

Imperial
Valley

Escape!

to
adventure



A guide to
Imperial County



Escape to Adventure

Tourist Attractions and Events

Imperial County Chambers of Commerce

Chambers of Commerce offices throughout Imperial County carry a host of information on local tourist attractions and events.

Brawley Chamber of Commerce

204 South Imperial Avenue, Brawley, (760) 344-3160, www.brawleychamber.com

Calexico Chamber of Commerce

1100 Imperial Avenue, Calexico, (760) 357-1166, www.calexicochamber.ca.gov

Calipatria Chamber of Commerce

150 North Park Avenue, Calipatria, (760) 348-5039

El Centro Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau

1095 South 4th Street, El Centro, (760) 352-3681, www.elcentrochamber.com

Holtville Chamber of Commerce

101 West Fifth Street, Holtville, (760) 356-2923, www.holtvillechamber.ca.gov

Imperial Chamber of Commerce

101 East Fourth Street, Imperial, (760) 355-1609, www.imperialchamber.org

West Shores (Salton City) Chamber of Commerce

Marina Drive, Salton City, (760) 394-4112

Desert Area Information – For information about the Imperial Sand Dune areas or other remote areas of Imperial County contact the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Field Office, 1661 S. 4th St., El Centro, CA 92243, (760) 337-4400.

Imperial Sand Dunes – Visitor information and emergency medical services are available weekends during the winter season (October-May) at BLM Cahuilla Ranger Station. Visit www.glamisonline.org or call 888-DUNE-TRT.

Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area – 5172 Highway 78. For visitor information call (760) 767-5391

Salton Sea Information – Both the Salton Sea State Recreation Area and the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge have extensive information about the Salton Sea. Contact the Salton Sea at (760) 393-3059 or Chris Artmann at (760) 348-5278. www.pacific.fws.gov/salton

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Historic Blue Lake Commemorative Monument

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An Escape “Under the Sea...”

Exploring Imperial County’s Agriculture and Irrigation System

Supported by an extensive and highly efficient below sea level irrigation system, Imperial County ranks among the top 10 agricultural counties in the nation. Total agricultural production value annually exceeds \$1 billion. Imperial County’s fertile soil and mild climate allow farmers to enjoy year-round planting, cultivation and harvest. More than 462,202 acres of Imperial Valley land is farmed, producing many field and vegetable crops. Providing the water is Imperial Irrigation District (IID), the largest irrigation district in the nation. Since 1942, water has been diverted at Imperial Dam on the

Colorado River through the 82-mile-long All-American Canal. Three main canals – East Highline, Central Main and Westside Main – receive water from the All-American Canal and are used to deliver water to many local canals throughout Imperial County. Farmers then divert water directly from these canals to irrigate farmland. Another important component of IID’s distribution system are the seven regulating reservoirs and three interceptor reservoirs that have a total storage capacity of more than 3,300 acre-feet of water. IID operates and maintains more than 1,438 miles of lateral canals, 230 miles of main canals and the All-American Canal. It also maintains approximately 1,406 miles of drainage ditches used to collect surface runoff and subsurface drainage from 32,227 miles of tile drains underlying 462,202 acres of farmland. Most of these drainage ditches ultimately discharge water into either the Alamo River or New River which flow into the Salton Sea.



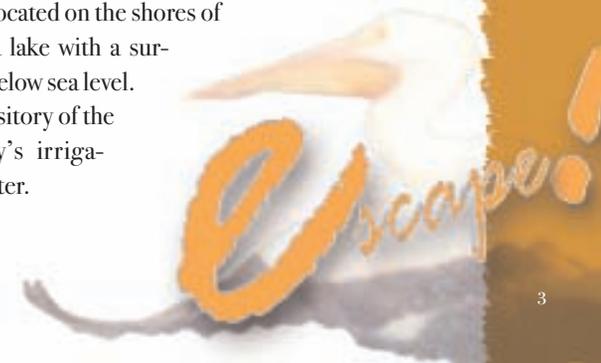
Follow the Flow

To follow the flow of the water, and get a first-hand look at Imperial County’s vast agriculture industry and irrigation gravity-flow system, take a driving tour. Start at Calexico, near the western end of the All-American Canal. You are at sea level there. Continue north on Hwy. 111 to west-bound Interstate 8. While you will not feel it, you are very gradually descending. Continue west on Interstate 8 towards El Centro. Just east of the Fourth Street exit on your left, there is a large tank with a Sea Level mark. At this point, you are about 52 feet below sea level. Take the Imperial Avenue exit and head north. Imperial Avenue becomes Hwy. 86. Continue on Hwy. 86 through El Centro, north to Brawley.

Continuing Below Sea Level

About 10 miles up the road at Keystone Road, you will see Holly Sugar, a large sugar beet processing plant. A “Sea Level” indicator is painted on a large silo at the plant showing you how far you have dropped since Calexico – about 100 feet. Continue north on Hwy. 86 through the City of Brawley and rejoin Hwy. 111 there. Continue north on Hwy. 111 to the City of Calipatria, “The Lowest Down City in the Western Hemisphere.” There you will see a

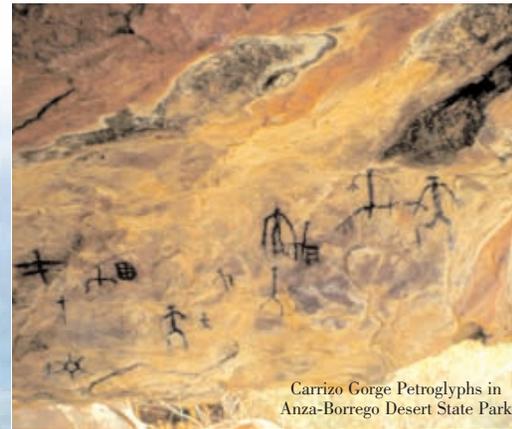
very tall flag pole. At 184 feet, it is the tallest in the western hemisphere. Its top is at sea level. Continue north on Hwy. 111 and turn left on Sinclair Road. If you drive to the end of the road, you will pass another prominent feature in the Imperial County: geothermal energy plants. At the end of Sinclair is the entrance to the Sonny Bono National Wildlife refuge, located on the shores of the Salton Sea, a lake with a surface of 230 feet below sea level. It is also the repository of the Imperial County’s irrigation drainage water.



Escape to off-road (and on-road) Adventure in the Desert

Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area is the most prominent feature of Imperial County's off-road recreational region. This 40-mile-long dune system is one of the largest in the United States. This mecca for off-road adventure also has served as the backdrop for many motion pictures over the years. Formed by windblown beach sands of a prehistoric sea, some dune crests reach heights of over 300 feet. These expansive dune formations offer picturesque scenery, opportunities for solitude, a chance to view rare plants and animals and a playground for off-road vehicles. The dunes, though, are just a sampling of Imperial County's off-road adventure opportunity. Have fun, but please observe restricted areas, including military ranges. All closed areas are clearly marked.

An alphabetical Desert Activities Guide



Carrizo Gorge Petroglyphs in
Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

Anza Borrego Desert State Park

– At 600,000 acres, Anza Borrego is California's largest and oldest state park. It has great variety in scenery. The park offers developed and primitive campsites, a visitor center in Borrego Springs, and outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, nature study and vehicle touring. Significant winter rains will often bring blooms of colorful wildflowers in the spring. Access is by Hwy. S2, Hwy. 78 and the Borrego Salton Seaway (S22).

Buttercup Valley – This Imperial Sand Dunes valley covers about 12,000 acres and is located 45 miles east of El Centro on Interstate 8. From the Grays Well Road exit on Interstate 8, travelers can access Buttercup Campground, as well the the Old Plank Road. Campgrounds offer hard surface parking, vault toilets and trash facilities.



An alphabetical Desert Activities Guide



Coyote Mountains Wilderness – The Coyote Mountains, a fishhook shaped mountain range, make up 40 percent of this wilderness. Part of the Carrizo Badlands lie within the northern portion. A group of unusual sandstone rock formations, believed to be six million years old, adds to the character of this region. This wilderness can be accessed

from Painted Gorge Road off Old Hwy. 80 in southwestern Imperial County.

Crucifixion Thorns Natural Area – South of Hwy. 98 on BLM Route Y286 is a stand of crucifixion thorns. Although a relatively common plant in the desert basins of Arizona and Sonora, Mexico, the crucifixion thorn is rare in California. This stand is one of the most extensive and least disturbed in the state. The intricately branched shrub received its name from its resemblance to the “crown of thorns” plant said to have been placed on Christ’s head during His crucifixion.

