A Free Publication

2012 Edition

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®

Historic Trails Edition

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®

200 Palm Canyon Drive
Borrego Springs, CA 92004
Park Headquarters (760) 767-5311
Visitor Center (760) 767-4205

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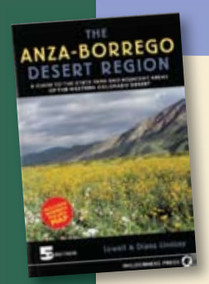
Welcome and thank you for visiting

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

As the Park's nonprofit partner, Anza-Borrego Foundation runs the **Visitor Center Store** and **State Park Store** in The Mall. Stop in to find information and gifts to enrich your visit.



Visitor Center Store

October - May: Open Every Day, 9 am - 5 pm
June - September: Open weekends and holidays only

- Park Information
- Guidebooks and Maps
- Road conditions
- Free Interpretive walks and talks
- Park films
- Apparel and Safety Items
- Park Posters and Postcards
- Wildlife sightings
- Puppets and Games
- Join ABF to support the Park

ABF State Park Store

October - May: Open Every Day, 10 am - 4 pm
Call for Summer Hours

- Park Information
- Register for classes & hikes
- Guidebooks and Maps
- Native American Arts
- Join ABF to support the Park
- Clothing and Accessories
- Desert Art and Photography
- Water Bottles and Bags
- Desert Naturalist Tours for buses and group hikes

Join ABF today to get a 15% discount on all purchases!

All store & membership proceeds support Anza-Borrego Desert State Park!

Partners with the Park

ABF State Park Store
587 Palm Canyon Drive #110
760-767-4063
www.theabf.org

ABDSP Visitor Center
200 Palm Canyon Dr.
760-767-4205
www.parks.ca.gov

Borrego Valley Inn

Premium Desert Inn

15 rooms, two pools
southwestern rustic elegance
private sun & star patios
exquisite desert gardens
tranquility & quiet
lovely breakfast

405 Palm Canyon Drive
Borrego Springs, California
www.BorregoValleyInn.com
800.333.5810

Photo by Ernie Cowan Fonts Sunset

Photo by Ernie Cowan Hawk Canyon Campfire

From The Superintendent Of Anza-Borrego

Welcome

It was love at first sight when I laid eyes on Anza-Borrego Desert State Park many years ago and I soon learned that people have been having that experience in one way or another for perhaps centuries; we know that mostly because of stories, journals and artifacts left behind. The Cahuilla, Kumeyaay and other Native People used these trails as they made their way to village and harvesting sites. Soldiers led entire town populations toward new settlements or marched to war. Rugged stagecoaches delivered pioneers and mail to the gold fields, then to new range and ranch lands. Tales told by the many peoples crossing the harsh landscape fascinate me. They made their way each challenging day from seep to palm oasis to cienaga to survive the long journey. Twenty miles a day by coach was considered to be the full extent for horses and passengers alike. Large, slow moving parties that included livestock and travelers on foot had to search for available water to accommodate them at least every couple of days. Can you imagine?

Today we may take for granted the various roads and trails that let us reach so many places of beauty, interest and inspiration. I hope this historic trails issue of our park magazine entices you into exploring the desert's past yourselves!

The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail begins in Mexico and ends at the Presidio in San Francisco, California. The route de Anza followed during the 1774-76 expeditions leads through southern Anza-Borrego north through Coyote Canyon. Coyote Canyon is one of many Cultural Reserves within the park. The reserves will protect ancient Native American sites including trails and villages. The San Antonio to San Diego Mail and the Butterfield Stage used the Great Southern Overland Route between 1857 and 1861. The Butterfield Stage originated in St. Louis, Missouri, and ended in San Francisco. Battalions of soldiers traveled through the desert to fight in the Civil War. Cattlemen and ranchers left their marks in this desert, as did war games for training during World War II and the Korean War. Every part of this desert seems tinged with remarkable historic events!

One of the most rewarding projects I have worked on as the Superintendent of Anza-Borrego is the opening of a recently acquired area in the southern part of the Park called Vallecito Ranch. The Kumeyaay Indians called it "Hawi" which, in their language, means the place where tules grow. This area is a hub of well worn trails used as trade routes stretching from the Colorado River through the western mountains to the Pacific Ocean. Eventually Everett and Lena Campbell settled the area as a ranch, making a life in the desert and leaving behind remnants of yet another chapter of desert history. The area is now open as day use for hikers, equestrians and mountain bikes and is a continuing work in progress as we strive to implement many exciting plans. This spring will bring the seventh annual Vallecito Days held at the old Vallecito Stage Station County Park adjacent the ranch. Living history is central to this event and makes for another fun way to learn about the desert's past. Plan a trip to see wildflowers and cowboys all in the same weekend!

There is magic in this place – both present and past. Grab a map, a little advice from one of our fantastic park volunteers and knowledgeable staff, then go and find out for yourselves!

Kathy Dice
Park Superintendent
Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®

PARK REGULATIONS

DEVELOPED CAMPGROUNDS

Attention:
Some campgrounds may not be open year round. Please check in advance

~ **Check out time is 12:00 noon.**

~ **Speed limit in the campground is 15 MPH.**

~ Park vehicles with all tires on the pavement.

~ **Pets must not be left unattended.** Dogs must be on a leash no longer than six feet and under the immediate control of a person during the day. Dogs or cats must be in a tent or vehicle during nighttime hours. **Dogs are not allowed on dirt hiking trails.**

~ **Engine driven electric generators** which can disturb others may be **operated only between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.** Loud, disturbing noise is prohibited at all times, as is disturbing those asleep between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

~ Gathering or taking of any live, dead or downed vegetation is prohibited.

~ Bicycles, skateboards, etc. must remain on paved roads. **All riders under 18 years of age must wear a bicycle helmet.**

PRIMITIVE/BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING AND DAY USE

~ The California Vehicle Code applies to all roads in the park – dirt, sandy wash or paved. **All vehicles must be highway legal and remain on established roads.**

~ Vehicles must be parked no more than 1 vehicle length off the road. Do not trample vegetation or drive over geological features.

~ Dogs must be on a 6-foot leash and under the immediate control of a person during the day and are allowed only on park roads. Dogs are **NOT** allowed on trails or in wilderness areas.

~ Camp at least 100 feet away from all water sources (springs, creeks, streams).

~ **Ground fires are not permitted.** A metal container must be used for all campfires.

~ Bring your own firewood. Gathering or taking of any live, dead or downed vegetation is prohibited.

~ Firearms and fireworks are not permitted anywhere in the park.

~ There is no garbage collection in the backcountry so you are responsible for packing out all your garbage, including toilet paper and human waste. Practice "Leave No Trace".

~ All natural and cultural features are protected. Nothing may be removed or disturbed.

Leave only footprints. Take only memories.

Campgrounds	Reservations	Fee per night	Number of Sites	Max. Length RV	Max. People per Site	Drinking Water	Toilets: Vault or Flush	Showers	Picnic Tables	Shade Ramadas	Stoves or Fire Rings	Campfire Center	Elevation in feet	Miles to HQ
Borrego Palm Canyon Hookup	X	$35*	52	35′	8	X	F	X	X		X	X	775	1
Borrego Palm Canyon Non-Hookup	X	$25*	65	25′	8	X	F	X	X	X	X	X	775	1
Borrego Palm Canyon Group Camp	X	$80*	5		25	X	F	X	X	X	X	X	775	1
Tamarisk Grove	X	$25*	27	21′	8	X	F	X	X	X	X	X	1400	13
Horse Camp Campers with Horses only	X	$25*	10	24′	8	X	F	X	X		X		960	8
Bow Willow		$15*	16	24′	8	X	V		X	X	X		950	55
Backcountry Camping														
Culp Valley							V						3400	10
Sheep Canyon							V		X	X			1500	14
Arroyo Salado							V						880	19
Yaqui Pass													1730	12
Yaqui Well							V						1400	13
Fish Creek			6				V				X		280	30
Blair Valley							V						2500	32
Mt. Palm Springs							V						760	54

** Prices are subject to change. Off-season rates available. Check with us for current park fees.*

Photo by Ranger Steve Bier

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®

200 Palm Canyon Drive
Borrego Springs, CA 92004
Park Headquarters (760) 767-5311
Visitor Center Program Information
(760) 767-4205
www.parks.ca.gov
711, TTY relay service

Visitor Center

October through May, Open Daily.
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
During the **summer** months of June through September, open weekends and holidays only, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Hours are subject to change.

