

## Lincoln County Recreational Opportunities

- Six of Nevada's twelve state parks are located in Lincoln County.
- Two of the state parks in Lincoln County have lakes stocked with fish.
- Lincoln County Recreation Link: <http://lincolncountynevada.com/>
- Links to State Parks in Lincoln County:

<http://parks.nv.gov/parks/kershaw-ryan-state-park/>

<http://parks.nv.gov/parks/cathedral-gorge/>

<http://parks.nv.gov/parks/echo-canyon-state-park/>

<http://parks.nv.gov/parks/elgin-schoolhouse-state-historic-site/>

<http://parks.nv.gov/parks/spring-valley-state-park/>

<http://parks.nv.gov/parks/beaver-dam-state-park/>

- Big game, small game, and bird hunting is available in Lincoln county.
- One of Nevada's largest off-road vehicle trail systems, Silver State Trail, is between Caliente and Ely.
  - The Silver State Trail System is a 240 mile BLM maintained trail system:
  - <https://ohv.nv.gov/trails/silver-state-trail-system>
- Hundreds of miles of trails are open to public recreation for off-road vehicles, mountain bikes, horseback riding, and hiking.



- Bicyclists on Highway 317 in Rainbow Canyon along Kershaw-Ryan State Park during Park to Park ride. <https://parktoparkpedal.com/>



- The International Mountain Bicycling Association is designing a new trail system accessed from downtown Caliente. Outside Magazine - The Best 28 Trips of 2016 - Featuring Caliente and Kershaw-Ryan State Park. <http://www.outsideonline.com/2058136/28-places-go-2016> ..... "Then get farther afield in tiny Caliente, 150 miles northeast of Vegas, where IMBA plans to create 42 miles of trails this year. The group's ultimate goal is to build a 150-mile system. Until then, the gravel riding in the area's surrounding four million acres of BLM land is spectacular, and the 15 new campsites at [Kershaw-Ryan State Park](#) just south of town are quiet and tucked away at the base of a 700-foot canyon."
- Caliente hosts large off-road events drawing recreationalists nationally and internationally.
- The region has an interesting history of mining and ranching with numerous mining ghost towns.
- Caliente is 150 miles north of Las Vegas, Nevada, 98 miles southwest of Cedar City, Utah and 105 miles west of St. George, Utah. <https://lincolncountynevada.com/discover/towns/caliente/>
- Caliente has recently spent \$10M+ upgrading and adding new parks to the city. The city has three baseball fields. Summer softball leagues from Las Vegas hold tournaments at these baseball fields. Recently, the city added a linear park along Meadow Valley Wash, a year-round spring fed stream that flows through the city, planted 650 new trees within the city limits, installed turn-of-the-century style street lamps along the linear park and the major streets, and remodeled and updated its swimming pool.
- Caliente has one of only two remaining mission-style railroad depots on Union Pacific Railroad's system, which houses the city offices, library and arts council.



- Caliente is home the Lincoln County Hospital. <http://www.manta.com/c/mmntkijw/lincoln-county-hospital-istrict>
- Lincoln County airport is north of Caliente. The runway has lights for day and night use. <http://www.airnav.com/airport/1L1>
- Visual Tour Link of Caliente and Kershaw-Ryan State Park in Rainbow Canyon: <http://www.visualtour.com/shownp.asp?T=3318359>

## Rainbow Canyon Archeological Sites

As reported by the Ely District Office, Bureau of Land Management

### History:

Ten thousand years ago people were living in Eastern Nevada, seeking out well-watered oases as Rainbow Canyon. Distinctive cultures, today known as the Desert Archaic, Fremont, and Southern Paiute, were visiting Rainbow Canyon and using Etna Cave as a temporary home. Their lifestyles were organized around the hunting of bighorn sheep, deer, rabbits, and the gathering of pinyon nuts, the seeds of Indian Rice Grass and other local plants. Unlike the earlier Desert Archaic people, the Fremont and Southern Paiute grew crops, perhaps planting small fields of corn, beans, squash or sunflowers in the meadows along Meadow Valley Wash.



These people also carefully crafted pottery, stone tools, hide moccasins, and baskets. A large number of perishable artifacts, including sandal fragments and herb bundles, have helped archeologists to date when these different groups were using the natural resources of the canyon. Rock art, appearing as petroglyphs (carved or pecked) and pictographs (painted), offers clues to the beliefs and artistic concepts of these people.

By 1300 AD, the Fremont had disappeared from the archeological record of Southern Nevada, perhaps a result of long-term droughts or other, as yet, unknown factors. Early 19th century Anglo-European explorers reported finding only small groups of Southern Paiutes in the area, who still followed the age-old hunting and gathering practices of the first visitors to Rainbow Canyon.

### Tour:

**Stop 1: Etna Cave** (4.9 miles south from junction of HWY 93 and HWY 317). Park on the right shoulder and walk under the train trestle. Follow the sandy wash through a small tunnel. Continue along the wash for about 400 feet, then look to your left on the tan cliff face for a series of red-orange pictographs at eye-level. The pictographs were painted by unknown prehistoric artists, using hematite, an iron oxide pigment which may have been obtained from the nearby cliffs. The cave is high on the cliff to the right. Hundreds of artifacts excavated there which document a 5,000-year sequence of occupation by the different prehistoric groups of people.





**Stop 2: Grapevine Canyon** (9.7 miles south of Stop 1). Watch for a left turn-off, just after passing under a railroad bridge. Follow the dirt road for about 0.6 mile. Park at a grove of trees. Rock art can be viewed by walking about 100 feet back along the road from the parking area. Also follow a well-traveled foot path south several hundred yards up the slope to a rock overhang. There are pictographs and petroglyphs. More petroglyphs are found along the cliff face on the south side of the canyon.

**Stop 3: Tunnel No. 5** (2.7 miles south of Stop 2). Just past the railroad bridge, look for a dirt road on the right side. Park there and walk back north along the road for about 400 feet towards railroad Tunnel No. 5. Look west and uphill before reaching the tunnel at the darkly stained rocks (desert varnish) strewn along the hillside. Several of these blocks have petroglyphs of bighorn sheep, and possibly elk, carved on the sides and tops.



**Stop 4: Petroglyph Boulder.** (1.9 miles south of Stop 3) Park on the right shoulder of the road (mile marker 39) and look for a boulder covered with petroglyphs. Is this doodling?



**Stop 5: End of the Pavement at the apple orchards at Elgin and Elgin School State Park.** (1.9 miles south of Stop 4).