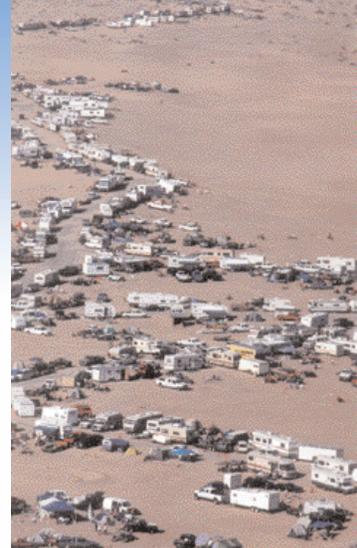


Felicity (Center of the World) – “The Official Center of the World” is a dot on a bronze plaque within the pyramid located in Felicity, California. Jacques-André Istel, who first saw its potential when he was in the U.S. Marine Corps on his way to Korea, bought the land after the war. He and his wife moved there and began building their own town. The idea of making Felicity the “Center of the World” came to Jacques-André when he was “mayor” only a few months. He convinced the Imperial County Board of Supervisors to recognize his claim as well as the Institut Geographique National of France. The Center of The World is based upon a popular 1985 book for children, “COE, The Good Dragon At The Center Of The World.” Jacques-Andre also acquired a staircase from the Eiffel Tower in Paris when the tower was renovated. Felicity is 55 miles east of El Centro on Interstate 8.



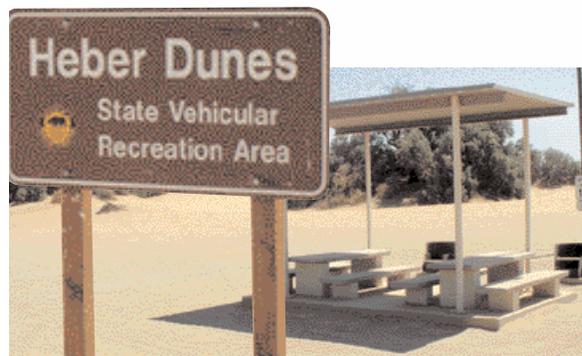
Fish Creek Mountain Wilderness – This rugged area of jagged ridges and peaks appears above twisting canyons and small valleys, creating a pristine natural environment. The steep mountain slopes contain limestone outcrops that have resisted erosion. Reach this wilderness by traveling south on Split Mountain Road off Hwy. 78 at Ocotillo Wells.

Glamis/Gecko – This part of Imperial Sand Dunes covers about 22,000 acres. It is located 25 miles east of Brawley on Hwy. 78. Two BLM campgrounds along paved Gecko Road, near Glamis, provide hard surface parking, vault toilets and trash facilities. Osborne Overlook, three miles east of Gecko Road on Hwy. 78, offers scenic views of the recreation area, the North Algodones Dunes Wilderness and surrounding area. The overlook is located among the largest and tallest dunes. Day use parking can be found at the east end of the overlook. The overlook is a popular staging area for photography and the filming of commercials and movies.



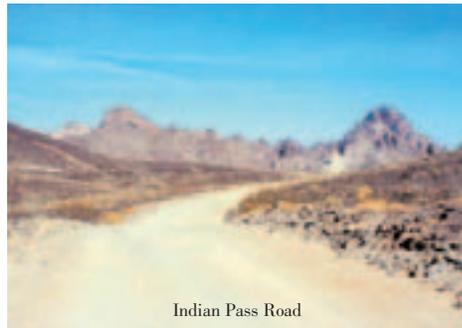
Heber Sand Dunes State Park – This area has 343 acres of sand dunes, primarily used for off-road recreation. However, camping, picnicking and baseball are

also popular activities in the park. Restrooms with showers and camping ramadas are available. The old Alamo River stream bed formed the area with deposits of sand where tamarisk trees have taken hold. Much of the outer border of the park is native vegetation and the park as a whole creates the effect of being an island of dunes in a sea of agricultural fields. This park is eight miles east of the community of Heber on Heber Road.



An alphabetical Desert Activities Guide

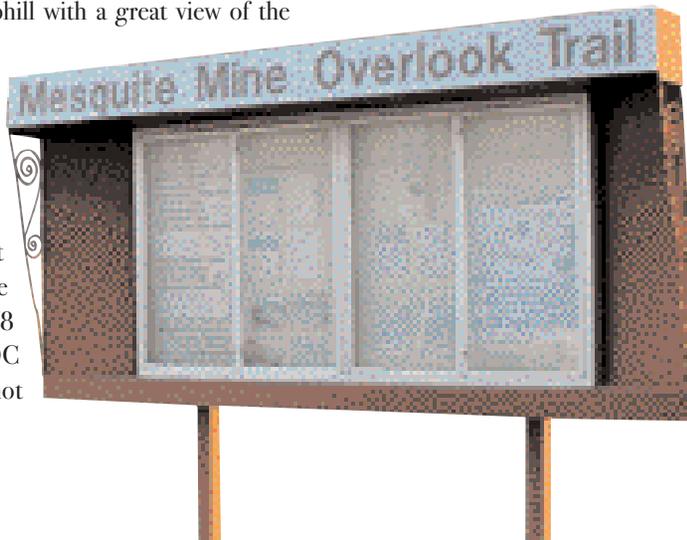
Indian Pass – Located in the eastern portion of Imperial County, the Indian Pass Wilderness is a distinctive part of the Chocolate Mountains, a range that extends from south central Riverside County to the Colorado River near Yuma. The area's proximity to the river and the Arizona desert contributes to the presence of wildlife species, like Desert Mule Deer, not commonly found in other California deserts. A large field of ancient scratched petroglyphs are alongside Indian Pass Road at its highest point, just before descending into Gavilan Wash. Access this wilderness from Ogilby Road (S-34), which runs north-south between Interstate 8 and Hwy. 78. Indian Pass Road runs eastward from Ogilby Road to Picacho State Recreation Area on the Colorado River.



Indian Pass Road

Mammoth Wash – This off highway vehicle area wash covers about 11,000 acres and is located 10 miles southeast of Niland on Ted Kipf Road. Be cautious of military ordnance, some dating from World War II. It is extremely dangerous and can cause serious injury or death.

Mesquite Mine Overlook Trail – This self-guided interpretive trail is about a quarter of a mile uphill with a great view of the mine. The trail introduces visitors to the gold mine and the unique desert environment in which it is located. The trail is located four miles east of Glamis and three miles north of Hwy. 78 along Gold Fields OC Mine Road. It is not wheelchair accessible.



Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area –

This desert landscape consists of mud hills, washes and sand dunes. Elevations run from sea level to 260 feet above sea level. These areas can challenge the best of off-highway riders or give

the new rider an introduction to off-roading. This huge labyrinthine area can be very confusing so extra caution is advised. Ocotillo Wells has 41,000 acres of open desert riding. No fees are collected for camping or day use. Open camping is permitted throughout the unit for up to 30 days per calendar year. Bordering Ocotillo Wells is the Arroyo Salada Open Area, approximately 7,200 acres of rolling and open desert terrain. Ocotillo Wells is located on Hwy. 78 about 15 miles west of Hwy. 86.

Ogilby Townsite – Not much remains of Ogilby except an old cemetery with unmarked graves. Early in the twentieth century there was a store, train stop and school made from a converted boxcar. Ogilby is on the west side of Ogilby Road where it crosses the railroad tracks about four miles north of Interstate 8.



Mining at Pilot Knob seen from Interstate 8

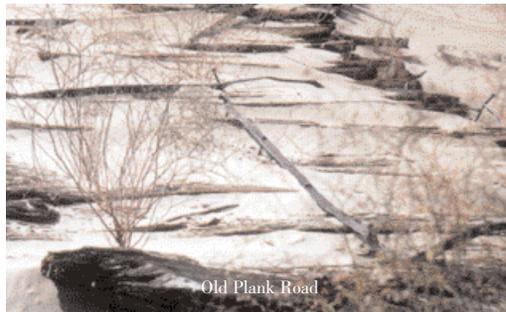


An alphabetical Desert Activities Guide



Old Plank Road – Remnants of a wooden plank road that spanned the dunes from 1916 to 1926 can still be seen in the Imperial Sand Dunes near today's Interstate 8 between Yuma and El Centro. A small remnant is exhibited off Grays Well Road. Brochures are available on site.

Painted Gorge and Fossil Canyon – These narrow canyon walls, located in the Coyote Mountains, are colored by the weathering of rocks containing copper, sulfur and iron deposits. The upper gorge contains ancient marine coral reefs with fossilized marine life. Primitive camping and staging for day use can be found east of the gorge entrance. To access Painted Gorge, proceed approximately 22 miles west of El Centro on Old Hwy. 80, turn north on Painted Gorge Road. The road eventually becomes BLM Route Y181.



