



Fall Guide



Sunset over Queen Valley. NPS/Brad Sutton

What to See and Do



Drive between West and North entrances to see our famous Joshua trees and boulder fields. To stop and take photos, use paved pulloffs and get completely out of the flow of traffic.



Kids of all ages are invited to participate in the Junior Ranger program.



Visit the Pinto Basin and see the Cholla Cactus Garden and Ocotillo Patch.



Attend a ranger-led activity and learn more about the amazing resources protected here.



Spend the night in a campground and enjoy the park under the light of the stars.



Enjoy moderate hikes in the early morning and plan to finish before the heat of the day.



Enjoy a short walk on one of the nature trails in the park.

Support Your Park



Watch wildlife respectfully

Stay at least 75 feet (23 m) from wildlife. If an animal reacts to your presence by changing its behavior, you are too close. Remember, this is home for wild animals. We are visitors.



Never feed any wild animals

Consuming human food is unhealthy for wildlife and may encourage aggressive behavior. Food, trash, scented products, and cooking tools must be stored securely in a vehicle or hard-sided container.



Travel responsibly with your pet

Pets must be on a leash at all times. They cannot go more than 100 feet (30 m) from roads, picnic areas, and campgrounds. *Pets are not allowed on hiking trails or in the backcountry.* Owners must never leave a pet unattended or tied to an object. Bag and properly dispose of pet waste.



No drones or remote controlled vehicles

Remote-controlled vehicles, including aircraft and rockcrawlers, are prohibited. Drones and other remotely-operated craft can disturb wildlife and disrupt the visitor experience.



Campfires

Campfires are allowed only in designated fire rings or grills found in campgrounds and picnic areas. Campfires are not allowed in the backcountry. Bring your own firewood and extra water to douse your campfire. Do not use park vegetation, living or dead, for fuel.



No collecting park resources

Leave everything in the park as it is for others to enjoy. Do not destroy, deface, dig, collect, or otherwise disturb any park resources including plants or animals (whether they are dead or alive), rocks, fossils, or artifacts.



Rock climbing

Climbers may replace existing bolts if they are unsafe. New bolts may be placed in non-wilderness areas in accordance with the bolting checklist, available on the park website. Bolting in wilderness requires a permit.



All vehicles and bicycles must stay on roads

The desert environment is more fragile than it may look. Ruts and scars left by vehicles and bicycles illegally taken off-road can last for years. Red and green sticker dirt bikes, ATVs, and UTVs are prohibited in the park.



Watch for tortoises

The desert tortoise is a threatened species that often dies from being hit by cars. Drive carefully in the park: small tortoises on the road look like rocks. Tortoises may drink from puddles on the roads after rains or take shelter from the hot sun under vehicles.



Protect the trees

Attaching lines to vegetation, including Joshua trees and junipers, is prohibited. Hammocks, slacklines, and other horizontal ropes must be tied to rocks and climbing bolts, and are not permitted in campgrounds.



Firearms and weapons

Firearms may be possessed in accordance with California state and federal laws. However, they may not be discharged in the park. Fireworks, traps, bows, BB guns, paintball guns, smoke bombs, and slingshots are not allowed in the park.



No graffiti

Over the last few years there has been an increase in graffiti and acts of intentional vandalism, including carving into rocks, trees, and historic structures within the park. This is illegal, it damages resources, and costs the park significant time and money to continually remove graffiti from rocks. Report incidents of graffiti to jotr_graffiti@nps.gov.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Joshua Tree National Park preserves and protects the scenic, natural, and cultural resources representative of the Colorado and Mojave Deserts' rich biological and geological diversity, cultural history, wilderness, recreational values, and outstanding opportunities for education and scientific study.

Superintendent
David Smith

74485 National Park Drive
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

760-367-5500
www.nps.gov/jotr
jotr_info@nps.gov

Emergency
Dial 909-383-5651 or 911

Social Media

@JoshuaTreeNPS
@JoshuaTreeNP
joshuatreenps.tumblr.com

Lost & Found

www.nps.gov/jotr/planyourvisit/lostandfound.htm
jotr_lost_and_found@nps.gov

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Hot Dog!

While park regulations don't allow pets to join you on trails, in the backcountry, or in park buildings, there are alternate areas to explore.

