



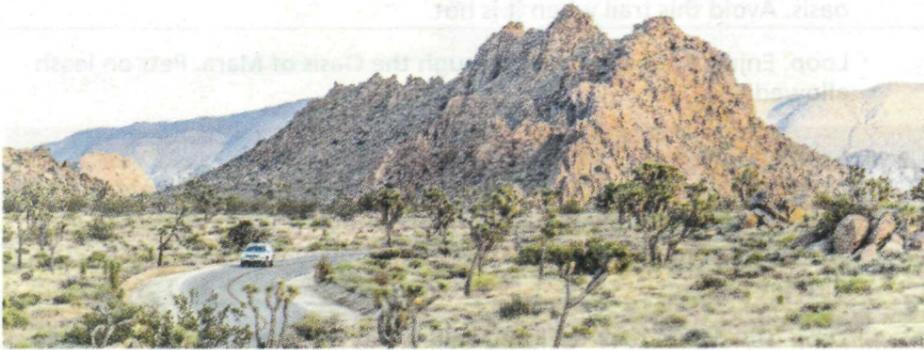
# The Guide

Fall 2019 to Spring 2020



## What to See and Do

**Drive** Drive between West and North entrances to see our famous Joshua trees and boulder fields. When stopping, use paved pulloffs and get completely out of the flow of traffic.



**Enjoy** Visit the Pinto Basin to see Cholla Cactus Garden and Ocotillo Patch.



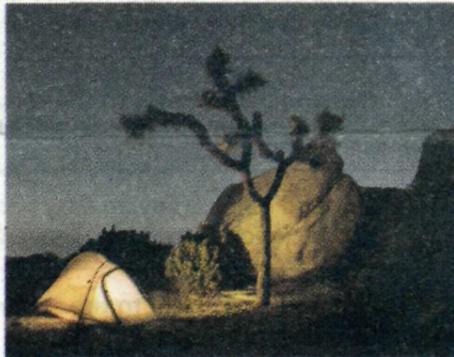
**Learn** Join a ranger program to learn more about the park.



**Relax** Visit Cottonwood Springs to relax in a desert oasis.



**Camp** Spend the night in a campground under the stars.



**Hike** Enjoy hikes in the early morning and finish before it is too hot.



**Stroll** Enjoy an easy walk on one of the gentler trails in the park.



## Support Your Park

 **Watch wildlife respectfully**  
Stay at least 75 feet (23 m) from larger wildlife. If an animal reacts to your presence by changing its behavior, you are too close. Remember, this is home for wild animals. We are visitors.

 **Never feed any wild animals**  
Consuming human food is unhealthy for wildlife and may encourage aggressive behavior. Food, trash, scented products, and cooking tools must be stored securely in a vehicle or hard-sided container.

 **Travel responsibly with your pet**  
Pets must be on a leash at all times. They cannot go more than 100 feet (30 m) from roads, picnic areas, and campgrounds. Pets are not allowed on hiking trails or in the backcountry. Owners must never leave a pet unattended or tied to an object. Bag and properly dispose of pet waste.

 **No drones or remote-controlled vehicles**  
Remote-controlled vehicles, including aircraft and rockcrawlers, are prohibited. Drones and other remotely operated craft can disturb wildlife and disrupt the visitor experience.

 **Campfires**  
Campfires are allowed only in designated fire rings or grills found in campgrounds and picnic areas. Campfires are not allowed in the backcountry. Bring your own firewood and extra water to douse your campfire. Do not use park vegetation, living or dead, for fuel. High winds may require fire bans.

 **No collecting park resources**  
Leave everything in the park as it is for others to enjoy. Do not destroy, deface, dig, collect, or otherwise disturb any park resources including plants or animals (whether they are dead or alive), rocks, fossils, or artifacts.

 **Rock climbing**  
Climbers may replace existing bolts if they are unsafe and may need a permit to do so. For more information about climbing, bolting, and the permit process, visit: [go.nps.gov/JOTRClimb](http://go.nps.gov/JOTRClimb)

 **All vehicles and bicycles must stay on roads**  
The desert environment is more fragile than it may look. Ruts and scars left by vehicles and bicycles illegally taken off-road can last for decades. Red and green sticker dirt bikes, ATVs, and UTVs are prohibited in the park.

 **Watch for tortoises**  
The desert tortoise is a threatened species, and in the past year a number have been killed by cars. Tortoises may drink from puddles on the roads after rains or take shelter from the hot sun under vehicles. Drive carefully in the park and look under your vehicle before moving it: small tortoises on the road look like rocks.

