

# BOATING ON MONO LAKE

A boat trip out on Mono Lake can reward you with spectacular views, exciting wildlife, and a sense of the grandeur of this unique ecosystem. Please take a moment to read this flyer—it can help you stay safe, minimize your impact, and leave the lake in a healthy condition for generations to come.

Enjoy your trip on Mono Lake!



## LAUNCHING & LANDING

**Navy Beach:** there is no vehicle access to the water at this site; you must carry your canoe or kayak approximately 30 yards from the parking lot to the shore. Navy Beach is located one half-mile east of the South Tufa area.



Navy Beach

**Lee Vining Creek boat launch:** an unimproved public boat ramp allows vehicle access for boats on trailers, canoes, and kayaks. Check at the visitor centers in Lee Vining for directions to this site.

If you must launch from **anywhere else** around the lake, drive and park only on established roads and parking areas. This means you may need to carry your boat a considerable distance to the water. When entering or exiting Mono Lake at any time, try to pick sandy beaches, which can sustain greater foot traffic than silty or vegetated shoreline. Avoid mats of algae, green grassy areas, and deep mud where you could get stuck and disturb sensitive habitats!

## ISLAND CLOSURE

**From April 1st through August 1st, lands and waters within a mile of the islands are closed** to protect the nesting California Gull population. Plan your visit to the islands outside of the closure period. Be sure to obtain required camping authorization at the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area Visitor Center if you plan to stay overnight on the islands or on the mainland shore (see below).



## OVERNIGHT CAMPING

Only boaters and backpackers are allowed to camp overnight along the shore of Mono Lake or on the islands. These **visitors are required to obtain a letter of authorization** at the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area Visitor Center.

## SAFETY



Many people have drowned on Mono Lake because dangerous, high winds pick up quickly each afternoon. **Never begin a trip when the wind is blowing, and plan to be off the lake by noon.** Always wear life jackets when you are boating, and always carry overnight gear, food, and water. You may be unable to return to shore and have to spend a night on the islands or away from your launch site. Cell phones will not work from every location on the lake or shoreline, and rescue attempts will not be made if they endanger the rescuers.



# OUT ON THE WATER

## TUFA

It is illegal to damage tufa in any way, because it is one of the most productive and fragile life zones in the lake. **Do not hit tufa with boats or paddles.** Hitting a tufa tower just under the water could damage the tufa and your boat, and might even endanger your life; **steer away from all tufa towers.**



## DELTA

Several streams flow into Mono Lake, creating deltas where the fresh water meets the salty lake water. Many birds gather at the deltas to wash salt from their plumage and digestive tracts and to seek refuge. **Please do not approach creek deltas when birds are present;** enjoy them from a distance through binoculars.



Most people choose to paddle or drift through the South Tufa grove, located a short distance west of Navy Beach. This area offers some of the most interesting and scenic views on the lake and it is a good place to take your boat.



## RESEARCH AT MONO LAKE

A wide variety of research goes on at Mono Lake, so you may encounter scientific equipment during your explorations of the area. Please leave in place any stakes, flags, nets, monitoring devices, or any other equipment you see. If you are curious about the science going on at Mono Lake, feel free to inquire at the Mono Lake Committee Information Center and Bookstore or the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area Visitor Center, both located in Lee Vining.

## OSPREY



Mono Lake supports several nesting pairs of osprey—look for their large stick nests on top of the tufa towers. **Please stay at least 150 yards away from osprey nests at all times** in order to avoid disturbing the birds, some of which may be raising chicks. Be sure to bring your binoculars so you can see these magnificent birds from a safe distance without disrupting them!

## MIGRATORY BIRDS

Mono Lake hosts migratory birds that gather from thousands of miles away; please be observant and **stay at least 100 yards away from congregations of birds** on the lake. If the birds suddenly rise in flight at your approach (flushing), they have already been disturbed, and you should immediately find an alternative route.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION



Mono Lake Committee  
(760) 647-6595  
[www.monolake.org](http://www.monolake.org)



Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve  
(760) 647-6331  
[www.cal-parks.ca.gov](http://www.cal-parks.ca.gov)



Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area  
(760) 647-3044  
[www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo/about](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo/about)