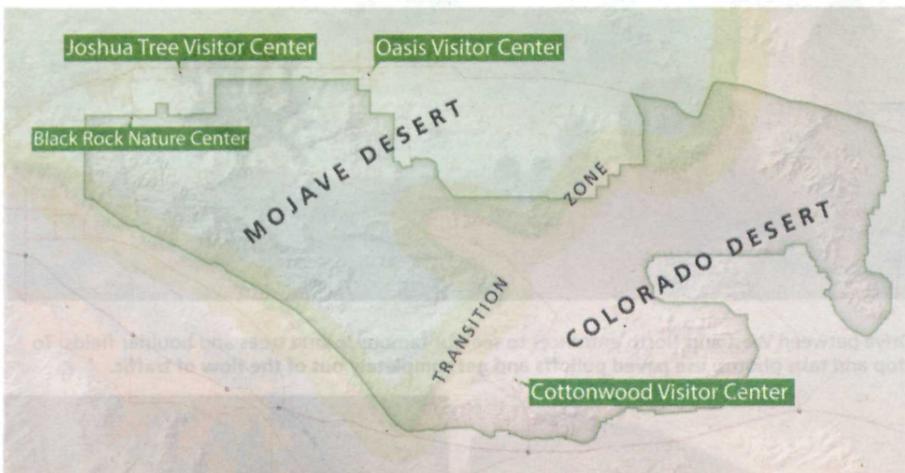
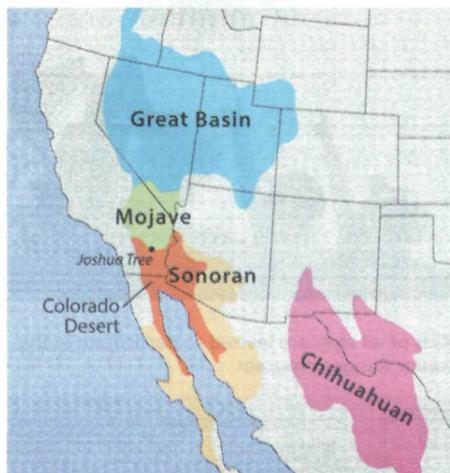
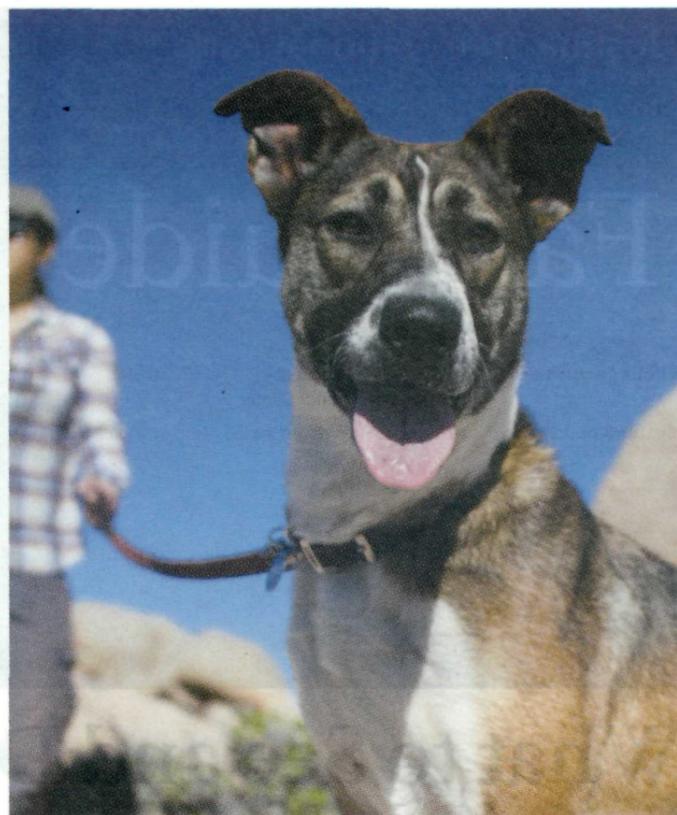
Places to go

- Paved and unpaved roads
- Picnic areas and campgrounds

Things to remember

- **Pets must remain on a leash at all times.** Leashes may be no longer than 6 feet (1.8 m).
- Pets may go no more than 100 feet (30.5 m) from any road, picnic area, or campground.
- Owners must pick up any droppings. Leave no trace.
- Bring plenty of water for your pet. **Dogs have died in the park from dehydration and heat illness.**
- **Do not leave your dogs in your vehicle unattended,** even for short periods of time. It is against the law.
- Paved areas heat up fast and can be harsh on paws.

To learn more, visit:
<https://www.nps.gov/jotr/planyourvisit/pets.htm>

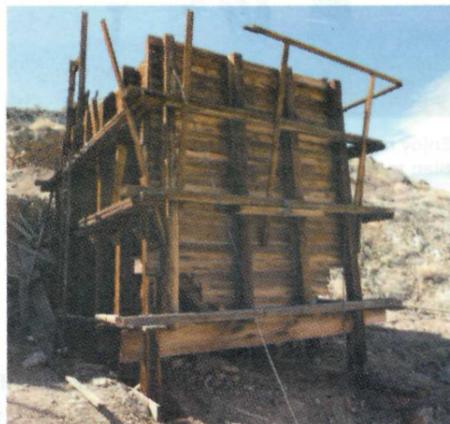


The Colorado Desert is a subsection of the larger Sonoran Desert (left). The transition zone between the Colorado and Mojave Deserts hosts a wealth of biological diversity and is home to species characteristic of both deserts (right).

Safety



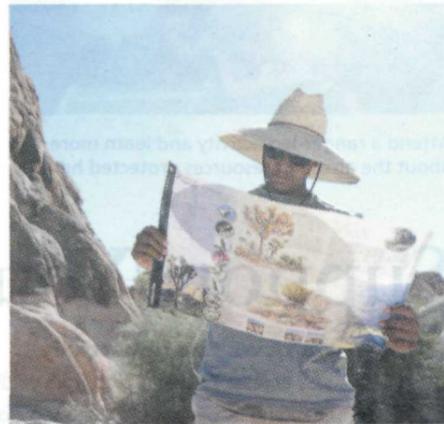
Be generous in using sunscreen, and reapply often. Wear loose-fitting, light-colored clothing, sunglasses, and a wide-brimmed hat.



