The Finer Points of Enjoying Your Visit to the Arkansas River Recreation Area

Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area

The Arkansas River flows through a series of gorges and rapids, providing excellent opportunities for whitewater rafting and kayaking. The river offers a variety of classes, from Class I to Class V, and spans over 100 miles of scenic and challenging rapids. Visitors can participate in various activities such as tubing, kayaking, and canoeing, with opportunities to explore the natural beauty and wildlife of the area. The Arkansas River is also popular for fishing, with species such as brown and rainbow trout. For those interested in birdwatching, the river is home to a diverse array of bird species, including bald eagles, ospreys, and herons.

Arkansas Whitewater State Park

Arkansas Whitewater State Park is located along the Arkansas River, offering scenic views of the river and surrounding landscapes. The park features a variety of recreational facilities, including picnic areas, hiking trails, and a campground. Visitors can enjoy actividades such as fishing, birdwatching, and nature walks, providing a relaxing environment for outdoor enthusiasts.

Arkansas Holidays

Arkansas Holidays is a seasonally-operating resort that offers a range of accommodations and activities. It is situated along the Arkansas River, providing guests with stunning views of the river and surrounding mountains. The resort offers accommodations in a lodge-style setting, with amenities such as a restaurant, bar, and outdoor recreation areas. Activities include river rafting, kayaking, and fishing, with guided tours and instruction available for guests.

Parkdale to Cañon City

Parkdale is a small town located along the Arkansas River, offering visitors an opportunity to experience the unique character of the riverfront. The town features a variety of shops and restaurants, as well as opportunities for river rafting and kayaking. The Arkansas River is a popular destination for outdoor enthusiasts, with activities such as fishing, birdwatching, and nature walks. Parkdale is situated within easy driving distance of other popular destinations in the area, making it a convenient base for exploring the natural beauty of the region.

Tule Lake

Tule Lake is a large lake located near the town of Cañon City, providing a scenic view of the Arkansas River and surrounding landscapes. The lake is surrounded by a mountainous backdrop, offering visitors stunning views of the river and surrounding mountains. Tule Lake is a popular destination for fishing, with a variety of species such as trout, bass, and catfish. The lake is also a popular spot for birdwatching, with a diverse array of bird species, including bald eagles, ospreys, and herons.
Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area

Welcome to the Upper Arkansas River Valley, famous for its 14ers, whitewater, wilderness and wildlife. The Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area offers many fun and exciting activities. Please:

- know your skill level
- be aware of risks involved in an activity
- be familiar with safety practices
- equip yourself properly

Visitor Etiquette

Hundreds of thousands of visitors boat on the river each year, and close to a million people enjoy the recreation area. Courtesy and respect for others will make everyone's experience more enjoyable. You can minimize your impact and help us protect this valuable resource by observing the following guidelines:

- respect private property and don't trespass
- keep noise down
- if you are boating, travel on opposite side of the river from anglers and avoid fishing holes
- learn and practice Leave No Trace backcountry ethics, including pack it in/pack it out
- use existing restroom facilities, or a portable toilet (groover), required by regulation
- stop only at well-established, well-used sites and avoid trapping streamside vegetation
- build fires only in grills and fire rings, required by regulation

Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area Visitor Center

- Annual passes, regulations, and guide books are available at the AHRA Visitor Center.
- The AHRA Visitor Center is located on the corner of G Street and Sackett Avenue in downtown Salida, one block North of Highway 249.

For campground reservations, please call 1-800-244-5613 or online at www.cpwshop.com

Accessibility Information

The Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area has fully accessible restroom facilities and at least one fully accessible campsite at each developed campground, except for Salida East, Ponice Bridge and Yale Bridge (swims on boat in only access). Select river access sites have fully accessible restroom facilities, complete with accessible parking spots. Please call 719-539-7249 or visit www.parks.co.gov for more information.