

# Joshua Tree Guide



DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP—Located in beautiful California desert country where the sand may suddenly be covered with wildflowers and where oases shelter a varied bird population, the park is home to many kinds of desert wildlife, including the desert bighorn sheep pictured here.

## IN THIS ISSUE

Backcountry	4
Biking	3
Campgrounds	3
Hiking	5
Information	2
Jr Ranger Activities	6
Nature Trails	7
Park Map	4
Publications	8
See and Do	3



JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK  
 74485 NATIONAL PARK DRIVE  
 TWENTYNINE PALMS, CA 92277

## Important information

### accessibility

The Cap Rock and Oasis of Mara nature trails are accessible. An assistive listening system is available for use during ranger programs with prior notice. Call (619) 367-7511 for additional information. Our TDD number for the hearing impaired is (619) 367-1549.

### all terrain vehicles

ATVs may not be used in the park.

### bicycling

Bicycling is permitted on public roads, both paved and dirt. There are no bicycle paths along roads. Bikes are prohibited on backcountry and nature trails.

### bus tours

Several companies offer tours of the park by bus or van. Contact a travel agent for additional information.

### campfires

Campfires are permitted in campgrounds and in picnic areas where fire grates are provided. Campfires are not allowed in the backcountry. Collecting vegetation, living or dead, is prohibited so bring your own firewood.

### climate

Days are typically clear with less than 25% humidity. Temperatures are most comfortable in the spring and fall, with an average high/low of 85° and 50°F respectively. Winter brings cooler days, around 60°F, and freezing nights. It occasionally snows at higher elevations. Summers are hot, over—sometimes well over—100°F during the day and *not cooling much below 75°F until the early hours of the morning.*

### climbing

Motorized drilling is prohibited within park boundaries, and bolting is not allowed in designated wilderness. All fixed protection found in place should be considered potentially unsafe. For more information about climbing in Joshua Tree pick up a climbing brochure at an entrance station or visitor center.

### commercial filming

When filming or photography involves advertising a product or service, the use of models, sets, props, or the use of a restricted site, a film permit is required.

### day-use and restricted areas

Some areas within the park are privately owned; others protect wildlife or historical sites. Entering these areas is prohibited. Day use areas are set aside to protect sensitive populations of wildlife. They are closed from dusk to dawn.

### dehydration

It is easy to become dehydrated in arid desert environments. Even if you only plan to drive through the park, you should have

some water with you. If you are going to camp, we recommend one gallon of water per person per day. If you are going to be hiking or biking, you will want to take along two gallons per person. Drink the water and do not economize. When the water is half gone, it is time to turn back.

### emergency phones

Pay phones are located at the Oasis of Mara in Twentynine Palms and at Black Rock Campground. You can also find pay phones in the town of Joshua Tree, at the Indian Cove Market, and at Chiriaco Summit (12 miles southeast of Cottonwood).

### environment

Two deserts, two large ecosystems whose characteristics are determined primarily by elevation, come together at Joshua Tree National Park. Below 3,000 feet, the Colorado Desert encompasses the eastern part of the park and features natural gardens of creosote bush, ocotillo, and cholla cactus. The higher, moister, and slightly cooler Mojave Desert is the special habitat of the Joshua tree. Joshua tree forests occur in the western half of the park. The western part of the park also includes some of the most interesting geologic displays found in California's deserts. In addition, five fan palm oases dot the park, indicating those few areas where water occurs naturally and where wildlife abounds.

### entrance fees

General admission to the park is \$5.00 per vehicle and is good for seven consecutive days. A Joshua Tree Pass may be purchased for \$15 and a Golden Eagle Pass, which is good for all NPS sites, costs \$25. Both are good for 12 months. A Golden Age Pass may be purchased by any U.S. citizen 62 or older for \$10 and it is good for life.

### firearms

Firearms, including fireworks, traps, bows, BB guns, and slingshots are not allowed in Joshua Tree.

### food, lodging, services

There are no concessions within the park. However, the communities that surround the park can fulfill most visitor needs. Contact local chambers of commerce for additional information.

### getting to the park

The park is located about 140 miles east of Los Angeles via I-10. The west and north entrances to the park are off CA Hwy 62 (Twentynine Palms Highway), at the towns of Joshua Tree and Twentynine Palms. The south entrance is at Cottonwood Spring, about 25 miles east of Indio off I-10.

### horses

Horseback riding is a popular way to experience the park but, because of the special requirements for horses and other

stock in desert environments, you will want to request the site bulletin on horse use within the park before you come.

### international visitors

Information is available at visitor centers and entrance stations in Dutch, French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish.

### keep the wildlife wild

Feeding coyotes, squirrels, and other animals weans them from their natural food supplies, causes overpopulation problems, and turns them into dangerous creatures as they lose their fear of humans.

### leave no trace

During your visit, pick up trash around campgrounds and trails. Your actions will inspire other park visitors.

### lost & found

Report lost and found items to any visitor center or ranger station. A report will be filed and the article returned if possible.

### motorcycles

Motorcycle operators must carry a valid state driver's license and vehicles must display valid state license plates. No off-road or trail travel is allowed.

### off-road driving

Vehicles, including bicycles, are prohibited off established roads. The desert ecosystem is fragile. Off-road driving and riding creates ruts, upsetting delicate drainage patterns, compacting the soil, and leaving visual scars for years. Plants are crushed and uprooted. Wildlife homes and shelters are destroyed, and their food and water supplies are altered or obliterated.

