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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ABOUT MOON LAKE RESORT

HOW CAN I MAKE CABIN RESERVATIONS ?

TO MAKE A RESERVATION:

- **RESERVATION BOOKING:** **Speak with JULIE on the phone.**
- **REQUIRED DEPOSIT:**

When booking a reservation 30 or more days prior to arrival, you will be asked to send a deposit for the tax- included amount of your first night's stay. Deposits must be made by CHECK OR MONEY ORDER and should be received within seven days of booking.
Sorry, but we are unable to take credit cards as deposits for reservations made more than 30 days prior to arrival.

When booking a reservation less than 30 days prior to arrival, you will be asked to make full payment by VISA OR MASTER CARD. A signed "Credit Card Authorization" must be faxed, e-mailed or mailed immediately after booking. Personal checks will not be accepted as payment less than 30 days prior to arrival.
- **CONFIRMATION:** When we receive your deposit, we will send you an e-mail or written letter confirmation detailing :
 - the cabin(s) you have reserved,
 - the amount you have paid,
 - the balance due and
 - the due date of your final payment.
- **FINAL PAYMENT:** We should receive full payment of your balance due:
 - 30 days in advance for individual bookings and
 - 60 days in advance for groups.
- **WHAT FORMS OF PAYMENT ARE ACCEPTED ?**

Reservations made 30 or more days prior to arrival require full payment by CHECK OR MONEY ORDER. Sorry, but we are unable to take credit cards as deposits for reservations made more than 30 days prior to arrival.

Reservations made less than 30 days prior to arrival require immediate full payment by VISA OR MASTER CARD. A signed "Credit Card Authorization" must be faxed, e-mailed or mailed immediately after booking.

Personal checks will not be accepted as payment less than 30 days prior to arrival.

RESERVATION TIPS:

- **RESERVATIONS ARE BY PHONE ONLY** (Click here to [CONTACT US](#))

It is best to call on the phone, but feel free to make inquiries via email or mail.

Advance reservations are recommended and MOSTLY REQUIRED to stay in the Moon Lake cabins. The Moon Lake cabins are very popular.

It is best to call as far in advance as possible to book your reservations.

- **CONFIRMATION of reservations is finalized by only one person -- JULIE.** Any requests for reservations are not considered firm reservations until confirmed by Julie. Leaving a message, an e-mail or talking to any other Resort staff person DOES NOT guarantee a reservation.

YOU MAY CONTACT US BY PHONE:

MAY 15th--OCTOBER 15th

(435)-454-3142

OCTOBER 15th--MAY 15th

(970)-731-9906

- DURING OPERATING SEASON--

The best time to call for reservations is between 10 am and 5 pm.

- DURING OFF-SEASON --

The best time to call for reservations is between 10 am and 5 pm.

If these calling times are not convenient, you may leave a message or e-mail anytime and we will call you back, and try to reach you at the time that is best for you.

- **Weekends are in higher demand than weekdays.**

Some weekends require a 3-night-minimum stay. Rates are lower Sunday-Thursday.

- **Mid-June to mid-August is high-demand PEAK season.**

- Be flexible. Have a first and second choice for dates you'd like to stay.

- **Reservations are taken one season at a time.**

Reservations for the following season are USUALLY taken in **October**, around the 15th, but please check with the resort after August 1st for the specific start date.

Calls are taken on a first-come, first-served basis on the designated starting date.

- Please familiarize yourself with the [RESORT'S OPERATING POLICIES](#).

- For your safety and enjoyment, please respect fire code-sleeping occupancy limits.

- Check-in is after 3 p.m. Please check-out before 11 a.m.

- Pets are welcomed at no extra charge. Please see Resort [PET POLICY](#).

- **Guests must provide their own bedding, kitchen gear, towels and paper goods.**

Packages containing these items can be rented at an additional charge with advance notice

HOW CAN I CONTACT THE RESORT ?

You are currently viewing Moon Lake Resort's Internet Website:
moonlakeresort.com

For general information and answers, click on the link:
[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

We may be contacted VIA E-MAIL all year long at:
resortmail@moonlakeresort.com

YOU MAY CONTACT US BY PHONE:

MAY 15th--OCTOBER 15th

(435)-454-3142

OCTOBER 15th--MAY 15th

(970)-731-9906

YOU MAY CONTACT US BY MAIL:

MAY 15th--OCTOBER 15th

Moon Lake Resort
PO Box 510070
Mountain Home,
Utah 84051

OCTOBER 15th--MAY 15th

Moon Lake Resort
PO Box 5051
Pagosa Springs,
Colorado 81147

PLEASE NOTE :

RESERVATIONS ARE CURRENTLY BY PHONE ONLY

WHAT IS THE RESORT'S OPERATING SEASON ?

Moon Lake Resort OPENS: Memorial Day Weekend

CLOSES: Sunday after the last weekend of September

The lodge/store is OPEN DAILY--8 AM TO 8 PM--MID-JUNE TO MID-AUGUST
...However...

WE CLOSE DAILY BETWEEN 5:30 and 6:30 PM for a staff DINNER HOUR

Early Spring and Late Fall -- DAILY HOURS VARY-- Usually, they are 10AM--6 PM

WHAT ARE THE CABINS LIKE?

We like to refer to our accommodations as “**camping in a house**”.

Because “**RUSTIC**” is a relative and subjective term, you need to ask yourself what your own definition of that word is before we say that RUSTIC sufficiently describes our place.

Is your definition: Four walls, roof and floor, windows and doors, electricity, gas heat, cold water sink, gas stove, dining table and double beds to sleep on ? (This describes our two most “rustic” cabins, #14 and #22, that do not include interior bathroom facilities)

OR

Is your definition: All of the above, plus a toilet, sink and shower (hot water, included) and a full-size refrigerator. ? (This describes our 13 “full-facility” cabins of varying sizes)

OR

Is your definition: A hotel room minus maid and room service ? This does not describe anything you will find at Moon Lake. (If this is your definition of “rustic”, you should probably not be coming here. Sorry.)

IN OTHER WORDS, we like to think we provide the basics in comfort and convenience while still being close to the natural setting and timeless feel of the forest experience we are a part of.

