



# Mojave National Preserve

Issue 21 / Spring 2012



Providence Mountains

NPS COLLECTION

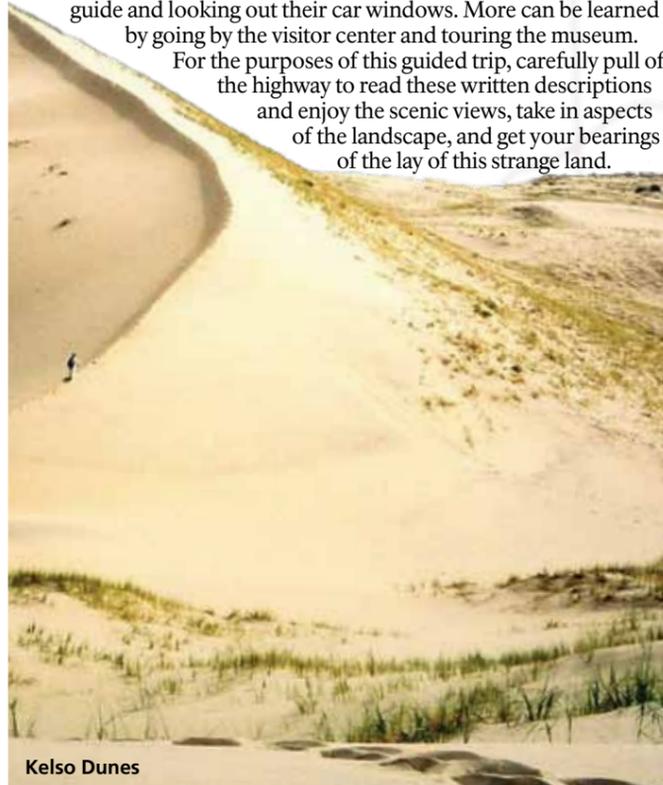
## Exploring the Lonesome Triangle

By Phillip Gomez, Park Ranger

Known as “the Lonesome Triangle,” Mojave National Preserve offers much more for the curious desert traveler than a speedy shortcut between Palm Springs and Las Vegas. Take the time to slow down and smell the creosote.

Traveling from I-40 north on Kelbaker Road toward the Kelso Depot Visitor Center, visitors can see a lot of what’s out there by reading this guide and looking out their car windows. More can be learned by going by the visitor center and touring the museum.

For the purposes of this guided trip, carefully pull off the highway to read these written descriptions and enjoy the scenic views, take in aspects of the landscape, and get your bearings of the lay of this strange land.



Kelso Dunes

1. First up, as you head northwest on Kelbaker Road are the Granite Mountains on the left side of the highway. Ahead you’ll soon be crossing Granite Pass and heading downhill toward the oasis of Kelso.

2. You’ll soon notice in the distance the Kelso Sand Dunes on your left. In six or so miles you’ll come to the turn-off to the dunes. The trailhead to the dunes, with parking and restrooms, is three miles down this gravel road. These dunes are the third highest, and the second largest (in extent), in North America. Originating as eroded mountain sediment carried by the Mojave River for 100 miles from the San Bernardino Mountains, this sediment was deposited in the river’s natural sink at Soda Dry Lake to the northwest. The blow-sand was bounced along the “streets” of the Devil’s Playground which then settled to the ground after coming up against the backstop of the Granite Mountains. The sand accumulated here, shaped by the prevailing northwest winds. The aromatic creosote bush, commonly called “greasewood” by pioneers, is the most salient feature of North America’s four deserts. The creosote is one of the best examples of plants that tolerate arid conditions through sheer toughness and competitive aggressiveness.

3. Continuing toward Kelso, look to the west, where you might see the Great Soda Dry Lake brightly glistening 30 miles away, though it is hard to find on the horizon. This is where the sand dunes originated. The mountain man and renowned explorer Jedediah Strong Smith, along with eight others, found life-saving water in holes they dug near here in 1827 on a journey that secured their position in history as the first Americans to cross the continent from the Missouri River settlements to the Spanish mission frontier in southern California. You can still see these holes at Zzyzx.

4. Ahead is the railroad siding of Kelso and the Kelso Depot Visitor Center across the tracks. Kelso, elevation 2,126 feet, originated as a dusty rail siding (No. 16) in April 1904. By 1924 the siding had evolved into the Spanish Mission Revival-styled structure you see here. The Mission Revival style was born of an architectural movement around 1890, drawing its inspiration from the early Spanish missions in California.

5. Almost four miles up Kelso-Cima Road you arrive at a good place to observe major landforms on the other side of the highway. Here, the sweeping expanse of Kelso Wash can be clearly seen. This large wash drains Cedar Canyon on the south and Cima on the east of any precipitation, emptying into the sands of the Devil’s Playground lying to the west.

6. The massive Providence Mountains—seen to your right beginning about 10 miles into the Preserve--divide the park diagonally. They were named by early travelers who thanked Providence when they found precious spring water in rock crevices between vast deserts on either side of the mountain range. The highest peak in the range is Edgar Peak, at 7,203 feet. Fountain Peak, southwest of Edgar Peak, reaches 6,996 feet.

7. Continuing up Kelso-Cima Road, you’ll come to the intersection with the Cedar Canyon Road after 14.6 miles. This road was called the Mojave Road in wagon days. Look to your left for the concrete monument in the creosote bushes. Erected in 1986, the monument is dedicated to Smith and Fray Francisco Garces. Father Garces was the first European to visit the Mojave. Smith came to the Mojave 50 years after Fray Garces, in 1826 and again in 1827. Here, the Mojave Road crosses the highway, and, to the west, you can see its faint trace across the desert. To the east (your right) the road climbs Cedar Canyon through its mountain pass. One would be hard pressed to read the inscription on this monument in this remote spot without feeling wonder and regard for these intrepid explorers.



Mojave Road Monument

8. Continue to Cima (which means “summit” in Spanish) on the highway. Go through Cima, crossing the railroad grade to a spot where the roadway curves and forks, Cima Road going off to the north (left) and the Morning Star Mine Road to the east (straight ahead). If you want to visit Teutonia Peak, go left; the parking area is about six and a half miles down the road on the left. The hike is a level one through the densest Joshua tree woodland in the Southwest. The fastest and shortest route to Las Vegas is the Morning Star Mine Road, which arguably is also the more scenic route, offering long-distance vistas of the Ivanpah Valley.



BENJAMIN CHEVEL

Joshua Trees

9. The three-mile stretch of roadway between the spot where you turn off Morning Star Mine Road onto Ivanpah Road, before reaching Nipton Road, is prime tortoise habitat. In the spring, summer, and fall, especially after a rainfall, you are likely to see a desert tortoise crossing the road. That’s the reason for the blinking “Watch for tortoises” sign. A new desert tortoise research facility is ahead near the junction with Nipton Road. Constructed by Chevron Oil Company, the facility is staffed by researchers working to protect baby tortoises from predators until their shells harden. This takes about five years from birth. In the meantime, the facility monitors the animals in order to raise their survival rate. The research facility is not open to visitors.

Continued on page 4...

### Welcome to Mojave!

With mild temperatures and longer days, spring is an inviting time to visit the Mojave. Desert dwellers monitor winter rains carefully, hoping that enough falls at the right time to produce a good spring bloom. This year’s winter has been relatively dry, so flowers have not been abundant. Recent spring rains might trigger more flowers later in March through May.

Nevertheless, a range of activities are available here to suit diverse interests and capabilities. For those driving through from the low desert to Las Vegas, our cover story in this issue offers information about what you’ll see along the way. Backcountry campers will want to read about Caruthers Canyon and the backcountry experience that is unique to Mojave. Families can pick up a Junior Ranger booklet to help kids learn about the desert and enjoy their visit. Gateway communities like Nipton offer additional services for park visitors. Learn about these activities and more in the pages of this park guide.

For every visitor, I recommend a stop at the Kelso Depot Visitor Center. This mission-revival style train station now serves as the park’s principal information center. Explore exhibits, view an orientation film, shop for maps, postcards, and books, and have lunch at The Beanery, Kelso’s old-fashioned lunch counter. Rangers on duty offer trip-planning advice.

Many adventures await you at Mojave National Preserve. Welcome, and enjoy your visit!

