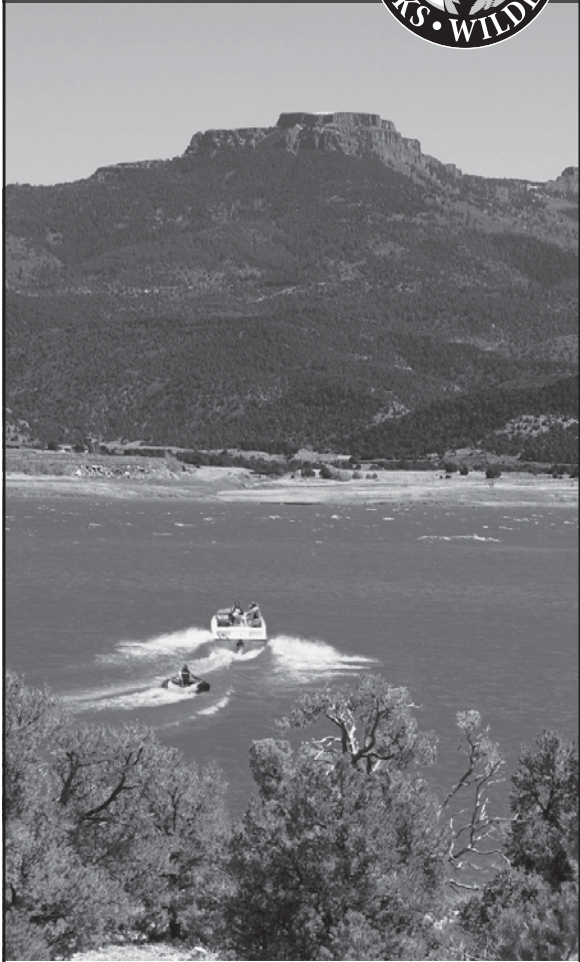


COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE

# Trinidad Lake State Park

ENJOY YOUR STATE PARKS



**T**rinidad Lake State Park, nestled in the Southern Colorado foothills of the Culebra Range of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, is a 2,700-acre park filled with wildlife and natural beauty. At an average elevation of 6,300 feet, the lake, forest, hills and wetlands of the park offer a wide variety of recreational activities.

Ten miles of trails wander through the pinon and juniper forests at the park, which is part of the Purgatoire River Valley. The park's 800-acre lake provides ample opportunities for boating and fishing while individual and group picnic facilities make getting together with family and friends a memorable experience.

The Carpios Ridge Campground provides modern facilities for overnight stops and longer stays for those exploring nearby Fishers Peak State Park, Southern Colorado and Northern New Mexico. The park is bordered by the Scenic Highway of Legends and the Santa Fe National Historic Trail. Four of Southern Colorado's finest museum complexes are located in Trinidad just three miles east. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built the dam that created Trinidad Lake as an irrigation and flood-control project in 1978. The park has been managed by Colorado State Parks since 1980.

## Passes & Permits

Visitors to Trinidad Lake State Park are required to display a current Colorado State Parks Pass on their vehicle windshield. A daily pass is valid from the day purchased until noon the following day. An annual pass is good at any Colorado State Park. Annual pass holders with additional vehicles may purchase multiple passes at a reduced fee. Visitors without a vehicle are required to purchase a walk-in park pass. Passes are sold at the Visitor Center, park entrances and self-service dispensers.

Colorado disabled veterans displaying Colorado DV plates do not need a pass. Colorado seniors, 64 years of age or older, qualify for the Aspen Leaf annual pass at a discounted rate. In addition to a parks pass, campers are required to reserve a campsite by calling 1-800-244-5613 or going online to [www.cpwshop.com](http://www.cpwshop.com).

## Fishing

Fishing is permitted anywhere on the lake except in the boat launching and docking area. Species caught at Trinidad Lake include rainbow and brown trout, largemouth and smallmouth bass, channel catfish, walleye, saugeye, crappie, bluegill, perch and wipers.

## Camping

The 63-site Carpios Ridge Campground accommodates RVs, trailers or tents and includes shared water taps, electrical hook-up, laundry, showers and flush toilets. Full hook-up and 10 basic sites are available seasonally. It is illegal to dump waste and sewage, including dishwater, anywhere except into the dump station so please use the facility conveniently located near the Carpios Ridge Campground entrance.

Campsites must be reserved in advance by calling 1-800-244-5613 or online at [www.cpwshop.com](http://www.cpwshop.com) prior to occupying site.

Please, camp only in designated sites. Checkout time is noon. The campgrounds are patrolled for your safety and to assure quiet hours after 10 p.m.

The 10-site South Shore Campground has non-electric sites within walking distance of the lake with great views of the lake and the Sangre de Cristo mountain range. Facilities include vault toilets and a community water hydrant.