 **Protect the trees**  
Attaching lines to vegetation, including Joshua trees and junipers, is prohibited. Hammocks, slacklines, and other horizontal ropes must be tied to rocks and climbing bolts are not permitted in campgrounds. Do not climb Joshua trees.

 **Firearms and weapons**  
Firearms may be possessed in accordance with California state and federal laws. Firearms may not be discharged in the park. Fireworks, traps, bows, BB guns, paintball guns, smoke bombs, and slingshots are not allowed in the park.

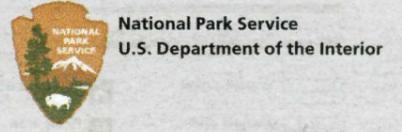
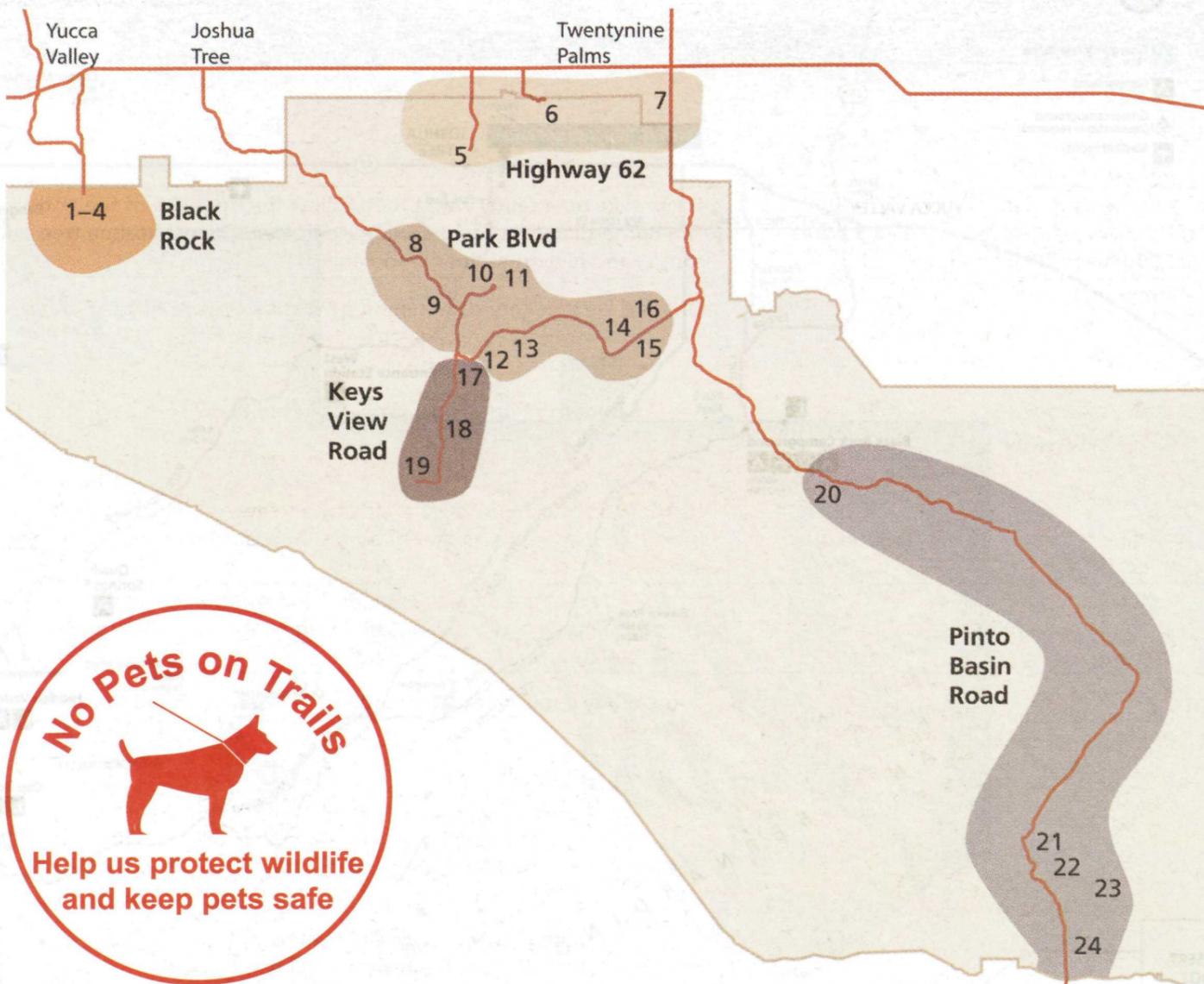
 **No graffiti**  
Over the last few years there has been an increase in graffiti and acts of intentional vandalism, including carving into rocks, trees, and historic structures in the park. This is illegal, it damages resources, and costs the park significant time and money to continually remove graffiti from rocks. Report incidents of graffiti to: [jotr\\_graffiti@nps.gov](mailto:jotr_graffiti@nps.gov)

# Hiking

\* **Day-use Only Trail:** Trails marked with an asterisk are closed sunset to sunrise. After sunset, all other trails are open only to backpackers with a valid Wilderness Backpacking permit.

