



# SPRING MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA SUMMER VISITOR GUIDE



**EXPLORE**

The Spring Mountains rise up out of the Mojave Desert to provide a forested, spring-fed oasis that offers a haven for wildlife, a cool retreat for visitors, a sacred area for Native people and a vital watershed fed by numerous springs.



**LEARN**

These “sky islands” support seven diverse life zones with a wide variety of plants and wildlife including 26 species not found anywhere else in the world. The higher elevations are dominated by Bristlecone pines, which are possibly the world’s oldest living organisms.



**VOLUNTEER**

Nuwuvi (Southern Paiute) consider the Spring Mountains their creation place. They think of the mountains as powerful yet delicate, and to sustain this balance Nuwuvi treat all beings with the utmost respect. We can all continue honoring that tradition by caring for this fragile environment.

**CONTACT US**

**Emergency: 911**

[www.gomtcharleston.com](http://www.gomtcharleston.com)

**Spring Mountains Visitor Gateway**  
2525 Kyle Canyon Rd / SR 157  
Open Daily 8am-4pm  
Forest Service Info & Permits: (702) 872-5486



**Recreation Site Reservations:**  
[www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) • (877)-444-6777  
**NDOT Road Conditions:**  
Dial 511 or visit [NVRoads.com](http://NVRoads.com)  
Report A Fire: (702) 515-5300



**MAKE IT A GREAT VISIT**

IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 911  
START WITH A FULL TANK OF GAS  
RESERVE YOUR CAMPSITE  
DON'T RELY ON CELL SERVICE  
DRINKING WATER IS LIMITED

**YOUR JOURNEY STARTS HERE**

The Spring Mountains Visitor Gateway (SMVG) complex includes a visitor center, an education & research building, two amphitheaters, two group picnic sites, and over 40 miles of adjoining trails. The complex houses the Silent Heroes of the Cold War National Memorial, the only national monument dedicated to the Cold War era, honoring the thousands of individuals who worked covertly for the United States government during the Cold War. SMVG is also home to the Seven Stones Plaza, which celebrates indigenous people—seven Southern Paiute tribes known collectively as Nuwuvi (or “the people”)—and their longstanding ancestral relationship with their creation place in the Spring Mountains. The SMVG is both a destination and a gateway to provide visitors with everything needed to appreciate and enjoy the Spring Mountains.



# PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES



GO Mt. Charleston offers many programs and events throughout the year for all ages, including Science Safaris and guided hikes. Check the calendar on [www.GoMtCharleston.com](http://www.GoMtCharleston.com) for the latest information and register for a program!



## YOU CAN HELP!

### Volunteer Opportunities

Every year volunteers dedicate thousands of hours to enhance recreational opportunities and care for ecosystems across the Spring Mountains NRA. Numerous opportunities exist for volunteers, from trail work to education to restoration. You can participate in a one-time project or serve over several months, seasons or year round in various programs.

To find out what opportunities are waiting for you check our web site at [www.gomtcharleston.com/volunteer.html](http://www.gomtcharleston.com/volunteer.html) or visit [volunteer.gov](mailto:volunteer.gov)



**PICNICKING** All locations have picnic tables and vault toilets. These day-use areas are open from sunrise to sunset. Most picnic areas have a fee. Please call 877-444-6777 or visit [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) for more information about group picnic area reservations.



**HIKING AND BACKPACKING TRAILS** will lead you into lush forests with views of steep limestone cliffs, through one of the west's most unique bristlecone pine forests, and along alpine slopes with views from California to Utah.

- The [www.GoMtCharleston.com](http://www.GoMtCharleston.com) website describes trails, conditions, programs and events on the mountain. Visit [www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/districts/smnra](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/districts/smnra) for details on regulations, restrictions such as those for dogs or horses, permit requirements, and other special trail regulations.
- Check out Leave No Trace at [www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org) for information on outdoor skills and ethics to make every visit a responsible visit.



