

Facilities & Visitor Services

CAMPING

The park has a 15-unit campground with a restroom, coin-operated showers and an RV-dump station.

PICNICKING

Tables and grills are scattered through the oaks at the top of the park and along Rattlesnake Canyon Trail. When not reserved, picnickers may use the tables under the group shelters.

GROUP USE AREAS

There are two group use areas in the park. Contact the park office to make reservations and fee information.

HIKING

Experienced hikers may explore the park's back country above the canyon via the 1.5-mile Overlook Trail. During the summer hikers should be alert for rattlesnakes, particularly along the trails and in the cool shady areas of the park. Also be alert for thunderstorms which may cause flash floods in the canyons. Plan hikes for the morning or evening hours.

ENTRANCE FEES

There is an entrance fee for each vehicle entering the park. A walk-in fee applies to those who do not bring a vehicle beyond the park gate. Additional fees are charged for group reservations. Please consult the posted fee schedule for current rates.

REMINDERS

State Park regulations are posted on the fee station kiosk. To make your visit and the visits of others more enjoyable, please observe the following rules:

- Practice Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly principles.
- Plants, animals, artifacts and rocks are protected by law.
- Pets are welcome if kept on leashes of no more than six feet in length and are kept under control. Pets are not allowed in buildings or in the wading pond.
- Fires must be contained within grills. Gathering firewood is not permitted.
- Horseshoes and volleyball are confined to designated areas.



Kershaw-Ryan State Park

CALIENTE, NEVADA

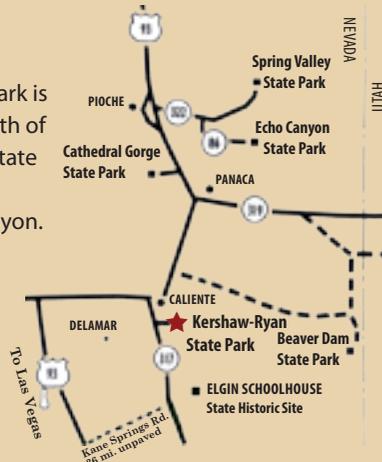
PO Box 985

Caliente, Nevada 89008

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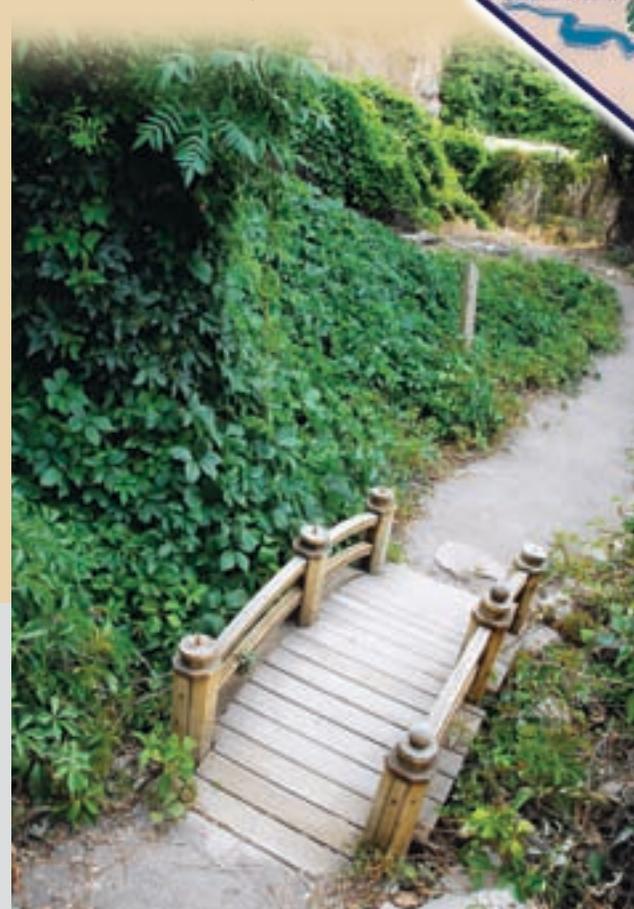
kershaw@lcturbonet.com

Kershaw-Ryan State Park is located two miles south of Caliente, Nevada on State Route 317 which runs through Rainbow Canyon.



Kershaw-Ryan State Park

CALIENTE, NEVADA



DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

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(775) 726-3564

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LOCATION AND CLIMATE

Kershaw-Ryan State Park is situated in a colorful, scenic canyon in eastern Nevada. Steep canyon walls tower over a long, narrow valley.

Early settlers here cultivated a garden of grapes, orchards and vegetables for sale to the miners in nearby Pioche. The lush greenery provides a sharp contrast to the surrounding rugged landscape. Park elevations range from 4,312- to 5,175-feet above sea level.

Summers are dry and warm, with daytime temperatures reaching above 95-degrees F and nights in the 50s. Monthly rainfall averages less than an inch, but during the late summer thunderstorms can produce flash floods. Caution should be taken if hiking the canyon trails during July and August. Winters can be cold with snow on the ground in December and January. Daytime highs in winter may only reach 40-degrees F.

PARK HISTORY

Kershaw Canyon was named for Samuel and Hannah Kershaw who homesteaded their Meadow Valley Wash Ranch in 1873. In 1904, the Kershaws sold their property to James Ryan of Caliente who ran one of the largest cattle ranches in the area.

In 1926 the Ryans donated Kershaw Gardens, located in Kershaw Canyon, to the state for use as a public park.

In 1934, the Civilian Conservation Corps built picnic tables, campsites, toilets, a caretaker's cabin and a wading pond in the shady portions of the canyon. In 1935, the state designated the area as Kershaw-Ryan State Park.

In the early 1960s, a campground, group use Ramada, water system, restrooms and trails were constructed. Two flash floods in the fall of 1984 destroyed nearly all of these facilities. The park was closed for rebuilding until 1997, when it reopened to visitors.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The steep cliffs of Kershaw Canyon, which were created by water carving deep channels into the volcanic rock of the area, were deposited by volcanic eruptions more than 11 million years ago.

Many small springs emerge from the walls of Kershaw Canyon, generally coming from fault lines in the rock. These springs result in the lush growth of wild grapes, reeds and willows along the canyon walls. In Kershaw Canyon, Horse Springs was channeled into a trough where wild horses, deer and other wildlife come to water. Mountain lions, bobcats, foxes and coyotes also frequent this area along with a variety of birds, reptiles and smaller mammals.

Water from Kershaw Canyon flows into the Meadow Valley Wash in Rainbow Canyon and then into the Muddy River and Lake Mead by Overton, Nevada.

The park hosts four distinct plant communities: the riparian along the cool, moist canyon floor; the mountain brush which is found in shady pockets on the canyon walls; the cool desert shrub which includes sagebrush and rabbit brush found in the dry areas; and the pinyon-juniper woodlands found in higher elevations. Gambel's oak occurs in small groves such as the picnic area near the pond along with apple, pear and plum trees from the orchard planted by the Kershaws in the late 1800s.