Old Plank Road

Pilot Knob – The area in and around Pilot Knob is rich in both human and natural history. At one time, General Patton's troops trained here in preparation for desert fighting in World War II. A State of California Historic Marker lies on the site of Patton's camp. The marker is located just north of Interstate 8 on Sidewinder Road. The Fort Yuma Indian Reservation borders public lands near Pilot Knob. A famous horse geoglyph is located on the south side at the base of the mountain. Pilot Knob Long Term Visitors Area (LTVA) is a popular camping spot. Since only minimum camping facilities are available, only self-contained camping units are allowed. The LTVA camping area is open September 15 through April 15. Pilot Knob is south of Interstate 8 near Sidewinder Road.

Plaster City Open Area – This off highway vehicle area provides ample opportunity to test individual driving skills over a variety of terrain. Two staging areas, Plaster City East and Plaster City West, are popular primitive camping and day use areas. Located approximately 17 miles west of El Centro on Old Hwy. 80.

Superstition Mountain Open Area – Located north of the Plaster City Off Highway Vehicle Open Area, this area presents an array of challenging off highway vehicle riding opportunities. From County Highway S80, take Huff Road north to Wheeler Road. Follow Wheeler Road to one of several popular primitive camping areas or to the base of the Superstition Mountains.



Historic Cemetery at Tumco.

Tumco Ghost Town – Tumco is an abandoned gold mining town which experienced several periods of boom and bust. Little can now be seen of structures, with only a few crumbling walls and cellars visible. But during the boom time of the 1890's, it supported a population of at least 500

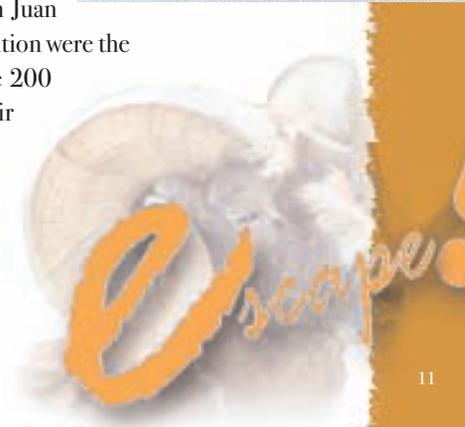
people, and the stamp mills of the mine produced \$1,000 per day (1890's dollars) in gold. A self-guided walking tour featuring mine shafts and key town locations is available. Tumco is located about 44 miles east of El Centro. Take Interstate 8 east to Ogilby Road (S-34). The townsite is about 8 miles north of the Interstate on Ogilby Road.

Yuha Desert – The Yuha Desert is rich in both human and natural history. The area contains several unique attractions: the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, geoglyphs created by Native Americans, an area of rare crucifixion thorns, ancient oyster shell beds and the Yuha Well. The Yuha Desert is 14 miles west of El Centro along Interstate 8. Exit the Interstate at Dunaway Road south.



Prehistoric matched oyster shells

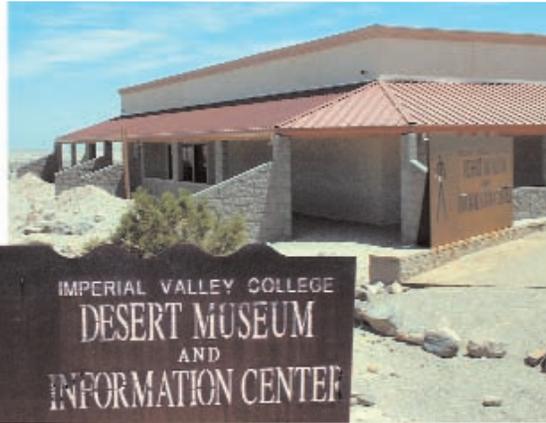
Yuha Well – Led by Indian guides, Captain Juan Bautista de Anza and the members of his expedition were the first Spanish explorers to visit the Yuha. Some 200 years ago, de Anza's party replenished their water supplies at this well before continuing on their journey. The Yuha Well became an important oasis for later travelers and settlers following the de Anza Trail through the desert. The well is located on BLM Route Y1950.



Escape to the Distant Past

While modern settlers arrived in Imperial Valley at the turn of the 20th Century, its heritage as home to Native Americans goes back at least 12,000 years. Native Americans fished and farmed along the shores of ancient Lake Cahuilla (modern Salton Sea) from 700-1700 A.D. One hundred forty of their stone lined fish traps can still be found in that region. The fish traps can be visited along Grave Wash, a few hundred feet west of Hwy. 86 between Salton City and Desert Shores. Ancient Indian trails branch throughout the desert. Geoglyphs and rock “art” are common in remote areas, many of which are protected and in restricted areas.

Yuha Geoglyphs – These geoglyphs are a sample of Imperial Valley’s archeological assets. Constructed by prehistoric Native Americans, the Yuha Main Site Geoglyph is a nationally famous example of primitive ground design. A geoglyph is a large symbol etched into the ground by clearing lines or dark rock with a scraping tool to expose the lighter soil underneath. These symbols usually depict shamans, animals or geometric shapes. Do not walk on geoglyphs, as they are extremely fragile. The Yuha geoglyph is protected by a fenced enclosure. The Main Site is located on BLM Route Y1928 off Hwy. 98.



Adventures Along the Colorado River



The Colorado River forms the border between Imperial County and the State of Arizona. From numerous headwaters in Nevada, Utah, Wyoming and Colorado, the Colorado flows 1,450 miles to the Gulf of California, traversing six states and descending more than 10,000 feet. The Imperial County-Yuma, Arizona waters are the last in the United States before the river continues its flow into Mexico where it

empties into the Sea of Cortez. The Colorado is the primary source of water for Imperial County and provides much of the water throughout Southern California. It also offers many water recreation opportunities and boat tours.

Imperial Dam – Imperial Dam, 28 miles northeast of Yuma, diverts Colorado River water into Imperial County by way of the All-American Canal. It also provides opportunities for camping, hunting, boating, fishing and other popular water-related recreation activities. Imperial Dam Long Term Visitors Area provides camping opportunities for thousands of visitors each winter. The Long Term Visitors Area is open September 15 through April 15. Winter visitors who wish to stay may purchase either a long-term or a short-term permit. During the summer months (April 15-September 15) camping is free, although limited to 14 days in a 28-day period. Services available are trash facilities, dump station, drinking water and showers.

Picacho State Recreation Area – Located along the Colorado River, Picacho State Recreation Area offers a wide variety of recreation opportunities. Water skiing, canoeing, inner tube floating, fishing and off highway vehicle activities are some of the more popular activities. The area also supports an abundance of plants and animals. Gambel’s quail, roadrunners, coyotes, desert bighorn sheep, deer and wild burros inhabit the area. Adjacent is the Picacho Peak Wilderness and the Little Picacho Wilderness. Easiest access is to leave Interstate 8 and travel 20 miles north of Winterhaven on Picacho Road.



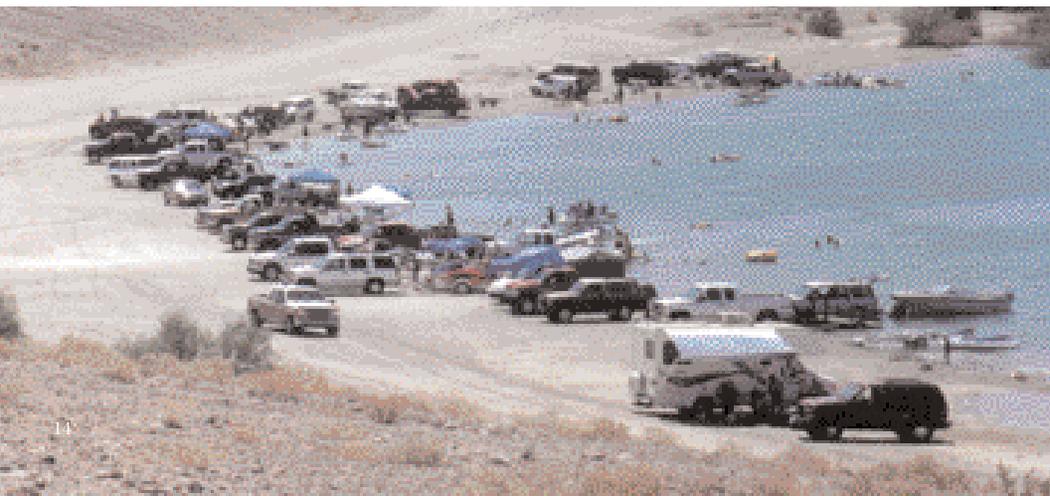
Adventures Along the Colorado River

Senator Wash Reservoir – Twenty-five miles north of Interstate 8 at the Arizona Border (about 60 miles east of El Centro), Senator Wash Reservoir provides recreational opportunities such as fishing and water play. During the summer months, this site is a favorite of jet skiers and small boats. Lake shore camping is communal on the south shore of the lake while the north shore offers many small coves and bays. Summer visitation is limited to 14 days in a 28-day period.



