

Mammoth Lakes Tourism

VisitMammoth.com - 888-Go-Mammoth (888-466-2666)



REAL UNKEAL.



#KEEPMAMMOTHUNKEAL"



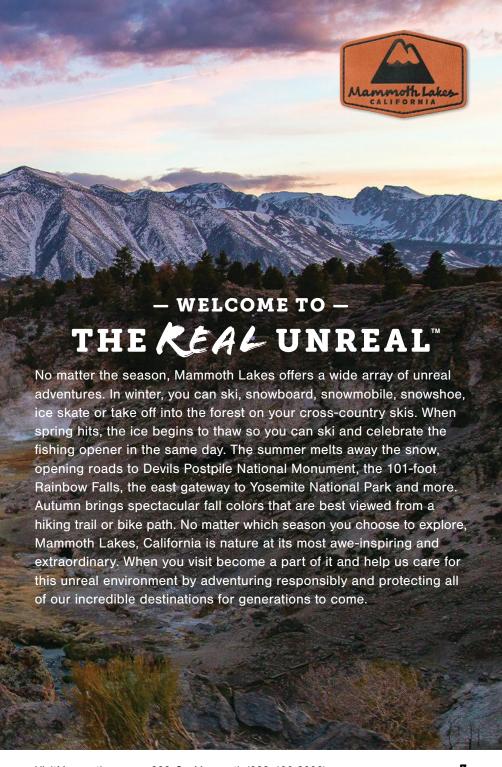
- CONTENTS -

- 2 Welcome to the Real Unreal
- 4 Town Overview
- 6 Mammoth Lakes' History
- 10 Naturally Unreal
- 12 Adventures by Season
- 16 Planning Your Trip
- 17 Town Map Pullout
- 18 Dining
- 19 Lodging

- 20 Shopping
- **21** Getting Around Town
- 22 Accessible Travel
- 23 Events
- 24 Regional Map
- **26** Winter Transit Map
- **28** Transit Schedules
- **30** Summer Transit Map
- 32 Lakes Basin Map
- 33 Reds Meadow Map

© 2023 MAMMOTH LAKES TOURISM. PERMISSION TO USE OR REPRODUCE MATERIAL HEREIN MUST BE WITH THE EXPRESS WRITTEN CONSENT OF MAMMOTH LAKES TOURISM. ALL INFORMATION IN THIS GUIDE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND/OR CANCELLATION WITHOUT NOTICE, MAMMOTH LAKES TOURISM WILL NOT BE HELD FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR INCORRECT INFORMATION.

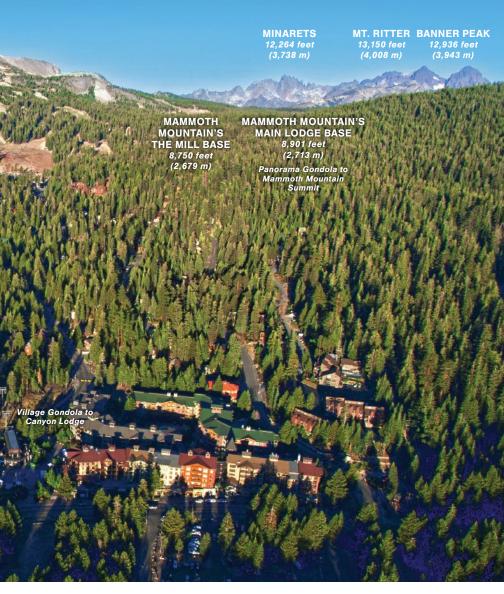






- TOWN OVERVIEW -

Mother Nature is at her best in Mammoth Lakes. Not only does the town boast jaw-dropping natural beauty, but visitors also enjoy its many modern conveniences: a spectrum of lodging options, unique shopping, fitness facilities and even a full-service hospital. If relaxation is on the agenda, consider heading out for a night on the town or treating yourself to a spa day.