Hike	Distance Elevation	Time	Description
<b>Black Rock</b>			
1 <b>Hi-View</b>	easy 1.3 miles (2.1 km) 400 feet (122 m)	1.5 hours	Loop. Hike up a ridge on the western side of the park and take in panoramic views of the area. Steep sections with benches to take a break and enjoy the view.
2 <b>Panorama Loop</b>	strenuous 6.6 miles (10.6 km) 1,100 feet (336 m)	3.5–4.5 hours	Loop. Hike up a sandy wash, then follow the ridgeline of the Little San Bernardino Mountains. Enjoy scenic views, dense Joshua tree forest, and pinyon-juniper woodland.
3 <b>Warren Peak</b>	strenuous 6.3 miles (10.1 km) 1,110 feet (338.3 m)	3.5–4.5 hours	Out and back. Hike to the summit of Warren Peak. Enjoy panoramic views of the quiet western part of Joshua Tree National Park.
4 <b>West Side Loop</b>	moderate 4.7 miles (7.6 km) 785 feet (239.3 m)	2.5–4 hours	Loop. Explore the ridge and washes west of Black Rock.
<b>Highway 62</b>			
5 <b>Indian Cove*</b>	easy 0.6 miles (1.0 km) 50 feet (15.2 m)	30–45 minutes	Loop. Walk on a gently rolling path with a few steps. Take a closer look at desert plants and learn about their traditional uses by Native Americans.
6 <b>Fortynine Palms Oasis*</b>	moderate 3.0 miles (4.8 km) 300 feet (91 m)	2–3 hours	Out and back. There is a 300-foot (91-m) elevation gain in both directions, as you hike up and over a ridge. Descend to a fan palm oasis. Avoid this trail when it is hot.
7 <b>Oasis of Mara</b>	easy 0.5 mile (0.8 km) minimal elevation	30–45 minutes	Loop. Enjoy a relaxing walk through the Oasis of Mara. Pets on leash allowed.
<b>Park Blvd</b>			
8 <b>Boy Scout Trail</b>	strenuous 8.0 miles (12.9 km) 1,190 feet (362.7 m)	6 hours	One way. Stay on trail to avoid getting lost. Most hikers prefer to start at the south trailhead and finish at Indian Cove. Vehicle shuttle strongly recommended for hikers interested in doing the full length of the trail.
9 <b>Hidden Valley*</b>	easy 1.0 mile (1.6 km) 100 feet (30.5 m)	1 hour	Loop. Discover a rock-enclosed valley that was once rumored to have been used by cattle rustlers. <b>Limited parking.</b>
10 <b>Barker Dam*</b>	easy 1.1 miles (1.8 km) 50 feet (15.2 m)	1 hour	Loop. Explore cultural history and view a historic dam built by early cattle ranchers. Watch for desert bighorn sheep. <b>Limited parking.</b>
11 <b>Wall Street Mill*</b>	moderate 2.0 miles (3.2 km) 80 feet (24.4 m)	1.5–2.5 hours	Out and back. Travel to the remains of a historic gold milling site and see old rusted cars and an old homestead. Leave what you find.
12 <b>Ryan Ranch*</b>	easy 1.0 mile (1.6 km) 135 feet (41.1 m)	1 hour	Out and back. Enjoy an easy hike along an old ranch road and see a historic adobe structure. Leave what you find.
13 <b>Ryan Mountain*</b>	strenuous 3.0 miles (4.8 km) 1,050 feet (320 m)	1.5–2.5 hours	Out and back. Hike to the summit of Ryan Mountain. This is one of the most popular hikes.
14 <b>Discovery Trail*</b>	easy 0.7 mile (1.1 km) 70 feet (21.3 m)	30–45 minutes	Loop. Connects Skull Rock and Split Rock trails. Visit Face Rock between Discovery and Split Rock trails.
15 <b>Skull Rock*</b>	easy 1.7 miles (2.7 km) 160 feet (48.8 m)	1–2 hours	Loop. Take an easy hike and explore boulder piles, desert washes, and the trail's namesake. The trail goes through Jumbo Rocks Campground.
16 <b>Split Rock Loop*</b>	moderate 2.5 miles (4.0 km) 150 feet (45.7 m)	1.5–2.5 hours	Loop with small spur to Face Rock. Explore the park's geology.
<b>Keys View Road</b>			
17 <b>Cap Rock</b>	easy 0.4 miles (0.6 km) 20 feet (6.1 m)	30–45 minutes	Loop. View boulder piles, Joshua trees, and other desert plants.
18 <b>Lost Horse Mine</b>	moderate 4.0 miles (6.4 km) 550 ft (168 m)	2–3 hours	Out and back to mine. See one of the most productive gold mines in the park. Stay outside fenced area. Full-loop option is 6.5 miles (10.5 km). Leave what you find. <b>Limited parking.</b>
19 <b>Keys View</b>	easy 0.25 mile (0.4 km) 25 feet (7.6 m)	15–20 minutes	Loop. Short, paved, steep path. Breathtaking views of the San Andreas Fault, Mt San Jacinto, Mt San Gorgonio, and the Salton Sea.
<b>Pinto Basin Road</b>			
20 <b>Cholla Cactus Garden</b>	easy 0.25 miles (0.4 km) 10 feet (3 m)	15–30 minutes	Loop. View thousands of densely concentrated, naturally growing, cholla cactus. Stay on the trail, wear closed-toe shoes, and be aware of prickly cactus.
21 <b>Cottonwood Spring</b>	easy 0.1 mile (0.2 km) 25 feet (7.6 m)	10 minutes	Out and back. Short walk to fan palm oasis with cottonwood trees. Fantastic birding location with plentiful shade.
22 <b>Mastodon Peak</b>	moderate 3.0 miles (4.8 km) 375 ft (115 m)	1.5–2.5 hours	Loop. An optional rock scramble takes you to the top of a craggy granite peak. The trail then loops around past an old gold mine. Leave what you find.
23 <b>Lost Palms Oasis*</b>	strenuous 7.5 miles (12.0 km) 500 feet (152 m)	5–6 hours	Out and back. Enjoy sandy washes and rolling terrain, then hike down into a canyon to explore a fan palm oasis. Climbing back out of the canyon is strenuous.
24 <b>Bajada</b>	easy 0.25 mile (0.4 km) 20 feet (6.1 m)	15–20 minutes	Loop. Walk on a bajada and discover plants of the Colorado Desert.

