Camp gems unveiled for Memorial Day

By Tom Stienstra, San Francisco Chronicle

A view of Emerald Bay near South Lake Tahoe from the Highway 89 overlook. The Emerald Bay boat-in, one of the prettiest campgrounds in America, opens next Thursday.

If you act now — and conduct a little bit of detective work — you can book a marquee campsite for Memorial Day weekend at a lake, state park or even at Lake Tahoe.

For the holiday weekend, thousands of campsites and cabins are available in Northern California. Starting this weekend, many campgrounds and recreation facilities are opening for the summer season across most of California.

One example is at Lake Tahoe, where boat-in sites at Emerald Bay and drive-in sites at adjacent D.L. Bliss State Park open for the season next Thursday, first come, first served.

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