**MOUNTAIN BIKING TRAILS** offer loop opportunities that include single tracks and great views.

- Mountain biking is not allowed in wilderness areas or other trails as posted.
- Watch out for hikers and horses, using trail etiquette to announce your presence and passing.



**WILDLIFE & WILDFLOWER VIEWING** Trails, trailheads, campgrounds and day-use picnic areas are ideal locations for wildlife and wildflower viewing.

- Please help keep wildlife "wild" by not approaching or feeding them. Always secure your food and keep a clean camp.
- Use binoculars, spotting scopes and telephoto lenses to minimize stress to animals and provide a safe viewing distance for you. Learn to watch wildlife without being watched back. Wildlife may run away, abandon young, or even attack if you get too close.



**HORSEBACK RIDING** Riders can choose from a variety of settings, from winding through Joshua Tree forests to trails high atop alpine ridges.

- Certified weed-free hay, pelletized feed, or grain products are required during your visit, and the Forest Service asks that you feed livestock weed-free feed 48 hours before entering Spring Mountains.



**OFF-HIGHWAY DRIVING & RIDING** Many OHV trails are on the west side areas of the Spring Mountains and a few trails are in the Mt. Charleston Area, including Lee and Kyle Canyon.

- Roads and trails open to OHVs are posted with a sign that says "Motorized Trail " or "Forest Road" and 3- or 5-numbered marker. Routes not posted as open are closed to motorized traffic.

Maps are available online at [www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/recreation/mvum/mvum.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/recreation/mvum/mvum.shtml)

- All equipment must meet federal and state standards & regulations.
- Visit [www.treadlightly.org](http://www.treadlightly.org) for more information about off road driving skills to prepare you for enjoying the spectacular scenery while taking care of the forest.



**ROCK CLIMBING** Explore the limestone crags of the Spring Mountains.

- Many of these cliffs are also home to unique plants that can live only on these vertical faces. Please share the route with them and be careful not to harm them.

## LODGING



The historic Mount Charleston Lodge is located at the end of Kyle Canyon Rd/SR 157, with rustic lodging in 23 log cabins and a scenic restaurant & lounge serving breakfast,lunch and dinner daily. [www.mtcharlestonlodge.com](http://www.mtcharlestonlodge.com)

The Resort on Mt Charleston is a rustic and relaxing pet friendly property in mid-Kyle Canyon with hotel rooms, a lounge, restaurant, and banquet facilities. [www.mtcharlestonresort.com](http://www.mtcharlestonresort.com)



## CAMPING

All developed campgrounds in the Spring Mountains NRA are located in the Mt. Charleston area in Kyle and Lee Canyon or along the Deer Creek Highway.

- Amenities typically include toilets, picnic tables, a fire ring or grate and drinking water. Water may not be available after Labor Day weekend and is always turned off by late September. Firewood may be available for a fee at some campgrounds.
- Be a good neighbor - Quiet hours are from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., including generators. Dogs are welcome but must be on a leash, and livestock are not allowed in campgrounds. Operating dirt bikes, ATVs and other non-street legal vehicles in the campgrounds is prohibited.
- Fees are required at all developed campgrounds. Dispersed camping is available in Mack's, Champion, and Lovell Canyon.
- Reservations can be made up to 180 days in advance, and must be made at least three days prior to arrival. Large groups should reserve a group campsite, which can be reserved 360 days in advance. Please call 877-444-6777 or visit [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

## PICNIC AREAS

Spring Mountains Visitor Gateway Group Picnic Area	\$ 🚻 🔥 ♿ 🚶 🏕️
Kyle Canyon Picnic Area	\$ 🚻 🔥 ♿ 🏕️
Cathedral Rock Picnic Area*	\$ 🚻 🔥 ♿ 🏕️
Deer Creek Picnic Area*	🚻 🔥 🏕️
Old Mill Picnic Area*	\$ 🚻 🔥 🚰 🏕️
Foxtail Group Picnic Area*	\$ 🚻 🔥 ♿ 🏕️
Saw Mill Picnic Area	🚻 🏕️ 🐾 🚶
\$ Fees may vary. *Site may be closed in winter.	