- HISTORY OF MAMMOTH LAKES

— BY JASON ABPLANALP —

Built from a colorful history, Mammoth Lakes is now a year-round destination for adventurers and sightseers from across the globe.

From the birth of the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the town's original days of rough-and-tumble miners and early 20th century motorists seeking adventure, the story of Mammoth Lakes has it all.

The Formation of Mammoth Lakes

ocated in the heart of the legendary Sierra Nevada mountains, Mammoth Lakes is a gateway to some of the most majestic and awe-inspiring arrays of landforms in North America. From the stately basalt pillars of Devils Postpile National Monument to the bubbling hydrothermal springs of Hot Creek Gorge and dizzying heights of the Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, visitors are immersed into an exciting record of Earth's most awesome processes.

Mammoth Lakes sits on the edge of the impressive Long Valley Caldera, a 20-mile wide extinct supervolcano that erupted around 750,000 years ago. This eruption released 500 times more volcanic material than Mount St. Helens did in 1980, and volcanic ash traveled as far as Nebraska and Kansas! Present day Crowley Lake, located eight miles south of Mammoth Lakes, sits roughly in the southeastern limit of the ancient crater.

Around 100,000 years ago, a series of volcanic eruptions thrust

the peak of Mammoth Mountain into the sky. Much later, degassing explosions and smaller eruptions formed the Inyo and Mono craters, leaving a sea of pumice. The nearby Obsidian Dome, literally a huge mountain of volcanic glass, formed around 800 years ago and provided a source of cutlery and projectile points for native tribes.

On the outskirts of town, the legendary basalt columns of Devils Postpile National Monument rise from the headwaters of the San Joaquin River. This peculiar body of rock formed just under 100,000 years ago, when lava rich in iron and magnesium poured forth from a fissure in the Earth's crust. The picturesque black basalt of Devils Postpile National Monument has endured glacial ice, moving water and earthquakes. The base of the outcrop is littered with massive columns that have succumbed to the powers of nature and gravity.

From around 200,000 years ago to 14,000 years ago, expansive alpine glacial sheets flanked the

sides of the Sierra Nevada. These glaciers deeply carved into the rocky mountainsides as they advanced and retreated, shaping the landscape. Upon retreat, over a dozen serene mountain lakes remained in the Mammoth Lakes Basin. At one time, glaciers even

extended into the heart of town!

Geology is also responsible for bringing the first settlers into the area. Miners discovered gold and silver in the volcanic rocks above present day Mammoth Lakes and the course of the region's history was changed forever.

Mammoth Mining: Laying the Foundation for the Future of Mammoth Lakes

s with many western mountain towns, the first Europeans to settle in the vicinity of Mammoth Lakes were drawn by wealth locked deep within the mountains. In 1877, four prospectors, whose search for precious metals brought them from the depleted gold fields of California's western slope, stumbled upon gold- and silver-bearing quartz veins just west of the present-day town. Within a year, General G. Dodge of San Francisco purchased a majority of the mining claims and consolidated them under the Mammoth Mining Company. This clever name was used in reference of purported vast mineral wealth,

which brought investors and businessmen to the district, and had no relation to prehistoric remains of extinct mastodons.

Word of the discovery reached far and wide, and within a year, over 1,000 miners flocked to the region in the hopes of striking it rich. Defying the ferocious mountain elements and climate, industrious early residents quickly established a main street, post office, motel and several saloons at the base of Red Mountain. Today, a masonry marker and a few stone foundations line the top of Old Mammoth Road and are all that remain of the original, albeit short-lived, town.