*Stephanie R. Dubois*

Stephanie R. Dubois  
Superintendent

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National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

## Mojave National Preserve

Established in 1994, Mojave National Preserve encompasses 1.6 million acres ranging in elevation from 800' near Baker to 7,929' at Clark Mountain. Although most of the park lies in the Mojave Desert, the southeast section grades into the Sonoran Desert, and elements of the Great Basin Desert are found at higher elevations east of the Granite, Providence, and New York mountains.

### Superintendent

Stephanie R. Dubois

### Deputy Superintendent

Larry Whalon

### Chief Ranger

Mark Peapenburg

### Chief, Resource Interpretation

Linda Slater

### Newspaper Editor

Norma Sosa

### Mailing Address

2701 Barstow Road  
Barstow, CA 92311

### Web and E-mail

[www.nps.gov/moja](http://www.nps.gov/moja)  
For e-mail, click "Contact Us"

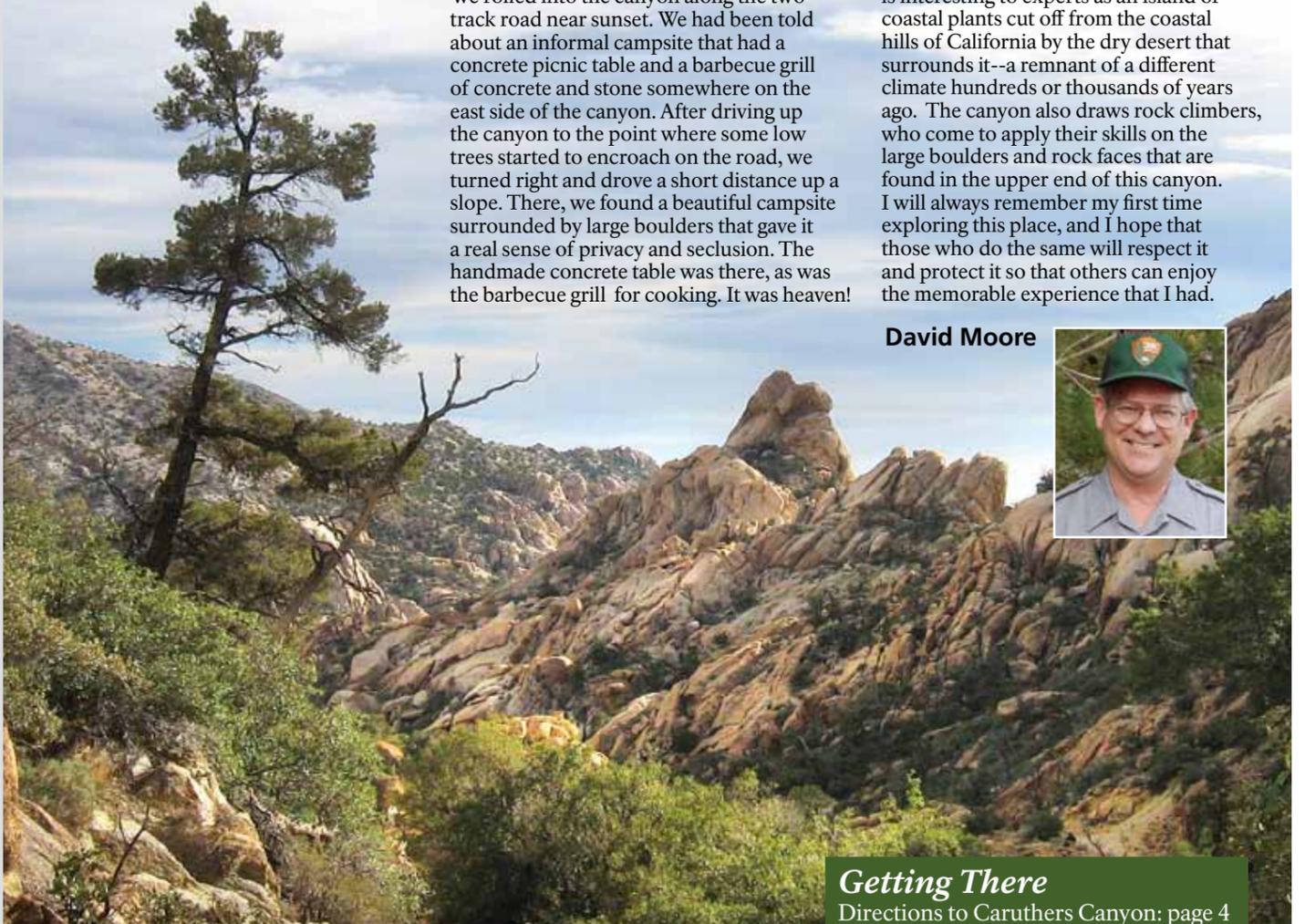
### Park Headquarters

ph: 760-252-6100  
fax: 760-252-6174

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

# Ranger Picks: Caruthers Canyon

When I first arrived at Mojave National Preserve in 1995 as a part of the National Park Service land-use planning team, our first assignment was to roam the landscape to become familiar with places on the map so that we could understand the character and nature of these places for planning purposes. I have to admit that, as an office-bound employee, I was thrilled to be out in the park exploring and, at the same time, being paid to do so. I learned that there are many wonderful places off the beaten path that many people do not see as they drive through the park on the main roads. The wonder of Mojave is its abundance of back-country places that you can explore with four-wheel drive, good ground clearance under you, and an engine to push or pull you



along. This mode of access is such a contrast to that in most western national parks where remote locations are accessible only by foot or horse--placing one foot or hoof in front of the other, sometimes with great effort. This is a perfect fit for Mojave, since there are very few accessible natural water sources to support backpacking and extended hiking trips. People exploring Mojave can see beautiful, remote places in a spirit of adventure, bringing plenty of water, a large tent, ice cooler, firewood, and tons of food stuffed in the back of the vehicle. It's wonderful for those who prefer to travel this way. There are several places that are always great for me to return to, but one of my top three locations is Caruthers Canyon. Back in 1995, our planning team had decided to spend a day exploring the Preserve in a high-clearance vehicle and then spend the night camped at an informal campsite in Caruthers Canyon. We rolled into the canyon along the two-track road near sunset. We had been told about an informal campsite that had a concrete picnic table and a barbecue grill of concrete and stone somewhere on the east side of the canyon. After driving up the canyon to the point where some low trees started to encroach on the road, we turned right and drove a short distance up a slope. There, we found a beautiful campsite surrounded by large boulders that gave it a real sense of privacy and seclusion. The handmade concrete table was there, as was the barbecue grill for cooking. It was heaven!

We set up our tents, cooked some supper, and sat by the fire with the light of the fire reflecting off the rocks that surrounded us. The next day, we explored on foot and found a trail that followed an old road that winds its way up a short canyon to a saddle in the ridge line. We went west into the canyon and began boulder hopping to see how close we could get to the top of the ridge. We followed a cut in the slope and found an opening where we could look west into a small valley with trees and more boulders. It looked very inviting, but, sadly, we did not have time to explore any further. We did see some of what makes the canyon unique. The canyon vegetation is unusual, as it includes coastal plants such as the shrub "Manzanita". These are small trees with smooth orange or red bark and twisting branches that bloom in the winter and into the spring, giving the canyon a natural beauty for much of the year. This small plant community in the canyon is interesting to experts as an island of coastal plants cut off from the coastal hills of California by the dry desert that surrounds it--a remnant of a different climate hundreds or thousands of years ago. The canyon also draws rock climbers, who come to apply their skills on the large boulders and rock faces that are found in the upper end of this canyon. I will always remember my first time exploring this place, and I hope that those who do the same will respect it and protect it so that others can enjoy the memorable experience that I had.

David Moore



## Getting There

Directions to Caruthers Canyon: page 4

## Essential Information

### Dates and Hours of Operation

The preserve is always open. Information centers (see below) maintain regular hours of operation.

### Fees and Reservations

There are no entrance fees. See page 6 for information about campground reservations and fees.

### Information Centers

Three information centers provide orientation, information, and trip-planning advice. Park rangers are on duty. Western National Parks Association (WNPA) bookstores offer books, maps, and more.

