

2026

SUMMER GUIDE

Fun On The Colorado River

FREE
SOUVENIR EDITION



Lake Havasu City

Parker

Laughlin

Los Algodones, Mex.

Blythe

Bullhead City

Yuma

Kingman

WS

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For Fun in Havasu, Just Add Water



By Laura Kassik

There's no secret to having a great summer on Lake Havasu - even with scorching temperatures under the blazing sun.

Just add water.

Sounds simple enough. And it is.

Whether you're cruising the lake or Colorado River in a speedboat, or relaxing in a cove with your toes in the water, it's amazing how quickly you forget that the outside temperature is hovering in the 100s.

There are plenty of ways to stay cool here - and yes, they involve water!

Lake Havasu is a boater's and paddler's paradise with enough open space to accommodate vessels of all sizes - from large speedboats pulling a wakeboard, to a pontoon, personal watercraft, kayak or stand-up paddle board.

Many boaters start-out on the lake and end-up docking their boats in the Bridgewater Channel - the stretch of water that passes under the historic London Bridge, which has drawn thousands of tourists to Lake Havasu City since its dedication in 1971. The Channel is where boaters cruise - or park - to be seen and soak-in the laid-back, party atmosphere.

While some spend the day cruising the lake, others find a spot and park. It's not unusual to see families or groups of friends pulling into one of the many



Boating on Lake Havasu is a perfect way to spend a day. Go Lake Havasu photo.

coves on the Arizona and California sides of the lake, and spending the day playing in the water and enjoying a cookout.

You don't need to own a boat or personal watercraft to be in the middle of the action. There are a multitude of rental businesses in Havasu to enhance your stay with speed boats, jet boats, pontoons, and personal watercraft. Or, if you'd rather not worry about driving, there are experienced boat captains that offer boat tours and charters in the Havasu area. A list can be found at golakehavasu.com.

Read a separate story about the best areas on Lake Havasu to kayak and paddleboard. If you don't have a kayak or stand-up paddleboard, the story also points you where to rent one for a day of exploring the lake.

The lake also has its share of great fishing spots that are accessible from docks or boats. There have been recent improvements to Site Six, including a new Fishing Dock, which is free and open to the public. (See separate story). Head out just after day-break before the extreme heat takes over. The breathtaking view of the sun rising over the mountains will make getting-up early worth it.

Once the temperatures start heating-up, however, don't get caught on the shore. Head to the water, and cool off.

And don't forget the sunscreen. One thing you don't want to take home is a sunburn! ❖



Paddle sports have become a defining part of the Havasu lifestyle, offering visitors a unique, personal way to explore everything this lake has to offer. Justin Butel photo.

2026 SUMMER GUIDE

Fun On The Colorado River

Lake Havasu City

- For Fun in Havasu, Just Add Water..... 1
- Site Six Adds New Fishing Dock.....3
- Fun on the Lake at New Inflatable Water Park.....5
- New Beer Celebrates Lake Havasu State Park10
- Paddle Sports:
A Perfect Way to Experience the Lake.....22
- Summer Fishing on Lake Havasu.....34
- Cattail Cove's New Campground
Welcomes Visitors37
- Celebrate July 4 with Fireworks Display.....40
- 2026 Lake Havasu City Summer Calendar.....41
- Relax On A Beach; Cool-Off In The Lake42
- TopTracer Driving Range Fun For All Ages.....49
- Take a Break from Boating and Pull-In to a Beach...55

Parker

- In Parker It's All About The River.....65
- Parker Tube Float: Biggest Party on the River66
- Parker Tourism Office Has New Home.....70
- Parker Tube Float Resources71
- June 6: Free Fishing Day in Arizona74
- Emerald Canyon: A Jewel In The Desert.....74
- 2026 Parker Summer Calendar.....76
- State Parks Near Parker
Offer Summer Water Fun.....78

Tri-State Region

- Kingman: The Heart Of Route 6681
- Historic Hotel Beale Lit-Up
For Unique Experience.....82

Arizona Route 66 Museum

- Renovated For Centennial84
- 2026 Great Race Will Stop In Kingman86
- 2026 Kingman Summer Calendar88

Yuma

- Summer In Yuma: Life Under The Desert Sun91
- A City Along The Water.....92
- Looking For Something To Do In Yuma?.....95
- Yuma's Plentiful Parks102

Los Algodones, Mexico

- Welcome To Los Algodones, Mexico:
Your Summer Guide107

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Site Six Adds New Fishing Dock

By Laura Kassik

At the end of the Island sits Site Six, one community's oldest and most cherished waterfront destinations - especially for those who enjoy boating and fishing.

Over a year ago, improvements were completed to the launch ramp, which is Lake Havasu City's only 'free' public launch ramp.

This past winter, anglers were the beneficiaries of the latest upgrade - a new Site Six Fishing Dock. In February, City officials invited its residents and visitors to celebrate the continued enhancements to Site Six at a ribbon cutting ceremony.

According to a City press release, "the fishing dock represents the latest phase of improvements at Site Six, building on the City's ongoing commitment to enhancing safety, accessibility, and the overall experience for those who enjoy boating and fishing along the shoreline. Site Six serves as a vital



A new fishing dock was installed at Site Six in February. City of Lake Havasu City photo.

resource for residents and visitors alike."

In addition to the new fishing dock, Site Six offers a handicapped-accessible fishing pier, a fish-cleaning station, restrooms, a small beach area, and a picnic area with BBQ amenities, making it an ideal destination for a day on the water or for relaxing by the lake. The final remaining element is the installation of native fish species signage on the dock, which will complete the project.

Lake Havasu City has lauded the Mohave County Board of Supervisors and former District 3 Supervisor Buster Johnson for allocating \$1.6 million to replace the Site Six Launch Ramp. This investment supported the continued improvement of an important community asset and helps ensure the facility remains safe, accessible, and functional for the many residents and visitors who rely on it.

There is no overnight parking or camping allowed at Site Six, which is located on the Island at 591 Beachcomber Blvd. Find more information about Site Six at lhcaz.gov. ❖



Site Six offers a picnic area with BBQ amenities, a perfect spot for a relaxing afternoon by the lake. City of Lake Havasu City photo.

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Fun on the Lake at New Inflatable Water Park

By Laura Kassik

It's hard to miss the brand new, 130 foot by 80 foot inflatable Water Park anchored in the water off the shore at The Nautical Beachfront Resort.

The larger-than-life inflatable toys can be seen from the opposite shoreline or by passing boats, drawing attention from both kids and adults alike. This new attraction has been creating a buzz with its giant slides, bounce platforms, and obstacles, even before it opened in April.

On its website, Lake Havasu Water Park is promoted as "...not just a water park - we're Lake Havasu's ultimate summer destination."

The park is open to both resort and non-resort guests and no reservations are needed. Just bring a towel and sunscreen; show-up and pay for as much time as you'd like to play. Entry fee is pay by the hour. All ages are welcome, but guests need to be at least 42 inches tall and under 275 pounds.

Lake Havasu Water Park provides certified life-guards to ensure the safety of all its guests. Life-jackets are mandatory and are included in the entry fee. The cost also includes complimentary small item storage for phones and keys. A larger storage bin can be rented for \$5. The park sells "grippy socks that make you feel like Spiderman running around the park," according to the website. They're not required, but highly recommended for the full experience.

The company is based out of Lake Havasu City in the U.S., and Calgary, Alberta, in Canada. The brand centers on "safe, energetic fun for the entire family".

"We currently operate four water parks in total. Three are located in Canada -Minnedosa (Manitoba), Morden (Manitoba), and Thunder Bay (Ontario) - and our location here in Lake Havasu is our first ven-



Here is an overhead view of the massive Water Park at The Nautical Beachfront Resort. Lake Havasu Water Park photo.

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- Eddie

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on the Bridgewater Channel overlooking The World Famous London Bridge

For location details and menus visit shugrues.com

Continued on next page

Water Park – continued

ture into the United States,” said a Lake Havasu Water Park spokesperson.

“We are very grateful to The Nautical for providing the space and to the Lake Havasu community for the warm welcome and positive feedback we have received on social media.”

Until June 1, the Water Park is open on Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. After June 1, the park is open those same hours, but daily. The park is expected to be open through September or October, depending on weather conditions.

General admission tickets can be purchased at the Resort’s front desk or at the dock of the Water Park by both cash and credit card. Tickets are priced per hour and rates can be found on the website at lakehavasuwatpark.com. Local residents receive a 20 percent discount with valid ID.

The Nautical Beachfront Resort is located on the Island at 1000 McCulloch Blvd. N. For more information, visit lakehavasuwatpark.com. ❖



A closer view of the Water Park at The Nautical Beachfront Resort. Lake Havasu Water Park photo.





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Starts Here!

Forget the rush.

When you cross the London Bridge you drive onto the "Island." Turn left at The Nautical Beachfront Resort and suddenly you're on Island Time – where the only schedule that matters is sunshine, laughter, and cold drinks by the water.



WET - The Ultimate Infinity-Edge Pool Party!

Dive into the coolest spot on Lake Havasu! Our stunning infinity-edge pool feels like it melts right into the lake. Grab a cabana, float the day away, splash with the crew, or turn up the fun at the brand new water park! Sun-soaked loungers, epic views, and that perfect "I'm on vacation" energy all day long.

This is where Island Time hits different!



**Come by boat, come by car, come slow down...
Make memories, and let the Havasu vibes do the rest.**

Island Time is calling... will you answer?



1000 McCulloch Blvd N. Lake Havasu City, Arizona 928-855-1702



Island Time

Forget your watch.

The Nautical Beachfront Resort is the original Lake Havasu hot spot, built by Robert P. McCulloch, the founder of Lake Havasu.

When you stay at The Nautical, you wake up to sparkling lake views, you spend your day splashing in the infinity-edge pool, playing on the beach, or renting jet skis, boats or paddle boards from the on-site watersports center. When the sun starts to dip, kick back at one of the outdoor bars with a tropical cocktail in hand and your toes in the sand.

No clocks. No stress. Just pure, easy lakeside living.

In a Zone

Plenty of places to enjoy Island Time for a few hours, if you're not staying at the Resort!

Turtle Grille - Lakeside Bites with a Smile

Fuel up or wind down with feel-good food and even better views! The Turtle Grille serves up breakfast favorites, juicy burgers, fresh salads, and crowd-pleasing classics with a side of relaxed lakeside charm. This is your go-to spot for tasty, no-fuss meals and happy vibes. Come as you are – flip-flops totally welcome!

Naked Turtle Beach Bar - Toes-in-the-Sand Good Times

The heartbeat of Island Time! Kick off your shoes, grab an ice-cold drink, and settle into the sand at this laid-back beach bar. Tropical cocktails, cold beers, tasty bites, live music, and unbeatable waterfront sunsets make this the perfect place to laugh loud, make new friends, and soak up that

classic Lake Havasu energy. From happy hour to sunset sessions, the Naked Turtle is where the real party meets pure relaxation.



—Lake Havasu, Arizona—



[f](#) [@NauticalResort](#)

nauticalbeachfrontresort.com

New Beer Celebrates Lake Havasu State Park

By Laura Kassik

There's a new beer in town that's not only a refreshing summer beverage, but part of its sales goes to a good cause.

Arizona State Parks and Trails partnered with Lake Havasu City's College Street Brewhouse and Flagstaff's Historic Brewing Company to create the Windsor Beach Blonde ale, a new craft beer celebrating Lake Havasu State Park's scenic beauty and outdoor recreation opportunities. Ten percent of sales goes to support Arizona's 33 state parks.

The Windsor Beach Blonde has a smooth and light flavor profile, created for enjoyment on warm days by the lake. Even the can's design reflects a day in Lake Havasu City, complete with boaters, mountains and a lighthouse. *Continued on page 14*



Lake Havasu State Park Rangers Terrence Torvund (assistant manager) and Pete Kessler (manager) show-off the new cans of Windsor Beach Blonde ale during their visit to see the canning process at College Street Brewhouse. Arizona State Parks & Trails photo.

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Beginning **June 1st**, each week runs **Monday through Sunday**, with a brand-new theme launching fresh every Monday. (Week 2 begins June 8th, Week 3 June 15th, and so on.)

How the Flavor Trail Works

Pick up your **Flavor Trail** card in-store and start exploring. Each visit, you'll taste, discover, and get stamped as you make your way through the trail.

The Incentive to Keep Going

- **Attend 5+ weeks** ⇒ Earn **1 entry** into our **\$500 Gourmet Shopping Spree**
- **Complete all 12 weeks** ⇒ Earn **5 BONUS** entries (6 total chances to win)
- **Every week you attend** ⇒ Automatically entered into a **weekly giveaway**

Your 12 Stops Along the Flavor Trail

Each week is built around a flavor category—giving you inspiration, pairings, and new favorites to bring home.

Week 1: Olive Orchard

All things olive—think briny, savory, and bold. From stuffed olives and tapenades to olive-forward sauces and spreads, this week is a celebration of one of the most iconic ingredients we carry.

Week 2: Garlic Gulch

A garlic lover's dream. Explore everything from pickled garlic and garlic-stuffed olives to bold garlic sauces, dips, aiolis, and seasoning blends that bring the flavor.



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Week 3: Jam Junction

Sweet meets savory. Discover our lineup of jams, jellies, and preserves—from classic fruit to spicy, smoky, and unexpected combinations perfect for charcuterie, glazing, and beyond.

Week 4: Bruschetta & Tapenade Turn

Layered, flavorful, and ready to impress. Sample a variety of bruschettas, tapenades, and savory spreads perfect for entertaining or leveling up your everyday bites.

Week 5: Vinaigrette Vista

Bright, fresh, and endlessly versatile. Taste your way through handcrafted dressings, olive oil and balsamic pairings, and simple ways to transform any salad into something unforgettable.

Week 6: Pickle Pit Stop

Briny, tangy, and addictive. From pickled vegetables and olives to bold, punchy condiments, this stop is for anyone who loves that perfect pop of acidity.

Week 7: Fiesta Fork

Turn up the flavor. Salsas, queso, bold spices, and southwest-inspired bites come together for a week full of vibrant, zesty tasting experiences.

Week 8: The Sauce Spot

Where flavor gets serious. From simmer sauces to marinades and finishing sauces, this week is all about easy ways to elevate meals with minimal effort.

Week 9: Heatwave Hill

Bring the heat. Spicy sauces, chili oils, hot honeys, and bold seasonings—this stop is for those who like a little (or a lot) of kick.

Week 10: Sweet Street

Indulgence, unlocked. Dessert sauces, sweet spreads, and everything you need to finish strong—or start with dessert first.

Week 11: Smokehouse Summit

Rich, deep, and smoky. BBQ sauces, smoked salts, rubs, and bold grill-ready flavors take center stage this week.

Week 12: Flavor Finale

A grand finale featuring fan favorites, top sellers, and standout picks from the entire trail—one last chance to taste, discover, and stock up.

🌸 Why Join the Flavor Trail?

Because this isn't just tasting—it's discovery.

It's trying products you've never thought to pick up.

It's learning new pairings.

It's finding your next favorite.

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🌸 Starts June 1st

No sign-ups. No pressure. Just show up, taste, and enjoy the journey.

Your summer starts here—one flavor at a time.



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Brewery – continued

The beer launched in March at Lake Havasu's First Friday event to rave reviews.

"It's a great summer drinker. It's a nice light blonde ale, that's not too high in alcohol content," said Jason Helart, director of operations for College Street Brewhouse. "The biggest thing is the benefit to give money back to the State Parks.

"It has been selling really well here at College Street and in Lake Havasu."

Representatives from Arizona State Parks Department, Historic Brewing, and College Street met and decided to do a light beer. The Arizona State Parks Department had a hand in naming the beer, and Historic did the design work for the can.

The brewing process was done in College Street Brewhouse. In 2023, it expanded its production facility, making it one of the five largest breweries in the state.

College Street has teamed-up with Historic Brewing Company before, but this is its first collaboration



Some of the team that works in the brewery at College Street Brewhouse. Arizona State Parks & Trails photo.

with Arizona State Parks and Trails. It is Historic Brewing Company's fourth time collaborating with the Parks system.

"We're glad to be a partner in this collaboration. We've grown in size and distribution, so it's great to

Continued on page 18

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Looking for a Great Place to Eat?

Juicy's Is the Place with the Great Food!

For many Americans, eating out is more than just a pastime; it is necessary. Studies show that most of us eat 25 percent of our meals out. Not only is eating out a great way to get away from home and lighten the work load, it is a convenient way to interact with loved ones and family without spending hours making a meal.

THE RIGHT CHOICE

An easy way to make the right dining choice is to ask the locals where they like to eat. Looking on social media such as Trip Advisor, Google, Yelp and Facebook will give you a good indication of how the restaurant experience of others has been. You will find that Juicy's is rated as one of the best restaurants in the USA on all social media, and is known locally as "The Place With The Great Food".

A restaurant that has been in town for over 45 years



and evolved from a small little fast food restaurant serving great tacos, burritos and fantastic burgers into a top of the line full service restaurant and bar should be a good choice.

OWNER INVOLVEMENT

Is the owner actually involved in the operation of the restaurant and seen dealing with customers and staff making sure all of his/her customers are delighted with their good food, service and everything about their dining experience? This is something you rarely see in this day and age and it's always a good sign; and if that restaurant is busy and not located in the tourist areas, like by the water, restaurant row or on the main drag, you can bet you're going to be very happy with your choice.

Is the staff a reflection of the owner? Juicy's staff are

all handpicked and the best trained so that they can provide the best service culture of any restaurant in Lake Havasu as well as anywhere!

Juicy's recently started a VIP Rewards Program to show appreciation to their loyal customers. Free gifts on your birthday and other special occasions including member-only specials. Ask a Juicy's staff member for details.

