

EL MIRAGE OHV RECREATION AREA

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE TRAIL MAP
2023-24

PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT!
IF THERE IS TRASH AT YOUR
CAMPSITE, IT'S YOURS!



Friends of El Mirage
20471 Mountain View Road
El Mirage, CA 92301
(760) 523-0283 | elmirage.org
f @FriendsOfElMirage



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ABOUT THE AREA

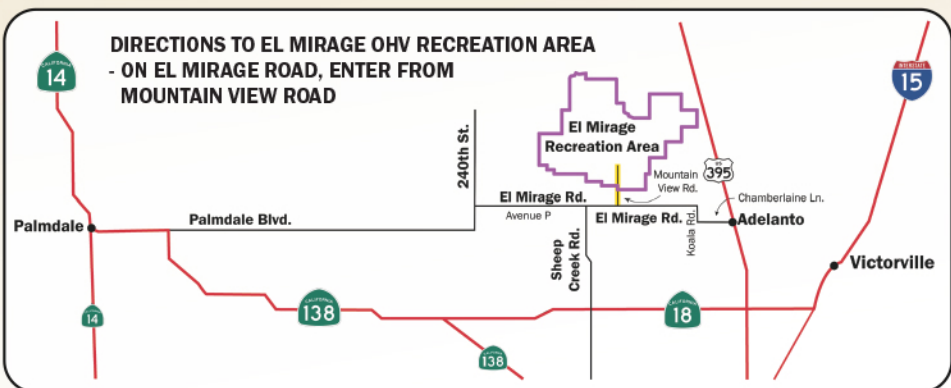
The approximately 27,000-acre El Mirage Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Recreation Area is managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and is located in the Mojave Desert on the western edge of San Bernardino County. This Off-Highway Vehicle riding area attracts enthusiasts of a wide range of recreational vehicles that include motorcycles, ATVs, trucks, cars, buggies, land yachts, ultralight aircraft, gyrocopters, para-sails, and full sized aircraft.

Elevations range from about 2,800 feet at the El Mirage dry lakebed to over 3,800 feet in the Shadow Mountains. During summer, temperatures can reach 120 °F and thunder storms can arrive with spectacular force, although most precipitation falls during the winter. In winter, temperatures at night can fall as low as 5 °F.

PERMIT FEES

Entrance Passes are available for purchase online at www.recreation.gov, or on-site at the El Mirage Visitor Center.

ONE DAY PERMIT: \$15 Valid until noon the following day
WEEKLY PERMIT: \$30 Valid for 7 days
SEASON PERMIT: \$90 Valid from October 1st through September 30th



FRIENDS OF EL MIRAGE

ABOUT US

The Friends of El Mirage (FOEM) is a non-profit corporation that promotes the use of recreational trails on public lands. Our mission is to support and develop projects to improve, protect, and maintain existing trails and the dry lakebed to promote understanding, education, and cooperation between all users.

Opportunities are dwindling for diverse user groups to enjoy a variety of trails. Therefore, we must share our public lands if we want to continue enjoying them. We will all win in the long run when we cooperate in the management of our recreational resources. FOEM devotes its energy to maintaining and mapping trails, and focuses its efforts on the future of recreation.

You can help us make a difference by becoming a member of the FOEM. Visit: elmirage.org/support-foem

The Friends of El Mirage holds its Stakeholder Meetings on the second Tuesday of every month at the El Mirage Visitor Center at 9:00 A.M. For more information, visit: elmirage.org, or contact us by phone at (760) 388-4411, or by email at staff@elmirage.org.

RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Those wanting to hold commercial or organized events, such as filming, competitions, guiding, advertised events, or events where participants are charged a fee, may be required to obtain a special recreation permit. For more information, contact the BLM Barstow Field Office at (760) 252-6000.

IMPORTANT RULES & REGULATIONS

IF THERE IS TRASH AT YOUR CAMPSITE, IT'S YOUR TRASH!
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THERE IS NO TRASH SERVICE FOR VISITORS.

- Firewood materials containing nails, screws, or other metal hardware, such as wood pallets and construction debris, are prohibited.
- NO SHOOTING within the El Mirage OHV Recreation Area. This includes, but is not limited to, firearms, bow & arrows, BB guns, and paint guns.
- Do not operate an OHV while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- All ATV and ROV riders and passengers must wear a helmet. It is advisable to also wear boots, gloves, and eye protection.
- A maximum speed limit of 15 miles per hour must be observed within 50 feet of all campsites and staging areas.
- OHVs owned by California residents must be registered with the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and must display a valid "Green Sticker" or "Red Sticker" permit.

NO DONUTS ON THE LAKEBED, AND NO DRIVING ON LAKEBED WHEN CLOSED!
THIS DAMAGES THE SURFACE FOR EVERYONE.

- Glass containers of any kind are prohibited in the open area.
- Any person operating an ROV shall be at least 16 years of age, or be directly supervised in the vehicle by a parent, guardian or by an authorized adult.
- Fireworks are prohibited within the open area.
- OHVs must be equipped with an approved muffler, brakes, and spark arrestors.
- Motorized vehicles should yield to non-motorized vehicles and aircraft on the lakebed.
- California requires Non-Resident Permits for OHVs visiting from states that do not honor California OHV Identifications. (AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, TX, UT, WA, WY.)
- For your safety and the safety of the sensitive species within, do not enter mineshafts. STAY OUT, STAY ALIVE!