### parking

Park roads, even the paved, main roads through the park, are narrow, winding, and have soft sand shoulders. Accidents occur when visitors stop in the middle of a lane to take a picture or park alongside the road and get out to take a closer look. Park in designated pullouts and parking lots.

### pets

While pets are allowed in the park, their activities are quite restricted. They must be on a leash at all times, they must never be left unattended—not even in a vehicle, and they are prohibited on trails.

### potable water

Water is available at the Oasis of Mara in Twentynine Palms, at Black Rock and Cottonwood Campgrounds, and at the Indian Cove Ranger Station. Water sources within the park are few, not potable, and are reserved for wildlife.

### stay out and stay alive

Mining was an important activity in this area and numerous mining sites can be found within the park. If you choose to visit them, use extreme caution in the vicinity of

old mine workings. Mine shafts are unstable and are often filled with harmful gases.

### take only pictures

Over 1.5 million people visit Joshua Tree National Park each year. If each visitor took only one rock or one branch from a bush, the park, our national heritage, would soon be gone. Removal, disturbance, destruction, or disfigurement of anything in the park is unlawful.

### trash

Our dry desert climate cannot quickly decompose such things as orange peels, apple cores, egg shells, and other picnic remains. Loose paper blows into bushes and creates an unsightly mess and plastic six-pack rings strangle birds. Dispose of your trash in a responsible manner and recycle whatever you can.

### vehicle laws

Park roads are narrow and winding. Some areas are congested. Speed limits are there for your safety and well-being. State and federal vehicle laws apply within the park.

### visitor activities

Ranger-led programs are offered on the weekends from mid-October through mid-December and from mid-February through May. Check at visitor centers, at entrance stations, and on campground bulletin boards for the current schedule.

### visitor centers

The park's main visitor center is located at the Oasis of Mara in Twentynine Palms. It is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except Christmas. The Cottonwood Visitor Center is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. except for Christmas. A variety of books, videos, maps, and other park-related items are available as well as cultural and natural history exhibits.

### wildflowers

Spring blooming periods vary with the elevation, the temperature, and the amount of moisture in the soil. You can get up-to-date information by calling one of the wildflower hot lines: Anza-Borrego (619) 767-4684; Living Desert (619) 340-0435; Native Plant Society (702) 648-2177; or The Payne Foundation (818) 768-3533.

### world wide web

If you are "connected," check out the National Park Service publications on the web (<http://www.nps.gov>). We are adding more information all the time.

### you are responsible

You are responsible for knowing and obeying park rules. Check at entrance stations, at visitor centers, and on campground bulletin boards to find out what they are. When in doubt, ask a ranger.

## Campground information

Campgrounds	Elevation	Sites	Fee	Group Sites	Group Fee	Water	Flush Toilets	Chemical Toilets	Tables	Fire Grates	Dump Station	Horses Permitted
Belle	3800'	17						*	*	*		
Black Rock	4000'	100	\$10			*	*		*	*	*	*
Cottonwood	3000'	62	\$8	3	\$15	*	*		*	*	*	
Hidden Valley	4200'	39						*	*	*		
Indian Cove	3200'	107	\$10	13	\$15/30			*	*	*		
Jumbo Rocks	4400'	125						*	*	*		
Ryan	4300'	29						*	*	*		*
Sheep Pass	4500'			6	\$10			*	*	*		
White Tank	3800'	15						*	*	*		

Campsites are limited to six people and two cars. Group site capacity ranges from ten to seventy people.

Obtain reservations for sites at Black Rock, Indian Cove, and all group sites by calling 1-800-365-2267. Other campgrounds are first-come, first-served. It is wise to arrive as early as possible.

Water is available at the Oasis of Mara in Twentynine Palms, at Indian Cove Ranger Station, and at Black Rock and Cottonwood campgrounds.

Bring firewood. All vegetation in the park is protected.

Campfires are only allowed in the firepits provided. You may cook with a campstove or portable grill if you wish.

Quiet hours are from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. This includes generators and motors.

Showers are not available and there are no hookups for recreational vehicles.

There is a 14-day camping limit from September through May and a 30-day limit from June through August.

*Be an inspiration to others; leave your campsite cleaner than you found it.*

## What to See and Do

For a first-time visitor the desert may appear bleak and drab. Viewed from the road, the desert only hints at its vitality. Closer examination reveals a fascinating variety of plants and animals that are dependent upon each other for their survival in this harsh environment. A rich cultural history and surreal geologic features add to the attraction of this place. Joshua Tree National Park offers visitors endless opportunities for exploration and discovery. Depending on the number of hours you have to spend, your interests, and energy, here are some ideas to consider:

**IF YOU HAVE FOUR HOURS OR LESS**, begin your tour at a park visitor center. Park staff will be happy to provide you with current information about conditions in the park as well as answers to your questions.

With limited time you may want to confine your sightseeing to the main park roads. Many pullouts with wayside exhibits dot the park roads. A list of nature trails and short walks appears in this publication. Consider experiencing at least one of these walks during a short park visit.

On clear days the vista from Keys View extends beyond Salton Sea to Mexico and is well worth the additional 20 minute drive.

**IF YOU PLAN TO SPEND AN ENTIRE DAY**, there will be time to walk several nature trails. If you visit on a weekend from mid-October to mid-December or mid-February through May, you can participate in a ranger-led program. Check at the visitor centers and on campground bulletin boards for program listings. These presentations will add enjoyment and understanding to your visit.

If solitude is what you are after, plan an all-day hike. A list of hikes is included in this publication and trail information can be obtained from visitor centers.

