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.

Visit the Pinto Basin and see the Cholla Cactus Garden and Ocotillo Patch. This is a great place to enjoy sunrise and sunset, or take a short walk midday.

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

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 and look under your vehicle before moving it: 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.

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.

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 sling shots 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 caning 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.
Pets

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
## Hiking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail</th>
<th>Distance (round trip)</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Short Walks and Nature Trails</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bajada</td>
<td>0.25 mile (0.4 km)</td>
<td>15–20 minutes</td>
<td>Loop. Walk on a bajada and discover plants of the Colorado Desert on this easy, wheelchair-accessible path.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barker Dam</td>
<td>1.1 miles (1.8 km)</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>Loop. Explore cultural history and view a water tank built by early cattle ranchers. Watch for bighorn sheep.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cap Rock</td>
<td>0.4 mile (0.6 km)</td>
<td>30–45 minutes</td>
<td>Loop. View boulder piles, Joshua trees, and other desert plants on this easy, wheelchair-accessible path.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cholla Cactus Garden</td>
<td>0.25 mile (0.4 km)</td>
<td>15–30 minutes</td>
<td>Loop. View thousands of densely concentrated, naturally growing cholla cacti. Stay on the trail, wear closed-toe shoes, and be aware of prickly cacti.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cottonwood Spring</td>
<td>0.1 mile (0.2 km)</td>
<td>10 min</td>
<td>Short walk to fan palm oasis with cottonwood trees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discovery Trail</td>
<td>0.7 mile (1.1 km)</td>
<td>30–45 minutes</td>
<td>Loop. Connects Skull Rock and Split Rock Loop trails at Face Rock. Easy hike through boulder piles and desert washes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hidden Valley</td>
<td>1 mile (1.6 km)</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>Loop. Discover a rock valley that was once rumored to have been used by cattle rustlers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hi-View</td>
<td>1.3 miles (2.1 km) from board at parking area</td>
<td>1.5 hours</td>
<td>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. Steep sections exist, as well as several benches to take a break and enjoy the view. Elevation change is about 400 feet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Cove</td>
<td>0.6 mile (1 km)</td>
<td>30–45 minutes</td>
<td>Loop. Walk on a gently rolling path with a few steps. Take a closer look at desert plants and learn about their traditional uses by Native Americans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keys View</td>
<td>0.25 mile (0.4 km)</td>
<td>30 min</td>
<td>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 Gorgonio, and the Salton Sea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oasis of Mara</td>
<td>0.5 mile (0.8 km)</td>
<td>30–45 minutes</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan Ranch</td>
<td>1 mile (1.6 km)</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>Out and back. Enjoy a relatively easy hike along an old ranch road and see a historic adobe structure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skull Rock</td>
<td>1.8 miles (2.9 km)</td>
<td>1–2 hours</td>
<td>Loop. Take an easy hike and explore boulder piles, desert washes, and of course the trail's namesake, Skull Rock.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Moderate Hikes</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lost Horse Mine</td>
<td>4 miles (6.4 km)</td>
<td>2–3 hours</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mastodon Peak</td>
<td>3 miles (4.8 km)</td>
<td>1.5–2.5 hours</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine City</td>
<td>4 miles (6.4 km)</td>
<td>2–3 hours</td>
<td>Out and back.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Split Rock Loop</td>
<td>2.5 miles (4 km)</td>
<td>1.5–2.5 hours</td>
<td>Loop. Distance includes side trip to Face Rock.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wall Street Mill</td>
<td>2 miles (3.2 km)</td>
<td>1.5–2.5 hours</td>
<td>Out and back. Travel to the remains of a historic gold milling site and see old rusted cars.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Challenging Hikes (avoid these trails when it is hot out)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Boy Scout Trail</td>
<td>8 miles (12.9 km)</td>
<td>6 hours</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California Riding and Hiking Trail</td>
<td>35 miles (56.3 km)</td>
<td>2–3 days to hike entire length</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fortynine Palms Oasis</td>
<td>3 miles (4.8 km)</td>
<td>2–3 hours</td>
<td>Out and back. There is a 300-foot (91 m) elevation gain in both directions, as you hike up and over a ridge dotted with barrel cacti. Beyond the ridge, descend to a fan palm oasis in a rocky canyon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lost Horse Loop</td>
<td>6.5 miles (10.5 km)</td>
<td>3–4 hours</td>
<td>Loop. For a shorter option, see Lost Horse Mine, under Moderate Hikes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lost Palms Oasis</td>
<td>7.2 miles (11.6 km)</td>
<td>5–6 hours</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panorama Loop</td>
<td>6.6 miles (10.6 km)</td>
<td>3.5–4.5 hours</td>
<td>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, a dense Joshua tree forest, and pinyon-juniper woodland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan Mountain</td>
<td>3 miles (4.8 km)</td>
<td>1.5–2.5 hours</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren Peak</td>
<td>6.4 miles (10.1 km)</td>
<td>3.5–4.5 hours</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Side Loop</td>
<td>4.7 miles (7.6 km)</td>
<td>2.5–4</td>
<td>Loop. Explore the ridges and washes west of Black Rock campground.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willow Hole</td>
<td>7.2 miles (11.5 km)</td>
<td>4 hours</td>
<td>Out and back. Mostly flat trail along the edge of the Wonderland of Rocks. Travel through Joshua trees, a boulder landscape, and sandy washes. Trail ends at willow trees. This trail starts at the south end of Boy Scout Trail, in the park.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.
Visitor Centers