## Picnicking & Group Facilities

Picnicking is permitted throughout the park with individual picnic shelters offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Group picnic and camping facilities are available for a fee and must be reserved. You may call the Visitor Center at (719) 846-6951 for information, to request a free brochure or to make a group area reservation.

## Boating & Water Sports

A variety of water sports are possible at Trinidad Lake including boat fishing, water-skiing, sailing and jet skiing. Boaters are required to follow the Colorado boating statutes and regulations which are available in pamphlet form at the Visitor Center and park entrances or online at [www.cpw.state.co.us](http://www.cpw.state.co.us).

All boats must observe wakeless speeds around the boat launch area, within 150 feet of shore fishermen and as buoyed. Boats are not allowed within 300 feet of the outlet structure or as buoyed.

The water level at Trinidad Lake can fluctuate. Boaters are warned to be especially alert to submerged hazards. Because of the changing water level, there is no designated swim area.

## Handicap Accessible Areas

The Carpios Ridge Campground and picnic area have reserved parking spaces, campsites adapted for persons with disabilities and a half-mile hard-surfaced interpretive trail. Restrooms, showers, picnic tables, drinking fountains and grills are also accessible.

## Interpretation

Interpretive displays are available throughout the park. Interpretive programs are available at the amphitheater from Memorial Day through Labor Day or by request as staffing allows.

A functional horno (beehive shaped adobe oven used by the Spanish and Native American cultures for cooking) and an archeological site featuring the remains of Native American dwellings are located close to the amphitheater. Interpretive signage is provided at both of these structures to further explain their history and uses.

A watchable wildlife area has been established in Long's Canyon, located in the southwest corner of the park. This site features a three-quarter-mile self-guided nature trail with two wildlife observation blinds overlooking a pond and wetland area. A variety of wildlife can be observed here including several different species of birds. Long's Canyon also contains a unique geological feature called the K-Pg boundary; interpretive signing explains its significance. This site is accessible via Highway 12 to the Madrid Bridge (see map).

Special interpretive and environmental education programs can be arranged for school groups or other organizations. Please call the Visitor Center at (719) 846-6951 for more information.

## Archery Range

The Trinidad Lake archery range will have 6 shooting lanes from 10-60 yards

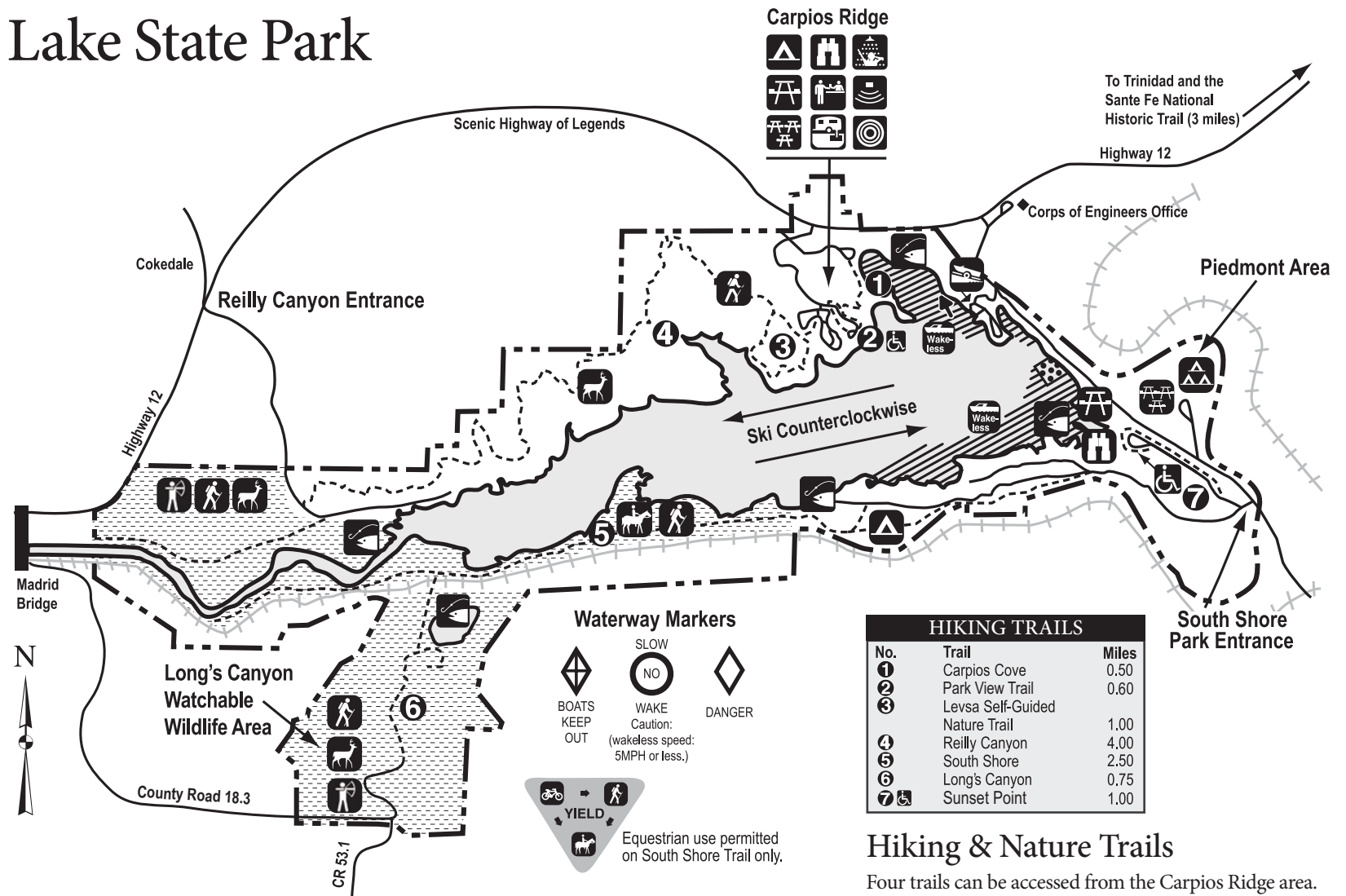
- Field points only (no fixed or mechanical broadheads)
- No Crossbows, and No Firearms allowed (this includes bb guns, pellet guns, or air rifles)
- Range will be open sunrise-sunset
- 16 years of age or younger must be under direct adult