Many historic mine sites exist here. Structures may be unstable and toxic chemicals are likely present. Admire, but do not enter.



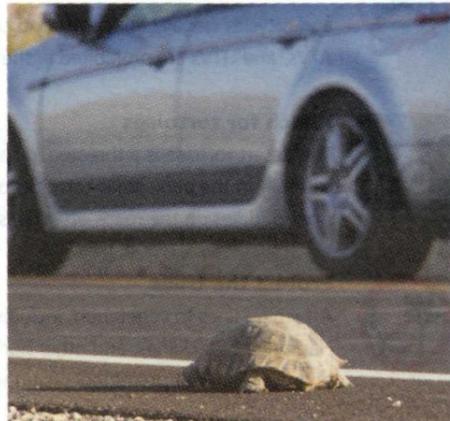
Flash floods occur during summer monsoons. Avoid canyons and washes and move to higher ground. Don't drive through moving water.



GPS units and navigation apps are not reliable in the park and may direct you to unsafe roads. Refer to the park map for navigation.



Never put your hands or feet into rock crevices or onto ledges where you can't see. Use a flashlight at night.



Drive slowly to protect wildlife. When stopping to view animals or scenery use a pullout and move out of the way of traffic.



Stay hydrated; drink at least **one gallon (4 L) of water per person, per day and lots of salty snacks or electrolyte drinks** when active.



Water is available at Oasis Visitor Center, Black Rock Campground, Cottonwood Campground, Cottonwood Visitor Center, West Entrance, & Indian Cove Ranger Station.

Emergency Phones

- Indian Cove Ranger Station
- Intersection Rock parking area near Hidden Valley Campground

In an emergency, if you have cell service, dial 909-383-5651 or 911 for assistance.

Cell Phones

In most of the park there is no cell coverage. Do not count on your phone for navigation or in case of emergency.



Hiking

Avoid the heat: Finish your hike before 10 am or start after 5 pm.
Stay hydrated: Drink at least one gallon (4L) of water per person, per day.
Snack time: You're sweating and losing salts. Eat salty snacks and drink electrolyte drinks.

