

# **Where To Go Camping Guide**

*Southern Sierra Council*

*Scouts BSA*

**March 2020**

## **Introduction**

This guide offers a directory of campsites within a radius of 3 hours of driving time from Bakersfield. Areas lying just beyond this 3-hour zone—Yosemite, Death Valley, the Eastern Sierra, or the Cedar Grove area of Kings Canyon—have not been included. Future revised editions may perhaps widen the circle to include more destinations. Distances and driving times are calculated from Bakersfield. If your troop is in Delano or Tehachapi or some other part of the Council, please adjust mileage and travel times accordingly.

Since navigation capability is generally available in vehicles and smartphone apps, directions have not been included for more high-profile sites, like state and national parks. Directions have been provided for more remote and less well-known sites, such as many of the smaller US Forest Service campgrounds.

The guide focuses primarily on the camping areas available through the various federal land management agencies (US Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management), state agencies (California State Parks, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection), county and regional park agencies (Kern, Tulare, and San Luis Obispo counties), and private non-profit conservation organizations (The Wildlands Conservancy).

Internet links have been included in this guide, but they may have changed since the guide was published. Likewise, prices have been included, but are likely to change over time. Similarly, campsite amenities have been listed, but conditions may change over time due to fluctuating agency budgets and drought conditions. It's a good idea to confirm with the agency before you go, to confirm the availability of water or the permissibility of fires.

This camping guide for the Southern Sierra Council was prepared in partial fulfillment of my Wood Badge ticket for Tri-Council Wood Badge W4-58-18. It is dedicated to the members of W4-58-18's Bear Patrol.

Douglas W. Dodd  
Scoutmaster  
Troop 217  
Bakersfield, California

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**  
**CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS**  
**1416 9<sup>TH</sup> STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814**  
**800-777-0369**  
<http://www.parks.ca.gov>

**Campsites:** California State Parks operates several types of campsites, each with its own characteristics and occupancy limits.

- Family campsites:* Maximum of 8 people, 2 vehicles per site. Standard amenities include restrooms (vault or flush toilets), potable water, picnic tables, and fire rings. Generally reservable (however, some campsites are first-come, first-served.)
- Group campsites:* These vary in size, accommodating 20, 50, or up to 100 people. Check the details for each park. Standard amenities include restrooms (vault or flush toilets), potable water, picnic tables, and fire rings. Reservable.
- Environmental campsites:* located away from the roads, in more undisturbed settings, these sites require hiking in by trail. Amenities include: a clearing for tent, table, primitive toilets. Occupancy is 8 persons per site. Reservable.
- Hiker-biker campsites:* Walk-in, tents only. Occupancy is 8 persons per site. Non-reservable.

**Vehicles:** Although 2 vehicles are allowed per site, the second vehicle must pay an “additional vehicle” fee.

**Reservations:** Unless otherwise indicated, California State Parks campgrounds are reservable (and reservations are advised!). Reservations can be made online through Reserve California: <https://www.reservecalifornia.com>

**Great Basin District**  
15101 Lancaster Road  
Lancaster CA 93536  
(661) 724-1206

***Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park*** (elev. 200’)

15 family campsites, \$20/night. Water, picnic tables, fire rings/grills, and shade ramadas. Some trees. Flush toilets and showers. From October through February, the nearby Pixley National Wildlife Refuge offers the opportunity to see the migration of Sandhill Cranes. Hike the 1-mile trail from the parking area to viewing site. At sunset, the quiet air echoes with the calls of thousands of cranes as they return to the refuge’s ponds. An impressive natural experience. (Scouts can travel from Bakersfield to Allensworth by train: Amtrak will make a special stop at Col. Allensworth State Park for groups of 20 or more people. Advance reservations are required. Call 1-800-USA-RAIL.) Season: Year-round. Distance/time from Bakersfield: 45 miles/0.75 hours

***Fort Tejon State Historic Park*** (elev. 3500')

1 group campsite (75 people, 25 vehicles; \$125/night). Potable water, electrical hookup, pit toilets, fire rings/grills, and tables. Explore the historic fort and its environs.

Distance from Bakersfield: 40 miles/0.75 hours

***Red Rock Canyon State Park*** (elev. 2600')

50 primitive family campsites (non-reservable), \$25/night. Water, pit toilets, fire rings, and tables. Firewood for sale at visitor center. Season: Year-round.

Distance from Bakersfield: 80 miles/1.25 hours

***Saddleback Butte State Park*** (elev. 2500')

37 family campsites (non-reservable). Water, picnic tables, fire rings/grills, and shade/wind ramadas. 1 group campsite, accommodates up to 30 people (\$100/night, reservable through California State Parks' Mojave District Office, (661) 946-6092. Water, picnic tables, fire rings/grills, and shade/wind ramadas. A small desert park with a Joshua Tree forest and 3651' Saddleback Butte as the central attractions. Season: Year-round.

Distance from Bakersfield: 2 hours (105 miles)

**San Luis Obispo Coast District:**

750 Hearst Castle Rd, San Simeon, CA 93452

(805) 927-2065

***Hearst San Simeon State Park*** (elev. 50')

**San Simeon Creek Campground**

115 family campsites, \$35/night. Fire ring and picnic table. Water. Flush toilets and showers. located near the beach (and Highway 101) in a creek bottom with thick vegetation.