HELPING YOUR RESTAURANT ECONOMY

The local dining movement asks people to eat at their neighborhood restaurants. Every meal you eat at your neighborhood restaurant helps your community in a variety of ways. It creates local tax revenue that will be spent in your community as well as it helping local vendors and workers. Many restaurants are part of corporate chains where the profits are shipped to their faraway headquarters and not spent within your community. The more locally focused a business is, the better it will be for your community.

MENU CHOICES

Juicy has it, the best breakfast in town! Pasta to die for; seafood, hand-cut Alaskan cod used in their famous tempura fish and chips, shrimp dishes, salmon, hand cut steaks and perfect prime rib. A special night for everyone; Monday is south of the border night, Tuesday is pot roast and veggies, Wednesday is Taco Wednesday with their famous Pork Chili Colorado tacos. Thursday is corned beef and cabbage. Friday is Seafood Friday including all you can eat fish and chips. Saturday is prime rib hand cut, charred or blackened from the best Arizona raised beef.

Don't miss out on Juicy's Happy Hour: 3-6 PM, Monday thru Friday. The best drink & appetizer specials and best Juicy Mary's & Mimosa's in town.

TIME TO DINE

Next time you decide to eat out, dine at "The Place with the Great Food." It creates a mutually beneficial relationship that makes your community stronger and healthier. That is something that everyone can support.

Now online ordering has never been easier. Juicy's has it's own employee delivery service, order now at JuicysGreatFood.com.

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Brewery – continued

be able to do a hometown project and to work with Historic Brewing Company again,” Helart said. “We’ve teamed-up in the past to brew a Cherry Vanilla Wheat beer, and it’s even better to support a local cause.”

The Windsor Beach Blonde is available on draft and in 12-ounce cans sold in six-packs at College Street Brewhouse and at Historic Brewing Barrel House and Taproom locations in Williams and Flagstaff.

“Lake Havasu State Park is widely known as a great destination for visitors, but it’s also a tremendous asset to the local community, providing economic support through tourism and keeping 900 acres along the lake clean, safe, and maintained,” said Dan Roddy, western region manager of Arizona State Parks and Trails. “As a self-sustaining agency that relies on park fees to fund our operations, we’re grateful to have the community’s support and it will be fun to



Windsor Beach Blonde ale was created by Lake Havasu City’s College Street Brewhouse and Flagstaff’s Historic Brewing Company to celebrate Lake Havasu State Park. Arizona State Parks & Trails photo.

celebrate the park with this collaborative project.”

College Street Brewhouse is located at 1940 College Drive. For more information about the restaurant or brewery, visit CollegeStreetBrewhouseandPub.com. ❖

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Paddle Sports: A Perfect Way to Experience the Lake

By Justin Butel

If you're planning a summer trip to Lake Havasu City, there's one experience that consistently stands out above the rest - getting out on the water. And not just by boat, but by kayak or paddleboard. Paddle sports have become a defining part of the Havasu lifestyle, offering visitors a unique, personal way to explore everything this lake has to offer.

From a local's perspective, there's simply no better way to experience the area. Kayaking and paddleboarding put you right at water level, where you can slow things down and really take it all in. You're not just passing by the scenery - you're part of it. Early morning paddles bring glassy water and quiet sunrises, while evenings offer warm light reflecting off the desert cliffs. In between, you'll find hidden coves, quiet beaches, and stretches of shoreline that are only accessible by paddle.

One of the best things about Lake Havasu is the variety of places you can launch and explore. Right in the heart of town, Rotary Park is one of the most convenient and popular starting points. From there, you can head out into Thompson Bay or paddle through the Bridgewater Channel and under the iconic London Bridge. It's an ideal area for beginners, families, or anyone looking for a relaxed, scenic paddle with easy access to the water.

If you're looking to explore a little further, the Arizona side of the lake offers incredible paddling terrain. Mesquite Bay is a favorite for its open feel, calm conditions, and beautiful desert backdrop. It's a great place to spend time on the water, whether you cruise the shoreline or stop to swim along the way. Just beyond that, Castle Rock offers a more tucked-away experience. With its distinctive rock formation and slightly more secluded setting, it's the kind of place you paddle into and immediately feel like you've discovered something special.



Paddling a kayak through the Bridgewater Channel and under the London Bridge can make for a relaxing time on the water.

For a completely different pace, the south end of the lake near the Bill Williams National Wildlife Refuge offers a quiet, nature-filled escape. Here, the Colorado River slows down and winds through reeds and marshland, creating a peaceful environment that feels far removed from the main lake. Wildlife is more active in this area, and the calm water makes it perfect for a relaxing paddle. Nearby, Havasu Springs Resort provides a convenient place to launch, and visitors in that area can also find rental options to get out on the water without bringing their own equipment.

For those staying closer to town, getting equipped is simple. Southwest Outfitters is a go-to spot for rentals, gear, and local knowledge. Whether you're brand new to paddle sports or have years of experience, having the right equipment and a little guidance can make all the difference. From traditional kayaks and stand-up paddleboards to more advanced options like pedal-drive fishing kayaks, there's something for every kind of adventure.

More than anything, paddle sports are a reflection of the community here in Lake Havasu. It's common

Continued on page 28



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Directions to Prospectors RV Resort

From I-40: Take Arizona Highway 95 south 19 miles, turn right at first light (London Bridge Road), Prospectors is 1.5 miles down London Bridge Road on the left.

From Parker:

Travel North on Highway 95, pass through Lake Havasu City, turn left on Chenoweth Road (Lowe's is on the corner), turn right on London Bridge Road, Prospectors is 1.5 miles down on the right.



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Paddle Sports – continued

to see families, anglers, and first-time visitors all sharing the same water, each enjoying it in their own way. There's a strong sense of connection - not just to the lake, but to each other and to the outdoors.

If you're visiting this summer and looking for something that truly captures the spirit of Lake Havasu City, kayaking or paddleboarding should be at the top of your list. It's active without being overwhelming, peaceful without being boring, and adventurous in a way that feels accessible to everyone. Once you get out there, you'll quickly understand why so many of us have built our lives around this lake - and why paddle sports continue to be such a big part of what makes Havasu special.

About the Author: Justin Butel is the store manager of Southwest Outfitters, located at 159 Paseo del Sol Ave. in Lake Havasu City. With years of experience in the outdoor and fishing industry, Justin's passionate about promoting kayak bass fishing and helping others discover the joys of the sport. For gear, advice, or to join a local tournament, contact Justin at justin@swkoutfitters.com or call the store at 928-680-9257. Photos provided by Justin Butel. ❖



Lake Havasu is an ideal place to paddleboard. If you don't have one or didn't bring yours on your trip to Havasu, you can rent one at Southwest Outfitters. The store rents both stand-up paddleboards and kayaks.

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Did someone say Happy Hour? Pull up a chair, join the conversation, and maybe even a game of cornhole at our on-site bistro and lounge—the perfect place to meet friends, unwind, and enjoy what quickly becomes a favorite part of the day.

Dining at The Views is an experience all its own. With a full-service restaurant offering chef-prepared cuisine, residents enjoy delicious meals without the hassle of cooking or cleaning.

But what truly sets The Views apart isn't just what's offered—it's how it all comes together.

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Summer Fishing on Lake Havasu

By John Galbraith

Summer Fishing on Lake Havasu can be fun for the whole family.

Timing is the key for successful summer angling during our hot summers - morning hours from 5 a.m. to 9 a.m. and then again in the evening from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Havasu has a diverse population of fish - 4 species of cats (Flathead, Channel, Yellow Bullhead & Black bullheads), 3 bass species (Striped, Largemouth & Smallmouth), 5 panfish species (Redear, Bluegill, Green, Hybrid & Black Crappie), plus Tilapia & Carp.

Havasu has had a population explosion of Flathead Catfish as they are very plentiful with sizes ranging from 2 pounds to 50 pounds. Smaller ones prefer cut frozen bait while larger ones like live sunfish as bait.

If you can stand the heat, the midday bite can be productive targeting shady areas for Largemouth sitting in ambush using soft body frogs, Senkos and



Hector Brito caught a 5.8 pound Redear - the second World Record fish caught in Lake Havasu City.

Spinnerbaits.

Smallmouth bite is best early targeting rocky outcrops near deeper water as Smallmouth will move deeper as the sun heats up the surface water. Craw

Continued on page 36

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Summer Fishing – continued



Bass Tackle Master owner John Galbraith caught this 46 pound Flathead Cat.



Ted Staymaker reeled-in a 47", 36 pound Striped Bass.

style jigs and crankbaits work well through the summer.

Redears and Bluegill prefer the warmer waters and will stay shallow (less than 10 feet) thru the hot summer months. Slip bobbers and a nightcrawler are all you need to

keep the Panfish biting throughout the day.

Night fishing for Cats can be great fun; 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. is peak time for larger cats that stay primarily nocturnal as they get larger, especially Flatheads & Bullheads.

For some real daytime fun hanging at the Sandbar, get some carp style dough bait with a small treble hook and toss it out in the current, Carp will bite all day and put up a great fight.

Don't let the heat keep you from

Continued on next page



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Cattail Cove's New Campground Welcomes Visitors



An overhead view of the new upper campground at Cattail Cove State Park. Arizona State Parks and Trails photo.

Cattail Cove State Park opened a new campground in March and it didn't take long to fill-up with visitors.

"The upper campground at Cattail Cove has been very well received, and we have lots of happy campers," said Michelle Thompson, Arizona State Parks & Trails Deputy Assistant Director.

The campground, referred to as Upper Cattail, features 78 new campsites with water, sewer and 50 amp hookups. There are five accessible restroom/shower buildings and a plaza with greenspace and a new white sand beach. The campground offers a stunning view of the Colorado River and the Chemehuevi Mountains.

The development of the new campground included the installation of a water/wastewater treatment system and electric hook-ups, along with roadwork,

landscaping, and facilities.

"This project showcases the relentless commitment of the Arizona State Parks and Trails team to provide exceptional recreation opportunities for visitors across our beautiful state," said Dan Roddy, western regional manager at the agency. "Upper Cattail required significant work, but our team persisted until we got it done, and done right. We couldn't be prouder to open this facility where campers can create cherished lakeside memories for generations to come."

Cattail Cove State Park, located 15 miles south of Lake Havasu City on Highway 95.

Reservations for campsites at Upper Cattail are available at a rate of \$50 per night. Campsites can be reserved online at AZStateParks.com/Cattail-Cove or by calling 877-697-2757 for up to a year in advance.

Continued from previous page

enjoying the great fishing Havasu has throughout the summer.

About the Author: John Galbraith, a 45-year resident of Lake Havasu City, is a professional tournament angler

and a three-time WON Striper Derby Champion. Since 2001, he has been the owner of Bass Tackle Master, located at 260 London Bridge Rd. For more information, call 928-854-BASS or go online to www.basstacklemaster.com. Photos provided by John Galbraith. ❖

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The 1-Stop has been called the supermarket of convenient stores with its variety of merchandise. Grab some chips, crackers, sunscreen, or even souvenirs. Drop your sunglasses in the lake? Pick-up a new pair. There are fountain and coffee drinks, and a wide selection of bottled beverages. An ATM is inside the store.

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expected to be complete in time for Memorial Day weekend. The pumps are open 24 hours a day and propane is available during store hours.

Campbell Cove 1-Stop not only offers everything you need, but is conveniently located 200 yards from Lake Havasu State Park and a boat launch.

Jim and Hanne Dolan opened the all-in-one stop in 2008. The couple is active in the community and belongs to the Lake Havasu City Marine Association and Lake Havasu Hospitality Association. Jim, a Havasu native, is past president of the Lake Havasu City Rotary Club and the Havasu Balloon Festival and Fair.

The Dolans look forward to serving you on your way to spending a fun-filled day on Lake Havasu.



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Celebrate July 4 with Fireworks Display

By Laura Kassik

For many in Lake Havasu City, July 4th means boating, barbecues, and fireworks.

Conclude a day on the lake by settling into a seat on your boat, or lawn chair on the beach, and look up! The sky over Thompson Bay will be lit-up with spectacular bursts of color as the water below captures the reflections during the annual Fireworks show.

Fireworks will be shot-off from the same location as last year - the Lighthouse site at Piccadilly Point, which sits between Body Beach and Thompson Bay. Fireworks will begin after dark, at approximately 9 p.m.

The two best places to watch are either from a boat in Thompson Bay, or on land at Rotary Community Park. The water is a perfect location, but Thompson Bay will get congested and fills-up quickly, so anchor early. Officials encourage boaters to anchor both bow and stern due to winds and current. All watercraft, including personal watercraft, must have proper lights at night.

Another area that provides a straight view, and is easy to access, is Rotary Community Park, at 1400 S. Smoketree Ave. Take a chair or blanket and get comfortable on the beach or grass. There is plenty of free parking and coolers are allowed; but no alcohol or pets are permitted.

The Fireworks show is presented by Lake Havasu City and DSM Events.

Note: Consumer fireworks that explode or shoot into the air are illegal in Arizona. For more information on what is legal, visit the city of Lake Havasu City's website at www.lhcaz.gov/fire-department/fireworks. ❖



Fireworks Over the Lake will be July 4 at approximately at 9 p.m. Go Lake Havasu photo.

2026 Lake Havasu City Summer Calendar



The annual Fireworks display in Lake Havasu City will be July 4 after dark. Tom Calderwood photo.

Note: Event dates and times are subject to change. For updates and more events in Lake Havasu City, including entertainment at bars and restaurants, pick-up The White Sheet. It is free and on newsstands around town every Tuesday or online at whitesheetonline.com. Updates can also be found under Events at golakehasu.com.

ONGOING

Lake Havasu Farmers Market. Every Saturday. **Time:** 8 a.m. to Noon. **Admission:** Free. **Address:** The KAWS, 2144 McCulloch Blvd. **Website:** lakehasufarmersmarket.com.

JUNE 5-6-7

The Spongebob Musical: Youth Edition. **Time:** Friday and Saturday 7:30 p.m.; Sunday 2 p.m. **Tickets:** Adults \$17; children \$12. **Address:** GraceArts LIVE Performing Arts Theatre, 2146 McCulloch Blvd N. **Website:** graceartslive.com. **Phone:** 928-505-2787.

JUNE 6

Arizona Free Fishing Day. No fishing license is required to fish public waters in Arizona on this day. **Time:** All day. **Website:** azgfd.gov.

JUNE 12-13-14

The Spongebob Musical: Youth Edition. **Time:** Friday and Saturday 7:30 p.m.; Sunday 2 p.m. **Tickets:** Adults \$17; children \$12. **Address:** GraceArts LIVE Performing Arts Theatre, 2146 McCulloch Blvd N. **Website:** graceartslive.com. **Phone:** 928-505-2787.

JULY 4

Fireworks: Fireworks will be shot-off at the Lighthouse site at Piccadilly Point, which sits between Body Beach and Thompson Bay. **Time:** After dark, at approximately 9 p.m. **Website:** golakehasu.com. ❖

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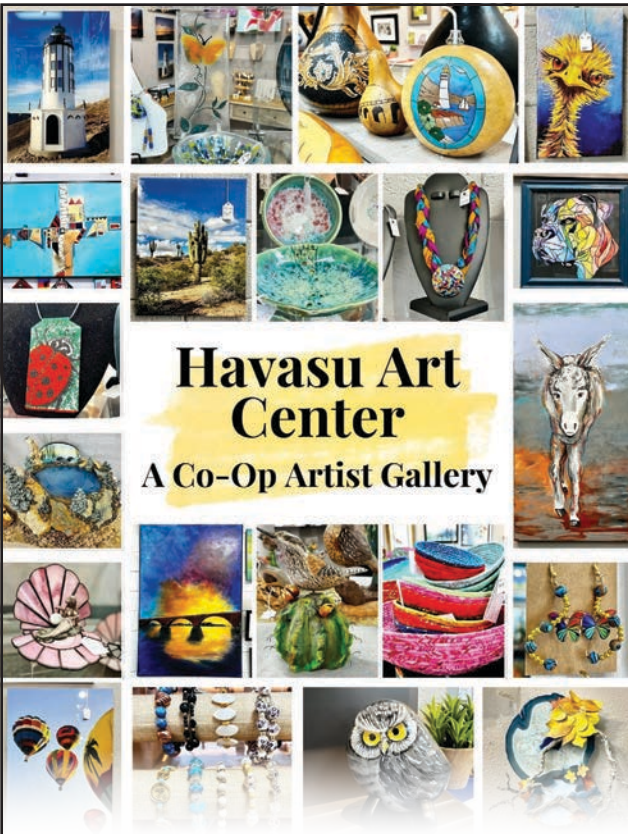
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Relax On A Beach; Cool-Off In The Lake



Sit back and relax on one of the beaches that sit on the edges of Lake Havasu. Go Lake Havasu photo.

By Laura Kassik

Some of the best days are spent stretched out on a beach towel or lounge chair soaking-up the sun; but close enough to take a dip in the lake and cool-off, or let the kids splash around while you relax.

In Lake Havasu City, sun-seeking visitors who either don't have a boat or want to take a break from boating, have their choice of parks that sit on the lake's edge with beautiful beaches and other amenities to make the days here fun and stress-free.

Rotary Park, London Bridge Beach, and Lake Havasu State Park - all with direct access to the Bridgewater Channel and accessible by boat or car - have beaches, buoyed swimming areas, and covered picnic areas with tables and BBQs for a memorable summer afternoon.

Just about all of Lake Havasu is swimmable, except for the Bridgewater Channel, according to GoLake-Havasu.com. Persons can wade in the Channel near the shore, but swimming across the Channel is illegal due to safety issues.

Rotary Community Park

This 40-acre, beautifully-maintained park is covered with so much grass and trees you might forget you're in the desert, if not for the occasional cactus. It sits on the water, offering a day spent both in the park and at the beach. There is swimming area that is roped-off with buoys.

There is boat access with a non-motorized launch area, perfect for kayaks and paddleboards.