Mill at Dodge Mining Company ca. 1930



Waterwheel at Skelton Mine ca. 1930

General Dodge's Mammoth Mining Company lasted only two years, when excessive spending combined with the harsh elements and an overall weak mineral deposit forced the company into Sheriff's sale in 1880. Many of the miners migrated to the nearby gold town of Bodie to the north, which had over 10,000 residents and a Wild West reputation throughout the late 19th century. The mine's massive mill, a water-powered engineering marvel, was scavenged for parts and eventually burned many years later. Today, the mill's impressive 20-foot diameter cast iron flywheel leans idly against its masonry base on a bluff above town.

Small-scale mining continued sporadically until the Great Depression, when a small mine camp, complete with a diesel-powered mill, was built by the Mammoth Consolidated Mining Company. The operation was

abandoned and today the easily accessible ruins are preserved in a state of arrested decay on U.S. Forest Service land near the Coldwater Creek Campground.

Mining around Mammoth Lakes was short-lived and relatively unprofitable, although it set the stage for development in the meadows below Red Mountain.

Word spread of the area's unbelievable natural beauty and by the end of the first quarter of the 20th century, tourism became the region's number-one industry.



Knight Wheel

Early 20th Century Adventurous Motorists: The Birth of Mammoth Lakes Tourism

y the end of the 1910s, the mining boom had played out and a new, long-lasting industry emerged. Tourists, arriving by automobiles and charged with a sense of adventure and freedom, began discovering the solitude, beauty and recreational opportunities of the Sierra Nevada mountains. These early visitors would make the grueling two-day drive from Los Angeles to reach the pine forests and grassy meadows

around Mammoth Lakes. It may have been gold that put the town on the map, but it was fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, boating and mountaineering that made the region famous.

In the early 1920s, the small town of Mammoth Camp was established along the meadows of Mammoth Creek in order to provide services to the steadily increasing number of summer visitors. Fish and game sportsmen, thrill-seeking



alpinists and wilderness campers comprised many of the early vacationers. An automobile garage, hotel, rustic rental cabins, bakery, general store and post office were constructed near the banks of the creek. The original waterwheel that powered Mammoth Mining Company's mill was moved from upper Old Mammoth to the lower meadows to generate electricity for the blossoming Wildasinn Hotel. This waterwheel and one of the original log cabins of the early resort remain today, photogenically nestled in a grove of aspen along Old Mammoth Road.

Shady Rest Campground, located directly behind Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center, acquired its name from the early tourism days. Weary and worn travelers would commonly park in the forested flat land and set up camp in the shadows of the tall pines. It was a most welcome break, especially after multiple days of traversing the rocky, primitive desert roads of the Mojave and

Owens Valley in the automobiles of the era.

During the winter months, the population drastically dropped and limited mail service was provided by dogsled. In 1941, this all changed when visionary Eastern Sierra local Dave McCoy altered the course of Mammoth Lakes' history. McCoy, who passed away in 2020 at age 104, saw an opportunity and after several years of both successes and failures. Mammoth Mountain Ski Area was born. Today, the resort is one of the top ski and snowboard destinations in the world and brings hundreds of thousands of visitors to Mammoth Lakes annually.

Mammoth Lakes welcomed the dreams of early prospectors, turn-of-the-century adventurers and avid skiers like Dave McCoy. No matter the dream, it can be fulfilled in Mammoth Lakes. What's your mountain town dream?

Check out Jason Abplanalp's blog posts at VisitMammoth.com for more insights about Mammoth Lakes' past.

NATURALLY UNKEAL

Mammoth Lakes is an unparalleled natural wonderland. Yosemite National Park, Devils Postpile National Monument, Rainbow Falls, Mono Lake, Bodie State Historic Park and more are all day trips from town. Learn about national parks, pockets of wonder and historic places near Mammoth Lakes. **VisitMammoth.com/Sightseeing**