Some visitors like to experience the desert from the seat of a mountain bike. The park offers an extensive network of dirt roads that make for less crowded and safer cycling than the paved main roads. A selection of road trips are included in the article titled Backcountry Roads in this publication.

Joshua Tree National Park has gained international attention as a superb rock-climbing area. Many visitors enjoy just watching the rock climbers in action.

**WITH MORE THAN ONE DAY IN THE PARK**, your options increase. There are nine campgrounds and backcountry camping is permitted. You will find information concerning camping and backcountry use elsewhere in this publication.

Books and topographic maps, available at park sales areas, give information needed for longer hikes. For "peak baggers," the park has ten mountains over 5000 feet (1524 meters) in elevation. Or make it your goal to hike to all the park oases. Other trails lead you to remnants of the gold mining era, a colorful part of the park's cultural history.

Whatever you choose, time spent in Joshua Tree National Park will be rewarding. The desert holds much more than what is readily apparent to the casual observer.

**A note of caution:** The desert, fascinating as it is, can be life-threatening for those unfamiliar with its potential dangers. It is essential that you carry water with you—even if you are only driving through. Cars break down; keys get locked inside; accidents happen.

## BACKCOUNTRY ROADS

*for mountain bikes and four-wheel drive vehicles*

Mountain bikes and four-wheel drive vehicles are welcome in Joshua Tree National Park. For your own safety and for the protection of the natural features of the park please stay on established roads. Tire tracks on the open desert can last for years and will spoil the wilderness experience of future hikers.

Paved roads in the park are narrow without paved shoulders. Curves, boulder piles, and Joshua trees restrict the vision of bikers and motorists. The unpaved roads in the park are safer for bikes and offer many opportunities to explore the area.

Here is a sampling:

### **Pinkham Canyon Road**

This challenging 20-mile (32.4-km) road begins at Cottonwood Visitor Center, travels along Smoke Tree Wash, and then cuts down Pinkham Canyon. Sections of the road run through soft sand and rocky flood plains. The road connects to a service road next to Interstate 10.

### **Black Eagle Mine Road**

Beginning 6.5 miles (10.5 km) north of Cottonwood Visitor Center, this dead-end dirt road runs along the edge of Pinto Basin, crosses several dry washes, and then winds up through canyons in the Eagle Mountains. The first 9 miles (14.5 km) of the road are within the park boundary. Beyond that point is Bureau of Land Management land and a number of side roads. Several old mines are located near these roads but may be dangerous to approach.

### **Old Dale Road**

This 23-mile (37.3-km) road starts at the same point as the Black Eagle Road. For the first 11 miles (17.8 km), the road runs across the Pinto Basin, a flat, sandy dry

lake bed. Shortly after leaving the basin, the road climbs up a steep hill, then crosses the park boundary. Near that point a number of side roads veer off toward old mines and private residences. If you stay on the main road you will come out on Highway 62, 15 miles (24.3 km) east of Twentynine Palms.

### **Queen Valley Roads**

A network of roads, totaling 13.4 miles (21.7 km), 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 in this area so visitors can lock their bikes and go hiking.

### **Geology Tour Road**

The road turns south from the paved road 2 miles (3.2 km) west of Jumbo Rocks. The distance from the junction to Squaw Tank is 5.4 miles (8.8 km) This section is mostly downhill but bumpy and sandy. Starting at Squaw Tank, a 6-mile (9.7-km) circular route can be taken that explores Pleasant Valley. A guide is available at the beginning of the road.

### **Covington Flats**

The dirt roads in Covington Flats offer access to some of the park's largest Joshua trees, as well as to junipers, pinon pines, and some of the lushest vegetation in the high desert. A nice trip is from the Covington Flats picnic area to Eureka Peak, 3.8 miles (6.2 km) one way. The dirt road is steep near the end, but the top offers views of Palm Springs, the surrounding mountains, and the Morongo Basin. Your trip will be 6.5 miles (10.5 km) longer if you ride or drive over to the backcountry board, a starting point for excellent hiking.

# Backcountry Camping and Hiking

Joshua Tree National Park is a backpacker's dream with its mild winter climate and interesting rock formations, plants, and wildlife. It embraces 792,000 acres of which 630,800 acres have been designated wilderness. By observing the guidelines below, your venture into the backcountry should be safe and enjoyable.

It is your responsibility to know and abide by park regulations. If you have any questions, ask a ranger.

## Registering

If you will be out overnight, register at a backcountry board. The map in this publication indicates the location of the twelve backcountry boards. An unregistered vehicle or a vehicle left overnight somewhere other than at a backcountry board is a cause for concern about the safety of the vehicle's occupants. It is also subject to citation and towing.

## Locating your camp

Your wilderness camp must be one mile (1.6km) from the road and ¼ mile (400 m) from any water source, including springs, seeps, dams, and tanks.

Make yourself aware of any day-use areas in the vicinity (they are indicated on the topo maps at the backcountry boards) and make your camp outside them.

Washes may seem inviting places to sleep because they are relatively level but it is important to realize that they got that way because flash floods bulldozed the rocks and vegetation out of the way.

## Domestic issues

Water sources in the park are not potable and are reserved for wildlife so you will have to carry in an adequate supply for drinking, cooking, and hygiene. You will want to give some thought to the trade-off between the water required to hydrate dried foods versus the weight of canned and fresh. If you want to heat something you will need to pack in a stove and fuel as fires are prohibited in the backcountry.

