

Things to do in the Mono Basin

Activities

There is a lot to do in the Mono Basin! Stop by the Mono Lake Committee when you're in town and our knowledgeable staff can help.

- **South Tufa tours** take place three times a day during the summer and are an excellent introduction to Mono Lake. Join a naturalist on a walking tour at the South Tufa Area to learn about the ecology, geology, and natural and human history of the Mono Basin. The walk is approximately one mile long on easy terrain and lasts about an hour. Meet at the South Tufa parking lot at 10:00AM, 1:00PM, and 6:00PM daily during the summer months. There is no charge for the walk, but a \$3 per person fee is required to enter the South Tufa Area. No reservations are necessary.
- **Canoe tours** depart every Saturday and Sunday morning during the summer months at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00AM, and last for about one hour. \$20 for adults, \$10 for children. Reservations are required; call (760) 647-6595.
- **Bird walks** take place Fridays and Sundays at 8:00AM throughout the summer. Meet at the Mono Lake

County Park with binoculars (not required), a bird book, hat, and sunscreen. Tours last 1½–2 hours and are open to all levels of birders. Committee staff can also suggest good birding areas around the Basin.

- **Lee Vining Creek hikes** are a great way to experience the Mono Basin! Come prepared with water, hat, sunscreen, and binoculars (if you like) for a two-hour walk along the moderate Lee Vining Creek trail. Learn about restoration, natural history, and human history as you go. Stop by the Mono Lake Committee Information Center & Bookstore or call (760) 647-6595 for tour days and times.

Visitor Centers

- **The Mono Lake Committee Information Center & Bookstore**, located in the heart of Lee Vining, offers a free video, educational exhibits, a fine art exhibit, and activity schedules. The bookstore offers an excellent selection of regional books, maps, T-shirts, posters, local crafts, and specialty gifts. The Committee also houses the Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce with information on lodging, dining, and

recreation opportunities as well as weather and road conditions. Come on by to make the most of your visit! The Mono Lake Committee is open from 8:00AM–9:00PM daily during the summer, or call (760) 647-6595 for more information.

- **The Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area Visitor Center**, located just north of town, features an excellent view of Mono Lake, interpretive displays, and natural history trails. A dramatic film on Mono Lake shows regularly in the theater, and during the summer rangers give patio presentations daily. Open Sundays–Thursdays from 8:00AM to 5:00PM, and Fridays–Saturdays 8:00AM to 7:00PM; contact the Visitor Center at (760) 647-3044 for more information.
- **The Mono Basin Historical Society Museum**, located in Lee Vining at Gus Hess Park, houses a fascinating collection of materials from the Mono Basin's past. See Native American artifacts, gold mining implements, and even the legendary upside-down house! Open Thursdays–Mondays from 10:00AM–5:00PM and Sundays 12:00–5:00PM. There is a \$1 charge but children under the age of 13 are free. Contact the museum at (760) 647-6461 for more information.

Travel Resources

- Mono Lake Committee Information Center
(760) 647-6595 www.monolake.org
- Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce
(760) 647-6629 www.leevining.com
- US Forest Service Scenic Area Visitor Center
(760) 647-3044 www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo/about
- Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve
(760) 647-6331 www.cal-parks.ca.gov
- Bodie State Historic Park (760) 647-6445
- Mammoth Lakes Visitor Center (760) 924-5500
- June Lake Chamber of Commerce (760) 648-7584
- Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce (760) 932-7500
- Inyo National Forest 24-hour Wilderness Permits/Info
(760) 873-2408 www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo
- Yosemite National Park www.nps.gov/yose
Information by phone (209) 372-0200
Campground Reservations (800) 436-7275
Hotel and Motel Reservations (559) 252-4848
Wilderness Permit Reservations (209) 372-0740
- Devils Postpile (760) 934-2289 www.nps.gov/depo
- White Mountain Ranger District–Bishop (760) 873-2500
- Lone Pine Interagency Visitor Center (760) 876-6222
- Manzanar National Historic Site (760) 878-2932
www.nps.gov/manz
- Death Valley Reservations (760) 786-2345
- Bridgeport Ranger Station–Toiyabe National Forest
(760) 932-7070
- California Road Conditions (800) 427-7623