Cachuma Lake Recreation Area
Santa Barbara County Parks
2225 Highway 154, Santa Barbara, CA 93105
Phone: (805) 686-5055 Reservation Support: (805) 568-2460
Campground Reservations: www.sbcounty.org

To report an emergency, call 911; for difficulties within the park, dial (805) 686-5055, for staff assistance.

Please feel free to ASK QUESTIONS of our Park staff.

Park Staff are here to help make your stay safe and enjoyable. We value your patronage and encourage your suggestions. Please uphold Park rules as you explore, experience, and enjoy!

PARK RULES

• As the lake is a source for drinking water, any body contact with the water is prohibited by the State Health Department. This includes swimming, wading, and waterskiing.

• All vehicles must display a Park receipt. This receipt may be revoked without refund for violation of Park rules at any time.

• 15 mph is the speed limit on all Park roads.

• Riding in boats while on trailers (except at the launch ramp) or in truck beds throughout the Park is prohibited.

• Helmets are required for bicycle, scooter, or skateboard riders under the age of 18.

• Motorized cycles & scooters are not allowed in the park. All vehicles and golf carts must be street legal.

• Camping and picnicking are allowed in designated areas and by permit only. Individual campers are limited to 2 vehicles and 8 people. Single vehicles pay the appropriate fee to secure a hookup or driveway. A second vehicle can join the site at an additional per night fee.

• Waste materials and gray water should be disposed of at the dump stations (across from the Marina parking lot). Disposal of these materials on the ground or in the Lake is prohibited.

• Park users are required to keep their site clean. Violators will be cited and evicted.

• Avoid parking and driving under tree canopies and near to tree trunks. Vehicle weight compacts tree root structure and reduces tree survival.

• Persons under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian to camp.

• Day use hours (food) apply from 6 am to sunset. Anyone entering the park outside these hours will be charged a camping fee.

• Quiet time is 10 pm to 7 am. Radios, generators, and any activities that annoy neighboring campers are not allowed.

• Firearms (including BB guns & rifles), fireworks, and explosives are prohibited. Violators will be cited and evicted from the park.

• Fires are permitted in established fire pits, BBQs, and approved containers. Open ground fires are not allowed. No fire shall be left unattended. Visitors must extinguish entirely all fires before checking out.

• All plants, animals, archaeological materials, and natural resources (including wood) are protected by law and may not be collected, removed, damaged, injured, or harvested.

• Pets must have proof of rabies vaccination and be on a leash of 6 ft. or less. Owners must clean up after their pets. Vicious or noisy animals will not be allowed. Dogs must not be left unattended anywhere in the park.

• Campsites are available by reservation at www.sbcounty.org. A vehicle, the driver of that vehicle, and a valid license for that driver are required to be present when registering for a campsite.

• Stay Limits. Campers are allowed to stay in the campground for a maximum of two weeks continuously. Campers must then check out for two weeks before re-entering.

Check-In Times: 3 pm all areas

Check-Out Times:
Cabin & Yurts: 11 am
Campsites & Group Areas: 10:00 pm

To Santa Barbara

To Solvang

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NATURE ACTIVITIES

Eagles and Wildlife Lake Cruises
Climb aboard the 30-passenger “Osprey” for a 2-hour lake tour of Cachuma’s wildlife and history with a Park Naturalist. Nov - Feb, tours focus on migratory birds, including bald eagles. March – Oct, the cruise rocks at local wildlife, wildflowers, and resident birds. Nov - Feb cruises run Friday and Saturday 10 am & 2 pm; Sunday 10 am only. March - Oct cruises run Friday 1 pm, Saturday 10 am and 3 pm; Sun. 10 am only. Reservations are recommended by calling (805) 686-5050 (M-F), 686-5055 (weekends), or in person at the main office. Fees are $17/adults, $7/4-12. Sorry, no children under the age of 4.

