just Westerns. Exhibits contain memorabilia and engaging pieces that preserve the diverse movie history of Lone Pine, Death Valley and the Eastern Sierra. Don't miss the annual film festival in October! Open year-round.

Maturango Museum

100 E. Flores Ave., Ridgecrest
(760) 375-6900 • www.maturango.org

Educational museum providing history exhibits about the Mojave Desert, petroglyph tours & a gift shop. Located in Ridgecrest, this cultural center displays history, geology, minerals, plants and animals of Indian Wells Valley. Local artists display their wares at this facility as well. The museum is known for its guided trips to Little Petroglyph Canyon on nearby China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station. Open Year-round.

Randsburg Desert Museum

161 Butte Ave., Randsburg • (760) 982-9463
www.randdesertmuseum.org

Explore the historic cultural resources and architectural history of the Rand Mining District as well as the prehistoric sites of the upper Mojave Desert Region of California. They have information about Burro Schmidt's tunnel, Red Rock Canyon, Trona, Ballarat, and Skidoo. A great side trip on your way to or from Bishop. FREE entry.

Fishlake Valley Heritage Museum

Highway 264., Dyer Nevada
Next to Esmeralda RV Park • 775-572-3200

This museum contains displays and exhibits depicting frontier life in Fish Lake Valley during the 1800's. For an experience in a remote, seldom-visited part of North America, this geographic sliver of Nevada is the place for you. This facility is part of the White Mountains driving loop which takes about a half day. The museum is 90 minutes east of Bishop.



- Need a place for young children to roam freely on an expansive grass area? **Read on to learn about Laws...**
- Or experience the oldest traditions of our valley - hand games, plus radiant cultural performances at the annual Pow Wow and Tatswano Gathering. **Turn to page 35.**



"It's like stepping back in time. We suggest everyone go here, but if you want your children to understand what it was like to live in the old west, this place is a must. Plus there are trains to explore too." - We3luv2travel

LAWS RAILROAD MUSEUM AND HISTORIC SITE

Laws museum is a window to the past that can be enjoyed by folks of all ages and all walks of life. Train buffs will be enchanted by it. Historians will relish it. Kids will love it. Families will rejoice in a shared wild west experience of hands-on learning and fun activities.

The Laws village is located off Highway 6, about 5 miles north of Bishop. Turn right onto Silver Canyon Road, head into the Laws Railroad Museum and Historic Site. You might be surprised to find that it's not just a regular ol' train museum. The spot was once a small town built around the Laws Railroad Depot. Today, the 11-acre museum, run by the Bishop Museum and Historical Society, features an old saloon, schoolhouse and other buildings and artifacts that celebrate the importance of the railroad to the area. You can actually ride a Death Valley Railroad car from 1927 on select summer and fall weekends, ring the bell in Engine #9, and explore the original 1883 train depot and steam locomotive, the Slim Princess. Admission by donation.

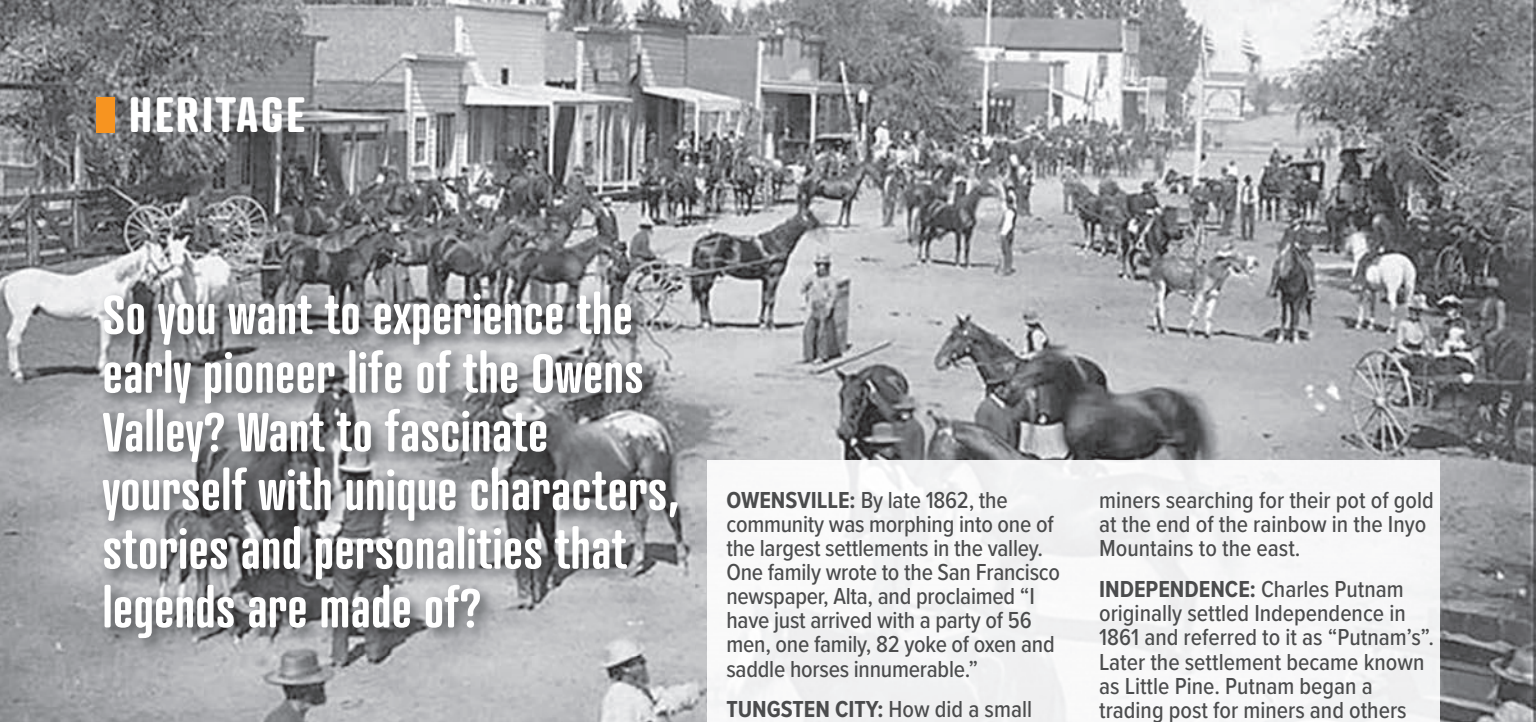
Above top: Laws Railroad Museum and Historical Site (Photo by Emily Taylor); inset: Laws Railroad Museum and Historical Site (Photo by MaxLPhotos)

Event Highlight: Annual Railroad Express

DECEMBER

Come celebrate the holiday season with your kids (and your inner kid) during a day of old world charm and magical holiday train rides. Hop on board the restored Death Valley Railroad Car with a host for the Annual Railroad Express. This holiday themed event is a day filled with joyful activities, hay rides and live entertainment. There's caroling and storytelling, crafts and refreshments, and best of all, Santa and Mrs. Claus come to share the holiday spirit and give the gift of seasons past. It is a marvelous journey back in time in the heart of a bustling western town.

So you want to experience the early pioneer life of the Owens Valley? Want to fascinate yourself with unique characters, stories and personalities that legends are made of?



If so, dive deep into our history, which embodies the “rough and tumble” 1880’s frontier towns of the American West. Explore Owens Valley’s hidden history and travel to the late 1800s to create a vignette of the valley’s historic towns, people, and features that uncover the dreams that lured miners, pioneers, merchants, and farmers to the region.

Carve out a self-made adventure to experience forgotten frontier stories as you discover and seek out locales and cultures that have decayed, vanished, or been replaced by other communities, and why certain settlement locations were preferred over others.

Most sites have little to no physical evidence of their story, while a few have preserved the era’s Wild West frontier spirit in perpetuity. Here are a few snippets to spark your intrigue:

Photo courtesy of Eastern California Museum

OWENSVILLE: By late 1862, the community was morphing into one of the largest settlements in the valley. One family wrote to the San Francisco newspaper, *Alta*, and proclaimed “I have just arrived with a party of 56 men, one family, 82 yoke of oxen and saddle horses innumerable.”

TUNGSTEN CITY: How did a small “pop-up” town in the middle of a dry, barren patch of hills become so important to the World War I effort?

CARDINAL MINE: How would a famous Los Angeles resident, the namesake for a major boulevard lined with expensive real estate, go broke in the Eastern Sierra?

ZURICH/ALVORD: How did this frontier railroad stop get its unique Swiss name? Read the story of how a pioneer woman triggered that action.

DEEP SPRINGS VALLEY TOLL ROAD STATION: As the first mountain men, miners and settlers migrated into the Wild West, no roads and few waterways existed to travel on. Discover how farsighted entrepreneurs created access through this frontier.

CAMP INDEPENDENCE: As the Owens Valley became settled, how did subsequent conflict with local Native Americans reflect the national trend that led to this native culture’s compulsory transformation?

SAN CARLOS & BEND CITY: San Carlos and Bend City were two Owens Valley river towns founded by

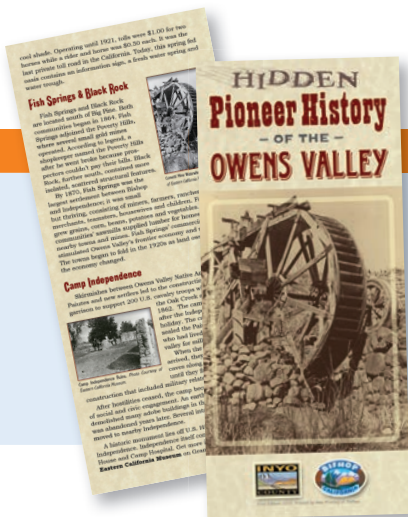
miners searching for their pot of gold at the end of the rainbow in the Inyo Mountains to the east.

INDEPENDENCE: Charles Putnam originally settled Independence in 1861 and referred to it as “Putnam’s”. Later the settlement became known as Little Pine. Putnam began a trading post for miners and others migrating to the valley.

OWENYO: Owenyo offered a unique form of housing that also served as a schoolhouse. Find out in the story where some Owenyoites ended up living.

SWANSEA: Swansea was a short lived boomtown on the east shore of Owens Lake about 10 miles southeast of Lone Pine. The success of the silver mining operations in the nearby Cerro Gordo Mines in the late 1860s spurred a settlement which became a hub for smelting silver ore and transporting the resulting ingots to Los Angeles, more than 200 miles away.

KEELER: When the 1872 Lone Pine earthquake made the pier inaccessible to the shoreline in nearby Swansea, a new wharf was constructed to the south in the community named Hawley. In 1880, the Owens Lake Mining and Milling Company constructed a new ore processing mill for the Cerro Gordo Mines located in the mountains to the east. Julius Keeler, a company agent, laid out the townsite in 1883, and it was later renamed after him.



BROCHURE HIGHLIGHT

Pioneer History of the Owens Valley

Read the story behind these legends, locations and human accomplishments.

Manahüü (Hello)

“We Honor our Past, Share for the Present, and Preserve for the Future.”

~ Paiute Shoshone Cultural Center



Pine Nut Harvesting Display

Long before settlers and gold miners came to the Owens Valley, the indigenous people of this land lived here for thousands of years. They called themselves Nuumu, which means people, and they called this broad fertile valley, Payahuunadü, the Land of Flowing Water. Today the descendants of these people are known by the name Paiute. The Newe, who are today known as Shoshone, lived side by side with the Nuumu and they were all resourceful and practical people who lived from the land.

Through observant practices of hunting and gathering, the land provided all they needed for food, clothing, housing, medicine, arts and entertainment. The harsh winters were made more comfortable because of sustainable methods of harvesting and storage during the seasons of abundance.

The exhibits in the Paiute-Shoshone Cultural Center are beautifully illustrated snapshots of the lives of the people who lived here with dignity and in harmony with the land.

The Paiute-Shoshone Cultural Center is both a museum and cultural center that serves the community and safeguards its history. It is a place to preserve and tell the story of the old ways, and a place for the community to come together to learn, teach and continue the traditional ways.

The Paiute-Shoshone Cultural Center is located at 2300 W. Line Street, the Cultural Center is just one mile from the corner of Main St. and Line St. Ample parking is available on the grounds and visitors are requested to follow all posted directional and parking signage. (760) 873-8844

Above: photos by Emily Taylor

Event Highlight: Annual Pow Wow and Tatswano Gathering

SEPTEMBER

This family friendly event hosted by the Paiute-Shoshone Cultural Center is enjoyed by all, honoring the Paiute way of life. Experience the oldest traditions of our valley, hand games, plus cultural performances with vibrant colors and radiant dancers, native language, chants and songs, native crafts and food booths.

ROAD TRIP:

The Eastern Sierra of California has long been an iconic destination. This larger-than-life landscape of deserts and mountains, alpine forests and spectacular waterfalls, ranks as one of the most photographed regions in the USA. A land of natural extremes, the Eastern Sierra also holds historical and cultural treasures, with human tales as high and low as its altitudes. Now, for those ready to go the distance, there

The highest, lowest, hottest, oldest, wildest 555 miles in America.

is a route that will take you to the furthest extremes of this spectacular part of America.