# Hiking Trailheads



**Joshua Tree National Park** preserves and protects the scenic, natural, and cultural resources representative of the Colorado and Mojave deserts' rich biological and geological diversity, cultural history, wilderness, recreational values, and outstanding opportunities for education and scientific study.

**Superintendent**  
David Smith

74485 National Park Drive  
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

760-367-5500  
[www.nps.gov/jotr](http://www.nps.gov/jotr)  
[jotr\\_info@nps.gov](mailto:jotr_info@nps.gov)

**Emergency**  
911

**Social Media**  
@JoshuaTreeNPS  
@JoshuaTreeNP  
[joshuatreenps.tumblr.com](https://www.tumblr.com/joshuatreenps)

**Lost & Found**  
[go.nps.gov/JTlostandfound](http://go.nps.gov/JTlostandfound)  
[jotr\\_lost\\_and\\_found@nps.gov](mailto:jotr_lost_and_found@nps.gov)

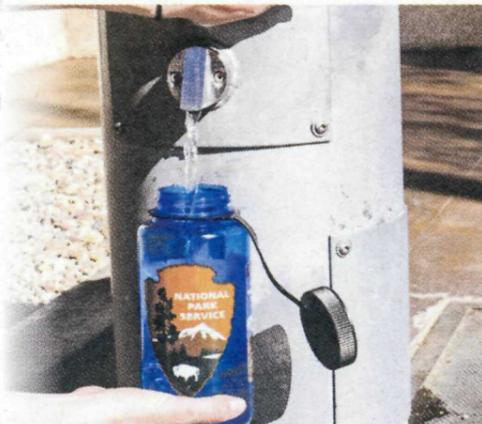
The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

# Safety

-  Water is available at:
- Oasis Visitor Center
  - Black Rock Campground
  - Cottonwood Campground
  - Cottonwood Visitor Center
  - West Entrance
  - Indian Cove Ranger Station

Stay hydrated; drink at least one gallon (4L) of water per person, per day and eat lots of salty snacks or electrolyte drinks when active.



