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New Mexico > Bluewater Lake State Park Bluewater Lake is one of 16 state parks in New Mexico based around a reservoir, offering the usual range of water-based recreation including fishing, boating, swimming and shoreline camping; this is a popular place to stay, due to the pleasant scenery and proximity to Interstate 40. In these respects the park is similar to all the others but has one added attraction of the cliff-lined canyon of Bluewater Creek, below the dam - the stream flows through a succession of pretty pools, lined by rich vegetation with many wildflowers, and may be viewed along a partial loop trail. The main fish species in the lake are tiger muskie, channel catfish, rainbow trout and cutthroat trout. The waters freeze in winter, when ice fishing becomes a popular activity. Bulrushes and other vegetation, Bluewater Creek Away from the canyon, the lake is surrounded by low, rolling hills, partly covered by pinyon and juniper pines, elevation around 7,500 feet, and it is situated around 20 miles east of the continental divide. Rocks beside a pool, Bluewater Creek Bluewater Lake was formed in 1920 by construction of a dam across the creek, at a point where it leaves a relatively wide valley and enters the much narrower canyon, causing the water to flood about one mile of the stream, to the south, and a rather longer distance to the west, along the tributary of Cottonwood Creek - usually around three miles, or up to six miles at times of high water levels. Both streams are fed mainly by run-off from the nearby Zuni Mountains, land within the Cibola National Forest. Shoreline track, from the campground to the dam The state park occupies only a small part of the lake, at its east end, including the dam and 1.5 miles of the Bluewater Creek canyon. The park is accessed by a paved road, Hwy 412, which leaves I-40 at Prewitt, exit 63, crosses a range of hills then descends into the Bluewater Creek valley, through a residential area and on towards the lake, past the various camping areas. There are 149 sites available, 14 with electricity, while primitive beach camping is also permitted. Other facilities are a playground, visitor center, picnic areas, boat dock and launch ramp. Reflections on a pool, Bluewater Creek At the end of the campground road, a short trail continues south, climbing gently to a viewpoint overlooking the Bluewater Dam, atop a small hill. The main trail though is the 1.5 mile route into the canyon; starting in the middle of the campground, this descends 150 feet, the route a little difficult to follow in places, down to the overgrown canyon floor and across the creek to a junction, where one branch heads upstream for 0.8 miles, ending at the base of the dam, while the other fork goes down the creek, crossing it again, later rising up a side ravine and meekers a road (Jessica Lane) to the campground. All rocks in the canyon, and along the south shore of the lake, are layered, brownish limestone from the San Andres Formation, providing an attractive backdrop to the clear waters of the creek and the lush green vegetation. Bluewater Dam Bluewater Lake - Simón Pláces Cave Lake State Park, Nevada - remote reservoir enclosed by wooded hills with limestone rock formationsWashoe Lake State Park, Nevada - south and eastern shoreline of a large lake at the foot of the Sierra Nevada New Mexico, New Mexico.Bluewater Lake State Park was established in 1955. Bluewater and Cottonwood Creeks feed the lake. This serene lake, located 25 miles west of Grants, is set in a pinyon-juniper landscape with views towards the 3,000 acres of wilderness on the north flank of the Zuni Mountains. A forest of cottonwoods, pinyon, and juniper surrounds the lake. From Pinon Hills Campground, take the trail to the overlook above the historic 1920s Bluewater Creek Dam, which is an arched concrete dam that was privately built. Explore the history of Bluewater Lake at the park's Visitor Center where you will be greeted by park staff and volunteers. Learn about Navajo Native American culture, history, artifacts and native wild horses. Domestic horseback riding is allowable throughout the park's 2,500 acres. Bluewater Lake is internationally recognized for its fishing. Not just any fishing you'll find some of the best Tiger Muskie, Rainbow Trout and Channel Catfish fishing at Bluewater Lake!Make a reservation on the New Mexico State Parks reservation website. Directions30 Bluewater lake State Park Rd.Prewitt, NM 87045Make a reservation on the New Mexico State Parks reservation website. Photo Gallery Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park includes 4,650 acres of beautiful forest and open land. The 40-acre old-growth redwood grove is a 5 minute drive or a short hike from the