

Locations: Pyramid Lake



Pyramid Lake is located about 16 miles north of the town of Castaic, on Piru Creek within the Angeles and Los Padres National Forests. The lake provides regulatory storage for Castaic Powerplant (owned and operated by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power), an afterbay for William E. Warne Powerplant, emergency storage for water deliveries from the West Branch, incidental flood protection, and recreation.

Directions:

Pyramid Lake is accessible via Interstate 5 at the Smokey Bear Road exit (Emigrant Landing).

Activities:

The recreation program includes camping, picnicking, boating, water skiing, swimming and fishing, and is administered by the concessionaire, Parks Management Company (PMC), operating under an agreement with the California Department of Water Resources. Their phone number is (877) 444-6777, or you may visit their [website](#).

More Information:

Fishing is a popular sport at the Pyramid Lake, where you can catch fish such as large- and small-mouth striped bass trout, catfish, blue gill, and crappie.

Emigrant Landing, reached via Smokey the Bear off-ramp from I-5, has a boat ramp, beach, and picnic areas.

Family and group campsites are available at Los Alamos Campground in lower Hungry Valley. Group camping reservations can be made at (661) 295-7155.

Most of Pyramid Lake's beaches are accessible only by boat because of the steep shoreline. Beaches and picnic sites at Bear Trap, Yellowbar (when open), and Serrano are reachable only by boat. Spanish Point can be accessed by land on the weekends during the off-season and daily during the on-season. Vaquero Beach is accessible by vehicle during the summer.

Water levels can change every day because Pyramid Lake provides regulatory storage for Castaic Powerplant (owned and operated by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power).

Boating speed limits differ in parts of the lake. In the canyons where many canoes and rafts are seen, power boats are restricted to low speeds. Higher speeds for waterskiing are allowed on the lake's main body.

More information on the State Water Project and the California Aqueduct can be found by visiting [Vista del Lago Visitors Center](#) located above Pyramid Lake at Vista del Lago Exit.