#### Kelso Depot Visitor Center

Located 34 miles south of Baker, Calif. on Kelbaker Road. Open daily, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

#### Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center

Located near Hole-in-the-Wall Campground. Winter hours (October–April): Wednesday through Sunday, 9 a.m.– 4 p.m. Summer hours (May - September) Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

#### Headquarters Information Center

Located at 2701 Barstow Road, Barstow, Calif. Open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

### Food: The Beanery @ Kelso

The concessioner-operated lunch room offers hot and cold beverages, soups, salads, sandwiches, and snacks. Located at Kelso Depot Visitor Center. Open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Water

Drinking water is available only at Kelso Depot Visitor Center, Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center, Hole-in-the-Wall, Black Canyon campgrounds and Mid-Hills Campground.

### Gasoline

There are no gasoline stations within Mojave National Preserve. Gasoline can be purchased along I-40 at Needles, Fenner, and Ludlow, Calif., along I-15 at Baker, Calif., the Cima Road exit, and Primm, Nev., and along U.S. 95 at Searchlight, at the Nev. 163 junction south of Cal-Nev-Ari, Nev.

### Lodging

There are no motels within Mojave National Preserve. Lodging might be available in Barstow, Nipton, Ludlow, Needles, Baker, and Twentynine Palms, Calif., and in Primm and Searchlight, Nev.

### Bicycles

Bicycles are allowed in parking areas, on paved roads, and on existing, open dirt roads. Bicycles are not allowed in Wilderness Areas or for cross-country travel.

### Pets

Though not allowed inside information centers, pets are welcome elsewhere. They must be leashed and never left unattended. Dogs used during hunting activities must be under the owner's control at all times. Pet excrement must be collected and disposed of in garbage receptacles.

### Permits

Permits are required for all organized events, group events (more than 15 individuals or 7 vehicles), and commercial activities such as filming. Fees apply. Proof of insurance and posting of a bond might also be required. Call 760-252-6107 or visit [www.nps.gov/moja](http://www.nps.gov/moja) for more information.

### Hunting and Firearms

Hunting is permitted in accordance with state regulations. All hunting activities require a license; additional permits and tags might apply. Visit the California Department of Fish & Game website at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/> for more information.

Target shooting or "plinking" is prohibited. All firearms transported within the preserve must be unloaded, cased, and broken down, except during lawful hunting activities. No shooting is permitted within ½ mile of developed areas, including campgrounds, information centers, Kelso Dunes, Fort Piute, Sweeney Granite Mountains Desert Research Center, and the Desert Studies Center at Zzyzx.

### Collecting and Vandalism

Disturbing, defacing, or collecting plants, animals, rocks, historic or archeological objects is prohibited. Leave these resources as you find them for everyone to enjoy. Metal detectors are not allowed.

### Private Property

Private inholdings are found throughout the preserve. Please respect the rights of our neighbors. It is your responsibility to obtain permission before hunting, hiking, or entering private property.

### Cattle and Fences

Most grazing within Mojave National Preserve occurs on public land. This land is open to you to explore, but please don't disturb cattle, fences, or water tanks. Leave gates as you find them.

### Firewood & Campfires

Wood is scarce in the desert. Cutting or collecting any wood, including downed wood, is prohibited. All firewood, including kindling, must be brought in. Firewood might be available for purchase at Baker, Fenner, Needles or Nipton, Calif. Campfires are allowed in campground fire rings and other established sites. To minimize your impact, use a firepan and pack out the ashes. Please do not leave fires smoldering or unattended.

# Exploring Mojave

Scenic Cima Road connects I-15 with Cima, Calif., traversing the world's largest concentration of Joshua trees.

## Avenues to Adventure

Mojave National Preserve is vast. At 1.6 million acres, it is the third-largest unit of the National Park System in the contiguous United States. While much of Mojave's wild and historic splendor is available only to those who travel its trails and unmaintained roads, the primary roads of the preserve offer endless opportunities for exploration (see map on page 8).

### Kelbaker Road

A 56-mile paved road stretching from I-15 at Baker, Calif. in the north to I-40 east of Ludlow, Calif. in the south, Kelbaker Road winds past cinder cones, lava flows, Kelso Depot, Kelso Dunes, and the Granite Mountains.

### Cinder Cones & Lava Flows

*No signs or services.*

About 14 miles southeast of Baker, Kelbaker Road traverses a 25,600-acre area of lava flows and volcanic cinder cones thought to range in age from 10,000 to 7 million years old. In 1973, the area was designated as Cinder Cones National Natural Landmark due to its scenic beauty and exceptional geological value. Aiken Mine Road (19 miles southeast of Baker, Calif.) offers an interesting side trip through the heart of the area and access to a lava tube. **High clearance and four-wheel drive recommended.**

### Kelso Depot Visitor Center

*Information, exhibits, orientation film, art gallery, bookstore, food (The Beanery @ Kelso), restrooms, water, picnic area.*

Located 34 miles southeast of Baker, Kelso Depot began operation in 1924 and served as train station, restaurant, and employee housing on the Los Angeles and Salt Lake route of the Union Pacific Railroad. Now Mojave National Preserve's principal information center and museum, extensive exhibits describe the cultural and natural history of the preserve. Historically furnished rooms offer a glimpse into Kelso's past.

### Kelso Dunes

*Self-guiding trail, vault toilets, no water.*

About 42 miles southeast of Baker (8 miles south of Kelso Depot), then 3 miles west on a graded dirt road. Nearly 700 feet high and covering a 45-square-mile area, the Kelso Dunes were created over the course of 25,000 years by winds carrying sand grains from the dried Soda Lake and Mojave River Sink located to the northwest. The Providence and Granite mountains served as barriers that trapped the blowing sand. The dunes produce a "booming" or "singing" sound when sand with the right moisture content slides down the steep slopes. Try it for yourself—run down a dune slope (but don't trample vegetation!) to initiate the sound.

### Granite Mountains

*No signs or services.*

An imposing jumble of granite marks the south entrance to the preserve, 50 miles southeast of Baker on Kelbaker Road. Portions of the Granite Mountains lie within the University of California's Desert Research Center; please respect the signs that mark the boundary. **High clearance and four-wheel drive recommended.**

### Clark Mountain

*No signs or services.*

The only portion of Mojave National Preserve north of I-15, Clark Mountain is also its highest point, at 7,929 feet. A relict white fir grove near the top is one of only three in the Mojave Desert. Check detailed maps or ask a ranger for access information. **High clearance and four-wheel drive recommended.**

### Cima Road

About 26 miles east of Baker, Calif., the paved Cima Road connects I-15 with Cima, Calif., 16 miles to the southeast.

### Cima Dome & Joshua Tree Forest

*Self-guiding trail, no water.*

The near-perfect symmetry of Cima Dome rises 1,500 feet above the surrounding desert and provides ideal habitat for the world's largest concentration of Joshua trees. Although the top of the dome is located west of Cima Road near the Teutonia Peak Trailhead, this unusual geologic feature is best seen from a distance. Try the view looking northwest from Cedar Canyon Road, 2.5 miles east of Kelso Cima Road.

### Cedar Canyon & Black Canyon Roads

Mostly unpaved, the 20-mile Cedar Canyon Road connects Kelso Cima Road in the west with Ivanpah Road in the east, paralleling (and sometimes joining) the historic Mojave Road. Black Canyon Road (unpaved north of Hole-in-the-Wall) connects Cedar Canyon Road with Essex Road, 20 miles to the south.

### Rock Springs

*Wayside exhibits, no services.*

A well-known waterhole for early travelers, Rock Springs is located 5.2 miles east of Black Canyon Road on Cedar Canyon Road, then ¼ mile south on a sandy, unmarked road (**four-wheel drive recommended**). Camp Rock Springs, a military redoubt established in 1866, was one of the most isolated and comfortless army posts in the West.

### Mid Hills

*Campground, trailhead, vault toilets, water. Not recommended for RVs.*

About 2 miles west of Black Canyon Road at the north end of Wild Horse Canyon Road, Mid Hills supports pinyon-juniper woodland habitat. The effects of a fire that swept through the area in June 2005 are evident, although several campsites in the popular campground still contain shady stands of pinyon pine and juniper.

### Hole-in-the-Wall

*Information center, bookstore, campgrounds, picnic area, trailhead, restroom, water, telephone.*

Just north of the junction of Black Canyon and the south end of Wild Horse Canyon Roads, rhyolite cliffs riddled with holes and hollows are the backdrop for Hole-in-the-Wall.