| Trail | Location | Distance (round trip) | Estimated Time | Description |
|--|--|---|--------------------------------|--|
| Short Walks and Nature Trails | | | | |
| Bajada  | 0.5 mi (0.8 km) north of South Entrance | 0.25 mile (0.4 km) | 15–20 minutes | Loop. Walk on a bajada and discover plants of the Colorado Desert on this easy, wheelchair-accessible path. |
| Barker Dam | Barker Dam parking area | 1.1 miles (1.8 km) | 1 hour | Loop. Explore cultural history and view a water tank built by early cattle ranchers. Watch for bighorn sheep. |
| Cap Rock  | Cap Rock parking area | 0.4 mile (0.6 km) | 30–45 minutes | Loop. View boulder piles, Joshua trees, and other desert plants on this easy, wheelchair-accessible path. |
| Cholla Cactus Garden | 20 mi (32 km) north of Cottonwood Visitor Center | 0.25 mile (0.4 km) | 15–30 minutes | Loop. View thousands of densely concentrated, naturally growing cholla cacti. Stay on the trail, wear closed-toe shoes, and be aware of prickly cacti. |
| Cottonwood Spring | Cottonwood Springs parking area | 0.1 mile (0.2 km) | 10 minutes | Short walk to fan palm oasis with cottonwood trees. |
| Discovery Trail | Skull Rock parking area | 0.7 mile (1.1 km) | 30–45 minutes | Loop. Connects Skull Rock and Split Rock Loop trails at Face Rock. Easy hike through boulder piles and desert washes. |
| Hidden Valley | Hidden Valley picnic area | 1 mile (1.6 km) | 1 hour | Loop. Discover a rock-enclosed valley that was once rumored to have been used by cattle rustlers. |
| Hi-View | Northwest of Black Rock Campground | 1.3 miles (2.1 km) from board at parking area | 1.5 hours | Loop. Discover the world of Joshua tree forests. Hike up a ridge on the western side of the park and take in panoramic views of the area. There are some steep sections, as well as several benches to take a break and enjoy the view. Elevation change is about 400 feet. |
| Indian Cove | West end of Indian Cove Campground | 0.6 mile (1 km) | 30–45 minutes | Loop. Walk on a gently rolling path with a few steps. Take a closer look at desert plants and learn about their tradition uses by Native Americans. |
| Keys View  | Keys View | 0.25 mile (0.4 km) | 30 minutes | Accessible overlook. Short, paved loop path is steeper and may be wheelchair-accessible with assistance. Breathtaking views of the San Andreas Fault, Mt. San Jacinto, Mt. San Geronio, and the Salton Sea. |
| Oasis of Mara  | Oasis Visitor Center | 0.5 mile (0.8 km) | 30–45 minutes | Loop. Explore a desert oasis on this easy, wheelchair-accessible walk. See how the Oasis of Mara has been used by wildlife and people throughout time. |
| Ryan Ranch | Ryan Ranch trailhead | 1 mile (1.6 km) | 1 hour | Out and back. Enjoy an easy hike along an old ranch road and see a historic adobe structure. |
| Skull Rock | Skull Rock parking area | 1.8 miles (2.9 km) | 1–2 hours | Loop. Take an easy hike and explore boulder piles, desert washes, and of course the namesake Skull Rock. |
| Moderate Hikes | | | | |
| Lost Horse Mine | Lost Horse Mine trailhead | 4 miles (6.4 km) | 2–3 hours | Out and back. Explore around one of the most successful gold mines in the park. Stay outside the fenced area to protect the millsite and mine. |
| Mastodon Peak | Cottonwood Spring parking area | 3 miles (4.8 km) | 1.5–2.5 hours | Loop. An optional rock scramble takes you to the top of a craggy granite peak. The trail then loops past an old gold mine. Elevation change is about 400 feet. |
| Pine City | Pine City trailhead | 4 miles (6.4 km) | 2–3 hours | Out and back. |
| Split Rock Loop | Split Rock picnic area | 2.5 miles (4 km) | 1.5–2.5 hours | Loop. Distance includes side trip to Face Rock. |
| Wall Street Mill | Barker Dam parking area | 2 miles (3.2 km) | 1.5–2.5 hours | Out and back. Travel to the remains of a historic gold milling site and see old rusted cars. |
| Challenging Hikes (avoid these trails when it is hot out) | | | | |
| Boy Scout Trail | North end: Indian Cove backcountry board. South end: Boy Scout Trailhead | 8 miles (12.9 km) | 6 hours | One way. Go deep into the Wonderland of Rocks. Stay on trail to avoid getting lost among the boulders. Most hikers prefer to start at the south trailhead and finish at Indian Cove. Vehicle shuttle strongly recommended for hikers interested in doing the full length of the trail. |
| California Riding and Hiking Trail | Several | 35 miles (56.3 km) | 2–3 days to hike entire length | One way. Shorter hikes possible on sections of this long trail. Travel from Black Rock Canyon to the North Entrance of the park, passing through a variety of Mojave Desert landscapes. |
| Fortynine Palms Oasis | Fortynine Palms Parking area | 3 miles (4.8 km) | 2–3 hours | Out and back. There is a 300-foot (91 m) elevation gain in <i>both directions</i> , as you hike up and over a ridge dotted with barrel cactus. Beyond the ridge, descend to a fan palm oasis in a rocky canyon. |
| Lost Horse Loop | Lost Horse Mine trailhead Keys View Road | 6.5 miles (10.5 km) | 3–4 hours | Loop. For a shorter option, see Lost Horse Mine, under Moderate Hikes. |
| Lost Palms Oasis | Cottonwood Spring parking area | 7.2 miles (11.6 km) | 5–6 hours | Out and back. Enjoy sandy washes and rolling terrain, then hike down into a canyon to explore a remote fan palm oasis. Climbing back out of the canyon is strenuous. |
| Panorama Loop | Black Rock | 6.6 miles (10.6 km) | 3.5–4.5 hours | Loop. Gain about 1,100 feet (336 m) in elevation as you hike up a sandy wash, then follow the ridgeline of the Little San Bernardino Mountains. Enjoy scenic views, dense Joshua tree forest, and pinyon-juniper woodland. |
| Ryan Mountain | Parking area between Sheep Pass and Ryan campgrounds | 3 miles (4.8 km) | 1.5–2.5 hours | Out and back. Gain 1,000 feet in elevation as you hike to the summit of Ryan Mountain. This is one of the most popular hikes in the park. |
| Warren Peak | Black Rock | 6.4 miles (10.1 km) | 3.5–4.5 hours | Out and back. Gain 1,000 feet (304 m) in elevation as you hike to the summit of Warren Peak. Enjoy panoramic views of the quiet western part of Joshua Tree. |
| West Side Loop | Black Rock | 4.7 miles (7.6 km) | 2.5–4 | Loop. Explore the ridges and washes west of Black Rock campground. |
| Willow Hole | Boy Scout Trailhead | 7.2 miles (11.5 km) | 4 hours | Out and back. mostly flat trail along the edge of the Wonderland of Rocks. Travel through Joshua tree forests, boulder landscape, and sandy washes. Trail ends at willow trees. |

Junior Rangers

Kids are invited to participate in the Junior Ranger program.

Earn a Joshua Tree Junior Ranger badge by completing the activity book. Stop by any park visitor center or entrance station to pick one up.

Additionally, you'll be asked to attend a ranger-led program.

If attending a ranger program isn't possible, kids can fulfill this requirement by learning from exhibits in a visitor center or along a trail.

The Junior Ranger program is designed for ages 4–14, but anyone can do it. (Older "kids" should expect to be asked to do more activities!)



Joshua Tree National Park Association

Be a Part of the Adventure

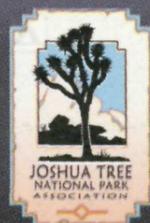
The Joshua Tree National Park Association has been supporting interpretation, education, preservation, and scientific research since 1962. We operate four bookstores, offer a field institute with classes taught by experts and raise funds for the park through public events and our membership program.