Squaw Lake – Located east of Senator Wash Reservoir, Squaw Lake is a premier developed recreation site. The lake is a popular day use and camping area, with holiday weekends attracting large crowds. Camping is limited to 14 days in a 28-day period and costs \$8 per night per vehicle. Amenities include handicapped accessible restrooms, outdoor showers, fire rings, potable water, trash removal, and two boat ramps.

Walters Camp – Walters Camp is a popular starting point for fishing, boating, hunting and canoeing trips on the river. Amenities include RV hookups, boat launch, showers and store. It is located about 25 miles south of Blythe about four miles south of Hwy. 78 on Walters Camp Road.



How to Have a Safe Desert Adventure

While there is plenty of literature available that discusses desert survival, the tips below are from Imperial County's De Anza Search and Rescue Unit, a volunteer rescue group with many years of desert search and rescue experience. Imperial County Sheriff Department's Off-Highway Vehicle Enforcement Safety Team also works in the desert to enhance the safety and security of residents and visitors.



PLANNING A DESERT TRIP:

If you are planning a trip into the desert during the months when high temperatures can occur, (June through September), consider if the trip is really necessary. The most elaborately planned desert trip could result in your being placed in a survival situation.

BEFORE YOU GO:

1. Plan your trip carefully. Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return. Stay with your planned itinerary. Should you have trouble and need assistance, you will be much easier to locate. A call for assistance should not be delayed if you do not arrive home at the time you specified.
2. Carry plenty of water, preferably good tasting, cool (iced in a cool can) water – five gallons per person per 24 hours (3 1/2 gallons for drinking, 1 1/2 gallons for emergencies). It is better to carry some water out than to run short.
3. Make sure your vehicle is in good working order and carry the necessary equipment, spare parts and know how to keep your vehicle operating properly.

DESERT SURVIVAL:

If you don't have it with you, don't expect to find it in the desert. Carry everything you will need to survive until help arrives should you become lost or stranded. The primary survival items are:

1. Water (5 gallons per day per person)
2. Signalling devices; metal match and steel wool (fire starting), signal mirror, signal flares (road flares) and flare gun
3. Food
4. Clothing: long trousers, long sleeved shirt, hat and shoes

SHOULD YOU BECOME LOST OR STRANDED:

1. It is generally better to stay with your vehicle. In virtually all searches, the victims' abandoned vehicle is found long before they are.
2. Conserve sweat, not your water. It's the water in your body that prevents dehydration, not the water in your canteen.
3. Signalling: Your chances of being found can largely depend upon making your location known to the searchers through the use of signalling devices. This could be smoke signals, aerial or road flares, flashes from a signal mirror or distress signals laid on the ground are also effective.

HIKERS AND BIKERS:

A hiker or biker is physically unable to carry a sufficient amount of water if an emergency situation develops, especially in hot weather. You should carry more water than you actually need for the outing – or limit the range of your activity. Remember, in the early stages of dehydration mental impairment can occur, often causing disorientation, making survival virtually impossible. It has been shown that a 154-pound person carrying a 20-pound pack and walking in the sun at 100 degrees would require 1.3 quarts of water per hour to replace that which is lost due to sweating. Deceased bikers have been found within mere yards of canals but because of mental impairment caused by dehydration, they were unable to think clearly.

Military Adventures

U.S. Naval Air Facility –

The El Centro Naval Air Facility (NAF) is located about seven miles west of El Centro on Old Hwy. 80. Exits are clearly marked and admission to the base is restricted. The Navy and Marine Corps use this very busy air base for basic and advanced training of pilots. Because of Imperial County's excellent year-round flying weather, training squadrons from across the United States and around the



world frequent the base. In addition, fleet pilots from squadrons all along the West Coast use NAF for sharpening their flying skills. The NAF is also the winter training home of the Navy's Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels, from January to March. The Blue Angels annually hold their first air show of the season in March at the NAF. During the three-month training period, the Blue Angels can frequently be seen perfecting their show west of El Centro and Imperial in the skies over the base.

Historic Military Sites – For military buffs, there are two abandoned World War II camps in Imperial County. The Patton Desert Camp is commemorated by a plaque at

Sidewinder Road. Another, less known campsite, is found in the Yuha Desert off Dunaway Road. Rock-lined paths, roads, tent and service facility locations are still in place. From this site a landing field of six radiating runways can be viewed in Coyote Valley below the cliffline.



151 Points of Interest in Imperial County

1. American Girl Mine (4WD)
2. Arroyo Salada Open Area (4WD)
3. Barbara Worth Resort
4. Black Mountain (4WD)
5. Blue Lake Monument (Silsbee Road) (2WD)
6. Broken Spoke Golf Course
7. Cattle Call Park
8. Cibola National Wildlife Refuge (2WD)

COLORADO RIVER

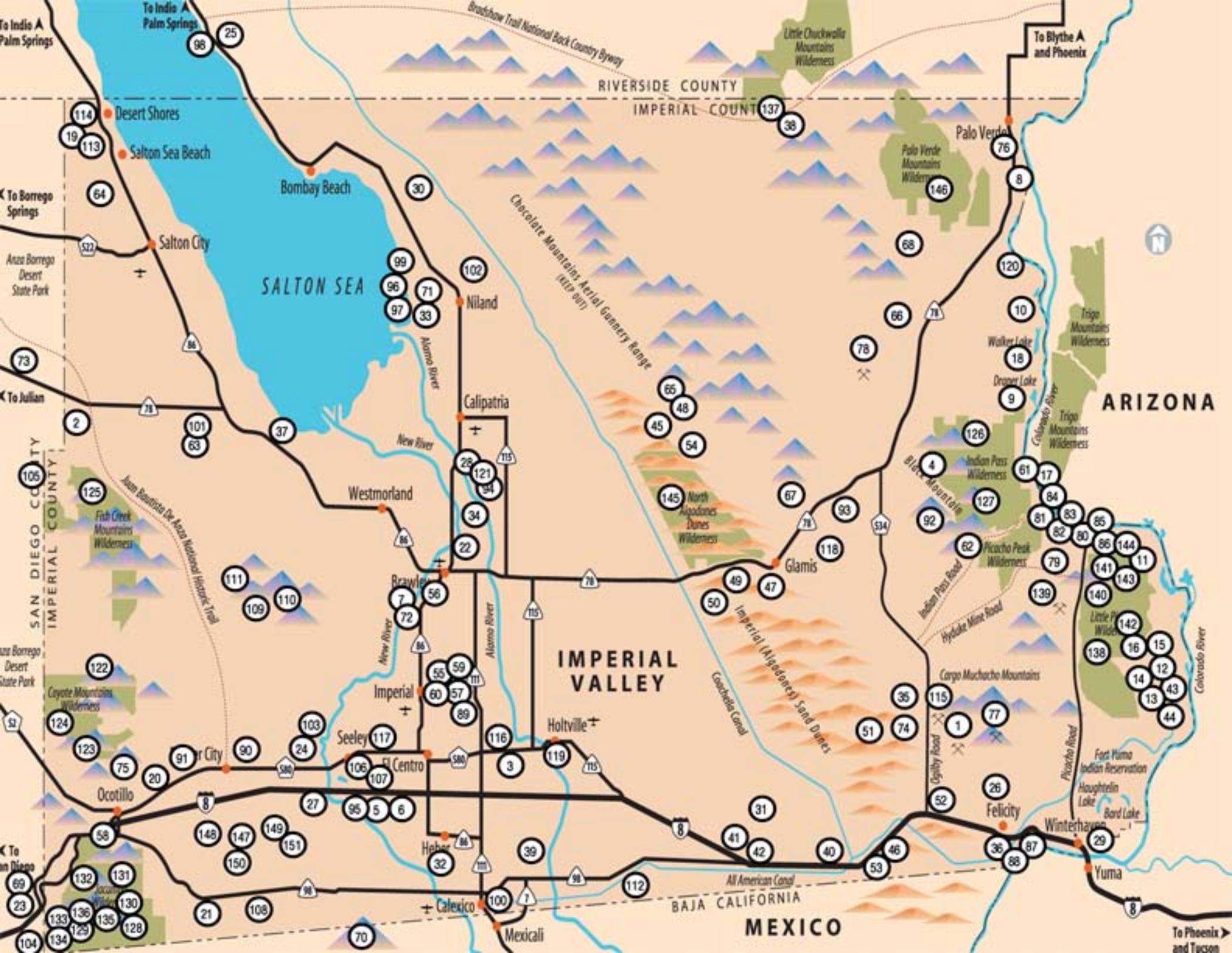
9. Draper Lake (2WD)
10. Davis Lake (2WD)
11. Ferguson Lake (2WD)
12. Imperial Dam (2WD)
13. Laguna Dam (2WD)
14. Phil Swing Park (2WD)
15. Senator Wash Reservoir (2WD)
16. Squaw Lake (2WD)
17. Taylor Lake (4WD)
18. Walker Lake (4WD)
19. Coolidge Springs
20. Coyote Wells
21. Crucifixion Thorns Natural Area (2WD)
22. Del Rio County Club (Golf)
23. Desert View Tower
24. Dixieland School
25. Dos Palmas Preserve (2WD)
26. Felicity (Center of the World)
27. Fig Lagoon
28. Finney Lake
29. Fort Yuma Indian Reservation
30. Fountain of Youth Spa
31. Geothermal Power Plants (East Mesa)
32. Geothermal Power Plant (Heber)
33. Geothermal Power Plants (Salton Sea)
34. Gieselmann Lake
35. Gold Rock Ranch (2WD)
36. Hanlon Heading Historic Site
37. Harper's Well
38. Hauser Geode Beds (4WD)
39. Heber Sand Dunes State Park
40. Herman Schneider Memorial Bridge and Gordon's Well
41. Hot Mineral Spa
42. Hot Spring Spa, Long Term Visitors Area
43. Imperial Dam Desilting Basins
44. Imperial Dam Long Term Visitor Area