The cabins are drier, warmer and more comfortable than tent camping, but perhaps, not as luxurious as some personal RV and trailer rigs we’ve seen, and certainly not a hotel, or even a motel room accommodation.

The oldest cabins date back to 1935 and the most “modern” larger cabins were built in the early 1950’s. The cabins have all been brought up to current building codes for health and safety in a basic “vacation” structure. They are not fancy and they are, likely, not as nice as your own home, but for many long-time guests they are a “home away from home”.

They are “cabins in the woods”.

They are funky but functional, well-worn, but clean and convenient.

The beds have a clean sheet covering on the mattress. You bring your own bedding, such as blankets, pillows, sleeping bags, etc.

Kitchens have stoves. You bring all your own utensils, pots, pans, paper goods, etc

Each cabin has a fire-ring with surrounding log seating outside the cabin.

We recommend you bring your own favorite camping chairs.

There are no grills or picnic tables outside and no fireplaces inside.

There are no phones, TVs or Internet hookups in the cabins

Some cabins have covered porches; some do not.

Most have a view of the lake; some are more surrounded by trees than others.

All are within a typical 5-minute walk to the lakeshore.

(See [CABINS](#) page)

WHAT PUBLIC SERVICES DOES THE RESORT OFFER?

Lodge peak season hours are 8 AM TO 8 PM DAILY. However, the lodge closes between 5:30 and 6:30 PM DAILY for a Resort Staff Dinner Hour.

Daily Spring and Fall hours vary by demand

The LODGE welcomes the general public as well as Resort guests.

● The Lodge provides:

- **hospitality, information and free advice** to all visitors
- **check-in, check-out desk** plus all hospitality services to Resort guests

● a general **public convenience store** stocked with camping essentials, fishing supplies, basic groceries, ice cream, ice, beer, snacks, firewood, clothing, souvenirs and other treats.

NOTE: The lodge **DOES NOT, currently, provide sit-down meal service**, although a restaurant is in future plans for the Resort.

● public **BOAT RENTALS** of 14-foot aluminum motorized fishing boats, kayaks and peddle boats (**SEE [BOATS](#) page**)

● **basic fishing outfit rentals**

● sale of State resident and non-resident **Fishing Licenses** (NO Hunting licenses available)

● Click here for **[OTHER RENTAL SERVICES](#)**

● **the only public access PHONE within 16 miles.** This public courtesy phone uses pre-paid calling cards (available for purchase in the store) for long-distance calls.

Emergency 911 and local calls are free of charge.

NOTE: Most CELL PHONES DO NOT WORK at or around Moon Lake.

● a game room with foosball, pinball and video games

● free public use recreation access to **horseshoes, volleyball and basketball courts, small kid's sandbox -- plus board games available on loan.**

● **general information** about trails, activities, history, natural resources, wildlife and other area attractions

● **referrals** to local businesses and services

● a public message board **for camper and cabin guest communications**

HOW CAN I MAKE BOAT RESERVATIONS ?

Any Resort staff member can reserve a boat for you by phone.

It is not mandatory to reserve boats in advance. However, to assure your rental, we will simply pencil you in for the time and day you request.

No advance payment is required if you do reserve, but...

Payment must be received prior to the rental.

Please confirm your reservation with payment the day before.

If arriving on the same day as your requested rental, please confirm your reservation with payment prior to the start time of the rental period.

During busy periods, reservations will not be held without pre-payment, unless special arrangements have been made.

If you are not a cabin guest of the Resort, we require a credit card number to hold your reservation until pre-rental payment can be made.

All renters must be at least 18 years of age and are required to sign a waiver of liability and equipment damage agreement.

All renters will receive instruction on safe use of the boat regardless of boating experience.

(See [BOATS](#) page)

WHAT ARE THE RESORT'S OPERATING POLICIES?

Current **RESORT POLICIES** are, as follows:

- Rates are subject to change. Some reservation restrictions may apply.
- **RESERVATIONS** are currently taken **BY PHONE ONLY**.
- A **DEPOSIT**, equal to the first night rental including tax, is due within 7 days of booking. (25% for stays of 5 or more nights) **payable by check or money order**.
- Failure to submit deposit equals loss of reservation.
FULL PAYMENT IS DUE 30 DAYS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL.
- **No refunds will be given for cancellations made within 30 days of arrival date.**
- A deposit refund, less \$25 per cabin, will be given for cancellations made at least 30 days prior to arrival.
- Reservations involving 7 or more cabin nights, (**groups or extended stays**) are subject to a 60/90 day prepayment/cancellation policy.
- **GROUPS** (3 or more cabins) must have a designated **leader** responsible for handling all aspects of the reservation.
- There is a **\$20 charge** for all returned checks.
- **CHECK-IN IS AFTER 3:00 P.M. CHECK-OUT IS BY 11:00 A.M.**
- **QUIET HOURS** are observed between 10 pm and 8 am. **Love thy neighbor.**
- Please bring bedding, kitchen gear, towels, cleaning supplies **and paper products**.
- Maid service **is not provided** during your stay. Cabins are cleaned before and after your stay.
- State Fire Code limits the number of occupants in each cabin. **Please respect the sleeping occupancy limits.**
- **Pets** are welcome but should be leashed. Please clean up after your pet. SEE [PET POLICY](#).
- **Tents and occupied camper vehicles are NOT permitted on Resort property.**
- **ATVs are NOT permitted on Resort property.**

THIS IS OUR "GOOD NEIGHBOR" POLICY:

CONSIDER THIS

*IF YOU COUNT YOURSELF AMONG THOSE
WHO LOVE AND RESPECT THIS PLACE*

PLEASE CONSIDER THIS:

"To everything there is a season"

10 PM IS THE SEASON OF QUIET.

Voices carry.

A barking dog is NO man's best friend.

Keep them quiet or leave them home.

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR.

If you're not sure how things work around here -- just ask us.
We're here to help.

Make yourself comfortable here...

but with the same respect you would have for your own home.

If you rearrange furniture, please put it back as you found it.

Many others will follow...hopefully, without a trail you left behind.

One man's trash is another furry little creature's treasure.

Choose your dinner guests wisely. Put a lid on it.

Teach your children well !

Great pains (mostly back) were taken to provide you with
a fun and functional fire-ring area.

