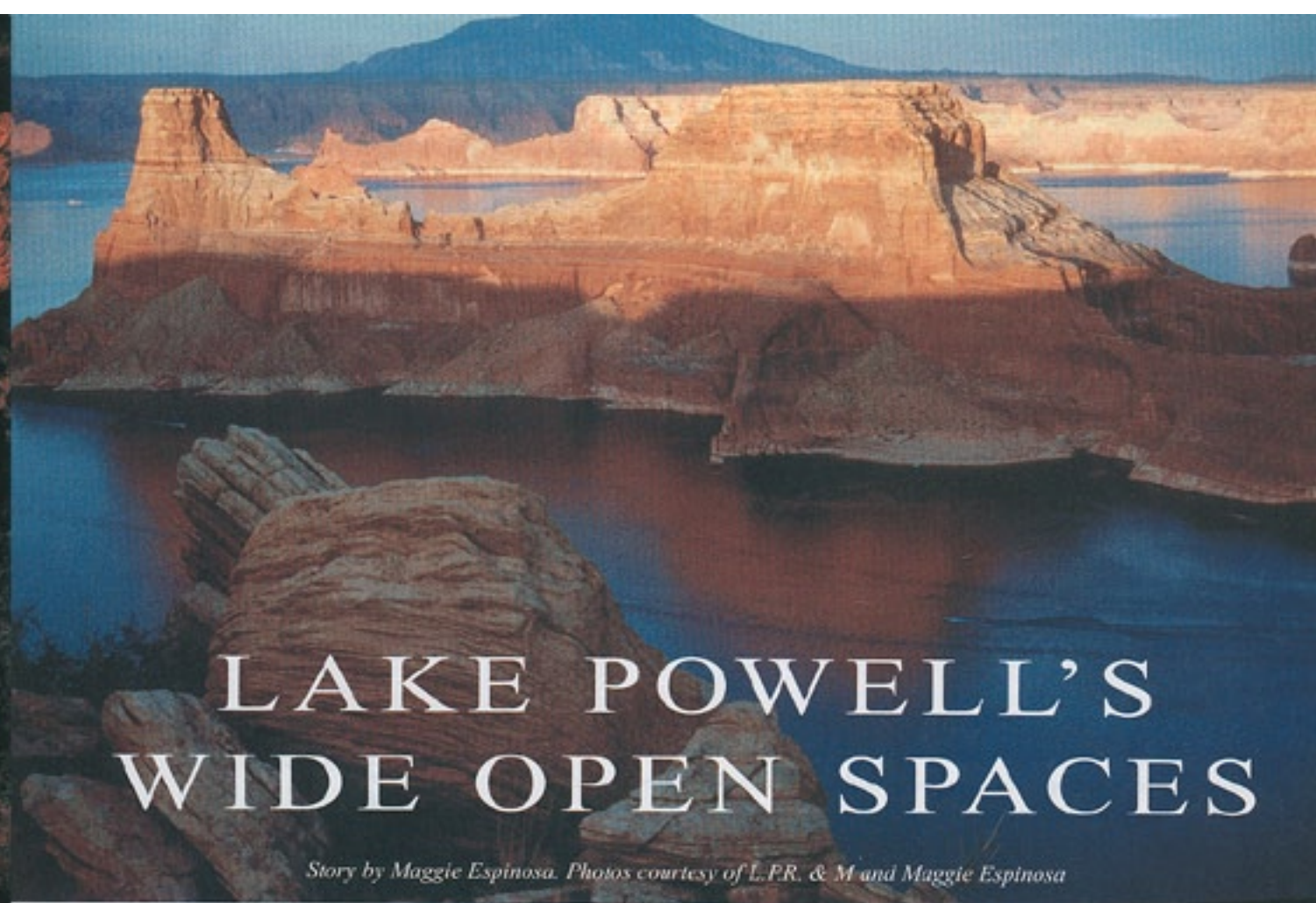