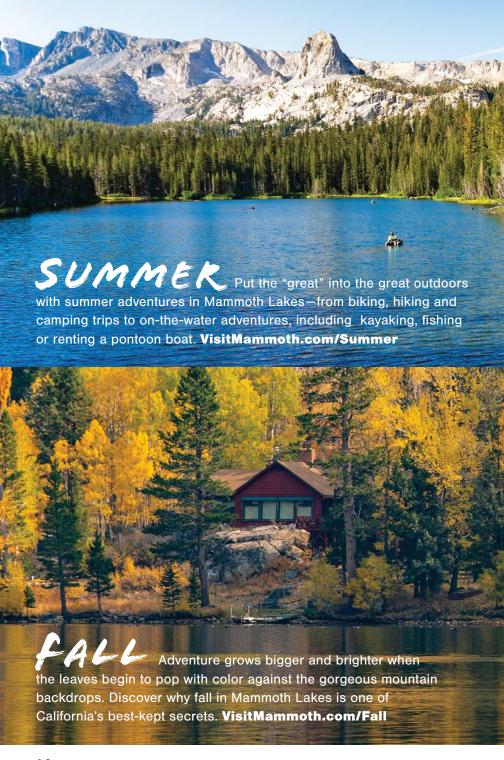












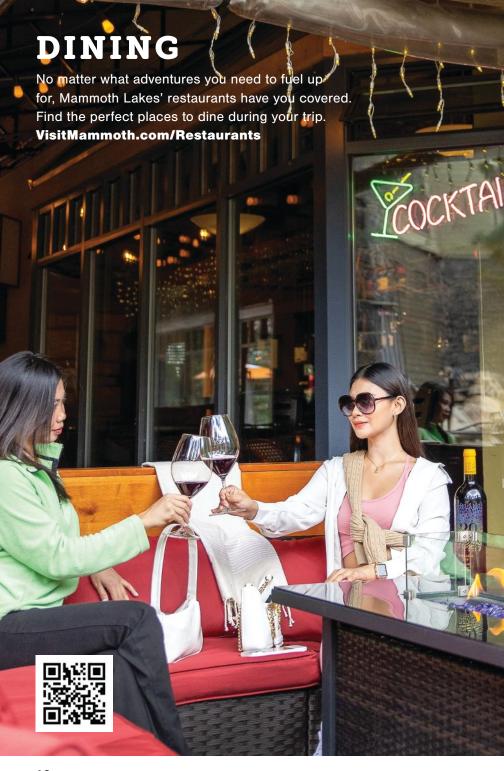


PLANNING YOUR TKIP

Mammoth Lakes may be tucked away in the Eastern Sierra, but this alpine community is surprisingly accessible. Whether you choose to fly to Mammoth Lakes from hundreds of connecting cities or drive via the scenic U.S. 395, you'll be on your way to mountain adventures faster than you might expect. Learn more about the fastest way to get to Mammoth Lakes. **VisitMammoth.com/Flying**

