

Campsites in Flagstaff

Arizona is a state filled with geological marvels, a favorable climate, and bottomless activities for the whole family. Flagstaff, Arizona has it all in spades. A town with a rich history. Flagstaff sees a booming tourist influx every summer. People come from all over the country to bask in all Flagstaff offers. Flagstaff has so much to offer in and around the city. The pleasant climate is complimentary to all the outdoor activities you can waste away doing in Flagstaff. The natural environment is best enjoyed by camping. Camping is a popular activity in the Flagstaff area. There are many beautiful, clean campsites in Flagstaff to pitch a tent or park an RV. Campgrounds in Flagstaff are located in spitting distance of some of the most marvelous wonders you will ever see.

Summers in Arizona can be overwhelming, to say the least. It can get hot. Like fry an egg on the sidewalk hot. Flagstaff is situated in northern Arizona and boasts a pleasant summer average of 80 degrees Fahrenheit. A brisk summer's day relative to the rest of the state. This kind of climate calls for remaining outdoors exclusively. There may be no better way than to gather friends and family at a campsite.

Responsible Camping in Flagstaff

Camping responsibly is imperative. The natural environment of Flagstaff and the surrounding area is a treasure that must be preserved. People are visitors that must follow the basic guidelines of camping. Guidelines are in place to protect the purity of the environment.

Waste Disposal

Garbage and other wastes damage the environment and affect the ecosystem. All waste gets disposed of in the proper receptacle. Follow the rules of no trace camping. It should appear as if no one was ever there.

Fire Regulations

It is unlikely fires will be allowed in the summer. However, there are periods in which fires get permitted. Be sure to follow all signs, postage, or online regulations related to open fires. The last thing you want is to be the one who lit the Coconino National Forest ablaze.

Flagstaff Camping Information

Camping in Flagstaff gets done year-round, but the campgrounds are usually open from May to October. An open campground refers to whether or not there is a host on-site that maintains the campsite. Campgrounds are available in the winter, but restrooms and drinking water are closed.

Camping in Flagstaff gets done at different types of campgrounds. Flagstaff and the surrounding area offer dispersed camping, RV camping, and designated campsites. All of which have unique appeals.

Some of the sites allow visitors to have the option. Rarely do the campsites discriminate against tents. However, some campsites do not permit large vehicles and RVs.

Best RV and Motorhome Campsites in Flagstaff

RV camping is a great way to connect with nature with a large group. If sleeping in a tent is a challenge because of personal preference or camping with small children, RV camping is a great alternative. Flagstaff has plenty of well-equipped RV campgrounds in the area.

Mormon Lake Lodge

Mormon Lake Lodge is a 300-acre resort 30 miles south of Flagstaff. The resort area offers RV campsite rentals. The site includes hookups for electricity and water. The resort offers coin-operated laundry as a glamping perk. There are 74 campsites for RVs with plenty of opportunities for socialization. However, the space is large enough for a group to keep to themselves.

The site has plenty of activities to enjoy. There are areas for basketball, horseshoes, and volleyball. Mormon Lake campsite has kid-friendly activities like a jungle gym, trout pond, and a buffalo habitat. Bring the dog too as Mormon Lake Lodge is pet friendly.

Coconino National Park is only a few miles away. Coconino National Park is a 1.8 million-acre park that is a stone's throw away from Flagstaff and its campgrounds. There is no shortage of pleasant hiking trails nearby ranging in difficulty.

This RV campsite is less than an hour away from Flagstaff and its attractions.

Flagstaff KOA

Flagstaff KOA is top tier glamping in the Flagstaff area. The campground sits at the base of the San Francisco Peaks surrounded by pine trees making it a cozy, temperate place to park the RV. Flagstaff KOA comes equipped with everything you need and more. Water, electricity, WIFI, groceries, and various rentals are on site.

The activities on site can fill an entire schedule. Flagstaff KOA is a paradise for children. The campground boasts a playground, jumping pillow, and barrel train rides. Families get to rent banana bikes or book guided tours of the area.