The E.S.T. is a linear route, spanning over 555 miles, from Death Valley at -282 feet below sea level to the towering peaks of Tioga Pass at 9,943 feet above sea level. You'll want to prepare your vehicle and your senses too, for everything from desert heat to icy mountain mists.



driest/lowest/hottest

DEATH VALLEY – America's Hottest, Driest and Lowest National Park

The extreme nature of this massive desert basin must be experienced to be believed. See one of the largest salt pans on Earth with scenery that would look at home on a desert planet from Star Wars. Yet, despite its name, this area hosts a diversity of life, from lush oases to vast fields of wildflowers that appear after one of its rare rainstorms. You could also add another 'est' to its title, as the **Largest National Park in the Lower 48**. **Open:** Year-round

Traveler Tip: Temperatures can exceed 120 degrees Fahrenheit here in the summer. Bring extra water and plan for extreme heat.

(760) 786-3200 • Nps.gov/deva

MT. WHITNEY – The Highest Peak in the Contiguous US

With spires that rise like dragon's teeth from the horizon, reaching 14,505 feet, Mt. Whitney looks as unassailable as a medieval fortress. Yet the Whitney Portal Road welcomes you, with views that make it one of the most scenic drives in California. For dedicated mountaineers, there is more than one route to the summit of Mount Whitney, the tallest peak in the contiguous United States. (The route from Whitney Portal is a little under 22 miles round trip, with an elevation gain of 6,134 feet). More casual road-trippers may just want to stop for pancakes at the Whitney Portal Store and Café – no doubt, some of the fluffiest (open in the summer). **Open:** June-October depending on snow pack and weather conditions.

Traveler Tip: Whitney Portal Road closes in winter due to snow. You can see Mt. Whitney year-round from the Eastern Sierra Interagency Visitor Center located at the junction of Hwy US 395 and State Route 136 just south of Lone Pine. A permit is required to hike Mt. Whitney.

(760) 876-6200 • Fs.usda.gov/recrea/inyo/recrea/?recid=20698



highest

wildest

3



ALABAMA HILLS – The Wildest West

If you've watched any old western movies, you may have already seen some of the Alabama Hills. This National Scenic Area is home to rounded rock formations, tawny Sierra hills, and hundreds of natural stone arches. The Alabama Hills are a natural playground for hikers, climbers, landscape photographers, plein air painters and nature lovers. **Open:** Year-round

Traveler Tip: Stop by the Museum of Western Film History located in the town of Lone Pine to see artifacts from the many movies filmed here over the years. 701 S Main Street, Lone Pine, CA 93545 Lpmuseum.org

(760) 872-5000 • Blm.gov/visit/alabama-hills

oldest



5



ANCIENT BRISTLECONE PINE FOREST – The Oldest Living Thing

Bristlecone pines grow in the poorest soils and harshest environments, reaching out to the sky from rocky bluffs and outcrops just below the tree line. Some of these gnarled and twisted trees are over 4,700 years old—making them the oldest living things on the planet. Trails from the Visitor Center at Schulman Grove lead you past specimens of varying age and size, with views overlooking the Owens Valley. **Open:** Typically late April to late October, depending on snow and weather conditions.

Traveler Tip: Beyond Schulman Grove is Patriarch Grove—home of the world's largest Bristlecone Pine, the Patriarch Tree.

(760) 873-2500

Fs.usda.gov/detail/inyo/specialplaces/?cid=stelprdb5129900

Retro art images courtesy of Peak Productions.

1. Death Valley (Photo by Emily Taylor); 2. John Muir Trail (Photo by Matt Ludin);

3. Alabama Arch (Photo by Matt Ludin); 5. Bristlecone Pine (Photo by Dennis Flaherty); 6. Hannah Frankson at the social pow wow. (Photo courtesy of The Inyo Register)

4

truest

MANZANAR NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK – The Truest View

If this road trip feels remote to you today, imagine how it must have felt for Japanese families relocated here in 1942. The Manzanar War Relocation Center was one of ten camps at which Japanese American citizens and resident Japanese aliens were incarcerated during World War II. Located between the towns of Lone Pine and Independence, Manzanar is one of the best preserved of these camps. **Open:** Year-round

Traveler Tip: You can explore the site on foot or reserve a free ranger-led program for your group's visit (subject to availability).

(760) 878-2194 (x3310) • Nps.gov/manz

earliest

6

PAIUTE SHOSHONE CULTURAL CENTER – The Earliest Communities

The Owens Valley is home to cultures as old as the Bristlecone pines. A museum and cultural center that serves the community and safeguards its history, Owens Valley Paiute Shoshone Cultural Center offers insights into the Nuumu (Paiute) and Newe (Shoshone) nations that originally inhabited the area. **Open:** Year-round



Traveler Tip: Check their website for seasonal events happening monthly in collaboration with local tribes.

(760) 873-8844

Bishoppaiutetribe.com/owens-valley-paiute-shoshonecultural-center

CALIFORNIA ROAD TRIP





- 1 DEATH VALLEY** America's Hottest, Driest and Lowest National Park
- 2 MT. WHITNEY** The Highest Peak in the Contiguous US
- 3 ALABAMA HILLS** The Wildest West
- 4 MANZANAR NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK** The Truest View

- 5 ANCIENT BRISTLECONE PINE FOREST** The Oldest Living Thing
- 6 PAIUTE SHOSHONE CULTURAL CENTER** The Earliest Communities

- 7 DEVILS POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT** The Strangest Structures
- 8 MONO LAKE** The Saltiest Swim
- 9 BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK** The Loneliest Town
- 10 YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK** The Grandest Landscape

EST • EASTERN SIERRA TOUR



7

DEVILS POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT – The Strangest Structures

Devils Postpile is one of the best examples of natural basalt columns in the world, some reaching as high as 60 feet. Besides these eerie natural stone towers, the Devils Postpile National Monument offers varied opportunities for recreation, from hiking to horseback riding and sightseeing to wildlife and waterfall viewing at Rainbow Falls. **Open:** May-October

Traveler Tip: A mandatory shuttle bus into Reds Meadow/Devils Postpile leaves Mammoth Mountain Main Lodge continuously throughout the day.

(760) 934-2289 • nps.gov/depo



strangest

saltiest

8



MONO LAKE – The Saltiest Swim

The largest natural lake in California, Mono Lake is an amazing 2.5 times saltier than the ocean and is one of the western hemisphere's oldest lakes. Mono Lake is one of the most studied—and photographed—bird sanctuaries in North America and is also a beautiful ever-changing oasis of light and color. Photographers love its jagged snow-capped mountain reflections and the eerie spires, with the best displays located at the South Tufa Reserve. **Open:** Year-round

Traveler Tip: Drop by one of the two visitor information centers in Lee Vining and find out how Mono Lake's mystical-looking limestone tufa towers are formed and how the lake was saved.

(760) 647-6331 • Parks.ca.gov/?page_id=514

BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK – The Loneliest Town

In 1880, the town of Bodie was home to some 10,000 miners, store owners, gunfighters, robbers and people from every part of the world. Now it's a ghost town of weathered buildings, rust and faded dreams. Bodie remains impressively well preserved. You can book ghost walks and tours, or just spend hours wandering its streets, peering in windows and listening for the past. **Open:** Bodie is open year-round, however vehicle access on Hwy 270 into the park is open April-November, depending on weather and snow conditions.

Traveler Tip: Daily tours of the Stamp Mill may be offered for a small fee per person. Visit the Museum for current information and to register.

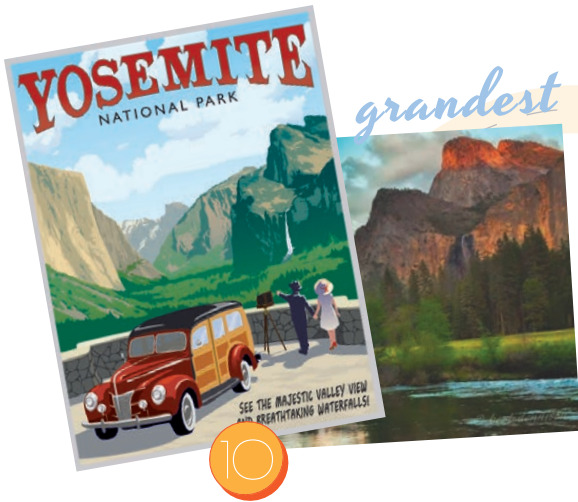
(760) 616-5040 • Parks.ca.gov/?page_id=509



9

loneliest

7. Devils Postpile (Photo by Amy Leist); 9. Bodie (Photo by Dennis Flaherty); 10. Yosemite (Photo by Bert Dennison)
Retro art images courtesy of Peak Productions.



**YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK –
The Grandest Landscape**

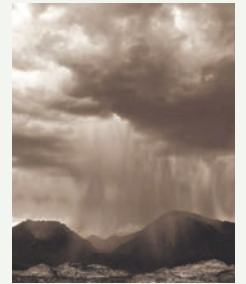
For centuries, people have tried to put into words the majesty that is Yosemite. From epic spring waterfalls to towering granite icons like El Capitan and Half Dome, to giant sequoia groves, the whole vista seems designed to make humans feel small. **Open:** Tioga Pass Hwy 120 (the east entrance) is open May-November depending on snow and weather conditions. Yosemite National Park is open year-round.

Traveler Tip: Plan to arrive early! Parking and traffic can be an issue, plan to arrive at your destinations before 9 am. Better yet, take a YARTS tour-style bus into Yosemite without a worry about traffic or parking. Purchase advance tickets at YARTS.com.

(2090 372-0200 • Nps.gov/yose)



**TRAVEL
TIP**

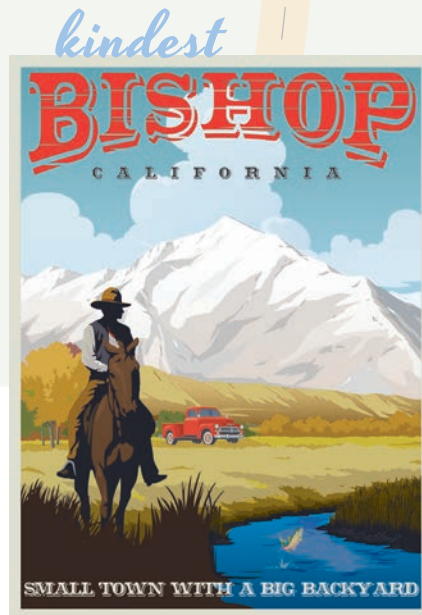


Snow storms close many roads in the White Mountains and the Sierra. The access roads to the Bristlecone Pines, Devils Postpile, Bodie, John Muir Trail, Pacific Crest Trail and Yosemite are **CLOSED in winter**.

Thunderstorm over Buttermilks. (Photo by Rick Kattelmann)

**X
MARKS THE
SPOT**

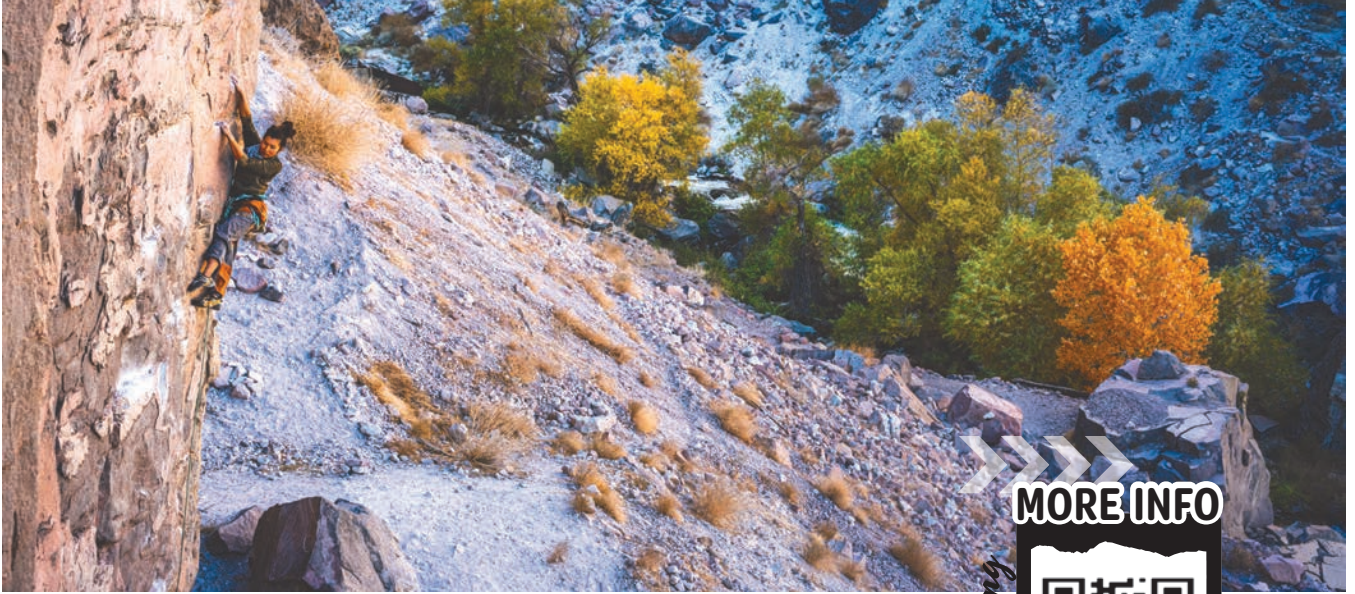
For years, travelers have been charmed by the welcoming spirit of our residents. From friendly shopkeepers to helpful locals on the trail, kindness seems woven into the very fabric of Bishop. Whether you're seeking outdoor adventure or a small-town escape, Bishop's welcoming embrace will make you feel right at home.