Bring plastic bags to hold your garbage so you can pack it out. Buried trash gets dug up by animals and scattered by the wind; it is not a pretty sight. Do bury human waste in "cat" holes six inches (15 cm) deep. Don't bury your toilet paper; put

it in plastic (zip-locks work nicely) and pack it out. Leave no trace, as they say.

## Hiking

It is easy to get disoriented in the desert; washes and animal trails crisscross the terrain obscuring trails, boulder piles are confusingly similar, and there are not many prominent features by which to guide yourself. Do get yourself a topographic map and compass and learn how to use them before you head out.

Know your limitations. You should not attempt to climb cliffs or any steep terrain without adequate equipment, conditioning, and training. Accidents can be fatal.

Carry a minimum of one gallon (3.8 l) of water per person per day just for drinking; two gallons (7.6 l) in hot weather or if you are planning a strenuous trip. You will need additional water for cooking and personal hygiene.

And don't forget the other essentials: rain protection, a flashlight, a mirror and whistle, a first-aid kit, pencil and paper, a pocket knife, and extra food.

## Coping with the weather

That old desert sun can damage eyes as well as skin. Wear a hat and sunglasses and use sunblocking lotion liberally.

Temperature changes of 40 degrees (22 degrees C) within 24 hours are common. Bring a variety of clothes that you can layer on and off as conditions change.

Although rain is relatively rare in the desert, when it does come it can really pour down. Even when it isn't raining where you are, rain in the mountains can run off so fast as to cause flash floods. Stay alert.

## Stock animals

To minimize vegetation damage and soil erosion, stock animals are restricted to marked trails and washes.

Plan to pack along sufficient water and feed (pellet form only) as your animals are not allowed to drink from any of the water sources in the park nor graze the vegetation.

A permit is required if you wish to camp in the backcountry with horses or other stock animals. You may call (619) 367-3523 to inquire about obtaining a permit.

How Far Is It?	Oasis of Mara	Cottonwood	West Entrance
Belle Campground	9	28	17
Black Rock Canyon	28	73	16
Cap Rock	19	40	36
Cholla Cactus Garden	18	0	56
Cottonwood	38	42	14
Hidden Valley	20	48	35
Indian Cove	10	7	23
Interstate 10	45	33	21
Jumbo Rocks	11	45	34
Keys View	24	38	16
Oasis of Mara	0	39	19
Ryan Campground	18	37	0
Sheep Pass Campground	16	51	29
West Entrance	34	27	
White Tank Campground	11		

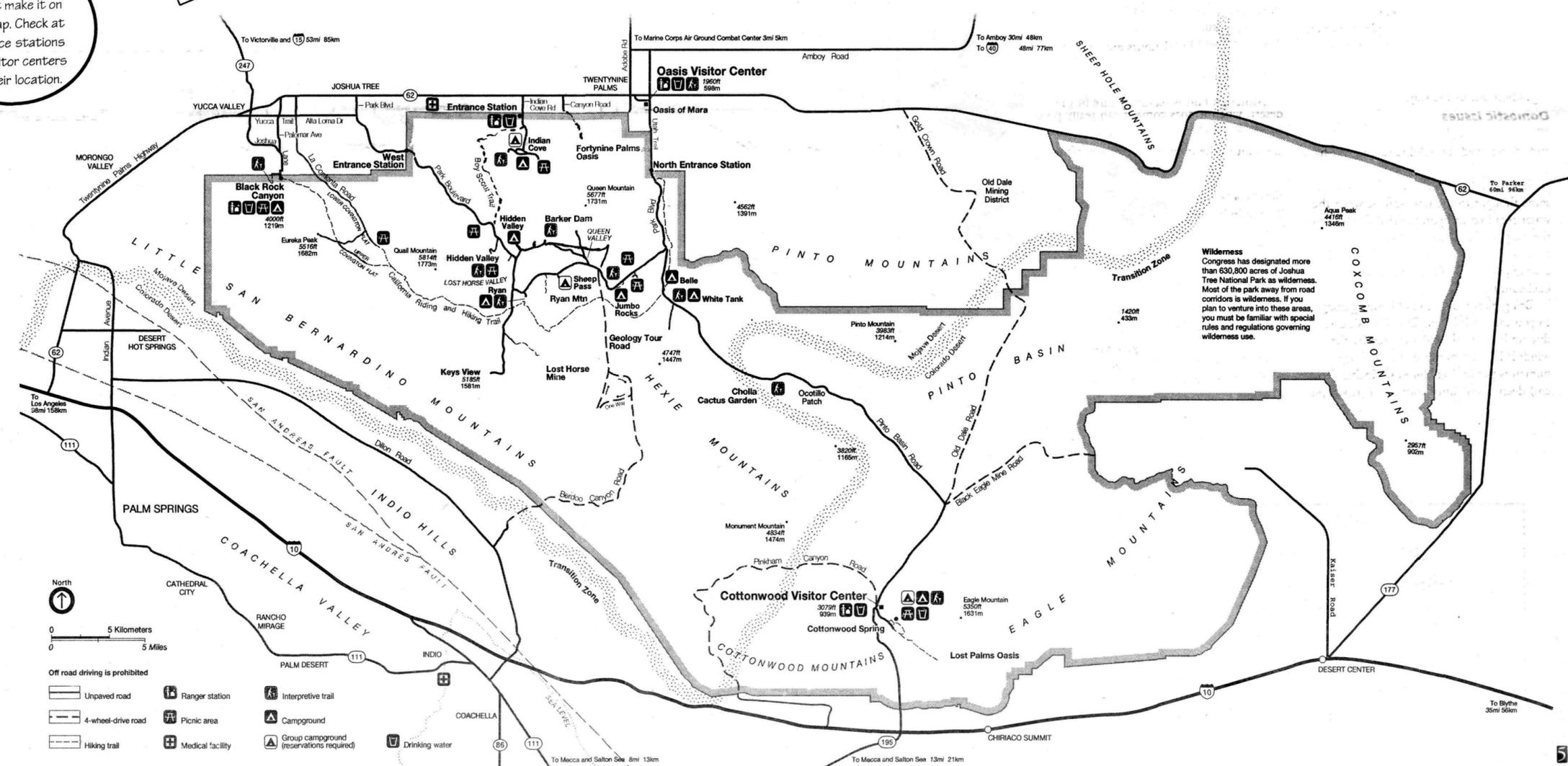
Note: Backcountry boards did not make it on this map. Check at entrance stations and visitor centers for their location.

