

# **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK**

## **General Questions:**

### 1. How large is Valley of Fire State Park?

Valley of Fire has almost 36,000 acres of land and has about 20 miles of roadway to travel on in the park itself

### 2. Where can we ride bicycles in the park?

There are no designated trails for bicycles at this time, so you can use the roadway or any pre existing roadway.

### 3. Where does the water and power come from?

The water is pumped out of a well that is 1500 feet down. It is over 800 feet to the water table. The pump is 940 feet down. Power lines are underground.

### 4. Is the water safe to drink?

Yes.

### 5. What are the small piles of rocks that you see when driving into the park?

They are called Hoodoos. The legend/folklore is the higher a person stacks the rocks, the better luck or good fortune they will have on their hike, hunt, or journey. They are also used by hikers to mark a spot or turn on a trail. Today, they are mainly stacked up by people who want to leave their mark in the park. They are not natural to the Valley of Fire's landscape and therefore are not appreciated inside the park boundary.

### 6. What is the elevation at the Visitor Center, west, and the east?

Visitor Center is 2,000 feet, the west 3,000 feet and the east is 1,500 feet.

### 7. Are there any restrooms and picnic areas in the park?

Yes, there are several restrooms and picnic areas located through out the park.

### 8. Does Valley of Fire sell food, snacks, or drinks inside the park?

Yes. We do not have a restaurant of any kind, but we do sell snacks, sodas, and water in two vending machines at the Visitor Center.

## **History:**

### 1. Who was Sergeant Clark?

John G. Clark, retired, 13<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Cavalry Regiment, died June 1915, age 72. He was driving a buckboard through the desert along the Arrowhead trail (early trail to the Muddy River). He stopped, tied his horse to the back of the buckboard and then lay down and died of thirst.

### 2. When was the Visitor Center built?

In the late sixties, however, it was remodeled in the late '80's to what you see today. You might want to note that it being remodeled again in the near future.

## **Geology:**

### 1. Why are the rocks red?

Iron oxide (rust) colors the rocks. You might have also noticed the large black I panels, which is “desert varnish” composed of manganese and other oxides.

### 2. Why are there holes in the rocks?

Sand stone is soft and easily erodible material and the holes you see come from wind and rain.

### 3. What is the process that makes wood petrified?

Over the centuries, quartz crystals take the existing shape of the wood leaving behind what we see today. The harder components of the wood mold the growing crystals so they take on a “wood like” appearance.

## **Wildlife:**

### 1. What kinds of animals are found here?

Various reptiles such as snakes, lizards, and desert tortoises are found throughout the park. Also mammals such as bighorn sheep, coyotes, kit fox, and the white tailed antelope ground squirrel.

### 2. Are the snakes in the Visitor Center poisonous?

No.

### 3. What snakes are found in the park?

Various rattlesnakes, such as the Sidewinder, Speckled, and Mojave Green Rattlesnake can be found in the park. Other snakes found in the park include the Gopher Snake, California King Snake, and Red Racers.

## **Rules & Regulations:**

### 1. Can we climb the rocks?

Yes, however climbing on Arch and Atlatl Rock is not permitted. If there is a group that is interested in rappelling in the park, the party must notify a Ranger before they start. This activity is also only allowed at Lone Rock. There are no chalk or spikes allowed when rappelling, only a natural tie offs are allowable.

### 2. Can I drive off-road?

Off road driving is prohibited in the park; however there is an area outside the park known as The Logandale Trails where off-road is legal. This area can be accessed off of Liston Road in Logandale. There is also an area called Bitter Springs which is located off of Mile Marker 3 on the road leading towards the West Entrance of Valley of Fire State Park.

### 3. Can we take rocks from the park?

No, the rocks and other material found in the park are part of the natural wonders that visitors enjoy while at Valley of Fire State Park. It is also a violation of the Nevada Revised Statue to remove rocks or other material from any state park.

4. Is hunting allowed in the park?

No, hunting is not permitted inside the Valley of Fire Park boundaries.

5. What is hunted in the area?

Bighorn sheep are hunted on the National Park and Bureau of Land Management lands.

6. Why can't we bring water bottles into the building?

Spills have damaged both the carpet and displays.

7. Why do we have to pay to come through the park?

Your fees help preserve and maintain the park for your enjoyment and the enjoyment of future visitors to the park.

8. Can we drink alcoholic beverages in the park?

Yes, however, the laws still apply to drinking and driving and also open containers are not allowed in vehicles.

9. Do we need to wear helmets when riding a motorcycle in the park?

Yes, helmets are required while riding a motorcycle on the roads in Valley for Fire and throughout the State of Nevada.