Be sure to pick up a Treasure Map

**Bishop Information Center
690 N. Main Street • Bishop, CA 93514**

These retro-style posters can be purchased at the Bishop Information Center.



Why Bishop Rocks

There are a thousand reasons why Bishop rocks. My hands sweat just thinking about it. Whether you're a gym climber, boulderer, sport climber, Sierra trad master, or a dabbler of all, Bishop, California is a world-class climbing mecca that is lucky enough to have playgrounds full of boulders with everything from sit starts to a plenitude of towering boulders that tempt fate.

But do we deem ourselves worthy? There are scores of world-class outdoor activities to be enjoyed. The city is

small and attractive. The community is vibrant. The people are friendly. There is art, music and culture to be enjoyed. There is a wonderful selection of restaurants serving quality food for your body and libations for your spirit. Options for accommodations range from full service campgrounds to hostels to hotels & motels to airbnb vacation homes. And... this is the place Farm to Crag was created, the home to world-renowned heroes of climbing.

Above: photo by Eric Bissell; facing page, top: photo by Chris Beauchamp; inset: photo by Andy Liu.

camping

For many of us camping is a way to escape the urbanized world and get close, really close, to nature. Dispersed camping is very delicate in the Bishop region. Please use an established campground to protect our big backyard. Areas that have been used for dispersed camping have become degraded with human waste and other trash. It is important to both park and camp only in the areas that have already been impacted.

****Be mindful - when people park vehicles or pitch tents further into brush, outside of previously impacted areas, this creates sprawl, compacts topsoil and hinders plant regrowth.**

**SAVE MORE
FOR WHAT YOU
TRAVEL FOR**



**MOTEL 6
IN BISHOP**

Convenient Downtown
Location Near Tri-County
Fair & Event Center

Clean & Comfortable
Rooms

Swimming Pool

Pet Friendly

1005 NORTH MAIN STREET
(760) 873-8426
WWW.MOTEL6.COM

DO NOT
CAMP OR
BUILD FIRES AT
THE PARKING
AREA

#1 Buttermilk Country BOULDERING MECCA

Buttermilk Country is fondly called the “Buttermilks” or simply the “Milks” by climbers and is considered by many to be the best bouldering area in the country. It is certainly California’s premier bouldering spot. This granite playground offers everything from fun scrambling to highly technical problems that challenge even the world’s best climbers.

From downtown Bishop, take W. Line Street/Highway 168 west towards the Sierra. After eight miles or so, turn right onto Buttermilk Road. Follow this bumpy, washboard road for approximately 3.5 miles to the main area on your right. The boulders are REALLY BIG on the right side of the road. Park in designated areas.

#2 The Gorge SPORT CLIMBING MECCA

The Owens River Gorge (ORG) is a deep, steep-sided canyon about 10 miles long and is home to the most concentrated high quality sport climbing in all of California. With about one thousand routes to choose from, you’ll have your pick on excellent rock between sun or shade, technical slab or thin pocketed face climbing or go big and send the Eldorado roof. The volcanic tuff features edges, pockets and cracks and is best in the 5.10 to 5.11 range.

A drive of about 12 miles from Bishop north on US Highway 395, then a further 5 miles along Gorge Rd will get you to the parking areas.

#3 The Volcanic Tableland (Happy & Sad Boulders) BOULDERING

Just 10 minutes north of Bishop, at the southern edge of the 300-foot high Volcanic Tableland are numerous washes filled with perfect boulders that will make you SMILE. The Bishop Tuff has been sculpted, cracked and pockmarked to provide hundreds of worthy bouldering problems. This is a great place to escape the winter chill.

Reach the Happy and Sad boulders by going north on Highway 6 from Bishop and turning west on Five Bridges Road. Follow Five Bridges road for approx. 1 mile to the Sad Boulder parking and 1.5 miles to the Happy Boulder parking.

#4 Pine Creek Canyon

TRADITIONAL CLIMBING & SPORT CLIMBING

This classic example of a deep glacial canyon is Bishop’s best offer of summer granite climbing, featuring over 630 multi-pitch, traditional and sport climbing routes, all set between Mount Tom and Wheeler Crest. It has a long and proud history of climbing greats who have put up classic and technically challenging routes.

Travel north from Bishop along US Highway 395 then west along Pine Creek road to reach this alpine destination.



Event Highlight

The Fall Highball Craggin’ Classic returns to Bishop, in November.

Flash Foxy brings together a diverse community of climbers over an amazing weekend of climbing, clinics, and films in March.

Do Good. Be Good. Feel Good.

follow the trail...



It's proven. Nature is flat out good medicine! The health of our community, our businesses and our guests is paramount. We encourage responsible recreation from residents and guests alike. Be considerate of other visitors. The earlier it starts the longer it lasts. Let's pass this on.

PREPARE

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Before you head off into the great outdoors know what it is you want to do and plan the experience accordingly. Is it the right season for it? Is the road or facility open? How difficult or easy is the activity going to be and is it suitable for you and/or everyone in your group? How long will it take and do you have all the right gear and provisions? How will you stay safe and what will you do in case of an emergency?

****Tag Responsibly: sharing images and stories with care and consideration for the places we visit by limiting geo-tagging can save a landscape for generations to come. Exploration and experience are very personal, so let's all care when we share.**

PLAN AHEAD

We can help. Reach out to the folks at the Bishop Information Center. Tell our friendly, knowledgeable staff about your intended visit and ask questions. We have experience and can help you plan a great escape – one that will leave you wanting to come back for more and one that will leave the area in as good or better condition than you found it. If it's too busy, we can help with a plan B. Be our guest. Be your best.

****Chances are part of your route will not have cell phone coverage. Many paved and dirt roads and trails in Inyo County have no cell service. Plan accordingly.**

PROTECT

LEAVE NO TRACE (LNT)

Feet, hooves, and wheels can cause damage to landscapes. All outdoor adventurers should plan trips knowing the rules and regulations of the areas they plan to visit. While the mountains seem rugged, they are actually quite fragile. Proper Leave No Trace habits help preserve the lands for those who follow in your footsteps. Practice these seven principles and participate with us in teaching and creating good, sustainable habits

****Finders are not keepers, archeological resources are protected by law and should be left in place. When we take only pictures and disturb nothing, we preserve both the memories and the places for those who are with us and those who come after us. We strongly suggest visiting the Paiute Shoshone Cultural Center to learn more about the history of these lands.**

DIFFICULTY

Ready for some high country adventure? Most of the trailheads start at 8,000 ft – 10,000 ft in elevation and go up from there! Many people find the altitude challenging, so it's a good idea to take it slow and spend a day or two to acclimate at altitude before embarking on a long journey. Drink plenty of water and arrive well-rested to increase your ability to adapt to the thin air.

****Put the outdoors on a healthy path and stick to the roads and trails.**

TRAVELING AND SAFETY IN WILDERNESS

With the short 30-minute drive from town to most trailheads, it's easy to think that amenities are close by, but things like cell phone service are not available on the trails. Plan on being self-sufficient and don't underestimate the power of nature: sudden afternoon thunderstorms are frequent, and temps can drop suddenly as a storm approaches. Know lightning safety and carry an extra layer or waterproof shell on your hike. If clouds are building by noon, there is a good chance of rain in the afternoon. Despite all this talk of rain, conditions are sunny most of the time—therefore a sun hat and sunscreen are also high country musts.

STAY TOGETHER. Most search and rescue emergencies happen when parties split up.

TURN AROUND BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE. The only cure to altitude sickness is rapid descent.

OWNERSHIP. You are responsible for your own safety and rescue is never guaranteed.

PREPARE AND TRAIN. Bring the gear you need and know how to use it before you go.

PRESERVE

Practice good outdoor etiquette:

WATER

Hike with an ample supply of water. The Eastern Sierra's arid climate might surprise you, necessitating more water than you think. Any drinking water obtained from sources on the trail may contain Giardia (which causes moderate to severe intestinal upset) and needs to be treated.

FIRE

This big backyard is in the severe fire hazard zone. Get a permit. Don't ever leave your fire unattended. If there is a fire ring, use it, please don't create new ones. Keep the fire small and under control. To extinguish your fire, Drown, Stir, Feel. One less spark means one less fire. Check local fire restrictions and use common sense.

****What is the difference between a campfire and a wildfire? Your skills and how responsible you are. A single mismanaged and mishandled campfire can destroy our vulnerable landscape.**

POOP



We care where you go. It is important to be prepared for when nature calls. If a toilet is unavailable at your destination, be sure to use a wag bag and pack out all waste (including toilet paper). Never bury or burn your toilet paper.

PERPETUATE DOGS

Bring your canine best friend with you on a hike in the National Forest! Trails are dog-friendly, although dogs must be under control at all times, whether under verbal control or on a leash. And the Forest Service asks that you pick up after your dog and keep them from chasing animals in their natural habitat.

We are dog lovers in Bishop, but sometimes owners behave badly. If you're headed to a busy area for fishing, climbing or bouldering with a dog, we ask you to leave your dogs at home. If this is not an option, please keep your dog on a leash and be sure to clean up after your dog. No one wants to put their bouldering pad or climbing shoes in dog doo-doo.

WILDLIFE

All kinds of wildlife roam these areas. Respect their home. Give all wildlife their space – keep control of pets (always leash pets in high use areas), and avoid quick movements/loud noises. Also, be sure not to leave out food. Feeding wildlife of any kind is illegal, and harmful.

****Wild animals remain wild and safe when we respect their habits and habitats. Keep animals wild!**

CAMPING

For many of us camping is a way to escape the urbanized world and get close, really close, to nature. Dispersed camping is very delicate in the Bishop region. Please use an established campground to protect our big backyard. Areas that have been used for dispersed camping have become degraded with human waste and other trash. It is important to both park and camp only in the areas that have already been impacted.

****Be mindful - when people park vehicles or pitch tents further into brush, outside of previously impacted areas, this creates sprawl, compacts topsoil and hinders plant regrowth.**

DIRT ROAD CODE

Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV's) have access to nearly 2200 miles of trails and roads leading through a million acres of non-wilderness lands surrounding Bishop. Be a pro out here and help balance the effort required to get these trails open. Please stay on designated routes.

****If you come through a cattle guard that has a closed gate, please leave it as you found it.**

PACK IT IN / PACK IT OUT

Whether you hike in, bike in, drive in, or ride in, it is vital that we pack out everything we take in.

**** Teach children and others the value of nature and our protected lands. Your own backyard is a great place to start teaching kids about good outdoor habits.**

#loveBishop
#loveEasternSierra



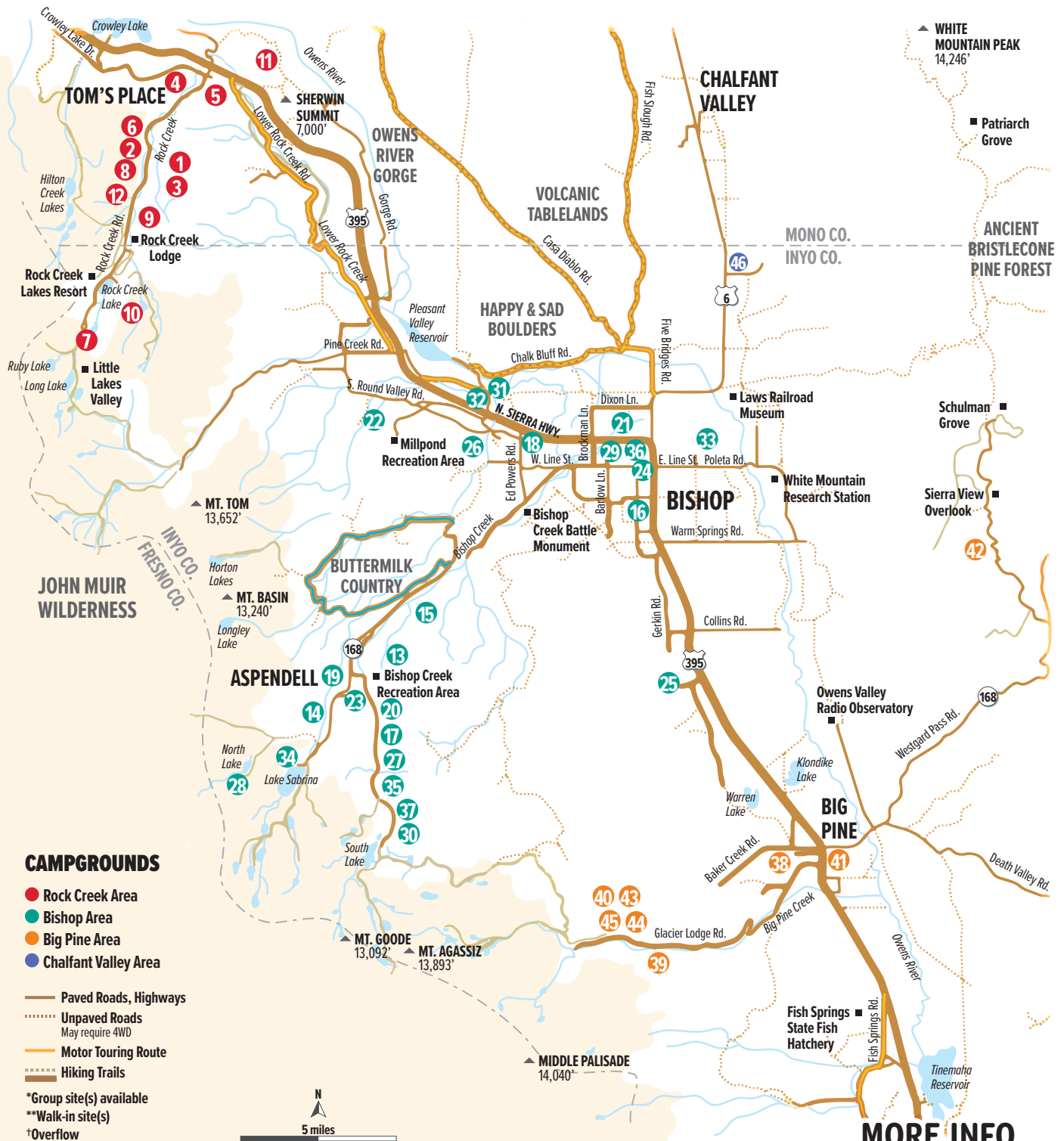
TOGETHER WE CAN;

- **Protect** our public lands like those who came before us,
- **Preserve** our public lands for those who will come after us,
- **Participate** in taking good care of our public lands for all of us to enjoy right now, and
- **Perpetuate** the benefits by taking the pledge.

take the pledge...