Hacking, whacking, carving, sawing, cutting, burning, marking or
disarranging of rocks, logs and trees will NOT be enjoyed or
appreciated by anyone other than, perhaps, you.

Please leave well enough alone.

The US Forest Service (who permits us to occupy this property)
considers it a crime to deliberately cause injury to
natural resources, including trees and wildlife of all kinds.

SO DO WE.

Learn something new about this place.

Learn something new about yourself.

Watch a sunset, a moonrise, a moonset and a sunrise--
all in one night, if you can.

THANK YOU -- ENJOY--COME BACK SOON
FRIENDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

DO YOU ALLOW PETS AT MOON LAKE RESORT?

YES. Moon Lake Resort is operated under permit of the Ashley National Forest. Under our permit regulations, **pets are allowed, under restraint and control of their owners.** Forest Service regulations allow and govern pets in the campgrounds, as well.

Moon Lake Resort is very pet-friendly, with owner responsibility and compliance being the major factors shaping our pet policy. We have welcomed a wide variety of pets, including dogs, cats, lizards, snakes, parrots, ferrets, bunnies and even wolves and bobcats; all under proper supervision and restraint.

Moon Lake **Resort's** **PET POLICY**, currently, is as follows:

- Pets should be leashed and under owner control while on Resort property.
- **Owners are responsible for cleaning up after their pets.**
- Owners are financially responsible for property damage caused by pets.
- **Nuisance pets**, either loud or aggressive, are **not welcome**. Please leave them home.
A barking dog is NO man's best friend— Love thy neighbor.
- Pets (and guests) are required to respect quiet hour times --between 10 pm and 8 am.
Incessantly barking dogs at any time of day will be considered a nuisance.
- Pets (and guests) reported as a nuisance to other guests will require Resort management intervention, **up to and including, removal from the property.**
- **BOTTOM LINES –**
OWNER RESPONSIBILITY DETERMINES OUR PET POLICIES.
OUR FLEXIBILITY IS DETERMINED BY YOU.
PLEASE DON'T UNDERMINE WHAT MOST PET-LOVING GUESTS FEEL IS A GREAT PLACE.

WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF MOON LAKE RESORT ?

The following condensed version of MOON LAKE RESORT'S HISTORY is the result of cooperative research efforts undertaken by a number of people, including:

Cristina Bailey, historical writer for the US Forest Service,
Cris Clark Sorensen, daughter of long-time Resort owner, Cal Clark (1960's-1990's),
Mr. Joe Kemp, son of Joseph H. Kemp, long-time Resort owner (1940's-1960's),
Pam Helms, local Duchesne resident, historical researcher and Resort employee,
Bill Reardon, current co-owner of Moon Lake Resort,

plus many written and oral accounts, all gratefully appreciated in piecing the puzzle together.

Our collective History of Moon Lake Resort goes like this:

In 1925, the first special use permit was issued by the US Forest Service, allowing the establishment of a resort at Moon Lake. The first "lodge" was probably constructed around 1927-28 near the mouth of the Brown Duck Creek, in front of the current campground. The first cabins were probably built in 1928 by the Lee Alger family. It is unclear whether a second "lodge" building was constructed by the Algers at the Brown Duck location, but it is reasonably certain that a lodge burned down here in 1934, when "gasoline, instead of kerosene, was added to a wood burning stove," according to an Alger family member.

The construction of the Moon Lake Dam and reservoir, beginning in 1935, made it necessary to move the resort to its new, present location. The original cabins were moved to their present location in 1935 by a team of sturdy horses, after a Model T failed at the task.

The June 28, 1935 special edition of the Uintah Basin Record newspaper reported, "the construction of new cabins which are to house the reclamation crew and which will later provide tourist accommodations. A new store, pool hall and beer parlor are now in operation here, to accommodate the workers and visitors." The original building, referred to in the article is the core structure of the lodge today--a single story use structure with an unfinished upper level. The original beer "bar" remains in the lodge today.

Another article in this paper refers to CCC improvements of the recreation area at Moon Lake that seem to reference the additional cabin construction in 1935. It is believed that today's cabins # 1,2,3,4,5, 6,8 & 10 were the cabins constructed by the CCC at this time.

The Alger family operated the resort until 1944, when it was sold to a local resident, Joseph H. Kemp. The Kemp family operated the resort until 1962, adding the most "modern" cabins, #7,9,11,12, 23 & 24 in the early 1950's. The Kemps also built additions on the lodge, currently used as staff kitchen and sleeping areas, and installed small sleeping rooms in the upper level of the lodge, which are unused by the public today.

Cal Clark and six partners purchased the resort from Kemp in 1962. Cal, soon after, became sole owner. Many family members, friends, locals and Salt Lake school teachers managed the resort over various seasons during Clark's ownership. In the early 1970's, bathroom facilities were added in or onto all but two of the 15 cabins in use today.

In 1994, Cal's daughter, Kathy, formed a corporation with three other friends, titled Moon Lake Resort, Inc. Also, in 1994, the corporation hired Bill and Julie Reardon as co-managers of the resort. The Reardons assumed full General Manager duties in 1998 and by 2002, the Reardons acquired 100% shareholder interest in the business. They currently own and operate Moon Lake Resort under a Special Use Permit of the Ashley National Forest issued to them in 2002.

WHO OWNS AND OPERATES MOON LAKE RESORT ?

The Reardon family, (Bill, Julie and son, Jefferson) currently own and operate Moon Lake Resort.

Bill and Julie were hired as co-managers of the Resort in 1994, assumed full General Manager duties in 1998, acquired percentage shareholder interest in 1999, and by the start of the 2002 season, acquired 100% ownership of the business.

Moon Lake Resort is operated under a Special Use Permit of the Ashley National Forest issued to the Reardons/Moon Lake Resort, Inc. in 2002.

WHAT KIND OF PLACE IS MOON LAKE RESORT ?

Moon Lake and the Moon Lake Resort have some kind of special magic or spirit about them. We became aware of something unique in the first year we ran the resort.

Nearly every Resort guest we spoke with could recount a long and lovingly-remembered history of coming to this place. Many expressed the feeling that it was the place they most looked forward to coming, every year for many years. Most had been coming for decades, some had been returning yearly for nearly 70 years! Generations of the same families share memories of this place.