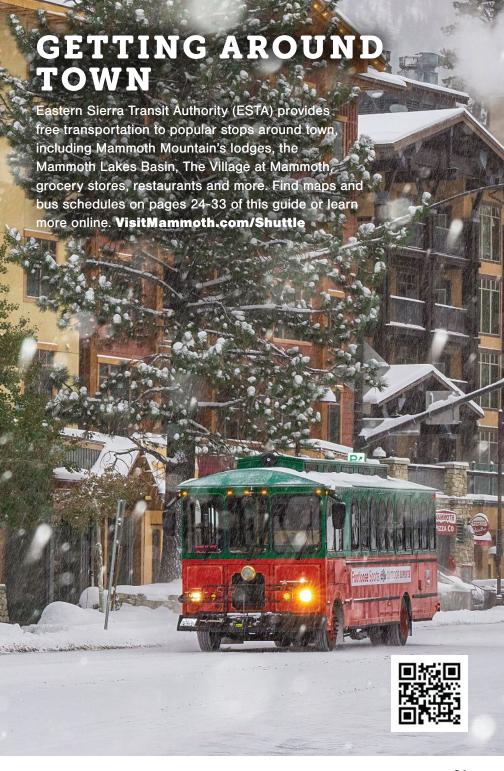












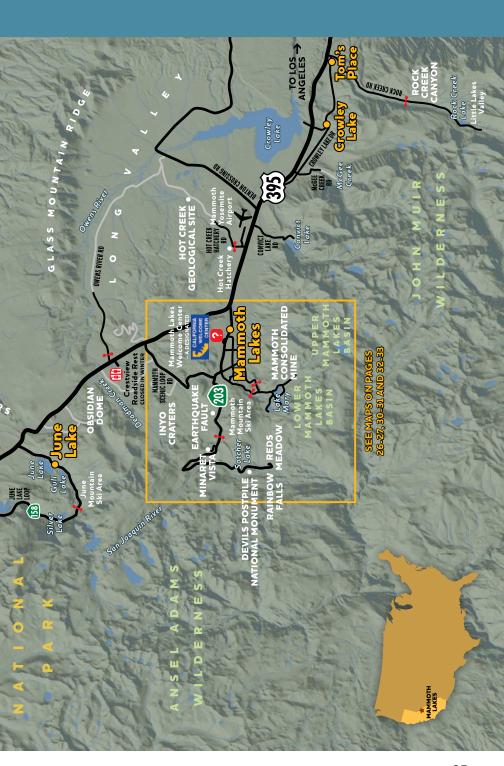
ACCESSIBLE TRAVEL

The unreal landscape of Mammoth Lakes is accessible to everyone. From thrilling adventures with Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra to quie afternoons spent exploring the many accessible paths and nearby waterways, there are so many options for enjoying your time in the mountains. VisitMammoth.com/Accessibility

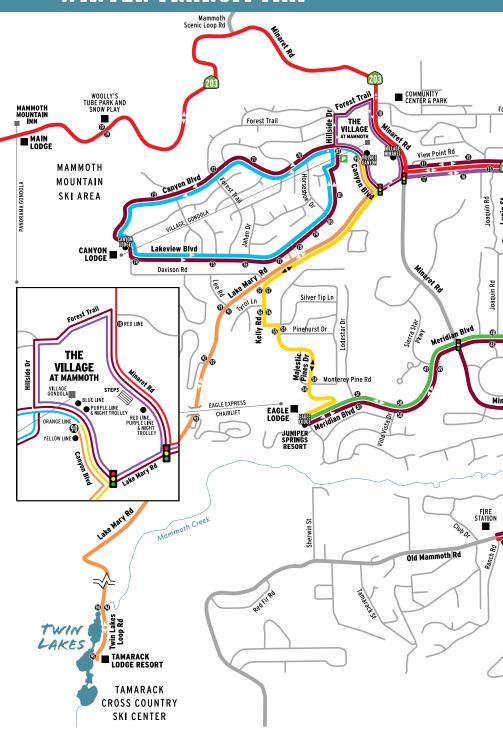


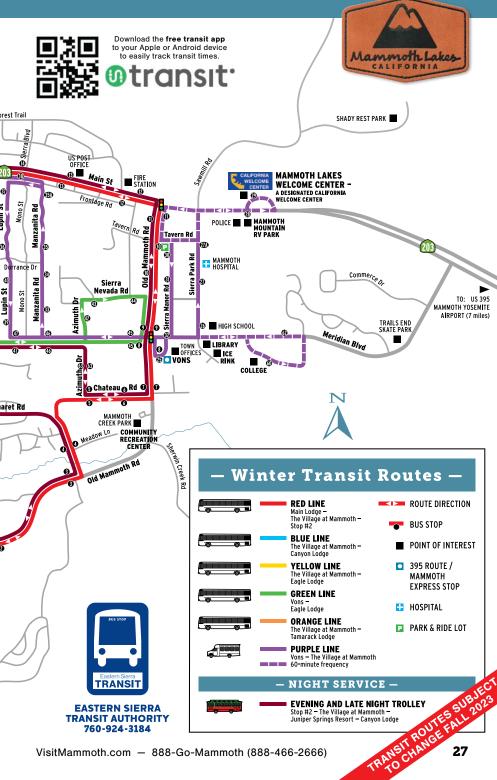


REGIONAL MAP -VISITOR INFORMATION ROADSIDE REST AREA WINTER ROAD CLOSURE UNPAVED ROADS (CLOSED IN WINTER) 2.5 PAVED ROADS 420 Twin