Campground Reservations

(800) 444-7275 or
www.reserveamerica.com

Lodging and Restaurants

Borrego Springs Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 66
786 Palm Canyon Drive
Borrego Springs, Ca. 92004
(760) 767-5555 or (800) 559-5524
www.borregospringschamber.org

Wildflower Hotline

For the latest wildflower news,
24 hours.
(760) 767-4684

Anza-Borrego Foundation

760-767-0446
www.theabf.org

California State Parks supports equal access.

Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact: The Visitor Center (760) 767-4205

This publication is available in alternate formats by contacting The Visitor Center, (760) 767-4205

Photo by Ranger Steve Bier

Ask the Ranger...

Why must I have my fire in a metal container?

We receive an average of six to seven inches of rain per year, which is not enough to wash away fire scars or encourage biological removal of charring and soot. Because of this, scars from fires that were built by Native Americans long ago are still visible today. With a nearly a million visitors per year, the scars left behind today would ruin the beauty of the landscape.

Obviously, because of the desert climate, once a fire escapes your control it can instantly turn into a raging brush fire. We have had many huge fires that began with a conscientious camper burning his toilet paper.

Why do rangers carry guns?

State Park Rangers are "generalists." We are interpreters who can explain the fascinating natural processes going on in the Park. We are safety experts who can help you plan a safe visit or rescue you if necessary. We are also state peace officers, because many state parks are far from local police or sheriff protection and, unfortunately, law enforcement is often necessary to protect the Park or the people in it.

Are there any rules about making noise in the park?

One of the desert's most special features is the absolute silence you can experience here. The howling of the wind and the chorus of coyotes are also sounds that people come here to experience. Because of this, everyone is asked to observe "quiet hours" between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. If you are running a generator, you must keep it off from 8 p.m. to 10 a.m.

Can I hunt at Anza-Borrego?

California's State Parks are set aside to preserve and protect the state's natural and cultural resources. Because of this objective, hunting or loaded firearms aren't allowed. Licensed hunters are allowed to hunt in-season on adjacent B.L.M. lands.

Is my dog welcome in the campground?

Yes. Your dog is welcome on a six-foot leash in the campground and on the many dirt roads in the Park. Common courtesy and safety regulations require that you keep your dog under control at all times.

Why aren't dogs allowed on trails or in wilderness areas?

There are many reasons. Many animals in the Park react to the scent of a canine, reading only: predator. Although your dog may be friendly, many of the animals that live in a habitat will avoid areas where a predator scent has been left. This means they may not be able to search for food or find safety in their usual places. In addition, many diseases may be spread either to your dog from wildlife or vice versa. Some of these diseases like plague and Lyme disease are dangerous to humans as well.

The desert poses some special problems for dogs. Cholla cactus can easily become embedded in a dog's paw, then mouth, the other paw, etc. Many dogs have been rushed from the Park to emergency veterinary care an hour or more away. Rattlesnakes are another concern. Humans are wise enough to heed the snake's warning; a dog may not. Pet dogs have been killed by rattlesnakes (and coyotes) in the Park. Even burned pads on the bottom of your dog's feet will ruin his visit to the Park. Not only is it illegal to take your dog on trails into the Park, it is dangerous, and your dog would probably rather be at home.

Anza-Borrego Foundation (ABF) is the cooperating association for Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® (ABDSP). ABF is the Park's only nonprofit partner working to support, protect and preserve Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. We acquire land, support research programs taking place in the Park, and conduct extensive educational programming for adults and students.

Jeff Young

Preserving Wildlife Habitat

Part of our mission is to acquire privately owned lands within the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Since 1967, ABF has preserved more than 50,000 acres of crucial habitat for our desert wildlife, ensuring that these lands remain conserved for future generations to enjoy. Deeding these lands to the State preserves the many qualities they offer visitors like you: solitude, starry skies, breathtaking vistas, and an incredibly diverse ecosystem.

Visitor Center Explore Store & State Park Store

ABF operates the retail store in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Visitor Center and the State Park Store in The Mall. 100 percent of all store proceeds go to support ABDSP. Every purchase makes a difference!

Volunteer Programs

ABF organizes volunteer efforts in support of Park projects and goals like the removal of Saharan Mustard, an invasive weed. Volunteers perform a crucial role in keeping our state parks up and running smoothly.

Research Programs

ABF supports research programs in the Park like the annual Bighorn Sheep Count, Christmas Bird Count and Borrego Valley Hawkwatch, which help Park management make informed decisions critical to the preservation of the precious resources in the Anza-Borrego region.

Eric Kallen

Jeff Young

Become a Member

You can support world-renowned Anza-Borrego Desert State Park by becoming a member of Anza-Borrego Foundation. Members receive discounts on programs, 15 percent off all purchases at ABDSP Visitor Center and State Park Store, along with discounts at a variety of local businesses. Fill out a membership form at the Visitor Center, State Park Store or join online at **www.theabf.org/support**. A complete list of member benefits can be found at **www.theabf.org**.

Denise Zuranski

Funding is also provided through memberships, contributions, Institute program registrations and sponsorships. Each and every one of our programs supports Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. We invite you to visit our website or call us to request a current program brochure.

Milton Lum

Christina Kamme

Anza-Borrego Desert Photo Contest Share Your Love of the Park

Submit your favorite photos of the Park in ABF's annual Anza-Borrego Desert Photo Contest. It is a wonderful and inspiring way to share your love of ABDSP. The contest is open to all photographers, and offers both adult and youth divisions. For contest rules and entry forms, visit **www.theabf.org/photocontest**.

Leo Larson

Support Anza-Borrego Desert State Park by becoming a member of Anza-Borrego Foundation today!

Anza-Borrego Foundation
State Park Store
587 Palm Canyon Drive, Suite 110
Borrego Springs, CA 92004
(760) 767-4063
www.theabf.org

ABF's Institute Connects You with Nature

Sam Webb

Join us for educational hikes, classes, lectures and tours. Our Institute provides in-depth adult courses covering:

- Desert Plants
- Astronomy
- Photography
- Geology
- Archaeology
- and more!

Join our email list to learn about ABF's events and exciting opportunities for all ages at **www.theabf.org.**

Kati Cowan

ABF's Institute provides educational opportunities for youth, like Camp Borrego - a 3-day 5th grade environmental education camp. Camp Borrego offers more than 300 students a nature-immersive desert experience, perhaps their first in a state park. Campers sleep in Mongolian gers, hike to springs and palm oases, explore the Park's paleontology lab, and learn how Native Americans survived in the desert. They also learn how to protect our desert's resources.

John Peterson

Anza-Borrego Foundation also supports PORTS online video-conferencing programs. PORTS (Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students) delivers live interactive programs from Anza-Borrego Desert State Park to classrooms across the country.

ABF relies on donations and grants to provide these opportunities to youth. You can make a donation in support of these life-changing programs at **www.theabf.org/support.**

Deborah Knapp

The West ... a land of new opportunities. Anza-Borrego-A Desert Jewel Still Unknown to Many!

By foot ...by mule... by stagecoach ... by train, car and camper, people have ventured to the desert for generations to discover its starry nights and colorful landscapes. New modes of travel and communication have transformed our world in the last century. We complain about how slowly mail moves today, but 150 years ago, the people of San Antonio and San Diego celebrated the arrival of the first letters to make the 1,475-mile overland journey. The trip took 53 days using stagecoaches pulled by mules. Today students can travel instantly from their classroom to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park with videoconference technology!

The PORTS, **P**arks **O**nline **R**esources for **T**eachers and **S**tudents, program in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park connects 8,000 California students a year with the magic of this special desert place that many of you have come to know and love. We want the next generation to understand why it is important to preserve and protect these places. We want them to know why we come to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. How it rejuvenates us to spend warm days wandering up canyons and across desert arroyos. They must know about the sounds and the quiet of deserts and the awesome night skies visible away from city lights. They need to understand its importance so we can preserve and protect the cultural and natural resources of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park for future generations.

By taking students on virtual fieldtrips to Borrego Palm Canyon, the badlands and slot canyons, we share the beauty of these special places and the importance of protecting them. We strive to increase students' interest and their awareness of the opportunities available for them at nearby State Parks.