## CAMPGROUNDS

Fletcher View Campground	\$ 🚻 🔥 ♿ 🚶 🏕️
Hilltop Campground*	\$ 🚻 🔥 ♿ 🚶 🏕️
Mahogany Grove Group Campground*	\$ 🔥 ♿ 🚶 🏕️
McWilliams Campground	\$ 🚻 🔥 ♿ 🚶 🏕️
\$ Fees may vary. *Site may be closed in winter.	

For the full listing of recreation areas, visit [www.GoMtCharleston.com/PlanYourVisit.html](http://www.GoMtCharleston.com/PlanYourVisit.html)





Easy Moderate More Difficult Most Difficult

- |                            |                                 |                |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| National Forest            | Bureau of Land Management (BLM) | State Highways |
| National Forest Wilderness | BLM Wilderness                  | Forest Roads   |
| State Park                 | Other – including private       | Trails         |

- |             |             |             |               |                    |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Campground  | Restroom    | Ski Area    | Hiking Trail  | Equestrian Trail   |
| Information | Overlook    | Showers     | Cycling Trail | Interpretive Trail |
| Parking     | Picnic Area | Ampitheater |               |                    |

\*All distances are one-way except trails marked "loop"

For the full listing of recreation areas, visit [www.GoMtCharleston.com/PlanYourVisit.html](http://www.GoMtCharleston.com/PlanYourVisit.html)



# TIPS FOR A GREAT VISIT

**PICNICS AND CAMPING.** For campsite or large group picnic area reservations, please call 877-444-6777 or visit [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) . If you choose to picnic outside of the developed areas make sure you are not on private property. Leave no trash or food behind.

**PETS** must be on a leash in developed sites such as campgrounds and picnic areas. On trails, it is safer to keep pets leashed to avoid contact with other animals and hikers. And of course, please clean up after your pets.

**BE COURTEOUS.** Please be considerate of fellow visitors so that everyone has a great experience. While hiking, you may see horseback riders and mountain bikers.

**CELL PHONES–LIMITED RECEPTION.** Much of Lee Canyon has no reception. Reception in Kyle Canyon is limited.

**DRINKING WATER–LIMITED AVAILABILITY.** The Visitor Center, all developed campgrounds and most picnic areas have drinking water from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Don't drink untreated water from streams or springs.

**TRASH–FIND A DUMPSTER OR TAKE IT HOME.** Dumpsters are located only at the Visitor Center and developed camping and picnic areas. If you can't get to a dumpster, please take trash back home.

**TOILETS** are available at the Visitor Center and developed camping and picnic areas. If you are unable to find a toilet, dig a hole to bury toilet paper and human waste. Cover and disguise the hole when finished.

**DEHYDRATION AND HEAT STRESS.** Drink plenty of water, wear sunscreen and a hat.

**HYPOTHERMIA–TAKE A JACKET.** Hypothermia is possible even in mid-summer at cooler high elevations. Bring extra clothes to stay warm and dry.

**BE AWARE OF WILDERNESS AREAS.** Watch for wilderness boundary signs so you'll know when you've entered a wilderness area. Motorized vehicle use, bicycles, mechanized equipment, and geocaching are not allowed in wilderness areas.

**DON'T ERASE THE TRACES OF AMERICA'S PAST.** Archaeological and historic sites hold clues to America's past. If disturbed, a part of our heritage may be lost forever. Historic sites and artifacts on federal lands are protected by federal law. If you discover such remains, please leave them undisturbed.

**PLAN AHEAD.** Tell someone where you are going, when you expect to return and what to do if you don't. For safety, don't hike alone. If you get lost or become disorientated, stay calm and stay put! Wait for help to arrive. Keeping warm is more important than finding food and water.

