

# OWENS DRY LAKE



Created as a result of a glacier melt during the last ice age, Owens Lake was used to transport bullion and supplies for the mines at Cerra Gordo aboard two steamships, the "Bessie Brady" and the "Mollie Stevens". During those early mining days of the 1870's, Owens Lake was 30 feet deep. Today Owens Lake is mostly dry. In the early 1900's the city of Los Angeles diverted the freshwater streams that fed the lake into the Los Angeles aqueduct. With no feeder streams the lake water eventually evaporated, leaving the dry lakebed that you see today. As the lake dried up, a discovery was made, the lake bed contained the minerals that are necessary to produce glass. Pittsburgh Plate Company constructed a plant on the shore of Owens Dry Lake off Highway 395 at Cartago.

The lake bed is composed of many minerals, mainly sodium carbonite. The different colors of the lake bed are bacteria and algae that grow in the saltwater shallows.

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**20 MULE TEAM**

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