Rather than replace fieldtrips, we hope to encourage more students and teachers to visit California State Parks and share what they have learned with their friends and families. The growth of the PORTS program depends on your support.

The Anza-Borrego Foundation has been key to the success of Anza-Borrego's PORTS programs. Its generous contributions have helped to set up a green screen studio, buy mobile satellite equipment and fund interpreters for program development and presentations. These programs are free for schools. During the past six years, more than 50,000 students have visited Anza-Borrego Desert State Park from their classrooms. If you would like to help us fund these outreach programs, visit **www.theabf.org** or call **(760) 767-0446.**

Visit **www.ports.parks.ca.gov** to learn more about all of the programs and find the contact information to help you get started.

P.O.R.T.S. Interpreter LuAnn takes your children to wondrous places within the 600,000 acres of the Park using our satellite truck.

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Activities

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park offers many interpretive programs scheduled monthly. For specific information, please stop by the Park Visitor Center, campgrounds or check our website.

Anza-Borrego Foundation offers in-depth programming in cooperation with the State Park at modest cost. ABF uses the funds raised to help protect and conserve our beautiful Park. If you are interested, please call: (760) 767-4063 or visit: **www.theabf.org.**

Naturalists' Talks Presentations by Volunteer Naturalists take place at the Visitor Center. Most talks last about 40 minutes and are held outdoors or inside our air-conditioned classroom. We offer unique programs covering wildlife, plants, geology, fossils and many other topics. Naturalists' Talks are accessible to wheelchair users.

Nature Walks Often beginning at the Visitor Center, these are easy (about one half mile) walks which last about 45 minutes. Led by Park staff or volunteers, a nature walk offers you the chance to explore Park natural features with a knowledgeable guide. The monthly schedule announces the topic, time, place and any other information you might need.

Guided Hikes Join Park staff or volunteers for a longer walk that may cover some rocky, hilly or uneven terrain. The topic and length of time to allow are listed on the monthly schedule. Please note that many of these hikes begin at the end of dirt roads or at other distant locations. Ask about current driving conditions at the Visitor Center or call the Visitor Center at (760) 767-4205 for more information.

Campfire Programs You don't have to be a camper to visit the campground for our free

Many Activities are Accessible
Please check the Monthly Interpretive Schedule for details.

evening programs. Presented by Park staff and knowledgeable volunteers, our unique programs often include a slide program and sometimes games, stories or songs add to the fun. Campfire programs are held at Borrego Palm Canyon, Tamarisk Grove and Bow Willow Campgrounds, primarily on weekends. See the monthly schedule for details.

Jr. Ranger Programs A special hour for kids aged 7-12 only, Jr. Rangers provides the opportunity for children to meet, have fun, learn about the Park and earn awards. Sorry, no parents are allowed during this kids-only time. Programs are offered on Saturdays during winter and spring. Parents may drop off and pick up their children at the Visitor Center. Attendance is limited. Please have your child sign up at the Visitor Center on the weekend of the program.

Groups Non-profit educational and youth organizations for children in kindergarten through high school may request an interpretive program presented exclusively to your group at the Visitor Center. These programs are aligned with the state educational standards.

Familiar Flora & Fauna

If this is your first visit to Anza-Borrego, you may be wondering what kind of plants and animals you can expect to see in the Park today. If possible, we encourage you to leave your car and do some exploring on foot. Here are some desert plants and animals to watch for.

Ocotillo This tall, spindly plant can be found at all but the highest and lowest of elevations throughout the Park. When in bloom, it may look like a candle with spikes of red flowers flaming at its tips.

Black-tailed Jackrabbit The jackrabbit is found here along with his smaller cousins, the Audubon Cottontail and Brush Rabbit. Most active early in the morning and late in the evening, the jackrabbits eat shrubs, tree and flower sprouts and leaves, and even cactus on occasion.

Cholla (pronounced choy-ya) Many species of this cactus are seen (and felt!) throughout the Park. Some cholla (known as Jumping Cholla) reproduce by dropping joints that look like spine balls.These cholla balls roll accross the ground, or get attached to wildlife, until given the opportunity to take root.

Roadrunner Funny as it sounds, these birds are most often seen crossing the road. They can fly and will build nests low in trees. Roadrunners are meat eaters, favoring lizards, insects, scorpions and even small mice.

Peninsular Bighorn Sheep This endangered mammal is the Park's namesake (borrego). Look for them on the rocky slopes just above the desert floor. Loss of habitat and predation by mountain lions are two of the biggest problems facing this species right now. The Park is actively working to protect this animal and enhance its habitat. You can help by keeping your dog on a six-foot leash at all times and by walking it on the dirt roads, but not the foot trails in the Park, especially the Borrego Palm Canyon trail.

Photo by Nancy Baily

Hiking Trails - Numbered on Following Maps

Visitor Center & Campground Area - See Map on Opposite Page

1 Borrego Palm Canyon Nature Trail 3.0 miles round trip
Begins at Borrego Palm Canyon Campground. Self-guided trail brochure describes plants and geology. Gently climbing trail leads to native palm grove.

2 Panoramic Overlook Trail 1.0 mile round trip
Begins at Borrego Palm Canyon Campground, near site #71. Steep uphill trail ending with a view of campground and Borrego Valley.

3 Visitor Center / Campground Trail 1.2 miles round trip
Begins at Visitor Center or B.P.C. Campground. Easy, all access trail between the two locations. Typical creosote scrub environment. **Dogs on leash are permitted on this trail.**

4 Visitor Center All-Access Nature Trail 0.25 miles round trip
This trail takes 15 minutes or so and has a hard surface. Begin at the front doors of the Visitor Center.

5 California Riding and Hiking Trail 12.0 miles round trip
Begins at Culp Valley Campground (north end). Following the ridge, this trail drops more than 2,000 feet in elevation. Taken one way (downhill) it is a moderate hike, round-trip more difficult. One-way trip ends at the Hellhole Canyon parking area.

6 Hellhole Canyon / Maidenhair Falls Trail 6.0 miles round trip
Begins at Hellhole Canyon parking area. Mostly difficult hike up into a canyon oasis. Some rock scrambling required.

7 Little Surprise Canyon Trail 0.6 mile round trip
Begins behind the restroom at Hellhole Canyon parking area. Moderate hike through a complex geologic area.

8 Peña Spring Trail 0.6 miles round trip
Begins at Culp Valley Campground. Steep walk to an artesian water source, which is piped into a shallow tank used by birds and wildlife.

Coyote Canyon & Badlands - See Center Map on Next Page

9 Alcoholic Pass 2.0 miles round trip
Begins at Coyote Canyon road, 2.8 miles from end of pavement. Used by Indians and cowboys alike, this moderately strenuous trail will lead to the top of a pass with views of Coyote Canyon and the surrounding mountains.