IMPERIAL (ALGODONES) SAND DUNES

45. Amos Historic Cemetery (4WD)
46. Buttercup Valley (4WD)
47. Glamis/Gecko (4WD)
48. Mammoth Wash (4WD)
49. Osborne Overlook (2WD)
50. BLM Cahuilla Ranger Station (2WD)
51. Patton Valley (4WD)
52. Dunes/Mines RV Camp Site (2WD)
53. Old Plank Road Display (4WD)
54. Wildlife Viewing Area (4WD)
55. Imperial Historic Cemetery (Inactive)
56. Imperial Valley Conservation Research Center
57. Imperial Valley College
58. Imperial Valley College Desert Museum and Information Center
59. Imperial Valley College Holtville Historic Train Depot and Art Gallery
60. Imperial Valley Expo (California Mid-Winter Fair)
61. Imperial Wilderness
62. Indian Pass (2WD)
63. Kane Spring (4WD)
64. Lake Cahuilla Shore Line (Fish Traps) (4WD)
65. Mammoth Wash Open Area (4WD)
66. Midway Well (2WD)
67. Mesquite Mine Overlook Trail (2WD)
68. Milpitas Wash (4WD)
69. Mountain Spring Historic Site
70. Mt. Signal (Mexico)
71. Mud Volcanoes (Mud Pots)
72. New River Wetlands Project
73. Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area (4WD)
74. Ogilby Historic Townsite and Cemetery (2WD)
75. Painted Gorge (4WD)
76. Palo Verde County Park (2WD)
77. Pasadena Mine (Cargo Muchacho Mountains) (2WD)
78. Paymaster Mine (4WD)
79. Picacho Peak (4WD)

PICACHO STATE RECREATION AREA

80. Picacho State Recreation Area (2WD)
81. Carrizo Falls



151 Points of Interest in Imperial County

PICACHO STATE RECREATION AREA

82. Bear Canyon Falls (4WD)
83. Eye of Picacho Natural Arch
84. Lonesome (4WD)
85. Picacho Historic Cemetery (2WD)
86. Picacho Historic Railroad (4WD)
87. Pilot Knob (Horse Geoglyph) (4WD)
88. Pilot Knob Long Term Visitors Area (2WD)
89. Pioneers Museum
90. Plaster City Open Area (East) (4WD)
91. Plaster City Open Area (West) (4WD)
92. The Plug (4WD)
93. Pre-Cambrian Indian Trail Exhibit (2WD)
94. Ramer Lake
95. Rio Bend RV & Golf Resort

SALTON SEA

96. Obsidian Butte
97. Red Hill Marina
98. Salton Sea State Recreation Area
99. Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge
100. San Diego State University Campus
101. San Sebastian Marsh/San Felipe Creek
102. Slab City (Salvation Mountain)
103. Seeley Spanish Fort
104. Smuggler's Cave (4WD)
105. Split Mountain (4WD)
106. Sunbeam Lake County Park
107. Sunbeam Lake RV Park
108. Sunrise Butte (2WD)

SUPERSTITION MOUNTAINS

109. Ancient Dry Lake Bed (2WD)
110. Ancient Rock Circle (4WD)
111. Sand Dam (4WD)
112. Tamarisk Long Term Visitors Area (2WD)
113. Torres-Martinez Indian Reservation
114. Travertine Rock (2WD)
115. Tumco Ghost Town and Historic Cemetery (2WD)
116. University of California Division of Agricultural Science—Meloland
117. U.S. Naval Air Facility (NAF—El Centro)
118. Vista Mine Road Geoglyphs (Singer Geoglyph) (4WD)
119. Walker County Park
120. Walters Camp (2WD)
121. Weist Lake County Park

WILDERNESS AREAS

(Camping, Hiking, Horseback Riding, etc.)
(Mechanized, motorized transport is restricted)

122. Coyote Mountains Wilderness
123. Fossil Canyon
Coyote Mountains Wilderness (4WD)
124. Wind Caves
Coyote Mountains Wilderness
125. Fish Creek Mountains Wilderness
126. Indian Pass Wilderness
127. Three Arch Hill
Indian Pass Wilderness
128. Jacumba Wilderness
129. Davies Valley
Jacumba Wilderness
130. Boulder Canyon
Jacumba Wilderness
131. Devil's Canyon
Jacumba Wilderness
132. Meyer Valley
Jacumba Wilderness
133. Pinto Wash Palm Oasis
Jacumba Wilderness
134. Pinto Wash Petroglyphs
Jacumba Wilderness
135. Skull Valley
Jacumba Wilderness
136. Valley of the Moon
Jacumba Wilderness
137. Little Chuckwalla Mountains Wilderness
138. Little Picacho Wilderness
139. Unnamed Wash (Arturo's Arch)
140. Copper Basin
Little Picacho Wilderness
141. Eye of the Needle
Little Picacho Wilderness
142. Ferguson Wash
Little Picacho Wilderness
143. Little Picacho Peak
Little Picacho Wilderness
144. John Whitley Natural Bridge
Little Picacho Wilderness
145. North Algodones Dunes Wilderness
146. Palo Verde Mountains Wilderness

YUHA DESERT

147. Anza's Well (4WD)
148. Geoglyphs (4WD)
149. Oyster Shell Beds (4WD)
150. Vista De Anza Monument (2WD)
151. Yuha Buttes (4WD)

Adventures in Bird Watching



Imperial Valley's irrigation system has created an extensive wetlands region that annually attracts 375 species of birds of all sizes and varieties to breed and feed in the agriculture fields, canals and drains and lakes from the border to the Salton Sea.

Finney and Ramer Lakes – This 3-mile-long body of water attracts post-breeding visitor birds from Mexico, including the wood stork and yellow-footed gull. Some of the land birds include the ladder-backed woodpecker, black-tailed gnatcatcher, Abert's towhee and the distinctive large-billed "species" of savannah sparrow. The lakes are located between Brawley and Calipatria east of Hwy. 111 at Jacobsen Road.



Fig Lagoon – Included in the National Watchable Wildlife Program, Fig Lagoon was created while repairing a drain damaged during tropical storm

Kathleen in September 1976. The area in and around the lagoon features an array of habitats ranging from desert, lake, wetland and ocean. These habitats are defined by a multitude of bird species that call Fig Lagoon their home at various times during the year. The lagoon is located west of El Centro just off Interstate 8, south of Seeley.



Escape to California's Largest Lake

Salton Sea – Occupying a portion of land once part of ancient Lake Cahuilla, Salton Sea is the largest inland body of water in California. While intermittent lakes have occupied this basin for thousands of years, the modern Salton Sea was created during Colorado River floods from 1905 to 1907. Fed today by agriculture irrigation runoff, the Sea is approximately 35 miles long, 10 to 15 miles wide and about 50 feet at its deepest point. Considered to be one of the world's most productive fisheries, recreationists visit Salton Sea year-round for bird watching, boating, hiking and fishing. With 95 percent of the wetlands areas of the Pacific Coast gone, the Salton Sea is one of the last remaining stopovers on the Pacific Flyway for migratory birds. Eighteen-thousand-year-old Obsidian Butte, an extinct volcano, is located near Salton Sea Sonny Bono National Wildlife Refuge and Red Hill Marina. Prehistoric Indians quarried the black obsidian to make arrow points and cutting tools.