### Piute Spring

About 7.4 miles west of U.S. 95 on the unmarked and unpaved Mojave Road, then 3.1 miles west on an extremely rough unmarked dirt road. **High clearance and four-wheel drive recommended.**

### Fort Piute and Piute Spring

*Trails, wayside exhibits, no signs or services.*

Willows, cottonwoods, and rushes thrive along a half-mile section of Piute Creek. Fort Piute (still visible) was one in a string of military outposts built along the Mojave Road. Please don't climb on the foundations or remove anything.

## Dirt Road Driving

### Prepare Your Vehicle

Ensure that your vehicle is in good condition: check tires, oil, and gas gauge.

For emergencies, carry tools, tire jack, towrope, extra water, and fluids for your vehicle.

### Know the Rules of the Road

All vehicles operating within Mojave National Preserve must be street-legal in accordance with California DMV requirements, including current registration and tags, lights and turn signals, and valid insurance. California "Green Sticker" and "Red Sticker" programs are not recognized within the preserve.

Off-pavement travel is allowed only on existing, open dirt roads. Do not travel cross-country or create new routes. This rule is strictly enforced; violators will receive citations. Driving in washes is not permitted. Watch for and respect Wilderness Boundary signs; motorized vehicles and bicycles are not allowed in designated Wilderness Areas.

### Check Road Conditions

Road conditions vary widely. Dirt roads might be rough, sandy, or muddy, rendering them impassable, and the unprepared motorist could be trapped many miles from help. Watch for cattle, burros, and other wildlife on roadways.

Not all roads are shown on all maps; traces and illegal shortcuts add to the confusion. Carry a good map, and ask a park ranger for current road conditions.

## Zzyzx Road

Six miles southwest of Baker on I-15, Zzyzx Road leads 5 miles south into the preserve along the western shore of Soda Dry Lake.

### Zzyzx/Soda Springs

*Self-guiding trail, wayside exhibits, vault toilets, non-potable water, picnic area.*

Historically known as Soda Springs and later renamed Zzyzx (pronounced ZYE-zix), this oasis is home to the California State University Desert Studies Center. The buildings and pond were developed in the 1940s by Curtis Springer, who operated a health resort at the site. Zzyzx is open to the public—stroll around Lake Tuendae and along the shore of Soda Dry Lake. Please do not disturb participants when classes are in session.

## Nipton, Ivanpah & Lanfair Roads

Eleven miles south of Primm, Nev., Nipton Road begins at I-15 and passes through Nipton, Calif., 11 miles east. Ivanpah Road (only the 10 northernmost miles paved) heads southeast of Nipton Road, through the Ivanpah and Lanfair valleys, eventually connecting with the paved Lanfair Road and the Fenner Valley. Together stretching 46 miles, Ivanpah and Lanfair roads connect the northern preserve boundary (bordering Nipton Road) with the southern near Goffs, Calif.

### Hotel Nipton

*Privately operated hotel, store, campground, & more; for information call 760-856-2335 or email at stay@nipton.com.*

Built in 1910, this charming hotel reflects the railroad, ranching, and mining history of the small community at Nipton.

### Caruthers Canyon

*Primitive camping, hiking, no signs or services.*

About 5.5 miles west of Ivanpah Road on New York Mountains Road, then 2.7 miles north on an unsigned road, Caruthers Canyon is located in the rugged New York Mountains. Surrounded by mountains rising over 7,500 feet, a botanical "island" of chaparral plants remains from wetter times of the past. **High clearance and four-wheel drive recommended.**

## Sand & Mud Driving Tips

- Be sure to carry plenty of drinking water and emergency supplies.

- Engage four-wheel drive before entering deep sand or mud.

- Don't gun the engine—this will spin the tires, dig you in deeper, and could bury your vehicle to the frame. Smooth, easy power is better than too much power; use low gearing and just enough throttle to maintain forward movement.

- If you detect a loss of traction, turn the steering wheel rapidly from side-to-side—this might help to generate traction.

- If your vehicle gets stuck, place solid materials (such as floor mats) under the tires to provide traction.

- If you're really stuck, it's best to stay with your vehicle. A stationary, stranded vehicle is much easier to locate than a person traveling on foot. Avoid strenuous activity during the heat of the day; stay in the shade of your vehicle.

### Lanfair Valley

*No signs or services.*

South of the New York Mountains along Ivanpah and Lanfair roads, this high valley shelters an impressive Joshua tree forest and was an early ranching and homesteading center. From 1893 until 1923, the Nevada Southern Railway ran up the valley from Goffs, providing services to homesteaders and ranchers in the valley and to miners in the mountains beyond. While little evidence remains of homesteads that once dotted the valley, tracts of private property still exist. Please respect the rights of landowners.

## Why is it called Hole in the Wall?

Visitors often ask about Hole-in-the-Wall, the name of the volcanic formations near the Woods Mountains. They want to know what the name signifies... where it came from.

There were a couple of stories floating around about this name, passed from ranger to ranger, for years. When stories pass around like this, they often evolve. In fact, there is a name for this—Ranger Lore. This is when stories become fact mixed with fiction.

So, a call went out to Dennis Casebier, Mojave resident and Executive Director of Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association.

According to Dennis, Bob Holliman, who lived in the Mojave from the early 1900s until his death in 1953, named the site after the natural geological formation in Wyoming that is located in the Big Horn Mountains of northern Wyoming. The Wyoming site is widely described as a retreat for outlaws in the 1800s, including Butch Cassidy's gang.

Holliman had been to the already-famous Hole-in-the-Wall in Wyoming and thought our HITW looked like the one in Wyoming. We have two sources for this. One is a book we sell in our Visitor Centers, "East Mojave Diary" by Bob Ausmus. On page 145, Ausmus writes about Holliman's decision to take up residence in the Mojave: "And move in he did, slicing off for himself a strip of 88 range extending from Cedar Canyon several miles south to some unique rock formations that he named 'Hole-in-the-Wall.'"

The second source is Betty Ordway. Betty was part of the homestead culture that existed in the Preserve in the early part of the century. Her sister Harriet married Lorenzo Watson (after whom Watson Wash is named), and Betty lived with her sister near there. She was well-connected with people in the area. Dennis says that interviews conducted with her are some of the best in his archives, and that she is an apparently accurate source of information. Betty knew Holliman well, and she states that Holliman named Hole-in-the-Wall. She said that Holliman had spent some time at Hole in the Wall in Wyoming and that he thought the volcanic mesas in the Preserve are similar to the Wyoming site.

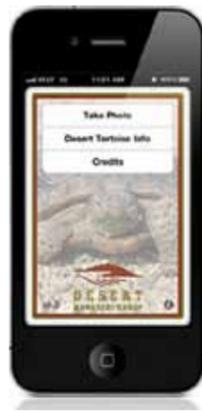
One story that is not true: Neither Bob Holliman nor anyone else who was associated with the Preserve's Hole-in-the-Wall had any connection with Butch Cassidy or the Sundance Kid.

Holliman was a very interesting character. He was a gunslinger, homesteader, and enemy of the Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company, an early ranching outfit in the Mojave. He was in the Mojave by 1914 and homesteaded in the Round Valley and became very involved in events of the area. He was not a participant in a widely told tale of a shoot-out at Government Holes near Round Valley, but he was connected with events that led up to it.

About 30 acres of land in Round Valley that were originally claimed by Holliman are now part of the Preserve. The remains of his house still stand on this 30 acres. The location is close to Black Canyon Road, just across from Pettit's Well.



## The Mojave Desert Tortoise App



Smart phones have become valuable tools in the conservation of rare species around the world. The latest example is an iPhone and Android app called Mojave Desert Tortoise, which people can use to share their experiences and learn about this threatened species.

With the app, visitors who encounter a desert tortoise take a photo. The app adds GPS data to the photo and sends it to researchers at the Mojave Desert Ecosystem

Program (MDEP) and Desert Managers Group. The information will be used in helping to track tortoise sightings. See the results so far at [www.californiadesert.gov](http://www.californiadesert.gov).