- WINTER TRANSIT MAP -





— WINTER TRANSIT SCHEDULE —

Mammoth Lakes Mass Transit – FRFF

EASTERN SIERRA TRANSIT (ESTA)

760-924-3184 • www.ESTransit.com

Download the free transit app to your Apple or Android device to easily track transit times.



| Bus stops noted on map | – pages 26-27 | | Timetable for all stops available online | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|------------------|--|--------------------------|--------|-----------------|---------|-------------|
| Route | Dates* | Service | Frequency/Location | Tim | e Pa | ast H | our | Last Bus |
| RED LINE | | | Every 20 minutes** | First | bus i | in bol c | ı | |
| Mammoth Mountain Main Lodge | Nov 18 - | 7:00 am - | Main Lodge | :10 | :30 | :50 | | 5:30 pm |
| to/from Stop #2 | May 14 | 5:30 pm | Stop #2 | :00 | :20 | :40 | | 5:20 pm |
| BLUE LINE | | | Every 15 minutes** | First | bus i | in bold | 1 | |
| The Village at Mammoth to/from | Dec 16 - | 7:05 am - | The Village Stop #90 | :05 | :20 | :35 | :50 | 5:20 pm |
| Mammoth Mountain Canyon Lodge | Apr 23 | 5:20 pm | Canyon Lodge | :10 | :25 | :40 | :55 | 5:25 pm |
| YELLOW LINE | | | Every 20 minutes** | First bus in bold | | | | |
| The Village at Mammoth to/from | Dec 16 - | 7:30 am - | The Village Stop #90 | :00 | :20 | :40 | | 5:40 pm |
| Mammoth Mountain Eagle Lodge | Apr 23 | 5:30 pm | Eagle Lodge | :10 | :30 | :50 | | 5:30 pm |
| GREEN LINE | | | Every 15 minutes** | First bus in bold | | | | |
| Old Mammoth Road at Stop #9S to/ | Dec 16 - | 7:30 am - | Stop #9S | :07 | :22 | :37 | :52 | 5:37 pm |
| from Mammoth Mountain Eagle Lodge | Apr 23 | 5:30 pm | Eagle Lodge | :00 | :15 | :30 | :45 | 5:30 pm |
| ORANGE LINE | | | Every 30 minutes | First bus in bold | | | | |
| The Village at Mammoth to/from | Dec 16 - | 7:30 am - | The Village Stop #90 | :30 | :00 | | | 6:00 pm |
| Tamarack Cross Country Ski Center | Apr 16 | 6:00 pm | Tamarack Stop #95 | :00 | :30 | | | 6:15 pm |
| PURPLE LINE | | Every 30 minutes | First bus in bold | | | | | |
| Inside Vons parking lot to/from | Year-round | 7:00 am - | Vons Stop #25 | :00 | :30 | | | 5:30 pm |
| The Village at Mammoth | | 6:00 pm | The Village (Minaret Stop) | :19 | :49 | | | 5:49 pm |
| NOTE: Service to the College, Skate Park Check sign at stop for specific times. | , RV Park, Visi | tor Center and | Rite Aid is every 60 minutes - s | see ma | p on p | oages | 26-27 f | or details. |
| EVENING TROLLEY | | | Every 30 minutes** | First | bus | in bold | ı | |
| Stop #2 to/from | Nov 18 - | 5:40 pm - | Stop #2 | | :30 | | - | 1:30 am |
| | | | | | | | | |

| LATE NIGHT TROLI | LEY | | Every 30 minutes** | First bus in bold | |
|------------------------|----------|------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Stop #2 to/from | Nov 18 - | 10:00 pm - | Stop #2 | :00 :30 | 1:30 am |
| The Village at Mammoth | Mav 14 | 2:00 am | The Village Stop #90 | :16 :46 | 1:46 am |