Many have expressed to us, their love of the fact that the Resort has not changed that much through all the changing times and years they've been coming, here.

We value this TIMELESS atmosphere and character of the Resort as being one of the things that make it special. This character seems to appeal most to the families who share true family hours together, here. The atmosphere invites families to gather around a campfire and embrace precious shared moments. Many say they value FAMILY TOGETHERNESS as the best reward of their visits to the Resort.

Many "newcomers" have also discovered Moon Lake Resort only since the road was paved in 1994/95. We've seen most of these folk start their own new traditions of returning annually, as well.

Moon Lake Resort especially appeals to those who value family-centered SIMPLE PLEASURES, away from the hustle-bustle distractions of these modern times. Some technology comes with visitors, but it is not featured or promoted at the Resort.

ROMANTIC COUPLES, GOOD FRIENDS and INDIVIDUALS SEEKING PERSONAL ENRICHMENT also find a lot to like about the place.

And, as they say at the circus, "CHILDREN OF ALL AGES" have expressed delight in being here. We've actually heard from many that they'd rather be here than at Disneyland (or anywhere else, for that matter).

As owners, we work hard to manage and preserve this unique atmosphere with great respect for all our guests' experiences and memories. We appreciate those who cherish this place as they do and thank them for always reminding us of the magic here that we sometimes miss while too busy with work.

They say the best advertising is "word-of-mouth" and the best business is the one you return to. Moon Lake Resort thrives on both.

That's the kind of place it is and the kind of place we hope to keep it.

A SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT E-MAIL

First things first--WE ARE NOT ROCKET SCIENTISTS WHEN IT COMES TO THE INTERNET. Having suffered through a couple viruses and crashes, we're still a little jittery when we sail off into cyberspace. So, here's a few things we'd like you to consider:

- There is a wealth of general information on the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) pages on our website: moonlakeresort.com . You may want to check first to see if your question(s) are already answered there.
- If you still need more information or clarification, the preferred option is to **call us** directly. Please note: **WE DO NOT MAKE RESERVATIONS VIA E-MAIL.**
- If it is not convenient to call us, you can e-mail us with a phone number and best time at which you would like us to call you. We will call you.
- If you would like us to e-mail you, please be sure that your mail program will accept messages from our address: resortmail@moonlakeresort.com or moonlake@query.net . It has been our experience that sometimes our mailings are perceived as spam (which they are not). Also, some programs run such high security filtering that, unless senders are recognized by the program, messages are not allowed (kind of like call blocking on phones). **In other words, if you want to receive e-mail from us, you need to help us get it to you.**
- We will not send you anything as part of a forwarding list. Each message will be individually addressed to you.
- **We will not open any attachments.** Because these are what have given us troubles in the past, we will not open attachments unless we are sure they are from you. Please put a note in the subject line describing what's in an attachment or call us to tell us what you are sending, or we will never see what you sent, sorry.
- **We will not open forwarded messages** for the same reason stated above. You may paste something into an individual message to us or use BCC: but we will not open anything Forwarded as part of a list, sorry.
- Aside from direct e-mail correspondence with you, we occasionally send out general information messages to our entire mailing list. These messages should show up as individual messages to you, rather than list mailings. These are mostly short-notice cabin availability notices. If you would NOT like to receive these notices and other general info postings, please let us know this and we will try not to send them to you.
- If you send us an e-mail, we will add your e-mail address to our e-mailing list. If you do not want to be added to this list, please tell us this in your original message or let us know any time you would like us to un-list you.

LINKS TO NEARBY ATTRACTIONS & INFORMATION SOURCES

ON-SITE WEATHER for Moon Lake

www.weather.com/weather/local/UTMNLRES:13?from=hp_hugme

10-DAY FORECAST for Moon Lake

http://www.weather.com/weather/tenday/UTMNLRES:13?from=36hr_fcst10DayLink_undeclared

National Recreation Reservation System www.reserveusa.com/
(Moon Lake and other Forest Service Campground Reservations)

The Ashley National Forest www.fs.fed.us/r4/ashley/

Dinosaur National Monument & Quarry
www.nps.gov/dino/pphtml/planyourvisit.html

Utah Field House of Natural History
State Park Museum (Vernal)
www.dinoland.com/utah-natural-history-museum.html

Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area
www.utah.com/nationalsites/flaming_gorge.htm

Dinosaurland Travel Region www.dinoland.com/

Utah State Parks and Recreation www.stateparks.utah.gov/

Starvation State Park (Duchesne)
www.stateparks.utah.gov/park_pages/parkpage.php?id=svsp

The Duchesne County
Chamber of Commerce www.duchesne.net/

Nine-Mile Canyon www.byways.org/browse/byways/15780/

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ABOUT MOON LAKE

WHAT IS MOON LAKE?

Moon Lake is the largest lake in Utah's highest mountains, the High Uinta(h)s, (both naturally and as a dam-enhanced irrigation water reservoir). It sits within the Ashley National Forest and transects the High Uinta Wilderness. The reservoir's full capacity surface level is 8,137 feet above sea level. The reservoir's level can drop 80 feet in elevation (creating a ½ mile sand "beach," including sand dunes) but the deepest spots in the natural lake will remain at measures of 120 feet (to tales of "bottomless"). The reservoir is approximately 3½ miles long and nearly a mile at its widest and fullest.

WHERE IS MOON LAKE?

Moon Lake is **"OUT OF THIS WORLD BUT STILL IN UTAH"**
Moon Lake is located in the northeast quadrant of Utah in an aspen and lodgepole pine forest. It is approximately 70 miles west of its more famous neighbor, the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area at the Wyoming border, close to Colorado. It is **32 miles north of the town of Duchesne** (pronounced DOO SHANE) on US 40. From Duchesne, it is accessed via SR 87 north and the county road through Mountain Home to Moon Lake. **(See [MAPS](#) page with directions on this website)**

Moon Lake is approximately 140-180 miles east of Salt Lake City and the cities on the Wasatch Front, typically a 3-3 ½ hour drive from there.

NOTE: WATCH YOUR SPEED 20 MILES WEST OR EAST OF DUCHESNE, Especially On A FRIDAY Or SATURDAY Evening. The Utah State Highway Patrol Does An EXCELLENT Job Of Enforcing Speed Limits On This Stretch Of US 40.