**Washburn Campground** is about 1 mile inland, located on the top of a ridge with views of the Pacific Ocean and Santa Lucia Mountains. It has about 70 Family campsites. Fire ring and picnic table. Water. Vault toilets. \$20/night.

Hearst San Simeon offers inland hiking trails and beach access. Nearby attractions are San Simeon (with a pier, beach, kayak rentals and Coastal Discovery Nature Center), Hearst Castle, Moonstone Beach tidepools, and the Elephant Seal rookery viewing area. Season: Year-round

Distance from Bakersfield: 140 miles/2.5 hours

***Morro Bay State Park*** (elev. 20')

***Morro Bay State Park Campground***

125 family campsites. Fire ring and picnic table. Water. Flush toilets and showers. \$35/night. 2 group campsites. Fire ring and picnic table. Water. Flush toilets and showers. (Oso Group Site: 25 people, \$100/night; Chorro Group Site: 35 people, \$165/night.) Marina with kayak rentals, natural history museum, estuary, hiking trails, golf course. Season: Year-round

Distance from Bakersfield: 135 miles/2.5 hours

***Montana de Oro State Park*** (elev. 50')

**Islay Creek Campground:** 50 family campsites. Fire ring and picnic table. Water. Vault toilets. \$25/night.

**Environmental Campsites:** 4 hike-in campsites. Picnic table. Pit toilets. No water, no fires. \$25/night.

Excellent tidepools, hiking, biking. Season: Year-round

Distance from Bakersfield: 150 miles/2.75 hours

***Pismo Beach State Park*** (elev. 50')

**Oceano Campground.** 82 family campsites (42 with hookups, 40 without). \$50/night with hookups, \$35/night without. Fire ring and picnic table. Water. Flush toilets and showers. Season: Year-round

**North Beach Campground.** 103 family campsites. \$35/night. Fire ring and picnic table. Water. Flush toilets and showers. Season: Year-round

Distance from Bakersfield: 140 miles/2.5 hours

**Channel Coast District**

911 San Pedro Street

Ventura, CA 93001

(805) 585-1850

***El Capitan State Beach*** (elev. 50')

130 family campsites. \$45/night. 5 group campsites (30-100 people; \$225-325/night).

Season: Year-round

Distance from Bakersfield: 170 miles/3 hours

***Emma Wood State Beach*** (elev. 20')

**Ventura River Group Camp.** 4 group sites (each site accommodates up to 30 people, 10 tents, and 5 vehicles). Potable water, showers (cold), flush toilets, fire rings/grills, and tables. \$130/night. Season: Year-round

Distance from Bakersfield: 120 miles/2 hours

***McGrath State Beach*** (elev. 10')

173 family campsites. Potable water, showers, flush toilets, fire rings/grills, and tables. \$35/night. Near Ventura Harbor and Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center and Island Packers, making McGrath a convenient overnight before catching a boat to the islands. Located at the mouth of the Santa Clara River. Season: Year-round, but sometimes closed due to seasonal flooding—call ahead.

Distance from Bakersfield: 120 miles/2 hours

**Angeles District Office**  
1925 Las Virgenes Road  
Calabasas, CA 91302-1909  
(818) 880-0363

***Point Mugu State Park*** (elev. 50')

**La Jolla Group Campground** (50 people, 12 vehicles). Potable water, flush toilets, showers, fire rings/grills, and tables. \$225/night

**Sycamore Campground**. 58 family campsites. Potable water, flush toilets, showers, fire rings/grills, and tables. \$45/night. Season: Year-round

Distance from Bakersfield: 130 miles/2.25 hours

***Leo Carrillo State Beach*** (elev. 50')

**Canyon Campground**. 134 family campsites. Potable water, flush toilets, showers, fire rings/grills, and tables. \$45/site; \$60/site with hookups.

1 group campsite (50 people). Potable water, flush toilets, showers, fire rings/grills, and tables. \$225/night. Season: Year-round

Distance from Bakersfield: 135 miles/2.5 hours

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**  
**MOUNTAIN HOME DEMONSTRATION STATE FOREST**

P.O. Box 517  
Springville, CA 93265  
(559) 539-2855

***Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest***

The forest has several campgrounds.

**Frasier Mill Campground** (elev. 6,200'; 46 family campsites)

**Hedrick Pond Campground** (elev. 6,200'; 14 family campsites)

**Hidden Falls Campground** (elev. 5,900'; 8 family campsites)

**Moses Gulch Campground** (elev. 5,400'; 10 family campsites)

**Shake Camp Campground** (elev. 6,500'; 11 family campsites)

Non-reservable; first-come, first-served. Tables, water, pit toilets, bear boxes, fire ring/grill. 10 people per site. \$15/site; \$5 per extra vehicle.

**Methuselah Group Campground** (elev. 5,400'; up to 80 people, \$50/night, reservable; call 559-539-2321 in summer; 559-539-2855, in winter. Reservations open January 1 each year.) Tables, pit toilets, bear boxes, fire ring/grill. No water—campers must bring their own.

In mixed-conifer forest with Giant Sequoia groves. Nature trails, Indian Bathtubs archaeological site, good trout fishing in creeks and ponds. Trails lead up into Golden Trout Wilderness Maggie Mountain/Maggie Lakes area; down to Wishon Campground (Sequoia National Forest). Balch Park Pack Station operates trail rides and a packing service in to the Golden Trout Wilderness.