Experience the Great Outdoors

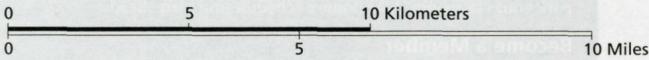
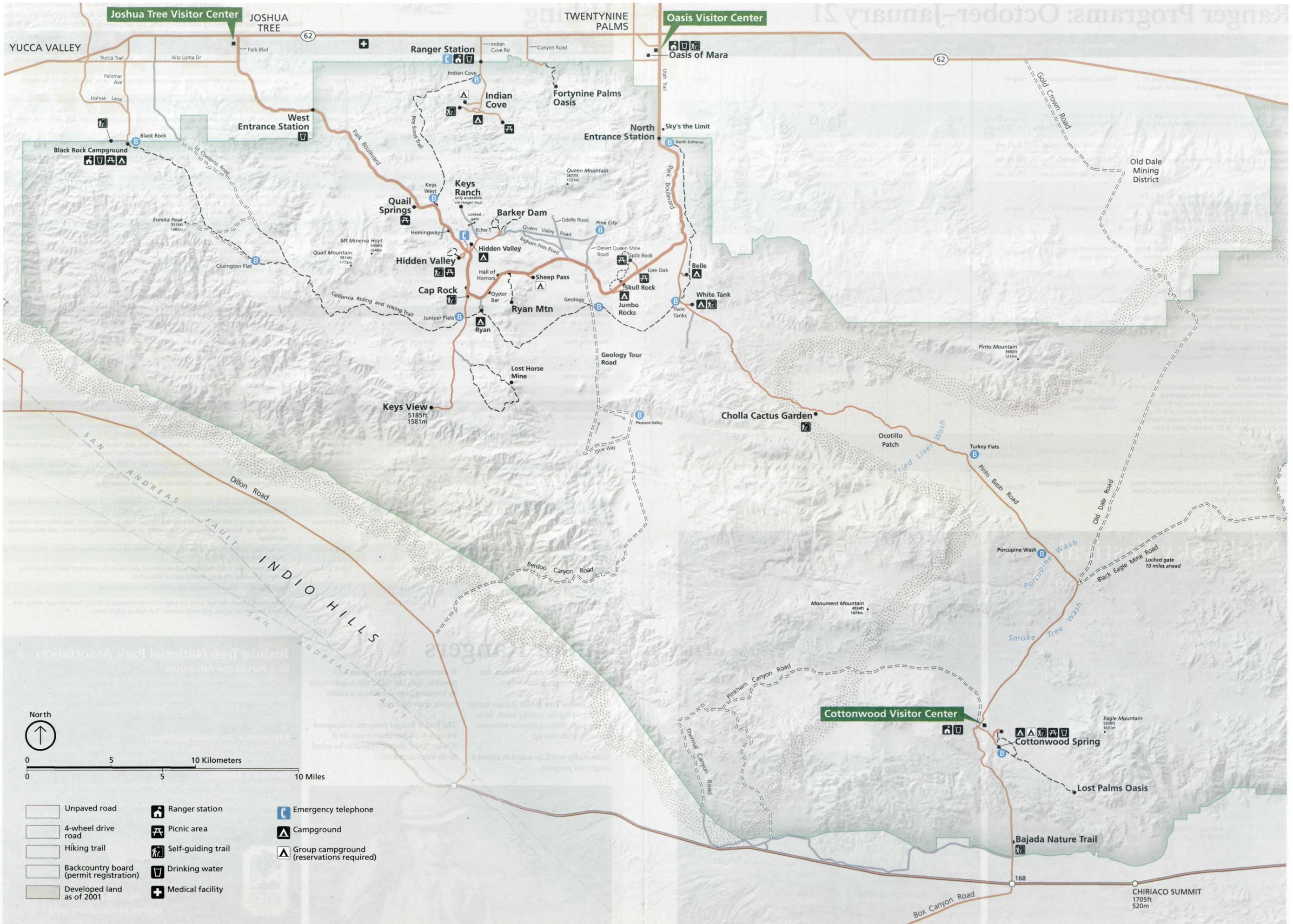
Pick up a trail guide or sign up for a Desert Institute field class and make the park your classroom. Take home a schedule and plan ahead.

Become a Member

Join the Joshua Tree National Park Association and you will support park programs and projects while enjoying some great benefits. You are supporting youth programs, scientific research and historical collections, and you will assist in the preservation of our fragile desert environment for generations to come.



760-367-5535
www.joshuatree.org



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Ranger Programs: October–January 21

