



Hiking Trails

Trail	Trailhead Location	Distance	Estimated Time	Description
Arch Rock	White Tank Campground, opposite site 9	0.3 mi (0.5 km)	30 minutes	Loop. Explore the geology of a unique area and view a natural arch on this short walk.
Bajada 	South of Cottonwood Visitor Center; 0.5 mi (0.8 km) north of the South Entrance	0.25 mi (0.4 km)	15-20 minutes	Loop. Walk on a bajada and discover plants of the Colorado Desert on this easy, accessible path.
Barker Dam	Barker Dam parking area	1.1 mi (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, at the junction of Park Blvd. and Keys View Rd.	0.4 mi (0.6 km)	30-45 minutes	Loop. View boulder piles, Joshua trees, and other desert plants on this easy, accessible path.
Cholla Cactus Garden	20 mi (32 km) north of Cottonwood Visitor Center	0.25 mi (0.4 km)	15-30 minutes	Loop. View thousands of densely concentrated, naturally growing cholla cactus. Stay on the trail, wear closed-toe shoes, and be aware of prickly cactus.
Hidden Valley	Hidden Valley picnic area	1 mi (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 mi (2.1 km) from board at parking area. 3 mi (4.8 km) from visitor center.	1½ 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.
Indian Cove	West end of Indian Cove Campground	0.6 mi (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 traditional uses by American Indians.
Keys View 	Keys View	0.25 mi (0.4 km)	30 minutes	Loop. Short, accessible path with breathtaking views of the San Andreas Fault, Mt. San Jacinto, Mt. San Gorgonio, and the Salton Sea.
Oasis of Mara  	Oasis Visitor Center, Twentynine Palms	0.5 mi (0.8 km)	30-45 minutes	Loop. Explore a desert oasis on this easy, accessible walk. See how the Oasis of Mara has been used by wildlife and people throughout time.
Ryan Ranch	Ryan Ranch trailhead, about 0.5 mi (0.8 km) east of Ryan Campground	1 mi (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 just east of Jumbo Rocks Campground; also accessible from within Jumbo Rocks Campground	1.7 mi (2.7 km)	1-2 hours	Loop. Take an easy hike and explore boulder piles, desert washes, and of course the namesake Skull Rock.
Lost Horse Mine	Lost Horse Mine trailhead off Keys View Rd.	4 mi (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. For a longer option, see Lost Horse Loop.
Mastodon Peak	Cottonwood Spring parking area	3 mi (4.8 km)	1½-2½ hours	Loop. An optional rock scramble takes you to the top of a craggy granite peak. The trail then loops around past an old gold mine. Elevation change is about 400 feet.
Pine City	Pine City trailhead at end of Desert Queen Mine Rd.	4 mi (6.4 km)	2-3 hours	Out and back.
West Side Loop	Black Rock	4.7 mi (7.6 km)	2½-4 hours	Loop. Explore the ridges and washes west of Black Rock campground.
Split Rock Loop	Split Rock picnic area	2.5 mi (4.0 km)	1½-2½ hours	Loop. Distance includes side trip to Face Rock.
Wall Street Mill	Barker Dam parking area	2 mi (3.2 km)	1½-2½ hours	Out and back. Travel to the remains of an historic gold milling site.
Fortynine Palms Oasis	Fortynine Palms parking area, accessed off Hwy 62	3 mi (4.8 km)	2-3 hours	Out and back. There is a 300 ft (91 m) elevation gain in both directions, as you hike up and over a ridge to a fan palm oasis. Though this isn't a very long hike, late spring heat makes it challenging. Bring plenty of water.
Lost Horse Loop	Lost Horse Mine trailhead off Keys View Rd.	6.5 mi (10.5 km)	3-4 hours	Loop. For a shorter option, see Lost Horse Mine, above.
Lost Palms Oasis	Cottonwood Spring parking area	7.2 mi (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 in the summer makes this hike challenging; bring plenty of water.
Ryan Mountain	Parking area between Sheep Pass and Ryan Campground	3 mi (4.8 km)	1½-2½ hours	Out and back. Gain 1,000 feet in elevation as you hike to the summit of Ryan Mountain.