# HIKING TRAILS



Trail	Roundtrip Mileage	Time	Starting Point	Trail Description
Boy Scout	16 miles (25.8 km)	1-2 days	Indian Cove backcountry board or Keys West backcountry board 0.5 mile (0.8 km) east of Quail Springs picnic area.	Scenic trail through the westernmost edge of the Wonderland of Rocks. See backcountry board for information on overnight use. Moderate.
49 Palms Oasis	3 miles (4.8 km)	2-3 hours	Parking area at end of Canyon Road, 4 miles (6.4 km) west of Twentynine Palms off Highway 62.	Several stands of fan palms, evidence of past fires, and pools of water are found at the oasis. Moderately strenuous.
Lost Horse Mine/ Mountain	4 miles (6.4 km)	3-4 hours	Parking area 1.2 miles (1.9 km) east of Keys View Road.	Site of ten-stamp mill and foundations. Summit elevation, 5278 feet (1583 meters). Moderately strenuous
Lost Palms Oasis	7.5 miles (11.2 km)	4-6 hours	Cottonwood Spring or Cottonwood Campground.	A canyon with numerous palm stands. A side trip to Victory Palms and Munsen Canyon involves boulder scrambling. Moderate to oasis overlook, then strenuous.
Mastodon Peak	3 miles (4.8 km)	2 hours	Cottonwood Spring or Cottonwood Campground.	Excellent views of the Eagle Mountains and Salton Sea. Summit elevation, 3371 feet (1028 meters). Strenuous.
Ryan Mountain	3 miles (4.8 km)	2-3 hours	Ryan Mountain parking area or Sheep Pass Campground.	Excellent views of Lost Horse, Queen, and Pleasant Valleys. Summit elevation, 5461 feet (1638 meters). Strenuous

Thirty-five miles of the California Riding and Hiking Trail pass through the park. Access to the trail is at its junction with Covington Flats, Keys View, and Squaw Tank (Geology Tour) Roads; at Ryan Campground; south of Belle campground; and near the north entrance to the park. This allows for shorter hikes of 4, 6.7, or 11 miles (6.4, 10.7, or 17.6 km). Two to three days are required to hike the entire length of the trail.



North

0 5 Kilometers  
0 5 Miles

Off road driving is prohibited

- Unpaved road
- 4-wheel-drive road
- Hiking trail
- Ranger station
- Picnic area
- Medical facility
- Interpretive trail
- Campground
- Group campground (reservations required)
- Drinking water

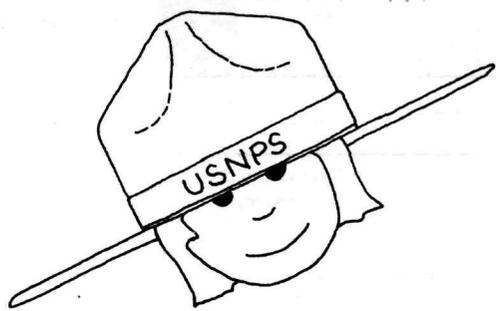
## Think Globally — Act Locally



REDUCE  
REUSE  
RECYCLE



- Bring your aluminum and metal cans, glass, and plastic to a campground recycling center.
- Share or recycle this *Joshua Tree Guide* when you have finished reading it.
- Participate in recycling programs in your community.



# Hey there, Junior Ranger!

Complete at least five of the activities below and become a Junior Ranger at Joshua Tree National Park. When you have completed your work, take this page to one of the two visitor centers. They are located in Twentynine Palms and at Cottonwood Spring. A ranger will check your work and give you an official Junior Ranger Badge. **Have fun!**

## Terrific Tracks

Many animals live in Joshua Tree National Park. Read the clues below to help you unscramble a few of these animal names. Then draw a line between the animal names and the tracks they would make. HINT: You will have one extra track at the end. Do you know what animal makes it?

- 1 It builds its nest of cholla cactus for protection and decorates it with shiny objects taken from campsites.  
**TAWODOR =**
- 2 This bird has a forward-curving topknot and would rather run than fly.  
**ULAQI =**
- 3 This large mammal has horns and is an excellent rock climber.  
**NRGOIBH EEHSP =**
- 4 Females of this animal produce 3-4 litters of 4-7 young each year.  
**IATOOCTNTL =**
- 5 The park is home to several species of this reptile.  
**DAZILR =**
- 6 This feline has a stubby tail and can be active both day and night.  
**TBBAOC =**
- 7 This animal does not drink water because its body is able to unlock the water stored in the dry seeds it eats.  
**GAROKNAO ART =**
- 8 This solitary hunter has bigger ears than its cousin, the gray fox.  
**TIK XFO =**



## Rocks

Joshua Tree National Park is famous for its rock formations. The *Wonderland of Rocks* has many of these large boulder piles. The rocks on the surface today were molten 150 million years ago! People come from all over the world to see, study and climb on these rocks. People who study rocks are called geologists. Many of the rock formations have names due to their interesting shapes. Sketch your favorite rock formation in the park. What would you call it?