10. If a motor home is towing a car, does the car have to pay a fee?

All towed vehicles are exempt from paying entrance and camping fees.

**Directions:**

1. How do I get to Valley of Fire State Park?

**From Las Vegas:**

*Take I-15 North to exit 75. Take a right at the end of the exit ramp and follow the road heading towards the Valley of Fire State Park. The park is approximately 18 miles East of I-15.*

**From Mesquite:**

a. *Take I-15 South to exit 93. Take a left onto NV 169 and follow the road through the towns of Logandale and Overton heading towards Valley of Fire State Park.*

b. *You can also take I-15 South to exit 75. Take a left at the end of the exit ramp and follow the road heading towards the Valley of Fire State Park. The park is approximately 18 miles East of I-15.*

**From Las Vegas via Lake Mead:**

*Take Lake Mead Blvd (NV 147) East towards the Lake Mead National Recreation Area. Turn left onto NV 167. Take the first left after Overton Beach turn out heading West towards the Valley of Fire State Park. The park entrance is approximately 1.5 miles from the NV 167.*

2. Where is the closest gas?

Moapa Valley Smoke shop at exit 75 on I-15. (14 miles west of the West Entrance) or Overton, (14 miles north of the East Entrance)

3. [How far is Lake Mead from here?](#)

The closest accessible area to Lake Mead is Overton Beach; however, there are no facilities there. The first area with facilities is Echo Bay. It has a boat dock, restaurant, gas, motel, RV park, and camping.

4. [How far is the town of Overton from here?](#)

Overton is approximately 14 miles and you can get gasoline and food there.

5. [Where can I get food?](#)

There are two vending machines at the Visitor Center that offer snacks, sodas, and water. However, the town of Overton has a few restaurants. Also, the Moapa Valley Travel Plaza at I-15 and exit 75, also have a café.

6. [How far is it to White Domes?](#)

Whites Domes is 5 ½ miles from the visitor center.

**Camping:**

1. [Can I make a reservation for camping?](#)

You can make group reservation but not individual camping reservations. Other than the Group Use Campgrounds, Atlatl Rock Campground and Arch Rock Campground are occupied on a first-come-first-serve basis.

2. [What is the cost to camp per night?](#)

The total paid per night is \$14.00, which includes the park entrance fee of \$6.00.

The new expansion sites which have water and power hook ups are an additional \$10 more per night for a total of \$24 per night.

3. [How much is it to camp in the Group Use area?](#)

The Group use camping fee is \$75 per night plus an additional \$6 per vehicle/per night. A maximum of 12 cars type vehicles are allowed at each Group use area. A maximum of 45 people area allowed per site. There are only 3 group use sites. Reservations are required for the Group Use Camping Area.

4. [How can I make a Group Use Reservation?](#)

You can reserve the Group Use area by calling the Valley of Fire park office at (702) 397-2088.

Reservations for January 1<sup>st</sup> through February are taken starting on November 15<sup>th</sup>. We start taking Group Use Reservations for the rest of the year on January 2<sup>nd</sup> starting at 8:30am, no earlier.

5. [Are there fees for use of the Picnic Areas?](#)

Your \$6.00 entry fee covers the use of the picnic areas. Areas such as the Group Use or the two campgrounds require an additional fee.

6. [What are the quiet hours?](#)

10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. are the quiet hours in the campgrounds.

7. [What is the check out time in the campground?](#)

2:00 p.m.

8. [Can the handicapped sites be used by non-handicapped people?](#)

Yes, but every single regular site has to be occupied in both campgrounds first.

9. Can two vehicles camp at one site?

Yes, but fees are paid per vehicle, not per site. Make certain this response reflects the new policy on extra vehicles.

**Nevada State Park Passes:**

1. Do you accept any park passes?

We ONLY accept the Nevada State Parks Annual Passport Permit (\$90), the Valley of Fire Annual Permit (\$60), and the Senior Citizen Permit for Nevada State Parks (\$15). We DO NOT accept any National Park Passes or Golden Eagle Passes.

2. What is required to get a Senior Citizen Permit for Nevada State Parks?

You must be at least 65 years of age or older and has continuously resided in this State for the 5 years preceding the date on which the resident submits the application.

3. Do the park passes include camping fees?

The Senior Citizen Permit is the only permit where camping is included. However, it does not cover the electric and water surcharge for use of the new campground loop with hook-ups. The electric and water fee is \$10. The Nevada State Parks Annual Passport permit and the Valley of Fire Annual permit cover only the entrance fees, and still require the payment of camping fees.