Lake Morena County Park

TO EL CENTRO

The Rattlesnake

Rattlesnakes are an important part of our local ecosystem and a protected species in County Parks. They help to control the population of small mammals like mice and rats.

If you encounter a rattlesnake, likely on hot

days or in summer, consider yourself lucky

Know what they look like and be aware when you

visit any of the trails on site. Avoid heavy

brush and carry a hiking pole or walking stick

during the day – at night, use a flashlight.

Always tell park staff when you encounter a

rattlesnake so they can safeguard the area and

the snake.

Rattlesnakes

Rattlesnakes are an important part of our local ecosystem and a protected species in County Parks. They help to control the population of small mammals like mice and rats.

If you encounter a rattlesnake, likely on hot
days or in summer, consider yourself lucky
Know what they look like and be aware when you
visit any of the trails on site. Avoid heavy
brush and carry a hiking pole or walking stick
during the day – at night, use a flashlight.
Always tell park staff when you encounter a
rattlesnake so they can safeguard the area and
the snake.

Rattlesnakes

Rattlesnakes are an important part of our local ecosystem and a protected species in County Parks. They help to control the population of small mammals like mice and rats.

If you encounter a rattlesnake, likely on hot
days or in summer, consider yourself lucky

Know what they look like and be aware when you

visit any of the trails on site. Avoid heavy

brush and carry a hiking pole or walking stick
during the day – at night, use a flashlight.

Always tell park staff when you encounter a
rattlesnake so they can safeguard the area and
the snake.

Legend

- Tent Site (reservable)
- Non-Hookup Site (reservable)
- Partial Hookup Site (reservable)
- Full Hookup Site (reservable)
- Full Shade
- Partial Shade
- Disabled access

- Hiking Trail
- Entry Booth
- Ranger Station
- Restrooms
- Restrooms/Shower
- Backpacker Tent Site
- Picnic Area
- Boat Launch
- Wilderness Cabins
- Enclosed Pavilion
- Horseshoes
- Dump Station

Check in: 2 p.m. Check out: 12 p.m.
For detailed site descriptions, go to
sdparks.org

Lake Morena County Park

2550 Lake Morena Dr., Campo, CA 91906 • (619) 579-4101

LAKE MORENA COUNTY PARK

A San Diego County
Camping Park

INFORMATION

County of San Diego
Department of Parks and Recreation
5500 Overland Avenue, Suite 410
San Diego, CA 92123
Reservations & Information:
Toll Free • (888) 565-3600
Local • (858) 565-3600

Visit us at www.sdparks.org

RULES & REGULATIONS

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES: Alcoholic beverages are permitted providing the alcohol content does not exceed 20%.

CAMPING: No more than eight people and two tents per campsite.

CAMPFIRES: Campfire must be enclosed or contain a fire ring. See range for current campfire rules. No fires after 11 p.m.

DRONES: Remotely piloted aircraft and drones are prohibited.

FIREARMS & WEAPONS: Firearms, bow & arrows, and weapons are not permitted in County Parks.

GENERATORS: Generators are allowed between the hours of 9 a.m. and 10 p.m., so long as the noise does not detract from the peace and quiet of the campground or neighboring sites.

NOISE: To ensure each park guest’s pleasure and peace, quiet hours are from 10 p.m. to 8 a.m. Excessive noise and loud music is discouraged at all times.

PETS: Pets are permitted if they are properly restrained and under the control of the owner. Dogs must be licensed, on a leash no longer than six feet, and attended at all times.

TREES: Do not tie or hang ropes, wire, or tents to trees. Do not drive nails, screws, or staples into trees.

VEGETATION & NATURAL FEATURES: All plants, animals, natural features, and archaeological resources are fully protected and may not be damaged, injured, or removed. Please check with your ranger for removal — he or she generally has a supply to sell for campfires. Please do not gather it from within the park.

WASTE WATER: Please dispose of all waste water in an approved dump station, never on the ground.

YOUTH: All persons under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a legally responsible adult with mutual authorization for each minor while camping in the park.