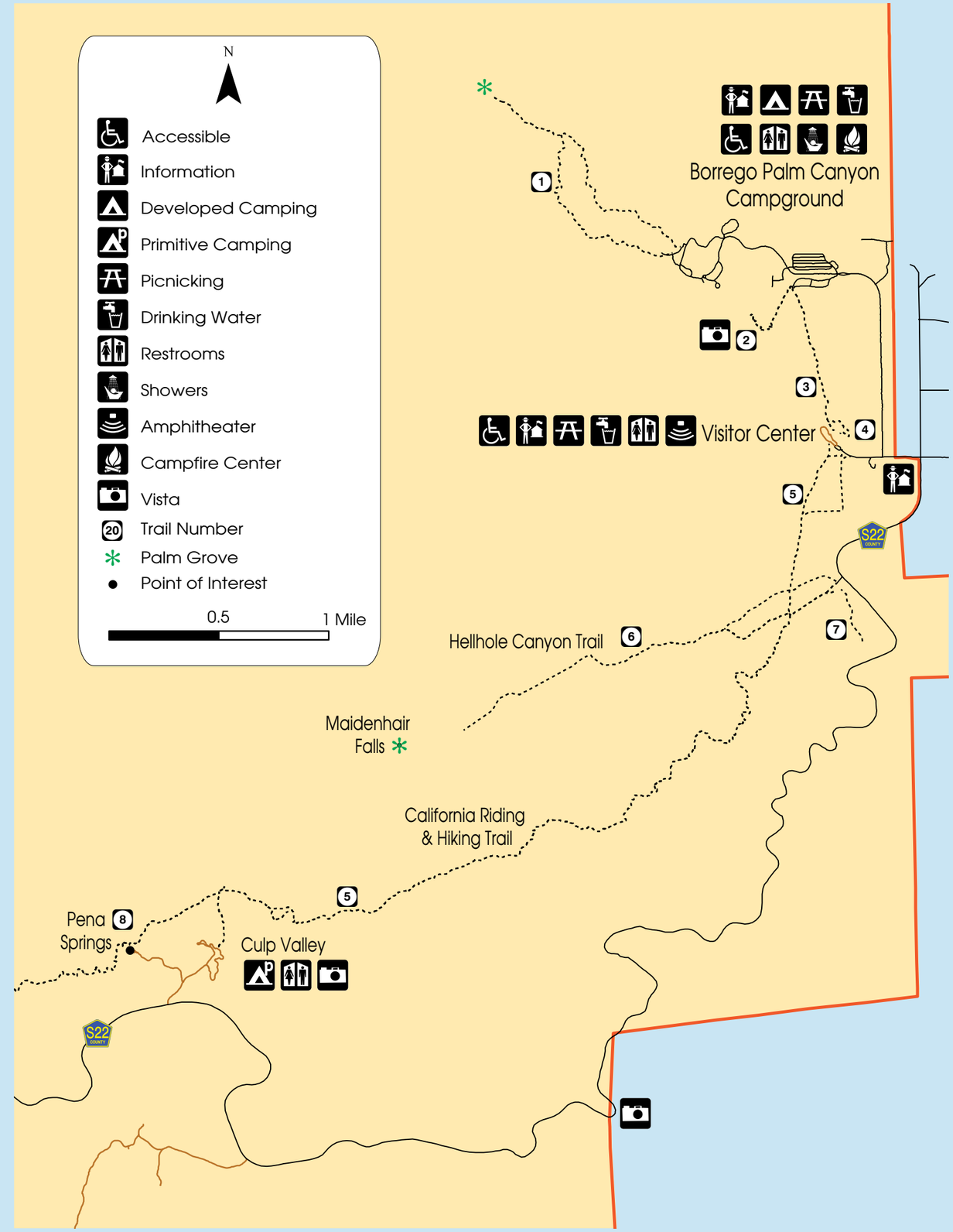
10 Calcite Mine 4.0 miles round trip
Park on Hwy. S-22 at mile 38.0 (turnout). Walk north to the jeep road and follow it up to the old mine area. This is a steep, difficult hike with no shade.

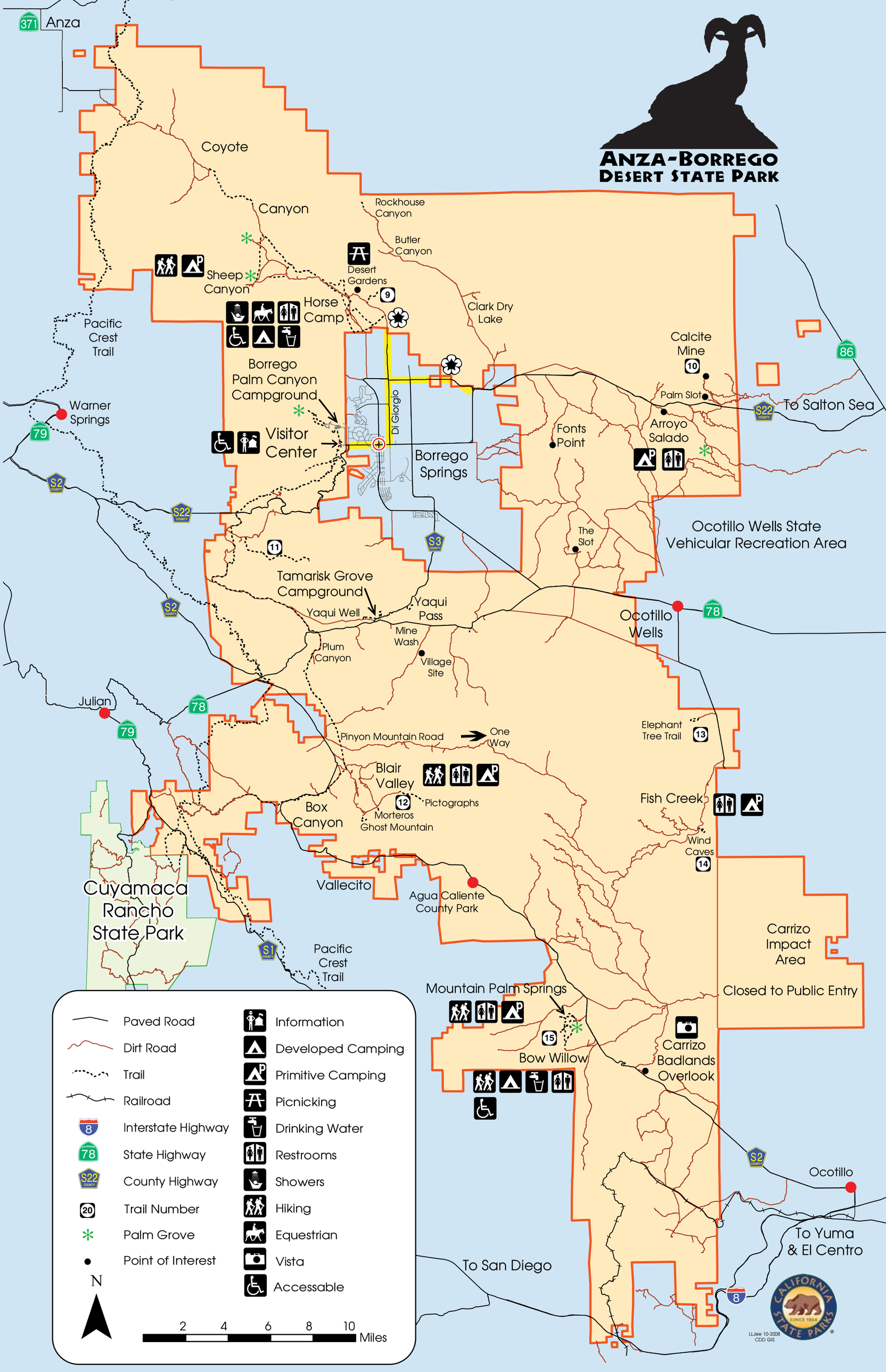
11 Wilson Trail - Culp Valley Area 8.8 miles round trip
Access from Old Culp Valley Road. This moderate hike follows Pinyon Ridge. It offers spectacular views of the valley.

Blair Valley Area - See Center Map on Next Page

12 Ghost Mountain 2.0 miles round trip
Begins in Blair Valley, 2.7 miles from Hwy. S-2. The ruins of the South home, where a family lived in the 1930s, can be seen at the top of this short, steep trail.

12 Morteros Trail 0.4 miles round trip
Begins in Blair Valley, 3.5 miles from Hwy. S-2. A self-guided trail brochure explains the Indian grinding holes (morteros) visible in the boulders along this very easy trail.




Anza-Borrego Desert State Park
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Anza
Coyote
Canyon
Rockhouse Canyon
Butler Canyon
Desert Gardens
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Sheep Canyon
Horse Camp
Clark Dry Lake
Pacific Crest Trail
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Di Giorgio
Visitor Center
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Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area
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Mountain Palm Springs
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Bow Willow
Carrizo Badlands Overlook
Ocotillo
To Yuma & El Centro
To San Diego
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Paved Road
Dirt Road
Trail
Railroad
Interstate Highway
State Highway
County Highway
Trail Number
Palm Grove
Point of Interest
Information
Developed Camping
Primitive Camping
Picnicking
Drinking Water
Restrooms
Showers
Hiking
Equestrian
Vista
Accessable
N
2 4 6 8 10 Miles
California State Parks
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CDD GIS

Blair Valley Area continued - See Center Map on Previous Page

12 Pictograph Trail / Smuggler's Canyon Trail 2.0 or 3.0 miles round trip
Begins in Blair Valley, 3.6 miles from Hwy. S-2. This is an easy trail that climbs over a low pass, leading to a pictograph-covered boulder. Continue ½ mile further to reach Smuggler's Canyon. The trail stops at the edge of a dry waterfall with great views of Vallecito Valley.

Fish Creek - See Center Map on Previous Page

13 Elephant Tree Discovery Trail 1.0 mile loop
Begins 5.9 miles south of Hwy. 78 off Split Mountain Road. A self-guided trail brochure introduces life on an alluvial fan, including a look at a rare elephant tree. Easy walk.