campground. View Campground campsitephotos.com Find everything you need for camping, including hiking supplies, tents, coolers, sleeping bags, cots, survival & first aid, food processing, and more! Shop Now campingworld.com Banning State Park Campground has 34 single-family campsites and is located in a forested area near the Kettle River with plenty to discover. View Campground campsitephotos.com Myakka River State Park is one of the oldest and largest state parks in Florida. The river meanders through 58 square miles offering habitat for a variety of wildlife. View Campground campsitephotos.com Outdoor recreation in the area includes boating, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, fishing, hiking, biking and picnicking. View Campground campsitephotos.com Save up to 25% on your family travel costs in 2021 by booking an RV through RVshare Find Cheap RV Rentals rvshare.com Fort De Soto Park Campground has 238 single-family campsites and is located on an island in a beautiful 1,136-acre park in the Tampa Bay Area. View Campground campsitephotos.com Get everything you need to enjoy your outdoor adventures from bags and packs to air beds and sleeping bags, insect repellent, cooler bags, and 2-burner stoves. Shop Now campingworld.com Nehalem Bay State Park features a large campground with 265 campsites for tents, trailers and RVs, separated from the ocean beach by sand dunes. View Campground campsitephotos.com Devils Fork State Park Campground is along the shore of Lake Jocassee. The area allows visitors on boats to drive to remote islands and see sites of waterfalls splitting into two lakes. View Campground campsitephotos.com Harvest Hosts is a special type of membership club for RVers, offering overnight RV camping accommodations at 2,365+ locations across North America! Learn More harvesthosts.com GNice host greeted us and explained where the best sites were for our very large 5th Wheel. The sites with power were already taken, but we can boondock and the pull-through sites were great. Lovely view of the lake with a gorgeous sunset. We wish we weren't just passing through and could stay more than overnight (\$20). Pricing differential for NM residents (\$15). Prices go up and online reservations begin May 1.SGreat rate for 30 A. I love to see the wild horses roaming the park.Site12Month of VisitOctoberCampgrounds easy to access. I did not have a site reservation, but there were lots of vacant pads available. Nice view of the lake. Only drawback was the all night incessant winds. They were strong, gusty and loud. So strong they collapsed my tent on top of me. Notmuch sleep that night. It might have been where I was (pad 44). They were still strong in the morning, but I noticed they were less/non existent at the campsites near the main entrance. Just bewaye and be prepared.Great campground. Not far off I-40.Lots of sites. Most have a level, gravel tent pad, table and fire ring. Vault toilets in abundance. One bathroom with sinks and flush toilets. Separate shower house was closed when we were here. Some electric sites. Some large level pull thrus. Most sites have at least a glimpse of the lake. There were horses roaming through the campground. Mostly empty this April midweek. Good trails for hiking. I only saw one water pump in the park. There is an EV charging station.Site74Month of VisitApril(4) View AllThe campsites are nice but not very level. If you're coming after November you need to be here before 5:00 or the gates are locked. The water was very infected with blue green algae but also very pretty. The hikes are nice because the water is low you can walk all the way around the lake almost. Not very many electric sites but inexpensive if you get one.Not far from I40. Very quiet and beautiful lake view for only \$8 (dry camping). Hook up optionally available.Site31Month of VisitOctober(4) View AllmVarious campsite types at this lakeside park. Most are non electric but I got an electric site as it was hot. A few trails and a nice family atmosphere. Unfortunately lake was choked with algae (seasonal) so I didnt swim. Also some trash around. Good prices and sites though.SArea is very well maintained!Restrooms and showers were immaculate.Watch out for the wild horses and their droppings.Plenty of spots if youre sleeping in a hammock.Month of VisitJuneI offered s as my advise, check the fires before committing. Limited electric sites. I think more than 60% of sites were not level. Were self-leveling but took site B - dry camping. level and fitted between 2 ADA sites. We loved being so remote. Verizon/Visible/ Starlink all worked greatGreat staff. Patrolled by rangers frequently, so felt safe(8) View AllLake was muddy brown, not blue. First come, first served and we arrived before noon, but no electric sites were