WHAT IS THE WEATHER LIKE AT MOON LAKE?

This most frequently asked question has no definitive answer, but here are some of our best guesses:

1. Mountain weather is constantly changing. The old expression, **“If you don’t like the weather, wait an hour and it’ll change.”** absolutely applies to Moon Lake weather. In fact, sometimes it changes much quicker than that.
2. A good rule of thumb to gauge **TEMPERATURES** is--subtract 10-20 degrees from your current Salt Lake City temperatures and that’s about where Moon Lake should be at that time.
3. If there is such a thing as an **“AVERAGE” DAY**, it might go something like this:
 - Sunrise to 10 am --usually little wind and pleasant warming as the sun hits the lake
 - 10:30 am - 4:30 pm -- wind usually picks up and changes direction over the lake with breezier but pleasant cooling (or warming) through mid-day. Good hiking weather.
 - 5:00 pm - sunset -- wind usually slacks off, calming the lake as temperature begins to drop
 - Nighttime -- on average, ten to twenty degrees cooler than daytime highs*Above describes a “typical” Moon Lake pattern, but have you ever seen anything typical or predictable about weather? - especially mountain weather - really?
4. **“TYPICAL” SEASONAL PATTERNS** might go something like this:
 - Memorial Day Weekend to Mid-June -- occasionally unsettled and transitional weather between Winter and Spring conditions, sometimes great, sometimes iffy
 - Mid-June to Mid-July -- more settled, Spring-like weather, a little cool, maybe a little breezy, but generally dry and pleasant
 - Mid-July to Mid-August -- warmest days in general, but with the best possibility of (mostly) afternoon thundershowers that usually pass through
 - Mid-August to end of September -- transition between Summer and Fall weather, usually more settled than early Spring, with pleasant temperatures, typically 10-15 degrees cooler than Summer. Potential for spectacular Fall foliage color displays and warm, sunny days.*Above seasonal patterns are “typical”. Extreme drought and El Niño years make everything even more unpredictable than normal. If we could be any more accurate in our predictions, we’d be making the big bucks as TV meteorologists.
4. **PACKING TIP** -- Pack three-season clothing, including rain gear. Usually, we wear a T-shirt, sweatshirt and jeans almost every day through the season, with only a few occasions requiring us to wear more or less. One might need as little as a bathing suit and as much as a snow parka, all in the same day. Pack extra clothes (and shoes) for kids, as the lure of the lake tends to get them wet and muddy.
5. **BOTTOM LINE** – There are NO guarantees with weather --it’s in the hands of a Higher Power.
6. **BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:** Click on our [ATTRACTIONS/INFORMATION](#) Tab for new ON-SITE report and forecast [Weather Links](#) -- OR just call us, anytime.

WHAT ARE THE BEST THINGS ABOUT MOON LAKE ?

This question has many answers, but, perhaps is best summed up by a guest who once stated,

“You know this is really a great place when you see the teenagers who didn’t want to get into the car to come here, not wanting to get into the car to leave.”

Of course, this is not always the case, but this comment has always helped to define the essence of the Moon Lake experience.

What seems most treasured by visitors to Moon Lake is what is often expressed as “the gift of time in a timeless place.” It is a place of fond memory and new discovery, for both new and long-returning visitors alike.

It seems that when people get here, it is so far removed from their normal daily lives and routines, that a disconnect from that world takes place and just that time-away is a gift and a pleasure unto itself.

There is something in the air, here, whether it’s the clear mountain air itself, or the awe-inspiring beauty of the forest, lake and mountains, or the time and open space to clear one’s head, or whatever. But most visitors experience something special about being here; something they take with them and, from what we often hear, something cherished long beyond their stay. Many can’t define it in words, but most **feel** something good from this place and most are eager to return.

Perhaps, just being here is the best thing about Moon Lake. You’ll have to judge for yourself.

OK, BUT WHAT IS THERE TO DO AT MOON LAKE ?

- Well, to name a few things, here goes:
- Making unforgettable family memories
 - Fishing ● Boating ● Swimming ● Hiking ● Campfires ● Discovery
 - Wildlife viewing ● Stargazing ● Rock-climbing ● Taking photographs
 - Spending time with loved ones ● Meeting new friends ● Talking with others
 - Learning about Nature ● Learning about yourself ● Learning about others
 - Playing in the sand ● Skipping stones ● Camp cooking ● Toasting marshmallows
 - Flying kites ● Riding bikes ● Playing outdoor games ● Playing indoor games
 - Playing volleyball, horseshoes, basketball, pinball, foosball and video games at the lodge
 - Using your imagination ● Remembering the past ● Thinking about the future
 - Writing your journal ● Scrapbooking ● Horseback riding ● And more

CAN YOU CAMP AT MOON LAKE?

YES. The Roosevelt/Duchesne Ranger District of the Ashley National Forest currently manages two fee camping areas at Moon Lake. These **US Forest Service campgrounds** sit on either side of Moon Lake Resort. A 56-site campground (33-reservable, 23-first-come, first-served sites) is adjacent to our north and a large-group area comprised of two reserveable sites is adjacent to our south. These campgrounds provide flush toilet, pit-toilet and cold-water access, but currently have NO public showers, nor any individual-site electrical hookups or water taps. (See [MAPS](#) page to view campground maps). Information on these campgrounds is available by calling the Ranger District offices at (435)-738-2482 in Duchesne or (435)-722-5018 in Roosevelt.

Campground reservation service is available at the National Recreation Reservation System (NRRS) by calling [1-877-444-6777](tel:1-877-444-6777) or via the Internet at www.ReserveUSA.com.

Please NOTE: Moon Lake Resort provides public hospitality, information and recreation services/support to all campers and visitors in the area, but... the Resort has no role in management or reservations at the campgrounds. P.S.: Camping in tents or trailers is prohibited on the Moon Lake Resort property (See [Resort Policies](#)).

WHAT ARE THE TRAILS LIKE AT MOON LAKE?