The app is free to download and works like this:

1. On your first installation you will be asked to respond to a five-question anonymous survey that is sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service so that the public's understanding of the desert tortoise can be better understood.
2. Three options will then be made available: take a photo, review desert tortoise info, and credits.
3. When you do see a tortoise, activate the app and select "take a photo". Take a picture from a safe distance so as not to startle the tortoise. Select "use" and a screen will appear asking for an optional name and note to be submitted with your photo so that you can share your discovery online if you like. Select submit and the app will then also record the time, data, and GPS location. That's it!

Your submission goes into a database where the information is shared with scientists tracking the recovery of this species threatened with extinction. Valid sightings are also posed at [www.californiadesert.gov](http://www.californiadesert.gov).

This app was developed in partnership with the Desert Managers Group and the Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program.

## Why aren't there any showers in the park?

*By Christina Mills, Park Ranger*

You are hot and sweaty after a great hike, and as you head back to the car or campground, you sure wish you could take a shower. But there are no showers at Mojave National Preserve. You will not find showers at most national parks. You also might not find RV hookups, gasoline stations, lodging, or grocery stores inside some parks, including Mojave National Preserve.

The National Park Service (NPS) provides basic visitor amenities like developed trails, campgrounds, maps, free brochures, exhibits, ranger-led programs, and visitor centers. In some parks, concessioners provide additional comforts and conveniences like showers, lodging, or camper stores, but only if they are considered necessary and appropriate to the park's operation and if suitable vendors are willing to provide the services.

Concessionaires are businesses that are authorized by contract to operate within national parks, and the businesses pay a franchise fee to the NPS. Those franchise fees, along with visitor fees, are used to construct new visitor centers, maintain or upgrade park facilities, and support interpretive and resource management programs. Mojave has only one small concession operation, the Beanery counter restaurant at Kelso. Other concessionaires might be multimillion-dollar companies that conduct businesses in several parks.

Will there be more concession operations at Mojave? There are a number of considerations to take into account in answering that question.

Water is a precious commodity in the desert, so its use must be carefully considered. Electrical power might not be available in certain locations; several park sites, such as Hole-in-the-Wall, are off the electrical grid and operate on solar power. Also, businesses might not bid on small contracts for concessions in remote locations.

Visitor surveys that we conduct annually receive a few suggestions about adding camper stores or RV hookups, but the majority of park visitors request that Mojave National Preserve remain minimally developed.

The park's enabling legislation, the California Desert Protection Act of 1994, stresses perpetuating the wilderness character of the park while preserving and protecting the natural, scenic, and cultural resources. The sense of adventure and discovery at Mojave and the rare opportunity to experience solitude and clear night skies draw people here again and again. Finally, when there are limited or no concession operations in a park, visitors patronize commercial businesses in nearby gateway communities, improving their economies. Currently there are no plans for additional concession operations at Mojave.

Yellowstone was America's first National Park, established in 1872 due to serious concerns about poaching and vandalism. There were only a few rough dirt tracks into the park, lawlessness abounded, and travelers needed safe and reasonably priced services to visit the park. Those Yellowstone hotels, restaurants, and stores became the first NPS concessionaires. America has changed dramatically since then, and today's visitors can find lodging and grocery stores no more than one hour away from Mojave's paved roads.

So, while you enjoy your visit at Mojave, relax and really look at the natural and lightly touched landscapes that surround you. The desert that appears so barren and lifeless from the freeway is actually alive, full of unusual sights, sounds, and smells.

## Getting There

### Directions to Caruthers Canyon

Five miles North of Cedar Canyon Road on Ivanpah Road, turn west onto New York Mountains Road. Drive about 5.5 miles to a junction with an unsigned dirt road. Turn north. About 2 miles up this road, you will come to a woodland area laced with turnouts that are used for camping. Leave the vehicle in this area and explore the canyon on foot.

This trip should be made only in a four-wheel drive vehicle with high clearance. All roads leading to the canyon are periodically maintained dirt roads. The closer you get to the canyon, the rougher the roads.



## The Past and Future Nipton

On January 1, 1900, S. D. Kearns, a gold seeker from western Pennsylvania, staked a mining claim near the crossroads of two overland wagon trails in the Ivanpah Valley. The claim and nearby camp were named Nippeno, similar to the name of a township in western Pennsylvania. When the San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad was constructed through the camp in 1905, it soon became a town, and the name was shortened to Nipton.

For many years, the Nipton depot was a cattle-loading station for several local ranches including Yates Ranch, the Walking Box, and Rock Springs Land and Cattle Co. The town and depot also supplied numerous mines in the area, becoming a social center for the sparse population of the region. Community facilities included a school, post office, voter precinct, and several small businesses.

Harry Trehearne, a Cornish miner, settled in Nipton in 1913, and was the driving force behind community developments for the next 35 years. He built a new general store, restored the Hotel Nipton and dug the first water well. Trehearne passed away in 1949.

Nipton lay nearly dormant until 1984, when the Gerald Freeman family purchased the town. The Freemans had a vision of developing a more diversified, sustainable community at Nipton. When Mojave National Preserve was established in 1994, Nipton became a gateway community for the new park.

The Freemans have renovated the Hotel Nipton and now operate the six-room inn as a bed and breakfast. Also in Nipton is the Trading Post, a gift and convenience store, and the restaurant. The Freemans recently renovated historic Nipton schoolhouse for use as a conference and education center.

Nipton is in the forefront of the green energy movement. In 2010, a municipal solar power plant was installed, providing roughly 85 percent of Nipton's electricity needs—the highest percentage of solar electricity of any town in the United States.

"Sustainability is paramount to this endeavor," said Gerald Freeman, Principal Administrator for Nipton. Freeman is planning for the development of energy-efficient housing, and the solar plant is designed to easily increase in size. "The Nipton Solar Generating Plant is intended to play a significant role in moving toward the goal of a sustainable community lifestyle in harmony with it's Mojave Desert environment." Freeman said.

*Continued from page 1*

**10.** Upon reaching the end of Ivanpah Road at the stop sign, pause for a moment before entering onto Nipton Road to look to your left at the desiccated Ivanpah Mountains. Here you will see a tilted land dotted with creosote bushes. These gravelly alluvial fans emerge from mountain canyons, which flush loose boulders, rocks, sand, and other debris out of the canyon interiors during flash floods. Where the alluvial fans join together, as they do here, they form a bajada, a Spanish word meaning "lower slope." Bajadas are what give the Mojave Desert its distinctive appearance. Edmund Jaeger wrote, "From a scenic standpoint, I know of few features more appealing than these long, sloping fans when seen in profile." What do you think?

## Have you ever wondered what a Junior Ranger is?

*By Rana Knighten, Park Ranger*

The Junior Ranger program is designed to engage kids in learning about the park in an active and enjoyable way. Kids learn about some of the plants, animals, and people that have called the desert home by completing the Junior Ranger activity booklet.



Becoming a Junior Ranger is an exciting way for kids to learn about the special places that make up the National Park System, and being a Junior Ranger has its advantages. Here at Mojave National Preserve, we set aside a special day each year to celebrate new and returning Junior Rangers. This year, April 21, marks the fifth year of National Junior Ranger day. It is an opportunity for young and old alike to "Explore, Learn, and Protect" in new or favorite national parks.



Junior Ranger at Mojave National Preserve

Fans of the Junior Ranger program collect badges from parks across the country. After picking up a free Junior Ranger booklet at Kelso Depot Visitor Center, one recent prospective Junior Ranger could be heard urging his parents on. "Let's go, let's go," he sang as he rushed his parents out the door.

### How to become a Junior Ranger at Mojave

**Step 1:** Pick up a Junior Ranger Activity Booklet at any Mojave National Preserve Information Center.

**Step 2:** Complete activities, such as a scavenger hunt, mapping your trip, and tracking animals on the sand dunes.

**Step 3:** Take your completed activity booklet to any Mojave information center to review with a Park Ranger and get inducted as a Junior Ranger. You will receive a certificate and a Mojave Junior Ranger badge. For those whose travels make it impossible to return to an information center, booklets can be mailed in for review.

The Junior Ranger program is free, open to all ages, and available year-round.

And remember: The more parks you visit, the more badges you can collect.

