

Six of Nevada's state parks are in Lincoln County. Kershaw-Ryan State Park, known for its wild grape vines climbing the sheer cliff walls, has RV sites, full day use facilities including a volleyball court and horseshoe pits. Cathedral Gorge State Park and Beaver Dam State Park are approximately 15 miles north of Caliente. Echo Canyon State Park and Spring Valley State Park are approximately 35 miles north of Caliente and both have reservoirs stocked with rainbow trout and cutthroat trout. The area has hundreds of miles of roads for 4-wheeling and off-road trails for ATV riding, mountain bike riding, horseback riding and hiking.

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/beaver-dam-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/kershaw-ryan-state-park/>
<http://parks.nv.gov/parks/spring-valley-state-park/>
- One of Nevada's largest off-road vehicle trail systems, Silver State Trail, is accessible from Caliente. The Silver State Trail System is a 240 mile BLM maintained trail system.
[Silver State OHV Trail | Lincoln County Nevada](#)
- Caliente hosts large off-road events drawing recreationalists nationally and internationally.

Please find links to two of the largest annual off road events:

[Best In The Desert 2025 | Home Page - Best In The Desert](#)
[SNORE – Southern Nevada Off Road Enthusiasts](#)

- Hundreds of miles of trails are open to public recreation for off-road vehicles, mountain bikes, horseback riding, and hiking. Lincoln County has 10,000 square miles. It is the 7th largest county in the US. Only 2% of Lincoln County is privately owned. 98% of the county is federal lands, most of it open to recreation. Lincoln County population is approx. 4,000.



- The International Mountain Bicycling Association is building a new trail system accessed from Caliente. Construction of the first 42 miles of trails of the planned 150 miles of trails began in March 2017.

- Outside Magazine featured Caliente and Kershaw Ryan State Park in their May 2016 issue as one of the 28 Best Trips of 2016. <http://www.outsideonline.com/2058136/28-places-go-2016> Number 13

From the Outside Magazine Article:

"It's fair to say that Nevada's mountain-biking scene is exploding—from the 539-mile Trans-Nevada Trail, which starts at Lake Tahoe and spans the entire width of the state, to miles of new trails being constructed in the state's 48 million acres of Bureau of Land Management wilds. Start your tour of the best stuff 36 miles south of Las Vegas and ride 35 miles of smooth, flowy intermediate singletrack at the Bootleg Canyon bike park, which has received the Epic distinction from the International Mountain Bicycling Association. 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."

- Bicyclists on Highway 317 in Rainbow Canyon along Kershaw-Ryan State Park. <http://www.lccentral.com/park-park-pedal-scores-huge-success/>



- 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 111 miles west of St. George, Utah. <http://lincolncountynevada.com/Lincoln-County-Nevada-Caliente.html>
- 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 though 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.



Red roses in the 90 flower boxes along Highway 93.

- Big game, small game, and bird hunting is available in Lincoln and White Pine counties.

- 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-district>
- 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>



Grapevines growing wild on the canyon walls in Kershaw-Ryan State Park

Rainbow Canyon Archeological Sites

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

History:

- Five 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).