| Program | Meeting Location | Duration/ Distance | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|----------------------------------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|---------|
| Climber Coffee Meet climbers, rangers, and JOSAR volunteers for a conversation about climbing stewardship, Leave No Trace ethics, and local beta. Bring your own mug and enjoy a free cup of coffee. | Hidden Valley Campground | drop-in | | | | | | | 8 am |
| Fossil Chat Drop by for a casual conversation with a ranger to discover the past, present, and future of our desert ecosystems. | Joshua Tree Visitor Center by the back patio mural | drop-in | 9–10 am | | | | | 9–10 am | |
| Patio Talk Ranger's choice! Learn about one of many fascinating aspects of the park. | Joshua Tree Visitor Center | 15–30 min | | 9 am | 9 am | 9 am | 9 am | | 9 am |
| | Oasis Visitor Center | 15–30 min | | 10 am | |
| | Cottonwood Visitor Center | 15–30 min | 2 pm | 2pm | 2 pm | 2 pm | 2 pm | 2 pm | 2 pm |
| Artists' Tea Meet a local artist! Find inspiration and see how the artistic community can help protect and promote the beauty of Joshua Tree. Bring your own mug to enjoy a free cup of tea. Participating artists vary from week to week. | Cap Rock parking area | drop-in | 9–11 am | | | | | | |
| Cottonwood Springs Chat Drop by for a casual conversation with a ranger. Bring your questions about Cottonwood Springs and the Colorado Desert. | Cottonwood Springs parking area | drop-in | | | | | | 9–10 am | |
| Joshua Tree Rocks! Examine the geology of this remarkable area. | Skull Rock parking area | 1–1.5 hours 1.8 mile (2.9 km) | | | | | | | 9:30 am |
| Junior Ranger Discovery Walk Especially for families with children! This short hike will help kids on their way to earning a Junior Ranger badge. | Discovery Trail | 1–1.5 hours 0.7 mile (1.1 km) | | | | | | | 10 am |
| "I Speak for the Trees" Walk Take a walk with a ranger and discover the park's namesake. | Cap Rock parking area | 1 hour 0.4 mile (0.6 km) | 10 am | | | 10 am | | | |
| Keys Ranch Tour Explore the colorful story and numerous artifacts of this premier historical site. Tickets are required. Tickets must be purchased in person <i>on the day of the tour</i> at the Oasis Visitor Center starting at 8:30 am. Adults (12 & up) \$10; Senior Pass or Access Pass holders \$5; children ages 6-11 \$5; children under 6 free. | Keys Ranch Gate; tickets required | 1.5 hours 0.5 mi (0.8 km) | 2 pm | | | | 2 pm | 2 pm | 2 pm |
| Oasis Walk Explore the history and ecology of a desert oasis. | Oasis of Mara Visitor Center | 1–1.5 hours 0.5 mile (0.8 km) | | | 3 pm | | 3 pm | | |
| Evening Program Relax beneath the stars and enjoy a presentation about the park's fascinating natural or cultural history. Check at a visitor center for topics. | Jumbo Rocks Campground Amphitheater | 45 min | | | | | | 7 pm | 7 pm |

Night Sky Festival

November 10–12, 2017

The National Park Service and partners will bring together astronomers, scientists, night-sky enthusiasts, artists, junior rangers, and members of nearby communities to celebrate the night skies. This event is free of charge. The festival will run

from 5 pm on November 10 to 2 pm on November 12. It will include solar viewing and an astronomy fair by day, as well astronomy programs and telescope viewing of our universe by night--weather permitting.

www.nps.gov/jotr/planyourvisit/night-sky-festival.htm



Artists' Program

Check in visitor centers for dates and times

Explore and learn more about the park through the creative guidance of local and visiting artists. These programs are interactive, fun, and free to park visitors.

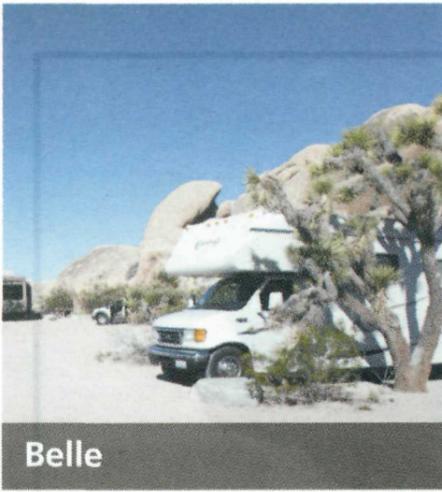
sensory art, photography, and soundscapes among other topics. Presenters and topics vary month to month so please check the visitor center for updated program times and locations.

Activities will include presentations, demonstrations, and storytelling about various topics such as climbing,

www.jtlab.info

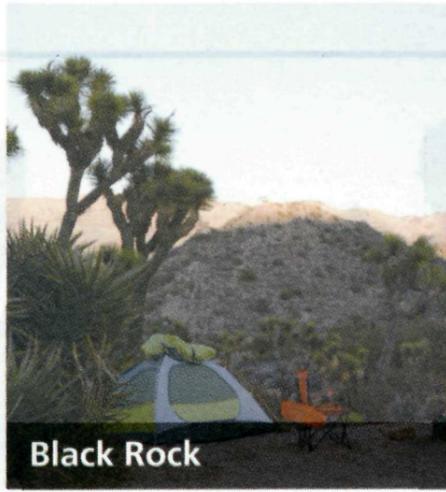
Camping

Visitors staying overnight in the park must camp in a designated campground or backcountry camping area (see page 6). A maximum of six people, three tents, and two cars may occupy an individual campsite, if there is space. Some sites only have enough parking for one vehicle.



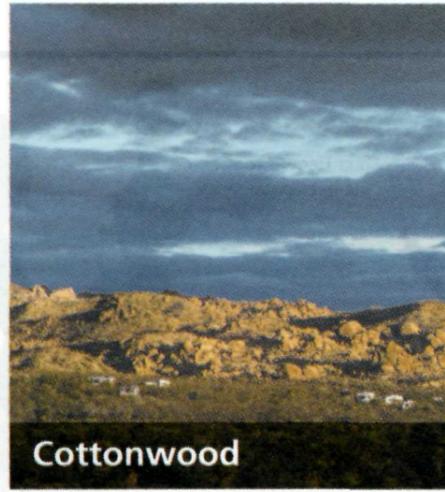
Belle

18 sites. \$15 per night. 3,800 feet in elevation. Pit toilets, tables, and fire grates. No water.



