



LAKE PERRIS STATE RECREATION AREA For Nature Lovers and Adventure Seekers

ACTIVITIES & AMENITIES



ESTABLISHED
1974

LENGTH OF THE DAM
2.1 miles

One of
your 280+
California
State Parks.



Lake Perris offers a sense of calm during the quieter winter months.

A POPULAR DESTINATION NESTLED IN THE HILLS

Hidden among rock-studded hills, Lake Perris State Recreation Area's 8,800 acres of broad valley are bounded on three sides by low ridges. The Bernasconi Hills and the Russell, Apuma and Armada Mountains obscure the view of nearby cities. Inland, the San Bernardino, San Jacinto and Santa Rosa mountains, snowcapped in winter months, stand tall in the distance. The area boasts a rich variety of terrains, habitats and wildlife.

Lake Perris is located about 65 miles south of Los Angeles and 11 miles southeast of Riverside. The lake's beaches, enticing blue waters and rocky Alessandro Island bring nearly 1 million visitors from surrounding communities each year.

Activities in this popular park include fishing, water sports, bird watching, hiking, rock climbing, camping, horseback riding and visiting the Ya'i Heki' (pronounced yahee ehkey) Regional Indian Museum.

NATIVE COMMUNITIES IN THE PAST AND PRESENT

For thousands of years, the native California groups who lived here enjoyed the area's abundant resources and mild climate. Food, water, shelter and clothing were plentiful. The native people hunted pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep, deer, rabbits, birds and a variety of small mammals. Native seasonal houses were made of leaves and branches laid over tree limbs set upright, surrounded with low rock walls or other small structures.

Although distinct social units, the two largest groups — the Cahuilla and Luiseño — shared similar subsistence and settlement adaptations. The Luiseño ranged west to the coast while the Cahuilla extended east into the San Jacinto Mountains and Colorado Desert. Their territories overlapped in inland areas, including Perris Valley.

Artifacts found prior to dam construction indicate that both the Luiseño and Cahuilla traded with such nearby groups as the Serrano, Gabrieleño, Cupeño and Chemehuevi. These cultures are known for their rock art; some is still visible around the lake. Time has weathered away rock pictographs (paintings) and petroglyphs (engravings).

Native people's lives changed drastically with the arrival of Europeans. The native people had no immunity to new diseases; many lost their lives, especially those who had been resettled into crowded mission conditions. Today, local tribal communities are again thriving in the region. They work to educate their own members and the community at large about their vibrant culture, traditions and heritage. Many tribes in the region work with State Parks locally to present tribal culture in interpretive programming and outreach.

Lake Perris beckons visitors with cool blue waters, sandy beaches, world-class bass fishing, wildlife watching and miles of riding and hiking trails.



Horseback riding is a popular activity at the park.

A PARK AND A RESERVOIR

In 1973, the newly opened lake became the southernmost reservoir in the 701-mile California State Water Project. When 80% full, the lake's elevation is 1,560 feet above sea level, covering 1,800 surface acres. Located between the cities of Moreno Valley and Perris, the reservoir's storage capacity has helped nearby desert communities grow.

Lake Perris is known for excellent largemouth bass fishing. The lake also has catfish, crappie, carp and trophy-sized bluegill and redear sunfish.



Lake Perris offers a perfect blend of relaxation and excitement, with opportunities for water sports or basking on the sand.



Red-tailed hawk

LAKE PERRIS STATE RECREATION AREA

17801 Lake Perris Drive, Perris, CA 92571
951-940-5600 (711, TTY Relay Service)

OUR MISSION

The mission of California State Parks is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.