There are covered picnic areas with tables and



London Bridge Beach sits along the Bridgewater Channel and can be accessed by water or land.

barbecue grills, three playgrounds (one specifically for persons with special needs), six beach volleyball courts, two bocce ball courts, and ball fields. There are multiple restroom facilities.

Rotary is home to the Tinnell Memorial Sports Park - a state-of-the-art facility that accommodates skateboarders, scooters, and BMX riders of all ages and skill levels.

There is a two-mile walking trail and a walking path that runs along the Bridgewater Channel to the English Village and London Bridge. No pets allowed; alcohol prohibited.

Hours: Dawn until 11 p.m. **Admission:** Free. **Address:** 1400 S. Smoketree Ave. **Phone:** 928-453-8686. **Web-site:** Golakehavas.com; Lhcaz.gov.

London Bridge Beach

This beach/park sits on the Island and along the Bridgewater Channel, and can be accessed by turning into the parking lot just across the London Bridge, or by pulling-in your boat for day mooring.

There's a walking path from the water to the grassy park, which offers two playgrounds, ramadas, covered picnic areas with tables and BBQs, restrooms and basketball and sand volleyball courts. There is a community stage used for seasonal concerts.

There is a buoyed swimming area and seasonal watercraft rentals.

Dogs are allowed on a leash, but there is the Lions Dog Park, which is a fenced area where dogs can run and play.

Alcohol is not allowed, except in group areas with advanced City permit.

Hours: Dawn until 11 p.m. **Admission:** Free. **Address:** 1340 McCulloch Blvd. **Phone:** 928-453-8686. **Website:**

Continued on page 46

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Just 4 Fun Powersports

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Mark Curry believes all his customers, not to mention his employees, belong in his family fold. Mark said, “Our customers know we love them, and everybody that buys at Just 4 Fun Powersports ends up being family.”

Take Brian and Sherry Friedrichsen for example. They retired to spend sunlit afternoons cruising past palm trees, the famously relocated London Bridge, and a community of other boaters. Over the last several decades, Brian and Sherry have owned a myriad of different boats an entire fleet if they had kept them all. But after owning and piloting so many different vessels, they have ended on their favorite of all, the SunCatcher pontoon from G3 Boats. With help from their favorite dealer Mark Curry at the local Just 4 Fun Powersports, Brian and Sherry recently purchased their second SunCatcher—a new 26-foot Elite—a comfortable, passenger-friendly pontoon loaded with amenities. “Working with Mark is just so easy. He’s very fun,” Sherry said. Besides cruising around Lake Havasu, the couple also spend their time riding with a motorcycle group called the Havasu Hangover Gang, where they originally met Mark as well as countless other friends. On Wednesday nights when the gang is riding south, the Just 4 Fun dealership is the meeting spot. Hobbies coincide enough that many of their motorcycle friends also go boating with them. When these couples were ready for their own pontoon, the Friedrichsens enthusiastically sent them Mark’s way. Sherry said, “Our friends Ron and Judy bought a 24-foot SunCatcher from Mark. And Steve and Sue purchased a 22-footer with a gray interior.” They are happy to recommend Mark and his team because he has become such a large part of their boat buying experience over the years that he is like one of the family.

Mark lived in Lake Havasu City from 1982-1989 but grew up visiting with his family from Southern California. His mother, Mary Ann, was even on City Council and then was vice mayor of Lake Havasu City. After a career in the boat business that took him around the world, he decided it was time to take what he had learned and offer the Tri-State area the World Class Service they deserved. Opening the business in 2016 with his father George Curry, Just 4 Fun Powersports began in an office trailer with just a small, paved lot while their new building was under construction. Now in a building with three bays, they use outdoor space to display the boats instead of an indoor showroom since the weather is nearly always sunny and winter wear means a thin jacket. Family-owned, Just 4 Fun has twelve employees including Mark’s parents Mary Ann and George.

Pontoon boats are what really put them on the map in the Tri-State area. And they are happy to be a major SunCatcher dealer. Mark said, “We’ve been one of their top ten dealers every year since 2017; we love that they are such a personable company.” With the addition of Phoenix Boats and Skeeter Boats, Just 4 Fun Powersports has become the Bass Fishing Headquarters for the region. With the addition of



We service what we sell and what everyone else sells too!

Landau and Viaggio lineups, they are the Pontoon & Tritoon Superstore.

“Our tagline is family owned and value priced. We don’t believe anyone should pay MSRP; we think that’s a blue-sky number,” Mark said. He reminds all buyers in Arizona that they get a tax credit for their trade-ins, so most end up getting more than they originally thought they would.

Just 4 Fun Powersports is a full-service sales, parts, and service business that specializes in Yamaha boat brands such as G3 and Sun Catcher. They not only sell new and used boats, but they also service all boats. With 3 Factory Trained Technicians, the team works hard to get boats in and out of service as fast as possible. Mark says, “We have a lot of urgency in the shop.” He understands that boaters need their boats in a timely manner.

Open 8am-5pm Monday-Saturday, Just 4 Fun is housed in a modern facility on the south side, but Mark explains they stay open if there are customers with needs. They have a full parts department, and if they do not have what you are looking for, they can usually get it the next day.

They are the #1 fish boat dealer in the nearby market, and a Top 10 dealer of 259 for their brands. They rate 100% on the Customer Service Index. Every customer is greeted by a friendly and professional salesperson. Mark has been in the industry a long time. He started in boat and RV sales in 1983 after he completed his service in the Air Force, and he does not have plans to stop anytime soon. He said, “If you’re passionate about what you do it’s not a job. I can’t wait to come to work every day because I love helping people get out on the lake.” He also loves his crew, admitting that, “I have a great team. This whole operation is a family.” He loves to chat about all things fishing. Come see the team at Just 4 Fun for value pricing and a family atmosphere.

Just 4 Fun Powersports 3393 Maricopa Ave. www.JUST4FUNPOWER-SPORTSLHC.com

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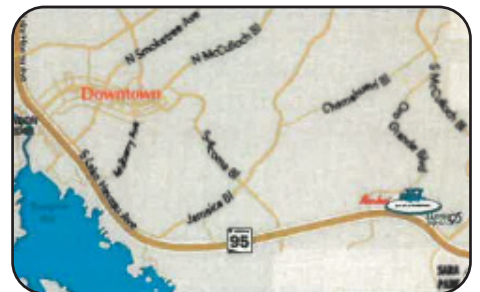


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Beaches – continued



Rotary Community Park offers a beautiful beach and buoyed swim area, but also playgrounds, beach volleyball courts, a skate park and much more over its 40 acres. Go Lake Havasu photo.

Golakehasvu.com; Lhcaz.gov.

Lake Havasu State Park

This park, which offers day use, camping, and boat launch ramps, sits on the shores of Lake Havasu. Spend a day on the white sand beach, which sits in

the day-use area at the south end of the park. There is a picnic area with tables, grills and shade covers, and restrooms.

There are multiple boat ramps available to all watercraft uses and non-motorized launch areas. The

Continued on page 48



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Beaches – continued



Lake Havasu State Park offers beaches and swimming area and boat launches and campsites. Arizona State Parks & Trails photo.

park offers tent and RV camping, or rent a cabin.

Open 24 hours, year-round. Leashed pets allowed, but no pets on the white sand beaches.

Visitor Center/Park Store: 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. (March through October). **Admission:** Day-use fee (per vehi-

cle): Monday through Thursday \$20; Friday through Sunday and holidays \$25. Individual/bicycle: \$5.

Address: 699 London Bridge Road. **Phone:** 928-855-2784. **Website:** Golakehasvu.com; Azstateparks.com/lake-havasvu. ❖




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TopTracer Driving Range Fun For All Ages

Take a break from the lake and head to Iron Wolf Golf and Country Club for some family fun.

The state-of-the-art TopTracer Driving Range offers an unparalleled golfing experience for players of all ages and skill levels. With 16 climate-controlled hitting bays, innovative technology, and a vibrant atmosphere, this premier facility is designed for fun, practice, and socializing. Whether you're a seasoned golfer, a family looking for a unique outing, or a group of friends seeking a lively night out, Iron Wolf's TopTracer Driving Range has something for everyone.

Fun for the Entire Family

Iron Wolf's TopTracer Driving Range is designed to bring people together, making it an ideal destination for families. The variety of game modes caters to all ages and skill levels, ensuring that even first-time golfers can join in the fun. Kids will love the interactive games, while parents can relax in the comfortable bays and enjoy the vibrant atmosphere. With no prior



A view from one of the climate controlled bays, which can accommodate up to six players. Iron Wolf Golf & CC photo.



TopTracer Driving Range offers fun for all ages. It is lit for night golfing; perfect for after a day on the lake. Iron Wolf Golf & CC photo.

golfing experience required, it's the perfect spot for a family night out or a weekend adventure.

Climate-Controlled & Night Golf

No matter the weather or time of day, Iron Wolf's climate-controlled hitting bays ensure a comfortable experience year-round. Space heaters and cooling systems keep you cozy during chilly evenings or cool under the desert sun. The range is also equipped with advanced lighting, making night golf a thrilling option. Playing under the stars with the stunning lake and mountain backdrop creates a picturesque and unforgettable experience, perfect for after-work outings or evening gatherings with friends.

Cutting-Edge Technology

At the heart of the Iron Wolf Driving Range is TopTracer technology, the same ball-tracking system used in professional golf broadcasts. Each of the 16 hitting bays is equipped with interactive touch-screen monitors that provide real-time data on every shot, including distance, ball speed, launch angle, and more. Whether you're fine-tuning your swing or competing in fun virtual games, TopTracer transforms the traditional driving range into an engaging, tech-driven experience. Play iconic courses like Pebble Beach or St. Andrews right from your bay, or challenge friends and family to exciting game modes such as Closest to the Pin, Long Drive, or even the family-friendly Angry Birds game.

VIP Menu & Bar Service

Elevate your experience with Iron Wolf's VIP

Continued on page 52

London Bridge Resort: An All-Suite Waterfront Resort



Set along the sparkling Bridgewater Channel in the heart of sunny Lake Havasu City, London Bridge Resort invites guests to experience the ultimate waterfront escape. Spanning 110 acres, this all-suite destination blends classic English Tudor charm with a vibrant, modern energy; delivering elevated amenities, effortless convenience, and a setting designed for unforgettable summer moments.



Just steps from the Resort, the world-famous London Bridge creates an iconic backdrop for your stay. Guests can stroll along the lively channel, explore the English Village, or walk to Rotary Community Park while soaking in the buzz of boaters, waterfront dining, and endless Arizona sunshine.

Whether you're planning a celebration or a corporate retreat, London Bridge Resort offers over 12,000 square feet of flexible indoor event space, perfect for weddings, meetings, and social gatherings. The Resort also serves as a central hub for many of Lake Havasu's most exciting annual events, making it the ideal home base for experiencing the destination at its best.

Dining at the Resort is an experience in itself. Martini Bay delivers a refined yet approachable atmosphere, where fresh, seasonal ingredients meet creative culinary execution. Helmed by Le Cordon Bleu-trained Executive Chef Sarah Freick, the menu is thoughtfully curated to impress. As the sun sets, Martini Bay transitions into one of Lake Havasu's favorite evening destinations, where handcrafted cocktails, live music, and waterfront views set the tone for the night.

For those looking to turn up the energy, Kokomo, the Resort's day and night club, is a can't-miss. Located right on the channel, Kokomo offers the perfect blend of daytime chill and nighttime thrill. Lounge poolside with a drink in hand, enjoy casual bites like pizza and shareables, and come back after dark when DJs and live entertainment transform the space into one of the most dynamic nightlife scenes in the area.

The 122 spacious suites provide comfort and flexibility for families, couples, and groups alike, while on-site amenities invite guests to make the most of every moment. Tee off at the scenic nine-hole golf course with sweeping lake and mountain views, explore the channel by paddleboard, or cruise along the waterfront with convenient bike rentals.

Whether you're seeking relaxation or adventure, London Bridge Resort offers endless ways to experience summer at your own pace right on the water.



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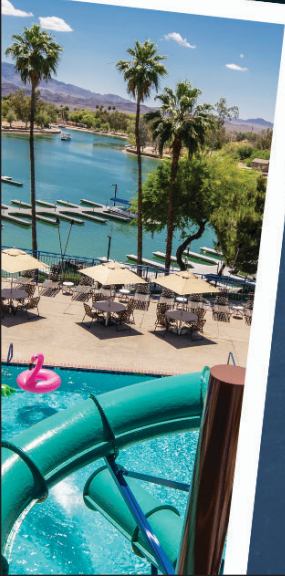
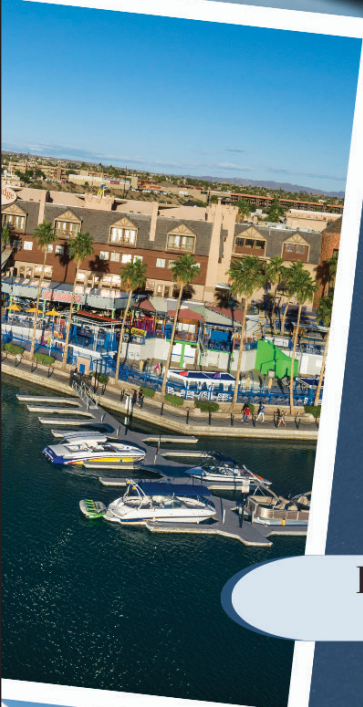
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Bridgewater Links



TopTracer – continued

offerings. The range features exclusive VIP bays, available for private hire, perfect for special events, corporate outings, or a premium golfing experience with friends. These bays come with unlimited golf balls and enhanced privacy, ensuring a luxurious visit. Complementing the experience is a full beverage service, featuring all your favorite drinks, from craft cocktails and fine wines to ice-cold beers. Order directly from your bay and have your drinks delivered without missing a swing.

Open Six Days a Week

Iron Wolf's TopTracer Driving Range is open six days a week, with the exception of Tuesdays when the facility is closed. Rates are by the hour; and include groups of one to six players per bay. Reservations are recommended for weekends, large groups, or VIP bay rentals to ensure availability.

Come swing, sip, and socialize at Iron Wolf's Top-Tracer Driving Range - where golf meets fun.

Book a bay by calling 928-764-1404 or visit IronWolfGCC.com for more information. Follow on Facebook and Instagram. Iron Wolf is located at 3275 Latrobe Drive. ❖



An up-close look at inside one of the bays. Iron Wolf Golf & CC photo.

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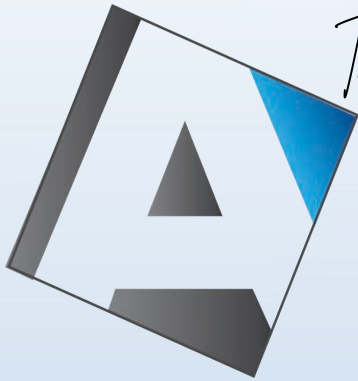
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Take a Break from Boating and Pull-In to a Beach

Lake Havasu and the nearby stretches of the Colorado River - Arizona's "West Coast" - are known for having a multitude of hidden coves and beaches. Some beaches are only accessible by boat and many have amenities such as barbecue grills, portable restrooms and shaded picnic tables.

Here is a list of the Top Boat-In Beaches along Lake Havasu, according to GoLake-Havasu.com.

Bridgewater Channel

Located in the heart of Lake Havasu City, every day is a virtual non-stop boat parade when you're at the Bridgewater Channel. The narrow ribbon of 'no-wake' navigable water runs beneath the London Bridge and creates a waterfront for shops and restaurants. The man-made channel is bordered by sandy beaches - a



The Bridgewater Channel is where boaters often park to be seen and soak-in the party atmosphere. Go Lake Havasu photo.

favorite resting, socializing and tanning place for boaters to "beach" year-round. Public restrooms are located on the island-side of the channel, as well as a

Continued on next page

Lake Havasu, Parker, Tri-State

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Boat-In Beaches – continued

fenced-in dog park, volleyball courts, and a kids play area, all located at London Bridge Beach.

Hungry? There are several boat-in restaurants near the London Bridge offering everything from pizza to first-class dining. No overnight mooring permitted. Leashed pets permitted. No glass bottles. **Address:** 1340 Beachcomber Blvd or 422 English Village (free parking). **Fees:** Free.

Body Beach

Body Beach is a half-mile long stretch of shoreline on the Arizona (east) side of the lake. On any given day, you can find some of the world's best personal watercraft riders practicing and testing in preparation for their next competition.

GPS: 34.459217, -114.335869. **Hours:** 24 hours. **Fees:** Free. **Accessibility:** Boat or off-road path accessible by vehicle or on foot.

Cattail Cove & Three Dunes

As you near the southern end of Lake Havasu, you'll discover a few more favorite spots among Arizona beaches. About a mile south of Cattail Cove are multiple beaches in and around a series of small coves that are also known as good hunting grounds for bass

and catfish. Located on the Arizona side of the lake, many of these beaches offer on-site restrooms, picnic tables and trash receptacles. These Arizona beaches are great getaways with lots to offer. **GPS:** 34.354480, -114.173534. **Hours:** 24 hours. **Fees:** \$10 (day-use); additional overnight camping fees. **Accessibility:** Boat or hike in on foot.

Friendly Island

Friendly Island (aka Beaver Island) is the kind of place every boater dreams about. Whether it's for just an hour or several days, Friendly Island offers the shelter and camping conveniences that make boating so much fun. Located in Goose Bay, only a little more than 4 miles from the London Bridge, Friendly Island has several secluded sandy beaches with ample drop-off for easy boater access. The island is well protected from wind and boat wakes, and has the added comforts of restroom facilities, barbecues, ramadas and trash receptacles.