## Attend a Park Program

Ask at the visitor centers or look on park bulletin boards for the schedule of ranger-led programs offered by the park. Choose one that interests you and your family. When it is finished, have the ranger initial here to verify that you attended. What did you learn from the program?

## Map Mania

Get to know Joshua Tree National Park by playing "Map Mania." Using the official map and guide to the park (available at park entrance stations and visitor centers), answer the questions below by yourself or race friends and family members for the correct responses.

- 1 How many campgrounds are in the park?
- 2 Name the four mammals pictured on the back of the map.
- 3 How many paved road entrances (red lines) are there into the park?
- 4 What highway runs along the north boundary of the park?
- 5 What can be seen at "Point of Interest #4?"
- 6 Lost Palms Oasis is what "Point of Interest" number?
- 7 What mountain range is in the far eastern portion of the park?
- 8 What is the symbol on the map for a picnic area?
- 9 Dirt roads are signified by what on the map?
- 10 Is water available at the Cottonwood Visitor Center?
- 11 What is the transition zone?
- 12 Keys View lies in what mountain range?
- 13 What type of vehicle do you need on the Geology Tour Road?

## Plant Sketching

Desert plants have different adaptations to survive the summer heat. Some plants can store water. Some use little white hairs on their leaves or white spines to reflect back the sun's rays. Some have hairs, spines, or leaves that provide shade for the stem of the plant. Some have a waxy coating on their stems and leaves to prevent water loss. Draw plants that you find with these adaptations. Use a plant guide or ask a ranger to identify the plants you drew so you can label your sketches. Remember not to pick any plants inside the park!

This plant stores water

name =

This plant reflects sunlight.

name =

This plant provides its own shade.

name =

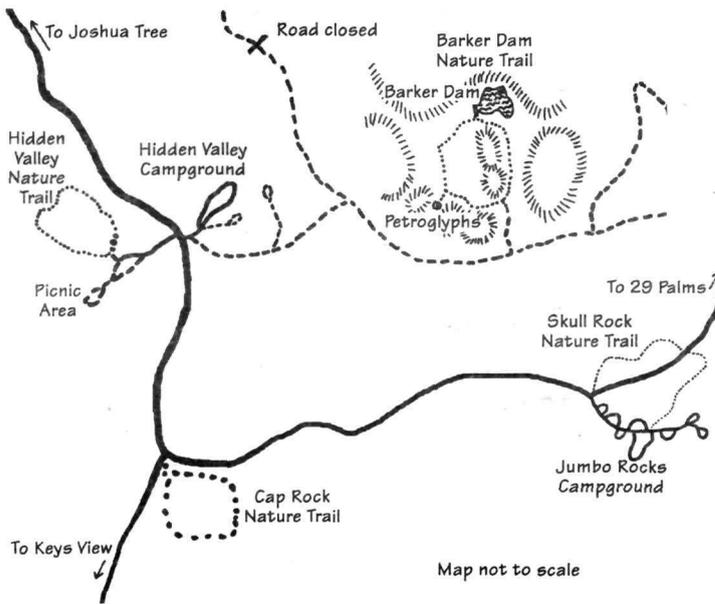
This plant has a waxy coating.

name =

# NATURE TRAILS



Trail	Mileage	Starting Point
Arch Rock	.3-mile loop (.5-km)	White Tank Campground, opposite site 9.
Barker Dam (map)	1.1-mile loop (1.8-km)	Barker Dam parking area.
Cap Rock (map)	.4-mile loop (.6-km)	Cap Rock parking area, at the junction with Keys View Road.
Cholla Cactus Garden	.25-mile loop (.4-km)	20 miles north of Cottonwood Visitor Center.
Cottonwood Spring	1-mile (1.6-km)	Cottonwood Spring parking area.
Hidden Valley (map)	1-mile loop (1.6-km)	Hidden Valley picnic area.
High View	1.3-mile loop (2.1-km)	Northwest of Black Rock Campground.
Indian Cove	.6-mile loop (1-km)	West end of Indian Cove Campground.
Keys View	.25-mile loop (.4-km)	Keys View.
Oasis of Mara	.5-mile loop (.8-km)	Oasis Visitor Center, Twentynine Palms.
Skull Rock (map)	1.7-mile loop (2.7-km)	Jumbo Rocks Campground, just beyond loop E.



Map not to scale

## Answers to Jr Ranger Activities

### TERRIFIC TRACKS:

- 1) kangaroo rat
- 2) quail
- 3) bobcat
- 4) woodrat
- 5) bighorn sheep
- 6) lizard
- 7) cottontail
- 8) kit fox  
(mystery animal) coyote

### MAP MANIA:

- 1) nine
- 2) bobcat, coyote, jackrabbit, kangaroo rat
- 3) six
- 4) Highway 62
- 5) Barker Dam
- 6)
- 7) Coxcomb Mountains
- 8)
- 9) gray lines
- 10) yes
- 11) where the Mojave and Colorado Deserts meet
- 12) Little San Bernardino Mountains
- 13) four-wheel drive

### WATER:

- 1) five
- 2) flash floods
- 3) less than 5 inches
- 4) No, it's too salty
- 5) Loss of moisture from leaves/minimize loss of moisture
- 6) Barker Dam/to hold water for cattle and mining/wildlife uses it today
- 7) 1 gallon/2 gallons
- 8) personal answers

### Wordseek

Find these words: Bats, Bighorn, Bobcat, Cholla, Coyote, Creosote, Hawk, Joshua Tree, Quail, Rabbits, Snakes, Tortoise, Yucca.