Trails and Nature Programs
There are four miles of trails within the Park. Pick up a trail guide at the front gate or the Naturalist’s Office. Every Saturday, a guided Nature Walk departs from the Nature Center at 10 am. Kids earn a badge in the Junior Ranger program, every Saturday, 12:30 to 1:30 pm (fee $2). On summer weekend evenings, campfire and astronomy programs are also held at the Fireside Theater. See flyers in Park for times and special events, or visit www.sbparks.org.

The Neal Taylor Nature Center
houses intriguing hands-on displays and exhibits featuring local wildlife, plant communities, geology, Chumash traditional culture, Bradbury Dam history, and a gift and book shop. Open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm; Sunday, 10 am - 2 pm. Free admission with Park entry. For special programming, go to www.cnaturecenter.org.

FISHING and BOATING

Cachuma Boat Rentals
A bait/tackle shop, along with a gas station is located for your convenience on the Marina dock. One-day fishing licenses are available for purchase. Boats, kayaks, and canoes may be rented on an hourly, half-day, or daily basis. Mooring services are available. A driver’s license or ID is required with a security deposit. Stop by the Marina or call (805) 686-5050 for details or visit their website, www.rockymountainrecre.com.

Go Fish
Cachuma is one of Southern California’s finest fishing lakes due to its rocky dropoffs and shallow areas. Pick up a map at the Marina to locate the best places to catch small and large mouth bass, rainbow trout, crappie, and catfish. A fishing license is required for those age 16 and up. Licenses are available at the Marina. Shoreline fishing is permitted within the campground.

Fishing Tournaments
Privately-sponsored tournaments of 8 boats or more are allowed with prior park permission. State Fish and Wildlife permits may also be required. Contact (805) 686-5057 for more information.

Boating Regulations
Body contact with the lake is not permitted. Outboards, kayaks, and paddle board pontoons can be rented, and private boats can be launched for a fee. Boating is allowed every day of the year except Christmas day. All state boating regulations are enforced. Please also abide by the rules that follow, and do not enter the restricted areas indicated on the map in this bulletin. Current state registration (decal and number) must be displayed on private vessels.

Mandatory boat inspection:
All boats, kayaks, canoes must pass an aquatic invasive species inspection. All boats are quarantined. All kayaks/canoes must be washed. See full details at www.sbparks.org.

Lake hours posted at launching ramp and harbor entrances are strictly enforced.

Lake speed limits from 3 mph to 40 mph (posted at the Marina) must be followed.

Personal flotation device (PFD) vests must be worn by children 11 or younger at all times on the lake and are recommended for all. State regulations require that one PFD be on board for the operator and for each rider aboard the vessel. Ask Park or Marina staff for additional advice.

If you are boating when a storm develops, try to find a sheltered area. Call (805) 686-5055 for assistance, or 911 for emergencies.

Buoy, buoy lines, and log booms designate shallow waters and closed areas. Do not tie up to these or cross into closed areas.

Landing boats is permitted along the campground shoreline only.

Passengers are not permitted to ride in boats on trailers.

Boats may not pass within 100 feet of the stern of any boat displaying a white trolling flag.

It is illegal to dump refuse in the lake or along the shore.

Kayaks/canoes are permitted and must pass an inspection and wash. Personal flotation devices must be worn at all times. For all rules and regulations check www.sbparks.org. Safety first: Become familiar with the lake map before launching.

Boat Size Requirements
Boats must be of standard design and a minimum of 10 ft. long, 42 in. wide, and 12 in. deep in the passenger carrying space.

Inflatable boats must have a rigid floorboard, a solid transom, and 2 or more inflatable chambers. Boats under 12 ft. long and 48 in. wide may carry no more than 2 persons.

Collapsible boats must be at least 12 ft. long bow to stern, may not carry more than 2 persons, and may not carry a motor weighing more than 50 lbs. All collapsible boats must display a Coast Guard certificate for design and manufacturer.

Sailing Regulations
For information on sailing on Cachuma Lake, contact the front gate at (805) 686-5055.

CACHUMA LAKE RECREATION AREA
Santa Barbara County Parks

RESERVATIONS:
www.sbparks.org

FEES:
For fees and information, visit the web site, or call the Main Gate at (805) 686-5055. See fliers posted in the Park. Fees are subject to change.