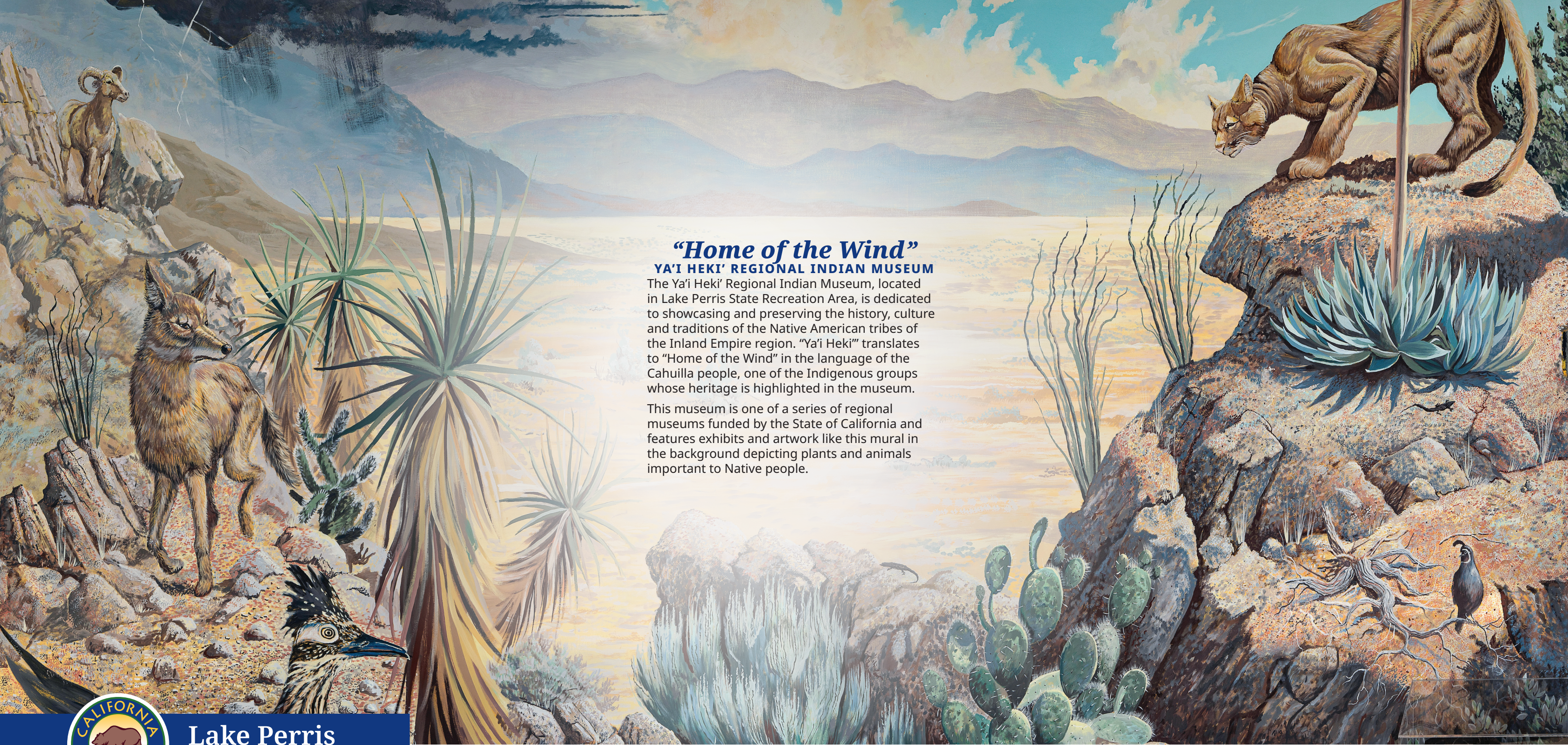
ACCESSIBILITY

California State Parks supports equal access. For accommodation requests including alternative formats, please contact IEDistrict@parks.ca.gov. For information about accessible features at this park, visit parks.ca.gov/AccessibleFeatures.



FOR MORE INFORMATION
parks.ca.gov/LakePerris

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“Home of the Wind”

YA’I HEKI’ REGIONAL INDIAN MUSEUM

The Ya’i Heki’ Regional Indian Museum, located in Lake Perris State Recreation Area, is dedicated to showcasing and preserving the history, culture and traditions of the Native American tribes of the Inland Empire region. “Ya’i Heki’” translates to “Home of the Wind” in the language of the Cahuilla people, one of the Indigenous groups whose heritage is highlighted in the museum.

This museum is one of a series of regional museums funded by the State of California and features exhibits and artwork like this mural in the background depicting plants and animals important to Native people.



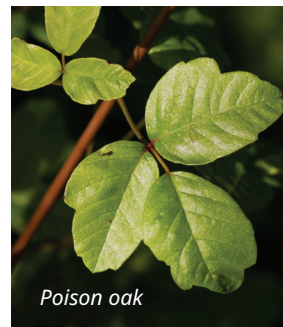
Lake Perris State Recreation Area

FROM CACTI TO WILDFLOWERS

A colorful palette of native plants surrounds the lake. The scrub vegetation on the south faces of the Russell Mountains and Bernasconi Hills typically consists of brittlebush, sagebrush, black and white sages, buckwheat and cactus species. The shadier northern slopes are ideal for chamise and penstemon, interior live oak and sugar bush.

Between November and April, these slopes are covered with colorful wildflowers, including goldfields,

California poppies, phacelia and common fiddleneck. The valley grassland areas, visible in a few isolated locations, are only a remnant of once abundant perennial grasses. Poison oak also grows in various locations — stay on trail and learn to recognize the “leaves of three” and avoid it.



Poison oak

WILDLIFE ALONG THE WATER

Riversidian sage scrub and chaparral provide habitat for mule deer, bobcats, coyotes, raccoons, California quail, gopher snakes and rattlesnakes. Though generally shy, these animals can sometimes be spotted during daylight hours. Please do not feed any wild animals that you encounter.

Lake Perris is home to more than 100 species of birds, many migratory. Some birds are here for short stopovers during their migrations, while others are

permanent residents. Bird-watchers may see roadrunners, loggerhead shrikes, larks, California thrashers, ospreys, bald eagles and several hawk and wren types. Waterfowl visitors include duck, goose and grebe species, along with American pelicans, cormorants and coots. The water’s edge attracts shorebirds such as avocets, willets, kingfishers, killdeer, black-necked stilts, egrets and herons. The best time to observe these birds is in early morning and at dusk.