-  In most of the park there is no cell coverage. Do not count on your phone for navigation or in case of emergency.

GPS units and navigation apps are not reliable in the park and may direct you to unsafe roads. Refer to the park map for navigation.



-  Never put your hands or feet into rock crevices or onto ledges where you can not see. Use a flashlight.



-  Drive slowly to protect wildlife. When stopping to view animals or scenery use a pullout and move out of the way of traffic.



-  Use sunscreen and reapply often. Wear loose-fitting, light-colored clothing, sunglasses, and a wide-brimmed hat.



-  Many historic mine sites exist here. Structures may be unstable and may contain toxic chemicals. Do not enter.



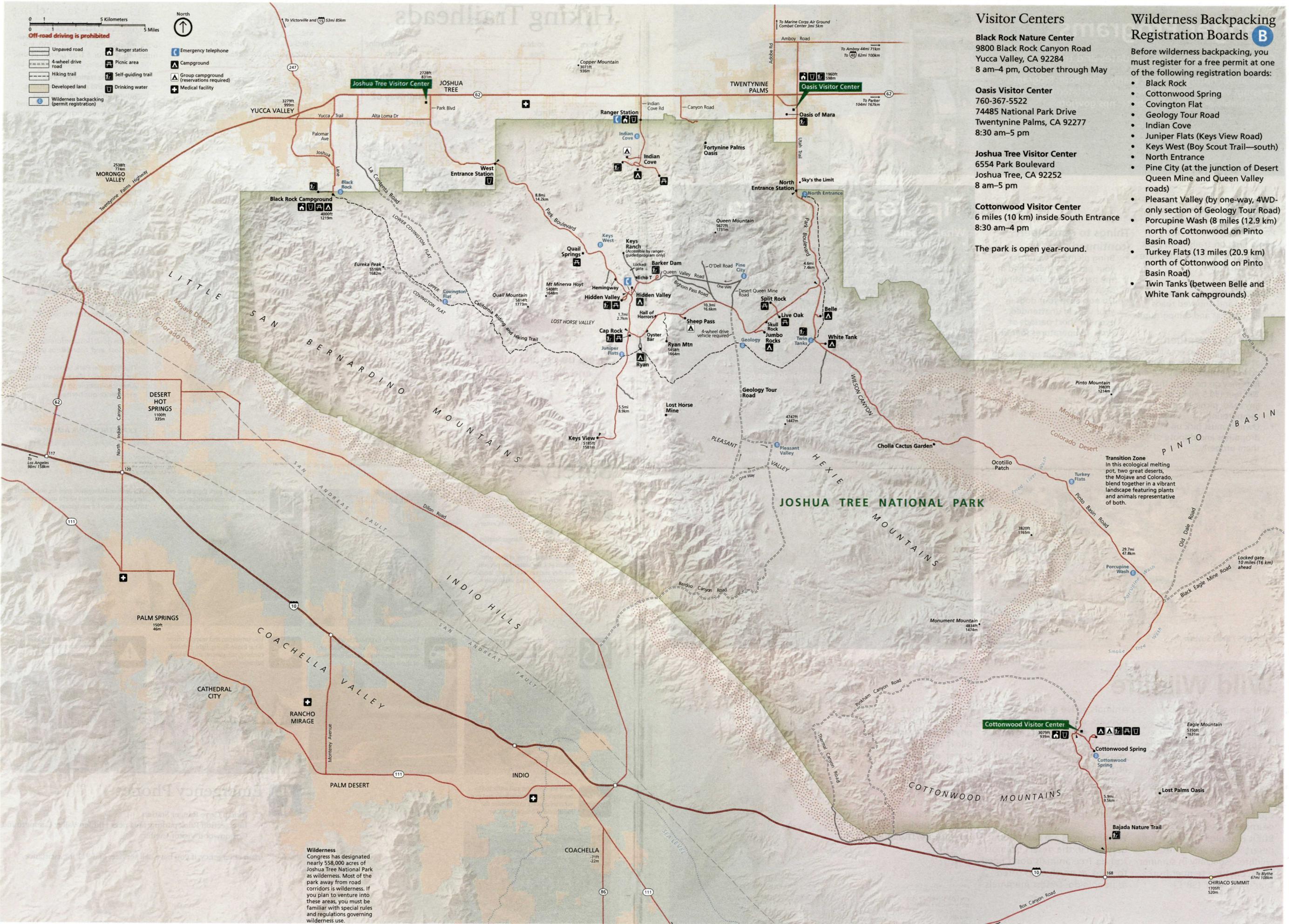
-  Bees are common and attracted to moisture. Roll up windows and exit vehicles quickly to minimize the likelihood of bees in your car.



