

Lake Mead

August 10, 2026 • vajiramandravi.com



Lake Mead Latest News

Lake Mead, the largest reservoir in the United States, has plummeted to its lowest water level since it was filled some 90 years ago, another sign of the crisis plaguing the Colorado River system.

About Lake Mead

- It is **one of the largest man-made lakes** in the world, located on the border between Southern Nevada and northwestern Arizona in the **United States**.
- It was formed in the mid-1930s by the **damming of the Colorado River** through the construction of the **Hoover Dam**.
- It is the **largest reservoir in the U.S.** when it's full of water.
- When Lake Mead is completely full, it stretches 180 km long. It can be 162 m deep at its deepest point.
- The water surface is 375 m above sea level, covering an area of 640 sq.km.
- Most of the **water is drawn from Rocky Mountain snowmelt and runoff**.
- It supplies **drinking water** for about **25 million people**.

- It is home to many species of mammals, including desert bighorn sheep, mountain lions, beavers, coyotes, and bats.
- **Since 1999**, periods of **extended drought** paired with **increased water demands** driven by population growth have caused a **drastic drop in lake levels**.

Key Facts about Colorado River

- It is a major river of **North America**.
- **Course:**
 - It **rises** in the **Rocky Mountains** of Colorado, **United States**.
 - It flows generally west and south for **2,330 km** into the **Gulf of California** in **northwestern Mexico**.
- It flows through **seven U.S. states** and **two Mexican states**.
- The river drains a **vast arid and semiarid sector** of the North American continent.
- It is often referred to as the **“Lifeline of the Southwest.”**
- **Lakes:** It forms several major reservoirs, including **Lake Mead** and **Lake Powell**.
- **International boundary:** Colorado forms an international **boundary between Arizona (US) and Mexico**.
- **Tributaries:** The Colorado River has several tributaries, including **Green, Gunnison**, San Juan, Dolores, Little Colorado, Gila, and Virgin Rivers.
- One of the Colorado River’s most famous features is the **Grand Canyon**, which it carved over millions of years.
 - Grand Canyon landscape is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and a major tourist attraction.
- The river also flows through **Canyonlands National Park** and **Horseshoe Bend in Arizona**.

News: APN

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/lake-mead/>

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