available. Views of lake and surrounding juniper covered mesas was good. Early in morning horses grazed right through our campsite.Sitecampsite was up on ridge.Month of VisitMayGood campsites. Clean showers and full hook ups as well as low key pull through sites.None of the sites are close to the water but only a short hike or drive. Catch release Tiger Muskie was the fishing my husband was after.Stewe had lakeside view A and #34This place was fantastic. The rates are dirt cheap, but the park is worth many times more. I came in without a reservation and found a huge pull-through campsite on the hill, with a clear view of the lake (it is indeed blue). There was a deep and broad terrace for picnic table and tent, and some pines for shade. It was a little windy when I visited, but not uncomfortably so. It was dark and quiet at night, and I slept well.The bathroom nearest my campsite was a vault toilet, but a clean one. Real bathrooms are available at the visitor center, a long walk north of my tent.I recommend following the trail at the north end of the campground for a nice view of the dam (it was a 10 to 15 minute hike for me, narrow but level). The lake is also open for boating and fishing, with a launch ramp near the campground.The only downside I can think of was the trash I found at my campsite, mostly bottle caps. I spent a few minutes picking it up before I left.Site33Month of VisitJune(9) View AllAn was a dreamy March evening. Colton, Elliot, and Ed drove in to Bluewater lake state park at 9:30 PM. It was post staff hours but we were allowed to park outside and do an easy, flat hike into the camp site. Lots of clean, empty sites, plus clean bathroom . The campsite numbers were hard to find but its chill. Got super cold during this time of year at night, so come ready with hats, gloves, and sleeping pads.Siteorthside camp groundDSo we were very lucky that we decided to check out this campground, it is absolutely gorgeous! There was not a single other camper here so we got a nice level spot with power. It was a bit cold, got down to 15, there was some leftover snow in some spots but nothing that was a problem. Last night something was bugging the dogs so I looked outside to see a herd of wild horses grazing next to our camper! There are lots of good hiking trails. The water is still on here and the dump stations are open if needed.Site14Month of VisitJanuary(4) View AllAt first we thought we were the only ones here. The bathrooms were closed and locked. Didnt care for the outhouse (not the name they were called).REasy off the 40. Sites are a little close for me. Only vault toilets are open. Only around 15 electric sites and most aren't level. But the views and sunsets are beautiful. The water is nice. Only 5 other campers here. Paid \$14.00. Well worth that.Site6Month of VisitNovemberLooked like a cool place to stay, but when we arrived at 5:45pm the gate was locked!!Not sure why they need a gate, but it closes at 5pm in the off season.DVery clean and warm showers. Vault toilets are very clean as well. A lot of very scenic campsites. Some well shaded with juniper and pinion trees.Site69Month of VisitOctoberLovely clean campground. \$10 for non reserved, or \$8 for on the shore. Large sites, some reserved sites have electricity.Sitefirst come first served at North point CampgroundBTThe camp sites are well laid out with picnic table. The bath room was primitive and I didnt check out the showers. The lake and the area is enchanting!! It was my first visit to New Mexico and for sure I will be back! The lake is large and has fishing.Site42Month of VisitAugustGreat for fishing, camp sites have easy access, a d easy boataunchGreat area to camp in although it is monsoon season so we got rained out for six hours the first night. This park has a lot of campsites primitive, no electric, electric, full hook ups, seen a lot of RVs parked right next to the lake. They have showers facilities with warm water, bathrooms located throughout the park.Site42Month of VisitFebruaryThere arent many electric sites if thats important to you and some say theyre no level. Ours was.Found this campsite heading west on I-40 on a memorial day weekend road trip last minute. Had 40 designated campsites with about 1/2 reservable online and 1/2 first come first serve. They also allow dispersed camping along the lake and there were probably 50+ groups of people in RVs and trailers comfortably spaced.Wild horses roaming around the lake were also pretty cool.We took a designated campsite overlooking the lake and added this park to the list of places to return to.