The Alabama Hills are a formation of rounded rocks and eroded hills set between the jagged peaks of the Sierra Nevada and the Owens Valley. The hills consist of nearly 30,000 acres of public land located west of Lone Pine that are managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

Care for and Enjoy the Alabama Hills

The indigenous people of this valley still reside in this place where their ancestors have lived for thousands of years. They ask that you respect and care for this land. Do not disturb or destroy anything that you may find.

• Pack out all trash. There are no trash services. In the high desert environment, even natural items like orange peels take years to decompose.

• Travel on existing roads and trails. Vegetation in this climate can take decades to recover when crushed by off road driving or parking.

• Camp in campgrounds. Using campgrounds reduces the number of vehicles, so that the great views are not blocked.

• Use the restroom in town or at nearby campgrounds. If that isn’t an option, bury human waste in catholes 6 inches deep and 200 feet away from water, trails and camp. There are no restrooms in the hills.

• Have a great time. The Alabama Hills are a great place to explore natural wonders and experience your public lands.

In an Emergency

• Call 9-1-1
• Inyo County Sheriff (760) 878-0383
• Nearest hospital: Southern Inyo Hospital (760) 876-5501 501 East Locust Street, Lone Pine, CA

For More Information:

Bureau of Land Management
Bishop Field Office
351 Pecu Lane, Suite 100
Bishop, CA 93514
(760) 872-5000
https://www.blm.gov/california

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Geology

The rounded, oddly shaped contours of the Alabama Hills form a sharp contrast to the glacially carved ridges of the Sierra Nevada. While both landforms consist of a similar granitic rock that was uplifted around 100 million years ago, the hills were shaped by a type of erosion known as chemical weathering.

Film & Television

Beginning in 1920, Hollywood filmmakers began to take an interest in the Alabama Hills for its natural scenery. Since then, over 400 movies have been filmed here. Movie stars such as Tom Mix, Hopalong Cassidy, Gene Autry, and the Lone Ranger, shot it out with outlaws. Classics such as Gunga Din, Yellow Sky, and How the West Was Won were filmed on Movie Flat Road. The 1990 Sci-Fi classic Tremors was filmed almost entirely on location in the Alabama Hills. During 1993, portions of Maverick were filmed here. More recently, Star Trek Generations, Gladiator, Iron Man, and Django Unchained were filmed in the Alabama Hills.

Find a copy of the Movie Road Touring Brochure online or at the Museum of Western Film History in Lone Pine. Each October the community of Lone Pine hosts the Lone Pine Film Festival. This festival features speakers, actors and bus tours that showcase movies filmed in the Alabama Hills. The area continues to attract film crews, benefiting the local economy.

The hills were named after the C.S.S. Alabama, a Confederate warship responsible for wreaking havoc during the Civil War. Prospectors sympathetic to the Confederate cause named their mining claims after the Alabama and eventually the name stuck.

Wildlife

Chuckwalla lizard, Red-tailed hawk, Townsend’s big-eared bat

Plants

Scarlet milk-vetch, Desert needlegrass, Barrel cactus

The Alabama Hills with Mt Whitney in the distance by David Kirk

Cover photo of photographers by Bob Wick

Photographer capturing Mobius Arch by Jim Pickering,

The Alabama Hills scenery has been an inspiration for photographers for decades. The Alabama Hills form a sharp contrast to the glacially carved ridges of the Sierra Nevada. While both landforms consist of a similar granitic rock that was uplifted around 100 million years ago, the hills were shaped by a type of erosion known as chemical weathering.

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Alabama Hills
Recreation Area and Scenic Area

Travel Tips
- Travel on existing roads and trails. Don't park on vegetation.
- Creating new roads and trails harms the landscape and is illegal.
- Most roads in this area are unpaved and require 4-wheel drive.
- Spring and fall are the most popular seasons.
- Be sure to bring plenty of water.
- Remember to leave plants, rocks, and artifacts as you found them for others to discover.

Have a great time!