parks / Joshua Tree

- *Last updated: August 19*

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Spans the transition between two ecologically distinct deserts, featuring an array of landforms and plants
NPS / PDF map

Hiking
Hidden Valley, Barker Dam, Arch Rock, and the Discovery Trail are all around one mile and very scenic.
Cottonwood Spring: Short walk to fan palm oasis with cottonwood trees. Fantastic birding location with plentiful shade.

- The three-mile loop trail to Mastodon Peak offers spectacular views, interesting geology, the Mastodon Mine, and the Winona Mill Site.
- Lost Palms Oasis trail: eight miles round trip and the largest stand of fan palms in the park

Cholla Cactus Garden: View thousands of densely concentrated, naturally growing cholla cactus. Stay on the trail, wear closed-toe shoes, and be aware of prickly cactus.

Stargazing
Designated stargazing areas: Hidden Valley, Ryan Mountain, and Quail Springs. The Pinto Basin Road between Cholla Cactus Garden and Cottonwood has the darkest skies and the least amount of traffic

Visiting During the Busy Season: Most visitors arrive from October through May, with the busiest times being weekends, holidays, and spring break season (March–mid April).

- For the fastest entry/exit, use the North Entrance in Twentynine Palms or the South Entrance off Interstate 10. The West Entrance in the town of Joshua Tree is the busiest.
- Sunset is stunning from most parking lots and pullouts park-wide. Popular viewing areas include Cap Rock, Quail Springs, Ryan Mountain, Cholla Cactus Garden, and Indian Cove.
- Keys View is also popular but can be extremely crowded and can close down due to congestion on busy days. (perched on the crest of the Little San Bernardino Mountains, provides panoramic views of the Coachella Valley, 20-minute drive from Park Boulevard down Keys View Road)

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22nd August 2026
Mount Rainier

27th July 2026
Saguaro

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