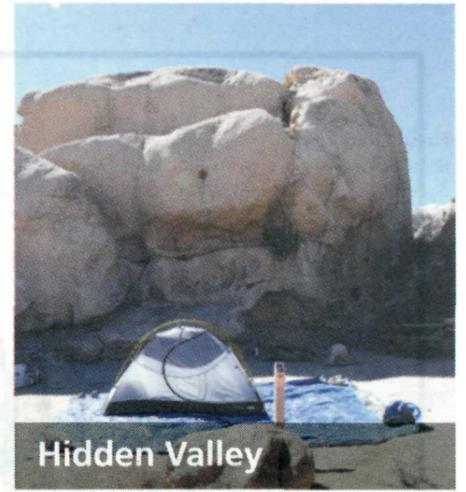
Black Rock

99 sites. \$20 per night. 4,000 feet in elevation. Water, flush toilets, tables, fire grates, and a dump station.



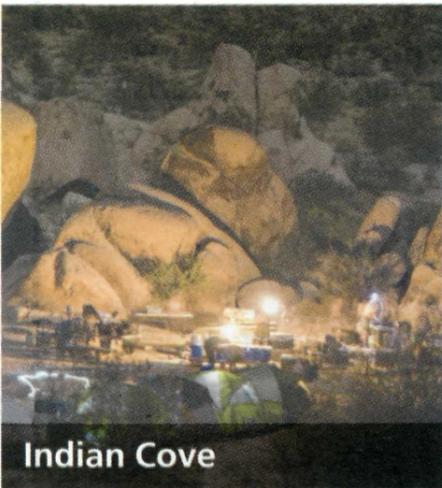
Cottonwood

62 sites. \$20 per night. 3,000 feet in elevation. Water, flush toilets, tables, fire grates, and a dump station.



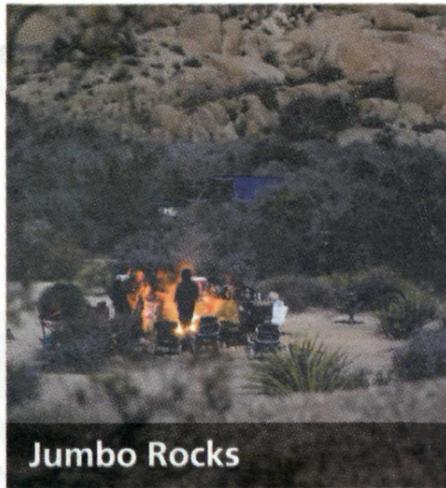
Hidden Valley

44 sites. \$15 per night. 4,200 feet. Pit toilets, tables, and fire grates. No water.



Indian Cove

101 sites. \$20 per night. 3,200 feet in elevation. Pit toilets, tables, and fire grates. No water.



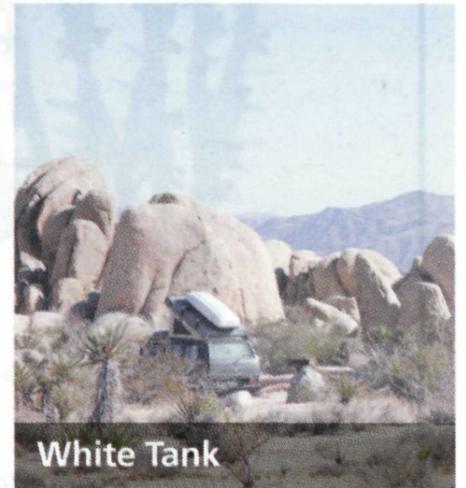
Jumbo Rocks

124 sites. \$15 per night. 4,400 feet in elevation. Pit toilets, tables, and fire grates. No water.



Ryan

31 sites. \$15 per night. 4,300 feet in elevation. Pit toilets, tables, and fire grates.



White Tank

15 sites. \$15 per night. 3,800 feet in elevation. Pit toilets, tables, and fire grates. No water.

Camping Outside of the Park

Campgrounds are usually full on weekends October through May. From mid-February to mid-May (and during holidays) campgrounds usually fill throughout the week. To improve your chances of getting a campsite and avoid disappointment, visit during the off-season (June-September), reserve a site, and/or have alternate overnight plans ready. Since most park campgrounds are first-come, first-serve availability can change by the minute.