BISHOP AREA CAMPGROUNDS



MORE INFO



For campground reservations:
reserveamerica.com
recreation.gov

INTERACTIVE CAMPING MAP

BISHOP AREA CAMPGROUNDS

*Group site(s) available **Walk-in site(s) †Overflow

Rock Creek Area

CAMPGROUNDS	SEASON	PHONE
1 Aspen*	May-Sept.	(760) 873-2500
2 Big Meadow	May-Sept.	(760) 873-2500
3 East Fork	May-Oct.	(760) 873-2500
4 French Camp	May-Oct.	(760) 873-2500
5 Holiday†	Open in Winter	(760) 873-2500
6 Iris Meadow	May-Sept.	(760) 873-2500
7 Mosquito Flat Trailhead**	June-Oct.	(760) 873-2500
8 Palisade (Group)	May-Sept.	(760) 873-2500
9 Pine Grove	May-Sept.	(760) 873-2500
10 Rock Creek Lake*	May-Sept.	(760) 873-2500
11 Tuff	May-Oct.	(760) 873-2500
12 Upper Pine Grove	May-Sept.	(760) 873-2500

Bishop Area


13 Big Trees	May-Oct.	(760) 873-2500
14 Bishop Park*	May-Oct.	(760) 873-2500
15 Bitterbrush	Year-round	(760) 873-2500
16 Brown's Town	March-Nov.	(760) 873-8522
17 Creekside RV Park	April-Oct.	(760) 873-4483
18 Elks Park	April-Oct.	(760) 873-3221
19 Forks	May-Oct.	(760) 873-2500
20 Four Jeffrey	May-Oct.	(760) 873-2500
21 Highlands RV Park	Year-round	(760) 873-7616
22 Horton Creek	May-Oct.	(760) 872-5000
23 Intake II**	May-Oct.	(760) 873-2500
24 J Diamond Mobile Ranch	Year-round	(760) 872-7341
25 Keough's Hot Springs	Year-round	(760) 872-4670
26 Brown's Millpond	March-Oct.	(760) 873-5342
27 Mountain Glen	May-Sept.	(760) 873-2500
28 North Lake	June-Sept.	(760) 873-2500
29 Paiute Palace Casino RV Lot	Year-round	(760) 872-3547
30 Parchers Resort	May-Oct.	(760) 873-4177
31 Pleasant Valley	Year-round	(760) 873-5577
32 Pleasant Valley Pit	Year-round	(760) 872-5000
33 Shady Rest Trailer Park	Year-round	(760) 873-3430
34 Sabrina	May-Sept.	(760) 873-2500
35 Table Mountain*	May-Sept.	(760) 873-2500
36 Tri-County Fairgrounds	Year-round	(760) 873-3588
37 Willow	May-Sept.	(760) 873-2500

Big Pine Area


38 Baker Creek	Year-round	(760) 873-5577
39 Big Pine Creek	May-Oct.	(760) 873-2500
40 Clyde Glacier*	June-Sept.	(760) 873-2500
41 Glacier View	Year-round	(760) 872-6911
42 Grandview	April-Nov.	(760) 873-2500
43 Palisade Glacier*	May-Sept.	(760) 873-2500
44 Sage Flat	May-Oct.	(760) 873-2500
45 Upper Sage Flat	May-Oct.	(760) 873-2500

Chalfant Valley Area 46 Flo's Diner

Year-Round (760) 873-7000



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White Mountain Visitor Center

Official partner of:  Photo by Don Chambers

■ RIDE ON

Choose your ride. Choose your adventure.



Biking in Bishop offers year-round rides in one of the most topographically diverse and beautiful regions in our country. Eastern Sierra paved roads are remarkably safe, some with good wide shoulders, and others with such light vehicle traffic use that a road cyclist can ride for hours and miles without seeing more than just a handful of cars.

The abundance of dirt trails and tracks is almost endless, with access to mountain biking and gravel rides ranging from super easy and leisurely, to highly technical and challenging – and everything in between.

Bishop, the Owens Valley, and nearby areas provide extensive opportunity for casual road riding and serious endurance training for the competition cyclist. With wide open spaces, many routes begin in the vast Owens Valley and have breathless elevation gain climbs to alpine lakes with Bishop's big backyard views. While the routes include some of the longest and steepest climbs anywhere in the world, there is

always an abbreviated version for the mere mortal.

If you like grueling climbs with incredible views, add these magnificent mountain roads to your tick-list: **Onion Valley, Glacier Lodge, Bishop Creek Canyon** (home to Lake Sabrina, and South Lake), **Pine Creek Canyon, Upper and Lower Rock Creek, and the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest**, all near or above 10,000 feet above sea level. At the trailheads, check your brakes, and get ready for a perma-grin ride all the way back down!

The photo above by **Michael McDermott** is a local mellow favorite through **Round Valley**. This is a ride that has a little of everything in just the right measure. It has some short uphill and downhills, sharp corners and sweeping bends. You'll work hard enough to stay warm, but not so hard that you can't lift your head and admire the awe-inspiring views. The route follows quiet country lanes and a pleasant, car free ride along the shores of the Pleasant Valley Reservoir.

DID YOU KNOW?



Many road cycling websites and forums rank rides up steep mountain roads in categories like, toughest climbs, most elevation gained, highest elevation attained, most scenic, best mountain ride, and more. The mountain roads of the Eastern Sierra consistently rank in the **top ten lists** for California and the US, and even 3 of the **Top 100 World Climbs** lie within a 25 mile radius of Bishop, CA.

Bike Shop & Rentals

Aerohead Cycles 107 S. Main Street
(760) 873-4151 • aeroheadcycles.com

E-Bike Bishop ebikebishop.com

Photo by Emily Taylor



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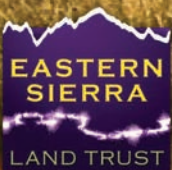
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ROUND VALLEY

SCENIC MOTOR TOUR: 1-3 HOURS

Discover enormous scenery, history, and wildlife on this stretch of old Highway 395. The tour begins at Bishop and climbs to 7,000 feet where it ends at current Highway 395 south of Tom's Place. It weaves through grand views of the northern Owens Valley revealing striking and immense geologic landscapes that dominate this Eastern Sierra locale.

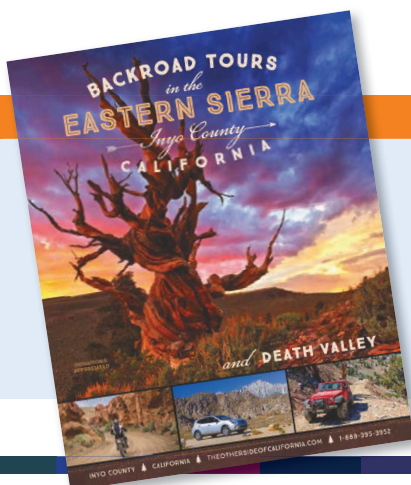
Begin your motor tour at the Bishop Chamber of Commerce and Information Center. Head south on Main Street to West Line Street. Turn west toward the Sierra Nevada and proceed several miles to Ed Powers Road. Turn right, heading north. Proceed to Sawmill Road where you turn left (west) toward Mill Pond County Park. Follow Sawmill Road to South Round Valley Road where you turn left (north.)

As you enter Round Valley, hulking Mt. Tom looms over your drive while birds of prey, mule deer, horses, and cattle serve as subject matter for photographers. Follow this road all the way to Pine Creek Road. At the 4-way stop, turn left (west)

and proceed up Pine Creek Canyon. Pine Creek Canyon, a short side trip off the loop exposes you to massive ice age granite walls miniaturizing all who visit. Pine Creek Crags trail, located several miles up the canyon, is a short 20 minute hike to a jaw dropping high wall slot canyon where granite monoliths pierce the sky. After your side trip into Pine Creek Canyon, return back to Pine Creek Road heading east. Turn north onto Lower Rock Creek Road (aka Old Sherwin Grade Road) and proceed north for about 13 miles on this historic highway which became the first paved road to Mammoth Lakes during the 1920s. This road terminates at US Highway 395 just south of Tom's Place. Watch for road bicyclists as you gently cruise along this paved loop.

Discover the back roads, scenic locations and roads less-traveled of the Eastern Sierra by following one of many motor touring routes and remote dirt roads around the Bishop area. Many of the easier routes can be found in the award-winning publication, "**Backroad Tours in the Eastern Sierra.**"

Photo by Gigi DeJong



GUIDE FEATURE

Pick up a copy!

Pick up this award-winning publication at the Bishop Information Center.

You can request this Backroad Tours Guide by mail for a donation and shipping costs, if you prefer to have one sent to you. A free digital version is available at www.bishopvisitor.com. Also available, OHV maps.

HORSEBACK RIDING & PACK TRIPS

DISCOVER THE EASTERN SIERRA the way our ancestors did - swing into the saddle for an hour, a day or a week!

Many professional pack outfits offer trips into the deep canyons that stretch the length of the Eastern Sierra. Gentle, mountain-savvy horses and mules can make your exploration very enjoyable. Let the horses do the walking while you take in the beauty of dense pine forests, open meadows, rushing creeks and alpine lakes. Pack stations offer picnic and scenic rides as well as extended trips into the wilderness. The professional pack stations listed in this guide are all members of the Bishop Area Chamber of Commerce.



PACK STATIONS & HORSEBACK RIDING

Hourly and overnight trips available.

BISHOP PACK OUTFITTERS

247 Cataract Rd., Aspendell

(760) 873-4785 • www.bishoppackoutfitters.net

Service areas: Humphreys Basin, Sabrina Basin, John Muir Trail, Horton Lakes, Lamarck Lakes

CONVICT LAKE RESORT

(760) 934-3800. 1 & 2-hour and half-day rides. May-Sept.

COTTONWOOD PACK STATION

P.O. Box 248, Bishop • (559) 478-2258

Service areas: Horseshoe Meadows, Cottonwood Lakes, Inyo National Forest, Sequoia and Kings National Park, Golden Trout Wilderness

FRONTIER PACK TRAIN

P.O. Box 656, June Lake

(888) 437-MULE • www.frontierpacktrain.com

Service areas: Ansel Adams Wilderness, John Muir Trail, Thousand Island Lake, Yosemite

MCGEE CREEK PACK STATION

(760) 935-4324. Ask for Carissa. Tell her "Joe" sent you.

MT. WHITNEY PACK TRAINS

P.O. Box 248, Bishop

(760) 872-8331 • www.rockcreekpackstation.com

Service areas: Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks, Golden Trout Wilderness

RAINBOW PACK OUTFITTERS

5845 South Lake Rd., Bishop

(760) 873-8877 • www.rainbowpackoutfit.com

Service areas: Bishop Basin, Dusy Basin, John Muir and Pacific Crest Trails, Sequoia Kings Canyon National Park, Inyo National Forest



Facing page, top: Mules in a meadow by McGee Creek Pack Station (Photo courtesy of McGee Creek); inset: Riders in Big Pine Canyon. (Photo by Julie Faber); above: Bishop City Council Member Stephen Muchovej on horseback. (Photo by Erik Leitch)

ROCK CREEK PACK STATION

P.O. Box 248, Bishop

(760) 872-8331 • www.rockcreekpackstation.com

Service areas: Mt. Whitney Pack Trains, Hilton Lakes, Mono Pass, Little Lakes Valley, Golden Trout Wilderness, Southern Sierra Wilderness, Sequoia and Kings National Parks

VIRGINIA LAKES PACK OUTFIT

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TRAIL RUNNING

trail runners who know...



...know that Bishop, California is trail-running heaven. Featured as a **Top Trail Town** by *Trail Runner* magazine, sunny Bishop was the site of a Trail Runner Photo Camp, to take advantage of the incredible light, towering mountains, and miles upon miles of flowing trails.



Good Run

If you want to start out with a nice, easy run with little elevation change on a soft, even surface, then try out the the **Bishop Canals** or **Fish Slough**. With the sun on your shoulders and a cool stream or pond nearby for a refreshing post-run dip, it's a good introduction to the trails around town.