14 Wind Caves Trail 2.0 miles round trip
Begins 4 miles from Split Mountain Road on Fish Creek Wash. Occasionally steep hike to carved out sandstone formations.

Bow Willow Area - See Center Map on Previous Page

15 Pygmy Grove 1.0 mile round trip
Turn off Hwy. S-2 for Mountain Palm Springs Campground, but stay right. Park at the posts and take the trail to the right. An easy hike leads you to 50 short palm trees.

15 Southwest Grove 2.0 miles round trip
Turn off Hwy. S-2 for Mountain Palm Springs Campground, but stay right. Continue beyond Pygmy Grove to this second grove. A side trail to Torote Bowl begins at the southwest corner of the grove.

15 Mary's Bowl Grove 0.5 miles round trip
Turn off Hwy. S-2 for Mountain Palm Springs Campground, but stay right. Park at the posts and take the trail to the right. Take the right fork. Elephant trees and palms are only a short walk from the parking area.

15 Palm Bowl 2.0 miles round trip
Turn off Hwy. S-2 for Mountain Palm Springs Campground, but stay right. Park at the posts and take the trail to the right. Take the left fork passing through Surprise Canyon, a large grove. Continue 1/4 mile further to reach Palm Bowl, ringed by more than 100 palms.

Tamarisk Grove Area - See Map on Opposite Page

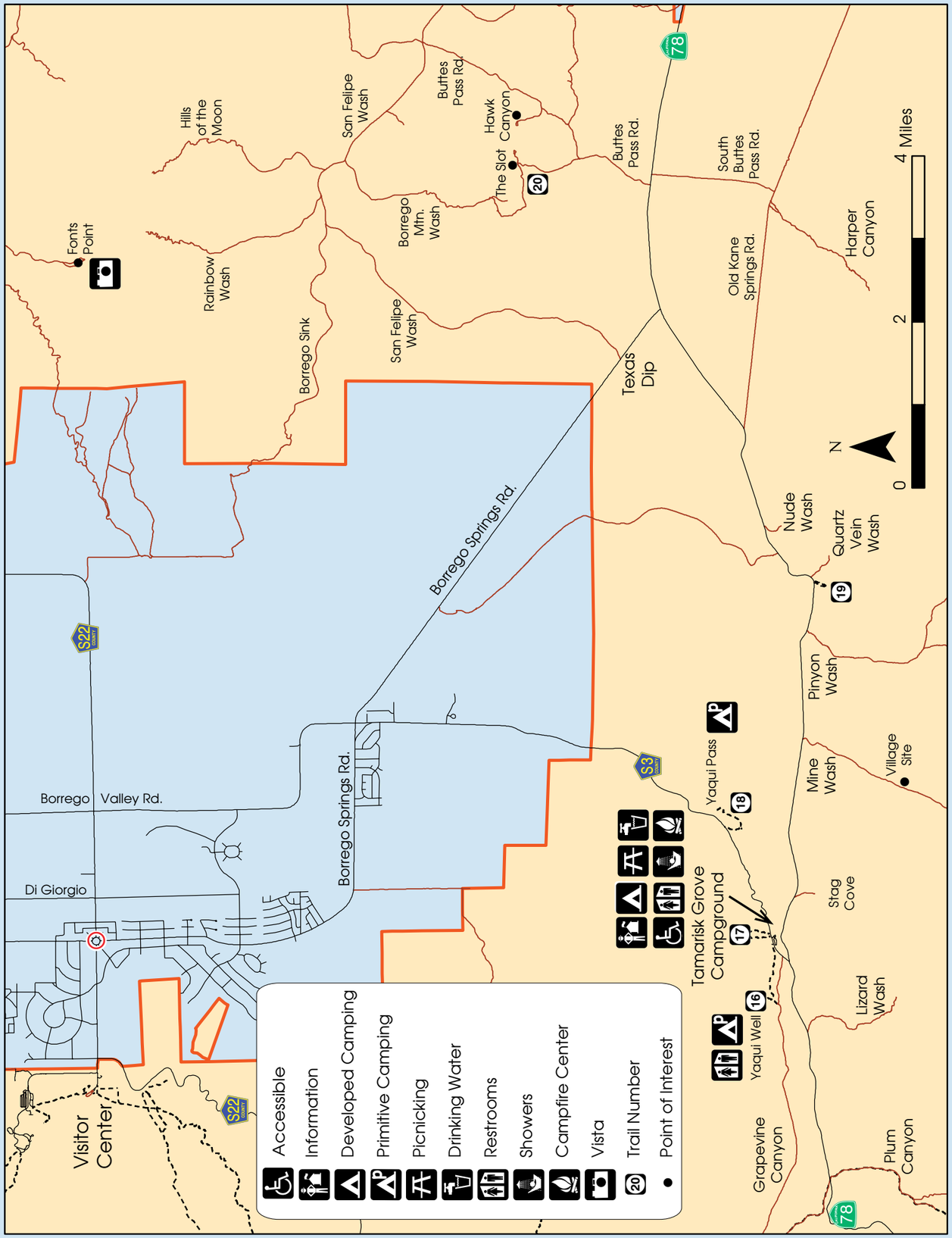
16 Yaqui Well Nature Trail 1.6 miles round trip
Begins across from Tamarisk Grove Campground. Self-guided trail brochure leads you along path to an historic desert water hole. Easy walk, abundant birds and wildlife.

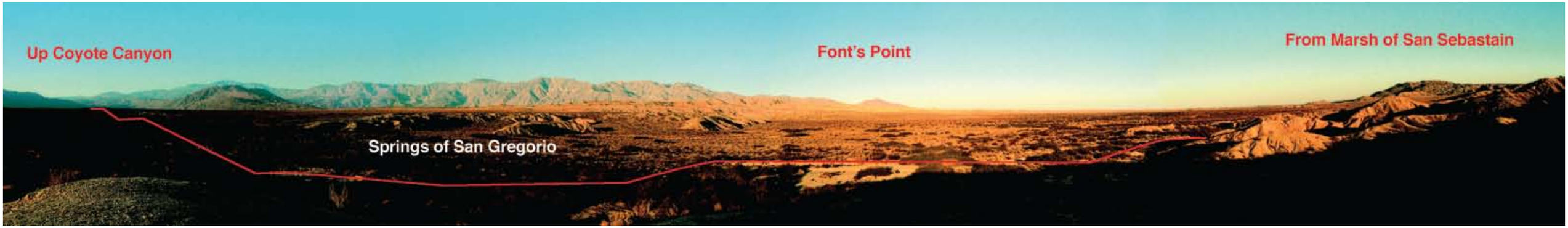
17 Cactus Loop Trail 1.0 mile loop
Begins across the road from Tamarisk Grove Campground. Moderately strenuous climb with excellent views and lots of cactus. Self-guided trail brochure available.

18 Bill Kenyon Overlook 1.0 mile loop
Begins near the summit of Yaqui Pass at Yaqui Pass Campground. Park and walk to the back of the lot where you will see a rock lined trail leading to the south. Easy hike.

19 Narrows Earth Trail 0.5 mile loop
Begins on Hwy. 78, 4.7 miles east of Tamarisk Grove. Self-guided trail brochure describes geologic activity on this short, easy walk.

20 The Slot 1.5 miles round trip
From Hwy. 78 east, turn left on Buttes Pass Road. Drive 1 mile to a "Y" intersection. Stay to the left and drive .8 miles. The road makes a sharp turn to the left but stop and park here. Climb down into the canyon below the road, turn left and hike through this narrow wash.





ON THE ANZA TRAIL

Pioneers through the Park

By
Nicholas Clapp

Find your way to Fonts Point, a Park landmark. And once there, gaze across a maze of beige and ochre badlands to distant San Felipe wash.

There is a story out there – of the very first colonists to settle Alta California.

On a December afternoon in 1775, a great dust cloud rose from this wash, churned by 240 Spanish soldiers and settlers, and 1,050 horses, mules and cattle. They had departed northern Mexico in mid-October; God willing, they'd make it to Monterey sometime in February.

That night, the colonists pitched camp at the Springs of San Gregorio; their campfires flickered below today's Fonts Point. Since a dawn cup of chocolate, they'd not eaten all day and supper customarily was but chili and beans. The expedition's chaplain, Father Pedro Font, penned in his diary that they'd come to "a place of little grass and less water." This did not bode well, for "the horses and mules were now in very bad shape" and they were in for a night so cold that, "busy stoking the fires, hardly anyone slept."