### Mojave Temperatures: Average High / Low

	Granite Mountain Elevation 4,200 feet	Zzyzx Elevation 930 feet
January	50°F / 36°F	61°F / 34°F
February	54°F / 38°F	69°F / 40°F
March	59°F / 41°F	74°F / 46°F
April	68°F / 48°F	83°F / 53°F
May	75°F / 54°F	93°F / 61°F
June	85°F / 63°F	103°F / 70°F
July	90°F / 67°F	109°F / 77°F
August	89°F / 66°F	107°F / 75°F
September	83°F / 61°F	100°F / 68°F
October	73°F / 52°F	77°F / 55°F
November	59°F / 41°F	73°F / 46°F
December	50°F / 34°F	62°F / 34°F
Average Annual Precipitation	8.5 inches	3.37 inches

**11.** As you drive the final three-mile leg of your journey to I-15 along Nipton Road, you'll be heading northwest toward Clark Mountain. Standing at 7,929 feet, it's the highest peak in the Mojave Desert, and it dominates the horizon. A fault line here, called the Garlock Fault, separates the Mojave Desert from the Great Basin Desert to the north.

**12.** This concludes your front-country tour of the Mojave National Preserve. You've just completed a drive of 63 miles. Come back again for the rest of the story of this 1.6-million-acre preserve, the third largest unit in the National Park System.

# Camping & Backcountry Travel

## Backcountry Guidelines & Regulations

Backcountry travel and camping—backpacking, roadside camping, and horsepacking—require careful planning in order to ensure a safe and rewarding experience. Visitors should adhere to National Park Service regulations and are further encouraged to follow Leave No Trace guidelines to minimize their impact on the fragile desert environment. Additional regulations apply for roadside camping (see below) and horsepacking (talk with a park ranger or visit us online for more information: [www.nps.gov/moja](http://www.nps.gov/moja)).

Leave No Trace principles are rooted in scientific studies and common sense. The message is framed under seven Leave No Trace Principles presented below with accompanying regulations and guidelines specific to Mojave National Preserve:

### 1. Plan Ahead and Prepare

- There is no permit or registration system for backcountry camping at Mojave National Preserve; be sure to notify others of your travel itinerary.
- Few established trails exist; carry a good map and familiarize yourself with desert travel and survival skills before beginning your trip.

### 2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Reuse existing campsites (required for roadside camping—see below).
- Do not make camp in a dry wash—flash floods develop quickly in the desert.
- Camping is limited to a maximum of 14 consecutive days per visit/stay and 30 total days per year.
- Campsites must be more than 200 yards from any water source.
- Camping is not permitted: within 1/4 mile of any paved road; within 1/2 mile of Fort Piute or Kelso Depot; within 1 mile north (i.e., the crest of the dunes) or 1/4 mile south of the Kelso Dunes access road. (Exceptions may apply for roadside camping—see below.)

### 3. Dispose of Waste Properly

- Store all food and garbage in a manner that will prevent access by wildlife. Carry plastic bags and pack out all trash.
- Bury human waste in catholes 6-8 inches deep, at least 200 feet from water, camp, and trails. Pack out all toilet paper and hygiene products.
- Pet excrement must be collected and disposed of in garbage receptacles.

### 4. Leave What You Find

- Disturbing, defacing, or collecting plants, animals, rocks, and historic or archeological objects is prohibited. As part of our national heritage, these resources should be left as they are found for all to enjoy. Metal detectors are not allowed.

### 5. Minimize Campfire Impacts

- Campfires are allowed in established fire rings only, or with use of a portable firepan (be sure to pack out ashes). Do not leave fires smoldering or unattended.
- Cutting or collecting any wood, including downed wood, is prohibited. All firewood must be brought into the preserve.

### 6. Respect Wildlife

### 7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors

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Friends and family enjoy the spectacular setting of Hole-in-the-Wall Campground.

## Campgrounds

### Hole-in-the-Wall Campground

**Facilities:** pit toilets, trash receptacles, potable water, fire rings, picnic tables, dump station; no utility hookups.

**Fees:** \$12 per site per night, \$6 for America the Beautiful Senior/Access Pass holders.

**Reservations:** not accepted; campsites available on a first-come, first-served basis.

At 4,400 feet in elevation, Hole-in-the-Wall Campground is surrounded by sculptured volcanic rock walls and makes a great basecamp for hikers (see p.7) and for exploring nearby Mitchell Caverns in the Providence Mountains State Recreation Area. Thirty-five campsites accommodate RVs and tents; two walk-in sites are also available.

### Mid Hills Campground

**Facilities:** pit toilets, trash receptacles, potable water, fire rings, picnic tables; no dump station or utility hookups.

**Fees:** \$12 per site per night, \$6 for America the Beautiful Senior/Access Pass holders.

**Reservations:** not accepted; campsites available on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Hackberry Fire swept through the Mid Hills area in June 2005, burning much of the vegetation. About half of the 26 campsites were left unharmed, however—they remain surrounded by pinyon pine and juniper trees. At 5,600 feet in elevation, Mid Hills is much cooler than the desert floor below. The access road is unpaved and is not recommended for motorhomes or trailers.

### Black Canyon Equestrian & Group Campground

**Facilities:** corrals, pit toilets, trash receptacles, potable water, fire ring, grill, picnic shelter with tables.

**Fees:** \$25 per group per night.

**Reservations:** required; call 760-928-2572 or 760-252-6104

Located across the road from Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center. Horses and riders are welcome at Mojave National Preserve! Permits required for large groups (see p.2 for permit information).

## Nearby Camping Areas

### Afton Canyon

25 miles southwest of Baker on I-15, has a BLM campground with tables and fire rings for \$6 per night.

Commercial camping is also available at Baker, Barstow, Needles, and Nipton, Calif.

## Roadside Camping

Roadside vehicle camping is permitted in areas that have been traditionally used for this purpose. By reusing existing sites, you help protect the desert from further damage. Sites with existing rock fire rings should be considered disturbed and suitable for roadside camping. Many roadside camping sites cannot accommodate multiple vehicles; please don't enlarge them. Do not camp along paved roads or in day-use areas, and stay at least 200 yards from all water sources.

The National Park Service encourages roadside campers to use the following, selected sites:

### Near Kelbaker Road: Rainy Day Mine Site

15.2 miles southeast of Baker on Kelbaker Road, then 0.3 miles northeast on the unsigned and very sandy road to the Rainy Day Mine. Four-wheel drive recommended; no RVs.

### Granite Pass

6.1 miles north of I-40 on Kelbaker Road, just north of Granite Pass, then west on one of several access roads. Campsites are located just north of the granite spires. High clearance vehicle recommended; no RVs.

### Kelso Dunes Mine

4 miles west of Kelbaker Road on the unpaved Kelso Dunes Road. One campsite is located south of the road, ¼ mile past the marked trailhead. Several others are available ¾ mile beyond, near a clump of trees. Except at these sites, roadside camping is prohibited along Kelso Dunes Road (including at the trailhead).

### Near Cima Road: Sunrise Rock

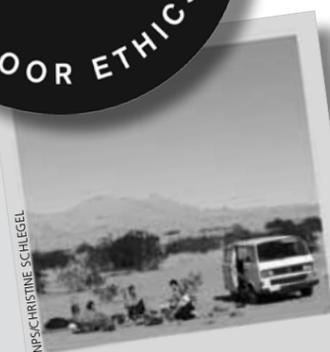
12 miles south of I-15 on the east side of Cima Road. Trailhead for Teutonia Peak Trail is nearby on the opposite side of Cima Road.

### Near Black Canyon Road: Black Canyon Road (East)

4 miles south of Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center on the east side of Black Canyon Road, above a wash and near a hill with views of the Providence Mountains. Another site is located about 4 miles further south, near rock piles.

### Near Ivanpah and Cedar Canyon Roads: Caruthers Canyon

5.5 miles west of Ivanpah Road on New York Mountains Road, then 1.5 to 2.7 miles north to campsites. High clearance and four-wheel drive recommended; no RVs.