GPS: 34.421654, -114.291994. **Hours:** 24 hours. **Fees:** \$10 (day-use); additional overnight camping fees. **Accessibility:** Boat only; located a little over 4 miles south

Continued on page 60

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WATERCRAFT AND RECREATIONAL MAP

MAP CONTINUES IN BOX AT RIGHT

MAP CONTINUED FROM TOP LEFT

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Pilot Rock
Friendly Isle
Pilot Rock
Hidden Cove

California Bay
Skier Island
Lava Arch
Copper Canyon
Pilot Rock Pinnacles
Havasui Palms

Jokers Wild Cove
Ski Cove 1
Ski Cove 2
Ski Cove 3

Chemehuevi Indian Tribal Land

Havasui Landing Marina Resort & Casino
P-48 WWII Aircraft
Underwater Mining Camp
Crazy Horse Campground
Site Six Boat Launch

Chemehuevi Indian Tribal Land

Havasui Springs Resort
River Rat Bar & Grill
Castle Rock Shores

MAP CONTINUED FROM BOTTOM RIGHT

Lake Havasu
Parker Dam
River Rat Bar & Grill
Castle Rock Shores

MOJAVE WASH COVE
Gauging Station

TOPOCK
Topock 66 Marina
Private Cove

NO WAKE ZONE
Devil's Elbow Drift Dive
90° Vortex Holes
Devil's Elbow
Cathedral Rock

NO WAKE ZONE
Sand Dunes

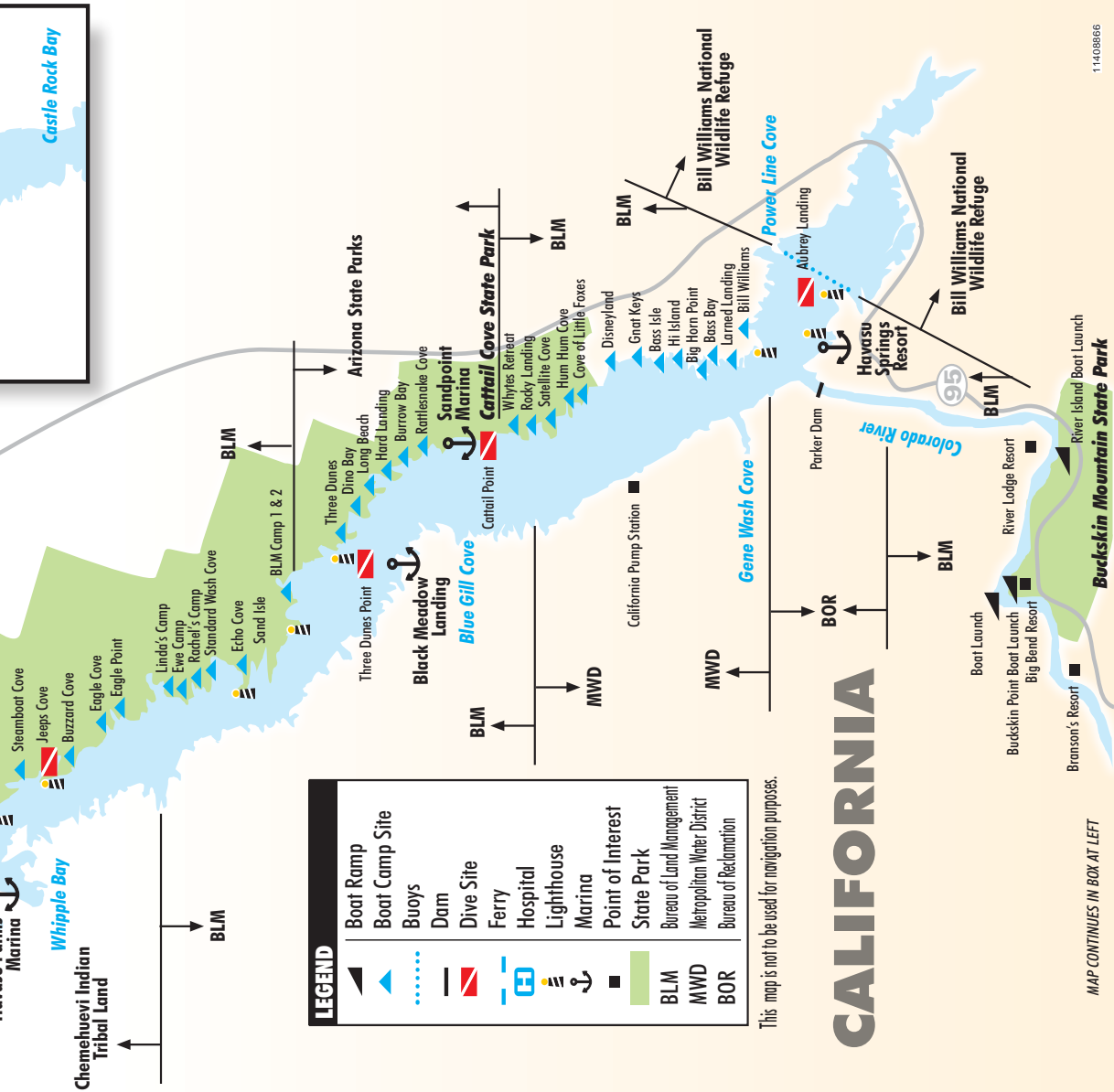
Havasui National Wildlife Refuge
Underwater Indian Petroglyphs
Indian Petroglyphs
Mohave Rock

Trampas Cove
Sandbar
Disneyland Sand Dune
Blankenship Bend
Crystal Beach

ARIZONA

HAVASUI RIVIERA MARINA

CA

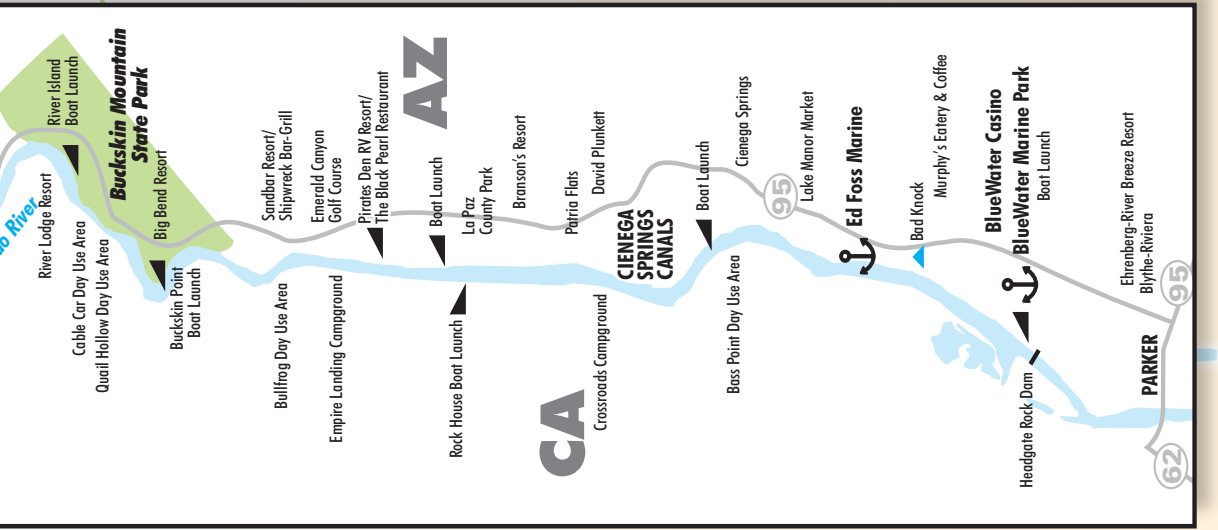


This map is not to be used for navigation purposes.

CALIFORNIA

MAP CONTINUES IN BOX AT LEFT

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Choose a Handgun



For several years, women have been the fastest-growing demographic of new gun owners, according to the National Rifle Association. But many women and men don't have the information they need to choose their first gun.

Whether you are experienced or a novice, you want to find a reputable firearm dealer to begin gathering information on good firearms to fit your needs.

Being informed is essential for responsible gun ownership.

SIZE AND CALIBER

It's a good idea to visit gun shops in order to get a feel for the type of handgun you'd be most comfortable carrying.

Size is going to be a big factor. Large framed pistols are fine if you aren't planning on carrying the gun on your body. These weapons hold more ammunition in the magazine and will manage the recoil better.

Smaller pistols are excellent choices for concealed carrying. It might have stronger recoil because it is a lighter weight. Most concealed carry guns are specifically designed to use at close range and remain hidden when not in use.

Larger caliber weapons will create more damage on your target. Smaller calibers are excellent choices for novices.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

You should also consider whether you're more comfortable carrying a semi-automatic handgun or a revolver. Semi-automatics are more modern and usually come in smaller calibers, known as "auto calibers." Since they are typically magazine-fed, semi-automatics are

more complicated than revolvers. They can be slightly more difficult to clean and operate, but they fire quickly and are easy to reload.

On the other hand, revolvers are simpler and more traditional. They have been around a lot longer. There are a wider range of calibers and they are easier to clean, but the firing speed and reload time is significantly reduced. Revolvers are great options for beginners, though some automatics are just as good.

Point-and-shoot accuracy is more important than sighted accuracy in an emergency situation. In self-defense situations, you're usually firing fast and instinctively.

WARNINGS

You should be able to operate your weapon easily. Learn how to switch the safety on and off before you attempt to use it. You should also know how to load and fire the gun.

Spend plenty of time with your weapon at a firing range. Become familiar with its limitations. Take classes that match your level of experience.

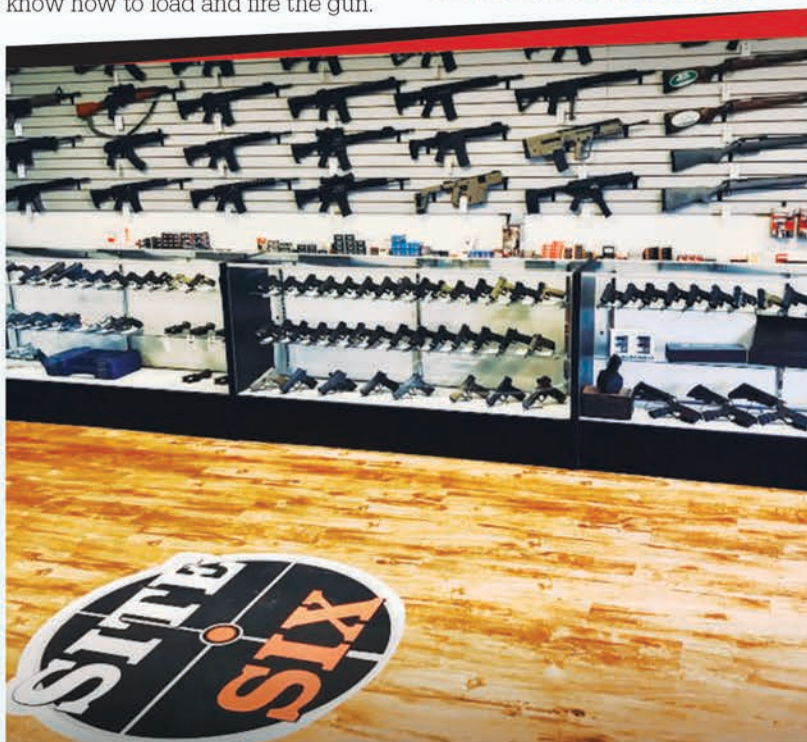
Responsible gun ownership starts with gun safety. Never leave your pistol where children can get to it. Handle your weapon in a manner that is safe for you and those around you. Always treat it as though it is loaded, and never point it at anyone you don't intend to shoot.

A knowledgeable gun shop can answer all your questions. Find a shop in your area where employees are passionate about educating the public.

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Boat-In Beaches – continued

of the London Bridge.

The Sandbar

One of the hottest beaching spots on this stretch of the Colorado River lies about 10 miles north of the London Bridge and can only be accessed by watercraft. The

'Sandbar,' which resembles a small island, is situated in the middle of the river just beyond Blankenship Bend. The expanse of shallow water and soft sandy beaches easily lures boaters to lounge the day away. The buoys have been removed so can pull-up to the soft sandy beaches and moor even on major holiday weekends. There is a sign, however: "No Entry Beyond this Point" by the vegetation area, which is closed year-round. There is no overnight mooring or camping. **GPS:** 34.598274,-114.426416. **Hours:** 24 hours. **Fees:** Free. **Accessibility:** Boat only. **Distance from London Bridge (Bridgewater Channel):** 9.28 nautical miles (10.7 miles).

Skier's Island

Skier's Island is one of the favorite places on the lake for family boaters to take youngsters to learn to



Without question, the 'Sandbar' is the most populated gathering place on the River. It resembles a small island, and the expanse of shallow water and soft sandy beaches lures boaters to lounge the day away. Go Lake Havasu photo.

ski, wakeboard or be pulled around on water toys. The natural cove is protected from boat wakes and traffic by a large rock island. Water depth is excellent on all sides with no worries of dinging a prop or running aground. There are several boat-in beach spots available in the area if you want to take a break and beach the boat for a bit. **GPS:** 34.429425,-114.321227. **Fees:**

Continued on page 64

Lake Havasu, Parker, Tri-State

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Lighthouse Lounge

Entertainment Schedule

June

- 6.2 Kevin Jackson & Midnight Sun
- 6.3 Koolaid & The Gang (Comedy)
- 6.5 Elective Theatre
- 6.6 Desert Blokes
- 6.7 Roadwork
- 6.9 Kevin Jackson & Midnight Sun
- 6.12 The OGs
- 6.13 Jonny & The Be Goods
- 6.16 Kevin Jackson & Midnight Sun
- 6.19 GoodHeart
- 6.20 Top Shelf
- 6.21 Motor Madness Cruise-In
- 6.21 Mike Prince
- 6.23 Kevin Jackson & Midnight Sun
- 6.25 Sparks After Midnight
- 6.26 The Brew Band
- 6.27 Sacred Stone
- 6.30 Kevin Jackson & Midnight Sun

July

- Closed July 13-23 (Summer Break)
- 7.1 Koolaid & The Gang (Comedy)
- 7.2 Tom Bennett
- 7.3 Metropolis Man
- 7.4 Jonny & The Be Goods
- 7.7 Kevin Jackson & Midnight Sun
- 7.10 Roadwork
- 7.11 Roadwork
- 7.12 Brianna Marie
- 7.24 GoodHeart
- 7.25 Top Shelf
- 7.28 Kevin Jackson & Midnight Sun
- 7.31 Roadwork

Aug

- 8.1 Roadwork
- 8.4 Kevin Jackson & Midnight Sun
- 8.5 Koolaid & The Gang (Comedy)
- 8.7 Santeria (Sublime Tribute)
- 8.8 Natural Dead (Grateful Dead tribute)
- 8.9 Brianna Marie
- 8.11 Kevin Jackson & Midnight Sun
- 8.14 Top Shelf
- 8.15 Break The Lake EDM Takeover
- 8.16 Motor Madness Cruise-In
- 8.16 Billy Krystal
- 8.18 Kevin Jackson & Midnight Sun
- 8.21 Desert Blokes
- 8.22 Jonny & The Be Goods
- 8.25 Kevin Jackson & Midnight Sun
- 8.28 GoodHeart
- 8.29 Sacred Stone

Sept

- 9.1 Kevin Jackson & Midnight Sun
- 9.4 Paige and The Overtones
- 9.5 Paige and The Overtones
- 9.8 Kevin Jackson & Midnight Sun
- 9.11 Roadwork
- 9.12 Roadwork
- 9.15 Kevin Jackson & Midnight Sun
- 9.18 Top Shelf
- 9.19 Desert Blokes
- 9.20 Motor Madness Cruise-In
- 9.20 Jonny & The Be Goods
- 9.22 Kevin Jackson & Midnight Sun
- 9.25 GoodHeart
- 9.29 Kevin Jackson & Midnight Sun



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Boat-In Beaches – continued

Free. Hours: 24 hours. **Accessibility:** Boat only. **Distance from Thompson Bay:** 2 nautical miles (2.3 miles) on the California side.

Steamboat Cove

Located near the southern end of Lake Havasu on the Arizona side, Steamboat Cove is known as one of the lake's largest natural coves and a favorite location of boaters looking for a safe, secure and comfortable environment to enjoy a day or overnight stay. Steamboat Cove offers a generous expanse of sandy beachfront, enhanced with on-land restroom facilities and picnic tables, and is located at the southeastern portion of the cove. Because of its sheltered nature from wind and boat wakes, Steamboat Cove is the ideal place for boaters to toss out their anchors and spend extended



Located near the southern end of Lake Havasu on the Arizona side, Steamboat Cove is known as one of the lake's largest natural coves and a favorite location of boaters looking for a safe, secure and comfortable environment to enjoy a day or overnight stay. Go Lake Havasu photo.

time onboard. **GPS:** 34.389826,-114.272247. **Fees:** \$10 (day-use); additional overnight camping fees. **Accessibility:** Boat or hiking in on foot. **Distance from Thompson Bay:** 5.8 nautical miles (6.65 miles). ❖

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In Parker It's All About The River



By Laura Kassik

The Colorado River serves as a giant 'Welcome' mat for Parker's summer visitors. The town's population, which typically sits around 3,400, swells in size with once the summer months hit.

The big reason is the Colorado River - primarily the stretch known as the Parker Strip. The shoreline of the river from Parker Dam south to Headgate Dam - on the Arizona side and the California side - is simply gorgeous. There, visitors can pull their RVs or campers up to the shoreline; or dock their boats and grab a meal or cold beverage from one of the restaurants that sit along the River's edge.

"Tourism remains strong during the summer season, with the Colorado River continuing to be a major draw for visitors," said Erica Daniels, Executive Director of Parker Regional Chamber of Commerce and Tourism. "Our area offers a wide range of water-based recreation, including boating, fishing, jet skiing, paddleboarding, and relaxing riverfront experiences that bring both



This stretch of the Colorado River is known as the Parker Strip. Parker Regional Chamber of Commerce & Tourism photo.

visitors and residents together."