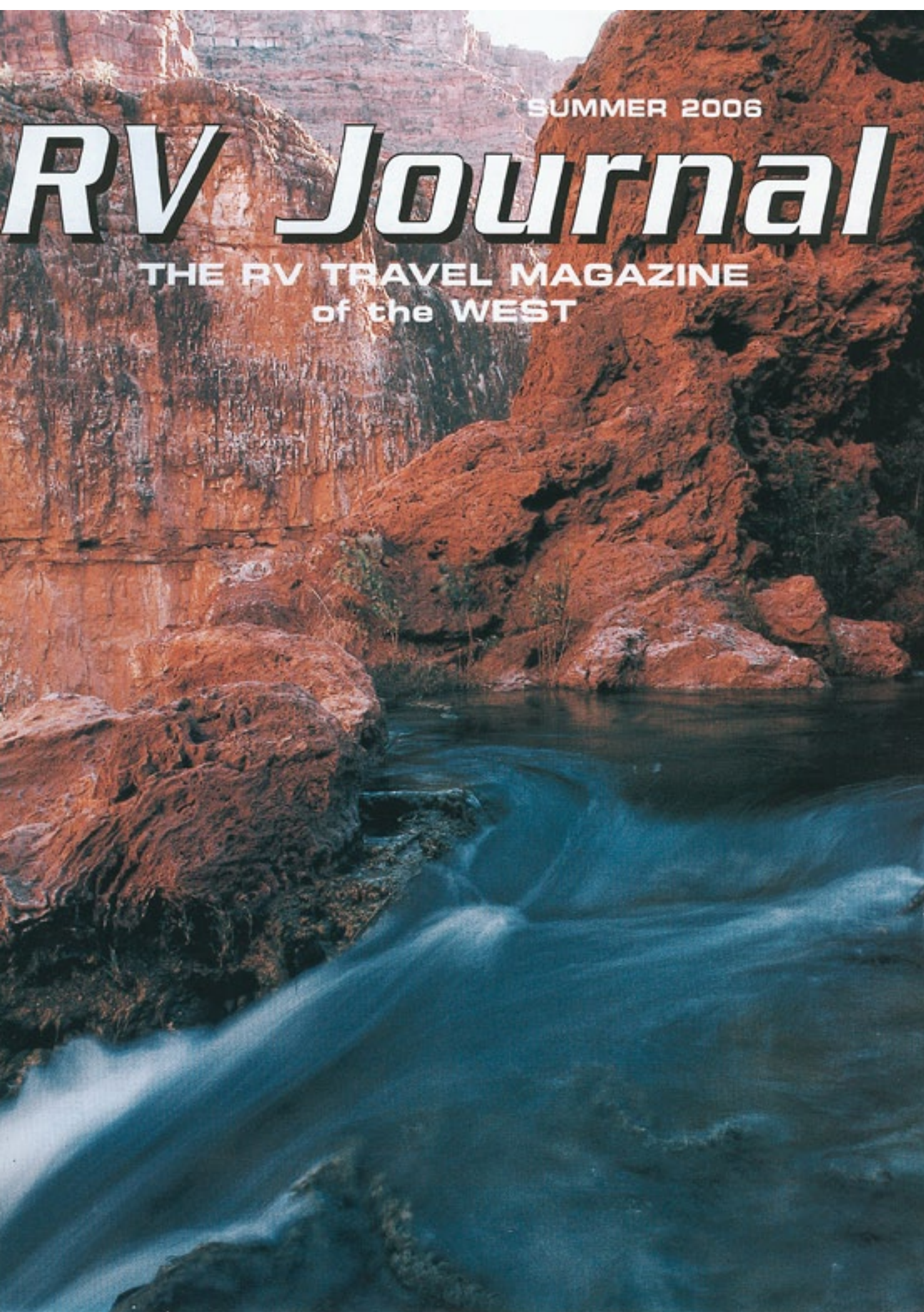