Exhausted and frostbitten, the colonists

Dawn, Fonts Point. Photo by Deborah Knapp

formed up and marched on, trusting in the leadership of Captain Juan Bautista de Anza; he deserved that trust. All of his 36 years had been spent on the Mexican frontier and he was generally considerate, tactful and extraordinarily organized, though at times he could be gruff and short-tempered, as he was now. He'd not only had enough of misery, but had his fill of Father Font, who could be fairly said to be a holier-than-thou, humorless pill. Two days ago, Anza had issued all hands rations of brandy and a spirited, even bawdy, party ensued. Font thereupon excoriated the expedition for "instead of thanking God for having arrived with their lives, they were making festivities in honor of the Devil."

The colonists were next to skirt Borrego Valley's dry-lake sink and make for Coyote Canyon, there to camp at a ford of its creek. Relief! They no longer need worry about water for their selves and stock. And lo, the skies opened; it rained then snowed. All told, they experienced what is believed to have been the harshest winter – to this day – ever recorded in California. Nonetheless, the expedition partied – rowdily so – for it was Christmas eve, 1775.

Father Font was furious. He sought Anza to say, "Well, Sir, I wish to say that it does not seem appropriate to me to celebrate the birth of the infant Jesus by getting drunk." Anza shrugged.

And it transpired that there were not one, but *two* births to celebrate. Just before midnight, a woman who had been in life-threatening labor gave birth to a robust baby boy.

Christmas day, then, welcomed a new member of the expedition.

The next morning, the mules were packed and they were on their way despite fog and the ongoing storm. At two o'clock the expedition bid the desert – and today's Anza-Borrego Desert State Park – farewell. Nature marked the occasion with peals of thunder – and a four-minute earthquake!

And presently, surprise, California's original odd couple – Captain Anza and Father Font – was to reconcile and get along. It therefore was a grand, harmonious expedition that marched on and into the military outpost of Monterey then San Francisco.

They came this way and their memory lingers on a route little changed in the centuries since.

The Anza Trail Initiative

An Anza-Borrego Foundation campaign is seeking to acquire private land within sight of the expedition's route, and gift it to the Park. The total to date: just over 1000 acres, with thousands more in sight.

Juan Bautista de Anza in later life. Courtesy of Palace of the Governors, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

When Do the Wildflowers Bloom?

This is one of the most often asked questions at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Unfortunately, it is also one of the most difficult to answer. Each year, the unique combination of sun, wind, water and temperature sets the stage for the springtime bloom. Use the following information to make your own prediction for this spring's showing.

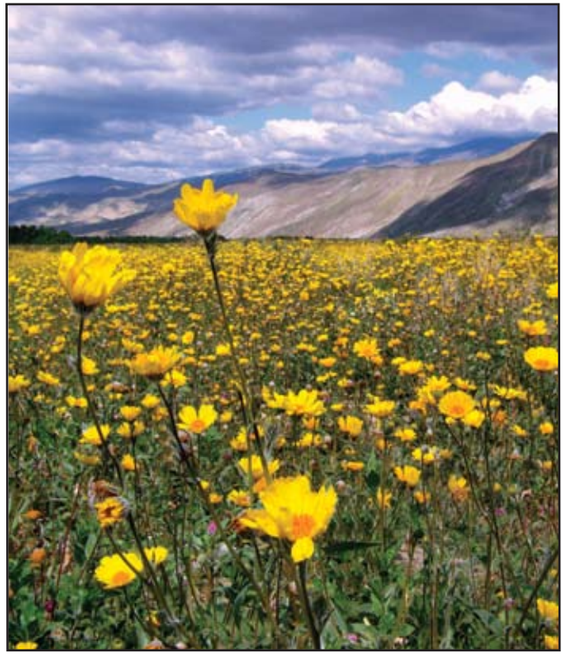
Weather

Rain is needed in small doses throughout the winter. Too little rain provides a poor climate for seed germination. Too much rain, and the seeds could rot or be washed away. Showers too early or too late in the season may not help the flowers bloom.

Temperature is also critical. Warm days are a good indicator of a full bloom ahead. If the sun gets too hot though (more than 85° in February / March), the seeds may become parched and seedlings scorched. Cool nights can assist flower seedlings by slowing the growth of competitors like grasses and mustards. However, very cold temperatures mean bad news for blossoms.

Along with all of these factors, wildflowers must contend with the desert winds. Hot, arid winds may dry out the seeds before they have a chance to grow. High winds during the bloom may scatter the pollen before next year's seeds have been produced.

These monkey flowers are found throughout much of the Park. Photo by Sam Webb



Each year's bloom is unique in its variety and timing. Photo by Sam Webb

Timing

When will the flowers bloom? None of us knows for sure. Each year's bloom is unique in its variety, profusion and timing. From late February through March, you can find blossoms on the desert floor. To plan your visit to coincide with the peak of the bloom, take advantage of our Wildflower Postcard Notification service. For up-to-date information, call our Wildflower Hotline which is updated weekly. Also, check our website: www.parks.ca.gov. Go to "Find a Park"

If you should happen to miss the peak, take consolation in the fact that you've missed the peak crowds as well. A tranquil walk through the Anza-Borrego Desert will reward you any time of year.

The cacti bloom later in the season as the annual flowers begin to fade.
Photo by Sam Webb

Datura, or Jimson Weed, has showy white flowers edged in lavender.
Photo by Sam Webb

Spectacular wildflower displays are also found in the high areas of the Park. This is Pinyon Mountain. Photo by Sam Webb

◆ For the latest in wildflower news, call the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® Wildflower Hotline.

Information on this recording is updated regularly.

Wildflower Hotline
(760) 767-4684

You can see current photos (during the season) on the web.
http://www.parks.ca.gov
Go to "Visit a Park".
Find: Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

Like
Anza-Borrego Foundation
on Facebook

Join our email list to learn about ABF's events and exciting opportunities for all ages at **www.theabf.org.**

Self-Guided Trails

If you can't join a naturalist, why not try one of our self-guided hikes? Pick up a brochure at the Visitor Center or look for one at the trailhead.

Yaqui Well Nature Trail Begin across the road from the Tamarisk Grove Campground to enjoy this one-and-one-half mile, one-way nature trail. Return on Yaqui Well Wash for a round-trip hike.

Borrego Palm Canyon Trail Often crowded, this popular trail leads to a cool, shady palm oasis. This rocky trail is three miles round-trip and takes a minimum of two hours. The route is passable, but a flash flood wiped out the trail and bridges so please use caution.

Cactus Loop Nature Trail Start your walk across the street and to the east of the Tamarisk Grove entrance. This one-mile loop has a short, but strenuous, climb and an uneven surface. Great views and a variety of cactus species await you.

Erosion Road Driving Tour Take your own vehicle on a tour of the dynamic landscapes

and Badlands area of the Park.

Narrows Earth Nature Trail This easy, gentle one-third mile walk is short, but sweet. In 30 minutes you can fully explore the many geological processes taking place in this small canyon.

Elephant Trees Nature Trail Only one living Elephant Tree remains, but this hike through a rocky wash is still a delight. This easy walk covers one and one half miles and takes about one hour.

***'Ehmuu*-Morteros Trail** This easy one-mile walk takes you back in time through a seasonal village site of the native *Kumeyaay* people.

Access Trail for Those on Wheels

Take a stroll or a roll along our three-quarter mile concrete walkway connecting the Visitor Center to Borrego Palm Canyon Campground. The surface is colored and textured to blend with its surroundings. You'll find new interpretive panels along this trail describing common plants and animals. Each panel also includes a special braille message. This is just one of the many steps California State Parks is taking to improve accessibility wherever feasible. Dogs are allowed on a 6-foot leash.

Bicycles are also welcome on this path. However, cyclists should give way to all other traffic.

Strollers, wheelchairs and bikes all share the paved 3/4 mile nature trail between the campground and Visitor Center.

Annual Day-Use Pass

From the desert to the sea, California has a most diverse selection of parks and recreation areas waiting for you. Kayak the Salton Sea or surf the Pacific Ocean. Stand in awe of mighty redwoods, crawl through underground caverns or soak in hot mineral springs — all within the California State Park system.