(Stops available to Juniper Springs Resort and Canyon Lodge area

with stops to Juniper Springs Resort and Canyon Lodge area

upon request)

ALL SCHEDULES AND/OR FARES SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND/OR CANCELLATION.

^{*}COMMENCEMENT AND TERMINATION OF WINTER TRANSIT SERVICE IS DEPENDENT ON MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN'S WINTER OPERATIONS.

^{**}SERVICE OPERATES LESS FREQUENTLY DURING NON-PEAK LATE SEASON.

- SUMMER TRANSIT SCHEDULE

Mammoth Lakes & Lakes Basin Mass Transit - FRFF

EASTERN SIERRA TRANSIT (ESTA)

760-924-3184 • www.ESTransit.com

Download the free transit app to your Apple or Android device to easily track transit times.





| Bus stops noted on maps – pages 30-32 | | | Timetable for all stops available online | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|------------------------|--|--------------------|--|
| Route | Dates | Service | Frequency/Location Ti | me Pa | ast Hour | Last Bus | |
| TOWN TROLLEY W Stop #2 to/from The Village at Mammoth and Canyon Lodge | /ITH 3-CAPACITY May 26 - Jun 23 | BIKE RACK 7:00 am - 10:00 pm | Every 30 minutes Stop #2 The Village (Minaret Stop) | See | map on pag | es 30-31 | |
| TOWN TROLLEY | /ITH 3-CAPACITY | RIKE RACK | Every 20 minutes | See | map on pag | es 30-31 | |
| Stop #2 to/from The Village at Mammoth and Canyon Lodge | Jun 24 - Sep 4 | 7:00 am - 2:00 am | Stop #2 The Village (Minaret Stop) | (Sei | (Service frequency is every 30 minutes from midnight to 2:00 am) | | |
| TOWN TROLLEY WITH 3-CAPACITY BIKE RACK | | Every 30 minutes | See | See map on pages 30-31 | | | |
| Stop #2 to/from The Village at Mammoth and Canyon Lodge | Sep 5 - Nov 17 | 7:00 am - 10:00 pm | Stop #2 The Village (Minaret Stop) | | | | |
| LAKES BASIN TR | OLLEY W | TH 14-BIKE TRAI | LER | See | map on pag | e 32 | |
| The Village at Mammoth to May 26 - Jun 23 Jun 23 Jun 24 - Aug 20 Aug 21 - Sep 4 Sep 5 - Sep 24 | 9:00 am - 6:00 pm | Every 30 minutes weekends & holio Every 60 minutes weekdays The Village Stop #90 Lake Mary Marina Stop #100 Horseshoe Lake Stop #104 Tamarack Lodge Stop #95 (last bus | :00 :19 :30 | :30 :49 :00 | 5:00 pm 5:19 pm 5:30 pm 5:42 pm | | |
| | | 9:00 am - 6:00 pm | Every 30 minutes | ,, | .IL | υ. 1 <u>Ε</u> μπ | |
| | , | 9:00 am - 6:00 pm | Every 30 minutes weekends & holidays Every 60 minutes weekdays | | | | |
| | | 9:00 am - 6:00 pm | Every 60 minutes | | | | |
| PURPLE LINE | | | Every 30 minutes | See | See map on pages 30-31 | | |
| Vons parking lot to/from | Year-round | 7:00 am - | Vons Stop #25 | :00 | :30 | 5:30 pm | |
| The Village at Mammoth | | 6:00 pm | The Village (Canyon Stop) The Village (Minaret Stop) | :15 :19 | :45 :49 | 5:45 pm 5:49 pm | |

ALL SCHEDULES AND/OR FARES SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND/OR CANCELLATION.

