

Developed Campgrounds & Primitive Camps

Monterey Ranger District

Los Padres National Forest



Developed Campgrounds and Primitive Camps in the Monterey Ranger District are open year round unless access is affected by road closures during the rainy season. Family units are first come-first served and group units may be reserved. Campgrounds are equipped with picnic tables, campfire rings, and pit or flush toilets. The campgrounds are designed for tent camping and recreation vehicles up to 30 ft. There are no hookups or electricity. Each unit has an 8 person and two-vehicle capacity; see chart for fees and specific amenities.

Campfire Use Sites: “Campfire Use Sites” are designated sites (campgrounds or day use areas) of the forest where, wood fires, barbecues and stoves are allowed year-round without a campfire permit. A California Campfire Permit is required at all times for wood fires, barbecues and stoves outside of designated Campfire Use Sites. During increased fire restrictions, any use of wood fires and barbecues outside of Campfire Use Sites may be restricted. Under certain extreme conditions, wood fires and barbecues may be prohibited in all areas of the National Forest, including Campfire Use Sites.

China Camp, Escondido Camp, Memorial Park Campground and White Oaks Camp are open, however, there is no water available at the sites. More information may be obtained by contacting the Monterey Ranger District at (831) 385-5434, Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., or by going to the Los Padres National Forest’s website www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres. Camping information is listed under Recreation Activities, in the Camping Section and listed by District.

There are three group campsites at Plaskett Creek and one group site at Arroyo Seco. Group sites are available by reservation only, call (877) 444-6777 or go to www.recreation.gov on the internet.

INLAND CAMPGROUNDS

Arroyo Seco Campground: (Campfire Use Site) Located on Arroyo Seco Road, 20 miles west of Greenfield off of Highway 101. Nestled in oak trees near the Arroyo Seco River, this campground provides good fishing and waterplay (no lifeguard). Fishing and canoeing are permitted in Abbott Lakes, however, no swimming or motorized boats are allowed. This campground is close to hiking trails into the Ventana Wilderness.

White Oaks and China Camp: White Oaks is 8.2 miles and China Camp is 11.7 miles in on the unsurfaced Tassajara Road off of Carmel Valley Road. The road is not recommended for recreation vehicles or trailers during the rainy season. Phone the ranger district for the latest road conditions. China campground is the departure point for the Pine Ridge Trail into the Ventana Wilderness.

Escondido Camp: Located on the last 3 miles of the unsurfaced Indians Road, 40 miles west of King City via

Jolon Road through Fort Hunter Liggett. It is situated in an oak studded meadow with the Arroyo Seco River nearby. Escondido is the departure point for the Lost Valley Trail into the Ventana Wilderness. This trail is suitable for equestrian use. Escondido is closed during the winter months from November-April.

Memorial Park Campground: Located 5 miles east of Escondido campground on the Indians Road. Memorial Park offers good hiking and equestrian access to the Ventana Wilderness. Campfire Use Site.

COASTAL CAMPGROUNDS

Plaskett Creek Campground: Located approximately, 40 miles south of Big Sur, 35 miles north of San Simeon. Plaskett Creek is on the east side of Highway 1, nestled among Monterey Pines and carpeted with lush grasses. Sand Dollar Picnic Area, across Highway 1, has beach access. Campfire Use Site.

Kirk Creek Campground: Located approximately 35 miles south of Big Sur and 40 miles north of San Simeon, it is situated on a bluff above the ocean. Kirk Creek Trail which is an entry into the Ventana Wilderness, starts just across Highway 1.

Botcher’s Gap Camp: It is located 8 miles east of Highway 1 on Palo Colorado Rd. The intersection of Highway 1 and Palo Colorado Road is approximately 15 miles north of Big Sur and 11 miles south of Carmel. The campground is situated among Oak and Madrone trees. There are excellent views of the Ventana Double Cones in the Santa Lucia Mountains. The parking area and trailhead for the Skinner Ridge Trail into the Ventana Wilderness is located in this campground.

Ponderosa Campground: (Campfire Use Site) Approximately 35 miles west of King City via Jolon Road through Fort Hunter Liggett, then west on Nacimiento-Ferguson Road, 13.6 miles from the intersection of Highway 1 and Nacimiento-Ferguson Road on the coastal side. This campground is located among oak trees and madrone and has a stream nearby. There are 4 sites that are open all year and 20 sites that are open during the summer season only. Water is normally available during the summer season, but bringing your own water is suggested. Elevation is 1500 feet.

Nacimiento Camp: Located 11 miles from Highway 1 on Nacimiento -Ferguson Road. The campground is situated among oaks with a stream nearby. There are 8 rustic units, vault toilets, tables and stoves. No water is available.

MAP INFORMATION:

The forest maps sell for \$9.75 for paper and \$10.75 for plastic each. Two recreation maps cover the Los Padres National Forest, a Northern (Monterey and Santa Lucia Districts) and a Southern (Santa Barbara, Ojai and Mt. Pinos). The maps may be purchased through the mail. Please make



Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region

Los Padres
National Forest

your check payable to LPFA, specify which maps you want
and send it to:

MONTEREY RANGER DISTRICT
406 SOUTH MILDRED, KING CITY, CA 93930

Developed Campgrounds	Elevation in feet	Units	Drinking Water	Fee/Unit per day	Recreation	Comments
Arroyo Seco	900	49	.	Primitive Sites \$15* \$30** Campground Sites \$20* \$40** *(single site - accomodates 1 car, extra car \$5) **(double site - accomodates 2 cars, extra car \$5) Group Site \$75	Hiking, fishing, swimming & canoeing, in river. Fishing only in Abbott Lakes. NO LIFE GUARDS.	Concession managed campground. Newly remodeled w/ showers, flush toilets. One group site -tents only.
Bottcher's Gap	2100	11		\$12 \$5 parking/day use 2 cars, 8 people per site	Hiking	Concession managed campground. No water, vault toilets.
China Camp	4500	10		No Fee 2 cars, 8 people per site	Hiking	No water, vault toilets.
Escondido	2300	9		No Fee 2 cars, 8 people per site	Hiking, with access to Arroyo Seco River	No water, vault toilets, closed November-April. Arroyo Seco River nearby.
Kirk Creek	100	33	.	\$22 2 cars, 8 people per site \$5 (bike)	Hiking, beach access.	Concession managed campground. Flush toilets, beach access.
Memorial Park	2000	8		No Fee 2 cars, 8 people per site	Hiking, with access to Arroyo Seco River	No water, vault toilets, Arroyo Seco River nearby.
Nacimiento	1600	8		\$10.00 2 cars, 8 people per site	Access to Nacimiento River, coast within driving distance	Concession managed campground. No water, vault toilets.
Plaskett Creek	100	45	.	\$22 2 cars, 8 people per site \$80 (Group) \$5(bike)	Hiking, access to Sand Dollar Beach	Concession managed campground. Flush toilets. Beach access nearby. Three Group sites.
Ponderosa	1500	23	.	\$15 2 cars, 8 people per site	Hiking, access Nacimiento River	Concession managed campground. Water May to November, vault toilets.
White Oaks	4000	8		No Fee 2 cars, 8 people per site	Trail access nearby on Tassajara Road	No water, vault toilets.

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