Three main hiking trailheads originate from the Moon lake Recreation Area:
(See [Trails Map on the MAPS](#) page)

1) **THE LAKE FORK TRAIL** is **the most casual day hike** in the area. This trail accesses the north (head) of Moon Lake via the west side of the lake on Round Mountain. Starting from the lake access parking area near the lower loop campground fence, this trail can be enjoyed by hikers of all ages. The “steepest” part of this trail is at the beginning, just after crossing the little bridge over the Brown Duck Creek. Rising no more than about 400 feet above the lake, the trail can be hiked at just about any pace, to reach the north end of the lake in about 1- 2 hours. From campground to north end is only about 1½ miles of mostly gradual ascending and descending trail. Hikers can turn around at any point and still get some great views, in and out of the trees, overlooking the lake. Most day hikers go only to the north end of the lake, but the trail continues for many miles up the Lake Fork Drainage. **TIP:** About a mile up the trail, you cross the Wilderness boundary, marked by a sign. Continue on the trail past the sign. Don’t be tempted to head downhill on what only “looks” like a trail to the head of the lake. This will only put you in a big boulder field and it is definitely not a shortcut to the lakeshore. It is a dead-end unless you are really stubborn and persistent. Take the trail beyond the head of the lake to a point where it parallels a stream flow and cautiously cross the stream to find your way back to the shore at the head of the lake where the best fishing and picnicking is.
This is the most recommended, all-around day hike.

2) **THE FISH CREEK TRAIL** is accessed by crossing the dam at the southeast end of Moon Lake. The trail heads north by skirting the east side of the lake until it reaches the

rocky fan where Fish Creek enters the lake. From here, it becomes moderately steep and a little rocky as it roughly follows the ascent of Fish Creek uphill into the forest. This trail features numerous vantage points giving open views west across the lake. The wooded trail opens up in a little meadow, about 1½ -2 hours into this hike. This is a good turn-around point or you can continue uphill, picking your way through trees on a less-defined trail above the meadow up to Mill Park below Lake Fork (Petty) Mountain where a vehicle could pick you up and return via the Hell's Canyon and Yellowstone Canyon Roads. The trail to the little meadow from the dam is **moderately strenuous** and sometimes considered a little tough for young children. It is one of the lesser-used trails in the area, generally affording more private moments than other trails.

3) THE BROWN DUCK TRAIL can be accessed from the High Uintas Trailhead near the horse corrals, approximately ¼ mile south of the Resort. It starts at the northwest end of the Trailhead parking area, heading west up an old jeep trail, then turning north and crossing the High Uinta Wilderness boundary before connecting with the main foot trail to the Brown Duck Basin. The Brown Duck Trail also originates from the lower loop (northeast corner) of the single-site FS campground just beyond the Resort. From this point, the trail ascends steeply for more than a mile. Starting from the Trailhead parking area is generally considered the easier start to this hike. Either way, you are enveloped in the woods with very few wide-ranging views throughout this hike until you reach the first lake in the basin, Brown Duck Lake, after about 7 miles and a 2,000-foot elevation gain. Since the real payoff on this hike is the lake basin, this is more often recommended (and enjoyed) as an overnight camping experience than a day hike. 3-3 ½ hours is typically required to reach the basin and the same to return. This is the most-used trail from Moon Lake into the upper Wilderness Area by hikers, horses and at times, grazing cattle. **This is, by no means, a casual day hike.**

NOTE: ATVS ARE PROHIBITED in the Lake Fork Drainage and Moon Lake Recreation Area by way of a new Forest Service Order signed in February, 2005 and in effect for the 2005 season forward.

Nearby Yellowstone and Hell's Canyons have extensively developed trails for ATV enthusiasts. Current travel and trail information is available at US Forest Service Ranger Stations in Duchesne and Roosevelt.

No mechanized or motorized vehicles of any kind are allowed within the High Uinta Wilderness Area, which is marked on these trails by a boundary sign. This includes mountain bikes. As far as mountain bikes go, there are not really any "great" bike trails in the immediate area around Moon Lake.

THERE IS NO TRAIL THAT ENCIRCLES THE LAKE. The Lake Fork Trail accesses the north end of the lake on its west side but does not return south on the east side of the lake. There is no trail on the east side, north of Fish Creek to the north end of the lake. Anyone attempting this route will be boulder scrambling and bush-whacking until they reach the really big obstacle on that side. The east shore of the lake is scarred by a diagonally ascending, sliding shale cliff that is mostly impossible to cross without swimming past it or climbing 1,000 feet to get over it.

There are far smarter, more fun, and safer things to do than attempting to encircle the lake just to say you did it.

WHAT IS THE FISHING LIKE AT MOON LAKE?

The best fishing spots are:

- 1) in the stream channels at the back end of the lake; using flies, worms or lures from the head of the stream where it enters the lake to about 300 feet into the lake in about 15-20 foot depths. (Boaters should use vigilant caution here due to greatly varying depths, rocks and stumps at the north end of the lake, which may result in prop damage and snagged lines).
- 2) trolling in the stream flow of the natural lake about 5 boat lengths out from the north and east shorelines and running from the back end of the lake to the dam. This shore is a good bet for close-to-surface and down to 30-foot depth fishing.
- 3) jigging and casting near the spring seeps at the “ledges”
- 4) variably, at each main stream inlet; the Lake Fork, Brown Duck and Fish Creek.
- 5) right off the sandy south shore with a worm floating a foot off the bottom.
- 6) fly-fishing holes in the Lake Fork River above the lake and below the dam.
- 7) in the rocky areas at the dam
- 8) in the Beaver Ponds about 6 miles downriver.
- 9) Right where you’re at or just a little out of your reach, depending on luck.

The worst times to fish are:

- 1) One hour before sunrise (it’s cold!) and one hour before dark (they’ll just tease you).
- 2) When it’s windy.
- 3) When lightning is in the area.
- 4) On the summer’s hottest days, mid-day.
- 5) When you’re grouchy or hung-over.

WHAT FISH ARE IN MOON LAKE?