Distance from Bakersfield: 85 miles/2 hours

**USDA FOREST SERVICE**  
**LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST**  
6750 Navigator Dr., Goleta, CA 93117  
(805) 968-6640  
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/lpnf/home>

**Campsites:** U.S. Forest Service offers two types of campsites:

- Family campsites:* Maximum of 6 people, 2 vehicles per site. Standard amenities include restrooms (vault toilets), picnic tables, and fire rings. Generally reservable (however, some campgrounds are first-come, first-served.)
- Group campsites:* These vary in size, accommodating 20, 50, or up to 100 people. Standard amenities include restrooms (vault toilets), potable water, picnic tables, and fire rings. Reservable.

**Vehicles:** Although 2 vehicles are allowed per site, the second vehicle must pay a \$10 “additional vehicle” fee.

**Reservations:** Reservations for U.S. Forest Service campsites can be made online through Recreation.gov: <https://www.recreation.gov>

•*Backcountry/wilderness campsites:* Besides its developed campgrounds, Los Padres National Forest offers outstanding opportunities for nearly year-round backpacking and camping in the Chumash, Sespe, San Rafael, Matilija, and Dick Smith Wilderness Areas. The Los Padres backcountry has an extensive network of trails and wilderness campsites (often with fire ring and table) that make it the perfect place to introduce scouts to backpacking and wilderness travel.

An outstanding trip planning resource available for Los Padres National Forest is the Los Padres Interpretive Association’s *Hike Los Padres* website [<http://www.hikelospadres.com/>]. The site offers regularly updated information on campgrounds, backcountry campsites, spring/water flow conditions, trails, roads, and locked gates. Another useful resource is Craig R. Carey, *Hiking and Backpacking Santa Barbara and Ventura* (Berkeley, CA: Wilderness Press, 2012).

***Mt. Pinos Ranger District Campgrounds***  
34580 Lockwood Valley Rd.  
Frazier Park, CA 93225  
(661) 245-3731

**McGill Campground** (elev. 7400’)

73 family campsites, \$20/night, 2 group campsites, \$120/night (group camp 1: 60 people, 10 vehicles; group camp 2: 80 people, 10 vehicles). No water—campers must bring their own. In mixed conifer forest. Nature trail. Season: May 15-October 31. Five miles from Cuddy Valley Road on Mount Pinos Highway.  
Distance from Bakersfield: 62 miles/1.5 hours

**Mt. Pinos Campground** (elev. 8000')

19 family campsites, \$20/night. No water—campers must bring their own. In mixed conifer forest. Season: May 15-October 31. Seven miles from Cuddy Valley Road on Mount Pinos Highway.

Distance from Bakersfield: 64 miles/1.5 hours

**Chula Vista Campground** (elev. 8300')

12 family campsites, free. A walk-in campground accessible by 500-yard trail from the parking lot at the top of the Mt. Pinos Highway. Non-reservable; first-come, first-served. No water—campers must bring their own. In Jeffrey pine forest. Hike to summit of Mt. Pinos (elev. 8,800'). Season: open all year. Located at the end of the Mt. Pinos Highway

Distance from Bakersfield: 65 miles/1.5 hours

**Campo Alto Campground** (elev. 8300')

15 family campsites, \$20/night; 2 group campsites, \$100/night (100 people, 10 vehicles). No water—campers must bring their own. In Jeffrey pine forest. Near trailhead for Vincent Tumamait Trail through Chumash Wilderness to summit of Mt. Pinos (elev. 8,800'). Season: May 15-October 31. Located off Mil Potrero Highway, approximately three miles west Pine Mountain Club. Take Forest Road 9N27 south for 6 miles.

Distance from Bakersfield: 70 miles/1.5 hours

**Chuchupate Campground** (elev. 6200')

29 family campsites, \$20/night. No water—campers must bring their own. Located three miles from the Chuchupate Ranger Station off Frazier Mountain Road (FS 8N04). In pinyon woodland. Season: May 15-October 31.

Distance from Bakersfield: 52 miles/1 hour

**Aliso Park Campground** (elev. 3200')

10 family campsites, Requires \$5/daily Adventure Pass to camp overnight. Non-reservable; first-come, first-served. No water—campers must bring their own. In oak woodland. Season: open all year. Located on Aliso Canyon Road (FS 10N04), approximately seven miles south of State Highway 166.

Distance from Bakersfield: 75 miles/1.5 hours

**Reyes Creek Campground** (elev. 4000')

26 family campsites. No water—campers must bring their own. In oak and cottonwood riparian woodland. Season: open all year. Take Highway 33, turn onto Lockwood Valley Road, go east for 1.5 miles.

Distance from Bakersfield: 75 miles/1.5 hours



**USDA FOREST SERVICE**  
**SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST**  
1839 S. Newcomb  
Porterville, CA 93257  
(559) 784-1500

**Campsites:** U.S. Forest Service offers two types of campsites:

•*Family campsites:* Maximum of 6 people, 2 vehicles per site. Standard amenities include restrooms (vault toilets), picnic tables, and fire rings. Generally reservable (however, some campgrounds are first-come, first-served.)

•*Group campsites:* These vary in size, accommodating 20, 50, or up to 100 people. Standard amenities include restrooms (vault toilets), potable water, picnic tables, and fire rings. Reservable.

