

# Recreation ✓

There is some good news in the recreation venue. For the last four years visitation at the Salton Sea has increased significantly. The park has been humming along at around 250,000 visitors each year. Currently there are several areas where visitors can enjoy the Salton Sea. The Salton Sea State Recreation Area offers a visitor center, trails, camping, day use, hiking, fishing, boat launch and wash facilities, and plenty of beaches to stroll upon. At the park they provide educational seminars, interpretive programs, kayak and jet boat trips, they host school groups and teachers bent on learning about this great lake. The Sea also has one of the most productive fisheries in the world, as many as 200 million fish may exist in the Salton Sea. The Sonny Bono Memorial U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge on the south side of the Sea offers a visitor center, trails, bird watching towers, and some of the best birding available at the Sea. Wister Game Reserve, a California Fish and Game facility managed for waterfowl hunting, is available for the sports enthusiast. Wister also offers a unique opportunity to view some of the thermal and tectonic seeps known to exist along the shore, and even now under water. These are mud pots that fuss and bubble and continuously build cones, very interesting and fun to watch. But use caution, some are hot! On the West Side of the Sea there are some pleasant trailer parks, and hiking trails. Some services are available in the small cities along the shore of the Sea, restaurants, service stations, grocery and all-purpose stores can be found. Interesting day and half day trips from the Salton Sea include the Bradshaw trail, the 1800s stage route that carried travelers into California from points east still exists and can be traveled upon via four wheel drive. There are also the Salvation Mountains east of Niland or the post apocalyptic looking half submerged towns, and facilities, or the picturesque vistas, and soothing sounds of playful birds. California State Parks is happy to announce a face-lift for the Salton Sea State Recreation Area, including new fishing jetties, boat launch and harbor facilities. Upgraded campgrounds and day use areas, improved and more pleasing parking areas, expanded trails and visitor centers are all in the planning.

HWK