



MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE

CAMPING

Baker, California
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

There are many opportunities for all kinds of camping within Mojave National Preserve. In this land of scenic vistas, rugged mountains, sand dunes, volcanic formations and rocky canyons the visitor can explore this land of wonder by vehicle or on foot.

Please respect private property and posted signs in the Preserve. The following guidelines have been established as part of an interim management plan. Your comments are encouraged.

BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING

By going off the trail just a half a mile from any developed area or road and a quarter of a mile from any water source, you're set to start looking for a place to camp. But LOOK OUT! Be sure not to setup in a drainage or dry wash. Flash floods can take away more than just your gear. No backcountry permits are required.

CAMPGROUNDS

There are two developed camping grounds in the Preserve. Both Hole-in-the-Wall & Mid Hills campgrounds have pit toilets and a LIMITED supply of water. Each site has a picnic table and a fire ring.

To ensure a more enjoyable stay for everyone we ask that you follow these site limits: 8 people per site, 1 camping unit (i.e., trailer, motor home, covered van) and 1 vehicle; or 2 vehicles.

There is also a small campground at the Providence Mountains State Recreation Area. Call (805) 942-0662 or (619) 928-2586 for more information.

GROUP CAMPING

There are two group camping sites at Black Canyon Equestrian and Group Campground across the road from the Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center (next to the Fire Center). Reservations are required and can be made by calling (619) 255-8801, Monday - Friday.

ROADSIDE CAMPING

While the National Park Service is establishing its camping policies, you can car camp in areas that have been traditionally used for this purpose. We ask that you use existing sites only to avoid destroying critical desert habitat.

WILDERNESS

Along with establishing Mojave National Preserve, Congress designated nearly half the Preserve as wilderness. These areas, 22 in all, offer the visitor an experience free of the sights and sounds of civilization we encounter every day. Wilderness is a special place where you can get away from it all and experience a solitude found only here. Please respect the wilderness signs.

DESERT RESOURCES

A fed animal is a dead animal. Although it is tempting to feed the wildlife, they are wild and need to remain that way to survive. Giving food to a coyote, roadrunner or even a ground squirrel can alter their digestive system and result in their death. Of course, close encounters with wild animals can be dangerous to your health as well.

Along with the animals, the plants, cultural artifacts and even the rocks are protected so they can be enjoyed by later visitors. Please leave the desert resources where you find them. The use of metal detectors or rockhounding/collecting is illegal in the Preserve.

Remember, leave only footprints, take only pictures and kill only time.

PETS

For the safety of your pet, other visitors and animals living in the Preserve, please keep your pet confined or on a leash no longer than 6 feet at all times. Please don't leave your special friend

unattended. Be aware of extreme heat when considering leaving pets in vehicles or trailers.

HORSES

The Black Canyon Equestrian & Group Campground has corrals. For safety reasons, horses are not allowed in the two developed campgrounds. Please call (619) 255-8801 to make the required reservations and for more information.

FIRES

Because wood is so scarce in the desert, collecting or cutting wood is not allowed. Fire rings are provided in the developed campgrounds. If you will be back country or roadside camping, you are encouraged to use a self-contained unit such as a camp stove. As part of the interim management plan, fires in existing fire rings or "pan fires" will be permitted outside the developed campgrounds. What is a pan

fire? It is a fire built with wood or charcoal in a metal container such as a garbage can lid. By building a fire in such a container, the ashes and coals can be disposed of properly and safely later leaving the site less disturbed.

OFF ROAD TRAVEL

The desert environment, although quite rugged, is very fragile. Please keep your vehicles on designated roads at all times. All vehicles used in the Preserve must be street legal.

TRASH & LITTER

It's an ugly site along our roads and even uglier in backcountry. Be sure to pick up your trash and carry it out with you. Burying garbage is not a solution. Animals dig it up and soon it's all over landscape. Remember, if you can pack it in, you can pack it out. Disposal of human waste can be a challenge. When camping from a

vehicle, a portable toilet is a quick and easy solution. Waste can then be disposed of at a dump station later.

WATER

When traveling in Mojave National Preserve, bring plenty of water for yourself and your passengers. You may even want to place (cache) some along your designated route ahead of time. During hot weather, each person needs at least ONE GALLON of water even when resting. Don't risk it, bring more than you think you'll need.

WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR

The desert is a beautiful place but it can be deadly if you come without knowing what to beware of. Mine shafts are inviting but dangerous. Do not enter old shafts, tunnels or even old buildings. Take care where you place your hands and feet. Rattlesnakes and scorpions are native to desert. Snakes often frequent old buildings and where there is water.

DIRECTIONS TO SOME OF THE ROADSIDE CAMPING AREAS

Kelso Dunes - Sites are located near the gate at the end of the access road to the dunes. 2-3 sites.

Rainy Day Mine Site - 15.2 miles south of Baker on Kelbaker Rd. Go 0.3 miles north of Kelbaker Rd. on the road leading to the Rain Day Mine. 4X4 vehicles only. No RVs. 3-4 sites.

Black Canyon Road - 5.2 miles south of Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center on the east side of Black Canyon Rd. 3-4 sites.

Powerline Site - 11.8 miles north of Kelso on Kelbaker Rd., where power lines cross the road. 2-3 sites.

Caruthers Canyon - 5.5 miles west of Ivanpah Rd. on New York Mnts. Rd. 1.5 to 2.7 miles north of NY Mnts. Rd. to camp sites. RVs not recommended. 4-6 sites.

Sunrise Rock - 10.4 miles south of I-15 on east side of Cima Rd. Trail head for Teutonia Peak trail is nearby on opposite side of Cima Rd.