**Vehicles:** Although 2 vehicles are allowed per site, the second vehicle must pay a \$10 “additional vehicle” fee.

**Reservations:** Reservations for U.S. Forest Service campsites can be made online through Recreation.gov: <https://www.recreation.gov>

***Kern River Ranger District***  
11380 Kernville Rd  
Kernville, CA 93238  
(760) 376-3781

**Breckenridge Campground** (elev. 6600’)

22 family campsites, free. Non-reservable; first-come, first-served. No water—campers must bring their own. Campfire permits required for campfires, barbeques, and camp stoves. In mixed-conifer forest. Hike to summit of Breckenridge Mountain and Breckenridge Lookout (elev. 7252’). From Bakersfield, go 30 miles east on Breckenridge Road (Country Road 218/ Forest Road 28S06). Season: May-November.  
Distance from Bakersfield: 40 miles/1.5 hours

**Sandy Flat Campground** (elev. 2300’)

35 family campsites, \$27/night. Reservable. In oak/pine woodland. Water, fire rings, picnic tables, vault toilets. Located on the Kern River on the Old Canyon Road. Season: April- November.  
Distance from Bakersfield: 40 miles/1 hour

**Hobo Campground** (elev. 2200’)

35 family campsites, \$23/night. Non-reservable; first-come, first-served. No water—campers must bring their own. In oak/pine woodland. Fire rings, picnic tables, vault toilets. Located on the Kern River on the Old Canyon Road. Season: April-September.  
Distance from Bakersfield: 40 miles/1 hour

### ***Lake Isabella Area***

#### **Hungry Gulch Campground** (elev. 2700')

78 family campsites, \$28/night. Reservable. Water, fire rings, picnic tables, flush toilets. In oak-foothill pine woodland. From Bakersfield take Highway 178 to Lake Isabella, then on Highway 155 four miles north to the campground. Season: May-September.  
Distance from Bakersfield: 45 miles/1 hour

#### **Tillie Creek Campground** (elev. 2650')

60 family campsites, \$30/night. Reservable. Water, fire rings, picnic tables, flush toilets. Oak-foothill pine woodland. At Wofford Heights on Highway 155. Season: May-October.  
Distance from Bakersfield: 50 miles/1 hour

#### **Pioneer Point Campground** (elev. 2650')

78 family campsites, \$25/night. Reservable. Water, fire rings, picnic tables, vault toilets. In oak-foothill pine woodland. Located near Wofford Heights on Highway 155. Season: Year-round.  
Distance from Bakersfield: 45 miles/1 hour

#### **Boulder Gulch Campground** (elev. 2650')

78 family campsites, \$30/night. Reservable. Water, fire rings, picnic tables, flush toilets. In oak-foothill pine woodland. From Highway 99 in Bakersfield, California, take Highway 178 east to the town of Lake Isabella. Take Highway 155 north for 4 miles to the campground entrance. Season: April-September.  
Distance from Bakersfield: 45 miles/1 hour

### ***Kern Plateau Area***

#### **Horse Meadow Campground** (elev. 7,600')

41 family campsites, \$17/night. Non-reservable; first-come, first-served. Water, fire rings, picnic tables, bear boxes, vault toilets. In mixed-conifer forest. Near Cherry Hill Road 22S12/23S10. Season: May-November.  
Distance from Bakersfield: 90 miles/2.5 hours

#### **Fish Creek Campground** (elev. 7,400')

40 family campsites, \$17/night. Non-reservable; first-come, first-served. Campfire permits required for campfires, barbeques, and camp stoves. In mixed-conifer forest. Fire rings, picnic tables, vault toilets. No water—campers must bring their own. In mixed-conifer forest. From Kernville, go 54 miles northeast on Mountain Road 99 and east on Sherman Pass Road (Forest Road 22S05). Season: May-October.  
Distance from Bakersfield: 100 miles/3 hours

#### **Troy Meadows Campground** (elev. 7,800')

73 family campsites, \$17/night. Non-reservable; first-come, first-served. Water, fire rings, picnic tables, bear boxes, vault toilets. In mixed-conifer forest. From Kernville, go 54 miles northeast on Mountain Road 99 and east on Sherman Pass Road (Forest Road 22S05). Season: May-November.  
Distance from Bakersfield: 100 miles/3 hours

***Western Divide Ranger District***

32588 Hwy 190  
Springville, CA 93265  
(559) 539-2607

**Wishon Campground** (elev. 3900')

35 family campsites, \$28. Water, fire rings, picnic tables, vault toilets. In mixed-conifer forest. Good trout fishing in Wishon Creek. Trail leads up Wishon Creek to Mountain Home State Forest. From Highway 99, turn east on Highway 190. Travel on 190 through Springville to Wishon Drive/M208. Left on Wishon Drive and travel about 4 miles. The entrance to Wishon Campground is on the right as the road curves to Doyle Springs.

Season: Year-round.

Distance from Bakersfield: 80 miles/1.75 hours

**Belknap Campground** (elev. 5000')

13 family campsites, \$28. Water, fire rings, picnic tables, vault toilets. In mixed-conifer forest. Nearby trails and Giant Sequoia groves. Fishing in Tule River. From Springville, California, proceed east on Highway 190 for approximately 15 miles. Turn east on Nelson Drive and continue about a mile to the campground. Season: May-October.