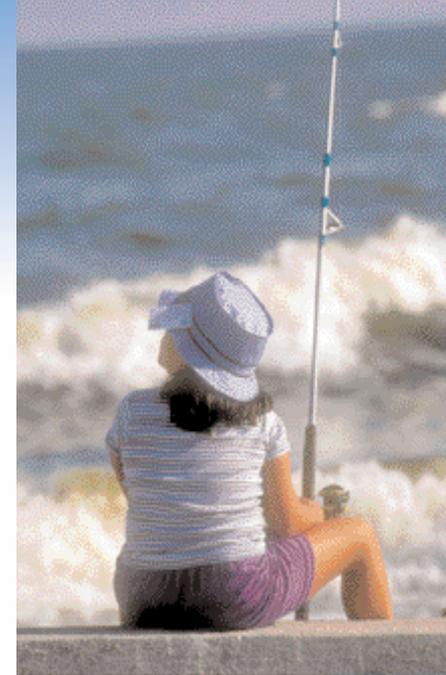
Salton Sea State Recreational Area – Located on the northeastern side of the Salton Sea, the park hosts hundreds of thousands of visitors each year at five different campgrounds with 1,400 campsites. The five campsites, New Camp, Covina Beach, Salt Creek, Bombay Beach and Mecca Beach, offer a variety of camping experiences. This area offers miles of sandy beaches, a boat ramp and lots of shore fishing. Hiking opportunities include a one-mile self-guided nature trail. The visitor center is open

daily 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. early October through mid-May. Contact Salton Sea State Recreation Area, 100-225 State Park Road, North Shore, CA.



Salton Sea Sonny Bono National Wildlife Refuge

– This refuge, established in 1936, annually attracts thousands of outdoor enthusiasts. It is considered one of the premiere bird watching “hot spots” in the nation. Other recreational activities include wildlife observation, photography, picnicking, waterfowl hunting, fishing and nature trails. The refuge provides habitat for over 375 bird species. Endangered species observed on the refuge include the southern bald eagle, peregrine falcon, California brown pelican, Yuma clapper rail and desert pupfish. Sensitive species using the refuge include the fulvous whistling-duck, wood stork, long-billed curlew, mountain plover, western snowy plover, burrowing owl and white-faced ibis. The refuge is open from sunrise to sunset, and visitor center hours are 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. There is no user fee. Take Hwy. 111 south from Niland or north from Calipatria. Turn west on Sinclair Road. Entrance to refuge is well marked.

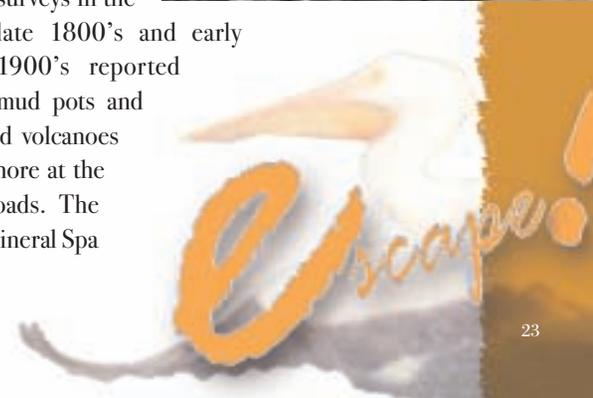


Mud Volcanoes (Mud Pots) – The mud volcanoes are natural cones built up by viscous mud that bubbles up through central vents. This area is



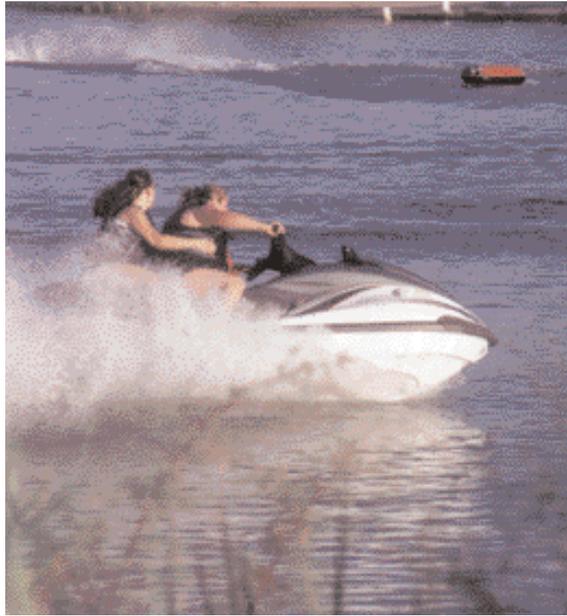
near a former commercial carbon dioxide gas field. The age of these mud pots is not known, but surveys in the late 1800's and early 1900's reported mud pots and

steam vents in the area. These mud volcanoes can be found near the Salton Sea shore at the corner of Davis and Schrimpf Roads. The Wister mud pots are found on Hot Mineral Spa Road just off Hwy. 111.



Escape to Imperial County's Recreational Lakes

Sunbeam Lake – This county park is available for swimming, fishing and small recreational water craft. A trailer park is also located adjacent to the lake. Sunbeam is about eight miles west of El Centro. From El Centro, take Interstate 8 west to the Drew Road exit. Sunbeam is located just north of the freeway exit.



Wiest Lake – Wiest Lake is a county park and is open for swimming, fishing and boating. It is located on Rutherford Road east of Hwy. 111 about 10 miles northeast of Brawley.



Escaping with Activities throughout the year January to March Adventures



Snowbird Breakfast – Each January, winter visitors to Imperial County are welcomed with a free breakfast sponsored by El Centro Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau. Breakfast is served by members of local service clubs and chamber directors. Local businesses and agencies set up displays. Contact El Centro Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau.



Imperial Valley Business Showcase – Imperial County businesses come together annually each January at the Imperial Valley Expo for a four-hour business show sponsored by the Imperial Valley Joint Chambers of Commerce. In addition to over one hundred business displays, the show features samples of food from Valley restaurants. The free show is open to the public.

Contact any Imperial County chamber of commerce.

Pacific Fine Arts Festival – This festival has been held for more than 30 years on the third weekend in January in Brawley. This three-day arts and crafts festival, held in Plaza Park, features a wide variety of unique hand-made wares, from colorful ceramics to women's silk clothing to jewelry and woodwork. Contact the Brawley Chamber of Commerce.

Niland Sportsmen and Tomato Festival – For more than 60 years, the community of Niland has hosted this festival in late January-early February to celebrate its heritage as a tomato growing area. Events include a parade, a tomato-packing contest, a carnival, queen contests, food and other contests and events meant to bring the community and the Imperial County together. It is sponsored by the Niland Chamber of Commerce.

Escaping with Adventures throughout the Year

January to March Activities

Salton Sea International Bird Festival – Held each winter, usually around the Presidents Day weekend in February, this festival brings in several hundred bird watchers from throughout the country. The festival consists of tours, lectures and exhibits. Contact any Imperial County chamber of commerce.

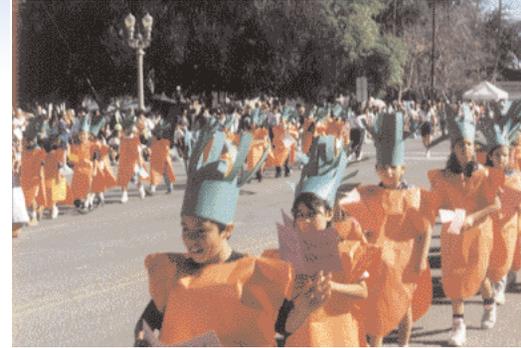


Farmers Market – This outdoor market is held mid-February in El Centro. Sponsored by the El Centro Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau and the Downtown El Centro Association, this event includes live entertainment, farm equipment displays, fresh produce, arts and crafts and food vendors. Local businesses and agencies also set up displays. Contact El Centro Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau.

Children's Fair – A celebration for children takes over El Centro's Bucklin Park each March for the annual Children's Fair, sponsored by the Children and Parents Council. The event offers food, games, walk-around characters and information for families. Its purpose is to bring the community together and display resources available for families. About 35,000 people turn out for the event each year. Contact the Children and Parents Council at (760) 353-8300.