There are a number of popular spots on the Parker Strip that are accessible by boat or car. Some of those include: Sundance, Fox's, Roadrunner, and Pirate's Den, BlueWater Resort & Casino, Havasu Springs Resort, and Big Bend.

Parker is also home to La Paz County Park, which has over a mile of riverfront for visitors to enjoy. Visitors can take in a round

of golf at the stunning Emerald Canyon Golf Course. Or, soak-in the beauty and serenity of nature at Bill Williams National Wildlife Refuge, where you can launch

your kayak and enjoy a day in this outdoor lovers' paradise.

On the other hand, BlueWater Resort & Casino, which is operated by Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT), offers gaming excitement, entertainment, hotel, and restaurants and lounges. It sits on the edge of the Colorado River, making it accessible from water or land. Pull-in to a boat slip and enjoy the day at the BlueWater.

Each year, Parker Regional Chamber of Commerce and Tourism hosts the Parker Tube Float. This year, it is on June 13. (See separate story).

For visitor information or travel advice, stop by Parker Regional Chamber of Commerce and Tourism office, located at 1016 S. Hopi Ave. For more information, call 928-669-2174 or visit www.parkeraz.org. ❖



The BlueWater Resort & Casino, a gaming enterprise of Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT), sits on the edge of the Colorado River - making it accessible from water or land. BlueWater photo.

Parker Tube Float: Biggest Party on the River

By Laura Kassik

Kick-off the summer by joining hundreds of others for a day of floating down the Colorado River during the 48th Annual Parker Tube Float.

And, if you're not on the River Saturday, June 13 for what organizers call the "Biggest Party on the River," you're missing out. For many floaters, this popular event and primary fundraiser for the Parker Regional Chamber of Commerce & Tourism, is a part of their annual summer plans.

Organizers want floaters to feel the 'neon vibes and good times' all day as they travel the three-mile route past some of Parker's hottest bars and restaurants and make memories with their crew.

"Grab your friends, your tubes, and your best neon vibes and join the crowd as we float the river and celebrate summer in Parker," said Erica Daniels, Executive Director, Parker Regional Chamber of Commerce and Tourism. "This is more than just an event. It is a tradition that brings our community and visitors together for a day full of fun, laughter, and memories you will be talking about all season long."



The day will begin and end at La Paz County Park, where floaters will park their cars (\$10 fee) and register/check-in from 8 a.m. to Noon. Floaters will be shuttled to the starting line at Buckskin Mountain

State Park; no personal vehicles allowed at Buckskin. The last shuttle will leave La Paz County Park shortly after registration closes. There will be air compressors at the starting line to inflate the floats.

Once launched into the beautiful Colorado River, participants will enjoy scenic views while floating downstream, passing several local bars and restaurants, and finishing at La Paz County Park and Pirate's Den Resort, where they originally parked. Pi-



You never know what types of floats you'll see during the 48th Annual Parker Tube Float. Parker Regional Chamber of Commerce and Tourism photo.



Grab your friends and float down the Parker Strip during the 48th Annual Parker Tube Float on June 13. Parker Regional Chamber of Commerce and Tourism photo.

rate’s Den will host an After Float Party with music and drink specials.

Registration is open online at www.parkerfun.com until midnight on June 7. Registration can also be completed in person at the Parker Regional Chamber of Commerce & Tourism office or at another off-site location (see list on website). Cost is \$30 for pre-registration; or \$40 at the event. All pre-registered participants will be entered into a drawing for fabulous prizes.

“On our website, they can also find float rules, purchase event shirts through our merchandise partner, and even reserve inner tubes that can be pre-filled through our partnership with Fluzzle Tube.

“We strongly encourage participants to pre-register. While (they) can sign-up the day of the event, prices do increase. Save money and secure your spot by registering early!” said Daniels. “There is no limit to participation, so the more the merrier.”

For complete Tube Float information or to register, visit www.parkerfun.com; or with questions, call the Parker Regional Chamber of Commerce & Tourism at 928-669-2174 or stop by the office at 1016 S. Hopi Ave., in Parker. ❖

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Our casino floor is a haven for thrill-seekers, featuring the latest games and constant promotions designed to elevate the excitement of every visit. Whether you're in for table game action or spinning the slots, our lively atmosphere makes every game a memorable event.

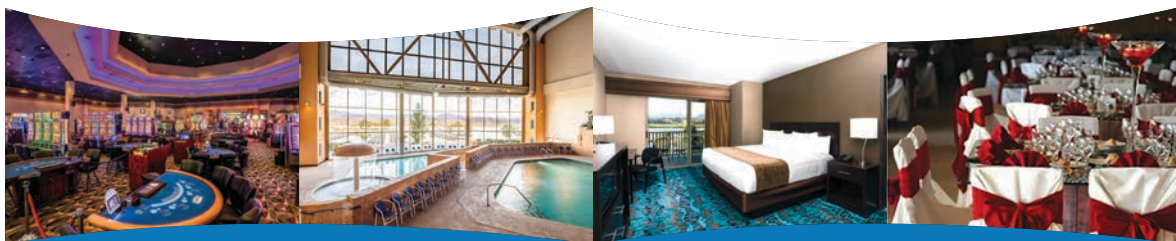
For those looking to cool off, our beachfront along the Colorado River provides a picturesque backdrop for a day under the sun. Families can relax in one of our riverside cabanas, offering a private slice of

paradise or can delight in our indoor water adventure, complete with a thrilling slide.

Dining at BlueWater is an experience in itself, especially at the River's Edge Cantina. Here, guests can indulge in fresh, flavorful dishes while enjoying the laid-back vibe of riverfront dining. It's the perfect spot to refuel after a day of water sports or exploring the local area.

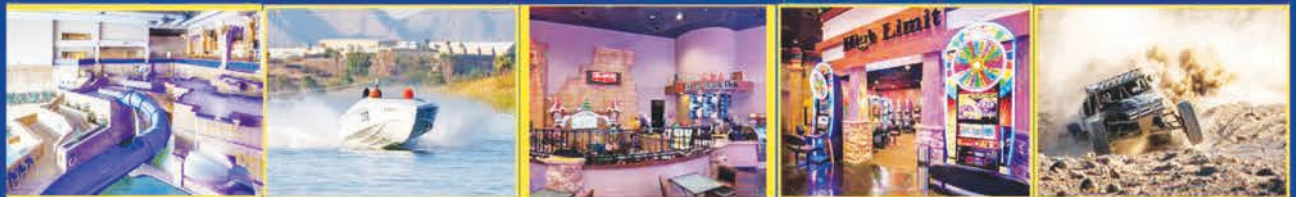
Speaking of exploration, our marina invites adventurers to enjoy water sports or a serene boat ride, making the most of the splendid Colorado River scenery.

This summer, whether you're looking for high-stakes excitement or riverside relaxation, BlueWater Resort & Casino promises a perfect blend of both. Join us in Parker for a season filled with unforgettable experiences, where every day is a new opportunity for adventure and fun.



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Parker Tourism Office Has New Home

By Laura Kassik

Are you a first-time visitor to Parker and want to get the most out of your stay? Or, maybe you've been here before and want to find out what's new.

Stop by the Parker Regional Chamber of Commerce and Tourism's new home on Hopi Avenue. There, you will be greeted by Tourism & Events Specialist Karina Santillan, who can answer your questions, give suggestions, and send you on your way with a brochure or two.

"Being semi-back on the main drag has greatly helped tourists find our information center more easily," said Executive Director Erica Daniels.

In addition to Santillan, Daniels also often assists visitors.

"During the summer months, visitors most often ask about river access, boating activities, places to eat, especially along the water, lodging, and local events," Daniels said. "Parker stays very active in the summer with boating, water



The Parker Regional Chamber of Commerce and Tourism staff includes, from left, Tourism & Events Specialist Karina Santillan and Executive Director Erica Daniels.

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The Parker Regional Chamber of Commerce and Tourism office is now located at 1016 S. Hopi Avenue.

recreation, and plenty of opportunities for fun in the sun.” There is a wealth of information about Parker on the agency’s website, www.parkeraz.org, including a Calendar of Events.

“Our community calendar highlights events happening throughout all of La Paz County,” Daniels said. “We promote and share these events, but we

don’t host every one. We serve as a central hub for community information and engagement.”

The Chamber and Tourism office is located at 1016 S. Hopi Avenue in Parker and is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, stop by, call 928-669-2174, or visit the website at www.parkeraz.org. ❖

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Vape & Glass, Parker, Arizona

Stephen's Vape & Glass, also known as just Vape & Glass, is a long time business in Parker owned and operated by the Hohn family. The family, no strangers to the business, had a similar shop in Blythe they owned for 7 years.



Novelty Items

Their mutual love for the river area in Parker made them decide to take the plunge and open up here, and business is already booming!

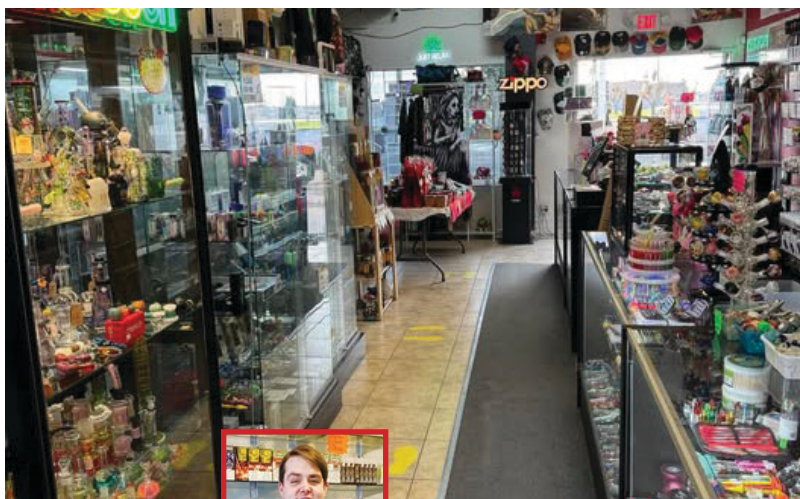


Vape & Glass in Parker is now open!

The Hohn family consists of dad, Steve, and son, Stephen (Jr.)



Vape & Glass has a great selection of t-shirts and hats also.



Vape & Glass' Stephen Hohn Jr.



A look inside the shop.

The business is truly a family affair and is named after the boys' grandmother, Kathie Byron. The family used to vacation in Parker every summer and they all love the small town environment. I recently was able to catch up with Stephen, who filled me in about the business and the family's plans for the future.

For anyone that doesn't know, "vaping" is the inhalation of a vapor that is created by an electronic cigarette or other vaping device. E-cigarettes are battery powered smoking devices that use cartridges containing nicotine and flavoring. Consequently, one must be at least 18 years old to purchase (or possess) vapor products in the state of Arizona.

Vape & Glass carries all manner of vape supplies and glass products, they arguably have the largest selection in the area. They also have a large selection of t-shirts and hats. The shop is large, airy, bright, and clean. The

guys are all very professional and can help guide you in the right direction if you have any questions. Stephen lived in San Diego for awhile and he especially loves the small-town charm of Parker and the beauty of this area.

The business has been open since November of 2019 and has been going so well that they've had to re-stock their products often. Stephen says they are planning to add a line of self defense products to the shop, items such as tasers and pepper spray. The guys are currently focused on offering great products, at great prices, and offering stellar customer service to their customers. So far, they are definitely hitting the mark!

Stop by and check out Vape & Glass at 212 W. Riverside Drive, Suite B, in Parker. They are open 7 days a week, Sunday thru Thursday 10am-6pm, Friday & Saturday 8am-8pm. If you have any questions you can reach them by phone at (928) 575-1197. Check them out on Facebook @ Vape & Glass.

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June 6: Free Fishing Day in Arizona

Many anglers have friends who have never been fishing but are curious to learn. One of the best ways to introduce them to this long-standing pastime is to take them out on Arizona's Free Fishing Day.

This year, June 6 is the perfect time to introduce a novice or youngster to fishing, as the Arizona Game and Fish Department will not require fishing licenses on any state waters or community lakes as part of National Free Fishing Day.

“The goal of Free Fishing Day is to encourage people to enjoy the outdoors, spend quality time with friends and family, and experience the fun of fishing,” says Chase Newlon, AZGFD R3 fishing coordinator. “Many people who experience fishing for the first time enjoy it so much that they buy a license so they can continue enjoying it all year.”

Fishing is already a bargain. Arizona fishing licenses start at just \$37 for resident adults (18 and older) and \$55 for nonresident adults. A combination hunt and fish license for youths (ages 10-17, residents or nonresidents) is only \$5.

While a fishing license is not needed on June 6, bag limits and other Arizona fishing regulations still apply and must be observed on Free Fishing



John Galbraith, the owner of Bass Tackle Master in Lake Havasu City, holds-up a Largemouth Bass and a Smallmouth Bass he caught on the lake. Arizona Game and Fish Department will not require fishing licenses on any state waters or community lakes on June 6, Arizona's Free Fishing Day. John Galbraith photo.

Day. Children under 10 can fish for free all year in Arizona.

For information about fishing and license regulations and places to go, visit www.azgfd.gov. ❖

Emerald Canyon: A Jewel In The Desert

There are few golf courses that can boast Emerald Canyon's remarkable features or compare to its beauty, which has earned it the nickname “Jewel in the Desert.”

This 18-hole, par-72 championship golf course, which is carved out of the canyons and mountains overlooking the Colorado River, is as unique as it is challenging. Golfers experience serious elevation changes as the course travels quite high into the mountains.

The golf course offers a lighted driving range, putting green, two practice greens, golf lessons, full service Pro Shop, beverage cart, and snack bar.

It is located at 7351 Riverside Drive in Parker. For more information, or tee times, call 928-667-3366 or visit its website at emeraldcanyon golf.com. For



One of the unique features of Emerald Canyon Golf Course is that it was carved out of canyons and mountains. Emerald Canyon GC photo.

updates, follow Emerald Canyon Golf Course on Facebook. ❖

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2026 Parker Summer Calendar

Note: Event dates and times are subject to change. Visit the Parker Regional Chamber of Commerce and Tourism website at parkeraz.org; and BlueWater Resort & Casino website at blue-waterfun.com for updates and additional events. The Parker Chamber of Commerce and Tourism is located at 1016 S. Hopi Avenue. The phone number is 928-669-2174.

ONGOING:

Weekly Entertainment. Every Friday and Saturday. **Time:** 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. **Admission:** Free. Must be 21 or over. **Address:** Dig Lounge, BlueWater Resort & Casino, 11300 Resort Drive. **Website:** BlueWaterfun.com.

Weekly Entertainment. Every Sunday. **Time:** 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. **Admission:** Free. **Address:** Rivers Edge Cantina, BlueWater Resort & Casino, 11300 Resort Drive. **Website:** BlueWaterfun.com.

MAY 23

TOBY - Tribute Concert to Toby Keith starring Hollywood Yates. **Time:** Doors open 7 p.m.; Show 8 p.m. All ages. **Tickets:** Purchase online or in the Resort Gift Shop. **Address:** The Showroom, BlueWater Resort & Casino, 11300 Resort Drive. **Website:** BlueWaterfun.com.

JUNE 6

Arizona Free Fishing Day. No fishing license is required to fish public waters in Arizona on this day. **Time:** All day. **Website:** Azgfd.gov.



Friends float in a group during a previous Parker Tube Float. This year's 48th annual event is June 13. Parker Regional Chamber of Commerce & Tourism photo.

JUNE 6

Sebastian Bach Concert. **Time:** Doors open 7 p.m.; Show 8 p.m. All ages. **Tickets:** Purchase online or in the Resort Gift Shop. **Address:** The Showroom, BlueWater Resort & Casino, 11300 Resort Drive. **Website:** BlueWaterfun.com.

JUNE 13

48th Annual Parker Tube Float. **Time:** Check-in from 8 a.m. to Noon. **Entry fee:** \$30 online through June 7 and at off-site locations (see website); \$40 at event. Presented by Parker Regional Chamber of Commerce & Tourism. **Address:** Park vehicles at La Paz County Park, 7350 Riverside Drive (\$10 parking fee); shuttle to start line at Buckskin Mountain State Park. **Website:** Parkerfun.com.

JUNE 13-14

Best of the West Series PWC Races. **Time:** Saturday 10 a.m.; Sunday 9 a.m. **Cost:** Free to spectators. **Address:** BlueWater Resort & Casino, 11300 Resort Drive, Parker. **Website:** Rpmracing.com.

JULY 3

Bruce Springsteen Tribute Concert. **Time:** Doors open 7 p.m.; Show 8 p.m. All ages. **Tickets:** Purchase online or in the Resort Gift Shop. **Address:** The Showroom, BlueWater Resort & Casino, 11300 Resort Drive. **Website:** BlueWaterfun.com.

JULY 3

BlueWater Fireworks Show. **Time:** Dusk. **Admission:** Free. **Address:** BlueWater Resort & Casino, 11300 Resort Drive. **Website:** BlueWaterfun.com. ❖



The Best of the West Series returns to the BlueWater Resort & Casino on June 13-14. Rain Porter, 121 photo.

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State Parks Near Parker Offer Summer Water Fun

By Laura Kassik

There are two Arizona State Parks - Buckskin Mountain and River Island - that offer laid-back summer experiences near Parker. Both offer river-front campsites, quality fishing and boating, swimming area and quick access to the Colorado River.

BUCKSKIN MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

Buckskin Mountain State Park commands one of the finest views along the Parker Strip, an 18-mile stretch between Parker Dam and Headgate Dam. Mountains line the river on both the Arizona and California sides, and the wildlife is as varied as the recreational opportunities along the river. This picturesque park provides a scenic respite, mountain hikes, a desert escape and fun-filled water adventure. Come enjoy all the park has to offer. The park has a campground, waterfront camping, beach, hiking trails, boat ramp, picnic area, and park store.