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LAKE POWELL'S WIDE OPEN SPACES

Story by Maggie Espinosa. Photos courtesy of L.P.R. & M and Maggie Espinosa

View of Lake Powell

According to the Travel Industry Association of America, a record number of American vacationers will be staying in the United States this year. Of those travelers, the majority will be driving to their destination via auto, truck or motor coach. Most vacationers will partake in the top three activities for domestic travel...shopping, outdoor activities and visiting historical places.

Of the many drivable destinations, one location has 1,960 miles of coastline, 161,000 acres of water. is one of the seven natural wonders of the world, a national



Antelope Canyon on the Navajo Reservation

recreational park and has vast open spaces large enough to be situated in both Arizona and Utah. This place is Lake Powell. With half of its shoreline belonging to Native American tribes, history as well as present-day fun abound at this mul-

tifaceted destination, where you can fill your days with water sports and historical tours or relax in the comfort of your motor coach and take in the natural beauty.

The second largest man-made lake in the United

States is deservedly named for Civil War veteran Major John Wesley Powell. He and his crew of nine men mapped and recorded the region's splendor in 1869. One hundred years later, the Glen Canyon Dam and Powerplant was built across the Colorado River to pro-

vide water storage to the Southwest and to generate power for growing communities. Extending one-third of a mile across the canyon from rim-to-rim and 710-feet tall, the dam took ten years to construct. Today, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area is home to the dam and Lake Powell. The area is 1.25 million acres, with the lake occupying only 13% of the total land

yellow, gold and red. Traverse the sandy canyon floor as you see rock formations in the shape of a bear head or shark. Wind-scoured sandstone walls become an artist's palette as sunlight filters in from a slit 130 feet above. Do not miss this jaw-dropping beauty. No climbing and little walking is necessary, so virtually anyone can make this easy trip. The canyon is restricted by the



Tour boat to Rainbow Bridge

mass. Although the majority of Lake Powell sits in Utah, Arizona is home to the dam.

One mile from Lake Powell is Page, Arizona. Thousands of Native Americans hold powwows nightly here and entertain guests with their many traditional dances. Men, women and



Navajo child at powwow

children dressed in beautiful velvet skirts, turquoise jewelry, feathered hats and beaded moccasins, smile as they proudly show guests choreography passed down for generations.

A few miles east of Page on the Navajo Reservation is Antelope Canyon. Also known as Slot Canyon, it was discovered in 1931. Unquestionably, this site epitomizes spectacular raw beauty. Step into a technicolor world of orange, purple,

Navajo Tribe, so you must go with a licensed tour guide.

Ancestors of the local Indians documented their lives in petroglyphs on the walls of Cha Canyon. Half-day float trips, on smooth subdued water, are available to explore these 1,000-year-old archives. Spot a heron along the shore or watch golden eagles soar above as you drift beside canyon walls a thousand feet tall. The rock strata holds fossils and dinosaur bones that date

back more than 200 million years. For more information contact 800-992-8022 www.riveradventures.com Cruises are also available to Rainbow Bridge. Spanning 275 feet and standing 290 feet tall, it is the world's largest natural stone bridge. Its enormity is humbling. Listed as one of the seven natural wonders of the world, President William Taft declared the sandstone arch a national monument in 1910. Nestled at the base of Navajo Mountain, this most popular destination on the lake has deep spiritual significance to the area tribes. Archeologists believe the bridge may have been around almost 2,000 years ago. Half-day and full-day Rainbow Bridge cruises are available. A path leads from a courtesy dock to the Rainbow Bridge viewing area. The trail length can be from 1.5 miles to 1.6 miles, depending on the water level.

928-645-1070

www.lakepowell.com

Once your appetite for history is satiated, head to the Blair Dinnebito or powwow trading posts



Family enjoying one of Lake Powell's beaches

in Page for an afternoon of shopping. Here you can choose from one of the finest selections of Native American art, crafts and jewelry. Business owners deal directly with the local artists, which assures authenticity and affordable prices. Gold, silver and turquoise jewelry shine in the cases. A wide selection of hand-woven rugs, baskets and books guarantee you'll find the perfect souvenir.

Lake Powell continued on page 128

Lake Powell continued from page 43

Watercraft rentals allow you to zip, zoom, drift and paddle around Lake Powell.

Explore a few of the 96 canyons on a houseboat, cabin cruiser, ski boat, wake board, run-about or kayak. Gliding along the 186 mile lake can be calming and restorative. Peaceful enclaves provide solitude as you dive overboard for a swim in the chilly water. The water's edge isn't all rock; beaches dot the shoreline for boaters to come ashore and enjoy a picnic lunch. It is easy to see why 3 million visitors annually make the trek to this immense national park. Five marinas situated at different areas of the lake offer hundreds of vessels for rent. The Wahweap Marina is the largest, with 300 houseboats



Houseboats in the Wahweap Marina on Lake Powell



Lake Powell has lots of beaches to explore

for rent. Nineteen-foot power boats, and two-man kayaks also wait to be taken for a spin. Hourly, half-day and full-day rentals are available.

Fishing is a year-round sport at this desert splendor. Lake Powell has moderate water temperatures ranging from 45°F to 85°F and never freezes over. Game fish such



Lake Powell



Indigenous rock at Lake Powell

as large and smallmouth bass, striped bass, walleye, crappie, and catfish are plentiful. Some of the most productive fishing is in the winter months. The time of year and the correct spawn cycle will determine the best fishing coves. From the back of canyons to the deeper water, the fish are always

biting. Public launch ramps are lake-wide for those who bring their own boat.

Lake Powell is an unforgettable vacation experience. The area has something for everyone. Well-maintained roads

allow easy accessibility. Activities are within a short distance of each other, meaning short walks/drives to fun events. This national recreational park is a must-see for people of all ages.

For further information visit www.lakepowell.com or call 928-645-1004. ■