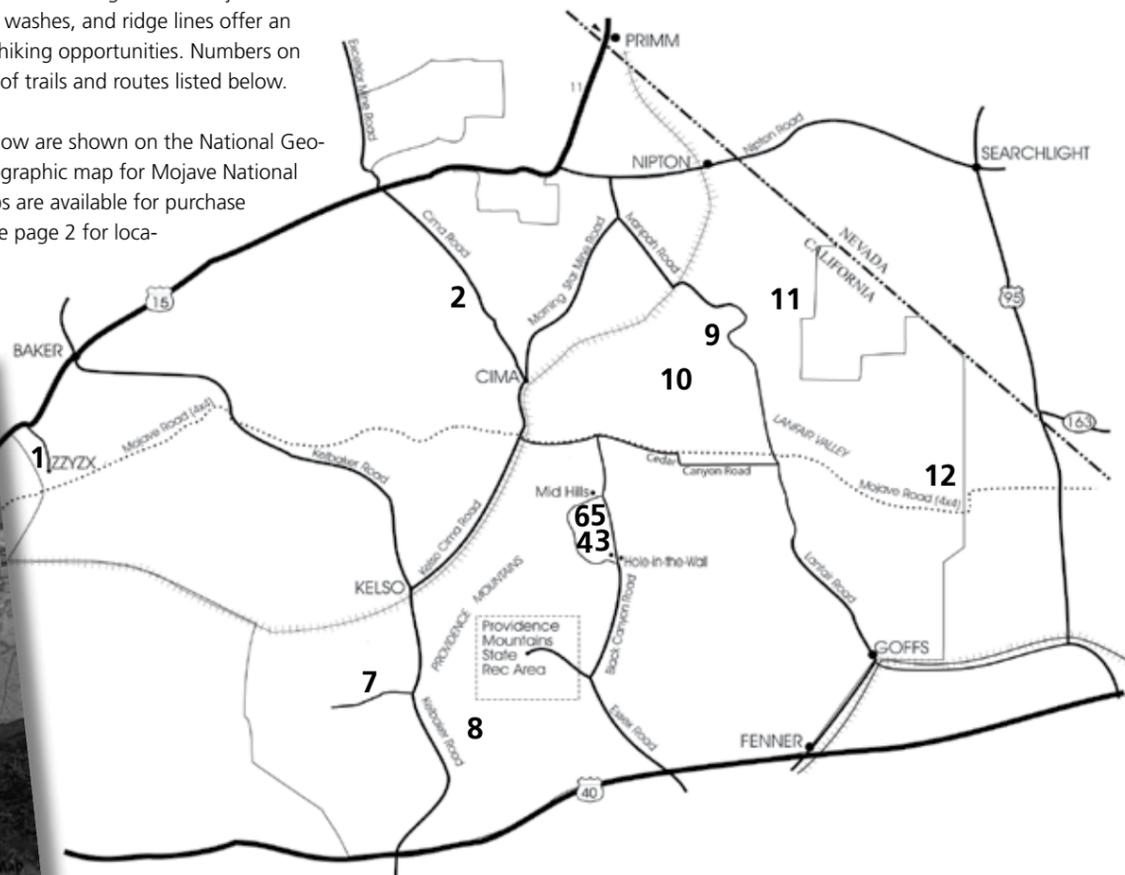
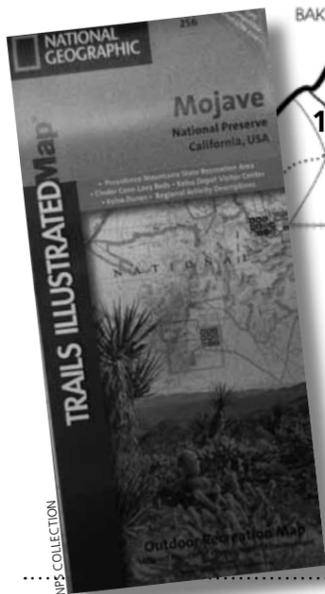


# Hiking

Hikers at Mojave National Preserve can enjoy a variety of challenges, with sweeping views, solitude, and over 800,000 acres of designated Wilderness.

Although there are few established hiking trails in Mojave National Preserve, abandoned dirt roads, washes, and ridge lines offer an abundance of cross-country hiking opportunities. Numbers on map show general locations of trails and routes listed below.

All trails and routes listed below are shown on the National Geographic Trails Illustrated topographic map for Mojave National Preserve. This and other maps are available for purchase at all information centers (see page 2 for locations and other info.).



## Developed Trails

### 1) Lake Tuendae Nature Trail

*Trailhead: Zzyzx parking area, 5 miles south of I-15 on Zzyzx Road.*

Enjoy an easy, self-guided, ¼-mile stroll around Lake Tuendae. Wayside exhibits along the trail reveal the rich cultural and natural history of this oasis on the preserve's western boundary.

### 2) Teutonia Peak Trail

*Trailhead: 12 miles south of I-15, or 5 miles north of Cima, Calif. on Cima Road.*

Explore the world's densest Joshua tree forest en route to a rocky peak with expansive views of Cima Dome and beyond. 4 miles round-trip.

### 3) Hole-in-the-Wall Nature Trail

*Trailhead: Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center and Campground, 20 miles north of I-40 on Essex and Black Canyon roads.*

Learn to identify desert plants on this easy, ½-mile round-trip hike. Trailheads at Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center and Campground.

### 4) Rings Loop Trail

*Trailhead: Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center parking area, 20 miles north of I-40 on Essex and Black Canyon roads.*

Discover how Hole-in-the-Wall got its name as you ascend narrow Banshee Canyon with the help of metal rings mounted in the rock. The 1½-mile round-trip hike connects to the Mid Hills to Hole-in-the-Wall Trail (see below).

### 5) Mid Hills to Hole-in-the-Wall Trail

*Trailheads: Entrance to Mid Hills Campground, and about 1 mile west of Black Canyon Road on the south end of Wild Horse Canyon Road.*

Hike 8 miles, one-way, through a maze of washes decorated with barrel and cholla cacti, then through the Hackberry Fire burned area. Total elevation gain is 1,200 feet. Watch carefully for trail route markers.

### 6) Barber Peak Loop Trail

*Trailhead: Parking area for walk-in tent sites at Hole-in-the-Wall Campground.*

The preserve's newest trail, this 6-mile loop encircles Barber Peak just west of Hole-in-the-Wall Campground, passes the Opalite Cliffs, and returns to Hole-in-the-Wall via Banshee Canyon.

### 7) Kelso Dunes

*Start: 3 miles west of Kelbaker Road on the well-graded, but unpaved Kelso Dunes Road.*

Hikers at sunrise and sunset are treated to both cooler temperatures and the rose-colored glow of the dunes. The roughly 3-mile round-trip hike might take several hours as you slog through the sand, then slide down the slopes.

## Recommended Routes

**Warning: the routes described below are not established trails; trailheads might be unidentifiable or nonexistent. Check a detailed map or guidebook—available at all information centers—and consult a park ranger for route information.**

### 8) Quail Basin

*Start: 12.5 miles north of I-40 on Kelbaker Road, then 1 mile east on an unmarked dirt road. Park at junction with closed dirt road heading south. High clearance and four-wheel drive recommended.*

Follow the route to the south to a road that loops around a small valley. After walking the loop, return via the same route. The 6.5-mile round-trip route leads past jumbled rocks into a small valley of Mojave yucca and juniper surrounded by granite outcroppings.

### 9) Keystone Canyon

*Start: 18 miles south of Nipton Road on Ivanpah Road, then 2.5 miles west on an unmarked dirt road. Bear left at the first fork, right at the*

*second, then continue to a parking area. Four-wheel drive recommended.*

Hike the deteriorating road into Keystone Canyon, ascending the New York Mountains. Continue cross-country to the top of the ridge for spectacular views. Hike is 3 miles one way.

### 10) Caruthers Canyon

*Start: Primitive campsites in Caruthers Canyon, 5.5 miles west of Ivanpah Road on New York Mountains Road, then 2.7 miles north on unsigned road. High clearance and four-wheel drive recommended.*

Hike 3 miles one way through a rocky basin to an abandoned gold-mining area. Do not enter mine shafts or climb on abandoned structures; they are unstable and extremely dangerous.

### 11) Castle Peaks Corridor

*Start: 4.9 miles east of Ivanpah Road on signed Hart Mine Road; left at fork, then 0.9 miles, left at fork, then 3.4 miles, crossing an earthen berm; left at fork, then 1 mile more to where road ends. High clearance and four-wheel drive recommended.*

For excellent views of the Castle Peak spires, walk 4 miles one way up the closed road to the ridgetop and beyond into a small canyon.