Picnic Areas/Shelters

The day use area is located northwest of the Contact Station. It is a grass area with shade trees and overlooks the Colorado River. The area has picnic tables and two large BBQ grills. There is parking available for 28 vehicles, and 12 of the sites will accommodate vehicles towing small boat trailers.

Boat Ramp

Buckskin Mountain State Park has a two-lane launch ramp on the northeastern area of the park. There is limited parking at the boat ramp. If you are camping in the park, please park back at your campsite. If you are a day-use visitor, park in the day use parking lot. Non-motorized watercraft may launch at any boat ramp.

Swimming

Buckskin Mountain State Park has a designated

Lake Havasu, Parker, Tri-State SERVICE DIRECTORY



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Buckskin Mountain State Park, which is just north of Parker, is well-known for expansive views and river-front campsites. Arizona State Parks & Trails photo.

swimming area located near the day use section of the park. Comfortable footwear is recommended to wear during your swimming experience because some rocky areas are located within the designated swimming area. If sun bathing on shore, a light mat to place under your towel for added comfort is recommended.

Fishing

Fishing for bass, sunfish, and catfish is typically good right from the park. Boat users will have access to a much larger section of the river which may increase their likelihood of catching fish. A valid Arizona fishing license is required for anglers 10 years and older.

Continued on next page



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State Parks Near Parker – continued



Just one mile outside of Buckskin Mountain lies River Island State Park, an ideal spot for swimming, boating, fishing, and camping. Arizona State Parks & Trails photo.

Address: 5476 North Hwy 95, Parker. **Park hours:** The park is open 24 hours, year-round. Day use hours are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. The Visitor Center is open, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Park entrance fee:** Per vehicle - 1 person \$10 and 2-4 people \$20; Individual/bicycle: \$5. **Website:** azstateparks.com/buckskin. **Phone:** 928-667-3231.

RIVER ISLAND STATE PARK

River Island State Park is a year-round destination for those looking to discover a variety of recreational and cultural resources - but in the summer it's most popular for boating, fishing, jet skiing, swimming, and camping amid a backdrop of beautiful mountains.

It is ideal for tent campers and can provide a scenic respite, a desert escape, or a fun-filled water adventure. It offers 37 campsites, a ramada, sandy beach, cove, and boat launch area. The River Island Market, located 1/4 mile outside the park, offers groceries, food deli, gas, clothing boutique and storage.

Boat Ramp

There is a three-lane launch ramp located in Calm Cove. Launch ramp parking has 20 boat-length deep spaces. Cove is a no wake zone.. Non-motorized

watercraft may launch at the boat ramp.

Swimming

River Island State Park is a popular swimming spot to escape the summer heat. The beach spans the riverfront of the park, which is tucked away in a cove and protected from the River's current. It is also a good place to beach a boat and relax for awhile as the river floats by. Like at Buckskin, comfortable footwear is recommended to wear while swimming because some rocky areas are located within the designated swimming area.

Address: 5200 N. Highway 95, Parker. **Visitor Center/Park Store:** Visit the Buckskin Mountain State Park visitor center only one mile north of River Island. The River Island Ranger Station is essentially a pay station and headquarters for the Rangers working at the park. **Park hours:** The park is open 24 hours a day, year-round. The Visitor Center is available Buckskin Mountain State Park, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Park entrance fee:** Per vehicle - 1 person \$10 and 2-4 people \$20; Individual/bicycle: \$5. **Website:** azstateparks.com/river-island. **Phone:** 928-667-3386. ❖

– Arizona State Parks and Trails

Kingman: The Heart Of Route 66

By Laura Kassik

Kingman's motto, "The Heart of Route 66," which the town adopted in 1993, is even more appropriate in 2026 as the centennial of the Mother Road is celebrated from Illinois to California.

Kingman is steeped in the highway's history with its museums, landmarks, murals, and historic buildings. From museum renovations to road rallies, and the relighting of the Hotel Beale neon sign to other special events, Kingman is celebrating the centennial throughout the year.

In this section, read separate stories on the 2026 Hemmings Great Race, renovations to the Arizona Route 66 Museum, and the interactive Hotel Beale Experience.

The 2026 Hemmings Great Race, a nationally-recognized vintage car rally, will stop in Kingman on June 26 as it travels Route 66.

This is the Great Race's sixth time stopping in Kingman - the most recent was in 2015. The public is invited to stop at the Powerhouse Visitor Center to see the vintage cars.

This year, when the cars arrive at the Powerhouse parking lot, they will be greeted by the Route 66 Drive-Thru Shield, which has become a popular spot to snap photos since it debuted in 2021. Even dogs can get in on the action under the miniature Route 66 Shield at the Dog Park next to the Visitor Center.

Nearby, stands another photo op - a vintage heart sign, which celebrates Kingman's place on the Mother Road. The late Scott Dunton, of Kingman, gifted the city the vintage Cupid's Wedding Chapel neon sign cabinet that once stood on Las Vegas Boulevard. It was renovated into a sign



This vintage sign declares the city's motto, "Kingman, Heart of Historic Route 66." Kingman Office of Tourism photo.

with the city's motto "Kingman, Heart of Historic Route 66" and unveiled in February 2024.

The knowledgeable staff in the Visitor Center can point guests to museums, walking tours, and other landmarks that celebrate Kingman as a prominent stop on Historic Route 66.

The Powerhouse Visitor Center is located at 120 W. Andy Devine Ave. It is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and closed most major holidays, including on the Fourth of July. For more information, visit www.ExploreKingman.com; and follow its Facebook (Kingman Visitor Center) and Instagram (ExploreKingman) pages. ❖



The Kingman 66 Drive-Thru Shield has become a popular photo spot since July 2021 when it was permanently installed near the Powerhouse Visitor Center. Kingman Office of Tourism photo.

Historic Hotel Beale Lit-Up For Unique Experience

By Laura Kassik

Hotel Beale, built in 1898, was showing its age. The building's outside was worn and weathered, and the rooftop neon sign, installed in 1936, had sat dark for over 50 years.

That changed on May 2, when after months of hard work, restoration, and collaboration, the Kingman Main Street group held a relighting ceremony for the refurbished neon sign, and debuted the Hotel Beale Experience.

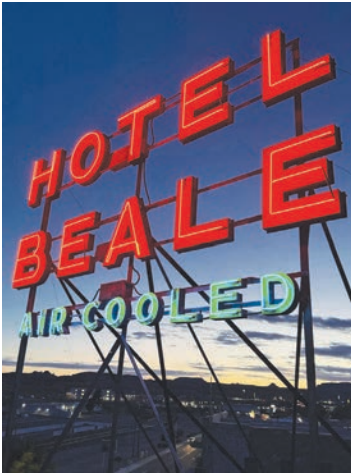
A crowd gathered in the hotel's parking lot for the relighting, and to celebrate this piece of Kingman and Route 66 history. Kingman's first neon sign, that reads, "Hotel Beale Air Cooled," was restored by Legacy Signs & Iron. Since the ceremony, the sign will stay lit in the evenings.

"This project was inspired by the Route 66 Centennial and our goal to revitalize the neighborhood along the historic route," according to the Kingman Main Street team, a local nonprofit organization with a goal of "revitalizing the heart of Kingman."

Volunteers started restoring the outside of the hotel in the middle of March and depending the wind and weather, they worked almost daily up until the relighting ceremony.

Hotel Beale's face-lit included a newly-refreshed hotel façade - the perfect canvas for the historic photo exhibit located in the windows of the Hotel Beale on Route 66/Andy Devine Avenue.

According to the team, the Hotel Beale Experience is an ongoing, interactive museum-style exhibit that is free to the public. It features painted storefronts, selfie opportunities, and historic black-and-white photos of Hotel Beale displayed in the windows. Visitors can use their smartphones to listen to narrations



The Hotel Beale neon sign was lit on May 2 for the first time in over 50 years. It will continue to be lit nightly. Matt Phillips, from Legacy Signs & Iron photo.



The Hotel Beale Experience is an interactive museum-style exhibit that is free to the public. Kingman Main Street Team photo.

performed by local Beale Street Theater actors via QR codes anytime of day.

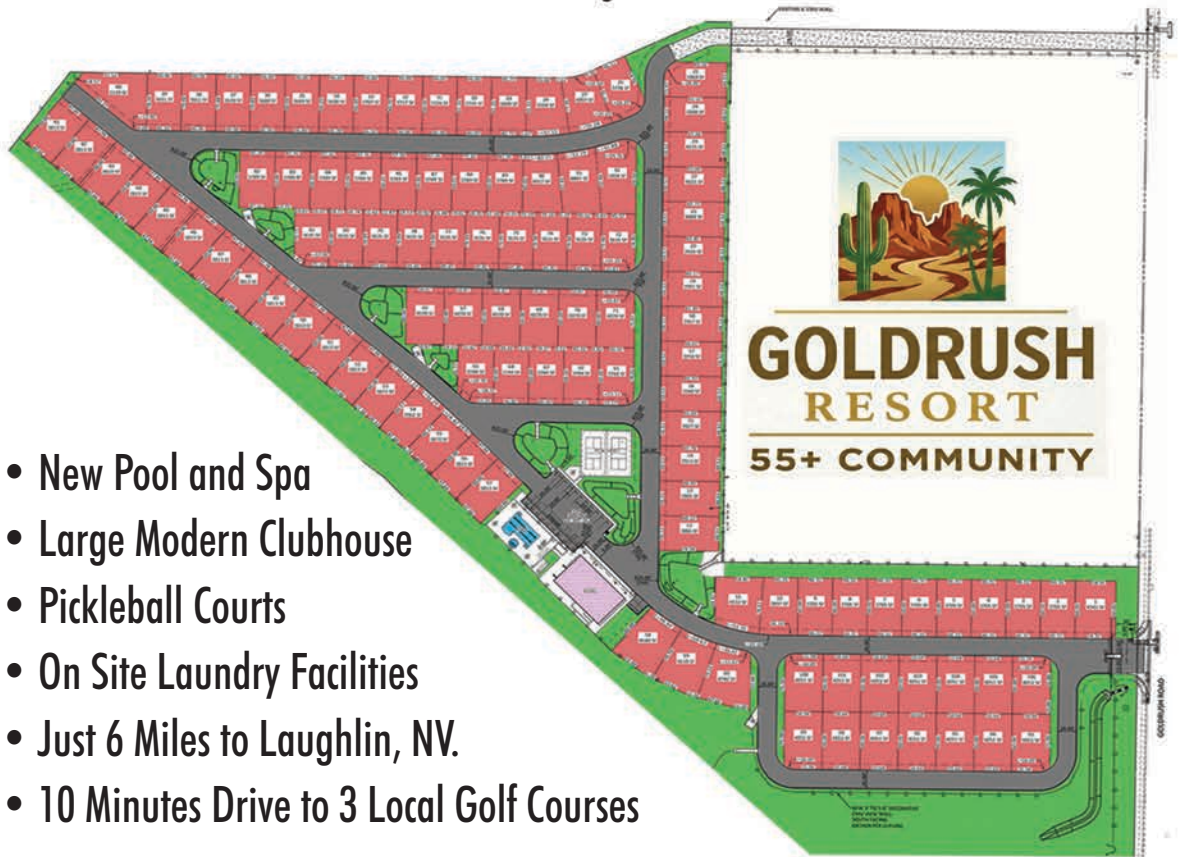
The inside of the Hotel Beale is closed to the public, but the Kingman Main Street team hopes "this project serves as a catalyst for further improvements to the building."

The historic photo exhibit was done in partnership with the Mohave County Historical Society, Beale Street Theater, Firaflly Photography, Jatcom Telecommunications, and the City of Kingman.

Kingman Main Street received grant funding for the neon sign restoration from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Route 66 Association of Arizona, City of Kingman, and the Hotel Beale family.

Hotel Beale is located at 325 E. Andy Devine Ave. Follow Kingman Main Street on Facebook for more information on its project. ❖

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Arizona Route 66 Museum Renovated For Centennial

By Laura Kassik

If you've never been to the Arizona Route 66 Museum inside the Historic Powerhouse in Kingman, this is an ideal time to go. And if you've been there before, you definitely need to go again. It's a whole new experience.

The Mohave County Historical Society completed an 18-month renovation project in November 2025 thanks to a \$130,000 grant by the Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona to complete the renovation, according to Leah Stagg, Mohave County Historical Society Executive Director.

The renovations were made “specifically to be ready for the Route 66 Centennial,” that’s



One of the new exhibits in the Route 66 Museum features the storefronts of businesses along Arizona Route 66, including Angel Delgadillo's Barbershop in Seligman. Mohave County Historical Society photo.

happening in 2026, Stagg added. “We also have small additions that will be added as we go through the Centennial year.”

“We are so excited about the changes at the Route 66 Museum. Our new exhibits incorporate a more complete history of Route 66 in Arizona, with stories and pictures from across the Route 66 corridor,” Stagg said. “We have more hands-on components to our exhibits, making this an experience for all ages.

“We also have something new playing in our theater - a collection of clips from recent Route 66 documentaries.”

Museum guests have been

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pleased with the changes. The Dust Bowl Exhibit, which was installed in July 2023, is the same. The Studebaker and Wagon Exhibit have been enhanced, rather than replaced, since they are permanent fixtures in the building, according to Stagg.

Those who have traveled to towns along Arizona Route 66 might see some familiar landmarks, including Angel Delgadillo’s Barbershop in Seligman, in the exhibits.

“The storefronts are all Route 66 businesses. Some of them, like the Harvey House and Babbitt Brothers, represent the many locations along Arizona Route 66,” Stagg said. “In fact, that’s why we picked those businesses. Angel’s and Old Trails Garage are specific to Seligman and Kingman, respectively.”

The museum, which is located upstairs in Kingman’s Historic Powerhouse, was opened in September 2001 and has become a popular attraction to travelers and residents alike.

“We have had a clear increase in visitors for the Centennial year,” Stagg said. “We’ve received tremendously positive feedback from the public and from media outlets. We find more people are intentionally coming to see the museum, which is very exciting.”



This is one of the new exhibits in the Route 66 Museum, which is located in the Powerhouse Visitor Center. Mohave County Historical Society photo.

The Powerhouse Visitor Center is located at 120 W. Andy Devine Ave. in Kingman. The museum hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. It operates the same hours as the Visitor Center. The last entry to the museum is 30 minutes before closing.

Admission to the museum is \$10 for adults (18 to 59 years old) and \$6 for seniors 60 and over. Museum admission is free for kids, veterans and first responders. More information can be found at explorekingman.com. ❖

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2026 Great Race Will Stop In Kingman

The 2026 Hemmings Great Race, a nationally recognized vintage car rally, will travel more than 2,300 miles across eight states this summer in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Route 66.

The Great Race will follow a Route 66-themed course, beginning on Saturday, June 20, in Springfield, Illinois, and concluding on Sunday, June 28, in Pasadena, California. Kingman will be one of 17 hosted city stops along the way.

The Great Race is scheduled to stop in Kingman on Friday, June 26, bringing approximately 120 antique automobiles, their drivers, navigators, and support teams to the heart of the historic Mother Road. The event is free and open to the public.

The cars will be stopping at the Powerhouse Visitor Center in a staggered fashion between approximately 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Check website (listed below) for schedule.

According to a press release, Kingman's selection reflects its continued role as a key destination for



Kingman will be one of 17 hosted city stops during the 2026 Hemmings Great Race, which will follow a Route-66 themed course. Kingman Office of Tourism photo.

Route 66-themed events during the Centennial year.

"Events like the Hemmings Great Race bring national attention to Kingman and reinforce our position as a premier Route 66 destination," said Kingman Mayor Ken Watkins. "With the Route 66 Centennial approaching, we are seeing increased interest in our community, including the recent Route 66 Caravans visit, and we are proud to be part of the Great Race's Route 66 Centennial journey."

This will be the sixth time that Kingman has been a stop. The city hosted The Great Race (formerly Great American Race) in 1984, 1985, 2001, 2007, and most recently in 2015, according to Josh Noble, Tourism Services Manager for Kingman Office of Tourism.

"This year's route takes participants along Historic Route 66 where they'll see the best the Mother Road has to offer, including the Heart of Historic Route 66 - Kingman, AZ," Noble said.

The Great Race was started in 1983 by Tom McRae and it's now the world's premier vintage car rally. This traveling time/speed/endurance rally isn't just a casual back road cruise, as it has a strict set of rules to keep competition tight.

The vehicles, each with a driver and navigator, are given precise instructions each day that detail every move down to the second. They are scored at secret checkpoints along the route and are penalized for arriving at the checkpoints early or late. As in golf, the lowest score wins. The total purse for the event is \$160,000 split among five classes, with the overall winner taking home \$50,000.

More information about the Hemmings Great Race, including a full schedule, can be found at greatrace.com/rally_details/route/. ❖

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AG-586220

2026 Kingman Summer Calendar

Note: Event dates and times are subject to change. For updates and more events, visit exploreakingman.com.

The Powerhouse Visitor Center, at 120 W. Andy Devine Ave., is open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is closed on major holidays, including July 4. For more information, call 928-753-6106. For a list of concerts and other entertainment in Laughlin, Nev., log onto VisitLaughlin.com.

ONGOING:

Every Saturday

Kingman's Market in the Park. Time: 8 a.m. to Noon. Cost: Free admission. Address: Lewis Kingman Park, 2201 E. Andy Devine Avenue. Website: Kingmans-marketinthepark.com. Facebook: Kingman Farmers Market.

Every Saturday

Kingman Farmers Market at Thunder-Rode. Time: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost: Free admission; free ice cold drinks and free donuts. Address: Thunder-Rode Event Center, 102 E. Beale Street. Website: [Kingmanfarmersmar-](http://Kingmanfarmersmarket.com)



The last time the Great Race made a stop in Kingman was in 2015. The 2026 Hemmings Great Race will follow Route 66 and will stop at the Powerhouse Visitor Center on June 26. Kingman Office of Tourism photo.

ket.com. Facebook: The Kingman Farmers Market at Thunder-Rode.