Blue Angels Air Show – Held in March at the end of their three-month training period, the air show kicks off the air show season for the Blue Angels.



Carrot Festival – The Carrot Festival is the annual harvest of carrots celebration held in the city of Holtville. It begins with the Carrot Queen Coronation and Citizen of the Year Dinner Banquet on the last Friday in January and runs through the first weekend in February. To celebrate the city's status as *The Carrot Capital of the World*, the Holtville Chamber of

Commerce hosts a variety of events. A golf tournament, week-long carrot-cooking contest, and midway carnival follow the opening dinner banquet. The festival hits its peak the first weekend in February as downtown Holt Park comes alive with the annual 10K run, parade, arts and crafts fair, antique car and tractor show, student art exhibit, local entertainment and a variety of food booths. The festival comes to a resounding end with the Holtville Athletic Club's World-Famous Rib Cook-Off complete with homemade ice cream. Contact the Holtville Chamber of Commerce.

California Mid-Winter Fair and Fiesta

– Showcasing the talents, products and cultural wealth of Imperial County, the California Mid-Winter Fair and Fiesta is held annually in late February or early March. It is a production of the 45th District Agricultural Association. Carnival rides, livestock, games and booths abound on the 100-acre Imperial Valley Expo grounds. The fair consists of more than 50,000 square feet of exhibit area in five buildings, grandstand and race track. From Adams Avenue in El Centro, take Imperial Avenue north for 4.5 miles. The Imperial Valley Expo is located in the City of Imperial. The Imperial Valley Expo is 12 miles south of Brawley on Hwy. 86. Contact the Imperial Valley Expo at (760) 355-1181 or visit its website at www.ivexpo.com.



April to June Activities

Mariachi Festival Sin Fronteras – This festival, held each spring, annually attracts several thousand people to listen to some of the best Mariachi performers in the country. For additional information, contact the Calexico Chamber of Commerce.

Main Street Brawley – As part of the Main Street revitalization project, Brawley's Main Street hosts four events annually. Two of them are the multi-cultural food extravaganza *Taste of Culture* held in the spring and the Ice Cream Sundae held in the summer. Contact the Brawley Chamber of Commerce.



Carne Asada Cook-Off – This event is held every May. Various groups compete in this event. The public determines winners. Contact KXO Radio, (760) 352-1230.

July to September Activities

Freedom Fest Independence Day Celebration – This event, the biggest synchronized music and fireworks show in Imperial County, is held at Imperial Valley College. There is live entertainment, food booths as well as numerous military aircraft and vehicles that are on display on the campus. Contact Brawley, El Centro, Holtville or Imperial chambers of commerce.

4th of July in Calexico – Crummett Park in Calexico is the site each year for Calexico's Fourth of July Independence Day celebration. There are fireworks, entertainment, food booths and various displays. Contact Calexico Chamber of Commerce.

Ice Cream Social – Held in the month of July in El Centro, this event brings thousands of people out to enjoy a fun-filled evening of ice cream, cobbler, and sundaes at El Centro's Town Square. El Centro Fire Department's *Rain on Main* is a refreshing playground for kids of all ages. Contact El Centro Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau.

16th of September – Come celebrate Mexican Independence Day Fiesta at Crummett Park. Enjoy mariachi music, traditional Mexican folkloric dances and over 60 booths featuring delicious Mexican food and Mexican arts and crafts. Contact Calexico Chamber of Commerce.



October to December Activities

Cattle Call – Brawley helps Imperial County recapture the pioneering spirit of its early residents each November with a rousing rodeo celebration that attracts some of the top professional cowboys in the nation. The week-long Cattle Call includes events such as the Fiesta Cultura, Bluegrass Festival, Chili Cook-Off, Cowbells' Beef Cook-off, Mariachi Night and the Cattle Call Parade. Capping the celebration is the Cattle Call Rodeo, one of the largest professional rodeos in California. Contact the Brawley Chamber of Commerce.



Fun in the Sun Arts and Crafts Expo – Hosted by the Brawley Chamber of Commerce at Plaza Park each October, this event features many local arts and crafts vendors with a wide array of specialty items and gifts. Contact the Brawley Chamber of Commerce.



Christmas in a Small Town – Santa Claus sneaks into Imperial each year, days before his "official" visit, to help the City of Imperial celebrate *Christmas in a Small Town*. In excess of 5,000 people participate in this day-long event which also features booths selling homemade Christmas crafts, carolers and plenty of food stalls. Contact the Imperial Chamber of Commerce.

Los Vigilantes/Merchants Christmas Parade – El Centro's official greeters "Los Vigilantes" and the El Centro Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau kick off the holiday season with their traditional Christmas parade on the first Saturday in December. There are various marching bands, drill teams, color guards and floats to enjoy. Contact the El Centro Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau.

Calexico Annual Christmas Parade – The Calexico Chamber of Commerce celebrates the season with its Christmas parade downtown each December. There are marching bands, drill teams, color guards, groups from Baja California and floats to enjoy. Contact Calexico Chamber of Commerce.

Escape into Arts and Culture

Performing Arts Organizations



Imperial County is blessed with a number of excellent performing arts organizations, many of which are also classes at Imperial Valley College (IVC). They include the Imperial Valley Symphony, Imperial Valley Master Chorale, IVC Chamber Singers, the Valley Jazz and the Imperial Valley Community Concert Band.



Imperial Valley Symphony – Imperial Valley Symphony has been performing classical music for three decades. It is a member of the American Symphony Orchestra League and is licensed by ASCAP. This small (35-50 member) symphony orchestra is sponsored by the Imperial Valley Symphony Association, Inc. The annual concert schedule generally includes three programs: a Fall Concert, a Mid-Winter Concert and a Spring Concert. Contact Joel Jacklich, Music Director/Conductor at Imperial Valley College, (760) 355-6287.

Imperial Valley Choral Society – Imperial Valley Choral Society was formed in 1994 to foster choral music in Imperial County. It is the primary sponsor of three performing groups:

- **Imperial Valley Master Chorale.** The chorale, which ranges from 50 to 100 voices, usually holds one concert in the fall and two in the spring. It also has staged full Broadway musicals and holds an annual Madrigal Feast during the Christmas season.
- **Imperial Valley Chamber Singers.** The Chamber singers are a small ensemble with 12 to 15 voices. This group performs with the Master Chorale. It also stages its own shows during the year.
- **Imperial Valley Junior Master Chorale.** This singing group for elementary school-age students performs in several concerts annually, including joint performances with the Master Chorale.

Contact the Imperial Valley Choral Society, call (760) 370-0885 or write to P. O. Box 3531, El Centro, CA 92244.



Performing Arts Organizations

Calexico Border Players – This group holds performances throughout the year at the Elks Lodge in Calexico. Contact the Calexico Chamber of Commerce.

North County Coalition for the Arts – North County Coalition for the Arts (NoCCA) is headquartered at Palmer Performing Arts Center in Brawley. NoCCA's programs include workshops and student concerts as well as professional shows. NoCCA also has produced plays, musicals and concerts. North County Players, North County Chorale and Orchestra and the Imperial Valley Youth Choir join hands in various projects during the year. To receive mailings, contact NoCCA, P. O. 1253, Brawley, CA 92227.



Valley Jazz – For nearly two decades, Valley Jazz has been entertaining local audiences and mentoring young students in Jazz. Membership is based upon recommendation and audition. Its concert schedule varies. Valley Jazz has performed joint concerts with the Imperial Valley Master Chorale, performs at the California Mid-Winter Fair and Fiesta and annually holds a Christmas concert in Palmer Auditorium. For additional information, contact Clark Baker Music in El Centro.

IVC Community Concert Band –

This band specializes in a wide range of literature for wind bands. Its primary objective is to provide continuing musical performance opportunities for community adults, music educators and advanced high school and younger students. Contact Imperial Valley College Humanities Division, (760) 355-6142.

Theater groups – There are several amateur theater groups that regularly stage performances throughout Imperial County. They include the Mostly Theatre Company, the North County Players, the Street Level players, Theatre on the Edge and the Imperial Valley College Players. For information about how to become involved or a list of upcoming productions, contact the Imperial County Arts Council, 337-1777.



Escape into Arts and Culture

Performance Venues



Old Post Office Pavilion – The Old Post Office Pavilion, located at 230 S. Fifth Street in El Centro, was El Centro’s Post Office from 1934 until 1985. The building is one of the last Beaux Arts-style public structures in the United States. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985 and remains the only Imperial County building so named on this registry. The Pavilion was refurbished by the City of El Centro and is the home of the Imperial County Arts Council and Imperial County Film Commission. It is available for art exhibitions and community events. Its auditorium is used for performances and presentations. Contact Imperial County Arts Council, (760) 337-1777.