Distance from Bakersfield: 85 miles/1.75 hours

**Coy Flat Campground** (elev. 5000')

13 family campsites, \$28. No water—campers must bring their own. Fire rings, picnic tables, vault toilets. In mixed-conifer forest. Nearby trails and Giant Sequoia groves. Fishing in Tule River. From Highway 99 go east on Highway 190 to Springville, California. On 190 travel 15 miles to Nelson Drive. From Nelson Drive exit on Coy Flat and drive 1.5 miles to campground. Season: May-October.

Distance from Bakersfield: 85 miles/1.75 hours

**Quaking Aspen Campground** (elev. 7000')

30 family campsites, \$28; 2 large-groups campsites (up to 50 people), \$200/night; 1 medium-group campsite (up to 25 people), \$100/night; and 2 small-group campsites (up to 12 people), \$55/night. Water, fire rings, picnic tables, vault toilets. In mixed-conifer forest. Needles Lookout and the Summit National Recreation Trail are nearby attractions. From Porterville, California, take Highway 190 East to Springville. Continue from Springville approximately 28 miles to the Quaking Aspen Campground. Season: May-October.

Distance from Bakersfield: 90 miles/2 hours

**Upper Peppermint Dispersed Camping Area** (elev. 7000')

19 primitive dispersed campsites, free. Non-reservable; first-come, first-served. No water—campers must bring their own. Fire rings, picnic tables, vault toilets Campfire permits required for campfires, barbeques, and camp stoves. In mixed-conifer forest. From Springville, go 31 miles east on Highway 190, south on Western Divide Highway and east on Forest Road 21S07. Season: May-October.

Distance from Bakersfield: 85 miles/2 hours

**Redwood Meadow Campground** (elev. 6500')

15 family campsites, \$25/night. Reservable. Water, fire rings, picnic tables, vault toilets. In mixed-conifer forest. The Redwood Meadow Grove of Giant Sequoias and Trail of One Hundred Giants and is nearby. 58 miles SE of Porterville via Hwy 190 and Western Divide Highway. Season: May-October.  
Distance from Bakersfield: 85 miles/2 hours

**Holey Meadow Campground** (elev. 6500')

10 family campsites, \$26. No water—campers must bring their own. Fire rings, picnic tables, vault toilets. In mixed-conifer forest. Nearby trails and Trail of 100 Giants Sequoia grove. From Highway 99, turn east on J22. Travel on J22 through California Hot Springs, then turn left at onto M50. After approximately 10 miles turn left at M107. The entrance to Holey Meadow Campground is on the left about a mile after the turn. Season: May-October.  
Distance from Bakersfield: 80 miles/2 hours

**Lower Peppermint Campground** (elev. 5300')

17 family campsites, \$20/night. Non-reservable; first-come, first-served. Water, fire rings, picnic tables, vault toilets. In mixed-conifer forest. From Johnsondale, go 10 miles north on Lloyd Meadow Road (Forest Road 22S82). Season: May-November.  
Distance from Bakersfield: 90 miles/2 hours

**Frog Meadow Campground** (elev. 7500')

10 family campsites, free. Non-reservable; first-come, first-served. No water—campers must bring their own. Fire rings, picnic tables, vault toilets. In mixed-conifer forest. From Glennville, go about 1 mile west on CA 155, 4 miles north on County Road 421/Linns Valley Road/County Road M3, then left at the Y intersection and go 7 miles on County Road M9/Forest Road 23S16/Sugarloaf Road, then left onto Forest Road 24S50. Season: June-October.  
Distance from Bakersfield: 65 miles/2 hours

**White River Campground** (elev. 4000')

12 family campsites, \$26/night. Reservable. Water, fire rings, picnic tables, vault toilets. In mixed-conifer forest. 8 miles from California Hot Springs. From Highway 99, turn east onto J22. Proceed on J22 through California Hot Springs to the "T" intersection. Turn right at intersection M56 through Pineflat. Go 3 miles on the gravel road and turn directly across the bridge. The entrance is a quarter-mile past the bridge on the right side. Season: May-October.  
Distance from Bakersfield: 50 miles/1.5 hours

**Alder Creek Dispersed Camping Area** (elev. 3900')

About 13 primitive, dispersed sites, free. Non-reservable; first-come, first-served. No water—campers must bring their own. Fires not allowed during fire restrictions. Vault toilets. In mixed-conifer forest, oak woodland. From Glennville, go eleven miles east on Highway 155 and Alder Creek Road (Forest Rd. 25S04). Season: May-October.  
Distance from Bakersfield: 50 miles/1.5 hours

**Other Sequoia National Forest Resources:**

J.C. Jenkins and Ruby Johnson Jenkins, *Exploring the Southern Sierra: East Side* (Berkeley, CA: Wilderness Press, 1992).

J.C. Jenkins and Ruby Johnson Jenkins, *Exploring the Southern Sierra: West Side* (Berkeley, CA: Wilderness Press, 1995).

These are comprehensive guides to the Sequoia National Forest and its surrounding region, and contain extensive information on hiking trails and backpacking routes.

**US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
BAKERSFIELD DISTRICT**

3801 Pegasus Drive  
Bakersfield, CA 93308  
(661) 391-6000

<https://www.blm.gov/office/bakersfield-field-office>

**Keysville Recreation Management Area Dispersed Camping (elev. 2850')**

Dispersed camping area without defined sites. Non-reservable. Primitive. Limited vault toilets. No water—campers must bring their own. On the lower Kern River, below Isabella Dam. Historic mining area, historic Walker Cabin. In oak-foothill pine woodland. From the junction of Highway 178 and Highway 155 at Lake Isabella, take exit 155 onto Highway 155. Keysville South entrance (for camping and river access) is approximately 0.6 miles from this junction on the west side of the road. Keysville North entrance (for camping, OHV, and other trail use) is on the left another 0.4 miles down Highway 155, just across the Kern River. Season: Year-round.