MAY 29-30

"Psychic" Comedian Peter Antoniou. Time: Friday 7 p.m.;

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Saturday 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. **Tickets:** General admission \$25; children 4-17 \$15. **Address:** Beale Street Theater, 302 E. Beale Street. **Website:** BealeStreetTheater.com.

MAY 31

Concert in the Park: GoodHeart to perform. Presented by Sounds of Kingman. Bring chairs or blankets; and if you want: coolers, snacks, picnic dinner, and drinks. Family friendly. **Time:** 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. **Cost:** Free. **Address:** Metcalfe Park, 315 W. Beale Street. **Website:** Soundsofkingman.com.

JUNE 5

Downtown Kingman First Friday "Outdoor Adventures - Fun in the Summer Sun." Art, music, vendors, food trucks and more. Hosted by Kingman Area Chamber of Commerce. **Time:** 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. **Cost:** Free admission. **Address:** Beale Street and Andy Devine in Historic Downtown Kingman. **Website:** Kingman-chamber.com. **Facebook:** Downtown Kingman First Fridays.

JUNE 5

Lose Your Illusion: Guns N' Roses Tribute Show. **Time:** 7 p.m. **Tickets:** \$30 to \$45. **Address:** Beale Street Theater, 302 E. Beale Street. **Website:** BealeStreetTheater.com.

JUNE 6

Shades of Bubl  Concert - Michael Bubl  tribute band. **Time:** 7 p.m. **Tickets:** \$15 to \$35; students 17 and under \$15. **Address:** Beale Street Theater, 302 E. Beale Street. **Website:** BealeStreetTheater.com.

JUNE 13

Saturday Market Arts & Crafts. **Time:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Address:** Kathryn Heidenreich Adult Center, 1776 Airway Avenue. #B.

JUNE 20

Chillin' on Beale Car Cruise-in "Mustang vs. Camaro." **Time:** 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. **Cost:** Free and open to the public. **Address:** Locomotive Park, 310 W. Beale Street. **Facebook:** The Original Chillin' on Beale Street Kingman, AZ.

JUNE 26

2026 Hemmings Great Race Lunch Stop. Spectators are welcome to stop and see the vintage collection of cars making their way down Route 66. **Time:** Cars will arrive in staggered fashion between approximately 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. See website for schedule. **Cost:** Free and open to the public. **Address:** Powerhouse Visitor Center, 120 W. Andy Devine Ave. **Website:** Greatrace.com/rally_details/route/.

JUNE 26

All Key'd Up: Billy Joel Tribute Show. **Time:** 7 p.m. **Tickets:** \$30 to \$45. **Address:** Beale Street Theater, 302 E. Beale Street. **Website:** BealeStreetTheater.com.

Continued on next page



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Kingman Calendar – continued

JUNE 27

Red, White, & Blue: Lynyrd Skynyrd Tribute Show. Time: 7 p.m. **Tickets:** \$20 to \$30. **Address:** Beale Street Theater, 302 E. Beale Street. **Website:** BealeStreetTheater.com.

JUNE 28

Concert in the Park: Satin Steel to perform. Presented by Sounds of Kingman. Bring chairs or blankets; and if you want: coolers, snacks, picnic dinner, and drinks. Family friendly. **Time:** 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. **Cost:** Free. **Address:** Metcalfe Park, 315 W. Beale Street. **Website:** Soundsofkingman.com.

JULY 3

Downtown Kingman First Friday “America’s 250th Birthday - Celebrating the USA.” Art, music, vendors, food trucks and more. Hosted by Kingman Area Chamber of Commerce. **Time:** 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. **Cost:** Free admission. **Address:** Beale Street and Andy Devine in historic Downtown Kingman. **Website:** Kingmanchamber.com. **Facebook:** Downtown Kingman First Fridays.

JULY 3

Only in America: Brooks & Dunn Tribute. Time: 7 p.m. **Tickets:** \$25 to \$45. **Address:** Beale Street Theater, 302 E. Beale Street. **Website:** BealeStreetTheater.com.

JULY 4

MargaritaWorld: Tributes to Jimmy Buffett & Alan Jackson. Time: 6 p.m. **Tickets:** \$25 to \$45. **Address:** Beale Street Theater, 302 E. Beale Street. **Website:** BealeStreetTheater.com.

JULY 11

Saturday Market Arts & Crafts. Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Address:** Kathryn Heidenreich Adult Center, 1776 Airway Avenue #B.

JULY 18

Chillin’ on Beale Car Cruise-in “Trucks, Vans & Wagons.” Time: 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. **Cost:** Free and open to the public. **Address:** Locomotive Park, 310 W. Beale Street. **Facebook:** The Original Chillin’ on Beale Street Kingman, AZ.

JULY 18

Shine On Floyd - Tribute to Pink Floyd. Time: 7 p.m. **Tickets:** \$30 to \$40. **Address:** Beale Street Theater, 302 E. Beale Street. **Website:** BealeStreetTheater.com.

JULY 25

Tribute to Green Day. Time: 7 p.m. **Tickets:** \$30 to \$45. **Address:** Beale Street Theater, 302 E. Beale Street. **Website:** BealeStreetTheater.com.

JULY 25-26

Arizona Collectibles & Firearms Gun Show. Time: Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Admission:** \$8; Children 16 and under are free with paid adult. Free



There are three Chillin’ on Beale Street cruise-ins this summer – June 20, July 18, and August 15. The public is invited to attend and admire these beauties at Locomotive Park.

parking. **Address:** Mohave County Fairgrounds, 2600 Fairgrounds Boulevard. Contact: Dennis 928-310-8544.

JULY 26

Concert in the Park: Bud Mickle to perform. Presented by Sounds of Kingman. Bring chairs or blankets; and if you want: coolers, snacks, picnic dinner, and drinks. Family friendly. **Time:** 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. **Cost:** Free. **Address:** Metcalfe Park, 315 W. Beale Street. **Website:** Soundsofkingman.com.

AUGUST 1

Noise Pollution: The AC/DC Experience. Time: 7 p.m. **Tickets:** \$30 to \$45. **Address:** Beale Street Theater, 302 E. Beale Street. **Website:** BealeStreetTheater.com.

AUGUST 7

Downtown Kingman First Friday “Take it Inside First Friday - Shop August Nights.” Art, music, vendors, food trucks and more. Hosted by Kingman Area Chamber of Commerce. **Time:** 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. **Cost:** Free admission. **Address:** Beale Street and Andy Devine in historic Downtown Kingman. **Website:** Kingmanchamber.com. **Facebook:** Downtown Kingman First Fridays.

AUGUST 8

Saturday Market Arts & Crafts. Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Address:** Kathryn Heidenreich Adult Center, 1776 Airway Avenue #B.

AUGUST 15

Chillin’ on Beale Car Cruise-in “Hawaiian Beach Party.” Time: 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. **Cost:** Free and open to the public. **Address:** Locomotive Park, 310 W. Beale Street. **Facebook:** The Original Chillin’ on Beale Street Kingman, AZ.

AUGUST 30

Concert in the Park: Cruise Control to perform. Presented by Sounds of Kingman. Bring chairs or blankets; and if you want: coolers, snacks, picnic dinner, and drinks. Family friendly. **Time:** 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. **Cost:** Free. **Address:** Metcalfe Park, 315 W. Beale Street. **Website:** Soundsofkingman.com. ❖

Summer In Yuma: Life Under The Desert Sun



Summer in Yuma is not simply a season—it is a defining part of the region's identity. With its long days of uninterrupted sunshine and temperatures that regularly push past 100°F, this corner of the Sonoran Desert demands respect, adaptation, and a certain appreciation for its stark beauty. Yet for those who understand its rhythm, Yuma in the summer offers a uniquely rewarding experience.

At the heart of it all is the Colorado River, a vital lifeline that shapes both recreation and daily life. As the desert heat intensifies, the river becomes a refuge. Early mornings see anglers casting lines in calm waters, while evenings bring families and visitors out to enjoy boating, kayaking, or simply the cooling effect of the breeze along the shoreline. It is here that summer feels less like an obstacle and more like an invitation.

The city itself shifts with the season. Streets are quieter, wait times shorter, and the pace noticeably more relaxed. Locals plan their days strategically—errands at sunrise, downtime during the afternoon heat,



A Great White Egret in Yuma. AdobeStock® photo.

and social gatherings after sunset. This rhythm creates a sense of community resilience, where life continues not despite the heat, but in harmony with it.

Yuma's historical character remains accessible year-round. Sites such as the Yuma Territorial Prison State Historic Park and the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area provide insight into the region's past, offering shaded pathways and indoor exhibits that make exploration manageable even in the warmer months. These landmarks serve as reminders that Yuma has long been a place where people endure—and thrive—under challenging conditions.

Summer is also a time to appreciate the practical comforts the city offers. Air-conditioned restaurants, shops, and entertainment venues become gathering places, while seasonal specials and quieter crowds create a more personal, unhurried experience. It's an ideal time for visitors who prefer space, value, and a slower pace over peak-season bustle.

Of course, preparation is essential. Hydration, sun protection, and thoughtful scheduling are not suggestions but necessities. Those who come prepared will find that the intensity of Yuma's summer is balanced by its clarity—brilliant blue skies, vivid sunsets, and a landscape that feels both vast and intimate.

In Yuma, summer is not softened or disguised. It is bold, direct, and ever-present. But within that intensity lies a distinctive charm—one that reveals itself to visitors willing to adjust their expectations and embrace the desert on its own terms. ❖



Quality time on the water with family lets families beat the summer heat. Ivan Lizarraga photo.

A City Along The Water

By Richard Fontanes

There are trails dotted in greens so vibrant and thick with life one is reminded that life is full, pleasant and filled with possibility. The river flows nearby and the coos and chirps of birds are like whispers on distant treetops that rise like a cathedral of shaded canopies. The brush grows thick and in tangles like in the tales of jungle explorers or the descriptions of deserted islands. Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* and Jules Verne's *The Mysterious Island* come to mind. The river breathes life into the desert that makes for wonders, fun and enjoyment.

Despite the temperature soaring above 110°F in the summer, people flock to the river community of Yuma for the river, the sun and the wonder of the outdoors. Horseshoe tournaments are attended by thousands, and communities spring up like weeds on the sandbars where new friends are found, stories are shared over a cold one, and the water cools and refreshes.

Continued on page 94



Affordable rentals for kayaks and paddle boats make river adventures accessible for everyone Kiana Gamboa photo.



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Along The Water – continued

“I love Yuma because of the sun. I am originally from Michigan and I wanted a boat and to live in a place where I could be on the water,” local teacher Matthew Diamond shared. He looked into numerous communities in Arizona that had water but Yuma checked every box.

Anglers catch catfish, tilapia, and blue gill, plus large-mouth, small-mouth and striped bass, to name a few. Easy water access and affordable fishing licensing attracts tubers, jet skiers and boaters. And when standing on the numerous docks and in secret fishing holes gazing at pink sunrises or orange sunsets so vibrant, it feels that even the wildlife stop to stare. Favorite local fishing spots include:

1. Gateway Park/Centennial Beach
2. West Wetlands Park’s boat launch
3. Wetlands Park North Beach



Lush trails grow along the river. The journey from East Wetlands Park to West Wetlands park promises greenery and an escape from the ordinary. Richard Fontanes photo.



Whether with bait or a magic touch, Corey Gulley caught all the fish much to his fishing partner’s chagrin Ladonne Williams photo.

4. Betty’s Kitchen
5. Martinez Lake
6. Picacho Peak
7. Senator Wash
8. Imperial Dam
9. Fisher’s Landing
10. Martinez Lake Resort
11. Imperial Nature Wildlife Refuge
12. Ferguson Lake and
13. Xanyō Xamshré Lake (formerly called Squaw Lake)
14. East Wetlands Park

Yuma’s waterways are filled with fish, camping spots, ramadas, boat launches and sandbars to play in the sun. Pets also join their owners for water play dates chasing balls, swimming and even riding on paddleboards. Yuma’s waterways also allow for bird watchers to see pelicans, ducks, cranes, egrets, and humming birds just to name a few.

Many travel far and wide to explore the waterways of Yuma County; however, if you don’t have a way on the water there are also businesses that rent water equipment and provide excursions:

Jet Rent – boat rental. 2972 S. Kyla Avenue A, Yuma. 928-314-4345.

Arizona Adventures – outdoor activities. Halstead Avenue Building 562, Yuma. 928-269-2848.

Martinez Lake Adventures – boat rental. 10430 N. Martinez Lake Rd., Yuma. 928-783-9589 ext. 5.

3:10 Kayak and Paddleboard Rentals – canoe & kayak rental service. 928-482-2276. ❖

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Looking For Something To Do In Yuma?

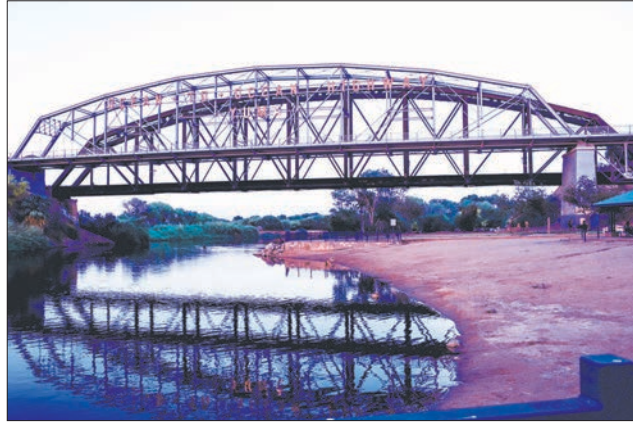
By Richard Fontanes

What to do in Yuma? Well, you have come to the right place. For those doubting that this article will be filled with things to fill your evenings, weekends and hours, keep reading on.

Let's start with shopping. The Yuma Palms shopping center has many stores that will at least catch a broad range of interests. From **Lost Empire's** collectible card games, vintage video games and tables for competitive TCG (trading card games) to space to play and tryout board games and even DnD.

Fretworks provides a nice stop to look at and even sample musical instruments. You can arrange to even meet up with local experts and teachers for lessons. Specializing mostly in guitars and basses, they still offer other musical needs and fun instruments that make good gifts in a pinch.

Nearby, if you need something for a bit more action, axe throwing at **Get Axed** will let you let loose, have an amazing time with friends and do



Gateway Park and Beach. Daniel Rodriguez photo.

something most of us have never tried.

Mr. B's Bicycles provides not only great rides for both mountain, BMX and road bikes but also information on the miles of roads and paths Yuma has installed

Continued on page 97

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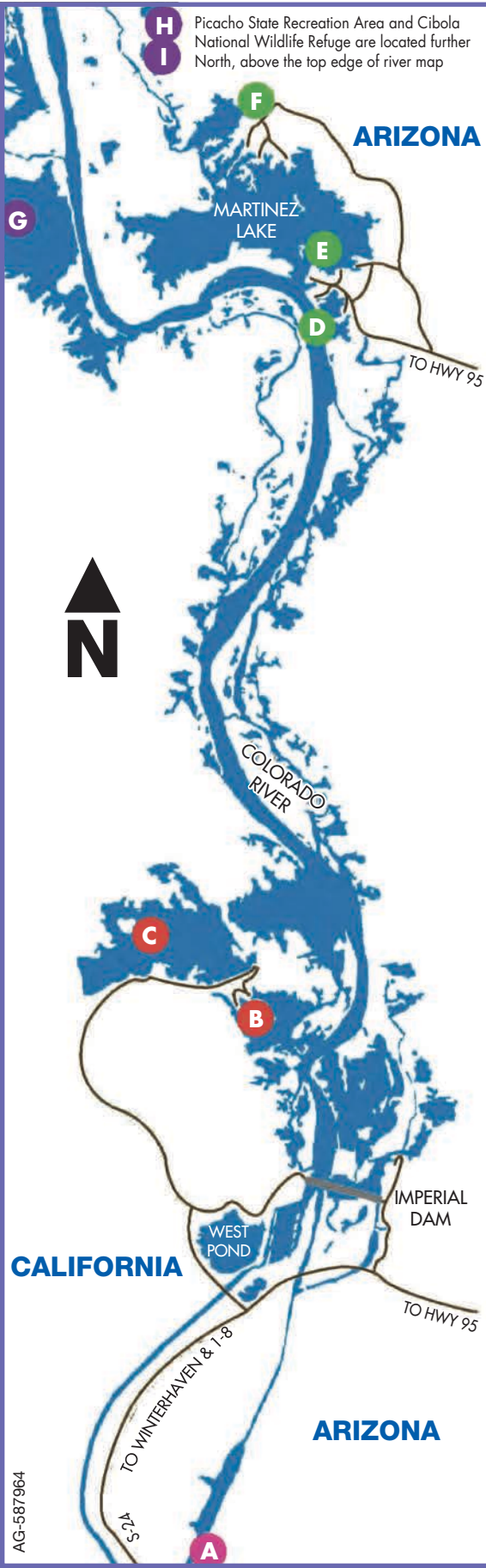
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SHORELINE ACCESS

There are miles of shoreline to be explored along the Colorado River - but dam construction has made it a Mile tricky to find your way to deep water. Here's a quick guide to upstream access points:

(A) MITTRY LAKE WILDLIFE AREA lies between Laguna and Imperial dams northeast of Yuma. With 750 acres of water surrounded by 2400 acres of marsh and upland, this is a birding and fishing hot spot with 10 piers, rest rooms, two boat ramps; no improved facilities, but camping is allowed (check with BLM). There's a ½-mile nature trail at Betty's Kitchen Interpretive Area at south end of lake.