**ALTITUDE** Elevations in the Spring Mountains range from 4,500 feet to almost 12,000 feet. The major cause of altitude sickness is going too high, too fast. Reduce the chance of experiencing altitude sickness by drinking plenty of water and avoiding caffeine, alcohol and heavy meals. Altitude sickness symptoms may include shortness of breath, nausea, heart palpitations, extreme thirst, weakness, headaches and "tunnel vision." If you experience any of these symptoms, stop and drink water. If symptoms persist, immediately proceed to a lower elevation and seek medical attention.



**CAMPFIRES**  
Year-round fire restrictions prohibit wood and charcoal fires within one mile of upper Kyle and Lee canyons (areas west of state route 158) and the Cold Creek, Mountain Springs and Trout Canyon communities. During this time camp fires are allowed in Forest Service provided fire rings and charcoal fires in pedestal grills. These are found in developed picnic areas and campgrounds. For dispersed or primitive camping in unimproved campgrounds, check postings for fire restrictions, as they change due to fire danger. Propane grills or stoves can be used year around in all areas of the SMNRA including the upper and lower Lee Meadows. Do not leave campfires and charcoal fires unattended and make sure they are completely extinguished before you leave your camping or picnic area. If you encounter a wildland fire, smoke, or an illegal or unattended campfire, please call (702) 515-5300.

Check current fire restrictions and for further details at [www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/districts/smnra](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/districts/smnra)







And remember, only you can prevent wildfires.

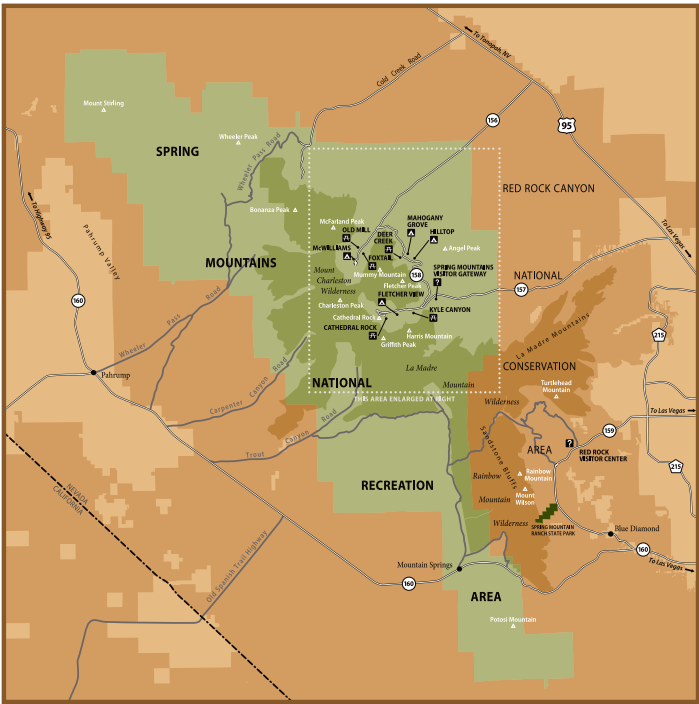


Lee Canyon is open on weekends through the summer months and offers lunch, scenic chair lift rides, disc golf and more!


Check out [www.leecanyonlv.com](http://www.leecanyonlv.com) for details!

### OUR PARTNERS






Our programs are made possible thanks to generous grants and donations. All funds donated to GO Mt. Charleston go directly to visitor information, education programs, and volunteer efforts on the mountain.



### DISPLAY YOUR LOVE FOR THE SPRING MOUNTAINS

The Mt. Charleston license plate fund supports “the natural environment of the Mount Charleston area including programs to improve wildlife habitat, the ecosystem, the forest, public access to the area, and its recreational use” including many of GO Mt. Charleston’s programs! Visit a DMV office or go to [dmv.nv.com/platescharitable.htm](http://dmv.nv.com/platescharitable.htm) for details.



GO Mt. Charleston programs in the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area are managed by Southern Nevada Conservancy in partnership with the US Forest Service. For more information, please visit [www.GoMtCharleston.com](http://www.GoMtCharleston.com)