(9) View All The park offers camping, hiking, birding, horseback riding and fishing. And not just any fishing you'll find some of the best tiger muskie fishing at Bluewater Lake!Park Elevation 7,554 ft ActivitiesBoating:MotorizedNon-motorizedCanoe/kayak/BoardPersonal WatercraftSailingWater SkiingCampingFishingGuides at BluewaterPicnickingTrails: Wildlife Viewing AmenitiesBeachBoating Facilities: Campground Facilities:149 Developed Campsites14 Electric SitesWater in CampgroundRV Dump StationGroup CampsitesPrimitive Camping-Beach CampingBoat-in CampingRestrooms:Restrooms with waterShowersVault Toilets (no water)Group Facilities:2 Group Picnic SheltersGroup CampingPlaygroundVisitor Center ADDRESS & PHONE30 Bluewater State Park RoadPrewitt, NM 87045505-876-2391 Data Corrections Include any supporting documents/photos. Want to leave a review? If you have recently stayed at this campground we would love to hear about your experience. Thank you for your sharing! Earn more marshmallows when you include a photo or video with your review! Click on the Media tab above to upload. Nested in the scenic New Mexico landscape, Bluewater Lake State Park presents a tranquil retreat amid the north flank of the Zuni Mountains. At this serene destination, located near Prewitt, NM 87045, visitors can immerse themselves in a natural setting that boasts a stunning juxtaposition of rugged terrain and placid waters. The park serves as a haven for a variety of outdoor enthusiasts, offering an array of activities that capitalize on the lakes pristine environment.The backbone of the parks allure is the picturesque Bluewater Lake, known for its year-round fishing opportunities. Stocked with varieties of fish such as trout, the lake is a popular spot among anglers. Apart from fishing, the park provides facilities for camping, hiking, and boating, catering to a spectrum of recreation seekers. With its combination of natural beauty and accessible amenities, Bluewater Lake State Park stands as a testament to New Mexicos commitment to preserving outdoor escapes for public enjoyment and ecological balance.Key TakeawaysBluewater Lake State Park is a versatile outdoor destination in New Mexico.The park offers fishing, camping, boating, and hiking among its many recreational activities.Facilities within the park provide convenience and enhance visitor experience.Natural FeaturesBluewater Lake State Park is situated amid the picturesque Zuni Mountains and is renowned for its vibrant ecosystem that comprises both the pinyon-juniper landscape and diverse fauna, including wild horses that roam the area.Geography and LandscapeNested in the Zuni Mountains, Bluewater Lake State Park provides a panorama of majestic scenery and geological formations. It features a pinyon-juniper landscape, characterized by rolling hills and the prominent presence of Pinus edulis (pinyon pine) and Juniperus spp. (juniper trees), which contribute to the parks unique appearance and the distinct aroma that fills the air.Flora and FaunaThe park supports a wide variety of life. One can frequently spot wild horses that offer a glimpse into the untamed spirit of the region. The flora is notably marked by the resilient pinyon and juniper trees, defining the pinyon-juniper woodland ecosystem that is essential for the local wildlife. These trees provide habitat and food for the diverse animal population, which includes a range of bird species, mammals, and reptiles. Recreational ActivitiesBluewater Lake State Park offers an array of outdoor activities suited for families, sports enthusiasts, and nature lovers. Here, visitors can enjoy a robust fishing scene, explore a network of hiking trails, set up camp amidst natural beauty, and engage in various water sports.Fishing OpportunitiesBluewater Lake is renowned for its year-round fishing opportunities, particularly known for its thriving population of Catfish and Tiger Muskies. Anglers of all skill levels find the lake accommodating, with boat ramps available for deeper water access.Types of Fish: Catfish, Tiger MuskiesFishing Facilities: Boat ramps, Bait shopsHiking and TrailsThe parks hiking trails cater to adventururers seeking scenic views and wildlife observation. Trails range from easy to moderate difficulty levels, ensuring that all visitors can experience the natural landscapes Bluewater Lake State Park has to offer.Trail Highlights: Scenic overlooks, Wildlife-rich areasDifficulty Levels: Easy to moderateCamping and AccommodationsCampers can enjoy a variety of camping options at the Bluewater Lake Campground, from 149 developed sites with modern amenities to primitive areas for a more rustic experience. Bluewater state park camping also provides a playground for families and areas designated for horseback riding.Camping Options: 149 Developed sites, Primitive areas including beach and boat-in.Extra Amenities: Playground, Horseback riding trailsBoating and Water SportsBoat enthusiasts and water sports fans will find Bluewater Lake ideal for activities