Better Run

Tungsten Hills - Named for the tungsten that was mined here until the late 1940s these hills are composed primarily of granite and quartz diorite. It's a favorite place for rock hounding, and crystals of red garnet can still be found here. However, if you're on a mission to run, the seemingly endless roads and trails will keep your attention focused on the task. If you're a

seasoned trail runner the only thing that will leave you breathless ... is the view! Start from Tungsten City Rd at just a little over 6 miles from the Bishop Information Center or from **Millpond Recreation Area**, which has maintained amenities, such as: ample parking, restrooms, picnic areas, and a playground. If you're visiting with a group of friends or family that include non-runners this is the venue for you.

Best Way to Run

Recreation use of these wilderness trails and areas have occurred for many years

by hikers, backpackers and pack stock outfitters. Originally, indigenous people created the first trail systems for trade, hunting and food gathering. In the 1900s, packers added trails to promote more outdoor recreation. As a wilderness steward, please be alert to encountering these groups while running. You can expect to sometimes see impacts from these uses which have been determined to be acceptable in wilderness. Consider the presence and acceptance of other users as you share the trail in order to contribute to positive backcountry experiences for all.

Downtown shops have everything you need to hit your stride in and around Bishop. Fuel up before or after your run at any one of our **local eateries** on page 66 and relax those tired muscles in some **hot springs** on page 23.



Everyday Play



Feeling Competitive?

JANUARY - MARCH

- Winter 5K Race Series (Bishop) - Hosted by Sage to Summit

MAY

- High Sierra Ultras (Bishop) - 20 Mile, 50K, 50 Mile, 100K
- Cerro Gordo Silver Run - 8 miles UP!

SEPTEMBER

- Tioga Pass Run 12.4 Miles (Lee Vining)
- Mammoth Trail Fest

OCTOBER

- Wild Wild West Marathon (Lone Pine) - 10 Mile, Marathon, 50K, 50 Mile
- Range of Light races (Bishop)

DESTINATION BISHOP.

“The Owens Valley could be coined the Chamonix Valley of the Eastern Sierra.”

- Tim Tollefson, professional trail runner, physical therapist and Mammoth Lakes resident.

“The valley floor sits at 4,000 feet, and the corridor is lined by 14,000-foot peaks along its east and west sides. With such huge vertical relief and no shortage of trailheads, the valley provides a lifetime of exploration and challenges.”

- Meghan Hicks and Eric Senseman

Facing page: Dayna Stimson hits the spring paydirt of the Volcanic Tableland's Fish Slough with the Sierra Crest still cloaked in winter; above: Jeff Kozak and Sierra Burror cruise past Long Lake on the Bishop Pass trail as the sunrise glows on Mt Goode. (Photos by Michael McDermott)

EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

MORE INFO



*complete list
of events*

ART FISHING HOLIDAYS SHOPPING RODEOS GOLF
HISTORY MUSIC CLIMBING CULTURE WILDLIFE

Many clubs, groups and businesses find Bishop is the perfect place for gathering, learning and sharing. The annual event line-up is as diverse and interesting as the people and landscapes of this region. There is certainly something here for everyone! Check the calendar at www.bishopvisitor.com for exact dates & more event details. Interested in bringing a new event to Bishop? Call the Chamber of Commerce for planning assistance (760) 873-8405.

JANUARY-MARCH

Winter 5K Race Series. Hosted by Sage to Summit, these races at Millpond Recreation Area are good fun and great fundraisers for local non-profits. Visit sagetosummit.com to learn more.

Blake Jones Trout Derby. Every year in mid-March, hundreds of anglers come to Bishop for one of the largest & longest running fish derbies in the State. Fish Pleasant Valley Reservoir and Owens River near Bishop. Blind bogey format, \$10K in cash & prizes, awards for adults, kids, big fish, even no fish or catch & release. Organized by Bishop Chamber of Commerce & Information Center.

Flash Foxy Climbing Festival. Clinics, demos, social events & more. www.flashfoxy.com

APRIL

Manzanar Pilgrimage. Delegation of Japanese-Americans and others return to Manzanar to pay tribute to the internees. Organized by Manzanar Committee. www.manzanarcommittee.org

Owens Lake Bird Festival. Field trips, info displays, workshops, photography and fun for all birding enthusiasts. Visit www.friendsoftheinyo.org for more information.

Fishmas! The last Saturday in April marks the beginning of the general trout season opener in the Eastern Sierra.

MAY

Choo Choo Swap Meet. It's like 100 yard sales in one spot!! Find a deal on the first Saturday each May at the Tri-County Fairgrounds in Bishop. Call (760) 873-5950 for more info.

High Sierra Ultra. 20 mile, 55k, 50 mile and 100k races with spectacular wide-open views of the Owens Valley and adjacent High Sierra.

Memorial Day Arts & Crafts Fair. Fine art, pottery, jewelry, clothing, home furnishings and more on display at Bishop City Park. Friday-Sunday 9am-6pm, Monday 9am-2pm. Hosted by Inyo Council for the Arts. www.inyo.org

Rambling Peaks Festival. A grassroots, community-focused music and arts festival!
www.ramblingpeaksfestival.com/

Mule Days Celebration. Wild West packing competitions, concerts, educational clinics, western-themed vendors and much, much more! www.muledays.org

JUNE

California High School Rodeo State Finals Championship. Student athletes from the entire State meet in Bishop to compete for top honors and the opportunity to advance to Nationals. www.chsra.com. For tickets contact Bishop Chamber of Commerce (760) 873-8405.

Junior Livestock Show and Auction. Local 4-H & FFA youth bring their livestock projects to the Tri-County Fair & Event Center to show and sell. www.tricountyfair.com

Community Band. Local musicians entertain in Bishop City Park at the Gazebo Mondays from 8-9 pm through Labor Day. Music will include marches, popular songs, jazz arrangements and popular novelty numbers. This is a free event. (760) 382-0127

JULY

4th of July. Join the Independence Day celebration in Bishop City Park with live music, food trucks, swimming, decorated bike & scooter pageant and spectacular aerial fireworks display.

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

Eastern Sierra Tri-County Fair. Labor Day weekend is a big one in Bishop! Rodeo, carnival, destruction derby, concerts, 1000's of homemade & homegrown items on display, great food, vendors & more. (760) 873-3588
www.tricountyfair.com





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EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

Labor Day Arts & Crafts Fair. Fine art, pottery, jewelry, clothing, home furnishings and more on display at Bishop City Park. Friday-Sunday 9am-6pm, Monday 9am-2pm. Hosted by Inyo Council for the Arts. (760) 873-8014. www.inyo.org

Millpond Music Festival. Laid-back, family friendly festival in the shadow of the Sierra Nevada. The world-class music lineup is complimented by kids' activities, arts and crafts booths, and food vendors – all in the beautiful outdoor setting of the Millpond County Park just outside of Bishop. Organized by Inyo Council for the Arts. (760) 873-8014. www.inyo.org

Pabanamanina Pow Wow and California Native American Day Celebration. Parade, traditional dancing, hand games, arts & crafts, music, food and more. For more information, contact Paiute Palace Casino (760) 873-4150.

OCTOBER

Choo Choo Swap Meet. It's like 100 yard sales in one spot!" Find a deal on the first Saturday each October at the Tri-County Fairgrounds in Bishop. Call (760) 873-5950 for more info.

Fall Colors Car Show. See hundreds of classic cars the first weekend of October at the Bishop City Park.

Lone Pine Film Festival. If you love Western movies, then don't miss this! Tours, stars, panels, parade, memorabilia dealers, arts & crafts, music & more. Contact The Museum of Western Film History (760) 876-9909. www.lpmuseum.org

Wild West Marathon. A trail race through the great Alabama Hills and the foothills of Mt. Whitney. 50M, 50K, a marathon and a ten mile. The route is also walker friendly. Organized by Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce www.lonepinechamber.org.

NOVEMBER

American Alpine Club's Fall Highball Craggin' Classic. Demos, clinics, film screenings, stewardship. www.cragginclassic.com.

VCMC Dual Sport Rally. Two-day motorcycle rally explores desert & mountain routes with home base at the Tri-County Fair & Event Center. Organized by Ventura County Motorcycle Club. www.venturacountymc.com

DECEMBER

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and Main Street Lighted Christmas Parade. First Saturday in December in downtown Bishop. Hosted by Bishop Chamber of Commerce. (760) 873-8405.

Railroad Express at Laws Museum. Train rides, live entertainment, crafts, refreshments & fun for all on the 2nd Saturday of December. Co-hosted by Laws and Bishop Chamber of Commerce. (760) 873-8405



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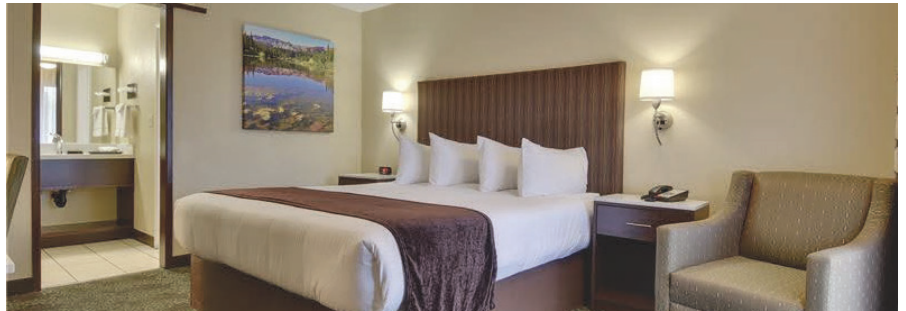


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Weird and Wonderful Things to See in the Eastern Sierra

Oddities of nature and the stuff of human ingenuity and absurdity exist here in the Eastern Sierra just as they do the world over. The fascinating history of these weird and wonderful things is as incredible as the objects and attractions themselves. We find ourselves looking at these mysterious man made and naturally occurring phenomena and wondering, “When? How? Why?”

Within little more than a couple hours’ drive from Bishop, in either direction north or south along US Highway 395, are numerous strange and unique attractions. The Eastern Sierra is often referred to as “the other side of California,” and these places might also make it “the weird side of California.”

Take a drive along Highway 395 and see some of the curious, grotesque, mysterious and awe-inspiring features of nature and feats of humankind.



BURRO SCHMIDT TUNNEL

Location: 163 miles south of Bishop on the Redrock Randsburg Rd near Garlock

One man with two donkeys, a few hand tools, a wheelbarrow, and some explosives, spent over 33 years single handedly digging a tunnel. It is almost a half-mile long in the solid rock of Copper Mountain in the remote Mojave Desert of California. During his lifetime William “Burro” Schmidt would never fully explain his tunnel excavation project, except to say that it was a “short cut.”

He had moved to California from Rhode Island for health reasons and staked a mining claim in the Mojave Desert’s El Paso range. At that time transporting the ore from his claim to the smelter in

Mojave was along a perilous mountain trail. Schmidt is reputed to have said that he would never haul his ore to the Mojave smelter “down that back trail” using his two burros.

He became obsessed with digging and completing a tunnel and disregarded mining entirely, even though he discovered potentially rich veins of gold, silver, copper, and iron during the big dig. The tunnel, however, emerged on a high ridge well above the desert floor below and is now called the “shortcut to nowhere.” Schmidt never transported a single ounce of ore through the tunnel.

Today the tunnel remains intact. Although Schmidt had no formal training it is obvious that he was a quick learner and the skills



• *Dig Deeper!* To view all 10 locations of the weird and wonderful, check out the blog post on bishopvisitor.com

To explore locations accessible to all, please go to **page 62**.



he picked up from digging, often through mishap and injury to himself, produced a feat of incredible and accurate engineering.

The tunnel, Schmidt's cabin, and surrounding land are now under the auspices of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and can be easily accessed via road. Take a walk through the tunnel and see the commanding view of Saltdale on the other side. Bring flashlights!

COYOTE TEETH DENTURES

Location: 42 miles south of Bishop at the Eastern California Museum in Independence

What would you do if you were living a meager life in the early 1900s in a remote mountain community and had lost all your teeth? Perhaps you'd count your pennies and go see a local dentist. Perhaps the closest dentist is in a town far away and you can't afford the time or expense.

A gruesome artifact, now on display in the Eastern California Museum in Independence, seems to tell the story of a man who, in about 1930, found himself in this predicament. What he did is not just grotesque, but rather ironic as well.

He fashioned a set of dentures from the teeth of a dead coyote!

He made the now famous Coyote Dentures by melting celluloid from toothbrush handles, molding the mixture to the shape of his gums, then pressing the yellowed coyote teeth into the cast.

Perhaps he wasn't poor, just miserly, but he definitely was macabre.

TWO-HEADED LAMB

Location: 6 miles north of Bishop on US Highway 6 at Laws Railroad Museum

The birth of Siamese twins to farm animals is not exceptionally rare, but it is always rather shocking.

Sometime around 1940, on a local farm northwest of Bishop, Siamese twin lambs were born. The conjoined twins were born joined at the neck and, although they are known as "the two-

headed lamb" or "the two-faced lamb," they each actually have a complete body too.

According to the daughter of Clifford Jones, who lived on the farm since a child, the lambs lived for a short time and after their death he stuffed the lambs for posterity. They are now on display at Laws Railroad Museum along with a myriad other intriguing artifacts of the weird and wild west.

CROWLEY LAKE COLUMNS

Location: 30 miles north of Bishop, on the shores of Crowley Lake

An exceptional set of circumstances due to an artificially created reservoir has resulted in exposing a fascinating and unique natural feature that was obscured for thousands of years under the earth. The Crowley Lake Columns were slowly unmasked by the powerful waves of the lake pummeling the softer rock of the cliffs. Researchers have only recently begun to study this unique natural phenomenon and one scientist said, "From the very first moment I laid eyes on this weird and wondrous place a year ago, I was smitten. It made me go back to school to get a master's degree in geology."