C H L I A U Q B C J  
 H R N E D H A W K O  
 O F E R A B B I T S  
 L S G O O H A I J H  
 L E K B S H C T L U  
 A K C M P O G N S A  
 Q A R T Y S T I U T  
 T N X O L V J E B R  
 Z S T W Y U C C A E  
 Y E T O R T O I S E

### Native Americans

Hike the Barker Dam trail with an adult and visit the rock art site. Sketch two of the designs you see on the rocks in this box. Remember not to do rubbings. Rock art is protected.

What sort of vandalism occurred at this site? Why should we protect cultural sites?

### Water in the Desert

Water is essential for survival in the desert. A palm oasis, with its huge fan palm trees, is a place where water occurs naturally at or near the surface of the ground. Visit one of the oases found on your park map to help you find the answers to the questions below. Be creative in where you look for information!

- 1 How many fan palm oases are found within Joshua Tree National Park?
- 2 What water event must you be aware of in Rattlesnake Canyon?
- 3 On average, how many inches of rain does the Mojave Desert get per year?
- 4 Will the water inside a barrel cactus quench your thirst? Why?
- 5 What is transpiration? Why do desert plants have small leaves?
- 6 What man-made water source inside the park was built around 1900? Why was it built then? What purpose does it serve now?
- 7 How much water should a person carry on a day hike in mild conditions? In summer heat?

### Clean up the Park

Help keep Joshua Tree National Park clean by picking up litter that you see. Show your bag of litter to a parent or a ranger and have them initial here to verify your hard work. \_\_\_\_\_

### TAKING THE JUNIOR RANGER PLEDGE

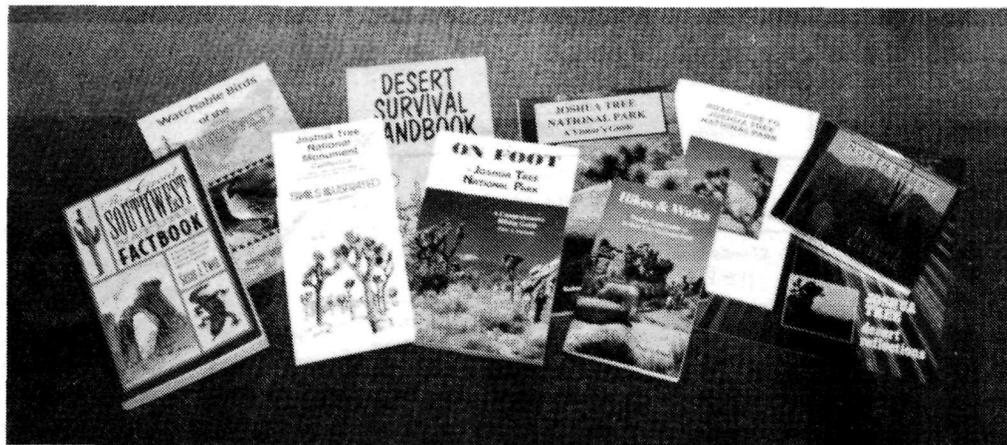
"I \_\_\_\_\_ promise to do my best to be a friend of nature. I promise that I will not intentionally pollute, destroy, frighten, or harm plants or animals, however big or small. I realize my actions will be an example to other people older and younger. I promise not to destroy nature while I enjoy nature."

### AWARDING THE JUNIOR RANGER BADGE

I certify that \_\_\_\_\_ completed at least five of the activities to become a Joshua Tree National Park Junior Ranger.

signed by: Ranger \_\_\_\_\_

## Publications to help you plan your visit to Joshua Tree National Park



The following publications have been selected for their value in planning your trip to Joshua Tree National Park. These items and many more may be ordered by mail, telephone, or FAX from Joshua Tree National Park Association.

### Getting to know Joshua Tree National Park

**A Visitor's Guide to Joshua Tree,** Cates. A delightful, informative guide blending human and natural history. Equally enjoyable by desert rats and first-time visitors. 100 pages PB \$6.95

**Joshua Tree Desert Reflections,** Trimble. An excellent, easy-to-read book covering the geology, biology, and human history of Joshua Tree National Park. Beautiful color photos throughout. 33 pages PB \$4.00

**Joshua Tree Video.** An excellent introduction and overview to Joshua Tree National Park. 30 minutes VHS \$12.95; PAL \$15.95

**Road Guide to Joshua Tree National Park,** Decker. Guides visitors on a driving tour through the land where the Mojave and Colorado Deserts meet. 48 pages PB \$4.95

**On Foot in Joshua Tree,** Furbush. A comprehensive hiking guide featuring 90 park hikes, 40 photos and illustrations, and 26 maps and reference charts. 152 pages PB \$11.99

**75 Great Hikes in and Near Palm Springs,** Ferranti. Covers Joshua Tree, Palm Springs, Indian Canyon, Mecca Hills, San Jacinto, and the Santa Rosas. 167 pages PB \$14.95

**Hikes and Walks,** Knapp. A pocket trail guide to Joshua Tree National Park with maps and descriptions of 26 trails. 34 pages PB \$4.95