ranging from leisurely boating to more exciting ventures like water skiing. The clear blue water of the lake makes it a perfect spot for these activities during the warm seasons.Water Activities: Boating, Water skiingBoating Access: Multiple boat launchesPark Amenities and FacilitiesBluewater Lake State Park offers a range of amenities and facilities designed for comfort and convenience. These include well-maintained campgrounds, shower facilities, restrooms, and a welcoming visitor center, providing guests with a pleasant stay.Visitor ServicesCampground: Guests have access to numerous camping sites, equipped to accommodate both tent and RV campers. Electrical hook-ups and potable water facilities are available at Bluewater camping designated spots.Beach: The park boasts a sandy beach area, perfect for relaxation and recreational activities.Visitor Center: Informational resources about the park and its natural surroundings are available at the visitor center, alongside knowledgeable staff to assist visitors.Showers and Restrooms: Clean and accessible shower and restroom facilities are strategically located throughout the park for guest convenience.Safety and RegulationsLifeguards: The presence of trained lifeguards at the beach enhances safety for swimmers and water enthusiasts.Regulations: Park rules are clearly posted and enforced to ensure a safe environment. This includes adherence to fire safety guidelines and respectful wildlife interaction.Compliance with park regulations is expected to maintain the parks pristine conditions and to ensure that all visitors enjoy a safe and pleasurable experience.Wildlife and FishingBluewater Lake State Park NM is renowned for its vibrant aquatic life and diverse terrestrial wildlife. The park offers ample opportunities for anglers and nature enthusiasts to engage with the local ecosystem.Fish SpeciesBluewater Lake is inhabited by a variety of fish, ensuring a fulfilling experience for fishing enthusiasts. Notably, the lake is stocked with:Tiger Muskie: A hybrid species known for its challenging catch.Rainbow Trout: Often found in the cooler waters of the lake, Rainbow Trout is a popular target for anglers.Cutthroat Trout: A native trout species with a distinctive red slash mark under its jaw.Channel Catfish: These bottom-feeders are commonly sought after by those interested in a reliable catch.During winter, Ice Fishing becomes a popular activity, allowing anglers to target species like Trout and Catfish through the frozen lake surface.Wildlife SpottingBeyond the water, Bluewater Lake State Park offers wildlife viewing opportunities. The parks varied habitats support:Migratory Birds: The park serves as a rest stop for numerous bird species during migration.Resident Wildlife: Including small mammals and deer, which can often be spotted at dawn and dusk.Visitors are encouraged to observe wildlife from a distance, maintaining the parks natural balance and ensuring a safe experience for both humans and animals.Frequently Asked QuestionsIn this section, visitors will find concise answers to commonly asked questions about Bluewater Lake State Park, ensuring a well-prepared and enjoyable visit.What amenities are available at the campgrounds in Bluewater Lake State Park?Blue water Lake State Park offers campgrounds equipped with restrooms, showers, picnic areas, as well as RV hookups for water and electrical connections.Can reservations for campsites at Bluewater Lake State Park be made online?Yes, visitors can make online reservations for campsites at Bluewater Lake State Park through the parks official reservation system or designated third-party websites.What are the operational hours for Bluewater Lake State Park?The park is open to the public year-round, from sunrise to sunset. Certain facilities within the park, such as the visitor center or campgrounds, may have specific hours of operation.Are there any cabin rental options available within Bluewater Lake State Park?Currently, Bluewater Lake State Park does not offer cabin rentals. Visitors may consider nearby accommodations or utilize the available campsites for overnight stays.What are the safety guidelines for swimming in Bluewater Lake?Swimmers should follow posted safety guidelines and swim only in designated areas. They are advised to always supervise children and wear life jackets when necessary to ensure safety.What types of activities can visitors engage in at Bluewater Lake State Park?Visitors to Bluewater Lake State Park can engage in various activities including fishing, boating, hiking, wildlife viewing, and during certain seasons, ice fishing and cross-country skiing are popular activities.Interested in other New Mexico State Parks? See all 34 New Mexico State Parks

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