**Chimney Peak Campground (elev. 5700')**

36 family campsites. Water (in summer), tables, fire pits, vault toilet. In pinyon-oak woodland. Surrounded by Owens Peak Wilderness. Access to Pacific Crest Trail. From Bakersfield, follow highway CA-178 approximately 30 miles east of the town of Lake Isabella and turn north onto Canebreak Road. Follow graded dirt road 9 miles to the prominent junction of Canebrake and Long Valley/Chimney Basin Roads and continue straight (right fork). The campground will be on the right in an additional 2 miles. Season: Year-round.

**Walker Pass Campground (elev. 5000')**

2 family campsites, 11 walk-in sites. Non-reservable; first-come, first-served. No water—campers must bring their own. Tables, fire pits, vault toilet. In pinyon-Joshua Tree woodland. Access to Pacific Crest Trail. From Bakersfield, take Highway 178 east through Lake Isabella to Walker Pass. Campground is on the south side of the highway, just below the summit. Season: Year-round.

### ***Carrizo Plain National Monument***

#### **Selby Campground**

13 family campsites, free. Non-reservable; first-come, first-served. No water—campers must bring their own. In grassland. Tables, fire pits, vault toilet. Once on Carrizo Plain National Monument, continue on Soda Lake Road until you arrive at sign for Selby Campground. Turn onto Selby Road and travel 4.5 miles to campground. Season: Year-round.

Distance from Bakersfield: 75 miles/2 hours

#### **KCL Campground**

12 family campsites, free. Non-reservable; first-come, first-served. No water—campers must bring their own. Tables, fire pits, vault toilet. Historic Kern County Land Company ranch is adjacent. In grassland. Once on Carrizo Plain National Monument, continue on Soda Lake Road until you arrive at sign for KCL Campground. Turn onto KCL Campground Road and travel 1/2 mile to campground. Season: Year-round.

Distance from Bakersfield: 75 miles/1.5 hours

**US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS  
Ash Mountain Park Headquarters  
47050 Generals Highway  
Three Rivers, CA 93271**

**Campsites:** Sequoia-Kings Canyon offers two types of campsites:

- Family campsites:* Maximum of 6 people. Standard amenities include restrooms (flush toilets), picnic tables, and fire rings. Generally reservable (however, some campgrounds are first-come, first-served.)
- Group campsites:* These vary in size, accommodating 12-40 people. Standard amenities include restrooms (flush toilets), potable water, picnic tables, and fire rings. Reservable.

**Vehicles:** 2 vehicles are allowed per family campsite, number of additional vehicles allowed for group campsites varies.

**Reservations:** Reservations for National Park Service campsites can be made online through Recreation.gov: <https://www.recreation.gov>

### ***Foothills Area***

#### **Buckeye Flat Campground** (elev. 2800')

28 family campsites, \$22/night (reservable May through September). Water, fire rings, picnic tables, bear boxes, flush toilets. In oak woodland. Season: March 20 to September 30.

Distance from Bakersfield: 100 miles/2 hours

**Potwisha Campground** (elev. 2000')

42 family campsites, \$22/night (reservable May through September). Water, fire rings, picnic tables, bear boxes, flush toilets. In oak woodland. Season: Year-round.  
Distance from Bakersfield: 100 miles/2 hours

**Lodgepole/Giant Forest Area**

**Dorst Creek Campground** (elev. 6800')

218 family campsites, \$22/night (reservable). 4 large-group campsites: Sites A and B (up to 15 people), \$50/night; Site C (up to 15 people), \$70/night; Site D (up to 40 people), \$60/night (reservable). Water, fire rings, picnic tables, bear boxes, flush toilets.  
Campground is served by park shuttles to Lodgepole and Giant Forest area. In mixed-conifer forest. Season: June-September.  
Distance from Bakersfield: 125 miles/3 hours

**Lodgepole Campground** (elev. 6700')

214 family campsites and 16 walk-in tent sites, \$22/night (reservable). Water, fire rings, picnic tables, bear boxes, flush toilets. Campground is served by park shuttles to Giant Forest area. In mixed-conifer forest. Season: May-early December.  
Distance from Bakersfield: 115 miles/2.75 hours

**Mineral King Area**

**Atwell Mill Campground** (elev. 6600')

21 family campsites, \$12/night. Non-reservable; First-come, first-served.  
Water, fire rings, picnic tables, bear boxes, vault toilets. In mixed-conifer forest.  
Season: June 20-October 28. [Protect your vehicle from marmots in Mineral King: <https://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/marmots.htm>].  
Distance from Bakersfield: 110 miles/3 hours

**Cold Springs Campground** (elev. 7500')

31 regular family campsites, \$12/night; 9 walk-in family campsites, \$12/night. Non-reservable; First-come, first-served. Water, fire rings, picnic tables, bear boxes, vault toilets. In mixed-conifer forest. Season: May 20-October 14. [Protect your vehicle from marmots in Mineral King: <https://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/marmots.htm>].  
Distance from Bakersfield: 115 miles/3 hours

**Grant Grove Area**

**Azalea Campground** (elev. 6500')

110 family campsites, \$18/night. Non-reservable; First-come, first-served.  
Water, fire rings, picnic tables, bear boxes, flush toilets. In mixed-conifer forest. Trails to Grant Grove of Giant Sequoias. Season: Year-round (fewer sites open in winter and early spring).  
Distance from Bakersfield: 135 miles/2.5 hours

**Sunset Campground** (elev. 6500')

157 family campsites, \$22/night; reservable. 2 group sites. Sites A and B (15-30 people), \$40/night; reservable. Water, fire rings, picnic tables, bear boxes, flush toilets. In mixed-conifer forest. Trails to Grant Grove of Giant Sequoias. Season: Late May to early September.