Oasis Visitor Center
760-367-5500
74485 National Park Drive
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277
8:30 am-5 pm

Joshua Tree Visitor Center
6554 Park Boulevard
Joshua Tree, CA 92252
8 am-5 pm

Cottonwood Visitor Center
6 miles (10 km) inside South Entrance
8:30 am-4 pm

The park is always open.

Backcountry Boards

- Black Rock
- Cottonwood Spring
- Covington Flat
- Geology (Geo Tour Road)
- Indian Cove
- Juniper Flats (Keys View Road)
- Keys West (Boy Scout Trail - south)
- North Entrance
- Pine City (at the junction of Desert Queen Mine and Queen Valley roads)
- Pleasant Valley (by one-way, 4WD only section of Geo Tour Road)
- Porcupine Wash (8 miles north of Cottonwood on Pinto Basin Road)
- Turkey Flats (15 miles north of Cottonwood on Pinto Basin Road)
- Twin Tanks (between Belle and White Tank campgrounds)
Ranger Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thur</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Keys Ranch Tour</td>
<td>Keys Ranch Gate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evening Program</td>
<td>Jumbo Rocks</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<td>Campground Amphitheater</td>
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<td>Cottonwood</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Indian Cove</td>
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</table>

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. Parking is limited.

- February 7 pm
- March-April 8 pm
- May 8:30 pm

Additional Programs
Daily program offerings vary throughout the season. Please check park visitor centers for a list of this week’s programs.
Park Campgrounds

Camping Regulations

- There is a 30-day camping limit each year. Only 14 of these nights may take place from October-May.
- Campsites left vacant for 24 hours will be treated as vacant. Holding or reserving campsites for persons not present is not allowed.
- Pets must remain on leash at all times and may not be left unattended.
- At Hidden Valley and White Tank campgrounds, RVs and trailers may not exceed a combined maximum length of 25 feet. Other campgrounds have length restrictions not to exceed 35 feet, unless otherwise noted.

Reserve ahead sites

Reservations can be made at www.recreation.gov, (877) 444-6777.

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

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

First-come, first-served sites

If a “Campground Full” sign is displayed at the campground, please continue on to another campground.

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

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

Belle Hidden Valley Ryan

Indian Cove
- 18 sites. $15 per night. 3,600 feet in elevation. Pit toilets, tables, and fire grates. No water.

Hidden Valley
- 44 sites. $15 per night. 4,200 feet. 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. No water.

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

Camping grounds 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-served, 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

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 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 South of the Park

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

Emergency # 909-383-5651 or 911

Spring 2018 7
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.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Joshua Tree National Park
74485 National Park Drive
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

Emergency
Dial 909-383-5651 or 911

Joshua Tree National Park
760-367-5535
www.joshuatree.org