## Emergency Phones

- Indian Cove Ranger Station
- Intersection Rock parking area near Hidden Valley Campground
- Cottonwood Visitor Center

In an emergency, if you have cell service, dial 911 for assistance.



0 1 2 3 4 5 Kilometers  
0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

Off-road driving is prohibited

- Unpaved road
- 4-wheel drive road
- Hiking trail
- Developed land
- Wilderness backpacking (permit registration)
- Ranger station
- Picnic area
- Self-guiding trail
- Drinking water
- Emergency telephone
- Campground
- Group campground (reservations required)
- Medical facility

**Wilderness**  
Congress has designated nearly 558,000 acres of Joshua Tree National Park as wilderness. Most of the park away from road corridors is wilderness. If you plan to venture into these areas, you must be familiar with special rules and regulations governing wilderness use.

**Visitor Centers**

**Black Rock Nature Center**  
9800 Black Rock Canyon Road  
Yucca Valley, CA 92284  
8 am–4 pm, October through May

**Oasis Visitor Center**  
760-367-5522  
74485 National Park Drive  
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277  
8:30 am–5 pm

**Joshua Tree Visitor Center**  
6554 Park Boulevard  
Joshua Tree, CA 92252  
8 am–5 pm

**Cottonwood Visitor Center**  
6 miles (10 km) inside South Entrance  
8:30 am–4 pm

The park is open year-round.

**Wilderness Backpacking Registration Boards**

Before wilderness backpacking, you must register for a free permit at one of the following registration boards:

- Black Rock
- Cottonwood Spring
- Covington Flat
- Geology Tour Road
- Indian Cove
- Juniper Flats (Keys View Road)
- Keys West (Boy Scout Trail—south)
- North Entrance
- Pine City (at the junction of Desert Queen Mine and Queen Valley roads)
- Pleasant Valley (by one-way, 4WD-only section of Geology Tour Road)
- Porcupine Wash (8 miles (12.9 km) north of Cottonwood on Pinto Basin Road)
- Turkey Flats (13 miles (20.9 km) north of Cottonwood on Pinto Basin Road)
- Twin Tanks (between Belle and White Tank campgrounds)

**Transition Zone**  
In this ecological melting pot, two great deserts, the Mojave and Colorado, blend together in a vibrant landscape featuring plants and animals representative of both.

# Campgrounds Inside the Park

## Camping Regulations

- A maximum of six people, three tents, and two licensed vehicles may occupy an individual campsite, if there is space. Some sites only have enough parking for one vehicle. A vehicle towing a trailer, popup, tent trailer, or fifth wheel—or a motorhome towing a vehicle—is considered two vehicles.
- Attaching lines to vegetation, including Joshua trees and junipers, is prohibited. Hammocks, slacklines, and other horizontal ropes are not permitted in campgrounds.
- Quiet hours: 10 pm–6 am.
- Generators permitted: 7–9 am, noon–2 pm, 5–7 pm.
- There is a 30-day camping limit each year. Only 14 of these nights may take place from October through May.
- Campsites left vacant for 24 hours will be treated as vacant. Holding/reserving campsites for persons not present is not allowed.
- Pets must remain on leash at all times and may not be left unattended.
- At Hidden Valley and White Tank campgrounds, RVs and trailers may not exceed a combined maximum length of 25 feet (7.6 m). Other campgrounds have length restrictions not to exceed 35 feet (10.7 m), unless otherwise noted.

## First-come, First-served Sites

If a “Campground Full” sign is displayed, please try a different campground.

### Belle



18 sites. \$15 per night. Pit toilets, tables, and fire grates. No water. 3,800 feet (1,158 m) in elevation.

### Hidden Valley



44 sites. \$15 per night. Pit toilets, tables, and fire grates. No water. 4,200 feet (1,280 m) in elevation.

### Ryan



31 sites. \$15 per night. Pit toilets, tables, and fire grates. No water. 4,300 feet (1,311 m) in elevation.

### White Tank



15 sites. \$15 per night. Pit toilets, tables, and fire grates. No water. 3,800 feet (1,158 m) in elevation.

## Reservation Sites

Reservations can be made at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov), 877-444-6777.

### Black Rock



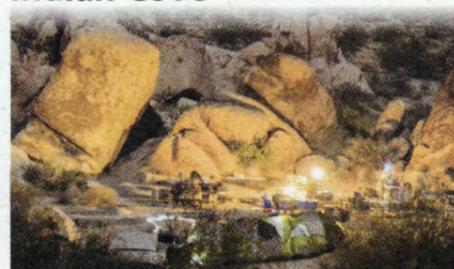
99 sites. \$20 per night. Water, flush toilets, fire grates, dump station. 4,000 feet (1,219 m) in elevation.

