

VALLEY OF FIRE-A Nevada Jewel by Paula Griggs Lenz

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SIDEBARS, author's note and About Author

How to get there:

Valley of Fire West Entrance: Take I-15 north from Las Vegas to Valley of Fire Road and east to the park entrance

Valley of Fire East Entrance: The Visitors Center is closer to this entrance.

Take the scenic route on HW 147 out of Las Vegas to North Shore Road (which has great views and access to Lake Mead and possible riding routes and dispersal equestrian camping opportunities) to the park entrance.

Or take I-15 north from Las Vegas to HW 169 toward Logandale/Overton and drive south to the park entrance

To the Logandale OHV Trail System

From I-15, take HWY 169 toward Logandale/Overton. In Logandale, turn right on Liston Road. Follow the road to the right and cross the railroad track. Follow this road into the trail system and through a lovely red canyon (you may decide to camp here during the week but it has a lot of use on the weekend.) The designated Equestrian camp is after the canyon opens up and the cliffs are on the left. Continue on until you see the Pit Toilet. The camp sites are on the left.

Camp Amenities: There is a modern pit toilet but no water at this camp. It is in a very attractive alcove and can accommodate at least 12 horse trailers with ample space.

Bowl of Fire: This area is remote and should only be tried by those familiar with reading 7 1/2 topography maps. Bowl of Fire is south of Valley of Fire near North Shore Road. There are no signs to the trail. Equestrian access into Bowl of Fire is technical.

Area Amenities: Home Hardware and Variety Store in Overton (387 S. Moapa Valley Blvd. 702-397-2555) has hay. Robbins Nest RV Camp, (479 S. Moapa Valley Road in Overton, 702-397-2364) will let you fill up your water tanks for \$15.

Lake Mead National Recreation area is close by. The lights of Las Vegas are ever aglow in the evening sky but "The Strip" is not amenable to horse trailer parking.

Author's note of advice: Even if you choose to avoid multi-use trails, there is the possibility of meeting an ATV wherever you ride. This will either be a threat to you and your horse or just another trail experience depending on the horse and rider's training. A well trained trail horse should accept motorized vehicles of all kinds approaching from any direction. Ask your local horse club or a professional trainer to offer this training or ask your ATV riding friends to come over for a friendly training session. It should be done in such a way that the horse never spooks but is gradually introduced to the vehicles. I prefer to have them actually follow (they think they are chasing) the vehicle

first. This will build their confidence. Please ask for professional help if you are not ready for this type of session.

About the Author: Paula Griggs Lenz is first a mother, grandmother, and homemaker. She plays violin in the Reno Philharmonic and is a retired high school orchestra teacher. She and husband, John, are members of the High Sierra Chapter of the Back Country Horsemen of America, which, among other things, advocates for the continued use of stock animals on public lands. John, Paula, and their horses enjoy traveling to new riding areas--both well known and those "less traveled."