By land: Take Highway 96 east to Avenue 7E, follow Avenue 7E north past Laguna Dam, (about nine miles, pavement ends, 7E becomes Laguna Dam Road), Betty's Kitchen is to left just past dam, or continue north to boat launch. More Info: Bureau of Land Management, 928-317-3200.

IMPERIAL DAM AREA, CALIFORNIA SIDE:

(B) SQUAW LAKE is a day-use and camping area with accessible rest rooms, outdoor showers, fire rings, drinking water and boat ramps; camping limited to 14 days in a 28-day period.

(C) SENIOR WASH DAM AND RESERVOIR Is an off-stream reservoir that allows water skiing, sailing and fishing, with a boat ramp & camping facilities (summer visits limited to 14 days in a 28-day period).

By land: Follow S24 north from Winterhaven and look for signs; at main fork, signs will point west to Imperial Dam, Senator Wash; go past Senator Wash to reach Squaw Lake. More Info: Bureau of Land Management, 928-317-3200.

IMPERIAL DAM AREA, ARIZONA SIDE:

(D) FISHER'S LANDING (928-539-9495), is operated by a private company as a BLM concession. There's a bar and restaurant, bait shop, fuel dock, convenience store and RV camping. Fisher's also is the launch site for trips operated by Yuma River Tours (928-783-4400).

(E) MARTINEZ LAKE RESORT (928-783-9589) is one of the only areas of private land along this part of the river, and offers lots for sale. The resort includes a cantina, restaurant, lodging and camping. It also has a marina and boat launch where you can rent pontoon and fishing boats, canoes and kayaks.

(F) IMPERIAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE is just upstream from Martinez Lake. Water skiing is prohibited in wilderness areas, but there's a public boat launch and day-use area at Meers Point, no camping allowed on refuge. By land: Follow Highway 95 north (past "big guns"), left on Martinez Lake Road then west about 10 miles; turn right on Red Cloud Mine Road for Refuge; ahead and left to Fisher's Landing, ahead and right to Martinez Lake Resort.

UPSTREAM AREAS WITH LIMITED LAND ACCESS:

Above Martinez Lake, the river mostly runs through wildlife refuge lands, and land access to the river is limited. Tent camping is allowed on the California side of **(G) FERGUSON LAKE**, outside refuge boundaries, but you have to get there by boat.

Above Ferguson Lake, the refuge encompasses both banks until you reach **(H) PICACHO STATE RECREATION AREA** (760-996-2963 or 760-393-3059), which includes eight miles of California shoreline.

Once a lively gold-mining town, this is now a popular park with full and car-top boat launches, 54 primitive campsites (campers and trailers permitted), a group campground, and two boat-in group sites, with picnic tables, fire rings, drinking water, chemical toilets, solar showers and RV dump station. No drinking water at five smaller camp-grounds upriver. Water skiing permitted on adjoining river,

By land: Take S24 north from Winterhaven, watch for signs - go straight where S24 bends right. Only first six miles of 24-mile road paved; rest usually passable for cars, trailers and motor homes, but may wash out during storms.

North of Picacho, the river again runs through the Imperial National Wildlife Refuge and there is no public access by land. At river mile 86, you enter the **(I) CIBOLA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**, which surrounds Walters Camp (river mile 88), a popular midway stop between Blythe to Martinez Lake.

By land: Take I-8 west 15 miles to Ogilby Road (S34, exit 134), north on Ogilby 25 miles to Highway 78, then right 16.5 miles to Walters Camp Road.

Things To Do – continued

for those who love riding. Numerous clubs exist and are welcoming and offer rides both challenging for centennial riders but also easy for those just looking to get a bit more fit. Numerous groups on Facebook are both friendly and welcoming of new members.

A short walk away is Yuma’s premier theater: **Harkins**. With numerous screens, a courteous staff and ample parking, guests can reuse their souvenir cup for discounted drinks throughout the year, especially during the summer blockbuster release schedule.

Aside from the restaurants, the niche shops and clothing stores, big box mega stores like Sam’s Club, Best Buy, JC Penney, Dillards, Hobby Lobby, Kohls, Sportsman Warehouse, Five Below, Homegoods, among others are choices for shoppers.

For those who rolled their eyes and knew about Yuma’s premiere spot, we are just getting started. Downtown Yuma has ample things to do, places to eat and things to see. **Regency Theaters**, formerly Main Street Cinemas, offers fewer screens, but also reclining viewing with alternative showtimes. This gives moviegoers more options for getting out to the mov-



Continued on next page *Regency Theater. Jasmine Ross photo.*

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Things To Do – continued

ies. **Historic Yuma Theater** with plays, shows and touring bands showcase on stage. The **Yuma Art Center** features local art including a student photography showcase on June 26, among many other features of amazing artists.

Escape Room Yuma is also downtown and offers numerous rooms to test, challenge and try to escape from. Many have bonded with friends trying to work together to beat the timer. **Lute's Casino** is a historic eatery with pool tables, a great atmosphere and a smattering of arcade games. **The Pint House Bar and Grill, Da Boyz Italian Cuisine, Good Habit** and **Nature's Deli** offer amazing things to eat and sample as well. Outdoor venues include Gateway Park, East Wetlands with a beautiful river walk. However the area is filled with fun shops as well – two bookstores, antique shops, fun niche stores like a spice shop, hip clothing stores like **Rebel and Rove** and many photographic spots like Lee Hotel and the Gowan Building. The Kress also offers a rooftop club with local DJ's. There are also bars for a night cap.



Trampoline Park is expansive and fun with a fun way to get a workout and move around. Richard Fontanes photo.

Barnes and Noble has coffee and Yuma's most expansive bookstore. **Fan Quest, Yuma Hobby Collectibles, KCS Nerd Shack, Cesar's Retro Games and Toys, Big Kids Gaming, Ten Damage Short Colletibles, GOAT Video Games Toys and More, Fast Eddies RC Hobbies** and **Packrat's Den** are just a few fun local shops. **Trampoline Park** is another spot to get physical and move around. Birthday parties and an expansive area with obstacles or easy jumping offer fun for all.

Friday Night Munchies is another swap meet style outdoor experience that usually takes up the fairgrounds on Friday nights. Many of these vendors also show up Sunday morning at Yuma Palms for a farmer's market. Organic and locally made soaps, toys, crafts, woodwork, jewelry and clothing are offered up by these sellers.

Local entertainment also includes **Inca Lanes Bowling**, for both league and free bowling. Summer leagues begin in early June. **Wild River Family Entertainment** provides laser tag, bowling, arcade and an adult area for refreshments and pool. The **Z Fun Factory/Weylon's Water World** features bumper cars, mini golf, go karts, arcade and sports bar. During the day a water park with a lazy river and ample water slides offer a chance to cool off.

Casinos include **Cocoph Casino, The Q** and **Paradise Casino**. Local places to play pool also include **Crazy Earl's Cocktails & Pool, RPG Pool Hall & Arcade, Double D's Sports Bar, Showcase Sports Bar, The Western Club, Sage and Sand Cocktail Lounge**, and **Golden Cue Family Recreation**.

Yuma also has numerous parks (see separate story on page 102), multiple pools and golf courses. Hiking

Continued on page 100

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Things To Do – continued



Local car shows offer entertainment such as amateur boxing opportunities. Jason Contreras photo.



The Yuma Territorial Prison's overlook provides epic views at sunrise and sunset. Richard Fontanes photo.

to **Telegraph Pass** is a popular outing. Numerous nature trails and offroading paths, including Camino del Diablo and Muggins Peak, and water spots are all available.

There is also a summer **Slow-Pitch Softball League:** Pacific Avenue Athletic Complex, 1700 E. 8th St. Yuma. First season dates are June 14 through August 21; deadlines June 4. Second season dates are August 3-26; deadlines July 22. The cost is \$365 plus a \$27 Sanction Fee. Time: Games start

at 6:30 PM, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

There are also museums and historic sites. **The Cocopah Museum, St Thomas Indian Mission, Center of the World, Crossing Park** and **Yuma Territorial Prison** provide a great look into history and are worthy of a visit.

Sometimes those who look often find. Look deeper and you will find even more than what we were able to showcase in our limited word count for this article. Yuma has more than meets the eye. ❖

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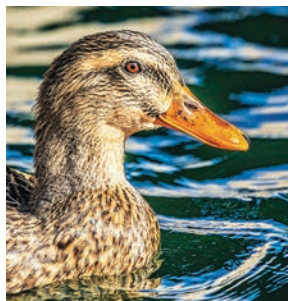
Yuma's Plentiful Parks

By Richard Fontanes

At first the park initiative brought by Mayor Marilyn Young from 2000-2004 seemed to critics like a waste; however, like the old saying goes, the best time to plant a tree is ten years ago.

Twenty-six years later after the parks initiative that saw numerous parks installed throughout the city, Yuma has seen children, teens, families and the retired seek out the numerous green spots throughout the city as a refuge to read a book, play, relax, have a cookout or exercise. And many parks, such as Smucker, Sanguinetti, Kennedy and Roxaboxen among others, predate Mayor Young's investments. In fact it would take almost two full months of visiting one park every day to visit the 58 parks and recreation areas that Yuma boasts.

Some have wide open areas to play softball, others playground equipment. Sunrise Optimist Park on 20th Street has a pond, basketball court, playground and a walking track. Yuma parks have swimming



Bird watchers will be delighted by the water fowl that swim in park ponds. Fernando Camacho photo.

pools, softball, baseball and city golf recreation areas. Summer softball leagues, pickleball and

tennis have active communities. Golf courses are communal gathering grounds for friends and discounted summer golf. Walking clubs walk the mile sidewalk path at Smucker Park in front of Kofa High School,



Sports for all ages offer games, like this soccer game at Keegan Park, and leagues. Jazmine Socio photo.

Continued on page 104

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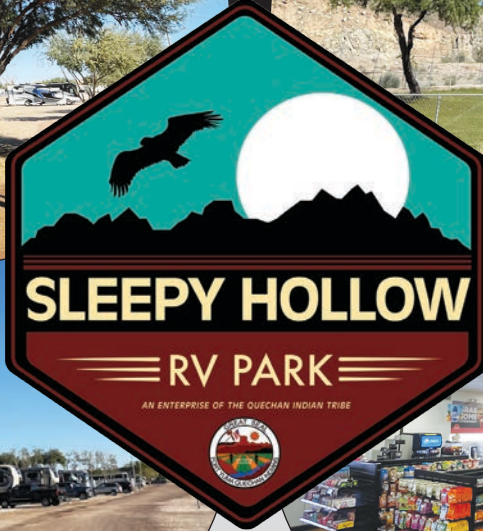
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Yuma's Parks – continued



Exercise and walking trails, like this one between Centennial Beach and the Castle at West Wetlands, beckon many. Richard Fontanes photo.



Pets get to play as well at Gateway Park.




A skatepark is only one of many features at Kennedy Park. Jacob Bonillas photo.

half of which had been closed for almost two years but is reopening this year.

Many parks welcome leashed pets and some even allow for them to run around and make friends. Yuma's focus on parks has created a community atmosphere where the outdoors is part of who we are, something most communities with soaring temperatures struggle to accomplish. Being outdoors is part of the DNA here in an age when it seems the world wide web, social media, TV, streaming and a sedentary

lifestyle have overtaken the culture.

Many leaders have invested in Yuma's parks over the years, and today Yuma has an impressive list of outdoor venues to play and explore. Find park names and information at www.yumaaz.gov/government/parks-recreation/park-recreation-locations. Also visit  @ City of Yuma Parks and Recreation. ❖



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Welcome To Los Algodones, Mexico: Your Summer Guide



Just across the border from Yuma, Los Algodones transforms in the summer months into a quieter, more relaxed destination—ideal for visitors looking to explore at a slower pace while still enjoying its renowned services, cuisine, and culture.

The Quechan Indian Tribe, of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation, provides parking on the U.S. side of the border. The Andrade Parking Lot is right next to Los Algodones, a short walk to the Mexico border entry. The parking lot opens at 6:00am and closes at 10:00pm (Arizona time).

For day parking, these vehicles are permitted: cars, pickup trucks,

Continued on next page



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Los Algodones, Mexico – continued



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Overnight vehicles are allowed only a 3 day maximum. If you need additional nights vehicle owners need to pay additional fees on the last day of the permitted parking to avoid towing.

Call (760) 572-2959 for information.

What to Expect in Summer

Summer in Los Algodones brings higher temperatures, often exceeding 100°F (38°C), but also fewer crowds compared to the peak winter season. This creates a more laid-back atmosphere, with shorter wait times at clinics, restaurants, and shops. Many businesses remain open, though some may operate on reduced hours.

Health, Dental & Optical Services

Every year, thousands travel to Los Algodones, Baja Calif., to seek out medical or dental care or to

purchase medicine.

If you shop for medication in Mexico, you will be subject to regulations of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection is charged with enforcing those rule at the ports of entry at Andrade, Calif., across from Los Algodones, and at San Luis, Ariz., across from Sa Luis Rio Colorado.

Some rules to keep in mind when going to Mexico to buy medicine:

- Only medications that are legally prescribed in the U.S. can be imported from Mexico for personal use.
- Travelers are required to have a valid prescription from a U.S. doctor to purchase in Mexico any medicine that appears on the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administrations' drug Schedules II through V. For more information visit <http://www.dea.gov/druginfo/ds.html>





• Medication purchased in Mexico must be brought to the U.S. in the original container. For more information about purchasing medicine in Mexico, visit the FDA website at <http://www.fda.gov/drugs>.

Dining & Local Flavor

Restaurants and food trucks are plentiful in Algodones. The food isn't wildly differently from the Mexican food you can get in Yuma County, but the prices can be a bit cheaper depending on where you go, and there are often more options for sweets and candies.

Traditional Mexican fare like tacos, flautas, sopes and chiles rellenos (stuffed chiles) are available at

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Los Algodones, Mexico – continued

most restaurants and many food trucks as well.

Like in the U.S., it is not unusual for restaurants to offer complimentary tortilla chips that are often served with multiple salsas, pico de gallo, cucumber, cabbage and limes.

And because the area is about 60 miles from the Gulf of California, fish and other seafood is on the menu in many restaurants.

Panaderías in Mexico have all the most unique selection of Mexican foods – mostly dulces (sweets).

Chili-covered lollipops, candied nuts and fresh honey are just a few of the sugary foods that are plentiful in many shops and along many streets.

Snow cones, fruit smoothies and various ice creams are also abundant with many different flavors to



choose from. And, of course, there's usually the option to add chili powder.

Shopping & Souvenirs

Pharmacies, artisan shops, and vendors line the streets, offering everything from handcrafted goods to everyday essentials. Summer is an excellent time to browse at your leisure, as foot traffic is lighter and shop owners often have more time to engage with customers.



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Practical Summer Tips

- **Start Early:** Plan your visit in the morning hours for cooler temperatures.
- **Stay Hydrated:** Bring water and wear sun protection.
- **Check Hours:** Some businesses may close earlier in the summer.
- **Parking & Crossing:** Border wait times are typically shorter, but always allow extra time when returning to the U.S.

Getting There

Most visitors enter through the Andrade border

crossing, just minutes from Yuma. Parking is available on the U.S. side, and many choose to walk across for convenience.

A Different Kind of Experience

While winter brings bustling crowds, summer offers a quieter, more personal side of Los Algodones. Whether you're visiting for healthcare, shopping, or simply to explore, the season provides a unique opportunity to experience this border town at your own pace.

Plan ahead, stay cool, and enjoy your summer visit to Los Algodones..❖



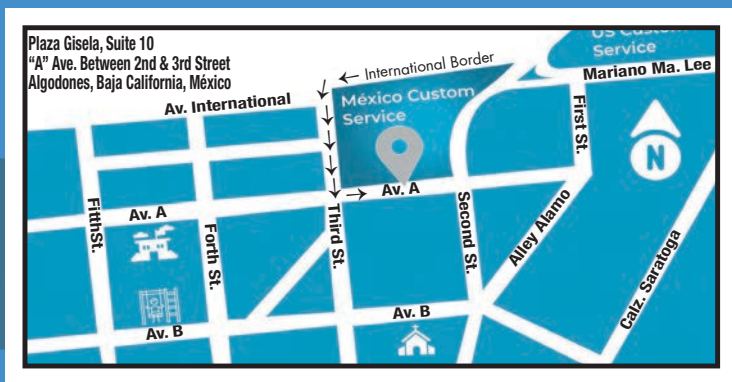
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Tesarski and his wife Elizabeth moved to Lake Havasu City a little over two years ago so that Ron could take his current position with Nordic Boats. Ron has been in the watercraft industry nearly 30 years, and he and his wife love Lake Havasu and are avid boaters. Tesarski also expressed how much he loves working with the "great team" at Nordic. With nearly 30 employees, everyone works together to get the boats "built and out the door." Once a boat is ordered and after all the plans are finalized, it can take as little as 3 to 4 months to finish a build. Their most popular boat currently is 26' and 29' deck



boats. Ron says, "We build the best deck boat on the west coast." They even have customers from



Ron Tesarski, Manager, with Teliza Washington, Office Manager

the East placing orders and traveling out to pick up their new boats.

They don't just build boats—they have a fantastic service team ready to work on all makes and models of boats. They have 2 service technicians who are kept busy. They are always looking for qualified, professional employees to add to their busy team. You can also purchase Mercury parts & hardware from them. Customer service is their top priority. Nordic even gives back to the community—they sponsor the high school booster club, girls softball, the Little Delbert Days rodeo, and local Girl Scouts.

Nordic Boats has been a staple in the boating industry for 6 decades, and it's not hard to see why. Every part of the building process is completed in-house, from the frame to the seat building and upholstery. Each boat is lake tested, and each boat comes with an Adrenaline trailer, built in Lake Havasu. As Tesarski puts it, "Everyone works hard and is passionate about what they do, which shows in the end product of the boat."

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