According to a recent study, researchers from UC Berkeley have determined, "that the columns were created by cold water percolating down into – and steam rising up out of – hot volcanic ash spewed by a cataclysmic explosion 760,000 years ago."

Access to the pillars is by boat, on foot or 4x4 vehicle and then only in the warmer months of the year when the lake is not frozen and the ground not covered in snow. Once there, though, it almost appears as if an alien life form is growing out of the sand and creating a dark labyrinth into which one might just disappear ... forever.

Facing page: Coyote teeth dentures; top: Burro Schmidt Tunnel; above: Crowley Lake Columns. (All photos by Gigi DeJong)



Wheelchair Accessible Places to Go and Things to Do in the Eastern Sierra

A PARADISE

The Eastern Sierra is known as an outdoor paradise.

The Eastside is a place of limitless beauty. Sunsets and sunrises are spectacular and the night sky is a splendid sight to behold. Through partnerships and programs by various agencies, municipalities and businesses there are paved trails, ramps, piers, and services that provide accessibility to folks who use wheelchairs or require adaptive gear and / or assistance to get around.

Note: Many activities and services are only available or offered seasonally. Please make sure to check websites or call ahead to plan your trip and know what you might encounter during your visit to the Eastside.

LAKES & FISHING

Specially designed accessible piers for fishing are located at some lakes and ponds in the Owens Valley and Bishop Creek Canyon. Fishing is legal all year on the Owens River and the recently restored **Buckley Ponds**, that lie on the canals alongside the river, have access for the physically disabled to be at the water's edge to fish or just enjoy the view.

Another such pier is built on the shores of **Intake II**, a small lake situated at just over 8,000' above sea level, in the heart of Bishop Creek Canyon. This reservoir is regularly stocked with fish year-round and is a favorite fishing area with easy access.

Convict Lake, situated 36 miles north of Bishop on US Highway 395, is highly regarded as a premier fishing destination in the Eastern Sierra. A loop trail around the lake has a paved section along the eastern side of the lakeshore that provides magnificent views of the lake, towering mountains, and forests in this glacial valley. A wheelchair accessible fishing pier is built over the water on this lakeshore too.

SIGHTSEEING

Take a trip to what feels and looks like the top of the world. The **Mammoth Mountain Panorama Gondola** delivers panoramic views of the Sierra and White Mountains, Minarets, Mono Lake, Yosemite peaks and the town and valley below. At 11,053 ft. discover the history and wonder of the Sierra at the Eleven53 interpretive center with fun, interactive exhibits for all ages. The gondola runs from 8:30am to 4pm daily – **weather dependent**.

High above Bishop in the White Mountains are the world's oldest living non-clonal organisms, the **Great Basin Bristlecone Pine** (*Pinus longaeva*). A beautiful drive of about an hour (38 miles) on a paved, winding, mountain road takes you to the **Schulman Grove Visitor Center**. The interpretive center, open annually from approximately mid-May to October, weather permitting, has a large patio with picnic tables and boardwalks around the center from which many of the old trees can be seen. The center houses exhibits, video presentations, a bookstore and gift shop. In the summer months, rangers and staff give talks and lectures about these remarkable trees.

Facing page: The Dick Noles Accessible Pathway makes access to the lakeshore of June Lake, along the sandy beach, possible by wheelchair. (Photo by Nate Gratz)

MUSEUMS & VISITOR CENTERS

Throughout the Eastern Sierra from Lone Pine to Lee Vining there are numerous museums and visitor centers that present historic and culturally significant aspects of the region. All have suitable wheelchair access and many have accessible technologies for hearing- and vision-impaired guests.

Begin your journey of discovery at the **Bishop Information Center** at 690 N. Main St. in Bishop or call (760) 873-8405 to get current information on weather, road closures, and hours of operation for local attractions.



EASTERN SIERRA INTERAGENCY VISITOR CENTER – 2 miles south of Lone Pine at the junction of State Route 136

THE MUSEUM OF WESTERN FILM HISTORY – Lone Pine

MANZANAR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE – 10 miles north of Lone Pine

EASTERN CALIFORNIA MUSEUM – Independence

MT. WHITNEY FISH HATCHERY – 3.5 miles north of Independence

OWENS VALLEY PAIUTE SHOSHONE CULTURAL CENTER – Bishop

LAWSON RAILROAD MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SITE – 6 miles north of Bishop on US Highway 6

MONO BASIN SCENIC AREA VISITOR CENTER – 0.8 miles north of Lee Vining

ANIMAL/PET SERVICES

Bishop Veterinary Hospital
1440 N. Main St., (760) 873-5801
Eastern Sierra Grooming
115 East Line St., (760) 582-2234
Tailwaggers Pet Store
1351 Rocking W Dr., (760) 258-1206
Wildcare Eastern Sierra
800 Keough Hot Springs Road, #24,
(760) 872-1487

AUTOMOTIVE

Billie's High Sierra Transport & Tow
(760) 784-4944
Bishop Automotive Center
2392 N. Sierra Hwy., (760) 873-4430
Britt's Diesel & Automotive
383 Joe Smith Rd. (760) 872-1883
Mr. K. Automotive
175 W. Grove St., (760) 873-7149
NAPA/Steve's Auto & Truck Parts
555 S. Main St., (760) 873-5432
Our Water Works Car Wash
989 N. Main St., (760) 872-2070
Perry Motors
310 S. Main St., (760) 872-4141
Pilot Thomas Logistics
481 East Line St., (760) 872-4645
Shorty's Speed Shop
386 Sneden St., (760) 258-1342
Yuhubi Nobi Gas Station & Market
180 See Vee Lane, (760) 784-9716

BIKES – SERVICE, REPAIR & RENTALS

Aerohead Cycles
107 S. Main St., (760) 873-4151
E-Bike Bishop
www.ebikebishop.com

CHURCHES

Calvary Baptist Church
100 West Line St., 93514, (760) 872-8136
First United Methodist Church
205 N. Fowler St., (760) 872-7701
St. Timothy's Anglican Church
700 Hobson St., (760) 920-0486
Salvation Army Service Center
137 S. Main St., #106, (760) 872-2124

FITNESS/GYMS/YOGA

Bishop Gym
192 E. Pine St., (760) 872-1059
High Sierra Wellness Center
106 S. Main St. Suite 203, (760) 222-0329
Sierra Shanti
275-B South Main St., (704) 877-4717
Wakeful Ascent Aerial Arts
163 May St., (925) 818-8424

The treasure hunt is real in Bishop! We do not have a mega mall or a big box store, but we do have more than a dozen “mom & pop” specialty shops selling top quality goods. If you prefer doing business directly with a shop owner who truly appreciates your patronage, then you will thoroughly enjoy browsing in these terrific chamber-member businesses.

FLY FISHING GUIDES

All Mountain Outfitters
(805) 423-1978
Bishop Fly Fishing Guide Service
(760) 387-2715
Sierra Bright Dot Fly Fishing Specialist
(760) 920-8325
Sierra Trout Magnet Fly Shop & Guide Service
(7960) 873-0010

GROCERY


Grocery Outlet of Bishop
1320 N. Main St., (559) 593-2155
Hi-Country Market
101 N. Main St., Big Pine, CA (760) 938-2067
Manor Market
3100 W. Line St., (760) 873-4296
Mercado Mexico
276 South Warren St., (760) 873-4546

GUIDES – BACKPACKING, CLIMBING, HIKING, MOUNTAINEERING

Sierra Mountain Center
200 S. Main St., (760) 873-8526
Sierra Mountain Guides
312 N. Main St., (760) 648-1122

MEDICAL/DENTAL/ HEALTH SERVICES

AirMedcare Network/Sierra Lifelight
703 Airport Rd. (760) 872-2201
Air-Way Medical, Inc.
437 E. Line St., (760) 872-1117
Bishop Care Center
151 Pioneer Lane, (760) 872-1000
Carkeet, Brian L. DDS
645 West Line St., (760) 873-3227



Pickup a Souvenir at Laws Railroad Museum

Dwayne's Friendly Pharmacy
644 W. Line St., (760) 872-2522
Eastern Sierra Optometry
293 Willow, (760) 872-7511
Northern Inyo Hospital District
150 Pioneer Ln., (760) 873-5811
Phillips Aesthetic Dermatology
873 N. Main St., (760) 937-4858
Pioneer Home Health Care
363 Academy St., (760) 872-4663
Skin & Cancer Institute
621 W. Line St., (760) 873-8781
Toiyabe Indian Health Project, Inc.
250 See Vee Lane, (760) 873-8461
Valley Health Team
459 W. Line St., (760) 784-7020

PRINTING/COPYING

Alex Printing
621 W. Line St., Suite 106., (760) 873-8650
Community Printing & Publishing
187-B W. Line St., (760) 873-3049

REAL ESTATE

Bishop Real Estate Rasmuson & Assoc.
370 W. Line St., (760) 873-4264
Eastern Sierra Realty
218 East Line St., (760) 873-4161
High Country Cedar Homes
(888) 828-4868
Hometown Properties
586 West Line St., (760) 872-2100



FAIR



MOTORSPORTS



FESTIVALS

RV PARK



RODEO



TRI COUNTY

Fair

& EVENT CENTER

BISHOP, CA

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
FOR COMPLETE
EVENT SCHEDULE

TriCountyFair.com

BISHOP DINING GUIDE

Indulge. Recharge. Repeat.

Good food prepares us, recharges us, and connects us with our family, friends and community. Bishop is the “Small Town with a Big Backyard” and it also has a pretty impressive kitchen.

**Eateries listed in this guide are members of the Bishop Area Chamber of Commerce*

AMERICAN

- 31 1903 Taphouse & Co.**
175 N Main Street (760) 872-7171
@1903_taphouse
Pool tables, arcade games, gourmet hotdogs, and brisket that melts in your mouth. This is a next level sports bar that's fun for the whole family.
- 1 Aaron Schat's Roadhouse**
871 N Main St. (760) 873-0000
www.schatsroadhouse.com
Enjoy gourmet burgers, rotisserie chicken, and slow-smoked ribs, as well as assortment

of quality beers on tap. Dine indoors or out on the new patio.

- 2 Back Alley Bowl & Grill**
649 N Main Street (760) 873-5777
www.thebackalleybowlandgrill.com
Juicy burgers, crispy fries, onion rings are expected, but you may be surprised to find a top-notch steakhouse hidden inside the bowling alley! Daily seafood specials are delicious and prime rib night is always a hit.

Flo's Diner
4750 US HWY 6, Chalfant Valley
(760) 873-7000 www.flos-diner.com
50's style diner with great burgers, shakes, pizza and more.

- 3 Holy Smoke Texas BBQ**
772 N Main Street (760) 872-4227
www.holysmokedtxbbq.com
Family-owned and operated, this place serves authentic Texas-style BBQ meats and mouthwatering sidekicks. Hint: we love the brisket and the mac & cheese! Everything

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BUSINESS DIRECTORY CONTINUED

Inyo Mono Title Co.
873 N. Main St., (760) 872-4741

Pleasant Valley Associates
970 N. Main St., (760) 873-7826

Premier Property Management
(760) 937-2151

**RV RENTALS, SUPPLIES,
REPAIRS, STORAGE**

Adventure in Camping
Mammoth Lakes, (760) 935-4890

Eastern Sierra Tri-County Fair RV Storage
1234 Sierra St., (760) 873-3588

Urine Luck Portables & Septic
180 N. Main St., Big Pine, (760) 874-8105

SALONS/SPAS

C&C Nail Salon
487 W. Line St., Unit C, (760) 920-0208

High Sierra Wellness Center
106 S. Main St., Suite 203, (760) 222-0329

Luxe
307 S. Main St., (415) 823-0819

Revival Salon
125 N. Main St. Suite C (in Whitney Alley),
(760) 258-5229

SPECIAL EVENTS: WEDDINGS, PARTIES, REUNIONS, ETC.

Bishop Elks #1603
151 E. Line St., (760) 873-3221

Brittany Colt Photography
(360) 773-7282

Eastern Sierra Entertainment Services
Bishop, (661) 674-7151

Eastern Sierra Tri-County Fairgrounds & Event Center
1234 Sierra Street, (760) 873-3588

Home Town Catering
771 N. Main St. #104, (760) 872-4034

Laughing Parrot Productions
Bishop, (760) 914-9883

The Honey Bee Photography
Gayla Wolf, (760) 872-4015

Urine Luck Portables & Septic
180 N. Main St., Big Pine, (760) 874-8105

Yosemite Wedding Photography
Shawn Reeder, (530) 913-4809

SPECIALTY SHOPS & BOUTIQUES

Aerohead Cycles
107 S. Main St., (760) 873-4151

Anne Marie's Kitchen Bed & Bath
336 N. Main St. (760) 872-4433

Ascent Dispensary
174 N. Main Street. (760) 920-1990

Bishop Art Supply
125 N. Main St., (760) 873-9240

California Pianos
177 Short St., Suite F, (760) 582-2162

Chalfant Big Trees Farm & Feed
395 Hunter Ave., Chalfant Valley,
(760) 873-7129

Dwayne's Friendly Pharmacy
644 W. Line St., (760) 872-2522

Eastside Sports
224 N. Main St., (760) 873-7520

Elevated
371 S. Main Street, Suite C (219) 241-7435

Fendon's Furniture
175 E Pine St., (760) 873-4698

Healings
725 N. Barlow Lane, (760) 937-3391

High Country Lumber/ ACE Hardware
444 S. Main St., (760) 873-5874

Home Lumber Company
1130 N. Main St., (760) 873-6379

The Knife Joker
789 N Main St., Suite 135, (760) 642-1000

La Vie Amour Boutique
324 N. Main St., (760) 920-3512

Mountain Apparel
162 East Pine St., (760) 872-4655

Owens Valley Paiute-Shoshone Cultural Center
2300 W Line St., (760) 873-8844

Sage to Summit
312 N. Main St., (760) 872-1756

Salt. Sip & Shop
777 Main St., (505) 379-4387

Spellbinder Books
124 S Main St., (760) 873-4511

Sundial Bishop
175 S. Main St., (760) 283-0111

The Toggery
115 N. Main St., (760) 872-3211

SPORTING GOODS

Big 5 Sporting Goods
1331 Rocking W. Drive, Suite A,
(760) 278-3433

Reagan's Sporting Goods
963 North Main St., (760) 872-3000



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is homemade and served with southern hospitality. Dine inside or out, or order online for quick and easy pick-up.

