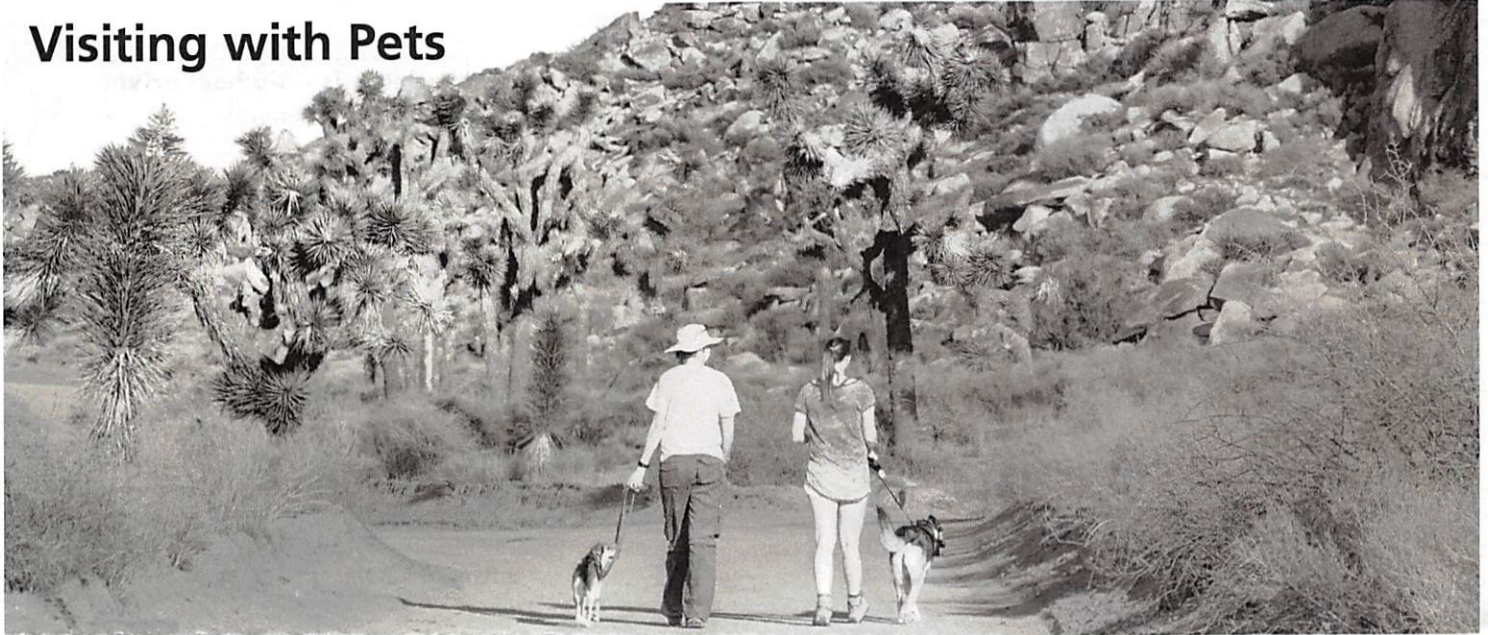




Visiting with Pets



Pets are an important part of our lives, providing companionship, love, and joy to their caretakers. While park regulations do not allow pets to join you on hiking trails, in the backcountry, or in park buildings, there are many great alternative areas to explore on a pet-friendly visit to Joshua Tree National Park.

Alternative Areas for Pets

Unpaved roads see little vehicle traffic, making them feel a lot like wide trails and a great place to hike with your pet. Anywhere you can drive your vehicle, you can go with your leashed pet.

See reverse for a list of unpaved roads.

Picnic areas and campgrounds also offer many opportunities to experience the park's diverse scenery with your pet. Pets are also permitted on the paved Oasis of Mara trail.

See park map for locations of picnic areas and campgrounds.

"Why *not* take my pet wherever I want?"

For many visitors, seeing wildlife is a highlight of a national park visit. Unfortunately, the mere presence of pets in the park alters the natural behavior of native wildlife. In national parks, the native species have priority.

Odors left behind by dogs may prevent wildlife from returning to important habitats such as fan palm oases.

Sensitive archeological sites are often difficult to see and may inadvertently be disturbed by inquisitive four-legged visitors.

The safety of your pet is important as well.

Abundant cactus spines, rattlesnakes, and thorns are good reasons not to let your pet roam free. Dogs are natural hunters, but can easily become the hunted. Predators such as coyotes and mountain lions can kill pets, even during daylight hours.

Even though your pet follows instructions and is very well behaved, others do not know your pet and may feel uneasy when encountering an unleashed animal.

By following the park's simple regulations and respecting fellow visitors, you and your pet can have a happy and healthy park outing.

Pet Regulations

- Pets must remain on a leash at all times. Leashes may be no longer than 6 feet (1.8 m).
- Pets may go no more than 100 feet (30.5 m) from any road, picnic area, or campground.
- Owners must pick up any droppings – leave no trace!

Violators of these regulations are subject to fine.

Remember to bring plenty of water for your pet.

Leaving pets in unattended vehicles is strongly discouraged – especially on warm days.



Curiosity isn't always just for cats. Barbed tips make removing cactus spines painful and often difficult.

Unpaved Roads

Some unpaved roads require 4-wheel drive and/or high-clearance vehicles. Be sure you are prepared with food and plenty of water before beginning your trip.

Most roads have pullouts or nearby parking areas where you may park and begin hiking. See park map for locations of unpaved roads.

Unpaved Roads – All Vehicles:

(total one-way road length)

Bighorn Pass Road
(3.2 mi / 5.1 km)

Desert Queen Mine Road
(1.2 mi / 1.9 km)

Geology Tour Road (to mile 5.4)
(11.7 mi / 18.8 km)

Odell Road
(1.5 mi / 2.4 km)

Stirrup Tank Road
(1.5 mi / 2.4 km)

Queen Valley Road
(2.9 mi / 4.7 km)

Unpaved Roads – 4-wheel drive:

(total one-way road length)

Berdoo Canyon Road
(11.5 mi / 18.5 km)

Black Eagle Mine Road
(9.6 mi / 15.4 km)

Geology Tour Road (past mile 5.4)
(11.7 mi / 18.8 km)

Old Dale Road
(12.6 mi / 20.2 km)

Pinkham Canyon Road
(19.2 mi / 30.9 km)

Covington-area roads
(9.9 mi / 15.9 km)

Additional Information

Boarding your pet will give you the freedom to explore the park freely and more thoroughly. Boarding information can be found through local chambers of commerce, listed below.

Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce

www.29chamber.org

29chamber@29chamber.org

760-367-3445

Joshua Tree Chamber of Commerce

www.joshuatreechamber.org

info@joshuatreechamber.org

760-366-3723

Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce

www.yuccavalley.org

chamber@yuccavalley.org

760-365-6323



Unpaved roads offer spectacular scenery and a chance to get off the beaten path. You can immerse yourself in the desert landscape with your pet while following park regulations and protecting park resources.