

# Joshua Tree

National Monument  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

## Backpacking



*"A man could be a lover and defender of wilderness without ever in his lifetime leaving the boundaries of asphalt, powerlines, and right-angled surfaces. We need wilderness whether or not we ever set foot in it. We need a refuge even though we may never need go there. We need the possibility of escape as surely as we need hope...."*

Edward Abbey, Desert Solitaire

## WILDERNESS

Over 558,000 acres of Mojave and Colorado Desert lands are protected in Joshua Tree National Monument, and almost a half-million acres of that is wilderness. Designated by Congress, wilderness areas are set aside to remain forever

wild and undeveloped, where "man himself is a visitor who does not remain." It is your responsibility to know and abide by the park regulations that have been established both for your safety and for the preserving the integrity

of wilderness areas. If you're in doubt, ask a ranger. By following the guidelines below, your venture into Joshua Tree's backcountry should be both safe and enjoyable.

## SAFETY TIPS

- CARRY A MINIMUM OF ONE GALLON OF DRINKING WATER PER PERSON, PER DAY. Carry two gallons or more in hot weather, more for cooking and washing.
- WATCH THE WEATHER. Flash floods are common. Temperature drops of 40 degrees in a 24 hour period are common in the desert.
- DRESS FOR THE DESERT. Wear a hat, sun-glasses, sturdy, non-slip boots or shoes, and use sunblock liberally.
- CARRY A TOPOGRAPHIC MAP AND COMPASS, A FLASHLIGHT, FIRST AID KIT, AND EXTRA FOOD. Do not use freeze dried foods unless you plan to carry extra water for cooking.
- DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CLIMB CLIFFS WITHOUT ADEQUATE EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING.