This particular RV campground is located nearby multiple geological wonders which happen to be only a few miles from Flagstaff. Specifically, campers at Flagstaff KOA are less than 3 miles from **Picture Canyon and Nature Reserve**. Campers can walk around the reserve and visit the canyon. The reserve has trails for biking and horseback riding.

Both **Sandy Seep Trailhead** and **Fatman's loop** are within 3 miles of the campground. Both of which are family-friendly hiking trails with picturesque scenery.

Flagstaff KOA is only a meager 5.4 miles from Flagstaff proper. This makes it the closest RV campground to the city. Flagstaff itself has lots of activities and historical sightseeing.

Bonito Campground

This Flagstaff area RV campground is ideal for those that want to unplug from the world for a while. Bonito campground does not resemble other RV campgrounds that come jam-packed with facilities. It does come with nearby drinking water and a restroom, but it does not offer additional amenities. Bonito is a campground for those that cherish the small things in life. It is minimal but peaceful and beautiful.

All this is not to say that Bonito has no activities. Bonito Campground sits on thousands of years old frozen lava. The **Sunset Crater Volcano Monument** is a short hike away. Campers take the **A'a trailhead** or **Lava Flow Trail** hikes on the same day and get back to the RV without ever having to start up the car.

If you did want to fire up the car for a day trip, Flagstaff sits 18 miles south.

Designated Campgrounds

For those that seek an immersive, authentic camping experience Flagstaff has several designated campgrounds. Typically, these campgrounds allow for one vehicle on site. Designated campgrounds are a great way to get that sleep-in-a-tent camping experience with some amenities.

Manzanita Campground

Manzanita is a small, understated campground just south of Flagstaff near Sedona. It's right off the highway, but you could never tell if you went there blindfolded. The sound of nearby Oak Creek creates the peaceful ambiance that makes this a lovely campsite. There is a camp host and a washroom. The site is meticulously maintained. A swimming hole and a place to fish are just a walk away from your tent.

Manzanita is situated next to Oak Creek. The Oak Creek area has a few beautiful, must-see natural attractions. Groups can travel just over a mile to the **Encinosa Picnic Area** for an outdoor lunch or sunset dinner. From there, **Oak Creek Canyon** sits just south. It is a beautiful place to take a walk and take a dip in the swimming hole. Just north of Manzanita is **Slide Rock State Park** where you can get wet sliding down the rock slide.

Manzanita is just 23 miles south of Flagstaff if you want a freshly cooked meal or pick up some groceries.

Canyon Vista Campground

Canyon Vista is a campsite 15 minutes from Flagstaff. It has beautiful scenery and an elite location.

The campground has 14 available sites. Each comes with fire pits, cooking grills, picnic tables, and washrooms. There are no utility hookups. Canyon Vista is preferable as a tent pitching site. It operates on a first come first serve basis. Visitors get greeted by friendly camp hosts.

Canyon Vista offers versatile attractions based on its locations. Campers can waste their day relaxing at the campsite or take a hike on the nearby trails like **Fisher Point**. Both **Marshall Lake** and **Lake Mary** can be visited and enjoyed in the afternoon. The best stargazing in the area can get observed at Lowell Observatory Perkins Telescope. The telescope is a 10-minute drive from the site. Those bold enough to rock climb can visit **The Pit** which offers rock climbers a series of climbable areas.

Flagstaff is less than 8 miles northwest of the campsite. Visitors can make a day, or afternoon, of visiting Flagstaff. Flagstaff has an abundance of historic buildings and tours. P

Dispersed Camping

Look no further than a dispersed campsite for the most primitive form of camping. Flagstaff has great nearby campsites and dispersed camping is no exception.

Freidlein Prairie Dispersed Camping

Freidlein Prairie is the closest dispersed campsite to Flagstaff. Located in the Coconino national forest, Freidlein Prairie is an isolated camping area free of charge. The road to the site is bumpy, but that is commonly the case for dispersed camping. It weeds out casual campers with a rough road right away.