### Cottonwood



62 sites. \$20 per night. Water, flush toilets, tables, fire grates, dump station. 3,000 feet (914 m) in elevation.

### Indian Cove



101 sites. \$20 per night. Pit toilets, tables, fire grates. Water at ranger station. 3,200 feet (975 m) in elevation.

### Jumbo Rocks



124 sites. \$15 per night. Pit toilets, tables, and fire grates. No water. 4,400 feet in elevation.

# Campgrounds Outside the Park

Campgrounds are usually full on weekends October through May. From mid-February to mid-May (and during holidays) campgrounds usually fill throughout the week. To improve your chances of getting a

campsite and avoid disappointment, visit during the off-season (June through September), reserve a site, and/or have alternate overnight plans ready.

## Private Campgrounds

### North of the Park

HipCamp  
[hipcamp.com](http://hipcamp.com)

Joshua Tree Lake RV & Campground  
2601 Sunfair Road  
Joshua Tree, CA  
760-366-1213  
[joshuatrelake.com](http://joshuatrelake.com)  
Hookups and dump station

JT Sportsman's Club  
6225 Sunburst Avenue  
Joshua Tree, CA  
760-366-2915  
[jtsportsmansclub.com](http://jtsportsmansclub.com)  
Hookups and dump station

Twentynine Palms RV Resort  
4949 Desert Knoll Avenue  
Twentynine Palms, CA  
760-367-3320  
[twentyninepalmsresort.com](http://twentyninepalmsresort.com)  
Hookups and dump station

### South of the Park

Chiriaco Summit  
62450 Chiriaco Road  
Chiriaco Summit, CA  
760-227-3227

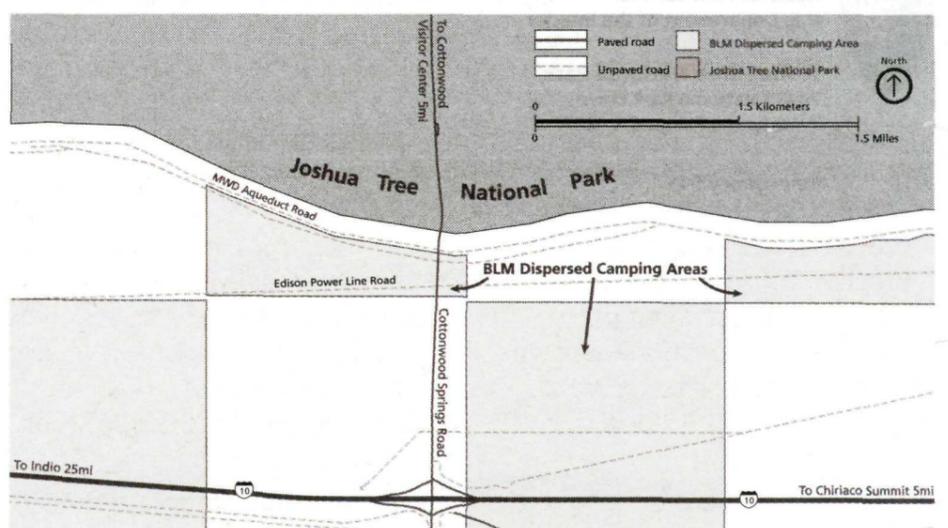
## Dispersed Camping

Public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) offer free dispersed camping south of the park. Camping is allowed within 300 feet (91 m) of roadways. There are no developed facilities in dispersed camping areas: no restrooms, no water, no trash collection. Bring what you need and pack out all your trash.

All vegetation, living or dead, is protected by law. Campfires require a permit, available from BLM offices

or online. Use existing fire rings. Do not move rock. This area includes portions of Camp Young, part of General Patton's World War II training efforts.

**Dispersed Camping South of the Park**  
Accessible from Cottonwood Springs Road. See the map (right) for dispersed camping areas.





## Junior Rangers

Kids aged 4–14 earn a free badge by completing a fun activity booklet and attending a ranger program or learning from exhibits in a visitor center. Stop by any park visitor center or entrance station to pick up a booklet.

Older kids and adults can earn their badges too by doing more activities.

## Joshua Tree National Park Association

### Be a Part of the Adventure

The Joshua Tree National Park Association has been supporting interpretation, education, preservation, and scientific research since 1962. They operate four park stores, offer a field institute with classes taught by experts, and raise funds for the park through donations and a membership program.