Yosemite National Park Mass Transit - PAID

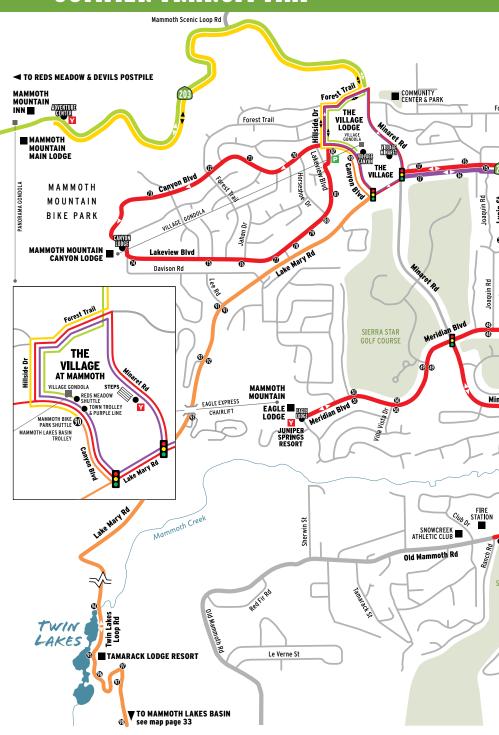


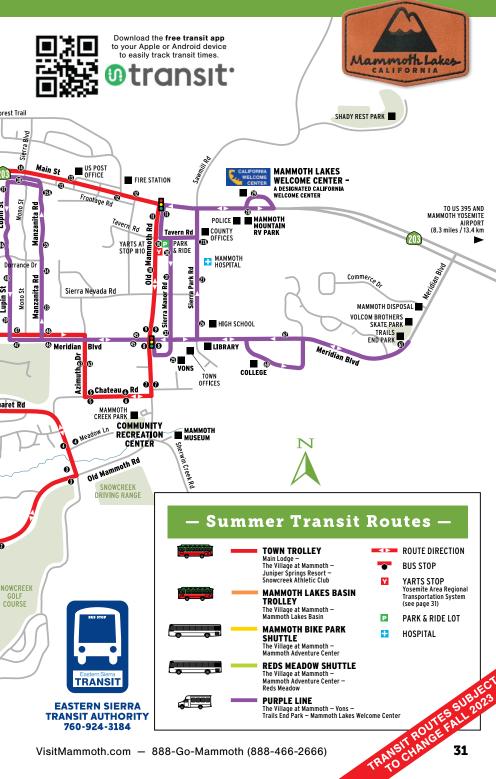
YOSEMITE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM (YARTS) 877-989-2787 • www.YARTS.com

Comfortable public transit service from Mammoth Lakes to Yosemite National Park is available through Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS). Call 877-989-2787 or go to YARTS.com for exact fares, times and destination locations. All fares to Yosemite National Park include Park gate fees.

- · Season: July September
- · Reserve tickets and search additional routes online

- SUMMER TRANSIT MAP -





- SUMMER TRANSIT MAP - LAKES BASIN



- SUMMER TRANSIT MAP - REDS MEADOW





THE KEAL UNREAL - IS JUST A FLIGHT AWAY -

Seasonal air service to Mammoth Lakes makes getting here easy. Connect to Mammoth Lakes from cities around the world when you fly on United into Eastern Sierra Regional Airport (BIH) in Bishop. You can also hop on an Advanced Airlines flight from Hawthorne-LAX (HHR), Burbank (BUR) or Carlsbad (CLD) to Mammoth Yosemite Airport (MMH), just 10 minutes from town.

All flights subject to change and/or cancellation without notice.

VisitMammoth.com/Flying