**Recreation Map of Joshua Tree,** Harrison. Colorful map of Joshua Tree National Park highlighting points of interest, campgrounds, picnic areas, topographic features, and backcountry roads and trails. \$6.95

**Trails Illustrated Topographic Map of Joshua Tree National Park.** Includes elevations, backcountry camping, hikes, routes, and safety. Waterproof and tearproof. \$8.99

**Joshua Tree Bouldering,** Gingery. A guide to some of the more intriguing rock scrambling opportunities in the park. Includes maps, descriptions, and ratings. 76 pages PB \$9.95

**Wildflowers of Joshua Tree.** Pocket guide to the common flowering plants of Joshua Tree National Park. Includes a map and over 50 color photographs to help with identification in the field. PB \$1.25

**The Joshua Tree,** Gossard. An easy-to-read book filled with fascinating facts and stories about the symbol of the Mojave Desert. 112 pages PB \$9.95

### On the Road in California

**Geology Underfoot in Southern California,** Sharp and Glazner.

An inside view of the southland's often active, sometimes enigmatic, and always interesting landscape. 224 pages PB \$12.00

**California Desert Byways,** Huegel. Backcountry drives in Southern California's desert area, includes Joshua Tree and Death Valley National Parks. 158 pages PB \$14.95

**California Deserts,** Schad. Color photographs of California's desert regions. Features the California Desert Conservation Area, Mojave National Preserve, Joshua Tree National Park, Death Valley National Park, and Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. 103 pages PB \$14.95

**California Roadmap.** Includes a list of public recreational areas and places of interest. \$2.25

**Ghost Towns of California,** Miller. Color photos, maps, historical information, and descriptions fill this booklet. Great for history buffs and travelers alike. 48 pages PB \$4.95

**California Historical Landmarks.** Lists the location and significance of each of the 43 historical parks and 1,000 historical landmarks established by the State of California. 318 pages PB \$11.95

**Earth Is Our Mother,** Eargle. A guide to the Native Americans of California, past to present. Illustrated with photographs, drawings, and maps. 194 pages PB \$10.00

**Tapes and CDs** Nature's sounds set to music with A) flute, B) guitar, or C) classical. Excellent mood-setter for your driving tour of the Southwest's desert areas. Tape \$9.95/CD \$15.95. Designate A, B, or C.

### Life In The Desert

**The Great Southwest Nature Factbook,** Tweit. Everything you ever wanted to know about nature in the Southwest. 223 pages PB \$14.95

**Mammals of the Southwest Deserts,** Olin. Mammals serve as the focus for this guidebook's exploration of desert ecology. Provides a description, including range and habitat, of 42 species. Each is lovingly illustrated, many in color. 99 pages PB \$6.95

**Southwest Desert Wildlife.** The sixty-five exquisite color photographs in this volume will affect the way you see, hear, and experience the environment. 32 pages PB \$4.00

**Desert Palm Oasis,** Cornett. An exploration of the lush, water-loving fan palms that are such a wonderful surprise in harsh desert environments. 47 pages PB \$9.95

**Watchable Birds of the Southwest,** Gray. A full-color guide to 68 of the Southwest's fun-to-watch species, big and small. Organized by habitat. 187 pages PB \$14.00

**100 Desert Wildflowers,** Bowers. Color photos and easy-to-read text highlight some of the most common wildflowers of the deserts in the southwest corner of America. 56 pages PB \$4.95

**Shrubs and Trees of the Southwest Desert,** Bowers. An easy-to-use guide full of descriptions and line drawings of over 100 desert shrubs and trees. 140 pages PB \$9.95

**70 Common Cacti.** Colorful photographs and easy to read descriptions demonstrate the unique beauty of the common cacti of the Southwest. 70 pages PB \$6.95

**Roadrunner!** Douglas. An avid roadrunner watcher takes a close look at the paisano, that wonderful, wacky symbol of the American desert. 48 pages PB \$5.95

**Poisonous Dwellers of the Desert,** Dodge. This classic provides accurate, useful information, and debunks the many superstitions about poisonous desert critters. 40 pages PB \$5.95

**Desert Survival Handbook,** Lehman. Explains how to deal with emergencies that might arise in a desert environment. Filled with examples, narratives, and illustrations to aid understanding. 91 pages PB \$5.00

**Indian Uses of Desert Plants,** Cornett. An informative account of the ways early natives used a variety of desert plants for food, tools, building materials, and as an integral part of their daily lives. 38 pages PB \$7.95

**Snakes and Other Reptiles of the Southwest,** Stoops and Wright. Eighty photos and illustrations, a full-color insert, and hundreds of listings, make this the definitive guide to southwestern reptiles. 102 pages PB \$9.95

**Basic Essentials of Desert Survival,** Ganci. Teaches the skills and attitudes needed to "adapt" rather than merely survive in lands with little water. 64 pages PB \$5.99

**Exploring the Night Sky with Binoculars,** Chandler. Easy-to-use charts and drawings. 45 pages PB \$4.00

#### Ordering Information

Telephone orders are encouraged to ensure that you are ordering the publications best suited to your needs.

Visa and MasterCard orders are accepted (minimum \$15.00 purchase excluding shipping).

To order by mail, enclose check or credit card number and expiration date.

Prices are subject to change without notice.

#### Postage & Handling Rates

U.S. & Canada: \$4.00 for first item. Each add'l item \$0.50.

Foreign airmail: \$8.00 for first item. Each add'l item \$2.00.



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