PHONE NUMBERS

**BLM BARSTOW FIELD OFFICE
GROUP, PERMIT, & EVENT INFORMATION**
(760) 252-6000

**FILMING / PHOTOGRAPHY
PERMIT INFORMATION**
(909) 460-8100 ext. 101

**EL MIRAGE OHV RECREATION
AREA INFORMATION**
(760) 523-0283

AREAS OF INTEREST

1. EL MIRAGE DRY LAKEBED

This unique, 4,800-acre dry lakebed is the most popular feature for visitors in the El Mirage OHV Recreation Area. The flat and smooth surface is perfect for many specialized forms of recreation. When wet, the lakebed's surface is pliable, and is easily damaged by vehicle use. Staying off of the lakebed during closures allows the surface to naturally heal thanks to the smoothing effects of water and wind, and enables more forms of recreation across more of the lakebed when dry.

2. SHADOW MOUNTAINS

The northern area of El Mirage is home the rugged Shadow Mountains. These peaks are appropriate for expert riders, while new or less experienced riders should enjoy the other popular riding locations within the OHV Recreation Area like the Twin Hills Area. Do not enter any of the abandoned mines in the area as they are unsafe for visitors, and often serve as important habitats for bats and other species that live in dark places.

3. THE BASIN

The Basin lies between the lakebed and the mountains to the north and east. Most trails that traverse it are suitable for average riders, however, there are a few places in the Basin that may prove to be a moderate challenge for experienced riders. The Basin is home to a diverse variety of desert vegetation that is important to the habitat of numerous species, and helps to control erosion and dust.

4. TWIN HILLS AREA

The Twin Hills riding area is located in the northeast section of the park between U.S. Highway 395 and the Shadow Mountains, which isolates it from the lakebed. Visitors find this a great place to camp, and the Twin Hills are easier to ride than the trails of the rugged Shadow Mountains.

ACTIVITIES AT EL MIRAGE

EL MIRAGE OHV SKILLS TRAINING COURSE

The Friends of El Mirage offers ATV Safety Institute certified classes with ASI Certified instructors on a custom-built safety course near the Visitor Center at El Mirage. Here, students practice basic safety techniques, learn about safety equipment, OHV rules and regulations, and learn hands-on techniques for navigating hill climbs, obstacles, collision avoidance and more.

Classes are offered at El Mirage the second Saturday of every month, with the exception of July and August.

WIND POWERED VEHICLES

Strong winds are frequent occurrences at El Mirage, making it a prime destination for wind sports enthusiasts. With wind speeds capable of reaching over 60 miles per hour, wind vehicles are challenging to maneuver and should always be given the right of way.

ULTRALIGHTS, GYROCOPTERS, AND OTHER AIRCRAFT

Personal aircraft are a major attraction on the lakebed because the flat area provides plenty of room to take off and land safely. Land vehicles are required to give full right of way to all air vehicles.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TIMING ASSOCIATION

During the dry months of summer and fall, the Southern California Timing Association (SCTA) hosts time-trial races and seasonal two-day events. Speeds of over 300 miles per hour have been recorded at these events. SCTA has exclusive use of the western end of the lakebed during these events. Safe, high-speed travel depends on the smooth surface of the dry lakebed. Help protect the surface by observing lakebed closures and avoiding destructive driving. For more information on the SCTA, visit: www.scta-bni.org.

HELP US KEEP THE LAKEBED SAFE FOR HIGH-SPEED USE



**LAKEBED IS CLOSED
WHEN WET OR MUDDY**



**NO DONUTS OR DRIFTING
ON THE LAKEBED**



**NO STANDING STARTS
OR BURNOUTS ON LAKEBED**



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EMERGENCY: CALL 911

The nearest BLM Law Enforcement Ranger can be contacted by calling the Federal Interagency Communication Center (FICC) at **(909) 383-5651**. Incidents and accidents can be reported to 911.

LOST PERSON

If a member of your party becomes lost, remain calm. Make note of the last time and place the person was seen. Call 911 to report the missing person.

INJURED PERSON

Avoid moving an injured person unnecessarily, as this could harm them further. In most circumstances, it is better to wait for medically trained emergency personnel to arrive on the scene, rather than moving the injured person. Utilize common sense and care when deciding whether moving the injured person is necessary for their survival.

HOSPITALS & EMERGENCY CARE

DESERT VALLEY HOSPITAL
16850 Bear Valley Road,
Victorville, CA 92395
(760) 241-8000 (Open 24 Hours)

ST. MARY MEDICAL CENTER
18300 Highway 18,
Apple Valley, CA 92307
(760) 242-2311 (Open 24 Hours)

**VICTOR VALLEY GLOBAL
MEDICAL CENTER**
15248 11th Street,
Victorville, CA 92395
(760) 245-8691 (Open 24 Hours)

SCTA 2024 SCHEDULED EVENTS

The SCTA scheduled events result in the temporary closure of the lakebed during these dates to ensure the safety and smooth operation of the racing activities.

May 18th & 19th

June 9th

July 14th

September 15th

October 20th

November 9th & 10th

