

California / Mojave Desert  
**Joshua Tree NP (2)**

DISTANCE: XXX miles

ELEVATION GAIN: XXX feet

ROUTE TYPE: XXX

**Short Walks and Nature Trails**

**These trails are recommended year-round and some are wheelchair accessible.**

Bajada	South of Cottonwood Visitor Center; 0.5 mile (0.8 km) north of the South Entrance	0.25 mile (0.4 km) 20 feet (6.1 m)	Loop. Walk on a bajada and discover plants of the Colorado Desert on this easy path.
Barker Dam	Barker Dam parking area	1.1 miles (1.8 km) 50 feet (15.2 m)	Loop. Explore cultural history and view a water tank built by early cattle ranchers. Watch for bighorn sheep.
Cap Rock	Cap Rock parking area, at the junction of Park Boulevard and Keys View Road	0.4 mile (0.6 km) 20 feet (6.1 m)	Loop. View boulder piles, Joshua trees, and other desert plants on this easy path.
Cholla Cactus Garden	20 miles (32 km) north of Cottonwood Visitor Center	0.25 mile (0.4 km) 10 feet (3 m)	Loop. View thousands of densely concentrated, naturally growing cholla cactus. Stay on the trail, where closed-toe shoes, and be aware of prickly cactus.
Cottonwood Spring	1 mile (1.5 km) east of Cottonwood Visitor Center	0.1 mile (0.2 km) 25 feet (7.6 m)	Short walk to fan palm oasis with cottonwood trees. Fantastic birding location with plentiful shade.
Discovery Trail	Skull Rock parking area just east of Jumbo Rocks Campground	0.7 mile (1.1 km) 70 feet (21.3 m)	Loop. Connects Skull Rock and Split Rock Loop trails at Face Rock. Easy hike through boulder piles and desert washes.
Hidden Valley	Hidden Valley picnic area	1 mile (1.6 km) 100 feet (30.5 m)	Loop. Discover a rock-enclosed valley that was once rumored to have been used by cattle rustlers.
Hi-View	Northwest of Black Rock Campground	1.3 miles (2.1 km) from parking area.  3 miles (4.8 km) from visitor center.  400 feet (121.92 m)	Loop. Discover the world of Joshua tree forests. Hike up a ridge on the western side of the park and take in panoramic views of the area. There are some steep sections, as well as a several benches to take a break and enjoy the view.
Indian Cove	West end of Indian Cove Campground	0.6 miles (1 km) 50 feet (15.2 m)	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.
Keys View	Keys View	0.25 miles (0.4 km) 25 feet (7.6 m)	Short, paved loop path is steep. Breathtaking views of the San Andreas Fault, Mount San Jacinto, Mount San Gorgonio, and the Salton Sea.
Oasis of Mara	Oasis Visitor Center, Twentynine Palms	0.5 mile (0.8 km) minimal elevation	Loop. Explore a desert oasis on this easy walk. See how the Oasis of Mara has been used by wildlife and people throughout time. Pets on leash allowed.
Ryan Ranch	Ryan Ranch trailhead, about 0.5 mile (0.8 km) east of Ryan Campground	1 mile (1.6 km) 135 feet (41.1 m)	Out and back. Enjoy an easy hike along an old ranch road and see a historic adobe structure.
Skull Rock	Skull Rock parking area just east of Jumbo Rocks Campground; also accessible from within Jumbo Rocks Campground	1.7 miles (2.7 km) 160 feet (48.8 m)	Loop. Take an easy hike and explore boulder piles, desert washes, and of course the namesake Skull Rock.

<b>Moderate Hikes</b> <b>These hikes may not be recommended for summer. Use caution when hiking in the desert in the heat.</b>			
Fortynine Palms Oasis	Fortynine Palms parking area, accessed off Highway 62.	3 miles (4.8 km) 300 feet (91 m)	Out and back. There is a 300 foot (91 m) elevation gain in both directions, as you hike up and over a ridge dotted with barrel cactus. Beyond the ridge, descend to a fan palm oasis in a rocky canyon. Avoid this trail when it's hot out.
Lost Horse Mine	Lost Horse Mine trailhead off Keys View Road	4 miles (6.4 km) 550 feet (168 m)	Out and back. Explore around one of the most successful gold mines in the park. Stay outside the fenced area to protect the millsite and mine. For a longer option, see Lost Horse Loop, under Challenging Hikes. Elevation change is 550 feet.
Mastodon Peak	Cottonwood Spring parking area	3 miles (4.8 km) 375 feet (115 m)	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. Elevation change is about 375 feet.
Pine City	Pine City trailhead at end of Desert Queen Mine Road	4 miles (6.4 km)	Out and back. The highlight of this fairly flat trail is a dense stand of junipers and pinyon. The trail also goes to an old mining site.
Split Rock Loop	Split Rock picnic area	2.5 miles (4 km) 150 feet (45.7 m)	Loop. Distance includes safe trip to Face Rock.
West Side Loop	Black Rock	4.7 miles (7.6 km) 785 feet (239.3 m)	Loop. Explore the ridge and washes west of Black Rock Campground.
<b>Challenging Hikes - Do Not Attempt in the Heat</b> <b>The following trails should not be attempted during the summer or whenever it is hot out, because they are extremely dangerous due to sun exposure, temperatures, and dehydration risks. Every year visitors have to be rescued and sometimes perish on these hikes.</b>			
Boy Scout Trail	North end: Indian Cove backcountry board. South end: Boy Scout Trailhead.	8 miles (12.9 km) 1190 feet (362.7 m)	One way. Go deep into the Wonderland of Rocks. Stay on trail to avoid getting lost among the boulders. Most hikers prefer to start at the south trailhead, inside the West Entrance, and finish at Indian Cove. Vehicle shuttle strongly recommended for hikers interested in doing the full length the trail.
California Riding and Hiking Trail	Several	35 miles (56.3 km)	One way. Shorter hikes possible on sections of this long trail. Travel from Black Rock Canyon to the North Entrance of the park, passing through a variety of Mojave Desert landscapes.
Lost Horse Loop	Lost Horse Mine trailhead off Keys View Road	6.5 miles (10.5 km) 550 feet (167.64 m)	Loop. For a shorter option, see Lost Horse Mine, under Moderate Hikes.
Lost Palms Oasis	Cottonwood Spring parking area	7.5 miles (12 km) 500 feet (152 m)	Out and back. Enjoy sandy washes and rolling terrain, then hike down into a canyon to explore a remote fan palm oasis. Climbing back out the canyon is strenuous.
Panorama Loop	Black Rock	6.6 miles (10.6 km) 1,100 feet (336 m)	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.
Ryan Mountain	Parking area between Sheep Pass and Ryan Campground	3 miles (4.8 km) 1,050 feet (320 m)	Out and back. Hike to the summit of Ryan Mountain. This is one of the most popular hikes in the park.
Warren Peak	Black Rock	6.3 miles (10.1 km) 1,110 feet (338.3 m)	Out and back. Hike to the summit of Warren Peak. Enjoy panoramic views of the quiet western part of Joshua Tree.
Willow Hole	Boy Scout Trailhead - south end inside the park	7.2 miles (11.5 km)	Out and back. Mostly flat trail along the edge of the Wonderland of Rocks. Travel through Joshua tree forests, boulder landscape, and sandy washes. Trail ends at willow trees.