- 4 The Deli at Mahogany Smoked Meats**
2345 N Sierra Highway (760) 872-3685
www.smokedmeats.com
They've been smoking meats since 1922, turning out world famous ham, sausage, bacon, chops, jerky and turkey. Now, there's a deli inside where you can order amazing sandwiches with fun names such as Rodeo, Hog Heaven or Handyman. Our favorite is the California Cuban with a side of the most amazing potato salad. Save time by calling in your order or do it online.

- 5 Wanaaha Casino**
2742 N Sierra Highway (760) 873-5311
www.wanaaha.com
The newly expanded and improved casino has three unique dining options. **Tukanovie Restaurant** features steaks, chicken, ribs, burgers and delicious pasta dishes. The **Paiute Deli** serves toasted subs, flatbreads and made to order pizza. The **Grub Menu at the Wanaaha Lounge Sports Bar** includes wings, rings, sliders, calamari, burgers and a full bar.

- 6 Whiskey Creek**
*Same location as My Thai at Whiskey Creek
524 N Main Street (760) 873-7777
www.whiskeycrk.com
This restaurant features traditional American fare - freshly baked breads, homemade soups, scrumptious salads and thick steaks. They've recently expanded the menu to offer wood fired pizzas and authentic Thai cuisine - truly something for everyone here! Dine on the patio, in the dining room, or in the fun saloon. Order online for pick-up.

- 7 19th Hole at Bishop Country Club Golf Course**
1200 US Highway 395 (760) 873-5828
www.bishopcountryclub.com
In a setting that's almost second to none, the 19th Hole Bar & Grille is a wonderful spot for a good ol' American breakfast or leisurely lunch. We think the biscuits & gravy are the best in the region. Stunning views, good food, lively bar, and perhaps a round of golf for good measure. It's open to the public.

ASIAN

- 8 Imperial Gourmet**
930 N Main Street (760) 872-1144
This is a spacious, elegant restaurant with a relaxed atmosphere and a full bar. The menu has all the standard dishes we've come to expect from a good Chinese restaurant. There are sweet and sour dishes, hot and spicy, chow mein noodles, and regional inspirations such as Mongolian and Szechwan specialties - Lucky Family is our favorite! Dine in or call for pick up or delivery.
- 6 My Thai at Whiskey Creek**
*Same location as Whiskey Creek
524 N Main Street (760) 873-7777
www.whiskeycrk.com
Authentic curries, rice dishes, Pad Thai and more can be found in the center of downtown Bishop at Whiskey Creek. Dine inside, on the spacious patio or call in a to-go order.

- 11 Yamatani Japanese Restaurant and Sushi Bar**
635 N Main Street (760) 872-4801
For more than 30 years the Tani family has served some of the finest sushi and Japanese food this side of the Pacific. The establishment is spacious and elegant with a large main dining area, a sushi bar and cocktail bar. Only sushi grade (high quality) fish from around the world, and the same markets that supply LA based restaurants, is served here. Every dish is diligently prepared to the highest standards. It's a local favorite and a visitor's delight. Don't miss the jalapeño boat.

MEXICAN

- 12 Amigo's Mexican Restaurant**
285 N Main Street (760) 872-2189
All the great Mexican style dishes you'd expect served to eat in or take out. Try their unique, creative enchilada specialties on their quaint outdoor patio. Good prices and great portions.

- 13 Astorga's Mexican Restaurant**
2206 N. Sierra Highway (760) 872-3849
www.astorgasmexican.com
A family owned and operated restaurant with a full bar and tasty margaritas. The newly remodeled patio is a great place for dining al-fresco. The banquet room is great for special events. Order online for pick-up or delivery.

- 10 El Ranchito**
281 N. Main Street (760) 873-7248
Family restaurant serving a variety of delicious Mexican and American dishes.

- 14 Mercado Mexico**
276 S. Warren Street (760) 873-4546
This hidden gem is a fresh Mexican market that comes with grab and go food options that will not disappoint. Tacos, tortas, tamales and more are offered with a variety of meat or plant-based proteins.

- 32 Molcajetes**
789 N. Main Street (760) 873-4523
molcajetesfusion.com
Latin Fusion Cuisine, Seafood & Steaks. Molcajetes Fusion's entire menu is based on fresh and premium quality products. Try the signature dish, King Molcajete, Ceviche Molcajete or lure your tastebuds into a surf and turf burrito. A great place for brunch, lunch and dinner. Dine-in or take these amazing flavors to go.

- 15 Rolling Chef 395**
400 N. Main Street (760) 920-3679
Latin fusion food at its finest! Tastes of Mexico, Peru and Cuba combine to make the food unforgettable. Find the truck downtown next to Union Bank.

ITALIAN

- 16 Pizza Factory**
970 N. Main Street (760) 872-8888
www.bishoppizzafactory.com
Their slogan is "We Toss'em, They're Awesome." They do, and they are. In addition to great pizza, the menu is packed full of delicious sandwiches, pastas, soups, salads and more. Kids of all ages love the video-game arcade. Dine-in or call for pick-up or delivery.

- 33 Upper Crust Pizza**
1180 N. Main Street (760) 872-8153
@theuppercrustbishop
Family-friendly pizzeria serving inventive pies, pastas & oven-roasted sandwiches in a simple setting. Try the Vegetarian Minestrone and Upper Crust specials with wholesome ingredients and deliciousness made fresh daily. Dine-in, Take-Out.

BISHOP DINING GUIDE

QUICK BITES

17 Carl's Junior
768 N. Main St., Bishop &
401 N. Main St., Lone Pine. www.carlsjr.com
Charbroiled burgers, chicken sandwiches, fries, onion rings and all your favorites served hot and fresh by super-friendly staff. This location has a large parking lot, drive-thru and is conveniently located next to the Bishop City Park.

Doggies Food Cart
Doggies street food cart specializes in all American beef hot dogs, chili dogs & diamond frito bowls. Catch them in downtown Bishop or a special event!

18 El Pollo Loco
785 N. Main Street (760) 875-1708
www.elpolloloco.com
Try the famous fire-grilled chicken in a salad, bowl, burrito, or as a family meal with sides everyone will love. Dine-in, on the patio or drive-thru. Order online for fast curbside pickup

19 Pino Pies
199 N. Warren Street (Behind Bishop City Hall)
(424) 395-8610
Handmade individual savory New Zealand pies. Kind of like a potpie, but much better. Fillings choices include: steak, lamb, chicken, pork belly, lentil – each with its own unique sauce & seasonings all baked into the most decadent flaky pie crust. Take-out only. Open Wednesday through Saturday, 7am-2pm.

Sierra Snow
Cool mobile unit serving authentic Hawaiian shave ice with all natural syrups. Try topping it off with a Snow Cap, Caramel or Whip Cream. Mobile food truck located at Eastside Guesthouse. Also available for special events.

20 Subway
1341 Rocking W. Drive (760) 873-7827
www.subway.com
Grab a quick sub, wrap or salad. Dine in or take it along on your outdoor adventure. Call ahead or order online for super quick pick-up.

BAKERIES

21 Erick Schat's Bakery
763 N Main Street (760) 873-7156
www.schatsbakery.com
Breads of all sorts and sizes and a variety of delicious pastries and cookies are baked fresh daily. The trademark loaf is the 'Shepherd Bread' introduced here in 1938. Sandwiches are made to order in the deli and it's impossible to leave with an empty stomach or empty hands. Eat some here and take some home.

22 Great Basin Bakery
275-D S Main Street (760)873-9828
www.greatbasinbakerybishop.com
This bakery produces fresh bread, bagels

and croissants daily plus a wide assortment of cookies, pies, muffins, scones, cinnamon rolls ... and all manner of delicious treats. The bakery includes a café where their artisan breads and bagels are featured in delicious breakfast items and lunch sandwiches, alongside homemade soups and salads.

COFFEE CULTURE

23 Black Sheep Coffee Roasters
232 N Main Street (760) 872-4142
www.blacksheepcoffee.com
The coffee is sourced from farms in Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador, roasted locally in Bishop, and distributed world-wide. The small, but mighty kitchen serves breakfast burritos, scones and other house-baked items. Tuesday & Friday dinner specials can be pre-ordered to go or enjoyed on the spacious covered patio.

24 Indy Coffee Roasting Company
307 S Main Street (760) 878-8278
www.indyroasting.com
This European coffee roaster brings full bodied coffee and rich flavor to the Owens Valley. Roasting room open to the public on Sundays 8am-2pm for "Coffee Church," featuring Coffee Pour Overs, International Coffee Drinks, Italian Sodas and Artisan Pastries.

25 Looney Bean of Bishop
399 N Main Street (760) 873-3311
www.looneybeanbishop.com
Specialty coffees are the hallmark of this coffeehouse. Smoothies, frappés, lattes and healthy grab-and-go sandwiches, wraps, bowls and freshly baked goodies will keep you fit & full of energy. Dine-in, on the patio or order online for quick pick-up and go.

26 Pupfish Café
124 S Main Street (442) 228-5100
www.pupfishcafe.com
Located in the back of Spellbinder Books, this café brings organic smiles to Bishop. A full espresso bar is complemented by excellent food made from fresh, locally sourced ingredients. Try a Liege Waffle or avocado toast, or both! Dine indoors or out, or order online to for easy pick-up.

35 Salt, Sip & Shop
777 Main St., (505) 379-4387
A fusion market & gift shop in a converted Airstream. Enjoy sipping coffee & a bite of cobbler while soaking up the sun on the patio or shopping for a new item to treasure.

SWEETS & TREATS

27 Café and Country Store at Brown's Town Campground
Highway 395 & Schober Ln. (760) 873-8522
Get a taste of the old-fashioned ice cream fountain, homemade pies and fine candies.

Hot and cold sandwiches are available too. While you're there check out the replica Old West main street museum. Seasonal: Open May – October.

34 Eastside Juice Bar
789 N. Main Street, Suite 160.
(760) 258-8033 @eastsidejuicebar
¡Buenos días! Start your day with a delicious breakfast salad, smoothie, or juice blend of your dreams at the eastside juice bar. Take an acai bowl and a pressed sandwich or wrap to go. When life gives you lemons, hand them back and ask for some ginger and turmeric to go with it.

28 Good Earth Yogurt
251 N. Main Street (760) 872-2020
www.goodearth yogurt.com
Organic yogurt, pie and wine bar. This entirely different type of eatery allows locals and visitors alike to indulge in a heaping of self-serve frozen yogurt, cheese plates, panini style sandwiches and fresh homemade pies. And since it's an inviting place for the whole family, there's a wonderful selection of California grown wines and local beers on tap.

BARS & BREWERIES

29 Mountain Rambler Brewery
186 S Main Street (760) 258-1348
www.mountainramblerbrewery.com
This fine microbrewery serves 10 of its own exquisitely crafted beers on tap. This establishment has a relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere and, in addition to the craft brews, an excellent menu of lunch and dinner fare is scratch-made from quality local ingredients. There is a spacious indoor dining hall, nice outdoor patio and online ordering for take-out is super easy.

30 Rusty's Saloon
112 N Main Street (760) 873-9066
A lively locals bar that's been serving up fun in bishop for over 50 years. Play some pool or darts, catch a DJ in action, or join in for some Karaoke. It's always rockin' at Rusty's.

31 1903 Taphouse & Co.
175 N Main Street (760) 872-7171
@1903_taphouse
Pool tables, arcade games, gourmet hotdogs, and brisket that melts in your mouth. This is a next level sports bar that's fun for the whole family.

5 Wanaaha Lounge Sports Bar
2742 N Sierra Highway (760) 873-5311
www.wanaaha.com
Includes wings, rings, sliders, calamari, burgers and a full bar.

High-altitude dining

**Eateries listed in this guide are members of the Bishop Area Chamber of Commerce*

Take a short drive from downtown to Bishop Creek Canyon, Rock Creek Canyon, or up US HWY 395 toward Mammoth. Head 20 miles up the road and the temperature will drop 20 degrees – perfect for summertime lunch or dinner.