The area is large and secluded. This makes it an ideal area to remove oneself from the world and get in touch with nature. If you want to leave the site there are some beautiful areas to visit. **Hart Prairie Reserve** is just north of the site and offers serene walking trails. A 3800-meter high volcano, **Humphrey's Peak**, is roughly 30 miles from the site. Humphrey's Peak offers the highest peak in Arizona and rewards hikers with surreal views.

After a few nights of wilderness seclusion, visitors can drive 10 miles south to Flagstaff for some socialization and other attractions.

Wing Mountain Dispersed Camping Area

Wing Mountain provides a disseminated camping area at the base of a cinder cone volcano. This lesser-known camping area will not appear on any Google Maps search making it a perfect place to get some peace. The campsite is stripped of any amenities. Campers are left to live off what they brought except for gathering firewood from the ponderosa pine forest. Unlike some dispersed campsites, Wing Mountain does not have a difficult, bumpy road to enter the camping

area. Campers follow Forest Road 171 and can camp anywhere along the corridor within 300 feet of the road.

Wing Mountain and the surrounding forests are the most local attraction for campers. Wing Mountain is a popular attraction in the winter, but can still be seen and enjoyed in the summer. **Lava River Cave** is a unique attraction 10 miles from the camping area. Visitors can explore this natural museum as a quick afternoon trip.

Despite its seemingly desolate environment, Wing Mountain is a 20-minute drive from Flagstaff. Visitors can stock up on supplies, grab lunch, walk the streets of Flagstaff and make it to Wing Mountain before the sun begins to set.

Camping in Flagstaff

Flagstaff, Arizona is the ideal hub for tourists, campers, and daily visitors. The surrounding area has so much to offer and so much to see. Visitors can stay in hotels or rentals in Flagstaff, but so much of the beauty is getting in touch with nature. The surrounding Flagstaff area has different types of camping experiences. So many that no two visits will be the same.

Large families can park RVs and have access to camping experiences that range from resorts to bare-bones camping. Small groups or solo campers have access to campgrounds that vary in popularity and crowd size.

The attractions around Flagstaff are top tier. Countless geological marvels will take your breath away. Each campground is close to a handful of must-see natural attractions that make each site unique. Nature lovers can also participate in activities like fishing, swimming, sports, tours, and numerous rentals.

Flagstaff, Arizona is always close by as well. It acts as the central hub for campers, but also provides many attractions itself. The historical preservation of the city is unmatched in the state. Some parks and restaurants are enjoyed before visitors go off to pitch their tents. Flagstaff is the oasis at the end of nights living off the Earth.

14 Best Places For Fishing in Arizona: 2022 Guide

These 14 lakes are the best place to fish in Arizona. Each lake provides bountiful fish paired with picturesque scenery. This guide will assist in ensuring a guaranteed catch.

Arizona is a state often associated with the desert. Arizona does indeed have an arid climate, high temperatures, and little rain. Arizona also boasts some of the most unique geographies in the country. There are mountain ranges, deep canyons, and National Parks. Arizona is not some dry, barren desert. The state has 128 lakes and 5 major rivers. The warm climate makes it a year-round outdoor haven.

Outdoor activities are a staple of the state. People visit from all around the country just to take in the beauties of the environment and indulge in outdoor activities. Fishing is a popular activity that can be done in any season. The state has 128 lakes, so it is hard to narrow down the best fishing lakes in Arizona. Arizona has a healthy population of flathead catfish, rainbow trout, and largemouth bass. The best places to fish in Arizona all provide catchable fish and breathtaking views.

Top 14 Arizona Fishing Lakes

1. Roosevelt Lake
2. Saguaro Lake
3. Big Lake
4. Lake Havasu
5. Lake Pleasant
6. Alamo Lake
7. Apache Lake
8. Canyon Lake
9. Lake Mead
10. Lake Powell
11. Lees Ferry
12. Martinez Lake
13. Patagonia Lake
14. Woods Canyon Lake

Roosevelt Lake

Roosevelt Lake is a reservoir situated 80 miles northeast of Phoenix. It is the largest lake in Arizona that sports 128 miles of shore length, 369-foot max depth, and covers over 21000 acres. Roosevelt Lake was formed by the nearby Theodore Roosevelt Dam on the Salt River. The lake is located 3 miles from the Tonto National Monument in the Tonto National Forest.