The lake has native populations and is also annually stocked by Utah DWR. The fish in and around the lake are:

- 1) Pan-fry RAINBOW TROUT stocked yearly (6-10 inches we’ve seen grow to 27).
- 2) Fingerling to 10+ pound SPLAKE (a sterile Lake and Brook trout hatchery hybrid). Fingerlings have been stocked yearly for a while and this fish is now becoming the dominant lake predator, though very tricky to catch as it gets larger. Big ones are only active at night, according to DWR experts.
- 3) KOKANEEL SALMON about 6-16 inches, mostly active in Spring and Fall.
- 4) BROOK TROUT, CUTTHROAT TROUT and ARCTIC GREYLING.
- 5) TIGER TROUT were introduced in 2004.
- 6) MOUNTAIN WHITEFISH and other “sucker” varieties, rarely caught and usually considered “trash” fish.
- 7) The mystery “monster” fish scoped at 80 to 120 foot depths near the ledges near the deepest part of the “natural” lake. They might possibly be big Lake or Brown Trout, according to old-timers, Moon Lake devotees and other Fish-Story tellers.
- 8) The “Moon Lake Monster”-him/her/itself(?)-- but that’s another story.

WHAT ARE THE LAKE CONDITIONS LIKE ?

1. The calmest surface hours on the lake are most usually between 7 and 10:00 a.m. and again, between 4 and 7:00 p.m. **(Also, usually the best fishing hours)**. Winds typically vary in all directions through the middle of the day. To minimize wind effect, always travel into or with the wind, or pull in close to the shore where the wind is coming from. Get off the lake immediately if whitecaps begin to form.
2. Thunder may soon be followed by lightning. Get off the lake if you hear thunder, especially if the sky darkens near Round Mountain and the back north end of the lake.
3. The deepest parts of the lake are extremely cold. DO NOT go swimming out of the boat here at the risk of hypothermia and capsizing.

CAN YOU USE CANOES ON MOON LAKE ?

YES--But at your own risk. We do not rent or recommend canoes on Moon Lake. We feel only experienced canoeists should use a canoe here. Here's why:

Moon Lake is prone to gusting and quickly changing winds, especially in mid-day. We've seen these winds create great difficulties and danger for non-motorized watercraft caught in the deep mid-section of the lake.

Quick moving lightning and thunderstorms are also hazardous for un-cautious paddlers too far from shore, here.

Moon Lake water is extremely cold and hypothermia will set in rapidly if you capsize. The Resort rents KAYAKS and PEDDLE BOATS, --both, more stable than canoes. Renters of these craft are instructed and cautioned to NOT cross the lake's deep, cold mid-section and to ALWAYS stay close to shorelines. We recommend this caution to all boaters.

(See [BOATS](#) page)

CAN YOU PUT A BIG BOAT ON MOON LAKE ?

SOMETIMES. Here are the things to consider:

There is NO BOAT RAMP at Moon Lake

The lake level can change daily. The fluctuating level of the lake goes something like this:

Moon Lake is usually at its fullest level at the start of the season in May and June. Sometimes, snow melt inflow equals or exceeds irrigation outflow and the level holds for a month or more. More typically, though, irrigation outflow exceeds inflow near July and the lake starts to draw down, creating (in dry years) up to nearly 1/2 mile of sand beach.

On a day-to-day basis, this can result in ten to forty feet of saturated shoreline above the water's edge. If your boat or personal watercraft needs to be floated off its trailer, your truck and trailer might not be coming out of the lake as easily as it went in. In other words, you're stuck in the sand/mud mix that is Moon Lake's famous vehicle-swallowing shoreline.

WE GUARANTEE that 4 x 4's DO NOT walk on water, despite what you see in commercials.

It is highly recommended that you check with Resort staff before attempting to launch from a trailer in the water.

All in all, small fishing boats, able to be launched by hand, from the shore, are best suited for the size and conditions of this lake. We rent 14-foot aluminum boats like this. (See [BOATS](#) page)

CAN YOU USE PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ON MOON LAKE ?

MAYBE. Currently, we know of nothing legally prohibiting the use of jet skis, waverunners, etc. on Moon Lake. But, here are a few things to consider:

- The water in Moon Lake is extremely cold--it is high mountain snow melt that never really warms up much through the season. Starvation State Park outside Duchesne (32 miles south of Moon Lake) is much larger, warmer and better suited for this activity.
- Moon Lake is primarily a small boat fishing lake where big wake and wave activity is not appreciated by the majority of users (who are these fisherman).
- Sound carries. Just as ATV users on the lakeshore conflicted with other users, personal watercraft riders have generated numerous complaints, disturbing fisherman and the general public alike, with the noise these craft produce. Geographically, Moon Lake sits in the bowl of a canyon, nearly surrounded by mountains and ridges that steeply ascend 1,000 feet above the lake. This landscape amplifies loud sounds on the lake and spreads that sound throughout the atmosphere of the entire area. The sound of personal watercraft on Moon Lake generates more complaints than any other factors in their use here. We believe that this factor and the fishing disturbance factor may, inevitably, result in the legal restriction of these craft on Moon Lake.
- No docks or launches. The fluctuating levels of the lake often require that watercraft trailers be driven into the water to launch. Quite often, this can result in vehicles getting stuck in the saturated shoreline. Moon Lake is famous for swallowing vehicles and **we repeat -- 4 x 4's DO NOT walk on water.**

Contact the US Forest Service Ranger District offices at (435)-738-2482 in Duchesne or (435)-722-5018 in Roosevelt or Utah State Parks and Recreation at (801)-538-7220 for further information about personal watercraft use. State laws are in effect and enforceable at Moon Lake.

CAN YOU RIDE ATVs AT MOON LAKE ?

NO. As of February, 2005, ATVs are prohibited by US Forest Service Decision and Order from the lakeshore, beach, sand dunes and all roads and trails in the Lake Fork Canyon and Moon Lake Recreation Area.

THIS IS A NEW RULING -- IN EFFECT FOR THE 2005 SEASON. The following is an excerpt of the Forest Supervisor's Order as it pertains to Moon Lake:

"It is my decision to close the Lake Fork drainage to all ATV use. The original proposal was to close the area around the Moon Lake Resort, the Moon Lake Campground, and the Lake Fork trailhead to ATV use while continuing to allow some use of ATVs along the Moon Lake beaches near the dam. Both respondents to the scoping letter and folks administering ATV use in the Moon Lake area, suggest that allowing this minimal use in the Lake Fork drainage will concentrate use and cause major user conflicts along the Moon Lake shoreline. Allowing a play area off of designated routes is also contrary to the Ashley National Forest order restricting all ATV use to designated roads and trails. Use of ATVs close to these developed facilities is incompatible with the intended purpose of these recreation developments. There are no other designated routes or places to ride ATVs in the Lake Fork drainage other than that previously allowed along the reservoir and the sand dunes. **Eliminated ATV use along the Moon Lake shoreline and sand dunes effectively closes the Lake Fork drainage to ATV use. This decision will take effect in for the 2005 summer season.**"

Previously, ATVs were always prohibited on the trails and roads in the Lake Fork Canyon but they WERE ALLOWED on the beach lakeshore of Moon Lake. However, with their increased use and popularity in the last ten years, problems also increased rapidly at Moon Lake.