An annual state-wide day-use permit gives you daytime access to nearly all of California's state parks, beaches, reserves and recreation areas. The $195 permit is on a vehicle hang-tag, valid for a full year. Purchase your statewide day-use permit at the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Visitor Center or Colorado Desert District Headquarters.

Your dog is welcome on a six-foot leash in the campground and on the many dirt roads in the Park.

Practice Desert Safety

◆ Know your physical limitations in the heat and rugged desert terrain. Summer temperatures can reach 125 degrees F.

◆ Always carry plenty of water ... and drink it! It does you no good in your canteen. One gallon minimum per person per day is recommended.

◆ Wear sturdy footwear and a hat, and use sun protection.

◆ Do not hike alone — use the buddy system.

◆ Tell someone of your trip plans.

◆ Use maps. Car GPS systems are often less reliable in a wilderness park.

◆ Start out with a well-maintained vehicle. Carry extra water, shovel, tools, flares and blankets. Check the road condition board at the Visitor Center before you start out.

◆ If your vehicle breaks down, stay with it! Raise your hood. It is much easier to find a vehicle than a wandering person.

◆ **Should you find yourself in trouble, do not panic. If you have followed the above precautions, help will soon be on the way.**

Photo by Ranger Steve Bier

SOUTHERN OVERLAND TRAIL CULTURAL PRESERVE:

Indian Trail, Sonoran Road, San Antonio & San Diego Mail Route, Butterfield Stage Line, Mormon Trail and Cattle Trail

The trails that cross the Colorado Desert region show that humans have changed through time and survived in Southern California's diverse and unpredictable environment. From prehistoric times until the mid-20th century, people have traveled from the Colorado River, through the Colorado Desert, over the Laguna and Cuyamaca Mountains and to the Coastal Valleys and Pacific Ocean. They made the journey to harvest plants, hunt game, trade goods, participate in group events, pasture livestock and transport news, cargo and people. Perhaps the best known and most intensively used of these travel routes is known today as the Southern Overland Trail. Modern development destroyed much of the old route across the southland. However, the Trail remains largely intact in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. It runs from Carrizo Creek in the southeast corner of the park, to San Felipe in the northwest and to the Cuyamacas on the west.

Showing the changes Native American People went through, the Trail reflects the movement of prehistoric peoples in harmony with the seasonal rhythms of the natural world. The Trail connects water sources and traditional use areas at Carrizo, Vallecito, San Felipe and the Cuyamaca Mountains within Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. It reaches as far as the Colorado River to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west. The Trail and the traditional areas it connects show a cultural landscape that is considered sacred by today's Kumeyaay and Kwaaymii People as well as by other tribes from the Colorado River to the Pacific Coast. When the first Europeans entered Southern California, they traveled a route that had been known for thousands of years.

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, Mexican and American military, Sonoran and Yankee gold rushers, American emigrants, the Overland Mail and Butterfield Stage, and thousands of cattle and wagon and auto travelers followed the Trail; to them, it was a hostile environment. The vast areas of the Anza-Borrego Desert were only accessible by foot or on mule back. The journey between Yuma and San Diego was dangerous and lengthy. Communication between the east and west coasts was sporadic and unreliable. The history of travel on the Overland Trail despite these difficulties documents the hard work and persistence of the American pioneer and provides a thought-provoking contrast to today's world of paved roads and cell phones.

View along the Overland Trail.

A Correspondence with Water

By Ranger Steve Bier

Hello, my name is H_2O! You may know me as that tall drink of water in the cooler section of your local grocer, but I assure you I am much more. Here in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park my family and I have spent millennia moving mountains, carving out gullies and tickling the toes of vegetation all across the Colorado Desert. Give trail building credit to earthquake faults or even good old-fashioned man power if you wish, but without water, all those historic trails ... would be history!

Let's take a closer look at that cool bottle of water you're carrying. It may look inviting, even refreshing after a long hike, but remove that cap and you have just released the power of a hurricane. Some of those drops contained within were whisked away from the deepest ocean and gathered into the clouds of the strongest storm to be carried inland as a torrential rain that fell to the ground and reshaped the land. When we drops get together for a family reunion, you never know what events will transpire. I have enjoyed many a gully washer and flash flood or two among family and friends as we knocked a mountain down to size and carried the rubble toward the sea, scouring the land as we traveled. However, all parties must end; as we come to a stop within the lowest basin, many drops will trickle into the ground and come to rest in a vast underground aquifer.

As with all families, sometimes a heated discussion will begin. A few drops forgo the aquifer idea, get a little steamed and evaporate back into the atmosphere to join in another gully washer elsewhere. For those who decide to trickle into the aquifer, it's time to settle in for a long needed rest, sharing stories of arrival with other family members. Many drops make their way here by way of one of the greatest forces on our planet. Massive plates that cover the earth push and pull, and crash and tug at one another, each vying for space on the surface. Imagine being taken from deep under the earth, pushed through the tiniest of cracks then squeezed out onto the surface. Here in Anza-Borrego, many such places are marked by native California fan palms, whose shallow roots covet the life-giving water that ebbs from these cracks. Those not lucky enough to enter into the palms may find their way into any number of wild creatures that come to the oases to drink. Through the centuries I have met and toured with many creatures both past and present that have called this desert home; which brings me back to you!

I was here when the first of you gathered me up in a clay container and stowed me away in a cave; I rode along with you astride a horse in a humid little leather pouch strapped to the horn of your saddle; I even remember flowing around you, over and through you as you and others like you made your way along our scoured paths, but as I was traveling up the pipe from the aquifer, making my way into your water bottle, I was struck by how much old H_2O has aided you in your travels. Even today as you take a leisurely hike along one of the Park's many trails, when perspiration sets in and heat takes over, it always brings joy to my heart and makes me smile, when I hear you sing out … WATER!!

Photo by Ranger Steve Bier

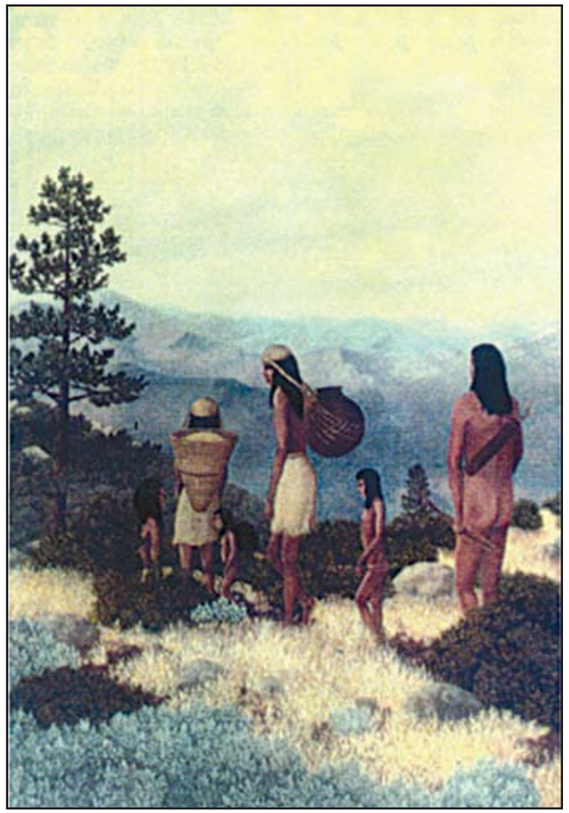
Homage to the Old Ones

©

The trails to the desert from the Cuyamacas and Laguna were traveled by foot and later by horseback on steep rocky mountain trails and across the desert floor. A lot of the places where the old ones walked for centuries on those trails are still very visible. Some other places on the trails however are very eroded.

The Old Ones would leave pieces of sticks, leaves or branches that they had brought down from the mountain or picked up along the trail to put on a large flat rock (like an altar), as a token, an offering for safe travels, guidance and protection during their sojourn. They also left small rock cairns made up of boulders from around the trail to make there a way for others to follow and for the return travel, like landmarks.

Fire reveals a rock cairn in Cottonwood Canyon.



WIIPUK UUN'YAW
A 1972 photograph of Painting by SuSaana Lucas Garcia.