# Trinidad Lake State Park

**LEGEND**

	Visitor Center
	Accessible
	Amphitheater
	Archery Range
	Boat Ramp
	Camping
	Dump Station
	Fishing
	Group Camping
	Group Picnic Area
	Hiking
	Horses Permitted
	Hunting
	Overlook
	Picnic Area
	Showers
	Wildlife
	Wakeless Boating
	Boundary
	Road
	R&R Tracks
	Trail
	Hunting Area
	Outlet Structure
	Wakeless Area



supervision

## Wildlife & Hunting

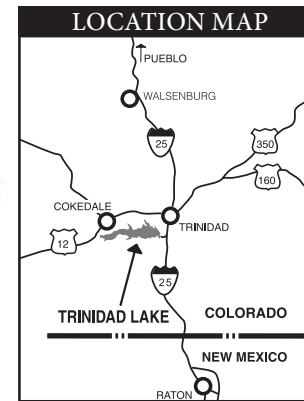
Trinidad Lake State Park supports a diverse community of wildlife with mule deer, collared lizards, cottontail rabbits and broad-tailed hummingbirds being just some of the animals commonly seen. On most summer nights, the lonely howl of the coyote can be heard from the campground.

Hunting is permitted in posted areas of the park from sunrise on the Tuesday after Labor Day until sunset on the Friday before Memorial Day. It must occur during legal seasons using only shotguns (loaded with birdshot) or bow and arrow. Information on seasons and regulations are available from a park ranger or at the



Distance (miles) from:

Albuquerque	252
Amarillo	237
Colorado Springs	131
Denver	201
Pueblo	89



## Hiking & Nature Trails

Four trails can be accessed from the Carpios Ridge area. The half-mile Carpios Cove Trail leads visitors to the west side of Carpios Cove. Circling the overlook, the ADA-accessible Park View Trail offers a leisurely walk among piñon and juniper with views of the lake and Native artifacts. The one-mile self-guided Levsa Canyon Trail loops back to the campground—perfect for a short, informative hike. Avid hikers can take the Reilly Canyon Trail four miles west towards Reilly Canyon and the historic town of Cokedale.

Across the lake, the handicapped-accessible Sunset Point Trail offers an easy walk to a picnic area and scenic overlook. The 2.5-mile South Shore Trail takes hikers to Long's Canyon and seldom-explored park areas. Long's Canyon features a 0.75-mile self-guided nature trail leading to two observation blinds overlooking a wetland.

# Regulations

Trinidad Lake State Park was built and is maintained for your enjoyment. In the interest of safety and for the preservation of your park, we must insist that you:

1. Keep all vehicles on designated roads and pull-offs. Off-road driving can damage the resources and wildlife habitats.
2. Keep pets on a leash no longer than six feet to avoid confrontations with people, other pets or wildlife.
3. Build fires only in grills and barbecues, not on the ground.
4. Camp only in designated campgrounds.
5. Fireworks are prohibited.
6. Report any vandalism or littering to a Park Ranger.

# First Aid/Emergencies

Park rangers are trained to give first aid. In case of emergency, go to or call the Visitor Center, (719) 846-6951; the Las Animas County Sheriff, (719) 846-2211; State Patrol, (719) 544-2424; or call 911.



## Trinidad Lake State Park

32610 Hwy. 12. Trinidad, CO 81082  
(719) 846-6951 • E-mail: [trinidad.lake@state.co.us](mailto:trinidad.lake@state.co.us)  
[cpw.state.co.us](http://cpw.state.co.us)



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