NOTE: Residents in the park are expected upon guests maintaining their immediate camping area in a safe and clean condition and complying with all park rules. Failure to comply will result in a suspension of camping privileges and loss of prepaid fees.
Quagga and Zebra Mussels

Quagga and zebra mussels are two species of freshwater mussels with D-shaped, triangular shells. The shells are smooth or shallowly ridged and vary in color from solid light to dark brown – or have alternating light and dark stripes. At various stages of life, they range in size from microscopic to up to two inches. Quagga mussels are more adaptable than zebra mussels, and can live at greater depths and in colder water, but the two species look very similar.

Quagga and zebra mussels are “filter feeders” that consume large quantities of microscopic plants and animals that other species depend on. As a result, when they are introduced to a water system they can severely alter the balance of life, displacing native species and sport fish.

To protect the sensitive ecosystem at Lake Morena, all watercraft and equipment must pass a quagga inspection prior to launch. To pass the inspection, they must be clean, drained and dry:

- Cleaned of any visible mud, plants, fish, or animals on the watercraft equipment and trailers
- Drained of any water, including from the lower outboard unit, ballast, live-well, buckets, etc., and drain plugs should be unplugged prior to arrival
- Dried in all areas including anchor lines, life vests, waders, live wells and trailers

Lake Morena County Park

About the Park

Lake Morena County Park is located 42 miles east of San Diego on the remote eastern slope of the Laguna Mountains. It’s just a hop, skip and jump away from the community of Campo, where you can discover local history in the Campo Stone Store, or take a leisurely train ride through San Diego rugged back country.

Lake Morena sits at an elevation of 3,000 feet and is the most remote of the County’s reservoirs. The lake is fed by Cottonwood Creek and Morena Creek, and it feeds into the Barrett Reservoir, Lower Otay Reservoir and the Otay River Valley. Water levels can fluctuate drastically, when water is released to fill reservoirs downstream or in times of extreme drought.

Because of its location, Lake Morena County Park shows characteristics of desert, coastal and mountain habitats. The chaparral woodland is home to a variety of animals including bald eagles, bobcats, and migratory waterfowl, which can be observed in the park’s more remote areas.

Picnic, hike, boat, fish, camp and sight-see – the park offers something for people of all ages and interests.

Camping

The park boasts two beautiful campgrounds. The main area is called the South Shore campground, which is conveniently located just inside the park entrance. All areas are within walking distance of the boat docks, ranger station, several restroom facilities including one that contains coin-operated showers, a country store is just a quick walk away.

The campground consists of 40 full hookup, 17 partial hookup, 10 non-hookup, and 18 tent only campsites, all comfortably situated along a shady grove of majestic oaks. Down the road is a group camping area which provides enough room for 50 people – perfect for youth groups, reunions and camps. The North Shore campground is open seasonally or during high-water times, offering 50 primitive sites for those seeking a more rustic camping experience.

Go glamping in one of 10 wilderness cabins – some with lake views! Each 175-square-foot cabin has one queen bed frame, one twin bunk bed frame, interior lighting, power outlets and a propane heater, accommodating up to four people. Mattresses are not included; don’t forget the padding and sleeping bags! Pets are not allowed. A fire ring and a picnic table are located outside each designated site.

Boating and Fishing

Boating and fishing are very popular at Lake Morena! There are miles of shoreline with rocky outcroppings, ledges, and bushes to explore – along with an island when the water is up.

For the avid fisherman, trout are full of energy and feel at home in the chilly waters during the winter and early spring. Choice areas include Pump House Cove, Paradise Cove and the South Shoreline.

Lake Morena boasts two previous world records for largemouth bass, and the spring and summer months are excellent times to pursue your own record. Other fish include bluegill, crappie, and catfish.

Rent a boat for a few hours! Fees start at $11 and vary based on the day, the type of boat you select. The speed limit for all boats is 10 MPH.

The boat ramp is also open to personal watercraft, fishing float tubes, canoes and kayaks. Swimming and direct water-body contact are not permitted.