Distance from Bakersfield: 135 miles/2.5 hours

**Crystal Spring Campground** (elev. 6500')

157 family campsites, \$18/night; non-reservable—first-come, first-served. 14 group sites. Sites A-N (7-15 people), \$40/night; reservations required. Water, fire rings, picnic tables, bear boxes, flush toilets. In mixed-conifer forest. Season: Late May to early September.

Distance from Bakersfield: 135 miles/2.5 hours

**CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK**  
**Park Headquarters/ Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center**  
**Channel Islands Harbor**

1901 Spinnaker Dr.  
Ventura, CA 93001  
(805) 658-5730

<https://www.nps.gov/chis/index.htm>

Trips to the Channel Islands begin and end at Island Packers, the park concessionaire that operates boat service from Channel Islands Harbor to the docks and landings of the various islands. Reservations are required for camping. Reserve through [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

Distance from Bakersfield: 120 miles/2 hours

**Island Packers Cruises**

1691 Spinnaker Dr., #105B  
Ventura, CA 93001  
(805) 642-1393

<https://islandpackers.com/>

***Anacapa Island:***

7 primitive individual campsites (6 people per site), \$15/night; Reservations required. No water—campers must bring their own. Picnic table, food storage box, and pit toilet are provided. No fires are permitted. Use only enclosed, gas camp stoves. Hiking distance from the boat landing to the campground requires climbing 157 stairs, then hiking one-half mile.

***Santa Cruz Island:***

25 primitive individual campsites (6 people per site), \$15/night; 6 primitive group campsites (15 people per site), \$40/night. Reservations required. Picnic table, food



storage box, potable water, and pit toilet are provided. No fires are permitted. Use only enclosed, gas camp stoves. Hiking distance from the boat landing to the campground is one-half mile over flat ground.

***Santa Rosa Island:***

15 primitive individual campsites (5 people per site), \$15/night; Reservations required. Wind shelter, picnic table, food storage box, potable water, and pit toilet are provided. No fires are permitted. Use only enclosed, gas camp stoves. Hiking distance from the pier to the campground is 1.5 miles over flat ground.

***San Miguel Island:***

9 primitive individual campsites (4 people per site), \$15/night; Reservations required. No water—campers must bring their own. Wind shelter, picnic table, food storage box, and pit toilet are provided. No fires are permitted. Use only enclosed, gas camp stoves. Hiking distance from the boat landing to the campground is a steep one mile uphill climb.

**THE WILDLANDS CONSERVANCY**

**WIND WOLVES PRESERVE**

16019 Maricopa Hwy.

Bakersfield, CA 93311

(661) 858-1115

[https://www.wildlandsconservancy.org/preserve\\_windwolves.html](https://www.wildlandsconservancy.org/preserve_windwolves.html)  
[windwolvespreserve@twc-ca.org](mailto:windwolvespreserve@twc-ca.org)

The Wind Wolves Preserve is open to the public daily from 8 am to 6 pm for hiking, mountain biking, and picnicking. Tent camping is available by advanced reservation. There are seasonal wildflower, night hikes, and wildlife viewing tours.

***San Emigdio Campground***, 12 family campsites; free. Water, fire pit, picnic tables, flush toilets, dishwashing station. 6 people per site. Season: Year-round.

[https://www.wildlandsconservancy.org/preserve\\_windwolves\\_sanemigdiocamp.html](https://www.wildlandsconservancy.org/preserve_windwolves_sanemigdiocamp.html)

***The Crossing Group Campground***, 1 site; free. Water, fire pit, picnic tables, flush toilets, shade ramada. Up to 80 people per site. Season: Year-round.

[https://www.wildlandsconservancy.org/preserve\\_windwolves\\_groupcamping.html](https://www.wildlandsconservancy.org/preserve_windwolves_groupcamping.html)

***The Willows Group Campground***, 1 site; free. Water, fire pit, picnic tables, flush toilets, shade ramada. Up to 80 people per site. Season: Year-round.

[https://www.wildlandsconservancy.org/preserve\\_windwolves\\_groupcamping.html](https://www.wildlandsconservancy.org/preserve_windwolves_groupcamping.html)

**KERN COUNTY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

1115 Truxtun Ave. #3  
Bakersfield, CA 93301  
(661) 868-7000

<https://www.kerncounty.com/government/parks>

***Buena Vista Aquatic Recreation Area***

112 family campsites (10 people/site; 2 vehicles/site, with additional charge for second vehicle). Tables, water, fire rings. Several types of campsites are available at different rates: Non-Waterfront campsite – no utilities, \$16.00/night; Waterfront campsite – no utilities, \$20.00/night; Non-Waterfront campsite with utilities, \$24.00/night; Waterfront campsite with utilities, \$25.00/night. This campground is more appealing late fall through early spring, when the weather is cooler. Fishing available for additional fee (trout planted in cooler months). Prices are for non-peak season, during, October-March. Distance from Bakersfield: 25 miles; 30 minutes

***Camp Okihi*** (elev. 500')

2 group campsites (100 people/site). Tables, fire rings, barbecue pits. \$50/night. There is no water supply at Camp Okihi. Bring water for drinking and washing. Wash basins and Port-A-Potties are provided. Distance from Bakersfield: 15 miles; 20 minutes.