Bass are the most popular fish in Roosevelt Lake. White, striped, smallmouth, and largemouth bass are found in spades. Fishers can also find carp, sunfish, and two types of catfish – channel and flathead. Small baitfish are a common choice for luring these fish. Shad and shiners are great live bait for both bass and catfish.

Saguaro Lake

Saguaro Lake is another lake located in central Arizona. It is just 27 miles east of Mesa. The lake covers 1200 acres with 110 feet max depth. Saguaro Lake has more than 22 miles of shoreline. The lake has a prime location with attractions nearby such as a narrated cruise and horseback tours.

2200 fish habitats were put in the lake to increase fishing. Saguaro Lake has a bounty of bass. The biggest are caught in the fall and spring. Carp is the second most popular type of fish usually found in the deepest sections of the lake. Small live bait will bring you much success at Saguaro lake.

Big Lake

Big Lake in Apache County is a 450-acre fishing lake. Big Lake sits at 9000 feet of elevation in the White Mountains. The lake has an average depth of 16 feet. Big Lake is sandwiched between two mountain peaks – Escudilla and Mt. Baldy.

Big Lake has some of the best trout fishing in Arizona. The lake is mostly inhabited by rainbow trout. However, fishers can also catch brook and cutthroat trout. If you are lucky, you can find brown trout. Popular bait used to lure the trout are Berkley Powerbait and Mice Tails.

Lake Havasu

Lake Havasu in Lake Havasu City is a large reservoir directly on the Arizona/California border. The lake has a surface area of 19,300 acres and a maximum depth of 90 feet. Lake Havasu has a rich history with plenty of historical attractions nearby like lighthouse replicas and London Bridge.

Lake Havasu has a variety of fish species, the bass being the most popular. Apart from bass, fishers can reel in yellow bullhead, channel, and flathead catfish. Both fish can be reeled in with meaty baits like nightcrawlers.

Lake Pleasant

Lake Pleasant is a popular fishing reservoir 30 miles from Phoenix. The waters cover 10,000 acres with 116 miles of shoreline. Its deepest point reaches 260 feet. Carl Pleasant dam created the lake. Lake Pleasant is the crown jewel of Lake Pleasant Regional Park.

Lake Pleasant is home to the most diverse species in the state. The species of fish that live in Lake Pleasant include; bass, bluegill, crappie, buffalo fish, catfish, sunfish, and tilapia. Due to its proximity to Phoenix, Lake Pleasant is the most popular fishing lake for Arizona residents.

Alamo Lake

Alamo Lake is a reservoir 38 miles north of Wenden. The lake sits in the center of Alamo Lake State Park. The lake itself covers 3500 acres with a maximum depth of 80 ft. Alamo Lake State Park offers several campgrounds and hiking trails right next to the lake.

Alamo Lake is the best largemouth bass fishing lake in Arizona. In the summer, the bass gets active in shallow water, so buzz baits, spinnerbaits, and crankbaits are popular. Alamo Lake also hosts a healthy population of crappies. Crappie tubes, spoons, and jigs are often used to entice crappies.

Apache Lake

Apache Lake is another reservoir built along the Salt River. Metropolitan Phoenix is only 65 miles southwest. Apache Lake is 5 miles downstream from Roosevelt Lake. The surface area of the lake is just over 2500 acres with a maximum depth of 200 feet. Apache Lake sits along the historic Apache Trail.

Fishing in Apache Lake will yield many of the classic Arizona dwelling fish. Like many of the other lakes along the Salt River, the bass is the target fish. There is plenty of largemouth bass, but Apache has a great amount of big smallmouth bass than other lakes.

Canyon Lake

Canyon Lake is the smallest reservoir of the four along the Salt River with a surface area of 950 acres. The lake has 28 miles of shoreline along with red rock formations. Canyon Lake is quite deep. When the lake is full, the maximum depth is 141 feet. The Superstition Wilderness is the view around the lake.