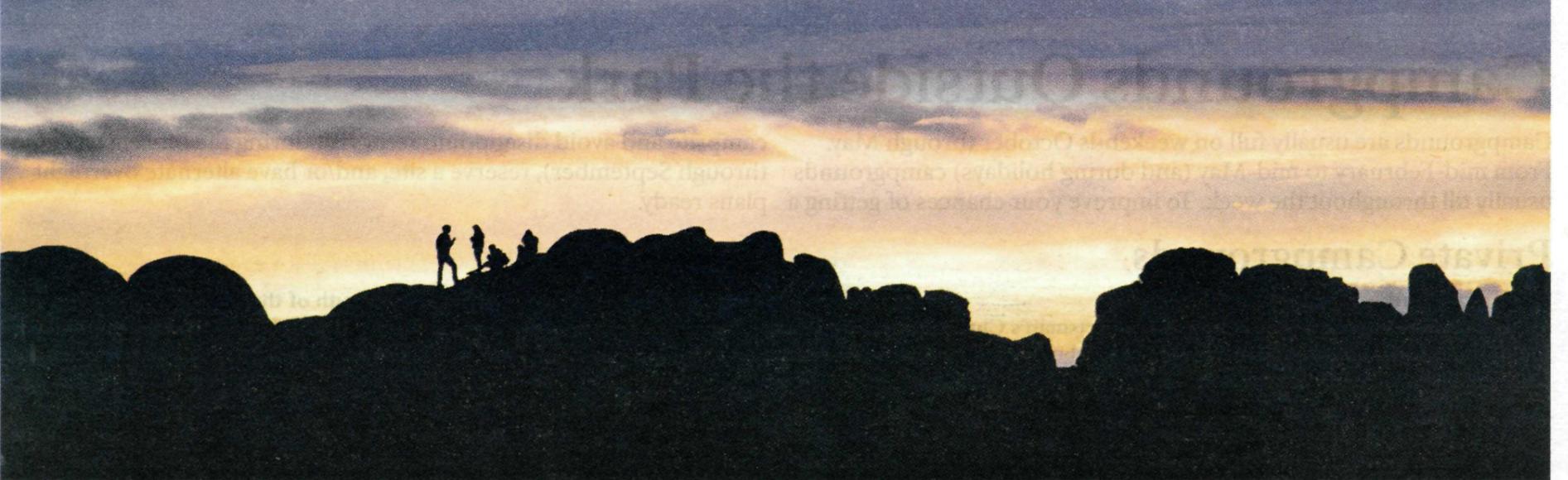
### Experience the Great Outdoors

Pick up a trail guide or sign up for a Desert Institute field class and make the park your classroom. Take home a schedule and plan ahead.

### Become a Member

Join the Joshua Tree National Park Association and you will help support park programs and projects while enjoying some great benefits. Members receive a 15% discount on merchandise at Joshua Tree National Park Association park stores, as well as a discount on all Desert Institute classes. In turn, your gift helps support youth programs, scientific research, and historical collections, and you will assist in the preservation of our fragile desert environment for generations to come.

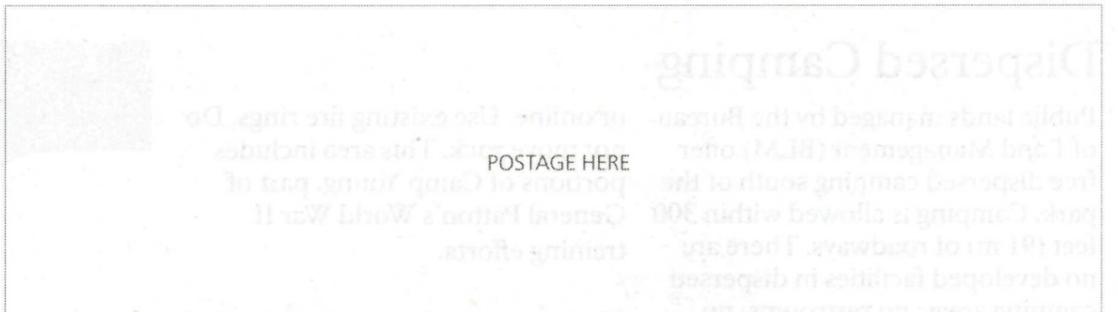
To become a JTNPA member, call 760-367-5535 or visit [joshuatree.org](http://joshuatree.org).



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Joshua Tree National Park  
74485 National Park Drive  
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

Emergency 911



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