***Greenhorn Mountain Park*** (elev. 6,000')

70 family campsites (10 people/site; 1 vehicle/site). Tables, water, fire rings/grills, flush and pit toilets, showers. \$18/night. In mixed conifer forest. Season opening and closing dates depend on snow conditions, contact Kern County Parks and Recreation for information. Distance from Bakersfield: 55 miles; 1.25 hours.

***Kern River Campground*** (elev. 500')

50 family campsites (8 people/site; 2 vehicles/site, fee for second vehicle). Tables, fire rings, water, flush toilets, showers. Peak Season 3/15-10/15: \$24/site, \$11/ second vehicle. Off-Peak 10/16-3/14: \$12/site; \$7/second vehicle. Adjacent to Kern River and Lake Ming. Possible base camp for river rafting with River's End Rafting Company [<https://riversendrafting.com/>]. Distance from Bakersfield: 15 miles; 20 minutes.

***Tehachapi Mountain Park*** (elev. 7,000')

61 family campsites (10 people/site; 1 vehicle/site); Sierra Flats Group Campsite (150 people/15 vehicles). Tables, water, fire rings/grills, flush toilets, showers. In mixed-conifer forest. Open all year, but subject to temporary winter road closures due to snow/ice conditions. Hiking available in camp, steep trail to summit of *Tehachapi Peak* (elev. 7,960'). Distance from Bakersfield: 45 miles; 1 hour.

## **TEHACHAPI VALLEY RECREATION AND PARKS DISTRICT**

490 W D St.  
Tehachapi, CA 93581  
(661) 822-3228  
<https://www.tvrpd.org/>

### **Brite Valley Aquatic Recreation Area (elev. 4000')**

22 family campsites. \$25/night. Tables, water, fire rings/grills, flush toilets, showers. For campsite reservations, please contact the camp host at 661-221-2832. Fishing available in Brite Lake. Season: Year-round.  
Distance from Bakersfield: 45 miles; 1 hour.

## **TULARE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION**

General Services Agency Office  
2637 W. Burrel Ave., Suite 200  
Visalia, CA 93291  
(559) 205-1100  
<https://tularecountyparks.org/>

### **Balch Park (elev. 6,000')**

#### ***Balch Park Campground***

71 family campsites. \$20/night. (8 people/site, 1 vehicle/site; \$5/extra vehicle). Non-reservable; first-come, first served. Tables, water, fire rings/grills, flush toilets, showers. Call for information: (559) 539-3896. <https://tularecountyparks.org/>  
In mixed-conifer forest with Giant Sequoia groves. Trout fishing in ponds, stocked by California Department of Fish and Wildlife. County Park adjoins Mountain Home State Forest and Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument. Season: May-October.  
Distance from Bakersfield: 85 miles/2 hours

## **SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION**

1144 Monterey Street, Ste. A  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
(805) 781-5930  
<https://slocountyparks.com/>

### **Lopez Lake Recreational Area (elev. 560')**

350 family campsites. (8 people/site). Tables, fire rings/grills, water, flush toilets, showers. Primitive Sites, \$28/night; RV hookup sites, \$42/night. 4 Small Group Sites. Tables, fire rings/grills, water, flush toilets, showers. (25 people/site) \$168/night. Reservations: <https://reservations.slocountyparks.com/reservation/camping/>

Set in oak woodland and rolling hills. Hiking trails, fishing, boat rentals. Mustang Water Park (open June-August; <https://mustangwaterpark.com/>). Vista del Lago Adventure Park (Ropes course and zipline: <https://vistalagoadventurepark.com/>). Season: Open all year. Distance from Bakersfield: 145 miles; 2.75 hours.

**Santa Margarita Lake Recreational Area** (elev. 1,300')

60 family campsites. (8 people/site). Tables, fire rings/grills, water, flush toilets, showers. \$28/night (\$25 Oct.-March) Set in oak woodland and rolling hills. 2 boat-in campsites available. No swimming in lake (swimming pool available in summer). Fishing, hiking, boat rentals. Season: Open all year.

Reservations: <https://reservations.slocountyparks.com/reservation/camping/>

Distance from Bakersfield: 115 miles; 2.5 hours.

**El Chorro Regional Park and Campground** (elev. 660')

63 Family campsites. (8 people/site). Tables, fire rings/grills, water, flush toilets, showers. Primitive Sites, \$28/night; RV hookup sites, \$42/night. Located on north side of US 101, across from Cuesta College and Camp San Luis Obispo, halfway between San Luis Obispo and Morro Bay. SLO Botanical Garden and Dairy Creek Golf Course are nearby. [https://reservations.slocountyparks.com/index\\_c5.asp](https://reservations.slocountyparks.com/index_c5.asp)

Distance from Bakersfield: 140 miles; 2.5 hours.