Palmer Performing Arts Center – Concerts and theater productions are staged throughout the year in this facility on the campus of Brawley Union High School. Palmer Performing Arts Center is also headquarters for the North County Coalition for the Arts. The lobby is Palmer Art Gallery, and regularly

features exhibits of local artists’ works. The auditorium has 1,023 seats and a proscenium stage. Contact North County Coalition for the Arts, (760) 351-0789.

Southwest Theatre for the Performing Arts – Concerts and theater productions are staged throughout the year in this facility on the campus of Southwest High School in El Centro. It is also the home of the Southwest Academy for the Visual and Performing Arts. The theater has 1,100 seats and a large modern stage. Contact Southwest Theatre for the Performing Arts, (760) 336-4229.

Rodney Auditorium – Since 1927, Rodney Auditorium has been the focal point for major performances in Calexico, including musical events and concerts. The 450-seat theater is located on the Imperial Valley Campus of San Diego State University in Calexico. Together with the John Stepling Art Gallery, these venues provide academic and cultural resources for the entire community. Contact SDSU Imperial Valley Office of Advancement and Public Relations (760) 768-5569.

Imperial County’s Golf Adventures

Barbara Worth Golf Resort – This resort is on the site where Harold Bell Wright wrote his fourth novel “The Winning of Barbara Worth” in 1911. It is the exciting story of the reclaiming of the Imperial Valley desert by diverting the Colorado River. The private resort is home to one of the Valley’s largest 18-hole golf courses as well as a hotel, restaurant and convention facilities. Also available are golf lessons and a fully-stocked pro shop. It is located on Old Hwy. 80, between El Centro and Holtville. Visit the resort’s website, www.bwresort.com.



Broken Spoke – Located just south of Interstate 8 on Wake Avenue in El Centro, Broken Spoke Golf Course offers a nine-hole Executive Course, 250-yard driving range, cart and club rentals and golf lessons. Contact Broken Spoke, 225 Wake Avenue, El Centro.

Del Rio Country Club – This semiprivate 18-hole traditional tree-lined golf course is home to the Lettuce Tournament, one of the oldest golf tournaments in the state. Anyone is welcome to use the driving range and there is a fully-stocked pro shop at the country club. Banquet facilities also are available. Del Rio is located at 102 East Del Rio, Brawley just off Hwy. 111 north of Brawley.

Lakeview Golf Course – Lakeview Golf Course is a challenging Executive nine-hole course with two tees per hole, giving the golfer 18 different holes to play. It has a golf shop and snack bar serving the golf pro and amateur alike with golf apparel, clubs, balls and refreshments. Contact Rio Bend RV & Golf Resort, 1589 Drew Road, El Centro.



Escape to the Past

Alford's Antique Car Museum – Thirty-two classic automobiles are on display in this 6,200 square-foot showroom, including one of the world's largest collections of the air-cooled Franklin. The private museum is open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is located at 599 East Main Street, El Centro.



Imperial Valley College Desert Museum and Information Center – The museum was founded in 1969 to educate people about the desert. A new facility is under development in Ocotillo. As archaeological knowledge of Imperial County has grown through the research of many scholars, so has Imperial Valley College Desert Museum's collection of artifacts which helps lead to a better understanding of life in our arid desert. Beyond serving as a scientific and cultural resource, the museum serves as a center for tourism. The museum also offers desert archeological tours and holds an annual Indian Fair each fall. Visit the museum's website at www.imperial.cc.ca.us/ivc-dm.

Pioneers Museum and Cultural Center – Imperial County Historical Society – This unique museum also is home to galleries honoring the different ethnic communities and their history of settlement in the Imperial County. It features displays of Imperial County's cattle industry, its irrigation systems and a wide range of memorabilia on scouting in the Valley, schools and veterans. Pioneers Park is a place where a visitor can learn what it took to develop Imperial County. Pioneers Park grounds include the main museum, several historical buildings that have been moved onto the park as well as farm and railroad equipment. Museum hours: Tuesday-Sunday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. or by appointment. School tours October-May. Adults-\$2.00; Children 12 and

under-\$.50. Located at 373 E. Aten Road, Imperial, across the road from Imperial Valley College on Hwy. 111 three miles north of Old Hwy. 80.

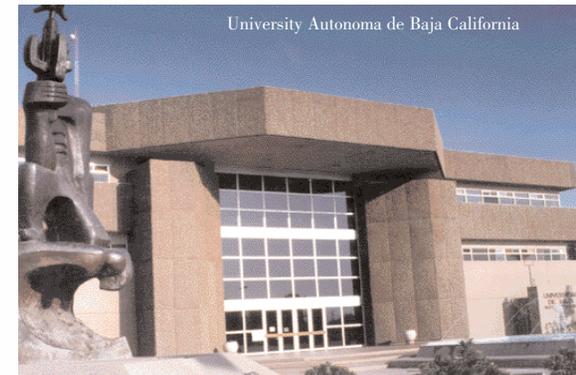


Adventures in Mexico



Algodones – This small Mexican village is located about 55 miles east of El Centro. Take Interstate 8 east to Algodones Road and go south to the border crossing. The remains of Hanlon Heading is yards from the Algodones Port of Entry. Visitors to Algodones have excellent shopping and dining opportunities and a chance to experience the border culture.

Mexicali – The city of Mexicali is the capital of the Mexican state of Baja California Norte. This city of approximately a million residents is located adjacent to the Imperial Valley city of Calexico. Mexicali is home to more than a hundred *maquiladora* plants and offers a number of world class tourist facilities as well as a variety of interesting places to visit. It is recommended that motorists obtain Mexican auto insurance before driving into Mexico. For additional information on Mexicali, visit the city's tourism web site at www.mexicaliturismo.com.



University Autonoma de Baja California

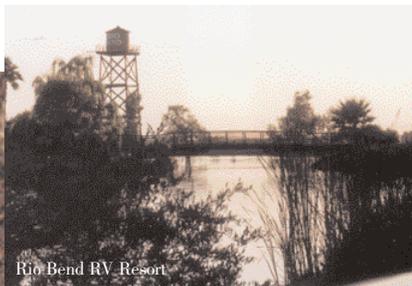
San Felipe – This Baja California desert community enjoys the benefits of a warm winter climate, the world's most prolific salt-water aquarium, and an incomparable pre- and post-Columbian history. It is located 125 miles south of Mexicali via Mexico's Federal Highway 5. Mexico's Gateway to the Sea of Cortez, San Felipe began as a commercial fishing port and still operates a sizeable shrimp-fishing fleet. But the pueblos'

principal income has changed from fishing to tourism with as many as 250,000 Americans and Canadian annual visitors. San Felipe is not an Acapulco, it is not a Cancun, it is not a Tijuana. It is uniquely San Felipe. See San Felipe's website, www.sanfelipe.com.mx.



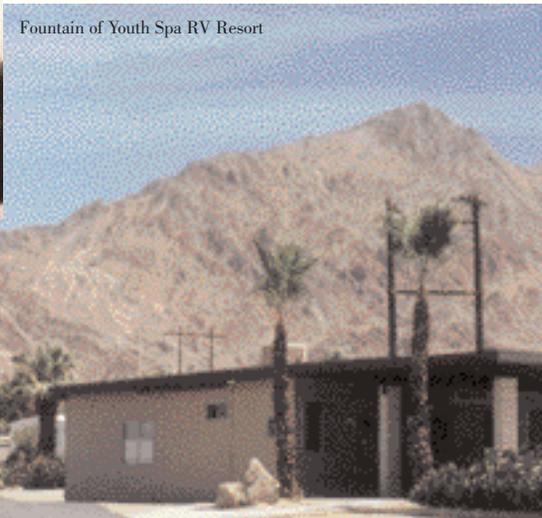
RV Parks and Camping

Park Name	Spaces
Bashford's Hot Mineral Spa.....	143
Country Life RV & Mobile Home Park.....	150
Del Yermo RV	45
Desert Trails RV Park	406
Fountain of Youth Spa RV Resort	900
Imperial Hot Mineral Spa.....	234
Jackson's Hide-A-Way	24
Lark Spa RV Park	78
NAF-El Centro	92
Rio Bend RV Resort	228
Sunbeam Lake RV	307
McCoy Mobile & RV Park	115
Brawley RV Park	17
Smyth's Mobile	24
Vacation Inn	25
Long Term Visitor Areas (LTVA) (BLM)	Annual
	Visitors
Pilot Knob.....	1,131
Hot Mineral Spa	520
Tamarisk	117



Fountain of Youth Spa RV Resort

Rio Bend RV Resort



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