Bishop Creek Lodge

2100 South Lake Rd. (760) 873-4484, www.bishopcreekresort.com

Head 15 minutes up canyon for a hearty lunch or dinner meal in a rugged rustic setting. The café serves burgers, sandwiches and personal pan pizza alongside ice cold beers with tall tales of mountain life. Seasonal: Open Thursday through Sunday, May – October.

Cardinal Village Resort Café

321 Cardinal Rd., Aspendell (760) 873-4789
www.cardinalvillageresort.com

The mountains are calling and breakfast is served – full, hot and hearty. Burgers are a hunger-busting option after a day exploring Bishop Creek. In summer this is THE place to be on Friday and Saturday evenings for wood-fired pizza served al fresco. Open May – October.

Lake Sabrina Boat Landing Café

Lake Sabrina (760) 873-7425, www.lakesabrinaboatlanding.com

Open during the summer months, this lovely little café perched above the docks at Lake Sabrina serves a full breakfast and lunch. It's worth the drive up to the lake for the spectacular views, the delicious food, but most of all – for the homemade pies and ice cream. Seasonal: Open May – October.

Mammoth Brewing Company & The EATery

18 Lake Mary Road, Mammoth Lakes
(760) 934-7141, www.mammothbrewingco.com

Brewery, tasting room, beer garden, and retail store are located at the corner of Main Street & Minaret Road in Mammoth Lakes. The EATery by Bleu is located in the tasting room, supplying amazing beer-centric food by chef Brandon Brocia. MBC sells beer to go (bottles, growlers, and 32oz Bear Cans).

Rock Creek Lodge

85 Rock Creek Rd. (877) 935-4170, www.rockcreeklodge.com

Here's one place you'll have to visit at least twice. In winter, ski up to the lodge or get a chauffeured ride on a snowmobile to enjoy a four-course 'prix fix' menu. During your summer holiday in Rock Creek Canyon, treat yourself to a hearty breakfast at the Lodge between 8 to 10 am, no reservations necessary. The dining room is set up family style, with long wooden tables and an opportunity to easily meet kindred spirits.

Neighbors

From any direction, your road trip to Bishop will pass through several quaint neighboring towns and we have a few recommendations for meals along the way.

Brewed Awakening 120 S. Main St., Big Pine. (760) 938-2833

Copper Top BBQ 442 N. Main St., Big Pine (661) 472-7188

Frosty Chalet 500 N Main St., Lone Pine (760) 920-4940

Mizpah Hotel 100 N Main St., Tonopah, NV (855) 337-3030

Shoshone Village Old State Highway 127 Shoshone (760) 852-4224

Whitney Portal Store (760) 876-0030

The Grill at Rock Creek Lakes Resort

1 Upper Rock Creek Rd. (760) 935-4311
www.rockcreeklakesresort.com

The Grill at Rock Creek Lakes Resort smokes their own meats, brews and bottles their own BBQ sauce, bakes their own deserts and serves up a mean mountain breakfast. Seasonal: Open May – October.

The Restaurant at Convict Lake Resort

2000 Convict Lake Rd. (800) 992-2260, www.convictlake.com

Fine dining in one of the most spectacular settings ever. Steaks, seafood, rack of lamb all done to perfection - this is pure elegance at altitude.

Tom's Place Resort

8180 Crowley Lake Dr. (760) 935-4239, www.tomsplaceresort.com

Stop in for breakfast, lunch, dinner or a refreshing cocktail from the bar. Take a seat inside or out and be sure to ask about the delicious daily specials. Open year-round 7 days/week mid-April thru mid-November; open Thursday-Sunday in the off season.



GAYLA WOLF - THE HONEY BEE

An amazing, professional portrait photographer, and she's been capturing beautiful people enjoying community events for many years.

www.portraitsbythehoneybee.com

www.bishopcommunityevents.com

760/872-4015

Thank you, Gayla!

BISHOP AREA LODGING GUIDE

Pets OK
 Fish Cleaning Facility
 Wi-fi
 Breakfast
 Pool
 Handicapped Accessible
 Fitness Room
 Guest Laundry
 BBQ Area
 Business Center

Downtown Bishop

1 Best Western Bishop Lodge 1025 N. Main St., Bishop (760) 873-3543 • bestwesternbishop.com	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
2 Bishop Inn 192 Short St., Bishop (760) 873-4912	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	
3 Bishop Elms Motel 233 East Elm St., Bishop (760) 873-8118 • bishopelmsmotel.com		•	•	•					•	
4 Bishop Village Motel 286 W. Elm Street, Bishop (760) 872-8155 • bishopvillagemotel.com	•	•	•		•				•	
5 Cielo Hotel, Ascend Hotel Collection 651 N. Main Street, Bishop (760) 873-6380 • choicehotels.com	•		•	•		•	•			•
6 Comfort Inn 805 N. Main Street, Bishop (760) 873-4284 • comfortinn.com	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•
7 Days Inn 724 W. Line Street, Bishop, CA 93514 (760) 872-1095 • wyndhamhotels.com	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		
8 Eastside Guesthouse & Bivy 777 N. Main Street, Bishop, CA 93514 (760) 784-7077 • eastsideguesthouse.com				•					•	
9 El Rancho Motel 274 Lagoon Street, Bishop, CA 93514 (760) 872-9251	•	•	•						•	
10 Holiday Inn Express 636 N. Main Street, Bishop, CA 93514 (760) 872-2423 • hiexpress.com/bishopca	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•
11 Motel 6 1005 N. Main St., Bishop (760) 873-8426 • motel6.com	•	•	•		•	•		•		
12 Mountain View Motel 730 W. Line Street, Bishop (760) 873-4242	•	•	•		•					
13 Quality Inn 150 East Elm Street, Bishop (760) 873-3564	•	•	•		•	•			•	
14 Super 8 Motel 535 S. Main Street, Bishop (760) 872-1386 • super8.com	•	•	•	•	•			•		•
15 The Hostel California 213 Academy Ave., Bishop (760) 399-6316 • thehostelcalifornia.com	•		•						•	
16 Thunderbird Motel 190 W. Pine Street, Bishop (760) 873-4215 • bishopthunderbirdmotel.com	•		•	•						
17 Townhouse Motel 625 N. Main Street, Bishop (760) 872-4541			•		•					
18 Travelodge 155 E. Elm Street, Bishop (760) 872-1771 • travelodge.com	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•
19 Trees Motel 796 W. Line Street, Bishop (760) 873-6391	•	•	•						•	
20 Vagabond Inn 1030 N. Main St., Bishop (760) 873-6351 • vagabondinn.com	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•
21 Wayfinder (formerly Creekside Inn) 725 N. Main Street, Bishop (760) 872-3044 • wayfinderbishop.com	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		

Family-owned and operated since 1957

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email@dowvillamotel.com
 310 South Main St.
 Lone Pine, CA 93545

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(760) 876-5521 www.dowvillamotel.com



BISHOP AREA LODGING GUIDE

- Pets OK
- Fish Cleaning Facility
- Wi-fi
- Breakfast
- Pool
- Handicapped Accessible
- Fitness Room
- Guest Laundry
- BBQ Area
- Business Center

Bishop Creek Canyon

Bishop Creek Lodge
2100 South Lake Road (760) 873-4484 • bishopcreekresort.com

Cardinal Village Resort
321 Cardinal Road (760) 873-4789 • cardinalvillageresort.com

Parchers Resort
5001 South Lake Road (760) 873-4177 • parchersresort.net

Keough's Hot Springs Resort
800 Keough Hot Springs Rd., Bishop (760) 872-4670 • keoughshotsprings.com

Bristlecone Motel
101 North Main Street, Big Pine (760) 938-2067 • (866) 609-3785 • bristleconemotel.com

De La Cour Ranch Cabins
5000 Horseshoe Meadows Rd., Lone Pine (760) 264-3213 • delacour-ranch.com

Whitney Portal Hostel & Hotel
238 S. Main St., Lone Pine (760) 876-0030 • mountwhitneyportal.com

Dow Villa
310 South Main Street, Lone Pine (760) 876-5521 • dowvillamotel.com

Mt. Williamson Motel & Basecamp
515 S Edwards St, Independence (760) 878-2121 • mtwilliamsonmotel.com

Shoshone Village
Old State Highway 127, Shoshone, CA (760) 852-433 • shoshonevillage.com

Oasis at Death Valley
Highway 190, Death Valley (760) 786-2345 • oasisatdeathvalley.com

Eastern Sierra Observatory
Stargazing & "glamping" in the White Mtns. (760) 387-3005 • easternsierraobservatory.com

The Inn at Benton Hot Springs
55137 Hwy. 120, Benton (760) 933-2287 • bentonhotsprings.us

Convict Lake Resort
2000 Convict Lake Road, Mammoth Lakes (760) 934-3800 • convictlake.com

Rock Creek Lakes Resort
1 Upper Rock Creek Road, Bishop (760) 935-4311 • rockcreeklakesresort.com

Rock Creek Lodge
85 Rock Creek Road, Mammoth Lakes (760) 935-4170 • rockcreeklodge.com

Tom's Place Resort
8180 Crowley Lake Drive, Crowley Lake (760) 935-4239 • tomsplaceresort.com

Arcularius' On The River
Cabin at Upper Owens River in Long Valley (760) 387-2692 • arculariusontheriver.com

Mizpah Hotel
100 N. Main Street, Tonopah, NV (775) 482-3030 • themizpahhotel.com

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South of Bishop

North of Bishop

Find a map of downtown Bishop lodging on the next page Properties listed here are current members of the Bishop Chamber of Commerce

Experience beautiful downtown Bishop...








downtown BISHOP

DINING DIRECTORY IS ON PAGE 66.
LODGING DIRECTORY IS ON PAGE 70.





-  **Bishop Visitor Center**
-  **Post Office**
-  **Police Station**
-  **Library**
-  **Hospital**

to Mammoth Lakes/
Yosemite
North US 395

US
395

to Laws Railroad Museum,
Happy/Sad Boulders,
Pleasant Valley Reservoir,
Owens River, Chalfant
US 6



 **Public Parking**

 **Public Restrooms**

 **Canal Walk**

to Owens River / Poleta /
Bishop Airport
E. Line St.

UNITED 

* Map not to scale. Entire downtown corridor is a walkable one mile.

RESOURCES

Bishop, California is in the heart of Inyo County, a land of many superlatives including highest, lowest, deepest, biggest, tallest, largest, hottest, driest and more that have been scientifically measured and verified. Come again, and again and choose a new adventure throughout the year!



Bishop A YEAR-ROUND DESTINATION



'F



'F



RAINY
DAYS

VISITOR RESOURCES

Welcome & Information Centers:

BISHOP AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INFORMATION CENTER

690 N. Main St., Bishop, CA 93514

(760) 873-8405

info@bishopvisitor.com • www.bishopvisitor.com

www.bishopchamberofcommerce.com

Located on Main Street at the entrance to Bishop City Park. Maps, brochures, souvenirs, postcards and books. Professional, friendly and knowledgeable staff provide information to help you make the most of your visit to the Eastern Sierra. Ample parking for buses and RVs. Open all year.

ANCIENT BRISTLECONE PINE FOREST VISITOR CENTER – SCHULMAN GROVE

10 miles north of U.S. Highway 168 East on White Mountain Rd. • (760) 873-2500

Open in summer only.

EASTERN SIERRA INTERAGENCY VISITOR CENTER

P.O. Drawer R, Lone Pine, CA 93545

(760) 876-6222

Located one mile south of Lone Pine at junction of U.S. Highway 395 and State Route 136. Regional information and public land passes and permits available. Open all year.

INYO COUNTY VISITOR INFORMATION

www.inyocountyvisitor.com

LONE PINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

P.O. Box 749, Lone Pine, CA 93545

(760) 876-4444 • www.lonepinechamber.org

MAMMOTH LAKES CALIFORNIA WELCOME CENTER

P.O. Box 48, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

(760) 924-5500 • www.visitmammoth.com

Located on Hwy. 203 at the entrance to the Town of Mammoth Lakes, 3 miles west of Hwy. 395. Area information, wilderness permits and maps available. Open all year.

MONO BASIN SCENIC AREA VISITOR CENTER

1 Visitor Center Dr., Lee Vining, CA 93541

(760) 647-3044 • www.monocounty.org

Located off U.S. Hwy. 395 and 1/4 mile north of town, the center has interactive displays that teach about many aspects of the Mono Basin's geology, ecology, and human history. Closed in winter.

DEATH VALLEY NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

800.478.8564 www.dvnha.org

BEATTY, NEVADA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

119 E. Main St., Beatty, NV • (775) 553-2424

www.beattynevada.org

Ranger Stations:

WHITE MOUNTAIN RANGER STATION

798 N. Main St., Bishop, CA 93514

(760) 873-2500

Public lands information center for Inyo National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, wilderness permits, firewood cutting permits and National Park information for Sequoia, Yosemite and Death Valley National Parks.

JANUARY

54 23 2

FEBRUARY

58 26 2

MARCH

65 31 1

APRIL

72 36 0

MAY

81 44 1

JUNE

92 51 0

JULY

98 57 0

AUGUST

96 54 0

SEPTEMBER

88 47 0

OCTOBER

76 37 0

NOVEMBER

63 27 1

DECEMBER

54 22 1



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DISCOVER

LADWP IN THE EASTERN SIERRA



Recreation

All lakes and streams on LADWP land are open for trout fishing beginning last Saturday in April through mid-November. Pleasant Valley Reservoir and Owens River are open and stocked year-round.

Discover more
LADWPEasternSierra.com/recreation