Kwaaymii starting down the trail to A-MUTT-NOOK. (Mason Valley, Vallecito)

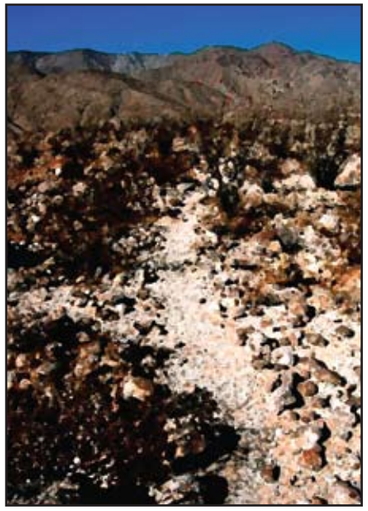
Foot Trails in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

As you hike, bike or ride through Anza-Borrego, you may see narrow paths across our desert landscape. Some of these may have been made by modern-day hikers, but others are the remnants of those who traveled these lands in times long-past. Before horses, wagons or motor vehicles, Native People traversed these lands on foot. These ancient trails have specific characteristics that make it almost certain that they were used hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of years go. Usually, they are approximately 30 centimeters wide (about 12 inches) and are depressed into the ground. More than likely they are on elevated mesas, terraces along washes or ridge lines. To have lasted for all those years, they must be above drainages (washes) where the effect of water run-off would not deface them. In Anza-Borrego, we most often see them on graveled or desert pavement surfaces. Some are so faint that they can only be seen at certain times of day or when the light is just right. Often they are visible from the air.

Where do the trails go? Most are routes to important places like water sources (springs, rock water basins, ancient Lake Cahuilla), to hunting or plant-gathering areas or to quarries where special rock was available. They are links between living areas of Native People or routes to ceremonial locations or other areas of special significance. Trails are sometimes considered portions of a complex network of connections between features of the landscape and so have spiritual values. Where trail systems enter washes, parts may have been destroyed by natural erosion and water flow, but portions on higher and stable surfaces still exist. Archaeologists map the trails or segments of the trails using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology.

Ancient trails usually are the best routes between places -- the easiest to travel with ups and downs kept to a minimum. The Spanish, Mexicans, military, gold miners and others who entered this area in historical times recognized this fact and used the trails of Native People as their own routes and wagon trails. For example, when the de Anza expedition traveled across what is now Anza-Borrego, the entourage used a trail that had been used by the Native People of the region. Very often, our modern highways follow the major routes of ancient trails.

What if you come upon a trail while enjoying our Park? Treat it with respect, knowing that many other feet have tread upon it. If you walk lightly, you can walk the same trail. Be very careful not to drag your feet or disturb the impressed stones within the trail or outside it. If you see things along the trail, do not move or remove them; this is against the law. Stop and look about you; think about the direction the trail is going and where it might have led. Most of all, remember that these are precious remains of times past and are significant to the Native People who still live in the region; it is their reminder that their ancestors were here.



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Anza-Borrego Almanac

	High		Low		Rainfall	
	°F	°C	°F	°C	inch	cm
January	69	21	43	6	1.22	3.11
Febuary	73	23	47	8	1.18	3.01
March	77	25	50	10	0.72	1.82
April	84	29	54	12	0.22	0.55
May	93	34	61	16	0.08	0.20
June	102	39	68	20	0.01	0.02
July	107	42	76	24	0.28	0.71
August	106	41	75	24	0.52	1.32
September	100	38	71	22	0.96	2.44
October	90	32	61	16	0.31	0.79
November	77	25	50	10	0.50	1.27
December	69	21	43	6	0.86	2.18
				Total Rainfall - 2010:	7.66	19.46
				- 2011:	3.72	9.45

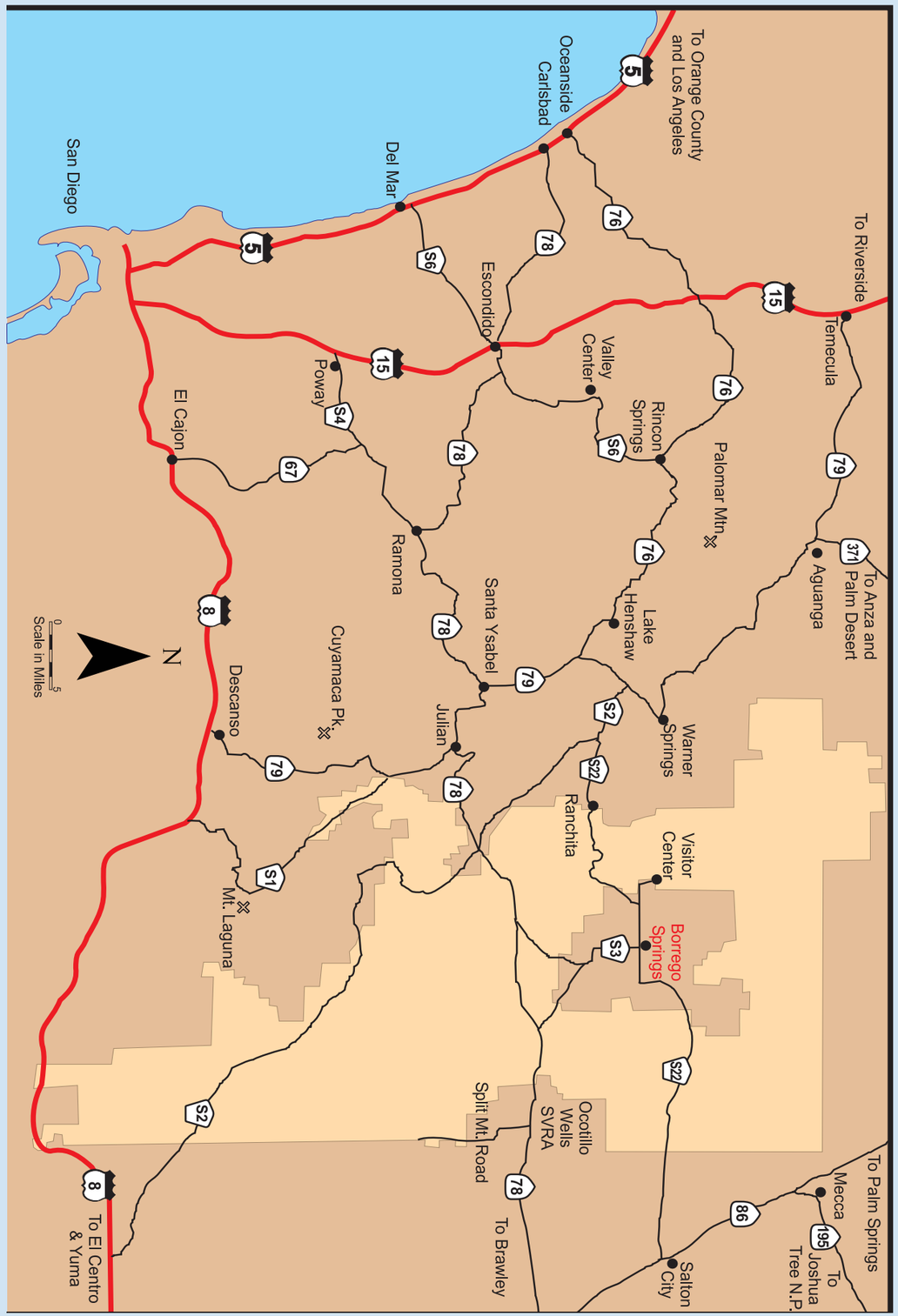
Figures are based on daily readings at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® Headquarters (48-year average).

Sunrise / Sunset 2012

	Sunrise	Sunset
January 1	6:50	4:48
January 15	6:50	5:00
February 1	6:42	5:16
February 15	6:30	5:29
March 1	6:13	5:42
March 15 (PDT)	6:55	6:54
April 1	6:32	7:06
April 15	6:14	7:17
May 1	5:56	7:29
May 15	5:44	7:40
June 1	5:36	7:51
June 15	5:38	7:58

	Sunrise	Sunset
July 1	5:39	8:00
July 15	5:46	7:56
August 1	5:58	7:45
August 15	6:08	7:31
September 1	6:20	7:10
September 15	6:29	6:51
October 1	6:40	6:29
October 15	6:51	6:11
November 1 (PST)	6:05	4:52
November 15	6:18	4:42
December 1	6:32	4:37
December 15	6:43	4:39

Photo by Sam Webb



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Borrego Valley Inn invites ABF members to stay Friday and Saturday nights and add a Thursday or Sunday night free. One use per membership year, excludes holidays and Feb 15-April 28.

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