Unregulated, unsafe, irresponsible and, often, illegal activities of some ATV riders created conflicts with other user groups at Moon Lake, including accidents, violations, public disturbance and natural resource destruction resulting in numerous complaints to the US Forest Service.

After soliciting public comment and studying the Moon Lake situation, the Forest Service has decided that ATV use on the lakeshore is an inappropriate recreation activity in this area and **NOW PROHIBITS ALL ATV USE AT MOON LAKE.**

This decision is intended and expected to promote public safety, conform to Forest Service Policy and preserve the Moon Lake experience as it has most widely and historically been enjoyed --as a more serene, less motorized setting on the edge of the Wilderness.

AT THE SAME TIME, and in the same Decision, while prohibiting use at Moon Lake, the Forest Service acknowledges the popularity of ATVs as a recreation activity appropriate to certain specifically dedicated use areas of the forest..

They have expanded riding opportunities in nearby Yellowstone and Hell's Canyons, just south and east of Moon Lake by approximately 17 - 23 miles.

Previously developed trails are now expanded in an extensive area network of connected ATV trails and roads in Yellowstone and Hell's Canyons in the hope of better accommodating ATV enthusiasts with less conflict from non-enthusiasts.

Trail and Travel information is available from the US Forest Service Ranger District offices at (435)-738-2482 in Duchesne or (435)-722-5018 in Roosevelt.

CAN YOU RIDE HORSES AT MOON LAKE ?

YES.

You may bring your own horses and keep them overnight, as needed, in a **public user corral** provided by the US Forest Service at the High Uintas Trailhead, approximately ¼ mile south of Moon Lake Resort.

Horses are not allowed in the resort or campgrounds and camping is not allowed at the trailhead.

An independent Outfitter, permitted by the Forest Service, offers trail rides and outfitting services in the Moon Lake area.

You may **contact the US Forest Service Ranger District offices at (435)-738-2482 in Duchesne or (435)-722-5018 in Roosevelt** with questions and comments regarding this Outfitter and for any additional information regarding high country horse activities in the Forest and adjoining Wilderness Area.

(Please See [HORSES](#) page on this website for RESORT details)

WILL WE SEE WILDLIFE AT MOON LAKE ?

YES. Here's a list of animals you might expect to see:

Tree squirrels Ground squirrels Chipmunks Mice Skunks Weasels
Porcupines Badgers Foxes Bobcats Mountain Lions Black Bear
Coyotes Deer Elk Moose Owls many Hawk Species Bald & Golden Eagles

LOTS OF HUMMINGBIRDS at the lodge (May-Sept) Other woodland birds and MORE

This is just a sample of animals we have seen in the area, some commonly, some rarely. Visitors should be aware that wild animals in a wild environment are WILD, sometimes unpredictable and always potentially dangerous, no matter how cute or friendly they seem to be. **USE YOUR HEAD AND KEEP YOUR DISTANCE.** Take a picture. Most wild animals are more wary and cautious of humans than humans are of them.

TIPS: Don't invite them into your camp--they might not want to leave.

Don't EVER get too close to any mother with young animals.

Don't feed human food to animals--it could be deadly to them.

Deer in the wild are NOT petting zoo animals! - no matter how friendly they act.

Don't back animals into a corner. Most animals are far more inclined to flee than fight, but if fighting is their only option to escape--most animals will fight.

WHAT ABOUT BUGS ?

You are in the woods--OF COURSE, THERE ARE BUGS HERE !

Mosquitoes are not really too troublesome here...BUT...
Moon Lake has a reputation for **BUFFALO GNATS** (which are actually Black Biting Flies).
For people who are very sensitive to bug bites, these little buggers can cause problems.

Here's the scoop on BUFFALO GNATS:

- They especially love to bite young children and small dogs.**
- On humans, they bite mostly on the back of the neck and ears at the hairline.** They also like the top of your socks and other clothing sweat-band lines.
- On dogs, they bite mostly in the less-hairy areas, especially around the stomach and groin.
- They are mostly daytime active.
- They are most active in sunshine after rain.
- They hide in tall grass when it is wet and attack as the sun dries the grass.
- They first hatch out at the start of July and are most vicious over the following six weeks.
- They can hang around (weakly) into September.
- They look like a fat fruit fly but are almost invisible in the air

Unlike a mosquito, you don't feel them biting, but after awhile you might feel an itch and when you scratch the itch, you may break a dry scab and see blood. This is usually what panics people, although it typically looks worse than it is, unless you are bug-bite sensitive.

HOW TO BEAT THE BUGS:

- 1) Know when and where they're out and plan accordingly (SEE ABOVE).
At the Resort, we post signs when we see the first bites (usually around the first of July).
 - 2) **Bring insect repellant and use it.**
 - For hearty adults, use sprays and liquids with the highest concentration of DEET
 - For the skin-sensitive, chemically intolerant, young children and dogs--DEET is not recommended.

Avon Skin-So-Soft seems to work best in these applications.
Veterinarians can recommend bug repellants that will not make a dog sick like Deet may.
 - The key to a repellant's effectiveness is frequent application. **Just as sunscreen does not protect all day long--neither do bug repellants.** If you see bugs flying around near you--YOU NEED TO APPLY MORE.
 - The lodge store carries an assortment of the above-mentioned repellants.
- 3) Bug-bite-sensitive people should bring Antihistamine medication (like Benadryl) (Serious reactions requiring hospitalization are rare, but possible, in people who are allergic or extremely bug-bite sensitive. If you have any such sensitivity, a doctor should be consulted before visiting here.)
 - 4) Keep moving--put on repellant—enjoy!