Canyon Lake has a variety of fish swimming in its waters but is best known for largemouth bass, yellow bass, and catfish. The different bass is bountiful in the spring and can be caught with plastic baits. The catfish season goes from spring to summer and gets baited by small meat.

Lake Mead

Lake Mead is an enormous reservoir that stretches from Arizona to Nevada. It is the largest lake in the United States in terms of water capacity with the deepest point of 532 feet. Lake Mead has over 759 miles of shoreline with 229 square miles of surface area. The lake was created by the legendary Hoover Dam at the Arizona/Nevada border.

Striped bass are the coveted fish at Lake Mead. Some of which come in at over 40 pounds. Popular bait used for striped bass includes anchovies and shad. Lake Mead also has other types of bass, catfish, and rainbow trout.

Lake Powell

Lake Powell is the second-largest manmade reservoir in the U.S. The lake extends over Arizona and Utah. Lake Powell is currently in a threatening drought with water levels quickly lowering. At its peak, the maximum depth was 538 feet with over 1900 miles of shoreline. Lake Powell is in Glen Canyon Recreational Area which attracts millions of tourists a year.

Similar to Lake Mead, striped bass are the most popular fish. Lake Powell also has largemouth and smallmouth bass. Crappies, green sunfish, bluegills, and walleyes can also be caught. All of which are common in the spring and summer.

Lees Ferry

Lees Ferry is a site on the Colorado River in Northeast Arizona. Lees Ferry is a historical site that provides easy access to both sides of the Colorado River. Now, it is the start of Grand Canyon National park and operates as a recreational area. Thousands of people gravitate towards Lees Ferry for fishing and river rafting.

Lees Ferry is home to massive trout. It is considered the best place to fish in Arizona for trophy trout. Rainbow trout larger than 22 inches can be caught in these waters. Rubber worms will be an effective bait for catching these famous trout.

Martinez Lake

Martinez Lake was created for the purpose of fishing. It is located 35 miles north of Yuma and covers a modest 640 acres. It has an average depth of 10 feet. Martinez Lake is now a resort area with plenty of relaxation activities that still include hopping in a boat and fishing.

The most popular fish at Martinez Lake is the largemouth bass. Channel and flathead catfish are also common in the lake. The shallow waters of Martinez Lake make catching bass with plastic baits like spinnerbaits a breeze. Break out live baits to catch either type of catfish.

Patagonia Lake

Patagonia Lake in southern Arizona is not just for birding. This small 250-acre lake is 7 miles south of Patagonia and just over 17 miles from the Mexican border. The lake has a maximum depth of 120 feet. Patagonia Lake sits in Patagonia Lake State Park which attracts tourists with camping and hiking.

Bass are bountiful in Patagonia Lake, usually on the smaller side. Giant catfish have been caught in Patagonia Lake. The big catfish are typically caught at night in deeper water. Every winter, rainbow trout are stocked into Patagonia Lake. Plenty of smaller fish can be snagged in Sonoita Creek.

Woods Canyon Lake

Woods Canyon Lake is a small lake located in Northern Arizona. It is one of the Rim Lakes that are located on the Mogollon Rim. Woods Canyon Lake is only 55 acres but has a maximum depth of 40 feet. The lake is situated in Woods Canyon Recreational Area which provides several campgrounds and hiking trails.

Woods Canyon Lake is notable for being one of the few lakes in Arizona with tiger trout. The lake is stocked with both tiger and rainbow trout. If lucky, you can reel one of the elusive brown trout living in Woods Canyon Lake. The classic worm is a common bait that should yield positive results for trout fishing.

Final Thoughts

Fishing in Arizona is easy and accessible for all residents and visitors. Many of the lakes are near Phoenix and the surrounding area. Many of the lakes are giant, so there should be no problem finding a quiet area to fish. The smaller lakes are less popular and will provide a unique fishing experience. Every lake in Arizona is close to a variety of outdoor attractions.

The 14 lakes listed are some of the best places for fishing in Arizona. Pack different types of bait including plastic and live. Get ready to catch plenty of bass, catfish, and trout.