### 12) Piute Creek

*Start: 9.5 miles east of the junction of Lanfair Valley and Cedar Canyon roads on a dirt utility road, then 0.5 miles north. High clearance and four-wheel drive recommended.*

Hike 6.5 miles round-trip through colorful Piute Gorge and explore the ruins of Fort Piute, built and manned in the 1860s to protect mail and travelers on the Mojave Road. A perennial stream near the fort, rare in the Mojave, supports riparian plants and animals. Return to your vehicle via an unused trace of the Mojave Road.

## Mitchell Caverns to remain closed indefinitely

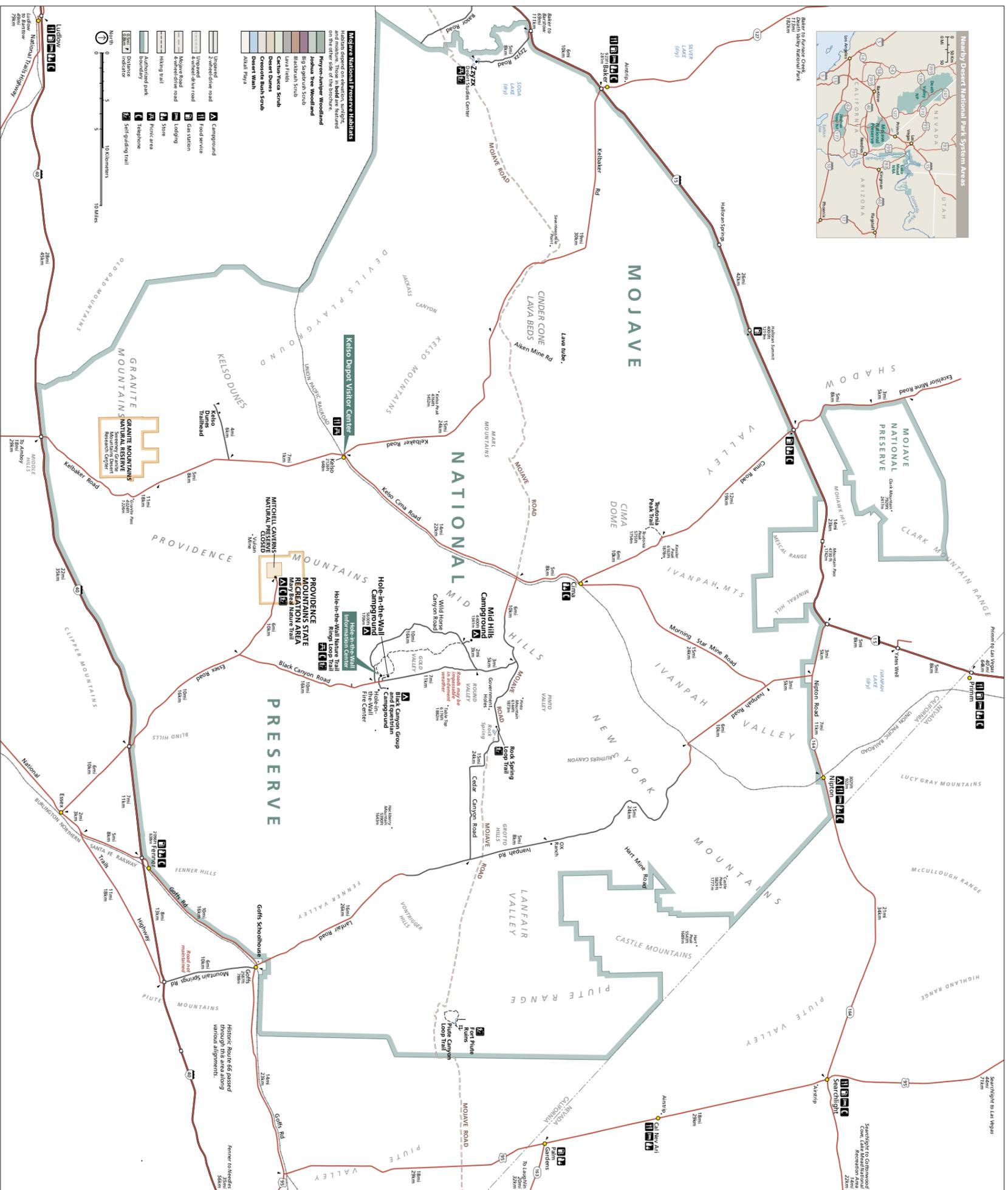
Visitors to Mojave's Hole-in-the-Wall Campground often include a tour of Mitchell Caverns as part of their activities...but no more. State budget problems have forced the shutdown of this beloved desert attraction.

Providence Mountains State Recreation Area, home to Mitchell Caverns, is a California State Park located within the boundaries of Mojave National Preserve. State park officials shut down operations in January 2011. Employee retirements coincided with the development of serious problems with the water system, and state officials decided to temporarily close the park until the system could be repaired.

Meanwhile, shortfalls in the California state budget caused lawmakers in Sacramento to ask that state agencies identify possible budget cuts. In May 2011, California State Parks released its closure list, and Providence Mountains was among the 70 parks included. Although closures for most parks on the list won't go into effect until July 2012, California State Parks officials decided not to invest in repairs to the park's infrastructure during a time of shrinking budgets, so Providence Mountains State Recreation Area remains closed.

Mitchell Caverns was initially developed as a privately operated tourist attraction by Jack and Ida Mitchell in the early 1930s. Jack Mitchell died in 1954, and his family turned the property over to the state. Providence Mountains State Recreation Area was added to the California State Park system in 1956.

Over the years, California State Parks has made many improvements to the caverns, including the development of a safe pathway through the caverns, a tunnel connecting the two principal caves, and installation of a lighting system. However, the caverns' remote location and lack of connection to the electrical grid have contributed to the difficulties in its operation and maintenance. With continuing weakness in the economy and ongoing fiscal issues for California State Parks, the future of Mitchell caverns remains uncertain.



**Telephone Directory**

**Emergency 911**  
Federal Interagency Communications Center 909-383-5651  
San Bernardino County Sheriff - Baker 760-733-4448  
San Bernardino County Sheriff - Needles 760-326-9200

**Mojave National Preserve**

Barstow Headquarters Office 760-252-6100  
Kelso Depot Visitor Center 760-252-6108  
The Beanery @ Kelso (lunch room) 760-252-6165  
Hole-in-the-Wall Fire Center 760-928-2573  
Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center 760-252-6104 or 760-928-2572

**Nearby Parklands**

Anza Borrego Desert State Park 760-767-4205  
Bureau of Land Mgmt. - Barstow Field Office 760-252-6000  
Bureau of Land Mgmt. - Needles Field Office 760-326-7000  
Calico Ghost Town 760-254-2122  
Death Valley National Park 760-786-2331  
Joshua Tree National Park 760-367-5500  
Lake Mead National Recreation Area 702-293-8990  
Providence Mountains State Recreation Area 760-928-2586

**Website Directory**

**National Park Service**  
Mojave National Preserve [www.nps.gov/moja](http://www.nps.gov/moja)  
Death Valley National Park [www.nps.gov/dvna](http://www.nps.gov/dvna)  
Joshua Tree National Park [www.nps.gov/jotr](http://www.nps.gov/jotr)  
Lake Mead National Recreation Area [www.nps.gov/lame](http://www.nps.gov/lame)

Providence Mountains State Recreation Area [http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=615](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=615)  
Western National Parks Association (bookstore) [www.wnpa.org](http://www.wnpa.org)  
CSU Desert Studies Center (Zzyzx) <http://biology.fullerton.edu/dsc/>  
Bureau of Land Management [www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov)  
Sweeney Granite Mtns. Desert Research Ctr. <http://nrs.ucop.edu/Sweeney-Granite.htm>  
DesertUSA willflower reports [www.desertusa.com/willflower/wildupdates](http://www.desertusa.com/willflower/wildupdates)  
Desert Tortoise data and information [www.deserttortoise.gov](http://www.deserttortoise.gov)  
Desert Discovery Center [www.discoverytrails.org/welcome1.html](http://www.discoverytrails.org/welcome1.html)  
Wilderness information [www.wilderness.net](http://www.wilderness.net)  
California Desert [www.californiadesert.gov](http://www.californiadesert.gov)  
Leave No Trace [www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org)  
US Federal government jobs [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov)



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