

# Joshua Tree

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

## Bicycle Riding



Joshua Tree National Monument contains approximately 90 miles of paved roads and approximately 110 miles of dirt roads. Bicyclists are welcome in the monument. For your safety, and for the protection of the natural and cultural resources, some regulations have been established.

### REGULATIONS

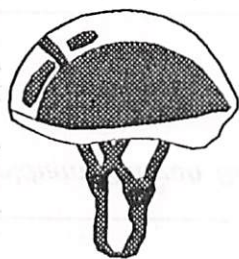
**Bicycles are not allowed anywhere off roads.** They are not allowed on trails, service roads, or any other roads closed to vehicle traffic. They may only be ridden on roads open to motor vehicles. Tire tracks on the open desert can last for many years and will likely spoil the wilderness experience of future hikers.

Bicyclists must obey all rules and regulations that apply to motor vehicle traffic, including stop signs and other traffic signs.

Bicyclists should ride single file in the direction of traffic.

Bicycle racks have been placed in many parking areas, so cyclists have a place to safely lock their bikes. Please use these racks where they are provided.

### SAFETY TIPS



Helmets are highly recommended. If you fall, your chances of serious injury will be greatly reduced if your head is protected.

Carry a *minimum* of one gallon of water. For long rides, you will probably need more. Water is not available in most of the park. Your body needs all the water you can carry during strenuous exercise, especially during the hot summer months.

Ride with caution! Most roads are narrow with sandy shoulders. There are potholes, ruts, and bumps. Be especially careful around curves and over the crests of hills, where you will not be as easily visible to oncoming or passing traffic.

Watch out for RVs and trucks with extended side view mirrors.

Anytime you are travelling off the paved roads, especially on the more remote four-wheel drive roads, carry a good topographic map with you. Several of the roads that begin in the monument end in land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), where side roads are more common and one can easily become lost.

In case you're still riding after dark, be sure to have plenty of reflective clothing as well as the required vehicle reflective lights.

## MOUNTAIN BIKES

Mountain bikes have become increasingly popular in the park. They are only allowed on roads open to motorized traffic. The unpaved roads throughout the park offer many opportunities to explore the area, and fewer motorized vehicles travel on the dirt roads. Following are some suggested routes for mountain bike travel. Use this handout in conjunction with a good topographic map. Remember that back roads are likely to have deep sandy areas and you may encounter potholes and washboard surfaces.

### *Pinkham Canyon Road*

This challenging 20-mile four-wheel drive road begins at the Cottonwood Visitor Center, travels along Smoke Tree Wash, and then cuts down Pinkham Canyon, past the monument boundary

and into land managed by the BLM. Sections of the road run through soft sand and rocky floodplains. The road ends at a service road next to Interstate 10, above the Cactus City rest stop.

### *Black Eagle Mine Road*

Beginning 6.5 miles north of the Cottonwood Visitor Center, this four-wheel drive road runs along the edge of the Pinto Basin, crosses several dry washes, and winds up through the canyons in the Eagle Mountains. The first six miles of the road are within the

monument's boundaries; beyond that point, there are a number of side roads in BLM land. Several old mines are located near these roads; consider them dangerous to approach. The Black Eagle Mine Road is a dead-end road.

### *Old Dale Road*

This 23-mile four-wheel drive road starts at the same point as the Black Eagle Mine Road. For the first eleven miles, it runs across the Pinto Basin, a flat, sandy dry lake bed. Shortly after leaving the basin, the road climbs up a steep hill where it crosses the

monument boundary into BLM land. A number of side roads veer off toward old mines and private residences. If you stay on the main road (not always easily discernible) you will come out on Highway 62, about fifteen miles east of Twentynine Palms.

### *Geology Tour Road*

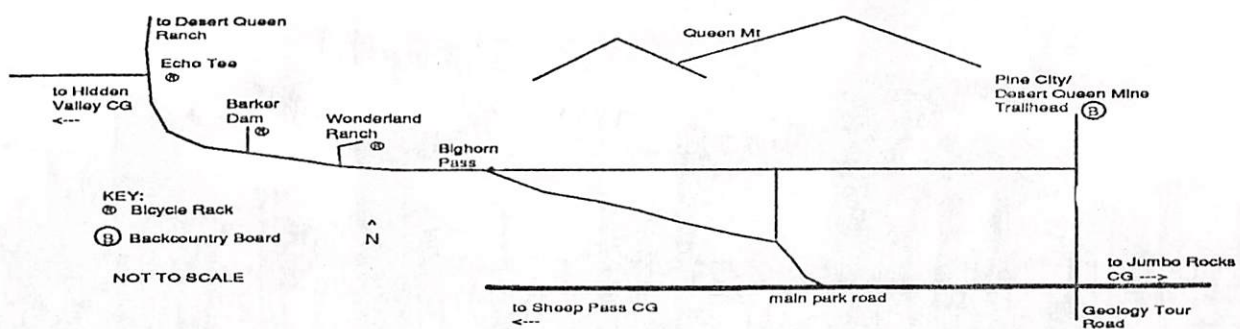
The four-wheel drive Geology Tour Road heads south from the paved road two miles west of Jumbo Rocks Campground. It is 5.4 miles to Squaw Tank, past Malapai Hill. This section is mostly downhill, and is bumpy and

can be very sandy. The ride back up is strenuous. From Squaw Tank, a six-mile one-way circular route explores Pleasant Valley. A guide to the geologic features of the area is available at visitor centers.

### *Queen Valley Roads*

A network of dirt roads, totalling about 13.4 miles, criss-cross this valley of boulder piles and Joshua trees. A bike trip can begin at Hidden Valley Campground or at the dirt road

opposite the Geology Tour Road. Several bike racks have been placed throughout this area so visitors can lock their bikes and go hiking or climbing.



### *Covington Flats*

The dirt roads in Covington Flats offer access to some of the monument's largest Joshua trees, as well as to junipers, piñon pines, and some of the lushest vegetation in the high desert. A nice ride leads from the Covington Flats picnic area to Eureka Peak, 3.8 miles

one way. The dirt road is steep near the end, but the top offers views of Palm Springs, the surrounding desert mountains, and the Morongo Basin. Your trip will be longer if you ride over to the backcountry board, where some excellent hiking trips begin.

## 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.* You may also call 911. Pay phones are at Park Headquarters in Twentynine Palms, at

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. The number for the visitor center is (619)367-7511.