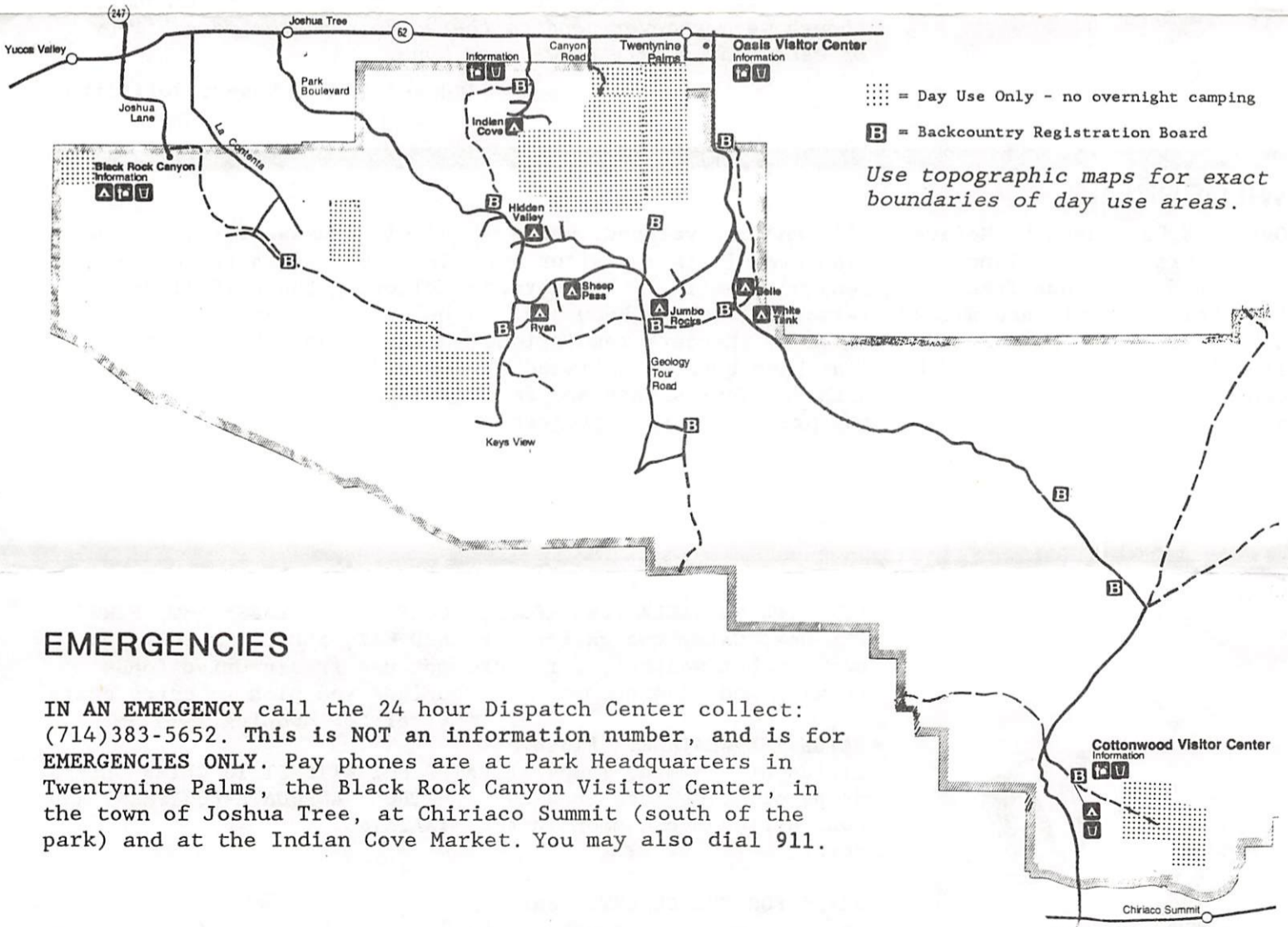




## REGULATIONS



- **YOU MUST REGISTER AT A BACKCOUNTRY BOARD FOR OVERNIGHT TRIPS.** This is safer for you, and provides user statistics for park administration. The map shows the twelve backcountry boards. Fill out the registration card and drop the lower portion in the slot in the backcountry board. Take the upper portion with you. Unregistered vehicles or vehicles left overnight other than at a backcountry board may be ticketed or towed. Staying overnight in parking areas or along roadsides is prohibited.
- **CAMPING IS PROHIBITED WITHIN ONE MILE OF ANY ROAD, 500 FEET OF ANY TRAIL, IN WASHES, OR IN DAY USE AREAS.** The map shows the general location of day use areas. It is your responsibility to know the exact day use area boundaries. Ask a Ranger if you have questions. Topographic maps are available at the Oasis, Black Rock, and Cottonwood Visitor Centers. **DO NOT CAMP IN WASHES, AS FLASH FLOODS ARE COMMON.**
- **FIRES ARE PROHIBITED,** except signal fires in an emergency. You may use backpacking stoves.
- **CARRY OUT ALL YOUR TRASH AND WASTE.** Animals dig up buried trash, and wind scatters it. Small zip-lock bags work well for carrying out toilet paper. Dig cat holes to bury human excrement, and cover them after using. Any other digging, ditching, or leveling is prohibited.
- **BICYCLES AND MOUNTAIN BIKES ARE LIMITED TO ROADS OPEN TO VEHICLE TRAFFIC.**
- **PETS ARE PROHIBITED IN THE BACKCOUNTRY.** Elsewhere they must be leashed at all times, and are not allowed more than 100 yards from any road. Other animals will sense your pet as a predator, and their natural patterns can be disrupted.
- **ALL ANIMAL AND PLANT LIFE IS PROTECTED.** Do not kill, collect, or damage any plant or animal in the park. Guns, traps, and other weapons are prohibited.



## EMERGENCIES

IN AN EMERGENCY call the 24 hour Dispatch Center collect: (714)383-5652. This is NOT an information number, and is for EMERGENCIES ONLY. Pay phones are at Park Headquarters in Twentynine Palms, the Black Rock Canyon Visitor Center, in the town of Joshua Tree, at Chiriaco Summit (south of the park) and at the Indian Cove Market. You may also dial 911.