Private Campgrounds

North of the Park

HipCamp
www.hipcamp.com

Joshua Tree Lake RV & Campground
2601 Sunfair Road
Joshua Tree, CA
760-366-1213
www.joshuatreelake.com

Joshua Tree Retreat Center Campground
59700 29 Palms Highway
Joshua Tree, CA
760-365-8371
jtrcc.org/accommodations/camping

JT Sportsman's Club
6225 Sunburst Avenue
Joshua Tree, CA
760-366-2915
www.jtsportsmansclub.com

Twentynine Palms RV Resort
4949 Desert Knoll Avenue
Twentynine Palms, CA
760-367-3320
www.twentyninepalmsresort.com

South of the Park

Chiriaco Summit
62450 Chiriaco Road
Chiriaco Summit, CA
760-227-3227

Palm Springs/Joshua Tree KOA
70405 Dillon Road
Desert Hot Springs, CA 92241
koa.com/campgrounds/palm-springs/

Dispersed Camping

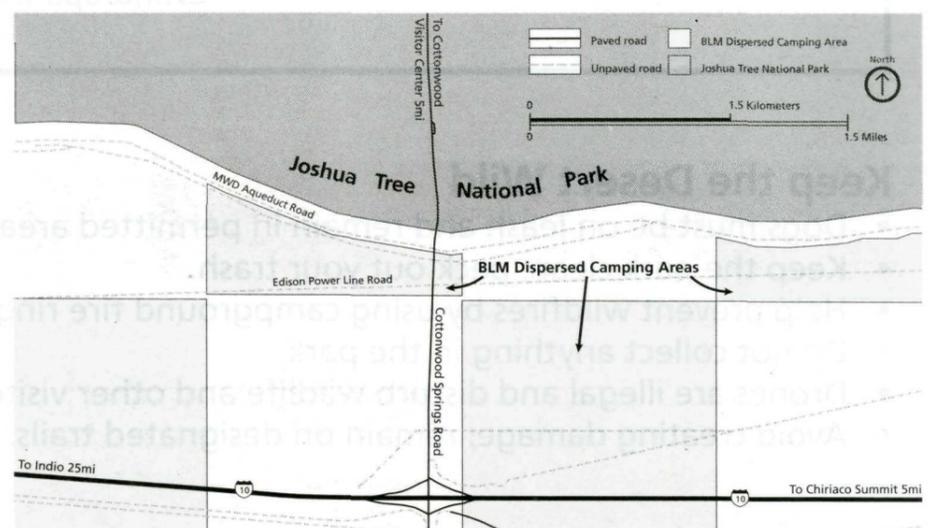
Public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) offer free dispersed camping north and south of the park. Camping is allowed except within 300 feet (91 m) of roadways. There are no developed facilities in dispersed camping areas: no restrooms, no water, no trash collection. Bring what you need and pack out all your trash. All vegetation, living or dead, is protected by law. Campfires require a permit, available from BLM offices or online.

Dispersed Camping North of the Park

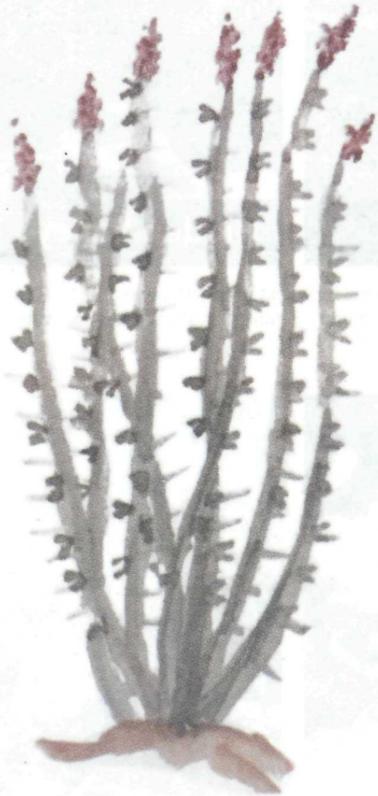
To get to this area, from the intersection of Sunfair and Twentynine Palms Highway drive 2.5 miles north to Sunflower. Turn right on Sunflower Road and continue for another mile to turn left on Cascade Road. These roads can be washed out or deeply rutted; 4-wheel drive is recommended.

Dispersed Camping South of the Park

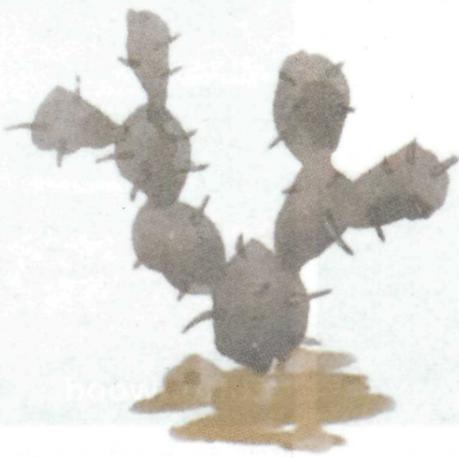
Accessible from Cottonwood Springs Road. See the map (right) for dispersed camping areas.



KEEP THE DESERT WILD



Ocotillo
Fouquieria splendens



Dollarjoint pricklypear cactus
Opuntia chlorotica



Beavertail pricklypear cactus
Opuntia basilaris var. basilaris



Joshua tree
Yucca brevifolia



Mojave Yucca
Yucca schidigera



Pencil cholla cactus
Cylindropuntia ramosissima



California fan palm
Washingtonia filifera

Keep the Desert Wild

- Dogs must be on leash and remain in permitted areas.
- Keep the park clean; pack out your trash.
- Help prevent wildfires by using campground fire rings.
- Do not collect anything in the park.
- Drones are illegal and disturb wildlife and other visitors. You will be ticketed.
- Avoid creating damage; remain on designated trails.

Take a photo with this poster in the park and share on social media. Tag @JoshuaTreeNPS and #ExploreResponsibly.