

# The Salton Sea: Southern California's Largest Inland Water Recreation Area

The Salton Sea is located in one of California's most scenic desert areas. California's largest lake is loaded with recreational opportunity. At 35 miles long and 15 miles wide—with a surface area of nearly 380 square miles, the Salton Sea offers something for virtually anyone wanting to spend time outdoors. (By comparison, Lake Tahoe is 193 square miles and Mono Lake, 60 square miles.) The Sea is available for recreation year-round.





The Salton Sea and its immediate vicinity have many recreational activities to offer, including: camping; bird watching; fishing; hiking; boating; use of personal watercraft; hunting; and off-roading.

#### FISHING



The fishery at the Salton Sea has been called one of the most productive in the world. The Sea has tilapia, Gulf croaker, corvina and sargo. The tilapia weigh up to 3.5 pounds, and the corvina have weighed up to 30 pounds and measured 42 inches.





Salton Sea offers unlimited boating opportunities. There are boat

launch facilities all around the lake and kayak trails at the State Recreation Area. There are no tides, and water temperatures range from a chilly 55 degrees in the winter to a very warm 90 degrees in the summer. Because its salt content causes vessels to be more buoyant, surface travel on the Sea is known as the fastest in the nation.

### **CAMPING AND HIKING**



There are over 2000 campsites located around the shores of the Salton Sea. There are dozens of

hiking trails near Salton City and the Dos Palmas area on the east side. Some campsites offer all the amenities (water, showers, restrooms, paved parking, full hook-ups, electric and sewer), but the majority of campsites are more primitive with only limited amenities, and some have no developed facilities.

The Salton Sea State Recreation Area, located on the northeastern side of the Sea, hosts hundreds of thousands of visitors each year at five different campgrounds with 1400 camp sites. The five camp sites, New Camp, Corvina Beach, Salt Creek, Bombay Beach and Mecca Beach, offer a variety of camping experiences.

# **OFF ROAD VEHICLES**



The Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area is located just west of Salton City, and world famous Algodones Dunes are located east of the Salton Sea.

**Bombay Beach Marina** - Open daily, gravel launch ramp. **Red Hill Marina County Park** - Open daily, paved launch ramp. **Salton Sea Beach Marina** - Open daily, paved launch ramp, fuel.



# **BIRD WATCHING AND HUNTING**



The Sea is one of the most important wetlands along the Pacific Flyway. Several million birds migrate and inhabit the area every year. Over 400 species of birds use the lake's environment, including eared grebes, burrowing owls, great blue herons, endan-

gered brown pelicans, ospreys and gulls. Each winter, it is home for the annual Salton Sea International Bird Festival.

The Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge has the second largest number of species of birds within the National Wildlife Refuge system, and, along with the Wister Unit of the Imperial Wildlife Area, offer public access. Hunting is a popular recreational activity around both of these sites.

Additional information on all recreation opportunities may be obtained from:

West Shores Chamber of Commerce — (760) 394-4112 Salton Sea State Recreation Area —(760) 393-3052

Wister Wildlife Area — (760) 359-0577

Sonny Bono Memorial Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge — (760) 359-0577

Salton Sea Bird Trail ---- (760) 394-0062

SALTON SEA RESTORATION PROJECT (760) 564-4888 or (702) 293-8129 www.saltonsea.ca.gov