



Safety: What You Need to Know

We want your trip to Joshua Tree to be safe and enjoyable. Ultimately, your safety is your responsibility. This information will help you prepare.

BRING WATER WITH YOU INTO THE PARK

Water is available at only a few locations: the Oasis Visitor Center in Twentynine Palms, Black Rock Campground, Cottonwood Campground, the West Entrance, and Indian Cove Ranger Station.

STAY HYDRATED & EAT SALTY SNACKS

We recommend drinking a minimum of one gallon (about 4 liters) of water per person, per day. You will need more fluids if you are active. Replace electrolytes by drinking sports drinks or consuming salty foods.

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM HEAT & SUN

Expect high daytime temperatures, intense sunlight, and low humidity. Wear loose-fitting, light-colored clothing and a wide-brimmed hat. Apply sunscreen to all exposed skin. Protect your eyes by wearing sunglasses.

CELL PHONES ARE UNRELIABLE

Most of Joshua Tree National Park is remote wilderness and there is *no cell coverage*. Do not count on your phone for navigation or for getting help in an emergency.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY ...

Emergency phones are found at **Indian Cove Ranger Station** and the **Intersection Rock parking area** near Hidden Valley Campground. If you are in an area with cell service and you have an emergency, call **911** or **909-383-5651** for assistance.

PREVENT BITES & STINGS

Joshua Tree is home to seven species of rattlesnakes, as well as venomous scorpions and spiders. These animals are not out to get you. You can avoid problems by paying attention to your surroundings. Never step or reach into places you cannot see. Use a flashlight or headlamp at night.

In summer, thirsty bees congregate around any source of moisture they detect, including human perspiration and car AC systems. Stay calm around bees and do not swat at them. Keep drinks and food inside your vehicle.

GIVE WILDLIFE A BRAKE

Park roads are narrow and winding, and some areas are often congested. Obey posted speed limits. The maximum speed in the park is 45 mph (73 kph), and in many locations the speed limit is lower. Driving slowly and cautiously helps protect park wildlife.

TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN

Flash floods occur when summer thunderstorms pour large amounts of rain in a short time. Avoid canyons and washes during rainstorms and be prepared to move to higher ground. While driving, be alert for water running across the road. Wait for floodwaters to subside rather than trying to drive through.

STAY OUT, STAY ALIVE

Many old mine sites exist within the park. If you choose to visit them, use extreme caution, appreciating them from a safe distance. Never enter old mine tunnels, shafts, or fenced areas.

Ranger Programs – May 17-June 6, 2015

| Time | Program | Meeting Location | Duration Distance | Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | Sa |
|----------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|
| 9:00 am | Barker Dam Hike Explore how humans have learned to live in harmony with the desert. | Barker Dam parking area | 1.5 hours 1 mile (1.6 km) | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 9:00 am | Joshua Tree Rocks! Examine the geology of this remarkable area. | Skull Rock parking area | 1-1.5 hours 1 mile (1.6 km) | | | | | | ✓ | |
| 9:00 am | "I Speak for the Trees" Take a walk with a ranger and discover the park's namesake. | Echo T parking area | 1.5 hours 1 mile (1.6 km) | ✓ | | | | | | ✓ |
| 10:00 am | Patio Talk Learn about one of many fascinating aspects of the park. Topics are ranger's choice. | Oasis Visitor Center | 15-30 minutes | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | Joshua Tree Visitor Center | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 2:00 pm | Story Time with a Ranger Join a ranger for a story capturing an aspect of the desert. | Joshua Tree Visitor Center | 30 minutes | | | | | | | ✓ |
| 8:00 pm | Evening Program Relax beneath the stars and enjoy a presentation about the park's fascinating natural or cultural history. Check visitor centers for topics. | Jumbo Rocks Campground Amphitheater | 45 minutes | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ |

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. |